

The Lutheran World Federation

Department for World Service

Colombia Program

Promotion of Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Actions in Colombia

Annual Report 2012





The Lutheran World Federation

The Lutheran World Federation - LWF is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF now has 145 member churches in 79 countries all over the world representing 70.5 million Christians. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of common interest, such as communication, ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, international affairs, human rights, and various aspects of mission and development work. The location of the General Secretariat is in the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva (Switzerland) which ensures close cooperation with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and other world Christian communions as well as secular international organizations.

Department for World Service

For over sixty years the DWS has responded to the needs of peoples affected by natural or man-made disasters. Special attention is given to internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees, victims of conflicts, droughts, floods, hurricanes and earthquakes. DWS reaches out to everyone with the belief that all people are created with an equal set of rights regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality or political conviction. With its presence in more than 30 countries, DWS is part of a global network that assists in situations of emergency, rehabilitation and sustainable development. These are fundamental steps to ensure that communities can once again reconstruct their lives.

Members of

ACT Alliance

ACT International and ACT Development merged as of January 1st, 2010, into one single organization called ACT Alliance, one of the biggest humanitarian world alliances of the world. ACT is an alliance of churches and faith based organizations working together in order to eradicate poverty, injustice and human rights abuses. It is made up of over 130 organizations and churches working in more than 140 countries worldwide.



The Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service Colombia Program

Carrera 22, No. 40-07 Bogotá, Colombia
Telefax +57 1 323 0707 / 338 1196
E-mail: programacolombia@lwfcolombia.org.co
www.lwfcolumbia.org.co

The Lutheran World Federation (Headquarter) Department for World Service

Ecumenical Centre, Route de Ferney 150
PO Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Suiza
Tel: +41 227916522/ Fax: +41 227916629
www.lutheranworld.org



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION
DEPARTMENT FOR WORLD SERVICE
Colombia Program

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Strategic Approaches

Integrated approach. The articulation of technical actions with organizational and community strengthening towards technical and social sustainability.

Differential (gender and ethnicity). The LWF/DWS is interested particularly in promoting and demanding the rights of women, afro-descendants and indigenous people, as well as playing a role in the construction of peace and development alternatives. The LWF/DWS aims to contribute to their empowerment as full subjects of rights.

Rights based Approach (RBA). The conscious reference to the norms of Human Rights and their objectives helps to ensure that root causes of poverty and exclusion are properly addressed in the formulation and implementation of development programs, and avoids that exclusive technical objectives become references for development activities.

Construction of peace. All LWF/DWS actions in Colombia aim ultimately at contributing to the construction of peace through the promotion of human dignity, diversity, tolerance, and social justice as response to the existing conflicts.

The Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service in Colombia

As of 2010 the LWF/DWS is implementing the program Promotion of Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Actions in Colombia 2010-2015.

Our Mission

To accompany and to strengthen the vulnerable Colombian population affected by the armed conflict, by violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and by natural disasters through a service inspired by Christian diakonia and based on the humanitarian imperatives.

Our objectives

Human rights and peace: To support actions of enforceability and advocacy for human rights and their levels of repercussion at regional, national and international levels.

Sustainable livelihoods: To increase the capacity of urban and rural vulnerable communities to face serious threats to their dignity and to defend and promote their sustainable livelihoods.

Emergency response and disaster risk management: To empower vulnerable communities in areas of work of the LWF in their capacity to deal with the armed conflict and/or natural disasters

Promotion of Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Actions in Colombia 2010-2015



The Colombia Program of the Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service closes in 2012 the first three years of implementation of the Country Strategy **“Promotion of Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Actions in Colombia 2010-2015”**. And in this framework, in May 2012, was carried out a mid-term external evaluation that recognized the relevance of the focused areas for our work - Arauca, Chocó and Cundinamarca – and the advances in the positioning of the LWF by practicing its methodology based on relationship and support to the partners and on the direct implementation of emergency and development projects with communities, some of them doubly affected by the armed conflict and by the floods.

In June 2012, the LWF Council met in Bogotá, and representatives from all over the world made a public

statement, which reaffirms the actions of World Service Program as a response of solidarity and support to the victims of an armed conflict that is lasting more than 60 years, involving different armed groups, drug trafficking and causing violations of human rights. This war has left more than 600,000 dead and 15,000 missing. One of every ten Colombians - more than 4.5 million people - has been forced to leave his or her home.

In this Declaration, the Council of the LWF recognizes that *those most severely affected by the violence and social injustice have been women, children, indigenous people and Afro-Colombians. And also claims that a just and lasting peace in Colombia must be based on the principle that every Colombian citizen should have the opportunity to participate in the peace-building process, not only the Government officials or representatives of the armed groups.*

The process of peace-building should be done in both directions: from the highest level to bases, as well as the from the bottom level upwards. To achieve peace, a change in mentality has to take place: instead of images of violence, the imagery of the dialogue should be used.

In a very appropriate time, the meeting of the LWF Council in Colombia has helped to make visible the humanitarian crisis affecting the Colombian people and to renew the commitment to continue supporting the work of our program in the future. In August 2012, the President of the Republic Mr. Juan Manuel Santos announced the intention of the Government to start dialogues with the guerrillas of the FARC to seek a negotiated solution to the end of the armed conflict.

Finally, the dialogues began in November in Havana, Cuba, but still without the necessary participation of representatives of the civil society able to express themselves in favor of the victims.

