



PROGRAM OF ALLIANCES FOR RECONCILIATION (PAR) FY 2019 QUARTERLY REPORT: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2018

January 31, 2019



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PROGRAM OF ALLIANCES FOR RECONCILIATION (PAR)

QUARTERLY REPORT

October – December 2018 (Quarter One/FY 2019)

AGREEMENT NUMBER: AID-514-A-16-00009

USAID AOR: [REDACTED]

CHIEF OF PARTY: [REDACTED]

Cover Photo: Ciénaga (Magdalena)

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ACRONYMS

ANDI	Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia
ANT	National Land Agency
ASINCH	Asociación para las Investigaciones Culturales del Chocó
CAE	Specialized Attention Centers
CEA	Council of American Enterprises
CEV	Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Repetition
CHM	National Center for Historical Memory
COP	Chief of Party
CPDH	Presidential Office for Human Rights
CRC	Corporación Reconciliación Colombia
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DNP	National Planning Department
ERA	Emergency Relief Arauca
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FEST	Familias en su Tierra
GOC	Government of Colombia
GSI	Gender and Social Inclusion
JEP	Special Jurisdiction for Peace
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex
LEAP	Learning, Evaluation, Analysis Platform
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
ONIC	Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia
PAR	Program of Alliances for Reconciliation
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
SIJP	Institutional System of Justice and Peace
UARIV	Victims' Attention and Integral Reparations Unit
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
LRU	Land Restitution Unit

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Through Cooperative Agreement No. AID-514-A-16-00009, dated May 27, 2016, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded ACDI/VOCA the Program of Alliances for Reconciliation (PAR or the Program) for a four-year period through May 30, 2020.

The objective of the four-year, \$55-million Program is to promote awareness and mobilization initiatives that boost economic and social opportunities through transformative alliances. To this end, PAR has formed high-impact alliances with major actors in private and public sectors, media, academia, and civil society. PAR supports these partners to conceptualize and implement initiatives that contribute to changing perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors, helping Colombians to come to terms with the past, engage in constructive dialogue, and transform old narratives forged by conflict. PAR works with the understanding that Colombians must be informed and educated about the conflict (information), recognize that they are part of the solution (awareness), and be willing to participate in that process (action/change).

PAR consists of three main components that aim to: 1) support truth-telling and memory initiatives that enable Colombians to confront and accept the past; 2) promote greater awareness of reconciliation efforts as a way of spurring mobilization and action; and 3) leverage strategic public and private alliances that foster socioeconomic opportunities in target municipalities.

This quarterly report is a summary of activities and progress made from October through December 2018.

SECTION II: SUMMARY

The most noteworthy developments and accomplishments, resulting from PAR's direct technical assistance and support during the reporting period include the following:

RESULTS WITH PAR PARTNERS

- ❖ PAR organizational strengthening support allowed 24 organizations to replicate DecidoSer reconciliation activities with 4,700 project participants.
- ❖ Small businesses and associations reached ██████ in sales thanks to more inclusive value chains and purchasing practices facilitated by the Fundación Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia (ANDI) - PAR alliance.
- ❖ The Vamos Cauca corporate volunteer event mobilized ██████ in public and private resources.
- ❖ 47 social and economic development initiatives in Antioquia increased access to public and private funding through Corporación Reconciliación Colombia's (CRC) Macrorrueda in Apartadó.
- ❖ 550 people engaged in historical memory activities in Ciénaga to commemorate the 1928 massacre, where 2,000 striking banana workers were killed in a dispute over labor conditions.
- ❖ Over 10,000 people have downloaded Semana Rural's mobile tourism application Arranca to date.
- ❖ 92,950 copies of Semana Rural distributed in 13 cities this quarter.

- ❖ 46 local journalists and communications professionals from PAR municipalities graduated from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana's (PUJ) journalism course, strengthening capacities to spread new narratives and change perceptions about conflict-affected areas.

RESULTS IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION INITIATIVES

- ❖ Representatives of 60 places of memory in 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries strengthened truth-telling processes in Colombia at the XI Encuentro de la Red de Sitios de Memoria Latinoamericanos y Caribeños.
- ❖ High-impact positive messaging campaign Tiempo de Buenas Noticias (Time for Good News) raised widespread awareness of 12 local communications platforms, which gained exposure through feature articles in the national newspaper *El Tiempo*.
- ❖ 93 percent of visitors to the MEDELLÍN/ES Memoria Viva exhibition in Medellín expressed increased social acceptance as a result of the project.
- ❖ 600 local community members participated in bicycle tours with Colombian Olympic champion Mariana Pajón, who drew national attention to the tourism potential of Ciénaga and Florencia.
- ❖ 25 young participants graduated from higher education certification programs in psychology, financial management, environmental management, and social work thanks to alliance with Fundación Juan Pablo Gutierrez.
- ❖ 850 youth living in juvenile custody facilities have improved reconciliation-oriented skills, such as respect for others, nonaggressive communication, and teamwork in alliance with Fundación Colombianitos.
- ❖ 130 ANT beneficiaries in Turbo and Chaparral improved relationships of trust among community members and with State institutions through DecidoSer activities.

RESULTS IN LOCAL RECONCILIATION INITIATIVES

- ❖ 100 percent of 270 project participants in Medellín and Apartadó affirmed that they saw themselves as agents of change for reconciliation.
- ❖ Pre-post survey results showed an 83 percent change in perceptions, attitudes and behaviors relating to reconciliation among 163 fishing and plantain producers in Turbo.
- ❖ Bringing together indigenous communities, victims, ex-combatants, and youth through DecidoSer workshops in Florencia resulted in a 99 percent positive change toward reconciliation.
- ❖ 30 cultural entrepreneur initiatives, representing roughly 300 people, came together to form a cultural association in Cartagena. It has improved coexistence among communities with problems of gang-related crime and violence.
- ❖ 81 women ex-combatants and victims of the armed conflict built capacities to develop sustainable tourism initiatives in Turbo.
- ❖ 230 small business owners in Medellín and Apartadó increased their income by 30 percent as a result of business development strengthening activities.
- ❖ 358 young people in Cali are gaining skills through workforce development training courses to prepare them to work in the customer services, administration, and logistics industries.
- ❖ 260 young participants in Bogotá graduated from workforce development programs and are equipped to work in logistics, administration, sales and marketing, call center assistance, and gastronomy.

SECTION III: PROGRESS BY PARTNER

FUNDACIÓN ANDI

PAR and Fundación ANDI continued with a three-pronged strategy to increase private sector commitment to enhancing competitiveness and economic inclusion of community-led small businesses. The outcomes of inclusive value chains and purchasing practices included over \$15,600 in purchases from small businesses that provide livelihoods for approximately 280 beneficiaries, capacity-building workshops in environmental management and financial administration, as well as support in negotiation

Small businesses and community-led associations sold
\$15,600 in purchases to
ANDI-member companies thanks to
Inclusive purchasing initiative



for more favorable purchasing terms with end-buyers. This economic inclusion strategy benefitted producers of lettuce, strawberry, bread, cacao, honey, bread, and clothing products.

As part of the initiative to improve economic inclusion of vulnerable populations, PAR and ANDI continued to work with Colombian private sector companies in improving inclusive employment practices. ANDI-member companies Fajobe, Brigard & Urrutia, International Business, Eficacia, and DOW Químicas received support in implementing inclusive employment models. To this end, PAR carried out a self-evaluation and baseline survey to assess business efficiency under Eficacia e International Business Colombia. Fajobe, Brigard & Urrutia, International Business, Eficacia, and DOW are adjusting their company plans to implement the inclusive employment model, with DOW committing to begin hiring people with disabilities and ex-combatants for its plant in Barranquilla in March 2019. Procafecol and Protección have also expressed interest in the inclusive model. Additionally, the alliance produced the final draft of a guide to inclusive employment and two investigative papers on good practices of inclusive employment for Colombian companies.

The Vamos Colombia volunteer campaign saw two more iterations this quarter in Cauca and Ciénaga with counterpart funding from ANDI. The campaigns mobilized 225 corporate and community volunteers, who are committed to contributing to social equality and reconciliation. On November 1 to 4, Vamos Cauca drew 155 volunteers to Toribío, where they worked on community improvement projects, which included planting 700 trees, painting a local elementary school, building a children's park, and equipping a community library. Local community members were also engaged through good agricultural practices and youth empowerment workshops. In total, the initiative mobilized [REDACTED] from the public and private sectors.



Vamos Sura volunteers collect plastic bottles to recycle in Ciénaga.

One of PAR's objectives for the Vamos Colombia campaign is to motivate companies to carry out their own corporate volunteer events, using the successful Vamos Colombia model. This quarter, the Colombian insurance company Sura replicated the campaign in Ciénaga with 70 volunteers. From

November 29 to December 2, volunteers painted a local school, collected recyclable material, supported local coffee farmers in planting and harvesting, and participated in historical memory and cultural identity workshops. Sura is the second ANDI-member company to fully replicate the corporate volunteer model on their own.

CORPORACIÓN RECONCILIACIÓN COLOMBIA

PAR support to CRC this quarter enabled the organization to make important strides in its initiative to increase citizen security in intervention areas by breaking cycles of criminal violence and recidivism in youth, who are currently in the juvenile criminal system. To this end, CRC and the Universidad de los Andes developed a diagnostic tool that will allow State entities to better meet the needs of youth in Specialized Attention Centers (CAE), where offending children and adolescents receive support to get their lives back on track. The diagnostic is an important tool in examining and addressing risk factors for reoffending, as well as identifying goals to develop personal action plans to move on and achieve educational or career goals.



Some participants at the closing event of PAR's psychosocial support to a CAE in Quibdó.

To empower youth in CAEs, as well as build relationships of trust within the centers, PAR supported CRC's Reconciliación es Nuestro Cuento initiative, which carried out two final interventions in Cali this quarter. Through sports and artistic activities as a vehicle for dialogue and trust-building, 70 youth in the Siloé and Valle de Lili neighborhoods of Cali reflected on forgiveness, tolerance, and opportunities for personal growth in the future. Throughout 2018, the PAR-supported Reconciliación es Nuestro Cuento initiative engaged 80 youth and indirectly benefitted 630 youth in Medellín, Quibdó, Cali, and Bogotá through psychosocial activities designed to increase self-confidence, trust, respect for diversity, and raise awareness of potential to be agents of change. As a result of these activities, project participants in Cali reported a 69.6 percent change in pre-post measurements of perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors. In Medellín, participants registered a 77 percent change in empathy and dialogue; and in Bogotá, 75 percent of participants

experienced positive changes in attitudes toward trust.

