

THE PBF IN COLOMBIA



UN Photo/Gill Fickling

Peacebuilding Challenges

In November 2016, the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed the final peace agreement, bringing a formal end to the 53-year-old Colombian internal armed 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. According to official estimates, more than 260,000 people were killed in the armed conflict solely in the period between 1985 and 2016, and more than 8 million victims (including 7.1 millions of IDPs) now expect a proper response in terms of truth, justice and reparation.

Colombia entered a more difficult phase following the signature of the peace agreement and now faces the challenges of developing and implementing a process to reintegrate former combatants, taking forward transitional justice, and tackling the root causes of conflict through the corresponding provisions of the peace agreement. There is also significant opposition to the peace agreement in the national political arena, which is unfolding as the country prepares for a second presidential election round in June 2018, where one out of the two final candidates has reservations about the agreement.

PBF Intervention

The PBF has been active in Colombia since January 2014, when it supported communications for peace through the UN-led 'Respira Paz' (Breath Peace) campaign. The initiative was implemented through an inclusive and engaging approach that included mobile cinema, transmission of radio serial dramas and peace-related activities in conflict-affected municipalities. The positive messages of 'Respira Paz' were later complemented by a campaign spearheaded by Colombia's business community that encourages the population to envision their individual contributions to Colombia's peaceful future.

In 2017, PBF further supported the peace agreement accelerating collective reparation of victims in areas close to FARC cantonment sites. Reparation measures include a range of restorative actions prioritized by the victims themselves, to repair the damages suffered by the conflict. Initiatives include measures to rebuild social cohesion, repair community infrastructures and promote local agricultural and economic development.

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 INVESTMENTS IN COLOMBIA:

TOTAL ALLOCATION:

\$ 17 MILLION
invested since 2014

CURRENT PORTFOLIO:

\$ 15 MILLION

FOCUSING ON:



Rule of law



Employment



Reconciliation and social cohesion

PARTNERS:

UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNWOMEN, WFP, UNMAS (UNOPS), HALO Trust Fund, Norwegian People's Aid, Pastoral Caritas Colombia, CEPDIPO

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.

The Colombian Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP), signed in September 2017, focuses on the following three inter-related outcome areas:

- 1. 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. 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. 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.

PBF 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 from PBF support in the conflict-affected townships of Guacoche, Santa Isabel, Mistrato, Pueblo Rico, La Balsita, San Francisco, and Granada, through improved health sector services, education opportunities and access to cultural and recreational activities. Thanks to the impact and good management of the project, the Ministry of Labor pledged more than USD 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.

Working Across Pillars

PBF support, through the Peacebuilding Priority Plan implemented by 9 UN agencies and 4 Civil Society Organizations, responds directly to national priorities identified by the government of Colombia, and is also closely coordinated with the priorities of the UN Verification Mission.

In November 2017, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened its first meeting to discuss the peace process in Colombia with the participation of government and civil society representatives. In the meeting, the participants, as well as Member States, welcomed the strong national ownership of the peace process and the advantage of the country having solid, democratic institutions.

Catalytic Effect

Together with Sweden, the PBF was the first contributors to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund of the United Nations for Post-Conflict in Colombia, which has now mobilized more than USD \$85 million for the implementation of the peace agreement. In December 2017, the PBF approved an additional five projects valued at USD \$12 million in support of Colombia. A unique feature of PBF's activities in Colombia is the use of the trust fund under the leadership of the national authorities.

About the PBF

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the organization's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The PBF may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations. From 2006 to 2017, the PBF has allocated \$772 million to 41 recipient countries. Since inception, 58 member states contributed to the Fund, 33 in the present 2017-2019 Business Plan. The PBF works across pillars and supports integrated UN responses to fill critical gaps; respond quickly and with flexibility to political opportunities; and catalyze processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion.