

MAPP/OEA

Supporting the Organization of American States in victim protection in Colombia

Context

The extension of the mandate until January 24, 2025 is the result of the important role of the MAPP/OAS (Peace Support Mission/Organization of American States) in the Peace Process in Colombia. This has made it possible to accompany the efforts of the State and the Colombian people in their quest for peace with humility, solidarity and respect.

Since 2004, the MAPP/OAS has been observing how numerous efforts, commitments and expressions of will have come together that reflect the desire of Colombian society to put an end to violence and move toward dialogue, coexistence and reconciliation. Thanks to the Mission's close exchange and independent communication with the institutions of the Colombian state, it was possible to identify the progress, challenges and tasks of each institution.

*The **Colombian peace process** is an emblematic example of how long-lasting violent conflicts can be resolved through **dialogue and negotiations**.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed enormous challenges for the implementation of the peace process in Colombia; although there has been progress in some fields, implementation has been delayed due to the absence of national political consensus, as well as the lack of dialogue between the interested parties. Likewise, in recent years, new armed groups have emerged in the territories in an attempt to bring illicit economies under their control, bringing with them an upsurge in violence against social leaders, demobilized combatants, activists and human rights defenders.

But there are also positive developments. The new institutions of the Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, the Truth Commission and the Unit for the Search for Missing Persons, created under the peace agreement, have been able to consolidate further. They work together to guarantee and respect the rights of the more than 9 million victims of the armed conflict.

In 2004, Colombia asked the Organization of American States (OAS) to provide assistance for the country's peace process. On this basis, the Mission to Support the Peace Process of the Organization of American States (MAPP/OAS) was established. Initially, the aim of this international peacekeeping mission was to support Colombia's Justice and Peace process. In 2010, the mandate was extended to include support for land restitution processes and the implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law.

Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
German contribution	12.500.000 €
Lead executing agency	Peace Support Mission (MAPP) of the Organization of American States (OAS)
Programme regions	Overall 154 municipios en 18 regions, for example: Cesar, Norte de Santander, Arauca, Santander, Meta, Guaviare, Caquetá, Putumayo, Nariño, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Antioquia, Córdoba.
Planned overall term	2008 – 2022



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The main objective of the mission is to obtain incidence on the design and implementation of peace policies, to provide concrete information for decision making by observation and analysis of territorial contexts and to contribute to the reinforcement of state capacities.

Objective

MAPP/OEA has more financial support for its victim protection work and is making an important contribution to the management of the violent conflict, especially regarding the monitoring and regional implementation of the peace agreement

Approach

In order to facilitate the work of the MAPP/OAS, the international community contributes resources to a basket fund to implement all MAPP's planned activities. In 2021, in addition to Germany, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Spain, Sweden and the United States have contributed to this fund.

In the current mandate, its work focuses on the following peace issues: Security conditions and affectations, administration of justice, participation, dialogue and social mobilization, policies, processes and strategies for peacebuilding, victims' access to truth, justice, integral reparation, search for persons and guarantees of non-recurrence.

Impact

The MAPP is recognized as a strategic actor in the local, regional and national peace building process. Its contributions in terms of analysis and recommendations contribute to decision-making by the National Government and Colombian institutions.

- Trust and relationships with counterparts and communities were renewed: The regional offices adapted their work methodologies to provide better conditions for approaching sources, strengthening communication and fostering listening ties.

- Political advocacy was reinforced through virtual methodologies such as the strengthening of virtual tools to establish coordination schemes with high-level counterparts. This allowed us to deepen, update and analyze strategic and current issues in close proximity to the institutional framework on a frequent basis.
- Community radio as an opportunity to get closer and multiply the presence in the territory: Value was generated through a radio strategy as a high impact bet to achieve greater proximity and connection with audiences in the territory in the middle of the pandemic. This effort could be replicated and enhanced in other scenarios focused on community leadership and the population in general.



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