The Innovaciones para la Paz y la Reconciliación II initiative led by PAR, CRC, the Swedish Embassy and Ecopetrol continued to strengthen business development capacities of producer associations in San Carlos, Cartagena, Santa Marta, Rioblanco, Arauquita, Bojayá, Florencia, and San Vicente del Caguán. Progress this quarter included improved organizational capacities in financial and administrative management and enhanced production capacities through new or improved equipment and infrastructure, as well as improved cultivating techniques. These activities are strengthening production and management capacities of honey, textile, gulupa, plantain, turmeric, sugar, and dairy producer

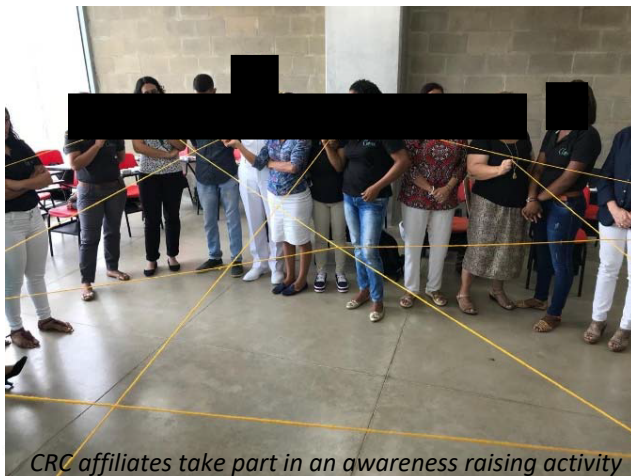
associations.

PAR and CRC facilitated public-private alliances through events that connect community-led business initiatives to private sector allies. On November 29 and 30, PAR and CRC held the IV Macrorrueda para la Reconciliación in Apartadó, a business networking event designed to promote dialogue and create alliances between the public and private sectors and community-led social and economic inclusion projects. The event contributed to creating new narratives of the Urabá region, showcasing a wealth of productive capabilities. The Macrorrueda provided a space for representatives of 47 social and economic inclusion initiatives, hailing from 15 municipalities in Antioquia, to network with 65 potential buyers, funders, and service providers, including representatives of financial institutions, pro bono legal organizations, and business incubators, through 219 meetings. Seven PAR projects presented their work at the networking fair, with one – a catering business strengthened through PAR’s partnership with World Vision – winning a prize for excellence.



PAR participant Ludis Ortega won a business strengthening course as recognition for her work.

“Events like this are essential for reconciliation as they not only bring business to the region but also help to promote positive narratives.” – Project participant



CRC affiliates take part in an awareness raising activity during a visit to COINEC.

On October 26, CRC led a group of 30 business leaders and representatives from organizations such as Admiral Padilla Navy Cadets School, Fundación ANDI and Universidad de Cartagena to visit COINEC, a women-led textile cooperative, with the aim of forging connections and building alliances with partners, entrepreneurs, and local and national organizations. The activity allowed the visitors to learn the stories behind the 12 women, most of whom are single mothers, and establish business contacts. It also helped to build trust in potential buyers and boost confidence among the women entrepreneurs. During the visit, the

CRC team carried out trust-building exercises to raise awareness about the methodologies used in the Program, and the strategic allies pledged to start inclusive purchasing practices and to continue providing technical assistance and training in financial management, and branding and registration. Through DecidoSer workshops with Coinec in Cartagena, participants have reported changes in how

they treat each other and their families as a result of exercises in respect and trust-building. They also expressed better management of emotions.

“I believe that all this work in reconciliation has helped me to understand that excombatants are human beings as well. They deserve my respect and we should give them a chance to live among us if they want to.” – [REDACTED] DecidoSer participant.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HISTORICAL MEMORY

The PAR-CHM alliance supported six community memory initiatives this quarter as an important step in promoting resilience and guarantees of non-repetition in communities largely affected by violence. From December 4 to 6, PAR collaborated with CHM, Ciénaga Mayor’s Office and a number of other State and educational institutions to galvanize community members, especially younger generations, through commemorative acts to remember the massacre in which over 2,000 striking banana workers were killed in a dispute over labor conditions in 1928. Approximately 550 people took part in the activities which included a symposium on memory reconstruction, a commemorative tour led by PAR reconciliation ambassador Agustín Lara, and a march with lanterns through the town. Community members also painted a mural to commemorate the historical event and contribute to giving new meanings to public spaces.



In Bojayá, CHM and PAR continued to support reconciliation and symbolic reparation efforts that support victims in creating family albums and a commemorative mural for victims of the May 2, 2002 massacre. Activities this quarter consisted in meetings with the victims’ family members to define the design and content of the albums, as well gathering ideas for images and messages to portray on the mural.

CHM and PAR are also supporting a community endeavor to document the historical memory, cultural identity, and resilience of communities in Buenaventura through a documentary, which will be carried out by Fundación Sueños Reales. This quarter the foundation defined a work plan and methodology for memory activities with community groups, including traditional and urban artists and members of the Comité de Paro Cívico.

The Program is supporting the Secretary of Peace and Citizen Culture of the Mayor’s office of Cali in an initiative to use music from the Petronio Alvarez music festival as a record of historical memory and peacebuilding through traditional music. Also in Cali, the Program supported CHM in an international

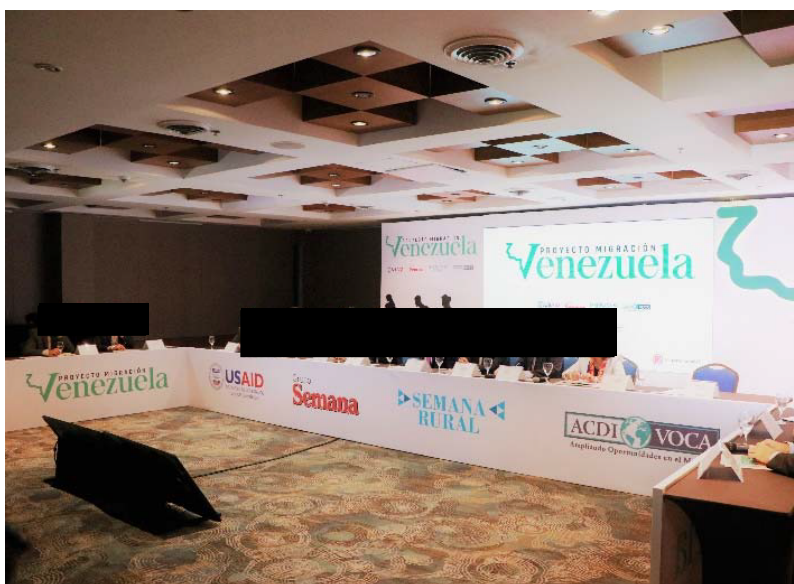
seminar on reconstruction of historical memory, which drew representatives of academia, public institutions, and civil society. The seminar was an important step in initiating a dialogue about historical memory efforts and reconciliation at the international level.

The Program's support to the municipal administration of Mesetas is enhancing institutional capacities to raise awareness of historical memory through an interactive online map. This quarter, the administration completed map development, which shows landmarks that saw violent events linked to the armed conflict, as well as significant places for the municipality's reconciliation process.

The Program also supported the local administration in Cartagena in their historical memory and reconciliation efforts with the design and printing of a map, which aims to educate citizens about the victim population in the city. The map points out neighborhoods in which vulnerable groups, including victims of forced displacement, reside and emblematic points of the city in the armed conflict. In the last phase of this initiative, the Program will print 3,500 of these maps, which will be distributed in various tourism points and community organizations.

PROYECTOS SEMANA

The PAR-Proyectos Semana alliance reached a critical milestone this quarter with the launch of Proyecto Migración Venezuela, an initiative that seeks to increase security and peaceful coexistence in border areas that have seen an influx of both Venezuelan migrants and returning Colombians. Putting a strain on public services, especially in receptor cities, the humanitarian crisis has resulted in tensions that lead to discrimination and outbreaks of violence. Proyecto Migración Colombia promotes understanding and disseminates reliable news regarding the topic as a strategy to fight stigmas, reducing instances of xenophobia outbreaks and highlighting the positive role migrants can play in society. The initiative targets broad and diverse audiences through an online news platform (www.migravenezuela.com), news published in print editions of *Semana Rural*, and a Border Crisis Observatory to support State entities in decision-making processes concerning meeting needs of both Colombian and Venezuelan citizens, particularly in regions along the Colombia-Venezuela border.



The ecotourism mobile application Arranca continued contributing to new narratives in historically stigmatized regions. Using the popularity of Colombian tourism influencers, Arranca put the spotlight on

Ciénaga and included new destinations, including Soacha, Mompós, Valle de Tenza, and Villavicencio. To date, Arranca has had over 10,000 downloads.

Building on the strategy to improve journalistic capacities of communications professionals and students in PAR intervention areas, Semana carried out 33 journalism workshops to equip participants with skills to generate positive news about their communities.

The free newspaper Semana Rural continued to bridge urban and rural divides through region-specific content and stories that highlight the resilience of local communities. The publications this quarter included eight articles highlighting achievements of communities that PAR is working to strengthen. This quarter Semana Rural published edition 19 and 20 with a total of 92,950 copies distributed in 13 cities, and the platform's social media following grew to over 24,900 followers.

In Guajira, the PAR-Semana alliance facilitated a strategic alliance with the World Wildlife Fund and the UN Refugee Agency, which has resulted in a workshop with local journalists on the role of media on mitigating xenophobia. Awareness-raising workshops such as these are increasingly important in border regions, such as Guajira, where the influx of Venezuelan migrants and returning Colombians from Venezuela are significantly changing urban dynamics.

PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD JAVERIANA

PAR and PUJ continued to promote security and coexistence through a journalism course that is strengthening the skills of opinion leaders to produce new narratives of the different regions and their inhabitants. The course—which covers topics such as collective memory building, ethical behavior in



interviewing and reporting, and highlighting positive stories from territories associated with armed conflict violence—seeks to use communication as a tool for reconciliation as the new narratives generate opportunities for socioeconomic inclusion, tourism and destigmatization. This quarter, 46 local journalists and communications professionals from PAR municipalities graduated from the 100-hour course. They gained skills for communicating new narratives and helping to change perceptions and behaviors about conflict-affected areas.

Also under the alliance with PUJ, through the *Héroes de la Reconciliación* initiative, PAR raised awareness of seven little-known heroes who have contributed to reconciliation and coexistence in the country. The stories were disseminated through

weekly broadcasts on the program Bitácoras, on the PUJ radio station. Finally, PAR supported the memory exhibition and book *Caras de la Reconciliación* published in English and Spanish, which encourages visitors and readers to reflect on violent acts committed during the conflict to promote guarantees of non-repetition. PAR measured the impact of the exhibition through surveys with visitors. The results showed that 90 percent of visitors believe that memory building exercises help to construct peace, 95 percent said that trust is necessary to move forward peacefully, and 100 percent expressed the importance of learning about the country's history in order not to repeat it.

SECTION IV: PROGRESS BY REGION

NATIONAL

PAR made important achievements in strengthening individuals and organizations with reconciliation skills to increase trust, respect, dialogue, and empowerment within their communities. The Program's DecidoSer strategy allowed 1,082 project participants to advance reconciliation processes, starting with their everyday actions. In close coordination with implementing partners and beneficiary organizations, PAR tailored reconciliation exercises so that they would target the most problematic obstacles in their communities, including high levels of aggression, low levels of trust, low levels of participation and empowerment of youth and women. To this end, PAR supported 24 organizations in appropriating the DecidoSer reconciliation approach, leading to 274 workshops replicating DecidoSer with 4,700 community members. With respect to Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) issues, PAR promoted tolerance and understanding of differences with 15 organizations through awareness-raising workshops with 465 participants this quarter.



