

Mid-Term Funding Report Form

Global Standard for CSO Accountability – Extension Phase 2019/20

SECTION 1: General Information

Name of organisation that received funds:

*Rendir Cuentas
Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo (ICD), on behalf of Rendir Cuentas*

Project title:

National, regional and global collaborations to strengthen CSO dynamic accountability

Grant period: 1 October 2019 – 30 October 2020

Project period: 12 months implementation (1 October 2019 – 30 September 2020) and 1 month (October 2020) for preparing reports and performing financial auditing.

Grant Amount: €44,941.12

Main contact persons: Anabel Cruz & Rosa Ines Ospina

Position titles:

- Anabel Cruz / President, Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo / Rendir Cuentas Coordinator
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SECTION 1: Narrative Reporting

1. Please provide an update on how project implementation has developed vis-à-vis the project plan:

The project implementation has developed according to schedule, and the results achieved so far are very encouraging. In certain areas, achievements have exceeded expectations. As claimed in the project proposal, our work tries to contribute to 3 core objectives, namely:

- Promote the use and engagement with the Global Standard at the national, regional and global levels through the partnership
- Strengthen CSO capacity at the national, regional and international levels to adapt the Global Standard to their needs and contexts
- Inspire and nurture a global community of practice on Dynamic Accountability.

During the first six months of implementation of the project, Rendir Cuentas has developed activities at global, regional level and national levels. Actions have included the provision of follow up and technical support to a subset of organizations from 3 countries in Latin America (Colombia, Peru and Uruguay) that had conducted their self-evaluations in the first extension phase. A new country (Ecuador) has joined this current phase with specific activities. Various methodologies are being used, from site visits, virtual or f2f workshops, follow up calls, advice on working plans, listing resource materials, etc. From October 2019 to March 2020, we have carried out a set of support activities to different countries, as table below shows:

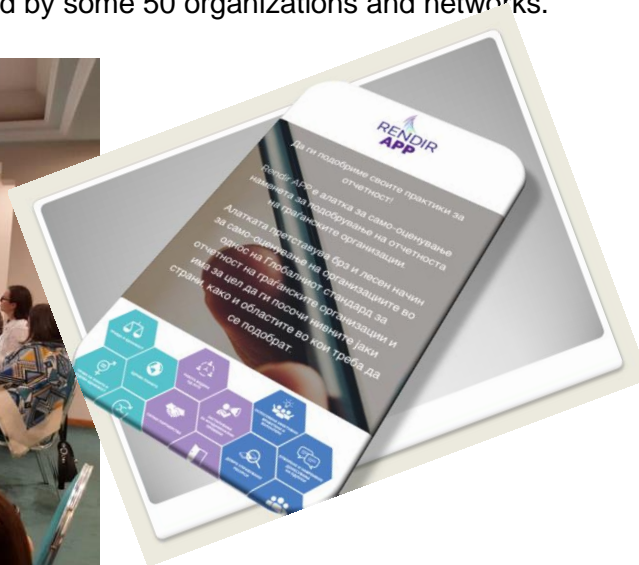
Month	Date	Activities carried out
October	24	<i>Rendir Cuentas regional meeting. Seven countries and regional coordinators attending. Next steps agreed</i>
	28	<i>Call for country proposals launched. Regional coordinators available for clarifications/support until November 11</i>
November	11	<i>Closing date for reception of proposals. Five proposals received</i>
	11 - 21	<i>Evaluation of proposals. Requests of further information and adjustments.</i>
	22	<i>Results of Call for country proposals announced: 3 countries are ready for signing agreements</i>
December	1 - 20	<i>Three countries sign contracts. Regional Coordinators give support to Ecuador (online support and site mission) and online support to Argentina</i>
January & February		<i>Agreement signed with Ecuador. Activities underway in 4 countries. Argentina decides not to participate in this round</i>
March	18	<i>Rendir Cuentas new regional meeting. The four countries with projects in this phase and regional coordinators inform about progress, exchange lessons learned and agree on next steps. Impact of global emergency discussed.</i>
March & April		<i>Country activities and regional support underway.</i>



Rendir Cuentas has also been able to foster results-oriented cooperation relationships with networks at national and international level. Collaboration with the AGNA-CIVICUS network resulted in a new *Rendir App* version, the web-based self-assessment tool developed by Rendir Cuentas, available in 3 languages and aimed for the use of networks, alliances and partnerships.



