

USAID / LONDON
17 OCT 2013
RECEIVED

2013

Final Report

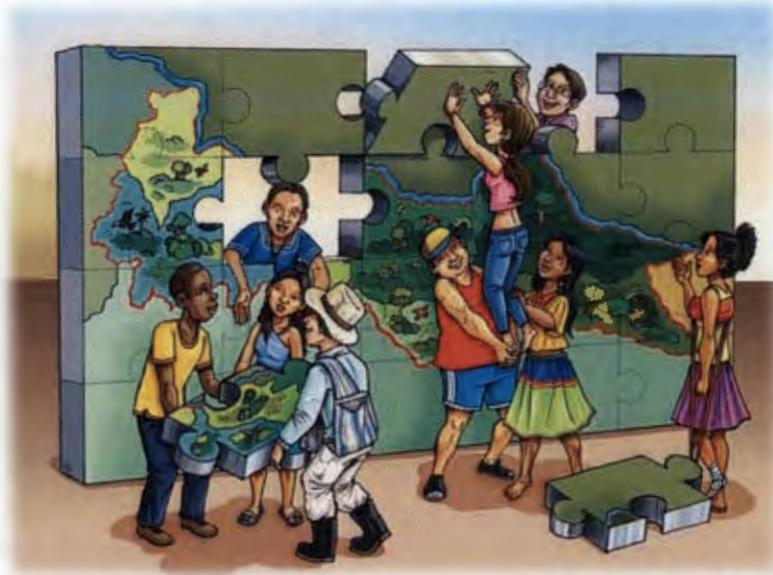


**Project: "Youth Driven
Conflict Prevention in the
Northern Border Zone"**

USAID Cooperative Agreement No.
AID- AID-518-A-11-00004



Final Report



Project: “Youth Driven Conflict Prevention in the Northern Border Zone”

This report has been possible thanks to the support of the Government of the United States of America through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of FFLA and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the Government of the United States of America.

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. AID- AID-518-A-11-00004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
I. BACKGROUND	3
II. GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE PROJECT	5
III. GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT	8
IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	9
4.1. Description of Result 1	9
4.2 Description of Result 2	15
4.3. Description of Result 3	21
V. RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRAL PROJECT APPROACHES (GENDER AND INTERCULTURALITY)	25
VI. SUCCESS STORIES.....	26
VII. COORDINATION WITH STATE INSTUTIONS AND PROJECTS (SUSTAINABILITY)	28
VIII. FINANCIAL INFORMATION	29
IX. COUNTERPART	30
X. CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED	30
XI. RECOMMENDATIONS	32
XII. ANNEXES	35
Annex #1: Map: intervention area	35
Annex #2: Results achieved according to objectives and indicators	36

Chart Index

Chart 1: Matrix of results (Result 1)	13
Chart 2: Training topics	16
Chart 3: Matrix of results (Result 2)	19
Chart 4: Matrix of results (Result 3)	24
Chart 5: Budget control consolidated by line	29
Chart 6: Budget control - Executed vs. Approved	30

Index of Graphs

Graph 1: Intervention strategy	7
Graph 2: Coordination with institutions	28

Index of abbreviations

APROCCEA	Association of Coffee and Cocoa Producers of El Eno
CBA	Accelerated Basic Cycle
IC	International Cooperation
CCNA	Cantonal Council for Childhood and Adolescence
GSFEPP	Social Group Ecuadorian Fund Populorum Progressio
FFLA	Foundation Futuro Latinoamericano
FONAKISE	Federation of Organizations of the Kichwa Nationality of Sucumbios Ecuador
FUNDER	Educational Training School of the Social Group Ecuadorian Fund Populorum Progressio
GAD	Autonomous Decentralized Government
GADP	Provincial Autonomous Decentralized Government of Sucumbios
YCG	Youth Consultative Group
MIES	Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion
BNP	Border Network for Peace
CWG	Coordination Working Group
ECORAE	Institute for the Eco-development of the Amazon Region
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Executive Summary

The initiative Peacebuilding and Border Zones of the Foundation Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) together with its partner the Social Group Ecuadorian Fund Populorum Progressio (GSFEPP) Regional Office in Lago Agrio and the Savings and Credit Cooperative CODESARROLLO have executed since February 2011 until August 2013 the project "Youth Driven Conflict Prevention in the Northern Border Zone of Ecuador" that was financed by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).¹

This project aimed to strengthen and increase the capacities of the young men and women of Ecuador and Colombia to motivate them to work together in conflict prevention and to develop innovative enterprises along the Ecuadorian – Colombian Border Zone.

The project supported young people between 15 and 29 years of age from the cantons of Cascales, Gonzalo Pizarro, Lago Agrio, Putumayo and Sucumbios in the province of Sucumbios, to contribute to the reduction of socio-cultural barriers that hinders cooperation between youth (result 1); greater awareness of the importance of a peacebuilding in the cantons where the intervention takes place (result 2) and to promote an increase of innovative economic activities at local level (result 3).

In order to diminish the socio cultural barriers, provincial and bi-national forum were held to contribute to build relationships of trust and to promote attitudes of empathy and intercultural understanding so that young people would be able to dialogue and identify their needs and suggest solutions. During the provincial forum, young people created a Youth Manifesto and a Youth Agenda, both of which were presented to the provincial authorities so they could give priority to these activities and implement them in their strategic plans, thus becoming an example for the authorities. On the other hand, as a result of the first bi-national forum, young people drafted a declaration to provide an answer from the peacebuilding perspective to the problems that the youth face at the border zone. In the last Binational Forum the Border Juvenile Network was created to unite young people and provide continuity to the actions they had suggested to promote a border of peace. The indicator took into account that 500 young people would participate in the four forum, nevertheless, the high drawing power and the interest of the population surpassed the indicator, receiving the participation of 1,273 young people between the ages of 15 and 29 (276 young indigenous people, 68 Afro-Ecuadorian and 120 Colombians).

¹ In this document when we speak about youth we are speaking about both young men and women.

The second result aimed at disseminating peacebuilding among the youth through training and increasing the awareness of the population at the frontier. The training aimed to provide young people with the capacities to: prevent conflicts, solve conflicts in a non-violent manner and create proper conditions for peace. After the training in peacebuilding, the project encouraged young people to organize peace activities and to replicate the workshops for peacebuilding in order to multiply this paradigm and create a domino effect. 201 young people participated in the training of which 97 received a certificate as Peace Promoters for attending 100% of the training. As a consequence of this multiplying strategy, during the peace activities and the replicas of the workshops, 1.123 young people (479 women, 644 men: 369 indigenous people: 47 Afro-descendants: 67 Colombians) were able to participate thus strengthening the social fabric at the border zone. The indicator was widely exceeded.

The last result aims to provide a solution to the lack of economic opportunities for young people. An agreement was signed with the Savings and Credit Cooperative CODESARROLLO so that young people can have access to a credit when they reach 18 years old. It was expected that 120 young people would have access to credit and to rotate four times the value accredited to CODESARROLLO. This indicator as well as the other indicators was exceeded, CODESARROLLO gave 143 credits to young people for a total amount of \$ 396,000.00 dollars, of which 67 credits were given to men and 76 to women to begin micro entrepreneurial activities: 57, for farming: 61 and for services: 25.

In addition to this financial product, the financial institution created a savings product called "*Mi Futuro*" for young people under age so they could start a savings culture and once they are of legal age they can have access to credit with greater facility. 117 people opened a savings account through the savings program "*Mi Futuro*" generating a savings of 3,829.82 dollars.

With the purpose of providing sustainability to the project, Youth Departments were created in the cantons of Sucumbios and Putumayo, to offer a space within each Decentralized Autonomous Government (GAD) that ensures the rights of young people. Likewise, the Coordination Working Group was created to allow public and private institutions a space to articulate their activities.

The implementation of the project also allowed young people to have a voice in formulating proposals for local public policies in favor of young people. It also contributed to the fact that public and private institutions allocated a budget to promote projects for the youth and to have an inter-institutional coordination between organizations of the civil society and public institutions in matters related to youth and peace.

Finally, as it is shown in the fulfillment of the indicators, a great effort was made for Afro-Ecuadorian women and youth, of Indigenous nationality and Colombians were able to participate in the events organized by the project, thus promoting gender equity and interculturality as a cross-cutting theme. These two topics, due to their relevance are taken into account within the training of the cultural promoters of peace.

Thanks to the contribution of \$ 124,093.05 dollars even though this was not stipulated in the agreement work done and articulated with public and private institutions, it was possible to raise a matching As a consequence, all of the proposed indicators were met 100% and some exceeded expectations.

I. Background

Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) is a private non-profit organization based in Quito, Ecuador. It was created in 1993 after the historical Earth Summit (Rio '92) and legally constituted in 1994. Its mission is to work towards sustainable development in Latin America through constructive dialogue and conflict resolution, strengthened citizen participation and improved political and institutional capacities. FFLA works throughout Ecuador and Latin America on projects and strategic initiatives that focus on the transformation of conflicts related to natural resources, reform of environmental governance, cooperation among civil society and governments throughout the region on issues of importance to sustainable development, including natural resource extraction, socio-environmental conflicts and climate change. Moreover, FFLA also provides training, facilitation and advisory services in related areas.

It's institutional objectives are:

- To strengthen leadership and facilitate processes to reach agreements about long term visions and policies.
- To promote a culture of dialogue and systems of good governance for a change towards sustainable development.
- To generate and share knowledge for the construction of collective awareness and capacity building.
- Consolidate the regional institutionalization of FFLA.

