

REPORT FROM THE COLLECTIVE COORDINATION OF LATIN AMERICA¹

Southern sub-region

The sub-region is composed of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Areas of work:

- Community health, health care (medicinal plants, massage, bioenergetic exercises, healthy eating, etc.)
- Ancestral Medicine and intercultural health
- Articulation between social organizations and the public health system
- Links with the formal education system
- Defense of territories (megaminería resistance, pollution of aquifers, deforestation, dams, pesticides)
- Support for indigenous communities
- Support, assistance and dissemination of situations in other countries in Latin America - Case Ayotzinapa - Zapatista Resistance - Social struggles in Ecuador (through statements, organization of lectures and workshops, documentaries, accompaniments caravans)

Some of the events or specific interventions in each country of the Southern Sub-region:

Uruguay:

Supported for movement of seed fairs and coordination of workshops. Work with the Uruguayan organization, supporting the work and resilience of the people. Coordination with the group of Primary Care Social Workers ASSE. (Association of State Health Services).

Chile:

Since 2010, in the south, working in training promoters (currently over 90 active). A professional multidisciplinary team of loncos, machis, leaders of Mapuche communities, nursing technicians and organized health workers. These promoters of life (men, women, farmers, Mapuche) work in the recovery of ancestral food, water and herbal medicine, health promotion and prevention through educational and interactive discussions with participants, getting state financial contributions and local agencies to provide basic inputs to the future promoters, with the vision of MSP and the Buen Vivir (Wellbeing).

Another activity has been to support coastal Mapuche sisters, strengthening their knowledge of fabrics and looms, carrying out "trafkintu" (barter) where seafood products are exchanged with the

¹ This report does not include the Andean region.

mountain range thus obtaining the raw material (wool sheep).

Recently, in November, the second international seminar was held about Buen Vivir in a town 60 km from the capital of the ninth region, Temuco Galvarino, and in the town of Melipeuco, in collaboration with the Mapuche Council, authorities of the commune, Municipality of Galvarino, and the Catholic University of Temuco. Along with Chileans, comrades from other countries of Abya Yala (Argentina, Peru and Bolivia) also participated. People from south central Chile, obtaining as results such as emotions, joy, hope that a better world is already possible.

Paraguay:

MSP activists form the National Movement for the Right to Health, participating in various social struggles who struggle for the fulfillment of human rights. Integrated groups against Monsanto and the harmful use of pesticides. Working on sexual and reproductive health, AIDS, gender, APS.

Argentina:

Participation in the congress of the Latin American Confederation of Rural Organizations (CLOC): delivery of a statement of accession of the MSP and in a march of social movements to the US embassy.

- Participation in the Food Sovereignty Day at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA).

In April, the IV Congress of General Medicine of the Province of Buenos Aires was held including sponsorship by the MSP. The slogan was "Critical thinking. Basis for the transformation of the health system". Comrades of Argentina MSP had an active involvement in the presentation of displays, papers and workshops.

In the month of June we participated in the Third Congress of Socio-Environmental Health organized by the Faculty of Medical Sciences of Rosario, also sponsored by MSP. There were discussions, workshops and exhibitions with activists from Argentina and Ecuador. We also participated in the organization of the UCCSNAL (Union of scientists committed to society and nature of Latin America)

- July, Meeting with Dr. Oscar Di Marco teaching residents of General Medicine, Social Medicine, Carrillo and MSP, in the Ramón Carrillo Hospital San Carlos de Bariloche..

In the month of October we participated in the XXX Congress of the Argentina Federation of General Medicine in Santa Fe.

Community Health meetings, seminars and workshops in several provinces. Laicrimpo, the XXV Meeting was held with the theme "25 years laicrimperos, seeking a balance in all phases of life." Various workshops were held and the main theme was Buen Vivir (Wellbeing) from the worldview of the Diaguita and Mapuche peoples and the Guarani. Besides the ongoing work of the Jarilla Network of Healthy Plants in the South, there was an annual three-day meeting with the slogan: "between everybody yes you can, between everybody yes it will," with the participation of a hundred people.

