



OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones
IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones
MISIÓN COLOMBIA

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OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

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**International Organization for Migration
Mission in Colombia**

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Acronyms

AICO	Indigenous Authorities of Colombia	PPP	Public Private Partnership
ALDHU	Latin American Human Rights Association	PRVC	Programme for Reintegration into Civilian Life
CHF	International - Cooperative Housing Foundation International	RSS	Social Solidarity Network
CINEP	Popular Education and Research Centre	SENA	National Learning Service
CODHES	Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
CORPINDES	Individual and Family Foundation	SINTRASEDOM	Colombian Domestic Workers' Labour Organization
CRO	Referral and Opportunities Centre	SNAIPD	National System for Comprehensive Assistance to Populations Displaced by Violence
CTC	Confederation of Workers of Colombia	UAO	Assistance and Orientation Unit for Displaced Populations
DABS	Administrative Department for Social Welfare	UDENOR	The Government of Ecuador's Northern Boarder Development Unit
DANE	National Administrative Department of Statistics	UMATA	Municipal Technical Assistance Unit
DAS	Administrative Department of Security	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
FOMIPYME	Colombian Fund for the Modernization and Technological Development of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ICBF	Colombian Family Welfare Institute	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
ILO/IPEC	International Labour Organisation/Programme for the Eradication of Child Labour	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IMSMA	Information Management System for Landmine Action	UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
INCODER	Colombian Institute for Rural Development	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ODCCP	Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention	WFP	World Food Programme
ONIC	National Indigenous Organization of Colombia	WHO/PAHO	World Health Organization / Pan American Health Organization
OPIAC	Organization for Indigenous People of the Colombian Amazon		

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IOM supports nationals residing in third countries during the elections

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to:

- *Assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration management*
- *Advance understanding of migration issues*
- *Encourage social and economic development through migration, and*
- *Uphold the human dignity and wellbeing of migrants*



IOM in Indonesia



IOM in Sudan



IOM in Afghanistan

IOM around the World

Since its creation in 1951 the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has worked with migrants and governments to provide humane responses to migration challenges.

IOM, whose headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland, acts as an International and Inter-Governmental Organization with 112 member states and 23 observers (See box).

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration IOM, works with its partners of the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

IOM's main actions are carried out through programmes that are

focused on six main services areas:

- Assisted voluntary returns
- Counter-Trafficking
- Migration and Health Services
- Movement of persons
- Mass Information
- Technical Cooperation on Migration

IOM has worked in a number of developing countries and conflict areas such as Mozambique, Angola, Rwanda, Chechnya, Bosnia, Kosovo, Timor and Afghanistan providing direct assistance to migrants. In Latin America, IOM provided support to the demobilization processes in Guatemala, Haiti and El Salvador and aided the victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, among other things. Since its foundation IOM has directly assisted more than 12 million people worldwide.

IOM Member States (112)

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Chile
- Colombia
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iran, Islamic Republic of
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Liberia
- Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Malta
- Mauritania
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger (the Republic of)
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Republic of Korea
- Rep. de Moldova
- Romania
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Serbia and Montenegro
- Sierra Leona
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United Republic of Tanzania
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Observer States (23)

- Belarus
- Bhutan
- Burundi
- China
- Cuba
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guyana
- Holy See
- India
- Indonesia
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Papua New Guinea
- Russian Federation
- San Marino
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Somalia
- Spain
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Turkmenistan
- Vietnam

IOM's Role in Colombia

IOM started operating in Colombia in 1956 to respond to the migratory challenges that emerged in a very complex context. IOM has permanently updated its functions and activities in order to respond to the country's social dynamics.

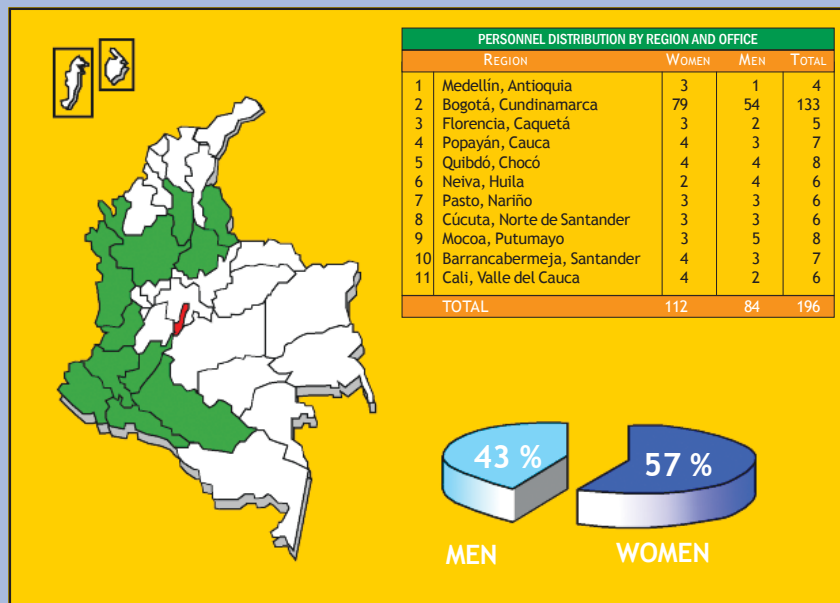
In accordance with its humanitarian mandate, IOM provides assistance to the Government of Colombia and to civil society by facilitating orderly migration and upholding human dignity and the wellbeing of the victims. In this context IOM has developed comprehensive programmes in the country in agreement with its Constitution, updated and approved in 1987, in Brussels, and ratified by the Congress of Colombia through Law 50 of 1988.

Recently IOM has extended and increased its activities in the country, especially those associated with the priorities identified by the Government of Colombia and civil society such as the assistance to internally displaced and vulnerable populations.

- In addition to its headquarters in Bogotá, IOM has offices in 10 departments -- Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Chocó, Huila, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Santander, Putumayo and Valle del Cauca -- and it maintains a presence, through its projects, in many other municipalities countrywide.
- Through its Programmes, IOM provides: assistance to vulnerable populations affected by Colombia's internal violence generated by the conflict with the illegal armed groups; technical assistance and cooperation on issues associated with the country's migratory problem; and aid to victims of trafficking in persons and other vulnerable populations.
- Although IOM is not part of the United Nations System in Colombia it participates in the Inter-Agency Coordination Country Team as a full member and it has an active role in diverse Topic Groups.

IOM also coordinates on specific issues with agencies of the System such as WHO/PAHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UNAIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNODC (on Human Trafficking issues), the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC).





The Organization also coordinates activities with different state institutions such as: the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Justice, Social Protection and Education; the Office of the First Lady of the Nation; the Administrative Department of Security (DAS); the Colombian Family Welfare Institute; the Social Solidarity Network (RSS); the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office; the National Planning Department; the National Learning Service (SENA); the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE); the Office of the Attorney General; the Office of the Public Prosecutor; the High Commissioner for Peace; the governors of the departments; and the mayor's offices.

IOM is also recognized for its continuous work with NGOs such as the Latin American Human Rights Association (ALDHU), the Colombian Confederation of NGOs, the Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement (CODHES), the Popular Education and Research Centre (CINEP), Home for Migrants (Casa del Migrante), and foundations such as Carvajal, Pies Descalzados, Volvamos a la Gente and Esperanza. IOM also works with church

authorities such as the Episcopal Conference and the Social Pastoral.

IOM also has close relationships with indigenous and Afro-Colombian community organizations such as Regional Embera and Waunan Organization (OREWA), Atrato Comprehensive Peasant Association (ACIA) and the North Cauca Association of Indigenous Councils (ACIN).

Furthermore, IOM has attended to the regional problems on the borders caused by Colombia's current migratory situation by carrying out a community strengthening programme in Ecuador's northern boundary and by organizing joint actions with the IOM offices in the Dominican Republic and the United States to counter trafficking in persons.

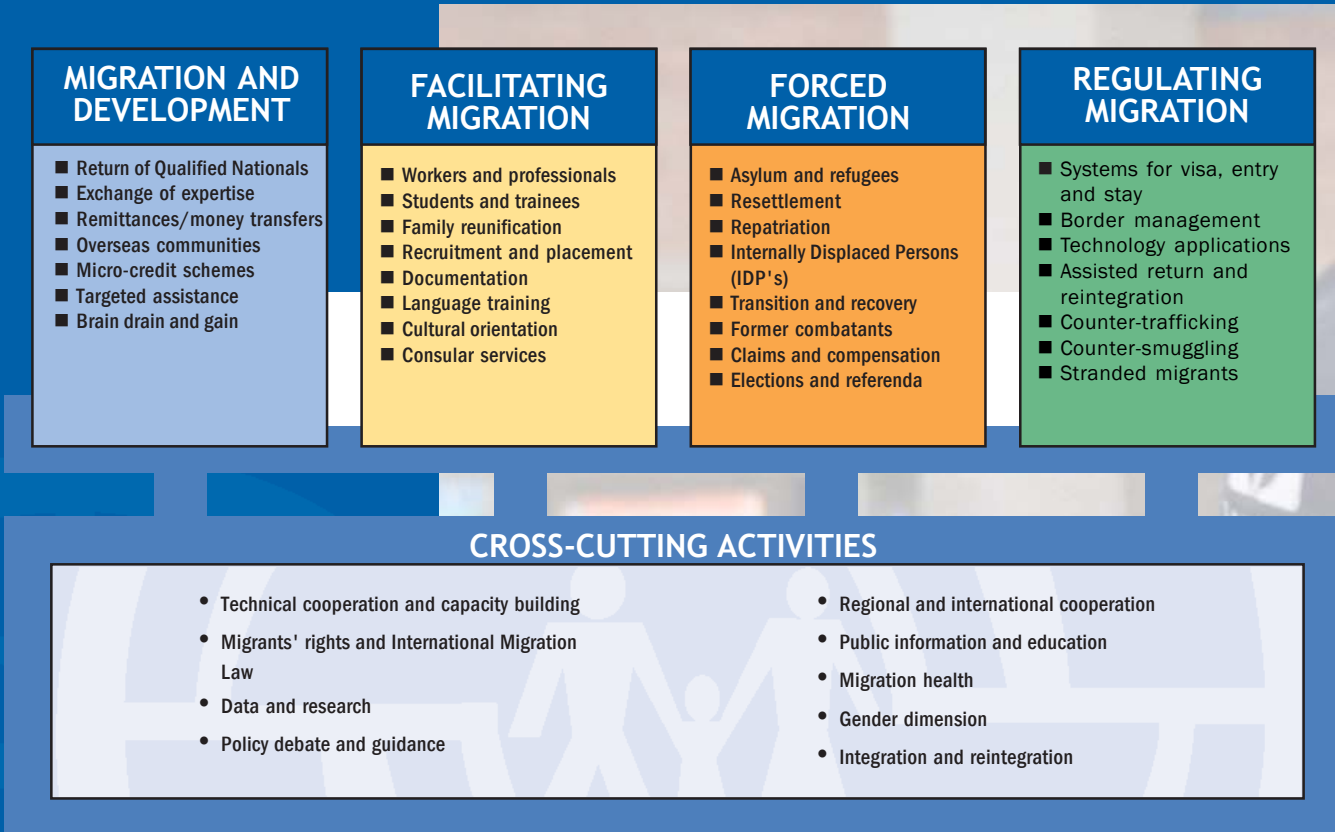
As part of its other regional activities the Organization has worked together with the governments of Colombia and Panama to assist on the voluntary return of Colombian IDPs, and provides assistance to implement the work plan of the South American Conference on Migration, among other initiatives.

Funding

The programmes that IOM carries out in Colombia are funded with resources from the governments of Colombia, the Netherlands, Italy, Norway, the United States, Greece and Canada. It also receives funding from international NGOs, the World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and from its member states.

With the support of the people of the United States, through the Agency for International Development (USAID), IOM is able to perform significant activities in the framework of the assistance to internally displaced populations, to ex-combatant children and to other vulnerable populations.

IOM thanks the governments and institutions that trusted the Organization, thus contributing to provide support to Colombia. IOM especially thanks the Government of Colombia for its permanent support in the Organization's duties.



Areas of Work in Migration Management

In order to facilitate migration management in the world, IOM has designed a work diagram that illustrates the scope and complexity of migration and defines four main management areas as follows: Migration and Development, Facilitating Migration, Regulating Migration and Forced Migration.

Migration and Development

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary return of qualified nationals Exchange of expertise Remittances/Money transfers Overseas communities Micro-credit schemes Targeted assistance Brain drain and gain

Migration and development is an area of increasing interest. When international migration is appropriately managed it has a tremendous development potential.

Remittances have become a significant source of foreign income in developing countries and, in Latin America, exceed official assistance for development.



According to the World Bank (Global Development Finance 2004), in 2003 migrants around the world sent remittances for almost 100 billion dollars, thus helping the economies of many of the recipient countries.

The total remittances figure may even be two or three times higher since a large number of transactions take place through informal channels. Thus, migration may contribute to reduce poverty at a local and national level and to reduce economic vulnerability.

In order to obtain benefits from remittances, such as skills transfers and investment opportunities it is necessary to create and maintain linkages between the migrants and their countries of origin and to take advantage of their potential by encouraging them to contribute to the development of their communities with human and financial capital.

Thanks to the progress of communication technology and reduced travel costs, globalization has made it possible for migrants to draw closer and be in permanent contact with their countries of origin and also to maintain long lasting relations with diasporas.

Understanding migration as a form of development helps to achieve better results.

Migration policies have to do with migration and development linkages, which also facilitate voluntary return and temporary or permanent reintegration, especially of highly qualified migrants.

Other policies that need to be developed are associated with the transfer of remittances, transfer costs and investment in the country of origin by diasporas and the migrants who return.

International migration has the potential to contribute to sustainable development through remittances, investment, transfer of knowledge and skills and the diasporas. Thus, IOM is committed to promote dialogue with the governments and the international community in order to contribute to in the design of international policies.

Therefore, the activities that the Organization carries out at an international level are aimed at forming human capital through labour migration programmes and at supporting the voluntary return and reintegration of qualified nationals.

Strengthening the institutions and the capabilities of the governments and empowering migrant women are also part of the Organisation's agenda.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN COLOMBIA

- Exchange of expertise
- Remittances/money transfers
- Micro-credit schemes
- Public - private partnerships

In Colombia IOM, in cooperation with government organizations and the private sector, carries out technical cooperation on migration programmes aimed at the country's development through migrant communities. Remittances became essential in this field together with the development of policies and studies that promote their use in developing productive projects. Likewise, the work in this area facilitates the families, especially the children of migrants, also known as the "sons and daughters of remittances".

IOM participates in programmes such as the Public-Private Partnerships that seek to benefit vulnerable areas and to develop productive projects that make it possible for these communities to have the option of a dignified life.

The Organization also implements income-generating projects that contribute to the development and reintegration of vulnerable populations that, in one way or another, have been forced to migrate such as internally displaced and returnee populations, ex-combatant children, etc.

Facilitating Migration

FACILITATING MIGRATION

- Workers and professionals
- Students and trainees
- Family reunification
- Recruitment and placement
- Documentation
- Language training
- Cultural orientation
- Consular services



Globalization has generated a quick increase in international mobility. Reduced transportation and communication costs have reduced the distance among people and the desire for a new life has motivated workers to displace to areas where there are greater employment opportunities and better salaries.

In response to the migratory pressures an increasing number of countries are demanding policies to increase and facilitate a regular flow of migrant workers. However, although there is a large supply and demand of migrant workers, regularization of migrant labour is still limited.

While the states and private sector may develop effective mechanisms to address both the need for employment and the labour supply, IOM works towards a quicker and more effective integration of these workers.

Labour migrants, especially those who are non-qualified, and their families

may find themselves placed in vulnerable situations in the country of destination. Therefore, efforts should be made to ensure that their rights are protected.

IOM offers technical advice to the governments on migratory policies and regulations. It also provides assistance to governments and migrants; cultural orientation and language training; consular services; and training, reception and integration for voluntary returnees. Each programme is complemented with services such as intermediate immigration evaluations and travel assistance.

Thus, IOM's programmes and services contribute both to reduce the difficulties encountered during the migration process and to increase the capacity of the migrants to integrate successfully.

IOM also contributes to facilitate implementation of existing immigration programs.

MIGRATION FACILITATED IN COLOMBIA

- Workers and professionals
- Students and trainees
- Family reunification
- Documentation

In Colombia, the Technical Cooperation on Migration Area provides assistance to Colombians who leave to third countries for work, education or family reunification purposes. With the collaboration of other IOM offices worldwide, the Organization facilitates the voluntary return of Colombians who live in third countries.



Forced Migration



FORCED MIGRATION

- Asylum and Refugees
- Resettlement
- Repatriation
- Internally displaced population
- Transition and recovery
- Former combatants
- Claims and compensation
- Elections and referenda

FORCED MIGRATION IN COLOMBIA

- Resettlement
- Internally displaced population
- Transition and recovery
- Former combatants
- Food security

In Colombia, IOM has an active role in the inter-agency work carried out by international organizations, the government and NGOs to provide assistance to internally displaced persons and, at the same time, contributes to strengthen the activities developed by the Social Solidarity Network (RSS), and other government institutions. The Organization implements the Programme to Strengthen Peace in Colombia aimed at supporting transition and recovery. It also provides assistance to government entities such as the ICBF and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman to carry out programmes to strengthen the assistance to minors and prevent them from joining illegal armed groups. IOM provides technical assistance to the Ministry of the Interior and Justice as well, in individual demobilization processes.

The third area of work concentrates on restoring the rights of victims of forced migration and provides assistance to local governments on activities to prevent displacement and measures to protect affected populations. The Organization gives timely humanitarian assistance and contributes to finding long lasting solutions.

This area's target populations are refugee and internally displaced persons. Their situation as victims of persecution, general violence, conflicts and human rights violations makes them especially vulnerable.

Refugees need international protection and require special assistance. Persons who have suffered forced displacement due to violence normally lack protection from their own government within their own jurisdiction.

These people usually need to avail themselves of international protection and aid. The scope and the complexity of forced internal displacement have increased. It is a very intricate problem since it is considered to be an internal situation of the country and, at the same time, it requires the action and concern of the international community.

Another category of forced migration is the assistance to former combatants who have participated in the conflict

and, once the war is over or during peace negotiations, are reintegrated into civilian life. Many of them carry physically and psychologically wounds. Child soldiers in particular lack education, health and other opportunities.

The widows of the war and their families also have special needs. The returnee and repatriation programmes frequently need to be connected to education, training and advice programs.

IOM actively participates in the assistance programmes for refugees, internally displaced persons, former combatants and populations in transition and recovery.

The assistance to former combatants has been carried out through participation in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes in countries such as Mozambique, Serbia and Montenegro (Kosovo), Guatemala, El Salvador and Afghanistan, among others. In all these countries reintegration to civilian life has been a critical process toward attaining peace and stability in the short term.

IOM's approach for a successful reintegration of this population is based on methods to create conditions for demobilization, through income-generating projects, so they may return to their communities.

Regulating Migration

The fourth work area is associated with sovereignty and identity issues. Each country has the right to determine who enters and remains in its territory and under what conditions. Thus, the states must work a balance between the need both to control their borders and to facilitate movement through them.

These government policies are designed to facilitate and control the number and the characteristics of the persons that cross international borders and the conditions under which entry is authorized or denied.

The kinds of authorization may include: Permanent entry, such as family reunification or humanitarian reasons; or temporary entry to visit, study or work for an established period of time. Entry rejection may be based on situations such as criminality, terrorism, public health concerns or the desire to protect the local labour market.

Illegal migration, however, is escalating and technology provides more sophisticated tools to human smuggling and trafficking rings that trick the governments' movement control and monitoring. In addition to this are the tremendous efforts to maintain national security. Recent efforts to counter terrorism have opened the debate about international migration due to the United States security concerns.

Additionally, one of the greatest challenges for the governments in this area is to establish transparency and credibility regarding their ability to administer the flow of illegal migrants. This is equally important for both the migrants and the host country.

Also, due to the multidirectional nature of migration, a large number of migrants spontaneously return to their countries of origin. All this requires migration management to ensure an orderly, sustainable and humane

return of migrants.

IOM is committed to promoting assistance for the voluntary return of migrants. In this context the Organization carries out programmes to facilitate the voluntary return and reintegration of displaced and stranded persons and other migrants keeping in mind the needs and concerns of the local communities. Assisted voluntary returns take into consideration the will and the dignity of the individual.

IOM provides assistance to the governments in the design and implementation of migration policies, legislation and administrative mechanisms. It provides assistance and technical training to border authorities on border administration, visa systems and the use of biometric information.

The Organization also has a wide array of programmes to combat smuggling and trafficking in persons aimed at prevention and aid to the victims.

REGULATING MIGRATION

- Systems for visa, entry and stay
- Border management
- Technology applications
- Assisted return and reintegration
- Counter-trafficking
- Counter-smuggling
- Stranded migrants

REGULATING MIGRATION IN COLOMBIA

- Conferences and forums on migration
- Assisted return and reintegration
- Counter-trafficking

In Colombia IOM provides assistance to the government in the design of migration policies to guarantee the rights of migrants. IOM is working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), the Office of the Attorney General and the National Administrative Department for Statistics (DANE) on studies about entry and departure of Colombians and on designing legislation and assistance programmes for human trafficking, among other activities.



