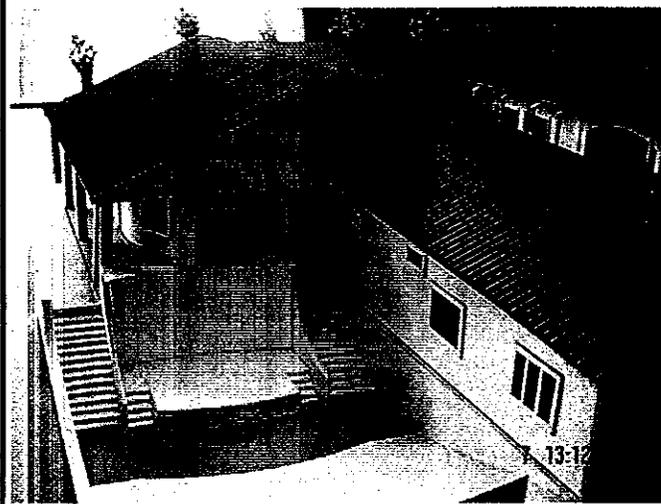




Strengthening Peace in Colombia

Fourth Quarter Report
April - June 2002



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reporting period covered in this report is the last quarter of the first year of implementation of the Program for Strengthening Peace in Colombia, during which period all available funds for sub-grants, in-kind contributions and contracts was obligated to approved projects with impact throughout the country. Key achievements to date include the following:

Project Implementation

- ❖ Support to 24 organizations to formulate an equal number of projects for approval by USAID and IOM
- ❖ Activities in 11 departments and 25 municipalities with direct benefit to some 85,628 persons and indirect benefit to some 238,158 Colombians
- ❖ Institutional strengthening provided to 8 regional and local NGOs through sponsorship of peace initiatives and technical assistance, including Con Fe Paz, Organización Femenina Popular, Fundemos, among others.
- ❖ Joint initiatives with 7 established NGOs to embark on new initiatives (VallenPaz, CCONG, Observatorio para la Paz and Humanizar) or strengthen existing projects (Universities of Los Andes and Sergio Arboleda, Hemera Foundation and Medios para la Paz)
- ❖ Peace projects developed with 4 non-traditional implementing agencies to encourage involvement by new actors into the *Movimiento Ciudadano para la Paz*, including movie-maker Victor Gaviria (Ducha Fria Producciones), the National Confederation of Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Trade Guilds (Consejo Gremial) and Revista Semana
- ❖ Extensive coordination with 3 governmental bodies, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace and the municipalities of Barrancabermeja and San Vicente del Caguán; specific coordination with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior

Program Design

- ❖ Response mechanism developed to emerging priorities, as in the case of the Fundemos project to address needs of Cauca communities after repeated attacks by the FARC; the approval and timely implementation of three projects to support the electoral process; preparation of an international seminar on negotiation; demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in the context of moderate optimism on peace talks with the ELN; and start-up on a Casa de Justicia in San Vicente del Caguán of the former demilitarized zone.
- ❖ Models for replication in the next phase of implementation include: VallenPaz, the Center for Peaceful Co-existence in Barrancabermeja and traditional indigenous mechanisms for the pacific resolution of conflicts
- ❖ Plans for the extension of the program approved for implementation in 2002 - 2004
- ❖ Definition of priority geographical areas (Chocó/Antioquia, southern Colombia and Magdalena Medio) as well as strategic lines, including: Reconciliation and Assistance to Victims, Support to High Commissioner's Office, Civil Society Participation, Work with Excluded Groups, Peace and Electoral Process

Administrative and Financial

- ❖ Total program expenditures reaching 1,466,273 USD as of the end of June 30, 2001
- ❖ Total obligations in approved projects for 2,378,844 USD with an average per project contribution of 99,119 USD
- ❖ Disbursement of 1,154,020 USD to approved projects, with the remaining 1,224,824 USD in unliquidated obligations (pending project advance and financial reports from sub-grantees and contractors)
- ❖ Leveraging of significant counterpart funds with commitments totaling 3,623,717 USD or 59% of the total budget for approved projects
- ❖ Contracting and orientation to new team personnel, including one Field Monitor for infrastructure projects (architect) and another for income-generation projects (economist)
- ❖ Design and data-entry for a Project Monitoring Database

In the following section, contextual information is provided on the Colombian conflict with special emphasis on its tendency toward escalation, and on the proposals set forth by the newly elected president, Mr. Alvaro Uribe. The ensuing debate in civil society, academia and government provides interesting perspectives on themes relevant to the Strengthening Peace Program, including negotiation strategies with the armed actors, "Civilian Resistance" and an enhanced role of civil society in the peace talks.

In section III, the portfolio of approved projects is analyzed by geographical location, component and with reference to the context in which these projects are being developed. Likewise, brief description and status report is provided for new projects.

In section IV, financial implementation is detailed by budgetary line and project; in the final section, a plan of action is outlined for the next quarter in light of the approval of a program extension.

Descriptions and status reports of all ongoing projects and copies of photographs and visual materials produced under sponsored projects are included in Annexes 1 and 2.

II. Context

A conflict escalating, in numbers

Victims

- According to Amnesty International, the Colombia conflict has a running death toll now exceeding 60,000 persons from 1985 through 2001; about 8% of this number is accounted for in 2001 with a total of 5,000 violent deaths (approximately 80% were civilians) and there is no room for serious doubt that deaths this year will outnumber the former.¹
- In 2001, moreover, some 300 persons were disappeared and more than 200,000 were forcibly uprooted from their homes. Ten journalists were killed.²
- In 2001, 1,700 persons were kidnapped – as of May 2002 the count for this year had reached 1,110.³

¹ Amnesty International Report on Colombia, May 9 2002

² Idem

³ Figures of País Libre.

- In the first semester of 2002, 158 mine-related accidents were recorded with 129 victims including 47 persons who died instantly on account of the explosion, showing a 48% increase over the first semester of 2001 and a 100% increase over the same period in 2000.⁴
- In 2001, 140 union leaders were killed; as of June 2002, 98 union leaders had been killed in the preceding six months.⁵
- In the last couple of months, more than 200 mayors and municipal have been issued death threats by the FARC to immediately abandon their posts. The Government is not accepting resignations.
- Insurgent or paramilitary groups attack five communities every month (such as Caldono in Cauca, where the Program is responding with development and peace promoting assistance)⁶

Insurgents, paramilitaries and Colombian Armed Forces

- From February 20 with the breakdown in peace negotiations between the GoC and FARC through the last week of May, armed groups blown up 220 electricity pylons and 32 bridges.
- The number of FARC troops is estimated at 18,000 – not including urban militias – almost three-fold its size in 1993. The AUC is comprised of some 8,500 troops and threatens to reach 12,000 by the end of 2002.⁷
- Full-time salaried soldiers increased under Pastrana from 10,000 to 54,000; Uribe promises to double the number again.⁸
- Excluding salaries of police and pensions, 2.1% of Colombia's GDP is spent on the armed forces in 2000; to maintain the ratio of armed forces to population that characterized El Salvador during this country's civil conflict two decades ago, the Colombian military budget would need be expanded by a factor of 30.⁹

Conflict and Drugs

- Colombia provides the world with about 80% of its cocaine; eradication efforts in the last two years have led to a moderate decrease in production from 163,289 hectares in 2000 to 144,807 hectares in 2001.¹⁰
- In April the Government of Colombia identified 162 new drug trafficking organizations, linked to some 40 international criminal groups.
- The AUC generates almost three-quarters of its income from illicit drug production and trafficking.

Conflict and Economy

- Private investment has dropped to 7% of GDP at present from 15% in 1995; a Colombian think-tank considers insecurity to be the cause of at least 5% of the drop.
- Urban employment is at 17%.

⁴ Mines Observatory Report, sponsored by IOM under the OTI Peace Program in coordination with the Vice-Presidential Office for Human Rights and the NGO Justapaz

⁵ USLEAP Website

⁶ Figure reported in Medios para la Paz Website, sponsored by IOM under the USAID Mission Peace Program

⁷ "Staying Alive," The Economist, May 25, Pgs. 35-37

⁸ VoteBien Website of Revista Semana, sponsored by IOM under the USAID Mision Peace Program

⁹ Op. Cit.

¹⁰ Idem.

- Poverty is rising such that two-thirds of Colombia are poor – a reversal to 1988 figures.

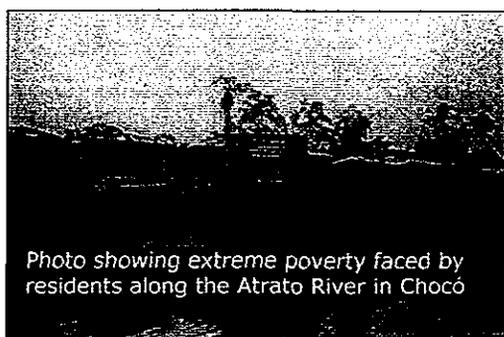


Photo showing extreme poverty faced by residents along the Atrato River in Chocó

- The capture of a single – albeit highly productive and notorious – drug-trafficker, Guillermo Mendez Pachón, cost the government 16,382 million pesos (6.8 million dollars) involving more than 3,500 soldiers in a 70-day operation.¹¹
- All-out war estimated to cost 15% of internal product and to last four years would cost the country 100 billion pesos, representing the national budget for two years. This would double the rate of unemployment and dramatically cut public services.¹²
- Private investment and social capital is fleeing the country: Miami alone is home to some 300,000 Colombians.¹³

**“A new way of fighting the 38-year old conflict.”
(Washington Post, June 24)**

Both paramilitaries and FARC have noticeably switched tactics over the last year. Although the number of deaths in 2001 attributed to FARC versus to AUC do not differ dramatically at 1,028 and 1,060 persons, respectively; the methods that characterize the groups vary. Particularly in the wake of the Alto Naya massacre in Cauca last year, the paramilitaries were bombarded in the press for their horrific and brutal massacres of civilians. Since then, the paramilitaries have generally opted for selective killings in public places over massacres (defined by the Ministry of Defense as the simultaneous murder of 4 persons or more) The Post notes that: “The small-scale killings mark a departure from the massacres that have been a hallmark of Colombia’s bloody civil war...” The end results, however, do not differ as much as one might expect: In 2000, the AUC was responsible for 105 massacres with a toll of 701 victims, while in 2001, the number of massacres was more than halved to 42 and the number of massacre victims fell to 281; nonetheless, the total number of deaths attributed to paramilitaries in 2001 demonstrated a slight increase (16 additional victims) over the year 2000.¹⁴

The switch in FARC military tactics is more recent. Following the rupture in peace talks, the FARC was less prone to direct confrontation with the army or paramilitaries than pundits had predicted and dedicated efforts to acts of terrorism. In the last three months, however, the FARC has made a concerted effort to recover territories lost to paramilitaries. The most clear-cut example of this policy is in the Middle Atrato region in the Urabá region of Antioquia and Chocó, though the FARC is increasing pressure on Caquetá and Putumayo in the South, as well.

Middle Atrato:

Along the Atrato River runs a corridor linking the Caribbean and Pacific Oceans and is a preferred route for drug and arms trafficking; the entire area was once a stronghold of the guerrilla, who also enjoyed the benefits of the area’s propinquity to the (then) virtually unguarded Darien region of Panama. In the last 2 years, the FARC lost much of this territory to the AUC.

¹¹ Marulanda Gómez, Eugenio. “Ni Diálogo Claudicante Ni Guerra” from the El Espectador Magazine

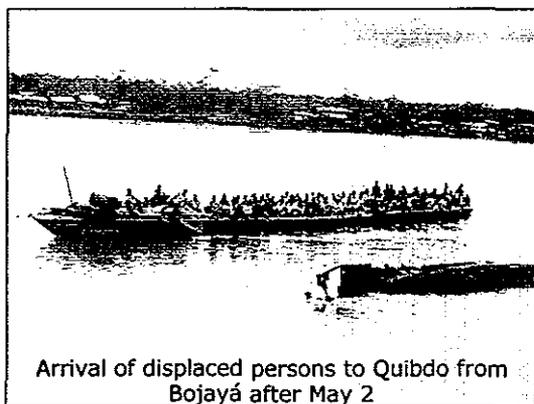
¹² Idem.

¹³ “Staying Alive...” The Economist. May 25, 2002, Pgs. 35-37

¹⁴ Washington Post, 24 June 2002

Direct combat between the two groups began in earnest in April of this year; on the 21st of that month, the paramilitaries took Vigia del Fuerte (Antioquia) and Bellavista (Chocó). Fighting along this section of the river started on May 1st, forcing residents to flee the area or weather the storm in spots that soon proved unsafe. On May 2nd, a gas cylinder exploded in a Catholic chapel where some 300 persons had sought shelter, killing 117 civilians including 48 children, and setting in motion a massive exodus of indigenous and African Colombian peasants to Quibdó and other Colombian cities.

Between this terrible event – immediately labeled a war crime – and the end of May, more than 100 persons showed up dead. The guerrilla has since announced that they have sent a further 1,500 troops to Urabá and will not back down; according to the Washington Post, the paramilitaries are “hit-hard” and struggling, despite calling their urban recruits out into the jungle.



Arrival of displaced persons to Quibdo from Bojayá after May 2



Photo of bombed-out church in the days after the massacre in Bojayá

The president-elect and debates on achieving peace

Mr. Uribe's views on conflict and peace were central to his campaign and responsible, at least in large part, for his outright victory in the presidential elections this May. At the risk of oversimplification, Mr. Uribe's proposal for conflict and peace management can be summarized in the following points:¹⁵

- Double defense spending and strength
- Encourage greater collaboration between civilians and the armed forces through incentives to serve as “informers” on illicit armed groups (whether these men would be armed, merely permitted to carry already legal small arms or not armed at all is a matter of some debate)
- Provide military commanders with prosecution capabilities
- Obtain international mediation
- Carry out broad reforms in the Justice sector
- Establish clear pre-conditions for negotiations including a cease-fire and cessation of hostilities (like kidnapping)

A spare negotiating agenda

The most interesting of these – in the context of the efforts made towards peace promotion – is the issue of timing and conditionality of negotiations with armed groups. Mr. Uribe insists not only on the unlikely circumstances mentioned above for renewing dialogue with the armed groups, but has also dramatically limited what the government is willing to bring to the

¹⁵ VoteBien Website; Washington Post May 25 2002, El País May 28 2002

negotiating table. While the agenda agreed upon under Pastrana excluded almost nothing in questions of economic, social and political development, Mr. Uribe has declared that these are issues to be decided by the country through democratic channels NOT by government-assigned negotiators, armed combatants and international mediators. Moreover, Mr. Uribe claims his government will not offer any kind of political reinsertion nor powers sharing, as these elements, also are a matter for democratic institutions. In fact, Mr. Uribe speaks only of negotiating a "generous reintegration package" in exchange for disarmament, and of providing security for the lives of ex-combatant, in full recognition that the Government of Colombia has failed in this task on previous occasions.

