

PROJECT:

**“STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITIES OF ECUADORIAN
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs)”**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT No. AID- 518-A-13-001

USAID – ESQUEL

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

PERIOD: AUGUST 23, 2013 TO APRIL 15, 2014

FINAL REPORT – STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN ECUADOR PROGRAM

1. INTRODUCTION

The Strengthening of Civil Society Organizations in Ecuador (PFCSO by its Spanish acronym) was designed to develop the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to address social demands.

Program implementation was intended to take place between August 2013 and August 2016. However, in December 2013, the agreement was suspended because approval by the Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation (SETECI) was withheld on new programs by USAID/Ecuador.

Because the project's initial activities had already begun before the agreement was suspended, a closure plan had to be designed, which took into account implementation of a few actions under the project's two components i) Strengthening of Social Organizations and ii) Strengthening of LGBTI Community Organizations, through to April, 2014.

The PFCSO final report below describes the activities and outcomes attained between August 2013 and April 2014.

2. COMPONENT 1

2.1. Context

The CSOs of Ecuador are currently confronting a transitional stage and weak institutionalization due to various reasons: the State has retaken—with renewed impetus—social development interventions, displacing CSOs that had traditionally covered these areas; ii) new and more comprehensive controls and demands now exist under public policies ruling over CSOs; iii) within the context of the current international economic crisis, financial funds contributed by other donors have diminished and have become increasingly restrictive; iv) and finally, many of the human talents they had in place have left CSOs to assume public duties or else devote their efforts to other options.

Within this context CSOs turn out to be quite vulnerable and in this situation citizens have limited capacity to address rights and issues that the State sees as its own.

As a result, PFCSO focused on CSOs' empowerment as a core element of the project in order to improve their interventions while addressing social issues or demands. And this was precisely central to the group of activities envisaged in component 1.

2.2. Outcomes and activities anticipated during the 2013 – 2016 period (Component 1)

The Program had envisaged a total of five anticipated outcomes under Component 1.

Outcome 1 was aimed at implementing quality management systems at 10 CSOs. This would allow for strengthening of social organizations that already have a high degree of capacity and based on that, being able to develop the entire sector. Main activities in this component had determined the need to generate technical assistance and coaching processes in order to implement quality management systems.

Outcome 2 intended to have 25 CSOs attaining measurable improvement on their technical, administrative/financial management competencies and sustainability and ability to handle processes. A relevant activity as part of this was to apply organizational diagnosis instruments in order to develop methodological packages that are based on Coached and Open Technical Assistance, as well as training contents and mechanisms.

Outcome 3 envisaged the goal of having 10 CSOs improve their sustainability. To this end, coaching for implementing improvement plans directed at attaining enhanced organizational sustainability was regarded as a relevant activity during the process.

Outcome 4 was to produce—by end of project—two learning communities. This included activities such as a series of dialogues and exchange of experiences and the design and preparation of material promoting good practices. This material would then need to be eventually disseminated.

Finally, outcome 5 envisaged (by end of project) the establishment and operation of a CSO Strengthening Center provided with well defined lines of services on areas such as technical assistance, coaching, information, and training to civil society organizations.

2.3. Activities developed during the period comprised between August 2013 and April 2014 (Component 1)

Activities at the level of this component were basically developed between August 2013 and December 2013. On this latter date, the closure plan was initiated due to the project's suspension based on the reasons explained at the beginning of the report.

The activities implemented were those identified as priority as preparation for project implementation, including purchase of equipment and developing other actions to set the ground for the launching of component 1 under this program.

The previously described activities were carried out at the onset (early September through to 6th December), except the delivery of equipment to juvenile organizations, which took place in April 2014.

An important element was to have in place equipment that would strengthen the use of computer and information technologies prior to initiating organizational exchange processes and be able to share and disseminate actions. For this, the project focused on the procedures required for the definition and provision of technical assistance, equipment and a communications platform.

The equipment was bought, and installed at *Fundación Esquel* in order to assemble a virtual radio broadcasting station and in order to conduct on-line conferences that were aimed at articulating the various participating organizations and contacts at the local level. This, too, contemplated the use of on-line communications at the international level.

Additionally, and as part of the activities planned under component #1 of the Esquel-USAID cooperation agreement, support was also provided to organizations working for youths; two such organizations benefited from sponsorship. Priority was attached to the delivery of these kits, under advocacy and experience criteria. On the one hand, support was provided to a youth organization by the name of '*Churo Comunicación*', which promotes a radio and multimedia initiative that affords options and alternatives to

youngsters who are interested in the communications issue, and which also broadcasts themes of interest for youths.

Support was also provided to the '*Asociación de Mujeres Trabajadoras del Hogar*' (household workers association). It has a large number of young members providing their support to initiatives directed toward improving life standards among a group of highly vulnerable youths.

2.4. Outcomes achieved during the period comprised between August, 2013 and April, 2014 (Component 1)

Esquel's Institutional capabilities were enhanced to develop new communication and dissemination mechanisms, having Esquel performing as headquarters, to develop dialogue events, forums, seminars and other exchange opportunities among civil society organizations.

The project also gathered in place the inputs required to assemble and operate an on-line radio targeted to CSOs, with benefits extended to groups of youths, LGBTI communities and other citizenship groups.

This is very important for the sector since it is directed toward creating dialogue and dissemination spaces for experiences which may prove quite useful for civil society and its actors.

Additionally, the project had intended to develop institutional strengthening activities for *Fundación Esquel*, the project implementing agency. Concerning this field, progress was attained on the human resources strengthening area in order to make the organizational development plan effective, based on the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool methodology, which was also linked to a plan presented as a subsidized component.

2.5. Impacts attained during the period between August 2013 and April 2014 (Component 1)

Given the early closure of the project because of Mission closure, no impacts can be yet observed under project component 1. Basically, activities undertaken as part of component 1 were designed to set the foundation for later activities that would have impacts, especially in regard to dissemination and exchange processes for the various types of citizenry groups.

The equipment granted for establishing on-line radio will —within a short time—render benefits to the LGBTI community that will be able to voice out its issues to the public and have a permanent dialogue mechanism with citizens.

2.6. Lessons learned – Period between August 2013 and April 2014 (Component 1)

The most important lesson left behind by actions developed under component 1 has to do with the importance which the role of new technologies play in promoting exchange, dialogue and dissemination spaces.

We CSOs must build capacity to learn how to use tools currently available, and which offer a multiplicity of dissemination options for the sort of activities we develop.

3. COMPONENT 2

3.1. Context

Two things have helped define the current context for the LGBTI community in Ecuador: the decriminalization of homosexuality in November 1997 and the new Constitution, which was enacted in 2008.

Highlighted should be the fact that even if a legal context acknowledging LGBTI rights prevails, progress has still been limited concerning access to such rights. In effect, levels of discrimination and violence—that have been a constant among these groups of citizens—have not been eradicated. Many challenges must still—indeed—be addressed: i.e., high levels of discrimination and violence, absence of laws that are in agreement with the Constitution; messages promoting xenophobia against LGBTI persons, fundamentalist stances by religious groups, excluding, discriminatory contents that breach human rights; programming and contents of the mass media and social networks that denigrate the members of this community.

Within this context, and acknowledgement of rights by the various instances of the legislation notwithstanding, LGBTI persons have limited access to education and their basic needs are being neglected. Additionally, social acceptance of homosexuality remains elusive. The most affected segment of this population is trans-sexual persons. Hence, the results include very low levels of education, and very limited access to work opportunities as a means to earn a life and in this manner cover their basic needs.

In short, the exclusion, discrimination, disrespect, mockery, scorn and hatred exhibited in the presence of LGBTI persons are still everyday realities in Ecuadorian society. Therefore, the Strengthening Program for Civil Society Organizations developed by Esquel with USAID assistance fulfills a very pertinent role. It is through this Program that civil society entities became involved in the promotion and defense of the rights to which LGBTI persons are entitled.

3.2. Outcomes and activities envisaged for the 2013 – 2016 period (Component 2)

The Program intended to include a total of three outcomes under this component.

