

# ***STRENGTHENING PEACE PROGRAM***

## ***23<sup>rd</sup>***

***Quarterly Report  
January - March 2007  
514-A00-01-00217-00***



Citizen Coexistence Center in Baranoa, Atlántico  
Digital image and real construction work



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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### 1. Implementation Summary

During the reporting period, the program continued to monitor nine projects: two with the Colombian Government, four Citizen Coexistence Centers, and three Civil Society projects. The project in Cajibío (Cauca) with the Government of Colombia was completed this quarter.

#### **Implementation**

*To date, the Program has supported 92 initiatives as follows:*

- ✓ *A total of 24 institutional projects have been implemented to strengthen government institutions such as: the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, the Presidential Advisory Council for Special Programs – Office of the First Lady, Ministry of the Interior and Justice, and the Vice presidency of the Republic – “Observatorio de Minas” (national landmine monitoring entity).*
- ✓ *With regard to municipal administrations, 13 projects have been implemented for the construction and launching of Citizen Coexistence Centers.*
- ✓ *Regarding civil society initiatives, 54 projects have been implemented through 49 NGOs.*
- ✓ *With the termination of the Program in mind, a publication is to be made containing: i) Final Report of the Program, with a description of its components, ii) a section where important actors at national level will be invited to write an article regarding peace in Colombia and the impact of the Program, iii) a section on lessons learned to serve as a support tool for other peace initiatives in the country.*

#### **Description of the initiatives being executed.**

##### **Colombian Government**

- ❖ *Self-determination project: the construction of the second tract of the highway in the jurisdiction of Ortega, municipality of Cajibío, Cauca was successfully completed this quarter.*
- ❖ *The program continues to assist the Presidential Council for Special Programs by following up on the revolving funds and the implementation of the IEC strategy (information, education and communication) and by evaluating the municipal intervention plans, which are being developed with the mayors' offices and were absorbed by the Integrated Humanitarian Assistance Support to IDPs and other Vulnerable Groups in Colombia.*
- ❖ *With the “Observatorio de Minas” (national landmine monitoring entity), training continued to be provided to Mayors' Offices and Governors' Offices and a presentation of the decentralized information management model and the implementation strategy was done before civil society and international organizations.*
- ❖ *The agreement for “Golombiao, el Juego de la Paz” was signed end of January, and the activities of this project began February 1<sup>st</sup>. It is expected to be finished by the end of July.*

*In conclusion, 24 projects have been supported; 22 projects have concluded and 2 projects are being implemented.*

## **Citizen Coexistence Centers**

- ❖ The Construction Company CONSEING LTDA was chosen to build the Citizen Coexistence Center in Tibú after meeting all the requirements and submitting the best proposal, both technically and economically. Construction began January 23, 2007 and it is programmed to be finished by the first half of July 2007.
- ❖ Likewise, CONSORCIO COIMEG LTDA was chosen to build the Citizen Coexistence Center in Arauquita; the contract was signed in January and the technical work began in February.
- ❖ The construction of the Citizen Coexistence Center in Baranoa (Atlántico) will be completed in the month of June. The inauguration and delivery date will be agreed upon with the Ministry of Interior and Justice, the Governor's Office of Atlántico and the Mayor's Office of Baranoa.
- ❖ The construction of the Citizen Coexistence Center of La Dorada, Caldas began in January 2007, and it is programmed to be delivered in July 2007.

## **Civil Society**

- ❖ A total of 54 civil society initiatives have been supported through 49 NGOs, out of which 52 have concluded and two are being implemented (Restorative Justice, Coexistence and Peace in Colombia and Let's Cultivate Peace in the Family)

## **2. Financial Report**

- ❖ A total of USD\$ 18.862.827 from USAID funds have been allocated to 92 projects, out of which USD\$16.986.474 have been disbursed.
- ❖ The program has also received US\$9.582.819 in counterpart contributions, or 35% of the Program's total. In the case of the coexistence centers, counterparts have made in-kind contributions (land), as is the case of the municipalities, and monetary contributions, as is the case of Acción Social, Presidential Council for the construction of Citizen Coexistence Centers. Organizations and private sector entities have also contributed, as is the case of VallenPaz, Alvaralice, Asocolflores, "El Golombiao", The Game for peace and Dusakawi.

## **II. CONTEXT**

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Government representatives continue in the negotiations with the "Ejército de Liberación Nacional" –ELN- (National Liberation Army) in La Habana, Cuba; the main goal of these negotiations is the ceasefire of May 1st, 2007 and to move forward on a "base agreement" on two main issues, peace and civil society participation in the process.

It is estimated that the ELN has between 2,500 and 5,000 soldiers in its ranks, which makes it the second largest illegal armed group (IAG) after the "Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia" –FARC- (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). It is noteworthy that during the last few months these two groups have had several confrontations, which could affect the negotiation process. In the Departments of Cauca, Nariño and Arauca, these two groups have been having territorial disputes since 2005, to control the corresponding income sources, including drug trafficking. These confrontations have already caused between 300 and 500 deaths, most of them civilians.

Certain events of President Uribe's government add up to this adverse environment, which include multiple reports that warn about the rearmament of paramilitary groups, the active presence of dissident armed groups that did not demobilize during the demobilization process, and new illegal armed groups linked to organized crime and drug trafficking. This is an alarming panorama, as the rearmament has affected local security and public order, and has promoted violent acts against civilian population.

