

FINAL MONITORING REPORT

EUROPEAN TRUST FUND FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA

As of June 30, 2024

1 European Trust Fund for Peace

The European Trust Fund for Peace is a European Union cooperation mechanism established on December 12, 2016, as a display of solidarity and political support to the Colombian Government in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. It is made up of the European Union itself, together with 21 of its Member States, the United Kingdom and Chile, with an overall contribution of more than €130 million. The purpose of the European Trust Fund for Peace is to “*support the implementation of provisions established in the Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the FARC - EP and to assist the Colombian population in overcoming the effects of fifty years of armed conflict*”^I, thus committing to respond in an effective and coordinated manner to peace-building, economic and social development needs in the most severely affected territories.

The Fund is implemented through 31 interventions, 29 projects and 2 budgetary aids to the Colombian State, implemented by 27 partner agencies, including central government institutions, United Nations agencies, cooperation agencies of Member States, research institutes and national and international NGOs. The actions of the European Trust Fund for Peace have been deployed in 27 departments and 181 municipalities in the country, having greater presence in Caquetá, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño and Putumayo, and reaching a wide range of communities and population groups, mainly central, departmental and local public institutions, education institutions, organizations of farmers, private companies, community organizations, women, signatories of the Peace Agreement (hereinafter signatories), peasant and indigenous communities, youth organizations and, at large, the rural population of the territories mostly affected by the armed conflict.

This wealth and diversity of contexts, interventions and actors involved in the implementation of the Fund

converge in six dimensions or **Strategic Pillars** conceived with a twofold purpose. On the one hand, to provide a common ground or identity to the plurality of interventions implemented by the Fund, fostering a sense of belonging to a larger intervention - the European Union Trust Fund for Peace - to whose purposes they are contributing. On the other hand, to guide the analysis of these contributions, their aggregation and the construction of evidence on the effects or repercussions of the Fund in connection with the implementation of the Peace Agreement. The Fund's Strategic Pillars are:

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1. **Reconciliation and conflict de-escalation**
 2. **Economic and social reintegration of former FARC-EP members into social and economic life**
 3. **Population inclusion: young people, women and ethnic groups**
 4. **Sustainable and inclusive productivity**
 5. **Legitimizing presence of the State and local government**
 6. **European Union added value**
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The first five are thematically aligned with the Fund's priorities for action, as reflected in its Strategy Document^{II}, these pillars being those considered in the framework of the Fund's Monitoring and Evaluation System. Pillar 6 refers to one of the principles of the European Union's development cooperation, which is considered in a cross-cutting manner throughout the other pillars.

The Pillars thus conceived guide and structure three fundamental instruments of the Fund's management: the **Monitoring and Evaluation System**, the Communication and Visibility strategy, and the Knowledge Management strategy.

^I Agreement establishing the European Union Trust Fund for Colombia, signed in Brussels in December 2016.

^{II} European Union Trust Fund Strategy Document for Colombia.

2 The Monitoring and Evaluation System of the European Trust Fund for Peace

One of the main tools to support the management of the European Trust Fund for Peace has been the Monitoring and Evaluation System (M&E), launched in March 2019. Initially, the M&E system was comprised of 28 indicators grouped into 12 thematic areas and three additional general indicators^{III}, most of them were output indicators created from the aggregation and consolidation of the values of certain indicators of the Fund's projects under execution at the time. In this first stage, the M&E system focused mainly on quantitative information, collected and processed on a quarterly basis.

Subsequently, the increase in the number of Fund interventions, together with the importance of collecting more complete information on key aspects such as the reintegration into civilian life of former FARC-EP members or assistance to priority population groups, such as women, led to the revision and expansion of the first set of indicators, so that since October 2020 the set of indicators has been made up of 36 Global Indicators (GI), coordinated around the five Strategic Pillars of the Fund, understood as tools to facilitate the results oriented approach of the Fund's implementation. In the revision carried out, a good deal of the initial indicators remained, some were dropped and new impact indicators were added. The sources of information also underwent some changes, as the GI were created not only with information from the more than 380 project indicators, but also with information collected by direct request, in order to avoid underreporting due to some mismatches between the project indicators and the Fund's GIs.

Another important change in the second stage of the M&E System was the systematic collection of qualitative information, incorporating a set of generative questions in addition to the GI set, with the aim of gathering indications of the first outcomes of the Fund, to perform further analysis on them later on. The frequency of the collection

of quantitative information continued to be quarterly, while the qualitative information has been collected every six months.

In this context, as of October 2020 the quarterly reports of the M&E System have collected quantitative information, with the cumulative results in the 36 GI that address five pillars or strategic dimensions of the Fund, through their relevant key areas (see the table in the following pages). This structure, **global indicators → key domains → strategic pillars**, defines the framework for analyzing the monitoring and measurement of the Fund's results, mainly in quantitative terms. Quantitative information is combined with qualitative information which brings us closer to the early effects brought about by the Fund on its target groups.

This qualitative dimension takes the form of what, in terms of the Fund's M&E system, are called case studies. This is the result of an exercise of inquiry and analysis of a relevant initiative or experience (case), which allows to illustrate in a specific and brief manner (review) the early effects of the interventions on individuals, organizations, communities and beneficiary agencies, giving a human face to the Fund's contribution to the implementation of the Peace Agreement. The experiences reflected in the case studies were first identified in the qualitative information reported every six months by the projects to the M&E System, further analyzed through dialogue with the work teams of the agencies executing the interventions and, fundamentally, with the groups involved in the initiatives analyzed.

As of the closing date of this Final Report, twenty quarterly reports^{IV} have been drafted and published within the framework of the M&E System, thirteen of which have included case studies, and having a total of 62 case studies written.

III. Inclusive economic development, Infrastructure, public goods and services, Access to markets, Food security, Institutional strengthening, Organizational strengthening, Citizen participation and advocacy, Reintegration, Roots and territorial identity, Pedagogy and communication for peace, Environment and Knowledge management.

IV. All quarterly Fund monitoring reports are available on the Fund's website: <https://www.fondoeuropeoparalapaz.eu/publicaciones/>

Set of indicators of the Fund's Monitoring and Evaluation System

Strategic pillar	Domain	Global indicators
PILLAR 1. Reconciliation and conflict de-escalation	Actors in the territory with capacities for the promotion of a culture of peace and the reduction of conflicts	<p>Indicator #1. Number of people who strengthen their capabilities to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in their communities</p> <p>Indicator #2. Number of local and territorial spaces for participation that receive technical assistance or support for their actions in defense of human rights and peace building</p>
	Pedagogy and communication on dialogue, peace building and progress in the implementation of the Peace Agreement	<p>Indicator #3. Number of people who have participated in forums, meetings and/or dialogue spaces for peace building, reconciliation and strengthening of territorial capital</p> <p>Indicator #4. Number of people involved in community media who have strengthened their capacities in social communication for peace building</p> <p>Indicator #5. Number of community radio stations in municipalities affected by the armed conflict that have increased their thematic content for peace building and reconciliation</p>
	Reconciliation between former FARC-EP members and surrounding communities	<p>Indicator #6. Number of reintegrated individuals and neighboring communities involved in activities of common interest and mutual trust</p>
PILLAR 2. Economic and social reintegration of former FARC-EP members into social and economic life	Productive economic integration, including strengthening of the solidarity economy, employment generation and access to the labor market	<p>Indicator #7. Number of people undergoing the reintegration process that improve their capacities for economic-productive insertion, including the strengthening of the solidarity economy</p> <p>Indicator #8. Number of cooperatives or grassroots associations, made up of people undergoing the process of reintegration, that implement business units</p> <p>Indicator #9. Number of people undergoing the reintegration process working in productive projects</p>
	Social rights	<p>Indicator #10. Number of people undergoing the process of reintegration who improve their access to basic services (education, health, housing, childcare, access to water, telecommunications)</p>
	Strengthening of capabilities for public policy advocacy	<p>Indicator #11. Number of people undergoing the reintegration process who have strengthened their capabilities for the practice of the citizenship</p> <p>Indicator #12. Number of organizations involved in territorial development planning</p>

Strategic pillar	Domain	Global indicators
PILLAR 3. Population inclusion: young people, women and ethnic groups	Participation of young people as agents of change in the local economic activity and as drivers of the social and cultural life of the territory	<p>Indicator #13. Number of youth organizations and rural educational institutions that develop projects through Third Party Financial Support or other investment strategies</p> <p>Indicator #14. Number of young people who have improved their skills for labor inclusion</p> <p>Indicator #15. Number of children and youth who have participated in cultural promotion and territorial identity initiatives</p>
	Procesos de gobernanza propia de Government processes of ethnic communities under a human rights and gender equity approach, and their coordination with local institutions	Indicator #16. Number of traditional authorities that receive technical support in their planning or institutional strengthening processes
	Positioning of women in the local economy	Indicator #17. Number of productive initiatives led by women strengthened or started up
	Women's leadership, participation and advocacy	<p>Indicator #18. Number of women's organizations, networks and platforms technically or financially supported to improve their participation and impact on local and regional public life</p> <p>Indicator #19. Number of women who effectively join citizen participation spaces and decision-making bodies in the context of local development</p>
	Prevention and assistance for gender-based violence and the role of the State as guarantor of a life free of violence	<p>Indicator #20. Number of public institutions and civil society spaces that have improved their conditions to prevent gender-based violence and care for victims</p> <p>Indicator #21. Number of women victims of gender-based violence assisted by public institutions or civil society organizations</p>
PILLAR 4. Sustainable and inclusive productivity	Food security and resilience of the most vulnerable families and communities	Indicator #22. Number of families producing food for self-consumption and local marketing under agro-ecological practices
	Stimulation of the productive fabric in the territory	<p>Indicator #23. Number of infrastructures built or restored to strengthen production chains</p> <p>Indicator #24. Number of organizations that develop their own projects through third party financial support or other investment strategies</p> <p>Indicator #25. Number of people supported in the implementation of sustainable productive models or in the strengthening of their rural economic activity</p>
	Support for the commercialization and development of small and medium-sized enterprises	<p>Indicator #26. Number of producer organizations and SMEs that have improved their capacities to access markets and establish commercial partnerships</p> <p>Indicator #27. Number of productive units or partnerships that have received sanitary, quality or collective brand certifications</p>

Strategic pillar	Domain	Global indicators
PILAR 4. Sustainable and inclusive productivity	Strengthening of the organizational fabric around economic activity and business drive	Indicator #28. Number of producer organizations or SMEs that have strengthened their administrative, operational and commercial processes
	Production models that involve sustainable practices adapted to climate change and restoration of the natural environment	Indicator #29. Number of people implementing good environmental practices or climate change adaptation/mitigation strategies on their properties and economic activities Indicator #30. Number of hectares with silvopastoral, agroforestry systems or in transition to other sustainable production/use models Indicator #31. Number of hectares of land and water ecosystems recovered or protected by local communities
PILAR 5. Legitimizing presence of the State and local government	Capacity of local public institutions in the planning and implementation of public policies	Indicator #32. Number of territorial agencies that receive technical support for policy planning or institutional strengthening Indicator #33. Number of rural educational institutions that have adjusted their education plans with a territorial approach
	Capacity of the social fabric for proactive participation and advocacy in the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies	Indicator #34. Number of community networks and citizen platforms supported to improve their impact on public life
	Coverage of basic public services and improvement of infrastructure by the State with community support.	Indicator #35. Number of infrastructures built or restored with the participation of the State and the community Indicator #36. Number of people in municipalities affected by the armed conflict that improve their access to basic public services.

3 The Final Report on the Trust Fund's Monitoring and Evaluation System

This Final Report provides the consolidated results of the Monitoring and Evaluation System (M&E) of the European Union Trust Fund for Peace since its implementation in the first quarter of 2019, until June 2024, when most of the Fund's interventions have been completed or no longer show significant changes in their indicators because they are in the final phase of implementation, therefore, the values collected are considered final^V.

List of interventions of the European Union Trust Fund for Peace and Status as of June 30, 2024

No. of Agreement	Project (Short Name)	Partner Agency	Status
T06.4	Mascapaz	Instituto Amazónico de Investigaciones Científicas Sinchi (Amazonian Institute of Scientific Research)	In progress
T06.41	Mujeres que transforman (Women who Transform)	Conexión-ICCO	In progress
T06.60.61.62	Rutas PDET (PDET Routes)	Red Adelco, Conexión-ICCO and Alianza Bioversity CIAT	In progress
T06.68 (*)	Budgetary support for the National Reintegration Policy	Agency for Reintegration and Normalization - ARN	In progress
T06.73 (*)	Budgetary support to Land and sustainable territories for peace	National Land Agency - ANT	In progress
T06.94	Piscicultura del Común (Community Fish Farming)	Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli - CISP	In progress
T06.3	Frontepaz	Instituto de Investigaciones Ambientales del Pacífico – IIAP (Environmental Research Institute of the Pacific)	Closed
T06.8	Territorios Caqueteños (Caquetá Territories)	Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr - IMVF	Closed
T06.9	Rural paz (Rural Peace)	Conexión-ICCO	Closed
T06.10	PUEDES	Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli - CISP	Closed
T06.13	Colombia 2020	El Espectador	Closed
T06.14	Amazonia joven Guaviare (Young Amazon Guaviare)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO	Closed
T06.17	Amazonia joven Caquetá (Young Amazon Caquetá)	Corporación Manigua - CORPOMANIGUA	Closed
T06.22	Radios comunitarias (Community radio stations)	Red de medios de comunicación comunitarios de Santander – RESANDER (Santander Community Media Network)	Closed
T06.27	Psychosocial support	Society for Psychological Assistance - SPA	Closed
T06.28	Colombia PUEDE (Colombia CAN)	International Trade Center - ITC	Closed
T06.32	Tejidos (Fabrics)	ForumCiv	Closed
T06.34	Territorios solidarios y sostenibles (Solidarity and sustainable territories)	Confederación Mundial de la Mujer Colombia – CMMC (World Confederation of Women Colombia)	Closed
T06.2	Rutas para la paz (Routes to peace)	Instituto Financiero para el Desarrollo de Valle del Cauca – INFIVALLE (Financial Institute for the Development of Valle del Cauca)	Administrative closure

V. To learn more about the Trust Fund's interventions and their updated progress, please visit the following link:
<https://www.fondoeuropeoparalapaz.eu/proyectos/>

No. of Agreement	Project (Short Name)	Partner Agency	Status
T06.5	Pazadentro	Asociación Cabildos Indígenas Nasa Cha Cha (Association of Nasa Cha Cha Indigenous Government Boards)	Administrative closure
T06.11	Estabilización Puerto Guzmán (Stabilization of Puerto Guzmán)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO	Administrative closure
T06.20	PDT Nariño	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo – AECID (Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development)	Administrative closure
T06.23	Integración para la reconciliación (Integration for reconciliation)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO	Administrative closure
T06.24	Caminemos	Office National des Forêts – ONF Andina	Administrative closure
T06.25	Humanicemos DH	Servicio de Acción contra Minas de las Naciones Unidas – UNMAS (United Nations Mine Action Service)	Administrative closure
T06.29	SER Putumayo	Corporación para el Desarrollo Sostenible del Sur de la Amazonia – Corpoamazonía (Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the South of the Amazon - Corpoamazonía)	Administrative closure
T06.33	Constructores de paz (Peace Builders)	Fundación Lazos de Dignidad (Bonds of Dignity Foundation)	Administrative closure
T06.35	Comunidades de economía Solidaria (Solidarity economy communities)	LKS - ALECOP	Administrative closure
T06.37	MIA	Acción Cultural Popular – ACPO (People's Cultural Action)	Administrative closure
T06.39	Aremos Paz	ForumCiv	Administrative closure
T06.97	Taller Escuela	Escuela Taller de Cali (Cali School Workshop)	Administrative closure

It is noteworthy to mention that the budgetary supports, highlighted in the table with (*), have their own follow-up mechanisms and do not report to the Fund's M&E System. Nevertheless, for this Final Report we have developed some case studies in order to highlight some of their achievements to date.

