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PEACEBUILDING AND GOVERNANCE OFFICE (PGO)

Supporting peace in Colombia through justice, inclusion, reconciliation, human rights, citizen security, and good governance.

OVERVIEW

USAID's Peacebuilding and Governance Office (PBG) works with civil society, private sector actors and the Government of Colombia (GOC) to extend sustainable peace and effective state presence to conflict-affected communities. PBG focuses on the social and economic inclusion of women, indigenous, Afro-Colombians, conflict victims, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. PBG also strengthens government actors' capacities to better respond to citizen needs, thereby increasing citizen confidence in the state. To do so, PBG improves the delivery of vital public services in target communities, like health, education, justice, citizen security and human rights protections. Through the combination of these actions, PBG promotes a more cohesive and inclusive Colombian society, and fosters a society resilient to conflict.

COMPONENTS

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, RECONCILIATION, AND INCLUSION

PBG advances human rights for all. It does this by strengthening protections for social leaders and human rights defenders, two groups that are targeted for defending peace and licit development in rural Colombia. PBG also promotes the social and economic inclusion of Afro-Colombian, indigenous people, and other vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by Colombia's conflict. PBG supports victims' rights to truth, reparations, and non-repetition through support to the Victims Law, the Truth Commission, and the Search for Missing Persons Unit. PBG also improves victims' rehabilitation, reconciliation and reintegration services and processes.

IMPROVING RULE OF LAW AND CITIZEN SECURITY

PBG prevents violence and improves citizen security. It does this by establishing protective spaces, fostering economic and social stability for violence-affected youth, and strengthening human rights prevention systems, like the Ombudsman's Early Warning System. To improve citizen security, PBG strengthens community-based protection mechanisms and encourages community engagement with security actors. PBG increases citizens' access to justice through justice houses, mobile justice brigades, and alternative dispute resolution services. PBG also works with the Attorney General's Office to reduce impunity in priority cases, particularly those cases related to gender-based violence (GBV) and human rights defender threats and homicides.

STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

PBG partners with municipal, department and national government actors to improve public service delivery and expand state presence to hard-to-reach areas of Colombia. PBG helps municipal and departmental administrations access additional tax and royalty revenues, improve their public financial management capacities, and engage civil society to better respond to citizen needs, including needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. PBG also partners with civil society actors to foster more transparent and accountable governance processes and systems.

RESULTS

- Supported 43 municipal human rights protection committees;
- Provided over 838,000 conflict victims with psychosocial assistance;
- Established 38 women-led beekeeping projects in Zaragoza and Nechí;
- Trained over 34,000 activists and social leaders in human rights topics;
- Assisted 60 companies and women's associations to build their business models;
- Encouraged over 27,000 victims to participate in policymaking and policy implementation;
- Supported five victims' hearings before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;
- Helped 300 people with disabilities develop social and physical skills through sports and psychosocial programs;
- Conducted an Open Government diagnosis in 18 municipalities and used this diagnosis to provide local governments with actionable recommendations; and
- Carried out 151 advocacy actions before the Colombian Congress, the Constitutional Court and international bodies about the development and implementation of the Victims Law and its reform.