According to the information system of the “Fundación Seguridad y Democracia” (Security and Democracy Foundation) between July 2006 and February 2007, 78 criminal organizations have rearmed and have occupied those territories previously occupied by now demobilized groups.

Several political events occurred during the first three months of the year, which not only affected the peace process initiated with the “Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia” –AUC-, but also the political class at national level. In the month of January, paramilitary leaders made public a agreement signed by 11 congressmen, two governors, three mayors, several councilmen and public servants in 2001. This document proves the relationship between paramilitary groups and the political class in Colombia. In addition, Chancellor María Consuelo Araujo resigned to her position, due to the involvement of some of her family members in para-political issues. Fernando Araujo Perdomo was chosen as the new Chancellor; he was kidnapped by the FARC for six years, and recovered his freedom two months before taking up his new post.

Finally, the President of the United States, George W. Bush, made a one-day visit to Colombia. He arrived in Bogotá to meet with President Uribe, and they discussed issues such as the Free Trade Agreement, the fight against drug trafficking, para-politics and migration of Colombians to the United States, among others.

### III. SUMMARY CHART -- PROGRAM STATUS

The program’s status is summarized in the following table, which refers to on-going projects. The table includes project name and number, implementing institution, contribution made by the Strengthening Peace Program, total budget, disbursements through March 31, 2007, direct and indirect beneficiaries, extended impact (sustainability) and project initiation and termination dates.

The total allocated for the 92 projects is US\$ **18.862.827**.

#### On Going-Projects

Project #	Name	Implementing Partner	Peace Program contribute	Total Disbursement	Beneficiaries		Starting Date	Completion Date
			USD	USD	Direct	Indirect		
PG3-065	Program to promote Rigths and Peace Building Networks	First Lady Office	549.729	573.322	2450	25,000 Habitants	04-Ene	07-Ago
PG3-073	Restorative Justice, Coexistence and Peace in Colombia	Vallenpaz-Alvarallice	1.762.000	1.741.475	1,000 Students and 75 professors of Law and Political Science, 300 youngsters in district 4 in Cali, and 2,600 people who live in rural areas	400 families of Cali and 650 families who live in rural areas in the municipalities targetes by the project	06-Ago	07-Ago
PG3-074	Let's Cultivate Peace in the Family	Asocolflores	900.000	660.874	21,000 workers in the 32 municipalites targeted by the Project.	4,200 Families	04-Oct	07-Sep
PG3-085	Anti-personal Mines Observatory	Vice-presidency of the Republic	77.774	71.938	225	500	05-Mar	07-Feb
PG3-086	El Golombiao, The Game of the Peace	Presidencial Program Colombia Joven	40.000	7.913	26,400 Youngsters	10,000 Beneficiaries	06-Ene	07-Jul
PG3-092	Coexistence Center in Baranoa	Mayor's office	148.000	97.896	20,000 Habitants		06-Ene	07-Jun
PG3-093	Coexistence Center in La Dorada	Mayor's office	148.000	106.728	20,000 Habitants		06-Ene	07-Jun
PG3-094	Coexistence Center in Arauquita	Mayor's office	148.000	99.996	20,000 Habitants		06-Feb	07-Jun
PG3-095	Coexistence Center in Tibu	Mayor's office	154.000	105.238	20,000 Habitants		06-Feb	07-Jun
<b>Total General (usd)</b>			<b>3.927.503</b>	<b>3.465.380</b>				

## IV. PROGRAM STATUS BY COMPONENT

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### 4.1. Support to the Government of Colombia

**Objective:** Provide assistance and accompaniment to several institutions of the GOC in order to both strengthen their management capacity and support their work with civil society organizations.

#### Institutions

- ◊ Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP).
- ◊ Presidential Advisory Council for Special Programs (CPPE) – Office of the First Lady.
- ◊ Office of the Vice President – “Observatorio de Minas” (national landmine monitoring entity) – “Colombia Jóven” Presidential Program.

#### Ongoing Projects

##### 4.1.1 Office of the High Commissioner for Peace – OACP – PG3-043

Implements projects to support the community - “self-determination” (completed this quarter)- Follow-up and Monitoring System - Supports peace negotiations.

##### 4.1.2 Presidential Advisory Council for Special Programs (CPPE)– Office of the First Lady- PG3-065

Program for the Promotion of Rights and Peace Building Networks / Strengthen the CPPE.

##### 4.1.3. Office of the Vice President – “Observatorio de Minas” (national landmine monitoring entity)-PG3-085 – El Golombiao: The Game of Peace PG3-086

Decentralization of the Information Management System and Comprehensive Assistance to the Population.

Incorporation of peaceful coexistence practices in the daily lives of youths, using soccer as a pedagogical tool.

##### 4.1.4. Citizen Coexistence Centers

Program for the construction of areas of encounter where the community has access to alternative justice mechanisms through local institutions, and to programs and initiatives that promote and encourage civic values, coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

#### 4.1.1. Office of the High Commissioner for Peace - OACP

##### PG3-043- Implement projects to support the community - “Self-determination”

**Objective:** Promote and/or support initiatives generated by the different municipalities aimed at preventing armed violence and strengthening local governance and coexistence.

#### **Goals:**

- ⇒ Strengthen interaction between municipal authorities and community.
- ⇒ Strengthen citizen participation in decision making processes associated to public issues.
- ⇒ Strengthen the community to generate projects with an emphasis on coexistence.
- ⇒ Improve peaceful conflict resolution practices.
- ⇒ Provide training on conflict negotiations to stakeholders and organizations involved in the process.
- ⇒ Include coexistence issues in municipal work plans.

