



*35 years of changing
lives in Colombia*



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear friends and supporters,

As we celebrate 35 remarkable years of Children Change Colombia, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your firm commitment to our mission. Your compassion, generosity, and belief in the potential of Colombia's children have been the driving force behind everything we have achieved.

Over the past three and a half decades, our shared efforts have transformed countless lives. Together, we have helped children escape cycles of violence, access education, and overcome poverty and discrimination. We have supported communities affected by conflict, strengthened local organisations, and advocated for policies that safeguard children's rights. These achievements belong not only to Children Change Colombia but to every person who has walked alongside us, believing that real and lasting change is possible.

As we celebrate this milestone, we also reflect with pride on the resilience, courage, and determination of the children and families we serve. Their stories of hope and success inspire us daily and reaffirm the importance of what we do. Each step forward—whether a child returning to school, a family rebuilding their future, or a young person discovering their voice—reminds us why our work matters and why your support is invaluable.

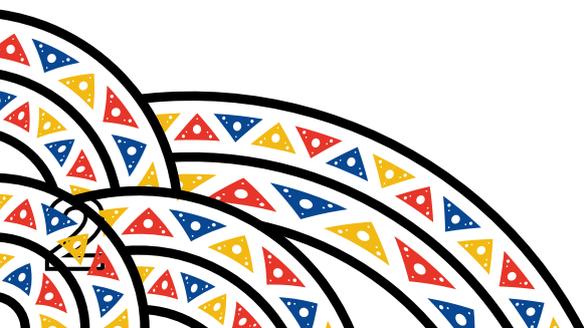
In 2025 alone, our programs positively impacted the lives of 7,218 children and 2,704 adults through 20 projects in 13 of the 32 departments of Colombia, a testament to the collective power of our work.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey. With your continued partnership, we look forward to expanding our impact and ensuring that the next 35 years bring even greater opportunities for Colombia's most vulnerable children. Together, we can keep changing lives, strengthening communities, and building a brighter future for generations to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Angela Carreño
Executive Director



With the right support, children and young people can lead the way to a more just and hopeful future.



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Introduction

This report is primarily an account of Children Change Colombia's work in the field and its activities to promote the protection of children's rights in Colombia during the year 2025. The following pages contain descriptions of each of our projects in Colombia.

We are pleased to be able to tell you that in 2025, **we supported 7 local grassroots organisations and implemented 20 projects.**

We supported 7,218 children in Colombia, plus 123 children from London, and their families. We also conducted 3 workshops with our local partners - online and in person - as part of our capacity-building programme.



About us

Children Change Colombia (CCC) is the UK's largest charity working exclusively in Colombia, with offices in London and Bogotá (Colombia) and over 35 years of experience. We believe that, with the right support, Colombian children can claim their right to live safely and in peace and demand that the adults responsible for protecting their rights do so – in this way, children can change Colombia.

Over the last three decades, CCC has helped more than 82,000 children to overcome the trauma of poverty, armed conflict, displacement, and a lack of education, and has invested £18 million in 86 multi-annual projects all across Colombia. To help children achieve this, we rely on strong local partnerships with Colombian organisations who truly understand the needs of the children they work with, and have the experience and knowledge to find effective solutions. We are committed to working with the children who need us most and in areas (thematic and geographic) that we feel are neglected by other organisations.



Defend children's rights



Tackle neglected issues



Strengthen children's organizations

In the past 35 years, we have

Implemented
86 
Projects

and invested over
£18
Million

Supported
82,263


to overcome the trauma of poverty, armed conflict and lack of education

Keiner's Story

Keiner's life has been shaped by conflict from a young age. His father was murdered when he was three, and his mother abandoned him and his siblings soon after. His grandmother was left to raise them, and he spent his childhood in the Sierra Nevada on Colombia's north coast. Despite these hardships, Keiner always dreamed of starting his own business. At 16, he attended a school supported by our Education, Livelihoods, and Entrepreneurship project, where he received psychosocial support, English classes, and entrepreneurship workshops. Through our partnership with Politécnico Gran Colombiano, he later received a full scholarship to study Law, and he hopes to become a lawyer and use his skills to help his community. While studying, he has also found a meaningful way to give back by participating in the "Sé" project as a music teacher. Through this initiative, Keiner is developing his musical talents while learning how to teach and inspire others. This opportunity allows him to turn his passion for music into a powerful tool for education and transformation in his community.





