



**EXECUTIVE DOCUMENT  
WEAVING EXPERIENCES AROUND THE CREATION OF THE  
TERRITORIAL MODEL OF GUARANTEES OF NON-REPETITION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG  
GIRLS TO ALLOW THEM ACCESS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE  
SYSTEM OF TRUTH, JUSTICE, REPARATIONS AND NON-REPETITION - SIVJRNICIR, AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF VISTA  
HERMOSA (META, COLOMBIA)**



**NACIONES UNIDAS  
DERECHOS HUMANOS**  
OFICINA DEL ALTO COMISIONADO  
*Colombia*



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AND NON-NON-REPETITION - SIVJRNICIR,  
AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF VISTA HERMOSA  
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# INTRODUCTION

The Territorial Model of Guarantees of Non-repetition and empowerment of women and young girls for effective access to the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-repetition (SIVJRNR) is an initiative supported by the Secretary General of the United Nations' Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), led by UN Women and implemented jointly and in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia (OHCHR).

It was developed in the municipality of Vista Hermosa (Meta) thanks to the joint efforts of various leading actors in the creation of the Model, which allowed the creation of protective environments, and within their framework, access to economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) and the rights of young and adult women victims of armed conflict. This experience sought the convergence of actors such as: Women's social organisations, SISMA Mujer Corporation, the Association of Displaced Women of Meta (ASOMUDEM) and the Yo Puedo Youth Corporation, as well as the three mechanisms of the SIVJRNR - Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the Commission for the Clarification of the Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition (CEV) and the Unit for the Search of Persons Presumed Missing in the Context and Due to Armed Conflicts (UBPD).

The protagonists of this initiative converged in the development of actions such as training, pedagogical, social advocacy, mobilisation, psychosocial support, legal support, articulation, community and institutional coordination to generate protection environments that facilitate / allow access to the rights that women, YOUNG GIRLS and victims must access. In this sense, the active participation of each one of the actors guaranteed one or several components for the access of women and YOUNG GIRLS to information, to transitional justice processes and with it, to the path of the search for truth, reparation, the search for their disappeared relatives and access to decent living conditions, in which the active participation of the SIVJRN mechanisms and the local institutions was key.

This executive document will focus on reflecting some of the central elements collected in the process of systematisation of community and institutional experiences around the Model, which will allow to consider specific road maps and, in favour of these, present implementation paths for other territorial experiences. The creation of the Model leaves room to reflect on the practical side, which become lessons learned, recognition of good practices, of novel and innovative experiences in their context, replicable due to the relevance they had in the lives of young and adult women, in organisations and other actors. The document "Weaving experiences around the creation of the Territorial Model of guarantees of non-repetition and empowerment of women and young girls to allow them access to the comprehensive system of truth, justice, reparations and non-repetition - SIVJRN, at the municipality of vista hermosa", collects - from the voices of the actors - in a way broad and descriptive the main moments, experiences and

milestones that were part of the development of this initiative. The systematisation, carried out through interviews and participant observation exercises at different moments of development of the initiative, presents through axes the main experiences and meanings in the creation of the Model.

The first axis: *“Education among women and YOUNG GIRLS as a mobiliser of social transformation”*, addresses the implementation of the training processes with the different actors in the process, highlighting the voices of the participating young and adult women, as well as the partner organisations who implemented these processes. As a result of the strengthening of the of the participants emotional, technical and political capacities, peace agendas and advocacy road maps were developed, which consolidate the calls and contributions that young and adult women make to the municipal administration of Vista Hermosa and to the levels of citizen participation to guarantee ESCR and rights as victims. This process is presented through the second axis *“The social mobilisation of women and YOUNG GIRLS”* which presents the advocacy processes led by women and YOUNG GIRLS who make up the scenarios of participation and local planning. The third axis is related to the *psychosocial and legal support, the collection of information and systematisation for the development of reports on sexual violence and forced disappearance to the SIVJRNR*, presenting the keys to the documentation exercise through which the victimizing events, the contexts, resistances and agency capacity that women and YOUNG GIRLS have built were determined. Finally, the fourth axis presents the main reflections on the *processes of articulation, coordination and alliances for the creation of the Territorial Model*, the road map for the creation of protective environments focused on gender justice and access to ESCR as a means to guarantee conditions for effective access to the SIVJRNR.

As such, this executive document seeks to make visible the methodological and participatory road map in the development of this territorial initiative that has been bearing fruit with each of the participating actors.

## CONTEXT ELEMENTS OF THE INITIATIVE

The development of the Territorial Model of guarantees of non-repetition and empowerment of women and YOUNG GIRLS for their effective access to the SIVJRNR is a territorial experience that has various references that have inspired and reaffirmed its relevance. The first is the Final Agreement to put an end to the conflict and build a stable and lasting peace, signed between the national government and the FARC-EP in 2016, which represents a historic achievement for the Colombian society as being able to resolve decades of armed conflict. This was a milestone in Colombia and constitutes a world benchmark in that it was the first to recognise and incorporate the gender approach as a result of the work of women's and victims' organisations that managed to highlight the disproportionate damages and impacts of the armed conflict, the resistance and partnerships that women have woven as peace builders.

The gender approach in the Final Agreement, as mainstreaming and as gender-specific measures, constitutes an opportunity to convene different sectors of society to join forces to move forward in the implementation of the points set out therein. In particular, the Territorial Model contributes to the fifth point of the Agreement on the Victims of the Conflict "Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition", this being part of the response to the need for reparation of 8,553,416 victims of the armed conflict, among whom 4,277,995 are women. Point 5 seeks to create mechanisms to publicise the causes and patterns of victimisation, and thus the damage suffered by the victims during the armed conflict, as well as to guarantee the victims effective access to their rights.

***The second reference*** to take into account in this context has to do with a situated understanding of the territory in which the creation of the Territorial Model took place. Vista Hermosa (Meta) is one of the municipalities that suffered the greatest impact in the context of the armed conflict; According to figures established in the proposal for the Territorial Model creation initiative<sup>1</sup>, it is reported that more than 50% of the municipality's population suffered at least one impact due to the conflict, and that the main impacts were forced displacement and forced disappearance. A UN Women study suggests that the municipality is among the 100 territories most affected by the armed conflict and with the highest rate of forcibly disappeared women. In addition to the damages and effects that the conflict has left in Vista Hermosa, it is one of the municipalities of Meta with the highest rates of multidimensional poverty; OHCHR has found that the health system does not respond in a manner commensurate with the needs of women and girls. So, there was a need to substantially improve the State's response, for example, in the area of psychosocial care and sexual and reproductive health for women in the municipality and in particular for victims of sexual violence, forced disappearance and other serious Human Rights violations.

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<sup>1</sup> PBF Project Document. To consult this document, you can request it by email to the Office of UN Women Colombia.



As a **third reference**, the design of the proposal for the creation of the Territorial Model includes international instruments<sup>2</sup>, in particular the United Nations Security Council resolutions, which propose a set of provisions related to women, peace and security. These calls and obligations derived from the Resolutions respond to the demands that women have made as a heterogeneous group in society, to be recognised as active partners in peace building and in recognition of the gender and women's rights approach. In particular, the resolutions that address issues of women, peace and security were taken into account; those that provide guidelines for the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence; and those that respond to the specificity of YOUNG GIRLS in peace contexts<sup>3</sup>.