**PG3-043A Municipality of Ortega – Department of Cauca**

**Objective:** Complete the Dinde-Ortega highway  
**Geographical Coverage:** Cajibío, Cauca  
**Beneficiaries:** 3000 inhabitants  
**Project Completion Date:** February 2007

Taking advantage of the Summer season, the roadbed was completed the first days of February. Progress was made on the construction of the road from the “Carrizal” bridge, Km.13+000 to a point called “La Glorieta”, Km. 17+000. Improvements were made to the road for one more Km. (Km. 18+000), over the Ortega river, which was the goal of the project.

The Mayor’s Office, has failed to install the sewage system for the road and recent rains have affected it. In specific sectors of the road, water has accumulated and damaged the material, thus impeding the circulation of vehicles.

The community has done as much maintenance work to the road as possible: they clean the ditches and landslides manually and build wooden sewers to prevent water from damming up.

When the project was finalized, the beneficiaries wrote thank you notes to the donor and IOM, with comments on how the road, which took two years to build, has improved their lives.

**NOTES FROM BENEFICIARIES:**

**William Angel Quíra**

“The road brought us progress and rest, because in the past we suffered a lot because everything was too far and there was a lot of insecurity; today there’s tranquility and freedom. Thank you very much.”

**Juan Pablo Guacheta (10 years old)**

“I am very happy because there is a market and you can buy and sell things”.

**Briyi Zulami Sánchez (15 years old)**

“USAID/IOM’s support is very important for our village, because in the past we were very poor because of the violence; today, our quality of life has improved as well as our transportation means. We still lack many things, but with your support and our efforts we will get ahead and have a better future.”

**Euclides Guacheta (40 years old)**

“Ortega has changed a lot because people are working. Our desire is for the road to be finished because agriculture is very important, as are the roads to transport the products. Thank you.”

**Yina Marcela (13 years old)**

“...may dreams of rest and tranquility come true...”

**Diva Sánchez (24 years old)**

“I am very thankful with the State and USAID/IOM, because in spite the fact that I lost my family in the war, we have peace now; the State has accompanied us in this process, and has brought us rest. We want to work but we need resources and the completion of the road.”

#### 4.1.2.Presidential Advisory Council for Special Programs (CPPE)-Office of the First Lady

#### **PG3- 065 Program to Promote Rights and Peace Building Networks / Strengthening the CPPE**

**Objectives:** **Peace Building Networks:** Contribute to prevent pregnancies in girls and adolescents and to promote sexual and reproductive health rights at departmental and municipal levels through social awareness campaigns, institutional strengthening and improvement of living standards.

**Geographic Coverage:** Bolívar, Cesar, Antioquia, Quindío, Risaralda, Magdalena, Putumayo, Guainía, Guaviare, Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Putumayo, Cauca, Santander, San Andrés and Providencia.

**Beneficiaries:** Entities and organizations at national level that receive technical assistance from the Advisory Council for Special Programs.  
The beneficiary population of the projects directly implemented by the Advisory Council or other implementing entities.

**Completion Date:** September 2007

For the project “Promoción de Derechos y Redes Constructoras de Paz” (Promotion of Rights and Peace Building Networks), this quarter four contracts were issued for organizational advisors who will follow up on income generation initiatives at local level; contracts have a duration of four months.

Another advisor was also hired for the project, but his work is related to organizational assistance to income generation initiatives and assistance to social support networks, which are just being instated in the municipalities of: Anzá, Liborina, Ituango, San Jerónimo and Sopetrán of the Department of Antioquia.

To date, the strategy has been strengthened in the municipalities and the entities members of the networks show a high level of commitment. There are several interesting cases such as those of people that, with the help of the revolving fund, have managed to expand their businesses and now have contacts abroad to export their products. Likewise, some beneficiaries have “stepped up” to Banco Agrario and in the case of the municipalities of El Carmen de Bolívar, San Juan and San Jacinto, a regional business network is being formed.

The current status of the revolving fund is:

Department	Municipality	Micro Credits	Direct Beneficiaries	Loans	Portfolio Recovery %	Portfolio Recovery US\$
Bolívar	Carmen de Bolívar	24	89	3.043	39,61%	\$ 1.311
	Cartagena	69	94	10.539	86,00%	\$ 1.584
	Calamar	10	52	3.043	68,19%	\$ 2.126
	Mahates	12	59	3.043	47,00%	\$ 1.213
	San Jacinto	8	56	3.043	38,19%	\$ 1.250
	San Juan de N.	14	40	3.043	50,46%	\$ 1.151
	Santa Rosa del Sur	18	36	3.043	95,00%	\$ 2.668
	Simití	15	54	3.493	61,00%	\$ 3.095
	Turbana	13	37	3.043	45,00%	\$ 1.505
	Marialabaja	44	90	3.043	70,00%	\$ 1.630
	Morales	30	104	4.478	100,00%	\$ 957
	Regidor	20	40	4.348	78,00%	\$ 442
	Zambrano	23	36	3.043	56,09%	\$ 1.568