The Final Report, in addition to these first introductory remarks, includes the **values achieved in the Fund's 36 Global Indicators (GI)**, grouped by strategic pillars and areas of action, with a brief description in each case of what the GI is measuring. Each pillar additionally includes a **selection of three case studies**, which show concrete effects of the Fund's interventions. In the case of Pillar 2 and Pillar 4, the case studies are included for the two budget supports.

Case Studies included in the Fund's M&E System Final Report

Key Domain	Case Studies
Pillar 1. Reconciliation and conflict de-escalation	
Actors in the territory with skills for the promotion of culture	Strengthening of Social-emotional Capacities in young people for peace and the reduction of conflicts in Bajo Putumayo
Pedagogy and communication on dialogue, peace building and progress in the implementation of the Peace Agreement	Communication for peace, a necessary tool for tolerance and reconciliation in Colombia
Reconciliation between former FARC-EP members and neighboring communities	HUMANICEMOS DH delivers the first area free of suspected explosive devices
Pillar 2. Economic and social reintegration of former FARC-EP members into social and economic life	
Productive economic integration, including strengthening of the solidarity economy, employment creation and access to the labor market	Professional strengthening of the Cooperativa Multiactiva Ecomún 'Jaime Pardo Leal' of Guaviare
Productive economic integration, including strengthening of the solidarity economy, employment generation and access to the labor market	ECOMÚN, strengthening of the social and solidarity economy of signatories
Social rights	Strengthening of the National Reintegration Policy through Budgetary Support
Pillar 3. Population inclusion: young people, women and ethnic groups	
Participation of young people as agents of change in the local economic activity and as drivers of the social and cultural life of the territory	Young Nariño entrepreneurs and agents of change in their territory
Positioning of women in the local economy	Chocoamazonic: a dream come true for Caquetá women
Women's leadership, participation and advocacy	Indigenous women leaders of Putumayo with better tools to influence in their territories and in the defense of indigenous life
Pillar 4. Sustainable and inclusive productivity	
Revitalization of the productive fabric in the territory	The National Land Agency has the tools to reverse the legal insecurity of peasant communities in land tenure
Support for the commercialization and development of small and medium-sized enterprises	Venturing on cup coffee growing
Productive models involving sustainable practices adapted to climate change and natural restoration	Silvopastoral systems: Improving income and decreasing deforestation in Guaviare
Pillar 5. Legitimizing presence of the State and local government	
Capacity of local public institutions in the planning and implementation of public policies	The formulation of public policies for gender equity in Putumayo, a space for institutional coordination and legitimization of the State's presence in the territory
Coverage of basic public services and improvement of infrastructure by the State with community support	Access to water in rural communities in Tumaco
Coverage of basic public services and improvement of infrastructure by the State with the support of the community	Small-scale infrastructure in Meta improves access to and quality of education and the well-being of the education community

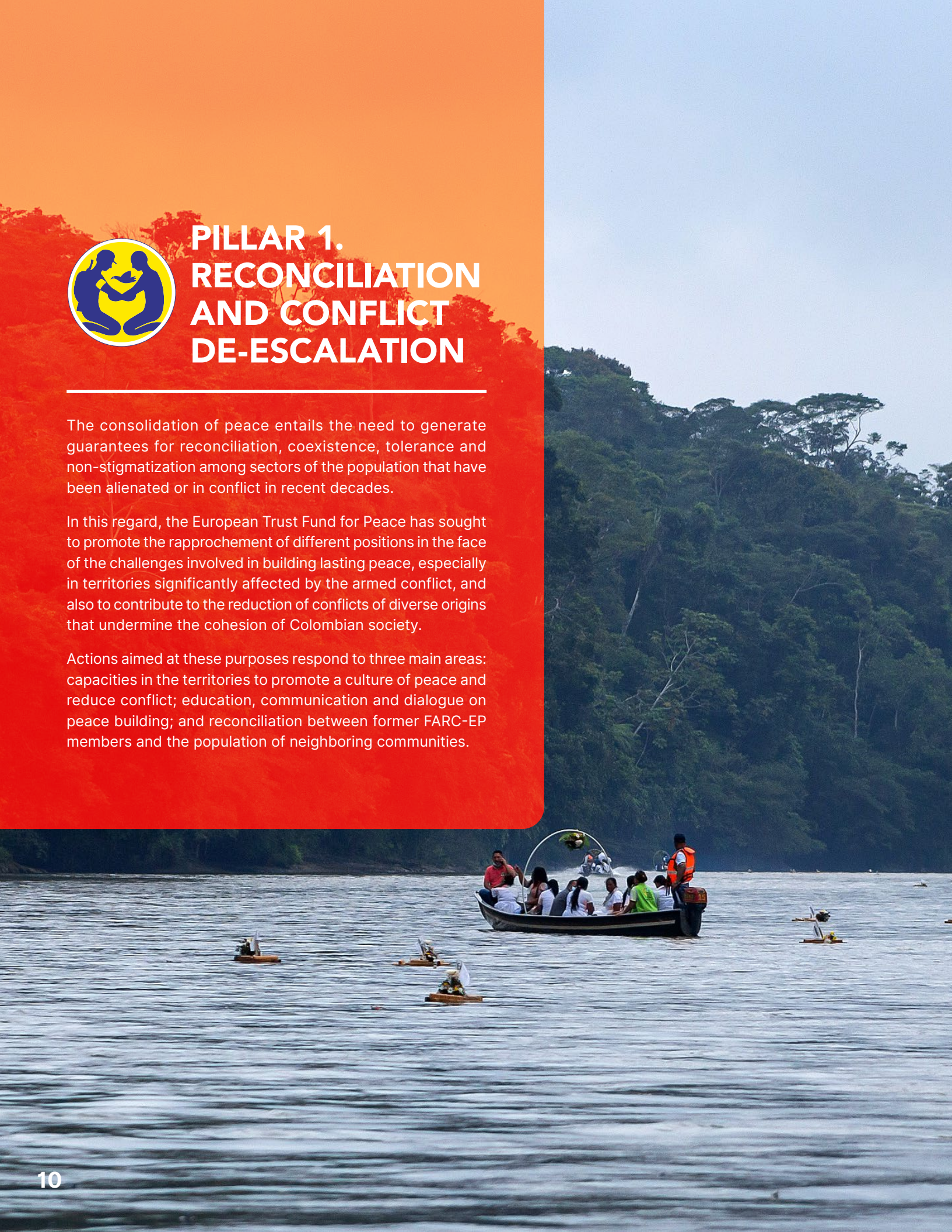


PILLAR 1. RECONCILIATION AND CONFLICT DE-ESCALATION

The consolidation of peace entails the need to generate guarantees for reconciliation, coexistence, tolerance and non-stigmatization among sectors of the population that have been alienated or in conflict in recent decades.

In this regard, the European Trust Fund for Peace has sought to promote the rapprochement of different positions in the face of the challenges involved in building lasting peace, especially in territories significantly affected by the armed conflict, and also to contribute to the reduction of conflicts of diverse origins that undermine the cohesion of Colombian society.

Actions aimed at these purposes respond to three main areas: capacities in the territories to promote a culture of peace and reduce conflict; education, communication and dialogue on peace building; and reconciliation between former FARC-EP members and the population of neighboring communities.





Actors in the territory with capabilities for the promotion of a culture of peace and the reduction of conflicts

5.710 people have strengthened their capabilities to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in their communities

The European Trust Fund for Peace has promoted various actions to promote reconciliation and the reconstruction of the social fabric in territories affected by the armed conflict. Different population groups, such as peasant organizations, community leaders, teachers, students and ethnic authorities in departments such as Antioquia, Arauca, Cauca, Caquetá, Cesar, Guaviare, Huila, La Guajira, Meta, Nariño, Tolima and Putumayo, have greater knowledge and tools for the management and peaceful resolution of conflicts, the reconstruction of historical memory for non-repetition and the collective construction of peace in the territories.

11 local and territorial spaces for participation received technical assistance or support for their actions in defense of human rights and peace building

The implementation of the Peace Agreement considers the creation of several spaces for dialogue between the institutions, civil society actors and the communities affected by the armed conflict to promote peace in the territories, although there are limitations to their adequate performance. The Fund has supported the technical and strategic strengthening of some of these spaces; specifically, Municipal Peace Councils in the department of Valle del Cauca, and Victims' Workshop's in the department of Nariño, improving their capacity for agency and advocacy in local policies.

Pedagogy and communication on dialogue, peacebuilding and progress in the implementation of the Peace Agreement

3.320 people have participated in forums, meetings or dialogue spaces for peace building, reconciliation and strengthening of territorial capital

The Fund has promoted different spaces for dialogue and reflection on the progress, controversies and challenges posed by the implementation of the Peace Agreement. Institutions, academia, private sector, cooperation actors, social leaders, signatories, women, indigenous people, students - inter alia - have actively participated in local and national forums where they were able to exchange positions and views on peace building that do not always agree, thus contributing to generate more informed opinions on the subject.

335 people involved in community media have strengthened their skills in social communication for peace building

Community media are a strategic channel of communication and dissemination among the rural population and a fundamental tool for promoting peace education. The European Union Trust Fund for Peace has strengthened the broadcasting skills of journalists and social communicators, community leaders and reporting networks, mainly in Caquetá, Cauca, Guaviare, Nariño and Putumayo, through different training activities, including diploma courses and the exchange of experiences among broadcasters, to improve their performance in the post-conflict context.

44 community radio stations in municipalities affected by the armed conflict have increased their thematic content for peace building and reconciliation

The improvement of the capacities installed in the community radio stations supported by the Fund, both in terms of human resources capacities and the provision of broadcasting equipment, has resulted in greater coverage and broadcasting quality, reaching more remote territories, with new content that reflects the memory and testimonies of the communities on issues such as the armed conflict, resilience, reconciliation or the reintegration of former members of the FARC-EP, contributing to the democratization of information and the uptake of the Peace Agreement.

Reconciliation between former FARC-EP members and neighboring communities

4.555 reincorporated individuals and people from neighboring communities have engaged in activities of common interest and mutual trust

Within the framework of the Fund, several community coordination spaces have been implemented that have contributed to fostering rapprochement, interaction, mutual recognition, trust-building and reconciliation between FARC-EP ex-combatants who signed the Peace Agreement and the population of the neighboring or receiving communities. Different initiatives of a productive, cultural and sports nature, activities related to historical memory, community management or access to basic services, jointly developed by both communities to address shared problems, have contributed to transforming the imaginaries and perceptions of the conflict and to gradually rebuild the social fabric in areas with significant impacts.

Strengthening of social-emotional skills in young people from Bajo Putumayo

The fragile economic development in Putumayo, the lack of opportunities for decent jobs, the loss of cultural and territorial identity (fragmented by the armed conflict and illegal activities) and the weak state presence, result in the region's youth being more exposed to marginalization, more vulnerable to forced recruitment, and more likely to leave their territory. In addition, the conflict and violence present in their daily lives, coupled with a lack of self-esteem and discrimination, result in many young people seeking acceptance and social integration in the violence itself.

In this context, the PUEDES project, as part of its purpose of contributing to restore the social fabric and build a stable and lasting peace, promoted an initiative based on the belief that education can contribute to provide a variety of skills that empower people to better face the challenges of everyday life. The initiative focused on the value of cognitive and emotional learning for the comprehensive development of individuals, and on the recognition of Social Emotional Skills (CSE, from its name in Spanish, or SES) as tools to translate intentions into actions, establish positive relationships with family, friends and the community and avoid engaging in unhealthy lifestyles and antisocial behaviors.

Prior coordination with the Departamento Nacional de Planeación (DNP, from its name in Spanish, or National Planning Department) and national and departmental education authorities, the proposal was implemented during the months of March to November 2019 in seven rural education institutions in the municipalities of Orito, Puerto Asís, Puerto Caicedo, Puerto Leguízamo and Valle del Guamuez. The starting point was a diagnosis of 1,047 students, mostly between 13 and 15 years old, whereby three SES were prioritized: self-esteem, emotion management and empathy, with the conflict resolution

skill-goal. Based on this, teacher training activities were carried out, involving 77 teachers and 6 directors, as well as specific activities with students (in areas such as photography, theater, dance, reconstruction of historical memory, games, inter alia) to strengthen their SES, involving 266 students from 6th to 11th grade. The experience concluded with an ex-post evaluation of the SES of a total of 792 students, who also participated in the initial diagnosis.

The results show that, despite the short period of time wherein the experience unfolded, between 41% and 51% of the population improved the SES worked on, being the management of emotions, especially negative emotions, the skill wherein most young people achieved improvement, followed by empathy; self-esteem had a different behavior since it is a SES that requires a longer work period to show significant changes.

The improvement of skills to manage emotions such as anger, fear, guilt, etc., acquires special value considering the social and family environment wherein most of the students coexist, and also greater importance due to its importance in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and, therefore, in the generation of a more peaceful coexistence. They were able to learn to pay more attention to their emotional condition and, through this recognition, to better deal with the emotions they experienced: *"This experience changed the way I think (...) I have a short temper and therefore I have had moments when I have thought that when I am upset I want to fight with everyone, I have a bad temper and I have thought about the results for me, because the damage is self-inflicted. So, seeing the good side of a bad temper has helped me to overcome it. Now, if I am bad-tempered, that's it. I go outside, I go somewhere else, I live a different moment"*.

One scenario wherein the practice of strengthened capabilities and skills, especially empathy, is evident is the Historical Memory Committee created at the beginning of 2019 at the Leónidas Norzagaray Rural Education Institution in La Tagua (Puerto Leguísimo). The Committee arose due to the lack of knowledge of the students about the recent history of Colombia and the region, evidenced in a Social Sciences class; this circumstance led the teachers to consider the purpose of recovering what happened in the territory and in the country regarding the armed conflict, because *“those who know their past are less likely to repeat it”*. With the activities to strengthen SES that were developed in this education institution, the historical memory gained strength, students became interested in local history and began to understand that *“behind the number [of victims of the conflict] there is a person, a life, some feelings to be understood”*.

With a more empathetic attitude towards the accounts of history and its protagonists, they did memory exercises with older adults and reconstructed the history of La Tagua, approached and listened to the victims, made presentations on missing persons, and understood the importance of not forgetting, of remembering in order not to repeat the violent actions, *“we want to raise people's awareness so that, at least, we do not choose the same path as we did in the past, so that young people remember our roots and do not let ourselves be fooled by fairy tales, because sometimes they tell nice things, but... they're lies; you start to investigate and listen to people who have suffered these conflicts and you change your mind”*.

