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| Danish organisation | Alternatives to Separation (ATOS) |
| Title of the intervention |  The promotion of the 2019 UN Resolution on the Rights of the Child and the UN Alternative Care Guidelines in Colombia, with special focus on the welfare of children and youth with HIV (PURACG) |
| Partner name(s) | Fundación dar Amor (Fundamor) |
| Amount applied for | 498.205,000 kroner |
| Country(ies) | Colombia |
| Period (# of months) | 14 |
| If re-submission or in continuation of a previous intervention, please insert journal number |  |

1. Objective and relevance (the world around us)

What is the main purpose with the intervention, including challenges that need to be addressed?

Millions of children worldwide grow up deprived of parental care, separated from their families, or institutionalized because of poverty, discrimination, violence, neglect, trafficking, humanitarian emergencies, conflict, climate change, migration, or lack of access to basic services within their communities. Many of these identified causes of family separation are present in Colombia.

The 2019 UN Resolution on the Rights of the Child (2019 Resolution) adopted in December 2019 focuses specifically on children without, or who are at risk of losing, parental care. It emphasizes the importance of growing up in a family environment. It opposes the unnecessary separation of children from their families and the unlawful or arbitrary deprivation of liberty of children. It encourages states and civil society actors to reunify families where it is in the best interests of the child and stresses that children should never be separated from their families solely due to poverty or lack of access to services such as health or education.

The overall vision of the partnership between Fundación dar Amor, Fundamor, and Alternatives to Separation, ATOS, is to promote the recognition of the family as the fundamental group of society. The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so children can grow up in a family environment. We understand the term “family” inclusively, to include extended kin and non-traditional family setups. To contribute to this vision, the partnership will advocate for the the 2019 Resolution and the UN Alternative Care Guidelines (ACG) while demonstrating successful practices which comply with them. The overall purpose of this intervention is to ‘enhance the implementation’ of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, CRC, specifically highlighting the passages regarding the protection and well-being of children who are deprived of parental care or who are at risk of being so.  State parties are bound, first and foremost, to prevent child separation and in cases of separation ensure safe and appropriate quality alternative care. The institutionalization of children should be only used as a very last resort. It is stated that states should, ‘Progressively replace institutionalization with quality alternative care, including family and community-based care”.  States should also respect and promote the right of girls and boys to express themselves freely, and their right to be heard, to ensure that their views are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity in all matters affecting them.

**The project’s two immediate objectives:**

**1. Key duty bearers linked to the Colombian protection system in the Eje Cafetero region are capacity strengthened so that the rights of children and youth affected by HIV are respected. Children with HIV and children with special needs are not automatically placed in institutions, they have access to all available alternative care services.**

**2. Key child protection actors and the public are aware of the importance of family and the benefits of family-based alternative care.**

*Describe the context of the intervention:*

* *Describe the conditions that apply in the area where the intervention will take place, and which are expected to influence the intervention:*

**Alternative Care in the Colombian context –** More than 80 years of research and evidence demonstrates that institutionalization causes serious harm to children’s health, development, and future life chances.Evidence tells that children without parental care generally find themselves at a higher risk of discrimination, violence, abuse as well as cognitive impairment and mental health problems.  A global movement is growing, raising awareness of the harm caused by institutions. This movement is influencing governments, civil society and communities to end the reliance on institutional care, to converge on strategies which promote preventive and protective strategies at the community level, addressing the root causes of separation.  When separation is unavoidable it seeks to promote family-based care. This is true of Colombia too, where institutionalization is the main form of alternative care. A smaller portion of state authorities and civil society actors are discussing the need to transform systems but achieving this in practice is challenging because there is a huge lack of basic knowledge and leadership. As in many other low- and middle-income countries, there is also the myth that moving away from institutional care is not possible because the expense is too great. But evidence shows that community-based services provide better outcomes and are more cost-effective in the long run.