As a matter of fact, the dialogues for peace have not yet decreased the intensity of violence and military actions of the different legal and illegal armed actors in 2012, above all affecting the civilian population. And the increased militarization also became a source of countless violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Stigmatization, persecution and execution of leaders of social organizations and promoters and defenders of human rights, and forced displacement of the

civilian population have intensified in 2012 and with that also the humanitarian crisis, which needs to be made visible at national and international level, as well as increasing the attention to the victims.

This means in particular that it is not yet time for the international cooperation to leave Colombia, although the peace agreement might have been signed in due future. There is and there will be a need to continue working on the strengthening of civil society base organizations and vulnerable communities so they contribute in the future in the achievement of peace with justice.

Our gratitude goes to Church of Sweden, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, LWF German National Committee, and Governments cooperation (SIDA, ECHO, EU) and the United Nations system, for all the support received in 2012, and also to all the colleagues of the LWF/DSM CO team for their high level of commitment and professionalism. Thanks also to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia IELCO for all accompaniment and support. And not least, thanks to the communities and organizations with whom we have worked in 2012.

Fraternally,

Silvio Schneider
Country Representative



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Why do we work in Arauca

The construction of the Bicentennial Pipeline, with extension of 960 km ranging from Casanare to the Maritime Terminal of Covenas, and planned to transport 450,000 oil barrels per day, is currently the reason for the armed confrontation in the Department of Arauca. The Public Forces continue to focus on protecting the interests of oil companies and thus confront the illegal armed groups, which insist on attack the oil companies, and the roads and electric infrastructure, and the same Public Forces declared as military target. Though there is a decrease in the number of weapon contamination accidents, the use of improvised explosive devices remains one of the main modalities employed. The Lipa Lagoon, and the Rivers Caranal and Arauca have been seriously affected and contaminated by oil exploitation and the spill of crude oil caused by the attacks of the illegal armed groups, resulting in considerable damage to the environment.

In view of this situation, the Colombian Government opted for the deployment and increase of the military presence in Arauca, which has about 22,000 soldiers, according to a report of the Nuevo Arco Iris Foundation placing it as the most militarized Department across the country.

As a result the farmers' families are constantly harassed in areas of military confrontation, by invasion of militaries in their homes, and registration and photographic recording of the ID cards of peasants and themselves, and sometimes even bombing by the air force. Equally reasons for concern are the increasing number indiscriminate killings and kidnappings. The OBSAR Arauca of the Social Ministry of the Diocese recorded in 2012 a total of 139 victims. In 2011 they were 81 killed and 49 people were abducted, of which seven died apparently in captivity. In addition, Arauca is experiencing the reactivation of paramilitary forces, which through leaflets and radio announcements pushed what they call "social cleansing".

The State response to the victims is deficient, and the changes caused in the implementation of the law of victims have not favored access and recognition of their rights. In fact the threaten and affected population prefer to displace to the neighboring country, due to the lack of guarantees. The land registration question remains notorious and shows that displacement is directly related to the implementation of policies of consolidation of the territory. Most of the properties in Arauca have no titles but precarious te-

nure, so the population has no access to credit, social mobility and subsidies.

The accusations, threats, stigmatization and prosecution against social movements, especially against the leaders linked to processes of land restitution and Human Rights defenders are common. Women remain the population group with a high degree of vulnerability and exposure to the effects of the armed conflict, and indigenous communities are at risk of being extinguished, despite the Auto 382 of the Court constitutional that ordered special measures of protection for the ethnics Makaguán, Sikuaní and Hitnu, living in the Department.



Activities of our local partners in Arauca 2012



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Las Galaxias Agricultural Association (AAG)

The Association is a non-profit organization created in June 2008 with the support and accompaniment of the LWF in Arauca. Thanks to a process of organizational strengthening through exchange of knowledge, the Association has managed to widen its coverage and reaching 60 farmers of the Municipality of Tame. The Association is implementing productive initiatives that aim to make it possible for farmers to stay on their lands, and promoting dignity, self-protection, food security, peaceful togetherness and sustainability.

In 2012, the LWF supported the AAG's capacity of organic rice production for self consume and commercializing, and the strengthening of organizational capacities of the Directive Board and associates including administrative skills through several workshops and meetings.

With the achievements in 2012 the AAG was able to accomplish the practices of diversifying production, strengthening principles of actions, familiar sustainability, commercializing, and transition into organic agriculture, using appropriate technologies, and education focused on better organization and strengthening and growth of the AAG.

This initiative of the LWF aims at developing strategies articulated among its local partners in Arauca. As of April 2012, the Human Rights Foundation Joel Sierra - FD-HJS, the Regional Youth and Student Association - ASOJER, the Arauca Farmers Association - ACA, and the Standing Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, Chapter Arauca - CPDH are developing several activities which aim to contribute to the stay of Araucan communities in their territory affected by the social and political conflict, through a comprehensive strategy of protection and defense of their rights.



Project "Integral Protection for a Dignified and Sustainable Staying of Araucan Communities in their Territory"

Financed by SIDA, Swedish International Development Agency and Church of Sweden



In order to achieve this goal, the mentioned partners build **Mechanisms of Self-protection** through formative meetings, visits of support, advice and legal representation of cases, mine risk education and psychosocial support; with the participation of peasant communities, Presidents of Communal Boards, representatives of the different communities, youth and women leaders of the municipalities of Saravena, Arauquita, Fortul and Tame.

