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ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACTIVITY

QUARTERLY TECHNICAL REPORT
January 1 – March 31, 2015

April 30, 2015

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACTIVITY

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QUARTERLY TECHNICAL REPORT ***(January 1 – March 31, 2015)***

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AGO	Attorney General's Office (<i>Fiscalía General of la Nación</i>)
AJA	Access to Justice Activity (or the "Project")
ANSPE	National Program for the Elimination of Extreme Poverty (<i>Agencia Nacional para la Superación of la Pobreza Extrema</i>)
APP	Public-Private Alliance (<i>Alianza Privada-Pública</i>)
BACRIM	Criminal bands (<i>bandas criminales</i>)
CAPIV	Victims' Attention Center (<i>Centro of Atención Penal Integral a Víctimas</i>)
CECAR	<i>Corporación Universitaria del Caribe</i>
CEJ	Corporation for Excellence in Justice (<i>Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia</i>)
CIJ	Attorney General's Office University of Knowledge and Innovation for Justice (<i>Universidad Conocimiento e Innovación para la Justicia de la Fiscalía General de la Nación</i>)
CISPA	Inter-Institutional Commission for the Criminal Accusatory System (<i>Comisión Interinstitucional of Seguimiento al Criminal Accusatory System</i>)
CPC	Criminal Procedure Code
CSDI	Colombia Strategic Development Initiative
CSJ	Superior Judicial Council (<i>Consejo Superior de la Judicatura</i>)
EC	Equity Conciliator
ELN	National Liberation Army (<i>Ejército de Liberación Nacional</i>)
EPM	Colombia's state-run multi-utility
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (<i>Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias of Colombia</i>)
FIP	<i>Fundación Ideas para la Paz</i>
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
INMLCF	National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences
JH	Justice House
LJC	Local Justice Committees

LR	Land Restitution
MICE	Methodology to Implement Community Conciliation
MinTIC	Ministry of Information Technology and Communications (<i>Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones</i>)
MJL	Ministry of Justice and Law (<i>Ministerio of la Justicia and del Derecho</i>)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGC	National Gender Commission of the Judicial Branch (<i>Comisión Nacional of Género of la Rama Judicial</i>)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPEC	National Program for Equity Conciliation
NPJH	National Program for Justice Houses
NUSCJ	National University School for Community Justice
PACE	Contact Center for Equity Conciliation
SAVU	Attorney General’s Office Sub-Directorate for Attention to Victims and Users
SENA	National Service of Learning (<i>Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje</i>)
SICJWEB	Justice House Web-Based Information System
SGC	Sectional Gender Committees of the Judicial Branch
SP	Strategic Partner
SPA	Criminal Accusatory System (<i>Criminal Accusatory System</i>)
UACT	Special Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation (<i>Unidad Administrativa Especial para la Consolidación Territorial</i>)
UARIV	National Unit for the Comprehensive Assistance and Reparation of Victims (<i>Unidad para la Atención and Reparación Integral a las Víctimas</i>)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VLC	Virtual Legal Clinic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the second quarter of the third year of the Access to Justice Activity (AJA or Project), a four-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc. This quarterly performance report covers the period from January 1 through March 31, 2015.

For the justice operators with whom the AJA works, particularly those in the consolidation zones, the first quarter of 2015 underscored the potential for an agreement between the Government of Colombia and FARC guerrillas. Colombian justice officials at the national, regional, and local levels are increasingly focusing on what such an agreement, if it were reached, would mean for the demand for justice services in the consolidation zones, and on what the government – as well as foreign partners – could best do to prepare for such an outcome. The challenge is extremely complex: levels of violence vary throughout the consolidation zones, as do the range of illegal armed groups – the FARC, ELN guerrillas, and various criminal groups (BACRIM), including drug-trafficking groups and illegal miners. The strength of state institutions and civil society organizations varies widely. There is also a broad range of victims and minority groups at risk, including women, who face considerable sexual violence within and outside of the armed conflict.

The AJA is supporting the preparation for the follow-through on a possible peace agreement through special roundtables on “post-conflict local justice” at the departmental and local levels, to be conducted with *Fundación Ideas para la Paz* (FIP). The AJA has worked closely with the governor of Meta, who is also the president of the association of governors, and in January he agreed to fund such a roundtable later this year. The AJA will seek to support similar roundtables in five other regions. In April, the department of Antioquia will sponsor, with AJA support, a dialogue on post-conflict local justice in the Bajo Cauca region.

Work at the local level is at the heart of the AJA project. The seven AJA regional offices worked with local justice operators, including local justice committees (LJCs), to carry out activities of each of AJA’s three components. They also provided critical feedback from operators, officials, and citizens at the grassroots levels on program activities and on future needs, particularly should the government and the FARC sign a peace agreement. During this quarter, the regional offices supported LJCs in carrying out 20 mobile justice brigades which benefitted some 2000 people; several of these brigades were in villages that were recently under the control of illegal armed groups.

The AJA worked this quarter with the Ministry of Justice and Law (MJL) to develop a Public-Private Alliance (APP) proposal with Valfinanzas. If approved, the proposal would permit the MJL to finance the construction of up to 50 Justice Houses (JHs) that would be placed strategically in

consolidation zones following a peace agreement. Currently the MJL is reviewing the APP proposal.

Incentives for Equity Conciliators (EC) is a high priority for USAID; in February, the MJL asked the AJA to work with the National University to redraft a public policy proposal for EC incentives. A follow-up meeting with the MJL will be held in late April. The AJA continued to implement the JH exit strategy; eight of 24 JHs demonstrated sustainability based upon the JH Development index.

Dr. Nestor Raul Correa was re-elected President of the National Gender Commission of the Judiciary (NGC). During this quarter, with AJA support, Dr. Correa carried out two regional roundtables on the gender perspective in judicial decisions, and on International Women's Day he headlined the public release of the gender framework for judicial sentences.

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains at critically high levels in Colombia, and few cases are successfully prosecuted. The AJA supported an event in February in which the main judicial actors at the national level signed a letter of intent to more aggressively pursue GBV cases. The AJA is also identifying prosecutors to carry out peer-to-peer training in GBV. In addition, the AJA is developing a proposal to provide training in sexual violence investigations to appropriate members of Local Justice Committees (LJCs). The AJA continued to support the building of the Victims' Attention Center (CAPIV) in Tumaco as a response to GBV in that region; the CAPIV will be inaugurated next quarter. The AJA led a successful regional effort to promote gender rights through the "Without my fist but with my handwriting" campaign. The AJA also began a thorough review of the Project's regions in order to identify how to promote regional networks of professional women who can provide legal and/or counseling assistance to victims of GBV.

In the area of justice reform, in March the AJA finished implementing the Quality Management System in the land restitution courts and regular courts in Cartagena and Carmen de Bolivar. Some of the magistrates were extremely positive about the impact of the changes on efficiency and service. On January 14, USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Attorney General's Office (AGO) and with the head of the AGO's University of Knowledge and Innovation for Justice (CIJ). The AJA is supporting the CIJ in monitoring the Criminal Accusatory System (SPA); this partnership should enhance the sustainability of the advances in the SPA.

I.0 POLICY ISSUES

I.1 BROAD CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

During the reporting period, the Access to Justice Activity continued to consult extensively with its government counterparts, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), other USAID projects, and donor agencies regarding each of the AJA's components and the Colombia Strategic Development Initiative (CSDI) regions. In particular, through its partnership with *Fundación Mineros* in the Bajo Cauca region, the AJA helped develop an action plan for the psycho-social clinic in El Bagre municipality. The AJA also worked with Hidroituango/EPM, to promote the work of the LJs located in the municipalities of Ituango, Valdivia and Briceño. The NGO Recompas worked with the AJA in Tumaco to improve coordination between the regular justice system and traditional Afro-Colombian justice systems.

I.2 COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONORS, USAID PROJECTS AND USG AGENCIES

The AJA continued to coordinate closely with other USAID implementers in program areas. Examples include:

- Discussing the design of a pilot project on land conflict conciliation with USAID's Land and Rural Development Program in Montes de Maria.
- Developing conferences and trainings on gender-based violence and human rights in Tumaco and Bajo Cauca with USAID's Human Rights program.

2.0 REGIONAL ASPECTS

2.1 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Inter-Institutional Coordination

The AJA's university strategic partners (SPs) carried out a broad and effective range of activities at the regional/municipal level. In addition to advancing the project's immediate objectives, the strategic partners' activities reinforced their ability to interact with municipal government and local justice entities to promote sustainable justice policies. This ability will be tested as Colombia prepares for nationwide local elections in October 2015. Examples of AJA SP activities are presented below:

SJSRP STRATEGIC PARTNER ACTIVITIES		
Strategic Partner	Location	Activity
University of Nariño (Tumaco)	Tumaco	Diploma program held on the administration of justice with a differential gender focus; 35 justice sector operators trained.
University of Ibagué	Chaparral, Ataco, Rioblanco, Ortega	Training provided to strengthen equity conciliators.
	Chaparral, Tolima	Design and implementation of the Quality Management System in judicial offices.
University of Sinú	Southern Córdoba	Forum on the Criminal Accusatory System with a gender focus; 162 justice officials trained.
	Montelíbano, Tierra Alta, Puerto Libertador, San José de Uré	Training plan developed for justice sector operators, with a focus on public policy, including law and gender violence.
Diocese of Montelíbano	Tierradentro and Puerto Libertador (Montelíbano)	Two legal brigades carried out in coordination with legal clinics in rural areas intensely affected by the armed conflict; 517 people benefited from the brigades.
University of Antioquia	Tarazá, Cáceres, Valdivia, Caucasia, Nechí, El Bagre and Zaragoza, Bajo Cauca	Eight psychosocial clinic campaigns held jointly with the legal clinic of the University of Medellín Law School.
	Three municipalities in the mining region	Four psychosocial clinic campaigns carried out in collaboration with <i>Fundación Mineros</i> and with the participation of equity conciliators.

