



Tocó Cantar ("We had to sing"), a 45-song musical compilation recorded by victims of the armed conflict, was released by the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH) in October. Above, Eabida, a musical group from Quibdó, Chocó that participated in the process. Photo CNMH.

### 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.

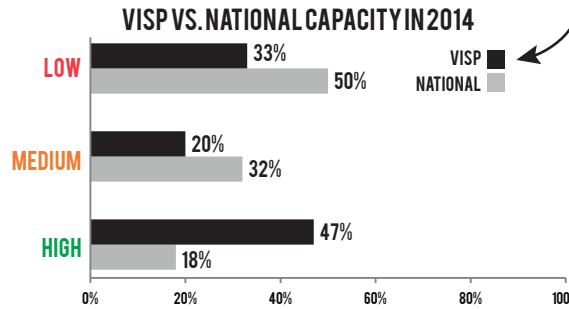
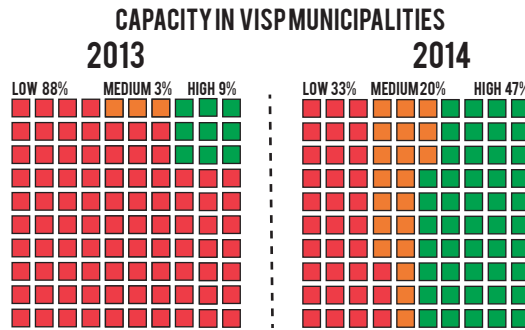
## WHAT WAS DONE THIS MONTH?

### MONITORING REGIONAL ADVANCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VICTIMS LAW INDICES SHOW VISP MUNICIPALITIES EXCEL NATIONALLY

#### REGIONAL CAPACITY INDEX

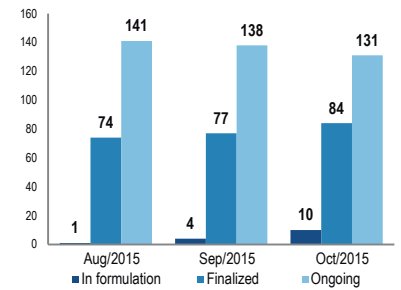
Measures regional entities' institutional capacity to implement the Victims Law. Entities are given a ranking of low, medium, or high capacity.

- Between 2013 and 2014 capacity increased in VISP municipalities, according to components including administrative and budgetary capacity, as well as budgetary availability and regional performance.
- In 2014, VISP targeted municipalities had greater capacity to implement the Law, compared to the national level.
- This is particularly telling given the high pressure of the victim population of VISP municipalities (in short, if there are many victims, more demands will be placed on institutionality).

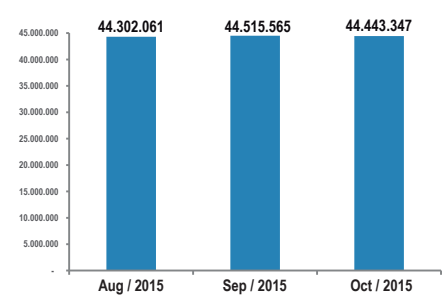


## VISP STATISTICS

### PROJECTS BY STATUS



### VALUE OF DESIGNED PROJECTS

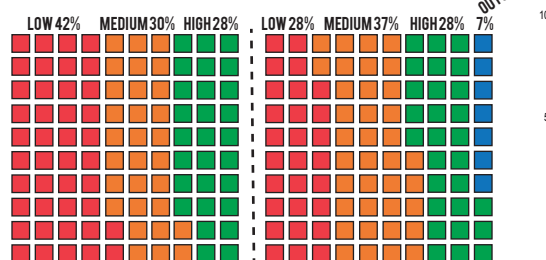


## REGIONAL CERTIFICATION

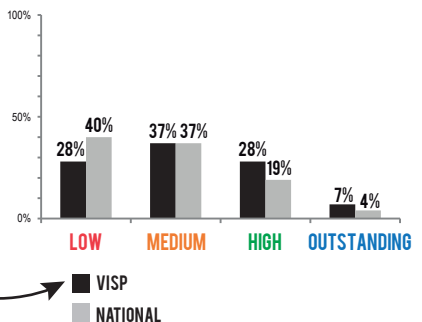
Measures SNARIV institutions' contributions to victims' rights.

