

# CIVICUS SOLIDARITY FUND CONVERSATIONS

## FUNDACIÓN DIGNIDAD TRANS, COLOMBIA



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

We are an organisation specialised in the defense, protection and promotion of the human rights of trans migrants and refugees in Arauca, a department on the border with Venezuela. We design projects that bring socio-economic wellbeing to our impacted population, seeking their inclusion in the community and the Colombian State. Our organisation is a grantee-member of the CIVICUS Solidarity Fund since October 2021, when we were chosen to finance our project Cine Foro Al Parque: Folioscopios, voices for the inclusion of the Trans migrant and refugee community

**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?**

The learning has undoubtedly come from the mentorship in fundraising. It has given us feedback on how we should do it and what practices are most effective in raising funds.

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

Definitely being close to the opportunities offered or shown by CIVICUS is important. This complements the fundraising mentorship.

### **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?**

What we liked the most is the atmosphere of solidarity in the meetings, I think it is important to understand that all organisations have important challenges and that there are always people there to listen to us, even at specific moments of the meetings. In general, there is nothing that we dislike or liked little, I think the experience has been enriching. Perhaps it could help a little more to be present, this could help us to have more connection and accelerate the learning process but we understand that in times of pandemic and with limited resources it is complicated.

### **How is your organisation's experience in mobilising resources?**

Our experience is recent but we have been able to understand the dynamics of international cooperation. We have understood their needs and what they are looking for, and thanks to this we have obtained some grants that have made us visible, including the Solidarity Fund. We have also found a lot of technical support for our projects.

### **What are the main barriers you face in seeking resources?**

The main obstacles are sometimes the issue of age; as time goes by, our leaders get older and this makes it impossible to reach organisations that support young people. For some aid organisations, youth only goes up to 26, others up to 28 and so on, so if we are outside that range, it limits our access to resources, and even if we work with young people, sometimes the leadership is no longer at that stage.



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

Definitely those that are a complement between funding and technical support. We believe this mix is a winning one and allows us to stay in touch, as we have done with the Solidarity Fund. In addition, it guides us and gives us feedback to help us meet our goals.

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

I would say that it is geared towards broadening the age range for youth. As we mentioned, youth has different age ranges according to cultures, countries, etc. For example, youth in rural areas live longer because in the rural sector there are fewer opportunities and it is more difficult to access them. A young person in the city, for example, graduates from high school at 18 and finishes university at 25, in rural areas it takes longer. My advice would also be to remove the age requirement, or rather to give some preference or points if the organisations are led by young people, but not to exclude applicants based on age. There are organisations of older people that support young people or vice versa and also the elderly are being excluded, a group that also have vulnerabilities.

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