

GIZ in Colombia

Background



The emerging economy of Colombia is Latin America's third-largest economy. In 2013, Colombia began accession talks with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). A number of reform processes have been launched under President Juan Manuel Santos since 2010 with a stronger emphasis on social equity, and better conditions have been created for addressing the country's social and economic challenges. The peace agreement signed with the guerrilla movement FARC (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*) in November 2016 and its implementation, which aims to develop regions of the country affected by conflict, signalled a major turning point in Colombia's future.

In many respects, Colombia has seen some positive developments. The security situation in the country has now improved, foreign investments are strengthening the economy more and more, and tourism is growing, especially in areas where the security situation is stable. Inflation and unemployment are falling, while gross domestic product (GDP) is rising.

Nevertheless, Colombia remains a country of contrasts. Extreme inequality between urban and rural areas persists. Some eight million people have been internally displaced as a result of violent conflicts between the various guerrilla movements, criminal gangs and government forces.

Furthermore, vast areas of the country are affected by the impacts of climate change. Colombia plays a major role in global efforts to mitigate climate change and protect the environment. It is an important partner in the context of Agenda 2030 and the UN climate negotiations, not least because it is the thirdmost biodiverse country in the world. Around 15 per cent of Colombia's national territory is protected under nature conservation laws.

GIZ in Colombia

Germany and Colombia have a history of cooperation stretching back more than 50 years. Around 150 experts, including seconded and national personnel and integrated experts, are currently working for GIZ in Colombia. GIZ works in Colombia on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in the following priority areas:

- Peacebuilding / conflict prevention: rule of law, transitional justice, peacebuilding and the prevention of violence
- Environmental policy and sustainable use of natural resources: resource conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of natural disasters
- Sustainable economic development: development of the rural economy as well as 'green' products and business models

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), GIZ implements various projects in Colombia that are funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI). Since October 2016, GIZ has also been supporting the Colombian Government's peace initiatives on behalf of the European Union, which contributes financially to the BMZ-funded Program to Support Peacebuilding in Colombia (ProPaz).

Priority areas

1. Peacebuilding /conflict prevention

This priority area includes peacebuilding and crisis prevention, promoting transitional justice and supporting displaced people. GIZ primarily supports the Colombian authorities in ensuring that the population has access to existing laws and services, such as those relating to victim protection and reparations. It also boosts the participation of civil society in political decisions.

Programmes

PROPAZ – Support for peacebuilding in Colombia

MAPP/OEA – Supporting the Organisation of American States in victim protection in Colombia

‘Vivir la Paz’ peace fund – Innovative pilot projects for peacebuilding and crisis prevention

2. Environmental policy and sustainable use of natural resources

The environment is becoming an increasingly important aspect of the cooperation between Colombia and Germany. GIZ advises the Colombian Ministry of Environment and other environmental institutions on environmentally based spatial planning and leveraging environmental services, and supports Colombia in protecting forests, expanding nature conservation areas and adapting to climate change.

Programmes

AMPAZ - Environmental regional development in postconflict zones

MIMA – Management of marine protection areas

NAMA – Substitution of old refrigerators through environmental friendly

REDD+ – Development and implementation of the national REDD+ Strategy including biodiversity conservation in Colombia

TONINA –Environmental protection of the Orinico-Bain

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3. Sustainable economic development

This new priority area, which ties in closely with the existing portfolio, was agreed during government negotiations in 2012. Its main goal is for poor sections of society in rural areas to play a greater role in the economic upturn, while minimizing conflicts.

Programmes

PRODES – Promoting sustainable economic development

PROINTEGRA – Economic integration of internally displaced persons and host communities in Norte de Santander

PROINTCAME – Participation of internally displaced persons and host communities at economic development after the peace agreement

Regional, global and sector programs

In addition to bilateral projects in the three priority areas, GIZ Colombia also participates in regional programs that are implemented in several countries, including:

PROAZFRON – Support of Venezuelan refugees and host communities

Sport for development Sector Program

Migration for development program

Information Matters

GPDPD - Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development

Accounting rules to help Non-Annex I parties meet their emission reduction targets

IPACC II – Public investment and climate change adaptation in Latin America

REM - Mitigation of climate change by protecting forests

CFE - C40 - Cities Finance Facilities

PROKLIMA – Minimization and disposal of ecologically harmful substances



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