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## BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESULTS

### 1. International presence:

- Approximately 3.000 *Animadores* (Facilitators) have been trained in the methodology of the Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation (ESPERE), all of them committed to replicate the system in their own environments.
- These *Animadores* (Facilitators) come from the following countries: Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Italy, Senegal, South Africa and Ethiopia.
- Direct Beneficiaries: approximately 60.000 people
- Indirect Beneficiaries (in first and second generations of replication): approximately 1.200.000

### 2. In Colombia:

- Approximately 1.500 *Animadores* have been trained. There are Reconciliation Nuclei of Reconciliation established in the following cities: Bogotá, Sincelejo, Quibdo, Barranquilla, Cali, Medellín, Cartagena, Pereira, Armenia, Manizales, Bucaramanga and Popayán.
- More than 35.000 people have directly benefited in the first generation of replication. They include displaced people and victims of violence, homeless, gangs, relatives of victims, illiterate groups, schoolteachers, street vendors, peasants, school parents, children and adolescents, youth organizations, church groups, community mothers, religious congregations, community action committees and prison inmates.
- Direct and specialized attention is provided for 1.000 ex-combatants of irregular armed forces in the cities of Bogotá and Medellín. More than 6.000 people are indirect beneficiaries.

### 3. In Bogotá (Colombia):

- Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation (ESPERE) have been set up in more than 60 city neighborhoods, and Centers of Reconciliation have been inaugurated in six localities, with an initial influence on some 50.000 people.
- The ESPERE methodology is being used at the present time in 25 schools at risk for violence, reaching about 40.000 students and 1,200 teachers.
- There is active presence of ESPERE methodology in 18 church institutions, encompassing approximately 12.000 people.
- In 2004, the City Council has passed a resolution to implement a compulsory class of *Human Rights and Pedagogy of Reconciliation* in all of Bogotá's education institutions.



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#### 4. Other activities

- A National System of Reconciliation in Colombia is gradually taking form.
  
- The program *Hermanos/as de Apoyo* (Support Brothers and Sisters, also known as “Hands up” program!) has been started to match up former combatants in irregular armed forces with volunteers that can provide them with support of many kinds.
- In 2005, “Brothers’ and “Sisters’ Day” was celebrated for the first time in countries with ESPERE presence.

#### 5. Activities reinforcing ESPERE Groups:

- a. Pedagogic community forums;
- b. Camping for ESPERE youth leaders
- c. Upgrading of seminars and methodological reinforcements
- d. Annual encounters to share experiences, theories and methods.

#### 6. Theoretical developments and products

- a. Manual for *School Forgiveness*, 7th Edition, Bogotá, 2005 (From Spanish translated into English, Portuguese. Forthcoming in French)
- b. Manual for *School of Reconciliation*, 7th Edition, Bogotá, 2005 (From Spanish translated into English, Portuguese. Forthcoming in French).
- c. The *A-B-C of forgiveness*, Student handbook, 2nd edition, 2005. Spanish version.
- d. The *A-B-C of forgiveness*, Facilitator handbook, 2nd edition, 2005. Spanish version.
- e. The *1-2-3 of Reconciliation*, Pupils’handbook, 2nd edition, 2005 Spanish version.
- f. The *1-2-3 of Reconciliation*, Facilitator’s handbook, 2nd edition, 2005.
- g. *Impact Research on ESPERE Participants*, University of the Andes, by Jacqueline Toro, Bogotá, 2005.
- h. Chapter in book: *Comparative conflict resolutions*, Tufts University, 2005, forthcoming.
- i. Two chapters in the book *“Demobilization, a road toward the peace,”* Bogotá, 2005.



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- j. *Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation*, in ReVista, Harvard Review of Latin America, Harvard University, Spring 2004.
- k. Booklet: *From the irrationality of violence to the irrationality of reconciliation*, São Paulo, 2004.
- l. Booklet: *Elementos básicos del Perdón y la Reconciliación*, Bogotá 2003. Spanish version only.
- m. Booklet, *Christmas of Reconciliation*, Bogotá, 2002. Spanish version only.
- n. Syllabus for a Diploma-granting Course on *Psychosocial attention to vulnerable populations*, a joint effort with the World Center for Conflict Resolution of the U.N University for Peace.

**7. Qualitative results:** (There is already research on the impact of ESPERE. Harvard School of Public Health is developing additional measuring tools for ESPERE Methodology).

- a. Gradual creation of a favorable atmosphere or *holding environment* for the invigoration of a *culture of reconciliation* based on principles of restorative justice and motivated by the philosophy of concern, solidarity and compassion.
- b. Growing interest for ESPERE on the part of governmental, academic and community institutions.
- c. Evidence of transformation of behavior and attitudes in the participants in ESPERE activities, who often report heroic histories of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- d. Significant impacts have been reported on ex-combatants of irregular armed forces, displaced people, and prison inmates.
- e. ESPERE methodology has become an important additional tool for conflict resolution experts and practitioners.

## **8. Alliances**

UNESCO Colombia; Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs in Colombia; World Center for Conflict Resolution of the University of the Peace United Nations;; Embassy of Holland in Colombia; International Organization for Migrations (OIM); Bogotá Mayor's Office; PORTICUS, Holland; Foundation Antonio Restrepo Barco, Popular Housing Program, Bogotá; Network of Peace Initiatives REDEPAZ; Education Secretary of Bogotá; National Secretariat for Social Work Colombia; CORONA Foundation; Kellogg's Foundation; CAFAM; Loyola Centers in Brasília, Rio of Janeiro, São Paulo, Salvador de Bahia, Monterrey (Mexico), Lima (Peru); theoretical and



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methodological exchange with Harvard and Virginia State Universities in the United States, and with the Javeriana and Los Andes Universities in Bogotá, Colombia.