





September 2023



### PBF Investments in

 **TOTAL APPROVED:** \$43.9 M

 **CURRENTLY ACTIVE:** \$12.7 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 Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a Final Peace Agreement, bringing an end to the 53-year-old Colombian conflict. The agreement addressed the root causes of the conflict, including limited access to land and historical development gaps, including 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. Since 2016, the implementation of the provisions of the 2016 Final Peace Accord has centered UN support to national peace strategies in Colombia. Despite significant progress, challenges remain to sustainable reintegrate former combatants, taking forward transitional justice, promoting the participation of women and youth, including the voices of vulnerable groups and tackling the root causes of conflict.

### PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The PBF has been investing in Colombia since January 2014, when a first project was approved to support communications for peace. In 2017, following a Government request, the UN declared Colombia eligible to access funds under the PBF's Peacebuilding and Recovery facility (PRF).

Following the signing of the 2016 Final Peace Agreement, with PBF funding, the UN System in Colombia has supported efforts to meet the commitments of the Agreement around issues of reintegration of former combatants, territorial peace initiatives in prioritized regions, transitional justice and innovative finance for peace.

In addition to the PRF funds channeled through the United Nations Multi-Donor Fund for Peace in Colombia, since 2018 the PBF has supported the implementation of 13 joint projects submitted by UN entities as well as Colombian and international civil society organizations under its competitive Gender and Youth Promotion initiative.

## 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 2016 'Respira Paz' campaign reached more than 32,000 people and helped 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 organization, contributing to the liberation of land and the construction and maintenance of peace in the territory. In 2022 the PBF supported a project focused on strengthening care capacities and opportunities for women in the process of reintegration.

In response to the Secretary-General's call to explore innovative finance solutions for peacebuilding, in 2019 the Fund supported seven private sector investments in conflict-affected territories through blended finance mechanisms. An initial investment of \$2.1 million 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 2022 the PBF supported the dissemination of the Truth Commission's final report.

In 2023, the Fund approved an additional IRF project aimed at providing timely and flexible support to ongoing peace efforts related to additional conflicts and sources of violence.

## 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 \$223 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.