OUR WORLD. VIEWS FROM THE FIELD.

COLOMBIA OPINION SURVEY, 2009

A second set of research results will be released in August to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.



Our world is in a mess. It's time to make your move.





REFERENCE

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Executive Summary

Executive summary

This research was undertaken in eight countries that are currently experiencing or have experienced armed conflict or other situations of armed violence. The aim was to develop a better understanding of people's needs and expectations, to gather views and opinions, and to give a voice to those who have been adversely affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.

The eight country opinion surveys will be complemented by more in-depth research (qualitative survey).

This research has been commissioned by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) within the framework of the **Our world. Your move.** campaign. Launched in 2009, the campaign's goal is to draw public attention to the vulnerability and ongoing suffering of people around the world. The intention is to emphasise the importance of humanitarian action and to convince individuals that they have the ability to make a difference and reduce suffering.

2009 is an important year for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with three significant anniversaries (the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions).

In 1999, the ICRC undertook a similar survey entitled People on War, which serves as a basis for comparison and as a means of highlighting trends in opinions 10 years on.

The Impact of Armed Conflict

Forms of Violence/Suffering and their Consequences

Around one third of people surveyed in Colombia have been affected in some way by armed conflict there. Those with direct personal experience make up 10% of the population, and many others also report suffering a range of serious hardships. In total 31% of respondents have been affected in some way - either personally or due to the wider consequences of armed conflict.

However, among those who have been personally affected, there are widespread problems:

- loss of income (38%), an immediate family member being killed (33%), being forced to leave home/displacement (32%) and losing contact with a close relative (23%)

Among those with direct experience of armed conflict, one person in five (21%) says they are currently being affected; among the 'other' consequences mentioned is the falling standard of living (by most of those with direct experience: 57%).

People's fears reflect their experiences. The majority fear losing a loved one (68%). Many also worry about separation from loved ones (30%), displacement (30%), losing their property (27%), and losing their means of income (24%).

Needs and Assistance

People's needs during armed conflict consist of 'the basics' of security/protection (61%), food (54%) and health care/treatment (36%). However, the respondents also emphasise the need for economic help (35%) and to maintain respect/dignity (29%).

In Colombia, when people need help they usually turn to their families/parents (38%). Others they call upon – considerably less often – include the government (16%) and the Colombian Red Cross (6%).

Most who have received help from their families/parents say the families have a 'complete' understanding of their needs (73%).

Obstacles to Receiving Help

Any failure of help or support to reach people is attributed to a range of factors.

Corruption is viewed as the main factor (cited by 82% of respondents), then the fear of being perceived as aligned with the 'wrong side' (46%). Discrimination/social status (43%) is also widely mentioned – along with a lack of awareness that help is available, or a lack of physical access to it.

It seldom happens that help is turned away because it is not needed (4%).

Reducing Suffering

When Colombians are asked which organisations can 'reduce suffering during armed conflict', the Colombian Red Cross (55%) and the ICRC (41%) are mentioned more than any others (82% mention one or the other, including some mentioning both).

Other groups cited include international humanitarian organisations (37%), the United Nations (29%), government authorities (27%) and the military/combatants (25%).

The International Community

International action is viewed as necessary both to reduce suffering on the ground and to address the bigger picture of ending the armed conflict.

The primary need is for emergency aid (43%), organising peace talks (34%) and enforcing laws to protect victims (32%). Three persons in ten (30%) support military intervention.

Introduction

Introduction

The Solferinos of Today

To raise awareness of the impact of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence on civilians, the ICRC decided to launch a vast research programme. This research focused on some of the most troubled places in the world – the Solferinos of today – which are either experiencing situations of armed conflict or violence or suffering their aftermath:

- Afghanistan
- Colombia (covered in this report)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Georgia
- Haiti
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- The Philippines

Research

The ICRC commissioned Ipsos, a polling firm, to conduct quantitative (statistical) research surveys in all eight countries. A broadly representative sample of the adult general public was interviewed, either in person or by telephone, in each country. The specific sampling methods and any groups/areas excluded are described in the relevant country reports.

The aim of the questions – given in full together with overall results in the appendices – was to determine whether the respondents had personal experience of armed conflict or armed violence and, if so, the specific impact it had on them. Questions also explored respondents' views on what conduct is acceptable for combatants, the effectiveness of various groups and organizations in helping to reduce suffering during armed conflict or armed violence, the actions expected of the international community, awareness of the Geneva Conventions, and the role of health workers during armed conflict or armed violence.

Details of the survey carried out in Colombia are given in the next section.

The eight lpsos national surveys were but one element of a broader research programme undertaken by and for the ICRC, which also involved:

- Statistical research carried out (by Ipsos) on the basis of the results of the eight national surveys. This has yielded powerful insight into the experiences and opinions of civilians in some of the most troubled places in the world. The work was co-ordinated by the Ipsos office in Geneva.
- In-depth (qualitative) research. This has enabled the ICRC to deepen its understanding of the values, motivations, fears and aspirations of those who have been direct victims of armed conflict or armed violence. The research was carried out through focus groups and one-to-one in-depth interviews moderated by ICRC staff. Those covered include people separated from other members of their families, displaced people, first respondents and others directly affected by armed conflict or armed violence.

In 1999, ICRC carried out broadly similar opinion research as part of its People on War project. The programme covered some of the countries being reported on in 2009 – including Colombia – and several of the 1999 questions have therefore been revisited in order to provide trendlines. These are highlighted in the report where applicable.

