

Colombia Assistance Report 2023



Bogotá, 23 May 2023

Presented by Gideon Dean, Max Garcia, Jonathan Vazquez



Table of Contents

Executive Statement	2.
1. Human Security and Social Justice	7.
I. Preamble	7.
II. Education	7.
III. Healthcare	10.
IV. Labor	12.
V. Infrastructure	14.
VI. Welfare Regime	17.
2. Territorial Ordering Around Water	18.
3. The Right to Food	21.
4. Regional Convergence	25.
Looking towards the Future	28.
References	30.

List of Figures

Figure 1: Colombia Murder/Homicide Rate 1990-2023	5.
Figure 2: Colombia GINI Coefficient 2009-2020	6.
Figure 3: Access to Education Among 3-5 Year-Olds in Colombia	9.
Figure 4: Unemployment Rate Colombia March 2023	13.
Figure 5: Colombia's World Economic Forum GCI 2022	16.
Figure 6: Map of Food Security by Department 2023	24.
Figure 7: Economic Density by Department 2000-2016	26.
Figure 8: Average subjective wellbeing by department 2010-2018	27.
Figure 9: Average convergence/divergence by department 2000-2016	27.

Executive Statement

Demographics and Geography

Colombia is located in the north of South America and is home to 51.52 million inhabitants.



Map of Colombia (Gilmore et al. 2023).

Divided into 32 districts, the capital of Bogotá is also the country's largest city. 28% of the country's total population resides in Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, Barranquilla, and Cartagena. Additionally, indigenous people have lived in the region since 12,000 BCE. Although Spanish is the country's only national language, English and 64 other languages are recognized at various local levels. Colombia is also well known for its biodiversity, considered the second most biodiverse state in the world (Fernando 2005). This is largely due to the Amazon, which covers roughly 35% of Colombia's landmass. Colombia is the only South American country with coasts on both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Economics and Inequity

Colombia's GDP has increased over the last two decades significantly, from US\$98.21

billion in 2001, to US\$314.46 billion in 2021. Yet inequality poses a significant challenge to Colombia, with the country ranking first in Latin America in economic inequality. The prevalence of extreme poverty is seen disproportionately among populations of ethnic minorities in former conflict zones. Although efforts have been made (especially in recent years) to alleviate inequalities, many of the root causes such as disparities in access to education as well as financial and health services; labor markets dominated by informality; and high regional levels of violence and crime have not been adequately addressed.

Climate Change and Energy

As previously stated, Colombia's unique biodiversity makes it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially the increased severity and frequency of



Landslide in Colombian rural community (Daniels 2017).

extreme weather effects. In turn, much of the country's national planning around climate change has addressed preventative measures against these impacts.

Despite recent efforts to prioritize sustainable energy and developing renewable sectors, Colombia still faces significant challenges, such as the increasing demand for energy in developing regions

and ongoing reliance on fossil fuels statewide. Especially in rural areas, there is a continued need for investment in sustainable infrastructure and energy.

The current administration sees climate change as endemic to the other issues that Colombia faces, and crucial to their solutions. For example, agricultural systems, territorial ordering around water, and modernization of infrastructure must all be approached with consideration for the environmental wellbeing of Colombia and the whole world.

Current Politics

The Republic is comprised of three main branches: the executive, judicial, and legislative. Its legislative branch is bicameral, and the executive branch serves on a one-term basis, with strong policy-making authority. Colombia has faced political challenges both historically and particularly in recent years, with mass mobilizations from civil society taking place during the past administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, these mobilizations were also in protest against increasing economic inequality, and allegations of police brutality.

Despite this, there have been positive developments in national politics. Namely, the historic signing of a peace agreement between the state and the FARC. Such was the brutality endured by the Colombian people during the armed conflict that former President Santos received a Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions in the peace talks. Between 1975-2004, it's estimated that 554,008 Colombians were killed, a mean of one homicide each half an hour (Franco 51).

After the mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic by the past administration,

Colombia elected Gustavo Petro as President on August 7, 2022.

Relationship with Paramilitary Groups

In the second half of the 20th century, right-wing paramilitary groups linked to state forces were prevalent in Colombia. Originally targeting peasant movements, unions, and activists, human rights violations were common during this period. Furthermore, left-wing guerrillas also contributed to the violence as well, with the most notable of these groups the FARC which formed in 1964.

Understanding both the economic and moral resolve behind these narratives has been key to quelling their impacts on Colombian society and the population's wellbeing.



“Colombia’s Civil Warriors” (PBS 2008).

Colombia's demobilization phase in the early 2000's saw a failure to adequately verify the identities of those involved. As a result, many paramilitary groups survived the turn of the millennium, and those who did not often saw new successor groups form (Sánchez-Moreno 2010). Therefore, many of the involved were essentially granted amnesty in return for demobilization, and though partial success was found through these initiatives, paramilitary groups are to this day able to muster localized forces (especially in remote regions).

Pandemic Response

Colombia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic saw both successes and failures.

Early into the pandemic, successful responses were organized, as seen in the increase of the healthcare system's capacity.



Early Vaccination Center (Reuters, 2021).

As vaccinations became slowly available, a responsive vaccine rollout began using an existing national vaccination network, even given supply chain constraints. (Prada et al. 2022). Additionally, long and unpredictable lockdowns, as well as being late to procure the vaccines were challenges under the previous administration. Moreover, vaccine hesitancy was not adequately addressed, with insufficient education being broadcasted to all areas of the country. This was compounded by the large influx of migration from Venezuela, which strained Colombian social services' capacities.



The Colombia-Venezuela Border (Garcia-Navarro 2016)

Colombians endured another critical setback in the form of an aggressive tax reform, which led to massive protests that eventually delayed economic recovery policy and interfered with vaccination strategy.

Informality

60% of total Colombian employment is in informal positions (OECD 2022). This informality makes it increasingly difficult to

tackle economic inequality with state programming. Government programs have had mixed effects mitigating this issue because it is partly rooted in Colombia's ability to incorporate individual sectors in an official capacity within society.

The informal sector often relies on unpaid labor or jobs with unregulated salaries, working conditions, unemployment, and various facets of insurance (Mondragon-Velez 2010). As with most of the assistance and development needs outlined in this report, a disparity exists between urban and rural sectors, with informal labor existing predominantly in rural areas.

Colombia's History and Current Relationship with International Aid

According to the OECD, Colombia is both a beneficiary of ODA and a provider of South American triangular cooperation. This cooperation is guided by its own national development priorities, the diversification of modalities, strengthening national and local capacities, transparency, and sustainability.

Colombia has provided humanitarian aid during natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as financial assistance to international aid appeals from other nations. For decades, Colombia has received assistance from organizations such as USAID which initially began by targeting violence from coca production and the drug trade, as well as general infrastructure projects. More recently, assistance has been targeted around access to housing, employment, land rights, health, education, and social justice.

The current administration is asserting control throughout the territory, creating dialogue with armed groups, offering reconciliation programs, and rapidly giving

economic support to communities transitioning away from violence. This is exemplified in the decreased homicides since 2000, as seen in Figure 1.

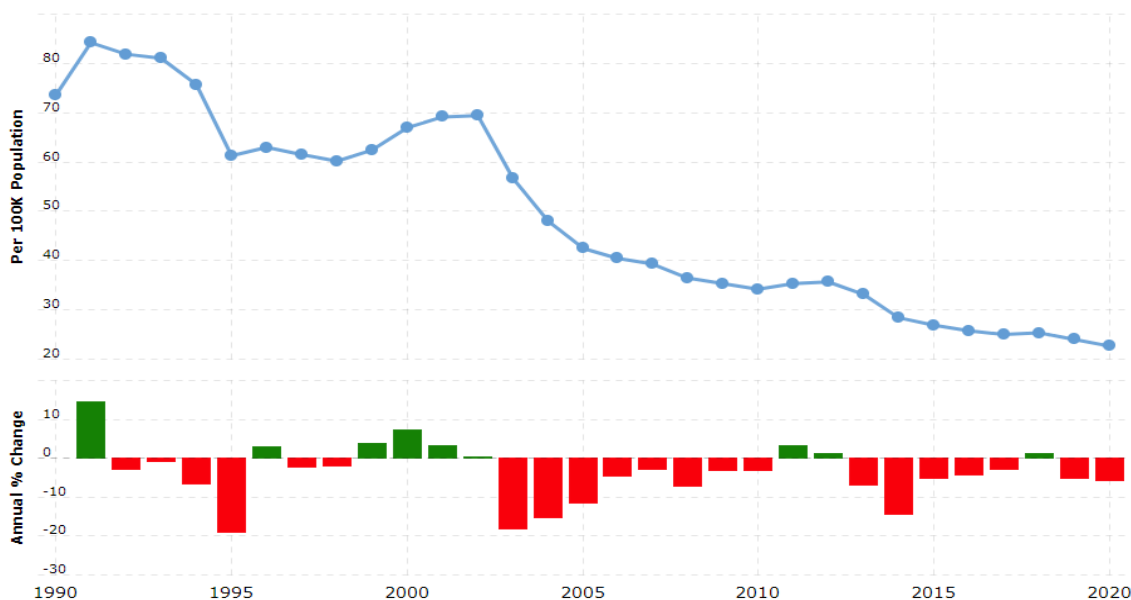


Figure 1. Colombia Murder/Homicide Rate 1990-2023 (Macrotrends).

Assistance Needs Overview

Understanding the National Development Plan

Colombia's National Development Plan (*Plan Nacional de Desarrollo*, or PND, hereinafter PND) is a policy document that each administration releases to outline its planning strategy for the next four years. The plan, once announced, is debated by Congress, which may amend and make changes to. Once implemented, PNDs affect vast swaths of government institutions throughout the presidential term.

Colombia's National Development Plan 2022-2026

Colombia's latest iteration of the PND, spearheaded by President Petro, seeks to complete five major transformations:

I. "Territorial Organization around Water and Environmental Justice"

Colombia sees water as the central issue to which planning policies for the country's development must be made. The ultimate goal of this transformation is the formalization of over four million hectares of land by the end of 2026. The PND also upholds water as a human right, and the concern for deforestation is also of equal importance to improving territorial ordering around water.

II. "Human Security and Social Justice, including Poverty Reduction"

Increasing internet access, coverage in higher education, and formalizing the labor market by 1.6% are the goals of this

provision. Specifically, we aim to double internet access by improving our cellular infrastructure and relying on new 5G technologies.