Cross-Cutting Activities

Cross-cutting issues are addressed during the implementation of programmes and projects. This includes activities ranging from technical cooperation and institutional strengthening for several state entities to adapting activities maintaining the respect for fundamental rights.

Information and awareness campaigns and the promotion of migration research and studies are two other

cross-cutting topics that are noteworthy. The studies are aimed at managing migration data and developing instruments to standardize migratory flows and reintegration processes.

Migration health and the gender dimension are also essential issues when providing assistance to migratory populations. This is especially true because the phenomenon of migration has caused the feminization of

migration during the last decade and the overcrowded living conditions of mobile populations make them more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and non-desired pregnancies, in addition to difficult access to social security.

Finally, a very important cross-cutting topic is the integration and reintegration of populations that have been forced to migrate.

Cross-cutting Activities

- Technical cooperation and capacity building
- Migrants' rights and International Migration Law
- Data and research
- Policy debate and guidance
- Regional and international cooperation
- Public information and education
- Migration health
- Gender dimension
- Integration and reintegration

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES in COLOMBIA

- Technical cooperation and capacity building
- Data and research: publications
- Regional and international cooperation on migration
- Public information and education: campaigns
- Migration health: HIV/AIDS
- Gender dimension

In Colombia the problem of forced internal displacement has created awareness of health care issues. Thus, IOM participates in joint activities with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to assist in prevention for this and other vulnerable sectors of the population.

The **gender dimension** and the respect for the fundamental rights of mobile populations are also essential in implementing programmes and projects.

IOM has participated in a number of **awareness campaigns** together with government institutions and the international community to prevent trafficking in persons and child recruitment. At the same time, IOM is committed to the integration of mobile, returnee, displaced and demobilized populations and of ex-combatant children through the creation and de-

velopment of Referral and Orientation Centres that support the government institutions in their efforts to provide reintegration solutions to the victims of forced migration.

IOM is committed to strengthening government institutions and to engaging civil society and the private sector in a number of programmes and projects in order to obtain sustainability and continuity of the initiatives developed in the country.

The Organization tries to find feasible and sustainable solutions to the challenges that vulnerable populations are facing through partnerships with the business sector. These alliances are expected to obtain the participation of the business sector in projects for prevention and economic and social reestablishment/reintegration for victims of trafficking in persons and displace-

ment and for vulnerable or demobilized children and youngsters, returnee migrants and persons with HIV/AIDS.

Thus, IOM offers the business sector alternative models with different levels of involvement for its active participation in promoting peaceful coexistence and reintegration among the Colombian society.

A few of the models are: alliances for employment skills training; scholarships; campaigns; in kind donations; projects associated with productive chains, employment promotion and social housing and infrastructure improvement; and leveraging actions aimed at the creation of a national private sector mechanism to promote social investment opportunities for the economic and social reintegration of vulnerable populations.

Each of the programmes and projects implemented by IOM in Colombia offer a good opportunity to create partnerships with the private sector. Currently, there are more than 100 alliances at work and progress is being made on

several innovative initiatives to establish win-win partnerships for feasible and long lasting engagement of the Colombian private sector.

A few of these initiatives are:

- Partnership with the Leather Production Centre in Cali to train ex-combatant children and youth so they may later on join the labour market;
- "Conexión Colombia", an alliance among several private sector businesses such as CAFAM to involve Colombians living abroad;
- Partnership with several businesses to launch a campaign against human trafficking;
- Partnership with Carcafe and Empresas de Nariño to improve social housing and infrastructure and production technology aimed at populations at a risk of displacement;
- Alliance with "Compartamos con Colombia" to create social investment opportunities for the economic and social reintegration of vulnerable populations.

Areas of Work 2004



The fields of work of IOM in Colombia are distributed into diverse programmes whose main objective is to provide assistance to:

1. Migrants leaving the country or returning and need assistance to reintegrate.
2. Populations that are victims of forced internal displacement.
3. Victims and potential victims of trafficking in persons.
4. Ex-combatant children or at risk of recruitment.
5. Programmes to strengthen peace.

In accordance with the fields of work and the target population groups IOM is carrying out the following programmes:

1. Migrants leaving the country or returning and need assistance to reintegrate

- Technical Cooperation on Migration

2. Populations that are victims of forced internal displacement

- Post-crisis assistance to displaced populations, host communities and other vulnerable groups
- Protection of the property of displaced populations and strengthening the social fabric
- Programme for community strengthening of provinces in northern Ecuador
- Emergency assistance and reintegration for displaced populations
- HIV/AIDS: Programme of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Public-Private Partnerships

3. Victims and potential victims of trafficking in persons

- Prevention, reintegration and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons
- Counter-trafficking through training and inter-state cooperation

4. Child soldiers

- Support programme for ex-combatant children

5. Programmes to strengthen peace

- Programme to strengthen peace in Colombia
- Programme for the reintegration of demobilized youth



Technical Cooperation on Migration

The phenomenon of migration in the world poses new challenges each day. According to IOM's 2003 World Migration Report, approximately 3% of the total population of the world is migrant, or approximately 175 million people.

IOM, in accordance with its mandate and in coordination with migrants, governments and other partners of the interna-

tional community, tries to secure orderly and positive migration processes that may strengthen global development and social, economic and cultural progress through programmes and projects in diverse migratory management areas.

In Colombia IOM includes the country's political, legislative and migratory administration requirements into its technical cooperation activities.



Migration and Development in Colombia



International Migration and Remittances

The media points out that there is a significant number of Colombians - approximately 10% of the population - living abroad and that in the last 10 years this phenomenon has increased considerably. In fact, the same as in the rest of the countries in the region, the increasing number of Colombians living abroad and the remittances to their families have important effects on the country's economy, especially for the relatives that receive these resources.

In 2003, total remittances by Colombian migrants represented 3.9% of the GDP and 22.2% of the country's goods exports (Banco de la República, Reportes del Emisor, N. 61, June 2004, www.banrep.gov.co).

During the Preparatory Technical Consultation Meeting for the IV South American Conference on Migration, held in Asunción, Paraguay in 2003, the Action Plan became the Work Plan. The priority task assigned to IOM was to study and identify actions associated with family remittances.

Establishing the profile of the migrant families and the use given to the money transfers is critical in the process of generating public policies.

Therefore, IOM in coordination with a number of government and economic institutions, scholars, NGOs and international organizations - among which are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DANE, Banco de la Re-

pública, the Association of Money Exchange Agencies (ASOCAMBIARIA), the America-Spain Solidarity and Cooperation Association in Colombia (AESCO), the Coffee Beltway's Public Universities Network (ALMA MATER) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - conducted a study to characterize migrants, their homes of origin, the use given to the remittances and their impact.

The study culminated with a seminar to present the results that were later included in the report of the seminar and in three other studies. The United States and Spain are the main recipients of migrants and from where most money transfers to Colombia are made.

Colombia Nos Une (Colombia Unites Us)

- IOM supports the Colombia Nos Une Programme, an initiative of the Presidency of Colombia implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs aimed at strengthening the ties with the Colombian communities abroad.
- The Colombia Nos Une Programme is aimed at establishing procedures and mechanisms to connect the country with Colombians living abroad by creating exchange networks that are clearly reflected in the topic areas of the Action Plan: trans-territorial economic participation; social protection; trans-national political participation; formal and informal trans-national networks and relations; education; culture; consular and legal affairs; population and demographic tendencies; and a portfolio of projects. These networks are also aimed at promoting economic and social investment in Colombia.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Base Group and the Committee of Scholars, gave priority to the aforementioned issues. During a seminar held in 2003, which was attended by IOM, the topic working roundtables were given guidelines that included general concepts about the issues that would be discussed, the background for each sub-topic and a few questions to initiate the debate that reflected the concerns that were to be solved by each roundtable. By the end of the seminar each roundtable prepared a set of conclusions and recommendations associated with the issues discussed. The Colombian International Migration and Creation of Trans-National Communities Seminar generated feedback and awareness about Colombia's international migration phenomenon during the past decade. The analysis presented by each roundtable was the main input in the creation of the Colombia Nos Une Programme, which has become one of the main topics of Colombia's foreign policy and a presidential goal.
- Colombia Nos Une is also aimed at taking the necessary measures to improve the quality of life of Colombians living abroad and to contribute to their integration into the host societies, without losing their ties with the country. Thus, the programme focuses on generating comprehensive policies that will benefit those communities, mainly by identifying and characterizing them and by connecting them with each other and with Colombia. This involves fostering the association of those communities in order to: strengthen them and have them join efforts; serve as facilitators on issues directed at improving their quality of life in those countries; expedite consular paperwork (passport, military service, civil registration and/or survival certificate); and strengthen the social and legal assistance they are being provided through the Consulates.

Conexión Colombia (Colombia Connection)

- From its beginning in 2003 Conexión Colombia has been a means through which Colombians living in country and abroad can make a contribution to their country. The internet site has become a worldwide example for foreign communities and has connected more than seven million Colombians through the web.
- One of the activities of this programme is drawing Colombian residents abroad closer to the country so that they make donations in money or in kind to contribute to the country's economic and social development.
- IOM, with USAID funding, is one of the strategic partners and promotes of Conexión Colombia together with Colombia Nos Une, Semana Publications, weekly El Espectador, daily El Tiempo, Caracol Radio, Caracol Television, the Compartamos con Colombia (Let's Share with Colombia) Program, DHL, the Social Solidarity Network, Terra, Radio W FM, Visa, Live Events, Avianca Airlines, Leo Burnett Publicity, Money Grant, Yo creo en Colombia (I Believe in Colombia) and Banco de Tiempo.
- The foundations supported by Colombia Connection direct their efforts mainly towards education, nutrition, child protection and assistance to physically disabled soldiers and their families, demobilized soldiers, vulnerable children and youngsters, people affected by natural disasters and displaced population.
- Conexión Colombia has received more than US\$ 700,000 in donations and more than 25,000 Colombians have benefited through it. The funds have been used for school scholarships, food, encounters and psychological treatment for a significant number of boys, girls and youth. Also, a campaign has been carried out to sponsor 480 additional minors who need education.
- Likewise, in kind donations have been received such as medical equipment, new clothes, books, educational material and wheelchairs. In addition, Conexión Colombia, with the funds and in kind donations of Colombians living abroad, contributes to the projects for assistance to internally displaced populations carried out by IOM with USAID funds.
- Conexión Colombia Phase II will begin in 2005. This phase is aimed at strengthening five specific areas to increase the number of donations for the participant non-profit organizations, inform about Conexión Colombia to Colombians living abroad and increase access to the website. In 2005 Conexión Colombia seeks to consolidate as the most effective means to channel donations in kind, in money and in available time directed at vulnerable populations of Colombia.

www.colombianosune.com

www.conexioncolombia.com

Facilitating Migration



Since IOM started operating in Colombia, in 1956, it has provided assistance to coordinate programmes for the movement of people through agreements with a number of governments, organizations and airlines.

Currently, IOM is carrying out projects to support both students who leave the country to complete their education and migrants who travel for the first time to reside in the United States and Canada.

Likewise, IOM supports temporary migration programmes for populations at

risk making sure that their human rights are respected.

Since November 2002 IOM has supported the Labour Migration Agreement between the governments of Spain and Colombia. Within the framework of this agreement IOM provides mobilization services to the beneficiary workers including airfare discounts for the tickets from Colombia to Spain.

Part of the mission of IOM to work jointly with the governments is the Programme for the Return of Qualified Workers from Mexico, Brazil and Cuba.



Beneficiaries of the Technical Cooperation on Migration Projects

PROGRAMMES	TOTAL	BENEFICIARIES
■ Training and institutional strengthening		272
■ Students		10.235
■ Immigration to the United States and Canada		4.138
■ Family reunification and Spanish returnees		663
■ Voluntary return from Europe		117
■ Return of qualified workers from Mexico, Brazil and Cuba		266
■ Workers migrating to Spain		709
TOTAL		16.400

TOTAL

TOTAL

IOM provides a 50% discount, only on the return ticket valid for one year, to individuals who return to the country for good after completing their studies.

In the following table there is detailed information on the number of beneficiaries of the aforementioned programmes from 1999 to December 2004.

Regulating Migration



IOM in Colombia provides support to projects associated with migratory issues such as obtaining and handling migratory information and providing training to officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other related entities to implement common migratory instruments and procedures in order to improve effectiveness and security.

Regarding multilateral issues, IOM promotes initiatives aimed at exchanging and strengthening dialogue between the countries in order to support processes aimed at finding solutions and promoting concrete actions that facilitate migration management.

This is achieved by analyzing and promoting policies and developing effective inter-state cooperation mechanisms on migration matters, fully honouring sovereignty.

At a regional level IOM, as the Technical Secretary for the South American Conference on Migration, has worked toward strengthening this opportunity for dialogue and joint work among the governments of the continent so that it becomes a forum for coordination and consultation.

The objective is to include a migratory dimension in the regional integration processes in order to generate greater levels of governance regarding migratory matters.

In terms of progress made the establishment of the Action Plan is noteworthy. Its main strategic objectives are:

- Fostering and developing policies, programmes and activities to facilitate circulation by and residence of regional country nationals in the region.

- Coordinate actions to provide assistance to migrants especially of South Americans, and protect their human rights.
- Promote the inclusion of a migratory variable in the different stages of bilateral and multilateral negotiations that the South American countries carry out regarding political, economic, commercial and environmental relations.

Likewise, IOM is providing support to the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) to publish the Annual Entries and Departures Yearbook, which is critical in the analysis of tendencies and characteristics of international movements of people.

Assisted Return and Reintegration

The assisted return and reintegration of illegal migrants is one of the challenges of global migration.

The IOM Office in Colombia, in close coordination with the Offices in Rome, Madrid, Bern and London has provided assistance for the return and the labour and educational reintegration of Colombians through the programmes of the National Asylum Plan in Italy (NAP), the Voluntary Programme for Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme for the United Kingdom

(VARRP), the Voluntary Return of Immigrants in Spain (PREVIE) and the Returnee Information Fund in Switzerland (RIF). Also, in the last three years assisted returns have taken place from neighbouring countries such as Venezuela and Panama.

The VARRP allows for concrete psycho-emotional assistance, technical-occupational training and labour incorporation aid to facilitate socioeconomic reintegration of returnee migrants to Colombia.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Study about International Migration and the Impact of Remittances performed by the inter-institutional strategic partnership of the public and private sectors, scholars, civil society and international organizations. The study ended with a seminar where the results of the study were presented in order to design public migration and development policies.
- Trained government officials through national and international seminars, conferences and workshops to promote a more profound exchange and study of migratory issues, thus strengthening institutional cooperation.
- Intensified the activities with the Colombia Nos Une Programme and contributed to the establishment of closer ties between Colombian communities abroad with the country in order to promote the country's development.
- Strengthened the Conexión Colombia Programme as an effective means to channel donations of Colombians living abroad and increased the flow of donations to participant non-profit organizations.
- The II Forum on Education for Migrations was held in Bogotá in cooperation with the Government of Colombia. The Forum was held within the framework of the IV South American Conference on Migrations, with the participation of representatives of 10 Latin American countries, to create awareness about this phenomenon and to strengthen both the education systems and state policies.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Inter-institutional cooperation in carrying out studies and implementing projects on migration and development consolidates the efforts and has had a strong impact on the work to promote comprehensive and sustainable development.
- The Conexión Colombia Programme, as a model to channel donations of Colombians living in-country and abroad, became a perfect partnership between the private sector, entities of the third sector, multilateral organizations and governmental institutions to develop projects aimed at vulnerable populations of Colombia.
- The joint work of government institutions and other entities associated with migration strengthens global actions that benefit migrants and society.



A True Story

Living outside and suffering on the inside



She left leaving everything behind, even her family, which included her 17 year old son and the youngest who was 10 at the time. She had a stable job in Colombia but she still desired to look for new opportunities.

This is the story of Angela Roldán*, a Colombian woman who, at age 31, decided to migrate to Europe, where a not too promising future was awaiting her.

She had the same dream that many immigrants have when they arrive in Europe: work very hard in whatever they find to send money to their families.

She arrived in Scotland, in 1996. She knew no one. She did not have any friends or work. At the beginning she worked illegally as a maid, then in a restaurant and then in other areas. It was difficult for her to normalize her situation once she arrived in Scotland. She longed to see her children but they were denied the documents to leave Colombia because they were minors.

Everything had started when a friend motivated her to leave, but nothing

seemed to be turning out according to her plans.

"The first months were terrible because I felt very lonely, I was being subjected to humiliation, I was practically abandoned and without being able to communicate everything was even more complicated," says Angela. "I could not send any money to my family because I was barely making it myself in that country," she added.

Five years passed by and the situation spun out of control. Her children needed her and Angela could not even pay for a telephone call to Colombia. In 2001 Angela requested asylum in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, based on the precarious situation that her family was going through in Colombia, her inability to support them and the fact that her husband had been forced to flee the country following an attempt on his life.

"When I arrived at the Office for Refugees I was very sick and I no longer cared what they said, any help meant a lot to me. I had even thought about committing suicide," tells Angela.

In the Office for Refugees in Scotland she was allowed to work legally until they decided on her case. Angela took advantage of the opportunity to learn English and was able to work without being afraid of being deported.

In May 2004 Angela received information about her case: She was denied refuge and her work permit was cancelled. "At that moment everything fell apart, I was confused and I did not know what to do," she says with a broken voice.

The Office for Refugees recommended that she apply for the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) of the International Organization for Migrations, which offers assistance to applicants who desire to return to their countries of origin permanently.

"When I found out about the help that I could receive from IOM it was like being born again and I did not think twice," Angela comments. Her situation was defined in less than a week.

The IOM Office in London reviewed Angela's case. She met the requirements and was able to take advantage of the programme.

She travelled back to Colombia in July 2004 thanks to the intervention of IOM. Angela was provided assistance starting with her arrival at the airport until her final destination.

The aid offered by the Reintegration Programme has made it possible for her to study and to start her own business. Now she is able to be close to her children.

***Her real name has been changed to protect the migrant.**

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Conexión Colombia is one year old

Conexión Colombia has obtained the commitment of thousands of Colombians living in the country and around the world to help the country. The balance of the Conexión Colombia Programme one year after its creation is the following: it has channelled more than US\$ 700,000 for 15 high social impact foundations; 900 people have been registered in the Banco del Tiempo; there have been more than 25,000 beneficiaries; and thousands of Colombians, from China to South Africa, are connected as a result of the information that the internet site provides.

An idea that came about after becoming aware of the homesickness that Colombians living abroad feel and their desire to do something for their country has been consolidated today as an effective and safe channel to make donations to non-profit organizations in money, time or in kind from any part of the world - and from Colombia as well. This initiative has also become a place for encounter with the country, to remember it, to feel it from a distance or to simply know what is happening with other Colombians throughout the world.

The network of Colombians who are committed to the reality of their country has grown as an invisible web, which grows from its centre in Colombia and, little by little extending itself to other countries. One of the first connections began in Quibdó, Chocó. Then it moved north, crossed Central America and stopped in Mexico.

Celia Cruz Lenis Berrío, a seven year old girl survived the explosion of a gas cylinder in the church in Bojayá launched by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). She and her family were forced to leave their hometown and settled in Quibdó. Had it not been for the Pies Descalzos Foundation and the fact that a group of Colombians who live in Mexico City found out about her through Conexión Colombia, she would still be selling fruit all day in the plaza of Quibdó.

Like the story of Celia Cruz, there are many other stories of children who did not have the opportunity to study that touched the hearts of this group of Colombians who live in Mexico. Thus, they decided to sponsor 200 children for a year. They pay US\$ 360 for each child for education, three meals a day and health care.

The threads that connected low income children with Colombians living in different parts of the world have multiplied very quickly. Seventy children of the Ana Restrepo del Corral Foundation, which operates in the Eastern Hills of Bogotá, have the opportunity to continue studying and another 57 of the Carla Cristina Foundation are now protected from the dangers of the streets in several districts of Medellín thanks to Colombians living in the United States, Italy, France, Spain, Canada, China and also in Colombia. A total of 480 children living in poor areas of the country have been sponsored by people living in 37 different countries. Also, four nutrition centres have been built in Bogotá, US\$ 9,170 were raised to build a soccer court in Ciudad Bolívar, an in kind donation equivalent to US\$ 78,000 was received from IBM to equip several computer rooms, and the Wheelchair Foundation donated 280 wheelchairs for soldiers who are victims of the armed conflict, among others.

Conexión Colombia has also addressed the unpredictable blows from nature. The great aid web that was formed this year was put to a test last November when heavy rains affected the country. In alliance with Caracol Television, Colombians living in 15 countries around the world made donations equivalent to US\$ 183,000 in kind and in cash with which 6,337 families affected by the floods in the Caribbean Coast were provided assistance. This time help came from places such as Australia, South Africa, Switzerland, Spain, Mexico and the United States.

