

Alliance to Prevent and Protect from Recruitment



The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), through the Alliance to Prevent and Protect from Recruitment (APPR) develops strategies to prevent child forced recruitment in Colombia and protect children and adolescents from this crime.

The project's strategies are supported by alliances and key actor participation in municipalities, such as: public servants, social organizations, community leaders, educational centers, families, and young people that were recruited while they were minors.

APPR emphasizes transforming social, community, family, and individual conditions that, in a violent context, create high risk of recruitment by illegal armed groups.

OBJETIVES

Strengthen the Government of Colombia's and civil society's capacity to prevent child recruitment by illegal armed groups. Widen protection services for children and adolescents who are victims of forced recruitment.

The project will fulfill its objectives through the following approaches:

- Evidence based
- Victim centered
- Differential approach (gender, life cycle, ethnic, and territorial)
- "Do No Harm" criteria
- Trauma informed
- Survivor informed (children, adolescents, and adults)

ABOUT PADF

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) believes in creating a hemisphere of opportunity, for all. We work across Latin America and the Caribbean to make our region stronger — more healthy, peaceful, just, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for current and future generations. For 60 years, we have served the most vulnerable communities, investing resources throughout the hemisphere. We partner with and enable civil society, governments, and the private sector for the greater good of the region.

LINES OF WORK TO FULFILL OBJECTIVES

Prevention: Activities to sensitize communities regarding child and adolescent forced recruitment dangers, and strengthen government, family, and community prevention capacities with a differential approach.

Protection: Tools to improve and widen protection services by coordinating with local authorities, based on the trauma that affects underage victims of recruitment and on facts that have impacted their lives.

A hemisphere of opportunity. For all.

PREVENTION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

The project's activities follow inclusive and participatory methods, based on children's rights and the integral protection principle, according to the Child and Adolescent Code of Colombian law.

The activities are:

- **Mapping and activation of recruitment prevention routes.**
- **Strengthen community and institutional capacities to prevent recruitment.**
- **Train public servants on how to guarantee children's rights.**
- **Awareness campaign about children's rights.**
- **Design child recruitment victim protection strategies.**
- **Technical assistance to public servants responsible for reinstating child recruitment victims' rights.**
- **Small grants and community activities to protect forced recruitment victims.**
- **Train forced recruitment victims in life construction processes as agents of change.**

PRIORITIZED ZONES TO DEVELOP ACTIONS

Child recruitment results from territorial dynamics such as: deficiencies in childcare, presence of armed groups, few chances to build an autonomous life project, and cultural factors, like normalizing the armed conflict and the influence in communities of armed illegal groups.

APPR is focused on the Montes de María and Bajo Cauca regions:

- **Montes de María region:**
 - Departament of Bolívar: El Carmen de Bolívar, María la Baja, San Juan Nepomuceno, San Jacinto, Córdoba, Zambrano, and El Guamo.
 - Departament of Sucre: Ovejas, Chalán, Colosó, Morroa, Tolviejo, Los Palmitos, and San Onofre.
- **Bajo Cauca region:**
 - Departament of Antioquia: Cáceres, Caucasia, El Bagre, Nechí, Taraza, and Zaragoza.

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