



YOUTH-LED PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN COLOMBIA: a transformational approach

Monthly newsletter about the progress of the project



HELLO!

It is with great pleasure once again that we extend our greetings and share with you all the second edition of our monthly newsletter. We look forward to using the newsletter to **keep all our different stakeholders up to date: You are a fundamental to this project!**

In this edition, we want to offer you a concise and in-depth look at what has been happening within the project over **the last six months**: from the moment we started the multiplication trainings (known as multiplicación in Spanish) — by the **Master Trainers** in the territory of Cesar (led by **Jorge Quintero of the UN**) — to the most recent trainings that were held at the end of January in Cundinamarca, Guajira and Atlántico.

Thank you for reading and for being part of this project!

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS EDITION?

- **Summary of the project**
- **Multiplications trainings from August 2019 to January 2020: Progress, multiplications, impact, evaluations, summary and moments.**

How do multiplication trainings work?:

These workshops are facilitated by the **Master Trainers** who were trained in July and September, 2019 in Medellin. Through these multiplications, **new trainers** are been equipped with tools that, afterwards, will be used with **communities**.



SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

This project seeks to contribute to the ongoing **peace and reconciliation** process in Colombia through the **strengthening of resilience and conflict prevention capabilities** in youth and families living in vulnerable and conflict affected communities. The program is split into **three components**; all of which complement each other and the main goal.



Component I: Painting the Future

Preventing the (re-)recruitment of at-risk youth to illegal armed groups.



Component II: Journey of Heroes

Strengthening the capacity of young people in marginalized communities.



Component III: Peace Perspectives

Supporting the reconciliation process in the Colombian society.

MASTER TRAININGS July to September 2019

5 Master trainings.



Held in Medellín (at Balcones de CDB)

To **72** Master trainers.

Coming from

21 departments of Colombia.

Belonging to

32 participating institutions.

MULTIPLICATION TRAININGS August 2019 to January 2020

Progress

6 Multiplication trainings of Component I.

5 Multiplication trainings of Component II.

13 Multiplication trainings of Component III.

314 Trainers trained by the Master Trainers.

By January 31, 2020 the results are as follows:

24 Multiplication trainings.

Throughout

14 departments of Colombian territory.

Led by

39 Master Trainers.



Multiplication Trainings

Between August 2019 and January 2020, **24 multiplication** trainings were completed. These trainings have been focused on all three components of the project and have taken place across **14 departments** in Colombia. These multiplication trainings were led by **39 Master Trainers** who shared their knowledge and experience with the next generation of trainers, **making all this possible**. For the work they have done thus far, we would like to thank:



Component I: Painting the Future.

- Antioquia:**
 - Rodrigo Echandía and Yessenia Rivas/ Ciudad Don Bosco.
- Arauca:**
 - Keydi Pérez and Luis Bolívar/ Corporación Infancia y Desarrollo.
- Atlántico:**
 - Álvaro Aja Avendaño/ Centro Social Don Bosco.
- Chocó:**
 - Dayana Mena Mosquera/ Fundación Te Abrazo Chocó - Peacemakers 360.
- Cundinamarca:**
 - Jaime Puentes and Óscar Delgado/ IE Departamental Miguel Unia.
- Tolima:**
 - Paula Forero and Fabio Pérez/ Escuelas de Paz.



Component III: Peace Perspectives.

- Antioquia:**
 - Edison Valencia and Leidy Ríos/ Corporación Dimensión Génesis.
 - Catalina Carmona, Lilian Cristina Ríos and José Gabriel Ramírez/ Corporación Dimensión Génesis and EAFIT.
- Atlántico:**
 - Olga Macías and Hernán Belalcázar/ Centro Social Don Bosco and Alcaldía de Pasto.
 - Guillermo Cano/ Scouts.
- Bolívar:**
 - Yuber Rodríguez/ Scouts and Servicio Educativo Arquidiocesano de Cartagena.
 - Mauricio Garcés and Guillermo Cano/ Scouts.
- Cauca:**
 - Piedad Parra and Shirley Briceño/ FMA Sagrado Corazón and FMA Cristo Rey de Popayán.
- Cesar:**
 - Jorge Quintero/ ONU.
- Guaviare:**
 - Fernando Conde Suárez/ ONU.
- Nariño:**
 - Hernán Belalcázar/ Alcaldía de Pasto.
- Norte de Santander:**
 - Viviana Suárez and Darly Acevedo/ Colegio Salesiano SJB de Cúcuta.
- Risaralda:**
 - Carmen Helena Betancur, Luis Alfredo Acevedo and Juliana Ramírez/ Colegio Salesiano SJB de Pereira, ETDH and PJS Provincia Mazzarelo.
 - Sara Jiménez, Sor Adriana Osorio and Maria Isabel Quintero/ Pastoral Juvenil Salesiana del Eje Cafetero, Casa María Peregrina-Hijas de María Auxiliadora and PJS Provincia Mazzarelo.



