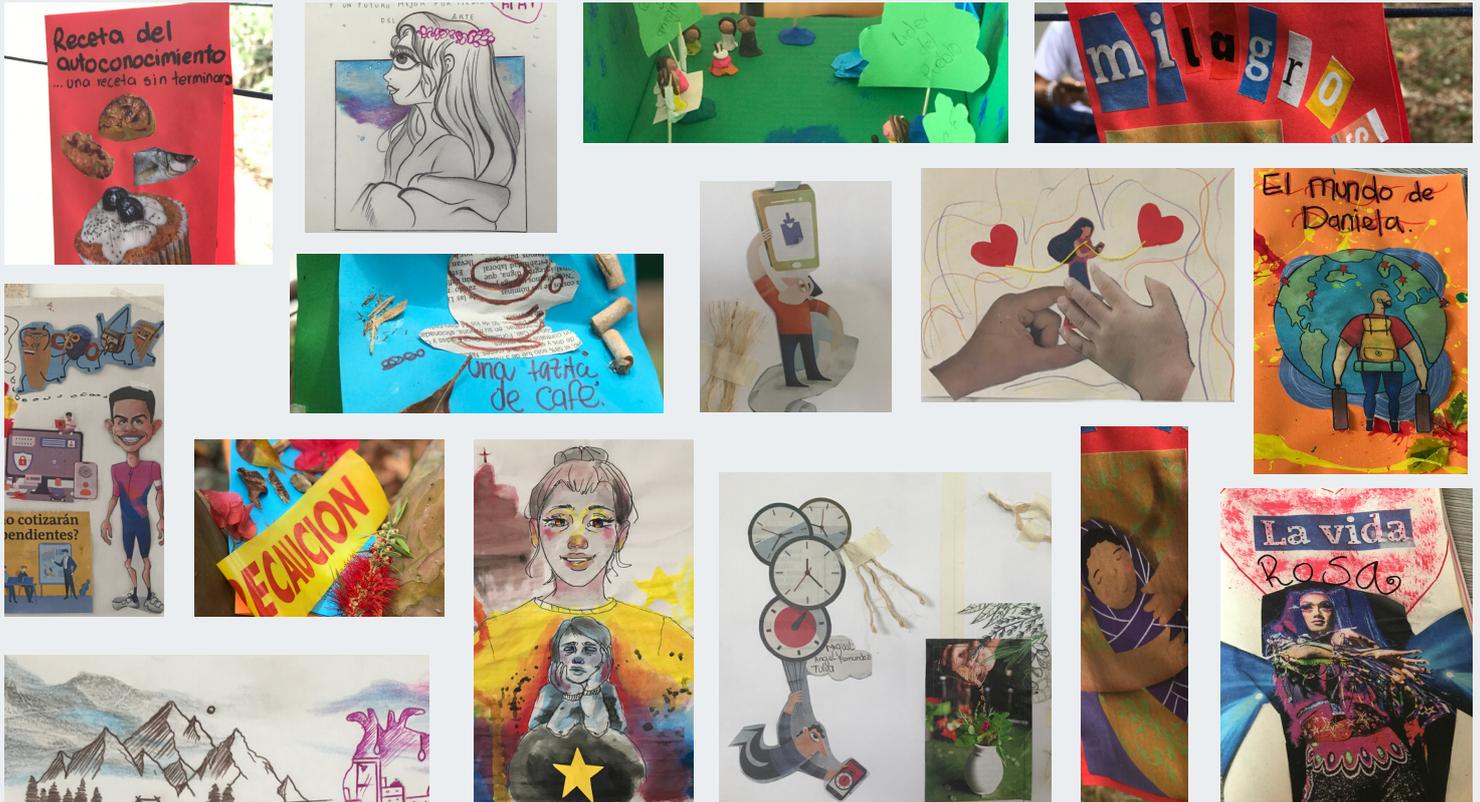




# YOUTH-LED PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN COLOMBIA: a transformational approach

Monthly newsletter about the progress of the project



## HELLO!

In this **third edition** of our newsletter, we want to share with you, the latest developments made by the project until **February, 2020**. So far, the Newsletter, has allowed us to share the progress of the project not only with stakeholders -who are a fundamental part of the project-, but also with all those of whom, one way or another, have connected with the project and wanted to know firsthand about **the valuable steps that are being taken**.

