

## Strengthening Human Rights Education Globally (SHREG)<sup>1</sup> Project in Colombia



### GOAL

Ensure greater social cohesion by promoting inclusion, acceptance and recognition of youth, women and children in their community

### PILOT COMMUNITIES

- Usme (Bogotá)
- Soacha (Cundinamarca)

### TIME FRAME

2014-2019

### PROMOTING INCLUSION, ACCEPTANCE AND RECOGNITION OF YOUTH, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITIES OF COLOMBIA

As part of current efforts to build a sustainable and lasting peace in Colombia, the government has identified the importance of addressing key issues such as: the stigmatization and exclusion of marginalized groups; gender inequality; intolerance towards diversity; and low levels of political participation<sup>2</sup>.

The results of a baseline study conducted by Equitas and two local community-based organizations<sup>3</sup> further corroborate this, confirming that weak social cohesion and low levels of participation in decision-making of youth, women and children have resulted, among others, from (1) stereotypes and negative perceptions of youth; (2) gender-based discrimination and violence against women; and (3) the exclusion of children from decision-making processes.

The SHREG project in Colombia, **centered on human rights education activities with a participatory approach**, aims to ensure greater social cohesion by promoting inclusion, acceptance and recognition of youth, women and children, thereby contributing to the necessary conditions for stable and peaceful communities in Colombia.

**“Participation is the base for social transformation (...) It allows communities to have a sense of ownership and of shared responsibility. It fosters social cohesion and relationships, and strengthens communities’ capacity to have a positive impact”**

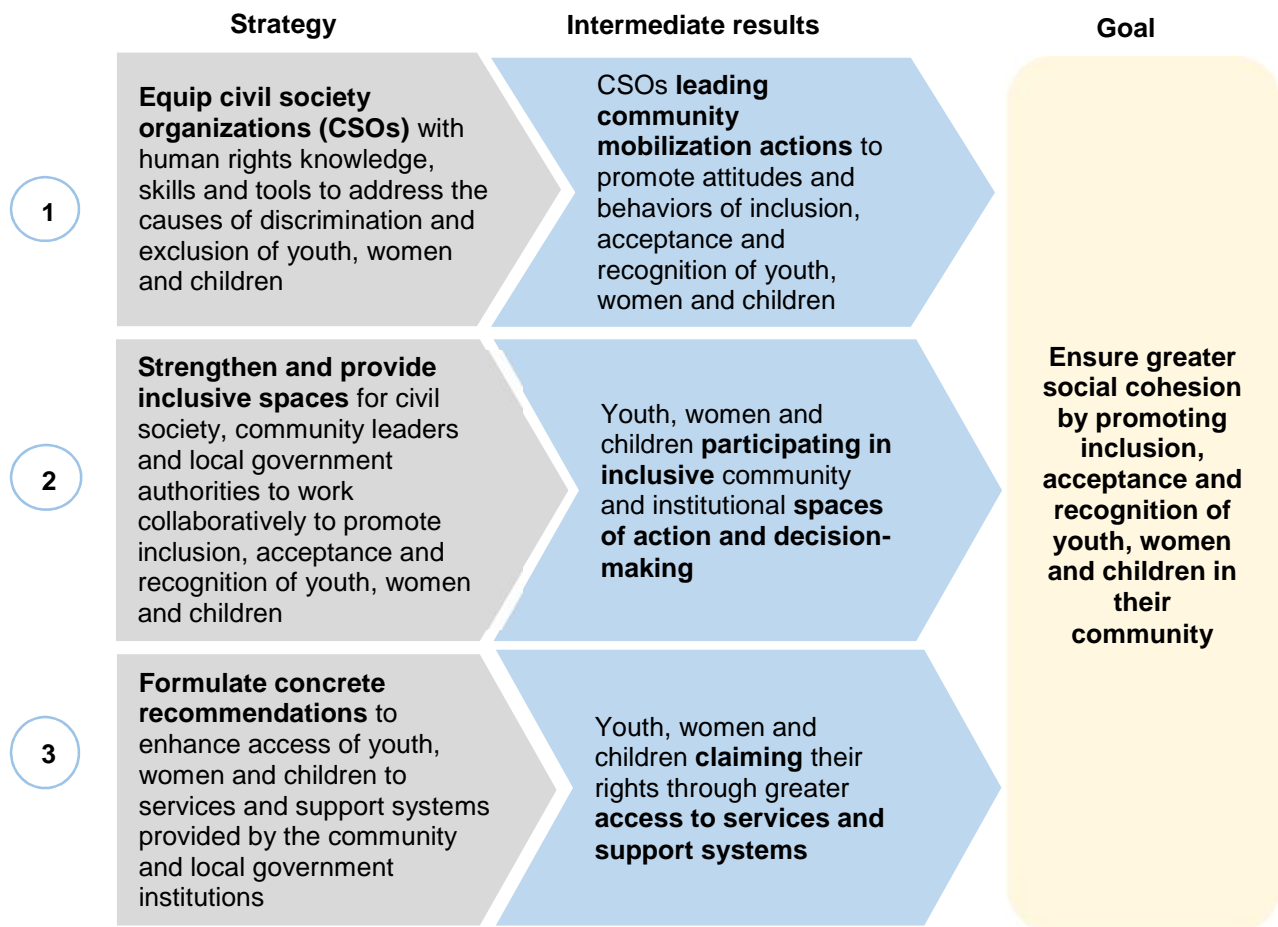
–Interview with a Woman Community Leader from Usme (2015)

<sup>1</sup> The SHREG project is currently being implemented in Senegal, Tanzania, Haiti and Colombia, and at the international level through the International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTTP) and regional training sessions

<sup>2</sup> Presidential Program of Human Rights (National Strategy for the Guarantee of Human Rights 2014-2034) and National Centre for Historical Memory (*Basta Ya!, Colombia: Memorias de Guerra y Dignidad* (2013))

<sup>3</sup> This baseline was conducted in Usme and Soacha between April and May 2015

## KEY STRATEGIES AND EXPECTED RESULTS



## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- **Baseline Study in Usme and Soacha** (Apr-May 2015)
  - 8 focus groups and 10 interviews
  - 129 participants
  - Publication of Baseline Study report
- **Upcoming activities**
  - Baseline study results sharing and validation with communities (Nov 2015)
  - Training sessions in human rights
  - Community mobilization actions
  - Community forums
  - Policy dialogue
  - Action Guide



Baseline Study Partners

