



Project: Colombia. Strengthening human rights in the Regional Peace and Development Programs (TF 096627)

Overview

In January 2010, the The Nordic Trust Fund, a knowledge and learning program for World Bank staff on human rights, approved a US\$ 400,000 grant (the Grant) to be administered by the World Bank. The objective of the Grant is to capture, strengthen and make available knowledge on the theoretical and practical links between human rights and development from the Bank's experience in the **Peace and Development Project¹** as well as the work of the **Regional Development and Peace Programs** (RDPP), financed by the Bank through a loan to the national government.

Specifically, the grant focused on the experience gained by five of the 19 RDPPs in the country: Magdalena Medio represented by Corporación Desarrollo y Paz del Magdalena Medio (CDPMM); Norte de Santander represented by Corporación Nueva Sociedad de la Región Nororiental de Colombia (Consornoc); Oriente Antioqueño represented by Corporación Programa Desarrollo para la Paz del Oriente Antioqueño (Prodepaz); Montes de María represented by Fundación Red Desarrollo and Paz de los Montes de María (FDPMM); and Sur del Valle and Norte del Cauca represented by Corporación para el Desarrollo y la Paz del Suroccidente Colombiano (Vallepaz).

The Grant receives support and guidance from an Advisory Group integrated by representatives of the National Department for Social Prosperity (DPS)², the National Planning Department (DNP)³, the European Commission for Colombia and Ecuador, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Center for Research and Popular Education (CINEP)⁴, the Colombian Oil Company (Ecopetrol), and **Redprodepaz**.

¹ Page 3 of the document includes a glossary of terms in red.

² The National Department for Social Prosperity has the responsibility of leading the social inclusion and reconciliation sectors at the national level.

³ The National Planning Department is the technical advisor to the National Government.

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⁴ The Center for Research and Popular Education/Peace Program (CINEP/PPP) is a non-profit foundation that promotes social change under the orientation of the Society of Jesus in Colombia.



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The Grant consists of three components: i) State of the art of the level of integration of human rights in the Regional Development and Peace Programs; ii) Pilot activities to strengthen human rights in the Regional Development and Peace Programs; and iii) Knowledge generation.

Component I was implemented between June 2010 and April 2011 and consisted of a study on the conceptualization and incorporation of human rights norms and principles by the Peace and Development Project and the RDPPs. Its final report established that both the Project and the RDPP make significant contributions to the realization of rights of their target population, primarily by supporting and implementing development **subprojects** that incorporate, to some extent, the principles of a human rights-based approach to development. However, the document also notes that this is not the result of a project design that was intentionally based on international human rights law or on the explicit and systematic incorporation of elements of a human rights-based approach to development. These findings, contradictory in principle, indicate that the development that individuals and their community need, want, and defend merges naturally with the enjoyment of a dignified life in the light of human rights. In other words, the link exists and can be strengthened.

Component II of the Grant began in March 2011 and ran through March of this year. Under this component, the Project team brought the analytical findings of Component I to a practical level by: i) identifying the direct and indirect contributions of the Peace and Development Program and the RDPPs to the enjoyment of rights of the target populations; ii) creating instruments to deliberately integrate a human rights-based approach into the design, implementation and monitoring of development projects; and iii) proposing methodologies to measure quantifiable progress on the contribution of development projects to the effective enjoyment of rights.

The result of this work is a planning and management tool for human rights based development projects, developed jointly with the RDPPs on the basis of the experience of the CDPMM in the subproject **Peasant farm in the Magdalena Medio**. The results of the application of this tool confirmed the findings of Component I in that development and human rights merge in the living conditions of the individuals and their community, and that development actors can strengthen this link by taking deliberate actions.

The objective of Component III of the Project was to disseminate the knowledge generated about the theoretical and practical links that exist between development and human rights, as well as the experience of implementing the tool. To this end, in the light the subproject **Clothing Production in Norte de Santander**, the Project designed and validated a knowledge transfer methodology.



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Glossary

- **Peace and Development Project**

This project promotes regional and local initiatives towards development and lasting peace to benefit the poorest, most vulnerable and internally displaced populations. It encourages demand-driven social, cultural, environmental, and productive initiatives, and strengthens community-based organizations by empowering them to make decisions on what to do and manage the resources to do it. The Peace and Development Project is implemented through a partnership between the government of Colombia (GOC), the Regional Development and Peace Programs (RDPP), and the World Bank (technical and financial support), in six highly conflictive regions of Colombia: Magdalena Medio, Oriente Antioqueño, Montes de María, Macizo Colombiano Alto Patía, Norte de Santander and Sur del Valle, and Norte del Cauca.