Furthermore, as a way to protect and defend the territory, the ACA is demanding the establishment of zones of peasants reserve in Arauca positioning this initiative at local, regional and national levels in partnership with the National Association of Peasant

Reserve – ANZORC. In this sense, this organization also conducted training meetings aimed at raising the awareness of farmers and collecting basic information for the preparation of its Alternative Development Plan.

Similarly, the implementation of productive initiatives by the partners promotes the sustainability of actions that bring them forward. As an example, the FD-HJS and ASOJER are managing a lithography that currently distributes printed materials of good quality in the municipality of Saravena. The ACA established a production system of organic co-

coa and the CPDH formed a fish micro-grid with five productive points for the breeding of cachama fishes. Each of these organizations has increased and strengthened their capacities in the management of financial resources, and they have made progress in the consolidation of its productive experiences business plans.

Finally, the social organizations increased their ability to impact and making visible the situation of life and how the communities in the Department of Arauca are affected by the socio-political conflict, through the dissemination of 37 press releases and reports, distri-

bution of 3000 newsletters and educational handbooks and participation in events of visibility of the situation of human rights at local and national levels, such as municipal and departmental forums, meetings with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, meetings with countries members of the European Union and agencies of the United Nations system, hearings and meetings to follow up on the measures of protection granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and events rescuing the historic memory of the region.

Other LWF Projects in Arauca 2012

Project "Arauca: Cultivating Peace amidst of the Conflict"

Financed by the European Union and the Church of Sweden



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From March 2010 to March 2013, the LWF supported by the Church of Sweden and in partnership with Humanidad Vigente and the National Secretariat of the Diocese Social Ministry implemented this project with participation of four rural communities located in the Municipalities of Tame and Fortul, and six indigenous communities affected by the armed conflict, four of them in displacement and two as receivers of IDPs. The project aims at strengthening the integration of different social actors for the promotion of human dignity and for contributing to overcome situations of socio-political violence from a participatory approach and thereby, contributing to the reduction of poverty and building peace in Arauca.

During 2012, it was completed the forming process on sovereignty and food security with four rural communities, and articulated ways for capacity building in the framework of the project in relation to the strengthening of self-esteem, the mechanisms of protection and self-protection, as well as non-violent resolution of conflicts. 599 people (296 men and 303 women) participated in these training courses. Activities and themes on the vocational training of sovereignty and food security were articulated and supplemented with the implementation and development

of demonstration plots, productive initiatives and exchanges of experience. After having completed the activities, the indigenous communities will have family production systems that include corn, plantain, cassava, sugar cane, cocoa and fruit trees.

One chapter of the television program "Contravía" was produced on the situation of the indigenous and peasant communities in the Department of Arauca, in particular of the indigenous community of "La Esperanza". The chapter will be transmitted in 2013 and can be seen on the internet, on the website of the LWF.

The project included also the support to communities and local organizations for the development of an agenda of political advocacy on matters related to human rights, the right to land and territory, and food sovereignty at local, national and international levels. In the framework of advocacy initiatives, various actions were carried out with the participation of indigenous representatives at the public hearing on national land restitution, convened by Permanent Campaign Land, Life and Dignity, and a visit to Washington in December in order to lobby before the United States Government and enter in dialogue with HHRR and indigenous peoples right defending organizations in order to make visible the situation of the indigenous communities in Arauca.



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Why do we work in Chocó

In Chocó remains a complex territorial dispute involving various actors. First of all is the Public Force, which is permanently increasing the number of troops and taking possession of strategic locations inside the collective territories and indigenous reservation. In second place are the illegal armed groups, who seek control of the territory due to the geographical position and mobility that provide the strategic routes to its troops and to drugs trafficking. Third and also very important are the multinationals mining companies, who adjusted to the national economic development strategy have their presence in the territory for: extraction of mineral resources, forest resources and the implementation of road infrastructure for mega-projects.

The dynamics in the actions and operations of each of these actors can be seen in many aspects related to the armed conflict such as military confrontations, bombing, confinements, threats, withholdings or murders that put at risk the indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, who work hard to stay and survive in their territories, while maintaining their traditions and customs.

For those reasons, there were several events related to the armed conflict, during 2012, such as at least 31 military actions, 41 attacks on civilians, 17 cases of accidents with anti-personnel mines and unexploded devices, and 9 killings. Indigenous communities were the mayor targets of acts against the civilian population in 2012, suffering 11 out of 17 actions, 9 out of 15 situations of confinements or mobility restrictions, threats and murders to leaders; health emergencies, and in addition the suicides problems presented in the Alto Baudó and the death of children due to nutritional problems - and food insecurity.

Similarly, there were reports on 17 cases of emergencies related to natural disasters, where approximately 70.822 people suffered from effects that increased the risk of communities due to the losses of seeds, destruction of homes, belongings and food sources. The constant floods generated by the increasing volume of water of the rivers due to the high rainfall of the region continued to be a constant threat since the families built their homes on the banks of the rivers, the beds of the rivers are diverted to facilitate the extraction of minerals (gold and Platinum), homes are

not built with strong base and the ceilings are not well secured, and in addition, the crops are established in the lowlands of the rivers which are prone to flooding.

In this Chocó context, only 23% of the affected population received humanitarian aid and accompaniment by the State agencies. The lack of attention increases with the distances and accesses to the affected zones, which increases costs of transportation. Therefore, the response is sometimes reduced to the assessment of needs, food deliverance and humanitarian aid to those affected people who are in the municipalities' head.



