

CIVICUS SOLIDARITY FUND CONVERSATIONS

ASOCIACIÓN NUEVO RENACER, COLOMBIA



Tell us a little bit about your organisation/activism and what kind of support was requested from the CIVICUS Solidarity Fund (CSF)?

The organization Nuevo Renacer has worked since 2006 and our work has been to increase the capacities of organizations of victims of the armed conflict in the Cauca State. One of our goals is to improve the life of our community, most of whom are victims of armed conflict and social leaders by increasing their access to agricultural, cultural and sports opportunities. The support we requested from CIVICUS was to identify the leaders of the northern area of the State of Cauca and thus be able to map issues regarding digital security they are facing and what tools we can use to safely communicate.

If you could summarize in one sentence what was most significant, in terms of learnings, from receiving funding (CSF and in general), what would that sentence be?

Thanks to the support provided by the CSF, we were able to bring together the leaders of the different municipalities. This allowed all of us to share experiences and learn from each other.

Other than the financial support, has being part of the CSF been helpful in any way?

Yes, it was important to share with other CSF grantee-members our experience and learn from theirs. The sharing part was the most important and interesting for us. To know more about other realities and how others are solving problems that are very similar to ours.

What did you enjoy the most and the least from being part of the CSF? How can the CSF improve their engagement with future applicants/grantee-members?

Being part of the CSF has enabled us to meet with other colleagues from other countries that are going through the same circumstances as ourselves. We would appreciate, however, longer funding opportunities to allow us to be sustainable and work sustainably towards our goals.

How is your organisation's experience in mobilising resources?

Our experience mobilising resources is quite extensive, considering we have been managing national and foreign resources since 2010. International cooperation is where we struggle the most due to their lack of feedback.

What are the main barriers you face in seeking resources?

Bureaucracy. Too often we are told that we were not successful because there was one document missing in our application. Instead of talking to us and asking for the documentation, or even providing feedback afterwards indicating the specific documentation that was missing, we are denied funding opportunities that could have helped us reach financial sustainability. Not to mention that all too often these are documents that we do not even have and will not have any time soon.

What types of resources (financial and non-financial) are most important to your activism/organisation?

All kinds of resources are important.

What would be your advice to donors to facilitate access to resources for small and/or informal organisations?

Please consider the realities and experiences on the ground. Working from an office is very different from working in the field. We learn more and acquire other experiences that we believe should be listened to by donors while designing their funding strategy.