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COLOMBIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITY

YEAR THREE QUARTER ONE REPORT

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Acronyms

AGO	Attorney General's Office
APS	Annual Program Statement
ARN	<i>Agencia para la Reincorporación y Normalización</i>
CNP	Colombian National Police
CONPA	<i>Consejo Nacional de Paz de las Comunidades Negras</i>
CONPES	<i>Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social</i>
COMPOS	Municipal Social Policy Committee (<i>Consejo Municipal de Política Social</i>)
CPDH	Presidential Advisor for Human Rights (<i>Consejería Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos</i>)
CPEM	Presidential Advisor for Gender Equality (<i>Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer</i>)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CIPRUNNA	Intersectoral Commission for the Prevention of Forced Child Recruitment (<i>Comisión Intersectorial para la Prevención del Reclutamiento, Utilización y Explotación Sexual de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes</i>)
DAIASC	Citizen Security Investigation and Analysis Office (<i>Dirección de Apoyo a la Investigación y Análisis para la Seguridad Ciudadana</i>)
ELN	National Liberation Army (<i>Ejército de Liberación Nacional</i>)
EWS	Early Warning System (<i>Sistema de Alertas Tempranas</i>)
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (<i>Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia</i>)
FENALPER	National Federation of <i>Personeros</i> (<i>Federación Nacional de Personeros</i>)
FIP	<i>Fundación Ideas para la Paz</i>
GOC	Government of Colombia
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HRP III	Human Rights Program III
HRA	Human Rights Activity
ICBF	Colombian Welfare Institute (<i>Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar</i>)
IGO	Inspector General's Office (<i>Procuraduría General de la Nación</i>)
JSP	Justice for a Sustainable Peace
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Intersex
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MOE	Ministry of Education (<i>Ministerio de Educación</i>)
MOI	Ministry of Interior (<i>Ministerio del Interior</i>)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPU	National Protection Unit
UNOHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PPGNR	Prevention, protection and guarantees of non-repetition
RGA	Regional Governance Activity
RFA	Request for Application
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNIPPEP	Police Unit for Peacebuilding

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I. Executive Summary

USAID's Human Rights Activity (HRA) continued to provide technical support and guidance to key stakeholders to improve Colombia's human rights situation during some of the most historic, as well as challenging, moments of its postaccord phase. During this past quarter, April-June 2018, Colombia held its first presidential election in which the country was not at war with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in over fifty years. The results of the first-round elections, held in March 2018, clearly demonstrated a sharply polarized country. On June 17, 2018, Colombian voters chose the far-right candidate Iván Duque over the far-left candidate Gustavo Petro by over 12 percentage points. With Duque's win, his running mate María Lucía Ramírez became Colombia's first female Vice-President. It was reported that 53% of all registered voters went to the polls, one of Colombia's highest turnout rates in its history. This year's presidential election also remained one of the safest without any notable incidents reported.

Another sweeping development during this quarter, which greatly impacted HRA operations, took place in Antioquia's Bajo Cauca region in early May. During this period, a catastrophic malfunction of the Hidroituango Dam, Colombia's largest hydroelectric project, brought on by operational mismanagement and a heavy rainy season resulted in massive flooding and the evacuation of 600 people to temporary shelters, the displacement of several thousand local residents, and the collapse of three bridges. The impending risks directly threatened the safety of eight surrounding municipalities, amounting to at least 120,000 residents, including HRA's municipalities of Valdivia, Tarazá, Cáceres, Caucaasia, and Nechí. HRA's two regional advisors based out of Caucaasia were provisionally relocated to Montería, Córdoba and later Medellín. In light of these events, a number of HRA's scheduled activities were postponed or cancelled in this sub-region.

Equally concerning and reaching new critical levels during this quarter, Colombia's human rights defenders' crisis remains one of HRA's leading priorities as increasing numbers of killings, threats and other human rights violations continue to impact human rights defenders and other social leaders throughout HRA priority regions. During this quarter, 48 human rights defenders and other social leaders were killed, raising the year-to-date total to 123. This systematic loss of life, predominantly led by illegal armed groups and other peacebuilding spoilers, continues to undermine the implementation of Colombia's peace accord. To this end, HRA remained strongly committed to implementing its human rights defender strategy including efforts to strengthen prevention and self-protection strategies targeting high-risk communities in sub-regions including Bajo Cauca, Antioquia and northern Cauca, among others.

In March, HRA organized and facilitated a special two-day national forum to bring together key stakeholders to address the impact of ethnic human rights defenders and other social leaders in the regions. As a result, HRA supported the participation of 85 Afro-Colombian and indigenous leaders from the regions most affected by the crisis to meet with high-level government officials in Bogotá. This provided a valuable platform for ethnic leaders to develop recommendations and proposals internally, which were then discussed in a dialogue with government officials. Government representation included the Inspector General, the Vice-Ombudsman, the Vice-Minister of Defense, Minister of Interior, the National Protection Unit (NPU) director and a representative of the Office of the Presidential Advisor for Human Rights (CPDH by its Spanish acronym). This event was also the result of collaborative efforts with USAID's programs with International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Pastoral Social Fortaleciendo.

Similarly, HRA remains on target in advancing activities related to developing and providing self-protection tools and techniques for at-risk communities throughout HRA's municipalities. This progress has been achieved by working alongside public sector partners such as the Police Unit for Peacebuilding (UNIPEP by its Spanish acronym); local authorities in Briceño and Caceres, Antioquia to strengthen institutional mechanisms and strategic capacities to enhance response measures in both urban and rural settings; as well as the National Guarantees Roundtables for Human Rights Defenders in Córdoba and Antioquia. Additionally, a grant was awarded to *Corporación Agencia Afrocolombiana Hileros/PCN*, which works in eight HRA priority municipalities of Nariño and Cauca, to strengthen community-based early warning components and systems and increase coordination with government counterparts responsible for the protection of their rights and security.

This grant was one of six which were awarded during the quarter to civil society organizations (CSOs) carrying out critical work on the ground to promote and protect human rights and affected populations during Colombia's postaccord phase. With this, HRA's grant fund is fully obligated for its base period. In total, HRA has awarded and supported 41 CSOs since 2016 with over \$2 million USD to advance innovative, inclusive, and dynamic human rights-focused projects throughout HRA's seven priority departments during one of Colombia's most historic transformational moments. Also, noteworthy during this quarter and as part of HRA's commitment to providing comprehensive organizational strengthening support, HRA worked with *Fundación Sergio Urrego*, a relatively new CSO dedicated to raising awareness and reaching out to school communities on the dangers of discrimination and suicide prevention among youth. HRA's Gender and Vulnerable Populations Expert led the first of a series of gender-focused trainings for their leadership team, including its founder, Alba Reyes. Her deep personal investment in the Foundation's organization stems from the tragic suicide of her 16-year-old son in 2014 following vicious school bullying, including by school leadership, due to his sexual orientation.

Another encouraging advance led by HRA during this quarter has been the initial development of departmental human rights public policies. Learning from successful models already being carried out in Tolima and Meta, HRA contracted three expert consultants to work with the governors' offices in Córdoba, Cauca, and Antioquia to gain commitments and confirm concrete next steps to institutionalize human rights strategies and planning through public policy. Once completed, these policies will consolidate and foster human rights mechanisms, initiatives, and awareness throughout these departments which have historically lacked leadership and information on this critical issue.

Also, during the quarter, HRA made strides in strengthening investigatory and case processing capacities of Colombia's Attorney General's Office (AGO) towards reducing impunity of human rights violation cases. During this quarter, HRA teamed up again with the AGO's Support for Citizen Security Investigation and Analysis Office (DAIASC by its Spanish acronym) to support its efforts in strengthening ties with their satellite regional prosecutor offices to deliver the necessary follow-up support from the national level in processing human rights violation cases. With a new project initiated during the quarter, HRA will provide technical assistance whereby AGO prosecutors will gain invaluable tools and skills to sharpen their capacities to efficiently and expeditiously process sexual violence and anti-discrimination LGBTI cases. This will also greatly build upon the groundbreaking work already led by HRA, also in partnership with the AGO, in developing a first-of-its-kind best practices and lessons learned guide for AGO prosecutors on LGBTI rights cases.

Another key highlight during the quarter was the kick-off of three new human rights and peacebuilding diploma courses in the departments of Antioquia and Cauca. HRA's ongoing commitment to provide the needed knowledge, skills, and tools to public officials and other community leaders continues to pave new and bold paths to strengthen human rights in areas which have been deeply impacted by human rights violations, conflict, and associated violence. In Cauca, recognizing the importance of its diverse demographic environment, new participants will include indigenous guard members and *campesinos*.

Partnering with municipal administrations provides a clear message of the importance of delivering such opportunities and platforms for civil society and local authorities to come together and become empowered change agents in the promotion and protection of human rights. With pioneering initiatives such as these, HRA, in partnership with key stakeholders, confidently keeps the momentum moving forward in prioritizing, raising the visibility, and tackling Colombia's leading human rights challenges.

II. Year One Quarter Three Results

A. Activity Components

Component 1: Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights

During this quarter, HRA continued to make **encouraging progress regarding the establishment of departmental human rights policies and human rights and peacebuilding schools in several of its priority departments**, namely Tolima and Meta. Over the past year, HRA efforts have focused on designing and establishing Human Rights and Peacebuilding Schools in these two departments to train public officials and social leaders via government-supported informal education mechanisms. During the design phase, it became clear that developing a departmental public policy would enhance the implementation and effectiveness of the Schools, providing them with sustainability and government support. In Meta, with the draft policy and ordinance finalized at the end of the last quarter, HRA moved on to vetting these documents with key stakeholders during this quarter. Therefore, HRA's consultant in Meta led several sub-regional work sessions gathering CSOs, human rights organizations, victims' representatives, and the departmental human rights council to garner input, feedback, and validation. Following the approval by the departmental human rights council, the ordinance, which will effectuate the human rights policy and, in turn, the Human Rights and Peacebuilding School, was under legal review by the end of the quarter. Upon completion of the legal review, the ordinance is sent to the departmental assembly for its final approval needed to officially implement the public policy and launch the School.

In the meantime, budget preparations were finalized to support Meta's School which is set to kick off in the second half of this year in two HRA priority municipalities: Mesetas and El Castillo. The governor's office secured financial resources in its projected budget to support the School in at least five or more municipalities for 2019. With HRA's consultant support, the School's Operations Manual was finalized and will be reviewed by Meta's governor's office and HRA's implementation partner *Corporación Claretiana* as part of the initial Administrative and Academic Council Board meeting in the coming quarter. **Meta's School's official kick-off is expected by early August 2018.** All necessary pedagogical materials are prepared and have been reviewed by the governor's offices for necessary approvals.

HRA also supported a parallel process in Tolima where, by the end of the quarter, the ordinance was also under legal review prior to being presented to the departmental assembly. Upon approval, Tolima's Human Rights, Diversity, and Peace School can officially start. This School will operate under the leadership of Tolima's governor's office, together with the *Universidad del Tolima* which has vast experience in human rights and peace issues. This School is projected to start in HRA priority municipality, Cajamarca, in the coming three months. During this quarter, the governor's office also committed to include necessary financial resources within its projected budget for 2019.

Complementing these efforts, **HRA hired three new consultants to lead the development of departmental human rights public policies in the departments of Antioquia, Córdoba, and Cauca.** These consultants will draw from the experiences forged in Tolima and Meta. During the quarter, a methodology was developed to foster dialogue with key stakeholders, including civil society and local authorities, to advance a participative development process of the human rights public policy.

Additionally, HRA's consultant based in Tolima carried out information exchanges to share lessons learned with other departments including Antioquia, Córdoba and Meta.

Regarding the **promotion of a peace and human rights culture via formal education**, HRA's support to the Ministry of Education (MOE) finalized its commitment in providing technical assistance during this quarter. HRA's eight consultants were responsible for supporting the integration of the Citizenship Training Model into its municipal school curricula (*Proyecto Educativo Insitucional* or PEI by its Spanish acronym). Due to their efforts, the national Human Rights and Peace Education Public Policy was developed, approved and implemented through the Citizenship Training Model (Model) in 49 schools. As such, human rights components were integrated into these 49 PEIs. The Model was implemented throughout seven departments and across 23 HRA priority municipalities. The consultants were also responsible for providing technical assistance to eight departmental education secretaries and 230 teachers were trained on the Model. While HRA's support to MOE in the development of the implementation of the Model comes to end, the MOE will continue to receive support from IOM over the coming two years to ensure support of human rights and peace education to all of Colombia's regions.

