

## IBBY-Yamada Fund

Project reports 2025

# IBBY Argentina

## Literary Mediation and Other Artistic Expressions in Healthcare Settings



Every child has the right to become a reader

**IBBY-Yamada Fund: The Child's Right to Become a Reader**  
**Category: Advanced workshops on bibliotherapy and mentoring**

**Title of the project:**  
**Literary Mediation and Other Artistic Expressions in Healthcare Settings**  
**First edition, 2025**

**Project overview**

This project, framed within Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 4, aimed to advise and provide theoretical training, resources, and tools (both analog and digital) to healthcare teams working with children and adolescents to incorporate or enrich their mediation, literary, and artistic practices.

The direct beneficiaries consisted of the various healthcare teams (educational psychologists, psychologists, speech therapists, residents, volunteers, and other professionals), while infants, children, young people, and families attending the health centers were benefited indirectly through workshops and activities.

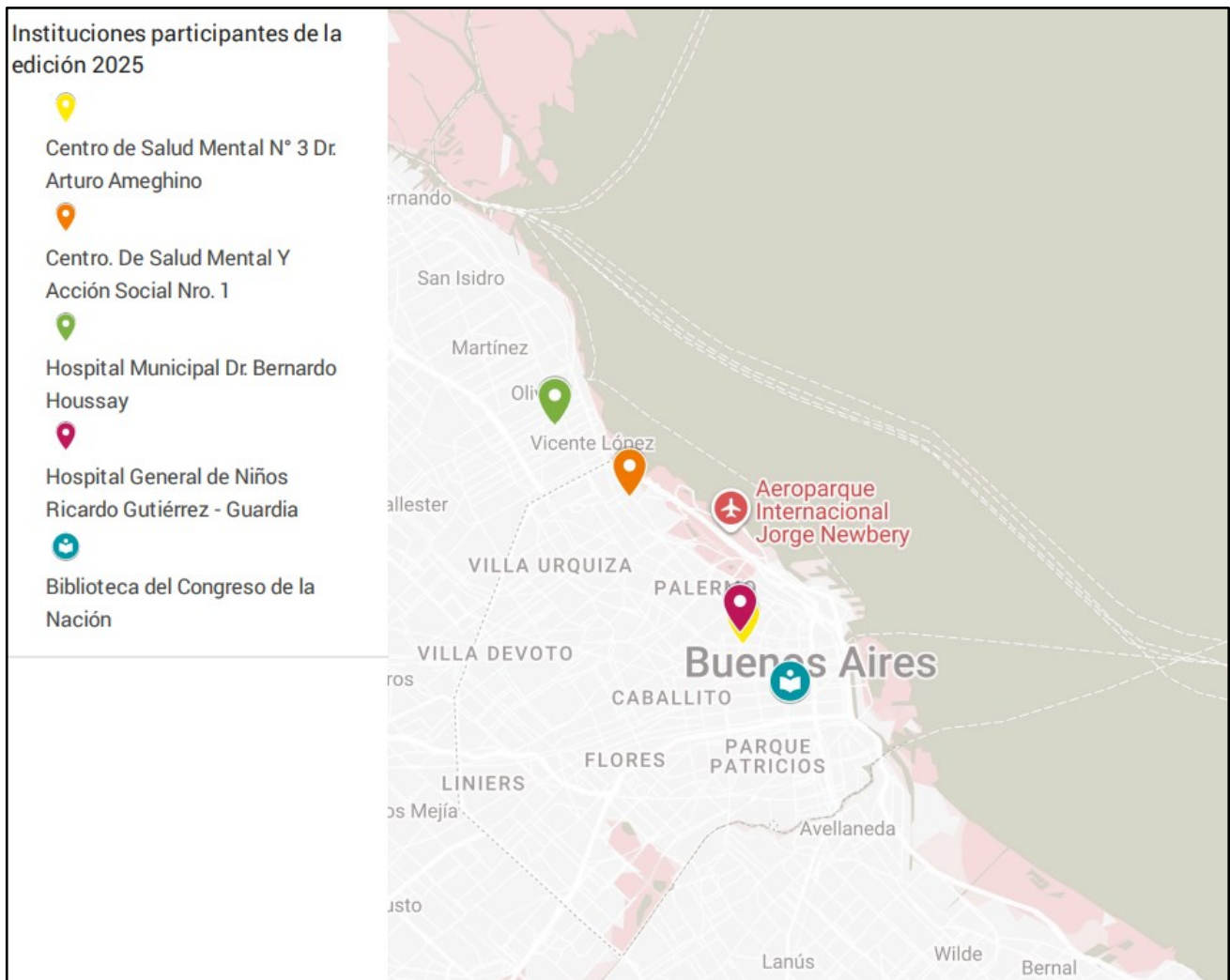
To design and develop mediation strategies in collaboration with the healthcare teams that requested support, we considered social and psychophysical aspects such as health, identity, sexuality, self-perception, autonomy, and the appropriation of rights. At ALIJA, we conceive of health as a right for all and at the same time as a process in permanent tension, which includes degrees of physical, mental and social well-being, the product of a construction in which individual factors intervene, but also socioeconomic, cultural, educational and political ones.