FFLA, sensitive to the agreements reached in international spaces, answers in all its actions with different criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, sustainability, viability, alignment, coverage and participation. It works with the support of several national and

international bodies with which it establishes sustainable relations throughout time, and it also works with several local and state networks.

It has a team of experts organized around six work initiatives of the organization that are called strategic initiatives in the framework of institutional planning. They aim to consolidate impact processes in the medium and long term on the area where they are being executed:

- Peacebuilding and Border Zones, in the framework of the process " Youth united in the diversity build a border of peace".
- Water Governance.
- Marine Governance.
- Local Strengthening.
- Intercultural Territories.
- Dialogues and Capacities for Climate Change.

Each FFLA's initiative is developed in an area of Ecuador (Amazon, Highlands, Coast) or in a region based on identified needs. Furthermore, the institution has a clear international spirit that is evident in the development actions executed in several countries of Latin America.

In order to accomplish its objectives, FFLA counts on five institutional approaches which are applied in all areas of our work:

Promote Dialogue: a genuine and collaborative interaction between individuals and groups with different perspectives, interests and knowledge to build consensus towards sustainability.

Conflict transformation: a profound process of constructive change towards sustainability, connecting emerging problems with relational and structural patterns, addressing the content, context and complexity of conflicts to generate impacts on different dimensions.

Capacity building: a process of support, advice, knowledge sharing and creation of new capabilities for the exercise of citizenship (rights and duties), that contributes to sustainability.

Strengthening governance systems: the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which the State and civil society articulate their interests, make decisions, exercise their power, fulfill their obligations, and mediate their differences.

Peace building: generating values, attitudes, traditions, behaviors and lifestyles, based on a respect for life, nature, human rights and the promotion and practice of non-violence.

FFLA's work in the Ecuadorian-Colombian border zone began in October 2007, when they carried out an "Analysis of peace, conflicts and development in Ecuador's Northern Border" in three border provinces with Colombia: Sucumbios, Carchi and Esmeraldas. This work was supported by the Carter Center, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GSFEPP. The study highlighted the need to address the vulnerability of women and young people and to promote the development of legal activities in the area. It also warned about the need to work in coordination with civil society, local authorities and national institutions in order create long term sustainable changes.

This led FFLA to consider the need for a strategic initiative to form part of their institutional planning so as to address the problems identified in this area. Consequently the Strategic Initiative Peace Building and Border Zones was created with the aim to direct actions in support of vulnerable groups and decision-makers, to promote peace, and to establish greater coordination among stakeholders in the area.

The objective of the initiative is to: "Consolidate social fabrics, behave with a sensitive approach to conflicts and promote a peace culture both among decision-makers and civil society with an emphasis on young people and women who live in the border zones in Latin America".

II. General information of the project

The project "Youth Driven Conflict Prevention in the Northern Border Zone" that was executed in the province of Sucumbios, in the cantons: Lago Agrio, Sucumbios, Cascales, Gonzalo Pizarro and Putumayo was financed by USAID for a total amount of \$ 541,623 dollars. The length of the project was 30 months, from February 28, 2011 until August 28, 2013. The direct beneficiaries foreseen in the project were 500 young people between the ages 15 - 29 years.

The project worked with an approach to prevent conflicts in the northern border zone. The hypothesis was that young people will contribute to peace in their region if: a) they received the support to be educated with cooperative intercultural attitudes (intercultural and psychological dimension); b) were empowered with activities to build peace (political and social dimension); and c) were able to see an economic future in the area where they live (economic dimension).

The general objective of the project was to strengthen the local capacities of the juvenile leaders of Ecuador and Colombia to promote joint work in order to prevent violent conflicts and to start innovative economic initiatives in the Ecuadorian – Colombian

Border Zone. To meet this objective, three results with their respective indicators were established.

Result 1: Young indigenous and non-indigenous Ecuadorian and Colombian stakeholders have diminished social and cultural barriers that hinder cooperation among young people.

Indicator 1.a. Number of young men and women that have participated in events that contribute to improve the intercultural understanding and prevent conflicts.

Indicator 1.b. Number of proposals presented by youth that have been discussed by local authorities at local level.

Result 2: Greater awareness of the importance of peacebuilding in the cantons where the intervention takes place.

Indicator 2.a. Number of young people that participated in the peace activities.

Indicator 2.b. Number of radio programs that have been produced by young people that participated in the project.

Result 3: The project has promoted an increase of innovative economic activities at local level for indigenous and non-indigenous men and women.

Indicator 3.a Number of indigenous and non-indigenous men and women that have developed business plans.

Indicator 3.b Return rate of the productive projects.

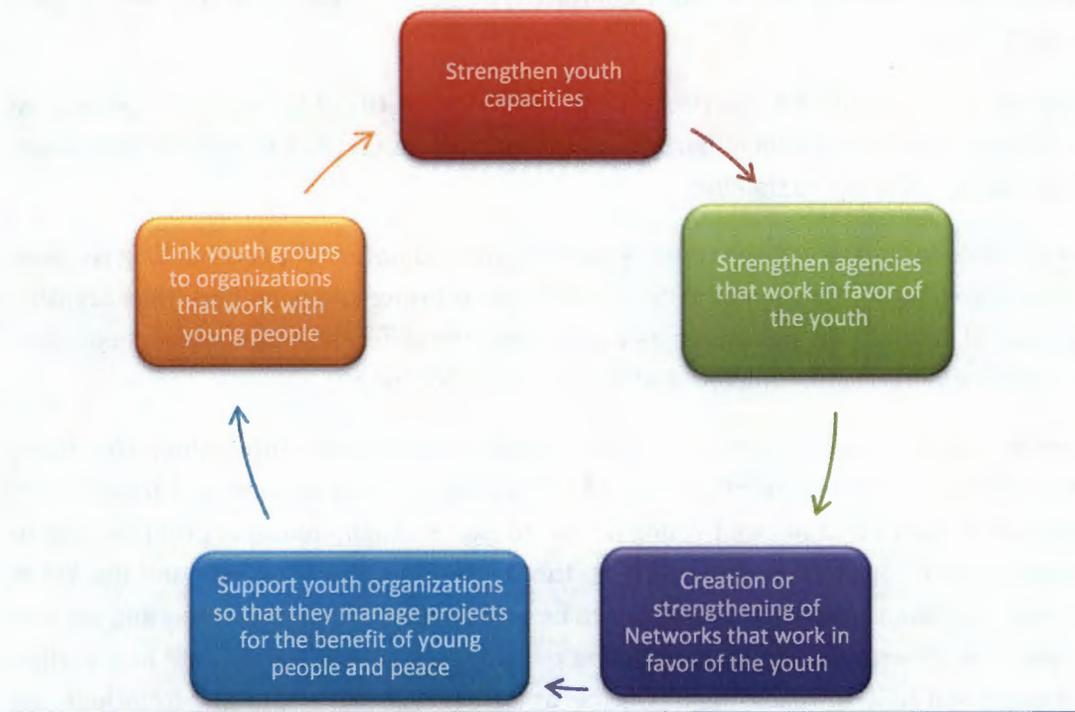
FFLA worked with the Lago Agrio office of the regional organization of GSFEPP and CODESARROLLO to develop the project.

GSFEPP is one of Ecuador's biggest non-profit organizations and has a broad experience in cooperation for development in the country. It was created in 1970, and has offices in all the provinces of Ecuador with several social enterprises that are non-profit oriented and were born from GSFEPP. The project was executed jointly with the regional office of Lago Agrio in the province of Sucumbíos and the savings and credit society CODESARROLLO.

CODESARROLLO was founded in 1997 to offer financial services to people previously excluded from formal financial markets. It is controlled by the Superintendence of Banks and Insurance of Ecuador and has more than 50,000 clients in the whole country and 12 branches that concentrate more than 58 of the local financial structures.

Intervention strategy

Graph 1: Intervention strategy



The intervention strategy took into account the following aspects:

1. Strengthen entities that work on youth themes.
2. Creation of a Youth Network and a Coordination Working Group that works in favor of young people.
3. Strengthen the capacities of young people.
4. Articulation of youth groups with agencies that work for the youth.
5. Provide support to youth organizations so they can create proposals in favor of youth and peace.

III. General objective of the project

As previously mentioned, the general objective of the project was to strengthen the local capacities of youth leaders in Ecuador and Colombia to promote joint work in order to prevent violent conflicts and to start innovative economic initiatives at the border zone Ecuador - Colombia.

The project successfully trained peace promoters to meet the objective of the project. At the training, 201 young people participated 97 received a certificate as Peace Promoters for attending 100% of the training.

The activities for peace and the replicas made by the promoters of peacebuilding received the participation of more than 2,035 people in the province of Sucumbios, thus breaking the cultural, intellectual and ethnic barriers among the different Indigenous nationalities, Afro-descendants and Colombians that live in the border zone.

Likewise two Provincial Forum and two Bi-national Forum were successfully conducted where there was the total participation of 1,676 people. The provincial and trans-border forum were spaces that allowed young people to express their ideas and problems and to express them through documents such as: the Declaration, the Manifiesto and the Youth Agenda. The Youth Manifiesto turned out to be an example for the authorities and the civil society to work with the youth. In it, young people were able to define their needs, their objectives and how to reach them. On the other hand, it was important to include the issue of peacebuilding as a priority in the Manifiesto since this was included in a project proposed in the 2013 Agenda and in the peace activities that were carried out during 2012 and 2013.

