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REGIONAL GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY (RGA)

Strengthening government capacities and citizen participation.

OVERVIEW

The Regional Governance Activity (RGA) strengthens national, departmental, and municipal governments' capacities to effectively engage civil society, improve public management, and deliver public services. RGA provides technical assistance to municipal and departmental governments to address governance challenges and to coordinate with the national government in the design and implementation of policies and programs. RGA strengthens civil society engagement in public decision-making processes and encourages community oversight of public funds, goods, and services.

RGA helps municipal and departmental officials in the border departments of Arauca, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander respond to the influx of Venezuelan migrants and Colombian returnees and now the COVID-19 pandemic. RGA works in 10 departments and runs from June 2015 to June 2021.

COMPONENTS

ENCOURAGING DECENTRALIZATION

RGA enhances decentralization by improving municipal and departmental administrations' operational capacities and by encouraging civil society actors to participate in decentralization discussions.

INCREASING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

RGA improves municipal administrations' financial management capacities so they can better deliver public services to their constituents.

IMPROVING SECONDARY AND TERTIARY ROADS

RGA improves secondary and tertiary road infrastructure normative, institutional, and procedural frameworks. The activity also supports the development of community-based associations for the improvement and maintenance of rural roads.

PROMOTING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

RGA encourages citizen participation to enhance transparency and accountability. It provides technical assistance to civil society organizations so they can oversee public financial management and investment.

ENHANCING ELECTORAL PROCESSES

RGA strengthens government capacities to prevent, investigate, and prosecute electoral crimes.

RESPONDING TO VENEZUELAN MIGRANTION AND COVID-19

Since 2019, RGA has focused on helping local governments in border regions address the needs of Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees and receptor communities. RGA also encourages local and national actors to develop medium and long-term solutions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESULTS

- Helped municipal and departmental governments mobilize over USD \$209.5 million in royalty funds to improve service delivery and increase government legitimacy in conflict-affected regions;
- Mobilized USD \$17.6 million in private investment through support to the Tax Deduction Schemes for Public Works (OXI) mechanism;
- Fostered the creation of 55 Areas Most Affected by Armed Conflict (ZOMAC) companies through support to the GOC in the design and implementation of the ZOMAC model;
- Mobilized USD \$6.6 million from the Territorial Pension Saving Fund (FONPET) in six municipalities to benefit migrants and receptor communities;
- Helped local schools develop risk management strategies that benefit more than 40,000 students, including 5,000 migrants;
- Supported the creation of 236 oversight groups to monitor USD \$120 million in public investments; Implemented 23 citizen initiatives to improve coexistence and reduce xenophobia; and
- Helped 6,000 migrants access health services through registration in municipal government census lists.