WHAT WAS DONE THIS MONTH?

INCLUSIVE APPROACHES

INNOVATIVE ONLINE COURSE ON DIFFERENTIAL APPROACHES LAUNCHED

- The Victims Unit and the Ministry of the Interior, with support from VISP, designed and launched an interactive online course on differential approaches for ethnicity, childhood, disabilities, elders, and gender (see photo below).

- Viviana Ferro, the new Sub-Director of the Victims Unit, hailed the course and the importance of integrating differential approaches considering vulnerable populations’ diverse characteristics and needs into policymaking.

- The course is 30 hours long and has seven interactive modules that include documents, videos, and pedagogical tools.

- It is aimed towards victims, civil society leaders, and public servants, but is also open to the general public. Interested participants can register on the Victims Unit’s website and access the course’s materials 24/7.

HISTORICAL MEMORY RECOGNIZES INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S RESISTANCE TO THE CONFLICT IN CAUCA

- Between November 2014 and September 2015, VISP supported the CNMH to develop a memory initiative with Nasa and Misak indigenous women from the Jambaló reservation in Cauca who were severely affected by the armed conflict (see photo above).

- VISP and the CNMH held 21 memory workshops with women to reconstruct memories of violence and resistance, ultimately creating a booklet called “Binding memories to weave resistance.”

- Final results were presented by the CNMH, indigenous authorities, and VISP at the Jambaló indigenous reservation on July 21.

- “We worked shoulder-to-shoulder without thinking about what could happen to us, just thinking about how we could defend our territory and the right to life,” said Carmen, a participant.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

VICTIMS INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROGRAM (VISp)

Provides accompaniment and technical support for the Government of Colombia’s (GoC) policies, systems, and institutions at the national, departmental, and municipal levels, to strengthen capacities and build necessary competencies for the timely and effective execution and implementation of the Victims Law.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

This report provides monthly institutional and Victims Law achievements supported by VISP at the national and local levels.

VISP BY THE NUMBERS

NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY STATUS

![Number of Projects by Status Graph]

![Number of Projects by Intermediate Result Graph]
On July 27, Ciénaga (Magdalena), Florencia (Caquetá), and Caquetá were selected as best municipality, capital city, and department, respectively, under the auspices VISP, in alliance with Colombia Líder and as part of the “Repairing at the Regional Level: Best VISP Experiences” recognition.

The selection follows a 16-month process and regional workshops to share successful experiences. To participate, governor’s and mayor’s offices filled out a web-based application on Colombia Líder’s website. Experts from the Universidad del Norte, the Universidad Santo Tomás and the Universidad del Rosario assessed the applications using the following criteria: results, comprehensive management, coordination, ability to replicate the experience, sustainability, and participation. Last month, eight finalists were selected, and a three-member jury ultimately selected the three top experiences.

In addition to increasing the visibility of these experiences, VISP has supported new local administrations to include victims in their development plans (about USD 26 million was earmarked for victims in 2012–2015 plans, versus over 4.5 billion for 2016–19), and through October 2016 is training municipal and departmental governments on tools to apply the Victims Law.

Local governments’ political will is crucial for Colombia to successfully implement its ambitious reparation policies, and initiatives like this one incentivizing leaders to stand up for vulnerable populations and good governance are key for the post-conflict.