So far, the FARC seem less than welcoming of the proposal. They do not recognize the legitimacy of the new president and say they may renew talks with the Government on their own – and quite distinct – conditions, including the an extended demilitarized zone, a mutual acceptance of the agenda established with the Pastrana administration, a clear policy on shutting down the AUC and a power-sharing plan that includes handing-over Caquetá and Putumayo to the FARC permanently (the new DMZ).¹⁶

Low Profile Peace Talks

One of Mr. Uribe's criticisms of the recently collapsed Peace Process has been its very public nature, which Mr. Uribe has implied was more a matter of showcasing for popular support than genuine dialogue. Immediately after the elections, Mr. Uribe requested from the UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, increased participation on behalf of the United Nations in a role akin to international mediation regarding which the details are yet undecided or at least undisclosed. In fact, the incoming administration is making a public point of avoiding public announcements on the details of an eventual peace process. This has been seen in a favorable light by the United Nations, whose Special Envoy to Colombia, Mr. James Lemoyne has urged a more low-profile approach: "A lot more needs to be done without talking about it," he expressed at a recent seminar at Princeton University.¹⁷

A more relevant role for civil society

Several events and debates are feeding into a longstanding discussion on the role of civil society with the peace process. First, although Mr. Pastrana's decision to end peace talks abruptly in February was applauded by most Colombians, it also highlighted the vulnerability of the Colombian process to unilateral decisions. In commenting on the cessation of peace talks with the smaller insurgent group in February, even the ELN noted it an Internet-published declaration that civil society participation in the negotiations should be increased and not conceived as the "exclusive responsibility of the president."¹⁸ Second, Mr. Uribe's refusal to negotiate reform with the armed groups implicitly tasks civil society with the responsibility of drafting its own reform proposals. Heightening civil society participation as a possible recipe for successful negotiations has been echoed in several settings in the last two months: one of the key conclusions of the diplomatic conference at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars earlier this year was that peace was possible only with involvement of a broader elements of society.¹⁹ At the National Congress for Peace and Country held in May, the representative from the ONIC encouraged more participation from ethnic minorities expressed

¹⁶ RadioNet April 19 2002

¹⁷ Hartsmann, Scott. UN Wire: "Diplomats say Peace Possible."

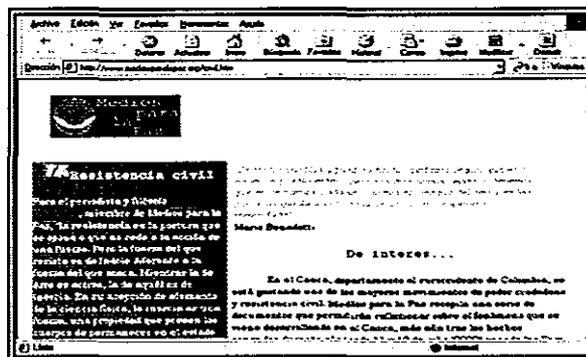
¹⁸ Caracol, June 4 2002

¹⁹ "Diplomats say Peace Possible" UN Wire

that, "...any negotiation process that lacks participation from distinct sectors of society is a process born crippled..."²⁰

Civilian Resistance

Civilian resistance has been presented as an alternative for communities to the Colombian conflict throughout its half-century history; however, since the dramatic events in Cauca last December, the possibility and desirability of promoting civilian resistance on a larger scale has increasingly become an issue of debate. Mr. Uribe spoke of "forty million Colombians rebel against violence,"²¹ as part of his strategy for putting an end to the war. Civilian resistance was discussed in depth at the Congress for Peace and Country (May, Bogotá) and while generating some opposition from Human Rights groups, the ideas is quickly gaining popularity among indigenous organizations, local authorities and grassroots groups. Several projects, sponsored under the Strengthening Peace in Colombia Program, reported in this quarter that civilian resistance had arisen in workshops and research projects on demand of the participants; Humanizar incorporated the topic into their gender-focused Agenda for Peace Talks and Medios para la Paz have opened a new page in their Website to provide documentation and updated news on civilian resistance efforts.



New Page on Civilian Resistance in the Medios para la Paz Website

III. PROGRAM STATUS

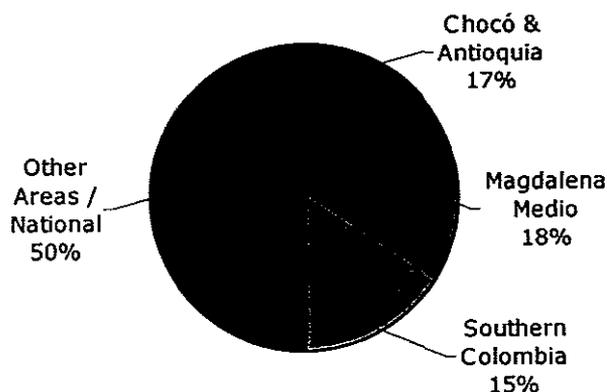
Geographical Location of Strengthening Peace in Colombia Projects

The program continues to prioritize the areas of Magdalena Medio, southern Colombia (Putumayo, Caquetá, Nariño, Cauca and Huila) and the Chocó/Antioquia region in the identification and approval of new initiatives, alongside implementation of national impact projects that include but are not dedicated exclusively to these regions. The obligated funds (disbursed and unliquidated) for the Program are invested according to the following breakdown:

Table 1: Distribution by Zone

Region	Investment	%
Chocó & Antioquia	395,520	16.8
Magdalena Medio	415,335	17.6
Southern Colombia	364,932	15.5
Other Areas / National	1,184,723	50,2

Investment & Geographical Location



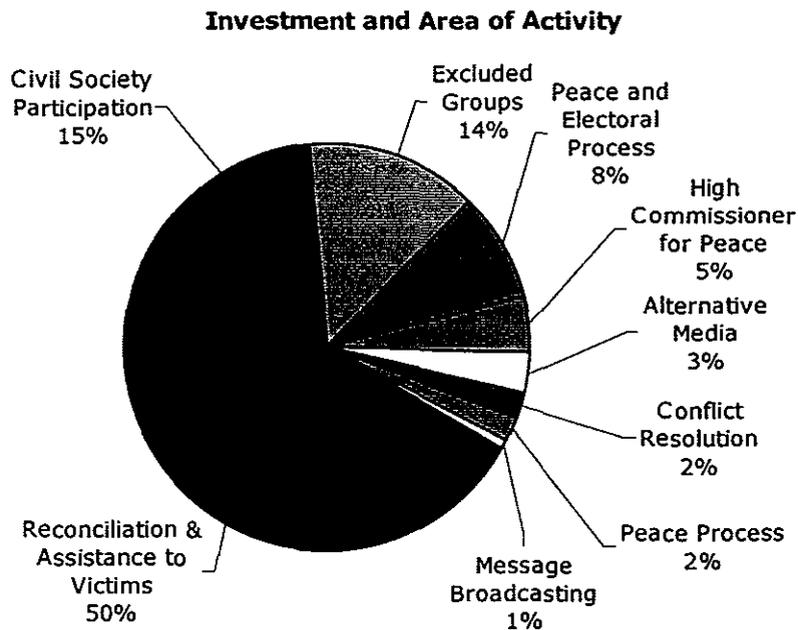
²⁰ Actualidad Étnica on the Hemera Website, sponsored by IOM under the USAID Mission Peace Program

²¹ VoteBien Website of Revista Semana, sponsored by IOM under the USAID Mission Peace Program

The map on the next page provides an updated snapshot of the program's impact in the country – those municipalities that have been coded (according to the program component) include only those where the program directly benefits residents.

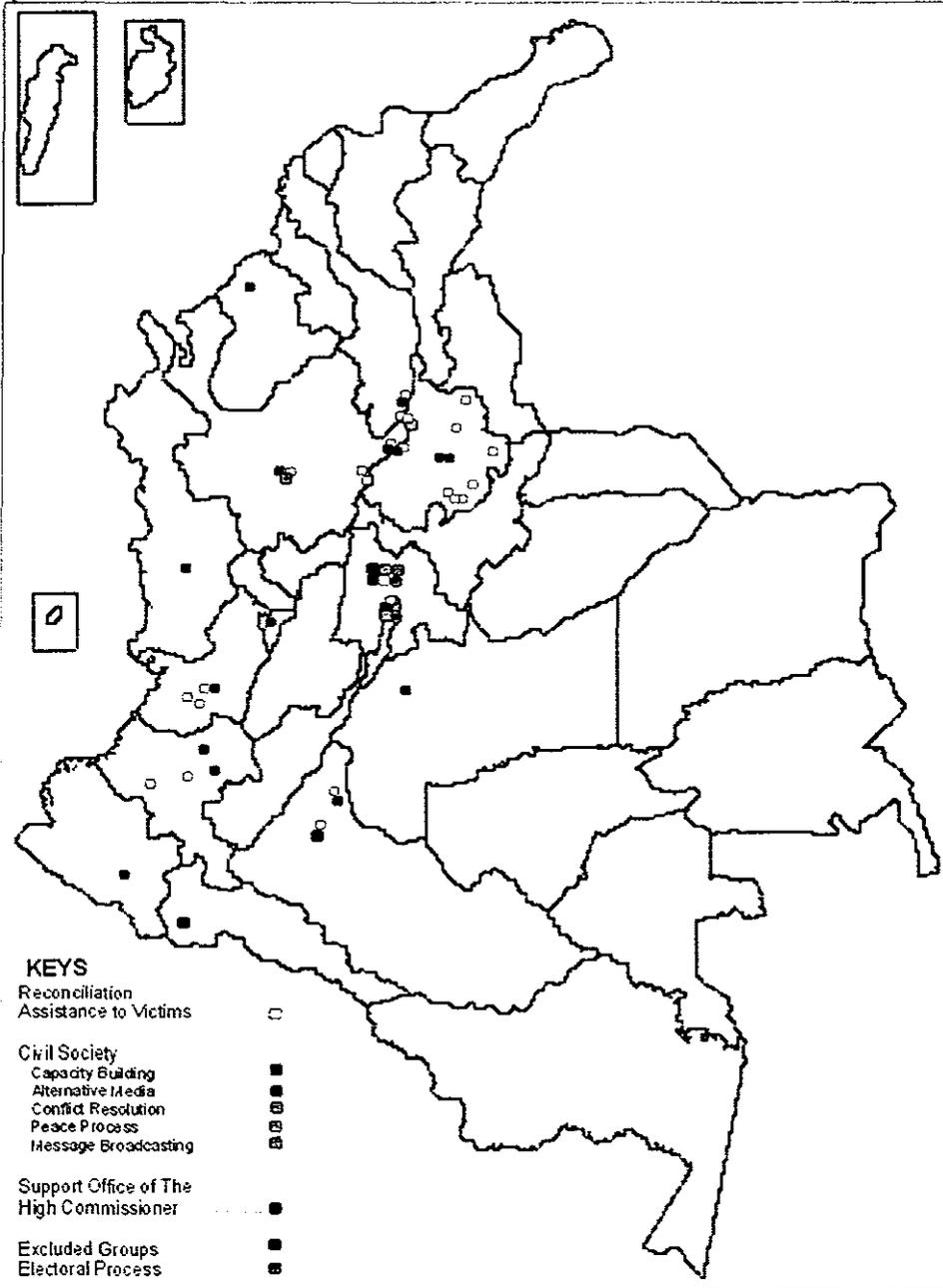
Project Advance by Component

In the last quarter, most of the approved projects are designed to promote Reconciliation and Assistance to Victims; in consideration of all approved projects, the distribution between components (in terms of investment) can be observed in the pie-chart (right). A table on all approved and ongoing projects is provided in Annex 2 of the present report.



In terms of financial investment, the most important component is **Reconciliation and Assistance to Victims**, incorporating those projects that aim to provide pacific alternatives to families and communities heavily affected by conflict, promote dialogue and prevent conflict between tensioned groups. Projects under this component include those implemented by VallenPaz, Fundemos in Cauca, and Comisión Vida y Paz in Magdalena Medio, that promote development and conflict resolution through simultaneous actions with war-affected communities. Projects like those proposed by Con Fe Paz, Amigos de los Discapacitados in Medellín and Corporación Jurídica in eastern Antioquia also promote reconciliation by building response capacity to specifically victimized persons (war-handicapped, ex-combatants, displaced and returning populations). Finally, the Center for Peaceful Co-Existence and the Casa de Justicia encourage reconciliation in a more general manner by providing residents nearby with much-needed services in the areas of legal action, dispute resolution, household violence, recreation and community organization.

Information on Approved and Ongoing Projects

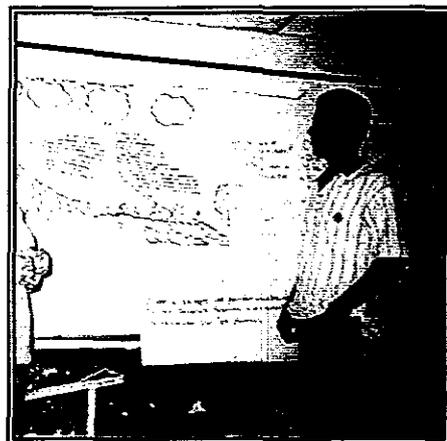


International Organization for Migration - IOM

Case studies:

Community Strengthening for Peace, Recovery and Conflict Resolution (Vallempaz)

This project started with communal organization and with group workshops (see photo on right) on topics related to human capital, conflict resolution and human rights; once the groups in the three selected municipalities of Cauca and Valle del Cauca (Jamundí, Buenos Aires and Pance) were consolidated, the workshops began to cover more technical areas of entrepreneurial development, project formulation and agricultural production. The final activity with participating families is now underway: a revolving fund in each of the municipalities is now operational and has started distribution of its first round of small loans; to date 102 families are benefiting from credit to improve agricultural output or develop other businesses.



