Philanthropy Ecosystem in Colombia 101

Investing Sustainably in the Development and Peace Agendas
A handbook for philanthropists and other social investors

November 2017

In collaboration with:
Contents

About this Handbook ......................................................................................................................... 6

A. Introduction to SDGs .................................................................................................................... 8

B. Colombia and Development ..................................................................................................... 14
   Country Overview ....................................................................................................................... 15
   MDG and SDG Scorecard .......................................................................................................... 19

C. Navigating the Philanthropy Landscape in Colombia .............................................................. 22

D. Policy/Stakeholder Landscape ................................................................................................ 30
   01. National Development Priorities and Policy Landscape ...................................................... 31
   02. SDG Agenda Coordination Mechanisms and Bodies .......................................................... 37
   03. Stakeholder Map ................................................................................................................. 42

E. Roadmap for New Philanthropists and NPOs in Colombia .................................................... 48
   How-to for Philanthropy ............................................................................................................ 49

Annex Resources & References ..................................................................................................... 51
Acknowledgments

This handbook was researched and authored by a dedicated team from SDG-Philanthropy Platform in Colombia, under the overall guidance of UNDP Colombia with inputs and contributions from Maria Alejandra Blanco, Alejandro Caceres and Lina Arbelaez from the Poverty Reduction and Inequality Team.

We extend special thanks to AFE’s colleagues, SDG-PP’s local partner, who lent their expertise essential to the creation of this report, including Maria Carolina Suarez and Juan David Ferreira.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank the SDG-Philanthropy Platform team in Istanbul for their unconditional support, specially Karolina Mzyk, Natalya Pyagay, and Merybell Reynoso.

Design: Daniel Ruiz

Writer’s note: This document was written in May 2017 and published in November 2017. Any progress or changes taken place during this period, has not be included in the document. The SDG Philanthropy Platform will provide separate updates as needed.
About this Handbook

Welcome to the Sustainable Development Goals Philanthropy Handbook. This material has been designed to give philanthropic organizations and other social actors (social investors, impact investors, I/NGOs, SCO, venture philanthropy) who do not have presence in Colombia, guidance on how to align their work to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the overarching Agenda 2030 in Colombia, and specifically to help philanthropists to:

• Develop a clear understanding of the stakeholders, mechanisms, policies and processes involved in delivering on national development priorities and the SDGs in country.
• Gain insights into the challenges for foundations and the environment in which they would be operating
• Identify practical ‘entry points’ via coordinating bodies, government engagement mechanisms or specific project areas operating in this country.

Today, it is ever more critical for philanthropy and social investment actors to understand the emerging SDG ecosystem in the countries in which they currently or aspire to work and how to engage, influence and benefit from coordination around the SDGs. Such an understanding will allow for greater collaboration, greater alignment of the variety of actors striving to achieve similar and/or complementary goals, and, more broadly, greater collaboration with governments and others under the umbrella of the SDGs.

Disclaimer:

While the content for this handbook has been extracted from official government resources, the United Nations System and experts in the philanthropic sector in Colombia, its content and recommendations reflect the analytical judgment of the SDG Philanthropy Platform staff and no one else. The assessments of the MDG achievements, while sourced from official MDG report, have not been cleared and agreed with the Government of Colombia. The coordination bodies and stakeholders discussed within were selected based on the judgment of our staff and do not represent a comprehensive list of all institutions and organizations in Colombia.
# How this Handbook Can Help

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>How this Handbook can help</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction: Investing in SDGs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» What are the SDGs and their outreach? Who is accountable for delivering them?</td>
<td>Learn about the SDGs and their role in guiding and aligning multiple stakeholders to achieve greater development results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» How are the SDGs linked to national and local development priorities?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Why is it so important for philanthropy to be engaged in the SDGs?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» What is the role of the SDG Philanthropy Platform?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 1: Colombia and Development</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» What are Colombia's greatest strengths and challenges in this context?</td>
<td>Get a brief overview of Colombia’s development situation, and a goal-by-goal progress report on the MDGs and how they link to the SDGs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» How did Colombia do in terms of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» What does this mean for progress against the SDGs?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 2: Navigating the Philanthropy landscape in Colombia</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» What is the state of philanthropy in Colombia?</td>
<td>Learn about the current state of philanthropy and its enabling environment in Colombia, and how to think about and approach partnership and collaboration opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» What legal structures and considerations do you need to be aware of?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 3: Policy/Stakeholder Landscape</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» What are the defining national and subnational policies and regulations?</td>
<td>Become aware of the principal national and subnational policies that define Colombia’s development priorities and the mechanisms set up so far to help support coordination and intermediation, as well as key funders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 4: Philanthropy Ecosystem</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» What are the coordination mechanisms and other intermediary players? And how do they work?</td>
<td>Understand the key entry points for Philanthropy in Colombia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Who are some of the key funders?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Where should you start to engage as a philanthropist/social investor?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A.

Introduction: Investing in SDGs
About the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

What are the SDGs?
On September 2015 world leaders adopted, after years of debate and deliberation, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and on January 1st 2016 the Agenda officially came into force in every signatory country. These have been set to be accomplished to ensure the principle of “leaving no one behind”. This universal, indivisible and transformative Agenda has been set to be met by 2030.

What are the Goals?
The 2030 Development Agenda is unique in that it calls for action by all and to all member countries, to embark on this collective journey to achieve the set forth goals, not only by Governments as the sole duty bearers, but also the private and social sector as active and change agents, where people and the planet are at the core. This is translated into 17 sustainable goals and 169 targets that aim at tackling key systemic barriers to sustainable development, thus seeking at its core the integration of the economic growth, social progress and inclusion and environmental protection.¹

¹ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
Who is held accountable?

Although the SDGs are not legally binding, governments, however, are expected to take ownership of and establish national and subnational frameworks – policies, plans and programs – to ensure their effective fulfillment. In that sense, they have the primary responsibility to follow-up and review any progress made in implementing the Goals.

To do so, it will be required to collect quality, relevant and timely information that will be captured by national entities, reviewed at regional level thus contributing to follow-up and review at the global level. In the case of Colombia, the National Statistics Department (DANE) will be responsible for data processing and providing statistical information that can measure relevant SDG progress.

What was Colombia’s role during the negotiation of the SDGs?

Colombia has been an important promoter and champion of the 2030 global sustainable development agenda, ever since the early consultations that led to its design. As such, it has led activities and put in place mechanisms to ensure that local development priorities (as indicated by the 2014-2018 National Development Plan and the peace agreement implementation) are aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Consultations to ensure this alignment took place in June 2014. Later, in February 2015, the Government created the High-Level Inter-Institutional Commission for the Preparation and Effective Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs, hereafter the SDG Commission, whose objective is to provide readiness and oversee the effective implementation of the SDGs through public policies, plans, programs and actions with forward planning, monitoring and evaluation of these objectives, vis-a-vis their respective goals.

What are Colombia’s development priorities?

According with the SDG Commission there is significant alignment between national and several subnational development plans as well as global development agendas. For instance, 92 of the 169 targets of the SDG agenda are explicitly included in the National Development Plan. 19 targets are included in additional policy instruments which are key for the National Government, totaling 111 targets. Out of these, 87 SDG targets are aligned with the priorities set forth at OECD accession of Colombia, 86 with Green Growth Strategy, and, finally, 50 targets relate closely to points included in the Peace Agreement. Hence, converging a total of 146 out of 169 goals (86%) in four planning instruments.

Introduction: Investing in SDGs

Colombia has indeed been a standard bearer for SDG adoption. The SDG Commission represented one of the 22 countries to present on initial progress to the High Level Political Forum at the UN in July 2016.4

**Critical Role of Philanthropy to the SDGs**

Picking up the baton of the Millennium Development Goals (2000 - 2015), the ultimate outcomes of the SDGs have an even broader reach: to eradicate poverty, strengthen peace and freedom, and improve the environment across the globe by 2030. The critical role of philanthropy and other social driven organizations in helping to drive a coordinated effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals has gained wider recognition and traction. Not only is the United Nations aware that “Governments alone cannot address the critical challenges of sustainable development, nor can we expect philanthropy to achieve its maximum potential operating in isolation”,5 but also Philanthropic leaders around the world are answering this call for proactive engagement.

