



**YOUTH REINTEGRATION INTO SOCIETY:
A COMMUNITY-BASED, NARRATIVE
APPROACH TOWARDS MENTAL HEALTH.**

INTRODUCTION

Children Change Colombia would like to request your support for this project that provides a novel community-based narrative approach to psychosocial care, trauma and reintegration that would help children and young people (CYP) at risk of joining gangs and young people formerly associated with armed groups to gain access to the resources and skills they need to deal with a variety of traumatic situations and stigmas. The purpose of this project is that CYP enhance positive bonds within the community and change situations of vulnerability and criminality through the use of narratives of resilience, creating protective and healing environments.

The project is implemented in collaboration with two local partner organizations that we have been working with us for 10 years: Tiempo de Juego (TDJ) and Centro para el Reintegro y Atención al Niño - Center for reintegration and child care- (CRAN).





THE PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED

According to the National Center for Historical Memory (Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica), the dimension of CYP recruitment is such that, from 1958 to 2020, more than 17,860 minors have been recruited by armed groups. Regarding CYP at risk of joining criminal activities, according to the Colombian Social Services in the last 5 years over 15,000 children and young people (between the ages of 14 and 17) have gone through restoration of rights facilities in Colombia.

A report from the command of the Armed Forces of Colombia indicates that last year 411 children and adolescents were recovered from illegal groups that had conscripted them into their ranks. Most of the children who leave the armed groups join the programs of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar ICBF). In 2018 180 did and in 2019, 196. In the first semester of 2020, the ICBF program already registered 219 demobilized CYP.

Violence and poverty in Colombia have led to thousands of CYP being recruited into armed groups, while many others remain involved in other criminal activities. Many children have had to undergo formal demobilisation programmes or endure detention in the juvenile system. The problem arises when approaching the CYP's mental health. The latest analysis of mental health in Colombia (2020), based on the data from the Individual Registries of Provision of RIPS services, shows a high demand for services related to mental and behavioural healthcare, with an increase over the years. Exposure to violence has resulted in adverse effects on the mental health of CYP, particularly relating to trauma and reintegration into society, where stigma has worsened their mental health.



Click to watch the video "Infancia Reclutada"



Minors recruited by armed groups from 1958 to 2020



CYP (between the ages of 14 and 17) have gone through juvenile detention in Colombia in the last five years.



Children recovered from illegal groups in 2020

The vast majority of these children and young people have been disproportionately affected by violence, poverty and exclusion which has left them more likely to be exposed to health disparities with already limited access to mental and physical health services.

They come from the most marginalised neighbourhoods and regions in Colombia where children often suffer neglect, intra-familial violence, and lack a support network within their family or community. These risk factors and the exposure to such dangerous and violent events has resulted in several adverse effects on the physical and mental health outcomes of these CYP, particularly relating to trauma and their reintegration into civilian life where stigma and discrimination have worsened their mental health and wellbeing. It is claimed that “youth who are both victimized, and delinquent have more adversities, lower levels of social support and higher rates of mental health symptoms”.

Psychologically, children in this situation lose their childhood, and lose their possibilities of recreation, study, and family time. Additionally, the reintegration process of CYP is marked by fear, mistrust, anguish, dread, difficulty in assuming new challenges, loss of autonomy and other challenges that affect their behaviour and mental health. This is due to their uncertainty towards an unknown environment, as they have never been fully integrated into their communities. Many of these young people also have severe substance abuse problems and emotional instability which began before entering the institutional programmes. Furthermore, from our experience, CYP that are part of these institutional programmes for reintegration and rehabilitation can experience new traumas resulting from the social exclusion they face. CYP often feel displaced, uprooted and isolated which can cause emotional crises, anxiety and depression.

Most Colombians have been scarred one way or another by the conflict and violence; having been recruited or involved in criminal activities as minors, children formerly associated with armed groups and CYP involved in criminal activities or are at risk to do so, are also victims of this violence, but many people, including their families, either do not understand or do not accept this which creates hostile environments and stigma towards these CYP.

Interventions tend to be centred around addressing the individual effects of trauma through clinical intervention. Current proposals for the development of mental health care for these CYP at risk of joining criminal activities and CYP formerly involved in armed groups focus on interventions where the child is a passive subject of (medical) care without being encouraged to fully recognise their own voice and taking into account their individual experiences. Furthermore, preparation for adult life and reintegration into society is limited to training personal employability skills and creating an individual life plan.