In this edition, we focus on the latest Training Multiplications that took place in the departments of **Cauca, Antioquia and Guaviare**, which allowed to reach and train **more than 400 trainers all across the Colombian territory**. They were trained using UNITAR's tools and are willing to bring them to their communities.

Thanks for reading and for being part of this project!

WHAT WILL YOU FIND IN THIS ISSUE?

- **Project summary/ Overall figures**
- **Training Multiplications August 2019 - February 2020: Progress, distribution, impact, words, evaluations, summary and Moments.**

*"We either walk together toward peace or we will never find it."*

- Franklin -



# PROJECT SUMMARY

This project aims 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 communities and other social groups. The program is split into **three components** which work in a parallel and complementary way:



**Component I:  
Painting the Future**

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



**Component II:  
Journey of Heroes**

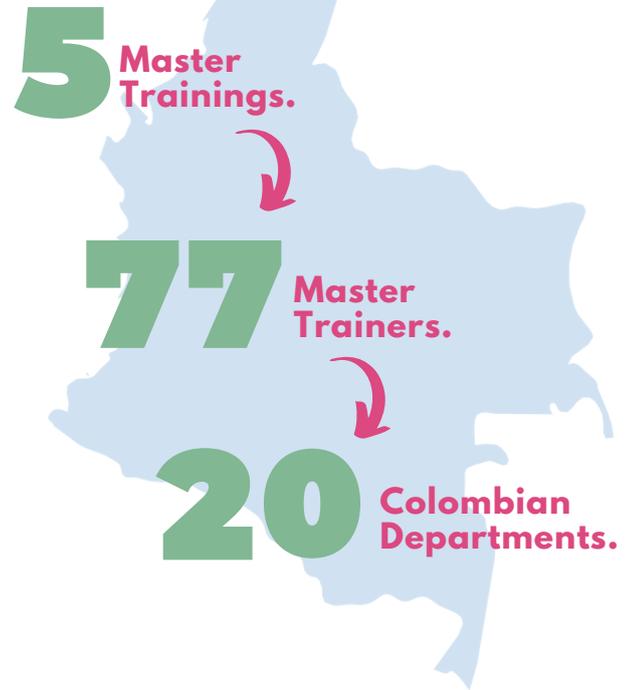
Strengthening the capacity of young people in marginalized communities.



**Component III:  
Peace Perspectives**

Supporting the reconciliation process in the Colombian society.

# OVERALL FIGURES



# MULTIPLICATION TRAININGS

August 2019 - February 2020 *Progress*

**8**

Multiplication trainings Component I

+

**5**

Multiplication trainings Component II

+

**17**

Multiplication trainings Component III



**401**

trainers trained by the Masters

**30**

Training Multiplications of the tool have been conducted

Throughout:

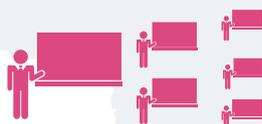
**14**

departments of the Colombian territory

Led by:

**44**

Master Trainers





# Multiplication trainings

Between August 2019 and February 2020, **30 multiplication** trainings were completed. These trainings focused on all three components of the project and have taken place across **14 departments in Colombia**. These multiplication trainings were led by **44 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**, in the current Newsletter edition **we would like to highlight:**



## 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.
- Cauca:**
  - Sor Ximena Caicedo and Vivian Mancilla/ Casa María Peregrina, Hijas de María Auxiliadora.
- 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 Social.
  - Pedro Beltrán and Ximena Sierra/ Ciudad Don Bosco.
  - José Gabriel Ramírez and Brian Ferrer/ EAFIT Social and Ciudad Don Bosco.
- 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 Shirly 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 María 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 reiterate our gratitude to all of those who are using the methodologies of the different components in their daily professional work. In this way, we can reach more places in our country and bring a message of peace and reconciliation.



