



June 2014



IOM Colombia

Migration and Childhood



## INFOSHEET: Observatory of CIPRUNA's Technical Secretariat

Since 2001, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has been implementing its **Disengaged Child Soldiers and Youth at Risk of Recruitment Program (CHS)** to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Government of Colombia to assist child and adolescent victims of recruitment by illegal armed groups, through the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), and to prevent their recruitment in the context of the armed conflict, through the Inter-sectoral Commission on the Prevention of Recruitment, Use and Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents (CIPRUNA). As part of these efforts, CHS has supported the creation and strengthening of the **Observatory of CIPRUNA's Technical Secretariat**.

The recruitment and use of children and adolescents (CH&A) is a phenomenon that requires continued attention from the government, the family and society, who all share co-responsibility for comprehensive protection of CH&A. The most important government effort to prevent these rights violations is represented by the Inter-Sectoral Commission for the Prevention of Recruitment, Use and Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents by Illegal Armed Groups and Organized Criminal Groups (**CIPRUNA**).

Created in 2007 (Decree 4690), CIPRUNA is composed of 23 agencies and a **Technical Secretariat** coordinates and guides national prevention efforts. Since March 2012, through Decree 0552, the Technical Secretariat role has been filled by the Presidential Program for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (HRIHL). The **Observatory** of CIPRUNA's Technical Secretariat works together in synergy with the Observatory of the Presidential Program for HRIHL.

The goal is to achieve commitment to the comprehensive protection of the rights of CH&A, to increase the visibility of recruitment, use and sexual violence, and to promote local-level implementation of policies and actions. This requires coordinated efforts by government agencies, academia, civil society, international cooperation agencies and other actors.

### OBJECTIVE

The aim of the Observatory is to **influence decision-making** by national agencies on policies and programs to prevent recruitment, use and sexual violence against children and adolescents by illegal armed groups and organized criminal groups, at national and local levels.

This is achieved by **monitoring** and analyzing associated risk factors and effective government actions carried out to address those factors, in the context of the current national recruitment prevention policy (CONPES 3673 of 2010). The Observatory produces and shares **information and analyses**, promotes **institutional coordination** and provides space for **reflection** and discussion.

### CONTEXT

The national recruitment prevention policy (**CONPES 3673 of 2010**) is aimed at strengthening local capacities to guarantee rights, promote comprehensive protection and respond to concrete threats. The policy identifies **three prevention routes**: (1) Early Prevention to minimize or address risk factors, (2) Urgent Prevention to respond to collective threats by strengthening protective environments, and (3) Protective Prevention to respond to specific, individual threats by establishing immediate response teams.

### INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Significant prevention activities have been carried out among vulnerable communities and efforts have been made to strengthen institutional capacities. However, ongoing support is still required from international cooperation agencies. Currently, technical and financial assistance is provided by **USAID**, **IOM**, **UNICEF** and **GIZ** (the German Society for International Cooperation). The aim is to build capacity and consolidate the work of the Observatory and to promote sustainable and continuous monitoring through the application of strategies, tools and methodologies.



## ACTIVITIES + RESULTS

### Objective:

To influence decision-making by national agencies on policies and programs to prevent recruitment, use and sexual violence against children and adolescents by illegal armed groups and organized criminal groups, at national and local levels.



### This objective is achieved by:



Monitoring dynamics and factors of the armed conflict in Colombia, with an emphasis on recruitment, use and sexual violence against children and adolescents.



This includes the application of monitoring strategies, tools and methodologies to analyze dynamics and identify risk and protective factors.



### Using the information gathered, the Observatory then:



Produces quantitative, qualitative, and geographic information, compiled in analytical bulletins and other publications.



Holds forums and other events to share information and documents produced by the Observatory among relevant institutions.



Promotes institutional coordination for the exchange of information, methodologies and analyses that can support those institutions in the development of prevention policies.



Provides spaces for reflection and discussion among key actors, including representatives of the CIPRUNA agencies, other government agencies, civil society organizations and international cooperation agencies.

## OUTCOMES

The work of the Observatory of CIPRUNA's Technical Secretariat helps to:

Increase understanding of risk and protective factors

Strengthen decision-making and policy development

Support implementation of prevention plans and programs in high-risk areas

Share effective strategies, and effective actions taken

Promote coordination among and within institutions



## KEY RESULTS in 2013-2014

### POLICY EVALUATION

The national policy for recruitment prevention, **CONPES 3673** of 2010, established a series of actions aimed at guaranteeing the effective enjoyment of rights, strengthening protective environments, and reducing risks factors for recruitment and use of children and adolescents.

Now nearing the end of the planned implementation period (end of 2014), the Observatory assessed the progress made in the implementation of the policy to facilitate development of a new policy for 2015. This includes monitoring inter-institutional coordination and **evaluating** the implementation of the planned activities by CIPRUNA's partner institutions.

The results, including lessons learned and challenges faced, are included in the **2nd and 3rd bulletins** produced by the Observatory. These bulletins include a map of the municipal concentration of prevention strategies, programs, projects and activities, also shared during the Meeting of Mayors in Palmira in March 2014. A map was also created of the inter-institutional network formed during 2013 in the context of implementation of CONPES 3673 (see below).