4 Ibd.
To deliver on these SDGs it is currently estimated that there will be a USD2.5 trillion annual global funding deficit. With the growing size of philanthropic investments, estimated to be USD 364 billion from 2016 to 2030, there is a key role that can be played in bridging this gap. Beyond their funding capacity, philanthropic organizations also have a critical role to play in sharing technical expertise given their substantial contextual knowledge of the countries and communities the SDGs are looking to benefit. As such, this Handbook is written in the spirit of engaging philanthropy in the broader ecosystem of SDG delivery, in order for foundations to engage across issue areas and create strong multi-stakeholder coalitions of action.

Thus, it is more critical than ever for philanthropy and social investment actors to understand the emerging SDG ecosystem in the countries in which they work and how to engage, influence and benefit from coordination around the SDGs. Such an understanding will allow for greater collaboration, multi-stakeholder alignment aiming to achieve similar and/or complementary goals, and, more broadly, greater collaboration with governments and other relevant actors under the SDG umbrella.

About the SDG Philanthropy Platform (www.sdgphilanthropy.org)

The Sustainable Development Goals Philanthropy Platform (SDGPP or the Platform) is a global initiative that connects philanthropy with knowledge and networks that can deepen collaboration, leverage resources and sustain impact, driving SDG delivery within national development agenda.

Established as a global facilitator that enables strong partnerships between philanthropic organizations, the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses, and other stakeholders, SDGPP is led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) and supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Ford Foundation, Brach Family Charitable Foundation, and UN Foundation.

To date, the Platform has brought together over a thousand philanthropists across various countries to facilitate effective collaboration so that together, funding and programmes have a greater and more sustainable impact on people's lives. Also, SDGPP has established pathways to engage philanthropy in the national SDG planning and implementation in 8 pilot countries, namely Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the US and Zambia, and is currently seeking to expand to many others.

6 Brad Smith, Foundations will contribute $364 billion to the SDGs, SDG Philanthropy Platform, Website. 6 February 2016.
The Platform has recently launched a new interactive portal – www.sdgphilanthropy.org – which serves as an SDG resource hub and a marketplace to support initiatives, and ideas for philanthropists, foundations, governments, the UN, and social innovators. By providing this online space to connect and collaborate with the philanthropic community under the shared mission of SDGs, the website helps reduce duplication of efforts and leverage resources, increase transparency, facilitate information-sharing, and highlight philanthropy’s essential role in global implementation efforts.
B. Colombia and Development
COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Introduction to Colombia

Colombia, with a population of 48 million, is a culturally rich and environmentally diverse country located on the north-western part of the South American region. Colombia, with its capital being Bogota, is composed of 32 departments, 1,123 municipalities and 5 territorial entities with a special administration, including Bogota, indigenous territorial entities and the collective territories awarded to Afro-Colombian communities in the pacific region.

Furthermore, Colombia, a middle-income country, has a diversified economy with macroeconomic stability and favorable growth prospects in the long run, and it has become the third largest economy in the region with an annual growth of 4.9%.

Colombia is a presidential participatory democratic republic, divided into three branches: i) executive branch, with the President as its head, who serves as both head of state and head of government, followed by the Vice President and Cabinet of Ministers (sixteen ministries and one high commission) appointed by the head of state. At the local level, executive power is entrusted to department governors, municipal mayors and local administrators that are elected by popular vote, ii) legislative branch, is a bicameral Congress where representatives are elected in electoral districts and the senators nationally elected, iii) Judicial branch, which operates on a system of civil law has four high courts including the Supreme Court which deals with penal and civil matters, the Council of State, which has special responsibility for administrative law and also provides legal advice to the executive, the Constitutional Court, responsible for assuring the integrity of the Colombian constitution, and the Superior Council of Judicature, responsible for auditing the judicial branch.
Source: The Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi.
The mixed picture of Colombia’s development over the past fifty plus years has been defined by the on-going internal armed conflict with the left-wing militia. Although the Government recently negotiated a peace agreement with the FARC, the country’s largest rebel group, Colombia has been left with a legacy of uneven human development across regions and amongst its urban and rural populations.

Nonetheless, Colombia is a middle power and a regional actor with the fourth largest economy in Latin America. It was considered part of the CIVETS group of six leading emerging markets and is an accessing member to the OECD. Historically an agrarian economy, Colombia urbanized rapidly in the 20th century. Nonetheless, as in today, just 17% of the workforce were employed in agriculture, generating just 6.9% of GDP; 21% of the workforce were employed in industry and 62% in services, responsible for 34% and 59% of GDP respectively. Colombia is one of the most densely biodiverse countries in the world and its very rich when it comes to natural resources, mainly exporting mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, precious stones, pulp and paper, coffee, meat, cereals and vegetable oils, sugars and sugar confectionery, fruit and other agricultural products, among others.

Even though Colombia has seen a steady economic growth consolidating its middle-income status and has seen marked improvements against some of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets (notably in poverty, primary education and health) the more detailed picture is of significant development disparities (regions and gender) and weakened institutions. To address these challenges, Colombia is currently implementing its 2014-2018 National Development Plan “Prosperity for All” which focuses around three main pillars: peace, equity and education. These development pillars, and the six crosscutting strategies laid out on the National Development Plan, are closely related to the SDG Agenda.

**Human Development Overview in Colombia**

The main obstacle to human development in the country has been an asymmetric armed conflict that has been occurring since 1960. The conflict has impacted the majority of Colombians, resulting in the marginalization of populations in many regions and the diversion of a large percentage of Colombia’s GDP to fund security instead of areas such as basic education or health.

---

7 CIVETS are six favored emerging markets countries – Colombia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, Turkey and South Africa.
While big cities and several departments reduced their poverty by almost 30% during the last 15 years (MDGs), there is an unequal development among urban (25% poverty rate) and rural areas (41%) as well as departments such as Choco, La Guajira, Cauca and Norte de Santander continue to suffer the similar levels of poverty as in 2002; with poverty rates over 50%, this lagging in development.9

Nonetheless, since 2012 the country has been working towards lasting peace with support from the UN, among other multilateral agencies, which have resulted in the signature of the Peace Agreement that took place in Havana and were signed on November 2016, which also aligns with the SDGs (50 of 169 goals). In route to achieving the MDGs by 2015, Colombia has recorded overall positive results10. However, progress has been uneven, and the country still faces considerable challenges regarding of achieving more equitable and inclusive development.

Colombia’s HDI, which measures progress in three basic dimensions of human development: i) a long and healthy life, ii) access to knowledge and iii) a decent standard of living, in 2015 the nation’s value was 0.727, positioning at 95 out of 188 countries and territories11. Between 1980 and 2015, Colombia’s HDI value increased from 0.557 to 0.727, an increase of 22.9 percent or an average annual increase of about 0.76 percent. Between 1980 and 2015, Colombia’s life expectancy at birth increased by 5.9 years, mean years of schooling increased by 2.1 years and expected years of schooling increased by 4.6 years. Colombia’s GNI per capita increased by about 78.4 percent between 1980 and 2015.12

### 2015 Colombia’s Development Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social progress index – 2015</td>
<td>70.84</td>
<td>Social Progress Imperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index of Philanthropic Freedom 2015</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Hudson Institute’s Center for Global Prosperity13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

12 Ibid
MDG AND SDG SCORECARD

MDGs Progress and Challenges

In Colombia, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) succeeded in reducing poverty and infant mortality, education, environmental sustainability, and promoting global partnership. For example, poverty fell from 50% to 30% and unemployment fell from 15% to 9%. The MDG agenda has enabled the government to establish a more neutral and objective umbrella and allowed a qualitative leap in the approach of national institutions to local governments. Despite these advances, democracy and economic stability have not generated the expected levels of inclusive and sustainable development, as Colombia is still the most unequal country in South America. The 2014 MDG report noted huge inequality between rural and urban areas, for example, poverty levels in Bogotá are at 11%, while in Chocó poverty levels are over 60%. Further, the MDB report showed that women, youth, indigenous and black communities stand out disproportionately as victims of the conflict, unemployment and other affectations. The gender gap has also increased due to decreasing economic participation and political empowerment. Colombia has over 7 million victims of conflict (14.6% of the population), of which 49.9% are women.

