



# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund Colombia



PEACEBUILDING  
FUND

November 2022

## PBF Investments in

**TOTAL**  
APPROVED  **\$43.9 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, Incofin, Supracafe, Fundación Mi Sangre, FLIP, Christian Aid

## 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.

Despite significant progress, challenges remain to sustainably reintegrate 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.

Following the signing of the Peace Agreement, in 2017, the Fund supported the 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 has 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.

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 organisation, 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 territories through blended finance mechanisms. An initial investment of \$2.1 million has leveraged private resources at a ratio of 1:7. A second \$3 million blended finance project was approved in late 2021 to leverage green private investments in conflict-affected territories prioritized in the Peace Agreement.

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. 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. In 2022 the PBF will support the dissemination of the Truth Commission's final report.

In one flagship pilot project, innovative finance initiatives have been tested to leverage additional investments for peace. Following the Fund's initial \$3 million investment in relation to the reintegration of ex-combatants, an additional \$13.2 million in private sector investment has been leveraged to improve the socioeconomic conditions of 4,500 ex-combatants, victims and community members in conflict-affected areas.

## 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 three 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 \$198,2 million for the implementation of the Peace Agreement. The Fund's activities in Colombia supports 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 works with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds and civil society organizations.



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