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Carolina Forero
University of Pittsburgh

Sally Fishback
University of Pittsburgh

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Human Security in Colombia

Human Security in Colombia

CAROLINA FORERO

University of Pittsburgh

M.A. Candidate, Public and International Affairs

SALLY FISHBACK

University of Pittsburgh

M.A. Candidate, International Development

The Human Security Index for Colombia (HSIC) is a quantitative analysis of the most pressing concerns facing the nation. An introduction and demographic depiction outlining relevant historical events is included to better explain how Colombia has progressed into its current state. Research compiled by the government and other official sources is used to explore both the social welfare and physical safety of all Colombians. Issues surrounding the domestic conflict as well as nonviolent concerns are dually mentioned, and data is broken down by department to depict the regions of concern. Two sub-indices were constructed and intentionally separated, as they are the results of separate policy efforts. To further analyze policy option(s), these indicators must be individually approached. Yet showing the results of these separate issues side by side demonstrates varying rates of progress and highlights areas that need to be addressed. The authors have attempted to construct a definition of human security and a subsequent index that envelope as many concerns that face Colombia today. Previously constructed indices have used universal indicators or have simply focused on the affects of Colombia's domestic conflict. This index was designed as a comprehensive document, with the intent of analyzing the full spectrum of human security in Colombia. The concluding results demonstrate an improvement to social welfare, yet depicts an overall decrease in human security at the national level. The results by department lack both homogeneity and any regional pattern. The concluding results indicate that efforts to improve human security should be approached from the local level instead of macro, national policies.¹

Located in the northern most region of South America, Colombia's countryside is abundant with resources such as oil, minerals and forests. Its extensive coastlines and varying altitudes give the nation a diverse array of climates and potential tourist destinations (Isacson 2002, 25). In addition to these natural amenities, Colombia overcame its worst economic crisis at the turn of the century to experience one of the most prosperous economies of Latin America.² Yet, even a constitutional reform in 1991 to modernize the state and improve life conditions could not

¹ The original compilation of this paper was prepared for a graduate course at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs: Human Security taught by Professor Taylor Seybolt. The template for the national index was designed by the Professor Seybolt, and the content has been equally developed by the authors.

² See Appendix for more information about Colombian economic indicators.

overcome the administrative failures in order to satisfy basic needs and the impact of a sixty-year domestic conflict.

Colombia has a history of insurrection that has crippled its socio-economic development since 1948. Beginning with ten years of a violent power struggle between two political parties, the guerilla movement originated in the early 1960s³ as a revolt against the government system. Soon after, as a result of the guerillas' exploitation of the public, civilian paramilitaries were formed in the mid-1960s (Cock 2006, 17). However, money interests and involvement in the drug trade have replaced the rebel ideology that was once the driving force behind the guerilla and paramilitary forces (Rocha 2000, 151-162). The government's inability to control the guerilla and paramilitary factions has resulted in increased human insecurity, worsened by the drug trade throughout the country. The government itself has been tied to paramilitary groups and the killing of civilians in the past (Isacson 2002, 27).

While the 1990s brought on a shift in national policy and the emergence of international aid to combat the rebel groups, the government's reluctance to allocate funds in support of social programs and its inability to turn policy into reality keep Colombia in humanitarian crisis (Isacson 2002, 37-38). This failure of the government is reflected in the fact that 46.8% of Colombians are living below the national poverty line⁴ (Colombian National Administrative Department of Statistics).

This document examines whether Colombian policies and international aid have been able to curb any of the effects of the ongoing conflict to make positive gains on the human security of the Colombian population as a whole. The Human Security Index for the case of Colombia (HSIC) expresses the change between 1995 and 2005. To illustrate this, human security has been defined and the most pressing issues of violence, the number of internally displaced and the poverty rate in Colombia will be addressed. In addition to national results, department comparisons are made to demonstrate how progress and deterioration can be isolated into certain regions and specific variables. This is a unique analysis by department, as previous literature addressing local concerns only allude to social welfare in the narrative, while the statistics focus on violence and its affects.⁵

³ The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – FARC*) was created in 1964; the Popular Liberation Army, EPL (*Ejército Popular de Liberación*) in 1967; and the 19th of April Movement (*Movimiento 19 de Abril* or *M-19*) was formed in 1970. Those are currently the largest and most active guerrilla movements present in Colombia.

⁴ The World Bank defines poverty as hunger, lack of shelter, illness without the ability to be treated by a physician, lacking access to education, illiteracy, and/or unemployment. To measure this, the World Bank uses the Poverty Line that is defined as the minimum level of consumption or income level that a person needs to meet basic needs, depending on his or her national surroundings. The internationally accepted measurement for extreme poverty in the developing world is equivalent to one US dollar per day; some countries also use a measurement of two US dollars. These measures are used by the United Nations in the Millennium Development Goals. For more information: <http://web.worldbank.org>.

⁵ Bejarano (1997) analyses the impact of violence in the rural areas of Colombia using data from the mid-1980s and mid-1990s. He looks at how those departments with little industry and large rural populations have seen the worst of the conflict. Cubides, Olaya, and Ortiz (1998) provide more detail into the impact and distribution of violence by municipality, focusing on those municipalities with higher levels of violence from 1987-1997. Using data from 1985 to 2002, several scholars in Universidad Nacional de Colombia, (2004) explored the expansion of the conflict and the concentration of impacts by department. This was the most detailed analysis of the violence found by department in which different researchers provide different perspectives of the problem. Sanchez and Chacon (2006) found a strong connection between the levels of violence, the spread of guerrillas and paramilitaries, and the level of fiscal decentralization in Colombia. Holmes, Gutierrez de Pineres and Curtin (2008) present the most recent study of violence by department in Colombia, formulating their research using econometric models.

Section II outlines both human security issues directly related to the current conflict as well as those associated with the basic needs of all populations. The role the government plays with both will be reviewed. Section III explores the specific variables selected to analyze human security issues and the rationale for their inclusion and the omission of the others in the HSIC. Section III also illustrates the results obtained using data from 1995 through 2005. Finally, the conclusion uses the quantitative findings showing a significant deterioration in the *Protection of Life* Sub-Index, a minor improvement in the *Defense of Human Dignity* Sub-Index, with an overall HSIC deterioration to compare the results on a national level to that seen in the 32 departments.

Assessment of Security and Insecurity in Columbia

Definition of Human Security

Human security has no single, unique definition accepted by all scholars in the field. However, the United Nations Human Development Report of 1994 does provide an overarching framework to characterize human security: it is a people-centered, universal concern with interdependent components that are considered easier to ensure by early prevention rather than later intervention. References to human security in Colombia focus primarily on the conflict. While statistics show there is not one department in the country that has not felt the impact of the conflict in some way, such a traditional, narrow perception of security does not address ordinary citizens' chronic standard of living concerns due to nonviolent influences (Evans 2001, XI-XIII). Taking these factors into consideration and using the UNDP's framework, human security has been defined for this paper as: *the protection of all life and the defense of human dignity and fundamental freedoms*. Many rights can be included in this definition. In the case of Colombia, the analysis will focus particularly on access to basic needs, provision of education and health services, and the right to life and home.

Colombia's Most Pressing Human Security Issues

International perception of Colombian social problems concentrates on violence, and connects this violence with the long-standing drug cartels and rebel movements⁶ (Holmes, Gutierrez de Pineres, and Curtin 2008). It is true 40% of all civilian casualties is the result of the conflict (Restrepo 2004, 1-7), and the rebel groups derive more than half of their funding from the drug industry (Hanson 2008, 1). However, 60% of civilian casualties from violent encounters is still the result of common criminal behavior; and the Colombian government, as the case with most developing administrations, has failed in meeting the basic needs of the entire population. Most often, initiatives are narrowly focused on combating the insurgency and drug trade. Meanwhile, the country's poor are homeless, malnourished and illiterate – not at the hand of the rebels, but by the blind eye of the government. Rebel groups then prey on these vulnerable populations, forcing the impoverished youth to become child soldiers (Wessells 2006, 17). Their families are threatened, and their only alternative is to flee (The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2006, 170-171) – adding to more than four million displaced persons throughout the country.

⁶ World Bank Reports connect the levels of violence in Colombia with narco-trafficking and guerrilla/paramilitary activity.

The most pressing human security issues in Colombia are the level of violence,⁷ the number of internally displaced⁸ and the growing rate of poverty.⁹ These three human security issues are dramatically manifested through the prism of child soldiers. Although violence and poverty have been reduced during the years analyzed by this index (1995-2005), the statistics are still alarmingly high and above the regional average for Latin America. In 2000, Colombia's homicide rate was 180%¹⁰ above the regional average (Briceño-León 2008, 3), and the 2006 poverty rate was 20% higher than the Latin American-Caribbean average (World Bank 2009).