Department	Municipality	Micro Credits	Direct Beneficiaries	Loans	Portfolio Recovery %	Portfolio Recovery US\$
Bolívar	Arjona	21	50	2.174	67,00%	\$ 1.246
	Magangue	24	131	4.348	71,00%	\$ 712
	Margarita	43	244	4.348	69,20%	\$ 501
	San Fernando	53	268	4.348	98,40%	\$ 884
	Achi	39	215	4.348	100,00%	\$ 306
	Cantagallo	20	50	4.348	90,00%	\$ 0
	San Pablo	26	60	4.348		\$ 0
	Altos del Rosario	31	120	4.348	80,00%	\$ 1.281
	Talaigua Nuevo	44	225	4.348	74,35%	\$ 1.174
	Turbaco	19	43	2.609	46,00%	\$ 883
	Mompox	34	174	4.348	100,00%	\$ 393
	Pinillos	58	120	4.348	100,00%	\$ 0
	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>712</b>	<b>2487</b>	<b>99.163</b>	
Cesar	Aguachica	18	90	3.043	77,77%	\$ 1.522
	Gamarra	24	80	3.957	80,28%	\$ 2.444
	Astrea	10	20	1.522	70,00%	\$ 739
	La Gloria	28	100	5.174	85,70%	\$ 943
	San Alberto	24	60	3.878	66,66%	\$ 2.745
	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>104</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>17.574</b>	
Santander	Barrancabermeja	11	40	4.189	22,00%	\$ 872
	Puerto Wilches	9	30	2.474	100,00%	\$ 1.270
	Lebrija	22	35	4.348		\$ 0
	San Vicente de Chcurí	16	32	3.913	100,00%	\$ 1.127
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>14.924</b>		<b>\$ 3.269</b>
Antioquia	Puerto Berrío	16	22	3.043	80,00%	\$ 2.032
	Santuario	8	34	2.261	90,00%	\$ 378
	Salgar	10	40	5.105	100,00%	\$ 620
	Dabeiba	24	79	4.348	100,00%	\$ 435
	Liborina	15	69	2.949		0
	Girardota	13	61	4.348	80,00%	\$ 450
	Chigorodó	17	95	4.348		\$ 0
	Entrerrios	9	49	2.543	100,00%	\$ 415
	Donmatías	18	26	4.348		-
	San Jerónimo	18	79	4.130		0
	La Pintada	16	82	4.748	75,00%	\$ 883
	Betulia	16	61	4.380	68,00%	\$ 470
	Apartadó	14	54	4.348		0
	Angelopolis	6	20	2.144	98,00%	\$ 609
	Montebello	10	33	4.348		\$ 435
	Ituango	9	95	4.348		\$ 0
	Santa Barbara	18	87	4.404	90,00%	\$ 432
	Puerto Triunfo	2	23	1.121		0
	La Ceja	12	81	4.348		0
	Segovia	10	45	4.348		0
	Caucasia	34	151	4.304		0
	San Pedro de U.	12	54	2.826		0
	Anza	15	70	4.130		0
	Sopetran	19	100	4.000		0
Yondó	21	40	2.891	100,00%	\$ 2.199	
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>362</b>	<b>1550</b>	<b>94.111</b>		<b>\$ 9.358</b>
Providencia	Providencia	5	8	4.696	60,00%	\$ 1.043
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.696</b>		<b>\$ 1.043</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1241</b>	<b>4.532</b>	<b>230.467</b>		<b>\$ 49.942</b>
<b>Revolving Funds: 60</b>			<b>Interest Rate: 1,5 %</b>			
<b>Direct Beneficiaries: 4.492</b>			<b>Amount: US\$ 100 - US\$ 700</b>			
<b>Micro Credits: 1.226</b>			<b>Term: 6 - 9 - 12 months</b>			

**4.1.3. Office of the Vice President – “Observatorio de Minas” (national landmine monitoring entity)-PG3-085 – El Golombiao: The Game of Peace PG3-086**

**No. PG3-085 Decentralization of the Information Management System – Integral Action Against Mines – Landmines Observatory of the Presidency of the Republic**

<b>Objective:</b>	Contribute to strengthen the Information Management System “Integral Action Against Mines” (AICM in Spanish) at regional level regarding feedback procedures, training implementing partners, updating and verifying information, and following up and reporting on the information obtained from the Information System for Action Against Mines (IMSMA in Spanish)
<b>Geographic Coverage:</b>	Arauca, Casanare, Cauca, Cesar, Chocó, Norte de Santander, Santander, Valle del Cauca, Caquetá, Tolima, Magdalena, Boyacá, Putumayo, Guaviare and Vaupés.
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Direct: 225 functionaries from the Governors’ Offices and social organizations. Extended impact: Inhabitants from the beneficiary departments.
<b>Completion Date:</b>	April 2007

The “Observatorio de Minas Antipersona” (national landmine monitoring entity) of the Presidency of the Republic requested a time extension of the agreement until April 30, 2007, and it was approved. This was due to some difficulties (public order issues, personnel changes, etc.) encountered by this entity which have impeded the delivery of equipments to Governors’ Offices and Landmine Departmental Committees.

Therefore, the equipments for Guaviare, Chocó and Tolima will be delivered in April, together with photographic cammeras. The expense for the photographic equipment replaces the amount that was to be spent on the publication of the glossary; The Program financed the elaboration of the glossary, but because it will be printed and published after the project has concluded the Program can no longer finance the publication. However, in spite the fact that the publication will be done with government resources, it will mention all the entities that collaborated in the project.

This project will end next quarter and the following activities reflect the progress made this quarter:

- ◆ A document was elaborated on Decentralization Guidelines for Information management.
- ◆ The geographical priorities for the Education on Risk project were identified, taking into consideration the Basic Needs study, which shows the departments with most incidents during the last three years.
- ◆ A National Glossary was elaborated with basic terms for action against mines in Colombia; the final version will be submitted next quarter.
- ◆ Training workshops were held on the new information system MISMA, with the participation of public servants from Caquetá, Cauca, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Arauca, Casanare, Guaviare, Santander, Vaupés.

