



USAID | COLOMBIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Quarterly Report

October 1 to December 31, 2020

RECONCILIATION ACTIVITY

COMPLEXITY-AWARE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Submitted to:

USAID/Colombia

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ACRONYMS

AGC	Gaitanist Self-Defense Groups of Colombia, or the Gulf Clan
AWP	Annual Work Plan
C-AME	Complexity-Aware Monitoring and Evaluation
CNMH	National Center for Historical Memory
CNR	National Council for Reincorporation
COALICO	Coalition Against the Involvement of Children and Youth in the Armed Conflict in Colombia
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
DANE	Colombian National Department of Statistics
DE	Developmental Evaluation
DI	Democracy International
ELN	National Liberation Army
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FY	Fiscal Year
INDEPAZ	Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz
JEP	Special Jurisdiction for Peace
LEE	Economics of Education Laboratory
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MAPP/OAS	Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia of the Organization of American States
NNA	Boys, Girls, and Adolescents (Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes)
PAR	Program of Alliances for Reconciliation
PDET	Territorially Focused Development Plans
PE	Performance Evaluation
PNIS	Illicit Crop Replacement Program
SIADDHH	Information System on Aggression Against Human Rights Defenders
UBPD	Unit for the Search of Missing Persons
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

C-AME's activities in this quarter focused on deliverables established in the FY2021 work plan and planning for the final fiscal year of the project. This reporting period, the project focused on the activities and

deliverables established in the work plan, including the Performance Evaluation (PE), Developmental Evaluation (DE), monitoring activities, close-out activities, and different inputs for a final assessment.

During this reporting period, the C-AME team submitted two newsletters. The first, in October, focused on the challenges to reconciliation from an ethnic perspective, highlighting the importance for projects and their implementers to consider cultural practices and worldviews, as they might affect the way beneficiaries understand and participate in reconciliation processes. The second newsletter, in December, lays out C-AME plan for a Final Assessment to be conducted in 2021. Additionally, in December, two communications tool were submitted highlighting the context factors, challenges and opportunities for improvement for the projects Corporación Minuto de Dios and Nuestro FLOW in Arauca, Maicao and Cúcuta.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the C-AME team continued carrying out a remote monitoring strategy to collect data from PAR beneficiaries and implementing partners in Apartadó, Buenaventura, Ciénaga and Quibdó. In December, the project also implemented its first in-person activity in the municipality of Apartadó, which served as pilot for possible future events in a COVID-19 scenario. At the end of this period, the DE team was in the process of restructuring the Development Evaluation analysis and report per request of the COR. The C-AME PE team completed the data collection stage and is currently identifying findings, defining conclusions, and proposing recommendations for each evaluation question.

In FY2021 Q1 (October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020), C-AME submitted the following contract deliverables:

- FY2021 Q1 Communication Tools – December 2020: Corporación Minuto de Dios and Nuestro Flow
- Newsletter Vol. IV, Issue I – November 2020 – “Challenges to Reconciliation: An Ethnic Perspective”
- Newsletter Vol. IV, Issue II – January 2021 - “Exploratory study on the effects of local context on reconciliation”
- Quarterly Report FY2020 Q4 (July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020).
- Developmental Evaluation #5
- Updated Annual Work Plan FY2021

INTRODUCTION

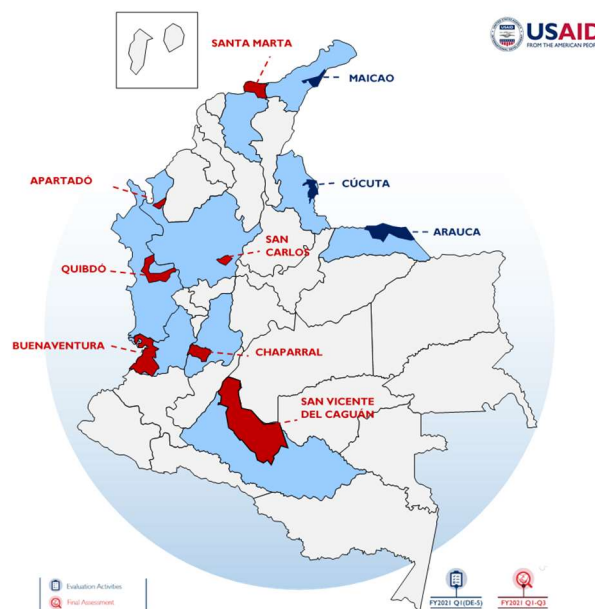
Democracy International, Inc. (DI) is pleased to present the Complexity-Aware Monitoring and Evaluation (C-AME) FY2021 quarter one progress report covering October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. C-AME's overarching objective is to contribute to USAID's Reconciliation Activity, the Program of Alliances for Reconciliation (PAR)—implemented by ACDI/VOCA—by increasing its capacity for decision-making and adaptive management in complex environments, through reliable and timely information and analysis.

ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER

In this reporting period, C-AME's focus was on starting to collect information for municipalities included in the final assessment that aims to carry out a comparative analysis of effects of local context on reconciliation. The team is currently reviewing and designing a methodological approach for the Final Assessment (Newsletter Vol. IV, Issue II – January 2021). This activity was drawn up in anticipation of USAID approving a project extension request as it formally did at the end of the quarter.

For the current iteration cycle, C-AME continued working remotely due to COVID-19. This not only allowed C-AME to continue with the planned technical and administrative activities, but also to safeguard the C-AME team and the broader community we live and work in. During this period, the C-AME team conducted 61 surveys from four PAR projects in the municipalities of Apartadó (Antioquia), Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca), Ciénaga (Magdalena) and Quibdó (Chocó). These surveys are the main input for the monitoring activities required to report C-AME indicator tracking.

OVERVIEW C-AME ACTIVITY FISCAL YEAR 2021



C-AME shared a first draft of the DE 5 report to USAID and wrote ten recommendations based on their findings. At the end of this period, the C-AME team was restructuring the DE documents based on comments by USAID, and the document currently consists of two annexes and an executive summary.

Regarding the PE activity, the C-AME team interviewed and surveyed project participants and project implementers (consisting of 62 interviews, 98 respondents to the participant survey and 18 respondents

to the implementer survey). At the close of this period, the PE team was analyzing data to identify findings, define conclusions and propose recommendations for each evaluation question.

In addition, C-AME prepared two Newsletters and two Communication Tools for quarter one. These pieces addressed lessons learned during the fifth iteration of the DE, understanding social media’s role in preventing xenophobia, and the progress of reconciliation in ten municipalities.

C-AME submitted the following contract deliverables in accordance with the timeframe established in the annual work plan FY2021:

- FY2021 Q1 Communication Tools – December 2020: *Corporación Minuto de Dios* and *Nuestro Flow*
- Newsletter Vol. IV, Issue I – November 2020 – “Challenges to Reconciliation: An Ethnic Perspective”
- Newsletter Vol. IV, Issue II – January 2021 - “Exploratory study on the effects of local context on reconciliation”
- Quarterly Report FY2020 Q4 (July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020).
- Developmental Evaluation #5
- Updated Annual Work Plan FY2021

PROGRESS MATRIX

During the reporting period and despite mobility restrictions, C-AME continued its remote work, which enabled the C-AME team to complete the activities outlined in the FY2021 annual work plan (AWP). Table I provides an overview of DI’s progress on the activities under the AWP.

PROGRESS MATRIX		
Planned Activity	Progress this Quarter	Resulting Product(s)
C-AME Monitoring System and Reports		
FY2021 Q1 Communication Tools	In December 2020, C-AME submitted two Communication Tools for the PAR projects: <i>Corporación Minuto de Dios</i> and <i>Nuestro Flow</i> . These documents highlight the context factors, challenges, and opportunities for improvement for both PAR implementer partners in Arauca, Maicao and Cúcuta. All these findings are based on the analysis done as part of the Developmental Evaluation 5.	Communication Tools submitted in December 2020.
C-AME Monitoring System	During this period, C-AME used a remote monitoring strategy to collect data from PAR beneficiaries and implementing partners in Apartadó, Buenaventura, Ciénaga, and Quibdó. At the end of this quarter, C-AME applied 61 reconciliation perception surveys. C-AME updated the information system with the data collected during this period, and recorded the cumulative performance indicators on Monitor.	Database with information for performance indicators
Updated Annual Work Plan FY2021	On October 23, C-AME submitted to USAID the updated annual work plan for FY2021. This document reflects the planned activities and deliverables for	Annual Work Plan for FY2021