In an important exercise to improve capacities of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Repetition (CEV) and the Red Colombiana de Lugares de Memoria, the Program supported the XI Encuentro de la Red de Sitios de Memoria Latinoamericanos y Caribeños. Over 150 participants, representing 60 places of memory in 11 Latin American



CEV president Padre Francisco de Roux embraces a community leader at the XI Encuentro de la Red de Sitios de Memoria Latinoamericanos y Caribeños in San Carlos. Photo credit: Verdad Abierta

and Caribbean countries, gathered with the objective of strengthening truth-telling processes in Colombia. Participants included historical archiving and museum experts and representatives of public institutions and community organizations. The event was an important opportunity for different communities to dialogue with the CEV on necessary ethnic, cultural, gender, and age variables for truth-telling processes. In other activities to support the CEV, PAR is working with **Fundescodes** on research and documentation of human rights violations in 10 emblematic incidences during the armed conflict.



During the quarter, the Program and strategic media ally *El Tiempo* finalized the high-impact positive messaging campaign *Tiempo de Buenas Noticias* (Time for Good News) to raise widespread



12 community communications initiatives
Gain exposure through two-page spreads in *El Tiempo* with a daily circulation of **211,000** copies nationwide

awareness of communications platforms that are breaking negative stereotypes of stigmatized regions. Twelve initiatives were chosen out of 405 applicants, ranging from radio, cinema, photography, print newspapers, and other communications platforms. During the months of October and November, each project was featured in a full-spread article of *El Tiempo*, which has a daily circulation of 211,000 copies, reaching roughly 899,600 readers nationwide. Furthermore, the positive messaging stories were published on *El Tiempo*'s website, social media platforms, and in a standalone platform created by *El Tiempo*, further boosting national visibility of the 12 initiatives.

The project came to a close on November 27 and 28 in a heavily covered event that drew more than 1,000 people. Taking place in Cartagena, the closing event further increased exposure of the 12 agents of change, providing a high-profile stage for community leaders to show how real transformations are taking place in their communities.

PAR supported the exhibition "El Testigo" by renowned Colombian photojournalist Jesus Abad Colorado. The display, held in Bogotá in alliance with the National University of Colombia, presents a collection of 500 photos, many of them unpublished, which trace the lives and tragedies of people and events starting from 1992. The exhibition includes high impact tools, such as talks, and visual displays aimed at strengthening PAR's truth and memory component as it provides a space for reflection and reconciliation through the promotion of guarantees of non-repetition of violence, as well as changes in attitudes, behaviors, and perceptions. With over 7,000 visitors since its



PAR promotes guarantees of non-repetition through a photographic exhibition by Jesús Abad Colorado

opening on October 20, local newspapers and magazines have called the exhibition one of the most successful events of recent years.



Students in Arauca prepare the backdrop to the Super O play they will later put on for fellow schoolmates.

Through an innovative project that addresses aggressive and violent behaviors in children, PAR and project implementer **Martín de Francisco S.A.S.** used the comic book hero Super O to spark conversation about the importance of dialogue and respect for others. This quarter the Program engaged students in Arauca and Puerto Rico through artistic activities that allowed children to work in teams as actors and stage decorators. The students performed the play before an average of 125

other fellow schoolmates.

“We learned to work in a team and it made us understand that through dialogue we could resolve our problems.” – Project participant, Arauca



Mariana Pajón, two-time Olympic champion, raises awareness of the tourism potential of Ciénaga.

Leveraging the star power of Colombian two-time Olympic champion Mariana Pajón, the Program and **Score Sports** are drawing the national gaze toward forgotten territories with large-scale cycling events. This quarter Pajón led cycling tours in Ciénaga and Florencia, gathering over 600 participants in total. The cycling events were featured in 60 news publications in print, online, and television, increasing exposure of the natural wealth and tourism potential of the cities. As a result of changing misconceptions of regions that were

affected by the armed conflict, local communities benefit from new opportunities in tourism and private sector investment.

“Living in a reconciled country means that we can discover its treasures. We can discover the people, culture, history, and geography of places like Ciénaga and Florencia—two regions that Colombians can’t miss out on.” – [REDACTED] PAR Ambassador of Reconciliation

On October 30, PAR and **Fundación Natalia Ponce de León** publicly launched the new initiative La Vida Renace (Life is Reborn), which aims to prevent violence against women and promote the socioeconomic inclusion of survivors of chemical attacks. The first of Ponce de León’s 10 talks took place in Cartagena

with 30 young participants from other PAR projects in the city. Her message focused on the empowerment of women, resilience in the aftermath of trauma, and the profound process of forgiving



Natalia Ponce de Leon, one of PAR’s ambassadors of Reconciliation, is a survivor of an acid attack and spokesperson for prevention of violence against women.

and its crucial role in healing. Ponce de Leon’s talks seek to raise awareness of signs of gender-based violence and abuse. These signs are oftentimes not so obvious to women living in patriarchal cultures, where sexism is a cultural norm. The event also gave the opportunity for participants to learn about the steps to getting institutional help in a situation of violence or abuse.

“The topic of forgiving is a profound one and we have to talk about it. I felt so much rage and hate that suffocated me. I felt that I was in a prison much worse than the one my attacker was in until I began to understand. I

was reborn when I discovered that true freedom is when your soul is calm and free of anger.”

— **PAR Ambassador of Reconciliation**

Under the Program’s partnership with the **Council of American Enterprises (CEA)**, PAR finalized two initiatives to improve economic inclusion of vulnerable groups in the San Cristobal Sur neighborhood of Bogotá and in Medellín and Apartadó. In Bogotá, 102 small businesses were strengthened through workshops focusing on business development and mental and emotional health. In Medellín and Apartadó, the Program strengthened capacities of 270 small businesses through trainings in administration and soft skills. In addition, the Program raised awareness of gender and inclusion of marginalized groups, including ethnic groups, LGBTI persons, and victims of the armed conflict, with representatives of 15 CEA member-companies.

PAR support to **Fundación Juan Pablo Gutierrez** has allowed 25 young people in Buenaventura, Quibdó, and Medellín to achieve their professional goals of attaining higher education degrees, enabling them to improve capacities to promote reconciliation in their communities and to attain greater access to job opportunities. This quarter 25 of the participants graduated from certification programs in psychology, financial management, environmental management, and social work. The young participants are currently working as high school and elementary school teachers, counselors, social workers, and government officials in post conflict areas. Furthermore, many of the beneficiaries continue with community reconciliation initiatives that they started during the project. These activities include leading adult literacy programs, promoting youth empowerment through dance, cultivating a love of reading in children through reading sessions, and promoting inclusion of persons with hearing disabilities through teaching basic sign language to other community members.



“Thanks to Chocó To Dance I was able to advance in my postgraduate studies to improve my ability to work with young people and women in Quibdó. Through a Specialization in Social Services Management, I have been able to implement techniques in planning and execution of social processes, training in the defense of human rights, for a better impact on the social transformation of communities.” – [redacted] project participant

With project implementer **Fundación Colombianitos**, PAR is strengthening cultures of legality and nonviolence with 850 youth living in juvenile residential custody facilities, known as CAEs, under the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF) in Medellín and Cali. Using sports and psychosocial activities, the project instills values of respect for others, nonaggressive communication, and teamwork. Furthermore, 16 young participants who are interested in starting up their own businesses, participated in 10 entrepreneurship workshops. Youth in Cali also developed a radio program that enables them to reach more youth in the region and work in groups, using listening and dialogue skills. DecidoSer’s reconciliation activities have proven to be key in improving coexistence among participants and helping them to create sustainable plans for the future.

“I learned to not discriminate against others just because they’re different. For example, I used to make fun of the gay person here. I don’t do it anymore.” – Project participant at DecidoSer workshop

PAR and **Casa Ensemble** made progress in a project to improve economic stability and increase awareness of violence against women by building a network of 120 women manicurists in Florencia, Buenaventura, Cali, and Bogotá. This quarter, the project selected 30 women in each of the four intervention cities. They started capacity-building workshops in manicure techniques with Masglo as well as DecidoSer activities. The DecidoSer process made an important impact on the women, 70 percent of whom are victims of violence, especially in terms of empowerment, rebuilding trust, and building self-confidence. The project is also collaborating with Colombian actress Alejandra Borrera in raising widespread awareness of abuse and violence against women through talks with large audiences. This quarter Borrera addressed over 500 people in Florencia and another 255 people in Cali.

“We are getting to know ourselves and learning about our weaknesses so that we’ll be able to work on them and become empowered.” – [redacted] project participant

With **Movilizadorio**, the Program started a positive messaging initiative, targeting young people through short documentaries that follow youth who are discovering regions that have been affected by armed conflict. The documentaries entitled, *Blind Date*, target younger generations with the objective of closing gaps between urban and rural youth by dispelling misconceptions of stigmatized areas of the country. Participants from Bogotá, Medellín, Quibdó, and Carepa exchange points of view with rural counterparts in Vista Hermosa, Carepa, and Ciénaga. The protagonists talk about the challenges of growing up in their cities, what they love about their local culture, and dispel myths about life in their

cities, especially regarding youth. In addition, participants are establishing friendships with participants from other regions and are bridging gaps by keeping in touch and getting to know more about each other and the other person's home region. Capitalizing on social media strategies that capture the attention of young people, the four videos garnered over 185,000 views this quarter.



A musician at the "La calle vuelve a vivir" raises awareness about the impact of drug consumption among youth in Bogotá.

PAR and **Tiempo de Juego** are expanding the initiative to instill cultures of nonviolence in at-risk children and youth living in marginalized neighborhoods of Bogotá and Ciénaga. In addition to soccer, the project is attracting more children and youth with dance activities. This quarter, the Program worked with new soccer and dance participants, using DecidoSer to instill values of teamwork, creativity, and stress

management. Also this quarter, PAR supported the awareness event "La calle vuelve a vivir" (The street comes back to life) for 130 participants in Bogotá on November 20. The dinner event included a talk by Dr. Harvey Milkman, an American psychologist and expert, whose talk focused on using cultural and sports activities to deter youth from gang recruitment and drug consumption. The event also showcased the ability of urban expressions such as sports and arts to contribute to the improvement of safety and coexistence indices across the country.

The Program continued to support the **Agencia Nacional de Tierras (ANT)**, ensuring a reconciliation focus in the agency's land subsidy distribution activities. This quarter, 130 ANT beneficiaries participated in DecidoSer activities in Turbo and Chaparral. Additionally, 16 families in Antioquia, Bolívar, Huila, Nariño, and Tolima received notification of land subsidy approvals. In other efforts towards victims' reparations 423 families received materials and equipment for livelihood project, allowing them to make a step towards economic sustainability.

PAR's **360 communications strategy** achieved 131 news publications in print, radio, online, and television, raising awareness of PAR-backed initiatives, such as Mas que 90 Minutos, Fundación Batuta, Tiempo de Juego, and Casa en el arbol. The Program raised awareness of project achievements through meetings with local opinion leaders, including 10 news and media directors in Florencia and the director of El Universal in Cartagena. The Program's social media efforts grew PAR's online following by 1,200 new followers in Facebook and Twitter this quarter. PAR's growing online community has also resulted in greater social media interactions, with over 17,000 likes, comments, reposts, and retweets this quarter in FB and Twitter.

