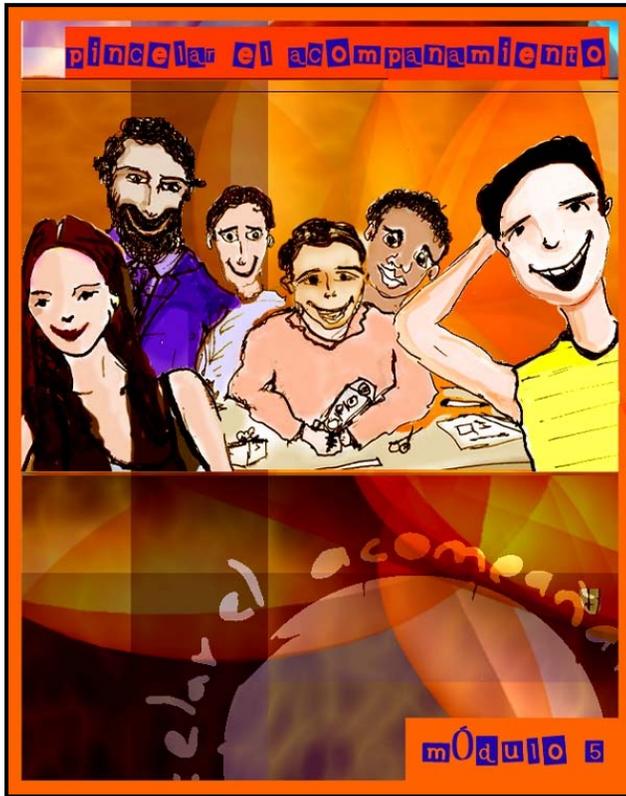




Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes Desvinculados
del Conflicto Armado



15th

Quarterly Report

October – December 2004

514-A-00-01-099-00

Support Program for Ex-combatant Children, Colombia



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout this quarter, the Program has been working together with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) on contingency strategies in order to face the mass disengagements of children within the framework of the negotiations between the government and the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC). The ICBF expected to receive 500 children, therefore started working to develop and stepped up a contingency strategy. Task Force teams with specific plans and responsibilities were created and trained, and a regional mapping took place in order to prepare proper responses to the possible mass release of children in 13 regions.

During this period the IOM/USAID program decided to encourage in a more active way its participation in the *Alliance for Colombian Children* strategy. The other members of the Alliance, a total of 20 entities, are national and international organizations and it includes United Nations Agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNCTD and the ILO). With this purpose in mind, a consultant was recruited to join the technical team responsible for preparation, follow-up and accompaniment to the “paper for initial debate” document that was submitted by three Senators from the Colombian Congress. The document seeks to provide a protective legal framework to the boys and girls with. It establishes the priorities and legal aspects of general and specific human rights law that require immediate action in order to comply with international agreements and treaties which have been signed and ratified by the Colombian government. This document is currently being considered by the Colombian Congress.

During the reporting period 179 young people were disengaged and entered the ICBF centres, making a total of 2,059 boys and girls that have been supported by the USAID/IOM program between March 2001 and 31 December 2004. Thirty-two of these young people joined the program part of the mass demobilization that resulted from the negotiations with the AUC. These children have been reunited with their families and currently receive supervision and accompaniment from the program. On 31 December the ICBF was providing protection for 686 children in 24 Assistance Centres in the cities of Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, Bucaramanga, Pereira, Tunja and Cartagena, 80 Home Foster s and with 15 conditional family subsidies.

During the quarter the consultation with *Evaluar Consultores* on capacity building was completed. This make the ICBF easier to identify the condition of the operators in different areas. During this strengthening process, the need for permanent accompaniment to the operating entities was identified. This accompaniment is necessary in two areas. a) The area of technical services and psychosocial accompaniment to the young people need. b) Provision of permanent advice on how to improve the quality of the psychosocial accompaniment in terms of organization, administration, mobility and management.

As part of the component on social insertion, inter-institutional committee of the Regional Referral and Support Centres (CROs) was created. New committee aims at establishing procedures and protocols for identifying young people that left the program. A flow diagram has also been designed indicating what information is required to provide proper follow-up and referral work. The 3 centres that are currently operating in Bogotá, Cali and Medellín have contacted 242 young people who left the ICBF centres.

Work was undertaken to raise public awareness regarding the situation of the children that leave the armed groups. The CD and the *Un Canto Nuestro* video clip were completed and launched. A number of entities, such as the ICBF, the Ombudsperson’s Office, UNICEF, the ILO and USAID/IOM, participated in the launching. The event was attended by 8 of the 10 artists who recorded the song and 750 people from a variety of national and international organizations Full media coverage of the event was made (radio, press, television and internet)

Over the last three months the contents of Ruling No. 2620 of 1 September 2004 of the Ministry of Education (MEN) has been distributed to all the operators and educational institutions participating in the programme. This Ruling establishes guidelines, criteria and procedures for the provision of educational services to boys, girls and young people who have disengaged from the armed conflict. The program has covered 1859 children in the educational field, where 814 were supported by the Scholarships Program. The Program has granted a total of 814 school scholarships to date. In addition to this figure, a further 58 scholarships were granted for improving vocational skills. During this quarter 314 children received complementary support from the Program in order to enrol and remain within the school system.

In the area of health, 1,354 medical consultations took place during this quarter. These were given by *Profamilia* and the national health service. The USAID/IOM program assisted with contacts, meetings and family reunions. 317 reunions have taken place so far, of which 50 took place this quarter. With respect to legal matters, it is important to mention that the steps taken by the Office of the Procurator General have led to a reduction in the number of legal actions brought against the young people. This had a positive effect on family reintegration, timely transfers and exits to the reincorporation programme.

The regional launches of the *Inter-institutional Initiative to Prevent the Involvement of Boy, Girls and Young People in the Armed Conflict* continued this quarter. This work was coordinated with the ILO, the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman and the ICBF. Launches took place in the cities of Ibagué, Cali and Valledupar, and they were attended by a total of 300 people. Risk maps were produced in 10 Departments, including regional capitals of Medellín and Neiva, and in 36 municipalities in the other 8 regions. A total of 12,079 young beneficiaries have been assisted by projects resulting from the application of the maps. These projects have covered educational and cultural aspects, the useful of free time and productive projects.

This year the Program has made significant progress. This includes the support given to new forms of assistance (Foster Homes and Conditional Family Subsidies), agreements with the Ministry of Education (MEN), the creation of the CROs for post-program monitoring, the information system, job opportunities, scholarships, the *Inter – Institutional Initiative to Prevent the Involvement of Boy, Girls and Young People in the Armed Conflict* and work with ethnic minorities at a national level, and the strengthening of the ICBF and operators in several components.

Table #1 Number of Beneficiaries

ACCUMULATED RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2004			
Indicators	Accumulated	This Quarter	Comments
Job Creation	1051	60	50 in the graphic arts sector. The operational capacity of the clothes-making project was strengthened in Bogotá with the creation of 10 additional jobs.
Employment Training	1269	58	25 scholarships were granted for vocational training in areas such as marketing and selling. 33 scholarships on employment training in the sectors targeted by the strategy, such as furniture-making, clothes-making and services.
Access to Education	1859	404	During the quarter 90 scholarships were granted to the young people from CAE and the Young People's Hostel in Bucaramanga, and continued access to the state education system was provided for 314 young people.
Access to Health Services	2059	179	During this quarter 1,354 general medical consultations were held, of which 619 were provided by Profamilia. 593 clinical laboratory tests and 66 diagnostic examinations (x-rays, colonoscopies, ultrasound scans, etc) took place in Profamilia. There were 240 consultations with specialists, of which 55 were held in Profamilia. There were 658 dental appointments, of which 100 were emergency cases and were treated by the national health system. 21 young people who were hospitalized have made satisfactory progress.
Family Reunifications	317	50	50 young people were reunited with their families this quarter.
Ethnic Minorities (prevention)	209	4	Young people belonging to ethnic minorities (indigenous and Afro-Colombian) demobilized in Cauca and Chocó.
Beneficiaries at Risk of Recruitment	12,079	321	10 Departments: Antioquia, Bolívar, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Chocó, Huila, Putumayo, Valle del Cauca, Santander and Sucre.
Ex-combatant Children	2,268	183	Of the total number of children assisted (2,268), 2,059 benefited from the ICBF program and 209 belong to indigenous and Afro-Colombian ethnic minorities. During this quarter 179 children joined the ICBF program and 4 joined ethnic minority projects.

II. CONTEXT

During the reporting period, the most important political events regarding the Assistance Program were those related to the negotiations of the Government with the AUC groups. Within the framework of the negotiations, approximately 5,000 people have been demobilized during the first stage. Several sources estimate that around 10% of these are likely to be children.

The whole country is awaiting the outcome of these negotiations and contemplating the implications of this new experience of insertion into civilian life of men and women that have previously taken up arms. However, there is a great concern regarding the absence of a legal framework to regulate the conditions applying to the demobilization in terms of criminal responsibility of the participants in the conflict.

In this context, all the disengaged children are in great need of legal protection. The Office of the Procurator General stated that it does not believe that the children should be prosecuted. Law 782 of 2002, which is currently in force, introduced a legal mechanism to dealing with children that have disengaged from the armed conflict. This law allows the prosecution of disengaged children and therefore to receive benefits as well, such as a forgiveness from the Demobilization Operative Committee (CODA).

