

TOGETHER WE CAN

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Profamilia bets for clean energy: Sabana Perdida, renovated and with solar energy

With new equipment, new spaces and services aimed at meeting the needs of the residents of Santo Domingo North and nearby communities, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health, Profamilia presented its renovated facilities in Sabana Perdida.

A modern and safe ramp at the entrance and also in the parking area of the clinic, facilitates the access for people with disabilities to the facilities, where new offices and state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging equipment have been added, such as mammography and X-ray, as well as other equipment for the laboratory area. With these innovations Profamilia continues to be a benchmark for Santo Domingo North in the delivery of health services with their customary quality and warmth.

The Executive Director, Magaly Caram, pointed out that “the remodeling of the clinic began in 2019, thanks to the financial contributions of the Clara Lionel Foundation and the technical support of Engineers Without Borders, with a preliminary investment of more than US\$780,000, which also includes two new offices, restructuring of the cashier areas and a 30% increase in the capacity of the waiting rooms”.

She also highlighted the installation of solar panels that “insert us into the trend of using clean and renewable energy, in addition to guaranteeing that the clinic has a constant energy supply to continue providing services in the event of natural disasters.”



PROFAMILIA ELECTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2024



Dr. Ana María Navarro is the new Chair of the Board of Directors of Profamilia, elected for the period 2022-2024 by unanimous vote during the Annual Ordinary General Assembly held on June 30, 2022.

Profamilia introduced Dr. Ana María Navarro as the new Chair of its Board of Directors, as well as its Annual Report for 2021, a year that ended with almost one million services provided in sexual and reproductive health and other medical specialties through its seven clinical centers located in different areas of the country.

Dr. Navarro was elected unanimously as Chair for the period 2022-2024 during the 2022 Annual Ordinary General Assembly. She replaces economist Melba Barnett, who held the position for two consecutive terms, during which she led the institution to take great strides towards strengthening its mission and vision.

Dr. Navarro shall be accompanied in her new role by Melba Barnett, Ivelisse Rosario, Francisco Álvarez, Víctor Rosario; Amelia Vicini and Rhadive Pérez. As alternates for the different positions are Milciades Albert, Arlette Palacio, Millizen Uribe, Yildalina Tatem, Ricardo Elías Melgen and Jocelyn Caminero.





Second Community Health Fair

“KLK contigo”, ¡Quiérete!

¡Por tu salud, por tus derechos!

(“S’UP with u” Love yourself! For your health, for your rights!”)

As part of the celebration of World Day for the Prevention of Adolescent Unplanned Pregnancy, Profamilia held the second community health fair with the theme “klk, contigo”, ¡Quiérete! Por tu salud, por tus derechos” [“s’up with u” Love yourself! For your health, for your rights!], with the aim of strengthening institutional ties with communities; reaffirm the institutional commitment to people in health care and their daily lives and to highlight health as one of the fundamental dimensions of people’s lives.

The issues addressed included prevention of gender violence, HIV prevention and care, prevention of cervical and prostate cancer, and counseling services in sexual and reproductive health. In addition, other health services were provided, such as consultations in general medicine and gynecology, HIV testing, and family planning.

The fair was held in the communities close to the Profamilia clinics Evangelina Rodriguez, Rosa Cisneros, San Francisco de Macorís, San Cristobal and Sabana Perdida with the support of the project *Access to sexual and reproductive health for people living in poverty and vulnerability in the Dominican Republic* and the participation of organizations and institutions with ties of collaboration such as INAIPI, the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONANI), Office of the Mayor of Santo Domingo North, the Fire Department, Civil Defense, National Health Service, Public Health Area III, the Foundation Community Action for Progress (ACOPRO) as well as neighborhood councils and community associations

S'up? People's remarks



Sarah Álvarez
(Medical Manager SP Clinic)

From Sabana Perdida, we support a space of great importance for young people of the community who are the protagonists and where, together with other institutions, we offer them knowledge, fun and help change the vision based on rights. A great initiative and great work.



Clariel Santana
(Educator SFM)

For us, the fair is a challenge, but in the San Francisco team we believe that it is of utmost importance to carry it out, since bringing services to the community so that people can access the right to health from their own spaces and also being able to enjoy some artistic activities, generates a lot of satisfaction regardless of the great effort it requires.



Fátima Pumarol
(Educator Santiago)

This fair strengthens the work we do in the field with government and civil society organizations. It is always a great challenge that helps us grow and strengthen our community efforts and the link community-clinic.



Débora Soto
(Educator San Cristóbal)

We learn from this process the importance of community work and how it proves that perseverance yields positive results. Also the confident reaction of people and of governmental and non-governmental organizations.



Víctor Alfonso
(Educator Evangelina Rodríguez)

It's an activity that has a great impact, very hand in hand with the mission and vision of the institution, where we work shoulder to shoulder with organizations, foundations, leaders and all youth as a fundamental part of participation and exercising the right to information.