Activities of our local partners in Chocó 2012



Photo: Melissa Quintana

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Association of Women for a Life with Dignity and Solidarity - AMVDS

The Association of Women for a Life with Dignity and Solidarity was legally established in 2008 and is comprised of a group of Chocóan women heads of household, who carry out activities for the well-being of the communities of Quibdó. The Association is managing 5 productive projects which include 57 women, who are committed to the search for the well-being and development of the region and the construction of a new paradigm that values the role of women as leaders of economically sustainable projects.

In 2012, the LWF supported the Association in strengthening processes of social and political participation, aiming at reaching organizational maturity. The support was summarized to 4 local assemblies, 2 general assemblies, and 2 meetings with another women group (exchange of experiences). All the activities have contributed in keeping the organization alive and active, and with more awareness on their role and importance in the communities.

The objective of the Life, Justice and Peace Commission is the defense and promotion of life in all its expressions, as a first condition for the construction of a peace with social justice, the defense of Human Rights and the International Humanitarian Law, and the rights of the afro-descendant, indigenous and mestizo communities. The COVIJUPA provides support and assistance to those affected by the political violence and the armed conflict, by forced displacement, killings and disappearances.

In December 2012, the 8th Just and Solidarity Handicrafts Fair was carried out promoted by COVIJUPA, with the participation of 27 base groups integrated by victims affected by the armed conflict in Chocó. Year after year the Fair is contributing towards strengthening the women capacities and improving the levels of self-esteem of the participants and thus allowing them to recognize themselves as actors in the peace building process. At the same time, it allows visibility to grassroots groups in addition to show the works that are carried out with effort and dedication. And last but not least, it is generating resources for the improvement of the quality of life of all involved.

The Life, Justice and Peace Commission of the Social Ministry of the Diocese of Quibdó - COVIJUPA



Valle del Cauca Indigenous Governors Association - Pacific Region - ACIVA-RPP

The ACIVA-RP is integrated by 5 indigenous ethnics (Wounaan Nonam, Eperara Siapidara, Embera Chamí, Nasa and Ingas) who are settled in different zones of the Pacific region. ACIVA has 38 communities and its headquarter is in Buenaventura. In 2004, they created an extension in Quibdó, Department of Chocó, in order to represent the 12 communities located along the San Juan River.



The indigenous communities settled along the San Juan River have strengthened their food security through the production and consumption of sugar cane honey and by the implementation of a project for improving their capacity of brown sugar cane production for commercializing.

With support of the LWF, there were activities related to training and community guidance for the management of the machinery (pier and engine) and for the

process of milling, cooking and shaping of the honey until the brown sugar is obtained. The location of the mill allowed other 6 indigenous and Afro communities of the neighborhood to benefit by decreasing distances for transportation of raw materials to obtain the juice.

Middle San Juan Indigenous Governors Association JOOIN KIIRJUG

The Middle San Juan Indigenous Governors Association JOOIN KIIRJUG is integrated by 5 indigenous communities (Macedonia, Unión Wounaan, San Cristóbal, Olave Indio and Unión Chocó) of the Wounaan ethnics located on the heads of the Rivers Docordó, Bicordó and the Middle San Juan River zone.

The Board of Directors of the Association, along with the Governors, Secretaries and delegates of the 5 communities of the Organization, made visits to the territory in order to assess and track the status of projects in the territory. Similarly, as part of the organizational strengthening, they held the Zonal Assembly, where

in addition to the verification of ownership of the functions of local authorities they made an analysis of the local problems affecting the communities.

Other Projects of the LWF/ DWS CO in Chocó in 2012

Project "Empowerment and protection of Human Rights Defenders and Base Communities in Colombia"

Financed by SIDA

The LWF and the Church of Sweden together with the Swedish Movement for Reconciliation - SweFOR, is developing since May 2012 this project which seeks to assist and support defenders of human rights and leaders of grassroots organizations to demand and protect their rights as well as to reduce their situation of vulnerability. The project has three specific components: (1) physical and political accompaniment of human rights defenders; (2) Training on self-defense of human rights defenders; and (3) Empowerment and self-protection of grassroots communities.

The LWF is in charge of the execution of the third component through which it seeks to strengthen capacities in governance, autonomy, self-government and territorial protection of two partners, that are ethnic-territorial organizations: the Afro-Colombian COCOMOPOCA - and the



indigenous ASOREWA. The activities are developed both in and with the communities and in the structures of leadership at the local level. The indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities affiliated to these organizations are expected to acquire skills in order to safeguard their territories and cultures.

The main strategy is related to a process of own education designed and directed by the two organizations, which constitutes a training practice designed upon the needs of the context of indigenous peoples and afro-descendants. This strategy involves 580 people through workshops. The ASOREWA decided to focus the process on two axes of training: autonomy and governance and strengthening of the indigenous guard. The first is aimed at 120 leaders of 10 communities in the Municipalities of Bahía Solano and Río Quito, while the second takes place with 50 guards of the Municipality of Bagadó, part of the indigenous area of the Alto Andaguada. And the COCOMOPOCA began to train Afro-Colombian 400 leaders of the Municipalities of Atrato, Bagadó, Cértégui on issues related to governance and territorial protection.

Project "Assistance on Food Security in Communities affected by the Armed Conflict in the Middle San Juan River, Chocó"

Financed by ECHO and the Church of Sweden

This project was implemented between June 2011 and May 2012. The main objective was to provide humanitarian assistance and to improve food security in 15 communities (5 indigenous and 10 Afro-Colombians) affected by the armed conflict in the Middle San Juan, Department of Chocó, in order to support those communities affected by the floods in the beginning of 2012

and are victims of the armed conflict in the area.