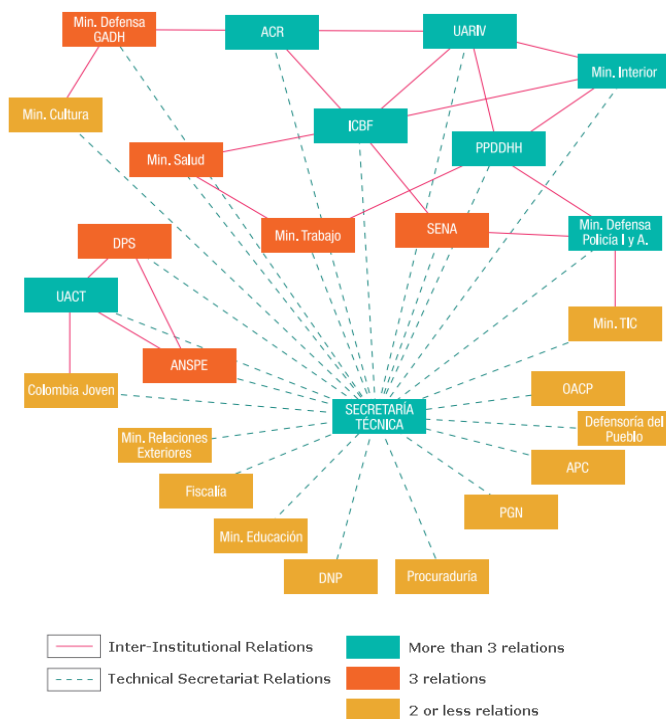
### BULLETINS

**1st Bulletin** — This first bulletin looks at the “Construction of inter-institutional local-level action for the prevention of recruitment and use of children and adolescents: **Experiences in Cumaribo.**” Using a specific experience, the bulletin shows how inter-institutional synergy can help generate tools to mitigate risks and create protective environments.

In November 2013, a **forum** was held to disseminate and share the bulletin. The aim was to generate a space for discussion and analysis of risk factors, and to share and gather perceptions on the methodology developed by CIPRUNA, to help improve the implementation of local prevention plans.



Map of Inter-institutional Network — 2013 Implementation of CONPES 3673



**2nd and 3rd Bulletins** — The Observatory published a **two bulletin series** to examine the “**Opportunities, challenges and difficulties for public policies** for the prevention of recruitment, use and sexual violence against children and adolescents by illegal and criminal groups.” The first bulletin looks at lessons learned and the second one covers challenges and difficulties. A total of 300 copies were printed of each bulletin, to be shared during forums and other events.

This includes a **forum** held in May 2014, with the aim of promoting reflection and discussion on the progress made in carrying out activities planned under CONPES 3673, to look at the current situation, and to share lessons learned in order to facilitate the development of a new policy. Participants also shared their perspectives on how to modify and improve monitoring tools. Proposals for improving monitoring tools included: (1) Using a more regional approach, (2) Achieving greater qualitative depth, (3) Sharing methodologies and experiences, and (4) Carrying out characterizations of children and adolescents.

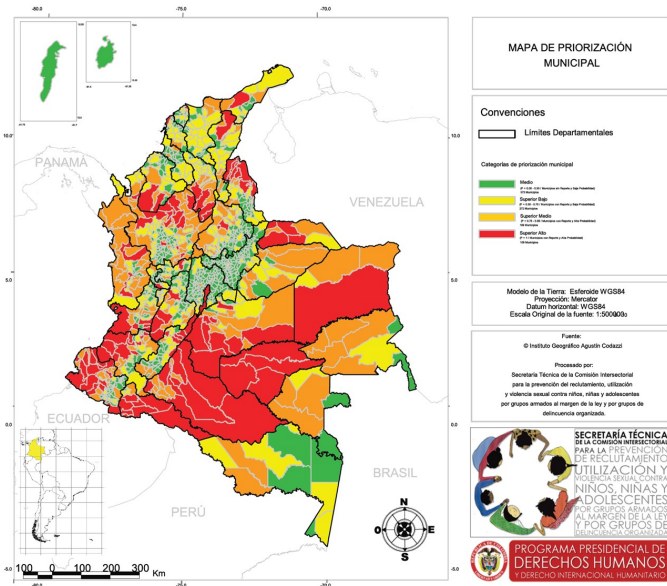




## KEY RESULTS in 2013-2014 (cont.)

### RISK FACTORS

The Observatory assessed risk factors and tracked cases of threats or occurrence of rights violations. Criteria were created for targeting high-risk areas, based on an assessment of trends using information gathered from monitoring activities. Risk factors associated with sexual violence in the armed conflict were defined and measured.



### PRIORITIZATION OF HIGH-RISK AREAS

As part of the **2014 municipal prioritization exercise**, maps were created for each of the 32 Colombian territorial units (“departments”). A statistical probability model composed of 118 variables was developed and applied. The model, map and final list of municipalities were presented to CIPRUNA technical staff in December 2013. The data gathered for the exercise, including variables for identifying risks associated with recruitment, was also used as an input for the production of other analytical documents. This will help CIPRUNA member institutions to focus their recruitment prevention efforts on high-risk municipalities.

### TRAINING AND ADVICE

The Observatory, with the support of USAID and IOM, also participated in and/or developed **training processes** and provided advice to authorities and institutions, including :

- Workshops held to advise local authorities on the formation of immediate response teams.
- Workshops held on the coordination and availability of institutional services.
- Workshops held to disseminate, share and encourage appropriation of prevention plans in Valle de Cauca, Boyacá, Cauca, Quindío, Bogotá and Meta.
- Meeting held between technical planning staff and technical mission staff from 15 institutions that made commitments under the CONPES 3673 Action Plan.
- Workshop for the regional advisors of CIPRUNA's Technical Secretariat, to share experiences gained from work carried out at the local level, lessons learned, and the difficulties and challenges faced.



For further information:

**Juan Manuel Luna, Program Coordinator**

[jluna@iom.int](mailto:jluna@iom.int)