



USAID / BHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA

SUPPORTING AND PROTECTING INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND CONFINED PERSONS IN COLOMBIA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT No. 720BHA21GR00317

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022

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I. DETAILED NARRATIVE REPORT

Reporting Type	Final Performance Report
Reporting Fiscal Year	2022
Partner Name	Pan American Development Foundation
Award Number	720BHA21GR00317
Activity Name	<i>Supporting and Protecting Internally Displaced and Confined Persons in Colombia</i>
Host/Implementation Country	Colombia
Activity Start Date	September 1, 2021
Activity End Date	August 31, 2022
Annexes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indicator Tracking Table (ITT) 2. Endline Evaluation 3. PDM Final Report 4. Humanitarian Stories
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II. GENERAL CONTEXT

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) implemented the USAID/BHA-funded project *Supporting and Protecting Internally Displaced and Confined Persons in Colombia* between September 1, 2021, and August 31, 2022. PADF implemented the project in Colombia's Pacific region, where ethnic communities, mainly indigenous and Afro-Colombian, were the most threatened by armed conflict. It was evident throughout the implementation period that the intensification of armed confrontations, territorial disputes, and human rights violations, especially in the areas farthest from urban centers, threatened the survival, dignity, and autonomy of ethnic communities.

In the period covered by this report, events such as confinement and forced displacement increased by 181 percent in comparison to 2021, reaching their highest level in the last five years.¹ Moreover, these events were accompanied by other human rights violations such as restrictions on mobility, forced recruitment, sexual violence, and homicide of protected persons (including social and environmental leaders).²

In this context, populations requiring special protection, such as women, ethnic communities, and children, continued to be the most affected by armed conflict in Colombia. The risks faced by these groups were often exacerbated by structural vulnerabilities, such as poverty, racism, and sexism, making them more vulnerable to violence and abuse.

To add complexity to this situation, the low presence and capacity of the State to provide security and assistance to communities in isolated rural areas created conditions for greater penetration and control by non-state armed groups (NSAGs).

At the community level, ethnic communities also saw their social fabric and system of self-government affected by the armed conflict, creating risks for the survival of the customs, social structures, and mechanisms of representation of indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples. These communities were also at heightened risk of threats, homicides, and forced disappearances. According to the local civil society organization INDEPAZ, it is estimated that at least one out of every four leaders murdered during 2021 was indigenous.³

Furthermore, the opportunities for humanitarian action by national, international, and multilateral agencies were limited due to security risks, lack of access, road blockades, and community fears about denouncing violence, among other factors.

¹ El Espectador (2022) *Desplazamiento Forzado Aumentó 181% en 2021*, *ELESPECTADOR.COM*. Available at: <https://www.elespectador.com/colombia/el-desplazamiento-forzado-aumento-181-en-2021/> (Accessed: November 15, 2022).

² Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para el Desplazamiento (2022) *Panorama de necesidades humanitarias. Colombia 2022*. Bogotá: OCHA.

³ INDEPAZ (2022) *líderes sociales, defensores de DD.HH y firmantes de acuerdo asesinados en 2021*. Bogotá: INDEPAZ

Amidst this complex political, humanitarian, and security context, PADF provided assistance to survivors of the armed conflict in 17 municipalities of four departments in Colombia. Assistance provided focused on unconditional food assistance and protection, ensuring that humanitarian actions were complementary to assistance provided by the Colombian government.⁴

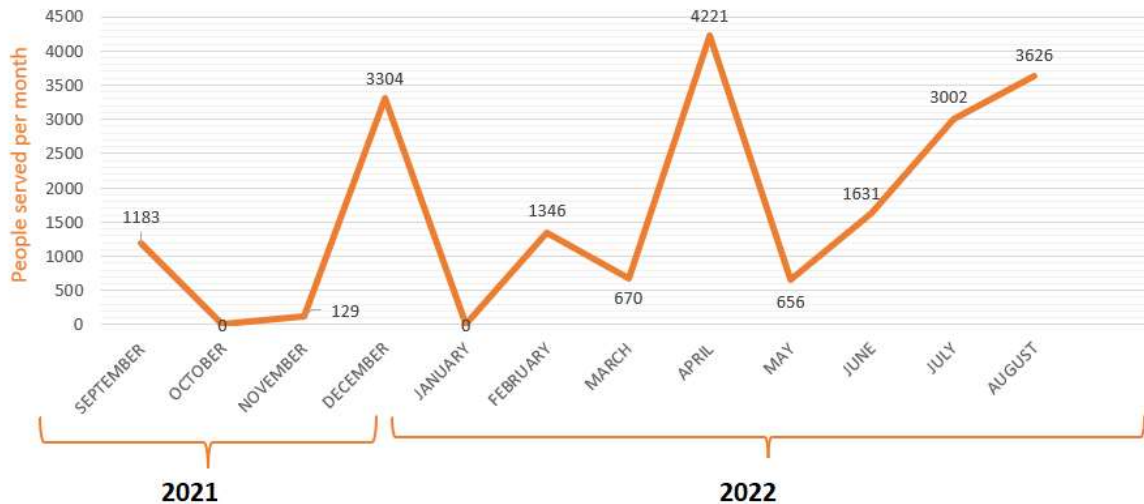
Table No.1 gives an account of all the emergencies addressed by PADF, detailing the type of event and the number of individuals served by department and municipality.

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	TYPE OF EVENT	# OF EVENT AND ATTENTION INDIVIDUAL GROUPS	TOTAL
CAUCA	Guapi-Timbiqui	Massive Displacement	4	1288
	López de Micay	Individual Displacement	2	79
Total participants Cauca				1367
CHOCÓ	Alto Baudó, Bahía Solano, Nuquí, Quibdó and Litoral de San Juan	Massive Event (8 Confinement and 1 massive displacement)	9	4546
	Bahía Solano, Quibdó	Individual Displacement	4	256
Total participants Chocó				4802
NARIÑO	Tumaco, Olaya Herrera, El Charco, Santa Bárbara de Iscuandé, Magüi Payán and Roberto Payán	Massive Event (1 Confinement and 10 massive displacement)	11	5832
	Tumaco	Individual Displacement	1	129
Total participants Nariño				5961
VALLE DEL CAUCA	Cali and Buenaventura	Massive Event (2 Confinement and 7 massive displacement)	9	5519
	Cali and Buenaventura	Individual Displacement	16	2119
Total participants Valle del Cauca				7638
TOTAL PROJECT PARTICIPANTS		Massive Displacement and confinement	33	19768
		Individual Displacement groups	23	

Table 1. Persons served by department, municipality, and type of event. PADF, November 2022.

Thanks to the support of the U.S. government, PADF assisted a total of 19,768 people affected by individual displacement and 33 massive humanitarian emergencies between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022. Of these emergencies, 22 were mass displacements affecting 10,918 people (55%) and 11 were confinements affecting 6,267 people (32%). Individual displacement affected 2,583 people (13%). The departments of Nariño and Valle del Cauca were most affected by mass and individual displacement, while the department of Chocó was the department most affected by confinement.

⁴ Project activities were implemented in the Colombian Pacific Coast in the departments of Cauca (3 municipalities), Chocó (6 municipalities), Nariño (6 municipalities), and Valle del Cauca (2 municipalities). In addition, PADF had coordination teams in the cities of Popayán (Cauca) and Pasto (Nariño) where Humanitarian Coordination Spaces are located.



Graphic 1. Number of beneficiaries receiving humanitarian support by month. PADF, November 2022.

As shown in Graph 1, PADF provided humanitarian assistance to new emergencies that arose during the life of the project, with December, April and August being the months with an increased number of participants reported with protection and food assistance activities.