Background & Objectives

The year 2009 has great significance for the ICRC and the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ("the Movement"), as two major anniversaries in the history of humanitarian work will be celebrated:

- The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino (24 June 1859). Exactly 150 years ago, Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman, happened to witness the aftermath of one of the most brutal battles of the 19th century at Solferino, in what is now northern Italy and the carnage left on the battle field. The suffering he saw there prompted him to take the first steps towards the creation of the Movement. His book A Memory of Solferino led to the founding of the ICRC in 1863. In recognition of his work, Dunant was the joint first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1901.
- The 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions (12 August 1949). The four Geneva Conventions are the cornerstone of international humanitarian law. They protect, respectively, wounded and sick members of armed forces on the battlefield; wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea; prisoners of war; and civilians in time of war.

To mark these anniversaries, as well as the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Movement launched a campaign – **Our world. Your move.** – to remind everyone of their individual responsibility to relieve human suffering.

The campaign is based on the premise that **Our world** faces unprecedented challenges, from conflict and mass displacement to climate change and migration; it contends that **Your move** reminds us of our collective responsibility to make the world a better place. Like Henry Dunant, we can all make a difference, even through the simplest of gestures.

Throughout 2009, the ICRC will be undertaking various activities to mark both these historic milestones, by highlighting the ongoing plight of people – particularly those who are most vulnerable – caught up in armed conflict or armed violence around the world.

Colombia – Research Methodology

A total of 501 people aged 18 or over were interviewed in person (face-to-face) in the month of February 2009. Random probability sampling was used to ensure that the final sample would be broadly representative of the Colombian population (aged 18 years or over) as a whole. In addition, the results have been statistically 'weighted' by age to correct for any discrepancies between the sample profile and that of the equivalent-aged population.

According to 2009 estimates, Colombia's population is around 45,500,000. The median age is between 25 and 26 years old.

Those aged 18 or over make up 67% of the population – thus it follows that this survey is representative of approximately 30,500,000 people.

Because a sample was interviewed – not the whole population – the results are subject to 'sampling tolerances'. These show how accurately a result from the sample reflects the result that would have been obtained from the whole population had it been interviewed.

On the charts, a '*' sign refers to a percentage of less than 0.5%, but greater than zero.

• Report Structure

The report has been written to be accessible and relevant.

An Executive Summary with the main findings is followed by the main body of the report, covering each broad subject area in turn. Charts in the report draw on the overall findings from the Colombia survey and on a selection of key sub-group comparisons (e.g. between men and women, and people from different ethnic groups).

The Appendices contain the sample profile and 'marked up' questionnaire (i.e. the full questions, with overall results for Colombia added in – including the 1999 trend comparisons where applicable).

Please note that no country comparisons are made in this report. (These can be found in a separate Summary Report covering all eight countries.)

Colombia in Context

Colombia's conflict, still continuing after more than 47 years, has lasted longer than any other in modern times. The murder in Bogota in April 1948 of presidential candidate Jorge Eliécer Gaitán is generally viewed as the trigger that set off a huge outbreak of violence between Liberals and Conservatives which quickly spread from the capital to the rest of the country. These events influenced the non-international armed conflict in Colombia for many decades.

Guerrilla groups were formed in the 1950s and a state of virtual civil war broke out. Over 200,000 people lost their lives between 1948 and 1957. These groups have constituted the main armed opposition movement of the past 40 years.

The "Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia" (FARC), now the largest guerrilla organization in the country, was created in 1964.

Another major guerrilla organization is the "Ejército de Liberación Nacional" (ELN). Other armed opposition groups, like the "Ejército Popular de Liberación" (EPL), the "Organización Indigena Quintin Lame" and the "Movimiento 19 de Abril" (M-19) (formed between 1960 and 1970), were demobilised between 1991 and 1994. Paramilitary groups formed in the 1980s to counter these armed opposition groups quickly spread over a big part of the country. The paramilitary movements, the main objective of which is to fight the guerrillas, have been regrouped since April 1997 under the name of "Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia" (AUC).

On 21 June 1998, Andrés Pastrana of the Conservative party was elected president of Colombia. He based his electoral campaign on a platform of peace and reform. As president, he ceded an area in south-central Colombia to the FARC as a goodwill gesture.

On 20 May 2002, Álvaro Uribe Vélez, a right-wing candidate who promised to crack down on insurgents, won the presidential election. As a former member of the Liberal party who then went on to run as an independent, President Uribe declared a limited state of emergency, thereby broadening the government's authority in its campaign against the armed groups. In December 2002, the AUC declared a unilateral cease-fire and initiated talks with the government. Peace talks with the FARC ended in 2002 without success.

In 2004, talks with the AUC continued and a safe zone was established. In 2006, more than 31,000 members of AUC were disarmed, and the Constitutional Court approved a constitutional amendment authorizing a presidential re-election, thereby enabling President Uribe to seek – and win – a second term that year.

In what was seen as a rare show of unity, hundreds of thousands of Colombians staged nationwide protests against kidnapping and the civil conflict in July 2007, demanding the release of some 3,000 people still being held hostage by different groups. In 2008, a series of military successes against the FARC took place.

In recent times, many members of armed groups have turned themselves in. Some groups have been dissolved, but others have survived or re-emerged. Millions of Colombians have had to flee their land for fear of being killed or persecuted by one or more of the armed groups involved in the conflict. In several regions of Colombia, armed hostilities persist and show little sign of abating, offering little hope to the thousands of civilians caught in the crossfire. Violent acts against the Colombia population are committed against a background of over four decades of violent political conflict between armed opposition groups and the State.