Currently, the Historical Memory Committee, made up of 12 people (11 students and 1 teacher), is more active than

ever because it was awarded a national call for proposals by the National Center of Historical Memory, which is supporting them in the creation of the School Museum of Historical Memory *“Voices in the middle of the jungle, the past that is counted as a bulwark of peace”*. This distinction has been a great stimulus for the students who, being the ones who agree on the contents and activities of the Committee, played a leading role in the dialogue with the Commission of the National Center of Historical Memory during its visit to the territory, showing great commitment and assertiveness, *“They have understood that they are part of a nation, of regional dynamics that have affected them and are recognizing their role in this post-agreement stage, their role in the Committee's actions”*. And at large, the experience of the Committee is proving to be a very appropriate space to make use of and reinforce the skills worked on: *“I believe that the implications [of the process of strengthening SES] are embodied or reflected in the behavior of the children, the way they express themselves and the way they approach the memory of the victims of the conflict is a reflection of what has been worked on in the framework of social-emotional skills”*^{VI}.

“People do not die when they are killed, but when they are forgotten”

VI This case study was published in the **7th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Fund for Peace (July - October 2020)** and reflects some of the results and first effects of the T06.10 PUEDES project, implemented by the Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli -CISP and its partner agencies, from December 30, 2017 to December 29, 2021. The text is based on information provided by the project and on interviews with members of its team and key actors in the process, some of whose testimonials are included in *italics*.



Communication for peace, a necessary tool for tolerance and reconciliation in Colombia

Political tensions in Colombia have unleashed a noticeable and growing polarization of society, which generates limitations to free speech, public debate and coexistence in society as a whole, including children. A teacher from an Antioquia rural area says that *“boys and girls who lived through the war in Cocorná, Titiribí or Ituango know the importance of silence”*. This situation is leveraged by misinformation and ignorance of the other, especially of those who live in deep Colombia, where violence and its negative consequences have been concentrated. Spaces and options for dialogue and reflection are scarce.

After the signing of the Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and the now extinct FARC-EP guerrillas, the need to disseminate quality information on the peace process and the implementation of the points contained in the Agreement became evident. In this context, the Colombia 2020 project arose, implemented by the newspaper El Espectador, which, among many other activities such as the organization of national and regional forums on peace-building issues, was responsible for generating various educational contents with a territorial approach, some designed for children, others for adolescents and others for mass audiences.

The project produced more than 370 newspaper editorials with national circulation, including reports and chronicles of the territories. Two collections of fables were produced for children. One is called *“La Aldea”* (The Village), which, like a mirror, recreates Colombian attitudes and culture through the stories of a group of animals living in an imaginary village, encouraging reflection on what is happening in the country, based on the situations that occur there. The second collection of fables, called *“De otra manera!”* (Another way!), addresses issues such as corruption, elections, migration, health problems and education.

In addition, the series *“Libros que cambian”* (Books that change) was produced for teenagers, wherein eight writers created stories for young people, based on the stories of users of the mobile libraries installed by the National Library of Colombia in the Transitory Zones for Normalization (ZVTN), to show the war and the transition to peace. Finally, the podcast series *“Voces desde el territorio”* (Voices from the territory) was produced with seventy-three episodes, which was highlighted by the British newspaper The Guardian^{VII} for *“bringing untold war stories to light”*. The dissemination of all these contents had a national coverage and it is estimated that the fables were read by more than two million people. *“Voces del territorio”* was the most listened podcast of El Espectador, with more than 68 thousand downloads and it is estimated that more than 90 thousand people read the editorials.

The La Aldea and De otra manera! collections were very well received by the educational community, especially among teachers in rural areas, who used them, and continue to use them, as pedagogical material in the classroom. In different territories such as Antioquia, Casanare and Norte de Santander, and also in cities such as Bogotá, the fables became a tool for pedagogical practice that fosters skills such as listening and critical reading, while allowing reflection and information on the conflict and its repercussions in our society. One of these teachers comments *“with the fables I have worked with the children on complicated issues such as corruption and violence, with a simple methodology. Through comprehension and debates we can move from a primary discourse to a more complex one, because the stories track the problems of the country's reality and the students know more than one would think about issues such as displacement or migration, because they have lived through them (...)”*.

The students adopted the contents of the fables in different ways, as they were not only read and discussed,

VII <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/11/colombia-journalism-project-neglected-stories-war>



but also, added to the creativity of the teaching teams, they unleashed different activities such as plays, murals and puppets. There were also shared reading exercises where children read the fables to their families, and in some cases the fables were even broadcast on community radio stations, reaching the whole community. On the enormous receptivity generated, one teacher commented that *"it got to the point where the children knew the story by heart"*; The teachers, for their part, created a virtual community to exchange experiences and initiatives to use the material in different ways. The fables are fun and work as a powerful tool for facilitating processes of reflection on the conflict, since *"the child finds a safe place where they can ask the questions they can't ask elsewhere. In other words, they let out the real questions they have"*.

The contents developed within the framework of Colombia 2020 are preserved and used in different ways. The fables continue to be used in some schools as pedagogical material for the subjects of ethics, social sciences and natural sciences, in others they are available to children for their reading.

The podcasts have continued to be produced, increasing the number of episodes, and continue to be listened to on digital platforms; by 2023 the series had accumulated 132,000 downloads.

Additionally, in recognition of the quality of the materials produced, the National Library of Colombia included them in the digital peace collection, which means that this material is part of the country's bibliographic and documentary heritage and is preserved by the governmental agency whose mission is to make them available to Colombian citizens for consultation by present and future generations.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that Colombia 2020 was an incubator of pedagogical materials for children on peace building in the country. After the project ended, El Espectador has permanently maintained the microsite on its web portal (which migrated from Colombia 2020 to Colombia+20), and the agency Click Clack (formerly Click Arte), which developed the fables, specialized in the production of this type of pedagogical content, producing materials for different UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNDP^{VIII}.

VIII. This review was published in the **20th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Trust Fund for Peace (October - December 2023)** and reports some of the results and first effects of the T06.13 Colombia 2020 project, implemented by El Espectador newspaper and its partner Click Clack agency, from March 1, 2018 to January 31, 2021. The text is based on information provided by the project and interviews with members of its team and key actors in the process, some of whose testimonials are included in *italics*.

HUMANICEMOS DH delivers the first area free of suspected explosive devices

With the exception of San Andres and Providencia, all Colombian departments have reported the presence of anti-personnel landmines (APL) and accidents caused by them, particularly in rural areas and ethnic communities. Considering the high impact that these explosive devices have on people's lives, especially on the civilian population, within the framework of the Peace Agreement between the Colombian Government and the former FARC-EP guerrillas, the humanitarian demining organization HUMANICEMOS DH was created, made up of ex-combatants in the process of reintegration.

With the support of the European Trust Fund for Peace, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has accompanied the development of the organizational and operational capacities of HUMANICEMOS DH. During the development of the project, more than 100 people in the process of reintegration have been employed for the deployment of mine action activities.

The first approach of HUMANICEMOS DH to the civilian population took place in 2019 in the Resguardo Emberá El Cedrito (Emberá indigenous Reservation), in the municipality of La Montañita, Caquetá, with the presentation of the organization and its work. This presentation was followed by training and awareness-raising workshops for the community on the risk associated with the presence of explosive devices and the safe behaviors to adopt to minimize their impacts. *"We arrived with all humility, presenting the project as an act of forgiveness and territorial peace. We told them how the work methodology was going to be, with all the details of time, people, commitments... and we carried out the ethnic consultation process,"* says Humanicemos DH's Technical Field Manager.

The process had to be interrupted due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and at the end of 2020 the necessary information was collected to locate areas with potential presence of explosive ordnance.

The interaction generated by this process between peace signatories and the community contributed considerably to establishing bonds of trust between them. *"Then this little group would arrive to help in any way they could. For example, some of us have repaired bridges, milked cows. Likewise, with the president of the Community Action Board, we always consult, arrange and inform (...). We have an additional task in those visits, when we find victims of landmines, we must orient them towards the medical and psychosocial care routes and with the victims' unit, inter alia,"* says the Technical Manager of the organization. *"They helped us build a small section [of the road], they always helped us a lot, we made a community pot () as well. They always make sure that all of us have a job,"* says the Governor of the Reservation.

Once the intervention in the area was approved by the *Oficina del Alto Comisionado para la Paz* (OACP, from its name in Spanish, Office of the High Commissioner for Peace)-Decontaminate Colombia, the HUMANICEMOS DH team proceeded with the humanitarian demining work in the reservation. In October 2021, after three months of work, a 1,974 m² plot of land free of suspected landmine contamination, validated by the OACP, was handed over to the community, directly benefiting more than 90 people. *"What I felt the day of the celebration was joy, a joy as a mother. I looked at that and it is a joy because I lived through the war when I was born and grew up and now for my children it will be a change of life. The work is very valuable, there is no fear anymore, I am delivering to the community all the hopes I had with HUMANICEMOS DH. These are works that will remain forever here in our territory. That area that was left free of suspected landmine is being kept for preservation. We are going to take care of it, we are not going to cut down any forest or trees,"* said the Governor of the Reservation. In this regard, it is important to highlight the importance of the territory for the ethnic communities. Their connection with the land goes beyond production, it is related above all to their culture, the heritage of their ancestors and, in short, their worldview.



The efforts against landmine carried out by HUMANICEMOS DH also involved strengthening the community's installed capacity to act appropriately and protect themselves against any risk of contamination with explosive devices, facilitating the uptake of knowledge, the handling of tools and the adoption of safe practices. In this regard, the Governor of the Reservation said: *"We made agreements between them and the community and they gave us training and workshops. Children and women participated, we all participated. They talked about the bomb, they talked about the landmine, but my question was how to know that the landmine was here. Thank God that they have educated us about it"*.

HUMANICEMOS DH operates autonomously, without the technical assistance of UNMAS but under its jurisdiction, since July 1, 2021. The personnel trained by UNMAS has already conducted courses on demining to other ex-combatants, replicating the lessons learned and expanding the work team with 12 more members from HUMANICEMOS DH which, as of today, is made up of

106 people, 89 of whom are peace signatories (68 men and 21 women).

In addition to the Resguardo Emberá El Cedrito (Emberá indigenous Reservation), the OACP assigned them two additional areas for operations in the municipality of La Montañita, whose demining work is about to be completed. And, as a sign of confidence in the capabilities acquired by the personnel in the reintegration process, in 2021 the agency assigned them two new Caqueta municipalities to expand their landmine action operations: Solita and Cartagena del Chairá.

Although the data collected by OACP- Descontamina Colombia on the number of victims of accidents caused by explosive devices show a decrease in the last decade, the figures are still significant: 151 people in 2021, 61% of them civilians. In this context, HUMANICEMOS DH represents a paradigmatic peace-building initiative in Colombia, which combines humanitarian reparation efforts, recovery of the social fabric and socioeconomic reintegration of the peace signatories themselves ^{IX}.

IX. This case study was published in the **12th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Peace Fund (October - December 2021)** and reflects some of the results and early impacts of the project T06.25 Humanicemos DH, implemented by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and its partner Corporación Brigadas Colombianas de Excombatientes para la Paz y el Desminado Humanitario - Humanicemos DH (Corporation of Colombian Brigades of Ex-Combatants for Peace and Humanitarian Demining), from February 6, 2020 to July 5, 2022. The text is based on information provided by the project and interviews with members of their team and key actors in the process, some of whose testimonials are shown in *italics*.




PILLAR 2. REINTEGRATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE FARC-EP INTO CIVILIAN LIFE IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

Laying the foundations for the construction of a stable and lasting peace requires the effective reintegration into social, economic and political life of approximately 13,000 men and women who were part of the FARC-EP. The objective is to support them in their return to civilian life for the full enjoyment of their citizenship with the rights and obligations entailed therein. Reintegration into civilian life is a comprehensive and sustainable process that considers the interests of the community of former FARC-EP members in the process of reintegration and their families and, in addition to being aimed at strengthening the social fabric in the territories, includes promoting the participation and contribution to local democracy of the reincorporated population.

The reintegration process should also be understood as a set of actions that include, among other things, training for work and labor inclusion, the strengthening of solidarity economy cooperatives and support for the development of individual or collective economic enterprises of people undergoing the process of reintegration and their families, and access to education and basic public services.



A woman with dark hair is smiling in a workshop. In the background, there are sewing machines, fabric, and a table with a sunflower patterned cloth.

Productive economic insertion, including strengthening of the solidarity economy, employment generation and access to the labor market

2.915 people undergoing the process of reintegration have improved their skills for economic-productive insertion, including the strengthening of the solidarity economy

One of the Fund's priorities has been to capitalize on the previous knowledge and skills of the peace signatory population and their families to ease their economic insertion, through technical-productive training and social-entrepreneurial strengthening, with emphasis on cooperative support and the solidarity economy. A broad training portfolio has been implemented to consolidate associativity and qualify organizational and management performance, and to improve skills in economic activities related to the production, processing and marketing of agricultural and livestock products, and the provision of different types of services.

67 cooperatives or grassroots associations, made up of 3,410 people undergoing the process of reintegration, implement business units

The association businesses of solidarity economy comprised of peace signatories and their families, which have received technical and financial support from the Fund, have launched or strengthened different business units in the agricultural sector (mainly coffee, livestock, plant farming and fish farming), in textile manufacturing and in sectors such as community tourism, commerce and construction, improving their productivity, diversifying their product offerings and establishing new strategies and commercial partnerships.

1.330 people undergoing the process of reintegration that work in productive projects.

The economic initiatives led by peace signatories are progressively becoming integrated into the local and regional economic fabric, acquiring economic sufficiency and consolidating themselves as a means of dignified livelihood for their members, contributing to their staying and rooting in the territories. Likewise, some of the actions developed by the Fund have promoted the labor insertion of peace signatories in public agencies and in international cooperation projects.

Social rights

790 people undergoing the process of reintegration improve their access to basic services (education, health, housing, childcare, access to water, telecommunications, inter alia)

The support provided by the Fund to guarantee the social rights of the peace signatory population and their families has focused mainly on the provision of infrastructure and equipment in the former Territorial Training and Reintegration Spaces (ETCR, from its name in Spanish) and in the New Reintegration Areas (NAR, from its name in Spanish), to provide access to basic services such as water, sanitation, education, health, connectivity and early childhood care, inter alia. The Fund's actions have on several occasions summoned the support of the relevant public agencies, and have always promoted community management of these services as a strategy for sustainability, involving the neighboring populations who on several occasions also benefit from them.

Strengthening of skills for public policy advocacy

150 people undergoing the reintegration process have strengthened their skills for the exercise of citizenship

One of the dimensions of the reintegration of peace signatories is their participation in civilian life as citizens with complete rights. The Fund has deployed different strategies to strengthen existing leaderships and accompany the emergence of new leaderships, through the uptake of knowledge, skills and tools that qualify their participation in spaces for consultation, advocacy and consensus with public actors in the territory in relation to local development proposals.

14 organizations, made up of people in the process of reintegration, involved in territorial development planning

As a result of the strengthening of skills for the exercise of citizenship, the Peace signatory population has had an impact on several public policy design, implementation and oversight processes, as well as on territorial dialogues that contribute to local development and the reconstruction of the social fabric, through their participation in spaces such as the Municipal Rural Development Councils, the Territorial Peace Councils, the Women's Advisory Councils, the Territorial Reintegration Councils and the Local Institutional Coordination Boards, inter alia.

