



Children Believe

PROJECT PREVENTING IRREGULAR CHILD MIGRATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA y MEXICO Results Final Evaluation – Regional

Presented by ERAK Consultores. El Salvador. October 2021

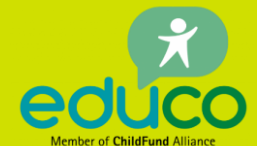


agosto 2021



In partnership with
Canada

ChildFund.



Project Background

- **Project execution date:** 2017-2021
- **Funding:** The PICMCA/CONFIO project has been implemented with the financial support of the Government of Canada (CAD \$12.6 million), through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), under the leadership of Children Believe, in partnership with ChildFund International and EDUCO (all members of the ChildFund Alliance)
- **General Objective:** to improve the well-being of children, adolescents and young people at risk of irregular migration
- **Final Result:** improved well-being of children and young people at risk of irregular migration in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Mexico

Project Background

PICMCA-CONFIO - COMPONENTS

Child Protection and Violence Prevention

- Improved use of gender-responsive child protection services and violence prevention programs at the community level, that integrate the specific needs and interests of girls and boys, and adolescent and young women and young men.

Employability and Youth Entrepreneurship

- Improved employment skills and experience for at-risk young women and young men to participate, on equal terms, in sustainable income generating activities.

Youth Participation and Leadership

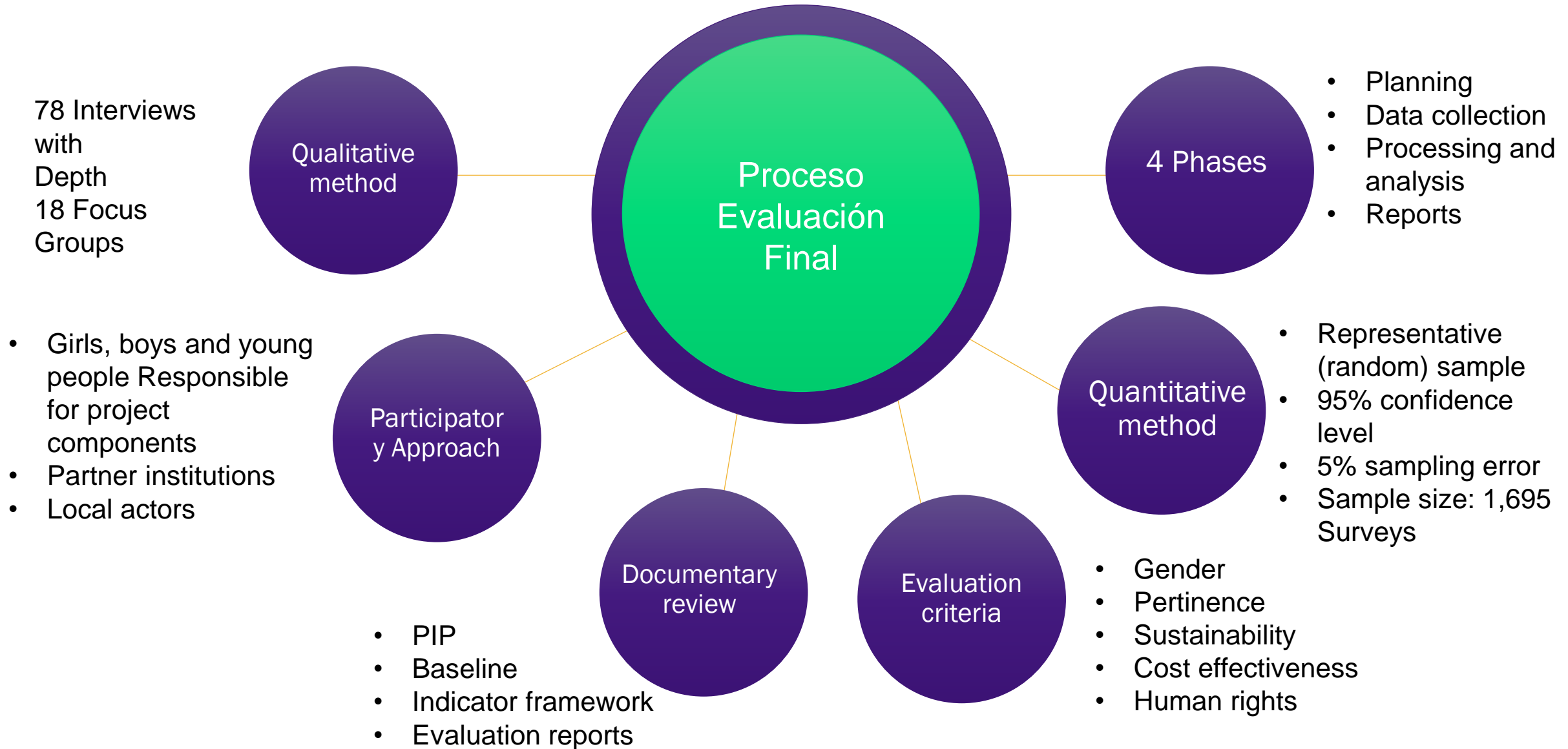
- Improved gender-responsive leadership in young women and men, on equal terms, to inform and influence regional and national decision-makers and the national public on how to address irregular child migration and the specific risks faced by girls and boys because of gender inequalities.

Objective of the Evaluation

- Measure and report on performance, evaluate the scope and achievements of the project in comparison with the expected results-impacts, through the following criteria:
 - Main Results and Impacts
 - Gender equality approach
 - Criteria of Relevance and Relevance of the project / activities / methodologies
 - Efficiency
 - Sustainability



Evaluation Methodology

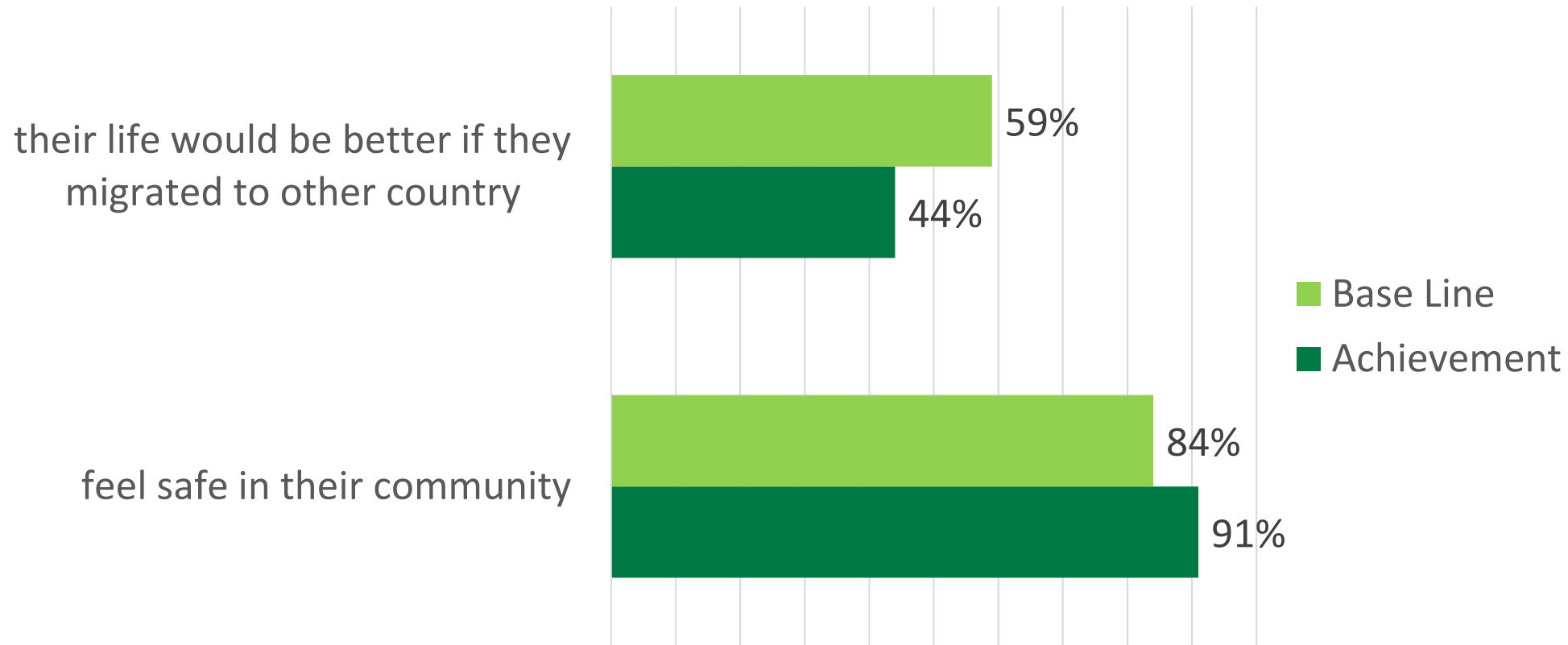


KEY FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION AT THE *REGIONAL* *LEVEL*



Key Findings - Final Outcomes

Evaluation Results



Important factors that contributed to the results:

- High levels of participation in training processes
- Interest of authorities, key actors and community leaders in these processes