In the Village of San Marcos in Buenos Aires, a group of predominantly female heads of household joined the project with the expectation of cultivating their land, which had remained idle on account of extreme poverty that did not permit them the funds to prepare the land, purchase seeds and fertilizer and harvest vegetables and grains. During the first step of the project, the women decided to form an association (Agro-Ecológico Renacer) and apply for a joint loan. To complement the borrowed funds, the women then organized raffles and fast-food sales to accumulate sufficient funds for a more ambitious agricultural project. Bernarda Carabeli, a leader of this association, tells us: "We want to learn, come together to sell our product. We have the means to do this and find the way to live a dignified life."

Alliance between Con Fe Paz and Amigos de los Discapacitados in Medellín

Although signed as two separate projects, Con Fe Paz and Amigos de los Discapacitados in Medellín have worked together closely to identify the conditions and priorities of war-handicapped persons in Antioquia and provide these persons with viable alternatives for economic and social reintegration into a productive, civilian life.



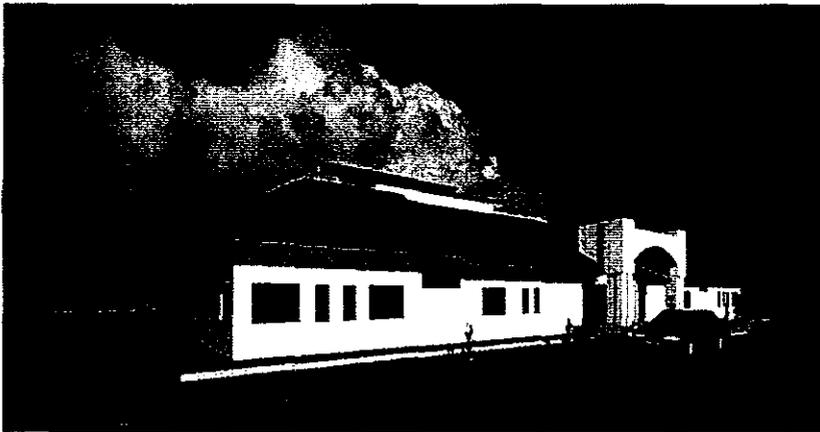
Meeting with Beneficiaries and their Family Members Alongside activities to build the installed capacity of Con Fe Paz and increase its visibility in the Colombian society, this organization completed in this quarter a Survey of War-Handicapped Persons in Antioquia, as well as 100-entry directory of public and private services available nation-wide for the handicapped. Likewise, Con Fe Paz identified and referred handicapped persons to Amigos de los Discapacitados for follow-up assistance. Prior to the IOM / USAID intervention, the Amigos organization had focused assistance on psychosocial well being with limited efforts toward income generation (through art and handicrafts).

As the Con Fe Paz survey confirmed that an essential component of self-esteem and reintegration for the war-handicapped is the ability to contribute to family incomes, Amigos incorporated education, vocational training, job-placement and entrepreneurial development into their menu of services to handicapped beneficiaries referred by Con Fe Paz. Although most beneficiaries are still participating in the training, two preliminary achievements in this regard should be highlighted:

- Through an alliance with the Metropolitan Technical School, Amigos placed 24 beneficiaries in courses, including primary and secondary equivalency schooling, computer studies, electronics and repair of domestic appliances.
- Two project beneficiaries were placed for stable employment in a company producing office furniture; one of the selected employees admitted that she went to the interview because she "was ashamed not to," but never imagined she would be offered a job.

This project hope to provide assistance, but also to promote reconciliation; it is worth noting that there have been tensions between beneficiaries on account of their varying histories of combat or supposed allegiance. Their participation in the project, however, gradually mitigates their suspicions and divisions. One participant explains: "What we're least interested in now is conflict and violence; we are all handicapped persons with one specific goal: to improve ourselves."

Center for Peaceful Co-Existence in Barrancabermeja



The Center for Peaceful Co-existence is one of the Program's most financially important projects, aiming to provide residents of Barrancabermeja with much-needed infrastructure to facilitate legal, administrative and psychological services, as well as community organization and cultural activities. Of course, it is too early to know the impact of this center on the lives of its projected

beneficiaries; nonetheless, the process itself has been an interesting exercise in inter-institutional coordination, involving municipal and central government agencies, the Church, NGOs, women and youth groups, communal administration boards, international community and the private sector. Although the funds provided to this project are to be employed mainly for the construction and equipping of the Center, the manner in which these processes are carried out is intended to ensure community ownership of the project and creative usage of the infrastructure. (Please see architectural plans in Annex 3)

For example, the process of design of the Center involved all participating institutions including the communal administration board (JAL, for its Spanish initials). Architectural plans and a detailed mock-up of the building was presented to these entities and handed-over to the JAL in May to allow them to visualize the final design; the contract was bid competitively and the municipality will participate in a Committee for technical revision of the proposals and the formal adjudication to the selected contractor (July 12-22)

Table 2: Activities Schedule for Center in Barrancabermeja

Activity	Date
Reception of proposals for technical studies	6 May
Hand-over of Mock-Up	8 May
Adjudication of technical studies	20 May
Reception of completed studies	20 June
Publication of Bid for Proposals (construction)	25 June
Site visit with potential bidders	2 July
Sale of plans	3-4 July
Clarifying "audience" with potential bidders	5 July
Responses to all bidders	6 July
Reception of Proposals (4:00 pm)	12 July
Technical review of proposals	15-19 July
Adjudication Committee	22 July
Signature of contract	30 July
Start of construction	18 August

In part because they were convinced that the project would at last become a reality, ECOPETROL has entered in negotiations with the municipality to provide a sizable contribution to the project, allowing for a second-phase construction of an auditorium.

The Mayor's Office and the JAL are working on an "awareness campaign" with nearby residents to promote the center while promoting pacific resolution of conflicts, reconciliation and increased dialogue.

The broad component for **Civil Society Participation** has the largest number of projects, as these are small-grants initiatives to NGOs aiming to build their capacity to participate in the peace process or otherwise move forward the peace agenda in Colombia.

Peace and Negotiation Training at the Academic and Community Levels

This project has consolidated an operational alliance between the NGO, Observatorio para La Paz, the Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and a network of universities in Bogotá. The project has two parallel components: the first is the preparation and piloting of a university-level curriculum for an inter-disciplinary approach to peace studies, while the second involves modifying the content of this curriculum and developing popular-format tools to provide training on peace and negotiation at the community level. While nearing completion on the academic curriculum, designed in



Intern interviews resident of marginal Bogotá neighborhood, La Kennedy

continuous consultation with participating universities, the project has made substantial headway in the community outreach component; notably:

- Inscription of 25 university interns from the different institutions and majors; expanded from 20 to 25 due to high demand from students
- Joint activities by the Bogotá Chamber of Commerce (conciliation centers) Observatorio para la Paz and the interns in three high-poverty and high-conflict neighborhoods: Cazuca, Kennedy and Engativa
- Establishment of networks at the grassroots level with a variety of partners including schools, ICBF childcare centers, women's organizations, youth groups, local action boards, NGOs and the Ariadna project
- "Multiplier Effect" showing preliminary success - one beneficiary group of adolescents will facilitate workshop with other community members in July.
- Toolbox for non-traditional dissemination of conflict resolution mechanisms in preparation by university students, CONFECAMARAS and Observatorio para la Paz

Strengthening of the Colombian Confederation of NGOs (CCONG)

This project started in September of 2001 and will come to close in July; the basic goals of the program were to consolidate coordination structures among NGO to improve regional strategy and fundraising capacities. To date, some 232 NGOs are participating in the project through 5 regional federations (Chocó, Santander, Quindio, Corpometa and Asopetrol). With regard to producing tangible results, this project was slow to start as the first steps involved *socialization* and coordination workshops in each region. However, in the last quarter, the project has demonstrated its utility in producing a database of projects, providing training to its members, fundraising – particularly with the international community – and improving the linkage between NGOs and government-sponsored projects like the Plan Colombia “Empleo en Acción.”

At a recent presentation of the CCONG project to an audience comprised by members of the international community, including a representative from USAID, CCONG correctly noted that donors often insist and benefit from institutional organization, but that “nobody wants to pay for it.” At the same event, it was evident that potential donors perceive value in the initiative. Several commented on the reception of proposals from “hundreds” of NGOs from around the country, which were discarded on account of the donor’s lack of knowledge of the proponents. Instead, donors noted, the same dozen Colombian NGOs receive funding from different donors.

In this sense one of the most important goals of the project is its potential to provide a means for small or emerging NGOs to gain access to and the trust of donors through a validating channel, CCONG.

Excluded groups, i.e. excluded from development and peace processes, include ethnic minorities, women, youths and children; projects developed under this component include support to the Fundación Hemera to develop a virtual library and Website on ethnic minorities and human rights; technical and financial assistance to the Embera community in Orito, Putumayo; support to the OFP in Barrancabermeja; and the training of Ludotecarios implemented by the Corporación Día del Niño.

Support to the Activities of the OFP

Including an extension provided in this quarter, this project now comprises three separate components, aiming together to strengthen the OFP and increase the range and quality of its activities in Magdalena Medio.

The first component is the improvement, expansion and/or new construction of seven “soup kitchens,” in the municipalities of Barrancabermeja, Yondó, Puerto Wilches and San Pablo. Infrastructure improvements on the first of these soup kitchens were completed in the Primero de Mayo neighborhood (next door to the Center for Peaceful Co-Existence) in the last week of May. The remaining kitchens were sub-contracted to two firms, according to the results of a competitive bid, and are scheduled for completion in the first week of August. OFP hopes that the improvements to these spaces will not only allow OFP to increase the number of beneficiaries, but also to provide a more “dignified” space for eating and alternative uses by each benefited neighborhood.

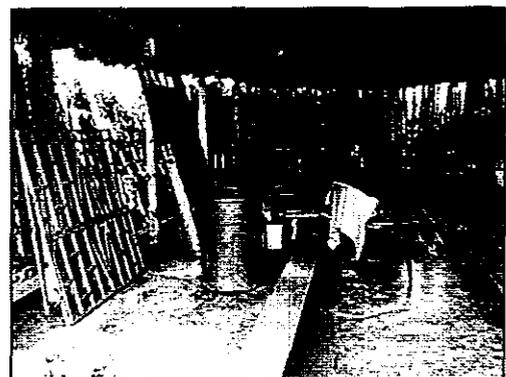
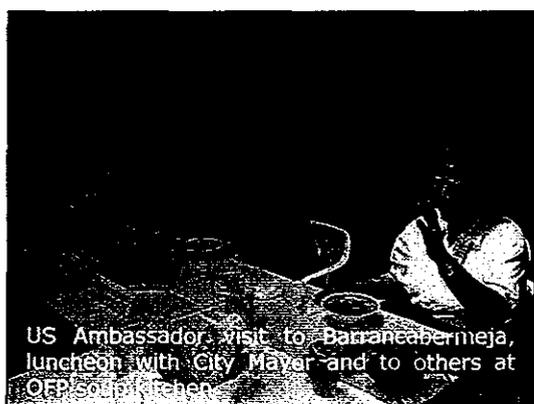


Photo of current state of soup kitchen in Puerto Wilches

The second component is the establishment of a rotating fund to strengthen the Cooperative run by the OFP; the Program sponsored a visit by two members of OFP to Florencia, Caquetá, where IOM is sponsoring a similar fund for IDPs. The fund will provide small loans to its members in amounts that increase as the borrower demonstrates credit-worthiness. The OFP may set up a system of "grassroots promoters" who are paid a stipend for helping new borrowers completed the "credit request forms," validating the information provided by talking to references, collecting and depositing payments.

The final component, incorporated during this quarter in light of threats issued against OFP leaders, is to provide these women with air transportation and a small apartment in Bogotá (previously paid for by the Ministry of the Interior as a protection mechanism) to enable them to leave Barrancabermeja for short periods of time, as necessary.



One of the repeated requests of OFP is to provide protection indirectly by increasing the visibility of international community support; the organization was highly pleased, therefore, to receive the visit of the US Ambassador to Colombia, Anne Patterson, on May 8, 2002. During this event, the OFP provided the US delegation and key Barrancabermeja-based partners with a luncheon in the Primero de Mayo soup kitchen.

Under ***Peace and Electoral Process***, three projects were developed during the last six months to promote transparency during the elections, increase access to information on the candidates and especially to enhance the profile of conflict and peace-related topics during the electoral process. Although two of these projects (VoteBien of Revista Semana, and Congreso & Candidatos Visibles of the Los Andes University) incurred savings and have requested non-cost extensions for their grants, this component is nearly closed as the elections ended earlier than expected on May 26.

With regard to the ***Strengthening of the High Commissioner's Office***, most activities were short-term, including the provision of equipment and contracting of specialized consultants. A sub-grant to Ideas para la Paz for the development of an interactive information system with documentation (projected 4,500 documents) on previous peace processes is the only project still ongoing. For this project, additional resources were leveraged from the Peace Investment Fund (FIP) to improve technology and allow the next Peace Commission team permanent on-line access to a virtual library of historical and resource documents. This information tool will be presented to the incoming team in the month of August.

