

Women Exercising Leadership for Cohesion & Meaningful Empowerment (WELCOME)

BetterTogether Challenge (BTC)

JULY 2023

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

THE IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION (IE)

NORC conducted an IE* of the WELCOME Activity in Trinidad & Tobago, implemented by Democracy International in partnership with La Casita Hispanic Cultural Center. Funded by USAID's BTC, the activity used an advocate model to provide Venezuelan migrant GBV survivors with support services.

Evaluation Questions:

1

Is the activity design based on local context and flexible to achieve results on the ground?

2

Is the activity reaching participants they are meant to target?

3

Is the activity achieving sustainability?

LESSONS LEARNED

What Worked?

- ▲ During the **COVID-19** pandemic, **WELCOME's** needs assessment proved instrumental to shifting program design from an accountability approach in public spaces to a client-centered initiative to address domestic GBV.
- ▲ **WELCOME** was successful at reaching Venezuelan migrant women who are survivors of GBV, as well as Cuban and Dominican female survivors and some male survivors.
- ▲ **WELCOME** engaged with local organizations to create a referral pathway that provided GBV services (safe spaces, food assistance, psychosocial support, or employment opportunities), via an advocates' model.
- ▲ **Staff had to quickly adapt** to include support for male survivors of GBV.

What Did Not?

- ▼ **Busy schedules, language barriers, COVID-19, restrictions and weak operating procedures** were the main challenges to reach GBV survivors.
- ▼ **La Casita advocates' capacity to manage several cases was limited** due to their busy schedules and the voluntary nature of their position.
- ▼ **WELCOME staff faced obstacles to gain the cooperation** of local police officers and hospital staff.
- ▼ After GenDev's and DI's funding end, **WELCOME's** existence heavily relies on the ability of **La Casita's Director** to continue with it. La Casita has faced challenges in procuring additional funds and works at a much smaller scale.

*Data collection sources included reviewing 49 activity documents; an online survey with 10 service providers; and interviews with six DI/La Casita staff members and advocates, and 16 female GBV survivors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Evaluation Question 1



Reassess the role of advocates and the scope of work required to fulfill the expectations of this position for a fair remuneration.



Continue encouraging and funding initial needs assessment stages so that grantees have time and resources to redesign proposed activities to meet current context-specific needs.



For advocate-model interventions, include strategies to engage with local service providers, train them in MEL practices, and include fundraising efforts as milestones and common incentives to collaborate.

Evaluation Question 2



Promote migrant and non-migrant inclusive engagement in implementation to break down barriers between groups and find common spaces of growth and incorporation into the host community.



Improve strategies to ensure wide awareness of and easy access to services to reach more survivors. This requires careful review of safety conditions for GBV survivors and staff.

Evaluation Question 3



Future funding schemes for GBV survivor programming need to **integrate fundraising support and milestones**.



Strengthen organizations' local and international networks by promoting the submission of joint funding proposals and equitable partnerships between large organizations and local groups.



Avoid relying on volunteer time or short-term funded jobs by establishing milestones to help trained individuals be hired by other relevant organizations.

For more information about this evaluation, contact:

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View the full report: https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0214JS.pdf