



Thematic Review: Synergies between Human Rights and Peacebuilding in PBF-supported Programming

Case Study: Colombia

May 2024



Examined 7 PBF-funded projects for **\$12.4 million total**

International funding for peacebuilding work in Colombia is guided through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), which had supported **290 projects**, worth **\$188 million**, since its creation in 2016 through October 2023.

PBF-supported activities in Colombia – like this PBF/COL/C-1 project outreach effort related to the Truth Commission – helped realize the commitments of the 2016 peace agreement for affected communities.

Context:

The peace agreement signed in 2016 by the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) sought to end a five-decade conflict, in part by addressing root causes such as human rights violations. The 2016 agreement emphasized transitional justice, issues of inequality and inequity (especially for rural populations), and enhancing participation of women and ethnic minorities. **Because of the strong anchorage of human rights within the 2016 peace agreement, pursuing key human rights objectives** – including advancing transitional justice, addressing the rights of marginalized groups and socio-economic inequity, advancing women's participation and gender equality – **were all seen as integral to advancing peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Colombia.** They were a way to demonstrate the dividends of peace, to expand the peace process by enhancing the credibility of the Government of Colombia, and to prevent further round of conflict by addressing root causes.

Best Practices:



Investing in distinct but iterative projects can help overcome barriers, and increase catalytic effects and sustainability, as was seen in investments in the three projects related to the Truth Commission.



Supporting dissemination and outreach of transitional justice findings is important for ensuring the transitional justice legacy. “Gap-filling” and continuing funding may be necessary to achieve this.



Successful strategies for participation and empowerment of women and of other minority groups may require **first addressing underlying needs and vulnerabilities** (including livelihood or family care needs, or psycho-social support). Measures to address economic and social needs or associated rights can be a spring board to enable greater civic and political participation.



Seeding capacity for critical change through investing in the capacities of civil society organizations, and supporting linkages between different rights networks and groups, may be among the most catalytic (and sustainable) of investments.



Socio-economic and psycho-social support, and attention to underlying vulnerabilities may be necessary for youth activists to take steps toward political participation and empowerment.

Projects:

[PBF/COL/A-3](#); [PBF/COL/C-1](#); [PBF/COL/A-5](#)

Key Focus: Iterative projects supporting the Truth Commission formation, documentation, dissemination & outreach. National focus with specific CSO outreach activities in multiple departments.

Key Results: Supported one of the flagship initiatives in the peace process, a strategic anchor for human rights and peacebuilding.

[PBF/IRF-401](#)

Key Focus: Work with CSO and media partners to promote the political participation of youth and women in the conflict-affected northern Cauca region.

Key Results: By creating women-only dialogue spaces, the project helped to build awareness and empowerment of women, leading to community mechanisms against domestic and intra-communal violence

[PBF/COL/B-1](#)

Key Focus: Responded to threats to human rights defenders and communities from armed groups in Chocó, Nariño, and Norte de Santander.

Key Results: Testing how reinforcement of State services, encouraging early warning and self-protection, and addressing economic issues that feed armed group dominance might enhance protection and reduce violence.



[PBF/IRF-266](#)

Key Focus: Worked to advance access to justice and TJ, and to support the empowerment of women, particularly victims of GBV, in Meta region.

Key Results: Helped enable women and other disadvantaged groups to advance political and civil rights, in part through also addressing basic needs & economic, social and cultural rights (livelihoods, health care, childcare)

[PBF/IRF-400](#)

Key Focus: Supported LGBTQI+ people and Afro-Colombian and indigenous women in conflict-affected areas of Chocó, Putumayo, Valle del Cauca, and Cauca to participate in decision-making and be active in peacebuilding processes.

Key Results: Helped reinforce and strengthen women's rights groups and newer LGBTQI+ groups, in part by linking the two together.

The Colombia case study projects were implemented by: UNDP and OHCHR ([PBF/COL/A-3](#), [PBF/COL/C-1](#) and [PBF/COL/A-5](#)); OHCHR and UN Women ([PBF/IRF-266](#)); Christian Aid Ireland ([PBF/IRF-400](#)); Norwegian Refugee Council ([PBF/IRF-401](#)); and UNDP and UNODC ([PBF/COL/B-1](#)).

To read the full case study, please visit PBF website

un.org/peacebuilding/content/human_rights_and_peacebuilding_TR