During the quarter, HRA's project with the CPDH supporting the implementation of the National Plan for Human Rights Education and Cultural and Peacebuilding (National Plan) came to a close. The series of activities and initiatives carried out over the past year sought to **promote and advance a cultural change in Colombia's postaccord phase through education**. Through culture and education, the Plan seeks to more assuredly consolidate Colombia's peace accord in the wake of a very challenging and tenuous economic, social, and political climate where issues such as poverty and other unsatisfied needs abound, particularly in the rural and conflict-affected regions. Nonetheless, through this project, HRA's support advanced trainings for regional entities to increase their ownership of the National Plan's strategies, programs and activities. In addition, opportunities to improve collaboration regarding human rights and cultural education following the national guidelines in the regions were identified. This project also provided a valuable opportunity to review the contextual background of the current situation in the regions in which regional stakeholders identified gaps, challenges, and best practices with regard to the promotion of a culture of human rights and peace. In addition, based on the workshops carried out, HRA's consultant consolidated final recommendations for the implementation of the National Human Rights Education Plan (PLANEDH) as well as prioritized activities to advance Colombia's Human Rights and Peace Culture and Education Sub-System.

Building on HRA's extensive expertise in promotion of human rights and peacebuilding education, a strategic partnership was established with the Ombudsman's Office. Through the **work with the Ombudsman's National Promotion and Dissemination Office, a project was designed and began implementation during this quarter to support the Office's mission in providing informal education materials based on human rights and international humanitarian law principles**. As part of its 2017-2020 strategic plan, these valuable inputs will aid in raising awareness, educating, and embedding a human rights and peace culture throughout 19 HRA priority municipalities in seven HRA departments, including Meta, Antioquia, Córdoba, Cauca, Nariño, Tolima and Caquetá. Specifically, HRA began designing six board games which educate on human rights including civic participation and oversight; comprehensive reparation to conflict victims; indigenous community rights; right to peace; *campesino* economic rights; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and the right to historical memory. By the end of the quarter, two of the six board games were finalized for high school students. HRA will support the dissemination of these games in HRA departments and the Ombudsman's Office is responsible for disseminating them nationally.

During this quarter, **HRA grantee Federación Nacional de Personerías (FENALPER) carried out the MIT and Dalai Lama Center for Ethics' Transformative Values Course with 32 select CSO leaders and the finalists from the RECON competition**. Participant capacity was made available for four

additional HRA Bogotá-based staff members as well. The opening session included the participation of the MIT Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values' CEO and Founder, Tenzin Pryadarshi; Universidad de Rosario's President, José Manuel Restrepo; RECON's Director, Andrés Santamaría; RECON's Co-Founder, Camilo Fonseca; UNDP representation; an *El Tiempo* representative; and a representative from the CPDH. Held in Bogotá, this three-day course worked with participants in exploring core values pertinent to their line of work in advocacy and human rights. This course initiated a process in which participants become more deeply aware of and align professional values with their personal values. For the remaining two sessions, FENALPER proposed carrying out a combined session to capitalize on participants coming from different regions of the country. This request was under consideration by MIT at the end of the quarter.

Two innovative grants came to a close during this quarter that advanced and strengthened Afro-Colombian women's rights, focusing on the experiences of Colombia's postaccord phase. HRA grantee *Asociación Municipal de Mujeres (ASOM)* implemented an eight-month grant project with Afro-Colombian women from the northern Cauca municipalities of Caloto, Buenos Aires, Santander de Quilichao, Corinto and Miranda to **develop Afro-Colombian women leaders' capacity to contribute, shape, and implement Development Plans with a Regional Focus (*Planes de Desarrollo con Enfoque Territorial, PDET by its Spanish acronym*)**. Derived from the signed peace accord's comprehensive rural reform, PDETs are fundamental planning tools targeting prioritized municipalities oriented at transforming Colombia's rural sector. Through participatory planning sessions, PDETs aim to reduce gaps between urban and rural areas while supporting small infrastructure projects and alternative economic development project in areas of high concentration of illicit cultivation. **Through this grant, 161 Afro-Colombian women leaders increased their knowledge on how to effectively contribute to the development of PDETs.** Twenty Afro-Colombian women leaders directly participated in the development phase of northern Cauca PDETs ensuring inputs which identified these women's needs and concerns with regard to rural development. Additionally, 197 human rights defenders from this region were trained on how to develop inputs for the development of PDETs and other development plans requiring Afro-Colombian and gender perspectives. Due to this grant, participants were empowered to coordinate PDET recommendations, proposals, and activities with regional entities, local universities, international cooperation, and leading Afro-Colombian advocacy and human rights organizations such as *Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN)*, *Asociación de Consejos Comunitarios del Norte del Cauca (ACONC)*, and the Colombian Agency for Regional Renovation (*Agencia de la Renovación del Territorio, ART by its Spanish acronym*) among others. Through this process Afro-Colombian women gained invaluable analysis and evaluation tools in understanding the utility and importance of PDETs and how to effectively include their voices to ensure that implementation reflects their needs and that indeed PDETs are being carried out appropriately and in compliance with the law.

The other HRA grant supporting Afro-Colombian women's empowerment which came to an end during this reporting period was *Centro de Formación y Empoderamiento para las Mujeres (AMBULUA)*. Through this grant, 27 Afro-Colombian women completed a diploma course which trained participants to promote and educate on peace culture and to mobilize community members into action around human rights and peacebuilding, drawing on their cultural norms and traditions. Through a five-module course, Afro-Colombian women dove deep into their cultural teachings and roots to identify and advocate for their rights. Empowered Afro-Colombian women leaders were also trained to replicate these trainings resulting in the establishment of five working groups dedicated to organizing and implementing future trainings. To support this effort, AMBULUA identified five training centers to carry out this work in Santander de Quilichao and Puerto Tejada. During the grant's implementation period, 91 young Afro-Colombian women participated in these replicated trainings in human rights and peacebuilding.

Also, through this process, AMBULUA successfully obtained and fostered buy-in and support from local educational institutions to advance a variety of projects regarding their cultural principles, gender and

generations. These partners include faith-based leadership, Universidad UNICATOLICA, *Bienestar Universitario de la Fundación Universidad Católica LUMEN GENTIUM*, and *Universidad Nacional Abierta y a distancia de Santander de Quilichao*. Moving forward, AMBULUA has positioned itself to participate with the Afro-Latina, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women’s Network as part of a working commission to prepare for the international forum on Afro-Colombian rights to be held in 2022 in Cali, Colombia. Also, as a lasting communications tools, this grant’s support resulted in the creation of its first magazine entitled, “AMBULUA: Women, Strength and Word.” Two editions of this magazine were completed by the end of the grant period and represents a long-sought-after dream for AMBULUA women leaders: to promote and illustrate their visions of empowered Afro-Colombian women leaders, their work to promote human rights, and to express their artistic voices.

Component 2: Prevention of Human Rights Violations

HRA continues to place special attention on the prevention of human rights violations in Colombia. Due to the current precarious human rights defenders’ situation, intensive and comprehensive efforts are necessary to mitigate risks impacting Colombia’s most vulnerable populations in its postaccord phase. Consequently, the implementation of HRA’s prevention strategy continues to focus on providing key tools, skills, and knowledge to stakeholders who face a diverse range of risks, ensuring that these are appropriate to the environment and dynamics of those communities most vulnerable to human rights violations. Toward this end, **HRA contracted an expert consultant who is working with the Police Unit for Peacebuilding (UNIPPEP by its Spanish acronym) to develop a collective self-protection guide to provide protection of at-risk rural communities, particularly where there have been exceedingly high rates of violence against human rights defenders.** The guide will be used by UNIPPEP police officers who are based in rural, at-risk municipalities, to train CSOs, social leaders, and human rights defenders on self-protection strategies and tools. This project represents an unparalleled initiative with a Colombian institution to design and implement a collective self-protection tool which is an innovative approach for institutions accustomed to issuing protection measures on an individual basis, rather than collectively. This process introduces a new and model paradigm shifting how institutions provide protection servicing those most vulnerable in Colombia. At the same time, the National Police commits to not only leading these collective protection trainings, but also provide organizational capacity strengthening to their target communities which empowers them to better prevent and mitigate risks in coordination with institutions.

To further support self-protection efforts to protect vulnerable communities, HRA awarded a grant to *Corporación Agencia Afrocolombiana Hileros/PCN* to develop and implement self-protection strategies for *consejos comunitarios* in eight HRA priority municipalities throughout Cauca and Nariño. Over the coming eight months, this grant will design and implement self-protection tools to complement and bolster existing, but non-operational, community-based early warning systems in each *consejo comunitario*. Through grant support, these systems will be updated and designated community members will be trained on how to implement newly obtained tools and plans. Through this grant, their advocacy capacities will be enhanced to manage risks in coordination with State entities, such as the Ombudsman’s Office or another Public Ministry entity, depending on availability. This grant targets eight communities which have experienced the highest number of homicides of human rights defenders and other social leaders in the past 12 months and live in regions historically dominated by former FARC forces and where currently illegal economies thrive and have attracted the presence of illegal armed groups.

To improve protection of human rights defenders in the regions, **HRA’s continuous support to regional Guarantees Roundtables in Antioquia and Córdoba has assisted in maintaining human rights defenders’ issues at the forefront of institutional agendas during the past quarter.** In Antioquia, HRA technical support was instrumental in fostering dialogue among institutions on the most pressing human rights concerns targeting human rights defenders in the department. During the quarter, HRA

assisted in the review of human rights violation cases against human right defenders led by the NPU and the Ministry of Interior and facilitated the decentralized processes of risk analysis and evaluation to issue appropriate protection measures. Meanwhile in Córdoba, HRA's support contributed to developing their work plan and, accordingly, requesting the necessary financial resources from the governor's office. From this process, Córdoba's Guarantees Roundtable decided to prioritize and focus more immediate efforts on developing a human rights defenders' protection *ruta*.

During the quarter, HRA grantee FENALPER received approval for additional support to improve capacity of *personeros* to prevent human rights violations and protect human rights defenders and other social leaders. To strengthen this capacity, an assistant will be assigned to *personeros* in seven targeted municipalities in five departments. These assistants will carry out follow-up to cases of at-risk social leaders and human rights defenders. They will also provide technical assistance to *personero*-led interventions at municipal PPGNR subcommittees as well as to design and implement local *rutas* responding to threats against local leaders. With this support, *personeros* will implement early warning recommendations issued by the Ombudsman's Office as well as the activities defined by the Inspector General's Office (IGO) in applying Directive 002 to protect human rights defenders.

HRA grantee *Caribe Afirmativo* also made headway in **bolstering security, protection and the development of self-protection measures for LGBTI leaders**. Among initial grant project activities, *Caribe Afirmativo* held an introductory session with local LGBTI leaders from Bajo Cauca and southern Córdoba to gain buy-in and carried out a diagnostic to obtain a comprehensive grasp on the LGBTI human rights situation impacting these sub-regions. During this quarter the LGBTI Security Manual, originally developed in 2016, which provides prevention and self-protection guidelines for LGBTI persons and organizations was updated to a more current context. *Caribe Afirmativo* also diligently worked to complete preparations for upcoming workshops which will bring together public officials, including police and other law enforcement, with civil society to raise awareness and develop strategies to address LGBTI rights and cases.

In the remote indigenous reservation of Tagual La Po in Segovia, Antioquia, another HRA grantee concluded an empowering project oriented at the **strengthening of self-protection capacities of this at-risk indigenous community**. The grant awarded to *Asociación de Cabildos Organización Indígena de Antioquia* (OIA) ended during this quarter, but not before making a significant contribution to the protection of these areas through the development of a community self-protection plan by 37 indigenous members and leaders, including the participation of indigenous guard members and indigenous women. This indigenous community is located far from the central municipality area of Segovia and is most readily accessed by a six-hour motorcycle ride over unpaved roads. Due to these conditions, the municipal government had minimal communications or contact with this indigenous community. Up until this project, municipality officials knew hardly anything about this community nor the risks they faced, particularly related to the illegal mining operations impacting them. Illegal mining has resulted in the presence of illegal armed groups, which have carried out human rights violations against this community, but have gone unreported.

To complete the grant objective, OIA trained participants on risk analysis and basic prevention and self-protection concepts to gain a deeper understanding of their own human rights and risk situation. Because of the participatory process, the plan is tailored to address the community's needs and risks. **It also facilitated an unprecedented opportunity to meaningfully engage the municipal public authorities (mayor's office and *personero*) of Segovia to meet and understand the living and security conditions of this remotely located indigenous community**. Moving forward, the indigenous governor is invited to participate at Segovia's PPGNR sub-committee and has regular communication with the *personero*. As

part of the grant, a video¹ was produced capturing the reflection and perspective of a participating indigenous governor who remarked on the transformative impact brought about by this learning and development process.

HRA's technical support to the Ombudsman's Office Early Warning System (EWS) continued to result in securing key information and analysis in the monitoring of human rights in at-risk areas throughout Colombia. Up until May 2018, HRA's support through three expert consultants provided coverage in Cauca, Meta, and Córdoba. However, due to personnel changes and after May 2018, only the expert consultant covering northern Cauca remained performing monitoring of human rights risk situations for this sub-region. Noteworthy, since the EWS was reformed by Decree 2124 in December 2017, it has issued 38 early warnings (or on average more than six early warnings issued per week over this six-month period), of which three were issued for the department of Cauca with the support of HRA's consultant. It also strikingly points to the projected hypotheses held by the Ombudsman's Office and HRA at the early onset of this project regarding a sharp increase of human rights violations in the postaccord period, largely due to the surge of illegal economies. The issuance of these early warnings has contributed to a timelier response by local authorities regarding identified human rights violations.

