

# Localization Pilot Program in Colombia



## Background

Localization has become one of the most relevant issues in the humanitarian sector in recent years; it involves empowering local communities in countries affected by humanitarian crises with capacities and resources to design and deliver aid in a sustainable manner. **The four pillars of localization are: access to direct funding for local actors, development of equitable partnerships, access to coordination spaces, and capacity building.**

In Colombia, local and national organizations have high levels of expertise and an important role to play in humanitarian response. Despite this, they face limited access to adequate and direct funding, as well as opportunities to participate in coordination spaces. As a response, HIAS Colombia began implementing a pilot localization program, with the objective of **enhancing pre-existing skills, strengthening local structures, broadening participation/leadership in coordination spaces, building capacities, and facilitating access to flexible resources.**

- **Localization pilot:** Through the allocation of its own resources, HIAS implements two localization pilots with eight local organizations; four located in Colombia and four in Kenya. Its objective is to generate lessons learned for global scalability.
- **Partner organizations participating in the pilot:** The four grassroots organizations with which HIAS Colombia works have extensive recognition and experience in their communities. They are led by refugees, migrants, or groups of people at risk of violence that had not previously accessed flexible financing through partnership agreements.



'Raras no tan Raras' is an LBT transfeminist local organization that works in Barranquilla. They are one of the participant organizations in HIAS Colombia's localization program.

**Previous experiences:** with three community-based organizations.

## Localization Pilot Program

With the objective of empowering four community-based organizations, HIAS Colombia implements activities in Pasto. Pasto is the main border city with Ecuador, a transit point for migrants, and the largest host city for internally displaced people in southern Colombia. The program also works with organizations based in Barranquilla, which is the largest host city for migrants and refugees, as well as internally displaced people in the Caribbean region. Its actions are focused on four key areas:

- **Multiyear flexible funding** from initial accompaniment in the elaboration of budget proposals until the end of the program implementation stage.



**617 people**

supported by local organizations participating in the localization pilot program



**105 sessions**

to accompany and train the four local organizations carried out by HIAS Colombia



**4 organizations**

that received a total of 25,000 USD each to strengthen their operations

Four organizations receive funding for the value of US\$25,000 each, constituting the first direct funding agreement of participating organizations through partnership agreements.

- **Strengthening the technical, administrative and financial capacities of each organization** through training and technical assistance, mentoring, and transfer of methodologies, manuals, and other materials. Four capacity strengthening plans were developed, one per organization, including 45 technical and operational training sessions on gender-based violence (GBV), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), economic inclusion, human resources, safeguarding, monitoring and evaluation, among others; 21 programmatic follow-up sessions; 34 financial management sessions; five visits to activities; and the hiring of an external consultant for the construction of a strategic plan for one of the organizations.
- **Expansion of each organization's networks** with institutional entities, international cooperation agencies, local organizations, potential donors and partners. HIAS invited local organizations as speakers in four GIFMM plenary sessions. The organizations developed partnerships with four international organizations. They also created partnerships with 20 local organizations, state entities and educational institutions, among others.
- **Promoting sustainability** through the identification of funding opportunities, developing proposal writing skills, and budget creation. Support was provided in the development of proposals, identification of funding calls, support for participation in key forums, and training in technical and financial skills. Feedback on program reports was also provided.

## Local Organization Participation

Four organizations, Raras no tan raras, OMIP Colombia, Agencia Cultural 7-80, and FUMVID Barranquilla, received support from HIAS Colombia. Among the selected organizations are groups which support LGBTQ+ people and grassroots groups created by refugees and migrants. Each received USD 25,000 for the first year of implementation.

The services they provide include mental health support for the LGBTQ+ population, a parenting school for families, prevention of forced recruitment of minors, and economic inclusion for families with children in school.

By June 2024, 617 people had benefited from the program, including 204 children and adolescents, and 413 adults. This surpassed the initial goal of 425 participants.

## Previous Experiences with Localization

HIAS Colombia, with the support of the U.S. Government, has been implementing other localization activities with Corporación Hombres en Marcha in Pasto since 2021. In 2024, HIAS Colombia also began working with Red Somos in Ipiales and Fundación Alvaralice in Cali. The main activities include the joint design of a methodology on positive and co-responsible masculinities, which is currently being successfully implemented, and support from the programmatic, financial, and administrative areas of HIAS.



Local organization Agencia Cultural 7-80 prevents forced recruitment of children in Barranquilla. HIAS supports them with capacity building activities.

## Contact

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