The consequences of Colombia's conflict are severe. Thousands of people have disappeared, and Colombia now has one of the world's largest internally displaced populations – between three and four million people have been displaced since 1985. In addition to massive displacement, there are summary executions, disappearances, hostage-taking, forced recruitment of children and an increasing number of mine related injuries or deaths. People flee their homes following threats against or executions of family members, or because they fear their children will be coerced into joining the armed groups.

The ICRC in Colombia

In Colombia, the ICRC has been at the forefront of efforts to provide emergency assistance, including food and household items, to people affected by the armed conflict. The ICRC has been present in Colombia since 1969, with its main objective being to ensure greater respect for international humanitarian law – particularly for provisions protecting persons not taking part in the conflict – by all armed groups. It also strives to provide emergency assistance to the displaced and other victims of the conflict and implements public health programmes and small-scale infrastructure renovation projects in conflict-affected areas. The ICRC provides victims with assistance and protection, reminds all parties of their obligation to respect and protect the civilian population, medical facilities and personnel and those *hors de combat* because they have laid down their arms or because they are wounded, sick or detained.

The inclusion of international humanitarian law in the training of the Colombian armed forces and of police taking part in military operations is another of the ICRC's priorities, along with efforts to strengthen the Colombian Red Cross's response capacity in conflict-affected areas.

In particular, the ICRC:

• visits places of detention to monitor detainees' treatment and conditions, especially with regard to health. It also seeks access to all prisoners held by armed groups;

- has assisted more than 1.1 million displaced people. The ICRC provides assistance during the first three months of displacement and up to six months for single-parent households. When mass displacements occur, the ICRC works hand-in-hand with the Colombian Red Cross to assess needs on the ground prior to organizing transportation and distribution of assistance. In addition, the ICRC seeks preventive measures to stem the flow of internal displacement by continuing its dialogue with both state and non-state actors to ensure greater respect for international humanitarian law;
- remains in constant contact with people affected by the armed conflict and collects allegations of possible violations of international humanitarian law. Where possible, the ICRC shares this information on a confidential basis with the alleged perpetrators – whether the armed and security forces or organized armed groups – reminding them of the rules of international humanitarian law, urging them to respect these rules and drawing their attention to the humanitarian consequences of the alleged acts;
- gathers reports of people who have disappeared in connection with the armed conflict;
- voices its concern for the safety of hostages held by organized armed groups, and talks to the parties to the conflict in order to secure the hostages' release. When hostages are freed, the ICRC provides logistical support to take them home;
- continues to facilitate the exchange of personal news between civilians in order to ease the suffering of those who have lost touch with their relatives;
- implements agricultural programmes designed to maintain or restore the means of survival of families affected by the armed conflict. In order to cover families' basic needs, the ICRC also distributes food parcels and essential household items such as hygiene articles, cooking utensils, plates, clothes, mattresses and/or hammocks, sheets, blankets and tarpaulins;
- has built, adapted and/or donated basic medical equipment and materials for Colombian health posts. These are now able to offer better medical care to communities in areas severely affected by the armed conflict. The ICRC has also accompanied health workers to different regions of the country, assisted victims of sexual violence and formed mobile health units which have carried out almost 4,000 medical consultations. It has also assisted victims of mine injuries and provided limbfitting centres with training;
- has made it a priority to include international humanitarian law in the training of the Colombian armed forces and of police taking part in military operations.

Part 1 – The Impact of Armed Conflict

Part 1-The Impact of Armed Conflict

Personal Experience of Armed Conflict

Almost one third (31%) of people in Colombia have been affected in some way by armed conflict there - either through direct personal experience (10%) or due to the wider consequences which are felt beyond those who are immediately affected.

Among those who have personal experience of armed conflict, a third or more have suffered loss of income (38%), and had an immediate family member killed (33%) or been displaced (32%).



Loss of means of income is the experience most frequently mentioned (by 38% of respondents) by those who have been personally affected by conflict in Colombia.

A third of Colombians (33%) with personal experience of conflict report that a close family member was killed, and almost a third (32%) say they were forced to leave their homes.

About two fifths of people have experienced other traumas:

- 23% say they lost contact with a close relative (28% of women / 19% of men);
- 20% lived in an area that came under enemy control;

- 18% of people were kidnapped or taken hostage;
- 17% had their home looted.

Among the respondents, 6% were wounded by fighting and 4% were tortured.

When asked a completely open question, where respondents were not prompted and were free to say whatever came to mind, 16% of all respondents – including those with and without personal experience of conflict – spontaneously mentioned other ways in which the conflict had had an impact on their lives. The negative impact on the economy/high prices was cited by 39% of those mentioning other effects of conflict, and being forced to leave the country by 24%.

Personal impact of armed conflict

Q3. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in Colombia. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Colombia. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you.



There is very little difference in the proportions of men and women who have lived through armed conflict in Colombia (11% vs. 9% respectively). Although there is some degree of variation in kinds of experience they have been subjected to, it is not significant enough to be considered representative of Colombia as a whole.

However, we do see some change in the experiences of Colombians since 1999.

Experience of violence tends to be less widespread in Colombia now than a decade ago, but continues to have an impact on a sizeable proportion of the population.

For example:

6% of respondents reported losing contact with a close relative in 2009 (15% in 1999);

• 8% said that a family member was killed (12% in 1999).

There have been smaller declines in other figures, with the exception of the percentage of people living under enemy control, which increased from 1% in 1999 to 3% in 2009.

One person in 12 (8%) has had an immediate family member killed in conflict. Around one in every 20 people has lost contact with a close relative, been displaced and/or known a victim of sexual violence well.



Among those who have personal experience of armed conflict/violence, almost three in ten (29%) say the experience occurred within the past year – and a fifth (21%) say they are currently experiencing armed conflict in Colombia.