Component II: Journey of Heroes.

- Antioquia:**
 - Leidy Ríos and Lilian Cristina Ríos/ Corporación Dimensión Génesis.
 - Lizeth Correa/ Asperla.
- La Guajira:**
 - Claudia Martínez and Katherine Martínez/ Scouts and Colegio Salesiano.
- Risaralda:**
 - Néstor Pachón, Katherin Estrada, Daniel Rivera and Alejandra Quintero/ Colegio Salesiano SJB de Dos Quebradas, Oratorio SJB de Dos Quebradas and PJS Provincia Mazzarelo.

We would also like to thank the participants of this project for the work they are doing; they have been applying the project's methodology for several months through the implementation of the different components. This has been successful due to the dedication they have shown across the country, such as in the classrooms of innumerable educational institutions.

A quick shout out...





Impact

As part of the **Monitoring and Evaluation** process, some interviews were held in person at the end of the workshops. This face to face interaction enabled the conversation to be more personal. Accordingly, the information gathered from the participants went into more detail – particularly regarding their experiences, feelings, reflections, transformations, and plans (among other things). These additional insights allowed us to **develop a more complete understanding** of the impact the project is having on communities and its potential for growth across the country. **The following quotes have been taken from some interviews**, which share the experiences of the multiplication trainings by Master Trainers and participants:

“Being a facilitator creates an additional responsibility for **learning and the ability to communicate and lead**, as you must generate in others the motivation and desire to do the same with their communities. This makes it more difficult than being a participant—though, having the manual, and all the tools makes the job a lot easier because they made me feel safer, more comfortable and calmer.

- **Lizeth Correa** -
Master Trainer
Journey of Heroes
Medellín, Antioquia
Asperla



“This experience has been wonderful for me, very relevant and productive — I needed this. It has enriched me at a personal and also at a professional level, leading me to improve my pedagogical work. This training has reached our educational community at the perfect moment, since we are seeing cases of aggression and low self-esteem. I am sure that this will have a positive impact on our students and their parents because they are the ones that will ultimately reflect the training we give them.

- **Yomaira Rosa Guerra** -
Participant
Journey of Heroes
San Juan del Cesar, La Guajira
IE El Carmelo



“The moment you see yourself as the subject of transformation, you start to feel empowered. Through this program, we provide tools to children and adolescents, with whom we work, so that they gain **awareness** and the tools to **empower** themselves. This means that in addition to being heroes and heroines, they can also be human beings who can do something for themselves and for others. **Enabling a sense of cooperation and community without losing one's sense of self.**

- **Maribel Cortés Florez** -
Participant
Journey of Heroes
Medellín, Antioquia
Asperla



“The experience I had as a participant, in Don Bosco City, was wonderful and healing. Because of the experiential aspect of this event, some deep feelings I had were allowed to come to the surface. This encouraged me to transform many things in my life which, as of today, have been resolved. This is the reason that as a facilitator, I now come with an immense love for the world which I get to share with so many wonderful people who accompany me on this journey.

- **Edison Valencia** -
Master Trainer
Peace Perspectives Focused on Families
La Ceja, Antioquia
Corporación Dimensión Génesis



“During this experience, we have had several moments during which we found it difficult to **face ourselves, or situations of the past; to confront, or to think: How am I? How do I describe myself? What has hurt me? ...** I believe that these questions will also be very important when we bring them up to other people.

- **Deisy Carolina Tobón** -
Participant
Peace Perspectives Focused on Families
Vereda San José, La Ceja, Antioquia
Corporación Cono



“I think that all the content we are learning will have a **great impact on the communities we work with because there are people with a lot of talent and willingness to work**. It is worth noting that our community is located in the northern area of Quibdó, which makes it more difficult, because there are many vulnerable people living here: victims of armed conflict, for example, since most of the inhabitants come from the displacement of the Bojayá massacre (it is no secret that in Chocó there is a lot of violence).