One of the advantages of Conexión Colombia is its power to convene. Donatio-

ns of Colombians spread around the world and in Colombia for US\$ 20, 50, 100 and up to US\$ 300 made it possible to raise US\$700,000, equivalent to C\$ 1,725,500,000. Boxes full of clothes, school material, toys, medicines, desks and computers were also received.

The donations of a few members of the partnership were also critical. USAID, through the International Organization for Migration (IOM), gave a US\$ 40,000 counterpart contribution to Nutrir to remodel and furnish a nutrition centre and another one to Pies Descalzos Foundation for US\$ 35,000 to build four classrooms in Cazucá.

These experiences have made it possible to draw closer to the reality of Colombians living in other parts of the world. Thus, Conexión Colombia is progressively consolidating as an internet site with information about Colombian migration. It carries information about Colombians that leave the country, about Colombians who triumph abroad and about those who are having problems. It also has unusual stories such as the one about the Divine Child who did not have documents or the subsidiary of the Amazon Indian in Miami.

But there is also an increasing number of Colombians who use the site to find Colombian restaurants and associations in other parts of the world; or to get information about embassies, visas, consulates and education abroad; or to obtain useful information such as how to purchase a property in Colombia from abroad, how to import a car, and how to contribute to pension funds, among many others. Often the site simply serves to draw Colombians closer to their country with images, documentaries, daily conversations, soccer, music and food.

Conexión Colombia has united - with the support of the government - some of the most important and prestigious businesses in the country with high impact foundations and multilateral organizations toward a common project: to breakthrough indifference and channel solidarity.

Post-emergency Assistance Programme

For internally displaced persons, host communities and other vulnerable groups



The Post-emergency Assistance Programme for internally displaced persons, host communities and other vulnerable groups is financed by the people of the United States of America, through its Agency for International Development (USAID), and its main objective is to provide support to the Government of Colombia and the Colombian society to strengthen the assistance to displaced populations, especially during the reestablishment stage.

The programme covers areas such as health care, education, institutional

capacity building, infrastructure and housing and income-generating, seeking to reintegrate displaced communities with a minimum of trauma. The programme is also aimed at providing assistance to host communities by strengthening the activities that the Government of Colombia is carrying out with the support of other humanitarian organizations. IOM implements this programme in some of the areas most affected by forced internal displacement. During the last four years the programme has provided direct assistance to 862,923 people in the nine departments (See Technical Spe-

cifications) where it is implemented, in Bogotá and, occasionally, in other municipalities of the country.

A total of 637 projects have been implemented, where a beneficiary has been able to benefit from more than one service. The institutional strengthening component in particular has been the one with the largest number of beneficiaries, having reached a total of 318,725 people.

Health Component

This component mainly focuses on four areas: family health, sexual and reproductive health, psycho-social assistance and institutional capacity building. In each of these areas efforts are made to carry out prevention activities promoting health, nutrition, vaccination, the extensive coverage of the basic health assistance plan and the access to the services offered by the National Health System.

With 112 projects carried out under this component, important progress has been made in creating a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Social Protection and strengthening the coordination with government institutions and United Nations agencies that work with displaced communities.

Thus, the appropriate conditions were created to implement, for example, the project "Building up the capabilities of the health sector in the nine departments to provide assistance to displaced and host communities maintaining gender, age and ethnicity pers-

pectives" and the project to develop an information and responsibilities protocol for an Early Warning System to guarantee access to basic health care services.

Education and Coexistence

IOM has taken into consideration the fact that acquiring basic skills is a priority for the social reintegration of displaced populations. Education fulfils this role and becomes a strategic tool in the process to rebuild the lives of these communities. The objective of the Escuela de Puertas Abiertas (Open Doors Schools) strategy is to provide alternative models that promote education in the family, the schools and the communities and that facilitate integration into the community in the new context.

Under the education component 133 projects have been carried out. The most significant achievement is the commitment on the part of the Ministry of Education and the regional education offices to develop sustainable projects and to invest on programmes that include these population groups.

The infrastructure projects in educational centres, that include furnishing and equipment, made it possible to implement open literacy, quick learning and sexual education programmes and to carry out sports and cultural activities. Through all these activities the project has tried to include youngsters, families and communities in the coexistence programmes.

In addition, appropriate educational material has been designed for children, youngsters and adults as a tool to assist in the education process.

Infrastructure and Housing

IOM tries to cover the areas prioritized by the government in terms of assistance to displaced population through

assisted return and prevention programmes. In this way IOM supports the government in a coherent manner and at the same time provides assistance to displaced populations that have settled in host municipalities and do not have the option, or do not desire, to return.

The strategy is aimed at finding solutions to the overcrowded conditions in which displaced communities live and to the lack of housing and infrastructure in the cities. At the same time, however, it tries not to promote their stay in the cities when there are possibilities or the desire to return.

Thus, this component has concentrated its efforts on the development of schools, school cafeterias, community libraries, etc. The beneficiary populations have access to loans for housing, including water installation and basic sanitation and building or improvement of waste water disposal systems.

The infrastructure projects include dealings with national and local authorities. IOM tries to obtain government co-financing for the projects and the commitment of the communities to co-participate in their development with non-qualified labour.

Technical Specifications

PROGRAMME NAME: Post-emergency assistance programme for internally displaced persons, host communities and other vulnerable groups

DONOR/S: USAID

STARTING AND ENDING DATE: October 2000 - September 2005

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES: 862,923 (through December 2004)

COVERAGE: 9 Departments (Santander, Norte de Santander, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, Huila, Putumayo and Caquetá) and the municipality of Soacha in Cundinamarca

COUNTERPARTS:

■ State Institutions

Social Solidarity Network (RSS); Presidency of Colombia; Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF); ministries of Education, Culture and Communications, Social Protection, Economic Development, etc.; departmental and municipal governments and offices; mayors' offices; Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman; National Civil Registry; National Learning Service (SENA); Administrative Department for Health; Profamilia; FOMYPYME, etc.

■ Civil Society and Private Sector

State social enterprises; employees and families social benefit funds; Coffee Growers Federation; Banco Agrario; Minuto de Dios Corporation; Compromiso; Contactar; foundations such as Catatumbo, Procomún, Medios para la Paz, Colombia Presente, and Volvamos a la Gente; Colombian Red Cross; Bogotá Scouts Association; the Catholic Church; Opción Legal; Women's Popular Organization; community action boards; Afro-Colombian organizations; etc.

■ International Community

United Nations, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), etc

■ COMPONENTS:

Health, Education, Infrastructure and Housing, Income-Generating and Institutional Capacity Building



OPEN DOORS SCHOOLS STRATEGY, AN EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE WAY OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS

- Internal displacement forces thousands of people, families and communities to abruptly leave their homes, customs, social ties and sources of income. From one moment to the next these populations find themselves in environments that are alien to their traditions and without the necessary tools for social, economic, political and cultural integration to the places where they arrive.
- The IOM Post-emergency Assistance Programme considers that education is one of the main tools for children, youngsters, adults, families and communities to attain social reintegration in their new circumstances. The majority of the migrants come from rural areas therefore they need to have access to modern city codes that make reading, writing, math, new norms and knowing their rights and duties an urgent necessity for them. They also need food and housing and build social networks of friends and neighbours that provide emotional support.
- The host communities already have limited access to quality education and the new arrivals create the need to find new and innovative alternatives to increase the supply, guarantee access and avoid dropout. But, above all, these alternatives need to give access to displaced populations to urban codes and to social-emotional support networks. Thus, IOM has tried to consolidate a unique model for comprehensive education directed at displaced communities and at the poorest sectors, where the majority of IDPs arrive to.
- IOM believes that education should reach children, youngsters and adults. Therefore, it has developed the OPEN DOORS SCHOOLS model, which not only offers formal conventional education but also provides education alternatives during night shifts and over the weekends for individuals who are academically under their school age and/or literacy and catch-up courses, etc. This model also offers informal education including labour skills, sexual education, family coexistence and citizen participation. Under the recreational and cultural activities it offers community discussions about movies, dance, painting and singing contests, sports championships, etc.
- With the support of the Ministry of Education and the municipal education offices the education institutions become centres for the cultural, social and civic development of the communities. The children learn better and their parents are simultaneously learning nutrition and good treatment practices and they are organizing and developing social integration activities, healthy recreation and labour skills.
- The Open Doors Schools model promotes the simultaneous development of boys, girls, youngsters, adults, families and communities with the support of university and high school students and other community educational agents. This reduces costs and guarantees feasibility and sustainability of the processes.
- This model is being successfully implemented in urban areas such as Soacha, Popayán, Mocoa, Pasto, Quibdó, Puerto Asís, Cúcuta and Neiva and in rural areas in the departments of Putumayo, Santander, Caquetá, Cauca, Nariño and Norte de Santander.

Income-Generating

The reestablishment of displaced communities is also made possible through income-generating activities.

As part of its mandate, IOM works to promote social and economic development through migration. Thus, IOM is committed to alter the human impoverishment process caused by forced

displacement. It also promotes the improvement of human capabilities and income-generating and increase within the framework of local social and economic development.

Under this component IOM works with its counterparts to facilitate access of displaced and vulnerable heads of households to sustainable employment and contributes to increase the inco-

me of displaced families by supporting the creation of small businesses (self-employment) and micro and small enterprises, including the agropecuary sector. The Organization also tries to create partnerships with the private sector for productive projects, to promote training and create micro-enterprises.

One of the main objectives has been to recover the labour capability of displaced communities by supporting sustainable projects, designing and implementing small non-reimbursable loans and promoting food security projects.

Formal employment is focused on the professional training that the labour market demands. It is not by chance that the general framework of this component is to promote economic development at a local and regional level. With this scope in mind 128 projects have been carried out thus providing assistance to more than 51,000 beneficiaries.

The programme worked jointly with FOMIPYME to attain project sustainability so that the activities implemented would be co-financed by them. In this way for each peso funded by USAID 7.8 additional pesos were financed by other entities that, like FOMIPYME, are aware of their social responsibility and desire to contribute to the economic development of vulnerable communities.

Institutional Capacity Building

The main objective is to provide better responses and assistance to communities affected by internal displacement by providing support to the Social Solidarity Network (RSS), the National Civil Registry and other state institutions, in addition to the community councils that attend to displaced and host communities. Projects to strengthen community committees in areas at a



risk of displacement have been implemented as well.

Special emphasis has been made on providing financial and technical support to develop the capabilities of certain government institutions that are key participants in acknowledging displaced populations. On occasions the programme has carried out emergency activities when a community has

- Through December 2004, 114 projects had been carried out under the institutional strengthening component with a total of 318,725 beneficiaries.



been forced to displace. This is the case of several indigenous communities that, in March 2004, were forced by illegal armed groups to leave their communities in the department of Chocó. On that occasion IOM assisted in the creation of two shelters and provided emergency assistance.

Assisted Return

Likewise, assistance is provided to displaced communities that desire to return to their places of origin, provided that the situation allows for it. A total of 8,564 families have been provided assistance to return to the departments of Cauca, Caquetá, Chocó, Nariño, Santander, Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca.

Private Sector

IOM is working with its counterparts in the development of a strategy to involve the private sector in order to create new partnerships to contribute to project sustainability thus creating oppor-

tunities for the most vulnerable groups.

The initiatives to join efforts with different institutions, counterparts and civil society are part of this strategy. This strategy, known as "matching funds", is geared towards involving the private sector making it become a principle actor in the reestablishment process. It also contributes to the social and economic integration of vulnerable groups that are beneficiaries of the Organization.

Vulnerable Groups

The objective of this programme is to provide assistance not only to displaced and host communities but also to vulnerable populations such as Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities at risk of or affected by displacement.

IOM promotes cooperation and technical assistance with the appropriate cultural focus when implementing projects directed at these sectors of the

population.

IOM has provided assistance to 244,546 Afro-Colombians and 24,455 Indigenous groups belonging to displaced and host communities.

Special aid is also offered to teenagers who live in rural areas since this is a highly vulnerable sector. The fact that 18% of the internally displaced populations are illiterate is noteworthy. Therefore, besides learning communication skills and becoming familiar with the media so they can integrate in labour, economic and cultural terms, they also need to learn how to read and write.

According to the National Planning Department there is a deficit of 418,000 school slots in rural areas nationwide and more than 65% of the children and youngsters who live in rural areas do not go to school. With the Open Doors Schools strategy IOM has been able to reach out to 25,790 children, teenagers and adults.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The 84 projects approved during 2004 are distributed among the following components of the programme for assistance to displaced population and host communities: Income-generating (18), Social Infrastructure and Housing (21), Education (31), Health (16) and Institutional Capacity Building (14)

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

The coordination with the government to obtain rural housing subsidies through the Banco Agrario for 449 displaced families in the departments of Cauca, Nariño and Caquetá is noteworthy. USAID co-funding reached approximately US\$160,000 and the subsidies obtained totalled approximately US\$ 920,000.



INCOME-GENERATING

Resources from organizations other than the IOM-USAID Programme were raised (Fomipyme and RSS) to finance 15 income-generating projects and labour skills training programmes for a total of \$3,537,480 in eight departments of the country with a total of 2,300 displaced beneficiaries. For each peso placed by the programme 7.5 additional pesos were raised.



HEALTH

Coordination with the Ministry of Social Protection strengthened the health sector in the nine departments thus guaranteeing effective access to this sector. It also strengthened the oversight mechanisms, the early warning system connected to the institutional services network and the participation of organizations for displaced populations.



EDUCATION

Coordination of education and training allowed the beneficiaries to learn about rural development techniques, the services sector, environmental issues, crop substitution and how to coordinate production chains and semi-chains. Education mainly focused on the needs of the population and it no longer consisted of urban education adapted to farming.



INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING



The Assistance and Orientation Units (UAOs) in seven departments where IOM is present and the Local Units of the Social Solidarity Network in two departments were strengthened. IOM gave support to the Social Solidarity Network to strengthen the Assistance and Orientation Units for displaced population in technical and operating terms. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of people aided

and in an improvement of the quality of the services provided. Likewise, IOM proposed the creation of three Referral and Opportunities Centres for displaced and vulnerable populations to increase coverage and to generate a referral system for social services and vocational occupation to attend to the demands of this population.

Annual IDP beneficiaries are estimated at 17,500.

LESSONS LEARNED



HEALTH

- Training health promoters to act as agents for health prevention and self-care programmes increased the coverage of the project since they have more contact with the beneficiaries.
- Coordinating health projects with public and private institutions that work in this area generates additional value and institutional synergies that benefit the community.
- Developing a health prevention and promotion project that includes referrals to the public networks requires close coordination and programming with the municipal health institutions in order to facilitate and improve the services to the families that are referred.
- A health programme should include theory and hands on training and information to the communities about their rights and duties associated with access to the services.

EDUCATION

- Engagement of the appropriate educational institution and the participation of the community in the management, implementation and monitoring of the project favoured institutional and community sustainability.
- Coordination among educational institutions, public education entities, international cooperation agencies and an expert in this area facilitated the creation of institutional synergies that positively contributed to the design and implementation of the project.
- The alternative education model was adapted to the conditions of displaced and vulnerable populations in order to build social and human capital.
- Implementation of an alternate education model is easier if the educational community is included in the whole process.
- The comprehensive education model included actions that complemented each other in order to respond in an appropriate manner to the needs of the population.

INCOME-GENERATING

- The projects implemented in risk areas by well known and experienced institutions, generated credibility and were accepted by the population.
- Inter-institutional coordination generated effective and sustainable projects by connecting the activities of a new project with the programmes in the area.
- Implementation of partnership projects strengthened the social and commercial networks in the communities.
- Promoting the participation of volunteers provided better accompaniment and follow-up for the projects.
- Co-financing processes, institutional synergies and the active participation of the community generated greater efficiency and effectiveness in the design and start-up of productive and food security projects.
- Community self-management was possible because the communities had access to information about local institutions that provide technical and social assistance.



SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

- The projects aimed at leaving an installed capacity for potable water services and basic sanitation are key in generating community development processes that integrate host and displaced population. This creates a group identity that makes them feel co-participants with the local institutions in the development of their community. It also improves their self-esteem and their capacity to obtain resources to improve their environment and their living conditions.

- Providing visibility to the achievements of projects implemented by community based organizations together with an international organization motivates the participation and support of the municipal authorities. Examples of this are the projects to improve basic sanitation in urban housing.



INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

- Training and awareness workshops favour project management because the participants become aware about the problem of displacement. In this way they become more committed and they attend to the problems of these people diligently.

- The local lessons learned by the departmental committees and the committees for the displaced generated the design and modification of public policies.

- The violation of land and territorial rights does not only result from the strategies and interests of the illegal armed groups. There are other forms of external intervention such as commercial exploitation and the implementation of policies that are against the local and regional interest, which have generated a reaction from the communities in defence of their territories.



A TRUE STORY

Small Successful Businesses



Promotion of micro-credits for displaced and vulnerable groups

Dimas de Jesús Díaz is well known in his neighbourhood. His name appeared in the newspapers and even on the local TV channel. He was chosen to participate in the 43rd Agroindustrial and Agropecuary Fair that was held in Barrancabermeja, Santander. The bamboo furniture he produces was one of the most successful examples during the Fair and his stand was one of the most visited.

Dimas de Jesús takes pride in his work and in his small business. A short while ago he almost had to close down but now it is starting to be successful. "It was like a miracle", he says. "I was planning on closing down my business because I was lacking funding when I heard about the Merquemos Juntos (Let's Shop Together) Programme and its micro-credits project. I heard about Doña Guillermina and I went to visit her. That is how everything started," he added.

Doña Guillermina has become so popular that everyone knows her as the woman that can make dreams come true. She created Merquemos Juntos more than a decade ago. She started serving food and selling clothes and other priority goods for homeless and displaced people. Some people say her enthusiasm and spirit of service produces miracles and, in February 2002, she started the micro-credits programme.

Her idea was to promote economic development for vulnerable and displaced populations in Barrancabermeja. The loans would only be given to businesses that already existed and needed a little help to be able to grow.

This is how Doña Guillermina obtained funding from the people of the United States, through the Agency for International Development (USAID), and through IOM. In only two years her micro-credits programme has provided assistance to close to 400 small businesses and has given more than 800 loans. Doña Guillermina is very proud of having promoted economic development in her zone.

Although the majority of the beneficiaries of Merquemos Juntos are displaced populations, there is a large number of women heads of households whose dreams of a better future have started to become fulfilled through their work, their determination and the micro-credits. Such is the case of Maria, who just finished paying her fourth micro-credit.

Maria affirms that her store is now four times as big as it used to be when she obtained the first micro-credit two years ago. She is one of the first beneficiaries of the project, which is providing many people with the desire to struggle and to survive.

PRESS RELEASE

SOURCE: Daily Diario del Sur (Pasto)
PAGE: 4 B
SECTION: MUNICIPALITIES
DATE: 1 October, 2004

From USAID

Support to displaced population

USAID, through the International Organization for Migration (IOM), under its «Post-Emergency Assistance Programme for Displaced Populations, Host Communities and Other Vulnerable Groups», has been raising national funds from the *Banco Agrario*, the Social Solidarity Network and the local governments to provide new and improved housing solutions in rural areas.



To date there are: 63 beneficiary families in Los Andes Sotomayor; 46 in Linares; 49 in San Lorenzo; and 150 new houses and 100 basic units with sanitation units in Samaniego; 75 new units and 75 improved homes in Taminango; 50 home improvements in Cordoba; and 192 families with housing units built in their own lots in the municipality of Tumaco.

In Nariño approximately 572 displaced and vulnerable families have been given new homes and 225 others have been able to improve theirs. Also, 21 families were given former Inurbe subsidies.

The beneficiaries are the poorest sectors of the population, mainly displaced persons

Currently, homes are being built for displaced populations in coordination with the Banco Agrario and with the local governments of Los Andes Sotomayor, Linares, San Lorenzo and Sotomayor. The first thirty will be handed over in Los Andes Sotomayor shortly.

Approximately 3.5 billion pesos have been raised through Banco Agrario and Social Solidarity Network subsidies, contributions of the displaced communities and by the municipalities, and from

donations by IOM-USAID. The high contribution of the state, through rural and urban housing subsidies, is noteworthy.

Likewise, the methodology used by IOM includes a technical design process for the projects and a large community participation component. The participation of Banco Agrario is noteworthy not only regarding the subsidies but also due to the accompaniment and intervention in each of the projects that are being implemented in the municipalities of Nariño.

Legal Protection of the Property Internally Displaced Persons and Strengthen Social Communities



Technical Specifications

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

Project to Protect the Property of Internally Displaced Populations

DONOR/S:

Social Solidarity Network (RSS), World Bank (WB), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

STARTING AND ENDING DATE

December 2003 - June 2005

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Local authorities associated with the implementation of Decree 2007 of 2001 and displaced population or at a risk of displacement selected according to the country's diversity: peasants, Afro-Colombians, Indians and settlers.

