



Facilitator's guide

Care Blocks Bogotá

Case description

This case focuses on the development and implementation of a care policy in Bogotá, Colombia, led by the city's Secretariat for Women's Affairs. The case highlights the challenges faced by the city, such as high levels of poverty, informal work, and inequality, particularly affecting women who bear the burden of unpaid care work. It begins with the story of Graciela, a woman in Bogotá who dedicates her time to care work for her family and as a domestic worker, like thousands of women in the city who, due to the unequal distribution of care work and gender stereotypes, face consequences such as lack of free time, difficulty to develop their professional lives and economic dependency.

In response to these challenges, the Secretariat for Women's Affairs initiated the "care blocks" initiative, which provides a variety of services within a 20-minute walking distance from caregivers, including training, self-care, resting, and income-generating activities. The initiative also includes mobile care buses that travel to rural or peripheral areas and house-to-house programs for caregivers who cannot leave their homes. The implementation of the "care blocks" faced challenges in integrating different sectors and ensuring coordinated services, in such a way that is an example of the importance of recognizing and redistributing care work and emphasizes the role of coordination, collaboration, and creative use of existing resources in policy implementation.

The case concludes with reflective questions about the "care blocks" initiative and its gaps, the role of integration in policy success, and potential unintended negative effects. It also encourages learners to consider the need for a care policy in their own municipality and adapt the ideas from the Bogotá case to their local context.

Learning objectives

After the session, participants should be able to:

- Identify how to apply an intersectional and cross-cutting approach when implementing local strategies for unpaid care work
- Analyze the role of citizen participation in creating gender policies
- Reflect on their care work experiences personally and collectively as a key issue to work on to achieve gender equality

Suggested workshop agenda

It is recommended to carry out this activity for approximately 2 hours.

1. **Description of what care work is** (unpaid care work, paid care work)
2. **Ice-breaker activity** – Mentimeter (Ask the participants questions such as: in your childhood, who was the primarily caregiver? And what kind of stereotypes related to care work are common in your country? To involve them in the conversation).
3. **Tell the story of Graciela and describe the case**, highlighting the statistics described in the case.
4. **Divide participants into groups** and ask them to discuss the questions.
5. **Ask one of the participants from each group** to share what they discussed.
6. **Presentation of the case reflections and potential endings**
7. **Divide participants into groups and ask them to discuss the reflective questions**, putting special attention to answering the following: What is your main takeaway from the Bogota care blocks for your work in your municipality?
8. **Give the participants a post-it** to summarize their main takeaway in one sentence.
9. **Final reflections.**