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# ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACTIVITY

QUARTERLY TECHNICAL REPORT  
April 1 – June 30, 2016

July 29, 2016

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# **ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACTIVITY**

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***(April 1 – June 30, 2016)***

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July 29, 2016

### **DISCLAIMER**

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACPC	High Council for the Post-Conflict
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AGO	Attorney General’s Office ( <i>Fiscalía General of la Nación</i> )
AJA	Access to Justice Activity (or the “Project”)
APS	Annual Program Statement
CAB	Community Action Board
CAPIV	Integrated Attention Centers for Victims
CECAR	<i>Corporación Universitaria del Caribe</i>
CEJ	Corporation for Excellence in Justice ( <i>Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia</i> )
CNMH	National Center for Historical Memory ( <i>Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica</i> )
CSJ	Superior Judicial Council
DADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution Directorate of the Ministry of Justice and Law
DDP	Departmental Development Plan
DINAC	National Directorate of Analysis and Context
DNS	National Directorate of Sectional Offices and Citizen Security
DPS	Department of Social Prosperity
EC	Equity Conciliator
EJCUN	National University of Colombia’s School of Community Justice
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia ( <i>Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias of Colombia</i> )
FENALPER	National Federation of Ombudsmen
FIP	<i>Fundación Ideas para la Paz</i>
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IMLCF	Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science
JH	Justice House
LJC	Local Justice Committees
LJS	Local Justice System

LR	Land Restitution
LRDP	Land and Rural Development Program
MDP	Municipal Development Plan
MICE	Methodology to Implement Community Conciliation
MJL	Ministry of Justice and Law ( <i>Ministerio of la Justicia and del Derecho</i> )
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPJH	National Program for Justice Houses
PACE	Equity Conciliation Attention Center
PARES	<i>Fundación Paz and Reconciliación</i>
RJC	Regional Justice Committee
RRS	Rapid Response Strategy
SPA	Criminal Accusatory System
SV	Sexual Violence
UARIV	National Unit for the Comprehensive Assistance and Reparation of Victims ( <i>Unidad para la Atención and Reparación Integral a las Víctimas</i> )
LRU	Land Restitution Unit
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VLC	Virtual Legal Clinic

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the third quarterly report of fiscal year 2016 for the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Access to Justice Activity (AJA). This report outlines the AJA's achievements, obstacles encountered and important contextual information for the period of April 1 to June 30, 2016.

On June 22, 2016, an "Agreement on a Bilateral and Definitive Ceasefire, Cessation of Hostilities and Surrender of Arms" was signed in Havana. With this agreement, the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) representative, Commander Timoleón Jiménez ("Timochenko"), pledged to move ahead with the signing of a final peace agreement that will put an end to 50 years of armed conflict with the FARC in Colombia. This act was witnessed by the guarantors of the peace process, presidents and representatives of governments in the hemisphere, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Aside from providing for the surrender of arms and a ceasefire, the agreement is transcendental because it will define the following: zones for the consolidation of demobilized guerrilla troops in order to verify the bilateral ceasefire; a timetable for the surrender of weapons; and guarantees of security for the combatants. With these matters resolved, the final peace agreement is expected to be signed in two months, based on the known timetables. So far, the Government and the FARC have announced that there will be 29 special zones and camps for demobilized troops in an equal number of municipalities in 15 departments. The AJA is working in seven of these municipalities.

In terms of the institutional framework for peace, the AJA continued working with the Ministry of Justice and Law (MJL) and the High Council for the Post-Conflict (ACPC) on consolidating the process for creating and strengthening local justice systems (LJS) and local justice committees (LJC). It is important to note that several changes have occurred recently within the MJL, one of the AJA's main counterparts in regards to LJS/LJCs. These changes include the appointments of Jorge Eduardo Londoño as the new Minister of Justice and Law and Arleys Cuesta Simanca as Vice Minister for the Promotion of Justice. Early the next quarter, in July, César Pineda will be appointed as the Director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Directorate (DADR) of the MJL. The new authorities have enhanced cooperation and coordination around the LJC, the MASC and mobile brigades.

The country also awaited the appointment of Néstor Humberto Martínez as the new Attorney General, to happen in early August. The AJA is watching this shift with interest, given the close working relationship that it has with the Attorney General's Office's (AGO) and its prosecutors and policies related to gender-based violence (GBV). The AJA also saw a change in authorities in another important counterpart, the Administrative Chamber of the Superior Judicial Council. Following the election in the Plenary Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice in June, Gloria Stella López Jaramillo

and Max Alejandro Flórez Rodríguez assumed their positions as new Magistrates of the Administrative Chamber of the Superior Judicial Council.

The AJA supported the geographic expansion of the Government of Colombia's (GOC) Rapid Response Strategy (RRS) in the Pacific region of Nariño, opening two new sub-regional offices in Charco and Barbacoas while strengthening the existing regional office in Tumaco. The AJA strengthened its relationship with the Governor's Office in the department as well. Working together, the AJA and the Governor's Office developed a joint work plan for the promotion, creation and strengthening of the LJS/LJCs in six municipalities of Nariño's Pacific riverine area. In addition, the AJA began working with the Governor's Office of Putumayo to prepare for the creation of LJS/LJCs in that critical department.

Regarding Justice Houses (JHs) and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, the AJA met with the MJL and agreed on a path forward to train and strengthen equity conciliators (ECs), using the model the AJA currently implements with counterparts. The AJA has identified two key projects, one involving restorative justice (to be developed in Popayán), and the other involving historical memory (to be developed in the Montes de María region). Requests for approval of these projects were submitted to USAID. During the reporting period, the AJA carried out 15 mobile JH campaigns, benefitting 1,112 people. The AJA also held discussions with the MJL on the provision of ADR training to Community Action Boards (CABs). The MJL has indicated it will submit a proposal to USAID to move forward with this training.

The work completed by the AJA this quarter under the gender component is highly significant, not only because it represents concrete achievements with advancing prosecutions, but also because it reflects the comprehensive attention provided to victims of GBV and sexual violence (SV) in terms of the offer of, and demand, for services. The AJA submitted to USAID the first progress report on regional grants to six organizations working on GBV issues. To further strengthen the AGO, the AJA began support activities to strengthen the AGO's National Directorate of Analysis and Context (DINAC) and the AGO's National Directorate of Sectional Offices and Citizen Security (DNS), and to socialize the Sexual Violence Investigation Protocol. The AJA also began support for a training of trainers program with the National Federation of Ombudsmen (FENALPER), and made progress in the development of support plans for the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science (IMLCF).

In Component Three, the AJA continued to promote the implementation of the land restitution (LR) jurisdiction's guides and protocols and provide support for the Thematic Committees meetings. Achievements include the meeting of the Thematic Committee on Security with President Juan Manuel Santos in June, during which the President made commitments to increase security for LR judges and courts.

The LJCs' activities in the territories increased substantially during the quarter, with a total of 46 justice brigades benefitting 5,354 people. The AJA promoted the participation of the MJL and the ACPC in the Regional Forums on Justice, Rurality and the Post-Conflict Era. The AJA is coordinating with the

MJL to incorporate the recommendations made in these forums in the Ten-Year Justice Plan, as well as in the LJS and rural justice policies.

# 1.0 POLICY ISSUES

## 1.1 BROAD CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Information about this is included in the subsection on sustainability in Section 2 of this report.

## 1.2 COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONORS, USAID PROJECTS AND USG AGENCIES

Information about this is included in the subsection on sustainability in Section 2 of this report, given that this is the framework in which the interests of the different USAID implementers have converged.

# 2.0 REGIONAL ASPECTS

## 2.1 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Local justice policies, rurality through legal brigades and regional forums, and expansion of regional coverage

The AJA significantly advanced with regional work plans that include local policies, legal brigades, forums and expansion of geographical coverage this quarter. The AJA also made significant progress introducing these plans to governors' offices while establishing links between these offices and ACPC, the MJL and other USAID operators, to ensure sustainability of the regional plans.

### *Expansion of regional coverage*

**Nariño Pacific:** Upon USAID's approval in April 2016, the AJA immediately began work in six new municipalities of the Nariño Pacific region (Santa Bárbara Iscuandé, El Charco, Barbacoas, Maguá Payán, Roberto Payán and Ricaurte) and continued implementation of activities in the departmental capital, Tumaco. To start, the AJA coordinated with the Governor's Office to develop a work plan for April-December 2016 (see Annex A). A major achievement in the work plan is the creation and strengthening of LJS/LJCs so that these mechanisms are sustainable beyond Project implementation. These capacity building efforts will use differential approach methodologies in seven municipal development plans (MDPs) (in addition to the six above mentioned new municipalities, this includes Tumaco), as well as in the departmental development plan (DDP). These plans implement the rurality strategy principally through mobile brigades, as well as through mobile justice houses, virtual legal

clinics, actions to link community action boards with LJsCs, among other activities. In predominantly ethnic territories, these brigades will also seek to strengthen interjurisdictional coordination between the parallel ordinary and ethnic justice systems.

Taking into account the differential approach and following protocol in indigenous communities, the AJA took the first step of consulting with representatives from the *Unidad Indígena del Pueblo Awá* and the *Asociación de Consejos Comunitarios y Organizaciones Étnico Territoriales de Nariño* regarding their participation in the LJsCs in the six new municipalities as traditional justice authorities. These representatives subsequently agreed to join their respective LJsCs. The AJA also gathered information from these representatives to add to the map of actors providing justice services in El Charco and Barbacoas.

In order to facilitate coordination with the Governor's Office, the AJA will provide an embedded consultant to serve as a liaison between the Governor's Office, the AJA and the seven municipalities of intervention in the Nariño region. The AJA plans to have the consultant in place in early August. The Governor's Office of International Cooperation invited the various international organizations that are active in the region (UNHCR, UN Women, UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the UNDP) together in order to coordinate actions with the LJsCs. The AJA opened two sub-regional offices (in El Charco and Barbacoas) and it strengthened the existing regional office in Tumaco by hiring experienced professionals from the region. Also, as of the date of this report, the AJA is in the midst of completing the analysis of the barriers to access to justice in this region.

**Putumayo:** Following the approval of USAID to expand implementation into the Putumayo department in May 2016, the AJA met with the governor on June 20, together with a team of advisors from the ACPC. The Governor of Putumayo and his advisors showed interest in the proposed activities and requested that the AJA expand to three other municipalities as well (Valle del Guamuez, Orito, Puerto Asís). The Governor of Putumayo will submit a proposal to the MJL and ACPC to solicit USAID's consideration of further expansion in the next quarter.

In order to facilitate coordination with the Governor's Office, the AJA will, as in the case of Nariño, provide an embedded consultant who will serve as a liaison between the Governor's Office, the AJA and the four municipalities (Puerto Caicedo, Puerto Guzmán, Puerto Leguizamó and San Miguel). Due to the demographics of the department, the AJA has asked the MJL to have its ethnic affairs team accompany the activities in the region. The Governor's Office emphasized that the activities should be coordinated with the activities included in the department's *Contrato de Paz* (Peace Contract) with the GOC, which the AJA plans to do.