Higher education is seen as a pathway to a ‘peaceful and knowledge-based society,’ with an aimed increase of ~3% participation by the end of the government term.

III. “Human Right to Food”

The main goals of this provision are to reduce extreme poverty to one digit, (12% in 2021), to reduce the mortality rate due to malnutrition among children under five years of age to 3.37 per 100,000. Tying into the points in regard to territorial organization, the PND cites inadequate roads which prevent connectivity as a primary factor towards food insecurity. It also plans to diversify the agricultural sector to produce more and better food, as opposed to the monocultures of coffee, sugar, and coca that currently dominate the market sphere. Additionally, improving infrastructure to support subsistence farmers bringing their crops to market is key to this provision.

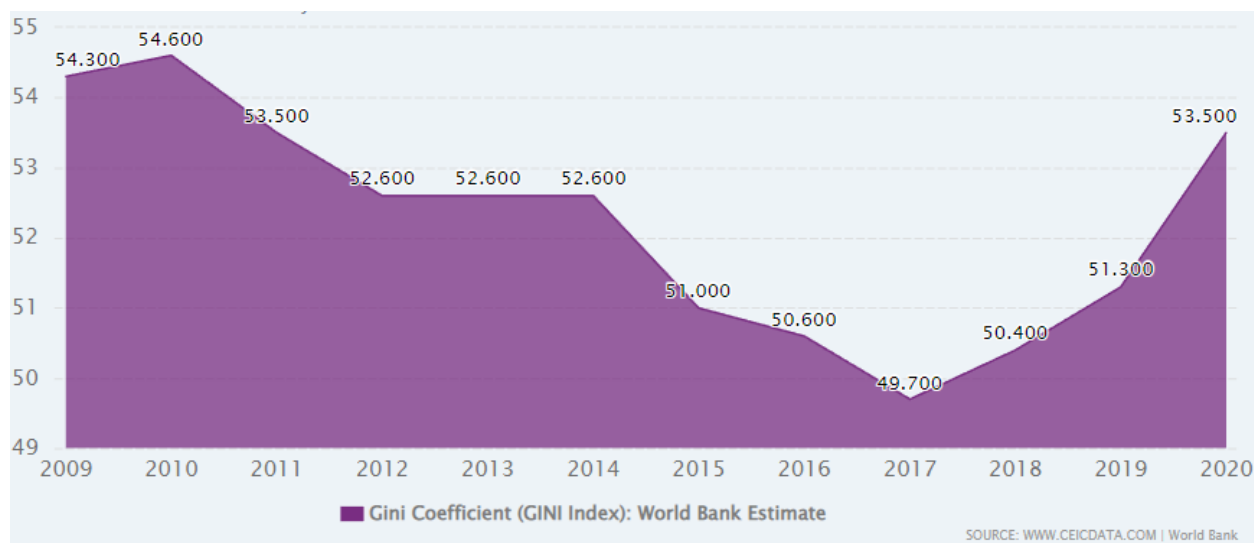
IV. “Productive Transformation, Internationalization, and Climate Action”

This provision seeks to promote transitions towards a green future of Colombian industry. As part of this plan, it aims to be the protectorate state of the Amazon rainforest, and the regional leader in this effort. Colombia also aims to eliminate another two million tons of CO₂ generated from its transportation sector, as well as reducing the national rate of deforestation by 20%. Furthermore, Colombia will double its national development in sustainable R&D.

V. “Regional Convergence”

Our goals of regional convergence relate to the ability for the central government and population centers of Colombia to be physically, economically, and institutionally connected with rural, less-densely-populated regions. In this vein, the development plan seeks to improve tertiary roads, with more than 88,000 kilometers of these roads being revisited.

Figure 2. Colombia GINI Coefficient per World Bank, 2009-2020.





Human Security and Social Justice

I. Preamble

In 2023, an estimated 19.6 million, or 39.3% of the Colombian population lives below the poverty line (The World Bank Group, (hereinafter WB). Despite economic and social progress Colombian society has achieved in recent decades, it remains one of the most unequal countries in the world. With a 2023 GINI coefficient of 54.2% (HDR 282), Colombia is in fact, the most unequal country in all of South America. This serves as a sobering reality for policy makers which demands the utmost commitment towards ensuring a transformative, equitable, and sustainable national future.

This explains our recommendation of confronting the widespread inequality in Colombia at its root cause(s), which permeates through all sectors of our society. These inequalities “affect individuals early in their lives in a way that has consequences on human capital accumulation” (WB). This

can in turn hinder upward social mobility both in the short term and long term for individuals and communities without sufficient support. This is particularly true among populations of Afro-Colombians, indigenous groups, and rural communities.

The following sections are rooted in promoting human security and social justice by focusing on, as first stipulated in the PND, “overcoming basic deprivations, enabling human security” and, “expanding human capacities” (PND, 62-63). Achieving these goals first requires in-depth analysis of the current state of education, labor, healthcare, welfare, and infrastructure of the Republic. This allows policy makers to properly examine the current and past shortcomings in our social institutions, which in turn will enable us to offer recommendations not only at the local, regional, and national level, but also at the international level.

II. Education

Considering inequality in Colombia begins to affect individuals and communities in early childhood, it’s paramount that we begin to tackle the issue early in life. An effective and equitable education system is not only crucial in childhood development, but it is also important in creating a capable and competitive workforce that can exercise its political and social agency. However, the educational system is currently not adequately preparing the children of our

nation. Currently, for “every 100 children who enter preschool, only 30% graduate from high school and only 20% go on to higher education” (PND 61). This not only reveals Colombia’s low educational retention rate that creates deep and lasting consequences at the socioeconomic level, but it also demonstrates the low percentage of Colombians that receive a tertiary education. This is a failed avenue which could enable the citizenry to be more

economically competitive both within our national borders and beyond.

The national educational system must go through substantial reforms that create an equitable and quality based system that serves all Colombians. These reforms must address the impediments of the rural-urban divide, as well as between the poor and wealthy classes of the country. Moreover, this divide is clear when analyzing the rate of attendance between groups. Although 93% of Colombian children aged 3 to 5 attend school (Colombia Reports 2023), “enrollment rates for 3 to 5 year-olds range from 80% or less in rural areas” compared, “to over 90% in urban areas” (Colombia Reports 2023). This disparity is pictured in Figure 3 below, and speaks to the failures of previous development programming to provide access to education to rural communities. Furthermore, “five million children under the age of five in Colombia of whom half came from the country’s poorest families” had “no access to elementary school” (Lam 2021) before the COVID-19 pandemic. This statistic has certainly increased considering the extent to which the pandemic exhausted all sectors of Colombian public services.

Enacting educational reform that is both equitable and quality driven in order to close the divide between the poor and wealthy, and the rural and urban has continues to be challenging, yet there has been progress working both independently and with international partners. For example the, Todos Aprender program which launched in 2012 and its subsequent revamp with Todos

Aprender 2 “ has made contributions to improve the quality of pre-school and elementary school education” while at the same time working to “reduce existing gaps in rural areas” (Ministro de Educación Nacional de Colombia 12). This has been done through a national program that has provided comprehensive pedagogical training and support to teachers and school administrators.

Additionally, the program further addresses the gap between rural and urban environments by identifying structural and social barriers to education. Specifically focusing on issues of school accessibility, quality and functionality of school buildings, and making sure that student voices are heard in the development of current and future educational training programs.



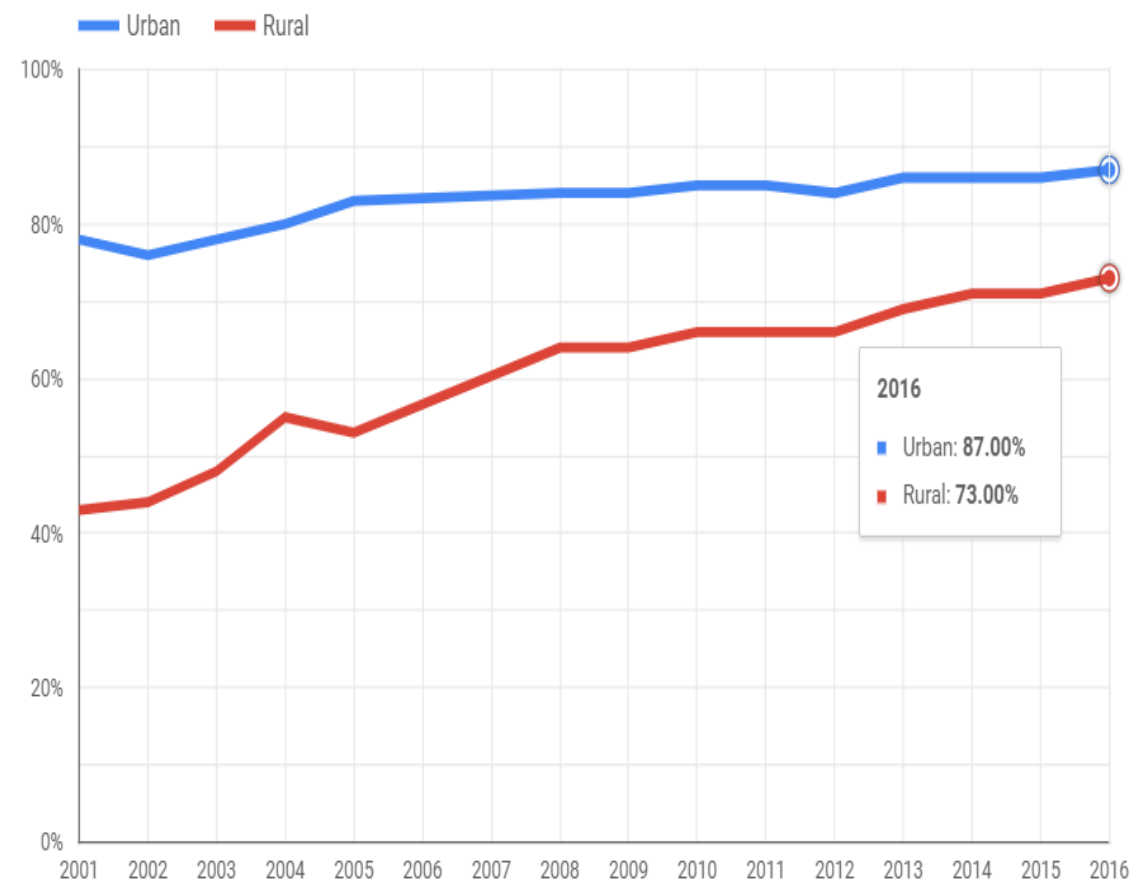
(Ministro de Educación Nacional de Colombia 17).