**Our Pillars**

- Enhancing play and emotional connection through literature and art.  
We support healthcare teams in discovering the potential of books, art, and mediation to expand the playful, emotional, and symbolic capacities of their patients and families.
- Valuing language and affective cultural transmission.  
We promote community-based activities that revalue the diverse registers of language and oral and written cultural transmission, linked to emotions and shared enjoyment.
- Creating networks for sustainable work.  
We create inter-institutional networks and networks among social agents to foster collaboration. We strive to ensure that healthcare professionals feel valued and empowered for replicable, sustainable, and participatory work.

**The locations where the meetings took place**

- Mental Health and Social Action Center No. 1 Dr. Hugo Rosarios (Manuela Pedraza 1558, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires).
- Mental Health Center No. 3 Dr. Arturo Ameghino (Av. Córdoba 3120, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires).
- Dr. Ricardo Gutiérrez Children's Hospital (Sánchez de Bustamante 1399, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires).
- Houssay Hospital, Mental Health and Adolescent Center (Hipólito Yrigoyen 1757, Florida, Province of Buenos Aires).
- Library of the National Congress (Av. Hipólito Yrigoyen 1750, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires).



## Objectives and results

We return to the objectives outlined in the presented project, with comments on the scope of each one below:

- To provide ongoing support to health team coordinators working with children and adolescents in their requests for guidance and assistance in planning, designing, and implementing actions, cultural transmission projects, literary mediation, and other artistic expressions in certain spaces within their institutions.

This item was fully met, as can be verified in the testimonials collected at each health center.

- To agree on frameworks, approaches, and working methodologies with the leaders of the selected teams, ensuring they are replicable and generate lasting change.

This objective was partially met, as some teams appear to have a mediating approach that will allow them to continue their activities without such close support from ALIJA, while other centers still need to further clarify their internal objectives and develop the mediation processes they intend to implement.

- To offer an intervention framework where mediators' knowledge is validated and they develop ways to implement new practices.

At this point, we have observed that some teams were able to adopt proposed mediation models and even went further by designing their own interventions.

- Understanding and documenting current practices is crucial. Observing the work culture of these teams is essential for analyzing and comparing their narratives.

This item was the first to be completed, as we planned to interview the teams before beginning work to understand their needs, desires, and realities. Simultaneously, the condition of each center was visually documented.

- To offer participating healthcare team members the opportunity to train with specialists (in cultural mediation, writing, illustration, and other art forms) through in-person and online sessions.

This objective was achieved with both the workshops and the conferences held. We were fortunate to have the generous participation of specialists of the caliber of María Emilia López, Carlos Skliar, Diana Tarnofky, and Silvia Katz, among others.

- Assist in the organization and selection of existing books in these spaces. Procure new materials of artistic and symbolic quality.

Item fulfilled with the meetings where quality material was exhibited, as well as with the donations curated by the mediators.

- Assisting in the organization and aesthetic design of spaces for reading and other artistic and recreational activities (hallways, waiting rooms, inpatient rooms, etc.).