PROGRESS MATRIX		
Planned Activity	Progress this Quarter	Resulting Product(s)
	FY2021 according to a contract extension requested by C-AME in early September 2020. (USAID approved the contract extension in late December 2020.)	
Full Monitoring Cycle		
Newsletter Vol. IV, Issue I	C-AME submitted the November 2020 newsletter on October 30, 2020. This edition, titled “Challenges to Reconciliation: An Ethnic Perspective”, seeks to reflect on the need for projects to consider cultural practices and worldviews, as they might affect the way beneficiaries understand and participate in reconciliation processes.	C-AME Newsletter Vol. IV, Issue I – November 2020
Newsletter Vol. IV, Issue II	C-AME submitted the January 2021 newsletter on December 29, 2020. This document titled, “Exploratory study on the effects of local context on reconciliation” describes data collection instruments, the design of an operational plan and protocols for data collection, and the preliminary planning of the data analysis for the Final Assessment.	C-AME Newsletter Vol. IV, Issue II – January 2021
Evaluation		
Developmental Evaluation #5 progress	On October 30, 2020, C-AME submitted the first draft of the DE in its fifth iteration. DE #5 analyzed migration and reconciliation issues in three border municipalities: Arauca, Cúcuta, and Maicao. At the end of this reporting period, C-AME received comments from UASID. C-AME and USAID agreed to structure DE #5 as follows: a) an extended executive summary; b) the DE document (master) in annexes; c) the project cases in annexes.	Data collection events for DE #5 and report writing
Performance Evaluation		
Performance Evaluation	Fieldwork: Interviewing and surveying of project participants, PAR staff, and project implementers, including local public sector representatives, ambassadors of reconciliation, ACIDI/VOCA regional coordinators, managers, and specialists (62 interviews, 98 respondents to the participant survey and 18 respondents to the implementer survey) Data Analysis: Triangulating data sources to identify findings, define conclusions, and propose recommendations for each evaluation question. Draft I submission to Home Office.	To be submitted and finalized in early FY21 Q2
Other relevant activities		
Final Assessment	On November 20, 2020, C-AME validated with USAID the Scope of Work of the Final Assessment. The Methodological design of the Final Assessment was	Final assessment work plan

PROGRESS MATRIX		
Planned Activity	Progress this Quarter	Resulting Product(s)
	described in the January Newsletter (Vol. IV, Issue II – January 2021).	
Participation in the USAID-M&E Community of Practice	On October 16, 2020, C-AME participated in the M&E Private Sector Engagement Community of Practice workshop, where USAID presented the "Guidance for Monitoring USAID Colombia Engagement with Stakeholders". This document provides information on alliances generated from USAID/Colombia and its implementing partners, with which types of allies these alliances can be forged, through which mechanisms, and their relationship to third party indicators (Third Party Funds).	Lessons learned shared with USAID local implementing partners

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

In the previous quarterly report, C-AME focused on analyzing the effects of the pandemic on income generation of the Venezuelan migrant population residing in the country. For this quarter, the analysis focuses on two factors: the importance of illegal economies and the increase of youth vulnerabilities due to the pandemic in Buenaventura, Apartadó, Quibdó, and Ciénaga where C-AME focused its data collection. Each of these factors identified from the C-AME media observations are described below.

ILLEGAL ECONOMIES AND TERRITORIAL CONTROL BY ARMED GROUPS

A common factor affecting the population in the municipalities of Apartadó, Buenaventura, Ciénaga, and Quibdó is the illegal economies and the influence exerted by different armed groups who vie, often violently, for control of territories due to their resources and strategic location. Drug trafficking and illegal gold mining are the main illegal activities that take place in these territories, constituting sources of financing for the armed groups and linking a large part of the population at different points in the value chain. Extreme conditions of poverty and inequality and the fragility of local political systems are key elements for understanding the expansion of armed groups and the growth of illegal economies, on which the livelihoods of a large part of the local populations depend (Crisis Group, 2020: 20).

Alluvial gold mining is the process of extracting gold from sediments in bodies of water; in the monitoring of evidence of alluvial gold exploitation carried out by UNODC and Minenergía (2020a), of the 98,028 hectares identified in 2019 in Colombia, 66% corresponded to illegal exploitations and more than half (57%) were located in areas that are legally excluded from mining or are protected areas. Although thousands of people in the country throughout history have dedicated themselves to subsistence mining and searching for gold manually in rivers and streams, the increase in the price of gold in recent years has led to the practice of mining with heavy machinery. This generates risks to both the environment (68% of the loss of valuable vegetation is in areas of illegal exploitation) and people's health (p.11 - 12).

According to the last report of the *Monitoring of Territories Affected by Illicit Crops* presented by UNODC (2020b), the coca growing area in Colombia totaled 154,000 hectares on December 31, 2019. This means a decrease of 9% compared to the 169,000 hectares reported the previous year and a break in the growing trend that had been present since 2014 and that reached its highest peak in 2017 with 171,000 hectares

(p.25). However, the estimated production of coca increased by 1.6% with respect to the previous year. Since 2015, there has been a strong tendency for the territorial concentration of coca in enclaves, which allows for greater competitiveness and productivity because of the concentration of conditions conducive to its cultivation, processing into drugs, and distribution (p.21).

The problems of illegal exploitation of minerals and coca crops converge in some territories of the country. In 8 of the 10 municipalities with the greatest detection of illegal mining, the presence of coca crops was reported. The territories in which both phenomena converge are characterized by "conditions of poverty, marginality, difficult access and the presence of illegal armed groups" (UNODC, 2020a: 13). Additionally, the armed groups configure extortion networks through which they appropriate income from legal economic activities that take place in the territories, while at the same time exercising social control over the population.

The exercise of territorial control and the disputes between armed actors for control of illegal economies increase the risks to the population living in the regions involved, who are victims of selective killings, threats, intimidation, extortion, forced disappearances, and forced displacement. Social leaders are even more exposed to reprisals and attacks because of their community voice and are also victims of stigmatization, slander, surveillance, information theft, illegal searches, torture, arbitrary detention, and informal persecution by armed groups (Ombudsman's Office, 2018: 10 - 13).

Nonetheless, the existence of illegal economies and the presence of criminal groups in the territories alone does not explain the violence against the population and social leaders. As Albarracín & Valencia (2020) point out, while this is usually the most generalized explanation from the government and the media, reducing the explanation solely to rent seeking in illegal markets oversimplifies the way in which armed groups participate in the construction and maintenance of specific social and political orders in peripheral regions. Criminal groups connect themselves to local power dynamics, establishing rules of behavior and imposing sanctions on those who do not comply with them, so that social mobilization processes can be perceived as a threat. The use of violence is not only aimed at protecting illegal markets, but also at production and maintaining the established social order.

Armed groups exercise political authority in these territories, imposing their rules and implementing their own justice systems by resolving disputes that arise in the communities. They create an order based primarily on coercion, and also on mechanisms for co-opting local authorities. To exercise control over territories belonging to ethnic groups, they have resorted to violence to intimidate leaders, preventing their mobility in the territory and even displacing entire communities (Crisis Group, 2020: 17). Below, C-AME analyzes the dynamics in Apartadó, Buenaventura, Ciénaga, and Quibdó as they relate to illegal economies and the territorial control exercised by armed groups.

Apartadó

In the municipality of Apartadó, there are problems associated with drug trafficking and micro-trafficking, due to its strategic location that makes it a mobility corridor, as well as the sale and consumption of psychoactive substances that take place there. In the Imminent Early Warning No. 008-2020 presented by the Ombudsman's Office (2020), the entity warns of the risk situation in which the inhabitants of the municipalities of Apartadó, Carepa, Turbo, and Chigorodó find themselves due to the increase in selective homicides that have been occurring in these municipalities.

The Gaitanist Self-Defense Groups of Colombia (Autodefensas Gaitanitas de Colombia- AGC or the Gulf Clan) exercise hegemonic control over the illegal economies and organized crime in the Urabá region. This group outsources their operations through networks with local gangs and using social control mechanisms such as restrictions on mobility and physical punishment, threats through pamphlets, warnings to leave the neighborhood or region, exploitation of children to recruit them into illegal structures, seizure

of vaccines, attacks, selective killings, exploitative loans, and control of public space for informal sales (Ombudsman's Office, 2020).

Buenaventura

Buenaventura has a privileged location both for its natural resources and for its strategic location on a river delta on Colombia's Pacific coast, which enables commercial exchanges with countries in South America, Central America, North America, Asia-Pacific and Europe and its connection with the interior of the country. It has nine hydrographic basins, a coastal area and a continental platform with access to the Pacific Ocean, so its waterway system with access to the Pacific Ocean works as a natural transport hub. These conditions have led to the municipality serving as the main national maritime port on the Pacific Ocean, currently projected as a strategic territory for international trade (CNMH, 2015).

Due to its strategic position, and the geographical conditions of the territory, Buenaventura is also an essential point for the illegal activities linked to drug trafficking, smuggling, arms trafficking, fuel trafficking, and illegal mining (Ombudsman's Office, 2019b: 3). According to UNODC (2020b), the Naya region is one of the main coca production enclaves in the country. The Naya River, which separates the departments of Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca) and López de Micay (Cauca), is an important drug trafficking route because of its direct access to the Pacific.

In addition, armed groups are engaged in drug storage in sea containers, export through the port, micro-trafficking in the urban area, trade control, and extortion that increases prices of essential products (Crisis Group, 2020: 11). Gold mining has also been detected in the jurisdiction of the municipality of Buenaventura on the banks of the Dagua River and in protected areas located on the banks of the Anchicayá, Escalarete and San Cipriano rivers (UNODC, 2020a).

