Implementing audit recommendations in Argentina

The Chagas case
Chagas in Argentina

- Chagas is the most important endemic disease in Argentina. Between 1.5 - 2 million people live with Chagas.
- It amounts to 20% of the affected population worldwide.
- WHO: "Neglected tropical disease" meaning little attention within Govt’s health policy, lack of statistics and a disproportionate burden of infection among poor population.
The AGN Reports (2012, 2018). Outstanding findings:

1) Reduction of budgetary allocation. Sub execution and deviation of available resources.
2) Lack of an effective legal framework including: recognition of State obligations and rights of the citizens
3) Weaknesses in the implementation of (i) diagnostic and treatment health coverage, (ii) vector control
4) Non-existent public awareness campaigns nor educational programs
Limited impact of AGN Reports

- Flaws of control by the Parliament: lack of formal follow-up system for recommendations
- Collegiate institution with long decision-making processes
- Until recently, lack of public dissemination of AGN's work
- Neglected and silenced disease

Strategies taken by ACIJ

- Making the AGN reports as guidelines and an integral part of our agenda
- Organized a coalition with other CSOs
- Budget analysis and oversight
- Formal requests to Authorities
- Research and publication of reports
- Advocacy at different levels
- Press and communication
Strategies to uplift AGN’s reports

Coalition members: CSOs, affected communities, physicians, biologists. Actively promote these allies to use AGN's findings. Invited and participated in 2018 report’s presentation.

Using AGN’s findings, published a series of three reports.
Strategies to uplift AGN’s reports

Requested and organized advocacy meetings with high national health authorities to demand an improvement of the implementation of Chagas public policies.

Formally requested National Authorities (President, Chief of Staff, Minister of Health) to improve the legal framework, as recommended by the AGN. As a consequence, a participative process was initiated.
Strategies to uplift AGN’s reports

Press and communication of all the actions taken by the coalition, individually by ACIJ, promoting the government to do public awareness campaigns and a story published with IBP. Importance of changing the perspective around the issue.
Strategies to uplift AGN’s reports

Budgetary analysis, oversight and advocacy (with Congress and the Executive) to promote well funded and fully executed Chagas’ policies

Highest budget allocation in the last 10 years.
Thank you!

More info at: www.acij.org.ar