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Swiss Confederation

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Directorate of Political Affairs DP

# Swiss International Cooperation: Context and Strategic Framework **Colombia**

2017–2020



# Abbreviations and acronyms

<b>APC</b>	Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation ( <i>Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional de Colombia</i> )
<b>CSPM</b>	Conflict-Sensitive Programme Management
<b>DP</b>	Directorate of Political Affairs
<b>EAER</b>	Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research
<b>ELN</b>	National Liberation Army ( <i>Ejército de Liberación Nacional</i> )
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FARC</b>	Revolutionary Colombian Armed Forces ( <i>Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia</i> )
<b>FDFA</b>	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
<b>GRUC</b>	Donor Coordination Group ( <i>Grupo de Cooperantes</i> )
<b>HSD</b>	Human Security Division
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan
<b>ODA</b>	Official development assistance
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>SDC</b>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
<b>SECO</b>	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

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## State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO – Economic Cooperation and Development

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO is part of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER). SECO's Economic Cooperation and Development division implements economic cooperation and development activities with middle-income developing countries, with countries of Eastern Europe as well as the new Member States of the European Union. It coordinates Switzerland's relations with the World Bank Group, the regional development banks and the economic organizations of the United Nations. As part of Switzerland's international cooperation efforts as defined in the Federal Council's 2017–2020 Message on International Cooperation, SECO's economic and trade policy measures strive to support sustainable and inclusive growth.

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## Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC – Humanitarian Aid and Global Programme Water

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland's international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). SDC is responsible for implementing the Federal Council's foreign policy on humanitarian aid and development. Swiss Humanitarian Aid is involved in protecting the interests of vulnerable population groups prior to, during and after periods of conflict, crises or natural disasters. The Global Programme Water works worldwide to promote a globalisation conducive to development. For the Dispatch for 2017–2020 Switzerland's international cooperation efforts aim to reduce poverty and global risks, alleviate suffering, and promote peace and respect for human rights.

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## Directorate of Political Affairs DP – Human Security Division

The Human Security Division is responsible within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for the promotion of peace and human rights as set out in the Federal Council's foreign policy strategy. This focuses on the security of individuals and protecting people from violence, war and despotism.

# Editorial

Colombia has embarked upon an important transition process to end a 50-year armed conflict, build sustainable and durable peace and deepen its integration into the world economy. This transformation process is a long-term venture that will extend beyond a peace agreement or the accession to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It requires a sustained and participative effort by the Colombian government and society.

Swiss cooperation has been active in Colombia since 2001, working closely with governmental institutions, the private sector, civil society and multilateral organisations. Through this Cooperation Strategy for the 2017–2020 period, Switzerland shows its continuing commitment to supporting and accompanying Colombia over the coming four years. The overall objective of Switzerland’s Cooperation Strategy in Colombia is to contribute to sustainable peace and economic development that creates opportunities for all.

Colombia is one of the few countries where Switzerland is engaged through three different cooperation entities: the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Human Security Division (HSD) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). This pro-

vides a basis for a comprehensive approach to tackling the multifaceted challenges and opportunities in Colombia. Through these three cooperation entities, Switzerland provides humanitarian assistance, promotes peace and human rights and supports sustainable and inclusive economic development.

This document sets out the strategic framework and operational guidance for Switzerland’s cooperation work in Colombia. It has been drawn up jointly by the EAER (SECO) and the FDFA (SDC and HSD), in close consultation with the Colombian government and other partners from civil society, the private sector and multilateral organisations in Colombia. The Cooperation Strategy is in line with the Federal Council’s 2017–2020 Message on International Cooperation to the Swiss Parliament and the priorities of the Colombian government.

The Cooperation Strategy consists of a common strategic framework of the Swiss cooperation in Colombia and two separate programmatic parts for the EAER (SECO country strategy) and the FDFA (SDC and HSD country strategy). The common part provides information about the country context, development cooperation in Colombia as well as the overall goals and priorities of Swiss cooperation. The programmatic parts include a more detailed overview of the respective implementation modalities and result frameworks.

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- 1 Protection from mines requires civil humanitarian demining activities in contaminated areas.
- 2 Colombia features a high biodiversity and is very vulnerable to climate change.
- 3 The right urban policies can have big economic, environmental and social impacts.
- 4 Sustainable tourism constitutes a great potential for the diversification of Colombia's economy.
- 5 Colombian Security Forces engage in exercise on historic memory.

