Transformation of Cartagena's early childhood ecosystem

Carolina Maldonado & Eduardo Escallón School of Education Universidad de los Andes





BOLD IDEAS WITH BIG IMPACT®

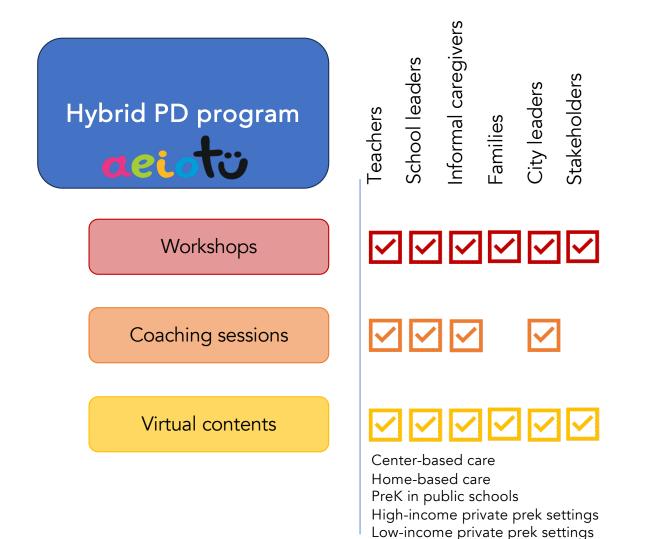


Facultad de Educación

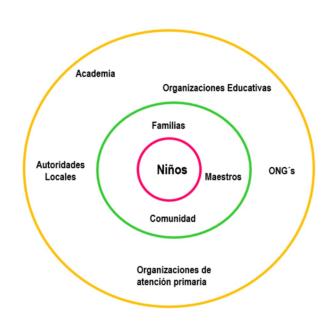
Cartagena

- Second-largest city in the Caribbean coast
- Highest level of social inequality in the country
- Almost half of the population living under the poverty line

