



## HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION & PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY LIFE

### THE ISSUE

Women, children and youth experience barriers to their full participation in community life and decision-making disproportionately. Our work in Colombia focuses on promoting inclusion and non-discrimination of marginalized groups, gender equality and greater citizen participation and engagement in actions for social change.

Equitas is convinced that human rights and citizenship education programs can contribute to the sustainable transformation of Colombian communities into more peaceful and inclusive, especially in a context of peacebuilding. Promoting and forging attitudes, behaviours and ways of thinking based on principles and values of equality, inclusion, non-discrimination, fairness, cooperation and respect for diversity are key in this process.

### OUR SOLUTIONS



PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS,  
SOCIAL COHESION AND TRUST



EQUIP CIVIL SOCIETY  
ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY  
LEADERS TO LEAD ACTION FOR  
SOCIAL CHANGE



PROVIDE INCLUSIVE AND  
PARTICIPATORY SPACES FOR CIVIL  
SOCIETY AND AUTHORITIES TO  
WORK COLLABORATIVELY



ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF  
YOUTH, WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
TO ENGAGE WITH DECISION-  
MAKERS

## OUR IMPACT

- Almost **3,000 community members** have benefited from 13 Community Action to promote greater participation, inclusion and non-discrimination of women, children and youth.
- **115 community leaders** and representatives of civil society organizations have been trained through human rights education activities in the communities of Usme, Ciudad Bolivar in Bogota and Soacha in Cundinamarca.
- They have:
  - acquired knowledge, skills and tools to plan, deliver and evaluate human rights education activities.
  - gained confidence in their capacity to lead actions that engage community members in collaborative actions for positive social change.

## NEXT

- Three Community Actions to promote human rights, gender equality, participation and inclusion of marginalized groups.
- One inter-community Forum to provide community members and local authorities with a safe space to dialogue and define collaborative actions to ensure a greater participation of women, children and youth in decision-making processes.

## PARTNERS

Equitas works in Colombia with the NGO TECHO Colombia. Our current project is undertaken as part of the Strengthening Human Rights Education Globally project, with the support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC).



## OUR APPROACH

We work for the advancement of equality, social justice and respect for human dignity through transformative education programs. We empower people to challenge inequality and discrimination and take action to make their communities safer and better places to be.

*"Equitas methodologies enable the creation of participation spaces that are positive. In my community, there is a lot of resentment and we need tools for people to express their ideas (...) in a non-confrontational way."*

- Participant

*"The first step is for communities to realize that they can take action to change things. Once these actions have started, then it is important to involve local government authorities and explore ways of collaboration and support."*

- Participant

## LEARN MORE

[www.equitas.org](http://www.equitas.org)

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