Professional Strengthening of the Cooperativa Multiactiva Ecomún 'Jaime Pardo Leal' of Guaviare (Ecomún Multi-service Cooperative)

Collective associations play an important role in the socioeconomic reintegration of the signatories, strengthening the social fabric, collective action and community leadership, and promoting income-generating projects. The still insufficient administrative and management skills, and the lack of equity, infrastructure and equipment, added to the distrust of private and public actors towards organizations led by people in the reintegration process, are some of the barriers that hamper their performance.

The Cooperativa Multiactiva Ecomún Jaime Pardo Leal (COOJAPAL), from the former ETCR of Colinas, in Guaviare, gained access to a first financial support from the Caminemos Territorios Sostenibles project in 2019 to promote a sugarcane production and transformation initiative. The cooperative faced several difficulties during the execution of the funds, including the lack of knowledge of the administrative, accounting and tax procedures, which led to multiple budgetary and contractual adjustments that resulted in the extension of the execution time. In this scenario, the project carried out a training and technical assistance process for the legal representative, the treasurer, the accountant and the secretary of the cooperative, primarily on accounting and financial management, and also made several recommendations regarding management organization. When in 2020 COOJAPAL asked Caminemos Territorios Sostenibles (Let's Walk on Sustainable Territories) for a second financial support for its productive systems, a significant improvement was evidenced in the formulation of the proposal presented, and this perception of improvement remained during the implementation of the productive entrepreneurial initiatives.

The cooperative adopted good accounting and tax practices and incorporated rigorous and documented purchasing processes, thus facilitating accounting

increasing the level of financial transparency internally and externally, an aspect that is proving essential given the gradual increase in COOJAPAL's net worth. These changes have strengthened confidence among the cooperative's members, as well as among its potential public and private partners, and have led to the achievement of good financial indicators that allow them to apply for public bids.

COOJAPAL gained legitimacy and recognition in the territory, and when the project issued two calls for bids in 2021 for the construction of 18 rainwater harvesting huts and 4 sanitary units in the former ETCR of Colinas and the surrounding community, COOJAPAL was awarded against three companies with more experience in the construction sector in Guaviare. They submitted a bid that best met the project requirements, both in technical, administrative and financial management terms, prioritizing the hiring of local labor. The cooperative met all the technical, administrative and financial requirements of the contract, including the management of the insurance policy, and was able to meet all its contractual obligations in a timely manner, delivering the works on time and with the required quality. *"It provided us with a different vision, an expectation to continue working on the issue. We saw an important opportunity because we generated employment for 16 people for 5 months. We also demonstrated to the neighboring communities that we could carry out a project that they had been waiting for two years due to the failure of a previous contract with another service provider",* COOJAPAL's legal representative says.

After that first successful experience, COOJAPAL decided to continue its commitment to the construction sector, applying to three new calls for proposals from the organization Acción Contra el Hambre (Action Against Hunger) for the construction of a drinking water treatment plant and several sanitary units. Aware of the need to strengthen its technical proposal with specialized



professionals, in one of these calls for bids, they presented a consortium with a long-standing construction company, Representaciones COMAVIL SAS. *"I had followed their work, and I had no doubts to create this consortium, I know I can trust their responsibility, they are always at the forefront of the execution of their projects. They are very careful about accounting issues, they are very aware of the risks of tax penalties that may arise with the DIAN (National Directorate of Taxes and Customs)"*, explains the technical manager of Representaciones COMAVIL SAS. Out of the three calls for bids they submitted, they were awarded one whose works will be carried out in the city of Leticia, department of Amazonas.

Finally, they have been selected by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), upon recommendation of the Agencia para la Reincorporación y la Normalización (ARN, from its name in Spanish, Agency for Reintegration and Normalization), to build a stretch of the sewer system

for a new neighborhood in the municipality of Calamar. *"The community gave us confidence with what they said about COOJAPAL, they themselves told us that the whole process had quality and was in agreement with everyone. It is noticeable that the works turned out very well. We found out that COOJAPAL complied with IOM requirements and we recommended them because we know that it will be fast and will have quality"*, explains a regional ARN official.

COOJAPAL developed entrepreneurial and managerial skills, managing international cooperation funds to carry out construction projects. Today this capacity is recognized and they are building a portfolio that allows them to gradually access new contracts, clients and partners, integrating themselves into the social-community construction sector as a competitive company at regional and national level^X.

X. This case study was published in the **15th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Fund for Peace (July - September 2022)** and reports some of the results and first effects of the T06.24 Caminemos Territorios Sostenibles (Let's Walk on Sustainable Territories) project, implemented by ONF Internacional and its partners from June 12, 2018 to September 21, 2022. The text is based on information provided by the project team and interviews with members of COOJAPAL, private partners and relevant public institutions, from whom the following testimonials in *italics* were gathered.

ECOMUN, strengthening of the social and solidarity economy of signatories to the Peace Agreement

The Peace Agreement signed in 2016 between the Government of Colombia and the extinct FARC-EP guerrilla group included, within its measures for the reintegration of ex-combatants, the constitution of a social and solidarity economy organization to “*promote a process of collective economic reintegration, called Economías Sociales del Común (from its name in Spanish, ECOMUN, Social Economies of the Community),*”. ECOMUN was created in 2017 by 39 signatories belonging to the 26 Village Transitory Zones for Normalization (ZVTN, from its name in Spanish) established after the signing of the Agreement, but with the clear vision of being a cooperative that would bring together nearly 13,000 ex-combatants who signed the peace agreement. A collective venture of this magnitude required a consistent structure, technical and organizational knowledge and skills that the signatories did not have due to their long stay in the conflict.

This lack of experience and knowledge was evident in the first years of ECOMUN's trajectory, and it was at risk of being fined by the Superintendency of Solidarity Economy for non-compliance with the regulations governing this type of company. And, as one of its founders remarks, one of the first challenges in the process has been to achieve a participatory dynamic. “*We started from managing a war company, with a vertical structure, and going from this to reaching consensus with thousands of people, in a horizontal and participative way, is not achieved overnight*”. There have also been other difficulties in achieving a nationwide cooperative model, such as the geographical distance of the signatories and the adverse security situations faced by several grassroots cooperatives, in addition to the barriers to access to services, such as credit financing, and the lack of access to the services provided by the cooperatives.

The European Fund for Peace has supported ECOMUN virtually since its inception, with technical and financial support provided through two projects: Comunidades de Economía Solidaria (Solidarity Economy Communities, CES, from its name in Spanish) and Piscicultura del Común (Fish

Farming from the Community), the first one focused on organizational structuring and the internal outreach of the cooperative model, and the second on the implementation of a productive line for the economic sustainability of ECOMUN. CES provided advice and support to ECOMUN between December 2018 and July 2023. During this period, ECOMUN's cooperative ecosystem was defined, moving towards a federation of cooperatives, a model that was approved at the General Assembly in March 2023. The path undertaken involved a significant effort to ensure the participation of grassroots cooperatives and an important pedagogical work in the territories, requiring six statutory reforms of the organization. Within the framework of the CES, ECOMUN's productive structuring was also supported, defining seven value chains: fish farming, coffee, cattle raising, clothing, plant farming, beekeeping and services (tourism and trade), under which the more than 140 member cooperatives are gathered as a guild. ECOMUN's financial instrument was also defined in order to provide an alternative to the difficulties that still persist in accessing the banking system, which can offer more favorable conditions than those offered by the credit market, and also to provide the organization with economic autonomy. This instrument, which has already begun to be funded with the income from the fish farming line, will receive financial support from the European Union, Spanish Cooperation and the National Government, and will be managed by *Cooperativa Financiera de Colombia* (CONFIAR, from its name in Spanish, Financial Cooperative of Colombia), a private and independent institution with experience in fund management, committed to supporting ECOMUN and its cooperatives.

Meanwhile, Piscicultura del Común is an entrepreneurial initiative of a productive nature that aims to consolidate the fish farming line in its different aspects. One of the first measures adopted by ECOMUN was the territorial restructuring of the production chain, as the original approach (26 fish-farming stations, in line with the ZVTNs created) proved to be unfeasible and was organized into regional nodes “*that have the geographical view, that meet the technical conditions to develop the fish*

farming units and that constitute an opportunity to allocate resources to larger investments". This restructuring was also a complex organizational and pedagogical process, but twofold profitable because it was the space to define ECOMUN's own organizational structure around seven regions and to achieve its representation in the Board of Directors.

The promotion of the fish farming chain has allowed ECOMUN to consolidate its capacities and acquire new experiences, *"The progress is priceless because we have administrative and technical skills and we have learned to separate politics from productivity",* but also the opportunity to attract its affiliated cooperatives, which bring together between six and seven thousand people in reintegration. *"People saw that we are producing and that we have land, and that is why they have joined forces. The best success of the project has been to focus the resources on assets for ECOMUN, which is where the strengthening of the fish farming line becomes more tangible".*

Within the framework of Piscicultura del Común, a skills transfer strategy has also been implemented under a "mirror model" that is considered a good practice for the sustainability of the production chain. This strategy consists of appointing a national apprentice manager among the signatory population and one for each production node, who will participate in a theoretical and practical training process for co-management of the production chain, including ongoing dialogue with the project's management bodies. In addition, the apprentices are responsible for the development of the annual reports,

submit them to the Board of Directors of ECOMUN and participate in decision making.

Along with the achievements of both projects, other strengths of equal or greater importance, but of a more intangible nature, have been generated. A qualitative leap has been made in terms of institutional relations, both with governmental bodies and with the private sector (financial cooperatives, service providers, etc.) and cooperation agencies. To some extent, ECOMUN serves as a platform to facilitate the exercise of citizenship by the peace signatory population in the economic and productive spheres. Currently, the cooperative has commercial partnerships and collaboration processes with different state agencies and higher education institutions. The cooperative has gradually adopted a more horizontal and participatory management model, with the inclusion of women; in the words of one of its members, a model *"more in harmony with the society we have found ourselves in, and this will guarantee the sustainability of the processes"*.

In the same vein, for its leaders *"ECOMUN is a cooperative process that already remains, regardless of the outcome of particular processes. It is something that goes beyond individuals. With some challenges, but the level of development achieved guarantees that it will remain over time"*. The challenges aimed at include generating more employment for peace signatories, ensuring the profitability of fish farming units, ensuring that financing and support from the government and international cooperation agencies are used from a business perspective, overcoming dependence on subsidies, and thus achieving the sustainability of productive entrepreneurial initiatives^{xI}.

XI. This case study was published in the **20th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Peace Fund (October - December 2023)** and reflects some of the results and first effects of the projects T06.35 Communities of Solidarity Economy, and T06.94 Piscicultura del común, implemented by the Mondragon Group (LKS - ALECOP) and by the Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli - CISP, respectively. The text is based on information provided by the Piscicultura del común project and interviews with peace signatories, whose testimonies are in *italics*.



Strengthening of the National Reintegration Policy through Budgetary Support from the European Trust Fund for Peace

The signing of the “Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace”, signed between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC- EP) in November 2016, marked a milestone in the history of the country, representing hope for the communities most affected by the conflict and the beginning of a complex process with great challenges and opportunities for Colombian society.

In this context, the European Union (EU), as part of its strategy to promote peace, stability and sustainable development in the country, declared its strong support to support the Colombian State in the implementation of different points of the Agreement and especially in the reintegration of the nearly 13,000 ex-combatants who laid down their arms and became signatories. To this end, in May 2020 the European Union and the Colombian State signed a financing agreement under the model of Budgetary Support, providing funds that were directly incorporated into the general budget of the nation with the purpose of strengthening the implementation of the National Reintegration Policy (PNR, from its name in Spanish).

This cooperation mechanism focused on promoting the development of concrete actions to address in a timely manner the most pressing needs of the population that signed the Peace Agreement. The prioritized topics were grouped into 5 major categories: i) Technically strengthening collective and individual productive projects; ii) Promoting access and certification of the population in job training programs; iii) Facilitating access to land to provide definitive housing solutions; iv) Promoting the linkage of the children of former FARC-EP members to early childhood care services; and v) Linking people with disabilities to health care processes. Significant support was also incorporated to promote concrete actions aimed at strengthening the gender approach and, in particular, to guarantee the effective participation of women in the reintegration process.

Six years of implementation of the PNR defined by in CONPES (National Council of Economic and Social Policy) 3931 of 2018 have elapsed and, according to reports from the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization - ARN, the agency responsible for coordinating the PNR, as of June

2024 more than 12,000 people remain in the reintegration process, an important figure that ratifies the signatories' commitment to the Peace Agreement.

During the period wherein the Budget Support was provided (2019 - 2023), according to the different governmental reports, significant progress is shown that responds to the fulfillment of the provisions of the PNR. These include, in terms of economic sustainability, according to the figures reported by the ARN, that 10,579 people have benefited from collective or individual productive projects and 5,550 received technical assistance to strengthen their technical and organizational skills. Likewise, more than 2,000 people undergoing reintegration had access to job training programs in the modalities of operator, assistant, technician and technologist. This represents greater capabilities for the population to technically perform roles within their productive projects and the possibility of becoming job seekers with a better profile.

On the other hand, the PNR in its strategic objective N°4, proposed to generate conditions that ensure access and care for the fundamental and comprehensive rights of ex-combatants of the FARC-EP and their families. This commitment led the EU to prioritize with the Budgetary Support the component of the PNR concerning the welfare of the sons and daughters of the signatories. However, the location of these families in the former ETCRs, located in areas of difficult access and with minimal or no institutional presence, represented a significant challenge for the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF, from its name in Spanish, Colombian Institute for Family Welfare). To meet this commitment of the PNR, the ICBF's Early Childhood Directorate implemented a series of institutional adjustments that included adapting the criteria for targeting the offer, modifying the operating manuals and updating the institutional regulations, with the purpose of ensuring timely and relevant care modalities, thus ensuring the welfare and development of more than 1,300 children of peace signatories.

In addition, another achievement recognized by the peace signatories as a result of this EU contribution was the possibility of speeding up the certification process with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection for the



reincorporated people who identified themselves with some type of disability. As stated by one of the leaders of the *Comité Nacional de Excombatientes Lisiados de guerra, Adultos mayores y Enfermedad de alto Costo* (CONELAEC, from its name in Spanish, National Committee of War Crippled Ex-combatants, Elderly and High Cost Illnesses) association, *“without the support of the European Union for reintegration, the certification process would have taken many years, but thanks to this support, today we are more than 1,200 signatories certified with disabilities, and this is a fundamental requirement for us to access different health care services”*.

Likewise, the institutions recognize the support of the EU through the Budgetary Support as a significant boost for the strengthening of the country's institutions and public policies. An ARN official, who coordinated with the Ministry of Health the assistance to the population with disabilities, pointed out that: *“The fact that the reintegration population was the first to access the new certification procedure defined in Resolution 583/ 2018 was an important achievement. This experience strengthened the information system, allowed the issuance of regulatory resolutions and made the requirements and stages of the process more flexible, which opened the doors to streamline this procedure with other populations such as victims, children, and other communities in remote areas, where institutional presence has been precarious”*. Similarly, the official stated that *“this commitment undertaken with the agreement allowed opening new lines of work in the country's public health, strengthening, among other issues, the coordinated work between the municipal health secretariats and the National Government”*.