Of the beneficiaries assisted, 74 percent identified themselves as Afro-Colombian, 24 percent as indigenous, and 2 percent did not express any specific ethnic affiliation. Women accounted for 52 percent of the total number of people served and men accounted for the remaining 48 percent. Regarding age groups, 48 percent of the beneficiaries were under 18 years of age, and 52 percent were adults. Finally, a total of 413 people (2%) reported having a disability.

At a sector level, PADF reached 12,184 people with unconditional food assistance and 15,202 people with protection services, with 7,812 people receiving both food and protection services.

Considering that most of the individuals served come from indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, the project implemented an approach based on the principle of cultural humility and respect for the customs of the communities. For example, PADF used translation services and other tools to facilitate communication with populations where Spanish was not the primary language. In addition, PADF developed activities around cooking traditional foods, music and dance, traditional narratives, the use of medicinal plants, among others. This was carried out in continuous consultation with affected communities and through constant adaptations, depending on the areas where assistance was provided, and the specific needs identified.

PADF adopted a gender focus across its activities, promoting equal participation. Given the dynamics of some communities, it was necessary to have sessions differentiated by age and sex. This allowed participants to speak freely, express their needs, and raise their voices to ask for help according to their vulnerabilities.

PADF actively participated in coordination structures for humanitarian assistance, promoting the active presence of members of the affected communities in the Transitional Justice Committees and strengthening their capacity, especially based on the inclusion of gender and ethnic approaches. To avoid the duplication of services and maximize resources, PADF also was in constant communication with different humanitarian actors in the country, as well as with national entities such as the Victim’s Unit and the Ombudsperson's Office. This coordination was crucial to effectively respond to the needs of survivors of the armed conflict since municipal administrations and humanitarian agencies were often overwhelmed due to the large number of people affected by these crises and the magnitude of the needs.

The following is the final report of PADF’s work throughout the project’s life cycle (September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022) by sector and activity.

III. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

Although the project did not request any formal changes or amendments to the agreement with BHA, the worsening humanitarian conditions due to the armed conflict did require several changes in order to provide strategic assistance to the target population, as well as guarantee the safety and security of both team members and program participants.

For one, road blockades due to armed strikes and the recurrence of social protests in all of the project’s departments forced PADF to reschedule activities and to constantly review and revise security measures.

Further, the intensification of the armed conflict overwhelmed the institutional response capacity, especially in the most isolated municipalities of Colombia's Pacific Coast. This led to increased demand for emergency humanitarian aid from local mayors, ethnic communities, and the national government. In response to these emergencies, PADF provided unconditional food assistance and protection services in August 2022 in the municipalities of Olaya Herrera, El Charco, and Santa Bárbara in Nariño and Guapi and López de Micay in Cauca. The provision of services for these households was informed to BHA in the monthly reports and increased the total number of people served by this project. As a result, PADF exceeded the 12,000-beneficiary target by 65 percent, benefiting an additional 7,768 people over the target.

IV. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Sector 1: Food Assistance

Subsector 1.1 – Unconditional Food Assistance

Food Assistance Intervention	Intervention 1	Intervention 2
Subsector	Unconditional food assistance	Unconditional food assistance
Description of the intervention	General food distribution	General food distribution
Modality	LRIP	Voucher

Average voucher transfer value (USD) per distribution per beneficiary, if applicable	N/A	USD \$34.33
Commodity transfer ration per distribution per beneficiary (kg), if applicable	19 kilograms	N/A
Percentage of kilocalorie requirements covered per transfer	84.68%	84.68%
Total number of distributions	One	One
Frequency of distributions	Once (complementary to state and humanitarian organizations)	One (complementary to state and humanitarian organizations)
No. of individuals proposed	6,000	3,000
No. of individuals served	8,897	3,287

Table 2. Summary of the Sector's intervention. PADF, October 2022.

Throughout the life of the project, PADF provided food assistance in the form of in-kind distribution (food baskets) and vouchers to 12,184 individuals from 3,674 households in 17 municipalities in the four departments covered by this project (Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, and Valle del Cauca). As a result, the project target of 9,000 beneficiaries was exceeded by 35.4 percent.

BHA Indicator No.	INDICATOR	GOALS			ACHIEVEMENT			VARIATION		
		WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
F1	Unconditional food assistance	4470	4530	9000	6345	5839	12184	1875	1309	3184

Table 3. Indicator F1. Disaggregation by sex. PADF, November 2022.

Disaggregation by modality shows that 73 percent of the assistance was distributed through food baskets, while 27 percent corresponded to vouchers redeemable in local markets. Of the total number of food assistance beneficiaries, 6,345 were women (52%) and 5,839 were men (48%). Likewise, PADF benefited 5,980 children and adolescents (49%), 731 of people over the age of 60 (6%), and 400 people (3%) with disabilities. Regarding ethnic distribution, 4,404 people identified as belonging to indigenous communities (36%), 7,492 people identified as Afro-descendants (62%), and 288 people identified as mestizos (2%).

The following analysis and tables show the scope of the food assistance provided, disaggregating the types of distribution and participants by territory, gender, and age groups.

Through Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) exercises, PADF corroborated the relevance of the assistance provided, highlighting the following achievements:

1. Emergency food assistance was the most pressing need for households consulted through the PDM exercises (See Annex 3, PDM Report, page 2). In line with this, the assistance provided satisfied the first need of highly vulnerable households since they were also below the poverty line and had suffered from multiple victimizing events.
2. The form of assistance selected in each modality of implementation, either through in-kind assistance or vouchers to exchange for food, improved food consumption rates at the individual and household levels. According to the baseline measurement, 29% of the

participating families reported deficient food consumption. At endline, this range changed to 19%, showing an improvement in consumption for 10% of the families.

3. Consultations on food preferences and handling with local communities increased quality food selection, including foods from different nutritional groups in healthy, varied, and culturally acceptable portions.
4. The families assisted by the project reduced their use of negative coping strategies. For example, the assistance provided significantly reduced deprivation or restriction of food to children, limitation or reduction of food portions, and reduction of daily food rations. In contrast, positive strategies such as equitable food distribution, consumption of preferred and healthy foods, and joint food preparation among families increased.

Regarding gender and inclusion and based on the recognition of the predominant role of women in food preparation, PADF formulated activities such as community concertation meetings for selecting food assistance modality and food handling workshops to promote their empowerment and participation in decision-making. For example, project activities allowed women to reflect on their family and community roles and the need to be active in decisions that affect the life and health of their families and communities.

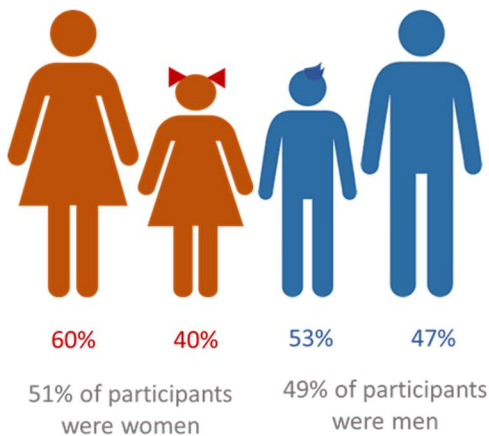


Illustration 1. Food Assistance participants in decision-making activities disaggregated by Sex. PADF, November 2022.

As a result of PADF’s interventions, there was a 13 percent increase in women's participation in decision-making related to the purchase and use of food, the determination of the size and frequency of food rations, and the definition of menus and preparation methods.

The project achieved parity in the distribution of food assistance between men and women, with women accounting for 51 percent and men accounting for 49 percent of participants in decision-making activities. In fact, the group with the highest participation was that of women between 18 and 50 years of age, which accounted for 23 percent of the total number of people assisted.

The results related to each of the food assistance sub-sectors are described below.

The results related to each of the food assistance sub-

Activity 1.1.1. Distribution of in-kind food assistance (food baskets)

For those communities with little or no access to markets, PADF provided in-kind assistance in the form of food baskets. In total, PADF assisted 8,897 people in 2,554 households in 11 of the 17 municipalities prioritized by the project. The total number of food distributed amounted to 140.4 tons, with Chocó being the department with the highest demand due to repeated humanitarian emergencies.

SUBSECTOR		UNCONDITIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE-IN KIND (FOOD BASKETS)							TOTAL	
DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALTY	WOMEN			MEN					
		0 - 5	6-17.	18 - 50	> 50	0 - 5	6-17.	18 - 50	> 50	
CAUCA	Güapí	44	87	136	60	36	104	107	45	619
	López de Micay	7	11	23	1	11	10	12	4	79
	Timbiquí	6	26	18	9	4	21	16	5	105
CHOCÓ	Alto Baudó	173	324	351	86	207	351	321	96	1909
	Nuquí	233	425	463	99	224	433	463	101	2441
	Quibdó	5	6	8	1	9	6	6	1	42
NARIÑO	El Charco	49	128	173	44	53	104	162	48	761
	Magüí Payán	14	37	52	15	19	42	41	17	237
	Olaya Herrera	183	279	477	90	176	321	354	115	1995
	Santa Bárbara de Iscuandé	16	36	65	15	26	35	43	14	250
VALLE DEL CAUCA	Buenaventura	44	63	93	27	34	75	95	28	459
TOTAL		774	1422	1859	447	799	1502	1620	474	8897

Table 4. In-kind food assistance. Disaggregation by territory, age, and sex. PADF, November 2022.

While PADF originally planned to reach 2,000 households (equivalent to 6,000 people) with food baskets, the goal was exceeded by 48.3 percent, reaching a total of 8,897 people through this modality. Fifty-one percent of the participants (4,502) were women, of whom 591 were pregnant or breastfeeding women. The remaining 49 percent of the people assisted were men (4,395).

Participation rates by age group remained evenly split, with the lowest rate being that of adult men 18 and older at 24 percent and the highest rate for adult women 18 and older at 26 percent.

“For us women to know that we have food to give our children is a blessing. The hardest part [of confinement] is seeing your children hungry and not being able to tell them anything because you don't know what will happen. So, when they gave us the food basket, I felt like relief, like I could rest, at least for a few days. And that is worth gold to me...”

Food Assistance recipient, in Nuquí, Chocó



Delivery of food baskets to displaced families in López de Micay (Cauca) and Olaya Herrera (Nariño)

Activity 1.1.2. Distribution of vouchers for food assistance

PADF prioritized the delivery of food vouchers to households in urban settings. This modality enabled people affected by individual displacements to select food more independently and in

accordance with their own habits and tastes. In total, PADF supported 1,120 households (3,287 people) through the delivery of food vouchers. Fifty-six percent of the participants (1,843) were women, and the remaining 44 percent (1,444) were men.

SUBSECTOR		UNCONDITIONAL FOOD ASSISTENCE -VOUCHERS								TOTAL
DEPARTAMENT	MUNICIPALTY	WOMEN				MEN				
		0 - 5	6-17.	18 - 50	> 50	0 a 5	6-17.	18 - 50	> 50	
CAUCA	Guapi	29	102	67	37	26	74	63	32	430
CHOCÓ	Bahía Solano	3	10	1	1	3	7	6	1	32
	Quibdó	17	59	28	10	16	43	28	9	210
NARIÑO	Tumaco	11	41	10	11	11	19	11	12	126
VALLE DEL CAUCA	Buenaventura	41	153	92	29	42	65	106	18	546
	Cali	164	564	264	99	153	337	291	71	1943
TOTAL		265	929	462	187	251	545	505	143	3287

Table 5. Voucher food assistance. Disaggregation by territory, sex, and age. PADF, November 2022.

Participation rates by age group showed that girls aged 0-17 represented 36 percent of participants, followed by boys aged 0-17, with 24 percent. Both adult men and women 18 and older represented 20 percent each.

The distribution of vouchers allowed women to actively participate in the decision-making processes about the food to be purchased and consumed. Women said they felt empowered vis-à-vis their families, being able to choose food and present themselves as autonomous buyers in their community markets.

“The day we went grocery shopping, I was happier than I had been in a long time. We all dressed up that day because it was like returning to the basics of life again. You don't appreciate the importance of being able to shop for groceries until you feel like a beggar. It was lovely to arrive and choose the food with the children because even though there were things we couldn't buy, the other things we could, we all decided together. We also learned a lot about good and bad food, so now we avoid anything unhealthy....”

Food assistance recipient, in Cali, Valle del Cauca



Voucher exchange in Cali (Valle del Cauca)

Activity 1.1.3. Training food preparation and handling

Through the participatory methodology "Walking Towards a Healthy and Safe Diet," PADF promoted the empowerment of food recipients. In taking part in the food handling workshops, beneficiaries not only learned about food handling guidelines but also created community bonds and shared their own knowledge and experiences. Within these workshops, PADF shared information on food preparation to promote good handling and nutritional practices.

Throughout the year, PADF held 39 food handling workshops and replicas in 63 communities. A total of 7,472 individuals participated, of whom 3,512 were men (47%) and 3,960 were women (53%). During the sessions, food manuals were distributed, encouraging beneficiaries to pass on the information learned to other household members. Of the total sessions, 62 percent were carried out in rural communities affected by confinements or massive displacements, reaching 4,632 people and 38 percent were carried out in urban centers for victims of individual displacement, reaching 2,840 people.

DEPARTAMENT	MUNICIPALITY	# OF WORKSHOPS	SERVED COMMUNITIES	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
Cauca	Guapi	3	8	300
	López de Micay	1	1	13
	Timbiquí	1	1	27
Chocó	Alto Baudó	2	10	1366
	Bahía Solano	1	1	22
	Nuquí	2	10	1914
	Quibdó	5	5	137
Nariño	Magüí Payán	1	1	204
	Olaya Herrera	3	10	1275
	Tumaco	1	1	94
Valle del Cauca	Buenaventura	7	4	815
	Cali	12	11	1305
TOTAL		39	63	7472

Table 6. Food handling workshops held by location and number of participants. PADF, October 2022.

After the food workshop, 77 percent of the households correctly identified different healthy eating habits and 66 percent mentioned considering all the recommendations provided in the workshop when cooking. Moreover, 89 percent of the households were able to identify the symptoms of foodborne illnesses and 79 percent recognized the importance of proper food handling.

Sector 2: Protection

This year, 15,202 people (53% women, 47% men) affected by displacement and confinement in 17 municipalities on the Pacific Coast received protection assistance.

BHA Indicator No.	INDICATOR	GOALS			ACHIEVEMENT			VARIATION		
		WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	WOME	MEN	TOTAL	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
P3	Number of individual beneficiaries accessing gender based violence (GBV) response services	408	272	680	1299	489	1788	891	217	1108
P5	Number of individuals trained in protection	6360	5640	12000	8057	7145	15202	1697	1505	3202
P6	Number of individual beneficiaries participating in psychosocial support	1590	1410	3000	1968	1442	3410	378	32	410

Table 7. Indicators P3, P5, P6. Disaggregation by sex. PADF, November 2022.

PADF allocated US \$582,280 for GBV interventions from an award target of USD 574,377, reaching 101% of the target. This amount was used for trainings, orientation, case referral, psychosocial, technical assistance, production of pedagogical materials, transportation support, and accompaniment for survivors of GBV. Specifically, PADF supported the creation and strengthening of 37 networks with the participation of 1,788 people and 268 public officers and supported 54 survivors of GBV in coordination with local authorities and humanitarian actors.

Additionally, in coordination with state institutions, humanitarian organizations, and international cooperation agencies, the project carried out joint missions to identify and analyze humanitarian needs. In addition, the missions also allowed for the characterization of participants and facilitated the declaration processes for 12,036 individuals whom the Victims' Unit included in the Colombian Registry of Victims.

Through the mobile service fairs strategy, 5,779 individuals from confined communities, displaced or at high risk of suffering victimizing events, received health services and had access to Colombian government programs. The 30 fairs held in 13 municipalities brought together affected and vulnerable communities and State institutions such as the Registrar's Offices, the Victims Unit, Health Service Providers, and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, among others.

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	SERVICE FAIRS
CHOCÓ	Alto Baudó	3
	Bahía Solano	1
	Nuquí	3
	Quibdó	2
CAUCA	Güapi	1
	Timbiquí	1
VALLE DEL CAUCA	Cali	8
NARIÑO	Buenaventura	3
	El Charco	1
	Magüí Payán	1
	Olaya Herrera	3
	Santa Bárbara de Iscuandé	1
	Tumaco	2
TOTAL		30

Table 8. Service Fairs disaggregated by department and municipality. PADF, November 2022.

Focusing on the importance of strengthening ethnic organizations for self-government, PADF promoted the development and strengthening of community protection mechanisms within 11 organizations led by members of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. For this purpose, 396 leaders of indigenous and community councils from the Pacific coast participated in exercises led by PADF, which included training, planning, and needs analysis within the framework of ethnic protection decrees.

PADF's psychosocial support services aimed to help affected participants using a family and community-based approach to help survivors to overcome the effects of conflict by increasing a sense of community, evidencing the availability of resilient resources, enhancing traditional, cultural, and societal positive practice, and fostering the development of positive coping mechanisms through three group sessions. PADF provided psychosocial support services to 3,410 people (58% women and 42% men) through this strategy. In addition, to strengthen local capacity, PADF held 19 training sessions on providing psychosocial support for local government authorities and grassroots organizations.

Progress made in each of the protection subsectors of this project is highlighted below.

Subsector 2.1. Prevention of and response to gender-based violence

Based on field observations and work with GBV experts, PADF developed three categories to explain GBV dynamics within the areas of intervention. First, there are women and persons of diverse sexual orientations (PDSO), who have been subjected to violence by armed actors as part of a strategy of domination and population control. This level includes individuals who have been survivors of sexual violence, but also of events such as torture due to their sexual condition or orientation, persons subjected to forced labor, and women recruited for activities such as sexual slavery or servile marriage, among others.

Second, there are cases of women and PDSOs subjected to GBV in host communities, where they experience economic violence derived from labor exploitation, psychological violence represented in events such as discrimination, verbal aggression, and denial of essential services for their integrity and survival.

Finally, the largest group includes those suffering from structural gender-based violence. These women and PDSOs have been subjected to physical, economic, psychological, and sexual violence in their homes and communities. While their victimization cannot be directly linked to armed conflict, it increments their vulnerabilities.

Taking the specific needs of each of these groups into account, PADF focused its efforts on reducing the risk of GBV and assisting 1,788 survivors through four critical activities:

1. Strengthening institutional capacity (285 local officials of 17 municipalities) for assistance and attention to survivors and persons at risk of GBV;
2. Raising awareness on GBV, identification of cases, and prevention (12 CSOs and 1,788 survivors);

3. Establishing and strengthening community networks (37 networks) for the prevention and response to GBV; and
Ensuring access to justice for GBV survivors (54 cases).

Activity 2.1.1. Strengthening of institutional capacity.

PADF identified the need to increase the knowledge, skills, and competencies of municipal officials managing cases of survivors of gender-based violence to improve the services offered by promoting access to justice, care, and protection programs and improving service timeliness, dignified and humane treatment, and efficiency.

To this end, PADF reached 268 public officials and 25 community leaders affected by displacement and confinement through 28 training workshops in 17 municipalities. The workshops gave participants the opportunity to identify challenges and gaps in the attention to survivors of gender-based violence; increase knowledge of the concepts of sex, gender, and gender-based violence; and rethink prevention, protection, and service delivery strategies from a collaborative approach with communities. The initially proposed goal (85 public officers trained) was exceeded by 215 percent.

In addition to the training held for public officials, PADF worked with 12 civil society organizations and community organizations (listed in table 9 below) to strengthen women’s participation and leadership by building capacity and knowledge to assist survivors of GBV. These organizations received information, training, and support from PADF identifying the difference between sex and gender, stereotyped views towards aspects such as gender identity, orientation, and expression, and to raise awareness of the different types of GBV, their manifestations in social and cultural imaginaries, and ways to identify and prevent. PADF’s strengthening strategy led to the generation of flexible methodologies adaptable to community contexts, local capacities, and dynamics related to gender violence and easy to replicate by CSOs.

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	ORGANIZATION
VALLE DEL CAUCA	Buenaventura	Consejo Comunitario de El Esfuerzo
	Buenaventura	Consejo Comunitario de Anchicayá
	Cali	Oriente Estereo
CHOCÓ	Nuquí	Red de mujeres empoderada
	Nuquí	Guardia Indígena de la comunidad de Villa Nueva
	Nuquí	Guardia Indígena de la comunidad de Yucal
	Nuquí	Consejo de mujeres de la comunidad de El Yucal
	Quibdó	Asociación Vida Nueva
	Quibdó	Asociación Mujeres de Zona Norte
NARIÑO	Tumaco	Fundación Arcoiris
	Tumaco	Pacific Dance
	Tumaco	Red de Cantadoras por la vida

Table 9. List of CSOs strengthened by PADF. PADF, November 2022

Activity 2.1.2. Identification of prevention mechanisms: Creation of awareness towards GBV, identification of cases, and prevention of victimization.

PADF fostered the creation of 37 community networks using its methodology "*Juntanzas para la vida*," which utilizes the unique beliefs and practices of ethnic communities to discuss complex issues and seek solutions rooted in ancestral skills and women's traditions. As a result of the creation of these community networks, PADF was able to hold 72 community GBV workshops through its organizational development efforts, reaching 1,788 beneficiaries and surpassing the target of 680 people by 163 percent. Of the total workshops, 55 were held in indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in 15 municipalities covered by the program.

Regarding assistance to survivors, PADF identified, supported, and monitored 54 cases of survivors of gender-based violence at immediate risk of femicide. These survivors received psychosocial support services, legal orientation, and referral to local authorities and humanitarian agencies such as Heartland Alliance and UN Women. Of the total survivors identified, 46 reported being survivors of at least two types of gender-based violence. In addition, of the total survivors, 27 reported being subjected to structural-GBV by their parents or close relatives (often a father figure) and 27 reported having been physically, sexually, psychologically, or economically assaulted by armed actors. From the latter group, in 16 cases, the sole perpetrator was an armed actor, and, in 11 cases, violence generated in the context of the armed conflict overlapped with structural violence, with a partner or ex-partner as the main aggressor.

To strengthen community activities, PADF developed a series of graphic and audio materials to accompany the training processes, achieve high coverage of content through local and community media, and serve as teaching aids for activities outside of the project itself. In total, PADF produced 21 audios, four podcasts, six infographics, and one booklet to address gender and GBV issues in accessible and clear language. In the case of the audios, the production team hired by PADF travelled to the communities, recorded beneficiaries, and managed to capture their concepts, perceptions, and challenges for the prevention of GBV. Seven of the audios produced are in the *Embera Dóbida* language and have begun to be distributed among the community networks and radio stations.

"I can't thank you enough for opening my eyes and showing me where I could go to ask for help. I spent twenty years putting up with mistreatment, and what is worse, thinking that I deserved it, that it was normal. While you talked, I thought: Ah, then I am not so crazy. What is happening to me is not normal. With you, I learned that if you don't feel well, it is because you are not well. And that I can ask for help because there is always someone there with an outstretched hand. Finally, after so many years, I was able to leave that relationship that was so bad for me. I feel free and safe now."

GBV survivor participating in training and assistance services. Quibdó, Chocó.

As for indicator P4, PADF allocated USD 582,280 for GBV interventions from an award target of USD \$574,377, representing an accomplishment of 101%.



GBV prevention and support training for a women's community network in Magui Payán (Nariño)

Subsector 2.2. Psychosocial Support Services

Activity 2.2.1. Psychosocial support sessions

PADF provided group psychosocial support to 3,410 people (1,968 women and 1,442 men), of whom, 56 percent self-identified as Afro-descendants, 42 percent as indigenous, and 2 percent as mestizo. Of the total beneficiaries of psychosocial support, 535 (16%) were survivors of individual displacement, 1,279 (37%) were affected by mass displacement, and 1,596 (47%) were affected by confinement.

The implementation of a psychosocial support strategy with a differential approach specially contributed to strengthening the resilience of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in response to confinement and mass displacements.

Among the main achievements are the improvement of protective factors, such as community autonomy, internal community cohesion, and collective emotional regulation, as well a higher level of collective self-esteem and the capacity to seek and implement positive coping strategies in the face of crisis. Of the 1,122 beneficiaries surveyed, 88 percent (897 people) reported a maintaining or improving their resilience after participating in psychosocial support sessions.

PADF identified the need to adapt the internal protocol for providing services to ethnic communities for future interventions, which included:

- Four strategic phases: preparation and training of the team, participatory planning and initial exchange with communities, intervention, and evaluation.
- Evaluation of individual resilience through surveys that included questions to help communities and participants themselves to establish a relationship with PADF's team.
- Evaluation of community resilience: Adjustment to the measurement of community resilience to encourage participants to share their reflections through qualitative methods,

sharing testimonies that support the information on the impact of strengthening their culture, either in individual or mass events (Most Significant Change Methodology).

As a result of this learning and adaptation process, PADF adapted its resilience quantitative and qualitative analysis processes. Monitoring and evaluation tools were adapted to measure individual and community resilience for future interventions.



Indigenous group attending Psychosocial Support Sessions in Nuquí (Chocó)

Activity 2.2.2. Strengthening of local capacities for psychosocial assistance

PADF held 19 psychosocial support workshops for 265 local officials and community leaders, of whom, 72 percent were women. Beneficiaries expressed their willingness to develop strategies to strengthen local capacities for psychosocial assistance and PADF encouraged the use of a differential ethnic approach to strengthen resilience among ethnic communities. Moreover, PADF worked on strengthening the knowledge of local official and community leaders to facilitate access to services and mobilize individual and community resources for emotional expression and healing. Local actors were also encouraged to recognize, participate, and promote activities that supported beneficiaries to adjust to their new situation while also strengthening the traditional practices and knowledge of the communities served.

Subsector 2.3. Protection coordination, advocacy, and information

Activity 2.3.1. Support to humanitarian strategic planning

PADF actively participated in coordination spaces at the national, departmental, and municipal levels in order to promote and implement an efficient, optimized, and more holistic assistance to communities affected by displacement and confinements, thus enhancing information management mechanisms and decision-making exercises.

PADF's coordination strategy ensured an adequate protection response to the needs of persons affected by 22 emergencies⁵ (six confinements and 16 forced displacements) during the reporting period. Moreover, project beneficiaries received more than two services from the protection sector in coordination with mayors' offices, local health entities, and the Victims Unit through 19 legal orientation



Strengthening of public officers for the coordination of protection response and prevention of communities in Bahía Solano (Chocó)

⁵ PADF provided protection services to people affected by 22 massive emergencies and individual displacement and food assistance for people affected by 11 massive emergencies and individual displacement.

missions and statement-taking sessions, 30 service fairs, and 11 community projects developed in partnership with ethnic organizations.

This year, PADF coordinated 19 missions to identify the needs of populations affected by humanitarian emergencies. During these missions, PADF supported a total of 12,036 survivors (52% women and 48% men) to make official statements in order to be registered in Colombia’s Victims’ Registry. Participants also received information about available services and response times for humanitarian assistance.

The missions were coordinated with the *Personerías* and Mayor's Offices of eleven municipalities as presented in table 10. PADF provided technical and operational support through the distribution of printed materials, delivery of biosecurity kits, and provision of transportation and food for public officials to support them in reaching the most remote communities.

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	HUMANITARIAN INCIDENT	COMMUNITIES
Chocó	Nuquí	Confinement	Villanueva Jurubirá
Chocó	Litoral de San Juan	Mass displacement	Indigenous Reservation formed by the communities of Chagpien Tordó, Chagpien Medio, Dur Ap Dur, Playita Comopá and Osorio Guaunad (Guachal, Copomá, Cucurrumi)
Valle del Cauca	Buenaventura	Confinement	Bajo Calima River Basin
Chocó	Nuquí	Confinement	Agua Blanca, Puerto Indio, and Chorro, of the Jurubidá Chori reservation; the community of Nuquí Arriba of the Nuquí reservation and the community of Yucal, of the Panguí reservation
Valle del Cauca	Buenaventura	Mass displacement	Leaders of Cajambre and the second with the leaders of the San Antonio and Rockefeller neighborhoods
Valle del Cauca	Buenaventura	Confinement	Community Council of Córdoba and San Cipriano
Nariño	El Charco, Santa Barbara y Olaya Herrera	Confinement	Subregion of Sanquianga (El Charco, Santa Barbara de Iscuandé, Olaya Herrera)
Chocó	Nuquí	Humanitarian risk	Arusí, Partado, Jovi, Coquí, Panguí, Jurubirá, Tribugá, Tando, Antacorí, Termales
Chocó	Litoral de San Juan	Mass displacement	Follow-up verification missions (communities) Day to verify and take declarations in the communities of Choncho (displaced)
Chocó	Litoral de San Juan	Confinement	Follow-up verification missions Mono Island and Garcia Gomez (confined)
Cauca	Timbiquí, Guapi, López de Micay	Humanitarian risk	Meetings with institutions due to the increase of incidents on the Cauca coast
Cauca	Timbiquí	Mass displacement	Soledad Napi
Chocó	Litoral de San Juan	Confinement	53 communities (San José, Taparalito, Nuevo Piraza and Taparal)
Chocó	Alto Baudó	Confinement	Cugucho and Mojaudo river communities: Alto Tumando, Puerto Tomas, Puerto Indio, La Esperanza, Mojaudo Afro, Tassi, Biaquirude Puesto Angel and San Francisco de Cugucho

Chocó	Alto Baudó	Massive displacement	Villa Nueva Mojaudo River
Chocó	Juradó	Humanitarian risk	Santa Teresita, Dos Bocas, Dichardi, La Loma, El Bongo and Buenavista
Valle del Cauca	Buenaventura	Mass displacement	Port of Spain, Miramar, Cerrito, Bongo
Cauca	Guapi	Mass displacement	San Agustín
Chocó	Bahía Solano	Confinement	El Brazo, Pozamansa, Boro Boro, Bakurripurru, Dotuma and El Llano, Rio Valle and Boro Boro indigenous reserves

Table 10. Humanitarian missions disaggregated by municipality and incident. PADF, November 2022.

Activity 2.3.2. Improvement of community capacity for self-protection

Ethnic Community Strengthening

PADF strengthened the self-protection mechanisms of 11 ethnic organizations comprising 35 communities. PADF focused the work with these communities on strengthening the capacity of leaders to formulate community plans for the prevention and response to displacement and confinement. This included activities that fostered the leadership of two indigenous guards, women's groups, and youth groups, as well as tools for collecting or surveying needs and updating community censuses. Other critical activities included the review and updating of internal processes and regulations that promote self-government, training in conflict resolution, the creation of ethno-development plans, and training in collective rights.

A total of 396 ethnic leaders (56% women and 44% men) were empowered to participate in the Transitional Justice Committees and to manage the humanitarian response for their communities. In addition, these leaders also began designing and developing self-led projects to strengthen and empower their communities. As a result, ethnic leaders encouraged the participation in the project activities of an additional group of 1,493 community members (54% women and 46% men), of whom 395 were children and adolescents. In total, 1,889 ethnic community members participated in community strengthening processes.

Through the implementation of PADF's instrument, called the Ethnic Organizational Capacity Index (ICOE), PADF analysed the ability of ethnic organizations to exercise autonomy, participation, and self-development, at the beginning and end of the strengthening process. Results showed that organizations improved their capacity by 32 percent, and gained skills especially in planning processes, communications, logistical capacity, and training.

Among the positive achievements reached by this strategy was the increase in female participation at the grassroots and community organization levels, which led to 214 new female leaders within the structures of organizations in Quibdó, Nuquí (Chocó), Magüí Payán, and Santa Bárbara de Iscuandé (Nariño). Also 35 communities strengthened their capacities to defend their collective rights through traditional cultural practices, the exchange of knowledge, and the strengthening of communications with the Public Prosecutor's Office and municipal mayors' offices.

In summary, supported and strengthened organizations were able to clearly identify their purposes, missions and objectives, clarify plans to achieve them, and implement actions towards their goals for the prevention and response to humanitarian crises.



Strengthening the Cultural Identity of an Indigenous Community in Quibdó (Chocó)



Ethnic Decrees Workshop in Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca)

Service Fairs

PADF led the coordination of 30 mobile service fairs in partnership with 13 municipal mayor's offices. These fairs ensured that beneficiaries in rural and isolated areas had access to timely and quality medical care services, information, guidance, and more.

A total of 66 indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities affected by humanitarian crises benefited from this strategy, reaching 5,779 individuals (54% women, 46% men), with an average of people assisted through 30 service fairs which included orientation and enrolment in social security programs, primary health services, vaccinations, and nutritional evaluation of children. PADF exceeded the beneficiary target (4,500 participants) additional 1,279 people than expected.



Service Fairs in Alto Baudó (Chocó)

Sixty-six indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities affected by humanitarian crises benefited from the 30 service fairs, reaching 5,779 individuals (54% women, 46% men). The average number of people assisted each fair was 193. Participants received orientation and enrolment in social security programs, primary health services, vaccinations, and nutritional evaluation of children. PADF exceeded the beneficiary target (4,500 participants) by 28 percent, benefiting more than 1,279 people than expected.

Departament	Municipality	Number of Service Fairs	Number of Communities	Number of Participants
Cauca	Guapi	1	4	436
	Timbiquí and López de Micay	1	2	100
Chocó	Alto Baudó	3	11	990
	Bahía Solano	1	1	35
	Nuquí	3	12	1284

	Quibdó	2	2	86
Nariño	El Charco	1	5	60
	Magüí Payán	1	1	176
	Olaya Herrera	3	11	1237
	Santa Barbara de Iscuandé	1	4	134
	Tumaco	2	3	54
Valle del Cauca	Buenaventura	3	2	678
	Cali	8	8	509
Total		30	66	5,779

Table 11. Number of health fairs and people served by location. PADF, August 2022

Is important to highlight that of the total people attending service fairs, 3,693 individuals (55% women and 45% men) accessed basic health services, including vaccination, deworming, family planning, medications, child development, cytology, psychology, oral health, youth and adult care, prenatal control screening, and vascular risk assessments.

Permanent assistance and orientation

PADF complemented services provided by local authorities with the dissemination of information on access to individual and collective rights for 4,951 individuals (55% women and 45% men). Information provided included details on prevention for forced recruitment and steps to sign up for public programs, such as Families in Action, Youth in Action, livelihoods, and sports and recreation groups.

Participants also received information on family and community protection through Family Commissariats and received support with obtaining military IDs, accessing local development programs, and registration for virtual courses. In addition, team members and public officials supported participants in submitting petitions and appeals for the reinstatement of rights.

Documentation and other services

Recognizing the right to identity as one of the fundamental bases for the exercise of citizenship, PADF supported 785 participants (53% women and 47% men) in accessing identification documents at the National Registry Office and registering in the State's Social Service Delivery Systems.

V. Participation of & Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

PADF incorporated Participation and Accountability with Affected Communities (AAP) activities at all levels of programming and implementation. The central objective was to provide affected populations with accurate, timely, and transparent information about the scope of activities, as well as to support the meaningful participation and leadership of communities in decision-making processes. Through AAP actions, PADF ensured that there were open and accessible feedback mechanisms available that allowed participants to provide comments and suggestions for the improvement of project activities.

Representation and leadership

In spaces historically dominated by adult male leaders, PADF encouraged women and young people to increase their presence and participation. In addition, a fundamental component for the project's success and sustainability was designing activities that respected participants' cultures, beliefs, and customs. This was especially important when working with ethnic groups, which represented 98 percent of beneficiaries.

In addition, PADF ensured that hiring processes prioritized members of Afro-descendant and indigenous communities. Thus, 45 percent of the professionals hired self-identified as Afro-descendants and 3 percent as indigenous, which reinforced the inclusion of the ethnic population at all levels of the project cycle. Furthermore, 5 percent of the members of the project team were part of the communities served by the project, including the Consejo Comunitario Mayor del Rio Anchicayá, the Santa Ana, Villanueva, El Rosario, and San José Calabazal communities. PADF also integrated professionals who were fluent in ethnic languages, such as Embera Dóbida and Awapit. Further, 29 percent of the personnel hired were survivors of the armed conflict, which allowed them to understand the challenges faced by the participants when navigating services and requesting reparations.

Participation and partnerships

One of the cornerstones of humanitarian action in Colombia is complementing the State's efforts to assist victims of the conflict. To do this, PADF signed 17 memorandums of understanding (MOU) with the municipal governments of Cali and Buenaventura in Valle del Cauca; Guapi, López de Micay, and Timbiquí in Cauca; San Andrés de Tumaco, Magüí Payán, Roberto Payán, Olaya Herrera, Santa Bárbara de Iscuandé, and El Charco in Nariño; and Alto Baudó, Bahía Solano, Nuquí, Juradó, Quibdó, and Litoral de San Juan in Chocó. These agreements made it possible to establish mechanisms that made accountability to communities in situations of displacement and confinement viable.

To follow up on these MOUs, PADF designed and developed specific dialogue and evaluation spaces to promote fluid communication and adaptive planning for changing humanitarian contexts. Thus, PADF staff, the communities served, and the local mayor's offices met quarterly to evaluate interventions, plan, and identify opportunities for improvement. Throughout the life of the project, PADF participated in 56 MOU follow-up meetings.

PADFs activities were developed based on the joint identification of needs, the coordination of activities and processes at the community level, and the implementation of activities in partnership with ethnic authorities. Therefore, it was fundamental to count on the participation of leaders and affected communities and to work on recognizing and integrating their beliefs, customs, and ancestral knowledge in providing services for the population. In line with this, all training materials were designed according to cultural practices and work methodologies were adapted to the needs of the communities, whether Afro-Colombian or indigenous. The following are some of the activities that demonstrate adaptations made under this program to address differential needs:

- To guarantee access to unconditional food assistance for 141 people with disabilities, PADF conducted home deliveries of food baskets. In addition, 65 of these beneficiaries also received primary health care and psychosocial support services.

- To overcome geographic barriers for beneficiaries located in rural and remote areas, PADF designed the strategy of “navigators,” who were PADF staff that actively searched for the most vulnerable people in Olaya Herrera, Santa Bárbara de Iscuandé (Nariño), Guapi (Cauca), Nuquí, Quibdó (Chocó), and Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca).

