

Special Initiatives

PROINTCAME – Integrating IDPs and host communities

Where and how we work ...

For more than 50 years, Colombia has been marked by an armed conflict between guerrilla organizations, paramilitary groups, and the country's Military Forces, this conflict has had serious consequences: economic, social, political and cultural imbalances that forced millions of people to abandon their lands.

According to the Unit for the Victims Assistance and Reparation, until 2018, more than eight million people have been victims of displacement and have had to seek refuge in other municipalities or departments of the country. The Peace Agreement signed in 2016 between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), opened new opportunities for the displaced and internally displaced. The demobilization of armed groups has allowed a many of refugees to return to their homes.

To increase levels of income and employment amongst the victims of this conflict, the Colombian Government has launched funding programmes to boost the local economy. New sources of income are thus now being tapped in the coffee, cocoa, live-stock and dairy farming sectors by strengthening value chains and promoting urban microbusinesses.

Financing programs open new opportunities

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been commissioned by the Federal Ministry of German Economic and Development

Cooperation (BMZ) for support the Colombian Government to implement its programs of financing to promote local economic development in the Meta and Caqueta regions.

Commissioned by:	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
German contribution	EUR 4,000,000
Lead executing agency	Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC-Colombia)
Executing counterpart	Unit for the Victims Assistance and Reparation (UARIV)
Project area	Meta, Caqueta
Scheduled overall term	2018-2020

PROINTCAME supports associations of producers, producers and micro-companies, through cooperations with companies, establishing trade routes through the development of a strategy that fosters employment. In this sense, GIZ articulates with several institutions that work on deficiencies in the workplace (lack of training and knowledge to carry out a specific job, limited access to the professional market) in the country in order to balance this situation, this creates jobs and income in the regions. In addition, dialogue sessions are promoted on corporate social responsibility, through the inclusion of



Route of employability in Meta



Micro-entrepreneur Divina Guadalupe

the vulnerable population, they contribute to the consolidation of the peace process.

What we have achieved so far

- **More than 650 people**, belonging to producer associations and micro-companies, **have increased their income**, more than **40% are women**.
- **50 coffee families** made preliminary agreements for the **preservation**, restoration, recovery and sustainable use of more **than 600 productive hectares**. This regulation opens the door for productive investment.
- On the employability route, **more than 400 people were trained in soft skills** (teamwork, leadership, communication, etc.). **Almost 100 people managed to find employment** in the construction, public works and services.
- **150 jobseekers receive training and psychosocial counseling** (Cooperation between the National Tax and Customs Directorate (DIAN), the local employment service, the Amazonia university, the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- **More than 700 producers apply new knowledge** in their businesses after having strengthened their skills, managerial, teamwork, among others.

Measures in the time of COVID-19

Biosecure and solidarity peasant markets

In Caquetá, with the support of the local government and CORCARAÑO, the Environmental Corporation for the Promotion of Rural Community Tourism, the peasant markets achieved their reactivation that includes sanitary management protocols, benefiting 150 producers, most of them women.

- They also put into operation Home Peasant Baskets, generating a complementary income to households and promoting the employment of young people in the delivery service.
- As an added social value, producers donate 10% of their earnings to vulnerable families in the City

Strengthening the Family Economy

- In the municipality of Puerto López (Meta), to continue with training activities for entrepreneurs in the food, clothing, service and maintenance sectors, among others, the Mayor's Office gave special permits including a protocol of biosecurity. Through primers for training in the Psychosocial and Business areas, he continued the virtual training with telephone calls and video conferences.
- In Granada, Meta, with the help of tablets and virtual assistant ConHector chat box, the beneficiaries could continue with the training in business and psychosocial support

For a better future

Working together for a better future

Melfi Rojas is a peasant woman and is one of the more than eight million internally displaced persons in Colombia. She had to abandon her land after her brother and son were murdered and start a new life in the municipality of Florencia. In rural Colombia, women face great challenges in earning their own income. Melfi and 15 other women belong to the ASUDELMA Association, most of them victims of the armed conflict. Together they are dedicated to the manufacture and sale of linen for the home. These women have received support from GIZ to increase their income and improve their economic productivity.

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