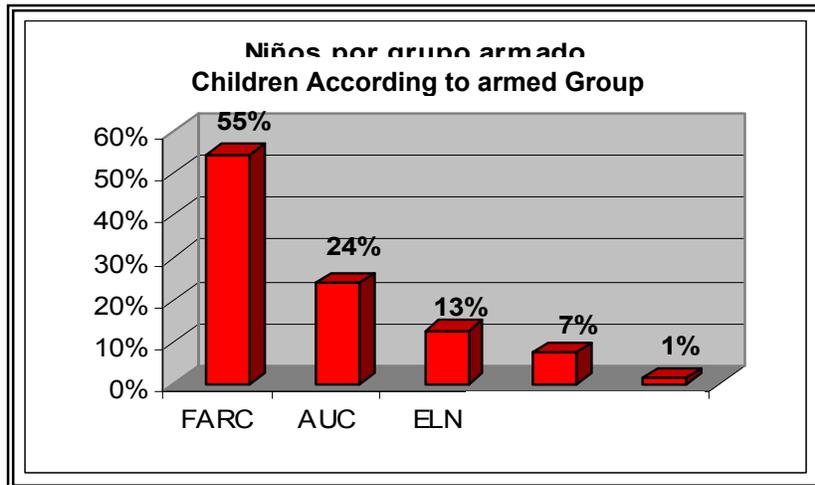
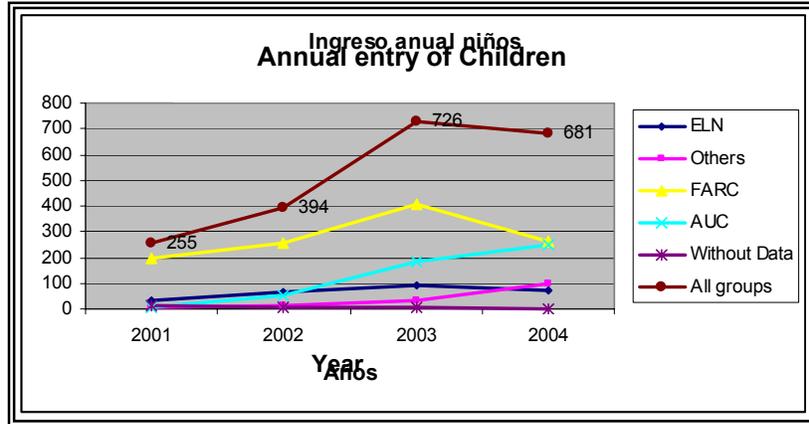
According to the Office of the Procurator General, although the law does not expressly states that disengaged children should be prosecuted, an analysis of the law leads to the conclusion that they could be prosecuted, because one particular article makes reference to a forgiveness for those who lay down their arms. In the opinion of the Office of the Procurator General, the benefit of not being subjected to legal proceedings should not only apply to those children that have voluntarily left the arms, but also to those who have been captured.

At the same time, the Congress is currently considering the Children's Act. This seeks to develop and introduce legal and operational procedures for international instruments and special rights that apply to children and adolescents under Article 44 of the Political Constitution¹.

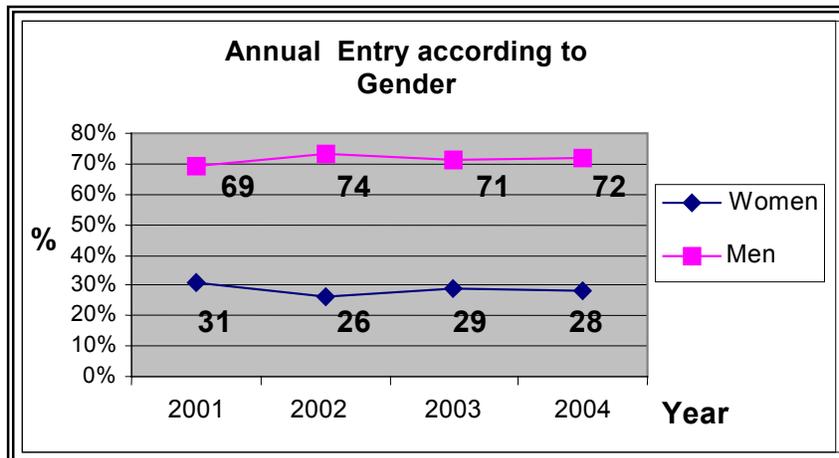
¹ Life, physical integrity, health and social security, a balanced diet, their name and citizenship, to have a family and not be separated from it, care and love, instruction and culture, recreation, and the free expression of their opinions. They will be protected against all forms of abandonment, physical or moral violence, imprisonment, sale, sexual abuse, work or economic exploitation, and dangerous work, amongst others.

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

A. ASSISTANCE DATA AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ICBF PROGRAM



The largest percentage of children that the program receives have disengaged from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), followed by the AUC and the National Liberation Army (ELN). The number of children joining the program from the FARC is decreasing and it seems likely that this will soon be equal comparing the number of children joining from all the other armed groups combined.



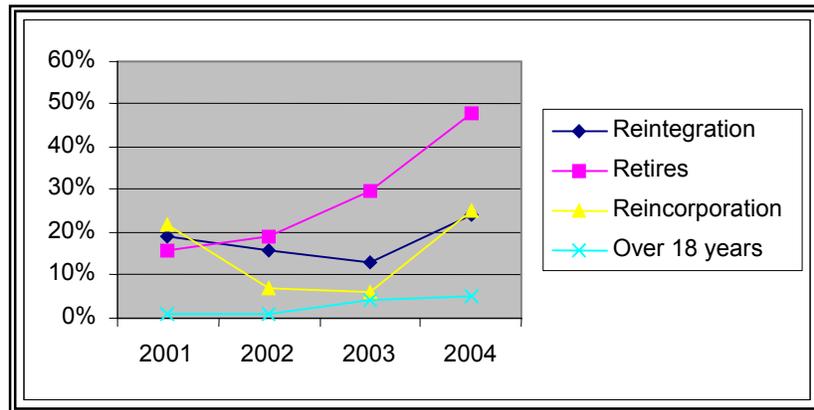
During this period 179 children joined the program. 64% (114 children) came from the AUC, and the proportion of young people disengaged from the FARC fell to 26%.

The statistics show that the number of girls joining the program has remained fairly constant. However, during the second quarter of 2003 there was a decline in the number of girls joining the program. This trend continued during the first quarter of 2004.

There is a trend for an increasing number of children to disengage from the AUC and the ELN. These groups show different characteristics to the majority of children that join the program. As mentioned previously, those from the AUC tend to have completed a higher level of education in comparison with those coming from the FARC. 25% of the young people that come from the AUC have completed basic primary education. Therefore, in terms of education, the program needs to target its efforts towards providing young people with options that will allow them to complete their secondary education.

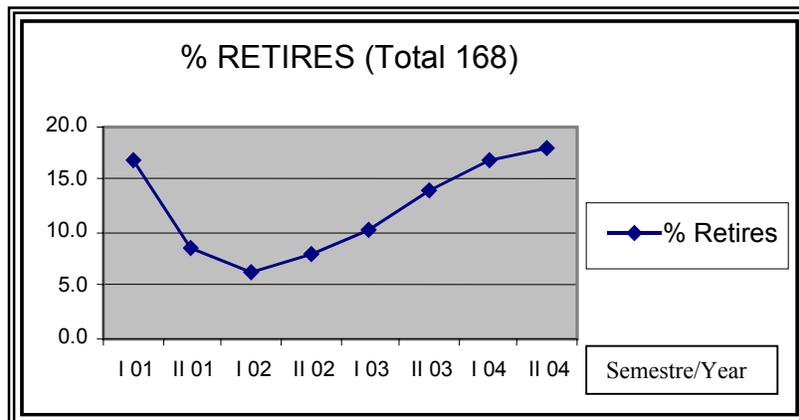
1. TRENDS: RETIRES FROM THE PROGRAM BEFORE THE END OF THE PROCESS

1.1 Reasons for leaving the programme



The percentages given in this graphic represent the total values for each of the reasons for leaving the program between 2001 and 2004. Although the percentage of children that have retired before completing the process had increase since 2003, the following trends should also be mentioned:

The number of children that leave the program has been increased since the first quarter of 2002. During the last quarterly of the 2004, 168 children have left on their own will, without finishing the process. This is partly due to basically by two reasons: Family reunifications have been increased and second, because of the number of children that leave to join the reinsertion program of the Domestic Affairs Ministry is also on the rise, possibly due to increased efforts of the Ministry to promote the program.



A dropout index has been compiled by comparing the data on the children that leave the program each quarter with the number of children assisted during the same period.

- ✓ An increase during the first quarter of 2003. This may be connected to the uncertainty surrounding the program at an institutional level and the restructuring at the ICBF.

- ✓ After a fall in the percentage of children leaving the programme, a trend for this percentage to rise can be observed from the second quarter of 2003. This trend has continued beyond the first quarter of 2004.

The reasons for dropout are related to factors such as: failure to adapt to the programme; difficulties in locating and contacting family members; emotional state of the young people (uncertainty and insecurity concerning their future); a low level of tolerance for the demands, challenges and commitments required by the program in areas such as education and employment preparation (which require dedication and discipline from the young people); the need for immediate answers to individual and family economic needs; the technical teams' lack of clear tools for control and restraint in the homes, above all in the new institutions; and the consumption of psychoactive substances, which incites dropouts in order to look for the resources to continue the habit.

In order to reverse this trend in dropouts, work has been done to provide capacity building through:

- a. The *Evaluat* consultation
- b. Improvement Plans
- c. Consultation on the Consumption of Psychoactive Substances
- d. Modules on Tools for the provision of Psychosocial Assistance

1.2 Index to measure conditions at the time of reintegration

This index aims to provide a tool for evaluating the conditions of the young people who are leaving the ICBF Assistance Programme. It analyses four areas in order to evaluate the acquisition of skills by the young people, within the context of certain social conditions in the environment to which they will be reinserted, and the social support networks and real opportunities available to them during the reintegration process.

A. The index as a quantitative tool for evaluating the Programme

The model of assistance is focussed on the restoration of rights and there has been no evidence of development skills for social reinsertion in each of the phases. It is therefore necessary to begin an analysis of the real conditions in which children are leaving the Program in order to try to give them the best chance of achieving social reintegration. Based on these results, adjustments can be made to the individual assistance plan and/or the teaching model or the processes for restoring rights that have been developed at an institutional level. However, in the short term the results provide ideas for the work that needs to be undertaken within the social reintegration component implemented by the Referral and Opportunity Centres.