#### *Justice-related advances in the departmental and municipal development plans and budgets*

During the quarter, the AJA held 70 meetings with mayors' offices, municipal councils and departmental assemblies to promote inclusion of justice lines in the development plans. This work

was also completed in the municipalities in Nariño, resulting in the inclusion of a justice line in the seven MDPs that will place an emphasis on the LJS/LJCs.

The MDPs of all 35 municipalities in which the AJA implements activities now have access-to-justice lines and 33 of the 35 associated budgets have pledged resources for these activities. These plans include the creation and strengthening of the LJS/LJCs; the implementation of the rurality strategy through justice brigades and legal clinics; the strengthening of the traditional justice system and coordination protocols; the strengthening of existing JHs in 11 municipalities, and the creation of new JHs in Ricaurte and Planadas. They also address the strengthening of municipal ombudsmen's offices and family commissioner's offices, and in Ituango the plan includes the creation of rural police inspector positions (see Annex B).

The next phase, beginning early July, will include the provision of technical support to the municipal administrations in the formulation of sectoral plans. In addition, the AJA will support the review of the action plans of the LJS/LJCs, to ensure their consistency with agendas of the different entities involved in access to justice, and the physical and financial execution of the plans.

In relation to the projects that were registered by the LJs in the Municipal Project Investment Banks with 2015 budgets, a process is underway in the 29 mayors' offices to harmonize the 2015 budgets of previous administrations with the budgets approved in the 2016-2019 Multi-Year Investment Plan by the current administrations. The AJA is monitoring this process and will report on it next quarter.

#### *Local Justice Committees*

During the quarter, the AJA held 32 LJC work sessions with an emphasis on the planning and execution of rural legal brigades; the inclusion of justice policies in development plans; and an analysis of local justice requirements in the post-conflict phase. The conclusions of these meetings were presented in three regional forums, described below.

In the meetings with the LJs of Planadas and Ataco, the AJA worked with operators of the USAID Human Rights Program and local government officials to coordinate activities that will be included in the development plans, something that will be done with the other LJs where the Human Rights Program operates. The Secretary of Government of Ataco, who serves as the Secretary of the LJC (as is the case with all of the LJs) invited the Transitional Justice Committee to the LJC meeting. At this meeting an agreement was reached to implement a single Local Justice Action Plan.

#### *Formalization of Local and Regional Justice Committees*

Twenty-seven of the 29 LJs are now formally established through municipal decrees. The remaining two, in Tierralta, Southern Córdoba and Caucasia, Bajo Cauca, are operating and awaiting the issuance of decrees, which the respective mayors have agreed to issue (see Annex C). The MJL and the ACPC

have recognized the importance of these decrees due to their binding nature.

The Regional Justice Committees (RJC) in the Southern Córdoba region made progress this quarter in the agreements reached with the Governor's Offices of Nariño, Meta and Antioquia. The Nariño RJC is included in the DDP and is expected to begin operating in the second half of 2016. In Meta, two meetings were held with the sectional justice agencies and the Governor's Office. An agreement was also reached to reactivate an ordinance to conduct Departmental Roundtables on "Access to Justice and the Fight against Impunity" with the LJSs. In Antioquia, the meeting for the creation of the RJC was postponed at the request of the Governor's Office until the participation of the ACPC and the MJL could be arranged. The creation of the RJC in Southern Tolima was postponed until next quarter to accommodate the schedules of the actors involved. The configuration of the Montes de María region, with two municipalities in each of the departments of Bolívar and Sucre, makes the creation of the RJC difficult, but the AJA plans to review the matter with both Governor's Offices and discuss the operation of an agency that covers the entire sub-region.

*Coordination with strategic partners, other allies within the territory, and other USAID operators*

In advocating for the inclusion of justice policies in the development plans, the AJA had the opportunity to coordinate with other USAID operators, especially those from USAID's Regional Governance Activity. Through this alliance, the AJA plans to assist with the implementation of the MDPs. Additionally, the AJA worked with USAID's Land and Rural Development Program (LRDP) to develop two thematic land restitution brigades in Montes de María. Also, with the FortaleSCIendo Program of the Secretariat of *Pastoral Social* of the Diocese of Montelíbano, which also manages USAID resources, the AJA developed activities in Southern Córdoba in support of the LJC meetings and focus groups held in preparation for the regional forum. The AJA also established agreements for their participation in justice brigades in Montes de María and Tumaco and provided resources for the preparation of the regional forum in Tumaco. In Southern Tolima, the AJA entered into a partnership with the University of Tolima to conduct rural justice brigades. The regional teams participated in the launch of the USAID Human Rights Program in Southern Tolima, Bajo Cauca, La Macarena and Tumaco, and commitments were made to coordinate justice-related activities with the LJsCs, with an emphasis on rural justice brigades. The AJA is contacting local and regional authorities in Southern Córdoba to plan for a similar coordination meeting in the future.

Regarding government entities, the Territorial Management Program of the Department of Social Prosperity (DPS) continues to support the project. In Southern Tolima, the DPS is providing technical assistance for the inclusion of justice-related activities in the development plans. The AJA tightened its coordination with the National Unit for the Comprehensive Assistance and Reparation of Victims (UARIV), especially in Bajo Cauca, Southern Córdoba and Southern Tolima, ensuring its participation in rural justice brigades to assist victims.

As a result of its alliance with the AJA, the Governor's Office of Antioquia, through its Human Rights

Directorate, participated in rural justice brigades with an emphasis on victims. The AJA has coordinated with the *Escuela Superior de Administración Pública* to provide academic support, in coordination with the University of Antioquia, for a training program on the LJS for justice operators in the 10 municipalities of Bajo Cauca.

*Rurality strategy (forums, rural justice brigades, and relations with Community Action Boards)*

*Regional forums on territorial justice, rurality and the post-conflict era*

In April and May, the AJA held three regional forums on local justice, rurality and the post-conflict era. The first one, in Sincelejo on April 29, covered the four municipalities in Montes de María. The second was held in Cauca on May 12 with the participation of representatives from 10 municipalities in the Bajo Cauca. And the third was held in Ibagué on May 17, covering the four municipalities in Southern Tolima.

The three forums were attended by approximately 1,000 people in total, including local authorities; judicial, administrative, ethnic and community justice system operators; LJC members; strategic partners; cooperation agencies; community leaders, especially from rural areas; and students and teachers. The manager of the MJL's Ten-Year Justice Plan also attended all of the forums, and the new MJL vice-minister attended the one in Tumaco. In the first forum, representatives of the justice team in the ACPC and the MJL made a presentation on the RRS with an emphasis on LJSs and LJsCs.



**Forum on local justice, rurality and the post-conflict era in Ibagué, Tolima.**

Annex D contains a summary of the forums, including the presentations by justice operators. The forums addressed the issues raised in the preparatory rural focus groups and LJC sessions, at which members of the community discussed their perceptions of justice services in the rural territories and recommendations for strengthening them, taking into account the particular conflicts and challenges in each territory.

The forums included the presentation of recommendations for improving justice services in rural areas during the post-conflict phase; the identification of some conditions required to ensure that the offer of justice services can address the main demands in the territories; a presentation on perceptions of the LJSs and the need to strengthen the LJsCs in order to overcome barriers to access to justice, especially in rural areas; and an academic discussion of the main challenges of the post-conflict era in the regions.

### *Rural justice brigades*

This quarter marked a milestone in the implementation of the AJA's rurality strategy, with the implementation of 46 rural justice brigades: 27 in Bajo Cauca, six in Montes de María, six in Southern Córdoba, four in Southern Tolima and three in La Macarena, through which more than 5,300 people received assistance (see Annex E). Eighty-two percent of the brigades were carried out in 37 *veredas* and *corregimientos*. The nine brigades in the urban municipalities of Bajo Cauca, La Macarena, and Southern Córdoba that were implemented were scheduled by the LJsCs and strategic partners. These nine brigades were held in the urban centers due to security risks in the rural areas.

Thematic brigades with an emphasis on attention to victims were carried out in Ituango, Cáceres and San José de Uré, with the participation of the UARIV, the Municipal Ombudsman's Offices, the National Ombudsman's Office, the Victims' Liaison and the Human Rights Office of Antioquia. The brigades handled requests for humanitarian assistance, updated victims' data and collected data on victims' socio-economic and psychosocial conditions in order to establish reparations plans.



**Mobile justice brigade in El Aro, Ituango.**

From May 11-13 a brigade was carried out in Montelíbano with the Office of Prosecutor No. 14. During this brigade, 72 cases related to libel, fraud and property damage were conciliated. Another 25 cases were conciliated with partial agreements related to property damage and personal injury. Twenty-five cases were withdrawn from proceeding, five of which were related to abuse of trust and slander. The remaining cases were withdrawn by the accusers either due to lack of findings on the part of the prosecutor or the accusers' decision to not proceed with criminal findings. These cases were withdrawn voluntarily by the accusers. In El Carmen de Bolívar and Ovejas, brigades were conducted in coordination with the USAID LRDP to provide advice on the legalization of properties and the partitioning of commonly-owned property. The new administrations and USAID operators in the territories view the justice brigades as an activity to be considered in their programs in order to advance objectives in rural areas.

### *Participation of Community Action Boards on Local Justice Committees*

New CAB boards of directors were elected during the quarter. There are no activities to report, other than the participation CAB representatives in all of the rural justice brigades. The project executed by the *Fundación Paz and Reconciliación* (PARES), which contacted AJA regional teams at the end of June, conducted field interviews in order to assess the relations and other areas of cooperation between the CABs and the LJsCs.

## *Virtual Legal Clinics*

The AJA continued implementation of virtual legal clinics (VLC) to provide guidance and legal assistance to communities in rural areas. During the reporting period, 467 visits were recorded with the *Corporación Autónoma del Caribe's* (CECAR) VLC with 294 online consultations provided. The VLC of the *Universidad de Sinú* logged 201 visits and 182 online consultations.<sup>1</sup> In Bajo Cauca, with the University of Medellin, the VLC software was installed and will begin fully operating in the next quarter. In La Macarena, web consultations will begin in in the next quarter as well. In southern Tolima it is expected that during the next quarter the Cooperative University of Colombia will make the adjustments to its website, as recommended by the AJA, in order to provide consultations. Also during this quarter, the VLC in Tumaco, which focuses on gender issues, registered 407 visits and 53 online consultations. Since its launch in 2014, the Tumaco VLC has received 3,280 visits and provided 2,120 online consultations.

## *Map of actors (updates, strengthening)*

The AJA produced the *Map of Actors Methodology*, which describes the three phases of the map's development: identification and counting of actors (Phase I); identification of needs (Phase II); and analysis of justice service supply and demand (Phase III) (see Annex F). Phase III, which will begin the next quarter, is focused on the compilation of information and the subsequent triangulation and analysis of four sources: reports on the regional forums; documents on barriers to access; the focus groups and LJC sessions held prior to the regional forums; and inputs from the research being conducted by PARES on the dynamics between justice administration entities. The advocacy strategy to increase the supply of justice services is promoted in the work sessions of Regional Justice Committees, which are chaired by governors. The responsibility of increasing services falls with local justice entities.