	Bajo Cauca	Workshop with FIP on the construction of local justice policies with different justice agents and local officials. By promoting the incorporation of justice policies, including those supported by the AJA, into municipal development plans, the project is promoting the sustainability of USAID programs and objectives.
CECAR	Montes de María	Phase 4 held of the MICE training for equity conciliators.
	El Hobo (Carmen de Bolívar)	Legal brigade carried out, in which 90% of the beneficiaries were victims of the armed conflict.
University of Santo Tomás	La Julia and San Rafael	Two legal brigades carried out, including in an area which has been controlled by the FARC for many years (La Julia).

The AJA has also worked to build partnerships with the private sector. The AJA’s strongest private-entity partnership is with *Fundación Mineros* in the Bajo Cauca region of Antioquia department, for which there is an agreed work plan. The AJA has also made progress in the partnership with Hidroituango and EPM (Colombia’s state-run multi-utility) for the mountain municipalities in the Bajo Cauca.

Additionally, the Project has worked to develop partnerships with NGOs. In Southern Córdoba the AJA entered into an agreement with Global Communities to provide support for rural justice brigades, and for the coordination of all gender activities for the region in a unified platform, with an emphasis on sexual violence. In Tumaco, the AJA is currently reviewing a grant proposal from Recompas to coordinate between the Afro-Colombian and formal justice systems.

With respect to partnerships with national government entities, the AJA continued to work with the National Program for the Elimination of Extreme Poverty (ANSPE), particularly on promoting and assisting the mobile justice brigades and ensuring the participation of the *Red Unidos* population in justice activities. In addition, the AJA advanced coordination efforts between the Special Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation (UACT) and the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies (MinTIC) in monitoring the installation of digital kiosks and designing a communications strategy for the Local Justice Committees.

Local Justice Committees

The Local Justice Committees (LJCs) continue to serve as the most effective mechanism for Project intervention in 29 municipalities. Equity Conciliators are represented on the LJCs, the Justice Houses actively participate in the LJCs’ mobile justice brigades in 12 municipalities, and LJC action plans include gender issues. The following high-impact LJC activities took place this quarter:

Action plans and protocols

Based upon their increasing knowledge about the main barriers to access to justice in each municipality, the AJA has helped the majority of the LJCs develop action plans and operating

protocols. The action plans prioritize activities designed to overcome or mitigate specific barriers to justice. Elements of the action plans include institutional strengthening, preventing/providing attention to cases of sexual and domestic violence, strengthening rural justice, and strengthening traditional justice systems. These plans provide a comprehensive roadmap to improve access to justice, addressing issues such as infrastructure and staffing needs, processes, and outreach.

Map of actors

The AJA held meetings to monitor LJC activities, including updating a map of actors by municipality, as well as defining the steps to be followed to appoint officials who are missing from each map (See Annex A). An exercise was conducted in Bajo Cauca with support from the University of Antioquia to identify the relationships among the justice actors in each municipality.

Training

The LJCs carried out a number of training activities in line with their action plans, and with the support of the AJA's strategic partners. Among other trainings, the LJCs organized the following:

- *Bajo Cauca*: A workshop on planning, managing and controlling criminal investigations in the Criminal Accusatory System, provided to approximately 30 justice operators from Ituango, Valdivia, Briceño and Anorí.
- *Southern Córdoba*: A roundtable on local justice in a post-conflict scenario, conducted with the LJC of Montelíbano (with support from the University of the Sinú).
- *Tumaco*: Completion of the diploma program on “Administration of Justice with a Regional Focus,” with the participation of more than 30 justice operators.

Rural Justice

The LJC activity with the greatest impact was the preparation, development and monitoring of mobile justice brigades, with the participation of legal and psychosocial clinics. This quarter, a total of 20 mobile justice brigades were carried out (See Annex B.) The mobile justice brigades help address the lack of justice services in rural areas. To date, the LJCs – with AJA support – have coordinated a total of 26 mobile justice brigades in targeted communities, benefiting more than 4,000 individuals. In many cases, these brigades provide beneficiaries with their first contact with justice institutions and judicial services. As a result, these communities have increased confidence in the justice system.

Municipal budgets and access to justice

The activity that entailed the greatest effort by the AJA regional teams was the formulation of access-to-justice projects that were registered in the project banks of the 29 municipalities with

operating LJCs. These projects were agreed to by the LJCs and the municipalities' Planning and Government Secretariats. In addition, the AJA supported a training for justice operators from the majority of the municipalities (except those of Macarena and Tumaco) on the formulation and monitoring of projects developed with the National Planning Department's methodology. All territorial entities delivered their projects' certificates of registration in each municipality's project bank.

In general, these projects addressed the needs or priorities identified by the LJCs and the efforts to make the activities promoted by the AJA sustainable (see the table below for more detail). The mayors' offices allocated approximately COP\$1,457,000,000 for the registered projects, which is approximately 60% of the projects' total cost. This means that the municipalities (with the exception of those in Southern Córdoba) must seek co-financing for the projects from the departmental governments and entities such as the Ministry of Justice, in order to ensure that the projects are fully executed.¹ This constitutes a great challenge for the AJA to ensure the effective execution of the allocated resources.

LJC ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROJECTS	
Region	Proposed Projects and Priorities
Bajo Cauca	Prevention of sexual violence, gender-based violence and domestic violence, as well as provision of assistance for victims of these crimes; strengthening the traditional justice system; social mobilization for access to justice and peace in a post-conflict context; coordination between the traditional and formal justice systems; the development of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms; and prevention of different forms of violence.
Montes de María	Strengthening the infrastructure of the Justice House in San Onofre; strengthening ADR mechanisms in San Jacinto; the creation of local magistrates to strengthen rural justice in El Carmen de Bolívar; and the inclusion of young people and adolescents in justice activities through recreational and cultural activities.
Southern Tolima	Justice House and ADR mechanisms; strengthening urban and rural community organizations in order to improve access to justice; access-to-justice training for members of the Community Action Boards.
Tumaco	Design and implementation of access-to-justice policies.
Macarena	Implementation of ADR mechanisms; strengthening the capacity of the municipal administrations to facilitate and guide access to justice services.

As illustrated above, all of the projects are designed to strengthen the LJCs and the sustainability of AJA activities, with particular attention to issues faced by people in the consolidation zones.

¹ Noteworthy are the contributions allocated by the four municipalities in Southern Córdoba for the strengthening of the mobile justice brigades in rural and urban areas.

3.0 COMPONENT ACTIVITIES

3.1 COMPONENT ONE – JUSTICE HOUSES AND ADR

3.1.1 Promote greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening JHs

Completion of the public-private alliance proposal process

The AJA has worked with the MJL on a Public-Private Alliance (APP) for JHs to allow the MJL to: i) build a large number of JHs in a shorter period of time than normally required; ii) place them strategically in consolidation zones according to national justice needs rather than relying on small municipalities to design and present their own projects to the MJL; and iii) provide greater, ongoing financial assistance so that small municipalities can adequately operate JHs.

The AJA has worked closely with the MJL and Valfinanzas, the company identified to design the APP and oversee its initial phases. The MJL validated Valfinanzas’ APP proposal for JH construction and confirmed the benefits of using this public/private financing mechanism. On this basis, the MJL decided to proceed with the APP, funding at least one group of 10-15 JHs. The MJL has also carried out an analysis of the municipalities which, according to available data, show a high need for justice and conflict resolution options. While many of the municipalities coincide with the list used to develop Valfinanzas’ proposal, the number and names of the municipalities to receive JHs has not been finalized. Pending MJL approval to proceed, the AJA will contract Valfinanzas to update the proposal and assist with Phases I and II of the government’s approval process.

As part of the APP proposal, and indeed for the entire National Program for Justice Houses (NPJH), both the MJL and AJA are working on the design of a flexible JH model to respond to changing demands in Colombia. The AJA and the MJL exchanged documents outlining the recommendations for incorporating a wider range of justice-related services in an articulated JH model. The proposal made by the AJA more than a year ago focuses on how to combine services typically in JHs and Citizens’ Centers for Peaceful Co-Existence. Last year the MJL united these two national programs, but recently went further in a preliminary proposal that contemplates many standard justice services but also includes a category called “Other means to improve access and support for the administration of justice,” to be adjusted according to national and regional priorities. Given the current focus on the imminent post-conflict period, this opens the way for including services with a post-conflict emphasis. The MJL needs to

spell out the precise nature of these services in JHs in small municipalities in consolidation zones. Meanwhile, the AJA is discussing what might be involved with a group of advisors in the incipient Ministry of Post-Conflict, Human Rights and Security.

Supporting existing JHs via the JH exit strategy

The AJA/USAID JH Exit Strategy is designed to reduce USAID funding for routine JH activities by July 31, 2015. This strategy includes the JH Development and Sustainability Index, developed to phase out USAID funding over a six-month period. Based on the results of the first application of this index, eight out of twenty-four JHs showed “well-established sustainability” and, as part of the AJA JH exit strategy, have graduated from USAID assistance. The AJA has informed each of them that given their capacity, future AJA/USAID support will focus exclusively on mobile JHs, post-conflict related projects and activities to strengthen their actions with ECs. The sixteen JHs yet to graduate fall into three categories:

- Twelve are receiving support from the AJA to ensure they achieve better results in the second and third application of the JH Development and Sustainability Index (Nechi, El Bagre, Taraza, Zaragoza, Caceres, Ibague, Popayan, Chaparral, Ortega, Ataco, Rioblanco and Tumaco);
- Another two will be evaluated according to the Index for the first time early next quarter; AJA assistance will continue if the results show that they are not sustainable enough to graduate (Puerto Asis and Mocoa);
- The final two are unlikely to substantially improve their very low index scores despite technical assistance and funding. This group includes the Buenos Aires JH, whose sustainability is affected by the precarious institutional and fiscal capacity of the local administration, and the Toribio JH, which - as a JH within an indigenous community - responds to different operational circumstances that the index cannot measure adequately. A special report on the Toribio JH is underway and will permit a greater appreciation of how the Nasa indigenous community deals with operational and sustainability issues.