The following strategic areas will be analysed during the first phase of evaluation:

- a. Individual skills: individual level
- b. Restoration of rights: institutional level
- c. Support networks: community level
- d. Opportunities in the local environment: community level

B. Progress made in the construction of the index

An overall profile is being built of the young people that are attending the CRO conforming to the evaluation areas suggested by the Index to measure Conditions at the time of Reintegration (ICR). Feedback workshops were held with the Referral and Opportunity Centres team in Cali. During these workshops an exercise was carried out to adjust the criteria and indicators of the ICR in accordance with the profile of the new arrivals, and taking into account each of the areas covered by the analysis. (see annexe)

2. CAPACITY BUILDING – ICBF AND OPERATORS

OBJECTIVE # 1: Strengthen the institutional capacity in terms of reaching consensus on implementation criteria for health, artistic-recreational, political-ethical and therapeutic projects in order to provide services to youngsters demobilized from the armed groups. This is done from a psychosocial perspective to improve the quality of the services and the social reintegration process.	
Resultados	Actividades
RESULT 1	Designed and implemented of a psychosocial model for the services provided to youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict

ACTIVITIES

The agreement with Corporación Vínculos to undertake a consultation on the production of models for psychosocial assistance was completed this quarter. Five modules (published and printed), the framework document and a multimedia CD for computer access were all delivered. At the moment the ICBF and the Direct Interventions Office are jointly organizing the public launch of the modules through a forum. This will provide the opportunity to introduce the content of the modules.

This tool for psychosocial assistance will be used to train the technical teams of the ICBF, the Transit Homes (HAT), the Specialized Assistance Centres (CAE), Young People's Homes and the Referral Centres by means of a Diploma course. This will give them the opportunity to appropriate and put into practice the knowledge gained in their work with the boys and girls. (See Modules Annex)

RESULT 2	The psychosocial assistance model was fully implemented in the Centres in the health, culture, arts recreation political-ethical ² and therapeutic areas
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ACTIVITIES

Psychosocial assistance is being applied in three different phases of the program through the components of health, culture, sport, awareness raising and dissemination.

2.1 Health

2.1.1 Profamilia and the National Health Service

During this quarter, the work undertaken in the workshops on sexual and reproductive education concentrated on sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV/AIDS. This was due to the increase in the number of cases reported in the previous quarter. The young people demonstrated an interest in the subject; they acquired knowledge and clarified their concerns regarding STD both in terms of protection and risk. The following subjects were also looked at during the reporting period: anatomy and psychosexual changes, personal hygiene and sexual habits, sexual rights, physical, psychological and sexual violence and gender roles.

Difficulties encountered during the activities undertaken by Profamilia included restricted access to contraception and a clash of activities in the homes. Thus the number of people attending some workshops was lower than before. In order to improve attendance steps are being taken to obtain contraceptive devices from the Ministry for Social Protection and agreements are being reached with the homes to prevent the workshops from clashing with other activities.

It is important to point out that, the Profamilia assistance project has been operating for three years, the overall evaluation shows a positive improvement on services provided in the area of medical assistance and that progress is being made on the teaching side. Nevertheless, now it is time to develop, in a structured and systematic manner, a model for assistance in sexual and reproductive health for children and young people who have disengaged from the armed conflict. This will be included as a proposal for 2005.

² Non-violent communications and exercising relationships that build peace, etc.

The following activities were undertaken during the quarter:

- 42 workshops were held for a total of 362 hours. These took place in 20 homes from the Program (HATs, CAEs, Young Peoples Homes and Halfway Homes in Armenia). A total of 751 young people participated in the events³ (250 were girls and 501 were boys). During this period no educational activities took place in Cauca and Chocó because the number of educational hours for the two regions was met in the previous quarter.

Table #2 Summary of Health Services

- During the quarter there was an increase in the number of children affiliated to the Health Risk Services (ARS). In October 86 children were affiliated to ARS, in November 100 and in December 152. This demonstrates that the enrolment process has worked well and shows the coverage increase by the Ministry for Social Protection.

Services	Consultations Service
General Medicine	1,354
Dental	658
Specialist	240
Emergency	100
Hospitalization	21

- There were 1,354 consultations in the area of general medicine, of which Profamilia held 619. In Profamilia 593 clinical laboratory tests and 66 diagnostic examinations (x-rays, colonoscopies, ultrasound scans, etc) were performed. There were 240 consultations with specialists in the different regions and 100 cases, which were dealt with by the national health service, required emergency assistance.

During the quarter 21 people were admitted to hospital. These have made satisfactory progress.

These figures are evidence the health state of the young people at the time they leave the armed groups and of the medical assistance that is provided during the different stages of their recovery. In short, during 2004 progress was made in access to health services and medical coverage in all regions where the Program operates.

2.1.2 Phase II of the Proposal on Psychoactive Substances

During the quarter a contract was drawn up with the Prever Foundation in order to develop the project in accordance with the contents mentioned in the previous report, an ICBF request. Due to the end of the financial and calendar years, a decision was made to start on the project in January 2005. A meeting has already been scheduled with the Head Office of the ICBF in order to draw up a timetable and to create a technical monitoring committee.

2.2 Culture and sport

- Cali – work began on familiarising the new young people that had passed to the Halfway Home with the institutions and cultural aspects of the city. This acts as a tool to assist the process of social insertion.
- Medellín – an agreement was reached with the *Instituto Municipal de Recreación y Deporte* (Sports and Recreation Municipal Institute) to allocate free places for young people from the program in the Community Schools for Sport and Recreation. The sports covered include football, volleyball, basketball, skating, table tennis, wrestling, karate, judo, athletics, swimming and softball.
- Bogotá – work was undertaken with young people from the program on a recreational and sporting project that will be implemented in the city with 270 young people. This project has been approved and a contract has been signed. This project will commence at the beginning of January.
- As part of the Christmas festivities, the institutions held cultural activities to assist the integration of the young people into the homes and cities. Dinners were also organized to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. All the young people on the Program (730) were given a voucher that can be exchanged in shops for clothing or other articles.

³ It is important to bear in mind that groups of young people from the homes participated in several workshops this quarter. This is an overall figure.

2.3 Awareness Raising and Dissemination

The CD and the *Un Canto nuestro* video clip were launched as part of the awareness-raising strategy. Those that attended and supported this event included the Ombudsperson's Office, the ICBF, UNICEF and the ILO. In the weeks running up to the launching day an information campaign was launched having a media coverage (radio, the written press and television), and a press conference was held which was attended by 20 media entities. Press releases were included in all the news bulletins such as *Día a Día* and *Bravísimo* TV Shows, and newspapers such as *El Tiempo* and *El Espectador*, and *Vanguardia*, *Semana* and *TV y Novelas* magazines.

Eight of the ten artists who recorded the song participated at the launching and 750 people attended from different national and international institutions. There was strong media coverage by *Caracol Noticias*, *RCN TV*, *Telemundo*, *Radio City*, *Canal 13*, *RCN Radio* and the programmes *Sin Cedula*, *Panorama*, *Bichos Bichez*, *Gente Colombia*, *PlanB* and *Telemiga*.

Artists and spokespersons from the institutions used all these media opportunities to highlight the need to raise awareness in the country concerning children who have disengaged from the illegal armed groups. They also emphasised the importance of reconciliation and forgiveness with specific measures for social insertion. (See CD annexe)

OBJECTIVE # 2: Implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the follow-up of the services provided to the youngsters during the different stages of the program.	
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RESULT 1	A unified monitoring and evaluation system implemented in all the centres that enables follow-up of the situation of each one of the youngsters in the program
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ACTIVITIES

Information and Monitoring System

During the quarter, two modules on recording information were formally presented to the ICBF. These are already in use:

Placement Centre Module: for recording information on the entry and exit of young people who demobilise from the armed conflict. This covers the different phases and centres of assistance that form the program for provision of care to young people. The module has options on placement applications, allocation of places, entry and exit and placement progress.

Institution Registration Module: for recording information on the characteristics of the operating institutions with an active contract. The information recorded by the system includes basic information about the institution and details of the contract. The conclusion of the modules this quarter required close coordination between

the Evaluation and Monitoring Unit (UME) and the ICBF IT Unit in order to make the necessary adjustments for putting these two modules into operation.

The modules on the provision of assistance to young people are in the process of production. These will make it possible to record data relating to the implementation of the process of assistance after the young people have joined the programme. The modules on indicators and management will be based on the information provided on the meetings taken, which were mentioned in the previous report.

OBJECTIVE # 3: Increase coverage in each of the program's stages (Transit Homes, Specialized Attention Centres, Foster Homes).	
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RESULT 1	Increased the number of institutions (5) and the slots (144) to provide care to the youngsters
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ACTIVITIES

- At the end of the quarter there is an operating capacity of 785 places that are available for providing assistance to young people: 650 with institutions, 80⁴ in the family environment of Halfway Homes and 55 in ICBF Protection Programmes. (See table No. 3)
- Three institutions: *Juriepe* (HAT), *Héctor Bolívar* (CAE) and *Forjar* (CAE) ended the program due to difficulties in the management and control of the young people, rotation of staff and administrative problems. Conflict situations arose with some young people, such as physical aggression and problems relating to communal living within the homes and in the community. This led to the closure of the homes concerned. The regional office in Cundinamarca changed operator and a contract was given to the *Casa de Colores* home.