The civilian population of the municipality is victim of extortion, robbery, illegal roadblocks, confinement, and restrictions on mobility, individual and collective threats, selective killings, massacres, attacks with explosive devices, crossfire from confrontations between different groups disputing territorial control, massive and individual forced displacement, sexual violence against women, and forced recruitment and exploitation of children for illegal and violent activities (Ombudsman's Office, 2019b: 2).

According to the Mayor, during 2020 in the midst of the pandemic, a wave of violent acts and vandalism took place in the municipality that shows a strengthening of criminal gangs and has the population in a state of anxiety and unrest (Victor Vidal, Mayor of Buenaventura cited by Pares, 2020). During the year, there were threats, murders, robberies, an attack with an explosive device on the District Mayor's office and on December 31 a massacre was committed in which six people were killed (INDEPAZ, 2020).

In Buenaventura a reconfiguration of the illegal armed structures has taken place after the departure of the FARC, which has generated an increase in the levels of violence against the civilian population (Ombudsman's Office, 2019: 4). Currently operating in the municipality are the Gulf Clan, the criminal gangs known as "La Empresa" and "La Local," dissidents of the FARC and the ELN National Liberation Army (Pares, 2020).

Ciénaga

In the municipality of Ciénaga the population is under threat from the operation of armed groups that dispute territorial control and the management of illegal activities linked mainly to drug trafficking and extortion (Ombudsman's Office, 2019b: 12). These groups maintain social control through mechanisms such as death threats with extortive purposes, selective homicides, intervention in community conflicts, conducting meetings with the community and with merchants to determine extortion fees, and warnings to leave the territory which have generated individual and collective displacements. According to INDEPAZ (2020), on March 10, a massacre was committed in Ciénaga that left three people dead.

Ciénaga has favorable topographic and geostrategic conditions for drug collection, processing and transportation out of the country, which have historically attracted the interest of different armed actors. The numerous rivers that flow through the region towards the Ciénaga Grande of Santa Marta, ending in the Caribbean Sea, as well as its wide and sparsely populated coastline, allow the establishment of favorable routes for drug trafficking. Although it is known that in the village of Palmor there are crops and laboratories for processing coca, Ciénaga has not been a site of large crops, but rather an attractive area due to the routes that facilitate its export. Therefore, seizures of cocaine hydrochloride destined for other municipalities or departments are frequent in inter-municipal transport, and in maritime transport to other countries (Ombudsman's Office, 2019b).

Los Pachenca operates in the municipality with military bases located in the mountainous areas of the villages of Palmor, Siberia, San Pedro de la Sierra and San Javier, Palmichal and El Bosque. In addition, the Gulf Clan operates in the municipality through alliances with local criminal groups who are paid to carry out intelligence work, graffiti, extortion, drug trafficking, threats and contract killings (Ombudsman's Office, 2019b: 30 - 32).

Quibdó

In the capital of the department of Chocó, the population is constantly the victim of extortion, robbery, threats, recruitment of minors for activities related to the consumption and distribution of drugs, selective murders, forced disappearances, illegal curfews and confinements ordered by armed groups operating in the territory. Since 2019, the Ombudsman's Office had been warning about the increase in violence in the city and the risk that the civilian population was running (El Espectador, 2020). During 2020, Quibdó experienced a 65% increase in the homicide figures compared to 2019, reaching a total of 145 homicides during the year (Radio Nacional, 2020).

In the month of October, the so-called "Mexican Armed Forces" imposed a curfew in the municipality on anyone who passed through the streets between 6:00 pm on Friday, October 16 and 8:00 am on Tuesday, October 20, declaring it a military operation. Through a pamphlet that circulated in the department's capital, the group stated that it took this measure to allow for the transfer of several of its members from the prison in Quibdó and in response to the municipal mayor's forgetfulness of the commitments made for helping him win the mayor's office (El Espectador, 2020). According to the authorities, this is a local group that is dedicated to micro-trafficking, extortion, and robbery. A similar situation was denounced by the population on June 30, when armed groups ordered the population not to go out after 8:00 pm (Semana, 2020).

According to INDEPAZ, the capital of Chocó has been undergoing an armed reconfiguration from which violence is shifting from the rural to the urban areas through outsourcing, in which the more structured armed groups exercise control in the cities without the need to be based there, by means of smaller armed groups (El Espectador, 2020). In Quibdó, control is exercised mainly by the Gulf Clan and "Los Mexicanos", in addition to other criminal networks dedicated to micro-trafficking and illegal mining such as "Los Kennedy", "Los Palmeños", "Los Rapados" and "Los Locos" (El Tiempo, 2020).

In addition to its strategic location as a corridor for the passage of drugs and merchandise due to its connection with Antioquia and exit to the Pacific, Quibdó is a key territory for armed groups that launder money from illegal economies such as illegal gold mining, drug trafficking, and extortion. According to the report on alluvial gold exploitation presented by UNODC and Minenergía (2020), the departments of Chocó and Antioquia concentrate 77% of the hectares with evidence of alluvial gold exploitation identified in the country. Of these, 36% (35,105 hectares) are in the department of Chocó, with 70% of the exploitation being illegal (p. 16).

According to the last report of the Monitoring of Territories Affected by Illicit Crops presented by UNODC (2020b), the annual productive area in terms of coca crops in Chocó, went from 18,437 hectares in 2005 to 60,437 hectares in 2019 (p.71).

INCREASE OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH'S VULNERABILITIES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

Children and youth are one of the segments of the population that have suffered the most in the midst of the pandemic, aside from women (as explored in the previous Quarterly Report and DE). While the situation of children in the municipalities analyzed this quarter was already complicated, the conditions imposed by the pandemic have reinforced factors that put them at even greater risk. With the closure of schools, the contraction of the Colombian economy (a reduction close to 8% according to IMF), unemployment reaching 13%, and the strengthening of illegal economies, the pandemic has had an impact on school dropout and violence and forced recruitment by illegal actors. C-AME analyzed these factors and the impact on the relevant populations for the projects promoted by PAR to achieve reconciliation.

School Dropout

The national and departmental entities at the date of this report have not published information with final data for 2020 on school dropouts, and the level of disaggregation does not allow for an analysis at the level of the municipalities analyzed in this quarterly report.

According to information revealed by the Colombian Ministry of Education, enrollment in preschool, elementary and middle school education closed with 9,428,897 students and an estimated dropout rate of 2.2%; while in higher education, for 70% of the institutions, the dropout rate was close to 10%. This indicates that the figures are close to those of 2019 (El Tiempo, 2021a). However, other available information shows great disparities at the socioeconomic level and between rural and urban areas.

According to an analysis made by the Economics of Education Laboratory (LEE) of the Pontifical Javeriana University of Bogotá based on the DANE Large Integrated Household Survey, 52% of students from rural and scattered municipalities had to drop out of their studies during the month of August 2020. This figure was 50% in municipal capitals and 47% in metropolitan areas.

The analysis established that 77% of students from the lower socioeconomic stratum failed their studies in both basic and secondary education as well as in university education. The analysis of the LEE and the data from the DANE Large Integrated Household Survey also showed that the proportion of students who abandoned their classes and have felt loneliness, stress, worry, and depression was greater than among those who were able to continue their classes. For example, 24.01% of those who stopped their studies claim to have had these feelings, compared to 15.24% of those who continued with their education.

Throughout the country, of the 1123 municipalities, there are 700 in which less than 10% of their inhabitants, both in the rural and urban areas, have Internet access (El Tiempo, 2020b). Of the more than 2,400,000 students in rural schools in the country, only 17% of them have access to the Internet and computers, totaling approximately 408,000 children. In the case of dispersed rural municipalities (those with lower population density), this figure is only 13%, according to LEE of the Universidad Javeriana (El Tiempo, 2020c)

Forced Recruitment and Violence

The Coalition Against the Involvement of Children and Youth in the Armed Conflict in Colombia (COALICO) reported 190 cases of recruitment and use of children, including Venezuelans, by illegal armed groups between January 1 and June 30, 2020, compared to 38 cases in the same period in 2019 (5 times more) (Save the Children, 2020). This worrisome trend is due in part to the coronavirus pandemic; as schools and other protective services have closed, children have become an easier target for armed groups (UNHCR, 2020).

According to the Ombudsman's Office (2020b), this forced recruitment is taking place in 63% of cases by FARC dissidents, as well as by organized crime, demobilized paramilitaries, the ELN, organized armed group dissidents, and the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia. The ages at which minors and adolescents are being recruited range from 8 to 18 years of age. Of these, according to the Ombudsman's Office, 33% are under 14 years of age and 59% are male (49 cases).

Violence against young people has also intensified. According to data from the Colombian institution responsible for Forensic Medicine (2020b), between January and November 2020, out of a total of 9,913 violent deaths, 4,467 were of people under 28 years of age, which is 47% of the total (a similar figure to that of 2019 when 50% of violent deaths were in this age range). In Quibdó alone there was an 88% increase in the number of homicides (from 74 between January and November 2019 to 139 in the same months of 2020), of which 97 were homicides of young people between January and August (Contagio Radio, 2020). There is no statistical information for the other municipalities that are not capital cities, but the following shows the effects on children and adolescents from secondary sources.

