



# ELIMINATING ACCESS BARRIERS FOR DEAF WOMEN FOR A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME:

**Eliminating access barriers for Deaf women for a life free of violence**

LOCATION WHERE THE PLANNED EVALUATION TAKES PLACE:

**City of Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

**05/21 a 05/24**



# Executive summary



Este documento presenta un resumen ejecutivo. This section presents an executive summary with the results of the external evaluation of the project “Eliminating access barriers for Deaf women for a life free of violence”, implemented between May 2021 and May 2024 by Enlaces Territoriales para la Equidad de Género (ETEG, in Spanish), with funding from the UN Trust Fund for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The evaluated project was implemented by the civil society organization ETEG in Argentina. The project has been extended for three years, from May 15, 2021 to May 14, 2024.

## Results table

GOAL	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	IMMEDIATE RESULTS
Deaf women in situations of gender-based violence, exacerbated by confinement and the consequences of COVID-19, can access essential spaces and services safely and tailored to their needs by 2024.	1. Deaf women from different regions of the country, know and exercise their rights for a life free of violence, by May 2024.	<p>1.1. Deaf women who were trained as leaders, gender advocates and mediators have more knowledge and tools to prevent gender-based violence in their communities and support survivors.</p> <hr/> <p>1.2. Deaf women survivors of gender-based violence gain greater knowledge about their rights and improve their transition through the critical pathway.</p>
	2. State agents and other actors in different regions of the country improve their knowledge and responses to prevent and assist Deaf women who experience gender-based violence by May 2024.	<p>2.1. State agents and interpreters who participated in the training processes have greater knowledge and tools to adjust service attention for Deaf women.</p> <hr/> <p>2.2. Companies that participated in the training process have the knowledge and tools to promote safe and accessible spaces for Deaf women. (NOT IMPLEMENTED. REFORMULATION OF THE PROJECT).</p>

The evaluation includes primary beneficiaries, i.e., women and Deaf leaders, and secondary beneficiaries, i.e., public agents from various institutions and interpreters to sign language (LSA-E, in Spanish).

Within the framework of the evaluation, the ETEG team that participated in the implementation of the project and the officials of the Trust Fund, as a donor agency, are also considered as a target group.

The evaluation **objectives** are:

- Evaluate the entire project (May 2021 to May 2024), based on the criteria of effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, knowledge creation and impact, as well as the cross-cutting criteria of gender equality and human rights;
- Identify key lessons and emerging good practices in the area of eradicating violence against women and girls, for learning purposes.

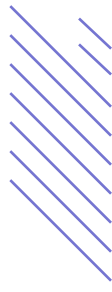
Specifically, the evaluation sought to:

- **SG1:** Evaluate the project's contribution to the recognition and exercise of the rights of Deaf women, in terms of the promotion of the development of their lives free of violence.
- **SG2:** Analyze the transformations produced within the different services in which awareness and training actions were promoted, considering the capacity of these services to promote improvements aimed at removing obstacles and guaranteeing effective access for Deaf women.
- **SG3:** Study the project's impact on the institutional capacity building and on the sustainability of the Sordas sin Violencia (SSV, in Spanish) program and ETEG.

This is an ex post evaluation, implemented immediately after the conclusion of the project. It follows the parameters and recommendations of a project evaluation with a gender and human rights approach. It also seeks to ensure the participation of Deaf women, the main beneficiaries of the evaluated project.

Regarding the **data sources** used, the evaluation was based on the analysis of secondary information generated and collected within the framework of the project. This evaluation has carried out primary data collection through interviews with the project's coordinating team, the operational referent in the Trust Fund and the person responsible for the elaboration of the audiovisual material. Deaf women, public agents and LSA-E interpreters who attended different workshops promoted within the framework of the project, were also interviewed. Within the framework of this evaluation, 38 interviews were conducted, 77% of which were with the main and

secondary beneficiaries of the project. A survey was also prepared and distributed to all Deaf women participating in the workshops. There was no sample selection since the questionnaire was sent to the universe of Deaf people who participated in different workshops. The survey was distributed to the 103 women who participated in the workshops and 35 women responded randomly. The sample was neither targeted nor segmented. Follow-up was conducted in the same way for the entire universe. Given the characteristics of the survey, which was self-administered through a google form, it is expected that younger women would respond, considering the use of computer tools. In addition to different materials generated in the framework of project implementation, the evaluation worked with databases generated as part of the project's follow-up activities.



### **The limitations of the evaluation methodology**

are linked to the adjustments in some performance indicators produced throughout the project. On the other hand, the fact of promoting a feminist evaluation, with an intersectional and human rights approach generated challenges in terms of making the proposed design accessible and promoting adequate instruments to survey the perception and perspective of Deaf women, as well as in the generation of a results document that is accessible and can be communicated to the direct beneficiaries of the project. Throughout the evaluation it became evident to the evaluation team that co-creation and collaborative work between Deaf and hearing people is the best option to make an evaluation accessible and intersectional. As in the management of the project, this seems to be the key.