Table #3 Availability of places for the program of assistance to young people

	INSTITUTION	LOCATION	
1	HOGAR JOSÉ	BOGOTÁ	30
2	HOGAR SHALOM	BOGOTÁ	30
3	HOGAR SEMILLAS DE AMOR	VALLE	30
4	HOGAR NUEVOS CAMINOS	ANTIOQUÍA	30
TOTAL TRANSITORY HOMES			120
1	LA FLORIDA 1	ANTIOQUÍA	25
2	LA FLORIDA 2	ANTIOQUÍA	30
3	LIBERTAD Y ESPERANZA	ANTIOQUÍA	30
4	LA GUAPA	BOGOTÁ	30
5	LA BARCA	BOGOTÁ	30
6	MUNDO NUEVO	BOGOTÁ	30
7	EL RETORNO	BOLIVAR	30
8	CASA DE COLORES	CUNDINAMARCA	30
9	SHALOM	BOYACÁ	25
10	HÉROES DEL FUTURO	RISARALDA	30
11	SEMILLAS DE PAZ	SANTANDER	30
12	NUEVA LUZ	SANTANDER	30
13	COLIMA	SANTANDER	30
14	EL SEMBRADOR	VALLE	30
15	PUERTAS ABIERTAS	VALLE	25
TOTAL C.A.E.			435
1	BENPOSTA	BOGOTÁ	30
2	CASA JUVENIL JUAN BOSCO CALI	VALLE	17
3	CASA JUVENIL EL VITA	BOGOTÁ	24
4	CASA JUVENIL CLARET B/MGA	SANTANDER	12
5	SILOE CASA JUVENIL	BOYACÁ	12
6	HOGARES TUTORES BOGOTÁ	BOGOTÁ	40
7	HOGARES TUTORES QUINDIO	QUINDIO	40
TOTAL HALFWAY HOMES			175
1	RED ICBF BOGOTÁ	BOGOTÁ	17
2	RED ICBF REGIONALES	REGIONALES	38
TOTAL PROTECTION			55
TOTAL PLACES			785

- **Foster Homes**

At the end of the quarter, 38 of the 40 places were used for assistance in a family setting, with the accompaniment of the Halfway Homes and expert advice from professionals in psychosocial and educational matters. The two places left are reserved for gestating girls or young mothers in lactation stage.

The young people joined the school system and attended additional classes. Those who had completed little schooling continued their studies using the Halfway Home format with the support of a teacher. The young people at secondary level continued their education using the education for adults format at the CASD⁵. Two young people graduated to secondary school, 6 young people to seventh grade, 4 to eighth grade and 2 to ninth grade.

Complementary efforts were undertaken in the area of technical training with a number of entities such as *Mira*, *Cooprocop* and SENA (National Service for Learning). These provided courses on handicrafts, IT, mechanics and construction. 19 young people completed the course on employment training. Young people also took part in sporting and recreational activities with the support of the Municipal Institution for Recreation and Sports (IMDERA) of the Municipality of Armenia.

⁴ assistance given to 15 young people from the *Bloque Cacique Nutibara*, by using conditional family subsidies. These have not been included in the figures of the ICBF information system due to the fact that the administrative formalities for the entry of the young people into the ICBF system had not been completed.

⁵CASD: Centre for Auxiliary Teacher Services in English

This method was used to assist pregnant young women and lactating mothers. The Halfway Home is the most appropriate means for girls in this position that require a family rather than an institutional environment.

Other positive aspects that should be mentioned are the willingness of families to provide accompaniment and receive the young people, and the accompaniment provided by the technical teams, who work on their expectations, concerns and interests.

There are plans to make adjustments to the process of selection and transferral of young people from other regions that enter Halfway Homes. This is due to the fact that young people with different characteristics have arrived.

▪ **Conditional Family Subsidy**

On 10 November the Cooperation Agreement was signed between the ICBF, the IOM, UNICEF and the *Corporación Colombo Suiza*. Under this agreement assistance will be provided using the conditional subsidy format to 15 young people who have disengaged from the *Bloque Cacique Nutibara* in Medellín. The technical team that will accompany the families and young people during their process of insertion has been formed. Agreements were reached with the young people and their families with respect to their technical training and assistance in the areas of educational and technical training.

The young people have been enrolled onto private education courses and benefit from individual accompaniment by a teaching professional, who provides skills training to compensate for the time that they have been absent from school.

In the area of technical training, all the young people are being trained on computer maintenance, motorcycle mechanics, clothes-making and electrical matters, and all are affiliated to the social security system. Complementary sporting and ludical activities have taken place in order to facilitate integration into city life.

There are plans to support the employment training with the families of the young people through the work of the regional ICBF mobile unit.

OBJECTIVE # 4: Continue the technical and administrative strengthening in the entities that are currently providing the services.

RESULT 1	Services to the youngsters strengthened the technical administrative level of the operator institutions
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ACTIVITIES

During this quarter the consultation process on capacity building in administrative and financial matters was completed with the support of *Evaluar Consultores*. The following results were achieved:

- 22 institutional diagnoses were carried out to the operating institutions that take place in the process of assistance to the young people during the consultation process. An analysis by area was made of the aspects that require strengthening:
 - * Management and policy: mechanisms for staff recruitment, staff development, institutional planning and monitoring systems (evaluation and communication systems).
 - * Technical matters: training and updating the skills and abilities of the people; development of tools and methodologies in accordance with the profile of the young people; consistency between the approaches used and areas of assistance when activities are carried out.
 - * Financial matters: including the capacity of the entity to design and manage programmes and projects of a nature complementary to the contract with the ICBF; good accounting procedures; and financial investment for generating income.
- In general terms, this consultation process made it possible to identify the quality standards at an institutional level that the entities ought to achieve, as well as to draw up plans within each of the institutions. Progress was made in the provision of accounts training to some entities, in making

adjustments to budgetary mechanisms and procedures, and in structuring activity plans for management and institutional plans. (see annexe)

3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

OBJECTIVE # 1: Strengthen and promote family reintegration if security conditions permit	
RESULT 1	Psychosocial plans implemented in the work with the families and reintegration strengthening

ACTIVITIES

- During this quarter support was given to the young people in the area of family reintegration. This was achieved through the provision of complementary educational subsidies such as transports costs, teaching materials and scholarships. 55 young people benefited from these measures.
- Home visits were made by the social workers to young people being reintegrated into family life in the Departments of Valle, Santander and Cundinamarca. These visits revealed that most of the young people returned to precarious family environments where it is difficult to find work or to obtain vocational training. For this reason the provision of help in educational matters is one area in which the Program makes a contribution, with the support of the Referral Centres.
- A family meeting took place at the end of December with 6 young people from the Halfway Homes in Tunja. Plans have been made to undertake family meetings in the Departments of Santander and Cundinamarca at the beginning of 2005.

Region	#Family meetings in this quarter	# Family Meetings to Sep 30 2004	Family Meetings to Dec. 2004
Cundinamarca	0	3	3
Santander	0	7	7
Bogotá	0	5	5
Antioquia	0	2	2
Valle	0	2	2
Risaralda	0	2	2
Boyacá	1	1	2
Bolívar	0	1	1
TOTAL	1	23	24

Table #4 Family meetings this quarter Vs. Accumulated totals

Twenty-four family meetings have been supported by the program up to 31 December 2004, with the participation of 420 young people.

- A total of 50 young people were reintegrated with their families during this quarter, a much higher number than in the previous quarter when 27 were reintegrated. A total of 317 young people have been reintegrated with their families with technical support from the Program. This is equivalent to 22% of the total number that have left the Program. (1,424)
- The terms of reference were drawn up for undertaking a consultative process on the subject of family. The purpose of the consultation is to produce work parameters and strategies with these family groups.

Table # 5 Children reintegrated with their families at each Stage of Assistance. This quarter and accumulated totals

Forms of Assistance	# Reintegrated Children (Quarter)	# Reintegrated Children (Mar 01 – Sept 04)	# reintegrated children (Mar 01 – Dec 04)
Transit Homes	3	23	26
Specialised Attention Centres	36	173	209
Halfway Homes	2	23	25
Protection	2	47	49
Foster Homes	7	1	8
Total	50	267	317

4. CONTINGENCY PLAN

OBJECTIVE # 1: Support an appropriate government response in case of massive demobilizations.	
Resultados	Actividades
RESULT 1	An Inter-institutional strategy designed in case of a massive demobilization of youngsters

ACTIVITIES

The following activities were carried out during the last quarter with respect to the Contingency Plan:

1.1 Training – Task Force

During the last quarter 300 people in 13 departments throughout the country were given training on the contingency protocol of assistance. Thirteen working breakfasts were held at which Departmental Governors, Mayors, Ombudsman and the ICBF regional offices took part. In this way it was possible to gain political support for the contingency work. The training took place per region according to the plans made during the previous quarter.

▪

With respect to staff training, government and non-government entities participated such as: Departmental Government Offices, Health Secretariats, Education Secretariats, Mayor's Offices, the Office of the Procurator General, the Ombudsman Office, Regional ICBF Offices, ICBF Regional Centres, Municipal Attorneys Offices, the Social Solidarity Network, Diocesan Offices, the Red Cross, Profamilia, Youth Committees and Departmental Peace Councils, amongst others.

The following were achieved as part of the Task Force training process:

- Awareness was raised amongst regional entities working on the subject of children in the war and the contingency plan
- The process of inter-institutional responsibility for mass demobilization began.
-
- A local operating committee with duties and responsibilities was set up in region, and methodological routes for implementing the contingency plan were established.
- An institutional mapping was drawn up for the receipt of children in the case of mass demobilizations.

1.2 Contingency Assistance

During the quarter three large groups of children were handed over by different blocs of the AUC, within the framework of the negotiations with the Colombian government. A total of 50 children were disengaged during the quarter in the following categories: 16 children were handed over by the *Bloque Centauros* (Centauros Bloc) in Tunja; 7 by the *Bloque Bananero* in Urabá; and 27 by the *Bloque Calima* in Valle del Cauca.

50 children were disengage in mass. 32 of these (handed over in December) have been reintegrated with their own families. This involves establishing a form of accompaniment that will allow for the provision of assistance and follow-up to these cases. The other 18 young people are in institutions from the regular programme.

5. DISSEMINATION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

OBJECTIVE # 2: Contribute with the process of obtaining identification documents for the youngsters and to expedite their legal processes.	
Resultados	Actividades
RESULT 1	The youngsters have identification cards and their legal processes flow in a quick and timely manner.