COVERAGE AREAS

- Sucre
- Bolívar
- Norte de Santander
- Antioquia
- Cauca
- Valle
- Chocó
- Nariño

COUNTERPARTS

Committee headed by the RSS, CODHES, INCODER and managed by the project's Coordination Unit.

The project is aimed at protecting the estate of rural displaced populations, or at a risk of displacement, by legally, socially and institutionally securing their property and strengthening the social community fabric in order to mitigate the effects of displacement, reduce their vulnerability and facilitate their socioeconomic stability.

The following guidelines have been established in order to meet the objectives of this programme: develop methodologies to make an inventory of the properties and goods; design the criteria to select the beneficiaries of the exchange and alienation of properties process; design administration models for the properties; strengthen the committees for assistance to displaced population so they can comply with the functions established in Decree 2007/1; make recommendations on issues associated with formalizing and securing tenure; design dissemination and citizen training campaigns; provide training to the committees for assistance to displaced populations and to local, regional and national officials on issues such as access, property titles, registration and protection of the estate; and strengthen the capacity of the communities to address and reduce the risks of displacement.

The sub-project "Community and institutional strengthening to protect the territorial rights of ethnic groups affected by forced displacement in Colombia's Pacific Coast", financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is aimed at identifying and proposing legal, institutional and community mechanisms that will strengthen the protection of collective territorial rights of indigenous people and Afro-Colombians in order to prevent and address forced internal displacement.



The following strategies are being implemented in order to meet the aforementioned objectives:

1. Strengthening the organization and the inter-cultural understanding to prevent and manage conflicts associated with land and territorial rights of ethnic groups;
2. Institutional strengthening to protect and put into effect the territorial rights of ethnic groups in the framework of prevention and assistance to displaced populations due to the violence;
3. Carrying out initiatives to influence the design and implementation of public policies to protect and put into effect the territorial rights of the communities;
4. Disseminating the institutional policies, procedures and mechanisms to protect the territorial rights of ethnic groups that are either at risk, or are displaced or in the process of returning; and
5. Contributing to establish and deve-

lop the topic of protection of the territorial rights of the communities in the international cooperation programmes that are implemented in the Colombian Pacific Coast.

With the RSS as the implementing partner and with USAID funding, IOM seeks to strengthen the social fabric to empower displaced populations and groups that are a risk of displacement, in order to reaffirm or rebuild their collective systems, their cultural, political and economic sense of belonging to their territories and the awareness regarding their rights and duties. The project is also aiming at government institutions efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner exercising their duties to protect the estate of rural communities in a scenario of risk or displacement and guaranteeing the participation of the population.

The activities within the framework of this component are:

1. Case studies about peaceful resistance and protection of property rights.
2. Design a methodology to diagnose the social fabric.
3. Provide training to strengthen the social network.
4. Design a methodology for training on conflict resolution.
5. Design a participative methodology to collect information and protect property.
6. Training to strengthen the social fabric to prevent and manage conflicts over property.
7. Promote community participation in the territorial assistance committees.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Legal Protection of Property



GENERAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT:

- Designed and validated the tools required to implement the measures to protect the rights of the owners, possessors, occupants and holders in accordance with Decree 2007/1
- Implemented the protection measure in 16 rural areas of 12 municipalities located in the pilot zones.
- Designed the form to - Request the Protection of Rural Properties Abandoned by Displaced Population due to the Violence-
- Created an institutional support network to protect the properties of displaced populations which evolved into internal regulations and inter-institutional agreements.
- More than 5,000 individuals have benefited from the programme; one example is the initiation of the process to register the enrolment.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COMPONENT TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL FABRIC:

- Designed a methodology guide to measure and diagnose the social fabric.
- Designed a methodology route to identify, characterize and handle conflicts over land and territory.
- Designed a methodology to identify and protect the property of displaced populations.
- Drew closer to the population and carried out activities to strengthen three experiences associated with confronting the violence of the illegal armed groups in Indigenous, Afro-Colombian and peasant communities.
- Followed-up and provided assistance for the work with organizations and communities in five pilot areas of the project.

A true story

Properties Legalized in Pradera, Valle del Cauca en Pradera, Valle del Cauca

Mario Chauza is the director of the Municipal Agropecuary Technical Assistance Unit (UMATA) in the municipality of Pradera, in southern Valle del Cauca and also coordinates the Municipal Committee for Assistance to Displaced Populations. He was born in the village of La Fría in 1961. He has been working for the UMATA for a year and a half and each day he becomes more aware of the urgent needs of displaced populations. Mario was himself a victim of displacement in 1998 when he was forced to leave his home but he was able to return a short time after.

His experience with the Project to Protect the Property of Displaced Populations has been enlightening. He feels that the wellbeing of the beneficiaries with whom he interacts on a daily basis is the greatest reward he obtains from his work.



The Committee that Mario coordinates includes a commission that is in charge of this project. However, he not only works in this initiative, but he is also a beneficiary of the project because he has a plot in an area that soon will be included into the protected zones. Several departmental and municipal institutions participate in the commission together with the community. The community representatives have fundamental responsibilities because, besides contributing with their work, they decide on which areas should be protected, they inform the rest of the people about the progress being made by the project and they have oversight and identification responsibilities regarding the plots, the owners, the possessors, the holders and the occupants.

Although the Project to Protect the Property of Displaced

Populations is not the only duty of the Committee, it is a critical responsibility since it brings peace of mind to many people knowing that if they have to leave their homes and lands nobody will be able to take them. Also, if their plots are located in a vulnerable area, the properties will be safe if they have to leave.

The latter is Mario's case because he lives in Pradera together with his wife and children. A few relatives live on his plot, located in another village, which seems to be calm. Mario, however, affirms, "The violence can come at any moment as it did before. This peace can last one day, one month or one year."

His experience tells him that the beneficiaries see the land not only as a space where they live but also as a fundamental element that provides their daily food and generates income. The land has a tremendous value for rural communities since it is part of

their identity and their life.

The future of the project in Pradera is geared towards increasing coverage and to continue with the actions to legalize the properties. Mario believes that the success of the actions taken by the Committee lies on the solidarity and the commitment of its members and his dream is that the institutions that are part of this project will continue to support it. He even believes that the plots of the 22 towns of Pradera should be protected not only against the illegal armed groups but also from businesses that view the municipality as a treasure in terms of its water resources and the diversity of its vegetation. He is afraid that they may be forced to leave their lands, not because of the violence this time, but as a result of actions by those businesses.

PRESS RELEASE

SOURCE: Daily El Mundo (Medellín)

PAGE: 7-A

SECTION: Antioquia

DATE: 6 October, 2004

EL MUNDO
Un descubrimiento diario

A pilot plan is being designed for farms owned by displaced persons from San Carlos and Granada

LAND PROTECTION

The state can take care of rural properties that are abandoned or at a risk due to forced displacement in accordance with Law Decree 2007 of 2001. The authorities are doing this in east Antioquia.

Linda Ximena Tabares

In 2001 former President Andres Pastrana Arango signed Decree 2007 establishing norms for timely assistance to rural displaced populations due to the violence within the framework of voluntary returns to their places of origin or resettlement somewhere else. A number of measures were included to assist in these situations.

«The Decree permits to establish limitations on rural properties abandoned by their owners to prevent other people from registering them as their own in a notary and/or taking them over,» said William Pareja, Coordinator of the Social Solidarity Network for Bajo Cauca and northeast Antioquia.

This initiative is being carried out nationwide and the International Organization for Migrations (IOM) is evaluating it in Antioquia together with the Social Solidarity Network and the World Bank, through a pilot project in San Carlos and Granada.

According to several surveys to establish the needs of the population carried out by the Social Solidarity Network, 60% of the people who have displaced in the municipalities of eastern Antioquia own land.

«Protecting the land is quite difficult sometimes because Colombian peasants, especially those in east Antioquia, are not used to registering

their properties. Therefore, they do not have property titles so the lots are considered to be empty,» says Pareja.

Carlos Vera, Assistant to Incora Territorial Liaison Office # 3, says that this Decree protects people who do not have property titles and makes it possible to help obtain them.

Following this Decree the areas are protected. Security conditions permitting, the Incora is carrying out a property titles programme with the owners, holders or occupants of the lands in order to give them property titles.

Regarding implementation of the Decree Vera affirms, «Only individual property protections have been approved to date in Antioquia and not zone protections such as the ones proposed for San Carlos, Granada, San Luis, Cocorná, Dabeiba and Frontino.»

According to the Social Solidarity Network in Antioquia the department's most vulnerable sub-regions regarding displacement are: the east, northeast and west Antioquia and Urabá. In these areas the Decree is starting to be implemented.

Pareja says that in San Carlos and Granada, for example,



close to 50% of the population has displaced to other areas of the country for a total of approximately 20 thousand.

He added, «The Decree itself is good but the operational side is quite average.

Carlos Vera of Incora expressed the need to modify the Decree. «To date there is not a single institution in charge of coordination and we all take action in our areas without an institution coordinating us or being responsible for the program.

Procedures

The institutions in charge of implementing this programme after the Departmental

Committee for Assistance to Displaced Populations declares displacement are: the Public Registration Office, the Colombian Rural Development Institute (Incodor), the Agrarian Office and the Municipal Committee for Assistance to Displaced Populations.

After the pronouncement, Incoder and the Departmental Property Registry present separate reports to the Municipal Committee for Assistance to Displaced Populations and to the office of public documents of the zone to confirm if the people in the list are indeed displaced and if they are owners, occupants or holders of the properties under this measure.

Programme to Strengthen Communities in North Ecuador



This programme, which is financed by the people of the United States, through the Agency for International Development (USAID), is supervised by the IOM Office in Colombia and implemented in a decentralized manner by the IOM Office in Ecuador and its government, through UDENOR. The project was created to improve the living conditions of the populations in northern Ecuador by providing basic and productive infrastructure and performing activities to strengthen the civil society and the local governments.

In addition, the project has a component to provide assistance to displaced populations and host communities affected by the conflicts in the border with Colombia.

The programme began in January 2001 and carries out projects in six provinces in North Ecuador: Esmeraldas, Carchí, Sucumbíos, Napo, Orellana and Imbabura. The objective is to directly contribute to strengthen and provide stability to these provinces.

The programme was extended to September 2006 as a result of an agreement signed in August 2003 by the Government of Ecuador and USAID.

From 2001 to 2004 more than 120 projects have been carried out in the following areas: building and repair of potable water and sewage systems; improving the transportation routes and the irrigation infrastructure; strengthening civil society and the local governments; providing assistance to displaced populations; and providing post-crisis assistance. All these projects have directly benefited 170,884 people.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Building and repairing potable water and sewage systems.

From the beginning of the programme in 2001, until December 2004, 52 potable water systems and 11 sewage systems were built in the six northern provinces.

In order to ensure the proper operation, administration and maintenance of the systems a sustainability component was included in the projects. This component includes the establishment of water administration councils (in communities and parishes) and special technical units (in the municipalities) that are in charge of the service. In order to do so they receive technical assistance in the following areas:

- Operation and maintenance
- Quality control of the water
- Sanitary education
- Protecting the sources of water
- Community participation
- Service management

2. Improvement of the transportation routes and related infrastructure

The Programme improves roads and related infrastructure in order to promote local development. This facilitates integration of



Technical Specifications

Name of the Programme: Programme for the Development of Ecuador's Northern Border

DONNOR/-S

Government of the United States through the Agency for International Development (USAID)
Government of Ecuador through the Northern Development Unit (UDENOR)
Government of Japan

STARTING AND ENDING DATE

January 2001 - September de 2006

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES:

170,884 through 2004

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

More than 250,000

COVERAGE

Six provinces in Northern Ecuador: Esmeraldas, Carchí, Sucumbíos, Napo, Orellana and Imbabura

COMPONENTS

- Social infrastructure
- Productive infrastructure
- Sustainability component
- Strengthening the local governments and citizen participation
- Assistance to displaced populations

COUNTERPART/s:

USAID, UDENOR, local governments of Ecuador's northern provinces, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Public Health, PAHO/WHO, Internal Revenue Service (SRI), National Council for Water Resources

the communities with the country's productive processes.

Through December 2004 the following was accomplished: 105 km of roads; 23 auto bridges and 16 pedestrian bridges built; and seven irrigation canals.

3. Strengthened Civil Society

This component was developed from 2001 until 2003 and included several projects to strengthen the capabilities of the populations living close to the border in the following areas:

Property Titles

- Since owning land is one of the main elements in the development of these communities - first, it motivates the peasants to remain in their originating areas and to invest in legal improvements; and second, it gives them access to credit and facilitates them access to development assistance - the Programme has aided 18 Indigenous communities and 250 peasant settlers in the province of Sucumbíos by providing them property titles.

Human Rights Promotion and Dissemination

- The capabilities of Human Rights organizations present in Sucumbíos were strengthened so that they may respond to possible claims and have a more proactive role in the areas of research, protection and information. This is considered an important step in preparing the residents of that province for the possible consequences of the violence in Colombia.

Support to Indigenous Communities

- Special projects were implemented to provide assistance to Indigenous communities and Afro-Ecuadorians who live in remote areas in the border region including: income-generating through productive micro-projects, training on conflict resolution, territorial limits and agroforestry projects, among others.

Drug Abuse Prevention

- The Programme worked in direct coordination with the Ministry of Education, which has developed a national preventive education and good use of free time programme for students 16 to 18 years old.

4. Strengthening the Local Governments

This component of the programme is directed at increasing citizen satisfaction and the legality of local governments by strengthening local democratic institutions and increasing citizen participation.



This programme is being implemented by CARE Ecuador since July 2004, following a bidding process with the participation of several national NGOs. By the end of 2005 the project expects to strengthen 13 local governments in Esmeraldas and Sucumbíos.

5. Assistance to displaced populations and emergency assistance

This component includes efforts to provide short and mid term assistance to Colombian displaced populations, including those officially recognized as refugees and people who cross the border seeking temporary protection.

IOM is working in direct coordination with UNHCR, the Red Cross, the Catholic Church and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador toward that purpose.

The actions that have been carried out under this component are:

- Building water and sanitation systems in shelters for refugees;
- Building the infrastructure to increase the security in the shelters;
- Supporting the voluntary return of Colombian citizens;
- Internal logistic assistance for Colombians who request refuge;
- Immediate humanitarian aid, among others.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

It was necessary to have a functionally and legally independent state institution to coordinate the actions of the Programme with the local governments and the central government. UDENOR has played a key role on this regard since it has served as a platform for the joint work of the beneficiary community, the local government, the central government, IOM and the donor.

The local governments and the beneficiary citizens have been involved in all the process in order to achieve greater empowerment toward the projects. Both the community and the local government have been present in the different stages of the project as follows:

- Selection of the projects (according to the priorities of the local government)
- Bidding process
- Building process (the citizenry has participated in an oversight capacity)
- Operation and maintenance of the systems

During the implementation of the Programme it was necessary to sign a framework agreement with UDENOR, the beneficiary community, IOM, the local governments and the sector governments

that would establish the responsibilities and commitments of each of the parties involved in the projects.

It is necessary to establish a communication strategy regarding the support that the northern border is receiving from the central government and from international cooperation agencies. This strategy should be carried out through permanent communication.

According to the aforementioned issue, the support of the central government in the northern border - in road infrastructure, productive projects, local government strengthening, security and others - reflects the tremendous effort that the state is making to improve the quality of life of the population in that area of the country.

There are differences among the priorities of the international cooperation agencies and the cultural ideas of the communities which are being intervened. Therefore, it is necessary to try to reach a balance between them. A simple example is the idea of time. It is impossible for rural communities to manage time in the same way that cooperating organizations do so the cultural and anthropologic characteristics should be respected.



A true story

The Palma Real Water Community is an Example for the Community

The Community of Palma Real, located in Northern Esmeraldas, in the mangrove area, has a population of approximately 1,000 whose livelihood depends on fishing and shell cultivation. This town is located across the Colombian villages of Candelilla de la Mar and Monte Alto, in the department of Nariño, with which they have a constant exchange.

In the past, Palma Real obtained its water supply from a surface well that received very little treatment and only provided one hour of water a day. Currently, thanks to the Programme to Develop Ecuador's Northern Provinces, Palma Real has a potable water system that supplies all the community 24 hours a day.

Due to its characteristics the service provided by this water system is the most expensive in the zone. The users pay a monthly fee of US\$2.50 for every 6 m³, while the average cost varies from US\$0.80 to US\$2.00 per 10 m³. However, as a result of the efficient management of the Potable Water Administration Board (JAAP), operating since April 2004 and trained by the IOM team, the timely payment by 100% of the users has resulted in the JAAP having a positive balance that will make long term sustainability of the project possible.

The successful work of the Palma Real JAAP resulted in the population creating an Electricity Administration Board that would adopt the same model as the JAAP. They asked the members of the JAAP for help in drafting the regulations, designing forms and stationery, selecting board members and other procedures. Currently, the Energy Board is operating to the satisfaction of all the community.

These initiatives have turned Palma Real and its water system into an example that makes the residents of that town very proud. They constantly receive the visit of other communities and of representatives of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Ministry of Public Health, universities, and others.



PRESS RELEASE

SOURCE: Daily La Hora
PAGE: A-2
SECTION: Puertas Adentro
DATE: 20 April, 2004

WILL BE SINGED IN ONE MONTH

CONSTRUCTION OF POTABLE WATER SYSTEMS UNDERWAY

The construction of the Limones potable water system will cost over 2.5 million dollars. The Prefecture will make a contribution worth half a million dollars in machinery and installation work

In one month from now entities such as the Esmeraldas Provincial Council, the International Organization for Migrations (IOM) and the Development Unit of the North (Udenor) will sign a 900 thousand dollar agreement for the construction of a water system in the parish of Borbón, in the Eloy Alfaro canton.

The Prefect of the Province of Homero López Saud affirmed that his office will contribute with 250 thousand dollars for the project and that the Parish Board, through its president, will donate 50 thousand dollars. USAID decided to fund the remaining cost, following actions by Udenor President Glauco Bustos Zapata.

The Prefect explained that during the 30 days previous to the signing of the agreement the project will be put to bid in order to comply with state regulations.

Meanwhile, the Government of the Province of Esmeraldas has promised to complete the preparation works in the areas where the water treatment plant will be installed.

PROJECTS DEFINED

International Organization for Migrations (IOM) Representative Guillermo Viera Novella said that this project is within the framework of that institution's Community Strengthening Programme for the Provinces in Northern Ecuador.

The project is ready and the studies were designed through the Eloy Alfaro Municipality and the Water Programme (Praguas) of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (Miduvi). There are a few technical details, however, that will be solved in the next ten days.

The system proposed by Praguas consists of getting water from the Cayapas River. Storage capacity is not a problem and it can be increased as the population grows. Eight thousand people in the parish of Borbón will benefit from this project.

The community will be in charge of making the residential connections, which will enable greater control thus helping the Water System Board. The IOM representative said that the works

will be completed by December of this year.

600 THOUSAND DOLLARS

Udenor Representative in Esmeraldas Victor Estupiñán Córdova confirmed that this project resulted from the actions taken by the institution's Executive President Glauco Bustos Zapata with USAID.

«Udenor received 600 thousand dollars from USAID to do this work. I hope that the families of Borbón who do not have potable water will benefit from this project,» said the official.

Gabriel Racines Cabrera, President of the Borbón Community Action Board, voiced his satisfaction for the works that will be initiated and recalled that the greatest problem in Borbón is that for the last 20 years they have not had drinking water. IOM is carrying out the last studies in order to provide water that is suitable for human consumption (MBM).

WATER FOR LIMONES

The IOM representative also announced that the organization is hoping to start the engineering work to build a potable water system for Limones, in the Eloy Alfaro canton.

A few environmental issues need to be solved before starting since the area is surrounded by mangroves. The project is in the Ministry of Environment for approval and the international and municipal authorizations are also pending.

«The design is finished and we are waiting for the approval by the environmental authorities to start the bidding process. This will take a while because of the complexity of the matter,» said Guillermo Viera.

This project also resulted from actions taken by Udenor with USAID and it will be implemented by the International Organization for Migrations (IOM). Six hectares of mangroves will have to be removed in order to carry out this project. Therefore, we are waiting for the results of the environmental impact assessment from Washington (MBM).



Emergency Assistance and and Reintegration Programme for Displaced Persons

This programme is aimed at carrying out projects for displaced populations at a risk of displacement and for victims of the violence generated by the illegal armed groups in the following components:

- Emergency humanitarian aid
- Assisted voluntary return for displaced populations
- Reestablishment and prevention projects
- Food Security Network (RESA)
- Only Registration System (SUR)
- Assistance and Orientation Unit (UAO)



The majority of the activities concentrate on the Food Security Network (RESA), whose objective is that the beneficiaries produce crops for self-consumption. This is expected to generate changes in the attitude of the beneficiaries in terms of producing permanently so that they do not have to buy the products they can produce. A number of alliances are expected to be made with other institutions in order to increase coverage.