CARIBBEAN (SANTA MARTA, CIÉNAGA, CARTAGENA)

PAR's projects in the Caribbean are contributing to greater security in the city through economic

inclusion initiatives and promoting new narratives about the region. The Program strengthened access to income generation opportunities for youth this quarter through livelihood projects in arts, culture, and tourism. PAR also improved communication among participants as a way to resolve conflicts peacefully, using respect and dialogue, which has had a notable impact in communities where problems were often solved with violence in the past. Additionally, DecidoSer activities have helped build trust among youth from different neighborhoods, contributing to lowering levels of aggression and increasing peaceful coexistence.

MAGDALENA

Santa Marta



With implementing partner **Fundación Casa en el Arbol**, 66 young people, participating in the communications project Ciudadanitos, are crafting new, positive narratives as a strategy to improve perceptions of security and peaceful coexistence in the Ciudad Equidad housing development in Santa Marta. Through coordination with the local government of Santa Marta, the youth communications collective gained significant exposure in two large-scale events—the film festival Cine al Mar and Ciudad Festival. During both festivals, the collective presented their short film production *Lente de Mi Barrio (My Neighborhood Lens)*, which relates positive stories around their communities. The young reporters produce diverse news content for video, radio, and social media, maintaining active accounts on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Flickr.

Ciénaga

In Ciénaga, PAR and **Fundemicromag** are contributing to greater security in the city through economic inclusion initiatives that are allowing 38 youths to develop two sustainable small businesses in fiberglass boat repairs and beauty services. This quarter the young participants improved capacities through business administration training in communications and marketing, solid waste management, accounting and taxes. Furthermore, the participants continue with DecidoSer activities, which has helped them build trust with companions from other neighborhoods, allowing them to cross gang-imposed “invisible barriers”.

Also in Ciénaga, PAR and project implementer **Fundación Prodeco** are strengthening teamwork and communication skills of 110 members that belong to six fishing associations. The communication tools gained through the project have helped to improve community relations as participants learn to resolve conflicts peacefully, using respect and dialogue rather than violence. Participants in the value chain strengthening project culminated capacity-building trainings in marketing and sales, administration, and responsible fishing practices. Two of the associations formed relationships with potential buyers—two restaurants in Bogotá and Medellín—that have made initial purchases as a pilot process. In addition, the association Asopestur negotiated successfully with the transportation company Latam to achieved more favorable terms, cutting transportation costs by 80 percent.

BOLIVAR

Cartagena



Better communication and women rise up:

At the onset of PAR’s value chain strengthening project, the members of the association Asopestur—one of six associations that PAR and Fundación Prodeco are strengthening—had a problem that was creating a divide amidst its members. Without organizational protocols for voting, many members felt that it was time to change the board of directors.

The association used DecidoSer meetings as opportunities to dialogue about necessary leadership changes. They were able to address the conflict and carry out a vote for new board members. Moreover, awareness-building of gender equality and inclusion led to the first woman elected to the board to take charge of the association’s finances.

“If it weren’t for this process, where we’re learning to dialogue and communicate peacefully, this situation might have ended up in fist fights.” – project participant

PAR and the **Chamber of Commerce of Cartagena** continued to empower at-risk youth through strengthening capacities for leadership, entrepreneurship, and acting as agents of transformation in their communities. The Program carried out training of trainers workshops with 31 young participants, who will replicate reconciliation activities with other youth in their communities. The participants expressed the importance of empowering others in their neighborhoods as a strategy to keep them away from drug consumption and gang activity. Also this quarter, four small business owners were chosen to attend the 2018 Heroes Fest, the largest innovation and entrepreneurship event for youth in the country. The event was an opportunity for the participants to build networks and learn about new funding sources and innovation trends. In a DecidoSer evaluation with a sample group of participants, results showed that they have changed behaviors related to improved self confidence and better



Decido Ser workshop in Cartagena trains youth to replicate reconciliation activities in their own communities.

relationships with family members. They attributed these changes to feeling more empowered and having better emotional management awareness.

“We want these young people to be able to say no to drugs and to gangs. Despite their circumstances, we want them to believe in themselves and believe it’s possible to choose another life path.” – [redacted] project participant

With project implementer **Fundación Surtigas**, the Program is supporting cultural initiatives that allow 134 young people to improve economic sustainability and promote greater security in their communities. In DecidoSer events this quarter, PAR raised awareness of gender equity and social inclusion, challenging generally accepted discriminatory attitudes. The activities also promoted teamwork and non-aggressive communication with the young participants. Furthermore, 30 cultural entrepreneur initiatives, which represent roughly 300 people, formed a cultural association that has succeeded in crossing “invisible barriers”—territorial limits enforced by gangs—in different neighborhoods. In cultural events that spanned 19 different neighborhoods, the association drew participation of approximately 600 community members in the month of November, finished the capacity-building phase of the project and received technical assistance in formulating business plans, including support in marketing, finance, and commercial aspects of creating a sustainable business. Project participants started another series of capacity-building workshops in cultural mentoring, which covers the topics of costumes, contemporary festivals, and recovery of ancestral traditions. Various music and dance groups in the project gained exposure this quarter through four major public events in Cartagena.

In an institutional strengthening initiative with the **Mayor’s Office of Santa Marta**, the Program contributed to the formation of 100 community action boards and trained board members in civic participation and reconciliation for the restoration of the social fabric. PAR collaborated with the secretary of security and coexistence in the district to implement a security system in neighborhoods benefiting from the 100 Obras Menores (“100 Minor Works”) program. This quarter, the community action boards received support in accounting and public resource management.

ANTIOQUIA (MEDELLÍN, SAN CARLOS, TURBO, APARTADÓ, ITUANGO, BRICEÑO)

In the Antioquia-Urabá region, PAR projects promoted dialogue, destigmatization, economic empowerment, and memory-building, emphasizing constructive engagement with a violent past and guarantees of non-repetition. In rural areas, PAR strengthened agricultural capacities of rural producers to boost social and economic empowerment. Improved economic stability helped to drive security and coexistence in the area as access to earning opportunities make it easier for participants to participate in legal economies. In the department's capital, Medellín, the Program addressed violence and aggression among youth through work with rival soccer fan groups—traditionally at the root of violent confrontations—developing skills to improve dialogue and promote peaceful coexistence.

ANTIOQUIA

Medellín

PAR and **Corporación Paz y Democracia** continued to strengthen security and coexistence in Medellín working with 120 young people belonging to soccer fan groups, known as *barras*, to break down barriers between the groups stigmatized by violent rivalry. The project has raised awareness about violence and helped to generate relationships between members of different *barras* based on dialogue and respect. The Program also addressed gender-based violence and highlighted the role of women *barristas*. Additionally, PAR strengthened 14 livelihood projects as part of the Program's economic inclusion strategy. The young entrepreneurs received business strengthening such as marketing and communications training. PAR's psychosocial team held two community meetings in public schools to raise awareness about the initiative and promote respect for differences as a pillar for peaceful coexistence.



Fundación EPM and the Museo Casa de la Memoria in Medellín ended this quarter, having raised awareness about the city's violent past to promote guarantees of non-repetition and created spaces for reflection and reconciliation through the moving exhibition which documents the events of the 70s, 80, and 90s, when violence was at a peak. The exhibition, MEDELLÍN/ES Memoria Viva, generated dialogue about the city's trajectory and the causes of violence, as visitors were encouraged to share their ideas, opinions and experiences during the visit. The pre-post survey showed that 78 percent of participants experienced positive changes in perceptions toward reconciliation, with 93 percent expressing increased social acceptance as a result of the project.

“The exhibition helped me to understand that reconciliation is possible and that forgiving issues of conflict is possible based on the region where we grew up.” – [REDACTED] exhibition visitor

Turbo

PAR’s initiative with **Fundauniban** continued generating licit and sustainable income opportunities as well as improving living conditions for 163 fishing and plantain-growing families in Turbo. The increased economic stability has helped reduce the potential for criminal activities— the area is characterized by scarce employment opportunities and its strategic geographic location along a drug trafficking route. This quarter, the Program strengthened community action boards and continued building trust and dialogue between participants and local State institutions, working together to improve citizen participation and security in the region. PAR carried out site visits to projects and facilitated technical training to improve quality, production techniques, and environmental best practices. The Program also worked to improved trust and teamwork among participants, and as a result, the pre-post survey showed an 83 percent change in perceptions, attitudes and behaviors relating to reconciliation. The plantain growers increased their income by 15 percent and began implementing savings plans. Participants of the artisanal fishing project raised their incomes by 40 percent and strengthened food security for themselves and members of their community through the establishment of vegetable gardens.

Also in Turbo, where women have historically suffered gender-based violence linked to the armed conflict and domestic abuse, PAR and **Comfenalco** advanced efforts to empower 100 women victims and ex-combatants in a project strengthening economic opportunities through tourism. The project addresses ruptured social fabric in the community and highlights the resilience of women in the reconstruction of peaceful coexistence and security in the municipality. During the quarter, 81 participants received training in sustainable beach tourism, and the Program forged alliances with 10 companies who committed to prioritizing project participants for employment opportunities. A quarter of the women have successfully been linked to jobs in tourism, restaurants and sales, earning on average \$256 per month. For most of the participants, this is an important boost in income since 90 percent were unemployed at the start of the project.



Economic empowerment drives reconciliation:

PAR-supported plantain growers association Fundauniban has added value to their plantains by producing *patacones*, a popular dish made from plantain. The *patacones* come in different flavors and sizes and are popular with customers for their convenience in preparation. The new products have boosted earning potential for the producers as they can sell *patacones* at a higher price than selling plantains. The increased economic stability is helping to improve security in a region heavily stigmatized by drug trafficking and violent conflict.

“We needed to find different ways to make money so that we could move forward from the conflict without involvement in illegal activities.” – [REDACTED] plantain producer

“My husband used to leave his dirty laundry lying around and I would always pick it up and wash it because I thought that was a woman’s job. But after learning about gender equality through the project, I decided to stop doing that. He was angry at first, but now he has started to share the housework with me and even sweeps and mops.” – Comfenalco project participant

Apartadó

PAR and **Fundamilenio** continued to address social and economic inclusion of youth as a strategy to prevent early recruitment into gangs and other criminal activity in Apartadó, where limited legal economic opportunities and broken social structures often lead to high rates of gang activity. In addition to promoting youth access to employment and safe spaces for young people, the project also helped to break down gang-related barriers which prevented people from moving easily between neighborhoods. Through the initiative, 90 youth participants received training and began internships at banana farms where they received a monthly salary of \$256, equivalent to the national minimum wage. DecidoSer workshops focused on trust and empowerment and encouraged participants to reflect on respect and memory as tools for peaceful coexistence. Psychosocial activities led to 71 percent of participants experiencing a positive change in attitude, perceptions, and behavior toward reconciliation.

