

## Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund [WPHF] in Colombia

### Call for proposals *"Women's participation in peacebuilding, recovery and conflict resolution processes"*

#### Background

Colombia was a prioritized country to receive immediate WPHF support through the Colombia UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund [UN MPTF] for Sustaining Peace in Colombia. The UN MPTF opened a call for proposals for civil society organizations to implement initiatives related to women's participation in peacebuilding, recovery, and conflict resolution processes (WPHF outcome 6).

The call main objective was to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations for their participation and leadership in peacebuilding processes. The projects contributed to the implementation of all points of the Peace Agreement signed between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP.

#### Partners for Change

The WPHF in Colombia has supported the implementation of **16 projects** to consolidate peace at the local level as set by the Final Peace Agreement. The projects contributed to the state and CSO efforts to strengthen the link between women's rights protection, democratic strengthening, and inclusive development towards sustaining peace.

Out of the 16 projects, 10 were implemented by women's organizations, 4 by indigenous and Afro-Colombian organizations; 11 out 16 implementing partners are community-based/local CSOs, and, in 6 cases, the proposal is a strategic partnership between a community-based and a larger national organization.

The call was implemented in **66 municipalities and 9 out of the 32 departments of Colombia**. All selected projects are focusing on municipalities profoundly affected by the armed conflict and included in the list of municipalities prioritized by the Government for peace stabilization.

The projects have focused mostly on rural women and youth, including ex-combatants, Afro-Colombians, and indigenous peoples.



#### Together we achieved

The WPHF in Colombia has contributed to enhancing women's participation and influence in political and economic empowerment, in decision-making and implementation mechanisms defined in the Final Peace Agreement and contributed to well-being and peaceful coexistence within their communities.

**Over 10,000 Colombians (10,078)** in conflict-affected areas have benefited directly from WPHF (almost **80% women and girls**); **Over 12,000 indirect beneficiaries**.

Key results include:

**A/ Enhanced participation and influence of women in decision-making processes related to peace implementation.**

✓ Women's participation and advocacy in Local Public Plans for Peace Agreement implementation; such activities have resulted in the **approval, financing and implementation of women's organizations proposals in the plans:**

**6** initiatives promoted by rural women, victims and ex-combatants supported by the WPHF were prioritized the **Municipal Pacts for Regional Transformation (PMTR)** and **2 Action Plans for Regional Transformation (PATR)** include proposals formulated by rural women, victims and ex-combatants. These achievements are of great importance, considering that they are the mechanisms to implement the peace agreements at the local level. Implemented proposals include: Social management of rural property and land use; Infrastructure Rural health care, Rural education and rural early childhood; Rural housing, drinking water and basic rural sanitation, Economic reactivation and agricultural production,

System for enforcement of the right to food, Reconciliation, co-existence, and peacebuilding.

- ✓ **More than 200 women leaders count with stronger capacities for their political activities** within their communities and with local administration. 16 women trained eventually run in regional and local elections that took place in October 2019. **4 were elected.**
- ✓ **10 municipal and 1 departmental agreement** signed by local authorities, supported CSOs and women's networks to promote initiatives for the **eradication of Gender-Based Violence**, non-violent and co-responsible masculinities and strengthened gender local observatories as a result of advocacy activities undertaken by partners.
- ✓ 3 communities have benefited from initiatives to improve **water supply systems, run health care campaigns in partnership with the municipal hospital,** and violence against women prevention campaigns.
- ✓ 644 women from Tolima, Arauca, Chocó and Cauca are using the **app "ELLAS" to confront GBV.** "ELLAS" allows women in Colombia to recognize specific cases or situations in which they are victims of violence and informs on how to initiate a complaint process and what specific obligations each entity has towards women victims of violence.

**B/ Women's mediation and reconciliation initiatives to reduce local conflicts have been strengthened contributing to peaceful coexistence at the local level**

- ✓ **Stronger reconciliation with ex-combatants, victims and communities living in the area where reintegration spaces are located** (spaces where FARC ex combatants were grouped to implement demobilization and reintegration process) through



dialogues and exchanges between rural women and ex-combatant women of the FARC in 4 municipalities.

- ✓ **4 regional networks of women leaders and human rights defenders** constituted and functioning, as initiatives for joint women's advocacy and coordination and dialogue with authorities and territorial entities.
- ✓ In 6 municipalities projects have implemented **protection and self-protection measures for women leaders and human rights defenders**, to face risks and threats against social leaders and human rights defenders linked to the processes supported by the WPHF Call.
- ✓ **1759 women and girls, and 691 men and boys** trained with **technical and political tools** for the **assertive mediation of local conflicts**, promoting their constructive transformation in family, community, and institutional spaces, with a **focus on prevention and eradication of GBV.**

**C/ Women have been economically empowered and contribute to the well-being of their families and communities in conflict affected areas.**

- ✓ The WPHF has made possible the creation of **2 credit funding mechanisms in Antioquia and Cauca** (1 revolving fund) that have contributed to **income generation and strengthened entrepreneurial rural initiative** of women head of household and victims of the internal armed conflict. The revolving fund has supported **58 individual and collective productive projects** including agroecological production and environmental sustainability principles. The initiatives supported include pisciculture, minor species (i.e. small-scale poultry, etc.), preparation and sale of food, production and sale of cleaning products, collective coffee production, plantain, fruit and timber plantations, among others.  
After project closure the revolving fund is still in place and has supported more initiatives.
- ✓ **35 savings and credit groups** (GLAC, for its initials in Spanish) established and functioning to support women's economic empowerment and engaged in the implementation of community development plans.
- ✓ In total, **976 women and 204 men** have benefited from local **economic empowerment** initiatives promoted by

the projects. This has not only contributed to economic recovery in conflict-affected areas, but also to women's political empowerment for their participation in peace implementation.

- ✓ Thanks to the WPHF, **4 organizations** were able to subscribe **new cooperation agreements** with other key stakeholders and donors to ensure **sustainability** of their organizational and local interventions.

### Capacity building initiative implemented by UN Women Technical Secretariat

The Technical Secretariat of UN Women Colombia, in partnership with programme staff, has implemented a capacity building initiative for the 16 participating organizations. The initiative focused on the following lines of action:

- ✓ **Technical strengthening** of organizations and support for advocacy and women's agendas with a focus on Cauca and Nariño departments.
- ✓ Financial and administrative capacity building: based on an initial capacity assessment, an improvement plan was implemented, and **16 organizations have updated their internal procedures and controls mechanisms** for a more transparent and efficient management of resources.
- ✓ Strengthened the capacities of women and CSOs on **Gender Budgeting**, consolidating their political advocacy and dialogue strategies with new local administrations.
- ✓ Development of an **advocacy strategy for the participation of CSOs in the elaboration of the local development plans**, including tools provision, coordination with key institutional stakeholders and PDETs processes.
- ✓ **Systematization** that identifies lessons learned and promising practices on the strengthening of **collective capacities** to assist victims, **prevent cases of gender-based violence** and promote non-violent and **co-responsible masculinities in the FARC reincorporation process**.

The Technical Secretariat has also connected WPHF partners to other processes and actors to contribute to the sustainability of results:

- ✓ Participation of elected women supported by the WPHF in the **2019 National Summit of Elected Women**, promoted by UN Women, as a complementary measure to strengthen women, their organization, and their political participation.
- ✓ Initiatives to help **sustainability** of implemented projects.

