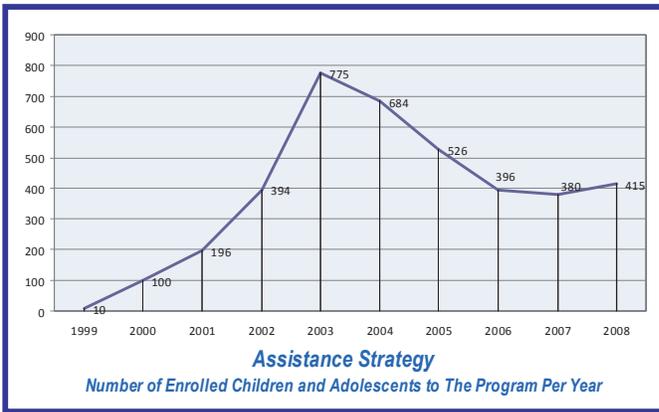


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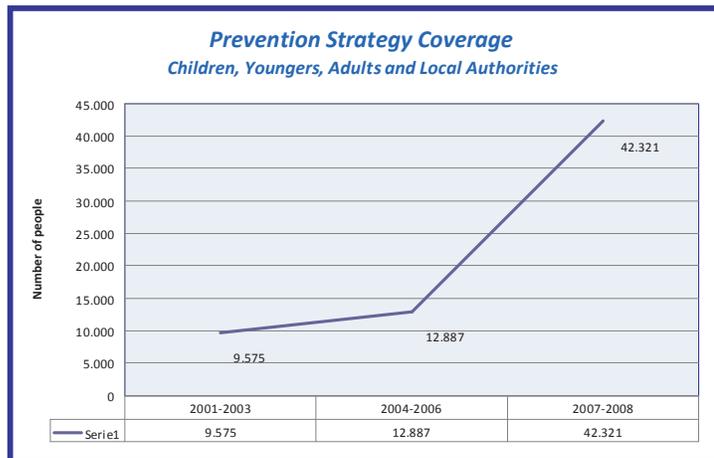
<i>ACRONYMS</i>	
ICBF	Colombian Institute of Family Welfare
CH&Y	Children and Youths
ACRSE	High Council for Social and Economical Reintegration
CROJ	Youth Reference and Opportunity Centres
SENA	National Learning Service
SNBF	National System of Family Welfare
MIMA	Integral Model for Marketing and Business Administration
MEN	National Ministry of Education
CIPR	National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment
MDN	Ministry of National Defense
GAO	General Attorney's Office
CRIC	Regional Indigenous Council
ICR	Reintegration Conditions Index
CAL	Childhood and Adolescence Law (1098 of 2006)
CAE	Specialized Assistance Centers
MVRO	Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity Maps
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
PSU	Psychoactive Substances Use
IAG	Illegal Armed Groups



Program activities expanded to better fulfill goals and objectives. There are now three reception centers (HAT), seven specialized attention centers (CAE), one youth house, four regional networks of home-placement options. As of December 2008, the Program had benefited 4,079 ex-combatant youth and has accomplished the following results: 787 youths reunited with their families; 4,471 received vocational training and income generation assistance; 1,702

employment opportunities were created and 3,734 scholarships for superior education were provided. Nine CROJ currently serve some 1,710 beneficiaries. The Maps of Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity (MVRO) methodology¹ has helped 56 communities better understand and respond to risks faced by youth as IAG recruit.

The specific needs of Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities have been addressed via specialized, culturally-appropriate programming with the support of the USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF), assisting 3,843 youths, training 1,429 community leaders and helping 48 GOC institutions and communities provide care, protection, and support for children at risk.



Technical assistance has been provided to those government agencies most crucially involved in the incorporation of ex-combatant youth and in the prevention of recruitment by IAG. Public awareness has been raised through social communication strategies that include radio programming, television, public forums, conferences and even comic books that discuss recruitment and the role community participation and commitment in preventing it.

Key Special Objective Final Results: The results include: (1) A consolidate model and legal framework to assist ex-combatant children and help them with their economic and social reintegration; (2) A national recruitment prevention strategy benefiting some 100.000 children and youth (58,000 as a result of the ICBF and IOM agreement to prevent the recruitment of children under six years of age); (3) Colombian institutions adopted most of the models and

¹A methodology implemented by IOM to identify needs of communities believed to be at high risk of forced recruitment, with a differential approach towards gender and ethnic groups. MVRO allows efficient implementation of action plans to prevent children and youth recruitment.

methodologies designed by IOM; (4) Reparation and reintegration national policy, projects and framework under implementation.

2. CONCLUSION

A number of events during the final months of 2008 confirmed that Colombia was experiencing significant political, social, and economic changes bound to affect the country's needs for children recruitment prevention and assistance of ex-combatants children.

In Colombia economic policymaking will become much more challenging in 2009-10 owing to adverse external and internal conditions, before a global recovery from 2011 improves the outlook. The fiscal balance will deteriorate in 2009-10 because of the cyclical impact on revenue and spending pressures, but should improve slightly in 2011-13 assuming that growth returns.

Economic adverse internal conditions were evident when the national government closed a major "pyramid" investment scheme that had defrauded investors throughout the country, although not before thousands of both rich and poor had sold their property and taken out loans to participate. Crowds in several cities besieged offices and government buildings, leaving at least three dead. Despite the scandal, many Colombians remained supportive of "get rich quick" initiatives on account of the high fees and low interest rates of commercial banks.

Colombian judicial workers went on strike in September. This delayed criminal investigations and court cases, exacerbated overcrowding in jails, and prompted improvisation in judicial processes. After approximately two months of negotiation, the GOC and unions reached a settlement. Reparations activities supported by IOM were also affected.

A number of young men reported missing from a suburb of Bogota turned up as corpses in another location, allegedly rebels killed in combat by the army. Investigations indicated they had been

kidnapped, turned over to army units, and sacrificed in order to inflate the body count of dead guerrillas. There were reports of similar disappearances in other parts of the country. The President announced the dismissal of high ranking army officers.

In October, a former congressional representative escaped after eight years of detention at the hands of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). He walked three days through the jungle to freedom, led by one of his former guards. In an increasingly effective counter-insurgency strategy, Colombia dropped charges against the former combatant and opened the way for him to receive a cash award and resettlement in France. This policy is part of a programme of incentives for rebels to demobilize, to facilitate hostage release, and to gather intelligence.

The Second National Encounter of Governors for Childhood, Adolescence and Youths took place in Barranquilla and sought to generate public policy initiatives that recognize the impact and contribution to departmental and local development plans.

The GOC and international cooperation promoted targeted research in humanitarian assistance, improved decision-making, and migration policy formation affecting Colombians in need.

An impact evaluation on the local and national Development Plans implementation took place at end of 2008. A total of 1.080 development plans were evaluated and just 18 had good results. However, the protection of childhood rights presented the best results.

1. RESULTS

<u>Accumulated results for the Quarter July – September 2008</u>			
Indicators	Accumulated	This Quarter	Comments
Ex-combatant children	4,079	90	Out of 4,079 children assisted, 254 are Indigenous or Afro Colombian children assisted by IOM directly. The Program received 90 new beneficiaries.
Employment Opportunities	1,702	32	CROJ economic reintegration strategy generated 32 new employment opportunities.
Employment Training	4,310	139	139 youths attended the initial module at SENA to define their vocational profiles; 198 assisted to the second and third module of vocational training courses.
Access to Education	3,734	90	The Program provided educational opportunities to 465 children and youth; 53% received basic education and 47% went to high school.
Access to Health Services	3,825	90	90 new beneficiaries received medical assistance and check-ups. Approximately 564 health services were provided and 80% had access to the national health system.
Family Reunification	787	16	A total of 787 family reunification processes took place; sixteen in the last quarter.
Beneficiaries at risk of recruitment	42,321	1,450	5,350 Children participated of recruitment prevention activities.
Afro Colombian Beneficiaries at risk of recruitment (DCOF)	3,843	-	A total of 3,568 Afro Colombian children benefited from recruitment prevention activities.