Areas of work



Prevention of forced recruitment



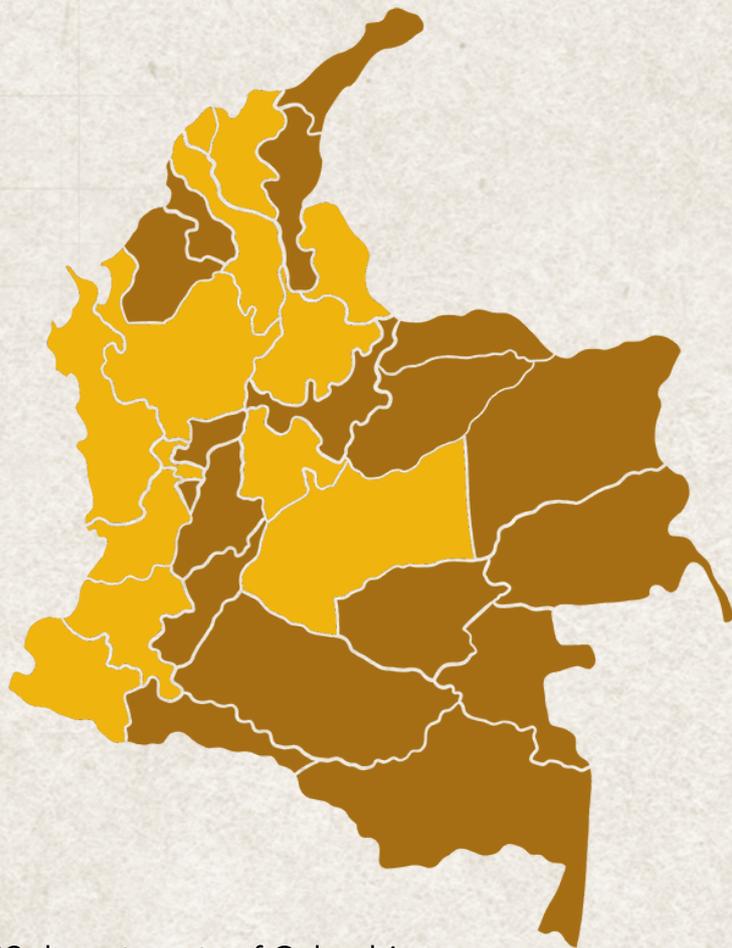
Sexual and Gender-based violence



Education



Emergency Relief



In 2025 CCC had presence in 13 of the 32 departments of Colombia





Why Colombia?



Colombia has endured many challenges over the past decades, not least the 52-year armed conflict and pervasive drug-related violence. In total, **over 450,000 people lost their lives in the conflict from 1985 to 2018**, with millions more impacted through varying forms of direct violence, forced disappearance, displacement and thousands more human rights violations **(1)**. In 2016, the Colombian government signed a peace agreement with the FARC, the most significant of the armed groups active in the country over the last 70 years, bringing hope for an end to the conflict. However, **incidents of violence have steadily increased over the past decade**, and if these trends continue **(2)**.

President Gustavo Petro's government, elected in 2022 on a campaign of 'Total Peace', by its own admission, has not achieved the goals it set out and significant cuts in U.S. aid under the Trump administration have left the country and its people increasingly vulnerable and exposed to hardship.

Beyond direct violence, persistent structural challenges hinder Colombia's progress toward stability. While overall poverty rates have gradually decreased, entrenched social inequalities continue to affect millions, especially in rural communities, where **the multidimensional poverty rate is more than double the national average (3)**. The **Indigenous and Afrodescendant population of Colombia are also disproportionately affected, making up over half of all recorded cases of forced recruitment and displacement** in 2024, despite making up less than 15% of the country's population **(4)**.

Children are among the most affected by these challenges; facing barriers to education, threats of sexual abuse and forced recruitment. Although the Colombian Constitution requires children aged 5-15 to attend school, in 2024, UNICEF reported that **1 in 5 children lacked access to education in Colombia**. This also disproportionately affects **children from rural communities, who on average receive 8.5 fewer years of education compared to school children from urban areas**. This lack of education limits opportunities for children later in life, trapping families in cycles of poverty. This can also lead **to children being more vulnerable as targets of forced recruitment, which has increased by over 1,000% in the last 4 years (5)**. The heavy U.S. aid cuts have also left children increasingly vulnerable to sexual exploitation; in Colombia's largest informal settlement, **90% of humanitarian organisations were forced to stop operating due to cuts, leaving children in the area extremely vulnerable (6)**.

1. <https://www.comisiondelaverdad.co/el-informe-final-en-cifras>

2. <https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/2025%20set%20to%20be%20the%20decade%20E2%80%99s%20worst%20year%20in%20humanitarian%20terms.pdf>

3. <https://www.dane.gov.co/index.php/estadisticas-por-tema/pobreza-y-condiciones-de-vida/pobreza-multidimensional>

4. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/report/situation-of-human-rights-in-colombia-report-of-the-united-nations-high-commissioner-for-human-rights/g2500325.pdf>

5. <https://www.savethechildren.net/latin-america-and-caribbean/news/press-release-470-children-displaced-daily-colombias-escalating>

6. <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/children-colombias-largest-informal-settlement-face-rising-abuse-and-exploitation-aid-dries>





Colombia in 2025

2025 has been a particularly troubling year for Colombia in terms of peace and security, with several major violent incidents and a rise in overall violence. The most high-profile tragedy was the **assassination of presidential candidate Miguel Uribe** in August, a horrific crime that was alarmingly carried out by a 15-year-old boy.

This year also has seen a return to the use of **airstrikes by the Colombian government, one of which left at least 7 minors dead**, leading to a public outcry. Early September also saw **an attack on a military base in Cali**, killing 6 and injuring many more. Tensions have been steadily rising between the U.S. and Colombia over issues such as coca production and strikes in the Caribbean, leading to a dramatic cut in aid. There have also been severe challenges at the regional level. In early 2025, over 50,000 people were displaced from their homes in Catatumbo due to a surge in armed conflict.



Aftermath of the attack in Cali

In Catatumbo:
56,091
people displaced
91,879
people affected overall
(OCHA)

There have however been some successes in the search for peace and justice. The **Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) tribunals continue to provide accountability** for the crimes and human rights violations committed against the Colombian people during the conflict, and in September issued its first sentences for human rights violations during the conflict (2). **A bill against child marriage officially became law** in February, signalling a recognition of the abuse and exploitation that minors have suffered and presenting a commitment to the safeguarding of future generations (3).

Looking ahead, the **upcoming Colombian presidential elections in 2026** are a significant milestone and will most likely define the direction the country takes in facing the widening instability. Gustavo Petro is constitutionally barred from running for a second time, and issues such as security, economic stability, and the current government's reforms are likely to feature prominently in campaigns.

1. Organisation for Humanitarian Coordination (OCHA). (2025, February 28). Actualización Sitrep Catatumbo 28 02 25 [Situation report]. https://reliefweb.int/attachments/a355f8e2-0650-4e94-agd9-16b7ae2006f9/Actualizacio%CC%81nSitrep_Catatumbo_28_02_25_VF..pdf
2. <https://justiceforcolombia.org/jep-peace-court-issues-first-sentences-over-human-rights-violations-during-armed-conflict/>
3. <https://plan-international.org/news/2025/02/07/colombias-child-marriage-ban-comes-into-effect/>

Due to the diversity of our projects and partners in Colombia, we are able to work towards many of the **United Nations' SDGs**, whilst still principally concentrating on our **four key strategic aims**. Outlined are the UN's SDGs that Children Change Colombia was able to champion in 2025.