In addition to the Budgetary Support, the EU contribution included Technical Assistance to the National Reintegration Policy, focused on strengthening the capabilities of the institutions involved in the implementation of the PNR, strengthening national and territorial coordination bodies, and strengthening the capabilities of the leaders of the reincorporated population. This Technical Assistance has been implemented since May 2021 and has managed to consolidate different lines of work (gender, leadership training, health education, territorial policy advocacy, inter alia), whereby an important contribution has been generated in key aspects of reintegration, highlighting the different inputs contributed to the collective construction of the Comprehensive Reintegration Program (PRI, from its name in Spanish), recently established by decree 0846 of July 2024 by the National Government.

The contribution of the EU has represented the expression of trust with the Colombian Government regarding the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the reintegration of ex-combatants, and certainly a tangible contribution to its progress, as stated by one of the representatives of the National Government: *“Budgetary support provided greater momentum and motivation to develop the PNR commitments with greater drive, largely because of the permanent monitoring by the international community, but also because these cooperation modalities offer the chance to generate innovation in the processes, move out of the comfort zone and generate institutional developments to comply with the agreements entered into”*^{XII}.


XII. This review is based on information provided by the Government of Colombia in the framework of the Budgetary Support Agreement, as of June 2023, and on information provided by the team in charge of the Technical Assistance for Economic and Social Reintegration (T06.68), as well as on interviews with peace signatories and representatives of the institutional framework whose testimonies are shown in *italics*.



PILLAR 3: POPULATION INCLUSION: YOUNG PEOPLE, WOMEN AND ETHNIC GROUPS

The Final Peace Agreement gives special attention to the fundamental rights of women, young people, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples and other ethnically differentiated groups. The European Fund for Peace is intended to provide comprehensive assistance and effective protection to the violated rights of these populations, as well as to promote social and cultural initiatives, income generation and strengthening of the social fabric that respond to their interests and needs.

The sustainability of interventions in rural environments must consider the prevention of abandonment of the countryside by the young population, as well as the promotion of generational change and new leadership, stimulating the perception that the countryside offers attractive opportunities for young people. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples suffer a double impact, living in isolated rural areas, being victims of displacement and violence caused by the conflict, and vulnerable to natural disasters. For women, the gender inequalities that prevail in society translate into important challenges in terms of recognizing their contribution to family and local economies, ensuring their right to a life free of violence, and their participation in municipal and departmental political decisions.



Participation of young people as agents of change in the local economic activity and as drivers of the social and cultural life of the territory

40

youth organizations and education institutions develop projects through Third Party Financial Support or other investment strategies

The Fund has provided financial and technical support to rural and urban youth organizations and education institutions with a productive potential, to stimulate the culture of entrepreneurship, strengthen their operational capacity and diversify the offer of their economic initiatives. Through competitive funds or other forms of financing, the young population has developed entrepreneurial initiatives in areas such as audiovisual production, tourism, the transformation of agricultural products, the use of non-timber forest resources, design and artistic and cultural creation, inter alia. Several of these youth-led initiatives are already producing profits and receiving local, regional and even national recognition for their dynamic and innovative nature.

2.025

young people have improved their skills for labor market inclusion

The inclusion of young people in the labor market and their participation in local economic activity necessarily involves strengthening the abilities and skills required by the labor market. The Fund has supported technical training and training in new technologies for young people through, for instance, partnerships with universities, the Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA, from its name in Spanish, National Learning Service) and the network of Peasant Digital Schools, improving their cross-cutting skills and providing them with technical-productive and business management knowledge, in keeping with the endogenous potential of the territory.

15.155

children and youth have participated in cultural promotion and territorial identity initiatives

The European Fund for Peace has supported multiple activities to strengthen cultural identity and the rooting of young people in the territories. Peace Olympiads, school fairs, cultural and environmental heritage recognition tours, community fairs and sports and cultural events have been held, which not only enhance the value of the environment, culture, traditional knowledge and the history of their communities, but also promote intergenerational dialogue and the integration of children and young people into the community fabric.

Governance processes of ethnic communities under a human rights and gender equity approach, and their coordination with local institutions

70 traditional authorities have received technical support in their planning and/or institutional strengthening processes

The Fund has promoted the empowerment of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities and the self-recognition and recognition of their rights, mainly through technical and financial support for the design or updating of Life Plans and Ethno-Development Plans with gender discrimination, in ethnic communities in Cauca, Chocó, Huila, Nariño and Putumayo, also having an impact on municipal planning spaces to place their political agenda and their own vision of good living.

Place of women in the economy of the territory

175 women-led economic initiatives strengthened or launched

The Fund has promoted the creation and consolidation of productive and commercial strategies led by organizations and groups of mainly rural women, with an investment of 2.1 million euros (approximately \$8.8 billion pesos). The support included organizational and technical-productive strengthening and the provision of equipment and inputs, with meaningful effects on the consolidation of the businesses, including an increase in women's income, which in some cases has translated into stable income. Likewise, the economic empowerment of women and their placement in the local economic environment have contributed to a change in traditional roles and a more equitable distribution of responsibilities in the family context.

Women's leadership, participation and advocacy

19 women's organizations, networks and platforms supported technically and/or financially to improve their participation and impact on local and regional public life

The European Fund for Peace has contributed to strengthening the knowledge and skills of women leaders and organized women in the departments of Caquetá, Nariño and Putumayo, primarily to promote their participation and qualify their performance in the spaces for dialogue and territorial coordination, in order to make visible, to promote and defend the needs and interests of women, and move forward in the incorporation of a gender perspective in the decisions of public institutions.

940 women effectively integrate citizen participation spaces and decision-making bodies in the context of local development

As a result of the strengthening of women's leadership, a considerable number of women have effectively participated in local dialogue and decision-making venues, such as the Municipal Consultation Councils, influencing the processes for the construction of Land Management Plans or Departmental and Municipal Development Plans, and also at the community level, serving as members of the Boards of Directors of Community Action Boards, governing bodies pertaining to indigenous peoples, assemblies of signatories and Community Oversight Committees, among other venues.

Prevention and assistance for gender-based violence and the role of the State as guarantor of a life free of violence

39 public institutions and civil society events have improved their conditions to prevent gender-based violence and care for victims

In response to the demand for a violence-free life for women, the Fund has improved the capabilities installed in the territories, especially in Nariño and Putumayo, to move forward in the reduction of gender-based violence (GBV) and in the assistance to victims. In the institutions, this strengthening process is evidenced in the improvement of the services provided to victims by the justice, protection and health-care systems, and in the grassroots organizations in the creation of a network of promoters with the capacity to raise awareness of GBV, identify cases, offer initial care to victims (containment) and assist them in the professional/institutional care pathway.

1.005 women victims of gender-based violence assisted by public institutions and/or civil society organizations

As a result of the strengthening of community and institutional capabilities for the prevention of GBV, assistance to victims and punishment of perpetrators, more women identify the different manifestations of GBV and know their rights and the regulations that protect them. In addition, the effective implementation of the assistance routes has been promoted, so that a greater number of women victims have been able to access better services in terms of counseling, psychosocial and legal support, and protection and judicial resolution measures.

Young Nariño entrepreneurs and agents of change in their territory

In the department of Nariño, as in other parts of the country and mainly in rural areas, many young people in the last grades of basic education face different obstacles to continue their studies and limited job opportunities. Furthermore, education institutions do not have didactic tools or appropriate school environments that contribute to connect them with the environment and develop economic initiatives based on their own interests and needs.

In view of this problem, the Territorial Development Project in Nariño (PDT Nariño) has supported the education sector in recent years, mainly in the municipality of Pasto, in the process of adopting new methodologies that promote in students basic citizenship and labor skills and abilities, as well as entrepreneurial attitudes. Specifically, four methodologies have been contextualized and/or validated according to the different education levels, thus highlighting in this review the one called *Jóvenes Emprendedores Sociales* (JES, Young Social Entrepreneurs), addressed mainly at students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades and implemented in 33 rural and urban education institutions in Pasto and other municipalities of the department. One of the assumptions of JES is that strengthening entrepreneurial skills in students can transform their contexts, and to this end activities are promoted to develop creativity, planning, leadership, effective communication, peaceful conflict resolution, and the vision of the future and manifestation of projects, among other aspects.

As a practical application of these lessons learned, during the implementation of JES, the teaching teams, also trained in entrepreneurship, assisted their students in the creation of 29 pedagogical NGOs, understood as entrepreneurial initiatives focused on addressing the potential of their territory and the rooting to the land in relation socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental issues; in turn, with the support of PDT Nariño, tools, equipment and materials were provided for the implementation of

the projects formulated within the framework of these entrepreneurial initiatives. The concerns and interests of the students are focused on issues such as pollution caused by the textile industry, environmental degradation or the gradual loss of identity and culture among young people, inter alia. According to one of the participating students, *"what was so valuable was the opportunity to decide what to do and implement it. If the entrepreneurship classes had remained only in the theoretical and regulatory part, nothing of what we did would have been done"*.

The students state that their participation in JES brought about changes in their mindset and attitude towards entrepreneurship, improving their public speaking skills and the defense of their proposals in public, their ability to dialogue and reach consensus, to sell products, to keep accounts, to save and invest in the initiative. This learning process has led them to go from being passive students, and in many cases discouraged, to investing extracurricular time to move forward with their initiatives. A young participant in JES says *"my greatest learning was to understand that students can be part of the change; with the resources we have and by putting in the work we can achieve transformations"*.

In the pedagogical NGOs, the students learned to plan, execute and generate resources with their initiatives, while simultaneously providing solutions to some social or environmental problem in the community. At the end of the school stage, these lessons have been incorporated into income-generating projects, whether collective or individual, which in some cases have been implemented. The Urkunina collective initiative stands out, which is currently generating income for its members by making and selling chicha (a traditional, fermented beverage, made from corn and also incorporating other ingredients) and desserts based on native fruits. This collective association comes from the pedagogical NGO *"Jóvenes Emprendedores del Corredor Oriental"* (Young Entrepreneurs from the Eastern Network) (JECO),



focused on the disconnection of Pasto's rural youth from local traditions and customs, which carried out different initiatives to revalue their cultural heritage. One of its members points out that “we realized the stigma of being Pastuso and decided to make our customs our own, such as the use of the ruana (shawl), our accent, and to value crops such as native potatoes or fruits”. Likewise, another Urkunina's members has taken JECO's experience to the family restaurant business, improving and expanding the gastronomic offer with drinks and traditional dishes.

On an individual note, there is an outstanding case of a student who, with the lessons learned from his participation in JES, has included improvements in his music and mathematics teaching system, observing an acceleration in the process of his students, and has designed an action plan that allows him to generate more income from his teaching activity.

Transferring learning and mentoring new generations is another type of action carried out by those who were part of the pedagogical NGOs, contributing to the sustainability of the initiatives undertaken. This is the case of some members of the pedagogical NGO “Sueños Verdes” (Green Dreams), who built vegetable orchards and reforested the school's surroundings, and continue to be involved in the initiative, teaching and motivating the active students for its maintenance and expansion. Likewise, the NGO JECO held an event to hand over its initiative to the new generations of the school in order to ensure its continuity.

In short, the JES methodology, and entrepreneurial education at large, is poised as a transforming practice in the education of young people, providing them with better tools to successfully face the challenges of being a young person in rural areas with few opportunities for personal and professional development^{XIII}.

XIII. The case study was published in the **18th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Fund for Peace (April-June 2023)** and reports some of the results and effects of the T06.20 PDT Nariño project, implemented by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation - AECID and its partner agencies, from May 19, 2018 to September 30, 2023. The text is based on information provided by the project and interviews with students participating in the Jóvenes Emprendedores Sociales (JES) methodology from different education institutions, from whom the testimonials in *italics* were collected.



Indigenous women leaders of Putumayo with better tools to promote advocacy in their territories and in the defense of indigenous life

The disadvantaged situation of women, in terms of guarantee of rights and equal access to opportunities, is intensified when inequalities based on gender are added to those originated by other social factors. As for indigenous women in Putumayo, there is a triple discrimination because they are women, indigenous and victims of the conflict, and this creates significant obstacles to their participation in different realms of society, including access to decision-making and advocacy spaces in their own organizations and territories.

Men are traditionally the ones who take on leadership roles in organizations and communities; women do not usually participate or their scope is limited, which results in a gender gap in leadership capacities and a backwardness in women's political agenda. This situation, which is common to all women, becomes more complex in contexts where the peculiarities of the indigenous worldview and the government of ethnic communities are intertwined.

The women of the *Asociación de Autoridades Tradicionales y Cabildos Indígenas* (Association of Traditional Authorities and Indigenous Government Boards) - AMPII CANKE and the Organización Zonal Indígena de Putumayo (Zonal Indigenous Organization of Putumayo, OZIP), aware of this reality, put forward their own proposals to strengthen their leadership, which became a reality in the intercultural diploma course Fortalecimiento de las Mujeres Indígenas de Putumayo (Strengthening of Indigenous Women of Putumayo), carried out within the framework of the project Mujeres que Transforman (Women who Transform). Two editions of the course were held, one with 36 women from AMPII CANKE, which covers 9 indigenous communities throughout the department, and the other with 55 women from OZIP, belonging to 19 ethnic communities in the middle and lower Putumayo.

For the planning of the diploma course, a technical committee was formed, made up of indigenous authorities and the implementing agencies of Mujeres que Transforman, which, among other issues, discussed

the relevance of conducting a training process aimed only at women, and agreed on the selection of the Rosario University, to facilitate the diploma courses because of its proposal of an ethnic approach for training purposes. In both cases, the course lasted 150 hours distributed in five modules: rights and protection; political participation and leadership; organizational strengthening; memory; and project formulation.

The participating indigenous women leaders agree that the diploma course was an important opportunity to strengthen their self-confidence, overcoming fear and transforming it into recognition and construction of their value as indigenous women. According to one of them, they developed *"the ability to express themselves in public, they lost their fear of participating and of being in scenarios where they can make proposals to transform the situation of women"*. This internal change has served as a motivation for several women to run for and hold management and leadership positions in their communities, or for others to actively participate in decision-making processes related to important events for their communities, such as prior consultation processes. Likewise, women leaders with experience in certain issues, such as the defense of the environment and Mother Earth, have seen their tools strengthened to better carry out their work.

The diploma courses included in their program the reproduction in the communities of the contents covered, which meant applying the leadership skills learned and, simultaneously, strengthening, based on their own reality, the knowledge acquired (*"this is how one begins to lead"*, says one of the participants), also serving as a platform to give visibility to new female leaders. In the words of one of the women trained, *"by reproducing the training in the community, we already have more support from the men, the children and the community. It has been important. Once you have that engine, that support, that drive, you can come out and say, 'Yes, I can speak and I can make my thoughts known. I am going to participate'"*.



Another result of the diploma courses was the creation of a women's body in each organization: the Indigenous Women's Subcommittee of OZIP and the Indigenous Women's Government Committee AMPII CANKE. These bodies are currently in the process of formal and operational configuration through the development of their relevant internal regulations and advocacy plans. The women of AMPII CANKE, who already have an important presence in the decision-making positions of the association, have the vision of contributing to the survival of their cultures, as they consider that *"women have a great responsibility not to exterminate ourselves as indigenous peoples and we need to strengthen ourselves as indigenous women"*, being necessary to this end to recover the spiritual dimension; and in the same vein, another of the trained leaders emphasizes that the most valuable thing *"has been to find the strength of the other women. The change does not mean to be alone; we women contribute to the process of defending indigenous life"*. The women from

OZIP, on the other hand, are focusing their efforts on advocacy to address strategic gender needs such as young women's access to higher education and care for indigenous women victims of gender-based violence, through the establishment of a shelter to accommodate them, also providing support in their own language and from the worldview of each indigenous woman.