IV. FINANCIAL DATA

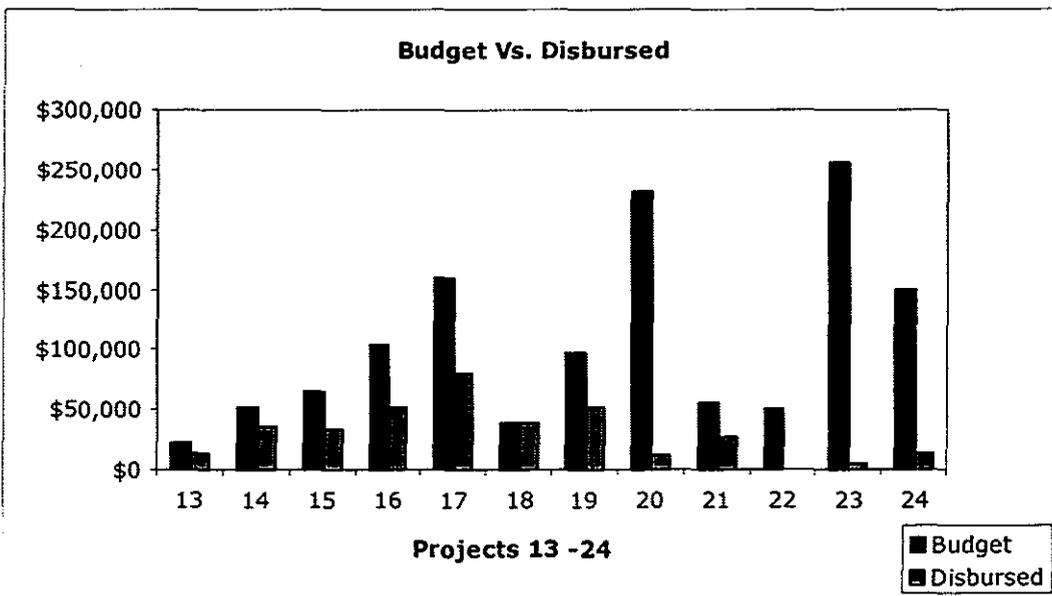
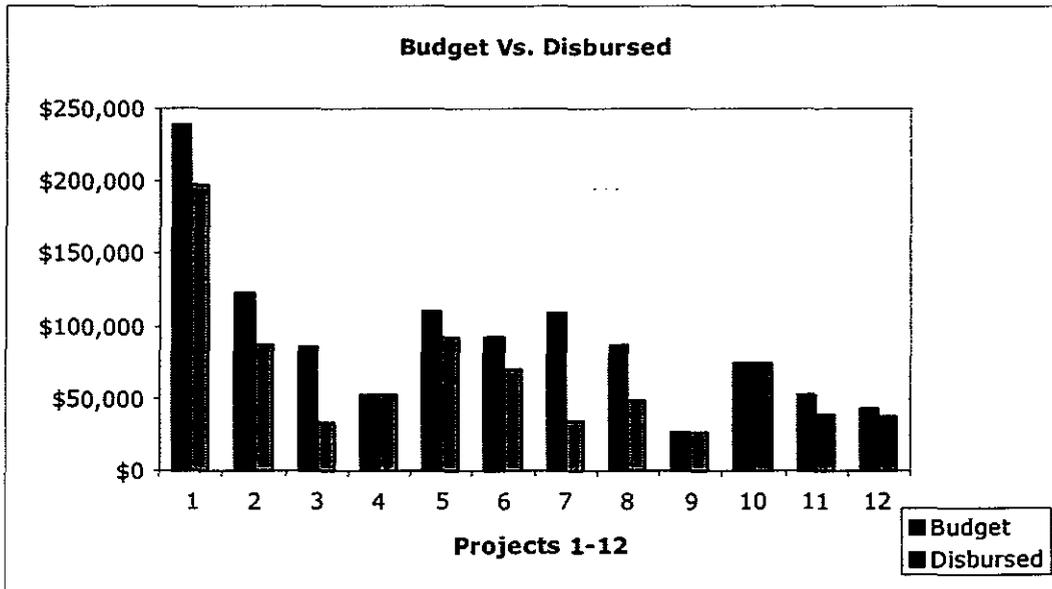
Through the end of June 2002, a total of 1,466,273 USD had been expended under the Program for Strengthening Peace in Colombia representing 53% of the total program budget. Under the budgetary line for project activities, all available funds have been obligated to approved projects distributed in 1,224,824 USD in unliquidated obligations and 1,154,020 USD in already expended funds.

The status of budgetary implementation of each sub-grant is included in the table and chart below:

Table 3: Budgetary Implementation by Sub-Project

#	PROJECT TITLE	CONTRIBUTION PEACE PROGRAM	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	DISBURSEM ENT STATUS (BY IOM)
1	Community Strengthening for Peace, Recovery and Conflict Resolution (VALLENPAZ)	238,919	1,850,690	197,524
2	Strengthening of Colombian Confederation of NGOs (CCONG)	122,394	176,774	86,446
3	Reconciliation through Assistance for Victims of Conflict in Magdalena Medio (Comisión Vida y Paz)	86,121	126,496	32,585
4	Sumas y Restas: Movie on the Personal and Societal Dangers of the Drug Trade (Ducha Fría Producciones)	52,015	1,108,367	52,015
5	Strengthening the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace	110,822	--	92,448
5(A)	Systematization for Easy Reference of Peace Processes in Colombia	39,473	--	39,473
5(B)	Capacity-building in Communications & Information Technology	49,832	--	31,459
5(C)	Sub-contracts to specialized consultants	21,517	--	21,517
6	Peace & Negotiation Training at the University and Community Levels (CONFECAMARAS and Observatorio para la Paz)	92,461	123,213	70,662
7	Media Professionalization Research Project and Journalism Website (Medios para la Paz)	109,349	130,966	34,923
8	Construction of a Gender-Focused Proposal for Peace Negotiations	86,888	96,445	48,684
9	La Decisión de San Mateo: Movie on Demobilization and Reintegration Experiences (Observatorio para la Paz)	25,654	128,658	25,646
10	Institutional Strengthening of CONFEPAZ and Research Project on War-Handicapped Persons	74,558	88,067	74,667
11	Virtual Library and Research Center on Ethnic Minorities & Human Rights (Fundación Hemera)	53,070	68,923	38,608
12	Voto Visible: Website on congressional and presidential candidates (Revista Semana & Transparencia)	42,924	48,283	37,743
13	Community Strengthening for Development, Indigenous Culture and Conflict Resolution	22,007	23,507	13,918
14	Entrepreneurial and Psychosocial Support to War-handicapped Persons (Fundación Amigos de los Limitados)	52,178	73,781	34,800
15	Congreso & Candidatos Visibles (University of Los Andes)	65,470	105,902	32,820
16	Private Sector Research & Perspective on Peace Negotiations (Fundación Empresarial)	103,569	221,943	51,784
17	Education and Recreation Centres for Children in High- Conflict Zones, Ludotecas Naves (Corporación Día del Niño)	159,516	372,876	80,985
18	Foro Universidad Sergio Arboleda	38,942	68,440	38,649
19	Support to the Activities of OFP (Organización Femenina Popular)	97,974	104,192	52,144

20	Center for Peaceful Co-Existence Barrancabermeja	231,240	360,342	11,784
21	Recovery of Social Fabric and Agricultural Development in War-Torn Communities of Cauca (Fundemos)	55,163	62,332	26,630
22	Land and Conflict in Eastern Antioquia - Research and Action Pilot (Corporación Jurídica Libertad)	51,090	78,298	--
23	Casa de Justicia de San Vicente del Caguán (Alcaldía de San Vicente del Caguán)	256,520	323,010	4,581
24	International Seminar on Negotiation and Reintegration of Ex - Combatants	150,000	150,000	12,974
Total		2,378,844	5,891,505	1,154,020



V. FIFTH QUARTER ACTION PLAN

The fifth quarter action plan is based on the assumption that a financial extension will be approved by USAID, according to the proposal submitted early in the last quarter. In this case, while continuous follow-up is provided to all ongoing projects, the following steps will be taken in the next quarter to ensure a solid start to new activities:

Support to Offices of the National and Local Peace Commissioners

1. Establish contact with incoming High Commissioner and his team
2. Present information on the IOM / USAID program, as well as products from projects sponsored (e.g. interactive database on Colombia's peace process to be installed in High Commissioner's Office)
3. Re-design as necessary, schedule and organize International Seminar on Negotiation, Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex - Combatants
4. Define immediate priorities for assistance to the incoming team and explore longer term and strategic areas of intersected interests
5. Begin implementation on selected areas of assistance
6. Present final results of the OTI-funded project with 5 Departmental Peace Commissioners, as well as preliminary results of the US-Embassy sponsored project with Fundación Social to strengthen Local Peace Commissioners to USAID; design a follow-up strategy.

Community-Led Solutions to Conflict at the Local and Regional Levels

7. Draft terms of reference for projects that combine tangible benefits in the areas of income generation (primarily through agricultural production) or improvements to living conditions with training in conflict resolution and community organization
8. Send terms of reference to existing NGOs in priority areas of Antioquia and Chocó (others to be determined with USAID) with invitation to participate in regional workshops with IOM
9. Carry out workshops in selected areas to present methodology, demonstrate previous projects of this kind like VallenPaz and assist NGOs to better complete necessary documentation
10. Proposals will be received and evaluated in the last quarter of 2002

Co-Existence Centers in Selected Municipalities

11. Visit each of the selected municipalities to pre-identify possible spaces, confirm municipal interest and negotiate counterpart funding
12. Begin contracting procedures (competitive) for technical studies and architectural plans

Training in Negotiation and Conflict Management

13. Draft terms of reference for a sub-contract to a well-known university or institution for training in negotiation
14. Prepare list of possible proponents to issue request for invitations

Agile Response to Emerging Priorities

15. Complete Project Card and Summary for newly identified projects (submitted by USAID in the last quarter, but held in reserve due to lack of funds)

			001
Title:	Community Strengthening for Peace, Recovery and Conflict Resolution	Coverage:	Cauca, Valle del Cauca
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims	Duration:	5 Months (Extended for Distribution)
Direct Beneficiaries:	5,000 members of beneficiary families	Indirect Bens:	--
Diluted Impact:	25,000 persons in beneficiary communities	Total Budget:	US \$1,850,690
Prog. Contribution:	US \$238,919	Disbursement:	US \$197,530
Implementing Agency:	VALLENPAZ	Other Partners:	Investment Fund for Peace, FIP

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

This project was proposed to USAID by VALLENPAZ, an NGO founded in 1999 and dedicated to working with war-affected populations in the departments of Valle del Cauca and Cauca, primarily through community-led organization and agricultural development. The project is developed in three municipalities of Valle del Cauca with 1,000 families or 5,000 persons, considered to be heavily affected by the ongoing violence in this department. Activities include a series of workshops with potential beneficiaries to consolidate productive associations and promote alternative dispute resolution at the local level. A second phase focuses on technical training in design, formulation and administration of productive micro-projects. In the third phase, special attention will be given to women heads of family in providing seed money for a revolving credit fund for household agricultural production; the Investment Fund for Peace (FIP, for its Spanish initials) will support agricultural development with these families with an estimated budget of 764,561 USD .

Under the training component, Vallenpaz had completed 78% of the programmed events, covering the areas of Human Capital, Development, Entrepreneurial Activity, Project Formulation, Agricultural Production and Environment. Training is complete in the municipality of Pancé and coming to a close in Buenos Aires and Jamundí. To follow-up on training and ensure both the motivation and sustainability of the lessons imparted in these trainings, three revolving funds have been set up and were fully operational as of the end of the reporting period. 102 heads of household have benefited from these funds so far (22 in Buenos Aires; 40 in Jamundí, and 40 in Pance). These funds have been applied to agricultural production of vegetables and spices and, to a lesser extent, to the production of organic fertilizers.

The central idea of this project, like others designed in a similar manner, is to recover the social fabric of communities affected by conflict thereby promoting peace through development. One particular case in Vallenpaz demonstrates clearly success on this front: In the village of San Marcos in Buenos Aires, there is a group of women heads of household who have land but have lacked the capital to engage in even small-scale agricultural production. Brought together under the Vallenpaz project, the women formed the "Agro-Ecological Association Renacer," and received a micro-credit from the revolving fund in this municipality. The women have enthusiastically fundraised through raffles and sales of homemade "fast food" to complement these funds for the project.

"Nosotros queremos aprender, unirnos para vender nuestro productos, tenemos como hacerlo y tener una manera de vivir dignamente." Bernarda Carabeli, leader of the women's group in San Marcos, Buenos Aires



Women's group of beneficiaries in Buenos Aires

		002	
Title:	Strengthening of the Colombian Confederation of NGOs	Coverage:	Chocó, Meta, Santander & Quindío
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	7 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	250 NGO Workers	Indirect Bens:	2,000 Database Users
Diluted Impact:	10,000 beneficiaries of CCONG projects	Total Budget:	US \$176,774
Prog. Contribution:	US \$122,394	Disbursement:	US \$86,446
Implementing Agency:	CCONG	Other Partners:	Corpometa & Asopetrol

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

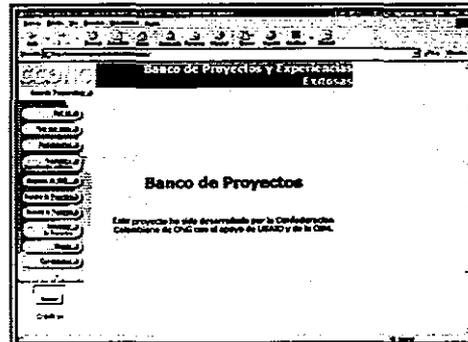
Since it was created in 1989, the Colombian Confederation of NGOs has grown in membership and presently represents 11 departmental federations comprised by 54% of NGOs in the country dedicated to social development issues. This project aims to build the capacity of CCONG to provide real benefits to its members in terms of networking and fundraising support. CCONG will work with 5 regional federations to increase cooperation among NGOs specialized in peace promotion, build a database of NGO projects and unfinanced proposals and document lessons learned in peace promotion by the participating NGOs. One important foreseen impact of CCONG's activities is to improve coordination between government and civil society by enhancing a practical working relationship with the "Employment in Action" program financed under Plan Colombia.

A total of 232 NGOs are participating in the project: Chocó (25) Santander (21) Quindío (30) Corpometa (150) and Asopetrol (6). To date, training has been conducted in the areas of organizational strengthening (with cooperation from the Andes University) and project formulation; a database of services offered by participating NGOs has been designed and created in English and Spanish and the mapping exercises are in advanced stages of development. Encouraged by CCONG, one NGO in Magdalena (FUNDESMAG) is forming a regional network of NGOs in Magdalena Medio.

Having completed the database of projects (pending continuous updating with new projects) CCONG dedicated this quarter to lobbying and fundraising, involving participation in the Iberia-American Third Sector Conference in Spain to present the portfolio of projects to Spanish donors. In Bogotá, CCONG followed up with a presentation of projects to the international community, with participation from major embassies, USAID, the European Union, among others. This project will be completed in July with an evaluation, likely to be followed by a request for geographical extension of the project to 5 new regions.