ACTIVITIES

The following progress has been made during the last quarter with respect to the legal proceedings of the young people:

- 183 young people (64 in October, 87 in November and 32 in December) have received demobilization certificates granted by the Demobilization Operative Committee (CODA). 55.64% of the young people joining the program were given certificates by CODA during the last quarter. This is a much higher percentage than in previous quarters and is the first time that the number of young people given certificates has ever exceeded 45% of the total number placed.
- 79 legal processes were closed during the quarter (15 in October, 28 in November and 36 in December). These young people are now only at the disposal of the ICBF's administrative process of protection. The percentage for the month of December is the lowest in the history of the program in terms of prosecutions. This fall is due to the fact that a large number of legal proceedings have been halted and a large number of judges are declining to open new processes in accordance with the directive issued by the Office of the Procurator General.
- 31.29% of the young people are without identity documents this quarter, a fall compared to the previous two quarters.
- 53 young people joined the reincorporation program this quarter: 22 in October, 10 in November and 21 in December.
- In December 626 out of 686 young people had processes of protection underway. This represents 93.71% of the total.

Almost all of the young people taking part in the program have a family ombudsperson responsible for their legal processes. The remainder do not have one because an individual file is not opened until the legal process has been completed. This has led to problems largely due to the fact that the program operators have no information on the new arrivals.

Total Young People placed to Dec 2004	Young People with Open Cases	Young People with Closed Cases	Young People Awaiting Clarification of their Legal Situation	Young People with Open Administrative Cases	Young People Awaiting Clarification of their Administrative Situation	Young People in Receipt of CODA Certificates	Young People with Identity Documents
686	228	306	120	614	40	415	459
	33.2%	44.6%	17.4%	89.5%	5.8%	60.49%	66.9%

Table #6 Young with legal processes

The table indicates the current legal position in terms of the number of young people with: legal processes closed, legal processes open, CODA certificates and identity documents, compared to the number of children (668) that were a part of the program on 31 December 2004.

B. SOCIAL INSERTION

1. REGIONAL REFERRAL AND SUPPORT CENTRES

OBJECTIVE # 1: Design and implement a strategy to create Regional Referral and Support Centres to support the youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict.	
Resultados	Actividades
RESULT 1	Designed strategy for the creation of Referral and Support Centres.

ACTIVITIES

The following activities took place relating to the Referral Centres:

- A document was produced that provides technical guidance on the setting up and operation of the Regional Referral and Support Centres after the benefit of one year's experience. Working in networks was identified as a key factor for the development of the Centres and as a strategy for the creation of opportunities for the beneficiaries, especially in the area of employment preparation.
- The first meeting of the inter-institutional committee took place with the participation of the ICBF, the operating entities, the Office of the Reincorporation Program of the Domestic Affairs Ministry and a representative from the young beneficiaries. This was an opportunity to agree procedures as to sharing information and for communication between entities in order for the young people to have access to the services provided by the Regional Referral Centres, and receive guidance when they leave the ICBF program. The responsibilities of each institution were set out for providing the young people with access to the Referral Centres.
- A committee for the of Reference and Orientation Centres was established, composed by the ICBF, the Reincorporating Office of the Ministry of Government, a representative of each Center of Reference and Orientation (Bogotá, Medellín and Calí) and a representative of the youngsters. During this quarterly, the procedures for the inter - institutional coordination were made.

RESULT 2	Three regional Referral and Support Centres set up and operating
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ACTIVITIES

Progress of the Referral Centres by region:

1.1 BOGOTÁ

- 159 young people have been recognized in the city. 111 of these are interested in receiving guidance and information at the Referral Centres.
- All young people that have enrolled have got the state health insurance.
- 64 young people are participating in the state education system with the support of a conditional subsidy from the Programme. 17 of these were promoted up a grade.
- 72 young people were participating in employment preparation processes. Twenty of these are in receipt of a conditional subsidy from the program. Training has been given in the areas of jewellery manufacturing, livestock farming, environmentally friendly farming production, small species and dairy products, clothes-making, card making, food handling, IT, mechanics, courier services, health promotion and business management.
- 33 young people have found a job.
- Actions within the inter-institutional network have been strengthened and organizations and the following entities from the social and productive area have successfully been brought together in order to provide training for the young people: Local Operating Centres, UCPI (Unit for the Prevention of the Consumption of Psychoactive Substances), the National Indigenous Peoples Organization, Grassroots Organizations, DABS (the Administrative Department of the ICBF) and cultural centres.

1.2 CALI

- At the end of the reporting period the CRO had identified 35 young people in the Department of Valle who had been reintegrated with their families or who were living alone. 28 of them are active participants. There has been no contact with one and the remaining seven do not use the referral service of the CRO for varying reasons (declined the service, initial telephone contact only, change of address).
- 60% of the young people placed by the CRO are male and 40% are female.
- 63% of these young people have been placed with families and 37% are living independently.
- Within the education component: 7% of the young people have not attended school, 33% have begun primary school, 4% have completed primary school, 48% have begun secondary school and 4% have completed secondary school.
- During the quarter a total of 11 young people found a job as electricians or carpenters, mechanics, belt-making, shoemaking, the food industry, clothes-making or sales.
- Two young people have apprenticeships, 6 are undergoing vocational training (with the support of conditional subsidies), one young person is setting up a small productive unit, and the remaining nine young people are involved in other activities or are awaiting an employment opportunity.
- During this quarter 5 conditional subsidies were approved (4 for young people in formal education and one for setting up a productive unit), and an accumulated total of 14 subsidies are currently being administered.

1.3 MEDELLÍN

The activities carried out during this quarter have led to the following achievements:

- 48 young people who had left the program and are living in the Department of Antioquia have been taken back in. 24 of these are active participants.
- The procedures have been revised and improved pursuing to offer a more quality attention.
- The beneficiaries database has been set up and is constantly being updated.
- An official announcement was made to encourage entrepreneurs from different sectors to participate in the network of the Referral Centre. It is hoped that these will provide the young people with employment opportunities.
- The Methodological Route for the individual and permanent monitoring of 24 young people was drawn up. They have now opportunities for accessing educational, recreational, sporting and cultural activities.
- Follow-up was provided to 4 family groups in the form of home visits.

2. EDUCATION

During this quarter, the program's education component focussed its attention on continuing the inter-institutional work with the Ministry of National Education (MEN) and the ICBF in order to coordinate and improve the procedures for accessing school places for young people on the program. A working session took place with MEN in Bogotá, the District Secretariat for Education and the national, regional and local ICBF offices. The purpose of this meeting was to make adjustments on the procedures used in the enrolment of young people and the allocation of school places.

There was a general review of the program in 2004 in terms of access to education and the importance of the enactment of MEN Ruling 2620 of 1 September 2004. However, as mentioned in the last report, basic aspects of the program need to be redefined so as to give support in the area of education to the young people in the 2005. First of all, consideration is being given to:

- Defining, with MEN and the ICBF, the strategy for educational accompaniment during the HAT phase.
- Building profiles with the ICBF of those that will accompany the young people in the Centres, in such a way as to ensure that educational progress is monitored in accordance with the new program parameters.
- The definition and production, in conjunction with MEN and the ICBF, of the protocols for educational accompaniment to the young disengaged people. These will be drawn up for the program operators, the educational establishments and teachers that are currently with them.

OBJECTIVE # 1: Guide and support the improvement of the education offered to young people in each operating institution of the Program.

RESULT 1	Operating institutions advised on the design and implementation of pedagogical models for working with child ex-combatants
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ACTIVITIES

At the end of the quarter the technical assistance offered as part of the education component made it possible to continue the assistance given in educational matters, and the boys, girls and adolescents have had continued access to the state education system, in accordance with the guidelines that have been jointly endorsed by the Ministry of Education (MEN), the Municipal Education Secretariats, the ICBF and the IOM.

RESULT 2	Technical teams in operating centres guided and advised on development of youth educational programs
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ACTIVITIES

Still to be a 100% rate of compliance in terms of accompaniment to the institutions that take part in the program. This has been achieved through activities such as expert assistance in the selection of educational institutions chosen to provide services, analysis of the pedagogical profiles of the young people, adjustments to the methodologies employed, monitoring the educational processes of the young people, logistical and pedagogical support, as well as education subsidies.

OBJECTIVE # 2: Improve the quality of the education component by conducting a continuous evaluation of lessons learned

RESULT 1	Systematic assessment of lessons learned carried out in the education component in each centre.
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ACTIVITIES

There are no further advances to report during this quarter due to the fact that discussions between the Ministry of Education and the ICBF are currently being held on this aspect.

RESULT 2	Personnel implementing the educational component is evaluated.
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ACTIVITIES

1. The Education Secretariats assigned teachers to provide basic monitoring of the educational processes of young people in state institutions this quarter. For an average, 10 educational institutions have been allocated to attend the children of the program and 45 professionals (directors, teachers and staff) A favourable assessment was made of the adaptation process of young people with respect to their social insertion and peer integration. However, on the academic side the need was observed to adjust methodological and participatory aspects. its necessary in order to allow the young people to progress and to reach a level equivalent to that of the other young people. The approach for dealing with this situation will be to define a plan for technical accompaniment, monitoring and assistance. This will be defined with MEN and the Education Secretariats and adjustments will be made to teaching conditions and the educational models that teachers use with young people belonging to the program in the different regions.
2. As the teachers in the educational centres became familiar with the profiles of the young people, the methodologies used in the classroom were adjusted at their own initiative. In the medium term this will provide one ingredient in the standardization of the teaching model.

OBJECTIVE # 3: Train the personal in the Education Component of the program's centres	
RESULT 1	Team of 20 professionals in education trained in special aspects of work with demobilized children

ACTIVITIES

This objective was met during the previous quarter. It is anticipated, as agreed between the institutions, that in 2005 this objective will focus on the teachers appointed by the Education Secretariats.