Similarly, Vive la Educación is another national level educational program designed to eliminate educational deprivation. Benefiting over, “145,000 children” (Government of Canada 2021). However, unlike Todos Aprender, this program focuses

more on specific communities that have been hit especially hard by internal conflicts with the various paramilitary groups in the country, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the program concentrates its efforts on children that have experienced violence and those students that have long been marginalized in our

education system like Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples. With the help of Canada through a bilateral partnership, Vive la Educacion has been able to offer wrap-around services like therapy and after school programs.

Figure 3. Access to Education Among 3-5 Year-Olds in Colombia (Colombia Reports 2023).



III. Healthcare

Along with education, having a robust healthcare system that can support the citizenry at all stages of their life is paramount to achieving human security and social justice in Colombia. As it stands thanks to massive reform in the 20th century, healthcare in our country has become universal as “coverage increased from 23.5 percent of the population in 1993 to 99 percent in 2022” (De Berliner et al. 2023). Despite this achievement, the healthcare system still faces several structural issues. The most pressing of which are “financial sustainability, regional and urban-rural inequities and an imbalance between primary and specialized care” (De Berliner et al. 2023). These are challenges that were further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic that placed additional stress on the system.

Part of the reason for the disparity in rural and urban health coverage is that, “the country’s health system has long been recognized as fragmented, with limited investments in primary health care and suboptimal infrastructure” (De Berliner et al. 2023). This is a problem that becomes progressively worse as one moves away from the major urban centers and into the rural areas. This highlights the need for regional convergence and territorial organization.

Colombia graciously hosts over 2 million Venezuelan migrants. However, this has placed additional strain on our healthcare system due to their temporary protective status (Treisman 2021) that the government

implemented in 2021 to help regulate the status of Venezuelan migrants and refugees within our borders, as well as to facilitate humanitarian assistance. This is because the special status allows Venezuelans the ability to, “access healthcare and other essential services” (Treisman 2021).

There has been both active participation by the national government towards solving the structural issues in our healthcare system, as well as opportunities for international partners to help in this reformative process. To the former, under the PND, there is a push to move the system towards a primary health care model (PHC) that would strive, “to guarantee the health promotion and disease prevention, through the coordination of sectoral and intersectoral actions” (PND, 89). Over time, this system will be able to effectively organize and strengthen the national health system (World Health Organization 2023, hereinafter WHO). Due to the model’s holistic approach to development planning, there are both attempts to strengthen the system from the bottom-up *and* from the top-down.

For international aid partners, there are several key areas within the health sector that would benefit from support. However, as a prelude to this, there is ample precedent to draw upon in terms of ODA that has greatly helped the health sector in the past. For example as the pandemic began to worsen in 2020 the, “World Bank Board of Directors approved a US\$ 150 million loan to improve the quality of the Colombian healthcare system” (WB 2020). Through a

mix of both program aid and project aid, assistance has helped to alleviate the government's budget burden relating to the healthcare system. While at the project level thanks to the increase in resources and technical assistance provided by the Bank we will be able to more effectively focus on preventive care. As an example, "increasing the early detection of breast cancer through women's increased access to mammograms" (WB 2020). This will certainly continue to help reduce the percentage of breast cancer identification in the later stages of its progression. As currently, "in 33% of cases, the diagnosis of breast cancer" are, "made in advanced stages, stage III or higher" (Durate et al. 2021). Moreover, project aid has been extremely helpful to the healthcare sector to cope with the influx of Venezuelan migrants. For instance, the NGO, Project Hope, "supports partner health facilities by

overseeing the distribution and use of over 30 essential pharmaceutical and vitamin supplements" (Project Hope 2023). Additionally, Project Hope was able to provide over "56,400 N-95 masks for distribution to all regional hospitals and primary health care centers across 40 municipalities" (Project Hope 2023). As such, possible opportunities for international collaboration could revolve around supporting our efforts to transition into a PHC model by offering both financial and technical assistance in order to support healthcare facilities around the nation. Additionally there are multiple specific areas within the health sector that could benefit from project aid such as improving preventive care for breast cancer and focusing on Venezuelan migrants.



Mother and her child receiving care from Project Hope (Project Hope 2023)



IV. Labor

Within the labor sector there are several challenges, many of which were aggravated by the pandemic. As it stands, informality in the labor sector represents one of these major obstacles as, “approximately 62.1% of Colombia’s population earn their livelihoods in the informal economy” (BTI 2022). This is a problem that has massive consequences for tax revenue that filters out into the welfare regime. Productivity, and quality of occupation available in the labor sector have remained relatively low. This has resulted in the creation of a concerning cycle of economic stagnation as low quality jobs contribute to the low productivity of the sector. This ends up driving the population into the informal sector as they search for better paying and more productive jobs.

Concurrently the divide between the rural and urban, as well as racial and gender issues are also present in the labor sector in the form of income inequality. Even so, there has been progress in addressing these inequalities within the labor sector. For example, the unemployment level which reached a historic peak of over 20% during the height of the pandemic has fallen to just 10% in 2023 (see Figure 4), representing a phenomenal economic recovery.

Furthermore, in accordance with SDG number 8, average GDP per person employed has increased to \$33,732 (WB 2023). In conjunction with an overall increase to the national GDP which grew at 7.5 percent in 2022 (WB 2023).

Despite this upward trend, reform is necessary if the nation is to address the various problems in the labor sector. For example, to the issue of income inequality -- “economic growth alone has not been sufficient to reduce inequality, as barriers to economic opportunities persist for certain groups (including by gender, ethnicity, and geography)” (WB 2023). Therefore, greater emphasis must be put on “making labor markets more efficient and inclusive” (WB 2023). This will be crucial not only to combat the issue of income inequality, but also to reduce the percentage of the population working informally. On this note, opportunities to engage with international aid organizations will be crucial, if we are to succeed in creating a more efficient and inclusive labor sector that addresses issues of inequality and informality.

Improved bilateral aid with partners such as the US would be extremely beneficial. The proposed, “United States-Colombia Strategic Alliance Act of 2022” (Text - S.3805 - 117th Congress 2021-2022) is a perfect example of this. The Act would reorganize the bilateral aid partnership between the two countries and offer great support to our labor sector through “the advancement of inclusive economic growth” (Text - S.3805 - 117th Congress 2021-2022). With reference to specific proposals organized around “rural development and women’s empowerment” (Norman 2022), the Act would be accomplished for example by, “creating a private, nonprofit \$200 million fund for business investment and

grants” (Norman 2022). Half of which would have to go small-scale and

medium-sized businesses that are exclusively owned by women.

Unemployment Rate in Colombia decreased to 10 percent in March of 2023. source: Dane, Colombia



Figure 4. Unemployment Rate in Colombia decreased to 10 percent in March 2023 (Trading Economics 2023).

V. Infrastructure

In order to sustainably create human security and promote social justice by eliminating basic deprivations and enabling human capacity, a well developed infrastructure system is a necessity. This is especially true if we are to overcome inequalities between the urban and rural centers. This will require special attention through regional convergence and territorial organization, which are discussed further in sections 2 and 4 of this report. This section will focus on the broader structural issues and needs of the infrastructure sector. However, because of the innate nature and purpose of infrastructure to connect society, there will be mention of previous themes in relation to education, healthcare, and labor.

Following the completion of the Peace Agreement between the state and the FARC in 2016, the country's infrastructure was left in dire need of repair. This process began with the previous administration's ambitious plans to fully restore the infrastructure, such as the "Intermodal Transportation Master Plan (PMTI)" (International Trade Organization 2022). An initiative that set out to work on, "101 road projects, 52 highway projects, 5 railway projects, 8 fluvial projects, 31 airport projects and various dredging projects" (International Trade Organization 2022). Since its inception it has incrementally improved transport infrastructure, as well as competitiveness of our nation on the international stage. This is underscored in Figure 5, picturing the sharp increase in our "World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index" since 2016. (International Trade Organization 2022).

The current administration seeks to build upon the recent improvements in the infrastructure sector but with a larger focus on confronting issues of inequality and climate change. For example, the educational sector must be built up to allow improved internet access and 5G capacities in Colombian schools. Currently, "40% of households do not have Internet access, and in rural or remote areas this figure rises to 71.2%" (PND 89). This is indicative of a major disparity between rural and urban environments in terms of internet access. Furthermore, differences in access to internet were further exacerbated by the pandemic as children were sent home from schools and to online learning. However, due to pre existing inequalities related to housing, this pushed students which don't possess adequate wireless access away from students who do possess access.

Addressing the lack of equitable internet access in Colombia would have a positive effect on reducing inequalities between rural and urban settings, but also can function as a capacity-building mechanism for women. The WB notes that "calls for domestic violence increased by 91%" (Lam 2021). As society transitioned to virtual, resources offered at the national and subnational levels were not adequately presented to groups who don't have access to the internet. Resources particularly related to domestic violence which were announced through online platforms were thus ineffective in many cases simply because the women they sought to help were not made aware of their existence. This presents a crucial need to

increase cellular and wireless connectivity infrastructure in all areas of the country, not just in urban environments. This is critical to provide all people who suffer gender-based domestic violence access to vital resources related to abuse support.

This represents an opportunity to involve bilateral and multilateral partners interested in project aid, as there is a big need for resource and technical assistance to bridge the gap in internet access. The current administration is partnered with Microsoft on the Airband Initiative which “aims to close the digital divide and bring high-speed internet connectivity to communities around the world” (Congote 2022). This has already brought some, but limited, success to the remote state of Nariño. Among nearly 700



(Congote 2022)

students from 8 schools, the Initiative has brought reliable internet access for the first time (Congote 2022). There is still much to do, but this offers a productive example to model internet access infrastructure projects in other parts of the country.

