

WORKPLAN



STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL PROCESS

“Citizens Democracy for Peace 2014”



Misión de Observación Electoral
USAID/Colombia
April, 2014
Contract Number: REQ-514-14-000004



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

I. OVERVIEW

General Objective

The general objective of the project is to contribute to the democracy building process through citizens who are enforcing their political and electoral rights on a tolerant, informed, active and responsible way. The MOE aims to improve the active interaction between citizenship and official entities for peace building and coexistence among the political and electoral environment scenario.

MOE intends on executing four specific results and their relating activities.

Results

RESULT 1. Information related to electoral-political dynamics

MOE's Electoral and Political Observatory will produce investigations and public analysis of the different variables that are correlated with the electoral process such as: gender, violence, electoral fraud, national peace negotiations, political and ethnic minorities, among others. This information makes MOE a reliable source for public authorities, civil society and journalists.

RESULT 2. Analysis on the actions adopted in the statutory law 1475-2011

Political and social organizations will count with an Impact Analysis Report detailing the affirmative actions adopted in the statutory law 1475 of 2011 that tended to strengthen a perspective of gender equality in the electoral field.

RESULT 3. Impact on the definition and start up of public policies

The organizations partaking in MOE's national platform influence the definition and the - execution of public policies about citizen participation with information, analytical tools and other actions that strengthens our democratic institutions at their roots.

RESULT 4. Citizens participate and effectively reinforce political control in order to strengthen Colombian electoral process.

This project will prioritize actions in regions where historically there have been incidents of political violence and electoral crime or where eminent electoral risks have been identified. The six (6) priority regions are **Antioquia, Montes de María, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Valle del Cauca y Suroriente.**

In order to reach the general objective, it is necessary MOE works and implements actions from several areas that can have effects on the political and electoral fields. The MOE is internally organized according to six technical departments:

- MOE's Electoral and Political Observatory,
- MOE's Media Monitoring,
- MOE's Communication Office,
- MOE's Electoral Justice Observatory,
- MOE's Quality of Elections,
- MOE's Political Advocacy.

To realize the project "Citizens Democracy for Peace 2014", the MOE signed two agreements with other two different non-profit organizations:

- Transparencia por Colombia,
- Fundación Paz y Reconciliación.

With this intern organization system, each work groups is more enabled to determine tasks and activities that are required to reach each specific result.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITES

RESULT 1: Production of information related to political-electoral dynamics.

To reach this objective, MOE will implement five main activities:

A.1.1) Activation of six (6) Regional Observatories (Antioquia, Montes de María, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Valle del Cauca y Suroriente) in order to produce qualified information and analysis to impact local instances. Regional observatories will be focused on: i) having an impact on local Commissions for Electoral Guarantee, this will be achieved issuing reports on electoral criminality and irregularities; and ii) identifying regional political structures and their legal/illegal alliances.

A.1.2) Elaboration of Early Warnings using Electoral Risks Maps. Political - electoral analysis inside conflict, violent, and clientelism contexts will be carry out to inform citizens and authorities which are the municipalities at risk fraud or elector process alteration.

A.1.3) Analysis on regional governability, illegality and victimization for the March 2014 elections on departments such as Valle del Cauca, Cordoba, Magdalena, La Guajira, Cesar, Santander, Sucre, Arauca, Casanare and Bolivar will be realized. Fundación Paz y Reconciliación will focus on the paramilitary influence and the votes results, in order to realize 10 monographs and a lobbying strategy.

A.1.4) Analysis regarding political and electoral dynamics in municipalities with guerrilla presence. Given the initiation of the peace talks between the Government of Colombia and the FARC- EP we propose to investigate, analyze and geo-reference the municipalities with guerrilla presence. We pretend to elaborate an analysis that accounts for these phenomena at the regional level in recent Colombian history.

A.1.5) Gathering, following-up, and analyzing information about key subjects on the Colombian electoral processes. Both the National Observatory and Regional Observatories will carry out a constant follow-up on different important variables concerning the Colombian electoral processes that will be in public consultation (political violence acts, electoral transhumance, ID registration...).

The first result's activities, contribute to augment the coverage of national and regional electoral observation missions, and strengthen the local democracy.