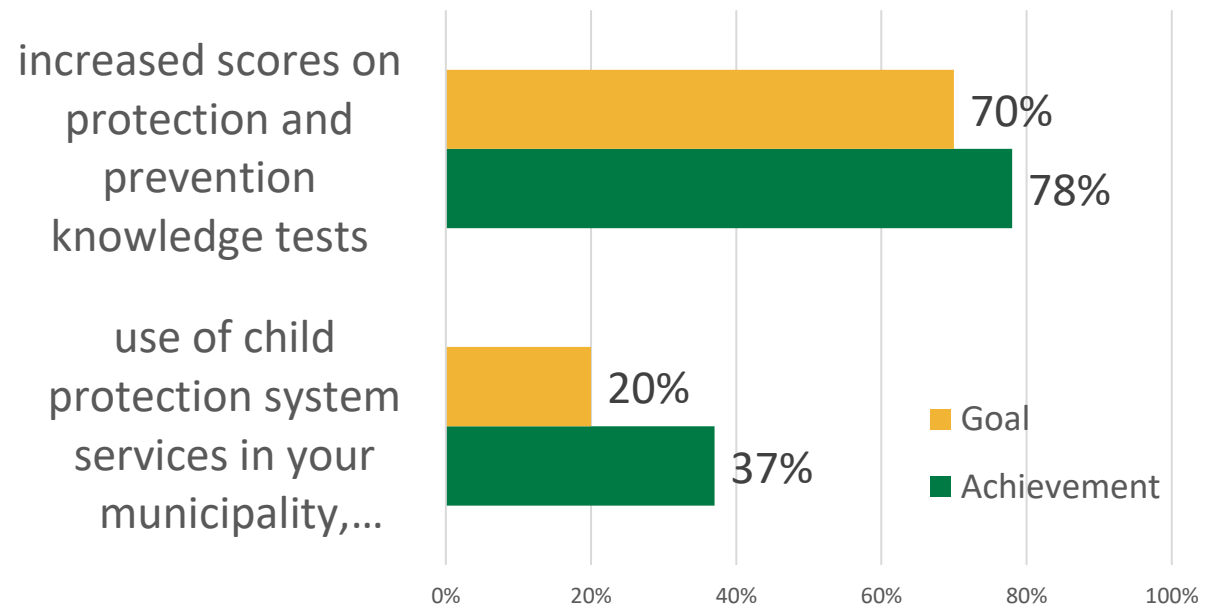
Comparative: What was your situation like before and after in your school?

Situación	Antes	Actual	Diferencia
a. Very good, I had no problems with my colleagues.	85%	97%	12%
b. Negative, I had problems with my classmates (bullying, fights, arguments, etc.).	15%	3%	12%
c. I felt very safe at my school	80%	96%	16%
d. I did not feel safe at my school	20%	4%	16%
e. I knew the rights and duties I have as a child.	63%	92%	29%
f. I was unaware of the rights and duties I have as a child.	37%	7%	30%

Key Findings

Component 1100: Child protection and violence prevention

Key results protection



Important factors that contributed to the results:

- Increased knowledge about protective services
- Involvement of authorities, actors linked to the protection system

Key Findings

Component 1100: Child protection and violence prevention

Comparison: What was your situation like before and after at home?

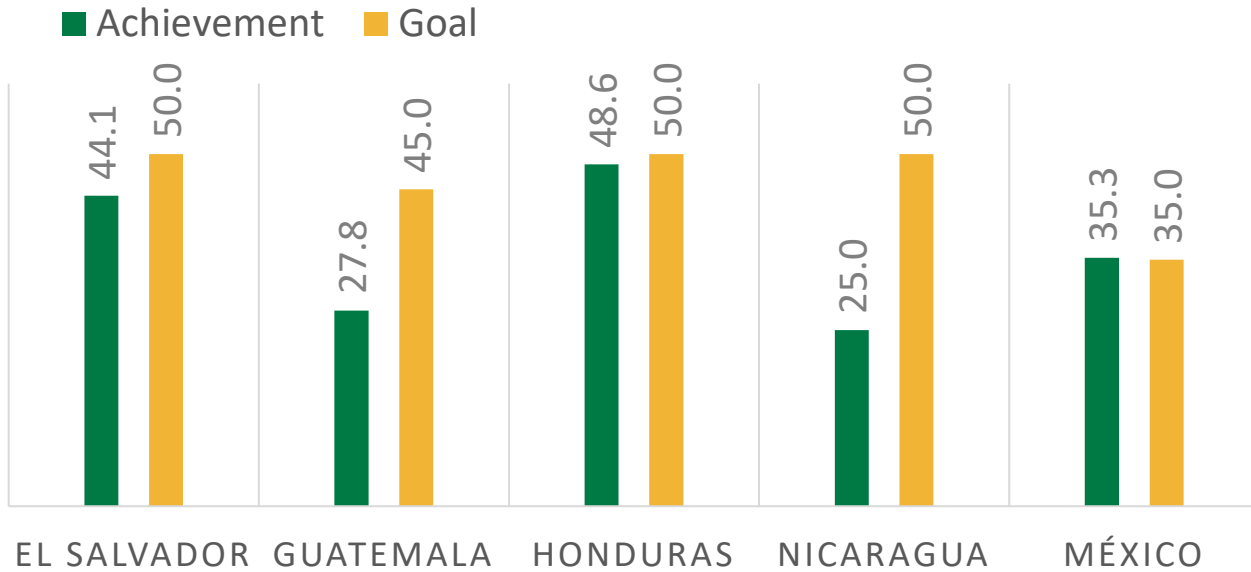
Situación	Anterior	Actual	Diferencia
a.1 Very good, I had no problems with my family	93%	97%	4%
b.1 Negative, I had problems with my family (abuse or violence).	7%	3%	4%
c.1 I felt very safe with my family	93%	97%	4%
d.1 I did not feel safe with my family	7%	3%	4%
e.1 I knew if someone in my family was affecting my rights.	62%	83%	21%
f.1 I did not know if anyone in my family was affecting my rights.	38%	17%	21%

93% answer that their situation was very good, they had no problems with their family compared to 97% who answer about their situation at present (4% increase positive perception).

