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## COMMUNITY-ORIENTED REINTEGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS - CORE

AWARD: AID-514-A-00-06-00305-00



TWENTY-NINTH QUARTERLY REPORT TO USAID/COLOMBIA  
July – September 2013

**International Organization for Migration**  
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Photograph caption

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2013, 36 participants from the reintegration program in Bogotá and other municipalities of Cundinamarca successfully finished their processes.

Photo: Jadin Samit, Press and Public Information Unit, IOM Colombia.

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACR	Colombian Reintegration Agency (Agencia Colombiana para la Reintegración)
AGO	Attorney General's Office (Fiscalía General de la Nación)
AUC	United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia)
CDP	Center for Productive Development of Leather Footwear and Leather Goods
CODIS	Combined DNA Index System
CONPES	National Council for Economic and Social Policy (Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social)
CORE	Community-Oriented Reintegration of Ex-combatants
CMH	Center for Historical Memory (Centro de Memoria Historica)
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
ELN	National Liberation Army
FARC-EP	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia- People's Army
FENALCO	National Trade Federation
FIP	Fundación Ideas para la Paz
GOC	Government of Colombia
IDESAN	Financial Institute for Development in Santander
IECC	Graduation Competencies Evaluation Instrument (Instrumento de Evaluación por Competencias para la Culminación), which measures social, psychological and civic skills of ex-combatants deemed necessary for reintegration
IMC	Experiences of Mediation and Coexistence (Instancias de Mediación y Coexistencia)
IRN	National Reconciliation Index (Indice de Reconciliación Nacional)
ISUN	Instrument to Monitor Business Units (Instrumento de Seguimiento a las Unidades de Negocio), which measures advances in the operation of productive projects
Law 975/05	Justice and Peace Law
Law 1592	Reform of the Justice and Peace Law
Law 1424/10	Legal Status for Ex-Combatants Law
MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MAPP/OEA	Mission to Support the Peace Process of the OAS
OACP	Office of the High Commission for Peace
OAS	Organization of American States
PAICMA	Presidential Program for Action against Mines
SAME	Tracking, Monitoring and Evaluation System (Sistema de Acompañamiento, Monitoreo y Evaluación)
SIGI	Integrated Management System (Sistema de Gerencia Integral)
SIJYP	Inter-institutional Information System – Justice and Peace
SIRDEC	Information System for Network of Disappeared Persons and Remains Desaparecidos y Cadáveres
UNFJYP	National Unit of Attorneys for Justice and Peace (Unidad Nacional de Fiscales para Justicia y Paz)
VISP	Victims Institutional Strengthening Program

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## 1. Executive Summary

This report covers CORE programming for the period from July 1 to September 30, 2013. The report provides a review of developments in the Colombian and international context that impact or are likely to impact the Program; a quantitative overview of quarterly and cumulative progress against established indicators; a status report on key activities and achievements in the quarter that contribute to CORE's results and objective; difficulties encountered during implementation; priorities for the upcoming quarter; and a financial report.

CORE's objective is to support the Colombian Government in the implementation of laws related to the reintegration and legal status of ex-combatants. CORE works with governmental entities to develop tools and methodologies that support the implementation of these laws. CORE's goal is to pass these instruments to the agencies after a period defined by the entities involved. The timeline for transfer depends on the project.

Various contextual shifts and challenges that affect CORE have presented themselves during this quarter. As the peace negotiations between the GOC and the FARC progress, so has the design of the justice mechanisms to be used for popular approval and implementation of a final peace agreement. The proposed Legal Framework for Peace (LFFP) and referendum model of popular approval are at the heart of political and peace process debates, resulting in uncertainty about legal preparations for an end to the conflict. The Information and Analysis Unit is producing documents and information relevant to these two justice mechanisms and the relevant debates under IR3. In addition, as implementation of Law 1424 of 2010 continues, it has come to light that coordination between the ACR and the regular justice system is inefficient. This has resulted in a range of difficulties related to the incorrect administration of judicial benefits to ex-combatants whose cases are being processed under this law. These include fines and jail time that the ACR program participants should not have to pay. CORE is in the initial stages of supporting the ACR in the planning and implementation of a resolution.

The Tracking, Monitoring and Evaluation System (SAME) team provides technical support to assess psychosocial readiness for reintegration through the IECC. One thousand four hundred and ninety-four surveys were conducted, and 55% of the participants fulfilled the requisites of the instruments required by the ACR in order to continue with the graduation process. CORE and ACR worked together to ascertain the needs of those who will continue the graduation process, and find ways to reincorporate participants who fell behind in their reintegration programs. Also during this quarter, the ACR has graduated 491 participants from the reintegration process. Of these, 69% (337) received services supported by the CORE program including integrated professional profiles, job training, economic insertion through productive projects, and education.

In terms of economic reintegration, SAME supported the ACR in applying and using the SIR to systematize 490 monitoring visits made to individual productive projects that received seed capital funding between 2008 and 2013. CORE and the ACR continued work with partners to implement a shoemaking educational model as an income generation project in Cali, Bogotá, and Pereira. The project will include 150 participants (50 in each city). Project activities were initiated in the shoemaking workshop school in Bogotá and Cali, where 44 people in the process of reintegration finished the training phase, 24 people began the practical phase, and 10 people began the process of implementing their own shoemaking business units. The Pereira shoemaking workshop school was finalized, and activities there will begin in the coming quarter. These activities have contributed to the realization of Intermediate Result 1: "ACR Designs and Implements the GOC Reintegration Policy."

In terms of the realization of Intermediate Result 2: “Operational Mechanisms to Establish Definitive Legal Status of Ex-Combatants”, projects continue to support the various sub-units of the Justice and Peace Unit in the Attorney General’s office. These activities focus on: land restitution; facilitating sentencing in high priority cases; strengthening the ACR’s capacity to identify and return human remains to victims’ families; complementing the construction of patterns of macro-criminality with similar investigations of macro-victimization; and strengthening regional work in the sub-units. Results this quarter included:

- Analysis of 950 cases related to usurping of land
- Registration of 1,299 cases of land usurping
- Processing of 107 reports about different cases under the Justice and Peace Law
- Creation of 11 reports on macro-criminality and land usurpation, sent to the AGO Justice & Peace Unit

In the Exhumations Unit:

- The Attorney General’s website was updated with 1,167 new registrations, of which 350 were photos of remains found by the Sub-Unit. A total of 3,322 items have now been uploaded onto the website.
- 835 files were organized and scanned
- 480 cases were documented for the historical memory files

The ongoing Inter-institutional Information System for Justice and Peace, or SIIJYP, is now being used by the Attorney General’s Office, Inspector General’s Office, Ministry of Justice and Law, Office of the Ombudsman, and the Victims’ Unit. The SIIJYP team continues training with regional offices of these entities, and is working to incorporate others to the system. Work continued on a new module related to the Exhumations Sub-Unit and the ACR and OACP web services. In terms of community service activities under IR 2, CORE continues to work with the ACR to develop community service activities that facilitate reconciliation. During this quarter, 3,540 participants registered for community service activities, representing 96% of the target. 519 participants are attending community service, and 2,300 participants received the certificate of 80 hours of community service. CORE will support the ACR in attending 74% of the participants that the ACR aims to benefit in 2013.

Intermediate Result 3: “GOC Supported to Develop Conflict Management Strategies” focuses on building knowledge as well as technical and operational abilities of the GOC for conflict management. This project team compiles research documents on topics related to conflict and peace, and contributes to the systematization and analysis of civil society proposals on the current peace process, among other activities. So far, 100% of the 9,028 proposals submitted by civil society have been systematized. This has resulted in the compilation of regional reports on the conflict, complementing the unit’s analysis reports about the peace process agenda points. Events organized by the unit included a conversation session titled “Challenges to the implementation of the agreement on integrated rural reform reached by the GOC and the FARC” on July 12<sup>th</sup>, and “The Legal Framework for the Demobilization, Reinsertion, and Reintegration of the FARC” on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. More than 20 people attended both events, and represented entities including USAID, the High Commissioner for Peace, the ACR, the Center for Historical Memory, the Ministry of the Interior, the European Union, and IOM.

Program activities encountered two challenges during this quarter: 1) new reintegration-related policy provoked changes in ACR service center operations, and 2) uncertainty regarding the state of the GOC-FARC peace process given the 2014 national elections. These challenges required that the CORE adjust its practices and in some cases develop new tools and work models in order to accommodate the dynamic environment in which it operates. These challenges may continue to shape the Program’s operations in future quarters.

## 2. Context

### **Justice mechanisms and context for the implementation of a peace agreement**

As the peace negotiations between the GOC and the FARC have progressed, so has the design of the justice mechanisms to be used for popular approval and implementation of a final peace agreement. The proposed Legal Framework for Peace (LFFP) and referendum model of popular approval are at the heart of debates, resulting in a degree of uncertainty surrounding preparations for an end to the conflict.

The LFFP provides for the creation of temporary and extraordinary transitional justice mechanisms that aim to facilitate the end of the conflict and an effective transition to lasting and stable peace. It is the legal foundation for the demobilization of illegal armed groups, their sentencing for crimes committed in the conflict, and the victims' exercise of their right to truth, justice, and reparations. The Framework will be the instrument that governs the selection of cases for judicial processing, making it especially significant if the FARC demobilize as part of the current peace process. Intra-governmental controversy on the LFFP has focused on two points: the selection of cases to be processed and the possible suspension of sentences.

The proposed referendum would be used to gain public approval of a final peace agreement in the form of a vote. The proposed referendum would take place on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 (the day of Congressional elections), or May 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 (the day of Presidential elections). At least half some 7.5 million voters must approve its content, in general by responding to yes/no questions. Dismissal of the referendum proposal comes from all sides of the political spectrum, from Ex-president Uribe to the FARC themselves.

### **Diverging interpretations of Law 1424 of 2010 (Legal Status for Ex-Combatants Law)**

Law 1424 of 2010 provides judicial and other benefits to ex-combatants who demobilized from the AUC as part of the collective demobilizations between 2003 and 2006. The design of the Law is such that when an individual signs the agreement with the ACR to say that he/she is going to contribute to the truth about the conflict, participate in community service activities, and turn over assets to the State for victims' reparations, he/ she enters a simultaneous processes of fulfilling these requisites.

