



@USAID_Colombia

facebook.com/USAIDColombia

ART FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Enabling community empathy, awareness and understanding about the process of reintegration through art.

OVERVIEW

The Art for Reconstruction Activity uses art-based approaches to enable empathy, understanding and emotional and cognitive awareness among civilians, retired veterans and People in Process of Reintegration (PPR). The activity uses the Japanese Kintsugi art technique that repairs broken objects by mending the damaged areas with gold. The purpose of this art technique is to develop an appreciation for the beauty of imperfection, and to promote resilience and reconciliation. The project also engages key private and public sector actors through art exhibits and seeks to transfer its art for reconciliation model to other actors for long term project sustainability. Art for Reconstruction is being implemented in Medellin and the Aburrá Valley area in Antioquia and runs from September 2018 – September 2021.

PHOTO BY FUNDACION PROLONGAR

COMPONENTS

ESTABLISHING AN INNOVATIVE RECONCILIATION MODEL

Art for Reconstruction's reconciliation model uses art-based approaches to help participants decrease grievances, reconcile with their wounds and history, and increase understanding and social awareness.

ENGAGING KEY ACTORS

Art for Reconstruction engages key private and public sectors actors to promote social change and to encourage structural and institutional reconciliation actions. The activity also works with other organizations, like the Colombian Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), the Unit for Integral Attention and Reparation to Victims (UARIV), COMFAMA, the Juvenile Justice Directorate of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), and Medellín's Mayor's Office, to transfer its reconciliation best practices and to scale-up its art for reconciliation model.

RESULTS

- Hosted 66 workshops and trained 110 participants on the use of art to heal trauma and foster constructive dialogue;
- Engaged over 600 citizens and public and private sector actors through the art exhibit *Unlikely Encounters*;
- Used art exhibits to decrease the stigmatization surrounding conflict and reconciliation and to increase public awareness of PPR-related public policies;
- Improved the lives of 100% of Activity beneficiaries and 92% of beneficiaries have reported using the tools they developed through the Activity when they feel strong emotions or tension;
- Developed knowledge management plans with five local, regional and national level organizations to transfer and scale-up the Art for Reconstruction reconciliation methodology; and
- Transferred the Activity's reconciliation methodology to 46 representatives of local, regional and national organizations through virtual training of trainers sessions.