The women leaders of both organizations now face the challenge of making the spaces created sustainable and revitalizing their agendas, reason why the first initiatives are already underway. OZIP has launched a strategy to make the Women's Subcommittee known to different territorial agencies and cooperation agencies, seeking support, and AMPII CANKE plans to implement some initiatives soon with resources from international cooperation, recognizing in both cases the importance of the diploma course to strengthen their advocacy efforts^{XIV}.

XIV. This case study was published in the **17th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Fund for Peace (January-March 2023)** and reports on some of the results and effects of project T06.41 Women who transform, implemented by Conexión ICCO Cooperación and its partner Alianza Departamental de Mujeres Tejedoras de Vida del Putumayo (Departmental Alliance of Women Weavers of Life of Putumayo), from July 1, 2019 to September 30, 2024. The text is based on information provided by the project and interviews with members of the two indigenous organizations involved, from whom the testimonials in *italics* were collected.

Chocoamazonic: Caquetá women's dream come true

Chocoamazonic emerged in 2016 in the municipality of El Doncello, Caquetá, as a result of an illicit crop substitution project that introduced cocoa into the area. Some people involved in this project, together with the Cocoa Growers Committee of El Paujil and El Doncello (COMCAP), identified the need to look for alternatives to market the bean, in order to stimulate families who had believed on cocoa growing. In their search for institutional support, they found that there was more help for women's organizations. In this context, they assembled a small group of five women who, after receiving training from SENA in cocoa processing and with their own funds, began to buy beans paying \$500 pesos above the standard price per kilo, to encourage coca substitution. They were incorporated in 2017 and began working in a completely artisanal manner, processing about 100 kg of cocoa per month, with a dedication of 3 to 4 days per member, receiving a daily wage of \$10,000 pesos per day worked. Subsequently, the government program Colombia Emprende (Colombia Undertakes) provided them with some basic equipment (mill, manual roaster and chocolate refiner machine) that allowed them to mechanize some tasks and increase the volume of cocoa processed monthly by 50%. Their first product was table chocolate with a rustic finish ('pellets'), which they sold in Bogotá, Medellín and Neiva through alliances with women traders, and also directly in different municipalities of Caquetá.

They became part of the Territorios Caqueteños Sostenibles para la Paz (Sustainable Caquetá Territories for Peace) project in 2019, expanding the association's membership to include women from the municipalities of El Paujil and La Montañita, with 15 members currently in the association. With the support of the project, they have been able to strengthen organizational, business and, especially, technical-productive aspects. The project provided them with on-site support from a master chocolate producer for six months, more sophisticated equipment and the construction of a processing plant on land loaned by the Mayor's Office of El Paujil, whose facilities comply with

the requirements of the *Instituto Nacional de Vigilancia de Medicamentos y Alimentos* (From its name in Spanish, INVIMA, National Institute for Drug and Food Surveillance), and being awarded the relevant registration in December 2021. They also received support for the design and development of the first product packaging.

The members of Chocoamazonic believe that they now have the appropriate technology and the necessary knowledge to comply with the parameters that guarantee the quality of the product, from the purchase of the beans to the final product presentation, pointing out that *"the change with the support of Territorios Caqueteños has been of 180 degrees. They gave us seed capital and increased our responsibilities. We are accountable for the requirements and we have to comply with them if we want to sell, we are accountable for the water costs, for the maintenance of the plant The responsibility is greater, so you have to sell more"*, according to the association's legal representative.

Currently, Chocoamazonic processes 400 kg of cocoa per month, which involves 15 days of constant work by two of its members, the support of other two members in the most labor-intensive processes, and the occasional cooperation of other members for packaging when they have large orders. However, *"each member of the association supports the initiative according to her skills and best convenience. Some prefer processing and plant work, while others feel more comfortable in marketing,"* says the legal representative.

They have substantially improved the quality of their products and have diversified their offerings to include table chocolate in cubes, chocolate bars with different percentages of cocoa and flavors, cocoa powder, cocoa butter and Amazonian fruit chocolates upon request. With a profitability of 30% in fiscal year 2021, which amounted to \$15,000,000 pesos, they were able to increase the treasurer's salary and raise the value of the daily wage at the plant to \$40,000 pesos per day worked. Associates focused on marketing sell about 100 bags of 250 gr of table chocolate per week, some even



reaching 140 bags, receiving a commission of \$1,000 pesos per bag. The proceeds are also enabling them to make small investments in the plant, participate in trade events and incorporate improvements in product presentation.

Chocoamazonic's progress transcends its own activity, having positioned itself as an important player in the cocoa value chain in Caquetá. Aware of the importance of the quality of the raw material in the success of sales, they have established incentives of between \$600 and \$900 pesos per kg of cocoa above the market price, depending on the quality of the bean. Similarly, they advise producers interested in improving post-harvest practices (where there are major weaknesses) and facilitate the coordination of their suppliers with public support programs in the department, so that they can produce a bean with the quality they need.

They have also established a linkage with another entrepreneurial initiative in the area, the *Asociación de Mujeres Productoras de Esencias de Paz* (Association of Women Producers of Scents of Peace, ASMUPROPAZ), which provides them with basil scent to flavor one of the varieties of chocolate bars, and they sell them cocoa butter, the base ingredient of the natural cosmetics produced by ASMUPROPAZ.

Today the capital of Chocoamazonic exceeds \$400.000.000 Colombian pesos in equipment and infrastructure, but along with this business growth, there have been important changes at a personal level in its associates in terms of self-esteem, certain economic autonomy and position within the family, as one of the founders of the association says: *"You don't earn money in the housework... in the house you work, but it depends on what your husband gives you. Now I work and contribute, I feel qualified, useful. Now he doesn't interfere, on the contrary, he tells me: those are your savings, so I go and buy what I need"*. This testimonial is supported by that of a younger member, who says: *"I already feel empowered, if my husband wants to leave, let him go, so now he behaves more carefully"*.

In short, the members of the association, especially those who started six years ago, consider Chocoamazonic to be a dream come true. But they are still dreaming, and in addition to the challenges inherent to the business activity, they are considering other challenges related to themselves, such as the creation of a support fund for when the older ones retire and the implementation of strategies to encourage generational succession with their daughters^{XV}.

XV. This case study was published in the **13th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Fund for Peace (January-March 2022)** and reflects some of the results and outcomes of project T06.8 Sustainable Caqueteño Territories for Peace, implemented by the Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr (IMVF) and its partner the Adelco Network, from January 01, 2018 to June 30, 2022. The text is based on information provided by the project and interviews with members of Chocoamazonic, whose testimonials are shown in *italic*.





PILLAR 4. SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE PRODUCTIVITY

One of the cornerstones of post-conflict and the construction of a stable and lasting peace is the integration of territories with limited state presence and development opportunities into the economic life of the country. The Fund has sought to contribute to bridging the gap between the countryside and the city and between different population groups in the peripheral regions, generating inclusive economic opportunities, focusing on the most vulnerable population, and sustainable, not only in its social and economic dimension, but also respectful of the natural environment and adapted to climate change.

In short, productive initiatives that combine social inclusion, environmental preservation and economic growth have been promoted and supported, with the ultimate aim of improving the conditions for a decent life in the most vulnerable territories, especially in rural areas.



Food security and resilience of most vulnerable households and communities

5.420

families produce food for self-consumption and local marketing under agroecological practices

The Fund has provided technical and financial support to improve the productivity of family orchards and indigenous chagras (indigenous sacred farms) and the raising of small species, increasing the availability of food and diversifying the diet of families. The strengthening of peasant and community agrifood systems under environmentally responsible models has resulted in a greater volume of production, lower costs and increased marketing in short circuits, such as fairs and peasant markets, contributing to food autonomy in the territories and generating new sources of income from the sale of surpluses that complement the family economy.

Boosting of the productive fabric in the territory

190 infrastructure built or restored to strengthen production chains

The construction or adaptation of productive infrastructure associated with the strengthening of value chains has optimized production, processing and marketing processes, mainly in the dairy, cocoa, coffee, panela (unrefined sugar cane), fruit and vegetable, and community tourism chains. Small works such as water reservoirs, collection centers, processing centers, milk, cocoa or fruit processing plants, quality control laboratories and tourism infrastructure have allowed improving the quality of production, adding value and adopting collective marketing schemes, improving the position of producers in territorial and national value chains.

175 organizations develop their own projects through Third Party Financial Support or other investment strategies

The Fund has supported several economic initiatives led by community, peasant, women's, youth and peace signatory organizations, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises, mainly in Caquetá, Guaviare, Nariño and Putumayo, through direct financing instruments such as Financial Support to Third Parties (AFT) or co-investment for business acceleration, in the case of SMEs. The amount executed under these financial modalities amounts to more than 4 million euros (approximately 17.5 billion pesos), and in the specific case of the AFT, in addition to strengthening productive enterprises, they have contributed significantly to strengthening the administrative and management capacities of the grassroots organizations receiving support.

27.120 people supported in the implementation of sustainable production models or in the strengthening of their rural economic activity

One of the priorities of the Fund's interventions has been to support families and grassroots organizations in rural areas in the diversification, technological upgrade and innovation of their economic initiatives, through different strategies such as on-farm technical assistance, technology transfer, specialized advice and the provision of inputs, tools and equipment. Thus, agricultural, livestock, artisanal fishing and sustainable forestry initiatives have been promoted and strengthened, as well as a wide range of businesses for the transformation of products, trade, manufacturing and provision of services to the community, many of which have achieved economic profitability, improving the income and living conditions of the families involved.

Support for the commercialization and development of small and medium-sized enterprises

225 producer organizations, SMEs or productive units with better capacities to access markets and establish trade partnerships

Marketing is one of the main bottlenecks faced by rural producers and the organizations that bring them together. In order to address this situation, the Fund's interventions have provided knowledge and tools to, among other things, calculate the value of the products and services they offer, learn about potential markets and strengthen their capacity to respond to the requirements of those markets and interact with them. In many cases, collective marketing methods have been adopted, skipping local brokers, and commercial partnerships have been established with regional and national clients, ensuring sales at more stable and fairer prices.

500 productive units or associations have received sanitary, quality or collective brand certifications

As one of the strategies to improve marketing opportunities, the Fund has assisted producer families, organizations and rural businesses in improving and adapting their production and processing practices to obtain certifications that facilitate access to formal local, regional, national and international markets. Several initiatives have received certifications from the ICA (BPA, BPG, BPM, Granja Biosegura) and from INVIMA for processed products, as well as quality certifications (Q-grader), organic production certifications (Mayacert and Ecocert) and export certifications (Global Gap, Registro Predio Exportador), significantly increasing the range of clients and the volume and prices of sales.

Strengthening of the organizational fabric around the economic activity and entrepreneurial drive

575 producer organizations, SMEs and/or productive units have strengthened their administrative, operational and commercial processes

The Fund has provided training and technical support for social-business, operational and commercial strengthening to most of the producer and solidarity economy organizations supported, which have improved their administrative and financial management procedures, including the management of accounting information or compliance with their trade union and tax obligations, and organizational performance, through strategies such as the renewal of bylaws or boards of directors and the creation of labor committees. All of the above has contributed to the consolidation of the organizations and their participation or positioning in the economic environment of their territories.

Production models that involve sustainable practices adapted to climate change and restoration of the natural environment

8.815 people implement good environmental practices or climate change adaptation/mitigation strategies on their properties and in their economic activities

The Fund's interventions have promoted strategies and measures to foster environmental protection at the family, organizational and community levels, mainly through the adoption of better production, waste use and management practices and the use of appropriate technologies, thereby reducing the environmental impact and ecological footprint of rural activities. The rational use of natural resources and the reconversion of production systems to sustainable models have also been promoted, thereby reducing the risk of production losses due to climatic phenomena and the deterioration of soils and water sources, and contributing to the natural regeneration of ecosystems.

16.995 hectares with silvopastoral, agroforestry systems or in transition to sustainable production/utilization models

One of the priorities of the Fund's interventions in the area of rural development has been to promote the transition to more sustainable production models that modify traditional production patterns, reducing deforestation and the associated environmental deterioration. Through technical assistance and the provision of plant material, equipment and inputs, production under agroforestry and silvopastoral models has been promoted and strengthened, as well as the use of non-timber forest products, improving the quality, diversity and yield of agricultural and livestock production and, concomitantly, preserving natural resources in areas of special vulnerability in the face of the expansion of the agricultural frontier. In many cases, these models have been replicated both on the farms of the beneficiary families and on neighboring properties.

24.715 hectares of land and aquatic ecosystems recovered or protected by local communities

In territories such as Caquetá, Chocó, Guaviare, Nariño, Meta, Putumayo and Valle del Cauca, the Fund's interventions have combined land investments and family or community agreements for environmental preservation and restoration, including the recovery of watersheds and the regeneration of biological pathways, as well as agreements for the responsible and sustainable use of natural resources. In addition, broader actions such as forest management plans, forest censuses or civil society nature reserves have been promoted.

The Agencia Nacional de Tierras (ANT, from its name in Spanish, National Land Agency) provides tools to reverse the legal insecurity of women and peasant communities concerning land tenure

Land ownership has historically been one of Colombia's most complex rural problems, with a high share of land in the hands of a few and occupation without land titles, which generates legal insecurity and a subsequent vulnerability that especially affects the peasant population, ethnic communities and, disproportionately, women. Inequity in access to land generates inequality, poverty and important challenges for the institutional framework, as it implies regulatory and planning developments and coordinated actions among agencies with a view to reversing the situation.

Following the signing of the Final Peace Agreement in 2016, the agencies directly involved in the implementation of point 1, regarding the Comprehensive Rural Reform (RRI, from its name in Spanish), have a goal of making available ten million hectares in the first 12 years to begin the process of reversing inequality in access to land. In

addition, structural transformations such as progressive access to rural property, is planned, especially for women, and linking property ownership formalization with land use planning and access to the institutional supply for income generation and improvement of living conditions.

The European Fund for Peace, through the Budgetary Support for Land and Sustainable Territories for Peace, supports the Colombian State in the effective implementation of the land component of the Comprehensive Rural Reform, with an intervention focused on two polygons, one in Pato Balsillas, located in San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá, and the other in Losada Guayabero, La Macarena, Meta, both municipalities with historical land tenure and land use conflicts, with an informality of between 60% and 75% and a generalized absence of the State, which implies being out of reach for public services.



The Budgetary Support will contribute 6% to the three-million-hectare goal established in the RRI and also the execution of the Land Fund, which involves agencies such as the ANT itself, which is responsible for awarding brownfield land and formalizing rural property. Other agencies are also involved, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Rural Development Agency (ADR) and the Territory Renewal Agency (ART), inter alia. This network of institutions requires coordination and information sharing between the Registrar's Office, the National Tax and Customs Directorate (DIAN) and the Superintendency of Notaries and Public Records, inter alia.