Presentation of Project Portfolio by Chocó Federation



On-line database of NGO projects

			003
Title:	Reconciliation through Assistance for Victims of Conflict in Magdalena Medio	Coverage	Magdalena Medio
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims	Duration	12 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	1,000 persons in beneficiary families	Indirect Bens:	--
Diluted Impact:	2,500 persons in beneficiary communities	Total Budget:	US \$126,496
Prog. Contribution:	US \$86,121	Disbursement:	US \$32,585
Implementing Agency:	Comisión Vida y Paz Diócesis de Barrancabermeja	Other Partners:	--

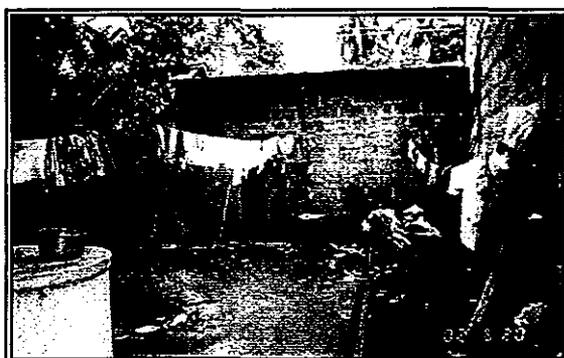
Description & Status: (Ongoing)

In similar fashion to the VALLENPAZ project described above, this project aims to promote reconciliation at the local level by providing directed assistance to victims of conflict. The project was proposed by the Dioceses of Barrancabermeja of the Catholic Church to be managed by their social action branch, the Comisión Vida y Paz. The Comisión began working in Magdalena Medio in human rights and grassroots development projects in 1994 and have carried out projects in civic education, legal aid, conflict negotiation and systematization of peace initiatives. The Comisión requested the assistance of the Peace Program in order to assist 100 vulnerable families who have been victimized by the conflict through the loss of a family member or other gross violations to human rights. These 100 families, selected on a case-by-case basis will be given psychosocial and/or legal assistance – if necessary – and supported in the establishment of small productive projects.

Although initial projections for this project included direct benefit to 100 families, the number has now reached 134 families, representing 501 persons; these families are provided group therapy every two weeks and individual assistance as necessary by church workers. The group that has demonstrated the most commitment and demand for the psychosocial services are single mothers. Generally, the participation at the group sessions has been very high; not so in the case of individual services for psychological and legal services in which some 57 persons are participating in total. The project has brought together the beneficiary families from all municipalities (Barrancabermeja, Puerto Wilches, San Pablo, Cantagallo, Yondó and Sabana de Torres) for two large-scale events in which 106 families were present.

The organizational and psychosocial components of this project are a means of preparing families for the productive component; so far, families have received training and selected the area of "business" in which they are most interested and best able to generate income. Once this process is completed to the satisfaction of the beneficiary and the advisors, start-up capital is provided by the Comisión Vida y Paz; 63 families are engaged in different steps of this project, including 5 families who have already started their new economic activities. As beneficiaries tend to reside in rural areas, most of the projects are agricultural in nature, including the purchase and raising of poultry and fish.

In Puerto Wilches, a group of 10 families have come together as a "self-help" group aiming to provide community support to other families victimized by the conflict (generally having lost a member of the family to violence) in their community.



Beneficiary Home



Work with children of beneficiary women (heads of household) in Barrancabermeja

Title:	Strengthening the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	As above	Duration:	11 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	60 Public Officials	Indirect Bens:	5,000 Persons involved in Peace Process; 2,000 users of Ideas para la Paz database
Diluted Impact:	Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$92,488
Prog. Contribution:	US \$92,488	Disbursement:	US \$92,488
Implementing Agency:	Various, including direct implementation by IOM	Other Partners:	--

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

With the collapse in peace talks in February and the ensuing cut-backs in staff and activities of the High Commissioner's Office, this project focused on two sub-projects during this quarter: the preparation of an International Seminar on Negotiation and Reintegration of Ex - Combatants and the ongoing activities of Ideas para la Paz. Although the international seminar was postponed until September and will be coordinated with the incoming government, significant advances in panel selection, methodology and logistical organization were made during the reporting period (please see project 024 below).

The Ideas para la Paz project is scheduled to be completed in August and handed-over to the incoming Peace Commissioner's Team during the transition. Information for the interactive database was collected from the outgoing Peace Commission, as well as from the Presidential Archives (since 1982) the Congress, CINEP and the press. To date, the database includes 3,000 documents (a further 1,500 have been identified for data-entry in the next quarter) which can be accessed by any one of many passwords or links. Ideas para la Paz was able to leverage additional funds from the Peace Investment Fund (FIP) to cover the costs of a more expensive IT system, which will allow the Peace Commission office continuous connection to the system and facilitate regular updating.

			005
Title:	Strengthening the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	As above	Duration:	11 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	60 Public Officials	Indirect Bens:	5,000 Persons involved in Peace Process; 2,000 users of Ideas para la Paz database
Diluted Impact:	Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$92,488
Prog. Contribution:	US \$92,488	Disbursement:	US \$92,488
Implementing Agency:	Various, including direct implementation by IOM	Other Partners:	--

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

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			006
Title:	Peace & Negotiation Training at the University and Community Levels	Coverage:	Bogotá, Coastal Region
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	8 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	700 students and local leaders	Indirect Bens:	3,500 students and community members
Diluted Impact:	--	Total Budget:	US \$123,313
Prog. Contribution:	US \$92,461	Disbursement:	US \$70,662
Implementing Agency:	CONFECAMARAS and Observatorio para la Paz	Other Partners:	Network of Universities for Peace (UNIPAZ)

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

This project was designed as a joint endeavor between three sectors of Colombian civil society: academia, the private sector and NGOs, represented in the Network of Universities for Peace, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and the Observatorio para la Paz, respectively. In essence, the project supports these organizations to develop a model for teaching Colombian citizens the historical context of current conflict and peace processes, accompanied by more practical learning in conflict resolution mechanisms at the local level. The model is then applied as a pilot in two settings: first in universities and second in marginal neighborhoods surrounding Bogotá. Although these are the central objectives of the project, it is worth noting the value-added of this project; namely, start-up support to the CONFECAMARAS-implemented and United Nations-supported Center for Conflict Solution opened in December of this year, and increased incorporation of university staff and students into community efforts.

With regard to the university curriculum that Observatorio is developing, the project has presented the draft in Valle, Medellín and Baranquilla; the final proposal for a university course will be submitted as a final deliverable of the project in August. More significant is the development of the community outreach components of this project which have exceeded expectations on most fronts. First, the number of interns was increased from 20 to 25 due to the high demand for participation and some students who joined the project later, have signed on as volunteers. These youths visit the neighborhoods of Kennedy, Cazucá and Engativa regularly and work with youth clubs, madres comunitarias, local action boards, among other groups. From a very-much local platform, the project has been able to set-up wide-reaching alliances with NGOs, like Minuto de Dios, established programs, like the Araidna project with schools, church groups, women's organizations, etc. During these visits, Observatorio para la Paz and/or Camara de Comercio professionals accompany the youths. Although the main deliverable for this component – according to the original project proposal – is the development of a community model for conflict resolution in Colombian urban neighborhoods (with a manual or "tool kit" for alternative dispute resolution and peace promotion) the project is showing even more tangible results in the field: one of the youth organizations incorporated in the project, for example, will start "multiplying" the conflict resolution workshops in the month of July. Beneficiaries in the communities include: 20 children, 75 women, 115 adolescents, 90 local leaders and 350 adult participants in the Cámara de Comercio workshops.



Workshop to design curriculum with University Interns and Observatorio para la Paz Academics



Pasante en trabajo con la comunidad de Kennedy

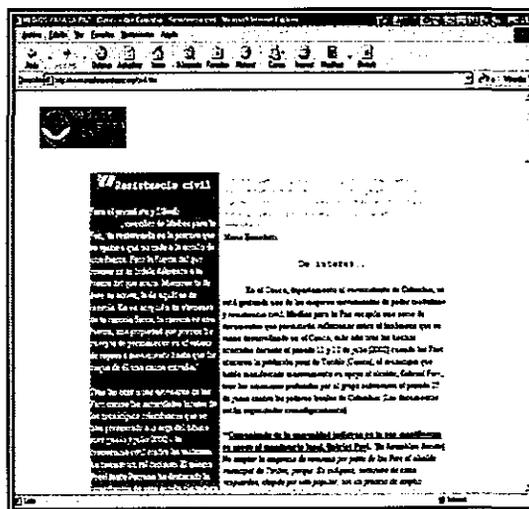
			007
Title:	Media Professionalization, Research Project and Journalism Website	Coverage:	Bogotá; Antioquia, Caquetá, Valle del Cauca, Santander, Nariño & Córdoba
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	11 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	2,500 Journalists and regular Web Site users	Indirect Bens:	5,000 occasional Web Site users
Diluted Impact:	Journalists in Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$130,966
Prog. Contribution:	US \$109,349	Disbursement:	US \$ 34,923
Implementing Agency:	Medios para la Paz	Other Partners:	National and Regional Media

Description & Status: (Completed)

This project is a follow-up to a pilot financed by the USAID Office of Transition Initiatives in early 2001, in which Medios para la Paz proved to be a responsive and responsible partner in peace efforts centered on the role of journalism in Colombia. The project is comprised by two components: the first is continuation of the Web Site, installed with OTI funds, which includes links and press briefs on the conflict and peace in Colombia, tools for better journalism and an interactive forum in which journalists can request practical advice. The second component is a research project, designed following a hypothesis that the murders and threats faced by journalists in Colombia – particularly in the field – can be averted to a large extent by better practices by the journalists themselves. The research and its dissemination to press managers and writers will focus in the departments of Cundinamarca, Caquetá, Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, Santander, Nariño and Córdoba.

To date, the website has been updated regularly and was recently re-designed to include a search engine, more link capacity and a closer monitoring of site visits. In the next quarter, the website will include a virtual library with all newspaper articles and documents circulated in the Medios para la Paz network. In the Keys to Colombia page, a new section on "Civilian Resistance" was designed to provide regular news on different forms of resistance and specific cases (indigenous groups in Sierra Nevada, for example). Other new information sections include: Internal Displacement, Anti-personnel Mines and Children in Combat. The website is becoming increasingly used as a point of reference; on the Websites of MediaChannel, Banco del la República, El Mundo (Spain), Journalists Against Corruption and UNESCO, links are available to the Medios para la Paz website.

The research project (with the working title: "War: A Threat to Freedom of Information") has been fully designed, including the survey instruments. Researchers have also visited the regions included in the survey and interviewed regional journalists in person. The project has also designed a database on threatened journalists with data provided by the Committee for Protection of Journalists (Ministry of the Interior) and the Foundation for the Freedom of Press; 270 journalists are included in the database and 120 of them have been interviewed (several are already in exile).



Section on "Civilian Resistance" on the Medios para la Paz Website

24

			008
Title:	Construction of a Gender-Focused Proposal for Peace Negotiations	Coverage:	Bogotá, Antioquia, Valle del Cauca/National
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	10 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	700 women	Indirect Bens:	15,000 in women's groups, web-site users and recipients of Agenda for Peace
Diluted Impact:	--	Total Budget:	US \$96,445
Prog. Contribution:	US \$86,888	Disbursement:	US \$48,185
Implementing Agency:	HUMANIZAR	Other Partners:	Various women's groups

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

This project addresses an urgent need in the Colombian peace talks to incorporate a gender-focused approach to the negotiations and, specifically, to ensure that the priorities and the skills of women are fully applied to peace processes at the national and local level. The project proposed by Humanizar has two important components: the first is a kind of counter-proposal to the male-dominated agenda for peace negotiations espoused by the GOC and the armed groups, and the second involves a more local approach to empowering women to participate in the civil society movement towards peace, through training and network building.

After the first regional event held in March with 120 participants, Humanizar has carried out a further 11 events with participation of a further 600 women in the departments of Bolivar, Atlántico, Cundinamarca, Boyacá, Antioquia, Santander and the City of Bogotá. As noted in the context section of this report as well as in the development of other ongoing projects, this project has observed an increased demand for open dialogue on "civilian resistance." This is a theme which is placed high on the list of many NGOs and authorities of viable alternatives to the conflict.

A final draft of the gender-focused agenda for peace is now complete and has presented in several forums, including: Mesas Ciudadanas de Agenda de Paz (April) the Congreso Paz y Pais (May, with more than 2,000 participants) to the Local Action Board of the City of Bogotá, among others. The Agenda will be printed and distributed in August, alongside the launching of the Internet Site and a large-scale campaign to raise awareness on the role of women in the peace process.



Seminar/workshop in Cartagena

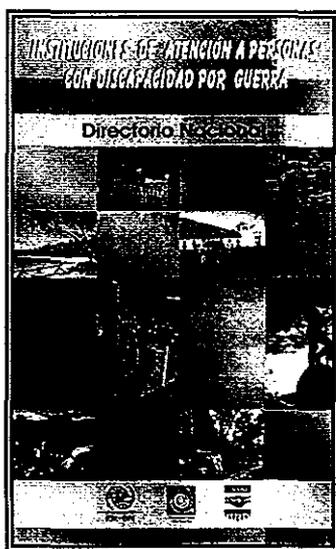
			010
Title:	Institutional Strengthening of CONFEPAZ and Research Project on War-Handicapped Persons	Coverage:	Antioquia
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims	Duration:	9 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	210 present & projected members	Indirect Bens:	2,000 persons assisted in follow-up activities
Diluted Impact:	War-handicapped population of Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$88,067
Prog. Contribution:	US \$74,558	Disbursement:	US \$74,558
Implementing Agency:	CONFEPAZ	Other Partners:	Fundación Amigos de los Limitados Físicos

Description & Status (Ongoing):

CONFEPAZ is an organization comprised by ex - military and guerrilla combatants who were handicapped while engaged in the conflict. The resources provided by the Peace Program aim to support the NGO in providing assistance to other war-handicapped persons, but aims simultaneously to increase awareness in Colombia on this operational model of reconciliation. For this reason, the project includes social communication components to promote CONFEPAZ activities nationwide through radio and, eventually, audio-visual media. Likewise, the project will institutionally strengthen CONFEPAZ by providing basic equipment and technical assistance in carrying out a survey on war-handicapped persons in the Department of Antioquia.

In the month of June, the survey on handicapped persons in Antioquia was completed, as was the documentary on the organization - both will be launched at an event in Medellín to be held on July 5th and distributed publicly in the month of August. Also in the month of June, a radio campaign with 140 spots (two versions) was carried out on national broadcasting services with a central message to "Put a stop to the War." Finally, the Directory of Services for Handicapped Persons was published and distributed during this quarter; the directory includes information on location and services provided by some 100 public and private institutions throughout the country.

Alongside the financial support provided to CONFEPAZ through this project, the Strengthening Peace Program contracted a consultant, with experience in project formulation and coordination in many countries, to assist technically CONFEPAZ on a part-time basis for six months. The consultant is tasked with helping the organization develop long-term strategy, operational plans and to raise funds with other donors for no fewer than 3 new projects.