Violence impacts Colombians both in conflict-associated incidents, as well as general brutality from everyday criminal activity. Even after a drastic decrease, the overall homicide rate in 2008 was 33 per every 100,000 inhabitants (National Police Department of Colombia 2009) – 28% higher than the South American average.¹¹ Likewise, a key instrument of terror for Colombians, the use of antipersonnel landmines, is all but extinguished throughout the rest of the world. Yet, of the nine countries actively using landmines, either by the state or by a non-state armed group, Colombia has the highest casualty rate. With 895 in 2007, Colombia's incident rate more than doubled the second-highest Myanmar (438) (Landmine Monitor 2008 Report).

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Colombia is the second highest in the world, with only Sudan's displaced surpassing them. The internal armed conflict among the guerrillas, paramilitaries and the military has caused the displacement of approximately 4.4 million people,¹² almost 10% of the country's population (44.5 million). The displaced are mainly poor farmers, indigenous people and Afro-Colombians, with a recent trend of urban

⁷ DNP (1998) The Colombian government supported the development of a peaceful, civil society and asked the academic world to conduct research and publish their findings to better advance Colombia's efforts. The concluding results emphasized the country's main task is the achievement of a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Giraldo (1996) illustrates that the conflict's violence has created a culture of fear, and Colombians' human rights have been repeatedly abused. Giraldo's analysis indicates the conflict's devastation is worthy of the term genocide. Lopez (2006) outlines how the violence does not lend itself to one particular group of people or region, and how the social, political and economic structure of Colombia has become strongly linked to the ongoing conflict.

⁸ Romero (1992) shows while levels of displacement had improved from the decade prior, there was still a dangerous connection between violence and poverty, and its long-term impact on the country. Moser and McIlwaine (2000) show the affects violence and displacement have on unemployment and their victims' exclusion from economic and social opportunities, prohibiting Colombia from fully entering the open-door, globalized world. Finally, Ibáñez (2008) uses more recent data to demonstrate how urban and rural displacement alike are strongly linked to poverty and malnourishment, which without state intervention, will have permanent effects on poverty.

⁹ In the 1990 and 1994 World Bank Reports, poverty was recognized as the main social concern in Colombia. The 1990 document evaluated policies through Virgilio Barco's government and recommended concentrating efforts on malnutrition among children (0-2 years), universal health and social security coverage, primary education in rural areas, and the human settlement plan. While government initiatives were take, the 1994 report concludes poverty levels were still critical. Independent studies evaluated the improvement efforts again. In 2003, Perali economically quantified poverty and inequality effects, and concluded levels to be extremely high and impacted all generations. Vivas, Sotomayor, and Rendón (2004) suggest solutions to the problems of violence and conflict, emphasizing the importance of education and economic development as part of the solution. Páez and Valero (2006) demonstrate the link poverty has to the spread of globalization over the last two decades.

¹⁰ Colombia's homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants in 2000 was 61.6, while the Latin American average per 100,000 inhabitants was 22.06. The poverty rate in 2006 was 46.8% and the average for Latin America/ Caribbean was 26.8%

¹¹ Data provided by the United Nations Development Program (www.undp.org), establishing tolerable level of homicides at 5 per every 100,000 inhabitants.

¹² As of March 2008, the *Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento* (CODHES), an authoritative Colombian NGO recorded a total of 4,361,355 IDPs. www.codhes.org

citizens. Displacement has aggravated efforts of stability, increased rural poverty levels and limited access to health and education services, particularly among women and children.

The United Nations Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reported 35% of Colombians to be below the poverty threshold in 2007, with 17% in extreme poverty. Poverty levels are not only a result of the high unemployment rate, but also a unequal distribution of wealth (Colombian GINI coefficient is 0.56¹³) and high levels of underemployment. The Colombian National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) indicates that of the population that does work full-time, 32% do not have a formal work contract. Informal employment as a percentage of the formal employment was calculated at 59.5% in 2007. As a result, these informal workers and their families lack access to adequate healthcare services. In rural areas where poverty levels are at their highest, the children on average are only receiving 5.1 years of education in a primary system designed for twelve years. This is half of the education their urban counterparts are receiving.

Human Security and the Political and Economic Situation in Colombia

In order to understand political and economic influences on human security, three important events in Colombian history must be addressed first: the advent of the guerilla movement in the 1960s that countered the political system, the rise of drug cartels and paramilitaries in the 1970s, and the emergence of government corruption linked to rebel groups and narco-traffickers.

First, the development of the guerilla movement was a reaction by political rebels to combat the government that was under dominant, bipartisan control since the late 1950s. After the assassination of the popular left-wing liberal leader, Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, in 1948, protests and vandalism occurred throughout the country. The decade to follow from 1948 to 1958 put Colombia in a constant state of insurrection and criminality called *La Violencia*, in which more than 200,000 people died. The military did manage to reduce the level of violence in 1958, and in 1964 the two political parties agreed to a compromise: *Frente Nacional* was a joint-party agreement, alternating power between the liberals and conservatives (Cock 2006, 17). The two parties still continued to disagree on many decisions, and despite advances in economic reforms and the reduction of partisan violence, many social and political problems continued. The resulting instability laid the groundwork for the emergence of guerilla fronts. Following Marxist principles, these groups rose out of defiance to specific government policies. For instance, M-19 formed following the alleged fraudulent 1970 presidential election (Martinez 2001, 47).

With the growing presence of guerilla fronts around the country, the focus of the internal conflict was thus no longer between two political parties.¹⁴ It had shifted to the state fighting these non-governmental rebel groups. By the late 1970s, the Medellín and Cali cartels were exploiting their social and political influences in order to run their operations without interference from the government. To expedite the process, the cartels started financing different guerilla factions for protection of their crops and to promote continual political instability (Rocha 2000, 154). Local communities actively opposed this ongoing terror and began to defend themselves. National legislation was then passed making it legal to form such paramilitary groups. Many were in fact trained and organized by the Colombian army, who shared

¹³ GINI Index is a standard economic measure of income inequality, expressed in a 0-1 scale: 0.0 means perfect equality and 1.0 the opposite, a scenario in which one person concentrates all the income.

¹⁴ By 1996, it was estimated that there was a guerilla presence in over half of the country's rural areas, and approximately one million Colombians had been displaced between 1987 and 1997 as a result of their rural violence.

intelligence information with them and carried out joint operations (Isacson 2002, 27). To deflect local pressures and mounting national and international disbanding efforts, the Medellin cartel increased their terrorist activities, particularly through car bombing and political assassinations. By the 1980s, Colombian narco-traffickers controlled 80% of the world's cocaine trade (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 2005).

The cartels' influence in government operations increased public sector corruption. The narco-trafficking industry jeopardized values and principles in every level of society, paying off public workers and political leaders in order to legitimize criminal behavior. Government corruption was not only due to cartel infiltration. The central government lacked control over the regional management of budgets. Efforts to combat all forms of corruption were made by increasing civil society participation, promoting transparency and judicial reform. Despite efforts, the Colombian government estimates 1% of the gross domestic product is lost annually due to corruption. The World Bank calculated the annual corruption cost to be equivalent to 2.6 million US dollars – 60% of the Colombian national debt (Wills 2003, 108).

The layered relationships between rebel groups, narco-traffickers and the corrupt public sector are a significant cause of the perpetual human insecurities in Colombia. The narco-traffickers have been financing both guerillas and paramilitaries. Narco-traffickers and paramilitaries have also infiltrated the government, creating in Colombia what has been called the “*parapolitica*” scandal, in which several congressmen and other politicians have been indicted for suspicions of their involvement with these illegal organizations (Álvaro 2007, 4). It has been difficult to detect whether funds given to politicians are linked to narco-trafficking, rebel groups or both. Accusations and investigations consume the country. The media has been crucial in revealing information and evaluating the conduct of those involved in corruption scandals. The demand for transparency on the part of the media has finally made the country aware of the widespread government corruption. Unfortunately, the daily reports of new allegations are not helping to diminish the illegal activity.

At the present time, rebel activity, narco-trafficking and corruption have negatively impacted the economy by reducing confidence, deterring both local and foreign investment and perpetuating informal business markets. The current government implemented security policies that have overcome the first two setbacks. However, informal business is still a dominant part of local commerce, keeping a large portion of the population underemployed, underpaid and without access to formal services such as healthcare and pensions, which contract employment would provide.

The guerilla movement was formed with the intent of fighting a government that neglected such issues as the high levels of poverty, inequality and illiteracy. Yet, the same rebel groups that set out to eliminate such issues have since manifested into the architects of this continued deprivation. The absence of opportunity for the population makes communities more susceptible to illegal activity and corruption. At the same time, the growing presence of illegal groups and government corruption has deteriorated the quality of life for Colombian people. The key to securing human dignity and life for Colombians lies in the power to break this cycle.