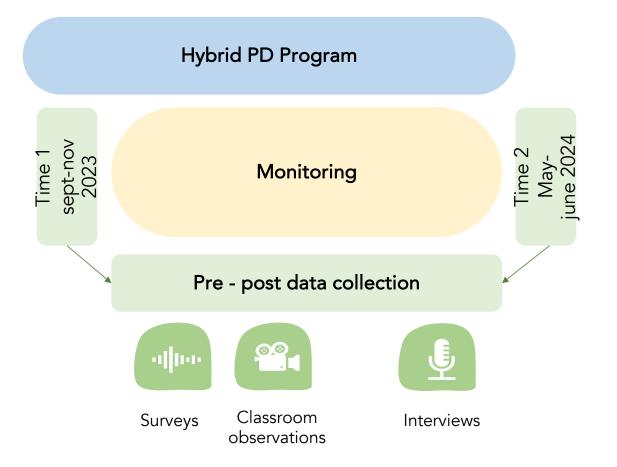




Create a PD program that is a cost-effective solution to scale impact



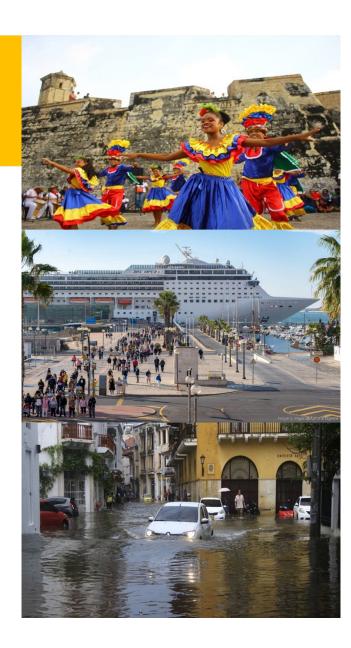
Evaluation design



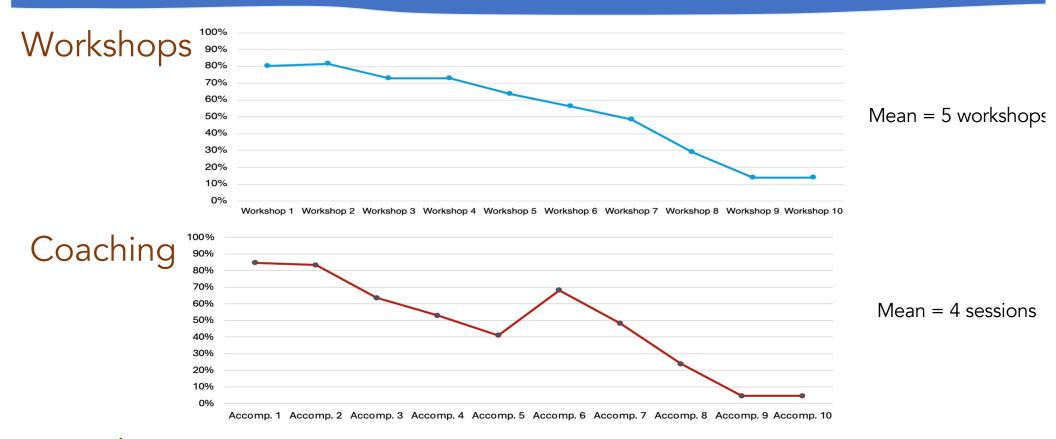
	Program	Evaluation
Teachers	346	151
Caregivers	15	8
Leaders	39	30
Families	117	107
Stakeholders	29	29

Context

- Constant changes due to:
 - High temperatures + days of heavy rainfall
 - Cultural activities in the city + tourism.
- Difficult communication with participants.
- Changes in center contracting
 - Different timeline for each group of participants (Start: March-July 2023 ; End: March-June 2024)
 - Many adaptations to program design



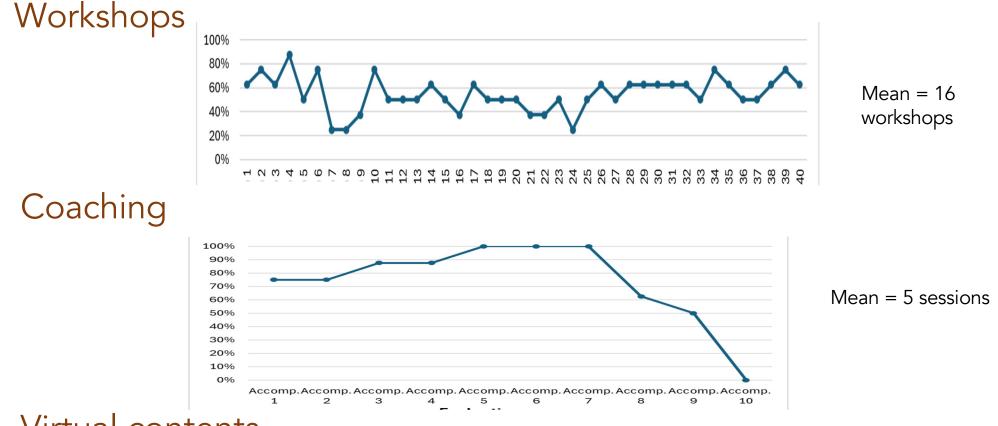
Teachers' Attendance



Virtual contents

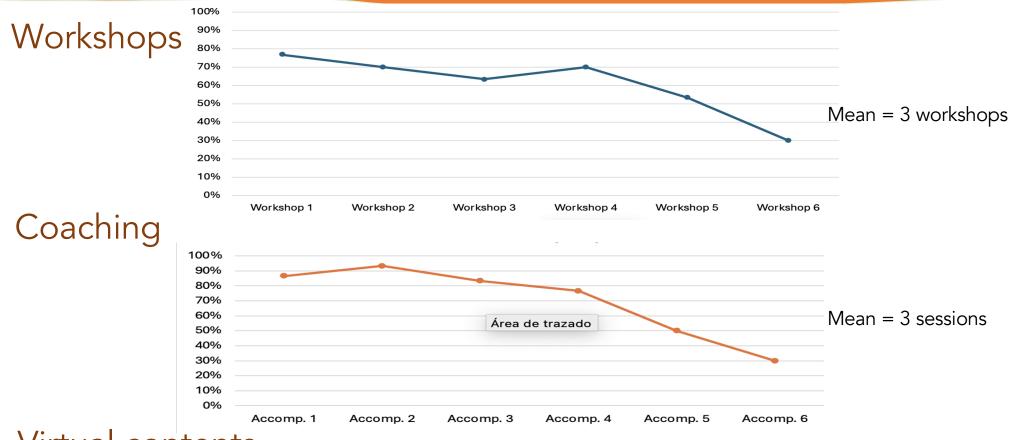
By January 2024, only 14% had seen half of the virtual contents - Incorporated to fase-to-fase training