The experience of armed conflict appears to be more widespread now than ever.

One fifth of those who have experienced armed conflict say they are experiencing it now (21%); three in 10 (29%) have experienced it within the last year.

Recent experiences



There is no difference in the numbers of men and women experiencing armed conflict going back as far as the 1980s. However, significantly more men (13%) than women (1%) report being subjected to armed conflict 20 or more years ago.

People's Greatest Fears

In Colombia, what people fear most is losing a loved one (68%), being separated from a loved one (30%), becoming displaced/a refugee (30%) and losing one's home (27%) or income (24%).

People's greatest fear by far is to lose a loved one (68%). Tragically, this is the second most common experience of this conflict according to respondents' responses.

The next greatest fears are the following:

- being separated from loved ones (30%) or having to leave home/becoming displaced/a refugee (also 30%);
- losing one's home or personal belongings (27%);
- losing the ability to earn a living (24%);
- living with uncertainty (23%).

A fifth of the respondents (21%) fear that they may suffer injury, 11% that they may not survive the conflict, and a further 11% that they may fall victim to sexual violence (significantly more women (15%) fear this than men (8%)). Only 5% fear imprisonment and only 2% fear having to fight.

Only small minorities fear the loss of access to basic necessities such as water/utilities (4%), education (3%) and health care (3%).

The outcome of the conflict is also relatively low on their 'list of fears', at 6%.



Feelings as a Consequence of Armed Conflict

Conflict breeds disillusionment (for 55% of people) and sadness (50%), but also optimism about the future (52%) and appreciation of every day (69%).

This paints a mixed picture of the impact of the conflict on the state of mind of people who have been affected by it:

- Two thirds (69%) say they are more appreciative of every day;
- 55% say they are more disillusioned, and the same number say they are more sensitive;

- 52% are more optimistic about the future;
- Half (50%) are more sad.

Feelings as a consequence of armed conflict

Q8. Now I would like to ask you about whether the armed conflict has changed the way you feel. For each description I read out, please say whether the armed conflict has made you feel more this way, less this way, or has it made no real difference. First [....], would you say it has made you more [....], less [....], or has it done neither?



A large proportion of people (53%) stated that their experience of conflict had made them less trusting, and 44% said it had made them less resilient.

About two thirds said that armed conflict has made 'no real difference' to their feelings of vengefulness and violence/aggression (65% and 67% respectively – higher figures than for any other feeling discussed). Three persons in 10 feel less vengeful and violent/aggressive (30% in each case) – only 4% and 3% respectively said they feel more so.

There are very few differences in the impact of armed conflict on the feelings of men and women.

However, men are more likely to say that conflict has made 'no real difference' to the way they appreciate every day (27% of men vs. 11% of women) and to their feelings of sadness (29% vs. 11%).

Women are more likely to say that their experience has made them less optimistic about the future (37% of women vs. 17% of men) and less disillusioned (33% vs. 13%).

Civilians' Needs in Armed Conflict

First and foremost, people need 'the basics'. Three people in five refer to security/protection (61%) as a vital need, while almost as many cite food (54%). One third also see medical treatment/health care (36%) and economic/financial help (35%) as priority needs.

Those interviewed were asked to name the things they felt civilians need most. Their answers are as follows:

- Six in 10 (61%) say security/protection is needed most;
- Over half (54%) say food;
- About a third (36%) say medical treatment/health care;
- About a third (35%) say economic/financial help.

Other needs mentioned include the need for respect/dignity (29%) and for psychological support (20%). Women in particular feel that psychological support is important (26% of women compared with 13% of men).

The need for shelter is lower down the priority list at 16%, as is the need to keep families together (11%), and the need for information about separated/missing family members (9%). This is slightly inconsistent with the stated 'biggest fears', which centre on the loss of and separation from loved ones.

Civilians' needs

Q7. What do you think civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict need the most? Please select the three most important to you.



A fifth of respondents (20%) see conflict resolution as a necessity.

Help & Support from Entities/Institutions

During armed conflict, the most people turn to their families (38%) or to government (16%) for help.

People also receive support from other entities, but in much smaller numbers: help from the military/combatants (7%), their community (7%), and the Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC (together adding up to 7%); help received from NGOs or charities and from religious entities amount to 6% of cases. Only 2% see the UN as a source of support.

Men are significantly less likely to have received help from their families (28%) than women (50%).

More people view the Colombian Red Cross/ICRC (84%), and even the military/combatants (80%), than their parents (73%) as completely understanding their needs.

Community (58%) and religious entities (39%) are also seen as having a complete understanding of individuals' needs.

Government is considered to have the lowest complete understanding at 11%, but the highest partial understanding (89%) – and no one says government does not understand the needs of individuals during conflict. Almost half of those asked (49%) said NGOs and charities have no understanding of their needs.

(N.B.: The results for understanding of needs must be treated with caution as the base sizes are very small.)



Help and support

Q10. For each of the types of organisations or people you mentioned receiving help or support from, I would like you to tell me how well you felt they understood your needs. First, the [type of support at Q9]...do you feel your needs were completely understood, partially understood, or not understood at all?



Barriers to Receiving Help

Corruption is far and away the single largest factor preventing people from receiving help (82%).

Corruption is seen to be the most important obstacle to people receiving help (82%), followed by fear of being perceived to be aligned with the wrong side (46%) and discrimination/social status (43%). A bit further down the list, 23% cite the black market as a barrier.



Two people in five (41%) are unaware that help exists, and a similar proportion (40%) are prevented from receiving help due to inaccessible locations.