# Country context

Colombia's recent history has been marked by serious contrasts. On the one hand, Colombia is one of the oldest and formally most stable democracies in Latin America, an upper-middle-income country, the fourth-largest economy in Latin American and an important regional growth pole. On the other hand, the history of Colombia has been strongly affected by the omnipresence of armed conflict and violence. Violence associated with the internal armed conflict has created more than

8 million registered victims. Current peace efforts are aimed at ending a 50-year armed conflict between the state and left-wing guerrilla groups. Colombian society is also one of the most unequal in the world, and state institutions remain weak or even absent in several parts of the country. In recent decades, Colombia has struggled to address the multifaceted challenges of an emerging economy and those of a protracted armed conflict.

## Political and institutional

As established in the 1991 Constitution, Colombia is a democratic presidential republic. The President of Colombia serves as both head of state and head of government. At the provincial level, executive power is vested in department governors, municipal mayors and smaller administrative subdivisions, such as *corregimientos* or *comunas*. The Congress is the legislative branch, a bicameral institution comprising a 166-seat Chamber of Representatives and a 102-seat Senate. The judicial branch is headed by four high courts, consisting of the Supreme Court, the Council of State, the Constitutional Court, and the Superior Council of Judicature (whose existence might be revised as part of a justice reform bill).

Juan Manuel Santos, Colombia's President since 2010, has favoured a negotiated resolution of the armed conflict, engaging in a peace process with the Revolutionary Colombian Armed Forces (FARC – *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*) and the National Liberation Army (ELN – *Ejército de Liberación Nacional*) guerrillas. President Santos also started an agenda of reforms to address the needs of the marginalised population and to remedy structural causes of violence, such as the unequal distribution of land, the lack of political pluralism and under-development at the territorial level. He has also pursued integration into the global economy and has strengthened Colombia's role in the multilateral arena. The parliamentary and presidential elections in 2018 will challenge the continuity of this reform agenda with the peace process at its centre.

Since November 2012, the Colombian government and the FARC – the country's biggest guerrilla group – have engaged in negotiations in Havana on a six-point agenda. While these negotiations culminated in a peace agreement in August 2016, the agreement was rejected by 50.2% of the

voters in a plebiscite on 2 October 2016. This No vote demonstrated the strong scepticism among large parts of the population with respect to the peace process. At the beginning of December 2016, a modified peace agreement was approved by Congress. In order to build sustainable peace, Colombia needs to foster a broad political and social consensus. Peace efforts need to be inclusive and enable positive changes for the population, especially in those regions most affected by armed violence and socioeconomic marginalisation. In March 2016, the Government and the ELN announced a public phase of negotiations to take place in five Latin American countries (Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela).

Even when the armed confrontation between the government and the insurgent groups comes to an end, the prevalence of organised armed groups and organised crime groups is likely to continue or even increase in several parts of the country. Threats and attacks against human rights defenders, especially social leaders, remain worrisome.

Colombia has a sophisticated institutional framework with an array of participatory mechanisms. While the country formally has a decentralised system of governance, state institutions – particularly in the peripheral regions – are relatively weak, and budgetary resources are to a large extent controlled at the national level. The lack of trust in governmental institutions, governance problems, impunity and corruption has been a constant in the country. The gap between planning and effective implementation of policies remains a challenge. In order to achieve sustainable peace, the government needs to foster economic and social empowerment as well as the rule of law in marginalised regions, e.g. through more effective mechanisms for the participation of society.



## Economic and environmental

Colombia has experienced sustained growth for more than a decade and, despite large external shocks, its economy has shown remarkable resilience. High commodity prices, a booming construction sector and domestic consumption spending combined with sound macroeconomic policies and recent reforms, such as the fiscal rule, have contributed to sustained average annual GDP growth of 4.4% during the 2000s. Income per capita grew at an average annual rate of 4.2% between 2008 and 2014, reached almost USD 8,000 in 2014 and sunk to USD 6,000 in 2015, due to the strong devaluation of the national currency. However, GDP adjusted by purchasing power parity continued to increase slightly in 2015.

