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

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.

MULTIPLICATION TRAININGS
August 2019 to January 2020

By January 31, 2020 the results are as follows:

- 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.
- 24 Multiplication trainings.
- 14 departments of Colombian territory.
- Led by 39 Master Trainers.

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.
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:
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.**

- Liseth Correa - Master Trainer  
  Journey of Heroes  
  Medellín, Antioquia  
  Asperla

**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.**

- Mariel Cortés Flores - Participant  
  Journey of Heroes  
  Medellín, Antioquia  
  Asperla

**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 Cháza Becerra - Participant  
  Journey of Heroes  
  Quibdó, Chocó  
  Fundación Te Abrazo Chocó

**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  
  Vereda San José, La Ceja, Antioquia  
  Fundación Juvenil La Alegria de Soñar

**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.**

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

**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 Cómo

**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 exercises 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

**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 SJ B de Dos Quebradas y Oratorio SJ B de Dos Quebradas
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:

- **Painting the Future**: 43% of participants were low, 18% moderate, and 20% high.
- **Journey of Heroes**: 66% of participants were low, 10% moderate, and 24% high.
- **Peace Perspectives (Focused on Families)**: 76% of participants were low, 6% moderate, and 18% high.
- **Peace Perspectives (Focused on Historical Memory)**: 18% of participants were low, 44% moderate, and 2% high.
- **Peace Perspectives (Focused on Families and Historical Memory)**: 0% of participants were low, 0% moderate, and 100% high.

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:

- **Painting the Future**: 86% of participants strongly agree with being satisfied with the course and the remaining 14% agree.
- **Journey of Heroes**: 87% of participants strongly agree with the course being relevant for their work, the remaining 14% agree, and 1% were neutral.
- **Peace Perspectives (Focused on Families)**: 88% of participants strongly agree with being willing to use what they learned at work, the remaining 11% agree, and 1% were neutral.
- **Peace Perspectives (Focused on Historical Memory)**: 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.

We want to thank Peggy Atoche for her contribution with the translation of this newsletter.
“It isn’t enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn’t enough to believe in it. One must work at it.”

- Roosevelt -
“We either walk together toward peace, or else, we’ll never find it.”
- Franklin -