Apartadó

Oscar Yesid Zapata, spokesperson for the NGO Social Process of Guarantees (PSG), said that between 2018 and 2020, the armed groups disputing territorial control in Apartadó have recruited 150 young people, including minors (La FM, 2021).

According to the Ombudsman's Office (2020c), in its Early Warning issued on 14 December 2020, in this municipality, adolescent and young men between the ages of 14 and 29 are particularly at risk. This is because they constitute a group of special interest to illegal armed groups that seek to recruit them or use them in illegal activities. One of the strategies of the AGC armed group is to offer compensation and economic stability to entice recruits. This group also uses threats, forced displacement, attacks, and even murders to recruit and punish those who refuse to join this illegal group. Likewise, the possibility that the threats of recruitment may be extended to the children or other relatives of this population is not disregarded.

In an Early Warning issued in February 2020 by the Ombudsman's Office (2020a), it is also mentioned that the risk is mainly focused on children, adolescents, and youth in a condition of high socioeconomic vulnerability and who are socially stigmatized due to activities of sale and/or consumption of psychoactive substances. This is demonstrated through a large number of selective murders that have occurred against them in the context of the dynamics of drug trafficking by retaliation, reprisals, warnings, and exercises of internal control by the AGC. It is evident that these murders are a show of power, focused on sending a message to the civilian population that is at the mercy of the hegemonic control of the AGC. Since 2019, in the village of San José de Apartadó, which is part of the municipality of Apartadó, five young people have been violently murdered (Ombudsman's Office, 2020c, 14).

Buenaventura

In the department of Valle del Cauca, the municipalities of Cali, Jamundí, Buenaventura, Guacarí, Tuluá, Pradera and El Dovio are the most frequent locations for the recruitment of children and adolescents by organized armed groups and organized crime groups for their criminal activities of illegal mining, drug trafficking and micro-trafficking. More than 40 underage recruitment victims were recovered by security agencies in 2020 in this department (El Tiempo, 2020d).

The Ombudsman's Office issued an Early Warning in 2019, informing about what is happening in Buenaventura. In that document they denounced the presence of the armed groups La Local, La Empresa, some members of the ELN and dissidents of the FARC. In this same document they maintain that the dynamic of disputes for the control of Buenaventura has generated an increase in the levels of violence

against the civilian population. This is reflected in the numbers of homicides and the severity with which they are committed. The illegal armed groups exploit young people to commit violent acts against their fellow civilians, offering them gifts and adopting tactics of social, economic, and territorial domination, which vary constantly (Ombudsman's Office, 2019c, 5).

The data from Forensic Medicine reveals the specific effect of violence on young people. Of the 90 murders recorded by that entity during 2019, 66 were of people under 35 years of age and none of the 90 victims had a university education (El Espectador, 2020b). According to the Quality of Life Report, the homicide rate rose from 2017 to 2019 from 22 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants to 36. One of the most worrying data points was the increase of murder rates of young people between fifteen and 24 years old. Although the increase was not as high as the total, this is of concern because this age range is between 35-40% of the total population of Buenaventura (El Espectador, 2021). In a series of murders carried out simultaneously in different parts of Buenaventura on December 31, criminal groups killed six people, four of whom were under 28 years old (El Tiempo, 2021).

Ciénaga

In this municipality, 43.81% of the population lives in poverty, according to the DANE. According to the Ombudsman's Office (2019b) it is possible that this factor will have a negative impact on risk associated with the recruitment or involvement in illegal practices of children and adolescents. Early Warning 044-19 of 30 October 2019 issued by the Ombudsman's Office states that children and youth in this municipality are at risk due to the presence and actions of the armed group known as the Pachenca¹ and the AGC. The state agency maintains that the form of operation of these armed structures is the forced involvement of boys, girls, and young men to carry out lookout functions for territorial control by informing the commanders of everything that may occur from their points of location, such as the entrance to the town and some commercial premises.

The consumption of drugs by adolescents and young people, including in indigenous communities is associated with the presence of the illegal armed group in the townships of the mountainous part of the Sierra Nevada. This problem, according to the perception of the population, has been increasing due to the control of drug sales, exercised mainly from commercial establishments, especially billiards halls (Caracol Radio, 2020). In the case of the Sierra Nevada region, young people who enter the group have access to economic means with which to finance their drug consumption. Recruitment is not only focused on Colombian children and adolescents, but also on those of Venezuelan nationality (Noticias Caracol, 2019).

Young people are among those who disappear the most. According to Forensic Medicine, the age range of the young people who have disappeared is between five and seventeen years old. There were 27 reports of disappearances in Magdalena, eight boys and nineteen girls. Among those, most records are young people between the ages of ten and fourteen (three boys and ten girls) were reported missing (Opinión Caribe, 2020).

Quibdó

The situation of children, adolescents and young people in Quibdó is one of great precariousness due to the violence between criminal groups and criminal organizations that fight for the control of traffic and micro-trafficking in the municipality. According to Early Warning No. 049-19 (2019a), these population

¹ Los Pachenca also call themselves Autodefensas Conquistadores de la Sierra Nevada. They are an organized crime group with members from the former Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia – Tayrona Resistance Group. The Pachenca have consolidated themselves in areas such as the Troncal del Caribe (an 80 kilometer corridor that links Santa Marta with the township of Palomino-Dibulla-La Guajira) and in lower Guajira. There they have allied with Guajira clans that have traditionally been involved in smuggling and drug trafficking.

groups living in urban and rural areas of the municipality of Quibdó are at imminent risk due to the high rate of homicides, threats, forced intra-urban and external displacement, sexual and gender-based violence, and consumption and distribution of psychoactive substances.

The AGC carries out violent actions against children, adolescents, and youths who are socially stigmatized for being alleged members of criminal gangs and drug users (Semana, 2020b). They also carry out forced recruitment of children and adolescents for activities related to the consumption and distribution of psychoactive substances and other illicit activities of interest to illegal armed actors (Infobae, 2020). This behavior tends to increase in school settings or educational centers.

The Ombudsman's Office (2019b) assumes that this group and the associated illegal armed groups and structures are responsible for situations of alleged forced disappearances and multiple and selective killings, mainly of young people. This body does not rule out the possibility that some of these acts are in response to "sanctions" or retaliations by these actors in order to exercise control over the territory and the population. It should be noted that in 2019, within the total number of homicides that occurred in Quibdó, the main victims were young people (34 cases). According to Darwin Lozano, a lawyer and citizen overseer of this municipality, between January and August 2020, this number already rose to 96 young people (Contagio Radio, 2020).

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

As the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing in Colombia and there is still high uncertainty about what will occur, C-AME continued implementing remote data collection tools for M&E to comply with the contract, ensuring the quality of all deliverables including newsletters, communication tools, and the developmental and performance evaluations. This chapter presents monitoring and evaluation approaches that have helped to overcome challenges on the ground.

Monitoring

In order to update performance and context indicators, C-AME continued applying remote monitoring tools to collect information from PAR beneficiaries and implementing partners in Apartadó, Buenaventura, Ciénaga, and Quibdó.

The monitoring team had difficulty defining projects in the selected municipalities due to security conditions, since some projects were not operating. In other cases, the projects had participants who were not direct beneficiaries but rather participating volunteers. In the case of the PAR 01-131 project in Apartadó, the team could not survey most of the beneficiaries since they were under 14 years of age. For this reason, C-AME decided to work with this project as pilot to carry out the first face-to-face data collection activity since the beginning of the pandemic. This activity allowed the C-AME team to assess the constraints and possibilities of doing fieldwork with populations in the midst of the pandemic.

As mentioned before, the team conducted phone surveys designed to explore perceptions and attitudes towards important aspects of reconciliation. Despite the opportunities generated by virtual surveys to keep contact with PAR implementers and beneficiaries in the midst of the pandemic, they are not a perfect substitute for direct contact with these actors.

The field staff shared some recommendations to be included in future monitoring activities:

1. Due to the intensification of violence in certain territories, such as the municipalities of Buenaventura, Quibdó and its surrounding areas, the M&E team will change the order of the questions, not starting with questions regarding the peace agreement. This is a very sensitive issue

in areas with intensified violence, resulting in a reduced participation from beneficiaries that fear for their safety.

2. In order to build trust with the beneficiaries, C-AME team will work more closely with PAR's territorial liaisons and partners to build relationships of trust with participants surveyed.
3. Even if having a script for the survey calls optimizes the time and content of the survey, they should be flexible enough to accommodate to particular characteristics of each municipality. In the cases of Buenaventura and Quibdó, participants were tense and the responses were vague (probably due to security concerns). After identifying this, the team modified the script, mentioning the name of the PAR project and the implementing partner.