Key Findings

Component 1100: Child protection and violence prevention

DO YOU THINK YOUR LIFE WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU EMIGRATED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY?



- Change in the perception that migration is the only alternative to a better life. The results indicate that in Guatemala and Nicaragua is where the greatest reduction (impact) had this idea of emigrating irregularly.

Alternatives you consider when considering emigration

	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua	México
a. Continue studying	19.0%	24.3%	20.3%	18.2%	21.5%
b. Search for a job	22.3%	22.4%	20.8%	19.0%	24.3%
c. Developing a business venture	25.5%	29.0%	19.0%	24.8%	22.6%
d. Prepare yourself with courses to improve your skills	17.9%	4.2%	16.1%	17.9%	14.6%
e. Studying and working	14.2%	19.0%	20.7%	18.6%	16.3%

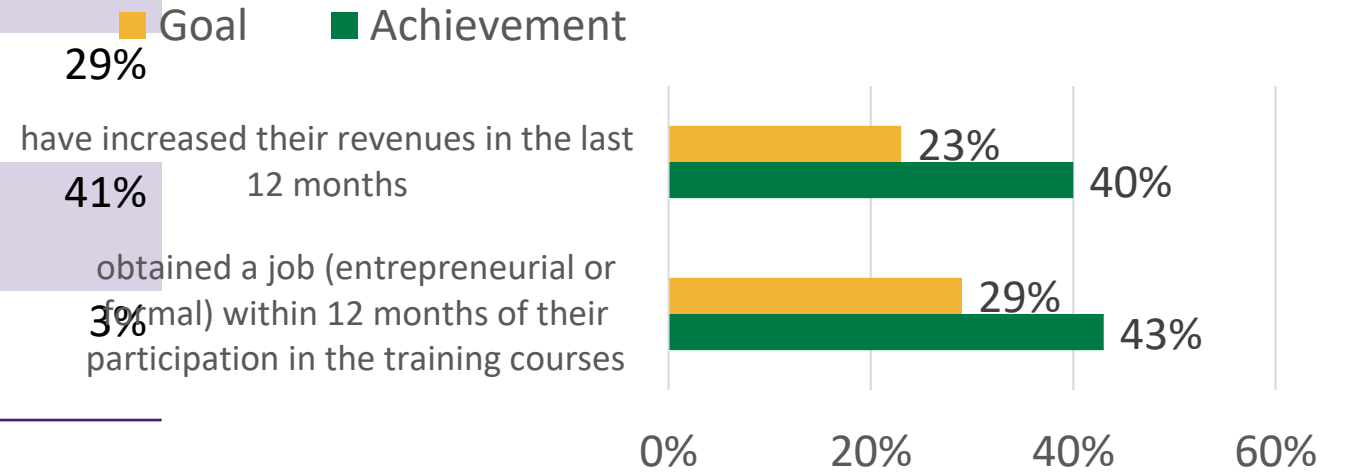
Key Findings

Component 1200: Employability and Youth Entrepreneurship

Implementation of business or entrepreneurship by gender

	Male	Female
a. Yes, before training courses or workshops	27%	27%
b. Yes, after training courses or workshops	33%	29%
c. I have not developed any business ventures, but I would like to	36%	41%
d. I have not developed any business venture and I am not interested in it	4%	3%

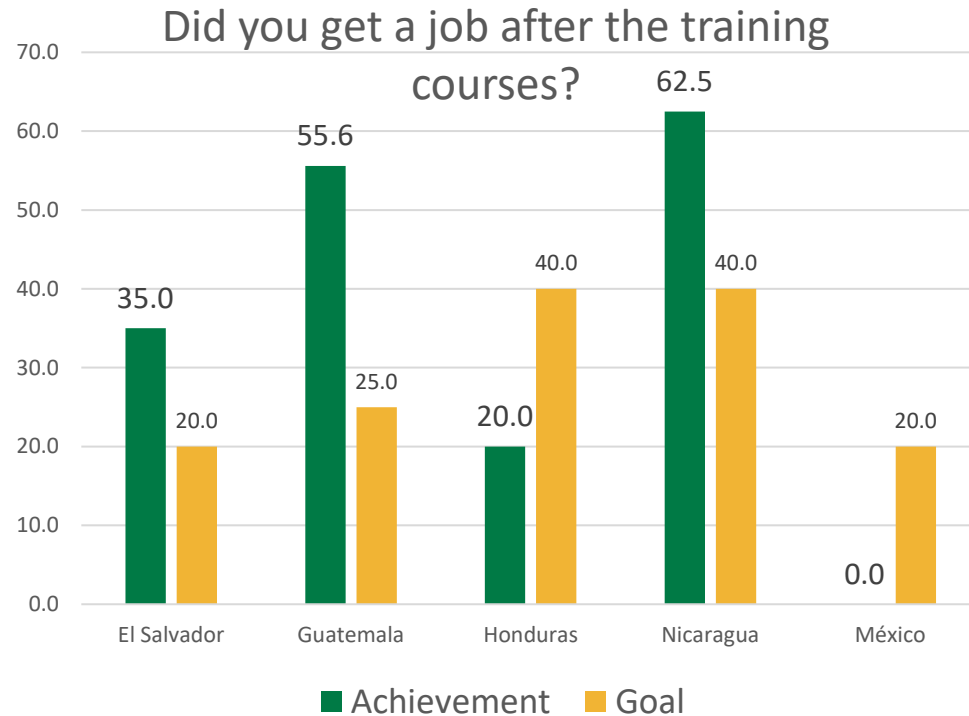
Key Results Employability and Entrepreneurship



Important factors that contributed to the results:

- Increase in income levels and in the proportion of young people with employment/enterprises given the process of strengthening/strengthening skills for employment with vocational centers and alliances with the private sector
- Endowment of seed capital and business equipment

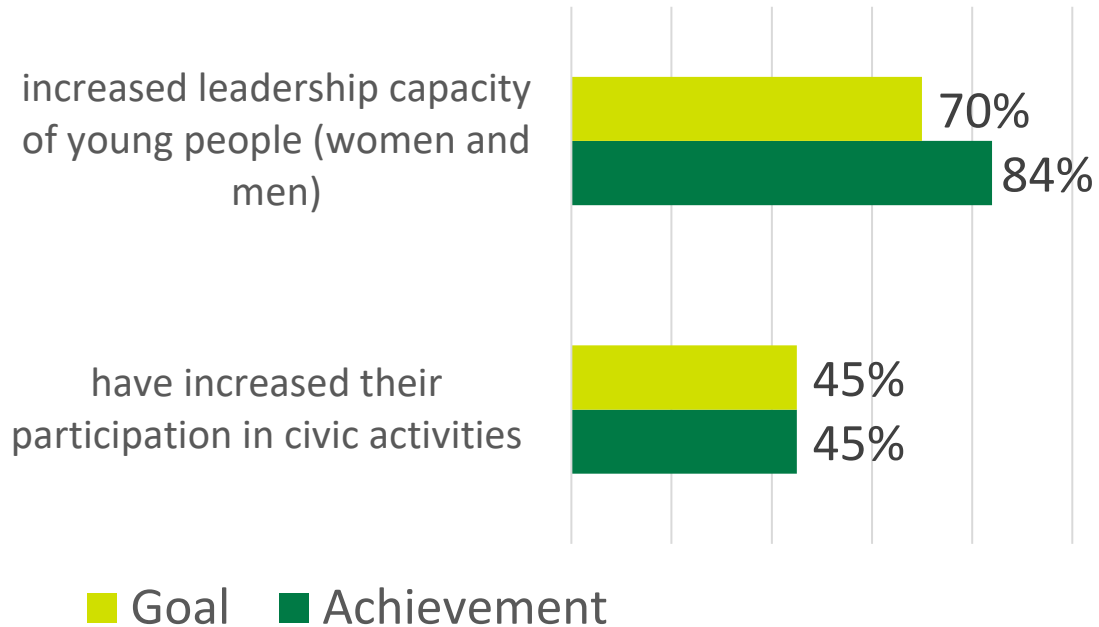
Key Findings Component 1200: Employability and Youth Entrepreneurship



- The best results stand out in Guatemala and Nicaragua. In the case of El Salvador, an opportunity was made to coordinate with the private sector

