YOUTH RESILIENCE

Empowering youth to build resilience to crime and violence and become positive change agents in their communities.

OVERVIEW

The Youth Resilience Activity (or Jóvenes Resilientes in Spanish) is USAID/Colombia’s first activity to focus entirely on youth. The activity empowers youth to become positive change agents in their communities and uses a holistic approach to change that involves families, schools, communities, public institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), faith-based organizations, and the private sector. Youth Resilience provides opportunities to young people, between the ages of 10 to 20, facing the most risk, including migrants, former youth offenders, victims of gender-based violence, former child soldiers, and those vulnerable to forced recruitment by illegal armed actors. The activity is implemented in 30 urban and rural municipalities in Antioquia, Arauca, Atlántico, Bolívar, Caquetá, Cauca, Chocó, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte de Santander, and Valle del Cauca. It runs from December 2020 to November 2025.
COMPONENTS

ESTABLISHING HEALTHY NETWORKS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Youth Resilience partners with Colombia’s child welfare agency (ICBF), public health institutions, youth-led and focused CSOs, and the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN) to increase youth access to psycho-social services and provide life and parenting skills training.

CREATING YOUTH-CENTRIC PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Youth Resilience fosters multi-stakeholder partnerships to engage youth, families, CSOs, media, and the public and private sector to recover public spaces, increase youth community engagement, and improve youth access to public services.

ENHANCING YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Youth Resilience promotes at-risk youth access to economic opportunities through employment and entrepreneurship initiatives in urban and rural areas. The activity builds alliances between the private and public sectors to reduce employment barriers for youth and connects youth with incubators and start-ups and helps them access seed capital for their business plans.

IMPROVING YOUTH-DRIVEN STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Youth Resilience empowers youth to design and produce communications strategies through Youth Communication & Innovation Labs. These labs enable young people to showcase positive youth development in their communities thereby improving community perception of young people.

RESULTS

• Helped 3,500 youth access new economic opportunities and increase their income;
• Supported the development of 14 public policies and 13 municipal youth public policies;
• Strengthened Municipal Youth Counselors’ capacities to understand and to effectively fulfill the responsibilities in their roles;
• Engaged 172 teachers, 96 parents, and 449 students in institutional strengthening processes and psychosocial support methodologies;
• Partnered with the Presidential Office for Youth to strengthen 1,645 young people’s skill development to transform their communities;
• Collaborated with over 32 youth communications collectives to produce and disseminate strategic communications pieces about youth needs and interests;
• Helped 540 public servants, teachers, and youth counselors improve their abilities to respond to youth interests and address the problems affecting youth in their communities; and
• Disseminated 100 digital communications pieces through USAID’s YouthLead platform, a global digital meeting place for youth leaders to disseminate stories and opportunities for young people.