Just under three persons in 10 (29%) do not request help because they are afraid their community will reject them (this is more the case for woman than men (37% vs. 20%)). For 15% of respondents, pride and dignity prevent them from getting help, and 11% do not want help because of who is offering it.

While 9% do not think they meet the criteria - 9% also do not want help, and 4% say they do not need it.

Reducing Suffering

The Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC are most frequently cited (82% taken together) as playing the biggest role to reduce suffering during armed conflict. International humanitarian organisations come next (cited by 37%).

Beyond those organisations, groups and entities already considered as providers of help during armed conflict, some groups are identified as specifically reducing suffering.

Respondents were asked which of a list of groups or organisations specifically reduces suffering. They were then given the same list again (minus the first organisation named) and asked to name two further organisations.

The first organisations identified were:

- The Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC (22% each a combined proportion of 44%);
- The military/combatants (13%);
- International humanitarian organisations (12%).

The Colombian Red Cross (55%) and the ICRC (41%) were also most frequently identified among all the organisations mentioned in the first and second instances, with a combined total of 82% (some respondents mentioned both organisations). Women in particular are inclined to mention the Colombian Red Cross (61% compared with 47% of men).

These are followed by international humanitarian organisations (37%), the United Nations (29%), government authorities (27%) and the military/combatants (25%).

The result obtained by the UN in this context contrasts with its relatively low ranking in the Colombia survey as a provider of help and support during conflict.

The International Criminal Court, journalists and the media, and government organisations from other countries were mentioned least often as able to reduce suffering (10%, 10% and 11% respectively).

Reducing suffering

Q20. I'm now going to describe different kinds of groups and organisations. Please tell me which three of these play the biggest role to help reduce suffering during armed conflict.



The Role of External Actors

The role of the international community in Colombia appears to be twofold: to provide direct aid (cited by 43%) and to help stop the conflict such as by organising peace talks, (cited by 34%).

The international community is seen to need to help civilians by:

- Delivering emergency aid (43%);
- Organising peace talks/negotiations (34%);
- Better enforcing the law that protects victims of armed conflicts (32%);
- Raising awareness of the plight of civilians (32%);
- Providing financial support to humanitarian organisations (31%);
- Stopping the armed conflict by military intervention (30%).

These actions provide aid 'on the ground,' but they also fit within the longer-term picture of working towards ending the armed conflict.

The role of external actors

Q21. What do you think the international community should do to help civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict?



Bringing to trial leaders charged with war crimes (27%), exerting political pressure (26%) and providing peacekeepers (25%) are also frequently mentioned as actions to be taken by the international community. Significantly more men than women feel that bringing leaders accused of crimes to trial is appropriate (32% vs. 22%).

Rebuilding infrastructure and placing economic sanctions on the country receive the least support (12% and 9% respectively).

The primary role of people living outside the conflict zone (i.e. citizens living in other countries) in helping victims of armed conflict is political and social engagement:

- Almost three quarters of those asked (72%) say people living outside the conflict zone should support an organisation that helps those affected by conflict – suggesting the importance attributed to help from such organisations;
- Over half (56%) recommend putting pressure on legislators/politicians.

Another 38% say public lobbying is important (more so for men than women -45% vs. 33%), 35% would like to see people become volunteers, 35% say goods should be donated, and 29% say money should be donated.

Support from the wider world

Q22. What, if anything, do you think people living outside of conflict zones can do that would most help victims of armed conflict in Colombia? Please select the three you feel are most important.



This summary represents the views of respondents regarding the impact of armed conflict or armed violence on their lives. Part 2 of this research study will focus on what respondents think of international humanitarian law (IHL) and their views on behaviour during armed conflict. This second part will be published in August 2009 to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

Appendices

Appendices

Sample Profile

	Colombia (Weighted Profile)		
	Ν	%	
Total	501	100	
Gender			
Male	232	46	
Female	269	54	
Age			
18-25	108	21	
26-35	116	23	
36-45	109	22	
46-55	78	16	
56 or over	91	18	
Education			
Primary school	88	18	
Secondary school	208	41	
Technical school	82	16	
University	99	19	
Master's degree	22	4	
Doctorate	3	1	
Employment			
Student	39	8	
Employee	231	46	
Student and	19	40 4	
employee	19	4	
Unemployed	43	9	
looking for a job Unemployed not	10	2	
looking for a job	.0	-	
Disabled person, Handicapped	6	1	
person			
Retired, Pensioner	27	5	
Housewife	126	25	
0.01	Ν	%	
Cities	220	46	
Bogota	230 38	40 8	
Medellin	38	0	

Barranquilla	22	4
Cali	36	7
	30 14	3
Bucaramanga	9	2
Pasto	9 10	2
Ibague		1
Popayan	6	4
Envigado	21	5
Sabaneta	23	2
Riohacha	10	2
Fundación	10	2 1
Desquebradas	6	1
Chinchina	6	
Villavicencio	8	2
Pamplona	8	2
Santander de	5	1
quilichao		4
Tulúa	21	4
Pradera	18	4
Religion		
Catholic	397	79
Evangelical	9	2
Christian	56	_ 11
Jehovah's witness	4	1
Mormon	1	*
Other	2	*
None	32	7
	52	1
Income		
High	15	3
Medium – High	31	6
Medium	58	11
Medium – Low	172	34
Low	162	32
Low - Low	64	13
Marital status		
Marital status	450	20
Single	152	30 41
Married	205	41
Cohabitation	96	19 6
Divorced	28	6
Widowed	20	4

Sampling Details

Sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned. For example, for a question where 50% of the people in the full sample of 501 give a particular answer, the chances are 95 in 100 that this result would not vary by more than 4 percentage points plus or minus (ie between 46% and 54%) from the result that would have been obtained from a census of the *entire* population (using the same procedures).

