

Country Name	Project for Social Inclusion of Conflict Victims with Disabilities
Republic of Colombia	

I. Project Outline

Background	<p>In Colombia, as a result of more than 40 years of internal conflict, the security situation deteriorated significantly. Although the situation was being improved through the government's efforts, there were many persons with disabilities due to landmine damage and others, and support for them was an urgent issue. JICA implemented the "Project for Strengthening the Comprehensive Rehabilitation System for Persons with Disabilities, Focusing on Landmine Victims". On the other hand, for conflict victims with disabilities, there was a strong recognition of the need to not only strengthen rehabilitation systems but also promote social participation and social inclusion, including reintegration into society based on the acquisition of a means of livelihood.</p>														
Objectives of the Project	<p>Through the capacity building of conflict victims with disabilities (and persons with disabilities) (VcD/PcD), awareness raising of VcD/PcD, their family, and relevant organizations, and the improvement of the accessibility of the physical environment, transportation and information/communication in the pilot sites, the project aims to develop the social inclusion strategy of VcD/PcD, thereby contributing to promoting the social inclusion strategy of VcD/PcD in sites other than the pilot sites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Overall Goal: The social inclusion strategy of the conflict victims with disabilities (other persons with disabilities) is promoted. Project Purpose: The social inclusion strategy of the conflict victims with disabilities (other persons with disabilities) is promoted in the pilot sites. 														
Activities of the Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project site: Bogotá, first pilot municipalities: Granada, Medellín (Department of Antioquia), El Carmen de Chucuri, Bucaramanga (Department of Santander), second pilot municipalities: Granada, Marinilla (Department of Antioquia), Puerto Wilches, and Lebrija (Department of Santander). Main activities: Information collection about VcD/PcD, training of leaders with disabilities at the Leadership School, peer counseling, implementation of the disability equality training (DET), preparation and pilot implementation of the social inclusion strategy for the five sectors (health, education, employment, empowerment, and conflict victims), etc. Inputs (to carry out above activities) <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Japanese Side</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Colombian Side</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1) Experts: 8 persons</td> <td>1) Staff allocated: 8 persons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2) Experts from the third country: 4 persons</td> <td>2) Land and facility: office space, meeting room, etc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3) Trainees received: 10 persons</td> <td>1) Local cost: travel expenses, office utility costs, etc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4) Equipment: projectors and printer</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5) Local cost: cost for hiring local consultants, expenses for surveys and training, etc.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 			Japanese Side	Colombian Side	1) Experts: 8 persons	1) Staff allocated: 8 persons	2) Experts from the third country: 4 persons	2) Land and facility: office space, meeting room, etc.	3) Trainees received: 10 persons	1) Local cost: travel expenses, office utility costs, etc.	4) Equipment: projectors and printer		5) Local cost: cost for hiring local consultants, expenses for surveys and training, etc.	
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Project Period	(ex-ante) July 2014 to July 2019 (60 months) (actual) March 23, 2015 to March 22, 2020 (60 months)	Project Cost (Japanese side only)	(ex-ante) 353 million yen (actual) 339 million yen												
Implementing Agency	Unit for Comprehensive Care and Reparation for Victims (UARIV).														
Cooperation Agency in Japan	None.														

II. Result of the Evaluation

1 Relevance/Coherence
<p>[Relevance]</p> <p><Consistency with the Development Policy of Colombia at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation></p> <p>The national development plan "Prosperity for All" (2010-2014) stated the need to strengthen all activities to guarantee the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families. The project was consistent with the development policy of Colombia at the time of ex-ante evaluation.</p> <p><Consistency with the Development Needs of Colombia at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation></p> <p>As a result of more than 40 years of internal conflicts, there were many persons with disabilities due to landmine damage and others, and there was a strong recognition of the need to not only strengthen rehabilitation systems but also promote social participation and social inclusion, including reintegration into society based on the acquisition of a means of livelihood. The project was consistent with the development needs of Colombia at the time of ex-ante evaluation.</p> <p><Appropriateness of Project Design/Approach></p> <p>The project design/approach was highly appropriate. Based on the baseline survey and activity review at the early stage, the project approach has effectively changed. The project initially intended to benefit both VcD and PcD in the same way, but based on their different issues and needs, different strategies were conducted: promoting mental health care through peer counseling methods for VcD by UARIV; and improving leadership for PcD through leadership schools and DET by the Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p><Evaluation Result></p>

In light of the above, the relevance of the project is ③¹.

[Coherence]

<Consistency with Japan's ODA Policy at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation>

One of the priority areas in the "Country Assistance Policy for Colombia" (2013) was balanced economic growth. This included efforts to stabilize local communities by supporting the economic and social reintegration of internally displaced persons, surrendered soldiers, and landmine victims who were affected by the long-standing conflict. The project was consistent with Japan's ODA policy to Colombia at the time of ex-post evaluation.