**A quick shout out...**





# Impact

We continue to collect personal experiences of **participants and Master Trainers** in regards to the Multiplication Trainings that have already taken place across the country. Through this exercise we've gain an in-depth look on their perceptions, feelings, emotions, lessons, transformations, among other. **This information allows us to further understand the impact that the project have in the communities that it reaches.** The following quotes show some experiences of the multiplication trainings by Master Trainers and participants:

“As a facilitator, what impressed me the most was to learn that many people is interested in other people's stories. From there, “ties are intertwined” with others and with the country- which in turn, promotes healing in both them and in the society. I have also realized that through interviews, bonds are generated. **Although, these bonds are invisible to people's eyes, it feels like energy, and this is one of the most gratifying and beautiful things about this project.** Later, during the artistic displays, you feel a sense of responsibility, after hearing the interviewee's story—That is wonderful.

- José Gabriel Ramírez -  
**Master Trainer**  
Peace Perspectives  
Focused on Historical Memory  
Medellín, Antioquia  
EAFIT Social



“It was a very meaningful experience to participate in this project. I see a snow-ball effect that starts with those who trained me and produced a positive impact on my willingness to transform myself. And now, me as a facilitator, I get to relive the experience and not only share the knowledge, but also, motivate others with what is being accomplished. In summary, being a facilitator for me translated into the acquisition of a innovative and genuine learning.”

- Pedro Beltrán -  
**Master Trainer**  
Peace Perspectives Focused on Families and Historical Memory  
Copacabana, Antioquia  
Ciudad Don Bosco



“By listening to other people's experiences and telling my own, I have been able to fasten criterions and learn to transform myself and transform negative events into positive ones. This experience allowed me to share some knowledge, and support people that needs it, just as much as I needed. I feel very confident to apply this methodologies in my community and I know that with these tools we can help to transform and to improve the situation of many people who are trapped in an internal conflict, which has created so much war and violence.

- Roger Edinson Rodríguez Benítez -  
**Participant**  
Peace Perspectives Focused on Families and Historical Memory  
Condoto, Chocó  
Grupo Juvenil Salesiano MIS



“The transformation that San Carlos undergoes-after years of armed conflict caused by the guerrilla and paramilitary groups- through forgiveness, made us understand that **beyond an armed person or a person who killed, kidnapped and committed crimes—there is a human being.** This transformative approach through forgiveness, taught us that peace is possible and that we can all embrace in love, because **what all human beings in the world lack, is love — and nothing else.**”

- Claudia Patricia Aristizábal Mira -  
**Participant**  
Peace Perspectives Focused on Historical Memory  
San Carlos, Antioquia  
Corporación Reconciliar



“It was a very enriching experience because in our community, armed conflicts are not something lived on a daily basis therefore, conducting trainings about this component and making young people aware of youth recruitment— something happening in our municipality's main school— was very special since, many of them were unaware on the subject. **Seeing many committed to reproduce their experience in the multiplication training to contribute to peace in our country was something that filled us with great joy.**”

- Sor Ximea Caicedo and Vivian Mantilla -  
**Master Trainers**  
Painting the Future  
Guachené, Cauca  
Hijas de María Auxiliadora



“The most relevant aspect of my experience has been the opportunity to contribute to the creation of safe spaces where children felt at ease sharing their stories, pain and dreams. It is clear they lack attention. I was struck by the ease with which they opened and shared their challenging realities, some of their stories were so hard that it was not easy to teach these “little adults” about resilience because they've already mastered it. It is admirable to see their capacity to forgive and the resilience they showed after being affected in many ways by this armed conflict. I think I would summarize this process by saying: “it is their turn”.