However, there exists a lack of cooperation between the ACR and the regular justice system and a huge caseload in the ACR. In some instances, the result of this is that cases are not being accompanied by the necessary ACR documents that demonstrate their participation in the process associated with Law 1424. In some cases, this results in ACR participants being sent to jail. In other cases, the individual can receive a benefit through ordinary justice that lets him or her go free without participating in the ACR's reintegration program. This allows demobilized people to avoid Law 1424 requisites such as community service.

As this issue has only recently come to light, CORE is in the initial stages of supporting the ACR in the planning and implementation of a resolution. CORE will hire a lawyer to design possible solutions to the problems outlined here. When these alternatives are ready, CORE and ACR will examine them and adopt the most effective and suitable solutions so that individuals who wish to go through the ACR program under Law 1424 and are processed under regular justice can both avoid these fines and criminal records, and are also prevented from avoiding the requisites of Law 1424, such as telling the truth and participating in community service.

## Program Indicators: Quarterly and Cumulative Progress and Goals

IR	Name of Indicator	Target FY 2013	Current quarter achievements	Cumulative achievements in all quarters 2006-2013*	Cumulative achievements in FY 2013	Percentage of target	Observations
SO	Percentage of ex-combatants who are involved in income generation activities and law abiding after graduation	60%					ACR must send information on those who graduated more than 6 months ago, to be included in the next Quarterly report.
IR1	# ex-combatants graduated from the reintegration program	1.200	491		<b>1.326</b>	<b>111%</b>	382 men, 109 women The goal was passed because the ACR graduated many ex-combatants who had already fulfilled the requirements but had not officially graduated yet.
	Percentage increase of ACR in the Institutional strengthening index	50%					We began to measure the Index in October 2013 because a large part of this indicator changes as models are passed to the ACR, which will only take place in FY2013-2014.
IR 1.1	# ex-combatants evaluated according to their social abilities - IECC	14.000	1.494		<b>14.988</b>	<b>107%</b>	1.239 men, 255 women
	# ex-combatants evaluated according to their economic capacities - ISUN	1.000	490		<b>1.473</b>	<b>147%</b>	373 men, 117 women. The goal was passed because ACR adopted the instrument for the graduation route, increasing the number of applications.
IR 1.2	# of ex-combatants, armed belligerents, who complete USG-assisted transformational programs	1.700	86	<b>28.815</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>29%</b>	61 men, 25 women. The goal was not achieved because of agreed budget cuts and because the projects began at the end of August and September.
	Percentage of female participants in USG-Assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income or employment)	10%	1%		<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	35 Women The goal was not achieved because the employment projects are just beginning and the beneficiaries are currently in the training process.
IR2	# of ex-combatants with certified requirements to access legal benefits through Law 1424/10 mechanisms	3.200					These certificates must be given by all three institutions (CMH, ACR and Attorney General's Office). Both the ACR and Attorney General's Office have certified 816 ex-combatants. However these same 816 ex-combatants have not been certified by the CMH yet.
	# of cases fully prepared for prosecution under Justice and Peace Law	30	2		59	197%	The goal was passed because the efforts of the Attorney General's Office were dedicated to preparing the highest number of cases.
IR 2.1	# of government officials in key institutions that enhance skills on reintegration components of transitional justice	0					These training session are yet to be implemented, and therefore the goal was zero.
	Number of prosecutions supported	150	20		<b>140</b>	<b>93%</b>	The Attorney General's Office reported 120 total cases until June 2013. This quarter, only data from July and August will be reported, while that of September will be in the next Quarterly Report.

IR	Name of Indicator	Target FY 2013	Current quarter achievements	Cumulative achievements in all quarters 2006-2013*	Cumulative achievements in FY 2013	Percentage of target	Observations
IR 2.2	Number of ex-combatants certified for community services requirement under ACR designed methodology	3.200	1.850		2.345	47%	1.570 men, 280 women. The goal was not achieved because there were delays in the approval of the action plans, desertion by the target population and delays in the closing of the service actions. This difference will be made up for in FY2014.
	# of ex-combatants certified for truth-telling requirement	100					This indicator has not changed as the CMH has not certified any demobilized combatant through Law 1424.
IR3	# of conflict management initiatives identified and requested by the GOC	3	0		2	67%	* 9.028 proposals systematized by the FIP. The goal was not achieved because the government did not request any other conflict
IR 3.1	# of conflict analyses and fora	8 reports	3		5	63%	* Three monthly peace process analysis reports. The goal was not achieved because the start of the project was delayed.
		4 research documents	7		9	129%	* Three documents about conflict dynamics in: Tolima, Meta and Catatumbo. * One document about ceasefires in the framework of a peace agreement. * One comparative assesement about FARC military capacities during peace negotiations. * Two spotlight documents, one about the legal framework for peace and another about political participation.  The goal was passed because the specific context and timing of certain events called for the production of more spotlights (FIN)
	3 Fora	3		5	167%	* Three Fora: - the legal framework for peace - The challegenes to implement rural development accords.	
	# of conflict management inputs handed over to the GOC	3					This project begins in September. We will report results in the next Quarterly Report.
	Number of non-combatants assisted by USG-funded reintegration programs	0	0	128.589	167		Since October 2012, CORE no longer assists non-combatants.
	Number of communities assisted by USG funded reintegration programs	50	10	146	56	112%	conducting community service. With the community service activities, more communities were benefitted than originally anticipated.
	Number of entities strengthened by USG funded assistance*	0		19			

### 3. Intermediate Results: Narrative Progress

#### IR 1: ACR DESIGNS AND IMPLEMENTS THE GOC REINTEGRATION POLICY

Through the ACR, the GOC continues to implement a reintegration policy with the following objectives: 1) create conditions allowing demobilized members to become independent citizens, 2) strengthen socio-economic conditions in receptor communities, and 3) promote national reconciliation. In the last quarter, CORE has continued to support the ACR in assessing the competencies of ex-combatants who are nearing completion of the ACR reintegration route, in order to “graduate” those who are ready for civilian life and find solutions for those who are not. The program has also supported other governmental and international entities in the implementation of the reintegration policy, and has started several new initiatives under this result.

#### IR 1.1 Processes in place for implementing the reintegration process

##### **TRACKING MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM (SAME)**

The SAME component supports the ACR’s systems for monitoring and evaluation as well as data gathering and management. Since 2010, SAME has provided technical assistance to design strategies and models to measure the progress of demobilized individuals along the reintegration route, including the creation of two monitoring instruments that enable the ACR to identify participants who are prepared to graduate from the reintegration process.<sup>1</sup> These instruments are used to systematize and analyze information collected in the field. This quarter, the ACR worked with IOM in the planning of 2013-2014 projects, which will provide continuity to current projects and initiate the process of closing projects. The 2013-2014 activities will also assist in systematizing various projects and processes relevant to DDR in Colombia.

Results this quarter include:

- The SAME supported the ACR in the application, digitization, and development of reports about the Graduation Competencies Evaluation Instrument (IECC). One thousand four hundred and ninety-four surveys were conducted, and 55% of the participants fulfilled the requisites of the instruments required by the ACR in order to continue with the graduation process. The ACR revises the remaining requisites in education, job training, economic insertion, community service, and judicial situation before the graduation of participants. In total, 14,849 surveys have been applied to ACR participants in the advanced stage of reintegration.
- During this quarter, the ACR has graduated 491 participants from the reintegration process. Of these, 69% (337) received services supported by the CORE program. These services include integrated professional profiles, job training, economic insertion through productive projects, education, and employability. The graduations took place principally in Montería, Villavicencio, Medellín and Tierralta.

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<sup>1</sup> The Graduation Skills Evaluation Instrument assesses the skills and competencies developed by demobilized individuals as a result of the services they receive from the reintegration program. The Business Unit Monitoring Instrument measures progress or difficulties experienced by the productive projects created or strengthened by demobilized individuals using seed capital received from ACR or IOM.

- SAME supported the ACR in applying and using the SIR and ISUN to systematize 490 monitoring visits made to business units (individual productive projects) that received seed capital funding between 2008 and 2013. Of these, 297 (60%) business units were in operation, 156 (32%) had closed, and 37 (8%) were at risk of closing. Ninety-four (19%) of the business units visited were supported by CORE resources, of which 51 were in operation. The cumulative total of ISUN surveys applied from October 2012 to September 2013 is 1,787.
- The process of transferring the document management processes to the ACR began. The transfer, which is taking place between the SAME team and the ACR professionals, is being monitored through the fulfillment of regional work timelines. In September, an ACR and SAME work team was formed, which worked for three days to design the flowchart of document management, responsible parties, and timeframes for the administration of physical information related to the ACR reintegration program. This will be presented to the ACR archive committee and is due to be implemented in the ACR service centers in October, as one of the result of the transfer efforts. It should be noted that the ACR hired four SAME professionals, which contributes to the guarantee of the success of the transfer. This will allow the ACR to continue to apply the process of organizing evidence of the services provided to participants as part of the historical memory of the reintegration process.
- SAME and the ACR developed a project called “Strengthening and promotion of the exercise of responsible citizenship of participants through Experiences of Mediation and Coexistence (IMC) in ACR Service Centers.” This project was discussed with six possible operating partners who are experts in democracy and citizenship participation. The national-level operating partner will be selected and hired in October.

### IR 1.2 ACR provides comprehensive assistance to graduate participants

After more than six years of program implementation, the GOC is currently consolidating the reintegration process of individuals demobilized from the illegal armed groups through capacity-building strategies and activities that aim to strengthen participants’ social and economic skills. This allows participants to complete a graduation or “responsible fulfillment” process, and provides the tools necessary for sustainable reintegration.

- **Project: Support strategy for income generation projects, and transfer of project model to the ACR (Status: Project formulated with the ACR and shared with USAID)**

CORE has developed an integrated socioeconomic ex-combatant reintegration model for the identification, formulation and implementation of business plans, with which ACR participants start up or strengthen a “productive unit” or business. The model includes training in identification of business ideas, formulation of business plans, implementation of the productive unit, and monitoring and support in the administrative, technical, and commercial processes that have to be fulfilled to establish and maintain the productive units. The project has a total value of ██████████, of which the ACR contributes resources valued at ██████████ and USAID contributes resources valued at ██████████. IOM manages the agreement and provides the required technical assistance for its implementation.

