

IOM and “Narrar para Vivir” Network of female survivors - A Partnership to Strengthen Organizational Capacity

LOCATION OF PARTNERSHIP



CONTEXT

The Montes de María region of Colombia is located in the departments of Sucre and Bolívar. It has been severely affected by the armed conflict and has a history of serious human rights violations (including forced displacement, homicides, and sexual violence) committed by various actors in the armed conflict, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrilla groups and paramilitaries.

IOM - NARRAR PARA VIVIR¹ PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Narrar para Vivir (“Tell to Live”) is a network of female victims who are survivors of violence in Montes de María. The network works to advocate for, empower and promote female participation to promote individual and social wellbeing and accompany their search for truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition of human rights violations committed by armed actors in the Colombian internal armed conflict. IOM and Narrar para Vivir partnered to strengthen the organizational capacities of the network to enable it to measure the magnitude of violence and reduce the indicators of violence against women, support advocacy protocols and initiate local public policy change through social mobilization. Initiatives included learning initiatives focusing on measures for prevention, comprehensive advocacy, access to justice and social mobilization to prevent sexual violence; training trainers on legal instruments and public policies for female victims of sexual violence, outreach to grassroots women’s groups in six municipalities and the creation of a base line identifying principal indicators of sexual violence against women.



THE NECESSITY OF PARTNERSHIP

Since 2014, IOM² has supported capacity strengthening of Narrar para Vivir as part of a wider reparations initiative. An initial project in 2014 focused on supporting the development of recommendations on collective reparations for women’s organizations. In 2015, IOM supported the network to develop training and empowerment strategies on rights for female leaders. A communications strategy was also developed enabling access to information on sexual and gender-based violence. This strategy contributed to the psychosocial accompaniment process the network leads with the female victims it brings together.

¹ The network consists of 840 women who have been working together since 2000 to overcome the impacts of conflict on their everyday lives (including threats, forced internal displacement, persecution, and sexual violence).

² With the support of the USAID funded Victim’s Institutional Strengthening Program

PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

- 30 women from the network were trained on sexual health, sexual and reproductive rights, prevention and attention protocols, and citizen participation to stop sexual violence against women.
- Socialization of legal frameworks for gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive rights was finalised and reproduced as a good practice to be implemented by IOM in other regions.
- Capacity building of the network's 15 branch representatives on legal frameworks and awareness raising at community level.
- Network capacity building on social mobilization processes, legal frameworks for rights, and participation and social mobilization strategy, "Narrar para Vivir, territorio de paz" ("Narrar para Vivir, territory of peace) developed.
- Design of methodologies and activities needed to conduct awareness-raising workshops on prevention and advocacy for female victims of sexual violence in the context of armed conflict.
- Awareness-raised among San Juan Nepomuceno's inhabitants on prevention, healing different types of violence, and discrimination against women, and reforms to the penal code, penal procedures, Law 294 of 1996, and other regulations.

In addition to strengthening the organization and increasing its political visibility, the network director, Mayerlis Angarita, was able to participate as a representative of victims at the negotiating table between the Colombian Government and FARC in Havana. IOM was able to gather local experiences enabling the design of relevant psychosocial interventions which take into account gender perspectives and victims of sexual violence in individual and collective rehabilitation in particular. Moreover, the women who participated in the trainings on women's rights are now better positioned to demand respect of their rights from local authorities.



The network has been able to impact decision-making at the national and regional levels

ADDED VALUE OF THIS PARTNERSHIP

IOM's support for Narrar para Vivir has been fundamental in terms of organizational strengthening and empowering women. Through collaborative efforts, the two organizations exchanged knowledge and strengthened their respective methodologies. IOM was able to incorporate the lessons learned and reflect gender perspectives. Female victims of forced displacement who were also victims of sexual violence were identified and, with support from the network, received guidance to begin the process to recognize and access comprehensive reparations processes.



Narrar para vivir
Mayerlis Angarita
maye_anro@yahoo.com.ar
Mobile +573214887058

IOM
Carlos Duran
Differentiated Approaches
Manager, Institutional
Strengthening to Assist Victims
cduran@iom.int