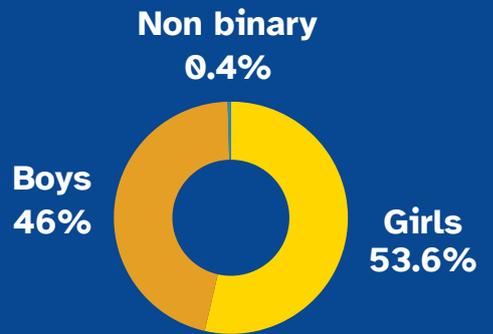


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Impact numbers

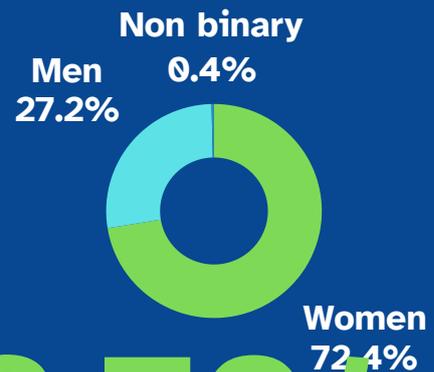


Children and Young People



7,218

Adults



2,704

Protecting children's rights

In 2025 we protected the rights of...

5,579

Children having the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities

5,573

Children against discrimination

2,702

Children improving their access to education

2,441

Children from exploitation

1,799

Children against violence

2,000

Children through family guidance as they develop

1,467

Children from sexual exploitation

1032

Children with a safe placement

951

Children having the right to use their own language and culture (Indigenous and Ethnic communities involved)

45

Children towards recovery and reintegration into society (prevention and protection)



35 years of CCC

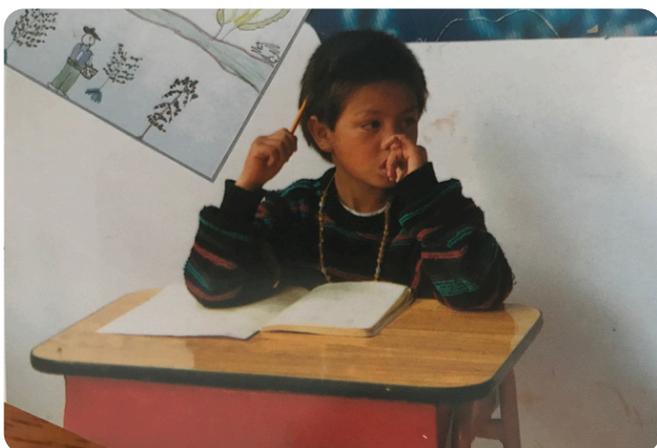
1991 - Founding

CCC is founded following a documentary by Desmond Wilcox about homeless and at-risk children living in the sewers of Bogotá.



1996 - Fe y Alegría

Fe y alegría was introduced. They had children from gangs engage in music, dance and recreational activities.



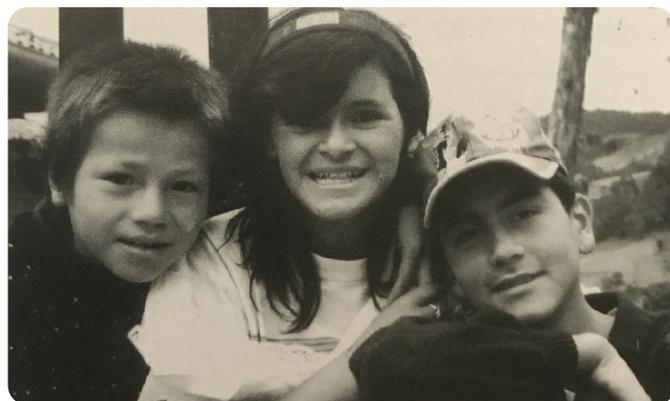
2003 - Colegio del Cuerpo

They provided support to children that had witnessed war, improving their self-worth and how to cope with life as a displaced individual.



1992 - Children's home

A children's home is built. Housing 300 children and providing them with education, vocational training and healthcare.



2000s - Cedavida

We supported the Cedavida Organisation. Cedavida worked with families that had been displaced by the conflict.



2010 - ACJ

The Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes combats sexual and gender-based violence, a 'silent' issue, with effects that can endure generations.



2013 - Tiempo de Juego

Prevent children from becoming involved in gangs by promoting the understanding of rights, positive youth leadership and safe environments.



2015 - Fundación CRAN

Provides foster homes and psychosocial support for children formerly associated with illegal armed groups.



2020 - COVID Support

Supporting 25,000 people with food, water and hygiene kits, alongside tablets and laptops for remote learning purposes during the pandemic.