HRA also made progress during this quarter regarding its support to the IGO and its implementation of the Directive 002 which is **one of Colombia's leading institutional legal norms to address the current human rights defenders' crisis.** HRA's consultant was responsible for finalizing and presenting to IGO staff the first version of prioritization criteria regarding the implementation of Directive 002 as well as the recently developed follow-up indicator bank, which will serve as fundamental tools for regional IGO staff in performing their duties per the Directive. The prioritization criteria provide a clear guideline and markers for IGO staff who are responsible for monitoring a wide range of institutional norm compliance issues. In May 2018, HRA's consultant presented the criteria in Bogotá to 20 civil society organizations who represent sectors such as human rights defenders, land restitution, women's rights, journalists, LGBTI rights, ethnic communities, and members of community action boards, among others. With feedback gathered, the consultant evaluated and made necessary changes towards finalizing these tools. These are expected to be completed in the coming quarter.

Due to HRA support this past quarter, the NPU also made headway in protecting identified at-risk CSOs using the HRA-developed collective risk evaluation protocol with a gender focus. **As a result of HRA's consultant support and her application of the protocol, the NPU's Risk Evaluation and Measures Recommendation Committee (CERREM by its Spanish acronym) issued collective protection measures for four CSOs.** Two of these are women's organizations and the other two are ethnic organizations. Additionally, by the end of the quarter, the risk analysis and evaluation processes for another ten at-risk collective CSOs were well underway. These CSO's are based in high risk areas of the country, in the departments of Bolivar, Guajira, Nariño, Cauca, Chocó, Valle del Cauca, and Amazonas.

Also, during this quarter, the **National Police announced the appointment of the new human rights coordinator for the Police's Internal Affairs Office (*Inspección General*)** which had been vacant for approximately six months. In addition to monitoring the ethical behavior and conduct of the National Police, the coordinator of this unit plays a critical role in leading a human rights culture within the Police and HRA's principal Police counterpart regarding human rights issues. Following an initial meeting with the new coordinator, it was determined that HRA's Police Conduct Guide for Vulnerable Populations would be updated to include more detailed and definitive actions and protocols to aid police officers in dealing with human rights violations cases against vulnerable populations. The update would also incorporate new police policies including the new national police code issued in 2017. **Noteworthy, the need for updating the Guide was raised because in 2017 it was registered that the Guide was**

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZ0ahf6PwRc&feature=youtu.be>

consulted 22,000 times via the police training intranet. From this access, many comments were made by users requesting an update of the Guide to enhance its relevance in performing their duties.

Due to the humanitarian and environmental emergency caused by major operational malfunctions of the Hidroituango Dam project in late April-early May, several HRA grant activities led by *Instituto Popular de Capacitación* (IPC) were postponed. IPC's targeted municipalities were among those which were under significant risk of severe flooding and evacuation. Similarly, HRA's work carried out through sub-contractor *Fundación Ideas por la Paz* (FIP) in the Bajo Cauca sub-region also experienced setbacks. During the quarter, only one of the two programmed baseline studies was completed in the municipality of Briceño. Given that the emergency conditions improved by the end of the quarter, the other baseline study is expected to be carried out in Caucasia in the beginning of the following quarter.

In Nariño, HRA grantee *Consejo Comunitario Rio Gualajo*'s activities concluded during this quarter. Due to this grantee's efforts, they gained the necessary skills to develop their own culturally and contextually-appropriate self-protection strategy and tools. **During the grant period, 279 members of the Rio Gualajo community received self-protection training.** This is particularly important because it included necessary measures making remote rural areas more accessible to the urban center of Tumaco. Upon completion of this grant, this remote *consejo comunitario* now has four community information kiosks located among its four *veredas*, which are geographically divided by the river configurations of the area. Prior to these kiosks, communication or service delivery hinged on the rising tides of the river which could leave communities out of contact for 15 days out of the month, for example. With these community kiosks accessible to community members in each geographic sector of the *consejo comunitario*, information and support is far more readily available. Additionally, four complementary community facilitator groups, comprised of 50 trained volunteers, were trained in self-protection concepts and implementation of risk analysis tools for each of these communities to aid in addressing risks faced in this area, mainly linked to the narcotrafficking corridor which runs through this sub-region of Nariño. The community facilitator groups are responsible for implementing the self-protection strategy in each of the four communities and will activate relevant *rutas* in the case of emergencies. In addition, the *consejo comunitario* developed a community emergency *ruta*, four institutional *rutas*, and communications pieces to raise awareness of the kiosks and *rutas*.

Component 3: Response to Human Rights Violations

With a keen focus on **supporting efforts led by the AGO to effectively address the human rights defenders' situation in Colombia**, HRA's three-person consultant team made positive advances in gathering and analyzing information regarding cases and case processing from regional prosecutor offices. During the quarter, the consultant team largely concentrated efforts in finalizing their work in Putumayo where they focused on 22 human rights defender cases dispersed throughout the department. Prior to their intervention, these cases had not benefitted from information and analysis sharing, necessary to identify trends and patterns, nor did they bear in mind the differentiating aspects of human rights defenders and their line of work. They were simply considered standard homicide cases. With the sudden and sharp rise of these types of cases, the lack of technical capacity and/or knowledge necessary to carry out this level of information gathering and analysis by regional prosecutor's offices has come into bold relief. To this end, HRA's consultant team has dedicated their time to carry out this work throughout Putumayo's regional AGO offices, gleaning relevant information and assessing cases to provide recommendations on how to improve investigations by considering a more wholistic perspective of the human rights defenders' situation. By the end of the quarter, HRA's consultant team finalized their work in Putumayo and presented their findings to Putumayo's regional and national AGO prosecutors and investigators. Similar work is being carried out in Antioquia and is expected to also be completed in the coming quarter.

Additionally, HRA's consultant team **successfully completed the development of a critical guideline document entitled, "Guidelines on Investigatory Conduct for Human Rights Defender and Other Social Leader Cases."** This guideline draws from Colombia's criminal code and international standards on appropriate investigatory conduct, providing material on how to best integrate a differential approach, with a focus on human rights defenders and other social leaders. The consultant team defined this differential focus through interviews with prosecutors and investigators as well as through a review of more than 100 case files. This rigorous process facilitated the identification of investigatory best practices and provided matrices which will contribute to improving the efficiency of investigatory conduct towards advancing these types of violation cases.

Also, during the quarter, **HRA, together with the AGO, launched a new project to strengthen the AGO's implementation of its prioritization policy, as well as to improve their investigation and processing of GBV cases with a focus on sexual violence and violence against LGBTI persons.** By teaming up with the GBV team of the AGO's DAIASC, HRA will train prosecutors and investigators from several regions using the Guidelines and Best Practices for LGBTI Cases. HRA's support will also ensure that follow-up and technical assistance from the AGO at the national level reaches priority regions on matters of investigation of GBV priority cases. HRA will also hire an expert consultant/witness on diverse and sexual orientation issues to produce a legal opinion on an ongoing emblematic homicide case based on discrimination against an LGBTI person.

HRA also continued to work with CPDH to **bolster knowledge and the capacity of law enforcement officers responsible for human rights defender cases.** By the end of the quarter, HRA completed the final version of the compilation of training materials entitled, "Module and Methodology to Train Human Rights Law Enforcement Officers." This document was approved by the CPDH and was in the layout phase for its publication at the end of the quarter. This document represents the labor led by HRA's consultant over the past year including the investigation, review, and updating of existing as well as new information material. In addition, the consultant led workshops to gather key experts and stakeholders to provide input and feedback.

HRA also worked with the CPDH during this quarter **to support the government's efforts to promote and update the National Action Plan on Human Rights and Business (National Action Plan),** a living document which enshrines initiatives and commitments made by the Colombian government to advance the respect for human rights in key sectors of Colombia including the private sector and civil society. To this end, HRA's support contributed to the preparation and implementation of three regional workshops held in Ibagué (Tolima), Montería (Córdoba), and Medellín (Antioquia) to update and strengthen the National Action Plan. With the participation of over 220 key stakeholders from the private sector, civil society organizations, and government representatives, these regional forums provided ideal platforms fostering dialogue to identify opportunities and challenges in advancing the three pillars of the National Action Plan in the coming three years. These pillars are: 1) the State's duty to protect its citizens from human rights abuses 2) business' responsibility to respect human rights and 3) the right of victims to seek reparations when their rights are violated by businesses.

HRA grantee ***La Red de Mujeres de Ibagué (REMI)*** made headway in developing necessary tools and instruments to document GBV cases as well as to provide comprehensive assistance (legal and psychosocial) to GBV victims. During this period, REMI identified cases to receive accompaniment, which include previously tried cases, as well as reviewed legal files. New cases to be taken on were identified following meetings with local authorities and CSOs from priority municipalities. REMI also led meetings with Chaparral's Family Commissary, some regional and local prosecutors, the governor's secretary, and the *personero* among others to garner buy-in and commitments to support and advance efforts protecting women from violence.

To strengthen advocacy and organizational capacities of CSOs based in the regions, HRA awarded two new grants to the *Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ)* and the *Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES)*. CCJ initiated its grant award in April 2018 and in the coming ten months seeks to empower and increase human rights knowledge of CSOs to effectively advocate on behalf of their human rights, environmental rights, and territorial rights of regional organizations and indigenous community *cabildos* from prioritized regions. This grant's geographic coverage will work with CSOs from three municipalities in three HRA departments: Tolima, Córdoba, and Meta. CCJ will carry out human rights trainings on legal protection mechanisms for the CSOs as well as provide technical assistance to enhance their capacity to communicate and work with competent authorities and to document cases.

Meanwhile, CODHES' grant, which began in May 2018, will work to empower indigenous and Afro-Colombian women victims of human rights violations in HRA priority municipalities (Tumaco, Barbacoas and Francisco Pizarro) in Nariño. CODHES will train 80 women to empower them in advocacy as well as on how to propose and monitor implementation of regional public policies which advance their rights with a gender focus. Women selected to participate in this grant will be associated to local ethnic-based human rights organizations which advocate and work on human rights violation cases.

B. Gender and Vulnerable Populations

HRA's continued support to gender-focused diploma courses throughout its priority municipalities have proven to be a definitive conduit for participants including public officials, social leaders, and women leaders, alike, to gain a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of GBV issues. Equipped with these skills and knowledge, participants complete diploma course prepared to effectively advocate and make necessary changes in government and society regarding prevention and response. In this light during the quarter, HRA implemented three gender-focused diploma courses in Meta and Cauca which provided comprehensive tools and knowledge to key stakeholders in eliminating violence against women. Further details will be expounded on in the Regions section of this report.

To bolster GBV response capacities within the Police, HRA finalized the design of two government projects. The first project will provide technical assistance to the gender division of the National Police's Citizen Security Office (*Dirección de Seguridad Ciudadana*, DISEC by its Spanish acronym) to evaluate, restructure and strengthen police gender and GBV training as well as improve GBV response to internal cases. HRA's second project concerning the Police will work with the *Escuela de Policía Gabriel Gonzalez* in Espinal, Tolima to develop updated police gender and GBV training materials and courses for cadets as well as instructors. During the quarter, HRA's Gender and Vulnerable Populations Expert held several meetings with police leadership to provide technical assistance in the review and adjustment of proposal details. By the end of the quarter, HRA approved these projects to begin implementation in the coming quarter.

HRA's support to *duplas* in Caquetá and Tolima continues to advance, create and reinforce a wide variety of gender-focused initiatives in HRA priority municipalities raising awareness of institutional resources and services while promoting efforts in the region to empower and protect GBV victims. In Caquetá, the *dupla* worked within the Ombudsman's Office to develop a GBV response *ruta* for Ombudsman personnel. To further enhance Ombudsman staff knowledge, the *dupla* developed a handy tips sheet on how to activate a GBV *ruta* which will be circulated to all staff in Caquetá. The *dupla* also provided valuable technical assistance to Elimination of Violence against Women Roundtables in La Montañita and Cartagena del Chairá. At these roundtables, the *dupla* assisted with the review of their respective *rutas* and the identification of barriers faced by women in accessing protection and response services and resources. The *dupla* also provided accompaniment to school co-existence committees in San Vicente del Caguán and Cartagena del Chairá to present and raise awareness on the

role services led by the Ombudsman's Office Gender and Women's Rights Delegate. During this session, participants were also informed of the different types of violence recognized by current laws and the services available to victims. By the end of the quarter, the *dupla* assisted 38 GBV victims' cases.