The **fourth contextual reference** for understanding the actions that gave rise to the design of the Territorial Model proposal is the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, leading a universal agenda to promote actions to guarantee women's rights as well as inclusive actions. Two of these objectives are directly related to the actions that have been undertaken for the creation of the Model; the first is Goal 5 related to Gender Equality and Goal 16 which defines Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions as its central axis.

The **fifth reference** is the Sepur Zarco<sup>4</sup> Case; During the internal armed conflict in Guatemala, indigenous women of the Mayan Q'eqchi' ethnic group in the Sepur Zarco community, in the municipality of El Estor, in the department of Izaba, were victims of continuous rape, domestic slavery, and inhuman, cruel and degrading treatment by members of the Guatemalan army<sup>5</sup>. More than thirty years later, the women achieved a historic verdict in which a military man was sentenced for crimes against humanity, rape, sexual and domestic servitude, humiliating and degrading treatment, for the murder of an adult woman

<sup>2</sup> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979), as well as the General Recommendations of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and those specifically referred to the Colombian State; The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Forced Disappearance, and the recommendations to Colombia of the Committee against Forced Disappearance; The Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women (Convention Belem do Pará, 1994) and some of the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, S / RES / 1325 (2000); United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820, S / RES / 1820 (2008); United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888, S / RES / 1888 (2009); United Nations Security Council Resolution 1889, S / RES / 1889 (2009); United Nations Security Council Resolution 1960, S / RES / 1960 (2010); United Nations Security Council Resolution 2106, S / RES / 2106 (2013); United Nations Security Council Resolution 2122, S / RES / 2122 (2013); United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242, S / RES / 2242 (2015); United Nations Security Council Resolution 2493, S / RES / 2493 (2019); United Nations Security Council Resolution 2467, S / RES / 2467 (2019); United Nations Security Council Resolution 2474, S / RES / 2474 (2019); United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, S / RES / 2250 (2015) and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2419, S / RES / 2419 (2018).

<sup>4</sup> In 2019, in the context of creation of the Territorial Model of Guarantees of Non-Repetition and Empowerment of Women and YOUNG GIRLS for Effective Access to the SIVJRNR, a virtual meeting space was created with the organisation that supported the case in Guatemala, as one of the first examples of exchange of experiences and an inspiring environment for the present initiative.

<sup>5</sup> Sentence C-01076-2012-00021 Of. 2nd. First Court of Criminal Sentencing, Drug Trafficking and Crimes against the Environment. Guatemala February twenty-six, two thousand and sixteen.

and her two minor daughters<sup>6</sup>. The Sepur Zarco case is recognised as a model of good practice in strategic gender-based violence litigation<sup>7</sup>.

Lastly, the paths that the SIVJRNR has been building to address these two crimes from a gender and women's rights perspective are added as the **sixth reference**. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace recognises that sexual violence is one of the most serious crimes committed during the armed conflict by all the actors who participated in it. It contemplates that there will be no amnesty or pardon for these crimes (The Special Jurisdiction for Peace, 2018).

For its part, the Truth Commission has managed to account for types and expressions of sexual violence, which the entity enunciates in the plural form, recognizing the multiplicity of facts that are not necessarily included in the legal approach, which are: sexual slavery, forced abortions, forced maternity, forced paternity (trans men), forced nudity, forced cohabitation, seduction as a strategy of war, demand for the use of specific garments "for men or women", rape, among others. Through the Gender Working Group, the Commission developed a Guide to address sexual violence (2019), which contains recommendations for the documentation processes and other mechanisms to determine the impacts caused by sexual violence on the bodies and the lives of the people who experienced these events, as well as recognise the resilience and resistance that the victims and survivors have achieved (Truth Commission, 2019).

On the other hand, the UBPD has established a road map that includes the search for missing persons in the context of and due to the armed conflict to account for their whereabouts and what happened to them. This classification includes: forced disappearance, kidnapping, illegal recruitment, disappearances during hostilities: combatants from the Public Force or from outlawed armed groups. The entity has made progress in the recognition of the existing links between the crimes of forced disappearance and sexual violence, providing particular analyses of their implications on the bodies and lives of women, which was made possible through the actions of the Territorial Model.

These six elements of context have served as a reference, a starting point and inspiration in the actions that have emerged in the creation of the Model. Returning to these references after the implementation of the actions reinforces the relevance of territorial experiences that contribute to the access to gender justice in scenarios that guarantee the rights of women and young girls.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibidem

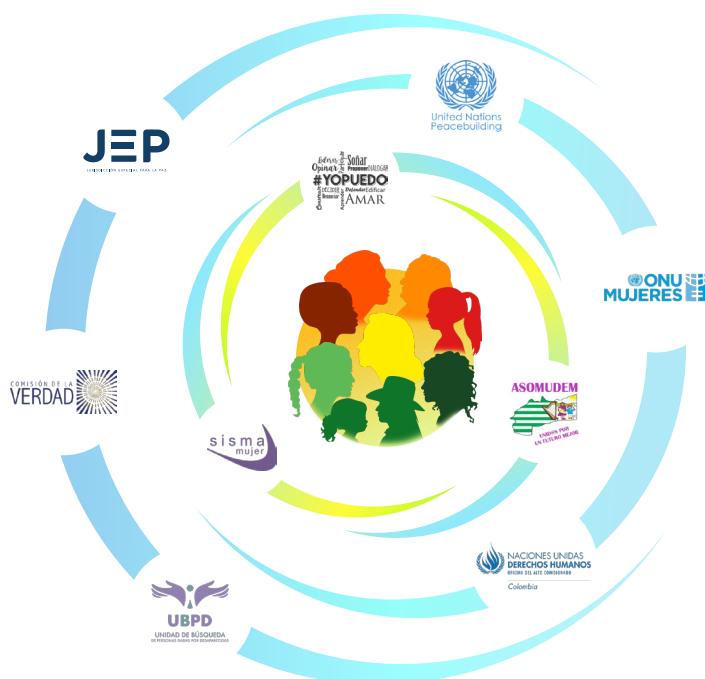
<sup>7</sup> OHCHR, Strategic litigation for sexual and gender-based violence: Lessons learned, at: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/OHCHR-StrategicLitigationforSV-workshopreport-web.pdf>

# WEAVING COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE CREATION OF THE TERRITORIAL MODEL OF GUARANTEES OF NON-REPETITION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS FOR THEIR EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO THE SIVJRNR

“Like when one follows the sunbeam, tired, and one sees a certain shadow; I am in the sun, I am tired, and I can't find anything to rest on. Here is like a tree, where I can rest, I can vent. Here, one can talk about what happened to him (her) afraid to remember again, but with the peace of mind of being able to speak”

[A woman participant in the process led by ASOMUDEM, using a metaphor to describe her experience. November 2019]

Weaving means coordinating for a context such as the creation of the Territorial Model. Weaving is identifying the meeting points between the initiatives and building bridges that allow for the articulation of ideas to enhance the results that the actors seek.



