Towards a security agenda for Medellin

From the perspective of its communities



Observatory of Human Security of Medellin 2013

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Ourteam



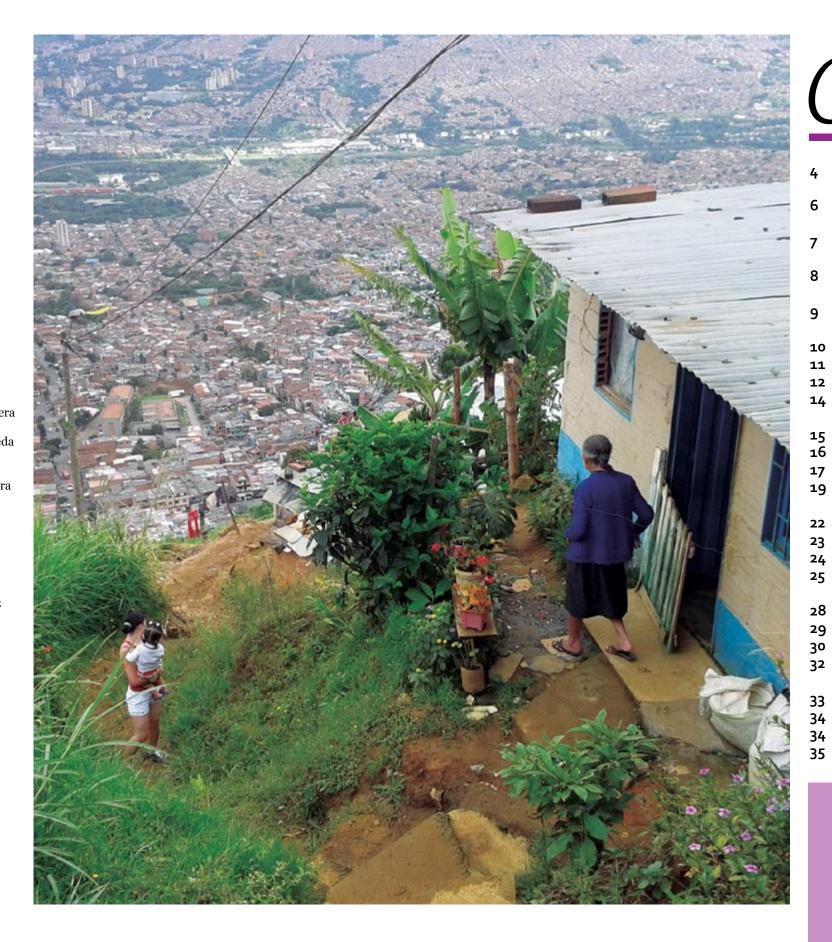




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Contents

- 'Bottom up' investigation
- The Security we believe in
- **Community Security**
- Community Agenda: ¿what is it? ¿why?
- An Agenda to...
- Women

Context Actions Initiatives

- LGBTI Population Context Actions Initiatives
- Youth

Context Actions Initiatives

Boys, Girls and Adolescents Context Actions Initiatives

Population in situation of displacement Context Actions Initiatives





Medellin is a city of contrasts, since despite the figures of economic growth and competitiveness of the city, the difficult problems of security and violence continue mutating and taking on new forms and dynamics, which require new analyses and approaches.

In that sense, the Observatory of Human Security of Medellinin collaboration with community organizations of different comunas of the city (Con-vivamos Corporation; Board of women of the Northeast region; Committee of Human Rights of Comuna 6; Committee of Displaced people of Comuna 8; Corporation Ciudad Comuna; Christian Youth Association – (ACJ) and

Diverse Connection) and aided by the IDRC of Canada, we have out to the test a methodology of investigation called "bottom up".

Because of this methodology, applied at the projec 'Citizen initiatives to improve the Community Security: working with vulnerable communities to deal with urban violence in Medellin', we could explore the security problems that affect the urban communities of the city, the way in which the communities and the state face them, and the way the responses to these problems could be improved.

This process involved the participation of community investigators (male and female leaders in the territories) residing in comunas 1, 6, 8 and 13, as well as national and international academics.

This document is one of the results of our efforts to produce knowledge both in the academic and community spheres about the security problems of





the city from the perspective of the communities most affected by the violence and insecurity present in the territories.

This document aims to be an invitation to a dialogue with different social actors in the city about what security means in a city like Medellin, and the first step of a process of dialogue and collective construction that we hope will eventually improve security policy.



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It contains a preliminary vision of where an agenda of security for the city could be headed, in order to respond to the needs, expectations and initiatives of the urban communities of the city.