Colombia has a child and family welfare system, consisting of public and private institutions that provides services. It is governed and regulated by the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, ICBF. The family welfare system is mandated by the Childhood and Adolescent Code 2006**,** which replaced an earlier Code of Minors and extended the concept of the child to that of a ‘rights holder’, in line with the CRC and the Constitution. ICBF has the overall responsibility for the child protection systems and should oversee both public and non-state protection organizations and institutions. However, the monitoring of services is very weak and residential institutions are poorly staffed. Caretakers generally lack skills in childcare and have little or no concept of child rights, the Guidelines on Alternative Care or the new 2019 Resolution. Although the government has in fact made a commitment to implement a care reform which encompasses de-institutionalization as stated above, it remains deeply dependent on institutional care. There is a foster care system in place, however it is frail. Foster careers report a lack of appropriate training, follow up support and basic guidelines. Due to this a child with any form of special need is as a rule excluded from this service. Children with HIV or a disability, already stigmatized groups, are nearly impossible to place in foster care. These children are rightfully seen by careers as children who demand specialized knowledge which is presently not available to them.

The last UN Colombian Child Rights Periodic Review voiced serious concern with regard to parental rights and recommended that the State party take into account the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, in particular:  (a) Ensure in practice that children are not separated from their families due to poverty or financial reasons; (b) Provide further support to families in order to prevent separation or abandonment of children (c) When alternative care is necessary, prioritize foster care and ensure that institutionalization is used only as a measure of last resort; (d) Strengthen efforts to provide training to foster families and personnel working in institutions, in particular the care of children with special needs.

**What fuels separation in Colombia -** Many of the known causes ofinstitutionalization as written in the introduction are present in Colombia. The main ones being poverty, disability, violence, and displacement. Within the context of poverty and marginalized groups in Colombia there is a lack of access to community-based services that would help mitigate some of the vulnerabilities facing children and their families which would reduce separation. Figures from ICBF suggest that there are 15,000 children living in institutions in Colombia. On average 85% of these children have a living parent . There is a huge need for awareness raising among civil society organizations and government bodies working with children regarding parental rights and the need to enhance preventive services by addressing the root causes of separation at community level. To develop and consolidate innovative approaches, as stressed in the UNGA Resolution, within multi-sectoral collaboration is essential. This is presently lacking within Colombia. The 17th SDG, “partnerships for the goals,” provides an incentive, a platform to discuss matters of collaboration, a conversation regarded by many as beyond the remit of one's immediate sector.

* *Describe whether the intervention takes place in a stable or fragile context.*

Colombia is a middle-income country with established government structures and a comprehensive legal framework. However, Colombia remains a fragile context in a number of ways. The country ranks second in Latin America for economic inequality, with more than half of it’s 45.5 million living in poverty. The Government of Colombia signed a peace agreement with the country’s largest guerrilla group, the FARC, in 2016 after warring for more than 50 years. However, armed groups remain active across the country, and civilians continue to suffer the humanitarian consequences of ongoing violence. Colombia has 3.9 million internally displaced persons, the second highest recorded number globally, after Afghanistan. Additionally, the country is a major host of Venezuelan refugees, adding political and economic pressure. The conflict continues to heavily affect Afro-Colombians and indigenous communities, the most marginalized groups in the country.Civilians are systematic targets of violent attacks. According to the UN, 446 social leaders and human rights defenders have been assassinated since the Peace Agreement and 246 people have been killed in 2020 - the highest number since 2016. In 2021, national protests led by urban and peasant movement alike rose in a series of strikes and blockades against austerity measures imposed by the state. In response, the state led a militarized crackdown in which hundreds of demonstrators were shot, disappeared, tortured, and sexually abused. Civic space in Colombia is rated as ‘repressed’ by CIVICUS. There is significant gender inequality and wide gaps between urban and rural zones in terms of living opportunities. One of the biggest challenges to be addressed in the country is guaranteeing access to justice for victims and creating social and economic conditions to break the historical cycle which perpetuates conflict and inequality.

**The impact of COVID in Colombia -** The pandemic has only intensified the country’s myriad sub-national conflict dynamics. Armed groups and criminal networks have adapted quickly to changing circumstances, seizing on the national quarantine to fortify their control over communities. The pandemic has severely impacted vulnerable populations, as most work in the informal economy and face difficulties in covering basic daily needs. The World Food Program (WFP) estimates that 7 million people are food insecure. Globally, it is expected that one of the effects of the pandemic will be a rise in separation and the institutionalization of children, this is also true of Colombia. Regarding this project’s activities and monitoring visits by ATOS staff, as the project activities are mostly related to developing learning and advocacy materials, we believe that covid-19 will not affect the activities to the degree that makes it impossible to carry them out. The technical contributions from ATOS can if needed, be done over zoom.