# 1. EDUCATION AMONG WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS AS A MOBILIZING AGENT FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAINING PROCESSES WITH THE DIFFERENT ACTORS INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENTS AND ACCESS TO THE SIVJNR

The creation of the Territorial Model brought together 529 women and young girls in Vista Hermosa<sup>8</sup>. Between 2019 and the beginning of 2020, the municipality and its villages saw women who, in addition to traveling in their daily activities, allocated one or two days a week to call on organisations of women and young girls to develop / strengthen emotional, relational and political capacities to encourage them to participate and have an impact in the scenarios for planning and building territorial peace and to improve their access to rights as victims of internal armed conflict.

The creation of the Model generated a mixture of initiatives, epistemological approaches, pedagogical and methodological models and training processes, which demonstrated, in the case of the organisations of women, young girls and victims, that education is a tool for social transformation. In this sense, the partner organisations SISMA Mujer in collaboration with ASOMUDEM and the Yo Puedo Corporation, with the support of UN Women, led two training initiatives with the objectives of strengthening leadership capacities for the participation and advocacy of women and young girls from Vista Hermosa.

- a. ASOMUDEM led three training cycles with the participation of 325 women and young girls:
  - Training in Citizen Participation and Institutional Architecture for peace (with emphasis on ESCR, Peace Agreement mechanisms and Gender Approach)<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> 117 women and young girls linked to the initiative led by the SISMA Mujer Corporation. 325 adults and young women linked to the actions led by ASOMUDEM in alliance with SISMA Mujer Corporation, 87 young women participating in the process led by the Yo Puedo Corporation.

<sup>9</sup> Methodological Guide for Training in citizen participation and institutional architecture for peace prepared by ASOMUDEM. To consult this document, you can request it by email to the Office of UN Women Colombia.

- Train the trainer workshops that strengthened their capacities to multiply their knowledge and qualify them for leadership at the local level<sup>10</sup>.
  - Training sessions led by women and young victims who have been empowered as trainers<sup>11</sup>.
- b. The Yo Puedo Corporation led the Yo Puedo Political Training School: “Gender, Youth and Leadership for Peace”, with the participation of 43 rural and urban young women from Vista Hermosa, along with 44 young men and women who were part of other activities such as the replication of the gender approach and the strengthening of youth organisations.
  - c. Other initiatives were developed that had pedagogical components, such as the actions of the *comprehensive training process for the collection and systematisation of testimonies, collective memory building, report writing and effective participation in the SIVJRNR* led by the SISMA Mujer Corporation and the Human Rights and Gender Training to strengthen the capacities of the entities that guarantee the rights of women and young girls to health, to a life free of violence and to an adequate standard of living (economic development), under the leadership of the OHCHR.

In the daily life of the initiatives, the participants recognised the process and called it “*the workshops*”, “*the meetings*”, days where they would meet with their friends and colleagues; Therefore, using names with which women and young girls could identify is a matter of value for them, since, as reflected by the ASOMUDEM implementing team, it is necessary to use narratives that drive the issues home for the participants.

<sup>10</sup> Methodology Guide – Train the trainer prepared by ASOMUDEM. To consult this document, you can request it by email to the Office of UN Women Colombia.

<sup>11</sup> Methodology Guide - Training circuit prepared by ASOMUDEM. To consult this document, you can request it by email to the Office of UN Women Colombia



**Photo 1.** Citizen participation and institutional architecture for peace training led by ASOMUDEM in collaboration with Sisma Mujer.

The picture introduces central elements of ASOMUDEM's training processes; first the circular, dialogical, binding character; second, the diversity in age and characteristics of its participants and third, the training canvas on its walls stands out, where they placed illustrations, billboards and other manual works carried out by the participants. These represented a portrait of the learnings from the training process.

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*The project said institutional architecture for peace, and that is how we will introduce the workshop; and I said: No! What we have to say is: Institutions for peace, because otherwise, the women are not going to understand it*

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[Reported by the Implementation Team]



The Yo Puedo Political Training School “Gender, Youth and Leadership for Peace” convened the meeting between the 43 participants from the municipal capital and dispersed rural areas of Vista Hermosa. The ten school development modules that were proposed were discussed in these meetings<sup>12</sup>.



**Photo 2.** Yo Puedo Political Training School: “Gender, Youth and Leadership for Peace”

“I am very sad that this has not reached the municipality before. For example, I participated in the PDETs<sup>13</sup> and they always said women should go, but although I am a woman, I did not know our rights and I did not understand, so that is how it was done like and why I no longer take part in the PDET. If I had been able to contribute ideas, I would have talked about the gender approach with all its pillars; but from now on we are going to replicate the gender approach”

[Reported by an adult female participant in the process led by ASOMUDEM.  
February 2020]

<sup>12</sup> Yo Puedo School Methodological Design. To consult this document, you can request it by email to the Office of UN Women Colombia

<sup>13</sup> Development Programs with a Territorial Approach

The three training cycles led by ASOMUDEM in collaboration with the Sisma Mujer Corporation show the development of a pedagogy designed by community women, which demonstrated the importance of the gender approach mainstreaming in the process, from guarantees to the participation of women, recruitment of workshop trainers with sensitivity and knowledge of women's rights and as a methodological approach that allowed for context analysis of the situation of women's rights in Vista Hermosa and in peacebuilding.

For its part, the Yo Puedo team decided to start a community feminism based political training school<sup>14</sup>. This feminist practice was welcomed by the participants as a possibility to question and make visible the symbolic and direct violence present in their daily lives.

*“Reaffirming and be able to question the feminism that we develop daily in our work as young women. We have found clues to reaffirm ourselves. We found them in the creation of the modules, and it was not something that we had planned for. At the end, we said that the feminism that Yo Puedo promotes is a community and collective feminism, and that will define much of our work. These were very deep reflections”*

[Reported by the Yo Puedo Corp. Implementing Team. January 2020.]

The women and young girls organisations decided to undertake non-traditional methodologies, moving away from academic, androcentric and even adult-centric models that did not feel close to the reality of the women of Vista Hermosa; prioritizing the territorial, community and popular education character in the processes, which managed to motivate the participation of women, bring the victims of the armed conflict in Vista Hermosa closer to the SIVJNR mechanisms, providing psychosocial support for women, and promoting the linkage to the processes that move the mechanisms forward, together with the results that will be addressed in the advocacy road maps.

Within the framework of the development of the Yo Puedo Political Training School, the partner organisation developed/documented inputs to monitor the participation of young women in the mechanisms of SIVJNR: 1) Input document to develop the gender and age approach to search processes for people presumed missing. 2) Development of a Listening Space among young women from Vista Hermosa who participate in the Yo Puedo School “Youth, Gender and Leadership for Peace” and the Truth Commission, in light of the experiences and implications of being girls and young women during an armed conflict, contributions and recommendations for Non-Repetition. 3) Partial report on the elements of context and

<sup>14</sup> The reflection on community feminism in Yo Puedo has as a precedent, their participation in an exchange of experiences in the “Cauca Young Women Leadership Camp for the Peace Building and Peace Keeping”, in which they shared experiences with young women from the Department of Cauca.



analysis on the recruitment and forced disappearance of young girls in Vista Hermosa - Meta. Documents and spaces that bring the voices and contributions of the young women of Vista Hermosa to the forefront, the articulation of which was enhanced thanks to the mechanisms, with the support of UN Women, and OHCHR and were incorporated in the SIVJNR.