Heidy Gómez Ramírez Observatory of Human Security of Medellin



For us Human Security consists of the following eight dimensions











In contexts of **CHRONIC VIOLENCE**

Security cannot be reached

unless...

These dimensions or components be addressed in an integral and interdependent manner.

The security obtained permits the material and subjective conditions so that the human being lives in decent conditions.

The human being enjoys peace, reassurance and confidence in the exercise of their rights, including that of participation in social transformation.

The human being enjoys an integral protection by public entities without regard to their social, economic, political standing, etc., in other words without discrimination.

Community Security

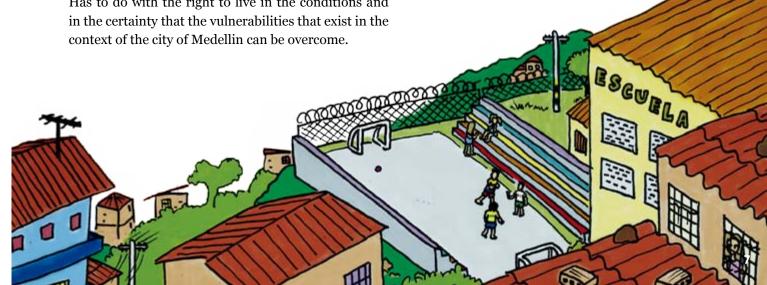
This document focuses on one of the dimensions of security, community security. This refers to:

The basic conditions of peace that the State must guarantee to human collectives, organized or not.

Allows people to maximize their organizational and political capacities to work for the realization of human rights and a good life in a horizon of social autonomy.

In our project it is important to recognize the particularities of security and insecurity for boys, girls, young people, women, members of the LGBT community and displaced populations in four comunas of the city and, from there, present the city a vision of the constructed security from the communities and from their territories.

Has to do with the right to live in the conditions and



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Community AGENDA What is it?

It is an important instrument because it guides the action of different actors in response a set of issues that are deemed crucial.

There are public policy agendas that guide the action of different State institutions. There are also citizen agendas that are constructed by actors within the civil society and community agendas about topics that are considered crucial for society and the inhabitants of a territory.

It collects inputs that contribute to the design of public policies that are inclusive and differential.

Agendas reflect the priorities of the actors who articulate them, having in mind topics that must be addressed and problems that must be solved, and they include ideas about how to do that.



A fundamental tool for improving the security of the communities and the city in general



Uhu,

Because citizen agendas allow members of the civil society to participate in public policy.

Bring attention to vital issues that are normally and otherwise obscured.

Suggest solutions to problems, new ways to understand an issue or problem that is critical for society, or other ways to solve it.

Construct agendas that arise from the collaborative efforts between diverse civil and community actors.

Augment the capacity of citizens to participate in the issues that affect them.

It also promotes democratic values, attitudes and practices between citizens and in the relationship between citizens and State.

An Agenda to...

Expand the scholarship about insecurities in the city and transform this scholarship into real actions by the State.

Consolidate community endeavors into a tool that transforms the focus with which security has been approached in the city (through police presence and control).

To include and recognize the capacity of communities to participate in the construction of territorial solutions to the insecurities, a call to the State to boost these community capacities.

To not only access the decision-making process of the State, but also to enforce the accountability of the same and the civilian control of its actions, not only fiscally but procedurally. In other words, the citizen oversight must transcend the accountability, and include an analysis of the processes, knowledge, and qualitative impacts of the public policies in the territories of the city.

In this way, the responsibility must be placed to the State through political control, and a first step towards this is this agenda.

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Establish new dialogues, methods, and meanings that allow us to know each other and leave fear behind, to approach each other and ourselves as historical, cultural, political and social subjects, to be bearers of rights, narrators of our memories and free, to recognize and make ourselves visible and act; to rethinking security from our diversity and in our territory.

> To introduce in the public debate within the city, another way to see and approach insecurities, mediate by a violent context in which traditional initiatives of securityhave not resolved the complex situations that affect the communities, and where the initiatives of civil society organizations are presented as alternatives.

Be as much a tool for the organizational strengthening of the communities, as a tool for the participation and enforceability of the State.



Context

Most affected dimensions of Human Security



Armed conflict.

Legal and illegal armed groups and their violent symbolic plane. practices.

Subordination of women to socially constructed methods of control and domination.



Community and Political Security

Armed groups manipulation and retention of economic

Decreased credibility in community work

resources of the participative budget.

Insecurity generated in part by the State, due to the lack of guarantees to women to the access to a healthy life.

Healthcare system that does not recognize the particular needs of women.

Lack of knowledge about disease prevention.

Tardiness in the procedures for a timely and appropriate treatment.