The project also strengthened important instances of representativeness for the youth as Youth Departments and the Youth Provincial Committee. It is also important to mention the impact that the credit program "Mi Chance" had which CODESARROLLO, through which the project granted 143 credits of a total amount of \$ 396.000 USD, supported.

Finally, it is important to point out that the majority of the projects activities received the support of the Youth Provincial Committee and the Coordination Working Group that supported the project since the beginning of all its activities. Once more it is shown that young people united in diversity are capable of building peace.

IV. Description of the results and achievements

4.1. Description of Result 1

Result 1: "Young indigenous and non indigenous Ecuadorian and Colombian stakeholders have diminished social and cultural barriers that hinder cooperation among young people."

The objective of this result was to improve the representation and participation levels of young people by strengthening their capacities so they can participate through the Provincial Youth Committee of Sucumbios with proposals and demands in multisectoral dialogue spaces. Likewise the idea was to create and strengthen spaces for young people through a Coordination Working Group and from other public instances (Youth department) to be able to answer the needs and demands of the youth.

To meet this result, the project worked with the Youth Provincial Committee. This organization was created in 2009 to promote the development among young people of the region. The project chose to work with this organization since it is the only one at provincial level that is open to work with young people of all the ethnic groups and nationalities.

The objective to work with this organization was to strengthen their capacity to channel and express the problems of young people and to suggest solutions. Regular meetings were held with young people where they received advice on how to express their needs, problems and propose solutions through dialogues. Likewise, together with the Youth Provincial Committee of Sucumbios, four forums were organized as well as the celebration of Youth Day. The Juvenile Forum at provincial level were carried out in August 2011, August 2012 and August 2013 and the Bi-national Ecuador-Colombia Forum for Young People was held on May 2012 and the second Bi-national Forum on May 2013.

Part of result 1 was the execution of provincial and binational forum whose aim was that young people of different classes, cultures and nationalities had a chance to dialogue and identify their needs and would identify solutions to present them to the authorities. At the three youth festivals and provincial and trans border festivals the following number of young people attended: 1,273 youth between 15 and 29 years, 740 men and 533 women, of them 816 mestizos, 276 of indigenous nationality, 68 Afros and 120 of Colombian nationality, highly exceeding the planned objective.

In the framework of the first Forum, the Youth Provincial Committee prepared a **Youth Manifesto** where young people prioritized four key areas of needs which are the

following: youth participation, comprehensive health, peacebuilding, education and production. The Manifesto is now a document for reference, both for the youth as for the stakeholders that worked with young people in the region. Furthermore, the Manifesto turned out to be an important document since it addresses peacebuilding with a considerable number of young people to analyze the violence problems in the area and presents solutions (which will be further explained in the following work component made in the area for peacebuilding).

At the *Provincial Youth Forum* a **Youth Agenda for the year 2013**², was drafted giving priority to the demands of the Manifesto that were turned into projects that were submitted to the authorities so they could be included at the operational plans of the GADS and in the plans of the institutions that work with young people in the area.

In the framework of the first Bi-national Forum the **Declaration**³ to promote peacebuilding was drafted as an outcome of the contributions supplied by young people that attended the forum. In order to give continuity and sustainability to the proposals that emerged in the Declaration of the second Trans-border Forum, a Border Network was created by the youth with the purpose of achieving the goals that emerged from the Forum and to disseminate them beyond the support of FFLA, among the authorities and NGOs of the area, both at local and regional levels.

The Coordination Working Group was a fundamental element to achieve the result. The Coordination Working Group for the Youth is a coordination space between public and private authorities non-profit oriented, national and international that work directly or indirectly with the youth of the region.

This was created in order to collaborate with the organization of the Youth Days 2011. We decided to maintain the Coordination Working Group since it was a positive experience and to avoid each institution to work for the youth without knowing what the others were doing, or how to add efforts; the purpose was also to pursue common objectives to avoid duplicating efforts.

The following instances are part of the Coordination Working Group: Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), the Secretariat of Peoples and Social Movements and Participación Ciudadana, the Federation of Organizations of the Kichwa Nationality of

² See the document Youth Manifesto and the Youth Agenda published by the project Peacebuilding at the Northern Border of Ecuador, Foundation Futuro Latinoamericano and the Ecuadorian Fund Populorum Progressio 2013.

³ See: Declaration of the Youth. Project Peacebuilding at the Northern Border of Ecuador, Foundation Futuro Latinoamericano and the Ecuadorian Fund Populorum Progressio 2013.

Sucumbios of Ecuador (FONAKISE), the Institute for the Eco-development of the Amazon Region (ECORAE) the Provincial Office for Health, the Cantonal Council of Lago Agrio for Children and Adolescents, the Provincial GAD Provincial, the Technical Secretariat of Plan Ecuador, the High Commissioner of the United Nations (UNHCR), HIAS, RET, Oxfam-Italy, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), FFLA, and GSFEP, among others.

The work and activities carried out by the Coordination Working Group include: the promotion of spaces to enable the Youth Provincial Committee to crystallize their proposals and contribute to achieve them, to know and socialize the objectives and proposals of the Youth Provincial Committee to the other youth organizations in the province of Sucumbios.

The Working Group contributed to the execution of the four forum. It also contributed with the Youth Provincial Committee to socialize in the different cantons the documents that were created at the Forum. Furthermore, the Decentralized Autonomous Government (GAD) of the province of Sucumbios and the Ministry of Health through UNFPA included the proposals set by the youth in the 2013 Youth Agenda in their plan of action. In their Plan of Action for 2014, the provincial GAD of Sucumbios allocated 140,000 dollars for youth.

Despite the fact that the Coordination Working Group does not have a budget for its operation, it meets on a regular basis. Each year they ask an organization to coordinate and steer the Working Group: in 2012 it was GSFEP-FFLA and in 2013 it was the MIES together with the provincial GAD of Sucumbios. Since the creation of the Coordination Working Group it has not stopped meeting and executing joint proposals as for example, the forum.

The strengthening of the instances that work for the youth, as the Youth department, was a fundamental strategy to achieve result 1. The Youth Departments are institutions at the level of the cantonal GAD that are responsible of the youth and they are under the Department of Education and Culture of the GAD or of the Municipal Charity board. They are intended to promote youth participation in different fields such as civic, social, economic, cultural, artistic and productive areas through public policies, plans and programs for the comprehensive development and the fulfillment of the rights of the youth.

Their action lines are in education, culture, sports, recreation, development and economy, peace and citizen participation. Among its functions is to promote the local exchange at national and international level of young people and juvenile organizations; to seek to articulate and receive local support at national and international level of natural

and legal persons, public and private institutions, companies, foundations; promote a joint work and linked to the financing and execution of projects that will benefit the youth in the cantons.

At the beginning of 2012 the negotiations began with the cantonal authorities of Sucumbios and Putumayo to prepare the proposal for the ordinance, which is the legal requirement for the creation of the Offices. The ordinance proposal was submitted to the respective Cantonal Councils, this was socialized with the different youth groups of the two cantons, it was approved and the coordinator of the Youth Department of Sucumbios was selected.

To empower those who are responsible of the Youth Department and to guarantee the adequate planning and management as well as its future continuity, we visited the key institutions of the area that work with youth to inform about their existence and begin the necessary coordination with them. They also received training in the drafting of projects and fund raising. Also the planning was done at each Office.

The Offices of Cascales and Lago Agrio were already created before the strategy began. In fact, the Cascales Office was created within the framework of a cooperation project executed by FFLA and GSFEPP Lago Agrio, with the financial support of the European Union.

A framework agreement was signed with the Cascales office with which we have worked during 2012 and 2013. A work plan was drafted for the Lago Agrio office, but we never achieved an adequate coordination so we worked with other state agencies that are responsible of youth issues in the canton, such as the provincial GAD of Sucumbios, the Cantonal Council for Children and Adolescents of Lago Agrio and MIES.

In Cascales, Lago Agrio and Sucumbios the Offices have their own budget. The replicas and peace activities that were organized by FFLA and GSFEPP where coordinated with the Youth department to link the youth to these institutions.

Chart 1: Matrix of result 1 (2011 - 2013)

Indicators	Year 2011		Year 2012		Year 2013		Total		% execution
	Planned	Executed	Planned	Executed	Planned	Executed	Planned	Executed	
1.a Number of young men and women that have participated in events that contribute to improve the intercultural understanding and prevent conflicts.	Until September 2011 (fiscal year 2011) 120 young men and 80 young women have participated in these events. Of these, 40 are indigenous and 20 of Colombian nationality.	In 2011, the 1st Provincial Youth Forum was held and on Youth Day the following were registered: Youth: 145 Women: 60 Men: 85 Indigenous: 34 Afro-descendants: 6 Colombians: 10.	Additionally until September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) 60 young men and 40 young women have participated in these events. Of these, 20 are indigenous and 10 of Colombian nationality.	The I Binational Youth Forum and the second provincial forum were held together along with the celebration of the Youth Day. Youth: 418 Women: Men: J 240 Indigenous: 88 Afros: 17 Colombians: 51.	Additionally until August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) 60 young men and 40 young women have participated in these events. Of these, 20 are indigenous and 10 of Colombian nationality.	On the third year the II Binational Forum was held together with the Youth Days 2013. Youth: 710 Women: 295 Men: J 415 Indigenous: 154 Afros: 40 Colombians: 60.	At least 400 young people, of which 160 are women and of which 80 are indigenous and 50 of Colombian nationality participated at the juvenile forum.	Youth: 1273 Women: 533 Men: 740 Indigenous: 276 Afro-descendants: 68 Colombians: 120.	318,25%
1.b Number of proposals presented by youth that have been discussed by authorities at local level.	Up to September 2011 (fiscal year 2011) zero discussed proposals.	NA	Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) three proposals discussed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal ordinance for the creation of the Putumayo Office for the Youth • Municipal ordinance for the creation of the Sucumbios Office for the Youth • Youth Manifesto 	Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) five proposals discussed in total.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Declaration Ecuador-Colombia • Youth Agenda 2013 	5 proposals for development and to promote peace that have been created by youth groups that have been discussed at local level instances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 ordinances Office for the Youth • 1 Manifesto • 1 Declaration • 1 Youth Agenda 	100%

4.1.2 Achievements of Result 1

There was an improvement in the representation and participation levels of the youth, strengthening their capacities to participate in the Youth Provincial Committee with proposals and demands in multisectoral dialogue spaces. Furthermore, spaces for the youth were created and strengthened through the Coordination Working Group and from public instances such as the Youth Department to address the needs and demands expressed by young people.

