STRENGTHENING TOGETHER ACTIVITY (STA)

Enhancing the development impact of USAID/Colombia’s local partners and Colombian civil society.

OVERVIEW

The Strengthening Together Activity (STA) improves the operational performance of USAID/Colombia’s local partners so that they can become more self-reliant and effective in achieving their development aims. STA encourages USAID/Colombia’s local partners to adopt Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting (CLA) approaches, and strengthens local partners’ communication, advocacy, and outreach. STA also enhances the ecosystem of civil society actors in Colombia by increasing the provision of capacity development services to civil society organizations, and by creating and strengthening networks of local partners in Bogotá and Medellín. The activity is implemented by FHI 360 and it runs from September 2021 to August 2024.
COMPONENTS

IMPROVING ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

STA improves local partners’ organizational performance through a combination of partner-directed technical assistance and institutional grants. STA also builds local partners’ connections with, and understanding of, local systems and factors that influence development outcomes.

IMPLEMENTING COLLABORATING, LEARNING, AND ADAPTING APPROACHES

STA encourages local partners to adopt approaches that foster adaptive learning and collaboration, enhanced data use for strategic decision making, and improved knowledge management. It does this through technical assistance, coaching, and peer learning.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION, MESSAGING, AND OUTREACH

STA helps local partners conduct outreach to key stakeholders using Social Behavior Change principles. This enables local partners to better communicate their impact to target audiences and society, and to advocate for social change.

PROVIDING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

STA improves the provision of capacity development services to civil society organizations in Bogotá and Medellín through Civil Society Strengthening Hubs. These hubs will offer comprehensive and integrated services, including capacity development tools and methodologies, to civil society organizations.

RESULTS

- Engaged 19 local partners, including think tanks, grassroots organizations, corporate foundations, and other types of partners, in capacity development activities;
- Organized two Whole System in the Room retreats to establish common objectives and thematic axes between local partners; and
- Encouraged meetings between local partners to deepen intra- and inter-sectorial knowledge, and to start defining collaborative work agendas.