We have done this in workshops offered to the public, facilitated by ALIJA mediators (temporary arrangements of the spaces). Regarding the more permanent organization and arrangement of physical spaces, the various teams have been able to create maps in which they planned interventions for this year.

- To train healthcare professionals on the characteristics, features, and potential of high-quality literary works, especially those published for children and adolescents (including accessible books and those with respectful representations of disability, among others), and other artistic objects (reproductions of works of art, photographs, visual poems, animated shorts, songs, literary podcasts, etc.).

Objective achieved through workshops and meetings held in the field.

- To design proposals that foster intra- and intergenerational encounters and contribute to building a network of support. Encounters that make visible, empower, and amplify the voices of service users, recognizing that they possess knowledge and experience about their bodies (affected by illness, disability, or neurodiversity).

We believe these encounters have already taken place both in waiting room workshops and in various meetings (virtual and in-person) where healthcare professionals, mediators, and specialists have been able to exchange experiences and knowledge, as well as build networks.

- To foster the creative use of digital technologies in waiting rooms and other healthcare settings for the enjoyment and construction of narrative spaces where children, adolescents, and adults can, in addition to being consumers of quality content, become prosumer readers. We aim to support teams in identifying and utilizing digital technologies to promote their careful and responsible use, imagination, curiosity, critical thinking, and multimodal literacy processes.

In some meetings in waiting rooms, as well as in training sessions, resources were provided to facilitate this careful use of technologies in connection with literature.

- To support mediators and healthcare professionals in recording and documenting their practices using analog and digital technologies in a critical and responsible manner.

Objective achieved, more so in some centers than others. An example of this is the documentation produced by the team at Gutiérrez Hospital regarding the Workshop in the Waiting Room of the Adolescent Service (November 8, 2025).

- To promote activities and gatherings that support mothers, fathers, and other caregivers of babies, children, and adolescents in order to highlight, discover, and/or rediscover the importance of integrating different registers of language, as well as the affective oral and written cultural transmission linked to the senses, emotions, and shared pleasure.

We have achieved this through the various waiting room workshops that our teams conducted throughout the year.

- Building networks between different institutions and/or social actors to promote exchanges and actions where actors feel valued and empowered to improve. We believe in work that is replicated in a sustained and participatory way.

Objective achieved with the Conference and the alliance with Filbita.

- To contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in our country, specifically Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and 4 (Quality Education).

This item is complex given that the social reality of our country seems to run counter to our good intentions, but we hope to have been able to make with sweetness (as a force that resists oppression, following the ideas of Anne Dufourmantelle) a gentle and professional impact on the present situation.

## **Activities and methods**

The program was based on three fundamental actions:

- Workshops and training sessions for staff of participating institutions.
- Ongoing support (on-site and remotely) for participating institutions.
- Building collaborative networks with other institutions.

### **About the workshops and training sessions**

The opening session on Saturday, April 26, "Territories of Encounters: Literary and Artistic Mediations in Contexts of Vulnerability," marked a crucial starting point by fostering an initial space for exchange and connection among some members of the health centers, as well as with other professionals, cultural mediators, and teachers who joined the event. We were honored to have the participation of specialist María Emilia López, the presentation of two ongoing cultural mediation initiatives (A Puro Cuento and Biblioteca Popular La Carcova), and the storyteller José Luis Gallego.

The second meeting, a workshop held on Friday, May 9, *Between Voices and Drawings: Looking, Reading, Telling (Ourselves)*, coordinated by Silvia Katz and inspired by the proposals of the Blue Workshop, not only expanded the participation of the members of the different teams, but also inspired them to carry out concrete actions in each of their territories, which began to outline proposals for future actions with their communities.

In the following months, various activities were carried out, both virtual and in-person. Alija's mediators visited different health centers to train the teams in selecting bibliographic materials, designing their spaces, and planning activities with their patients. Virtually, and taking into account the interests of the professionals on the teams, based on feedback from educational psychologists who work with adolescents, training workshops on comics, manga, and anime were offered (coordinated by Esdian Boyadjian and Claudia Cadenazzo).

On September 6th, a second training session was held at the Library of Congress, which once again brought together all the participating teams and, in a workshop format, provided strategies for mediation and library organization. During the session, each center received donations of bibliographic materials, and the participants were tasked with beginning to design and plan (both spatially and strategically) mediation activities.