- Between 2013 and 2014, the certifications of VISP municipalities and departments improved.
- In 2014, VISP regions outperformed all regions at the national level, contributing more to guarantee victims' rights (more VISP regions were ranked high and outstanding than nationally).
- 47% of VISP municipalities and departments improved their contributions to victims' rights between 2013 and 2014, compared to 33% nationally.

### CERTIFICATION IN VISP REGIONS



### VISP VS. NATIONAL CERTIFICATION 2014



Source: Regional Capacity Index, Victims Unit and Ministry of the Interior, 2015. Regional Certification, Victims Unit, November 2015.

\*2013 criteria measured local-central coordination, participation, information systems, and returns and relocations, while in 2014 criteria were expanded to also include: investment in victims, collective reparation, land restitution, prevention, assistance, attention, and ethnic affairs, and the Outstanding certification was added.

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

## HISTORICAL MEMORY TOCÓ CANTAR - "WE HAD TO SING"

- VISP supported the CNMH to produce the musical compilation "We had to sing: A musical journey against forgetting" ("Tocó cantar: Travesía contra el olvido"). The compilation is the result of the 2014 call for artists that awarded 45 lyrics composed by victims.
- In 2015, the project's production team travelled around the country to record the songs and produce a web series on the process. On October 8, the disc and documentary were officially presented in Bogotá with over 300 people in attendance and live presentations by the artists. On October 18, a concert was held in Tumaco, an Afro-Colombian town located on the Pacific Coast strongly affected by the conflict. See Discover VISP Advances below for links to the songs and the web series about the process.

## GRAPHIC NOVELS EXPLORE LAND STRUGGLES ON THE CARIBBEAN COAST

- The CNMH published "Campesino Dignity and the Agrarian Problem in Colombia," a set of two graphic novels on struggles for organization, land ownership, and displacement on the Caribbean Coast since the 1970s; one of the novels was recently completed with VISP support and the other, originally published in 1985, was reprinted for further distribution. See Discover VISP advances below for links to the two publications.

## HISTORICAL MEMORY TOOLBOX FOR TEACHERS

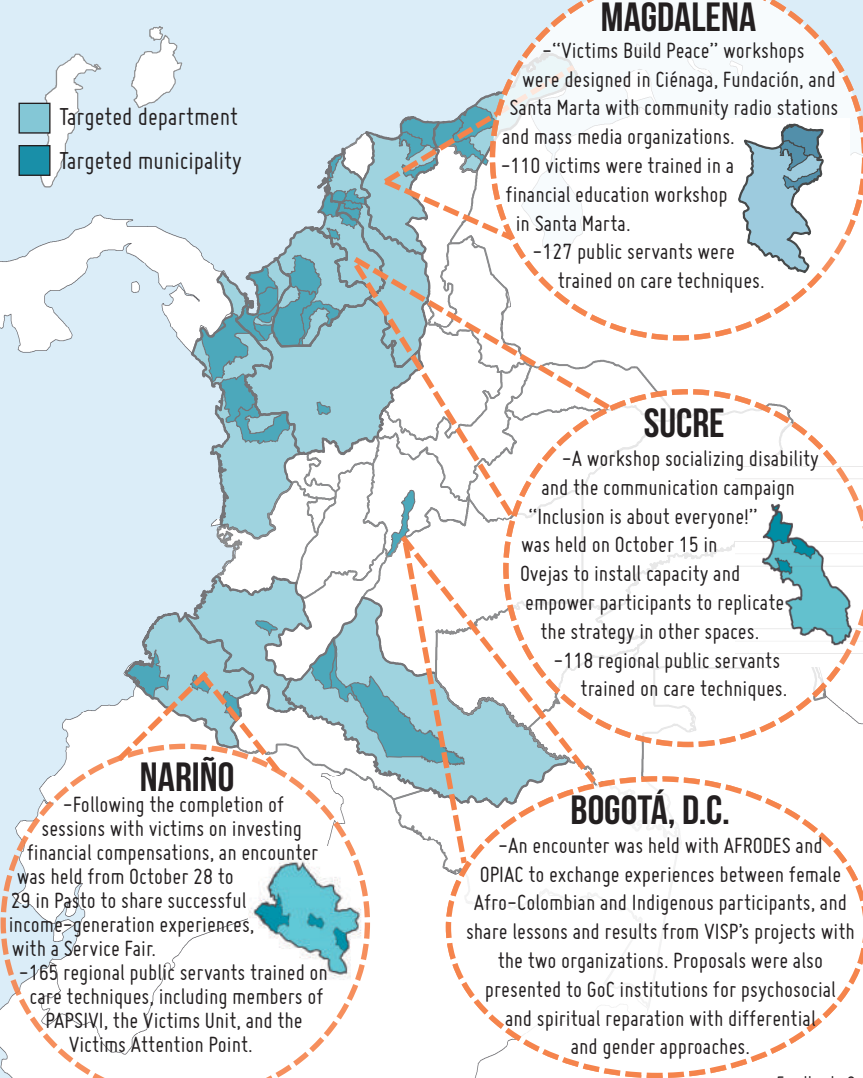
- VISP supported the CNMH to produce the "Keys to Navigate through Historical Memory" toolbox, which aims to foster the reconstruction of memory in educational spaces, promoting discussion and reflection on Colombia's conflict in the classroom and contributing to a culture of peace.
- The toolbox is the result of a validation process with teachers from around the country and will be presented in workshops at the regional-level.
- It is expected that in 2016, through an alliance between the CNMH and the Ministry of Education, the toolbox will be included in educational human rights programs throughout Colombia's education system.