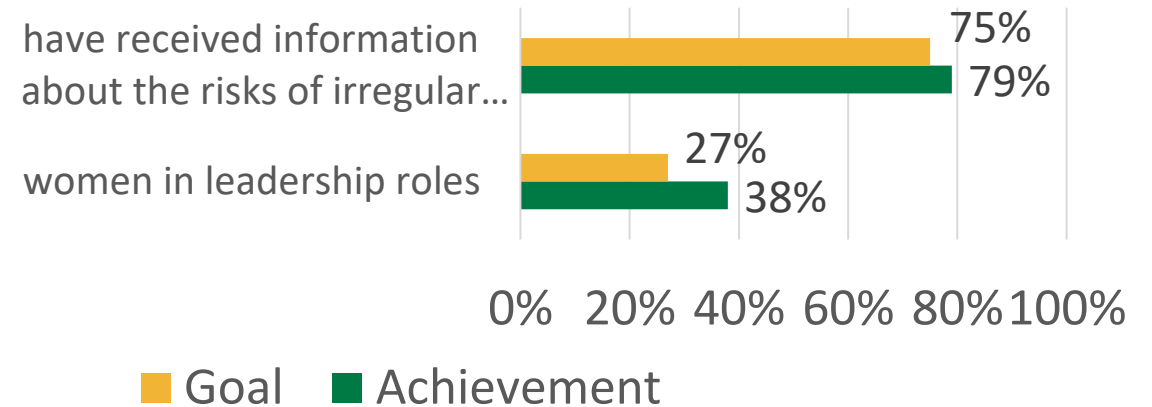
- The best results stand out in Guatemala and Nicaragua again, although the goals were met in all countries except for the case of Mexico

CONFIO Evaluation Results



Key Findings Component 1300: Youth Participation and Leadership

C1300 Results

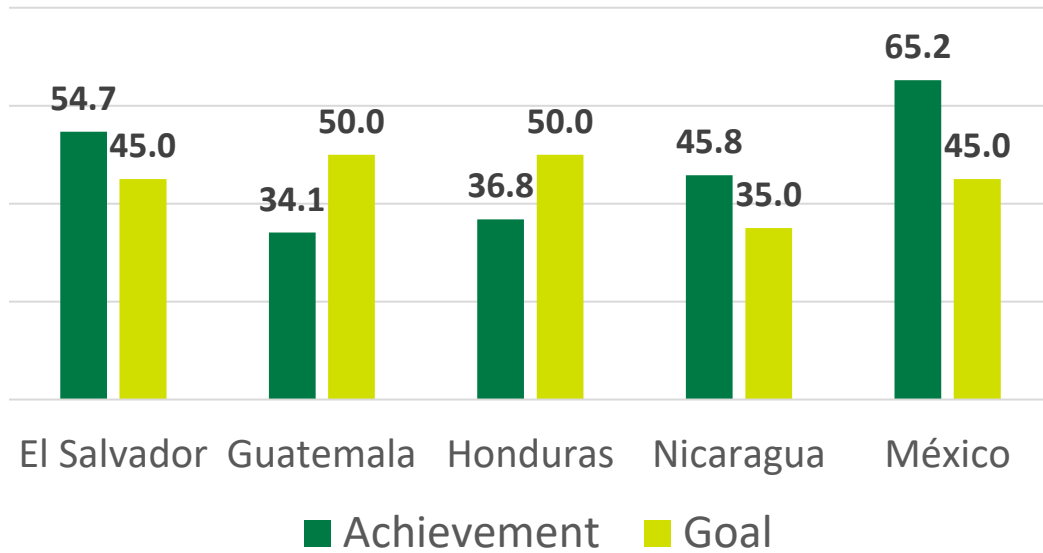


Important factors that contributed to the results:

Impact of the campaigns developed on the risks of child migration, alternatives to migration and the rights of children and young people not to migrate, from a gender perspective.

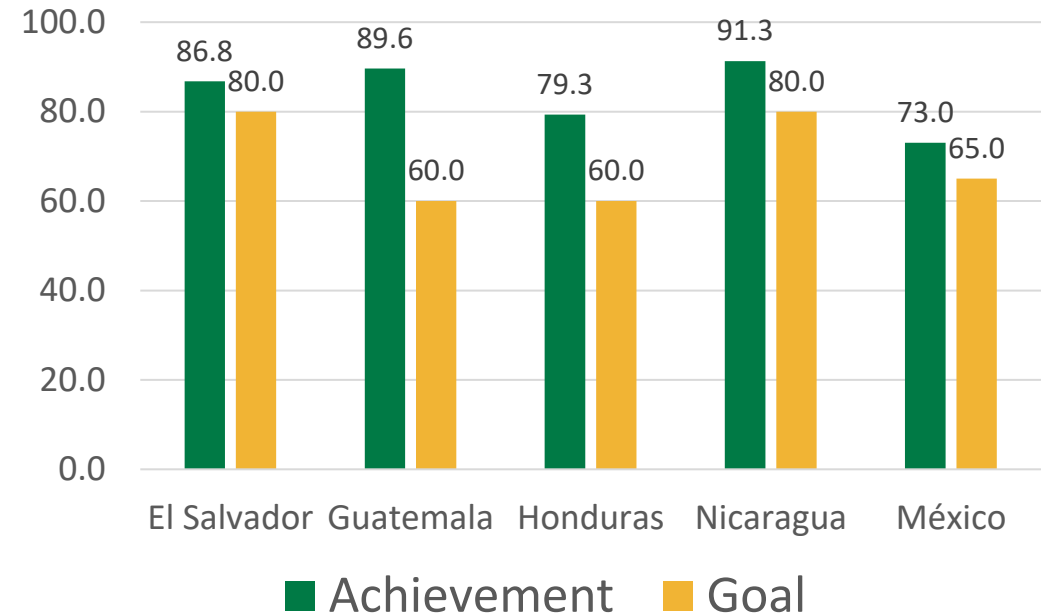
	Masculino	Femenino
a. Leader	41%	38%
b. Active part of the group	37%	37%
c. I attend to support	22%	25%

Are you actively engaged in a civic space?



