

Supporting peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Colombia

Pillar: (2.) support for immediate and ongoing needs; (3.) support for host countries and communities and (4.) durable solutions.

Objectives: (1) to ease pressure on the host countries involved; (2) to enhance refugee self-reliance (4.) to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

Country: Colombia | **Actors involved:** KfW, Civil Peace Service, Action Medeor, DRK, GIZ, HSS, DGRV, TDH, BfdW, APC-Colombia¹

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supports Colombia in implementing its peace agreement. Colombia is also being supported in its' efforts to provide protection and long-term solutions to the still over 7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), forced to leave their homes due to the decade-long armed conflict. BMZ's support for the country with the largest population of IDPs worldwide focuses on peace building, crisis prevention and conflict management including sustainable economic development in conflicted affected areas.

What is the approach of German development cooperation?

Prevention and the civil transformation of conflicts, securing peace and ensuring human safety as well as disaster risk reduction, contribute to efforts of tackling the root causes of displacement. In addition, approaches of conflict management and dialogue are important elements for ensuring success of measures that aim at strengthening the resilience of displaced persons and stabilizing host communities.

BMZ supports communities and societies with improving their capacities for non-violent conflict transformation (including transitional justice and reconciliation). For example, the programme ProPaz in Colombia promotes spaces for dialogue between state actors and civil society, supports criminal justice, memorial work, victim compensation and strengthens the capacities of local governments and civil society organizations for local peacebuilding.

Besides the interventions addressing conflict prevention directly, creating the conditions for successful economic and social (re-)integration of displaced persons and the restitution of family- and social-networks destroyed by the armed conflict, is key for ensuring sustainable peace. Therefore, in Colombia, BMZ together with its partners supports programmes to strengthen the resilience of displaced people, for example through vocational education and training, psychosocial support and local economic development. It also supports peace-education, inclusive cultural activities and sports for development in schools and communities, especially addressing children and young people, including ex-combatants, as key actors in the development of a peaceful society.

In addition, ProPaz as well as the German financial assistance supports the development of new institutions, policies and processes agreed upon in the peace agreement between the government and ex-FARC guerrilla.

How is the support implemented?

Support is based on bilateral German as well as joint German-European funding. German development cooperation is primarily implemented by KfW, GIZ as well as German NGOs and

¹ Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, Civil Peace Service, Action Medeor e.V., German Red Cross, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung e.V., Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband e.V., terre des hommes Deutschland e.V, Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe e.V./ Brot für die Welt e.V., Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation,

political foundations. The interventions are funded through different funding instruments, adapted to the specific needs and situations, including bilateral technical and financial cooperation, and the *Special Initiative “Tackling Root Causes of Forced Displacement, Re-integrating Refugees”*.

Can this approach be replicated in refugee settings?

The support in Colombia is currently directed towards IDPs, but the approaches on peace building and conflict management developed by the German development cooperation, can be applied in refugee situations as well. Examples of peace-building programmes in refugee settings funded by BMZ include: Strengthening of non-state peacebuilding actors in Myanmar; Interreligious and intercultural dialogue and reintegration of young ex-combatants, as well as sports for development in CAR; Promotion of participation of women in peacebuilding processes in the Middle East; promotion of peaceful coexistence through participatory community development and disaster prevention in schools and communities in Lebanon...

Core messages:

- The approaches on peace building and conflict management developed by the German development cooperation are **replicable in other situations**, including in refugee and host communities.
- By strengthening local state actors and civil society, **resilience of displaced and host communities is strengthened**.
- BMZ promotes **partnerships** and dialogue by working with state actors and civil society.

Project list (BMZ financed)

Support of the peace process in Colombia (PROPAZ)	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ	34,000,000 EUR
Participation of IDPs and host communities in the economic development of Meta and Caquetá after the peace agreement	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ	4,000,000 EUR
Economic integration of internally displaced people and receiving communities in Norte de Santander	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ	4,000,000 EUR
Peace Fund “Vivir la Paz”	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ	3,200,000 EUR
Reform program for the peace process (phase IV and V)	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau KfW	200,000,000 EUR
Reduction of individual vulnerability of women including internally displaced, returned and host community women, in the health sector in Colombia	NGO	495,000 EUR
Holistic approach for the reintegration of victims of forced displacement in the intercultural territories of Montes de Maria, Departamentos Bolívar and Sucre. Contribution towards tackling root causes of displacement in Colombia.	NGO	1,066,700 EUR
Strengthening the resilience of communities, which have suffered from the armed conflict, through social and economic integration of internally displaced people.	NGO	850,000 EUR
Promotion of local economy to mitigate causes and effects of internal displacement in Colombia	NGO	1,400,000 EUR

COALICO – children and youth defend their rights and advocate for peace.	NGO	423,000 EUR
Restitution of family- and social networks for widows and minor orphans, victims of the armed conflict.	NGO	725,000 EUR
Children, adolescents and young people create scenarios for peace and reconciliation with their families, schools and communities in Córdoba.	NGO	675,000 EUR