

Indicators for the monitoring, follow-up, and result of the strategy aimed at the reduction of violence in Palmira, Colombia.

October 4, 2022

Riqueza Completa, Centre of Applied Research from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Cali, with financing by the **OSF (Open Society Foundations)**, has designed a set of indicators for the monitoring, follow-up, and result of the strategy **Forjar Oportunidades** within the framework of the **PAZOS** program of the Mayor's Office of the municipality of Palmira.



PAZOS is the program of the Mayor's Office of Palmira (Colombia) whose aim is to combat the causes of homicidal violence among young people in that city. The **Forjar Oportunidades** initiative, led by the Fundación SIDOC within the framework of the 'Compromiso Valle' alliance, is a methodology for social intervention to stop violence using a psychosocial approach, training for employability and entrepreneurship, and the practice of democratic and participatory citizenship. This concept is applied in 7 municipalities of the Valle department, including Palmira.



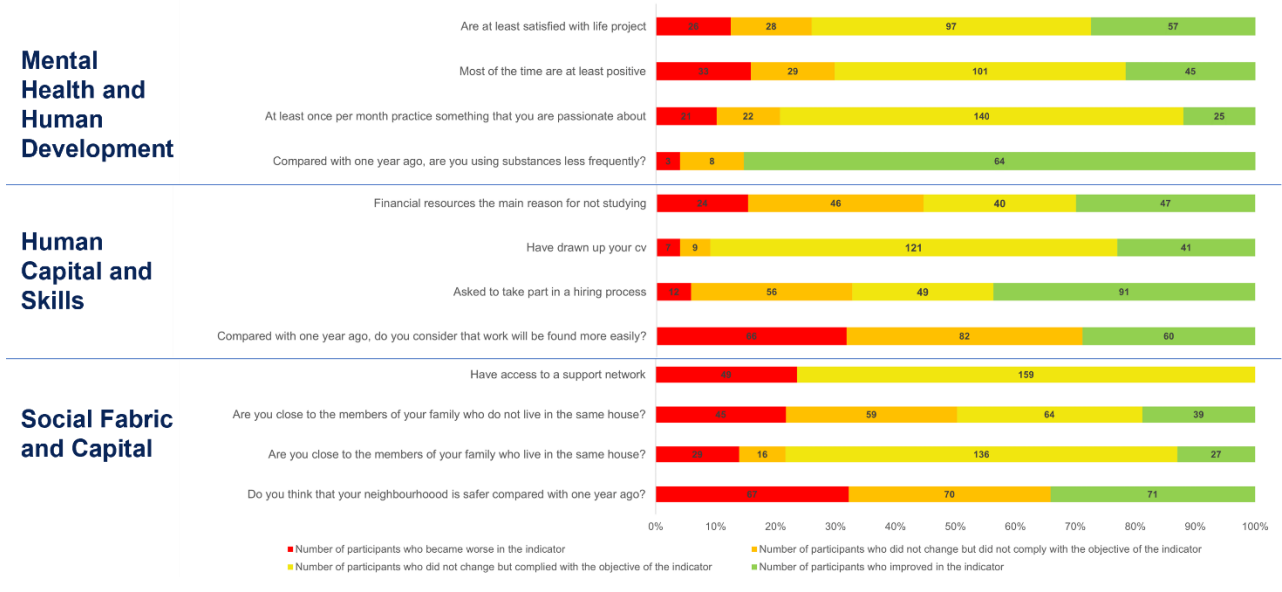
The **Forjar Oportunidades** program has been underway in the municipality of Palmira since September 2021 and has involved almost 300 young people between the ages of 18 and 28. The research carries out surveys and interviews with four groups of stakeholders in the project (coexistence supervisors, coordinators, present and past participants of the program), in addition to consulting official sources and those of the program. Shown below are some **notable results** from this study:

- A high level of **satisfaction** and **constancy** on the part of participants: monthly average dropout of 3% in the period under evaluation.
- **Reduction in the consumption** of psychoactive substances on the part of 85% of the participants
- Increase in **involvement in the labor market** on the part of participants: 86% of young people have written up their cv, and 67% responded to job offers.
- Half of those taking part accept that now they settle **their differences through dialogue**.
- **Reduction in the number of homicides** in the municipality of Palmira.

Monitoring

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Total number of participants	2	145	239	239	287	249	297	279	267	267	267
Number of new assigned participants	2	147	122	0	57	2	71	0	0	0	0
Number of dropouts	0	4	28	0	9	40	23	18	12	0	0
Dropout rate	0%	3%	12%	0%	3%	16%	8%	6%	4%	0%	0%
% of participants who received scholarship	100%	91%	92%	88%	81%	85%	81%	80%	81%	77%	81%
% of participants who received scholarship the following month	100%	78%	83%	86%	81%	77%	76%	76%	81%	77%	81%

Follow-up



Result

Using impact assessment techniques (differences in differences and matching methods), this study finds sufficient statistical evidence to attribute **4 avoided deaths** with the implementation of the **Forjar Oportunidades** strategy in the municipality of Palmira in the period under evaluation (September 2021 – June 2022).

The most important challenge is in the sustainability of the results obtained up to now, and due to this and other factors, the following aspects are decisive:

- the duration and promptness in the payment of the scholarship in cash that the participants receive.
- the harmonious coordination between the coexistence supervisors of the Mayor's Office and the strategy facilitators.
- the positioning among the companies of the skills certifications received by the participants to facilitate their labor inclusion.