Difficulties in the access of acceptable employment with which to satisfy the basic needs of the family.

Economic and Food Security

10

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Use of the young female bodies by armed groups. Translocation of little and adolescent girls to other sectors of the city or department with the purpose of prostituting them form an early age.

Forms of exclusion, stigmatization and violence in a

Restricted personal liberties and stigmatization of their practices and plights.



Existence of diverse factors that generate insecurity and negatively impact their mental and physical health.

Women in ACTION active in their territories

Actions that we make to deal with human insecurity

Strategies of development, awareness and transformation.

Meetings between women at local, national and international levels.

Shed light on the different realities of women and their contexts. Integrate needs, interests and potentials as paths to the personal development of women.

Contribute to the growth of the area from the different forms of participation of women: individually, socially, politically and culturally.

Create spaces of collaborative planning from, with and for women of the northeastern region and in the participative spaces.



Actions of public demand and identification of the violation of women's human rights.

Principles of solidarity and cooperation.

Campaigns in educational institutions that promote human rights.





Building the road to human security for women

What we propose to the administration

The creation of a clinic that tends to the integral health of women. In other words, that includes preventative measures and promotes the rights to health, and sexual and reproductive health.

An evaluation of the impact of the Women's Secretariat from its foundation.

Strengthen the actions that women have started in the comuna 1, with campaigns that will last through the processes of public dissemination and awareness in schools.

Promote actions that guarantee the active and effective participation of women where they are involved.

The construction and opening of the Center for the integral development of women.

The creation of the Center of Political Development.

The implementation of agreement 22 of 2003 through which public policy is demanded for women in the Municipality of Medellin.





and to the social and community organizations

Greater interaction and communication between the community organizations, those of women and of mixed gender in Medellin, and particularly in comuna 1; and the different forms of expression and participation of the women's movement and the organizational process that have been emerging.





Most affected dimensions of Human Security



Health Security

Nonexistent public policies for the differential care of trans men and women and lesbian women at centers of care.

Public policies concerning prevention and promotion of health that perpetuate exclusion, generalizations and stereotyping.



Political Security

Spaces of participation that do not grant real capacity to influence public policies.

There is no recognition or assurance of the fundamental rights of the individual and his democratic liberties, which are of essence to political security.



Community Security

Lack of physical protection and material help that guarantees it.



Personal Security

Physical and verbal aggressions.

No acknowledgement of the differences between individuals.

Repression as consequence of discrimination, physical violence and the impossibility of free and full access to public spaces.

Places and platforms in the comuna that harvest stigmatization, exclusion and abuse, among which are schools, parks and public spaces.



Women's Security

There are no environments that facilitate their mobilization through the territory; their participation and political influence or the acknowledgement of their rights from their sexual and gender diversity, free of discrimination and exclusion. This not only in the private sector but also in public spaces and social roles.

In the comuna 8 ACTIONS from the sexual and gender diversities

Neighborhood protests, mobilizations, forums, dialogues with families, community leaders, teachers, students and directors of educational centers.

Efforts to demand differential health care, through judicial advisories that provided tools to establish routes to demand their rights in response to their needs as a sexually diverse population.

Periodic group meetings held since 2010 and that have granted it recognition by other existent community groups in the area.

Participation in budgeting for Plan of Local Development and community media outlets (Vision 8 newspaper, the virtual community radio station Voices of the 8th, the center of audiovisual production, etc.).

Constant safe and full access to public spaces as a group.

Raised awareness of all the intricacies of the definition of multiple identities that emerge in the public sphere.



Diverse Connection arose to continue the work with the LGBTI population, as processes of intervention in educational institutions; for the advancement and to maintain a group space, which is a platform for sharing, for thinking about the issues and situations that affect the sexually diverse population in the territory, and generating artistic projects and empowering the LGBTI sector to participation



Actions taken by Diverse Connection

ACTION	DIMENSION OF HUMAN SECURITY AFFECTED	DESCRIPTION	PERIODICITY
Mobilization and artistic displays	e iiii Q	Walks and demonstrations inside the comuna, and transformative displays	Annually
Workshops on Educational Institution (IE) and with community leaders		Workshops with students, teachers, directives, parents and leaders of comuna 8	Biweekly
Movie Forums	🙂 👬 👬 🚽	Carried out in openly in public spaces like courts and parks, inviting any resident of the area	Bimonthly
Actions of community development		Training projects in mechanisms of rights protection, resource management, and political incidence and participation	Weekly Biweekly
Generation of academic spaces		Forums, participation in investigative projects, seminars (organized by the OSHM)	Semestrally
Collective displays of the intricacies of the diversity in the public sphere		Group outings to establish affective processes in the community and utilize public spaces for awareness and acknowledgement	Daily

Travel through neighborhoods in which the community has suffered violence and empower the sexually diverse population about its identity and the need to face their conflicts and inhabit public spaces

To community and social media

Establish plans of action directed to the sexually diverse population, creating spaces of interaction between Diverse Connection, the community, educational institutions and neighborhood projects.