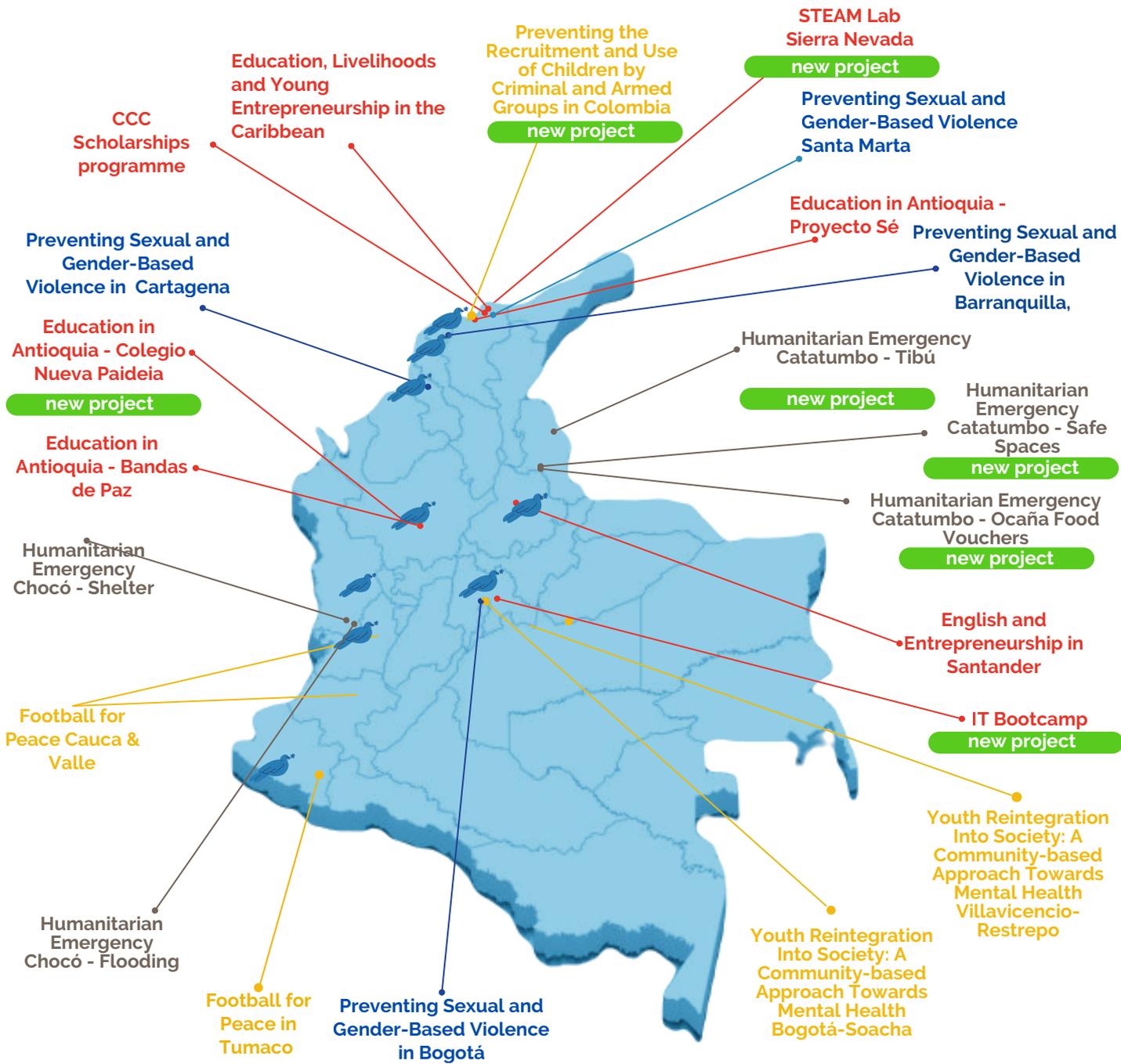
2023 - Football for Peace

Empowers young children by combining psychosocial support, technical football training and peacebuilding education



CCC Projects 2025

Colombia



United Kingdom



- Reintegration into Society, Prevention of Forced Recruitment
- Sexual and gender-based violence
- Access to Education
- Emergency Response



Our work in 2025

Children Change Colombia works to safeguard the rights of vulnerable children and young people across Colombia by tackling key challenges such as forced recruitment, sexual and gender-based violence, and barriers to education, as well as the impacts of active conflict and natural disasters. Through a combination of community-led initiatives, educational workshops, and partnerships with grassroots organisations, we focus on projects designed to have a lasting impact over a multi-year period.

Over the following pages, we invite you to explore the results and achievements of our **20 projects in 2025**. From the training of youth leaders in rural communities and the development of scholarship programmes, to food distribution and a nationwide tour of our flagship peace project, each of our initiatives highlights our commitment to creating a better future for Colombia's children. These projects demonstrate not only the progress we have made, but also the vital role your support plays in driving cohesive and sustainable change. Together, we are paving the way for a generation of empowered children to thrive and succeed.

Reintegration into
Society, Prevention
of Forced
Recruitment

Sexual and
gender-based
violence

Access to
Education

Emergency Response



New project

1.

Preventing the Recruitment and Use of Children by Criminal and Armed Groups in Colombia – A Multidimensional Approach

Partners: CRAN

Locations: Cundinamarca, Meta, Magdalena, Cauca, and Valle del Cauca

This project aims to prevent the recruitment and exploitation of children and young people (CYP) by armed and criminal groups in Colombia, while supporting those already affected in their reintegration process. Implemented between August 2025 and November 2028 the initiative will engage over **680 CYP and 262 parents and carers annually**. Through psychosocial sessions, digital literacy workshops and livelihood training with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, the project works to strengthen protective environments and reduce the vulnerability of CYP to coercion and manipulation. Codesign sessions with young participants in Bogotá and Villavicencio have guided the planning phase, ensuring that youth perspectives are incorporated into the design and activities.

In its initial stages, the project has focused on mapping and engaging local organizations and schools in Magdalena to identify at-risk CYP and establish focal points for implementation. Preparations for a digital prevention campaign are underway, aiming to reach at least 350,000 people in high-risk areas through anonymous, locally adapted messages. This multidimensional approach strengthens the capacities of families, educators and communities to identify early warning signs and respond to recruitment risks both online and offline, promoting the creation of safer and more resilient environments for children and adolescents.

2.

Football for Peace Tumaco

Partner: Futbol Pazífico

Locations: Tumaco, Nariño

The Football for Peace Tumaco project, implemented from November 2024 to December 2025 in Tumaco, Nariño, seeks to empower girls and young women through psychosocial support, football training and peacebuilding education. The project addresses challenges related to violence, forced displacement, and limited access to education in an area heavily affected by the presence of illegal armed groups. As of October, **53 girls and 21 parents and carers** have participated in psychosocial sessions and structured football activities designed to strengthen self-protection, teamwork and emotional well-being. Participants have also taken part in local football championships and received full uniforms, promoting inclusion and community engagement.