Some examples of the tolerances that may apply in this report are given in the table below.

Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels (at the 95% confidence level)				
Unweighted base (501)	10% or 90% ± <u>+</u>	30% or 70% ± <u>+</u>	50% _±±	
Size of sample on which survey result is based (unweighted)				
501 (All respondents)	3	4	4	
82 (Men affected by armed conflict)	7	10	11	
116 (Catholics affected by armed conflict)	6	8	9	
	1	L	Source: Ipsos	

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results between different elements (sub-groups) of the sample – and between the 1999 and 2009 results. A difference must be of at least a certain size to be statistically significant. The table below shows the sampling tolerances applicable to comparisons of sub-groups and between the 1999 & 2009 research.

Differences required for significance at the 95% confidence level at or near these percentages				
Unweighted base (501)	10% or 90% ± <u>+</u>	30% or 70% ± <u>+</u>	50% <u>+</u> ±	
Size of 2009 sub-groups and 1999 vs. 2009 samples involved in this survey (unweighted)				
82 (Men affected by armed conflict) vs.72 (Women affected by armed conflict)	10	15	16	
857 (1999 full sample) vs. 501 (2009 full sample)	3	5	6	
			Source: Ipsos	

Ipsos / ICRC

"Our World: Views from Colombia"

Marked-Up Questionnaire

- Interviews with 501 people
- Aged 18+
- Conducted face-to-face, between the 13th of February to the 21st of February 2009
- Results are weighted
- 'POW' indicates a question also asked in 1999
- An asterisk (*) indicates a result of less than 1% (but not zero)
- A "n/a" denotes "not asked"
- Base for each question is all (501), unless shown otherwise

INTRODUCTION

Good morning/afternoon/evening. I am from Ipsos, an independent social research agency. We are conducting interviews in this area would like your help with this. The interview will last around 15 minutes and is about your experiences and opinions on the armed conflict in Colombia.

AA) ON CONFLICT IN GENERAL

ASK ALL 🗲

Q1. Have you personally experienced armed conflict, or not?

	%
Yes	10
No	90
Don't know	0
Refused	0

ASK IF YES AT Q1 ➔

Q2. Was this in Colombia, or was it somewhere else?

Base: All experiencing armed conflict at Q1 - 73	%
In Colombia	97
Somewhere else (specify)	0
Both	3
Don't know	0

ASK IF YES AT Q1 ➔

Q3A. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in Colombia. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Colombia. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you?

Base: All experiencing armed conflict at Q1 – 73	Happened	Did Not Happen	Don't know	Refused
	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	32	68	0	0
Imprisoned	12	88	0	0
Kidnapped or taken as an hostage	18	82	0	0
Tortured	4	96	0	0
Been humiliated	15	85	0	0
Lost contact with a close relative	23	77	0	0
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	33	67	0	0
Serious damage to your property	10	90	0	0
Wounded by the fighting	6	94	0	0
Combatants took food away	8	92	0	0
Had your home looted	17	83	0	0
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence	11	89	0	0
ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS				
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc)	13	87	0	0
No or very limited access to healthcare	11	89	0	0
Lost all my belongings	13	87	0	0
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	38	62	0	0
The area where I lived came under enemy control	20	80	0	0

ASK IF NOT "YES" AT Q1 →

Q3B. I'm going to ask you about how you yourself have been affected by the armed conflict in Colombia. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Colombia. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you?

Base: All not experiencing armed conflict at Q1 - 428	Happened	Did Not Happen	Don't know	Refused
	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	2	98	0	0
Imprisoned	1	99	0	0
Kidnapped or taken as an hostage	*	100	0	0
Tortured	0	100	0	0
Been humiliated	1	99	0	0
Lost contact with a close relative	4	96	0	0
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	6	94	0	0
Serious damage to your property	1	99	0	0
Wounded by the fighting	1	99	0	0
Combatants took food away	0	100	0	0
Had your home looted	*	100	0	0
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence	3	97	0	0
ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS				
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc)	2	98	0	0
No or very limited access to healthcare	*	100	0	0
Lost all my belongings	*	100	0	0
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	*	100	0	0
The area where I lived came under enemy control	1	99	0	0

ALL RESPONDENTS →

Q3A/Q3B. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in Colombia. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Colombia. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you?

Base: All respondents	Нарр	ened	Did Not Happen	Don't know	Refused
	1999	2009	2009	2009	2009
	%	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	7	5	95	0	0
Imprisoned	2	2	98	0	0
Kidnapped or taken as an hostage	1	2	98	0	0
Tortured	5	*	100	0	0
Been humiliated ('Felt humiliated' in 1999)	10	2	98	0	0
Lost contact with a close relative	15	6	94	0	0
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	12	8	92	0	0
Serious damage to your property	6	2	98	0	0
Wounded by the fighting	3	1	99	0	0
Combatants took food away	3	1	99	0	0
Had your home looted	n/a	2	98	0	0
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence ('raped by combatants' in 1999)	5	4	96	0	0
ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS					
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	n/a	3	97	0	0
No or very limited access to healthcare	n/a	2	98	0	0
Lost all my belongings	n/a	1	99	0	0
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	n/a	4	96	0	0
The area where I lived came under enemy control	1	3	97	0	0

ASK ALL 🗲

Q4. And have you been affected by armed conflict in Colombia in any other ways? What ways were those?