This section would not be complete without mention of the need for renewable energy infrastructure. The current administration has begun aggressive steps towards moving away from our hydrocarbon dependency. We maintain our commitment to “reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030” (Moloney 2023) in accordance with the Paris Agreement of 2015. Severing our ties to non-renewable energy in a timely-manner will thrust us into the future of sustainable energy and proactive environmental policy that in the long run will help to secure human security and social justice.

Yet the path to this goal is long and arduous, with major obstacles standing in the way. For example, “Colombia's economy is heavily dependent on oil and mining revenue, accounting for up to 8% of GDP” (A. Moloney 2023). A relatively high percentage of the GDP that funds are drawn from in order to, “finance infrastructure and health and education services” (A. Moloney 2023). This means that in the short term, infrastructure as well as programs in the health sector and education sector will suffer due to lack of revenue from hydrocarbon exports. This dilemma presents an apt opportunity for potential aid partners to reduce the economic strain that the green reindustrialization process will cause in the short term. By assisting Colombia in the short term through capital to make up for the deficit in our national budget, sectors geared towards human capital and development would not suffer. In addition, this would aid in long term progress as it would allow for the Colombian economy to further diversify.

Colombia’s existing renewable energy infrastructure also requires extensive improvements to cope with increased demand for renewable public transportation, and to remain competitive at the international level. Currently, “60% of Colombia’s electricity comes from renewable sources, mainly hydropower, while roughly 2% of the country’s energy needs are generated from wind and solar power” (A. Moloney 2023). This leaves an

estimated 38% to non-renewable energy, which will have to be amended by improved renewable energy infrastructure. This requires a robust, comprehensive, and well funded long term plan. Moreover, such a change is ambitious and will require years of commitment and collaboration, presenting opportunities for future program aid partnership with international partners.

Colombia scored 62.73 points out of 100 on the 2019 Global Competitiveness Report published by the World Economic Forum. source: World Economic Forum

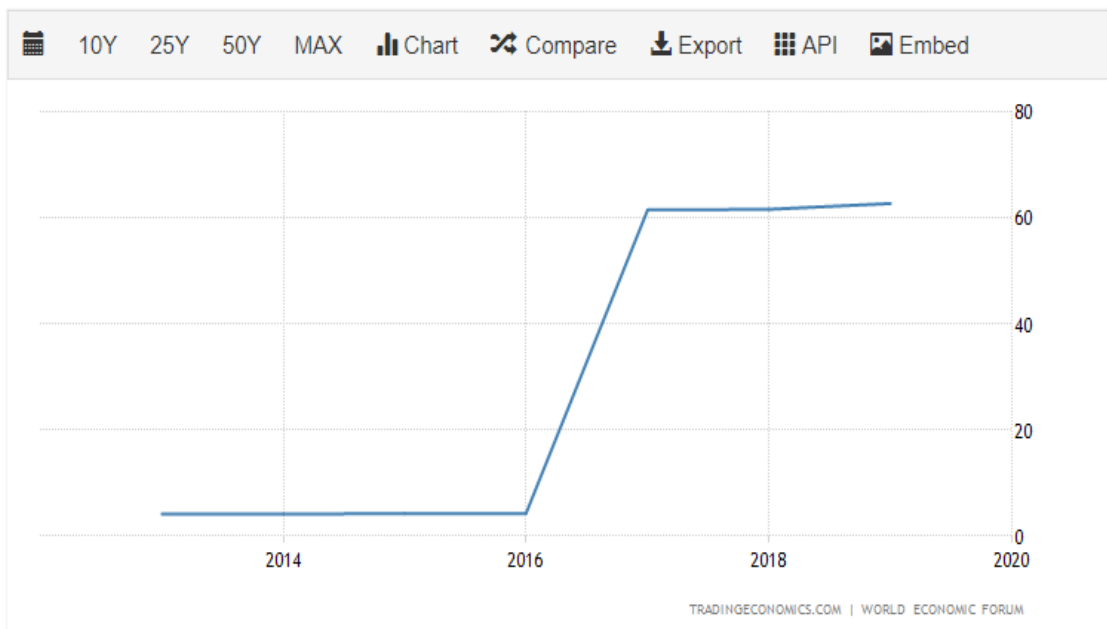


Figure 5. Colombia’s World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index” (International Trade Organization 2022).

VI. Welfare Regime

Although several aspects related to welfare have already been mentioned such as support for education, universal health care, and unemployment, it's necessary to have a more focused discussion on the state of the Colombian welfare regime in 2023.

Specifically, this section will focus on the most pressing issues in the welfare regime such as the reproduction of inequality and poverty tied to issues of accessibility. This correlates to unfortunate but real financial limitations of the current administration to provide these services in an efficient and effective manner.

It's important to point out that the "provision of public health and education is predicated on a universal model" (BTI 2022) while "access to benefits such as old age and disability pensions, paid maternity and paternity leave, and unemployment support are tied to social security contributions" (BTI 2022). Strengthening the capacities of public institutions is vital to eliminating basic deprivation, and can be funded through tax revenue. However, as previously described in this report's labor section, informality in occupation hinders tax revenue from being a viable path currently. Informality represents around, "47% of the economically active population" (BTI 2022), which means that excluding the currently unemployed 10%, the entirety of the welfare regime is maintained by 41% that participate in private and public sectors. This strains the financial resources of the country and limits the ability to dispense necessary funding to all social institutions within the country. In turn, this ultimately

serves as a roadblock to having effective models of social programs. Take for instance the pension program which unfortunately only a small percentage of our elderly population can take advantage of. As, "the coverage rate of pensions is only 23%, and totals fewer than 1.5 million people" (BTI 2022). This means that currently, "only 1 out of 4 people will have access to this benefit, so a high number of elders need to continue to work or depend on others" (Rodríguez et al. 2021). This results in an injustice for our elderly population that deserve security and peace in their golden years. Respectively this problem of accessibility is caused by several factors. The most pressing of which is a dire need of structural reform, as the current system is highly inefficient and financially unsustainable.

To the issue of financial unsustainability, this issue is manifested in two ways. The first has to do with actual monetary compensation. As it stands pensions are tied to contributions which means that those who are able to contribute more money, will have a much higher pension. Now this into itself is not bad, however this dynamic becomes quite concerning once we account for the rampant inequality in our society. That as this greater section has demonstrated, manifests in a plethora of ways across education, labor, healthcare, and infrastructure. That produces compounding inequality that in this case, disproportionality hinders those that are not economically able to contribute to their pensions. Thus compelling the national government to seek avenues in which to alleviate this problem. However this



concern feeds into the second aspect of financial unsustainability within the welfare regime. Which is the fact there is not enough money in the national budget to try to subsidize the system or to try to change it towards a system that is more heavily financed by the national government. Leaving the system in a state of perpetual inefficiency and ineffectiveness.

Further discrimination represents another factor that reduces accessibility in the welfare regime. In the process leaving out marginalized groups and communities out of our country's safety net. Which disproportionately reproduces poverty and inequality. That ultimately creates, "large gaps in welfare between Afro-descendants and indigenous Colombians" (WB 2021).

Potential exists to collaborate with international partners on larger program style plans, and smaller project style plans that targets specific groups within the welfare regime. For example, we are currently collaborating with USAID through a bilateral partnership called Indigenous

Peoples and Afro-Colombian Empowerment Activity (IPACE). USAID describes the partnership as one which focuses on "strengthening capacities, enhancing self-determined development, promoting diversity and inclusion" and "responding to humanitarian emergencies" (USAID 2023). Delivering this assistance has looked like the continued support of 240 local ethnic organizations and leveraging "over USD \$30 million in public, private, and civil society funds to promote ethnic inclusion" (USAID 2023). Partnerships like these to subsidize the welfare regime by offering resources and means of community empowerment can address the past shortcomings of the welfare regime.

Lastly in terms of program aid, there is a substantial need for additional capital in conjunction with political support to promote good governance within the welfare regime. If we are to overcome the reproduction of inequality and poverty, tied to issues of accessibility and financial limitations, then continued good governance policies are crucial.

Territorial Ordering Around Water

Colombia has access to vast water sources on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, and numerous rivers and lakes. However, these resources have been repeatedly degraded by climate change, deforestation, rising population, and internal displacement. In particular, the effects of internal displacement have limited the success of past national development programs from

delivering equitable benefits throughout the country. Currently, there are 1.2 million Colombians without adequate access to drinking water. Following the creation of the MDGs, Colombia documented improvements in access to basic drinking water services between 2000-2020 from 90% to 97% of its population (WB 2020). Yet, this statistic does not account for

geographic disparities in access to potable water. 100% of the urban population possesses access to drinking water in comparison with 86% of the rural population (Embry, 2020). This indicates geographic disparities within the country. Thus, improved territorial ordering around water must be a central component of future national development programming.

The ordering of Colombian territories is regulated by Law 388 of 1997. Law 388 defines the processes for future territorial development and planning in the country. Law 388 regulates the use of and access to the lands' resources, and has four key determinants. However, the process of territorial ordering is extensive and insufficiently straightforward for policy makers. According to a recent report, “[T]here are at least 49 entities with competences in issuing these determinants, without hierarchies, procedures and standardized cartographic scales; 73 planning instruments from different sectors and territorial levels” (PND 38). Additionally, nearly 80% of municipalities failed to update their land management plans (PND 38). This lack of cohesion in planning processes hinders the successful ordering of territory. Furthermore, 6 out of 10 rural properties are informally owned (Land Links 2021) which is why the creation of a more standardized, simplified land title system is imperative. The extensive ministries and actors involved in land management generates frequent overlap and duplication, and transparency of processes is limited.

Reducing land tenure informality would improve the land market (which would strengthen regional capital), strengthen territorial finances, and reduce conflicts related to property rights. In the past decade, 322 people have been tragically killed while defending their land and environment (PND 36). This is related in part to drug trafficking but also illegal gold and mineral mining operations which pollute and degrade waterways. Thus, the formalization of land can function as a mechanism for peace in addition to its economic benefits. Formalization of land tenure would also improve the ordering around water by increasing productivity while promoting environmental and social justice.

Improved territorial ordering around water is contingent on involving local authorities and communities who live in the territory. Previous administrations' decrees often were deployed in non-binding institutional agreements with little attention to the interests and voices of the local populations. As a result, this engendered discontent within communities and a divide between them and the state (PND 33). As described in the World Bank's 2020 report, “Turning the Tide: Improving water security for recovery and sustainable growth in Colombia,” improving access to water would only be possible via the strengthening of institutional capacities of local authorities, “advancing territorial development, and boosting resilience and leveraging [the] circular economy” (WB 2020).