<Collaboration/Coordination with JICA's Other Interventions>

The collaboration/coordination between the project and a JICA volunteer was planned during the project period and was implemented, the positive effects expected were confirmed at the time of ex-post evaluation. The project collaborated with the volunteer who worked at the Carmen de Chucurí Hospital as a physical therapist to implement training in the Health Component. The volunteer coordinated with the hospital staff and validated the project activities. In addition, the social inclusion center for PcD in Granada Municipality by the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project (2016) was also utilized to carry out some project activities.

<Cooperation with other institutions/ Coordination with International Framework>

The collaboration/coordination with other donors was not planned at the time of ex-ante evaluation but was implemented during project implementation, and the positive effects expected were confirmed at the time of ex-post evaluation. First, experienced human resources from UNDP's program for victim employment support were further trained in employment support to PcD in the project. Second, UARIV collaborated with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to extend the peer counseling introduced by this project to other areas.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the coherence of the project is ③.

[Evaluation Result of Relevance/Coherence]

In the light above, the relevance/coherence of the project is ③.

2 Effectiveness/Impact

<Status of Achievement of the Project Purpose at the Time of Project Completion>

At the time of project completion, the Project Purpose was achieved as planned. The social inclusion strategy of VcD/PcD was approved by the relevant entities (Indicator 1), including the National System of Attention and Integral Reparation for Victims (SNARIV) at the national and territorial level, Ministries of Health, Education, Interior, Labor, UARIV, Governorships of Antioquia and Santander, municipal office and leaders of persons with disabilities in the pilot sites. All of the components (health, education, employment, empowerment, and victims) of the strategy were implemented (Indicator 2). In addition, the strategy was incorporated in the annual plan of SNARIV, "National System of Care and Comprehensive Compensation for Victims" (Indicator 3).

<Continuation Status of Project Effects at the Time of Ex-Post Evaluation>

By the time of the ex-post evaluation, the project effects have continued. The social inclusion strategy of VcD/PcD developed by the project has been effective, being materialized in the UARIV's plans. The strategy has been reported to the Ombudsman's Office, the Attorney General's Office, the Constitutional Court, and others as one of the main milestones of the program for the protection of VcDs by UARIV. The strategy's components have been continuously implemented. UARIV has promoted peer counseling by hiring counselors in the framework of the group emotional recovery processes carried out by the Psychosocial Approach Group. UARIV has also carried out disability awareness activities. UARIV issued the resolution (041 of 2022) that strengthens the mandatory nature and actions to be carried out in different areas with differential approaches. Besides, other components (health, education, employment, and empowerment) have been implemented by each relevant ministry and reported in the Subcommittee of Differential Approach.

<Status of Achievement of the Overall Goal at the Time of Ex-Post Evaluation>

At the time of ex-post evaluation, the Overall Goal has been achieved as planned. The social inclusion strategy has been incorporated into the operational plan of the Differential Approaches Subcommittee of SNARIV. SNARIV has annually held four Subcommittee sessions as expected. In addition to the differential approach to disability, the Subcommittee has discussed other differential approaches so that the annual operational plan does not only address disability but also aspects related to women and gender equality, childhood, and senior citizens.

<Other Impacts at the Time of Ex-Post Evaluation>

First, access to basic rights for VcD was improved, such as improved access to health and education, according to information provided by the secretariats of health and education in the municipalities' pilot sites. Second, there have been positive changes in psychosocial professionals who manage the implementation of the strategy, such as a better understanding of the disability as a concept and the particularity of VcD, even if it was not a direct cause of the conflict, and in peer counselors to the extent that their lives were improved in terms of empowerment, on an acceptance of how most of their life can continue even with their disabilities and on acknowledging the importance of sharing this new perception with other PcD. Thanks to this, the pilot municipalities experienced an increase in the inclusion of PcD and the understanding of the government on the importance of improving accessibility to social services for PcD, to achieve real social inclusion.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the effectiveness/impact of the project is ③.

Achievement of Project Purpose and Overall Goal

Aim	Indicators	Results	Source
(Project Purpose) The social inclusion strategy of the conflict	1. The social inclusion strategy of VcD/PcD is approved by the relevant entities of the project.	Status of the Achievement (Status of the Continuation): achieved as planned (continued) (Project Completion)	Project Completion Report (PCR), UARIV.

¹ ④ : very high, ③ : high, ② : moderately low, ① : low

victims with disabilities (other persons with disabilities) is promoted in the pilot sites.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social inclusion strategy of VcD/PcD was approved by the relevant entities of the project. (Ex-Post Evaluation) The social inclusion strategy of VcD/PcD has been effective, being monitored by SNARIV. 	
	2. At least 80% of the components of the social inclusion strategy of VcD/PcD planned for each pilot site are implemented.	Status of the Achievement (Status of the Continuation): achieved as planned (continued) (Project Completion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the pilot activities in the first and second pilot sites, the strategy was implemented. All of the components (health, education, employment, empowerment, and conflict victims) were implemented. (Ex-Post Evaluation) All of the components have been carried out by UARIV and each relevant Ministry. 	PCR, UARIV.
	3. The project's social inclusion strategy is included in the Comprehensive Plan of Care, Assistance and Comprehensive Compensation for Victims (Roadmap) of UARIV.	Status of the Achievement (Status of the Continuation): achieved as planned (continued) (Project Completion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social inclusion strategy was incorporated into the roadmap. (Ex-Post Evaluation) The social inclusion strategy has still been included in UARIV's action plan. 	PCR, UARIV.
(Overall Goal) The social inclusion strategy of the conflict victims with disabilities (other persons with disabilities) is promoted.	1. The social inclusion strategy has been incorporated into the operational action plan of the Differential Approach Subcommittee of SNARIV.	Status of the Achievement: achieved as planned (Ex-Post Evaluation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social inclusion strategy has been incorporated into the operational action plan of the Differential Approach Subcommittee of SNARIV. 	UARIV.

