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Promotion of human rights, sustainable development and humanitarian action in COLOMBIA ANNUAL REPORT –2015–

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Content

Lutheran World Federation	3
Department for World Service (DWS)	3
Lutheran World Federation – Department for World Service, Colombia Program)	4
Introduction	5
Saara Vuorensola-Barnes, LWF Representative in Colombia	5
Arauca Context	7
Arauca, an invisible humanitarian crisis	8
The human face of our work	16
Chocó Context	17
Vulnerable population immersed in abandonment	18
The human face of our work	22
Action with our local partners	23
The human face of our work	26
Other LWF Activities	27
Financial Summary	33

The Lutheran World Federation

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of Christian churches within the Lutheran Tradition. Founded in 1947, LWF currently has 145 member churches in 79 countries and represents 71 million Christians throughout the world. LWF acts in the name of their member churches in areas of common interest such as ecumenical and interreligious relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, international affairs, human rights, communication, the mission work and development. The location of LWF's General Secretariat in the Ecumenical Centre of Geneva, Switzerland facilitates close cooperation with the World Council of Churches (WCC), other Christian communions throughout the world and secular international organizations.

Department for World Service (DWS)

For the last 60 years, DWS has been responding to the needs of people that have suffered natural or human disasters. This category includes refugees, people displaced in their own country, victims of armed conflicts and communities affected by droughts, floods, hurricanes and earthquakes. World Service provides accompaniment with the belief that every person was created with equal rights regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, political or religious orientation. Through their field offices in more than 30 countries, amongst them Colombia, World Service manages a world network that specializes in providing assistance in emergency situations, rehabilitation and sustainable development.

Member of ACT Alliance

ACT Alliance is a partnership of churches and faith based organizations focused on eradicating poverty, injustice and human rights abuses. It is currently made up of more than 140 organizations and churches that work in more than 140 countries throughout the world forming one of the largest global humanitarian alliances in the world.

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Lutheran World Federation – Department for World Service, Colombia Program

2015 was the last year of the «Promoting Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Actions in Colombia» strategy that began in 2010. Over the next six years (2016 to 2021), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) will continue with its country program in Colombia.

The goal of the new «**Dignified Life, Peace and Territory**» strategy is that by 2021, the communities and organizations that we accompany in the Departments of Arauca and Chocó as well as national platforms, are autonomous, live with dignity

and contribute to building peace from their territories through gender equality and developing sustainable livelihoods.

In our **vision**, everyone throughout the world lives in just societies, in peace and dignity, united in diversity and empowered to reach their full potential, demand their rights, satisfy their basic needs and improve their quality of life. Our **mission** is to respond and confront the causes and effects of poverty and human suffering.

Our Strategic Areas

- **Disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance:** The area's objective is for people and communities to be better prepared and capable

of effectively responding to and quickly recovering from any complex disaster and/or emergency.

- **Sustainable livelihoods and defending the territory:** This area is focused on the right to land and territory, safe water and the promotion of livelihoods for beneficiaries. It pays special attention to economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.
- **Justice and peace actions led by the communities:** This area's objective is for people to be completely capable of exercising their human rights, participating in decisions that affect them and building a strong civil society.



Photo: FLM/Magnus Aronson

Introduction

Saara Vuorensola-Barnes,
LWF Representative
in Colombia

2015: A year of transition

2015 was a year of transition for the Colombia Program. We finalized the strategy implemented between 2010 and 2015 called «Promoting Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Actions in Colombia» while paving the way towards the new «Dignified Life, Peace and Territory» strategy that will be the reference for the program's actions between 2016 and 2021.

It was a very important year for us. We evaluated the achievements over the last six years, reflected on our work in a context that was starting to change and analysed

where to focus our efforts in order to contribute to building peace with the most vulnerable population in the territories that have spent years living in the middle of armed conflict.

The overall assessment of work carried out in 2015 for the Colombia Program is positive as we successfully increased actions involving advocacy and human rights protection. The vulnerable rural and urban communities of Arauca and Chocó, increased their capacity to confront the serious threats to their safety and defended their rights.

We continued humanitarian interventions with communities that experienced the impact of the armed conflict and natural disasters in the Medio Atrato in the Department of Chocó and Saravena and Arauquita in the Department of Arauca.



As part of the new «Dignified Life, Peace and Territory» strategy we continue empowering people and their local organizations with capacities and energy so that they can demand that the Colombian state fulfil their dream of sustainable peace, where the conflict will only be a memory, while remembering and knowing the truth about what happened and achieving justice for victims and their families.

Foto: FLM/F. Hernández



Arauca context

Arauca, an invisible humanitarian crisis

Arauca is one of the departments most affected by the armed conflict. Territorial control has historically been disputed between the FARC and ELN guerrilla groups. The paramilitary incursion at the beginning of 2000 resulted in an increase in violence and serious infractions of International Humanitarian Law. The state has responded to the strong presence of illegal armed actors by heavily militarizing the territory, trapping the civil population in the middle of the crossfire.

Arauca is also known for its oil activity and natural wealth. The exploitation of hydrocarbons and improper agricultural practices have seriously affected the environment and the population's human rights.

Despite the seriousness, the humanitarian situation in Arauca remains invisible. The state's presence and capacity in the department is insufficient and humanitarian actors such as the Lutheran World Fede-

ration have been key to assisting and protecting, together with local partners, people affected by natural disasters and the armed conflict.

The «Promoting Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Actions in Colombia» strategy that began in 2010 and finished in 2015, brought together different LWF projects under one framework that was focused on supporting local human rights organizations, consolidating productive proposals to generate income for the conflict's victims and assisting emergencies.