Recent advances in financial regulation and supervision have underpinned the financial system's resilience to changing global conditions. The country has deepened its regional and global integration through, among other things, a set of free trade agreements, participation in the Pacific Alliance<sup>1</sup> and the OECD accession process. In fact, the OECD accession process has enabled the government to advance in a number of structural reform processes, e.g. in the areas of competition and innovation, corporate governance, taxes and the environmental management regime. Despite this progress, there are still many structural challenges to achieving balanced and inclusive growth.

Besides less favourable external financing conditions, the fall in commodity prices in 2015 led to a decline in economic growth and demonstrated Colombia's dependency on commodities. The end of the commodity boom contributed to declining exports (-34.9% in 2015), a growing balance account deficit and budget deficit, depreciation of the Colombian peso and increasing inflation. It also highlighted the need to foster continued supervision in the financial sector and to deepen capital markets. In order to reduce its dependency on commodities and mitigate exposure to volatile commodity prices, diversification of the economy and the promotion of international competitiveness of non-extractive tradable sectors are a high priority for the government.

The lack of competition in domestic markets, together with a lack of integration into international markets, despite the existence of a set of free trade agreements, result in low productivity and competitiveness of the non-extractive sectors. Major

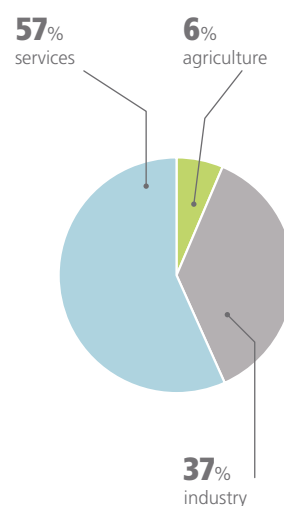
constraints affecting competitiveness include the quality and relevance of the education system, a skills gap, limited research and innovation, low connectivity (high costs of transport and logistics) due to an important infrastructure backlog and outstanding structural reforms, including comprehensive tax and judiciary reforms. Although unemployment reached a record low of 8.9% in 2015, the Colombian labour market is still characterised by comparatively high rates of unemployment and informality. The majority of people are employed in low-production informal sectors. The unemployment rate for women was estimated at 11.7% (July 2016), compared with an estimated 7.3% for men.

Colombian cities play an important role in the national economy. These are home to 75% of the population and important poles of investment and economic growth (80% of GDP). Yet, rapid urbanisation has posed serious challenges to urban areas, including the availability and quality of urban infrastructure, limited governance and high pollution levels, especially with regard to water and air quality as well as waste management.

With more than half of its surface area covered by forests, Colombia is the second-most bio-diverse country in the world and overall one of the richest countries in terms of water availability in Latin America. Like other middle-income countries, Colombia's abundant natural resources are under pressure. Unsustainable agricultural practices, extractive industries (both legal and illegal), road traffic and urbanisation exert major pressure on the country's biodiversity and ecosystems. In addition, Colombia is particularly vulnerable to climate change. Large parts of the population have settled in coastal areas prone to flooding, near river

## Economic sectors in Colombia

Primary (agriculture), secondary (industry) and tertiary (services) sector in %.  
Source: Central Intelligence Agency, World Factbook (2015)



## GDP growth of Colombia

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita based on purchasing power parity (PPP) in current international dollars.

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook (2016)



<sup>1</sup> Since 2013, Switzerland has an observer status in the Pacific Alliance.

basins also prone to flooding, or in the Andean mountains where land instability and water shortages are already a reality. Due to its geographic location, the country presents a high recurrence and magnitude of extreme weather events (e.g. El Niño). Against this background, the government has strengthened its efforts to promote the sustainable management of natural and mineral resources, climate change mitigation and adaptation (resilient infrastructure, cities, and population) as well as green growth.

**Bilateral economic relations between Colombia and Switzerland are good, with further potential for expansion.** The institu-

tional framework is comprehensive, consisting of a free trade agreement (2011), an investment protection agreement (2009), a double taxation agreement (2011), and an agreement on technical and scientific cooperation (1967). While Switzerland is a major investor in Colombia (CHF 977 million in 2014), trade between the two countries has evolved little in recent years. In 2015, Swiss exports (over two-thirds of which are pharmaceutical and chemical products) stagnated by around CHF 430 million. Imports (CHF 576 million in 2015) are dominated by raw materials, especially gold, and to a lesser extent agricultural goods.