Furthermore, the six existing maps of actors were updated in accordance with the recommendations and modifications suggested by USAID in May and June (see Annex G). In the case of the Nariño Pacific region, the information about administrative and judicial operators, community councils and indigenous people in the sub-regions of Telembí, Sanquianga and Ricaurte was included as a matrix. There are 12 community councils and six Awá reservations in Barbaçoas; there are six community councils and one Awá reservation in Roberto Payán; there are four community councils in Magüí Payán; there is one community council and one Eperara-Siapidara reservation in Santa Bárbara

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<sup>1</sup> CECAR's Virtual Legal Clinic (VLC) began operating in April, and UniSinú's VLC began operating in May 2016. Three municipalities in Montes de María are covered because the equipment installed in San Jacinto was stolen. VLCs were installed in the Victims' Liaison Office (Ovejas), the Ombudsman's Office (El Carmen de Bolívar), and the Justice House (San Onofre). All of the municipalities in Southern Córdoba are covered by VLCs in the Community Attention Center (San José de Uré), the Police Inspectorate's Office (Puerto Libertador), and the municipal mayor's office (Montelíbano and Tierralta).

Access to VLC services is provided to 17 villages in Montes María through five Digital Kiosks, and to approximately 100 villages in Southern Córdoba through 10 Digital Kiosks.

Iscuandé; there are three community councils and one Eperara-Siapidara reservation in El Charco; and 11 Awá reservations were identified in Ricaurte.

It is important to note that during field work in the Telembí sub-region to collect information for the report on barriers to access to justice, the AJA provided advice to the regional team regarding the development of the map of actors. The presentation made in Putumayo on the map of actors also served as a critical capacity building activity for LJsCs that are new to AJA activities.

### *Ethnic justice – LJS*

In June, the AJA entered into a coordination agreement with the MJL's ethnic justice team in order to facilitate its direct involvement in the evaluation of the inter-jurisdictional coordination protocols that have been signed. In addition, an agreement was reached on the team's participation in activities planned in Nariño and Putumayo, and in the regions where the signing of the protocols is pending (Southern Tolima, La Macarena and Montes de María). This agreement will ensure the sustainability of the national policy of the MJL, whose new minister has expressed an interest in strengthening this line of work. The ethnic justice team presented recommendations for modifying the signed protocols, which will be addressed early next quarter.

The following activities were carried out during the quarter: i) the signing of an inter-jurisdictional protocol of understanding in the municipality of La Macarena (with the Nasa, Wananos and Tinugua peoples); ii) the first phase of coordination which includes identification of existing services, actors and challenges, solutions to the challenges and consultation regarding participation in the LJsCs. This phase was conducted with 22 authorities of the Embera Katío people of Tierralta; iii) a meeting to monitor the regional protocol in Montería; iv) reinforcement of the traditional justice system in Uribe with the Nasa, Misak, and Embera Chamí peoples, following changes in ancestral authorities. Changes in indigenous authorities in other regions has made it necessary to hold awareness-raising and transition meetings.

In addition, ethnic authorities participated in various focus groups to prepare for regional forums: in Montelíbano with indigenous delegates from the Embera Katío and Zenú del Alto San Jorge communities; and in Tumaco, two focus groups with community councils located in La Ensenada and El Alto Mira y Frontera, one with Awá indigenous communities, and one with *Red de Consejos Comunitarios del Pacífico Sur*. Also, focus groups were held with Afro-Colombian and indigenous authorities in the Telembí sub-region in the Nariño Pacific to characterize the context and to identify barriers in the traditional justice system and its relationship with the ordinary justice system.

### *Gender*

Regional teams assisted and participated in Component Two activities. These activities include workshops on an interdisciplinary approach to GBV cases, and the monitoring of grants for providing

judicial representation to victims of GBV. These activities will be discussed further in section 3.2.

## 3.0 COMPONENT ACTIVITIES

### 3.1 COMPONENT ONE – JUSTICE HOUSES AND ADR

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

##### *Completion of the public-private alliance proposal process*

At a meeting on June 7 in the MJL offices, ministry officials and the AJA discussed the issue of whether or not the public-private alliance proposal with Evensen Dodge International should proceed. The DADR of the MJL concluded that this proposal would not be implemented during 2016, and therefore recommended that it be removed from the work plan. In addition, DADR representatives indicated that alternative options could be considered. The DADR agreed to send a letter to the AJA formally stating the reasons why the public-private alliance cannot proceed. This letter has not been received as of the date of this report.

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

On May 11, CECAR, one of the AJA's strategic partners, sent an unsolicited proposal for a project called "Historical Memory in the town of La Pelona." An AJA evaluation committee reviewed it on June 15, and concluded that it was innovative, unique and methodologically sound. The proposal involves the provision of funds under the existing subcontract between the AJA and CECAR, and will be sent to USAID for approval during the first week of July 2016.

On June 24, the AJA received from the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH) a proposal titled "Minga through the Territory: the Colors of the Nasa Fight, Resistance and Memory," also known as the "Minga Muralist." The AJA reviewed the proposal and is waiting for confirmation of a meeting with CNMH officials during the first week of July to discuss the proposal and its conformity with the AJA's timetable and objectives.

In April, the AJA developed instruments to assess conflicts in the communities of Santa Helena and the neighborhood of Santofimio for the "Pilot Project on Access to Justice and the Promotion of Coexistence," which the AJA is developing in Chaparral. With the inputs obtained from the assessment, it conducted four focus groups with: (i) 60 senior adults; (ii) representatives of the CABs of Santa Helena and Santofimio; (iii) 12 children between the ages of six and 12 from Santa Helena

and Santofimio; and (iv) 30 adolescents from both neighborhoods. In May, meetings were held in Bogotá between the AJA's consultant who will develop a model based on the pilot project's implementation and results, the MJL, the Ministry of Culture (in particular with the team working on the ministry's "Community is Art, Libraries and Culture" project), and the Territorial Management Area of the DPS, for the purpose of presenting the achievements of the pilot project in Santa Helena, and to agree on joint follow-on actions in the community. In June, the University of Ibagué systematized the information gathered from the different focus groups, which will also serve as inputs for the model.

On June 24, the AJA held a meeting in Montería<sup>2</sup> to discuss the pilot project model developed in Chaparral and how it could be adapted to the particular circumstances in the La Gloria I neighborhood. On June 25, the AJA presented a proposal for a pilot project to the municipal administration,<sup>3</sup> and agreed on a timetable of activities for the month of July. During the next quarter, the AJA will provide support to the JH in Montería in the implementation of the pilot project through legal and technical consultants.

During the quarter, the AJA approved a proposal presented by *Fundación Tierra de Paz* to support the JH in Popayán in creating opportunities for dialogue with stakeholders,<sup>4</sup> strengthening ADR operators,<sup>5</sup> and raising awareness on restorative justice in the community. The grant agreement was sent to USAID for approval on June 29.

### **Increasing coverage of JHs outside urban areas**

As part of the Mobile Justice House coverage strategy, the AJA carried out a total of 15 campaigns,<sup>6</sup> benefiting 1,112 people (see Annex E). On April 28, the Corinto JH was reopened and conducted a mobile campaign to provide services in the town of Las Guacas, within the El Jagual Peasant Reserve Zone. The main achievements of this campaign include: the presence of institutions (JH and municipal administration) in an area in which there are illegal armed actors; reaching young people at risk of forced recruitment; and the reopening of the JH and its provision of services in remote areas



<sup>2</sup> The following participated in the meeting: the Justice House Coordinator, Justice House Equity Conciliators, the AJA's regional advisor in Southern Córdoba, and the AJA's consultant on free housing.

<sup>3</sup> This meeting was attended by those mentioned in the preceding footnote, as well as the Secretary of the Government of Montería and officials from the municipality's School of Coexistence.

<sup>4</sup> Indigenous authorities; inmate leaders of the Detention Center; members of the Coexistence and Conciliation Commission; Community Action Board presidents; and student mediators.

<sup>5</sup> Such as CAB Conciliation Committees, equity conciliators, and student and community mediators.

<sup>6</sup> Eleven campaigns in Northern Cauca (Popayán JH-4; Santander de Quilichao JH-5; Puerto Tejada JH-2); three campaigns in Southern Tolima (Ortega JH -2; Rioblanco JH -1, at the express request of the community); one campaign in Montes de María (San Onofre JH, at its request).

of the municipality. The decision to reopen the JH was made by the new municipal administration. The AJA provided support for the reopening through two information campaigns on the services to be offered through the JH and regional Norte de Cauca JH forum, with the Corinto JH acting as the host, in order that the new Corinto JH officials could learn from the experiences of the others.

Second, the Mobile Justice House campaigns in Northern Cauca accomplished their mission of bringing Justice House services to communities, and strengthening the presence of the State, in remote disadvantaged areas that have been victimized by the armed conflict in Colombia, in an effort to provide access to justice and to recognize the rights of the most injured groups.<sup>7</sup>

Third, the AJA's consultant in Northern Cauca assisted with the planning of campaigns through September, despite the fact that the AJA does not have a regional office in Cauca. Also of note is the support provided for the reactivation of the Corinto JH and the design of a thematic campaign with the JH in Toribío, planned for July 1. The scheduling of Mobile Justice House campaigns has been shared with officials in the MJL/DADR.

### *Adoption of differentiated approaches in Justice Houses*

Roundtables related to the extent to which equity conciliators can work with victims of GBV and the prohibition of using equity conciliation in these crimes were held in Montelíbano, Córdoba on April 16, and in Miranda, Cauca on April 23. These roundtables followed the work by the National University of Colombia's School of Community Justice (EJCUN) on the development of the "Module on innovation in the work of equity conciliation regarding violence against women." The objective of these roundtables was to strengthen the capacity of equity conciliators to understand and address violence against women. The roundtables were designed to familiarize them with the contents of the module, and to introduce a gender approach in the resolution of disputes when possible, with a special emphasis on the prevention of conflicts that can lead to violence against women. These discussions emphasized the fact that ECs can accompany victims and assist in events that stem from GBV but it was made clear that ECs cannot conciliate GBV cases.

The roundtable in Montelíbano was attended by 97 people from five municipalities (Caucasia, El Bagre, Montelíbano, San José de Uré and Puerto Libertador) of which 52 were equity conciliators appointed by the EJCUN in December 2015. Other participants included representatives of *Pastoral Social* of the Diocese de Montelíbano and *Red de Mujeres de Montelíbano*, officials of the JHs in El Bagre

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<sup>7</sup> The campaign conducted on May 26 in the town of Lomitas in Santander de Quilichao involved bringing Justice House services and other State social services to individuals and families in the ethnically differentiated sectors of this municipality. Ninety-five men and women were registered, especially in the Afro-descendant sectors. Cases involving humanitarian assistance, Law 1448 of 2011 and Decree 2569 of 2014, were among the most consulted.

From 1999 to 2004, the Calima Block of the AUC established a camp in the town of Lomitas, exerting control over the Department of Cauca, committing murders and subjecting residents to forced dispossession from their land. Today, the town of Lomitas has become an emblematic case for the department of Cauca, having recorded the largest number of land restitution decisions for inhabitants who were victims of forced abandonment and dispossession.

and Caucasia, and members of farmer associations, CABs, and the Zenú indigenous communities of Puerto Libertador and San José de Uré.

The roundtable in Miranda was attended by 105 people from five municipalities (Florida, Pradera, Caloto, Miranda and Santander de Quilichao) including 71 equity conciliators appointed by the EJCUN in December 2015. Also in attendance were family commissioners from Pradera, Miranda, Caloto and Santander de Quilichao, the latter from the JH of that municipality. The AJA will conduct three training sessions on this subject in other municipalities between July and September.

