Data for Impact in Colombia – Enhancing Data-Informed Decision Making for Child Protection

Background

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works in countries around the world to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children in keeping with the objectives established in the U.S. Government strategy for Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (2019-2023) (APCCA). In support of country priorities and in line with APCCA objectives to build strong beginnings, put family first, and protect children from violence, USAID-funded activities advance partner countries on their journey to self-reliance[1] by helping governments build and strengthen their capacities to support, manage, and finance their child protection and care systems, using the best available data.

USAID contributed to Colombia's data through support to the Violence Against Children and Youth Survey, and continues to support coordination for a national response to these survey findings. USAID also aims to strengthen the capacity of the social services workforce and enhance the Government of Colombia's role in ensuring the wellbeing of children, especially through the *Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar* (ICBF). This includes providing hands-on capacity strengthening to increase case management efficiency and effectiveness. To complement ongoing activities in this area, the USAID-funded Data for Impact (D4I) project is available to enhance ICBF's ability to manage child protection cases through improved use of data and information systems.[2]

Project Overview

D4I in Colombia will support ICBF to strengthen their collection, management, and use of quality routine data for the provision of child protection and care. To kick off the project, D4I will conduct a series of exploratory activities to determine the priority and highest impact activities for supporting ICBF until the anticipated conclusion of D4I in 2023. Activities to understand and characterize any issues managing child protection cases using available data and information systems will include:

1) Interviews with ICBF's Defensoria teams and staff working in child protection at the municipal and regional levels, in addition to staff at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MSPS) to delineate major challenges to tracking and resolving child welfare cases.

2) Mapping the data elements and indicators collected and the key information system functionalities used to support ICBF's processes to intake, review, manage, and close cases of reported negligence, physical abuse, and sexual abuse.

D4I will identify any gaps in how the data and the information system supports ICBF to carry out this work. The output of this work will be a report summarizing the project's key findings, as well as a workplan to guide the project starting in January 2021.

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[1] https://www.usaid.gov/selfreliance
[2] https://www.data4impactproject.org