SDGs Progress and Challenges

Given that the SDGs have only been in place for less than two years, there is limited available data to assess baseline for the SDGs. To give a clearer picture of this data gap the Colombian National Department of Statistics (DANE) and the Indicators Working Group of the Commission conducted a data gap diagnosis. They have assessed that there is available data for 54% of the SDG targets, partial information for 30%, and no data for 16%. DANE is continuing to work on a UN system workplan for sustainable development and the adaptation of the global indicators at the local context. On July 2016, the Government of Colombia reported on the progress of Colombia against a limited number of SDG goals to the inaugural for the SDGs High Level Political Forum. The forum is mandated to conduct regular State-led reviews and thematic reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with inputs from other intergovernmental bodies and forums, relevant UN entities, regional processes, major groups and other stakeholders. The national reviews will provide a platform for partnerships.

15 Ibid
16 Converging interests, p. 15
17 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21388Colombia_PPT%20NVR%2020%20JULIO.pdf
### MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger - STRONG

**Progress and challenges**
- Poverty and extreme poverty reduction targets were met one year before the deadline (50%/28.5% and 17.7%/8.1% respectively)
- Unequal progress among rural/urban areas as well as among departments.
- Multidimensional poverty by 2015 is 20.2%, down from 30.4% in 2010, representing over 4 million Colombians.

**Related SDG priorities**
- Address regional and ethnic disparities (SDG#10)
- Accelerate reduction on inequalities
- Differential Focus on implementation of peace agreement
- Address access to basic rights such as health and nutrition.

### MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education - STRONG

**Progress and challenges**
- Achieved 100% of coverage rate in universal elementary education by 2002.
- Challenges in middle school rates (78% of 98% achieved in 2015)

**Related SDG priorities**
- Improve secondary education coverage
- Address disruptions in rural areas caused by infrastructure, natural disasters and insecurity.
- Improve gender and minorities disparities

### MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women - AVERAGE

**Progress and challenges**
- Slightly stronger female political representation (2010-2014: 17.2% and 2014-2018: 23%)
- Women, on average, have slight more years of schooling (10.1 years) in comparison to (9.5 years) men.
- Women suffer higher unemployment rates and hold more informal jobs.

**Related SDG priorities**
- Improve labour-market and salary gaps
- Fully implement the normative and legal framework by including a gender lens in public policies and budgets.
- Eradication of all forms of violence against women (gender-based violence).

### MDG 4: Reduce child mortality – STRONG

**Progress and challenges**
- In 2013, the infant mortality rate stood at 17.25 deaths per thousand births, fulfilling the MDG goal before the deadline.
- Challenges in vaccine coverage for infants.
- Guarantee quality and timely access to children and infants as well as sexual and reproductive health.
- In 2015 historic high health coverage 97.58% of total population.
- The number of health workers per 1000 population increased (doctors: from 16 in 2010 to 19.2 in 2015. Nurses: from 8.6 in 2010 to 11.5 in 2015.)

**Related SDG priorities**
- Address regional and ethnic disparities
- Reduce child mortality
- Access to quality basic social services
### MDG 5: Improve maternal health - AVERAGE

**Progress and challenges**
- Good progress on maternal health (45% reduction between 2001 and 2013) were mortality was reduced from 709 cases to 364.
- Slow progress on teenage pregnancy, as it has increased over the MDG period, 18% of maternal deaths are among women between 10 and 19 years.
- Weak in certain departments.
- By the end of 203, 99% of the recorded births were attended by health professionals.
- Prenatal check-ups increased from 52% in 2000 to 8% in 2013.

**Related SDG priorities**
- Address regional and ethnic disparities
- Reduce teenage pregnancy
- Improve sexual and reproductive health services
- Empower girls and women to demand SR rights

### MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases - POOR

**Progress and challenges**
- Week HIV/AIDS death reduction, as in 2013 there was an increase of 4.7% of deaths in comparison with 2012.
- Strong coverage of antiretroviral therapy, keeping the low mortality rates from HIV/AIDS (5 deaths in 100,000 population).
- Challenges regarding dengue, as it has increased to 225 deaths in 2013 from 97 in 2000. On the other hand, Malaria improved notably from 119 deaths reported in 2000 to 14 in 2013.

**Related SDG priorities**
- Improve timely diagnostic and treatment
- Address regional disparities
- Increase prevention and early detection

### MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability -GOOD

**Progress and challenges**
- Strong progress regarding ozone layer as well as protected areas.
- Improved water access in urban areas (2014 97.4%)
- Poor improvement between departments.

**Related SDG priorities**
- Mitigate climate change impact
- Address Insufficient infrastructure

### MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development - AVERAGE

**Progress and challenges**
- In 2014 37.1% of households had computers for home use, 45.1% in urban areas while in rural areas only 8.7%.
- In 2014, 33% of households had internet.- 40% urban and only 4% rural areas.
- There is an important technological growth. However, this is concentrated in the big cities that particularly affects rural areas, where access to these tools is lower.

**Related SDG priorities**
- Address regional and urban/rural disparities
- Resource mobilization from all stakeholders to help achieve the SDG.
C. Navigating the Philanthropy Landscape in Colombia
Philanthropy Ecosystem in Colombia

An overview of philanthropy in Colombia today. What are the different types of philanthropic actors? Where do philanthropic funds come from?

Culture of Giving

Colombia is a country with a strong third sector with a multiplicity of social actors, from grant-making foundations to community-based organizations working on a broad spectrum of social, environmental and economic issues. There most relevant social actors in Colombia as categorized as follows:

- **Non-governmental organizations**: To date, over 7,000 NGOs are operating in Colombia. Most of these are focused on promoting education and democracy and monitoring the rule of law and peace building. Several guilds in the country that bring together the NGOs present in territory, the most important being the Colombian Confederation of NGOs –CCONG.

- **Foundations**: They are classified under two approaches, the source of their resources and the way they make their social investments. The sub-types of foundations are the following:
  
  » **Corporate Foundations**: Funds are directly related to a corporation/enterprise.
  
  » **Family Foundations**: Funds derive from members of a single family (COF).
  
  » **Independent Foundations**: Those who provide the funds do not possess the control of the foundation; hence it is management and governance are independent of said funders.
  
  » **Community Foundations**: Grantmaking public charities with the aim of improving the life quality of a specific geographic area.

- **Community-based organizations**: Self-organized group of people intending to defend common interests through a non-profit organization formed by volunteers working in the immediate local context.

While currently there is no accurate data about the composition of the social sector (exact number, programs, resources, geo-scope), A new NPO regulation will be drawn from the (insert year) tax reform currently underway that will allow accurate data to be available soon.
Although there is no official data as how many foundations are in Colombia, it is estimated that around 40,000 special regiem ent entities, such as foundations, associations and coorporations currently operate in the country, of which some of these have worked in Colombia for over 100 years. The culture of giving in the country is considered strong, especially by family and corporate foundations. According to The Association of Corporate Foundations’ AFE’s Strategic Platform of Projects these foundations are currently investing over 300 million dollars in diverse projects throughout the country. It is important to understand that these numbers represent both social private investment and philanthropy. While large, the exact number of philanthropic investment in Colombia will be quite difficult to find as families and enterprises who constantly donate prefer to remain anonymous due to the security issues Colombia experienced in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Some incentives drives philanthropic actors to provide grants and implement projects in Colombia. For example, an increased sense of social responsibility, with wealthy individuals and enterprises becoming concerned with engaging in improving social justice through ending the inequality gap or improving education levels in Colombia.

What are the challenges and possible bottle-neck solutions?

Philanthropy is well-organized in Colombia, and a key sector when it comes to designing and delivering interventions that aim to improve social conditions in marginalized areas. Nonetheless, the sector faces fundamental challenges in the wake of the country's current priority areas.

- Clarify the role and scope of various philanthropic organizations: In Colombia, “foundations” is commonly used when referring to a variety of social sector organizations—grant making institutions, operating entities at the territorial level and corporate foundations. Therefore, a key challenge for philanthropy in Colombia is create a set of norms and definitions that further clarify the true role and scope of organizations that engage in grant making, differentiating them from those that only operate social programs. The newly approved tax reform, ensures
that foundations are not engaging in the commercial or business activities, as well as will focus on the simplification of tax procedures for the NPOs.