This work will continue with the new 2016-2021 strategy. Through this strategy LWF will continue strengthening the capacities of the communities and organizations it works with in a context of dialogue between the insurgence and the government so that peace is possible through a process they build from their territories.

Disaster Risk Management and Humanitarian Assistance Strategic Area

«Strengthening disaster risk management and climate change adaptation capacities in the municipality of Saravena» Project

This project was implemented in the Municipality of Saravena with the aim of increasing the local and community risk management capacity, reducing the impact of an eventual natural and/or social disaster and strengthening the resilience of the affected population. The project includes strategies to prevent and prepare for disasters such as drills and fairs.

Additionally, this project aimed to strengthen the Adventist Rescue and Salvation Group (GARSA) as a response agency to confront the municipality's emergencies and promote resource management

and the qualification of their volunteers.

With LWF's support, GARSA has become one of the local emergency assistance organizations, together with the Civil Defence Brigade and the Fire Department. GARSA participated in the needs assessment concerning the effects generated by the floods in May in Saravena and Arauquita and the implementation of the humanitarian assistance project with the affected population.

124 people from five settlements received training on risk management and participated in an evacuation drill.

5 Risk management committees formed in prioritized communities.

20 volunteers received equipment and training on pre-hospital assistance.

«Strengthen disaster risk management capacities» Project

With the aim of strengthening the response capacity of communities and Colombian Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELCO) congregations on risk and emergency management, several training workshops were carried out in this project's framework in the Municipalities of Socotá (Boyacá) and Piedecuesta (Santander).

The project took into account the participation of young people, females, males and the elderly. Additionally, LWF provided emergency equipment to several congregations, an awareness raising and training conferences were held in selected communities and in other churches that requested the conference. A drill was also carried out with the aim of applying the acquired knowledge.

1.373 people received training on risk management and emergency assistance in the Departments of Arauca, Boyacá and Santander.

265 families received an Emergency Family Plan.

200 families participated in the awareness raising conferences.

«Arauca floods» Project

In May and June 2015, rural farmer communities that live along the banks of the Arauca river and its tributaries in the rural zone of the Municipality of Saravena were affected by flooding that exceeded historic levels, destroyed the stability of their livelihoods and increased their vulnerability due to the difficulty in accessing quality water.

This project, financed by the ACT Alliance and implemented by LWF, has the objective of facilitating

access to water apt for human consumption, improving hygiene habits, contributing to food security and recovering livelihoods, coordinating actions focused on reducing risks due to natural threats, providing social accompaniment to communities.

In the framework of this intervention, community gatherings have been held together with training workshops on livelihoods and promoting hygiene. Food kits, filters and tools to wash the filter were distributed. Assistance was provided for personal hygiene and household materials and to restore livelihoods through vouchers. Risk mitigation activities

were carried out and meetings were held with leaders on risk management.

3.492 people benefited
corresponding to 909 families
from 19 communities.

828 filters delivered
to an equal number of families.

**563 livelihoods and
hygiene vouchers**
delivered to the most vulnerable
people.

«Humanitarian assistance for the rural population affected by the flooding in the municipality of saravena in the department of Arauca Colombia» Project

This project, implemented since August 2015 by LWF with resources from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), aims to satisfy the main needs of the population affected by flooding in the rural zones of the Municipality of Saravena and improve local



Photo: FLW/A. Moreno

disaster risk reduction capacities. This project forms part of a wider emergency response together with the projects funded by ACT Alliance and OCHA CBPF, both reported in this annual report.

During 2015, LWF held community meetings, training workshops on livelihoods and promoting hygiene, delivered food kits and carried out mitigation activities and meetings with leaders on risk management. Additionally, LWF provided economic support through vouchers to acquire personal hygiene or household items and to restore livelihoods. The project ends in May 2016.

1.022 families benefitted in total (3,904 people).

352 livelihood vouchers delivered to an equal number of families.

1.421 hygiene vouchers delivered to an equal number of people.

«Humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable population affected by the floods in the rural area of Arauquita» Project

In May and June 2015, the rural farmer communities that live along the banks of the Arauca River and its tributaries in the rural zone of the Municipality of Arauquita were affected by flooding that exceeded historic levels and destroyed the stability of their livelihoods.

Through this project, financed by the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations in Colombia (OCHA) through CBPF, LWF has been working since October 2015 on improving hygiene habits and promoting access to the necessary items to take care of their health, contributing to food security and recovering livelihoods. The project implemented actions focused on early recovery, reducing risks due to natural threats, and provided

social accompaniment to the affected communities.

In the framework of this intervention, community gatherings have been held together with training workshops on livelihoods, early recovery and hygiene; food kits and vouchers were delivered to be traded for hygiene items and agricultural supplies.

19 prioritized settlements received food assistance for a month and training on food security and early recovery.

2.330 people, corresponding to 673 families received food assistance.

397 families received support for recovering their livelihoods.



Photo: FLMM/Rojas

Sustainable Livelihoods Strategic Area

«Support for defending the territory and rural development in Arauca» Project

This project, financed by the Swedish Church and implemented by LWF, has diverse local partners and differentiated actions:

- Through the Joel Sierra Human Rights Foundation, four communities of the Municipalities of Arauquita and Saravena that have been victims of the armed conflict receive legal and/or psychosocial consultation on defending their right to land. Additionally, the Joel Sierra Human Rights Foundation made progress on the accompaniment,

organizational and policy strengthening of the LGBTI community in this municipality so that their rights are respected and needs are taken into account in public policy. The project includes establishing a productive pineapple system that benefits the members of the Women's Association for Arauca (AMAR) in which

males and females work under equal conditions with the aim of improving the living conditions of their families. During 2015, a peeling, pulping and dehydrating machine was acquired to transform the fruit.

