



NEIVA 2026 PROJECT

FAIR

ROTARY CLUB: MEDELLÍN BOLIVARIANA

ROTARY DISTRICT: 4271

CITY: APARTADÓ, ANTIOQUIA

PROJECT NAME: PLAY TO HEAL - URABÁ

AREAS OF INTEREST: DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. General Objective (10 lines maximum)

To implement the FAN Foundation’s (Fundación de Atención al Niño) “Play to Heal” model in the Urabá region—comprising 11 municipalities in the department of Antioquia—to provide specialized psychological care to children, adolescents, and their families and/or support networks who have suffered violence and/or experienced a violation of their rights. This includes individual care and family support based on a rights-based approach that integrates cognitive, emotional, ethical, recreational, and participatory dimensions. It is further complemented by efforts to promote mental and emotional health, as well as to prevent violence against children and adolescents.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: (15 lines maximum)

PLAY TO HEAL is a specialized psychotherapeutic model designed by FAN Foundation, which has more than 15 years of experience in providing mental and emotional health care and restoring the rights of children and adolescents who are victims of various types of violence. The proposal calls for the construction and implementation of a Psychotherapy Center in Apartadó, Antioquia (Urabá subregion), featuring six rooms designed and intended for healing through play, equipped with recreational, sensory, and experiential tools that stimulate artistic expression, play, and the creation of safe spaces and bonds.

The model’s primary objective is to strengthen individual and family protective factors by reframing painful experiences and developing coping skills, resilience, and the ability to build a life plan. It includes individual care and family support based on a rights-based approach that integrates cognitive, emotional, ethical, playful, and participatory dimensions; it is also complemented by a process of promoting mental and emotional health, as well as preventing violence against children and adolescents.

Psychotherapeutic care is delivered in phases that include diagnosis, individual intervention, and family support, with impact measured using standardized mixed-methods tools—that is, both quantitative and qualitative.

Implementing “JUGAR PARA SANAR” in Urabá promotes emotional healing in highly violent areas where little attention is paid to the effects of violence; it helps reframe the damage, strengthen protective environments and secure attachments, and build life plans for children and adolescents.

PLEASE DESCRIBE: WHAT NEEDS DID YOU IDENTIFY? HOW WILL THE PROJECT ADDRESS THESE NEEDS? WHO WILL BE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THIS PROJECT? PROVIDE AN ESTIMATED NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES. (15 lines maximum)

NEEDS: Urabá is a region characterized by a predominantly young population: 25.3% of its inhabitants are under 18 years of age, totaling 137,400. This implies a high concentration of children and adolescents, and therefore a greater need for services focused on protection, psychosocial development, and comprehensive care for children.

The adolescent fertility rate stands at 18.9% of births among women under 19 years of age, reflecting gaps in access to sexual and reproductive health care, low levels of education, and conditions of poverty.

According to the Institute of Legal Medicine and SIVIGILA (National Public Health Surveillance System), 1,491 cases of domestic violence were reported in the Urabá subregion; the majority of these cases primarily affect women and minors, with the most commonly reported types of violence being physical, psychological, neglect, abandonment, and sexual violence within the family context.

FORENCIS, the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, reported an estimated 485 cases of sexual violence in the subregion, helping to bridge gaps in access to specialized psychosocial care.

Through a process of inquiry and community interviews in towns such as Carepa and Chigorodó, three very important findings were identified. First, **there is real demand and perceived value**: people want to continue and report positive changes in their daily lives. Second, **structural barriers persist**—transportation, heavy workloads, and weak institutional coordination—which, if left unaddressed, undermine continuity. Third, **there is an asset already present** in the region: community leaders capable of scaling up emotional care practices if they are supported and empowered.

This is a region marked by armed conflict, drug trafficking, forced displacement, and a migration crisis. These factors have eroded the social fabric and created unsafe environments for children and adolescents. This has led to violations of the rights of children and adolescents, directly affecting their ability to fully enjoy good mental and emotional health. Despite the high prevalence of these violations, the availability of care is limited, revealing a critical gap in access to mental and emotional health services. Furthermore, the administrative processes for restoring rights at the ICBF (Colombian Institute of Family Welfare) are significantly underutilized, which points to a lack of progress in restoring rights and preventing further violations.

ADDRESSING NEEDS: These needs are addressed through the construction, opening, and operation of a specialized psychotherapy center, featuring six rooms designed and equipped for individual and family psychotherapy, based on a model that incorporates art, play, and the creation of safe spaces and bonds.

BENEFICIARIES OF THIS PROJECT: The planned care for 768 children and adolescents through the “Playing to Heal” model in the Urabá region of Antioquia represents an urgent and strategic response to the magnitude of the emotional and psychological impacts faced by this population. This intervention would cover 51.5% of the 1,491 reported cases of domestic violence and would exceed by more than 170% the 485 estimated cases of sexual violence in the subregion reported by FORENCIS, helping to reduce gaps in access to specialized psychosocial care.

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 768 children and adolescents, which is the center’s capacity with its 6 rooms. Number of families: approximately 615 families, representing a life-changing impact on 1,843 people.

SUSTAINABILITY: (Explain how the project will continue to operate once the

financial support received for this project)

The project includes a sustainability strategy based on training local professionals using the “Play to Heal” methodology developed by FAN, with the aim of strengthening local human resources in psychotherapeutic care for vulnerable populations and promoting local and community ownership of the model. It will also coordinate with partner institutions that already have a history of working with FAN Foundation, such as the ICBF (Colombian Institute of Family Welfare) and COMFAMA (Antioquia Family Compensation Fund) and the departments of education, which receive reports of rights violations and are responsible for the care of children and adolescents and the allocation of resources. These entities recognize the urgent need for mental and emotional health care but lack the sufficient capacity to meet this need. This enables the direct referral of cases requiring care and the development of inter-institutional pathways for the protection and restoration of rights.

Inter-institutional care pathways will be established based on the referral of cases for care and the integration of the JUGAR PARA SANAR center into local pathways for mental health protection and the restoration of rights.

Positioning the center as a safe space to provide tools for building relationships, reframing the harm caused by violence, fostering positive changes in the mental and emotional health of the affected community, and restoring the social fabric will strengthen community ownership, ensuring the project’s long-term viability with additional financial partners.

IS THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED? DESCRIBE THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND CONTINUITY OF THE PROJECT.

The local community will play an active role, as the program’s outreach during implementation requires that community-based organizations be aware of and support the initiative through dissemination and mobilization efforts. Those who are already familiar with FAN Foundation’s experience in mental and emotional health care—thanks to a previous project in partnership with the Government of Antioquia—and who were instrumental in identifying these needs and the urgency of this intervention, belong to leadership networks that will be key to establishing the JUGAR PARA SANAR center.

Furthermore, training local staff—who will be responsible for providing care—will ensure the model’s long-term sustainability.

CONCEPT	VALUE IN PESOS	VALUE IN DOLLARS
Project Cost	342,367,200	85,592
Local Club Contribution	4,410,000	1,103
Contributions from Colombian partners		
Contribution from international clubs	25,200,000	6,300
Colombian District	37,254,000	9,314
International District	136,500,000	34,125
Rotary Foundation	139,003,200	34,751

Thanks to your support, our club will help the community by addressing its most pressing needs. We appreciate your review of this project. For more information, please contact:

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