The ACR deems the model highly successful and sees it as a key element in its economic reintegration tool-kit, though further work is needed to ensure that the ACR can fully appropriate the model. Accordingly, the ACR and CORE will work hand-in-hand to train **50** ACR reintegration specialists to implement the strategy in **17**

departments (**25 municipalities**) to benefit **1,214** demobilized individuals who are in the intermediate or advanced stage of their route. The agreement's implementation will involve the design and transfer of a toolkit with processes, procedures, and instruments for the management of productive projects.

Project results this quarter include:

- The call for applications for operating partners was completed. Projects were awarded in 13 areas for a value [REDACTED] Colombian Pesos, which will benefit approximately 1,200 people in the process of reintegration. The areas in which the projects were awarded are: Santa Marta (Magdalena); Bogotá; Medellín (Antioquia); Necoclí and Apartadó (Antioquia); Sincelejo (Sucre); Monteria and Tierralta (Córdoba); Valledupar (Cesar); Villavicencio (Meta); Barranquilla (Atlántico); Cúcuta (Norte Santander); Pereira (Risaralda); Florencia (Caquetá); Santander and the surrounding area. The contracts for these 13 operators were signed, the implementation committees were established, and approximately 1,000 people in the process of reintegration were made aware of the project in order to initiate activities.
- Given that operators did not apply in five priority areas, direct invitations to be hired were sent to operating partners in Arguaní (Magdalena), Cali (Valle del Cauca), Ibagué (Tolima), Cartagena (Bolívar), Neiva (Huila), and Yopal (Casanare).
- **Project: Development of an “INTEGRATED OCCUPATIONAL MEDIATION ROUTE”, and transfer of the project model to the ACR (Status: Ongoing)**

Recognizing that not all ACR participants have an entrepreneurial or business profile, the ACR and CORE work together on strategies to facilitate job placement for ex-combatants. The “Integrated Occupational Mediation Route” methodology aims to engage demobilized individuals in the job market. It therefore conducts activities such as: identification of job vacancies; vocational assessment; occupational orientation; job engagement; and monitoring and support for individuals in the process of reintegration who are professionally engaged with businesses, as well as monitoring and support for the businesses themselves.

The ACR and CORE will work closely together develop three job placement projects in seven departments (Bogotá, Antioquia, Caldas, Quindío, Risaralda, Tolima and Valle del Cauca) to benefit 475 demobilized individuals in the process of reintegration.

Project results this quarter include:

- By means of the work conducted by the three projects' technical teams, the “Toolkit for the Integrated Occupational Mediation Route” was designed. This kit will be used as a test version and will be validated throughout the execution of the projects. In 2014, a revision and feedback exercise will be held with the operating partners to make adjustments as necessary and confirm the design of the final version.
- Project implementation began in Bogotá, Medellín, the Coffee Region, Valle del Cauca, and Tolima, in which a total of:
  - 261 job vacancies were identified

- 244 people in the process of reintegration were assisted with their professional profiles in order to enter the employment route
  - 121 people in the process of reintegration attended selection processes
  - 38 people in the process of reintegration were hired
- **Project: Income generation project in the shoemaking sector, and transfer of the project model to the ACR (*Status: Project formulated with the ACR*)**

IOM and the Center for Productive Development of the Leather and Shoemaking Sector (Centro de Desarrollo del Cuero y el Calzado) has been implementing a shoemaking educational model as an income generation project for demobilized people in Medellín since 2009. This project has had the financial support of USAID. Due to the positive results of this initiative, which engages demobilized people with local shoemaking businesses, the model has been extended to Bogotá, Cali, and Pereira.

This extension of the project will include 150 new participants (50 in Bogotá, 50 in Cali, and 50 in Pereira) and will complement the existing model through:

- Transfer of the model to the ACR, including the training of ACR professionals who will be able to manage job vacancies not only in the shoemaking sector but also in other economic sectors such as agriculture and industry.
- Diversification of the economic reintegration route, so that beneficiaries will be able to be employees or entrepreneurs by creating a business unit.

Project results this quarter include:

- Project activities were initiated in the shoemaking workshop school in Bogotá and Cali, in which the following partial results were achieved:
  - 44 people in the process of reintegration finished the shoe manufacturing training phase
  - 24 people in the process of reintegration began the practical phase in shoemaking businesses
  - 10 people in the process of reintegration began the process of implementing their own shoemaking business units
- The Pereira shoemaking workshop school was finalized, and activities there will begin in the coming quarter.

### **Strengthening the OAS mission to support the peace process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA)**

USAID and the IOM work with the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process (referring to AUC demobilizations) in Colombia (MAPP/OEA) by providing the tools and resources necessary to implement the organization's mandate as it pertains to post-demobilization monitoring and verification, institutional strengthening, and accompanying local initiatives that affect quality of life improvements for demobilized and host populations.

MAPP continued monitoring and verification activities for the reintegration program, the Justice and Peace Law, and the current state of security. Activities included:

- 56 field visits were carried out in 124 municipalities.
- 10 Bi-monthly monitoring field reports on general aspects of the reintegration process from our Regional Offices. 1 special monitoring report from the MAPP-OAS regional office in Ibaguè related to the situation of reintegration in the region of Magdalena Medio.
- 20 focus groups with ex-combatant women carried out in the MAPP-OAS regional offices of Urabá, Villavicencio, Ibaguè and Popayan (4 series of thematic focus groups x 5 sessions).
- Regarding the verification of the reintegration, the mission visited 25 of the municipalities that concentrate the highest percentages of demobilized populations.
- During this period, the mission prepared the draft of the 1st chapter of the DDR Balance 2004-2014 report. This report documents the DDR process from the perspective of the communities, institutions, and other voices that lived through the conflict to highlight experiences within the conflict as well as those of the MAPP/OAS in Colombia.
- Regarding the implementation of Law 1424/10, the mission held interinstitutional Awareness-raising meetings in Medellin, Bucaramanga, Monteria, Valledupar, Santa Marta and twice in Bogota.
- In terms of transitional justice, the mission analyzed the draft of the Regulatory Decree of the reform of the Law 975 of 2005, Law 1592 of 2012.
- The Mission participated in 15 inter-institutional meetings on Law 975 about penitentiary matters.
- During the reporting period the Mission visited 8 prisons per month.

## **IR 2: OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS TO ESTABLISH DEFINITIVE LEGAL STATUS OF EX-COMBATANTS**

The GOC reintegration policy covers the legal treatment of ex-combatants who registered under the Justice and Peace Law (Law 975 of 2005) as being guilty of crimes against humanity. It also addresses the legal standing of rank-and-file ex-combatants covered under the Legal Status for Ex-Combatants Law (Law 1424 of 2010), which allows for these ex-combatants to avoid jail time in exchange for fulfilling community service and truth-telling requisites, and participating in the GOC's reintegration program.

### **IR 2.1: Attorney General's Office, MOJ, Inspector General's Office, and Court system increase capacities for judicial processing of ex-combatants**

#### **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

- **Project: Support for the Justice and Peace Unit (*Status: Ongoing*)**

The Attorney General's Office is in charge of investigating the judicial processes for all demobilized individuals who seek benefits under the Justice and Peace Law. CORE has provided support to the Office since 2006. From 2013 forward, activities with the Attorney General's Office relate to legal processing of ex-combatants under the Justice and Peace Law and Legal Status of Ex-Combatants Law.

Project results this quarter are divided between the Sub-Units of the Attorney General's Office Justice and Peace Unit with which CORE is working.

## **1) Prosecution of Assets Sub-Unit**

This project works in two specific areas: 1) support for the case prioritization strategy designed by the Justice and Peace Unit, particularly in clarifying patterns of macro-criminality in land usurpation and forced displacement; and 2) collection of information related to the land restitution requests made in the unit, entering information in the Land Restitution Unit's database, and sending files to that entity.

- The first area has three phases of action: i) analysis of files and other documentation that records the criminal activity related to land usurpation and forced displacement in the 16 prioritized Justice and Peace Law cases being examined, ii) tabulation of the information within the matrix designed by the Sub-Unit, and iii) creation of the content reports of patterns of macro-criminality, destined for the Director of the Justice and Peace Unit.
  - During this quarter, work on creating patterns of macro-criminality concluded. This consisted of reporting the characteristics of forced displacement through time, based on investigations conducted by the AGO and taking into account the testimonies of the victims. A total of 950 cases related to usurping of land were analyzed, 1,299 cases of land usurping were registered in the SIIJYP, 107 reports about different cases being processed under the Justice and Peace Law were created, and 11 reports on macro-criminality and land usurping were sent to the AGO's Justice and Peace Unit.
- With respect to the second area of project activity, there was progress in the organization and transfer of 203 land restitution requests made to the Land Restitution Unit. Fifty new files were created to assist in this transfer.
- IOM consultants are supporting the specialists from the Prosecution of Assets Sub-Unit in the analysis of prioritized cases. Thirty-six were analyzed by the team, and three were identified as being part of the assets of the 16 cases whose processing is prioritized by the AGO.

## **2) Exhumations Sub-Unit**

CORE continues to support the Exhumations Sub-Unit in the identification and delivery of human remains. The work was structured in the following way:

- a) CTI Genetics Laboratory: This quarter, 37 genetic profiles were registered in the CODIS software. The Sub-Unit's experts analyzed 121 DNA samples, of which 24 were tested for matches with the genetic profiles of relatives, and four were found to be genetically compatible. In addition, 3,000 kits were compiled to identify and take DNA samples, and 775 of these were sent to experts to continue their work on the samples.
- b) Search for and identification of disappeared people: This quarter, the Attorney General's website was updated with 1,167 new registrations, of which 350 were photos of remains found by the Sub-Unit. A total of 3,322 items have now been uploaded onto the website. 835 files were organized and scanned, and 480 cases were documented for the historical memory files. In addition, 820 packages containing "Rastros" (Faces) Magazine were sent to mayors around the country. Three hundred and twenty-six cases of forced disappearance were analyzed and registered in the SIRDEC database, as were 48 legal medicine reports and 910 cases from the departments of Meta, Vaupéz, Vichada, Casanare, and Guainía.