### **On Networking**

The positive impact of the conferences and workshops attracted the attention of members of the FILBA Foundation, with whom we agreed to coordinate one of their projects (*Sinfín: We Want Literature to Circulate*) with our Territories of Encounters program, to design and implement actions collaboratively. Specifically, we successfully connected one of its "seed institutions," the Jacarandá School, with the Mental Health and Social Action Center No. 1, providing books and reading mediation workshops in the waiting room.

Finally, on November 7th, we concluded this first edition of the Program with a day designed and implemented in conjunction with the FILBA Foundation. During this event, the various health centers reunited to reflect on their collaborative work throughout the year and attend talks with invited specialists (Diana Tarnofky, Belén Campero, and Carlos Skliar).

## **Target groups and reach**

- Healthcare professionals who participated in training sessions:  
CSM1: **7**  
Houssay: **4**  
Gutiérrez: **25** (18 psychopedagogues from the current team: 6 residents, 1 head of residents, 1 attending, 5 rotating, 1 rotating from Cordoba and 5 staff psychopedagogues; plus 7 volunteers: former staff psychopedagogue and coordinator of the Reading Promotion project and 6 Library and Inpatient volunteers).  
Ameghino: **12**
- Participating children and adolescents:  
CSM1: 20  
Houssay: 50  
Gutiérrez: 4000  
Ameghino: 25
- Attendees at the face-to-face conferences and workshops:  
26/4: **50**  
9/5: **35**  
6/9: **41**  
7/11: **44**
- Attendees at virtual training sessions: **40**

### **Qualitative results and indicators of change**

#### **CSM No. 1 Dr. Hugo Rosarios**

Since July, based on suggestions and support provided, the members of the Psychopedagogy team began scheduling a series of workshops on Friday mornings for a waiting room frequented by children, adolescents, caregivers, and families. From the outset, they emphasized the importance of fostering a commitment within the team to the organization, systematization, and respect for that time and space—a challenge supported by the team coordinator.

Over the following months, the growing and noticeable interest of those attending the waiting room in the proposed mediation activities motivated other professionals at the CSM (psychologists, music therapists, pediatricians) to actively participate in the organization and aesthetic intervention of the space, technical support, and participant observation.

Furthermore, participating families who were not interacting with each other created a WhatsApp group to continue their connection outside the waiting room, on their own initiative. At the end of the program, thanks to this network, a birthday celebration was organized for one of the patients.

Words from Natalia Diez Andersen:

“The impact was very positive, both for users and for the professionals. We received wonderful feedback and feel that we are all increasingly taking ownership of the waiting room reading space.

We are happy and very grateful for the support we received from the ALIJA team and for the beautiful reading space we are creating. We hope to continue participating in their initiatives because they are so enriching.

We envision this space continuing not only next year, but we also hope it will become an established practice and attract more professionals and users. Currently, residents from other professions are joining, and we find its interdisciplinary nature extremely interesting. We would like to maintain this.”

### **Houssay Hospital**

The Adolescent Service at Houssay Hospital contacted us with the intention of creating a reading space in their waiting room, as an alternative to screens and in resistance to the hospital's desire to install a television there. They had no similar experience, and although they had a playroom, the books they had were uninteresting. Once the library space was established, an interest in reading and books spread to all staff and visitors (not only children and young people, but also their families, the professionals who work in the service, and their families). This is how the donation we made through ALIJA became a seed that, over the months, blossomed into books and magazines that were added by the professionals themselves who arranged donations, or books that appeared in the library. At the same time, illustrated books were shared with healthcare professionals so they could take them to their offices and workspaces. Among the pending tasks was the need to continue building networks with intra-hospital spaces, such as the Pediatric Ward.