San Carlos

In San Carlos, PAR and the **Federación Nacional de Cafeteros** continued to enhance entrepreneurship and coffee-producing capacities of 120 women and youth in a project that promotes security and coexistence by preventing gender-based violence, empowering women with income generation opportunities, and strengthening leadership skills among young people. DecidoSer workshops strengthened communication and teamwork and emphasized the importance of self-care. Additionally, the Program held memory workshops in which 120 participants shared their life stories as part of an exercise promoting dialogue, generational exchange and strengthening solidarity and trust between families and neighbors. Also this quarter, PAR facilitated food security training for 76 participants, building their capacities to produce their own food. For the livelihood strengthening component of the project, PAR advanced with technical and productive support for 85 coffee growers. The Program distributed seedlings for planting and provided technical assistance to improve coffee quality and production processes. Finally, 15 participants took part in a coffee tasting and barista course to deepen their understanding of fine aroma coffee standards.

The Program continued to support historical memory building in San Carlos in a project with **Corporación Región para el Desarrollo y la Democracia** that promotes respect, trust, and social inclusion. The project strengthened memory building processes as well as reconciliation and peace-building through local memory initiatives, which helped to mend the social fabric and instill a sense of pride and belonging among participants. The project is helping to promote guarantees of non-repetition as a long-term strategy for increasing security and peaceful coexistence in San Carlos, which suffered a high rate of displacements, forced disappearances, and homicides between 1988 and 2010. This quarter, PAR created a document and pamphlet about the memory garden that was established through the Program, and formed a communications collective with 27 youths, 21 women and six men aged 13 to

20. The Program held 10 debates with different population groups promoting dialogue, trust and gender equality among others.

Briceño and Ituango

Generating access to licit and sustainable income generation opportunities, PAR and **Antioquia Libre de Cultivos Ilícitos** advanced in a crop substitution project which also promotes restitution and formalization of land use and tenure. The initiative is driving security and coexistence in the area stigmatized by violent crime and illicit crops linked to narcotrafficking by strengthening livelihood projects and community relations. Through DecidoSer workshops, participants are recovering trust, dialogue, respect, and empowerment.

REGIONAL- ANTIOQUIA*

*Projects are categorized as regional if they are implemented in two or more cities in the region.

PAR's project with **World Vision** came to a close this quarter, leaving capacity installed for 270 victims of the armed conflict through an initiative that focused on reconstructing the social fabric and improving the economic inclusion and autonomy of vulnerable people in Medellín and Apartadó. The project, implemented alongside CEA and Medellín Mayor's Office, strengthened the participants' business management skills, including communications strategies, customer relations, and compliance with formal requirements. The participants also strengthened community relations and improved dialogue, trust, conflict



PAR participants present their products at the Macrorrueda for Reconciliation in Apartadó.

resolution and leadership skills through DecidoSer workshops and methodology. The livelihood projects supported through the alliance include catering, clothing, photography, and agricultural initiatives. Of the entrepreneurs involved in the project, 230 increased their income by 30 percent as a result of the intervention. Participants also expressed a commitment to community engagement, with 45 beneficiaries from the Villas de Santa Fé de Antioquia housing project beginning processes to form a

230 small business owners
Increased their income by **30%**

community action board that will link 180 people. Additionally, 1,300 people have been mobilized in community-based reconciliation initiatives aimed at the welfare and protection of children. Pre-post measurements showed that 73 percent of the

participants had positive changes in perceptions, attitudes and behavior, and 100 percent of the sample group of 15 affirmed that they saw themselves as agents of change for reconciliation. Furthermore, six initiatives from the project took part in CRC's Macrorrueda for Reconciliation in Apartadó in November,

where they gained access to potential clients and strengthened ties with other small businesses from the region.

“The project has been very important for the community because it helped us generate income for numerous families, gave us an avenue for reconciliation, and restored in us the confidence that we had lost.” – Silvia González, project participant

In Turbo and Apartadó, PAR and **Corbanacol** continued promoting peaceful coexistence and respect in a project that uses sports and cultural activities to prevent early recruitment into criminal activities as young people find alternative ways and safe spaces to occupy their free time. The project works with 430 at-risk youth, promoting dialogue, empathy, discipline, and teamwork. This quarter, the Program held a two-day residential camp in Apartadó, where 50 participants aged 10 to 18 came together to learn, explore and interact with peers using activities such as football, baseball, fencing, dance, and music to strengthen their reconciliation skills. Over the course of the camp, which included DecidoSer activities, as well as technical training and support from a nutritional expert, organizers noted positive changes in attitude and behaviors among participants as they began to recognize their own talents and identify positive physical and mental qualities among themselves.



“The thing I liked most about what I learned at the camp is respect. It was nice to be here and make new friends from other areas. I also liked learning rules, we had rules for the pool and around the camp.” – Project participant, Apartadó.

Fifty children aged 10 to 18 took part in a two-day camp in Apartadó to strengthen their reconciliation skills through sports and culture.

With **Fundación Mi Sangre**, PAR continued to strengthen life skills for 480 at-risk youth in Turbo and Apartadó, focusing on behavior changes to break the cycles of violence present in the Urabá region. The Program held six workshops to discuss the past, present and future of the region, during which participants were encouraged to reflect on dialogue and coexistence as leaders of change who can contribute to the transformation of social problems. Additionally, PAR facilitated individual counselling for 56 young people to help build emotional integrity through listening. Participants also held community discussion groups involving 187 young people, representatives of municipal administrations, community leaders and project allies to address issues such as teen pregnancy, prevention of illegal drug consumption, memory building, peaceful resolution of gang conflicts, and caring for the environment. DecidoSer strengthened emotional management as a key contributor for healthy coexistence. Pre-post survey results showed a positive change in 77 percent of participants. Finally, PAR held two capacity-building workshops to strengthen access to employment opportunities, training in resumé writing, and preparation for interviews with the participation of 96 young people.

PACIFIC (QUIBDÓ, BOJAYÁ, BUENAVENTURA, CALI)

Programmatic focus in the Pacific region continued to promote security and peaceful coexistence through projects boosting economic security through support for livelihood projects and initiatives creating spaces for dialogue and social cohesion and improved communication among community members. In Quibdó, empowered youth continued to break down invisible barriers, imposed by local gangs, in marginalized neighborhoods. In Cali, PAR strengthened income generation opportunities through workforce development programs and access to employment. Through DecidoSer, the Program empowered young people to identify and work towards their life goals, and strengthened memory building, resilience, and goal orientation. Project post survey results showed that 77 percent of the participants expressed positive changes in attitudes, perceptions and behavior relating to reconciliation.

CHOCÓ

Quibdó

PAR and the **Asociación para las Investigaciones Culturales del Chocó (ASINCH)** continued to promote safe environments for young people in the marginalized northern area of Quibdó through a project that works with 200 Afro-Colombian youths, using arts and cultural activities to support memory-building and reconciliation. In addition to workshops in dance, music, and literary composition, PAR and ASINCH held three group discussions for participants and their families to promote dialogue, trust, and resilience. The Program also strengthened the leadership skills of 100 participants who took part in a course aimed at using arts education as a tool to promote peace in the different neighborhoods. Project coordinators noted an increase in leadership among young people acting as agents of change, driving reconciliation in neighborhoods that were previously considered off limits due to gang-related barriers. As a result of the intervention, 77.6 percent of the participants have shown positive changes in attitudes, perceptions and behavior relating to reconciliation.

In Quibdó, where access to employment opportunities often stands as a barrier to reconciliation for young people, PAR and **Compartamos Colombia** have been working to promote social and economic inclusion through support for entrepreneurial initiatives. The Program provided technical assistance, business development and entrepreneurial support to improve the sustainability of the six livelihood projects selected for their potential to promote economic development and social transformation in their communities.



President Ivan Duque, center, poses with some of PAR-backed small business owners at the launch of the Ruta Naranja in Quibdó,

This quarter, four of the PAR-supported small business initiatives were selected by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism to receive further business development strengthening as part of the GOC's Ruta Naranja, a plan to boost economic access through entrepreneurship, supporting cultural and creative industries. The selected initiatives include the robotics school La Escuela de Robótica, ice cream manufacturer Helados Frios, fashion designer Creaciones Cleiner, and ethnic jewelry designer La Chocoanita. In other program development activities, DecidoSer workshops focused on leadership and empowerment, and not

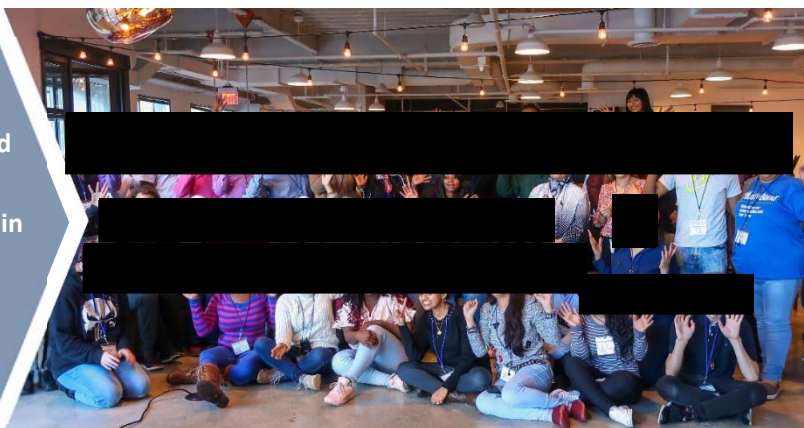
only contributed towards reconciliation but also helped to promote teamwork among the participants from different sectors as they forged alliances and highlighted their joint commitment to promoting new narratives and opportunities in the region.

VALLE DEL CAUCA

Cali

PAR and **Fundación Alvaralice** are providing access to economic opportunities in the formal job market, which reduce the risk of recruitment into gangs and other criminal activities in the Potrero Grande and Siloé neighborhoods of Cali. The focus on dialogue and respect has improved community relationships and helped to mend the broken social fabric as participants begin to act as agents for social transformation. To date, 358 young people have enrolled in workforce development training courses to prepare them to work in the customer services, administration, and logistics industries. Additionally, 119 project participants secured internships leading to possible job opportunities.

PAR-Alvaralice participant Wanner Johan Gaviria joined 24 young people from around the world at the Global Opportunity Youth Initiative in Philadelphia to exchange experiences of youth access to employment in their home countries.



In another youth empowerment initiative, PAR and **Cali Chamber of Commerce** advanced in a project

that seeks to strengthen business development skills among 690 young entrepreneurs from vulnerable parts of the city. This quarter, the Chamber of Commerce held talks to raise awareness about the project during which successful participants shared their experiences and began business strengthening to improve financial and management skills for 152 entrepreneurs and management training for 128 participants. The Program has had a positive impact on reconciliation efforts in Cali as the generation of opportunities for economic and social inclusion for young entrepreneurs from low-income areas reduces the risk of recruitment into crime and encourages participants to act as agents of change as communities are rebuilt.