3 Efficiency

The project cost was within the plan due to the combined factors, and the project period was as planned (the ratio against the plan: 96% and 100%, respectively).

	Project Cost (Japanese side only, yen)	Project Period (months)
Plan (ex-ante)	353 million yen	60 months
Actual	339 million yen	60 months
Ratio (%)	96%	100%

Outputs were produced as planned.

In the light above, the efficiency of the project is ④.

4 Sustainability

<Policy Aspect>

Promotion of social inclusion of VcD/PcD has been prioritized by the government, as social inclusion of VcD with a differential approach has been included in the "National Development Plan" (2018-2022). In addition, the Victims Law was extended for 10 more years (Law 2078 of 2021) until 2031, which guarantees that UARIV continues with the policy implementation for victims, including VcD. Finally, regarding the implementation of the aforementioned Law, the public policy enacted by the Colombian Government is included in CONPES Document Number 4031 of 2021, "National Policy for Comprehensive Attention and Reparation of Victims, which is also valid until 2031.²

<Institutional/Organizational Aspect>

The organizational setting of UARIV for promoting social inclusion strategies has been sustained. UARIV has sustained three staff members in the General Sub-Directorate, the Psychosocial Approach Group, and the SNARIV Coordination Sub-Directorate. The turnover of the members has been a slight issue. Regarding the peer counselors, training was conducted from 2021 to 2023 with JICA's support, but still, more counselors have been needed to implement actions in all departments. DET has not been continued because it is not directly linked to UARIV's function (care, assistance, or reparation measures of the victims) and thus cannot have budgets for implementing actions

<Technical Aspect>

UARIV staff members have sustained the necessary skills and knowledge to promote the social inclusion strategy, as the necessary information has been documented and available. However, when the members are changed due to new administrations or any other reasons, it requires time to take over the strategy implementation. Training has been conducted for peer counselors but not DET trainers, as mentioned above. Manuals developed by the project have been utilized, being recorded in UARIV as part of SNARIV's procedures and documents.

<Financial Aspect>

UARIV has continuously secured the necessary budget for promoting the social inclusion strategy in the country. Being included in the annual operational plan, strategies for emotional recovery and reparation have been implemented that include peer counseling, and operation of the subcommittee of differential approaches. The budget has been likely to be sustained since the National Council of Economic and Social Policy Document 4031 includes the budget plan for the implementation of the Victims' Law.

<Environmental and Social Aspect>

² A CONPES Document is a white paper policy text which sets the guidelines for implementing public policies, programs and projects to be undertaken by public organizations. <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Econ%C3%B3micos/4031.pdf>

No issue on environmental and social aspect has been observed, and it has not been necessary to take any countermeasures.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, slight problems have been observed in terms of the institutional/organizational and technical aspects of the implementing agency. Therefore, the sustainability of the project effects is ③.

5 Summary of the Evaluation

The project developed the social inclusion strategy of VcD/PcD (Project Purpose), and its implementation has been promoted (Overall Goal). The social inclusion strategy has been incorporated into the operational plan of the Differential Approach Subcommittee of SNARIV, and strategies have been implemented in the components of health, education, employment, empowerment, and conflict victims.

Considering all of the above points, this project is evaluated to be highly satisfactory.

III. Recommendations & Lessons Learned

Recommendations for Implementing Agency:

- The strategy's components have been continuously implemented by various organizations. However, each organization has its own reporting format. It is recommended that SNARIV should develop a standardized monitoring format so that SNARIV members can share the implementation status smoothly and take follow-up actions effectively.
- It is recommended that UARIV should explain the project activities and achievements related to DET to the Ministry of Equality and Equity so that the newly established ministry would take over the management of DET and continue capacity building of DET trainers and the training activities.

Lessons Learned for JICA:

- In this project, based on the baseline survey and activity review at the early stage, the project approach was modified to benefit both VcD and PcD. Their issues and needs had been considered similar, but it was not. This strategy modification led to the successful implementation of the project. It is important to conduct the baseline survey at the early stage, especially for a project focused on vulnerable groups, even if it takes time before the start of substantial activities. This is because the implementing agency does not always have sufficient information about them, although they reside in all regions nationwide, mostly in rural areas. This will make it possible to design project activities that can benefit each beneficiary group as much as possible.



Peer counseling session as part of the processes for psychosocial attention.



Training as part of the Component for Empowerment, supported by Ministry of Interior.