

ACTIONS AND ADVANCES BY ACCIÓN SOCIAL IN ATTENTION TO THE COLOMBIAN AFRO-DESCENDANT POPULATION.

The Colombian Afro-descendant population has been targeted in recent decades by a great variety of actions and strategies under national laws and state policies backed by international legislation benefiting it directly and/or indirectly. Bearing that in mind, the Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation ACCIÓN SOCIAL has increased its efforts by strengthening existing programs and creating new ones during the 2002 – 2007 period. It has also developed special projects in population groups whose inhabitants identify themselves as Afro-descendants.

Actions in national and international legislation and policy targeting the Colombian Afro-descendant population

1 International legislation and policy

Since the year 1948 the international system has adopted different measures to benefit minority groups such as Afro-descendants. Of them, the most representative have been:

- The universal declaration on human rights and basic freedoms for all people without discrimination based on race, gender, language, or religion, and the effectiveness of those rights and freedoms (1948).
- Millennium development goals (2000): challenges in the areas of poverty, health, education, economic development, and the environment involving the Colombian Afro-descendant population as adopted by the national government.
- Summit on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance (2001).

2 National legislation and policy

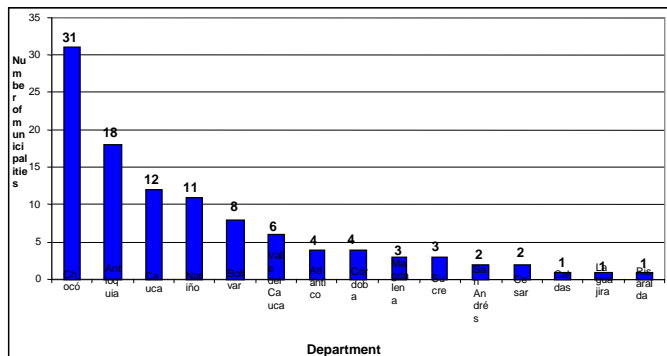
The specific policies in Colombia that target the Afro-descendant population were first promulgated in the year 1984:

- Comprehensive Plan for Development for the Pacific Coast (1984): oriented toward developing specific actions to foment agricultural production and social, education, health, and infrastructure development.
- Conpes 2589 of 1992: emphasized the development of social, environmental, physical, and energy infrastructure and on controlling seismic risk.
- Conpes 2909 of 1997: oriented toward improving the situation in the sectors of education, health, drinking water, and basic infrastructure.
- Conpes 3169 of 2002: proposed generating greater social justice.
- Conpes 3310 of 2004: promoted the generation of information systems to quantify the Afro-descendant population. This Conpes gave rise to the Pacific 21 Agenda.

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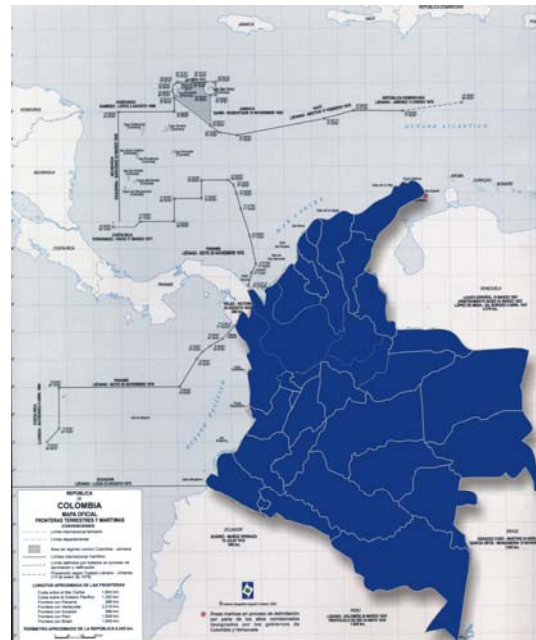
3 Municipalities with the largest Afro-descendant presence in Colombia.

Number of municipalities by Department populated by a majority of Afro-descendants.



* Afro-descendant municipalities are determined by self-identification by the people.

- Colombia has 107 municipalities with a majority of people who recognize themselves as Afro-descendants distributed over 15 Departments.
- According to the population census in 2005, 2,835,909 Colombians live in those 107 municipalities who identify themselves as Afro-descendants, equivalent to 6.7% of the total population of the country.



4 Families in Action (sisben 1) in Afro-descendant populations

This program improves nutrition, health, and education for people in the sisben 1 income category. In the Colombian Afro-descendant population the program has specifically:

- Registered and benefited families in 95 municipalities with an Afro-descendant majority.
- Benefited 134,606 families with 350,533 minors under 18 years of age.
- Invested a total of \$ 163,942 millions of pesos in conditioned subsidies for education and nutrition.



