

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Colombia

SUMMARY FOR 2005

Critical Issues for Children and Women

The 40-year long lasting armed conflict in Colombia has continued to severely affect women and children, with enormous economic, social and geographic disparities. It is estimated that 55% of the population live below the poverty line. 25.8% of Colombians live on less than a dollar per day. Recent surveys show poor access to potable water, basic health and educational services and increased cases of HIV/AIDS.

The overall consequences of armed conflict are the increasing recruitment of children and adolescents by armed groups, internal forced displacements, and accidents caused by landmines and unexploded ordnances. So far, 14,000 children remain involved in illegal armed groups. Between 2 to 3 million people have been displaced over the past fifteen years, and half of them are children.

Planned Humanitarian Action for 2005

UNICEF has been strengthening its coordination with UN agencies, Government agencies, NGOs, and other international organizations. UNICEF is an active member of the working group on displacement issues, and leads the working group devoted to anti-personal mines. UNICEF will continue to strengthen and participate in inter-institutional committee dedicated to prevent child recruitment.

Humanitarian mine action: UNICEF will promote further dialogue with armed groups on humanitarian principles and the Ottawa mine treaty, continue the implementation of training and sensitization programme to prevent landmine accidents, and finally develop and strengthen Mine Risk Education programme in conflict affected departments.

Protection of child soldiers and prevention of recruitment: Beyond advocacy for the immediate release of children recruited by non state armed groups, UNICEF will emphasize on preparedness in terms of sensitization and planning, organisation of services to provide appropriate opportunities for education and reintegration for more than 2,000 demobilized children. Psychosocial recovery programme will be implemented. UNICEF will also support and promote actions aimed at preventing the recruitment of children into armed groups.

Humanitarian action for IDPs: UNICEF will continue to provide integrated assistance to IDPs, including psychosocial recovery, education, health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and water and environmental sanitation. UNICEF will develop child-friendly schools in regions affected by armed conflicts, and train education managers, teachers, and students in this strategy.

Summary of UNICEF Financial Needs for 2005	
Sector	US\$
Humanitarian mine action	650,000
Protection of child soldiers and prevention of recruitment	1,600,000
Humanitarian action for children IDPs	1,150,000
Total¹	3,300,000

¹ The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 12%. The actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with the Executive Board Decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003.