Evaluation

During the period covered by FY2021-Q1, three significant challenges arose for the operational processes developed by C-AME:

1. **Remote Work:** Given the continuity of the pandemic and the prolongation of measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, the evaluation team had to adapt the working methodologies for the elaboration of the recommendations of the Developmental Evaluation. The lessons learned from the remote working dynamics used for the previous phases of data collection and analysis for the Developmental Evaluation ensured that these limitations did not affect quality and delivery times of products. Some of the strategies carried out by the team were:
 - a. Organization of a detailed schedule that specified the activities, responsible parties, and internal deadlines for the cross review of the documents.
 - b. Developing recommendations based on team members' expertise and knowledge and then collectively discussing them to assess their relevance to the key messages of the Developmental Evaluation.
 - c. Use of online tools (Dropbox, SharePoint, Microsoft Teams document editor) for simultaneous writing of documents.
2. **Methodological Design of the Final Assessment:** Uncertainty generated by the pandemic and the continuity of isolation measures decreed by the Government of Colombia impacted the elaboration of the methodological design and the scope of work of the Final Assessment. Taking into consideration the team's learning during the primary data collection process of the Developmental Evaluation, some additional considerations were made in the Final Assessment. For example, one of the selection criteria for the municipalities to be addressed was to select municipalities that have adequate fieldwork through virtual means. Given the prolonged situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the information collection strategy needs to adapt to this situation and will require adequate connectivity for data collection.

The team will also consider the lessons learned and good practices that developed during the last phase of the remote information collection, such as pre-verification of the conditions necessary for conducting semi-structured interviews (connectivity, access to electricity, environmental noise, among others) and the creation of trust between the team and the people interviewed through key contacts in the regions who facilitated the interviews.

3. **Adaptation to Changes in the Environment:** During the period covered by FY2021-Q1, significant changes occurred for the project both internally and externally. Within DI, the Developmental Evaluator, C-AME Monitoring Specialist and the DI Program Manager changed as well as the C-AME COR at USAID. During the transition period, C-AME used the experience and expertise of

its members and strengthened its internal communication channels. This adaptation allowed C-AME to meet the objectives and deliverables for this period.

Performance Evaluation

During the period covered by FY2021-Q1, three practices and lessons arose for the operational processes developed by C-AME's Performance Evaluation team:

- Defining a broad and diverse set of criteria, including geographical diversity, PAR's M&E metrics, project implementation time, and ease of accessing participants, for sampling target projects improves comparative analysis among different contextual conditions in which PAR's implementation occurred. The methodological design can define a framework to test if different results in different contexts of the same theory of change, providing valuable evidence about the context influence on the scope of the PAR's activities.
- Discussing with USAID the scope of the evaluation questions, methods, and data analysis in a context with limited fieldwork due to COVID-19 mobility restrictions helps to get common ground on expectations and usability of a performance evaluation.
- Improving follow-up efforts to get participants engaged in evaluation activities by using implementer's networks, WhatsApp groups, and civil society organization networks operating in the field is instrumental in reducing the non-response rate on remote data collection strategies.
- Discussing with PAR the performance evaluation purpose of finding opportunities to learn about implementation challenges to inform future programming of reconciliation activities is instrumental for establishing common ground on the usability of the evaluation's recommendations.

CHANGES IN INDICATORS, ASSUMPTIONS AND EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

During Quarter I, C-AME collected 61 surveys that are the main source for performance indicator data. Through the remote monitoring survey, the C-AME team collected information in Apartadó, Buenaventura, Ciénaga, and Quibdó.

Table 2 - Reconciliation monitoring survey metadata across three municipalities.

Municipality	# of responses	% of total surveys	Location		Sex		Age		
			Rural	Urban	M	F	14-29	30-50	Over 50
Apartadó	2	3%	0%	100%	50%	50%	100%	0%	0%
Buenaventura	13	21%	15%	85%	8%	92%	15%	39%	46%
Ciénaga	9	15%	37%	67%	56%	44%	11%	67%	22%
Quibdó	37	61%	5%	95%	31%	69%	73%	14%	13%
Total	61	100%	11%	89%	31%	69%	52%	27%	21%

As shown in table two, C-AME collected 61 survey responses in the four municipalities, with a majority of them taking place in Quibdó (61%). Most of the respondents reside in urban areas (100% in Apartadó, 85% in Buenaventura, 67% in Ciénaga, and 95% in Quibdó), with the majority of them being women. Finally, most of the respondents are between 14 - 29 years old (100% in Apartadó, 15% in Buenaventura, 11% in Ciénaga and 73% in Quibdó) and 30 - 50 years (39% in Buenaventura, 67% in Ciénaga and 14% in Quibdó). Those surveyed for this period are beneficiaries and implementers of four PAR projects in these municipalities.

Table 3 – Indicators for October - December 2020

No.	Indicator Description	Unit	FY21 Q1	Total FY 2021	Cumulative Total
C-AME-01	Percentage of PAR beneficiaries who hold positive views towards reconciliation	Percent	49%	49%	71%
C-AME-02	Number of beneficiaries who have taken actions that enhance trust, dialogue, respect, or empowerment in their communities	Number	53	53%	312
C-AME-03	Percent of respondents who agree that their participation in activities made possible by PAR public-private partnerships has improved social and/or economic opportunities for themselves or their community	Percent	87%	87%	83%
C-AME-04	Percent of people in target municipalities who have reported increased understanding or awareness of the peace process as a result of reading Semana Rural	Percent	10%	10%	11%
C-AME-05	Percentage of PAR direct beneficiaries who can identify one or more skills they acquired through participation in PAR activities aimed at building “reconciliation abilities”	Percent	100%	100%	89%
C-AME-06	Percentage of people who have heard of the Truth Commission and can name at least one of its functions	Percent	48%	48%	19%
C-AME-07	Percentage of respondents interviewed by C-AME who report having participated in truth-telling initiatives implemented by the Truth Commission	Percent	34%	34%	7%
C-AME-08	Percent of PAR beneficiaries and are able to offer specific information on the role they can play in advancing reconciliation	Percent	91%	91%	82%
C-AME-09	Percentage of PAR beneficiaries who interacted with members of the community who were on opposing sides of the conflict during their participation in Reconciliation in PAR activities	Percent	43%	43%	52%

In terms of the performance indicators, C-AME collected data from 61 beneficiaries and implementers. Table 3 presents the results from the quarter and the historic cumulative record for each indicator. According to the respondents of the survey in this period, 49% reported a very positive perspective on reconciliation and the implementation of the peace agreement. This percentage is low in comparison to the cumulative rate, which shows that 71% of those surveyed agree that dynamics of reconciliation associated with the peace process are going well in their territories.

Regarding participants who have taken actions to enhance reconciliation drivers (Indicator 2), all of the beneficiaries say they have worked on at least one of these skills to contribute to reconciliation in their communities.

Of the respondents, 87% acknowledge the positive effects of PAR on public/private partnerships and of PAR activities through these alliances on improving social and economic opportunities for communities (Indicator 3). A variety of projects selected for this iteration are related to economic empowerment of sensitive populations, therefore, it is possible to infer that, among respondents, these interventions are contributing to improve their livelihood.

There are also important achievements among beneficiaries that have acquired reconciliation skills through participation in PAR activities. Indicator 5 shows that 100% of participants have taken advantage of PAR methodologies such as *DecidoSer* that enhance reconciliation skills.

For this period, 10% percent of participants responded that they have acquired better understanding of the peace process through *Semana Rural*. The cumulative percentage is 11%. For this quarter, 48% of participants mentioned knowing about the Truth Commission and were able to highlight at least one of its tasks (Indicator 6) and 37% reported having participated in an activity organized by this institution (Indicator 7). These numbers are higher than the cumulative since one of the projects (PAR-01-131) is the result of an alliance between the Truth Commission and PAR in Apartadó, Buenaventura, and Quibdó. Of those surveyed, 91% believe they can play an active role in reconciliation in their communities, showing high levels of commitment to rebuilding the social fabric in their contexts (Indicator 8). Additionally, 35% of respondents interacted with members of the community who were on opposing sides of the conflict due to PAR activities (Indicator 9).

External influences on C-AME activities

Beyond challenges highlighted in past reports related to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the operational consequences these had on C-AME fieldwork, the lessons gathered from the remote monitoring pilot exercise were useful during this period. In most cases, C-AME used phone calls to gather information, as connectivity and access to the internet are not widespread and some of these groups do not own tablets, computers, or smartphones. In November and December there were heavy rains in some of the municipalities where the monitoring activities were carried out (particularly Apartadó and Quibdó), which made communication with beneficiaries and implementers difficult and also led to the displacement of participating populations who had to mobilize to protect themselves from possible natural disasters. In Apartadó, the rains made it impossible to carry out the C-AME activity with the children in an open-air site, since the planned sites suffered from flooding or mud.

Context Indicators

I. Context Indicator I (National): Level of implementation of provisions in the Peace Agreement

The Kroc Institute (2020) has not presented any new updates since the ones reported in QR4 of FY2020. According to this report, up until November 2019, 25% of the provisions had been fully implemented, 15% were at an intermediate level of progress, 36% were at a minimum state of implementation, and the remaining 26% had not begun to be implemented (p.12). Although the main source of information for monitoring this indicator is the data presented periodically by Kroc Institute, C-AME reviewed other sources in order to complement this information. The complementary sources reviewed in this period were:

1. The Quarterly Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (from June 27th to September 25, 2020).
2. The 29 Report of The Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia MAPP/OAS (which covers the first half of 2020).

