

Support Program for Ex-Combatant Children. Colombia



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Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes Desvinculados
del Conflicto Armado



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second phase of the program began during this quarter and it extends from June 14, 2003 to September 13, 2005. The main objectives of the initial program will remain the same during this phase thus emphasizing prevention, social integration and qualification of the services provided.

Since the beginning of the program in March 2001 until September 30, 2003 a total of 1,311 excombatant children have been assisted. Of these, 1,176 minors were assisted under the IOM/ICBF/USAID Program divided in the following way: 324 (27.6%) girls and 852 (72.4%) boys. Furthermore, continued support is being given to 135 excombatant boys and girls, who belong to Indigenous and Afro-Colombian ethnic minorities in the departments of Cauca and Chocó, under the prevention component.

From July until September the program provided assistance to 230 new cases of excombatant children resulting in an 8% increase compared to the previous quarter. This is a significant increase considering that illegal groups have not engaged in massive removal of children from the armed conflict as was the case during the previous quarter with the AUC. The reason for the increasing number of excombatant children in the program is due to a case by case voluntary disengagement.

The ICBF opened four new Specialized Attention Centers (CAE in Spanish) during this quarter with the support of the program. This has resulted in the program having increased the number of centers from 18 to 22: four Temporary Homes (HAT in Spanish), 15 CAEs and three Children's Homes (CJs in Spanish). Capacity increased in the program's centers and in the ICBF protection network from 425 to 550 available slots. As a complementary strategy to increase the number of slots the ICBF initiated the Foster Homes program to increase the number of youngsters who complete the Program. A test phase will be initiated under this mode during the next quarter. The IOM/ICBF/USAID Program has supplied the first clothes aid package for the 230 boys and girls who joined the Program during this quarter.

The difficulties resulting from the AUC massive demobilization of children from the conflict has led to a review of the program's process of receiving children during the first phase of the HAT's attention model by adjusting the attention methods when the majority of the youngsters in the group come from the same armed group. A workshop was carried out in Bogotá with professionals of the four HATs, ICBF officials and the IOM technical team to review this strategy. Despite the difficulties caused by massive removals, only 24 youngsters deserted the program during this quarter. This represents a 57% decline compared to the previous quarter. An international conference was held in Bogotá on September 10 to 13 convened by UNICEF, IOM, ICBF, the *Restrepo Barco* Foundation and the European Center for International Strategic Thought (CEPEI in Spanish), and financed by USAID and the Swiss and Austrian Embassies, to exchange experiences and lessons learned on how to deal with ex-combatant children. More than 130 representatives of the implementing NGOs, government entities, international cooperation agencies, universities and international specialists attended this event. Several of the program's accomplishments were highlighted during this event and were considered worthy of replicating in other countries such as: having an assistance model in place, the legislative progress made with regard to the removal of children from the armed conflict, the design of a judicial strategy for these children, and the training provided to judges and legal guardians.

With regard to education, the implementation of the agreement signed with the *Caja de Compensación Familiar* (CAFAM), which developed an educational strategy that involves educational diagnosis, school placement, educational leveling and motivation. CAFAM has transferred its method to 10 operating centers and has assisted the teachers that were trained for the startup of the program. Furthermore, 266 scholarships were granted during this quarter to youngsters who are in the CAEs, the CJs and on the family reintegration program. The support provided by the program to the Ministry of Education and to the ICBF in the design of a strategic plan to reintegrate excombatant children to the school system should be highlighted. This support included the design of a Ministerial Resolution that provides instructions and orientation to the municipal education offices and to the public education centers on how to register children demobilized from the armed conflict in the school system. In addition, a form was designed to be filled in by youngsters who join the program that describes their rights, their responsibilities and the opportunities that they are being given for a new life path away from the armed conflict.

Health coverage has been increased. During this quarter 445 youngsters were attended in the health rallies carried out by PROFAMILIA. Moreover, 300 clinical histories were reviewed under the agreement signed with the Universidad Nacional Child Observatory. This is part of the project to create a data base on the children's health characteristics and of the plan to improve health care according to the results obtained. Furthermore, three new agreements were initiated during this quarter: i) El Tunal Hospital in Bogotá for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis diagnosis and prevention for all the program's children; ii) Colombian Red Cross to provide training on first aid, treatment of tropical diseases, Acute Respiratory Infection (IRA by its Spanish acronym) and Severe Diarrhea Infection (EDA in Spanish) to 240 NGO officials and young individuals who are part of the Program; and iii) Prever Foundation to carry out five regional workshops attended by 124 young individuals who discussed the risks and prevention factors in the consumption of psychoactive substances.

In the cultural area, the Program supported 139 youngsters so that they could sign up in sports and cultural activities. During this quarter a post graduate program was initiated by the Pieter institution and the INCA University that will train a group of 20 young people as referees, recreational leaders and physical trainers.

In terms of productive insertion and employability eight new productive projects were financed during this quarter. This has resulted in 28 projects being implemented in 37 different productive activities, thus benefiting a total of 1,052 youngsters, 779 males and 273 females. The main areas are the following: computers, mechanic, clothes making, jewelry, events and festival services, handicrafts, blackberry growing, breeding minor species, family micro enterprise initiatives (PINES in Spanish) such as bakeries and cafeterias. Also, 15 workshops were held on this topic, which were attended by 375 youngsters who worked on designing ways to generate income to support the productive insertion of each youth. During this quarter 35 scholarships were granted for occupational training. The total number of scholarships granted throughout the program amounts to 189.

In the area of attention and prevention of children and youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict, who are part of Indigenous ethnic minorities, during this quarter a project was initiated to prevent recruitment by diagnosing and designing risk maps in 7 departments: Antioquia, Santander, Cundinamarca, Cauca, Putumayo, Huila and Chocó. These are part of the total 13 departments where the project will be implemented. The material was designed and endorsed during workshops attended by 60 children. Furthermore, a bidding process was convened for a prevention campaign to be carried out in the media: television, radio, press and other printed publicity (posters). A proposal presented by Vásquez and Associates was chosen to carry out this campaign. Also, a strategic alliance was created with several representatives of Colombian artists such as the group *Aterciopelados*, Jorge Celedón, Julio Nava, *Escarcha* and Maia, to record a CD together with the youngsters with songs that create public social awareness.

In the Chocó department 329 youngsters participated in productive, farming and minor species breeding projects; 45 of these youngsters are ex-combatant and the remaining are beneficiaries of the prevention strategy. During this quarter the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office held 56 workshops with students, teachers and the community. Several business tours were carried out in Cauca with the participation of 80 youth who grow blackberries, to prepare fertilizers and to produce and commercialize worm related products. Seven youth were given support, including technical training and financing, to install and execute productive projects: four projects to breed pigs and three to breed dairy cattle. In addition, a CD was recorded by the group *Piu-Rek*, whose members are young men demobilized from the Illegal armed group.

II. CONTEXT

Political Background

Without any doubt the referendum continues to be the most relevant subject in the world of Colombian politics. Colombians will vote on the referendum on October 25 of this year. The Constitutional Court approved 15 out of the 19 questions that constitute the referendum and declared the rest unconstitutional. The court did not approve the questions that were considered key for “the government to reach the 6 million votes it needs in order for the referendum to pass”¹. One of these was related to the extension of the period of mayors, governors, congressmen and town council members term in office, which was “something on which Uribe had insisted on in order to achieve the support of those who had been effected in 2000”². Perhaps what has weakened the government position even further is the fact that the Constitutional court did not allow for the questions of the referendum to be voted in block, arguing that the resolution is “something that makes the campaign more interesting and democratic, and abates the impression that the referendum is a plebiscite in favor of the president”³.

At the same time, on August 27, the Liberal Party declared that it will abstain from voting in the referendum because it considers that the measure “does not have the miraculous ability that its supporters claim it has. “ and that it is not “a reform of the state or of the political system –and in fact it would represent a step backwards in this sense-“.⁴ The creation of the Independent Democratic Front for abstention followed these declarations. This is a group formed by the Democratic Pole (*Polo Democrático Independiente* in Spanish), unions, and independent congressmen, and, obviously, the Liberal Party⁵, who share the objective of mounting a campaign against the referendum.

Nevertheless, the episode that has provoked the most reactions both nationally and internationally, was the President speech of September 8, during the change of command ceremony of the Colombian Air Force (FAC) commander. During the event the President commented on a report that had recently been released by a group of NGOs⁶ and that “analyzes the overall human rights situation during the first year in office of President Alvaro Uribe Velez, with a constructively critical eye on the government policies”⁷.

In his speech Uribe said that while the government and The Armed Forces have a daily commitment to uphold Human Rights for other sectors of society, these are a political flag waved only in certain occasions. He commented that NGOs can be divided into three groups: “theoretically critical, serious Human Rights organizations, and traffickers of Human Rights. He admonished the first for arguing that everybody loses in this conflict⁸, he displayed respect and willingness to work with the second, and chastised the third”⁹.

Strong reactions followed almost immediately. The European delegation in Colombia and international NGOs such as Amnesty International and WOLA defended the work of human rights and social organizations, and displayed some level of concern for the accusations made the president, and especially for the manner and time in which they were made¹⁰. The United Nations, the OAS, the European Union,¹¹ Human Rights Watch and the State Department (of the United States)¹² refused the President’s assertions, showed concern for the consequences that these accusations could have in terms of the human rights defenders’ safety and solidarity with these organizations.

¹ “CUESTA ARRIBA – Even though the goodness of the referéndum is evident, the campaign will be more difficult than what it first seemed: Why?” *Semana*, 14 to 20 of July 2003.

² “THE STOP LIGHT OF THE REFERENDUM”; *Cambio*, 14 TO 20 of July 2003.

³ “CUESTA ARRIBA – Even though the goodness of the referéndum is evident, the campaign will be more difficult than what it first seemed: Why?” *Semana*, 14 to 20 of July 2003.

⁴ “a pitiless revenge”, *El Espectador*, Political section, August 31 2003, pg. 6 A.

⁵ “FIRM ALLIANCE OF ABSTENTION”, *El Espectador*, David Caneva Akle, September 2, 2003, pg. 7 A.

⁶ The document was written by the “Plataforma Colombiana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo,” which is a network formed by 80 national social and non governmental organizations, that works for the promotion, protection and defense of human rights.

⁷ Plataforma Colombiana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo; “THE AUTHORITARIAN WHICHCRAFT: The first year of the Álvaro Uribe Vélez government”; Antropos Editors; September, 2003.

⁸ This is a direct and clear allusion to the Human Development Document of the UNDP titled “Conflict: Road to nowhere” in Spanish *Conflicto: Callejón con Salida*, where this assertion is made.

⁹ *El Tiempo*, “Uribe’s harsh reply to NGOs” September 9 2003, pgs. 1-1 and 1-5.

¹⁰ *El Tiempo*, “Uribe’s reply causes dust storm” September 10, 2003, pg. 1-1 and 1-2.

¹¹ *El Tiempo*, “ONU and UE support defenders”, September 11 of 2003, pg. 1-6.

¹² *El Tiempo*, “The United States disagrees with criticism of NGOs” September 13, 2003, pg. 1-6.

During the Annual Meeting of the Andean corporation for Development, the Minister of Defense went as far as announcing that the government will review the status of the approximately 1300 NGOs that exist in Colombia today with the intent of analyzing their activities in a constructive and respectful manner.¹³ Though the Government of Colombia still feels the heat for the President's assertions, his speech before the United Nations in New York and other declarations during his visit in the United States have calmed down national and international critics.

Economic Background

Though the popularity of President Uribe is firm at 64% approval ratings¹⁴, his economic policies were viewed in a different way according to the polls. In fact, 62% of the population is unhappy with his administration in terms of unemployment and cost of living, making the economic front one of his the biggest future challenges. Furthermore, 37% of the population concurs that two years into his mandate, the country will be worse off financially than it is now.¹⁵

It seems that the progress achieved this year has not pleased the majority of the population. For example, during the first semester of 2003, the GNP grew by 3.13% relative to the same period in 2002¹⁶. Unemployment decreased in August to 14.8% compared to August of 2002 when it was 16%, but it increased relative to July (14.3%).¹⁷ The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.22% in September, and the variation since the beginning of the year is 5.42%, which means that it is still possible for the government to achieve its goal of reaching a CPI of 6% for the year¹⁸.

Other variables give signs of economic improvement. For example, exports have increased by 7.7% between January and August 2003. This increase is largely due to the traditional exports (19.5%), while the non-traditional exports have decreased by 1.1%. The agricultural sector has also shown some improvement and it is possible that it will grow by 5% during this year; that is, double as much as the national economy. According to data of the Ministry of Agriculture 142,000 new hectares were sowed during the first semester of 2003, and 147,000 new jobs were created.¹⁹

However, the most important news of the last quarter has to do with an increased fiscal debt. At the beginning of July the National Planning Office admitted that while preparing the budget for 2004, it discovered a minus of more than 2.5 billion pesos which had been allocated for defense spending (1 billion pesos) and for pensions (1.5 billion pesos)²⁰.

The possibility of a free trade pact with the United States continues to be explored and formal conversations may start as early as the end of 2003.

Conflict Background

Support for the Uribe Government

This third quarter started with the London Declaration²¹ where the heads of state that were present reaffirmed their political support for the Colombian Government and praised its efforts to overcome the current threats to democracy, the growing terrorism, narco-traffic, human rights abuses and the serious humanitarian crisis in the country. Moreover, they encouraged the illegal armed groups to agree to a cease fire and to undertake serious peace negotiations.

They were satisfied with President Uribe's offer to put into practice the recommendations of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations and insisted that these recommendations need to be applied as a matter of habit. The group also insisted in the need to adopt effective measures against impunity and tacit acceptance of the illegal groups, and particularly, the paramilitary.²²

¹³ *El Tiempo*, Sergio Gómez Maseri, "We'll review 1,300 NGOs", September 12, 2003, pg. 1-5.

¹⁴ *El Tiempo*, "With Uribe all is well, despite the economy", July 10, 2003, pg. 1-2. Invamer-Gallup poll.

¹⁵ *El Tiempo*, "Uribe, No what?", August 7, 2003, pg. 1-2 and 1-3. Napoleón Franco and Company poll.

¹⁶ National Statistical Department (DANE), Weekly Report, September 29, 2003.

¹⁷ *El Tiempo*, "Unemployment drops", October 1, 2003, pg. 1-10.

¹⁸ National Statistical Department (DANE), Weekly Report, October 3, 2003.

¹⁹ *El Tiempo*, Laura Charry, "Reaping recovery", August 1, 2003, pg. 1-11.

²⁰ *El Tiempo*, "Looking for 2.5 billion for 2004", July 4 2003, pg. 1-1 and 1-2.

²¹ Signed by the heads of state of : Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the European Union, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, US, The European Commission, UN agencies, the Andean Development Corporation, IBDR, IMF and World Bank.

²² *El Tiempo*, "The European Union supports Uribe", July 11, 2003, pg. 1-2.

President Uribe has also received the support of seven South American Countries²³. In the Asunción Declaration, they ratified their support for the President's national security policies, and reaffirmed their commitment to lead a joint fight against narco-traffic and terrorism.²⁴ Also, the German parliament seems to have begun a new phase in its relationship with Colombia as it asked for the country's support in supporting President Uribe in his endeavor to recover the monopoly of force. Furthermore, it agreed to push forward the appointment of a Human Rights Commissioner for the country in the European Union.²⁵

Finally, in the United States, the Secretary of State took advantage of President Uribe's visit to back his Administration by publicly affirming his conviction that Uribe is committed to uphold "high human rights standards".²⁶ Moreover, President Bush's reinstatement of aerial spraying in Colombia was considered as an additional sign of support for the head of state.

Preliminary Evaluations of the National Security Strategy

President Uribe implemented a National Security Strategy, which he named Democratic National Security Strategy about one year ago. The foundation "Security and Democracy"²⁷ presented a first assessment of the results achieved in the Uribe presidency by comparing the first semester of 2002 with the first semester of 2003. One of the main conclusions drawn is that though the number of combats initiated by the Public Force has increased, such increase does not correspond to an increase in battlefield deaths off/in the same proportion. This means that the effectiveness of the attacks has diminished in relation to last year. The authors of the report indicate that there has been a relative retreat of the illegal armed groups in that certain actions such as attacks against the Public Force, illegal roadblocks and explosion of the oil pipeline have increased. Furthermore, in 2002 the proportion between acts of sabotage and attacks against the public force was two-to-one,²⁸ while in 2003 this relationship is inverted (i.e., for every act of sabotage there are two attacks against the public force)

Illicit Crops

John Walters, the drug czar of the United States explained that despite the fact that 250,000 hectares of coca were eradicated in the last two years, the price and the quality of drugs sold in that country have not varied. He added that this is due to the fact that the guerrilla has warehoused coca in what was the demilitarized zone, which has allowed to maintain the commerce of the crop strong, but he also clarified that the supply is quickly diminishing, and he foresees that it will be gone in six to twelve months, which is when changes in the market will start to be seen.²⁹

However, he has also expressed concern for the increase in coca cultivations in other countries such as Bolivia, Venezuela and Perú, though these increases are not significant relative to the decrease of the illicit crops in Colombia.

The UN Office against crime and drugs (UNODC) has recently assessed the illicit crop eradication during the first seven months of 2003. According to the United Nations, on July 31 there were only 69,000 hectares of coca in the country -- a reduction of 32% relative to December 31, 2002. It follows that if this eradication rhythm is maintained until the end of the year, the number of hectares cultivated will not be higher than 50,000. However, he has also warned that the coca economy is still dynamic in that new cultivations are detected every day, particularly in Norte de Santander and in the southern part of the country.³⁰

²³ Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Perú.