Current and past territorial organization plans around water have enjoyed varying degrees of success. The World Bank implemented the “Guajira Water and Sanitation Infrastructure and Service Management Project” in 2007-18. Not only is La Guajira one of Colombia’s poorest departments, it is also hampered by limited water supply from repeated droughts which have increased due to climate change. Moreover, La Guajira is home to a large indigenous population of half a million predominantly Wayuu people who travel great distances to access basic water resources. Five years from the project’s closure, it is regarded as a success in improving the accessibility to water within the department.

The project included the construction of reservoirs in rural areas and enlisted the “private sector to help build public municipal companies in their delivery of water resources” (Lee 2020). The project was able to positively impact the wellbeing of over 400,000 people living in La Guajira, with 51% of those affected being women. Infrastructure provided in the project was not limited to reservoirs, but these were especially significant in allowing the project to reach nearly 9,000 Wayuu people with improved access to water resources by 2018 (Lee 2020). The Guajira Water and Sanitation Infrastructure and Service Management Project could serve as a model

for effective territorial planning and ordering around water which can be replicated in other parts of the country. The model includes avenues for potential bottom-up development projects such as the construction of wells that build local capacity could be pursued in future development programming.

In February, 2020, the World Bank issued a loan of US\$400 million to the Colombian government in support of improving the efficiency of its land markets. The loan program maintains two key components: 1) “the consolidation and collaboration among territorial institutions to achieve increased regional impact” and 2) “to work with institutions and policies for land market management in rural and urban areas to increase productivity and sustainable territorial development” (WB 2020). These foci correspond to the creation and implementation of Territory Water Councils as well as the Territory Administration System (SAT), as stipulated in the National Development Plan for 2022-2026. The SAT will serve as the main launchpad for development processes, such as the formation of Territory Water Councils. Compared to the La Guajira Project, future program aid like that of the Bank in 2020 would allow for the Colombian state to empower a range of local authorities towards achieving the SDGs.

The Right to Food

Agriculture makes up only 7.4% of the Colombian GDP, but represents nearly 16% of the country's workforce. This shows that there is a gap between the salaries paid to people who work in services and their purchasing power for food. In February of 2023, 30% of the country was food insecure (World Food Programme 1, hereinafter WFP). Food insecurity is particularly prevalent in the Caribbean and Pacific departments, where the most affected are Córdoba (70%), Sucre (63%), Cesar (55%), Bolívar (51%) and La Guajira (50%) (WFP 2) (see Figure 6). These departments are among the poorest in Colombia, with only Bolívar representing more than 2% of the GDP. These are also departments with high indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations, which the World Food Programme claims is no coincidence: “households whose head identifies as a member of an ethnic group show higher levels of food insecurity compared to households where the head does not belong to an ethnic group” (WFP 8).

In search of upward social mobility, people from rural areas migrate to cities like Bogotá and Medellín. Urban migration is a major contributing factor for why, in absolute terms, departments with the highest amount of food insecurity are Bogotá and Antioquia (1.5 and 1.7 million respectively). In turn, migrants fall into cycles of poverty when in the city and must rely on income for food rather than land. Many of the occupations

sought after arriving to the cities are in informal labor, which represents over 60% of total employment in the country (OECD 2022). The WB notes, “a large informal sector is associated with low productivity, reduced tax revenues, poor governance, excessive regulations, and poverty and income inequality” (Yu et. al 2019). Moreover, households in which the head of household works in informal labor are more likely to experience food insecurity than earners who are employed in the public or private sectors (WFP 8).

Internal displacement caused by the armed conflict is another main factor in rural Colombian departments' high rates of food insecurity. Half of the population affected by the armed conflict experienced food insecurity in the last quarter of 2022. Rural communities which are most affected by the armed conflict are characterized by low population density and agricultural production. These include communities in Córdoba, Chocó, Nariño, and other less densely populated departments (ICRC 2022). Communities in these departments are repeatedly at risk of hazards related to the armed conflict which prevents them accessing crucial services and resources.

The need for a formalized land tenure system is outlined in the previous section on territorial ordering around water. Currently, land informality strengthens the ability of paramilitaries and mining companies to

coerce and control rural communities to produce illicit crops. In the town of Lejanías, Meta, this narrative is all-too familiar. Over the course of the past five decades, the governor of Lejanías was kidnapped by guerrillas and the community was placed in the middle of a tug-of-war between the FARC and state. Farmers like Simey Sierra, who offered testimony to the effects of the armed conflict on his town, were forced by the guerrillas to produce crops for illicit substances like coca bushes and paste. Simey explains that “they collected protection fees from cattle breeders and tolls from the farmers who transported their goods to the capital Bogotá” (Weiss 2023). Informality in land tenure contributes to rural communities like in Lejanías being forced to grow crops not for subsistence but for export. Because this forms part of the informal economy, farmers like Simey do not receive adequate payment for their crops. Additionally, due to the longstanding occupation of towns like Lejanías by armed groups, community members are coerced or forced into joining the armed forces. Children from rural communities are commonly conscripted to serve in the military and paramilitaries. Weiss notes that these factors combined to prevent Colombia’s *campesinos* from escaping “a conflict that was fought on their backs. Their children were recruited by armed groups, family members were abducted, murdered or displaced, and their land stolen by preying elites” (Weiss 2023).

Clearly, an improved system of land management and tenure is necessary.

Moreover, improving the economic situation should be premised on transforming the agricultural sector towards one which has greater technical capacity and where campesinos have the right to land and empowerment of financial support. In 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture launched its policy framework of “Together for the Countryside” which increased small to medium size farm subsidies to “compensate for high domestic transportation costs, subsidies for machinery and equipment, and subsidies for the purchase of variable agro-inputs” (OECD 2021). By connecting farmers to commercial buyers, this policy framework enabled producers to bring their crops to market. Approximately 120,000 smallholders saw increases in their income from the policy framework in 2020. This was a relatively simple and straightforward development mechanism which can be modeled in the future.

Prioritizing agricultural productivity must be a central axis of programming designed to eliminate food insecurity. However, this cannot simply be a matter of increasing the production of random assortments of crops. Rather, policy makers must focus on increasing production of crops that are nutritious and consistent with agroecological principles. Improved land management practices and access to credit for farmers would reduce the number of Colombians experiencing food insecurity. Past efforts to improve agricultural production in Colombia have produced asymmetric development results, such as the promotion of importing external inputs for farming practices during



the Green Revolution of the 1960s. During this period, self-sufficiency methods that had maintained Colombians for centuries were exchanged for high-technology and input farming. Cristina Muñoz of Lecture Partagées, a Swiss NGO that operates in rural areas of Colombia, notes that the Green Revolution meant that “farmers moved from self-sufficiency based on traditional knowledge to a technology and chemical dependent agriculture, which has impoverished their communities and eroded their social fabric,” (Langrand 2021). Recognizing the pitfalls and excesses of the Green Revolution, while acknowledging its technological improvements is imperative to improving food security in Colombia. Reducing the distance between point of production and point of consumption through the promotion of short circuits of food distribution is a viable option for improving food security. To achieve this, investments in infrastructure are needed to provide all communities with the necessary conditions for agricultural growth. This includes the creation of transportation infrastructure such as roads, as well as the creation of a digital, efficient supply chain to improve access to food to ensure all communities in the country undergo growth in agricultural production.

Current and past development programming related to food insecurity includes both top-down and bottom-up approaches. On September 4, 2021, the Orinoquía Integrated Sustainable Landscape Program was launched by the World Wildlife Fund, the National Nature Parks and Corporinoquía,

the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and has been overseen by the World Bank. Emta, Casanare, Aruaca, and Vichada make up nearly 7% of the Colombian GDP through agricultural commodity production. The project is “an opportunity to strengthen the capacities of territorial entities in planning and sustainable land use, low-carbon agricultural production, the management and consolidation of the regional system of protected areas and other effective conservation measures in the region” (Lee 2021). The program provides community members with technical assistance regarding land management practices that are consistent with agroecological principles. The current results of the program include the creation of over 20 partnerships with non-profit organizations. Challenges to the success of the program relate to issues of mobility within the region due to the persistent ongoing armed conflict.

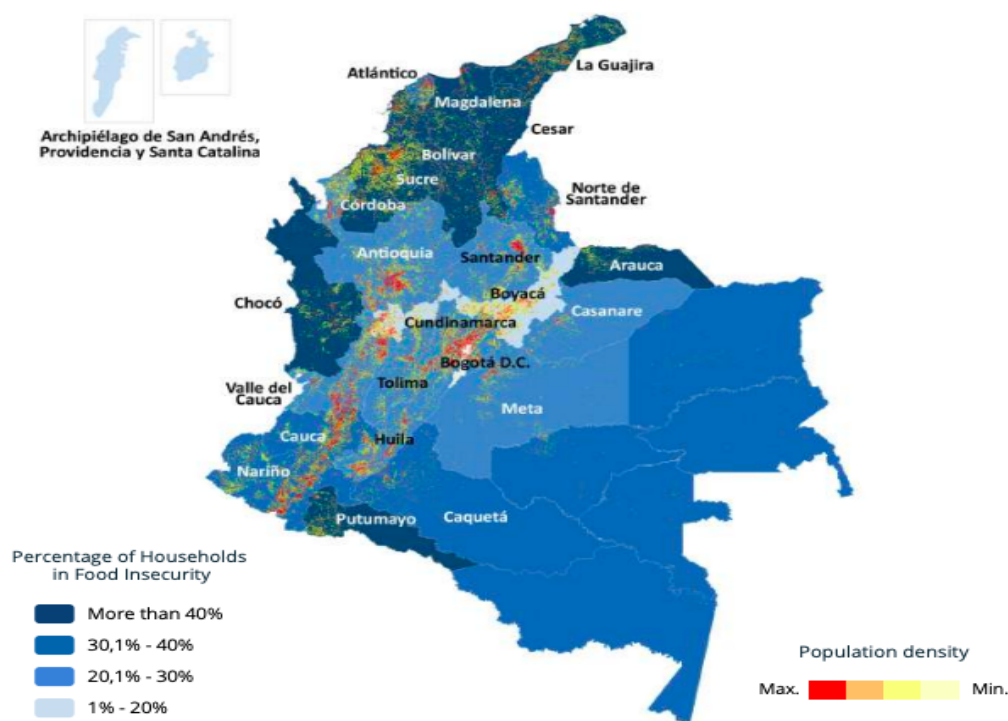
Bottom-up approaches have been met with considerable success in reducing food insecurity, but also in advancing the progression towards food sovereignty in Colombia. Colombia is increasingly dependent on imports which reduces the country’s food sovereignty and security. However, seed exchanges can aid in the recovery of food sovereignty and preservation of cultural heritage. In March of 2022, the Bezos Earth Fund announced that it would invest US\$17 million to the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Future Seeds facility in Colombia. Future Seeds is a

genebank located in Palmira, Valle del Cauca and aims to preserve biodiversity and provide a platform for the breeding of new varieties of resistant and nutritional crops. Future Seeds includes over 37,000 bean samples, 6,000 cassava samples, and 22,600 samples of tropical forages from 75 countries (Moloney 2022). The genebank is open source and patent-free, and serves as one of the more effective methods at preserving crop biodiversity worldwide -- not only in Colombia. According to FAO, 75% of plant diversity has been lost since the 1900s “as farmers worldwide have left their multiple local varieties and landraces for genetically uniform, high-yielding varieties” (FAO 2004). This is why global efforts to conserve plant genetic biodiversity is crucial to sustaining human life and wellbeing. Furthermore, tackling food

insecurity in Colombia can be achieved through crop diversification in subsistence farms.