Calculation and Analysis of the HSIC

Selection of Variables

The National Human Security Index for the case of Colombia (HSIC) – constructed by the authors specifically for this project – is comprised of two sub-indices, both with four measurable variables. The first sub-index, *Protection of Life*, focuses on elements that threaten the immediate livelihood of Colombians. The majority of data used in the *Protection of Life* is connected to conflict violence: internal displacement, homicides, landmine casualties and kidnappings. The overall homicide rate was selected as a variable rather than civilian deaths in order to include non-conflict related deaths as well as the number of rebel and military lives lost due to violence.¹⁵ The significant variable that was not included in this sub-index, due to lack of information, is the number of child soldiers throughout the country. In addition, the number of displaced is only a measure of those relocated internally. It does not account for refugees. The number of Colombians that have left the country includes refugees as well as emigrants looking for better economic opportunities elsewhere.

The second sub-index, *Defense of Human Dignity*, is a measure of social and economic development within Colombia. The four variables used to define the *Defense of Human Dignity* are: poverty/inequality, levels of education, health and employment. Included in poverty and inequality are the percentages of those under the indigence line¹⁶, the number of basic needs per home and the GINI coefficient. The number of years of schooling obtained by Colombians older than 15 years is the data used for the variable of education. While calculated equally, education rates are intentionally divided between urban and rural areas to demonstrate significant differences in the level of progress.

Health is an essential indicator in any human security index. Colombia, compared to the surrounding region, is fortunate in that its level of citizens suffering from major diseases such as HIV or Malaria is quite low.¹⁷ Likewise, the life expectancy rate for Colombians is comparative to that of the United States and European nations. What is of concern in the country is access to healthcare. The health indicators that most accurately reflect this access for Colombians are infant mortality and child immunizations in representative vaccines. Other mortality rates were specifically omitted because they are so closely connected to the impact of general violence or the conflict, as opposed to healthcare. Finally, as previously mentioned in the narrative, the volume of those working informally or are underemployed is a significant problem in all regions of Colombia, and not recognized in the national unemployment rate.

Although the definition of human security used for this index also includes fundamental freedoms, it has yet to be addressed. The constitutional reform of 1991 made significant strides in this domain, granting the media and general public access to public documents, as well as giving minority groups a percentage of representation in the public and political sectors. The years being analyzed by this index do not properly show the progress made in these areas, since the first year analyzed occurs after quotas were put in place. It is a downfall of this index since such variables of *Fundamental Freedoms* have progressed for Colombians. However,

¹⁵ The calculation of the number of civilian deaths in the domestic conflict differs from one source to another. Due to this discontinuity, the number of overall homicides was used as a variable.

¹⁶ The indigence line represents a level of household income that cannot adequately cover the nutritional needs of all its members.

¹⁷ See Appendix.

measurements that could be used would not accurately portray such progress for this time period. In addition, indicators of corruption were not accessible for this index. The narrative addresses how corruption is imbedded in all areas of society, and most often prevalent at the local level due to lack of control at the national level.

Colombia is a large, diverse country – both in land and population. The variables selected for this index affect different parts of the country and differs unequally among all considered populations. The results from the national index do not demonstrate this disproportion. A comparison of departments follows to give an in-depth look at human security at the local level. Results show which regions are more drastically impacted by violence and which lack access to basic services. This breakdown also shows that while some departments have comparatively high levels of insecurity, their rate of progress is much larger than other departments. It is necessary to see human security in Colombia this way. Progress can otherwise be hidden under macro-analysis.

Specification of the Data and Design

Protection of Life: The four variables are not weighted equally. Data on internal displacement was given great significance, with 40%; this is due to the percentage of the population impacted and its relation to poverty. With nearly 10% of Colombians included in this data set, the issue was labeled with high importance and weighted accordingly. The rate of homicides was also specifically weighted at 30%, as it is only indicator to include the impact of violence on insurgents, military and civilians. Landmine casualties (10%) and kidnappings (20%) were given less weight due to their comparative improvement from two decades prior. The number of deaths by landmines has also been subtracted from the homicide rate so the variable is not calculated twice in the index. All four variables were originally raw indicators measuring individual people. The number was calculated per 100,000 inhabitants for every year analyzed to avoid population growth distorting the data.

Defense of Human Dignity: The variable of poverty and inequality has multiple measurements that are of great concern to Colombia. As a result, it was double-weighted against the other three variables with 40%. Education, health and employment were weighted equally at 20%. The original data for each indicator was a percentage of the population, not a raw number. It was therefore not necessary to calculate a per-capita value. As with the previous sub-index, variables are negative consequences (i.e., the unemployment rate as opposed to the employment rate). Education was the one exception, with the original data being the average years of education. For this variable, the result was subtracted from 100, so that progress was displayed by a value reduction. Table 1 shows the detailed definitions of the variables for both the *Protection of Life* and *Defense of Human Dignity Indices* and the sources of the information. All sources of information are official, whether from the government, international organizations or certified non-governmental organizations.¹⁸

The base year 1995 was given a value of 100 and the subsequent years' data indicators were divided by the base. All variables are negative consequences and progress is measured by reduction. Therefore, the calculated index shows progress when 2005 values are lower than 100 and deterioration when values are higher than 100. While the official HSIC is a comparison of 1995 and 2005, data was included for 2000 to demonstrate the rise and subsequent fall of violence that came about at the end of the decade. Without its inclusion, the results show a false

¹⁸ Certification is made by the Colombian government for the publication of official data.

trend of constant increase. Likewise, data for 2007 was included when available in order to give a more well-rounded indication of where the data is heading presently. This is true for both sub-indices. The final calculation of the HSIC is as follows (See Table 1):

1. ***Protection of Life Index*** = IDP(40%) + Homicides(30%) + Landmines(10%) + Kidnappings(20%)

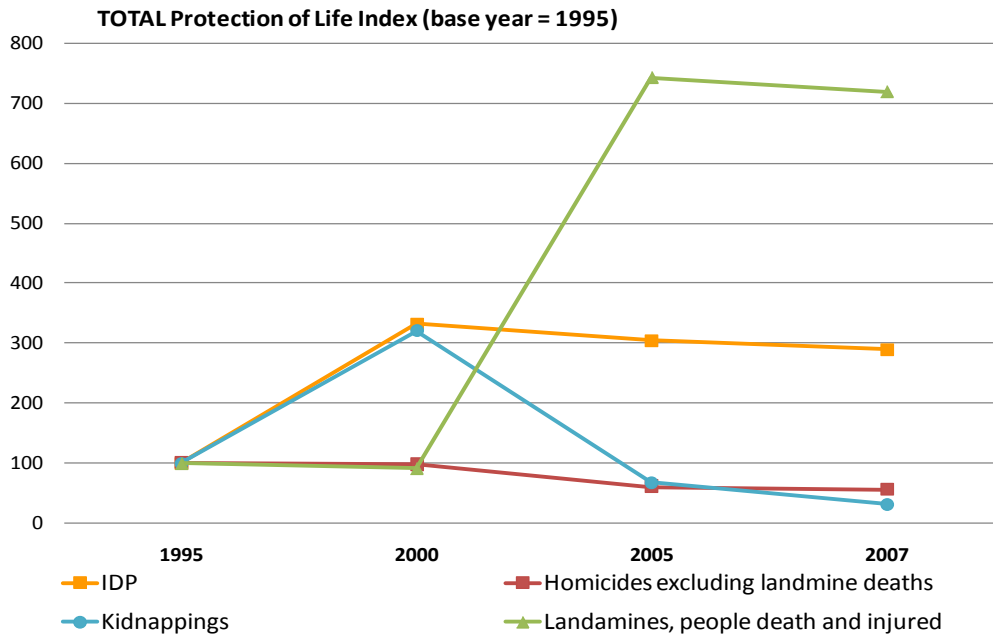
2. ***Defense of Human Dignity Index*** = Poverty & Inequality(40%) + Lack of Education (20%) + Limited Access to Health(20%) + Unemployment & Informal Employment(20%)

$\mathbf{HSIC} = \text{Protection of Life Index}(60\%) + \text{Defense of Human Dignity Index}(40\%)$