Several risks can alter the accomplishment of the results. Indeed, MOE needs to count on a strong local partnership and interested groups to create six regional observatories. In the same way, security conditions are necessary to allow researchers to collect and organize the political and electoral information, especially in the regions where the project makes emphasis and which present high political and security risks.

RESULT 2: Analysis report on the actions adopted in the statutory law 1475-2011

To reach this objective the MOE will implement four activities.

A.2.1) A quantitative and qualitative analysis (with remarks and recommendation) on political party compliance with gender quotas when compiling their candidate lists will be realized. This paper will contain specific analysis on all the Senate party ballots, and will concentrate on the priority departments when analyzing the Chamber of Representatives as part of the investigation on compliance with gender quota legislation.

A.2.2) Monitor gender perspective on political and electoral news media in at least three (3) of the priority departments, and engage in alliances with research centers with the goal of putting in place a real time monitoring system for local news coverage of the elections and candidates. A final report about the visibility of women candidates and other gender issues will be realized.

A.2.3) A survey will be carried out with all congresswomen elected on March 9th of 2014, where they will be questioned on issues related to their electoral campaigns and their opinion on the effectiveness of the 1475 Law of 2011. The results of the survey will be published and distributed nationally, and will be used to catapult various meetings and discussion venues with women organizations and others in the political establishment to evaluate the findings and analysis results.

A.2.4) Four meetings in the District Capital of Bogotá and three in priority regions will take place to carry out an integral evaluation of the impact of the Law 1475 of 2011 on women's participation in the political process and gender equality. Those meetings will be held to analyze the results of the study, as well as to disseminate the findings and create greater awareness on gender equality at the local, regional and national level. The results will also be handed to the Congressional Committee on Gender Equality, and the oversight committees of the different political parties.

With a strong media monitoring of the women candidates/elected at the regional level, MOE can have access to precise information to realize a complete gender equality analysis. The success of the activities and the result is linked to the media networking and the interest that have political parties, women candidates and elected for the gender topic.

RESULT 3: The organizations partaking in MOE's national platform influence the definition and the execution of public policies about citizen participation with information, analytical tools and other actions that strengthens our democratic institutions at their roots

In order to reach this result, four activities will be implemented.

A.3.1) Impact from the organized civil society around electoral political matters of the public agenda. The MOE will develop a permanent monitoring of the legislative agenda. Debate spaces will be created, legal and constitutional analysis will be carried out and interventions inside the Congress. Over these issues, will be presented five analysis documents on changes proposed and that are under the legislative or administrative processes.

A.3.2) Strengthening institutional abilities to prevent and sanction electoral irregularities and help the right development of the electoral process. The MOE will hand to different electoral authorities a document on electoral irregularities reported to the MOE for the 2014 elections. It will also give recommendations to prevent, prosecute, and sanction electoral fraud.

A.3.3) National Campaign pilasconelvoto.com. "Pilas con el voto" is a platform created in 2011 that enable citizens to report electoral irregularities. In 2014, the 7 departments chosen will be the main target. The campaign will be distributed on press, radio, television, internet, and alternative types of publicity such as buses and parades.

A.3.4) To strengthen the accountability process of campaigns financing and the public access to such information, for the improvement of transparency and integrity in the 2014 elections, the MOE signed a sub-grant with Transparencia por Colombia. This organization has experiences in the promotion of initiatives to stimulate transparency in political financing, including the construction of the app "Cuentas Claras" (submission of financing reports by Political parties or candidates).

In order to impact on legislative reforms, MOE depends on law drafts presented to the Congress and to the electoral institutions. The MOE can present analysis and recommendations if electoral topics are submit to the legislative institutions.

As the analysis that can present the MOE is based mainly on the irregularities reported by the citizens, the success of the public campaign “Pilas con el voto” is essential.

This result can beneficiate from the ongoing peace negotiations that can conduce to constitutional modifications and reforms presentation.

RESULT 4: Citizens participate and effectively reinforce political control in order to strengthen Colombian electoral process.

Two general activities will be implemented to contribute to this result.

