

## Strengthening of stewardship

To ensure access, quality, and equity

The health system reform was aimed mainly at attaining universal coverage of the population with equity, quality and sustainability, based on a comprehensive notion of health as a fundamental human right.

The new system, which saw its inception in 2005, guarantees quality care to all from birth to death, with all components including promotion, prevention, care and rehabilitation.

The competence of the State in terms of stewardship, financing, and provision of health services was reformulated in the health reform. In all material aspects, it entailed the replacement of a model purely reactive to disease by one oriented to prevention and health promotion. The new model prioritises first level care and a change of habits, and is enhanced by user participation.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) reinforced stewardship, assuming its health governance role, to guarantee the respect of this fundamental human right for the whole of the population.

In the fulfilment of that role, in 2015 the Ministry of Public Health defined the 2020 National Health Objectives to guide the attainment of concrete and measurable outcomes by all health system institutions.



URUGUAY

*"[...] I urge you, from the depth of my feelings, convictions, and responsibilities, to work together in the construction of a country where being born is not a problem, being young is not suspicious, and growing old is not a curse.*

*A country where food, education, health, and decent work are rights for all everyday; a country that is self-relying; a country that has recovered its capacity to dream, and to make dreams come true."*

**Dr Tabaré Vázquez**  
President of the Republic

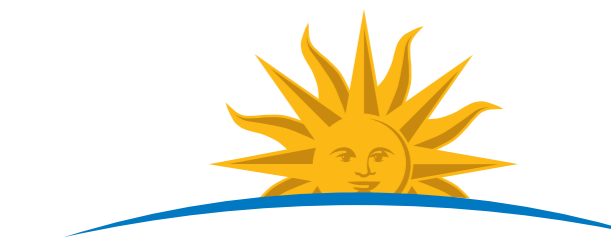
Final paragraph of inaugural address to the General Assembly of the Legislative Power after taking office, on March 1st, 2005.



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## Public Policies on Sexual and Reproductive Health

Universal, comprehensive, and equity-based  
2005 - 2016



## Full enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health

To build equity

At the regional level, Uruguay has had an early development of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) actions. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) of 1994 and the Consensus of Montevideo of 2013 paved the way for the development of policies in this field. At a national level, the support of organized civil society has been key.

Since the year 2005, Uruguay has accelerated these processes. A number of laws have recognized sexual and reproductive rights, and a significant set of policies and programs have gradually translated them into concrete benefits.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has created regulations for these laws, and institutions and health staff across the system have received guidance for the implementation and provision of comprehensive SRH services. The result is a wide basket of SRH services comparable to that of more advanced countries, with universal access for the whole of the population.

Citizen participation and the work of health teams were key factors to humanise all levels of care.

The advances made and the pending issues - particularly in relation to unplanned teenage pregnancy- show that the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights is a condition for building equity and social justice.

# Strengthened stewardship over the whole of the national health system

The MoH exercises the governance of health in defence of sustainability, universal access and equity. It defines health policies and their implementation to translate the new rights into concrete benefits that enhance the life quality of citizens.

**Technical Guidelines issued by the MoH between 2008 and 2016 to provide guidance for the management of institutions and health teams:**  
Sexual Diversity; Domestic Violence; Menopause; New-born Follow-up and Low Birth Weight; Child Development Surveillance; Implementation of SRH Services; Breastfeeding Best Practices; Best Practices in Adolescent Health; Comprehensive Adolescent Health Approach; HIV infection, Guidelines for Diagnosis, Monitoring and Antiretroviral Therapy; People with Disabilities; Temporary and Permanent Contraceptive Methods; Estimate of Needs and Procurement of SHR Inputs; Elimination of

congenital syphilis and vertical transmission of HIV; Prevention of Iron Deficiency; Pregnancy, Child Birth and Postpartum; Tuberculosis-HIV Co-Infection; Cervical Cancer; HIV Counselling in Vulnerable Populations and New Diagnostic Algorithms, HIV Infection; Guidelines for Diagnosis, Monitoring and Antiretroviral Therapy; Early Detection of Breast Cancer; Elimination of congenital syphilis and vertical transmission of HIV, 2nd edition; Guidelines for First Level Care of People with HIV; Health and Sexual Diversity, and Guidelines for the Diagnosis, Treatment and Epidemiologic Surveillance of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

# Universal access to sexual and reproductive health care, with no exclusions

New laws and health programmes guarantee universal and equitable access to sexual and reproductive health care, with a special focus on the most vulnerable and those suffering discrimination and segregation.