Young people were able to define their priorities and proposals of improvement through the creation and dissemination of three fundamental documents of reference - the Youth Manifesto, the 2013 Youth Agenda and the Declaration⁴ that were created in the Forum that took place in 2011 and 2012. The preparation and dissemination of these documents allowed young people of the province of Sucumbios to express in a concise way what and how they want to do next to the authorities and NGOs to promote youth action and participation, comprehensive health, build peace from the youth's perspective, economic development and educational conditions.

It succeeded in obtaining an answer from the authorities in relation to the needs of the youth in the short, medium and long run by creating spaces for inter-institutional coordination such as the Coordination Working Group and the Youth Department.

Authorities and non-government institutions supported the needs expressed by the youth and included them in their annual plans.

Both in the Youth Agenda and that one of the authorities the issue of Peacebuilding was addressed. At the First Bi-national Forum Colombia - Ecuador a Declaration was drafted that includes more than ten proposals that will contribute to Peacebuilding. Furthermore, the promotion of Peacebuilding was included as a priority in the Manifesto and it was also added to the project proposed in the 2013 Agenda. "*Access to workshops, conferences and events on Peacebuilding was possible by having a trans-border meeting on the World Day of Peace*".

We were able to improve the representation of young people by having a voice and influence on the creation of public policies with the implementation of bylaws to establish Youth department in the cantons of Putumayo and Sucumbíos by allocating part of the GAD's budget of Sucumbios for their operation.

⁴For further information see the documents: Youth Manifesto, Juvenile Agenda and Declaration of the Youth.

4.2 Description of Result 2

This result aimed at promoting peace and reducing violence by training young people as "Peace promoters" that later on will replicate the training, carry out activities to promote peace and present proposals to local governments to underpin a Peacebuilding⁵ at the northern border. Furthermore, those young people that wished to specialize as "Community Educators Specialized in Peacebuilding" were able to do so and obtain a certificate issued by the Ministry of Education.

Training promoters for Peacebuilding.

The selected areas to train the promoters within each canton were the following:

- In Putumayo, by request of the Mayor and the president of the Municipal Charity board, we worked with young people in school of Silvayacu, in its majority of Kichwa nationality of the rural sector.
- In Sucumbios, the Mayor and the president of the Municipal Charity board asked us to work with the students of the school located in the parish El Playon.
- In Cascales and Lago Agrio a priority was given to the youth groups articulated in the Youth department of Cascales, provincial GAD and the Council for Children and Adolescents of Lago Agrio.

Once the areas were defined, young people were chosen under the following criteria:

- Leadership, that is to say that they were inclusive, forward thinking and participative.
- Linked to youth groups in their school, neighborhood or community.
- Between 15 and 29 years of age.
- Commitment to complete the training program.
- Interest to learn and participate in collaborative and democratic activities.
- Commitment to draft projects, replicate the training received and promote peace activities.

One of the fundamental elements of the training proposal was to fight against violence, which has caused the deterioration of personal relations and the weakening of the social fabric. The proposal presented had two objectives: on one hand to recover the relations

⁵Peace activities should be understood as any action that promotes values; attitudes and behaviors that reject violence and that promote the peaceful solution of conflicts through dialogue and negotiation. The topics and scope of actions of the peace activities can be very diverse (promotion of human rights and interculturality, actions against gender violence, maltreatment and sustainable development, the rights of the youth, youth participation, etc.)

and in second place to strengthen the social fabric from a non-violence approach and optic, to recover the rights and promote peacebuilding.

The objective of the training was to develop young people as social stakeholders that belief in the principles of peacebuilding and that promote and encourage people to live under these principles; to design and make projects for peace to consolidate the existing social fabric of their communities.

The proposed methodology is based in peacebuilding⁶, which has three steps: feel, think and behave. This pedagogy aims at changing the attitudes of people to modify the structures of injustice and violence. The starting point is **feeling**, taking into account that people have attitudes and behaviors that lead them to act in a violent way. In front of these, it is important to **think-analyze** why these situations occur, what is the reality that we live in and what makes this society be a violent one. Once we have analyzed the reality and our feelings, we take on commitments to **act** and change that situation.

The training was carried out through experiential workshops divided in sessions. Each session had an average length of four hours of work in different topics in a separate way, if needed, we held the workshop for a longer period, depending on the reality of each place where the workshops were held.

They received their corresponding title "**Peace Promoters**" after having finished 100% of the training, 97 young people, 38 men and 59 women.

The training was 90 hours long and was developed with the following modules:

Chart # 2: Training topics

Session	Topics
1	Identity and self-esteem
2	The culture of violence
3	Non active violence (NOVA)
4	Peacebuilding
5	Subject of Rights
6	Juvenile Participation
7	Gender and youth
8	Violence against women
9	Intercultural nature and youth

⁶This pedagogy has been described by several authors such as Jean Paul Lederach, Emilio Araz and Pablo Cescol.

10	Conflict management Active listening Non violent communication Analysis and conflict negotiation
11	Sustainable development
12	Project design
13	Political incidence

The total number of training hours was 72, to which we added 18 hours of exercises and workshop replicas for youth groups at schools, communities or neighborhoods. This was a requisite to have access to the certification. At the end of the training process, young people had to make a project to promote sustainable development and peacebuilding in their communities. Once the training was over, the promoters had the capacity to socialize and promote learning in youth groups, to develop proposals of peace projects and to manage them with the authorities of their localities.

Once young people received their training as "Peace Promoters" they had to write a project and present it to the authorities of the canton in order to receive their certificate. One of these projects was the rehabilitation of the park, a project that was presented by a group of Peace Promoters from El Playon to the Parish Board. The project was approved and has a budget for its execution.

The youth made many replicas of the training received and carried out several activities to promote peace and reduce violence in the region:

Replicas

The replicas were carried out in the following cantons of the Sucumbios province: Lago Agrio, Sucumbios, Cascales, Putumayo and Shushufindi. Young people in their own schools and communities carried out the majority of replicas, and also some were made in other schools and communities such as the Santa Barbara school of Sucumbios canton. This was an opportunity, both for young people that gave the training as for the people that received it. Furthermore, in the last few months some promoters were hired to carry out replicas, for example in the case of a UNICEF project that hired three promoters to carry out replicas in the cantons of Cascales and Shushufindi.

Peace Activities

The following are some examples of peace activities that were carried out during 2012 and 2013 with young Peace Promoters: sports and traditional games festival, a campaign

in favor of non-violence and peacebuilding, two gymkhanas⁷ promoting peaceful coexistence and a camp to promote youth rights. In total 1,123 young people have participated in the replicas and workshops for peacebuilding, helping to strengthen the social fabric in the border zone. With these events we were able to strengthen the social fabric to face violence and to effectively establish peacebuilding.

Furthermore, in attempting to minimize the impact of migration on young people from the area, a *Facebook* page was created "We build a border of peace" that already has almost 400 friends (<https://www.facebook.com/construimos.depaz?fref=ts>). This has a double objective: to keep the young "Peace Promoters" connected and the people that participated in the replicas and in the activities and to disseminate communications, new announcements and to support the dissemination of peacebuilding in other areas.

⁷The project defined the Gymkhanas as a game where people have to perform several collaborative activities in group.

Chart 3: Matrix of result 1 (2011 - 2013)

Indicators	Year 2011		Year 2013		Year 2013		Total		% execution
	Planned	Executed	Planned	Executed	Planned	Executed	Planned	Executed	
2.a Number of young people that participated in the peace activities.	Up to September 2011 (fiscal year 2011) zero young people have participated in peace activities.	NA	Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) 50 peace promoters have been trained and 100 young people have participated in peace activities.	Youth: 309 Women: 135 Men: 174 Indigenous: 204 Afro-descendants: 15 Colombians: 6	Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) 50 peace promoters have been trained and 450 young people have participated in peace activities.	Youth: 814 Women: 344 Men: 470 Indigenous: 165 Afro-descendants: 32 Colombians: 61	A total of 500 young people have participated in peace activities implemented by the promoters. Of the 500 young people at least 200 were women. Likewise, of the 500 young people at least 100 were indigenous and at least 50 Colombians.	Youth: 1123 Women: 479 Men: 644 Indigenous: 369 Afro-descendants: 47 Colombians: 67	224,60%

<p><i>2.b Number of radio programs that have been produced by young people of the project.</i></p>	<p><i>Up to September 2011 (fiscal year 2011) zero produced programs.</i></p>	<p>NA</p>	<p><i>Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) one program produced.</i></p>	<p>I binational forum: 1 radio slot, 1 sound documentary, 1 interview, 1 radio forum, 1 news broadcast, 1 radio theatre, 1 spot. II provincial forum: 4 radio slots, 1 report, 1 radio art, 1 radio memoir of the working groups, 1 sound documentary, 1 Youth Agenda.</p>	<p><i>Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) three additional programs have been produced.</i></p>		<p><i>Four programs have been produced by the youth focused on conflict prevention and a Peacebuilding, of which at least two programs were produced together by men and women and two together by indigenous and non-indigenous.</i></p>	<p>I binational forum: 1 radio slot, 1 sound documentary, 1 interview, 1 radio forum, 1 news broadcast, 1 radio theatre, 1 spot. II provincial forum: 4 radio slots, 1 report, 1 radio art, 1 radio memoir of the working groups, 1 sound documentary, 1 Youth Agenda.</p>	<p>200%</p>
--	---	-----------	---	--	--	--	---	--	-------------

4.2.1 Achievements of Result 2

Young men and women have been trained as Peace Promoters and workshops and peace activities have supported them in the exercise of their rights and the creation of proposals, programs and public policies that will strengthen the social fabric at the border.