Key Findings Component 1300: Youth Participation and Leadership

Is your opinion taken into account?



- Highlights the importance of training and follow-up processes in the 5 countries to promote the importance of citizen participation

- In all 5 countries, the effect of the Project's intervention process on individuals and communities is observed

KEY FINDINGS OF THE COUNTRY EVALUATION



Key Actions at Country Level

Mexico

- Coordinated work with local and national institutions, it yielded good results, especially with public officials with a mandate in the area of child and adolescent protection.
- Advocacy plan carried out as an important tool in the projection of results towards the future of the intervened communities.

Guatemala

- Involvement, communication and support of community leaders.
- Ventures supported, as well as beneficiaries through training in employability with technical assistance, training for employment and seed capital.

El Salvador

- Greater knowledge in rights and duties, migration, protection of children, development of skills, actions to prevent violence.
- Development of skills for life and work, vocational technical training and job placement are highly valued in a positive way.

Honduras

- Advancement of access mechanisms for reporting and restoration of the rights of children and women.
- Strengthening young people through the School of Political Advocacy is an appreciable achievement in the midst of the conditions of vulnerability and the adverse elements that demotivate the Honduran populations.

Nicaragua

- Strengthening of institutions dedicated to the protection of children and the institutionalization of irregular migration issues in the Ministry of the Family, Children and Youth.
- Alliances with the private sector and actions focused on the training of young people for employment and entrepreneurship.

Key Actions at the Country Level

Investments.

- The largest investment was made in the employability component: purchase of equipment to develop training, seed capital funds; development of workshops to improve the skills of young people, to look for a job or establish their own business (life skills, job skills, entrepreneurship, gender, among others).
- Second, investment in training activities for national and local governments and civil society personnel to promote and protect the human rights of children.

Investment by component by country (CAD \$)

Components	El Salvador	Nicaragua	Guatemala	Honduras	Mexico	Total Regional
1100 - Protection	701,942	41,420	445,401	404,406	264,127	1,857,296
1200 - Employability	903,610	342,718	1,109,110	747,336	534,351	3,637,125
1300 - Citizen participation	308,914	278,268	237,795	220,679	242,014	1,287,670
Total	1,914,466	662,405	1,792,306	1,372,421	1,040,492	6,782,090

PROJECT APPROACHES, IMPACT AND LIMITATIONS

ChildFund.

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NACIÓN
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CORAZÓN

“Pasé por momentos de muchas dudas, incluso llegué a pensar en irme a Estados Unidos. En el 2019 empecé a recibir capacitaciones del Proyecto CONFIO de ChildFund Guatemala y emprendí un negocio en mi país con el cual puedo ayudar a mis papás. Si estás con la inquietud de migrar; investiga y explora oportunidades, siempre habrán mejores soluciones que irte de tu país”.

Viviana Tzep, 21 Años. Guatemala.



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Gender Focus

CONFIO sought to contribute to improving the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls, equitable access and economic empowerment through entrepreneurship or employment, and increasing the participation and leadership roles of women and girls in decision-making alike.

- **94%** believe that the Project promoted actions to prevent or eliminate violence against girls and women.
- **Eight out of ten people surveyed say project activities used materials to highlight the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of young women and girls**
- **89%** believe that the Project's activities promoted the participation of women (girls, young women and adult women)

All interviews highlight the proper use and adaptation of the approach of the Canadian Feminist Policy and gender strategy as elements to reinforce the actions of the Project

Four of the six areas of action of the Government of Canada's Feminist Policy on International Assistance and international policy instruments were taken up:

Human Dignity, supported access to quality education, particularly for women and girls

Gender equality and empowerment sought to reduce sexual and gender-based violence, strengthen women's organizations and movements that promote women's rights, improve governments' capacity to provide services to women and girls, and improve gender analysis.

Inclusive governance, fostered greater participation of women and girls in decision-making

Equitable economic growth, increased women's access to economic opportunities and resources

"... more women were convened and selected to ensure greater participation of women, even if there were more requests from male participants.

Women gained more seed fund than men..."

Interview in Nicaragua

Impacts

The Project sought to improve the well-being and conditions of children and adolescents through specific improvements or changes in protection systems, livelihoods and citizen participation.