- In the framework of the intervention carried out together with the Rural Farmer Association of Arauca (ACA), 15 people belonging to the association received training on agro-ecology, organic agriculture, biologic control of insects in agricultural crops and creating phosphates from organic materials amongst other activities focused on the recovery and sustainability of their livelihoods. The trained persons are to multiply their knowledge with other farmers from the region. Additionally, an agro-ecological farm was established with small areas for growing peanuts, sesame, plantain, sorghum and cacao and a home garden for tomato and carrot. A part of the crop was sold in small

quantities and the other part was distributed for consumption and seeds. The farm also raises laying hens and the infrastructure was equipped to implement productive livestock systems. Different advocacy actions were also carried out, such as presenting reports for each department on the situation concerning the elections, illegal crops and environmental issues amongst others related to ACA belonging to Mucapoc. Additionally, the project facilitated ACA's participation in Departmental Peace Council spaces, in Fensuagro's Executive Board, departmental and national women's networks and in several national gatherings of the Rural Farmer Reserve Zones.

- In terms of the «Building Peace Routes in Our Territory» project, implemented with the Standing Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CPHD) – Arauca Chapter as a local partner, several community workshops were carried out during 2015

with social leaders on protection, human rights, international humanitarian law mechanisms and duties of the citizen. One of the most important accomplishments of the year was the UN granting Consultative Status to the National CPDH for issues related to human rights. Additionally, a member of the committee received certification that identifies her as a member of the Women's Community Council of the Municipality of Arauquita. With LWF's support, CPDH, as member of the oversight committee for the unilateral ceasefire declared by the FARC, made verification visits to the settlement of La Paz (Arauquita) and the urban centre of Filipinas (Tame). Furthermore, four settlements received training on titling land, land holders who had their title denied received support and a land titling route was created.

- The intervention called «Arauca Communities in Defence of the

Lipa Lake» helped document the extractive industry's environmental impact on the Lipa Estuary ecosystem. It had broad participation of the rural farmer communities of Arauca. LWF and their partners produced a video called «Arauca: An Ecosystem at Risk» and a research document called «Characterization of the Socio-Environmental Conflicts Generated by the Oil industry in the Zone of Influence of the Lipa Lake and Estuary Ecosystem in the Department of Arauca». These materials demonstrate the level of social and environmental damage caused by the oil drilling and the effort of seven rural settlements of Arauca with new active environmental community committees that are working on a training and advocacy proposal to address the state and the Oxy Company. In order to raise awareness about this reality, a rural farmer representative and leader

of the Arauca social organizations carried out advocacy actions during November before the Swedish government and other institutions from that country with LWF's accompaniment.

«Strengthening the agro-industrial production of the Cooproc cor cooperative» Project

This project, implemented by the Western Cacao Processing Cooperative (COOPROC COR), continued in 2015 to provide training on forming cooperatives, integrated and organic management of cacao and best agricultural practices for the crop amongst other issues. A total of 37 partners participated.

Additionally, the chocolate production plant «La Delicia» was adapted fulfilling 75% of INVIMA's requirements and 100% of the process manuals. A strategic marketing plan was also created and the chocolate brand continued to be positioned in the Municipalities of Arauca, Arauquita, Tame, Fortul

and Saravena. This generated an increase in sales and therefore and improvement in the manufacturers' living conditions.

81 male and female
cacao producers benefitted.

18,7 tons of chocolate
produced and sold.

747 chocolate boxes
produced and sold.

Justice and Peace Actions Led by the Communities Strategic Area

«Prevention and assistance with capacity» Project

During 2015, the pilot humanitarian demining plan began that was agreed upon between the government and the FARC-EP. This set a favourable precedent for addressing the issue.



From January to December 2015, this project, financed by the Finnish Evangelic Lutheran Mission (FELM) and implemented by LWF together with their local partner, the Association of Antipersonnel Mine Survivors Fighting for Dignity and Peace (ASODIGPAZ), continued benefiting 35 people by jointly carrying out two productive rural projects in the settlement of

Cañas Bravas of Arauca (raising pigs) and in Saravena (raising and selling chickens).

Thanks to this project, ASODIGPAZ has not only increased their advocacy capacity and recognition but has improved the quality of life of some of their partners. LWF's support has been key to positioning the issue in the departmental agenda.

One of the ASODIGPAZ members, Kevin Angarita, participated in September 2015 in an advocacy visit to the Finnish cities of Helsinki and Salo where he made contact with different people and organizations. He shared his life story, contributed to raising awareness on the issue and reflected on the challenges the eventual peace agreement will bring.



The human face of our work

«Losing the little you have due to flooding is very hard»

Alexis Mendoza is a 39-year-old farmer. He lives with his mother, wife and three small children in the settlement of Cobalongos of the Municipality of Saravena in the Department of Arauca. Alexis' family was one of 1,296 families from Saravena affected by the flooding caused by the overflowing of the Arauca, Bojabá, Madre Vieja and Banadías rivers between May and June 2015. They lost the cacao, plantain and corn crops they plant for their livelihood. They

use the surplus to generate a little income.

In addition to the material losses, the floods brought diseases due to the lack of access to safe water. As a result, LWF's Colombia Program delivered 260 water filters to an equal number of families including Alexis' family in order to improve their health conditions at the beginning of October 2015. This was carried out in the framework of a project financed by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the ACT Alliance.