A Youth Network has been created to disseminate peacebuilding in the region.

97 young people have received their diploma as "Peace Promoters". 51 young people that were already trained as "Peace Promoters" attended a specialization course in Quito to improve their capacities as facilitators, and they obtained a certificate as "Community Educator Specialized in Peacebuilding" issued by the Ministry of Education, the purpose is to promote their job opportunities.

Young people have learnt to manage their conflicts among themselves in a non-violent manner.

Together with the network of Young Promoters the social fabric has been strengthened to face violence and contribute to peacebuilding by increasing the sensitivity of more than 2,035 people.

Increasingly stakeholders have been added to support and disseminate peacebuilding and also stakeholders related to the use of social networking (promoters, participants of the replicas and activities, etc.) they are connected to continue promoting peacebuilding through the page in Facebook⁸ "We build a border of peace".

4.3. Description of Result 3

Result 3 was intended to provide an opportunity for young people in the region to establish or strengthen their productive enterprises to generate their own income and have alternatives to the illegal and informal economic activities. Together with GSFEP Lago Agrio Regional, the training school of the Social Group Ecuadorian Fund Populorum Progressio (FUNDER) and CODESARROLLO programs like "Mi Futuro" and "Mi Chance" were designed to give an opportunity to young people in the border zone to create their own business.

Design of the programs "Mi Futuro" and "Mi Chance"

With the savings program "Mi Futuro" young people have the opportunity to open an account that improves their opportunity of savings for investment, it allows them to

⁸ (<https://www.facebook.com/construimos.depaz?fref=ts>)

obtain interest on their savings and becomes the guarantee of their culture and financial responsibility. This program offers young people who save, the opportunity to access credit for entrepreneurial activity when they turn 18 years of age. To open an account it is necessary to deposit 10 dollars and present personal documentation (identity card). The savings account receives a higher interest rate than the sight-savings-deposit rate (approximately 5% annual)

Through the youth credit program "Mi Chance" young people can have access to credit lines specially designed for them. The credit ranges between 200 and 4,000 US dollars, with a maximum term of 24 months and an interest rate lower than the ones offered by banks (15%). To have access to the credit it is necessary to: justify the income and assets (if there is any) have an endorsement behind them, either a first grade family member, a property, a car or a source of income. In the event of having loans in other banking institutions is necessary to bring the amortization table of the loan.

To open the account and obtain the credit, it is essential to have a "Plan of productive entrepreneurship" that would be approved by CODESARROLLO. A technician of GSFEPP Regional Lago Agrio helped young people to fill out this guide. They gave priority to credits that met the following criteria:

- Those that were made through group credits, individuals or family members.
- Those that were already implemented by productive organizations of the area.
- Those that were supported by state or private organizations (municipality, MIES, ministries, NGOs).
- Environmentally friendly and integrated to value chains.

Once the productive entrepreneurship was approved, an account would be opened and a loan would be granted, which will have a timely review and evaluation process.

The socialization of the program "Mi Chance" was made with the FEPP Regional Lago Agrio among the existing productive entrepreneurship and those that wanted to incorporate young people, as well as productive projects that are promoted by public or private institutions in the province of Sucumbios. Furthermore, with the Youth department the dissemination was carried out in schools, youth groups, peasant federations, indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorians and refugee organizations.

Once they identified people that were interested in the program young people were supported in creating their "Plan for Productive Entrepreneurship", for that, a course was taught to several teachers and public officials of Cascales, Sucumbios, Putumayo and Lago Agrio cantons so they could help young people to prepare and present the

"Entrepreneurship Plans". The instruction Guide "Mi Chance" was also used, it described the steps to follow for the development and presentation of the idea of juvenile entrepreneurship. There was also a follow up and monitoring to help young people to create their "Entrepreneurship Plan".

The credit products of CODESARROLLO have been socialized to more than 800 young people. CODESARROLLO granted 143 credits that were given to 67 men and 76 women for a total amount of \$ 396,000 dollars for productive activities such as: micro enterprises 57, for farming 61, and for services 25.

Chart 4: Matrix of result 3 (2011 - 2013)

Indicator	Year 2011		Year 2012		Year 2013		Total		% execution
	Planned	Executed	Planned	Executed	Planned	Executed	Planned	Executed	
<i>3.a. Number of indigenous and non-indigenous men and women that have developed business plans.</i>	<i>Up to September 2011 (fiscal year 2011) zero business plans developed.</i>		<i>Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) 70 young people have developed business plans.</i>	<i>37 youth credits granted.</i>	<i>Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) a total of 120 young people have developed business plans.</i>	<i>CODESARROLLO granted 143 youth credits.</i>	<i>120 young people, of which 40 are women and 20 are indigenous have developed their business plans.</i>	<i>67 to men and 76 to women, of which 16 have been given to young people of the Kichwa nationality.</i>	<i>119,16%</i>
<i>3.b. Return rate of productive projects.</i>	<i>NA</i>		<i>Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) at least less than 50% meets the break-even point.</i>		<i>Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) at least 80% of productive projects has a profitability of 5 to 15%</i>	<i>CODESARROLLO authorized 143 entrepreneurship project and they have a TIR of 15 to 16%.</i>	<i>An 80% of the partnership projects have between a 5 to a 15% of annual profitability. A 90% of the individual projects have between an 8 to a 15% of annual profitability.</i>	<i>CODESARROLLO authorized 143 entrepreneurship projects and they have a TIR of 15 to 16%.</i>	<i>100%</i>

4.3.1 Achievements of result 3

Young people from the region now have a credit program that was created especially for them, which gives them the opportunity to have the necessary financing to create or strengthen their productive entrepreneurship projects.

There has been a contribution to the debate on the need to offer alternatives to illegal activities.

CODESARROLLO gave 143 credits to young people for a total amount of \$ 396,000.00 dollars, of which 67 credits were given to men and 76 to women for micro entrepreneurial activities 57, for farming 61 and for services 25.

117 people opened a savings account through the savings program "Mi Futuro" generating a total savings of 3,829.82 dollars.

V. Results achieved in the implementation of the integral project approaches (gender, interculturality)

The project supported the creation and the strengthening of youth organizations such as the Youth Provincial Committee of Sucumbios, thus promoting in these spaces the active participation of women in leading positions. Special emphasis was placed in the participation of women from rural areas and those belonging to different nationalities and cultures. In the same way, indicators were designed for each result that disaggregated the information by sex and different nationalities and cultures. To verify this data, the results matrices can be reviewed. Likewise, the active participation of women was promoted, as well as the participation of young indigenous people and Colombians to attend the training for Peace Promoters and the forum. Efforts were also made so women and young people of indigenous nationalities could have access to the credit program "Mi Chance" and to the savings program "Mi Futuro".

The forum, trainings, and peace activities were carried out at suitable times for women; special emphasis was placed on the methodologies to carry out the various events. The methodology promoted the active participation of women and young people of Colombian and indigenous nationalities, questioned schemes, discriminatory and patriarchal attitudes, thus promoting an attitude of equality and equity among young people. Attention was also placed on communicational materials that helped to promote a message of interculturality and equity. Finally, since there are young mothers, the project created the necessary conditions so that mothers could attend with their children, thus allowing a family member to attend the events to take care of the children.

VI. Success stories

During the project, testimonies and interviews of young people involved in the project were collected, as well as those from public and private institutions that formed 3 part of the process. These are some of those stories⁹:

Activity	Testimonies
The Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In answer to the question, "What is the greatest satisfaction that you take from your work group?" after having participated in the First Youth Forum, <i>"To know that there are many young people interested in social problems. The way how we worked as a team and the coordination. To be able to define what it is that we want and how we want it. I felt much better with my group when we acted, it was very nice. How we can help each other among youth groups. To know that two countries together can achieve many things without violence. To be able to take time, where I had the opportunity to express myself and share and to see beyond a portrait, I am alive and I feel useful. To keep moving forward and not to stay behind, to be able to share with others..."</i>¹⁰ⁿ
The training of Peace Promoters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The training of promoters was a life changing experience for some people, not only improving their knowledge of peacebuilding but as one young woman mentions, substantially improving her self-esteem. <i>"...to participate in the trainings to become a promoter has changed my life because now I know what I am worth, that I can do it, especially me because I am a young woman."</i> A young man in Sucumbios mentioned that, <i>"...we have had the opportunity to dialogue about violence, to know that what for us was normal in reality it should not be. We have learnt how to solve our conflicts, how to have say in local politics on matters that affect us and realize that we have rights."</i> As a Promoter points out: <i>" ... As far as my personal life, it helped me a lot because I have learned to master my impulses and know how to guide the conflicts in a peaceful manner and it has been a great satisfaction to teach the community, my friends, my family, since I have taken a significant step in life, from the daily struggle towards the top of the progress of a society free of violence where peace will</i>

⁹ To protect the people we have omitted their names in the testimonies.

reign."