²⁴ *El Tiempo*, "Seven countries support Uribe", August 16, 2003, pg. 1-20.

²⁵ *El Tiempo*, "Germany, the new player in the peace process", October 3, 2003, pg. 1-1 and 1-2.

²⁶ *El Tiempo*, "US support", October 1, 2003, pg. 1-2.

²⁷ Created and directed by Alfredo Rangel, one of the most important analysts of the Colombian conflict from a military perspective.

²⁸ "Sabotaje" refers to attacks against the infrastructure and economic targets.

²⁹ *El Tiempo*, "Coca cultivation move toward the borders", July 30, 2003, pg. 1-7.

³⁰ *El Tiempo*, "33,000 hectares less of coca", September 18, 2003, pg. 1-2.

Talks With Illegal Groups

Humanitarian Agreement

The quarter started with a letter that the FARC directed to the General Secretary of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, where they request a meeting with him so as to have a chance of explaining and discussing the internal armed conflict in Colombia.³¹ Subsequently, journalistic reports announced that the UN and the FARC were working on defining an agenda and who would be the participants to an eventual meeting that would take place in Manaus (Brasil) at the end of October 2003 would be.³² Nevertheless, it is not clear yet whether this meeting would take place or not, even though the UN seems to have the support of the Colombian Government to meet.

In August the media got hold of videos of a number of people that had been kidnapped by the FARC and that are considered part of an eventual humanitarian agreement or prisoner exchange between the FARC and the Government. These videos show people who have been held captive for a long time now and of whom very little is known such as Congressmen Gechem Turbay, and the ex-governor of Meta Alan Jara, members of the police and of the army, and of three North American captives.

The most controversial video was that of Ingrid Betancourt, who makes known her reasons for wanting to be rescued by law enforcement but only if the operation is successful and conducted under the control of the President.³³

Naturally, every time the FARC gives proof the captives life, the discussion of a humanitarian agreement is renewed. The families of the captives “begged the government and the FARC to reach an agreement that would allow them to come home”.³⁴ Moreover, during the “week for peace”, the ex-presidents Alfonso López, Julio Cesar Turbay and Ernesto Samper ask the government and the guerrilla to define the terms of a humanitarian agreement.³⁵

Discussions with the ELN

On July 30, Antonio García who is the top military commander of ELN was interviewed by the daily paper El Tiempo. The journalist questioned him on his assessment of the possibility of starting a peace process, and he replied that his organization would not risk undertaking a peace negotiations with the government in that this would turn out in failure, and das that: “A few preliminary meetings were held with the present government. The government sees as the political solution of the conflict the demobilization and disarmament of the guerrillas, and that the rest continues as is”.³⁶

The ELN's position was confirmed in a joint press conference with the FARC where both groups characterize the government as belligerent and an enemy of peace and confirm that “while the illegitimate government of Álvaro Uribe Vélez continues in its fascist and military based politics, we will not further any political process or national dialogue”.³⁷

Nevertheless, and after the capture of the eight foreigners in the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta by ELN, and the formation of a committee headed by the Church to further some sort of agreement to free them, president Uribe offered to free two spokespersons of ELN who were prisoners in Itagüi³⁸ if they agree to work for peace.³⁹ Afterwards, it invited the ELN to consider the option of dialogue and to start a peace process, insisting that he was in favor of a National convention,⁴⁰ but reiterating that there would not be an offer for a demilitarized zone.⁴¹

³¹ El Tiempo, “Kofi Annan considers as positive the letter of the FARC”, July 20, 2003, pg. 1-19.

³² El Tiempo, “UN-FARC meeting fixed for October”, September 16 2003, pg. 1-1 and 1-3.

³³ El Tiempo, “Rescue yes, but successful: Ingrid”, August 31, 2003, pg. 1-2.

³⁴ El Tiempo, “Families of the captives beg for an agreement”, August 16, 2003, pg. 1-26.

³⁵ El Tiempo, “Ex presidents pressure for a humanitarian agreement”, September 4, 2003, pg. 1-1 y 1-3.

³⁶ El Tiempo, “Uribe prioritized the negotiations with the paramilitary: ELN”, July 30, 2003, pg. 1-3.

³⁷ Joint press conference of FARC and ELN, August 26, 2003.

³⁸ Felipe Torres and Francisco Galán.

³⁹ El Tiempo, “Uribe offers impunity to ‘Elenos’ in the Itagüi prison”, September 27, 2003, pg. 1-1 and 1-2.

⁴⁰ The national convention is a ELN proposal for a conference of shorts where all sectors of society would participate, and proposals for the solution of the main problems of the country would be discussed”.

⁴¹ El Tiempo, “For the ELN anything, but not a demilitarized zone”, October 4, 2003, pg. 1-2.

Negotiations With the Self-Defense Groups (AUC)

An agreement between the government and the AUC was signed on July 15 in Santa Fe de Ralito in the region of Urabá. The agreement symbolized “the end of the exploratory phase of the peace process and the beginning of the negotiations”.⁴² The AUC committed to demobilize all of its force in a gradual process which would begin before the end of the current year, and will end on December 31, 2005 at the latest.

Moreover, they invite the general public to be supportive of the demobilization and of the reintegration of the AUC members to civilian life, and instigate the international community to also “support the efforts to strengthen and defend Colombian democracy and to help fight against the factors that stimulate violence in Colombia”.⁴³

Without doubt the most controversial subject regarding the negotiation is the “*Ley de Alternatividad Penal*” which grants the suspension of prison sentences for those responsible of having violated human rights that want to become reintegrated to civilian life. This bill was proposed in Congress on August 21.

The bill has produced negative reactions since it was first discussed, even among strong supporters of the President.⁴⁴ Moreover, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace of the United Nations has been constantly engaged with the government on this issue, inviting supporters of the bill to reflect on the following: the fact that it lead to a de facto impunity in that though people would be charged for the acts committed there would be no prison time; it establishes as a repair mechanism actions that do not pay back sufficiently the victims and it does not establish a clear obligation of the state to pay back the victims when this is not fulfilled by the perpetrators of human rights violations, among others.⁴⁵

Human Rights Watch also expressed concern on the project : “Allowing that criminals escape real punishment for their crimes does not instigate peace but it also weakens the state and instigates new acts of violence...it is essential that all the agreements include real punishment for those who have violated human rights, particularly keeping in mind the precedent that this can create”.⁴⁶

The US government declared the following: the punishment has to be proportional to the pain inflicted; narco-traffickers should not be able to pass as members of paramilitary groups; extradition should be upheld; and a reconciliation commission that includes members of civil society must be formed to ensure that the process be done with clarity and transparency.⁴⁷

The goodness of this debate has been that the government enlarged the discussion to different sectors of society so that the law that may be passes has the approval of most, and thus more legitimacy.

In the mean time Carlos Castaño revealed that more than 5,000 members will “concentrate” in seven areas of the country by the end of the year⁴⁸ and will subsequently be demobilized.⁴⁹ This group also proposed that 500 members of the *Bloque Nutibara* “concentrate” in farmhouses near the city of Medellín⁵⁰. The proposal was accepted by the government, which also claimed that the office of the High commissioner for Peace and the major were ready to meet the challenge.⁵¹

By means of conclusion it is important to mention that the AUC is continuing to attack and otherwise harm the blocks or factions that have refused to participate in the negotiations, such as the *Bloque Metro*⁵² and *Las Autodefensas Campesinas del Casanare* (ACC).⁵³

⁴² Santa Fe de Ralito Agreement to contribute to the peace of Colombia , July 15, 2003.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ *El Tiempo*, “Rafael Pardo: ‘not everything can be pardoned’”, October 5 de 2003, pg. 1-27.

⁴⁵ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations “Observations on the bill on the reincorporation of illegal armed groups members.”, press release, Bogotá, August 28, 2003.

⁴⁶ Human Rights Watch, “checkbook impunity in Colombia”, Press release , New York September 22 of 2003.

⁴⁷ *El Tiempo*, “Observations of the US.” October 10 2003, pg. 1-2.

⁴⁸ The concentration areas would be: La Gabarra (Norte de Santander); rural area of Córdoba; Urabá; los Montes de María (Sucre); La Mojana (Sucre and Bolívar); Medellín, and Valle del Cauca.

⁴⁹ *El Tiempo*, “The seven concentration areas of the AUC are revealed”, September 13, 2003, pg. 1-7.

⁵⁰ *El Tiempo*, “Paramilitary will concentrate in October”, September 21, 2003, pg. 1-13.

⁵¹ *El Tiempo*, “Medellín speeds up concentration for paramilitary”, October 2, 2003, pg. 1-15.

⁵² *El Tiempo*, “Bloque Metro is surrounded”, September 23, 2003, pg. 1-3.

⁵³ *El Tiempo*, “Paramilitary innerwar in the plains region”, October 6, 2003, pg. 1-4.

III. SUMMARY PROGRAM STATUS

OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED RESULTS	STATUS
PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES		
Provide overall support to 1000 children disengaged from the armed conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring rights by providing specialized overall support to 1,000 girls, boys and teenagers disengaged from the armed conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the July-September quarter 230 youth joined the Program for a total of 1.176 ex-combatant children supported through the IOM-ICBF-USAID Program, since its beginning until September 2003. 135 Indigenous and Afro-Colombian ex-combatant children supported by the program's agreement with the Cauca and Chocó governorships.
PREVENTION		
Introduce proposals to potential counterparts to prevent children from engaging in the armed conflict for discussion, review, allotment of funds and inclusion in regional plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention proposal implemented through regional plans designed for the 13 departments chosen for the first stage (54 municipalities). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IOM Officials, government institutions and NGOs involved in the protection of children rights and located in the departments of Antioquia, Chocó, Cauca, Huila, Santander, Cundinamarca and Putumayo were informed of the prevention strategy for children considered to be at risk of joining armed groups.
Identify, jointly with the community, risk factors that cause children to join insurgent groups and in the design of prevention strategies in the municipalities selected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk maps carried out in 54 municipalities of 13 departments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary version of the "guide to put together vulnerability and risk maps" has been submitted. "Identification of risk factors and promotion of life projects for social coexistence and integration: Listening to Children and Youth" and a training and methodology workshop have been designed. A 14 person team will be trained to work in 28 municipalities in the departments with a greater number of children disengaged from the armed conflict: Huila, Cauca, Antioquia, Cundinamarca, Chocó, Putumayo and Santander.
Develop a strategy to prevent local recruitment, child abuse and domestic violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 800 community leaders and teachers trained on reconciliation and conflict resolution, family counseling, patterns for raising children, and domestic violence regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings to coordinate and establish synergies with other IOM and ICBF domestic violence prevention and support programs, have been carried out.
Promote children's access and stability in the formal educational system and in informal education programs in the municipalities selected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 boys, girls and teenagers registered in the formal educational system in 26 municipalities selected. 600 boys, girls and teenagers who dropped out of school or are older than normal for their school level or grade were registered in programs to speed up learning in 26 municipalities selected. 150 youngsters registered into vocational training programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions have taken place yet. The implementation of access to education projects will be carried out next quarter once the risk maps are applied.
Start income generating with the families of children who are at a high risk of joining insurgent groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income improvement of 150 families who are at a high risk because their children are vulnerable to recruitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions have taken place yet. The implementation of income generation projects will be carried out next quarter once the risk maps are applied.

OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Contribute in strengthening children's public policies through the inclusion of girl recruitment prevention issues in national, departmental and municipal planning agendas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment prevention issues included in the ten year plan for children, the National Plan for the eradication of child labor, and in municipal development plans in the municipalities given priority by the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of child participation in the armed conflict has been debated in a number of scenarios, such as the international summit on childhood and armed conflict; in meetings with the International Labor Organization; government of Colombia agencies (ICBF, Ministries of Education and Health; <i>Procuraduría</i> and Universities). The institutions contacted have considered it necessary to work on programs to prevent children from engaging in the war.
<p>Design and implement a national awareness and information campaign on the problem posed by the recruitment of children by insurgent groups, prevention strategies, and the responsibility of institutions and citizens in this problem.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four million Colombians have been informed and made aware of the problem of children and the armed conflict through the media and other information mechanisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A proposal to carry out a campaign through the media with a T.V. commercial, a radio program, two posters, and a brochure, was selected. The ICBF and the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office were invited to participate in this campaign. A radio proposal has been designed for UNDP's <i>Manos Amigas</i> (Friendly Hands) Program that consists of transmitting testimonies of children disengaged from the armed conflict; a radio program, and the production of skits. These programs will be transmitted by the country's community radio network and will be emphasized in the departments that were given priority by program under the prevention strategy.
<p>Evaluate the progress made and the results obtained by the prevention strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The prevention strategy is being evaluated every six months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions have taken place yet. However the implementation of the prevention strategy is being launched this quarter.
INCOME GENERATION AND ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT		
<p>Improve the knowledge on the youth profile to concretize their development expectations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A methodology and instruments to learn about youth profile has been designed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A format form was designed to obtain information on the productive profile of the youth and a test was carried out with 38 youngsters in three centers. 100% of the NGOs that implemented the program have been trained on the application of the formats. Design of a dissemination method and a test program with 34 youngsters on productive projects implemented under the family reintegration program.
<p>Educate the youngsters who have joined the program on labor skills that will enable them to have access to a source of income by means of a formal job as part of their basic training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income generation strategy has been disseminated among the youth who participate in the program 350 youngsters trained on the process to prepare for apprenticeship learning and adjustment. 240 youngsters qualified on vocational training courses and labor exploration. 170 youngsters trained on basic labor skills. 100 youngsters joining the labor market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A learning by doing workshop was initiated to strengthen the life path of 35 youngsters. 35 scholarships were granted during this quarter, for a total of 189 since the beginning of the program. 20 youngsters were trained on jewelry making and 25 on events and festival logistics. 20 youngsters have been placed on part time jobs in events and festival logistics.

OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED RESULTS	STATUS
Youth orientation programs so they develop an entrepreneurial spirit and explore possible productive initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 youngsters with basic entrepreneurial characteristics were provided orientation on project design and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A model for Small Productive Initiatives (PIN in Spanish) was designed. Using the IPED (Ideas, Projects, Enterprises, and Development) model, 23 workshops on productive ideas and business creation have been held.
Identify investment opportunities that enable the creation of businesses or a better use of installed capacity as a mechanism to generate stable employment for youth benefited by the Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income generation projects identified: 30 were designed and 20 were implemented with the private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the Productive Initiatives Incubation Centers (CIP in Spanish) model and design and management skills as an overall model for administration and marketing of the Comprehensive Model for Marketing and Management (MIMA in Spanish) projects. This is a step previous to the identification of opportunities with the private sector. Two CIPs and four projects with implementing NGOs have been carried out and three projects are being proposed to the private sector.
Institutionalize the development of the program by building public and private partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish institutional and business support networks to strengthen the development of joint activities for income generation projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hiring of researchers has already been initiated. Project implementation is expected to be launched during the next quarter.
EDUCATION		
Provide orientation and support for the improvement of the education component in each implementing institution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance to implementing institutions on the design and implementation of education modules to help excombatant children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86.9 % of the operators have received technical pedagogic assistance to strengthen their education proposals. 100% of the existing implementing institutions were trained on the CAFAM management and implementation method. The furnishing of the CAEs pedagogic rooms has been approved. The acquisition process for 10 CAEs has already started. Support, follow-up and technical assistance has been provided to 13 implementing centers to strengthen and improve the quality of the education services being provided to the youngsters as a strategic component of the Overall Support Program. Five implementing centers have adopted CAFAM's continued education method to strengthen pedagogic evaluations and educational leveling processes for elementary education. Training of 38 teachers of the implementing centers on management and application of the method. The need for academic material has been evaluated in all the implementing centers to improve the effectiveness of their education proposals. The furnishing of pedagogic rooms in 10 CAEs has been approved to create appropriate learning environments for the children. With regard to the Overall Support Model, progress has been made in identifying the competency of each component (education, psychosocial services, income generation) and ensuring appropriate coordination and complementation among them.

OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED RESULTS	STATUS
<p>A permanent system to register lessons learned to improve the quality of the education component.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lessons learned in education have been systematized in each center. A performance evaluation has been carried out among personnel responsible for the implementation of the education component. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The system strategy is being created along with the implementing entities.
<p>Train personnel working on the Program's education component.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A team of 20 teachers trained especially to attend children disengaged from the armed conflict. Training requirements identified and supported for the proper management of the education component by the teachers responsible of this component. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 professionals and teachers of the implementing centers trained in the management of CAFAM's continued education method.
<p>Guarantee the restoration of the right to education of the youngsters who join the program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the program's children receive schooling in appropriate school systems. Inter-institutional coordination promoted by the program to improve the restoration of the right to education of excombatant children and to guarantee Program's sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Program's average education coverage during the quarter remained at 67.43%. The IOM scholarship fund granted 266 scholarships for formal education during this quarter under the prevention, support and family reintegration programs. Education coverage has increased by the adoption of the CAFAM model which is being implemented by 5 implementing centers with the support of the local education network (private and public education institutions). Different education options and institutions have been contacted. Their feasibility and appropriateness have been evaluated. Supported the process to design a policy and submit a resolution under which the National Ministry of Education (MEN) will take responsibility for the restoration of the right to education of demobilized children. In coordination with other national and international institutions, progress is being made on the review of overall support models for the demobilized population from the armed conflict and also to create awareness in terms that the problem affects a large number of players within the Colombian society. Work is in progress with the MEN and the ICBF to prepare an Action Plan aimed at empowering departmental and municipal education offices and official education institutions in providing education services to children disengaged from the armed conflict.
<p>Measure the impact of the education component on the social insertion process of excombatant children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An evaluation of the education component's impact on the youth was carried out. The program's education component was disseminated at a local, regional, national and international level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A proposal to the government was presented for a public policy that enforces the obligation of public education institutions to provide education to children demobilized from the armed conflict. The education component's impact evaluation will be included in the program's monitoring and evaluation system.

OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED RESULTS	STATUS
STRENGTHENING OF THE ICBF'S PROGRAM		
Strengthen the institutional capacity to attend children demobilized from the armed conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A psychosocial care model designed and applied in the support of youth disengaged from the armed conflict. • A psychosocial care model applied in the centers in all the health, culture, art, recreation, political ethics and therapeutic care areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of the regions where the program is operating have discussed care criteria with regard to the stages of the program and to the support components. • Psychosocial care model applied in 30% of the centers. • Four health care projects approved; two implemented. • Six cultural projects approved: four being implemented. • Two therapeutic care projects approved and implemented. • 100% of the children benefited by the projects.
Establish a monitoring and evaluation system to follow-up on the attention provided to the children in the different phases of the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An integrated monitoring and evaluation system established in all the care centers to follow-up on the status of each one of the youngster in the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A matrix for the monitoring plan was designed. • 50% progress in the process to identify the program's impact indicators.
Expand coverage in each of the stages of the program (temporary home, specialized attention center, children's home).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of institutions (7) and the spaces (196) increased to assist the youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four new care institutions were opened for 125 children.
Continue to strengthen the technical and administrative work in the implementing entities that are currently providing services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen technical and administrative services provided to the children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical specifications updated by 100%. • One community network project initiated in Bogotá and Cundinamarca. • Costs research project implemented. • Specifications for Foster Homes reviewed.
FAMILY REINTEGRATION		
Strengthen and promote family reintegration if security conditions are appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifications on psychosocial support and family reintegration strengthening applied in the work with the families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family encounters held in 50% of the centers during the quarter (91 children benefited). • 16 children were reintegrated with their families during the quarter.
CONTINGENCY PLAN		
Support an appropriate government contingency plan in case of massive demobilizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-institutional contingency plan designed in case of a massive children demobilization program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of institutions and slots available reviewed and updated. • Three new institutions were contacted and made aware of the situation to provide child care. • Program expanded by 125 slots. • 200 spaces identified in foster homes.
REFERRAL AND SUPPORT CENTERS		
Design and implement a strategy to create regional Referral and Support Centers; to assist children disengaged from the conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy to create the referral and support centers designed. • Three referral centers created and operating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and project for the creation of referral centers approved. • There is one institution ready for the startup of a referral center in Bogotá (Benposta).

OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED RESULTS	STATUS
DISSEMINATION OF THE LEGAL STANDING FOR EXCOMBATANT CHILDREN		
Disseminate the legal standing for ex-combatant children among the local, regional judicial and government authorities, and civil society organizations to guarantee due judicial and/or administrative processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 280 officials (family court judges, legal guardians and others) trained on the regulations that apply to judicial and administrative processes of ex-combatant children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight workshops held during the quarter (350). • 350 officials trained. • Training project for legal guardians approved.
PREVENTION AND REINTEGRATION OF INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-COLOMBIAN MINORITIES		
Consolidate the reintegration and prevention model for children of ethnic minorities in Chocó and Cauca.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 160 Indigenous and Afro-Colombian children in Chocó participating in cultural, education, and food safety activities to prevent recruitment by insurgent groups. • 120 children of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities demobilized from the armed conflict in Chocó benefited by income generating projects. • 250 girls and boys of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities in Cauca who are risk being recruited by insurgent groups benefited by cultural, education and family strengthening projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis update on the situation of children and the armed conflict and an analysis of the institutional offer as a background for the design of vulnerability and risk maps have been initiated in eight prioritized municipalities in Chocó and Cauca due to the intensity of the conflict. • 1,415 Indigenous and Afro-Colombian children in eight municipalities of Cauca, and Chocó have been assisted with human rights and international humanitarian law education projects and with income generation and cultural development programs. • 329 youth are benefiting from income generation projects (this figure includes 135 ex-combatant children).
Benefit children of ethnic groups in Putumayo with recruitment prevention projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 children of ethnic groups in the Putumayo benefited by recruitment prevention projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No actions have been taken place yet. Project implementation will start next quarter after the risk mapping methodology is applied.



IV. PROGRAM PROFILE AND STATISTICS ON ASSISTANCE

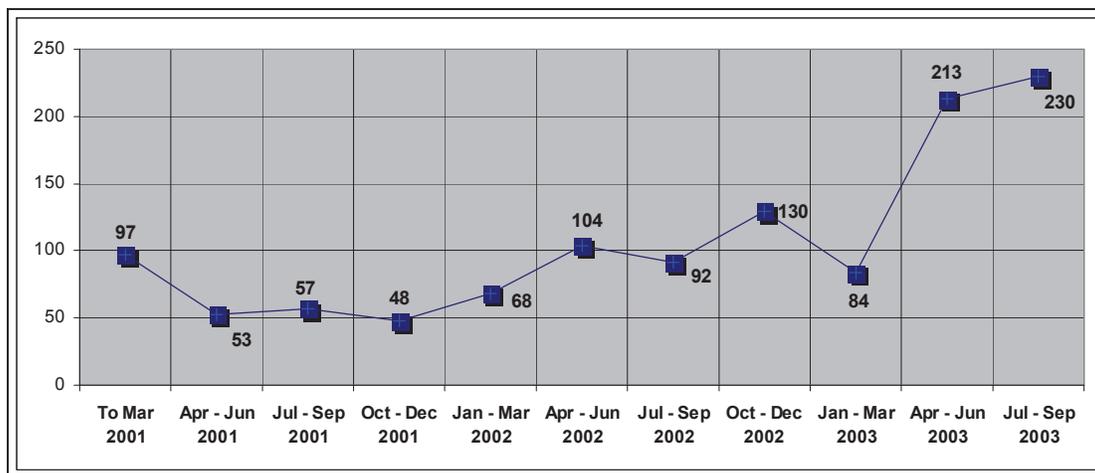
Table #1: Accumulated Ex-combatant Beneficiaries

EX-COMBATANT BENEFICIARIES REPORT		
2001 - 2003	Child Ex-combatants in the Specialized Assistance Program as of March 21, 2001	97
	Incoming Child Ex-combatants (entered Specialized Assistance Program from March 21, 2001 to Sept 30, 2003)	1,079
	Total ICBF Program	1,176
	Ethnic Minorities to Sept 30, 2003	135
	Total Ex-combatants	1,311
	Prevention	1,744
	Total IOM Program	3,055

A total of, 1,311 child ex-combatants have been cared assisted for in the program; this number includes 1,176, children in the IOM-ICBF Program funded by USAID and assistance to 135 indigenous and Afro-Colombian children who were assisted in Cauca and Choco Departments. During this quarter, 230 children entered the IOM/ICBF/USAID Program

1. IOM-ICBF Program

Graph #1: New Program Admissions by Quarter



Graph # 1 presents the figures on the numbers of children entering the program by quarter. This reflects a clear growth tendency. According to the IOM-ICBF Program's information system, from 2001 to 30 September 2003, the ICBF has assisted 1,176 children demobilized from irregular armed groups.

Table #2: Places Available by Month and Program Phase

	Temporary Homes	Specialized Attention Center	Halfway House	Total Institutions	Available Places
To 30 June	4	11	3	18	425
July	4	14	3	21	500
August	4	14	3	21	500
September	4	15	3	22	550

During this quarter four Specialized Attention Centers (CAEs) opened, increasing the coverage by 80 new places in response to a shortage of care. However, in addition to the 230 children who entered the program this quarter, there were 43 placements awaiting available space in the centers.

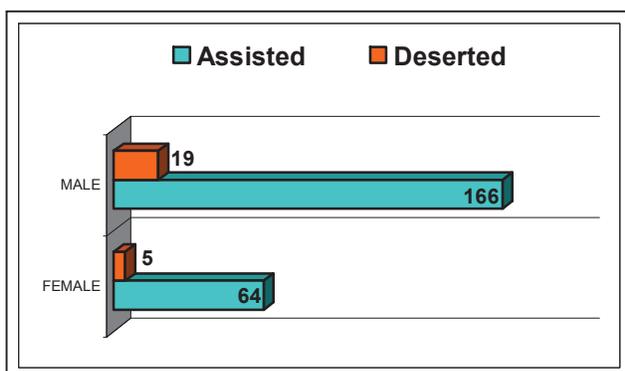
The ICBF is confronting the constant growth in the number of child ex-combatants by opening new centers in the cities of Medellín, Bogotá, Tunja and Ibagué, which will begin to operate this coming quarter.

Table #3: Children Assisted vs. Children Leaving the Program

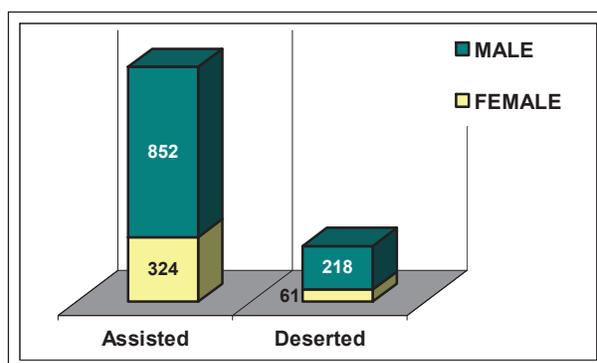
Total Number Assisted Program	Children Assisted at 30 September	Children in ICBF Protection Network at 30 September	Children Reintegrated into their Families	Children Leaving in Irregular Fashion	Children in Interior Ministry Reintegration Program	Children Leaving Program when Reaching Age of Majority
1176	550	66	157	276	103	24

Of the total of child ex-combatants that have been assisted, 550 were found in HT, CAE, or CJ centers as of 30 September. Another 66 children were located in ICBF special protection centers for reasons such as pregnancy, need for psychological care, or specialized therapy. This figure also includes the young people in Foster Homes (*Hogares Tutores*) that opened during this quarter. A total of 13.3 percent of the youths (157) have been reintegrated into their families, 23.4 percent have withdrawn without having completed the process in the program, and 10.7 percent graduated from the program and moved either to the Interior Ministry program (103 youths who have the CODA⁵⁴ certificate) or are living alone (24 young people).

Graph #2: Children Assisted / Irregular Exit This Quarter (Total: 230)



Graph #3: Irregular Exit from Program (Total: 1,176)



This quarter showed a reduction in the numbers of children exiting the program in an irregular fashion, dropping from 42 during the preceding quarter to 24 during the current trimester. This represents a drop of 57 percent. Graph 3 shows the relationship between the total number of children assisted (1176) and the total number of children exiting in an irregular fashion (276). These irregular withdrawals represented 23.4 percent of the total children assisted, whereas in this quarter only 10.4 of the children in the program left in that fashion. Proportionately more boys than girls leave as shown in Graphs 2 and 3, reporting figures for this quarter and accumulated totals respectively. During the quarter 11.4 percent of the boys took off, as opposed to 7.8 percent of the girls. Overall, 25.5 percent of the boys have left in this fashion and 18.8 percent of the girls.

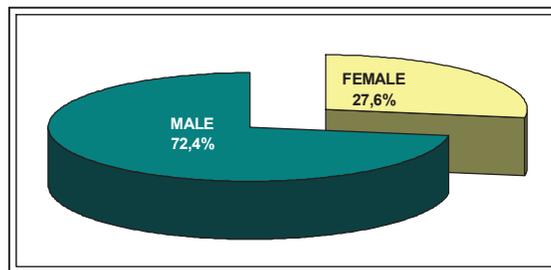
Table #4: Gender Breakdown of Incoming Children

MONTH	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL MONTH
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
July	25	26.0%	71	74.0%	96
August	17	23.9%	46	64.8%	63
September	22	31.0%	49	69.0%	71
TOTAL	64	27.8%	166	72.2%	230

Of the 230 child ex-combatants who entered the program during the quarter, 116 were boys and 64 were girls. This maintains the historic gender composition of the program's population, as shown in graph four

⁵⁴ Committee for the Surrender of Arms

Graph #4: Children Assisted, Disaggregated by Gender (Total: 1,176)



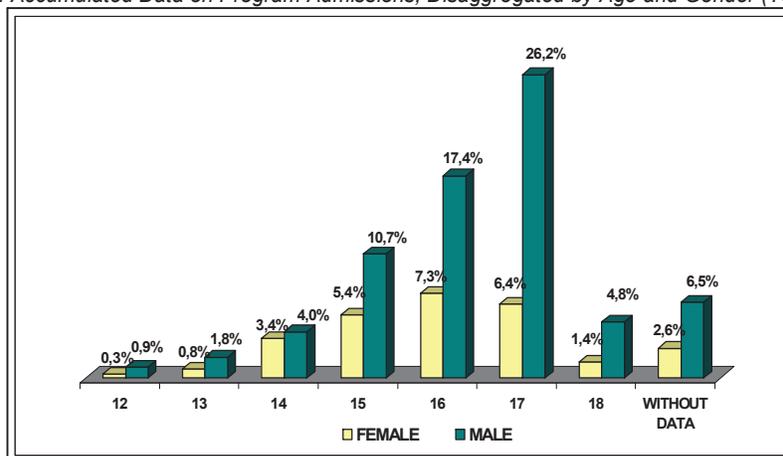
Of the total number of child ex-combatants assisted (1,176), 324 were girls (27.6%) and 852 were boys (72.4%). During the life of the program, this proportion has remained practically constant, which shows the greater vulnerability of boys to recruitment by irregular armed groups.

Table #5: Distribution of Incoming Children by Age and Gender (July - September 2003)

AGE	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#
12	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1
13	1	20.0%	4	80.0%	5
14	7	30.4%	16	69.6%	23
15	10	33.3%	20	66.7%	30
16	18	33.3%	36	66.7%	54
17	20	21.7%	72	78.3%	92
18	8	32.0%	17	68.0%	25
TOTAL	64	27.8%	166	72.2%	230

The ages of the children who entered the program during this quarter ranged between 12 and 18 years. The median (most common) age for both boys and girls was 17 (92 children), followed by 16 (54) and 15 (30). Considering that the average stay in armed groups is 2 years and 6 months according to an IOM/ICBF analysis, this suggests that the population aged between 13 and 14 is the group that is the most vulnerable to recruitment.

Graph #5: Accumulated Data on Program Admissions, Disaggregated by Age and Gender (Total: 1,176)



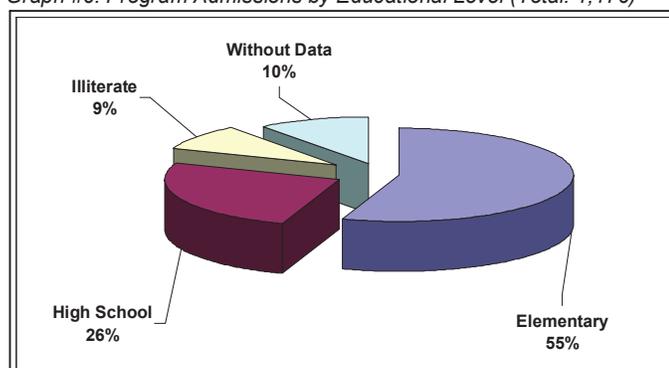
Graph # 5 shows the accumulated statistics disaggregated by age and gender, which ratifies the conclusion that the most numerous population group is the group of 17 year olds, with a small difference for girls, where 16 years old slightly dominate, with decreasing percentages found as the ages decrease. There is a group for which there is no data, which corresponds to the first children received by the ICBF, when the program information system was not in place.

Table #6: New Admissions by Educational Level and Gender (July - September 2003)

GRADE	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Elementary	33	14.3%	109	47.4%	142
High School	26	11.3%	35	15.2%	61
Illiterate	4	1.7%	21	9.1%	25
No Data	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	2
TOTAL	64	27.8%	166	72.2%	230

A total of 61.7 percent of the children entering the program this quarter (142) have not finished the basic elementary cycle in the educational system. This situation that represents a challenge in terms of assistance, both to ensure that children catch up to their peers, as well as to ensure job training. Nearly 11 percent (10.8%) of the children are illiterate (61), while overall child illiteracy in Colombia was 8.1 percent in the year 2000, according to the National Department of Planning (DNP) and based on data from the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) and the National Ministry of Education. Comparing educational levels by gender, the table shows that educational levels are lower among boys.

Graph #6: Program Admissions by Educational Level (Total: 1,176)



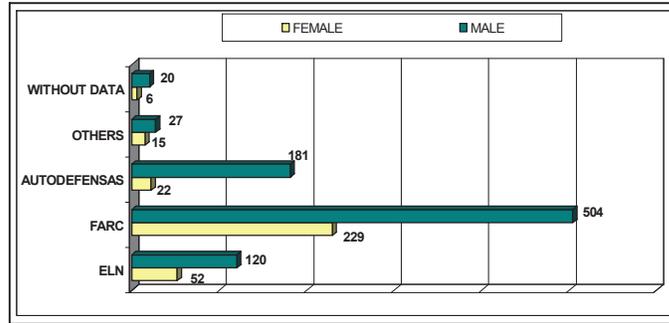
Graph # 6 presents the distribution of educational levels of the 1,176 child ex-combatants who have entered the program. It corroborates the high number of children who have not completed elementary School. The illiteracy rate and the percentage of young people at the primary level increased by one percent over the prior quarter, moving from 8 percent to 9 percent illiterate and from 54 percent to 55 percent with elementary School.