The project incorporates the Paz a la Mochila methodology, which has been extended to boys' football groups, and two professionals from Fútbol Pazífico completed the Sports with Principles training, integrating these tools into sports sessions. These activities contribute to improving physical, tactical and emotional performance while promoting values such as empathy, cooperation and resilience. Football has provided a safe space for children and young people to connect with their peers, build confidence and strengthen protective environments in communities affected by violence.

3

Football for Peace Cauca

Locations: Valle del Cauca y Cauca

Implemented between May and November 2025 in Valle del Cauca and Cauca, the Football for Peace 2025 project uses sport as a tool for empowerment, inclusion and violence prevention. The project trains **20 sports instructors, psychosocial workers and community leaders in peacebuilding methodologies that will directly benefit up to 400 CYP** through structured football sessions. These activities aim to improve young people's technical skills while providing psychosocial support, promoting self-protection and gender equality, and fostering leadership and cooperation.

By combining football training with psychosocial activities, the project supports emotional regulation and social cohesion among young people. Football sessions, tournaments and workshops with parents and carers promote teamwork, empathy and a sense of belonging. The initiative contributes to preventing recruitment by strengthening protective factors and helping youth develop positive alternatives in contexts affected by violence and inequality.



4

Youth reintegration into society: a community-based, narrative approach towards mental health.

Partner: Tiempo de Juego and CRAN

Locations: Bogotá DC and Meta (Villavicencio y Restrepo)

Implemented between June 2022 and June 2025, this project supported young offenders, former child soldiers and at-risk youth in Bogotá and Meta, contributing to their reintegration through a narrative-based psychosocial approach. **Over three years, 525 CYP and 250 adults**, including parents, carers and staff, participated in activities aimed at improving mental health and well-being. The initiative promoted emotional healing, resilience and leadership through workshops on life skills, managing emotions and self-recognition as subjects of rights. Art therapy, storytelling and positive leadership sessions helped participants reinterpret their experiences and strengthen social inclusion.

The project also worked with families and community actors to create protective environments that reduce stigma and prevent reoffending or recruitment. Sessions with caregivers promoted emotional intelligence and communication, transforming family dynamics and fostering shared responsibility. The inclusion of young people as project staff enhanced relevance and sustainability, while partnerships with institutions such as the Juvenile Criminal Responsibility System and UNODC expanded the project's reach. The initiative contributed to national advocacy for restorative justice and demonstrated the potential of community-based, narrative approaches to promote mental health and reintegration.



5.

Preventing sexual and gender-based violence in Bogotá, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, and Cartagena, Colombia

Partners: YMCA, Fundación Julie, U del Sinu and U Reformada

Locations: Bogotá, Barranquilla, Santa Marta and Cartagena

This three-year project (September 2024 to November 2027) aims to strengthen the capacities of children and young people (CYP) at risk of sexual and gender-based violence in Bogotá, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, and Cartagena. It seeks to build protective environments, co-create care pathways for survivors, and promote prevention and awareness through psychosocial support, education, and community engagement. In its first year, the project **reached 2,050 participants, including 1,467 CYP and 583 parents and carers.**

Across the four cities, activities include workshops to teach self-protection and coping skills, leadership and advocacy training for young people, and community events that raise awareness of sexual and gender-based violence. Parents, carers, and teachers receive training to strengthen caregiving practices and promote safe, nurturing relationships. The "Teach Love" Nurturing Touch program, developed by Blossom & Berry, has trained 16 professionals and leaders, five of whom are now certified facilitators delivering sessions for children and carers.

Artistic expression and youth leadership continue to play a key role. In Barranquilla, the Prosofon theatre collective made its debut at the International Meeting of Percussionists of the Atlantic, receiving public recognition and new opportunities. Santa Marta hosted an academic forum on gender-based violence, and Cartagena launched workshops with Fundación Julie for 60 children. Bogotá's Calle 21 Festival celebrated art and community resilience. **By 2027, the project aims to empower over 5,000 participants** with the knowledge, skills, and resources to prevent violence and promote lasting change, supported by the LACT Programme of the Karlsson Játiva Charitable Foundation.



6.

Education, Livelihoods, and Young Entrepreneurship in the Caribbean

Partners: Misión Gaia

Locations: Minca, Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, Magdalena

This year, the project strengthened educational and livelihood opportunities for students and teachers on Colombia's Caribbean Coast, promoting academic growth, entrepreneurship, and environmental awareness. **504 students, 28 teachers, and 54 parents took part in hands-on learning through English, environmental education, and agroecology sessions. Over 200 children completed 36 hours of** English lessons, while teachers integrated themes like solid waste management and school gardens into their classes.



Environmental and entrepreneurial activities thrived with birdwatching workshops, biodiversity field trips, and the "Taguaventura" tourism club. Students created a local bird guide, used digital tools, and expressed creativity through writing and illustration. **Eight active gardens** and new composting systems supplied vegetables to school kitchens, promoting sustainability and teamwork while reinforcing schools as spaces of innovation and community pride.



586
Participants



>7,200

Hours of English classes completed



8

Active gardens supplied produce to the school

7.

Young Livelihoods & Bilingualism in Santander

Locations: Educational Institutions along the Cacao Route in Santander

The project in Santander empowers adolescents and young people along the Cacao Route by strengthening their English, entrepreneurship, and employability skills. In 2025, **500 students across three schools participated** in weekly English sessions and workshops on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and job readiness, improving vocabulary, pronunciation, and confidence in using English as a practical tool for their future. **256 students received entrepreneurship and financial education, developing 12 business ideas with** approved basic plans and seed capital opportunities for up to ten initiatives. Preparation for an entrepreneurship fair involving eight schools, local entrepreneurs, and institutions has fostered collaboration and inspired students to envision new livelihood paths, contributing to innovation, employability, and the growth of Santander's green and sustainable economy.