**Photo 3.** One of the psychologists of the Yo Puedo Corporation team participates in the Cauca Young Women Leadership Camp for Peace Building and Peace Keeping process, through which they reaffirmed themselves as community feminists.

The partner organisations led training scenarios that challenged traditional canons in pedagogical processes; Connected with their territorial reality and with the particularities of women and young girls, they were able to empower 529 inhabitants, particularly rural women from Vista Hermosa. Their training

sessions created learning experiences for all the actors, renewed the momentum of the relevance of the training processes and their contribution to the social transformation and the strengthening of the social fabric, and demonstrated the necessary, functional and innovative approaches and elements to support women and young girls in territorial processes.

## Lessons Learned in the Implementation of Training Processes

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- **Small groups** (maximum 20 women or young girls) make it possible to respond with better results to the particularities and needs of the participants.
- The **adaptation to the cultural and life context of the proposed training methodologies** was a fundamental factor to guarantee the effectiveness of the training processes.
- **The design of the training process needs to take into account and combine the training of groups of women and young girls separately and jointly** to respond in a specific and pertinent way to their needs.
- It is necessary to **link and highlight the various actors in the creation of the Territorial Model, in the methodology building exercise** for documentation and subsequent reporting with women, allowing for the **mainstreamed introduction of content** to the exercises carried out by civil society organisations.
- The creation of a favourable and safe environment begins with the logistical conditions and ways to convene, which must generate trust, closeness and cohesion with women to guarantee that they will stay, and they will participate.
- **The design of the training processes must include the psychosocial approach throughout the process and in a mainstreamed way.** The lesson learned was that the psychosocial approach became an essential element for the training of adult women, which requires professional enough teams to approach them with guarantees throughout the process, not just in specific identified moments. This psychosocial approach must be combined, as an approach, with popular, community, feminist and subjective elements as relevant practices in capacity building.

## Good Practices in the Implementation of Training Processes

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- **The call strategies led by the partner organisations** managed to link 529 rural and urban young and adult women. To this end, the call strategy was aligned with the contexts of women and young girls, privileging the visit to rural areas and centres where some of Vista Hermosa leaders live, since they know the territory and its dynamics. After the first groups were linked, the information was circulated in the municipality, which led to other women joining the process. ASOMUDEM, carried out the “runs”, a road map of tours in towns and farms, to reach the sectors where traditionally less visible women live. Then, they developed strategies to approach community leaders and representatives as presidents of Community Action Boards (JAC), to provide information on the initiatives. On the other hand, the women in charge of implementing the Yo Puedo process were inclined to visit educational institutions, youth boarding schools, the Cooperative’s Territorial Space for Training and Reincorporation (ETCR), among others; as well as contacting youth representatives of the municipality such as the

Youth Platform, to publicise the initiative and promote the participation of young women from most sectors of society.

- ***Participation guarantees;*** The partner organisations, in particular ASOMUDEM and Yo Puedo, generated specific actions that can be replicated in other contexts, among these, the spaces for the care and training of the children of the participants, facilitating the modules of the School in farms or places outside the municipality, facilitating concentration and the creation of friendly environments for the participants.
- ***Connecting women and young girls from the experiential;*** The close link between women and young girls and with the team implementing the training processes came as a result of the and experiential dynamics to build an identity as women.
- ***Creating specific and differential spaces for the development of training processes for young women,*** which allowed them to find common agendas and languages, strengthening ties and fostering a strengthened process; In this sense, the Yo Puedo Corporation stood out with the creation of the Training School, through which methodologies and approaches it was able to integrate community feminism and popular education.
- ***Develop methodological strategies that combined art as pedagogical modules.***

## 2. SOCIAL MOBILISATION OF WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS. ADVOCACY PROCESSES LED BY WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS WHO ARE PART OF THE ADVOCACY AND LOCAL PLANNING SCENARIOS

The creation of the Territorial Model sought to strengthen the capacities for collective action and incident participation of adult women and young girls, particularly victims of armed conflicts and their organisations in the planning and budgeting spaces for the local management of peace and development; Thus, the participants had an informed access to the participatory development scenarios of the 2020-2023 development plan of Vista Hermosa and other community bodies, adding the human rights perspective of women and victims of the armed conflict.

Many of the young and adult women who participated in the training processes led by the partner organisations were unaware of the government structure and the spaces for political and citizen participation in the municipality; Other participants had heard of some instances of participation, but they saw them as distant and could not identify with them or associate them with corrupt processes defined in their words as “quarrelsome”. In this sense, the Yo Puedo Corporation and the SISMA Mujer Corporation, in a territorial alliance with ASOMUDEM, witnessed a challenge to motivate young and adult women to recognise the importance of political action through exercises of female leadership, participation and advocacy in local planning spaces.

The training processes managed to strengthen political capacities for women to bring them closer from a critical, feminist and gender perspective to public policies, and were able to build and position two peace agendas for young and adult women, technically supported by UN Women and positioned through with the support of participants in more than ten (10) scenarios of community and social participation. The creation of the Model through partner organisations put the needs of women and young girls at the centre of planning, left several seeds of distributed advocacy that are expected to germinate through social organisations that continue to work in this territory, the ASOMUDEM Committee of (of advocacy) and the spaces of social control that are being managed by through the Yo Puedo process.

Their proposals are specific insofar as they include affirmative action and comprehensive responses to social problems that mainly affect women, such as gender-based violence; but also, they refer to cross-cutting



actions that respond to the conditions of impoverishment suffered by the women and young girls of Vista Hermosa. In this sense, they speak of the right to water and sanitation, housing and education.

*“Women need a gynaecologist, and a paediatrician for babies. They also need more participation, because we women are leaders and are able to do things equally as or better than men. We need more people in Santo Domingo (town), family planning specialists, because there, they are going to work as a team and they never give a speech about injections, about pills, or about diseases. We also need a psychologist, because there are battered women”*

ASOMUDEM, in partnership with SISMA, led the design of the Peace Agenda for Young and Adult Women for Vista Hermosa 2020 - 2023<sup>15</sup> and Yo Puedo and the proposals for a Peace Agenda “Gender and Youth”, for the Youth Public Agenda with the Municipality’s Youth Platform from Vista Hermosa and for the Development Plan scenarios<sup>16</sup>. Internal mechanisms were built to identify young and adult women who would be part of advocacy bodies from a Committee of 37 women and young girls that are taking part in the process. The women identified a map of actors and the spaces in which they wanted to participate, with priority given to the participatory development tables of the Municipal Development Plan in the towns.

*“There are people who feel good about the participation of young women, although they are very few, but there are some who do; for example, in Santo Domingo, the President approached us and told us: “how cool it is that young women are participating!”-, and encouraged us to keep participating in the meetings”*

[Reported by a young woman. Yo Puedo. February 2020]

For its part, the advocacy road map of the Political Training School was marked by the support, or as described by the Implementation Team “a sponsorship” in which the facilitators permanently supported groups of young women in different spaces to give them confidence, instructions and guidance. During the months of February and March 2020, they were present for the first time in townhall meetings for the development of the Vista Hermosa Development Plan, at the Grand Social and Community Assembly for the Development of the Development Plan, at the Departmental Women’s Meeting for Contributions to

<sup>15</sup> Document Peace Agenda for Young and Adult Women for Vista Hermosa 2020 - 2023. Meeting “Young and Adult Women from Vista Hermosa participate in the territorial peace building in Vista Hermosa”, prepared by ASOMUDEM. February 2020. To consult this document, you can request it by email to the Office of UN Women Colombia.

