



Executive Report Pilares Subawards Phase 1



Pilares Project
Pact Colombia
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CL	Child Labor
SN	Solidarity Network
OUWC	Other unacceptable working conditions
USDOL	United States Department of Labor
COP	Colombian Peso
USD	United States Dollar
ASGM	Artisanal and Small Scale Mining
CI	Collective Impact



Executive Summary

Pilares, funded by the United States Department of Labor (US-DOL), is a 4-year project aimed to improve the capacity of civil society, to better understand and address child labor (CL) and promote acceptable work conditions in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector in selected municipalities of the Antioquia and Bolivar departments in Colombia. To build the capacity of civil society, the project is grounded in the collective impact approach (CI), a methodology which seeks to convene strategic civil society actors at local and departmental levels, so that their existing scopes, capacities, and inherent strategies align.

Pilares works through civil society networks, referred to as Solidarity Networks (SN), to improve network members' technical and organizational capacities to identify, report, and raise awareness of CL and other unacceptable working conditions (OUWC). The SNs are divided into three working subgroups, with the following strategic objectives: 1. Identify and document CL and OUWC; 2. Raise awareness about CL and OUWC; and 3. Carry out initiatives and advocacy on problems related to CL and OUWC.

Within the scope of Pilares, and in order to ensure CSOs have the skills and knowledge to manage project successfully and sustainable, the project programmed two phases of subawards or micro-grants aimed at achieving the objectives of Pilares. The first phase consisted of 9 subawards, one to each of the working groups of the SNs. The maximum amount per award was of 6,000,000 COP (aprox. 1,650 USD) and they lasted approximately 6 months to implement.

The subawards were planned to begin in the first semester of 2020, but because the Covid-19 pandemic, they were delayed to the first semester of 2021. The pandemic also forced the original implementation methodology of each subaward to change from fully presential to a hybrid of presential and virtual work, to reallocate the funding (for example the funds for transport were lowered and the amount for virtual activities or equipment increased). The working groups produced progress narrative and financial reports during the subaward implementation. The last subaward finalized in June 2021 and final narrative and final reports of all subawards were submitted to Pact in Spanish.

This document incorporates excerpts of the lessons learned and stories of success included in the final narrative reports and materials produced from the subawards.



Lessons learned and stories of success

This section includes translated excerpts from the subawards final reports which were presented in Spanish and where these excerpts originated from.

Working in this subaward enables us to understand better the problem of child labor and safety and security at work. It also helped us to produce information that was used by the working group 3 to engage with the institutions (Member of Group 1 SN Pilares El Bagre).

The inclusion of technology in communication during the execution of the subaward has been one of the great success stories achieved throughout the process. The “Fan Pag” of the Pilares Network of El Bagre was strategic to sensitize and inform the community about each of the activities carried out by the team. The group 2 made 63 publications, 70,676 people were reached, 7,091 people shared and the site has 644 followers, demonstrating the effectiveness of the use of technologies when it comes to educating and informing the community (Success stories, Subaward Final Report Group 2 SN Pilares El Bagre).

The capacity building activities of Pact, and the finance received through the subawards, had provided us with skills to work with communities. We managed to work with educational institutions and with the schools for parents (Success stories, Subaward Final Report Group 3 SN Pilares El Bagre).

For working group 1 it was a big challenge to apply the occupational health and safety tool, as local miners do not like to share information about their mining units. But as they knew us because we are local, and knew about the commitment of the SN and Pilares, for them was safer to share information thus the challenge was overcome. (Lesson learned, Subaward Final Report Group 1 SN Pilares Sur de Bolívar).

As group two, it was very important for us to have acquired the skills to use all the equipment to run a cinema forum. Likewise, it was very enriching to be able to do it ourselves and to run a radio show. We have now the capacity to continue doing so (Lesson learned, Subaward Final Report Group 2 SN Pilares Sur de Bolívar).

We learned that working hand in hand with the local institutions and governments makes us more confident and gives us a better place to stand when working with the communities. We realized that each member of the group had strengths which we could use to work together (Lesson learned, Subaward Final Report Group 3 SN Pilares Sur de Bolívar).