RESULT 2	Professionals training needs identified and supported to facilitate appropriate management of educational component
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ACTIVITIES

This objective has a 100% compliance rate with respect to teacher training in the centres and for the staff of state institutions.

OBJECTIVE # 4: Guarantee that youth entering the program can exercise their right to education	
RESULT 1	100% of the youth in the program are studying in an appropriate program within the educational system

ACTIVITIES

1. During the reporting period, 524 of the 686 young people assisted were placed in HAT, CAE or Halfway Homes. 314 of these 524 young people were incorporated into the state education system. Eighty-nine young people were placed in Transit Homes. These were given an initial educational assessment and some basic additional support. 121 young people in the CAE and Halfway Homes were not incorporated into the state education system. Two CAE in Bogotá began functioning during the last four months of 2004 and for this reason it was not possible to provide school places. However, these young people received teaching accompaniment in the centres. With respect to the Foster Home format in Armenia, support was provided through month/child costs, which covers the costs of education, equipment and uniforms for 38 children and young people.
2. During this quarter 90 scholarships were granted. These included a guaranteed school transport subsidy for the young children participating in the programs administered by the *Hogares Claret* Foundation in the city of Bucaramanga. Since the beginning of the Program a total of 814 scholarships and 119 subsidies have been approved .

- Similarly, continued support in the form of funding was given to four operators in order to improve the quality of the educational component: *Shalom* (HAT) in Bogotá, *Libertad y Esperanza* (CAE) and *Nuevos Caminos* (HAT) in Medellín, and *Héroes del Futuro* (CAE) in Pereira.

RESULT 2	Inter-institutional coordination promoted by the program to improve opportunities for ex combatants children to exercise their right to education and to guarantee program sustainability.
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ACTIVITIES

The inter-institutional coordination has maintained on a permanent basis through periodic meetings with the MEN and the ICBF. At these meetings national procedures for access and the allocation of places is monitored and individual difficulties that occur in each region are addressed.

OBJECTIVE # 5: Measure the impact of the educational component on the process of social insertion of ex-combatant young people

RESULT 1	Evaluate the impact of the educational component on the young people.
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ACTIVITIES

- During this quarter progress was made on the construction of an insertion index with UME.
- The indicators that reflect the impact made by the teaching component have been identified.

3. INCOME GENERATION

OBJECTIVE # 1: Improve the knowledge and understanding of profile of the youngsters who enter the program and concretize their development expectations.

RESULT 1	Youngsters who join the program have received pre-employment and productive orientation
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ACTIVITIES

- During this quarter 30 young people received instructions on the employment subjects guidance and productive processes. Work also continued with the monthly work schemes of the different CAEs and CROs. The different components of the productive insertion and employability strategy were monitored, updated and evaluated. The aim of this work is to ensure that the operators provide the young people with appropriate guidance so that they can take advantage of the opportunities identified in these areas.
- A meeting was held with the regional and local offices of the ICBF in Bogotá, the operating centres in Bogotá, the CRO and various NGO training providers that implement the Productive Insertion and Employability strategy. Following this meeting, discussions continued during the reporting period on the implementation and relevance of employment preparation, with an emphasis on the intern phase and eventual employment for children under the age of 18, previous authorization of the MEN. The Law and regulations on this subject were reviewed and a guarantee was given that 90% of the children under the age of 18 would not participate in these activities. The remaining cases were supported by special permits granted in accordance with Colombian employment law.

RESULT 2	Income generation strategy disseminated among the youngsters who participate in the program.
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ACTIVITIES

A national survey and consequent analysis of the views of the young people regarding the achievements and opportunities provided by the implementation of the Productive Insertion and Employability strategy was completed. As reported last quarter, this survey made it possible to evaluate, at each phase of the assistance programme, the level of information and take-up of the opportunities included in the Basic Route designed for the implementation of the strategy. A total of 570 young people in 22 institutions were

interviewed at the end of the process. This figure is equivalent to 83% of the young people who received support from the program during the quarter and 91.7% of the institutions that operate under the programme.

OBJECTIVE # 2: Educate the youngsters of the program on labour skills that will allow them to have access to sources of income by means of employment. This will be part of their basic education aimed at developing on the job psycho-technical and learning skills.

RESULT 1	350 youngsters trained on the processes to prepare for learning and pre-employment orientation.
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ACTIVITIES

361 young people have been trained, giving rise to a success indicator of 103.1%. Work to disseminate the strategy amongst the new operating centre and to provide guidance to the young people will continue after the end of year vacations.

RESULT 2	240 youngsters provided with training on vocational education ⁶ and job searching ⁷ .
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ACTIVITIES

1. During the quarter 25 scholarships were granted for vocational opportunities research in marketing and sales.
2. A total of 366 scholarships have been granted under this component to date, which is equivalent to 152.5% of the overall target.

RESULT 3	170 youngsters provided with training on basic labour skills.
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ACTIVITIES

1. During the quarter a total of 33 scholarships were granted on employment training in the sectors considered within this strategy, such as wooden furniture making, clothes making and services.
2. A total of 545 scholarships have been granted in this area so far as part of the program.

RESULT 4	100 youngsters employed
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ACTIVITIES

1. During this quarter support has been given to the creation of 50 new jobs for young people benefiting from the program in the graphic arts sector. In addition to this, the operational capacity of the clothes-making project in Bogotá was strengthened and ten additional jobs were generated.
2. The program has generated a total of 1,051 jobs since March 2001. The beneficiaries have generally started working at the end of their training on the specific skills required for each post. 466 (44.3%) of these are in the area of prevention and 585 (55.6%) are opportunities designed for the young beneficiaries or family members, as is the case with the projects for strengthening the family nuclei of the young people when they reintegrate.

⁶ These are aptitudes searching and basic competency workshops on specific areas such as shoemaking, jewelry, wooden furniture, events and festival planning and agricultural-industry activities.

⁷ It is carried out based on a labor searching model aimed at business visits and previous knowledge of labor skills and employment in real scenarios.

OBJECTIVE # 3 : Provide orientation to the youngsters aimed at developing an entrepreneurial spirit and to exploring feasible productive initiatives.

RESULT 1	70 youngsters who have a basic business profile were addressing on project design and implementation
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ACTIVITIES

1. The program's Fund for Reintegration and Sustainable Productive Projects (FOROS) started operating. The aim of this fund is to multiply the effects of sustainable employment generation through investments made in co-financing schemes with the private sector. It is hoped that this fund will provide similar stimulation, in areas such as graphic arts and clothes-making, in the development of productive units jointly managed by the entrepreneur and the beneficiaries in the form of internal suppliers to processes or intermediate products.
2. It is estimated that, as a result of this Fund, at least 30 young people will be involved in these productive processes.

OBJECTIVE # 4: Identify investment opportunities for the creation of businesses or for an improved usage of installed capacity as a means to generate stable employment for the youngsters benefited by the program.

RESULT 1	Identified, designed (30) and implemented (20) productive projects with the private sector
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ACTIVITIES

1. At the end of this quarter a total of 25 projects and private initiatives have been formulated. Twenty of these have been approved and 12 are currently being implemented.
2. The projects that are currently being implemented come within sectors such as: Footwear (CDP), The Recovery and Processing of Waste Materials in the Production of Leather Goods (ODENA and CDP), Clothes-manufacturing (Good Will), Poultry Farms (Benposta and Enseñame a Pescar), The Production and Sale of Jewellery (Casting), The Production and Sale of Cards (Imaginación), Fairground Services (Marketing de Ideas) and Wood and Furniture (Codelam).
3. With the completion of the research into investment opportunities in the productive sectors of metallurgy, clothes-making, food, leather and footwear and wood and furniture, undertaken with the Colombian Association of Productive Development Centres(CDP), an additional portfolio of 40 projects have been identified and underwritten by the private sector. Through the implementation of these projects it will be possible to generate a total of 569 new jobs. 450 of these will be in accordance with the basic educational skills profile of the young people from the program. These young people will have the opportunity to take part in short courses on specific employment skills.

OBJECTIVE # 5: Institutionalize the development of the program by building public and private social capital.

RESULT 1	Institutional and business support networks ⁸ established in order to strengthen joint development of productive activities and projects
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ACTIVITIES

A workshop was held to disseminate the accumulated results and to transmit the implementation of the program's Productive Insertion and Employability strategy amongst trainers who provide vocational

⁸ Institutional Support networks are GOC and civil society institutions that can become strategic partners for the development of income generation projects.

training and project executors, including representatives from the private sector and the technical program team. Main lessons learned and areas for future improvement were identified.

C. PROJECTS WITH ETHNIC MINORITIES

A fundamental element of the intervention strategy with ethnic communities is the principle of respect for the cultural autonomy and self-determination of the communities as a way of contributing to the survival of their cultures. It was decided that efforts would be done to promote and strengthen social and cultural dynamics during the execution of the projects. At the same time, information and knowledge would be gathered about each ethnic group regarding its environment, forms of subsistence, the regulation of internal relations and the conservation of customs.

During the reporting period, the program provided support and technical assistance to 15 projects (on subjects such as productivity, education, culture, recreation, sport and the creative use of free time) with ethnic communities in the Departments of Cauca and Chocó

1,062 young people (32 disengaged from the illegal armed groups and 1,030 at risk of recruitment), their families and communities were direct beneficiaries of these projects, which seek to promote small-scale local development. Support was provided addressing technical assistance for autonomous project management, coordination with services offered by the institutional network, possible income-generating opportunities, and crops for self-consumption that improve the living conditions of the communities.

During this quarterly, the inter-institutional agreement with the Office of the Ombudsperson’s Office and the Latin American Association for the Defence of Human Rights (ALDHU) also continued operating through the project on “Prevention, Promotion and Training of Indigenous Communities on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, Collective Rights and the Indigenous Legal Route”. As part of this project 40 workshops were held on collective rights, and 1,300 leaders and indigenous outreach workers received training. These workshops have reached 30 indigenous peoples in 12 departments. In addition to this, the second national workshop took place with the participation of 29 indigenous delegates from 17 communities, community promoters and the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare.