### **Strengthen NPJH operations and organization at the national level**

#### *Municipal Development Plans*

In 26 out of 35 municipalities, the MDPs now include activities aimed at strengthening and promoting equity conciliation. Significantly, the MDP of El Bagre goes as far as including incentives for equity conciliators to continue providing their services. These incentives include travel subsidies for equity conciliators and meetings to share their experiences. In Puerto Libertador, Rio Blanco and Planadas the MDPs include support for the Committees for Coexistence and Conciliation of the Community Action Boards. El Charco included support for the Equity Conciliation Attention Centers (PACEs). In San Juan de Arama, the MDP includes training for justice officials in equity conciliation. In five of the seven DDPs, equity conciliation is highlighted in the justice section.

Regarding the JHs (in San Onofre, Ataco, Chaparral, Rioblanco, Caceres, Caucasia, Nechí, El Bagre, Zaragoza, Anorí, Tarazá and Tumaco), each corresponding MDP includes support, with the exception of Ataco. Specifically, the Anorí development plan includes support to rebuild the JH and El Bagre is planning for the construction of a Coexistence Center. Furthermore, the development plan for El Carmen de Bolivar calls for the construction of a Coexistence Center and in Puerto Libertador and Ricaurte the plans leave the option open for either a JH or a Coexistence Center. Development plans in Planes de Tierralta, Planadas and Santa Bárbara Iscuandé also provide for the construction of JHs.

Five of the seven DDPs include support for JHs and/or Coexistence Centers. The specific support entails construction of two JHs in Sucre; construction of two Coexistence Centers in Bolivar; construction of one JH in Tolima; and construction of two JHs, as well as the strengthening of three existing JHs (including the JH in Tumaco) in Nariño.

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

#### **Developing incentive schemes for equity conciliators**

The first “Technical Roundtable on Equity Conciliation – the Conciliation Statute” was held on June 23 at the offices of the MJL, for the purpose of preparing a “Bill on Conciliation.” One of the sessions was dedicated exclusively to the issue of incentives for ECs. The AJA, through the EJCUN, help draft a report titled “Discussion of a public policy proposal of the Ministry of Justice and Law on incentives for Equity Conciliators: the results from initial discussions with the Ministry of Justice and Law,” which is a potential input for discussion in these roundtables. The AJA could not attend this first roundtable because of prior commitments. The MJL has requested that the AJA provide support for two more roundtables, which are expected to take place next quarter.

**Increasing capacity of ADR Options, especially in rural areas**

CECAR installed four PACEs in the municipalities of Montes de María-San Onofre, San Jacinto, Ovejas and Carmen de Bolívar. The AJA will provide support next quarter for the installation of a total of 12 PACEs in the municipalities in which the EJCUN implemented EC training.<sup>8</sup> It is important to mention that the contract with the EJCUN ended on June 30. With USAID’s approval, the AJA will work directly on the consolidation of Methodology to Implement Community Conciliation (MICE) Phase IV in the corresponding municipalities.



**Training Equity Conciliators**

The EJCUN carried out a follow-up session for ECs on April 17 in Montelíbano,<sup>9</sup> which was attended by 84 people from the municipalities of Caucasia, Montelíbano, San José de Uré and Puerto Libertador, El Bagre and Anorí.

The diploma course on “Traditional Justice and Conciliation for the Strengthening of Traditional Governance” concluded on April 27. The course was attended by 65 representatives of the Nasa communities of Toribío, Tacueyo and San Francisco,<sup>10</sup> of which 42 graduated. On April 25, prior to the graduation ceremony, the AJA conducted a discussion group at Tulpa de Toez in the López

<sup>8</sup> Caucasia, Montelíbano, Puerto Libertador, San José de Uré, Miranda, Florida, Pradera, Caloto, and El Bagre, a municipality that was added to this process by the EJCUN. The AJA will also support the installation of PACEs in Popayán.

<sup>9</sup> This session focused on strengthening operators’ abilities and skills in order to improve their intervention in and direct management of disputes; enhancing ECs’ ability to employ conciliation instruments, such as invitations, evidence and conciliation certificates; and a conceptual approach to facilitate comprehensive work by the ECs.

<sup>10</sup> The participants in this diploma course are noted for their work with the Legal Council, the Family Council and the Indigenous Guard, and represented the Coordination of the Family Council, the Secretariats of the Family and Legal Councils, the Coordination of Health, Coordination of the M.J. Reservation, and Coordination of the Women’s Program. Also, most of the students in this group participate in the planning of the life plans of the Nasa Project, the Municipal Development Plan, and the Life Plan of the Councils. They are thus involved in developing different community strategies, and can have a considerable impact on the process for strengthening the traditional justice system.



Antioquia on May 23; and Mocoa, Putumayo on June 20. They were attended by a total of 180 high court and district tribunal magistrates, judges, judicial employees, state and local officials.

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

#### ***National Federation of Ombudsmen (FENALPER):***

The AJA and FENALPER worked together this quarter on the development of a technical proposal for a training of trainers program that focuses on the use of “Tools for Defending Women from Violence Within and Outside the Armed Conflict.” The AJA also worked with FENALPER to put in place a team of three technical consultants and a logistics and administrative support professional to assist with the training of trainers program. As of the end of the reporting period, the technical consultants have finished the revision and modifications to the content of the training program. During the next quarter work will proceed with the design of the training methodology.

#### ***AJA and AGO at the national level***

***National Bureau of Attention to Victims and Users:*** The AJA’s work to strengthen Integrated Attention Centers for Victims (CAPIVs) started in 2013 in the municipality of Tumaco. During the quarter, the AJA focused on supporting the AGO’s Sectional Directorates and Building Department to equip three CAPIVs in Montelíbano, Cauca and Chaparral. This work included: 1) visits to the Sectional Directorates of the AGO in order to explain the grant process and to learn about the conditions possible CAPIV locations and support requirements; 2) negotiations between the sectional architectural teams and the AGO’s Building Department on agreements for the final version of each CAPIV; 3) ongoing work with the Building Department for the evaluation and approval of the plans for the CAPIVs; and 4) ongoing work with the Building Department’s team. The main obstacle encountered in establishing these three CAPIVs is the lack of adequate physical space. In Montelíbano and Chaparral, the locations set to house the CAPIVs are in need of serious structural repairs and construction. In Cauca, the home that was to be transferred to the AGO for use is still unavailable. Other issues stem from this obstacle. Without a physical location, the AGO is not able to design specific personnel and operative plans for the CAPIVs. Furthermore, there is weak coordination between national and regional AGO offices. Given these issues and subsequent delays, the AJA will meet with the AGO early next quarter to determine the feasibility of establishing CAPIVs in the given time frame (See Annex H). If it is not possible to continue, the AJA will meet with the IMLCF to devise an alternative plan for these resources.

***Public Policy Bureau:*** The following activities were implemented with the AGO Public Policy Bureau: 1) Dissemination of the Sexual Violence Investigation Protocol and its pilot program in departments, Córdoba, Meta and Nariño; and 2) Monitoring of the cases reported during the mass reporting campaign for SV during the armed conflict, as well as the cases covered by Constitutional Court Orders 092 and 009.

***Sexual Violence Investigation Protocol:*** This quarter the AJA moved forward with activities to strengthen and disseminate the Sexual Violence Investigation Protocol. This includes bringing on a consultant to assist with the design of methodologies related to the investigation and prosecution of SV crimes. In June the consultant presented key ideas for the development of pedagogical material. The consultant is currently preparing a pilot program, for which the AGO selected three places: Córdoba, Meta and Nariño. The pilot program will begin in these departments in August and finish in September. The AJA developed terms of reference for an inter-disciplinary team or organization to conceptualize, develop and adjust the pedagogical pieces for the dissemination of the protocol. Unión Temporal Brújula Comunicaciones-Magic Markers was selected as the organization and will begin work in the next quarter. As a direct result of support from USAID and other donors, the Sexual Violence Investigation Protocol was adopted on June 14 through Resolution N° 1774 of the AGO, and it was publicly presented the following week.

***Monitoring of the cases reported during campaigns for the mass reporting of Sexual Violence in the Framework of the Armed Conflict***

A meeting was held in mid-April with the AGO's Public Policy Bureau and the MJL, for the following purposes: 1) to agree on the inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms for monitoring the cases reported during the campaigns for the mass reporting of SV; and 2) to determine the support that the AJA will provide. The UARIV, which will take part in this process, was not able to attend the meeting due to changes in management and subsequent unavailability. Following the meeting, the AJA and the Public Policy Bureau developed a technical proposal and terms of reference for embedded personnel to support the Public Policy Bureau, which serves as the Technical Secretariat of the Subcommittee on Coordination for the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Violence. This is the entity responsible for managing the status of cases covered by Orders 09 and 092, involving victims who made declarations of facts in mass reporting campaigns supported by USAID in 2013 and 2014. The proposal and the terms of reference will be sent to USAID in July for approval.

***National Directorate of Sectional Offices***

In April, the AJA initiated activities to strengthen the DNS in relation to GBV and SV cases in 14 municipalities (referred to in previous AJA quarterly reports as the peer-to-peer strategy). Concurrent with the process of selecting support personnel, the Component Two team analyzed data from the Criminal Accusatory System (SPA) database to identify and select cases (based on region) and arranged the logistics for the first municipal visits. The Specialized Prosecutor of the DNS, with support from the AJA, developed the first on-site work session with prosecutors in the municipality of Chaparral, which was held from April 25 to 27. During the visit, 37 case files were reviewed and 30 cases were selected to be included in the project, exceeding the goal of three cases per municipality by 1,000% in this case (see Annex I).

### ***National Directorate of Analysis and Context (DINAC)***

The AJA began work this quarter to strengthen the DINAC/AGO through the design and implementation of information management and socialization activities for the analysis of GBV crimes. The results of the work with the DINAC this quarter include the following: 1) two consultants have joined the DINAC team to define the work group methodology to contextually analyze GBV and develop guidelines for the investigation of cases annexed in *Autos* 009 and 092. The consultants defined the work plans; 2) the AJA supported DINAC in the development of a campaign to provide legal and psychosocial assistance to victims of sexual crimes in the “Riachuelo” case, with the participation of the University of Antioquia and the civil society organization *Alianza Iniciativa de Mujeres Colombianas por la Paz* (see Annex J); 3) progress was made in the preparation of a campaign to provide legal and psychosocial assistance to victims of sexual violence in the “El Oso” case; and 4) a purchase order was issued for the provision of computer equipment that will strengthen the DINAC’s Support Group for Victims’ Assistance.

### ***Creation and strengthening of women defenders and civil society organizations that work on GBV issues***

The AJA continued to provide advice on the implementation of grants and subcontracts, through in-person meetings, Skype meetings, telephone calls and emails. At the same time, it collected baseline information and modified monitoring and evaluation plans of the grantees to include additional indicators. On June 29 the AJA submitted to USAID six mid-term evaluations of regional grantees under the GBV Annual Program Statement (APS) (see Annex K).