Buenaventura

PAR and **Fundación Puerto Aguadulce** continued promoting trust and dialogue among 225 members of 13 agricultural and fishing livelihood projects in the rural Buenaventura communities of Bajo Calima, San Cipriano, Citronela and Pichidó. During the quarter, 12 entrepreneurs took part in leadership workshops focused on promoting citizen participation, and 720 community members participated in recreational activities designed to build trust and encourage reconciliation and social integration. As a result of the business, technical strengthening, and enhanced quality as well as improved citizen participation within the community, seven of the participating projects, representing artisanal fishermen and small producers of papa china, banana, and cacao increased their income by 20 percent and 33 people gained access to new jobs created through the initiative. Additionally, participants reported changes in narratives relating to dialogue and respect after participating in DecidoSer workshops. Also during the reporting period, PAR and Aguadulce organized a business breakfast in which 17 entrepreneurs strengthened business ties and bolstered opportunities for service provision.

CENTRAL (BOGOTÁ, CHAPARRAL, RÍOBLANCO)

PAR's focus in the Central region is helping to generate dialogue and trust between different communities as well as boosting opportunities for social and economic inclusion of marginalized communities. In Bogotá, the Program is promoting social inclusion in the city, in order to position the capital as "a place where everybody fits in", raising awareness of the city's diverse population. PAR is also addressing issues related to discrimination through activities that promote peaceful coexistence by encouraging interaction between different population groups and challenging ideas and prejudices about race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation. In Tolima, the Program continued to improve security by improving economic sustainability for cacao and coffee producing families.

Bogotá

In a new alliance with the Mayor's office of Bogotá, PAR is boosting institutional capacities to promote reconciliation, tolerance, appreciation for diversity, and higher levels of peaceful coexistence. The initiative seeks to promote dialogue and acceptance through open conversations between different social groups, increase civic engagement of historically marginalized groups, including women, ethnic groups, persons with disabilities, youth, Venezuelan migrants, and different religious groups. PAR is sensitizing diverse social sectors through capacity-building workshops and awareness-raising discussion

panels. This quarter the Program carried out 11 capacity-building workshops with community leaders, who are members of the Red de Convivencia y Derechos Humanos (Network of Coexistence and Human Rights). These participants represent various social groups and hail from some of the most marginalized neighborhoods in Bogota. Workshops covered reconciliation exercises that promote dialogue and trust-building, communications for social change, as well as gender and social inclusion issues to promote tolerance of differences.

The Program also supported the Mayor's Office of Bogotá in a large-scale event to promote women's rights and empowerment through the arts. Through support to the international festival Ni con el Petalo de Una Rosa (Not Even with a Rose Petal), the Program promoted prevention of gender-based violence and the role of women in the post conflict processes. From November 18 to 25, the festival drew approximately 5,700 participants through music, theater, dance, and other performing arts. In another awareness-raising event with the Mayor's Office of Bogotá, on December 11, PAR held a discussion panel on improving economic inclusion of people with disabilities in an event that targeted private sector representatives. The panel covered topics, such as current barriers for people with disabilities in accessing jobs and successful initiatives in companies that have led to greater social mobility for this group.

As part of the Mayor of Bogotá's efforts to increase social and economic inclusion of vulnerable populations, PAR and the **Employment Program for Reconciliation** continued to open doors to job opportunities in the formal market through workforce development training for young people from vulnerable populations in Bogotá. Through a public-private alliance with the Bogotá Mayor's Office and Diageo, participants gained skills in areas such as logistics, administration, sales and marketing, call center assistance, and gastronomy. On November 30, the graduation ceremony of 260 youth marked the culmination of their studying phase. Sixty public and private companies have joined the effort to promote access to income generation opportunities and increase diversity in their companies. In another workforce development project, PAR is collaborating with renown Colombian chef Harry Sasson to inspire and motivate young people to start stable careers in the gastronomy industry. This quarter, 25 participants graduated from the studying and training phase and will go on to hands-on internships at different restaurants in Bogotá.

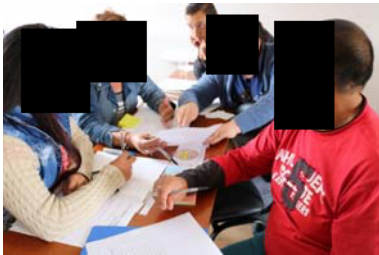


The Employment Program for Reconciliation promotes inclusion of ethnic groups in the formal labor market. Above, Rubi Montano receives workforce development certification at graduation ceremony in Bogotá.

PAR and **Corporación Minuto de Dios** finalized an initiative with the two-pronged strategy to improve income generation and develop reconciliation skills of 300 people in the locality of San Cristóbal, where diverse vulnerable groups reside. Through the project's DecidoSer component, participants noted improved communication, a reduction in aggressive behavior, and higher social inclusion of people from diverse population groups. The pre-post survey showed 72 percent of participants had positive changes in their perceptions of safety. The community event *Yo Soy Reconciliación* marked the end of the social mobilization phase with the participation of 400 community members who improved the community development center with drawings and paintings. Businesses strengthening activities also culminated this quarter with in-kind donations to the 100 small businesses, including materials and equipment for bakeries, stationary stores, virtual computer learning services, cultural ventures, and animal care services.



Youth mobilize to transform community spaces through art in the locality of San Cristóbal.



“Thanks to this project, I have become more empowered as a leader. I am now leading the LGBTI committee in San Cristóbal so that I can contribute to creating public policies that can help my community.” – Gina Perilla, project participant

Tolima

PAR is working with 173 cacao and coffee producing families of the producers' associations **Asocatol** and **Cafisur** in Chaparral to improve economic sustainability and strengthen social fabric. This quarter the participants engaged in DecidoSer activities, focusing on identifying personal and community growth objectives, assertive communication, and constructing collective memory as a pact to end cycles of violence. Gender and social inclusion activities promoted discussion about challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes and respecting others with different religions, ethnicities, beliefs, and sexual orientations. The productivity component of the project this quarter focused on improving harvesting capacities of the families with capacity-building training on ecological harvesting practices.



Asocatol members in a DecidoSer activity

PAR and the **Comité Departamental de Cafeteros del Tolima** are also improving access to licit economic opportunities for 160 coffee producing families in Rioblanco. The project has an important reconciliation component, using DecidoSer activities to promote changes in behavior that lead to more peaceful coexistence within families and rural communities. Activities to improve production processes included training in Good Agricultural Practices and technical assistance in crop maintenance. Participants also received equipment to improve collection infrastructures and 18 youth were trained in coffee tasting.

ORINOQUIA (VISTA HERMOSA, PUERTO RICO, MESETAS, ARAUCA, ARAUQUITA)

PAR's work in the Orinoquia region is changing perceptions and promoting reconciliation through initiatives that build cohesion and strengthen bonds of trust among rural communities, as well as improving security and coexistence in the area by improving access to sustainable livelihoods based on legal economies. The Program provided technical assistance to cacao and coffee growers' associations, improving cultivation, harvesting, and production capacities as a strategy to increase sustainability of licit alternatives to growing coca. The Program also strengthened income generating opportunities in the tourism sector to dismantle negative images of the region and promote new narratives, using the region's natural beauty and agroindustry to attract visitors. DecidoSer worked on improving trust, dialogue, and historical memory-building, and at least 70 percent of participants demonstrated changes in perceptions of security, while 83 percent recognized themselves as agents of transformation for reconciliation committed to driving positive change.

META

Vista Hermosa

As a strategy to end cycles of violence and prevent recruitment of youth into illegal armed groups, PAR and **Cordepaz** are empowering youth and other vulnerable groups through a project with strong historical memory and economic inclusions components, boosting legal and sustainable income-generating opportunities through plantain production and tourism. PAR strengthened commercialization capacities of plantain growers by developing a sales strategy. For tourism initiative, young participants identified points of interest to include in the tourism route and began developing the corresponding brochure as part of the strategy to promote new narratives about the region. The Program facilitated an English language course for the young participants so that they can expand their potential client base. For the historical memory component, the Program held workshops and interviews with community members to collect their input on what should be included in the historical memory museology. DecidoSer activities focused on resilience, which participants identified as fundamental for living together as a community and highlighted the importance of creating inclusive community spaces which engage different groups



Project participants graduate from their English course to promote opportunities in the ecotourism industry

such as youth and women.

Puerto Rico

The PAR partnership with **Corporación Econexus Colombia InSitu** advanced with capacity-strengthening activities in an initiative that seeks increase access to licit income generation opportunities, making cacao production a profitable and sustainable alternative to growing coca. The project is providing support to 35 cacao producing families from the Aprocacao association through the development of fine aroma chocolate. The project is also helping to rebuild ruptured social fabric by providing tools for peaceful conflict resolution. DecidoSer workshops focused on dialogue, trust, and historical memory, and 90 percent of participants registered positive changes in perceptions as trust in State institutions increased and relationships between neighbors improved as community members learned to work



PAR participants took part in the chocolate show in Bogotá which brought together producers, allies and purchasers.

together through the project. The project is also helping the association to access specialty cacao markets. Aprocacao members joined representatives from USAID's Land and Rural Development Program and Producers to Markets Alliance at the Chocoshow in Bogotá, a trade fair raising awareness about cacao and chocolate in Colombia, where they learned more about production techniques, brand positioning and connected with other actors within the chocolate industry. Also present at the fair were PAR reconciliation ambassador Aurora Martinez, also from Meta, and PAR projects Mazorca Dorada and Kakaua from Arauca.

“People often think coca is more profitable, but there’s no comparison to the price of peace. Growing cacao we can live more peacefully. We don’t have to worry as much about personal and community safety as we did when we were growing coca.” – [REDACTED] cacao producer, Aprocacao

ARAUCA

Arauca

In another ecotourism initiative, PAR and **Fundación Crea** are helping to prevent early recruitment into criminal activities by promoting access to licit economic opportunities through ecotourism in Arauca and Arauquita. The project, which focuses on ecotourism as a tool for reconciliation and social integration, works with 90 people who are trying to change the narrative around the region as they highlight the tourism potential. Initiatives include a livestock ranch, birdwatching, and cacao tourism. This quarter, project participants belonging to the Arauca Birding group facilitated a birdwatching course with community members and SENA students and held a photographic competition to increase visibility of the initiative. The group reached 12,000 followers on Facebook and 5,980 on Instagram. DecidoSer activities helped to build trust and improve teamwork among community members. Participants

expressed that they previously did not trust one another and preferred to work alone, but through the Program they have learned to work together. Additionally, 83 percent of the participants recognized themselves as agents of change for reconciliation committed to driving positive change in their region as they build new narratives through tourism. PAR also strengthened gender and social inclusion, helping to break down barriers between different social groups.



“When I get back to the farm, I am going to share this knowledge with my coworkers because this activity has helped me realize that we could receive many different types of tourists. They may be Afro-descendants, black, people with other sexual orientations, and we have to treat them well so that they will return. We can no longer discriminate against people.” – [REDACTED] project participant at gender and social inclusion workshop

PAR and **Caja de Compensación Familiar de Arauca (Comfiar)** helped to generate trust in institutions, with the women’s association supported through the project now working with State entities, such as the police and the Mayor’s Office to improve security along the river. The initiative is using tourism to improve security and peaceful coexistence in Arauca, a region stigmatized by negative narratives of criminal activity, such as micro-trafficking, violence, and human trafficking. The initiative creates new narratives and reclaims public spaces along the Arauca River through work with 21 women entrepreneurs, strengthening links between the local community and the municipal administration. During the quarter, PAR carried out 29 home visits to the participants working in the food and beverage sector to follow up on the health and safety training received through the Program, as well as to address mental health issues. DecidoSer workshops focused on empowerment and strengthening organizational skills, which has helped them develop their livelihood projects. Post survey results showed a 72 percent change in perceptions of security, an important change for women who have overcome violence and adversity and are now taking control of their own lives and helping to promote economic activity in their city.

