

# Social Performance



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# Education

The activities carried out by Fundación Acindar during the year 2007 were planned and implemented according to the mission and values that guide its actions. The Fundación searched for answers to the main education demands from the communities where Acindar is settled, and put special emphasis to achieve strengthening of skills in the institutions with which it has worked.

The fulfillment of foreseen actions for the fiscal year was carried out expanding the scope of the programs to new areas, and covering a larger target group age for the projects; in this way the strengthening of education since earlier ages was accomplished. Health programs were given a new direction, favouring the educational and preventive approach above that of case attention. A program on safety education was also started for primary school children, aimed at promoting safe behaviour and preventive attitude in the communities where Acindar is present.

The programs were framed within the fields of education, health, environment and social promotion, as they usually are. Altogether, the Fundación carried out 21 programs and 91 projects in which about 31,100 children, youngsters, teachers and adults were involved in a direct way. The schools and organizations that took part in these actions were 2741.

The activities were mainly carried out in the communities where Acindar production plants are located; Villa Constitución (VC), Tablada (TB), San Nicolás (SN), Rosario (RO), Villa Mercedes (VM) and Beccar (BE).

Additionally, some other actions were carried out in different areas of the country: Vera, Santa Fe province; Maipú, Mendoza province; in the cities of Córdoba, Río Cuarto and Tanti, Córdoba province; Colón, Entre Ríos province; and in the departments of Guaminí, Bajo Hondo, Carlos Casares, Garré and several towns in the Gran Buenos Aires.

## Education

In the area of **Education**, the program's main goal is the improvement of the learning quality. The projects were focused on the presentation of new educational strategies and alternatives for teachers to include in their practice, as well as the development of several aspects that contribute to people's comprehensive education, especially children and youngsters.

### Grants for Acindar's Employees' Children

The eleventh implementation of the program -the only one devoted exclusively to the company's employees' children- has afforded 83

grants: 50 with own funds and 33 with funds coming from Fundación Félix Chomé, from Brazil. As it is a program that aims at encouraging individual effort, the criteria for granting was that of students' marking. To assure fairness, other parameters were followed, such as the quantity of employees per location. All grant holders accomplished their study plans satisfactorily, except one college student who quitted her studies during the second semester.

### Grants for the Postgraduate Course in Non Profit Organizations

Students attending to postgraduate courses taught by Torcuato Di Tella and San Andrés universities jointly with the State and Society Studies Center (Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad -CEDES-) were awarded grants. Fundación Cimiento (education) and Fundación Manos Abiertas (education, health and social promotion) were the two entities favored by the advanced training of their professional team members. The two grant holders completed the program.

### School Support Classes

Together with Villa Constitución Town Hall, support classes were carried out at the facilities given by two town schools. The subjects Language and Mathematics were taught to 88 children, 60% of what had been planned. All students who attended the support classes finished school satisfactorily.

During the year, objectives were redefined, as well as the program methodology; tools were devised so as to strengthen educational supervision and to assess the class impact on students, in order to apply them in future stages. For 2008, the Fundación hopes to transfer the program to the city Town Hall, maintaining the technical-pedagogic support and a partial funding to help the initiative.

### Educational Project Contest

The fifth series of this program invited primary and secondary schools to present projects aimed at solving problems detected by the institutions themselves, encouraging them to get into the habit of examining their own work to improve different aspects related to teaching. As in previous rounds, the program included schools of Constitución and Rosario departments, in Santa Fe province, and it reached San Nicolás and La Tablada schools, in Buenos Aires province. Two categories were established: New Project and Project Enlargement. The jury selected 23 projects, 17 new projects and 4 enlarged projects, from 10 primary schools and 11 secondary schools. Altogether, around 6,250 pupils and 200 teachers were involved in the program.



