

COLOMBIA

Colombia is a growing middle-income country, and an important political, development and commercial partner for Canada.

In 2016, the Government of Colombia concluded a historic peace agreement with the country's largest guerrilla group (FARC). This ended a 50-year internal armed conflict that displaced over six million people internally. The conflict also resulted in one of the highest numbers of landmine casualties in the world. Despite promising progress toward peace and stability, challenges remain. These relate to poverty, violence, trafficking of illegal drugs and human rights abuses, which continue to be pervasive in some rural areas with limited state presence.

Canada has supported development, humanitarian assistance, peace and security initiatives in Colombia for more than 40 years. It has worked to ensure respect for human rights and respond to the challenges faced by Colombia's most vulnerable populations. These vulnerable populations include:

- Indigenous peoples and other minorities;
- child victims of violence and exploitation;
- internally displaced people;
- small farmers;
- landmine-affected communities; and
- underprivileged youth.

Canada's development assistance focuses on three areas:

- growth that works for everyone;
 - there is particular emphasis on agricultural development, youth employment and entrepreneurship, and improved natural resources governance
- human dignity through improved access to quality education for children and youth in conflict-affected rural areas; and
- support for Colombia's peace and post-conflict reconstruction efforts.



Country: Colombia © Global Affairs Canada / Jean-François Leblanc