Biomedical Research

Profamilia's Biomedical Research Unit made great achievements during 2021. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Profamilia made its contribution by conducting a pilot study on the immune response to the Sinovac vaccine.

The pilot study was made with a sample of 80 participants (employees of the Evangelina Rodríguez clinic) and determined that the Sinovac vaccine generated an immune response (presence of antibodies in blood) of 92.5% one month after completing the second dose of immunization. The results were presented to the Health Cabinet and had the support of Laboratorio Referencia, which collaborated with the free measurement of IgG anti-S1/S2 antibodies against SARS-CoV-2.

Similarly, Profamilia conducted a study coordinated by the Ministry of Public Health on the safety and immunogenicity of the application of a third booster dose with Pfizer, in people who received the complete vaccination regime with both doses of Sinovac or AstraZeneca. The results of this study were presented by Dr. Eddy Perez Then, special advisor to the Ministry of Health for the response to COVID-19, at the National Palace. The Executive Director of Profamilia, Magaly Caram and researcher Vivian Brache were special guests in this event.

Also, a study was started evaluating the pharmacokinetic profile of three doses of a generic version of medroxyprogesterone acetate administered subcutaneously, compared to the current product on the market.

In that same year, Vivian Brache, principal investigator and head of the Biomedical Research Unit, was awarded the Medal of Merit for Dominican Women, Professional Category in Science and Technology, as well as recognition from the National Council of Bioethics in Health -CONABIOS- for her notable career and perseverance in conducting biomedical studies, under the standards of good clinical practice.



Caribbean Resilience

With the aim of strengthening institutional capacity to ensure the access to education and SRH services for vulnerable populations in humanitarian emergencies in the National District and in the municipality of Santo Domingo West, in particular in the health emergency of COVID-19 during the period May 2021 to December 2022, actions were implemented within the framework of the project Caribbean Resilience Phase II.

The delivery of telemedicine services was initiated within the framework of this project and had its highest increase during the most critical months of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the importance of maintaining and strengthening the service, expanding its scope, its characteristics and developing regulations for timely and quality care was proven.

During the period May 2021 – October 2022, a total of 3,517 counseling sessions in sexual and reproductive health were reported.

The capacity of Profamilia volunteers to participate in emergency responses in their communities was also strengthened. With the development of these actions, promoters of rural communities and bateyes were sensitized on basic concepts of disaster risk management, gender approach and sexual and reproductive rights during emergencies.

An analysis was also made on who are the most vulnerable people in emergencies and disasters, and based on their context, women (pregnant and nursing), persons with disabilities, seniors, children and adolescents, migrants, people with chronic illnesses and people living with HIV among were recognized as the most affected.

A Profamilia guide was developed for promoters to provide a community response in sexual and reproductive health during emergency or disaster situations; with the support of the Health Mobile Unit and community female promoters, 20,116 contraceptive methods were distributed in rural communities and bateyes that have no access to SRH services, particularly contraceptives.

The Youth Leadership project implemented by Profamilia with Plan Internacional and the support of the European Union since December 2019, seeks to contribute to the recognition of demands made by civil society organizations to promote the exercise of social, civil, economic and political rights, especially sexual and reproductive health rights and gender equality in the provinces Azua, Barahona, Santiago, Duarte and La Altagracia.

In addition, it promotes strengthening the participation of young people in the demand for greater guarantees to exercise their rights, especially sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality, and that these demands are recognized and accepted by the governments and local entities responsible for guaranteeing these rights, in order to improve the sexual and reproductive health indicators of the population.

Within the framework of their recent actions, a training cycle was developed called “Gender focus on youth and children for the construction of public policies that guarantee differentiated needs”, in the interest of guaranteeing the exercise of human rights of women and youth, particularly sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR) and gender equality in the country.

These trainings were addressed especially to rights guarantors in the health sector, children, education, local governments, women and youth of the provinces where the project is being implemented.



Urban murals, a social awareness tool

Incorporating the visual arts as a communication strategy to create awareness among guarantors of rights and the community at large, is an idea being implemented by a group of young people who paint urban murals about the participation of youth in the development of local policies that guarantee a response to the needs of women and youth.

Art, as a mode of social expression, speaks a universal language. It is precisely the language of the young people involved in the Youth Leadership project that, among other actions, contemplates making urban murals in the provinces of Azua, Barahona, Santiago, Duarte and La Altagracia, with the methodological guide of visual artist, Eddaviel Montero.

This communication strategy focused on advancing the realization of the human rights of women and youth, in particular sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR) and gender equality in the country,

Profamilia together with Plan International developed the training cycle “Gender focus on youth and children, for the construction of public policies that guarantee differentiated needs”.

Especially aimed at rights guarantors in the health sector, children, education, local governments, women and youth in the provinces of Azua, Barahona, Santiago, Duarte and La Altagracia, this training cycle is carried out within the framework of the “Youth Leadership” initiative sponsored by the European Union.



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TOGETHER WE CAN is a publication of the Communications and Image Unit, to share information on the implementation of social projects by the institution.

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