

COLOMBIA: IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA

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Colombian Government Puts ‘Vive Digital’ Technology Plan Into Action in the Atlántico Department



President Santos and Minister Molano with children in Barranquilla. Photo Credit: Presidencia de la República

On Thursday, November 22, in Barranquilla, Colombia, President Juan Manuel Santos and Minister of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Diego Molano announced the local implementation of the national **Colombia Vive Digital (Live Digital)** plan in the state of Atlántico.

‘Vive Digital’ is a national initiative aimed at expanding Colombia’s ICT industry, infrastructure and Internet usage. As part of the initiative, over the next four years, the government will distribute more than 16,600 computers in Atlántico, benefitting more than 320,000 children, the President announced.

“In Atlántico there is one computer for every 19 children, and our goal is to reduce this number to 12. We have delivered nearly 6,000 computers that have reached more than 177,000 children and we will continue to deliver,” said Minister Molano.

On a national level, the government will invest more than \$3 billion over the next four years to develop Colombia’s digital ecosystem. To learn more about ‘Vive Digital,’ click [here](#).

What’s News

President Santos: “All these kids are going to have, not only technology skills, but access to a better education.”

During the ‘Vive Digital’ event in Barranquilla, President Santos emphasized the importance of equipping children with technology as a means to improve education.

“A few years ago... Barranquilla had 80 percent of its schools in the lower levels [of performance]. Now that 80 has been reduced to 27 percent and [the schools] are also reaching [higher] levels of excellence. ... Here in Atlántico... we are investing about 50 billion pesos (\$27 million USD) in technology. ... All these kids are going to have, not only technology skills, but access to a better education.”

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