



## WEEK OF COMPASSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

### For Global Ministries

*Please type or print clearly. Return electronically to Week of  
Compassion.*

#### SECTION 1: Basic Information

<b>Area Office</b>	Global Ministries Latin America and the Caribbean Office
<b>Date of Proposal Submission</b>	Fall 2017
<b>Project Title</b>	Conflict Transformation and Restorative Justice Between Ex-Combatants, Victims and Communities
<b>Name of Local Partner</b>	CAFEPAZ
<b>Location- City/State/Country</b>	Bogotá, Colombia
<b>Total Amount Received from WoC</b>	\$ 20,000.00
<b>Person Completing Report</b>	This report was written by Cafépaz and prepared by Global Ministries Resource Development
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#### SECTION 2: Project Summary

## **Project Goal**

*Referring back to your original proposal, what is the overall goal of the project? If your plans have changed from the original proposal, please describe.*

This project's goal is to contribute to the peace process that is currently ongoing in Colombia as a result of the peace accord signed between the FARC guerrilla and the Colombian Government on November 24, 2016. The project proposal for the restorative justice work of Cafepaz seeks to contribute to the reintegration process of ex-combatants of the FARC guerrilla into communities that include victims of the armed conflict, in Buenos Aires, Cauca and Icononzo, Tolima. The purpose of the project is to promote spaces for dialogue and reflection around reconciliation between demobilized populations of the FARC and the communities in general, to offer mediation as the role of the church in each community. The project proposal originally included a series of six (6) workshops in conflict transformation and restorative justice to ex-combatants and community members (including victims) in each community.

In November 2016, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ joined people all over the world in celebrating the signing of the Colombian Peace Accords between the Colombian government and the ex-guerrilla of the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-- People's Army). These Accords were achieved through decades of peace-building efforts, documentation of human rights abuses, including efforts by Global Ministries partners who are facilitating this project, and ending over fifty years of civil war that displaced millions and cost the lives of over 200,000.

Today, the hope generated through these Accords is all but gone as promises made by the government remain unfulfilled and several aspects of the Accords have not been implemented. Colombia's peace process has made toward reconciliation, but it remains fragile. In the last year, several FARC commanders announced a call to arms that further escalate tension and serve as a wake-up call to the international community, that the peace process needs international attention and pressure.

## **Primary Activities Implemented**

*Describe administrative and programmatic activities implemented in your request for funding.*

To date, Cafepaz implemented two conflict transformation workshops in Icononzo and Tolima. The project was delayed in implementation due to the ongoing unrest, including violence against demobilized former FARC combatants. Because of the relative autonomy of each FARC demobilization camp, Cafepaz needed to negotiate and come to an agreement with each in a separate process. Today, one of the communities identified in the original proposal no longer exists

Café paz also encountered challenges in hosting the restorative justice workshops, including security problems, busy working schedules of demobilized FARC members, and many members of the church began to feel discouraged and hesitant to engage in the project.

After one year of the project's implementation, the leadership of the project decided to re-evaluate the location of the project, as members of the community have migrated from the original communities identified and as several key staff members involved in this project have transitioned to new positions. These updated plans included moving the location of several workshops to a new location to take place over the next year (concluding in Fall 2020).

Justapaz was to lead one series of workshops and the Baptist Theological Seminary was to lead the other. The restorative justice workshops were to be carried out in the same format as detailed in the original proposal, however, would be taking place in different locations.

## **Challenges and Actions Steps Taken to Resolve**

*Summarize what organizational and environmental (political, social, infrastructural, etc.) challenges arose during this past year that hindered the project achievement of its goals. Also, include how the project/program addressed them.*

Due to COVID-19, all workshops were cancelled in the last five months, as Cafepaz suspended all travel and many activities. The partners are pending to restart the restorative justice process as soon as participants are available. At this time, the pandemic has affected the income and mobility for many members of this dialog. However, the partners are confident in carrying out these conversations, with personal health and protection in mind, and will execute the rest of the workshops proposed before the end of 2020. The workshops will take place in Cali, Urabá, and Tumaco, as the Peace Commission, Global Ministries partner and organizing member of the Cafépez coalition, already has worked with demobilized population and churches in these communities.