### Prepared for Living

In 2007, jointly with Fundación Leer, a program was carried out for two consecutive years with four schools from Villa Constitución. It consisted in activities destined to promote reading, writing, comprehension and self-expression. It also encouraged the teaching of values and the integration of parents to the upbringing and education of their children. Each school library received 300 books, and several educational projects were launched with the purpose of improving self-esteem in children and at fostering values such as friendship, solidarity and tolerance. Altogether, 580 children, between ages 9 and 11, and 25 teachers took part in them.

### Strengthening Links

The third and last module of the courses Education for Comprehension was completed. These courses were imparted by the Latitud Nodo Sur team of the San Andrés University, with the objective of training teachers in new teaching techniques to make students' comprehension easier. 42 teachers from 12 schools took part, and around 850 pupils benefited from the activity.

### Educational Upgrading Clinics

The program, designed by the Buenos Aires Technology Institute (ITBA), is carried out with the help of Fundación Acindar since the year 2005 in the locations where the company is present. The clinics, developed in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, seek to encourage a meeting point between university and secondary school teachers to revise the teaching practice together. Their purpose differs from traditional training: this program does not pass on contents but methodology and procedures to improve teaching in the classroom and optimize the students' learning process. This year, the program has included Mathematics and Physics modules for teachers from Villa Constitución and San Nicolás, locations included since the beginning of the program. Additionally, activities extended to San Justo and La Tablada, locations where Clinics for the three subjects were delivered. Altogether, 46 teachers from secondary and technical schools participated.

### Local Educational Activities (AEL)

Several initiatives from organizations belonging to Villa Banana, Rosario, Santa Fe province, and to Maipú, in Mendoza province, were approved in 2007. This was done together with the members of the Nodo Argentino of RedEAmérica, which is formed not only by Fundación Acindar, but also by Arcor, Minetti, BankBoston and Telefónica foundations and company Shell CAPSA. The first initiative, called

Reconstructing Links, was focused in strengthening the education opportunities for the neighbourhood children, through the creation of spaces for school support and recreation, workshops for parents and advice for principals and teachers of local schools. The second one, called Constructing Learning Spaces, organizes sport, formative, recreational and cultural activities for children and teenagers. Altogether, 25 organizations are carrying on both projects, in which 1,150 children and 195 youngsters and adults take part.

### Let's Add up Safety

The program, which seeks to promote safe behaviour and preventive attitude, is framed within the proposals of safety awareness that the company carries on, addressed to the company's personnel as well as the community. Fundación Acindar organized activities in the towns of Villa Constitución and La Tablada by involving schools, with an educational program that suggests that teachers should include the topic of safety in the classroom. To that end, different teaching materials were produced: a safety game in compact disc, an activity workbook for students and a teacher's guide; each participant received one copy. Fundación Acindar's teachers delivered conceptual workshops on the topic, and the Company's Squad Members and Multipliers voluntarily went all over the schools to deliver safety courses. Halfway through the year, a contest for the students was carried out, with the instruction to prepare some kind of communication work on the topic. To close the activity, a fair was organized in which the schools presented the works and projects done during the year. As regards the results, students became enthusiastic with the topic and worked the different aspects of safety that the materials offered; they understood and applied risk and prevention concepts, they shared them with their schoolmates and, what is most important, they transmitted them to their parents. Participation in the contest was wide; all the works presented were of high quality and showed understanding of the topic. On the other hand, the teachers pointed that "they had never thought about this topic" until they took part in the program, and that the fact that each student had their own workbook on the subject, made the incorporation of the topic into the classroom easier. Besides applying the contents and activities proposed in the workbook, many teachers spread the program contents by means of informal channels to other teachers and schools. The school headmasters of the two towns offered strong support to continue the program and to carry out projects aimed at other courses and the community, which included safety games, plays, school safety manuals, models, school signs, educational material and safety campaigns. The works were displayed in a Safety Fair open to the public; it had ample spreading and audience and so helped to settle the issue in the community. Altogether, 41 schools were directly involved (95% of invited schools), 90 teachers and around 2,300 students.