### ***Grants - Regional Organizations***

***Diocese of Montelíbano.*** The organization obtained powers of attorney to represent victims in 15 GBV cases, 12 of them criminal. It benefitted from on-site legal mentoring sessions held on April 4 and 5. The issues addressed in these sessions included strategic litigation and evidentiary aspects. *Corporacion Humanas* identified a lack of understanding/knowledge concerning gender issues and women’s rights as a weakness among the Diocese’s staff. Within the Diocese, GBV is not recognized as a structural problem stemming from unequal power relations and limits women’s access to justice, which leads to weak arguments in the cases represented. Organizational strengths that were identified in the Diocese include its regional coverage in Sur de Córdoba and the fact it is recognized among civil society organizations and the professional lawyers on staff have a clear understanding of the legal technical aspects and processes related to the cases.

In addition to the provision of ongoing telephone support, the AJA held a Skype meeting with the team on May 23 to discuss the activities and provide recommendations. Together, these activities have strengthened the team’s knowledge about the gender approach and strategic litigation. While

considerable advances regarding judicial representation in these cases cannot yet be reported, the AJA considers the attainment of the powers of attorney to be an achievement.

**'Helenita González Pérez' Lawyers' Collective.** The organization obtained powers of attorney to represent victims in 23 GBV cases, 16 of them criminal. The first on-site legal mentoring sessions were held on April 7 and 8. Issues addressed in this session included strategic litigation and evidentiary aspects. *Corporacion Humanas* noted the strengths of the Lawyers' Collective include the fact that the members have a good grasp on issues related to GBV and are very cooperative with each other. However, it was also noted that the Collective could strengthen its ability to identify other advocacy methods, beyond the legal work, for the litigation to have an impact. Regarding evidentiary aspects, they discussed with *Corporacion Humanas* doubts on proving psychological violence. In future sessions they will address questions on the rights of victims during the preliminary agreement stage.

In addition to the provision of ongoing telephone support, the AJA held a monitoring meeting via Skype with the grant implementation team. So far, there has been progress in one of the cases, after the organization convinced the prosecutor to file charges for domestic violence, rather than personal injury, as originally suggested by the investigators. The Collective is developing its institutional portfolio as part of the organizational strengthening process with support from the AJA.

**Red de Mujeres de Ibagué.** The organization obtained powers of attorney to represent victims in 16 GBV criminal cases. The first on-site legal mentoring sessions were held on April 14 and 15. During this time the topic of strategic litigation was covered. *Corporacion Humanas* noted the strengths as the legal soundness, in procedural terms, of the lawyers representing cases. However, it was noted that this legal understanding must be complemented by an understanding of gender issues in order to secure guarantees and protection of the rights of the accompanied women. The assessment performed by *Corporacion Humanas* describes the following obstacles faced by this organization: 1) disinterest or lack of understanding of the legal components related to GBV on the part of justice operators; and 2) the fact that some members of security forces may also be perpetrators of GBV hinders the *Red de Mujeres* from performing some functions.

In addition to ongoing telephone support, the AJA held a monitoring meeting via Skype with the implementation team on May 27. The assistance and monitoring support from the AJA has greatly increased coordination among the subgrantees. The organization is developing its institutional portfolio as part of the organizational strengthening process with support from the AJA. While considerable advances regarding judicial representation in these cases cannot yet be reported, the AJA considers the attainment of the powers of attorney to be an achievement.

**Red de Mujeres Subregión Bajo Cauca.** The organization obtained powers of attorney to represent victims in 15 GBV cases, 12 of them criminal. The first on-site legal mentoring sessions were held on April 21 and 22. During this time they covered strategic litigation, guidelines for interviews and protective measures. *Corporacion Humanas* identified a lack of gender focus in the development of the

organizations activities, which poses a risk to the litigation of GBV cases. The strengths of the organization include a good working relationship with judges in the region, strong communication with the Attorney General's Office and a direct relationship with the National Police. Many of the GBV cases selected by this organization are in advanced stages, meaning there is little room left to accompany the women through the legal proceedings. Instead, this implies there will be more accompaniment in the reparation stage.

In addition to ongoing telephone support, the AJA held a monitoring meeting via Skype with the implementation team on May 24. Together, these activities have strengthened the team's knowledge about a gender approach and strategic litigation. The organization is developing a general information security manual, as part of the organizational strengthening process with support from the AJA. No considerable advances regarding judicial representation in these cases have been reported to date.

***Corporación Ocho de Marzo, Mujeres and Hombres por la igualdad.*** The organization obtained powers of attorney to represent victims in 15 GBV cases, 12 of them criminal. The first on-site legal mentoring sessions were held on April 21 and 22. They discussed strategic litigation, shared experiences, the importance of the context and actors involved and the rights of women in strategic litigation. *Corporacion Humanas* noted the staff members were very interested in the mentoring sessions and there was much participation in the theoretical and practical sessions.

In addition to ongoing telephone support, the AJA held a meeting with the implementation team in Pasto on May 25 in order to discuss activities and evaluate organizational capacities. There was progress in one case, as the prosecutor filed charges for aggravated attempted homicide and not for personal injury. The judge accepted the arguments presented by the prosecutor and the Corporation's attorney at the hearing, and ordered the requested preliminary protection measure. The Corporation is developing its institutional portfolio as part of the organizational strengthening process.

***Asociación el Meta con Mirada de Mujer.*** The organization obtained powers of attorney to represent victims in 15 GBV cases, 14 of them criminal. It has requested to receive judicial mentoring from *Red de Mujeres Víctimas and Profesionales* (Network of Women Victims and Professionals) (Annex L). The AJA held a meeting with the grant implementation team and organization members on June 18 in Bogotá, in order to monitor implementation of activities and to adjust the timetable for the delivery of pending documents. No considerable progress regarding judicial representation in these cases has been reported to date.

### ***Security of regional organizations***

From the outset of the implementation of the grants, the AJA has assumed that the grantee organizations would face risks in due to the nature of these regions (the presence of organized crime and illegal armed groups) and the nature of the activities for which the grants have been awarded. In June, three organizations (*Red de Mujeres de Ibagué, Corporación Ocho de Marzo, Mujeres and Hombres por la Igualdad, and Asociación el Meta con Mirada de Mujer*) reported security problems (see Annex M for issues

and resolutions regarding security). The AJA took steps at a territorial and national level to obtain more information and to request advice from the AGO. The AJA will offer a workshop on self-protection for all of the organizations in July, and it will continue to monitor this situation.

### ***Grants - National Organizations***

**Corporación Humanas Regional Center for Human Rights and Gender Justice.** The Corporation is assisting and representing victims in 10 cases of sexual violence committed during the armed conflict. Information has been reported about eight of these cases, some of which involve women victims of forced recruitment who were subsequently victims of violence by guerillas. The AJA held a meeting with the grant implementation team on May 16 in order to discuss details of the cases and learn about the difficulties that have been encountered at a territorial level. These difficulties are related to the presence of armed actors that hinder women's participation and the fact that the organization represents both women not involved in the armed conflict as well as women who belong to these armed groups. No progress has been made in the cases to date and due to the complexity of the cases significant advancement is not expected to happen soon.

**Corporación Sisma Mujer.** The AJA held a meeting with the coordinator of the grant implementation team on June 13 in order to answer questions about the monitoring and evaluation plan. During the reporting period *Sisma Mujer* took strategic litigation actions to move forward in the representation of five GBV cases and provided legal counseling and support sessions.

**Corporación Caribe Afirmativo.** The organization obtained powers of attorney to represent five victims in criminal cases of violence committed against members of the LGBTI community. The first on-site legal mentoring sessions were held on May 23 and 24, and the AJA held a meeting with the grant implementation team on June 14 in order to monitor the implementation of activities and to discuss the difficulties that have been encountered at a territorial level, among which is the lack of a differential and gendered approaches in the processes of public officials and the refusal of those officials to process some of these cases. No considerable progress in the cases has been reported to date.

**Proyecto Colombia Diversa.** A grant agreement was signed on June 22 for the purpose of identifying, documenting and providing judicial representation in at least five GBV cases against the LGBTI population in two of the AJA's intervention regions. The first products under the grant agreement (a timetable and work plan) are to be delivered in early July.

### ***Subcontracts***

The following advances with subcontracts were made this quarter:

*Corporación Humanas Regional Center for Human Rights and Gender Justice.* The AJA held a meeting with the subcontract implementation team on May 16 in order to monitor the first on-site session for legal mentoring and use of the virtual tool, as well as to learn about the planning for the second session in the field. During the reporting period, *Corporación Humanas* made the first *in situ* visits to the six grantee organizations. In this first session of legal mentoring they covered: i) issues such as strategic litigation of GBV cases, evidentiary aspects and protective measures; and ii) an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the grantee organizations with recommendations to move forward.

*Alianza de Género.* The AJA arranged the logistics for a self-protection workshop for regional grantee organizations to take place on July 18 and 19, 2016. It also identified the remaining products under the subcontract and their delivery dates.

*University of Antioquia.* The AJA identified the remaining products under the subcontract and their delivery dates. At the request of the AGO's DINAC and Sectional Directorate of Antioquia, the AJA is exploring the possibility of having the University of Antioquia lead eight legal mentoring sessions (six for the DINAC and two for the Sectional Directorate of Antioquia) on providing psychosocial assistance for GBV victims involved in judicial proceedings.

*University of Nariño; CECAR; and University of Ibagué.* The AJA identified the remaining products under their respective subcontracts and their delivery dates. For the University of Nariño, this includes a report on the accompaniment of *Corporación Ocho de Marzo* and a report on two legal thematic brigades. CECAR and the University of Ibagué will both submit a report on two legal brigades with a gender focus.

### **3.3 COMPONENT THREE – STRENGTHENING LOCAL JUSTICE SERVICES AND LAND RESTITUTION JUDICIAL PROCESS**

#### **3.3.1 Support for the functioning of land restitution courts**

##### *Building an elite class of land restitution judges and magistrates*

The AJA, in coordination with the CSJ, continued implementing the strategy for the replication of the management model for these judicial offices. A total of 200 judicial operators in the jurisdiction were trained during the 2015-2016 period in strategic processes, continuous improvement, the zero paper policy, protocols and guidelines.

During this quarter the AJA prepared a report on the implementation of the model in 47 judicial offices,<sup>12</sup> based on the pilot program in Cartagena and Carmen de Bolívar. The report identified and categorized the main improvements needed in the jurisdiction, including the following: 1) 69% of

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<sup>12</sup> Annex N includes relevant information. However, it is worth noting that the judicial map has changed (Agreement No. PSAA15-10402 of October 29, 2015 and Agreement No. PSAA15-105410 of November 23, 2015 of the Administrative Chamber of the Superior Judicial Council).

improvement requests are associated with the need for greater support, resource management and training by the CSJ; 2) 13% of improvement requests correspond to the participation and filing of complaints by the Land Restitution Unit (LRU); 3) 14% of the requests correspond to bottlenecks that are the responsibility of other entities involved in the LR process, and that hinder compliance with procedural terms and judicial orders (there are delays in responding to requests for information; inadequate responses; a lack of an institutional presence, commitment and capacity; and a lack of technological resources, trained personnel, coordination); 4) 2% of the requests are related to the improvement of feedback on the work of the National Land Restitution Thematic Committees on Processes and Technology); 5) 1% of the requests are related to needs that can be met or controlled by the tribunals and courts; and 6) the remaining 1% of the requests are related to the constitutional caseload of one of the courts in Apartadó.