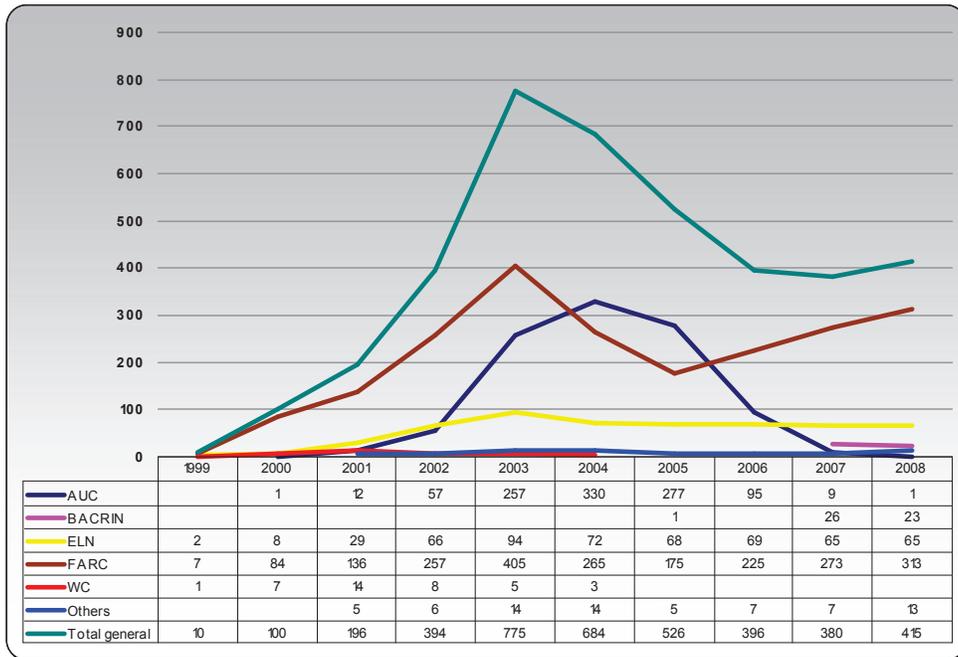
The main objective of the assistance component was accomplished improving the capacity of the Colombian Government and civil society to respond and guarantee restitution of rights and social insertion processes for ex combatant boys and girls.

The majority of Program-recommended best practices have been applied, with most technologies and methodologies already transferred to the ICBF and other relevant government entities. Best practices flow between many USAID-funded IOM programs: as noted, the CROJ Youth Reference and Opportunity Centers were adapted for adult ex-combatants; IOM’s Open Doors programming comes from IDP assistance; Peace Grants methodologies essentially created early stages of recruitment prevention; the Social Marketing Unit has expanded from IDPs to ex-combatant youth; and so on. Creative synergies such as these are an important part of what USAID funds through IOM.

The Program assisted 4,079 ex-combatant children focusing on their economic and social reintegration; 100% of the required assistance was provided with the best methodologies and technology tools.

1. TRENDS

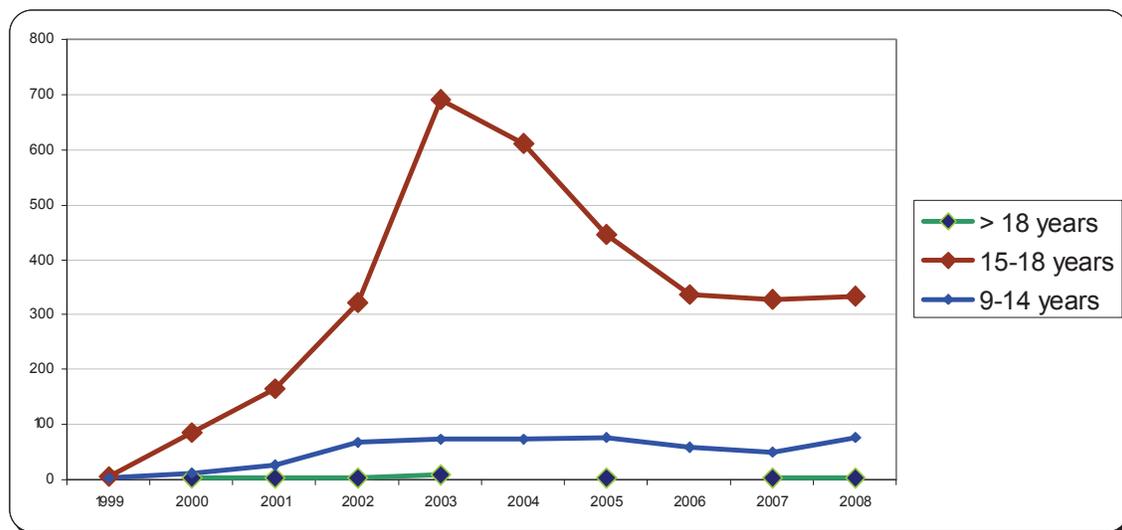
Graph # 1 Entry of the Children to the Program vs. Illegal Armed Group of Origin



The ICBF program with USAID and IOM support benefited 3,876 children and youth; another 254 Afro Colombian and Indigenous children received IOM/USAID support for their economic and social reintegration. A total of 2,140 (55%) children and youth were demobilized from the FARC; 27, % (1.039) belonged to the AUC, 14% (538) came from the ELN and 4 % (159) came from other illegal armed groups.

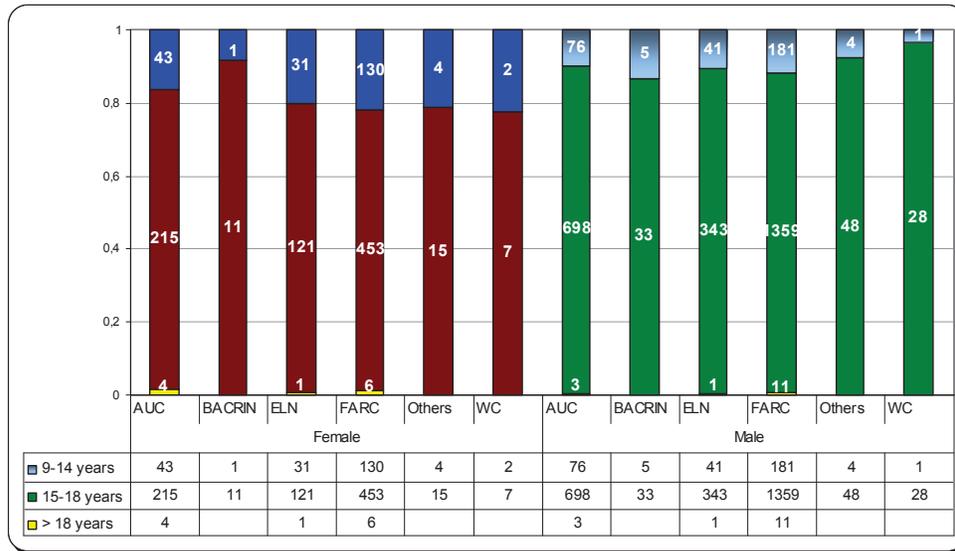
Most of the children entered the program between 2003 and 2004 due to the massive demobilization of children and youth recruited by the AUC and some by the FARC. Graph above shows that FARC entries have increased slightly from 2005 ex combatants children from AUC declined since 2004.

Graph #2 Age of Entry to the Program Per Year



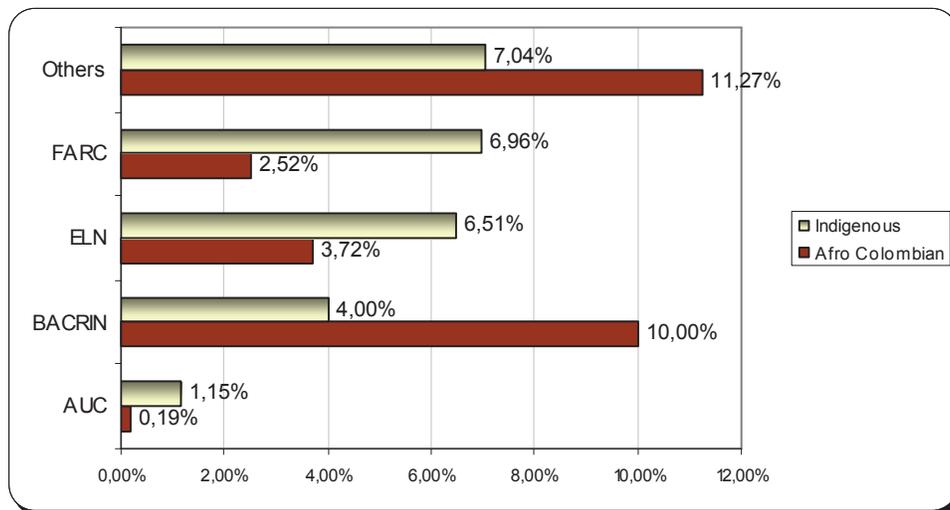
A great majority of beneficiaries were adolescents (86%). Youths under 15 years of age represent 13% of the Program beneficiaries. Beneficiaries' average age is 16 years.

Graph #3 Age of Entry by Gender vs. Illegal Armed Group



Gender distribution trends show a major male participation in the program (73%). However, among demobilized children, female beneficiaries leave IAG younger.

