

« Making right to quality education a reality for all »
Improving the quality of teaching in 37 schools in Colombia
December 2006 – December 2009



In Colombia, the primary school enrolment ratio is 87%. However, **only 69%** of these children **finish this cycle**.¹ In 2000, through the definition of the Millenium Development Goals, the United Nations asked all countries to **achieve education for all by 2015**. The concept of education for all implies not only the construction or the installation of schools but also the reinforcement of the quality of teaching, because **without quality, education remains an abstract and meaningless concept**.



The Colombian government has committed, like many other countries in front of the United Nations, to take actions to guarantee education for all. After a series of studies and investigations aiming at analyzing the situation of education in Colombia, it appeared that the improvement of the **quality of education is a priority question** for the Colombian educational system.

To accompany and accelerate the implementation of the necessary reforms by the government, Plan Colombia defined a broad program of 5 years duration in order to accompany the schools in the setting-up of improvement programs and thus consequently to improve the Colombian education system. The « Making right to quality education a reality for all » project takes place in this five-year program and aims at **contributing to the development of a quality education which takes into account the interests of the child** in 37 schools counting 28.358 pupils and 1.199 professors and directors.

The concept of educational quality is a central part of this 3 years project. By the implementation of this project, **Plan Colombia seeks to reconsider the instruments and the methods** of training and teaching the children. The goal is to optimize the educational methods so that the children can develop as well as possible the know-how, which is necessary to their professional and personal development.

In order to address the specific objectives, the following activities will be implemented:

- . To reinforce the capacities of the professors: **Design of workshops** of training for teachers so they can implement a better pedagogy in class.
- . To reinforce the co-operation : Organization of **meetings for sharing experiences** between the various schools and the community
- . To improve the participation of all: Involvement of professors, parents, pupils in the process of qualitative transformation of education.
- . To raise quality education as a priority topic of action for the local and national authorities: Setting up of a **strategy of lobbying** at the regional and national levels.

The total budget is **225 438€ euros** for the **3 years**.

¹ Data source : Millenium Development Goals, *Columbia Country Profile*, World Development Indicators database, April 2004