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Youth, education and work in (post-)
conflict areas: Empowering young
talent to (re)build communities



Education and peace building: A view from Colombia

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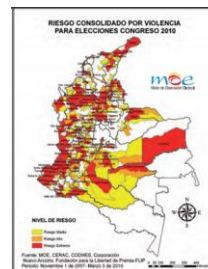
The (post)-conflict scenery

Colombia has experienced one of the longest internal armed conflicts in the world in recent times. There have been different armed groups opposed to the state. Guerrillas formed by groups such as the M-19, ELN (National Liberation Army), EPL (Popular Liberation Army) and FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-Army of the People), the latter, the largest and oldest group in the country.

THE LONG INTERNAL WAR OF COLOMBIA

"According to the investigation of the Historical Memory Group (GMH) **between 1958 and 2012, 40,787 fighters died**. Thus, in summing up these numbers, it is possible to affirm that the Colombian armed conflict has caused approximately **220,000 deaths**. Of these deaths, **81.5% were civilians** and 18.5% were combatants; That is to say, approximately eight out of ten dead have been civilians, and therefore they are non-combatants, according to International Humanitarian Law those most affected by violence "(GMH: 2013,32)

RISK OF VIOLENCE 2010



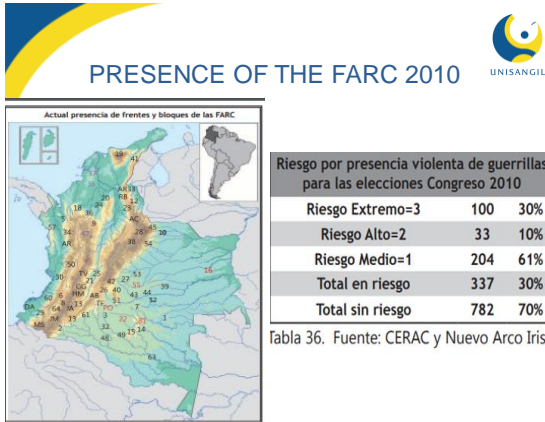
Colombia has 1,116 municipalities of which the following were at risk of violence—**Military, paramilitary or guerrilla are all present:**

Red. Extreme Risk 146 Municipalities
13%

High Risk 83 Municipalities 7%

Yellow. Medium Risk 191
Municipalities 17%

Total at risk 420 Municipalities 37%



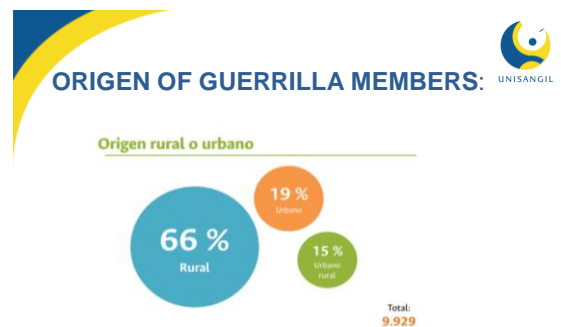
Peace Agreement

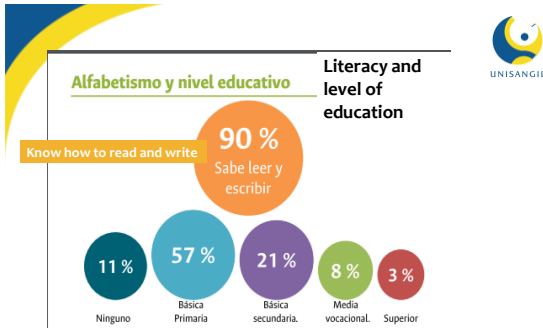
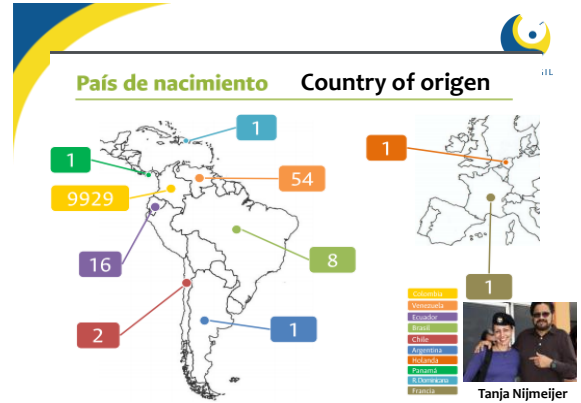
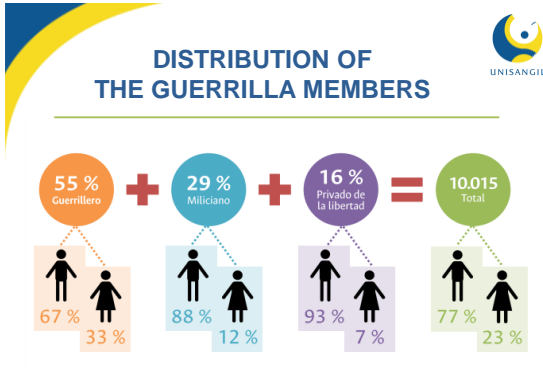
between FARC-EP and the National Government

November 24, 2016



SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GUERRILLA FARC-EP






The major purposes of the Agreement Signed

With the signing of the agreement between the government and the FARC-EP, Colombia entered a new stage of its history. Its implementation is expected to contribute to the achievement of **greater social justice and the consolidation of participatory democracy**. The Agreement is composed of a series of agreements, which nevertheless constitute an indissoluble whole, because they are permeated by the same **human rights approach**.

