



Workshop on Displacement and Migration

San Lorenzo, Ecuador

23-25 January 2007

This workshop on displacement and migration brought together Colombian and Ecuadorian parents, young people and children. The resource pack was adapted to the theme of the workshop; participants from different Christian denominations and from the Bahá'í Faith discussed the ethical challenges facing people living in the volatile border region between Colombia and Ecuador.



Every morning, before starting activities, participants joined a moment of silence, meditation and prayer for peace in their region. Some sessions were carried out with children and adults together while others, which, demanded more exploration and sharing time, were done separately.

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The workshop opened with a session on cultural **identity**. Participants were divided into groups and asked to draw a map of Colombia or of Ecuador, identifying the country's most representative items, activities, food and images. Participants engaged in a discussion about the roots of both countries and their **differences and similarities**. This activity helped create an environment of connection and sharing.



In the afternoon, participants engaged in activities about **diversity**. They reflected on displacement and migration issues from their own experiences, religious views and ethnic and social backgrounds. Diversity was affirmed as a reality that enriches all and that needs to be embraced.

A **cultural evening** was organised, and with the rhythm of Ecuadorian and Colombian music, participants danced, sung and told stories. It was a unique opportunity to share in a typical Latin evening and to create bonds between participants. The next day, the participants visited one of the local communities near San Lorenzo. This helped enhance their awareness of the situation facing Colombian and Ecuadorian people living there. They had the chance to interact with local people, to discuss social issues with their community leaders and to learn about their initiatives and projects.



During the last day, participants mapped out different conflicts that arise between Colombians and Ecuadorians in the region. Through **case studies and role playing**, they analysed possible causes and consequences and learned about **non-violent alternatives** to transform those conflicts. Children shared violent situations that they daily face in schools and in the community. They discussed possible solutions and reflected on their own responsibilities.

Learning and impact

The effects of the violent conflict in Colombia are unfortunately ingrained in the behaviour and attitudes of some of the children directly affected by the situation. It can make them resentful and intolerant of others. During the workshop, children shared their experiences and fears, and themselves proposed ways to be more respectful toward others, to accept differences and to respond in a non-violent way even when their rights are violated. They discovered that they can be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

How did this workshop contribute to the development of the resource pack?

This was the first time the resource pack was applied to a specific social theme. This approach helped develop the resource's flexibility and explore other ways in which it can be used. These are the most important inputs incorporated into the resource pack:

- > Guidelines to prepare field visits.
- > How to use the resource pack for a specific theme, such as displacement.
- > Use of the resource pack to promote interfaith cooperation around a specific social issue.
- > Inclusion of more methodologies that encourage participation and inclusiveness.
- > Importance of preparing adults, teachers and facilitators to use the resource pack in different settings.

Description of the Workshop	
Venue	Hotel San Lorenzo, San Lorenzo
Number of participants/facilitators	37/4
Number of adults	25
Number of young people (14 – 18 years)	12
Working time	3 days
Language used	Spanish
Participants' countries of origin	Colombia and Ecuador
Participants' beliefs	Bahá'í Faith and Christianity (Catholics, Evangelicals, Lutherans, Mennonites and Presbyterians)
Pedagogical techniques	Arts Experience sharing Field trips Games Problem solving Role playing