- c) Updating and analysis of the databases of the Attorney General's office for the formulation of patterns of macro-criminality according to the Justice and Peace Unit's Prioritization Plan: The Sub-Unit continued the process of revising and analyzing cases registered in the SIJYP with the goal of clarifying patterns of macro-criminality. The hiring of four database analysts who will strengthen the team in this area also continued.

### **3) Victims' Sub-Unit**

Support for the Victims' Sub-Unit focuses on the construction of patterns of macro-victimization that complement the analysis of macro-criminality conducted by the different areas of the Justice and Peace Unit under Law 975/05. This work also mainly relates to the 16 cases prioritized by the 2013 Action Plan.

This quarter, the hiring of the Universidad Externado de Colombia progressed. The university will develop a project that defines and analyzes "macro-victimization" or victimization on a massive scale in the context of the armed conflict. The project will establish criteria for the identification and construction of patterns and their application to the crimes of forced disappearance, forced displacement, illegal recruitment, and crimes related to gender-based violence in the 16 prioritized cases. Project activities will also result in the 16 patterns of macro-victimization being handed over to the AGO, as well as the methodological tools for their construction. The goal here is that these tools be replicated by the AGO in the investigation of other cases in the future.

### **4) Subversion Group**

This project aims to provide technical and operational support to the Subversion Group in work related to information management, and updating and administration of information systems as the fundamental base for the process of investigating and constructing patterns of macro-criminality of the subversive groups prioritized by the 16 selected cases.

This quarter, 15 database technicians were hired to support the Subversion Group in updating its information management systems. Along these lines, the Group was supported in the organization and filing of 993 files and the registration of 3,809 files in the Group's information system and in the SIJYP.

### **5) Demobilized Persons Sub-Unit**

The Demobilized Persons Sub-Unit is tasked with investigating ex-combatants who are not registered under the Justice and Peace Law. This Sub-Unit must verify that these former combatants are entitled to judicial benefits under Legal Status for Ex-combatants Law (Law 1424/10).

This quarter, the Sub-Unit received 27,297 judicial processes, issued 2,199 alternative sentences, gave 492 cases an order for arrest, passed 4,606 cases without an order for arrest, and conducted investigative interviews with 6,503 individuals.

In addition, two lawyers were hired to strengthen the work of regional offices in Valledupar and Medellín. A hiring process was initiated for two other lawyers who will support offices in Bogotá and Bucaramanga in the operational aspects of the investigation and formulation of charges for alternative sentences of demobilized people under Law 1424 of 2010.

## **INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE**

### **INTERINSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

Decree 3460 of 2007, a regulation under the Justice and Peace Law, created the Inter-institutional Committee for Justice and Peace to coordinate institutions with responsibilities under the Law.<sup>2</sup> The Committee created technical working groups to generate inputs for decision-making on policy. One of these working groups, focused on Information Systems, took on the challenge of structuring a single information system for the Justice and Peace process.

#### **- Project: Interinstitutional Information System for Justice and Peace or SIIJYP (*Status: Ongoing*)**

The SIIJYP was designed to consolidate all of the data related to the implementation of the Justice and Peace Law. Project results this quarter are as follows:

- The project team has worked with SISTEMA COLOMBIA, who is in charge of developing the project, to make the system work in an integrated way as an information system. The team is currently focusing work on improving efficiency in the the information and technology systems of the Attorney General's Office, the Victims' Reparations Fund, and the National Information Network.
- Work continues on another module related to the Exhumations Sub-Unit and the ACR and OACP web services.
- Work continues on the migration plan with entities including the AGO, Ministry of Justice and Law, Inspector General, and Special Administrative Unit for Integrated Victims Reparation (Victims' Reparation Fund).
- The system is currently being used by the Ombudsman's Office, AGO, Ministry of Justice and Law, Inspector General's Office, and Special Administrative Unit for Integrated Victims Reparation (Victims' Reparation Fund). Their use includes the modules for assets, asset administration, unique victims' attention route, cases, administration, security, victims' protection, witnesses, and others.
- Work continues to sign inter-administrative agreements to guarantee the system's operation.
- Work began to establish the requirements for the construction of modules for exhumations and the second stage of the interconnected assets module.
- The corresponding matrixes were also generated for each training session.

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<sup>2</sup> By law, the Committee includes the Vice-President's Office, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Defence, Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, *Acción Social* (now the Department of Social Prosperity), Attorney General's Office, High Judicial Council, Supreme Court, National Ombudsman's Office, Inspector General's Office, National Family Welfare Institute, National Commission for Reparations and Reconciliation (now defunct), and High Commissioner for Reintegration (now the ACR).

## IR 2.2: ACR, CMH and Court system assist ex-combatants to meet conditions for legal benefits

### - **Project: Identification, implementation, and systematization of community service activities (*Status: Ongoing*)**

CORE reinforced ACR efforts in the development of community service activities that facilitate reconciliation between the community and the demobilized individuals participating in the reintegration process under Law 1424 of 2010.<sup>3</sup> With the support of the CORE and the regional operators, the ACR offers community service activities in the following areas: 1. Enhancement of public spaces; 2. Environmental recovery; 3. Monitoring and support for health services; 4. Monitoring and support in food services and programs in vulnerable communities; 5. Creation of spaces for recreation, art, culture, and sport; 6. Knowledge advancement programs; 7. Services according to the vocation of the participant (sewing, electricity, mechanics and maintenance, construction, I.T., etc.)

Community service activities contribute to the improvement of the quality of life through initiatives that respond to the needs of the communities that host demobilized ex-combatants who are part of the governmental reintegration program. Community service also aims to provide a symbolic space in which demobilized individuals benefit society, which was previously negatively affected by their actions, thereby affirming their commitment to legality, overcoming violence, and inclusion in the community. The activities also strengthen participants' citizen and personal competencies, and contribute to peaceful coexistence in receptor communities.

Since July 2013, the community service project works with operating partners to cover all ACR service centers and will assist 5,899 participants before the end of the year. The goal is to create spaces so that people in the process of reintegration can fulfill the legal requisite and commitment with the psychosocial route. The ACR conducts community service activities with support from CORE, the regional operators, the service centers, and the SAME team. CORE will support the ACR in benefitting 74% of the participants that the ACR aims to benefit in 2013.

Project results this quarter include:

- 82 action plans were approved by the national committee, and 23 began implementation, 57 were finished, and 2 have yet to start.
- 3,540 participants registered to become engaged with community service activities, representing 96% of the target.
- 519 participants are attending community service activities, representing 14% of those who have registered to participate.

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<sup>3</sup> Community service has four essential components relating to reintegration: 1. Provide a space for community development in which participants in the reintegration process take responsible citizen action. 2. Strengthen the citizenship competencies of the participants in the process of reintegration. 3. Contribute to the strengthening of intellectual capacities and personal competencies of the participant. 4. Contribute to the construction of circumstances that facilitate peaceful coexistence in the communities that house them (based on the protocol for reconciliation activities of the ACR 2011).

- 2,330 participants received the certificate of 80 hours of community service. ACR and IOM personnel have also found that in some cases, participants continue to participate in community service activities as volunteers, even after they have completed the time requirement.
- On average, the project has coverage of 79% of the entire participant population (those who are registered, attending, and/or certified).
- The positive results achieved in Cúcuta should be noted. With just one community service project, 240 participants were certified for this requisite and 4.5 kilometers of the Pamplonita River were recovered. Ten educational, business, and municipal institutions were engaged in the project, to raise awareness and encourage active participation in environmental recovery activities. Similarly, six community service projects were implemented in Valledupar and engaged 550 people in the process of reintegration and involved educational institutions and communities in the San Jorge and Alamos III neighborhoods, demonstrating satisfactory reconciliation processes with the communities.
- The SAME team conducted monitoring and support for the work conducted by the operating partners, while also fulfilling the project's evaluation requirements.
- Information was sent to the Center for Historical Memory and the AGO's Justice and Peace Unit so that they can access data about ACR participants who are conducting or have not fulfilled the community service requisite. The aim here is that these entities can choose their priorities for the hearings and interviews conducted as part of the fulfillment of Law 1424 of 2010, and make sure that each participant has made plans to fulfill the community service requirement.
- The Center for Historical Memory's Office of Truth Agreements made 4,988 demobilized people aware of Law 1424. In addition, 1,459 participants were called upon to make contributions to truth in the departments of César, Córdoba, Valle del Cauca, y Meta. This involved 1,011 interviews and 384 valuations of these contributions.
- The SAME team continued the application of the perception and previous knowledge surveys with community service participants, receptor communities, and organizations involved in the project. These surveys take place at the beginning and the end of the community service project, and ascertain understanding of community service practices, and opinion of the benefits and functions of community service. 309 participants, 130 organizational representatives, and 1,002 people from receptor communities participated in the post-project surveys in this quarter. The results will be used to create project reports that provide recommendations and lessons learned for the ACR.

As the tools and methodologies are transferred to the ACR, the community service activities begin to be implemented by the ACR service centers themselves. Results in this respect include:

- The ACR institutionalized the application of the evaluation instruments for community service activities created with support from IOM. They will now be used in all initiatives that the ACR implements from now on, either independently or in cooperation with IOM.
- IOM improved the community service project tools, with the goal of utilizing them as part of the community service contract with the operating partners. The ease of use of the tools allows IOM to contribute to the adjustment of the operating procedures for ACR reconciliation projects. The tools began nationwide use in ACR service centers in August.
- Design of action plans formulated by service center representatives, IOM regional DDR specialists, and the SAME team began in August. This involved the planning of cooperative activities with the communities or institutions to identify possible areas of action for community service activities that

fulfill the ACR program requirements. The design of action plans also included the formulation of the project, reaching out to providers, planning for use of resources, monitoring of the activities outlined in the action plan, and encouraging the community to participate in the project.

- 39 action plans were approved by the national committee, and 22 of those began implementation.
- 578 participants registered to become engaged with community service activities, representing 25% of the target of 2,232. Fifteen of them were certified as having completed community service.
- 17 service centers in 12 departments and 29 municipalities are benefited.

In total, 2,345 participants have been certified as completing community service in this fiscal year.

