



Supporting and corroborating the path to the Sustainability

Project: Cuernavaca, Mexico

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Program background: The Cuernavaca Project has spent more than 8 years focusing its efforts on organizing and forming community coordinators teams in subprojects. These teams are made up of sponsored mothers, who voluntarily or with a small stipend, coordinate the activities in their community subproject.

Cuernavaca's Project efforts consist of accompanying, leading, coaching, giving them the spaces, and educating those teams about Unbound mission and program aim as well as listening to them, providing reflection and giving them feedback.

The Cuernavaca Project believe that this is one way of decentralizing decisions and empowering mothers; by actively involving them and putting the management of the program in hands of the sponsored families. In addition, there is an aim to promote responsibility and mutual support between the sponsored families, while at same time giving families the control over generating opportunities to improve their quality life. By passing the primary responsibility program implementation to the community coordinators, Cuernavaca Project believes they are on a path to programmatic sustainability.

Purpose of the evaluation: Determine if the implemented strategies with community coordinators teams are leading to programmatic sustainability, and learn what they should change or improve and get a status report about the sustainability in Cuernavaca Project.

Methods:

- Preliminary survey questionnaires applied in eight different subprojects with a sample of 336 families
- 2 Focus groups were formed. Families were invite to participate based on the results of the questionnaire. Participants in the discussion were organized into groups by:
 - Families apparently well informed, participative, and interested about the Unbound program.
 - Families apparently not well informed, not participative, and not interested about the Unbound program.

Key findings and Conclusions:

- The preliminary survey questionnaires showed:
 - Most of the survey participants are well informed about Unbound. They know their responsibilities in the program, and they are actively involved. In addition, most of the survey participants had not taken advantage of the opportunities to improve their incomes. It was evident there is misunderstanding about some terms in relation to their responsibilities.

Family's voice and vote, giving families control of the program, is an important strategy to achieve sustainability.

- Focus Group Discussion with the group of families who are well informed and participative, revealed that they have a better understanding about the concept of voice and vote participation, organization, and making decisions.
- Focus Group Discussion with families not well informed and participative have the sensation of not having enough voice, vote, and empowerment to make decisions.

Learnings and Report recommendations:

- Create a strategy and plan to encourage sponsored families to take advantage of the opportunities Unbound offers to generate incomes.
- Create a space with sponsored families to learn about what they understand or what meaning they give to some words about the Unbound program. This will help to have a real communication.
- For sustainability is not enough to work with the teams, it is necessary to create a strategy to transmit and spread the same information, context and experiences to the rest of sponsored families.
- Create a strategy to make workshops more efficient and to create a better experience for sponsored families.