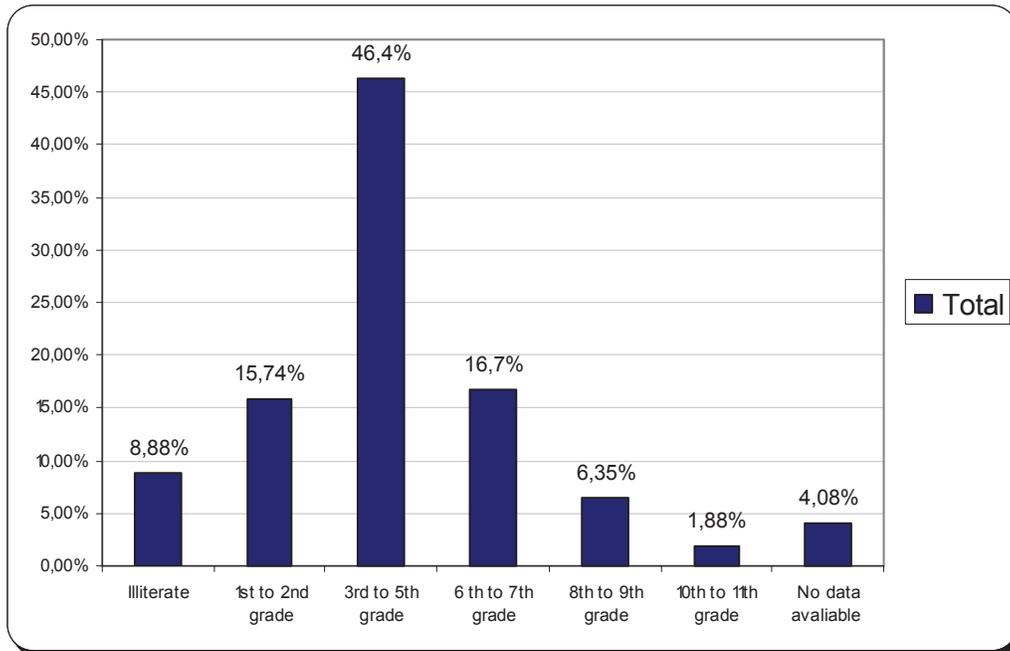
Graph # 4 Distribution of Ethnic Minority Groups vs. Illegal Armed Group of origin



Ethnic minorities represent 7,53% (229) from the total population assisted by the program. Indigenous children **exceed** Afro-Colombian beneficiaries disengaged from FARC, ELN and AUC. Although, Colombian indigenous population is lower (represent 3.3% from the total (1.378.884) than Afro Colombian population (represent 10.3% (4.261.996) from total population)².

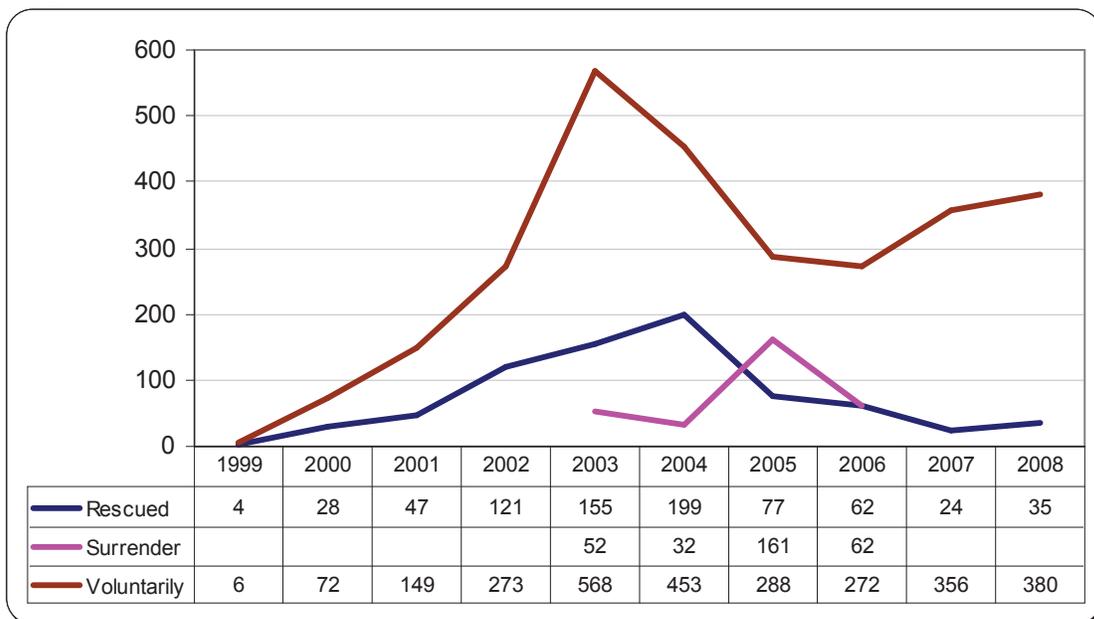
² Source: DANE 2.005

Graph # 5 Children Education Level at the Entry to the Program



Education level of major children and youth (71%) entering the program do not basic education. Only 24.9% from the total, have attained secondary, this is explained because, most of them left schools to join armed groups.

Graph # 8 –Entries vs. Date and reason for IAG children’s withdrawal



The number of children entering the Program voluntarily increased. Most of the children rescued or surrendered were male. There was an increase in the number of surrenders in 2.005 as a result of the demobilization process of the AUC (88 children).

Top Ten Territories of Children Recruitment by IAG

Municipalities	No.
Medellín	126
Bogotá D.C.	115
El Bagre	82
Tame	73
Florencia	69
San Vicente del Caguán	59
Tame	47
Planadas	43
Medellín	42
Buenaventura	41

Entries of Pregnant or Lactating Beneficiaries

During program implementation, 68 pregnant girls joined the program and 93 were lactating, mostly from FARC and ELN.

IAG	Lactating	Pregnant
AUC	0,87%	1,06%
BACRIN	--	2,00%
ELN	5,02%	2,23%
FARC	2,52%	2,06%
Others	2,75%	--

2.1 FINAL RESULTS – ASSISTANCE DURING THE FOUR PHASES

(i) Increased use of extra-institutional “family” settings.

The original ICBF assistance model was built around CAE special assistance centers – institutional settings where ex-combatant children could receive the specialized care they required. USAID assistance expanded the CAE model and improved it. But recently comparison of data from children at the CAE with that from the extra-institutional home-placement models has caused



Family Encounters in Villavicencio

Program staff to critically re-examine how assistance is best delivered. Family reunification was not part of the original plan. For years, children who re-united with their families essentially ceased to receive assistance. IOM and ICBF recognized that this has the unintended effect of discouraging family reunification, and so instituted a mechanism whereby children could continue to receive assistance while living with families (their own or in foster-care). As more children followed this route, staff noted that these tended to have fewer social and discipline issues, showed stronger social and economic incorporation, and otherwise appeared to be ahead of their peers.

The Program consolidated ICBF's operations at national and regional levels, providing policy advice and strengthening their operational capabilities, supporting ICBF's transition toward a more decentralized system of assistance. The "Colombianization" process started, ICBF assumed costs, methodologies and tools designed by the Program, fulfilling international standards.

2.1.1 COVERAGE AND ASSISTANCE

The Program always covered 100% of requested assistance, providing education, cultural and health services to 4,079 children and youth. The family environment component provided services to approximately 49% of the beneficiaries; the remaining 51% were assisted through the institutional component.

Program staff consolidated and updated Contingency Plans for Massive Demobilizations strategy in a number of areas. This component improved ICBF capabilities to cope with some massive demobilization of children that took place.

2.1.1.1. Foster Homes *Hogar Gestor* and *Hogar Tutor* Modalities



Foster homes such as the *Hogares Tutores* covered four regions (Armenia, Manizales, Villavicencio and Bogotá) and assisted some 160 beneficiaries each quarterly. The *Hogares Gestores* in Bogotá and Valledupar complemented ICBF home-based initiatives in five other regions. The Program strengthened this modality and reinforced psychosocial assistance in foster homes hiring new professional advisors.

2.1.1.2. Specialized Attention Centers

The program offers the children comprehensive assistance in seven Specialized Attention Centers (CAE) and 86% of current services were used. Three of the four sub-programs (income generation; education; and health, culture and recreation) have been initiated in the CAE, which also provide specific psycho-social assistance to each child, helping him or her overcome the trauma of being recruited. Program assistance has expanded and improved upon the original ICBF pilot program. IOM reinforced previous Program advances through periodic and external evaluations, further formalizing CAE curricula and supporting long-term reintegration for ex-combatant children.

2.1.1.3. Exit Support Options

IOM provided substantial reinforcement to social and economic reintegration options so the Program will be able to monitor and support the social reintegration process of each individual beneficiary. IOM promoted that children who reunite with their families also continue to access Program benefits in order to allow continuing to track their progress.