IT Bootcamp Initiative

Partners: BIT Colombia, Munich University

New project

The IT Bootcamp Initiative launched in October 2025 as a pilot program to provide students from low-income backgrounds with specialised IT training, mentoring, and employability support. Through this partnership, participants gain access to high-demand technical skills while receiving financial assistance that will be repaid only after securing employment, creating a sustainable model of empowerment and opportunity. The first two selected participants begin their courses in November, one in web development and the other in cybersecurity, marking the first step toward building a pathway for underprivileged youth to enter and thrive in the growing tech industry. *BIT Colombia y Munich University*



University Scholarships in Colombia

Partners: Politécnico Grancolombiano and Fundación Universitaria del Área Andina

The Scholarships in Colombia program, launched in 2024, offers full online higher education opportunities to young people who have participated in CCC's educational projects and demonstrated leadership potential within their communities. The initiative currently supports **six beneficiaries, including two who also contribute as CCC collaborators**, combining academic advancement with professional experience. Through partnerships with **Politécnico Grancolombiano and Fundación Universitaria del Área Andina (Areandina)**, students receive comprehensive support that includes access to study tools, ongoing psychosocial assistance, and guidance throughout their academic journey. In return, scholars give back to their communities through social service projects that strengthen local development. By connecting access to education with community engagement, the program continues to build pathways for young leaders to transform their futures and contribute meaningfully to Colombia's social and economic progress, with the ongoing support of CCC Angels.



Sponsor a student!



If you'd like to help transform a rural or Indigenous student's future, email us at info@childrenchange colombia.org.

10.

Paz A la Mochila

Locations: Across all our project's locations

The 'Paz A La Mochila' project, launched in 2024, aims to disseminate the findings and contents of the Truth Commission's Final Report through the creation of a pedagogical kit that promotes understanding and action, supporting an end to violence and promoting peace-building. These toolkits are shared with teachers and leaders who work with children, so they can educate within their own communities on truth and the non-repetition of violence. CCC staff members also carry out direct workshops with children across Colombia, educating them through not only pedagogical tools, but also by using artistic activities such as dance to address themes of displacement and violence. The materials used are adaptations of both existing materials, as well as new materials curated and tailored for different age groups.



Explore more about the [project](#)



In 2025, the "Paz a la Mochila" kit visited **12 cities, serving as a tool for peace education and capacity-building to over 4,000 children. CCC has delivered 55 "mochilas", which now 280 teachers and community leaders** can use to further educate young people across Colombia. At the heart of this project, we seek to empower youth and adolescents to foster empathy and create meaningful changes in their daily interactions within their communities. Our aim is to provide teachers and students with the tools to promote conflict resolution, gender equality and critical thinking. Follow-up sessions have shown that the kit continues to be effectively used within families and communities well after the initial workshop. These successful results have led us to plan sessions in new locations across Colombia, growing our reach and promoting peace in the country.



11.

Colombia Colores

Locations: London, UK

As we at CCC enter our 35th year, we are also pleased to announce that our flagship UK project, Colombia Colores, continues bringing together the UK-based Colombian diaspora, benefiting **123 children** over the past year. This project is aimed at engaging Colombian born second and third generation children in activities that give them the space to explore the richness of Colombian culture and history. Through the use of art, music, dance and much more, these workshops continue to bring the community closer together.



One of our most successful sessions of 2025 was marked by a special gathering about sustainability, in which the children were treated to a performance by Colombian performer 'Montañera', who realised 'The Journey of the Golden Anaconda', which uses a range of songs for an artistic exploration through Colombia's natural landscapes. Through this show, the participants were able to appreciate their connection to nature, and their own cultural heritage.

New project

12.

Education in Antioquia - Colegio Nueva Paideia

Partners: Oro Molido Foundation

Locations: La Pintada, Antioquia

This year marked the opening of Colegio Nueva Paideia in La Pintada, Antioquia. The school supported **23 students from low-income, rural families** from different municipalities in the Suroeste region. The school aims to form resilient, sensitive and socially responsible young people, through an educational model that emphasises critical thinking, creativity, and social responsibility. Nueva Paideia's pedagogy focuses on research, creativity, and hands-on learning, providing students with arts and crafts workshops, an agricultural plot for productive projects, and an online magazine to share research and creative work, and pupils can even begin technical programmes while completing their studies. Colegio Nueva Paideia aspires to become a regional centre of excellence, ensuring that children from rural areas can access a transformative and high-quality education. With the success of its first year of operation, Nueva Paideia will welcome **23 new students to the school in 2026**, continuing to give the gift of education to the next generation of Colombians.



13.

Education in Antioquia - Bandas de Paz

Partners: Oro Molido Foundation

Locations: Fredonia y Montebello, Santa Bárbara y La Pintada, Antioquia

CCC supports cultural and social development through 'Bandas de Paz' and the Fundación Oro Molido Music School Programme, both of which use music as a tool for cognitive growth, community building, and peace education. These musical and marching groups offer young people meaningful recreational activities during their free time, and act as a counter to the 'bandas criminales' which have blighted the lives of so many across the country. In 2025, CCC and Oro Molido supported **1,205 children through these forms of music education and practice**. In practice this involves theory classes, instrument training, and offering opportunities for students to play in groups where they can showcase their skills to their peers and to local communities in various musical styles, covering traditional genres as well as classical pieces.

At the school, the curriculum is built around four pillars: early cognitive stimulation, life skills, future citizenship, and positive use of free time. Musical and artistic education of children and young people is an essential tool in personal development, with numerous studies showing that music education enhances openness to learning and strengthens critical, logical, creative and linguistic thinking. Through an artistic education, these children are discovering a brighter future, filled with music and joy.