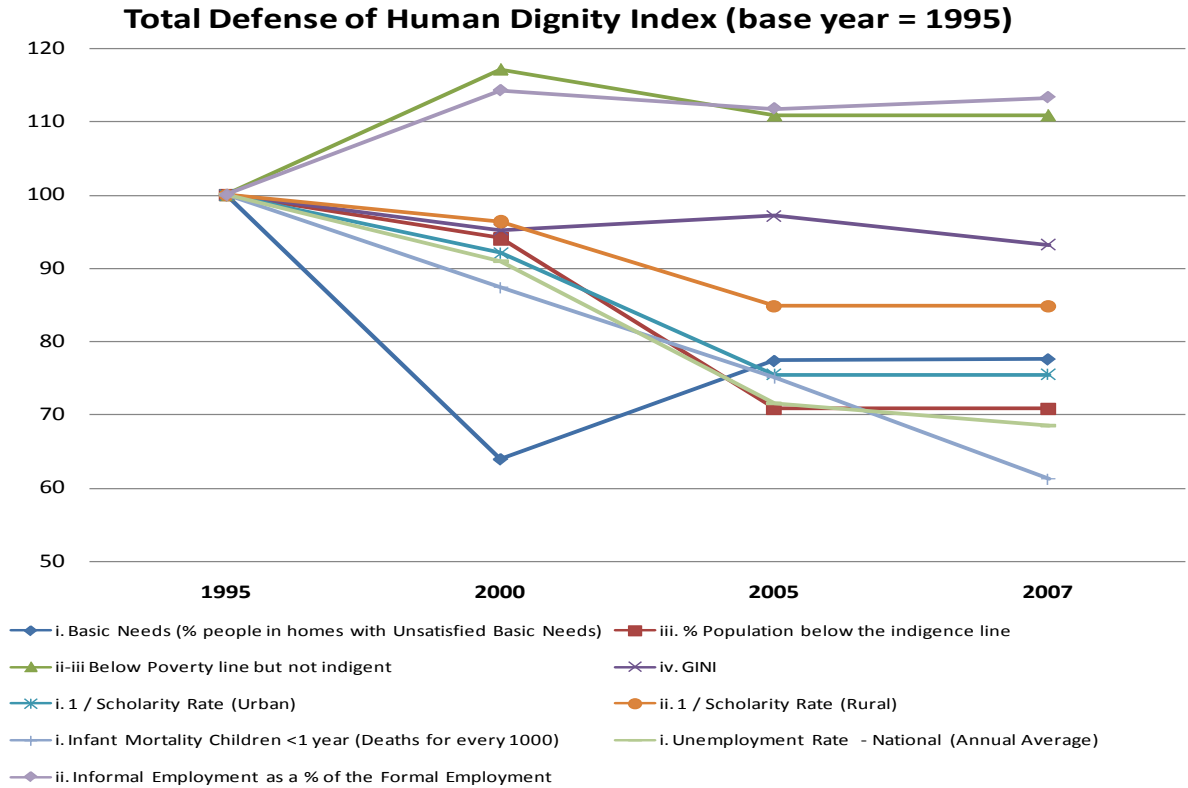
Table 1. Methodology for the Human Security Index for the case of Colombia (HSIC) Base year 1995

HUMAN SECURITY INDEX COLOMBIA (better < 100 < worst)	%	Description	SOURCE
1. PROTECTION OF LIFE	60%		
a. IDP	40%	# people displaced per 100.000 Inhabitants (no refugees included)	Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation www.accionsocial.gov.co
b. Total Overall Homicides	30%	(Excluding Landmine Deaths) # deaths per 100.000 Inhabitants	Presidential Program on Human Rights www.derechoshumanos.gov.co
c. Landmines (deaths and injuries by explosions) i + ii	10%	# people per 100.000 Inhabitants	Presidential Program on Human Rights and Landmines Observatory www.derechoshumanos.gov.co
i. Landmines (injuries)	5%	# deaths per 100.000 Inhabitants	
ii. Landmines (deaths)	5%	# injuries per 100.000 Inhabitants	
d. Kidnappings	20%	# people per 100.000 Inhabitants	PAIS LIBRE [Free Country] (NGO) www.paislibre.org
TOTAL Protection of Life Index	100%	(base year = 1995) It means 1995 = 100	
2. DEFENSE HUMAN DIGNITY	40%		
a. Poverty and Inequality	40.0%		
i. Basic Needs	12.5%	% people in homes with Unsatisfied Basic Needs: inappropriate tenement; access to water and other services; overcrowding; # of dependants; school absence; misery per family.	DANE www.dane.gov.co
ii. % Population below the poverty line	12.5%	The percentage of the population living below the international poverty or indigence (homeless) line. % of the National Population.	DANE www.dane.gov.co - ECLAC www.eclac.org
iii. % Population below the indigence line	6.3%		
ii-iii Below Poverty line but not indigent	6.3%		
iv. GINI	15.0%	0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 1 implies perfect inequality	
b. Education (Average years of education for population > 15 years)	20.0%	Average years of scholarship. Years of schooling completed by the economically active population aged 15 and over.	DANE www.dane.gov.co - ECLAC www.eclac.org
i. 1 / Scholarship Rate (Urban)	10.0%		
ii. 1 / Scholarship Rate (Rural)	10.0%		
c. Health	20.0%		
i. Infant Mortality	15.0%	Children <1 year (Deaths for every 1000)	ECLAC www.eclac.org - UNICEF www.unicef.org
ii. % Children immunized	5.0%	% Children under 1 year without tetanus immunization [Vaccines]	Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) www.paho.org
d. Employment Conditions	20.0%		
i. Unemployment Rate - National (Annual Average)	10.0%	The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force. In Colombia measured at a National level.	DANE www.dane.gov.co
ii. Informal Employment as a % of the Formal Employment	10.0%	Based on the International Labor Organization (ILO) standards.	
Total Defense of Human Dignity Index	100%	(base year = 1995) It means 1995 = 100	
HUMAN SECURITY COLOMBIA (base year = 1995)	100%	Protection of Life Index * 60% + Defense of Human Dignity Index * 40% (base year = 1995)	

Calculation of the National HSIC



In the 2005 findings for the *Protection of Life* Sub-Index, two variables indicate progress (IDPs rose to 304.8 and Landmine Casualties increased to 660.0) while two demonstrate deterioration since the base year 1995 (Overall Homicides declined to 61.4 and Kidnappings dropped to 67.4). When weighing the calculated results, the *Protection of Life* has deteriorated two and a half times over. Although the significant improvement made with respect to overall homicides was not great enough to combat other negative results, the data showing this reduction is still a significant indicator of improved safety conditions. Data on kidnapping demonstrates improvement, although small. However, when the intermediate data is used in the comparison, the reduction gains significance, which is a result of the hike of incidents that were overcome from 2000. The continual increase in landmine casualties is distressing due to the compliance of the government in the International Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty of 1997. Removal of government involvement in new landmine placement did nothing to reduce their impact over the past ten recorded years. The percentage increase of internally displaced is not nearly as drastic as the hike seen in landmine casualties. However, the raw number of people involved, matched with its implication on poverty and inequality issues, makes this deteriorating indicator the most substantial reason for the decline of Colombian *Protection of Life*.

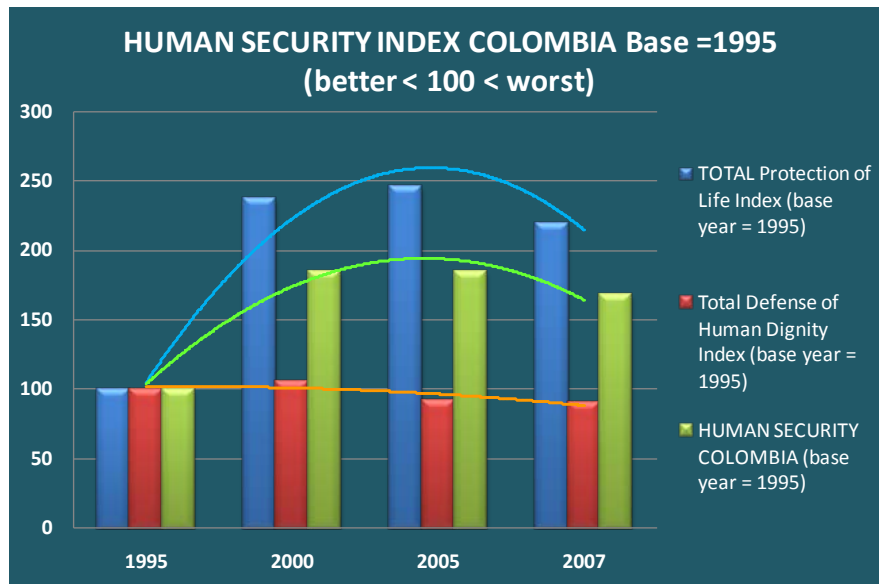


Note: Vaccination not presented in the graph for the scale.

On the contrary, the *Defense of Human Dignity* sub-index shows an 8% overall improvement of the population’s standard of living comparing 2005 to 1995. This calculated reduction corresponds to the improvement of at least one of the data components within each variable set. For example, the population under the indigence line has reduced to 70.9, as well as the income distribution has improved according to the GINI index. However, those advances are partially counteracted by an increased percentage of the population under the poverty line (110.8). Measured progress for the poverty and inequality variable is demonstrated through the strong reduction of unsatisfied basic needs for the population (77.4). The other three components included (levels of education at 80.2, employment with 71.5 and even the reduction of mortality to 75.1) also support the conclusion that improvement was made for quality of life. Deteriorating results for the period analyzed were found through the data reported on vaccinations (216.7) and informal employment (111.8), as well as people under the poverty line (110.8). All three of these indicators are highly related to the number of internally displaced and violence.