## No. PG3-086 “El Golombiao, el Juego de la Paz” (the Game of Peace)

<b>Objectives:</b>	Youths incorporate peaceful coexistence practices into their daily lives, thus influencing the communities' perception of them, using soccer as a pedagogical tool.
<b>Geographic Coverage:</b>	60 municipalities from the departments of Nariño, Cauca, Putumayo, Magdalena Medio, Antioquia, Chocó, Sucre, Bolívar, Córdoba.
<b>Accumulated Beneficiaries:</b>	Direct: 26.000 youths Indirect: 100.000 inhabitants of the beneficiary municipalities
<b>Completion Date:</b>	July 2007

**Other Alliances:** United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF, German Cooperation, Agency -- GTZ, Departmental administrations, Mayors' Offices, Bavaria, Augura.

In the month of February, the Project Fact Card was finalized after “Colombia Joven” and IOM established a cooperation agreement. Afterwards, six project advisors were contracted for three months with possible extension.

Among the activities of the Project, the National Meeting of the Technical Team was carried out on February 12-24, 2007, in the city of Bogotá with 8 participants (5 women and 3 men). The main objective was for the National Coordinator, Regional Advisors, National Advisors, and the “Colombia Joven” technical teams to define goals and strategies for the second phase of “El Golombiao” (February-June 2007).

This objective was satisfactorily met and the main recommendations were:

1. It is necessary to go over the responsibilities acquired by the members of the team taking into consideration the dates and, in some cases, clarifying their role in the regions.
2. Define responsibilities and activities to be implemented in the regions by June 30, as well as the responsibilities with the other components of the “Colombia Jóven” Presidential Program.
3. Use the minutes of the National Meeting as a tool for the Project team.
4. It is important to define common terms, especially regarding sustainability, to regulate the messages delivered by the team to the regions (allies and local teams).

IOM participated in the workshop by presenting the crosscutting issues which are pertinent to the Project: gender, ethnic groups and sustainability. The recommendations received from the Advisors on these issues will be implemented in each region.

On the other hand, the Second National Workshop was held March 19-21, and the main issues discussed were:

- Crosscutting issues and the design of the regional sustainability strategy, work through alliances and transference processes, as well as definition the role of the “Colombia Jóven” Presidential Program and the responsibilities of the Regional Advisors.
- The elaboration of the strategy to counsel implementing partners on sustainability, based on previously designed guidelines, the results of the first workshop held in February and the experiences of each Regional Advisor.
- The “Access to Governors' Offices” strategy.
- Accompaniment on and design of the advising route for each region according to previously established guidelines and goals and to the progress made and the contributions of each of the Regional Advisors.

#### 4.1.4. Citizen Coexistence Centers

##### **General Objective:**

Design, build, furnish and coordinate the construction and short, mid and long term sustainability of the Citizen Coexistence Centers (CCC) in order to strengthen the state's institutional presence in complex areas providing direct assistance to the community and developing educational strategies to prevent violence and promote peaceful coexistence.

##### **What is a Citizen Coexistence Center**

*The Citizen Coexistence Centers are areas of encounter where the community has access to alternative justice mechanisms through local institutions, and to programs and initiatives that promote and encourage civic values, coexistence and peaceful conflict resolution.*

<b>Municipalities where the program is being implemented</b>	
<b>MUNICIPALITIES</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>
Barrancabermeja	Santander
San Vicente del Caguán	Caquetá
San Gil	Santander
Ocaña	Norte de Santander
Aguachica	Cesar
Cantagallo	Sur de Bolivar
Sonson	Oriente Antioqueño
Leticia	Amazonas
Magangue	Bolívar
Baranoa	Atlántico
Dorada	Caldas
Araucita	Arauca
Tibú	Norte de Santander

##### **NOTE:**

As per Quarterly Report # 19, the Ministry of Interior and Justice cancelled the construction of a Citizen Coexistence Center in Pueblo Bello, Cesar, as it was not possible for the Mayor's Office of Cesar to contribute to the Project. The funds programmed for this project were reassigned by the donor.

##### **4.1.4.1. New Citizen Coexistence Centers**

##### **No. PG3-092 Citizen Coexistence Center in Baranoa, Atlántico**

During this quarter, 60% of the construction work of the Coexistence Center was completed and the delivery date will be extended 40 more days, due to technical difficulties and the complexity of the construction. To date, the concrete structure is being finished and the cover structure is being assembled. At the same time, progress is being made on masonry work and the installation of the electric and water and sanitation systems.

This quarter, three monitoring visits were carried out, with the assistance of the Governor's Office of Atlántico and the Municipal Administration, who are in charge of supervising the construction work. In the meeting held March 8, the possibility of obtaining donations for the recreation room and the library is being analyzed by the Ministry of Culture; this would allow the private sector to participate

in the project, and the resources that were assigned to those line items could be used to finish the construction work.



View of the Project



Auditorium and Administrative offices

### **No. PG3-093 Citizen Coexistence Center in Arauquita, Arauca**

IOM's technical team, Accion Social and the Mayor's Office of Arauquita jointly selected "Consorcio Coimeg, Ltda." from the city of Arauquita, to build the Center. A monitoring visit was carried out on February 22, in order to sign the agreement and begin the construction of the Center. Due to lack of communication between the Mayor's Office and the Governor's Office, the firm in charge of leveling and compressing the lot, did not do it in accordance with the designs presented by the architect of the project. However, as it was the Mayor's Office responsibility to deliver the lot in the stipulated conditions, they assigned resources to finish the leveling work and construction began March 5, 2007.

