



CIREC, Center of Integral Rehabilitation in Colombia is a private non profit foundation, recognized national and internationally for its inspired actions that evolve and endure, and are building the future today.

With the desire to make a difference, its commitment demands a holistic approach, which deals with human, social and economic needs of vulnerable communities, such as people with physical disabilities caused by landmine accidents, the armed conflict issues or any other reasons like car and work accidents.

The comprehensive portfolio of projects is oriented on sustainable development, based on basic, human, social and economic approaches.

The foundation plays a key role in the efforts to expand health care, education opportunities, empowerment, women and children rights, poverty alleviation and environment protection in Colombia.



PROGRAMS

Seeds of Hope

A program of special and integral assistance for land mine victims.

Rehabilitation Brigades

Regional assistance for people with physical disabilities.

Plant Yourself

Experiential program focused on teenagers.

Integrate

Use of plastic arts for rehabilitation.



Sports Club

Sports as a part of the rehabilitation process.

Work Inclusion Program

Job opportunities.

POETA Center: Capacitation and training in information technology and communications.

Growing Together: A program for mothers of children with physical disability.

Social Responsibility

With High Scientific and Technological Level.



SERVICES



- First digital laboratory of motion analysis in Colombia
- Specialized clinical consultation in orthopaedic and physical medicine
- Physical, occupational, speech and hydro therapy
- Psychology and social work

PRODUCTS

- Comfort line, soft brace
- Aids for mobility and positioning
- Items for everyday life

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Home visits
- Transportation
- Housing units
- Rentals
- Revisions



Centro Integral de Rehabilitación de Colombia, CIREC

For the past 33 years, nearly 40,000 patients from all over Colombia and from some of the Latin American countries have been attended by CIREC in the prosthetic, orthotics, surgical and rehabilitation fields, an average of 1,450 a year. Approximately 120 patients per day rely on CIREC's different services, supported by its 4 million USD yearly budget. CIREC employs 87 in its Bogota facilities – 40 per cent of them are disabled – and is supported by an independent network of 42 Seeds of Hope associations and their 500 leading members in the conflict-torn municipalities of the country.

The Foundation has been distinguished as a national reference center and has been supported by the academic community of the different universities which have contributed with the implementation of new and important rehabilitation programs. Its constant concern for knowledge through research has allowed for significant advances in the social and family plans for rehabilitation and integration.

The rehabilitation model developed by CIREC has allowed many disabled people to attain their highest possible level of social and labor integration within the community. This model is a real alternative to the solution of the problems that face the disabled and has been well-recognized by many national and international organizations and honored with invitations to present this model of organization internationally.

CIREC's mission is to secure a high quality of life for the persons with disability, providing them with tools to gain maximum functionality that enables them to be independent and integrated into society in an active way. CIREC developed special programs, especially the Seeds of Hope program for the most vulnerable groups of the population and for landmine survivors, victims of violence and of the conflict that Colombia.

CIREC accomplishes its social objectives through different services delivered with high scientific and technical level such as: orthopedics, psychiatry, social work, psychology, physical and occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, electromyography and a "home away from home" for those who live outside Bogotá, transportations for those living in the city.

Among the supporting programs can be listed: technological innovation, research, specialized interdisciplinary services and treatments; promotional, preventive and educational support, cultural activities, art, music and sports. CIREC's goal is that the participants get back to their role as active members in their families and communities: children return to school adults to work to generate resources by employment or productive projects. Program participants have been examples of labor integration and of being able to overcome all odds. CIREC outcomes are planned on the principle of active participation of the individual within his/her own social environment, where he/she may construct his or her life project.