Table 2. Data and Results - Human Security Index for the case of Colombia (HSIC) Base year 1995

HUMAN SECURITY INDEX COLOMBIA (better < 100 < worst)		1995			2000			2005			2007			
		%	INDICATOR	Year	INDEX	INDICATOR	Year	INDEX	INDICATOR	Year	INDEX	INDICATOR	Year	INDEX
1. PROTECTION OF LIFE		60%												
a. IDP (# people per year)			89,000			317,375			310,387			305,966		
a. IDP (# people per 100.000 Inhabitants)		40%	237.4		100	787.9		331.9	724		304.8	688		289.9
b. Total Overall Homicides (Excluding Landmine Deaths) (People per year)			25,377			26,508			17,822			16,967		
b. Total Overall Homicides (Excluding Landmine Deaths) (# people per 100.000 Inhabitants)			67.7		100	65.8		97.2	41.6		61.4	38.2		56.39
i. Homicides (Including Landmine Deaths) (People per year)			25,398			26,540			18,104			17,197		
i. Homicides (Including Landmine Deaths)(# people per 100.000 Inhabitants)		30%	67.7		100	65.9		97.3	42.2		62.3	38.7		57.1
c. Landmines (deaths and injuries)			130			128			1105			1109	2006	
c. Landmines (# people per 100.000 Inhabitants)		10%	0.35		100	0.3		91.6	2.6		743.0	2.5		719.5
i. Landmines (injuries)			109			96			823			879	2006	
i. Landmines (injuries) (# people per 100.000 Inhabitants)		5%	0.29		100	0.2		82.0	1.9		660.0	2.0		680.1
ii. Landmines (people death)			21			32			282			230	2006	
ii. Landmines (people death) (# people per 100.000 Inhabitants)		5%	0.06		100	0.1		141.8	0.7		1,173.8	0.5		923.7
d. Kidnappings (People per year)			1,038	1996		3,572			800			393		
d. Kidnappings (# people per 100.000 Inhabitants)		20%	2.8		100	8.9		320.3	1.9		67.4	0.9		31.93
TOTAL POPULATION (Inhabitants)			37,489,666			40,282,217			42,888,592			44,450,260	2008	
TOTAL Protection of Life Index (base year = 1995)		100%			100			237.16			245.52			219.5
2. DEFENSE HUMAN DIGNITY		40%												
a. Poverty and Inequality		40.0%			100			88.7			89.0			87.6
i. Basic Needs (% people in homes with Unsatisfied Basic Needs)		12.5%	35.8%	1993	100	22.90%		64.0	27.70%	2005	77.4	27.78%	2008	77.6
ii. % Population below the poverty line		12.5%	52.5%	1994	100	54.90%	1999	46.80%			46.80%			
iii. % Population below the indigence line		6.3%	28.5%	1994	100	26.80%	1999	94.0	20.20%		70.9	20.20%	2005	70.9
ii-iii Below Poverty line but not indigent		6.3%	24.0%		100	28.1%		117.1	26.6%		110.8	26.6%	2005	110.8
iv. GINI		15.0%	0.601	1994	100	0.5722	1999	95.2	0.584	2005	97.2	0.56	2006	93.2
b. Education (Average years of education for population > 15 years)		20.0%			100			94.2			80.2			80.2
i. 1 / Scholarship Rate (Urban)		10.0%	0.15		100	0.14		92.1	0.11		75.5	0.11	2005	75.5
ii. 1 / Scholarship Rate (Rural)		10.0%	0.24		100	0.23		96.4	0.20		84.8	0.20	2005	84.8
c. Health		20.0%			100			153.0			110.5			104.3
i. Infant Mortality Children <1 year (Deaths for every 1000)		15.0%	32.50	90-95	100	28.40	95-00	87.4	24.40	00-05	75.1	19.90	2006	61.2
ii. % Children under 1 year without tetanus immunization [Vaccines]		5.0%	6%		100	21%		350.0	13%		216.7	14%	2006	233.3
d. Employment Conditions		20.0%			100			102.6			91.7			90.9
i. Unemployment Rate - National (Annual Average)		10.0%	16.50%		100	15%	2001	90.9	11.80%		71.5	11.30%	2008	68.5
ii. Informal Employment as a % of the Formal Employment		10.0%	52.50%	1994	100	60%		114.3	58.70%	2004	111.8	59.50%	2008	113.3
Total Defense of Human Dignity Index (base year = 1995)		100%			100			105.4			92.1			90.1
HUMAN SECURITY COLOMBIA (base year = 1995)		100%			100			184.5			184.1			167.7



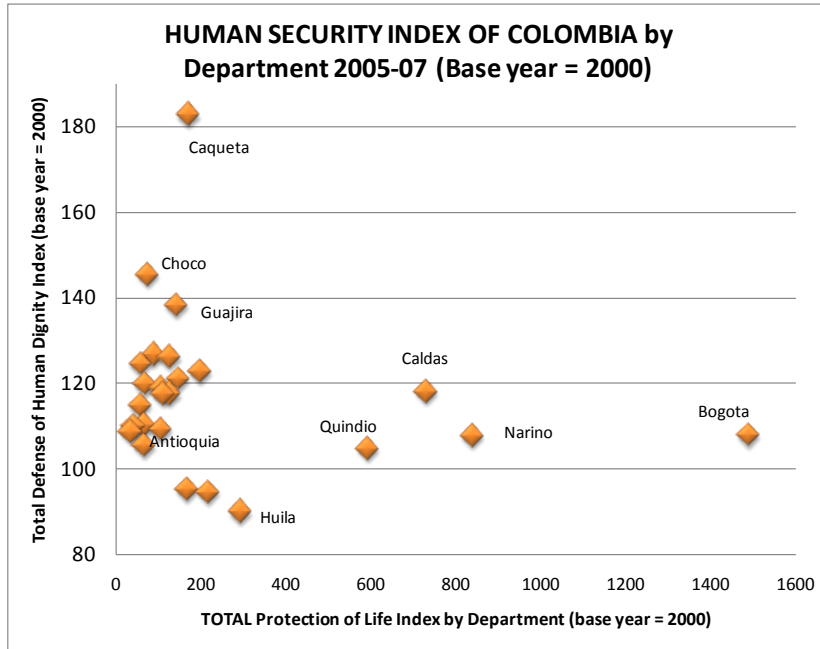
The final calculation of the Human Security Index for the case of Colombia, with the base year of 1995, results in an 84% deterioration by 2005. If compared to 2000, index levels are maintained. A possible explanation for the index spike in 2000 from 1995 could be the economic crisis of 1999, during which the Colombian GDP decreased by 5% from the prior year. The improvement of the HSIC observed in 2007 could also be tied to the long-term plans of economic recovery implemented by past administrations, as well as government initiatives to improve the social conditions of the population.

Case Analysis by Department

While the national index is a useful tool to analyze the human security conditions in Colombia as a whole, it does not accurately convey the varying degrees of security within each department. The creation of an index by department, using both of the HSIC sub-indices – *Protection of Life* and *Defense of Human Dignity* – is novel to this document. This analysis of departmental human security concerns aims to provide the necessary data for improving welfare policies and adjustments to the distribution of government spending at the local level. Traditionally, resource allocation in Colombia has been determined based on population, the percentage of people receiving education and healthcare services, the local poverty level, and fiscal/administrative efficiency (Ministry of Social Protection of Colombia Law 715, 2001)¹⁹. The included departmental findings demonstrate how this traditional system of transferences is not equally, nor transversally assessing the critical needs of the population in every region of Colombia.

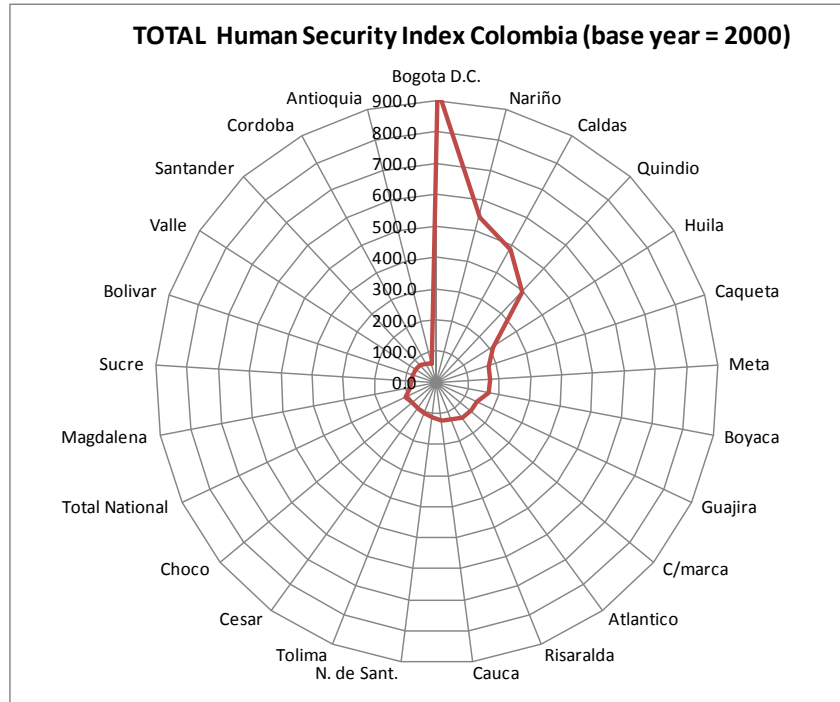
¹⁹ The issue of Human Security by department has been approached analyzing *Protection of Life* and *Defense of Human Dignity* independently and with a concentration on particular components. For instance, Sarmiento (2008) covers the *Defense of Human Dignity* through the revision of data on poverty, mortality, etc; but information about the conflict is not examined. The Democratic Security Report from 2008 focuses on independent department data such as civilian casualties and kidnappings.