<sup>16</sup> Document “Proposals by Young Women for the Development Plan of the Municipality of Vista Hermosa. “Gender and Youth”, the Public Youth Agenda and the Youth Platform, Municipality of Vista Hermosa, prepared by the Yo Puedo Corporation. 2020. To consult this document, you can request it by email to the Office of UN Women Colombia

the Departmental Development Plan in Meta, in presentations before the Municipal Council, at the CTP<sup>17</sup> - Youth Sectors and at the Youth Platform Assembly. The young women of Yo Puedo managed to lobby the Municipal Mayor's Office for the creation of sectorial table for young women in the town of Santo Domingo; this space was not considered in the planning. However, it is an achievement in terms of the political lobbying that the process achieved in the territory within the framework of the Territorial Model.



**Photo 5.** Presentation of the Young and Adult Women's Peace Agenda for Vista Hermosa 2020 - 2023 to the community of Vista Hermosa who participated in the Mobilisation in Commemoration of International Women's Day 2020.

*“I am proud to have achieved the agendas, because this is for the women of 86 towns and for this large municipality, and it is an honour for me to have represented the women in these spaces and to know that we have raised four main focal points that we reached by listening to everyone in the workshops, in all the spaces. We merged all of these and we were all heard. Now that I am on the Committee, I feel very responsible”*

[Reported by Women's Advocacy Committee - ASOMUDEM. February 2020]

<sup>17</sup> Territorial Planning Council.

## Lessons Learned in the advocacy process starring adult and young women

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- **Advocacy agendas must be built based on a narrative according to the experiences of young and adult women.** The two advocacy agendas developed in the Project, although they have implicit common points, were formulated in different ways, which reaffirms that women are not a single and homogeneous subject. Women have a diversity of interests, capabilities, needs and particularities depending on age, life trajectories, origin, context, among others.
- Advocacy road maps must be accompanied by processes that strengthen their political capacities, but also **strategies of self-care, collective care, security, protection and** response to scenarios where there is some type of risk.

## Good Practice in advocacy processes in the case of adult and young women

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- ***Collective and gradual building of peace agendas;*** these were built from a collective and participatory logic, since it was the partner organisations that went about weaving the inputs that they gradually collected through the training spaces, and then articulate them through the public policy instruments.

### 3. SUPPORTING YOUNG AND ADULT WOMEN IN THEIR PAIN AND HELPING THEM RESIST: PSYCHOSOCIAL, LEGAL, INFORMATION GATHERING AND SYSTEMATISATION SUPPORT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF REPORTS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND FORCED DISAPPEARANCE AND THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE SIVJNR


“With the rabbit, because he has big ears to listen, and that gives me a great sense of security”

[Metaphor used by a participant in the SISMA-led process to explain case documentation. November 2019]

In June 2020, the JEP received two documents through Judge Catherine Diaz and from the JEP's Truth, Accountability and Fact-Finding Chamber: *“Never forget them, wait for them until they are found. Report on forced disappearance”* and *“In my body, everyone's body. Report on sexual violence”*. Father Francisco de Roux as President of the Truth Commission and Alejandra Miller as Commissioner received the Report: *“Defending my truth, report on forced disappearance and sexual violence against women and young girls”* and Director Luz Marina Monzón on behalf of the UBPD welcomed the report as *“Indelible footprints, paths of memory and dignity. Report on forced disappearance”*.

As such, the creation of the Territorial Model *of guarantees of non-repetition and of empowerment of women and youth for their effective access to the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-repetition*, facilitated the delivery of the four (4) reports to the SIVJNR, each one amplifies and places the voice of women and young victims as they narrate the events, the territorial context of the territory at the time of their occurrence, the psychosocial impacts, the resistance and coping practices of the women and other details that contribute to the clarification efforts.





**Sisma Mujer y la Asociación de Mujeres Desplazadas del Meta ASOMUDEM quieren INVITARLE**


A la entrega de cuatro informes al Sistema Integral de Verdad, Justicia, Reparación y No Repetición sobre mujeres y jóvenes víctimas de desaparición forzada y violencia sexual en el municipio de Vista Hermosa, Meta.


**25/junio/2020**  
**09:00 a.m**  
**Plataforma de Microsoft Teams**  
 Para participar ingrese a [este enlace](#)


Las mujeres de Vista Hermosa, Meta, esperan aportar a la construcción de verdad, justicia, reparación y garantías de no repetición como víctimas del conflicto armado. Por esta razón, quieren hacerle extensiva la invitación para que participe de la entrega de cuatro informes: dos para la Jurisdicción Especial de Paz, JEP; uno para la Comisión para el Esclarecimiento de la Verdad, CEV; y un último informe para la Unidad de Búsqueda de Personas dadas por Desaparecidas, UBPD.

Con el apoyo de

**sisma mujer** **ASOMUDEM**

 **United Nations Peacebuilding**

 **NACIONES UNIDAS DERECHOS HUMANOS**  
 OFICINA DEL ALTO COMISIONADO  
 Colombia

 **ONU MUJERES**

**Illustration 1.** Invitation from SISMA Mujer in a territorial alliance with ASOMUDEM to call for the submission of reports to SIVJRNR

*“What does the truth mean?  
It is to know what happened to our loved ones.  
It is the way to find peace...  
for them take us into consideration, to put themselves in our shoes...*

*What does justice mean?  
“What does the truth mean?  
Having an idea of what happened to my daughter...  
That the guerrillas tell us what happened to the people they took...  
To fight for and insist on guarantees of non-repetition...*

*What would it mean to find the missing?  
It would be a relief for the soul to know what happened to them.  
To have a place to go and cry for them and know that  
they're there...  
To give peace of mind to those mothers who don't know what  
happened to their children...  
Finding them is akin to closing that last page of the book that  
remains open...”*

[Fragments of the three podcasts made by the SISMA Mujer Corporation, in which they collected the voices of adult and young women seeking truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition]

As a long-standing social organisation at the national level, the Sisma Mujer Corporation led the psychosocial and legal follow-up, information gathering and systematisation for the four (4) reports submitted to SIVJRN. In this process, they managed to link 117 women (24 young and 93 adult women) from Vista Hermosa, who participated in the *comprehensive training process, for the collection and systematisation of testimonies, collective memory building, reporting and effective participation in SIVJRN*; of which 71 decided to share their stories to document their cases and hand them over to SIVJRN, 64 of whom were young and adult women who were victims of forced disappearance and seven (7) victims of sexual violence.