A.4.1) Citizen Electoral Observation of the three national election cycles. On the year 2014 at least 3200 people belonging to 20 regional coordinators will carry out control and surveillance acts on three events of direct political participation (Congress of the Republic elections, Andean Parliament, and President of the Republic). These actions will be carried out on at least 180 municipalities of 16 Departments in the country. In order to reach our objective, the MOE has to consolidate the national, but most importantly the various regional platforms and the communication system between the observers and the MOE. Moreover, national and local training about electoral observation procedures, electoral crimes...will be realized.

A.4.2) Civil Society International Observation: The second activity proposed is a seminar on training and interchange of experiences on electoral observation. This will be carried out with 40 international observers from civil society, diplomatic representatives, and students on interchange or members of international organizations with headquarters in Colombia. They will be trained and deployed on direct political participation events on the year 2014.

In order to get national and international observers in Colombia, security conditions have to exist to allow citizens to reinforce their political control. Moreover, citizens have to be interested in the electoral observation and the MOE needs to maintain its networking of organization that provides observers.

The good image of transparency and confidence that succeed to gain the MOE in the past observations could help to get more observers and consolidate its coverage.

ACTIVITES SCHEDULE

MOE's Electoral and Political Observatory	Red
MOE's Electoral and Political Observatory and PARES	Pink
MOE's Media Monitoring	Light Green
MOE's Communication Office	Green
MOE's Electoral Justice	Light Blue
MOE's Electoral Justice in partnership with Transparencia Colombia	Blue
MOE's Quality of Elections	Grey
MOE's Political Advocacy	Yellow

RES.	ACTIVITES	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
R1	A.1.1. Creation of 6 regional observatories												
	A.1.2. Generate early warnings through the Electoral Risks Maps												
	A.1.3. Analysis regarding regional governability and crime caused by political violence in the national elections of March 2014 within the departments of Valle del Cauca, Cordoba, Magdalena, La Guajira, Cesar, Sucre, Santander, Arauca, Casanare and Bolivar												
	A.1.4. Analysis regarding political and electoral dynamics in municipalities with guerrilla presence												
	A.1.5. Research, monitoring and analyze all key aspects of the Colombian electoral processes												
R2	A.2.1. Carry out a qualitative and quantitative analysis on the compliance of gender quota statutes on behalf of the different political organizations when registering their list of candidates, as well as an historical analysis of the elected women candidates by political party or movement												
	A.2.2. Mass media outlets will be monitored for their gender perspective in political and electoral related news in at least three of the priority departments												
	A.2.3. A survey will be carried out among the elected senators and congresswomen regarding issues such as participation in political organizations, campaign financing, and other electoral and political aspects												
	A.2.4. Four meetings to evaluate the impact on improving women's political participation and exercise by Law 1475-2011 with different civil society, government and other actors with decision making powers												
R3	A.3.1 Active participation on behalf of civil society organizations in at least five political and electoral affairs through close monitoring of the legislative agenda, and through the presentation of documents of analysis, as well as public dissemination of our findings.												
	A.3.2. Strengthen institutional capacities to prevent and prosecute electoral irregularities as well as to better develop transparent electoral processes.												
	A.3.3. National awareness campaign to report and denounce electoral irregularities with pilasconelvoto.com												
	A.3.4 Contribute to the transparency and integrity of the electoral process of 2014 through the consolidation of campaign finance accountability mechanisms by providing public access to this information.												
R4	A.4.1.1 Strengthen and consolidate the national, but most importantly, the various regional platforms of the Electoral Observation Mission (MOE).												
	A.4.1.2. Ground observation of the three national election cycles (legislative, President and Andean Parliament)												
	A.4.1.2 National and local training about electoral observation procedures, electoral law, electoral crimes and political context.												
	A.4.1.3 Communication system and systematization of information gathered by electoral observation.												
	A.4.2.1 Recruitment of international or foreign born observers.												
	A.4.2.2 Specialized training for international observers about the electoral and political system in Colombia, training on Colombian electoral accountability and other national and local context necessary to fully understand and properly conduct their electoral observation activities.												
	A.4.2.3 Ground observation of the three national election cycles by international observers (legislative, executive and Andean Parliament)												