5 Food Security Network - Resa

The ReSA program seeks to stimulate rootedness in and/or return to territory by the beneficiary population through projects for the production of food for self-consumption. For the Colombian Afro-descendant population ReSA has specifically:

- Implemented 126 projects to create incentives for production for self-consumption in that population group.
- Benefited 45,570 people who identify themselves as Afro-descendants.
- Invested \$ 1.600 million pesos in the Afro-Colombian population.



6 Family Forest Guards

This program seeks to involve and produce a commitment by Afro-Colombian families (located in socially and environmentally strategic areas that are threatened by illicit crops) to processes to recover and conserve ecosystems. It also puts in motion alternative and sustainable productive projects based on a conditioned transfer of a financial incentives, technical-social accompaniment, and the generation of associative models. During 2003 – 2007:

- 10,041 families who identify themselves as Afro-descendants signed up for the program, with an investment of \$ 73,635 million pesos.
- Families received benefits in 10 municipalities with a majority of Afro-descendants

7 Productive Projects.

These projects establish a regional and local economic base that offers stable and legitimate sources of employment and income and contributes to improving food security for peasants and communities through the sustainable use of natural resources. As of 2007 the program has:

- Promoted 55 productive projects in 44 municipalities with a majority of Afro-descendants.
- benefited 12,847 Afro-Colombian families with an investment of \$ 63,391 million pesos (Includes projects with international cooperation).

8 Attention to victims of violence

This program provides indispensable aid to victims of violence, in such a way that their trampled rights can be protected, supporting this population group so that they might live with dignity. During the 2002 – 2007 period this program has:

- Given emergency humanitarian aid to 10,636 Colombian afro-descendant families who suffered damage to their property, were wounded without permanent damage, kidnapped, or threatened.
- Intervened in 96 municipalities with a majority population that identifies itself as Afro-descendant.



9 Development and Peace Programs

These programs build the necessary conditions for lasting peace and peaceful coexistence, based on life with dignity and opportunities for all inhabitants. This program has:

- Benefited 9,322 Colombian families with the implementation of 29 projects in 7 municipalities inhabited by a majority that identifies itself as Afro-descendant.
- Invested a total of \$2,047 million pesos in the Afro-Colombian population in the 2002 - 2007 period.



10 Mini productive and social chains

This project provides aid and accompaniment to organize the economic activities of vulnerable and displaced population groups into local chains in order to improve productive capacity. In the case of people who identify themselves as Afro-descendants, the program has:

- Benefited a total of 15,012 families in 27 municipalities with a self-identified Afro-descendant majority with 55 projects that seek to organize the economic activities of small and medium sized producers and businessmen in the region. They link together the stages of production, transformation, services, and commercialization.

11 Donations

- ACCIÓN SOCIAL processes and manages the donations received in kind and supports the poorest and most vulnerable population groups in the country using operators. In this way, people who consider themselves to be Afro-descendant in 61 municipalities of the country have received a total of \$ 18.301 million pesos in food, clothing and shoes, appliances, cleaning supplies, household goods, inputs and raw material, medical equipment, computers, toys, and material for recycling in support of 1,019 projects developed by these communities.

12 Infraestructure

In ACCIÓN SOCIAL's infrastructure area, it builds community infrastructure in depressed zones where illicit crops are present, or where there are victims of violence and displaced persons. It helps to develop comprehensive improvements to systems that will provide opportunities for social and economic development, improving the lives of the people. During the 2002 – 2007 period they have undertaken:

- Construction and improvement of the physical infrastructure in 24 municipalities with a majority population of Afro-descendants with an investment of \$ 19,951 million pesos.
- 53 roadway infrastructure projects in 34 municipalities with a majority of self-identified Afro-descendants in which a total of \$ 285,739 million pesos have been invested (Includes inter-departmental projects).



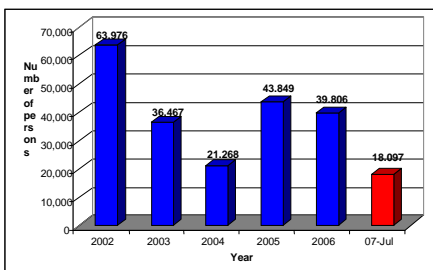
13 International cooperation

- The 2002 – 2006 International cooperation strategy, approved by the international community at the Table for Coordination and Cooperation for Colombia, established "the Rights of Ethnic Minorities" as the priority line for cooperation
- The 2006 – 2010 cooperation strategy established compliance with the Millenium Development Goals as a priority in those zones that would not be capable of meeting them by 2015, where there is an important presence of Afro-Colombian population.

Actions and Advances by ACCIÓN SOCIAL in attention to displaced Colombian Afro-descendant population groups.