## Social, humanitarian and security

**Over the past decade, Colombia has made impressive progress in reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth.** According to official figures, extreme poverty has fallen from 17.7% in 2002 to 7.9% in 2015, and multi-dimensional poverty from 49% in 2003 to 20% in 2015. Improvements are also evident in regard to less violence, better environmental management and the recognition of minority rights. However, the decline in poverty is much lower in rural areas, and Colombia's poverty rate is still higher than the Latin American average. In addition, female-headed households are more vulnerable to poverty (31%) and extreme poverty (9.6%) than male-headed households (26% and 7% respectively). Despite an increase in the quantity and coverage of social safety nets, the degree of inequality remains among the highest in the region, with a Gini coefficient of 0.522 in 2015 according to official estimates.

**Colombia has increased coverage of basic services, but large disparities still exist among the departments, particularly between urban and rural regions.** In many cases, the increase in coverage has not been accompanied by increases in the quality of services. The provision of health services is a challenge in several parts of the country, with actual access and use of health services failing in rural and conflict-affected areas. Mismanagement and corruption in the public health sector remains a challenge. Enrolment rates in public primary and secondary education have increased. Nevertheless, while education spending is higher than the OECD average, the quality of public education remains low. Improving the quality of water, waste or transport services in fast-growing cities has been a particular challenge.

**For the period from 1985 to 2016, more than 8 million people have been registered as victims of the armed conflict in Colombia,**

7 million of whom suffered internal displacement. 53% of the internally displaced people are female and 50% are minors. Despite a decrease in the armed conflict during the period of negotiation with the FARC, 200,000 people continued to be displaced every year since 2012, falling to around 100,000 in 2015. Still, these high numbers of internally displaced people pose a significant challenge for poverty reduction, as it is estimated that 80% of the victims of forced displacement live in poverty and 35.5% in extreme poverty.

**Other – often less visible – forms of violence continue,** such as threats and attacks against human rights defenders, social control by armed groups, limitation on mobility, use and recruitment of minors by armed groups, selective killings, disappearances and gender-based sexual violence (between 2001 and 2009, almost 500,000 women were victims of sexual violence according to official figures), threats, extortions and the presence of anti-personnel mines. Gaps in the humanitarian response to the consequences of armed violence and natural catastrophes remain significant, especially in rural areas with difficult access and urban areas controlled by street gangs and armed groups.

**Organised armed groups and organised crime groups are a major source of violence,** causing humanitarian consequences, especially in rural areas, and human rights abuses. The government has stepped up efforts to combat these groups, although there are still concerns that these groups might acquire increased control of territories and illegal activities. Accidents involving anti-personnel landmines have dropped, but Colombia remains the country with the second-highest number of landmines in the world. Humanitarian demining efforts are progressing slowly, which will make it challenging for Colombia to meet its Ottawa Convention commitment by 2021.

GINI-coefficient  
of Colombia

0.52

Degree of income inequality within the population (0 = complete equality; 1 = complete inequality).

Source: National Administrative Department of Statistics (2015)





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1  
A strong civil society and respect for human rights are key for sustainable peace.

2  
Switzerland supports Colombia in achieving its objective to enhance the competitiveness of local SMEs.

3  
Switzerland contributes to improving the quality and ensuring the availability of water for the Colombian population.

4  
Switzerland engages in protection of affected people, e.g. by supporting workshops on mechanisms of self-protection for communities of Río Arquía.

5  
Colombia is the fourth largest producer of cocoa in South America with significant upward potential.



# Development cooperation context

## Partner country development strategy

There are two national frameworks serving as a policy guideline for Colombia up to 2018:

**National Development Plan (NDP) 2014–2018:** The NDP rests on three core pillars: Peace, Equity and Education, and six transversal strategies to achieve them (infrastructure and competitiveness, social mobility, rural transformation, security and justice, efficient government and green growth). For the first time, the NDP has a clear territorial focus.

