

HEARTLAND ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL



COLOMBIA

ORDINARY PEOPLE CREATING AN EXTRAORDINARY WORLD!

Heartland Alliance International (HAI) believes in the power of community resilience and transformation in the midst of humanitarian crises. In Colombia, we train community leaders from the regions most affected by armed conflict and migration to provide psychosocial support, legal orientation, and emotional support to program participants.

We use a multifaceted approach across our programming to create and sustain change which includes: 1) Direct service delivery, 2) Capacity building of local civil society organizations and government actors, 3) Advocacy and policy change, and 4) Research and evidence-based programming. Our technical areas of expertise include mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), access to justice, prevention and response to gender-based, sexual, and reproductive violence, support on migration routes, prevention of statelessness, protection, and integration services for underserved populations.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE IN?



Strengthening and building existing local **knowledge and capacity**.



Supporting the most **vulnerable**, marginalized populations to ensure they are not left behind, including survivors of torture, of GBV, human trafficking, transitory migrants, LGBTQI+ communities, indigenous and afro communities, and persons with disabilities.



In programming that draws from cultural and traditional coping mechanisms to **promote healing**.



In **innovative methods** to meet participants where they are, including mobile and remote services for transitory migrants.



In **child protection**, violence prevention, and child MHPSS programming.



In a **governance model** which responds to humanitarian crises using a **human rights-based approach**.



Integration of **mental health, access to justice and gender-based violence** technical expertise to create a holistic approach.



Use of community-based, participatory approaches to empower communities as **agents of change**.



In **gender equity** and social inclusion to promote leadership and reduce gaps in the exercise of rights.



Use of **evidence-based approaches** and research to develop and test innovative new models.



Staff support services to ensure wellbeing of dedicated staff who work in challenging contexts.

THROUGHOUT HAI'S HISTORY IN COLOMBIA, WE HAVE:

Established presence in **TEN** departments across the country.

Supported more than **58,000** conflict-affected participants including more than **8,500** Venezuelan

Trained **130** Community-based Psychosocial Workers.

Trained **1,948** government and CSO officials.

Achieved significant **policy changes**, including informing national mental health policy.

Achieved a **74%** reduction of symptoms of distress among surveyed participants.

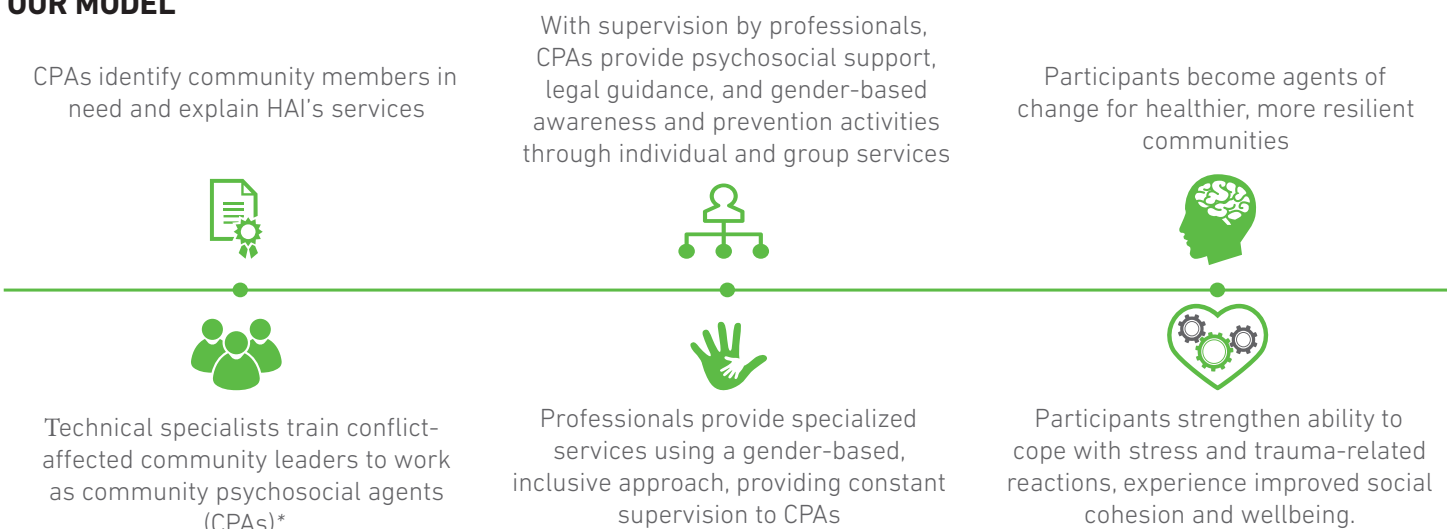
Achieved a **71%** improvement in well-being among surveyed participants.