*“The reflections that we had internally with them -ASOMUDEM-, articulating broad, more comprehensive questions, territorial and contextual reflections, always learning, recognizing that we were allies, we were partners, that because they were there, they had a living memory and an important advocacy work, they were the ones to open the way”.*

[Professional Psychosocial Report, Sisma Mujer Corp. May 2020]



*“When women meet, the world changes, the pains can be made more bearable, it can be expressed, and it can be redefined”*

[SISMA Mujer Corporation Professional Psychosocial Report. May 2020]

The first result associated with the initiative led by Sisma Mujer, in a territorial alliance with ASOMUDEM, was the strengthening of the emotional, psychosocial and technical capacities of women and young girls victims of sexual violence and forced disappearance of Vista Hermosa, for the preparation of reports and participation in the SIVJNR mechanisms. To this end, they established four (4) foundations that consist of recognizing women as protagonists and a central voice in the process, creating protective environments, increasing institutional trust through reports to the SIVJNR and entities of the territorial order, and emotional recovery, through a psychosocial strengthening strategy aimed at strengthening support networks, protection links and agency practices through 15 group and individual sessions<sup>18</sup>.



**Photo 6.** The adult women who participated in the comprehensive training process for the collection and systematisation of testimonies, collective memory building, reporting and effective participation in the SIVJNR, performed an opening ritual in which, together with the song “Yo vengo a ofrecer mi corazón [I come to offer my heart] they expressed their expectations from and their contributions to the process through drawings and paintings.

<sup>18</sup> PRODOC. Sisma Mujer in territorial alliance with ASOMUDEM. To consult this document, you can request it by email to the Office of UN Women Colombia

*“Letting go of the pain that is inside me; that pain does not allow one to be at peace ... as a family member of the disappeared, one constantly thinks about finding their loved ones. I learned to cry, cry and let go and hope that something will be done to find him”*

[Adult Woman Report - participant in the process led by Sisma. November 2019]

The psycho-legal support strengthened technical capacities so that women could participate in the preparation of their reports in a voluntary and informed manner; It is through this process that they got to know the SIVJNR, managing to debunk fallacies about the Peace Agreement<sup>19</sup> and explain the mechanisms and entities that arose from it. Women pointed out that misinformation is a barrier to access, which they feel is deeper in rural areas. Therefore, they spoke of the need to not only deepen their knowledge about the Comprehensive System, but to replicate it in their close surroundings.

In parallel to the meeting groups to strengthen the emotional and technical capacities of young and adult women and the psychosocial and legal strategy, individual or family meeting spaces were created with the 71 women and young girls who decided to share their stories to build the reports that were presented to the SIVJNR. 64 women with relatives who were victims of forced disappearance and 7 victims of sexual violence participated in this effort.

The delivery and presentation of the reports was a space for renewal of trust, for recognizing the deep pains of war in the bodies and the lives of young and adult women, but also for making their capacities, resistance and persistent searches visible. Those who listened carefully recognised that it was a space to reaffirm the relevance of initiatives that continue to contribute to the territorial peace building from a gender and youth perspective. In the words of Judge Catalina Díaz, “the presentation of the reports constitutes a new starting point and a second chance that the women and young girls who participated in the creation of the Territorial Model, give the State to respond to the challenges and questions that come from this milestone, which are broad and call upon each of the actors who have been part of this experience”.

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<sup>19</sup> Within the framework of these training actions, the SISMA Mujer Corporation designs a Fanzine “Peace Accords for a Dignified Life”, through which they seek to provide a practical and didactic tool to women, young girls and organisations for the appropriation of the Final Peace Agreement.

## Lessons Learned in the process of psycho-legal follow up and report building on sexual violence and forced disappearance presented to the SIVJNR

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- **Experience has shown that training processes must cover aspects related to education, sexual and reproductive health, self-care, love, shared responsibility in sentimental relationships, among other issues; in order to generate a comprehensive training and develop bonds of trust between the women and the implementing team.** In principle, it might seem that these issues are not related to the production of reports, but the facts confirm that the experience, the physical aspect and affectionate aspects must be considered as fundamental elements to strengthen the trust, bonds and identity among women. In addition, they enable them to identify practices of violence that they considered normalised, from a gender perspective. This process of raising awareness is key to the development of the advocacy processes and to show their effects on the mechanisms of the SIVJNR.
- The processes developed in this experience have shown that **the information available on the situation of women and young girls victims of armed conflicts is useful, but insufficient.** It is necessary to get more relevant information on the analysis of the context and particularities of the conflict and its effects on women and young girls. This information must be developed in a participatory manner with the collaboration of women and young girls from Mete, as well as with civil society organisations, based on an understanding of the dynamics of the territory.
- **Trust building through group spaces as an essential element for the production of reports.** Speaking circles represented the opportunity for women to share stories about their experiences where they were able to identify collective harm and recognise resilient practices that nurtured them all.

## Good practices in the process of psycho-legal follow up and report building on sexual violence and forced disappearance presented to the SIVJNR

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- **The language of art.** In psychosocial support, women valued the language of art, particularly painting, drawing and sewing. This allowed the processing of the psychosocial effects on the female victims, providing them with safe spaces in which they could tell their stories.
- **The psychosocial strategy, as a cross-cutting issue.** The Yo Puedo Corporation integrated into the School a strategy of psychosocial support that was carried out in a cross-cutting way throughout the School and not as a Module, which allowed young women to find a place to express their frustration and pain in situations not only associated with the armed conflict, but with the symbolic violence that they experience in their daily lives. In this way, the psychosocial approach allowed them to identify practices that had been normalised and to find a safe place to acknowledge their emotions.
- **The psychosocial strategy,** built by the SISMA Mujer Corporation for case documentation, managed to ensure the participation of women in careful, responsible, supported and sisterly conditions; This established an environment that pulled women out of traditional interview settings, allowing them to share their stories in a safe environment.

- Moreover, listening spaces do not have time factors. The collection of women's stories and narratives, particularly those who have experienced pain and suffering, cannot have time markers. Therefore, they methodologically suggested to women that: *"You can take as much time as you need, you can go back and forth in the story; if you don't remember a detail, you may skip it and continue"*. These approaches in case documentation managed to tackle this information from a psychosocial, humanist, feminist and phenomenological perspective, as well as with a life history approach methodology.

## 4. WEAVING NETWORKS. COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION PROCESSES BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS, SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENTS AND ACCESS TO THE SIVJNR

*“It is by walking that you make your way. That is how we have been building; from the beginning, we saw where we needed to work and what we needed to work on. We have had moments of deep emotion, of enthusiasm, then we came across things that we never thought of and we have had to overcome them and keep walking”*

[Metaphor by a DESC and Gender Coordinator to describe the initiative. OHCHR]

From the beginning of the document, the experiences were read from the centre/heart of the process outwards, with local entities, the SIVJNR, together with the OHCHR and UN Women, the last circle. Zooming in on this, the key experiences around the creation of protective environments for the guarantee of ESCR, actions led by the OHCHR with the support of UN Women will be presented, to later mention key actions of the SIVJNR and the coordination structure created to bring together all the implicit actors in the development of the Territorial Model.

The development of the Territorial Model in Vista Hermosa facilitated and supported the presence of the mechanisms in the territory, at first through training processes and later with particular work plans that materialised with bilateral dialogues, specific products between each of the mechanisms, partner organisations, participants, with the support of UN Women.

The discussion spaces where meeting and decision spaces were developed for decision-making and action follow-up, followed the project coordination structure and materialised into the Steering<sup>20</sup> and Management<sup>21</sup> Committees.