The project benefited in total 600 families (410 Afro-Colombian and 190 indigenous), of which, 350 families (1800 people) received emergency food assistance, technical assistance, kits of seeds and tools for the establishment of half a hectare of crops. Additionally 210 families received seed kits and tool kits also for the es-

tablishment of half (0.5) hectare of crops, and the 40 remaining families received chicken, food concentrate and materials for the adequacy of the sheds.

The implementation of this Project was carried out in accordance and with the participation of the representatives of the beneficiary communities of ACADESAN and JOON KIIRJUG.





Why do we work in Cundinamarca

The greater Bogotá - Department of Cundinamarca - is the most recent accompaniment area within of the LWF DWS Colombia Program.

This region has high rates of reception of displaced population and high levels of poverty and inequity. The Municipality of Soacha - located in the South-western border of Bogotá - is experiencing a process of conurbation interdependently with the nation's capital. It is the most populous municipality of the Department, and has an accelerating pace of urbanization and a low development index, influenced crucially by the dominant economic and social development model and the subsequent problems of insecurity, extreme poverty, unemployment and poor access to basic services.

Soacha has 347 neighborhoods, in six urban districts and two rural villages. More than 50 per cent of the settlements are illegal: no land property titles and with a poor public investment. Approximately 30% of the neighborhoods are located in high-risk areas that present recurring emergencies, both by overflows of rivers, mudslides, landslides, and floods caused by deficiencies in the sewer. Soacha has a high rate of growth. Its population is of 398.000 inhabitants according to official figures from the DANE,

but the Municipal Administration estimates that actually there about 700,000 people, of which 60% belong to the levels one and two of the SISBEN, meaning that they are poor, and priorities for investment in social policies.

In addition, Soacha experiences violations of human rights and of the international humanitarian law arising from the armed conflict, and practices of "social cleansing" and "curfews". These are usual tools of violence to impose interests and controlling territory by illegal armed groups.

Despite these adverse situations, the people of Soacha are characterized by promoting their social and community organization as a mechanism of exercising citizenship participation and face the existent limitations of democracy. The community and the local Government have brought forward the formulation of various public policies, such as those related to youth. The organizations that provide support to youth, women and communities, are strengthening their capacities to overcome the impact generated by the contexts, specifically through empowerment strategies and organizational experiences in political scenarios, training and promotion of new leadership, visibility and impact of these

population groups, given their status of greater vulnerability. Furthermore, they carry out strengthening of family productive capacity with women heads of families introducing urban agro-ecological practices and looking for improving eating habits and healthy living and wellness in general.



The activities of our local partners in Cundinamarca 2012

Foundation for Education and Development (FEDES)

FEDES was created in 1994 by a group of professionals with experience in research, community work, and in the promotion of human rights. FEDES is a non-governmental, independent, pluralistic and



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non-profit organization that promotes educational and social processes on integral and sustainable development of the communities, especially those marginalized and excluded. FEDES is part of a network of collective bodies for coordination and work on issues of human rights and social development.

In 2012, FEDES has focused on accompanying the different organized youth groups for the consolidation of the Network Union Bochica, in Soacha. This network is intended to strengthen and position the work of youth groups on training in human rights with a gender perspective and addressing the issue of gender violence. The network, with the support of FEDES, aims to contribute to improving the levels of youth participation, community strengthening and the visibility of the neighborhood problems. Various activities have been aimed at this purpose such as the participation of young people in a meeting on conscience objection, in exchanges with other youth organizations of Cutcuta and Armenia in order to share experiences. Furthermore, the network has articulated with Peace Managers and the Little Workers Foundation together with the Youth Activism Platform several educational activities on territory care and protection.



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"I was unaware of these realities and with the network I have learned to see otherwise the municipality and to create a sense of belonging and to do something for those living in more difficulties than myself and that every day work a lot for improving their living conditions..."

Fragment of the witness of Sebastián (fictitious name) of the RED PUB

Foundation Education, Research and Development - FIDHAP

FIDHAP is a non-governmental organization that addresses social issues from a perspective of a comprehensive, interdisciplinary and collective intervention in development, acting in different areas at local, regional and national levels with interrelated programs. FIDHAP implements three programs: Regional Program on Environmental Urban Management, Urban Habitat Agenda for Development and Housing, and the Human Rights and Political Participation Program.

In the framework of the LWF support in 2012 FIDHAP was able to carry out actions of strengthening the organizational capacities of the Women of the Round Table of Dialogue on Management and Development Group of Cundinamarca and Soacha. Some of these women are part of the 30 women of Soacha who in the past received support from the LWF for urban agriculture crops and chicken sheds, and to initiate activities for the marketing of products. Another group of 40 women from the Municipality of Sylvania continued with the breeding of chickens, and had access to training on productive initiatives and projects with the collaboration of the National Training service - SENA - of the Municipality of Fusagasugá.

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The activities of our local partners with national impact in 2012

Fund for Emergency Aid and Organizational Strengthening in Protection and Self-protection - FFP

The Fund is an initiative of civil society organizations, which seeks to strengthen the security conditions and the individual and collective protection capacity of organizations working in the defense of human rights, peace and social interests in a context of systematic violation of human rights and of international humanitarian law. The Fund is administered by a Steering Committee integrated by four organizations, and gives six aid modalities for different people and human rights organizations and social activists that could have more difficulty in accessing other protection possibilities.