Family Reunification Services were a successful experience, taking into account that many children joined illegal armed forces to escape dysfunctional family situations, and that others come from “war families”, IOM methodologies based on family assistance models were appropriate for children reintegration and for reestablishment of their rights.

2.2 FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES

Family Reunification Services were a successful experience, taking into account that many children joined illegal armed forces to escape dysfunctional family situations, and that others come from “war families”, IOM methodologies based on family assistance models were appropriate for children reintegration and for reestablishment of their rights. However, due to the persistence of a violence context, the *Hogar Gestor* model and other methodologies that involve direct family ties showed a constant trend (27% to 30% of the total beneficiaries).

2.2.1 Technical Guidelines

- IOM supported analysis, adjustments and consolidation of existing models, as well as training for staff and partners on family co-responsibility and family reunification guidelines.
- ICBF adopted as an institutional guideline nationwide the reinsertion methodology called “*Modelo Solidario de atención a Familias*” (Family Solidary Model³).

2.2.2 Family Meetings and Reunifications

- A total of 787 family reunification processes took place nationwide. The Program promoted family and government co-responsibility through the implementation of the *Solidarity Model* in every family meeting.
- Program staff organized training workshops on conflict resolution and abuse prevention for families. Assistance contributed to develop and strengthen local institutional and social capacity and family networks in Antioquia.
- ICBF informed that approximately 15% of the beneficiaries families were IDP, as a result the Program determined to increase psychosocial assistance and access to other services to these families.
- About 89% of the beneficiaries maintain family contact. The program promoted family activities and methodologies such as visits, family encounters and telephonic contact.

³ Solidarity development model means the degree to which the choice for the development involves an ethic decision based on the co-responsibility, mutual help and concern and solidarity action liaising government institutions, community and family.

2.3 HEALTH

The Program contributed to the drafting and processing of Decree 323, through which ex-combatant children are included in the National Health System Register (SISBEN), under which the beneficiaries are receiving universal health coverage. This is complemented with a baseline health diagnosis and evaluation for all children upon entering the program. The Program improved medical services, provided HIV/AIDS awareness and consultations, strengthened psychological assistance, and support sexual and reproductive health education.

The Program worked to ensure timely and effective beneficiaries' access to the state health network in order to reduce cost of assistance. More than 50% of the beneficiaries have access to the national health system and 100% received required health assistance.

Assistance included prostheses for disabled, extensive dental care (teeth are a major health problem among this population).

2.3.1 Preventing Psychoactive Substances Use (PSU)

Additional attention was provided to prevent the harmful effects of psychoactive substance abuse. An average of 15% of the quarterly beneficiaries received assistance to prevent or stop PSU. However, during the demobilizations process of the AUC (2003-2005) the PSU was higher. Program staff identified that PSU depends on the youths' profile; beneficiaries who came from urban areas had a higher trend to PSU.

IOM and ICBF drafted and designed the guideline policy to prevent PSU. ICBF adopted this document as the national policy to prevent PSU, implemented in all ICBF programs.

- The Program prevented psychoactive substances use, by supporting a national health strategy that fostered social reintegration processes for 231 youths last quarter.
- The *Prever* Foundation assisted an average of 20 to 25 adolescents per quarter, providing ambulatory assistance in Bogotá. Last quarter *Prever* assisted 20 youth.
- Cultural and recreational activities also were used to prevent PSU.

2.3.2 Medical Services

2.3.2.1 Health Assistance	2.3.2.2 Joint Project ONUSIDA-IOM's, HIV/AIDS and Prevention of Sexual Abuse
<p>ICBF and IOM determined to provide health assistance to children and youth through local health service providers (EPS) or private medical institutions due to problems with the affiliation service provided by the ACRSE.</p> <p>The Program provided health assistance to approximately 90% of the total</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beneficiaries received counselling, HIV testing, and prophylactic services for cases of sexual violence. ▪ IOM contributed to produce several teaching and dissemination materials of training techniques and awareness on sexual reproductive health and domestic violence. ▪ ICBF established that an average of 7% of the

<p>beneficiaries, including general and specialized medical services and comprehensive diagnosis for new beneficiaries. Some of the frequent health problems were: Leishmaniasis, visual and movement disabilities.</p>	<p>population suffered sexual abuse; prevention policies and activities began a priority for the program. A pilot project was implemented in Bogotá and it will be extend to the national level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Program performed training workshops to promote sexual and reproductive rights and foster HIV awareness. Eight youth initiatives were supported.
<p><i>2.3.2.4 Psychosocial Assistance</i></p>	
<p>Program staff drafted institutional guidelines on psychosocial assistance, establishing an institutional route to assist vulnerable children and youth nationwide. IOM staff included feedback on mental health and prevention of psychoactive substances use.</p>	

2.4 EDUCATION

At the beginning of the Program, most of the resources were spent in private education, through the capacity building component and as a result of inter-institutional coordination beneficiaries could access national public education system. The program strengthened inter-institutional coordination with ICBF and Ministry of Education to provide children and youth with educational alternatives under the formal system. National curricula were adapted to meet ex-combatant children’s needs for flexibility in terms of curricula, class time and study locations. Between, 2005-2008 1,321 children accessed the formal education system.

For those Program beneficiaries that cannot attend school, in-house application of the CAFAM methodology continued to serve as the primary tool for transition toward formal system. In some cases, the Program supplied supplementary assistance for transportation, uniforms and other incidental expenses when these are a barrier attending school.

The Program coordinated with the Ministry of Education and municipal education departments coverage expansion through additional quotas within the formal schooling system. IOM supported the design and implementation of education public policies through specific task such as the ten years National Education Plan, Local Education Worktables and The National Planning Education Worktable.

The education component was closely coordinated with the Program income generation component to guarantee education levelling with beneficiary’s needs to enter technical training for employment. Education services were also strengthened through a funded initiative to periodically evaluate students’ progress through examinations administered at the CAE, to ensure that they are advancing, to identify problem areas and to quantify Program advances.

School coverage reached about 90% of the beneficiaries; 55% had access to basic studies and 45% to high school. The Program implemented success education models such as *Aula del Sol*, *La Escuela Busca al Niño* and ethno-education models for Afro Colombian and Indigenous populations.

2.5 EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION

The component of employment preparation was part of a comprehensive strategy to support long-term sustainable economic and social reintegration. IOM strengthened SENA and other agencies' ability to supply appropriate programming in a timely manner, and developed intra-institutional mechanisms to ensure continuity in case of training across geographic zones. The program provided employment preparation training for 1,665 ex-combatant youths. SENA prioritized ex-combatant children as primary beneficiaries of its programs and activities; access to public technical training was achieved through program activities. SENA and ICBF adopted methodologies developed by the program to promote the economic reintegration of ex-combatant children.



The Program provided technical training for under aged ex-combatant beneficiaries, helping them identify vocational interests through a diagnosis that matches their skills and aptitudes with demand for labour in their areas of interest. As a result, youth increased their technical and employment skills and better opportunities for social and economic reincorporation.

- Inter-institutional local worktables took place with the participation of ICBF, ACRSE, SENA, CROJ and IOM nationwide. The SENA expanded services with trainings on different income generations activities, such as computer skills, coking, bakery, international business, nursing, environmental impact and craftworks. Other institutions such as COMFENALCO, COMFAMA or

CAJASAN provided training on gastronomy, building, sells, metalworking, beauty and food handling for 11 youths.

- The Program provided technical assistance to the Employment National Worktable (conformed by SENA, IOM and ICBF) pursued strategic planning activities and drafted work plan documents.
- SENA and ICBF adopted the MIMA tool. IOM provided technical trainings on this tool to transfer to GOC institutions. Last quarter the program provided trainings for 312 civil servants working with SENA.

2.6 INCOME GENERATION

The Program developed a series of private-public alliances with 14 firms and labor unions that are implementing new business enterprises where youths work as part of a job-creation endeavor. Up to December 2008, 3,734 scholarships have been awarded for technical courses or superior education and 1,710 young beneficiaries employed once they reached the legal age. Additionally, 1,702 job opportunities were provided.

- IOM and the *Tejido Humano* Foundation supported a total of 259 income generation projects. Throughout this alliance 753 employment opportunities were provided
- The “Escuela Taller de Bogotá” Foundation (FET in Spanish) provided gastronomy trainings to seven youths and building trainings. The Program referred seven youths to work in well-known restaurants in Bogotá, five of them were hired and others want to install their own restaurant. ----

2.6.1 Coordination with the ACRSE

IOM institutionalized best practices and methodologies for social and economic reintegration working jointly with the ACRSE. The Program contributed to the drafting and processing of a CONPES⁴ document (N°3554) that established the National Policy for the Social and Economic Reintegration. Through this CONPES document the Colombian State is oblige to provide specialized assistance to ex-combatant children for their social and economic reintegration.