Table #7: Demobilization by Armed Group and Gender (July-Sept 2003)

ARMED GROUP	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#
ELN	7	3.0%	27	11.7%	34
FARC	45	19.6%	95	41.3%	140
Self-Defense Groups (AUC)	7	3.0%	36	15.7%	43
Other	5	2.2%	6	2.6%	11
No data	0	0.0%	2	0.9%	2
TOTAL	64	27.8%	166	72.2%	230

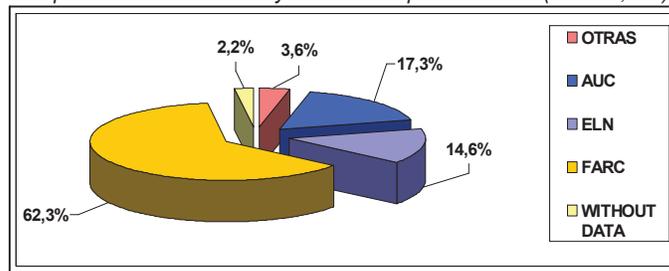
The data shows that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, is the irregular armed group that has recruited the largest number of children under the age of 18, but also the group with the highest number of demobilizations during this quarter, (60.8%). The number of demobilized minors coming from the the Colombian Self-Defense Groups, has remained constant at 43 cases (18.7 percent), followed by the National Liberation Army, ELN, with 34 (14.7%). The position of the *Autodefensas* as the second most important armed irregular group in terms of children demobilizing from the armed conflict is confirmed.

Graph #7: Demobilization by Armed Group and Gender (Total: 1,176)

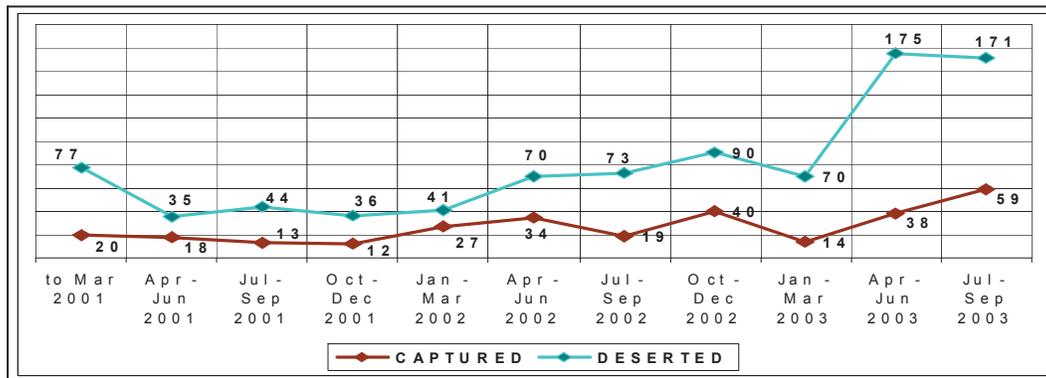


An examination of the gender distribution shows that not only is the FARC the largest source of demobilized children, it is also the group from which the largest number of girls come. Graph 7 present the gender-disaggregated totals of the groups to which child ex-combatants belonged.

Graph #8: Demobilization by Armed Group and Gender (Total: 1,176)



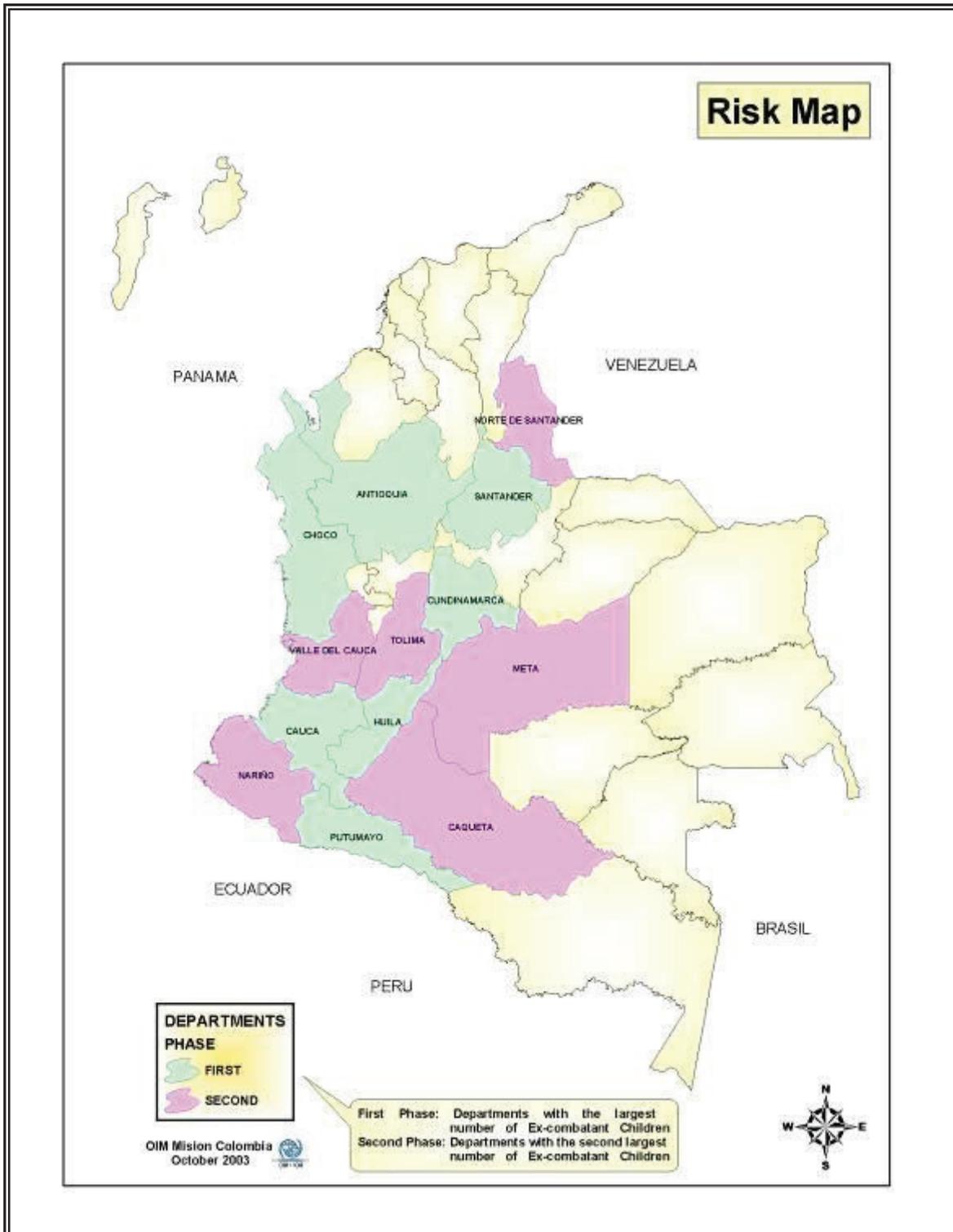
Graph #9: Program Admissions by Quarter and Type of Demobilization (Total: 1,176)



Graph # 9 presents the rapid growth in voluntary demobilization during the last two quarters of 2003. Exhaustion, mistreatment, fear, forced labor, and missing their families are the main reasons given by youth for voluntarily leaving the illegal armed groups.

V. PROGRAM STATUS BY COMPONENT

1. PREVENTION



Based on the USAID-approved application for extension presented by IOM, during this quarter, emphasis has been placed on the objectives of the workplan outlined below:

- Conceptualization and dissemination of the prevention strategy
- Methodological design and implementation of a risk mapping of vulnerabilities, the preparation of diagnostic assessments at the departmental level on the situation of children in the armed conflict and the supply of institutional places.
- Design of a mass media awareness-raising strategy on the subject of recruitment.

The activities in the objectives related to technical assistance to the areas of prevention of domestic and community violence, education, and income generation will be carried out at a later stage after a process of risk-mapping and they will depend on the areas and factors of prevention that are identified at the municipal level as an outcome of the mapping exercise. The sharing of the methodological strategy of mapping was anticipated. This allows its application in different spaces at the municipal level and makes it possible to broaden the coverage of the intervention plans. Likewise, the objective related to the evaluation component of the area of prevention will be developed as progress is made in implementing the strategy.

1.1 Workplan Progress

OBJECTIVE # 1: Introduce proposals to potential counterparts to prevent children from engaging in the armed conflict for discussion, review, allotment of funds and inclusion in regional plans		
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Prevention project implemented through regional operating plans designed for the 7 departments selected for the first stage (28 municipalities)	<p>1.1 Sent to IOM nine regional offices an executive summary of the prevention strategy with guidelines on looking for synergies with institutions present in the department</p> <p>1.2 10 institutions in each of the 7 departments are interviewed and respond to the institutional diagnostic assessment</p> <p>1.3 Prepared document with the institutional diagnostic assessment for the departments of Cauca, Choco, Huila, Putumayo, Santander, Cundinamarca and Antioquia</p> <p>1.4 Prepared document containing (7) regional situational analyses on children and the armed conflict, and prevention project shared with entities that influence the design of policy and operative plans in this area</p> <p>1.5 Coordination with and representation to the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office on the design of prevention plans and programs directed at boys, girls and young people</p> <p>1.6 Human Rights Ombudsman's Office incorporated the strategy of mapping vulnerabilities and risks into the project in Chocó as part of the work of prevention</p> <p>1.7 Identification of opportunities and threats to the implementation of the prevention strategy through regional assessments and analysis of the institutional places at the department level</p>	<p>-Cundinamarca's Office of Education</p> <p>-Hogares Claret, in Antioquia</p> <p>-Human Rights Ombudsman's Office</p> <p>-Delegate for Women Children and Youth</p> <p>-Social sector institutions</p> <p>-Governmental and non-governmental</p> <p>-Offices of health education</p> <p>-ICBF</p> <p>-Local and international NGOs present in the region</p> <p>-UN agencies</p>
OBJECTIVE # 2: Identify jointly with the community, risk factors that cause children to join insurgent groups and to design of prevention strategies in the municipalities selected		
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Risk Maps prepared for 28 municipalities in 7 departments: Huila, Cauca, Antioquia, Cundinamarca, Choco, Putumayo and Santander	<p>1.1 Hired a consultant for the methodological design of the mapping of vulnerabilities and risks</p> <p>1.2 Call for applications through media advertising and selection of field monitors to carry out first phase strategy in pre-selected departments</p> <p>1.3 Hiring a team of 10 field monitors and a team of 3 educators from the <i>Instituto Luis Carlos Galán</i></p> <p>1.4 Job training workshop for team of monitors selected by municipalities in the 7 departments according to a methodology that estimates the risk to viability of project implementation</p>	<p>-Instituto Luis Carlos Galán</p> <p>-Human Rights Ombudsman's Office</p>

Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Risk Maps prepared for 28 municipalities in 7 departments: Huila, Cauca, Antioquia, Cundinamarca, Choco, Putumayo and Santander	<p>1.5 10 field monitors and 3 educators trained to prepare risk maps for 28 municipalities</p> <p>1.6 Introduction of team of monitors to methodology of mapping for vulnerability and risks</p> <p>1.7 60 boys, girls and youths have participated in the identification of risks and participated in an awareness raising exercise on the issues</p> <p>1.8 Validation of the methodology: consultation with a team of experts; validation with demobilized youth in Bogotá; school children from an impoverished urban poor district in Popayán; a group of young indigenous people and Afro-Colombian youths demobilized from the armed conflict and those at risk in Popayán</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Instituto Luis Carlos Galán -Human Rights Ombudsman's Office and ICBF officials -Cauca departmental government -Cauca Department Education Office
OBJECTIVE # 3: Develop a strategy to prevent local recruitment, child abuse and domestic violence		
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Profile of intervention strategy to address problem of domestic violence as agreed by ICBF and IOM	<p>1.1 Coordination meetings between IOM Programs (IDPs, Peace and Human Trafficking) to establish IOM intervention strategy</p> <p>1.2 Coordination meetings with the ICBF</p> <p>1.3 Prepared Document containing project profile and preliminary list of priority municipalities</p>	-ICBF
OBJECTIVE # 4: Contribute to the strengthening of childhood public policies through the inclusion of the prevention issue in the agendas of the national, regional and local planning agencies		
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. The issue of preventing recruitment included in the Decade Plan for Children, the National Plan for the Eradication of Child Work, and in municipal development plans in the municipalities established as high priority areas by the program.	<p>1.1. Training of team of monitors to do regional diagnostic assessments on the situation of children and the armed conflict in the high priority municipalities</p> <p>1.2 Presentation of paper on prevention in the International Meeting "Children in Armed Conflicts" and coordination of working group on the subject the paper summarizes preventive actions that have been carried out in the country</p> <p>1.3 Prepared intervention project in support of the Decade Plan of the Cundinamarca Secretary of Education on the subject of children and youth in the armed conflict</p> <p>1.4 Meetings with officials of the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) and ICBF to coordinate the preparation of an International Labour Organization ILO plan of action on children in the armed conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Instituto Luis Carlos Galán -Public Sector agencies -Universities -NGOs -Private Sector -Embassies -Other UN Organizations -Cundinamarca Office of Education -ILO-IPEC, ICBF -Observatory on Children, National University -22 institutions participating on the Inter-Institutional Committee on the Elimination of Child Labour
OBJECTIVE # 5 : Design and implement a national awareness and information campaign on the problem posed by the recruitment of children by insurgent groups, prevention strategies, and the responsibility of institutions and citizens in this problem		
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Disseminated Awareness-raising campaign on issues of children in the armed conflict	<p>1.1 Call for applications and selection of agency</p> <p>1.2 Preparation of terms of reference to design a communication strategy for community radio stations that tackles the subject from an educational perspective</p> <p>1.3 Design for campaign and media strategy at the national and municipal levels</p> <p>1.4 Community radio strategy designed</p> <p>1.5 Coordination with radio show "Manos Amigas" of the UN system for the technical methodological design of the project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Human Rights Ombudsman's Office -ICBF -UNDP

2. EDUCATION COMPONENT

2.1 Workplan Progress

School graduation – Transitory Homes

Closeout of the CAFAM Methodology training workshop

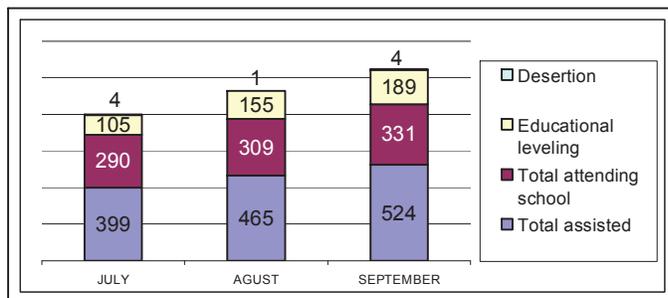
OBJECTIVE # 1: Guide and support improvements to the education component in every implementing institution		
Results	Activities	Synergies
<p><i>1. Implementing institutions advised on the design and implementation of educational strategies to assist ex-combatant children</i></p>	<p>1.1 A training workshop for 40 Implementing-partner institution professionals and teacher was held 1.2 Prepared a document with conceptual, methodological and operating guidelines for the management and implementation of the CAFAM Continuing Education Methodology (See appendix 1) 1.3 Consulting regarding the formulation of educational projects to develop the educational component in the Attention Centers, using the CAFAM methodology 1.4 Educational assistance has been given to 106 youth, and 24 CAE scholarships have been trained utilizing the CAFAM methodology 1.5 Technical educational consulting has been provided for the pre-selection, evaluation and contracting of educational services for youth with the local educational institutions 1.6 135 slots have been created to assist youth in the CAEs (Arco Iris, La Barca, La Guapa, Santos Ángeles, Vide y San José)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CAFAM -Implementing NGOs -ICBF -IDEI (Cali) -COMFAMILIAR (Cauca) -Educational Implementing Institutions
<p><i>2. Implementing NGOs consulted on the design and implementation of teaching strategies for the assistance of excombatant children</i></p>	<p>2.1 Technical consulting and assistance visits to the new implementing partners have taken place, to guide the formulation of the Integrated Assistance Plan, the setting up of a local support network, and the development of institutional management in the different Program components 2.2 13 assistance plans have been designed and 11 are in place 2.3 11 institutions have set up support networks 2.4 Educational assistance to youth has been provided in the Contingency Plan, with the CAFAM Continuing Education methodology. (See Appendix 2) 2.5 Eighty youth from 3 HATs received education testing. They were brought up to speed in their basic competencies and their personal education path was identified (See Appendix 3) 2.6 Programs to Prevent child recruitment have received support 2.7 Four municipalities have been identified as high-risk for child recruitment in the armed conflict, and educational coverage has increased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Implementing NGOs -ICBF: Regional and local Centers -Local Institutional Networks -Cundinamarca -Education Office -Instituto Luis Carlos Galán
OBJECTIVE # 2: Guarantee the reestablishment of the educational rights for the youth entering the program		
Results	Activities	Synergies

