

Technical Assistance to the Colombian Government for the Implementation of the 2011 Victims and Land Restitution Law

Nearly 7 million Colombians (14.5% of the total population) are victims of the country's ongoing armed conflict. This includes, among others, forced displacement, kidnapping, sexual violence, disappearance, recruitment by illegal armed groups and landmines.

IOM brings global expertise in reparations programmes and 12 years of experience implementing large-scale victim assistance programmes in conflict-affected areas of Colombia.

Recognizing the need to compensate and provide reparations for victims, President Santos signed the Victims and Land Restitution Law (Law 1448) in 2011, which sets out five reparation measures to be undertaken over a ten-year period: 1) land restitution; 2) financial compensation; 3) rehabilitation; 4) measures for victim satisfaction and 5) guarantees of non-repetition. IOM has been at the forefront of supporting the Government of Colombia to implement the Victims Law.

Since 2012, IOM's "Victims Institutional Strengthening Program" (VISP), operated in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to support central and local implementation of the Victims Law (in 10 departments and 33 municipalities) by:

- Capacity-building of national and local actors, including the Victims Unit, the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH), the Ministry of Health, and mayor's and governor's offices;

- Supporting victims to make their declarations and receive inter-institutional services (Victims Attention Points and Regional Attention Centers);
- Strengthening and developing policies, protocols and systems to improve physical and psychosocial rehabilitation services;
- Creating a unified Victims Unit information system (VIVANTO);
- Developing communications strategies (internal/external) for victims, civil servants and the general population;
- Developing a Reparations School Strategy for the Victims Unit to train civil servants and victims on land restitution and reparations processes;
- Promoting the active participation of victims through Victims Participation Roundtables and Transitional Justice Committees;
- Supporting institutions to ensure access to processes, tools and spaces for indigenous groups, afro-descendent communities, individuals with disabilities, women, children and adolescents, and populations with diverse sexual orientations;
- Improving identification of and attention to victims of sexual violence and gender-based violence.

Additionally, through the "Land and Rural Development Program" (since 2012), IOM supports the institutional strengthening of land entities through:

- Providing technical assistance to the Land Restitution Unit;
- Trainings for civil servants and judges;



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation internationale pour les migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

- Leading the establishment of the “Delegate Superintendence for Land Protection, Restitution and Formalization”, and strengthening local land registry offices; and
- Providing productive plans, technical assistance and credit management training for households benefitting from land restitution programmes.

For more information, kindly contact

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