Also this quarter, to strengthen JH sustainability the Project helped JHs formulate their 2015 action plans. To this end, the AJA held three workshops with the Justice Houses in Bajo Cauca, Southern Tolima, and Montes de María (San Onofre). In addition, the AJA supported activities to raise awareness about assistance available for victims of sexual violence, in the framework of Law 1257.

Design and support innovative and strategic interventions by JHs for the post-conflict period and ongoing peace geography efforts

While the AJA/USAID JH Exit Strategy is designed to reduce USAID funding for routine JH activities by July 31, 2015, the AJA will provide some support for JHs which carry out innovative and strategic interventions aimed at preparing JHs for an active role in the post-conflict activities throughout the remaining contract period. The AJA has supported the following interventions:

- As a joint effort with the National Unit for the Comprehensive Assistance and Reparation of Victims (UARIV), the AJA has helped improve victims' services in JHs by installing the UARIV software in offices of the municipal representative for victims. The Caceres and Zaragoza JHs received the software, which facilitates direct communication between the municipal representative for victims of the armed conflict and UARIV national databases. (As the victims' representative in the Nechi JH changes frequently, the UARIV did not provide the software there.)
- On February 9, the AJA signed a sub-contract with *Corporación Día de la Niñez* to provide attention to child victims of violence in Rioblanco, specifically as a result of the armed conflict, criminal conduct and family violence situations. *Corporación Día de la Niñez* will carry out a similar project in Chaparral, working with children in a new housing development for victims of the armed conflict. Both municipal mayors welcomed the projects. *Corporación Día de la Niñez* is preparing an analysis of the situations faced by children in each municipality, and it will include details related to child victims of violence in both towns.

Improving system of NPJH indicators, data collection and integrated databases

The MJL's Justice House Web-Based Information System (SICJWEB) began receiving preliminary data from a small number of JHs in 2010. Progress in increasing the SICJWEB coverage to all JHs has been slow and its use is intermittent due to various factors, such as unstable internet connection, lack of staff in the JH Information and Reception Center to register cases, and computer hardware problems. No overall NPJH reports have been produced since the SICJWEB was introduced. Indeed, the MJL had no established, periodic reporting based on SICJWEB until, with the help of the AJA, the MJL created a quarterly SICJWEB bulletin in January 2014. The AJA seeks not only to have more JHs using the SICJWEB, but also to design and prepare reports that are circulated and analyzed.

Notwithstanding the limited coverage, the AJA worked with the MJL to complete Annual Reports for 14 JHs, based on SICJWEB data sent from the JHs during 2014. These are the first annual reports produced since SICJWEB began. The MJL will forward these reports to the respective mayors and JH coordinators, and AJA regional teams will schedule sessions with each JH to analyze these reports next quarter. The AJA expects that the local municipal authorities will use the annual report to analyze the demand for services that the JHs received in 2014. Using the AJA format and methodology, the MJL is now preparing similar 2014 annual reports for an additional 29 JHs.

SICJWEB Justice House Reports			
Year	MJL Quarterly Bulletin	AJA Six-monthly Reports	AJA Annual Reports
2013	0	0	0
2014	4	18	14
2015 (as of March 31)	1		

The data provided by a total of 52 JHs in 2014 (about 50% of the 102 JHs in the country) might permit statistical projections on a national or regional level.² Once the MJL completes all the reports, the AJA will contract a statistics expert to review the data and provide the MJL with proposals for using this sample to project statistically sound national or regional results for 2014. While the data certainly has limitations, both in terms of the quantity reported and the type of information received compared with the detail that the SICJWEB should provide, it is an opportunity for the MJL to analyze national and regional trends.

The MJL has placed special importance on getting the SICJWEB operating in the Chaparral JH, and it is providing new computers for this purpose. The MJL and the AJA discussed with Chaparral JH staff and municipal authorities the report covering the first semester of 2014. The report made visible the limited reporting to SICJWEB regarding requests that are addressed in the JH, and it highlighted the need for a permanent person in the JH Reception and Information Center to ensure data is forwarded consistently.

The AJA is concentrating on getting the SICJWEB operating in the Popayán and Buenos Aires JHs by continuing staff training with the JH Coordinator in Popayán. In the Buenos Aires JH the AJA provided a reconditioned, portable computer for the employee in the JH Reception and Information Center.

Increasing coverage of JHs outside urban areas

The AJA mobile JH strategy for rural areas seeks to provide conflict resolution and access to justice options for rural communities that are the most affected by such obstacles as distance, excessive costs, lack of knowledge regarding justice mechanisms, and lack of confidence in state institutions. Occasional visits by justice entities to these rural populations can reduce some of these barriers.

During this quarter, the AJA funded and participated in three mobile JHs that visited the rural areas of El Totumo (Ibagué JH), La Rejoia (Popayán JH), and Las Conchas (Nechi JH). These three mobile JHs reached 226 people. The Chaparral and Rioblanco JHs in Tolima have also been part of the mobile legal clinics that visited the rural areas of El Limón and Puerto Saldana, respectively. These activities were coordinated with the ANSPE, which has ongoing contact with families in rural communities.

² The 52 JHs include the 43 JHs mentioned above, as well as an additional four JHs that have sent data via SICJWEB intermittently (only during the first or second quarters of 2014), as well as five JHs in regions where the AJA is not operating.

Adoption of differentiated approaches in Justice Houses

The NPJH has a commitment to prevent gender-based violence and improve the institutional response to cases in this area. The AJA's efforts in this area focus on the *comisarías de familia* as the principal institutional capacity in the JHs. The AJA also supports the MJL in responding to the access to justice needs of the families in extreme poverty identified and accompanied by ANSPE.

As part of the response to ANSPE families, the AJA has begun providing legal advice and community training in justice administration and peaceful coexistence for families and institutions located in three free housing developments in Chaparral and Montería. In Montería, Sinú University makes weekly visits with legal clinic students to the La Gloria and FINZENU housing developments. Due to the lack of office or meeting facilities in these housing developments, attending to residents' legal enquiries and cases there has been very difficult. With ANSPE and Montería's municipal *Escuela de Convivencia* and JH, the AJA and Sinú University are introducing changes to ensure greater sustainability of justice services offered in the housing developments, including providing training for institutions that work with community families and organizations to ensure peaceful coexistence. During 2015, the law clinic's students and teachers will provide training sessions for ANSPE staff in La Gloria and FINZENU for the *Escuela de Convivencia* staff, and for the residential projects' *juntas de administración* and *comités de convivencia*.

Strengthen NPJH operations and organization at the national level

The MJL has confirmed its interest in participating in a seminar in May to discuss methodologies for improving the documentation and analysis of local and regional contexts. The seminar will focus on two municipalities, Chaparral and El Bagre, where the MJL has its pilot projects. The AJA's reports on the developments in the Chaparral and El Bagre JHs will be part of the material for the seminar.

The AJA made preliminary contact with the NGO *Colombia Diversa* to explore possible training for JH staff in five pilot JHs to improve the provision of justice services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) population.

3.1.2 Promote greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening ADR mechanisms, outside of the context of JHs

Strengthening equity conciliation

This quarter, the AJA began conducting 12 refresher courses for existing ECs, as well as 12 processes in which new ECs are identified, trained, certified and supported as they begin to operate. The AJA is developing a one-of-a-kind EC training for the Nasa indigenous community in Toribío, which the MJL recognizes as a pioneering effort to strengthen conciliation skills within the community's special indigenous justice system.

The AJA's strategic partner National University School for Community Justice (NUSCJ) compiled documents that provide a detailed description of the particular characteristics of each municipality. Additionally, the AJA and its SPs established positive relations with 24 municipal authorities. Four local governments have shown insufficient interest/support in the ECs (Caceres, Corinto, San Jacinto and Carmen de Bolivar). The NUSCJ and MJL will take additional action in three of these municipalities to generate additional local commitment to the existing ECs. To date, 12 municipalities recognize and support local EC representatives, and in the four municipalities in Montes de María an EC coordinator has been selected by the other existing ECs. All these representatives have been selected to ensure the ECs have contact with local governments and with other justice entities, especially LJs. The "local representatives" are important for the development of the Methodology to Implement Community Conciliation (MICE) process and the work being done by the ECs. The rationale behind their appointment is the MJL's belief that EC efforts will be more sustainable if local authorities are involved.

In Southern Córdoba, the AJA promoted the inclusion of 25 rural leaders in the training processes conducted by the NUSCJ, and it assisted the school in the preparatory workshop for this group. In Tumaco, the AJA worked on the formulation of an action plan to strengthen equity conciliation.

In Montes de María, the regional team and conciliators from the four municipalities joined the equity conciliation campaigns that the strategic partner *Corporación Universitaria del Caribe* (CECAR) led under Phase IV of MICE. In Southern Tolima, the University of Ibagué carried out two refresher training sessions for equity conciliators from Chaparral, Rioblanco, Ataco, and Ortega. In Bajo Cauca, the University of Medellín's legal clinic shared information about Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms with leaders of the Community Action Boards.