<p><i>1. Support the Implementing Partner Centers' educational processes to ensure the educational development of demobilized youth</i></p>	<p>1.1 Coaching, feedback and technical-educational assistance to Implementing Partner NGOs has been provided 1.2 Educational guidelines for the development and improvement of the quality of education in the Implementing Partner Centers have been laid out 1.3 A teaching model, commensurate with the Program's youth learning processes was designed 1.4 An evaluation was carried out on the basic requirements for educational elements to support the development and quality of the educational component in the Implementing Partner Centers 1.5 A project to procure educational material for the education rooms in 10 CAEs was approved 1.6 A document containing an educational environment improvement plan for the CAEs 1.7 Consulting for educational projects has been provided in order to guarantee coverage and quality in the education services provided to youth accessing the Program 1.8 13 Implementing Partner Centers have attained financing for the development of their educational proposals thus ensuring coverage plus timely and appropriate services for youth 1.9 Review and adapt unconventional flexible educational options for possible implementation in the educational processes of demobilized youth 1.10 Prepared a document on proposals and unconventional flexible educational options to be implemented in the educational services to demobilized youth: <i>Escuela Nueva, Aceleración del Aprendizaje y Bachillerato por Ciclos para Adultos y Jóvenes, Educación a Distancia/Semipresencial</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Implementing NGOs -ICBF -Ministry of Education -Townships and Sectorial Projects offering Educational Materials -Fundación Vide -Fundación Enseñame a Pescar -Corporación Punto de Luz -Proyección Social -Pasos del Orinoco -Hogares Claret
Results	Activities	Synergies
<p><i>2. Support for educational processes in the Implementing partner Centers to ensure the educational development of demobilized youth.</i></p>	<p>2.1 266 scholarships for formal schooling in the quarter have been granted. 246 to institutionalized youth and 20 for youth reintegrated into their families. The scholarships were for elementary, middle and high school, and they cover registration, materials, books, school and sport uniforms, snacks and transportation allowance 2.2 Regulations were established for the IOM scholarship system to support formal education and vocational education of demobilized youth (See Annex 4) 2.3 The USAID proposal to create a Scholarship Fund for undergraduate studies in technical and technological areas for demobilized youth was analyzed (See Appendix 5) 2.4 Contacts were made and innovative and appropriate education offers were considered by the Ministry of Education for treating special and vulnerable sectors of the populations. 2.5 A portfolio of appropriate and available education service for youth educational needs 2.6 A portfolio of Integrated Services to support and monitor youth integration was prepared</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -COMFAMILIAR IDEI -CONFANDI -CAFAM -Colegio Cristiano del Norte -Colegio Virtual XXI -Implementing NGOs -USAID -COLSUBSIDIO -CONFACAUCA -UNAD -LEGODACTA -SER FUTURO
<p>OBJECTIVE # 3: Inter-institutional coordination to improve the restitution of ex-combatant children's right to education and to guarantee the Program's sustainability.</p>		
Results	Activities	Synergies

<p>1. Coordination and agreements of actions among government agencies towards educational service for demobilized youth</p>	<p>1.1 A preliminary educational policy document was drafted as well as a legal one that will orient and establish the general conditions to effectively carry out the restitution of the right to education for youth demobilized from armed conflict 1.2 The Ministry of Education has been advised on the process to adopt and implement an educational policy (See Appendix 7 & 8) 1.3 With the aid of the Human Rights Ombudsman Office, recommendations are in place for the Ministry of Education (MEN)'s bill awaiting discussion, to tailor it towards the educational needs of demobilized youth and in line with the provisions in Colombian education regulations 1.4 Action Plans were designed to implement Education Policies and the MEN's ruling to provide education service for demobilized youth 1.5 A joint Action Plan was designed with the departments and Municipality Education Offices. It sets up the required conditions to render official education services for demobilized youth in the different cities where the Program operates 1.6 A mapping was carried out of official education institutions that render education services to Program's youth 1.7 ICBF Assistance Program guidelines were updated, spotlighting the educational component 1.8 Feed-back was provided on the "Social-family Environment Modality" proposal (See Appendix 9) 1.9 Participation on the First International Summit on Childhood and Armed Conflict: Exchange of experiences (See Appendix 10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ministry of Education -Townships Direction -ICBF -UNICEF -Restrepo Barco Foundation -CEPEI
<p>2. Inter-institutional actions aimed at developing intervention strategies needed to address the youth demobilized from armed conflict</p>	<p>2.1 A handbook to inform youth who join the program about the restitution of their rights was produced 2.2 Support, participation and technical responsibilities in the Inter-institutional educational alliance for Peace 2.3 Training of trainers in educational experiences for Peace 2.4 Systematization of education experiences and methodologies to strengthen them 2.5 Organization of the Third International Seminar on educational experiences for Peace (See Appendix 12)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UNICEF -ICBF -Human Rights Ombudsman -World Bank -OEI -MEN -Restrepo Barco Foundation -Convenio Andrés Bello

1.2 Data on the beneficiaries of the education component

Graph #10: Assisted Children vs. Children Attending School in CAEs



The graph shows the total number of children assisted by the program and the number of them who benefited from the education assistance component (attending school & attending educational leveling) during this quarter.

An assessment of the teaching and learning methodologies of the implementing ONGs concluded that 81.8% of the methodologies are pertinent.

The percentage of children attending school varied from 72% in July, to 60% in September. Regarding educational leveling, 26% of the children benefited in July, 33% in August and 39 in September. This means that there were more Children in need of educational leveling to catches up with peers.

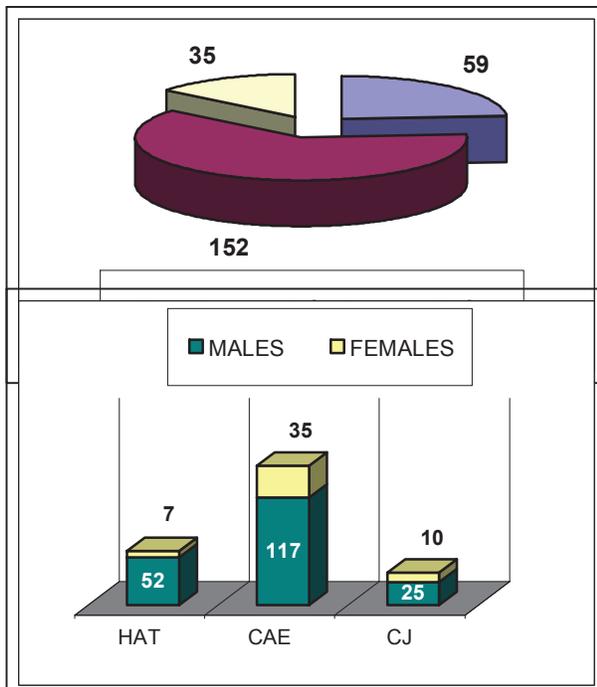
During the first quarter, the Program guaranteed education assistance to 67.43% of youth. Generally, when they enter the HATs the youngster's education level is evaluated. Then, they simultaneously begin an academic leveling process and some schoolwork that can help them prepare for the CAE's educational system to which they will be transferred. This type of service is also provided in the CAEs during the first weeks the youngsters arrived. The academic leveling process is considered to be the adaptation time necessary for the youngsters and the institutions to adjust to the new context. This time is also used for the administrative process required for their acceptance into a formal education program.

Table #8 Scholarships by Phase, Center, Gender and Grade

Phase	Center	Scholarships approved JUL-SEP						Total scholarships per center	
		MALES			FEMALES				
		L	E	H	L	E	H		
HAT	H. Luna	27			7			34	
	H. Nuevos caminos	25						25	
	Sub total	52	0	0	7	0	0	59	
CAE	La Barca		5	4		6	4	19	
	Vide		10	5		2	3	20	
	San José		9	7		2	2	20	
	La Guapa		8	13		2	5	28	
	Santos Angeles		12	5			3	20	
	Arco Iris		9	7	11	1	1	3	32
	Puertas Abiertas		10	2		1			13
	Sub total	9	61	47	1	14	20	152	
CJ	Cordes		6	7		2	4	19	
	Juan Bosco		5	7		1	3	16	
	Sub total	0	11	14	0	3	7	35	
TOTAL		61	72	61	8	17	27	246	
Total by Gender		194			52				
Total Scholarships Granted		246							

L: Academic leveling E: Elementary H: High School

Graph # 11: # of Scholarships by Implementing NGO (Center)



During the July-September quarter 246 additional formal education scholarships were approved. The total number of approved scholarships represents 39.8% of the total number of youth assisted in the quarter (618 adolescents). Of the total approved scholarships, 78.8% were granted to boys, mainly for studies in elementary education. The scholarships awarded to girls went primarily towards basic high school education. Similarly, during the quarter, the application for and awarding of educational scholarships mainly addressed the CAE phase, with a total of 152 approved scholarships.

Graph #12 : Scholarships by Gender in Each Phase of Assistance

Among the scholarships awarded in each phase of the Program (HAT, CAE and CJ), the tendency shown in the previous quarter is maintained: a greater number of boys assisted, and furthermore, a greater number of scholarships awarded to boys in the three phases of the Demobilized Youth Assistance Program.

Graph #13: Scholarships Granted to Reintegrated Children Jul – Sep

Sixteen scholarships were granted to the youth set up in the family reintegration program to continue their formal education: 7 were granted to boys and 9 to girls. The youth are making the best use of all these scholarships in spite of the economic and social-cultural hardships the majority of them are under. In the Foster Homes system one scholarship was granted to continue elementary education, however, the beneficiary gave it up later on. These kinds of situations are generally related to youth changes or crises. Three scholarships were awarded to other children in the family group of a demobilized boy who is in the reintegration program. This is aimed at meeting the specific needs of support, aiding the family unit and preventing the beneficiaries' siblings' possible engagement into insurgent groups or in crime. This strategy is two-fold since not only the family feels the support but the smaller members are able to get positively involved in the reintegration process of their demobilized sibling.

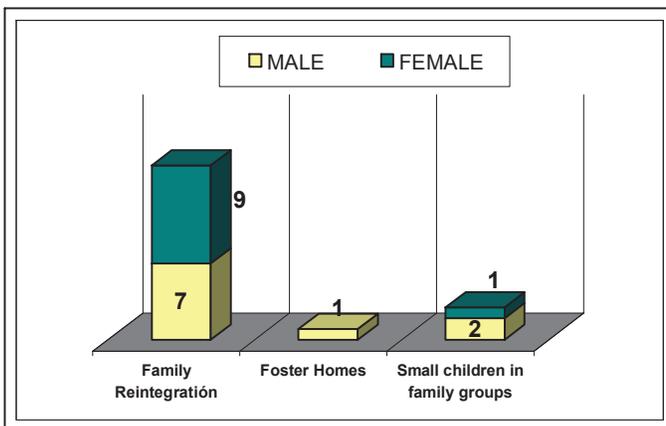
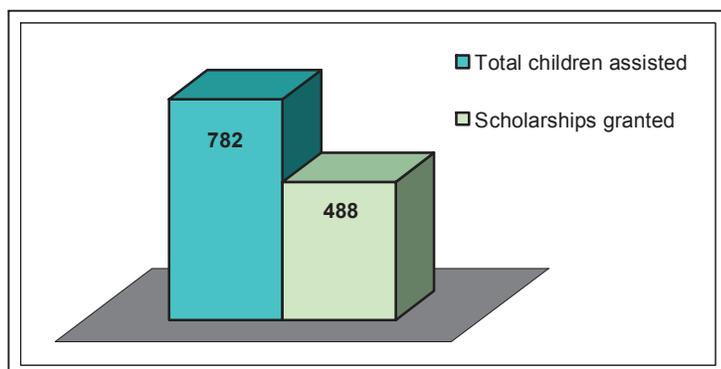


Table #9: Scholarships Cumulative Data

Phase or location	March-Dec 2002			Jan-June 2003				July-Sept 2003			
	L	E	H	L	E	H	College Ed.	No formal	L	E	H
Temporary Home	6	2	37	80	41	10			59		
Specialized Attention Center	2	4		1	4	10	1		10	75	67
Half Way Home	2	5		1	6			2		14	21
Family Reintegration				1						4	12
Prevention and reintegration of minors of the family group				2	1						3
Foster Home				1	3					1	
Reintegration Program Min-Interior	10	11	37	81	50	30	1	2	69	94	103
TOTAL BY PERIOD	58			164				266			
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED				488							



Graph # 14: Scholarship Granted vs. Assisted Children Mar 2002 – Sep 2003

The IOM Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of 488 scholarships for formal education from March 2002 until

September 2003. The total number of scholarships awarded represents 62% coverage regarding the total population served by the program from March 2002 (Starting date of the scholarship fund) to September 2003. The level of the Fund's initial coverage served the educational needs in some of the implementing partner centers, and it gradually took in youth that are on the family reintegration program.

3. IOM-ICBF PROGRAM STRENGTHENING

3.1 Workplan Progress

International Seminar on Childhood and Armed Conflict - Bogotá

OBJECTIVE # 1: Strengthen the institutional capacity to attend children disengaged from the armed groups by reaching consensus on action criteria and by implementing health, artistic, political ethical and therapeutic projects from a psychosocial perspective thus trying to improve the quality of attention and the social insertion process.

Results	Activities	Synergies
<p><i>1. Designed and implemented a psycho-social treatment model for the youngsters disengaged from the armed conflict</i></p>	<p>1.1 The regional workshops initiated during the previous quarter have continued to take place. During July and August several workshops were held in Cali and Bogotá with implementing NGOs and ICBF technical teams. The objective is to reach consensus on the criteria and characteristics of the program in each stage and for each component. Analyses were carried out of the strengths and weaknesses of the program at a regional and local level and within the implementing NGOs. The participants had a chance for dialogue regarding the attention processes provided to the youngsters. Work plans per institution and the continuation of roundtables by component are being considered. Operating criteria are being developed for four roundtables on health, family, therapeutic and cultural issues. The program's criteria were discussed in 100% of the regions. The workshops were attended by 100 individuals from the technical teams. The experiences and conclusions during the regional workshops were systematized (See attachment 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ICBF -SENA -UNICEF -CEPEI -OCHA -ACNUR -WHO -UNDP -OACNUDH -FUNOF -IOM Analysis Unit -Area (local) and Regional Centers -Implementing NGOs
Results	Activities	Synergies

<p>1. Designed and implemented a psycho-social treatment model for the youngsters disengaged from the armed conflict</p>	<p>1.2 A base document for action, by component was drafted, establishing the minimum goals to have in mind in each stage. HAT, CAE y CJ. (See attachment 2)</p> <p>1.3 A proposal was presented to obtain information on the characteristics of the youngsters in terms of their emotional experience regarding their engagement in and removal from the armed conflict (See attachment 3)</p> <p>1.4 A design of the terms of reference for five topic modules was carried out to provide the technical teams with the necessary tools to address therapeutic treatment. Once the modules are developed a specialized academic program (<i>diplomado</i>) will be carried out to train the officials. The modules will be carried out during the academic program. (See attachment 4)</p> <p>1.5 Joint actions were carried out with the IOM Analysis Unit for a research on the causes for youth engagement in and demobilization from the armed conflict. A survey was drafted that will be carried out among 126 youngsters. The results are expected to provide information for treatment and prevention work. Progress in the research project and the survey are at 30%. (See attachment 5)</p> <p>1.6 An international conference was held jointly by UNICEF, IOM, the Restrepo Barco Foundation, and the European Center for International Strategic Thought (CEPEI) (<i>Centro Europeo de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional</i>) to exchange experiences and lessons learned on prevention and support given to children and youth demobilized from the armed conflict. The experiences in Africa and Cambodia and the participation of experts in different areas provided important elements for discussion later on during the panels for in-depth analysis of the main issues proposed in the conference. 160 invitations vs. 140 attendees (See attachment)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Corporación Apoyo a víctimas pro-recuperación emocional (AVRE) -Corporación Vínculos -Centro de Investigación Clínico-psicológica (CEIC) -Fundación Restrepo Barco -Human Rights Ombudsman's Office -Ministry of Justice -Ministry of Education - -Ministry of Social Protection -Child Observatory -Attorney General's Office -Nacional University -Andes University -Javeriana University
Results	Activities	Synergies
<p>2. Overall psychosocial treatment model implemented in the areas of health, culture, art and recreation, political ethics⁵⁵ and therapy at the centers</p>	<p>2.1 In the health area, the Profamilia project was coordinated and implemented with youth and technical teams. General health rallies and educational sexual and reproductive health workshops (sexuality, sexual violence, family planning methods, prevention (ETS), gender, and sexual and reproductive rights) were carried out. Profamilia evaluated and provided health care to 45 youth; 112 youth were provided general health care; 43 received contraceptives; 13 were tested for pregnancy; 160 laboratory tests were taken; 57 youth were examined by specialists; 25 implementing NGO officials of Cundinamarca and Bogotá were provided training on sexual and reproductive rights during eight workshops</p> <p>2.2 A training project was coordinated with the Red Cross for youth and personnel working in the homes. They were provided first aid, disaster assistance, primary health care for tropical diseases, acute respiratory infections (IRA in Spanish) and acute diarrhea disease (EDA in Spanish) training. Furthermore, 240 individuals of the program (youth and professionals) are expected to be trained; 16 implementing NGOs; 4 HAT; 14 CAEs; 3 CJs (See attachment 8)</p> <p>2.3 The development of the HIV/AIDS project was coordinated with the <i>El Tunal</i> Hospital. The objective is to have the services of the hospital available to test the youngsters for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis, to carry out workshops on prevention, and to provide health care to the youngsters who test zero-positive. The youngsters are considered to be at a high risk due to the sexual patterns they established during the time they belonged to the insurgent groups, where there is a large occurrence of couples and companions rotation, and because ETS is found in some of them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Profamilia -Colombian Red Cross -<i>El Tunal</i> Hospital
Results	Activities	Synergies

⁵⁵ Non-violent communications, exercises on relationships that contribute to peace on an every day life, etc.