- As a young promoter points out "*...it is good to share with other local students what we learned at the workshops, to make more people, especially the young ones, want to live in a peace – building environment.*"
- For one of the teachers, "*this is a situation in which young people can learn more efficiently and detailed when other young people teach them. We believe that it should be mandatory for all schools to carry out these projects so that a few young people can replicate a peacebuilding throughout the school, which is so lacking in this area.*"
- For a teacher "*...the good thing about being a Promoter is to continue disseminating peacebuilding. I hope to have this opportunity in the future, because we need that here, we cannot stop the process at the stage where we are now. We have to keep speaking about peace and how to reach it without violence.*"

Coordination
Working Group

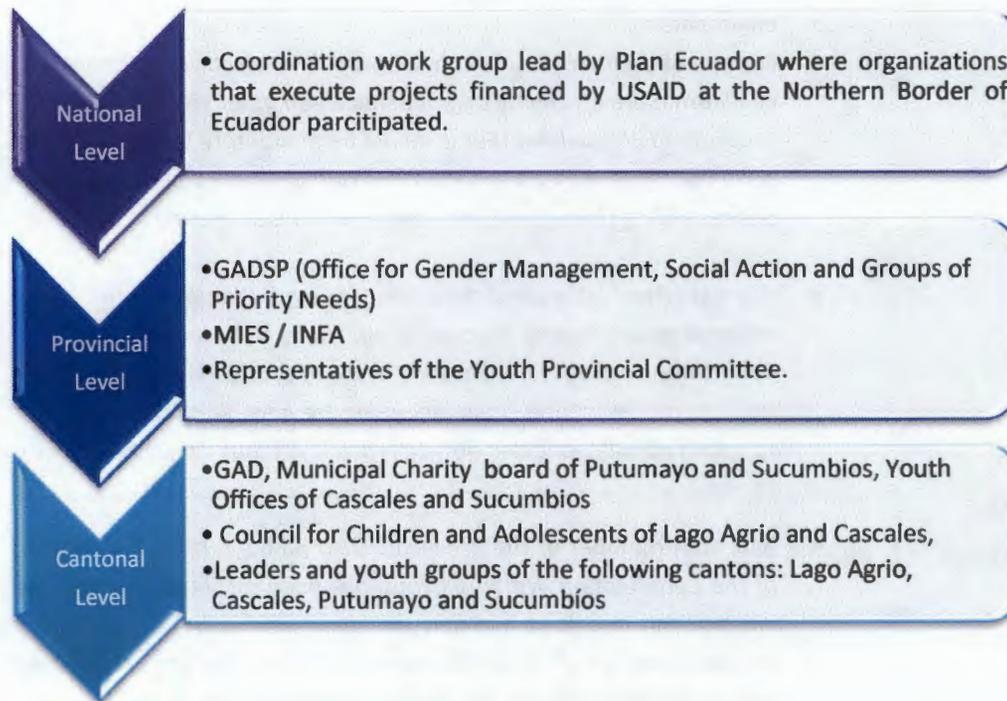
- As a staff member of the Provincial GAD points out, "*...the creation of the Coordination Working Group has been essential now that we are working in a joint manner, we know what other organizations are doing and we all follow the same objectives, the ones that young people decided upon in the Youth Manifesto. This is the first time that we have achieved something like that. We also believe there will be no problem in its continuation because we all want and need this to continue.*"

Youth department

- For one person in charge of the Youth Department, "*...now young people have a place that is near them, in their own town, where they can go. A place that cares about them because we are aware of their situation and because we are developing projects. We have our own budget and we know what are the priorities of young people, what they want because they have defined them in the Manifesto and in the Agenda 2013. Furthermore, the Office has been lawfully created so it cannot be removed and according to the law it has its own budget*".

VII. Coordination with State institutions and projects (sustainability)

Graph 2: Coordination with organizations



As stated previously, the project supported the creation of a Coordination Working Group whose objective was to create a coordination space between public authorities, national and international private institutions and non-profit organizations that work with young people in the region. The institutions who formed the Working Group are: MIES, provincial GAD of Sucumbios through its Gender Management You, Acción Social and Groups of Priority Attention, Peoples' Secretariat, Social Movements and Citizen Participation, the Federation of Kichwa Nationalities of Sucumbios Ecuador (FONAKISE), the Institute for the Eco-development of the Amazon Region (ECORAE) the Provincial Office of Health, the Cantonal Council of Lago Agrio for Children and Adolescents, the Provincial GAD, Plan Ecuador, UNHCR, HIAS, RET, Oxfam-Italy, UNFPA, FFLA, and GSFEPP among others.

As well as the Coordination Working Group, the project also worked directly with the GADs of Cascales, Putumayo, Sucumbios, the Charity boards of Putumayo and Sucumbios and the Cantonal Youth department of Cascales and Sucumbios.

Another important space for coordination was led by Plan Ecuador where several organizations that execute projects financed by USAID in the northern border of Ecuador also participated.

VIII. Financial information

Chart # 5 Budget control consolidated by line

COMPONENT	EXECUTED			TOTAL EXECUTED
	YEAR 2011	YEAR 2012	YEAR 2013	
WAGES	66.583	95.007	54.979	216.569
EVALUATION	-	-	21.397	21.397
EQUIPMENT	3.160	1.539	862	5.561
SUPPLIES	14.581	19.087	17.539	51.207
TRAVEL COSTS	20.276	55.156	47.441	122.873
EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS	9.269	30.277	15.018	54.564
GRANTS	-	47.140	-	47.140
INDIRECT COSTS	9.197	7.317	5.806	22.320
TOTAL	123.066	255.523	163.042	541.631

Chart # 6 Budget control - Executed vs. Approved

COMPONENT	APPROVED BUDGET	EXECUTED	BALANCE
WAGES	220.969,52	216.568,52	4.401,00
EVALUATION	17.713,50	21.396,70	(3.683,20)
EQUIPMENT	5.560,60	5.560,60	(0,00)
SUPPLIES	51.574,09	51.207,16	366,93
TRAVEL COSTS	122.288,72	122.873,13	(584,41)
EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS	54.564,12	54.564,12	-
GRANTS	47.140,00	47.140,00	-
INDIRECT COSTS	21.812,45	22.316,00	(503,83)
TOTAL	541.623,00	541.626,23	(3,23)

IX. Counterpart¹¹

A counterpart was never stipulated in the agreement, nevertheless, the following co-financing was offered during the project:

SUBTOTAL WAGES:	\$ 16.435,00
SUBTOTAL SUPPLIES	\$ 16.640,00
SUBTOTAL TRAVEL COSTS	\$ 17.352,80
SUBTOTAL EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS:	\$ 10.280,00
SUBTOTAL GRANTS:	\$ 63.385,25
TOTAL COUNTERPART:	\$ 124.093,05

X. Conclusions and lessons learned

John Paul Lederach, one of the most influential authors of Peacebuilding in one of his papers, argues in favor of building a social base for peace and mentions three principles to achieve this base.¹² The first principle is to strengthen local structures

¹¹ For further information see the counterpart document.

¹²John Paul Lederach, "Un marco englobador de la transformación de conflictos sociales crónicos", 1994.

and capacities and he talks about the importance of creating a community of people that promote peace. The second principle highlights the role of culture in transforming conflicts and the need to "re-discover culture and the creative use of connections, roles and resources that are part of the local culture". Finally he mentions the importance of a long term commitment as a principle to build a social base for peace which is "part of the development and transformation of relations throughout time". The project has taken into account these principles, focusing in strengthening the social and organizational fabric, in the local capacities and in the role of culture and the change of attitudes. The work team between FFLA and GSFEP has shown the commitment they have had with the people they have worked and as a result it has achieved important outcomes. The process is at a stage of consolidating those results and concluding the intervention in a gradual way, leaving the process in the hands of the local stakeholders.

Sustainability is based in four pillars:

1. Strengthening the capacity of youth groups and agencies working in favor of the youth.
2. Creating or strengthening networks that work in favor of the youth.
3. Provide support to youth organizations to create proposals in favor of youth and peace.
4. Articulation of youth groups with agencies that work in favor of the youth.

During the two years of the process, emphasis has been made on the institutionalization of the project's activities. Since the beginning, the project has contributed to create and consolidate Youth Department at GADS' level as a link between authorities and young people. The Youth Provincial Committee of Sucumbios was strengthened to provide voice to young people during the construction process of local public policies. Also much has been accomplished in the allocation of state budget for youth projects and the existence of inter-agency coordination between civil society organizations and public institutions in issues related to youth and peace.

The methodology that was used to train Peace Promoters has been carefully crafted, with experts in the subjects and was validated in the training process of 200 young people. The change in the attitudes of young people was evident during the process as well as the improvement of their self-esteem and their identity to defend their rights, the recognition of the rights of others and the solution of conflicts in a non-violent way. Some testimonies collected in the systematization show these changes.

The length of the training process and the sequence of the workshops was adapted to the reality and the needs of young people. The training process has a manual that

allows both young people and adults to replicate the workshops in other places of the country and in other countries of the region.