- **Project: Methodologies for Ex-Combatant Contribution to Historical Truth and Reparation (Status: Ongoing)**

The CMH is responsible for collecting, organizing, and analyzing the contribution made to the construction of historical memory by demobilized persons under the Legal Status for Ex-combatants Law (Law 1424/10). Results this quarter include:

- The Office of Agreements for Truth conducted activities related to the preparation and adjustment of instruments used to collect, systematize, and value contributions to truth.
- The process of interviewing demobilized people in the 10 regional offices was continued. 2,711 people were made aware of the initiative, 428 were called to interview, 148 were interviewed, and 51 were certified as having made this contribution to the truth.
- The Committee hired the judicial team of four lawyers, five support personnel, in Bogotá, Antioquia, Córdoba, Magdalena, and Santander, the communications staff member, and the administrative assistant. Five support specialists were hired in Bogotá, Antioquia, Córdoba, Magdalena, and Santander, who supported the meetings held to raise awareness about Law 1424, and the application of the structured and detailed interviews realized in the process of contribution to the historical truth.
- In terms of the CMH communications strategy, the consultant hired as part of this project designed a proposal for a campaign titled “Attend your appointment with the historical truth of Colombia.” This campaign is focused on strengthening response to the implementation of the mechanism for non-judicial contributions to truth. However, the CMH and IOM suggested some changes to the proposal with the goal of approving an effective project.

- **Project: Communications Campaign on Legal Status of Ex-combatants Law (Status: Ongoing)**

Support for the ACR, CMH and AGO in the design and implementation of a communications strategy targeting ex-combatants, journalists and receptor communities in order to expand their understanding of Law 1424/10. This strategy includes explanations and information about the purpose of the Law, GOC institutions involved in the implementation of the Law, and requirements and procedures that must be fulfilled in order to receive legal benefits.

Results this quarter include:

- The video clip was recorded for the song “I ask for forgiveness” (Pido Perdón) about reconciliation. In September, a media tour went to Pereira with the music group La Iguana to promote the song.

- A call for applications was disseminated to hire a company to develop a documentary about historic truth in the reintegration and reconciliation process in Colombia. However, no proposals were received and the call for applications was declared unsuccessful. A new call for applications was therefore sent out.
- Workshops were held to teach journalists about Law 1424 of 2010. Around 50 journalists received training in the following workshops:
  - August 30<sup>th</sup> 2013: Medellín. Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana.
  - September 20<sup>th</sup> 2013: Pereira. Universidad Católica de Pereira.
  - September 27<sup>th</sup> 2013: Cali. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Cali, TV Studio.
- Workshops will be held in the following cities in October:
  - October 4<sup>th</sup> 2013: Montería. Universidad del Sinú.
  - October 10<sup>th</sup> 2013: Cartagena. Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar.

IR 2 Mechanisms operational to establish definitive legal status of ex combatants		Number of Beneficiaries
1	Universidad Externado de Colombia - Macrovictimization	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>

### **IR 3: GOC SUPPORTED TO DEVELOP CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Under this result, CORE will strengthen governmental institutions by responding to GOC requests for conflict management input, analysis, fora for dialogue, information management support, and other initiatives that enhance the GOC's conflict management capacity. Activities under this result focus on building knowledge as well as technical and operational abilities of the GOC for conflict management. It is expected that these activities will incorporate a tailored approach to gender and ethnicity, as experiences in Colombia show that these groups are impacted differently by conflict and peace, and international best practice advises incorporating differentiated perspectives to peace-building strategies.

The team's activities continue in the following areas:

- Daily collection of information about the peace process and preparation of relevant documents, including weekly peace process reports to be sent to USAID.
- Organization of events related to the peace process, including conversation sessions with relevant people such as representatives of USAID, the CMH, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice and Law, the Attorney General's Office, the Colombian Agency for Reintegration, and the High Commissioner for Peace.
- Compilation of research documents regarding the demobilization and characterization of the FARC and other issues related to the DDR side of the peace process.
  - This quarter, this activity included a document analyzing lessons learned in the DDR process with the AUC, which was requested by the High Commissioner for Peace.
  - The team initiated the distribution of "Spotlight" documents, which will be monthly going forward. This quarter, spotlight topics included the Legal Framework for Peace and a comparative study of international cases of ex-guerrilla political participation after amnesty.

- Coordination of projects with external entities to use effective information generation and management to support the GOC in conflict management and reconciliation strategies.

- **Project: Systematization and analysis of civil society proposals on the current peace process**

This project was requested by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) with the objective of providing support for the systematization of civil society proposals submitted for consideration at the negotiation table. The database systematizes these proposals according to the following variables: 1) Identity of the person(s) who made the proposal 2) Characterization of the proposal and 3) Conceptualization of the proposal. The GOC will therefore have a mechanism that allows it to analyze these proposals at the negotiating table with the FARC, as well as contributing to the historical memory of this process.

Project results this quarter include:

- Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP) showed progress in the systematization of 100% of the proposals presented by civil society, which represents a cumulative total of 9,028 proposals. The proposals mainly came from the Forum on Political Participation, regional roundtables held by congressional peace commissions, and the Rural Development Forum requested by the negotiating teams.
- Based on the information collected through the systematization of the proposals, FIP has written a 13 statistical, narrative, and analytical documents, as well as other reports with experts and descriptive documents per the request of the High Commissioner for Peace.
- In this period, USAID, FIP, and IOM met with the High Commissioner for Peace to examine and present the project's progress. The High Commissioner stated that the project is of enormous use to the GOC because the reports listed above have facilitated analysis of the civil society proposals.

- **Project: Monitoring and analysis of conflict dynamics and peace negotiations**

This project aims to generate technical material as well as analytical and informational documents related to conflict dynamics in Colombia and the current GOC-FARC peace process. The goal here is to contribute to a detailed and comprehensive understanding of the complexities of the peace process.

Project results this quarter include:

- Media monitoring reports about the peace process and the armed conflict.
  - Daily collection of relevant news in the regional and national news sources. So far in 2013, 3,428 news articles have been systematized.
  - Based on these articles, FIP sends a report to IOM, think tanks, universities, governmental entities, and international cooperation entities twice per week.
  - FIP has now sent four monthly reports on the peace process, which include five sections: 1) Main events in the peace process; 2) Relevant facts about the armed conflict; 3) Summary of the arguments and positions taken by the peace delegations at the negotiating table; 4) Opinions of a range of relevant experts; 5) Positions taken by international actors.

- Regional reports on the armed conflict.
  - FIP delivered the regional reports on conflict dynamics in the departments of Tolima, Meta, and Catatumbo.
- Analysis reports about the peace process agenda points.
  - FIP delivered a report about ceasefires that presents a general conceptual analysis of varying definitions of ceasefires and suspension of hostilities.
- Diagnostic reports on armed conflict and security
  - FIP handed in a report that compared peace processes with the FARC under three Colombian presidents – Gaviria, Pastrana, and Santos. This document includes an introduction about the peace processes conducted in Colombia since the 80s and a comparative analysis of conflict dynamics in the three years immediately preceding each of the three peace processes.
- **Project: Exchange of knowledge and lessons learned related to the peace process agenda topics**

This project aims to generate spaces for diverse entities to exchange knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned related to a possible eventual implementation of a peace agreement between the GOC and the FARC. This input will also contribute to more general discussions on peace-building. The knowledge and lessons learned that are discussed in these spaces contribute to analysis of peace-building and post-conflict transition.

Project results this quarter include:

- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, CORE organized a conversation session titled “The Legal Framework for the Demobilization, Reinsertion, and Reintegration of the FARC.” A total of 22 people attended, and represented USAID, the High Commissioner for Peace, the ACR, the Center for Historical Memory, the Ministry of the Interior, the European Union, and IOM among others. The session was a space for exchange of information in which discussion focused on the design of transitional justice mechanisms in the case of a peace agreement with the illegal armed groups.
- On the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, CORE organized a conversation session titled “Challenges to the implementation of the agreement on integrated rural reform reached by the GOC and the FARC.” A total of 21 people attended, including experts on this topic. Input from attendees was compiled to define possible rural development scenarios and develop information related to inter-institutional planning.

**Project: National Reconciliation Index (IRN)**

The IRN is a tool that aims to evaluate, monitor, and modify reconciliation policies based on four dimensions: trust; democracy; land; and victims’ rights. Each of these dimensions includes categories associated with a set of specific indicators. The pilot project of the index is being conducted in Bogotá, Medellín, and San Carlos.

Project results for this quarter include:

- The final documents relaying information on the three municipalities were given initial approval for publication after having been reviewed by experts. These documents are now being reviewed by the Medellín and Bogotá Mayor’s Offices and the Victims’ Unit. They will then be given their final design, and published.
- CORE began work with the Victims’ Unit and the ACR to define strategies that guarantee effective transference of this tool to the GOC.

- **Project: CONPES formulation of a new reintegration model**

The objective of this project is to institutionally strengthen the formulation of new reintegration policy for the National Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES). A team of experts has been hired to create proposals for an eventual demobilization of illegal armed groups. These will take into account background, lessons learned from the current process with the AUC, expectations of the demobilized population, civil society, public institutionalism, and international cooperation.

The CONPES team progressed in the structuring of proposals that address factors that are deemed to need implementation or revision based on the work currently being implemented. These proposals are structured around topics related to operations including judicial issues, reinsertion-related topics, direct assistance to the demobilized population, community-oriented economic reintegration, and citizen participation. The proposals were standardized in a format that will facilitate efforts to disseminate and raise awareness about them.

- The team also advanced in inter-institutional coordination with the Ministry of Justice with the goal of revising judicial elements and generating joint proposals. Work with the Victims' Unit and the Center for Historical Memory has also progressed in components related to reconciliation and exchange and coordination mechanisms. Coordination with the Ministry of Defense has also been improved through the War School, focusing on work that aims to construct DDR elements in the defense sector. A joint document on guidelines for the issue of child recruitment was created with the Colombian Family Welfare Institute. The document will serve as the base for designing mechanisms to confront this issue. With respect to external actors, meetings were held with the International Transitional Justice Institute with the goal of raising awareness about progress in judicial issues and obtaining substantial feedback.

- At the internal level, the CONPES team has held meetings with relevant departments of the ACR with the goal of discussing and refining proposals, in addition to determining the activities that can be advanced immediately to improve ACR management.