During the year 2012 the Care System to Situations of Risk and Vulnerability of the FFP, was able to attend fifty-six (56) cases of activists, organizations and communities that faced serious situations of risk due to the work in favor of the defense of human rights, peace and democracy. The FFP, with the delivery of aid of self-protection, impacted positively in the improvement of the conditions of vulnerability faced by sixteen (16) men, and twenty-two (22) women. Furthermore, eighteen (18) supports for collective training, advocacy and protection actions, and subsistence supplies were delivered. With the support of the LWF half of these cases have been attended.

The Colombian Platform on Human Rights, Democracy and Development

The Colombian Platform on Human rights, Democracy and Development is a network consisting of over 100 social organizations at national, regional and local levels. It is dedicated to the work of advocacy, education, enforceability and research in economic, social and cultural rights in the country. The platform has 12 regional chapters, a national coordination (integrated by 5 organizations), and a technical secretariat performed by one organization. Both the technical secretariat and the national coordination are chosen at the instance of decision of the platform, its National Assembly, which meets every two years. The Colombian Platform is part of the Inter-American Platform of Human Rights, Democracy and Development, a continental network with 16 national chapters in Latin America.

With the support of the LWF, in 2012 the Platform was able to strengthen the regional chapters for the defense, promotion and accomplishment of the Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights threaten by the great open mining activities, supported by information and communication technologies. Together with the National University and other environmental and social organizations the Platform published a report on Mining, Territory and Conflict in Colombia.

Platform of European Development Organizations in Colombia - PODEC

PODEC is a space of confluence of European non-governmental organizations, which seeks to influence international policies of cooperation towards Colombia in order to support the comprehensive development of the people, the political negotiation of the armed conflict and the humanitarian emergency assistance from a rights perspective. The added value of PODEC consists in linking European NGOs of different origins and profiles in order to have

common goals in Colombia. On the one hand the heterogeneity, but on the other side the interest in Colombia and especially on the issues of development and human rights as the potential of this platform.

During 2012, PODEC accompanied the process of the Guarantees Table with the Colombian Government and civil society organizations, as well as their preparation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The platform delivered quarterly newsletters on the situations of insecurity of human rights defenders to the European Union Delegation in Colombia, with whom there were also opportunities of dialogues on aspects related to international cooperation and the signing of the Free Trade Agreement with Europe.

PODEC promoted spaces of debate on development models, and in particular focused on Peasant Reserve Areas (Zonas de Reserva Campesinas). Since August it followed to the dialogues of peace for the ending of the conflict and participated in discussions on the Legal Framework for Peace.

ACT Alliance Forum Colombia

Because of the many murders and threats, in August 2012 the ACT Alliance Forum Colombia initiated a rapid response (Rapid Response Fund RRF) project to help protect the lives of 20 indigenous leaders in Cauca. This project was executed with the support of the Forum by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and has managed to generate mechanisms of protection that allowed the permanence of these communities in their territory. As complementary actions of the humanitarian intervention, there were also actions of psychosocial support to the communities linked to the actions of the indigenous leaders.

Other activities of the LWF Colombia in 2012



Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Colombia - PEAC

PEAC is an international ecumenical initiative promoted by the National Roundtable of the Latin American Council of Churches - CLAI in Colombia in response to the request of solidarity to the affected communities by the violence of the armed conflict. In a meeting of 2009, representatives from communities in the country shared their point of view about the humanitarian crisis and the threats that they were suffering, and requested the support of churches and organizations members of CLAI, to the ecumenical movement in the WCC, as well as to the ACT Alliance Colombia Forum.

After several years of preparation, during 2012 arrived first Ecumenical companions to the Montes de Maria Region, in San Onofre, Department of Sucre. In addition to CLAI, other Global Ecumenical organizations, such as the World Council of churches, the ACT Alliance, the United Church of Canada, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the World Federation of Christian Students Movement, and others have joined and supported this initiative.

Training on Accountability and Prevention of Power Abuse

In November, part of the staff of both the LWF Central America and the Colombia Programs participated in a workshop on Accountability and Prevention of Power Abuse based on the 2010 HAP Standards for Accountability for humanitarian assistance and quality management. The International Association for Accountability in the Humanitarian Field (HAP International, its acronym in

English) was created in 2003 in order to promote accountability to those affected by humanitarian crises and to recognize those organizations that comply with the HAP principles of accountability, established by the founders of the Association as a condition for joining HAP. By applying these principles, an organization accounts for the quality of its work before the people it intends to assist and on whose behalf it acts.



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Youth Exchange of LWF DWS Programs Central America and Colombia

With the aim of facilitating an exchange experience on methodologies on working with youth of the two LWF DWS programs in Central America and Colombia, six youth from FEDES and ASOJER visited Central America in July 1st to 14th in order to share experiences with youngsters of that region.

The first country visited was Guatemala, where with they met the Association Caja Lúdica and different experiences were shared. They were able to know the playful Action-Participation-Transformation methodology and see its implementation in the City of Quetzal and the Community Villalobos and shared experiences with children and young people living in situations of social vulnerability.