Seeds of Hope

A CIREC program created in 1996 to attend the victims of landmines

Seeds of Hope were created in 1996. The program aims to implant an integral approach to the rehabilitation process of the landmine and other victims of the conflict in Colombia, especially in the most affected – 97 per cent of the land mines accidents occur in rural – areas. Integral

rehabilitation for a landmine victim or other vulnerable disabled person means not only medical coverage and therapeutic services, and a prosthetic-orthotic device. It widens to a holistic perspective making it necessary to bear all elements that an individual needs to recover with dignity his/her role as an active participant in society. In addition to providing emergency services, the program increases visibility of the problems of the disabled, thereby educating the community at large and victim survivors' families. Local public officials and private community leaders are also sensitized and learn about the dimension of the problem and the treatment capabilities available outside their area. This in turn articulates public entities, private organizations and individual volunteers with the survivor community and with each other. The presence of Brigades sows the seeds of community networks for the CIREC approach to effective, long term sustainable solutions to the problem of rural People with Disabilities (PWDs). This strategy is termed, "Community-Based Integrated Rehabilitation" CBIR.

The Rehabilitation Services component of the program focuses on the long term solution in communities based on the Seeds of Hope three phase methodology for implementing CBIR. After a Brigade in a community has sensitized and educated community members, local leaders participate in a training program. This is part of preparing the ground work for phase 1 in which Seeds of Hope creates and consolidates legal associations, or local Disability Committees. These Committees are comprised of community members living with disabilities who link with local health professionals and local authorities. Family members of persons living with disabilities also make up part of the associations' member base. In Phase 2, the program improves the quality and sustainability of the program in any given municipality. In Phase 3, Seeds of Hope develops projects that have impact in the community such as labor integration programs and provision of rehabilitation care.

To increase visibility of the landmine problem and legal rights for integrated rehabilitation, CBIR identifies community leaders and develops their abilities to communicate with and mobilize their communities around the landmine problem. Collaborating with community leaders, CBIR produces informational pamphlets and interactive CD's to disseminate widely throughout the community. These pamphlets provide information on people's legal rights to rehabilitation care and socioeconomic integration and provide mine risk education.

To increase socio-economic capacity and integration among landmine survivors and person living with disabilities, the CBIR program facilitates integration of children living with disabilities into schools. They do this by working with mothers providing them education and support to help their children achieve success in school. CIREC offers classes in computer informatics for persons with disabilities by providing these classes in rural municipalities with Basic Rehabilitation Units. CBIR strengthens cultural programming in rural municipalities by guiding artistic workshops that allow their patients to express themselves in a less constrained environment and learn to use artistic tools in ways that complement their physical conditions. They also provide sports programming for persons with disabilities to enable people to engage in recreational and fun activities.