As a result, little attention is given to community-based interventions and the importance of promoting safe and protective community environments. Our community approach aims to reframe narratives of trauma and stigma through the production and dissemination of audio-visual content made by the CYP. It also aims to build protective and safe environments where adults are responsible for ensuring long term healing and wellbeing.



PROJECT LOCATION



Bogotá: 20% of all young people in the Colombian penal system are located in Bogotá, followed by other large urban centres. Many are from single-parent families and assumed the role of ‘provider’ from a young age; exclusion from the formal labour market led to their involvement in gangs and petty crime to make the money their family needed. Many of these young people also have severe substance abuse problems, which began before entering the institutions but continue within them.

While Social Services guidelines stipulate that psychosocial support should be provided to young people during their time in detention, there is no specific programme in place for delivering this support.

As detention and residential care centres for CYP at risk are run by private operators, the approach to and quality of support varies widely. The complexities of young people’s mental health and substance abuse issues mean that much of the time in these centres, the staff’s focus is on maintaining order and so little to no attention is given to psychosocial support or life skills-building activities. Our partner Tiempo de Juego (TDJ) has found that when young people reach the end of their time within the centres, they are not equipped with the socio-emotional skills, the confidence, the knowledge or the support networks they require in order to build a safe, crime and drug-free future for themselves in society.

Department of Meta (Restrepo and Villavicencio): According to the government Unit of Victims (Únidad de Víctimas), throughout the country there were 7,799 children and adolescents associated with activities related to armed groups as of December 31, 2020.

Paramilitary groups or BACRIM (criminal bands in Spanish) dominate neighbourhoods and different municipalities of Meta (Villavicencio, Vistahermosa, Granada) and threaten the local communities. They use pamphlets, make direct threats, make public accusations, and in the most severe cases murder the local people. The new paramilitary groups and guerrilla currently recruit boys and girls and young people in the Department of Meta.

CCC'S WORK

We are Children Change Colombia (CCC), a UK registered charity with 30 years' experience **defending and protecting the rights of children in Colombia and strengthening local organisations**. We work with local children's organisations to protect the children who are at risk of the most neglected issues such as forced recruitment and sexual exploitation.

CCC has extensive experience in monitoring and evaluation and has been working to ensure that our partners become stronger, more effective and implement sustainable projects. As an organization, we provide our partners with training and support that enables them to enhance their work and access funding from other sources. We do this thanks to the presence of a permanent Project Director and Finance Coordinator in Colombia, who support our partners in areas such as child protection, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. We are a member of networks in Colombia and abroad which work with children, encouraging cooperation between partners and others, and accompanying partners in engaging with state and non-state agencies. These efforts have the potential to strengthen the work of our partners, raise awareness, and promote changes in policies and practices in order to support children and bring about long-lasting change.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROJECT

This novel proposal will be carried out in partnership with two local partner organisations that we have been working with for 10 years, Tiempo de Juego (TDJ) and CRAN. They both have around fourteen years of experience of working with CYP formerly involved with armed groups and CYP that have gone and are at risk of going through juvenile detention within the formal reintegration and rehabilitation programmes of the Colombian Social Services, the Juvenile Detention Centres and the Centres of Restoration of Rights. This partnership consolidates a team that understands the mental health needs of young victims of conflict, violence, and economic scarcity. Therefore, our team of professionals is capable of developing, testing and redefining this innovative project that improves the mental health and wellbeing of CYP in juvenile and demobilised centres by consolidating their protective environments and using resignification narratives to overcome trauma and stigma.



TIEMPO DE JUEGO

TDJ is a Colombian NGO that promotes community transformation through sports, arts and technology to enhance the capacities of CYP, inspiring them to become agents of change. TDJ is an expert in developing children and young people's life skills through play and promoting youth leadership within some of the most disadvantaged and violent communities in Colombia.

Children Change Colombia has been a partner of TDJ since 2012. This 9 year relationship has contributed to the lives of thousands of children in Colombia. Since 2017, we have been working together specifically on the topic of reducing the risk of CYP to be involved in gangs and criminal groups.