The credit and savings products tackle the growing demand of this population sector and have had an important impact. The decision to sign an agreement with CODESARROLLO was successful since with their experience and commitment they have contributed to establish these products at country level.

Young people that had access to micro entrepreneurial credits and services did not have problems paying back the credits since the majority of them have experience in their business area. This is the reason why they have been able to increase their sales and improve their quality of life.

Thanks to the excellent results of the project, the hypothesis under which the work was done was validated. This means that young people contribute to peace in their region if: a) they have support to receive a training in cooperative intercultural attitudes; b) they are empowered with peace building activities; and c) they have an economic future in the area where they live. Conflict prevention has to be approached in a comprehensive way taking into account the three aspects formulated in the hypothesis.

XI. Recommendations

The execution of these three results must continue: contribute to decrease socio-cultural barriers that hinder cooperation among youth (result 1); greater awareness of the importance of peacebuilding at the cantons where the intervention takes place (result 2) and to promote an increase of innovative economic activities at local level (result 3) as it has been done in this project.

It is necessary to increase the basis and underpin the representativeness and the leadership of the Youth Provincial Committee.

Support the continuation of the Forum, adding to the efforts of the members of the Coordination Working Group.

Hold an accountability event annually to present the work done by the members of the Coordination Working Group, to evaluate the fulfillment of the proposals made by the youth in their plan of action and to analyze other lines of actions in which they might be working.

An interesting challenge would be to articulate the Youth department in a inter-provincial network so they are able to exchange knowledge, ideas and proposals.

Train school teachers and public officials that work directly with young people, as well as those people that are responsible of the Youth department, staff members of MIES and the staff of the Council for Children and Adolescents.

Maintain the Coordination Working Group and guarantee that the organizations that take over this group are rotated. In a sensitive border area it is important to maintain the cooperation between non-government organizations and State agencies.

It would be important for MIES, as a State's agency, to assume the leadership of youth issues in the province of Sucumbios.

It is advisable that the GADS allocate funds for the Youth Department and that in their Plan of Action they include projects for the youth.

Keep strengthening the Network of Youth Promoters, and continue doing activities with them.

In the future, it might be important to consider going to the local financial structures (similar to community banks), which allow to "experience" and adapt the tool in this field.

Assess more thoroughly the entrepreneurial activities that were supported by the credit program "Mi Chance". There are satisfactory rates of profitability, but it might be possible to improve the monitoring of these productive enterprises. In this sense, it would be important to assess the possibility of creating companies taking into account the following aspects:

- Taking advantage of the proximity to the border to analyze the possible niches that might exist there.
- Make efforts to replace the high percentage of imports that occur in the region.
- Take advantage of the relation that occurs with the public authorities in the framework of other components to create supply agreements for daily services.
- Take into account the flow of remittances to generate opportunities.

Even though young people have not had problems in making their credit payments, it would be important to include a training process so they can manage their agricultural projects in a better way. It would also be important to promote a training process in customer services for the sales and services businesses.

Monitor the productive entrepreneurial activities; include specialized technical personnel in the teams according to the credit demand. It would be important to provide support and guidance through technical assistance to young people that access credit loans. On the other hand, it would be advisable to make a study of the provincial and local market to ensure the product sales and to develop new strategies that will allow a more flexible capital and interest for the entrepreneurs that begin a new business.

Include indicators in the project that measure the inclusion of women and indigenous nationalities.

Strengthen results based management and to specifically include impact indicators that will allow the quick verification of the achievements that happen at the projects.

XII. Annexes

Annex #1: Map: intervention area



Annex #2: Results achieved according to objectives and indicators

Result 1: Diminish social and cultural barriers that hinder cooperation among young people

Indicators: Number of young men and women that have participated in events that contribute to improve the intercultural understanding and prevent conflicts.

Objective to be reached: At least 400 young people, of which 160 are women and of which 80 are indigenous and 50 of Colombian nationality participated at the juvenile forum.

Indicator per year	Progress indicator
Until September 2011 (fiscal year 2011) 120 young men and 80 young women have participated in these events. Of these, 40 are indigenous and 20 of Colombian nationality.	<p>In the framework of the 2011 Youth Day, the first Juvenile Provincial Forum was held on August, 58 people attended of which 57 were young people between the ages of 15 and 29, 22 women and 35 men, of them 12 were indigenous, 4 Afro-descendants and 5 Colombians.</p> <p>In the Youth Day there were more than 100 young people that attended (photographic record) but only 88 people registered on the attendance sheets, 38 women and 50 men, 22 of indigenous nationality, 2 Afro-descendants and 5 Colombians.</p>
Additionally until September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) 60 young men and 40 young women have participated in these events. Of these, 20 are indigenous and 10 of Colombian nationality.	<p>At the first juvenile binational forum Ecuador-Colombia 109 people participated, 107 young people (61 men and 46 women, 21 of Indigenous nationality, 8 Afro-descendants and 30 of Colombian nationality).</p> <p>The second provincial forum was held on August 2012 with the participation of 84 people, 72 young people: 23 women, 49 men, 19 indigenous and 2 Afro-Ecuadorian.</p> <p>At the youth day celebration on 2012, 342 people attended, 239 young people, 130 men, 109 women of which 48 of Indigenous nationality, 7 Afro-descendants and 21 of Colombian nationality.</p>
Additionally until August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) 60 young men and 40 young women have participated in these events. Of these, 20 are indigenous and 10 of Colombian nationality.	<p>There were 95 young people between the ages 15 and 29 years that attended the second Binational Forum, of which 12 are of Indigenous nationality, 13 Afro-Ecuadorian, 29 Colombians, 3 from Venezuela and 1 from Nicaragua.</p> <p>At the 2013 youth gatherings where Youth Day was celebrated, 868 people attended of which 615 were young people (351 men, 264 women, 142 indigenous, 32 Afro-descendants and 30 Colombians)</p>

Indicators: Number of proposals presented by youth that have been discussed by local authorities at local level.

Objective to be reached: Five proposals for development and peace-building that were created by youth groups where men, women, of indigenous and non indigenous origins, Ecuadorian and Colombian participated and that have been discussed at agencies at local level (parish, canton or provincial)

<p>Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) three proposals discussed.</p>	<p>At Sucumbios and Putumayo cantons, the ordinances to create a youth office were approved.</p> <p>Sucumbios canton has two budget provisions for the people responsible of the youth office (coordinator and person in charge).</p> <p>At the Trans-border Forum young people drafted a Declaration that was submitted to MIES' authorities.</p> <p>Young people published a Youth Manifesto that is now a reference document for those institutions that work in youth issues.</p> <p>An outcome of the second Provincial Youth Forum was the Youth Agenda for the year 2013, where projects were given priority to present them to the authorities so they could be included at the operational plans of the GADS and in the plans of the institutions that work with young people in the area.</p>
<p>Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) five proposals discussed in total.</p>	<p>Several proposals presented by the youth were included in the GADPS budget for the year 2013. The GADPS included in the 2013 budget the following topics: Institutional strengthening and training of promoters based on the topics of the Youth Agenda. Provide support to implement the provincial Youth Agenda, build the youth house, create working groups for the youth at parish, canton level and one at provincial level.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health of the province of Sucumbios and UNFPA added to their 2013 Plan of Action the proposals presented by the youth in the following areas: capacity strengthening to the people that offer sexual education at schools and training of juvenile promoters at youth centers and communities for the ones that teach sexual and reproductive health.</p> <p>At the parish board of El Playon, Sucumbios canton, the group of cultural promoters submitted a project to rebuild the Family Park. The project was approved and has a budget for its execution.</p> <p>The Provincial GAD of Sucumbios will allocate more than 140,0000 dollars to its 2014 Plan of Action to be given to the youth of Sucumbios, among the activities is the creation of negotiation groups, one at provincial level and seven at canton level.</p>

Result 2: Greater awareness of the importance of peacebuilding in the cantons where the intervention takes place.

Indicator: Number of young people that participated at the peace activities

Objective to be reached: A total of 500 young people have participated in peace activities implemented by promoters. Of the 500 young people at least 200 were women. Likewise, of the 500 young people at least 100 were indigenous and at least 50 Colombians.

Training of Peace Promoters

201 young people have taken part in the training process in the cantons of Putumayo, Cascales, Gonzalo Pizarro, Sucumbios and Lago Agrio. 97 young people have received a certification for attending the workshops, which represent 90 hours.

Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) 50 peace promoters have been trained and 100 young people have participated in peace activities.

In Cascales 37 young people have participated of which 12 have concluded their training as promoters for peacebuilding. 65 young people of Putumayo canton (divided in two groups from Silwayacu boarding school) have been part of the training process and 43 have concluded and obtained their certification. 62 young people of Lago Agrio canton attended the training, 19 obtained their certification. 37 young people of Sucumbios canton attended the training for Peace Promoters, 23 have obtained certificates.

51 young peace promoters, 16 women and men of the five cantons attended a specialization course that will be accredited by the Ministry of Education as Community Educator Specialized in Peacebuilding.

Replicas and peace promoting activities

On April 2012 there was a intercultural youth gathering to promote peace at La Bonita, Sucumbios canton where 104 people attended, of which 53 were young people: 24 women, 29 men, 7 indigenous, 11 Afro-descendants and 3 Colombians.

On April 2012 a workshop on modern dance was offered at the boarding school of Silvayacu, 21 young people and children attended. (3 men and 7 women). The work was presented during the canton's festivities.