Technical Specifications

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

Emergency Assistance and Reintegration for Displaced Populations

DONOR/S

Social Solidarity Network (RSS), USAID

STARTING AND ENDING DATE

November 2003 – September 2005

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Displaced population, groups at a risk of displacement and victims of the violence generated by the illegal armed groups; and peasant families who are either vulnerable or affected by the violence. The projects financed by USAID, through IOM, have benefited 72,890 people of the aforementioned population groups.

COVERAGE

Boyacá, Magdalena, Meta, Antioquia, Risaralda, Nariño, Arauca, Putumayo, Sucre, Bolívar, Guaviare, Huila, Valle, Cauca, Norte de Santander, Amazonas and Caquetá

COUNTERPART

Social Solidarity Network

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Food security projects in progress.
- Food security projects approved by the Operations Committee with agreements in progress.
- Project to strengthen the Assistance and Orientation Units (UAOs) being implemented
- Institutional strengthening of the Social Solidarity Network (RSS) with human resources, furniture, office equipment and other material.



PRESS RELEASE

SOURCE: Daily Diario del Sur (Pasto)

PAGE: 7B

SECTION: PUTUMAYO

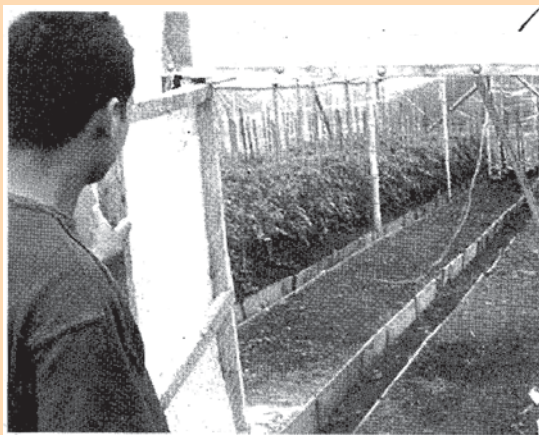
DATE: 31 OCTOBER, 2004

Of the IOM and the Social Solidarity Network

Food Project for Displaced Persons Starting Up

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Social Solidarity Network expect to improve the living conditions of 105 displaced families who settled a few years ago in the municipalities of Mocoa and Villagarzón. These families, which are members of associations for displaced population, will be given plots to carry out vegetable garden projects that will enable them to produce their own food.

The IOM Coordinator in Putumayo Hector Leiva affirmed that the «Food Security Including Food and Nutrition» project will also provide psychosocial assistance to displaced populations. He added, «Productive farms will be created to secure both food and adequate nutrition for displaced families. These families will also receive special assistance, especially from the public health care network, and



training for the peaceful resolution of their domestic conflicts, among other services.»

The Social Solidarity Network, as the institution that coordinates the assistance system for displaced population, designed the initiative that will receive IOM funding for approximately 165 million pesos.

The IOM official explained that initially the project will be carried out in Mocoa and Villagarzón in order to analyze its development and that later on municipalities such as Puerto Asís and Puerto Leguízamo may also become beneficiaries.

Programme for Assistance to Mobile Populations at a risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS



IOM has established a general policy on HIV/AIDS for all its offices worldwide to address the specific problems resulting from human mobility and this disease. The policy is being implemented in the Organization's regional and national strategic plans and actions plans.

The policy concentrates on advocacy and policy development initiatives to promote the importance of working on the relation between human mobility and HIV/AIDS expansion by: training experts in this area; integrating prevention and health

care; developing policies, programmes and projects directed at mobile populations; and researching and distributing information on this issue.

The partners in the implementation of these policies are the national and local governments, non-government organizations and international cooperation agencies.

In Colombia IOM has been actively working on HIV/AIDS and human mobility issues since January 2002, initially by creating awareness among the population about the

importance of addressing this matter and then by concentrating on specific interventions with mobile populations.

The work strategy adopted by IOM to achieve its objectives and mandate has been to participate in various initiatives and work groups associated with this topic such as: the UNAIDS Topic Group by supporting a number of initiatives such as the celebration of World AIDS Day; the process to draft the 2004-2007 Intersectorial Plan to Respond to HIV/AIDS within the framework of the 2003 National

Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy; being an active member and holding the Technical Secretariat of the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Several government and non-government institutions and international cooperation agencies participate in this mechanism such as: the ministries of Social Protection, Education and Health; Profamilia, National University of Colombia, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, PAHO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNODC, the Colombian Red Cross, Recolvih+, *Apoyo y Solidaridad* Foundation, Coalition of Leaders Living with HIV, Henry Ardila Foundation and the Colombian League Against HIV/AIDS.

All these institutions work jointly to design proposals and lead the implementation of projects financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In 2003 the project «Design an intersectorial sexual and reproductive health response with an emphasis on prevention and assistance for STD and HIV/AIDS among teenagers living in communities that host displaced



Technical Specifications

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

Design an intersectorial sexual and reproductive health response with an emphasis on prevention and assistance for STD and HIV/AIDS with teenagers living in communities that host displaced population.

DONOR/S

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

STARTING AND ENDING DATE

July 2004 – July 2006

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

■ 480 members of local governments and non-government organizations; 969 health sector and education community officials; 600,000 youngsters in a situation of displacement; national and migrant networks of Persons Living with the HIV/AIDS (PLHV); national authorities..

COVERAGE

48 municipalities in 24 departments

COUNTERPARTS

Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM); Ministries of Social Protection, Education and Health; Profamilia; Colombian Red Cross; National University of Colombia; UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, PAHO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNODC, Recolvih+, *Apoyo y Solidaridad* Foundation, Coalition of Leaders Living with the HIV Virus, Henry Ardila Foundation; the Colombian League Against HIV/AIDS; PLHV Networks; and IOM Missions in Latin America.

population in Colombia» was approved for a period of four years starting in mid 2004.

For this project the members of the CCM chose IOM as the main receiver of the resources, which involves the administration of the project under the direct supervision and guidelines of the CCM.

The project approved by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is for four years and 600,000 displaced youngsters of 48 municipalities of Colombia will benefit from it.

Two criteria were used in the selection of the areas of intervention: high prevalence of reported HIV/AIDS cases

The objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of these youngsters toward sexually transmitted diseases (STD), HIV and AIDS. The project focuses on a comprehensive respect for human rights, International Humanitarian Law and gender equality.

Three work areas were established in order to involve key population groups: civilian municipal and departmental authorities including the private sector and religious organizations; health sector workers and the education community; and the direct beneficiary population formed by youngsters from 10 to 24 years old. A dissemination



In addition, the programme is carrying out a few initiatives to develop inter-programmatic and intersectorial projects. The proposals are the following:

Pan American inventory of the institutions, programmes and projects that work on HIV prevention and AIDS health care among mobile and migrant populations.

- **Objective:** Fine tune strategies, methodologies and work tools on HIV, AIDS and human mobility based on experiences in Africa and Asia.
- Survey through the IOM/Colombia Internet website.
- Inventory of continental HIV and AIDS institutions.
- Publication of the inventory and the good practices manual.
- Biannual update of the database.
- A Pan American information network on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), HIV, AIDS and human mobility institutions, programmes and projects to exchange experiences, established and operating.
- **Beneficiary population:** PVVS Networks; Institutions registered in the Pan American Information Network on human mobility and HIV/AIDS institutions that are part of the Puebla Process and the South American Conference on Migrations; other entities and networks that work on HIV, AIDS and human mobility.

Perception and situation of the boys, girls and youngsters disengaged from the illegal armed groups regarding SRH, STD, HIV and AIDS.

- **Objective:** Create a database on the perception and situation of SRH, STD and HIV/AIDS to determine the human rights situation of PLHV in Colombia.
- Carry out a survey in the Referral and Opportunities Centres of IOM.
- Discussion groups with youngsters based on the results of the survey.
- The group of facilitators create awareness regarding this issue
- Youngsters who become aware of the problem form groups of multipliers
- **Beneficiary population:** PLHV networks; national authorities responsible for the initiative; youngsters who participate in the focal groups.

Diagnose access and comprehensive treatment for migrant PLHV in the countries that host most of the Colombian migrants

- **Objective:** Determine access, adherence and resistance to the **ARV** treatment by PLHV in the context of human mobility through a study with migrant Colombian populations in several third countries.
- Research as a tool for action (research – action)
- Highlight vulnerability associated with access, adherence and resistance by international migrant populations with the participation of different IOM missions, embassies and consulates and by national and continental PLHV
- **Beneficiary population:** International PLHV networks; migrant Colombian PLHV



strategy is being designed that includes the educational material called «Toolbox» that will be made available to all the participant municipalities.

During 2004, the results of the pilot project — which included the same components as the project approved by the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria — were published in order to test the strategies and methodologies proposed therein and make the necessary adjustments to improve the implementation of the project.

This publication includes and analyzes the results of a survey conducted among 1,842 youngsters from 10 to 24 years of age living in Montería. The objective of the study was to create awareness among the public in general, and the decision makers in particular, about the knowledge and attitudes found among youngsters living in a community that hosts displaced population.



Other On-going Initiatives:

At a regional level, IOM Colombia is participating in the process to update the Regional Strategic Plan to reduce the vulnerability of mobile and migrant populations toward HIV/AIDS, and its corresponding Action Plan.

This is being carried out in coordination with the IOM offices in Costa Rica, Washington and Chile.

PRESS RELEASE

SOURCE: Daily El Occidental (Cali)
PAGE: 16
SECTION: NACIONAL
DATE: 14 April, 2004

The project will be presented today in Bogotá **LAUNCHING OF A PROGRAM TO FIGHT AIDS**

SNE: Bogotá

The Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria approved a program that will be launched today in Bogotá whose objective is to reduce the vulnerability of 600,000 Colombian youngsters toward sexually transmitted diseases (STD), Aids and HIV.

This program resulted from the joint work of the ministries of Social Protection and Education, the Social Solidarity Network, the *Colombia Joven* (Young Colombia) Program, the National Health Institute, National University and other organizations such as UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, PAHO, IOM, Profamilia, Codhes, the Colombian Network of Persons who Live with HIV/AIDS, Vivir Mejor

Foundation, the Coalition of Persons who Live with HIV, the Henry Ardila Foundation and the Colombian Red Cross.

These institutions, which are part of the Country Coordinating Mechanism, approved a program to prevent and provide assistance to people with HIV/AIDS of the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, an organization that has raised the largest amount of funds worldwide for these diseases.

The program is called «Building an intersectorial response for sexual and reproductive health with an emphasis on prevention and assistance for STD and HIV/AIDS among youth living in communities that

host displaced persons in Colombia».

The objective is to reduce the vulnerability of 600,000 youngsters towards sexually transmitted diseases with a comprehensive approach that includes topics such as human rights, International Humanitarian Law and gender equality.

The project has adopted three strategies through which it is expected to involve key population groups:

1. Participation of civilian municipal and departmental authorities, including the private sector and religious organizations, in order to strengthen social initiatives in municipalities that host displaced

population by including this topic in their development plans and implementing productive projects aimed at vulnerable populations.

2. Participation of health sector workers and the education community in order to improve the sexual and reproductive health services provided and to include this issue in institutional education projects.

3. Participation of direct beneficiary population formed by young people from 10 to 24 years old, who will receive education about healthy habits, especially regarding sexual responsibility, and will learn labour skills that will facilitate their comprehensive development.



Diego Palacio Betancourt, ministro de la Protección Social.

This four-year project will be carried out in 48 municipalities in 25 departments of Colombia that were chosen due both to their high incidence of reported HIV/AIDS cases and concentration of displaced populations.

The event will be attended by Minister of Social Protection Diego Palacio Betancourt, Minister of Education Cecilia Marín Velez, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Alfredo Witschi, the IOM Chief of Mission in Colombia Diego Beltrand and representatives of the local governments and civil society.

Beneficiary municipalities of the project financed by the Global Funds against Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria for Colombia

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	POPULATION 10-24 YEARS OLD	DISPLACED PERSONS	POPULATION 10-24 IN SITUATION OF POVERTY	DISPLACED (10-24) YEARS OLD
Antioquia	Medellín	569.658	91.715	76.065	24.037
	Apartadó	30.405	15.537	7.808	2.467
	Argelia	3.711	2.223	1656	523
	Carmen de Viboral	14.555	5.153	3.528	1.115
	Cocorná	6.595	4.096	8.915	2.817
	La Unión	6.151	1.753	1204	380
	Puerto Triunfo	4.165	1.924	1008	319
	San Francisco	3.259	2.496	5.533	1.748
	San Luis	5.123	2.982	10.760	3.400
	Sonsón	13.092	4.569	3097	979
	Turbo	37.445	26.211	11.691	3.694
Arauca	Arauca	26.505	11.477	3.840	1.213
Atlántico	Barranquilla	423.720	117.794	30.634	9.680
	Malambo	33.543	12.042	4.173	1.319
	Soledad	110.525	25.421	18.661	5.897
Bolívar	Cartagena	316.933	104.905	36.369	11.493
	Carmen de Bolívar	26.392	19.187	26.217	8.285
	San Pablo	9.013	6.949	7.463	2.358
Caquetá	Florencia	45.087	16.322	30.272	9.566
Casanare	Yopal	27.255	10.929	6.974	2.204
Cauca	Popayán	74.592	16.186	16.638	5.258
Cesar	Valledupar	118.746	47.617	49.875	15.761
Chocó	Quibdó	33.945	27.326	26.182	8.274
Córdoba	Montería	114.609	56.961	19.598	6.193
	Tierralta	20.968	16.397	14.428	4.559
Bogotá D.C	Bogotá D.C	2.032.335	351.594	86.072	27.199
Cundinamarca	Soacha	89.901	24.903	12.539	3.962
Guaviare	S. José del Guaviare	19.927	8.290	11.088	3.504
Huila	Neiva	112.141	29.381	14.237	4.499
Magdalena	Santa Marta	137.722	47.239	68.375	21.607
Meta	Villavicencio	108.306	27.401	28.792	9.098
	Granada	12.981	4.712	1292	408
N. de Santander	Cúcuta	217.018	67.059	26.966	8.521
	Ocaña	33.205	12.485	2.685	848
Nariño	Pasto	131.925	35.092	17.671	5.584
	Tumaco	53.659	30.157	5.317	1.680
Putumayo	Mocoa	11.788	2.935	12.131	3.833
Quindío	Armenia	88.324	15.810	4.954	1.565
Risaralda	Pereira	144.434	32.786	13.775	4.353
Santander	Barrancabermeja	63.762	18.810	22.483	7.105
	Bucaramanga	174.329	31.205	19.952	6.305
Sucre	Sincelejo	83.170	38.092	65.275	20.627
Tolima	Ibagué	130.616	28.736	17.616	5.567
	Chaparral	12.005	6.122	1.824	576
Valle del Cauca	Cali	694.997	143.169	29.067	9.185
	Buenaventura	84.939	30.408	34.575	10.926
	Buga	40.332	8.591	2.890	913
	Tuluá	57.933	14.020	6.902	2.181
24	48	6.342.542	1.657.166	929.067	293.585

DANE population projections and RSS figures through October 2004

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Achievements

- Being selected as Main Recipient for such an important inter-institutional and intersectorial project as the «Design an intersectorial sexual and reproductive health response with an emphasis on prevention and assistance for STD and HIV/AIDS with teenagers living in communities that host displaced population in Colombia», financed by the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria..
- Extensive participation of regional, national, and local civil society organizations in the bidding process for institutions to implement the Global Fund project.
- Publication of the document «Sexual and reproductive health, sexually transmitted disease and HIV/AIDS in youngsters from 10 to 24 years old in a city that hosts displaced population. Montería, Colombia, 2003» that resulted from the implementation of the Global Fund's pilot project.

Lessons learned

- It is critical for the appropriate operation of an inter-institutional and intersectorial project to clearly define the roles, responsibilities, functions and relations toward and between each of the actors. This lesson became evident when the complexity of the activities and the variety of the actors involved in the project caused confusion in the process to carry out their duties. The creation of an implementation manual establishing roles and responsibilities served to solve the problems that were evident at the beginning of the project.
- Even when the participation of a number of institutions may slow the implementation of the project it is still a critical starting point for the establishment of sustainable foundation for the proposed activities. This creates a feeling of belonging toward the decision making process among all the participant organizations thus encouraging efforts with a common objective in mind.



A true story

Attitudes and behaviours of the youngsters toward HIV/AIDS in Montería

One of the priorities in the assistance to the victims of forced internal displacement is to reduce their vulnerability toward sexually transmitted diseases (STD), HIV/AIDS and unwanted/unplanned pregnancies. The complexity of the matter and the difficult conditions and contexts require a comprehensive, flexible and innovative response.

A survey was conducted in the city of Montería (July-October 2003) on the behaviours, attitudes and practices of youngsters who live in a displacement environment toward sexual and reproductive health, STD and HIV/AIDS. The results of the survey among 1,842 youngsters from 10 to 24 years old were published in 2004 in a research paper carried out with resources of Fund 1035 of IOM in Geneva.

Disinformation is a constant factor

The results of the survey reflect a general idea about the knowledge and behaviour of this population regarding the matter. Figures that are a cause of concern regarding disinformation and risk perception are the early age at which the youngsters start having sexual relations and the low rate in the use of condoms during the first sexual encounter. The survey reflects a general unawareness toward STD and HIV/AIDS although HIV positive people are highly stigmatized and discriminated against.

Kellys, Yolanda and Nathaly, (18 to 21 years old) were victims of the violence of the illegal armed groups and were forced to leave their home villages. The three affirm that sometimes it is more difficult living in Montería because the people there call them «displaced» and



believe they are violent people who sympathize with an illegal armed group. They say that these communities make them feel different and that as a result they have tried things that they probably would not have in their places of origin.

The study demonstrated that female migrants in Montería are the most vulnerable group and the one that is at highest risk. There are several reasons for this: the combination of being a displaced woman limits their access to formal employment; they obtain work under inferior conditions; they are discriminated against; they have little or no access to sexual and reproductive health care services; and they have little negotiating power to avoid unwanted sexual relations or without protection

Vulnerability increases when the youngsters are or feel excluded or displaced or have different behaviour patterns. In addition to this is the fact that they do not have access to the education system because they lack the financial resources.

during mobilization and in their place of destination.

Compared to the rest of the population the fact that they do not live with their families is one of the characteristics of the immigrants in Montería. This is a vulnerability factor since the families are an important source of social support.

Enaldo, Bedis and Iván, (17 to 21 years old), recognize that the violence in their places of origin changed the way they live and that now they are a bit more careless. The three of them had to quit studying and only one of them has found a job. These youngsters have had several sexual encounters but they do not use condoms although they are aware of the risks of STD and HIV/AIDS.

The interviews demonstrated that displaced youngsters are the most vulnerable population group regarding STD and HIV due to: a risky sexual behaviour; a lack of information and prevention services; an early initiation of sexual life; and not using condoms.

Public - private partnerships to prevent displacement



may be adapted to the Colombian populations' social and economic inclusion requirements.

In December 2004 the Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation, Starbucks Co., Empresas Nariño Ltd. and IOM signed an agreement to implement the "Programme for sustainable development for coffee growing families in Nariño". A partnership was established so that 5,400 persons of 1,080 coffee growing families in south Nariño would benefit from it. In this area there are more than 30,000 small coffee growers who have been facing the impact of the violence generated by the illegal armed groups, the lack of opportunities and social services and the risk of involvement in illegal crops.

The Café Nariño – Public-Private Partnership is aimed at implementing a local development strategy that includes social, economic and environmental improvements for the coffee growing families in southern Nariño.

The joint public-private efforts make it possible to involve small coffee growers as active members of the coffee production chain, empowering them as owners of their farms, providing training and facilitating production, giving them access to marketing opportunities and increasing their level of income, nutrition, housing and public services. The project guarantees them a dignified life in their own land.

The programme creates synergies by working jointly with the public sector, especially with the Nariño Governor's Office, with whom mechanisms are being designed for assistance to vulnerable, displaced and excluded populations by providing services such as: legalization of property titles,

Technical Specifications

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME
Programme for sustainable development for coffee growing families in Nariño

DONOR/S

Empresas de Nariño - 50%
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassy of the Netherlands in Colombia - 50%

STARTING AND ENDING DATE

December 2004 - December 2006

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

1,080 coffee growing families in the department of Nariño

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

5,400 persons of coffee growing families in the coffee region in the department of Nariño

COVERAGE

Department of Nariño

In February 2004 -- under the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and as a result of that country's commitment toward the Millennium Development Goals -- a "Call for Ideas" was announced to support sustainable development programmes in alliance with the private sector as donors and co-implementing institutions of initiatives to reduce poverty and reach sustainable development.

As a result, IOM identified, together with Empresas Nariño, the opportunity to design a massive impact programme directed at vulnerable communities at a high risk of forced displacement and migration.

Within this framework a new programmatic unit was created by IOM with the objective of drawing closer to the private sector to take joint migration and development actions. These are aimed at implementing local development strategies that offer assistance to vulnerable populations and that

Specific objectives of the programme:

1. Economic Development: Involve small and medium coffee growers into the coffee production chain, avoiding intermediaries, increasing family income by 50%, improving their living conditions and guaranteeing that future generations will remain in the business. A number of activities will be implemented to achieve these objectives such as: promoting the creation of production chains, generating income over the poverty line, providing technical assistance, improving the production capacity and having access to property.