Alexis says he feels relieved and grateful for the assistance received. Despite everything, he, his family and their neighbours are willing to keep moving forward and play their part so that the situation improves. They are aware that adequately using the filter they received will help them to improve their health and wellbeing.

Alexis' complete story is available on our webpage:

<https://colombia.lutheranworld.org/es/content/perder-lo-poco-que-uno-tiene-por-cause-de-una-inundacion-es-muy-duro-36>

Photo: LWF/Magnus Aronson



Chocó Context

Vulnerable population immersed in abandonment

Choco is perhaps the Colombian department that most suffers from state abandonment. According to DANE, there is a 79% poverty level and most of the population has Unsatisfied Basic Needs (UBN). This is an addition to broad and historic human rights violations and a lack of recognition of the territorial rights of ethnic communities (afro-descendant and indigenous) that live there.

Additionally, the armed conflict and natural disasters aggravate the humanitarian crisis in the region. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 156 events were reported in 2015 alone deriving from the armed conflict that generated displacement, confinement and restriction on mobility in 15 of the 30 municipalities of the department. This situation affected approximately 17,456 people out of which 82% are indigenous.

Indigenous people are the most vulnerable population given the geographic and topographic conditions they are located in that are characterized by difficult access.

In addition to this, the area's resources have historically attracted armed actors, criminal groups and large multinational companies that have worked in legal or illegal oil drilling which is a profitable and functional businesses in their interests.

It is in this context that the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Colombia Program and its local partners have implemented projects focused on accompanying territorial ethnic organizations and their communities in defending their rights and assisting people affected by natural disasters whose livelihoods have been threatened.

Additionally, LWF has facilitated interethnic dialogues and local

peace initiatives. LWF has also implemented local and international advocacy actions with the aim of raising awareness about the problem these populations face and to achieve commitments from the authorities and local actors in order to overcome the abandonment.

Disaster Risk Management and Humanitarian Assistance Strategic Area

«Humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable populations affected by the conflict in the rural areas of Chocó» Project

Through this project financed by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and Church of Sweden, LWF as-

sisted nine communities from the Medio Atrato (five indigenous and four afro-descendant) and 12 communities from Bojayá (11 indigenous and one Afro-Colombian) affected by the armed conflict and flooding in Chocó in zones that are difficult to access with weak state presence.

During 2015, the assistance provided helped improve water consumption and hygiene conditions in nine communities of the Medio Atrato through delivering filters and non-food items, building and adapting rainwater collection systems and training on healthy hygiene habits. Additionally, these communities have improved their productive systems through technical accompaniment and agro-ecological training on managing their crops and recovering their productive assets such as seeds and tools. These actions have been complemented with training on disaster risk management and forming committees equipped for this issue.

The planned advocacy and monitoring actions have been carried out favouring the communities of Bojayá. Health fairs were implemented in the zone by the municipality's Secretariat of Health assisting approximately 40% of the population.

348 families (1,217 people) from the prioritized communities of the Medio Atrato with access to safe water.

89% of the indigenous families of the Medio Atrato have increased their food production by more than 45%.

999 people from the communities of Bojayá (42% of the prioritized population) have received medical assistance thanks to the advocacy actions carried out.

Sustainable Livelihoods Strategic Area

«Support in implementing cocomopoca's legal awareness actions with legal consultation financing» Project

During 2015, LWF and their local partner, the Greater Community Council of the Rural Farmer Organization of Atrato (Cocomopoca), offered two training workshops on demanding territorial rights for the victims of the Municipalities of Atrato, Lloró and Bagadó.

This work has contributed to preparing leaders that will be witnesses before legal authorities so that the communities acquire tools to defend and enforce their rights before state institutions.

In the implementation of this project, the regulations for Cocomopoca's management, use and transfer of beneficial interests (usufruct) was drafted which regulates the socio-economic organization and operation of

the properties of the families covered in the Collective Title such as afro communities and establishes rights and obligations for the council's members in accordance with the Afro-Colombian Law.

Additionally, collective territory protection measures were implemented through the creation of a territory protection ethnic route, which establishes that no public records office can record the sales and documentation that could then be made available to members of the general public.

13.000 people benefited.

90 lands registered belonging to vulnerable Afro-Colombian communities located in Comopoca's territory.

Justice and Peace Actions led by the Communities Strategic Area

«Support in strengthening inter-ethnic dialogues and peace expressions in the department of Chocó – Phase II» Project

This project, implemented by LWF and Caritas/Social Pastoral of the Diocese of Quibdó, has the objective of facilitating dialogue spaces between Afro-Colombian and indigenous ethnicities. One of the main results was the creation, in 2015, of an inter-ethnic commission with a defined work plan that contributed to restoring traditional brotherly and friendly relationships.

Amongst the activities carried out this year, perhaps one of the most important was the accompaniment to victims for the commemoration of the massacre on May 2, 2002 in Bojayá and for the FARC asking for forgiveness for this atrocious event resulting

in an intimate ceremony at the beginning of December.

Both LWF and Social Pastoral accompanied the community in drafting a document with the victim's position to be presented in the ceremony when the guerrilla asks for forgiveness as well as in defining the type of forgiveness they wanted to receive. The document included demands for non-repetition guarantees for the victims and their families.

160 people received the psychosocial survey in the framework of establishing the lawsuit presented before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the Bojayá massacre.

Approximately 600 victims attended the gathering in Bojayá with the commission represented by part of the FARC and national government.