The Budgetary Support for Land and Sustainable Territories for Peace aims, on the one hand, to improve institutional capabilities to implement the land policy and, on the other hand, to improve government of tenure and conflict resolution. As of April 30/2024, more than 155 thousand hectares have been identified (83% of the total goal) and more than 15 thousand hectares of small and medium rural property have been formalized (28% of the total goal). Specifically, in the Peasant Reserve Zones, more than 23 thousand hectares have been characterized, equivalent to 24% of the goal for these territories of peasant family economy. One of the most important milestones in this process has been the first delivery of land titles to 138 families in the Peasant Reserve Zone (ZRC, from its name in Spanish) of Pato Balsillas, which took place in February 2024.

Subsequently, ADR delivered the Comprehensive Agricultural and Rural Development Project (PIDAR, from its name in Spanish) to strengthen the bean, coffee and plantain production chains for 134 families in the ZRC who received their land titles two months ago. In the coming months, the ADR is expected to deliver a PIDAR to families in the Losada Guayabero ZRC to strengthen the peasant dairy agroindustry from an environmental perspective.

The ANT has strengthened its capabilities to lead the mapping processes. For example, it developed instructions for social mapping that have been incorporated as part of the institutional procedures and facilitate the collection of primary information for the formulation of the *Planes de Ordenamiento Social de la Propiedad Rural Operativos* (Operational POSPR, from its name in Spanish, Social Land Management Plans for Operational Rural Property). This methodology allows the collection of specific information

on a territory and The problems related to land use and tenure, collecting information validated by the community and an initial relationship with the organizations and local institutions. To date, the two brownfields intervened in Meta and Caquetá have been characterized, identifying a productive potential of dual-purpose livestock and bread crops with cocoa, corn and rice on a small scale.

With the support of the Budgetary Support, ANT has led processes of dialogue and agreement on problems associated with land use and tenure, developing the "*Guide for the Assistance of Rural Communities*", which includes procedures for the peaceful management of territorial conflicts. The Guide includes guidelines for community support, advocacy in institutional spaces, and capacity building for the prevention and management of conflicts of ethnic and peasant organizations and territorial authorities. These procedures have been used to manage boundary overlapping conflicts with the Cordillera de los Picachos National Natural Park (PNN) in the municipality of Uribe-Meta, where the applicants for land awarding agreed to redraw the land, overcoming the overlapping of 4 lands with the PNN; With the Tinigüa National Natural Park, in the municipality of La Macarena-Meta, socialization of the boundaries of the properties and relocation efforts are underway; and with six properties in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán-Caquetá, conciliation working groups are underway with the support of the Community Action Boards in three villages.

In order to reduce gender gaps and guarantee the right of rural women to access and formalize land, especially those who are heads of households, the ANT together with the Rural Development Agency have implemented social mapping methodologies, identifying the causes of women's non-participation in the process of establishing the ZRCs and implementing plans to strengthen rural women's organizations, including reflections on the Comprehensive Rural Reform, the ZRC model and specific exercises related to the formulation of productive projects, care-taking economy and new masculinities with some men from the associations.

In short, the Budgetary Support for Land and Sustainable Territories for Peace is making a valuable contribution to the ANT in the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement, with tools that bring the State closer to remote territories such as the ZRCs in Caquetá and Meta, with a territorial and gender approach ^{XVI}.

XVI This review, published in the Final Report of the European Trust Fund for Peace Monitoring System, as of June 2024, is based on information provided by the team in charge of the Complementary Technical Assistance to the Budgetary Support for Land and Sustainable Territories for Peace (T06.73).



Venturing on cup coffee growing

With the ultimate goal of improving the position of small producers in agrifood chains, the Rural Paz (Rural Peace) project included among its lines of work the strengthening of production, post-harvest and marketing processes in order to access better markets and achieve higher prices. In the case of the municipality of Policarpa, located in the Western Cordillera in the north of the department of Nariño, coffee was identified as the crop with the greatest potential, adopting a strategy focused on the production of specialty coffees. The initiative has been focused on the Association of Producers 'Nuevos Horizontes,' created 17 years ago, which currently has 146 active members belonging to two of the municipality's villages.

Despite the fact that most of its members grow coffee as their main crop, the Association was limited to providing some specific services, such as processing bonds from the National Federation of Coffee Growers (Federación Nacional de Cafeteros). Traditionally the production has been marketed as regular coffee, selling it individually to brokers in the area, who set prices that the producers accept due to the need for liquidity to cover their expenses.

In this context, the project carried out a series of actions aimed at improving agricultural practices in on-farm crop management and coffee processing. These actions were reinforced with strategic investments that had the participation of the community: a quality control

laboratory whose leader is a member of the Association with previous training and experience in coffee cupping; twelve biofertilizer laboratories run by twelve rural groups; and 69 solar drying systems for the same number of producer families. In addition to the above, support was provided to the Association to engage with a first exporting company, define the road map for collective commercialization, and support the first commercialization exercise, including a loan as a fund to purchase coffee from the members.

The impact of the initiative has already been felt in different areas. Changes in agricultural practices have been recognized, such as the use of leaf biofertilizers and biological pest control, as well as greater care in post-harvest work, especially drying. The results are reflected in productivity, going from an average of 500 grams per plant to 700 grams and even 800 grams in some cases, and also in the quality of the coffee, producing dry parchment coffee with cup profiles above 80 points.

As a result, 73 producers collectively marketed more than 25 tons of coffee between May and October 2020, of which 82% (20.6 tons) was specialty coffee, surpassing the 60% goal established by the project.

This specialty coffee was sold to three exporting companies, most of it in the first harvest of May and

June (the 'big harvest') with 15.7 tons marketed at prices between \$9,500/kg and \$11,300/kg, which represented an increase of 26% to 50% in relation to the price of regular coffee (\$7,500/kg), *"I feel proud because the territory is prone to illicit crops, and it has helped to raise awareness that with specialty coffees it is possible to make a decent living"*. During the months of July to October, in addition to specialty coffee, the Association commercialized close to 2 tons of regular coffee and 2.6 tons of inferior types (pasilla, bola).

For the members of the Association, in addition to the unquestionable economic benefits of quality production and collective marketing without brokers, there are other effects of equal or greater importance that contribute to the sustainability of the achievements of the 2020 campaign, and have to do with their empowerment in the coffee value chain.

In the first place, the self-affirmation of the Producers' Association 'Nuevos Horizontes'. It has contributed to the fact that, after 17 years of life, it has found its *raison d'être*, establishing its dynamics around the production and commercialization of quality coffee, *"in spite of being called Nuevos Horizontes the association did not have a clear horizon where to go and the project has given an identity to the association; now it has the goal that the coffee of the municipality is known at a national and international level"*.

The Association has already registered with the Chamber of Commerce within the category of coffee growers, and is working to make the advantages of collective marketing profitable for its members, even for those who market individually, as a market regulating effect has been evidenced: the purchase of coffee by the Association at fair prices has required brokers to raise the price of their coffee.

The quality control laboratory plays a key role in this scenario, as it allows them to know the characteristics of the coffee and to know what the fair price is. The successful entry into the market has provided them with direct links with five companies that commercialize coffees of different qualities, in such a way that way

that the last sales have been managed autonomously by the Association and are already receiving indications of interest for the next harvest.

Aware of the weakness of not having their own fund to support collective marketing, they are creating a seed capital with the reimbursement of 25% of the value of the solar dryers by the beneficiary families. To date, they already have more than 9 million pesos and expect to raise a little more than 20 million pesos, which will enable them to implement different strategies to raise funds.

Self-affirmation has also occurred in the producers themselves as they have become aware of the type of coffee that they can place on the market. They know what a specialty coffee is, what elements influence its quality, who the potential buyers are and what price it can reach. *"In the area there are small parcels of more sought-after varieties, but nobody knew that this coffee was worth more. Those who had it sold it to brokers as ordinary coffee (...) One now knows at what price to sell it, not like before, now we know that if the coffee has such and such a factor, it is worth this much"*. Without neglecting the weight that the different components of the project's assistance have on the quality of the coffee, especially the improvement of the drying process, the importance of the cupping laboratory emerges in order to know the characteristics of the coffee and thus better position itself before the buyers. In addition, knowing that their coffee has been marketed in Japan and Korea as Policarpa coffee has reinforced their collective self-esteem as coffee growers, since the usual practice has been to sell the coffee to brokers, thus losing its origin, *"Policarpa is a producer of a lot of coffee, and if you check the statistics there is nothing about Policarpa. We sold it to brokers from La Union and Taminango, and it appeared as coffee from those places, Policarpa was nowhere to be found"*.

In short, interest in the production of specialty coffee has been stimulated, and a significant number of families are planning to introduce innovations in production, starting to work with varieties that improve the cup profile, which implies a better price^{XVII}.

XVII This case study was published in the **7th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Fund for Peace (July-October 2020)** and reflects some of the results and outcomes of the T06.9 Rural Paz project, implemented by ICCO Cooperation and its partners from February 15, 2018 to November 30, 2021. The text is based on documents provided by Rural Paz and interviews with members of the team and beneficiaries of the initiative, from whom the testimonials in *italics* were collected.



Silvopastoral systems: Improving income and decreasing deforestation in Guaviare

Extensive cattle ranching is the predominant production system in the rural areas of the department of Guaviare. The number of farms dedicated to this activity represents nearly 70% of the total area of productive land in the territory, generating high pressure on natural resources. Specifically, the trampling of cattle herds degrades soils and reduces their fertility, generating a growing demand for land for production and, therefore, accelerating deforestation. In addition, the low fertility of soils under extensive exploitation reduces the nutritional quality of fodder and the yield and profitability of the production system.

In this context, the Caminemos Territorios Sostenibles (Let's Walk on Sustainable Territories) project commenced in 2019 a sustainable land planning exercise in 400 farms in the municipalities of San José del Guaviare, El Retorno and Calamar, 273 of them under an extensive livestock model, occupying about 64% of the surface of the farms (average values of 42.5 ha out of 66.9 ha of total area). Together with the beneficiary families, the areas to be used to convert the extensive system into a silvopastoral model, the area of forest that the family agreed to preserve by signing a specific agreement, and the area to be used for ecosystem restoration (an average of 1.5 ha per farm, generally located in the watersheds) were defined. The project provided technical and financial support to these families in the implementation of the planning process, providing them with equipment and plant material for live fences and restoration activities, regularly monitoring productive and environmental progress through visits, and carrying out capacity-building activities; overall, this involved an investment of up to \$12 million pesos in each farm. *"On my farm there was only one large paddock, and the cattle wasted the grass because they didn't eat it, they just trampled it. Now when we put the cattle in our little paddock, the next day they move to the next one and have fresh food,"* said a beneficiary from San José del Guaviare.

Three years after the implementation of the intervention, and based on an in-depth analysis carried out in 76 cattle farms with successful conversion to a silvopastoral system, it is evident that thanks to the pasture turnover system and the fodder banks implemented, soil quality has improved and yields have increased. Two cows and their offspring have been kept on one hectare, when in Guaviare's extensive systems the average is one cow and her offspring on two hectares, and milk production has risen to 3 liters per animal per day, compared to 2 liters in the extensive system. The calves currently reach a weight gain of 220 kg per animal per hectare per year, while in extensive systems the average annual gain is 110 kg. These effects are recognized by the beneficiary families, as indicated by a farmer from El Retorno, *"I found that the addition of paddocks was excellent and the mixed plantings for the fodder banks have a lot more nutrients, and with*





that I have a better performance. I am setting an example to my children in good farm management and environmental protection".

In economic terms, the silvopastoral system represents a significant increase in income. In the 76 farms analyzed, income increased from an average of \$1,088,473 Colombian pesos per hectare per year to \$2,740,950 pesos, and 70% of all livestock farms benefiting from the project reported having improved their income thanks to the reconversion of their production systems; also, productive and economic resilience to climate change was improved since the restoration of ecosystems and watersheds has promoted a constant income in seasons of heavy rains and droughts.

In relation to the changes in terms of surface area devoted to the silvopastoral model, the final measurement of 267 farms shows that the beneficiary families have autonomously increased the surface area under this model, going from the 3 hectares supported under the project to an average of 6 hectares per family. In addition, each system has an average division of 8.6 paddocks, and 70% of the monitored farms have managed to implement paddocks of less than one hectare, showing a solid technical uptake of the paddock turnover model and a trend towards abandonment of the extensive model on the beneficiary farms. *"Today, we are planting trees in the paddocks. And I am going to enjoy this and so will my children. Generations and more generations are coming, the most important thing is to start. What is better to think about tomorrow and not in the day in which we are living? Because extensive livestock farming does not work. But this silvopastoral system is very suitable. Some people have told me I'm crazy, but I'm not. You experiment yourself and see the results first hand, I saw them very quickly"*, explains a beneficiary of the municipality of El Retorno.

Monitoring of the conservation agreements signed by families involved in land use planning shows the positive effect of this initiative on deforestation on their farms. In 2018, before the intervention, 124 beneficiary livestock farms had deforested an average of 3.9 ha on each farm; in 2021, after signing the agreements and improving production systems, 91 farms deforested an average of 1.7 ha, decreasing the rate of intra-farm deforestation by 72%. Between 2021 and 2022, the period when the land-use planning activities were completed, 98.2% of the areas under conservation agreements were intact, representing 6,510.6 ha of forest.

The experience of the Caminemos Territorios Sostenibles project has proven that the conversion of extensive livestock systems to silvopastoral models is beneficial in terms of productivity and profitability, and contributes to significantly reduce pressure on natural resources ^{XVIII}.

XVIII This case study was published in the **16th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Fund for Peace (October - December 2022)** and reflects some achievements of the project T06.24 Caminemos Territorios Sostenibles, implemented by ONF Internacional and its partner agencies, from June 12, 2018 to September 21, 2022. The text is based on information provided by the project and interviews with members of the team and beneficiaries of the initiative, from whom the testimonies in *italics* were collected.



PILLAR 5. LEGITIMIZING PRESENCE OF THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The expansion of the State's coverage and the closing of gaps between institutions and communities is identified as one of the key elements in terms of sustainability and peace consolidation. The Fund's interventions have supported the institutional framework in each region, so that the presence of the State plays its coordinating role in the territory, mobilizes investment and implements a set of public instruments and services.

In conjunction with the above, the restoration of the social fabric broken by the systematic cycles of violence has been promoted, as well as the strengthening of civil society to increase its effective participation in local governance. This is based on the premise that an active civil society can contribute to a greater relevance of local policies and guarantee the supervision and social control of the implementation of such policies, including public investments.





Capacity of local public institutions in planning and implementation of public policies

43

local and regional authorities have received technical support for policy planning or institutional strengthening

The Fund has provided technical and financial support to territorial agencies in order to promote the decentralization and institutional strengthening process provided for in the Peace Agreement. Governors, mayors' offices and Regional Autonomous Corporations, among other public actors, mainly in the departments of Caquetá, Guaviare, Nariño, and Putumayo, received training and specialized tools to strengthen their competencies and improve their performance in institutional management processes related to economic development, tax policies, territorial planning, promotion of gender equity, or the provision of public services, among other aspects, contributing to enhance the presence and legitimacy of the State in the territories.