Outcome one under component two sought to strengthen the capacity of LGBTI organizations. Among the relevant activities envisaged were the design and implementation of organizational strengthening plans and training and technical assistance processes.

Outcome two, on the other hand, aimed at promoting an effective participation of LGBTI organizations on themes having to do with incidence, oversight, and enforcement. The design and provision of a support fund to initiatives articulated to a CSO advocacy

campaign had been envisaged as relevant activities; the promotion of debates on key issues and the development of a LGBTBI follow-up 'observatory'.

Finally, outcome three contemplated a contribution toward learning on LGBTBI issues that applied to considerations envisaged by programs within this area. The most salient activities foreseen had to do with the establishment of a support group of LGBTBI organizations' militants and members performing as the providers of information, and the generators of key opinions, who are ready to share lessons and best practices.

3.3. Activities carried out during the period comprised between August, 2013 and April, 2014 (Component 2)

Activities at the level of this component, implemented between August 2013 and April 2014 included the following.

Work was ongoing between August and December 2013 to map out LGBTBI organizations. This effort involved identification of the most representative organizations in the community at a national level.

In order to do so, organizations were located through contact networks. Once the organization was identified, mechanisms were developed to retrieve the information directly from the organizations in order to be able to describe same and gain an in-depth knowledge of the issues at hand.

This work articulated relationships between the project and the various groups identified and also enabled the identification of some organizational needs requiring attention.

The mapping carried into effect is a very important tool and most likely the more exhaustive document of its kind that has been accomplished at the national level. This was ascertained based on the fact that it was developed taking into account the opinion of members of the LGBTBI community who best know those involved.

Highlighted must be that the process directed toward creating civil society organizations for LGBTBI groups has been slow, much more so due to the dearth of financial resources available to carry out the various activities needed to promote and defend rights is taken into account.

CSOs for LGBTBI groups exist at present in various cities of Ecuador: Esmeraldas, Salinas, Machala, Cuenca, Portoviejo, Ambato, Ibarra, among others. The Cuenca case stands out because—decriminalization action notwithstanding (which were initiated mainly at this city)—despite the eminently religious and traditionally conservative nature of the society around them, new organizations have been established. There are at present 4 groups identified in addition to a network that gathers the all.

There are very few CSOs having a structure in place that enables wider scopes of work. Mapping reveals that only a few of them have been able to attain sustainable status and have ongoing financial sponsorship. In the large majority of cases, work is pursued using self-generated funds; the offices work from venues offered by the active members and with personal use of equipment—even the virtual radio programs are produced and broadcasted from the homes of those who prepare them.

On the other hand, and given the fact that the closure plan agreed to for the agreement entered into between Esquel and USAID was forthcoming, between December 2013 and April 2014 the decision was reached to concentrate activities along three main lines: i) equipping of LGBTI organizations; ii) strengthening of organizational capabilities in order to be able to manage networks and attain resources; and iii) building a common agenda for LGBTI organizations and groups.

In regard to the issue of equipping LGBTI Organizations, Esquel made a selection of eligible organizations prior to delivering the "technological kit". This selection gave priority to those CSOs that had been developing a visible, powerful presence with long-term projection. These "technological kits" included licensed computer equipment, cameras and iPad's. These pieces of equipment were relevant to the purpose of strengthening such organizations in their pursuit of communicating and disseminating the actions they had launched.

Added should be the fact that the "Technological Kit" was put together bearing in mind the fundamental needs of selected CSOs, many of which had not even a computer from which to work on proposals and systematized action in support of the work being performed; additionally a Tablet and a camera were provided in order to facilitate direct and better dissemination of the various activities being developed.

Selection Criteria:

Priority was given to CSOs which, without having financial resources or having received any sort of financing from public funds or international donors, had developed, and still are carrying into effect important activities advocating the rights of LGBTI persons.

Additionally, a geographic location criterion was incorporated, bearing in mind and incorporating organizations whose actions are being implemented in cities where no prior work had taken place on the issues.

A third component to be taken into account had to do with the incorporation of organizations supporting and strengthening volunteerism in order to promote the establishment and expansion of "small" organizations and/or those that have been recently established.

