



PHOTO & CAPTION

Improving Educational Quality in Bajo y Medio Atrato



Photo USAID CIMIENTOS

Children from the School Diego Luis Cordoba in Acandí are excited to inaugurate 5 newly constructed classrooms.

The Bajo and Medio Atrato Region, mainly contained in the Chocó department is the region with the most amount of rainfall per year in the world. As a result, the living conditions are precarious due to damage caused by water and the elevation of the Rio Atrato and because of the dominating rainforest which makes the territory difficult to navigate. Schools have substandard facilities due to dilapidation. Because the economy of this region is poor, there are few resources to provide basic services such as education and healthcare to citizens.

In the municipality of Acandí, the Elementary School Diego Luis Córdoba had very few

classrooms, often causing class to be held outdoors because of lack of space. As mentioned, because of the heavy downpour in this region, children would not attend class because of insufficient number of classrooms.

CIMIENTOS facilitated the construction of five classrooms and one sanitary unit to relieve this school from turning children away. During September, the project was completed and over 150 children will now be able to attend class regularly, rain or shine. Additionally, bathroom houses are often cesspools of bacteria, causing disease and illness among children who use them. With the new sanitary unit, the students of Diego Luis Cordoba will be able to use basic sanitation services, promoting healthy livelihoods.

Part of CIMIENTOS' strategy is to improve educational coverage for the most vulnerable part of the population, in this case Afro-Colombians. Providing this municipality with adequate facilities to teach will in turn improve educational quality to more students and permanence in the school system.