SINGLE CODE

	%
Yes – specify	16
No	84
Don't know	0
Refused	0

YES – SPECIFY: TOP MENTIONS (> 5% of respondents) Base: All who have been affected by armed conflict in any other ways at Q4 - 97	YES
	%
TOTAL MENTIONS - DETERIORATION IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING	57
Poor economy/ High prices	39
Fear	10
No security	7
No job/ Couldn't work	6
TOTAL MENTIONS - MISCEALLENOUS	34
Forced to leave the country	24
Thieves/ Looting	9
TOTAL MENTIONS - PEOPLE ARE KILLED/ INJURED	11
Relatives are killed/ Injured	7
TOTAL MENTIONS - INTERNAL FIGHTING	9
Persecution/ Discrimination	9
TOTAL MENTIONS - FREEDOM RESTRICTION	8
TOTAL MENTIONS - TYPES OF VIOLENCE/ ATTACKS	6

ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – YES AT Q1 AND YES AT Q2/CODE 1 (IN COLOMBIA) OR ANY "HAPPENED" RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY YES RESPONSE AT Q4 \rightarrow Q5. And when were you personally most recently affected by this armed conflict in Colombia? SINGLE CODE

Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above – 154	%
Now/currently experiencing	21
Within the last month	2
More than one month ago, but less than six months	3
Six months ago to within the last year	3
1-2 years	9
3-4 years	14
5-9 years	24
10-19 years	16
20 years +	8
Don't know	0
Refused	0

ASK ALL 🗲

Q6. What do you think are the two or three <u>greatest fears</u> people are facing in a situation of armed conflict in Colombia?

DO NOT READ OUT. INTERVIEWER TO CODE A MAXIMUM OF THREE RESPONSES

	%
Inability to earn a living / personal - family economic instability	24
Losing a loved one	68
Being separated from loved ones	30
Losing/destruction of the house / losing of personal belongings	27
Living with uncertainty	23
Having to leave their home / becoming a displaced/refugee	30
Imprisonment	5
Surviving the conflict	11
Suffering injury	21
Sexual violence	11
Not being able to get an education / going to school	3
Fear of being rejected by your community	4
Having to take up arms/fight	2
Being humiliated	6
Limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc)	4
Limited access to healthcare (drugs, hospital)	3
Outcome of the conflict	6
Other (Specify)	18
Nothing	0
Don't know	0
Refused	0

ASK ALL 🗲

Q7. What do you think civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict <u>need the most</u>? Please select the three most important to you.

ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENTS TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. REPEAT THE LIST IF NECESSARY. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK THE RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER. REPEAT AGAIN.

	%
Food	54
Shelter	16
Medical treatment / healthcare	36
Family members to be kept together	11
Information on separated / missing family members	9
Security / protection	61
Respect / dignity	29
Psychological support	20
To influence decisions that affect them	6
Conflict resolution	20
Economic / financial help	35
Other (specify)	4
Don't know	0
Refused	0

ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – YES AT Q1 <u>AND</u> YES AT Q2/CODE 1 (IN COLOMBIA) <u>OR</u> ANY "HAPPENED" RESPONSE AT Q3, <u>OR</u> ANY YES RESPONSE AT Q4. ROTATE ORDER \rightarrow Q8. Now I would like to ask you about whether the armed conflict has changed the way you feel. For each description I read out, please say whether the armed conflict has made you feel more this way, less this way, or has it made no real difference. First [.....], would you say it has made you more [....], less [....], or has it done neither?

Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above – 154	More	Less	No Real Difference	Don't Know	Refused
	%	%	%	%	%
Vengeful	4	30	65	0	0
Trusting	12	53	35	0	0
Resilient	22	44	35	0	0
Anxious	36	27	36	0	0
Appreciative of every day	69	12	20	0	0
Confused	41	25	33	0	0
Sad	50	28	21	0	0
Sensitive	55	21	24	0	0
Disillusioned	55	22	23	0	0
Optimistic for the future	52	26	22	0	0
Wise	35	20	44	0	0
Empathetic towards other people	35	17	48	0	0
Violent/aggressive	3	30	67	0	0

BB) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE / NEEDS

ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – YES AT Q1 <u>AND</u> YES AT Q2/CODE 1 (IN COLOMBIA) <u>OR</u> ANY "HAPPENED" RESPONSE AT Q3, <u>OR</u> ANY YES RESPONSE AT Q4 \rightarrow Q9. During the time you experienced or were being affected by armed conflict, did you receive help or support from any of the following? READ OUT.

Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above – 154	Yes	No	Don't Know	Can't Remember
	%	%	%	%
UN / UN agency	2	98	0	0
Colombian Red Cross	6	94	0	0
ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)	*	100	0	0
Other Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) or charity (local or international)	6	94	0	0
Government	16	84	0	0
Individuals from your community / neighbours	7	93	0	0
Religious entities	6	94	0	0
Military / army / combatants	7	93	0	0
Parents / family	38	62	0	0
Other (specify)	1	99	0	0
Combination: Colombian Red Cross / ICRC	7	100	0	0

ASK IF YES AT Q9 →

Q10. For each of the types of organisations or people you mentioned receiving help or support from, I would like you to tell me <u>how well you felt they understood your needs</u>. First, the [type of support at Q9]...do you feel your needs were completely understood, partially understood, or not understood at all?