- **Address institutional capacity gaps in regions affected by conflict:** The armed conflict has been stronger in those regions of Colombia with weak institutional presence, from both private and public actors. Philanthropy must play a critical role in addressing and helping to close those gaps. In the case of the private sector, corporate foundations will be critical in preparing territories and engaging with key stakeholders, to make the presence of private capital a positive factor in terms of development outcomes. In the case of the public sector, philanthropy's support will help build critical capacity, as well as convene and facilitate planning processes that require multi-stakeholder engagement.

- **Become a facilitator and catalyst for collective impact models:** Colombia's post-conflict scenario will require the drafting of territorial development agendas, and the active participation of multiple stakeholders in their design and planning. Philanthropy will play a fundamental role facilitating such efforts and convening critical stakeholders from private sector and government. In Antioquia, for instance, foundations have come together to design a collective intervention model that allows them to engage in territorial development initiatives more effectively, and doing a more efficient allocation of available resources. Two of the most deprived regions in Antioquia has been prioritized in Uraba and Oriente, tarnished by the conflict between different actors. They are places that will see a surge in population now that the peace agreements have been signed. These municipalities have the lowest endowment and capacity index from the department, as well as the low index in quality of education that has been described as minimal by the Education Secretary.

- **Strengthen knowledge management practices, and evidence-based approaches to planning and implementation:** Colombia's social sector and particularly the philanthropic community has been active addressing a wide variety of social issues. Furthermore, efforts have been made to map interventions across the country, which has been helpful in coordinating institutional efforts across the country. This notwithstanding, a key challenge for the sector is to perform more rigorous documentation and evaluation of their interventions.

- **Play a role that is truly complimentary to business and government in vulnerable territories:** Philanthropy in Colombia is
often linked to business and the private sector. In this context, one key challenge is to achieve true differentiation in its role and approach, complementing the capabilities of the business.

- **Foster social innovation** by taking more risks in the strategic investments through the usage of social impact bonds that will develop new mechanisms to impact communities while optimizing the expected results.

- **By encouraging awareness on the importance of transparency and accountability**, philanthropic actors can improve their reputation and the confidence of society in non-profit organizations; dismissing the view that foundations are created as a vehicle for tax exemptions. Philanthropy must communicate how it is impacting society informing on their activities and the impact produced more widely. This can provide better strategic results for philanthropy regarding reputation and legitimacy.
What are the Relevant Legal Enabling Structures for Philanthropy in Colombia?

Enabling Environment for Philanthropy Overview

An enabling environment for philanthropy consists of ‘good governance policies bolstered by political, administrative and fiscal decentralization reforms to foster greater accountability and common work structures, combined with progressive tax schemes, can help make countries more attractive for philanthropic capital investment. In addition, avoiding burdensome and discriminatory reporting processes are also critical to ensuring greater philanthropic engagement. Another good incentive for collaboration is to institute an accountability system that allows philanthropy and other stakeholders to report their actions towards SDG implementation in a clear and easy manner. Technology can enable accountable reporting which increases transparency significantly and builds trust in the sector.”

Colombia has a good enabling environment for philanthropy and other non-profit organizations (NPOs) as compared to other Latin American countries. The Colombian National Constitution and other subsequent laws have enabled philanthropy and other stakeholders to actively participate in policy making processes and their implementation, resulting in some innovative government-led collaborative partnerships.

The Government of Colombia has also shown an enthusiasm for encouraging coalitions of stakeholders to deliver against the NDP and SDG agenda’s, recognizing that the role of the government and donors needs to be bolstered by that of the private sector, civil society and philanthropic organizations. In comparison to its regional neighbors, Colombia has a favorable environment for foundations to become established and implement interventions. As such, philanthropic organizations are well positioned to play a key role in moving Colombia towards achieving its SDG targets. There is already an established network of existing corporate and family foundations, 75 of whom are members of a representative body, the Association of Corporate and Family Foundations (AFE Colombia). AFE acts as the ambassador of its members, promoting and encouraging collective leadership, coordination, cooperation, social innovation, transparency and the sharing of good practices and knowledge among members and, government and other civil society actors; as it aims to achieve greater impact through member’s social interventions to contribute to social equity and a sustainable peace development in Colombia.

The new Colombian tax law, approved in December 2016, brought substantial changes to philanthropic giving in the country, among the most important are:

- The tax relief of donations will be limited to 25% of the income tax of the amount granted in the year or taxable period.
- Foundations will comply with the applicable income tax regime as any national business and only, exceptionally, can they become part of the special tax regime if they opt for a previous certificatory procedure.
- Foundations and CSOs are not exempted from:
  - The payment of financial transaction contributions (0.4%)
  - VAT
  - Income withholding
  - Parafiscal contributions
- Certified organizations must comply with the income tax and complementarities over the net benefit or access to a standard fare of twenty percent (20%).
- There are several different types of tax structures for NPOs, as well as special conditions recognized for some NPOs, such as international NGOs and the Family Compensation Funds.

“One of the region’s highest scoring countries, Colombia stands out for its consistent regulatory system and willingness to pursue necessary, if painful, regulatory reforms. Colombian law provides numerous freedoms for CSOs, including the ability to form unregistered groups, pursue a wide range of objectives, and operate relatively unhindered. While registration and reporting requirements have grown in recent years, Colombian organizations can usually register in two to five days with little difficulty”.

- The National Constitution confers the right to free association (Article 38), for participation and citizen oversight (Articles 270 and 369) as well as access to information from the government (Article 74).
- Non-profit organizations (NPOs) have the right to participate in the National Planning Council (Law 152 of 1994), which is convened for each new presidential term to discuss, analyze, and promote consultations around the priorities for the new National Development Plan that constitutionally must be presented to Congress. NPOs also have the right to participate in the Social Policy Councils at the subnational level.
- The legal registration of NPOs goes through the local level Chambers of Commerce.
- The main planning instrument in Colombia is the National Development Plan, which must also be aligned to long-term development strategies, such as Vision Colombia 2019.

Regulatory Framework:

- The National Constitution

Regulatory Environment:

- The Government has also taken steps to lay the groundwork for the development of its regulatory policy, including implementing a policy for administrative simplification (Anti-trámites) to address issues such as unnecessary bureaucratic
procedures, red tape, and rules hindering efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency, as well as to build a modern, citizen-friendly administration, and its online Government (GEL) strategy that focuses on harnessing ICTs to build a more efficient, transparent and participative state. It has facilitated transparency and citizen participation in the regulatory process by developing channels for public consultation via ICTs. It has also facilitated interactions between citizens and the public administration by setting up electronic mechanisms to comply with regulatory requirements and access public services. It has established one-stop shops for starting up a business, registering property or conducting foreign trade operations, as well as set up participatory mechanisms, such as the portal Urna de Cristal (OECD, 2013b).23

- The new decree, planned by the National Agency of Public Procurement24 –“Colombia Compra Eficiente”-, regulates how national, departmental, district and municipal governments will enter into contract with non-profit private organizations-NPOs-, which refines contracting with NPOs, strengthening the right conceded by article 355 of the National Constitution that allows for “The Government, at national, departmental, district and municipal level will be able to, with their respective budgetary resources, enter into contract with private non-profit organizations of renowned reputation with the aim to promote programs and activities of public interests according with the National Development Plan and the sectional development plans”

- “Colombia is in the High Management for Development Results capacity group of countries (...) In particular, the use made of monitoring systems by the higher echelons of political authority stands out.”46

- Colombia has a National Management and Results Evaluation System (SYNERGY) to evaluate and monitor the results and impacts of governmental investments, projects and programs. ‘Synergy’ monitors the National Development Plan as well as other long-term strategies and international commitments (such as the 2030 Agenda).

- The philanthropic sector (AFE, 7 AFE Foundations and Fundación DIS) has voluntarily established and launched a public accountability platform called – Somostransparentes.org. It aims to strengthen the transparency practices of foundations and civil society organizations operating in Colombia.

- The new tax reform, hoping to increase transparency in the non-profit sector, will issue a set of regulations by mid-June asking NPOs to publicly register their funds in a platform that will be part of the National Department of Customs and Taxes- DIAN- website.