«Support for the Embera Katío and afro-colombian population from the upper andágueda affected by the armed conflict in order to strengthen the territorial management in the department of Chocó, Colombia» Project

This project, carried out between September and December

2015 with support of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), had the objective of implementing several actions focused on restoring territorial rights and managing the territory with these communities.

Cocomopoca and Tierra Digna Corporation, dedicated to defending the territory, life and culture of the communities

affected by the implementation of extractive economic development measures, accompanied the communities through legal work and strengthening capacities.

Additionally, a community cartographic diagnostic workshop was implemented concerning the informal mining activity in COCOMPOCA's territory. It took into account territorial, social and productive issues. The diagnostic provides input for drafting a mining regulation for the community council.

Tierra Digna accompanied the land restitution lawsuit for COCOMOPOCA's territory by monitoring legal actions and making progress on the strategic litigation process. The Akubadaura Indigenous Lawyer Community, which accompanies the land restitution process for the Embera Katío communities from the Upper Andágueda protected by Judgement 007/2014, continued their political and legal strengthening work with the Embera communities.



The human face of our work

«It makes me very happy to help my community»

At 32, Jaime Majore Sapie is the governor of the Chagadó indigenous community in Medio Atrato, Chocó. He is an active leader and spends most of his time promoting the «Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Populations Affected by Conflict in Rural Areas of the Department of Chocó» project implemented by LWF with the support of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

Jaime is married and has four young children. His family has been one of many from the region that have been affected by the armed conflict and natural disasters that are common in the zone.

With the arrival of the project in March 2015, Jaime was elected by the community as a promoter to carry out the tasks delegated by the organization's project team. «It makes me very happy to help my community. Thanks to the Lutheran World Federation, we have been able to recover the losses little by little and guarantee that

our children have enough food», he says.

In the future, Jaime wants to study law. He dreams of reclaiming and defending his territory and fighting so that indigenous communities have better health, education and dietary opportunities and above all so that their community can live in peace.

Jaime's complete story is available on our webpage:

<https://colombia.lutheranworld.org/es/content/me-pone-muy-contento-poder-ayudar-mi-comunidad-36>



Action with our
local partners

The action with our local partners with national impact

«Fund for emergency aid and organizational strengthening on protection and self-protection» Project (FFP)

This project, implemented by the Mennonite Christian Association for Justice, Peace and Non-violent Action (JUSTAPAZ), the Latin American Institute for an Alternative Society and Law (ILSA), the AVRE Corporation and Humanidad Vigente, has the objective of accompanying and supporting activist organizations dedicated to defending human rights, peace and social interests with a local or regional profile, youth at risk of being forcibly recruited and witnesses to serious human rights violations and IHL infractions while safeguarding their life and safety and that of their families.

During 2015, FFP's response was focused on protecting male and female leaders and activists and grassroots and community organizations. It also continued

working on strengthening processes on the Caribbean Coast and made progress on consolidating a regional advocacy network that plans to contribute to development plans.

Taking into account the differential approach, a report was drafted on the situation of people that defend the rights of LGBTI people and a guide was being drafted for their protection.

110 people benefitted in total.

36 cases supported to protect males, females and collectives dedicated to defending human rights.

«Strengthening enforceability and peace building processes through the demanding of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights (DESCA)» Project

LWF's project together with the Colombian Human Rights,

Democracy and Development Platform has the objective of contributing to the enforceability and full validity of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights in the country (DESCA for its initials in Spanish) through two strategies: the national campaign «Large-scale Mining Poisons the Environment: You Can Stop It»; and a broad political and social advocacy process.

During 2015, the platform consolidated an important leadership role on the issue of peace and human rights thanks to their work together with Common Roof and other important work networks. Additionally, it coordinated proposals and positions related to the peace process and mobilized and raised awareness on their projects before the public.

The platform became one of the social sectors with consultative status on the issue of peace before the National Peace Council, the only participation mechanism currently regulated by law. It is also the only civil society network that monitors social policies related to economic,

social, cultural and environmental rights, as well as the fulfilment of the recommendations the United Nations System makes to Colombia with respect to this issue.

«Strengthening advocacy, mobilization and training for the Arauca node of the national women's network (rnm)» Project

In the framework of this project, Arauca's Departmental Node of

the National Women's Network (RNM) was consolidated in 2015 with the objective of equipping their members with tools to participate politically in local and national scenarios.

A total of 12 women from the Municipalities of Arauca, Arauquita and Saravena received training on political and advocacy participation. Additionally, during a meeting held in September, preparation was made in advance for the gatherings with candidates

in each one of the municipalities with the objective of presenting the women's agendas and generating commitments in case of them being elected.

It is worth highlighting that National Women's Network drafted a document with recommendations on treating sexual violence in the framework of the armed conflict. The document was delivered to the parties' representatives and the Havana Negotiation Board's Gender Sub-commission.

The human face of our work



«A Peace Agreement has to help us achieve more equality, also for women»

The Lutheran World Federation's Colombia Program spoke with Beatriz Quintero, technical secretary of the National Women's Network on the content of the «Five Keys for Differentially Treating Sexual Violence in the Agreements on Transitional Justice in the Peace Process».

The text, written by the network together with organizations such as Sisma Mujer, Humanas Colombia,

and the «It is Not the Time to Be Quiet» campaign, was sent to the government and FARC delegations in the Conversations Board to End the Conflict in Havana.

«Gender equality or equity has not been achieved in Colombia» says Quintero. «Additionally, the war affects the possibility of making progress on guaranteeing the rights to equality and equity. In Colombia for example, men have spent 200 years exercising citizenship and political participation, while women have only spent 70.