In Patagonia there was a direct impact of MSP and Red Jarilla for enacting local ordinances that declare their territories free of megaminería, the issuance of a "Mega taller Healthy Plants Open Air for Life" in support of the resistance of Las Coloradas (Neuquén). Also central 8th conference. Regional Book Fair in San Martín de los Andes, from the vision of Buen Vivir of MSP.

Alegremia and dissemination of Hope Seed Trade Neuquén province. (Lectures and workshops).

Discussion on the forced disappearance of 43 normalistas Ayotzinapa and screening of the documentary "Chronicle of a Crime of State" in teacher training institutes San M. De los Andes, Junín de los Andes Neuquén and other cities, by a member of MSP.

Accompanying the caravan of parents of 43 Normalistas Ayotzinapa, by activists Rosario MSP.

Participation of Argentine activists at the International Seminar on Buen Vivir in Guatemala (ASECSA) and work in communities of the Chiapas highlands with EAPSEC.

- Participation in meetings ALAMES in the Province of Buenos Aires

Participation in the National Conference convened by the Minister of Health of the Nation in the space of Ex-ESMA (Memory Spaces)

"Cuban Internationalism Health on the African Continent" and the Center of Cooperation Autonomous City of Buenos Aires on "The role of civil society in Mozambique as an alternative to neoliberal policies": In Buenos Aires the following presentations.

Province of Formosa working in the Ministry of Community, enabling other activities, multiplier courses in community health, community meetings (where various self-help practices such as massage, acupressure, preparation of herbal medicines, healthy exercise. Communitybased care of children, weighing children, recycling, community and agroecological gardens, healthy food processing, etc.), home visits, promotion of life caregivers clubs, radio programs, teaching and different joint activities with various community stakeholders, both institutions and community organizations.

Participation in the 1st National Congress of Paraguay Complementary Therapies, held in the city of Encarnación..

Community health experiences in conjunction with adult education and neighborhood health center, with the contribution of social organizations such as Red Jarilla and MSP, making medicines prepared with healthy plants (knowledge and products that the school shares with the health center and distribute among their patients), issues of domestic violence and gender, sexual and reproductive health, healthy walks, agro-ecological garden, etc.

Participation as MSP of organizational meetings for Agroecology regional meeting of the region NEA (Northeast Argentina)

Participation in drafting the document to adhere to the Declaration of the Continental Week of native seeds, from 26 to August 1, proposed by the MAELA.

Participation in assemblies, meetings, demonstrations in defense of mother earth, water, native seeds. Against fracking, the megaminería, construction of dams, of pesticides, transgenic seeds.

It is the responsibility of the coordination of the Sub-Region to prepare a document on Buen Vivir,

from the perspective of the MSP, which is in draft form. It has been socialized in Guatemala, under a new review and with input from diverse comrades.

Subregional Strengths : variety and quantity of experiences, from both academic and popular perspectives with attempt to jointly carry out activities. MSP also participates in various struggles (extractive , protection of water , free seeds , etc.)

Subregional weaknesses: While we try to take advantage of conferences, meetings to be organized ..) the long distances in the area have become more difficult as the chance to meet MSP. Lack of motivation of some colleagues to communicate and encourage reconciliation . Fortunately , not all the comrades ! Another huge weakness has to do with the recent political changes , the right wing has come back very strong in our sub - region (Argentina)

Mesoamerica

Guatemala:

In Guatemala the health system has collapsed, after 18 years of trials of neoliberal reforms. The two largest San Juan de Dios Hospital and Roosevelt, as well as departmental hospitals are only taking emergencies.. The outpatient clinics are closed. There is a lack of medicines, supplies and payment of staff. This situation is closely related to the effects of corruption cases of the state and social security system; as well as poor management and administration. This will be the last year of the coverage by an extension program that was implemented under the private public logic with delivery mechanisms and administration of services by companies and organizations. With a current transitional government and the arrival soon of a military government and business again; the future points to the possibility of entering a second phase of neoliberal reforms on the grounds that state services do not work and should pass into private hands.