In Tolima, the *dupla* has identified a very low level of accurate and comprehensive knowledge by public officials regarding their roles, responsibilities and/or related laws and policies as they pertain to GBV prevention and response *rutas*. In a case earlier this year, a GBV victim had repeatedly reported abuse by her spouse to proper authorities/institutions who never appropriately activated the *rutas* or entitled protection measures and resulted in her eventual killing. This prompted the *dupla's* strategy to emphasize comprehensive training to public officials and authorities. To this end, during the quarter, the *dupla* concentrated efforts on strengthening gender and GBV prevention and response capacities of public officials, authorities, and community leaders. The *dupla* carried out trainings for 34 community action board members from Ibagué, GBV victim legal representatives, Ombudsman's Office staff, family commissaries, as well as CSOs including HRA grantee REMI. A key event during the quarter was a GBV and anti-discrimination workshop organized by HRA, the *dupla*, and the governor's office social inclusion secretary which invited all of Tolima's family commissaries. Through the use of case studies, 27 participants engaged in the analysis of cases to identify challenges and barriers and how to implement *rutas* and protocols to provide timely and appropriate prevention and response measures. Based on this event, a more advanced version of this training was carried out in Ortega, Cajamarca and Ibagué's *Casa de Justicia*.

During this quarter, HRA grantee *Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad* (LIMPAL) concluded its project implementation. For the past year, LIMPAL worked in five municipalities in Caquetá and Meta implementing prevention strategies regarding sexual violence and risks targeting women human rights defenders. Due to LIMPAL's efforts, GBV and sexual violence prevention and response *rutas* were developed in Mesetas, Vistahermosa and La Macarena, Meta including the participation of public officials and women leaders. LIMPAL also led peacebuilding trainings for 162 women from La Macarena, Meta and La Montañita and San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá empowering them with knowledge on the peace accord as it relates to women's rights. In line with this, trainings were also held for 98 women to gain psychosocial as well as self-empowerment skills to strengthen their intra and inter-personal capacities as peacebuilders in their communities. Furthermore, LIMPAL facilitated opportunities for women leaders to engage with relevant institutions and authorities to advocate for gender rights and GBV prevention awareness resulting in 11 bilateral meetings in Meta and nine bilateral meetings held in Caquetá. 98 women were also trained in self-protection, risk evaluations and prevention strategies. By the end of the quarter, LIMPAL developed, published and publicly presented its report entitled, *Violencias y Construcción de Paz*. This report, which is the outcome of the grantee beneficiaries' input throughout the grant period, provides an insightful analysis regarding the implementation of gender and GBV-related laws as well as the peace accord as it pertains to Meta and Caquetá. HRA supported events for the report's launching in San Vicente del Caguán and Florencia in commemoration of the National Day for the Dignity of Sexual Violence Victims.

In the departments of Antioquia and Cauca, HRA grantee *Ruta Pacífica de Mujeres* (*Ruta Pacífica*) identified and worked with five women's CSOs to participate in organizational strengthening processes starting with carrying out a diagnostic and developing their own organizational strengthening plans to identify and address capacity training needs. Additionally, in Corinto, Cauca, 16 public officials were trained on GBV response *rutas*. The Hidroituango Dam crisis unfortunately impeded advances in Antioquia's municipalities of Valdivia and Cáceres.

In Tolima, HRA grantee *Fundación Concern Universal Colombia* also made headway during this quarter having trained 110 indigenous community members, including youth and women, from the Nasa We'sx indigenous reservation and the cabildo Chapinero Luany Toy on indigenous community rights across

national and international legal instruments including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Colombia's Constitution. Participants were also trained on constitutional human rights protection mechanisms and facilitation skills to carry out a municipal forum on indigenous women and youth to foster dialogue with indigenous community authorities regarding issues impacting these groups. Additionally, the grantee facilitated meeting with participants to engage with local and regional institutions/authorities to advocate for their rights on issues ranging from health, community rights, and the PDET among others. As a result, participants dialogued with the presidents of Tolima's four leading indigenous community organizations (*Consejo Regional Indígena del Tolima- CRIT, Asociación de Resguardos Indígenas del Tolima- ARIT, Federación Indígena de Cabildos Autónomos del Tolima- FICAT, and Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Tolima- ACIT*) resulting in a consensus to jointly pursue the establishment of Tolima's first departmental Indigenous Women's Roundtable. Also, participants held a meeting with Tolima's Social Inclusion and Population Secretary to advocate for the inclusion of an indigenous focus regarding the development of Tolima's Childhood, Adolescence and Family Strengthening public policy.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex

During the quarter, HRA continued to provide valuable technical assistance to LGBTI inter-institutional roundtables in Nariño and Cauca to advance and strengthen efforts to raise awareness of LGBTI rights and, in turn, reduce discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons. Due to HRA technical support, Santander de Quilichao's LGBTI roundtable developed their first response *ruta* including the participation of institutions and civil society. In Tumaco, progress was also made by the end of the quarter when the municipal administration had approved a formal decree establishing their roundtable. This decree provides the roundtable with legitimacy and recognition by municipal counterparts, institutions, and authorities. Prior to this, the roundtable, which was promoted by HRA grantee *Fundación Arco Iris* last year as Tumaco's first LGBTI interinstitutional roundtable, convened and organized on a more informal basis. Also, noteworthy, HRA Gender and Vulnerable Populations Expert initiated gender-focused organizational strengthening training with *Fundación Sergio Urrego (Fundación)*.

Youth

To empower youth human rights promoters through arts and culture, **HRA granted a new award to *Fundación Escuelas de Paz (FEP)* in April 2018.** Based in Meta, this grant will work with youth from Mesetas and El Castillo to develop and implement collective activities to promote non-violence and human rights through arts and music. **Fifty youth will be trained in non-violence, human rights, particularly civil and political rights, and fostering a peace culture.** Toward this end, FEP organized informational meetings with key stakeholders, including departmental and municipal entities and authorities, to garner buy-in and awareness of the project's objectives and activities in the coming eight months. Invitees included Meta's governor's youth department, El Castillo's mayor's social welfare office, and potential youth participants from Mesetas and El Castillo. Sign-up announcements were made and published throughout El Castillo and Mesetas inviting diverse youth including a wide range of ages, both young men and women, and ethnicities from rural and urban areas to participate.

In Córdoba, HRA awarded a grant to *Benposta Nación de Muchachos* which will **develop youth group capacities to increase their participation and advocacy skills through arts, culture, and communications.** Over the span of ten months, the grant will train 250 youth from the municipalities of Tierralta and Puerto Libertador to strengthen their capacities in human rights, civic participation, and the promotion of a culture of peace. Youth from these areas are vulnerable to risks of forced recruitment and illegal use of children and youth due to the postaccord phase dynamics. Grounded in human rights and peace culture principles, grant activities engaging youth will utilize the arts and culture to support youth

development and participation in municipal youth mechanisms. By the end of the quarter, the grantee, which initiated implementation in April, had presented its project objectives with local mechanisms to foster buy-in and support including child and youth welfare roundtables and other youth platforms in both municipalities.

In a similar vein, another youth-oriented grant was awarded to *Corporación Académica Artística y Cultural Visión Juvenil* to work with and empower youth from Montelíbano and Puerto Libertador, Córdoba in human rights and peacebuilding. The grantee will engage 120 youth to develop, promote, and implement human rights and peacebuilding initiatives in their schools and communities. Through artistic means, youth will learn about civil, political, and human rights as well as how to participate in local mechanisms to affect change in their communities. By the end of ten months, the grantee will have fostered a new generation of trained youth human rights promoters in Montelíbano and Puerto Libertador.

Building on the recent successes of youth empowerment and leadership through HRA grantee *Red Caquetá Paz*, USAID approved a modification request extending the grant’s geographic coverage to include HRA priority municipality of Valparaíso. Also, within this modification, *Red Caquetá Paz* will begin to organize a departmental youth network based on the developed networks, initiatives, and lessons learned resulting from this grant in HRA municipalities over the past year.

III. Human Rights Grant Fund and Subcontracts

Grants

Initiating Year Three Quarter One, HRA implemented a total of 15 grants supporting a wide array of national and regional CSOs advancing human rights and peace projects throughout HRA’s 40 priority municipalities. By the end of the quarter, five of these grants came to a close. Continuing with HRA’s Request for Application (RFA) process, the remaining two out of five RFAs were completed during the quarter. The two issue areas accepted applications for projects oriented at youth and regional initiatives. In total, HRA awarded six new grants to CSOs. The table below illustrates the breakdown of HRA’s new grantees during this reporting period.

Table 1. New HRA Grants Awarded Year Three Quarter One (April-June 2018)

No.	Project	Grantee	Regional Coverage
1	Technical and legal accompaniment for regional human rights defenders’ organizations and indigenous communities to facilitate their access to justice and fight against impunity	<i>Comisión Colombiana de Juristas*</i>	Tolima: Cajamarca Córdoba: Tierralta Meta: Macarena Caquetá: Valparaiso
2	Music, art and memory: Youth from Meta Transforming the Social Fabric	<i>Fundación Escuelas de Paz*</i>	Meta: Mesetas and El Castillo
3	Youth Building Participation Mechanisms through Art, Culture, and Communications in the Municipalities of Tierralta and	<i>Benposta Córdoba*</i>	Córdoba: Puerto Libertador and Tierralta

	Puerto Libertador		
4	Promoting Youth Processes and Initiatives on Human Rights and Peacebuilding through Recreational, Cultural and Educational Activities in the Municipalities of Montelíbano and Puerto Libertador	<i>Corporación Visión Juvenil*</i>	Córdoba: Puerto Libertador and Montelíbano
5	Indigenous and Afro-descendant Women Victims of Human Rights Violations Empowered and Trained to Advocate, Propose and Monitor Public Policies in the Regions	<i>Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento CODHES*</i>	Nariño: Barbacoas, Tumaco and Francisco Pizarro
6	Implementation of Prioritized Components of the Comprehensive Community Self-protection and Care System for Afro-Colombian Communities in the departments of Cauca and Nariño	<i>Corporación Agencia Afrocolombiana Hileros</i>	Cauca: Buenos Aires, Santander de Quilichao, Miranda, Corinto and Caloto Nariño: Barbacoa, Tumaco and Francisco Pizarro

* Grants awarded through HRA's RFA

To date, with the addition of these latest awarded grants, HRA has supported 41 CSOs addressing Colombia's leading human rights challenges in HRA's priority regions. Accordingly, 99% of the HRA grants fund is fully obligated. Two grants also received approved modifications from USAID during the quarter resulting in HRA grantees *Federación Nacional de Personeros* (FENALPER) and *Red Caquetá Paz* receiving additional resources. Moving forward, FENALPER will continue to strengthen capacities of *personeros* in HRA priority regions with a stronger prevention focus and *Red Caquetá Paz* will expand its geographical coverage to include HRA priority municipality, Valparaiso.

Table 2. Human Rights Activity Grant Fund

	US\$	%
HRA Grants Fund	2,175,000	100%
Approved grants	2,147,067	99%
Balance	27,933	1%

Noteworthy, as part of HRA's ongoing commitment to strengthen CSO organizational capacities, five CSOs received technical support through trainings led by HRA during the quarter. HRA's experts provided tools and information regarding monitoring and evaluation; communications; finance, administration, and accounting; and proposal writing to empower CSOs in developing and implementing stronger and viable projects. All participating CSOs were selected based on request by the CSOs for organizational capacity support. Among the participating CSOs were two new HRA grantees *Benposta Córdoba* and *Corporación Visión Juvenil*. Participating CSOs benefitted from the trainings, particularly CSO participant *La Corporación de Medios Agencia Sur* which was only recently established. Another beneficiary CSO was *Red de Organizaciones Sociales de Mujeres Comunales y Comunitarias de Córdoba* (ROSMUC), a familiar and longstanding HRA CSO partner which has operated in southern Córdoba to train and empower women leaders to advocate and collaborate with departmental and municipal entities on advancing women's rights. The remaining CSO, *La Corporación Colectivo Poder Mestizo*, also operates in Córdoba on youth and human rights issues. This latter CSO expressed that it

came out of this training process an entirely new CSO with reinforced capacities and far better prepared to apply for future resource/grant opportunities.

IV. Regions

The ongoing homicides and threats of human rights defenders and social leaders continues to be the focus of HRA's regional efforts. To this end, HRA remained committed to maintaining risk scenarios updated; designing and adopting necessary prevention and protection measures; supporting institutional strengthening of local prevention mechanisms; and developing, approving and disseminating GBV prevention and protection *rutas*.

As a result, HRA continued to provide technical support to 39 PPGNR subcommittee which has resulted in the updating of 36 municipal and three departmental prevention and protection plans. These plans take on even more significant meaning as the concerning rates of human rights landscape unfold in Colombia's post accord phase. Antioquia, Nariño, and Cauca remain among the most precarious departments during this first half of the year. HRA's commitment to the ongoing human rights defenders and other social leaders' crisis resulted in continuing technical assistance to other inter-institutional mechanisms such as the Guarantees Roundtables in Antioquia and Córdoba where State institutions regularly meet with human rights defender organizations to implement and carry out follow-up to measures and activities oriented at the protection and guarantee of human rights defenders and other social leaders' critical work in the regions.