IOM supported youths in accessing credits and other inputs provided by the ACRSE. The Program evaluated impact of essential program components, supported public/private links and promoted social investment.

- IOM transferred the *Reintegration Conditions Index* (ICR) to the ACRSE and provide personalized assistance to children and adolescents.
- The Program and ACRSE coordinated psychosocial and education services. Local work tables for reestablishment of rights were reinforced as an inter-institutional coordination tool.
- CROJ staff coordinated the transfer of 826 youths to the ACRSE program to receive reintegration benefits.

2.7 REFERENCE AND OPPORTUNITY CENTERS (CROJ)

The CROJ Youth Reference and Opportunity Centers were the Program’s most important link with children who have graduated or are in “family” settings. CROJ expanded support for economic and social incorporation, with nine regional offices nationwide. The assistance model implemented by CROJ was assumed by



⁴ A policy guideline document that the GOC is oblige to follow.

ICBF and other Colombian institutions to promote the social and economic incorporation of vulnerable populations.

CROJ services and references were vital for long-term sustainability of Program successes. They directly impact economic incorporation and provide an important safety net for social incorporation.

IOM strengthened CROJ with two important impacts on the income generation component. First, Program beneficiaries and former beneficiaries are able to access a much wider range of services for a longer period of time, encouraging and supporting their economic incorporation over the medium- and long-term. This is essential since economic incorporation is a key aspect of their demobilization and return to civil society – if they cannot support themselves through legal, legitimate work, their chances of returning to an illegal armed actor rise accordingly. Second, it allowed more meaningful analysis of the long-term impact of the services provided and their application to the real world. This data was an important input and certainly led to a re-examination of how skills are taught as well as which skills are most needed.



Carpenters workshop provided by the Program

The CROJ model was improved developing four different areas of a comprehensive social and economic integration strategy: 1) Training schools; 2) Learning skills to improve living conditions; 3) Improving cultural and artistic skills; and 4) Business project. CROJ also provided support to reparation activities for 529 youths.

- The CROJ provided services to 1,710 youths. A total of 1,495 beneficiaries have access to health services; 1,501 youths were referred to formal education programs and 520 received subsidies. The CROJ provided training to 1,665 youths on labour skills out of which 721 received subsidies.
- The CROJ referred youths to different companies for employment opportunities and 799 get a job.
- Joint activities with ICBF focused on improving cultural services for 3,844 youths and 1,098 families became part of the CROJ regional support networks. CROJ staff assisted 1,466 youths to obtain legal documentation and 913 new institutions became part of CROJ's national network.

Transference of the CROJ model to the GOC

The CROJ model has been adopted by the ICBF. Other government institutions such as ACRSE also use CROJ concepts and methodologies. So, in many ways, the transfer of CROJ to the GOC has already begun through programs such as Social Integration of Youths Undergoing an Administrative Process to Re-establish their Rights (PARD). This quarter, CROJ provided assistance to PARD population, including education, health and cultural activities, using the CROJ as an administrative base. Last quarter the program assisted the following beneficiaries:

Remissions and assistance provided by CROJ				Follow up and monitoring tools			
Type of population	Number of youth remitted by ICBF	Number of youth assisted by CROJ	% youth assisted by CROJ compare to ICBF requirements	FI*	IV**	ICR***	SAME****
PARD	5.177	4.852	94%	4.710	4.891	3.245	3.477
Clubes Juveniles	3.199	3.163	98%	2.104	1.638	404	1.598
TOTAL	8.043	7.623	95%	6.814	6.529	3.649	5.075

* Comprehensive form

** Domiciliary Visit

*** Reintegration Conditions Index

**** Follow up and monitoring system

2.8 CULTURE AND RECREATION

Culture and recreation initiatives were used to develop children's personalities in a healthy, open manner after the closed, rigidly hierarchical military environment. Sport and art activities were used as a tool for psychological care and allowed full development of the children's leadership skills. Focus is provided on non-violent conflict resolution, empathy and anger management, in an attempt to heal the trauma of violence and prevent PSU.

- Program staff coordinated sports, cultural and recreational activities for 100% of the beneficiaries:
 - Medellín: Sports and training activities with the *Corporación Colombia Subacuática*
 - Bogotá: Artistic activities (theater and video)
 - Villavicencio: Training workshops on stained glass window products
 - Bucaramanga: Recreational workshops
 - Cartagena: Dancing groups and sports teams

- The Program reinforced cultural and recreational activities to prevent psychoactive substances use and promote conflict resolution.

2.9. CAPACITY BUILDING

IOM conducted a preliminary assessment of institutional needs for efficient and effective decentralization of Program strategies and interventions. Based on this assessment, IOM institutionalized some best practices and methodologies at appropriate levels. IOM supported public/private links and promote social investment. The program encompasses Colombian human, organizational, institutional, and resource capabilities. IOM jointly with ICBF enhanced the ability to evaluate and address the crucial questions related to policy choices and modes of implementation among protection of children rights, based on an understanding of recruitment prevention strategies.



Working with ICBF to assist vulnerable nonulations

IOM promoted self-reliance and the long-term sustainability of Program activities. At the same time, IOM builds upon and refines operational methodologies. USAID/IOM intervention supported the creation of an enabling environment with appropriate policy and legal frameworks, institutional development, including community participation (of women in particular), human resources development and strengthening of managerial systems for the protection of children right.

ICBF and IOM worked together in variety number of areas. Jointly work plans, activities and evaluations took place during the program implementation.

Reparation Programs

Colombia's legal framework has changed with regard to restitution of rights to child and adolescent victims of IAG recruitment. The Program started to support implementation of these changes, providing technical and financial support to reparations projects, ensuring that victims are compensated. This strategy will included: identification and guidance of legal benefits for victims; guidance for victims in accessing government programs and benefits – including civil registry, social security, education and housing subsidies.



An income generation project (Café Internet) part of reparation activities

Program staff identified the needs to support the GOC administrative reparations project. Through this, Program beneficiaries will be recompensed for their exploitation by IAG. Efforts were supported at the national and regional levels. IOM provided technical assistance to departments and municipalities; started to

design guidelines for the protection of victimized children; and strengthened inclusive education models in municipalities with high numbers of ex-combatant children.

Youth productive projects and reconciliation processes were supported – such as the Fund for Afro Colombian Youth Initiatives in the Montes de Maria region. Working with partner agencies, IOM will show them how to seek out and identify promising new initiatives to deter recruitment of children and youth.



Reparation projects in Monteria

to implement this Law.

- The Program drafted a guideline document on Comprehensive Reparation to Children Victims of Illegal Recruitment, which will be a policy guideline document for the ICBF reparation activities.
- Training, research and assessment activities took place with the participation of civil servants.
- IOM promoted inter-institutional worktables to increase cooperation in reparation matters.
- Working groups were held to discuss international framework, comparative studies of countries and national institutional requirements

Scholarships to Canada for Youth Participating in Reparation Processes

- IOM provided technical support consisted of collective pilot reparations projects; development of reconciliation projects; and legal counsel and support to ten ex-combatant youths, who travelled to Canada to work as temporary agrarian workers.
- Scholarships abroad were a success social and economic reinsertion methodology. IOM transferred this project and methodology to the ICBF, which will fund this project in 2009.

“HAZ PAZ” (make peace) Family Coexistence Policy:

This policy was implemented during the last two years and became an ICBF institutional program to prevent family violence and abuse. Policy implementation focused on local and regional initiatives to provide technical assistance and trainings to civil servants and other authorities.

Follow up and monitoring activities to the Peace and Coexistence Plans took place. Program staff designed and implemented a follow up system and mapping activities.

2.9 MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

2.9.1 Reintegration Conditions Index (ICR)	2.9.2 SAME
The Program transferred ICR methodology to ICBF foster homes. IOM increased the number of ICR test applied and provided required technical assistance.	IOM started transferring SAME methodology to ICBF. Web site testing stage concluded; the process had to be extended for an additional six months period.
2.9.3 SIMONI	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The system was designed and it is being transferred to ICBF. Program staff updated SIMONI forms according to new Colombian legal framework. ▪ Users' manual was updated. 	

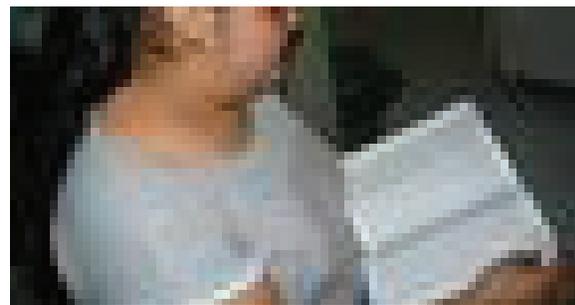
2.10 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Total Youths	Legal Situation			Administrative Situation		Youths with Identity Documents
	Youths with Open Cases	Youths with Closed Cases	Youths waiting for legal definition	Youths with open Cases	Youths with CODA Certificates	
564	150	218	184	564	290	486
%	27	39	33	100	51	86

Program activities allowed children and youths' access to legal documentation rights. It was a basic services that permit children and youths' access to other rights and services.