We have made a lot of progress but we still have a lot to build. We hope that we can change and progress with this peace process and include the women's agenda in the country's democratic agenda.».

The complete interview with Beatriz Quintero is available on our webpage:

<https://colombia.lutheranworld.org/es/content/un-acuerdo-de-paz-debe-ayudarnos-lograr-mas-equidad-tambien-para-las-mujeres-36>



Other activities

Declaration from the International Community on the peace process

The Lutheran World Federation in Colombia's representative Saara Vuorensola-Barnes read a declaration supporting Colombian civil society and the peace process in a press conference on November 19 in the name of 131 international civil society organizations.

The declaration gathered international civil society's concern about «the increase in paramilitary structures» and added the testimony of local partners as proof confirming the presence of these illegal armed groups in some zones of the country.

The international organizations reiterated their commitment to a negotiated political settlement to the armed conflict in Colombia. They also urged the government and FARC delegations to implement measures to de-escalate the confrontation and implement procedures to facilitate the bilateral ceasefire and end of hostilities,

to make progress on specific proposals to solve the paramilitary phenomenon, finalize and disseminate the agreement on transitional justice and hold a conversations board with the ELN. As they say «only through the peace processes with both guerrilla groups can we reach genuine peace for Colombian civil society».

Learning from the conflict for peace building

LWF continues to be an actor that actively participates in coordination and advocacy spaces. An example of this is the document called **«How. Eight Keys for the Colombian Post-Conflict. What We've Learned Over These Years»**. The document was drafted in 2015 together with three cooperation agencies with the objective of reflecting on the humanitarian work in the middle of conflict. The proposals were presented to international cooperation agencies, embassies and government entities in charge of implementing the agreement to end the conflict.

«Women and Peace: Cooperation Challenges» Seminary

LWF held this seminary together with 11 international organizations on August 11 and 12 2015 in Bogotá. The event had the aim of gathering Central American women that were leaders or witnesses to peace agreements in their countries so that their share their experiences and learning with Colombian women that work on peace issues.

The seminary highlighted the need for women to be part of the agreements, for their demands to be taken into account and the level the conflict affects them differentially. The women gathered there cried out to be taken more into account and remembered that they have also supported a negotiated political solution to the conflict and peace with development and dignity.

LWF led the press and communication strategy focused on raising awareness about the seminary, the guests and con-



tent. It had a substantial media impact in the El Espectador newspaper, Capital Channel and other media platforms.

Participation in the Interecclesiastical Dialogue for Peace in Colombia - DiPaz

LWF played an active role linking between the ACT Alliance and DIPAZ which during 2015 was consolidated as a dialogue space between churches for

peace through the International Ecumenical Gathering held in April.

Thanks to the effectiveness of their actions, DiPaz was named, together with the Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church, in the content of the agreement on the conflict's victims that was signed on December 15 2015. In point 5.1.3. of this agreement, both DiPaz and the Bishops Conference are proposed to coordinate

the collective reparation acts together with victims and human rights organizations. LWF has accompanied this process closely and mediated to get support for their activities.

DiPaz documented and verified events related to the unilateral ceasefire declared by the FARC-EP as well as measures to de-escalate the conflict through categories agreed upon with the other sectors that are part of the joint oversight.

Training on the Rights Based Approach with Gender Inclusion

Between July 6 and 10 2015, both the Chocó Office Director and the PME Program Official of the LWF Colombia Program participated in a ToT on the Rights Based Approach with Gender Inclusion. The training session was held in La Antigua, Guatemala and convened by the Church of Sweden. This training program is the result of research, evaluation, analysis, design and experimentation developed by ACT Alliance experts.

The training was focused on an experiential learning process. The main issues addressed were gender and discrimination as conceptual pillars for non-sexist development based in rights. They addressed the basic concepts of the gender approach and discussed the relationship between discrimination, inter-sectionality, gender and power.

During September, in the framework of the coordination meeting, LWF's complete team (23 people) participated in a training session

on the rights based approach with a gender inclusion concepts and its respective manual as a tool for developing the work in regions and projects implemented in the country.

Organizational Strategy

In compliance with, and providing a broader reach for the objectives of the Department for World Service's 2013-2018 strategy, the Colombia Program carried out several actions in 2015 focused on improving the implementation of their mission such as the following:

Accountability and Quality Standards

LWF maintained its commitment to quality and accountability standards making an effort so that the work it carries out truly responds to the needs of the people and communities they work with.

In this regard, LWF participated in the launch of the new Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) in 2015 in Bogotá and continues working on its implementation in the projects and strategies as well as in the Colombia Program's accountability.



Additionally, LWF is part of the CHS Alliance. This organization was founded in 2015 through the fusion of the extinct Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and People in Aid in order to improve the effectiveness and impact of the assistance provided to vulnerable people affected by crisis.

Security in the offices and in the field

LWF Program Colombia hired a consultant in 2015 to update and implement a security plan in order to detect possible new threats and begin training the staff on using risk analysis methodologies.

Financial and Resource Management

A consultant was hired to implement the International Finan-

cial Reporting Standards (IFRS). During 2015, LWF continued with the pilot program for the new accounting software that has been modified in accordance with the organization's needs.

Occupational Health

The Colombian Program started adopting new security and health regulations in the work in accordance with the requirements of Decree 472 of 2015. These policies are being included in the internal procedures and LWF's work regulation in the country.