To social projects and organizations

Create, strengthen and follow up on neighborhood LGBTI collectives.

——— Integrate the Action Plans of the JAC and the sexual and gender diversities.

Generate mechanisms for the participation of the LGBTI community in the decision- making processes of the neighborhoods.

------ Slowly, but permanently and continuously, foster dialogues that allow the acknowledgement of gender diversity.

Utilize community media and communication

as an essential part of the territories, to create participative constructivism and design campaigns and sessions that aim to raise awareness of sexual and gender diversity.

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Initiatives for the creation of community security



To the Municipal Administration and the National Government

Inside public policy are included the components of a decent life, from which branch off aspects like health, education, acceptable employment, personal integrity and security and free access to public spaces. This further covers organization and participation, strengthening of the LGBTI organization, leadership and others. By this way, we propose:

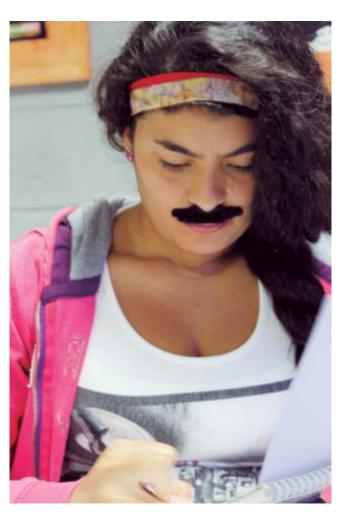
To establish agendas that lead to the awareness in neighborhood collectives and that account both economically and developmentally to their continuity and subsistence, not simply co-opting them but strengthening them in their autonomy, capacity and reach inside their territories.

Evaluate and strengthen their forms of organization and their fundamental processes.

Extend the platforms and instances of their participation and allocate resources that guarantee the continuity of their efforts

Reassess the demands made by the population of this group, led in an institutional nature and thought systematically, structurally and integrally.

Mauricio Agudelo, leader of *Diverse Connection* says that the institutional logics, at least in the case of Medellin, are rarely responsive to the real needs of the communities and their demands concerning security







Municipal administration

Create vehicles of effective response to the LGBTI community in conditions of vulnerability.

Articulate the needs of the existent agendas of the LGBTI population.

Redesign the mechanisms of participation generated by the public policy of the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity.

Promote investment in the LGBTI organizations.

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National Government

Legislate for all the sexual and gender identities

Create public policy that provides differential healthcare for the sexually diverse population.

Recognize the citizenship of the LGBTI community parallel to general civil rights.

Incorporate lessons of sexual and gender diversities to the Educational Institutional Plans (PEI).



Context

The most affected dimensions of human security



leaders.

Existent gap between youth policies and the realities of the territories, in that the weak presence of the State for the enforcement of programs and offers, limits the exercise of rights of the youth, and the possibility of collective project development by organizations.

Accentuated practices of systematic forced recruitment and involvement of youth in illegal armed groups.

Practices of territorial control that prevent free mobility

through the territory, affecting directly some daily

Violation and vulnerability of the right to live.

practices and the use of public spaces.

Issues brought about by recruitment practices exercised by the National Army that are regularly known as "batidas" or raids.



Economic Security

Unemployment and lack of access to favorable economic conditions for youth and their family groups.

Offers from the world of illegality.





Political Security

Dynamics of armed violence that directly endanger leaders and youth organizations.

Absence of protective measures for the actions of community mobilization.

Lack of guarantees to the personal security of youth

YOUTH INITIATIVES (A path towards human security in comuna 13

Actions: What we do provide better conditions of security for ourselves

The Initiative of human security allows us to understand that the provision of security to the communities is also in the hands of civil organizations.

In contexts of chronic violence and weak State presence, the social and community organizations act to create better life conditions in the territories. In the cultural, communitarian, artistic and educative arenas there is a perspective of action with the goal of restoring life and protecting human rights.

Arts and culture have become concrete responses to the communities' demands. Among these experiences are organizations such as:

The Christian Youth Association (ACJ) that for approximately 18 years has been developing a work of assistance and follow-up to organizations and youth project in comuna 13.

The Dream Makers Corporation (Realizadores de Sueños) emergent from the design of the first Initiative of the Local Development Plan of the comuna.