New networks and national associations in Chile and Paraguay have also been reached out to and joint activities are planned for the second half of the project period. Rendir Cuentas has also devoted time and efforts to advise the BCSDN, a Global Standard Partnership member, for implementing the Global Standard tools in the Balkan region. Rendir Cuentas travelled to North Macedonia to conduct a training workshop for Balkan CSOs and the web-based *Rendir App* is now available in Macedonian, and has been tested by some 50 organizations and networks.





Most actions originally scheduled to take place during the second half of the project period are on track (April to September 2020). Specific actions that could be impacted by the current global emergency are discussed on answers to item 3 and 4 below.

2. Please share your key successes, challenges and any unforeseen changes so far.

Table on next page summarizes the original outcomes, as registered on the approved *Rendir Cuentas* proposal vis-à-vis the measurement of advance as of March 20. Main successes for this first period refer to:

- (i) Expansion and deepening of the implementation of the Global Standard tools in Latin America;
- (ii) Strengthening relationships with Global Standard Partners and allies outside the partnership;
- (iii) Enhancement and adaptation of the Global Standard tools for new audiences, with new versions of the *Rendir App* web-based application, and the self-evaluation adapted to specific new countries;
- (iv) A concept note for a virtual training course has been produced, and logistic, technical and content preparations are underway. The virtual course will be announced in May and held from June to September 2020.
- (v) Advocacy with donors and decision makers shows initial results and potentials for replicating with other institutions and in other countries.

Desired outcomes in Rendir Cuentas original proposal/ committed indicators per country (black text) /
Measurement of advance up to March 20, 2020 (red text)

Desired outcomes – Rendir Cuentas proposal	Colombia	Ecuador	Peru	Uruguay
<p>- Technical assistance and capacity building provided to Rendir Cuentas members</p> <p>- At least 15 organizations in 4 countries will have advanced in implementing their improvement plans</p>	<p>6 SCOs strengthen at least 3 goals of their own plans</p> <p>6 SCOs have been contacted - are receiving information and advice. 1 CSO reports improvements in 5 commitments.</p>	NA	<p>6 SCOs report advances with their plans. 4 new SCOs design their own plans</p> <p>5 plans previously designed are being implemented. No new plans yet.</p>	<p>5 SCO Will have received technical assistance and report advances with implementation of their plans.</p> <p>5 CSOs are receiving technical assistance. Common needs and topics have been identified (gender, healthy planet, feedback loops). Summary document under preparation.</p>
<p>- 50 new CSOs have used the Global Standard self-assessment tool.</p>	<p>1 meeting and CFP. 15 new SCOs will have used tool.</p> <p>Reached out to 17 CSOs: 11 SCOs implementing tool for the 1st time. 1 Regional CSO convening 10 members in its territory. Other CSOS also interested in similar exercise.</p>	<p>At least 20 new CSOs implement tool. 10 CSOs have designed improvement plan</p> <p>8 Federations have been identified. 50 of their members will have applied the tool for self-evaluation.</p>	<p>15 new CSOs</p> <p>3 new CSOs implementing the tool plus 1 CSO that will reapply.</p>	<p>10 CSOs /national and regional networks apply Global Standard tools with varied methodologies.</p> <p>Following networks were contacted: ANONG, UE project, COS Chile, Pojoaju Paraguay, 5 Children Rights networks. Meetings and travels planned for second half. Global emergency might impact these plans.</p>
<p>- Documents about key Global Standard commitments are prepared and shared</p> <p>- Sets of materials are identified to be used in training courses, technical assistance and other recommendations to CSO to advance in implementing the Global Standard</p>	<p>Identification and review of at least 3 working mechanisms/roadmaps, prioritized through webinars with CSO</p> <p>No advance so far. On track</p>	<p>A f2f Exchange meeting on best practices will convene 30 CSOs. A feedback document prepared.</p> <p>Feb 13 & March 11: two workshops were held, attended by CSOs & members of Pichincha Federation</p>	<p>At least 3 best practices identified. Broad dissemination / At least one best practice is replicated by other CSOs.</p> <p>No advance so far. On track</p>	<p>Set of 24 materials available for training courses & technical assistance and recommendations to implement improvement working plans</p> <p>54 materials are already available / ICD to organized materials according to the GS commitments and will share with Rendir Cuentas members.</p>
<p>- New feedback and dynamic accountability mechanisms have been explored (with evidences)</p>	NA	NA	<p>Evidences of new feedback and Dynamic accountability mechanisms identified.</p> <p>No advance so far. On track</p>	NA