Developing incentive schemes for equity conciliators

Recommendations regarding the creation of an incentives scheme for ECs seek to reduce the high proportion of ECs who no longer offer conciliation services. This issue is a priority for USAID. In the February meeting, representatives from the National Program for Equity Conciliation (NPEC) announced that the MJL wants to create a public policy on the issue. In response, the AJA provided technical assistance to the NUSCJ to redraft their document and present a preliminary version of the public policy text. The draft policy was sent to the MJL, and a first discussion with NPEC staff took place on the February 17. The NPEC's principal conclusions were:

1. The MJL defines ECs as transitory justice operators and not as community volunteers. This commits the EC to accepting formal requirements and controls.
2. The MJL wants to have a public policy document setting up a system of incentives for ECs.
3. The range of possible incentives will not include the provision of what the MJL considers to be basic working conditions (transportation and communications expenses, office space and equipment, stationery, etc.), which should be provided at the municipal level.
4. The MJL is aware of the need to seek opportunities offered by national institutions and programs, for example the Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Education, or the *Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje* (SENA) to form part of the incentives scheme.

Increasing the sustainability of the NPEC

On February 25, after a preliminary review of NUSCJ's report on equity conciliation and violence against women, the AJA requested a less academic text analyzing the role of ECs in the context of current Colombian legislation, particularly Law 1257. It was agreed that the term "violence against women" could be interpreted as encompassing a wide variety of acts that need to be defined so as to provide guidance to the ECs when families and women request their intervention. Consequently, the NUSCJ is producing a new version of the report.

On February 19, the AJA organized the first regional workshop to discuss the role of Contact Centers for Equity Conciliation (PACEs). Thirty-two staff members from the Popayán, Santander de Quilichao and Puerto Tejada JHs met with 16 ECs from these same municipalities to improve cooperation. With a view to strengthening the ECs' work and their articulation with JHs, NPEC staff and a filing expert from SENA addressed the importance of formally constituting PACEs and municipal files to receive the agreements produced by the ECs.

AJA meetings with ECs in the Monteria and Ibagué JHs also stressed the need to create PACEs. The AJA has recently received draft documents from the MJL that address the establishment and operation of PACEs. The AJA will define its support for PACEs in its review of this material with the NPEC.

Establish adequate ADR impact measurement and monitoring mechanisms

Providing communities with clear information about equity conciliation is a key towards making this type of justice service a community option. However, reporting to communities or other justice institutions about EC coverage, activities and results is hampered by the very limited available information about ECs' undertakings and successes. In addition to the local communication efforts to inform communities about EC services, the AJA's strategic partner CECAR wrote and illustrated a booklet for distribution to community leaders. The AJA will take this to the regions where the project is working with ECs.

The AJA and SENA experts in North Cauca are preparing a preliminary design for the municipal filing system for EC agreements, which will be implemented in the Puerto Tejada JH in April. This will provide a new database about ECs' actions, and the AJA plans to replicate this system in other JHs.

Training equity conciliators (ECs)

Twelve processes of EC identification, selection, training and certification are being carried out by the AJA. They are distributed amongst the AJA regions as follows: one in Bajo Cauca Antioqueño; three in Sur de Córdoba; two in Sur de Valle; two in Norte de Cauca; and four in Montes de María. As indicated previously, there is also a special process underway in Toribío. Unfortunately, the local government in Corinto has shown no interest or support for EC work. Consequently, the NUSCJ has requested that the AJA identify another municipality so that a more receptive municipality can benefit from the new EC process. The process in Chaparral, Tolima, will start in May.

Training of community and civil society leaders in eight municipalities about the nature of the ECs laid the groundwork to ensure widespread local support for this ADR mechanism. NUSCJ is leading the community effort to identify the persons who will undergo the EC candidate selection process. In Toribío there is a sound agreement to go forward but the actions and the timetable to do so are still being worked out. The remaining four processes in Montes de María have begun the complementary training with 56 ECs who took part in a first training session in late March and have expressed their intention to continue as ECs. The AJA strategic partner CECAR faces challenges to go beyond the training and have these ECs operational in two of the four municipalities, namely, Carmen de Bolívar and San Jacinto where the municipal authorities have not supported the ECs to date. CECAR will meet with the LJC's to engage them in this endeavor.

The AJA has held eleven refresher training programs for 71 existing ECs; in 10 municipalities, this training lacks only a final session to be conducted by NPEC staff from the MJL. The training has taken place in 4 municipalities in Sur de Tolima; 6 municipalities in Bajo Cauca Antioqueño and 1 municipality in Norte de Cauca. In Tumaco the EC refresher training commenced in 2014, but the process requires several additional sessions this year.

Increased ADR links with JHs

If ECs are to be viewed and treated as transitory justice operators as the MJL indicates, it is critical to coordinate their work with that of other justice operators. JHs are one such instance where several justice operators can interact with and support ECs. The AJA will pursue this by supporting periodic meetings and training sessions for the ECs in the JHs, establishing a PACE in the JHs, and setting up the municipal filing system for ECs' agreement documents in JHs. JHs are encouraged to include ECs in the mobile justice house initiatives and to carry out conciliation campaigns in the communities.

At present, ECs offer their services in 20 of the 24 JHs participating in the AJA project. Two JHs are in municipalities where there are no existing ECs, and ECs abandoned the Pasto and Popayán JHs due to disagreements with the conciliation center coordinators. In the case of the Popayán JH, the AJA has held meetings to encourage the return of the ECs to the JH. JHs are including EC topics in their annual work plans, and the AJA has made a point of offering support for EC specific activities. The AJA encourages and offers funding support to JHs and ECs to create a PACE in the JH instead of simply providing office space, and also to have the municipal filing system set up for EC's agreements within the JHs.

MOU defined with Ministry of Justice

The AJA has sent USAID a draft text for the MOU to be signed between USAID and the MJL. The AJA believes the MOU would provide new visibility with the Minister of Justice in key areas. A new focus for ongoing activities, such as placing priority attention on post-conflict aspects of NPJH and NPEC, is an issue that USAID could explore with the Minister in the process of signing an MOU.

3.2 COMPONENT TWO – GENDER

3.2.1 Assist CSJ in promoting gender equity within the judiciary and with users

Providing assistance to the NGC and selected SGCs

The NGC finished a draft of its 2015 Action Plan in late December 2014, and the NGC approved the final version in March, following the NGC's elections. Some changes to the work plan could be required if the NGC's president, Dr. Nestor Raul Correa, steps down. The AJA anticipates that the NCG would nonetheless continue to support the use of the observatory for gender jurisprudence, and that it would continue to rely upon NGC roundtables with judges in different regions of Colombia as a main tool for relaying NGC assessments about gender jurisprudence.

The AJA provided financial support for two NGC regional roundtables: one in Tumaco on February 2, with 81 participants, and the other in Pasto on February 23, with 194 participants. Participants included officials from the Judicial Branch, AGO, National Ombudsman's Office, Department for Social Prosperity, Family Welfare Institute, Mayor's Office, National Penitentiary and Prison Institute, and Land Restitution Unit.

Create and implement gender observatories

The President of the NGC has emphasized to the AJA his endorsement of the procedure to monitor the jurisprudence on gender issues, and indicated that the assessment will be made through universities. He also suggested that judges not be graded with scores. Thereafter, the AJA met with Dr. Lucía Arbeláez, a

former magistrate of the Superior Judicial Council (CSJ) and an AJA consultant, to discuss the strategy for helping the NGC to strengthen the Gender Observatory; this strategy will be presented to the NGC President next quarter.

The Gender Observatory began to evaluate how to monitor jurisprudence using a gender focus. For this purpose, AJA staff and strategic partners visited the regions of Southern Córdoba, Montes de María, Southern Tolima and Tumaco in order to collect information, establish relations with the Sectional Gender Committee (SGC) in each region, determine local capacity, and establish tasks and due dates.

3.2.2 Support the implementation of an inter-institutional strategy to reduce impunity in GBV cases and increase civil society advocacy

The AJA supported a breakfast meeting during which a “letter of inter-institutional intent” was signed promising to expand access to justice to all victims of sexual violence. Representatives of the AGO, NGC, Family Welfare Institute, UARIV, National Ombudsman’s Office, National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences (INMLCF), and Ministry of Justice and Law signed the document, and have held follow-up meetings. The AJA will continue to monitor the inter-institutional response to sexual violence that this letter of intent seeks to stimulate. The AJA also coordinated with the CIJ to provide training to operators from the 29 LJs on sexual violence response.

The AJA and AGO at the national level

Via its subcontract with Maximizar, the AJA completed its technical assistance to the AGO’s Sub-Directorate for Attention to Victims and Users (SAVU) on developing tools to guide the implementation of its strategic plan.

The U.S. DOJ and different offices of the AGO participated in the design of a draft document for the AGO’s sexual violence protocol (paragraph of Article 38 of Law 1448 of 2011). In addition, the AJA provided guidance for the review and modification of the technical proposal presented by *Sisma Mujer*, as well as organized relevant meetings. The AJA insisted that the final document incorporate the comments of the AGO and other participating offices; that it be as close as possible to a protocol; that the text should serve as a true input for the Protocol; and that the text include aspects related to both criminal and procedural law and Law 1719. Each step was coordinated with *Sisma Mujer* and the AGO.

The AJA’s local-level support to the AGO

Support to CAPIVs or their equivalent

The AJA continued to provide assistance to local AGO offices to support the creation of victims' attention centers. In Tumaco, the AJA supported the installation and implementation of structured cabling and maintained ongoing communication with the AGO and the SAVU. The Tumaco CAPIV will be inaugurated early next quarter.

In meetings with the SAVU and the Sectional Director of the AGO in Antioquia to discuss the victims' attention model in Cauca, the AJA discussed early intervention with the filing of criminal complaints. However, the Regional Director of the AGO in Antioquia concluded that the creation of this model would not be appropriate, given that Cauca lacks the human, logistical and infrastructure resources necessary to implement it. In addition, security conditions for the victims and officials of the Prosecutor's Office are inadequate. As a result of meetings that the AJA held with the SAVU, there are plans to create a CAPIV in the AGO's office in Chaparral. AGO officials will visit the region in order to estimate costs.