- **Liseth Yojary Chalá Becerra** -
Participant
Journey of Heroes
Quibdó, Chocó
Fundación Te Abrazo Chocó

“The methodology and proposed exercises are of great value. I have extracted some of the knowledge learned, such as the timeline, which I consider very important so that **the boys and girls recognize where they are at and where they plan to project themselves to**. I also value the treasures of the institution with which we feel deep gratitude, because it allowed us to recognize some people who are invisible but are very valuable indeed.

- **John Fredy Muñoz Botero** -
Participant
Journey of Heroes
La Unión, Antioquia
IE Pío XI



“I leave with many challenges and above all with lots of reflections: **How to build peace? How to plant seeds?** Because sometimes we are waiting for others to do it for us and, however small the foundation may be, I am convinced that this is “creating a **homeland**”; sowing seeds of peace; and creating a new culture of non-violence. I leave with a deep sense of grounding on what I am already doing, and I also know that with the resources I am leaving with, we can make change happen.

- **María Helena Salazar** -
Participant
Peace Perspectives Focused on Families
Pereira, Risaralda
Fundación Juvenil La Alegría de Soñar



“With this program, we can offer the children of our community the necessary strength to become aware of what needs to be transformed within themselves, in order to find the **courage to move forward in life; even in the midst of a lack of love, company, and friendship, among other things.**

- **Néstor Pachón, Katherin Estrada y Daniel Rivera** -
Master Trainers
Journey of Heroes
Dos Quebradas, Risaralda
Colegio Salesiano SJB de Dos Quebradas y
Oratorio SJB de Dos Quebradas



