



40 female victims of sexual violence from in Santa Marta on Colombia's Atlantic Coast on July 28, 2015 as part of the Victims Unit's "Comprehensive Reparation Strategy."

VICTIMS INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROGRAM (VISP)

Provides accompaniment and technical support for the Government of Colombia's (GoC) policies, systems, and institutions at the national, departmental, and municipal levels, to strengthen capacities and build necessary competencies for the timely and effective execution and implementation of the Victims Law.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

This report provides monthly institutional and Victims Law achievements supported by VISP at the national and local levels.

WHAT WAS DONE THIS MONTH?

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN VICTIMS' POLICIES

RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGING LOCAL RECONCILIATION INITIATIVES AND VICTIMS' POLICIES

-VISP in alliance with the organization Colombia Líder is awarding the best mayors and governors to recognize local authorities' performances between 2012 and 2015, including initiatives for reconciliation, reparations, and peace-building.

-Five workshops were held with candidates who will run for local office in October 2015 in Antioquia, Bolívar, Córdoba, Magdalena, and Chocó (of a total of 13 workshops to be held in VISP departments) to foster awareness of these topics in new administrations' development plans.

COLLECTIVE REPARATION AND LAND

45 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL PEASANT LAND USERS ASSOCIATION (ANUC)

-An important **satisfaction measure** was carried out in Bogotá with over 5,000 rural workers from around the country marking the 45-year commemoration of ANUC, a national collective reparation subject prioritized by the Victims Unit.

-Prior to the encounter, in which President Santos highlighted the importance of **defending rural land users' rights as a central point in peace agreements**, ANUC members from around the country met to discuss advances and challenges in the collective reparation process.

ACCESS TO INSTITUTIONAL OFFER

ATTENTION POINTS ENSURE SERVICES TO CONFLICT VICTIMS IN CHOCÓ

-Renovated Victims Attention Points were inaugurated in Riosucio and Bojayá, where 70% (20,117 victims registered) and 90% (9,082) of the population is a victim of the armed conflict, respectively.

-Support included the provision of work stations for GoC workers to privately meet with victims, waiting spaces, televisions to share relevant information for people waiting, and digital turn systems to ensure that victims can access institutional offer under the Victims Law without being re-victimized.

-To date, VISP has completed the optimization of 16 Victims Attention Points and 1 Regional Victims Attention Center in eight departments.

FUNCTIONAL REHABILITATION

STRENGTHENING REHABILITATION SERVICE NETWORKS FOR VICTIMS WITH DISABILITIES

-A Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Affairs (DCHA) visit highlighted the project to strengthen functional rehabilitation service networks at hospitals and community rehabilitation centers in **Cartagena** (where according to the National Information Network (RNI) there are 305 registered victims with disabilities;), **Quibdó** (898), **Apartadó** (1,694), and **Popayán** (296). In each of these locations there is a notable under-reporting of disability.

-In Cartagena, visitors toured an under-construction **community rehabilitation center** in the south of the city and the Hospital Universitario del Caribe, which is being remodeled and equipped to provide functional rehabilitation to victims and people with disabilities.

HISTORICAL MEMORY

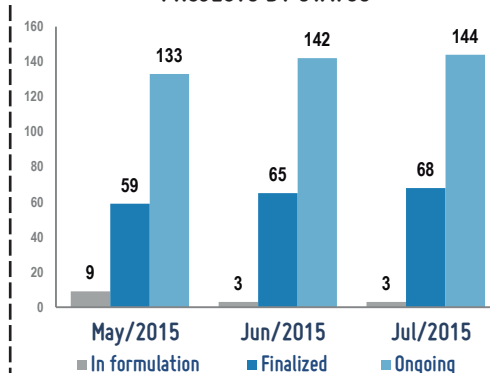
MEMORY DIALOGUES BROACH IMPORTANT TOPICS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

-VISP and the National Historical Memory Center held dialogues on **landmines** in Carmen de Bolívar and on **forced recruitment** in Bogotá, resulting in greater awareness and participation among victims, academia, and local institutions on challenges to reparation.

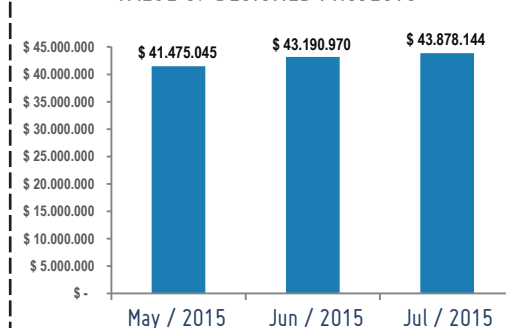
GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

VISP STATISTICS

PROJECTS BY STATUS



VALUE OF DESIGNED PROJECTS



VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ATTENTION IMPROVEMENT PLANS

-A session was held to induct 25 professionals from departmental health secretaries, health institutes, and social organizations from Nariño, Sucre, Magdalena, Bolívar, La Guajira, Caquetá, Antioquia, and Córdoba in a strategy to **improve local attention to victims of sexual violence**.

-The week-long session provided public servants participating with technical and conceptual tools to strengthen their ability to comprehensive address GBV and sexual violence and provide oversight to municipal health institutions and health service providers.

COMPREHENSIVE REPARATION FOR FEMALE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

-VISP supported the Victims Unit to begin implementing the **Comprehensive Reparation Route for female victims of sexual violence** by carrying out activities on ways that victims can invest their compensation resources, providing guidance on the reparation route, jointly filling out the Attention, Assistance, and Comprehensive Reparation Plan (PAARI), and handing over the dignity and financial compensation letters (see photo on page 1).

-Participatory encounters held through the strategy encouraged victims to reclaim their bodies as territories of peace and contributed to the process to build dignity, remove stigmas, develop historical memory, and share truth for empowerment.

LGBT COMMUNITY

SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICIES FOR LGBT VICTIMS

-Three workshops were held in La Guajira to **construct policies for LGBT victims**, ensure that these victims are included in the Victims Single Registry (RUV) for differential attention, and guarantee that regional institutions have the necessary tools to provide dignified and respectful attention.

-Participants, including members of the LGBT community and National Victims Assistance and Reparation System (SNARIV) institutions, covered topics including legal frameworks, recommendations for using appropriate language, visibilizing and supporting victims, and highlighting the importance of the RUV. As a part of the encounter, 22 LGBT victims' declarations were taken.

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

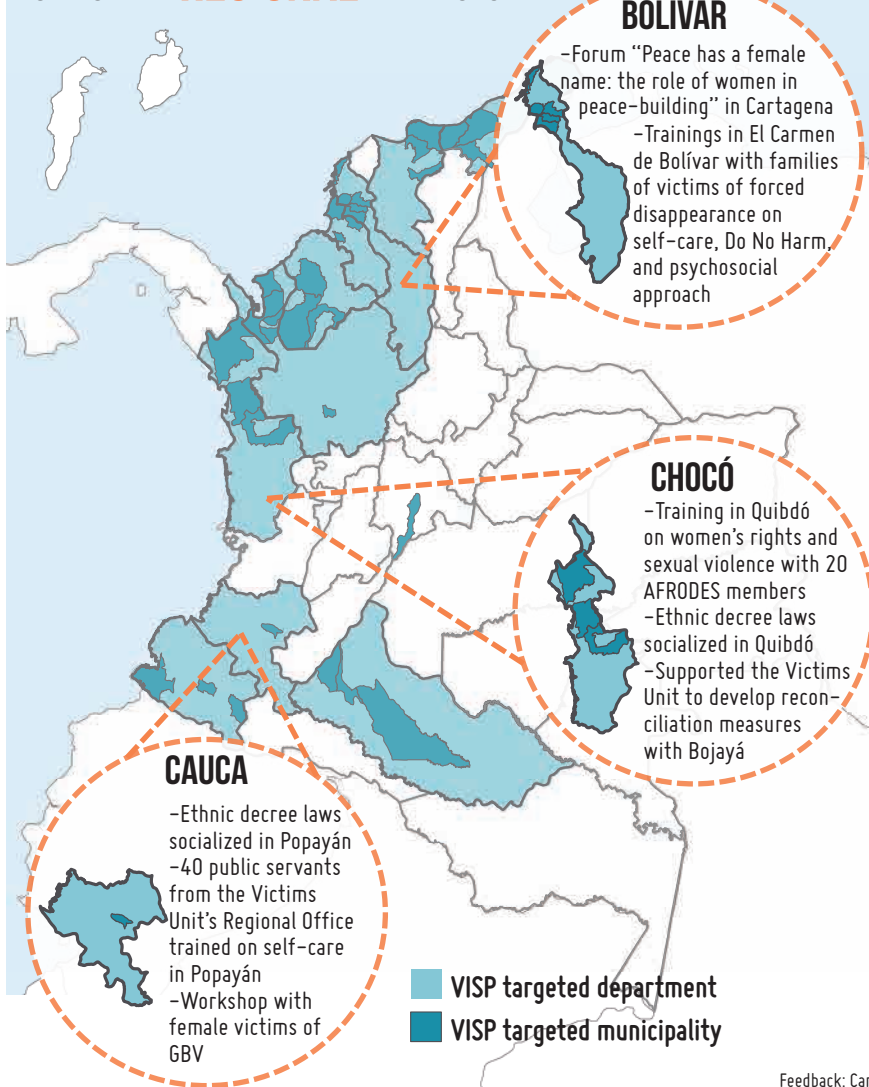
ETHNIC COLLECTIVE REPARATION SUBJECTS SHARE EXPERIENCES

-Two encounters were held with the Victims Unit and ethnic communities to facilitate the exchange of experiences between ethnic communities that are collective reparation subjects.

-The first encounter was held in Cauca with the Ette-Ennaka **indigenous community** from Magdalena and the Nasa community from Cauca, and the second in Magdalena with 90 participants from **afro-Colombian communities** from Bolívar, Sucre, and Magdalena.

-Participants shared lessons learned from their collective reparation processes.

HIGHLIGHTED REGIONAL ADVANCES



HIGHLIGHTED INSTITUTIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL ADVANCES

INSTITUCIONAL CAPACITIES



Agreement signed between IOM and the **Ministry of the Interior** to **decentralize victims' policies**

Operational Information System Plan (POSI) Phase III implemented with information systems, emphasizing technical strengthening to characterize the victim population and the effective enjoyment of rights

INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES



Workshops with 72 members of the **judicial branch** in Quibdó, Montería, and Sincelejo on attention and protection of female victims of sexual violence

DISCOVER VISP ADVANCES ONLINE:

PARTICIPAZ: Online course on victims' rights and the Victims Law:

<http://participaz.org/>

Paths to Memory: multimedia page and toolbox:

<http://bit.ly/1lyTCpi>



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