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**Colombia: Santa Lucia**



In July, GFSC delivered 3 Crisis and Post-Disaster Recovery workshops for the Education Institute of Santa Lucía, Atlántico, Colombia. These workshops were facilitated by GFSC volunteers Hector Ardila G. and Ximena Combariza E., with the support of Maria Elena Ruiz, Social Worker for the city of Barranquilla and financed primarily by a donation from FUNDACIÓN BAVARIA.

Participants included coordinators and teachers in the preschool, elementary and secondary divisions (approximately 63 teachers) as well as 12 parents, 2 elementary level students and 2 high school students.

The objectives of the workshops were to facilitate participants' understanding of the grieving process and psychosocial recovery, to stimulate their willingness to help others and give them specific tools for such assistance, especially for working with children and families.

Based on observations and participants' comments the vast majority found the topics and activities useful. At the end, many said they felt liberated after they were able to express and share their feelings about the

tragedy and had a new way of looking at their situation and felt great hope and desire to succeed.

Throughout the workshop, many participants commented on various opportunities arising in the community following the disaster, such as: reconciliation between couples and families who had distanced themselves, some people finding new and better jobs, and improvements in food for some individuals or families with limited economic resources, thanks to food aid designated for victims.

Additionally, the groups produced valuable insights into how they can help themselves, their families and members of the education community to further advance the process of post-disaster psychosocial recovery. In our view, these ideas clearly reveal great personal and social resources – their resilience - which provides the impetus for Santa Lucia to recover and emerge stronger after such a disaster.

Summary of recommendations:

- Carefully review the "ideas for action" proposed by the participants and follow-up on all actions that are within the reach of the institution. In other words, do not allow the ideas to be lost or you will lose the enthusiasm of teachers, parents and students involved in the workshops. For example
  - Add some of the action items to the agenda of the next regular meeting of teachers, and develop a concrete action plan based on these initial ideas (with targets, actions or tasks, responsibilities, dates, etc.).
  - Promptly convene a meeting of those parents who attended the workshop who were willing to support the community in the recovery process. The support of this special group of parents can strengthen the school's Parents Association and will enhance the Parents Association activities to support the process of psychosocial recovery in the educational community.

- Give all participants the list of ideas raised by them, in order to renew their commitment to their own approaches and simultaneously enrich the ideas given by other groups.
- Make room in the curriculum for the new activities designed to facilitate the assimilation of the situation experienced by students, teachers and parents, using the GFSC workshop guide and additional materials available at no charge on our website, [www.globalfacilitators.org](http://www.globalfacilitators.org)
- Continue to seek specific support for the process of psychosocial recovery from the Ministries of Health, Education and other entities such as the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar
- It is important, to physically reconstruct and repair the physical sites of the College in the shortest time possible and obtain permission to return to work This will not only allow teachers and students to work more comfortably, but also positively impact their attitudes towards disaster and their confidence in their ability to succeed

Finally, we sincerely thank FUNDACIÓN BAVARIA and its Director, Catalina Garcia Gomez, for the financial support to GFSC to conduct these workshops. Also, special thanks to the Dean of the Santa Lucia School, Jorge Carrillo, for placing his trust in us and allowing us to develop the GFSC workshops for the educational community. Similarly, we express our thanks to CORPORACIÓN GIRE, and its Director Diana Droste, and Lissette Abudinen Hasbun, for their strong support in project management and coordination of events, respectively.

And our special thanks to each and every one of the participants who allowed us to share their experiences and always remained open to the ideas and proposals of the GFSC post-disaster psychosocial recovery process, developed and applied successfully in many countries around the world.

Héctor A. Ardila G. &  
Ximena Combariza E.

Bogotá, Julio 21 de 2011



Dear Ximena,

*I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to both you, Hector Ardila and Lissette Abudinen as well as to the Foundation Bavaria, for the 4 days of training received in Santa Lucia, characterized by a climate of trust that broke the paradigms of traditional training and a flexible methodology that achieved the proposed objectives ....*

*Sincerely.*

JORGE E. CARRILLO MARIMÓN.  
I.e. RECTOR LUCIA SNTA.



## **Donate Now!**

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## MI PUEBLO INUNDADO



**Por Emanuel Areiza  
Pérez**

*Emanuel is 10-year old student at the Institución Educativa Santa Lucía, Atlántico, Colombia. He participated in the GFSC Workshop, Recovering from Crisis and Disaster, held there, 7 July 2011.*

Si mi pueblo no estuviera inundado,  
que por eso mucha gente ha llorado.  
Entre veces también gente  
se ha alegrado  
porque dicen que mi pueblo  
se ha secado.

Mucha gente en cambuches ha estado,  
mas albergues, muchos  
nos han ayudado.  
Dice gente que el boquete  
ya han tapado.  
Le doy gracias a todos aquellos que han  
abonado.

Ya la casa de mi abuela se ha  
secado.  
Sigo triste porque en la casa mía  
Todavía el agua no ha bajado.  
Y por eso le damos gracias a Dios  
por todo esto que pudo ocurrir.  
Mi Dios tan grande que nos  
protegió,  
aunque todo se perdió,  
logramos sobrevivir.

Santa Lucía no se perdió,  
Santa Lucía sigues ahí.

Santa Lucía no se perdió,  
Santa Lucía tú sigues ahí.

Ya me contaron que se secó  
Y en unos días me vuelvo a ir.