Informal Caregivers' Attendance



Virtual contents By January 2024, 30% had not seen any of the virtual contents – Incorporated to fase-to-fase training

Leaders' Attendance



Virtual contents

By January 2024, only 14% had not seen any of the virtual contents Incorporated to fase-to-fase training

Changes in teachers' beliefs and practices

POSITIVE CHANGES IN BELIEFS ABOUT:



Positive discipline*



Positive image of the child*



Learning strategies*

Interviews: Better understanding of children's participation in the learning process, learning through play, exploration, and project-based pedagogical strategies.

OBSERVED PRACTICES:



All teachers used a pedagogical planning tool at time 2



Slight decrease in pedagogical quality*



Increase in support for social cohesion and support for exploration*

*Not statistically significant



Changes in leaders' beliefs and skills

BELIEFS



Higher recognition of teachers' skills, emotions and importance of PD*

******** ******* *******

Higher recognition of importance to promote participation*

SKILLS



Higher skills to orient and create opportunities for teamwork*



Higher communication skills



Higher skills to plan and organize time

*Not statistically significant

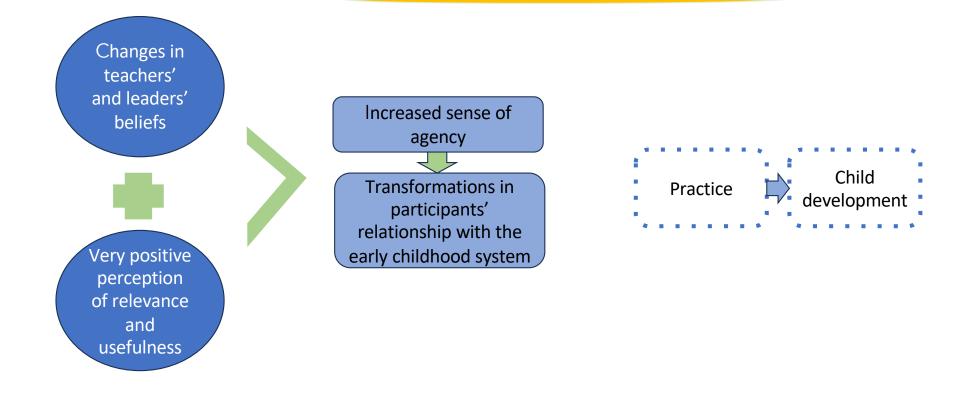


Other findings

- All informal caregivers refused to be observed / interviewed at time
 2
- Very positive perception of the PD program among all participants
 - Very relevant
 - Strategies to strengthen their practice
 - Coaching was highly valued by teachers
- Problems to access digital contents
 - Materials incorporated to workshops were highly valued
- Logistical suggestions
 - Defining a fixed place for the meetings,
 - Agreeing schedule for workshops and coaching
 - Considering the annual schedule of the institutions



Conclusions





Next steps

- Identify the knowledge and skills on which training should focus to ensure changes in practices.
- Ensure participants' attendance to all or most of the workshops and coaching sessions.



Informal caregivers



Virtual components

Design and test a less complex PD program that is articulated with the reality of the academic calendar of the institutions and the city: Design →Test at a small scale →Iterate

¿Cost-effective solutions to scale impact?