



ALLIANCE FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, COEXISTENCE, AND PEACE

Bringing Reconciliation to Colombia

THE CHALLENGE

In many countries where USAID works, judicial and penal systems based on traditional principles are overwhelmed and, in some cases, dysfunctional. This is especially the case in Colombia, where half a century of guerilla warfare in rural areas has challenged the ability of the justice system to reintegrate former combatants into civil society. High levels of crime and domestic violence in some urban areas also tax the ability of the traditional retributive justice system to successfully rehabilitate offenders and prevent the recurrence of conflict and violence.

THE APPROACH

The Alliance for Restorative Justice partners USAID with several Colombian institutions to introduce restorative justice to Colombia in order to mitigate the lasting impacts of the country's troubled history. By applying the restorative justice model pioneered in South Africa, Northern Ireland, and other post conflict settings, the alliance provides a way for Colombia to meet its future by healing the wounds of its past. A highly effective application of restorative justice has been to enable gang members and other juvenile offenders to recommit to peaceful lives within their communities. This approach can also be replicated in other countries in Latin America. Fundación AlvarAlice and its partners have championed the concept of restorative justice in order to carry on the legacy of the Garcés Echavarría family's commitment to Colombia's social development.

PARTNERS

Corporación Valle en Paz, Fundación AlvarAlice, Fundación Corona, Fundación Paz y Bien, Javeriana University Cali, Synergos Institute



RESULTS

- Legislation for demobilizing and reintegrating former combatants influenced by restorative justice model.
- Five new restorative justice centers established to serve hundreds of marginalized urban households.
- Some 3,500 rural households provided with conflict management training and agricultural extension and marketing services to prevent domestic and community violence and improve livelihoods.
- Humanitarian law and restorative justice curriculum introduced at Colombian universities.
- Some 120,000 people were direct beneficiaries of the alliance.



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