- Cross-border donations must comply with anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing standards through the following:
  - Financial aid from private foreign CSOs is taxed.
  - Cash and in-kind donations tend to stay in the country to support social and institutional investments.25

---

20 UNDP high level assessment of the enabling environment strong (green), moderate (yellow), weak (red).
22 Converging interests, p. 30-31
23 OECD Colombia-policy-priorities-for-inclusive-development.pdf, p. 52
What are Colombia’s National and Local Development Priorities and Policies?
01. National Development Priorities and Policy Landscape

Colombia’s National Development Plan

Colombia has a cycle of four-year National Development Plans which set out the government’s priorities for the period. The most recent covering 2014-2018 is titled “Todos por un Nuevo País”. The Plan is drafted and coordinated by the National Planning Department (DNP) and is the product of nation-wide consultations in 33 regional meetings, 27 sectorial dialogues, and 7,000 participants.

The Plan defines three (3) main pillars and six (6) cross-cutting objectives as illustrated in the figure below. For each of these pillars and objectives the Plan identifies a set of priority interventions.

Indicators for the Plan are defined in the National System of Evaluation of Management and Results (SINERGIA for its initials in Spanish), that is part of the National Planning Department. SINERGIA seeks to monitor, with a set of tools, the progress and achievements of the products and results of public policies on the objectives proposed by the government. – though the Result Base Management (RBM) approach.

26 https://www.dnp.gov.co/Plan-Nacional-de-Desarrollo/Paginas/Que-es-el-Plan-Nacional-de-Desarrollo.aspx
28 https://sinergia.dnp.gov.co/Paginas/Internas/Sinergia.aspx
NDP Subnational Approach

The National Development Plan proposes a territorial approach for implementing the three pillars and the six cross-cutting objectives at regional level acknowledging that ‘[s]ocial and economic progresses made by the country have not been sufficiently territorially homogeneous’. As such, the Plan identifies six territorial divisions based on economic, geographic and population variables — and focuses on closing the development gaps between them.29 These regions are: Caribbean, Pacific, Centre-East, Centre-South, Plains (the ‘Llanos’) and the Coffee Regions.

In addition, there are 63 Subnational Development Plans (SDPs) 2016-2019, 32 Departments and 31 Capital Cities, for 2016-2019 that integrate SDGs to varying degrees which have been classified in three (3) categories: 1) High, SDGs in more than one section and explicit relation with programs, sub-programs or goals, 2) Medium, SDGs in more than one section and are also associated with strategic dimension, 3) Low, SDGs in at least one section.30


Out of the 32 Departmental Plans and 31 Capital City Plans, on average 32% and 31% of the 110 SDG local level goals are incorporated, respectively. The degrees of how SDGs are integrated can be captured in the figure below:

Source: DNP, Incorporation of the SDGs to Department and City Plan 2016-2019.

SDG Public Policy (CONPES)

The National Council on Economic and Social Planning (hereafter CONPES for its initials in Spanish)\(^{31}\) is the maximum national planning authority and serves as an advisory body to the Government in all aspects related to the country's economic and social development. The National Planning Department (NPD) acts as the executive secretariat for the CONPES, and therefore has the responsibility to coordinate and submit all documents for discussion.

That said, the NPD is working on an SDG CONPES, which seeks to provide a long term political perspective on the development agenda. The SDG CONPES will focus around four development guidelines, which were drawn from the lessons learned while implementing the MDGs: report and follow-up mechanisms, statistic strengthening plan, local government support strategy, and incorporation of non-state actors. As for the last guideline, civil society is set to participate through the social mobilization and ownership of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, the development of information, and provide social control. This CONPES is set to be approved by the end of the first semester of 2017.

This CONPES is set to be a political instrument that will enable to have a national long-term coherence for development until 2030, regardless of the administration in power.

\(^{31}\) https://www.dnp.gov.co/CONPES/Paginas/conpes.aspx#googtrans/gl/en
OECD Accession

On May 2013, the OECD Council Meeting at Ministerial Level decided to open Colombia’s accession to the organization. Since then, the Government has been designing and implementing policies, plans and programs based on the 23 committees’ roadmap established by the Council, that will, in turn, allow Colombia to become an OECD member.

As of now, the OECD has approved ten (10) of the 23, while thirteen (13) committees are still under discussion waiting for Colombia to complete its policy reforms;\(^\text{32}\) as the country is set to become a member in 2017. When this occurs, Colombia will become the third Latin American country, after Chile and Mexico, to join the OECD.

As for Philanthropists and NPOs, Colombia’s accession to the organization will boost its role in development through its OECD Development Centre that works on several cutting-edge themes through networks that in turn allows its members “to engage in lesson learning, policy dialogue while benefiting from the OECD’s expertise and access to policymakers.”\(^\text{33}\)

Green Growth Strategy

In Colombia, the Green Growth Strategy will not only contribute to the achievement 65% of SDGs, and reduce carbon emissions as pledged in COP21, but also support the implementation of 45 recommendations and 74 instruments suggested by the OECD on environmental matters.\(^\text{34}\) The adequate achievement of Green Growth outcomes requires a political lens that leverages the development agenda with concrete and measurable progress, as it “foster(s) economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies.” (OECD, 2011). That being said, the Green Growth strategy does not replace the sustainable agenda, but rather enhances the progress across environmental, social and economic pillars.

The Green Growth Strategy is linked to 65% of the SDGs, directly accelerating eleven (11) Goals, and to do so a multi-actor scope must be in place as 88 goals must have an active role of the private sector and 34 require a collaboration with the international community.\(^\text{35}\)

On February 2017, the National Planning Department launched the Green Growth special mission, which aims to improve productivity in the use of natural resources as well as providing new economic opportunities based on the environmental protection while ensuring social inclusion.


\(^{33}\) http://www.oecd.org/dev/development-philanthropy/

\(^{34}\) http://es.presidencia.gov.co/noticia/170201-Puntos-clave-de-la-Mision-de-Crecimiento-Verde

\(^{35}\) https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Ambiente/Mision%C2%20Crecimiento%C2%20Verde/eventos/Lanzamiento/Presentacion%20Final%20Simon%20Gaviria.pdf
In order to do so, the Green Growth Mission has identified three (3) thematic issues that will contribute to the outcome: 1) efficient use of resources, 2) new economic opportunities based on sustainable use of natural capital and 3) labor force of supply and demand that would be possible with the use of science, technology and innovation to boost green growth. Lastly, the mission will develop a 2030 Roadmap with key public policies to ensure national industrial and environmental growth, as well as position Colombia within LATAM as a green growth benchmark.

---

**Peace Agreements and their Implications for Colombia’s Development Agenda**

Colombia has been fighting one of the longest running civil war on the world, and the current administration made its termination a top priority for the country’s development agenda.

After four years of negations in Havana, on September 27th 2016, the Government of Colombia and the FARC rebel group signed in Cartagena a Peace Agreement putting an end to 52 years of internal conflict. Nonetheless, the Agreement was rejected, by a narrow margin, in a referendum on October 2nd 2016. After weeks of re-negotiation with other political parties, Colombia’s Congress approved a revised peace agreement on November 24th 2016, this time bypassing voters.

The peace negotiation agenda was designed to include six key points (see diagram below), including aspects that are central to the country’s development path, such as the comprehensive reform of the country’s agrarian sector and the fight against illegal drug trafficking.

---

**Diagram:**

1. Comprehensive reform of the country’s agrarian economy
   - Refers to the implementation of reforms that facilitate access to land, technical assistance and resources for viable and inclusive rural development.

2. Political Participation
   - Refers to the conditions under which the political spectrum will be expanded in Colombia, facilitating the participation of minority groups and victims.

3. Conditions for the termination of armed conflict
   - Describes conditions for the case of re-armed forces and FARC, as well as the abandonment of re-arms by FARC members around the country.

4. Solutions for the issue of illicit drugs trafficking
   - Refers to the mechanisms of transitional justice to end conflict, reparation mechanisms for victims and no-repetition guarantees.

5. Implementation, and verification of agreements
   - Describes the conditions and the timetable under which agreements will be put into action.