Design and execution of inter-institutional training on crimes of sexual violence

The AJA and the CIJ developed trainings for LCJ members on prevention and prosecution of sexual violence crimes. The development of this training included mapping actors by region; determining the thematic issues, target populations, duration and methodology; and providing guidelines to experts to enable them to submit proposals for the contents, materials and preparation of cases.

Training and assistance for prosecutors who handle GBV cases

The AJA has identified prosecutors, investigators and doctors at Bogotá's INMLCF who are recognized for their investigations of GBV crimes and who are part of the professional team that will provide peer-to-peer training in Tumaco and Chaparral. The Project met with the AGO Sectional Director of Pasto to provide information about this project and to discuss the need for establishing a baseline and diagnosis with which to begin the work.

Creation and strengthening of a Network of Women GBV Advocates and of CSOs working on GBV issues

The AJA began the assessment for a regional Network of Professionals that will provide legal and psychosocial attention, assistance and/or counseling to victims of gender-based violence. The assessment also covered the creation of GBV Training Centers and determined how the Network would select the ten cases it must support per region per year. The AJA visited the Bajo Cauca, Tumaco, Montes de María, Southern Córdoba, Southern Tolima and Macarena regions in order to collect information about standard procedures for responding to cases, the public entities' strengths and weaknesses, local media, existing training, statistics, and the distances/travel times between victims' locations and the site where the assistance will be provided.

3.2.3 Promote educational activities to raise citizen awareness of the legal framework related to gender

The AJA provided support for the “Without my fist but with my handwriting” (“*Sin mi puño and con mi letra*”) campaign in Ataco, Chaparral, Rioblanco, and Montes de María. A total of 17,060 men signed the “No Violence against Women” pact. Schools, municipal administrations, the UACT, Justice Houses, members of the police and the army, and civil society organizations participated in these campaigns.

On March 6, the AJA held a workshop with journalists in Sincelejo on the role of the media in strengthening local and regional justice systems, and to better address GBV. Eleven journalists from the region participated in this activity, and Fabiola Calvo, Director of the Capital Channel’s program “*Ni reinas Ni cenicientas*” (“Neither queens nor Cinderellas”), was the main speaker.

The AJA also supported the first gender forum in commemoration of International Women’s Day, led by the Mayor’s Office of Tumaco. The event was held on March 6, and was attended by 213 social leaders and people from different municipal entities. The speakers included María Victoria Calle, Magistrate of the Constitutional Court, and former CSJ magistrate Lucía Arbeláez, who discussed the historical background of the March 8 commemoration, the concept of a gender perspective, national and international instruments for the protection of women’s human rights, and the role of women’s organizations in the context of Law 1257 of 2008 on women’s rights.

The AJA also held a forum on women’s rights on March 6 in Cauca, organized jointly with USAID’s Human Rights Project, the Family Commissioner of Cauca, and the Municipal Association of Women of Cauca. Some 90 children and adolescents attended the talks on women’s rights. The purpose of this event was to raise awareness about women’s rights in commemoration of International Women’s Day.

3.3 COMPONENT THREE – JUSTICE REFORM

3.3.1 Strengthened Land Restitution Courts and Land Restitution Tribunals

Building an elite class of land restitution judges and magistrates

The AJA finished implementing the pilot management model for judicial offices in the special land restitution jurisdiction in Cartagena and Carmen de Bolívar, based on high standards of coverage, quality, efficiency, decentralization and a differential focus on rights, within the framework of Law

1448 of 2011 and the concept of transitional justice. The management model generated a change in judicial practices based on the following principles:

- Continuous constructive dialogue among LR judges, magistrates and officials;
- Decision-making in less time;
- Defined policy and objectives;
- Activity planning;
- Organization and standardization of documentation;
- Standardization of procedures to improve the management of the offices;
- Management indicators for establishing goals and evaluating performance;
- Agreements on minimum requirements for the admissibility of LR applications;
- Inclusion of a differential focus in judicial decisions;
- A system of alerts for the control of terms and the monitoring of compliance with standards; and
- Communication channels that improve the interoperability of the land restitution process in the regions.

The AJA continued to monitor and evaluate the judicial phase of the land restitution process, drawing upon the findings and measurements made by the Observatory implemented by the Corporation for Excellence in Justice (CEJ), in relation to coverage, due process, the quality of judicial orders, the effectiveness of judicial decisions, and the simultaneity of land-related regimes. In June 2015, the AJA will receive the Observatory's report that analyzes decisions issued during 2014. With support from the AJA's strategic partners University of Santo Tomás (Meta), University of Ibagué (Tolima) and CECAR (Bolívar), regional studies analyzed 140 decisions to identify the types of orders issued and the main obstacles to the enforcement of the decisions, and to monitor the decisions issued by LR judges and magistrates and their compliance times.

The main barriers identified were:

- Lack of clarity about the functions and competencies of the entities to which the orders were directed;
- Failure to comply with the judicial orders' deadlines;
- Lack of identification of the entire nuclear family;
- Errors in the orders when identification of the property was required;
- Lack of clarity about the chain of formalization;
- Failure to comply with the deadlines established in the decisions due to the lack of budget resources, or to required legal procedures;
- Lack of budget resources for the expeditious compliance with judicial orders of a purely welfare nature, such as the allocation of rural housing subsidies and productive agro-industrial projects;

- Delays in the compliance with orders for cadastral (map) updating by the *Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi*;
- Lack of training on the identification and avoidance of anti-personnel mines offered to public servants involved in the process of delivering property;
- Lack of a database of orders desegregated by territory;
- A high level of absenteeism of entities in the monitoring hearings;
- A high level of non-compliance by the institutions with the orders issued; and
- Lack of security for the municipal judges commissioned for the eviction and physical delivery processes.

The AJA will conduct regional forums to discuss the findings and to propose solutions to obstacles. In addition, the studies will be shared with the National Thematic Committees on Processes and Inter-institutional Coordination for the adoption of preventive and corrective measures.

Supporting land restitution courts' IT needs

The AJA supported the National Thematic Committee on Technology in the design and piloting of the Zero Paper Project, which will help to significantly improve procedural times, timeliness of attention provided to victims of the armed conflict, modernization of judicial process, inter-institutional synergies supported by effective interaction between the actors involved, the culture of collaboration and continuous improvement, the fluid exchange and security of electronic information shared by judicial officials, and the change of the paper-processing paradigm.

Training land restitution judges

The AJA carried out a diagnosis in 22 Land Restitution (LR) judicial offices, and as a result trained 79 judges, magistrates and officials of the special LR jurisdiction on management of information, information integrity and availability, and best practices related to information security. The magistrates and judges understood better the importance of information security, and the need to follow the information security protocol that the AJA will share with them in June.

The AJA supported the semi-annual session of the National Thematic Committee on Training, which discussed the 2015 LR training plan, to be implemented with the Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Judicial School. During the session, the committee also discussed course scholarships; the design of the interactive orientation manual for new LR judges, magistrates and officials; and the bulletin that will provide information about National Thematic Committees' activities.

Addressing corruption risks within land restitution courts

With support from national strategic partner FIP, the AJA progressed in implementing the administrative and judicial phases of the land restitution process and in designing the map of corruption risks. This map will be included in the management model for land restitution offices in order to reduce the potential for corruption and to ensure greater transparency.

Addressing security risks within land restitution courts

The AJA supported the design of the information security plan for the land restitution jurisdiction. Advances include the development of a matrix for assigning responsibilities to LR officials (which will be used to identify and document the routes and responsible parties for the secure management of case information); a matrix for evaluating assets (which includes an inventory of IT equipment and files); and an updated information security manual and protocols designed by the AJA. A significant achievement for the AJA was the CSJ's issuance of Agreement No. PSAA14-10279 on December 22, 2014, "by which the Information Security policies and procedures for the Judicial Branch are approved."

Support to National LR Thematic Committees

In order to promote a judicial culture based on motivation (incentives), trust, participation, the use of technology, teamwork and self-criticism, the AJA provided support to the Technical Secretariat of the National Thematic Committees (the five themes addressed by these committees are Training, Security, Inter-institutional Coordination, Processes, and Technology). The AJA, in coordination with the National Thematic Committee coordinators, supported workshops to discuss and validate protocols and guidelines for the different committees. The agreements reached by magistrates and judges who participated in these workshops will result in following guidelines:

- Minimum contents of land restitution applications under Law 1448 of 2011;
- Minimum contents of land restitution applications in ethnic or collective territories;
- Inclusion of a differential ethnic, indigenous, Afro and gender focus in judicial decisions;
- Judgments and post-judgment monitoring; and
- Collection of judicial files related to human rights and international humanitarian law in the National Center for Historical Memory, in order to place them at the service of the public and judicial functions in the restitution office systems.

The work coordinated with the Thematic Committees has generated changes in the judicial culture and good governance in the land restitution jurisdiction.

3.3.2 Support for continued implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC)

In fulfilling its commitments to USAID, the AJA eliminated all technical and financial assistance for law school curriculum reforms and Criminal Accusatory System training for law professors and university students; the Association of Law Schools assumed full responsibility for the inter-university moot court competition.

Support to the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Criminal Accusatory System (CISPA)

The AJA supported a workshop on the planning, management and control of criminal investigations for 30 justice operators in the mountain municipalities of Bajo Cauca Antioqueño (Nechí, Tarazá, Valdivia, and Zaragoza). Prosecutors, judges, public defenders, municipal solicitors, and inspectors, among others, worked on standards for guaranteeing the rights of victims and defendants, measures to ensure all relevant parties are present at trial, and crime scene management. The LJC's created by the AJA in these municipalities are monitoring compliance.

The Universities of Antioquia and Sinú held regional forums for 192 participants on how to respond better to gender-based, sexual and domestic violence, as well as how to implement a differential gender approach within the context of criminal policy and the reward system, restorative justice, and the principle of prosecutorial discretion.