We have built trust with local institutions and advanced in interinstitutional coordination to work towards the recovery of the Malecon.” – [REDACTED] at a DecidoSer workshop

PAR's historical memory and income generation initiative with **Corporación Cidemos** continued to build new narratives of the stigmatized Arauca neighborhood of Todos los Santos by developing livelihood projects and social dialogue among 160 victims of the armed conflict. During the quarter, the Program strengthened the wellbeing of 32 families through workshops focusing on improving coexistence, respect, and dialogue within the family. Additionally, the DecidoSer component worked on community level trust to boost local developments and encourage participants to act as agents of change for reconciliation, helping to improve solidarity within communities. In other activities, the Program held a sports day for 155 children and youth, using soccer as a tool to encourage fair play and teach peaceful conflict resolution, teambuilding, and healthy coexistence. The project's livelihood strengthening component included technical support to boost production quality and processes as well as capacity-building in business administration, marketing, and environmental best practices for the four initiatives supported by the project – a cacao production business, a pastry and bakery operation, a women-led dairy production line, and a butchery. The Program also helped to raise awareness and marketing prospects of the small businesses by supporting their attendance at local and national level fairs and markets, such as the biweekly farmers' market in Arauca and the annual Chocoshow in Bogotá.

Also in Arauca, PAR and **Fundación Fuprodech** are addressing poor access to employment and limited recreational activities for youth as a strategy to counter recruitment into criminal and illegal armed groups. The project uses digital art as a way for young people to have fun while learning skills that can help them get a job in the future. The initiative provides a safe space for participants and uses DecidoSer methodology to generate trust and dialogue, particularly important topics for the youth in an area where many have grown up in a patriarchal society that does not allow boys and men to cry or express their feelings. Through the Program, the students have found an outlet for self-expression and have learned to speak more freely about their feelings, a significant step towards self-reconciliation in Arauca which suffers high rates of suicide. This quarter, 120 participants took part in the digital painting course, and 15 participants were



Chocolate as a tool for peace:

Mazorca Dorada manager [REDACTED] believes that cacao is an essential tool for peace in Arauca because it can create new narratives about the region. It also promotes tourism, which allows cacao producing families to diversify their income. With the support received through PAR and Cidemos, the artisanal cacao producers have strengthened their cultivating methods, improved production times and reduced the risks involved in the manufacturing process. This, [REDACTED] says, is helping families achieve economic stability as producers increase their profit margins. Previously cacao growers from the area just sold the raw beans, but by selling fine quality chocolate as a finished product, they can earn a more sustainable income. He plans to turn the farm into an ecotourism destination, where visitors can learn about the cacao production process and have a different type of experience.

"We have excellent quality cacao which can compete on an international level. We hope that in a few years' time our region will be recognized as an area of peace and cacao." – [REDACTED] Mazorca Dorada

selected for job placements.

“Through the Program, I have not only learned the technical side of digital art, I have also made friends. Through the reconciliation workshops, many of us have learned to open our hearts and become better at confronting difficult situations.” – [REDACTED] project participant

REGIONAL- ORINOQUIA*

*Projects are categorized as regional if they are implemented in two or more cities in the region.

PAR and the **International League of Women for Peace and Liberty (Limpal)** continued to improve security and coexistence in Puerto Rico, Vista Hermosa, and Mesetas by raising awareness about the risks and threats faced by women in the area and the channels available to help them overcome some of these challenges. The Program used music therapy and storytelling techniques to build respect and trust among participants, and focused on memory reconstruction, self-care, solidarity, and capacity-building for employability. Through the initiative, 117 participants attended orientation sessions to register for public service jobs in the three municipalities. Additionally, 86 participants received basic IT training to improve their employment opportunities.

In Puerto Rico and Mesetas, PAR and **Corporación Construyendo Futuro (Corpfuturo)** are working with 90 teenagers to reduce early recruitment into criminal activities by promoting safe spaces for recreation, healthy use of free time, and opportunities for licit income generation through digital media. The social transformation project continued to strengthen security and coexistence and encourage new narratives about the region stigmatized by high rates of violence and crime. Through the initiative, participants received training in human rights issues, audiovisual production, and historical memory reconstruction. DecidoSer workshops helped to build a culture of respect and dialogue among the participants, whereby the teenagers learned to listen and put themselves in the other person’s shoes. Additionally, through workshops focusing on gender and social inclusion, the participants recognized the need to adjust certain activities to include people with disabilities and gained a deeper understanding of inclusive behavior towards different population groups such as members of the LGBTI community. Participants also highlighted the importance of positive messages to dispel the violent image of their region.

“We didn’t respect each other before. We solved our differences with our fists, but now we treat each other with respect and use dialogue to work through issues.” – [REDACTED] project participant

AMAZON (FLORENCIA, SAN VICENTE DEL CAGUÁN, CARTAGENA DEL CHAIRÁ)

In the Amazon region, PAR is focusing its efforts in strengthening livelihood alternatives that keep rural communities in the legal economy, specifically through sustainable tourism and strengthened value chains in crops that are autochthonous to the region. In addition to improving socioeconomic inclusion, the community-led tourism projects also drive peaceful coexistence as the Program builds trust through

activities designed to increase dialogue and tolerance of different social groups. During the quarter, DecidoSer focused on respect and dialogue, and promoted solidarity among communities. The pre-post survey results revealed that 99 percent of participants experienced a change in attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors relating to reconciliation.

CAQUETÁ

Florencia

PAR and **Florencia Chamber of Commerce** are implementing a reconciliation initiative with different communities living in the El Manantial Nature Reserve. The initiative promotes reconciliation and dialogue among marginalized groups—indigenous communities, victims of the armed conflict, reincorporated ex-combatants, and youth—that generally have very little interaction. As part of the capacity-building component of the project, participants are learning about tourism services and resource conservation through a tourism and environmental management certification course. As part of the course, the participants engaged in trust-building activities that increased dialogue and understanding of other social groups. As a result, the participants reported a 99 percent positive change in perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors toward reconciliation. As an outcome of the project, 27 of the project participants formed the Uruki El Manantial Travel Association, whose main objective is to increase the social and economic sustainability of its communities through community-led tourism. In



The Uruki El Manantial Travel association in Caquetá now has its own website to market its tourism services.

order to ensure greater visibility of the new tourism initiative, the association developed marketing materials, including a promotional video for the reserve, a website and social media accounts, and news bulletins that were broadcast in community radio programs and newspapers. The project is engaging 262 residents of the reserve.

Strengthened value chains in non-timber forest products, including the native plants copoazu, sacha inchi, milpeso palm, and acai, are enabling 250 small-holder producer families to achieve economic stability through dignified livelihoods and prevent youth from falling prey to crime and illicit armed groups. PAR-supported agricultural association **Agrosolidaria** in Florencia made important achievements in ensuring economic sustainability for its member-families through improved value chain processes and greater exposure of its products. DecidoSer community strengthening work continued, engaging association families through 30 workshops that underscored values of respect, dialogue and youth and women's empowerment. Notable outcomes this quarter include a collaboration with Discovery Channel on a video of how to use Agrosolidaria's Amazonian products in recipes. The video gave unprecedented exposure to Agrosolidaria's products as well as raised awareness of the region's economic and social

transformation. Program support allowed the association to increase connections to profitable markets through food fairs and new clients. This quarter, PAR facilitated exploratory meetings with PepsiCo for a potential deal to provide sacha inchi nuts as a snack product for the multinational. The association also carried out 77 *mingas*, or voluntary community work events, which allowed the members to establish 37 new hectares of crops. Finally, the association formed a new alliance with the Colombian air force to deliver their products to Bogotá for free, allowing them to cut down on transportation costs and access new clients.

DecidoSer builds solidarity and trust among neighbors.



Agrosolidaria members worked together in 77 mingas to help their neighbors establish 37 new hectares of crops

REGIONAL- CAQUETÁ*

*Projects are categorized as regional if they are implemented in two or more cities in the region.

PAR and **Corporación Manigua (Corpomanigua)** continued to address food security and economic inclusion in San Vicente del Caguán and Cartagena del Chairá through a project that promotes greater solidarity and trust within the rural communities. The project brings together 340 rural families around a value-chain strengthening and historical memory initiative, using DecidoSer methodology to strengthen social cohesion and end cycles of violence. Through the project 160 families have increased their income by 30 percent by selling their vegetables in farmers markets. With PAR support, participants in both municipalities formalized the farmers markets, fulfilling local administrative requirements to make it a formal market with proper infrastructure and permissions. As part of the initiative's capacity-building component, 30 project participants in San Vicente del Caguán started a SENA course on basic accounting.

SECTION V: MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

This quarter, the Monitoring and Evaluation team (M&E) carried out 74 direct activities in the field, including training, support and information-gathering, in Apartadó, Bogotá, Buenaventura, Cali, Cartagena, Chaparral, Ciénaga, Florencia, Maicao, Ríoblanco, Medellín, Mesetas, Puerto Rico, Quibdó, San Carlos, Santa Marta, Turbo, and Vistahermosa, with 39 implementers, partners or allies. Additionally, the M&E team directly supported the capture of information for 16 projects using mobile application developed through the Program.

Specific training, support and information-gathering activities:

- Support at DecidoSer community meetings
- Pre-Post surveys to measure changes in perception, attitudes, and behaviors
- Support for the psychosocial management team at 50 and 90 percent DecidoSer workshops
- Review of the information loaded onto LEAP (Learning Evaluation Analysis Platform), layout plan, form for awareness and mobilization activities, form for stakeholders and third party funds, assets for each project, ensuring correct registration and compliance with the programmatic indicators.
- Technical committee presentation of progress and report of indicators per project.

- Support at the reconciliation cycle races in Ciénaga and Florencia, gathering information to document participants' perceptions.

Other activities:

- ✓ Support for the Complexity-Aware Monitoring and Evaluation (C-AME) interviews carried out by Democracy International in Cali, Medellín, Turbo, Quibdó, Chaparral, and Vistahermosa.
- ✓ Participation in the presentation of the results of "*La Reconciliación es Nuestro Cuento*", the PAR-CRC project with youth at Specialized Attention Centers.
- ✓ Revision and adaptation of the Data Management Manual, in topics such as the description of indicators and the incorporation of routines for the database indexes.
- ✓ Consolidation of georeferenced information on beneficiaries who have participated in awareness raising and mobilization initiatives.

