

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

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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 | Мау | 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 Are at least satisfied with life project Mental Most of the time are at least positive Health and Human At least once per month practice something that you are passionate about **Development** Compared with one year ago, are you using substances less frequently? Financial resources the main reason for not studying Human Have drawn up your cv Capital and Asked to take part in a hiring process Skills Compared with one year ago, do you consider that work will be found more easily? Have access to a support network Are you close to the members of your family who do not live in the same house? Social Fabric and Capital Are you close to the members of your family who live in the same house? Do you think that your neighbourhoood is safer compared with one year ago? 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 0% 100% Number of participants who became worse in the indicator Number of participants who did not change but did not comply with the objective of the indicator Number of participants who did not change but complied with the objective of the indicator Number of participants who improved in the indicator

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.