

***FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION***

**CONTACT:** Carolina Rincón  
646-367-3371  
[crincon@thevoxcollective.com](mailto:crincon@thevoxcollective.com)

Michael J. Zamba  
202-458-6180  
[mzamba@padf.org](mailto:mzamba@padf.org)

## **PADF’S IN-KIND DONATION PROGRAM IMPROVES HOSPITAL CONDITIONS FOR 260,000 IN REMOTE REGION OF COLOMBIA**

**Washington, D.C. (June 27, 2008)**—The Hospital San Francisco de Asís in the remote and poverty-stricken city of Quibdó, state of Choco in Colombia, cannot offer most of its patients a bed, forcing them to use stretchers instead. That unhealthy situation is changing as the result of a donation of electric beds and mattresses, coordinated by the [Pan American Development Foundation](#) (PADF).

The hospital will receive 43 new electric beds and 63 mattresses—upgrading the facility’s beds by 50%—through PADF’s In-Kind Donation Program.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided the donation through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

“The hospital is thankful for this donation, which is important and timely, considering the state of health care in the Department. Because 50% of our beds will be replaced, service to our patients will improve,” said Dr. Wilman Yurgaki, the hospital’s Assistant Director.

PADF’s Director of In-Kind Donations, Pilar Heraud, stated, “Through partnerships with federal agencies, PADF is able to help disadvantaged people throughout the Caribbean and Latin America with donations of essential medical and dental tools and resources.”

The Hospital San Francisco de Asís, a 90-bed facility, is the only full-service hospital serving more than 260,000 Afro-Colombians living in extreme poverty in the areas of Alto and Medio Atrato, Medio Sanjuán, Alto and Medio Baudó, and the Pacific Coast. Together, these regions represent about 70% of the state of Chocó.

Chocó has the country’s highest poverty index, a faulty health services system, and an infant mortality rate four times higher than the rest of Colombia.

The beds and mattresses come from the FEMA Distribution Center in Frederick, MD. Tom Bowman, Bill Spessard, Phil Parsons, Rodney Waltersdorff, Shawn Feigo, and Lee Hayes helped prepare the donations for the shipment, which will arrive in Chocó at the end of June.

## **About PADF**

The Pan American Development Foundation was founded in 1962 as a nonprofit affiliate of the Organization of American States. PADF works with civil society, the private sector, and governments to create opportunities and improve lives for the disadvantaged in Latin America and the Caribbean. With a commitment to local capacity and the Inter-American spirit of cooperation, PADF builds programs that create jobs, enhance education, build skills, foster community participation, and strengthen resiliency through the power of people, local solutions, and partnerships.