To carry out activities in indigenous communities, PADF used interpreters and translators in their languages. This not only facilitated the participation of women and the elderly who did not speak or understand Spanish but also allowed for adequate and agile information sharing with the community.

Information, feedback, and action

PADF developed a secure access mechanism for beneficiaries to submit their requests, complaints, claims, requests, and compliments through a mailbox/e-mail and a feedback poster used during psychosocial support activities. This mechanism helped to expose concerns and comments in an open and public manner (feedback poster), as well as through confidential mechanisms (mailbox and e-mail). Notably, the physical mailbox and poster helped to get feedback from beneficiaries in isolated regions with limited connectivity.

During the implementation of the project, 265 beneficiaries provided feedback through the mailbox. PADF received a total of 191 congratulations, 31 requests, 27 suggestions, 6 complaints, and 10 claims. In response, PADF provided timely and confidential responses to beneficiaries and used feedback received to improve the quality of the assistance provided. Notably, based on feedback obtained, PADF made the following adjustments:

- The replacement of products in food baskets in Cali (Valle del Cauca).
- The development of a document on emotional support for a women’s network in Tumaco (Nariño).
- The adjustment of administrative processes within PADF to guarantee the timeliness of services.
- The provision of additional sessions for institutional strengthening on public policy issues in Nuquí (Chocó).
- The provision of additional information on government programs for education, entrepreneurship, and housing options.

According to testimonies from the communities, their experience with the feedback mechanisms showed PADF’s commitment to promoting participation and listening to their needs. Moreover, the personalized responses provided to the “congratulations” messages reinforced positive links between beneficiaries and PADF staff. The individual accompaniment to petitioners also facilitated a better understanding of needs expressed.

Moreover, through the feedback poster, PADF collected an additional 3,972 comments, of which, 99 percent corresponded to the ethnic population, 71 percent to women, and 2 percent to persons with disabilities. The feedback received made it possible to identify the positive impact of PADF’s psychosocial support strategy as well as improvement opportunities for this activity.

Results and PSEA

In compliance with the organization's "zero tolerance" policies against any form of abuse or exploitation of participants, whether sexual, labor, or vilification, the project developed trainings, follow-up visits, and audits to verify compliance with the policies.

In line with this, all team members were trained through two trainings, one initial and one intensive, in mechanisms of prevention, identification, and reporting of facts related to sexual exploitation and abuse. This involved direct supervision by the organization's PSEA expert in following policies and procedures, including the design of effective communication, inquiry, complaint, and reporting mechanisms.

Furthermore, PADF ensured that all activities implemented were based on an analysis of the specific needs and risks of the communities. The results of the monitoring and needs assessment were systematically communicated to the communities and authorities, and recorded in monitoring meetings, technical committees, and Transitional Justice Committees.

VI. RISK MANAGEMENT

During the life of the project, PADF experienced a variety of risks that threatened the safety of personnel, the completion of the project's deliverables, and the fulfilment of the project's objectives as described below.

Risks Affecting the Project's Deliverables

The project's context of operations led to an early identification of risks. Among the most obvious and significant risks identified were restrictions to mobility, the concomitance of victimizing events on the civilian population, the overlapping nature of armed events, and the ongoing control of NSAGs over the territory.

In this context, the project experienced adverse events that forced the reprogramming and modification of activities. These events are described below:

- Combats between NSAGs in an indigenous ancestral territory in the municipality of Nuquí, Chocó. The armed confrontations occurred in a rural indigenous area and put the development of project activities at risk. For this reason, PADF decided to postpone and modify the activities. PADF decided to cancel the visit of PADF's technical team to the territory as a mitigation mechanism. Instead, PADF rescheduled the activities and indigenous leaders from the Nuquí communities came to the urban center of the municipality, where they received training on ethnic decrees and self-protection mechanisms, which they later replicated in their communities.
- Threats issued by NSAGs against public officials and kidnapping of the mayor of the municipality of El Charco, in Nariño. The events forced the officials to remain in the urban area, forcing them to reschedule activities, such as service fairs and community visits.
- In the municipality of Alto Baudó, territorial control by NSAGs continued. In different rural areas of the municipality, river and land checkpoints, threats against leaders linked to the project, and restrictions on mobility were reported. To mitigate this, PADF increased

communication and coordination measures with the communities and *Personerías* in the days before and after entering the field, programmed intensive missions to reduce the time spent in the communities, and information and communication spaces and mechanisms were strengthened to have updated data useful for decision making.

Other Risks

The unforeseen risk identified by PADF was the limited availability of suitable personnel for vacancies in the prioritized territories, especially in the municipalities of Olaya Herrera, El Charco (Nariño), Nuquí, and Bahía Solano (Chocó). This circumstance hindered personnel selection processes and the fulfilment of activities. To accomplish project activities, PADF reorganized the staff to cover several municipalities with increased travel costs.

As a mitigation strategy, recruitment processes were strengthened in nearby areas to minimize selection times and maintain the quality of the professionals. However, this risk caused a delay in the financial execution of the project. Consequently, PADF had to reallocate the available balances to other approved activities, informing BHA in writing about the reallocations made.

VII. Coordination

PADF's coordination strategy sought to provide timely assistance, avoid duplication of efforts, and maximize available resources to alleviate human suffering in the territories prioritized by the project. To this end, PADF staff actively participated in national, territorial, and municipal forums, helping to identify risk situations and humanitarian emergencies, effectively documenting decision-making processes, and helping to optimize human, technical, and financial resources across humanitarian actors. Specifically, PADF took part in the following coordination efforts:

Interagency Coordination

PADF actively participated in the Local Humanitarian Coordination Teams (*ELC*) in Cauca, Nariño, Chocó, and Valle del Cauca as well as in the Humanitarian Committee (IHC) in Buenaventura. These spaces allowed for collaborative work with UN agencies and national and international NGOs to identify humanitarian emergencies, conduct joint data collection and analysis, and plan and implement assistance strategies.

Regular *ELC* participants in the prioritized departments included BHA partners, such as NRC, World Food Program, Heartland Alliance International, Blumont, and Save the Children, among other local and international actors. Within the framework of the *ELC*, PADF actively participated in the development of the National Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP2022) and (HRP2023), the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), and monthly reporting for the 345W platform. In the field, PADF led and participated in needs identification missions programmed within the framework of the *ELCs*, which allowed for the joint analysis of the needs of populations affected by humanitarian emergencies.

Government coordination and other local partners

To ensure that the project was complementary to the Colombian government's work, PADF signed an MOU with the Victims' Unit and coordinated support to ethnic communities with the

Directorates of Ethnic Affairs and Social and Humanitarian Management. In addition, an information management agreement was signed with the National Information Network to report quarterly on the contribution of this project to the national government's objectives in the area of attention to survivors. PADF also coordinated the joint implementation of three regional workshops that enabled 136 ethnic authorities and public officials to share information on: current regulations on collective rights, principles of prior consultation, and the role of the Guarantors of Rights; recognition of the importance of the role played by the Community Councils and Indigenous Councils in the region; recognition of the need to coordinate at the departmental and national levels; and training on the new protocol for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

VIII. LESSONS LEARNED

The variety in project activities and the ethnic, territorial, gender, and age diversity of beneficiaries generated fertile ground for transformative learning. Although the project's activities were governed by Humanitarian Standards and national and international regulations, the implementation in the field also made it necessary to rethink and adapt the activities to address the specific needs of communities. PADF identified the following lessons learned:

1. Regarding psychosocial support services, PADF designed a methodology that strengthened the capacity of individuals and communities to adapt to their new situation and generate self-management skills rapidly. While participants considered these methodologies pertinent and valuable, most believed, according to feedback mechanisms, that the duration and number of the activities needed to be increased in order to have a more profound impact, and that translators or interpretation services needed to be made available to ensure services were accessible to indigenous communities. Further, beyond their therapeutic and resilience-building potential, psychosocial support services were seen as an opportunity for individual and community empowerment. As such, including information on access to government services and rights laid the foundation for self-management and the autonomous search for information. In year two, PADF will continue to prioritize this access to information and language inclusivity in psychosocial support programming.
2. While all beneficiaries considered the contents of the GBV workshops to be pertinent and practical to increase awareness around these types of violence, greater outreach is needed. Furthermore, according to LGBTIQ+ members of the beneficiary population, there was an increase and resurgence of violence and discrimination against this community, both in family and community settings during the program. Faced with this challenge, beneficiaries recommended providing workshops and talks to the LGBTIQ+ population and mothers and fathers to discourage stigmatization and family exclusion.
3. Another major challenge evident in the interaction between officials and beneficiaries was the persistence and normalization of the sexual abuse of children within communities. As a result, it may be beneficial to conceptualize more clearly what is included in the category of GBV and to explain which cases may occur in relation to children.