<p>2. Overall psychosocial treatment model implemented in the areas of health, culture, art and recreation, political ethics⁵⁶ and therapy at the centers</p>	<p>2.4 The Nacional University research project on the physical and mental health tests taken by the implementing NGOs to the youngsters continues. The system for physical and mental health has analyzed 300 clinical histories of youngsters who have participated in the program. The research project is 80 percent completed</p> <p>2.5 In the cultural area, the research project has been initiated on the cultural factors that cause children to join the armed conflict. The program and the ICBF chose 11 institutions where the interviews and conversations with the youngsters and the technical teams will take place. The research methodology will include approximately 7 to 10 life stories and speech analysis</p> <p>2.6 Cultural and recreational projects were presented, coordinated and carried out by the implementing NGOs for 139 youth as follows: "Children's Planet Project": singing, dancing and acting in the CAEs of Vide, Santos de los Angeles and San Jose; "Olympic games, recreation, and sports Project" in the La Guapa CAE; "Youth cultural project in the CJ of Cali" with the Juan Bosco Center; "Singing and Dancing Cultural Project in the La Barca CAE"; and support for the "Fonámbulos Project" in four CAEs</p> <p>2.7 A contract was signed for the production of a CD with artists, singers, Colombian personalities, and children disengaged from the armed conflict. The objective is to create awareness among the public opinion of the situation of child soldiers and to envisage reconciliation in ethical, humane, solidarity and purposeful terms.</p> <p>2.8 The project's song was produced by a composer who has recorded several pieces with national and international artists. A production team is in place to carry out the project. The musical arrangements were made in Miami. Artists and singers have been made aware of the problem so that they record with the youth. Participation in the recording of the song has been confirmed by 13 artists</p> <p>Production</p> <p>2.9 20 youth of Bogotá and Cundinamarca have been selected and registered in the Recreation and Sports Specialized Academic Program (<i>diplomado</i>). The program is expected to last seven months. They will provide internships in sports and recreational centers</p> <p>2.10 Workshops and group discussions were carried out in the therapeutic field with 37 youth who are benefiting from the program and with the <i>Colectivo Mujeres Excombatientes</i> NGO. These events touch on reflection processes, acknowledgement and redefinition of their experience in the armed conflict, and the effects on their lives as women. The objective is to boost the identity of the girls, reconcile them with themselves, and redefine their role and place in the society. Methodology tools have been developed to work with the girls</p> <p>2.11 Five regional workshops were carried out with the participation of 124 people (technical teams and youth). The objective is to train them on the consumption of psychoactive substances (SPA in Spanish), detection and prevention. The project is divided into three levels. During this quarter the first level was carried out in four regions of the country. The risk factors and protection at an individual, family and social level, by cities, have been identified (See attachment 9)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Nacional University -CERLALC -INCCA University -Pioter Foundation -District Recreation and Sports Institute (<i>Instituto Distrital de Recreación y Deporte</i>) -ICBF -Colectivo Mujeres Excombatientes -Peveer Foundation
<p>OBJECTIVE # 2 : Institute a monitoring and evaluation system for implementation follow-up on the services offered to the youth during the different phases of the program</p>		
<p>Results</p>	<p>Activities</p>	<p>Synergies</p>

⁵⁶ Non-violent communications, exercises on relationships that contribute to peace on an every day life, etc.

<p>1. A unified monitoring and evaluation system instituted at the care centers that will enable follow-up on the status of each one of the youngsters within the program</p>	<p>1.1 The terms of reference (TDR in Spanish) were established and a new consultant has been hired to develop a monitoring system 1.2 An Action Plan has been put together that identifies the variables that will be taken into consideration by the system in addition to the necessary instruments for its implementation (See attachment 7) 1.3 The progress made by the first and second monitoring consulting processes has been reviewed. A document on the inter-institutional agreements for the development of the monitoring system has been drafted 1.4 A matrix was designed with guidelines according to the rights of the children 1.5 A pre-design for the organization and dissemination of the program's monitoring model was carried out 1.6 The first draft of the impact assessment indicators is in place (See attachment 7)</p>	<p>-ICBF -Implementing NGOs</p>
<p>OBJECTIVE # 3: Expand the services in each one of the stages of the program (temporary homes, Specialized Attention Center, children's homes)</p>		
Results	Activities	Synergies
<p>1. Increased both the number of institutions (7) and the slots (196) to provide services to the youngsters</p>	<p>1.1 Three CAEs were opened in Cundinamarca: one with the IDIPRON Foundation with slots for 50 children and two with the VIDE Foundation with 50 slots. (See attachment on Specifications) 1.2 A CAE was opened in Pereira with the <i>Hogares Claret</i> NGO to attend 25 youth 1.3 Furnishing of the four new homes 1.4 Institutional strengthening projects have been initiated for the new entities: cultural project, scholarships, productive projects: experimental farm and payment of slot/child/month in the case of <i>IDIPRON</i></p>	<p>-ICBF -VIDE -District Center for the Protection of Children and Youth (<i>Instituto Distrital para la Protección de la Niñez y la Juventud</i>) -<i>Hogares Claret</i></p>
<p>OBJECTIVE # 4: Continue the technical and administrative strengthening work of the implementing NGOs that are currently providing services.</p>		
Results	Activities	Synergies
<p>1. Services provided to the youth strengthened⁵⁷ at a technical and administrative level</p>	<p>1.1 TORs were put together to select a contractor that will strengthen administrative, programmatic and business management operations systems of the implementing NGOs (See attachment 10) 1.2 The program's guidelines were updated after intense inter-institutional ICBF-IOM work meetings. The development of the components and the foster homes' system was also discussed (See attachment 11)</p>	<p>-CONFECAMARAS -ICBF</p>
Results	Activities	Synergies

⁵⁷ A strengthened service is one that has unified criteria, guidelines in place, an implementation evaluation and monitoring system, clear and complete characterizations from the time the youngster enters the program. All this results in a more effective, coherent and assertive service to address the needs of the youngsters and is appropriate from the implementing institutions' standpoint.

<p>2. Strengthened⁵⁸ services to the youngsters at a technical and administrative level</p>	<p>2.1 A cost survey for overall services to the youngsters in the program, in accordance with minimum standards regarding the restitution of their rights, has been initiated. A financial management analysis has been undertaken in five homes. The minimum standards to be taken into consideration in the costs survey are being developed. The real cost requirements for attention, in accordance to the technical guidelines of the program, will be developed later on</p> <p>2.2 Three universities, six NGOs, and two state institutions have been contracted to design and implement a community networks project in Bogotá and Cundinamarca, in order to strengthen and coordinate the local services and projects network</p> <p>2.3 Awareness and discussion panels were begun with different institutions such as universities, NGOs and state institutions about the children demobilized from the armed conflict in order to agree on joint responsibility and community participation projects.</p> <p>2.4 A community reinsertion project was initiated with 20 youth through a specialized academic program (<i>diplomado</i>) for recreation and sports education</p> <p>2.5 Technical strengthening in the five regions where the program operates continues. Support has been given to the ICBF Area (local) Centers and to the family encounters through social work consulting services. Two workshops were held in Bogotá during which the special development situation of the program by regions was discussed. Furthermore, support strategies were established in the areas where weaknesses were identified such as access to the <i>Sisben</i>, legal processes follow-up, employability projects, and interruption of the processes due to youth transfers</p> <p>2.6 A reflection and learning workshop was held with officials of all the HATs about reception and assistance processes in case of massive disengagement of youngsters from the armed conflict</p> <p>2.7 A document on strategies for therapeutic treatment and lessons learned was produced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Implementing NGOs -ICBF regional offices of Valle del Cauca, Cundinamarca, Antioquia, Risaralda, Bogotá y Santander -Javeriana University -La Salle Pastoral Training Home (<i>Casa de Formación Pastoral La Salle</i>) -INCCA University -Chia IDRD -Ficonpaz -Asociación <i>Afecto Limpal</i> -René García Corporation -Synergy Comunicar Corporation
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4. FAMILY REINTEGRATION



Family encounters CAE La Florida – Medellín (Antioquia)

Family Encounter CAE Vide – Chia (Cundinamarca)

4.1 Workplan Progress

⁵⁸ A strengthened service is one that has unified criteria, guidelines in place, an implementation evaluation and monitoring system, clear and complete characterizations from the time the youngster enters the program. All this results in a more effective, coherent and assertive service to address the needs of the youth and is appropriate from the implementing institutions' standpoint.

OBJECTIVE # 1: Strengthen and promote family reintegration if security conditions allow it		
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Guidelines implemented during the psychosocial support and reintegration strengthening work with the families	<p>1.1 Plans by implementing NGO were designed and approved to carry out family encounters by region</p> <p>1.2 Seven family encounters took place in four regions of the country: Antioquia, Santander, Bogotá and Santander. Reencounters with the families were facilitated for 91 youngsters</p> <p>1.3 Family encounters by region were analyzed. Some family characteristics were identified as follows: families' low education level, high percentage of displaced families, existing relationship with insurgent groups, threats received from insurgent groups for moving from originating areas to visit their children, among others. This situation derives from the armed conflict in the country and the influence that the insurgent groups have on the youngsters' families. This generates difficulties for family reintegration (See attachment 13)</p> <p>1.4 Family-social reviews were carried out for possible family reintegration. During the quarter 16 youngsters were reintegrated into their families</p>	<p>-Enséñame a Pescar</p> <p>-Punto de Luz</p> <p>-Proyección Social</p> <p>-Pasos del Orinoco</p> <p>-Don Bosco</p> <p>-Hogares Claret</p> <p>-VIDE</p> <p>-ICBF</p> <p>-Benposta</p>

Table #10 of Children Who Met with their Families

ICBF's Regional Office	# of children who met with their families March-June / 03	# of children who met with their families July-September / 03
Cundinamarca	5	13
Santander	5	11
Bogotá	10	42
Antioquia	10	15
Valle	3	0
TOTAL	33	81

During this quarter the number of family encounters increased by 245%; the number of beneficiary children increased from 33 to 91. This significant increase resulted from the promotion, design and implementation of seven encounters during this period.

Table #11 Assisted Children vs. Family Reintegrated Children

# of children assisted during this quarter	# of children reintegrated into their families this quarter
621	17

The number of children who were reintegrated into their families totaled 17, or 3% of the youngsters attended. This is due to the lack of security for their return including the presence of insurgent groups in the places where their families live in addition to their extreme poverty conditions

Table #12 of Children Reintegrated into their Families by Type of Institution

Type of Institution	Name of the Institution	# of children reintegrated	# of children reintegrated
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		into their families This quarter	into their families Cumulative
Transitory Homes	<i>Luna</i>	0	4
	José	0	2
	Shalom	0	0
	Claret	2	2
Specialized Attention Centers	VIDE	2	2
	Santos Ángeles	1	1
	San José	0	0
	Servicio Juvenil	0	0
	ACJ	0	0
	Forjar	0	0
	Arco Iris	2	9
	Benposta	1	7
	Buendía	0	22
	La Bella	0	13
	Puertas Abiertas	6	14
	Semillas de Paz	1	7
	Melquíades	0	5
	Nueva Vida	0	8
	Ágape	0	7
	La Barca	0	0
	Nueva Luz	0	0
La Florida	0	0	
Half Way Homes	Cali, Bogotá and Bucaramanga	1	7
ICBF Protection	ICBF Protection	1	12
TOTAL		17	122

5. ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

The strategy for the youth access to employment includes both the implementation of *productive projects* as well as *institutional* projects that endeavor to improve the conditions for achieving these initiatives, plus better responsiveness from the business sector. In terms of the productive projects, the strategy is based on a model that channels investment to pre-selected productive activities (target sectors) based on criteria such as labor intensity, low technological complexity, expectations of competitiveness, and on the evaluation and selection of business opportunities in areas defined as complementary lines.

During the quarter, funds totaling US\$89,419 were spent, of which the program contributed US\$77,156 (86.3%) and the counterparts contributed US\$12,263 (13.7%). This implementation corresponds to eight projects: six productive projects and two institutional ones. The cumulative total implemented is US\$371,947 of which the program has funded US\$268,116 (72.1%) and the counterparts have contributed with US\$104,532 (27.9%).

The complete portfolio features 28 macro-projects in which 37 productive projects and two institutional projects are being funded, with a total of 1,052 beneficiaries, 779 men (69.1%) and 273 women (30.9%).

In terms of beneficiaries by project type, 53 youths in the *target sectors* have benefited, 28 men (52.8%) and 25 women (47.2%); 624 in the supplementary lines, 451 men (72.3%) and 173 women (27.7%); and 375 in institutional projects, 300 men (80.0%) and 75 women (20.0%).

5.1. Workplan progress

OBJECTIVE 1: To improve the understanding of the profile of the youths who join the program and to fulfill their learning expectations.

Results	Activities	Synergies
1. An improved understanding of the profile of the youths who join the program and to fulfill their learning expectations	1.1 Forms for collecting information and developing a profile were designed 1.2 Labor skills survey form tested on three centers and 38 youths, corresponding to 10% of the population 1.3 Information provided to 34 youths, with projects for production and family reunification 1.4 One hundred percent of the implementing NGOs trained to evaluate profiles	-ICBF -Human Rights Ombudsman Office
2. The income generation strategy disseminated to all the youths participating in the program	2.1 Educational booklets designed together with the other program areas, to educate the youths in alternatives for demanding their rights	

OBJECTIVE 2: To train the youths involved in the program in labor skills that will enable them to work to earn money, as part of their basic education, with emphasis on the development of social-psychological and technical skills and on-the-job learning

Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Trained 350 youths in pre-learning processes and ⁵⁹ in pre-labor orientation	1.1 Teachers were hired from the Implementing NGO, in preparation for the learning through experience workshops ⁶⁰ with the youths	-Implementing NGO
2. Trained 240 youths in vocational education ⁶¹ and labor exploration ⁶²	2.1 This quarter 35 study grants were given out, for a cumulative total of 189 this year. Produced document of the steps to have access to employment (Annex 1) 2.2. A model for a work-study program with public and private sector businesses was developed. Training has begun with 30 youths at the National Postal Administration (ADPOSTAL)	-ADPOSTAL -SENA
3. Trained 170 youths in basic labor skills	3.1 Design of a strategy for pre-labor and labor training (Annex 2) All (100%) of the Implementing NGOs received instruction in the labor training strategy 3.2 Training in areas where shortcomings were identified in the preliminary assessment in order to ensure that the youths acquire the labor skills needed for the productive system (Annex 3) 3.3. Design of a model for on-the-job learning supported by a mentor network (Annex 4) 3.4 Creation of two CIPIs: 1) Restaurant, cultural café, bakery, and handicrafts 2) Farm 3.5 Two agreements on work training and apprenticeship are being negotiated 3.6 Certified 45 youths in basic skills for each sector (target and complementary)	-Implementing NGOs -Center for Incubation and Productive Initiatives (CIPI) - <i>Minuto de Dios</i> Foundation

OBJECTIVE 3: To orient the youths in the development of a business spirit and in the exploration of viable productive initiatives

⁵⁹ Process through which the youths "learn to learn" and begin group learning processes.

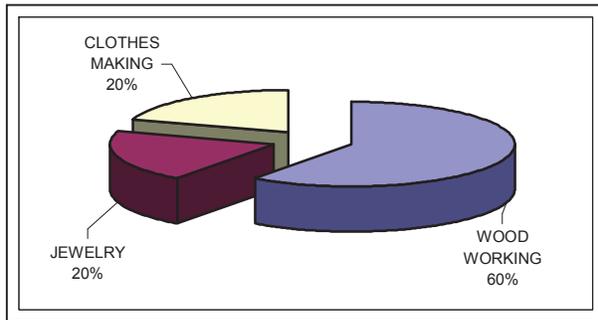
⁶⁰ Simulation workshops held in the workplace with groups of youths in a business environment.

⁶¹ Workshops with the youths for exploring basic skills in specific sectors, such as footwear, jewelry-making, woodworking, event organization, and commercial farming activities.

⁶² A model of labor exploration, focusing on visits to companies and knowledge of labor skills and jobs in real settings.