Calculation of the HSIC by Department



Data accessibility was limited for the department comparison. As a result, the base year for the analysis by department has been shifted from the national index, 1995, to 2000. While there are 32 total departments in Colombia, some publications used to calculate the *Defense of Human Dignity* variables did not give a complete list of department results. Instead, the departments of concern were only noted. With respect to the calculation of *Protection of Life*, annual data was not available by department for landmine casualties. Since the overall homicide numbers do include landmine deaths, the percentage for this variable was increased to compensate for the void.

As through the scatter plot seen above, most departments show similar results. It is the breakaway district of Bogota that is worth mentioning. The capital district of Bogota is not only Colombia's largest city, but also is home to the federal government. The *Protection of Life* variable with the most drastic changes in the number of internally displaced. While it is common for Bogota and other cities to be the arrival destination for many displaced throughout the country, this data is showing the Bogota's citizens are also being forced to leave due to its conditions. Comparing Bogota to the department that houses the second largest city, Antioquia, the results are startling. Medellin, Antioquia has decreased all four variables, with 67% progress in relation to the *Protection of Life*.



The spider graph above demonstrates the variation of improvement/deterioration seen throughout 25 of the 32 departments.²⁰ Starting with the most drastic case of human insecurity, Bogota D.C., departments are listed clockwise in progressing order. Those listed after Choco all had an index under 100 in 2005, from the base year 2000. While the national average shows improvements since 2000, only seven departments demonstrated positive gains. The HSIC is designed to represent percentage changes made from the base year to the year of analysis. Due to this simple, mathematical division of data components, small numbers reflect a much larger variation, thereby skewing the index. An example of this is when kidnappings in a department increases from 2 to 8, causing an index reading of 400. For this reason, it is strongly suggested all data included in the appendix be explored to better understand the index findings.

Important conclusions can be derived from the previous graphs and the HSIC by department:

- Choco, Boyaca and Vichada are the most impoverished departments of Colombia, according to the most recent data available for the percentage of people with unmet basic needs, under the poverty and indigence line. On the other hand, Bogota D.C., Valle, Risaralda and Quindio have the lowest indicators of poverty among the departments of Colombia.
- While the national level indicates improvements in infant mortality, the issue is still a large problem in departments such as Choco, Caqueta, Narino and Cauca.

²⁰ For seven departments, information was not available in official sources to calculate the sub-index of *Defense of Human Dignity*. Therefore, the analysis by department for the total HSIC and the sub-index of Defense of Human Dignity is for 25 departments while the rest of the data is for the total 32. The above spider graph shows the national index to be 106.7. However, when all 32 departments are measured, the national index is 114.2. Departmental data in its entirety can be found in the Appendix.

- The departments with high levels of violence are not necessarily the poorest ones. The correlation between homicides (including landmine deaths) in 2007 and population with basic needs in 2008 is negative (-0.47).
- Among the main departments – Antioquia, Atlantico and Valle -- and the capital city – Bogota D.C. – the indicators of poverty and violence have generally improved, except in the case of people with basic needs. It is highly related to the number of IDPs that have dramatically increased in the four departments.
- Departments with similar demographic and geographic backgrounds have differing results. Such findings imply that local efforts are impacting populations.
- The department trends do not agree across the varying indicators. The case by case analysis suggests the realities of each department to be quite different. However, there are similar trends when comparing the data for the departments located in the southern region. For instance, Nariño, Guaviare, Vaupes, Putumayo and Guainía are having similar indicators of violence, poverty and displacement as a percentage of their populations. Regions like the Pacific seem to still be affected by the historical conflict and poverty levels. However, this region has changed from previously having its poverty and violence evenly distributed throughout, to now having to a concentration in certain areas, creating a large disparity (Gonzalez, 1999).

Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

The data used to portray human security conditions in Colombia was taken from official publications from the government, international agencies or certified NGOs. While information gathered by other sources demonstrates different findings, the selection of official statistics was done intentionally. Although the numbers were different when comparing alternative data sources, the trends of increases and reductions at certain chronological points remained the same. The design of two indices was done to demonstrate how the different approaches to human security could warrant varying results. This is seen through progress in one sub-index and deterioration in the other.

The time period selected was chosen with logistical and ideological influences. First, access to data collected before the early nineties was limited for many variables chosen. In addition, the process by which progress was measured also changed within certain fields. For example in education, the measurement once used to indicate progress was the percentage of school age children attending. Later on, education rates were measured in the average number of years completed. The years in which a census was conducted also played a role in determining the specific starting and ending points. Since many reports take a few years to be completed and published within Colombia, the official end year could prove to be outdated and misleading. A ten-year span was decided on from 1995 to 2005. This time frame includes the demise of the two major drug cartels, the efforts of three separate administrations to combat these issues and the worst economic crisis in Colombian history. Because of all those events that happened between the base and final year, the inclusion of 2000 in results was essential.

Based on this designed framework, the calculated index results in relative progress for the *Defense of Human Dignity* (8% reduction), deterioration in relation to the *Protection of Life* (146% increase) and an overall weakening of human security for Colombia as a nation (84%). When the index is expanded beyond the 2005 measurement to 2007, there is relative improvement for all three conclusions: 10% progress for *Defense of Human Dignity* sub-index,

119% deterioration in the *Protection of Life* sub-index, and only a 68% decrease of human security for the country. When considering whether or not the citizens of Colombia are better off than they were ten years ago, the 2000-2007 calculated index still demonstrates a 12% deterioration. Yet, the instability that emerged in the beginning of the twenty-first century has been combated significantly for almost all variables. The only two data sets with a negative impact are incidents of landmine casualties and the unsatisfied basic needs indicator.

Two significant changes are the incidents of kidnappings and the overall homicide rate. With a 42% reduction of homicides for the entire nation, and a resounding 90% drop in kidnappings, the *Protection of Life* has made improvements worth mentioning. However, the level of unsatisfied basic needs is a very upsetting situation. The original index shows progress, but the comparison to 2000 does not. So while the country managed to work on basic needs during a time of instability, something has happened to dissolve this progress. This could perhaps be explained by the new cases of internal displacement throughout the country. The index shows an improvement with regards to IDPs. However, the actual number of people keeps Colombia at the top of the list for IDPs every year.

Indeed, the findings by department overall demonstrate what the national index with base of 2000 shows as well. Since the nation is a weighted average of all 32 departments, this is not surprising. What the department depictions show that is not seen in the national results is that departments do not match the trends of the overall country. As previously mentioned, the increase of violence within Bogota D.C. is a disturbing concept. When this district is in the most likely position to prevent insecurities with national police headquartered in the capital, the citizens within walking distance to the federal buildings are being neglected.

International influence to improve Colombian human security has come in shape of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a project of the United Nations. However, much like another UN project, the Human Development Index (HDI), the issues selected neglect to address the concerns mentioned through the *Protection of Life* sub-index. With respect to the indicators for *Defense of Human Dignity*, the MDGs aspire to have the poverty level for Colombia improve from 54% in 1990 to 28.5% in 2015. As of 2006, the poverty rate was 46.8%. Likewise, the target rate for those below the indigence line projects to decrease from 20.4% in 1990 to 8.8% in 2015. 2005 measures indicate little improvement, with the indigence rate to be at 20.2%. In the field of education, the scholarship request for 2015 is 10.6 years of education for those citizens between the ages of 15 and 20. Colombia's scholarship rate in 2005 was 8.9 years for urban areas and 5.0 years for rural. When approaching health concerns, efforts are underway to bring the rate to 14 deaths per 1,000 births by 2015. In 2006, the rate had leveled at 19.9 deaths per 1,000. The standard for vaccinations among infants was set at 95%. Using the statistics for the tetanus vaccination in place of an overall average vaccination rate, 86% of infants had been vaccinated in 2006 (United Nations Millennium Development Goals Monitor 2009).