- ### The major purposes of the agreement:
1. The creation of social equity related to peasants, indigenous people and people living under the poverty line.
 2. The comprehensive rural reform.
 3. Guarantee a pluralistic and respectful citizen participation of the political rights of the citizenship.
 4. Overcoming problems arising from the cultivation, processing and marketing of illicit crops.
 5. The reparation of the victims of the armed actors of the conflict.
 6. The incorporation of the FARC-EP as a political party to national life.


- ### The 5 basic agreements:
- Agreement 1: "Comprehensive rural reform"** whose objective is to develop the structural transformation of the countryside, closing the gaps between the countryside and the city and creating conditions of well-being and good living for the rural population.
- Agreement 2: "Political participation: democratic opening to build peace"**. It creates the conditions to promote a political reform that guarantees citizen participation and the emergence of new political parties.
- Agreement 3: "Ceasefire and Definitive Deposition of Arms"**: Establishes the principles, conditions and mechanisms for the termination of the FARC-EP's Guerrilla military actions and their conversion into a political party. (the FARC has already turned in the arms to the united nations).
- Agreement 4: "Solution to the Problem of Illicit Drugs"**. A solution to the problem of illicit drugs is proposed.
- Agreement 5 "Victims of the conflict"**. It establishes principles, mechanisms and actions related to the victims of the conflict. The agreement creates the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repitition.

OPPORTUNITIES AS IDENTIFIED BY COLOMBIANS



- Significantly reduces violence in the territories.
- Displaced families may return to their territories.
- Now the State can better attend to education and health.
- If the agreements concerning integral rural development are fulfilled, the poverty of the population living in the countryside will certainly be reduced.
- The fulfillment of the agreements will make possible a more participatory, more pluralist democracy.
- The forced attachment of youths and minors to insurgent forces will end.
- Rural youth will have new opportunities for study and entrepreneurship.
- The promotion and strengthening of solidarity organizations will contribute to greater social equity.

Opportunities for rural youth



1. The promotion of solidarity (cooperative/associative) economy enterprises and the formalization of land ownership.
2. The formulation and implementation of the PDET (Development Plans with Territorial Approach)
3. The program of Overcoming Poverty in the Rural Sector: Among rural youth between 18 and 26 years old, 35.5% live in poverty.
4. Formalization and social protection of the rural labor force. :Informal work is 63.5% for those under 18 years of age; 38.7% between 18 and 26 years and 50.3% for those over 27 years.
5. Recognition of Youth as a strategic player in the development of the country.

THE CHALLENGES



Rural education

- Relevant
- Innovative
- Linked to entrepreneurial initiatives

Job placement

- Financial resources
- Promotion of associative organizations


Political participation

- Political education.
- Overcoming abstention
- Inclusive democracy

Education for work in the southern provinces of Santander: On-going processes




Youth education and work in the southern provinces of Santander



Institutions	Educational Programs	Number of participants
SEPAS/IDEAR	Rural baccalaureate/high school on weekends. A flexible education model that allows young people in the field to study and work. The program focuses on education towards solidarity projects that generate decent living conditions for the rural population.	2,600 students in Santander. Estudiantes. 30,000 in the country.

Youth education and work in the southern provinces of Santander



Institutions	Educational Programs	Number of participants
COOMULDESA FOUNDATION	Solidary Education Program: Through training meetings, workshops and seminars, the Foundation develops the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Solidarity explorers.</i> Early work of boys and girls on principles and values of solidarity (7,200 children in the process of formation) ➤ <i>Training of teachers</i> (250 teachers trained in economic and financial education) ➤ <i>Youth savings program</i> (35,500 savers approximately in cooperatives) 	More than 40,000 participants

Youth education and work in the southern provinces of Santander



Institutions	Educational Programs	Number of participants
Cooperative School	Basic secondary school	283 students
Institute COOMULDESA	<p>Technical training: Taking into account the needs of cooperatives and other solidarity organizations, the institute offers the following technical training programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Financial services for solidarity sector ➤ Accounting for financial sector ➤ Recreation, sports and culture ➤ Assembly and maintenance of computer & networks ➤ Communal communication 	225

Youth education and work in the southern provinces of Santander



Institutions	Educational Programs	Number of participants
University of San Gil /UNISANGIL	Programs of higher education oriented towards the sustainable and associative development of the territory (southern provinces of Santander). Programs related to economics, the environment and agriculture are particularly focused on entrepreneurship. Unisangil has 18 training programs in the region.	5,000 students

LESSONS LEARNED:



1. Awareness of the aspirations and needs of youth and their leading role in social transformation.
1. Need to create innovative work opportunities in rural areas.
2. Education must be relevant to the needs and aspirations of the rural population.
3. Institutional articulation to respond to the current challenges of human development in a scenario of globalization.
4. Entrepreneurship for associative/solidary enterprises as an alternative to generate self-employment.
5. Early development of human capacities for life in: culture, citizenship, economy

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