The impacts of the pilot program included the creation of standardized processes, increased coordination between LR tribunals and judges, increased quality control and operational standards and overall improved decision making. The management and administration of cases has improved with greater documentation of the process and the URT has improved significantly in meeting the requirements to admit requests. Additionally, there is now improved connectivity and use of technology for conducting hearings, inspections and archiving processes.

In addition, the AJA evaluated the progress made in the implementation of the management model by district, taking into account the variables that have the greatest impact on its execution.<sup>13</sup> The districts with the highest scores (out of a maximum of 30 points) were the District of Bogotá (25 points) and the District of Cartagena (22 points), indicating that they are the districts that have advanced the most in the implementation of the management model. This means these districts have higher rates of standardized processes, coordination between LR tribunals and judges, the creation of operations standards and quality control, all leading to improved decision making. The District of Medellín reached 18 points, the District of Cúcuta 17 points, and the District of Cali 14 points.<sup>14</sup>

Based on the findings and recommendations of *Corporación Visión Región*, the AJA agreed with the CSJ to implement a process to strengthen the work of the judicial LR offices.<sup>15</sup> In order to implement the

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<sup>13</sup> Variables: a) Leaders with practical knowledge about the implementation of the management model; b) The possibility of holding virtual meetings; c) Use of management model documents; e) Quality Committee created; and f) Public servants sensitized and trained in workshops.

<sup>14</sup> All of the land restitution offices are distributed among five Districts (Bogotá, Cartagena, Medellín, Cali and Cúcuta, to which the national Land Restitution circuits belong). Each District is made up of several other municipalities (based on their jurisdiction).

<sup>15</sup> A) Coordinate the management model by district; b) Give continuity to the implementation of the management model, prioritizing the offices of the Districts of Bogotá and Cartagena; c) Standardize the strategic component for the jurisdiction (mission, vision, and policy and quality objectives), manuals on responsibilities, position requirements and management indicators; d) Improve the channels of communication between the National Thematic Committees of the Land Restitution Jurisdiction and the judicial offices; h) Promote the membership of an LRU representative on the Inter-institutional Coordination Committee, with the ability to make decisions for the adoption of continuous improvements; i) Enable the district quality committees to make the respective improvement requests to the LRU and other entities that participate in the land restitution process; j) Standardize operating criteria for the courts and tribunals through the Committees, establishing the most efficient way to process land restitution requests; k) create district quality committees to facilitate coordination with the LRU, covering legal, administrative and quality management matters and the effectiveness and timeliness of judicial proceedings; and l) Make statistical measurements of post-judgment monitoring hearings, land-delivery commissions, and the enforcement of judgments.

recommendations of *Corporación Visión Región* and the agreements reached with the jurisdiction, the AJA supported the CSJ and the Committee on Processes in the creation of: 1) the National Coordination of the Quality Management System; and 2) the Management and Quality Committee for the District of Bogotá. The AJA will also closely monitor the implementation of the management model (including site visits) in order to identify best practices and continuously make improvements. The CSJ asked the AJA to provide information on best practices through the delivery of bibliographical material for five LR officials who were highly-ranked by the CSJ. This ranking supports the efficiency and grading of the performance of LR courts and tribunals.

The AJA will provide technical assistance to the Judicial Branch through ad hoc consultants who will perform the work of the technical secretariat of the Thematic LR Committees; monitor the implementation of the jurisdiction's management model and tools; and measure projected caseloads, institutional capacities, policies on agreements between the LRU and the Judicial Branch, and the human resources required to handle the increase in land restitution petitions; and they will propose a strategy to reduce procedural times, enhance efficiency and overcome bottlenecks. In October, the recommendations will be delivered to the CSJ and the National Government for their analysis and implementation. The Administrative Chamber of the CSJ will be responsible for implementing the recommendations. Furthermore, the findings and recommendations will also be presented during a forum in October with entities involved in LR, including the judicial branch, the LR Unit, the Ministry of Agriculture and UARIV. During a meeting between Magistrate Néstor Raúl Correa and consultants from the AJA, the magistrate indicated his commitment to seeing these recommendations implemented. Additionally, the CSJ will begin a strategy of judicial decongestion towards the end of 2016 with an agreement with the URT to designate or name new judges and magistrates.

### **Supporting land restitution courts' IT needs**

The AJA, in coordination with the CSJ, identified the main technological, connectivity and personnel requirements of the LR jurisdiction, and it formulated recommendations for fulfilling them. The AJA entered into a grant agreement with the Executive Directorate of the Judicial Branch, awarded grants, delivered equipment to the warehouses of the Sectional Directorates of the CSJ,<sup>16</sup> and, through the Technical Secretariat of the National Land Restitution Thematic Committees, monitored the CSJ's delivery of equipment to the land restitution courts and chambers. As of the date of this report, the AJA had verified that 95% of the offices had received the technological support. This equipment will modernize the judicial offices, improve their efficiency, and facilitate the performance of the functions of land restitution judges and magistrates. Annex O includes information about the offices that received this equipment.

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<sup>16</sup> The AJA supplied 42 scanners for the digitization of orders and the updating of information systems; 31 cameras for judicial inspections; and 38 digital storage devices for case files, documentation and hearings.

The AJA continued supporting the National Thematic Committee on Technology in the design and pilot implementation of the project on “Zero Paper, Law 14148/2011, Progress Towards Online Litigation.” The AJA provided training on this component within the framework of the replication of the management model to land restitution magistrates, judges and employees in Medellín, Cúcuta, Cali, Buga, Bogotá, Yopal, Pasto, Santa Marta, Valledupar, Apartadó, Villavicencio, Quibdó, Montería, Sincelejo, Mocoa, Bucaramanga, Barrancabermeja, Popayán and Ibagué. To date, a total of 200 judicial operators have received training on the management model. This issue was also addressed at the National Conference in Valledupar. Following the CSJ’s schedule and prioritization, new agreements between the LRU and the judiciary for the filing of digital complaints were implemented in Cundinamarca (they are being filed electronically), and in Bucaramanga and Barrancabermeja (they are digitized by the LRU for the judicial phase of the process).<sup>17</sup> The AJA has worked with the CSJ’s technology team to advocate for the replication and implementation of the zero paper model and the Technology Committee promoted the implementation of the model in these new sites.

The AJA continues to promote and monitor coordination and dialogue between the CSJ, the Committee on Technology and the LRU in order to overcome bottlenecks, exchange information in the databases of the entities attached to the land node, and consolidate the electronic LR processes.

### **Training land restitution judges**

The LR Committee on Training, with support from the AJA, worked with the Judicial School on training for judges and magistrates, with an emphasis on the new General Procedure Code and points of overlap between the General Procedure Code and Law 1448. With support from the AJA, this Committee proceeded with the review and academic validation of the module developed by its members for the virtualization of the introduction course for new staff members. The module will be aimed at judges and employees with at least six months of experience on the job, and senior officials selected by each office who require further education on some issues.

At the Fifteenth National Conference held in Valledupar on May 2 and 3, 2016, land restitution judges and magistrates discussed comprehensive rural reform in light of the restitution policy and Law 1448, transitional justice, jurisdictional powers, and points of overlap between the General Procedure Code and Law 1448. The LR Thematic Committees were given time in the agenda during the conference, as well. The security committee discussed the security needs for the LR judges and magistrates and started the process of informing President Santos of these concerns. In response to the letter sent to the President on May 16 outlining these concerns, President Santos convened a meeting in Nariño with the LR committee members and the National Protection Unit.

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<sup>17</sup> Some of the agreements involve the filing of complaints on digital media. Yopal (the current court in Cundinamarca) implemented a zero-paper policy and the LRU is filing complaints electronically. The CSJ has reported that the LRU does not conduct electronic processing in Barrancabermeja and Bucaramanga, but it is digitizing the information required for initiating the judicial phase of the process.

The AJA continued to promote coordination between the Judicial Branch and the LRU at the Sixteenth National Conference of the Jurisdiction, held in Bogotá on June 17, 2016, at which LR judges and magistrates and the Legal Directorate of the LRU discussed changes in Decree 440 of 2016, the issue of second occupants, and the restitution of the collective territorial rights of ethnic groups. During the conference, President Juan Manuel Santos gave the following instructions:

1. He instructed the National Protection Unit to gradually start implementing security measure (an armored automobile, a driver, and an armed escort for every two judges) until individual measures are in place for each LR judge and magistrate. Currently, this security scheme is only in place for every three judges or magistrates.
2. He ordered the National Protection Unit to not apply so much bureaucracy in the risk assessment and that the general rule should be that all LR judges be classified as extraordinary and exceptionally ordinary risk to offer them special protection.
3. To create a qualification committee for the land restitution specialty, composed of members from the judicial branch, the National Police and the MJL. This committee will work with the office of the President.
4. He asked the Minister of Finance delegate someone to transfer resources from the URT (from its compensation fund) to the judicial branch, to assist with the backlog of land restitution cases.
5. He asked the National Police LR team to accompany judges and magistrates during inspections related to LR cases.

The LR Committee on Processes, with support from the AJA, held two meetings on ethnic matters in relation to the land restitution process, called “Dialogue on the Restitution of Territorial Rights of Ethnic Peoples and Communities,” in Cali and Cartagena,<sup>18</sup> which have the largest number of collective restitution processes. The participants discussed and validated the minimum requirements for petitions for the restitution of territorial rights to ethnic peoples and communities and the propriety of precautionary measures.

The AJA will hold national and regional roundtables on land restitution next quarter, with support from its national strategic partner *Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia* (CEJ), and it will present the third monitoring report of the Land Restitution Process Observatory.

### **Addressing corruption risks within land restitution courts**

No specific activities were conducted in relation to this issue during the quarter, although it is part of the implementation of the management model.

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<sup>18</sup> These meetings were attended by the territorial offices of the LRU, and land restitution judges and officials of the Judicial Districts of Cali and Cartagena. They were held in coordination with the LRU’s Directorate of Ethnic Affairs, and with support from USAID’s Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Program and Land and Rural Development Program, and the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia of the Organization of American States (MAPP/OEA).

### **Addressing security risks within land restitution courts**

The report drafted by the AJA on the implementation of the management model for judicial offices demonstrated the need to provide a personal security plan for judges who do not yet have one. In addition, the Thematic Committee on Security sent a letter to the President of the Republic expressing its concern and requesting his intervention for the adoption and/or adaptation of security measures due to the increased risks faced by land restitution judges and magistrates.

At the express instruction of the President of the Republic, the Legal Secretariat of the Presidency sent a formal response (OFI16-00043310-JMSCC110200 of May 16, 2016), and the President met with representatives of the National Protection Unit, CSJ, USAID, magistrates and judges, and members of the Committee on Security. As a result of this meeting, the National Protection Unit assumed the following commitments: 1) it will progressively implement one security measure (a measure is defined as an armored automobile, a driver, and an armed escort) for every two judges, until individual security measures for every magistrate and judge are in place (taking into account that there is currently one security measure for every three judges; 2) it will take into account that the general rule is that all judges should be given an extraordinary risk classification, and only when this is not required should they be given an ordinary risk classification, and this process should be a priority since LR officials are entitled to special protection; 3) and it will create a classification committee for the land restitution jurisdiction, and until this occurs the judges will participate in the Committee on Risk Assessment and Recommendation of Measures.