Knowledge Management

During the reporting period, the Knowledge Management (KM) team began collecting qualitative and quantitative information to compile a report on behavior changes in PAR intervention municipalities. KM reviewed and made adjustments to the measuring instrument (instrumento de medición de reconciliación, IMR) questionnaire in preparation for the second round of surveys to be carried out in the following period. The review was carried out in conjunction with members of the IMR Advisory Committee from Los Andes, Rosario and Javeriana universities. The University of Los Andes invited the team to use the measuring instrument to gauge changes among participants at the memory, truth and reconciliation winter school CAPAZ 2018, which took place from November 26 to 30. Finally, the department started reporting on the survey results from last quarter to measure perceptions and reflections of participants taking part in DecidoSer activities and memory reconstruction initiatives.

SECTION VI: COMMUNICATIONS

PAR is implementing a 360-degree communications strategy to raise awareness and mobilize Colombians through reconciliation actions that promote socioeconomic opportunities in the territories. PAR's communications efforts resulted in 131 online, radio, print, and television publications. The Program also made eight videos highlighting project achievements and positive developments taking place in intervention areas. The Program's social media efforts grew PAR's online following by 1,200 new followers in Facebook and Twitter this quarter.

SECTION VII: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Program administration this quarter centered on training ACDI/VOCA employees in health and safety at work, which included first aid training for emergency marshals. During the quarter, PAR hired eight new employees to strengthen the psychosocial, contracts, administration, project coordination, and monitoring and evaluation teams.

SECTION VIII: LOOKING AHEAD

Truth and Memory

PAR will provide key support to CEV through truth and memory projects to support reconciliation processes. The Program will work with **Fundescodes** on research and documentation of human rights violations in 10 emblematic incidences during the armed conflict. In other activities to support CHM next quarter, PAR will facilitate a mural in Bojayá and launch a commemorative disc in the framework of the Petronio Alvarez Festival in Cali which celebrates Pacific and Afro-Colombian cultures.

Awareness and Mobilization

In efforts to promote dialogue and trust as an essential tool for peacebuilding, PAR and Fundación El Nogal will begin the second phase of the project *Nacimos pa' Semilla*, which will create spaces for youth from different sectors of society to come together in conversation to talk about their experiences. The initiative will include a dialogue exchange between young victims of the Bojayá massacre, which took place in 2002 in the marginalized Pacific town, and young victims of the Club El Nogal bombing at the elite Bogotá social club in 2003.

Local Reconciliation Initiatives

In Buenaventura, PAR will strengthen social and economic inclusion for livelihood projects supported through the alliance with **Fundación Puerto Agudulce**. During the next quarter, the Program will advance marketing opportunities for the agricultural and fishing small businesses through a business fair and will raise awareness about the entrepreneurial initiatives through promotional advertising on local TV and radio stations. In Turbo, the Program will promote peaceful coexistence through a community integration workshop encouraging dialogue and community participation as a vital element for reconciliation.

ANNEX 1 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Current financial Pipeline

Account Description	Total Previous Expenditures (09/30/2018)	Total Current Quarter Expenditures (10/01/2018 - 12/31/2018)	Total Expenditures (12/31/2018)	LOP Budget	Current Remaining Balance
Total Direct Costs					
Indirect Costs					
Total Cost Federal Share					
Cost Share					
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS					

Annex 2: PAR in Numbers

Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 Quarter 1	Year 3 Goals	Year 3 Progress %	Total	LOP Goal	LOP Progress %
1. Number of local institutions and organizations strengthened in reconciliation capacities	Annually	5	35	-	25	0%	40	70	57%
2. Value of the Public Perception Index on communications and outreach reconciliation strategies	BL, MT, FE	56	-	-	N/A	-	56	TBD	-
3. Number of awareness and mobilization actions promoted by PAR partnerships	Quarterly	140	336	87	228	38%	563	650	87%
4. Percentage of change in perceptions, attitudes and behaviors post-intervention reported by PAR participants.	Bi-annual	74.5%	78.9%	-	70%	-	77.9%	70%	-
5. Number of reconciliation and memory/truth-telling initiatives supported by PAR	Quarterly	11	48	21	40	53%	80	100	80%
6. Number of public and private sector stakeholders funding PAR activities	Quarterly	197	178	23	100	23%	398	505	79%
7. Third Party Funds	Quarterly	██████	██████	██████	██████	██	██████	██████	██████
8. Local Organizational Capacity Assessment Score	Annually	2.4	3.1	-	3.0	-	2.7	3.3	N/A
9. Value of Reconciliation Index	BL, MT, FE	52	-	-	N/A	-	52	54.6	-
10. Value of Transformative Partnership Index	BL, MT, FE	68	-	-	N/A	-	68	TBD	-

BL: Baseline
MT: Midterm assessment
FE: Final Evaluation

PAR in numbers

YEAR THREE - Quarter One

Indicator 3: Awareness and mobilization actions

Y1	Y2	Y3Q1	Year Three Goal	Year Three Progress
140	336	87	228	38%



PAR carried out awareness and mobilization activities with 26 projects in 18 municipalities, generating encounters between Program participants to promote processes of reflection around reconciliation. Activities included training, experience exchanges, corporate volunteering events, sports events, memory building, and arts and cultural activities, among others.

Indicator 5: Reconciliation Initiatives

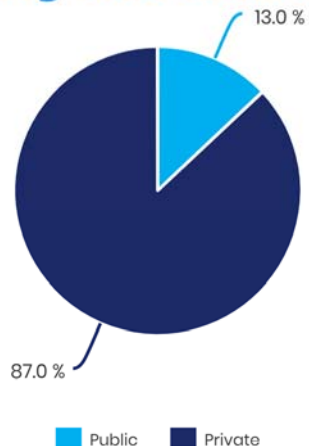
Y1	Y2	Y3Q1	Year Three Goal	Year Three Progress
11	19	21	40	53%

This quarter, PAR concluded 14 local reconciliation initiatives, 6 truth and memory initiatives, and 1 local reconciliation and memory initiative, such as the commemoration of the banana workers massacre in Ciénega; strengthening reconciliation, participation and destigmatization of young people in Cartagena through inclusive productive initiatives; promoting new narratives and generating opportunities for economic and social inclusion of 250 rural farmers from Florencia; developing a music therapy model based on vocal practice and choral groups in Cartagena del Chaira and San Vicente del Caguán.

Indicator 6: stakeholders

Y1	Y2	Y3Q1	Year Three Goal	Year Three Progress
197	178	23	100	23%

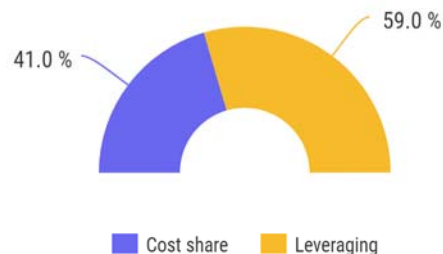
23 new stakeholders funding PAR activities



Indicator 7: Funds Committed

Y1	Y2	Y3Q1	Year Three Goal	Year Three Progress
USD\$23.7M	USD\$13.9M	USD\$587K	USD\$ 11M	5%

USD\$ 587,490



During the first quarter of Year Three, the indicator for committed funds contributed to the development of various activities in PAR intervention departments. Of the total funds, costshare reached a value of US \$239,296 and leveraged funds reached \$348,194.

The Program's total progress for this indicator is 95.6%.



ANNEX 3: SUCCESS STORY

The programming school teaches problem solving and promotes social cohesion in Quibdó

Bent over, with a furrowed brow, Jimmy Garcia helps a nine-year-old boy attach intricate-looking wiring into a breadboard. A handful of other kids and teens are spread about a classroom, sharing floorspace and desktops with their own projects. At the Escuela de Robótica, kids do not hover over phones or tablets, swiping absentmindedly through social media posts, they are using their hands and brains to create basic programs.



The Escuela de Robótica provides a safe space for at-risk youth to learn problem solving skills.

██████████ a 36-year-old systems engineer from Quibdó, founded the Escuela de Robótica after identifying a lack of after school educational spaces for young people and an overall lack of problem-solving skills in the community. The school represents a safe space for youth, living in marginalized neighborhoods, who are at-risk of falling into violence and crime.

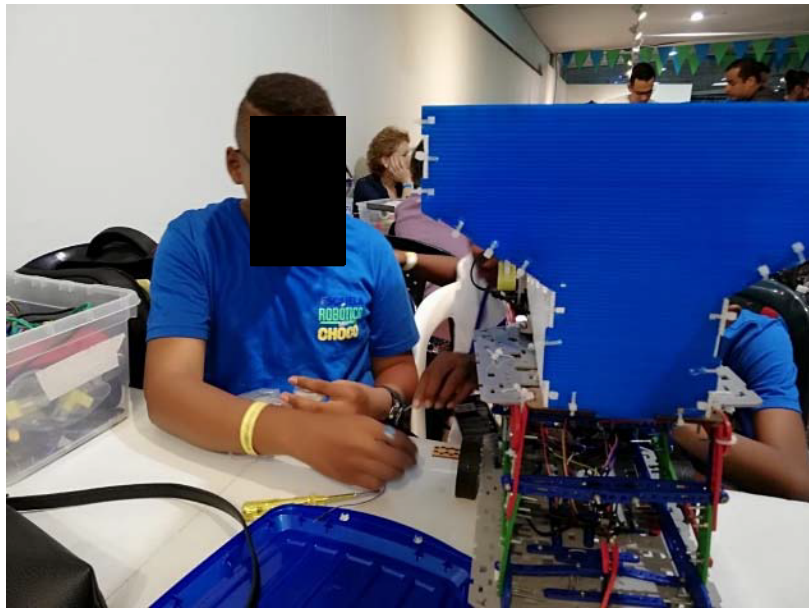
“We are trying to empower the community to learn how to solve problems locally. People in Chocó often complain that the government is not doing enough for them. If there’s a problem, they wait for help or resources, so we’re trying to change that.” – ██████████ Escuela de

Robótica founder

In the Colombian Pacific region, where economic opportunities are scarce, and decades of armed conflict and gang activity have left behind low levels of trust within communities, the school is an important vehicle for equipping young people with skills that will boost their chances of staying in school and accessing job opportunities in the future. The Escuela de Robótica uses technology to ignite curiosity in children and youth, motivating them to exercise problem-solving skills and develop a love for science and technology. USAID's Program of Alliances for Reconciliation (PAR) is supporting the school with equipment and resources, as well as organizational planning to ensure its sustainability.

Using PAR's DecidoSer reconciliation activities, the school is also a place where the young participants improve capacities to promote reconciliation in their communities. They learn about teamwork, nonviolent communication, respect and tolerance for others.

This quarter, the school achieved an important milestone, coming in third in the junior category at the robotics national finals in Medellín. This achievement won the team a place at the world championships of robotics tournament RoboRAVE in China in May 2019. Garcia says that winning a place in the international finals is not only an important confidence boost for the kids, but also helps to create new narratives about people from the region.



A participant from the robotics school in Quibdó builds a robot at the national championships.

“This achievement has broken a mental barrier for the kids. It helps them see that even though they’re from a vulnerable area, they are able to build something that can change their situations and improve their lives. It’s also important to change the narrative about Afro-Colombians, so others can see that people from Chocó are capable of great things.” – [REDACTED]

In another major accomplishment this quarter, the Escuela de Robótica was among 10 ventures selected by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism to take part in the government's plan to boost entrepreneurial initiatives. The program will include technical training, business assessment, and development support.