## CLEARING LANDMINES

### SUPPORT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN DEMINING PILOT IN OREJÓN, ANTIOQUIA

- After six months, the demining pilot in Orejón in the framework of the GoC - FARC demining agreement is being completed. Norwegian People's Aid, the Direction for Comprehensive Action Against Landmines (DAICMA in Spanish), and the GoC Demining Battalion (BIDE in Spanish) also participated, with BIDE's 42 deminers clearing about 17,400 yd<sup>2</sup> (more than the 14,350 yd<sup>2</sup> originally planned) and deactivating 33 improvised explosive devices. It is expected that the demining pilot in Orejón will be formally handed over to the community on December 15.
- VISP supported the pilot by providing risk education, community support for humanitarian demining, logistics, and monitoring assistance. 134 residents of Orejón and neighboring communities were trained on risk management, reducing the risk of accidents and fostering information to identify locations where artifacts could be planted. VISP also plans to provide community psychosocial support and assistance to victims.

## HIGHLIGHTED REGIONAL ADVANCES



## HIGHLIGHTED INSTITUTIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL ADVANCES

### INSTITUCIONAL CAPACITIES



In El Carmen de Bolívar, the **Victims Attention Point and the Municipal Ombudsman's Office were optimized**; VISP renovated infrastructure, provided computers and office equipment, and build private attention spaces, waiting areas, and play areas for children.

Local institutions in 10 departments participated in bilateral encounters to identify routes to **strengthen victims' access to psychosocial rehabilitation**.

### INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES



About **900 public servants in 10 departments** from the Victims Unit, the Victims Psychosocial and Comprehensive Health Program (PAPSIVI), the Public Ministry, the Ombudsman's Office, the CNMH, Attention Points, and others were trained on self-care, psychosocial skills, and technical guidance to pairs.

The **social mobilization strategy against GBV** with the Presidential Council for Women's Equality, Casa Ensamble, and activist/actress Alejandra Borrero, was presented in Florencia, Medellín, Apartadó, and Pasto with victims, public servants, and the military.

## DISCOVER VISP ADVANCES ONLINE:

Tocó Cantar ("We had to sing") musical compilation by victims  
 Songs: <http://bit.ly/1Zlr77s>  
 Videos: <http://bit.ly/1LlqNcR>  
 Campesino dignity and the Agrarian Problem in Colombia  
<http://bit.ly/1P1ohj5>

