



## Somos Tesoro advances

Somos Tesoro highlights some of the advances made in the four components that make up its comprehensive strategy to reduce child labor: **Livelihoods, Educational Opportunities, Mining Formalization Process and Public Policies.**

After three years of intervention in the states of Antioquia and Boyaca, Somos Tesoro has made an important impact in the mining communities of Mongua, Tópaga, Gámeza and Sogamoso, in Boyacá; and El Bagre, Zaragoza, Segovia and Remedios, in Antioquia. Through its integrated approach, the four components of the project have made these communities more prosperous, safe, informed and empowered in the prevention of child labor.

### Mining formalization process



Through the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM), Somos Tesoro continues to provide advice to 82 gold and coal mining units (66 in Boyaca and 16 in Antioquia) for their formalization processes. Twenty-four of these mining units have been included in Somos Tesoro by invitation from the Ministry of Mines and Energy. This advice, given by the technical staff of ARM directly at the mines, aims to verify mining practices in line with previous training given by the project, and addresses implementation challenges. ARM's specialists serve as advisors to help miners reach compliance and formalization, and maintain focus on the elimination of child labor.

This advice to small scale miners is complemented by the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) virtual training module recently created by ARM for the Somos Tesoro project.

Through the "Raise Awareness on mining safety and health" campaign, Somos Tesoro has gathered the miners, their wives and children in dialogue around a miner's health and safety, and child labor in mining practices.

### Participation in educational opportunities

Around 130 talented young people have been trained in leadership by Fundación Mi Sangre under the Somos Tesoro project. After this, some have replicated their knowledge at student councils and social leadership networks, others have led activities with children and community elders, and others have been active in awareness raising events through radio, television and other artistic mediums, such as the mural titled "My Little Hands are not for Work".

Also, Pact has trained more than 100 young people in audiovisual production, and youth communication collectives have received courses from the Ministry of Culture. Additionally, 493 children have received workshops on vocational services, where they have learned about different options for their future.

At the same time, a total of 500 teachers across more than 40 educational institutions have received training in the Pazalobien methodology, which enables the development of academic subjects and life skills through art and joyful activities.



International Day against Child Labor, Remedios

Facilitators of Fundación Mi Sangre have accompanied these teachers in the application of the methodology within the classroom. This has been done with the participation of more than 6,000 students, who are now enthusiastic about learning.

Additionally, Somos Tesoro has encouraged teachers and families to protect the rights of children and prevent child labor.



## Livelihoods

Pact has been able to improve the economical situations of numerous families in the neighborhoods and townships where the project Somos Tesoro is present. A total of 225 beneficiaries have received training for job opportunities, 1,296 have acquired the necessary skills to manage their family finances, and 1,270 have learned valuable saving strategies.

Additionally, 30 entrepreneurs have received training by Pact and SENA in administrative, technical and partnership issues, and have been accompanied by Pact's team in order to strengthen their productive projects. Among them, the Association of Monguanas Women, in Boyaca, which produces baked goods from potato starch, and the community of Puerto Jobo, in Zaragoza, Antioquia, which farms fish.

The family and community gardens supported by Pact in the eight municipalities where Somos Tesoro is present have already begun to produce eggplants, cucumbers, and pumpkins, among other fruits. These improve family's nutrition and provide them additional income, as well as promote community work.

As part of the Livelihoods component, Pact, in conjunction with municipal, state, and national women and family welfare programs, works to promote children's rights and gender equality. All of this focuses on reducing the economic and social vulnerability issues that cause child labor.

...because the wealth is not  
in the mineral, it is in the  
people who earn a living

## Public policies

Through Fondo Accion, Somos Tesoro presented a public policy proposal to the Colombian state for the prevention and elimination of child labor in mining. Drafted using the exchange of ideas and reflection on child labor in nine different spaces, this document was created with the participation of 160 public officials from municipalities, state and national levels, as well as community members, including teachers, miners, women and minors.

The national government and the Interagency Committee for the Elimination of Child Labor, CIETI, actively participated in the validation of this document and have agreed to include it in the national policy on children and adolescents.

Fondo Acción has also created the Integrated Route for Territorial Management for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor in Mining, which enables the diagnosis of these issues within the municipalities. As it detects population experiencing child labor, and those most at risk, Integrated Route is also a tool for focusing the municipal intervention for the elimination of child labor in mining.



Civil society and public institutions discuss on child labor

Somos Tesoro has also worked with networks to strengthen national and local institutional coordination, and in the design of mechanisms and actions for identification of child labor in specific sectors.

Additionally, Fondo Acción, under the framework of Somos Tesoro, has participated in regional forums to disseminate project findings about child labor in mining.