As part of the Peace Agreement of 2016, the state and the FARC agreed to a “definitive solution to the problem of illicit crops” (Acero 2021). This solution, the Integrated National Program for the Substitution of Illicitly Used Crops (PNIS) is largely regarded as a failure due to several reasons. Among these has been bad governance and corruption which characterized the previous administration. President Duque opted to halt “entering into voluntary agreements with communities” (LVC 2020). We maintain that the current administration is actively complying with the PNIS. However, room for improvement exists in relation to community and state collaboration.

Figure 6. Map of Food Security by Department 2023 (WFP 2).



Regional Convergence

Within developing countries, the benefits of globalization and development are seldom delivered equitably across the population. To meet the demands of global capitalism, cities become the locus of economic activity while rural areas are underdeveloped. In turn, this influences patterns of migration away from the countryside towards urban areas to achieve upward social mobility. This has been true for Colombia, with the country being characterized by regional disparities.

As shown in Figure 7, wealth is concentrated in central departments while the coastal and periphery departments are characterized by low economic density. Additionally, the maps indicate that between 2000 and 2016 wealth inequality between departments increased. Not only is wealth concentrated in central areas, but differences in access to education and health services also occur on territorial lines. For example, Figure 8 presents average subjective wellbeing by department and is consistent with regional disparities in wealth. These have increased the rate of outward rural migration toward cities, which in turn increases urban sprawl. The OECD cites urban sprawl as a contributing factor in the lack of affordable housing, the increase of greenhouse gas emissions, and exhausting transportation infrastructure past its capacities (2018).

Regional convergence refers to the decrease of disparities between territories while regional divergence relates to the furthering of differences and inequalities between regions. Between 1960 and 1980, Colombian regions did undergo a period of convergence due to increased investment in transport infrastructure. However, between 1980 and 1990 divergence succeeded convergence when the center of the country dominated economic growth (Palomino 560). Since then, Colombian regions have not converged sufficiently. Trends in economic activity, such as the rise of import-substitution industrialization in the 1930s meant that more industrialized areas of the national economy (which were disproportionately in the center) enjoyed more development and assistance than non-industrialized areas, such as in departments like Chocó.

Between 2000 and 2016, there were 18 cases of divergence and 15 cases of convergence of Colombian regions (see Figure 9). Palomino notes that in the Andean region, divergence is highest along with in the Amazon. While the former comprises the wealthiest departments and forges ahead, the latter is lagging behind. This is supported by the differences in per capita income, with the Amazon region per capita income being “half the national average, and is almost stagnant comparing 2000 and 2016” (Palomino 578).

The country’s difficult geographic features in the Andes and coastal jungle make it difficult for regions to maintain strong connections. This has resulted in certain communities remaining isolated from receiving the benefits of past national development programs and economic growth. Projects to improve regional convergence include the improvement of infrastructure such as secondary and tertiary roads and transport routes to better connect regions. Improved tertiary roads strengthen the connections between territories, communities, and the government. Regional convergence is contingent upon the construction of more tertiary roads to bring isolated communities access to schools, hospitals, and basic services.

Since the 1950s, Colombia has received numerous loans from the Bank to improve and construct new roads, particularly in rural areas. Between 1951 and 1994 alone, the Bank supported Colombian road construction in thirteen projects. In 1951, the

Bank launched its Highway Project worth US\$16.5 million to Colombia’s Ministry of Public Works. “Highways are the most important transportation routes in Colombia. They carry a greater volume of traffic than any other form of transportation in the country” (WB 1951). The project addressed this issue by constructing nearly 200 km of roads and 3,000 kilometers of trunk highways. Later, in 1995, the Bank launched another highway and rural roads project. This proved to be another development project which produced mixed results, with the Bank reporting that “actual accomplishments fell far short of rehabilitation needs. Some works were of mediocre quality” (WB 1995). There is considerable room for improvement and investment in rural transport infrastructure. Connecting remote regions and communities is an obligation of the Colombian government and an opportunity for collaboration with international organizations and financial institutions.

Figure 7. Economic Density by Department 2000-2016 (Palomino 2022)

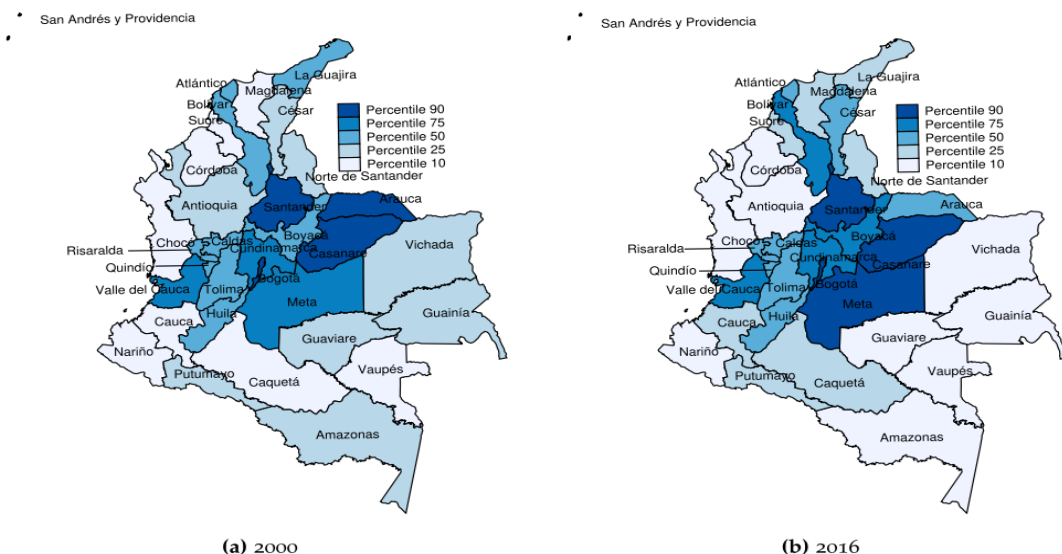


Figure 8. Average subjective wellbeing by department 2010-2018 (Burger et al. 2021)

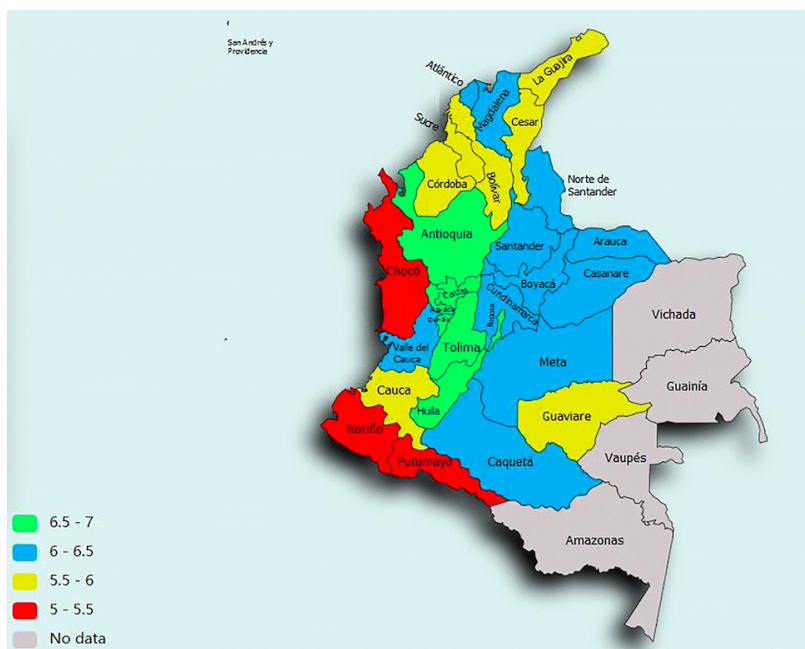


Figure 9. Average convergence/divergence by department 2000-2016 (Palomino 2022)