The following are the main findings of both missions for each Peace Agreement point.

I. Comprehensive rural reform

The MAPP/OAS Mission (2020) highlights that, for the first time in the Agreement's implementation process, there was an opportunity to align at the departmental and municipal levels of government, the participatory planning exercises resulting from the PDET² (p. 23). Local authorities included 9,866 PDET initiatives in the Development Plans³ of 160 municipalities (UN, 2020: 3). In addition, the multipurpose cadaster (aimed at updating data on ownership and land use throughout the country) was prioritized in 38 of the 170 PDET municipalities (MAPP/OAS, 2020: 23). On the other hand, according to the UN, of the 16 road maps for stabilization established for the PDET in the National Development Plan, until September, only the one for the Catatumbo region was being implemented.

Civil society actors and the FARC party continue to call for a PDET implementation in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and in coordination with the other provisions established in the Comprehensive Rural Reform section (UN, 2020: 4).

II. Political participation

The obligatory isolation due to the pandemic limited the citizens' face-to-face participation, affecting their broad, effective, and inclusive participation. The pandemic impacted participation in processes such as the building of municipal and departmental development plans, the election of members of the Peace, Reconciliation, and Coexistence Councils, the Communal Action Committees renewal, and the Municipal Youth Councils electoral preparation. The Communal Action Committees renewal and the Municipal Youth Councils electoral preparations were postponed until 2021 and the sessions of the Peace, Reconciliation, and Coexistence Councils took place virtually (MAPP/OAS, 2020: 20).

In Congress, during the reporting period, the FARC party presented 13 law projects related to the Peace Agreement implementation and to the pandemic, supported more than 20 legislative projects presented by other parties, and promoted sessions regarding the reincorporation process and the social leaders' and ex-combatants' murders (UN, 2020: 9).

III. End of the conflict

The National Council for Reincorporation (CNR) approved 66 collective and 1,467 individual projects through September 2020, benefiting 2,928 and 1,734 ex-combatants, respectively. Additionally, with support from IOM and UNDP, the CNR implemented measures such as training, strengthening food security, promoting food-for-product exchange initiatives and improving internet connectivity to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on productive projects. (UN, 2020: 6).

The FARC ex-combatants and their families were victims of threats, forced displacement, attempted killings and homicides that included children and teenagers, in events that occurred mainly in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Huila, Nariño, and Norte de Santander. Since the signing of the Agreement, the UN Mission has verified 297 attacks against ex-members of the FARC-EP, including 224 murders, 20 disappearances, and 53 attempted murders (UN, 2020: 9). Among the most frequent causes of the attacks are refusal to join an illegal armed group, failure to provide information of interest to illegal

² Territorially Focused Development Plans (Spanish acronym PDET) are a special 15-year planning and management tool that prioritizes the creation of expeditious instruments to stabilize and transform the territories most affected by violence, poverty, illegal economies and institutional weakness, and thus achieve the rural development that these municipalities require.

³ Development Plans are documents created at the municipal and department level by incoming governments that establishes the government's objectives, setting programs, investments and goals for the four-year period. It allows evaluating results and guarantees transparency in budget management.

armed groups, being accused of belonging to or collaborating with other illegal armed groups or with the authorities, and participation in the reintegration process (MAPP/OAS, 2020:16).

Both missions consider the persistence of attacks against social and community leaders alarming, with the continuing of individual and collective abuses having a strong impact on organizational structures. The main victims of the attacks have been leaders on issues of territorial and environmental defense, communal processes, citizen oversight, micro trafficking complaints, voluntary illicit crop substitution processes and demands for the rights of women, peasants, youth, and ethnic communities (MAPP/OAS, 2020:15).

The confrontations between illegal armed groups continue generating serious humanitarian effects such as confinement, individual and massive displacements, threats, murders, and forced disappearances in the peasant, Afro-descendant and indigenous communities. Preventive isolation to control coronavirus allowed for the strengthening of the social control exercised by the armed groups in the territories. During the pandemic, the armed groups imposed restrictive and coercive measures on the population to comply with the measure of mandatory isolation (MAPP/OAS, 2020:17).

Indigenous authorities suffered an increase in violent attacks by armed groups against in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Caquetá, Cauca, Guaviare Chocó, Nariño, Norte de Santander, and Putumayo. The threats generated forced displacement of indigenous authorities, limitation of their jurisdictional actions and abandonment of their roles (MAPP/OAS, 2020: 18).

IV. Solution to the problem of illicit drugs

The Illicit Crop Replacement Program (PNIS) maintained its operation during the health emergency, especially in the components of immediate assistance payments, delivery of food security supplies and attention to community managers in Antioquia, Cauca, Córdoba, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander. However, the communities that signed collective agreements of voluntary illicit crop substitution point out that there have been breaches of the roadmap and schedule of the PNIS and in several municipalities, populations linked to the program continue to be the focus of threats, homicides, signaling, and forced displacement. The forced eradication of illicit crops has generated conflicts with numerous communities in the departments of Antioquia, Bolívar, Cauca, Caquetá, Chocó, Córdoba, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Valle del Cauca and Putumayo. (MAPP/OAS, 2020: 25 – 26).

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, under PNIS, 99,097 participant families eradicated 42,339 hectares of coca. Although payments, delivery of supplies, and technical assistance for participating families have continued, less than 2% of the families have benefited from productive projects in implementation phase, which are essential to ensure that families who have fulfilled their commitment to voluntarily replacement do not return to planting coca once the other components of the program are completed (UN, 2020: 5).

V. Agreement regarding the victims of the conflict

The Truth Commission continued to advance with interviews and social dialogue events at the national level, extending the deadline for the presentation of interviews and cases due to the contingency caused by COVID-19. It has also adopted new strategies aimed at strengthening communication through mass and alternative media, such as radio programs and the use of virtual communication tools (MAPP/OAS, 2020: 35). The Truth Commission received 46 reports from institutions and social organizations in 2020 (of 187 total), and had carried out a series of *Dialogues for non-repetition* aimed at understanding the causes of continuous violence in five regions of Colombia (UN, 2020: 4).

The Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) continued making progress in its seven cases and has accredited 308,000 victims, mainly from ethnic communities (UN, 2020: p.4). The JEP also implemented a virtual strategy for Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations to make progress on accreditation and notifications with ethnic relevance in the territory. However, mandatory isolation affected diffusion and

pedagogical activities, the elaboration of reports, the mobilization of victims to offer voluntary depositions, and protection measures for their participation (MAPP/OAS, 2020: 33).

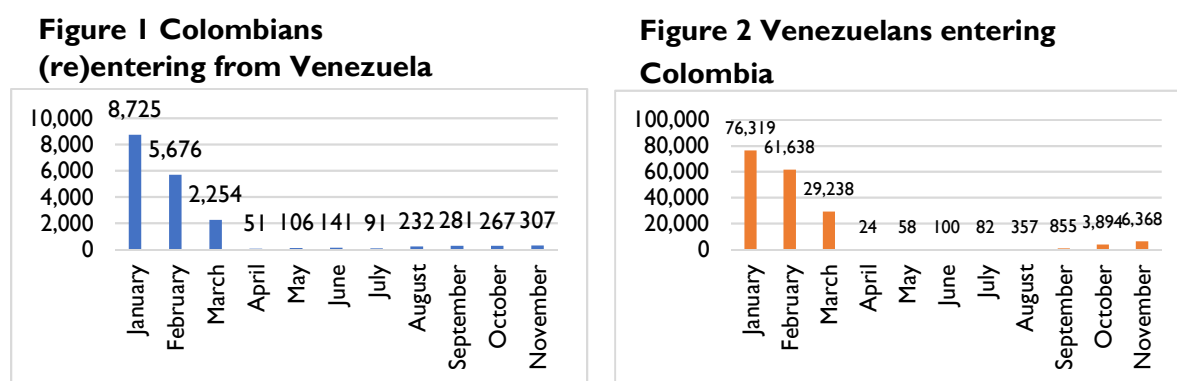
The JEP increased its territorial presence by opening two new offices in Bucaramanga and Neiva. It is important to include crosscutting and comprehensive analyses of the territorial situation in each area with open cases in order to assess the dynamics that can generate extraordinary risks for the victims (MAPP/OAS, 2020: 35).

Since it began operating, the Unit for the Search of Missing Persons (UBPD) has handed over the remains of 83 people to their families, received 7,273 search requests, and received information provided by 230 people, including ex-combatants, members of the public forces, and civilians (UN, 2020: 4). The UBPD also implemented strategies aimed at guaranteeing channels of attention via telephone and virtual means during the health emergency, seeking to ensure the confidentiality and protection of sensitive information. The OAS highlights that significant progress has been made in launching the National Search Plan for locating persons reported missing in the context of the conflict, pointing out that the main challenge is to ensure that its implementation does not increase the risk to participating communities, especially in territories affected by armed groups (MAPP/OAS, 2020: 33).