An additional concern had to do with CSOs whose work scopes has extended to include nearby cities and provinces having no established CSOs or which are at the initial stage in the process.

Another consideration taken into account had to do with whether an organization planned to diversity the project's benefits to the entire LGBTI population, including transsexual persons and young LGBTIs.

The list of beneficiary organizations follows:

- ✓ *Grupo de Trabajo LGBTI Ecuador*. Quito
- ✓ *Asociación "Alfil"*. Quito

- ✓ *Colectivo Social y Cultural "Somos Divers@s". Ibarra*
- ✓ *Grupo "Diversos Ambato". Ambato*
- ✓ *Verde Equilibrante. Cuenca*
- ✓ *Observatorio de Derechos Humanos Colectivos y Minorías.*
- ✓ *Movimiento Sinergia Juvenil LGBTI. Guayaquil*

Workshops aimed at Enhancing Capabilities

In regard to workshops directed toward strengthening capacities, and given the characteristics which each one of the mapped CSOs have, the decision was made to build up the work they had launched, something that was necessary in order to expand their knowledge base on how to deal with and gain access to social networks and be able to obtain resources.

The network workshop was also directly connected to the "Technological Kit" thus providing fundamental tools to ensure appropriate and adequate use of the equipment provided.

In regard to the management and access to financial resources workshops prior to implementing and developing projects aimed at strengthening their action, these were developed according to plans. These workshops were designed based on previous conversations held with representatives from these same CSOs that had been mapped. From such conversations, the need was identified of including an approach as to the adequate management and handling of LGBTI CSOs, as well as the provision of information required in order to fulfill State requirements concerning legal State requirements concerning their legal operation.

Workshops were carried out in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil. The issues discussed were entirely focused from a human rights and gender approach, and were dealt with in an objective manner in order to be able to carry out activities in a fluent and respectful way.

The social networks workshop was arranged for on May 27 and 28, 2014, in the city of Guayaquil and included the participation of 23 people representing 12 organizations. Participants valued the workshop positively since it was able to transfer useful knowledge and information for use by social networks concerning the core issues of interest to these specific organizations.

In addition, this same workshop on social networks also took place at the city of Quito. The event was carried out on April 3 and 4 and had 17 participants representing a total of 12 organizations. As in Guayaquil, participants positively assessed the knowledge acquired.

The two social networks workshops planned for both cities were relevant to the degree that they offered a new opportunity for participating persons and organizations on a new field of mechanisms capable of supporting their initiatives and impact thereof.

On the other hand, workshops were also carried out in order to strengthen the organizations on issues related to being able to obtain resources and legal aspects

applicable to CSOs. The event took place on 31st March and 1st April in Guayaquil with the participation of 23 people representing 13 different organizations.

Likewise, the event was planned and took place in Quito on 7th and 8th April with the participation of 12 people representing 9 different organizations.

In both cases the participants assessed the information and knowledge base transferred as positively strategic for the organizational development, which in terms of future impact planned for this training effort should be measured through the use which participants give of same within the context of their own organizations.

Combined participation attained at both workshops carried out at Quito and Guayaquil corresponded to representation of a total of 26 different organizations.

Common work agenda for LGBTI organizations

Within this component, activities also included launching a joint, common work agenda for all LGBTI organizations.

The social, political and economic situation in which the Ecuadorian society finds itself — more specially concerning the LGBTI groups—presents the need to have agreements, consensus, and definitions in place, and to build a participatory process that can impact a common goal: social inclusion and the possibility of enjoying a decent and dignified life.

Towards this end, this project—keen in strengthening LGBTI Civil Society organizations—strived to enhance the identification and collective prioritization of needs and demands from the community to promote a common agenda on concerns, needs and suggestions on common LGBTI priority issues, especially from an economic, social and cultural rights stance, without neglecting –in addition—all of the remaining civil rights.