The World Bank first became involved with the RDPPs twelve years ago, when it began working with the Magdalena Medio Development and Peace Program. The Bank supported the Program through two US\$5 million Learning and Innovation loans (LIL) granted to the national government, for the periods 1998-2001 and 2001-2004. The main objective of the LILs was to support the development and peace efforts undertaken by civil society in the region. This intervention was designed on the basis of the guiding principles and methodologies established by the RDPP and received the support of other partners, including Ecopetrol and the Catholic Church.

After five years of execution, the LILs supported the launching of 526 community projects, among other achievements. As a result, between 2003 and 2004, the GOC and the World Bank decided to grant a US\$30 million loan for the design of a new program to replicate and build on the experience gained through the Program in four new regions of Colombia, thus creating the Peace and Development Project. This loan also served as national counterpart resources for the First and Second Peace Laboratories funded by the European Union.

Several of the activities undertaken by the Peace and Development Project went beyond local capacity-building and contributed to regional processes that gradually defined strategic lines of action for the territorial agendas. These public-private action agendas coincided in some basic points, which facilitated the involvement of higher-level partners in the processes. These new regional-level initiatives, which have received the broad-based support of organizations and partners, were called Strategic Territorial Processes. Between 2010 and 2012, the World Bank provided support to these processes through a second loan.



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- **Regional Development and Peace Programs**

The RDPPs reflect the commitment of civil society to an inclusive process based on life, development, and territory. This has materialized in an active and independent network of people, leaders and community base organizations that, with a regional, long-term perspective and the support of representative stakeholders in the regions, are seeking alternatives to violence, poverty, and exclusion through the implementation of specific subprojects. Each RDPP works through a legal entity with the capacity to manage and administer resources, attract partners, and facilitate community empowerment by identifying, formulating, and providing technical support for development subprojects. These entities are called Partners Organizations (PO), in the context of the Peace and Development Project, given their role as strategic partners for the GOC and the Bank in the implementation of the Project.

- **Redprodepaz**

This system of civil society coordination is a pluralistic and independent network that promotes, convenes, and coordinates the RDPPs. Redprodepaz is a confederation of approximately 20 RDPPs from 22 departments and 440 municipalities of Colombia, and receives support from 20 collaborating entities. In addition, it constitutes a platform for strategic dialogue between the RDPPs and the GOC, collaborating entities, and international cooperation agencies. The Programs, as well as the entities they comprise, share the common interest of building a nation in peace based on democratic participation in processes of comprehensive development. Its five thematic areas are: i) Peace and Human Rights; ii) Democratic Governance; iii) Sustainable Human Development; iv) Education; and v) Land Management.

- **Subprojects**

The subprojects were designed by community base organizations (called User Organizations, UO, in the framework of the Peace and Development Project). The implementation of these subprojects by the UO, with the support of the PO and their allies, empowers them and facilitates their work in different networks (peasant farmer producers, women, youth, victims, communicators, etc.). As they meet their goals at the local level, the networks and member organizations slowly achieve regional standing as social and political actors, becoming spaces and platforms for citizen participation. The empowerment and participation of these actors in local public entities strengthens democratic governance, has a positive impact on institutional performance, and facilitates dialogue and coordination between citizen processes and regional public agendas.



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- **Subproject -Peasant farm in the Magdalena Medio**

This social and economic rural process, implemented by the Magdalena Medio Development and Peace Program (PDPMM) for the past 10 years with different community organizations, is today a methodological model of intervention for the development of the farmer economy in the country. A peasant farm is an agricultural production unit operated by a rural family that has chosen to live in the countryside and owns a piece of land, or aspires to formalize or obtain land by the appropriate legal channels. This business-focused initiative produces i) food for self-consumption, exchange, and local sale (food security) and ii) a steady supply of tropical produce through agro-industrial processes for the marketplace, such as cocoa, palm, and fruit (lead product). The agro-food products that are lacking are provided by other productive units that are connected to a local/regional agro-food system, which is guided by a basic food basket determined by consumer preferences and the nutritional requirements of the population.

- **Subproject- Clothing production in Norte de Santander**

This social and micro-business development process is part of a Strategic Productive process, which has been implemented in the framework of the Solidarity and Sustainable Comprehensive Human Development Scheme that the *Corporación Nueva Sociedad para el Nororiente Colombiano* (CONSORNOC) has promoted for the past 13 years.

Specifically, the clothing production activities began seven years ago in response to the need to find income generation alternatives for vulnerable communities, especially women heads of household living in city urban centers. The project seeks to strengthen a model with i) a business perspective based on a management model that corresponds to the strategic objective of the organization and its members; ii) competitive guidelines for the production of low-cost quality clothing, which satisfies the needs of the consumers by adding value with quality finishes; and c) solidarity principles that encourage working through networks on the basis of recognizing human talent as an organization's most valuable asset.