Finally, regarding the Peace Agreement budget implementation, the National General Budget proposal presented to Congress by the Government for 2021 does not contain a specific line item for peace-related issues, although it includes an annex on peacebuilding spending. While the government notes that peace-related investments have increased by 9% compared to the previous year, the opposition parties, including the FARC, argue that the allocated funds remain insufficient and that the resources that should be used exclusively for implementation of the Peace Agreement are being used for other purposes. According to the fourth Peace Agreement budget execution follow-up report presented by the Office of the Comptroller General to Congress in 2020, although the implementation in 2019 was higher related to previous years, if spending continues at the same pace, full implementation would be achieved in at least 25 years, as opposed to the 15 initially planned (UN, 2020: 2).

2. Context Indicator 2 (Municipal): Rate of Venezuelan population influx

Based on the Migration Colombia data (2020a), these are the statistics of the entrance of migrants and returnees from Venezuela between January and November 2020:

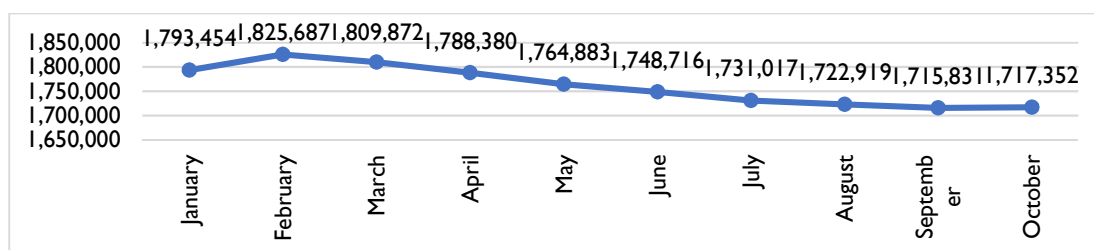


Source: C-AME with data from Migración Colombia (2020a).

As the figures show, the migratory influxes both of the Venezuelan population and of the Colombian population from Venezuela saw a drastic fall during the year due to the health emergency. Nonetheless, there is an increase in the number of Venezuelans entering Colombia in the last quarter of 2020, coinciding with the decision of the Colombian government to lift most of the mobilization restrictions imposed in April 2020. The number of Venezuelan citizens living in the country has continued to fall from 1,825,687

in February to 1,717,352 in October and has remained stable over the past two months (Migración Colombia, 2020b).

Figure 3 Venezuelans living in Colombia 2020



Source: C-AME with data from Migración Colombia (2020b).

The department of Antioquia hosts 8.98% of the Venezuelan population resident in the country, while Valle del Cauca hosts 5.15%, Magdalena 5.06%, and Chocó 0.05%. According to Migración Colombia (2020c) in Apartadó there were 1,813 Venezuelan residents, while there were 1,485 in Buenaventura, 13,635 in Ciénaga, and 265 in Quibdó.

3. Context Indicator 3 (Local): Number of reported incidents of crime and violence

Table 4 presents the crime data from the National Police regarding to homicides, personal injuries, sexual crimes, domestic violence and threats between January 1 and December 30 in Apartadó, Quibdó, Buenaventura and Ciénaga.

Table 4 Reported crimes by National Police of Colombia January to December 2020

City/municipality	Homicides	Personal injuries	Sexual crimes	Domestic violence	Threats
Apartadó Population ⁴ : 127.744	37	148	86	244	80
Quibdó Population: 130.825	150	265	84	168	272
Buenaventura Population: 311.827	111	259	115	307	191
Ciénaga Population: 124.339	41	152	70	89	63

Source: C-AME with data from National Police of Colombia (2020) January – December.

Reports from the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science of Colombia present similar data in terms of fatal/non-fatal injuries in Quibdó, which could be due to under-reporting. This source only

⁴ National Department of Statistics (DANE). Population projections at municipal level according to the 2018 National Census. Period 2018 - 2035.

reports information for capitals cities; therefore, there is not available data for Apartadó, Buenaventura, or Ciénaga.

Table 5 Reported fatal/non-fatal injuries by Legal Medicine and Forensic Science from January to November 2020.

City/Municipality	Homicides	Personal injuries	Sexual crimes	Domestic violence
Quibdó Population: 130.825	139	217	83	113

Source: C-AME with data from the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science, January – November 2020.

According to the Information System on Aggression Against Human Rights Defenders in Colombia (SIADDHH, 2020), between January and September 2020 there were 647⁵ individual incidences⁶ of violence against social leaders and human rights defenders. The most affected continue being community leaders, indigenous leaders, communal leaders, peasant leaders and Human Rights defenders.

Table 6 - Attacks against human rights defenders during the first quarter of 2020

Type of individual assaults	Number of cases	Percentage
Threats	395	61,1%
Murders	135	20,9%
Murder Attempts	46	7,1%
Illegal detentions	27	4,2%
Judializations	25	3,9%
Forced disappearances	18	2,8%
Information theft	1	0,2%
Total	647	100%

Source: C-AME with data from the SIADDHH (2020a: 103) and (2020b: 1).

⁵ This amount results of adding up the values presented by the SIADDHH in its January-June semiannual report (463 aggressions) and in its July-September quarterly report (184 aggressions).

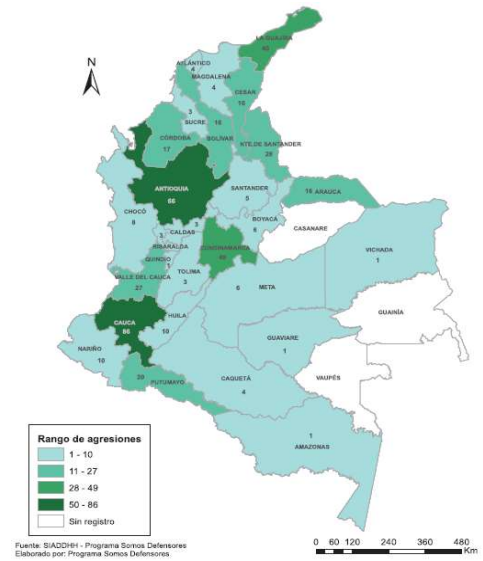
⁶ They clarify that there is probably underreported data, since due to the mobility limitations caused by the pandemic, it was impossible to travel to the regions, making it difficult to access the information collected in the field and requiring to adjust the monitoring strategies, region and verification of the aggressions that occurred in the period.

Instead of restraining attacks, the nationwide confinement decreed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 has facilitated them, allowing the aggressors to easily identify the routines and permanent whereabouts of their targets. This has led to attacks and murders taking place in leaders' own homes, in front of their families (SIADDHH, 2020a: 103). Comparing the data from the first half of 2020 with those reported for the same period last year, we see a 43% decrease in threats, from 477 in 2019 to 274 in 2020. However, there was a 61% increase in killings, which rose from 59 in 2019 to 95 in 2020 (SIADDHH, 2020a: 106).

During the first half of the year, incidents took place in 29 of the 32 departments of the country (91% of the national territory), with Cauca as the department with the highest number of incidents (86), followed by Antioquia (66). There were 27 aggressions in Valle del Cauca, eight in Chocó and four in Magdalena (SIADDHH, 2020a: 110). Among the aggressions committed during this period, 37% were the carried out by unknown perpetrators⁷, 30% by paramilitary groups, 12% by Public Forces, 10% by FARC dissidents, 6% by the ELN, and 5% by the Fiscalía General de la Nación (as the entity in charge of the prosecutions).

Finally, the INDEPAZ's permanent record (2020) regarding murdered social leaders and Human Rights defenders (updated to date), reports a total of 310 social leaders murdered between January and December 2020, as well as 12 leaders' relatives and 64 FARC ex-combatants killed during the same period.

Figure 4. Aggressions against Human Rights defenders



Source: SIADDHH (2020a, 110)

4. Context Indicator 4: Number of distinct definitions of reconciliation

In the co-occurrences analysis, C-AME examines how often a specific concept, in this case *reconciliation*, is associated with other concepts in the participants' and partners' narratives. According to the data gathered through the surveys applied in this period, the most frequent words associated with the *reconciliation* concept are forgiveness, peace and people. Other words such as respect, harmony and conflict were also related to the concept of reconciliation, although to a lesser degree.

Figure 5 Reconciliation meanings



Source: C-AME with data from Reconciliation Survey.

INFORMATION GATHERED AND ANALYZED IN THIS PERIOD

Methodological Strategy

⁷ Due to the reconfiguration of armed groups and because some have opted to outsource their actions to criminal structures or criminal gangs, it is difficult to identify a high percentage of the aggressors.

During this period, C-AME continued gathering its information remotely, adjusting its strategies and instruments to be applied through video and telephone calls. The team also held virtual meetings and communicated consistently with PAR to coordinate the development of activities.

C-AME collected information from 61 respondents—beneficiaries and implementers of 4 PAR projects implemented in Apartadó, Buenaventura, Ciénaga, and Quibdó. Additionally, the media observatory continued to collect information on the structural and emerging context factors in the four municipalities.