*“We came up with the idea - a script, we prepared the workshop in a certain order - and we wanted to conduct an experiential exercise based on their experience. What happened is that when we arrived, they already had a more or less solid idea of what the JEP was, and they had questions ... They started to tell us how they did to organise themselves - ‘Here we leave the cell phones in the cell phone storage box. If someone needs to use it, they may do so, but they have to explain why, and if it is not a legitimate reason, then they make a penance’. There we saw a possibility to talk about restorative justice from the organisation’s own practices - ‘note that here the logic of penance is a punishment, a penance, that idea of punishing whoever breaks the norm has to do with an idea of punitive justice. What would the logic be like if it were restorative justice? From that premise or question, we began to set up groups, in which each one represented the Repentance Room, the Amnesty and Pardon Room. Each group represented one of the rooms or sections of the Court and we explained the entire method of participation.”*

[Reported by JEP Official. June 2020]

*“It began to take shape and the way we jointly managed - with UN Women - to arrive at some issues, proposals and areas and how that was clarified and elaborated from the status of women’s rights. The joint constructive process on what constitute gender, women’s rights and ESCR, this construction and theoretical elaboration, seems key to me”*

[Reported by DESC and Gender Coordinator. OHCHR. May 2020]

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<sup>20</sup> The National Steering Committee provided strategic guidance to make technical, administrative, operational and financial decisions

<sup>21</sup> The Management Committee was the meeting space to generate agreements, work plan proposals, action follow-up, communication of results, among other moments necessary for the cohesion of the initiatives.



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The OHCHR led the methodology for the creation of protective environments. It defines protective environments as the search for human rights guarantees with an emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) in areas that are specific to women. This definition became meaningful as the road map for the creation of these environments progressed, which reaffirmed the relevance of the training processes to strengthen capacities and opportunities in the process of building bridges and road maps to guarantee the rights of young and adult women.<sup>22</sup> The OHCHR has prepared a “Guide for the construction of a protective environment, guaranteeing rights for women”.

UN Women and the OHCHR organised work sessions and meetings of an institutional nature to publicise the initiative, join forces around it, generate institutional support, activate protection mechanisms for the participants, among other actions that were possible in the face-to-face meeting, mainly within the municipality, but also at the departmental and national level.

In the implementation of this road map, meetings were facilitated between the Ombudsman’s Office, representatives of women’s groups and partner organisations, who analysed the current risk situations, which were also referred by the Ombudsman’s Office through the Early Warning System (SAT). Among the actions that were proposed to mitigate the risks in the lives of women, is the institutional response through the activation of protection mechanisms with the National Protection Unit (UNP), CERREM Mujeres and monitoring through CIPRAT, in which various actors were called upon to give a comprehensive response to the women. In this sense, the creation of protective environments based on ESCR implied multilevel actions that, under the leadership of the OHCHR and UN Women, led to meetings that resulted in the socialisation of the initiative to create a link between the construction of the model and the actions of the municipal and departmental level, an exercise that was carried out twice due to the change in municipal administration, which prompted the presentation of the initiative to the outgoing government as well as the incoming one, with more in-depth meetings such as the capacity-building workshops and meetings to activate road maps to protect women leaders and human rights defenders participating in the Model against risk situations. The relevance of protective environments was reaffirmed as the project progressed, confirming some of the approaches that were at the origin of this initiative, including the precarious situation of the women of Vista Hermosa, particularly from rural areas, in relation to ESCR.

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<sup>22</sup> UN Human Rights Protective Environment Guide. November 2019. To consult this document, you can request it by email to the Office of UN Women Colombia

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Another strategy for the creation of protective environments led by UN Women, particularly in the area of Women, Peace and Security, and the Meta Territorial Office came out of two lines of work. The first is related to the provision of spaces for discussion, meeting and trust-building between the SIVJNR mechanisms, the support organisations and the participants; and the second through the development of Work Plans with each of the SIVJNR institutions, with the participation of partner organisations as well as adult and young women involved in the development of the Territorial Model. These two processes were continuously inter-related; therefore, they are not presented separately since the articulation of the mechanisms with the partner organisations was feeding their work plans, strengthening them, and allowing them to come to fruition.

*“I would like to emphasise that the project gave us the opportunity to develop joint paths, joint methodologies, to advance in the area of articulation with organisations that have a historical experience and the recognition of families in the territory, so of course! We did it within the framework of the project, but the relationship that we built with the organisations is something that will go beyond the project and will allow us to advance together in the search for missing persons”*

[Reported by UBPD Meta Territorial Team Coordinator. June 2020]

*“I think it's important to recall that the Model gave us the opportunity to coordinate specifically with the territorial organisations. This gives the response a different character, insofar as that their contribution is not only technical and restricted to the activities, but also extends to the political capital that they have worked to contribute to the Commission's mission in the territory, especially by ASOMUDEM”*

[Reported by The Meta Truth Commission Territorial Team Coordinator. June 2020]



**Photo 7.** Discussion “Towards a territorial model of Guarantees of Non-repetition and Empowerment for the Women and Young Girls of Meta”, an event convened by UN Women and UN Human Rights, attended by young and adult women who participated in the development of the initiatives, representatives and leaders of SISMA Mujer, ASOMUDEM, the Yo Puedo Corporation, SIVJRNR executive and technical level representatives, as well as representatives from the departmental and local governments.

The institutional experiences that are part of the Territorial Model, particularly those integrated by the three mechanisms of the SIVJRNR, being part of the guarantees of the victims’ rights, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the Commission for the Clarification of the Truth, Coexistence and Non-repetition (CEV) and the Unit for the Search of Persons Presumed Disappeared (UBPD) have built actions for the relationship with young and adult women, and in turn, together with the close support of UN Women, received specific support to strengthen key actions on the gender approach and women’s human rights within each mechanism.

The work plan between the Truth Commission and UN Women led to the strengthening of teams: At the territorial level, it relied on the recruitment of a record keeper to conduct interviews from a gender perspective, and at the national level, it relied on the development of a consultancy to support the Gender Working Group for the development of gender indicators that contribute to the work of the Commission.

Within the framework of the project, a work plan was developed with the JEP to foster spaces for dialogue on transitional justice and restorative justice with young and adult women from the department of Meta, led by the Territorial Liaison and the Villavicencio psycho-legal duo and the National team’s Department

of Differential Approaches, as well as specialised support through a consultancy aimed at strengthening institutional strategies, procedures and methodologies for the investigation and prosecution of crimes against women in contexts of the armed conflict, with an emphasis on sexual violence.

The Work Plan with the UBPD allowed the organisation of training events for the UBPD territorial teams on the gender approach in the process to search for persons presumed missing. Likewise, it is supported by the hiring of two consultants who contribute to: i) the development of a mapping study of the territory covered by the Villavicencio territorial headquarters, at the departmental and municipal level, with different layers, promoting the protection of the populations with a gender and differential approach, ii) research and systematisation of information to develop a document with territorial and gender approaches on the dynamics of the armed conflict in the context of forced disappearance and differential impacts on women in the department of Meta. These actions were led by the Technical Directorate for Participation, through contact with victims and using differential approaches, together with the Villavicencio Territorial Team.