* *Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising – including active citizenship, volunteering, and public engagement – that contribute to social justice:*

The right to grow up in a family environment has important implications for social justice. Generational poverty, human trafficking, criminality, inequality of health outcomes and social inclusion all find an intersection at this point, simply because family-based care is so critical for healthy human development. This project will raise awareness of family rights and alternative care for key civil society actors across the child-protection field in Colombia, such as social workers, foster parents, and staff of residential institutions, and will train them to implement the 2019 Resolution and ACG in their daily work with children (activity 1.1). The training will mobilize youth who have been in the child-protection system to share their testaments and experiences. These youth will also be among those mobilized to lead and implement an advocacy campaign on family rights and DI (activity 2.2). A manual on the de-institutionalisation process will be produced to provide inspiration and practical tools to institutions who wish to begin transitioning away from institutionalisation and towards family-based care (activity 2.1). As the first organisation in the country to go through a DI process, analysing and sharing Fundamors experience is critical for building and sustaining moment for the broader movement towards DI and family-based alternative care.

* *What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to? And how have the partners responded to it?*

Fundamor monitored environmental impact in all their projects and activities for years, and has some projects which focus directly on environmental issues, such as their eco-village or Centre of Children Development, which adheres to an approach of eco-pedagogy. ATOS is in the process of designing an environmentally friendly organizational strategy.  During this project, monitoring visits will be restricted to one. ATOS has over the last year participated in courses capacity building their ability to monitor online.

The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

* *Describe the experiences, capacities, and resources of participating partners of relevance for the intervention:*

**Fundación dar Amor, Fundamor -** is an NGO seeking to expose the root causes of poverty and create lasting solutions. There is focus on vulnerable populations, especially children and adolescents. Promoting holistic development, through comprehensive and inclusive programs and services, for example: The Child Development Center "Seeds of Love". Fundamor was the first institution in Colombia to carry out and lead a process of inclusion in educational settings for children with HIV. This program was recognized in 2012 as the best child development center in Latin America and the Caribbean by the Inter-American Development Bank for its contribution in terms of inclusion and in terms of education and awareness of environmental protection. Fundamor has ran campaigns to prevent HIV / AIDS stigma and discrimination.  The organization is well versed in applying critical pedagogical approaches in line with their vision.  Advocacy is a cornerstone of the organization which has experience in raising their voice in the public arena, building alliances and networks through information dissemination. For more than 20 years they have conducted a wide range of participatory trainings that reflect their wide area of engagement e.g. Entrepreneurship for youth, Environmental awareness, Prevention of HIV / AIDS, Relationships & Family Networks, Advocating for your Rights, Design & Construction of Water Reservoir and Sustaining Minor Species is a small sample of courses delivered. They have good collaboration with the government and networks with cross sectorial CSOs and informal groups. They have had partnerships with a host of INGOs over the years e.g. Lumos, UNICEF, UNDP and Save the Children to name a few. There can be no doubt that Fundamor has the institutional capacity to lead complex social change processes, challenging institutional and normative structures.

In relation to this intervention, Fundamor will be the lead responsible for the development and implementation of our online course (activity 1.1). Despite extensive in-person training experience, this will be Fundamor’s first online course. The purpose of having the course online is to reduce risks associated with the ongoing pandemic and will also build Fundamor’s capacity and versatility as an organization. Along with expertise from ATOS, Fundamor will work with a local external specialist in online pedagogical practices and with relevant IT professionals. Fundamor’s team will facilitate the training sessions live each time. Fundamor will also be responsible for working with the Colombian Association for State Protection of Youth – ASCEP. Fundamor has conducted joint activities over several years ASCEP. It is an organization created for youth who grew up in institutions. At eighteen, institutionalized youth must enter into the world and fend for themselves. After growing up in closed environments young people often lack skills to lead a healthy, independent adult life. It is estimated that more than 7,000 youth, presently under state protection, are in the process of transiting from the protection system in Colombia.  As a youth organization, ASCEP has experience mobilizing young people and has also worked with ICBF to deliver policy and programming recommendations on how to help young people in transition from institutions. They have been a strong advocate for deinstitutionalization.  Fundamor specifically works with youths in ASCEP in supporting them to develop positive, empowered identities. Fundamor encourages the youths to tell their stories and sees them as an important part of the advocacy work for parental rights. In this intervention, Fundamor will facilitate ASCEP youth activists in creating and implementing a media advocacy campaign on parental rights and deinstitutionalization (activity 2.2).

