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VENEZUELAN MIGRANT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITY (COLOMBIA)

OVERVIEW

USAID's Venezuelan Migrant Human Rights Activity (or CCD for its Spanish name Conectando Caminos por los Derechos) supports medium and long-term development for Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees, and receptor communities in Colombia. CCD's goal is to increase community cohesion and citizen security by ensuring that all members of society live free from crime and violence, regardless of their legal status in the country. CCD is implemented through a consortium between Pact, Internews, Freedom House, and the American Bar Association. The activity is implemented in metropolitan areas with large migrant populations like Riohacha, Maicao, Cúcuta, Bucaramanga, Santa Marta, Cartagena, Barranquilla, Cali, Medellín, Bogotá, Pasto and Ipiales, and it runs from May 2020-April 2024.

GOALS

PREVENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

CCD improves the Colombian Government's capacity and legal framework to prevent human rights violations and to support the regularization of Venezuelan migrants. CCD also improves citizen security through partnerships with civil society organizations, and it facilitates migrants, returnees, and host communities' access to justice and human rights services.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION SYSTEMS

CCD supports formal and informal protection systems that provide human rights guidance and assistance to migrants, Colombian returnees, and host communities. The activity also strengthens civil society capacities to provide legal, social, economic, cultural, and psychosocial care to migrants, and it provides protection to journalists, social leaders, and human rights defenders.

RESPONDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

CCD improves migrants and victims of human rights violations' access to justice. To this end, CCD strengthens the process of documenting, assessing, disseminating, and litigating human rights violations.

RESPONDING TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

CCD uses flexible mechanisms to respond to unforeseen challenges and changing migrant and receptor communities' needs. The activity employs a Rapid Response Fund to provide services to migrants and returnees, and to advocate for their social inclusion in priority municipalities.

KEY RESULTS

- Conducted 77 activities to promote community integration and social cohesion;
- Trained 1,430 people in trafficking in persons and 4,032 people on issues related to GBV;
- Strengthened over 2,360 public officials and social leaders' capacities related to self-protection, human rights, and digital security;
- Designed and strengthened 24 protocols and legal documents for human rights prevention and response in the context of migration;
- Benefited over 16,094 migrants and Colombian returnees through human rights prevention, protection, and response interventions; and
- Organized 72 service fairs to provide migrants with access to health, psychosocial assistance, and regularization support for Temporary Protection Status access.