Region/department	2000	2008	2016	Trend
Andean region (región Andina)				
Antioquia	1.190	1.193	1.335	Divergence (forging ahead)
Bogotá	1.918	1.890	2.007	Divergence (forging ahead)
Boyacá	1.014	1.174	1.466	Divergence (forging ahead)
Caldas	0.802	0.903	0.958	Convergence (catching up)
Cundinamarca	1.156	1.122	1.220	Divergence (forging ahead)
Huila	0.915	0.903	0.952	Convergence (catching up)
Norte De Santander	0.670	0.714	0.781	Convergence (catching up)
Quindío	0.883	0.740	0.876	Divergence (forging ahead)
Risaldarda	0.837	0.883	0.999	Convergence (catching up)
Santander	1.369	1.938	2.269	Divergence (forging ahead)
Tolima	0.821	0.910	0.957	Convergence (catching up)
Caribbean and Insular regions (regiones Insular y Caribe)				
Atlántico	0.968	0.941	1.063	Divergence (forging ahead)
Bolívar	0.862	1.079	1.218	Divergence (forging ahead)
Cesar	0.744	1.108	1.116	Divergence (forging ahead)
Córdoba	0.668	0.644	0.642	Divergence (falling behind)
La Guajira	0.787	0.890	0.582	Divergence (falling behind)
Magdalena	0.541	0.587	0.634	Convergence (catching up)
San Andrés	1.074	1.081	1.232	Divergence (forging ahead)
Sucre	0.496	0.512	0.592	Convergence (catching up)
Pacific region (región del Pacífico)				
Chocó	0.359	0.398	0.532	Convergence (catching up)
Valle del Cauca	1.263	1.229	1.310	Divergence (forging ahead)
Cauca	0.506	0.580	0.802	Convergence (catching up)
Nariño	0.477	0.495	0.575	Convergence (catching up)
Orinoco region (región de la Orinoquía)				
Meta	1.272	1.911	1.913	Divergence (forging ahead)
Vichada	0.604	0.568	0.458	Divergence (falling behind)
Casanare	5.624	3.111	2.199	Convergence
Arauca	1.920	2.545	1.164	Convergence
Amazon region (región Amazónica)				
Amazonas	0.575	0.517	0.577	Convergence (catching up)
Caquetá	0.518	0.516	0.621	Convergence (catching up)
Guainía	0.574	0.462	0.486	Divergence (falling behind)
Guaviare	0.592	0.488	0.471	Divergence (falling behind)
Putumayo	0.571	0.645	0.611	Convergence (catching up)
Vaupés	0.430	0.327	0.380	Divergence (falling behind)

Looking to the Future

Since the 1950s, Colombia has received extensive aid from international finance institutions and global organizations. In 1961, the country received US\$52,490,002 in net development assistance. In 2000, aid increased to US\$202,369,995, and soared into the billions by 2006 (which was one of the bloodiest years of the armed conflict). By 2018, aid was increased again to US\$1.78 billion followed by a halving of total received aid in 2019 with US\$873,690,002. Assistance soared again in 2020, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing migrant populations from neighboring Venezuela — of which over 2.5 million lived in Colombia in 2022.

Despite this history of extensive international assistance, the benefits have been distributed in an unbalanced manner throughout the country. Additionally, humanitarian concerns continue to rise and take center-stage in national development planning. The pandemic, coupled with the increasing adverse climate change effects such as droughts and floods have taken significant tolls on the Colombian people and economy. Following the introduction of the SDGs in 2017, there has been a clear shift in national development towards addressing the inequalities which persisted through the MDG period.

In reference to the MDGs, Colombia found that democratization and good governance played significant roles in achieving success.

This is reflected in the decades-long armed conflict since the mid-1960s which has seriously hampered our ability to deliver equitable, efficient aid to all our territories and departments. Democratization and good governance did lead to progress towards the MDGs, with a peace deal being struck in 2016 -- which although was after the creation of SDGs, formed part of a long process of organization that certainly occurred during the MDG era. Overall, we argue that a lack of good governance and democracy have prevented the realization of the majority of the MDGs in an equitable manner. The operative word here is equitable because although the country did undergo comprehensive changes towards the MDGs such as reduction in extreme poverty and sustained economic growth, a lack of territorial planning made these strides less evident in departments like Sucre than in Santa Fe.

In the era of the SDGs, our responsibility as a government is the refocusing of our national development programming and assistance needs to the inequalities which were unfortunately left out during the MDGs. We maintain that running a state free of unproductive corruption is critical to the realization of the SDGs, while we also recognize that we cannot expect to meet the SDGs overnight. However, the targets presented in the SDGs provide policy makers with a framework for which to operate under at the national and subnational levels, as well as for future international assistance to Colombia. Future assistance



received at the international level must correspond with the key transformations we have outlined in this report and which were first stipulated in the National Development Plan of May 2023. Completing these transformations towards a productive transformation of Colombian national development is reliant upon extensive, resolute support of the global community.

As we look to the future, it is important to recognize that we face several uncertainties in our developmental aspirations. Chief among them is maintaining total peace and prosperity. Additionally, addressing increasing climate change effects through the transition of our energy infrastructure is imperative, yet resembles a grave uncertainty should this and future administration not be successful. This underscores the duty of policy makers at the national and subnational levels to build off of the analysis and recommendations presented in this report. In recent years the Colombian people have weathered extraordinary challenges such as bringing an

end to decades of internal armed conflict; we have opened our doors to our neighboring Venezuelans as they endure numerous crises; and we have bravely confronted the global pandemic that hampered our economy and social services.

We recognize that to meet our goals, aspirations, and to promote the success of our people through human security and social justice, our international partners must play a crucial role. This report has highlighted that these partnerships already exist and can only be strengthened by more sustainable assistance mechanisms. Additionally, this report has outlined opportunities and spaces where new potential partnerships can form between the Colombian state and global community. To this point, we graciously extend our hand to the international community in the hopes of building on existing and new partnerships which target the sustainable development of our Republic.

Works Cited

- Acero, Camilo. "The Substitution Program on Trial: Progress and Setbacks of the Peace Agreement in the Policy against Illicit Crops in Colombia." *International Journal of Drug Policy*, Mar. 2021, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0955395921000566.
- Berliner, Maria Velez, et al. "Does Colombia's Health System Need an Overhaul?" *The Dialogue*, Mar. 2023, www.thedialogue.org/analysis/does-colombias-health-system-need-an-overhaul/#:~:text=%27%20Despite%20these%20impressive%20achievements%2C%20the,between%20primary%20and%20specialized%20care.
- Borrero, Jorge et al. "Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2022-2026." Departamento Nacional de Planeación, 3 May 2023, www.dnp.gov.co/plan-nacional-desarrollo/pnd-2022-2026
- BTI. "Colombia Country Report 2022." Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index, 2022. https://bti-project.org/fileadmin/api/content/en/downloads/reports/country_report_2022_COL.pdf
- Burger, Martijn, et al. "Happy but Unequal: Differences in Subjective Well-Being across Individuals and Space in Colombia - Applied Research in Quality of Life." SpringerLink, 27 July 2021, link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11482-021-09954-2.
- "Colombia." World Bank Open Data, data.worldbank.org/country/CO. Accessed 22 May 2023.
- "Colombia — Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2021 : Addressing the Challenges Facing Food Systems." *Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2021 : Addressing the Challenges Facing Food Systems* | OECD iLibrary, 2021, www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/34561bf9-en/index.html?itemId=%2Fcontent%2Fcomponent%2F34561bf9-en.
- "Colombia Competitiveness INDEX2022 Data - 2023 Forecast - 2007-2021 Historical." *Colombia Competitiveness Index - 2022 Data - 2023 Forecast - 2007-2021 Historical*, <https://tradingeconomics.com/colombia/competitiveness-index>. Accessed 21 May 2023.
- "Colombia- Country Commercial Guide ." *International Trade Administration* | *Trade.Gov*, Nov. 2022, www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/colombia-infrastructure.
- "Colombia - Highway and Rural Roads Projects." World Bank, 30 June 1995, documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/144381493249425494/colombia-highway-and-rural-roads-projects.



- “Colombia Human Development - Data, Chart.” TheGlobalEconomy.Com, [www.theglobaleconomy.com/Colombia/human_development/#:~:text=Human%20Development%20Index%20\(0%20%2D%201\)&text=For%20that%20indicator%2C%20we%20provide,from%202021%20is%200.752%20points](http://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Colombia/human_development/#:~:text=Human%20Development%20Index%20(0%20%2D%201)&text=For%20that%20indicator%2C%20we%20provide,from%202021%20is%200.752%20points). Accessed 22 May 2023.
- “Colombia Murder/Homicide Rate 1990-2023.” MacroTrends, www.macrotrends.net/countries/COL/colombia/murder-homicide-rate. Accessed 22 May 2023.
- “Colombia Obtains World Bank Support to Improve Healthcare Quality and Combat Breast Cancer.” *World Bank*, 19 Mar. 2020, www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/03/19/colombia-obtiene-apoyo-del-bm-para-mejorar-la-calidad-de-la-salud-y-luchar-contra-el-cancer-de-mama.
- “Colombia Overview .” *World Bank*, Apr. 2023, www.worldbank.org/en/country/colombia/overview#:~:text=GDP%20strongly%20grew%20at%207.5,a%20high%20current%20account%20deficit.
- “Colombia Peace Process: The Abandonment of the PNIS and the Resumption of the ‘War on Drugs.’” *Via Campesina English*, 13 Nov. 2020, viacampesina.org/en/colombia-peace-process-the-abandonment-of-the-pnis-and-the-resumption-of-the-war-on-drugs/.
- “Colombia Promotes Territorial Development with World Bank Support.” *World Bank*, 27 Feb. 2020, www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/02/24/desarrollo-territorial-colombia.
- “Colombia Social: Poverty and Inequality.” CEIC, www.ceicdata.com/en/colombia/social-poverty-and-inequality. Accessed 22 May 2023.
- “Colombia Unemployment Rate April 2023 Data - 2001-2022 Historical - May Forecast.” *Colombia Unemployment Rate - April 2023 Data - 2001-2022 Historical - May Forecast*, <https://tradingeconomics.com/colombia/unemployment-rate>. Accessed 21 May 2023.
- “Colombia’s Civil Warriors ~ Auc Paramilitaries.” PBS, 15 June 2008, www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/uncategorized/colombias-civil-warriors-auc-paramilitaries/574/.
- Cobb, Julia. “Colombia to Allow Private Imports of COVID-19 Vaccine, but Shots Must Be Free.” *Reuters*, 5 Apr. 2021, www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/colombia-allow-private-imports-covid-19-vaccine-shots-must-be-free-2021-04-05/.
- Colombia, Executive, and Department of National Planning. *Colombia Potencia Mundial De La Vida*, 3 May 2023.