14.

Education in Magdalena - Proyecto Sé

Partners: Oro Molido Foundation

Locations: Minca, Magdalena

Proyecto Sé is a project centred around a multifunctional library and cultural centre located in Minca, Magdalena, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Completed in early 2024, the centre was created to meet a longstanding community need for a flexible educational and cultural space. It functions as a library, community venue, and learning hub, hosting cultural activities, meetings, workshops and other events. Through this space, CCC and Oro Molido are able to support local communities by providing educational programming and reliable internet access.

In 2025, **710 community members were able to use the space, 402 children and 308 adults respectively**. The library itself houses more than 2,000 books and offers artistic, literary and scientific activities for children of all ages, as well as other content aimed more towards adults. Its programming is organised around 3 core themes: coffee, the Sierra Nevada, and culture, and the space gives access to workshops and training opportunities on biodiversity, literature, art and regional heritage, connecting these essential strands together. The centre's name itself, Sé (Be), reflects both knowledge and the ancestral wisdom of the Indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada, symbolising a timeless form of learning that connects local tradition with new possibilities for the future.

15.

STEAM Lab Sierra Nevada

Partners: Universidad del Norte & Misión Gaia

Locations: Minca, Magdalena

New project

Located in the Sierra Nevada in Santa Marta, the Steam Lab empowers **200 rural youths (aged 8-18) through education** in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). The project aims to bridge the educational and digital divide by providing access to cutting-edge tools and resources that nurture creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Thanks to a generous donation of equipment from the Colombian government, the project is equipped with modern tools for robotics, coding, and digital design, creating a place where learning feels more like play and discovery. In partnership with Universidad del Norte, CCC will deliver an engaging and interactive curriculum tailored to the needs and context of these rural youth, aiming to cultivate the next generation on Colombian innovators and community leaders.



16.

Humanitarian Emergency Response - Shelter

Partner: AcaDesan

Location: Chocó

In Chocó, armed conflict has led to a severe humanitarian crisis, displacing thousands in the region. CCC, in partnership with ACADESAN, has constructed a multipurpose shelter to support **72 Afro-Colombian communities, making up around 15,000 people**. The shelter has various bedrooms and bathrooms for displaced families, as well as a communal kitchen. On the first floor, there is also a large hall, which local communities can use as a space for gathering and events. Construction on the shelter finished in June 2025, and in August, the shelter opened its doors for the first time, **hosting 250 displaced families and a peacebuilding workshop**.



17.

Humanitarian Emergency Response - Flooding

Partner: AcaDesan

Location: Chocó

At the end of 2024, Chocó was hit by devastating flooding and extreme weather, affecting families all across the region. With some towns and villages already isolated, only accessible by boat or plane, emergency support was desperately needed. Alongside our local partner ACADESAN, **we delivered emergency food and sanitary kits to 600 families. Furthermore, we made deliveries of 1289 school kits**, ensuring that children can continue with their education even in the face of disaster.



New project

18.

Humanitarian Emergency Response - Food Vouchers

Partner: Fundación 5 Sentidos

Locations: Catatumbo

The Humanitarian Response for Catatumbo – Food Vouchers project provided essential food assistance to families displaced by escalating conflict in northeastern Colombia. Implemented in Ocaña and surrounding communities, the initiative supported up **to 115 families affected by violence, forced displacement, and limited access to basic services**. Through a system of vouchers redeemable for food, toiletries, and hygiene products, families received between one and three rounds of support based on their level of need. Collaborations with local businesses not only facilitated efficient voucher redemption but also strengthened local markets and community cooperation.

In a region marked by instability, lack of infrastructure, and high risks of recruitment by armed groups, the project offered families a measure of safety, dignity, and autonomy. By allowing beneficiaries to select the products most essential to them within clear nutritional and ethical guidelines, the initiative promoted responsible consumption and self-determination. Beyond addressing immediate food insecurity, the project fostered resilience and solidarity, contributing to community recovery and stability in the face of ongoing humanitarian challenges in Catatumbo.



19.

Humanitarian Emergency Response - Child Safe Spaces

Partner: Fundación 5 Sentidos

Locations: Catatumbo

New project

A surge in violence in Catatumbo at the beginning of 2025 displaced over 50,000 people. Working together with 5 Sentidos Fundación, CCC has provided support to **45 families and 342 children** taking shelter in the city of Ocaña. This support has taken two forms. Firstly, we have supported young people with **30 psychological support sessions**, as well as **30 art and creative workshops**, both of which have allowed these children to develop emotional resilience and fostered improved communication. For parents and carers, we have completed **6 parenting workshops**, equipping caregivers with the tools to support their families. Alongside these efforts, we have made two deliveries of food kits to **45 families**, improving their physical wellbeing and helping build a stronger base from which to grow.



New project

20.

Humanitarian Emergency Response - Tibu

Partners: Tibu Diocese

Locations: Tibu, Norte de Santander

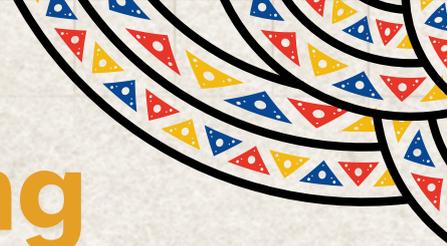
While CCC has established several projects in Catatumbo since the outbreak of violence in February 2025, accessing Tibú, at the epicentre of the conflict, has remained a challenge. In response, we have formed a strategic partnership with the Catholic diocese in Tibú, one of the few organisations with access to the region due to its role as a neutral and trusted actor. Together, CCC and the diocese will support **20 conflict-affected families for 12 months** through supplies of food and toiletries kits.