Beneficiaries Life Story: A Girl Recovered her Dignity to Rebuild

Liliana, now 22, was 15-yearsold young girl when she was recruited by an IAG in Colombia. Now she is proud of the school achievements that signaled the start of a new life. With IOM/ICBF and USAID-funded Program, Liliana benefited from social and economic incorporation projects that are helping her transform her life into a good and happy experience.



Educative activities for Ex-combatants Youths

One rainy August afternoon in 1999, Liliana joined an IAG looking for revenge for her brothers' death and her nightmare of being abuse when she was six years old. Her family conditions were critical; this is the life of some 11,000 Colombian children who were recruited by IAG, 4,079 received help from the USAID/IOM Support Program for Ex-combatant Children.

“I felt I was an alien, I fought, I was rude, aggressive, rebel and violent. I wanted to be man.” Liliana said. After two years of hard work and inhuman conditions in an IAG, she was treated as a man; she had to decide between her life and her best friends’ lives; she saw many of her friends commit suicide because they could leave the IAG. She left the IAG when she was 17 years old, “Thanks to this program, I earned the respect of the people here, I stopped using psychoactive substances; I could study and have a better life, a future.”

The Support Program for Ex-Combatant Children, begun in early 2001, is one initiative that brings together physical and psychosocial support for social and economic reincorporation. Participants like Liliana benefit from the therapeutic aspects of education, cultural and recreational activities but even more so from the psychological and social assistance. The beneficiaries regain a sense of dignity and self-worth. They also have the conviction that an ex-combatant children experience does not mean incapacity, and that they can participate as productive members of Colombian society.

Liliana received technical training on business and marketing, she is working to help her family and she will study medicine and become a cardiologist expert. “I had a successful social and economic reintegration process. It changed my life and helped me to love myself and family”. She said.



The Prevention Component provided technical and financial support to government entities, communities, private sector and civil society organizations to strengthen public policies and programs that help develop and protect the life of children and adolescents, especially Indigenous and Afro-Colombian and prevent their recruitment by illegal armed groups (IAG).

IOM developed a comprehensive children recruitment prevention strategy. As a result the protection and re-establishment of children rights became a priority for most Colombian institutions. A total of 42,321 children and youths benefited from this strategy and another 57,732 children were benefited from the ICBF/IOM agreement (Recruitment prevention activities for children less than six years of age and other vulnerable children and youth); 4,478 public employees and 7,495 community leaders were trained on administrative and legal procedures.

Prevention activities included policy change and mass education to re-shape public mores with regard to recruitment of under-aged combatants by IAG. Program activities supported the National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment (CIPR), helping it drafting a work plan and targeting action areas. Program staff supports the design and implementation of flexible strategies that respond to differences in age, gender, ethnicity and disability. Selected youth groups in priority areas implemented productive reconciliation projects.

The Program identified 56 at-risk communities through Maps of Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity (MVRO) activities and separate evaluation studies – both pilot activities of earlier Program phases. The MVRO risk maps evaluate social and institutional conditions; cross-reference these with various indicators of violence (social, political, inter-familial, etc.). The result provides a useful benchmark of risk to children from recruitment by the IAG as well as other vulnerabilities to violations of their civil and personal rights. The MVRO activities conclude with a specific action plan to prevent further violations. MVRO data was presented to the office of the Vice President, and to local governments of 30% of the municipalities.

Training for beneficiaries and implementing agencies increased, improving both communication to the communities and feedback to the Program. Youth leaders were prioritized to augment youth participation in Prevention activities. The Program promoted some strategic alliances with private sector and public institutions.

Program activities will continue to provide technical and financial support for Law 1098/06 and other Public Policy activities that help protect children from IAG. Trainings will expand for civil servants and other stakeholders. Program staff will strengthen Regional Worktables for the Childhood, Adolescence and Youth, as well as departmental and

A comprehensive awareness raising campaign took place and was directed at public authorities, youth at risk and illegal armed actors. The campaign's emphasis was that recruitment of minors is a war crime and not a viable military option. The campaign focused on the positive aspects and opportunities that the youth have available through legal options. The Program has educated journalists, social communicators, news agencies and others, using specialized organizations such as PANDI and Medios para la Paz. Victims' rights and prevention were supported through activities such as the Maya Nasa comic books, soap operas and other programming for national and community radio, as well as other private sector initiatives. Working with the *Colombia Joven* presidential program, regional youth forums and other outreach mechanisms, the Program raised the profile of recruitment within the youth environment. Social investment initiatives supported ethno-education, formal and informal education, culture and stimulated productive capacity among at-risk youth. In complement with other awareness activities, these have proven important prevention tools.

B.1 Special Support to Afro-Colombian Communities [Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF)]

Thanks to the valuable assistance of USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was able to support 3,843 Afro-Colombian children in 2008. The programme was carried out in the framework of the national strategy to prevent their recruitment by IAG in the departments of Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Chocó and the Montes de María region. IOM also promoted the creation of social networks and institution building. This benefited to 48 institutions from the national system of Family Welfare, with the training of 1,429 community leaders. Most of these are single afro-Colombian mothers.

The IOM methodology enables children, adolescents and communities to participate actively in the decision-making process. The first prevention strategy focused on the Vulnerability, Risks and Opportunity maps and brings together the education sector and young Afro-Colombians associations. The second one, focused on restorative justice models and training of Afro-Colombian women as family counselors. IOM also supported youth initiatives in the fields of education, culture and income-generation projects.

IOM cooperated with the GOC throughout the country to enhance the sustainability of international community's efforts. In this respect, IOM assisted the design and implementation of the national policy for the prevention of child and youth recruitment, as well as the design of local action plans for development.

AFRO-COLOMBIAN [DCOF] BENEFICIARIES JULY-SEPTEMBER 2008								
BENEFICIARIES	ACCUMULATED	THIS QUARTER	GIRLS	BOYS	ASSISTED INSTIT	ACCUM- INST	TRAINED ADULTS (this quarter)	
LOCATIONS							MEN	WOMEN
MONTES DE MARÍA	2.224	230	118	112	-	23	462	565
VALLE DEL CAUCA	906	668	405	263	2	4	144	176
CHOCO	260	-	-	-	7	8	-	32
NARIÑO	453	453	231	222	13	13	20	30
TOTAL	3.843	1.351	523	375	22	48	626	803

MONTES DE MARIA REGION

The experience in Montes de Maria region has led to project improvement. Cooperation between UN agencies, GOC institutions and local authorities as well as community organizations, was strategic and allowed a mayor impact on the protection of children rights.

- The Program with the *Development and Peace Network Foundation* supported fifteen youths' initiatives. The implementation of MVRO methodology promoted these initiatives and strengthened family ties, reduction of economic vulnerability, creation of a "youth identity", as well as expanded education programming in rural areas.
- Staff Program coordinated cultural, artistic, educative, sport and productive activities with the participation of 2,224 children and youth.
- The *Restrepo Barco Foundation* jointly with staff Program organized business planning trainings with the participation of 16 youths' organizations and 24 beneficiaries participating of productive initiatives. Staff Program performed mapping activities to transfer methodologies and models to local government institutions.

VALLE DEL CAUCA

IOM identified the crucial need to develop a comprehensive prevention strategy based on the Vulnerability, Risks and Opportunity maps in the Pacific strip, which includes Buenaventura (Valle); Tumaco (Nariño); Guapi (Cauca); and Quibdo (Chocó).

The Program developed pilot projects on restorative justice models and training of afro-Colombian women as family counsellors in Valle del Cauca, ICBF adopted this methodology to implement in other regions. IOM also supported youth initiatives in the fields of education, culture and income-generation projects.

The Pacific strip was identified as priority region of high vulnerability in terms of recruitment prevention both in indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations.

- The *Franciscan Foundation in Buenaventura*, IOM and *Semilla de Mostaza* Foundation implemented a project to provide training on family counselling to Afro-Colombian women heads of households. Fifteen training workshops took place; 80% of the beneficiaries received psychosocial evaluation and 70% of the institutional networking was identified. Staff Program reviewed 20% of the psychological tools to provided assistance and 30% of the training on conflict resolution was performed; 95% of the beneficiaries participated in cultural and recreational activities.
- Twenty-two training workshops on family counselling took place, with the participation of four leaders and 100% of the family counsellors. The Program organized training workshops on pedagogical tools to disseminate the family counselling methodology in the targeted neighbourhoods and municipalities (Kennedy, San Luis, San Francisco and La Gloria). A total of 218 children and youths and 112 women has benefited of the projects.
- *Fundación Paz y Bien* (a local NGO) and IOM organized and implemented 20 training Workshops on tools to provide psychosocial assistance, with the participation of 50 tutors. Eighty-four youths participated in follow up and monitoring activities. The Program provided 1,112 family counselling and psychosocial assistance to 1,472 children and youth. The Program assisted a total of 688 Afro-Colombian children and youths.