Positive rating of the CONFIO Project's contribution

a. Encourage or promote activities aimed at reducing and eliminating expressions or actions of violence against children and young people.	93%
b. To provide tools to deal with situations of violence against girls, boys and young women.	76%
c. Appropriate tools to detect situations of violence against girls, boys and women.	74%
d. Detect situations of violence against girls, boys and young women.	74%
e. Provide support in situations of violence against children and young women.	77%
f. Encourage or promote the relationship of children and young people with their fathers, mothers and family members	94%
g. Encourage or promote the relationship of children and young people with their school peers	92%
h. Encourage or promote the relationship of children and youth with their friends in the community.	92%
i. Encourage or promote the relationship of children and youth with the community.	92%

Limitations

- The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic generated delays in the execution times, as well as in the planned face-to-face activities and forced the implementation of actions that allowed the fulfillment of the goals. In addition, in the case of Nicaragua, tropical storms Eta and Iota were added.
- The major limitations or barriers that the participants consider persist in their environment and limit progress in equality and the empowerment of girls and young women, are the following: Violence (9.4%), the culture of machismo (12.5 %) and harassment and discrimination (12.5%); while on the other hand 9.4% affirm that there is no limitation and / or barrier to advance towards equality and the empowerment of girls and young women.

Conclusions at the Regional Level

- **Pertinence.** The strategies used by the PICMCA / CONFIO Project were designed based on diagnoses of the needs of the population at risk of migrating irregularly, which allowed the design of strategies appropriate to the needs of the beneficiaries. As the results of focus groups, interviews and surveys indicate, the strategies implemented in each country by the PICMCA / CONFIO Project were highly relevant and adapted to the needs of the beneficiaries.
- **Relevance.** According to the results obtained in the interviews, focus groups and surveys carried out, the project has contributed to improving, strengthening and having greater knowledge of protection services; he has trained in employability and soft skills, has implemented an income generation mechanism through business strengthening and the provision of seed capital; and has developed actions to improve the knowledge of young women and men about the risks of irregular migration, has empowered girls and young women by strengthening their confidence to report harassment or sexual violence in their environments, among other results; being important results that denote the relevance that the PICMCA / CONFIO Project has had in the 5 countries of intervention..

- **Effectiveness.** When comparing the results of the final evaluation with the baseline, they show that the PICPMCA / CONFIO Project has been effective in reducing the perception that irregular migration leads to a better life (in girls, boys and adolescents); in increasing the perception of the feeling of security of the beneficiaries in their communities; in improving knowledge about the rights of protection and prevention of violence against girls and women; in the use of the child protection system in their municipalities, schools or community; in changing the perception that migration is the only alternative to a better life (where the results show a greater impact in Guatemala and Nicaragua); in obtaining employment after participating in training courses (with better results in Guatemala and Nicaragua); in the knowledge that girls, boys and adolescents have about the risks of irregular child migration; in the participation and leadership of women; in increasing the participation of young people in civic activities where the opinion of young people is considered and valued.

- **Sustainability** it is guaranteed by the level of involvement of local organizations and authorities of the child protection system in strengthening their capacities and internalization of children's rights, actions were carried out that were able to influence national policies (for example, in Nicaragua, managed to institutionalize the issue of irregular migration in the Ministry of Family, Children and Youth). In terms of employability, the PICMCA / CONFIO Project established alliances with the private sector in favor of strengthening technical skills considering the irregular migration approach and the gender approach, programs were created to train young people in business and life skills (for example, in Nicaragua the EMPUJE Program was designed); Thus, the capacities strengthened and installed in private institutions will contribute to the sustainability of the Project. Likewise, dynamics of citizen participation were generated in community leadership, especially of young people through youth networks.

Recommendations at the Regional Level

- The execution of the Project was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in this regard, the virtual modality (when applicable) should be combined with the face-to-face to strengthen and guarantee continuity of activities in the face of pandemic or other risks.
- Likewise, in a second intervention, it is suggested to monitor the effectiveness of complaints about harassment / violence against girls, young women.
- Regarding the high valuations in the evaluation criteria, as well as the results achieved in the different indicators, it is recommended to replicate the Project considering other municipalities; adapting the methodology to the local context, the cultural factors of the indigenous populations (if applicable), and the recommendations of this evaluation.
- Strengthen the employability and entrepreneurship component, giving it more implementation time and considering the complete business cycle: planning, management and monitoring.

Lessons learned

- Irregular migration is a sensitive and pertinent issue to meet the needs of the population, so CONFIO adequately structured its interventions
- It should be considered that the region is diverse in culture, languages and access, in addition to considering the possible risk factors in highly vulnerable areas.
- The approach with the municipalities or local actors was a positive factor, since they accompanied the Project by providing funds and / or support to logistical processes and calls. This will allow institutions to raise awareness of the impact these actions have on the decision to migrate irregularly. These elements should be part of a new version of CONFIO into the future.
- The coordinated work with civil society for the implementation of virtual training, taking into account the challenges in the issue of connectivity according to the conditions of the ICTs that the most vulnerable beneficiaries of the project possessed.

Thank you



"... The project taught me in one way or another how I can express myself and exercise leadership..."