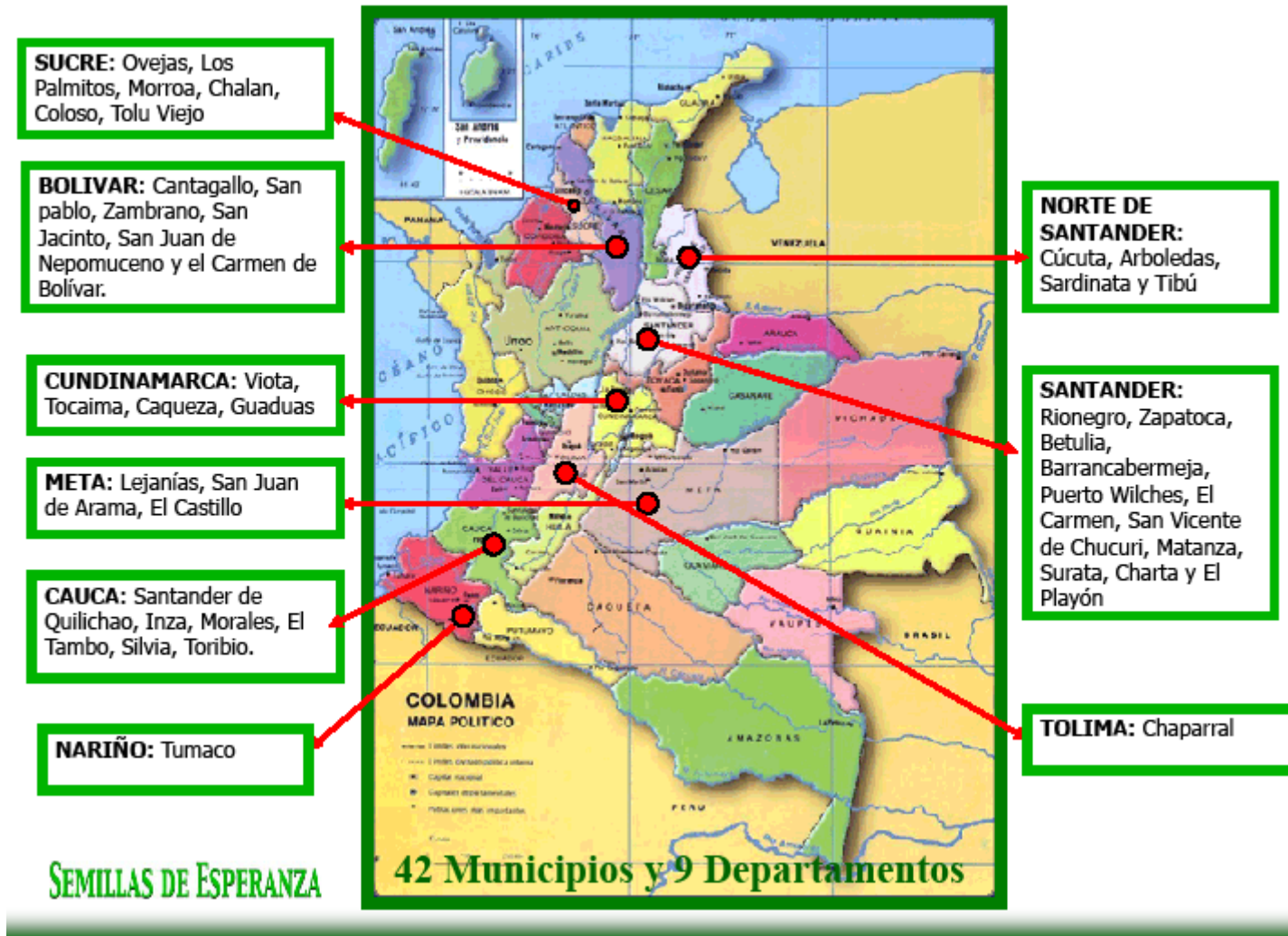
CBIR strengthens PDOs through institutional development and technical training in how to create appropriate projects for increasing economic production among landmine survivors and persons living with disabilities. CBIR forges creative alliances with local industries in affected municipalities to promote productive projects through an equal opportunity public policy initiative. CBIR includes technical training and engages university education institutions to enable PWDs to participate in educational opportunities because education makes a positive contribution to economic self-sufficiency and life with dignity.

To improve emergency care service delivery, CBIR has also identified disproportionately affected municipalities that have hospitals or medical institutions, but lack the capacity to provide quality rehabilitation care to landmine survivors and persons living with disabilities. The CBIR partners have established positive relationships with town mayors and this allow them to conduct the capacity building activities required to establish level 2 hospitals. To meet standards for level 2 quality care, CBIR proposes to provide hospitals training and equipment.

To increase socio-economic capacity and integration among landmine survivors and person living with disabilities, CIREC increases the capacity of their existing activities to integrate young people with disabilities in school. CBIR expands these activities via community integration workshops aiming at sensitizing schools, mothers and family members from human and ludic perspectives. Seeds of Hope also provide university scholarships to PWDs.

CBIR strengthen PDOs by providing capacity training and education in how to create appropriate projects for increasing economic production among landmine survivors and persons living with disabilities. Seeds of Hope also forge creative alliances with local industries in affected municipalities to promote productive projects. For vocational and employment related course selection, CIREC takes into account the regional job market diagnostics developed by the labor and employment Observatory in Colombia to ensure that training is linked to real job opportunities. All training activity has from the beginning an enterprise-building component. The logistic considerations include flexible calendars and times, to reduce the drop-out rate. This is always a consideration with the most vulnerable populations, including IDPs, including ethnic minorities of limited financial recourses and the disabled.

TOTALIDAD DE MUNICIPIOS DEL PROGRAMA SEMILLAS DE ESPERANZA



The above map of Colombia shows the nine departments and the 42 municipalities of the Seeds of Hope network.