---

The peace agreement is aligned with 68 goals of the SDGs through commitments and actions that seek to generate social and economic conditions for the reinforcement of peace building and non-repetition. Hence, although the ultimate outcome of the peace agreement does directly contribute to the fulfilment of SDG#16, the negotiated agenda encompasses several SDGs, as seen in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peace Agreements</th>
<th>SDGs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>housing and sustainable cities 9. Industry, innovation, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>infrastructure 10. Reduced inequalities 11. Sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>housing and sustainable cities 9. Industry, innovation, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>infrastructure 10. Reduced inequalities 11. Sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>housing and sustainable cities 9. Industry, innovation, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>infrastructure 10. Reduced inequalities 11. Sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>housing and sustainable cities 9. Industry, innovation, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>infrastructure 10. Reduced inequalities 11. Sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>housing and sustainable cities 9. Industry, innovation, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>infrastructure 10. Reduced inequalities 11. Sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Planning Department (NPD), Implementation of the SDG: The Colombian Experience Assessment of institutional and technical advances, June 8, 2016

The UN’s Role in the Peace Agreements and Implementation

The UN has had a very important role in Colombia’s peace process, in all its stages. During the peace dialogues the UN, jointly with the government, conducted Regional Peace Roundtables with local communities to draw inputs for the negotiations process in Havana. Also, the UN along with the National Government designed and launched the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the United Nations for Post-Conflict (MPTF), in order to support the early implementation phase of the peace agreement, with rapid response and stabilization at its core, which seeks to generate tangible peace dividends to boost public confidence and generate appropriate conditions to implement the peace treaty, especially supporting conflict-affected communities and the aftermath of the Agreements. Once the peace agreement was signed on October 2016 the UN conducted a pedagogic peace process at local level to raise awareness on what was agreed regarding the six components between the Government and the FARC.

36 The MPTF was signed on February of 2016 which has three windows, for government, civil society and UN, to support actions regarding transitional justice, sustainable development, and peace building among others.
After Congress approved the revised peace agreement, the UN conducted a very similar peace pedagogy process at local level, this time raising awareness on the new and adjusted peace components and how and when they were going to take place. Currently, there are multiple projects that are being implemented at local level not only by the UN system but also as a response to the MPTF.

Simultaneously, on January 2016, the Secretary-General welcomed the joint statement issued by the Colombian Government and the FARC soliciting the Security Council the establishment of a political mission composed of unarmed international observers. On the same month, the Security Council unanimously adopted the Resolution 2261 (2016) where the political mission would be responsible for the monitoring and verification of the laying down of arms, and a part of the tripartite mechanism that will monitor and verify the definitive bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, consistent with the Joint Communiqué, beginning all monitoring and verification activities, which will commence the 12 month period, following the signing of the Final Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP. Currently, this especial mission has presence in nineteen (19) transitional districts and seven (7) normalization transitional points nationwide.

02. SDG Agenda Coordination Mechanisms and Bodies

Overview of the SDG High-Level Inter-Institutional Commission

Colombia has made progress in establishing a coordination mechanism for the implementation of the SDG Agenda: The High-Level Inter-Institutional Commission. Housed in the Government, and created by presidential Decree 280 of 2015, it brings together institutions and players from various sectors, including philanthropy, academia, the private sector, as well as the various institutions that are responsible for sector-based development priorities.

Origins: In February 2015, Colombia’s President Juan Manuel Santos approved Presidential Decree No. 280, which established the creation of the Inter-Agency Commission for the Preparation and Effective Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs (SDG Commission).

Objectives: The main goal of the Commission, in accordance with the article 2 of Presidential Decree is ‘to prepare and achieve the effective implementation of the SDGs through policies, plans, actions and

37 https://colombia.unmissions.org/en/mandate
programs with a forward planning approach and the monitoring, follow-up and review of these goals and their targets'. Coordinating the institutions in charge of national implementation of the SDGs, formulating national policy and interventions for their implementation, recommending financing measures, and identifying key non-state actors to work jointly with the Commission are therefore all important functions of this entity.

**Composition:** The Commission includes a range of ministries, reflecting an acknowledgment of the cross-cutting nature of the new agenda and the inter-sectorial coordination needed to deliver it. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Sustainable Development, and Finance, as well as the Department for Social Prosperity, the National Administrative Department of Statistics, and the National Planning Department, all form part of the Commission. These entities can only be represented on the Commission by their ministers/directors or vice minister’s/deputy directors, which points to a high level of commitment to the implementation of the SDGs. In addition, the Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC-Colombia) is a permanent guest institution at every session of the Commission.\(^{38}\) Non-state actors (including the private sector, social sector, academia, and media) have also been organized to participate in the negotiations by connecting directly with Technical Secretariat and at the Cross-Sectorial Working Groups.\(^{39}\)

![SDG High Level Inter-Institutional Commission Diagram](image_url)


\(^{39}\) English Briefing note on the High-Level Commission
**Most recent activity:** In May 2016, reporting to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) on Colombia's actions implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Secretary of the Commission clarified that the Commission includes five working groups, on: indicators; territorial (or subnational); resource mobilization; international affairs; and communications. The Commission has further defined an implementation strategy with three focal areas: Policy and Programs; Indicators; and Costs of the 2030 Agenda. By the end of the first semester of 2017, the Commission will design a public policy document, “CONPES”, outlining Colombia’s national targets and indicators in line with the 2030 Agenda, and defining the responsibilities of different actors.\(^\text{40}\)

It was also stressed that the Commission is integrating the SDGs into local development plans, although there is a challenge in ensuring equal and effective engagement with NGOs, philanthropy and civil society at the territorial levels.\(^\text{41}\) 63 subnational development plans (SDPs) for 2016-2019 currently integrate the SDGs to varying degrees; a mixture of regional development plans (32), and city plans (31).\(^\text{42}\)

In 2016, UNDP requested a seat within the technical committee, UNDP has a seat as a permanent guest thanks to the constant support and alignment that UNPD has given DNP regarding the SDGs with various sectors and territories. It is expected that in the first semester of 2017, UNDP will officially hold a seat in the Committee.

Also, early on 2017, DNP, as the commission's leader, has been closely working with UNDP as well as private and social sectors in defining a multi-actor platform that will operate policies and programs promoted by the SDG commission at local and national level. Currently, discussions are taken place to determine key factors such as resource mobilizations, accountability, communication, governance and focus.

Besides the Commission, three additional coordinating bodies are critical to know for organization willing to be contribute to collective SDG implementation: The Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC- Colombia), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Association of Family and Corporate Foundations (AFE).

**Colombia’s Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC-Colombia)**

With the new tax reform all foundations, CSO and NGOs under the figure of either grant givers or implementers must register before APC-Colombia, which is the government agency in charge of technically managing, guiding

---


\(^\text{41}\) [http://sd.iisd.org/news/colombia-updates-stakeholders-on-national-efforts-to-implement-the-sdgs/]

\(^\text{42}\) [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21388Colombia_PPT%20NVR%2020%29ULC.pdf , p.12]
and coordinating all public, private, technical and non-refundable financial International Cooperation received and granted by Colombia; as well as to executing, managing and supporting the administration and implementation of international cooperation resources, programs and projects, in accordance with foreign policy objectives and the National Development Plan.\(^{43}\)

The Agency is intended to provide guidelines to international donors as well as promote the transfer of resources (monetary, technical, intellectual) from Colombia to the rest of the world. To do so, it is internally organized around 4 bureaus: Inter Institutional Coordination, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Development Aid, and Financial and Administrative Bureau.

Furthermore, APC-Colombia has the mission to work closely with all sectors and territories to effectively align the needs of the country with the interventions of international cooperation actors in the country, as well as work with all AOD (bilateral and multilateral) and non-AOD (private and social sectors).

APC-Colombia recently launched “Saber Hacer Colombia”, an initiative that documents experiences and lessons learned of projects in Colombia, with the objective of disseminating and sharing them with international partners within south-south cooperation processes, as well as inter-regional exchange practices within Colombia. The Agency and AFE conducted six (6) case studies built on the work foundations do to achieve the SDGs. APC -Colombia decided that only projects and foundations involved in working towards the SDGs will be chosen as case studies, this, to show the importance these goals have for international cooperation nowadays, and try to advocate on foundations focusing their projects under a SDGs guideline.

---

**United Nations Development Programme - UNDP**

For the past 50 years, UNDP has contributed to the eradication of poverty and reduction of inequality and exclusion in the world. UNDP in Colombia, with presence in 25 local territories, has the mandate to coordinate the UN system of Nations United to which belong 23 agencies. Furthermore, UNDP-Colombia focuses in fostering development, mobilizing knowledge, experiences and resources that help the country move towards peace building, reconciliation and human development. Nonetheless, to do so, UNDP works in partnership with the Government - at national and local level - the private sector and social organizations in prioritizing actions to effectively transform the living conditions of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, incorporating a human development, gender and rights focus at the center of all interventions.

