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RURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (RED)

Supporting peacebuilding efforts through economic development and inclusion.

OVERVIEW

USAID's Rural and Economic Development Office (RED) brings new economic opportunities to rural regions in Colombia. RED addresses key challenges related to economic growth like strengthening rural producer associations and value chains; increasing access to financial services; promoting equitable and secure land tenure; and helping community organizations participate in regional decision making and development. RED also partners public and private organizations to leverage new investments in rural communities, address the causes of conflict, and create participatory solutions to regional challenges.

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COMPONENTS

DEVELOPING RURAL AGRICULTURE AND LICIT VALUE CHAINS

RED facilitates linkages between markets and rural producers. It does this by improving farm-to-market infrastructure, strengthening farming practices, promoting business and cooperative development, and increasing rural producers' access to finance.

PROMOTING RURAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION

RED develops programs to raise and channel private capital into conflict-afflicted regions. It helps financial institutions expand services into rural regions; provides equity investments for rural agribusinesses; and incentivizes financial services and credits to support rural agriculture and businesses.

CREATING EQUITABLE AND SECURE LAND TENURE

RED supports the development of tools, systems, and skills which enable the GOC to resolve land restitution and titling issues. It supports GOC institutions in achieving their 10-year targets, which include issuing titles to 500,000 rural families, and restituting land to 360,000 conflict victim households.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

RED works with community-based organizations in conflict-affected rural areas to strengthen citizen engagement. This includes strengthening local organizations' abilities to advocate for their developmental priorities; increasing citizen engagement in public service provision; and helping community groups become effective partners in the implementation of GOC peace-building activities.

RESULTS

- Formalized 13,706 land titles since 2013;
- Improved 1,793 kilometers tertiary roads since 2013;
- Generated over USD \$32 million in sales across value chains since 2013;
- Distributed USD \$4.7 million in loans to milk and cassava farmers;
- Helped over 855,600 citizens access financial services, 49% of whom were women;
- Implemented an agricultural extension model that increased cacao yields from by up to four times;
- Established 303 new banking partners and opened 53 bank branches to provide financial services to rural communities; and
- Invested USD \$3.1 million in KINGO, a clean energy services company that provides decentralized solar energy services to rural families and businesses in off-grid villages, enhancing their agribusiness capabilities and helping to reduce poverty.