JOINT EVALUATION OF THE PILOT
Shock-Responsive Social Protection in Arauca (Colombia)

Scope and objectives, what have we evaluated and why?
The joint pilot of the National Government of Colombia and the WFP of Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) in Arauca-Colombia, executed from April 2020 to February 2021, was evaluated for learning and accountability purposes.

Objectives of the Pilot

01
Complement the State's action to mitigate the income decrease of Colombians and migrants due to the COVID-19 emergency

02
Contribute with lessons learned towards a shock-responsive social protection system

Assistance modalities implemented

1
Cash transfer by WFP

2
Food by WFP

3
Delivery of food kits by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD)

The pilot was developed in Arauca because of a confluence of factors:

Food insecurity contingency due to the lockdown measures to contain the spread of COVID-19

The humanitarian crisis of the migrant population

Security challenges and armed violence

WFP’s operational capacity in the territory

What methodology was used for the evaluation?

Documentary and database analysis

27 INTERVIEWS
Semi-structured
55% 45%

471 INTERVIEWS
79 TELEPHONE SURVEYS
66% 44%

18 INTERVIEWS
In-depth interviews with beneficiary

19 INTERVIEWS
ONLINE SURVEYS to institutional actors
What do we know after the evaluation?

Relevance in the modalities used, synergy, and articulation in the implementation

SISBEN was used as a targeting instrument and the local authorities strongly collaborated in the active search for beneficiaries

The modalities of the intervention were aligned with the program “Ingreso Solidario” and with the assistance of the migrant population

WFP used its local logistical capacity strengths and knowledge of the territory. Assisted with Cash Transfers as the first option, and as a second-best distributed food where there was a lack of financial intermediaries

The UNGRD distributed food kits under the disaster risk management system architecture of the territory

Solving the challenges presented by some outdated official records was possible due to the great capacity for execution and management shown by the parties

Implementation efficiencies and timeliness of delivery

The pilot started with agility, although the challenges of outdated databases generated delays, and higher costs were incurred. Households perceived that deliveries were made on a timely manner:

Very on time 92.3%
With some delays 6.3%
Long delayed 1.4%

Source: Beneficiary household survey. Econometría, 2022

Effectiveness in achieving the goals and results

With coverage of 23,000 households, the national government was complemented in mitigating the emergency in vulnerable households unprotected from the assistance of social promotion programs

Humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality, and independence complied

The targets of coverage of the national population were exceeded (128%). Given that there were difficulties in locating the migrant population, they were replaced by Colombian families in need

The assistance was a balm at the critical moment of income deprivation, with special relevance in alleviating children’s hunger

Sustainability in the fulfillment of goals and results achieved

Future horizontal expansions of the Social Protection System were laid

Experience and learning for the development of replicas were generated

The outdated SISBEN IV and the lack of coverage of migrants were made visible, which contributed to actions to include this population in the SISBEN IV databases

Cash Transfers beneficiaries

Food beneficiaries

Colombian woman head of household

Colombian man Head of Household

"...I was locked up because of the pandemic, I could not work, I could not do anything, and I was very worried because I had no way to buy food for my children..."

"The only thing I bought was vegetables..."
Coverage was outstanding for context and needs

- 43.2% of households in the department received the benefit from the pilot
- 55.6% of households targeted by "Ingreso Solidario" received the benefit of the pilot

We learned about the importance of:

1. Planning the effort required for the active search of the targeted population
2. Ensuring the sufficient coverage of financial intermediaries
3. Articulating with national and local authorities from the beginning
4. Feedbacking the intervention with requests, complaints, and claims

Recommendations

1. To adopt as a strategy the SRSP or Social Protection, which requires decision, planning, and articulation

2. Adopt in all replicas of SRSP or Social Protection a gender approach and empowerment of women that contribute to the transformations in roles and power relations between women and men

3. Make visible and generate reasonable adjustments to reduce access barriers for the population with disabilities (PWD) in SRSP or Social Protection projects

4. In SRSP or Social Protection projects, make operational adjustments, from the establishment of a logical framework to monitoring and follow-up, the early linkage of transversal accountability processes, and the linkage of households to the Social Protection System (SPS)