Communications

In order to achieve the objective of the Department for World Service 2013-2018 strategy related to

effective communication, a long term consultant was hired during the second half of 2015 in the framework of which the Colombia Program's communication strategy was created. The consultant continues in the process of building and implementing while taking into account the totality of the institutional guidelines, their needs and challenges as well as the highest international quality standards.

Working in close collaboration with LWF's main office in Geneva, the program redesigned and updated its webpage (<https://colombia.lutheranworld.org/>), realigned its social network strategy on Facebook and Twitter and have published more than a dozen articles related to humanitarian work, human rights, peace and development that it implements in the country.

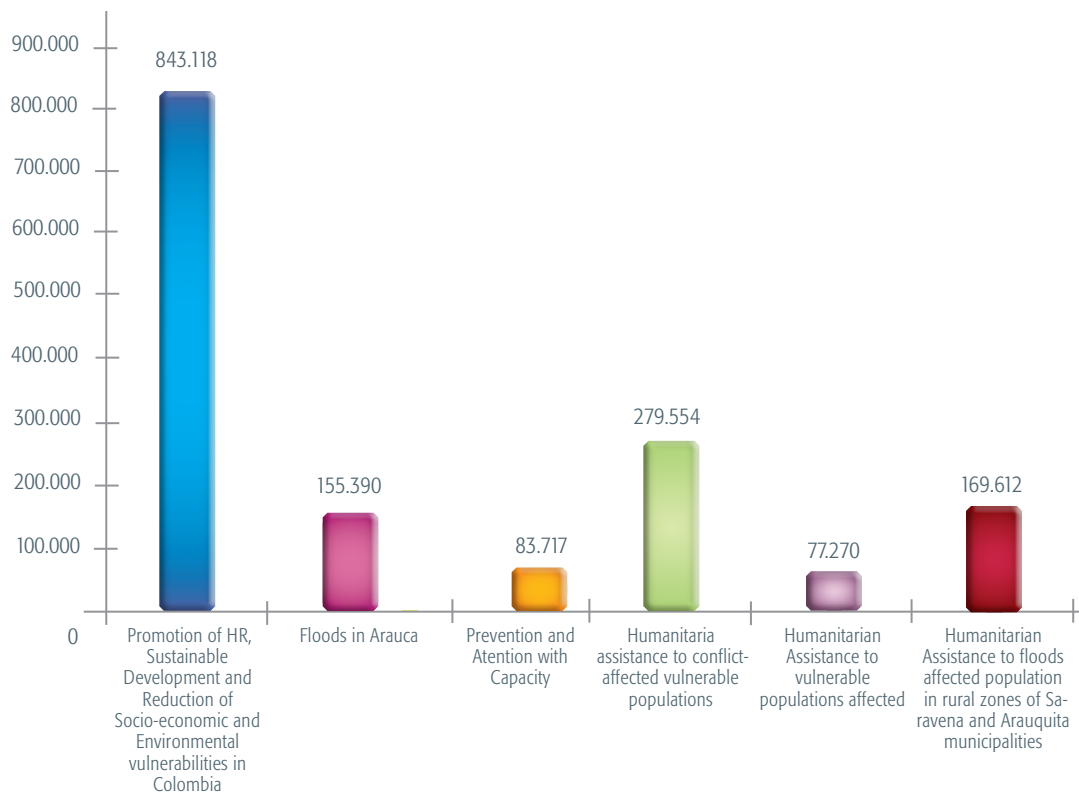
Foto: FLM/F. Hernández



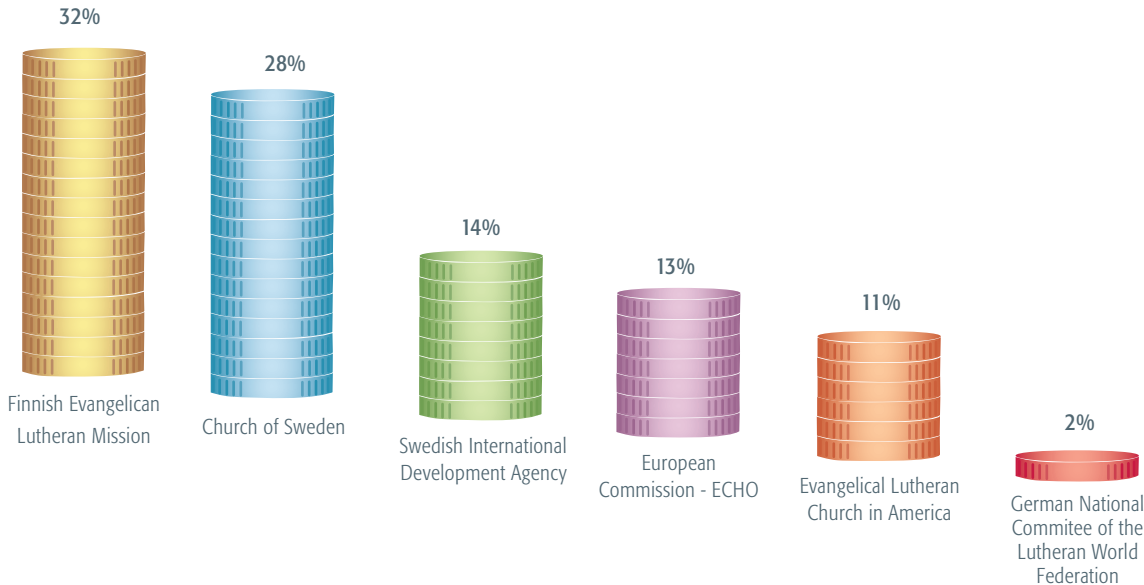
Financial Summary

Financial Summary –2015–

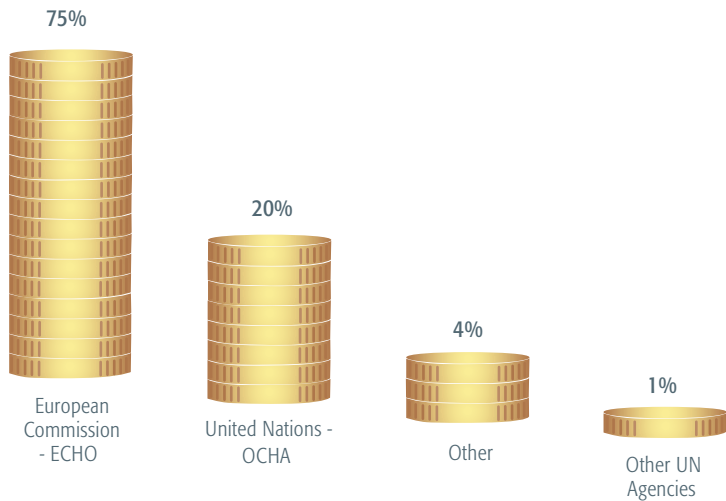
Investment range per project –2015–



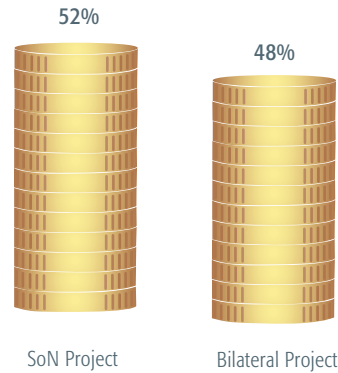
Percentage of funds received by donor through Geneva –2015–



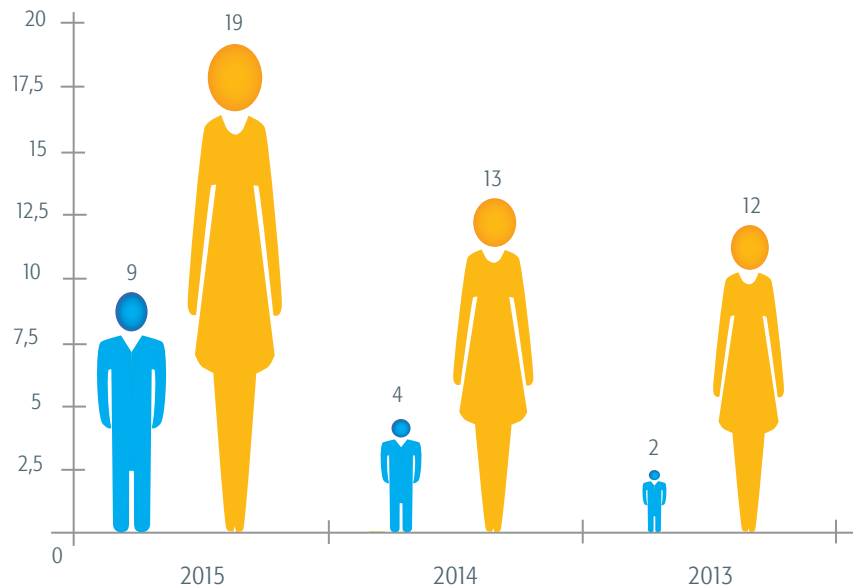
Percentage of funds received by donor directly –2015–



Percentage of income received by type of project –2015–



Women and Men Members of the Staff (for years 2015, 2014 and 2013)





Work Team 2015

BOGOTÁ

SAARA VUORENSOLA-BARNES. *Country Representative*
BEATRIZ GARCÍA DEL CAMPO. *Program Coordinator*
ROSARIO ADRIANA JIMÉNEZ URREGO. *Financial and Administrative Manager*
