



May 2017

IOM Regional Director for South America visits Colombia



IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, visited Colombia from May 22 to 26. During the week he participated in the International Forum on Haitian Migration in the Americas, organized by CODHES and the Universidad de la Javeriana's Instituto Pensar. He also held meetings with high level representatives of the Colombian government and international organizations present in the country.

[Version in Spanish](#)

IOM support for the peace process in Colombia

USD 4 million for Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations

IOM with resources from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed an agreement with the Department for Social Prosperity for approximately USD 4 million, which will be used to Foster the social inclusion of Afro-Colombian



and indigenous communities affected by the armed conflict. The initiative will benefit over 7,000 Afro-Colombians and indigenous who live in vulnerable conditions and/or are IDPs in 15 departments.

Each entity will provide half of the funds, 2 million dollars, to expand the individual income generation programs Mi Negocio (“My Business”) by 3,800 spots and Empleo para la Prosperidad by 3,500 spots.

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Launch of the project African Diaspora in Colombia aims to recover historical center of Cartagena for Afro-Colombian population

Cartagena, the point of arrival and expansion of African culture in Colombia, was the scenario selected to present the project “African Diaspora in Colombia,” which seeks to foster recognition, justice, development, and protection of Afro-Colombian communities and their contributions to the creation of Colombia.



The project was launched on May 21, Afro-Colombian Day, at the Baluarte San José in the Getsemaní neighborhood. It was led by Zulia Mena García, Vice Minister of Culture; Alejandro Guidi, IOM Colombia Chief of Mission; and Peter Natiello, USAID/Colombia Director. Over 200 Afro-Colombian leaders from around the country participated.

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Two initiatives that support entrepreneurship to rebuild the social fabric come to a close

An event was held to close the first phase of two projects for entrepreneurship in Colombia, Una Ventana para Soñar and Juventic. The two initiatives contributed to rebuilding the social fabric in Colombia through technology.

Una Ventana para Soñar, initiative established with the Colombian Agency for Reintegration (ACR), USAID, IOM, the Universidad EAFIT, Reconciliación

Colombia, Colnodo, and Bogotá’s Chamber of Commerce, with support from Google, aims to strengthen entrepreneurship by persons affected by the armed conflict (including victims, actors associated with the conflict, or people in the reintegration process) using training on administration, management, and the creative use of information and communication technologies to improve income generation opportunities.



[Version in Spanish](#)

Young fans in Popayán receive support for sports store

Seed capital to start a business unit, represented by two industrial stitching and sewing machines, a desktop computer, thread and cloth, were given to fans of the soccer team América who are part of the program “Jóvenes a lo bien” (“Youth doing it right”), developed by the National Learning Service (SENA) in Cauca and the Police.



In Popayán, IOM and USAID transferred the tool, “Pazos, emprendedores constructores de paz”, a methodology with basic tools and practices so that communities and youth can carry out their entrepreneurial ideas.

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IOM in the news

IOM ratifies support for the border

More support and training on managing refugees, shelters and risk in migratory matters was the IOM's commitment during an encounter with the border secretary in the department.

According to Juan Carlos Cortés, head of the body, the objective of this support is the contingency plan currently being developed by the national government, given the critical condition in Venezuela and its impacts on the border zone.



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Source: La Opinión

Cali will have 1,000 peace leaders

A social initiative that provides occupational and life training opportunities was launched. The “Peace and Citizen Culture Leaders” program will give an opportunity to 1,000 people who live in vulnerable neighborhoods in the city. Participants will include youth at risk, former gang members, conflict victims, and demobilized ex-combatants who are in the reintegration process.



This program aims to promote scenarios for reconciliation, reduce conditions of violence, and foster resocialization and good practices for stronger citizen culture.

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Source: El País

Agreement signed to support development in the Mayo sub-region

To promote development and progress in the Mayo sub-region in the department of Nariño, the governor’s office and the IOM agreed to carry out the third phase of the Productive and Social Organization of Rural Property Plan.



The goal is to establish rural community job creation projects, maintain tertiary roadways, support the rural education model for youth in the post-conflict, and design the productive and social organization plan in the municipalities of Albán, Belén, Colón, El Tablón de Gómez, La Cruz, San Bernardo, and San Pablo, said Migration and Rurality Program Coordinator Eduardo Medina.

[Version in Spanish](#)

Source: Diario del Sur

Other news from Colombia



President hands over rural education center in Orejón, Briceño, one of the municipalities most affected by the conflict

The President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, handed over the Orejón Rural Educational Center, which is located in the municipality Briceño in northern Antioquia, and was constructed thanks to international coordination support for the conflict-affected region.

The construction of the school and library was completed with support from the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the IOM.



[Version in Spanish](#)

Source: Presidencia

New publications



Land Policy and Rural Development: Challenges and Opportunities for the Post-Conflict

New Territories of Peace (NTP) is a program funded by the European Union and Social Prosperity that since 2011 has supported peacebuilding and development in Colombia through the development of methodologies, tools, and routes for socioeconomic inclusion of vulnerable populations and those affected by the armed conflict. The program also promotes land rights and land use, and the promotion of conditions for democracy, participation, and strengthening of social organizations.

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