SCOPE OF WORK

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Technology | Construction of a life project through the development of skills, which corresponds to the challenges of current educational environments. |
| Sports | Promotion of healthy habits and lifestyles through physical activity. |
| Arts | Participation spaces for understanding the world in a creative, emotional and peaceful way. |

In 2017, we worked with a juvenile detention centre and a residential care facility in Bogotá with gang-involved girls and their families. This project was based on the lessons we learnt about the needs and opportunities for young people within the Juvenile Justice System. The project, 'Youth Leadership and Protective Families: Preventing and Reducing the Risks of Women in Gangs', was developed in different areas of Bogotá: localities 8 and 19 (Kennedy and Ciudad Bolívar). It saw the participation of 235 adolescent and young women from juvenile justice detention centres (SDA and IPSICOL, formerly HOFLA), 196 young children of families and 173 parents and caregivers.

The project aimed to prepare young people, specifically girls, leaving care and detention with the necessary practical skills and emotional resilience to help them heal from the trauma they experienced, and to support them in their return to their families and communities.

We also aimed to reduce the risk of young people falling into patterns of violence, drug addiction, or crime when they reached the end of their time within the facilities.

From 2020 to 2021 we implemented another project also including young men. In summary, the project saw the participation of 164 adolescents and youth in the three institutions - 68 girls and 96 boys - which participated in several activities focused on preparing them for a safe and fulfilling return to their families and communities.



CRAN (CENTER FOR REINTEGRATION AND CHILD CARE)

CRAN is an NGO that helps children and adolescents grow up in a loving and caring family that allows them to exercise their rights.

They welcome adolescents and young victims that have been involved in armed conflict and come from different regions of the country. In Bogotá, these CYP live with a foster family that provides them with a nurturing and protective environment in which they can restore their rights.

For the care and support processes, adolescents and foster care homes have the support of the Foundation's interdisciplinary technical

team that specialises in areas such as psychology, social work and nutrition.

Their objectives are aligned with how young people can rebuild their formal and informal ties with society and give a new meaning to their experiences so they can redefine their life pathways.

We have worked with CRAN since 2014, supporting them to develop and run an enhanced version of the Colombian Social Services' fostering programme for reintegrating and rehabilitating children formerly associated with armed groups. CRAN is one of 8 Colombian NGOs operating this programme across the country.

In 2017, CCC worked alongside CRAN to develop a two year project which aimed to facilitate the social inclusion of young people who are disengaged and at risk of involvement in illegal armed groups during their transition to autonomous adult life. The project focused on the prevention of recruitment into illegal armed groups and reintegration into society.

In 2020 and 2021, CRAN in partnership with CCC provided a series of workshops for 47 children formerly associated with armed groups in the cities of Bogotá and Villavicencio. Sessions were held in small groups and through virtual platforms such as Zoom, phone calls and WhatsApp. CRAN met with each group monthly and managed to speak to each child involved in the programme on average twice a month.

Through developing socio-emotional skills, they have prepared CYP to navigate their reintegration into their families and community. The experience included learning strategies to cope with rejection and stigma from their local communities, and to confront risks of violence both within and outside of their family. An important part of our experience is training families and adults to build protective and safe environments for the children.

The professionals who are part of the team are trained in human rights and child rights protection, gender, positive discipline, care theory, capacity building, trust-based relational intervention and the systemic approach.

CRAN also collaborated with two local organisations working in Bosa, Soacha and Villavicencio and with a rural school in Restrepo, all areas that have been characterized by a high presence of armed groups in Colombia.

CRAN provided them with their own model to prevent the violation of children's rights and establish safe and protective environments for children. This model is a preventative approach based on the empowerment of adults and the preparation of children for social integration through teaching and developing socio-emotional and life skills.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will provide community-based intensive training to develop socio-emotional skills, combined with psychosocial support to groups of demobilised children and children at risk of joining gangs of being involved in criminal activities, their families, and institutions in order to change the narratives of violence, trauma, crime, drugs and gender roles. It also aims to mobilise families and community resources to enhance positive bonds between the community and the CYP to prevent the isolation that can be caused by stigma.

The meaningful support from families and communities is essential as they are the first port of call for emotional support and they help promote wellbeing and positive mental health in children's lives. This systemic approach will allow children to regain a sense of safety and heal their social and emotional wounds. The aim is to integrate a model of narrative therapy through the production of content by the young people. This is in order to externalise traumatic situations that generate distress and encourage the construction of 'alternative-life' narratives, which go beyond traumatic experiences and those related to crime. In the implementation of the project, audiovisual art and production will be used as ways of dissemination, such as podcast and radio. Further, these are available tools in the majority of communities with the potential to raise awareness among different stakeholders (families, professionals, public and private entities, home communities, among others) to overcome stigma.