The Colombian government is in the position to work not only on the Millennium Development Goals, but on a majority of the issues measured by the HSIC. The low level of import/export activity for Colombia has made it relatively unharmed by the current economic crisis affecting the rest of the world. The social programs in place that have impacted the *Defense of Human Dignity* and address many of the Millennium Development Goals will be topics of debate for the upcoming presidential election in 2010. President Alvaro Uribe and his respected party have placed a larger emphasis on the prevention of violence rather than addressing basic needs, such as education and access to healthcare. If his successor follows the same pattern, the rate of progress for this sub-index will most likely trail off and possibly show

reverse effects. The recent positive trends for the *Protection of Life* will continue; however this is one area of concern. The large amount of aid provided by the United States to combat narco-trafficking and rebel terrorism could be drastically reduced due to the current economic crisis and the opposing ideologies of U.S. President Barack Obama and Uribe. This is reflected in the U.S. Congress opposition to the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia.

Plans for the future must focus on efforts funded domestically. Colombia and its leaders must focus on the needs of all Colombian citizens rather than appeasing its allies. The fate of human security for Colombia lies within Colombia. Violence and poverty must be tackled simultaneously, in order to break the cyclical pattern. More efforts must be placed on improving the basic needs of Colombians, while not neglecting their concerns for safety. The government has already realized the complexity of this issue and the importance of improving conditions throughout the whole country. More action is still required.

Finally, some policy options and possible future research directions are suggested based on the findings and conclusions presented above.

- Recognizing that the Colombian government has advanced in the field of security, government institutions in charge of planning future investments and designing policies for the nation should concentrate on the HSIC, or at least the list of variables included in the HSIC. This will provide government authorities with adequate information for improving decisions in terms of global impacts, by utilizing a multi-solution approach. Independent strategies will not solve the most pressing human security issues of Colombia. Collective solutions that involve and commit different national institutions as well as local governments (departments, municipalities, etc) are required in order to improve the human security conditions of the entire population.
- Those departments facing the most drastic conditions in terms of HSIC have to be the focus of short-term policies and social investments. It would stop new displacements and the increase of urban poverty levels. The characteristics of those departments with critical human security problems reveal that rural areas require special attention. Policies focused on ensuring small crop sustainability and profitability should be among the many goals of the Ministries of Agriculture and Social Protection.
- As most of the suggestions given by international organizations such as the World Bank, education is the key for improving the Human Security status of Colombia. Even though they have given more importance to primary education, attention should be placed on increasing access to technical training in order to meet every day employment demand.
- Much like in 1998 (DNP, 1998), the Government of Colombia must call upon the academic world to conduct research and aid them in the quest to improve the human security conditions for its people. Sufficient progress will only be achieved with assistance from all sectors of the community and interdisciplinary strategies.

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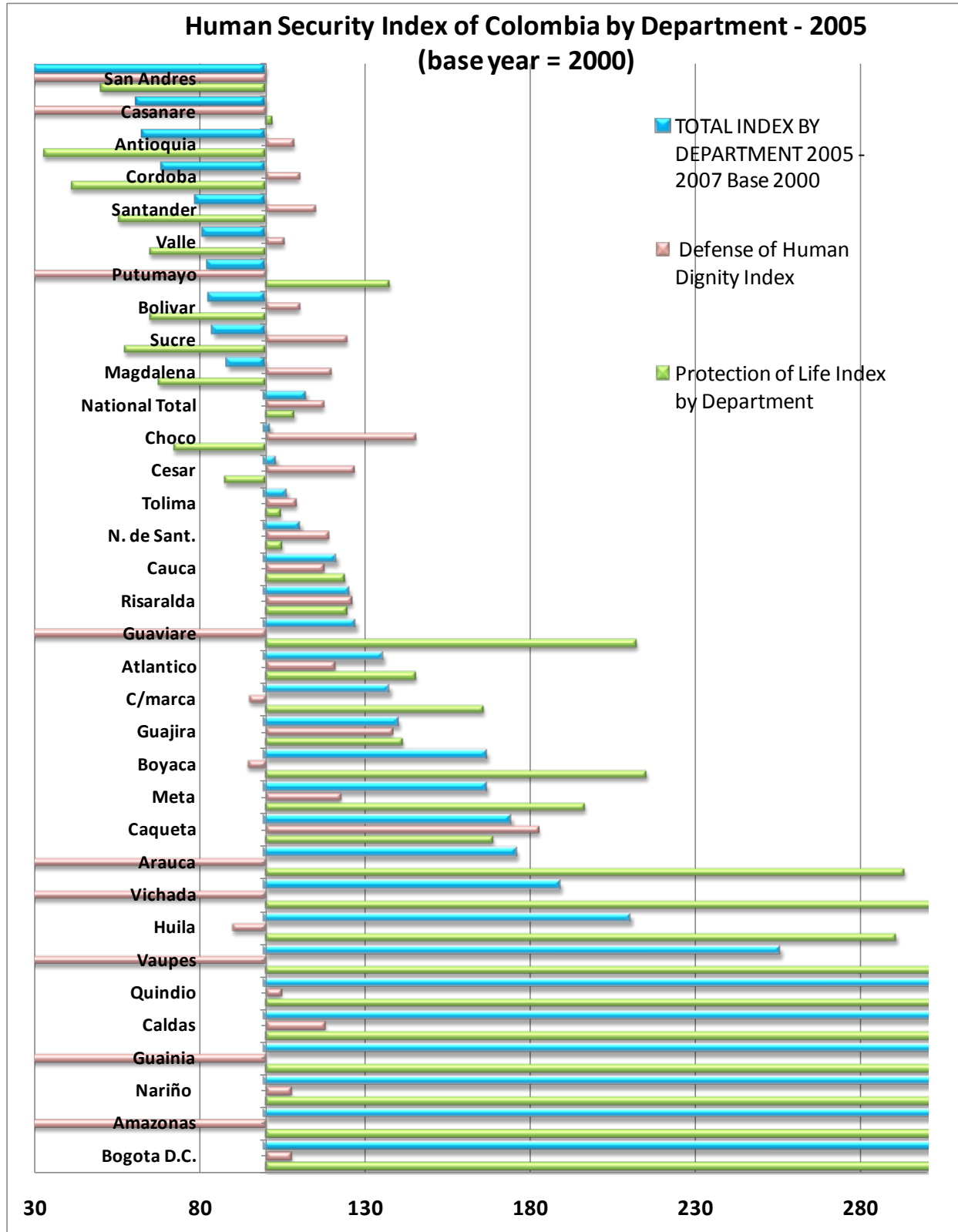
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- *National Planning Department of Colombia:* www.dnp.gov.co
- *Colombian Journals and Magazines:* www.eltiempo.com, www.elespectador.com, www.semana.com
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- *United Nations Millenium Development Goals Monitor* www.mdgmonitor.org
- *World Bank:* www.worldbank.org

Appendix

KEY COLOMBIAN INDICATORS

Annual data	2007	Historical averages (%)	2003-07
Population (Millions)	44.5	Population growth	1.5
GDP (US\$ bn; market exchange rate)	207.8	Real GDP growth	5.9
GDP (US\$ bn; purchasing power parity)	378.6	Real domestic demand growth	7.1
GDP per capita (US\$), 2005	2,682	Inflation	5.6
GDP per head (US\$; purchasing power parity)	8,063	Current-account balance (% of GDP)	-1.6
Exchange rate (av) Ps:US\$	2,078	FDI inflows (% of GDP)	4.0
Indicator	Value	Indicator	Value
Human development index - HDI	Rank - 75	Life expectancy at birth, quinquennial estimates (years), 2000-05	71.7
Human development index value, 2005	0.791	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005	17
Life expectancy at birth, annual estimates (years), 2000-05	72.3	Maternal mortality ratio, reported (per 100,000 live births), 1990-2004	84
Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older), 1995-2005	92.8	Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2002-05	4.8
Combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary education (%), 2005	75.1	Public expenditure on education (% of total government expenditure), 2002-05	11.1
GDP per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	7,304	Current public expenditure on education, pre-primary and primary (as % of all levels), 2002-05	51
Fertility rate, total (births per woman), 2000-05	2.5	Current public expenditure on education, secondary (% of all levels), 2002-05	36
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005	21	Current public expenditure on education, tertiary (% of all levels), 2002-05	13
Net primary enrolment rate (%), 2004	87	Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older), 1995-2005	92.8
HIV prevalence (% aged 15-49), 2005	0.6	Youth literacy rate (% aged 15-24), 1995-2005	98
Population undernourished (% of total population), 2002/04	13	Net primary enrolment rate (%), 2005	87
Population using an improved water source (%), 2004	93	Net secondary enrolment rate (%), 2005	55
Human development index (trends), 1975	0.663	Tertiary students in science, engineering, manufacturing and construction (% of tertiary students), 1999-2005	33
Human development index (trends), 1985	0.709	Telephone mainlines (per 1,000 people), 2005	168
Human development index (trends), 1995	0.753	Cellular subscribers (per 1,000 people), 2005	479
Human development index (trends), 2005	0.791	Internet users (per 1,000 people), 2005	104
Population living below \$1 a day (%), 1990-2005	7	Gini index 2005	58.4
Population living below \$2 a day (%), 1990-2005	17.8	Imports of goods and services (% of GDP), 2005	21
Population living below the national poverty line (%), 1990-2004	64	Exports of goods and services (% of GDP), 2005	21
Population, total (millions), 2005	44.5	Primary exports (% of merchandise exports), 2005	64
Population, total (millions), 2015	50.7	Manufactured exports (% of merchandise exports), 2005	36
Population, urban (% of total population), 2005	72.7	Debt service, total (% of GDP), 2005	8.3
Population under age 15 (% of total population), 2005	30.3	Military expenditure (% of GDP), 2005	3.7
Population aged 65 and older (% of total population), 2005	5.1	Unemployment rate Total (% of labour force), 1996-2005	11.8
Fertility rate, total (births per woman), 2000-05	2.5	Electrification rate (%)	86
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2004	6.7	Homicides (per 100,000 people), 2000-2004	62.7
Population using improved sanitation (%), 2004	86	Legislators, senior officials and managers (% female), 1999-2005	38
Births attended by skilled health personnel, poorest 20% (%)	72	Professional and technical workers (% female), 1994-2005	50