**Children with HIV / AIDs and Fundamor -** Year after year, cases have been increasing. HIV’s incidences in the country, according to the report made by the Health and Social Protection Ministry, show that by the end of 2019 the country had 119.472 reported cases of HIV; almost 23.000 new entries compared to 2018. In 2012 there was a report of 37.325 men and women with HIV, eight years later the numbers have tripled. The average national incidence rate in 2020 is 26 persons in every 100.000, around 85% of cases are sexually transmitted. It is generally said for every case registered there are an additional four.The Quindío area, where this intervention will take place, in the Eje Cafetero region, has the highest rate of HIV infected persons in the country, at 44 infected per 100.000 inhabitants. There are 3.623 registered cases. Fundamor gained recognition for its support to HIV-positive adults at the start of the nineties.  HIV-related stigma and discrimination, coupled with the lack of financial resources and access to services and support in the community, resulted in HIV-positive parents starting to bring their children to Fundamor. This is how in 1996 Fundamor began to provide institutional care for HIV-positive children. Over time, Fundamor became regarded as a pioneer of best practice in caring for HIV-positive children in Colombia. As they grew older, Fundamor began to realize that, while they did everything they could to provide good care, the children were isolated from the community and were not developing as they would in a family environment. They became concerned about the children’s inclusion in society and their needed skills to live adult independent lives.  The organization took the decision to transform its care services and sought financial and technical support from the English INGO, Lumos. So in 2016-2020 they embarked on the first de- institutionalization process in Colombia. Some of the children were united with their parents while others live with foster families. As all the children in the project were HIV positive, the process was particularly complex as they had to ensure that the children’s health would not be jeopardized.

Fundamor is to date the only NGO in the country which has successfully de- institutionalized a residential facility. As part of this intervention, the partners will create an organisational training manual, policy recommendations, and media-friendly dissemination content based on Fundamor’s experience with DI (activity 2.1). Generally, DIof children with any kind of special need is far more challenging than for nondisabled children. It demands greater detailed planning, intensive preparation of parties, and a wide cross sectoral collaboration, monitoring and follow up plus a huge amount of organizational stamina. This achievement puts Fundamor at an advantage not only to inspire and guide institutions which have children with special needs but also those which house nondisabled children. Often when approaching de-institutionalization the process starts with the “easier” groups. Consequently, children with special needs are often marginalized within development efforts, the last and often forgotten group! The specific focus on children with HIV and special needs, promoting their inclusion in mainstream development efforts accelerates the ethos of the 10th SDGs, “no child left behind”.

Sharing the learning and recommendations based on the DI process developed by Fundamor will be an important contribution to the construction of a national framework for the ICBF, as well as inspiring residential institutions towards a DI process. The process was documented by Lumos and is now available on international networks e.g. Lumos Resources and the Better Care Network. However, a guiding manual for practitioners and specific recommendations to government bodies supporting better care in a Colombian context has not been developed. Nor have appropriate local advocacy materials which inform and raise debate on parental rights and better care been developed and disseminated within Colombia.

**Alternatives to Separation-ATOS** - is a member-based organization founded in 2015. ATOS has the objective to ensure that children and adolescents, who are at risk of being separated or who have been separated from their family, are provided with a safe and stable upbringing with respect to the child’s ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background. ATOS works on a two-fold strategy; a) to prevent children’s unnecessary separation from their family, and b) to find local alternative family-based care services for children without parental care. ATOS emerges from the development work carried out in AC International Child Support and draws on the partnerships, methods and approaches established there. With the merger of AC and DanAdopt in 2015 and the establishment of Danish International Adoption, it was decided to close the project department of AC. To ensure the continuation of ongoing projects, partnerships were handed over to other Danish NGOs.  Social work is the focal point of ATOS’s interventions.  ATOS wishes to develop, test and document methods in social work so that the best alternatives to separation are identified. The board members have extensive knowledge within the field of social work, project management, fundraising, research, and international relations.