National Directory of Services of Handicapped Persons



Promotional poster for event in Medellín

26

			011
Title:	Virtual Library and Research Center on Ethnic Minorities & Human Rights	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	Work with Excluded Groups	Duration:	9 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	2,050 NGO workers and regular Web Site users	Indirect Bens:	5,000 Occasional users
Diluted Impact:	Ethnic Minorities in Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$68,923
Prog. Contribution:	US \$53,070	Disbursement:	US \$38,605
Implementing Agency:	Fundación Hemera	Other Partners:	

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

The scarcity of reliable statistical information on ethnic minorities in Colombia represents an obstacle to designing appropriate assistance projects and policy-making. Fundación Hemera proposed a nationwide census of ethnic minorities and a dissemination strategy based around the construction of an Internet Web Site. The site includes results of the census, but also a forum mechanism to promote dialogue on issues affecting ethnic minorities, including the conflict, and a link to news on human rights violations to ethnic minorities. Likewise, the Site will make accessible information on Indigenous Law, Human Rights incidents, existing research and a photo gallery, through databases to be published on the Internet.

This website is nearly complete and now includes information on the following topics:

- *Legislation:* 100 laws pertaining to ethnic minorities passed since 1997 (60 accessible through the website)
- *Audio-visual materials:* 112 photographs and 88 video (summaries)
- *General documentation:* 170 documents
- *Human Rights:* 232 registered cases of violations to ethnic minorities from 2000 – 2002; 379 cases are being verified at present for future inclusion
- *Virtual Newspaper:* 20 editions of the virtual newspaper have been issued so far to a mailing list of 1,469 recipients; the last issues have provided updated information on the conflict in Bojayá-Chocó

The Hemera team has visited Cauca, Chocó and Putumayo to meet with organizations representing ethnic minorities, including the CRIC and OREWA. In Chocó, two persons were contracted (with counterpart funds provided by the Ministry of the Interior) to serve as on-site reporters on human rights violations to ethnic minorities. Hemera is also leading a campaign called: "Chocó also exists," towards rebuilding the social fabric in Chocó in the wake of the May 2 massacre.

The Etnias Website continues to grow more popular and renown: while the monthly average of visitors last quarter was 31,423, this figure jumped again to 102,812 per month during this reporting period.



Field visit to Cauca and meeting with Anatolio Quirá, President of CRIC



Field visit to Mocoa, Putumayo

			012
Title:	Voto Visible: Website on congressional and presidential candidates	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	Peace and Electoral Process	Duration:	8 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	5,000 regular Web Site users	Indirect Bens:	15,000 Occasional Web Site users
Diluted Impact:	National	Total Budget:	US \$48,283
Prog. Contribution:	US \$42,924	Disbursement:	US \$37,743
Implementing Agency:	Revista Semana & Transparencia	Other Partners:	National Media Companies

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

This project is the first to be approved under the component of Peace and Electoral Process, representing an effort by the Peace Program to contribute to democratic elections, specifically by improving access to voters on congressional and presidential candidates. Through an Internet site, this project provides a link to bibliographical information on each candidate (to Congreso y Candidatos Visibles) responses to questionnaires, investigative reporting on possible cases of platform-to-practice inconsistencies and corruption and an interactive forum for discussion of candidates. There is a special focus in this electronic information service on information on the candidates relationship to armed actors and his or her proposals for peace.

This page went on-line on February 10th and was promoted on a national scale through Semana magazine, as well as FM and RCN radio stations. During the last quarter, the project dedicated full energy to the elections and provided in-depth coverage on the candidates (curriculum vitae, sponsored initiatives). With counterpart support from FESCOL, the VoteBien team held breakfast meetings with the leading presidential candidates (Alvaro Uribe, Noemí Sanín and Lucho Garzón; Horacio Serpa did not accept the invitation) to discuss their platform on peace and conflict management. During the elections, VoteBien provided near "real-time" coverage on the results.

Other specific research projects included a study by IBOPE on the publicity budgets of each campaign; a survey to presidential candidates on policies to promote transparency and follow-up on allegations of electoral fraud and pressure on behalf of armed groups to strong-arm votes, in Baranquilla, Florencia and Valledupar (no evidence was found).

With savings incurred in the project, VoteBien has continued its electronic publications to date; the research on electoral fraud is still ongoing and the team is putting together a directory of new Congress representatives.

According to the VoteBien team, one of the most important results of the page was the opportunity provided to little-known candidates to access large-scale audiences. It is important to note also that, while the average attention span of Internet users is 2 minutes per Web Site, visitor to VoteBien stayed online for 4.5 minutes on average.

			013
Title:	Community Strengthening for Development, Indigenous Culture and Conflict Resolution	Coverage:	Putumayo (Orito)
Strategy:	Work with Excluded Groups	Duration:	6 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	700 Embera Katio	Indirect Bens:	500 members of other ethnic groups
Diluted Impact:	--	Total Budget:	US \$23,507
Prog. Contribution:	US \$22,007	Disbursement:	US \$13,918
Implementing Agency:	Asociación Embera Katio de Orito	Other Partners:	Mayor's Office

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

The Embera Katio are an indigenous tribe originating in Colombia's north; a small group arrived in Putumayo in the 1970s and settled in the southwestern valley, bordering Nariño. This tri-municipal area (Orito, San Miguel La Dorada and La Hormiga Valle de Guamuez) is the largest producer of coca in Putumayo and has been the most hotly contested area by paramilitaries and FARC guerrillas. The precarious arrangement between the two groups to allow paramilitary domination in the urban centers and FARC control elsewhere leaves peasants in a situation of forced quarantine, wherein they face great risks of being labeled sympathizers of one or another groups as they pass from one side of this invisible wall to another. Violence and fear in Putumayo threaten not only the lives of its residents, but also their livelihood as economic activity – that part of it not controlled by the armed groups – is paralyzed and community structures are dismantled.

The Embera Katio program was designed by the youths of this community of less than 150 families as a means of building capacity in economic and agricultural planning, as well as in community organization and conflict resolution, to resist the erosive forces of the conflict.

The community training and awareness-raising components of the project have now included the topics of Territory, Production and Handicrafts. A workshop on Legislation relating to the indigenous was given to leaders, focusing on legislation related to human rights, violence and heritage. As part of this training, community representatives – and particularly elders – informed on traditional indigenous forms of conflict resolution: serious problems are brought to the Council of Elders and the heads of the Cabildo – their decision is presented to a community assembly as a proposal for its solution. Under the mapping component, areas of hunting and fishing have been located, as well as the geographical limits of the Embera territory and the presence of supernatural beings. The group is now working on agricultural calendars and a manual of traditional handicrafts to be distributed as “memory” of traditional practices.

In the month of May, the Embera held the First Encounter of Embera - Chamí Communities in the Cristalina Reserve in Putumayo; 10 cabildos participated in the event, during which a stakeholder's assessment was carried out followed by a cultural exchange (dance, etc.)

This project has received support from the NGOs implementing the Alternative Development projects in the area, as well as from a team of “indigenistas” sponsored by UNHCR.



Workshop on Territory, held on the La Cristalina Reserve



“Dance of the Paletón” Cultural recovery with Embera Chamí Indians

Title:	Entrepreneurial and Psychosocial Support to War-Handicapped Persons (Fundación Amigos de los Limitados Físicos)	Coverage:	Antioquia
Strategy:	Reconciliation and Assistance to Victims	Duration:	10 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	100 handicapped persons	Indirect Bens:	400 family members
Diluted Impact:	War-handicapped population	Total Budget:	US \$73,781
Prog. Contribution:	US \$52,178	Disbursement:	US \$34,781
Implementing Agency:	Fundación Amigos de los Limitados	Other Partners:	CONFEPAZ

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

Fundación Amigos de los Discapacitados has been working with mentally and physically handicapped persons in Antioquia since 1994. This organization, which over the years has developed solid experience in the area of psychosocial assistance, requested the assistance of the Peace Program to work with war-handicapped persons. The project was designed to support 100 persons, 80 of whom will be selected by CONFEPAZ during this organization's survey in Antioquia, to recover psychologically as well as economically. The income generation component will be important as a model of successful reintegration of war-handicapped persons into normal, civilian life – a model that will be useful to Colombia in the event of a larger-scale peace-building or reparations process. The economic component begins with a self-selection phase in which beneficiaries decide whether to pursue a self-owned business or employment in the formal labor market. The former group will receive entrepreneurial training and technical assistance to develop business ideas; the latter group will receive vocational training and support in identifying possible jobs in their municipalities.

During this quarter, Fundación Amigos de los Discapacitados completed the selection of all beneficiaries; however, on account of a high rate of desertion – particularly among beneficiaries referred by CONFEPAZ – another round of selection will be carried out to complete the final group of 20 men and women. Both organizations are looking into potential links with the private sector to engage beneficiaries in the labor market; so far, 2 project beneficiaries were selected to work in a office furniture factory. The Fundación also contacted beneficiaries with the Metropolitan Technological School and 24 beneficiaries signed up for classes – for many, this will be their first experience with formal schooling since primary school. Selected courses include: primary school equivalence, secondary school, computer studies, electronics and repair of household electronics.

A preliminary evaluation exercise took place with family members of direct beneficiaries – these agreed that participation in the project has been manifest in the person's self-esteem and behavior towards other family members.

It is important to note that at the beginning of the sessions, there were some problems and tensions between trainees as the groups represented ex – guerrilla, ex – military and alleged sympathizers of various illegal armed groups. This kind of conflict was expected and its resolution – successful so far – is one of the most important achievements of the project to date. Regarding these early problems, one participant explains that: "What we're least interested in now is conflict and violence; we are all handicapped persons with one specific goal: to improve ourselves."



First get-together with family members of war-handicapped beneficiaries

		015	
Title:	Congreso & Candidatos Visibles	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	Peace and Electoral Process	Duration:	7 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	--	Indirect Bens:	--
Diluted Impact:	500,000 recipients of information on candidates	Total Budget:	US \$105,902
Prog. Contribution:	US \$65,470	Disbursement:	US \$33,063
Implementing Agency:	University of Los Andes	Other Partners:	National Media Companies

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

This project, submitted by University of Los Andes to USAID, is the second to be approved under the component for Peace and Electoral Process and, like the Voto Visible project, is designed to improve the quality and access of information related to candidates. Unlike Voto Visible, this project does not include an investigative component, but intends to distribute basic bibliographical data and professional records of all candidates into the hands of at least 500,000 Colombians. The project includes educational campaigns in no fewer than 10 cities so that the dissemination of written information is accompanied by local teaching and dialogue, led by project partners such as the Church, local and regional media, schools, Chambers of Commerce and various NGOs.

After providing basic profile information on all participating candidates for the parliamentary and presidential elections, the Congreso and Candidatos Visibles team began analyzing the results of the elections, disseminated in the following events:

- ✓ April 10 – 12 Forum on “The Political Crisis in Colombia. More than Armed Conflict and Peace Process.”
- ✓ Joint report in the press with allegations as to irregular procedure in the parliamentary elections
- ✓ Congreso Visible Bulletin No. 10 with full information on the electoral process and results; for the first time in the program’s history, this bulletin was distributed to all mayors and municipal councils in 2,092 municipalities (some 5,000 distributed in total)
- ✓ Coordination of seminar on the distorting role played by the Colombian press in its coverage of the elections (May)

The team has also put together a kind of Congressional profile on the new assembly, showing that 9% of senators and 13% of congress persons are women; primary points on the platforms of elected representatives include Political Reform, Legal Reform (particularly related to the provision of public services) Transparency and Economic Growth / Unemployment.

Savings incurred in this project will be re-invested into follow-up activities, including the development of indicators to measure the performance of newly elected officials; as of the end of this reporting period, the modification was being negotiated between IOM and the Los Andes University.

			016
Title:	Private Sector Research & Perspective on Peace Negotiations	Coverage:	Bogotá/National
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	4 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	581 public officials and members of trade boards	Indirect Bens:	5,000 persons involved in Peace Process
Diluted Impact:	National	Total Budget:	US \$221,943
Prog. Contribution:	US \$103,569	Disbursement:	US \$51,784
Implementing Agency:	Fundación Empresarial	Other Partners:	Consejo Gremial and Chambers of Commerce Nationwide

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

This project is part of a wider effort of the Peace Program to bring the so-called Civilian Movement for Peace closer to the recognized national peace process, by ensuring that the perspectives of various sectors are made accessible to the negotiators and society at large. In this case, the Program is supporting the Council of Trade Guilds (Consejo Gremial) through an associated NGO called Fundación Empresarial to develop concept papers on 8 subjects, including: Truce, Negotiated Political Settlement, Agrarian Policy, Economic and Social Structures, Justice, Political Reform, International Law and Formulation of Peace Accords. The Consejo Gremial is tasked with ensuring that the concept papers reflect the expertise and opinions of the Guilds and, in this way, that they represent a concerted opinion of an important and influential sector of Colombia.

Through the end of this quarter, all documents had been completed and reviewed by the President of the Council of Trade Guilds; in July and August, these will be reviewed by each of the participating guilds (Acolpa, Acopi, Acoplastico, Analdesc, Andi, Asobancaria, Asocolflores, Asocaña, Camacol, Colfecar, Confecamaras, Cotelco, Fasesolda, Fedegan) to ensure guild "approval" on the opinions set forth in each document; following a process of modification and final edition, the documents will be published in September or October of the current year.

It is important to note that immediately after the election, the president of the Council of Trade Guilds, Mr. Sabas Pretelt, met with the incoming president, Mr. Alvaro Uribe; during this meeting, Mr. Pretelt presented the projects aims and promised to provide the new government with the documents upon completion.

			017
Title:	Education and Recreation Centers for Children in High-Conflict Zones (Ludotecas-Naves)	Coverage:	Bogotá
Strategy:	Peace Initiatives	Duration:	8 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	80 Ludotecarios	Indirect Bens:	70,000 children users of the Ludotecas
Diluted Impact:	National	Total Budget:	US \$ 372,876
Prog. Contribution:	US \$159,516	Disbursement:	US \$ 80,987
Implementing Agency:	Corporación Día del Niño	Other Partners:	

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

The Corporación Día del Niño, an NGO dedicated to channeling private and public sector resources to educational programs for highly vulnerable children and youths, requested financial assistance from the Strengthening Peace Program to improve an ongoing project called: "Ludotecas Naves." The so-called Ludotecas are cultural and recreational centers for children, located mostly in poor and isolated municipalities, which offer little in the way of productive uses of free-time to their resident minors. Specifically, the budget for this project is earmarked for training of the Ludoteca's facilitators as a means of improving the creativity and pedagogic quality of the services offered to the program's more than 70,000 direct beneficiaries (regular users of the Ludotecas).