The Purple House (Casa Morada) which has been creating methods to project initiatives and artistic collectives of the comuna.

The Educational Corporation Combos which promotes culture as a prevention strategy against violence of youth, boys, and girls.

The organizations led by young people prioritize the search to provide better life conditions in the territory.

There they place initiatives focused in culture, community memory, political incidence, education and communication, as is the case of:

Talents and Culturart Coorporation Orión). (Corporación Talentos Culturizarte).

Soul and Life Foundation (Fundación Alma y Vida).

Count the 13th (Cuenta la 13).

Kinesica Communications Corporation.

Initiatives to contribute to the improvement of security of the community

INITIATIVE

ACTORS **INVOLVED OR** RESPONSIBLE

Public Ministry

of Medellin

Certificate in Human Rights and International Humanitarian Rights

In terms of future projection, the possibility could emerge to give continuity to the process of development with high school student audiences

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XXI Century Corporation.

Cultural Corporation Son Bata.

With respect to community memory, young people have been leading initiatives like:

A day for Peace (Jornada por la Paz).

— Memory and Nonviolence (Memoria y la Noviolencia).

Party of Life (Fiesta de la Vida).

Orion's Rain Collective (Colectivo Lluvia de

Preuniversity PreunYcom 13 (Preuniversitario PreunYcom 13).

Integral Health Group.

Revolution without Dead.

ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

Continue the certificate on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Rights directed to leaders of the comuna, with the goal of granting theoretical and practical tools for the promotion and protection of the human rights in the comuna.

INITIATIVE

Action and Protection Protocol Manual in situations of risk or vulnerability. Implementation of the life network or community alerts of protection

ACTORS **INVOLVED OR** RESPONSIBLE

Social Organizations, Public ministry, **Observatory of Human Security** of Medellin

ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

To provide tools for young people to denounce and bring attention to cases of violation of their rights, such as raids, arbitrary detentions, abuses, threats, forced removal or the denial of healthcare.

Network of community alerts as a strategy of articulation and action of social and community organizations in situations of risk or in circumstances that require follow up and support by the public ministry and NGOs in the city.

The strategy aims to follow permanently occurrences that could potentially affect the security of communities and particularly the young populations.

Creation of special reports about the state of human rights in comuna 13

Public Ministry, **Observatory of Human Security** of Medellin Creation of periodic reports of human rights in comuna 13, with defined population focuses, such as a strategy of shedding light on situations that affect the security of communities and as starting point for transforming and educative actions.

It is a strategy planned at medium term that aims to improve the living conditions and security of the young population, through collaborative work between organizations of the territory, the private company and the institutions of the State.

Integral Strategy of Intervention

Municipal Administration, **Agencies of International** Cooperation, Organizations of Civil Society, Academia

Private Company,

Put into action to foster culture, education, protection of human rights, and dignifying employment; materialized in the generation of opportunities and employment, strengthening of offers to the youth, primary and secondary education with differential focuses, higher education and support to the initiatives of youth organizations.



ACTORS

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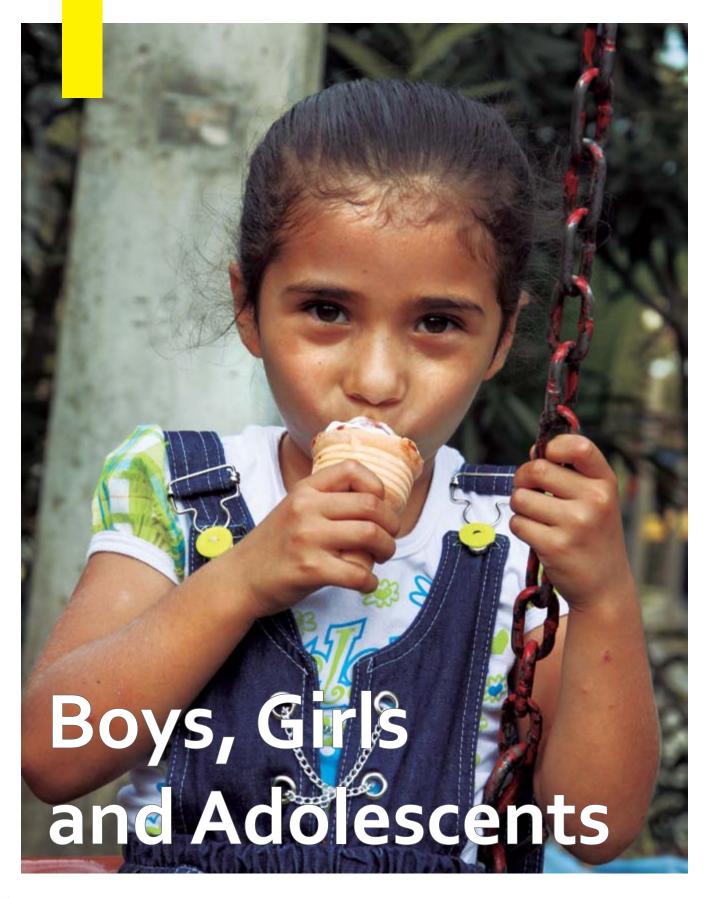
ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