IR 3 GOC supported to develop conflict management strategies		Number of Beneficiaries
1	OIM/DDR - Reintegration and Reconciliation	0
2	OIM/DDR - Workshop	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>

#### 4. Challenges Encountered and Actions Taken

Two challenges were encountered this quarter: 1) new reintegration-related policy provoked changes in ACR service center operations, and 2) uncertainty regarding the state of the GOC-FARC peace process given the 2014 national elections.

1) The ACR has been working on broadening the focus of the reintegration process and policy based on the evolution of the program and regional experiences. In April, a new resolution (no. 754) was drafted to better regulate the requirements, characteristics, conditions, and obligations for access to and issuance of social and economic benefits in the reintegration process. The changes represent efforts to facilitate a more practical approach to the implementation of reintegration programming. It focuses on providing improved access to reintegration benefits and services, including community service activities that drive reconciliation and peaceful coexistence in the communities. After ACR training and information sessions had been conducted in May and June, some changes in the service center operating strategy were introduced. These were especially focused on community service activities implemented by the ACR and hired IOM operating partners. It was therefore necessary for CORE IR1 projects to adapt to changes in ACR operating procedures and workflow, in some cases dealing with different personnel and through a modified service center organizational structure. As the community service component of the ACR reintegration program becomes increasingly institutionalized, CORE activities adjust to new processes and support the ACR in the implementation of this new resolution.

2) With respect to IR3 and the peace process, this quarter has been characterized by uncertainty regarding the progress of the dialogues in light of the Presidential and Congressional elections in 2014. The uncertainty has focused on possible scenarios for the continuation of the GOC-FARC negotiations, which include a suspension of the talks while the elections are held, or a continuation through the elections timeline. This uncertainty has caused difficulties in the definition of priorities in IR3. CORE has therefore identified projects whose implementation would be useful for Colombia with or without the signing of a peace agreement with the FARC in the coming year. Similarly, IR3 activities prioritize strengthening of the national-local government relationship, as well as other topics that have been highlighted as of great importance in analysis and research, such as reconciliation.

## 5. Priorities for Next Quarter

### IR 1: ACR DESIGNS AND IMPLEMENTS THE GOC REINTEGRATION POLICY

With the ACR:

- **IECC & ISUN application**
  - Re-establish work with the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the ACR in the creation of reports on the IECC, ISUN, the alert system for UN monitoring visits, and other reports that will be useful to the ACR, IOM, and USAID.
  - Support the ACR in the identification of cases of individuals whose results in the IECC do not fulfill legal requirements, to alert the ACR and avoid the possibility that these people could graduate without fulfilling these requisites. This work will be conducted prior to the massive graduation of more than 500 people in the process of reintegration in service centers all over the country before the end of 2013.
  - Implement the citizen participation project in all service centers in the country.
  - Work with the ACR to define the next focus points for the implementation or expansion of projects.
  
- **In Employability Projects:**
  - Implement productive units for 1,211 people in the process of reintegration engaged with economic reintegration activities.
  - Increase the job participation rates of people in the process of reintegration who are part of the employability and shoemaking projects.
  -
  
- **With the MAPP/OEA:**
  - Present the report and results of the special monitoring of the social services exercises carried out by MAPP/OAS Regional Offices in some territories at the end of 2012 and the first quarter of 2013
  - Present the report on the special monitoring exercise on the agreed questions with ACR formal/informal concerning employment of ex combatants.
  - Present the report about the differential treatment of prisoners of the Law 975 (indigenous, women and handicapped).

### IR 2: OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS TO ESTABLISH DEFINITIVE LEGAL STATUS OF EX-COMBATANTS

- Distribute resources to the 8 regional operating partners.
- Hand over project results to the ACR in a format that reflects the information collected in the surveys applied to participants, representatives from other institutions, and members of beneficiary communities, highlighting lessons learned to be implemented next year.
- Certify that the goals of the program participants correspond to the details of the projects.
- Work with the ACR to define the sanctions outlined in Resolution 0754 of 2013 for participants who have dropped out of community service activities with regional operators without just cause.

- Conduct the two remaining journalist workshops in Montería and Cartagena.
- Continue with the hiring process for the operator who will create the documentary about historical truth in the reintegration and reconciliation process in Colombia.
- Continue work with the ACR, the Center for Historical Memory, and the AGO to develop printed material that outlines the route of Law 1424 benefits and requirements.
- Hire a psychologist to develop a psychosocial assistance strategy for use by representatives from the Truth Agreements Office.
- Review the work conducted for the Prosecution of Assets Sub-Unit by IOM consultants.
- Hired a genetics expert for the laboratory in the Exhumations Sub-Unit, due to the fact that the last expert hired resigned after being hired by the AGO to do the same work.
- Create a project card to work with the Victims' Sub-Unit on the investigation of gender-based crimes and illegal recruitment.
- Continue the macro-victimization project with the Universidad del Externado. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, the university will hand in the reports on Ramón María Isaza, alias "El Viejo", and Hebert Veloza García, alias "HH". On the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, the university will hand in the reports for Hernán Giraldo, alias "El Patrón", and Miguel Ángel Mejía Múnera, alias "El Mellizo".

### IR 3: GOC SUPPORTED TO DEVELOP CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Begin the reintegration and reconciliation project, which aims to create needs and capabilities analyses in seven municipalities of the country, and publish a guide to facilitate the implementation of the reintegration and reconciliation strategies and policies at the local level. The ACR and the Ministry of the Interior are onboard with this project and will participate in its implementation.
- Consolidate the distribution strategy for the documents produced by the Information and Analysis Unit in order to position the CORE program as a source of information and analysis about topics such as peace-building and DDR.
- Publish the National Reconciliation Index documents and transfer the tool to the Victims' Unit.

## 6. Financial Report

**Summary table this quarter:**

<b>Reporting Period:</b>
New Projects Approved:
New Project IOM Financial Obligations:
<b>Total Expenses for Reporting Period:</b>

**Projects approved this quarter by component and beneficiaries**

Intermediate Result		Projects Approved	Number of Beneficiaries*
A. IR 1	ACR designs and implements the GoC reintegration policy	0	0
B. IR 2	Mechanisms operational to establish definitive legal status of ex combatants	1	0
C. IR 3	GOC supported to develop conflict management strategies	2	0
D.	Verification to the Process	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

**Summary table-Cumulative figures**

<b>Total Projects Approved</b>
Total Projects Approved (Second phase):
Total Project IOM Financial Obligations (Second Phase):
<b>Total Expenses (Cumulative figures):</b>

Second Phase			
Component		Projects Approved	Number of Beneficiaries*
A. IR 1	ACR designs and implements the GoC reintegration policy	58	5.245
B. IR 2	Mechanisms operational to establish definitive legal status of ex combatants	15	12.642
C. IR 3	GOC supported to develop conflict management strategies	11	420
D.	Verification to the Process	3	0
E.	Justice and Peace- Assistance to Victims	47	26.555
F.	Projects in Transition	29	30.716
G.	Land Restitution	24	5.503
H.	Historical Memory	7	70
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>194</b>	<b>81.151</b>

**Table 2: Projects Approved (Cumulative figures) by component, beneficiaries. Second Phase**

	<b>Projects Approved</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries*</b>
First Phase	333	91.465
Second Phase	194	81.151

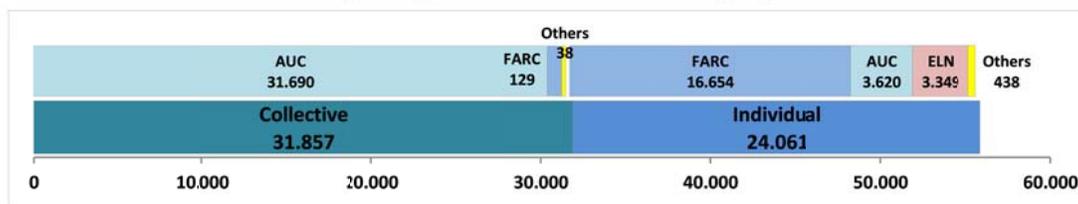
## 7. Annexes

### REINTEGRATION PROCESS MONITORING REPORT SEPTEMBER 2013

#### 1. DEMOBILIZATION INFORMATION:

55.918 ex-combatants have demobilized since 2003. 49.294 (88%) are men and 6.624 (12%) are women. 31.857 (57%) demobilized collectively, the majority from the United Colombian Self-Defense Forces (AUC<sup>1</sup>), and 24.061 (43%) demobilized individually, mainly from the guerrilla groups: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Popular Liberation Army (EPL) and the National Liberation Army (ELN). (See Graph 1).

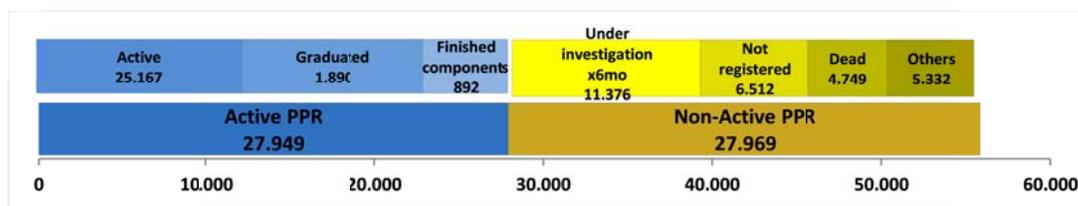
Graph 1: Type of demobilization and former group



#### 2. STATUS IN THE REINTEGRATION PROCESS:

25.167 (45%) of demobilized people are active in the reintegration process and benefit from the services provided by the Colombian Reintegration Agency (ACR) (See graph 2).

Graph 2. Status<sup>2</sup>



#### 3. LEGAL STATUS:

In the framework of Law 1592 of 2012 (which reformed Law 975 of 2005) 4.659 (8%) were cases of people who demobilized from the AUC who were processed for alternative sentences issued by the national government. 24.856 people in the process of reintegration accessed Law 1424 of 2010. Of them, 13.171 (53%) signed the agreement for truth and contribution to historical memory, and 3.418 (14%) have given testimony before the Attorney General's Office. The judges in charge of issuing sentences have verified the requisites to be fulfilled for condemnatory sentences to be made for 172 demobilized people, and they have issued the judicial benefit of conditionally suspended sentences to 52 of those.