In order to set forth a participatory process and based on budgetary constraints, two preparatory meetings were organized at the city of Quito –with LGBTI CSOs representatives coming from nearby cities. During the course of such meetings, the following related issues were analyzed:

1. Labor rights
2. Rights affording access to an education
3. Rights affording access to integrated health
4. Civil rights

On 21st March, 2014, the first preparatory meeting took place. During the meeting, a workshop was organized enabling a more exhaustive analysis of each group of rights. The final plenary meeting gave way to preparation of a draft document that had to be completed and finalized during a second meeting. Such second meeting took place on 26th March 2014. The final result of the systematization of inputs generated in the mentioned events facilitated the design of a matrix which was consulted, analyzed and validated by the General Assembly that gathered in Quito, during 9th and 10th April, 2014.

A list of CSOs and representatives thereof who attended these two meetings is provided below:

#	Name	Organization	City	1st meeting	2nd meeting
1	Andrea Andino A.	Organización Ecuatoriana de Mujeres Lesbianas - OEML	Quito	✓	X
2	Gayne Villagómez	Organización Ecuatoriana de Mujeres Lesbianas - OEML	Quito	✓	X
3	Kimberly Villacrés	Asociación Alfil	Quito	✓	✓
4	Rashell Erazo	Asociación Alfil	Quito	✓	X
	Alejandra Boada	Asociación Alfil	Quito	X	✓
5	Manuel Acosta M.	Grupo de Trabajo LGBTI	Quito	✓	✓
6	Danilo Manzano	Grupo de Trabajo LGBTI	Quito	✓	✓
7	Germán Castillo	Igualdad de Derechos Ya	Quito	✓	✓
8	Jorge Medranda	Fundación Causana	Quito	✓	✓
	Victoriano Vicente	Fundación Causana	Quito	X	✓
9	Pamela Troya	Arcoiris	Quito	✓	X
10	León Sierra	Corporación Kimirina	Quito	✓	X
11	Xavier Sánchez	Quito Gay	Quito	✓	X
	Juan Carlos Masabanda	Fundación Ecuatoriana Equidad	Quito	X	✓
	Xavier Paspuel	Fundación Ecuatoriana Equidad	Quito	X	✓
12	Luis Cupichamba	Somos Diversos	Ibarra	✓	X
13	Cristian Ramos	Somos Diversos	Ibarra	✓	X
14	Marcela Mena G.	Somos Diversos	Ibarra	✓	✓
15	Diana Vargas	Somos Diversos	Ibarra	X	✓
16	Santiago Hernández	Visión y Diversidad	Ambato	✓	X
17	Diego Mosquera	Visión y Diversidad	Ambato	✓	✓
18	Robin Guevara	Visión y Diversidad	Ambato	X	✓

The end-product resulting from the systematization of contributions obtained from the mentioned events gave way to the design of a matrix that was consulted with, analyzed and validated by the General Assembly that gathered in Quito on 9th and 10th April, 2014.

The shared experiences of a common reality and the need for specific change experienced facilitated almost immediate consensus; nevertheless, previous divergences have prevented an almost total gathering of the various LGBTI CSOs. Few representatives missed the meeting owing to several reasons. The mapping effort that had been initially fulfilled served as a basis to issue invitations to project activities; hence the convening notice was wide spread and reached all and each one of the CSOs identified. Once the event was completed, various organizations asked for incorporation during the later stages of the process.

It is important to highlight that the final event planned for the preparation of the Agenda was the closure of a nearly two-week process attended by 21 of the 28 organizations mapped. Also, other organizations participated, which have been added up as adhering organizations.

As a result of the work carried into effect by the task commissions, the contents of the agenda were identified, such as a signed Manifest that was prepared based on unanimous decision of those in attendance. This statement gathers the issues posed by the represented LGBTI population in regard to the topics that had been initially broached, and which had been presented to public opinion via a news conference that took place on 10th April, 2014.