Additionally, the use of new technologies provides useful and relevant tools and skills for these young people looking to enter the labour market. Furthermore, although it is not formal education, the project seeks to continue the cognitive development of adolescents, with an emphasis on their socio-emotional development.

WORK WITH CYP AND COMMUNITIES

On one hand, the project includes adults (at the familial and community levels) as the main guarantors of children's rights, which leads to the creation of protective environments and guarantees the long term well-being and healing of the young people. On the other hand, it gives prominence to the 'voice' of the children and young people by both acknowledging and resignifying their life experiences, giving a new meaning to their traumas and difficulties as a whole.

An important element of our proposal is the inclusion and participation of young people that have gone through institutional programmes in leadership roles at different phases of the project. The community narrative approach seeks to strengthen and broaden community spaces where children and young people can actively participate and be recognised within the community. Our project seeks to put children and young people at the centre of the debate to promote inclusive dialogues and improve practices around mental health.

Both components of the project build a system that enables the overcoming and management of traumatic experiences that could compromise the mental health of the children and young people in the future. Some of these situations include social exclusion and stigmatisation, which can even lead to involved themselves in criminal activities and/or reintegration into illegal armed groups.

This proposal is designed based on the experiences and voices of children and young people that have

been part of demobilisation and are at risk of participating in criminal activities and/or are part of centres of restoration of rights.

It is planned that a delegation of young people participating in the project will be involved in its planning and particularly the evaluation phases of the three year project. Our approach seeks to ensure that the young people will be in charge of evaluating the activities and the results of the project. For this, we will create spaces for ongoing feedback.

| PROJECT BENEFICIARIES | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | CRAN | | TDJ | |
| | ANNUAL | TOTAL | ANNUAL | TOTAL |
| CYP | 50 | 150 | 100 | 300 |
| CYP AT RISK | 100 | 300 | NA | NA |
| TOTAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 750 | | | | |
| CARERS (FAMILY MEMENERS) | 70 | 210 | 40 | 120 |
| CARERS (STAFF) | 30 | 90 | 25 | 75 |
| TOTAL ADULTS 495 | | | | |

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The project will assess the current mental health and wellbeing of the 750 young participants (300 on the side of TDJ and 450 on CRAN's). The beneficiaries are based in CRAN centres in Bogotá and Villavicencio and three centres for restoration of rights in Bogotá.

Each centre will have a list of professionals that will be trained on a novel community-based narrative approach to psychosocial care, trauma, and reintegration. Among the professionals there will be a Mental Health specialist, a psychosocial professional, a community operator and various facilitators in the field to develop sessions and events related to the project. During the 36 months of the project, these professionals will work on promoting protective environments with the children, their families and the communities. Protective environments are built through the development of the children's rights, guaranteed by caring adults who help to heal, learn, and grow.

For this project, we want to use the production and dissemination of audiovisual content as a way to destigmatize children and young people formerly involved with armed groups.

To do so, psychosocial sessions will be conducted with CYP in CRAN demobilized centres and CYP in the centres of restoration of rights, related to life skills, emotion management and acknowledgement of themselves as rights holders in Bogotá (eight sessions) and Villavicencio (six sessions) carried out by our project partner CRAN. The project also aims for young participants to strengthen leadership abilities through positive leadership sessions (four in Bogotá and two in Villavicencio).

We acknowledge that the role of family members and carers is crucial to enhance mental health and safe environments within centres, homes and communities. Therefore, the project aims for carers (family members) to improve their wellbeing with psychosocial support activities. There will be three annual training sessions for **caregivers** in Bogotá, two annual training sessions for caregivers in Villavicencio, three annual training sessions for **families** in Bogotá and two annual training sessions for families in Villavicencio respectively. On the same line, sessions with key public and private organizations and local leaders that promote social inclusion of CYP of joining criminal activities and CYP formerly involved in armed groups are crucial for the development of the project. As such, two annual sessions with these entities will be carried out both in Bogotá and Villavicencio.

Similarly, four annual psychosocial sessions will be conducted with CYP in juvenile justice and youth demobilized centres related to life skills, emotion management and acknowledgement of themselves as rights holders by our project partner TDJ. Through Labzuca, Tiempo de Juego's creative lab, we will run workshops on audiovisual production and the production of radio content. We chose the production of audiovisual content taking into account that it is a popular tool that attracts and engages children and young people to work as a group.