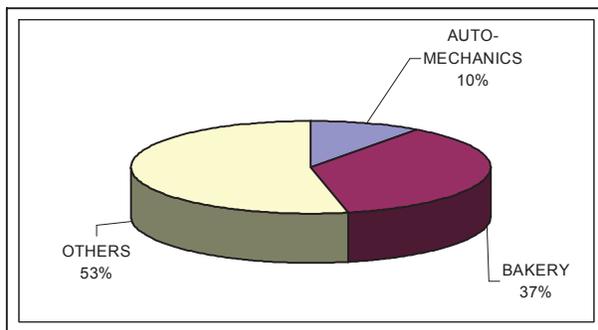
Auto Mechanics	2	1	3	10%
Bakery	11	0	11	36.6%
Other	9	7	16	53.3%
Sub-total	22	8	30	100%
TOTAL TARGET SECTOR AND SUPPLEMENTARY SECTORS	27	8	35	

Table #14 and Graph #15 Scholarships Target Sector and Gender July-Sept



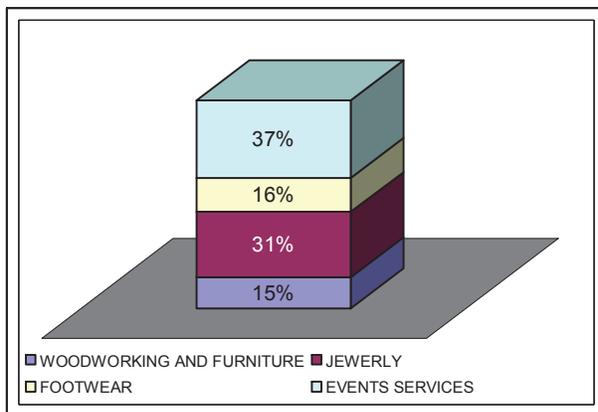
Target sectors	Male	Female	Total	%
Woodworking	3	0	3	60%
Jewelry	1	0	1	20%
Clothes making	1	0	1	20%
TOTAL	5	0	5	100%

Table #15 and Graph #16 Scholarships Supplementary Sector and Gender July-Sept

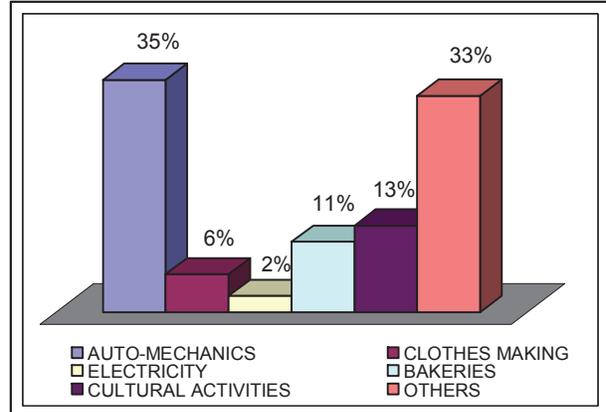


Supplementary sectors	Male	Female	Total	%
Auto-mechanics	2	1	3	10%
Bakery	11	0	11	37%
Others	9	7	16	53%
TOTAL	22	8	30	100%

Graph #17 Desegregation by Target Sector-Accumulated



Graph #18 Desegregation by Supplementary Sector-Accumulated

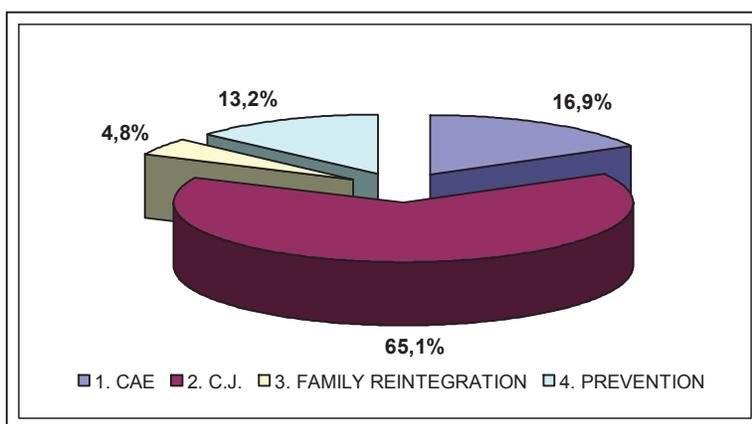


Table#16: Scholarships Vocational Training Accumulated

TARGET SECTORS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%
Woodworking, Furniture	10	0	10	14.9%
Jewelry	14	7	21	31.3%
Footwear	11	0	11	16.4%
Events Services	10	15	25	37.3%
SUB-TOTAL	45	22	67	100.0%
SUPPLEMENTARY SECTORS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%
Auto-Mechanics	42	1	43	35.2%
Clothes Marking	4	3	7	5.7%
Electricity	3	0	3	2.4%
Bakery	13	0	13	10.6%
Cultural Activities	11	5	16	13.1%
Others	17	23	40	32.7%
SUB-TOTAL	90	32	122	100.0%
TOTAL			189	

By the end of September, 2003 the program has granted a total of 189 scholarships. Of these, 35.5% (67 scholarships) correspond to target sectors among which are: Events and fairs planning with 25 scholarships (37.3%), jewelry with 21 (31.3%), footwear with 11 (16.4%) and woodworking and furniture with 10 (14.9%). In this group scholarships have been assigned by gender as follows: 22 females (32.8%) and 45 males (67.2%). This year a total of 22 scholarships, or 64.5% of the total, have been granted for supplementary sectors. Following are the sectors that need to be highlighted: Auto-mechanics ((35.3%), cultural activities (13.1%), bakeries (10.7%), and clothes making (5.7%). The remaining 40% was awarded for activities such as electricity, computer systems and handicrafts. The scholarships granted in this group were distributed in the following way: Females 26.2% (32), and the remaining 73% (90 scholarships) to males.

Graphic #19 Scholarships Granted By Program's Phase & Gender-Accumulated



There is an increase in the number of scholarships granted to the youngsters of the CAEs by stage of assistance and consistent with the income generation path designed with the youth. This is done in order to initiate the training for labor processes earlier. The scholarships granted to CAE youngsters represent 16.9% which is still far short from the assigned to the Children's Homes (*Casa Juvenil*) which represent 65.1%. The objective is to reverse the distribution so as to guarantee that in this last stage the youngsters only work as interns so that they may achieve stable employment.

The remaining scholarships have been awarded as follows: 13.2% to the prevention component and the remaining 4.8% to the youth under the family reintegration program. There is a growth tendency for the latter so as to guarantee that the youngsters who return to their homes may bring income generation alternatives.

The distribution of scholarships granted by city shows that the larger amount of scholarships granted went to Cali with 36.0% (68 scholarships), followed by Bucaramanga with 30.2% (57 scholarships), Bogotá with 18.0% (34 scholarships) and Medellín with 15.9% (30 scholarships). The number of scholarships is directly correlated to the demand from the children. Also, to the Program orientation in target sectors. The distribution of scholarships awarded by gender in the accumulated total for the program is as follows: 28.6% females (54 scholarships) and the remaining 71.4% males (135 scholarships).

Table #17: Scholarships by City and Gender - Accumulated

City	Male	Female	Total	%
Bogotá	21	13	34	18%
Bucaramanga	42	15	57	30%
Cali	57	11	68	36%
Medellín	15	15	30	16%
TOTAL	135	54	189	100%

6. CONTINGENCY PLAN

6.1 Workplan Progress

OBJECTIVE # 1: Support an adequate government response in the event of massive demobilizations		
Results	Activities	Synergies
<p>1. <i>Inter-institutional strategy designed for assistance in the event of massive demobilization of youth</i></p>	<p>1.1 The Contingency Plan was updated. It contains an institutional strategy for assistance in case of a massive demobilization of children</p> <p>1.2 Large, sound and well known institutions (in the work of providing child protection and with the capacity of delivering a great number of children) were contacted</p> <p>1.3 Six hundred and twenty additional slots identified in case of a massive demobilization</p> <p>1.4 Fifty slots – with the option of increasing it to 100- were secured with Father Javier de Nicoló. In the event of massive demobilizing: 25 slots were procured (with an option to increase the number) with the <i>Comunidad Somascos</i> in Tunja; and conversations took place with <i>Don Bosco</i> in Medellín to receive 50 youth</p> <p>1.5 Three institutions were made aware of the Contingency Plan (<i>Somascos, IDIPRON</i> and <i>Don Bosco</i>)</p> <p>1.6 The scope of the regular program was extended to 100 slots. The purpose is to increase the operating capacity in the three stages and the flow of youth to allow reception of a greater number of demobilized youth. One CAE was opened to service in Pereira and 2 CAEs were opened in Chía</p> <p>1.7 The first draft of the guidelines for Foster Homes modality was drawn up</p> <p>1.8 The ICBF explored the possibility of establishing foster homes in the Departments: Bolívar, Sucre, Córdoba, Cesar, Santander, Norte de Santander, Quindío, Caldas, Risaralda, Meta, Valle, Huila, Tolima and Boyacá. 14 departments were selected and implementation began in Risaralda</p> <p>1.9 An estimated 400 slots are available in 200 foster homes (each foster home would take in two youth)</p> <p>1.10 A visit to Puerto Gaitán (Meta) was financed to prepare a test proposal for family subsidies and to assess preventive-type actions</p> <p>1.11 70% of municipal (GOs) and NGOs were contacted to design a proposal for preventive work</p> <p>1.11 Meetings took place with youth, NGOs, GOs (such as Health Offices, Hospitals, National Police, Civil Defense, and ICBF homes' officials)</p> <p>1.12 Families of demobilized youth were unable to be reached, but we expect to coordinate a future meeting with them (youth and families)</p>	<p>-ICBF -UNICEF -IDIPRON -<i>Comunidad Padres Somascos</i> -<i>Don Bosco Cali</i> -<i>Hogares Claret</i> -<i>Fundación VIDE</i> -Office of the High Commissioner for Peace</p>

7. REFERRAL AND SUPPORT CENTERS

7.1 Workplan progress

OBJECTIVE # 1: Design and implement a strategy to create regional Referral and Support Centers to assist demobilized youngsters		
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Strategy designed for the creation of Referral and Support Centers	<p>1.1 Meetings were held to re consensus on the criteria for the design of the Referral Centers' pilot project. An strategy document was drafted</p> <p>1.2 <i>Benposta</i> was chosen to implement the Referral Center test project</p> <p>1.3 A group of 20 youngsters were chosen to implement the test project. Their experience and needs as a result of having completed the program were taken into consideration. This stage involves a six month follow-up and support process and the creation of an institutional support network for the center.</p> <p>1.4 The opening of a Referral Center is expected to take place during the next quarter (See attachment 14)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>Benposta</i> -<i>Albergue Ángeles de la Luz</i> -<i>Don Bosco</i> (Cali) -<i>Benposta</i> -Beneficiaries
2. Three regional referral centers opened and operating	<p>2.1 The Bogotá Referral Center was furnished and contacts have been made to establish a support network. 14 youngsters in the base team have been hired.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>Benposta</i> -ICBF -Reintegration -Office of the Ministry of Interior & Justice

8. DISSEMINATION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Workshop on the legal standing for excombatant children in Medellín

8.1 Workplan progress

OBJECTIVE # 1: Disseminate the legal status of ex-combatant children to local, regional and national authorities, and to the civil society in order to guarantee due judicial and/or administrative processes		
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. 280 civil servants (Family Court Judges, Legal Guardians and Municipal Representatives) trained in the norms applicable to ex-combatant children in judicial and administrative procedures	<p>1.1 Continuation of the Training process</p> <p>1.2 Eight workshops in eight cities in the country were held, and the goal for civil servants trained was surpassed, since the number reached 350</p> <p>1.3 ICBF requested (via the Director) training for Legal Guardians in legal standing for ex-combatant children (See Appendix 15)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public Defenders -Family Court Judges -Human Rights Ombudsman Office -Civil servants ICBF -Legal Guardians

Table #18: of officials trained during this quarter

Place	#
Pasto	38
Cali	38
Pereira	36
Medellín	72
Ibagué	56
Bogotá	38
Quibdó	42
Santa Marta	30
Total	350

Table #19: of officials trained - cumulative

Timeframe	#
Accumulated as of June 2003	212
July-September 2003	350
Total	562

The training sessions highlighted the need to mainstream the regulations for legal procedures whereby the judicial process for demobilized children is duly registered. This is due to the fact that there is a controversy between judges and civil servants regarding the rulings in force within the Children's Code for child transgressors. Law 782 (2002) establishes that all children participating in hostilities are victims of political violence. Acknowledging them as such helps the judges to protect them under the ICBF Assistance to Victims of Violence Program. The workshops have contributed in terms that civil servants become aware of the demobilized children's condition of victims thus being able to guarantee their protection, a due process and child protection status.

OBJECTIVE # 2: Support the identification of former child combatants and speed up their legal processes		
Results	Activities	Synergies
<p><i>1. Youth had their identification cards and judicial situation in order in a quick and timely manner</i></p>	<p>1.1 Legal documents drafted and filed in order to expedite the processes. Forty six development⁶⁵; reports were filed; 21 ID applications; 35 reports and 7 reports of desertion 1.2 CODA⁶⁶ Certificate obtained for 143 youngsters (23% of youth assisted in the quarter) 1.3 Forty seven judicial⁶⁷ processes were closed enabling the same number of youth to be exclusively under the ICBF 1.4 Documentation obtained for 398 (64%) youth assisted during the quarter. This refers to legal documents which represent some form of ID 1.5 Workshops held on the legal standing for ex-combatant in 3 Centers. (19% of youth assisted during the quarter) These workshops have clarified doubts and have oriented youth regarding their legal standing and their judicial process</p>	<p>-Registraduría Nacional del Estado Civil -ICBF -Family Court Judges -Ministry of the Interior & Justice -Legal Guardians</p>

Table #20: # of Ex-combatant Children Assisted with IDs - Jul-Sep

Currently, 64% of the youngsters assisted during the quarter have their IDs. This is 9% above the previous quarter. This encourages the youngster's possibility of joining the SISBEN and allows for social, labor and education integration, for which having an ID is mandatory.

Phase	Total children	Documented	Lacking documents
Temporary Home	103	55	48
Specialized Attention Center	346	219	127
Half Way Home	52	43	9
ICBF Protection Network	120	81	39
TOTAL	621	398	223

⁶⁵ Reports drawn up by technical teams from the institutions (not all of them go to the ICBF national headquarters but are sent directly to Legal Guardian offices).

⁶⁶ CODA: Operating Committee for Arms Abandonment. CODA acknowledgement allows for legal and economic benefits for youth.

⁶⁷ Closed Judicial Processes: are those to which the Judge has ceased measures, that is to say, they no longer are in the Judicial Court but are under the responsibility of the ICBF administrative area.

Table #21: of CODA Certified Children

Accumulated to June 30 2003	July-Sept	Accumulated to Sept 2003
101	143	244

This table shows that during the July-September quarter there was a 141% increase in the number of CODA Certified children. This is a result of the CODA committee held in January 2003, and the recent restructuring that made its operations more efficient.

Table #22: Legal Standing of Children Assisted in the July/September Quarter

Processes	# Children
Judicial (open) ⁶⁸	412
Judicial (closed)	209
Administrative ⁶⁹	507

It is important to bear in mind that at the end of the quarter the Program installed a legal window in our database and the information is currently being accessed. In the next quarter this component will be fully systematized.

9. PREVENTION AND REINTEGRATION OF INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-COLOMBIAN MINORITIES

Musical group Pi-Urek beneficiary youth-prevention project (Cauca)

9.1 Workplan Progress

OBJECTIVE # 1: Consolidate the reintegration and prevention model for youngsters who belong to ethnic minorities in Chocó and Cauca		
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Risk Maps designed for four municipalities in Chocó	<p>1.1 Participation in the training program to design and/or update the findings on the recruitment of youngsters situation in the department</p> <p>1.2 A document on the findings of the recruitment situation and a study on the institutional offer at a departmental level was drafted</p>	<p>-Instituto Luis Carlos Galán -Human Rights Ombudsman's Office</p>

⁶⁸ Open Judicial Processes are those that are in any of their process phases: prior investigation, indictment, etc. It ends with cessation of the procedure on the part of the youth's competent authority, which is the judge.

⁶⁹ The Administrative Process is ICBF's control over children under protection. They are street children, drug addicts, etc. It goes along with the child from his/her inception into the process until he/she is no longer underage, or is satisfactorily reintegrated.

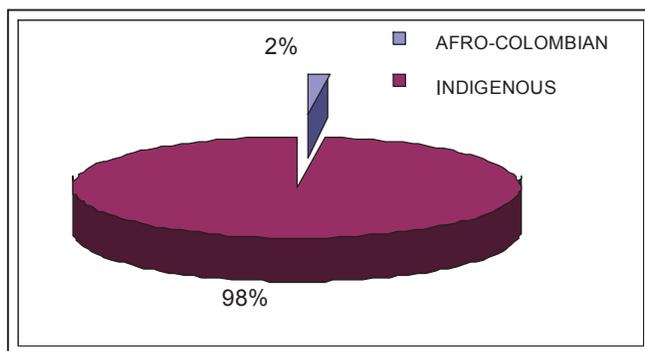
Results	Activities	Synergies
1. Risk Maps designed for four municipalities in Chocó	<p>1.3 Participation in the workshop for the introduction of the youth recruitment prevention strategy in the department. Two individuals were trained on the methodology to design the risk maps.</p> <p>1.4 Four municipalities with the highest child recruitment risk were identified</p> <p>1.5 160 children under risk of being recruited were selected to participate in the projects</p>	<p>-Alcaldías, Grassroots Organizations</p> <p>-Indigenous Councils (<i>Cabildos</i>)</p> <p>-ICBF</p>
2. 160 Indigenous and Afro-Colombian youngsters of the Chocó involved in productive projects	2.1 Three hundred and twenty nine projects were carried out in the family, education, and food safety areas with Indigenous and Afro-Colombian youngsters in the municipalities of Sabaleta, Istmina, Alto Baudó and Tado. The goal established was surpassed	<p>-Human Rights Ombudsman's Office</p> <p>-Indigenous Reservations</p> <p>-Community Councils</p> <p>-Education Centers</p>
3. Ethnic Legislation, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law disseminated in Chocó	3.1 Fifty six human rights, children's rights and ethnic legislation workshops were carried out thus benefiting 989 individuals	-Human Rights Ombudsman's Office
4. Risk maps designed in four municipalities of Cauca	<p>4.1 Participation in the workshop for the introduction to the youth recruitment prevention strategy for the department</p> <p>4.2 Training was carried out on the risk mapping methodology. Two individuals trained on the methodology to design risk maps</p> <p>4.3 An study of the institutional offer in the department was performed</p> <p>4.4 Strategies and work mechanisms were defined</p>	<p>-Instituto Luis Carlos Galán</p> <p>-Cauca Governorship</p>
5. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities of Cauca benefited by income generation projects	<p>5.1 A technical tour was coordinated with 30 beneficiaries and 20 farmers of the Caldono Municipality (blackberry growers project)</p> <p>5.2 Technical coordination and training to 30 beneficiaries and 20 farmers on phytosanitary management for blackberry growing (preparation of biological fungicides and insecticides)</p> <p>5.3 Coordination and training for 30 youngsters on worms related products and organic fertilizers (production of humus and worm related products)</p> <p>5.4 Technical assistance was provided to 10 youngsters on blackberry harvesting and commercialization. 10 lots harvested</p>	<p>-Municipal Unit for Technical Assistance (<i>UMATA</i> in Spanish)</p> <p>-Colombian Agriculture and Livestock Institute (<i>ICA</i>)</p> <p>-Farming Sector</p>
	<p>5.5 Coordination for the delivery of four breeding pigs to four Indigenous youngsters of the Caldono Reservation (Breeding Pigs Project)</p> <p>5.6 Coordinated training with the <i>UMATA</i> for the construction of pigpens</p> <p>5.7 Four youngsters trained in the construction of pigpens</p> <p>5.8 Coordinated training with the <i>UMATA</i> on pig breeding for four beneficiaries</p> <p>5.9 The Indigenous Council received technical assistance to commercialize eggs (hens project)</p> <p>5.10 Technical assistance for three youngsters on the sale of hens</p>	<p>-<i>UMATA</i></p> <p>-Indigenous Council (<i>Cabildo</i>)</p>