**Based on the NDP, the Roadmap for International Cooperation for the period 2015–2018 focuses on three main areas:** Peacebuilding, Sustainable Rural Development, and Conservation and Environmental Sustainability. In line with the NDP's territorial focus, the roadmap puts emphasis on the least developed Colombian regions and on closing historical (rural-urban) gaps. In addition, the roadmap highlights the importance of science, technology and innovation, and recognises the important role of international cooperation in supporting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the accession process to the OECD.

In addition to these policy frameworks, peace agreements will be key documents for defining policy at the national, departmental and municipal levels.

**Under the leadership of the Presidential Agency of International Cooperation**

(APC – *Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional de Colombia*), a new financial architecture was designed to meet the funding and coordination requirements in the peace process. As part of the future implementation of a peace agreement, the need for international cooperation has been assessed at USD 3.3 billion over 5 to 10 years. Four Multi-Donor Trust Funds have been set up to channel bilateral and multilateral financial resources:

- **United Nations (UN):** UN Fund for the preparatory phase and early implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC.
- **European Union (EU):** EU Fund for rural development issues linked to the implementation of the peace agreement.
- **World Bank:** World Bank Fund for peace and post conflict (for transitional justice, the preparatory phase and implementation of the peace agreement).
- **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB):** IDB Fund for the long-term promotion of a sustainable rural development, biodiversity and conservation, fight against climate change focusing on areas affected by the conflict.

**An overall structure (Fondo Cuenta Colombia en Paz) serves to ensure the macro-management of these different funding sources,** secure government co-financing and facilitate coordination between these Funds and other donors.

## Donor landscape

According to official figures, official development assistance (ODA) in Colombia represents only 0.5% of the national budget and about 0.15% of GDP. This indicates that implementation of the peace agreement as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts will rely largely on national resources. In 2015, Switzerland ranked seventh in overall cooperation volume and third in terms of humanitarian cooperation. Multilateral cooperation is characterised by a strong presence of the World Bank Group, the Inter-American Development Bank and the UN system. The departments with the greatest presence of international donors are Antioquia,

Chocó, Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Córdoba, Meta, Putumayo, Caquetá and Arauca.

**A donor coordination mechanism (*Grupo de Cooperantes – GRUC*) was established in 2010 by the main donors to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of cooperation.** Since 2015, the GRUC has focused in particular on supporting preparatory efforts for implementation of the peace agreement. The GRUC is composed of twenty-six members (embassies and foreign cooperation agencies, the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the World Bank Group, the Inter-American Development Bank and the

Andean Development Corporation). A Humanitarian Donor Group was established in 2012 (embassies and foreign cooperation agencies, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the European Commu-

nity Humanitarian Office, the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration) seeking to strengthen coordination of efforts and the visibility of humanitarian needs.

## Lessons learnt from Switzerland's cooperation in 2013/14–2016 and general implications for the future

This section draws some general lessons learnt from the previous implementation of Switzerland's cooperation in Colombia and outlines the main implications for the 2017–2020 period:

- **Complementarity of cooperation programmes:** The comprehensive presence of three Swiss cooperation entities in Colombia allows responding to the multifaceted opportunities and challenges of an emerging economy in the post-peace agreement period and the likely on-going presence of armed violence. A common Cooperation Strategy for 2017–2020 ensures alignment of shared goals while recognising the difference of modalities and instruments. Thematic and geographic synergies between the cooperation entities will be strengthened and capitalised.
- **Network of competent partners:** The broad, representative network of competent partners in the political, economic and social-humanitarian spectrum is particularly crucial for the success of cooperation in Colombia. This enables a balanced analysis, access to all stakeholders and identification of complementarities and synergies. Switzerland will continue to capitalise on and expand its partner network.
- **Mix of cooperation modalities:** Swiss cooperation is perceived as flexible, innovative and based on solid technical know-how. Combining the elements of financial support, technical assistance and policy dialogue ensures positive and sustainable results for cooperation efforts. Implementation of this modality mix requires close monitoring and coordination with implementing partners. A good mix between bilateral (direct actions, mandates and contributions) and multilateral mechanisms facilitates portfolio management with limited human resources. Switzerland will thus continue to apply this modality mix in the 2017–2020 period.
- **Provision of technical assistance:** The provision of technical expertise is a key added value of Swiss cooperation in Colombia. Colombian counterparts are interested in learning from and exchanging with Swiss experts, institutions and private firms. Access to high-quality expertise, international networks and experience, combined with solid local know-how are fundamental to success. Switzerland will continue to identify and provide relevant technical assistance as part of its cooperation and take advantage of opportunities to stimulate Colombian-Swiss bilateral relations.
- **Promotion of dialogue and social cohesion:** For effective peacebuilding and socio-economic development, improved interaction is needed between the state, a diverse and vibrant civil society and the private sector. Cooperation can help build bridges between different sectors, strengthen the social fabric and promote community participation, providing platforms and bringing together different stakeholders and fostering a positive state presence in marginalised regions. Promoting social cohesion and inclusiveness is particularly important in the context of peacebuilding. Therefore, inclusiveness is a determinant element of Switzerland's new Cooperation Strategy.
- **Articulation between state institutions:** The public administration system of Colombia is complex and the government's implementation capacity at the subnational level remains weak. It is therefore important to facilitate intra- and inter-institutional coordination among government institutions in order to strengthen articulation between central and subnational entities as well as joint planning and implementation capabilities. The NDP 2014–2018, with its territorial focus, provides a good opportunity to intensify collaboration with regional entities, in close coordination with the national government. Switzerland will put more emphasis on including the subna-