Following a first training session in the last quarter, between May 28 and June 3, a second national seminar was held with 79 Ludotecarios in representation of 45 Ludotecas throughout the country. Training focused on the preparation of Operational Plans, which allow the ludotecarios to involve other institutions in long-term strategy of each center. The training also provided practical skills in psychosocial attention through games and other forms of recreation with children. The Bogotá-based staff has followed up on trainings through on-site visits to 14 ludotecas in Bojayá, Cundimarca, Sucre, Antioquia, Chocó, Santander, Norte de Santander, Bolivar, César, Caldas and Bogotá. The executive director of the organization traveled to Portugal to participate in an International Seminar on Ludotecas and presented the Colombia project to 300 other organizers of Ludoteca programs – the project was well-received and the audience were impressed with the degree of "professionalization" of the ludotecarios in the Día del Niño project, since in most countries this position is filled by persons without any specific training in childcare, psychosocial assistance, recreation, etc. The executive director also visited New York to raise funds for the program.

Persons from El Salvador requested assistance and accompaniment of Corporación Día del Niño to set up a Ludotecas program in this country; Ms. Camelo will visit El Salvador to this end in early July.

Finally, on request of the Office of the First Lady (who celebrated her birthday with the ludotecarios at an event in Bogotá on May 28), the project will be extended to include the Systematization of Experiences (methodology, institutional coordination, results and lessons learned) for future application in Colombia and elsewhere.



Photos of Ludotecas

		019	
Title:	Support to the Activities of OFP	Coverage:	Yondó, San Pablo, Cantagallo, Puerto Wilches y Barrancabermeja (Magdalena Medio)
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	8 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	2,827 regular users of the 'comedores' and beneficiaries of micro-credit	Indirect Bens:	3,358 OFP Members, occasional users of the 'comedores' and family members of the credit beneficiaries
Diluted Impact:	Poor residents, particularly women, in Barrancabermeja	Total Budget:	US \$ 104,192
Prog. Contribution:	US \$97,974	Disbursement:	US\$ 52,144
Implementing Agency:	Organización Femenina Popular - OFP	Other Partners:	

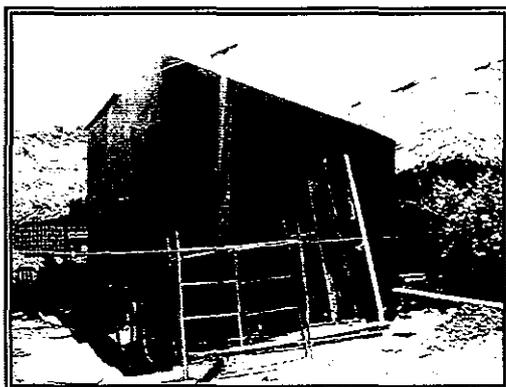
Description & Status: (Approved)

The Popular Women's Organization (hereafter OFP, for its Spanish initials) was founded in 1972 and has grown into one of the largest popular organizations in the high-conflict region of Magdalena Medio and one of the most important women's organizations in the country. In the context of escalating conflict, the organization recognizes and addresses the differentiated impact that armed violence and forced displacement have on women and men and aims to provide special assistance to women affected by conflict. The project has two components: the first works to strengthen the OFP program for neighborhood "soup kitchens," which provide both low-cost nutritional alternatives to poor families as well as opportunities for neighborhood social organization; the second aims to make viable a rotating fund for micro-economic opportunities for the 480 female members of the OFP Cooperative.

The initial focus of the project, according to the priorities laid out by OFP, was the contracting and start of construction activities to improve the buildings that house the "comedores populares." The work was sub-contracted to three different architectural firms to ensure rapid delivery; the first of the kitchens to be completed was the central hub located in the Primero de Mayo neighborhood near the Center for Peaceful Co-Existence. All remaining kitchens were contracted on the 15 of July for immediate implementation.

In the area of income generation, an advisor was contracted by OFP to provide technical assistance to set up the revolving fund; several women from Barrancabermeja traveled to Florencia where IOM is implementing a successful revolving fund with displaced heads of household, mostly women. Both groups commented on this "exchange" in a very positive, enthusiastic manner.

Finally, OFP has found itself under constant pressure from the armed groups and Yolanda Becerra requested an immediate extension to the project to allow for implementation of urgent security measures; the project will provide the coordinating team with funds to leave Barrancabermeja in light of threats and will cover the rent on an apartment in Bogotá (previously paid for my the Ministry of the Interior) to keep down accommodation costs during said temporary displacements to the capital.



Construction in San Pablo and Cantagallo "soup kitchens"

Title:	Center for Peaceful Co-existence in Barrancabermeja	Coverage:	Barrancabermeja, Santander
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Civil Society Participation	Duration:	8 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	20,500 regular users of the Center	Indirect Bens:	40,500 occasional users of the Center
Diluted Impact:		Total Budget:	US \$360,342
Prog. Contribution:	US \$231,240	Disbursement:	US\$11,702
Implementing Agency:	Alcaldía Municipal de Barrancabermeja,	Other Partners:	Corporación Día del Niño, Fundalectura, Entidades del Estado y Junta de Acción de la Comuna 5 de Barrancabermeja

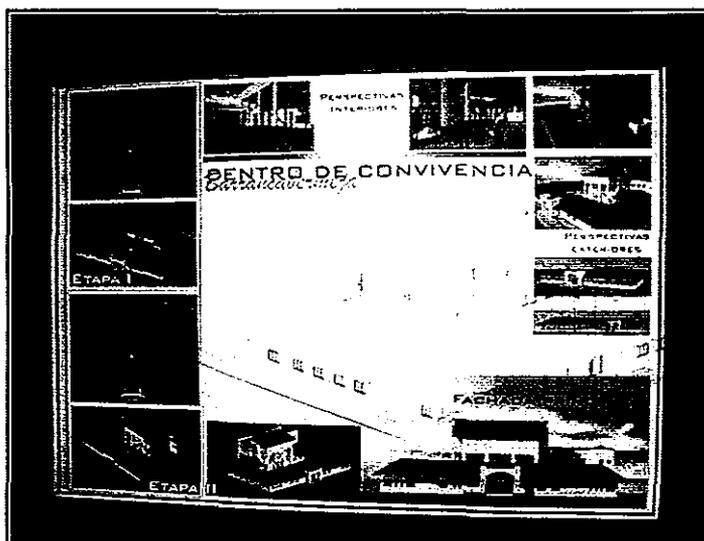
Description & Status: (Approved)

Barrancabermeja is the unofficial capital of a region known as Magdalena Medio, comprised by 29 municipalities of 5 departments, and considered a historical 'hotspot' in the Colombian conflict since the resettlement of hundreds of thousands IDPs here, in the aftermath of La Violencia in the middle of the last century. The long-term effects of such violence tend to erode the social fabric that holds communities, neighborhoods and cities together; Barrancabermeja is not an exception in this regard and is increasingly cited as an example of the "urbanization" of the armed conflict as a result of increased activity of armed groups in the city, the forced displacement of residents from one neighborhood to another and the rising levels of street crime.

This project brings together the municipal administration, regional and national entities of civil society and grassroots organizations in the establishment of a Peaceful Co-Existence Center in one of Barrancabermeja's most marginal neighborhoods, La Comuna 5. The center provides administrative and legal assistance on site, educational opportunities for children, youths and adults and much-needed physical infrastructure and space for grassroots organizing.

In early May, a visit by the United States Ambassador was marked with a ceremony to make official USAID's support to the project and to present the Local Administration Board with a detailed mock-up of the foreseen construction. Having completed all architectural plans and studies for the building, IOM published an invitation for proposals to be received, evaluated and contracted in the month of July. ECOPETROL has been in continuous discussion with the Mayor's Office and IOM regarding a potentially sizable contribution to the project to allow for the construction of a second floor auditorium.

Meanwhile, the Mayor's Office is beginning to work with community organizations to ensure full ownership by neighborhood residents and the citizens of Barrancabermeja of the center; this campaign will involve grassroots meetings and a popular-format pamphlet on Peaceful Co-existence.



Architectural design on Center for Peaceful Coexistence

			021
Title:	Recovery of Social Fabric and Agricultural Development in War-Torn Communities of Cauca	Coverage:	Silvia y Caldone (Cauca)
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Civil Society Participation	Duration:	6 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	1,200 persons	Indirect Bens:	--
Diluted Impact:	2,850 persons	Total Budget:	US \$62,332
Prog. Contribution:	US \$55,163	Disbursement:	US\$26,721
Implementing Agency:	Fundemos	Other Partners:	
Description & Status: (Approved)			
<p>This project was developed in coordination with the Departmental Peace Commissioner of Cauca as a response to the repeated attacks by the FARC on indigenous, peasant communities in Cauca and their efforts to balk the incursion of armed groups into their communities through well-organized acts of civilian resistance. The project itself is based loosely on the VallenPaz project (and incorporates an exchange between the two implementing agencies to ensure technical transfer) and incorporates organization, conflict resolution and reconstruction of social fabric with more immediately beneficial elements of productivity. The program will benefit 1,200 heads of household directly and impact positively on some 2,850 persons who reside in nearby communities.</p> <p>As contractual negotiations were ongoing at the end of the reporting period and on account of renewed violence in the village of Caldone, this project is not scheduled to start until the second month of the next quarter.</p>			

			022
Title:	Land and Conflict in Eastern Antioquia – Research and Action Pilot	Coverage:	Eastern Antioquia
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Civil Society Participation	Duration:	6 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	600	Indirect Bens:	
Diluted Impact:		Total Budget:	US \$78,298
Prog. Contribution:	US \$51,090	Disbursement:	--
Implementing Agency:	Corporación Jurídica Libertad	Other Partners:	Social Solidarity Network, Municipal Committees for Assistance to IDPs

Description & Status: (Approved)

The armed conflict in Colombia is rooted in agrarian disputes in the middle of the last century and continues to center around combat to gain territorial advantages and free access to land. This results in the kind of conflict that aims to remove persons from their land and the rates of displacement in Colombia are now seen not only as a consequence of combat, but as a central purpose of the armed groups. The employment of land as a tool in conflict contributes also to long-term obstacles to reconciliation and re-building peace; as displaced persons and refugees return to their places of origin, they may find that these have been handed over to other groups and that their informal documentation does not guarantee their rights to the land. In several conflicts around the world, this inability to return has created a whole new round of conflict during peace processes.

The Corporación Jurídica is a small NGO, located in Medellín and comprised mostly by young lawyers. Their proposal to address the above land-related problems involves a research component into the use and transfers of land, but also an action component to build capacity among institutions to provide land-titles and resolve land-based disputes. In fact, one of the established indicators for this project is the provision of land titles to no fewer 250 families at-risk of displacement.

Although this project was approved early in the quarter, IOM did not begin contractual negotiations due to limited funds available when taking into account a sizable reserve for the International Seminar described below. Upon reception of an extension to the Strengthening Peace Program, IOM will approve the start of implementation of this project.

Title:	Casa de Justicia – San Vicente del Caguán	Coverage:	San Vicente del Caguán, Florencia
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Civil Society Participation	Duration:	6 months
Direct Beneficiaries:		Indirect Bens:	
Diluted Impact:		Total Budget:	US \$323,010
Prog. Contribution:	US \$256,520	Disbursement:	US\$5,082
Implementing Agency:	Alcaldía Municipal de San Vicente del Caguán	Other Partners:	Ministerio de Justicia, Corporación Día del Niño

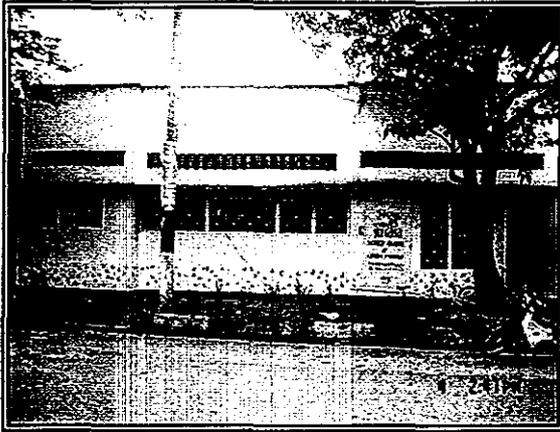
Description & Status: (Approved)

This project follows the well-known model for Justice Houses developed by USAID and implemented in many parts of the country by CHECCHI; due to the high-conflict conditions in San Vicente del Caguán and IOM's permanent presence in the department through a field office for IDP assistance in Florencia, this project was tasked to the Strengthening Peace in Colombia Program.

The Casa will be constructed in the present location of the municipal Cultural Center, located in front of the Mayor's Office on the Municipal Plaza. The design has been completed and signed-off by the Ministry of Justice and the Mayor. IOM has visited the town twice to meet with the municipal staff as well as with other participating organizations, like ICBF and RSS; the Program has also been able to meet with the Mayor several times in Bogotá as he – like 11 other mayors in Caquetá – is unable to spend long periods of time in his municipality on account of increasing pressure and death threats from the FARC.

The Casa will be constructed on a lot measuring 490 m²; to date, all technical studies (hydraulic, sanitary, electric and communications) have been sub-contracted to a Bogotá-based firm, selected through a open bidding process with invitation published in national-circulation newspapers. The Casa will include two floors with floor-to-roof openings to allow for ventilation; the offices will be located mainly on the first floor, while the second floor will include the Cultural Center facilities and a Ludoteca.

The security situation in San Vicente is deteriorating rapidly and has already caused numerous delays, postponed visits and absences of the municipal staff.



