COLOMBIA: REBUILDING A WAR-TORN COMMUNITY

VIDEO

LUCHO ON-CAMERA
COMMUNITY LEADER

AUDIO

MUSIC

LUCHO: (In Spanish) M

“In 2000, there was a paramilitary incursion. The internal war that Colombia suffered left its mark on El Salado.” (9)

NARRATION

AERIAL SHOT OF EL SALADO, COLOMBIA

El Salado, a small village in northern Colombia. In 2000, this was the site of one of the worst massacres in Colombia’s history. (10)

GRAVEYARD IN THE VILLAGE

Amid the country’s civil war, which left an estimated 220,000 people dead and more than 7 million displaced from their homes, a paramilitary group invaded this tiny community and slaughtered defenseless victims. (15)

LUCHO: (In Spanish) M
LUCHO ON-CAMERA

“They spread fear and frightened the population. They threatened people. They told them that if they came back they would kill them. People left and the town remained abandoned for two years. Nobody stayed, not even the dogs.” (18)

NARRATION

SHOTS OF DESERTED VILLAGE
After the incident, most of the residents fled to nearby towns. The village was totally abandoned and left in ruins. (9)

PEOPLE REBUILDING THE COMMUNITY
Years passed - and slowly people started to trickle back with the help of Lucho and others determined to re-establish their community. (9)

UNOPS STAFF WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY
Then, in 2014, the Colombian government embarked on an ambitious project with UNOPS, the United Nations Office for Project Services, to improve homes in the village, based on discussions with residents and social workers. (15)

CARLOS PACHóN: (In Spanish) M

“At first, the community was extremely skeptical. People didn’t believe in this project. The first challenge was to make them trust us and believe in it. The challenges are huge.

Every house is a different and independent project. No two are alike.” (23)

NARRATION
First, reconstruction work focused on kitchens and bathrooms in the houses. It helped improve the health of residents by providing more hygienic spaces to prepare food and access to clean water and sanitation. (14)

YIRLEYS: (In Spanish)  F

“I would have to go to the forest. The forest was our bathroom. It was really unpleasant and dangerous for the children and even for me. I’m fixing my house step by step. My goal now is the roof. I dream of fixing the roof because it leaks when it rains.” (24)

NARRATION

This rehabilitation project took more than a year and over time, the village has gradually come alive again. (7)

LUCHO: (In Spanish)  M

“Losing confidence can have a terrible impact on people’s lives. Thanks to the home rehabilitation project, people gained confidence and started to believe again.” (14)

El Salado may be unique in the scale of its tragedy, but rebuilding is not only happening here. The same thing is taking place across the entire nation as people piece their lives back together. (13)

Now that the country’s civil war is finally over
after 50 years, Colombia is ready to open a new chapter in its history. (10)

This report was produced by UNOPS and Hisae Kawamori for the United Nations.

**MUSIC**

Docudrama: Resolution by Max Surla from FlashPoint Music (BMI), Omni Music
00:13-01:24 (01:11)

Halation by Evolv - Thoughts Awaken US from Artlist
02:52-03:42 (00:50)