Also, during the quarter, HRA has carried out a needs and capacity evaluation of *personerías* and family commissaries targeting those identified initially by HRA's baseline study. Results from this exercise revealed weak institutional capacity to adequately carry out their duties and responsibilities. In response, HRA donated 66 units of computer-related equipment including laptops, desktops, multi-functional printers, and video projectors to 11 family commissaries and 23 *personerías* throughout all seven HRA departments. With these new equipment, these critical frontline human rights resource and service offices can readily register, analyze, and systematize reports and claims from victims to effectively respond.

HRA also continued to make major efforts to promote a culture of human rights and peace by supporting 32 human rights municipal mechanisms including five new mechanisms in Valparaíso, Caquetá; Miranda, Cauca; Puerto Libertador, Córdoba; Barbaças, Nariño, and Ortega, Tolima. HRA also continued to provide support to six departmental mechanisms in Antioquia, Caquetá, Córdoba, Meta, Nariño, and Tolima. Through these important mechanisms, local institutions have increased ownership and coordination with civil society in a structured and strategic manner to design and implement institutional responses to local needs. Due to this work, a major achievement reported during this quarter has been the successful steps to advance departmental human rights public policies in Antioquia, Cauca, Córdoba, Meta and Tolima. For Tolima and Meta, departmental human rights public policies are expected to be approved by next quarter which also indicates the official establishment of HRA-designed human rights and peacebuilding schools for these two departments. For the remaining departments, HRA hired expert consultants to drive these initiatives forward.

ANTIOQUIA

In spite of the overwhelming humanitarian emergency brought on by the Hidroituango Dam situation during this quarter, HRA's support to the Antioquia's Bajo Cauca sub-region continued project activities to the extent possible, even when the Regional Advisors were evacuated to Medellín for a six-week period. Bajo Cauca Regional Advisors were able to participate and provide technical assistance remotely at certain committee meetings. Prior to the evacuation period, HRA's support was instrumental in

strengthening gender issues impacting this sub-region and which in recent months has gained a fair amount of momentum in raising awareness and advancing related initiatives. With HRA support, Caucasia's LGBTI Inter-Sectorial Roundtable and the Elimination of Violence against Women Roundtable held a special joint meeting which invited the participation of national-level institutional representatives. This joint session was organized to open dialogue between the roundtables and raise awareness to better integrate LGBTI issues, specifically regarding transgender women, bisexual women and lesbians, into the Elimination of Violence against Women Roundtable agendas. At this meeting, a representative from the Ministry of Interior and the AGO, as well as HRA's Gender and Vulnerable Populations Expert, were on hand to present the national LGBTI public policy, a recent femicide directive and to update on the status of and carry out follow-up to recent homicide cases against LGBTI persons. Due to these follow-up efforts, two cases were transferred to Medellín-based AGO prosecutors where they will receive prioritized attention.

As mentioned, the human rights defenders' crisis continues to weigh heavily throughout Antioquia and particularly in HRA priority municipalities. Therefore, **HRA continues to prioritize its support for the departmental Guarantees Roundtable**, through both the general roundtable meetings and the subcommittees it directly supports on prevention, protection, and investigations. During the quarter, HRA's support contributed to the review of the Roundtable's protocol as well as a draft administrative act to be presented before the departmental assembly. An approved administrative act provides sustainability for the Roundtable moving forward by formally establishing it within the government's budget and other development plans. HRA's support also contributed to a review and request made to the Ministry of Interior to reinstate expired protection measures for at-risk human rights defenders.

Similarly, on this same day and with the invited institutional representation, HRA also facilitated technical assistance to the Case and *Ruta* Follow-up Subcommittee (part of the Elimination of Violence against Women Roundtable) which **helped advance longstanding and complex GBV cases.** Institutional representatives were helpful in reviewing the roles and responsibilities of local institutions and authorities regarding the implementation of the GBV prevention and response *rutas* to assist victims. HRA also accompanied one particular GBV victim (whose case has been ongoing for the past two years) at a case hearing to provide her technical and emotional support throughout this lengthy process to insist that justice be carried out against her assailant.

In Briceño, HRA supported a GBV prevention and response forum which convened 58 women from its urban and rural areas to gather their inputs and perceptions on the response effectiveness of the current prevention *ruta*. Through this participatory process, challenges and access barriers were identified which served to formulate inputs for the development of the municipal Elimination of Violence against Women work plan. This process was carried out with the support of USAID's Fighting Violence against Women Program implemented by UN Women.

On May 17, HRA, together with the University of Antioquia, commemorated the **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia** with an unprecedented public event held in Caucasia entitled, "*Somos Divers@s*" including the participation of approximately 50 university students. To raise awareness and promote LGBTI rights, HRA facilitated the participation of the Ministry of Interior's representatives to present the national LGBTI public policy. In addition, a video production on the significance of this important day was projected followed by HRA's Gender and Vulnerable Populations Expert presentation on basic gender concepts. Capping this event, LGBTI leader and director of *Caucasia Diversa* led a dialogue on the challenges and experiences of living as a transgender woman in Caucasia.

In order to **empower public officials and social leaders on human rights and peacebuilding in Bajo Cauca**, HRA launched the Human Rights and Peacebuilding Diploma Course in the municipalities of El

Bagre and Zaragoza. This diploma course was previously carried out in Caucasia and included participants from Cáceres, Tarazá and Nechí. With the aim of reaching all of this sub-region's municipalities, the diploma course was initiated during the quarter and included the participation of 20 public officials and 25 social leaders from urban and rural areas of both municipalities. Over the coming four months, participants will complete 120 hours of course work to learn about key human rights, peace, and advocacy skills so as to better identify and respond to human rights and peace challenges in the postaccord phase in their respective municipalities. Partnering organizations from both private and public sectors supporting the diploma course include the Superior School for Public Administration (*Escuela Superior de Administración Pública- ESAP* by its Spanish acronym), *Autopistas del Nordeste*, *Mineros S.A.*, MAPP-OEA, and UNOHCHR. By the quarter's end, this diploma course was also kicked off in Segovia and Remedios and includes the participation of approximately 50-60 public officials and social leaders from both municipalities.

HRA's ongoing support to strengthen local inter-institutional mechanisms to promote human rights and peace issues thrived during this quarter as evidenced by the re-activation of Bajo Cauca's Sub-Regional Human Rights, Citizenship and Peacebuilding Roundtable. This roundtable includes representation from the municipal roundtables from HRA's six priority municipalities: Cáceres, Caucasia, El Bagre, Nechí, Zaragoza, and Tarazá. HRA provided technical support at its inaugural session where participants established new commitments and reaffirmed the roundtable's and members' mission. The roundtable agreed to provisionally only operate with institutional representation, and not civil society, as a means to reduce risks of at-risk social leaders given the highly sensitive security climate resulting in very high rates of threats and other violations targeting social leaders.

Similarly, HRA supported the **kick-off and ensuing first two sessions of the Peacebuilding Leaders School** in Anorí. This human rights and peacebuilding training School is the result of initiatives taken by Anorí's *personería*, MAPP-OEA, and the Ombudsman's Office and seeks to strengthen local leadership capacities in this municipality and its surrounding area. Fifty social leaders from local *veredas*, including community action board members, youth, and women among others, are participating in this School which runs once a week and lasts until December 2018. Topics covered include human rights concepts, differential focus, advocacy and participation in institutional mechanisms, and peacebuilding among others. HRA provides technical and logistical assistance for the School's implementation by contributing to the development of the modules and guaranteeing the participation of leaders.

During this quarter, **HRA supported an engaging enterprise promoting human rights among youth at the kick-off of the *Pintando Futuros* strategy held in HRA priority municipalities of Remedios, Segovia, Zaragoza and Caucasia.** *Pintando Futuros* is a dynamic and innovative initiative founded by *Fundación Oleoductos* which mobilizes and trains approximately 120 adolescents, ages 13-19, on human rights and peacebuilding topics. This builds upon an already existing version of this project which works with children from the ages of 8-14 and therefore complements and continues youth human rights training and development. During the quarter, the first round of six sessions was carried out and led by *Fundación Oleoductos*. HRA will lead the second round of sessions in these municipalities in the coming quarter.

HRA's technical support was also instrumental in advancing Antioquia's departmental prevention, response, and support roundtable for the prevention of forced recruitment and illegal use of children and youth. This is a roundtable which was established with HRA's support late last year, but which up until this quarter had not formally initiated its work. During this quarter, HRA supported its inaugural work session which reviewed an internal operational proposal to enhance its performance and coordination with other related regional and municipal institutional mechanisms. This departmental roundtable is comprised of representatives from the governor's secretary, Ombudsman's Office, IGO, public security forces, and ICBF among others.

CAQUETÁ

During this quarter, **HRA's technical support to municipal peace, reconciliation, coexistence and human rights councils (peace council) was instrumental in sharpening capacities and advancing strategic planning towards advancing human rights and peacebuilding initiatives in HRA priority municipalities.** Due to HRA's ongoing support for the creation of a peace council in Valparaíso, the municipality achieved approval for the municipal agreement establishing this inter-institutional mechanism for the first time in the municipality. Following this, bilateral meetings were organized to develop strategies on a council member election process. This is a particularly challenging task for a municipality with a history of corruption and mismanagement by former municipal administrations. Nonetheless, HRA will continue to work with public authorities and local leaders to support and drive this notable achievement forward and overcome these challenges.

In San Vicente del Caguán, its peace council presented their annual work plan which was developed with HRA support since late last year. HRA ensured that this plan was well-balanced, comprehensive, and addressed promotion of human rights as well as the prevention and response to human rights violations. At the council's work session, the technical secretariat from the PPGNR subcommittee also presented the municipal protection *ruta* which includes a component to engage civil society in the development of an early warning and monitoring system for rural communities. This is a project which is ongoing and led by UNOHCHR and the Catholic Church in San Vicente del Caguán.

Moreover, in San Vicente del Caguán, HRA worked with CSO members of its peace council to reach a consensus with local indigenous authorities on electing their own representatives to participate on the council. To date, the only ethnic community representation on the council is the ethnic community liaison appointed by the mayor. By electing their own representatives, indigenous communities will have a more authentic voice for their concerns across three reservations and four cabildos. To this end, it was resolved that seven indigenous authorities will be invited to meet with council representatives in the coming quarter to initiate this process.

In La Montañita, **HRA's technical support to members of the human rights and peace committees played an important role in guiding its members through the development process of their 2018 work plan.** HRA's regional advisor led group-based activities to define key elements to be included such as: training needs for the council members; increased familiarization with different protection and response *rutas*; follow-up health care services with regard to human rights violation cases; and training for the health sector on GBV response *rutas* among others. HRA gathered the inputs from this session and will work with one of the committee members to prepare a presentation before its peace council for consideration and approval.

During the quarter, HRA supported youth network efforts to increase youth participation at municipal peace councils. In Cartagena del Chairá, HRA facilitated a meeting including two youth network representatives and peace advisors to also highlight and advocate for increased participation and a stronger platform for youth at council sessions. A follow-up meeting is being organized in which the municipal's youth network will present a report on their achievements and objectives thus far. Similar efforts to support youth network representatives in San Vicente del Caguán and La Montañita were also carried out. HRA provides technical support to respective youth network representatives to present their impacts and objectives in following council work sessions. With this, they will be well prepared to share their needs and requests to implement planned activities promoting human rights and peacebuilding driven by youth initiatives. Noteworthy, during this quarter, HRA grantee *Red Caquetá Paz* received

approval for increased resources to empower youth human rights promoters in Valparaíso. Within this grant's framework, inputs from these combined efforts and youth network experiences will be collected to aptly contribute towards the development of a departmental youth public policy.

During this quarter, **HRA also made a concerted effort in all four municipalities to raise awareness about and discuss HRA-led initiatives promoting gender and LGBTI issues.** This special mission was led by HRA's Gender and Vulnerable Populations Expert and included the participation of HRA regional advisors, Caquetá's *dupla* and representatives from HRA grantee *Colombia Diversa* and LIMPAL. Meeting with key and diverse stakeholders from institutions and civil society such as the governor's secretaries, family commissaries, women's organizations and other public officials among others, HRA clearly established its role and commitment in advancing women's and LGBTI rights in collaboration with institutions and civil society of each municipality. HRA presented on its work and achievements to develop necessary decrees and other policy instruments as well as operational plans for Elimination of Violence against Women and LGBTI inter-institutional committees. These meetings raised visibility of HRA efforts, fostered dialogue and increased buy-in by key stakeholders towards supporting ongoing and future initiatives.

HRA also led a **GBV prevention training for 17 women members of three women's organizations in San Vicente del Caguán.** This training focused on increasing their knowledge on GBV concepts and prevention laws and policies. HRA presented on the different types of violence against women, women's rights, health services, and protection measures. The *dupla* participated at this training and worked with the women who presented GBV cases and sought follow-up assistance. An important aspect of this training was the presentation and clarification on how to report GBV violations with emphasis on anonymity. Several of the women participants had raised an important issue regarding the fear and/or lack of knowledge regarding filing reports. Fear of reprisal and not understanding available resources and services often resulted in women failing to report GBV violations. This training addressed these fears, concerns, and misperceptions empowering the women to report violations in the future.