Through its national strategic partner CEJ, the AJA made significant advances in drafting the report on the functioning of the SPA since its inception.

On January 14, 2015, USAID signed a memorandum of understanding with the AGO and its University of Knowledge and Innovation for Justice (CIJ), with the aim of promoting greater respect for fundamental rights, the development of expeditious and effective justice, enforcement of victims' rights, and the strengthening of criminal investigations and prosecutions of gender-based violence. Pursuant to this memorandum, the AJA agreed to sign a subcontract with the CIJ under which it will be responsible for operating the SPA Observatory, providing technical assistance to the CISPA, monitoring legal reforms of the SPA, and conducting regional forums and studies on the functioning of the SPA. This will ensure the transfer and sustainability of the technical and financial efforts made by USAID over the last 10 years in support of the implementation of the SPA in Colombia.

3.3.3 Promote local justice reform, to include court administration reform

Strengthening local justice systems, through the UTC

Based on the diagnoses of barriers to access to justice and unmet legal needs, the AJA continued to support the operation of the LJsCs and the initiatives prioritized in the 2015 action plans for each LJC in the Project's 29 municipalities.

The LJsCs' action plans prioritize support by the AJA in an interdisciplinary effort to address gender-based violence, given the high rates of impunity and under-reporting. Through the memorandum of understanding between USAID and the AGO-CIJ, three workshops will be conducted with the support of the INMLCF in LJC municipalities. Doctors (forensic and rural), psychologists, social workers and representatives of relevant agencies will participate in these workshops in order to discuss and define how to address gender-based violence, the provision of assistance to victims, the application of relevant protocols and laws (within and outside the context of the armed conflict), the use of forensic medical and psychological assessments, how to carry out field investigations and manage evidence, and the provision of prosecution support. This strategy will be accompanied by a second phase of monitoring emblematic cases and providing peer-to-peer training among prosecutors, investigators and experts, all with the goal of ensuring a reduction in the rate of impunity.

The "Administration of Justice with a Regional Focus" diploma program offered by the University of Nariño to 35 justice operators in Tumaco was completed in March 2015. The program enhanced local justice skills and strengthened knowledge about human rights, ADR mechanisms, the inclusion of a gender perspective in judicial decisions, the relation between gender and conflict, comprehensive models for attention to victims, and violence in the armed conflict. These subjects responded to the specific needs of the Tumaco region. In addition, the University's provision of a formal diploma program will foster its ability to carry out targeted training programs in the future. The AJA continued to support the LJsCs in improving access to justice services in rural areas, including through the virtual legal clinic with a gender focus in Tumaco.

Improving court administration in CSDI municipalities

In March, the AJA completed the implementation of the Quality Management System in judicial offices of the land restitution jurisdiction and ordinary courts in the municipalities of El Carmen de Bolívar and Cartagena. The management model generated changes in judicial practices based on policies of continuous improvement and the creation of a Quality Committee. Six courts in Carmen de Bolívar (including municipal, circuit, family and land restitution courts), two land restitution courts in Cartagena, and the Land Chamber of the Superior Court of Cartagena directly benefited

from the management model. These judicial offices now operate the Judicial branch's "Quality Performance" standards of efficiency and service, based on indicators, activity planning, procedures, goals, documentation, a differential focus on rights (quality of the judicial decisions), time controls and alerts, and performance evaluations.

The AJA also made progress in the design and implementation of the Quality Management System for the judicial offices of the judicial circuit of Chaparral, Tolima, with support from the University of Ibagué. Pursuant to an agreement with the CSJ, the University performed an initial diagnosis of the offices; created a Quality Committee and developed its mission, vision and policies; proposed a process map for the Quality Management System; and, with AJA support, implemented a training process for internal quality auditors with the inclusion of a gender focus.

4.0 COMMUNICATIONS

The AJA and the MinTIC agreed to launch a joint strategy later this year to disseminate the regional work carried out by the LJsCs (with AJA support), using the Digital Kiosks that MinTIC has placed in rural areas in Colombia. Pursuant to this strategy, information on how to access justice using the Internet will be included in the training that MinTIC will offer to rural communities.

The AJA also helped implement and strengthen the communications strategy for the Virtual Legal Clinic (VLC) in Tumaco. The strategy includes coordinating the MinTIC Digital Kiosks located in Tumaco, improving free radio announcements, and developing workshops on gender-based violence and access to justice. The AJA helped develop sessions on how to use the VLC and how to have local organizations join and support it. These actions will help to improve the community's knowledge about using the VLC to satisfy legal needs.

The AJA assisted in the design of a booklet on Equity Conciliation that enhances the visibility of the work of Equity Conciliators in the municipality of San Onofre, Sucre. This booklet will be used as part of the Communications Kit that the AJA plans to launch later this year.

The AJA implemented the second session of the awareness-raising campaign “Without my fist but with my handwriting.” A total of 13,572 men signed a “No Violence against Women” Pact during the two sessions on November and March. To date, more than 38,000 people have signed the pact since the campaign started in 2009.

On March 6, the AJA held the third in a series of workshops about how to more assertively communicate GBV information for journalists of the Montes de María region. As a result of this training, a journalist from a community radio network broadcast a two-hour program about women's rights, and the network is now planning to continue a monthly broadcast on the topic.

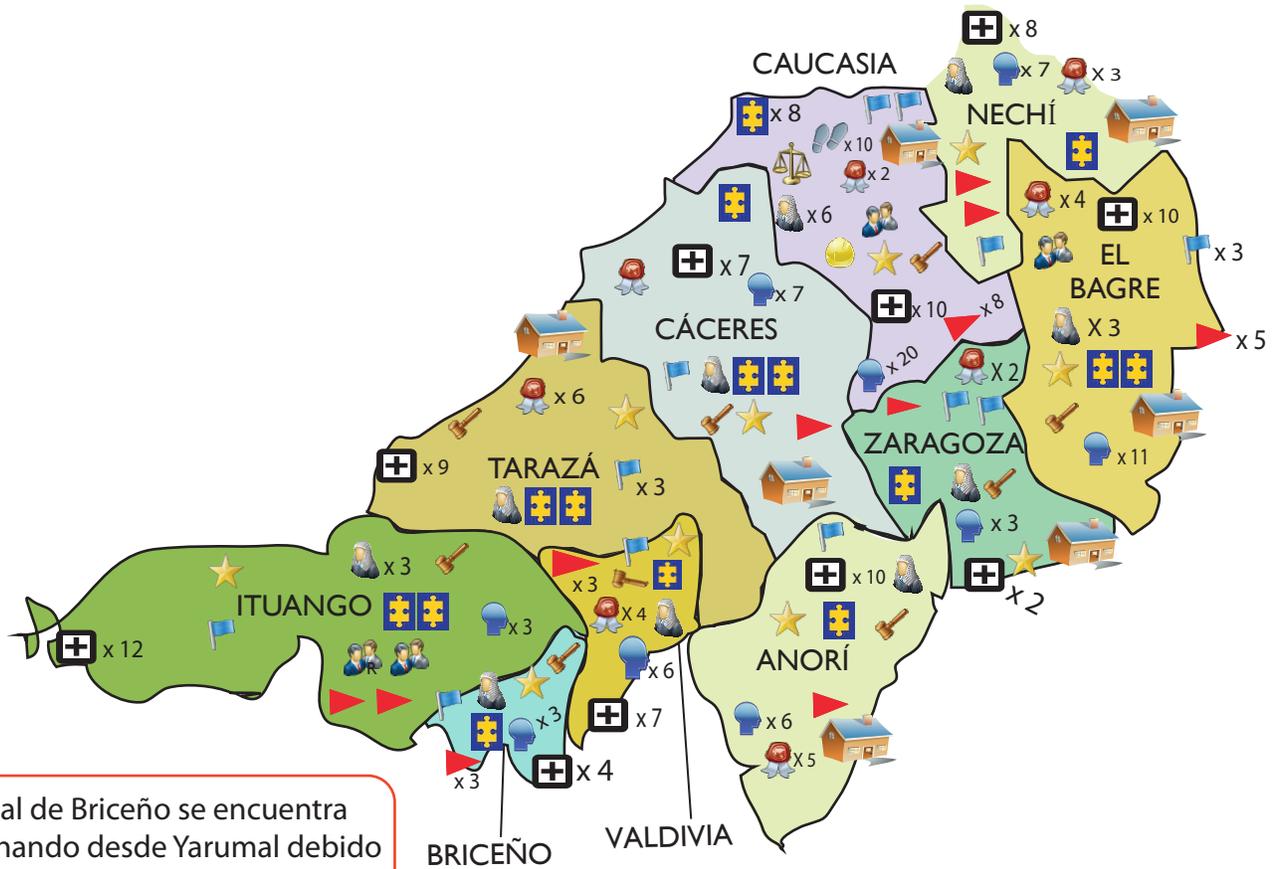
The AJA led the design and printing of 4,000 booklets with Colombian Constitutional Court Magistrates' opinions on gender-related issues. Additionally, the Project supported the NGC in the development of the event held at the Justice Palace to celebrate International Women's Day, at which the booklets were launched and presented by the Magistrates.

The AJA also designed of Mobile Justice Brigade Fact Sheet that has improved communications with stakeholders about the brigades' mission, barriers of access to justice, and the benefits these brigades have brought to rural communities.

Annex A

MAP OF ACTORS

Mapa de actores de justicia de la región del proyecto AJA Bajo Cauca - Justicia rural A marzo de 2015.



El fiscal de Briceño se encuentra despachando desde Yarumal debido a las condiciones de orden público en el municipio.