2. Environmental Development and Clean Production: Introduce and establish clean practices based on sustainable farming activities that guarantee long term sustainable management of the coffee industry in the department of Nariño. In order to do so, a number of activities will be carried out such as providing technical assistance to coffee growing peasants and their families, training on the use of organic waste in the plantations and protecting water resources.

3. Social Development: Provide training and social assistance to the families on issues that promote good family finances and citizen participation. The topics developed under this objective are: administrative tools to manage family finances; accounting principles; community organization; access to social services such as education and health; obtaining property titles and partnership credits; preserving their culture; citizen participation; improving their quality of life; and general formation to extend the benefits of this project to other coffee growers associated with the coffee production chain.

Results expected:

- Prevent displacement, in extreme poverty conditions, from the zone to the large cities.
- Increase the income of the 1,080 families by 50% by improving the coffee production.
- All the families working in their own lands with production and sales guaranteed.
- Housing and infrastructure improvement necessary for high quality coffee treatment.
- The families will have waste water systems and potable water tanks.
- At least 810 coffee growers (70% of the total) using accounting systems.
- At least 50 peasants, 40 teachers and public servants in several municipalities trained to become promoters of sustainable practices.
- At least 2,800 beneficiary boys and girls provided technical education on sustainable agriculture.
- At least seven new community associations established and 210 coffee growers associated to partnership groups.

PRESS RELEASE

SOURCE: DAILY NUEVO SIGLO
PAGE: 3
SECTION: LOCAL
DATE: 23 December 2004

An agreement was signed by the Embassy of the Netherlands, representatives of Nariño Ltd. and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to implement the Sustainable Development Programme for Coffee Growing Families in Nariño with a total of 5,400 beneficiary persons. In this region more than 30,000 small coffee growers are facing a high risk of forced migration and displacement due to the violence and the illegal crops. The main donors and partners of this project are the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Starbucks Co., and Carcafé Foundation, who are providing 50% of the total investment of the programme.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- A British NGO donated 450 computers and the Nariño Governor's Office has agreed to pay for transportation and administrative costs of same. The computers will be installed in the schools of the coffee growing municipalities where the programme is being developed.
- Creation of the Institutional Support and Co-Implementation Network that will make it possible to strengthen the offer of social services in Nariño.
- Programme start-up in 1 January, 2005.

A true story

The people are the key factor

Jorge Enrique Vásquez is the general manager of Empresas Nariño. He made an alliance with the Embassy of the Netherlands and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Nariño Governor's Office, international coffee business Starbucks Co., the Carcafé Foundation and IOM and signed an agreement to carry out a sustainable development programme for coffee producing families in Nariño. The project is expected to benefit 5,400 people



Jorge Enrique Vásquez tells us that Nariño is a very mountainous department located in south west Colombia. Its geography makes this area very appropriate for coffee growing. The volcanic soil, high humidity and large amounts of sun light are the perfect conditions to produce one of the world's best coffee.

Jorge Enrique's family has a farm in Nariño, which is where the story of Empresas de Nariño began. At the time they produced 20,000 sacks of

coffee a year. Later on, in 1990, they started providing coffee to Starbucks Co. and today they produce 250 thousand sacks a year.

The "Starbucks effect", as he calls it, has had an extraordinary impact on Nariño. In ten years the number of farms in the region has increased from 30 to 40 thousand and production has increased by 29%. But, what is more important is that the region has become an example of how the possibility of generating income can help a community address the serious situation in the country.

"The objective of Empresas de Nariño is for the company's success to extend to the producers but this is very difficult to achieve without the right partners," affirms Vásquez.

This is why Empresas de Nariño -- knowing that IOM had already participated in partnerships with the private sector to promote development strategies that provided employment and economic sustainability -- established a strategic partnership with IOM, the Nariño Governor's Office and the Netherlands Cooperation Agency.

“Each partner adds a value, resources, knowledge or experience helping to find solutions to the problems that need to be addressed.”

The following is undertaken in order to improve the effectiveness of the public-private partnership and guarantee compliance with the objectives:

1. Corporate social responsibility practices are promoted.
2. Sustainability of the products and market access is sought.
3. Entrepreneurial development is created.



In the past, 85% of the 32,000 people who depended on the coffee crop in the area did not have fermentation tanks and only 50% had water, waste water installations and technical support. Now the partners of the programme have joined efforts to improve the quality of life of the 1,080 coffee growing families. “We believe that it is important to promote quality production by using the right environmental techniques. This should facilitate access to water, electricity and waste water management and to training programmes associated with topics such as: a sense of community, the capacity to associate, legal property management and stability in the land, among other things.

There is still a lot to do. With the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands and the private sector the project only reaches out to 1,080 families, or 3.4% of the

target population. The programme, however, has a few strategies in mind to share the benefits with other coffee growers. “Many growers who live close by have already asked to participate in the programme in one way or another. The equation seems simple: by investing in the coffee growers and contributing to the community the results are better, more lands are obtained, quality does not vary and there is a better environment.

“The quality of our coffee speaks for itself. It has a balanced taste and acidity, it has body and strength and its tradition and reputation has made it the favourite among millions of Starbucks consumers. As a coffee producer I feel very proud of this cup of coffee because, as a Colombian, I am proud of each cup of coffee that contributes to change my country’s image.”

Potential victims and victims of trafficking in persons

Prevention, reintegration and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons

The IOM Programme for Prevention, Reintegration and Assistance to the Victims of Trafficking in Persons is supported by the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands

Programme Components

Assistance Component

Partnerships have been created with NGOs and state institutions and with national and international authorities to provide comprehensive assistance to the victims of trafficking in persons. It includes psychological, social, legal, medical, and sexual and reproductive health assistance and skills or employment training in order to provide different financial alternatives.

This component, in turn, is divided into two sub-components. One is gathering information on the number of victims, the assistance provided and the institution to which the case has been referred to. The other is to contribute to the victim's reintegration process.

Institutional Strengthening

The main objective is to form and provide training to the Colombian authorities on trafficking in persons' issues such as national and international legislation, legal investigation methods and inter-institutional and international cooperation, among others.

It also seeks to strengthen the Colombian authorities on trafficking in persons topics through workshops to be

carried out in the different departments, providing technical assistance and training and exchanging information on law enforcement.

Prevention and Awareness Component

This component is aimed at creating instruments to inform, to train and to prevent the population about human trafficking.

Under this component the programme is carrying out a campaign called "We

are all valuable but we do not have a price" that made it possible to draw closer to the Colombian population massively.

One of the campaign's most important prevention elements is the call free centre, which has experts answering the phone. They provide assistance to everyone interested in denouncing cases of trafficking in persons or about Colombians who are victims of that crime. They also give information to people who will be travelling abroad and need orientation on whether the jobs, studies or marriages they are being offered are valid and legal. The specialists inform potential victims about "signs of alert" that should be considered to avoid becoming a victim of human trafficking.

**LLAME ANTES DE ACEPTAR UN TRABAJO,
ANTES DE VIAJAR AL EXTRANJERO**

**INFÓRMSE, DENUNCIE, NO SEA UNO MÁS. UNA LLAMADA PUEDE CAMBIAR SU VIDA
O LA DE SUS FAMILIARES.**



IOM
O I M
CORPORACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MIGRACIONES

SU VIDA NO TIENE PRECIO
LÍNEAS GRATUITAS

BOGOTÁ
600-1035

NACIONAL
018000-522020



HOMBRES, MUJERES, NIÑOS Y NIÑAS COLOMBIANOS SON EXPLOTADOS ALREDEDOR DEL MUNDO.

These experts are also trained to take emergency calls from victims of this crime who need orientation and help. The telephone numbers and website are:

- **National calls:**
01 8000 5 22 020,
- **Calls from Bogotá**
60010 35
- **International calls:**
+ 57 (1) 600 10 35
- **www.todostenemosvalor.com**

From its beginning through December 2004 the call centre received a total of 10,611 calls of which 175 were related to trafficking in persons.

Research Component

This component is a priority for the programme because it serves to strengthen the rest of the components and to provide direction to its actions in order to become more effective.

A national research programme has started on the "Information Requirements for Populations Vulnerable to Trafficking in Persons". This research has two components that will determine the second phase of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign. The first component is aimed at defining the characteristics of the population that is most vulnerable to trafficking in persons in Colombia. The second seeks to define the requirements for preventive information on trafficking of that population group.

Likewise, IOM is carrying out a statistical research in collaboration with DAS/INTERPOL and the National Police whose objective is to quantify and analyze the human trafficking cases attended to by the three institutions. This research will be published in 2005.

Technical Specifications

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

Prevention, Reintegration and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons

DONOR/S

- Royal Embassy of the Netherlands
- United States Department of State

STARTING AND ENDING DATES

- Phase 1: Starting date December 2002 – Ending date March 2004.
- Phase 2: Starting date September 2004 – Ending date August 2006.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- Comprehensive Assistance Projects
- Victims and vulnerable population: 950
- **Call Center:**
 - Number of calls: 10,611
 - Cases received: 175
- **Institutional Strengthening (seminars and workshops):**
 - Government officials: 2,888
 - NGO representatives and vulnerable population 3,279

COVERAGE

- Assistance to victims and vulnerable population: Bogotá, Pereira, Armenia, Calarcá, Buenavista, Circasia, Filandia, Génova, Montenegro, Pijao, Quimbaya, Salento, La Tebaida, Medellín and Bucaramanga.
- Institutional Strengthening: Meta, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Eje Cafetero, Huila, Cundinamarca, Norte de Santander, Santander, Cesar, Magdalena, Atlántico, Guajira, Risaralda, Quindío, Caldas, Boyacá, Santander, Antioquia, Chocó, Córdoba, Bolívar and Norte de Santander.

■ Awareness: National COUNTERPARTS

Government:

- Office of the Public Prosecutor
- Administrative Department of Security (DAS/INTERPOL)
- National Police
- Office of the Attorney General
- Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Presidential Advisory Council for the Equality of Women

Academic:

- National University of Colombia
- Externado University of Colombia
- Alma Mater Corporation
- Coffee Beltway Public Universities Network

NGOs and Religious institutions:

- Spaces for Women
- Renacer Foundation
- MINCI
- Colombian Domestic Workers' Labour Organization (SINTRASEDOM)
- New Social Era (NES)
- AESCO
- Rebuilding Culture
- Anti Trafficking in Persons Foundation
- Home for Young Women
- Juan XXIII Children's Home
- Jesús de la Buena Esperanza Farm for Children
- Bogotá, Pereira and Armenia Perpetual Adoration Nuns
- Hermanas Oblatas del Santísimo Redentor

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



National Plan to create awareness and provide training for multipliers.

A database was designed and implemented to establish, unify and consolidate the information on the number of victims of trafficking in persons at a national and international level. The following institutions are collaborating in this initiative: the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Administrative Department of Security (DAS/Interpol), the National Police (Humanitas Group) and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF).

A total of 2,982 state officials participated in the national and local workshops about national and international legislation on trafficking in persons.

A total of 252 NGO representatives provided training on basic concepts associated with trafficking in persons.

The programme has a data base that

codifies the cases received, referred or attended to by IOM.

A total of 691 women with a high level of vulnerability and victims of trafficking in persons with the purpose of prostitution received comprehensive assistance.

A total of 245 highly vulnerable boys, girls and youth, some who were victims of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation purposes, received comprehensive assistance in areas such as education, psychotherapy, nutrition, recreation and arts or skills training.

A total of 1,765 cases referred by the campaign's Call Centre were directly handled by IOM.

Through December 2004 the Call Centre had received a total of 10,611 calls of which 175 were cases associated with human trafficking.



A true story



Carmen is 38 years old. One day her friend Teresa asked her to help her find somebody that would like to work as a nanny in Italy with her son and daughter in law. Carmen decided to take the job herself. She thought it was a good opportunity to change her normal routine and travel to a new country.

"I was not very interested in the job since it was for domestic services. I thought it was a good opportunity to travel to another country, get acquainted with another culture and learn another language and customs. That is what I told Teresa." She promised to talk to her son so that they would give her special treatment.

The first surprise was when Teresa told her that it was better to get a tourist visa for another European Union country and that from there she was to take a train to her final destination in Italy.

When she arrived at her new employer's house she was treated rudely as a servant. She had to do the house work and permanently take care of their two daughters – one suffers from autism and the other one is hyperactive.

"My boss did not let me go to the Colombian Consulate to register because if I did so she would have to pay social security and she could be fined if she did not do so. She said that I had to keep in mind that the Colombian and Italian laws are totally different, that I should not go to the consulate and that I should stay at home. She always made me remember that I had a tourist visa that did not allow me to work and that I could go to prison for that."

Carmen was permanently intimidated by her boss. She would remind her about the money she owed for the air-

fare and said that she could not leave until she paid that money. Her salary, however, was 120 Euros and not more than 350 as she had been promised in Colombia.

"In addition to all this, they had a dog and a cat that slept in my room. My boss scolded me when I asked her if I could watch TV when I finished the house work. She said that I should stay in the kitchen with her children. The children and I were not allowed to sit in the dining room," recalls Carmen.

"One night I decided to escape because I could not bear to stay there any longer. I arrived in Colombia without any money because I had not been paid. After contacting the Call Centre I realized that I was a victim of labour exploitation and of trafficking in persons."

PRESS RELEASE

SOURCE: CARACOL NOTICIAS
PAGE: Caracol Noticias Web
SECTION: www.caracolnoticias.com
DATE: 22 September 2004

Call Centre to report on cases of trafficking in persons

BOGOTA (Caracol Noticias) – According to the authorities the third most profitable criminal activity in the World, after drug trafficking and arms trafficking, is also largely based in Colombia.

This is why a Call Centre has been established that receives and handles reports of possible human trafficking cases to prevent and provide assistance to the victims, among other things.

“People can also call to ask how they can travel abroad legally and safely,” explains Mónica Peruffo, officer of the International Organization for Migrations’ Trafficking in Persons Programme.

The people who report are witnesses of exploitation and parents or friends of the victims inside the country or abroad. Everyone may consult or report without being afraid for their safety. “One of the advantages of the Call Centre is that the calls are anonymous and people are not asked to give their real names,” explains Daniel Rodríguez, the coordinator of the centre.

Spain and Japan continue to be the main destinations of Colombians taken for prostitution

purposes or domestic service slavery.

Inside Colombia the cases of adults and children that are taken away from their regions to the cities to be exploited are becoming more frequent.

According to the National Police young women, who are attracted by spectacular financial offers, are the most frequent victims and the ones most wanted in this trade.

Persons who desire to report may call the following numbers: Bogotá - 6001035; for the rest of the country dial 018000 522020; for international calls dial 571 6001035.

The Colombian Law establishes that any person who “promotes, persuades, constrains, facilitates, finances, collaborates or participates in transporting a person within the national territory or abroad under any form of violence, threat or deceit, for exploitation purposes such as prostitution, pornography, servitude due to debt, begging, forced labour, servile marriage, slavery to obtain a profit or any other benefit for her/himself or for another person will be sentenced to 10 to 15 years in prison and to pay a fine equivalent to six hundred thousand legal minimum wages.”



Programme to fight trafficking in persons through training and inter-state cooperation



The project, financed by the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and implemented by the IOM offices in Colombia and Dominican Republic, is aimed at combating trafficking through the exchange of experiences and training of diverse institutions of the Colombian, Dominican and United States governments.

The project includes a number of activities aimed at supporting and improving human trafficking law enforcement and at protecting the victims and witnesses of this crime.

A Diagnosis of Trafficking in Persons in the Dominican Republic and Colombia is being produced to learn about the problem in these countries.

This document is aimed at establishing the magnitude of the crime, the methods used in these two countries, their current legislation and the response of the states involved in the project.

Furthermore, the project created a common training methodology and drafted a manual aimed at state officials. For this purpose a workshop

was carried out called “Values, concepts and mechanisms against trafficking in persons” to be used by a number of Colombian state institutions that had already received training on this subject. The workshop served to standardize and test the training methodology used in Colombia and Dominican Republic and to take advantage of the experience of these experts in drafting the Manual. This document will make it possible to analyze and transmit concepts and values associated with human trafficking in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

International encounters were also carried out. The event in Colombia was called “Trafficking in Persons and Law Enforcement”. Authorities of the United States, Colombia and the Dominican Republic exchanged experiences related to strengthening state institutions in the fight against human trafficking. They also analyzed the situation in the three countries and discussed possible mechanisms to provide the appropriate protection and assistance to the victims.

The main result was the design of a set

of guidelines for an International and Inter-Institutional Cooperation Protocol to Protect Victims and Witnesses. Also, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Office of the Attorney General of Colombia, the National Attorney General of the Dominican Republic, the IOM Mission in Colombia and the IOM Mission in the Dominican Republic.

The second international event was held in the Dominican Republic entitled “Better practices to combat trafficking in persons”. Authorities and NGOs of the United States, the Dominican Republic, Colombia and of several European countries participated in this encounter. Finally, a proposal to protect the victims and the witnesses will be drafted.

Five encounters are being held for this purpose with consuls of the countries of destination of Colombians and Dominicans and with other Colombian authorities. These encounters serve to facilitate the collaboration among diplomatic authorities and the Colombian state and to gather information to improve the protection to the victims.

PRESS RELEASE

AGREEMENT SIGNED AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Daily Diario del Huila
17 July 2004

The authorities of Colombia and the Dominican Republic signed a cooperative agreement yesterday to protect the victims and the witnesses of human trafficking and announced that they will promote an international common cause to combat this crime. The document of understanding was signed in Bogotá at the end of an international meeting about trafficking in persons promoted by the International Organization for Migrations (IOM) with the participation of representatives of the Colombian and Dominican offices of the attorney general and representatives of the United States government, which is sponsoring the strategy. The five-day forum to exchange experiences was also attended by Colombian officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Police, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Office of the Attorney General, representatives of the International Criminal Police Organization and a delegation from the Dominican Republic.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

During the International Encounter “Trafficking in Persons and Law Enforcement: Exchanging Experiences” the Colombian and Dominican authorities drafted the “Guidelines for the development of an International and Inter-Institutional Protocol to Protect the Victims of Trafficking in Persons”.

Parallel to this document, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Colombian and Dominican offices of the attorney generals, to strengthen the commitments of both institutions to collaborate with each other, which has resulted from their accumulated experience

in the fight against trafficking in persons.

During this event support was given to the creation of a work group to fight trafficking in persons, formed by officials of DAS/INTERPOL, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the ICBF, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Police, and the Office of the General Attorney.

This group meets to discuss and decide on practical issues such as the redesign of the form for referral of trafficking in persons cases that is filled in by the Colombian consulates and sent to the national authorities.

The implementation of this project has demonstrated the importance of generating cooperation strategies among the countries of origin, transit and destination.

Being able to disseminate the better practices accumulated throughout several years by the authorities that deal with the different areas of trafficking in persons such as prevention, combat and protection to the victims has been critical.

This will generate new policies to effectively combat this crime and to provide appropriate assistance to the victims.



Technical Specifications

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

Programme to combat trafficking in persons through training and inter-state cooperation.

DONORS/S

- U.S. Department of State
- Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

STARTING AND ENDING DATE

September 2003 - April 2005

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

N/A

COVERAGE

Dominican Republic, Colombia

COUNTERPARTS

■ Colombia:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Office of the Attorney General
 Administrative Department of Security (DAS/INTERPOL)
 Office of the Public Prosecutor
 National Police
 Renacer Foundation

Espacios de Mujer
 SINTRASEDOM
 Social Pastoral,
 CARITAS Colombia

■ Dominican

Republic:
 Office of the Attorney General
 National Police

Minors disengaged from the illegal armed groups Support program for ex-combatant children



According to UNICEF and Human Rights Watch, there are 6,000 to 11,000 minors engaged in the illegal armed groups. Colombia is the third country in the world with child soldiers. This situation not only violates the rights of children to enjoy a dignified childhood but they become victims of a conflict and of forced migration and trafficking in persons, as established by the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. Furthermore, engaging children in the illegal armed groups is considered the worse form of child labour and is typified as an illegal recruitment crime.

In this context IOM, with USAID funding, is working since 2001 to strengthen government institutions such as the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman in relation to their duties to defend the rights of the children. These institutions carry out prevention and assistance programmes for minors who are victims of the violence generated by the conflict with the illegal armed groups. Starting in 2004, the governments of Canada and Italy joined these efforts by funding initiatives that are being carried out by IOM and the ICBF.

The programme focuses on two main areas: the first is to provide support to the ICBF for its assistance programme for ex-combatant children and the other one includes a prevention component aimed at preventing the illegal armed groups from using, engaging and re-

cruiting boys, girls and youth and trying to guaranteeing their stay in homes, schools and communities. These places try to promote their rights to integrity, freedom, family, health, education and full citizenship as any other individual.

