

EC Partners

Fundación CODESPA

Fundación Chile -
Acción La Vaca

Facts and Figures

- EU contribution:
€445 000 (74,4% of
the project)
- Duration: from
11/2004 to 05/2008



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Food security

Children Carers Community Project in Chile

Giving social inclusion opportunities to women and children

“Working as a child carer in this project has allowed me to look at myself in a completely different way. It has improved my living conditions while doing what I like most, working with children”.

Marlene Leiva, child carer



Context

For tens of thousands of Chilean women, the possibility of getting a job goes hand in hand with the issue of childcare. With one of the lowest female labour insertion rates in Latin America, 37,5%, Chile has the challenge of increasing women's participation in its economy. Children Caretakers Community Project works in four communes of Santiago: Maipú, Huechuraba, San Miguel and Peñalolén.

Objective

- Train and monitor women experienced in the raising and care of children, enabling them to work as child carers while the children's mother works. The child carers can work in their own homes or in community locations.

Impact

- 140 women have become child carers since the programme started in 2004
- 237 women have been trained in basic child care
- 455 mothers have started to work.
- 978 children have benefited from the programme
- The programme also prevents children being exposed to social risks

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Fanny Marchant is a mother of three (ages 17, 11 and 6) who lives in Maipú, a suburb of Santiago. She is separated from her husband and does not receive child support. Her only choice was to get a job to support her family.

Ms Marchant could not pay for childcare, so most of the time her two sons and her daughter were on their own at home. During the time she spent working, a neighbour checked on them from time to time.

Three years ago, however, Ms Marchant heard from a friend of the Children Carers Community Project in Maipú and embraced the possibility of having someone to look after her children while she was at work. “I could not believe they offered to take care of my children for free, it is so good. The kids are already used to being with Marianela, the care, and they love her”, she says.

Ms Marchant juggles three jobs in order to support her family, and she very much appreciates that the programme allows her to work, leaving her kids in good hands. “I like this programme, I trust it. I can see that the kids are OK and the carer does a professional job. That is why I can go to work without worrying every day”, she says.



Children are looked after by caretakers while their mothers go to work.