

Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies (GIPS)

Estabilización y Paz Territorial

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Proportion of women in leadership positions within social dialogue and reconciliation mechanisms that promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies

1.784 women (60% of migrants, returnees and host population involved in the overall project) have improved their economic empowerment skills through livelihoods and recovery strategies.

Number of countries with improved capacities for dialogue, consensus-building and reconciliation around contested issues, with equal participation of women and men

1 Country (Colombia) and 3 municipalities (Arauca, Norte de Santander & La Guajira)

How did the project target the most vulnerable/ poor / disadvantaged people and communities and did it do that successfully?

The project has focused on attending 2.952 people from the Venezuelan migrant population, Colombian returnee population and most vulnerable host communities in the border areas of Norte de Santander and La Guajira with emphasis on women heads of households. The intervention has focused on the more disadvantaged people, carrying out different strategies to generate opportunities and promote prevention of violence and social cohesion to ensure the effective socioeconomic integration of the population in the host communities. The FW project seeks to work on early recovery in a migratory crises context helping to give a stabilization response for the migrant floating population with a permanence vocation in Colombia. The project is a pilot intervention integrated into a common humanitarian response strategy aligned with the government and the international community, that will address conflict prevention through: i. Livelihood recovery, and ii. Development of strategies for resilience and social cohesion.III: Institutional strengthening of the national and local government on migratory public policies for socioeconomic integration.

In general terms, the project aims to strengthen the creation of social solidarity networks and support local institutions, in order to articulate citizen responses with a multi-level inter-institutional coordination response under a sustainable solution and SDG approach.

What did the project achieve in relation to the output and output indicators, and what specific interventions led to the change?

1.1 Support to national coordination in the response to the migration crisis: The project has supported the implementation of the Border Management administration of the national

government to promote a responsive institutional framework that helps to coordinate the migration response in Colombia, providing assistance to municipalities, mobilizing funds and achieving an inter-institutional comprehensive coordination response 1. Effective Humanitarian response in a timely manner, emphasizing issues of registration of the migrant population, health, education, food, protection and prevention of human trafficking 2. Response to income generation and socioeconomic integration by supporting the implementation of migration public policies. UNDP has focused on providing technical assistance for the design and implementation of public policies to promote an effective Nation-territory governance and labor insertion strategies for the migrant population and host communities.

1.2 Strengthening local governments in response to assistance and stabilization of the migrant population focusing on the prevention of gender-based violence: The project has supported the local governments of Norte de Santander, La Guajira, and Arauca in the articulation of a humanitarian response with a more sustained recovery response that will ensure the socioeconomic integration of the migrant population, promoting local economic development strategies and social cohesion. In addition, it has strengthened more than 60 public officials on issues related to the effective migration response bringing together the humanitarian response with a more comprehensive recovery response.

1.3 Strengthening of citizen reception networks and promotion of activities of peaceful coexistence and prevention of violence: Four citizen networks have been created at 3 local municipalities and measures of peaceful coexistence have been launched to prevent violence and actively, fight against xenophobia. Psychosocial activities have been carried out in peripheral neighborhoods, accompanying whole migrant families in project life recovery, and creating networks of peace promoters that have developed a specific role of information assistance, social dialogue and awareness campaigns.

1.4 Development of income generation strategies and recovery of livelihoods of the migrant population and host communities with emphasis on women heads of households or affected by GBV: Strategies have been developed to raise labor market needs assessment, vocational capacities, and potential economic development opportunities to generate recovery livelihoods in the 3 prioritized municipalities. The project has launched near to 20 productive units to promote the employment and entrepreneurship of the migrant population. 2 strategic platforms have been created for sustainable development in the borders with more than 40 institutional actors to provide a more sustained response to the crisis, generating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for the migrant population and the host communities.

How did the project leverage partnerships, attract other donors/resources, and scale up pilot initiatives, etc. ?

