SAFE STEPS

Preventing antipersonnel mine accidents in Colombia.

OVERVIEW

Safe Steps promotes Antipersonnel Mines Risk Education (ERM) through information and communication technologies. This activity is implemented through a public-private partnership between USAID, the Antonio Restrepo Barco Foundation, Discovery and Computadores para Educar. Together these organizations are contributing USD $5.8 million, USD $1.7 million of which was contributed by USAID directly and USD $4.1 million of which was contributed by the private sector. Safe Steps is being implemented in 44 municipalities affected by antipersonnel mines accidents and runs from January 2019-January 2024.
COMPONENTS

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Safe Steps raises awareness about the risk of antipersonnel mines in Colombia, including the characteristics of these artefacts and risk zones. Safe Steps particularly focuses on educating children.

PRIORITIZING INTEGRAL ACTION

Safe Steps encourages local authorities to identify antipersonnel mine risks in their community and to address these risks through coordinated actions.

STRENGTHENING CAPABILITIES

Safe Steps strengthens community capacities to understand the danger associated with antipersonnel mines and to respond appropriately in the presence of an explosive artefact or possible accident.

RESULTS

- Developed education materials about the history of mines and their associated risks;
- Trained 158 community leaders in 22 municipalities on the promotion of safe behaviors;
- Trained over 15,700 people, including 308 teachers, on Antipersonnel Mines Risk Education;
- Organized 483 mine accident prevention workshops for communities affected by anti-personnel mines;
- Reached over 16,000 people through text and pre-recorded messages about safe behavior related to mines;
- Engaged over 4.8 million people though mine accident prevention messages on local and national radio stations;
- Helped municipal governments develop routes through which community members can access help after antipersonnel mine accidents; and
- Produced a mini-series for children called “Lalo y Lulú dan Pasos Seguros” promoting safe behavior related to mines, and this mini-series has been viewed over 13 million times on social networks.