Participants and signatories of the Manifesto:

No.	Name	Organization	City	1st Day	2nd. day
1	Tara Mastracchio	Rainbow Community	Cuenca	✓	✓
2	Janeth Peña	Red LGBTI Azuay	Cuenca	✓	✓
3	Juan Pazmiño	Red LGBTI Azuay	Cuenca	✓	✓
4	Cristina Cárdenas	Verde Equilibrante	Cuenca	✓	✓
5	Jorge Luis Betancourth	Verde Equilibrante	Cuenca	✓	✓
6	Daniel Ormaza	Cuenca Inclusiva	Cuenca	✓	✓
7	Johanna Bustos	Colectivo "Las Raras"	Cuenca	✓	✓
8	Vanessa Morocho	Colectivo "Las Raras"	Cuenca	✓	✓
9	Diego Mosquera	Diversos	Ambato	✓	✓
10	Robin Guevara	Visión y Diversidad	Ambato	✓	✓
11	Manuel Acosta Martínez	Grupo de Trabajo LGBTI	Quito	✓	✓
12	Daniilo Manzano	Grupo de Trabajo LGBTI	Quito	✓	✓
13	Jorge Medranda	Fundación Causana	Quito	✓	✓
14	Andrea Andino	Organización Ecuatoriana de Mujeres Lesbianas - OEML	Quito	✓	X
15	Jimmy Medida	Fundación Equidad	Quito	✓	✓
16	Alejandra Boada	Asociación Alfil	Quito	✓	X
17	Rashell Erazo	Asociación Alfil	Quito	✓	✓
18	Xavier Sánchez	Quito Gay	Quito	✓	✓
19	Germán Castillo	Igualdad de Derechos Ya	Quito	✓	✓
20	Fredy Lobato	Igualdad de Derechos Ya	Quito	✓	✓
21	Gledys Macías	Colectivo Loto Blanco	Quito	✓	✓
22	León Sierra	Corporación Kimirina	Quito	✓	✓
23	Marcela Mena	Somos Diversos	Ibarra	✓	✓
24	Elizabeth Bustamante	Somos Diversos	Ibarra	✓	✓
25	Cristina Ramos	Somos Diversos	Ibarra	✓	✓
26	Angel Rivas	Machala GLBT PVV	Machala	✓	✓
27	Winston Orellana	Machala y un poema diverso	Machala	✓	✓
28	Jessica Agila Tene	Colectivo Voces Lésbicas	Machala	✓	✓
29	Jahayra Arreaga	Movimiento Sinergia	Guayaquil	✓	✓

Juvenil / Mujer & Mujer					
30	Andrés Loor	Observatorio de Derechos Humanos, Colectivos y Minorías	Guayaquil	✓	✓
31	Diana Maldonado	Observatorio de Derechos Humanos, Colectivos y Minorías	Guayaquil	✓	✓
32	Gabriela Padilla	Observatorio de Derechos Humanos, Colectivos y Minorías	Guayaquil	✓	✓
33	Luis Garcés	Campaña Matrimonio Igualitario	Guayaquil	✓	✓
34	Melani Penna	Universidad Técnica de Manabí	Portoviejo	✓	✓
35	Mercedes Sánchez	Universidad Complutense	Madrid	✓	✓

Taking into account all organizations that participated in the process, and which included the following: LGBTI organizations; groups pertaining to this community; and other adhering organizations working for the protection and advocacy of rights for generic sex diversities, the process mobilized a total of 33 organizations, countrywide.

3.4. Outcomes Attained between August 2013 and April 2014 (Component 2)

From an overall view, this process can be catalogued as extremely relevant for Ecuador. This because the project—especially at the component 2 level—enabled the gathering of LGBTI organizations, which brought forward for the first time that a common agenda was developed for the LGBTI movement.

This is highly relevant within a context where most commonly each organization works according to an agenda of its own. Having a shared agenda turns it into a tool capable of generating interlocution processes involving the various and different actors in order to obtain support and elicit adherence to the proposals, challenges and ambitions brought to the fore by LGBTI communities.

Outcomes follow, according to activity:

Equipment

Providing equipment (such as notebooks, tablets, digital cameras) to various organizations that are developing significant activities and which, nonetheless, have insufficient resources to further promote their actions, has encouraged their greater activism and has motivated these groups to develop new initiatives.