NARIÑO

Program activities strengthened Local Social Policy Councils, increasing the protection factors of children rights. MVRO results allowed prioritization of work areas and populations.

- IOM and the NGO *Forjadores de Paz* supported the elaboration of MVRO in Tumaco. A total of 453 children and 50 families benefited from cultural, productive and educative activities. Fifty adults were trained on administrative and law issues to protect Afro-Colombian children and youth; capacity building activities strengthened 13 local institutions in Nariño.

CHOCO (Quibdo and Istmina)

The program benefited a total of 260 children and youth in Chocó. As part of the *Clubes Pre-Juveniles* strategy ICBF strengthened regional and local networks with youths and communities. A total of 58 education, cultural, recreational and pedagogical activities took place, promoting a better use of free time and



Educative activities in Chocó

access to the formal education system. Staff program developed 220 family visits to bring psychosocial counselling and conflict resolution trainings.

- Two parents' encounters took place as part of the ICBF strategy called *Clubes Pre-Juveniles* (Children Clubs) in Quibdó and Istmina. Program staff provided training on prevention of violence and child abuse, education guidelines and strengthening of the relationship between parents and children, with the participation of 32 mothers.
- The Program coordinated activities to promote a better use of free time, academic reinforcement, training on social and citizenship skills and strengthening of social and family networks, with the participation of 133 children and youth in Quibdó and 127 children and youth in Itsmina. Program staff liaised with eight local institutions to reinforced project activities.

B.2. Special Support to Indigenous Communities

IOM supported the designed and implementation of the Legal Framework for Indigenous Populations. The new Indigenous Legal Framework was approved by the GOC and train judges, indigenous authorities and public servants were trained in the proper application of this legal framework, in order to guarantee an adequate protection of this vulnerable population's rights.

MVRO methodology, also allowed identifying the most risky zones for Indigenous populations. The program focused and prioritized activities to design and implement public polices that protect Indigenous children and youth and promoted their participation in decision making processes.

Program activities supported Indigenous Educative Centers to strengthen Indigenous identity and reinforced the community productivity capacity from a "Food Sovereignty"⁵

The Program promoted ethnic-centered activities whit the implementation of education, culture and income generation projects with Pastos, Awa, Ingas, Emberas, Paeces and Motilon Bari indigenous populations in Nariño, Norte de Santander and Putumayo.

NARIÑO

Program staff encouraged and mobilized people, including specialized training and opportunities to share and exchange experiences and lessons learned with other projects and processes involving Indigenous communities, in order to compare, learn and connect to wider processes and preserve their cultural, economic and social traditions.

Education System for the AWA Community in Camawari territory

⁵ It is a term originally coined by members of *Via Campesina* in 1996 [1] to refer to a policy framework advocated by a number of farmers, peasants, pastoralists, fisher folk, Indigenous Peoples, women, rural youth and environmental organizations, namely the claimed "right of peoples to define their own food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries systems," in contrast to having food largely subject to international market forces.

- IOM in coordination with AWA community implemented a Communitarian Education Project (PEC Spanish acronym). Pedagogic, administrative and evaluation strategies were drafted for basic education programs and high school studies.
- The Program and the National University for Distance Learning (UNAD Spanish Acronym) agreed to offer an ethno-education degree with the participation of 25 teachers living in Indigenous Reservations located in Ecuadorian and Colombian border.
- Staff Program implemented a new ethno-education project in the Indigenous Reservation *Nulpe Medio*. The project strengthened education processes through infrastructure, school supplies and the design of a pedagogical methodology, with the participation of ten adults and 15 teachers.

Strengthening of the educative process AWA-UNIPA

- Pedagogical and educative methodologies were designed. Program staff trained teachers and other adults to support de dissemination of ethno -educative programs.
- The Program drafted a guideline document to define administrative procedures in order to build two new classrooms.

PUTUMAYO

Strengthening of Education Initiatives for Vocational Training and Protection of Children Rights

- Program staff supervised environmental impact trainings for the *Jungillo* Community. Two training workshops took place on organic agriculture focusing on children and youths education needs.
- SENA and the Organization pursued opportunities to implement pilot projects in Putumayo. Three workgroups were conformed, beneficiaries were targeted and registered; new ethno education methodologies were tested including environmental impact, children rights and productive projects.
- Program staff coordinated five workgroups on traditional knowledge and cultural issues with the participation of 32 Indigenous youths (17 female and 15 males).
- IOM implemented the project “*Strengthening of educative proposals and vocational training to protect children and youths rights*” with the *Inga* Community. Local authorities were involved in this project and promoted income generation projects for 150 Indigenous children and youths.

NORTE DE SANTANDER

Elaboration of MVRO and Support to Recruitment Prevention Initiatives *Bari* Community

- The Program disseminated and socialized children recruitment prevention strategies in the Indigenous communities of *Sacacdu*, *Year*, *Pathuina*, *Brubuncanina*,

Asacbarincaya, Shubacbarina, Suerena, Ocbabuda, Insthoda, Beboquira, Bakuboquira, Irocobyncaira, Caricachaboquira, Iquiacarora and Bridycaira. Prevention activities increased with Indigenous communities, whose strong social organization increases activity impact.

- *Proempresas* (a local micro-credit company) implemented ten productive initiatives to strengthen communitarian projects. The Program provided technical assistance and administrative support implementing these initiatives. Program staff collected and mapped beneficiaries' information to elaborate a comprehensive diagnosis of the *Barí* Community situation.
- The Program provided assistance to 173 families and 300 children from the *Motilon Barí* Community (450 male, 415 female).

CAUCA

- Five training workshops on cattle farming, coffee and sugar cane took place, with the participation of 25 beneficiaries (17 male and eight female) from four different Indigenous Reservations (Quichaya, Pioyá, Pat Yú and Belalcazar).
- The Program coordinated eight training workshops on the legal route for indigenous in the Reservations of Pueblo Nuevo, Pioyá (Caldono), Belalcazar (Páez) Pat Yú (Cajibío) and Paletará (Puracé), with the participation of 117 Indigenous (42 female and 75 male).



B.3 Legal Framework and Public Policies

B.3.1 Dissemination of the Legal Framework

Office of the Inspector General (OIG)

The Program supported the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), with training on the implementation of the Justice and Peace Law 975. OIG policies and implementation plans against recruitment received technical assistance. The Program supported the implementation of information systems in departmental, municipal and priority regional offices which have important monitoring and control functions that help prevent recruitment.

- IOM and the Office of the Inspector General implemented the project “Strengthening of the Legal and Administrative Functions According to the Law 1098/2006”. Project activities focused on training for 812 civil servants on prevention of children and youths recruitment and training for restitution of children rights in thirteen departments (Norte de Santander, Sucre, Meta, Valle, Córdoba, Arauca, Nariño, Putumayo, Bolívar, Tolima, Casanare, Antioquia and Caldas).
- Two publications were launched. These documents are institutional guidelines to protect children rights and prevent their recruitment by IAG. Publications titles are:

(i) *“Protocolo de seguimiento a las políticas públicas en materia de prevención del reclutamiento ilegal y procesos de reparación integral a niños, niñas y adolescentes desvinculados” (Booklet -40 pages; 2.000 samples)*

(ii) *“Prevención, atención y detección de la violencia intrafamiliar, el maltrato infantil y la violencia sexual desde las acciones de gobernaciones y alcaldía, Una mirada del Ministerio Público en desarrollo de su función preventiva” (Book- 117 pages; 1.000 samples)*

The National Ombudsman Office

- The National Ombudsman Office and the Program implemented the project “Children and youths recruitment prevention through indicators designed for the Early Warning System”. The project included the experiences of local staff in the Early Warning System to improve risk indicators. As a result a guideline booklet was published and a training workshop was held with the participation of 40 civil servants.

B.3.2 Formulation of Public Policies on Childhood and Adolescence

Program staff provided technical assistance to public institutions at the local level. By helping mayors meet their responsibilities under 1098/06, the Program encouraged effective public policies, establishes local working groups, and improves public investment in Prevention. Training for public officials clarified legal process for children rescued from IAG and provide access to departmental and national resources for Prevention. Some prevention activities were included in budgets and planning processes, as can emergency preparedness.