HRA led a similar **training for 25 women on basic gender concepts and laws in Valparaíso.** Organized by the mayor's office which requested HRA's support, this training used exercises enabling women participants to gain a better understanding on how the current laws and policies guarantee their rights as women and how these women can access entitled services and resources to protect them from GBV abuses. Poignantly, this information and support is critical for women in Valparaíso who have felt powerless since a femicide was committed last year. Since then, the case has not moved forward given that there is no prosecutor in Valparaíso and no other leadership has taken an initiative to draw attention to this case. The only public officials who address GBV issues in Valparaíso are a family commissary and a *personero*. It is a municipality which has very low report rates regarding GBV, according to the family commissary.

CAUCA

Cauca experienced a particularly tense quarter as a result of the sustained high levels of murder, threats, and other intimidation tactics against human rights defenders and other social leaders in the region. According to national figures, Cauca falls second, behind Antioquia, in the number of reported assassinations of social leaders; 18 have been reported in Cauca as of the first half of 2018. This statistic is deeply concerning when compared to 2017's end-of-year total figures in which Cauca reported 32 assassinations of social leaders. The violent aftermath of Colombia's post- accord phase continues to overwhelm Cauca's northern sector, including HRA priority municipalities, which remain in the crossroads of illegal armed groups, major narco trafficking corridors, and illegal mining. Rising numbers of killings have remained in impunity whereby a strong sense of fear has permeated this region where security conditions have been likened to bygone periods of conflict. Nonetheless, HRA's commitment

remains firm and focused on supporting the advancement of human rights and peacebuilding objective while maintaining vigilant of staff security as well as those of partners in this region.

In light of this, **HRA's support for regional peace councils in the municipalities of Caloto, Corinto, Buenos Aires, Miranda and Santander de Quilichao continued throughout the quarter to provide guidance at work sessions.** In Miranda, for example, HRA worked hand in hand with the regional peace advisor from the governor's office to better define and advance the update of its administrative act to be presented for approval. With this approval, Miranda's regional peace council officially operates within the scope of the municipal development plans and budgets guaranteeing its sustainability. Similarly, HRA supported efforts in Caloto and Corinto towards developing timelines and implementing their 2018 work plans. With HRA support in Corinto, a specific activity stipulated in the peace council's work plan gained traction. HRA supported the planning and organizing of a human rights training, including an orientation on the roles and responsibilities of peace council members, to be carried out in the coming quarter. This effort will be implemented with support from the *personería*, the governor's office, family commissary and other key institutional stakeholders. In Caloto, which operates with a more nascent peace council, HRA supported the regional peace liaison in updating the regional peace council's municipal act including current norms, laws, and internal regulations. Caldono's process, in particular, has faced some challenges in gaining momentum due to the weak organizational capacity of both CSOs and the municipal administration with regard to promoting and garnering commitments and interest to advance this initiative. Nonetheless, HRA remains persistent in working with key municipal counterparts to continue this process.

The first-ever Human Rights and Peace Student Olympics Competition in Buenos Aires began its planning and preparatory processes during this quarter. This came about as a direct result of the Buenos Aires' regional peace council's 2018 work plan, which was developed with HRA technical support. To this end, HRA led two human rights training sessions for approximately 88 young people, ages 12-16, in three schools to prepare them to compete. Participants in the Olympics came from challenging social environments affected by the surrounding violence, where killings, kidnappings, extortion, and other human rights violations are prevalent. A series of human rights training modules are being implemented with students from May-September 2018 covering a broad range of topics including basic human rights elements, human rights institutional framework, values, and *tutelas* (legal protection action) among others. This preparatory process has also engaged the participation of institutions, both national and local, including the *personería* and the CPDH.

To further strengthen human rights and peacebuilding capacities by social leaders in Cauca, HRA, in partnership with ESAP, launched its **Human Rights and Peacebuilding Diploma Course in Caloto.** A unique element of this particular HRA-supported diploma course is that it **broadened its target group to include indigenous guard members, women's organizations and campesinos.** This diploma course fulfills a commitment stipulated in Caloto's prevention and protection, plan whose development was also supported by HRA, and which includes human rights training for indigenous communities and *campesinos*. Through October when the diploma course finishes, HRA will support as well as lead some of the human rights training modules for 46 participants. These human rights modules have been implemented across other HRA priority municipalities in the last year and have been adapted to better respond to and address the needs and concerns faced by the indigenous guard and other participants.

Important advances were also made to **strengthen institutional capacities through municipal Elimination of Violence against Women roundtables** in Cauca. HRA's support to Santander de Quilichao's Elimination of Violence against Women roundtable resulted in an open dialogue, reflection, and identification of the need to continue to press forward on familiarizing relevant entities and institutions regarding GBV response *rutas* as well as the need to carry out similar trainings for prosecutors and judges. Recently, there has been a conflict in legal compliance of institutional GBV

norms in which prosecutors have more readily handled GBV cases through conciliation, including the participation of the victim and the perpetrator, instead of pursuing legal action via the court systems, per Law 1257 of 2008. HRA has advocated, supported, and began preparations to lead targeted trainings in the coming quarter on AGO and national GBV norms, laws, and policies to provide clarity on how to assist victims and render justice.

In Miranda, HRA also supported their first Elimination of Violence against Women roundtable session which reviewed activities carried out in 2017 followed by the presentation of their 2018 action plan. HRA presented to the roundtable progress made on the **implementation of the gender strategy which was developed through the most recent HRA-supported diploma course entitled, “Human Rights, Civic Oversight, and Access to Justice for Women.”** In Miranda, this diploma course worked with 37 women participants who developed their first draft version of a GBV and LGBTI prevention and response *rutas*. By the end of the quarter, these *rutas* were approved by its Elimination of Violence against Women roundtable and was pending approval by its COMPOS. A similar process was carried out in Caloto where 40 trained women also developed GBV prevention and response *rutas* through the same diploma course. In Caloto in the coming quarter, these *rutas* will also move through the necessary approval processes by the Elimination of Violence against Women roundtable and COMPOS.

Following on the successful and empowering experiences with diploma courses in Miranda and Caloto, **a new cycle of the Human Rights, Civic Oversight, and Access to Justice for Women diploma course was kicked off in Buenos Aires and Santander de Quilichao during the quarter.** With 45 women participants in Buenos Aires and 33 women participants in Santander de Quilichao, this diploma course will impart training on basic human rights concepts, gender concepts, types of violence, civic participation, and electoral and democratic participation. With these new tools and knowledge, these women will become empowered to organize and effectively advance their public agendas on women’s rights and the elimination of GBV.

CÓRDOBA

Due to HRA efforts during this quarter in Córdoba, meaningful steps were taken toward the **cultivation of a culture of human rights and peace throughout HRA priority municipalities.** Since 2016, HRA has been a strong advocate and leader in creating opportunities to work with schools, teachers, and students in integrating and implementing the *Cátedra de Paz* in Córdoba. The HRA-supported collaborative initiative entitled “Peacebuilding Tools for School” engaged key partners such as municipal education secretaries, the Colombian Reincorporation and Normalization Agency (CRN), Universidad de Córdoba, IOM, and the DIMITTE *Perdón y Reconciliación Fundación* among others. Continuing phases of this training course were successfully developed to provide and implement peacebuilding tools in the classroom. During this quarter, HRA participated in partner strategy meetings to define timelines and methodologies to kick-off Phase Two of this training course in HRA municipalities of Montelíbano and Puerto Libertador. Some of these modules will be led by HRA regional advisors. At the same time, details and methodologies were also being finalized to implement Phase Three which will begin in Tierralta. Phase Three takes the theoretical and practical teachings obtained by teachers in the previous phases and applies them toward the development of pilot projects promoting human rights and peace education in schools and communities. These phases are expected to begin early on in the coming quarter.

During the quarter, HRA priority municipality Tierralta made gains towards solidifying human rights and peacebuilding on its public agenda. **With HRA support, its first regional peace council was established as stipulated by an approved municipal agreement.** HRA provided technical assistance to develop its internal regulations and work plan to ensure a quick and effective start to its operations. Additionally, a human rights committee was established within the council and, moving forward, HRA will be able to participate and directly provide technical assistance through this committee. As mentioned

in Component One, **HRA hired an expert consultant to advance the development of a departmental human rights public policy in Córdoba.** By the end of the quarter, the consultant had presented the proposed plan for development of the human rights policy before the governor's office as well as a training workshop for 10 public officials who comprise the lead technical team responsible for the development of the policy. Participating public officials included representation from the governor's office, secretary of housing, secretary of interior, secretary of international development cooperation, and the secretary of education among others.

In a similar vein, **HRA worked closely with the departmental roundtable for the prevention of forced child recruitment and illegal use of children and adolescents to develop prevention *rutas* for Montelíbano and Puerto Libertador.** HRA also provided a training on this inter-institutional mechanism to build understanding regarding the basic concepts of the prevention *rutas* in anticipation of creating respective rapid response teams in each municipality. With this knowledge and once the team members are selected, these teams will be ready to quickly activate and respond to threats of child recruitment.

HRA also supported efforts to protect and mitigate risks to human rights defenders and other social leader by providing ongoing technical assistance to Córdoba's Guarantees Roundtable. During this quarter, HRA's technical assistance contributed to the development of its work plan as well as provided accompaniment to the Roundtable in requesting financial resources before the governor's office to implement the work plan. HRA's support was also instrumental in looking ahead and prioritizing activities to be implemented by the Roundtable including, for example, the development of a protection *ruta* for human rights defenders and other social leaders.

Córdoba also continued to make strides in creating necessary inter-institutional mechanisms to strengthen GBV prevention and response. During this quarter, HRA's technical assistance to the departmental governor's office pushed forward a new COMPOS decree, which in turn facilitates the **establishment of a departmental Elimination of Violence against Women Roundtable.** The updated decree was presented before the departmental Women's Roundtable which will merge with Elimination of Violence against Women Roundtable. During this period, departmental GBV prevention and response *rutas* were approved. In a similar vein, HRA's support contributed to the establishment of an Elimination of Violence against Women Roundtable in Montelíbano where its establishing decree was presented at its first work session to formally introduce its mission, objectives, and operational regulations to roundtable members. A first draft work plan proposal was developed and will be reviewed for approval in the coming quarter.

During this quarter, HRA continued to support Córdoba's Departmental Women's Organization (ROSMUC), a longstanding key partner in promoting women's rights and empowering women's organizations throughout Córdoba. HRA assisted in the implementation of their latest version of an informal education initiative, which drew inspiration from an HRA-supported women's rights and empowerment diploma course implemented last year. This initiative entitled, **Córdoba's Women's Leadership School, launched during this quarter and aims to empower 150 women leaders in southern Córdoba by increasing their knowledge on women's rights issues in order to strengthen organizational capacity, their communities, as well as their capacity to advocate for their rights.** Through skills gained, women participants will become more self-sufficient in leading their organizations, missions and in obtaining resources. HRA is responsible for leading GBV training modules on topics such as Law 1257 of 2008, prevention and response *rutas* and other related mechanisms. The School is operating out of three municipalities: Lorica, Montelíbano and Montería reaching all 30 municipalities in Córdoba. Other modules will be led by partnering institutions including Córdoba's governor's office, REDEPAZ, the Office of the Presidential Advisor for Women's Equality, the Ombudsman's office, and UNDP.

HRA's operations in Nariño during this quarter made headway in advancing objectives to the extent possible given a number of highly complex operational and security dynamics which have shifted from previous reported quarters. Foremost, HRA's regional advisors continue to familiarize themselves in their new roles and responsibilities as a new team combined with working in HRA's newer municipalities of Francisco Pizarro and Barbacoas. Not only are they responsible for adapting to their new roles, but they are also working under a fairly new institutional framework for international cooperation agencies in Nariño. Colombia's national government, namely the Vice President's Office, in response to the critical humanitarian and human rights situation in Tumaco and surrounding municipalities, has taken on a more direct leadership and operational role to address this sub-region's dire and complex security situation. Within this evolving and newly defined operational landscape, our new HRA regional advisors continue to strategically navigate and seek opportunities to support the Vice President's Office's initiatives to strengthen and advance human rights and peacebuilding in this heavily conflict-afflicted region while advancing HRA objectives.

Nonetheless, HRA continued to make strides to **promote a human rights and peace culture in Nariño this quarter with a focus on Barbacoas**. Together with support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, HRA worked closely with the municipal administration and other social leaders to successfully establish its first regional peace council through a municipal agreement.