Words from Lucila Menéndez:

“During this year of support, we were able to inaugurate and maintain a library in the waiting room, which has been very well received by the teenagers and families who use it. We are still working on creating a book circulation network to replace those that are lost. At the moment, there hasn't been a significant impact on the rest of the hospital, although we have started lending books and games to pediatric patients. The Program primarily helped us to take the initiative to bring the library project to fruition, and the regular visits provided a timeframe for taking action, something that, otherwise, in the day-to-day operations of the institution, can sometimes be delayed or postponed. Within the hospital, our main goal is to strengthen ties with the rest of the institution, especially with the Pediatrics and Child Mental Health services. Additionally, during the year we planned to use mediation, reading, and writing in specific workshops with teenagers in the Service, which we hope to implement in 2026.”

### **Gutiérrez Hospital**

Words from Yasmín Alí, Head of Residents:

“The Program fostered the team's engagement with new approaches to mediating literature with children, adolescents, and their families, and the exploration of new materials and formats that allowed for greater outreach to the target population. Likewise, the mediation activities guided by the Alija team had a greater impact in the spaces we frequented (for example, in certain waiting rooms), which increased their visibility and sparked the interest of other professionals (for example, medical teams). The Program allowed us to explore genres such as comics, graphic novels, and manga, which we were practically unfamiliar with, and to identify works in our library that we could use in mediation with adolescents, among other things.”

By 2026, we aim to continue promoting reading in the waiting rooms of the Pediatric Outpatient Clinics, inpatient units, the Mental Health library, and the therapeutic playroom. We plan to increase our resources to bring literature to children, families, and adolescents—a growing population in the hospital—while simultaneously expanding the library with new and popular genres. Furthermore, we intend to consolidate mediation in the Adolescent Waiting Room as a distinct initiative that can be sustained despite staff rotations (residents) and that has the validation and participation of the broader Adolescent team (Internal Medicine, Gynecology, and Mental Health). We believe that the shift in approach you helped us develop for this space—where participation was always a challenge—is key to ensuring its continuity.

Your support has been invaluable in helping us continue to enrich and transform our mediation spaces. Listening to a colleague from another Adolescent team at the last meeting, perhaps we can think about setting up a small library in that space with books and magazines to continue transforming it.”

### **CSM No. 3 Dr. Arturo Ameghino**

Words from Lic. Maia Gurevich:

“The program was very well received. The exchanges and training sessions on designing reading materials for the waiting room had a significant impact and also allowed for the development of proposals for individual treatments. It expanded resources and encouraged creativity. Having formal spaces to reflect on this helps therapists connect with their own desires and, from there, apply them across the different settings in which they work.”

Based on the strengths and challenges assessed in the waiting room reading program, one idea the team is to reformulate it, potentially leading a literature mediation initiative focused on health promotion, within a workshop framework, with a defined duration and a specific group of children. Within this framework, more ongoing projects could be developed, based on ideas discussed with the Alija team. Furthermore, during January and February 2026, the program's time will be dedicated to setting up waiting room facilities to support children waiting without synchronous medication with professionals. Thank you so much for your support this year. The entire team we met possesses extensive experience and a wealth of knowledge and creativity that we found invaluable and which they shared very generously. Looking ahead to next year, if the support continues, it would be good to consider holding an on-site meeting (that is, carrying out a project with children) accompanied by the Alija team and, on the other hand, review how to participate more actively in the training sessions held for all health providers, since it was difficult to ensure our team's attendance on non-working days.”

### **Examples of qualitative impact**

[Instagram: Reflections from the workshop “Between Voices and Drawings”](#)

### **Feedback from users of the waiting room library at Houssay Hospital:**

ME PARECE MUY BUENO QUE TENGAN  
EL ESPACIO BIBLIOTECA AMBULANTE Y  
QUE A LOS ADOLESCENTES TENIÉNTENOS  
PLAZA Y NO ESTAN CON UN CELULAR.  
UNA IDEA MUY LINDA. *[Signature]*

Me parece genial poder tener obtener un  
prestamo algun libro, leere *Wuthering*  
*Heights* me parecio interesante  
22/09/2025 *[Signature]*

25/9

El libro de la ventana me gusto pero  
el que más me gusto fue el cuento principal.

"I think it's wonderful that they have the Mobile Library and that they encourage teenagers to read instead of being on their phones. It's a really nice idea."