CONVENCIONES SEGÚN ACTOR

- | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | Juez | | Inspector del trabajo | | Corregidor de Policía |
| | Fiscal Delegado | | Defensor de Familia | | Conciliadores en equidad (activos) |
| | CTI - SIJIN | | Comisario de Familia | | Representante de víctimas |
| | Medicina Legal | | Personero Municipal | | Médicos |
| | Jueces de tierras | | Inspector de Policía (Urbano) | | Psicólogos |
| | Defensor público | | Inspector de Policía (Urbano y rural) | | Trabajadores sociales |
| | | | | | Casa de Justicia |

Mapa de actores - Región AJA Sur del Tolima A marzo de 2015.



Los médicos de Rioblanco, Atacó y Planadas son médicos generales. Por el contrario, el médico de Chaparral pertenece a medicina legal.

Escala gráfica



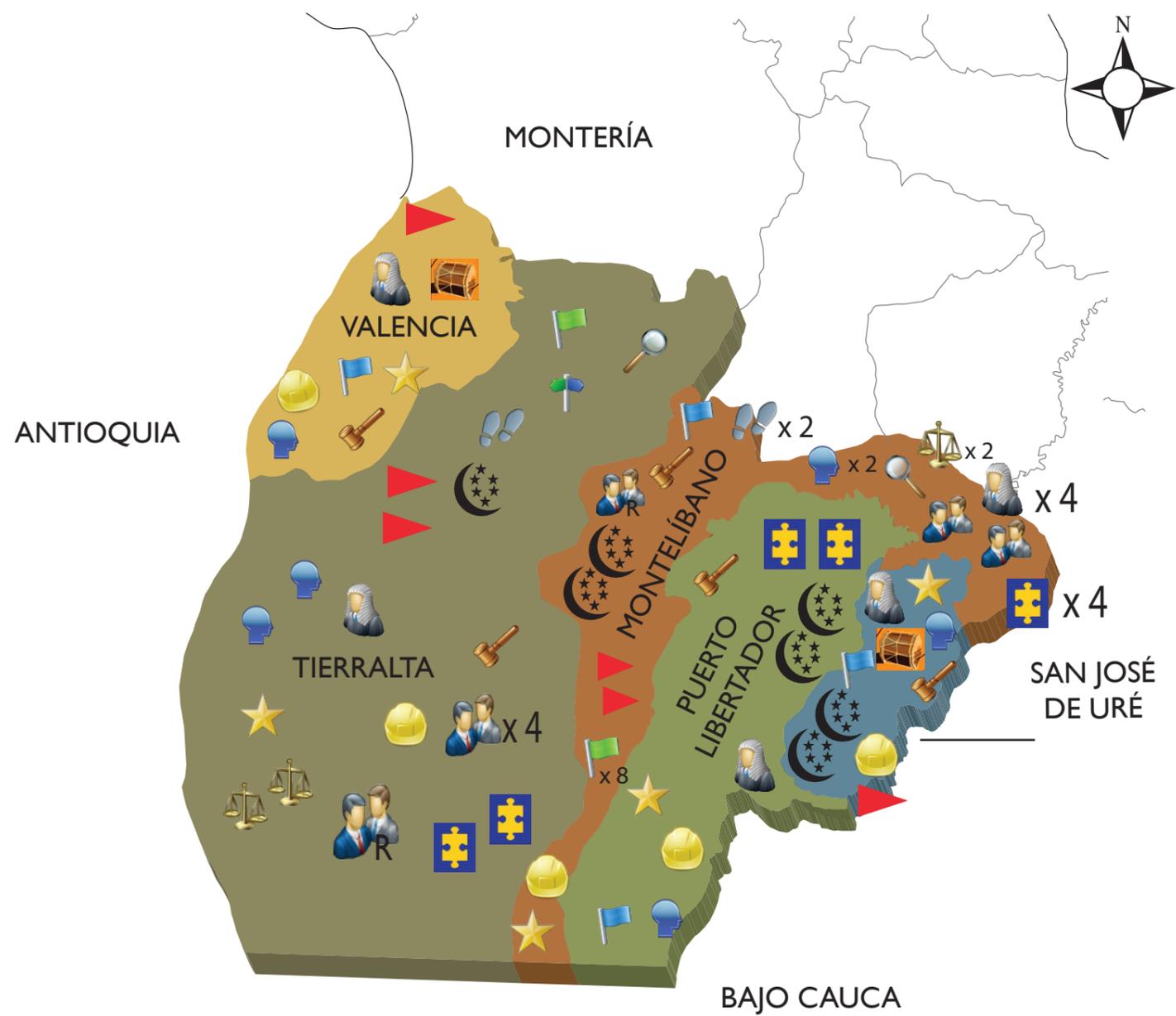
CONVENCIONES SEGUN ACTOR

	Juez		Inspector del trabajo		Corregidor de Policía
	Fiscal Delegado		Defensor de Familia		Conciliadores en equidad (activos)
	CTI - SIJIN		Comisario de Familia		Médico forense
	Medicina Legal		Personero Municipal		Psicólogos
	Juez de tierras		Inspector de Policía (Urbano)		Trabajadores sociales
	Defensor público		Inspector de Policía (Urbano y rural)		Casa de Justicia

Mapa de actores en la región de Sur de Córdoba

Proyecto AJA

A marzo de 2015.



11 0 11 22 Km
Escala gráfica

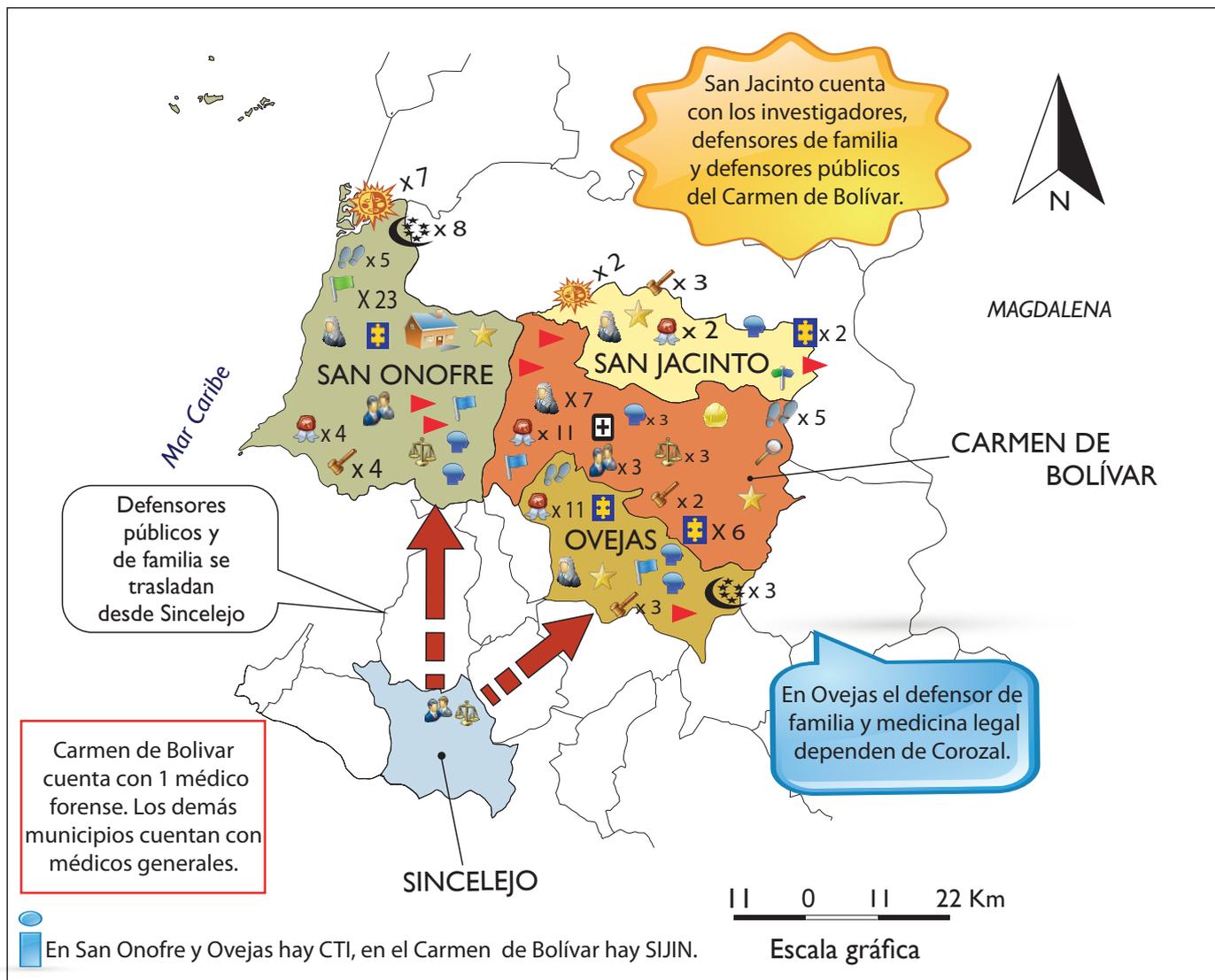
Convenciones

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | Juez |  | Fiscal Delegado |
|  | Juez de tierras |  | Casa de Justicia |
|  | Defensor Público |  | Resguardo Indígena |
|  | Inspector del trabajo |  | Consejo Comunitario Afro |
|  | Defensor de Familia |  | Parcialidad Indígena |
|  | Comisario de Familia |  | Medicina Legal |
|  | Personero Municipal |  | CTI - SIJIN |
|  | Inspector de Policía (Urbano) |  | Corregidor de Policía |
|  | Inspector de Policía (Urbano y rural) |  | Médicos |
|  | Representante de Víctimas |  | Trabajadores sociales |
|  | Psicólogos | | |