tional level in its cooperation activities. With a careful design of multi-actor programmes and projects, Switzerland will also aim at creating valuable dialogue platforms that contribute to institutional strengthening and promote proximity of government institutions to people and local realities.

- **Donor coordination:** Cooperation with like-minded countries and active participation in the recently strengthened donor coordination mechanisms improves the impact of international cooperation. Switzerland will therefore consolidate

its coordination efforts and cooperation with specialised bilateral and multilateral partners, including strategic coordination with Multi Donor Trust Funds.

- **Sustainability:** In view of the progress in building sustainable and inclusive peace, and with OECD accession in reach, Switzerland will review the future role of its cooperation in Colombia in the course of the 2017–2020 period. Against this background, assuring sustainability of planned and on-going interventions will receive highest priority.

## Overall goal and Swiss priorities

In response to the multifaceted political, social and economic challenges facing Colombia, Switzerland's cooperation is comprehensive, as it draws on the experience and expertise of three complementary cooperation entities:

- **The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)**, of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, with economic development cooperation.
- **The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, with humanitarian assistance by SDC Humanitarian Aid and selected projects in sustainable development (water management) by SDC Global Programme Water.
- **The Human Security Division (HSD)** of the Political Directorate in the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, with work in the area of peace and human rights.

The overall goal of the 2017–2020 Swiss Cooperation Strategy for Colombia is to contribute to sustainable peace and economic development that creates opportunities for all. This objective is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the priorities of the Colombian government. It takes into account Swiss added value and capitalises on established portfolios and existing activities.

Switzerland's intervention includes immediate responses to armed violence, efforts to support the transition towards peace and activities to tackle the structural causes of violence and poverty.

The three overall objectives of Switzerland's 2017–2020 Cooperation Strategy for Colombia, their respective areas of intervention and their respective rationales are:

1. **Protection of affected populations: Protection and mitigation of the consequences of armed violence that contribute to laying the ground for conflict resolution.** Communities, persons at risk (women, minors and ethnic groups) and human rights defenders affected by armed violence are better protected and thus able to participate in the implementation of local peacebuilding and development processes.
2. **Peacebuilding and human rights: Sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding that contributes to social cohesion.** Local communities in conflict-affected areas – as well as the population at large – gain confidence in state institutions and in peacebuilding. National and local institutions are strengthened to improve the provision of basic services to local communities, civil society organisations and women participate effectively as key actors in peacebuilding and dealing with the past to support reconciliation and to restore confidence between the state and civil society. Political and citizens participation in Colombia is strengthened.

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1 Natural capital is the world's stock of natural resources, which includes geology, soils, air, water and all living organisms. Natural capital assets provide people with a wide range of free goods and services, often called ecosystem services, which underpin our economy and society and some of which even make human life possible.