- <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/portalDNP/PND-2023/2023-05-04-bases-plan-nacional-de-inversiones-2022-2026.pdf>. Accessed 18 May 2023.
- Colombia, Executive, and National Ministry of Education. *Programa Todos Aprender*, May 2022. https://www.mineducacion.gov.co/1780/articles-363488_recurso_2.pdf. Accessed 2023.
- Colombia - Highway Project (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/208281468240887809/Colombia-Highway-Project>
- Congote, Nicolás, and Sylvie Duchamp. “Internet Connectivity Brings Opportunity to Remote Region Where Violence Once Lived.” *Microsoft*, 7 Apr. 2023, <https://news.microsoft.com/source/features/work-life/internet-connectivity-brings-opportunity-to-remote-region-where-violence-once-lived/>.
- “Data for Colombia, Upper Middle Income .” *World Bank Open Data*, <https://data.worldbank.org/?locations=CO-XT>. Accessed 21 May 2023.
- Daniels, Joe Parkin. “Preparedness for Natural Disasters in Colombia.” *The Lancet*, vol. 389, no. 10087, 2017, pp. 2363–2364, [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(17\)31664-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(17)31664-1).
- Duarte, Carlos, et al. "Breast cancer in Colombia: a growing challenge for the healthcare system." *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*, vol. 186, no. 1, Feb. 2021, pp. 15+. Gale Academic OneFile, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A654364884/AONE?u=euge94201&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=1096b91c>. Accessed 21 May 2023.
- “Education Statistics: Colombia Reports.” *Colombia Reports*, 29 Dec. 2019, <https://colombiareports.com/amp/education-statistics/>.
- Embry, Embry. “Sanitation in Colombia.” *The Borgen Project*, 19 May 2020, borgenproject.org/sanitation-in-colombia/.
- FAO Sustainable Development Department . “Building on Gender, Agrobiodiversity and Local Knowledge—What Is Happening to Agrobiodiversity?” *What Is Agrobiodiversity?*, 2004, www.fao.org/3/y5609e/y5609e02.htm#TopOfPage.
- Fernando Potes, Luis. Megadiversidad, web.archive.org/web/20131029190443/www.prodiversitas.bioetica.org/nota63.htm. Accessed 22 May 2023.
- “FARC.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 25 Mar. 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/FARC.



Franco, Saúl, et al. "The effects of the armed conflict on the life and health in Colombia." *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* 11.2 (2006): 349-361.

Garcia-Navarro, Lulu. "The Colombia-Venezuela Border: Open to Smugglers, Closed to the Desperate." NPR, 12 July 2016, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2016/07/12/485651368/the-colombia-venezuela-border-open-to-smugglers-closed-to-the-desperate.

Gilmore, Robert, et al. "Colombia." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 19 May 2023, www.britannica.com/place/Colombia.

"History: Basic Page: Colombia." U.S. Agency for International Development, 13 June 2022, www.usaid.gov/colombia/history.

Human Development Report 2021/2022: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping Our Future in a Transforming World. United Nations Publications. https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf

International Committee of the Red Cross. "War Should Not Remain the Status Quo in Colombia." International Committee of the Red Cross, 3 Mar. 2022, www.icrc.org/en/document/war-should-not-remain-status-quo-colombia#:~:text=The%20departments%20worst%20affected%20by,as%20Caquetá%2C%20Putumayo%20and%20Guaviare.

Lam, Nam. "The Digital Gap and Its Impact on Colombian Education during Covid-19." *Los Dialogos Panamericanos*, 6 Mar. 2021, <https://blogs.gwu.edu/ccas-panamericanos/2021/03/06/the-digital-gap-and-its-impact-on-colombian-education-during-covid-19/>.

Langrand, Michelle. "Sustainable Agriculture: How Farmers in Colombia Are Challenging the Status Quo." Geneva Solutions, 8 Jan. 2021, genevasolutions.news/climate-environment/sustainable-agriculture-how-farmers-in-colombia-are-challenging-the-status-quo.

Lee, Jacob E. "La Guajira Water and Sanitation Infrastructure and Service Management Project." The Borgen Project, 27 Sept. 2020, borgenproject.org/tag/la-guajira-water-and-sanitation-infrastructure-and-service-management-project/.

"Land Formalization Goes Live in Colombia." LandLinks, 14 May 2021, www.land-links.org/2021/05/land-formalization-goes-live-in-colombia/.



- Lee, Julian. “Toward a New Sustainable Development Model for the Orinoquía Region in Colombia.” World Bank Blogs, 17 Nov. 2021, blogs.worldbank.org/latinamerica/toward-new-sustainable-development-model-orinoquia-region-colombia.
- Moloney, Anastasia. “In Colombia, a Seed Bank Unlocks Its Secrets in Climate Fight.” Context, 14 Oct. 2022, www.context.news/nature/in-colombia-a-seed-bank-unlocks-its-secrets-in-climate-fight.
- Moloney, Anastasia. “Uncertainty Clouds Colombia’s Green Energy Plan.” *Business LIVE*, 14 Mar. 2023, www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/americas/2023-03-14-uncertainty-clouds-colombias-green-energy-plan/.
- Mondragon-Velez, Camilo, et al. “Labor Market Rigidities and Informality in Colombia.” SSRN Electronic Journal, 2010, <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1565512>.
- Norman, Jack. “US Senators Propose Overhaul for Aid to Colombia.” *Colombia Reports*, 12 Mar. 2022, <https://colombiareports.com/us-senators-propose-overhaul-for-aid-to-colombia/>.
- “Our Work in Colombia.” *Project HOPE*, 21 Dec. 2022, www.projecthope.org/country/colombia/.
- Palomino, Jesus. “Regional Income Convergence in Colombia: Population, Space, and Long-Run Dynamics - the Annals of Regional Science.” SpringerLink, 10 Aug. 2022, link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00168-022-01163-5.
- Prada, Sergio I., et al. “Covid-19 Response in Colombia: Hits and Misses.” *Health Policy and Technology*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2022, p. 100621, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hlpt.2022.100621>.
- Press, Zuma. “Colombia’s President Hopes Nobel Prize Momentum Pushes Peace Deal to Finish Line.” *The Wall Street Journal*, 10 Dec. 2016, www.wsj.com/articles/colombias-president-hopes-nobel-prize-momentum-pushes-peace-deal-to-finish-line-1481383117.
- “People Using at Least Basic Drinking Water Services (% of the Population) - Colombia .” World Bank, 2020, data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.H2O.BASW.ZS?locations=US.
- “PGO - Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Colombian Empowerment Activity (IPACE): Fact Sheet: Colombia.” *U.S. Agency for International Development*, 8 Mar. 2023, www.usaid.gov/colombia/fact-sheets/pgo-indigenous-peoples-and-afro-colombian-empowerment-activity-ipace#:~:text=IPACE%20is%20implemented%20in%20Colombia%27s,peacebuilding%20and%20sustainable%20development%20initiatives.



- “Primary Health Care.” *World Health Organization*,
www.who.int/health-topics/primary-health-care#tab=tab_1. Accessed 21 May 2023.
- Rodríguez, Víctor, et al. “The Challenges of the Colombian Pension System.” *Periódico UNAL*, July 2021,
<https://periodico.unal.edu.co/articulos/the-challenges-of-the-colombian-pension-system/>.
- Rubiano , Maria, et al. “In Colombia, Indigenous Lands Are Ground Zero for a Wind Energy Boom.” *Yale E360*, May 2021,
<https://e360.yale.edu/features/in-colombia-indigenous-lands-are-ground-zero-for-a-wind-energy-boom>.
- “Rethinking Urban Sprawl: Moving towards Sustainable Cities .” OECD, June 2018,
www.oecd.org/environment/tools-evaluation/rethinking-urban-sprawl-9789264189881-en.htm.
- “Share of Informal Employment in Colombia 2021.” Statista, 26 Oct. 2022,
www.statista.com/statistics/1039930/informal-employment-share-colombia/.
- Sánchez-Moreno, Maria McFarland. “Paramilitaries’ Heirs.” Human Rights Watch, 3 Feb. 2010,
www.hrw.org/report/2010/02/03/paramilitaries-heirs/new-face-violence-colombia.
- Treisman, Rachel. “Colombia Offers Temporary Legal Status to Nearly 1 Million Venezuelan Migrants.” *NPR*, 9 Feb. 2021,
www.npr.org/2021/02/09/965853031/colombia-offers-temporary-legal-status-to-nearly-1-million-venezuelan-migrants.
- “Tackling Informality in Colombia with the Social and Solidarity Economy ...” OECD, 29 July 2022,
www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/social-economy/tackling-informality-in-colombia-with-the-social-and-solidarity-economy.htm.
- “Tackling Informality in Colombia with the Social and Solidarity Economy ...” OECD, 29 July 2022,
www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/social-economy/tackling-informality-in-colombia-with-the-social-and-solidarity-economy.htm.
- “Turning the Tide: Improving Water Security for Recovery and Sustainable Growth in Colombia.” World Bank, 2 Sept. 2020,
www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/09/02/colombia-water-security.
- United States, Congress, “United States-Colombia Strategic Alliance Act of 2022.” *Congress.Gov*, 2022.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/3805/text?s=1&r=31#toc-id9c063a456ed44379852451c050e4f947>. Accessed May 2023.



VAM Unit - Colombia. “2023 - Food Security Assessment of Colombian Population - Executive Summary.” UN World Food Programme, 3 Mar. 2023,

www.wfp.org/publications/2023-food-security-assessment-colombian-population-executive-summary#:~:text=Of%20the%2015.5%20million%20Colombians,million%20are%20moderately%20food%20insecure.

Vieira, Constanza. “International Criminal Court Scrutinises Paramilitary Crimes.” Colombia: International Criminal Court Scrutinises Paramilitary Crimes - Ips Ipsnews.Net, web.archive.org/web/20110610224121/ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=43696. Accessed 22 May 2023.

“Vive La Educación! Improving Access to Education for Colombian Kids.” *Government of Canada*, 26 Nov. 2021, www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/stories-histoires/2019/colombia-colombie-education.aspx?lang=eng.

Weiss, Sandra. “From Scarcity to Abundance: The Secret of the ‘peace Farmers’ of Colombia.” *Mongabay Environmental News*, 17 Apr. 2023, news.mongabay.com/2023/04/from-scarcity-to-abundance-the-secret-of-the-peace-farmers-of-colombia/.

World Bank Group, and Poverty & Equity Division. “Poverty & Equity Brief Latin America & the Caribbean Colombia 2023.” World Bank, Apr. 2023. https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/public/ddpext_download/poverty/987B9C90-CB9F-4D93-AE8C-750588BF00QA/current/Global_POVEQ_COL.pdf

Yu, Shu, and Franziska Ohnsorge. “The Challenges of Informality.” *World Bank Blogs*, 18 Jan. 2019, blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/challenges-informality.