4. Participants mentioned that the lack of preparation, training, and sensitivity by public officers, specifically members of the Victims Unit, was creating an environment of tolerance to revictimization. Therefore, they recommended working to build greater empathy, sensitivity, and competence skills for officials working directly with vulnerable communities, as well as creating safe spaces where people can express the GBV they experience before going to governmental institutions.
5. Although the humanitarian assistance program aimed to provide immediate support, the beneficiaries indicated that, given the complexity of GBV, another challenge lied in the continuity of care. In this regard, they suggested the use and/or establishment of community follow-up measures to preserve not only the knowledge gained but also to stimulate the capacity of support networks for the identification, reporting, and prevention of GBV.
6. The involvement of civil society organizations in training and coordination processes is fundamental for the sustainability of programming. Therefore, involving local NGOs and grassroots organizations not only provides opportunities to understand the needs of communities and individuals, but also builds bridges for the development of processes such as referrals and support for specific populations (people of diverse sexual identities, people with disabilities, children, and adolescents).
7. The work at the community level in all phases of the project cycle, is necessary to adapt activities to the specific needs, beliefs, and customs of populations, while empowering them to take responsibility in coordination and self-management. To make this possible, it is important to maintain open and transparent communication, in which the scope of interventions and opportunities for joint work are defined from the outset.
8. Logistical, operational, and thematic coordination of different humanitarian sub-sectors is ideal for the optimization of resources, recognition of local leadership, and protection of both communities and humanitarian staff. This coordination should be carried out with both government entities and humanitarian organization on the ground. For example, joint visits and meetings with ethnic authorities should be carried out once an emergency occurs to identify sectorial needs and plan response activities.
9. The participation and feedback mechanisms implemented by PADF turned out to be an important asset for the success of the program, not only because they allowed for the improvement in care, but also because they are, in themselves, empowered participants. The possibility of complaining, suggesting, or questioning care is an ideal way to highlight and reduce power asymmetries. PADF will continue to incorporate feedback mechanisms in all areas of this humanitarian assistance program.
10. Regarding the food assistance component, participants referred to the importance making joint decisions with the communities so that assistance could be adjusted, considering the program's nutritional parameters and the population's eating habits, for example by replacing tuna cans for eggs or sugar for *panela* (sugar bricks).

11. Several challenges were identified regarding the logistics of food delivery. On the one hand, being required to be registered within the characterization documents prevented people in urgent need from accessing assistance if they did not arrive in time to be registered. As a result, women and older adults who do not always have access to transportation, because in many cases they must bring their children, face difficulties in receiving assistance. In this regard, it is proposed to deliver the food baskets directly to the homes of elders and persons with disabilities or other obstacles to mobility, as well as to accompany the suppliers and follow up to ensure that the food packages are safe, of good quality, and with ample expiration dates.
12. Some beneficiaries considered that the assistance provided, although timely, was insufficient for the number of people who need it. Therefore, the recommendation is to continue working with local entities that, through complementarity and the sharing of available information, would make it possible to reach more people with more resources.
13. In PADF's experience, ongoing communication and consultation processes with community leaders and authorities have been key to coordinating activities and involving people who have traditional knowledge, including teachers, leaders, ancestral doctors, midwives, and other community leaders in carrying out activities. The presence and participation of these figures not only generated trust on the part of the community members but also contributed to cultural and ancestral knowledge, which functioned as social anchors for transmitting knowledge.
14. Integrating resources and cultural elements of the communities, such as music, dance, and handicrafts, motivated the participation of beneficiaries, strengthening the psychosocial support strategy and community's resilience. In addition, favoring the coping and empowerment strategies of community leaders contributed to fostering a better relationship with local institutions for the sustainability of self-government, autonomy, and protection of their territory.

IX. EXIT STRATEGIES

PADF recognizes that the local humanitarian context presents challenges and difficulties that exceed the individual capacity of the organizations. It is also evident the ongoing armed conflict poses a continuing threat to the integrity and dignity of the communities, so it is foreseeable that new humanitarian emergencies will continue to develop. With this in mind, PADF developed a series of measures to guarantee the long-term sustainability of activities. These strategies are described below:

Strengthening the capacity of local authorities:

One of the most complex elements in the response to humanitarian emergencies is the territory's limited financial, logistical, and technical capacity. This is evidenced by the difficulties in the timely arrival of government officials to attend to people with humanitarian and protection needs. To address this, PADF has allocated significant resources to training local governments affected by recurrent emergencies on:

- 1. Information on national legislations and updates:** PADF invested significant resources to train local communities, leaders, grassroots organizations, and public officials in normative issues that include the Victims Law, regulatory decrees, and provisions governing ethnic peoples. This theoretical basis was complemented with practical exercises in planning, event monitoring, and mechanisms for identifying humanitarian needs. PADF also ensured the participation of local, departmental, and national officials in training, coordination, and verification missions, so that the capacity was installed, and it was possible to observe local trends to respond to the needs of the populations as a measure of protection against new displacements and confinements.
- 2. Implementation of national standards at the local level:** PADF also developed mechanisms to quickly share these updates to national standards, especially concerning the policy on returns and relocations, to ensure that these were implemented at the local level. This effort was accompanied by updating contingency plans and minimum subsistence components once new or updated legislation became available. This support enabled local officials to fully implement the guidelines and policies for supporting and protecting armed conflict survivors and reduce the possibility of errors that may eventually delayed assistance.

Strengthening capacity for community participation:

Parallel to the training and strengthening of local authorities, PADF also worked with ethnic communities and their traditional leaders, opening spaces for their participation in humanitarian emergency responses. As such, community leaders were trained in mechanisms such as the Transitional Justice Committees, the identification of humanitarian needs, the development of rapid censuses for assistance, and the identification of populations with special assistance needs. The central objective of this strategy was to encourage communities to demand the continuity of care and protection processes.

Feasibility of logistical capacities:

One of the critical challenges for providing immediate assistance to people at risk is the availability of active markets prepared for the response. It is not only a matter of having food or supplies available but also of having the means for dispatch, transportation, and delivery. These processes must also be transparent, competitive, and egalitarian. PADF worked with local suppliers through market studies, training in packaging mechanisms, administrative processes, and transportation so that they could supply top-quality food quickly and safely to communities.

Coordination and information management:

Finally, PADF shared management information transparently and openly with communities, government entities, and other humanitarian organizations to foster increased capacity among all groups. To this end, PADF participated in coordination forums and generated mechanisms, such as operational and management committees, and provided information on management methodologies. The final purpose of this medium-term strategy was to strengthen management practices of local and humanitarian actors to resume interventions, if necessary, based on built knowledge, contextual clarity and trends, and contacts with all points in the chain of assistance.