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JUDITH CASTILLO SÁNCHEZ. *Accountant*
DIANA CAROLINA SOLEDAD FÚQUENE. *Administrative Assistant*
YULI CAROLINA ACUÑA. *Financial and Accounting Assistant*
MARIELA MENESES BUSTACARA. *Office Assistant*
NUBIA ROJAS. *Communications Consultant (Since June)*

CHOCÓ

WILLIAN PAREDES LÓPEZ. *Office Director*
LAURA LORENA BERMÚDEZ MONTOYA. *Administrative assistant*
SUSANA TRULLO. *ECHO Project Coordinator (From March to September)*
ADRIANA PEÑARANDA. *Project Logistical Professional (Since April)*
JABBY MOYA. *ECHO Agricultural Project Professional (Since April)*
YURY GUZMÁN. *Water and Hygiene Professional (Since March)*
GUILLERMO TORO. *ECHO Project Coordinator (Since November)*

ARAUCA

HÉCTOR LEYVA. *Office Director (Since June)*
LILIANA PINEDA RODRÍGUEZ. *Administrative and Accounting Assistant*
LUISA FERNANDA PINEDA. *Project Coordinator*
ALEXANDER TORRES. *Emergency Coordinator (Since July)*
YEIMY ZABALETA. *Humanitarian Project Official (Since August)*
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PATRICIA SILVA. *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Professional (Since August)*
FREDDY VIDAL. *Agroforestry Professional (Since August)*
ALBERTO FANDIÑO. *Agroforestry Professional (from August to December)*
SANDRA SEVILLA. *Agroforestry Professional (Since August)*
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ROSA BEATRIZ CARRIZALES. *Administration Intern (Since October)*

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La Iglesia Sueca



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