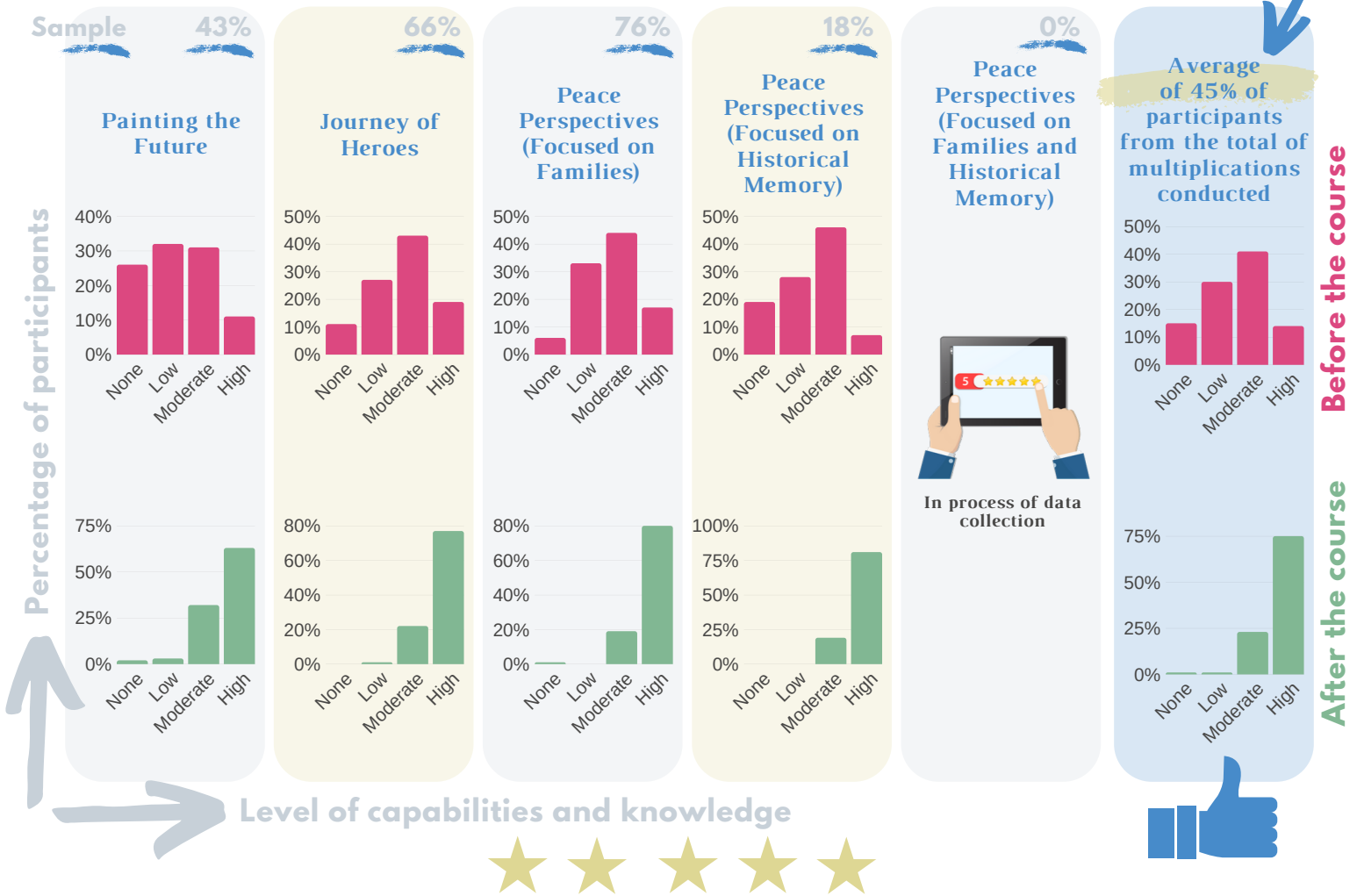


Evaluations

Quantitative analysis

At the end of each multiplication training workshop, the participants answer a questionnaire designed to evaluate their perception on what they have learned and experienced. **Below are the results, that have been collected so far**, which represent a **sample of each component**. The overall average collected is **45% of the total participants (141 of 314 people)**:

Average level of skills and knowledge of the participants in the different topics developed per component:



In relation to the perception from the same sample (45%) about the relevance of the training and their satisfaction, willingness and confidence to use what they have learned, the results are:

86%

Of participants **strongly agree** with **being satisfied with the course** and **the remaining 14% agree**.

87%

Of master trainers **strongly agree** that **the content of the course is very relevant for their work**, **the remaining 11% agree**. 2% were neutral.

88%

Of participants **strongly agree** with **being willing to use what they learned at work**, **the remaining 11% agree**. 1% were neutral.

81%

Of participants **strongly agree** with **feeling confident to apply the acquired knowledge in their work**, **the remaining 19% agree**.



Evaluations

Qualitative analysis



About the Master Trainers:

The participants were able to express through the evaluations their **thoughts** on the role of the Master Trainers as **facilitators of the multiplication trainings**. The feedback received was **very positive** and reiterates the Master Trainers' **commitment, enthusiasm and interest** in bringing the contents of the various components to their communities. The most prominent concepts highlighted in the trainings were:

	Passion and Dedication	
	Receptivity	
	Commitment	
	Willingness	
	Leadership	
	Fun	
	Assertiveness	
	Charisma	
	Friendship	
	Organization	
	Humanity	
	Content Mastery	
	Professionalism	
	Enthusiasm	
	Punctuality	
	Self-confidence	
	Amiability	
	Excellent preparation	

Comments / Suggestions to improve the course:



The comments of the participants regarding the course are mainly very positive, they highlight key aspects such as **the methodology used in the training, the relevance of the lessons learned (both at a personal and also at a professional level), the organization of the workshops, and the commitment of the facilitators.**

Moreover, some participants suggested areas of improvement which they believe would enhance the quality of the course if implemented. **Below are some of the most common suggestions:**

- Add **bibliographic and audiovisual material** to bring to the institutions and places of work and, thus, **enrich the multiplication trainings.**
- Keep the training process consistent to **make it more effective and beneficial to all participants.**
- Expand the project's scope to more areas **in the country**, as there are many different communities that **need this knowledge.**
- Add **more time** to work on the exercises and their respective **reflections.**
- Include the **entire content of each component** in the trainings so that the Master Trainers are more confident in their **understanding of the materials when they give the multiplication trainings.**

In general, comments of **satisfaction, appreciation** and **"no comments"** are observed.

Summary

In summary, the project has been progressing **consistently and effectively** with the multiplication trainings taking place across the country. It has been **permanently** observed that there is a warm and welcoming response by the participants, who have expressed their positive feedback to the various training sessions.

Additionally, it is inspiring to see, listen and share the **Master Trainers'** experiences as facilitators - their capacity to masterfully use the tools provided to them is striking as is **their deep and genuine commitment to contribute to peace.**

Thank you

We want to thank **Peggy Atoche** for her contribution with the translation of this newsletter.



Moments





Moments