Achieved a **99%** satisfaction rate among surveyed participants.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN COLOMBIA

- Five decades of civil conflict in Colombia has resulted in more than nine million recorded victims. In late 2016, the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) signed a Peace Agreement, ending the longest armed conflict in the Western Hemisphere. Current challenges associated with enforcing various elements of the peace agreement, however, have contributed to ongoing violence and instability.
- The country is experiencing heightened levels of persecution and violence against human rights defenders and social leaders. Substantial differences in statistics make it impossible to determine the reality of the situation; however, recorded cases suggest that since 2016, between 555 and 971 assassinations of human rights defenders and social leaders have occurred¹.
- The proliferation of other armed groups poses a challenge to the country. In 2016, the ELN was active in 96 municipalities and, by 2020, their presence expanded to 167 municipalities, primarily in the departments of Chocó, Antioquia and Nariño.
- The Venezuelan migration crisis has led to an influx of approximately 1.7 million Venezuelans in Colombia, many of whom are transitory and underserved by humanitarian and government actors.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the already precarious humanitarian situation. COVID-19-related restrictions on movement and lockdowns allowed armed groups to establish or strengthen territorial control in remote parts of the country, resulting in increasing reports of violence, including sexual, domestic, and gender-based violence and constraints on service provision. In response, HAI has adapted service provision to the COVID-19 context, including increasing GBV prevention and response, safeguards, remote and mobile service provision, among others.

OUR MODEL



**If CPAs are providing legal and GBV services they receive training/supervision from those technical specialists as well as psychologists.*

WHAT'S NEXT?

In conjunction with strategic partners, HAI Colombia will continue to support communities in their recovery and development processes, contributing to social transformation and peace building through the following programs:

- **MAS RESILIENCIA:** Supported by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), MAS Resiliencia ("More Resilience") provides high quality MHPSS services, legal support and sexual and reproductive health services in Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Córdoba, Nariño and Cauca.
- **PASOS:** Supported by PRM, Pasos ("Steps") ensures that the urgent needs of Venezuelan refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants are met through the provision of health and protection services, maternal and reproductive health services, legal services, prevention and response to gender-based violence, child protection, and MHPSS services in Cali, Atlántico, Cundinamarca, Boyacá and Nariño.
- **GBV-FREE ENVIRONMENTS:** This project aims to reduce the risk of GBV among women, children and LGBTI people in Valle del Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo. In Quibdó and Turbo, Antioquia, HAI provides MHPSS services.
- **HEALTH EVALUATION AND APPLIED RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT (HEARD) PROJECT:** HEARD evaluates the effectiveness of a community-based psychosocial support intervention for communities affected by violence in Colombia through a mixed-method study. The research seeks to strengthen the community-based model to scale up to other areas affected by armed conflict. Research is possible thanks to the generous support of the United States Agency for Development (USAID).
- **SEMILLAS DE APEGO:** Implemented in conjunction with the Universidad de los Andes, Semillas de Apego provides psychosocial support to early childhood caregivers to strengthen emotional bonds and parental relationships. Research Collaboration with Boston College United States Agency for Development (USAID).

ABOUT HEARTLAND ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

HAI is the global arm of Heartland Alliance, a family of organizations leading human rights and justice work in Chicago since 1888. HAI implements programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and in Chicago at the Marjorie Kovler Center. HAI's technical areas include mental health and psychosocial support, gender equity, access to justice, and stigma-free healthcare. Across all programs, HAI promotes progressive, innovative approaches to human rights protections, and gender equity.

OUR DONORS:

