

ART-REDES COLOMBIA PROGRAMME

The ART-REDES Colombia Programme, *International Cooperation Territorial Strategy for Development, Peace and Reconciliation*, was signed in May 2007 by UNDP Colombia and the Colombian Government (Ministry for Social Action).

The Programme aims to contribute to the social construction of peace, human development, the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals and reconciliation, through the support and strengthening national and territorial initiatives undertaken by social and state actors, promoting participation in political, economic and social inclusion processes. To do this, efforts are concentrated on strengthening the active role of Colombian local communities (institutional and social actors in departments and municipalities) and their capacity for dialogue with national authorities and to take advantage of international opportunities, so that international cooperation contributions can converge organically.



The main areas of action are as follows:

- Governance and socio-political change;
- Local socio-economic development;
- Environment, land use and possession, conversion of illegal crops;
- Local health and education systems;
- Fighting vulnerability and exclusion;
- Processes for truth, justice and reparation, culture of peace and reconciliation;
- Gender approach and safeguarding the rights of citizens;

ART-REDES activities began in December 2007 in the Department of Nariño, with the aim of carrying out a pilot project to be replicated in other departments of the country.

The programme is also based on the results of initiatives undertaken in previous years by UNDP and UNOPS to support local economic development and agencies (LEDAs) in Antioquia (Urabá and Oriente Antioqueño); Valle del Cauca (Buenaventura); Oriente del Cauca, Nariño; Boyacá (Alto y Bajo Ricaurte); Bolívar (Cartagena); Cesar (Complejo Cenagoso la Zapatosa); Santander (Vélez and Área Metropolitana de Bucaramanga).

The component supported by the Italian contribution (DGCS) of 1,327,433 U.S. dollars was programmed in June 2008 and the Plan of Operations was approved by a special sitting of the National Coordination Committee. Activities were to start in the summer of 2008. The Plan includes local, national and international activities. A large proportion of resources (66%) will go into the three-year promotion of the rights of citizenship, with the collaboration of the Italian association Cittadinanzattiva. It also includes strategic action to support local economic development activities, Italian decentralised cooperation, innovation, management training and promotion and dissemination of human development culture and practices.

Overview

Duration:	The first cycle of the Programme, which began in 2007, will finish at the end of 2009. The component supported by the Italian contribution will start in summer 2008.
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<p>Operation and coordination at the national level</p>	<p>National institution responsible: Colombian Government, Ministry of Social Action.</p> <p>National Coordination Committee. The NCC consists of representatives of the following organisations: Ministry of Social Action, (coordination), Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Department of National Planning, UNDP, international cooperation members: Italian (DGCS), Swedish (ASDI) and Spanish (AECID) Cooperation, Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, local authorities.</p>
<p>Operation and coordination at the departmental and municipal levels</p>	<p>Departmental Institutions: Working group of the Department of Nariño and Departmental Committee for International Cooperation. Taking part are representatives of the departmental government, public, private and non-profit social actors, universities and others.</p> <p>Departmental and Local Working Groups for local planning, management mechanisms and capacity building, articulated with central authorities. They guarantee the participatory implementation of the programme, taking joint decisions and encouraging the active participation of the population in the definition of strategies and actions for local development in their respective territories. They also provide opportunities for dialogue and consultation for development and peace.</p>
<p>Cooperation actors</p>	<p>UN Agencies: OCHA, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNHCR, UNHCHR, UNICEF. Donors: AECID, ASDI, DGCS.</p> <p>Decentralised Cooperation Members: Catalan Development Cooperation Agency, FAMSÍ - Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (Spain): Deputation of Huelva, Deputation of Malaga, Municipality of Cordoba, Deputation of Cadiz, Deputation of Seville, FAFPE (Spain). Many Italian decentralised cooperation actors have expressed interest in participating in the programme; the Italian association Cittadinanzattiva has already joined.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>Total ART REDES Funds 2007-2008: ASDI U.S. \$ 5,600,000, ART/AECID U.S. \$ 1,373,832, Social Action (National Govt.) U.S. \$ 825,449, Italy U.S. \$ 1,327,433, other actors: U.S. \$ 236,680. Total \$ 9,707,961</p>

Activities and results at departmental and local levels

The ART-REDES pilot project began in the Department of Nariño at the end of 2007. A departmental and a municipal working group were formed in the capital, Pasto. Working groups are being formed at the subregional level. The Departmental Committee for International Cooperation is being set up.

The following main activities were supported by the ART-REDES Programme:

- Establishment of departmental and municipal working groups (Pasto) to contribute to the management of cooperation, following the principles of the ART-REDES methodology. They provide opportunities for institutions, civil society, the academic world and the private sector to meet. The working groups were strengthened through exchanges of successful international cooperation experiences.
- Political, technical and financial support for the collective elaboration of departmental and municipal development plans. Support for sub-regional thematic and territorial dialogue. Through this dialogue, the ART-REDES Programme, in collaboration with other UNDP initiatives, has helped to build capacity and influence themes such as: MDGs, gender approach to planning, territorial approach, early recovery, human development for peace, sensitivity to conflict and truth-justice-reparation. Other efforts went into the participation of local population groups (women, farmers, Afro-Colombians,

etc.) and articulation between the departmental plan and municipal plans through sub-regional dialogue.

