



# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

## Colombia



November 2021

### PBF Investments in

**TOTAL APPROVED** **\$34.3 M**

#### Focusing on

- Economic recovery & youth empowerment
- Social and economic reintegration
- Transitional justice
- Innovative financing

#### Partners



HALO Trust Fund, Norwegian People's Aid, Campaña Colombiana contra Minas, Pastoral Caritas Colombia, CEPDIPO, Truth Commission, Sisma Mujer, Acumen, IC Fundacion, Bancoldex, Corpocampo, Wegrou, Mercy Corps, Incófin, Supracafé, Fundación Mi Sangre, FLIP

### PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

In November 2016, the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a final peace agreement, bringing a formal end to the 53-year-old Colombian conflict. The agreement addresses many of the conflict's root causes, including limited access to land and a wide development gap between urban and rural areas. In 2017 the UN Security Council established the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, mandated to verify the implementation of the of Peace Agreement.

Agreement is signed up for peace, but faces challenges to reintegrate sustainable former combatants, taking forward transitional justice, and tackling the root causes of conflict through the corresponding provisions of the peace agreement.

### PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The PBF has been active in Colombia since January 2014, supporting communications for peace through the 'Respira Paz' campaign. The initiative was implemented through an inclusive and engaging approach, including mobile cinema, radio serial dramas and social mobilization for peace.

In 2017, the Fund supported the peace agreement accelerating collective reparation of victims in areas close to FARC cantonment sites. Reparation measures included a range of restorative actions prioritized by the victims themselves.

Following a request from the President of Colombia, the UN Secretary-General declared Colombia eligible to access the Peacebuilding Fund in June 2017. With PBF funding, the UN system in Colombia supported the Government in meeting some of the commitments under the Peace Agreement and increased the confidence of populations most affected by the armed conflict in state institutions.



PBF support in Colombia focuses on the following areas:

- 1 Economic recovery and youth empowerment:** comprehensive stabilization interventions in territories affected by the armed conflict, aimed at promoting economic recovery and reducing the risk of a resurgence of violence, particularly as related to historically vulnerable populations, with an emphasis on addressing the needs of youth.
- 2 Social and economic reintegration:** reintegration interventions aimed at breaking the link between politics and violence by supporting the former guerrilla group's transformation into a democratic political actor, and the design and implementation of social/economic reintegration programs, particularly in underserved urban and ethnic communities.
- 3 Transitional justice:** action to accelerate the establishment and operation of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Recurrence, and providing durable solutions for victims of forced displacement.
- 4 Innovative financing:** through the inception of public-private partnerships in areas targeted by the peace agreement.

## PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

The 'Respira Paz' campaign reached more than 32,000 people and help increase awareness of the peace process. Through the Collective Reparations project, more than 15,600 people, including 7,850 women, have directly benefitted. Thanks to the impact and good management of the project, the Ministry of Labor pledged more than \$2.1 million, to be invested in the implementation of collective reparation measures, especially those related to the agricultural sector for the economic sustainability of these communities.

PBF supported the establishment of the Truth Commission (CEV). In 2018 the State took over the operational budget for CEV. The CEV has given a central role to the victims guaranteeing their dignity and transforming their living conditions, facilitating their transit from victims of the conflict to citizens with full rights

The project "Reincorporation of ex-combatants through humanitarian demining for peacebuilding" has supported the reincorporation of 117 ex-combatants through the development of humanitarian demining organisations, contributing to the liberation of land and the construction and maintenance of peace in the territory. In response to the Secretary-General's call to explore innovative finance solutions for peacebuilding, the Fund supported in 2019 seven private sector investments in conflict affected areas through blended finance mechanisms. An initial investment of \$2.2 million has leveraged private resources at a ratio of 1:7.

In 2020 the Fund supported the Truth Commission to draft its final report on the basis of testimonies from more than 2,400 victims, including 300 indigenous people who detailed violence against their communities. In the final report, the root and proximate causes of conflict will be identified to produce a more just and complete record of the past

Bolstering resilience to the risks of violence, 450 women in the border region between Colombia and Ecuador have contributed to the development of community-based strategies for the prevention of gender-based violence and the promotion of positive masculinity. As a result of the initiative, the Nariño local government in Colombia incorporated gender- and child-sensitive indicators in its development plan for 2021–2023

## WORKING ACROSS PILLARS

PBF support responds to national priorities identified by the Government of Colombia and is implemented by nine UN agencies and 15 Civil Society Organizations, in close coordination with the priorities of the UN Verification Mission. Since 2017, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has convened two meetings to discuss the peace process in Colombia with the participation of government and civil society representatives.

## CATALYTIC EFFECT

Together with Sweden, the PBF was the first contributor with the Government to the UN Multi-Donor Trust Fund in Colombia, which has now mobilized more than \$151 million for the implementation of the peace agreement. PBF's support to the demining organization HUMANICEMOS is being scaled up for the second phase of support in 2020. The Fund's activities in Colombia supported the trust fund under the leadership of the national authorities.

## ABOUT THE PEACEBUILDING FUND

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund is the organization's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The Fund may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations.