



EVALUATION BRIEF

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR INCLUSION FOR PEACE ACTIVITY (IPA)

March 23th 2021

This evaluation brief presents a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as identified by the evaluator(s) for use by key stakeholders, including internally by IOM staff and externally by project partners. More details can be found in the full evaluation report.

Evaluation type: Mid-term performance evaluation

Evaluator(s): Panagora Group

Field visit dates: March - July 2020

Final report date: 7th January 2021

Commissioned by: USAID/Colombia

Managed by: USAID/Colombia

Evaluation purpose: Examine the intervention's results, effectiveness, and challenges, considering Colombia's current context. A central objective is to produce lessons learned and recommendations that improve the IPA's management and implementation. In this regard,

it seeks to provide specific recommendations and options for implementing measures that allow USAID decision-makers to make informed decisions about possible courses of action about extending, redesigning, or strengthening the IPA in the future.

Evaluation criteria: Relevance and effectiveness,

Evaluation methodology: The evaluation used mixed methods supplemented with collaboration, learning, and adapting (CLA) techniques to facilitate communication and geographic information system (GIS) visualization tools. The qualitative methodology included analyzing the phenomenology of perception of beneficiary groups and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis based on semi-structured interviews with various actors. The quantitative methodology included impact measurement techniques, social experiments of behavioral economics, statistical inference, descriptive statistics, and multiple correspondence analysis using administrative records and field surveys

Project information:

Geographical coverage: 9 departments and 21 municipalities in Colombia

Project type: Community Stabilization

Project code: CS. 0843

Gender marker: Not marker

Project period: 11 November 2016 to 20 June 2021

Donor: USAID

Budget: USD 50,000,000

ducing poverty and increasing access to economic opportunities; iii) promoting inclusion and respect for ethnic diversity, and iv) providing humanitarian assistance to Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations.

IPA represents a initiative designed to significantly close the inclusion gap in Colombia between the general population and ethnic minorities. IPA implements a cross-cutting and integrated approach that recognizes the specific necessities, interests, and realities of the Afro-Colombian and indigenous people with respect to disability, gender, sexual orientation, and age.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Colombia has a wide ethnic diversity that encompasses indigenous, Afro-Colombian, Raizal, and Palenquero communities. In general, ethnic groups have been disproportionately affected by the armed conflict and have significant disadvantages in their living conditions. Furthermore, of the number of victims reported in the Unified Victims' Registry, 12 percent self identified as members of these ethnicities. Due to these communities' social and economic lag coupled with higher impacts from the armed conflict, the Colombian Government, through the Peace Agreement, set out to enhance indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities' relevance in national development policies.

The Inclusion for Peace Activity (IPA) is an initiative to promote the economic and social inclusion of ethnic communities afflicted by violence in Colombia. Implemented by IOM Colombia since November 2016 in the aftermath of the Peace Agreement, IPA focused on 21 municipalities in nine departments, aiming to achieve four outcomes: i) strengthening the institutional capacity of the Colombian Government (GOC) and civil society organizations (CSOs); ii) re-

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

IPA shows favorable results in institutional strengthening, social and economic inclusion, and improved recognition and respect for Colombia's Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities' cultural identity and heritage. However, the evaluation also identified several significant challenges and opportunities for improvement regarding the operational context and the design and implementation of its tools and interventions. There is a broad consensus on the importance of the IPA's support for implementing the Peace Agreement, but there are also critical challenges.

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

There were measurable improvements test results for IPA beneficiary students | IPA provides a useful assistance package that promotes access to higher education, but the intervention is not enough to improve academic results | The financial support meets the inclusion criteria and is well received, but its support is small compared to the IPA beneficiaries' universe | There is a lack of unity in the operators' intervention models and low use of information sources | The participation of principals and teachers and the support from the "Todos a Aprender" Program are central.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

IPA strengthened the capacities of territorial entities in all the Institutional Capacity for Ethnic Support index dimensions | IPA built trust between the government and organizations and contributed to increasing the ownership of the ethnic approach | IPA broadened the spectrum of interventions for ethnic groups | Fragmentation and dispersion of activities were evident.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING – CSOS

IPA: measurably strengthened ethnic organizations and provided the starting point for their financial autonomy process | generated trust between the ethnic organizations and the GOC, | increased the capabilities for dialogue and favored the convergence of capacities between the organizations, respecting their traditions and practices | increased the representation and relevance of intersectionality in organizations with special emphasis on women

ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOODS

Of the Social Prosperity programs supported, the Comprehensive Rural Interventions Program was the most cost-effective alliance | IPA strengthened the ethnic approach of the Social Prosperity programs | IPA effectively promoted women's growing participation and

empowered them in the three programs | Employment interventions provide complete job training programs, but the odds of being hired and remaining employed are low | Entrepreneurship interventions are effective in the implementation and technical assistance phases but have marketing and sustainability challenges | Fostered strategic alliances make the private sector a key ally for economic inclusion, but there were difficulties guaranteeing sustainability

COMMUNICATION AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

IPA contributed to the "cultural safeguard" of traditional cultural wisdom and expressions while enhancing communities' appreciation | IPA increases recognition and respect for ethnic issues at a general level, but it is insufficient to reverse deeper discriminatory dynamics | The activity created trust between institutions and communities and made visible the Pacific's intangible ethnic heritage as a viable economic development vector | Self-recognition, for ethnic communities, occurs mostly at the local level.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve integration between leveling and orientation interventions and those for higher education access.
2. Evaluate the operators' quality intervention models and the funding instruments for higher education.
3. Extend the PTA's assistance and strengthen its connection with the IPA interventions in the regions.
4. Continue the institutional strengthening process, concentrating on activities with impact on the ICAE index.
5. Expand ICOE as an entry standard to target interventions in organizations located in PDET territories.
6. Focus interventions on strengthening resource management and conditions for project implementation
7. Focus interventions that support PATR initiatives of PDET municipalities
8. Deepen and systematize diagnoses, characterizations, and orientation of the participants.
9. Define and implement pay-for-results schemes for employability and entrepreneurship operators.
- 10.. Support the creation of a regional competitive exchange
11. Involve the educational institutions supported by the IPA to strengthen heritage "safeguard" actions.
12. Form and nurture alliances with implementing partners that build trust in the communities.