Regarding assistance, the programme has contributed to put together contingency plans to provide assistance to the ICBF in case of massive demobilizations. IOM has also actively promoted its participation in the strategy of the Alliance for Childhood in Colombia, of which it is a member together with 20 other national and international organizations including agencies of the United Nations System such as UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDOC and ILO.

During 2004, 684 children and youth disengaged from the illegal armed groups joined the ICBF Assistance Centres for a total of 2,059 children having received assistance from this IOM programme that is carried out with USAID funds. By December 31, the ICBF was protecting minors in 24 assistance centres located in the cities of Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, Bucaramanga, Pereira, Tunja and Cartagena and in 80 Foster Homes. At the same time it provides 15 conditional family subsidies.

IOM strongly supports the minors' social integration component. The Inter-institutional Committees of the Referral and Opportunities Centres (CROJ) were created for this purpose

Technical Specifications

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR EX-COMBATANT CHILDREN

DONOR/S

- USAID, CANADA, ITALY

STARTING AND ENDING DATE

- USAID: March 2001 - September 2005
- CANADA: April 2004 - July 2005
- ITALY: May 2004 - April 2006

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- ICBF Assistance Programme: 2,059
- Prevention: 12,795
- Ethnic Minorities 209

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Assistance:

- Families: 1,260

Prevention:

- Cauca: 4,956
- Chocó: 1,227
- Huila: 600

COVERAGE

- Bogotá, Cauca, Chocó, Antioquia, Valle del Cauca (Cali), Risaralda (Pereira), Quindío (Armenia), Boyacá (Tunja), Santander, Cundinamarca, Huila, Bolívar, Sucre, Putumayo, Magdalena, Orinoquía, Amazonía.

COUNTERPARTS

Government:

Presidency of Colombia; Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF); Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman; Office of the Governor of the department of Cauca; Office of the Governor of the department of Huila; Office of the Governor of the department of Meta; Office of the Governor of the department of Antioquia; Office of the Governor of the department of Bolívar; Office of the Governor of the department of Sucre; Mayors' Offices of Cajibío, La Vega, Santander de Quilichao and Totoró (Cauca); Bahía Solano, Beté, Novita and Puerto Echeverri (Chocó); La Palma, La Peña, Nimaima and Quipile (Cundinamarca); Barrancabermeja, Carmen de Bolívar, San Jacinto, Zambrano and San Juan Nepomuceno (Bolívar), Ovejas, San Onofre and Tolú Viejo (Sucre); Luis Carlos Galán Institute; Chocó Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman; National Learning Service (SENA); Administrative Department for Social Welfare (DABS); National Planning Department (DNP); Municipal Technical Assistance Units (UMATAs)

Civil Society

Cauca Community Projects Association (APC); Dos Mundos Foundation; Ciudad Don Bosco Medellín; Centro Don Bosco Cali; Restrepo Barco Foundation; Cauca Indigenous Councils - Indigenous Organizations (ONIC-AICOPIAC-CTC)

International Cooperation

UNICEF; International Labour Organization (ILO-IPEC Programme); UNDP Manos Unidas; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the Embassy of Canada; Italian Cooperation Agency (ICA) through the Embassy of Italy.

Private Sector

Chamber of Commerce; Employees and Families Social Benefit Funds; and Oleoducto Central Petroleum Company S.A



thus contributing to establish procedures and protocols for assistance, follow-up, referral and orientation to the youngsters who complete the programme. At the same time the Organization has supported the ICBF in the creation of three CROJs in Bogotá, Cali and Medellín funded by the governments of Italy and Canada. To date these centres have provided assistance to 242 youngsters from the ICBF centres.

One of the efforts during this year was directed at creating awareness toward the situation of ex-combatant children. Forgiveness and reconciliation was the motto of the campaign that included the "Un Canto Nuestro" (Our Song) CD and video-clip in which numerous prestigious Colombian singers participated.

During the presentation of this CD in a concert that was attended by the majority of the singers and by representatives of ICBF entities, the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, UNICEF, ILO and USAID/IOM, they asked the society, through the media (radio, press, television and internet), to recognize and accept children disengaged from the illegal armed groups as victims of a violence that is not of their

doing. Close to 1,000 people attended the concert.

A plan for life

Among the activities to provide assistance to demobilized children, the operators and education institutions under this programme voiced their support to the Ministry of Education's Resolution No. 2620, of 1 September 2004, that establishes guidelines, criteria and procedures to provide education services to boys, girls and youth disengaged from the illegal armed groups. As a result of this resolution 814 minors obtained school scholarships, 746 were given scholarships to develop labour skills and 30 productive initiatives were financed that will provide employment to numerous youngsters of the programme.

Prevention

Under the prevention component the year was marked by the initiative to prevent child recruitment carried out in coordination with the ICBF, Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO), through its IPEC programme. This component was launched in 28 January at a national

level and a number of regional inaugurations were carried out during the year in cities such as Medellín, Ibagué, Neiva, Bucaramanga, Cali and Valledupar.

The objective of this initiative is to create awareness about the causes of child engagement in the illegal armed groups with the purpose of generating among the society, through knowledge, a common feeling and desire to prevent child recruitment. A number of government and private sector institutions at a local level committed themselves during the inaugurations to support preventive initiatives.

Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunities Maps were developed in 10 departments and 36 municipalities. These maps are aimed at identifying the zones where the minors are at a greater risk of engaging in the illegal armed groups in order to generate preventive activities.

Through this exercise the programme has provided assistance to 12,079 children and youth with educational, cultural, creative use of free time and productive projects. The Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunities Maps were included in a publication that was completed by the end of 2004.

During this year the programme has made significant progress such as: the support to new assistance mechanisms (foster homes, conditional family subsidies); the agreements with the Ministry of Education; the creation of the CROJs for post-programme follow-up; the information system; employment creation; support through scholarships; the development of a prevention initiative; the work with ethnic minorities at a national level; and strengthening the ICBF and the implementing institutions of the different components, among others.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENT

1. By strengthening the Colombian Family Welfare Institute's protection programme the rights of 2,059 boys, girls and youth disengaged from the illegal armed groups were restored and support was given for their social reintegration and the construction of personal projects through the following:

- **Education:** 1,455 scholarships, immediate access to catch-up programmes, guaranteed access to the official education system.
- **Income Generating:** 1,211 youngsters have scholarships for vocational training, 345 are participating in orientation programmes to build a personal project and develop a productive reintegration model, and support has been given for 15 productive initiatives.
- **Family Reunification:** 23 family

encounters countrywide with the participation of 415 boys and girls and their families and 267 children were re-integrated into their families.

- **Set and start-up three Referral and Opportunities Centres** in Bogotá, Cali and Medellín and provided assistance to 210 youngsters who have completed the programme.

2. Design Contingency and Formation Plans for 300 public and private sector employees in 12 departments to prepare local capabilities to provide assistance to ex-combatant children.

3. Design five modules for psycho-social assistance as tools for intervention and accompaniment to the youngsters.

4. Ethnic minorities: 209 Indigenous

and Afro-Colombian boys, girls and youth disengaged from the armed conflict have received assistance in their communities in education projects, have been provided training on human rights, International Humanitarian Law and Indigenous legislation and have participated in workshops on sexual and reproductive health

5. Prevention: Vulnerability, Risks and Opportunities Map methodology and campaign for recruitment prevention (TV commercial, radio spot and posters), three radio programmes for recruitment awareness and prevention (UNDP, Manos Amigas).

6. Design of a legal standing for the Indian people: provided training to 30 Indian community agents and conducted two national workshops and 60 local workshops.

A True Story

Youthful hands build peace

Ex-combatant children gave life to a greeting cards micro-enterprise



want to be your partner." These were Marta's strong words when she approached the desk of the Manager of Imaginación to tell her that she wanted to join the business, a micro-enterprise project that is producing hand made cards made by children di-

sion to disengage from the armed conflict and enter an ICBF programme for demobilized children. Today Marta is one of the best workers in the firm.

She is not only quick and careful in making each card but she has given a

sengaged from the armed conflict. Production is for Colombia and for export.

Marta is 19 years old, and joined the guerrilla when she was 14. She spent three years with them before making the deci-

good example to youngsters who, like herself, participated in the illegal armed groups.

Marta has been hired by the firm and monitors 20 girls who were her classmates in the ICBF programme and who, in December 2003, received training on how to make different kinds of cards – for special occasions such as mother or father's day, christenings, birthdays, etc. or for institutions (calendars and business cards, among others).

There are already 32 disengaged youth who have received training on how to make cards. They earn 150,000 to 400,000 pesos per month working in Imaginación. This mi-



cro-enterprise received support from the programme for ex-combatant children financed by USAID. This is only one of the businesses with which the programme works and there are others such as Tejido Humando.

Through IOM, USAID contributed 68 million pesos to Imaginación that made it possible to create this business project and buy the necessary material to start working such as chairs and tables, a colour laser printer, paper cutters, and others.

This kind of projects aimed at providing assistance to minors disengaged from the illegal armed groups by helping them to reintegrate into the society, join the labour market and, especially, receive orientation so that they may build their personal projects through feasible and sustainable solutions.

Today the youngsters who are part of Imaginación have a new personal project: contributing to the growth of this micro-enterprise, which is making cards for some of the most important businesses in the country and is starting to export. Some of their last orders were for 10,000 book marks for a national publishing company and 5,000 Christmas Cards for a U.S. company.

This business project is marking their lives... and the cards.

Each product of Imaginación carries its special mark printed in the back of the cards, the almanacs or the book marks which says:

“Hand made with love by ex-combatant youth. These hands are building peace.”

PRESS RELEASE

Ten artists dedicate their songs to reintegrated youth

«Reintegrated youth sign together with Andrea Echeverri, the Aterciopelados band, Julio Nava, Fonseca, Maia, Carolina Sabino, Moisés Angulo, Jorge Celedón, Natalia Bedoya, Fausto and Galy Galeano»

SOURCE: LA LIBERTAD
PAGE: 11 A
SECTION: GENERAL
DATE: 07 December de 2004

BOGOTA, EFE. Ten Colombian artists offered a concert yesterday called *«Un Canto Nuestro»* (Our Song). This is part of a campaign aimed at giving refuge to ex-combatant children. The artists together with the children and the youth presented in the *«La Castellana»* theatre in Bogotá the song called *«Un Canto Nuestro»*, which is recorded in a CD. The words are by Marco Eusse and the music is by Gustavo Arenas.

The campaign is supported by the International Organization for Migrations (IOM), the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF).

Some children joined their voices to those

of singers Andrea Echeverri, the Aterciopelados band, Julio Nava, Fonseca, Maia, Carolina Sabino, Moises Angulo, Jorge Celedón, Natalia Bedoya, Fausto and Galy Galeano. The programme, which is also supported by the embassies of the United States and Sweden, *«is intended at transmitting a message of reconciliation to the Colombian society»* with the motto *«to receive the ones who are back and so that the ones who returned do not go back»*, said the organizers. They added that this initiative *«is intended at creating awareness among the Colombian people toward the situation of hundreds of boys, girls and youth who are recruited to participate in the armed conflict, thus violating their rights and excluding them from the possibility of living their childhood and adolescence in a dignified manner.»*

According to figures of government and non-government organizations approximately 11,000 children and youth are used by leftist guerrillas and by rightist paramilitary.



Programme to Strengthen Peace in Colombia



The programme contributes to build an atmosphere of peace by promoting coexistence, peaceful conflict resolution for dialogue and reconciliation. It is financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and supports projects aimed at implementing peace building models.

The programme, with the initiative of civil society and the support of the Colombian Government, actively supports new tolerance and social development practices and activities to strengthen government institutions.

Components

1. Strengthen the Colombian Government
2. Support initiatives of civil society
3. Start up the Citizen Coexistence Centres

Objectives

1. Strengthen the Colombian Government
2. Provide assistance and accompaniment to different government institutions and civil society organizations in order to strengthen them.

Activities

1. Initiatives with the State: IOM provides support to the following government institutions in their duties associated with:

Technical specifications

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

Programme to strengthen peace in Colombia

DONOR/S

USAID

STARTING AND ENDING DATE

July 2001 – September 2006

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

436,001 persons

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

1,467,868 persons

COVERAGE

29 departments and 381 municipalities:
Amazon; Antioquia; Arauca; Atlántico; Bolívar; Boyacá; Caldas; Caquetá; Casanare; Cauca; Cesar; Chocó; Córdoba; Cundinamarca; Guainía; Guaviare; Huila; Magdalena; Medellín; Meta; Nacional; Nariño; Norte de Santander; Putumayo; Quindío; Risaralda; San Andrés and Providencia; Santander; Sucre; Tolima; Valle

COUNTERPARTS

Government

Office of the First Lady of Colombia; Ministry of Education; Barrancabermeja Mayor's Office; San Vicente del Caguán Mayor's Office; San Gil Mayor's Office; Aguachica Mayor's Office; Ocaña Mayor's Office; Magangué Mayor's Office; Cantagallo Mayor's Office; Leticia Mayor's Office; Sonsón Mayor's Office; Peace Observatory; High Commissioner for Peace; Landmines Observatory – Presidency of Colombia; and Santander Governor's Office.

International Cooperation

Organization of American States;

Civil Society

Fundalectura; Vallenpaz; Colombian NGOs Confederation; Life, Justice and Peace Commission; *Ducha Fria*; Confecámaras; *Medios Para la Paz*; *Humanizar* IOM Project; Peace Observatory – *San Mateo*; Confepaz; Transparency for Colombia; *Embera katio*; Association of Friends of the Physically Disabled; Los Andes University; Business Foundation; Culture of Democracy and Electoral Tolerance; Popular Women's Organization (OPF); Fundemos; Freedom Judicial Corporation; Fomcultural; Shadai Environment and Business Corporation; Findex; Chocó Women's Departmental Network; Hemera Foundation; Fenacón; Luis Carlos Galán Institute; ACIN; Nuevo Arco Corporation; Iris; Social Foundation; Asfamipaz; Cordepaz; Iroka – Mamos Indian Reservation; Colombian Theatre Corporation; Redepaz – Peace Week; Shooting Cameras for Peace; *Sobresaltos*; Dusakawi IPS; Ideas for Peace; Asocolflores; *Día del Niño* Corporation; Funlibre; Cirec; Early Childhood Pastoral Work; Anti-Landmines Campaign; *Jesús de Nazareth* Home; Formulas; Antioquia Regional Rehabilitation Committee; and Alvarallice.



Office of the High Commissioner for Peace

1. Reviewing the demobilized combatants' disposition for peace and for reintegration into civilian life.
2. Directing dialogues and signing agreements with representatives of the armed groups.
3. Convening civil society organizations for national reconciliation and coexistence issues.

Office of the Vice President

- Human Rights Programme
- Landmines Observatory
- Updating the Anti-Landmines Action Information System (IMSMA) to prevent, install signs, map and remove landmines and provide assistance to landmine victims.

Office of the First Lady of the Nation

- Promoting social policies for the most vulnerable populations.

2. Initiative with Civil Society

Develop innovative peace building models that make it possible to promote lea-

dership and a change of attitude among the population by:

- Providing assistance to the victims of excluded groups
- Providing support to children and youth
- Disseminating messages and using alternative media
- Improving income

3. Citizen Coexistence Centres

These are public areas through which citizen values such as solidarity, respect and tolerance are strengthened and social organization is promoted as a means to reject violence. These areas make possible the effective participation by the community in resolving their conflicts peacefully.

The centres are also a place of encounter with culture and the arts and they generate programmes to consolidate governance.

Currently, there are centres in: Barrancabermeja (Santander), San Vicente del Caguán (Caquetá), San Gil (Santander), Magangué (Bolívar), Cantagallo (Sur de Bolívar), Aguachica (Cesar), Leticia (Amazonas), Sonsón (Antioquia) and Ocaña (Norte de Santander).

Results of the programme

A total of 487,074 persons have been directly benefited by this programme in 356 municipalities of 29 departments of Colombia together with other 1,828,460 indirectly.

Coordination

Ministries of the Interior and Justice, Education and Culture; Office of the High Commissioner for Peace; Presidential Advisory Council for Special Programmes (Office of the First Lady); Governors' and Mayors' offices; NGOs and others.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Achievements

1. Five new Citizen Coexistence Centres were inaugurated in addition to the three opened in previous years. The new ones are located in the municipalities of Aguachica (Cesar), Cantagallo and Magangué (Bolívar), Leticia (Amazonas) and Ocaña (Norte de Santander). In addition, the building work has started for a new centre in the municipality of Sonsón (Antioquia).
2. The local self-determination project under the Support to the Colombian Government component has already started with more than 1,500 beneficiary families to date in five towns located in the same number of municipalities in the departments of Cauca, Antioquia, Bolívar and Chocó.
3. A total of 704,068 persons have benefited from this programme through September 2004 – 62,900 directly and 641,168 indirectly.
4. The existing projects have consolidated and 12 new ones have been initiated with 10 organizations. These projects started by the end of the July-September 2004 quarter in 356 municipalities spread out in 29 departments.

Lessons Learned

- Local knowledge and experience are key elements when initiating a project or programme. Even if the institutions and the professionals who start working with the communities are knowledgeable and have experience in areas with similar conditions, it will still be critical to value and consider local know-how and the historical context of their reality. Ignoring this may become, from the beginning, a low impact indicator and it may generate conflicts between the communities and the activities that are to be implemented.
- It is important that a national institution direct the organization processes and the institutional strengthening work in the local institutions and the community. This presence generates greater commitment from the regional institutions. Such is the case of the Advisory Council for Special Programmes in the project to promote rights.

PRESS RELEASE

SOURCE: DIARIO EL UNIVERSAL (CARTAGENA)
PÁGE: 7C
SECCIÓN: BOLIVAR
DATE: 25 de agosto de 2004

Magangué Coexistence and Peace Center will be Inaugurated on Saturday

MARTHAACOSTA GARCIA
 El Universal correspondent

The Coexistence and Peace Centre built in Magangué with the support of the Embassy of the United States, through the International Organization for Migrations (IOM), and the Ministry of the Interior and Justice of Colombia, will be inaugurated on Saturday, August 28 at 10:00 a.m.

The event will be attended by First Lady of the Nation Lina Moreno de Uribe and the High Commissioner for Peace Luis Carlos Restrepo.

Other attendees will be Julio José Orozco of the Ministry of the Interior and Justice; Beatriz Pereira, National Coordinator of the Coexistence Center; and representatives of IOM, among who is Martha Yolanda Gomez.

Some of the invitees are representatives of the United States Agency for International Development, officials of the departmental government, the Mayor of Magangué Jorge Alfonso Lopez, deputies, municipal councillors, senators, House representatives and community organizations of the municipality and of the department of Bolivar.

The Coexistence and Peace Centre was built with resources of the Embassy of the United States and the municipality donated the lot where the discotheque Luna 3000 used to be located, in Diego de Carvajal Avenue, in the Santa Rita neighbourhood.

Several state institutions will operate in the Centre such as the Municipal Neighbourhoods Disputes

Office, the Municipal Family Affairs Office, the Municipal Community Development Office, the Culture Institute, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, the Municipal Labour Office and the Juvenile's Court. In other words, institutions that deal with peaceful resolution of conflicts.

This place also has a recreation room, a library, a conference room, two reception areas — one for projections and another for coordination — and a cafeteria, sanitary units and a central plaza.

The project began as a result of an IOM study in the municipality that indicated the serious situation that citizens living in Magangué are facing with the deterioration of the social problems resulting from the fact that this community hosts a large number of displaced population from southern Bolivar and other regions.

How does it operate?

The Coexistence and Peace Centre is an area for encounter where the community has access to justice through local order institutions and with programs and initiatives that promote and foster citizen values, coexistence and peaceful conflict resolution.

The Centre is aimed at drawing the state closer to poor and excluded communities through a number of institutions and programs that provide the population instruments and elements so that they may find solutions to numerous daily problems.



A True Story

Sheteyumum means wellbeing and it is also the name that the Mamos or “healers” that come from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta came up with for the Comprehensive Coexistence Centre for the Indian People of Cesar and Guajira. Sheteyumum is what Luz Elena Izquierdo has been looking for the indigenous communities which, for a long time, have been neglected and rejected by the society.

Luz Elena Izquierdo is a 47 year old woman, the mother of three, who was born in the Arhuaca Community in a place called Jewrwa, in the department of Cesar. She is the General Coordinator of Dusakawi, an indigenous organization that receives funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the support of the International Organization for Migrations.

Dusakawi resulted from the merger of two indigenous communities in the department of Cesar. Its objective is to strengthen community processes to bring together the initiatives of indigenous communities and the development of these peoples by promoting human rights, peaceful conflict resolution and cultural preservation.

For many years Luz Elena was a witness to how the Indian communities she visited were not aware of the existence of others and how increasingly necessary it was to have a place where all the ethnic communities could meet, regardless of where they came from. She suffered the indifference and rejection toward these issues and, with the vision of a future nurse, was aware of the great needs associated with health.

Luz Elena was a witness to how people clo-

Sheteyumum

se to her preferred to die instead of going to a doctor that would attend to them in a cold cement consultation room, so alien to their culture.

