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VICTIMS INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROGRAM (VISP)

Implementing victims' public policies and advocating for victims' rights.

OVERVIEW

The Victims Institutional Strengthening Program (VISP) helps public institutions and conflict victims' organizations implement victims' public policies and advocate for victims' needs. VISP trains victims on their rights, and helps government actors fulfill victims' public policy mandates. VISP also provides local public sector actors with the tools, protocols and methodologies needed to effectively respond to the needs of Colombia's nine million conflict victims. VISP is being implemented in Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Chocó, Córdoba and Nariño and runs from June 2012 – June 2022.

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COMPONENTS

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

VISP helps Government of Colombia (GOC) entities implement information systems, interagency coordination, and the victims' public policy. VISP also works with civil society organizations to develop victims' prevention and protection actions.

PROMOTING REHABILITATION

VISP helps public officials design and deliver psychosocial care to victims. This assistance includes: developing mine risk education tools; implementing community psychosocial rehabilitation initiatives; and designing differential attention and rehabilitation tools for victims.

FACILITATING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

VISP assists GOC entities develop protocols for individual and collective victims' reparation. The activity also helps implement victims' return and relocation strategies, and promotes victims' rights to truth and non-repetition.

EMPLOYING A DIFFERENTIAL APPROACH

VISP strengthens institutional processes to provide care to vulnerable populations like women, indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and LGBT individuals. VISP also fights gender-based violence through training to ethnic and women's organizations and by providing services to sexual violence victims.

ACHIEVING PEACE FOR VICTIMS

VISP helps the Disappeared Persons Search Unit and the Truth Commission comply with mandates about forced disappearance victims. It also encourages victims' participation in the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Non-repetition.

RESULTS

- Helped implement the Victims Law nationally and supported the renewal of this law;
- Provided 693,000 conflict victims with psychosocial assistance;
- Encouraged over 30,000 victims to participate in policymaking and policy implementation;
- Helped the Victims Unit establish 22 assistance points and regional victims' assistance centers;
- Trained 3,863 public officials in self-care methodologies to avoid labor burnout;
- Supported a GOC economic compensation measure benefiting over 1 million victims;
- Helped collect 8,360 victims' testimonies for the Truth Commission's final report;
- Included victims' protection mechanisms in the 2018-2022 National Development Plan;
- Supported the establishment and operation of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Non-repetition; and
- Mainstreamed a differential approach within the victims' public policy to guarantee access and differential attention for vulnerable populations.