



Acordes
por la paz

What is ACORDES?

ACORDES is a project between the Kofi Annan Foundation, Alianza para la Paz and Fundación Nacional Batuta launched in 2022 in Colombia. It seeks to strengthen children and adolescents' resilience to violence through music education by incorporating notions of peace, reconciliation and gender equality in the teaching. The model has been tested in two conflict-affected municipalities, Saravena in Arauca and Puerto Asís in Putumayo. The lessons gained from the process will advise the creation of a model that can be replicated in other Batuta music centers across the country.

What do we aim to do?

- We develop a sense of common belonging and shared identity among young music school students through vocal practice and collective musical creation around themes of peace and gender equality.
- We create an ecosystem of protection against violence around the students of the music centers by raising awareness of reconciliation and gender equality among their families and strengthening collaboration with local authorities on these issues.
- We design a model for mainstreaming peace and gender equality in music education that can be replicated in more than 230 Batuta music centers across Colombia.



Who Leads ACORDES?

Kofi Annan Foundation. Created in 2007 by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Geneva to mobilize actors who can influence and contribute to the resolution of threats to peace, development and human rights.

Alianza para la paz ONG (APAZ). Was founded in 2015 to strengthen social capacities for peaceful conflict transformation and the prevention and reduction of violence in Latin America. As a regional non-profit peacebuilding organization headquartered in Bogotá, Colombia, APAZ works with a vision from the Americas for the Americas based on values such as trust, mutual understanding, dialogue, equality and horizontality.

Fundación Nacional Batuta. Was founded in 1991 by the National Government to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of children, adolescents, and young people in situations of extreme social vulnerability through musical training in Colombia. Created as a non-profit organization, Batuta has 231 musical centers across the country promoting social inclusion, cohesion, cultural rights and diversity through music across the country.



Context

Children and youth in Puerto Asís (Putumayo) and Saravena (Arauca) are exposed and vulnerable to various forms of violence due to the:

- Presence and fights over territorial control by multiple armed groups, provoking an environment of anxiety and fear.
- Youth recruitment by and involvement in armed groups.
- Poverty and lack of access to socio-economic opportunities.
- Migration and internal displacement in precarious conditions, making them easy targets for abuse, extortion and (sexual) exploitation due to a lack of a protective network.
- Normalization of violence against girls and women, exacerbated by the legacy of violence due to the armed conflict.
- Gender norms that depict stereotypes and sexism towards women and girls' bodily autonomy and integrity, contributing to social tolerance of gender-based violence.

ACORDES is aligned with the [recommendations of the Truth Commission](#), such as educational institutions' role in "training individuals to be capable to live in peace - with an emphasis on citizenship, reconciliation, socio-emotional skills and human rights education and that includes intercultural, gender and women's rights approaches."¹

¹ Comisión de la Verdad, 2022. Hallazgos y Recomendaciones para la No Repetición, p. 723. Bogotá.

Figures of violence against children and young people between 2018 and 2021*

Putumayo

171
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE CASES

Within the department of Putumayo, the municipality of Puerto Asís has the second highest rate of domestic violence towards children and young people

1151
SEXUAL
VIOLENCE CASES

367
PHYSICAL
VIOLENCE CASES



Arauca

130
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE CASES

Within the department Arauca, Saravena has the third highest rate of domestic violence against children and young people.

875
SEXUAL
VIOLENCE CASES

342
PHYSICAL
VIOLENCE CASES

To respond to the challenges in the two municipalities, ACORDES follows an approach that is gender-equal, intersectional, territorial, and rights-based.

By working with children and young people, we highlight their potential to inspire and create positive change.

We also recognize their fundamental role in transforming a culture of violence towards a culture of peace.

SOURCES

- SISPRO 2021
- Forensis 2020. Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal and Ciencias Forenses.

Who benefits from the project?

The project has engaged children and young people between the ages of 6 and 18 in two Batuta music centers in Saravena and Puerto Asís.

SARAVENA

49% girls

51% boys

70% victims of the armed conflict

64% in vulnerable conditions

PUERTO ASÍS

60% girls

40% boys

59% victims of the armed conflict

55% in vulnerable conditions

ACORDES has also built capacities of families, Batuta music center teachers and national Batuta staff. Furthermore, it has initiated engagement with key local authorities, national institutions and civil society organizations in dialogue and design a strategic plan for violence prevention in the municipalities.

In the two municipalities, the project has indirectly reached members within the broader communities of Puerto Asís and Saravena to raise awareness of peace, reconciliation and gender equality through concerts, podcasts, radio broadcasts and social media campaigns.



2022 - Our impact in numbers

Beyond a successful psychosocial accompaniment for children and youth in the two Batuta music centers as part of their music education, ACORDES has built capacities and raised awareness of peace, reconciliation and gender equality in Saravena and Puerto Asís:

- 235 children and young people from Batuta music centers have been trained on peace and gender equality as part of their music education.
- 108 families from the immediate Batuta community have participated in capacity-building workshops on peace and gender equality.
- 35 Batuta music teachers and national staff have taken a synchronous 5-week virtual training course on peace, reconciliation and gender equality.
- 2 community concerts have been organized by the music centers to present collective musical pieces by the trained Batuta youth.
- 4733 community members have been reached through a multimedia advocacy campaign to raise awareness of violence prevention and gender-based violence and avenues for peace and reconciliation.
- 28 local authorities, national institutions and civil society organizations have engaged in dialogue to create a strategy for a protective environment for children, adolescents and young people in the pilot municipalities.



2022 - Achievements

- **Children and young people** from Batuta music centers have strengthened their individual and collective values, the recognition and appreciation of differences and their sense of equality, allowing them to deal peacefully with conflicts and promote social cohesion in their communities.
- **The musical teaching and collective musical creation** on themes of peace and equality has fostered a sense of common belonging and shared identity among the young students in the music centers, encouraging participants' emotional awareness and confidence to express their ideas and feelings.
- **Families in the two municipalities** – including children and youth in the music centers – have gained knowledge and tools to promote change towards peace, reconciliation and gender equality within their homes and in their extended communities.
- **Local authorities and national institutions** responsible for the protection and attention of victims of armed conflict in Saravena and Puerto Asís have reinforced their internal cooperation and coordination with civil society organizations to support children and young people in vulnerable conditions.
- **Batuta music centers** have tested a methodology and drawn lessons for a replicable model for music education that integrates peace, reconciliation and gender equality as part of its teaching and vocal practice.

As of 2023, the consolidated model can be expanded to over 230 music centers nationwide.

How To Support ACORDES?

To support expanding ACORDES across Colombia to build peace, reconciliation and gender equality through music education, contact us directly and follow our work on social media:

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ACORDES in action:

[Acordes for Hope](#)

[Equity Rap](#)

[Instruments for peace](#)