In addition, the President requested that the Ministry of Finance direct resources from the LRU to the Judicial Branch in order to place 17 new judges and three new magistrates in the jurisdictions to help alleviate case backlogs. He also requested that the LR group of the National Police accompany the judges on judicial inspections and that the LR judges and magistrates directly inform the Executive Branch about any threats they receive so they can be given priority security. Prior to the meeting, the technical secretariat and members of the Committee compiled information about the security measures (collective and individual), ordinary and extraordinary classification, threats and security risks of each official.

### **Support to National LR Thematic Committees**

The AJA continues to provide technical and financial support to the operation of the National Land Restitution Thematic Committees on Technology, Training, Security, Processes, and Inter-institutional Coordination (see Annex P for summary information on each committees' actions this quarter). During the quarter, the AJA supported five meetings to monitor the activities and initiatives prioritized in their work plans.

The Committee on Processes presented a progress report on the finalization of the following guides: a) a document on evidence; b) integration of joinders; c) contents of decisions; d) post-judgment procedure; and e) the guide Common Language: Opposing Party and Third-Party Intervenors.”<sup>19</sup> The AJA will report on advances on the last item in the next quarter.

The Inter-institutional Coordination Committee worked on improving coordination and communication among the entities involved in the LR process. As part of the Committee’s activities, the AJA supported a workshop in Pasto on inter-institutional coordination for monitoring and complying with judicial orders, and a regional workshop in Medellín to promote dialogue among courts and tribunals in order to unify procedural criteria and establish minimum evidentiary standards in cases (see Annex P).

The agreements that emerged in the Pasto workshop include: 1) the Superintendence of Notaries and Registration will reactivate the agreement for LR judges to download certificates of tradition and freedom; 2) judges will send the Superintendence of Notaries and Registration copies of judgments and documents necessary for registration of land; 3) the Superintendence of Notaries and Registration will inform the judges within 10 days if any documentation is missing; 4) the Victims Unit will propose archived cases to judges when appropriate, following a best practice identified by a judge in Santa Marta; 5) the technical secretariat of the committee will be the liaison for sending forms to the Victims Unit to assign passwords for accessing information; 6) the judges will consolidate fulfilled and pending orders; 7) judges, the LRU and the Victims Unit agreed on a work agenda to characterize collective processes; 8) the Superintendence of Notaries and Registration will appoint two new officials at the regional level to address new applications according to the statistics presented by the LRU; and 9) the Ombudsman’s Office established a monitoring group to verify that the rights of victims are being met and to share the results with the LRU and judges.

During the workshop in Medellín, agreements were reached on: 1) four minimum requirements for admission of claims; 2) integration of contradictory, third-party intervention and assessment of the timeliness and appropriateness of opponents; 3) evidentiary issues (possibility of rejection of evidence, interrogatories, contradiction of opinions, judicial inspections); 4) four stages in the structure of the sentence; and 5) the need for improving the electronic process, online services and the adoption of appropriate security measures. These agreements will generate greater efficiency in these processes. The judges agreed to subsequent national socialization through Process Committee.

The AJA will promote new regional inter-institutional workshops, replicating those held successfully in Pasto and Medellín, given the great impact and direct influence of the agreements on the efficiency and effectiveness of land restitution decisions and compliance with judicial orders. Following up on the implementation of the land restitution guides and protocols, the AJA prepared a matrix that it

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<sup>19</sup> While most of the guides already exist, the contents continue to be discussed and improved by the judges (they make comments and have an established timetable for the delivery of versions modified by the party responsible for each subject). In addition, guides such as the one on Common Language: Opposing Party and Third-Party Intervenors, are new products that grew out of the judges’ discussions and the analysis of requirements and bottlenecks.

shared with USAID on May 20 (see Annex Q). The matrix outlines the current status of the protocols and implementation timelines.

Documents on minimum requirements for the restitution applications under Law 1448 of 2011 and the document on ethnic requirements are already being implemented and have been shared with the LRU. Court records are being gathered with the implementation of procedures developed with the CNMH. The guide on gender, children and adolescents security manuals for LR offices are also being implemented. The operations manual for legal aid in LR offices has been distributed to all offices, however, according to the CSJ application is discretionary. The remaining documents (on procedures, monitoring, evidentiary problems and guidance on ethnic requirements) will be delivered and presented by the Process Committee in late August.

Guidelines on sentences, the LRU's contextual analysis, second occupants, intervenors and opponents, integration of joinders, common language and the General Code of Procedure are currently being socialized and discussed with LR officials. The final versions will be presented in late September 2016 for implementation. The discussion and review of these guidelines is a key step in unifying criteria in substantive and procedural issues to overcome bottlenecks in the land restitution process. The AJA, with the support of the CSJ and expert consultants, will continue to promote the development and use of these guidelines, mainly through the technical secretariats and monitoring of the management model.

### **3.3.2 Support for continued implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code**

#### ***Support to the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Criminal Accusatory System***

The AJA continued to socialize the report on the 10 years of implementation of the SPA, which was prepared by the CEJ at the end of 2015. This report will serve as the basis of new regional forums, scheduled for October, supported by the AJA's university strategic partners, as established in their subcontracts (Universities of Antioquia, Ibagué, Sinú and CECAR). The forums will discuss and evaluate the operation of the SPA, the implications of regulatory reforms, plea agreements and negotiations as alternatives to oral trials, and the criminal justice challenges with respect to the post-agreement and post-conflict scenario, in the framework of LJSs.

### **3.3.3 Promote local justice reform, to include court administration reform**

#### ***Strengthening local justice systems, through the Territorial Consolidation Unit***

This information supplements the information reported in Section 2 with respect to the formalization of the LJs; the regional forums on local justice, rurality and the post-conflict; the progress made in the implementation of the rurality strategy; and other matters related to the LJs. The AJA continues to implement the LJS model and the sustainability strategy agreed to with USAID, thereby

strengthening the institutional presence at a local level, contributing to the restoration of trust and a culture of “legality,” promoting a systemic and non-hierarchical justice system, and generating dialogue and coordination.

The publication of the book *“Institucionalidad Socavada, Justicia local, territorio and conflicto”* (“Undermined Institutions, Local Justice, Territory and Conflict”), supported by the AJA, in coordination with its national strategic partner *Fundación Ideas para la Paz* (FIP), serves as a fundamental input for the LJsCs, since it contains identification and analysis of barriers to access to justice in the AJA’s regions of intervention. The document also presents a cross-cutting analysis of the barriers, a differential gender approach, barriers and risks of corruption in the land restitution process, and the guidelines of the LJS and local justice policy proposals. This publication is being socialized and discussed in focus groups held in preparation for the regional forums and meetings with LJsCs.

Through an ad hoc consultant, the AJA began providing support to the MJL and ACPC for the design of an inter-institutional restructuring for the national, regional and local coordination of LJsCs. This institutional restructuring is needed to ensure efficient coordination and channels of communication at these three levels. The AJA held coordination meetings with the MJL’s ethnic affairs team to ensure the continuity of the actions already taken by the AJA for the inclusion of differential approaches and the development of inter-jurisdictional coordination protocols among the members of the LJsCs. Finally, the team responsible for the MJL’s Ten-Year Justice Plan attended the three forums held during the quarter on local justice, rurality and the post-conflict phase, as well as the preparatory meeting for the creation of the RJC of La Macarena. These actions will help to ensure the adoption and sustainability of the LJS/LJsCs in the RRS and national justice-related policies.

In coordination with the IMLCF and the AGO, the AJA continued to hold workshops on an interdisciplinary approach to sexual crimes in order to confront this scourge in the regions. During the quarter, the AJA held six workshops with the participation of 176 people in the following municipalities: 1) Puerto Rico (including Vista Hermosa and San Juan de Arama); 2) Ituango; 3) Anorí; 4) El Bagre (including Zaragoza); 5) Ataco (including Planadas); and 6) Sincelejo (including San Onofre and Ovejas). The information systematized in the workshops in La Macarena (January 20 to 22), Puerto Rico (April 6 to 8), Ituango (April 20 to 22) and Ataco (May 4 to 6) are included in Annex R. In general, recommendations resulting from the workshops point to the need to strengthen institutional capacity, reform interinstitutional coordination and provide training for justice operators in the SPA and forensic techniques. The AJA is currently preparing a full report that will provide inputs for the completion of the systematization



of the workshops. The AJA is also developing a matrix of findings to identify best practices and the main challenges regarding the skills of the justice operators, based on five variables (comprehensive attention, knowledge, cultural determinants, process, and workshop management and design). Both the report and matrix will be finalized in October. The AJA will develop a strategy for disseminating this information to the different entities involved, and will determine whether these recommendations can be incorporated in policy proposals.

## 4.0 COMMUNICATIONS

As a result of the AJA’s strategy to strengthen the communication capacities of LJs, JHs, ECs, implementing partners and professional journalists, the communications network *Voces y Sonidos* in Montes de María received a donation of equipment from the AJA for the implementation and development of their activities. The AJA also trained the network on management skills that enable them to design their institutional portfolio and Partnership Building Strategy.

The AJA offered a fifth training session to 70 journalists in the Bajo Cauca Antioqueño region. During this training, the participants debated the role of professional and empirical journalists in communicating justice news in a post-conflict environment. Other topics covered included being informed on the peace process and other justice topics, innovation in journalism, creating synergies among journalists and effectively communicating to the public about available justice services. To enhance sustainability, the AJA plans to strengthen the institutional portfolios and marketing strategies of some of community communication organizations that attended the training.

The three regional forums on local justice, rurality and the post-conflict that were held this quarter were successful in terms of institutional messaging, media coverage, program presentations and general event development. The format used in these three forums will be replicated in the three remaining forums. As part of the dissemination strategy, the *“Institucionalidad Socavada”* publication was distributed electronically and in hard copy to 3,000 persons and institutions nationwide, including universities, strategic partners, media outlets, NGOs, LR judges, Ministries and other GOC entities.

In order to enhance the visibility of the ADR mechanism of equity conciliation within the communities of Tumaco, the AJA helped its strategic partner University of Nariño design a communications strategy that involves outreach activities such as radio spots, banners and flyers (designed



and printed by the AJA), as well as two murals painted by students in the community (see Annexes S and S1).

With the AJA's support, the women's rights organizations *Corporación 8 de Marzo*, *Colectivo de Abogadas Helenita González*, and *Red de Mujeres de Ibagué* achieved a better understanding of management and sustainability processes by completing their institutional portfolios and marketing strategies. A more assertive presentation of their organizations to stakeholders will contribute to their continued presence and ability to operate (see Annexes T and T1).

Initiatives developed as part of the AJA's strategy to strengthen the communication capacities of LJC, JHs, and implementing partners, included the design and printing of banners for the San Onofre JH (see Annex U); identification apparel (vests) for the members of the 29 LJC, which will be delivered in August; banners to identify each of the 29 LJC; a handbook, poster and radio spots about the Afro-Colombian justice system; and a handbook about what sexual violence is, its legal framework and how to prevent it, to be distributed to adolescents in the Bajo Cauca region. Communications also supported the AGO in the process of identifying the educational materials required for disseminating the AGO's Protocol to Investigate and Prosecute Sexual Violence Cases, which includes infographics, animated videos and other multimedia tools. The AJA communications team will assist the AGO in this process.

The rural communities of La Macarena and Southern Córdoba covered by the AJA will learn how to use the AJA's VLCs through the Digital Kiosks of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies as a result of the AJA's strategy to strengthen the VLCs. Radio announcements, a press conference in Montería, flyers, messaging in social networks, banners, chats with the community led by the AJA's regional staff and strategic partners are the communication pieces of this strategy. The AJA agreed with USAID to produce two videos in July and November to highlight the impact made by the AJA's Mobile Justice Brigades and Strategy for Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Violence cases. The brigades and cases that will be included in the videos were identified in June.

Other results in internal communications include: 1) communications continued to assist staff and partners in complying with branding and marking regulations; 2) it continued submitting reports on the project's activities to be published on USAID's Facebook page; 3) hard and electronic versions of the March-April National Justice Update (*Justicia al Día*) (See Annex V and V1) as well as the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> issues of the Justice Update for the Bajo Cauca region were distributed to stakeholders (see Annex W and W1); 4) the website continues to be updated in Spanish and English with information about the AJA's activities; 5) communications has continued to send out a daily press report on the Project's activities and relevant news published in national media outlets, and to support the writing and editing of biweekly highlights; 6) a case study for the Land Restitution process was submitted to USAID for approval; 7) a branding and marking waiver based on security issues for Putumayo and Nariño was submitted to USAID's Contract Office on June 2.

# 5.0 PROGRESS ON INDICATORS IN THE M&E PLAN

INTERMEDIATE RESULT	SUB-INTERMEDIATE RESULT	INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)	TARGET FY2016	ACHIEVEMENT FY2016	COMMENTS
1.1. Promote greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening justice houses.	1.1.2. Increased coverage of JHs outside of the main population centers in targeted municipalities, with a particular focus on consolidation regions.	1.1.2.1. Number of persons attended in mobile justice brigades outside of urban areas. Unit: Number of persons Frequency: Quarterly	13,080	6,673	
1.2. Promote greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening ADR mechanisms, outside of the context of justice houses.	1.2.3. Strengthened and expanded National Equity Conciliation Program.	1.2.3.1. Number of alternative justice service providers trained. Unit: Number of alternative justice service providers. Frequency: Quarterly	320	149	-The EJCUN carried out a follow-up session for ECs which was attended by 84 people from the municipalities of Caucasia, Montelíbano, San José de Uré and Puerto Libertador, El Bagre and Anorí.  -The diploma course on “Traditional Justice and Conciliation for the Strengthening of Traditional Governance” concluded on April 27. The course was attended by 65 representatives of the NASA communities of Toribío, Tacueyo and San Francisco.
		1.2.3.2. Number of records of equity conciliation filed in a municipal office. Unit: Number of records of equity conciliation Frequency: Annual	2,611	N/A	This indicator is measured annually. Results will be presented in the annual FY2016 report.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT	SUB-INTERMEDIATE RESULT	INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)	TARGET FY2016	ACHIEVEMENT FY2016	COMMENTS
2.1 Assist CSJ in promoting gender equity within the judiciary and with users.	2.1.1. Increased alignment of lower court decisions in targeted zones with high court jurisprudence on <b>gender issues</b> .	D03-006. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with US government assistance. Unit: Number of judicial personnel trained Frequency: Quarterly	70	26	
2.2 Support the Implementation of an Inter-Institutional Strategy to Reduce Impunity in GBV Cases and Increase Civil Society Advocacy	2.2.1. Improved understanding by police, prosecutors, and those who provide services to victims of crime regarding how to treat women involved in the criminal justice process.	2.2.1.1. Number of individuals trained in investigation of cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) /Sexual Violence (SV). Unit: Number of people trained Frequency: Quarterly	300	261	During the quarter, the AJA held 6 workshops in the municipalities of Puerto Rico, Ituango, Ataco, Anorí, El Bagre and Sincelejo.
		2.2.1.2. Changes in knowledge of key legislative frameworks and criminal investigation protocols related to GBV and Sexual Violence. Unit: Percentage Frequency: Semiannually	Baseline: 75% Target FY2016: 79%	N/A	Results will be presented in the annual FY2016 PMP report.
2.2 Support the Implementation of an Inter-Institutional Strategy to Reduce Impunity in GBV Cases and Increase Civil Society Advocacy	2.2.2. New Victims' Attention Centers (CAVs) constructed or otherwise established.	2.2.2.1. Number of new CAVs. Unit: Number of CAVs. Frequency: Quarterly	1	0	
2.2 Support the Implementation of an Inter-Institutional Strategy to Reduce Impunity in GBV Cases and Increase Civil Society Advocacy	2.2.3. Greater confidence by citizens in the capacity of the criminal justice sector to fairly resolve criminal complaints involving gender issues.	2.2.3.1. Percent of project-supported victims who trust that the judicial process can successfully represent their interests <sup>20</sup> . Unit: Percentage Frequency: Annual	Baseline: 77% Target FY2016: 65%	N/A	Results will be presented in the annual FY2016 report.

<sup>20</sup> This indicator measures the change in perception among victims who receive AJA-related support regarding the capacity of the criminal justice sector to fairly resolve criminal complaints involving gender issues. Perception is measured by the level of confidence reported: low, medium, or high. The baseline data indicates 77% have “low” confidence. The target is to raise the perception of confidence, therefore decreasing reports of “low” to 65%.

<b>INTERMEDIATE RESULT</b>	<b>SUB-INTERMEDIATE RESULT</b>	<b>INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)</b>	<b>TARGET FY2016</b>	<b>ACHIEVEMENT FY2016</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
2.2 Support the Implementation of an Inter-Institutional Strategy to Reduce Impunity in GBV Cases and Increase Civil Society Advocacy	2.2.4. Increase understanding by participating AGO prosecutors and investigators of case management and investigation as well as prosecution of GBV/SV cases.	2.2.4.1. Number of GBV/SV cases supported through AJA's peer training program. Unit: Number of cases Frequency: Quarterly	42	0	Results will be presented in the annual FY2016 report.
		2.2.4.2. Number of GBV/ SV Cases receiving investigative support that have progressed at least one sub-stage in the judicial process. Unit: Number of cases Frequency: Annual	21	0	Results will be presented in the annual FY2016 report.
2.2 Support the Implementation of an Inter-Institutional Strategy to Reduce Impunity in GBV Cases and Increase Civil Society Advocacy	2.2.4. Increase understanding by participating AGO prosecutors and investigators of case management and investigation as well as prosecution of GBV/SV cases.	2.2.4.3. Degree of change in knowledge, attitudes and practices among local justice operators (prosecutors and investigators). <sup>21</sup> Unit: Points (units) Frequency: Annual	N/A	N/A	
2.3 Increase the capacity of women's organizations and local and national nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide legal and	2.3.1. Strengthen CSO/NGOs' capacity to provide legal and psychological support to GBS/VS victims.	2.3.1.1. Number of CSO/NGOs receiving grants from the project. Unit: Number of CSO/NGOs Frequency: Quarterly	6	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diócesis de Montelíbano</li> <li>• Corporación Colectivo de -Abogadas Helenita González Pérez</li> <li>• Red de Mujeres de Ibagué</li> </ul>

21 This indicator should be modified to reflect the AJA's current strategy to help reach the intermediate result of reducing impunity in GBV cases: Support for the AGO on a regional level to investigate and bring to trial GBV and SV cases in 14 municipalities.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT	SUB-INTERMEDIATE RESULT	INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)	TARGET FY2016	ACHIEVEMENT FY2016	COMMENTS
psychological support to victims of GBV/SV.					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red de Mujeres Subregión Bajo Cauca</li> <li>Corporación Ocho de Marzo Mujeres y Hombres por la Igualdad</li> <li>Asociación el Meta con Mirada de Mujer</li> </ul>
		2.3.1.2. Number of people reached by a USG-funded intervention providing GBV services. Unit: Number of victims Frequency: Quarterly	120	75 <sup>22</sup>	
		2.3.1.3. Number of GBV / SV cases receiving legal representation support through CSO/NGOs that have progressed at least one sub-stage in the judicial process. Unit: Number of cases Frequency: Annually	60	N/A	Results will be presented in the annual FY2016 report.
3.1 Strengthened Land Restitution Courts and Land Restitution Tribunals.	3.1.1. Land restitution courts functioning, in terms of production and quality, better than traditional Colombian courts.	D03-006. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with US government assistance. Unit: Number of judges and judicial personnel. Frequency: Quarterly	150	69	
3.3 Promote local justice reform, to include court administration reform.	3.3.1. LJs are institutionalized within their respective municipalities.	3.3.1.1. Degree of change in Local Justice Committee (LJC) Members' perceptions about Local Justice System. Unit: Points (units) Frequency: Annual	4.5	N/A	Results will be presented in the annual FY2016 report.
	3.3.2. LJs and other access-to-justice initiatives are included in the	D03-008. Number of municipalities in AJA-targeted Colombia Strategic Development Initiative zones that have	7	N/A	The MDPs of all 35 municipalities in which the AJA implements activities

<sup>22</sup> This figure reports the number of victims supported by subgrantees providing legal representation in GBV cases. As of June 30, this figure is missing information from one grantee, the *Asociación El Meta con Mirada de Mujer* in the Macarena region, for this reporting period.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT	SUB-INTERMEDIATE RESULT	INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)	TARGET FY2016	ACHIEVEMENT FY2016	COMMENTS
	development plans and budgets at the departmental and /or municipal levels.	allocated and invested monetary and other support for access-to-justice projects in annual municipal budgets. Unit: Number of municipalities. Frequency: Annual <sup>23</sup>			<p>included access-to-justice lines. These plans include the creation and strengthening of the LJS/LJCs; the implementation of the rurality strategy through justice brigades and legal clinics; the strengthening of the traditional justice system and coordination protocols; the strengthening of existing Justice Houses in 11 municipalities, and the creation of new Justice Houses in Ricarte and Planadas. They also address the strengthening of municipal ombudsmans' offices and Family Commissioner's offices, and in one case the creation of positions for rural police inspectors in Ituango.</p> <p>The next phase, beginning early July, will include the provision of technical support to the municipal administrations in the formulation of sectoral plans. In addition, the AJA will support the review of the action plans of the LJS/LJCs, to ensure their consistency with agendas of</p>

<sup>23</sup> For this indicator the frequency of data collection and reporting corresponds to the calendar year.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT	SUB-INTERMEDIATE RESULT	INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)	TARGET FY2016	ACHIEVEMENT FY2016	COMMENTS
					the different entities involved in access to justice, and the physical and financial execution of the plans.
	3.3.3. LJs implement a broad rurality inclusion strategy with the participation of local actors, both governmental and non-governmental.	3.3.3.1. Number of requests for legal services through brigades by law school clinics in or near CZs. Unit: Number of requests. Frequency: Quarterly	2,300	2,735	-1,346 requests attended through brigades. -1,389 requests through the Tumaco VLC (913), CECAR VLC (294) and the Universidad del Sinú VLC (182).

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