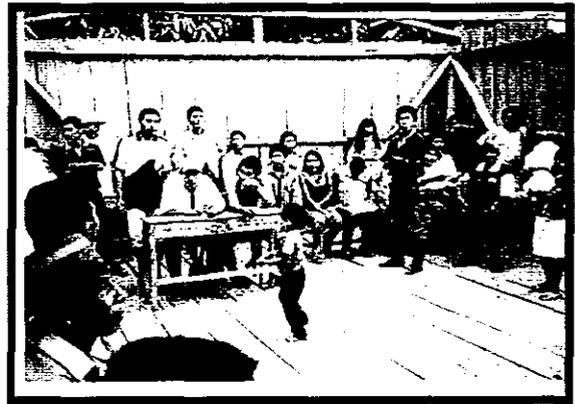
Present space of the "cultural center" where the Casa de Justicia will be constructed

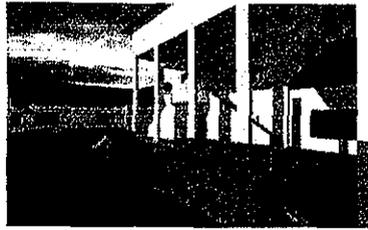
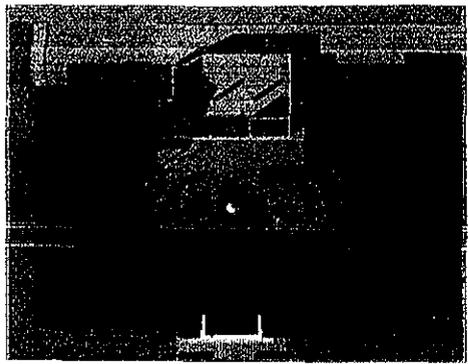
			024
Title:	International Seminar on Negotiation and Reintegration of Ex - Combatants	Coverage:	Bogotá
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Civil Society Participation	Duration:	3 days
Direct Beneficiaries:	100 participants	Indirect Bens:	5,000 involved in peace process
Diluted Impact:	Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$150,000
Prog. Contribution:	US \$150,000	Disbursement:	US\$12,784
Implementing Agency:	IOM	Other Partners:	Ministry of the Interior (Reinsertion Unit); Pearson Peacekeeping Center; World Bank and various Colombian NGOs and research centers
Description & Status: (Postponed)			
<p>The Seminar was developed following a request by the Colombian Government to provide technical assistance to negotiators and other governmental decision-makers on the "do's and don'ts" on demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. IOM worked closely with the High Commissioner's Office and later with Colombian former combatants and civil society leaders to select a panel of national and international experts to inform the incoming government on these processes. In light of the obstacles (later deemed to be temporarily insurmountable) to successful negotiation with the armed groups, it was requested that the seminar include Negotiation rather than focus exclusively on Reintegration.</p> <p>Ultimately this event was postponed on account of the collapse in peace talks with the ELN and the news that key persons from the incoming government of Alvaro Uribe would be out of the country during the programmed dates. Since then, IOM and USAID program staff have met with the incoming High Commissioner and his transition team to discuss the event and re-define priorities for its realization in September.</p>			

**Community Strengthening for Peace, Recovery and
Conflict Resolution (VALLENPAZ)**

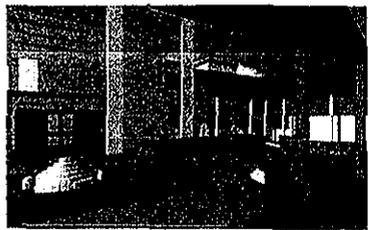


**Community Strengthening for Development, Indigenous Culture and
Conflict Resolution**



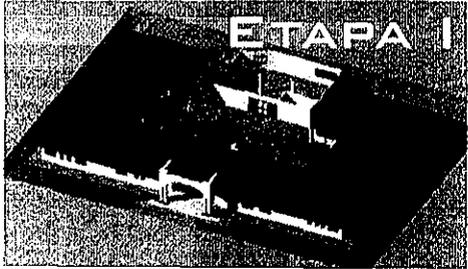


PERSPECTIVAS INTERIORES

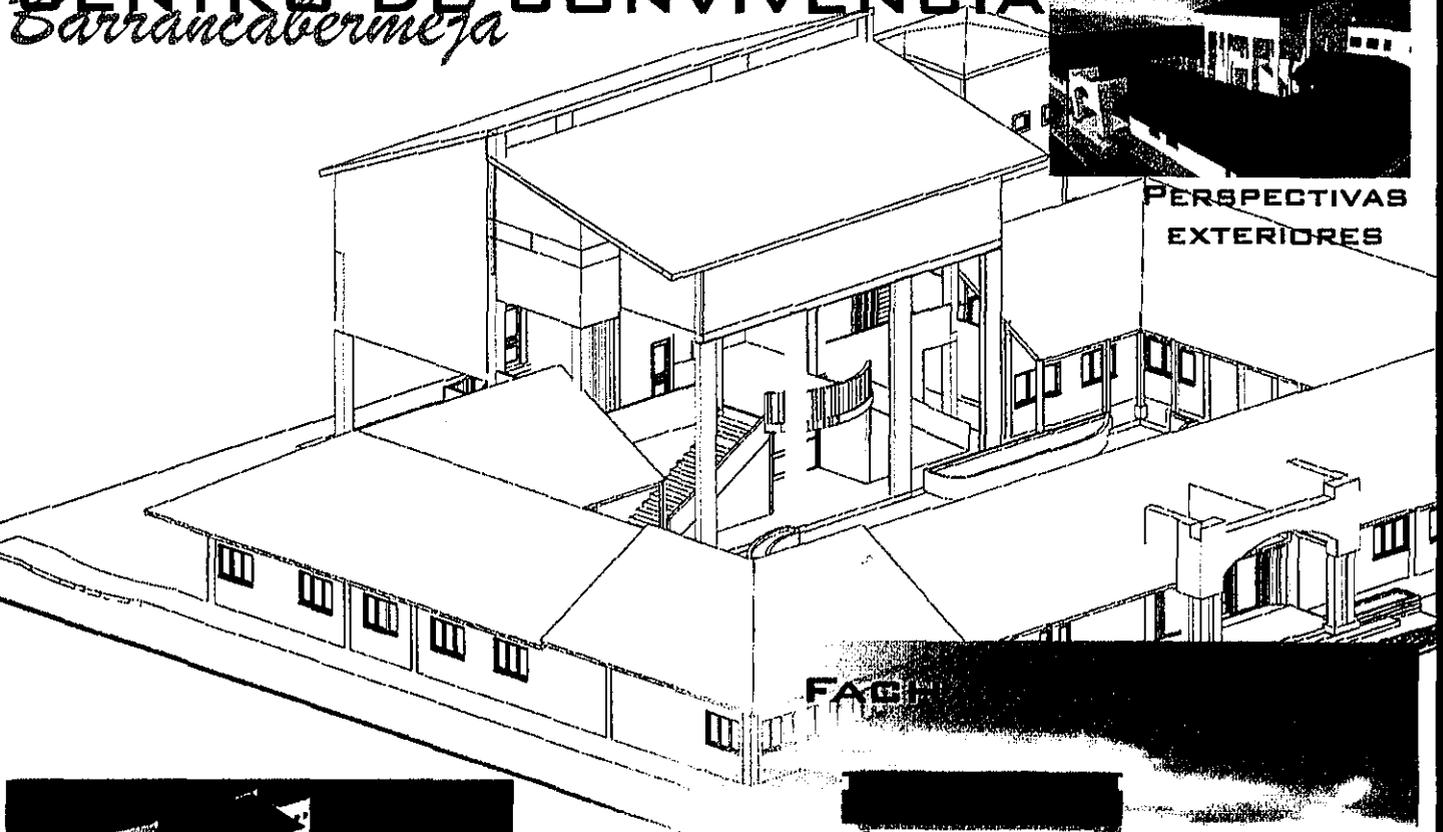


CENTRO DE CONVIVENCIA

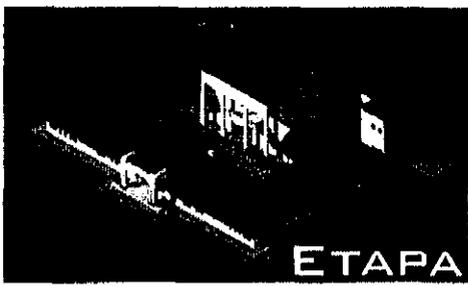
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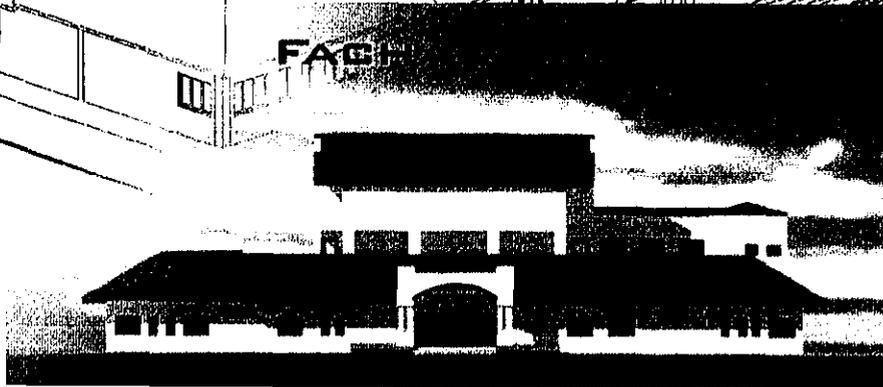
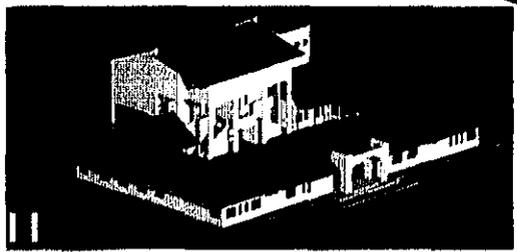
ETAPA I



PERSPECTIVAS EXTERIORES

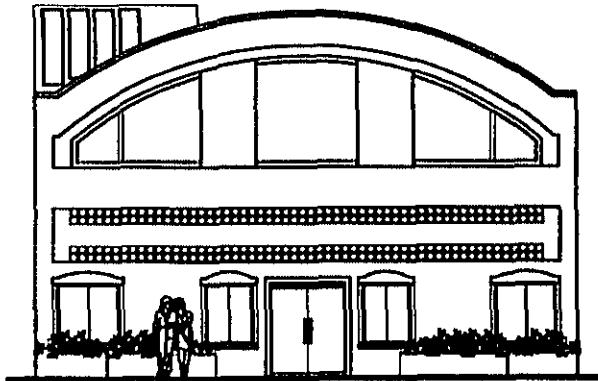
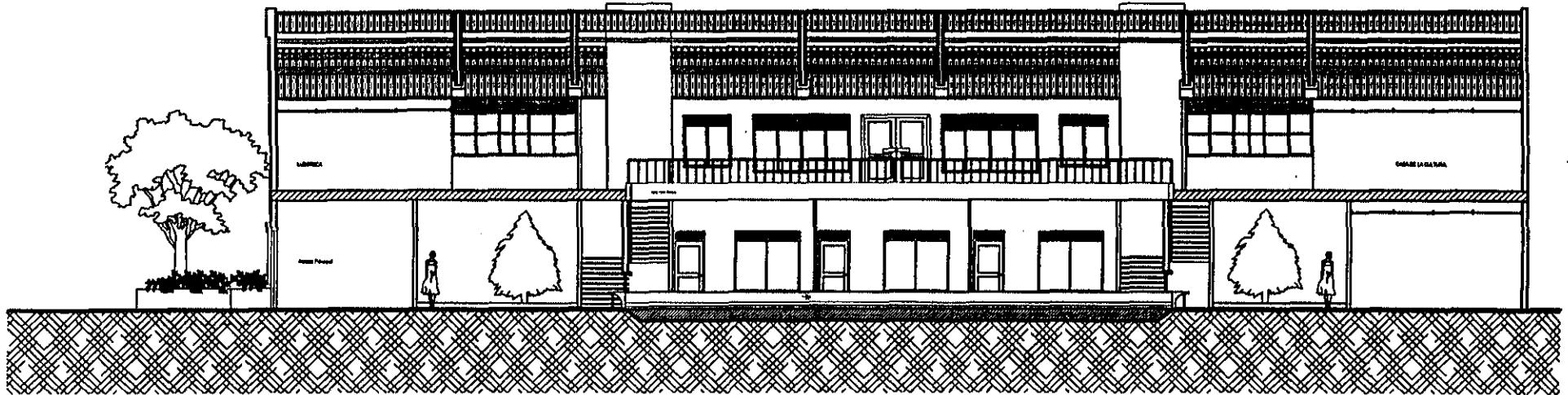


ETAPA II

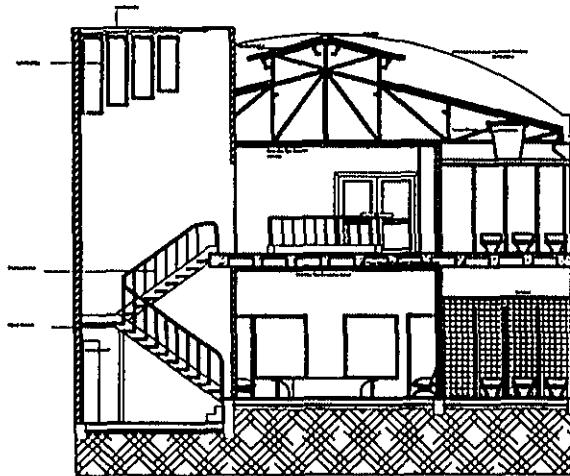


FAC

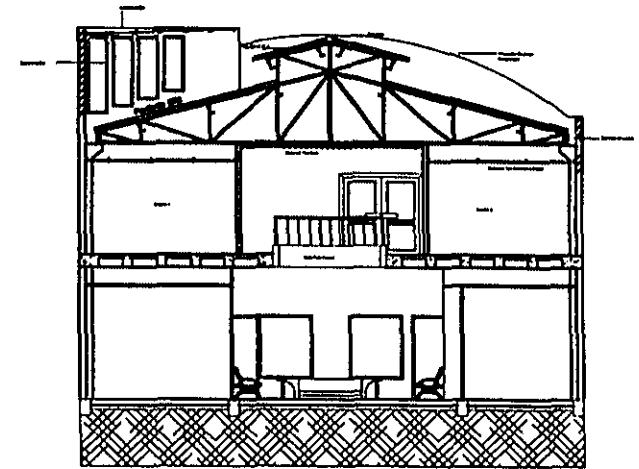
CORTE LONGITUDINAL B-B'



FACHADA PRINCIPAL



CORTE TRANSVERSAL A-A"



CORTE TRANSVERSAL A2

O. I. M. ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LAS MIGRACIONES	PROYECTO: CASA DE PAZ JUSTICIA Y CULTURA SAN VICENTE DEL CAGUAN	CONTIENE: CORTE LONGITUDINAL B-B'	DISEÑO: CAROLINA ORTIZ PEDRAZA ARQUITECTO	PROPIETARIO: MUNICIPIO DE SAN VICENTE DEL CAGUAN	Vo Bo: APROBADO	DIBUJO: CAROLINA ORTIZ PEDRAZA	FECHA: ABRIL DE 2002
	ESCALA: 1: 50						

Handwritten signature or mark.