"I think it's great to be able to borrow books. I borrowed *Wuthering Heights*; I found it interesting."  
09/22/2025

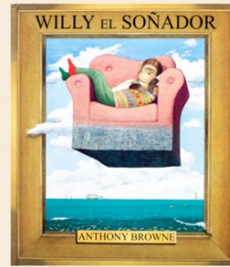
"I liked *The Book About the Window*, but my favorite was the main story." 09/25/2025

**Productions from health centers:**

**Documentation produced by the Gutiérrez Hospital team on the Workshop in the Waiting Room of the Adolescent Service (November 8, 2025):**

SALA DE ESPERA  
**"ADOLE"**

Propuesta en conjunto con  
 ALUJA (Asociación de Literatura  
 Infantil y Juvenil Argentina)



**INVITACIÓN A LOS ESPACIOS**

Lectura del libro acompañada por tarjetas  
 plastificadas con fragmentos del mismo que se  
 repartieron entre los presentes.

¿Qué ven?

¿Alguna vez les pasó?

¿Con qué sueñan?



**EL "METELIBROS"**

Libros seleccionados de la biblioteca  
 "Esperando a puro cuento"



**SECTOR DE FANZINES**



Fanzines en elaboración...



¿Qué necesita escuchar tu corazón?

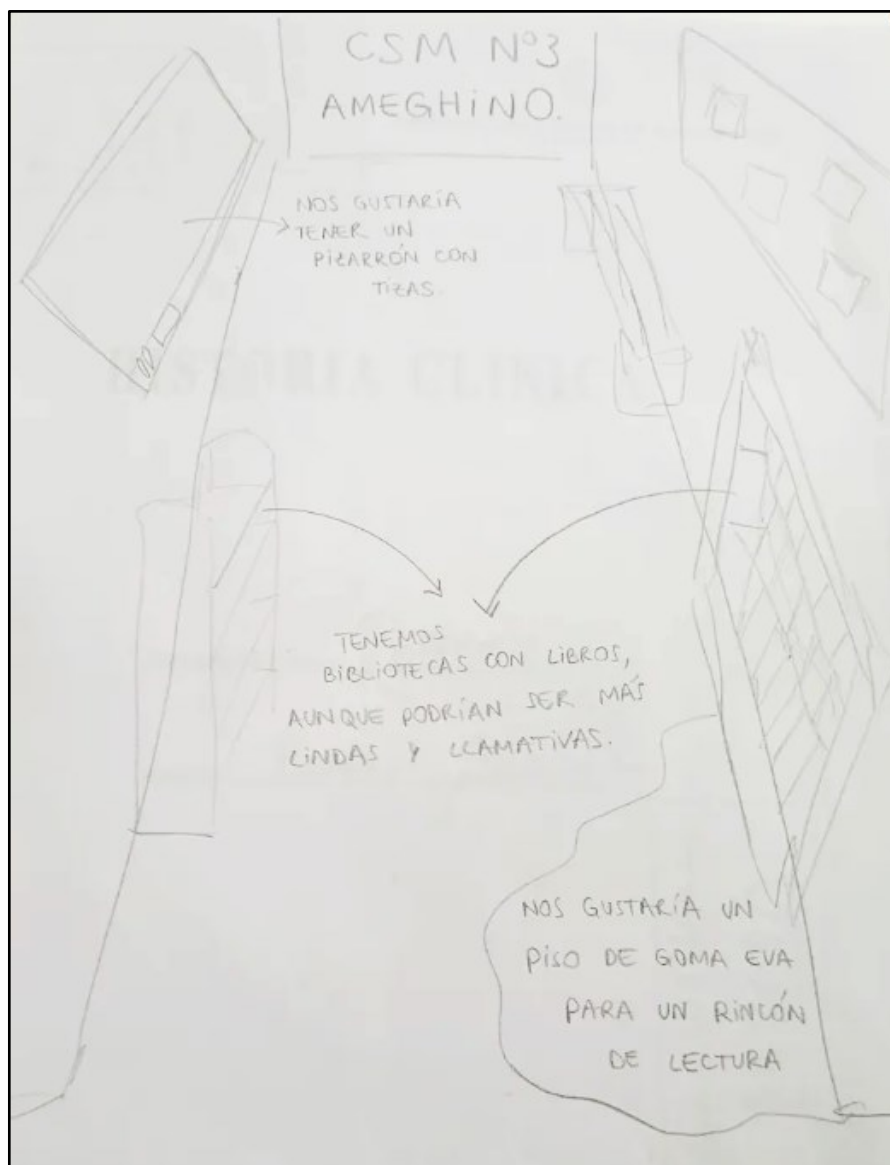
**JENGA LITERARIO**

**ZONA DE PESCA**





**Mapping and projections of their spaces:**





## Reflections and records prepared for the closing meeting at the Filbita Festival:

[Compendio equipos participantes Alija-Filbita.pdf](#)

### Quantitative outputs

Due to the current difficult economic situation in our country (which is even more deteriorated than when this project was planned), some of our plans were thwarted.

On the one hand, thanks to the interest generated by the first workshop, several healthcare teams requested to participate in the program. We were unable to accommodate them because it would have required expanding our team of mediators and allocating funds for travel and per diem expenses beyond those already stipulated in the submitted project proposal. While a stipend was allocated for the mediators and workshop facilitators as planned, it was not entirely significant for their personal finances given the current inflation rate. Consequently, these professionals were unable to dedicate much more time outside their regular work hours to undertake additional tasks within the project.

On the other hand, we would have liked to provide the health centers with specific furniture (we designed mobile libraries with locks, which could be circulated among the different waiting rooms while also allowing the bibliographic resources to be preserved when mediators are not present) and purchase books, two expenses that we were unable to incur. However, a series of donations and a timely partnership with Filbita helped us to successfully achieve part of this objective without having to allocate our own funds.

Given the aforementioned context, we evaluate as very good the number of workshops provided to train health personnel (more than one per month) and the number of mediation actions carried out by these teams (more than one per month in all centers, except Houssay, although there it was expected because it was the team with the least experience and material resources for this type of work).