To strengthen GBV prevention and response regarding the delivery of services to GBV victims by institutions, HRA supported the application of the **National Gender Equality Policy's Regionalization Manual (Regionalization Manual) to carry out follow-up in Tumaco**. In Francisco Pizarro, and Barbacoas, the Regionalization Manual was applied for the first time with HRA support. HRA worked with authorities of the respective mayor's office to carry out the process of evaluating the implementation of the national gender equality policy to keep institutions accountable with regard to implementation of the policy. To this end, participating entities in Tumaco included the community development office, the education secretary, the health secretary, *personería*, the social development and inclusion office, and the family commissary. This exercise facilitated an ideal opportunity for stakeholders to review the Regionalization Manual and begin to make necessary changes to improve services and resources. From these exercises, it was identified that there remains a great need to strengthen municipal mechanisms and institutions on gender and GBV knowledge, *rutas* and other related issues. Given that of the three municipalities that participated, only Tumaco operates with a gender sub-committee, this exercise aided subcommittee members to make necessary changes to improve GBV and gender response.

To strengthen Barbacoas' GBV prevention and response capacities, HRA led a training on the decree which establishes Elimination of Violence against Women roundtables, Decree 164. This training was provided to increase awareness and motivate key stakeholders, both civil society and institutions, to mobilize and begin the processes of establishing a roundtable in Barbacoas to address the high GBV rates which have lacked attention by institutions. During this training, it was clarified that Barbacoas' roundtable would include and address LGBTI-related issues. The lack of organization and knowledge by responsible entities, as identified through this training, have impeded GBV victims from necessary services, recourse and resources. HRA provided and familiarized participants with a template sample of the decree to jumpstart the development process of their own decree. A similar training will follow in the coming quarter in Francisco Pizarro.

META

With HRA support during the quarter, the **development of Meta's human rights public policy made important strides towards its final approval and, in turn, for the initiation of Meta's Human Rights and Peace School.** HRA's consultant was at the forefront of developing guidelines to update the public policy and provided key technical assistance to the department's secretary for victims, human rights and peace to develop the policy's ordinance. The ordinance is the fundamental political measure to enact and effectuate the public policy which includes the establishment Meta's Human Rights and Peace School and ensures its sustainability. By the end of the quarter, the finalized ordinance was under legal review by the governor's office prior to being passed on to the departmental assembly for final departmental approval.

During the quarter, HRA also continued to provide technical assistance to **Meta's sub regional human rights, international humanitarian law, and peace council** which includes representation of regional human rights and peace mechanisms from Puerto Rico, Mesetas, La Macarena, Vistahermosa and Uribe. Representation at these sessions from each municipality includes the respective municipal governor's secretary, *personero*, and three social leaders. HRA provided technical assistance at its third session, hosted in Puerto Rico, where the council centered dialogue on the concerning issues and challenges faced by *campesinos* and community members with regard to booming illicit cultivations in the regions; the incomppliance by the government regarding substitution crop programs; and the related human rights impacts and risks. It provided an open platform for **participants to raise common concerns, voice their opinions and recommendations as well as directly address responsible entities and institutions to elicit responses to their concerns.** HRA also provided ongoing technical assistance to their communications strategy which includes producing a summary publication of the council meeting's highlights and commitments to then be publicized through the municipalities' webpages, list serves and other similar media outlets.

HRA's technical assistance during this quarter also contributed to **strengthening coordination and capacities of municipal peace and human rights efforts by advancing their efforts to establish regional peace councils where there are none to date.** To this end, HRA has been providing ongoing assistance to HRA priority municipalities of Puerto Rico, Macarena and El Castillo. During the quarter to encourage the processes, HRA presented the relevant decree 885 of 2017 which defines and outlines the purpose and benefits of establishing regional peace councils. By the end of the quarter, Mesetas successfully established its first regional peace council with the official merging of its existing human rights mechanism. Puerto Rico and El Castillo continue to carry out the necessary steps and document reviews with competent authorities for final approvals.

In response to continuous rising concerns regarding the human rights risks faced by children and youth of Mesetas largely related to an increase of consumption and illegal use of drugs among others, HRA continued to support partnering organization, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) efforts to develop a **pilot project aimed at the prevention of violence impacting Meseta's youth** which has been underway since last year. This effort has convened civil society and institutions in order to engender community-based initiatives to help address these issues and risks. To enhance the focus and effectiveness of these initiatives, HRA worked with civil society and institutions to begin to identify risks and form a comprehensive proposal of activities. HRA's Monitoring and Evaluation Expert worked with this concerned group by providing them with guidelines for drafting a solid proposal including follow-up indicators. By the end of the quarter, this pilot project proposal had defined five main strategic axes including: 1) human rights knowledge and youth participation; 2) promotion of youth development projects; 3) innovation training laboratory; 4) promotion and respect for diverse identities through recreation, arts, and communications; and 5) strengthening of the nuclear family. To further develop

definition of these axes, HRA carried out workshops to begin to explore and define possible objectives and projects within each category.

In a similar vein in Mesetas, HRA, together with the mayor's office and *Fundación Plan*, led an **awareness raising workshop for 200 6th-9th grade students at a local school on the prevention of forced recruitment and the illegal use of children and youth**. At the workshop, teachers and students participated and presented a theater production developed by the students to convey the message of prevention as well as foster reflection and dialogue on the issue among the school community. The workshop also included the participation of the nationally-recognized youth group known as *Reporteritos a la Paz*, which has a branch in Mesetas. These young children from the ages 7-13 document and photograph social and human rights issues from the perspective of youth. At this event, this group displayed a photographic exposition entitled "*Paz Sumapaz*," and facilitated a dialogue on peace issues, and evoked discussions on the issue of prevention of forced recruitment and illegal use of children and youth based on the theater production.

In order to complement the support regarding this prevalent issue impacting youth and children, HRA also **provided innovative leadership and technical assistance to strengthen the departmental roundtable for the prevention of forced recruitment and the illegal use of children and youth** during the quarter. Due to HRA's support, a unique joint meeting was convened to improve coordination efforts between institutions from municipal PPGNR subcommittees and the departmental roundtable. HRA was responsible for designing and facilitating group work activities to engage participants on building alliances and creating innovative proposals to increase coordination efforts.

During the quarter, HRA's technical assistance to **strengthen GBV prevention and response in HRA municipalities also resulted in inspiring results, increasing awareness, and advancing efforts for the elimination of violence against women**. HRA's support played a critical role in raising the profile of an ongoing GBV prevention and women's empowerment diploma course entitled, "Access to Justice and GBV Prevention and Response Tools" which came to end during this quarter. This diploma course was a collaborative effort including HRA, ESAP and Meta's governor's family and development office aimed at strengthening capacities of and designing GBV prevention and response tools for public officials responsible for addressing this issue. This diploma course also served to motivate municipalities who currently lack GBV prevention and response *rutas* to gain the necessary tools and knowledge and to learn from other municipalities with *rutas*. With the participation from HRA's Gender and Vulnerable Populations Expert at the last two work sessions, HRA reached an agreement with Meta's governor's office to continue providing the necessary technical assistance and support to ensure the development and approvals of GBV response *rutas* in 10 municipalities. This event provided an opportunity to share and exchange experiences of already developed *rutas* from HRA priority municipalities of Vistahermosa, La Macarena, Uribe and Mesetas. Sixty-two public officials from institutions such as the ICBF, AGO, and family commissaries, among others from Meta's 29 municipalities participated in the diploma course carried out in Villavicencio.

HRA also provided **technical assistance to Meta's departmental GBV prevention, protection, and response due to armed conflict roundtable**. Due to these efforts, roundtable members reviewed its work plan and carried out follow-up of its activities and objectives. In addition, HRA assisted in the review and changes to GBV response *rutas* for Mesetas, Uribe, La Macarena, and Vistahermosa which were all approved by the end of the quarter. HRA is committed to supporting the dissemination of these municipal *rutas* by covering the cost for the printing of 500 *rutas* per municipality.

During this quarter, **HRA led comprehensive and strategic efforts to advance the development of Tolima's first departmental human rights public policy by reaching the final review processes by the departmental assembly, the ultimate decision-making and approving body to formally establish the associated ordinance.** Once this approval is made, which is expected in the coming quarter, Tolima will operate with a new ordinance enacting Tolima's updated departmental human rights public policy that will initiate the Tolima's first Human Rights, Diversity, and Peace School, Tolima's Human Rights Observatory, and a departmental human rights, peace, reconciliation, and co-existence council. Tolima's HRA regional advisors and HRA's expert consultant worked tirelessly during this quarter to prepare, gather input and feedback, and subsequently make the necessary changes to the proposed ordinance and public policy. Throughout the quarter, HRA held a number of bilateral presentation forums with diverse sectors of civil society and institutions to introduce the draft public policy to generate dialogue, reflection, and feedback. Forums were held with representatives from departmental Afro-Colombian organizations, the departmental victims' roundtable, and the departmental LGBTI roundtable. HRA supported an insightful forum which included the participation of approximately 45 social organizations from Tolima's Human Rights Defenders Network. The Network prepared and presented a document which included concrete recommendations to enhance inclusiveness of the public policy. For example, the Network advocated that *campesinos* and their culture be explicitly integrated into the public policy given that the *campesino* sector is widely overlooked in the development of public policies, in general.

HRA also organized a department-wide forum, which including CSOs and national and regional institutions, convening more than 250 persons to discuss, review, and validate the ordinance and public policy. This event was accompanied by high-level public officials such as the High Commissioner for Peace, the department's governor, and USAID's Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Director. At this event, HRA consolidated all feedback to make necessary changes to ensure buy-in and validation by representatives who participated in the development process. By the end of the quarter the ordinance was under review by the departmental assembly. The ordinance is expected to be approved in the coming quarter and with this, Tolima can attest to becoming a leading department implementing and complying with Colombia's National Human Rights Plan.

At the municipal level, **HRA also continued ongoing technical assistance to strengthen capacities of regional peace councils namely in the municipalities of Planadas, Rioblanco, and Ortega.** In Planadas, HRA provided technical assistance to a council session held during the quarter which included the participation of representation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace and the municipal peace advisor. At this session, presentations were made to benefit council members in gaining a firm grasp of their roles and responsibilities, related norms and laws, and internal regulations among others. With this information, the council was prepared to approve and take greater ownership of the important role played by the council in the promotion of human rights in Planadas. HRA also facilitated the first-time participation at the council by an advisor from the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. An encouraging element at this session was the active participation of LGBTI persons, women, and, disabled persons who are not generally well represented. Similar to Planadas, the internal regulations were reviewed and approved. In Ortega, HRA support was also instrumental in weighing options of establishing an appropriate human rights and peace mechanism. By the end of the quarter, Ortega's government approved a municipal agreement establishing its first regional peace council.

At the departmental level, **HRA provided support to the departmental PPGNR subcommittee, assisting in the update of its risk map.** This exercise involved the participation of the public security forces, the Ombudsman's Office, Victims' Unit, the governor's office, AGO, and the ICBF, among others. Also, at this session, members approved recent modifications made to the department protocol for human rights defenders and other social leaders and reviewed the departmental response protocol for both sectors. The latter was carried out with support from the national-regional advisor from the Ministry of Interior. Updating and understanding these critical instruments contributes towards guaranteeing

institutional planning and budgetary commitments regarding the defense of human rights defenders and other social leaders. Also, noteworthy at the departmental level, HRA provided **technical assistance to the departmental roundtable for the prevention of forced recruitment and illegal use of children and adolescents**. With this support, the roundtable successfully updated and coordinated its institutional resources throughout the department in addressing this prevalent human rights concern. With this task underway, the roundtable can move onto prioritizing activities to address risks.

HRA also continued to provide valuable technical support to raise awareness and strengthen capacities on GBV prevention and response in Tolima. During the quarter, **HRA led a gender and GBV awareness raising workshop in Cajamarca for 10 vulnerable women head-of-households from urban and rural areas of this municipality**. This support was provided based on requests from the municipal administration to help them comply with their development plan’s objectives to train and empower women from this municipality which has reported high rates of GBV. At this workshop, women participants were empowered with knowledge on basic GBV concepts, the different types of violence, and resources available to them under the law.

HRA also provided **ongoing technical assistance to Elimination of Violence against Women roundtables in Ataco and Rioblanco**. In Rioblanco, HRA’s support contributed to the review of their work plan to prioritize activities this year. In addition, Rioblanco’s roundtable received and reviewed the GBV response *ruta* booklets which will be mass disseminated throughout the municipality to empower women and GBV victims and hold institutions more accountable when providing assistance to GBV victims. In Ataco, HRA supported Tolima’s *dupla* lawyer to provide orientation to roundtable members on legal issues of institutional roles and responsibilities regarding the response *ruta*. At the departmental level, **HRA supported the governor’s office in carrying out a workshop for family commissaries and its psychosocial team members from throughout the department to strengthen their capacity to respond to GBV**. Led by the gender *dupla* and using HRA-developed methodologies, 27 participants gained valuable knowledge and tools regarding GBV and gender concepts through the analysis of case studies. By working through these GBV case studies, participants gained hands-on experience on how to best respond to GBV cases as well as which protection measures and prevention laws to implement. Participants coming into this training had very low levels of knowledge regarding current GBV laws, *rutas*, and other tools.

