

U.S. Department of Labor OCFT Monitoring and Evaluation Division

Midterm Evaluation Report Pilares Project - Colombia

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY TO COMBAT CHILD LABOR AND IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS

Evaluation Objective:

Provide USDOL, Pact, ARM, the Government of Colombia, Subcontractors, Local Associates, Pilares Solidarity Networks, and other stakeholders in the Project, an evaluation of the execution and, to a certain extent, of its repercussions on the participants

FINDINGS

Effectiveness of Project Management

The most crucial management challenge the project faced has been establishing a stable relationship with local, regional, and national government offices, others, and OUWC.

Progress of the Strategy to Build Capacity

Significant project results, according to stakeholders' views, are the reviving of Interagency Committees for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (CIETIs), the availability of tools for civil society to identify CL and OUWC, the communication and advocacy activities carried out with SNs and the attendance of SN members at national events to present project results, among

Effectiveness of Strategies

Pilares has contributed to strengthening local capacities to achieve project outcomes among public organizations, non-governmental partners, and CSOs by establishing three solidarity networks (SNs) and increasing the collective capacity of coordination and collaboration towards a shared goal others, and OUWC. There is a need to improve the capacity of CSOs to mentor/coach community members and other CSOs that have not yet participated in the project's capacity building strategy

Sustainability

Throughout the project, it is important that activities done directly by the Pact team be transferred to local CSOs participating in the SNs. The evaluators identified several challenges that affect sustainability in terms of financing transportation, communication, and logistics costs for SNs' operational activities.

Relevance and Strategic Fit

Even though the project has a focus on strengthening the capacity of civil society and not on influencing policy, it has to influence public policy to access public funds that, in turn, favor SNs' sustainability. For example, they could apply to the National Planning Department's (DNP) Regional Development Fund, so their activities are linked to the National Development Plan goals on CL and OUWC, others, and OUWC.

LESSONS LEARNED



Promoting the active participation of CSOs improves the sense of belonging.

The three SNs have helped restore confidence and trust in post-conflict small rural areas with political instability and a high risk of violence, others, and OUWC.

Knowledge and attitudes towards CL and OUWC.

Pilares has changed the culture and beliefs about CL and OUWC, given the results related to the establishment of the CIETIs and the development of identification

Awareness about CL and OUWC.

According to interviews with mayors and local government staff, before Pilares, CL and OUWC were considered culturally acceptable.

Development of SNs.

Pilares has made CSOs an indispensable asset for the management of the SNs while providing them with knowledge and tools to achieve the objectives established for each committee within each SN, and monitoring instruments.

GOOD PRACTICES



Empowerment to negotiate and achieve results.

Pilares has managed to put into operation three SNs with specific tools for networking that have allowed the articulation of CSOs to achieve early and significant victories, such as the decrees of operation of the CIETIs, and the CL and OUWC identification and monitoring tools.

Community identity and social fabric.

Pilares has changed the culture and beliefs about CL and OUWC, given the results related to the establishment of the CIETIs and the development of identification

Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation

The project's M&E officer developed a low-cost, high impact system of M&E. SNs have asked for training and resources to implement a similar M&E system for their projects, and monitoring instruments.

Short Term Recommendations

Request a 24-month project extension for implementing key project activities to ensure that SNs' capacity is in place to achieve autonomous and independent operation.

Promote the participation of local school teachers and unions in SNs to increase the skills and capacity to develop methodological and educational materials.

Increase SNs' links to regional and national government programs through participation in regional and national CIETIs to improve funding opportunities in specific programs where the SNs can support regional governments.

Promote regional synergies among projects with similar goals to increase inter-institutional and inter-project collaborations.

Long Term Recommendations During the Project Implementation

Improve public financing of project activities by increasing project visibility in regional programs and connecting SNs to the DNP's regional development fund.

Design and implement a sustainability strategy for essential activities and outputs to effectively align activities and outputs with specific actions within national, regional, and local development plans.

Facilitate the visibility and connectivity of the SNs with other regional and national networks and regional coordination bodies to communicate project experiences by connecting the SNs with assemblies, youth and childhood programs, and networks led by the Ministry of Labor and the ICBF.



Evaluate - Learn - Adapt