### Early Education

The program supports projects for child development that come from organizations which work with small children by financing, training and providing technical assistance. The program was carried out together with Minetti, Bonzón Minetti, Telefónica, Standard Bank and Hispanics in Philanthropy foundations. The announcement for projects of organizations in Córdoba province received 32 proposals. 13 were approved, in which 30 institutions, around 100 adults and 2,635 children were involved. 3 projects were satisfactorily finished, and other 10 are currently under progress and about to be finished.

### Infancy

One of the goals of the Fundación for the year 2007 was to start working with smaller children, anticipating and preventing potential difficulties –in their future learning process as well as in their health – and contributing to their comprehensive development and better preparation for school. The area selected to start these activities was Villa Constitución. The first step was a diagnostic work that included: (a) a mapping work of the educational institutions that work with infants, (b) a general description of infants' situation in the province and in the country and, (c) a theoretical framework about the main lines of educational investigation and intervention at that level. At the end of the fiscal year, the first stage of work was finished and the two remaining were under progress, with which the most convenient and strategic intervention opportunities shall be identified to start the activities in the year 2008.

### Contest of Educational Projects in the north of Santa Fe province

To complete the educational projects contest, and jointly with Fundación Cimientos, primary and secondary schools of Vera were invited to present projects directed at solving problems detected by the same institutions, trying to encourage the habit of examining their own operation in order to improve different aspects related to the teaching process. The jury selected 3 projects from 7 schools, in which 11 teachers and 128 students participate. By the end of the fiscal year, a zonal meeting to deal with training and exchange was organized with teachers from several provinces. The projects will be finished by the end of 2008.

### Fostering

Jointly with Emprendimientos Rurales Los Grobo, La Nación and Navarro Viola, BASF Argentina, Banco Galicia, Editorial Troquel and

University of San Andrés foundations, the search is addressed at reinforcing community networks in rural areas of Buenos Aires province, by supporting initiatives oriented to the local development. During 2007, the strengthening of the 5 educational projects was supported; they had started the previous year and 4 communities, 12 schools and 40 teachers were involved. Besides, a new call was made to select the projects that will be carried out during 2008—2009 period.



# Social Development



In the field of Social Promotion, the strengthening of community organizations was supported through a fund for projects and a program for reinforcing various aspects related to the process. Proposals addressed to young people were also supported, for the creation of lucrative enterprises, training and the realization of community projects. The implemented projects were the following:

## Support to Social Organizations Projects

According to what had been agreed on, the contributions that the Fundación annually gave to non-profit entities were turned into a fund for projects support. To such end, the organizations that had received help in previous years were informed about the new work method, and, as new requests arrived, the applicants were invited to present a concrete work proposal, with well-defined objectives, work plan, estimate, schedule, and expected results. 28 applications were received during the fiscal year, out of which 13 were selected. 5 social organizations, 2 professional training centers and 7 schools participated, amounting to about 7,500 children, youngsters and adults. 78% of the projects were carried out in locations where the company is present, and the remaining 22% in other areas.

## Strengthening the Management of Social Organizations

The Fundación cooperated with the program of the association Management Funds for the Third Sector, designed to channel available skills in people from the private sector towards social organizations with weak management processes and tools, to increase their social impact. During the fiscal year, the entity carried on 27 institutional strengthening projects, in the fields of administration, business management, strategy and government, operations, programs

management, human resources and communication. Additionally, the entity managed to incorporate 36 new volunteers, what makes a total of 92 professionals linked to the network.

## Trade Training

The project which started in 2006 with the teaching of training workshops at the San Pablo Technical School from the city of Villa Constitución was completed. Altogether, 4 basic mechanics courses were carried out, 3 for machine operators and 3 for electric welding, in which 165 young men took part.