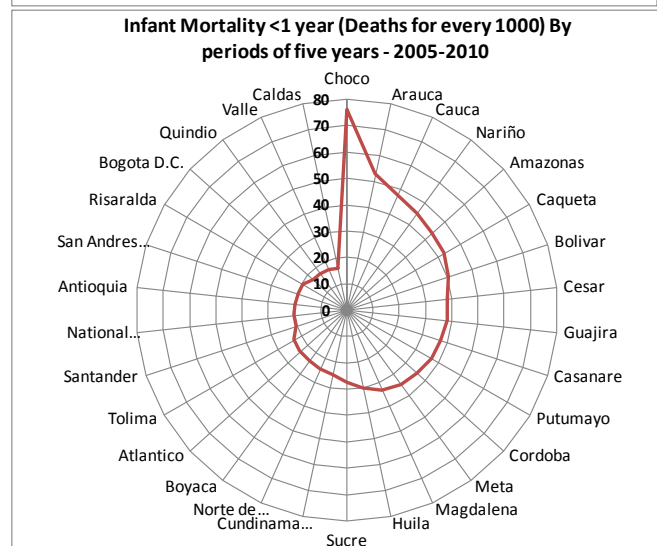
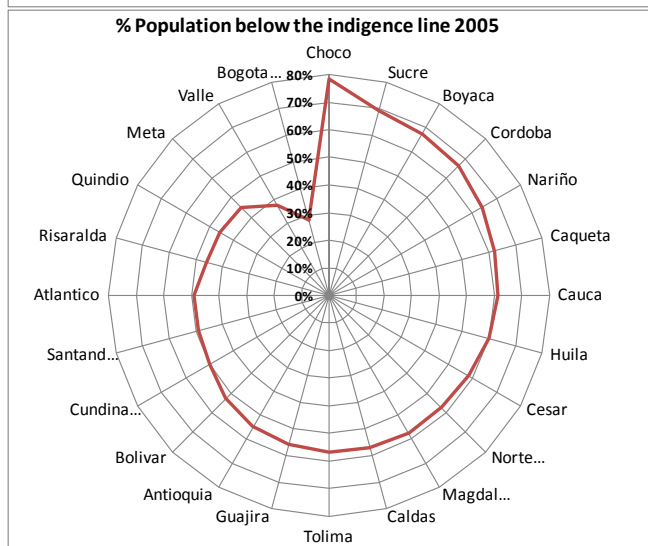
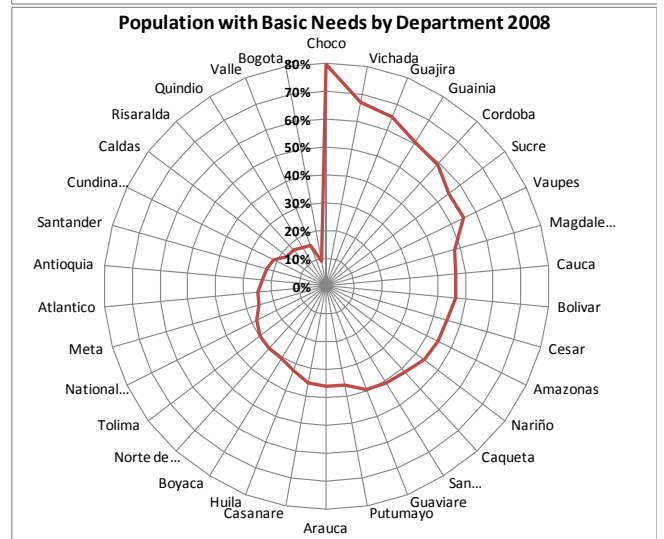
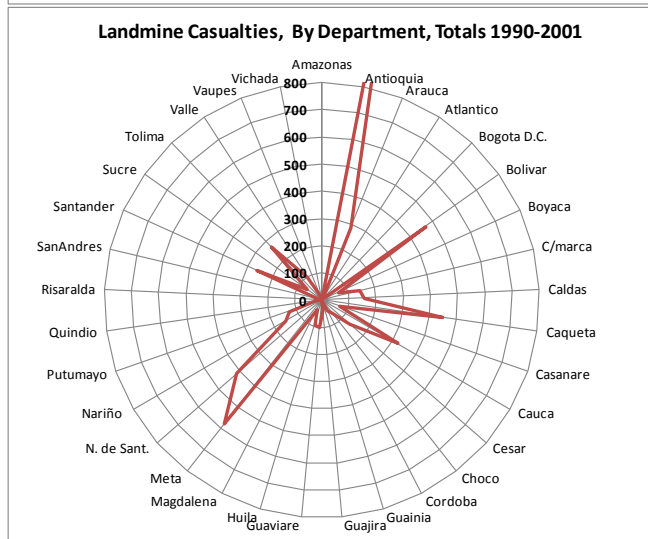
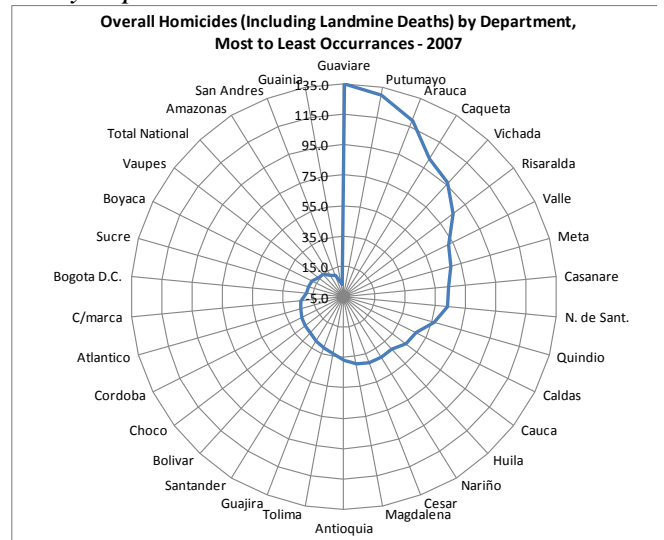
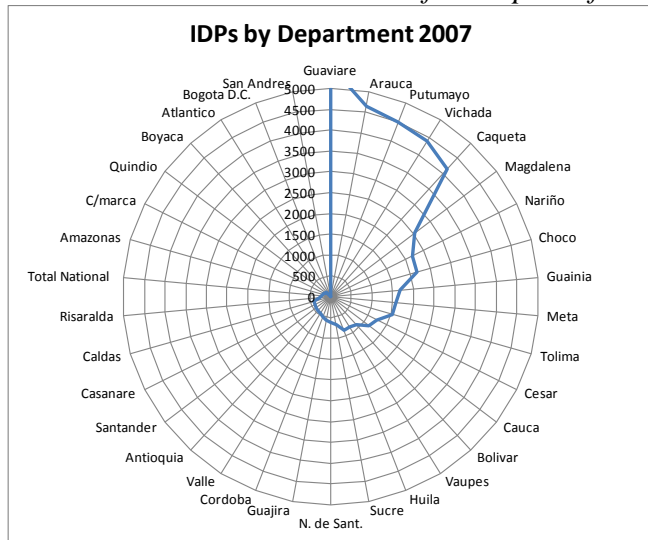
Sources: The Economist, United Nations, Unicef



Map of Colombia with Departments



Data of the inputs of the HSIC by department



Note: The data of Landmines was not included in the HSIC by department. Sources are the same as in the total HSIC.