The program continued its intervention through direct consultation with the communities and the implementation of projects under local leadership.

OBJECTIVE # 1: To consolidate the reintegration and prevention model for youth from ethnic minorities in the departments of Choco and Cauca.

RESULT 1	160 young native people and Afro-Colombians from the department of Choco involved in cultural, educational and food security projects that prevent their recruitment into irregular armed groups.
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During the reporting period continued support was given to the 4 projects (Medio Atrato, Novitá, Bahía Solano and Alto Baudó) that were formulated using the Map Methodology. These provide assistance to 488 young Afro-Colombian people. The following activities were carried out within this area:

ACTIVITIES

1. Technical assistance and monitoring for each project in the implementation of methodologies, provision of matching funds and implementation timetables. The 4 projects have made move forward in the formation of the groups for technical training activities.
2. Delivery of equipment, ingredients and materials for the following projects: Arts Training School in Bahía Solano, Support and Strengthening to Improve the Quality of Education in the Diego Luis Córdoba Pino de Beté Farming School, Organizational Strengthening and Support to Fish Farming and Breeding with Young Afro-Colombian People at Risk of Recruitment in the Municipality of Nóvita and Dance and Music Training with Young People from the River Community in Echeverri (Alto Baudó).
3. Coordination and articulation with local institutions such as the Units of Agriculture Technical Assistance UMATA, Mayors' Offices and SENA, which offer services to the vulnerable population in the areas of income generation (fish farming), education and culture, in order to provide technical assistance to the projects.

RESULT 2	120 boys and girls demobilized from the irregular armed groups in the department of Cauca who are members of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities are beneficiaries of income-generation projects
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Continued technical assistance and support by the USAID/IOM program to 11 projects that assist 264 beneficiaries. 191 of these beneficiaries are male and 73 female, and they come from indigenous, Afro-Colombian and peasant communities. The program assists young people at risk of recruitment (235 boys, girls and young people) and 29 young people disengaged from the illegal armed groups. The assistance is provided in family and community environments.

ACTIVITIES

1. Technical assistance and monitoring of 11 productive projects located in 13 villages in the municipalities of Cajibío, Caloto, Caldono, Sotará and Timbio. Two of these projects are the result of the application of the Map Methodology, by which the methodology was broadened to include peasant communities.
2. Coordination with different community organizations such as Afranec, Asjumillas and the cabildos indígenas (indigenous councils) of Curak Chak, Pioya and Polindara. The aim is for these organizations to take steps to regulate the participation of their communities in the projects, and to comply with their commitments and responsibilities in the activities that each one requires.
3. Articulation with Multiagro, Cooperativa Senderos de Paz, Colteseda and the Esperanza warehouse in order to sell the products, with the purpose of promoting the incorporation of the projects into small productive chains. The products, such as silk garments and coffee, were placed on sale in the retail outlets of these entities.
4. Discussion with UMATA, SENA and COMFACAUCA (Family Welfare Benefits Association) about the provision of technical assistance to the project, and agreements to visit and provide accompaniment to the productive processes.

RESULT 3	250 boys and girls from the indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities of Cauca at risk of being recruited by irregular armed groups are beneficiaries of cultural, educational, and family strengthening projects.
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During this quarter assistance was given to 310 beneficiaries from 3 educational and cultural projects. 307 of these are at risk of recruitment and 3 young people disengaged from illegal armed groups from two municipalities in the department.

ACTIVITIES

1. Delivery of equipment and implements to the Arts and Culture project of the Los Andes Teacher Training College in La Vega, methodological support for the execution of the proposal and articulation with the municipal arts centre.
2. Assistance addressing the proposal for extra-curricula activities relating to the laboratory and the provision of equipment in order for it to operate.
3. Articulation of the project for the provision of educational implements with the work undertaken by COMFACAUCA(Family Welfare Benefits Associations) in the neighbourhoods where the beneficiaries live, incorporating them into recreational and environmental management activities in the neighbourhoods.

D. PREVENTION OF RECRUITMENT

The USAID/IOM program has been consolidating the construction of an intervention strategy in this area. This includes a methodological tool (Risk Map), direct project execution, coordination with international organizations, the strengthening of state institutions and the articulation of the work with grassroots and governmental organizations. The aim is to support the construction of state policies orientated towards preventing the recruitment of Colombian children into the illegal armed groups, to develop initiatives with local actors, and to implement projects in geographical areas of high vulnerability. Work was undertaken in the following areas:

Communication: efforts continued with the regional launches in support of the IPEC/ILO and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman in three Departments (César, Tolima and Valle). Coverage was provided in the regional media and all the promotional material was broadcast on TV and radio and included on posters. The three radio series on teaching were transmitted on the 686 community radio stations that cover the *Manos Amigas* radio program.

Participation and mobilization: The number of young people consulted in a participative manner rose to 5,179 through the Map construction on Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunities in the City of Medellín, and the number of municipalities using the methodology rose to 36. A training workshop on the methodology was held in Santander and 20 members of staff from 11 governmental, grassroots and NGO organizations attended.

Public policy: Technical assistance in the formulation of the Children's Act. The main components of the Act are: 1. Guaranteed human rights to all children and the conditions necessary for exercising these rights, which have been recognised in international agreements, treaties, conventions and protocols, ratified by the Colombian Congress and laid down in the Political Constitution of Colombia 2. To restore their rights, where these have been violated, by means of devices of integrated protection that incorporate all the sectors and regions responsible, so that children and adolescents have a minimum level of living conditions necessary for leading a dignified life.

Projects of direct intervention: Continued support to income generating projects with an emphasis on family and community, formal and vocational education, training, culture, sport and the use of free time. The number of young beneficiaries rose to 12,079.

OBJECTIVE #. 1: Introduce proposals to prevent children from engaging in the armed conflict to potential counterparts for discussion, review, allotment of funds and inclusion in regional plans.
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RESULT 1

Prevention proposal has been implemented through regional operating

The topic of prevention has been put on the agendas of 36 municipalities, where the Maps of Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity have been produced. Awareness within institutions, local and departmental governments has also been raised and committees were set up with these entities to promote the design of action plans and projects for the prevention of recruitment. These committees also accompany the work of the projects, in the area of prevention that resulted from the application of the Map, with institutions, families and children.

During the quarter there was further strengthening of the coordination with the International Program for the Eradication of Child Labour, IPEC/ILO and UNICEF. Joint annual operating plans were formulated with these entities in five departments. These plans relate to the prevention of child recruitment within the context of the eradication of the worst forms of child labour.

ACTIVITIES

1. Inclusion of the subject of the prevention of recruitment on the agenda of the Social Policy Committee in Medellín through the implementation of the Map Methodology.
2. Accompaniment and technical assistance to IPEC/ILO and the Office of the Ombudsperson at the regional launches in the Departments of Valle del Cauca, César and Tolima. This work put an emphasis on strengthening management of the subject and local positioning with respect to the prevention of recruitment.
3. Continued work on the project in Montes de María and consolidation of a public policy proposal with the departmental governments in Bolívar and Córdoba. This is a proposal for the design and formulation of operating plans in 7 municipalities (Ovejas, San Onofre and Tolú Viejo in the Department of Sucre, and the municipalities of Carmen de Bolívar, San Jacinto, Zambrano and San Juan Nepomuceno in Bolívar).

OBJECTIVE # 2: Identify, in a participatory way, the risk factors that prompt children to join insurgent groups and promote preventive strategies in the selected municipalities.

RESULT 1

Vulnerability and risk maps were prepared in 54 municipalities in 13 departments.

5,179 children and young people have been consulted in a participative manner on the application of risk maps in 36 municipalities. Through these maps the children not only identify their local context, they also play an active role that is recognised by institutions and their own families. The application of the maps has so far given rise to:

- 7 completed projects
- 11 projects in execution
- 18 projects undergoing review (prior to execution)

ACTIVITIES

1. Printing and initial distribution of the Methodological Guide for the Production of “Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity Maps”.
2. The training workshops on the “Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity Maps” methodological tool have continued. These have taken place in Barrancabermeja (Santander), where a workshop was held with participants from 20 institutions including: the ICBF (Bucaramanga and Barrancabermeja), the National Family and Santander Regional Ombudsperson’s Office, the Diocese of Barrancabermeja, the Municipal Health Secretariat, the Municipal Youth Council, Municipal Attorney’s Office, the Yraka Corporation, the Jesuit Refugee Service and the Municipal Children’s Centre.
3. The Map was applied in Medellín (6 neighbourhoods from the municipality) with the participation of 63 boys, girls and young people.

OBJECTIVE #. 3: Develop a strategy to prevent child abuse and domestic violence at local level.

RESULT 1	1,800 community leaders and teachers have been trained in reconciliation and conflict management, family counselling, child-rearing patterns and the law on domestic violence
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The strategy for intervention in cases of child abuse and intra-family violence, as factors that impact on the incorporation of children into the illegal armed groups, has continued with participation in the “Processes of Formation and Mobilization for the Prevention of Intra-Family Violence and the Promotion of Communal Living” project of the *Haz Paz (Make Peace) Foundation* program of the ICBF.

ACTIVITIES

Project formulation for the implementation, piloting and operation of the *Abre Caminos* tool in the 10 departments where the projects of the strategy for the prevention of recruitment are being implemented. This is being done in coordination with the Haz Paz programme. This Formulation project is expected to attended 135 beneficiaries. All the projects have the transversal elements of peaceful conflict resolution, community participation, leadership and skills for harmonious family living.