	<p>5.11 Supplies were sent for the Guachené store project</p> <p>5.12 A new beneficiary was taken into the program.</p>	<p>-ASJUMILLA</p> <p>-Municipal representative to Promote Human Rights</p>
	<p>5.13 Supplied pig feed and a scale to the Huellas Reservation</p> <p>5.14 Technical assistance for the commercialization of pigs in Popayán and Santander de Quilichao.</p> <p>5.15 Delivery of a breeding pig to three youngsters</p> <p>5.16 Coordinated the breeding of four hogs in Altamira</p> <p>5.17 Delivery of six calves to beneficiaries of the Bodega Alta project</p>	<p>-ICA</p> <p>-UMATA</p> <p>-Huellas Indigenous Council (<i>Cabildo</i>)</p> <p>-Alcaldía de Huellas</p>
<p>5. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities of Cauca benefited by income generation projects</p>	<p>5.18 Delivery of supplies to beneficiaries of the Río Blanco hen project</p> <p>5.19 Technical assistance to commercialize eggs in the reservation</p> <p>5.20 Visit to the four projects on dairy cattle in Río Blanco.</p> <p>5.21 Technical assistance for beneficiaries of the dairy project</p>	<p>-Río Blanco Indigenous Council (<i>Cabildo</i>)</p> <p>-UMATA</p>
	<p>5.22 Delivery of amplifiers to the La María musical group.</p> <p>5.23 Coordination with the Governorship for six presentations of the musical group.</p> <p>5.24 Recording of the CD and the production of 1,000 copies to sell</p> <p>5.25 Technical assistance to commercialize the CDs</p>	<p>-La María Indigenous Council (<i>Cabildo</i>)</p> <p>-Cauca Governorship</p>
	<p>6.1 Coordination of two discussion workshops and presentation of the document on the Indigenous Demobilization Path</p> <p>6.2 Corrections and printing of the document on the Indigenous Demobilization Path</p> <p>6.3 Coordination of four workshops on the Human Rights Module</p>	<p>-Cauca Governorship</p> <p>-Indigenous Councils (<i>Cabildos</i>)</p> <p>-Human Rights Ombudsman's Office</p>
<p>6. Indigenous demobilization path established and disseminated</p>		

9.2. Data on Ethnic Minorities and Afro-Colombians

Of a total of 97 beneficiaries of the ethnic minorities project, 97.94% (95) correspond to Indigenous ethnic groups (*Paeces, Guambianos y Yanaconas*) and 2.06 % (2) belong to the Afro-Colombian ethnic groups.

Graph #20: Beneficiaries by Ethnicity in Cauca



Of the 97 beneficiaries of the ethnic minorities project 32% (31) are women and 69% (66) are men. This tendency maintains the existing relation between the demobilization of boys and girls because there is a greater participation of males in the armed conflict. Gender perspectives are included in the prevention strategy. However, the intervention proposals relate to the factors that cause the recruitment of both boys and girls. Because the participation of girls in the insurgent groups is significant, alternatives are being planned to prevent an increase in their participation in the conflict.

Graph #21: Beneficiaries by Gender in Cauca

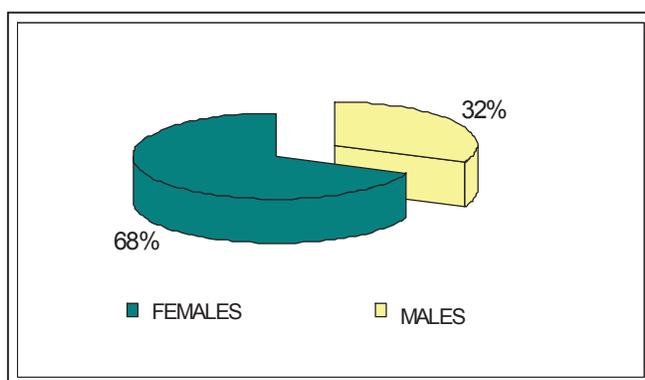
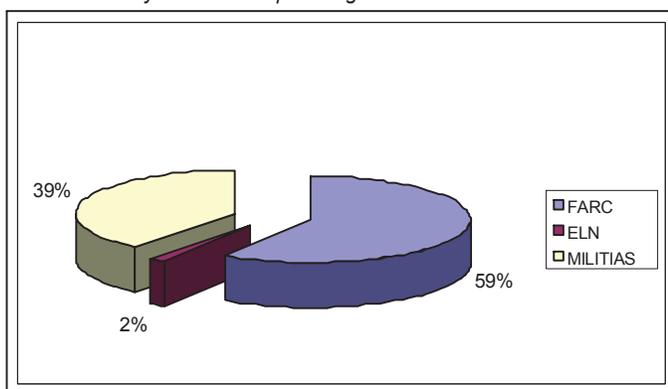


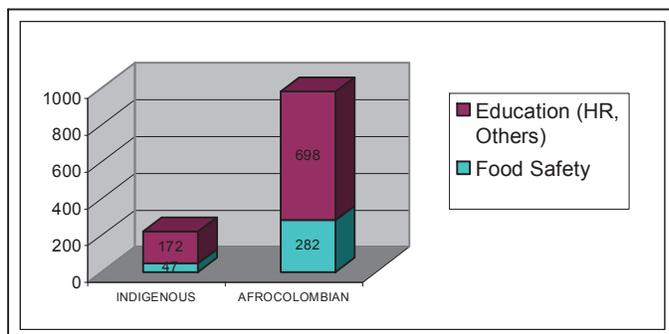
Table #23 and Graph #22: Beneficiaries by Armed Group of Origin in Cauca

GROUP	TOTAL	%
FARC	57	58.7%
ELN	2	2.0%
MILITIAS	38	39.1%
TOTAL	97	100 %



Of the 97 beneficiaries 59% (57) were related to the FARC, 2% (2) to the ELN, and 39% (38) were militias ready to enlist in the insurgent groups in Cauca. The FARC is the group that recruits most youngsters in Cauca.

Table #24 and Graph #23: Beneficiaries by Ethnicity and Type of Project in Chocó



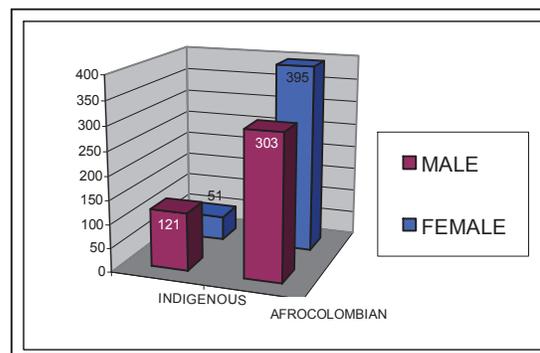
Type of project	Indigenous	Afro-Colombian	Total
Food safety	47	282	329
Education	172	698	870
TOTAL	219	980	1199

The support program for ethnic minorities and Afro-Colombians in Chocó, in addition to assisting 45 excombatant children (productive project in the Municipality of Sabaleta), has also expanded its participation via the recruitment prevention strategy through which it has increased its coverage, thus attending to youngsters that are at a high recruitment risk. Chocó is mainly inhabited by Afro-Colombian communities and this is reflected in the attention coverage. Of a total of 1,318 beneficiaries, 980 youngsters (53%) belong to Afro-Colombian communities and 219 (16.6%) to Indigenous communities. Of the Afro-Colombian youngsters, 698 are beneficiaries of the education and human rights dissemination projects. The remaining 282 (22%) participate in the food safety projects. Regarding Indigenous youngsters 172 (13%) participate in the education projects and 47 (3.56%) in the food safety projects. Finally, 119 cases (9%) of the beneficiaries are teachers who have been trained to be multipliers in the education sector.

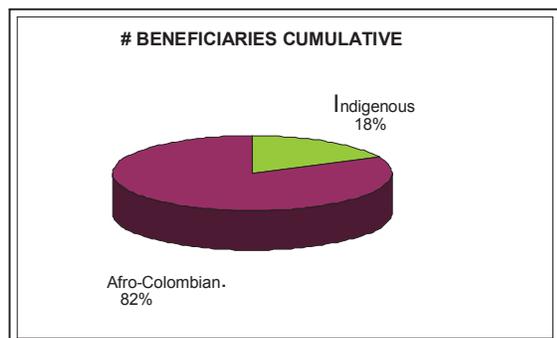
Table #25 and Graph #24: Beneficiaries of educational project in Chocó by gender and ethnicity

Project	Beneficiaries	
	Indigenous	Afro-Colombian
Education (Hr, others)		
MALE	121	303
FEMALE	51	395

# beneficiaries-cumulative					
Indigenous		Afro-Colombian		Teachers	
M	F	M	F	M	F
37	10	163	119	0	0
121	51	303	395	24	95
58	61	466	514	24	95
219		980		119	



When comparing the composition by gender between the two ethnic groups, Indigenous and Afro-Colombian, it is interesting to note the fact that there is an inverse relation stands: in the Indigenous communities' attendance to the workshops is predominantly male; children represent 70.3% of the students while girls only represent 29.6%. This situation, although in a more balanced way, changes in the case of the Afro-Colombian communities where girls represent 56.6% and boys 43.4%. Furthermore, the participation of teachers reflects the predominantly female composition in the department's education sector.



The predominance of agricultural and livestock activities are reflected in the agricultural-food component because in each of the population groups there is a greater participation of boys in comparison to girls.

In the graph that shows the composition by ethnic groups, Afro-Colombian participation is larger, with 82%, as compared to the Indigenous ethnic groups who only reach 18%. This sample is consistent with the ethnic distribution in Chocó.

V. LESSONS LEARNED

1. Education

- 1.1 Permanent coordination and communication among the ICBF offices and the implementing centers assists in maintaining youth educational processes thus preventing suspension due to transfer to centers located in other cities.
- 1.2 The implementing centers require permanent support to ensure efficient education services management. This support involves technical/educational assistance and educational services monitoring, as well as logistic support through an improvement of the staffing specifically dedicated to the youth.
- 1.3 The Scholarship Program to support the youngsters schooling is requiring greater and more intense monitoring of the beneficiaries by the implementing centers to ensure that the youngsters are taking advantage of the scholarships. Monitoring should serve to give warning to critical situations that could be solved in a timely manner.
- 1.4 The implementing centers' execution of the education component should be developed in such a way that it provides a response to the youngster's schooling needs and demands in addition to those demands arising from the vocational training processes, psychosocial treatment and social integration. Education should prepare them to have access to income generating opportunities, citizen formation, social skills, and cultural identity.

2. ICBF Strengthening Program

- 2.1 The International Conference involving the exchange of experiences in the attention of children and youth disengaged from the armed conflict helped in making progress in the joint action of government organizations, NGOs, and international cooperation agencies on issues such as creating awareness, analyzing, and strengthening and projecting the Program to support excombatant children.
- 2.2 The technical support prior to the opening of the homes helps to provide orientation to the new implementing NGOs in both the Program's principles and guidelines as well as on the ICBF and IOM specific roles. Through these advising services the NGOs are made aware of the technical, organizational, logistic and administrative requirements before the youngsters arrive.
- 2.3 Joint evaluations among implementing NGOs, the ICBF and the IOM have made possible the design of a profile of the AUC youngsters who arrive as a result of the political handover in the framework of the peace negotiations in addition to allowing for recommendations for future handovers and support criteria for these groups.
- 2.4 Family encounters made it possible to envisage the need to strengthen the phase of preparing the families for the encounter with the youngsters and that of therapeutic treatment with a psychosocial focus that will assist in a redefinition of the relatives' relationship patterns prior to meeting with them.

3. Prevention

- 3.1 The process to validate the methodology for the Vulnerability and Risk Map indicates that the focus should be on prevention among youngsters from 14 to 18 years both in and outside the school system. In the case of children younger than 14 years old, prevention should take place especially in those municipalities where the armed conflict has involved them directly.

VI. PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

1. Education

- 1.1 Conclude and expand the process to furnish the Education Rooms in the HATs and the CAEs in order to strengthen the quality of the education services provided to the youngsters.
- 1.2 Implement the second phase of the training program for teachers of the HATs and the CAEs on management of CAFAM's Continued Education Method.
- 1.3 Initiate the systems information education project with the youngsters to support their education processes through the use of computers and the Internet. The teachers responsible for this project will be trained at the centers with a practical method that has been adjusted for the youngster's learning processes. Furthermore, the CAEs will be provided the necessary software and hardware.
- 1.4 Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education to establish the Education Policy by the approval of a Ministerial Resolution for excombatant children's access to the public education system.
- 1.5 Develop a systematized method on the educational experiences implemented by the Implementing Centers to consolidate the lessons learned and to improve the quality of the program's education component.
- 1.6 Disseminate the regulations for the program's Scholarship Fund and systematize the phases, procedures, criteria and formats into a software for management, follow-up and evaluation.

2. ICBF Strengthening Program

- 2.1 Sign agreements and initiate the implementing NGOs' institutional strengthening process in administrative and programmatic issues and provide them with psychosocial treatment tools.
- 2.2 Joint development (with the ICBF) of the guidelines for attention in the social environment (Foster Home and Conditional Subsidy).
- 2.3 Actions that favor the youngster's community participation (Network Project and Specialized Academic Program [*diplomado*]).
- 2.4 Development of a proposal for youth encounters for social leadership work.
- 2.5 Sign agreements for the youngsters' health care and actions with the municipal health offices. Insist on a "Sisbenization".
- 2.6 Introduction of the CD to contribute to the awareness and prevention campaign and to motivate reconciliation.
- 2.7 Evaluate the Half Way Homes phase and support the first stage of the development of the Referral Center.
- 2.8 Finish the monitoring and evaluation system.

3. Prevention

- 3.1 Finish the training process for the team of monitors and implement the Vulnerability and Risk Map methodology in its two stages: design of the maps and design of the prevention projects in the 28 municipalities which are given priority.
- 3.2 Design and launch a publicity campaign and begin the radio program.

4. Access to Employment

- 4.1 Initiate the implementation of learning by doing strategy as a life path for the youngsters.
- 4.2 Continue with the process to put together a Productive Initiatives Incubation Center (CIP in Spanish) and the process for projects with the private sector.
- 4.3 Carry out a Survey on entrepreneurial perception to provide labor or productive development opportunities to the youngsters.

VII. ANNEXES

General Annexes:

Annex 1: Official Financial Status Report

Annex 2: Video “*Encuentros y Reencuentros*” stories of hope & answers

Annex 3: Poster of short-movie “*Lúdica Macábrica*” by the Colombian director Carlos Mogollón

Annex 4: CD Containing the following:

1. Prevention

Annex 1: Prevention strategy –regional documents

Annex 2: Guidelines for the presentation of regional diagnostics

Annex 3: Guidelines for the preparation of vulnerability and risk maps

Annex 4: Institutional Guidelines

Annex 5: Document on the awareness raising campaign

2. Access to Employment

Annex 1: Income Generation Path Guidelines

Annex 2: Income Generation Training Strategy

Annex 3: Small Business Initiatives Strategy (PIN by its Spanish acronym)

Annex 4: Center for the Incubation of Productive Initiatives (CIP by its Spanish acronym)

3. Education

Annex 1: Scholarships Fund Regulations

Annex 2: Interinstitutional Coordination Strategy MEN-IOM

Annex 3: Draft of public policy to deliver the education service to demobilized children

Annex 4: Decree Draft

Annex 5: Draft of the Program Introduction Pamphlet

Annex 6: Agenda of the third international seminar to exchange experiences of education for peace

4. Strengthening of the ICBF

- Annex 1: Report on the regional workshops
- Annex 2: Scheme of the assistance model from a psychosocial perspective
- Annex 3: Characterization of the children profile
- Annex 4: Terms of reference to make a study of technical tools for psychosocial assistance
- Annex 5: Aide memoir of the International Seminar on Childhood and Armed Conflict
- Annex 6: Colombian Red Cross Project Card
- Annex 7: Terms of reference for the institutional strengthening project
- Annex 8: Guidelines of the minimum standards for the Assistance Program for ex-combatant Children Armed

5. Family Reintegration

- Annex 1: Report of the family encounters

6. Referral and Support Centers

- Annex 1: Referral and support center project card

7. Dissemination of the Legal Standing for Ex-combatant Children

- Annex 1: Report on the status of the training of the legal standing for ex-combatant children

8. Project Cards