

# A mixed-method study evaluating the effectiveness of a community-based PSS intervention for communities affected by torture in Colombia



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# Partnership introduction

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- **Universidad de los Andes**
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# Setting and population description

- **Setting**
  - **Quibdo, Colombia**
- **Target population**
  - **Adults**
  - **Victims of armed conflict**
  - **Majority Afro-Colombian**



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# Intervention description - ACOPLE

*(Alianza Con Organizaciones Por lo Emocional)*

- **Objectives:**

- Strengthen social and community networks
- Enable participants to draw on their own resources to improve coping and problem solving

- **Description:**

- Two components
  - Individual protocol
  - Group protocol (focus of study)
- Facilitated by trained community leaders (CPAs)
- Revised based on 7 years of implementation



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# Intervention implementation plan



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# Study objectives

- **Study objective:** What is the effectiveness of the adapted **ACOPLE** group intervention?
- **Relevance:** Strengthen evidence for community-based, peer-led interventions in conflict-affected settings



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# Study design

## Phase 1

- Pilot adapted intervention to test feasibility and fidelity
- Data collected from CPAs and participants

## Phase 2

- Manual and training tools revised and finalized based on the results of Phase 1
- CPAs trained in final protocol

## Phase 3

- Waitlist RCT to evaluate intervention effectiveness
- Treatment group: n=135
- Control group: n=135

## Phase 4

- Data analysis
- Results dissemination workshop



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# Outcomes and methods

Key Questions	Process, implementation or outcome indicators	Data source
Is the adapted intervention model feasible for participants and staff?	% of participants that complete 75% of group sessions	Attendance Sheets
	% of participants that are satisfied with services received	Participant Satisfaction Surveys
	% of staff that are satisfied with the intervention model	Staff Satisfaction Surveys
What is the effectiveness of the intervention training?	% of community psychosocial agents (CPAs) that demonstrate successful knowledge gain through intervention training	Training post-tests
	% of CPAs that demonstrate ability to correctly implement intervention after training	Supervising Psychologist Logs
What is the effectiveness of the adapted ACOPLE group intervention?	% change in subjective wellbeing	Participant Surveys
	% change in distress	Participant Surveys
	% change in functioning	Participant Surveys
	% change in coping ability	Participant Surveys
	% change in social support	Participant Surveys
	% change in social connectedness	Participant Surveys
	% change in community efficacy	Participant Surveys

\*Quantitative indicators will be supplemented with qualitative data collected through focus groups with participants and CPAs.



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# Involvement of key stakeholders

- **Community stakeholders → co-designers & implementers**
- **Leverage existing relationships w/ government**
- **Academia → dissemination workshops & submission to peer-reviewed journals**
- **Study will strengthen planned transition of ACOPLÉ program to independent organization**



# Theory of change

- **This project aims to test and broadly disseminate a culturally-adapted, evidence-based model designed to enable communities to strengthen their own capacity to cope with psychosocial needs associated with ongoing and past conflict as well as systemic crime and violence.**
- **Model has local, national, and global relevance and can be adapted to unique cultural contexts.**



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Thank you / Gracias

Please contact Jaye Stapleton  
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