

Technical Assistance to the Colombian Government for the Implementation of the 2005 Justice and Peace Law

Throughout Colombia's continued internal armed conflict, the country's population has experienced grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

In 2005, the Government of Colombia (GOC) passed the Justice and Peace Law (975/05), which upholds victims' rights to truth, justice, and reparations. The Law also called for the creation of the National Reparations and Reconciliation Commission (CNRR) and the Administrative Reparations Programme, which expedited the process of reparations distribution by the Colombian State.

As of October 31st 2014, the Attorney General's Office (AGO) had received over 490,000 claims for judicial reparation from victims, and 4,995 ex-combatants had applied to obtain the alternative penalty benefits of the Law. In addition, 18 sentences under the Justice and Peace Law had benefited over 3,500 victims who will receive reparations valued at more than 49 billion pesos (approximately US\$245 million).

Since 2006, IOM has received support from USAID to undertake a number of activities with entities including AGO, the Colombian Ministry of Justice, the CNRR, the Ombudsman's Office, the National Center for Historical Memory, and others. These activities have included:

- Support for the Inter-institutional Justice and Peace Information System (SIJYP), designed to consolidate all of the data

related to the implementation of the Justice and Peace Law;

- Support for special court hearings ('*versiones libres*') in which perpetrators in prioritized cases, confess to their crimes in exchange for reduced sentences. Victims can attend these hearing and contribute their own testimonies or request further information;
- Assistance for victims who attend the special hearings for cases that will lead to their reparations, and victims who request information and assistance;
- Transmission of the special hearings to rural municipalities for victims who are unable to attend;
- Consolidation of information about emblematic cases that are being examined by the Inter-American Human Rights Court and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.
- Identification sessions to confirm family members of disappeared people;
- Identification and delivery of human remains, including ceremonies to mark the return of remains to their families;
- Identification of usurped assets to be used in victims' reparations;
- Identification of patterns of macro-victimization with the goal of clarifying the truth about the armed conflict from the



point of view of the victims, and guaranteeing justice;

- Supporting the design and implementation of the non-judicial mechanism for contributions to historical truth and reparations;
- Supporting the implementation of community service activities by demobilized people in vulnerable communities, as a guarantee of non-repetition and a measure of reconciliation and reparation.

For more information, kindly contact

lor@iom.int