Performing arts as an instrument for promoting interculturality and social cohesion in Colombia and Ecuador

Ecuador and Colombia are characterized by strong social & economic tensions between urban & rural areas due to high poverty and social, economic & cultural inequality of indigenous & Afro-descendants.

“Possibility of meeting, of connecting with the other. Ability to laugh, listen, to be heard even the possibility of crying.”

Carlos Ivan

Context

Human mobility from rural areas to cities is generating phenomena of exclusion, indifference, rejection and ignorance of cultural diversities: in the collective imagination, internal migrants are perceived as a source of crime, illegal land invasion in the urban peripheries, unemployment and the informal economy, and the cultural practices inherent in the context of origin lose their meaning and value. Art and culture have been shown to strengthen and encourage people individually and collectively, through leisure and artistic activities, enabling the construction of a more inclusive society.

Objectives

- To promote the performing arts as a democratic vector of the rights and fight against discrimination of the imagined population afrodescendants and indigenous victims of internal forced migration.
- Develop artistic and organizational capacities of actors.
- Promote intercultural dialogue and conflict resolution through arts.
- Strengthen the enhancement of the socio-cultural mosaic of the three territories.

Impact

- Technical exchanges for the definition of a common methodology of social work from the artistic with marginalized population, and realization of a common artistic performance between the partners.
- Organisation of 3 training courses on cultural management.
- Organisation of three community schools of performing arts.
- Cross-training workshops (interculturality, social inclusion / exclusion, human rights, gender).
- Workshops of performing arts and elaboration of multidisciplinary and multitematic products.
- Organization of open events in public spaces for the presentation of the artistic products elaborated and the confrontation of dialogue with the citizenship.
Testimony

Art and culture for a more inclusive society

In Colombia there is a strong inequality, so we must work with people who really need support, either because of their socioeconomic environment, geographical location among other factors that put them in a situation of vulnerability. “Art just like food is necessary for people, it is necessary for the spirit ... art is the maximum expression of human beings” (Open Scenes: Cali, Colombia)

“Possibility of meeting, of connecting with the other. Ability to laugh, listen, to be heard even the possibility of crying. In addition, the project has created a dynamic that breaks with the daily life of the neighbourhoods, children no longer go only to the street in which they occupy their free time, they find the possibility of belonging in a group and of working collective and individual” (Carlos Ivan, Open Scenes: Pereira, Colombia)