Campaigns

Advocacy campaign that achieves adoption of a national policy that dignifies the work of traditional midwives.

Campaign against oil palm company REPSA because of river pollution in Rio la Pasión in the Peten,

Campaign against Marlen mine in San Miguel Ixtahucan.

Campaigns against gender violence

Campaigns for reducing pregnancies in adolescents.

Social mobilizations.

Participation in the platform for state reform and the social sector assembly and active participation

in the demonstrations against corruption that causes the resignation of President and Vice President. Circles of analysis with the Citizens Health Forum, Institute of Inclusive health, and others concerning the crisis in the health system in Guatemala.

MSP Brazil

Brazil is currently experiencing a period of political crisis, with growing opposition to the current government of Dilma, most from the right wing. In addition, there are also growing right-wing movements, even among young people. In this broader context, the SUS, universal health care, faces many difficulties in its implementation because market forces are very strong, threatening the proposal of a universal public system. For example, this year, a law was passed that allows the entry of foreign capital to deploy and manage new health facilities. This year also in the public service outsourcing rose sharply, reducing workers direct contracts with the state.

Realization of the National Health Conference in Brasilia, which is held every four years. The conference brings together the claims of health workers from the municipal to the national level. This year's conference theme was "quality public health to take good care of people. A right of the Brazilian people. "

Unfortunately there was a major environmental tragedy in the south center of the country. A mining barriers were broken and sludge covered the Rio Doce and submerged several cities. Several people were killed and the whole nature of the place was affected. One of the greatest tragedies of this kind in the country. And the extractive industry still continues to grow in Brazil.

Changes in the regional / subregional structure.

Still the same. We are 2 representatives of the subregion Brazil in the group of regional coordination: Silvana and Camila.

Camila still represents the region at meetings of the Coco but was absent in meetings almost all year because of maternity leave, maintaining participation by email.

We also have a group of 8 people elected representing all regions of the country, but this is unfortunately inactive at present. Some people are active individually. A plan was reactivated in 2015 but did not materialize.

3. Internal communication: frequency, media, officials, mailing lists.

We have a national Listserv or with about 50 active participants. We also have a mailing list only for the group of Porto Alegre. On the national list, a lot of information of national interest is shared.. In the list of Porto Alegre, more local issues are discussed.

Facebook page, com 450 followers <https://www.facebook.com/mspbr?ref=bookmarks>

PHM Website: some news are published in English and Portuguese

We often communicate by phone, mainly between Porto Alegre and Maranhão.

Group MSP Porto Alegre:

- Monthly meetings of the MSP group for the exchange and coordination of activities.
- Project Community Health Action: documentation and analysis of all 10 episodes of community action for health in Porto Alegre. They worked on the final review of a book that should be published next year.
- IDRC Project (Participation of Civil Society in the Health for All):

includes the participation of 3 sub-projects:

Porto Alegre: objective of the first phase - to analyze the contribution of users and health workers for effective social participation in the SUS (National Health System), to strengthen such participation.

Project coordinated by the NGO ACTBR on advocacy in addressing chronic noncommunicable diseases.

Maranhão: on building the MSP with popular base in the northeast.

"Friends of streams".. Intersectoral group in Porto Alegre instituted composed of different sectors of public administration and social movements, including the MSP. The group's goal is to work with environmental education in vulnerable communities to address the social determinants of health. The initial focus is to restore contaminated streams in these communities. This group is the result of expansion of the first project in the Morro action of the police, since 2008.

WHO Observatory: Mariana, MSP Porto Alegre, participated in the World Health Assembly in Geneva in January. She is now finishing her work at the School of Public Health on this issue. This year participation in the Watch was more isolated, with little contribution and support to comrades who were in Geneva.

Participation in drafting chapters GHW4. Camila Community Health Agents. Armando de Negri in another chapter on health systems.

Launch of Global Health Watch 4: Porto Alegre had a launch event in July, which was attended by Professor Maria Ines Azambuja, who spoke about the social determinants of health. In the event, some copies of the book were sold and pdf format found online for free. The language (English) is still a major problem..