Mapa de actores en la región AJA Montes de María

Actores en Justicia

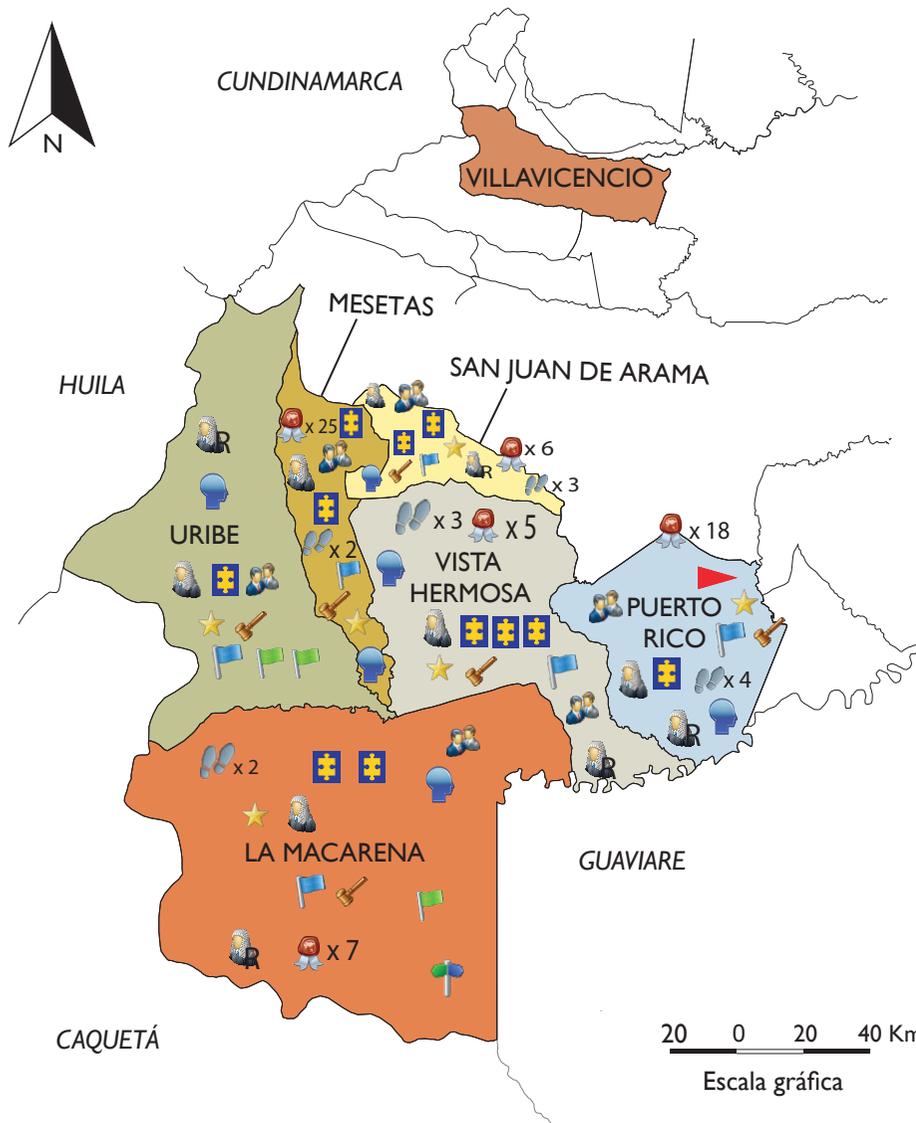
A marzo de 2015.



CONVENCIONES SEGÚN ACTOR

	Juez		Inspector del trabajo		Corregidor de Policía
	Fiscal Delegado		Defensor de Familia		Conciliadores en equidad (activos)
	CTI - SIJIN		Comisario de Familia		Representante de víctimas
	Medicina Legal		Personero Municipal		Médicos forenses
	Juez de tierras		Inspector de Policía (Urbano)		Psicólogos
	Defensor público		Inspector de Policía (Urbano y rural)		Trabajadores sociales
	Resguardo Indígena		Consejo Comunitario		Casa de Justicia

Mapa de actores de justicia en la región de La Macarena A marzo de 2015.

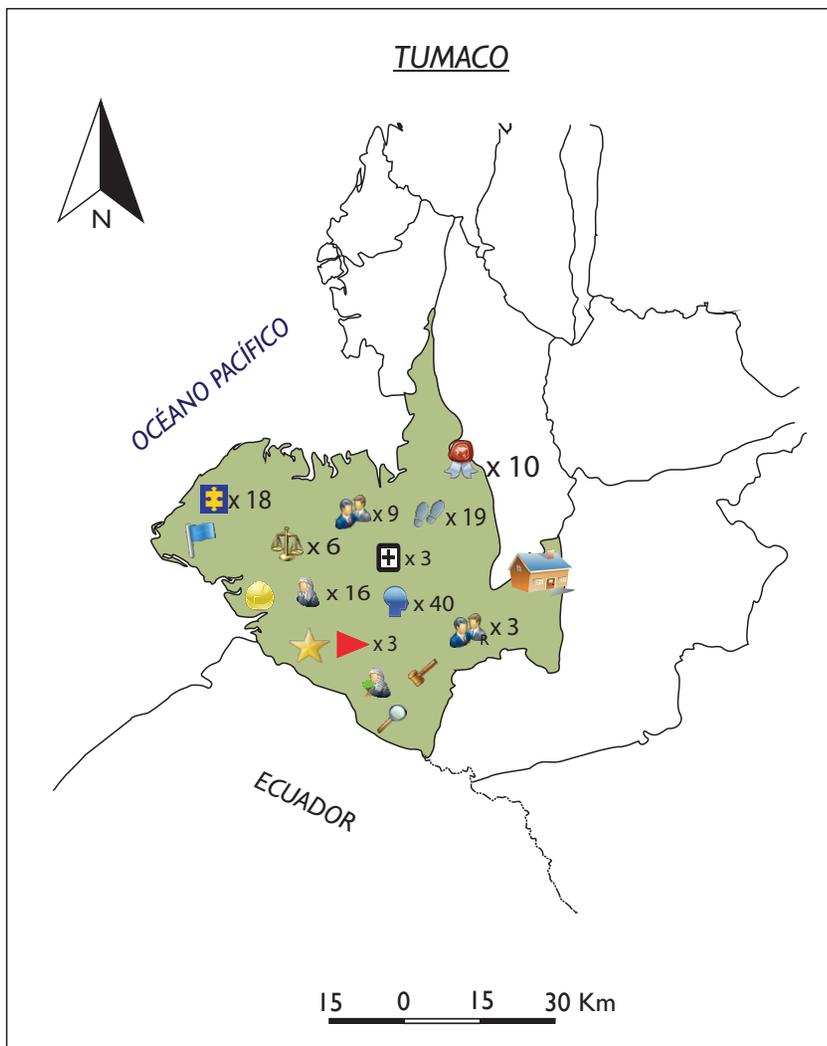


CONVENCIONES SEGÚN ACTOR

- Juez
- Fiscal Delegado
- CTI - SIJIN
- Medicina Legal
- Juez de tierras
- Inspector de Policía (Urbano)
- Inspector de Policía (Urbano y rural)
- Corregidor de Policía
- Médicos
- Psicólogos
- Trabajadores sociales
- Defensor de Familia
- Comisario de Familia
- Personero Municipal
- Inspector del trabajo
- Defensor público
- Representante de Víctimas
- Conciliadores en Equidad (activos)

En los hospitales públicos se efectúan las valoraciones médico legales por los médicos de turno. En otros eventos se practican en el Municipio de Granada o en Villaviciencio, que cuentan con médico(s) forense(s).

Mapa de actores en la región de Tumaco del Proyecto AJA A marzo de 2015.



CONVENCIONES SEGÚN ACTOR

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
|  | Juez |  | Comisario de Familia |
|  | Defensor de Familia |  | Personero Municipal |
|  | Fiscal Delegado |  | Inspector del trabajo |
|  | CTI - SIJIN |  | Representante de víctimas |
|  | Medicina Legal |  | Juez de tierras |
|  | Inspector de Policía (Urbano) |  | Conciliadores en equidad (activos) |
|  | Inspector de Policía (Urbano y rural) |  | Casa de Justicia |
|  | Corregidor de Policía | | |
|  | Defensor Público | | |
|  | Médicos Forenses | | |
|  | Psicólogos | | |
|  | Trabajadores sociales | | |

Annex B

MOBILE JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

Mobile Justice Activities

Region	#	Municipalities	Geographic area	Number of people or requests for legal assistance services
Legal Clinic Brigades				
Bajo Cauca*	1	Cáceres	Urban area	36
	2	Tarazá	Urban area	14
	3	Valdivia	Urban area	19
	4	Caucasia	Urban area	28
	5	Nechí	Urban area	14
	6	El Bagre	Urban area	9
	7	Zaragoza	Urban area	24
Montes de María	8	El Carmen de Bolívar	Corregimiento El Hobo	115
Total				259
Mobile Justice Brigades of the Local Justice Committees (LJCs)				
Bajo Cauca	1	Ituango	Vereda Quebrada del Medio	302
Macarena	2	Uribe	Inspección de La Julia	20
Southern Córdoba	3	Montelíbano	Corregimiento Tierra Adentro	482
Total				804
Mobile Justice Houses				
Bajo Cauca	1	Nechí	Corregimiento Las Conchas	11
Southern Tolima	2	Ibagué	Corregimiento El Totumo	128
Cauca	3	Popayán	Corregimiento La Rejoya	87
Total				226
Mobile Justice Brigades of LJC with the participation of a legal clinic				
Macarena	1	Puerto Rico	Corregimiento San Rafael	73
Southern Córdoba	2	Puerto Libertador	Urban area	162
Southern Tolima	3	Rioblanco	Corregimiento Puerto Saldaña	157
	4	Chaparral	Corregimiento El Limón	133
	5	Ataco	Corregimiento Santiago Pérez	179
	6	Planadas	Urban area	39
Total				743
Overall total	20			2,032

* With assistance of the psychosocial clinic

U.S. Agency for International Development

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