COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LICIT OPPORTUNITIES (CDLO)

Fostering rural development through civil participation and legal economic livelihoods.

OVERVIEW

Community Development and Licit Opportunities (CDLO) supports peacebuilding in conflict-affected communities through economic development. It does this by promoting citizen participation in the design, delivery, and monitoring of rural development policies and activities. CDLO works in 51 municipalities in nine departments, Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Cordoba, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Putumayo, and runs from August 2017-August 2023.

CDLO was created in response to the negative impact that Colombia’s 52-year armed conflict had on rural communities. Conflict weakened the social fabric in these communities, and discouraged citizens from participating in municipal affairs, community organizations, and democratic processes. As the Colombian Government begins to develop historically neglected rural areas, rebuilding social networks and trust will be essential to creating long lasting peace. CDLO is fostering citizen participation in local affairs and promoting licit and sustainable economies that will allow rural Colombians to live in dignity and peace.
COMPONENTS

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

CDLO strengthens social capital by encouraging coordination between communities and public institutions during local planning and development efforts. Citizen engagement in these efforts fosters trust between community, public, and private sector actors, and helps build a shared vision for regional development.

IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICES

CDLO helps public institutions basic public services, like health and education. Investments in public services strengthen social capital and enable local institutions to better serve their communities.

ACCELERATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CDLO develops economic partnerships between community, public, and private sector actors. The goal of these partnerships is to upgrade physical infrastructure, improve regional connectivity, and enhance access to public and private services needed for investment, entrepreneurship, and economic growth.

CREATING DIALOGUE MECHANISMS

CDLO encourages dialogue between communities, government institutions and the private sector. Open dialogue increases trust between citizens and Colombian Government entities, and guarantees that key stakeholders are included in rural development efforts.

RESULTS

- Leveraged USD $87.3 million in private-public funds;
- Implemented 238 small-scale infrastructure projects to support economic growth;
- Reduced regional travel times by 31 percent through small-scale infrastructure projects;
- Improved the lives of 12,429 rural households through economic development interventions;
- Engaged 771 community organizations to promote rural development and strengthen alternative development; and
- Invested USD $10.3 million, and leveraged USD $25.4 million from the private sector, to promote economic development through tourism, handicrafts, gastronomy, non-timber forest products, and music and culture.