86

rural education institutions have adjusted their education plans with a territorial approach

As a strategy to strengthen education quality and the uptake and rooting in the territories, support has been provided to rural and urban education institutions to adapt their curricular content and adopt teaching practices in line with the territorial reality, their social and environmental contexts, their ethnic and cultural diversity and their endogenous potentials. In departments such as Caquetá, Cauca, Chocó, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño and Valle del Cauca, education institutions have innovated their pedagogical strategies, improving their PEI (Institutional Educational Project, from its name in Spanish) and incorporating new themes into their educational plans, such as the culture of entrepreneurship, information and communication technologies, good practices in agro-ecology and environmental education.

Capacity of the social fabric to influence the design, implementation and follow-up of public policies

70

community networks and citizen platforms supported to improve their impact on public life

One of the Fund's strategies to strengthen local government and move forward in peace building has been the empowerment of communities and the guarantee of the right to citizen participation. Peasant and community associations, people in the process of reintegration, indigenous councils, or women's collective organizations have been assisted in strengthening their leadership and their capacity for political advocacy. This work has been carried out mainly in Antioquia, Caquetá, Cesar, La Guajira, Nariño and Putumayo, by supporting collective initiatives for the positioning of their agendas and the establishment of mechanisms for direct dialogue with political representatives and decision-makers.

Coverage of basic public services and improvement of infrastructure by the State with community support

305

infrastructures built or restored with the participation of the State and the community

For the Fund, peace-building must be combined with a progressive increase in state presence and greater public investment, aimed at mitigating the urban-rural gap in terms of access to public services. With the contribution of the communities and public agencies, in the form of economic resources, materials and labor, aqueducts have been built, electrical systems have been provided, road infrastructure has been improved, and community classrooms, sports and education spaces have been fitted out and equipped, among other types of infrastructure. In addition to satisfying basic needs and positively impacting the quality of life of the populations, these interventions symbolically represent the presence of the State in territories where the State has been absent for a long time.

29.705

people in municipalities affected by the armed conflict have improved their access to basic public services

Investments in infrastructure have meant an increase in the coverage and quality of public services related mainly to education, health, basic sanitation, access to safe water, road and digital connectivity and energy, reaching the population in rural areas and territories affected by repeated exclusion and violence in the departments of Caquetá, Cesar, Chocó, Guaviare, La Guajira, Meta, Nariño and Putumayo.

The formulation of public policies for gender equity in Putumayo, a space for institutional coordination and legitimization of the State's presence in the territory

On April 18, 2022, the Public Policy on Gender Equity for Women: Towards the Sustainable Development of the Country (CONPES 4080) was approved, establishing the country's roadmap for the next eight years. This State policy recognizes that for women to make effective progress it is necessary to join efforts of government agencies and civil society, and identifies as one of the main challenges to bring the national guidelines to the most isolated territories, and to guarantee the rights of rural women.

In Putumayo, and within the framework of the Mujeres que Transforman project, alongside the approval of CONPES 4080, a process was set in motion to formulate or update municipal public policies on gender equity in a participatory manner. This process was supported from the outset by the Presidential Council for Women's Equity (CPEM, from its name in Spanish), which, in addition to providing technical guidelines so that municipal policies would be aligned with national policy, promoted coordination with the departmental governor's office and the relevant mayor's offices. As a first result, in March 2022 the Pact for Equality with the Women of Putumayo was signed by the Governor of Putumayo and the mayors and social managers of several municipalities in the department, which was endorsed by the CPEM, the Departmental Alliance of Women Weavers of Life of Putumayo, representing Putumayo women, and the Ambassador of the European Union in Colombia.

Within the framework of this Pact, the municipalities of Puerto Asís, Puerto Guzmán, Puerto Leguizamó, San Miguel, Valle del Guamuez and Villagarzón co-financed and assisted the different events for the participation of organized women in the drafting/updating of their relevant public policies, with a crucial commitment and involvement of Gender Liaisons and most especially,

of the Social Women Managers, as a high-level official pointed out: *"The social women managers were relevant to the process since they provided political, institutional and strategic support from the municipal administrations. The gender liaisons alone would not have been able to achieve it"*. The second result was the approval in August 2022 of the Public Policies for Women's Gender Equity (PPEG, from its name in Spanish) in the six aforementioned municipalities, following a public presentation before the relevant Municipal Councils.

The support of central institutions continued and, through the coordination of the CPEM, the National Planning Department (DNP), through the Gender Deputy Directorate, shared with the Mayors' Offices the tools and windows of opportunity offered by the State mechanisms for the effective implementation of the PPEG; Specifically, the Action and Follow-up Plan (PAS, from its name in Spanish), a strategic planning and management instrument established by the DNP to follow up on social policies, and the Women's Type Project to access resources from the General Royalties System, provided for in CONPES 4080, which is the first effective tool to direct resources for the fulfillment of gender equity policies in the territories by the Governors' and Mayors' Offices.

As a further demonstration of the willingness and commitment of the Mayors' Offices to gender equity, the Social Women Managers requested the support of the European Trust Fund for Peace to assist in the construction of the PAS and of a joint project for the six municipalities, which would include some of the actions included in the relevant PPEGs. The third result of the process is that as of September 30, 2023, the Mayors' Offices are concluding the implementation of the SAP for the year 2023 and taking the final steps to have the SAPs for the period 2024-2027, a tool that will be delivered to the new municipal leaders



during the transition phase with the current governors. Furthermore, under the leadership of the Mayor's Office of Puerto Asis, an investment project for \$8,167,682,851 Colombian pesos was formulated and submitted to the Southern Regional Royalties System to implement actions of the PPEGs of the six aforementioned municipalities, related to the economic empowerment of women, the prevention of and assistance to gender-based violence and the institutional promotion of the gender approach.

The process of developing public policies for gender equity in Putumayo, promoted and led by civil society, has led to the effective coordination of the institutional framework, from the governing body for gender equity policies in the country, the CPEM, to local institutions, including the DNP, which is the authority for planning and monitoring public policies and investments in the country. The initiatives and steps taken with regard to municipal policies for gender equity in Putumayo, have resulted in important spaces of rapprochement of the

national agencies to the needs and priorities of women in a territory that is generally poorly cared for, strengthening along the way their relations with local agencies and also the position of their counterparts at the municipal level. In the words of one of the Social Women Managers, *"the exercise of coordination around the formulation of policies has contributed to the empowerment and visibility of the women of the territory who fight for the guarantee of their rights, in addition to mobilizing the institutions for the consistency of the guarantee of these rights and for the positioning of gender issues in the different public spaces"*.

The experience developed in Putumayo with the support of the European Trust Fund for Peace is a good example on how to put into practice in small municipalities the national guidelines on gender equity, and how the promotion of gender equity for Putumayo women has contributed to strengthen and legitimize the presence of the State in that territory ^{XIX}.

XIX This case review was published in the **19th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Fund for Peace (July - September 2023)** and reflects some of the achievements of the project T06.41 Women who transform, implemented by Conexión ICCO Cooperación and its partner Alianza de Mujeres Tejedoras de Vida del Putumayo, from July 01, 2019 to September 30, 2024. The text is based on information provided by the project and on the results of the technical assistance missions of the European Trust Fund for Peace during the process, highlighting some testimonials that appear in *italics*.

Access to water in rural communities in Tumaco

Access to water and basic sanitation services in rural communities in the department of Nariño is very deficient, a problem that has been identified as requiring priority attention in the department's public development policies. In this context, the European Trust Fund for Peace is aligned with the priorities of the region and, through the PDT Nariño project, seeks to improve access to and quality of water for human consumption in the department, particularly in the communities of the municipality of Tumaco. To this end, the project first conducted the SIASAR (Rural Water and Sanitation Information System, from its name in Spanish) diagnosis, which provided a baseline of 164 rural communities, representing more than 34,000 people. This diagnosis has been useful in two ways: on the one hand, it has provided information on the situation of the municipality in terms of access to water and sanitation conditions, as a starting point for the intervention, and on the other, it constitutes an important tool for territorial planning that has been made available to the agencies with responsibilities in this area, thus contributing to the improved performance of local institutions.

"Out of the 11 municipalities in our subregion, Tumaco is the only one that has such a SIASAR diagnosis in its complete and public form. Having this diagnosis allows, in particular, to bring the Departmental Water and Sanitation Plan of Nariño to the territorial reality," explains the liaison officer for rural housing, drinking water and basic sanitation of the Territory Renewal Agency (ART) - Pacific and Nariño Border Regional Office.

As part of the process promoted by the PDT Nariño, we assisted in the structuring and implementation of the Tumaco Water and Sanitation Board (MAST, from its name in Spanish), made up of national public agencies, such as the Vice-Ministry of Water and Basic Sanitation, departmental agencies, such as Corponariño and the Departmental Institute of Health, and municipal public

agencies, such as Aguas de Tumaco (Aqueduct of Tumaco), mayors' offices and international cooperation

organizations. This space for coordination has allowed us to join efforts and strengthen institutional capacities in the formulation of supplementary projects in the sector, as mentioned by the ART Pacific and Nariño Border Regional Office liaison: *"Now with the MAST, each institution, based on its mission, can contribute and coordinate to promote the projects, or invite the technical assistance required. Today, interventions are more organized, more efficient and the impact is stronger"*.

To date, two aqueducts have been built, one in the Ángel María Caldas Torres Alcúan village and the other in the Vayanviendo village, benefiting a total of 344 people. This increased the coverage of the aqueduct service in the rural area of the municipality of Tumaco from 6.84% to 8.37%, and the first effects of these interventions on the benefited population are already becoming evident. Thus, initial estimates indicate that diarrheal diseases related to contamination and poor water quality were reduced by 85% in children under 5 years of age. *"Before the water was collected in the pipes and was contaminated, we had many stomach problems. With the aqueduct the children, not only of my family but of the whole community, no longer have stomach problems"*, the President of the Board of Directors of Agua Clara del Alcúan, commented.

Traditionally in rural communities, women and girls are responsible for the water supply for their families, so they were key spokespersons in defining issues related to the practicality of the aqueducts implemented, especially in the final section (access from homes). The project also relied on this social structure to set up the two community water boards under female leadership, which received training on technical and organizational aspects in order to promote efficient self-management of the water resource, which is already being observed. In the case of Angel





Maria Caldas Torres Alcúan, the Board's initiative allowed solving a problem of water flow reduction related to the seasonal nature of the water supply, preventing more than 120 families from being affected. *"In the village we experience a summer season and the water level in the aqueduct drops. So, within the Water Board and calling all the community in meetings, we decided not to leave the pump running all day long, but only for some hours, and we also decided how we were going to distribute the water among the families so that everyone would have what they needed"*, says the President of the Agua Clara del Alcúan Water Board.

Another of the early effects of the newly built aqueducts is that the communities have considerably reduced the price of the water they consume. Thanks to the aqueduct, where before they used to pay an average of \$20,000 pesos per week to be supplied by water trucks, now the cost has been reduced to the monthly fee they pay to the Water Board, which is approximately \$10,000 per house, depending on the number of users in the respective community. This fee covers the salary of the person in charge of infrastructure maintenance and the cost of eventual repairs.

We can conclude that the process developed by the PDT Nariño to improve the water supply service in the district of Tumaco has had an impact on the strengthening of the local institutional framework with jurisdiction in the sector, has meant an important benefit for the families of the two mentioned villages, and there are favorable conditions for the first positive effects generated to remain in time. Water is now safer and more economically accessible for the families, compared to the previous supply system, and timely measures are also considered to address the maintenance of infrastructure and resource management^{XX}.

XX This case study was published in the 12th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Peace Fund (October - December 2021) and reflects some of the achievements of the project T06.20 PDT Nariño, implemented by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation - AECID and its partners, from May 19, 2018 to September 30, 2023. The text is based on information provided by the project and interviews with people involved in the initiatives implemented, from whom the testimonials shown in *italics* were collected.

Small-scale infrastructure in Meta improves access to and quality of education and the well-being of the educational community

In the rural areas of the department of Meta, education institutions generally lack the minimum basic conditions to carry out their work, such as access to water and energy or an infrastructure that does not pose a risk to the safety of teachers and students. The poor conditions of many rural education institutions is one of the reasons why children migrate to other centers to begin or continue their studies, leading in some cases to the closure of rural schools due to low enrollment.

The principal of one of these rural education institutions comments that the deterioration of the schools worsened *"during the conflict, when there was no investment from the State. Because of the violence, they did not intervene in the schools, the resources did not arrive or were very scarce, and when the peace process began, they began to enter the territory. Since 2016 and 2017, food and supplies have arrived from the Governor's Office and the Mayor's Office; however, the needs are still enormous"*.

In this context, the Mascapaz project intervened in four municipalities of Meta: Mesetas, San Juan de Arama, Vistahermosa and Puerto Rico, with small infrastructure improvements in 32 rural schools prioritized by the departmental Secretariat of Education. The selection of the works to be carried out was made jointly, with the participation of the Community Action Boards (JAC), the education community and the project team, which was also in charge of the technical aspects (designs, work projects, etc.) The JACs themselves were responsible for the execution of the resources, and the education institutions and the community were directly involved, especially with the contribution of unskilled labor and the social oversight of the works. Infrastructure improvements included the construction of walls, floors, and roofs for

multi-purpose rooms, libraries, hallways, sanitary units and playgrounds, and in some institutions, septic tanks were installed and photovoltaic plants were installed to provide access to energy services. More than 700 children have benefited from these improvements.

The works carried out improved the quality of education and the quality of life of teachers and students in different ways. The interventions allowed for a better use of space, offering the education community the possibility of carrying out different types of activities in more appropriate conditions, as one teacher said, *"Now we can carry out recreational-education activities and we can teach classes in the courtyard classroom. In addition, families no longer get soaked during assemblies and they can talk more comfortably because the space is larger and cooler"*. The conditions wherein teachers carry out their work have also improved, enabling the use of certain underutilized pedagogical tools, with access to energy service being crucial for this purpose, *"With the energy I can now charge the computer and cell phone, teach the use of computer tools, play music with a speaker, use a television that we had to play videos that help a lot to improve pedagogical practice. And this is important because we are required to teach about computers, but before it was only theoretical, now in practice I can use my computer to support my teaching"*.

In other institutions, it became evident that the improvements in the multiple classrooms served to expand their coverage by offering the first years of high school, since, with the limited space, some children had to move to another location to continue their education. In a specific case in the municipality of Mesetas, this expansion of the education offer resulted in four girls and an indigenous



child return to the system, a situation that is especially relevant in terms of gender equity since, across the board, girls are forced to abandon their education due to their families' reluctance to send them to institutions far from their place of residence. The changes are also evident in the reduction of travel time and costs that families have to bear when they travel to the urban center, which can take between one and two hours of travel time.

Finally, another impact of Mascapaz's intervention is the greater rapprochement between the communities, represented by the JACs, and the teaching staff, and the joint work for a common interest, even with their own resources when necessary. The education community appreciates in a positive note the work done and emphasizes that it has increased the community's motivation to work and continue improving the conditions of their children's education ^{XXI}.

XXI This case study was published in the **20th Quarterly Monitoring Report of the European Trust Fund for Peace (October - December 2023)** and reflects some of the achievements of the T06.4 Mascapaz project, implemented by Instituto Sinchi and its partners, from June 8, 2017 to November 7, 2024. The text is based on information provided by the project and interviews with officials of the schools involved, whose testimonials are in *italics*.



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