MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

This report provides monthly institutional (Victims Unit, Ministry of Health, National Historical Memory Center and Mayor/Governor’s Offices) and Victims Law achievements.

Corresponding VISP activities that have contributed to these achievements are included below each achievement.

VISP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Select GOC Institutions, Policies and Systems at the National and sub national levels operationalized for effective implementation of the Victims Law.

VISP projects by status and month

Month | In formulation | Finalized | Ongoing
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July 2014 | 96 | 17 | 1
August 2014 | 95 | 18 | 5
September 2014 | 101 | 26 | 0

Monthly committed resources in USD

Month | USD
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July 2014 | $29,637,281
August 2014 | $30,006,382
September 2014 | $31,961,091

VISP Monthly Highlights 17 - September 2014

R1. Improved GOC Strategic Management for Victims Law

Regional presentations of the 2012 Victimization Risk Index (IRV)
- The Victims Unit, with VISP support, held ten regional presentations of the Victimization Risk Index (IRV), a tool to identify municipal conditions that can result in Human Rights and International Human Rights Law violations
- Presentations of the IRV seek to reduce the risk of victimizing acts in the regions and promote the design and implementation of preventive actions
- The IRV is available online: http://irv.unidadvictimas.gov.co

Inauguration of Victims Attention Offices in Chigorodó (Antioquia) and Dibulla (La Guajira)
- Supported renovations and equipment provision to Chigorodó’s and Dibulla’s Municipal Ombudsperson’s and Victims Attention Offices
- Victims Attention Offices provide information and guidance to victims on available services and programs at the local level
- Renovations included infrastructure improvement and painting, and work stations were equipped with chairs, desks, fans, filers, chairs for meetings, and equipment was provided for the waiting room
- These actions will benefit the 36,421 victims registered in Chigorodó and the 11,636 registered in Dibulla (August 2014); victims from neighboring municipalities will also benefit from these improvements

Recovering victims’ traditional recipes forgotten because of the conflict
- With VISP support, the Victims Unit developed the project “The flavors taken by war” to recover traditional dishes that victims stopped preparing because of the conflict, as a way to symbolically repair them and re-instate their traditions and connections to their territories and practices
- The project, led by Swiss Chef Simon Buher, was developed with five women in five different regions and recovered five dishes based on native ingredients from each region

R2. Improved GOC Rehabilitation Services that Strengthen Victims Capacity to improve their wellbeing

Workshops to begin Phase II with PAPSIVI Teams
- Workshops held in the capital cities of seven of VISP’s prioritized departments aimed to prepare Comprehensive Health Program (PAPSIVI) teams to implement the second phase of the project to improve the provision of attention services to victims at the local level
- Workshops are part of efforts to strengthen institutional response capabilities through training processes with PAPSIVI Interdisciplinary teams on normative, conceptual, methodological and technical tools, and aim to ensure coordinated and standardized assistance for victims of the armed conflict
- The project will design, construct and disseminate an Introductory and Continued Training Process for PAPSIVI’s Interdisciplinary Teams’ psychosocial promoters, providing technical support to improve psychosocial and comprehensive health attention to victims of the armed conflict
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- Held an encounter to identify burn-out symptoms in Victims Unit’s public servants, to promote awareness on the importance of self-care, team care and staff care
- VISP will design a self-care strategy for the Victims Unit’s top managers and officers

R3. Transitional Justice Processes Advanced

Return and Relocation Protocol Presentation
- Supported the event to present the Return and Relocation Protocol, a guide on the process followed by displaced populations to return to their land or relocate to where they were forced to flee; the return or relocation of displaced populations is a reparation measure intended to reinstate the rights of these populations
- Adapted versions of the Protocol are being produced, targeting victims’ rights and public servants’ responsibilities regarding the effective return and relocation of displaced populations
- A geographic tool to advance the Return and Relocation Plans’ implementation is also currently being designed

Historical memory workshop for radio initiatives
- Supported the two-day meeting to provide training on the production of historical memory radio projects based on the report ¡Basta Ya! and the documentary No hubo tiempo para la tristeza
- The eight initiatives selected received resources for audio production equipment and will produce their projects with support of the National Historical Memory Center (CNMH); seven of these initiatives are in VISP’s municipalities
- Four winning initiatives will be selected and will receive USD 4,000 each

R4. Select GOC Institutions and Systems Accommodate the Specific Needs of Ethnic Groups and Women

Intercultural dialogue sessions with ethnic communities in Bogotá
- Support the intercultural dialogue sessions held to strengthen the participation of ethnic groups in Bogotá
- Participants from indigenous and afrodescendant communities in Bogotá provided guidelines for their participation in Bogotá’s victims public policy
- During the final session, the work plan between Bogotá’s Mayor’s Office and ethnic groups was presented, and the official act included a gastronomical and cultural exchange at Bogotá’s Botanical Garden

Quote

“The death or disappearance of a family member, impacts the moment of sharing food, which has a physical, cultural and spiritual importance to our rural, indigenous and afrodescendant communities”, explained the Victims Unit’s Participation Directorate director Gabriel Bustamante on the project the “The flavors taken by war”. Photo: Chef Simon Buher, who led the project, cooking with a woman affected by the conflict. Periódico La Campaña
Highlights by Target Municipality

**Antioquia:** Medellín, Necoclí, Turbo, Apartadó and Chigorodo
- R4. Workshop to advance the collective design of the Protocol for Afro descendant Victims of the armed conflict
- R4. Project training with Afro descendant communities in Apartadó, Chigorodó and Necoclí

**Cauca:** Popayán
- R1. Inter-institutional cooperation agreement signed to support victims’ productive projects

**Chocó:** Quibdó, Bojayá, Riosucio
- R3. Supported the Victims Unit to hand over 670 financial compensations to victims of forced displacement

**Bolívar:** Cartagena, Maria la Baja, San Juan Nepomuceno, San Jacinto, Carmen de Bolívar
- R1. Training sessions with public servants and Victims Participation Roundtables on the Collective Reparation Route in Cartagena, San Juan Nepomuceno and María La Baja

**Magdalena:** Santa Marta, Ciénaga, Fundación
- R1. Training sessions to strengthen Victims Participation Roundtables in Ciénaga and Fundación

**La Guajira:** Riohacha, Dibulla, San Juan del Cesar
- R1. Renovations and equipment provision to Dibulla’s Municipal Ombudsman’s Office and the Victims Attention Office

**Sucre:** Sincelejo, San Onofre, Ovejas
- Historical Memory workshop for radio initiatives
- Memory workshop with LGBT victims in Cartagena and Bogotá

**Córdoba:** Montería, Montelíbano, Tierralta
- Meetings with strategic actors to identify future initiatives

**Caquetá:** Florencia, La Montañita, Cartagena del Chairá
- R4. Project training with Afro descendant communities in Montelíbano

**Nariño:** Pasto, Samaniego, Tumaco
- R3. Workshop with historical memory radio initiative from Tumaco

**Bogotá**
- R4. Intercultural dialogue sessions with ethnic communities in Bogotá