On May 11 and 12 there was a replica given to green leaders at camp YamaramNatsa, 30 people attended of which 17 were young people: 11 women, 6 men, 17 indigenous.

On May the law for the youth was socialized, 47 people attended this event, of which 38 were young people: 25 women, 13 men, 3 indigenous and 1 Afro-Ecuadorian.

On May 2012, some promoters of Cascales canton, of Taruka community made two replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding where 36 people attended, of which 20 were young people: 7 women, 13 men, 20 indigenous.

On June 16, 23, 30 and September 8, 2012 a sports - cultural festival took place also on June 16, 23 and 30 at the community Mushukawsay, Cascales canton where 152 people attended of which 105 were young people between 15 and 29 years (men: 78, women: 27, 104 indigenous people).

On June 2012 there was a theatre play that was shown in the city of Lago Agrio where approximately 60 young people attended (there is no physical registration, only the testimony of the promoter).¹³

On April and June 2012 the promoters of Putumayo canton made two replicas of the workshops with the participation of 8 young people of which 6 were men, 2 women, 7 of Indigenous nationality and 1 Colombian. Of the 15 participants, 7 are between 10 and 13 years old and 8 between 15 and 25 years.

On July 2012 the peace promoters in the Sucumbios socialized the Youth Manifesto cantons (14 young participants: 5 women, 9 men, 14 indigenous); Cascales (8 participants); Cuyabeno (12 participants) Shushufindi 55 participants of which 44 were young people: 27 women, 17 men, 32 indigenous, 2 Colombians a total of 90 young people.

Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) 50 peace promoters have been trained and 100 young people have participated in peace activities.

¹³ We were not able to count the people that attended the event since there is no attendance sheet.

Replicas

Replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding at the Silvayacu school, Putumayo canton, on October 5, 2012 where 56 people attended, 15 young people (men: 14; women: 1) 6 indigenous and 2 Colombians

Replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding, on October 6, 2012 at FEPP, of CNNA at Lago Agrio canton, 8 young people, (men: 2, women: 6;

Replica of the workshop for peacebuilding on October 11, 2012 at the school in El Playon, Sucumbios canton, 221 people attended of which 72 were young people (men: 40, women: 32; Colombian: 5)

Replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding, October 13, 2012, Coliseum General Farfan, Lago Agrio cantons where 22 people attended of which 13 were young people (men: 8, women: 5 and Colombian: 3)

On October 19 there was a peacebuilding project to recover the green areas of El Playon School, 44 people participated, 31 young people: 15 women, 16 men, 1 Colombian.

Replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding, on October 26, 2012, at Coliseum General Farfan - Lago Agrio Canton, at the school Rafael Rodriguez Palacio where 92 people attended, 24 young people (men: 12, women: 12 Colombians) 8 and Afros 2)

A workshop on solid waste management was held on October 27 and 28, where 32 young people attended, 17 men, 15 women, 6 indigenous, 1 Afro and 3 Colombians.

Replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding on November 20, 2012, at the School La Merced, Santa Barbara, Sucumbios canton, 99 people attended of which 58 were young people (men: 33, women: 25, 3 indigenous and 2 Colombians)

Replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding, on November 29, 2012, at the school Rafael Rodriguez in General Farfan where 48 people attended, 45 of them were young people: 25 men, 20 women, 3 Afro, 1 Colombian.

Replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding where they received a small compensation from a project financed by UNICEF, on December 7, 2012, FEPP from Lago Agrio cantons, 53 people, 18 young people (men: 8, women: 10 Colombians) 2, 10 indigenous people).

Replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding on December 8, 2012, at the camp for green leaders, at Cascales canton, 7 people attended of which 5 were young people (men: 3, women: 2 indigenous people: 3)

Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) 50 peace promoters have been trained and 450 young people have participated in peacebuilding activities.

Replicas of the workshops for peacebuilding, December 11, 2012, at the school Oriente Ecuatoriano, Lago Agrio canton, 29 people attended 26 young people (men: 22, women: 4, 24 indigenous people).

On December 13, 2012, at the Basurto Coliseum, Cascales canton, a replica of a workshop for peacebuilding activities was held where 27 people attended, 6 young people (men: 3, women: 3, 6 indigenous and 6 Colombians). At this training the promoters received a small compensation from a project financed by UNICEF.

On December 14, 2012, at the Yamanunka Coliseum, Shushufindi canton, a replica of a workshop for peacebuilding activities was held where 45 people attended, 8 young people (men: 2, women: 6, 8 indigenous people).

On March 7 and 8, 2013, two peace promoters replicated workshops for peacebuilding at the school Inti-Pakari in the city of Lago Agrio. The following people attended: 76 participants of which 66 were young people, (49 men, 17 women), 3 of Indigenous nationality, 3 Afro and 4 Colombians.

Peace Activities

On February 20 till 22, 2013, a workshop named "MAMBRÚ NO VA A LA GUERRA" (Mambru does not go to war) was offered at the boarding school of Silvayacu, Putumayo canton. 37 people attended the event, 22 young people, 17 men, 5 women, 13 of Indigenous nationality, 1 Afro.

On February 23, 2013 young peace promoters made a replica of the workshop "Mambru does not go to war" and the canton's head of Putumayo. The activity was carried out between 9H00 and 13H00 where 296 people attended, 102 youth, 51 women and 51 men, 12 of Indigenous nationality, 1 Afro and 8 Colombians.

On Friday, March 8, a replica of the workshop "Mambru does not go to war" was held at the canton's head of Cascales, Sucumbios province. 202 boys, girls and adolescents participated, of which 9 were young people, 5 women, 4 men, 1 indigenous and 1 Colombian.

On June 6 to 8, 2013, a youth Gymkhana to promote peace was held at Sucumbios Alto canton that received the support of peace promoters. 72 people participated at the event (38 men, 34 women) 68 of Ecuadorian nationality and 4 of Colombian nationality and 72 mestizos.

On June 27 to 29, 2013, there was a cinema-forum and a Gymkhana to promote peace at Putumayo canton with the technical support of SERPAJ. The purpose of the activity was to conclude the project at the area, there 83 participants attended (54 men and

Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) 50 peace promoters have been trained and 450 young people have participated in peacebuilding activities.

<p>Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) 50 peace promoters have been trained and 450 young people have participated in peacebuilding activities.</p>	<p>29 women) 78 of Ecuadorian nationality and 5 of Colombian nationality and according to their cultural - ethnic identity: 28 mestizo and 55 indigenous.</p> <p>On June 28 to 30 a youth camp to promote peace was held at Cascales canton, 37 people participated among which 32 were young people (21 men and 11 women) 10 indigenous, 2 Afro and 4 Colombians.</p> <p>On July 11 to 14 there was an exchange of experiences with the Youth department from Esmeraldas and Sucumbios, 79 people attended, of which 67 were young people, 31 men, 36 women, 5 indigenous, 19 Afro, 2 Colombians.</p> <p><i>The total amount of people that attended the replicas and workshops for peacebuilding was 2,035 people, 1123 young people (479 women, 644 men, 369 people of Indigenous nationality, 47 Afro-descendants and 67 Colombians.</i></p>
<p>Indicator: Number of radio programs that have been produced by young people that participated in the project. Objective to be reached: Four programs have been produced by the youth focused on conflict prevention and peacebuilding of which at least two programs were produced together by men and women and two together by indigenous and non-indigenous.</p>	
<p>Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) one program produced.</p>	<p>At the 1st binational forum a radio program was created with 4 spots, which was the outcome of the work done by young people that attended the forum.</p> <p>At the 2nd youth provincial forum, 6 micro radio productions were prepared using several formats of the Youth Agenda.</p>
<p>Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) three additional programs have been produced.</p>	<p>There are also several videos: one of the 2011 youth gatherings, training of cultural promoters of Cascales, a documentary on the Ecuadorian - Colombian frontier "<i>Otro mundo es posible</i>" ("Another world is possible") made by Christian Navarrete, 1st and 2nd Trans-border Forum.</p>

Result 3: The project has promoted an increase of innovative economic activities at local level for indigenous and non indigenous men and women.

Indicator: Number of indigenous and non indigenous men and women that have developed business plans.

Objective to be reached: 120 young people, of which 40 are women and 20 are indigenous have developed their business plans.

<p>Up to September 2012 (fiscal year 2012) 70 young people have developed business</p>	<p>Until the month of September, CODESARROLLO granted 37 credits for an amount of \$ 117,500,000 to finance the productive</p>
--	--

plans.	<p>activities of young people.</p> <p>From January - August 30 savings accounts on the program "Mi Futuro" have been opened with a total amount of 802,36 dollars.</p>
Up to August 2013 (fiscal year 2013) a total of 120 young people have developed business plans.	CODESARROLLO gave 143 credits to young people for a total amount of \$ 396,000.00 dollars, of which 67 credits were given to men and 76 to women for micro entrepreneurial activities: 57, for farming 61 and for services 25.
<p>Indicator: Return rate of the productive projects</p> <p>Objective to be reached: An 80% of the partnership projects have between a 5 to a 15% annual profitability. A 90% of the individual projects have between an 8 to a 15% annual profitability.</p>	
<p>An 80% of the partnership projects have between a 5 to a 15% annual profitability. A 90% of the individual projects have between an 8 to a 15% annual profitability.</p>	<p>Up to the present, 143 entrepreneurship projects are authorized by CODESARROLLO and they have a TIR of 15 to 16%.</p> <p>The compliance of this indicator takes into account the total of 143 entrepreneurship projects that CODESARROLLO has financed.</p>