The provision of equipment is per se an advantage for the various organizations; furthermore when, coherently, the need was considered to train those who would use these technological instruments aimed at attaining a better/extended socialization, visibility of actions being pursued and hence encourage conscience awareness on the part of the public at large.

Training Events

Training procedures prompted the incorporation of new skills to upgrade organizational capabilities to develop campaigns through the social networks. On twitter, the trend “We are all Diverse” (*#TodosSomosDiversos*) was generated and is being used by a group of LGBTI CSOs in order to disseminate issues that have to do with community affairs.

Pondering on the meaning of a legal framework for CSOs was also very important because it helps these organizations to obtain information required to make progress on the formal enrolment of their groups.

Agenda envisaging Advocacy of Rights for Generic Sex Diversities in Ecuador

Participatory construction of the first Rights Advocacy Agenda conceived as a joint effort that outlines the large guidelines to articulate efforts directed toward restoring and expanding the rights of LGBTI segments of the population has given way to enormous expectations, more specifically the identification of:

- ✓ Conscience awareness of the need to join efforts in order to be able to attain commonly shared objectives—independently from divergences, even personal—which had been weakening community action.
- ✓ The need to take on commitments directed toward improving the quality of life for persons other than heterosexual. The process would begin with signing of a Manifesto reflecting the day-to-day exclusion experienced by a significant segment of the population who has been (and still is) regarded as second-rate citizens lacking equal opportunities.
- ✓ The need to strengthen a social mesh that will enable launching of vindication processes encouraging integrated respect of differences—not only concerning actions that are based on sexual inclination or gender identity, but overall in general.
- ✓ Appropriation of the instrument (Agenda) as an own and collective option that will tend to facilitate visibility and social awareness.

3.5. Impacts made between August 2013 and April 2014 (Component 2)

Impacts may be described as follows:

- ✓ Acknowledgement of the issue as part of the public agenda, prompted by the joint statement of demands and requirements made by the LGBTI population by making the Manifesto public during a news conference.
- ✓ The Government for the Province of Pichincha will take the Agenda as a fundamental instrument to wield in favor of the rights of LGBTI population pertaining to the province of Pichincha.
- ✓ Presentation of the Manifesto during the VI ILGA-LAC Regional Convention (International Association of Lesbians, Gays, Trans-sexual, Bisexual and Inter-sexual - May, 2014)

- ✓ Launching the Manifest during a Public Event organized by *Asociación Alfíl*, on the anniversary of 17th May, the International Day to Fight Homophobia.
- ✓ Dissemination of the Manifest through the various pages of subscribing organizations, blogs and electronic mails pertaining to activists.
- ✓ Publication and presentation of the Rights Advocacy Agenda for Generic Sex Diversities of Ecuador

3.6. Lessons learned between August 2013 and April 2014 and Recommendations (Component 2)

Given the importance of the work carried out by the organizations, the latter defined the commitments to be assumed by each one of them; nonetheless, a relevant element became apparent from the experience: new strategies need to be identified in order to do follow-up on this process. Therefore, timely coaching and cooperation is required in order to consolidate and structure new ways of community work that enable the implementation of this important tool. To this end, the following is seen as fundamental:

- ✓ More widely socialize the LGBTI Work Agenda than would be possible through the public event of delivery to the society in this document.
- ✓ Discuss and analyze the Agenda at each one of the country's provinces, led by subscribing organizations (i.e., debates, forums).
- ✓ Design a strategic dissemination plan for the Agenda, not only among the mass media but also and mainly to decision-makers via strategic planning, prepared with representatives of all participating organizations and other that should be invited to participate.
- ✓ Arrange for the organization of the FIRST National LGBTI Convention of Ecuador, which will provide detailed accountability for all actions, needs, demands, achievements, requirements of Civil Society organizations for LGBTI groups whereby the paths and manners of sharing the Agenda to be regarded as a fundamental input for legislation as well as for the design and implementation of public policies, can be considered.
- ✓ Seek support—at the national and international level—in order to continue with a second stage of this project that enables benefiting more organizations and which, additionally, will help consolidate all efforts made through to presentation of this report, and above all, in order to strengthen the clustering of political subjects process.