UNDP in Colombia is divided into four (4) areas: Democratic Governability, Sustainable

---

Development, Peace Building and Development, Poverty and Inequality Reduction. Under the former, the SDG program is coordinated, covering multiple angles, including the SDG Philanthropy Platform. The Platform was officially launched in Colombia on March 12th 2015, by UNDP with the support of Foundation Center, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA), Ford Foundation, Conrad N Hilton Foundation, Master Card Foundation as well as our local partner Association of Corporate and Family Foundations (AFE Colombia); as new project that seeks to identify and promote opportunities for multi-actor strategic collaboration for Philanthropy and private social investment, in the framework of the SDGs and 2030 Development Agenda.

**Association of Corporate and Family Foundations - AFE Colombia**

Since the launch of the UNDP SDG-PP in Colombia, AFE, a membership organization for foundations established 2008, has been the main local partner of the Platform. AFE, with 75 corporate and family foundations44, acts as an ambassador of members of the associate corporate foundations and as promoters of the improvement of their social management, by encouraging the coordination, cooperation, social innovation and sharing of good practices among them, towards achieving social equity and sustainable development of Colombia45.

AFE has partnered with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Platform Philanthropy, the UNDP Colombia office, APC-Colombia, Department of Social Prosperity (DPS), in different partnerships. The most important project at AFE is the Strategic Platform of Projects. It is an online geo-referenced database powered by Google Technology that allows each foundation to customize and manage projects, design and monitor indicators, and track in real time the progress of the projects. Therefore, each foundation can collect and display in its own map data according to its focus and priorities. When foundations enter and update their own maps, the collective map of AFE is automatically updated. This platform is also an instrument that promotes knowledge management among peers, since it collects and shares learned lessons. Thanks to the support from the SDG Philanthropy Platform -SDGPP, the Platform has a new filter to identify the SDGs that foundations are focusing on throughout their projects.

In addition to this Platform, permanently, AFE is promoting through its 75 members, the SDG implementation. The reports main intention is drawing member foundations focused on a small number of SDGs to create a larger impact in these, instead of them trying to cover all the SDGs at once which might create a lower impact in each particular SDG.


45 Ibid.
03. Stakeholder Map

Philanthropy Map

Besides the entities mentioned in the previous chapter, there are several layers of articulation between philanthropy, private sector, international cooperation and United Nations in Colombia. This web of state and non-state actors are committed to work collectively on implementation of the SDGs. To become a strategic player, it is important to be acquainted with relevant stakeholders in government, the United Nations and within the private space. Selected institutions provide entry points through membership structures, organized events, dialogues and forums around localizing SDGs.

THE GOVERNMENT – NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS

The national and local governments oversee the implementation of development goals in the country. The following are key actors, some of whom are also responsible for governing the philanthropic sector including on issues of registration and taxation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description/Scope</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Planning Department- NPD</td>
<td>The executive administrative agency at the national level in charge of defining, recommending and promoting public and economic policy. It is responsible for leading the SDG Commission as well as implementing the SINERGIA system that will provide complied information to follow-up and evaluate public policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APC-Colombia</td>
<td>APC Colombia’s main objective is to manage, guide and provide technical coordination for the public, private, technical and financial non refundable international cooperation received and granted by the country; as well as executing, managing, and giving support to directing and managing resources, programs and projects for international cooperation according to foreign policy goals and the National Development Plan. With the new tax reform, all NPO’s must register before APC to operate in Colombia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANE- National Administrative Department of Statistics</td>
<td>Its role is to produce and disseminate quality statistical information for decision making purposes in Colombia, as well as to develop the national statistical system to track and measure progress on SDG implementation. DANE has created an internal working group that responds to national and international demands related to Monitor and Follow-up of SDG and 2030 Agenda indicators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local chambers of commerce</td>
<td>Registers companies in Colombia; for philanthropy looking to start up, this is where you would register.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS – LED BY THE UNITED NATIONS

These platforms coordinate activities between the government, the various United Nations agencies and philanthropy, private sector and others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description/Scope</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The SDG Philanthropy Platform</td>
<td>The SDG Philanthropy Platform informs and catalyzes collaboration through building awareness and connections between those working in the philanthropy sector and with others. As an enabler, the Platform provides country insights, connects philanthropy to key stakeholders and processes and policies driving SDG delivery and national planning. The Platform supports multi-stakeholder policy formulation and contributes to innovative solutions that make interventions more impactful. The Platform works with philanthropists of all types to ensure local capacity building and forging sustainable and long-term solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Call to Action (BCtA)</td>
<td>Launched at the United Nations in 2008, the Business Call to Action (BCtA) aims to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by challenging companies to develop inclusive business models that engage people at the base of the economic pyramid (BoP) - people with less than US$8 per day in purchasing power – as consumers, producers, suppliers, distributors of goods and services and employees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Global Compact- Colombia</td>
<td>The United Nations Global Compact is a United Nations initiative to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and to report on their implementation. The UNGC in Colombia works with the private sector, public sector and civil society to align their strategies and operations with ten universally accepted principles in four thematic areas: human rights, labor standards, environment and anti-corruption as well as contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COORDINATION WITHIN THE PHILANTHROPY SECTOR

Organizations within the philanthropy sector work collectively among themselves and with the private sector and the government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association of Corporate and Family Foundations – AFE Colombia</td>
<td>AFE, established in 2008, gathers 75 of the most relevant corporate and family foundations in Colombia aiming at articulating and improving the visibility of the works performed by its member. Point of entry for contact with its network of associate family, corporate, independent and multi-corporate foundations in Colombia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundación ANDI ANDI Foundation</td>
<td>Foundation of the National Association of Business Owners, supports companies and businesses in the strengthening of their social investment, promoting sustainable and impact interventions. Its programmatic lines focus on: leading actions and projects aimed at building a more equitable society, promoting strategic business issues within companies, generating tools to build relevant, sustainable and impactful interventions and being a global example of the association’s commitment to social development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filantropía Transformadora (Transformative Philanthropy)</td>
<td>Initiative that began in 2010 with the purpose of working to solve the large inequality problems Colombia faces, understanding the capacity of family and individual philanthropy to tackle this challenge. Nationwide articulator of individual philanthropy contributing in the development of social projects in need of support.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COORDINATION WITHIN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE GOVERNMENT, AND/OR THE UNITED NATIONS

The private sector has its own initiatives working with the government through these channels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CECODES – Business Advisory for Development</td>
<td>The Colombian chapter of World Business Council, created by a group of businesses from the most important sectors in the country. Convinced that sustainable development is the path towards larger profits, improving life quality of society and using natural resources rationally, CECODES works to support inclusive economic growth and knowledge of human rights among Colombian businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FENALCO SOLIDARIO</td>
<td>A corporation that works with corporations and society to implement socially responsible actions that contribute to the sustainability and harmony on the planet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANDI - National Business Association of Colombia</td>
<td>A non-profit organization whose main purpose is to expand and promote economic, social and political principles within a free enterprise system, based upon beliefs that include human dignity, political democracy, social justice, private property and liberty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACOPI</td>
<td>Represents the interest of SMEs national wide by supporting them to boost their business as well as increase their productivity and competitiveness, so that it can achieve sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUNDERS

Who are some of the important funders in Colombia and what are their goals in development? The largest grant makers in Colombia are international foundations and funds; there are many local foundations as well (see the lists below). Many of the international foundations also have representation in the country.