## Enterprises for Young People

The program is executed jointly with Fundación Impulsar and is focused in helping young people without credit possibilities to start profitable or service enterprises. To that end, a call was carried out in the city of San Luis to present ideas for projects. The participants received training and education on how to draw up their business plans. After the presentation of projects and the selection of addressees, credits were given with funds from the Fundación to two young people for (a) buying a cutting plotter for a graphic design enterprise, and (b) starting up a pig rearing enterprise. Both young men have a volunteer business mentor who will guide them for at least three years, the term stated for the loan refunding. The selection of a third entrepreneur is a pending task for the first months of 2008.

## Let's Move Forward

Together with Ashoka, a proposal was made to young people between 14 and 24 years old asking them to develop social enterprises to

benefit their community. The program trained them to develop their projects and, through a selection process, they were given small funds to carry out the projects. By means of their participation, it is hoped that the youngsters complete their formal education acquiring the necessary skills for the work market, such as leadership, teamwork, administration, communication, etc. In 2007 the activities were carried out in the communities of Villa Constitución and San Nicolás. The coordination of activities was carried out with the help of two local entities: Clayss and Scouts. After the first projects workshop, 23 proposals were received, out of which 17 were shortlisted. The authors received technical assistance to improve their projects which they presented before a board made up of Acindar's representatives and from other companies and institutions: Loma Negra Sesa Select, YPF, El Norte newspaper, Fundación Avina, Ecoclubs and Sumando Argentina, in which 13 proposals were selected to be implemented during the first months of 2008.

## Donations in Kind

Fundación Acindar worked as a link between Acindar S.A. and various actors of the community which needed computer hardware for their activities. Computers no longer in use in the company were donated to several institutions.

## Recycling of Paper

As it is already usual, the Fundación was also the link between Acindar S.A. and the Fundación Hospital Garrahan, coordinating campaigns and working on the logistics to give away the paper disposed of by the Company. Through the recycling of paper, this institution received assistance to help the younger and less favoured children of our country. About 14,500 kilograms of paper were donated.



# Environment



As regards Environment, we assumed the task of continuing to make children aware of the impact which small, everyday actions may have on the environment. Moreover, there continued the support to family and community microenterprises that through working agrochemical-free lands, have found a means of subsistence. The following programs were carried out:

## The Planet is Your Home, Take Care of It

The program aims at stimulating environmental awareness in children, their acquisition of habits to take care of the environment and the realization of small actions to help improve the environment in which they live and grow: their home, school, neighborhood and city. During 2007, several activities were carried out for employees' families and for students from Villa Constitución schools; the program reached pupils from schools in La Tablada as well. As in previous years, a cartoon story about energy was created, to which activity workbooks teacher's guides were also added. As closing activity, a contest was organized with the children's works on the topic, in the fields of art, literature and investigation. The jury was formed by Acindar's different managements' employees. Within the series for students, 15 schools and 688 pupils were involved. In the series for employees' relatives, the participation of 108 children was achieved, 50% more than the year before; in this series there participated Internal Communications and Human Resources Managements' analysts of all the locations.

## Community and Environment

As each year, the objective of this program was to promote links among the projects' participants and the institutions of the different communities, with the aim of fostering teamwork, taking pride in one's own work and coordination, to achieve knowledge exchange or to generate new support opportunities. To that end, the Fundación

invited the technical school N° 465 General Manuel Belgrano and N° 466 General Manuel Savio from the city of Rosario, to participate in the annual meeting of the Argentine Society for Continual Improvement (SAMECO) to exhibit the third stage of their project Water Purification, that consists in carrying out bacteriologic quality controls of the water in the schools of the city. Moreover, the monographs The Educational Solar Heater and Bioindustries were published in the presentation book: An Alternative Process for the Future, works produced by the schools that won the educational projects contest. On the other hand, the Escuela de Enseñanza Media N° 415 Juan Bautista Alberdi from Arroyo Seco was invited to present its production From the Vegetable Garden to Personal Care: a commitment with society at the Technological Motivation Seminar (Sitec), held at Acindar in November. During the Sitec, the productions were also displayed and the awards were delivered to students from Villa Constitución schools, and personnel's sons and daughters, winners of the contest The Planet is Your Home, Take Care of It.