Another limitation of the evaluation is that no evaluations of projects for Deaf women have been identified.

There were also some limitations related to time and budget for the development of the project. Working with Deaf women requires greater coordination, the intervention of a larger group of people and the development of tools in LSA. Making contact with Deaf people is also difficult. So, a mediator is needed. Finally, a limitation that materialized throughout the fieldwork was the difficulty in arranging interviews with public agents. The national government, which took office in December, is pursuing a policy of reducing the size of the state and has cut rights protection and social care offices. As a result, many email addresses of public agents have become inaccessible. In addition, some of the public agents contacted preferred not to be interviewed.

Regarding the results of the evaluation. The project had a **broad effectiveness** in terms of achieving the results and the goal-objective initially defined. Some data from the surveys conducted:

- **100%** of the Deaf women surveyed consider that the workshop (or workshops) in which they participated helped them to learn about their rights.
- **91%** considered that they learned about their rights related to accessible care.
- **84%** stated that they understood what to do when faced with a situation of GBV, the remaining 16% indicated that they understood moderately (more or less).
- **90%** of the trained public agents indicated that they had learned a lot or a fair amount about care for Deaf women in a situation of GBV from the workshop.
- **80%** of the ILSA-E trained indicated that they learned a lot or a fair amount about GBV in Deaf women.

The project has **widely contributed to the empowerment of Deaf women and the construction or consolidation of women's leadership (impact)** within the Deaf community in different regions of the country.

As a result of the project activities, more Deaf women are satisfied with access to information about their rights. The interviews highlighted a significant change in terms of Deaf women's recognition of their rights to demand access to care services. Meanwhile, all the Deaf women interviewed emphasized that they feel more strengthened and empowered as a result

of their participation in the activities promoted by the project.

The project **has been executed efficiently** and the execution and reporting deadlines have been met. The value of the estimated efficiency index is 1.29, which indicates a higher level of efficiency in relation to what was initially planned.

A warning is related to the weight of support activities in the development of the project (60%). Most of these expenses arising from the standards and policies of the Trust Fund. There were also certain

drawbacks related to exchange restrictions and high inflation in Argentina.

The **sustainability** of the project is **broadly based on the defined strategy**. Some results contribute to support this argument:

- The elaboration of high quality materials, highly valued by Deaf women to clarify information.
- Trained Deaf women leaders (50), who have been leading community spaces or have leadership conditions.
- ILSA-E trained (265). Several perform functions in essential services in different regions of the country.
- Trained public agents (287). 48% of the have continuity because they work in the Judiciary.

The evaluated project becomes even more **relevant** in the current context. The response of all those interviewed was unanimous on the relevance of continuing the implementation of a project like this. It was also noted that the evaluated project has a broad potential for the generation, dissemination and use of knowledge. The project responds to gender equality, human rights and intersectionality approaches in a very broad manner.

Some of the **highlighted recommendations** are:

### LINKED TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

- Promote training for public agents. This should be accompanied by activities aimed at developing plans and/or protocols on the adequacy of essential services.
- Provide incentives for trained personnel to become involved in raising awareness among other public agents. In the current context, focus your efforts on working with subnational public agents to improve the services they provide (local services and state services).
- Consider developing a social media campaign aimed at the Deaf community.
- Holding at least one annual meeting to continue promoting training and the exchange of experiences and learning among Deaf leaders in different states (provincias, in Spanish).

### LINKED TO IMPACT:

- Encourage alliances with civil society organizations, state agencies and international agencies that promote the rights of Deaf people.
- Strengthen the work of Deaf women leaders to promote the organization of different workshops and/or activities aimed at providing information on Deaf women's rights and GBV prevention.
- Promote, in partnership with other organizations, spaces for the dissemination of information on rights and prevention of GBV.
- Review the criteria for selection and work with public agencies.



**WITH REGARD TO EFFICIENCY, RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRUST FUND:**

- Analyze the possibility of reviewing and adjusting the allocation of funds linked to support activities.
- Increase the budget for contingency expenses.
- Promote the creation of a specific follow-up matrix for budget adjustments in the approved indicators and goals.

**ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORK OF ETEG-SSV:**

- In the current context in Argentina, it would seem important to evaluate the possibility of devising work alternatives.
- Systematize project follow-up information in a single matrix.

**ASSOCIATED WITH SUSTAINABILITY:**

- Incentivize the formation of a network of Deaf leaders at national level.
- Clearer strategy for prioritization of public agencies.
- Strengthen the strategy and work on the institutionalization of adaptations and reasonable adjustments.

**ASSOCIATED WITH RELEVANCE:**

- Sustain and deepen the strategy linked to outcome 1.2 related to the prevention of GBV and the promotion of the rights of Deaf women.
- Strengthen and expand the work of Deaf women referrals in their territories and communities, mainly in relation to GBV prevention and care.

**ASSOCIATED WITH WITH THE GENERATION OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- Systematize the knowledge generated in materials that allow the dissemination of its good practices.



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