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REGIONAL GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE

As the Government of Colombia (GOC) advances in the implementation of the peace accord, municipalities in conflict regions continue to struggle to carry out key development activities needed to establish the legitimacy of the state at the local level. These municipalities are often under-staffed, unable to offer basic services, and grapple with weak transparency and accountability. Problems at the municipal level are often exacerbated by a lack of coordination between national and regional entities in the design and implementation of policies and programs.

To help address this complex situation, USAID's Regional Governance Activity (RGA), implemented by Management Systems International, runs from June 2015 – December 2019 in the nine departments of Arauca, Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Córdoba, Nariño, Meta, Norte de Santander, and Tolima. The activity works closely with GOC counterparts at the national, departmental, and municipal level, and directly assists public officials in 40 conflict-affected municipalities to strengthen their capacity to serve their citizens. By improving the efficacy of the three levels of government, and in particular sub-national governments in conflict affected regions, RGA builds citizen trust and promotes a durable and inclusive peace.

COMPONENTS

IMPROVE DECENTRALIZATION

RGA works to improve decentralization in order to enhance the operational capacity of departmental and local governments by advocating and supporting streamlined models for simplified and functional

public policies. RGA also strengthens the capacity of civil society to push forward discussions on decentralization.

IMPROVE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

RGA works to improve the capacity of targeted municipalities to deliver efficient and effective public services by strengthening the public financial management capacities of 40 municipalities.

IMPROVE SECONDARY AND TERTIARY ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

RGA works to improve the normative, institutional, and procedural frameworks for the development and maintenance of secondary and tertiary road infrastructure. It also supports the development of community-based associations for the improvement and maintenance of rural roads.

INCREASE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

RGA works to increase citizen participation for enhanced transparency and accountability. It provides technical assistance to civil society to demand more information on public financial management and supports social control of public management and investment.

IMPROVE ELECTORAL PROCESS

RGA assists the GOC in its efforts to prevent, investigate, and prosecute electoral crimes and electoral corruption by strengthening the capacity of key GOC institutions. RGA also works to improve institutional coordination among GOC institutions.

RESULTS

- Supported five key actors in the development of a reform proposal that resulted in an increase of \$118.3 million in new income for sub-national governments in 2017, and an anticipated \$226 million annually from 2018 onwards.
- Supported participatory and inclusive processes for drafting territorial development plans with an emphasis on adaptability and peace-related activities in seven departments and 40 municipalities.
- Supported the GOC in the design of the first public policy for tertiary roads (CONPES 3857/16).
- Reactivated and strengthened 40 territorial planning councils and supported the creation of 22 citizen oversight committees.
- Assisted in the development of a new model for the criminal investigation of electoral crimes, providing input for 22 potential investigations, with six investigations currently underway.