V. Regional Coordination with other USAID Programs

During the quarter, HRA continued to proactively engage and seek out opportunities to collaborate on efforts and projects in fulfilling common objectives and goals with other USAID programs. These types of joint initiatives broaden resource capacities and enhance institutional learning among implementing agencies. The consolidated strengths represented by these USAID programs provide maximum service delivery to beneficiaries facing diverse and complex challenges in Colombia’s post-accord phase.

Table 3. USAID Program Coordination: April-June 2018

Region	Activity	USAID Partner Programs	HRA Contributions	Other USAID Program Contributions

Antioquia ²	Awareness raising work sessions with public officials from Ituango and Briceño on the prevention of forced child recruitment and the illegal use of children and youth.	IOM – Prevention of Forced Recruitment and Reintegration	Financial, logistical and technical assistance	Financial, logistical and technical assistance
	Supporting and promoting the upcoming Human Rights and Peace Youth Olympics in Briceño	IOM – Prevention of Forced Recruitment and Reintegration	Financial, logistical and technical assistance	Financial, logistical and technical assistance
	Implementation of the Human Rights and Peacebuilding Diploma Course in El Bagre and Zaragoza.	Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Financial, logistical and technical assistance	Financial, logistical and technical assistance
	Committee to develop Antioquia’s human rights public policy	OHCHR	Financial, logistical and technical assistance	Financial, logistical and technical assistance
	Coordination efforts as part of Antioquia’s Guarantees Roundtable for Human Rights Defenders	OHCHR	Financial, logistical and technical assistance	Financial, logistical and technical assistance
	Implementation of the “Violence against Women: From Awareness to Action Forum” in Briceño as part of the Elimination of Violence against Women Roundtable.	UN Women – Fighting Violence against Women Program	Technical assistance	Financial, logistical and technical assistance
Córdoba	<p>Several USAID programs and non-USAID programs in Córdoba are designing a joint pilot initiative to improve coordination of efforts in this department.</p> <p>Progress made during this quarter includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of current human rights and security situation in Córdoba as well as identification of key issues. – Identification of a pilot area to carry out joint initiatives (Juan José <i>corregimiento</i> in the municipality of Puerto Libertador). – Preliminary diagnostic of the current situation of the prioritized <i>corregimiento</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Justice for a Sustainable Peace – Rural Financial Initiative (RFI) – Community Development and Licit Opportunities (CDLO) – Regional Governance Activity (RGA) – Institutional Strengthening for Victims (IOM) – OHCHR – <i>Fortaleciendo</i> – Electoral Observation Mission 	Financial, logistical and technical assistance	Financial, logistical and technical assistance

² HRA continually participates in planning and coordination meetings led by Plan Antioquia Libre de Coca which oversees coordinated interventions in priority zones designated by Antioquia’s governor’s office.

Cauca	Development of a gender strategy following the implementation of the Human Rights and Civic Oversight, and Access to Justice for Women Diploma Course in Miranda, Caloto and Buenos Aires, Cauca. This process will also include the participation of the HRA-supported Political Training School for Youth in Santander de Quilichao.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – RGA – Justice for a Sustainable Peace 	Financial, logistical and technical assistance	Financial, logistical and technical assistance
Meta	An awareness raising workshop was held on the prevention of forced child recruitment and the illegal use of children and youth in which approximately 200 students participated.	RGA	Financial, logistical and technical assistance	Financial, logistical and technical assistance

VI. Monitoring and Evaluation

Data Quality Assessment

During the quarter, HRA completed the Data Quality Assessment (DQA) for its 12 indicators included in the Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (AMEP). According to the information gathered, HRA made necessary adjustments to its Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (PIRS) and the Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP, formerly known as the AMEP). Once the findings of the mid-term evaluation are concluded and analyzed with the DQA outcomes, an updated AMELP will be presented to USAID. Changes regarding data collection will also then be introduced.

VII. Communications

HRA advanced in the implementation of its communications strategy to promote human rights and peacebuilding through innovative and dynamic media. HRA remains at the forefront of providing cutting-edge information and analysis on the realities and challenges of human rights and peace in Colombia’s post-accord phase. During the quarter, HRA offered technical support to key communications partners and mechanisms in the regions publishing groundbreaking human rights news and information and advanced investigatory publications on leading human rights issues.

HRA grantee *Consejo de Redacción*, in partnership with award-winning investigatory journalism magazine *Verdad Abierta*, published two articles during this quarter. The first article is entitled, “*Café aromatiza dos procesos de paz*”, which sheds light on how coffee production, as part of the illicit cultivation substitution program derived from Colombia’s peace accord, impacts communities across Tolima, and focused on HRA’s priority municipality of Planadas. As the birthplace of the armed *campesino* movement which evolved into the FARC, the historical ties to conflict and associated violence impacting the municipalities of this region run deep. This article analyzes the resilience and perspectives of the *campesinos* that lived through the conflict and who now persevere in doing their part to build a lasting peace in Colombia.

The second article is entitled, “*La zozobra sin fin de los indígenas Nasa*” explores the fears and precariousness experienced by the Nasa indigenous community in northern Cauca in the post-accord phase. According to the article, the community has seen very little in terms of more peaceful moments.

On the contrary, a transformation of violence has emerged in the short time the postaccord has unfolded, and a new wave of illegal armed groups have surged into this region resulting in very high levels of human rights violations against this community.

These articles were published through renowned investigatory reporting websites such as www.verdadabierta.com, www.colombiacheck.com, as well as other regional communications media outlets. In addition to these publications, **Consejo de Redacción trained 30 journalists and social communicators from Córdoba, Antioquia, Nariño, and Caquetá providing them with tools, strategies, and information to improve the quality of their investigations and writing on human rights issues in their regions.** By the end of the quarter, these journalists were carrying out their own investigations which may contribute to future *Verdad Abierta* articles.

HRA also finalized two video productions, which were carried out with support from the U.S. Embassy, and were uploaded to USAID/Colombia's YouTube channel. "Semillero de iniciativas audiovisuales sobre DD HH" (Versions: 3 minutes; 1 minute) focuses on HRA grantee Fundamor's transformative human rights process with rural and urban youth from northern Cauca who were trained as human rights promoters. "*Mujeres participando activamente en sus territorios*" (Versions: [3 minutes](#); [1 minute](#)) highlights the groundbreaking work carried out by HRA grantee ASOM which empowered Afro-Colombian women from northern Cauca to understand their rights from ethnic and gender lenses and how to effectively advocate through participation in institutional mechanisms and otherwise within their communities. By the end of the quarter, final edits were being made on another video focused on HRA grantee *Hermanas Misionera de la Madre Laura* and the pivotal work carried out by ethnic women in Tierralta, Córdoba to eliminate GBV.

During the quarter, HRA, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and RTVC-Señal Colombia, finalized the entry submission phase for its audiovisual production scholarship competition entitled, #NuevaMirada2018. From the 42 eligible proposals were reviewed, five finalist proposals were selected, and the winner will be decided upon in the next quarter following a jury deliberation including presentations by the respective entrants. The winner of the competition will receive financial support to professionally produce the audiovisual project which best documents everyday youth in the regions and their perspectives regarding Colombia's postaccord phase.

HRA also made progress on communications projects promoting and raising awareness through institutional partners. With the CPDH, HRA's Communications Expert carried out follow-up on the redesign of the CPDH's webpage. Similarly, HRA's support resulted in the finalization of the design and layout of the digital publication which systematizes the Ombudsman's Office EWS history and evolution as a leading early warning system for the prevention of human rights violations during periods of conflict. This document includes video and animation work also designed by HRA in making this information more user-friendly. HRA and the Ombudsman's Office will work jointly to disseminate this information next quarter.

HRA was also at the forefront of providing technical support to ongoing human rights-focused radio programs in municipalities of Antioquia's Bajo Cauca sub region. HRA-supported radio program "*Vive Tus Derechos*" broadcasted human rights programs in Cauca, El Bagre, and Zaragoza. Partnering entities supporting these efforts include human rights committees, mayor's offices, *personerías*, *Fundación Oleoductos*, and former HRA grantee *Rio Abajo-Comunicación y Cultura*. Issues addressed during this quarter included: 1) the humanitarian emergency brought on by Hidroituango; 2) the early warning No. 031-18 regarding human rights violation risks faced by community members of Cauca due to the threats issued by the illegal armed group *Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia*; 3) PDETs; and 4) the experience and impact of the human rights trainings led by *Rio Abajo-Comunicación y Cultura* for the Embera and Senú communities.

During the quarter, HRA's social media outlets saw increases in user activity. HRA's Facebook fan page gained 663 new followers bringing the total to 3,917 followers. There were 707 likes and 31,203 interactions regarding postings, while the postings reached 67,193 users. HRA issued five editions of its e-Human Rights Agenda during the quarter. This e-bulletin currently reaches 310 contacts including CSO partners as well as national and local government entities/partners. Also, noteworthy, during the quarter, several videos, interviews, and photographs were posted via HRA Facebook fan page that highlighted youth profiles who are participants of the human rights promoter training initiative led by HRA grantee *Red Caquetá Paz*.

VIII. Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

1. The period of an incoming government provides HRA with an opportunity to position human rights as a priority with key stakeholders at the national level. With new institutional leadership in place, HRA will have the opportunity to meet and present anew on HRA's activities and objectives, but moreover to bring to the new government's attention up-to-date information from the regions on progress and challenges regarding the national development plan and human rights, prevention, and protection.
2. HRA's ongoing capacity building can play an instrumental role in working with local and departmental inter-institutional prevention and promotion mechanisms to contribute towards the national development plan which is coming to an end and will be redrafted for 2019-2022. This presents an opportunity for HRA to play an instrumental role in supporting local and regional leadership to prioritize human rights, prevention and protection issues as the preparation for the new development plan calls for updated inputs from the regions.

Challenges

1. The overwhelming human rights and other social leaders' crisis has reached critical levels greatly impacting HRA departments. There is concern that the new national government's position will wane on upholding current prevention and protection measures and policies to adequately respond to the crisis. Accordingly, HRA must maintain its vocal advocacy before State institutional counterparts to prioritize these issues as well as keep abreast of actions or changes to support and/or coordinate with State institutions.
2. Given new incoming presidential administration in the coming quarter, the government transition will result in a high turnover of government counterparts which could lead to project delays at the national and local levels. HRA will need to work closely with new counterparts to ensure ongoing support for HRA-supported initiatives.
3. It remains unclear at this point if the incoming presidential administration will continue to implement decrees and programs created by the outgoing administration with respect to the human rights and other social leaders' crisis.

IX. Year Three Quarter Two Planned Activities

Below are some of the major activities planned for the second quarter of Year Three:

Date	Event	Location
July		
July 4-6	National Conference for Prosecutors and Investigators on the Guidelines and Best Practices for the Investigation of LGBTI Rights Violations	Bogotá
July 5-6	Lessons Learned Sub Regional Conference regarding Human Rights Violations Prevention and Response	Yolombó, Antioquia
July 12-13	Preparatory Session for the Human Rights and Peacebuilding Student Olympics	Briceño, Antioquia
July 18	"Peacebuilding Tools for Schools" Training Course: Phase III	Tierralta, Córdoba
July 19	Elimination of Violence against Women Roundtable Work Session	Montelíbano, Córdoba
July 19	Presentation of the Annual LGBTI Rights Situational Report and Launching of the Information System regarding LGBTI Human Rights Violations	Florencia, Caquetá
July 24	Citizenship and Human Rights Conference in San Vicente del Caguán	San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá
July 24	Music Art, and Memory- Meta's Youth Transforming the Social Fabric: Inter-departmental Conference and Collective Initiatives (<i>Fundación Escuelas de Paz – FEP</i>)	Mesesta and El Castillo, Meta
July 25	Presentation of the Annual LGBTI Rights Situational Report and Launching of the Information System regarding LGBTI Human Rights Violations	Ibagué, Tolima
July 31	Consolidation of Criteria for the Access to Justice for the Response of Women Victims of Violence	Santander de Quilichao
August		
August 3	Evaluation of Regional Guarantees Roundtable in Antioquia	Medellín, Antioquia
August 3	Closing event of the grant "Strengthening Municipal Human Rights and Peacebuilder Youth Promoter Networks in the Municipalities of San Vicente del Caguán, Cartagena del Chairá and La Montañita in the department of Caquetá"	Florencia, Caquetá
August 22-23	Training Tools for the Implementation of the Catedra de la Paz: Phase Two	Puerto Libertador, Montelíbano, Córdoba
August 23	Women's Sub-Regional Assemblies for Peace during the Post-Accord Phase	Segovia, Antioquia
August 31	Opening Session of the Second Human Rights and Peacebuilding Diploma Course in Valparaíso, Cartagena del Chairá, San Vicente del Caguán and La Montañita – Caquetá.	Valparaíso, Cartagena del Chairá, San Vicente del Caguán and La Montañita
August 31	Departmental GBV Criminal Code Forum	Medellín, Antioquia
September		
September 14	Human Rights and Peace Student Olympics –Briceño, Antioquia	Briceño