Table 7 – Projects selected for the remote surveys

Municipality	PAR Code	Implementing partner	Project
Apartadó	PAR-01-131	Comisión para el Esclarecimiento de la Verdad, la Convivencia y la No repetición - Corporación INCORPORARTE	Strategic cooperation with the Truth Clarification Commission: Create an interactive and supportive learning opportunity with boys, girls, and adolescents marked by various types of violence. Creation of audiovisual material with <i>bullerengue</i> content and poetry.
Buenaventura	PAR-01-196	Fundación Espacios de Convivencia y Desarrollo Social - FUNDESCODES	Strengthening solidarity economies for citizen participation. Work with women victims of violence who are part of FUNDESCODES in the development and distribution of materials and antibacterial gel that protects vulnerable communities.
	PAR-01-131	Comisión para el Esclarecimiento de la Verdad, la Convivencia y la No repetición - Asociación Cultural Rostros Urbanos	Strategic cooperation with the Truth Clarification Commission: Aimed at the reconstruction of the social fabric, through artistic and cultural strategies for women victims of violence.
Ciénaga	PAR-03-135	CREATA	Strengthening community ecotourism in Arauca and Ciénaga as a reconciliation and de-stigmatization strategy.
Quibdó	PAR-03-168	Corporación GEInnova	Weavers of Dreams. Entrepreneurship and innovation for peacebuilding in the El Reposo neighborhood in Quibdó.
	PAR-01-131	Comisión para el Esclarecimiento de la Verdad, la Convivencia y la No repetición – Fundación Circulo de Estudios Culturales y Políticos	Strategic cooperation with the Truth Clarification Commission: Peoples in Movement Program that seeks to empower 40 women through theater, promoting peaceful coexistence and the reconstruction of memory, truth and the inclusion of the Afro-descendant population.

INFORMATION GATHERED AND ANALYZED IN THIS PERIOD WITH A GENDER AND INCLUSION LENS

Between October and December 2020, C-AME collected 61 surveys for performance indicators. Of those surveyed, 41 were women and 18 men (2 did not identify themselves with either gender). The sample for the monitoring survey has a gender composition that responds to PAR projects focused on women (particularly PAR-01-131): 69% women and 31% men.

Regarding the participation of ethnic communities in the monitoring pilot, in the current sample of Afro-Colombians represent 77% of total respondents and indigenous peoples represent 10%. The relative importance of afro-descendants in the sample for this quarter is the result of monitoring projects focused in this ethnic community.

Regarding answers for performance indicators, there are a variety of perspectives regarding key aspects about the peace process, the scope of public/private alliances and other aspects related to PAR from a gender and social inclusion perspective. According to respondents, 54% of women hold positive views towards reconciliation and the implementation of the peace agreement. Of those having a favorable perspective, 83% are Afro-Colombian and 4% belong to indigenous communities.

In terms of the beneficiaries that have taken actions that drive and enhance reconciliation, 73% of women respond that they have done so. Data collected from the surveys shows that of those that responded that PAR interventions have strengthened dialogue, empowerment, respect, and trust as drivers of reconciliation, 90% are Afro-Colombians and 2% are indigenous.

From the total of respondents that considers public private alliances have benefited their communities and improve social and economic opportunities, 69% are women, 81% are Afro-Colombians and 2% are indigenous.

RE-DIRECTED FUNDS IMPLEMENTED DUE TO COVID-19

In the following table, C-AME presents COVID-19 related expenses in Quarter One FY2021.

Table 8 – COVID-19 Expenditure Tracker

Award Number	Approved Re-directed Amount US\$	Expenditures US\$ as of Q4 FY2020	Expenditures US\$ Q1 FY2021	Total Expenditures
Contract/TO No. AID-OAA-I-15-00017 / AID-514-TO-17-00010	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$45.42	\$45.42

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ANNEX A: SUCCESS STORY

Art as a tool for reconciliation and social transformation in kids and youth

The Truth Commission, in alliance with PAR, has been developing processes oriented at improving visibility and promoting artistic and cultural expressions that contribute to the construction of truth in the territories. In the municipality of Apartadó, the initiative *Sounds and Words to Heal the Soul* has been implemented together with the Corporación INCORPORARTE. This initiative seeks to generate artistic spaces for creation and to make positive use of free time with children and adolescents marked by various forms of violence.

“Reconciliation is being a best friend, joining with people to forgive and be happy with people, talking to each other and being best friends, seeing her as a sister and loving her with all your heart, for me, that's reconciliation” (10 year old girl. *Sounds and Words to Heal the Soul*, Apartadó, 2020).



This space has allowed children and adolescents to have a safe place to learn, share, play and express themselves through dance, drawing and poetry. It has contributed both to the construction of non-violent forms of relationship between them and to the prevention of their recruitment and/or involvement in illegal economies.

The children interviewed by C-AME stated that this initiative brings them “joy and fun”, the possibility of “playing, joining and dancing *bullerengue*”, “learning to share with their peers”, “singing, having fun and playing with friends”. It has also taught them that “every child has an important value” and has shown them the importance of “learning to forgive, accept reality and tell the truth” (Focus group with NNA participants of the project, Apartadó, 2020).

This initiative promotes art as a tool for reconciliation insofar as it leads participants to integrate, recognize themselves, and build relationships based on respect and trust, while generating spaces for reflection on their own history and on the reality of their territory.

“[The project] has to do with the reality of what in itself happened or is happening, (...) there was a conversation by the Truth Commission, many doubts were clarified. Here many children know that they are displaced because they listen to their parents, because they say that they are displaced but the parents have not been curious to tell them the truth, ‘we are displaced by this, this and that’. As for that, they take a more enriched knowledge of when they entered the project” (Interview teacher of *bullerengue* INCORPORARTE, Apartadó, 2020).



“All together, we dance together, we sing together, we almost do everything together because that is reconciliation” (Focus group with NNA participants of the project *Sounds and Words to Heal the Soul*, Apartadó, 2020).

This type of project contributes to breaking down the prejudices that are held in the territory about a highly stigmatized population, because it is often associated with problems related to drug use and as part of criminal groups.

“One playing can reconcile with friends, with my cousin. When one is angry with the other one reconciles by playing or talking” (Focus group with NNA participants of the project, Apartadó, 2020).

It is important to highlight the role of play in the reconciliation process according to the definitions given by children, for whom reconciliation is linked to getting back together, talking to each other and becoming best friends after being angry with each other.

During C-AME's visit to this project, the following challenges were identified for the development of face-to-face activities in the framework of the pandemic generated by Covid-19.

- In activities with children, the strict application of biosecurity protocols such as the constant use of masks and the maintenance of social distance is difficult. It is recommended to use dynamics and incentives that allow children to understand the importance of the measures and comply with them during the activity.
- Some individuals may not wear masks or may wear masks that are not adequate for their own protection and that of other participants, so it is recommended that disposable masks be worn at the time of each activity and provided for participants if necessary.
- It is recommended to carry out the activities in open, large, and well ventilated spaces to avoid possible contagion.



ANNEX B – SCREENSHOTS OF SUBMISSION OF DELIVERABLES APPROVED IN THIS REPORTING PERIOD TO THE DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE CLEARINGHOUSE

DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE CLEARINGHOUSE

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ANNEX C – SCREENSHOTS OF MONITOR SYSTEM WITH THE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR PROGRESS REPORT

Indicator	FY2019				FY2020				FY2021		Grand Total		
	FY2019Q2 - COR Approved	FY2019Q3 - COR Approved	FY2019Q4 - COR Approved	Total FY/ Actual	FY2020Q1 - COR Approved	FY2020Q2 - COR Approved	FY2020Q3 - COR Approved	FY2020Q4 - COR Approved	Total FY/ Actual	FY2021Q1 - COR Approved	Total FY/ Actual	Project Total / Actual	Project total / Target
C-AME-01 Percentage of PAR beneficiaries interviewed who hold positive views toward reconciliation	77	52	87	87	100	88	56	57	57	49	49	49	
C-AME-02 Number of beneficiaries who have taken actions that enhance trust, dialogue, respect or empowerment in their communities						30	33		33			33	
C-AME-03 Percent of respondents who agree that their participation in activities made possible by PAR public-private partnerships has improved social and/or economic opportunities for themselves or their community	74	58	93	93	100	100	93	78	78	87	87	87	
C-AME-04 Percent of people in target municipalities who report increased ...	11	9	13	13	32	9	11	3	3	10	10	10	
C-AME-05 Percentage of PAR direct beneficiaries who can identify one or more skills they acquired through participation in PAR activities aimed at building "reconciliation abilities".	95	48	100	100	88	73	97	95	95	100	100	100	
C-AME-06 Percentage of people who have heard of the Truth Commission and can name at least one of its functions	42	8	52	52	35	21	24	15	15	48	48	48	
C-AME-07 Percentage of respondents interviewed by C-AME who report having participated in truth-telling initiatives implemented by the Truth Commission	14	2	26	26	11	2	2	0	2	34	34	34	
C-AME-08 Percent of PAR beneficiaries and are able to offer specific information on the role they can play in advancing Reconciliation	88	73	22	22	82	85	94	87	87	91	91	91	
C-AME-09 Percentage of PAR beneficiaries who interacted with members of the community who were on opposing sides of the conflict during their participation in PAR activities.	56	23	26	26	46	12	43	35	35	43	43	43	