



COLOMBIA

Supporting Victims of Conflict

In 2014 and 2015, IRD assisted more than 4,200 displaced and vulnerable families during the critical period while they awaited approval of their displaced status.

Colombia has served as an international leader in the challenge of bringing democracy, economic growth, and social stability to its people, while fighting the scourge of drug production and export, and terrorism in its midst. Colombia has suffered under the burden of armed conflict for several decades. It has produced millions of victims with disproportionate effects on women, children, ethnic groups, elderly, LGBTI and persons with disabilities.

IRD started operations in Colombia in 2008 with the Closing Gaps program, which was designed to meet the immediate basic needs of internally displaced persons in the South Pacific region. This

program was soon complemented with a program designed to ease the emotional suffering of families of victims of homicides and disappearances. Psychosocial activities were carried out with individuals, families, and communities to promote reconciliation at the local level.

By 2012 Closing Gaps had expanded to support the efforts of the government to assist displaced people. The program gives greater emphasis to expanding institutional capacity to provide assistance through better planning, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation of local action plans for victim assistance and reparation in municipalities. Community capacity is also enhanced



The program now offers psychosocial and community rehabilitation activities, including female victims of sexual violence in armed conflict. Activities include training members of victims' organizations, Cuidadores, to provide peer-to-peer psychosocial assistance; Entrelazando, a community rehabilitation strategy designed by the Government of Colombia to rebuild the social fabric of communities affected by violence; and community rehabilitation activities like Casa Pintada that build trust among community members through house painting.

through support to local organizations of victims of displacement.

IRD continues to provide humanitarian assistance in partnership with national and municipal agencies. The assistance is complemented by emergency psychosocial assistance, health and nutritional services, education, and access to social protection programs. Since 2008, more than 93,000 people have received humanitarian assistance.



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