



PROGRAMMING

17. PEACE GARDEN PROJECT

A PROJECT WITH DISPLACED CHILDREN IN USME, COLOMBIA

Description:

The children worked together to create a “peace park” in Usme, an area on the outskirts of Bogota which has a large population of displaced people. Usme is notoriously ugly. There is little green space, haphazard development and piles of garbage everywhere. The children decided to reclaim an open space and turn it into a small peace garden. Working together they cleaned up the garbage and planted flowers, bushes and trees.

Once they were finished they discussed how to maintain this park so that it wouldn't become ugly again. They came up with an idea. Each plant, shrub or tree was given the name of one of the young people. If Mario planted a tree, its name is Mario, and Mario took on the responsibility of caring for that tree.

“Now we have a peaceful beautiful place for children. And like all peace it must be maintained – and that is what we are doing.”



Girl in front of Garden, Colombia