OBJECTIVE #. 4: Promote Children’s access and permanence in the school system and in non-formal education programs in the selected municipalities	
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RESULT 1	500 Children and young people have been enrolled in the school system in 26 selected municipalities.
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Coverage has been increased to 1,121 children and young people. These have been assisted by strengthening the institutional education projects. 180 of these are new beneficiaries that joined during this quarter. The strategy for intervention seeks to improve the capacity of the educational establishments to keep the children within the school system. It provides support through participative, ludic, recreational and aesthetic processes. These foster self-recognition, participation, recognition of different forms of expression and social encounter, the appropriation of the local environment, formation of identity and a sense of belonging in the young people.

ACTIVITIES

1. The continued training of 150 young people in the municipalities of Neiva, Garzón and Pitalito in dance and music colleges, ceramics, cultural and exercises expressions.
2. Project formulation in Medellín on artistic sensitization (music, theatre, fine arts and dance) and the creative use of free time (the appropriation of the urban cultural environments), for 180 children and young people enrolled with educational establishments in 6 neighbourhoods.

RESULT 2	600 Children and teenagers who dropped out of school or are overages for their grade level are now enrolled in accelerated learning programs in 26 selected municipalities
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ACTIVITIES

1. Assistance to 151 young people not attending school in the municipalities of Pitalito, Garzón, Comuna 8 de Neiva, Comuna 10 and Iquirá. This work seeks to motivate their participation and reincorporation into the education system through ludic, recreational and cultural activities.
2. Reformulation of the Combos por la Paz project, which is aimed at 240 young people in the municipality of Quibdo who do not attend school.

RESULT 3	150 youngsters are enrolled in vocational training programs
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The USAID/IOM program continues to support vocational skills training. During this quarter the number of benefiting young people has risen to 297.

ACTIVITIES

Continuance of the training courses in Basic IT, with an emphasis on administration, maintenance and computer assembly, and basic Office systems, in the computer centre of the headquarters of *Capacitación Don Bosco Cali*. 75 new beneficiaries have received training in this quarterly.

OBJECTIVE #. 5: Arrange to initiate income generation projects with the families of Children and teenagers who are at risk of being recruited by armed groups.	
RESULT 1	Increased income for 150 families whose Children are extremely vulnerable to recruitment.

The program supports a range of productive proposals within the community and family context, which have benefited 591 children and their families to date. During this quarter work has continued on the scheme for self-maintenance and local developments.

ACTIVITIES

1. Provision of technical assistance for land improvement and small species care in each of the Family Farming Units in Iquirá-Huila. 200 young people and their families have benefited (of these 4 young people have disengaged from the illegal armed groups and the rest are at risk of recruitment).
2. Follow-up and monitoring to the projects in Caucasia and Barbosa: processes to raise awareness, organize and commence the necessary technical training for the implementation of the two productive proposals (fish and poultry farming). 240 young people, 30 teachers and 32 parents have benefited.

OBJECTIVE #. 6: Help to reinforce public policy for Children by including youth recruitment prevention as an item on the agenda of agencies responsible for national, departmental and municipal planning.	
RESULT 1	The topic of recruitment prevention is part of the Ten - Year Plan for Children, the National Plan to Eradicate Child Labour and the municipal development plans of the priority towns for the Program

During the quarter technical assistance was provided for the formulation of the Children’s Act. This Act will provide a legal framework for the protection of children’s rights. By this Act the Colombian government is complying with several national and international laws and agreements. Dialogue continued with departmental and local governments to promote public policy on preventing recruitment.

ACTIVITIES

1. Technical assistance in the regional launches of the initiative (César, Valle and Tolima), and the strengthening of local entities (regional offices of the Ombudsperson), in order to continue the local work entities on the subject in development plans.
2. Definition of the “Public Policies Dialogue” project, which will promote not only the subject of preventing recruitment, but also local action plans for execution by the local governments in the Departments of Bolívar and Sucre (7 municipalities: Carmen de Bolívar, San Jacinto, Zambrano, San Juan Nepomuceno de Bolívar, Ovejas, San Onofre and Tolú Viejo).

OBJECTIVE #. 7: Design and implement a national awareness and information campaign on the problem of children's recruitment by illegal armed groups, preventive strategies, and the responsibility of institutions and citizens in dealing with this problem.	
RESULT 1	Four million Colombians have been Sensitized with the problem of children and the armed conflict, through the mass media and alternative means of conveying information

The proposed objectives have been met. Efforts continues to continue the process through messages broadcast to local communities via the media.

ACTIVITIES

1. Transmission of TV and radio commercials and poster distribution; and coverage in regional written, radio and TV media of the three regional launches of the initiative for the prevention of the recruitment of children into the armed conflict in César, Valle and Tolima.
2. Radio broadcast of the campaign messages, through an agreement with Caracol Social, in each of the regions where the launches took place (Antioquia, Huila, Santander, César, Tolima and Valle).
3. Work commenced to measure the effect of the campaign messages in Antioquia (Río Negro, San Rafael and Taraza); Santander (Barrancabermeja, Zapatoca and Málaga); Tolima (Espinal, Guamo and Herveo); Valle (Buga, Caicedonia and La Paila); Meta (Acacias, San Martín and Puerto López); Cesar (Aguachica, Villanueva and Chiriguana); and Huila (Garzón, Pitalito and Gigante).
4. Transmission of the second and third radio programmes on the 686 radio stations that have ascribed to the Manos Amigas radio program of the United Nations. These deal with subjects such as the role of the school as a protective factor and historical processes that have an impact on the spread of violent models. (see Annexe 1, Third Programme).

OBJECTIVE # 8: Evaluate the progress and results of the prevention strategy.	
RESULT 1	The prevention strategy is being evaluated every six months.

Continuation of the process to evaluate the “Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity Map” methodological tool, with a view to transferring it to other institutions so that it can be used with populations at risk. Work was also undertaken to systematize the new maps created in other regions of the country.

ACTIVITIES

1. Work began to systematize the maps applied in 7 municipalities in the region of Montes de María (Bolívar and Sucre).
2. Evaluation of the 2 training workshops on the application of the Map Methodology (Antioquia and Santander).

IV. LESSONS LEARNED

1. ICBF Model of Assistance

- There is an installed capacity in thirteen regions of the country to provide assistance in the case of mass demobilizations. This improves the chances of providing timely and effective assistance in a coordinated manner and of dividing responsibilities according to the skills of each of the governmental organizations in the assistance given to disengaged boys and girls.
- The process of raising awareness and disseminating information about the program must be included as a strategy that makes it possible to coordinate work with other national and international institutions. This will help to guarantee spaces for the social insertion of the young people through processes such as reconciliation, forgiveness and reparation.
- The consultation process with Evaluar demonstrates that it is not enough to undertake large amounts of work to strengthen the entities that are already providing a service if they do not have a minimum level of added value and strength in administrative and technical matters. For this reason assistance must be given to the ICBF in the process of selecting institutions prior to the awarding of contracts.

2. Reintegration

- Coordination between the ICBF, CRO and the Reincorporation Program is vital in order to undertake effective and timely monitoring of the young people who have left the programme. As the results obtained from the first inter-institutional committee demonstrate, it has been possible to establish procedures and protocols for the transfer of information about those that have left the program in order to give continuity to their processes.
- It has been observed that, once the young people have joined the state education system, in order for the young people in the CAE and Young People's Homes to adapt better to academic study, a better targeted and more intense accompaniment needs to be provided in the HAT during the CAE phase.

3. Prevention

- One of the lessons learned during the project so far is that the technical assistance offered to the indigenous communities for the development of their project should encourage them to assume leadership during its implementation. This will guarantee the sustainability of the work.

- It is important to articulate with institutional support networks and support networks for strengthening the collective processes that this type of project give rise to. This improves the capacity to deal with contingencies that arise during the work of individual organizations.
- In order to achieve the desired impact and sustainability of the projects, greater commitment is needed from local governments with regard to matching funds, accompaniment and articulation with the different institutions that offer services to the vulnerable populations.
- With respect to the application of the Map Methodology, it is necessary to reinforce the chapter on project formulation in such a way that the institutions that receive the training can apply the methodology as a method of intervention and for formulating specific actions at a local level.

V. PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

1. ICBF Model of Assistance

- Joint planning, with the technical team of the ICBF Head Office, of the activities to be undertaken in the different components of the program during 2005.
- Joint presentation and launch of the modules on psychosocial assistance with the ICBF.
- Signing of contracts and the initiation of the consultation processes on Family and Psychoactive Substances, and the cultural project with the young people from the program in Bogotá.
- Action planning and methodology planning with Profamilia for the year 2005.
- Systematization of the whole Foster Homes pilot experience and the contingency training process.
- Devised 2 modules (standards and indicators) to complete the Program Information System.

2. Reintegration

- Profile building with the ICBF for the people that accompany the young people in the Centres. This will be done in a way that ensures monitoring of educational aspects and will be based on the new program parameters.
- Support and monitoring for the process of registration and enrolment for the 2005 school year with all the operators that form part of the programme.
- Commencement of the second phase of the project in vocational and pre-employment training with Codelam, Fundación Superior, Imaginación, Politécnico and Good Will.

3. Prevention

- To broaden coverage amongst the vulnerable ethnic communities that are at risk of recruitment and those that have disengaged from the illegal armed groups. This will be done through the implementation of the risk map methodology and using the strategy of direct dialogue with the communities.
- Evaluation of the impacts and sustainability of the projects that lasted for over six months in a way that makes it possible to establish their level of consolidation.
- Formulation of an intervention strategy that incorporates the methodology, and the implementation of projects with the definition of basic parameters that can be used to deal with the population (boys, girls and young people) at risk of becoming involved in the armed conflict.

V. ANNEXES

1. Financial Status Report
2. Psychosocial Accompaniment Modules
3. *El canto de mi voz* song -CD
4. *Juntos y Además Revueltos* - Radio Serial CD
5. Pedagogic Material Indigenous Judicial Route "Un Mundo de Derechos para el Pueblo Yaraoni - La gente Ala de Mariposa"
6. Reintegration Conditions Index. Main Document and Measure Guide
7. Law Project of Childhood and Adolescence
8. CARDS
9. CD of Data Systematisation
10. Press Notes