Although we were forced to change how the project was going to be implemented as a result of the pandemic of Covid-19, we as organizations learned to work with technology tools, as for example having group meetings using Google meet, zoom and teams, as well as to utilize storing systems like drive and information matrices (Lesson learned, Subaward Final Report Group 1 SN Pilares Zaragoza).

Another of our success stories have been to work together with other organizations in some activities. For example the Bajo Cauca movie festival where we worked together with the Rio Abajo Organization (<http://www.rioabajo.co/>), in the hamlet of Escarralao, Zaragoza. We also worked together with the gender office of the Local Government of Zaragoza, and with professor Marcial Moreno, who is in charge of the sports and culture section of ANEZA, in an activity to create conscience about gender violence and child labor (Success stories, Subaward Final Report Group 2 SN Pilares Zaragoza).

There is a big problem in our territories regarding child labor, but we also found that communities and the institutions have the will to look for sustainable solutions to mitigate this problem (Lesson learned, Subaward Final Report Group 3 SN Pilares Zaragoza).



Examples of materials produced and activities resulting from the phase I subawards

This section includes examples of materials produced by the working groups while implementing the first phase of subawards. Not all materials produced could be included. The groups produced photographs, videos, podcasts, printed posters, etc.

1. Podcast created by members of working group 2 of the SN Pilares El Bagre through the subaward. Please click over the figure below.

2. Member of the working group 2 SN Pilares El Bagre y Zaragoza broadcasting at the Colombia Estereo local community radio station in El Bagre.



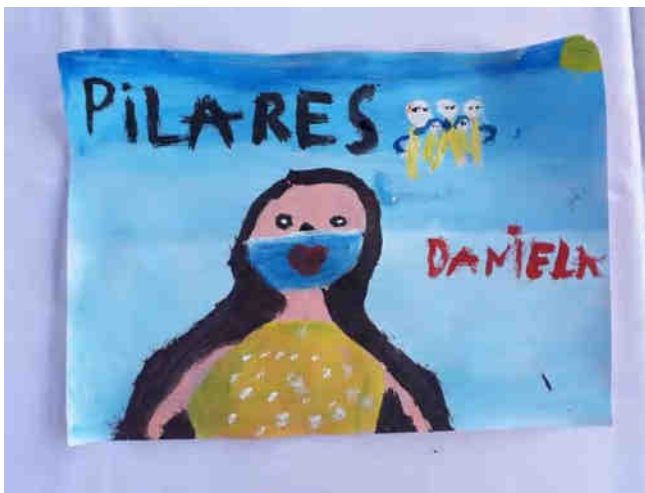
3. Invitation by youth group of working group 2 SN Pilares El Bagre after creation of the SN Facebook site. The site was a result of the subaward. To follow the full site please link to <https://www.facebook.com/PilaresElBagre>



4. As part of the activities of the subaward, working group 2 of the SN Pilares Sur de Bolívar organized four sport events to create conscience about child labor. This photo is in the Playitas Hamlet.



5. In collaboration with the Secretary of Social Management, San Martin de Loba, working group 3 SN Pilares Sur de Bolívar conducted several activities to create conscience of CL among local children.



6. Google site created by working group 1 of the SN Pilares Zaragoza where they stored templates and information derived from the use of the tools to identify risks of CL. For more information please link to the site <https://sites.google.com/view/red-pilares-bajo-cauca/zaragoza?authuser=0>



7. Members of the working group 1 of SN Pilares Sur de Bolívar, a technician from ARM and the Secretary of Mines of Barranco de Loba visit Santa Cruz gold mine to apply the tool to identify safety and security risks in artisanal and small-scale gold mining.



8. A member of working group 3 SN Pílares Zaragoza, hands over the report created by working group 1 to the Zaragoza Family Comisary. The report contains a summary of the results derived from using the tool to identify risks of child labor in the communities.



9. Example of a report to identify risks of child labor in a Hamlet in Zaragoza. There were several of these reports produced by all working groups 1 of the SNs.