Due to mobility restrictions and the security situation, a voucher scheme is not currently viable, so a direct supply model has been chosen. Families are prioritised with the support of the city's community action boards and local community leaders, who share their community's requests and coordinate the delivery to the different groups according to priority and available resources. This initiative will provide immediate, sustained relief to families in one of Colombia's most volatile regions, restoring a vital lifeline and providing the bedrock for a better future.





Capacity Building



Safeguarding Training for CCC New Partners

Safeguarding lies at the heart of all CCC's field work. It enables us to be proactive in caring for the communities we serve and for our staff, and it is essential that our local partners also implement strong safeguarding and child protection measures. With this purpose, a training workshop on the basic concepts and principles of Safeguarding and Child Protection was held on 4 November for CCC's new partners, with representatives from four partner organisations in attendance. The workshop covered topics such as the importance of implementing safeguarding guidelines, identifying warning signs, and recommendations for designing policies tailored to each organisation's context. Over the coming months, these organisations will develop their safeguarding policies with the support of CCC's safeguarding team.

Safeguarding Shared Space with Focal Points

On 1 December, a meeting was held with safeguarding focal points from CCC's various projects and partner organisations. With representatives from six organisations participating, the meeting provided a space to share challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of safeguarding policies across different territories and contexts. These spaces enable collective learning about best practices, effective strategies, and the limitations faced by organisations working to protect communities and staff. In 2026, biannual meetings will be held to further deepen discussions on topics such as responding appropriately to concerns, strengthening safe communication with children and adolescents, and ensuring the proper use of personal data and the protection of sensitive information.

CATT mentoring

With the support of ACTI (Action for Child Trauma International) facilitators, 2 professionals trained in Accelerated Treatment for Childhood Trauma "CATT" (for its acronym in English), are receiving one on one mentoring apply the technique in their communities. One professional is currently finishing the certification cycle as preparation to be trained as instructor and start training new professionals in this methodology aimed to help children recover from trauma.

In 2026 a new cascade workshop will take place to provide training to trainers in Colombia.

Nurturing Touch Training

Following a successful training process with 15 members of CCC's team and partners in alliance with Blossom & Berry, in 2025 nine participants were certified as Nurturing Touch facilitators and applied their learning within their communities. In addition, three new participants joined a training cycle on Nurturing Touch for children and are currently conducting practice workshops as part of their certification process.



Our year



**Call for Change Conference, UCL,
London (February)**



**ED Angela at the UN,
Geneve (February)**



**Thames Walk,
London (May)**



**Angela's trip to
Bucaramanga (June)**



**Integration (Wellbeing) Day,
London (July)**



**Colombia Colores: Nature Day,
London (July)**



**Inauguration of shelter,
Choco (September)**



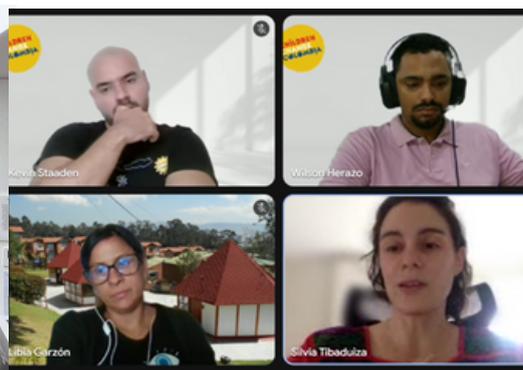
**Project Talk, London
(October)**



**Disrupt Trafficking Awards
2025, London (October)**



**Newsletter Day, London
(November)**



**Safeguarding Training
(November)**



**Christmas Celebration, Cartagena
(December)**

Children Change Colombia in the media

Feature in "Express News"

In November, the UK-based Latin American paper Express News shared an article celebrating our upcoming 35th anniversary. Threading a path from our founding in 1991, up to the present day, Express News brought the story of Children Change Colombia to a whole new audience.

Read the story [here](#)



Feature in "Latina Republic"

In 2025, Children Change Colombia was featured in the US media for the first time, in the publication Latina Times. This piece focused mainly on some of our current projects across Colombia, from Bogotá to the Sierra Nevada, and features interviews with our director, Ángela, as well as some program participants.

Read the story [here](#)

CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA

From the Sierra Nevada to Bogotá: How Children Change Colombia Is Transforming Lives, One Child at a Time

December 1, 2025 Latina Republic

Children Change Colombia has spent thirty-five years standing beside the children who too often stand alone—those threatened by violence, poverty, sexual exploitation, and forced recruitment. Its executive director, Angela Carreño, has spent her life moving between worlds shaped by crisis and hope.

"I'm Colombian," she says. "My first job was with internally displaced people. Since then, I've always been in the social sector."



Support more girls like Dennis. Donate at [donorbox.org/jo-future-for-dennis](#)

A future for Dennis

On the lush green slopes of Colombia's Sierra Nevada, 17-year-old Dennis stands outside her tin-roofed house, watching the sun climb over the snow-capped peaks as day labourers head to the coffee and banana plantations below.

Dennis grew up in the Indigenous Wiwa community, the second youngest of 11 siblings, in a home without books, where girls were taught to cook long before they learned to dream. Around her, the mountains shimmer with life, but the beauty hides a hard truth: poverty, violence and limited access to education leave many children with only two paths: to join an armed group or marry a far too young.

Dennis lifts her *mochila* — a hand-woven bag carrying not just her books, but the stories of her people stitched into its bright patterns. With support from Children Change Colombia, Dennis is rewriting her story — the first in her community to win a university scholarship.



020 8050 4992 [childrenchange colombia.org](#)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1094232

Feature in "The Guardian"

In the Guardian's yearly charity appeal, we highlighted the story of Dennis, one of our scholars, and her educational journey at university.

Find out how you can help Children in Colombia



DONATE TODAY



Photographs show real participants of the projects.

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Facebook: Children Change Colombia

Twitter: @ChildChangeCOL

Instagram: childrenchange colombia

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Thank you!