



Fast Facts

Country: Colombia

Duration: June 2004 to December 2005

Implementing UN Agencies: UNHCR

Other Implementing Partners: Opción Legal; Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social; Mujer y Futuro; Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular; Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia

Budget: \$1,100,550

Key Words: IDPs; health; poverty reduction

BACKGROUND

The political situation in Colombia in early 2004 was volatile. Following the 2002 breakdown of the peace agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), parties involved in the ongoing armed conflict intensified their hostilities, worsening the human security of civilian populations throughout the country. Some communities fled to neighboring countries or sought refuge in slums or provisional

shelters where access to education, health, law enforcement and other services was severely limited. Others were unable to evacuate and remained trapped between opposing forces; a situation that left many unable to receive any form of humanitarian assistance. Although support to IDPs and communities at risk of displacement was offered, many communities were unaware of their rights to assistance and the options that were available to them.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

By building the capacity of existing IDP organisations, the project sought to empower IDP communities and

to enable them to engage with the relevant authorities responsible for their protection.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's beneficiaries were 156,855 IDPs displaced by the conflict. Beneficiaries were offered direct legal, health and psychosocial counseling as well as training in income generation skills, agricultural production and small-business

management. At the same time, 45 IDP organisations benefitted from training in managerial and organisational processes and material support such as computer equipment and office furniture.