Esta es la historia de mi pueblo.



If my town were not flooded,  
that's why many people have cried.  
At times my people have cheered  
when they say that our town  
has dried up.

Many people living in shacks,  
more in shelters, many have helped us.  
People say they have already  
plugged the gap.  
I thank all those who have helped.

Already my grandmother's house  
has dried up.

I'm still sad because in my house  
The water still has not gone down.

And for that we thank God  
For all this could happen.  
My God is so great and protected  
us,  
even though all was lost, we  
survived.

Santa Lucía was not lost  
Santa Lucía is still there.

Santa Lucía was not lost  
Santa Lucía is still there.

They told me that it has dried  
And in a few days I will return.

This is the story of my people,  
of my town.

## Looking Back and Looking Forward

Dear Friends,

*For the past 12+ years, I have been honored and privileged to meet and work with some amazing people from all over the world. Your commitment, skills and insights have shaped communities and GFSC's mission, approach and projects in countless ways.*

*I remember our very first meeting in Florida, when 15 people came together for two days to clarify some BHAGS (Big Hairy Audacious Goals). Over the years, and with a small, dedicated group of volunteers, GFSC has met some, modified some and made up some new ones. A few did not work out, but we learned from each and every experience. Our principles have been and continue to be our bedrock.*

*Some of our successes include: workshops for independent facilitators (more than 350 in the last 6 years) for their professional development and to deliver workshops directly for communities in need; several webinars in collaboration with other organizations; and mentoring the growth of local networks of facilitators and other professionals in several communities (e.g, New Orleans, Colombia, Chile). We continue to refine and develop new materials to enhance the process of strengthening community resilience in times of crisis and change.*

*One quality we have strived to uphold is "letting go." We encourage facilitators and communities to learn new tools and techniques that will assist them. Then we turn the sharing process over to them. GFSC is available to assist, if requested. We firmly believe that it is up to each community to find its own path and apply their new skills in ways that work for them.*

*Now it is time for me to "let go" and step away from my role as Executive Director of GFSC. It has been a wonderful, enlightening experience that has taught me much about myself and the rich diversity of our world.*

*I know that the organization will continue to generate fresh ideas and approaches to meet the needs of facilitators and communities around the world.*

*I will always treasure my GFSC colleagues and friends. Thank you all for your support and commitment to making the world a better place, one community at a time.*

BJ Diamond

<http://globalfacilitators.org>

## Volunteers Needed

Your skills and experience can help GFSC with several administrative tasks that require a few hours every month. If you have the necessary expertise interest, and the time to allocate to GFSC in one of the following areas, please write to [info@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:info@globalfacilitators.org) describing your qualifications and availability:

- **Volunteer Network support:** register and communicate with volunteers; add new volunteers to database and newsletter distribution lists, send welcome notes, forward questions/suggestions to designated volunteers; assist in coordination of conference calls and other group communications (approximately 4 hours/month).
- **Newsletter/blog:** collect and write articles, create layout, publish bi-monthly newsletter (could be consolidation of weekly/biweekly blogs); send to webmaster for posting, notify and distribute to all subscribers. Work with translator to produce blogs and newsletters in English and Spanish (approximately 12 hours/month).
- **Web maintenance and registration;** ongoing design and updating of website; communicate with hosting service; post newsletters; analyze and report on expanding GFSC's use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter (approximately 5 hours/month)



## GFSC Newsletter Delivery Service



If you are not already a regular subscriber to the GFSC Newsletter, click on <http://www.listcast.com/x?oid=1031860n> to be added to our distribution list. We are happy to have you join us. Our lists are not shared with any other organization or entity. We welcome your interest in GFSC!

[info@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:info@globalfacilitators.org)

## Other Interesting Announcements

★ **Public Conversations Project (PCP)** introducing **Dialogue: A Virtual Workshop**, a series of 12 videos covering the basics of the PCP's approach to dialogue. From understanding the importance of participant preparation to developing the right questions to ask in a dialogue, this series illustrates PCP's approach—and the principles behind it—via videos, guides, and interactive links. The series is designed to give practitioners a more in-depth experience, while a novice user can easily grasp the key content and explore concepts as much as they like (or need). With support from the JAMS Foundation, PCP is offering the series—both videos and guide text—as a free download: <http://www.publicconversations.org/video-series/virtualworkshop/sec1>

### ★ **People Argue Just to Win, Scholars Assert**

By Patricia Cohen, New York Times,  
14 June 2011  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/15/arts/people-argue-just-to-win-scholars-assert.html?scp=1&sq=People%20Aruge%20Just%20to%20Win&st=cse>

How does this perspective affect facilitation processes? How can facilitation processes affect this perspective?



## Thank You!

**GFSC Advisory Council** for expertise, advice and caring.

**Peggy Bushee Services** for administrative support

**Ximena Combariza** for translating our newsletter from English to Spanish

**Jason Stershic** ([www.spectyrmmedia.com](http://www.spectyrmmedia.com)) for patience, creativity and our ongoing website redesign (stay tuned!)

**Julia Young**, (<http://facilitate.com>) for expertise, hosting, coordination and leadership of GFSC virtual meetings

**Kiosk/Hot Conference** for web hosting services, <http://www.hotconference.com/GFSC/partners1.php>

**Slingshot Media** (<http://www.listcast.com>) for our newsletter distribution and email list service



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