**3. Inclusive and sustainable economic development: Inclusive and sustainable economic development that contributes to lasting peace.** Colombia's natural capital<sup>1</sup> is valued and managed in a sustainable way. Cities are becoming greener and more resilient through integrated urban development, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. The private sector makes more efficient use of resources. Small and medium-sized enterprises increase their productivity and take advantage of a sound business environment and better access to international markets, thereby contributing to more and better jobs and a more inclusive society. A strong, efficient and transparent fiscal management, a solid financial sector and increased institutional capacities ensure optimised use and allocation of limited resources and the provision of reliable public services.

The first two objectives, supported by the SDC and HSD, are linked to immediate and medium-term responses related to peacebuilding. The third objective, supported by SECO and the

SDC Global Programme Water, aims to offer socio-economic opportunities and tackle structural issues affecting sustainable and inclusive development.

**The instruments of SECO (economic cooperation), the SDC (Humanitarian Aid; Global Programme Water) and the HSD (peace and human rights) are complementary.** Where meaningful, thematic synergies will be capitalised, and geographic convergence of the three cooperation entities will be sought in selected regions.

**Switzerland's cooperation under this strategy will be financed through the 2017–2020 Swiss Framework Credit for International Cooperation.** Planned commitments for this four-year strategy amount to a total of approximately CHF 100 million, as shown below. This information is indicative. It cannot be considered a firm commitment or claimed as such by the partner country. Actual disbursements will depend on various factors, such as changes in the project portfolio, the framework conditions of the partner country as well as available disbursement credits authorized by the Swiss Parliament.

Cooperation entity	Contribution to objective	Foreseen budget in CHF million	% of total budget
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) – Economic Cooperation and Development	3	55	56
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) – Humanitarian Aid – Global Programme Water	1 and 2 3	35 2	35 2
Directorate of Political Affairs (DP) – Human Security Division	1 and 2	7	7



Overall goal

Colombia with sustainable peace and economic development that creates opportunities for all

<p><b>Domains (SDC/HSD)/ overall objective (SECO)</b></p>	<p><b>1. Protection of affected population</b></p>	<p><b>2. Peacebuilding and human rights</b></p>	<p><b>3. Inclusive and sustainable economic development</b></p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>Respond to the protection and humanitarian needs of communities and human rights defenders affected by armed violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protection of communities and persons at risk (IDPs, women, minors, HR defenders)</li> <li>● Mine action: mine risk education, protection and assistance, and humanitarian demining</li> <li>● Humanitarian emergency assistance</li> </ul>	<p>Establish the basis for lasting peace and early recovery through participation, reconciliation and reconstruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dealing with the past</li> <li>● Peacebuilding at the territorial level</li> <li>● Private companies, human rights and peacebuilding</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthen public institutions at national and subnational levels that provide effective services for all</p> <p>Improve competitiveness of sectors with potential to create productive and decent employment</p> <p>Take action on climate change by fostering integrated urban development and contribute to sustainable natural resource management, including by tackling global water challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Valuing water for more sustainable business</li> <li>● Integrated urban development</li> <li>● Sustainable energy supply</li> <li>● Resource-efficient private sector</li> </ul>
<p>Subdomains (SDC/HSD)/ contributions (SECO)</p>	<p>SDC/Humanitarian Aid and HSD</p> <p>CHF 22 million</p>	<p>SDC/Humanitarian Aid and HSD</p> <p>CHF 20 million</p>	<p>Dynamic entrepreneurship, strengthened expertise and flexible labour markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An effective business environment</li> <li>● Greater international competitiveness of SMEs and facilitated market access</li> <li>● Access to long-term capital</li> <li>● Favourable framework conditions for sustainable trade</li> </ul>
<p>Foreseen budget in CHF</p>	<p>SDC/ Global Programme Water</p> <p>CHF 2 million</p>	<p>SECO</p> <p>CHF 55 million</p>	<p>SECO</p> <p>CHF 55 million</p>