- Study of the *Nariño Pacific Ethnodevelopment Plan* using a participatory approach, which includes and raises awareness among population groups in the area, Afro-Colombians, indigenous people, farmers.
- Support for the participatory elaboration of the cooperation strategy.
- Design of an intervention strategy with organisations of victims of the conflict by means of institutional and organisational strengthening.
- Coordination and strengthening of the IASC-Nariño, a mechanism for interagency coordination of humanitarian aid, which includes UN agencies, humanitarian organisations and institutions to ensure coordination, policy formulation and decision-making in practices connected to international humanitarian responses in the framework of ART-REDES. Launching of the pilot project, joint planning with SNU, international NGOs, Awá and Alcaldías populations, and the Departmental Government of Nariño, using an early recovery approach.
- Support for women's organisations and creation of social networks, in collaboration with other SNU gender programmes and international cooperation.
- Collaboration and binational planning in collaboration with the ART-Ecuador Programme and with the Peace and Development-Ecuador Programme (PDP/FN).
- Partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council for frontier work.
- Elaboration of a project to strengthen the Nariño LEDA and the first impact project (study on the implementation of irrigation systems).
- Elaboration of a project to support the generation of income for families in municipalities on the Colombian-Ecuadorian border and prevention of illegal recruitment with the Ipiales/Frontera Pastoral.
- Support for the development of a communication strategy (network of communicators).
- Strengthening of economic development agencies operating in different regions of the country.

Activities and results at the national level

The main activities undertaken at the national level under ART-REDES were as follows:

- Formation of the ART-REDES Programme management and coordination team.
- Exchanges and meetings with member donors, DGCS, AECID, ASDI, Catalan Agency for the Joint Elaboration of the Plan of Operations.
- Exchanges with other UNDP areas and programmes to coordinate activities in Nariño and at the national level in the ART framework.
- Signing of agreements with UNHCHR, WFP, UNFPA, and UNIFEM to facilitate articulation between UNDP and territorial agencies on the themes of development and peace. Elaboration of agreements with OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, FAO.
- Formation of strategic partnerships at the national level: meetings, exchanges with government institutions, the private sector and social actors.
- Strengthening partnerships with victims organisations at the national and territorial levels.
- Meetings with frontier groups on the humanitarian situation on the Colombian-Ecuadorian border to exchange information and plan joint interinstitutional action in the area and the preparation of urgent action to tackle and publicise the serious humanitarian situation in the area.
- Definition of binational dialogue initiatives with the Carter Center.
- Definition of a programme for the strengthening of binational relations with the Colombian Chancellery.
- Presentation and promotion of the ART Programme at the Workshop on Local Development and Competitiveness, organised by the University of Antioquia, Medellin, in collaboration with the HEGOA Institute (Basque Country).
- Participation in the First National Decentralised Cooperation Meeting organised by *Acción Social*; this was an opportunity to strengthen relations with the AECID, promote the Programme and establish new relations with decentralised cooperation actors.
- Organisation of the 2nd National Colombian LEDA Meeting: the aim was to create a meeting point to share best practices developed by LEDAs in the territories. The meeting was attended by Ecuadorian LEDAs, representatives of the government of Ecuador, Spanish and Italian international cooperation, as well as other ART programmes in Latin America.

Activities and results at the international level

The ART-REDES Programme carried out various international activities which helped to start the promotion of decentralised cooperation between local actors of the North and the South, providing the country and its communities with valuable experience for sustainable human development. The most important activities were as follows:

- Participation in the Marseille International Convention for the Territorial Approach to Development (March 2007).
- ART course organised in Madrid with the support of AECID to train technicians using the ART methodology; in this context a contribution was made to the training of new professionals through the presentation of the ART-REDES Colombia Programme and binational actions with the ART Ecuador Programme.
- Support for the first international decentralised cooperation meeting in Colombia in September 2007.
- Support for a mission by the Governor of Nariño in November 2007 to Geneva and Rome, establishing the foundations for future collaboration and for the future launching of decentralised cooperation.
- Mobilisation of decentralised cooperation: promotion was started for the ART-REDES Programme in several national and international events, to activate the mobilisation of decentralised cooperation.

Results were as follows:

- FAMSÍ: technical assistance and support to strengthen the Cesar LEDA; assistance in implementing the Programme in the Department of Nariño.
- Catalan Cooperation Agency: support for local capacity building and institutional and organisational strengthening for peace and sustainable human development.
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC): Support for working groups and elaboration of an international cooperation strategy. Partnerships for work on the binational border.
- Confederation of Spanish Funds and the Deputation of Barcelona expressed interest in backing the creation of a LEDA network, offering technical and financial support and using the knowledge and experience of Spanish development agencies.
- Global Humanitaria NGO: a joint exploration mission was carried out in the Pacific coast area, Tumaco, to identify joint actions; activities are in progress to jointly elaborate and manage planned activities, in particular on the theme of youth.
- Tuscany Region; a mission was carried out by the Tuscany Region Cooperation Councillor and interest was expressed for participation in the framework of the ART-REDES Programme.

Other international activities:

- ILS-LEDA. Permanent contacts were maintained with the international directors of ILS LEDA for institutional support to the country's LEDAs and territorial economic development.
- UNIVERSITAS. In coordination with ILS-LEDA and the Externado University of Colombia, an agreement was signed between the university and UNDP Colombia to organise two courses in local development and territorial marketing, one in Bogota and the other in Antioquia, in collaboration with EAFIT.
- IDEASS. An agreement was signed between COLCIENCIAS (public body for science and innovation) and UNDP. COLCIENCIAS is acting as IDEASS technical secretariat in the country. Two technical missions were carried out abroad, with the financial support of COLCIENCIAS, involving various Colombian LEDAs. Some possible innovations were identified which could be transferred to Colombia (Art and Crafts University, Environmental Engineering Diploma in collaboration with the University of Florence).
- Missions were carried to mobilise donors.