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## Accelerating progress on the Millennium Development goals in Colombia

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helps countries to improve their capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, MDG. In Colombia, UNDP focuses its work at the subnational level, as it is in the states and municipalities where they show the greatest obstacles to achieve the goals defined for 2015. This allows addressing the deep inequalities within the country by planning and action at local level, showing that the achievement of the MDGs depends on the local management of national policies.

In 2010, BDP and UNDP Colombia decided to apply the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) to support the ongoing work of the Project MDGs at the Local Level. The MAF was adapted to be applied at the subnational level.

So far, the MAF has been applied in different ways, with different emphases and different partners at the state level, municipal level, with a focus on Food and Nutrition Security in partnership with WFP and articulated with the national government strategy for overcoming extreme poverty: RED UNIDOS.

In 2011, BDP mobilized additional resources to implement acceleration solutions identified in the Acceleration compacts of **Nariño** and **Santander**. These resources and the support of UNDP proved to be a key element to revitalize the acceleration compacts and to rise up the issue of MDG achievement with the new local governments that took office in January this year.

This report portrays the how these solutions have helped to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

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*UNDP Colombia focuses its work at the subnational level, as it is in the states and municipalities where they show the greatest obstacles to achieve the goals defined in 2105*

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## NARIÑO: Empowered women promote local development

The MAF Nariño prioritized MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. The solutions recorded on this acceleration compact and implemented with the support of BDP were:

1. Promote the participation and the exercise of rights by women broadening the coverage of the School of gender and local development. The school has already been established, and plans to expand its reach with an ethnic-territorial approach to: Pasto - Ipiales - Tumaco - North.
2. Create a Women's Citizen Network for Health and Life. The starting point for the network will be the publication of a booklet sharing experiences and learning from women from different regions of the State of Nariño.

These actions were implemented by the local CSO FUNDEAS, via a grant financed by UNWOMEN, the MDG-F, and UNDP BDP.

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*Nariño's acceleration plan was implemented by the local CSO FUNDEAS, via a grant financed by UNWOMEN, the MDG-F, and UNDP BDP.*

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### School of gender and local development and facilitators Training Strategy:

In association with the MDG-F Window of Peace of Nariño, 100 women in 3 municipalities of Nariño participated in the School of gender and local development. Participants received training on gender issues and as facilitators to replicate the program in their regions and promote community and political leadership of Colombian and indigenous women.

The School program was adapted to each region taking into account the particularities of women in the municipalities in which the school was developed.

Training and empowerment has enabled the women of Nariño to participate in local development. In Pasto, Ipiales and Tumaco women from the School of gender drafted proposals to include women and gender equality in the local Development Plans. The proposals were presented to the local municipal councils by women leaders. Some of them are listed below:

- Pasto, specific issues were raised for each strategic line of the development plan.
- Ipiales, working with the local Social Policy Office, the proposals were included in the social chapter of the Development Plan 2012-2015.
- Tumaco, since the Municipal Development Plan was already approved, the women's proposals were included in action plans, as for example drafting a Public Policy for Women in the municipality of Tumaco.

## Monitoring the implementation of the Public Policy for gender equality in Nariño:

Several events were held in order to monitor the implementation of the PP and to outline recommendations for the new local development plans. One of them was the Summit of Elected Women in the State of Nariño 2012-2015", 55 Councillors, 42 Ediles, 1 Mayor, 1 Deputy, and 3 Congresswomen as well as local women leaders attended to the event.

## Women's Citizen Network for Health and Life:

Conflict and gender barriers limit access to health services for many women in Nariño. For this reason FUNDEAS promoted the creation of a "Citizen Network of Women for health and Life". The first action of the Network is the publication of a booklet regarding self-care tools for women's physical and psychological health, empowering women about their rights on health issues. Departmental Health Institute of Nariño (IDSN) provides technical support to draft the booklet. Its main topics are: early childhood, Children and Adolescents, Sexual and Reproductive Health in Women, Maternal Health, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Gender Based Violence, midlife and Networking.

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*Santander's acceleration plan was implemented by the local organization PROINAPSA.*

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## SANTANDER: local communities' participation helps to improve maternal health

The MAF Santander prioritized MDG 5: Improve maternal health. This experience was presented in June 2011 in Japan under the global event for MDG acceleration promoted by UNDP.

One of the solutions recorded on this acceleration compact was to strengthen citizen participation and control for the effective implementation of the state policy for maternal health, with special attention to the poorest municipalities of Santander.

These actions were implemented by the local organization PROINAPSA, via a grant financed by UNDP BDP.

PROINAPSA provided technical assistance to local communities in five towns of Santander, strengthening their capacities for social control to the implementation Santander's Public Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health.

The municipalities prioritized were Jordan, Playon, Rionegro, Surata and Tona.

## Strengthening Citizen Participation Committees:

Social control is exercised by the Citizen Participation Committees (COPACOS). PROINAPSA combined information, education and communication strategies to improve their knowledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), the legal framework on SRH and the role of citizen and community oversight in public policy.

To support this process PROINAPSA developed the booklet "Guidelines to talk among peers", a tool to talk about sexuality, sexual and reproductive rights, and a CD: in which methodologies, guides, standards and documents related to sexual and reproductive health and social and community participation. 80 booklets and CDs were distributed in the municipalities of Jordan, Playon, Rionegro, Surata and Tona

## Action plans for Citizen Oversight

In these municipalities 625 representatives of the COPACOS participated in 16 hours training programs. With this new knowledge, each COPACO defined an action plan for the community oversight of health services, programs of sexual and reproductive health and advocacy actions for sexual and reproductive rights in their municipalities.