Likewise, sessions of audiovisual production, writing production and radio/podcast production will be carried throughout the project, having three sessions of each every year.

The communications training will be structured as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Written communication | Creative writing exercises, introduction to investigative journalism, and discussions about the professional ethics involved with journalism. |
| Radio/podcast Audio Production | Workshops on production tools involved in radio, exploring different genres and methods of broadcasting, identifying the tools necessary to develop a local radio in their regions. |
| Audio-visual Production | Audio-visual genres for teenagers that include tools involved in audio-visual productions (cameras, microphones, lighting). Each centre will create its own production, and the young people will receive training in editing their audio-visual productions. |

Two positive leadership training sessions will be carried out annually. Equally, two annual sessions of activities in which **families** are trained to improve their wellbeing and reduce stigma will be carried out alongside with two annual sessions of activities in which **caregivers** are trained to create and strengthen their wellbeing and reduce stigma.

Furthermore, at the end of each year of the project, an analysis workshop will be held with the young people, during which their life stories will be collected, showing the participants' perception of their healing and reintegration process during the project. Closing each year, the participants will see their work published in *El Observador Académico* online media. The most outstanding pieces will also have a chance to be published in other media.

The project also incorporates young people as part of the staff and provides a youth-friendly approach, building on feedback from other young people that lived through similar experiences in juvenile and demobilized centres, and have taken part in similar processes. Plus, the feedback from this group will be used to further improve planning and implementation for future projects.

Ultimately, there will be a final project event where participants can exchange their experiences, in which key institutional actors related to the care of this CYP will be present. This event will feature the participation of all the sectors that contribute to the development of the children and young people and community strengthening. The young people participating in the project will be the ones to choose the themes and then present them at the event.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

To support and accompany CYP at risk of joining criminal activities and CYP formerly involved with illegal armed groups in the consolidation of their protective environments, with the possibility of using resignification narratives to overcome trauma and stigma, in the pursuit of their improved mental health and wellbeing.

THE OVERALL OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES ARE:

To improve mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) in centres of restoration of rights and centres of demobilization by offering them resignification narrative tools to overcome the trauma caused by their experiences related to illegal armed groups and crime.

To strengthen the knowledge of children and young people (CYP), families and communities related to CYP at risk of joining criminal activities and CYP formerly involved with illegal armed groups to consolidate protective environments that reduce the stigma of these specific young groups, and to prevent recidivism and re-recruitment.

INDICATORS FOR 2024

80%

of the young participants are aware of the changes in their narratives regarding the period of criminal activities or forced recruitment

75%

of carers (family members) improve their wellbeing with psychosocial support

75%

of the young participants perceive the strengthening of positive leadership abilities

80%

of caregivers (staff) that enhance their stress levels and emotional health with the psychosocial support provided in the protective environments

70%

of CYP that participated in the program improved their mental health and wellbeing.

6

At least 6 public/private organizations promote protective environments and work towards stigma reduction of the CYP at risk and CYP formerly involved with armed groups

6

CYP trained as young leaders (2nd and 3rd year)

300

CYP at risk participated in activities to prevent forced recruitment and involvement in criminal activities.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

Our approach seeks to use technology which traditionally increases gaps in access to certain services to promote and improve the mental health of children at risk of joining criminal activities and CYP formerly involved with armed groups through the development of different skills. The method, which focuses on the production and dissemination of audiovisual content, seeks to integrate three key elements so that the project can have an impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It will promote the involvement of two communities: firstly, the community within the restoration of rights facilities and demobilised centres, which includes young people, professionals and staff, amongst others. Secondly, the receiving communities (families, public and private sector) which are essential to promote durable solutions. The production of content created by the children and young people aims to reframe their narratives and will contribute to overcoming stigma.

POLICY-MAKER ENGAGEMENT

The content produced during the project will have a dissemination plan to reach key institutional actors involved in the public policy-making related to demobilised children and children at risk of joining criminal activities; institutions will have direct feedback from the young beneficiaries.

INTEGRATION WITHIN EXISTING PLATFORMS

Training in content production has the advantage of having easy and fast dissemination channels such as social media. It is sought that the young people who are part of our project can be promoters of mental health issues through the responsible dissemination of content within their communities. *El Observador* (digital newspaper) will be used as a digital platform to host the content produced, and be the main dissemination platform for other relevant actors.