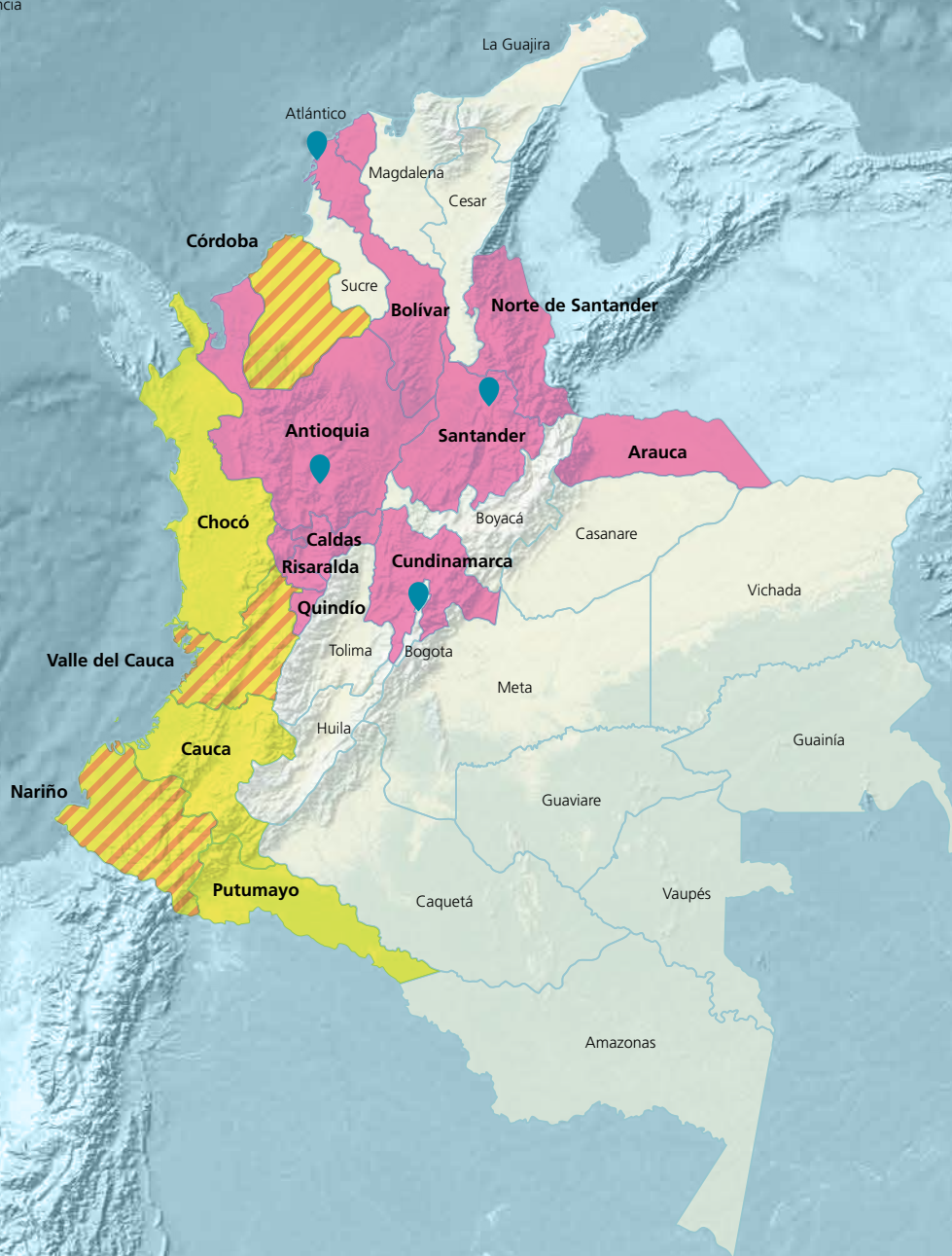
Additional dimensions


Gender equality and good governance as transversal topics


Conflict-Sensitive Programme Management (CSPM) and Do No Harm as an integrated approach (SDC and HSD)


# Country map of Colombia with main areas of intervention

San Andrés y Providencia



 SDC Intervention areas 2017–2020 for bilateral cooperation in terms of protection, humanitarian assistance and recovery. The interventions of supported multilateral partners (UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, ICRC) go beyond the geographical demarcation on this map.

 SDC Interventions on “Valuing water for more sustainable business”.

 SECO’s current presence at the departement level in Colombia (most of SECO’s projects have national coverage, however, the map highlights some of the projects with clear presence at the local level). SECO’s areas for interventions are defined case by case and according to strategic opportunities.

The Human Security Division will respond to strategic opportunities at the local and national level.





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### Sources

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