* *Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed into the development of the proposed intervention.*

ATOS and Fundamor met through a common affiliation with Lumos in 2018. All three organizations work within the field of child protection and separation. ATOS has followed and been inspired by the Fundamor DI process. Lumos as a large organization often funds smaller organizations to implement pilot like projects and as such have many short-term partnerships.  A member of the ATOS Advisory Board, Martin Punaks, an international child protection adviser and activist, previously headed the Global Training and Advisory Services department at Lumos worked closely with Fundamor over a three-year period.

* *Describe the contributions, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and other actors.*

**Role of Fundamor**- Fundamor will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project.  Fundamor will carry out project monitoring, progress, and financial reporting in accordance with the CISU Guidelines and formats. These will be submitted through ATOS, who will perform quality assurance and further submit all regular and final reports to CISU. A Fundamor quality assurance team, composed of the project coordinator, outreach staff, public relations officer, and two board members will be formed.  The project coordinator will report to and receive feedback from the group to assure project activities are implemented according to objectives and expected outcomes. It will guarantee project synergy, systematizing of experiences and that new approaches and information dissemination are compliant with parental rights legislation. Throughout all activities, Fundamor will ensure gender sensitive and inclusionary norms are adhered to and reported on.

**Role of ATOS -** ATOS will provide financial and technical support to the project. The project coordinator will liaison withFundamor- to assure project activities are implemented accordingly to achieve the objectives and expected outcomes. ATOS will monitor the project outcomes based upon zoom consultations and one project site visit, receiving periodic reporting on a quarterly basis, and seeking necessary clarification as needed. ATOS will contribute to content and at seminars organized by Fundamor. As per ATOS norms, a Colombia Project Group has been formed this includes Carla Florio, MA in International Relations, from Venezuela, Gabriela Kaplan, MA, Refugee Studies and activist and project coordinator, she has close ties to Colombia where her father was raised, and Rita Tisdall who has over 30 years’ experience as an Inclusive Development Adviser to governments and NGOs. All ATOS personnel will be working on a voluntary basis, as per ATOS norms. AIDS Fund have been helpful in providing the team advice regarding specifies concerning AIDS.

* *Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.*

ATOS will facilitate an exchange of experiences and innovative social work approaches between our partners in Nepal, Ethiopia, and Colombia through periodic online workshops. Although our two organizations have had contact for several years this is the first joint project.  We are eager to learn from each other. Additionally, ATOS together with SOS, 100 % Børn and the Center for Kirkeligt Udviklingssamarbejde have initiated a network of Danish NGOs and our partners in the South, The Child Protection Network, Denmark with funding from Global Focus. It is underpinned by the2019 UNGA Resolution. Here we conduct seminars, produce videos and books with stories / voices from the global South, showcasing best practice. Fundamor will also be a part of this network where ATOS’s other partners are already participating. As such, a strong synergy is anticipated between our partners. As a platform where academics and practitioners meet and share, we are all been capacity strengthened.

Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)

* *Describe the composition of the target groups: specify approximate number of people in primary and secondary target groups disaggregated by e.g. gender, social groups or other relevant factors.*

**Primary target groups:**

This intervention will directly reach a total of 327 people, composed of 15 youth who have been in alternative care, 60 social workers registered with ICBF, 150 foster families who presently are reluctant to accept children with HIV or with disabilities, 100 staff members who are presently employed at orphanages registered with ICBF and 2 journalists. Activity 2.2, the youth led advocacy campaign, will involve the youth and journalists, and activities 1.1 and 2.1 will target the social workers, foster families, and orphanage staff members through participation in the online course and through dissemination of the DI manual.