MONITORING & EVALUATION

Children Change Colombia has been working with local partners in Colombia for several years, and we have put reporting and administration systems in place during that time which will enable us to track expenditure and impact. Our partners report to us biannually on activities, finance and achievements. The partners will use different tools to monitor progress against a set of clearly defined process and activity indicators, relevant to the outcomes specified above. We also have a Project Director and Finance Coordinator based in Colombia who will oversee the work, visit on a regular basis, offer technical and financial support, and advise on any issues that arise.

CASE STUDY: TDJ YOUNG LEADERS



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SCALE UP PLAN

Firstly, the strategy for upscaling our innovation will be based on dissemination and advocacy, meaning we will promote this innovation through interpersonal communication, mass media, and policy dialogues, but also through training and technical assistance during the implementation of the project.

The second stage of the upscaling strategy is the integration of new partners. Our project involves working closely with different strategic actors that could potentially continue and replicate the project or parts of it, such as the Colombian Social Services, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Justice, the Agency for Reincorporation and Standardization (ARN) and the Ministry of the Interior, through the National Youth System - led by young people to create and monitor public policies concerning youth. Also, we will work to involve the private sector that focuses on social inclusion and mental health.

Having public and private entities witnessing and reviewing the successful ideas is crucial in order to encourage external collaborations in the future. The integration, involvement and feedback of different stakeholders is vital to understanding what can and cannot be compromised when scaling up a project. Part of our work as non-profit organisations is to enable proactive collaboration among professionals, institutional authorities and the community in general by sharing valuable information, experiences, advice and knowledge that could lead to long-term and sustainable programmes. In the public and private sector, decision-making can be based on a variety of available information sources, including advice and information from people who have implemented successful programmes.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

To guarantee the sustainability of the project, workshops and events will be conducted with the private and public sector to present the results of the novel community-based narrative approach to psychosocial care. The sustainable nature of the project will be even greater, as this approach will be shared with psychosocial support teams that already work with the government program for family wellbeing and children's rights. In this way, the lessons learnt could be replicated in other restoration of rights facilities and youth demobilized centres in the country, adding further value for both stakeholders and the wider community.

Environmental Responsibility: The organisations working on this initiative have had previous agreements with the Colombian Social Services (ICBF). The ICBF provides their operators with an operating license once they have complied with the health requirements and with the design and implementation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The EMP was designed to promote environmentally friendly practices for the workplace (e.g., to recycle material, to disincentive the use of plastic over reusable materials, to recycle paper and other materials, to encourage carpooling, public transportation, and bike riding to work, among others) that comply with the current environmental legislation. The above aim to prevent contamination and control the environmental aspects related to the generation of waste and the consumption of resources such as water, energy and paper, taking the stakeholders into consideration, and by doing so, contributing to the wellbeing of children and young people.

Gender Equality: The initiative integrates an inclusive and differential approach (referring to ethnicity, gender, sexual diversity, etc.) right from its conception, and also in the design of the project's strategies and activities. It takes into consideration that some of the project's participants are young demobilised women, or at risk of recruitment by illegal armed groups, and that this condition makes them more vulnerable to stigmatisation during their reintegration process to society. Therefore, gender equality is manifested in our programme, allowing each young woman to strengthen their self esteem and the necessary self-recognition, which may enable them to actively participate in the processes of resignification, healing and the creation of new life narratives.

Human Rights and Inclusion: The three organisations in this joint project develop the children rights' approach, an integral part of human rights, which considers children and young people as subjects whose rights should be protected and guaranteed in an integral and prevalent manner. These principles are present transversally throughout this initiative, as the result of the recognition of necessities presented by children and young people that have gone through processes of demobilisation and restoration of rights in the last 10 years. The children rights' approach is also oriented towards the consolidation of an improved environment, for the reintegration and social inclusion of CYP that have been removed from their home environments and that have endured personal development stages in places where their rights have been repeatedly violated. This is all aggravated by the stigma and prejudice faced by CYP in new spaces of socialisation, in which the surrounding communities need to be trained and sensitized in the children rights' approach, and consequently, in human rights and inclusion as well. The organisations also have experience in training communities in the mentioned subjects.

THANK YOU!

For more information and further queries please
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