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**COLOMBIA**

## E-BULLETIN

# Victims' services and reparations become a reality

**More than 185,000 victims will receive compensation by the end of 2012**



Photo: Andres Piscov-SIG

President Santos at Medellin launch.

***"...this policy is a priority for the Government. To repair victims is to heal our wounds that we have accumulated over almost 50 years of war."***

– President Santos

Nearly 4 million citizens have suffered human rights abuses as a direct result of Colombia's internal armed conflict (since 1985) and await a response from the government. Through the Victims' & Land Restitution Law (Law 1448/2011), the Government of Colombia (GOC) seeks to provide victims with comprehensive assistance and reparations to ensure victims can fully enjoy their rights.

Since its inception, the **USAID Public Policy Program** has supported the GOC in designing and regulating the Law, and in the institutional reforms necessary to ensure proper implementation. An important area of work includes support for the construction of the *Single Route for Comprehensive Assistance & Reparations*, its protocols, guidelines and manuals. Assistance has focused on ensuring GOC services are flexible enough to meet different victims' unique needs. The *Single Route* encompasses health, education, housing, land restitution, psychosocial, and income generation services, among others.

On June 9, 2012 President Santos launched the *Single Route* in Medellin due to the city's large percentage of claimants and the local authority's commitment to an integral response. By the end of July, 40,000 victims, nation-wide, will receive monetary compensation with an investment of US \$140 billion (avg. US \$11K/victim). Beneficiaries will enter the complementary accompaniment program to help them properly invest their funds and to receive other *Single Route* services.

In the coming months, similar launches will be held for the Valle/Nariño/Cauca, Atlantic Coast, and Bogota/Meta Regions. By the end of 2012 the GOC has committed to compensating 185,386 victims, and 385,846 by the end of the Presidential term (2014). The Program will monitor post-launch implementation.

On-going **Program** support will ensure real access to assistance services through the design of a *communications strategy* to disseminate information on services available and accessing them, and, the design of *Regional Assistance Centers* to establish interagency coordination between the Victims' Unit and other GOC agencies at the national, departmental, and municipal level.