COVID-19 in Uruguay
Educational Disruption and Response
About Plan Ceibal

National Uruguayan ICT plan created in 2007 to support education and promote inclusion and equal opportunities.

Provides:
- a personal computer to every student attending state schools (primary and lower secondary),
- internet access at all schools,
- a comprehensive set of educational resources, and pedagogical services and programmes.

Total of students in Uruguay: **817,617**

**84.9%** attend state schools.

Source: ANEP, 2018
Computers and Internet Access in Uruguay

- Household Access to Internet: **88%** (93% homes of children younger than 14),
- Internet Users: **87%** (99% access from home),
- Household Access to Computers: **76.6%**,
- Plan Ceibal’s computers are the only PC available in **45%** of low-income houses (quintile 1).

Percentage of Household Computer Access by Age and Quintile

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  - 88% (93% homes of children younger than 14),
- **Internet Users**:
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- **Household Access to Computers**:
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Disruption & Mitigation Plan

- The first cases of COVID-19 in Uruguay were officially confirmed 13/03/20.
- Schools of all levels from state and private education were closed.
- Classes are expected to resume 13/04/20.
- **Plan Ceibal** launched a contingency plan to mitigate the educational disruption:

  **Ceibal en casa**

Main services:
- Digital Learning Platforms and Resources,
- Advice and Support,
- Communication Campaigns,
- Multi-actor Approach:
  - Teachers, Students and Families.
Teachers
Digital teaching resources and support

Main services:

**Virtual Learning Environments:** full learning management system and social networking functionalities, with more than 7,000 preloaded educational resources.

**Math Platforms:** adaptive and gamification learning systems.

**National Digital Library:** including 7,000 books and multimedia resources.

**Training and Support:** tutorials, consultation services, exchange forums, virtual training and guidelines for remote teaching.
Families
Content Provision, Advice and Communication Campaigns

Main services:

**Content and Guidance:** content provision and advice on how to support pedagogical continuity from home.

**Multiplatform Approach:** delivery by media, social networks, and the plan’s sites.

**Socio-emotional Support:** orientation in managing stress caused by the crisis context.
Students
Digital teaching resources and support

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**Math Platforms:** adaptive and gamification learning systems.

**National Digital Library:** including 7,000 books and multimedia resources.

**Training and Support:** tutorials, consultation services, virtual training and guidelines for remote teaching.
Special Activities

Raising social awareness of the sanitary emergency with an educational perspective. Collaborating in emerging initiatives to procure contingency medical resources.

Including:

**COVID-19 & Computational Thinking:** Digital dynamic simulations of the virus spread produced with programming software accessible to primary and secondary students.

**Ventilators Fabrication:** *Ceibal* is contributing with 3D printers to facilitate the production of ventilators, which is being organized through a call for tenders in collaboration among different Uruguayan governmental areas.
Use of Educational Platforms

Since the classes were suspended, the use of all educational platforms have increased exponentially.

**CREA** (Ceibal’s main platform)

- Users: in 2020 -in less than 3 months-, unique users increased **374%** compared to 2019*.

- Access: users access on 20/03/2020 increased **1010%** compared to the same date in 2019.

- Outreach in state primary education in 2020: **56.9%** students and **88.5%** teachers**

*CCREA: Inter-annual Variation of Unique Users*

*Based on unique users registered until 23/03/2020.

**Figures show the percentage of users that accessed CREA in 2020 until 23/03/2020.

CREA: Weekly Access by Role

First Week of School Closures

- Students
- Teachers


Research and International Collaboration

• Fundación Ceibal, an independent research centre created by Plan ceibal, is analysing the current situation with a national and regional perspective and promoting collaboration between countries across Latin America.

• Efforts are concentrated in data collection, analysis and collation, including virtual meetings with policy-makers, think tanks and other relevant actors in the region.
Opportunities an Challenges in Uruguay

• After the classes were suspended, *Plan Ceibal* immediately facilitated a robust offer of digital resources, which showed an exponential increased in use, facilitated by the relatively high access to internet and computers in Uruguay.

• The Plan also managed to continue fundamental operational activities, such as computers’ deliveries to students and repairs, while most of the staff worked from home, thanks to the robustness of its virtual infrastructure.

• Challenges are focused on continuous monitoring and improvement of current resources, and generating opportunities for international collaboration, while analysing the current situation and still uncertain possible future scenarios.

• Possible outcomes include designing a short and middle-term strategy to develop a tailored long-distance learning protocol for systematic coverage in the event of further pedagogical disruptions.
Thanks

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