Desired outcomes – Rendir Cuentas proposal	Colombia	Ecuador	Peru	Uruguay
- At least 3 articles / op eds or policy documents are published in different media	4 blog posts or articles published in ONGxT, TxC, RC or GS sites No advance so far. On track	2 No advance so far. On track	1 No advance so far. On track	2 No advance so far. On track
- Decision makers adopt, adapt or incorporate the Global Standard in different ways and formats - The Global Standard is presented to academia, governments, other actors.	One meeting with partners Advances with 2 donors: (i) Global Standard adopted by a 5 years USAID program for strengthening CSOs (ii) Open Society Foundation is interested in the Global Standard A meeting with a local authority. No advance so far. On track.	Two communications tools to disseminate results No advance so far. On track	At least 1 form of the Global Standard is adopted by one institution No advance so far. On track	NA
- 30 CSOs participate in regional virtual training course	5	5	5	10
Regional training course to be held during second half of the projects period (between May and August 2020).				
- At least 50 new organizations test Rendir App, receive and reflect on feedback provided. -	5 No advance so far. On track	15 No advance so far. On track	10 40 DESCO and GPC staff members have applied the tool	20 Promotion conducted in several countries: 30 CSOs tested the tool
- Other related actions		Self-assessment tool adapted to Ecuador Self-assessment tool has been adapted to Ecuador	A study/proposal on certification elaborated No advance so far. On track	Recommendations section on <i>Rendir App</i> will be expanded On track. Materials are being included in the recommendations section of <i>Rendir App</i>
		3 workshops with 20 SCOs each event Workshops have been organized	30 CSOs update their 2018-2019 Accountability report. One report is elaborated. No advance so far. On track	<i>Rendir App</i> tool adapted for networks. 10 AGNA platforms have self-assessed their practices Rendir App for networks is ready. Cooperation with AGNA has been an excellent experience. The 90 Days-Challenge will be implemented

3. Do you have any suggestions or needs for further support and collaboration from or with the Centre and/or other Project Partners?

We would certainly like to see the Centre more involved in the promotion and communications activities related with the Global Standard, not only as the intermediary funder but specially as a partner. No doubt that the Centre has a lot to contribute with.

4. Please share any further information you think would be of interest for the following up and implementing during the remaining project period:

The Global Secretariat has advanced in terms of collecting, processing and circulating information among Project Partners (monthly calls and internal newsletters), so we are all informed about the activities implemented during this second transition phase. However, we might need a strategic analysis of advances and challenges faced by PPs. We want to suggest that all PPs share their midterm report and the Global Secretariat GS digests the reports and prepares a summary of the situation of the project vis-à-vis its goals and aims and perspectives for the second half of the project period.

Finally, some considerations about the global emergency and its potential impact on our actions and plans. Such a situation was completely unpredictable at the moment of our risk-analysis last year. We had possibility and mitigation for risks such as not receiving funds on time, or the initiation of the project on a date too close to the fiscal year end. But a global pandemic could not be envisaged by anybody. In the case of Rendir Cuentas, some F2F workshops in four countries in Latin America are at risk and some visits in-situ for technical assistance to CSO are also in jeopardy. As of today March 23, 2020, several governments in countries in our region (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, curfew in Chile) have ordered lockdown so everything is pretty much closed. We had planned some activities to reach out to new networks: a visit to Chile has been agreed with the COS Network, as well as a workshop was planned in Ecuador for the coming months. Those events will have to be postponed and rescheduled. A big conference in Canada scheduled for July 2020, that had accepted after peer review process our presentation on the Global Standard has been cancelled and postponed for July 2021.

But global pandemic is producing permanent alterations and the situation is changing daily. We would like to suggest that a *situation room* can be set up, to monitoring in real time the changes and the impact on the project activities.

SECTION 2: Financial Reporting

See attached report.