Departmental initiatives were supported. Antioquia, Meta, and to some extent the Montes de Maria region received intensive assistance to improve their use of national resources, and to incorporate Prevention in formal planning exercises at the regional level. Regional conflict observatories helped provide more information specific to recruitment. Broader application of initiatives such as the formulation of public policies for Meta applied Program methodologies more widely.

- The Program participated in the organization of the VII National Encounter of Governors for Childhood, Adolescence and Youths in Paipa and Barranquilla. IOM

participated actively in the public policy, development plans, press and communications worktables.

- IOM and GOC local institutions actively worked to decentralize the Colombian public policy to combat recruitment of children and youth. They were fully involved in developing action plans and technical assistance to promote children rights.
- Program staff provided technical assistance to develop the Comprehensive Social Management strategy and to the national workshop on monitoring and evaluation of development plans implementation, with the participation of 280 civil servants and decision makers.
- Jointly with the National Planning Department and the Office of the Inspector General, IOM participated designing an Information and Management Indicators System to determine the impact of public policies on the childhood and youth wellbeing and restitution of rights.
- IOM provided technical assistance to nine departments and three municipalities in the implementation of development plans and childhood public policies, preventing the recruitment of children and youths.

B.3.3. The National Committee for Recruitment Prevention of Children and Adolescents (NCRP)

IOM supported the NCRP developing a systematic program⁶ for the implementation of existing legislation, legal training and broad-based interaction involving Afro Colombian and Indigenous organizations, especially women, public and local authorities and other social actors. Some specific activities were:

- Visit 70% of the targeted municipalities to agreed on a comprehensive strategy to prevent recruitment of children and youth
- Identified strategic stakeholders and zones to implement work plan.
- Six training workshops took place to promote cultural change with the participation of 295 beneficiaries in Soacha, Dos Quebradas, Cartagena, Villavicencio, Sogamoso and Ciudad Bolivar.
- Evaluation and mapping studies were held to identify quantity and quality data from regions with higher risk of children recruitment.
- Provide technical assistance to ten Social and Childhood Councils

The Program implemented a pilot strategy to reinforce social networks protecting children against recruitment by IAG. The strategy focused on communitarian work promoting social change through cultural and civic training activities in Soacha.

Program activities with the National Committee focused on: capacity building; implementing public policies; youth initiatives and mass awareness campaigns to promote the implementation of the Law 1098/2006, as well as children and adolescents rights. A total of 60 training sessions were held.

⁶ Find attached the work plan

B.4 Other Recruitment Prevention Activities

Pastoral Social de la Diócesis de Montería Project

IOM supported the elaboration of MVRO, fostering cultural, education and recreation activities for some 75 children and youths benefiting from cultural, musical and dancing trainings. Program staff liaised with local government institutions which would allow project continuity and sustainability.

Diakonía de la Paz- Diócesis de Sincelejo

IOM assistance contributed to develop and strengthen local institutional and social capacity to identify, prevent and respond to children recruitment; including theatre, music and craftworks activities.

Ministry of National Education Agreement

- The Andes University and the *Corporación Convivencia Productiva* contributed, with a project on citizenships competencies (*Aulas para la Paz*) benefiting 112 teachers, 56 professionals and 27 educative institutions. Discussions and agreements on site included possible expansion of educational services; as a result a final guideline report was drafted.
- The Program supported MEN, in 19 monitoring and evaluation visits and eight training workshops. IOM signed agreements with six local government institutions and five inter-institutional committees were set up in Cesar, Valledupar, Ciénaga, Magdalena and Turbo.
- Program staff provided technical counsel and support to bidding and proposal selection processes for 27 educative institutions. Three schools, three universities and one technical institute benefited from teachers training course.

B.4.1 The “*Jòvenes Conviven por Bogotá*” Project - The Mayor Office of Bogotá (MOB)–

IOM supported the “*Jòvenes Conviven por Bogotá*” assisting the MOB in setting up a social networking program, offering youth leaders the possibility to work with their communities as well as join and support different development related initiatives.



Recruitment prevention activities in Bogotá

The project reported 160 youth organizations benefiting 642 children and youth and 15,300 community members.

Beneficiaries' Life Story

Children life plans have to be a very serious matter in Colombia, with children at risk of recruitment by IAG. Children living in Chocó participate in an ICBF/IOM initiative called Clubes Pre-juveniles. This is a USAID-supported educational program which provided children and youths with useful pedagogical tools to improve their lifes.

The Clubes Pre-juveniles project supported by USAID is designed to improve living conditions and educational opportunities for severely impoverished families through a multi-pronged approach that offers children educational and social support. It also offers parents tools to provide for their families.

In 2008, Paola, a 13 years old girl and her two brothers became parte of the Clubes Pre-juveniles initiatives. They participated in workshops on family conflict resolution, promotion sexual and reproductive rights and foster HIV awareness. Where impoverished children are at risk of abandoning school to be recruited by IAG, the Clubes schoolchildren aged 5-15 through both educational ac



The Clubes Pre-juveniles houses a better use of free time projects and provides medical and dental care for some of most impoverished children. It also helps children who have fallen behind academically catch up to students closer to their own age. Children at risk of leaving school are eligible for after-school tutoring, enrichment, trips, and clubs.

The project's goal is to prevent the recruitment of children by IAG with school and stimulate their interest in learning. As a measure of the program's successes, it has expanded nationwide.



Main lessons learned can be summarized as follows:

- Youths' participation is necessary in public policy design and implementation. Inter-institutional committees should include youth participation; information campaigns on institutional guidelines and structure were useful.
- Articulate assistance components and lessons learned with recruitment prevention strategies is important to improve the effectiveness of recruitment prevention

activities will focus on support to the National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment (CIPR), helping it implement flexible strategies that respond to differences in age, gender, ethnicity and disability. Selected youth groups in priority areas will implement productive reconciliation projects. Prevention of Recruitment activities will be rigorously evaluated for impact as we refine a new and effective means to combat recruitment.

1.3 Institutional Strengthening for Colombianization. IOM will conduct an assessment of institutional needs for efficient and effective decentralization of Program strategies and interventions. Based on this assessment, IOM will institutionalize best practices and methodologies at appropriate levels. IOM will evaluate impact of essential program components, support public/private links and promote social investment. Deliverables include tools specific to Indigenous and Afro-Colombian community trainings, a ten-year close-out evaluation, and support for implementation of Law 1098/06. At the end of this three-year assistance package, all major Program implementing capacities can be in the hands of Colombian institutions.

II. COMBAT PREVENTION AND REINTEGRATION

- The ACRSE continued changing some procedures and forms which made more difficult for beneficiaries to access their services. The Program established coordination processes with the ACRSE to get the required information and help youths in the reintegration process.
- The Program does not have a Foster Home in Bogota, transferring characterization and initial assistance process to the Specialized Centre (CAE). The Program liaised with ICBF authorities to agree new assistance alternatives.
- Although the *Hogar Gestor* modality is a highly successful model the implementation project demonstrated that rural dispersed families require special strategies to be benefited by this modality.
- Registration process for children schools in Pereira were delay due to local government administration problems. IOM solved the problem by paying registration costs and working with the local government to establish an agreement with COMFAMILIAR.
- Nonetheless childhood Public policy design requires available and update information, specialized technical assistance and timing availability, the Colombian local and regional authorities do not have enough resources on this matter. IOM intensify technical assistance activities this quarter, in order to guaranty the inclusion of recruitment prevention perspective in the regional and local development plans.

III. COMBAT PREVENTION

The Government of Colombia – represented mainly by ICBF and its regional offices – is already largely prepared to assume full responsibility for attention to ex-combatant children

and prevention. The models are, however, complex, wide-ranging and intensive. To ensure that they are effectively applied, it is necessary to extend USAID financial support and IOM technical support in order to facilitate an effective hand-over of Program responsibilities. With the implementation of the a new proposal, the Program will achieve far-reaching, fundamental changes in institutional and human capacity – and begin the complicated process of remaking national views of recruitment of child soldiers by illegal armed groups – so that further progress and consolidation can be sustained by the GOC alone, without dependence on foreign aid.

In this final phase USAID and IOM do more than consolidate a successful and important program. By actively preparing for the end of USAID technical and financial support throughout the Program, IOM promotes self-reliance and the long-term sustainability of Program activities. At the same time, IOM builds upon and refines operational methodologies. Direct assistance examines new modalities for services delivery, and seeks an optimal balance between the availability of institutional settings for those children who need them and extra-institutional “family” settings for those who can benefit most from that route. Staff improve jobs placement and social incorporation interventions, and seek to guarantee CROJ continuity. Prevention activities focus geographically and conceptually, working to transform awareness and social mores with regard to recruitment of under-aged combatants.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Please see attached financial report

V. ANNEXES

Services Geographical Localisation

