



MATTER OF FOCUS WORK WITH VALENZUELA PATHFINDING CITY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



Matter of Focus are a mission-led B-corporation who specialise in working with organisations that make a positive impact in the world by inspiring, educating, empowering, supporting leading or connecting with people. Through consultancy and software they help organisations understand the outcomes or impacts that matter, align their workstreams to these, and work with data and evidence effectively to understand the difference they are making.

The context. The City of Valenzuela, once a separate province is now part of Metro Manila a large urban area around the City of Manila. It has become the first pathfinding city to end violence against children due to a commitment to the people of the city, to ending poverty and improving the lives of citizens. It is distinctive in having strong local leadership and political will to change the lives of children.

The problem. One of the many challenges for an endeavour like this is how will the city leads know if they are making a difference to ending violence for children and families in Valenzuela. Large surveys on key indicators may give information at a very high level, but are too infrequent and expensive to give the sort of feedback and evidence needed as programmes are rolled out. It can be hard to understand, learn, assess and tell the story of a complex multi-sector programme like the pathfinder work. Unlike simple interventions like improving school buildings to increase pupil's safety, running a multi-sector programme across the city it is much more challenging to plan, learn, monitor evaluate and share the learning for other cities wishing to follow in Valenzuela's footsteps.

What we did. Matter of Focus have pioneered an innovative and participatory outcome mapping process with supporting software to help track change in these kind of complex initiatives. Over a series of visits to the city they helped map out key programmes against outcomes, linking them to the inspire framework. This also included specifying and developing a partnership group with responsibility for oversight of the programme.

Outcome maps were created for programmes, projects and policy areas that related to the pathfinder work.





CITY-WIDE PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME MAP	
Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">Information, Education, Communication, Materials and Platforms to EVACCity Planning and Development Office	Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none">Child Protection Centre work in EVACCPN Safe SchoolsCSWD sheltersEarly childhood care and development to EVACSK FEDTertiary Education to EVACWomen and Children Police deskCSWDO
Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none">Council for the welfare of children with UNICEFConsuelo Foundation	

This work has been led by the lead for the pathfinding city from the mayor's office, and the departments and projects who are responsible for delivering different interventions that relate to ending violence against children across the city have taken part.

This includes social work, child protection, education, the policy and other programs directly aimed at children families and communities. It also includes the partnerships with NGO's like UNICEF and the Consuelo Foundation. Finally relevant policy leads in city planning, social work management, and legal were included

Using Matter of Focus software OutNav enables each team to drill into the different levels of outcomes that are important to them, and collate and collect data, analyse it and assess their progress.





Between visits we have been holding webinars to jointly solve problems and keep building the approach.

Building confidence in planning and data use. Over the course of the first two visits people have started to feel more confident working with this approach. There has been great enthusiasm for using OutNav and pioneering this work.

There have been some challenges including getting sufficient hardware and internet, adapting workshops to suit the culture, and keeping people motivated when we are not there. However we know that complex problems and complex programmes require distributed leadership where actors are empowered to do the right thing. Fortunately, this fits well with the ethos in the City Hall, where everyone is encouraged and supported to help solve the problems that face the citizens.

What difference does this make? With strong support from the Mayor's office the city actors will dedicate time each Friday to monitoring and evaluating their activities in OutNav and creating a narrative of how they deliver their programmes, policies and partnerships. Individual outcome maps will be reviewed and pulled into a strategic outcome map which will help the city monitor progress. The ambition is that they will be able to use OutNav reports as a way of deciding where to increase or desist investment and where to scale-up projects.

The work in outnav will create a framework for sharing the learning with other cities, citizens and across the international community interested in ending violence against children.

By learning how complex programmes like this city-wide one work we can build understanding of how to implement complex multi-sector programmes which ultimately help reduce violence against children.

VC will be one of the first places to demonstrate how a multi-sector programme has been implemented and learning from this can be applied to other city partnerships in different places working with other issues.

We think VC is an amazing innovative experiment in using OutNav on this scale and we can't wait to see how this plays out over the months and years of the pathfinding work.

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