## **SECTION 3: Project Results**

### **Client/Participant Success Story or Details of a Program Achievement**

*Please share a client success story or a program achievement from this project. The success story or the program achievement should be related to program activities implemented and should convey the need or impact of the project. If using a client/participant success story, please keep client confidentiality in mind. If available, include pictures as attachments to your report.*

(Previously reported) The first conflict transformation workshop in Icononzo, Tolima was a great success. A total of 16 participants attended, equally represented by former FARC combatants and “receptor community” leaders. They were engaged actively in the whole workshop and the two most common responses during evaluation at the end of the day were that they wanted to bring more people to the next workshop or that they wanted Cafepaz to offer these workshops again in surrounding communities. Seeing former FARC combatants and civilians who were victims of the armed conflict participating in joint dramatizations and peacefully discussing conflict was powerful and rewarding. Some pictures are attached at the end of the report.

### **Short and Long Term Results**

*Realistically link program activities to the difference they are making. Describe how the project’s activities are making a difference in the short and long-term for both the client and the community.*

(Previously reported) There was general consensus that the workshop had been a success when Cafepaz formally evaluated the workshop with the participants. Several of the personal comments from both “sides”, both former FARC combatants and civilians who lived in the community prior to the FARC demobilizing there, were far more impactful than reading the evaluation sheets. In demobilization and reentry process which risks new conflicts, the most important goal of the first session was simply to build rapport. Facilitators were able to build that rapport with both sides and to start building trust and empathy between the two sides. One facilitator shared this was evident as the mood changed in the group throughout the day and in one-on-one conversations with participants during breaks and after the workshop ended.

Longer-term goals will be addressed more fully and will only be able to be evaluated after Cafepaz continues further into the workshops. Cafepaz is progressing to move from the general conflict transformation and into the more personal restorative justice portion.

**Best Practices:**

*Please Identify and Describe processes or practices that you implemented in this project that were successful, and that you recommend for use in similar situations.*

(Previously reported) The use of a “talking circle” (circle process) as a way of ensuring everyone’s equal participation in a context where Cafepaz knew that some of the civilian participants felt like the FARC members were not respectful of their participation in community decision.

Cafepaz chose a cross necklace made out of a bullet from a former FARC combatant as the “talking piece”. This was used in the hopes that both the FARC members and civilians could see a symbol of the transforming tools of war into a symbol of peace. This seemed to work well.

Cafepaz plans on continuing to use circle process as they “go deeper” into restorative justice as the workshops progress. They have asked members to bring symbols that represent them to the next workshop and will add a more symbolic centerpiece comprised of their symbols to the circle. Cafepaz will also select a new talking piece from the symbols they bring.

**Quantitative Results**

*Provide “numeric indicators” of your work in serving people and implementing project activities.*

<p><b>PEOPLE Served</b></p> <p><i>Avoid Duplicate Counts between Categories</i></p>	<p><b># of People Served</b></p>	<p><b>Comments or Description</b></p>
<p><b>Women age 18+</b></p>	<p>5</p>	
<p><b>Men age 18+</b></p>	<p>10</p>	
<p><b>Youth age 13-18</b></p>	<p>1</p>	
<p><b>Children age 0-13</b></p>	<p>0</p>	

<b>Families/Households</b>	14	
<b>Disabled</b>	0	
<b>Other:</b> <i>specify such as employed, unemployed, immigrants, etc.</i>	8	<i>Former FARC combatants</i>

<b>ACTIVITIES Implemented</b> <i>-Specify Activities-</i>	<b># of Activities or Service Units</b>	<b># of Participants or Beneficiaries</b> <i>If applicable</i>	<b>Comments or Description</b>
<i>Workshops</i>	2	16	<i>Participants in the workshops</i>

*Examples of Activity Descriptions: food distribution, legal assistance, trainings, workshops, clinical services, TB screening, intakes, pigs raised, wells dug, school supplies provided (units), etc.*

#### **SECTION 4: Financial Management**

##### **Required Attachment: How was funding used?**

*Provide a financial report of how gifts were put to use in support of your project. A template for this financial report is attached for your reference. Any report that does not follow this template will not be considered a completed report and not eligible for applying for WOC Sustainable Development grant.*

##### **If expenses differ from the original proposal, please explain variances here:**

A detailed report on expenses for the project was submitted last year. To date, \$6,402.00 has been used for the Restorative Justice project of Cafepaz in Colombia. As mentioned above, plans for restorative justice workshops in Cali, Urabá, and Tumaco are set to take place before the end of 2020, and a detailed financial report will be submitted once completed.

(Previously shared)

