



FACTSHEET: COLOMBIA

Overcoming challenges, creating opportunities

The situation

Peace Agreement adopted in November 2016; disarmament and demobilisation of FARC completed in 2017

Upper-middle income country: poverty is declining (from 42 % in 2008 to 28 % in 2016); unemployment is falling (from 11.3 % in 2005 to 9 % in 2015); and stunting in children under five is reducing (from 15.9 % in 2005 to 10.8 % in 2015)

2nd most biodiverse country in the world – but very vulnerable to climate change

Still one of the **most unequal** countries in the region; 1.15 % of the population own more than 52 % of land

The Peace Agreement has called for “**a new Colombian countryside**” through integrated rural reform, which will seek to reverse the numerous causes and effects of the conflict in a “radical transformation of the rural and agrarian reality in Colombia”

EU support

The EU supports the **National Development Plan** – seeking to follow the government’s leadership and revive the country, including a focus on reducing social and territorial inequalities between urban and rural areas through the comprehensive development of rural areas as a guarantee for equal opportunities

The EU supports **inclusive growth** and job creation and sustainable rural development; women and youth are key cross-cutting issues

Investing in effective **budget support** and strengthening policy dialogue and capacity development is already yielding significant results



Key achievements 2014-2018

119,488 families gained access to land, of which 14,580 belong to ethnic groups

37,193 parcels of land covering 994,972 hectares were legalised, affecting 55,715 families (45.9 % women-headed households)

135,557 peasant families were supported with productive projects aimed at creating jobs and increasing incomes (32 % women-headed households)

54,590 homes were given to families (26 % women-headed households)

653 *Negocios Verdes* (Green Businesses) were promoted in vulnerable communities, resulting in 9,156 jobs in 195 municipalities and increased incomes of €53,547,602 (34 % women employed)

2,000 indigenous and 1,200 Afro-Colombian families benefitted from sustainable economic initiatives

Resolution of conflicts in National Parks and Protected Areas resulted in 4,506 families benefitting from agreements for sustainable use of biodiversity and livelihoods in protected areas or buffer zones

Lessons to build on

Highly effective policy dialogue

is guiding the development of policies, strengthening capacities and systems, and increasing the EU's profile as a key partner in supporting the peace process

“Territorial approach” enables rural development that is participatory, inclusive and built from the bottom up

Use of **indicators** and commitment to targets are powerful tools for bringing about change

Strong emphasis on the key role played by **women in development** is essential to the process

Coherent approach adopted by the EU has seen different instruments working in a highly complementary and focused manner