14 Afro-Colombians Newly Displaced by Violence.

Number of people newly registered in the RUPD



Source: RUPD

This figure may change because displaced persons have 12 months to register in the RUPD

- In 2006, the number of Afro-Colombians newly displaced by violence decreased by 41.1% with respect to those registered in 2002.
- Total number of Afro-Colombians registered in the SIPOD: 397,858

15 Emergency Humanitarian Attention (AHE)

In this phase, actions for aid and attention to the displaced population are being developed to meet the basic needs of the early days of displacement.

- As of May 2007 groceries, kits, and humanitarian aid have been delivered to a total of 35,077 displaced families who identified themselves as Afro-descendants in 41 municipalities with a majority of Afro-Colombians. This aid as of May 2007 was in the amount of \$ 6,141 million pesos.

16 Prolonged Aid and Recovery Operation – OPSR.

This strategy protects and stabilizes the means of subsistence of persons displaced by violence, and increases their capacity to survive the situation requiring humanitarian aid. In the area of attention to displaced Afro-descendants the program has:

- Delivered 12,390,461 food packages to 222,470 displaced persons (44,495 families) who identify themselves as Afro-descendants.
- Given attention to 60 municipalities that pushed out and/or received Afro-Colombian populations.
- Invested a total amount of resources equivalent to \$ 14,176 million pesos to obtain and deliver aid rations.

17 Accompaniment for Return

This strategy helps communities displaced by violence to return to their places of origin. In the 2002 - 2007 period this program has:

- Accompanied returns to 35 municipalities with a majority of Afro-descendants.
- Achieved the return to places of origin of 50,622 Afro-Colombians (11,665 families).
- Organized and held 73 events to return displaced Afro-Colombian population groups.

18 Habitat.

This program generates better habitat for the displaced population in general and for Afro-descendants in particular. The program has:

- Benefited 13,404 displaced Afro-Colombian families in a total of 61 municipalities where the majority of the population belongs to that group.
- Financed a total of \$ 82,132 million pesos in 455 projects to improve living conditions for the displaced Afro-descendant population.



19 Families in Action (displaced) in Afro-descendant population groups

This program improves nutrition, health, and education for displaced persons. Specifically in the Colombian Afro-descendant displaced population the program has:

- Registered and benefited families in 65 municipalities with an Afro-descendant majority.
- Benefited 17,117 families with 40,461 minors under 18 years of age.
- Invested a total of \$ 15,091 million pesos in conditioned subsidies for education and nutrition.

20 Psycho-social Support for Children and Young People – BATUTA

Batuta creates a space for boys and girls and young people to weave social fabric, learn values, and create ties. With the Afro-descendant population as of April 2007 the program has:

- Given musical education to 5,520 children and young people coming from 12 municipalities with a majority self-identified Afro-descendant population.
- Developed 23 projects for psychosocial accompaniment and adaptation to the situation of displacement.
- Invested \$ 6,277 million pesos.

Special government projects in Afro-descendant communities.

21 Resettlement Bellavista, Bojayá

On May 2, 2002 Bojayá was the scene of a massacre of 119 people and the destruction of the town. Then on November 12 of the same year, the county seat was declared at high risk for flooding. All of this led the community to request the national government to relocate the municipality.

- The Colombian government has invested a total of \$ 31 billion pesos in this project, of which, 17,182 were allocated from ACCIÓN SOCIAL. Those resources were invested as follows:
 - Studies, designs, and social management (\$ 1,504 million pesos)
 - Movement of 590,000 cubic meters of earth (\$ 1,406 million pesos)
 - Environmental mitigation works (\$ 867 million pesos)
 - Construction of roads and parks (\$ 2,455 million pesos)
 - Construction and improvement of water and sewage networks (\$ 2,930 million)
 - Construction and improvement of electrical networks and public lighting systems (\$ 880 million pesos)
 - Construction and improvement of 264 homes (\$ 9,240 million pesos)
 - Construction and improvement of the educational infrastructure (\$ 1,582 million pesos)
 - Multi-sport complex (\$ 840 million pesos)
 - Health Center (\$323 million).
 - Municipal Palace (\$440 million).
 - Multiple Home for ICBF (\$629 million).
 - Police station (\$908 million).
 - Dock (\$1,089 million)
 - Runway for Vigía del Fuerte (\$5,232 million)
 - Library (\$320 million)



22 Relocation Cupica.

In November 1999 the Cupica River flooded, affecting 1,100 people living in the village of Bahía Cupica in the municipality of Bahía Solano in the Department of Chocó. In light of the looming risk to the inhabitants of experiencing another emergency situation like the one in November, the national government decided to relocate the population of that village.

- The Colombian government invested a total of \$ 7,703 million pesos in the relocation project, allocated as follows:
 - Construction of 235 homes (\$ 2,285 million pesos)
 - Construction and improvement of water and sewage (\$ 705 million pesos)
 - Construction and improvement of electrical distribution networks and the micro hydroelectric power station (\$ 3,052 million pesos)
 - Other works (\$ 1,661 million pesos)