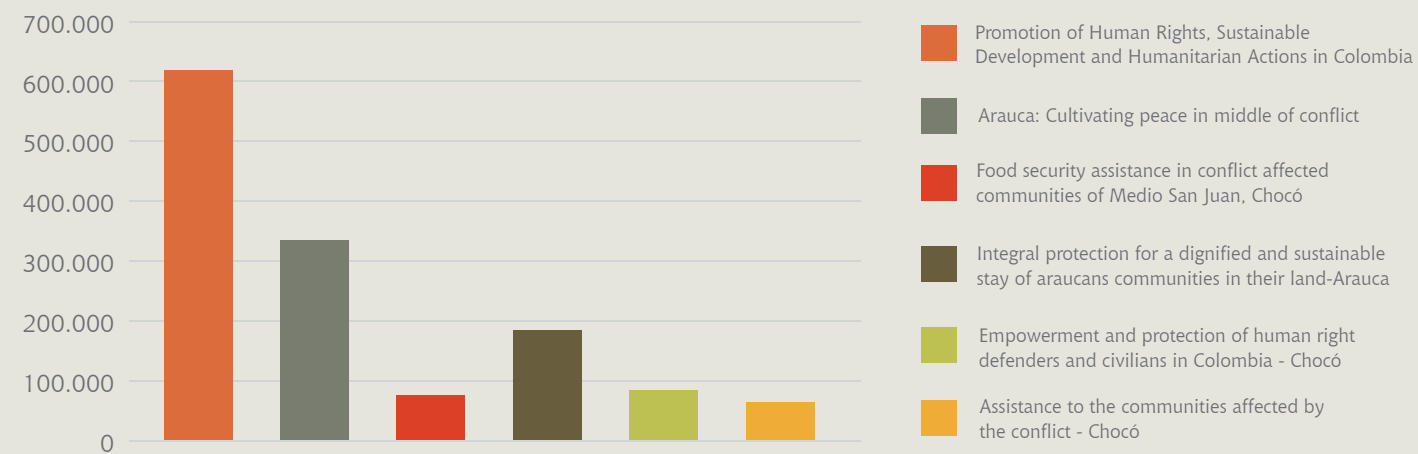
The second stop was Nicaragua where the Colombian youth group visited the project "Ecological for my Community" carried out by the Association XXI Century, and learnt about environmental practices.

The third and last country visited in Central America was Honduras, where they shared experiences with the local youth participating in the course Community Environmental Promoters, lead by the Catholic Church Social Ministry Caritas. Furthermore, they visited the school for political education, directed by the Center of Studies for Democracy (ESCAP), a partner of the LWF in Central America. The issues addressed related to inclusive public policies, human rights, risk management and environment.

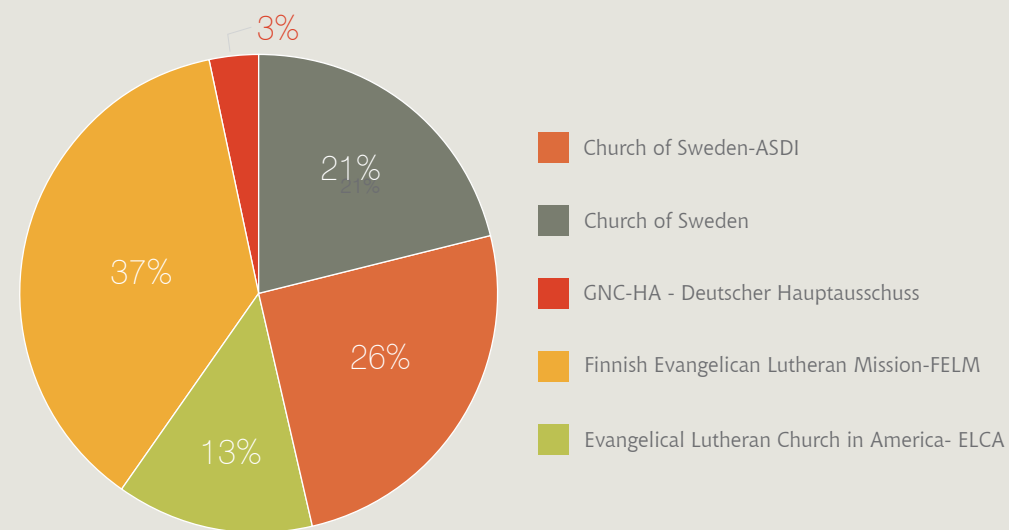
The Colombian young people selected for this process come from highly vulnerable social and political contexts, linked to the armed conflict in this country. During the tour they were accompanied by LWF DWS CO and Central America staff.

