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INCLUSION FOR PEACE ACTIVITY (IPA)

Fostering indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities' social and economic inclusion in Colombia.

OVERVIEW

The Inclusion for Peace Activity (IPA) fosters indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities' social and economic inclusion. These communities have been disproportionately affected by Colombia's armed conflict and their inclusion in society is essential to advance peace and reconciliation in the country. IPA is being implemented in the departments of Antioquia, Bolivar, Cauca, Chocó, Cundinamarca, Guaviare, La Guajira, Nariño and Valle del Cauca and runs from November 2016 – June 2021.

The armed conflict has taken a heavy toll on Colombia's ethnic communities. Over 45 percent of Afro-Colombians are conflict victims and indigenous people are three times more likely to be displaced from their land by armed actors than the rest of the population. Despite policy and constitutional advances, progress has been slow in meeting the needs of ethnic communities. IPA works with the Government of Colombia (GOC) and indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities to better address ethnic communities' needs, challenges and interests.

COMPONENTS

ENHANCING CAPACITIES

IPA enhances GOC efforts to respond conflict-affected ethnic communities' needs and to engage these communities in peacebuilding. IPA works with GOC institutions and civil society actors to implement the 2016 Peace Agreement between the GOC and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in ethnic communities. The activity also strengthens GOC, ethnic organizations and traditional authorities' capacities to develop and implement plans that safeguard ethnic groups' rights.

DEVELOPING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

IPA works with private sector actors to develop job opportunities. The activity does this by promoting business development, strengthening existing businesses and increasing rural communities' agricultural production. IPA also works with businesses to develop inclusive practices that increase formal employment opportunities for indigenous and Afro-Colombian individuals.

PROMOTING ETHNIC INCLUSION

IPA supports cultural and communications campaigns to increase awareness and respect for ethnic diversity. The activity partners with ethnic communities to preserve cultural heritage and builds awareness of indigenous and Afro-Colombian among the broader Colombian society.

PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

IPA helps respond to unforeseen events, like the emergence of COVID-19, by adapting its activities to better respond to the immediate needs of the ethnic communities it serves.

RESULTS

- Encouraged 7,568 households to start inclusive business initiatives;
- Helped 8,328 indigenous and Afro-Colombian community members find formal employment;
- Supported 149 civil society organizations;
- Leveraged over USD \$32 million in third-party funds;
- Benefited over 35,000 indigenous and Afro-Colombian community members through program activities;
- Encouraged 20,184 indigenous and Afro-Colombian students to participate in academic improvement initiatives; and
- Provided nearly 2,400 families from ethnic communities with food, water and non-medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic and supported food security activities to help ethnic communities recover.