



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.

On November 11, the participation mandate for Indigenous peoples in Chocó was presented in Quibdó with about 110 people and cultural acts, including traditional dances like the one seen above.

WHAT WAS DONE THIS MONTH?

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND INNOVATION

HARNESSING DATA TO REPAIR VICTIMS

- To guarantee up-to-date information on victims' for assistance, attention, and reparations, VISP supported the Victims Unit and the National Information Network to develop information systems, strategies, applications and tools, including: (1) the Network's website and an app to consult regional and national information on victims, (2) a single information system unifying numerous existing databases, and (3) a geographic system that produces maps on victims' locations, among others.
- These tools bring together previously disperse information on victims for the first time in Colombia, and ensure that the 52 institutions that are part of the National Victims Assistance and Reparation System can access accurate information on victims in timely and efficient manner.
- Currently over 1,245 national and regional entities and 4,900 users access these systems and share information.
- On November 4, an event was held in Bogotá with over 175 participants to present the tools produced with VISP support, including a tour of different stands showcasing each of the tools.

REHABILITATION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

PSYCHOSOCIAL GUIDELINES FOR WOMEN AT RISK

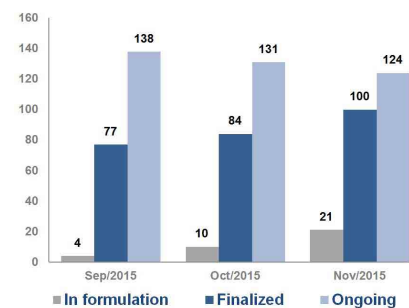
- VISP, the Victims Unit, and the women's organization Sisma Mujer completed the process to design Guidelines for Psychosocial Attention to Women in Situations of Risk.
- On November 9, a final document was presented to GOC institutions in Bogotá with tools and guidelines for public servants to offer a differential and dignified psychosocial attention to women who are in situations of risk (lives threatened, under protection measures, and others).
- See Discover VISP advances.

ACCOMPANIMENT PROVIDED TO BOJAYÁ COMMUNITY TO PREPARE FOR PARDON ENCOUNTER WITH FARC

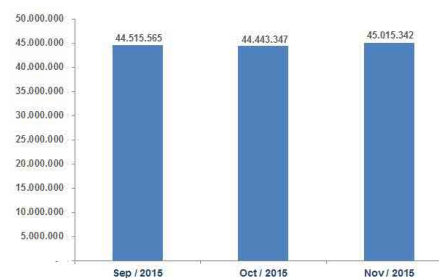
- On December 2014, during peace negotiations with the GOC in Havana, FARC declared the desire to travel to Bojayá to publicly ask for forgiveness for an attack on May 2, 2002 that killed 79 community members seeking refuge from FARC and paramilitary forces in a church.
- Given the act's potentially re-victimizing nature, it was crucial that the community receive psychosocial accompaniment. Since March, USAID supported the Victims Unit and the community organization May 2 Committee ("Comité 2 de Mayo") in Bojayá to prepare 32 Indigenous and 16 Afro Colombian communities for the encounter, recognizing responsibilities, creating participation strategies, and psychosocially preparing for the act itself. Since March, VISP traveled to Bojayá to meet with community members, understand their wishes and demands for the encounter, and provide ongoing psychosocial support.
- On December 6, FARC met with the community and expressed deep regret and pain for the suffering caused. The act included a theater presentation on the May 2 events, remarks by the witness commission formed by institutions accompanying the process, and interventions by FARC members, community and international cooperation representatives.

VISP STATISTICS

PROJECTS BY STATUS



VALUE OF DESIGNED PROJECTS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

OPTIMIZING ATTENTION RENOVATED ATTENTION POINTS

- VISP intervened in the Municipal Ombudsman's Office and the Attention Point in El Carmen de Bolívar to dignify the quality of victims' attention, assistance, and reparation services.
- Previously, these two spaces did not ensure victims' privacy, comfort, and dignity; victims often had to wait up to ten hours standing or on the floor; furthermore, these spaces did not have the equipment needed by public servants to carry out their labors (including computers, ventilation, and illumination).
- VISP renovated physical infrastructure, provided computer and office equipment, and built private attention cubicles, dignified reception and waiting spaces, and play areas for children to ensure institutions' ability to efficiently repair victims without re-victimizing them.