#### 4. ACR SERVICES AND THE PROCESS OF RESPONSIBLE GRADUATION:

Through Cooperation Agreement DDR-423 between IOM and the ACR, 2.345 (17%) participants have been certified in community service activities in the following areas: 43% (1.009 PPR<sup>3</sup>) in the improvement of public spaces, 28% (663 PPR) in support for environmental recovery, 21% (491 PPR) in generation of spaces for recreation, art, culture, and sport, 6% (143 PPR) in support for

<sup>1</sup> Before the demobilizations of the AUC (2004-2006), some combatants demobilized individually from that group. Similarly, some structures of the guerrilla groups decided to demobilize collectively to enter the reintegration process.

<sup>2</sup> T-C (Term components): corresponds to PPR who culminate their services and enter the process of verifying requisites for graduation

IPBx6 (Under investigation – benefits lost for 6 months): PPR who spend more than 6 months without attending reintegration process activities Others: Detained demobilized people, extradited, suspended, voluntarily withdrawn, inactive people, or those who otherwise lost benefits.

<sup>3</sup> Person in the process of reintegration (PPR): term used by the ACR to refer to a demobilized person.

healthcare programs, and others as disseminators of knowledge, and special services such as food assistance to vulnerable communities.

**13.703 (25%)** participants reported by the ACR are engaged in community service activities in fulfillment of Law 1424 of 2010 and of ACR program requisites. **9.805 (72%)** of them have been certified for at least 80 hours of community service in vulnerable communities. (See graph 3.1).

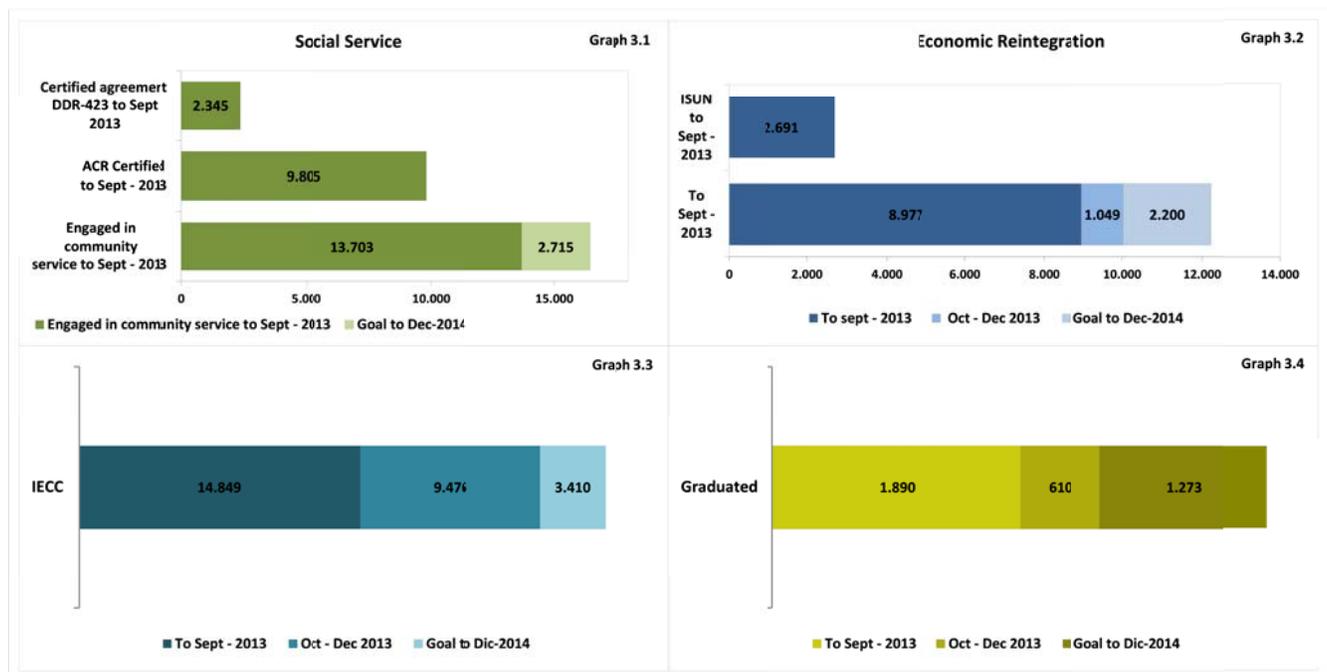
**8.877 (16%)** people in the process of reintegration have received support in economic insertion<sup>1</sup>, for entrepreneurship or strengthening of business units (UN). **2.691 (30%)** of these receive monitoring visits for the ISUN<sup>2</sup>, which allows the identification of factors that affect the functioning of the business. Results obtained through the monitoring of businesses include: **1.248 (46%)** UN are operating, **198 (7%)** are at-risk, and **1.243 (47%)** are closed. (See graph 3.2).

IOM currently supports the ACR in the implementation and strengthening of productive units to benefit around 1,500 demobilized people and in the consolidation of a model to manage productive units, which will be transferred to the ACR.

**14.849** participants have been evaluated through the Graduation Competencies Evaluation Instrument (IECC<sup>3</sup>), which evaluates competencies such as assertiveness, citizen participation, projection and orientation to achievement, non-violent conflict resolution, responsibility, adaptation of a productive context, and academic competencies in the reintegration route. **7.457** of participants (**49%**) have obtained sufficient IECC results for graduation (See graph 3.3).

Between 2012 and 2013 the ACR graduated **1.890** PPR and the projection for the end of 2013 is **610** participants. (See graph 3.4).

**Graph 3. Participants in the process of reintegration**



Annual goals correspond to information provided by the ACR. Data up to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.

<sup>1</sup> Economic insertion: Participants who access a subsidy for a business plan or housing as part of the ACR program.

<sup>2</sup> ISUN: Business unit monitoring instrument built and applied jointly by the ACR and IOM through regional teams.

<sup>3</sup> IECC: Graduation Competencies Evaluation Instrument created by the ACR and IOM to measure competencies related to different contexts: individual, family, community, educational, and work. Also addresses social competencies in assertive relationships, projection and achievement orientation, non-violent conflict resolution, and others that form part of social reintegration. In addition, the instrument investigates competencies in citizenship participation, adaptation to the productive context and academic competencies, with the goal of identifying skills for community work, interest in citizenship formation, engagement with economic reintegration, and access to the education system.

## Service Summary Table

Department		Labor Training	Human Development & Psychological Attention	Formal Education	Profiles & Vocational Orientation	Employability & Productive Projects	TOTAL * DEPARTMENT
National Coverage	Projected	1.612	0	229	0	1.010	2.851
	Actual	2	0	0	0	0	2
Antioquia	Projected	3.112	3.201	700	4.150	1.708	12.871
	Actual	4	172	0	0	14	190
Atlantico	Projected	125	125	0	0	212	462
	Actual	0	0	0	0	14	14
Bogotá	Projected	835	7.897	0	1.000	913	10.645
	Actual	54	21	0	0	11	86
Bolívar	Projected	188	985	0	200	287	1.660
	Actual	0	0	0	0	12	12
Caldas	Projected	15	0	0	0	65	80
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caqueta	Projected	0	0	0	0	50	50
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casanare	Projected	100	50	0	0	100	250
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cesar	Projected	676	505	0	1.825	877	3.883
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Córdoba	Projected	639	646	0	2.025	867	4.177
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huila	Projected	0	0	0	0	69	69
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magdalena	Projected	495	728	0	1.000	632	2.855
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meta	Projected	220	383	0	500	505	1.608
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norte de Santander	Projected	50	520	0	500	290	1.360
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quindío	Projected	50	150	0	0	215	415
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risaralda	Projected	515	490	0	150	927	2.082
	Actual	0	18	0	0	2	20
Santander	Projected	64	297	0	400	625	1.386
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sucre	Projected	230	251	100	500	458	1.539
	Actual	0	0	0	0	6	6
Tolima	Projected	0	50	0	400	119	569
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valle de Cauca	Projected	85	908	0	1.000	288	2.281
	Actual	25	25	0	0	0	50
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED</b>		<b>9.011</b>	<b>17.186</b>	<b>1.029</b>	<b>13.650</b>	<b>10.251</b>	<b>51.127</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTUAL</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>380</b>

Services summary Table - Demobilized individuals

Department		Labor Training	Human Development & Psychological Attention	Formal Education	Profiles & Vocational Orientation	Employability & Productive Projects	TOTAL PER DEPARTMENT
National Coverage	Population	2	0	0	0	0	2
	Demobilized	2	0	0	0	0	2
Antioquia	Population	4	172	0	0	14	190
	Demobilized	4	172	0	0	14	190
Atlantico	Population	0	0	0	0	14	14
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	14	14
Bogotá	Population	54	21	0	0	11	86
	Demobilized	54	21	0	0	11	86
Bolívar	Population	0	0	0	0	12	12
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	12	12
Caldas	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caquetas	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casanare	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cesar	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Córdoba	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huila	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magdalena	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meta	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norte de Santander	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quindío	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risaralda	Population	0	18	0	0	2	20
	Demobilized	0	18	0	0	2	20
Santander	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sucre	Population	0	0	0	0	6	6
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	6	6
Tolima	Population	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Demobilized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valle del Cauca	Population	25	25	0	0	0	50
	Demobilized	25	25	0	0	0	50
<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>380</b>
<b>TOTAL DEMOBILIZED</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>380</b>

Services provided to demobilized individuals by department and type.