SINGLE CODE FOR EACH SOURCE OF SUPPORT MENTIONED AT Q9

Base: All who <u>did</u> receive support / help from each organisation at Q9	Completely	Partially	Not At All	Don't Know	Refused	Not applicable
	%	%	%	%	%	%
UN / UN agency (Base = 1**)	0	100	0	0	0	0
Colombian Red Cross (8**)	88	8	4	0	0	0
ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) (2**)	42	58	0	0	0	0
Colombian Red Cross + ICRC (9**)	84	12	4	0	0	0
Other Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) or charity (local or international) (5**)	13	38	49	0	0	0
Government (18**)	11	89	0	0	0	0
Individuals from your community / neighbours (18**)	58	39	3	0	0	0
Religious entities (11**)	39	61	0	0	0	0
Military/army/combatants (15**)	80	20	0	0	0	0
Parents / family (69*)	73	24	4	0	0	0
Other (5*)	44	56	0	0	0	0
Combination: Colombian Red Cross / ICRC (9**)	84	12	4	0	0	0

**Very low base / * Low base

ASK ALL 🗲

Q11. Which, if any, of the following reasons do you think may have prevented people in Colombia receiving or accepting help or support during armed conflict? READ OUT LIST. ROTATE ORDER. MULTICODE OK

	YES
	%
Corruption	82
Black market	23
Discrimination/social status	43
Location - access – not able to reach the location	40
Unaware that it was available	41
Fear of being rejected by my community	29
Fear of being perceived to be aligned with wrong side	46
Pride/dignity	15
Didn't meet criteria	9
Did not want to receive any support	9
Did not need to receive any support	4
Did not want to accept support because of who was offering it	11
Other (specify)	1
Nothing	0
Don't know	0
Refused	0

The remaining results will be released in August.

DD) HUMANITARIAN GESTURES

ASK ALL 🗲

Q20. I'm now going to describe different kinds of groups and organizations. Please tell me which <u>three</u> of these play the biggest role to help reduce suffering during armed conflict?

READ OUT LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ LIST AGAIN AND ASK RESPONDENT FOR TWO MORE ANSWERS. REPEAT IF NECESSARY.

	First Mention	Other Mentions	TOTAL
	%	%	%
The military and combatants / armed groups	13	12	25
Religious leaders	7	17	23
International humanitarian organizations	12	24	37
Journalists and the news media	3	7	10
The United Nations	11	18	29
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	22	19	41
Colombian Red Cross	22	33	55
Government authorities	4	23	27
Government organisations from other countries	2	10	11
International criminal court	1	9	10
Local / international NGOs / charities	3	18	21
Community leaders	1	8	10
Other (specify)	*	*	*
None of these	0	0	0
Don't know	0	*	*
Refused	0	0	0
Combination: Colombian Red Cross / ICRC	44	51	82

Т

07

ASK ALL 🗲

Q21. What do you think the international community should do to help civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict?

ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER(S). REPEAT IF NECESSARY. MULTICODE THREE.

	%
Stop the armed conflict by military intervention	30
Exert political pressure	26
Deliver emergency aid	43
Provide peacekeepers	25
Provide financial support to humanitarian organizations	31
Put leaders accused of committing war crimes on trial	27
Place economic sanctions on the country	9
Raise awareness of the plight of civilians who are caught in areas of armed conflict	32
Rebuild infrastructure	12
Organize peace talks / negotiations	34
Better enforce the law that protects victims of armed conflicts	32
Other (specify)	0
Nothing	0
Don't know	0
Refused	0

ASK ALL 🗲

Q22. What, if anything, do you think people living <u>outside</u> of conflict zones can do that would most help victims of armed conflict in Colombia? Please select the three you feel are most important. ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER(S). REPEAT IF NECESSARY. MULTICODE THREE.

	%
Put pressure on legislators / politicians	56
Public lobbying	38
Become a volunteer	35
Donate money	29
Support an organization that helps those affected by the conflict	72
Mobilize their local community	31
Donate goods	35
Other (specify)	0
Nothing	0
Don't know	0
Refused	0

The remaining results will be released in August.

Demographics

ASK ALL 🗲

Respondent's Gender

	%
Male	46
Female	54

ASK ALL → Respondent's Age

	%
18-25	21
26-35	23
36-45	22
46-55	16
56 or over	18

ASK ALL → Education Level

	%
Primary school not completed / no education	7
Primary school	11
Secondary school not completed	16
Secondary school completed	25
Technical education not completed	3
Technical education completed	13
University not completed	10
University completed	9
Master's degree	4
Doctorate	1

ASK ALL → Employment

	%
Student	8
Employee	46
Student and employee	4
Unemployed looking for a job	9
Unemployed not looking for a job	2
Disabled person, Handicapped person	1
Retired, Pensioner	5
Housewife	25

ASK ALL → Cities

Cities

	%
Bogota	46
Medellin	8
Barranquilla	4
Cali	7
Bucaramanga	3
Pasto	2
Ibague	2
Popayan	1
Envigado	4
Sabaneta	5
Riohacha	2
Fundación	2
Desquebradas	1
Chinchina	1
Villavicencio	2
Pamplona	2
Santander de quilichao	1
Tulúa	4
Pradera	4

ASK ALL → Religion

	%
Catholic	79
Evangelical	2
Christian	11
Jeovah's witness	1
Mormon	*
Other	*
None	7

ASK ALL → Income

	%
High	3
Medium – High	6
Medium	11
Medium – Low	34
Low	32
Low - Low	13

ASK ALL 🗲

Marital status

	%
Single	30
Married	41
Cohabitation	19
Divorced	6
Widowed	4

- END OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE -

MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

ABOUT IPSOS

lpsos is a leading international research agency, with offices in over 60 countries worldwide and global reach.

Established in 1975, it conducts qualitative and quantitative research with the private, public and voluntary sectors. One of its key areas of specialization is in social and opinion research. This includes extensive work with a wide range of national and international NGOs, charities and aid organizations.

This study was coordinated by Ipsos Switzerland, with fieldwork in Colombia conducted by Ipsos Napoleón Franco, based in the country.