This initiative emerges in the absence of programs and strategies offering psychosocial attention to young people who have been victims of violence in the comuna, and also families in grieving. The aim is to shed light on victimizing occurrences.

Creation and development of a protocol of action for the public force to be adopted by the different groups that make it up, and also incorporated into the actions developed by the government and security secretariats in the territories.

To establish alliances in order to collaborate and protect the actions developed in the territory. In other words, to actively support and follow up the active participation of social actors as a mechanisms of protection and safety for the organizations.

To follow up on the situations that affect the security of population groups, and locate the areas of greatest armed conflict in order to advance actions that protect the communities and their organizations.



 "They think we are incapable of proposing and building new pathways". "They do not recognize us as bearers of rights". "There are times that government agents are with us and then they leave". 				
are with us and then they leave".				

Home

School

Physical

Precariousness in the healthcare provided, tardiness in the provision of care, denied care, denied access to medicine.

Context

What we feel affect us most



Domestic violence, nutritional inadequacy, sexual abuse, abandonment.

punishment, discrimination, verbal aggression, violence between Boys, Girls and Adolescents (NNA), made more complex in contexts of armed violence.

Neighborhood

Existence of illegal armed groups, invisible borders, drug trafficking, extortions, recruitment into illegal armed groups, low access to education.



Health Security

What they do -and we do-for ourselves







We are not organized



... But they teach us

Committee of Infancy and Adolescence of the Board of Human Rights in Comuna 6

Seeders of development

Juridical actions in case of rights violationsSemilleros de formación

Community Organizations

Prevent recruitment.

Promote play, fun, leadership, creation of educational opportunities, work for the environment, culture, reading.

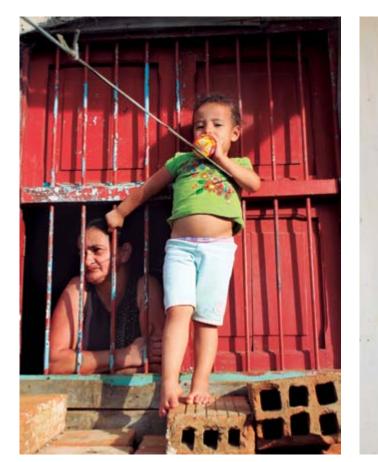
Members of government

From Zero to Always Program.

Community Mothers and Community gardens.

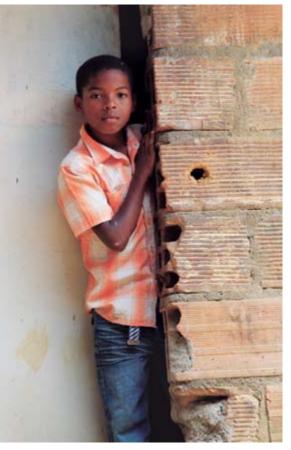
Good Start Program.

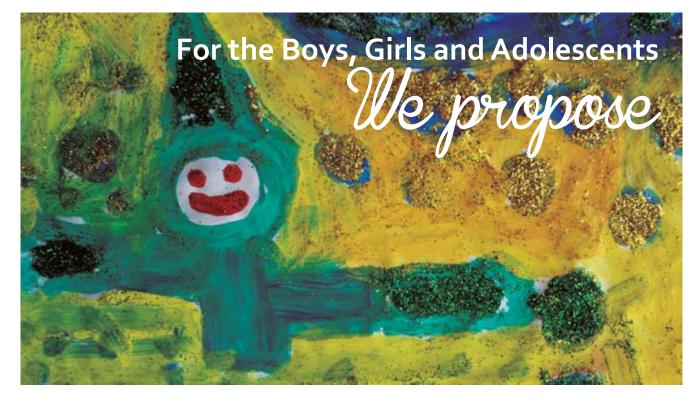
Sport Schools - INDER.





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Alternative educational sessions

With new education pedagogy.

For learning and leadership.

To reduce vulnerability to involvement with illegal armed groups.

Development Workshops

About Human Rights of the NNA.

Knowledge and application of Law 1098 of 2006, Law of Infancy and Adolescence.

Ways to demand rights for the NNA Sobre los Derechos Humanos de los NNA.

Nuclei of community thinking

To articulate the organizations that work with NNA.

Make visible and strengthen the isolated actions for the rights of the NNA.

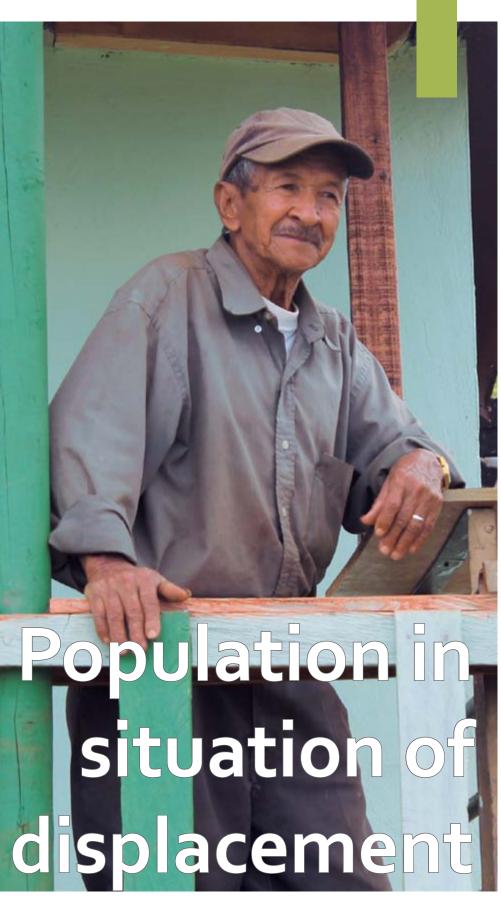
Center of political control for child public policy

To analyze which are the processes that the State installs in the territories.

To encourage the State to reveal what it does with our taxes.

To put ideas forth and have the State listen.

32



Context

Dimensiones de la Seguridad Humana más afectadas



Food Security

It is the most affected dimension due to lack of food.



Economic Security

Few employment offers for their development and for obtaining economic resources for the survival of their families.

There are no appropriate places for them to build their homes.



Political Security

Limited support of the State to guarantee their fundamental rights and ensure proper conditions after their displacement.

They are made vulnerable by abandonment, land

dispossession and other material losses, ruptured social fabric and cultural traditions.

Irregularities in the supposed access to justice, which leads to inefficacy and state-level impunity.

Actions

Community Meetings:

Propose different alternatives to the State's approaches in order to benefit the community and encourage a worthy life.

Strengthen the Committee of Displaced People and spark the creation of community ideas for the municipal and national government.

Strengthening of the organizations:

Committee of Displaced People for acceptable housing, employment, food subsistence and productive projects.

Initiatives of Resistance:

Support community endeavors such as the interneighborhood board which is a city-wide project.

With initiatives like the orchard school, plantings, meetings, mobilizations, they seek unity among members of the group to strengthen links between them and build an identity based on common experiences.

Orchard School: **Consists of taking** advantage of usable lands that exist around their settlements and cultivating different vegetables, fruits and medicinal plants. The initiative has been implemented in various sectors of the comuna. Working the land they provide their subsistence.



The orchard helps them to feel productive in the provision of food.

about Community Orchards

orchards.

We propose

Allocate sufficient and sustainable spaces for the production of food. It is necessary to possess fertile lands spacious enough for a few families to cultivate them. The alternative of a gratuitous loan of a lot of Mount Pan de Azucar so that the project can be implemented here and a large orchard can be built for displaced people.

Community orchards and home orchards: Addition of coops, pigpens, and rabbit hutches, as well as future crops of corn, sugar and commercial flowers. Cultivating collaboratively will further foster employment.

---- Strategies to commercialize products grown in the orchards. Process of association between the producers of the orchards to commercialize in other areas; for example, neighborhood, municipal or regional fairs. Also the possibility to sell these products to school restaurants of the comuna.

——— Training in production and manipulation of food products, to handle the products that come out of the orchards, such as preserves and jellies and make these marketable. Aside from the training, there must be certified people to handle and take care of the orchard so they can follow and oversee other processes in the city, utilizing their experience.

Contribute as source of income since they can sell or exchange their surplus with neighbors as well as obtain other products that cannot be produced in the orchards.

— Make unlimited the time of cultivation for the projects since there are different sewing times and crops to rotate.

------ State assistance to solve problems in the

Initiatives for a community agenda

about the GREEN Belt

In the land management plan (Plan de Ordenamiento Territorial (POT)) is included the megaproject Green Belt, which covers some of the settlements of comunas 1, 2, 3, 6, 8 and 13. This is a critical plan for the city and especially for the communities that inhabit their surroundings. These communities see in an imminent risk of another displacement in the implementation of this megaproject.