Financial Summary 2012

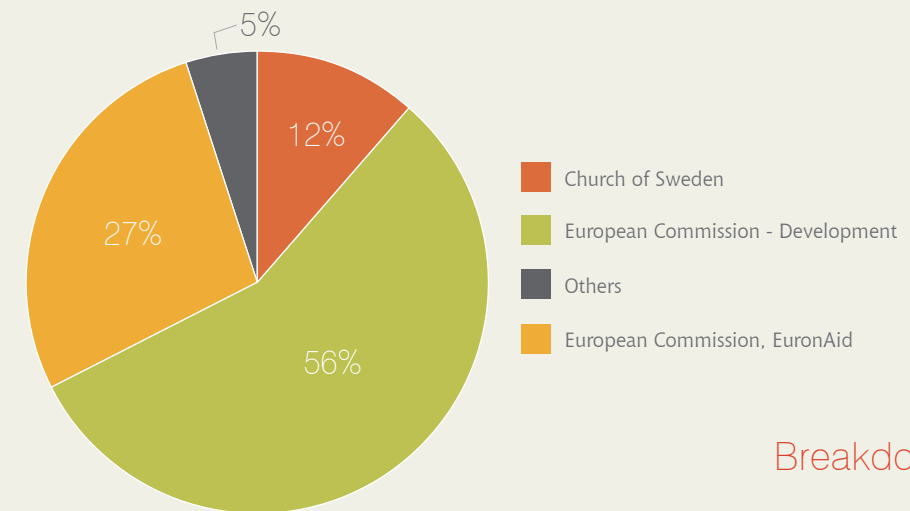
Execution per Project (in Euros) 2012



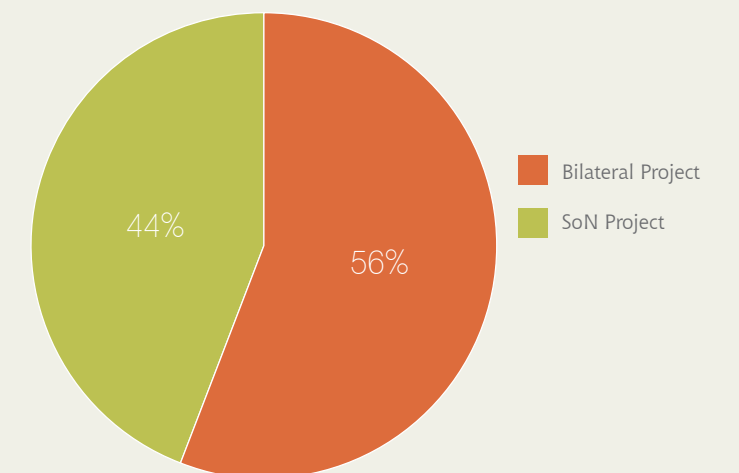
Breakdown of funds per donors and through Geneva 2012



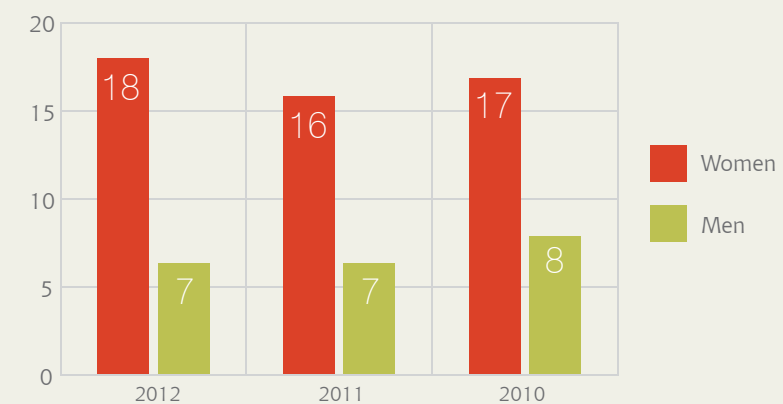
Breakdown of funds raised locally and by donors 2012



Breakdown of funds by project 2012



Women and men in LWF/DWS 2012, 2011 y 2010





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LWF/DWS Colombian Staff 2012

BOGOTÁ

Silvio Schneider
Country Representative

Constanza Clavijo
Program Coordinator

Rosario Adriana Jiménez
Financial and Administrative Manager

Beatriz García del Campo
Program Officer (since May)

Martin Sjögren Nils
Program Officer/Secondment
Church of Sweden

Andrea Villareal Calpa
Project Coordinator (since May)

Mónica A. Díaz Muñoz
Administrative Assistant

Judith Castillo Sánchez
Accountant

Diana Carolina Soledad
Accountant Assistant (since May)

Mariela Meneses
Office Assistant

ARAUCA

Neomice Prieto Martínez
Office Director (Since February)

Leonardo Sarmiento
Office Director (until January)

Bárbara A. Castellanos
Administrative Assistant (Since January)

Claudia Rodríguez
Administrative Assistant (until January)

Diana Betancourt
Program Officer (until January)

Ana Lorena González
Psychosocial Professional

Napoleón Lamilla
Agricultural Professional (since March)

Irene Lara de La Rosa
Legal Professional (since April)

David Peroza
Legal Professional (until March)

Claudia Garrido
Office Assistant (since May)

Jessika Jiménez
Office Assistant (until May)

CHOCÓ

Willian Paredes
Office Director (since September)

Wilson Salazar
Office Director (until August)

Laura Bermúdez
Administrative Assistant

Concepción Escobar
Project Coordinator
(since November)

Our thanks

With the support of Church of Sweden (CoS), The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), German National Committee, the European Union, ECHO and the Swedish Agency for international cooperation for development (SIDA), during the year 2012 it was possible to accompany and reach out to communities and civil society organizations who still have the hope of living one day in a better and peaceful country. Thanks to the national and local organizations and communities of Chocó, Arauca and Cundinamarca, for allowing us to be with them, to accompany them and to learn from their strength. Thanks to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO), to the LWF/DWS headquarter in Geneva for their support and friendship and to our friends on the following platforms where we participate: ACT Alliance Colombia Forum, Platform of European Development Organizations in Colombia (PODEC), UN Humanitarian Country Team, Round Table of Swedish Organizations working in Colombia, and the Space for dialogue among cooperation organizations in Chocó. And finally, we thank our staff colleagues in Chocó, Arauca and Bogotá for the great efforts, commitment, professionalism and dedication in serving the communities we work with.



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Photos

LWF/DWS Partners
LWF/WS Staff Colombia

Graphic Design and Printing
Gineth Andrea Jiménez
anderela@gmail.com

Jaime López Rodríguez
jaime.lopez.rod@gmail.com