She decided to study and, when she graduated as a nurse, she felt the need to do something to help the indigenous communities. She met with the leaders of different communities and they came up with the idea to create an organization to provide health care services to those communities, to manage their own resources and to respond to their needs.

This is how in December 1996 Dusakawi was created. According to Luz Elena this means a lot to her and to the Indian peoples. “This is the encounter of many cultures and ethnic groups through health care services, where experiences and knowledge is shared,” she says.

Dusakawi is proposing the creation of a cultural centre that will promote the rights of the communities and a peaceful resolution of their conflicts, thus benefiting the indigenous communities of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the Serranía del Perijá and Guajira. Approximately 500 Indians, who are members of Dusakawi and 3,000 others who live in those regions will benefit from this centre.

The Comprehensive Coexistence Centre for the Indian People of Cesar and Guajira, which will also be supported by USAID and IOM, will provide a space that will not only serve Dusakawi’s administrative requirements, but it will also provide a space for inter-ethnic coexistence in order to integrate traditional Indian education practices with others commonly implemented. It

will provide opportunities for cultural exchange thus strengthening community initiatives associated with the armed conflict.

The Centre will harmoniously combine mud and rocks with contemporary textures. This place will become Dusakawi’s administrative headquarters and will include a health care centre, a multicultural room and large green areas that will serve as a reminder of the daily coexistence of the communities.

This Centre will also have two kankuruas, the typical indian construction, that will provide an atmosphere similar to that of the communities where they live. This will make it possible for different ethnic groups to feel at home “and they will be able to find many other spaces for encounter, doctors, dentists and also Mamos who are willing to respect and share their knowledge to meet their health requirements,” affirms Luz Elena.

There will also be a botanic garden where they will be able to obtain medicinal plants and food.

This project is part of the IOM Programme to Strengthen Peace in Colombia. It will contribute to peace building since it will promote a change of attitude among the communities that will result in a reduction in the rate of violent deaths, domestic violence and alcoholism.

Furthermore, the Centre will promote the participation of women in community processes and the design of proposals to form leaders with the ancestral thought of their communities.

Programme for the reintegration of demobilized youth

Technical Specifications

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

Institutional strengthening to improve the services being provided to demobilized youth in the process of social reintegration

DONOR/S

- Government of the Netherlands

STARTING AND ENDING DATE

- October 2004 - October 2006

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- 1,000 youngsters, 18 to 24 years old, who opted for individual demobilization

COVERAGE

- Bogotá and Medellín

COUNTERPARTS

- Ministry of the Interior and Justice – Programme for Reintegration to Civilian Life
- World Research and Training Centre for Conflict Resolution – University for Peace
- Claret Homes Foundation
- Escuela Galán Corporation
- Temporary counterparts: Corpindes - Colombian-Swiss Presence - Antonio Restrepo Barco Fondation



This programme, financed by the Government of The Netherlands and implemented by IOM, will contribute to strengthen reintegration strategies and improve both the coverage and the installed capacity of the institutional and professional network that provides services to youngsters in the process of reintegration into civilian life. The programme is aimed at supporting the reintegration of 1,000 youngsters, 18 to 24 years old, who opted for individual demobilization.

Among the initiatives of this institutional

strengthening programme is the creation of three Referral and Opportunities Centres (CROs) aimed at providing individual assistance to these youngsters. The three centres are located in the areas that concentrate more than 85% of the cases of individual demobilization – Bogotá and Medellín. The CROs facilitate reintegration into civilian life by providing comprehensive services so that they may reintegrate into the society in a productive way.

The assistance includes education information and referral, support in the process of

finding income-generating opportunities and productive initiatives, labour skills training, psychosocial support, access to social services and continuous and individual follow-up to the youngsters who are in the process of reintegration into civilian life. The psychosocial assistance component is headed by the World Centre for Conflict Resolution of the United Nations University for Peace.

The programme includes a follow-up, monitoring and evaluation system that also makes it possible to measure the impact and the results of the reintegration strategies, coordinate the ins-

titutional offer and provide permanent accompaniment services to the youngsters.

This support is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the state, the civil society and other institutions to respond and provide assistance to persons who have disarmed and need to be given another chance in civilian life by helping them to develop the comprehensive skills necessary to carry out their new personal project.

In this context IOM also tries to improve, update and transfer psychosocial assistance methodologies and models

that will improve the professional capabilities and transfer better practices thus establishing efficiency and quality services standards.



A True Story *Lazarus Game*

In a large area surrounded by trees, where one feels calmness all around, a group of young people wish to reinvent their lives and give themselves another chance. Team work is what is currently keeping them there. They all want to integrate and help each other. Jhon Jairo believes that groups generate trust and it is possible to learn from others. Just like all his classmates, he longs to have a home, study and become a good person and help others.

As in «The Lazarus» game, which consists of guiding a blindfolded playmate so he/she may cross all the obstacles, all these youngsters desire to guide their classmates and remain true to their decision to change following the experiences they had as a result of the violence in the country.

Jhon Jairo wants to be a great soccer player; Javier wishes to become a professional; and Nelson wants to be a musician and be part of an orchestra. But, how can they start all over again? The homes of these and other youngsters are in Pereira, Medellín, Ibagué, Cali, the Atlantic Coast and Bogotá and in other parts of the country. They are participating in a programme for individual reintegration to civilian life organized by the Ministry of the Interior and Justice through its Programme for Reintegration into Civilian Life, which receives technical assistance from IOM and

financial support from the Government of The Netherlands. Youngsters 18 to 24 years of age coming from the different illegal armed groups in the country participate in this programme.

«What is most important here is that we all have the same goal... it does not matter where we come from and our past is not important. Maybe the person who is holding my hand during these games came from a different armed group than the one I came from... But that is no longer important. Right now what is important is that that person can help me to start a new life,» says one of the youngsters.

The game «The Lazarus» is part of the programme's exercises under the psychosocial support component. Living in the homes they feel protected and they can show who they are and express their feelings. They are at peace with themselves because they have found hope again. They are determined to defeat the culture of death and have internal peace and make it a form of life and happiness.

«I want to be the best soccer player of our time,» says Jhon Jairo, who is very skilled. He is very down to earth and is very spontaneous like any other young person. He laughs and celebrates each time he scores. This motivates his friends to believe in their own projects to rebuild their lives and overcome the circumstances of life.

In the homes these kids find trained professionals who help them concretize their projects. This is why they are able to smile so we may enjoy beforehand the kind of Colombia they want to build.

The psychosocial assistance, monitoring and evaluation services are included in the CRO in addition to information about public and private services. There is also an education and productive initiatives fund that will serve to support the National Reintegration Programme and the psychosocial support network.

In coordination with the Programme for Reintegration into Civilian Life, IOM has decided to support labour and business skills training activities.

The objective is to provide labour skills training to a group of 80 beneficiaries of the Programme for Reintegration into Civilian Life who have demobilized individually. The employment skills training will be focused on competencies that may be quickly incorporated into their current educational capabilities. These are based on learning processes that emphasize practice in real labour scenarios and that are in demand so that they may be guaranteed sustainable employment and remuneration according to the law.

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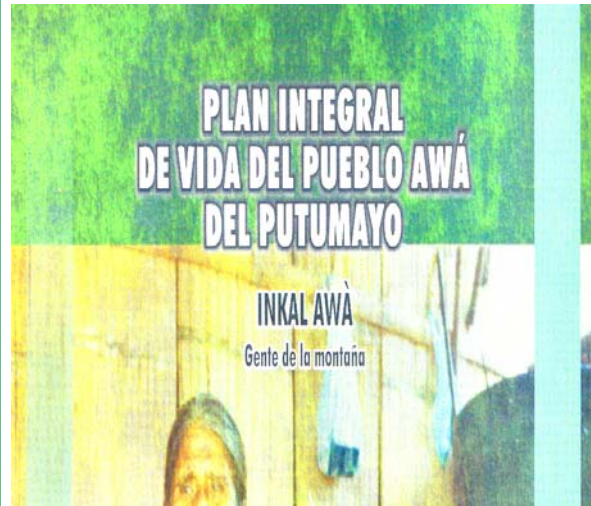
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MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- **The work in coordination with the Programme for Reintegration into Civilian Life of the Ministry of the Interior made it possible to standardize the concepts and procedures to operate the Reference Centres and the psychosocial assistance criteria.**
- **Private institutions have strengthened their commitment toward the social and economic reintegration of demobilized youngsters.**
- **Selected and hired the persons who will operate the three Referral and Opportunities Centres in Bogotá and Medellín.**
- **Selected and hired the trainers for a pilot exercise with 80 beneficiaries of the reintegration programme.**
- **Employment skills trainings are being carried out for food handling, health promotion, store and inventory clerks and office clerks.**
- **Selected and hired an assistant to guarantee the learning results and reduce dropout rates.**
- **Started-up the psychosocial component and made progress in the selection and standardization of 20 experiences to produce a methodology tool.**

PRESS RELEASE

SOURCE: LA TARDE (RISARALDA)
PAGE: 9A
SECTION: NACIONAL
DATE: 14 DE OCTUBRE 2004



Holland donates US\$ 1.5 million for disarmament of 1,000 combatants

AFP, Bogotá

The International Organization for Migrations (IOM) informed yesterday that the Government of Holland will give Colombia close to US\$ 1.5 million to assist in the reintegration of 1,000 illegal combatants into civilian life.

The agreement was signed by the Ambassador of Holland Frans van Haren and the IOM Chief of Mission in Colombia Diego Beltrand, whose institutions will be in charge of administering and implementing the program.

An IOM spokesman explained to AFP that the program will support the demobilization of 1,000 youngsters 18 to 24 years old who have disengaged both from the guerrillas and the paramilitary groups.

The program budget is close to US\$ 1.5 million, which was granted by Holland. This is a two year program starting next 15 October and it includes aid for education, labour skills and productive projects.

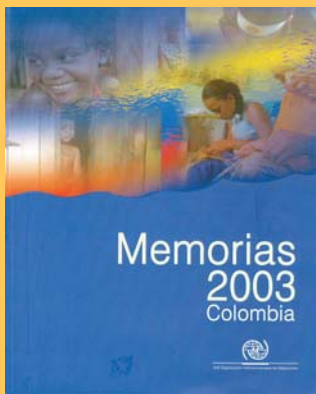
«This support is aimed at strengthening the capacity to respond, of the state, civil society and other related institutions to attend to the people who have surrendered arms and need a new opportunity in civilian life,» an IOM press release underscores.

The «Institutional Strengthening Programme to Improve the Services Provided to Demobilized Youth in the Process of Social Reintegration» includes the creation of two special centres to provide assistance to demobilized youth, explained the spokesman of the international agency.

Psychosocial treatment will be supervised by the World Center for Conflict Resolution of the United Nations University for Peace, with headquarters in Costa Rica.

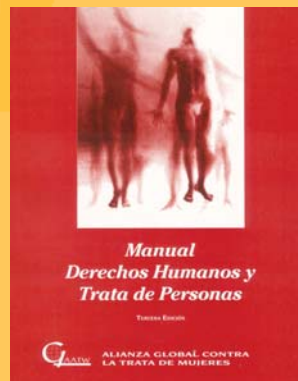
According to official information, a total of 6,434 combatants of Colombia's illegal armed groups have voluntarily given up their weapons during the two years of President Alvaro Uribe's Government.

Publications 2004



2003 Annual Report for the Mission in Colombia

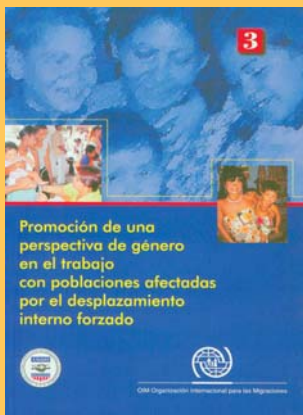
Trafficking in persons



Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons Manual

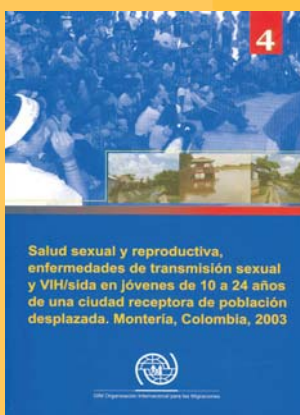
Authors: IOM - Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
Funding: Embassy of the Netherlands
ISBN: 958-33-2302-0

IOM Research Handouts



Promoting a gender dimension in the work with populations affected by forced internal displacement

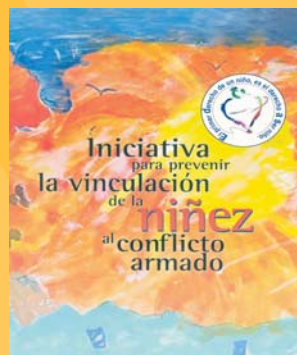
Authors: IOM
Funding: USAID
ISBN: 958-33-6002-3



Sexual and reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS in youngsters 10-25 years old in a city that hosts displaced population. Montería, Córdoba 2003

Authors: IOM and consultants
Funding: Fund 1035 IOM Geneva
ISBN: 958-33-6708-7

Children



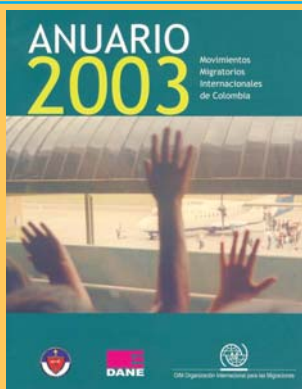
Initiative to prevent children from engaging in the illegal armed groups

Authors: IOM, ICBF, Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, UNICEF, ILO/IPEC
Funding: USAID, Swedish International Cooperation Agency, Embassies of Norway and Sweden

Migrations

2003 Annual Report - Colombia's International Migratory Movements

Authors: IOM - DANE - DAS
Funding: IOM Migrations Fund
ISBN: 958-33-6922-5



Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunities Map

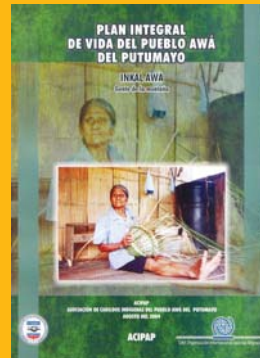
Authors: IOM, Human Rights Ombudsman's Office
Funding: USAID
ISBN: 958-33-6518-1
958-33-6519-x
958-33-6517-3

Displacement



Conflict and (in)visibility: Challenges found in the studies among Afro-Colombians

Authors: IOM, University of Cauca
Funding: USAID
ISBN: 958-9475-59-3



Comprehensive life plan of the AWA People in Putumayo

Authors: IOM, ACIPAP
Funding: USAID
ISBN: 958-33-6849-0



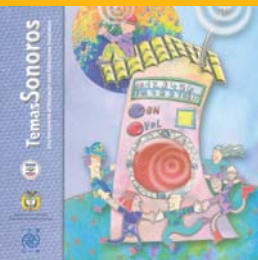
Displacement and public policies for reintegration in Colombia

Authors: IOM, Social Solidarity Network, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Funding: USAID
ISBN: 958-33-6319-7



Procedures manual for projects for prevention and assistance to population in situations of displacement

Authors: IOM, Human Rights Ombudsman's Office
Funding: USAID



Noisy issues: An education tool for vulnerable populations

Authors: IOM, Ministry of Communications of Colombia
Funding: USAID
ISBN: 958-33-6578-5



Public policies and displacement: A reflection from experience

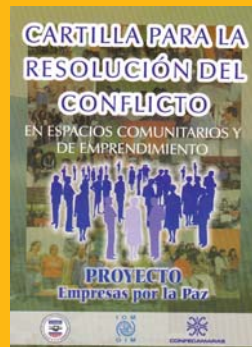
Authors: IOM, Human Rights Ombudsman's Office
Funding: USAID

Peace



Preparing Income Generating Projects

Authors: IOM, Episcopal Conference of Colombia
Funding: USAID



Handouts to analyze conflict; conflict resolution; community management; and entrepreneur's guide

Authors: IOM, Chamber of Commerce, Confecámaras
Funding: USAID



Forgotten People: Cultural Resistance in Colombia

Authors: IOM, Consultants
Funding: USAID

Events 2004



TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

In coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Technical Cooperation Area organized the Second Forum of Education for Migrations, held from September 30 to October 1, in order to draw closer to the phenomenon of migrations in the education system. The Forum was attended by representative of 10 Latin American countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), IOM in Colombia and the Technical Secretariat for the South American Conference on Migrations, represented by IOM.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

The Seminar «International Migration, Impact and Tendencies of Remittances in Colombia» was held on November 10 and 11, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The results of the study carried out by the inter-institutional alliance formed by the Foreign Ministry, DANE, Asocambiaria, AESCO, Alma Mater, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and IOM were disclosed. The main topic centred on the characterization of the homes that receive the remittances, the use given to the money and the social migration networks in order to design public policies and specific projects for vulnerable populations.





HIV/AIDS: PROGRAMME OF THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

The official inauguration of the project «Building an intersectoral response for sexual and reproductive health with an emphasis on prevention and assistance for STD and HIV/AIDS among adolescents living in communities that host displaced population in Colombia» took place in 14 April. The ceremony was headed by Minister of Social Protection Diego Palacio Betancourt, Minister of Education Cecilia María Vélez, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Alfredo Witschi, IOM Chief of Mission Diego Beltrand, representatives of the offices of the governors and mayors of the areas pre-selected for the implementation of the programme and representatives of the civil society.

The institutions participating are: the ministries of Social Protection and Education, UNAIDS, the Social Solidarity Network, *Colombia Joven*, the National Health Institute, Nacional University, FNUAP, UNICEF, UNDP,

PAHO, IOM, Profamilia, CODHES, the Colombian Network of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, *Vivir Mejor* Foundation, the Coalition of Persons Living with the HIV Virus, Henry Ardila Foundation and the Colombian Red Cross. All these institutions are part of the Country Coordinating Mechanism (MCP)

The project is aimed at reducing vulnerability toward sexually transmitted disease (STD), HIV and AIDS among 600,000 adolescents and youngsters with a comprehensive approach that includes human rights, International Humanitarian Law and gender equity.

ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED POPULATIONS

The El Reposo School in Quibdó (Chocó) was inaugurated in April 21 with the participation of First Lady of the Nation Lina Moreno de Uribe, the Ambassador of Japan Wataru Hayashi and the Ambassador of the United States William Wood. The beneficiaries will be approximately 600 students most of whom are affected by displacement. The project was financed by USAID and IOM provided technical support.



INITIATIVE TO PREVENT CHILD RECRUITMENT

The initiative to prevent child engagement in the armed conflict was inaugurated nationwide on 28 January, 2004. The initiative was presented at a regional level from September 1 in the department of Huila, Antioquia (September 28), Santander (September 30), Valle del Cauca (November 3), Cesar (November 9) and Tolima (December 14). This initiative results from the joint effort of the Presidency of the Nation, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the ILO International Programme for the Eradication of Child Labour (IPEC) and IOM, with funding from USAID, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Embassies of Sweden and Norway.



PREVENTION, ASSISTANCE AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



Government officials of the United States, the Dominican Republic and Colombia met in Bogotá from 12 to 16 July for the international encounter «Law enforcement regarding trafficking in persons; exchanging experiences». The objective of this encounter was to strengthen the fight against human trafficking and the mechanisms for assistance to the victims of this trans-national crime. The encounter was headed by the IOM offices in Colombia and the Dominican Republic and had financial support from the United States Department of State. The three countries exchanged strategies and experiences to improve law enforcement to protect both the victims and the witnesses.

CON EL APOYO DE

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VALORES, CONCEPTOS Y HERRAMIENTAS PARA LA LUCHA CONTRA LA TRATA DE PERSONAS

TALLER DE CAPACITADORES

Hotel Rosales Plaza, Salón Urapanes, Calle 71 A # 5 - 47
1, 2, y 3 de Diciembre / 2004

TRAINING COURSE FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The training workshops «Counter-Trafficking: values, concepts and tools» to form multipliers was held in Bogotá on December 1-3. This encounter was attended by officials of the Presidential Council for Women's Equity, the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, the Administrative Department for Social Welfare, the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), the Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Judicial School, Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Colombian Air Force, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, the National Police and the Office of the Attorney General. The workshop was organized by IOM and supported by the United States Department of State.

Events 2004

AWARENESS RAISING TO REINTEGRATE EX-COMBATANT CHILDREN

The concert to launch the song and video «Un Canto Nuestro» a song calling for reconciliation, was held on December 6. This is an initiative to create awareness regarding reconciliation and the social reintegration of demobilized youth. «Un Canto Nuestro» resulted from the joint work of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), ILO Programme for the Eradication of Child Labour (IPEC) and IOM, with the financial support of USAID and the Embassies of Sweden and Norway.

«Un Canto Nuestro» is aimed at creating awareness among the Colombian people regarding the situation of hundreds of children who are recruited by the illegal armed groups thus violating their rights by excluding them from the possibility of living a dignified childhood and adolescence. Famous artists Andrea Echeverry, Carolina Sabino, Julio Nava, Fonseca, Maia, Moisés Angulo, Jorge Celedón, Natalia Bedoya, Fausto and Gali Galiano participated in this song.