**Secondary target groups**

It is expected that the online training will initially reach 310 duty bearers, as referenced above; however, there is potential to reach as many as 2,000 child protection bearers over time through the secondary sharing of knowledge and materials from the training and from the manual. The youth led advocacy campaign also has the potential to reach minimum 5,000 via social media channels and the public at large via collaboration with journalists. The learnings and experiences of this intervention will be shared within the Danish Child Protection Network, reaching relevant actors in child protection in Denmark, UK, Kenya, Nepal and Ethiopia among others. In total, the estimated reach of secondary groups is 8,000 individuals.

The total expected reach of this intervention is 8,327 people.

* *Describe how the target groups will participate in- and benefit from the intervention.*

The target groups will participate in the activities of the project. T

1.1 Online Course Development and Implementation –

Fundamor will develop its first online training package. The course will be facilitated live by Fundamor staff for a total of 25 sessions with around 12 participants each. Fundamor, like many organizations around the world, is seeing how Covid-19 pandemic has led to significant changes in the way we communicate and learn. It presents Fundamor with the possibility of reaching out to many communities across Colombia and potentially beyond its borders. The training will function both as a supplement to the ICBF basic training in alternative care for service providers and to foster families and as an independent training. A central element of the training will be the voice and testimonies of those who have experienced institutionalization themselves. It will be underpinned by the 2019 UNG Resolution and the UN Alternative Care Guidelines. The participants can be divided into 3 groups:

* ICBF registered social workers and other care professionals who play a vital role in the placement of children in care.
* Staff of residential institutions e.g., child careers, social workers, psychologists
* Foster families registered with ICBF

Regarding the technical accessibility of course participants, all government and NGO staff have access to computers and the internet. Foster families who do not have access to computers are already being provided with mobile phones, which can be used.  This is mandated by foster care agencies and ICBF. The training will be first piloted in the Eje Cafetero region in departments: Caldas, Risaralda and Quindío, these areas are chosen as: 1) here we find the highest numbers of HIV incidents, 2) There is a well-developed network of foster families. A working group will be formed consisting of two experienced Fundamor trainers, along with an external specialist in online facilitating, who will be responsible for development of the course. They will be responsible for liaising with ICBF to secure ongoing collaboration securing the future application of the course throughout Colombia.

2.1 Documentation and dissemination of Fundamor’s DI process –

A training manual describing Fundamors history of DI and presenting practical details of the process will be developed by Fundamor’s training and advocacy team. The training will be tested at five sites. Fundamor will develop a position paper with major policy recommendations in collaboration with ICBF.

2.2. Regional Youth-Centered Advocacy Campaign –

Fundamor will form a media task force consisting of youths from the organization ASCEP, two journalists and staff members. The goal of the campaign is to foster an understanding of parental rights and the root causes of separation. It will involve the public by seeking out their views of separation. Focus will also be on empowering families and communities who experience separation to express their experiences and views, to influence the political will of decision makers to divert funds away from institutionalization to local preventive activities. While children with HIV will be highlighted the campaign will address prevention and separation in general terms. The campaign will encourage communities to create ideas which will initiate or strengthen local protective and support systems. It will encourage the public to, “tell their stories” of separation.  When a child is separated from its families, it is not only they who are affected. Testimonies from those who have lost; siblings, parents, grandparents etc. and from those who substituted families e.g., social workers, orphanages can create a “media meeting place facilitating a co-creation process which will infer good ideas and practices”. The group will also seek to engage local celebrities’ participation who have personal experience and who can boost attention to the cause. Paramount to the content of the messages delivered will be the voices of children and youths who have encountered the child protection system. They will be facilitated so they can play a central role in the taskforce. The Media Campaign Detailed Strategy Plan will be developed in the first two months, the preparation phase of the project. The campaign will last 12 months.

* *Describe the objectives and expected results.*

Objective 1: Key duty bearers linked to the Colombian protection system in the Eje Cafetero region are capacity strengthened so that the rights of children and youth affected by HIV are respected. Children with HIV and children with special needs are not automatically placed in institutions, they will have increased access to all available alternative care services.

