

A PILOT PROJECT IN COLOMBIA:

Benchmarking the “Minimum Subsistence Model” of the Colombian Government against the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)

GENERAL CONTEXT

The World Humanitarian Summit demands for a vision of a world whose fundamental humanity is restored and decisive, **collective action is needed to uphold our shared responsibilities to save lives and enable people to live lives of dignity**. In this context, the Colombian Government is taking action to end 60 years of an internal conflict that caused more than a million casualties and six million internal displaced persons. A peace agreement is about to be signed between the government and the major guerrilla group (FARC) in Colombia.

However, peace can only last where human rights are respected. The Colombian Government Victims' Unit allocates assistance to victims of the internal conflict based on the Minimum Subsistence Model, which focuses on re-establishing the autonomy of the victims. It is thus to be suspended once the vulnerability in the rights to housing, food and health

is overcome, when the household can autonomously ensure a minimum livelihood, or when the vulnerability is not anymore a result of the violence.

In a transition phase from conflict to post-conflict, the government aims at keeping the assistance to affected people relevant and efficient, while helping them move to economic stability.

Recognising this and that the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) represents the current international good practice accepted by the humanitarian sector, **the Victims' Unit and the Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQAI)** have jointly developed a project to benchmark the State led humanitarian assistance mechanisms in Colombia against the CHS and, on this basis, undertake a broader analysis of the Colombian policy framework for humanitarian assistance.

ACTORS

- VICTIMS' UNIT
- HQAI

Colombian Unit for the Assistance and Comprehensive Reparation to Victims

The Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative

OBJECTIVE

Efficiently identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Colombian public policy to assist the victims of the internal armed conflict in the face of the timely, relevant, and cost effective delivery of assistance, to allow them to **regain their independence and facilitate their integration to the Peace Building process**; all within an accountable humanitarian system that puts the people at the centre.

ANCILLARY OBJECTIVES

- Testing innovative approaches based on management system and social auditing methods for assessing the effectiveness of State led assistance mechanisms, so as to maximise the efficiency of both the analysis and the development of recommendations.
- Sharing the experience gained within the humanitarian and development sector, so as to minimise the burden of assessment while maintaining a rigorous and reliable approach.

THE UNIT FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND COMPREHENSIVE REPARATION TO VICTIMS

The Victims' Unit is the Colombian agency directly responsible for the implementation and coordination of public policies in terms of assistance and integral reparation to the victims of the internal armed conflict. It also coordinates the action of the entities that are part of the **National System of Assistance and Reparations to Victims** (SNARIV, for its name in Spanish), and is responsible of the **Single Victims Register** (RUV, for its name in Spanish), the **National Information Network** (RNI, for its name in Spanish) and has the responsibility to attend, assist and comprehensively repair the victims with a rights based approach. This vision materializes directly in measures related to humanitarian aid, administrative compensation and accompaniment in processes of collective reparation and psychosocial support.

THE HUMANITARIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE INITIATIVE

HQAI's objective is to help organisations progress and show their effectiveness in delivering to recognised humanitarian standards. Its quality assurance services are intended to build capacity in the sector and provide consistent measurable data in the delivery of quality action, thus improving principled, accountable, efficient provision of aid to populations affected by crises.

HQAI has developed robust tools to measure efficiently where an organisation stands in relation to the **Core Humanitarian Standard**. Tools related to other standard may be developed in the future. The policies, procedures and tools for independent quality assurance procedures follow the ISO 17021 requirements to ensure they are robust and provide confidence and trust to all the relevant stakeholders of the process.