In spite of this, the project has not fallen behind schedule; currently, the line items being executed are: foundation, masonry work and columns. In this project, masonry work is critical.

In the last monitoring visit, it was determined that the contractor is complying with the contract. Regarding safety, construction workers are fully insured. It is worth highlighting that a woman is part of the working crew.



Construction site



Concrete for the foundation

### **No. PG3-094 Citizen Coexistence Center in La Dorada, Caldas**

This project began the last week of January, but due to difficulties with the structural designs and with the elevation of the outside sewage water collector, work was suspended the second week of February and it was reinitiated 19 days later, as soon as the problems were solved. Currently, 35% of the project is complete.

The Mayor's Office has informed that a total of 2500 books were donated to be part of the library, but the project still needs tables, chairs and bookshelves. The Mayor's Office will be in charge of obtaining this furniture or having it made. Regarding the recreation room, the Mayor's Office will negotiate with Acción Social or other entities donations for this area. The project will be delivered in July 2007.



Foundation - Auditorium



Masonry work in the offices

**No. PG3-095 Citizen Coexistence Center in Tibú, Norte de Santander**

Construction of this Center began in February. The meeting to sign the construction initiation certificate took place in the Mayor's Office of Tibú, with the presence of representatives from Acción Social, Dr. Bernardo Betancourt, the Mayor of Tibú and other functionaries.

Currently, the concrete structure and the underground water tank are being finished, and the contractor is moving forward on masonry work and water and sanitation systems. No major inconveniences have come up, thus the project will be delivered on time.

The possibility of obtaining donations for the library and the recreation room from the private sector is being analyzed, following the example of the other Centers.



Outside view of the construction site



Assembly of the concrete structure

#### 4.1.4.2 Summary Chart - beneficiaries per Center

Citizen Coexistence Center	Starting Date	Beneficiaries Jan - Mar 2007
BARRANCABERMEJA (Santander)	June, 2003	13.553
SAN VICENTE DEL CAGÚAN (Caquetá)	July, 2003	61.182
SAN GIL (Santander)	December, 2003	8.247
AGUACHICA (Cesar)	March, 2004	10.042
CANTAGALLO (Bolívar)	May, 2004	10.040
MAGANGUE (Bolívar)	July, 2006	33.154
LETICIA (Amazonas)	April, 2006	4.363
OCAÑA (Norte de Santander)	December, 2004	3.804
SONSÓN (Antioquia)	November, 2005	6.399
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>150.784</b>

#### 4.2. Support to Civil Society Initiatives

**Objective:** Develop innovative peace building models to promote leadership and improve the population's attitude.

##### Support Strategies

- Victims and vulnerable population
- Children and adolescents
- Dissemination of information and the use of alternative media
- Income improvement

**Summary:** Support has been provided to 54 projects through 49 NGOs; 52 have been concluded and 2 are still being implemented.

**No. PG3-073 Restorative Justice, Coexistence and Peace in Colombia, Counterpart:** "Vallenpaz" Corporation, "AlvarAlice" Foundation, "Paz y Bien" Foundation.

**Objective:** To Join efforts to develop the project "Restorative Justice, Coexistence and Peace in Colombia", through three components: **Academic Component** which seeks to strengthen the capacity of the academic sector (universities) in the country to incorporate and handle Restorative Justice concepts and practices; the **Urban Component** which seeks to decrease violence and promote the principles and practices of restorative justice; the **Rural Component** which aims to create and consolidate centers for coexistence, peace and justice in rural areas afflicted by the armed conflict.

**Geographical Coverage:** Cauca, Valle del Cauca

**Beneficiaries:** **Direct:** 120.000 people.

**Indirect:** 200.000 inhabitants of the beneficiary municipalities.

**Completion Date:** September 2007

### Academic Component

During the first term of 2007, the following students at Javeriana University in Cali are part of the Restorative Justice project:

- ❖ A total of seven Psychology students from the courses of Intervention in Social Psychology I and Sythesis Project VII, who have to develop an intervention project on the issue.
- ❖ Also, 11 Psychology students taking the Social Psychology II course, who are continuing the intervention projects developed with "Paz y Bien" Foundation.
- ❖ A total of 12 Political Science students taking the Political Psychology course.
- ❖ From the careers of Law, Political Science, Psychology and Industrial Engineering, 31 students have enrolled in the Restorative Justice virtual course.

The follow up proposal for four educational institutions is to be presented to the Mediation Committees on Restorative Justice; these institutions are: Maria Auxiliadora, located in the municipality of Buenos Aires, Cauca; Alfonso López Pumarejo, located in the jurisdiction of Timba, Valle; Ana Josefa Morales, located in Santander de Quilichao, Cauca; and Hernando Borrero, located in the jurisdiction of Tenerife, Valle. This proposal is particularly addressed to the members of the Committees, and it is expected to be implemented the first half of 2007; the Project seeks to strengthen the Mediation Committees for the implementation of Restorative Justice models in school contexts to respond to the needs of each educational community.

On the other hand, the virtual classroom went from 25 students to 31, 30 enrolled in the Javeriana University in Cali and one in the faculty of Law of the "Universidad Nacional" of Bogotá. The Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences, Dr. Antonio de Roux, stated that based on the experience of the Virtual Classroom, two more advanced levels could be opened and former students, teachers and researchers would have access to them.