Expected outcomes related to objective one:

* 50% increase the number of participating foster homes willing and qualified to accept children with HIV and children with other special needs.
* 50% of participating ICBF social workers, responsible for the assessment, placement and monitoring of children without parental care, are willing and qualified to seek alternatives to institutionalization of children with HIV and other special needs.
* Cross sectoral collaboration will be strengthened
* Strengthening of individual and collective agency among youth who have been in care.
* Strengthening of Fundamor’s technological capacity, expanding their possibilities to reach out to greater numbers across the country with this specific and future trainings.

Objective 2: Key child protection actors and the public are aware of the importance of family and the benefits of family-based alternative care.
Expected outcomes related to objective two:

* A comprehensive documentation of the first contextually relevant DI process which will act as inspiration and guidance for institutions who wish to adopt the recommendations of the 2019 Resolution and UN Alternative Care Guidelines (activity 2.1).
* A position paper which will influence policy and support ICBF to achieve the recommendations made in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Which in turn will improve the conditions of families v**u**lnerable to separations and promote alternatives to institutionalization (activity 2.1).
* Youth who are living or who have experienced the Colombian child protection system have strengthened their capacity and built agency, participating as active citizens. The public are more aware of the interrelated issues of child protection. The accumulation of contextual solutions is systemized and brought to the attention of policy makers. (activity 2.2).
* *What is the strategy of the intervention? Describe the planned activities and how these will lead to the desired outputs and achievement of the objectives.*

The didactic approach of the intervention is underpinned by the teachings of Paulo Freire and the principles of inclusion. We understand that to strengthen political mobilization transformative quality training needs the active involvement of participants identified within a particular context. In the context of this intervention, this principle is reflected in the strategic process of sharing Fundamors lived experience of DI with others, both through the online course – which brings together a range of critical actors in child protection – and the training manual. The course especially will focus on active engagement and real-life scenarios that will leave participants being able to participate and organize, building active citizenship and solidarity towards deinstitutionalization. The involvement of ASCEP youth as leaders in the campaign building aspect of the intervention strategically places youth with lived experience at the forefront of change. Fundamor employs gender-sensitive process indicators in their projects, assuring focus on power relations from recruitment, course content, to monitoring and evaluation. Fundamor will, as per its normative practice, secure approval, and collaboration from ICBF to secure sustainability and dissemination of all project activities.

Fundamor has identified 12 crucial steps to deinstitutionalization at the national level. This intervention focuses on the following four, which were identified and prioritized at two project planning workshops attended by over 100 key caregivers, government representatives and youth groups. Meetings have also been held with the Director of ICBF. These gatherings were facilitated by Fundamor.

* Develop good training and awareness-raising processes to increase the number of foster families willing to receive children with HIV and other children with special needs.
* Develop and deploy sufficient professional capacity to manage this complex process of change.
* Build strong advocacy tools to change attitudes, policies, and practices.
* Empower children, youth, and families to take a lead role in the process of change.

Deinstitutionalization – the process of transforming care systems away from residential care and towards family-based care – requires a massive amount of capacity for collaboration, planning, critical thinking, and reimagining vertically and horizontally across sectors, along with concrete care-giving skills to ensure inclusion of all children. At the heart of it are the children, youth, families and everyday care workers who directly engage with systems of alternative care. By focusing on capacity building and knowledge exchange with these groups through our three activities, this intervention can contribute to laying the groundwork and generating support for broader national policy change, from the ground up.

* *What are the plans for systematising experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention?*

Fundamor has strong routines in knowledge management. A systematic plan for participatory reflection on project processes and results will be made at the start of the project. The main goals are to continuously support a culture of learning. And, also by the end of the project to be able to convince duty bearers of new appropriateness, their validity so they will participate in their successful amplification. These learning processes in Colombia will inform and be informed by the capacity building project in Denmark laying the ground for systematization of experiences not only within ATOS and Fundamor but also between other NGO’s and stakeholders in both Denmark and Colombia.

Project-related information work in Denmark

While this project does not budget for information work, ATOS will include experiences from Colombia in our ongoing communications. ATOS is developing online learning materials which will be uploaded on diverse platforms including CISUs. Stories and experiences from Colombia will be included in these materials. ATOS is one of main founders and a core group member of The Danish Child Protection Network, a consortium of Danish and Global Southern NGOs. Experience from Colombia will also be shared here.