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WEAVING LIVES AND HOPES (WLH)

Improving conflict survivors' mental health and economic opportunities, while strengthening community resilience.

OVERVIEW

The Weaving Lives and Hope Activity (WLH) works with conflict survivors, conflict-affected communities, and the Government of Colombia (GOC) to promote inclusive development and peaceful coexistence. WLH uses community-based interventions to: improve community access to mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS); help communities overcome psychosocial trauma; and enable conflict survivors to lead productive lives. WLH also strengthens civil society organizations' (CSOs) abilities to lead, generate income, resolve conflicts, and communicate effectively. WLH engages marginalized populations like youth, women, conflict survivors, people with disabilities, rural agricultural communities, communities affected by violence, and Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities. WLH is implemented in the regions of Bajo Cauca, Montes de María, Pacifico Medio, Alto Patia and Northern Cauca, and it runs from April 2021 to March 2026.

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COMPONENTS

IMPROVING PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES

WLH improves access to, and provision of, MHPSS by improving MHPSS policies and the quality and reach of MHPSS providers. The activity also strengthens CSOs' capacities to integrate psychosocial approaches; promotes peaceful coexistence; and supports community-based initiatives through grants.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

WLH promotes trust building and reconciliation by helping community members develop the interpersonal and communications skills needed to develop and maintain healthy relationships. The activity also supports the positive development of communities through the identification and strengthening of community leaders, especially youth leaders.

ENABLING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

WLH strengthens communities' human and social capacity to increase income generation, improve livelihoods, and support local development. The activity supports job placement and business promotion to improve local employability, boost entrepreneurship, and create local businesses.

ENCOURAGING A CULTURE OF PEACE

WLH strengthens communities' capacity for effective and nonviolent communication for coexistence, reconciliation, and productivity. The activity uses art, music, sports, storytelling, social media, and social mobilization to strengthen conflict survivors' resilience, participation, and national visibility.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Economically empower target communities;
- Strengthen communities' social and resiliency capacities;
- Improve the quality of psychosocial services delivered by GOC institutions and community actors; and
- Encourage conflict survivors and conflict-affected communities to increase their resilience, visibility, and participation in public spaces.