**Community Services Table**

<b>Geographical Coverage</b>		<b>Certified For Community Service</b>
Apartado y Necocli	Projected	400
	Actual	425
Bogotá	Projected	717
	Actual	30
Cali	Projected	500
	Actual	43
Cartagena	Projected	200
	Actual	136
Cucuta	Projected	250
	Actual	119
Medellin	Projected	550
	Actual	250
Pereira	Projected	300
	Actual	148
Sincelejo	Projected	250
	Actual	178
Valledupar	Projected	500
	Actual	506
Nacional	Projected	2.232
	Actual	15
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED</b>		<b>5.899</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTUAL</b>		<b>1.850</b>

**Demobilized certified for community services by municipality**

Donor name (short)	Name of the project	Objective	Geographic coverage	Type of beneficiary
ACR, USAID	Implementation and transfer of the socioeconomic reintegration model for demobilized people in the process of reintegration - Colombia	Contribute to the socioeconomic reintegration process of demobilized people who are participants in the ACR program, through the implementation and transfer of a model and tools for the creation and/or strengthening of productive units	National	Demobilized people
CMH, USAID	Support for the design and implementation of the methodological route of the non-judicial mechanism for contribution to truth agreements at the Center for Historical Memory	Strengthen the Office of Truth Agreements in the Center for Historical Memory, in the implementation of the methodological route of the non-judicial mechanism for contribution to historical truth and reparations of Law 1424 of 2010.	Bogotá	Demobilized people
ACOPI, USAID	Support the consolidation of a socioeconomic reintegration route led by the ACR through the implementation of projects that aim to monitor and support people in the reintegration process in the development of an integrated employability route and transfer of the model to the ACR	Support the consolidation of a socioeconomic reintegration route led by the ACR through the implementation of projects that aim to monitor and support people in the reintegration process in the development of an integrated employability route and transfer of the model to the ACR	Caldas – Quindío – Risaralda – Valle del Cauca and Tolima	Demobilized people
ACR, USAID	Strengthening of the Colombian Reintegration Agency (ACR) in assistance, monitoring, and support for people with mental or physical disabilities in the process of reintegration – Colombia	Strengthening the management and assistance capacity of the ACR and its Service Centers, with respect to the access that people with mental and physical disabilities have to assistance and integrated rehabilitation in the process of reintegration.	National	Demobilized people
Ministry of Justice, USAID	Implementation of the SIJYP	Develop, consolidate, and continue with the implementation and operation of the Inter-institutional Justice and Peace Information (SIJYP), which will eventually be the Inter-institutional Transitional Justice Information System	National	N/A
Medellin Mayor's Office	Pilot test of the National Reconciliation Index (IRN) in the city of Medellín, Colombia	Contribute to the monitoring and adjustment of reconciliation policies and initiatives at the national and local levels, through the validation and test of a National Reconciliation Index (IRN).	Bogotá, Antioquia	Victims
ACR, USAID	Strengthening of community service of participants in the process of reintegration	Coordinate efforts between counterparts to identify, implement, and systematize community service activities that provide feedback for strategies for community service, so that ACR participants fulfill the requisites under Law 1424 of 2010 in their reintegration process.	National	Demobilized people

## The CORE Program in the news

### ***Cúcuta will walk for peace and be illuminated by reconciliation***

**Source: El Tiempo**

**Date: September 12<sup>th</sup> 2013**

On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, more than 240 participants in the Colombian reintegration process will walk for reconciliation and peace in Cúcuta. In this symbolic act, the demobilized people will officially hand over the projects they have been doing over the last five months on the banks of the Pamplonita River as part of community service and a space for reconciliation in which these people contribute to the improvement of the quality of life in their communities.

The activity is organized by the Colombian Reintegration Agency (ACR) and has the support of the International Organization for Migrations (IOM) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The walk for reconciliation and peace will begin at 5pm in Los Libertadores Avenue and will end around 8:30pm in the Las Cascadas Theater with a series of musical and cultural presentations. At this point, those who went through the process of reintegration will march with lanterns whose light represents the renewal and transformation they have gone through since returning to legal activity. The lights are also a symbol of change in the Cúcuta community, which watched and supported the improvement of the riverbanks over the last five months.

In the specific case of Cúcuta, these activities have been conducted under the slogan “Lend the Pamplonita River a Hand”. The activities started on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2013, and since then participants have worked every Sunday to clean, purge, remove garbage and recover the green spaces beside the river. “At the beginning we thought it was going to be easy and that we would finish soon. Then we realized that there was a lot of work and effort involved. You gradually love the work, it’s as if coming to work for the community becomes part of you” affirmed Juan Antonio, one of the participants who made the recovery of the Pamplonita River possible with his community service.

Community service consists of 80 hours of non-paid work, which each person in the process of reintegration must offer to the community that receives him or her after leaving weapons aside, as is stipulated in Law 1424 of 2010.

## ***Journalism workshops on how to narrate peace in Montería and Cartagena***

**Source: Sucre Government News**

**Date: September 30<sup>th</sup> 2013**

After having been successfully conducted in Medellín, Pereira, and Cali, the “How to narrate peace” workshops on peace-building, historical memory, and reconciliation are coming to the Caribbean Coast, specifically Montería and Cartagena, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October respectively.

According to Marta Ruiz, a journalist and editorial evaluator for Semana Magazine, the workshops are an important space to analyze “the challenge presented to journalists entering a post-conflict stage, with all of the difficulties that implies and with all of the questions we have about this topic.” She also thinks that the “workshops are a space for dialogue, creativity, and to think closely about our profession.”

The “How to narrate peace” workshops respond to Colombian society’s need to have journalists who have the interest and training necessary to take a central role in the post-conflict of our country after the demobilization and reintegration of the different armed groups. This is an ever-growing possibility given the peace process with the FARC in Havana.

“For us as journalists, it is important to change our mindsets and take into account techniques for narrating peace in a post-conflict context. The workshop analyzes how we can begin to narrate these processes and how to bring them to people who see or read our media, so that they can understand them” affirmed Ricardo Gaviria from TeleAntioquia News, who attended the workshop in Medellín.

In the case of Montería, the workshop will be conducted in the Universidad del Sinú and will have inscriptions open until Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. The workshop in Cartagena will take place in the Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar, with inscriptions open until Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup>. Journalists in Sucre, Atlántico, Magdalena, and La Guajira who wish to attend the workshop will have a transport subsidy from the organizing entities with prior request.

In addition to Marta Ruiz, the panelists include Peruvian expert Javier Ciurlizza, who is currently Director of International Crisis Group in Latin America and the Caribbean, and who was the Executive Director of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Peru from 2001 to 2003. He will begin the workshop with a discussion on transitional justice and the reasons why truth and memory are important in cases like Colombia.

“Attending the workshop implies understanding what we have been through as a society. It also helps us to understand the topic of historical memory and how these men and women who have left the war are going to contribute to building historical memory” affirmed Catalina Puerta, a workshop attendee.

“How to Narrate Peace” is an initiative of the Colombian Reintegration Agency (ACR), the Attorney General’s Office (AGO), and the Truth Agreements Office of the National Center for Historical Memory (CMNH) with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Organization for Migrations (IOM).

“These topics are complex and require preparation. Any information that is disseminated, even if it is short, can be useful and can teach people about conditions in the country and what can happen in the future. The workshop allows us to dedicate ourselves to thinking about what is included in the media and how we include it” said Juan Guillermo Palacio, journalist on the UNE Channel.

# Now I don't grab a weapon, but rather a paintbrush: Miguel Ángel



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**COLOMBIA**

## FIRST PERSON

*Valledupar, the world capital of vallenato where musicians, singers, and composers live harmoniously, is the natural environment for Miguel Ángel to express his innovative urban art*



***“Now I don't grab a weapon, but rather a paintbrush. I don't draw tactical strategies, faces, or plans, but rather smiles as an artist in Valledupar.”***

— [REDACTED] created a 500-meter mural through which he asked the community of Valledupar for forgiveness for having been in an illegal armed group.

In the department of Cesar, in July of 2013, more than 2,000 demobilized people were progressing through their reintegration process with the support of the Colombian Reintegration Agency. [REDACTED]\* is one of them, and is an urban artist who expressed his artistic style in a mural for the city.

In the past, [REDACTED] spent six years in an illegal armed group, where he was in charge of drawing tactical strategies, faces, and tools for military attacks. Now, he builds peace, recognizing who he was before and who he is now: *“Now I don't grab a weapon, but rather a paintbrush. I don't draw tactical strategies, faces, or plans, but rather smiles as an artist in Valledupar.”*

The term “urban art” or “street art” refers to all art that takes place in the street. In this case, it is on the walls, used to visually recover the city through the use of artistic techniques, images, and messages in public spaces that were previously a focus for crime.

*“Today, we are performing recreational activities in places that were previously marked by crime, denying the community – mainly the children – their right to a recreational space and to move around freely”* explained [REDACTED].

Recently, as a community service activity [REDACTED] contributed his art to the recovery of abandoned spaces in the neighborhood of San Jorge in Valledupar.

This was a tool for reconciliation and a way to ask for forgiveness, according to Colombian law. These community service activities are conducted in agreement with the receptor communities who house demobilized people, and involve 80 hours of non-remunerated work. USAID and IOM support all of these activities in the country through tools and materials that have been developed so that the ex-combatants can successfully fulfill this requirement. In particular, the activity in Valledupar was conducted collaboratively with the community and 500 people in the process of reintegration.

*“My colleague and I painted 286 square meters with designs that invite society and the community to treat the environment better and to not turn to violence. Our designs also include famous quotations, and recreational, educational, and psychosocial murals”* he explained, referencing his 80 hours of community service. For ██████████, the objective of applying urban art through mural designs is to move people through their sight, and motivate a change in attitude and mindset with respect to people in the process of reintegration. This gradually contributes to a positive change in the country. *“We want to change the image of the city by using our hands and our art”* he said.

Now, ██████████ dedicates himself to creating portraits for children and citizens, aiming to create a self-image that is different to the one he had in the past when he was part of an illegal armed group. He believes that he committed errors in the past and that now he has to make up for them. *“Now I feel like a different person, eager to continue working at life, peace, and my family”* he affirmed.

██████████ also commented that *“the greatest thing is to know that the community is congratulating you and that maybe you are not stigmatized as a bad person, which gives us the strength to continue working on this process, which will last for a lot more time”*.

He works on his art so that he can have his own house, which would allow him to improve even more. He plans to produce a collection of approximately 120 pieces whose theme will be the historical memory of the country. Within this collection will be retrospectives of

██████████'s life and who he is now. He explained that the work is based on the violence that he experienced before, representing it with a palette of subtle colors so that observers accept the art while also recognizing the reality of the violence in Colombia.

*"I am an urban artist and that is how I earn a living. Today, I ask for forgiveness and I am willing to continue working with my ideas and my hands to relieve the damage I have caused society. The best way to do this is to contribute to the historical memory of the victims and victimizers, and continue contributing to the reconciliation of all Colombians"* he concluded.

*\*Identity protected at the request of the sour*

