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CIMENTOS supported a public accountability hearing, helped improve access to information technology in deprived schools and promotes peaceful coexistence among children.



El Paso Accountability Hearing Booklet.

Photo USAID CIMENTOS



Classroom remodeled, ready for endowment by Ministry of Communications.

School Hugues Manuel. San Juan del Cesar, Guajira

Photo USAID CIMENTOS

Public Accountability Hearing in El Paso, Cesar – On January 27th, CIMENTOS provided technical assistance for the public accountability hearing on “investments with royalties” in the municipality of El Paso, Department of Cesar. Many municipal partners attended among 179 participants, including members of the *Comité de Seguimiento a las Regalías - CSIR* (civil society committee for the monitoring of royalties investments); officials from the National Planning Department, neighborhood associations, councilors and other local organizations. The Mayor and his cabinet led the hearing, presenting information on royalties invested during 2010. Public accountability hearings are part of CIMENTOS’s strategy to promote greater government transparency in its management of public funds, as a mechanism for generating greater citizen confidence in government and more legitimacy for the State.

Promoting Greater Access to Information Technology – In January CIMENTOS deliver two refurbished classrooms in San Juan del Cesar (Guajira) and one in Uguía (Choco), to facilitate local schools’ access to the benefits of the GOC program “Computadores Para Educar” [Computers for Education]. The refurbishment process consisted of bringing the classroom structures up to generally accepted standards by the Computers for Education program, such as having secure doors and windows so that the computers will be protected from theft and vandalism, ensuring proper electricity supply to operate the computers, and installing adequate ventilation to prevent computers from overheating.

In 2010, CIMENTOS has supported the refurbishment of 48 classrooms in targeted municipalities to help improve the quality of education services, as well as better access to information technology for underprivileged children and youth.

Eradicating the culture of violence among children – The Catatumbo and Bajo y Medio Atrato regions have suffered significantly the damage and aftermath of the armed conflict and violence in Colombia. For this reason, As a preventative measure, , CIMENTOS carried out awareness-raising activities with children of Tibú (Norte de Santander) and El Carmen de Atrato (Choco) January 17-27 on the importance of eradicating habitual expressions of violence in every day culture, such as toys related to war and killing. Instead, CIMENTOS has been promoting alternative activities for children in their spare time, to help them find ways to build safe environments reinforced by non-violent childhood games and pastimes. Local governments will complement this work by holding “Toy Disarmament Days”, when children will be able to exchange violence-based toys for toys and games that entertain them without the theme violence.

Photo USAID CIMENTOS



Success War toys disarmament using CIMENTOS’ methodology. Ocaña, Norte de Santander 2009