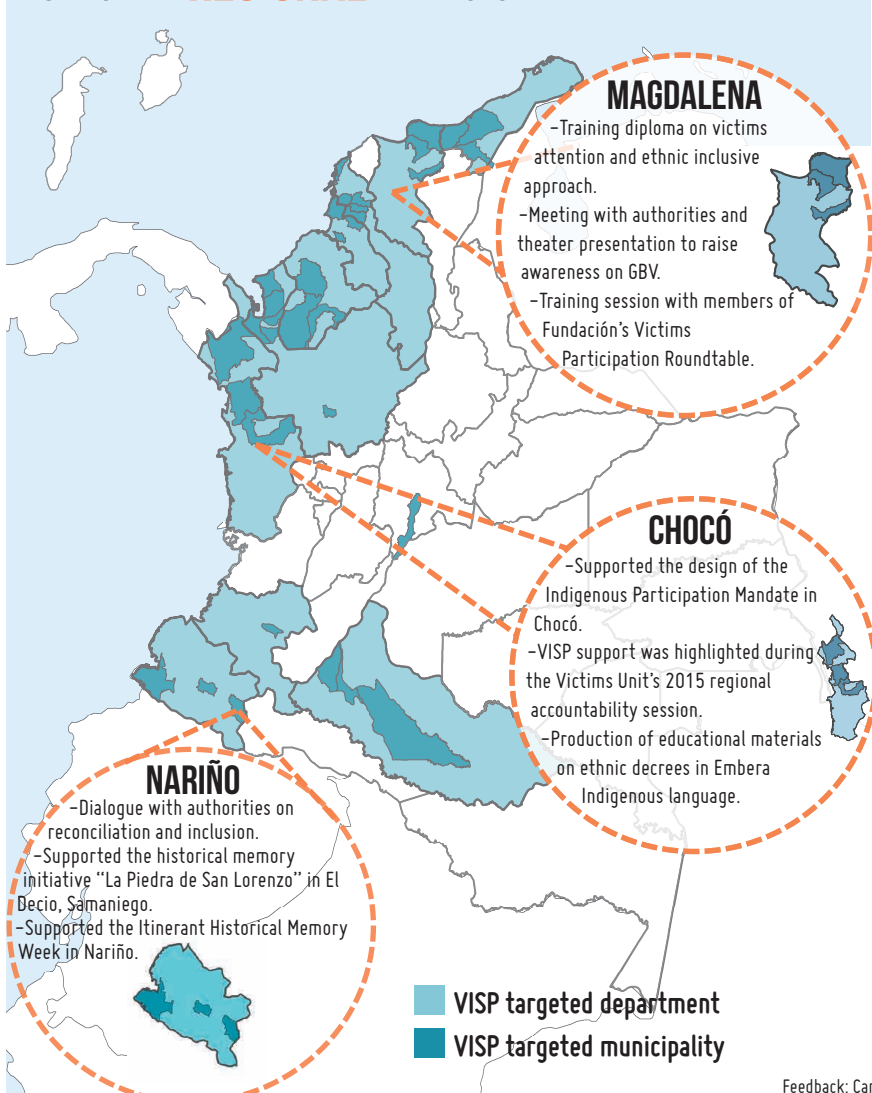
SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ART TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- A theater presentation in Bogotá, with Colombian actress and activist against GBV Alejandra Borrero, commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and completed a social mobilization strategy through theatre. This was a joint initiative by the Council for Women's Equality, Casa Ensemble, and VISP to raise awareness and establish local institutional commitments against GBV.
- 3,500 public servants, members of the Armed forces, victims, and community members participated in this strategy in 10 departments.
- VISP supported activities in Cartagena del Chairá, Montañita and Florencia (Caquetá), and in Carmen de Bolívar and San Jacinto (Bolívar) within the 16 days social mobilization against GBV, and is supporting the Laws of Silence, a documentary project which seeks to increase the visibility of sexual violence suffered by women and girls in zones affected by the internal armed conflict. To know more about this project visit www.thelawsofsilence.org.

BUILDING HISTORICAL MEMORY IN THE REGIONS MEMORY MUSEUM IN CAQUETÁ: "A SPACE TO NEVER FORGET"

- On November 28, concluded the technical support provided by the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH) and VISP to the Caquetá Museum for historical memory in Florencia.
- This museum aims to support processes to recover historical memory, present victims' voices and stories, and contribute to non-repetition.
- See Discover VISP advances.

HIGHLIGHTED REGIONAL ADVANCES



HIGHLIGHTED INSTITUTIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL ADVANCES

INSTITUCIONAL CAPACITIES



Supported the Victims Unit and the National Information Network to develop information **systems, strategies, applications and tools to guarantee up-to-date information on victims.**

Supported the production of "The Hidden Treasure: a Journey to Memory," that provides a methodological route to develop memory with children and adolescents using play-driven and artistic activities

INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES



Risk education, community support for humanitarian demining, logistics, and monitoring assistance for the **demining process in Orejón** (Briceño, Antioquia).

Supported **dialogues with newly elected administrations** that will enter office in January.

Training of trainers with 25 national civil servants and 53 regional civil servants from the Victims Unit on methodologies developed by VISP to implement the **Collective Reparation Route**, and the measures included in **Collective Reparation Plans.**

DISCOVER VISP ADVANCES ONLINE:

Guidelines for Psychosocial Attention to Women in Situations of Risk: <http://bit.ly/10ywaJ1> (video)

Caquetá Museum website: www.caquetamemoriapaz.org

"The Hidden Treasure: a Journey to Memory": <http://bit.ly/1Q3EFSb>

"The flavors taken by war" (Los sabores que la Guerra se llevó): <http://bit.ly/1Qv150U> (video)