- Training workshops (provided by both external specialists and ALIJA mediators): **9**

- Total number of literary and/or artistic mediation actions/workshops carried out in waiting rooms or other spaces:  
CSM1: **20**  
Houssay: **4**  
Gutiérrez: **100** (between April and October, taking into account various eventualities such as holidays or cancellations due to other situations, more than 100 actions have been developed, considering two library days per week, one day of reading in Inpatient Care, one day of Storytelling Workshop, one day in the Pediatric waiting room and one day in the Adolescent waiting room).  
Ameghino: **10**
- Number of books donated to the Program by the Library of Congress, mediators and publishers (Penguin Random House Argentina, Comiks Debris, Editorial Taller Azul, Library of Congress and Infinitos): **220**
- Number of books donated from Filbita (book donations from primary school students): 200
- Number of books donated to the Houssay Hospital Library: **25**

## **Sustainability and continuity**

### **Program projection in 2026**

- A meeting will be held in March 2026 with the teams to share ideas and plan support actions based on needs and resources.
- Summaries of the experience will be prepared for presentation at national and/or international conferences.
- Seeking funding sources to ensure the project's continuity.
- Conducting virtual training workshops for mediators, healthcare professionals, educators, and others interested in the proposals.
- Continuing to strengthen the collaborative networks established throughout the year with the FILBA Foundation, the Library of Congress of Argentina, the Taller Azul (Blue Workshop) of the Province of Salta, participating healthcare centers, and other institutions.
- Expand the network with other health and education institutions and agents who expressed their desire to join the actions of this Program.

## **Photographic records and communication pieces**

<https://surl.li/alpqlp>

## **Media reports and social media posts**

[Instagram: Opening day in the Library of Congress](#)  
[Instagram: Workshop "Between Voices and Drawings"](#)  
[Instagram: Workshop in waiting room, Hospital Gutiérrez](#)  
[Instagram: Workshop in waiting room, CSM1](#)

Filba Escuelas

Filbita returns with Sinfin: three days of literature for children

Alarm over the mental health of children and adolescents: there is more than one hospitalization per day for suicide risk in Buenos Aires | Ministerio Público Tutelar

Snapshots and echoes of the meeting on Friday the 7th at the FILBITA 2025 festival



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