Launch of Global Health Watch 4, an open public course was held, addressing themes of the book to trigger discussions on global health and the social determinants of health. This course was promoted at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and the state School of Public Health.

Registration for the course was free. 35 people participated effectively. The course was held for two months (May and June), in weekly meetings, totaling 15 hours.

The MSP Porto Alegre group participated in preparatory activities for the Municipal Health Conference, in the field of social movements.

In October, the MSP participated in a joint event with the group CEBES Rio Grande do Sul. In this event the current political landscape was discussed.

North-east MSP group:

This group has the participation of several people in Maranhão, with the leadership of the sister Ani Whibey. And Marta has Giane militant, who made several trips to Maranhão to articulate and encourage people. The last one was in November. Urban and rural: 2 cores are identified MSP. The two are meeting regularly. The urban group includes academics and activists of social movements. Meetings are organized around the needs of organized movements. The rural group (in the village of Nina Rodrigues) has a strong popular base and is being built with the methodology of popular education. It is a group fighting for environmental, social causes, health, the right to health and life. They denounce the Transnational VALE, causing damage to the health of the people. Also the large landowners and those who harvest wood are threatening the health of local populations. This group is instituting an interesting method of self sustainability: each person contributes 5 reales monthly to have some money for activities.

This year we had the participation of Ani, representing social movements, at a meeting in Bellagio on the impact of transnational companies on the health of people. She and Maria represented PHMLA in this meeting organized by Fran Baum and with the participation of academics and activists from around the world.

We also had the visit of Ani to Porto Alegre, when we had the opportunity to share with her about our work.

MSP group São Paulo:

The group, coordinated by Silvana Veríssimo, organized various activities:

A public demonstration in defense of SUS in cities across the state of São Paulo

Information activities on prevention of STD / AIDS during Carnival.

Activities to promote the health of women

Seminar on black women and psychological harm of racism

Seminar on mortality precoc of black youth

Campaign to reduce maternal mortality

Activities of promotion of health of black women

Participation in the Municipal Conference of Women in several cities in the state of São Paulo.

Activities (seminars, courses, exhibitions) mobilization in October, month of Mobilization for Health of the Black Population.

Mobilization activities in November, month of black consciousness.

In December, mobilization activities for the prevention of STD / AIDS and week celebration of human rights.

A tribute received by Silvana Veríssimo, the day 09/09/15, from the state government of São Paulo, for her work in favor of the health of the black population.

Other groups:

Virtually no other organized groups in the country, but there is the action of isolated individuals. For example, the representation of MSP in events such as the National Congress of Public Health by the student Mateus de Faria, of Minas Gerais.

Growth of the movement: the structure of an MSP group in the northeast is a step forward. But elsewhere, there is little movement. The other significant development is the involvement of NGOs in the IDRC ACTBR research, and thus in the MSP. It is good to add more NGOs, once our movement is basically made up of individuals, and so sometimes this creates difficulty in structuring in project development, fund-raising, for example.

This year we can also cite a rapprochement with the national CEBES group. But the MSP group as meant by it is important to maintain their autonomy, and that Cebes is a consolidated group as well. At this time, there is an approach but not any formality.

The voluntary and unpaid work is always a difficulty. People already have their very heavy work load and usually spare little time for the movement. We perceive that concrete offer to people interested in activities is a mobilizing factor.

Plans for the future:

Key activities - civil society research, writing and publication of an article on MSP Brazil ends with a proposal for action, continue construction MSP South and Northeast, which are already expanding. Perhaps revive the national coordination group.

Expected events - publication of the book of community action for health research, national workshop of civil society research, organization of a joint seminar with Cebes-RS

Strategies and opportunities to build / strengthen networks (eg Alames) - strengthen the use of the Facebook page, look for more partnerships with organizations

Election of subregional representatives - plans?

Strengths, weaknesses, obstacles to MSPLA in the region / subregion.

Fragile structure, with few organizations all without financial resources. But quite autonomous and independent group. Maranhão rural core, is even introducing a form of self-management.

Communication difficult nationally. But a lot of diversity and different types of action, generating learning for all.