Level A: virtual module on Specialization in Mediation, implemented through the agreement with Kurt Bosch University in Switzerland.

Level B: virtual degree on Restorative Justice.

The Second International Symposium on Restorative Justice is being designed and is programmed to be held in September 2007.

### Urban Component

This quarter, the summoning to participate in the **Relationships Restoration Strategy** was successful and the Program proved to be well accepted in the community. Likewise, enrollments for the Francisco Esperanza Program began, which will allow youths to get to know the Program and take steps to join the Program voluntarily and responsibly.

The Popular Economy and Microcredit Strategy has also been well accepted by the target population, which are people with monthly incomes of COP\$70,000 (USD\$32.00) or less. In order to promote their participation in an accompaniment process that would enable them to overcome their situation of poverty, the "Semilla de Mostaza" (mustard seed) Cooperative is being formed, which will also allow members to save through their contributions. The project will link beneficiaries to a support network to improve their productive initiatives, and will provide training courses on arts and crafts and business management, so they may improve their productive initiatives.

During this period, the first encounter with representatives and recreationists from community centers was held with 32 participants. The process was evaluated and recommendations were made by the borrowers, which were mainly focused on frequency, time and content of the weekly

meetings. Likewise, it was proposed to form the “Semilla de Mostaza” Cooperative and the idea was well accepted by the borrowers.

In addition, the “Universidad del Valle” continues providing guidance for the adaptation of the Grameen Model, and for the strengthening of the productive initiatives and the creation of the “Semilla de Mostaza” Cooperative.

### Rural Component

This quarter, the action plan for the productive component was presented, which includes food security, production, marketing, infrastructure and environment. This plan was shared with the “Asociaciones de Palmira” (Palmira Associations) -Asoagrocan, Asopica, Asoncar, Asotoche-, as well as with one in Pradera (Acuv) and Cerrito in the municipalities of Buenos Aires and Jamundí.

The Project team met with Nucleus 2 coordinators to discuss and analyze project progress and difficulties and solutions, as well as to introduce the new members of the team including those going to “Resa”.

Other activities for this component include:

- For the degree in Government and Municipal Management, 12 workshops were held for municipal leaders of Palmira, Pradera and Florida.
- The Project provided counseling on Humanitarian Aid for families struck by violence to the Palmira team. Likewise, a housing component was approved for the municipality of Palmira, and a rural market was approved for Pradera.
- Participation in the Municipal Committee of Assistance to Displaced Population of Palmira, where the “lands project” was proposed, and an interinstitutional meeting took place to elaborate the agenda and choose the delegates.
- In Pradera, a donation for infrastructure projects was delivered, and the progress made on the rural market was presented.
- A plan was proposed to promote the participation of other institutions such as the Governor’s Office of Valle, the “Oficina de Gestión de Paz”, and Acción Social to continue with the endowment of shelters, which was initiated by Vallenpaz Corporation.
- The Management Process was reactivated; in the process, counseling sessions become exchange spaces with organizations, to discuss progress and work plans. This month, they were focused on the organization of paperwork, accounting books, receipts, new credits and folders.
- A meeting was held with the coordinators of the Nucleus to define the objective of the credit lines (agriculture and livestock). This information is provided in writing to all community organizations.

### No. PG3-074 Let’s Cultivate Peace in the Family, Asocolflores

<b>Objective:</b>	Build a culture of peace in the companies, familias and communities linked to Colombian floricultura
<b>Geographic Coverage:</b>	Cundinamarca, Antioquia, Valle del Cauca.
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	<b>Direct:</b> 21.000 people <b>Indirect:</b> 100.000 inhabitants of the beneficiary municipalities
<b>Completion Date:</b>	September 2007

After two years of Project implementation, the affiliated companies and their workers issued positive evaluations of the project; the changes within the families and in the working environments can not only be measured, but also sensed. The companies have also benefited as workers show more responsibility towards themselves, their families and their work, and have a sense of belonging.

Because the Project has made optimum use of resources and has reached agreements with companies and communities, some of the assigned funds will not be invested as planned. USAID manifested to be interested in receiving a proposal from Asocolflores to invest in other complementary activities, and suggested an assistance for education or scholarships plan for the workers; the counterpart will be presenting its proposal in the month of April.



Training workshop.

The most important results for the project are:

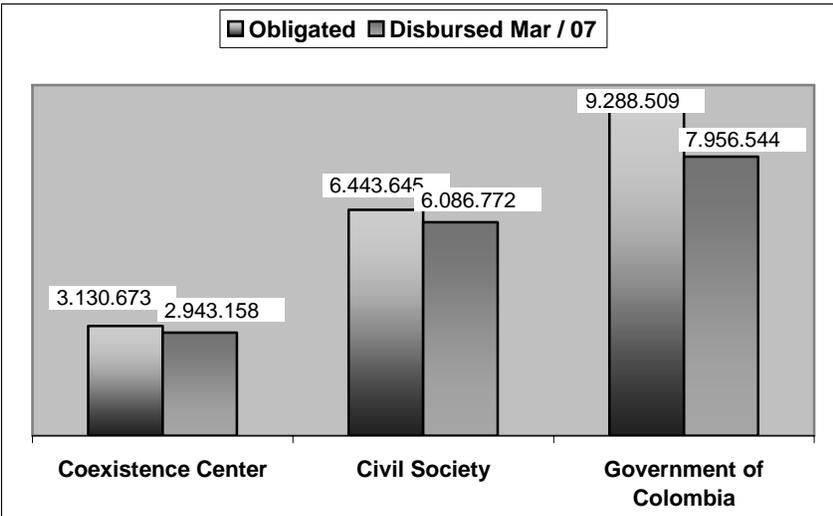
- A total of 94 new companies enrolled in the Program in Cundinamarca and Antioquia, out of which 17 did it this quarter.
- To date, 77 companies are engaged in formal activities.
- A total of 14 new municipalities enrolled in the program.
- Also, 25 communities are engaged in Project-related activities.
- A total of 269 facilitators have been trained throughout the project (2005-2007),
- A total of 2.888 workshops were held in the companies and communities of Antioquia and Cundinamarca; 1.704 of these workshops were held this quarter