As such, the work plans, the support of UN Women, the communication with the organisations of women, victims and young girls provided scenarios for the participation of women in the mechanisms. It began by building bridges between the SIVJRNR and the partner organisations, for which UN Women led an agenda of rapprochement, work sessions, meetings and concrete plans seeking to bring the demands of women closer to the capacities of the mechanisms, especially in the territory. Then came the recognition of the mandate of each one of the SIVJRNR mechanisms, in particular rural young and adult women who had common imaginations and reservations towards anything that comes from the State; The partner organisations were key since they managed to translate the institutional language into the everyday life and in practical ways. Finally, the capacities developed and installed in favour of the mainstreaming of gender issues and women's rights in the mechanisms.

Thus, the Model made progress in bringing the SIVJRNR closer to women and young girls through close dialogues, work sessions, training scenarios and the delivery of the four reports on forced disappearance and sexual violence that tell the stories of women's pain and resilience. It was possible to recognise the paths of young women toward the empowerment of young and adult women; a road map of psychosocial, safe, caring, and restorative support was developed so that women could identify with each other through the safe relationships and bonds that they develop with one another. Progress was made in the creation of protective environments that involve entities, community components, the SIVJRNR and the international community. These elements, together with the lessons that are implicit in these practices, led to the consolidation of an innovative, pertinent, rigorous, careful and inclusive experience.

## Lessons learned in community and institutional coordination processes

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- ***The work of articulating agendas between civil society organisations and the SIVJNR mechanisms resulted in learning lessons for*** the definition of specific work road maps, with specific roles and responsibilities, that allow the provision of monitoring guidelines and joint collaborative work for these commitments in their structural and development processes.
- ***The effectiveness of the training processes*** and the women's relationship with the SIVJNR mechanisms ***depends, to a large extent, on the “translation” of the technical languages*** in the field of transitional justice, the search processes and the policies of peace ***to discourses and experiential narratives and experiences that are close to the dynamics of the women and young girls*** who participate in the initiative.
- ***The work articulated between the population, civil society and the State***, promoted by the Territorial Model, ***has been optimal when two-way articulation spaces between various actors were added*** to the meeting and coordination scenarios such as the Management Committees, thus generating more meetings, a greater connection between meeting agendas and dynamics and enhancing the respective initiatives.

## Good Practices in Community and Institutional Coordination Processes

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- ***Developing a proper coordination exercise for articulation by the actors;*** Having an organisational structure based on the development of central spaces such as Committees and bidirectional spaces between organisations of women, victims and young girls with the SIVJNR allows the establishment of agreements and the coordination of communication at various levels.
- ***Establishing partnerships with organisations of women and young girls at the territorial level.*** Throughout the process, ASOMUDEM linked women from other municipalities that are part of the Local Committees and carried out pilot methodology exercises to make adjustments to the latter and strengthen technical capacities in the territories.
- ***Mainstreaming in coordination spaces.*** The creation of coordination spaces from a mainstreamed and support approach by the Model coordinating agency, which were weaving the particularities of each actor, building bridges, meeting spaces, etc. ; This encouraged each actor to advance in their initiatives, but also allowed them to have meeting points, as was the case with the work plans and actions that the partner organisations were advancing. This UN Women-led support is achieved based on the territorial reading and analysis provided by the Meta Territorial Office and the full engagement of all elements of the initiative that was achieved in the area of Women, Peace and Security.
- ***Multilevel coordination.*** In line with the presence of diverse actors, the organisations and UN Human Rights highlighted the permanent and parallel contact with the entities of the territorial order, both the administration that closed the period in 2019, and the cabinet that started the 2020 – 2023 period. This generated bidirectional support as the partner organisations and participating women received



a boost to their initiatives from UN Women and the OHCHR and, in turn, the organisations ratified the positions that the agencies had been working on as a result of the work articulated with them, through the peace agendas.

- ***Systematisation as an exercise in continuous reflection.*** For the organisations, initiating the systematisation process during the development of the actions is a good practice, since, as the interviews were carried out, intermediate reflections were consolidated for all parties; therefore, it was a catalysing space for think tanks and reconstruction of practices, highlighting the need for adjustments and especially the recognition of the successes and achievements that they were having.

## Conclusions

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The processes of institutional training and strengthening of capacities for advocacy proposed within the framework of the Territorial Model have been a success in terms of positioning the agendas and interests of adult and young women. This process has been developed by partner organisations with women and young girls as mobilizing agents in planning and budgeting spaces for local peace management and development, through the municipal development plan and other instances of participation

The training designs should revolve around peer learning processes where the strengthening of self-care, self-esteem, autonomy and self-determination of the participants allow them to recognise their inner world in a loving and supported way through other women who have gone through situations similar to theirs.

The implementation of training processes with women and young girls, direct or indirect victims of the armed conflict, imply sizing psychosocial support actions, not only in the processes that involve a direct approach to the victimizing events, but as a permanent dimension in the training; If this is guaranteed, women and young girls who have had to remain silent for a long time benefit from supported and careful approaches, the fatigue that facilitators and workshop leaders may experience is reduced and the training content is supplemented.

The integration of territorial organisations to the documentation processes is key in the process. The psycho-legal approach to the psychosocial effects arising from acts of sexual violence and forced disappearance implies the creation of protective environments in which young and adult women who share their testimonies feel that they are in an environment of trust and protection. Therefore, these processes must be carried out with the greatest reservation and confidentiality for women with people who know, with a deep and contextual understanding, the effects on these women and young girls and the experiences that they went through.

During the project implementation experience, several actors have mentioned that socio-political violence remains dormant in the territory. Women have stated the risk of forced recruitment of their sons and

daughters and the threats to their new and strengthened leadership. The creation of protective environments is an absolute priority in a context of progress and setbacks in the peace-building process.

The relationship between the partner organisations facilitated the articulation of territorial actions, promoted the construction of peace agendas, consolidated the networking between women and young girls to the extent that bidirectional meeting and workspaces were created between the partner organisations. The development of the Territorial Model generated strategic alliances with organisations of victims, women and young girls at the territorial level, with experience and track record in developing community-based actions, particularly in advocacy exercises. Their initiatives allowed them to undertake actions that, according to their description, were part of their organisational forecast, as was the case of the Yo Puedo Political Training School, “Gender, Youth and Leadership for Peace”, which was being developed before the construction of the Model and provided the perfect opportunity to get it started. For ASOMUDEM, who had allies in Vista Hermosa, the construction of the Model meant the possibility to strengthen said ties and transform those alliances into territorial links with an Advocacy Committee.

The experience of this project has generated a comprehensive concept of a protective environment for adult and young women, who have learned that the conditions of a favourable and safe environment go through the creation, by the State, of external conditions, the participation of civil society and the support of international cooperation, but also through the creation of internal conditions based on collective learning processes, solidarity with each other, community space-construction and self-care.

The diverse, heterogeneous and multiple nature that the development of the Territorial Model had, with the participation and the diversity of community, organisational and institutional actors, requires a broad degree of coordination and understanding where international cooperation plays a relevant role.

The promotion of articulations at the local and national levels with the entities in charge of prevention and the protection of women’s rights, contributes to the creation of environments that protect life and facilitate the empowerment of women and young girls and the strengthening of their political skills. This level of articulation is essential in a context of the increasing risks arising from the post-conflict situation and the levels of socio-political violence.

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