## Organic Vegetable Gardens and Farms

A new call was carried out for two categories: Improvement Projects (for the institutions that had been selected in 2006) and Projects for New Vegetable Gardens. 7 improvement projects and 4 for new vegetable gardens were selected. Besides funding, all initiatives received technical assistance. The projects are progressing according to what has been foreseen, and the beneficiaries have already started to consume and sell surplus production. Furthermore, 9 training workshops were carried out about production, transformation and commercialization, not only for the projects participants but also for the community. The program involved 5 schools, 4 community organizations, 6 town councils and around 2,380 children and adults.

# Health

In the area of Health, the aim was to promote education and prevention as basic tools for personal care. The following courses of action were taken:

## If We Take Care of Our Eyes, We Learn Better

Jointly with Fundación Zambrano, an eye care program was completed. It had started in 2006 at 4 primary schools from Villa Constitución and 3 schools from La Tablada. Altogether, 4 teacher training courses were carried out for classroom application of the handbook "See to Learn" that was delivered to each participating child, and 2 training courses for the pre-screening of children's eyesight conditions, in which 311 pupils with some sight difficulty were detected. The thorough sight analysis in the children was later completed by Fundación Zambrano's ophthalmologists, who detected 123 cases that required the use of glasses (4.11% out of the total, a smaller percentage than in previous practices). The glasses were provided by the program, and 11 more complex cases were referred for attention to the Zambrano Institute Social Services. 2,994 pupils and 200 teachers took part in the program.

## Education for Health

An alliance was done with Fundación Centro de Estudios Infectológicos (FUNCEI), led by Dr. Daniel Stambouljan, with the purpose of developing a program addressed to school age children, under the premise that many illnesses can be prevented with the promotion of simple rules about health self-care. The acquisition of that knowledge at an early age, through trained teachers and educational material specially developed for children, achieves the creation of good habits for life. The first step involved working with children of 7 and 8 years old (2° and 3° grade of primary schools) of the cities of Villa Constitución, San Nicolás and La Tablada, and the following educational material was prepared: two books on self-care, a compact disc with songs, a backpack with personal care elements and a guidebook for teachers with further information about the contents of the child book and suggested activities to develop in the classroom. The activities at schools will start during the first months of 2008.



# Projects of Integration

Fundación Acindar continued participating in the RedEAmérica and in the training and strengthening activities it offers for members.

The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) awarded it with the 1° Prize in the category Health and Environment for the program Organic Vegetable Gardens and Farms. In addition, the Christian Family Movement recognized Fundación Acindar's work in the field of social action and awarded it with the Testimonio Unión Nacional 2007.

The Regional Director of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Santa Fe declared the programs Support Classes, Educational Projects Contest, Let's Add up Safety and The Planet is Your Home, Take Care of It as programs of regional educational interest.

The Local and Regional II Headquarters, San Justo, of the General Directorate of Culture and Education of Buenos Aires province declared the programs that Fundación Acindar carries out in the city of La Tablada to be of educational interest, namely: Let's Add up Safety, The Planet is Your Home, Take Care of It, and If we Take Care of Our Eyes, We Learn Better.

Villa Constitución Town Council declared the programs Support Classes, Educational Projects Contest, Organic Vegetable Gardens and Farms and Let's Add up Safety of educational interest.

The education regional supervisors in the cities of Villa Constitución and La Tablada offered their support and participated regularly in the different educational programs that the Fundación carries out at schools under its care.

Towards the end of the fiscal year, the Fundación changed its institutional image and adapted it to the one adopted by Acindar, to keep its identification with the company.