**V. FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**Implemented budget by component**

The following graph shows both disbursed and obligated resources for the last three components of the Program: Support to the Colombian Government, Support to Civil Society Initiatives and Citizen Coexistence Centers.

The Obligated amount by December 31, 2006 is US\$18.862.827 out of which US\$16.986.474 have been disbursed.



- ⇒ USD\$3.130.673 were obligated to the Citizen Coexistence Centers component to build 14 centers. This is 17% of the total budget. US\$2.943.158, or 94%, of the total obligated for this component, had been disbursed by March 2007.
- ⇒ USD \$6.443.645 were obligated to the Civil Society component, equivalent to 34% of the total budget. US\$6.086.772, or 94% of the total obligated for this component, was disbursed by March 2007.
- ⇒ Regarding Support to the Government of Colombia USD\$9.288.509 were obligated, which is equivalent to 49% of the Program total; 86% of these funds, or USD\$7.956.544 have already been disbursed.

### **Percentages disbursed by department**

The departments with the highest disbursement percentages are Antioquia with 23.8%, Cauca with 8.7% and Valle del Cauca with 13.5%, since the projects being implemented correspond to self-determination, citizen coexistence centers and the follow-up and monitoring system, which provide support to the Government of Colombia (Office of the High Commissioner for Peace and the Advisory Council for Special Programs). Likewise, support is provided to civil society institutions, such as the Vallenpaz/Alvaralice Foundation in Valle del Cauca and Northern Cauca.

## **VI. ACTION PLAN FOR THE NEXT QUARTER**

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- ✓ With the completion of the Program in mind, a publication is to be made containing: i) Final Report of the Program, with a description of its components, ii) a section where important actors at national level will be invited to write an article regarding peace in Colombia and the impact of the Program, iii) a section on lessons learned to serve as a support tool for other peace initiatives in the country.

### ***Citizen Coexistence Centers***

- ❖ The Construction Company CONSEING LTDA was chosen to build the Citizen Coexistence Center in Tibú after meeting all the requirements and submitting the best proposal, both technically and economically. Construction began January 23, 2007 and it is programmed to be finished by the first half of July 2007.
- ❖ Likewise, CONSORCIO COIMEG LTDA was chosen to build the Citizen Coexistence Center in Arauquita; the contract was signed in January and the technical work began in February.
- ❖ The construction of the Citizen Coexistence Center in Baranoa (Atlántico) will be completed in the month of June. The inauguration and delivery date will be agreed upon with the Ministry of Interior and Justice, the Governor's Office of Atlántico and the Mayor's Office of Baranoa.

Regarding the termination of the Strengthening Peace in Colombia Program, the first part of the document to be published will be elaborated and it will include information on the projects implemented throughout the duration of the Program (six years). In addition, the editing committee will elaborate the terms of reference for the articles to be included in the document.

#### **6.1.1 Office of the High Commissioner for Peace**

- Considering that all the projects with the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace have concluded, during the next quarter the financial reports of the project will be consolidated and the completion certificates will be issued to the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic (DAPR), .

### **6.1.2 Presidential Advisory Council for Special Programs -PACSP**

- Follow-up on the revolving funds projects.
- An advisor will be hired for the “Comité Nacional de Discapacidad” (National Committee for Disability) which has been supporting the PACSP.

### **6.1.3 “Observatorio de Minas” (landmines monitoring entity)**

- This project will finalize next quarter, and one of the closure activities will be the revision of the final version of the Glossary of Terms to be published for the Observatory’s information system.
- Likewise, the Observatory has requested the purchase of photographic equipment to support its activities in the field; the visibility of these actions is of utmost importance for the country, not only internally but also internationally, so we can share our progress and needs regarding antipersonnel mines.

### **6.2 Support to Civil Society Initiatives**

- As per the agreement with Asocolflores, the fourth Encounter on Significant Experiences in the social projects implemented with USAID resources and support from IOM, will be held. Likewise, the project will coordinate the elaboration of the proposal to USAID for the implementation of remnant funds.
- Regarding the Agreement with AlvarAlice / Vallenpaz, the technical aspects for the implementation of the Second International Symposium on Restorative Justice and Peace in Colombia will be defined. The event will take place in the city of Cali, and it has been programmed for September 2007.

### **6.3 Citizen Coexistence Centers (CCC)**

- Technical monitoring visits will be paid to the four Citizen Coexistence Centers under construction, emphasizing on the more advanced ones to propitiate adequate conditions for the inauguration events.
- IOM’s Procurement Office will coordinate the purchase of furniture and other items (air conditioning, cables, etc.) for the CCC.
- Finish the Donation Certificates for the finalized projects.