- Work for focus committees concerning: education, health, disability, women and elders.

— Meetings and unity between boards, taking into account the particularities of each population group.

We propose

— Integral improvement of neighborhoods: Consists of providing household public services, better housing and access roads, resettlements, new and improved equipment (healthcare center, parks, schools, land titling and legalization of residences.

- Risk management: Works of mitigation and their maintenance (of parks and other establishments proposed for the megaproject) for the purpose of land recovery and guarantee of permanent residence to the inhabitants of the territory. To make true the motto "for the right to live in dignity in our territories."

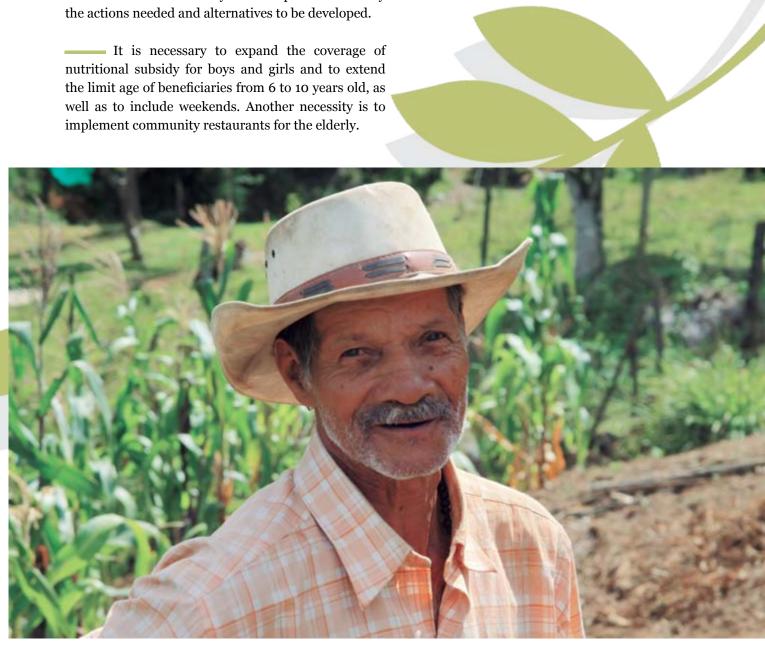
——— Food security: Proposition for the construction of a food belt around Mount Pan de Azucar and in the high part of the comuna, supporting the existing orchards and creating new ones with minor species.

To the administration and land management plan it is proposed that the line of the urban perimeter be drawn above the community orchards, do mark the limits of the settlements. The Green Belt cannot be only of green space, but also of food and fruit trees, to account for the food security of those who live in the rural-urban border.

Food Security

Access to food is a basic and fundamental right of all human beings. We must guarantee a nutritional level of good quality for the inhabitants of the settlements. Initiatives to this end include:

Carry out a census or a socioeconomic identification of the displaced population of the comuna 8 to determine the nutritional conditions of the families in this territory and thus plan more clearly the actions needed and alternatives to be developed.



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- Improving the infrastructure of the Sol de Oriente Greenhouse, so that it is adapted as a community restaurant that uses the products of the orchards. Additionally, recreational spaces should be integrated for the enjoyment of children.

How many new homes, resettlements, improvements and legalizations are needed by the displaced members of comuna 8?

Generating Income

Crear condiciones para la generación de empleo digno, con un salario justo.

Destinar recursos para la iniciación de proyectos productivos y préstamos con facilidades de pago.

Se propone una persona guardabosques por asentamiento, que tendría como funciones cuidar el Cerro para evitar los incendios que en su mayoría se generan por estar solos los espacios, además del cuidado ecológico de la zona.

Contratación de personas de los mismos territorios para la ejecución de obras de infraestructura, como es el caso de la implementación del Cinturón Verde y las obras del Plan Urbano Integral (PUI).

Housing

The socioeconomic conditions of these families must be improved so that the intervention is of integral character and that the projects are socially sustainable in time.

The Committee of Displaced People has made it a goal to read the allocation of 1,700 new homes (which implies resettlements) and 2,000 home improvements. This goal requires the construction of 400 homes and the improvement of 500 homes per year, but used homes should also be considered as alternative housing options.

The goal is for all of the residents of the community to have a home and an acceptable habitat. For this, the most important step is to define the lands in which people want to live, where resettlement is possible and in which of those resettlements people must actually be relocated to another area of the comuna.

Partner Organizations





Credits

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