The project has leverage strong partnerships with the national government and local governments at borders. Additionally, the project has sought to create public-private platforms with more than 40 institutions committed on the sustainable border development. They offer goods and services to develop strategies for access to basic services and socioeconomic integration of the migrant population. The pilot experience "Border of opportunities" is being scaled as a model of socioeconomic integration for the municipalities more affected by the massive presence of the migrant population part of a knowledge management process at national and local level. Furthermore, the national government has decided to allocated an additional resources for USD 500.000 to consolidate these models in the prioritized municipalities of Arauca, Norte de Santander and La Guajira. As a result of these efforts, the Interagency coordination platform lead by UNHCR and IOM (GIFMM) asked UNDP to co-lead with them the subgroup of socioeconomic integration

and the "Migrant and Refugee Plan -PRM" on this chapter. This working group has the presence of 45 active members.

What were the challenges encountered, and how were they resolved? How did the project deal with the risks identified at the onset of the project? What were the lessons learned?

More than 1.250.000 migrants have already arrived to Colombia in a very short period of time. The pressure in the provision of services and in the labor market is generating a critical situation of failed governance in the border municipalities. Historically, the border areas has suffered from a lack of investment and development of productive infrastructure from the State and have been characterized by their informal economy and very dependent on their economical relationship with the neighboring country. The social and political crisis in Venezuela and its superinflation in the economy together with the breakdown of the diplomatic relations between Colombia and Venezuela that has led to the closing of borders, have generated a critical humanitarian situation that has produced an overvaluation of the basic goods and products and an important restriction in the access of livelihoods. The migrant population usually arrives in vulnerable conditions and has limited resources . They are in a critical humanitarian situation, with limited access to food, water, medicines, public services. While 52% of the migrant population stays in the border municipalities the rest are moving to other parts of the Colombian territory or the region, enhancing the phenomenon of "the walkers".

This critical situation explains the importance of focusing on supporting institutional strengthening capacities at the borders and to foster an institutional comprehensive response that faces the emergency while increasing abilities to respond on the creation of socio-economic conditions for the migrants integration.

The situation of the migratory crisis has meant that the focus of the international community is mainly on humanitarian and protection issues and most of the resources are destined to attend the emergency at borders. The resources destined for socio-economic integration, strengthening of institutional capacity and in conflict prevention are scarce and are not perceived as a priority among donors. However, for the Colombian government attending migrants with the vocation of permanence, that is the majority of them, is a priority. Thus, has allowed UNDP to position strategically in the spectrum of the response with an early recovery and recovery approach.

What specific gender-focused initiatives have been implemented, and what was achieved?

The FW project has developed training strategies for migrant populations and host communities on issues related to peaceful coexistence, conflict resolution, and prevention of gender-based violence. In the component of strengthening local institutions, the project has developed training strategies for public workers on citizen security, public space management and raising awareness campaigns for a non-stigmatization of migrant people, fight against xenophobia and gender-based violence prevention.

In addition, the project has made possible the revision of four public policies related to gender equity, reconciliation, sexual exploitation and human trafficking protection strategies in 3 prioritized municipalities.

In sum, the project has reached 1.784 women (that represent 60% of migrants, returnees and host population involved in the overall project) through initiatives related to livelihoods and social dialogue activities, with emphasis on women heads of household.

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The current situation where more than 1,250,000 migrants have already arrived in Colombia in a very short period of time, the pressure in the provision of services and in the labor market is generating a situation of failed governance in the border municipalities. These areas have already suffered from a lack of investment and development of productive infrastructure from the national state and have been characterized as territories that have been governed by an informal economy, unstable and very dependent on economic transactions with the neighboring country. The social and political crisis in Venezuela and its superinflation, together with the breakdown of the diplomatic relations between Colombia and Venezuela that has led to the closing of borders, have generated a critical humanitarian situation that has produced an overvaluation of the basic goods and products and an important restriction in the access of livelihoods. Additionally, the migrant population that is arriving in Colombia usually has limited resources and has left all their assets in Venezuela. They are in a critical humanitarian situation, very vulnerable with limited access to food, water, medicines, public services, and while 52% stay in the border municipalities, the rest moves to other parts of the Colombian territory or the region, enhancing the phenomenon of "the walkers". This critical situation explains the importance of focusing on supporting institutional strengthening capacities to foster an institutional comprehensive response that faces the emergency situation while they increase abilities to respond on the creation os socio-economic conditions for the stabilization of the migrant population and for development opportunities.

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