Selected National Funders

Besides the national corporate and family foundations members of AFE, the following area national funders. For further information on AFE member funder, please visit: [http://afecolombia.org/en-us/](http://afecolombia.org/en-us/)
Foundations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filantropía Transformadora (Transformative Philanthropy)</td>
<td>Initiative that began in 2010 with the purpose of working to solve the large inequality problems Colombia faces, understanding the capacity of family and individual philanthropy to tackle this challenge. Nationwide articulator of individual philanthropy contributing in the development of social projects in need of support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natura Foundation</td>
<td>Civil society organization that works towards conservation and appropriate use and handling of biodiversity as means to generate economic, social and environmental wellbeing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mi Sangre Foundation</td>
<td>Builds safe environments where children, teenagers and youths can discover and deploy their power as peace builders. It focuses around peace building and providing psycho-social attention to IDPs and victims.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selected International Foundations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ford Foundation</td>
<td>For more than 50 years, the Ford Foundation has sought to support economic development and the establishment of democratic societies in the countries of the Andean Region. Ford Foundation's Bogota office can provide essential information for large philanthropic actors interested in peace building and institutional strengthening wishing to enter Colombia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avina Foundation</td>
<td>A Latin American foundation in charge of producing large scale progress for sustainable development through building partnerships with different actors. It focuses in supporting the role of private and philanthropic sector in producing sustainable change in the region. Several programs in diverse topics ranging from sanitation to training social leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Society Foundation</td>
<td>The Open Society Foundations work to reinforce human rights and democratic governance in Latin America and the Caribbean. Activities focus on addressing violence and state responses to organized crime, promoting transparency, and ensuring international support for open society goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Foundation</td>
<td>Helps build multi-actor partnerships to find solutions that last and transform lives and communities from what they are today to what they can be, tomorrow. In Colombia, the main area of work is economic development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Foundation</td>
<td>Seeks address issues of global, social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International Community Donors

Although the international community in Colombia is very active, the following are the donors that have the longest and more funds in the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIDA – Swedish International Development Agency</td>
<td>The starting point for SIDA´ s development cooperation with Colombia is to contribute to ending the nearly 50-year internal armed conflict in the country. Its work focuses on two areas: peace and security, and human rights and democratic governance. The target is for sustainable peace to contribute to better living conditions and the opportunity to take an active part in social life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>The Delegation of the European Union in Colombia works on the implementation of the development cooperation lines towards human rights, peace keeping and conflict prevention.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USAID is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential. In Colombia USAID support programs in promoting economic prosperity through legal economy, especially in the agricultural sector; improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations; promote respect for human rights and justice; address the natural threats generated by climate change and protect ecosystems and biodiversity in Colombia.

GIZ's projects and programs in Colombia on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) focus mainly on the following priority areas: peacebuilding/crisis preventions, environmental policy and conservation and sustainable economic development.

The Colombia-Spain Country Partnership Framework 2015-2019 (MAP) is a strategy shared by both countries towards common goals and visions of human development, inequality reduction and peacebuilding.

### The UN System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDP- United Nations Development Programme</td>
<td>UNDP works in some 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. UNDP contributes to the efforts of the State and Colombian society to pursue peace, development and collective well-being through actions, programs, initiatives and projects. UNDP leads the SDG Agenda as well SDG Philanthropy Platform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCHR- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
<td>The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on 1950 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The agency is mandated to lead and coordinate international action for the protection of refugees worldwide. Its main objective is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. UNHCR also has a mandate to help stateless people around the world. Because of Colombia having one of the largest internal displaced populations in the world, UNHCR is a very active organization in the Colombian society. Currently, UNHCR Colombia has offices in 10 cities where internally displaced people tend to flee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In doing so, UN Member States took a historic step in accelerating the Organization’s goals in gender equality and women’s empowerment. UN Women has worked in Colombia since 2005 (Since 2011, under the structure of the UN Women Country Offices for the Americas.). It acts primarily within its role of advocacy and technical assistance to support the application of policy and policy frameworks, capacity building of government actors as guarantors of women’s rights and civil society organizations and women as subjects of rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC- United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime</td>
<td>The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime works with States and civil society to prevent drugs and crime from threatening security, peace and development opportunities for citizens. Colombia, UNODC works in four programmatic frameworks: i) alternative development, ii) Projust- crime prevention and justice strengthening, iii) Reducing crime consumption, iv) Integrated system for illicit crops monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund is a United Nations.</td>
<td>The provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Development finance institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>World Bank</strong></td>
<td>The World Bank Group engagement with Colombia is structured around a model that provides development solutions adapted to the country, with an integral package of financial, knowledge and convening services. The Country Partnership Framework (Fiscal Year 2016-21) aims to support the government's development goals under three strategic pillars: 1) fostering Balanced Territorial Development; 2) enhancing Social Inclusion and Mobility through Improved Service Delivery; and 3) supporting Fiscal Sustainability and Productivity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IDB- Inter-American Development Bank</strong></td>
<td>IADB staff and Colombia determine how Colombia's priorities coincide with the Bank's development strategies for the region. The product of that process is the IDB country strategy with Colombia, containing the Bank's expected program for Colombia for 2012-2014, focusing around the following sectors: (i) transportation; (ii) science, technology, and innovation; (iii) trade; (iv) access to financial services; (v) education and vocational training; (vi) social protection; (vii) health; (viii) water supply and sanitation; (ix) housing and urban development; (x) risk management, and (xi) governance and modernization of the State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAF- Development Bank of Latin America</strong></td>
<td>CAF is a development bank created in 1970, owned by 19 countries as well as 13 private banks in the region, which promotes a sustainable development model through credit operations, non-reimbursable resources, and support in the technical and financial structuring of projects in the public and private sectors of Latin America.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
E. Roadmap for New Philanthropy in Colombia
HOW-TO FOR PHILANTHROPY

Where should you start?

What should be your first port of call in Colombia to engage in the SDG process, or to begin new investments or sharpen your existing investments?

In Colombia, the philanthropy sector is becoming more strategic. Here are important actors you must liaise with as an entry point:

- **Government**
  - APC - Colombia
  - www.apccolombia.gov.co
  - Cra. 10 #97-13. Bogotá
  - Phone: +57 1 6012424

- **UN System**
  - UNDP-Columbia: SDG Philanthropy Platform
  - www.co.undp.org
  - Calle 82 #10- 62. Bogotá
  - Phone: +57 (1) 4889000

- **NGOs**
  - CCONG- Colombian Confederation of NGOs
  - http://ccong.org.co
  - Calle 72 # 9-55. Bogotá
  - Phone: +57 (1) 606 0704

- **Association of Corporate and Family Foundations**
  - Empresariales AFE
  - www.afecolombia.org
  - Carrera 7 # 73 - 55. Bogotá
  - Phone: +57 (1) 8050277
At the same time, it is advised for NPOs that do not have presence in Colombia to take the following main and first legal steps to operate in Colombia:

1. Register before the local chamber of commerce as an International NPO. Please note that even if your organization will have presence in multiple municipalities and/or departments, you must register only in the city where your main national office will be based. (For further information on the required documents please go to [http://www.ccb.org.co/en/Registrations-and-renewals/Foundations-associations-and-corporations/Registration-of-private-foreign-non-for-profit-organizations](http://www.ccb.org.co/en/Registrations-and-renewals/Foundations-associations-and-corporations/Registration-of-private-foreign-non-for-profit-organizations))

2. In order to benefit from the special tax regime, the NPO must register with the National Department of Customs and Taxes (DIAN) in order to issue Simple Tax Registration (RUT-Registro Unico Tributario) which serves to endorse and identify their economic activity to third parties who hold a commercial, employment or economic relationship in general and with the different bodies of supervision and control. ([http://www.dian.gov.co/contenidos/servicios/rut.html](http://www.dian.gov.co/contenidos/servicios/rut.html)); as well as the National Tax Identification (NIT) which is the mechanism used to identify, locate and classify the subject of obligations managed and controlled by DIAN.

3. NPOs seeking to establish their office in Bogota must register with the District Sub-Directorate of Inspection, Monitoring and Control of Non-Profit Legal Entities (SuperPersonas), who oversees regulating all non-profit organizations domiciled in Bogota. The responsibility of SuperPersonas is to ensure that all activities that these entities perform are within the law.

4. If the NPO will conduct activities outside of the city where it was originally registered, it must register before the Treasury Office of the Department or Municipality.

The Government issued the Decree No. 019 of 2012, where all nonprofit organizations must register, since 2013, with the Chambers of Commerce and renew an annual registration within the first three months of each year in accordance with the Rates of Public Records 2017.


(Footnotes)


2. UNDP high level assessment of the enabling environment strong (green), moderate (yellow), weak (red).


4. Converging interests, p. 30-31

5. OECD Colombia-policy-priorities-for-inclusive-development.pdf, p. 52

