

At the end of April, Manuel Manrique, the UNICEF representative for Colombia and Venezuela, made a trip to Oslo to meet up with the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, in order to make recommendations about ICDP and its potential, if implemented on global scale, of contributing significantly to the peace building processes in the world.

Together with Lailah Armstrong, the ICDP consultant for Colombia, he gave an account of the successful cooperation between UNICEF and ICDP in Colombia, over the past 4 years. The results of a research study that showed positive impact of ICDP on caregivers and children, in a project carried out during 2004, in 64 towns of the province of Narino, were presented in some detail.

The evaluation showed that the trained ICBF agents became promoters of emotional expressivity. Descriptions of situations before the program's implementation reveal that there was aggression, lack of tolerance, lack of emotional and feeling attunements, lack of empathy and that there was indifference for the children's experiences and their emotional expressions.

Having gone through the program, it opened up spaces for affectivity, where patience, collaboration, empathy and reintroduction of values became the order of the day. As result children started to express their feelings and emotions, appeared more affectionate, social and understanding; they also appeared to be more active and committed in carrying out their activities.

A discussion paper for ICDP wide scale implementation will be presented to the Foreign Ministry, by the end of May.