- Fernando Conde Suárez -  
**Master Trainer**  
Peace Perspectives Focused on Historical Memory  
San José del Guaviare, Guaviare  
Misión de Verificación de la ONU



“I am glad to have been part of this UNITAR process and to have the opportunity to gain new knowledge about young people who demobilized from armed conflicts. **I feel confident to share all the information acquired during this process, and I am very grateful for participating.**”

- Karen Julieth Zapata Ocampo -  
**Participant**  
Painting the Future  
Guachené, Cauca



“Wow, the most beautiful part of the process I experienced with all the other young leaders **who are the future of humanity-** was the moment in which we shared a deep personal story, and asked ourselves whether it was right to forgive or not. When I shared my story, it felt great to vent my fears and my resentments and allow my ideas and joy to flow. **It was also nice to have another participant telling me: “you can forgive”.**”

- Participant, 15 years old  
**Protected identity**  
Peace Perspectives Focused on Historical Memory  
Charras, Guaviare

“I felt it was a very pleasant experience because I had the opportunity to put myself in the place of those who experienced armed conflict and honestly, **I could feel some of their pain (although, is not the same).** This helped me realize that it must be a very hard experience to go through. Thank God there are institutions that welcomed them, after they demobilized, **and allowed them to dream again —** which is the beauty of this topic. I am very grateful to the facilitators Vivian and Sister Ximena for this opportunity.

- Lina Perea -  
**Participant**  
Painting the Future  
Guachené, Cauca



“This process teaches young people to be leaders, to value other people and to get to know each other better. I learned to control myself more, not to be so aggressive and to be a better person in relation to others. I learnt to put myself in other people's shoes, empathy, and became aware that they also have problems, and not just me.”

- Participant, 17 years old  
**Protected identity**  
Peace Perspectives Focused on Historical Memory  
Charras, Guaviare  
AETCR





# WORDS

describing from the heart



If you had to summarize your experience during the process, in **one word**, what would it be?



When presented with this question at the end of the interviews, participants throughout **Colombia**, answered:



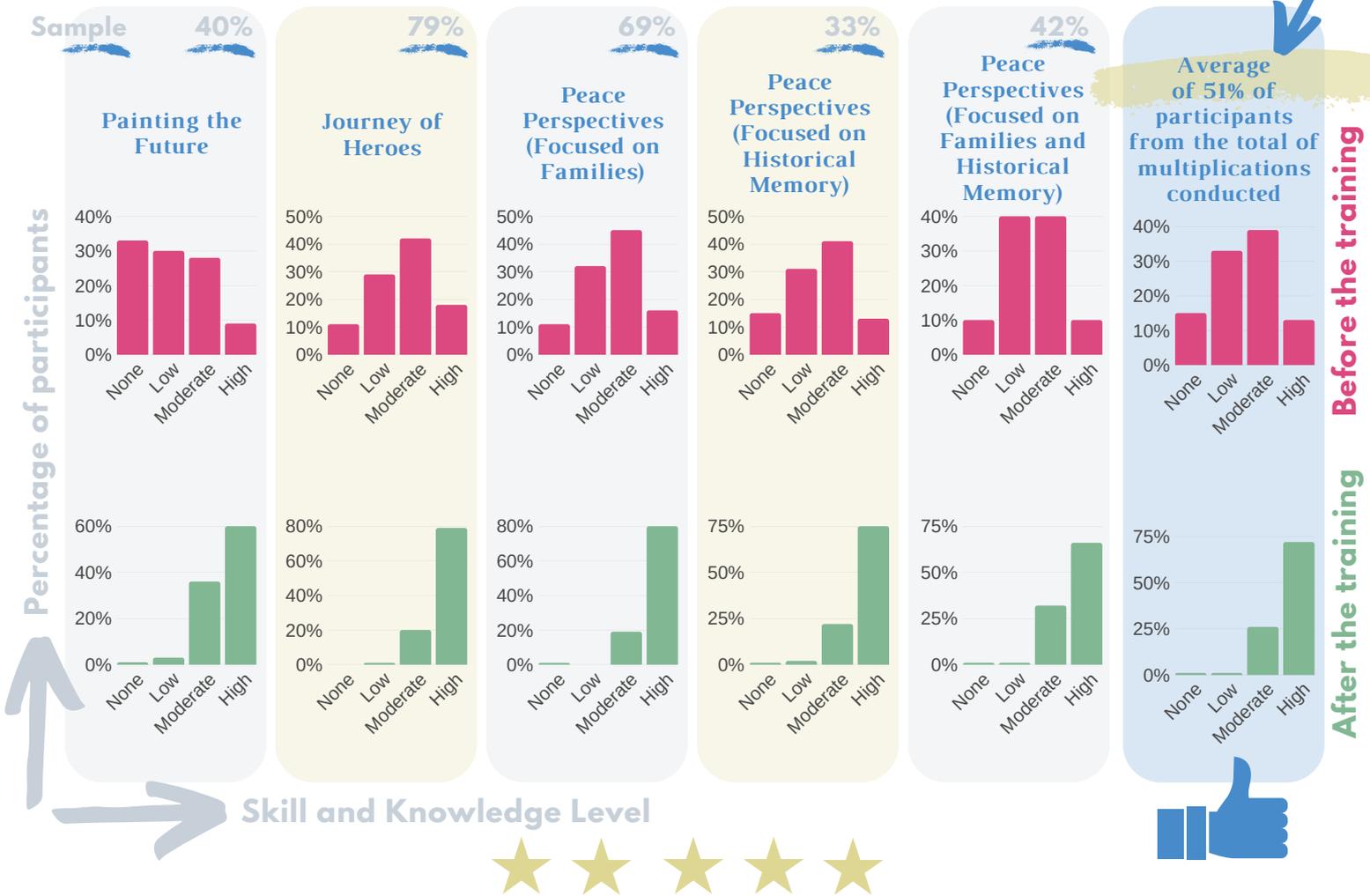


# Evaluations

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 **51% of the total participants (204 of 401 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 (51%) about the relevance of the training and their satisfaction, willingness and confidence to use what they have learned, the results are:

**85%** Of participants **strongly agree** with **being satisfied with the course**, and **the remaining 15% agree**.

**86%** Of participants **strongly agree** that **the content of the course is very relevant to their work**, **12% agree** and 2% is neutral.

**85%** Of participants **strongly agree** with **being willing to apply what they learned at work**, **14% agree** and 1% is neutral.

**75%** Of participants **strongly agree** with **feeling confident to apply the acquire knowledge in their work**, **24% agree** and 1% is neutral.



# Evaluations

Qualitative analysis

## About the Master Trainers:

The most prominent concepts highlighted by participants describing the role of Master trainers as facilitators of the Training Multiplications, are:



## Comments / suggestions to improve the training:

Participants continued to suggest **areas of improvement** which they believe would enhance the quality of the course if implemented. Below are some of the most common suggestions:



More training time



Larger geographical scope



Continuity of the project



More supportive literature



By the end of February, we can see major developments related to the number of territories and people the project has reached, including areas such as **Charras in Guaviare, and San Carlos in Antioquia** - which during the last decades have been seriously affected by armed conflict in our country. Being present in such places—bringing messages of **Peace and Reconciliation** to the youth and families of the different communities—give us not only joy and encouragement for the work done so far, but also a great **sense of responsibility** that we also share with **Master trainers and participants** who joined us in this project. **Thank you for your work, thank you for giving voice to hundreds of people who have a story to tell, thank you for contributing to peace-building.**

Thank you

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



# Moments





# Moments

