

UN POST-CONFLICT MPTF FOR COLOMBIA

Background

The [UN Post-Conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Colombia](#) was launched in February 2016. The Fund is linked to an overarching national governance structure - 'Colombia in Peace' - and focused on funding projects related to post-conflict stabilization, confidence building measures and preparation for and implementation of the peace agreements. The Fund represents an important strategic alliance between the Colombian Government, the UN and the international community, who are working together to advance the post-conflict peace and stabilization agenda in Colombia.

The Fund supports thematic and territorial priorities defined together by Government's entities under the leadership of the Office of the High Counsellor for Post-Conflict. It supports projects related to (i) post-conflict stabilization, (ii) building trust in the population most affected, and (iii) readiness and early implementation of the peace agreements reached with the FARC.

The Fund has the following five **Strategic Objectives**:

1. Increase local community confidence in the State and local authorities as duty-bearers of rule of law, lawfulness and as facilitators of a framework of the rules of the game and institutions for the democratic and participative construction of territorial peace.
2. Increase confidence in the peace process and its transformational potential to improve daily life of people, particularly of victims and citizens in the most affected territories by armed conflict and violence.
3. Avoid/mitigate and/or confront criminality phenomena and outbreaks of violence related to the armed conflict and demobilization and reduce the impact caused by coercion on people and violence (real and perceived).
4. Manage community or social conflict situations through early interventions to solve or at least to redirect social and community claims towards democratic dialog processes, thus avoiding undermining the credibility on the peace process and its implementation.
5. Reach early achievements in terms of security, justice and development that could enable a timely management of critical events that may arise and can endanger peace.

The fund is governed by a tripartite government-donor-UN Steering Committee, with the High Commissioner for Post Conflict (Rafael Pardo) as president and the UN Resident Coordinator as co-president. The Fund's Steering Committee continuously defines the priorities of the Fund, depending on current needs related to the post-conflict peace and stabilization agenda. Among the current priorities for new funding are interventions related to the set-up of the transitional justice system; prevention of recruitment of children by illegal armed groups; illicit crops substitution; as well as activities related to peace pedagogy and strengthening of national and local authorities in preparedness for implementation of the peace agreement.

The Fund finances activities through three implementation windows: the UN, national government and civil society. At the moment the UN and the non-governmental windows are operational, while the agreement establishing the governmental window is under negotiations. Altogether 16 UN agencies have joined the Fund.

Progress

The UN Post-Conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Colombia is proving to be a key instrument for the peace stabilization in the country. On its first year of operations it has contributed to:

- Setting up core institutional arrangements for the implementation of the peace agreements
- Ensuring peace dividends in the areas that have been hardest hit by the conflict, which builds confidence and facilitates the immediate stabilization at local level.

This is due to the following elements:

- Strong Government ownership and leadership: the Fund is linked to an overarching national governance structure - 'Colombia in Peace', and all of the initiatives supported by the Fund are closely coordinated and aligned with relevant government institutions, to ensure complementarity and support to the government's strategy in short and medium term.
- Tri-partite governance structure: The Fund represents an important strategic alliance between the Colombian Government, the UN and the international community, who are working together to advance the post-conflict peace and stabilization agenda in Colombia.
- Strong technical support to project teams: Through committees conformed by members of the tri-partite governance structure, the fund provides key technical advice to the national project developers since the very inception of proposals, guaranteeing that implementation is aligned with government's peacebuilding strategy and that cross-cutting approaches such as gender and environmental sustainability are fully integrated.
- Rapid and diversified mobilization of funds: in less than one year the fund has mobilized USD 56 million from 7 Donors (UK, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Switzerland and Ireland) and 2 feeder Funds (PBF and GAI).

As of today, the Steering Committee has approved the financing of 27 projects, 16 of which are being implemented by civil society organizations and 11 by UN agencies. The following are some of the results achieved:

- The Fund's projects have benefited more than 713,000 Colombians, improving their living conditions and strengthening their perception and confidence vis-à-vis the State.
- 30 per cent of the Fund's resources have been assigned to strengthen government capacities and the implementation of the new institutional architecture designed for post-conflict.
- The Fund supports the startup of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP in Spanish), as the engine of system, which facilitates the implementation of the other organs of the Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-repetition
- In Justice and Security, important steps have been taken to create new justice systems with the capacity to adapt to emerging post-conflict needs at the local level.
- Impetus has been given to collective and individual reparation of victims, validating and enlisting in a participatory manner the rapid implementation of what has been agreed between the communities and the State.
- Strengthened responsiveness of local authorities and civil society initiatives to assist in the process of readiness and implementing the peace agreement has begun.
- Small infrastructure projects prioritized by communities most affected by the armed conflict have been developed, generating dignified employment, immediate income and confidence in the integral presence of the State.
- State entities and civil society organizations have been trained in the 12 regions at high risk of social conflict in using dialogue to transform conflicts non-violently.
- At least 500.000 of the most vulnerable citizens have been empowered in the territories through pedagogical campaigns to understand the relevance of the peace agreement and to ensure the ownership in their territorial context.