

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

PBI Colombia



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We begin our 2025 Annual Report by honoring **Yanette Bautista** whose life embodied the transformation of pain into a collective political force. Her work taught us that accompaniment is not merely a technical exercise but a commitment to the truth sustained by love and resistance.

Yanette remains present in the thousands of women that the Law on Women Searchers seeks to protect, among the communities that remember her and portray her in beautiful murals and also in this project, which has had the privilege of knowing her and accompanying the work of the Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation.

Yanette will remain with PBI because she has shown us horizons where a kinder world is still possible. A world where diversity has a place and where healing is built through the community, flourishing despite the violence.

*To Yanette, our affection, respect and deep gratitude.*



## Preparation

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We thank the organizations, communities, and human rights defenders who continue to place their trust in us and persevere in their work.

We are also grateful to all those who make the work of PBI Colombia possible:

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Udala



Noruega



**Note.** The content of this report is the sole responsibility of PBI Colombia and does not necessarily reflect the views, positions, or policies of the donor organizations supporting the project.

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# EDITORIAL NOTE

## Claudia Müller

Coordinator of the PBI Colombia Project

*“In addition to a physical presence, this work has a political impact. Providing advocacy support conveys that we are accompanied to the world, institutions, security forces and armed groups. We recognize that the deterrent provided by PBI remains important. International accompaniment is the most important protection measure for Ascamcat. It is a priority.”*

Holmer Pérez, Presidente ASCAMCAT.

The year 2025 confirmed the profound fragility of safeguards for those defending human and environmental rights in Colombia. In a country marked by territorial disputes, legal and illegal economies, armed violence and persistent historical inequalities, organized communities continue to defend life despite extremely adverse conditions. The figures are alarming. According to our sources, 165 human rights defenders were killed during the year, an increase of nearly 20% compared to 2024. Most of the victims were community, indigenous, peasant, union and political leaders. Behind each of these figures there are collective movements under attack, threatened territories and entire communities facing fear, displacement and being silenced.

Despite the existence of decrees, programs and institutional mechanisms, the Colombian state's response has been insufficient given the magnitude and complexity of these attacks. Serious limitations persist in terms of violence prevention and collective and differential protection, as well as high levels of impunity. Attacks against women

defenders are marked by specific forms of violence, such as the sexualization of threats and sexual violence. This highlights the need for more effective differential protection. The situation is exacerbated by the funding crisis facing the international human rights system and many social organizations, which has weakened mechanisms that are essential for accompaniment, verification and political pressure.

Amid this reality, the organizations and communities we support continue to resist. They persist in defending their territory, memory and autonomy. They are committed to building a lasting, sustainable, territorial, ecological and social peace. In regions deeply affected by the armed conflict and humanitarian crises – the Catatumbo, the Pacific and the southwestern part of the country – we have witnessed how collective processes sustain community organizations, protect new generations and defend alternative ways of life in the face of war and dispossession.

In this context, international accompaniment remains a vital tool. Our model of comprehensive accompaniment –

physical, political, media-based and psychosocial – responds to the needs directly communicated by the organizations and communities we support.

Our international presence in the country's regions, advocacy with authorities and diplomatic actors, actions that raise awareness about local realities and strengthening of the organizational and emotional fabric are inseparable dimensions of a single commitment to protection and solidarity. As one international volunteer who provides accompaniment stated, “our presence transcends us.

We need people willing to accompany these leaders, the struggles must continue to grow. We can build solidarity through the act of sharing and walking together.”

Nearly 10 years after the signing of the

Peace Agreement, victims and communities continue to tirelessly defend life, territory and memory. At PBI Colombia, we make the following call to action to the international community, to our allies and to those who believe in justice and peace: accompanying and protecting Colombian civil society continues to be an urgent task. It is precisely these collective processes that most urgently need guarantees for participants' safety and, at the same time, have the greatest capacity to transform the present and open up paths to peace for new generations.



# WHO ARE WHE?

## Peace Brigades International - Colombia

(PBI Colombia - COP)

is an international accompaniment non-profit that has been working in the country since 1994 alongside:

**individuals, organizations and communities** whose right to defend their rights is restricted due to their actions against power structures, extractive economies and armed dynamics.



### We accompany

collective processes that face threats, harassment and stigmatization for upholding the defense of territory, life and dignity



in contexts where **violence and impunity seek to impose silence and dismantle** social organization.

For PBI, international accompaniment is a political strategy for collective protection and a concrete practice of international solidarity: being present to challenge the isolation imposed by violence, to make visible what is being silenced and to expand the scope of action for those who defend rights in contexts affected by armed control, impunity and territorial dispossession.

### Our work combines:

Physical presence

International observation

Advocacy

Rebuilding the social fabric

Using a nonviolent approach. This work reduces risks and increases the political cost of persecution, stigmatization and repression.

PBI Colombia is part of **Peace Brigades International (PBI)**, an international organization that operates in different countries where civic space is under threat and the defense of human rights is met with violence, criminalization and social control. PBI builds networks based on solidarity and political pressure that connect local struggles with global actors and contexts, reaffirming that acts of violence committed against communities and defenders are not isolated incidents but expressions of transnational power dynamics.



# MISSION

Accompany, upon explicit request, human rights defenders, organizations and community-led processes that defend human, environmental and territorial rights, contributing to reducing risks and expanding their scope of action through a strategy involving international presence, observation and nonviolent political action.

Our goal is clear:  
**to work so that international accompaniment is no longer necessary.**

# VISION

A Colombia where defending human rights does not mean living under threat, where political participation is not punished and where peace is built from the ground up with social and environmental justice and historical memory.



## HOW WE UNDERSTAND ACCOMPANIMENT

Accompaniment is not speaking for others. It is being present so that violence does not impose silence. It means sustaining international support networks when communities are isolated. It is acting as a political witness when risk becomes normalized and impunity becomes the rule.



### Non-partisanship

As a third-party international actor, PBI operates independently and without taking sides. This means engaging with all parties without prejudice, providing information as objectively as possible, and refraining from making judgments. Likewise, PBI maintains a non-interference approach, accompanying organizations without intervening in their internal decision-making processes, while always respecting their autonomy and own agendas.



### Nonviolence

We advocate for nonviolence as an ethical and political commitment, understanding that lasting peace can only be built with democratic guarantees and respect for human rights.

## OUR PRINCIPLES

PBI Colombia's work is based on four principles:



### International character

Our presence connects local struggles with international networks, reminding us that violence is not an isolated problem but part of global dynamics of power, war and extractive industries.



### Non-hierarchical organization

We are committed to a non-hierarchical organization based on shared responsibility, collective care and decision-making by consensus. We recognize that horizontality is not a destination but an ongoing process marked by tensions, learning and the daily practice of shared responsibility.

# OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

For PBI Colombia, **peace is not an abstract idea**. It is a concrete struggle for life, territory, memory and the possibility of organizing without fear. Our accompaniment is aimed at strengthening collective processes that resist violence, dispossession and impunity, building alternatives from the ground up. This is why we work in five strategic areas:

**1.**  
**Access to and use of land and territory**

We support peasant and ethnic-territorial processes that resist dispossession and land concentration, defend people's right to remain on the land and sustain collective livelihood projects in the face of extractive economies, militarization and armed control.

**2.**  
**Corporations, human rights and the environment**

We support struggles against extractive industries and the socio-environmental impacts of economic models that prioritize accumulation over life. We stand with movements that defend water, ecosystems and food sovereignty.

**3.**  
**The struggle against impunity**

We support processes of memory, truth and justice that confront the repetition of violence. We stand with victims, legal organizations and movements that uphold the search for missing persons and the right to reparations.

**4.**  
**Guarantees for civil society's political participation**

We support community organizations and initiatives that promote political participation and social organization in contexts where leadership is stigmatized, mobilization is criminalized and civic space is restricted through threats and violence.

**5.**  
**Building a stable and lasting peace**

We support community initiatives that build peace from the ground up, upholding the social fabric, territorial autonomy and political coordination in contexts marked by violence, dispossession, and historical exclusion. We understand peace not as institutional rhetoric but as a daily collective practice that is defended and built over time.

THE  
**PEACE**  
IS NOT ABSTRACT

# HOW WE PROVIDE ACCOMPANIMENT: A COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION MODEL

PBI Colombia's comprehensive accompaniment model seeks to sustain and expand the scope of action for organizations, communities and collective processes that defend human rights, territory and life in contexts affected by violence. We understand protection not as a one-off measure or a technical response to risk but as a political and collective process. Protection is a concrete practice of international solidarity built from the ground up in conjunction with support networks and the organizations' own (self) protection strategies. For PBI, accompaniment means being present to challenge the isolation imposed by violence, strengthen collective action and publicly support those waging historic struggles for justice and dignity.

This approach stems from a central conviction: comprehensive protection does not automatically emerge from the coexistence of different areas but requires collective, coherent and explicit political decisions. Protection involves avoiding fragmented or hierarchical interpretations of the different components. No dimension of our work "supports" another, nor does it function as a complementary action. In a scenario of multiple crises, shrinking of civic space and weakening of international human rights mechanisms, upholding a comprehensive approach to protection requires consciously coordinating international engagement, advocacy, visibility and collective care.

Our work is organized into four interrelated areas, which function like the legs of a stool: each reinforces the others and together they sustain comprehensive accompaniment

## Physical accompaniment

International presence in disputed territories and spaces that helps reduce risks, strengthen visibility and understand local dynamics through direct observation.

## Political accompaniment

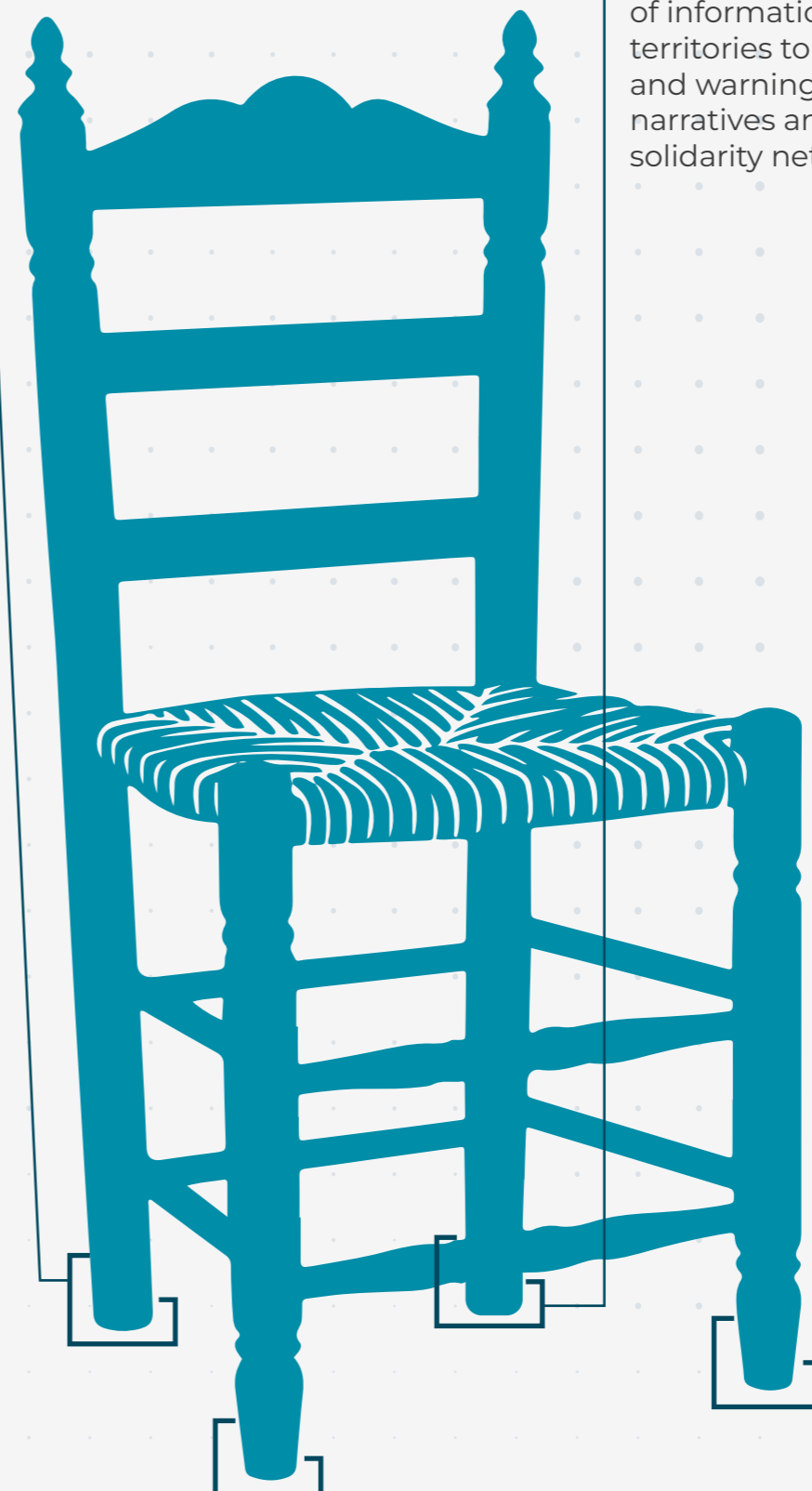
Dialogue and advocacy with state authorities, the diplomatic corps and the international community to maintain political pressure, activate protection networks and expand safeguards for the work of the organizations we accompany.

## Media accompaniment

Production and dissemination of information from the territories to highlight realities and warnings, build political narratives and strengthen solidarity networks.

## Psychosocial accompaniment

We understand the psychosocial approach as an ethical-political commitment that is not limited to responding to suffering but instead seeks to strengthen collective capacities for resisting the violence that attempts to fragment and dismantle the social fabric. We begin with a contextual analysis that recognizes the structural causes of violence – colonial, capitalist, patriarchal and racist – and their differentiated impacts on bodies, relationships and territories. Through participatory methodologies using decolonial, feminist, anti-racist and intersectional perspectives, we support processes aimed at collectivizing care, depathologizing harm, politicizing distress and strengthening community resources for self-protection. Within this framework, rebuilding the social fabric is not a complementary action that forms part of our support. It is a necessary condition for sustaining organization, autonomy and collective action over time.





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*“The work of protection, deterrence, advocacy and accompaniment provided by PBI to Nomadesc constitutes one of the elements of individual and collective care that has enabled the advancement of human rights defense work, despite the difficult context in southwestern Colombia. We are able to act with security and peace of mind when we have PBI’s accompaniment during activities carried out locally and throughout the region.”*

NOMADESC



# JUNCTURE:

**THE SITUATION  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
DEFENDERS IN  
COLOMBIA IN 2025**

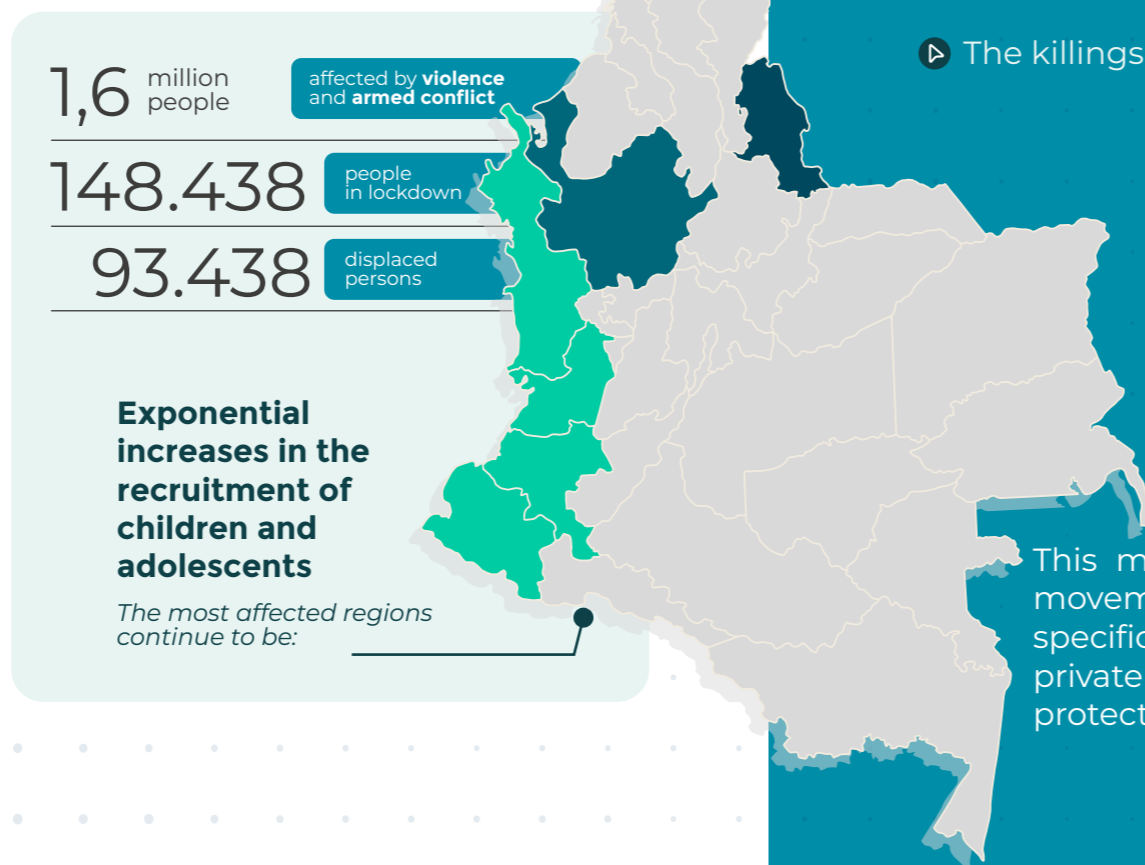
# I Overview

Colombia continues to be one of the most dangerous countries in the world for human rights and environmental defenders. During 2025 there was a persistently high number of murders, a diversification of attacks and structural levels of impunity within a context of strong territorial control exercised by multiple armed actors. This increase in violence was partly related to it being a pre-election year and an incomplete response from the Colombian state, particularly in terms of the prevention of violence and collective and differential protection.

The struggle for control over territories, populations and resources within a web of legal and illicit economies has sparked multiple humanitarian crises. The ongoing crisis in the Catatumbo region began in January 2025 and is among the most emblematic in the country due to its impact on the civilian population and social organizations, including the Catatumbo Peasants' Association (ASCAMCAT) that is accompanied by PBI. According [data from OCHA](#), between January and November 2025 a total of 1.6 million people were affected by violence and armed conflict in Colombia. Additionally, at least 148,438 people were subject to confinement and 93,438 were displaced. There have been [exponential increases in the recruitment of children and adolescents](#) as part of this context. The most affected regions continue to be: the Pacific (Cauca, Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Chocó); the border with Venezuela (Norte de Santander); and the Northwest (southern Bolívar and Antioquia). PBI has been supporting community initiatives (ethnic and peasant groups) and social organizations in most of these areas, directly observing the extremely serious impact of this violence on those who defend

human and environmental rights and build peace from the ground up.

This situation has been exacerbated by a crisis in the international human rights system marked by the defunding of key UN agencies ([in particular the OHCHR](#) in Colombia), the [ICRC](#) and the Inter-American Human Rights System (IHR), among others. This situation reduces access to external mechanisms for verification, political pressure and support for human rights defenders, organizations and communities. It is also important to note that the defunding trend is having a significant impact on organizations and social movements in Colombia, causing severe reductions in resources that greatly affect the capacity of organizations to defend rights, especially in the current context where the country's human rights situation is particularly alarming. Structural gaps persist in the regulation of transnational corporations' activities, as well as in the investigation and punishment of human rights violations driven by economic interests.



## II Human Rights Defenders: Figures and types of attacks

▶ According to the **Somos Defensores Program, in 2025:**

Have been murdered **165**



Increase by **20%** compared to the previous year

Equivalent to **one homicide every two days**

Added to this alarming situation are murders of signatories of the Peace Agreement.

▶ According to **Indepaz**, in 2025:



**39** signatories in 2025



In 2025 **78** massacres

**+250** Victims

76 in 2024

▶ Additionally, **the following have been documented and verified:**

**874** attacks



against human rights defenders, including:

- threats
- forced displacement
- assaults
- legal proceedings
- forced disappearances

Amnesty International has highlighted the **persistence of stigmatization** of human rights defenders by government officials, including those in the highest positions, such as the **President of the Republic** and the **Minister of the Interior**. This is in direct violation of **Presidential Directive 07/20232** issued by President Gustavo Petro.

▶ The killings recorded in 2025 primarily affected:



- Community leaders
- Grassroots leaders
- Indigenous leaders
- Peasant leaders
- Political figures
- Trade unionists

This means that the majority of the victims were leaders of collective movements. Attacks against women human rights defenders evidence specific patterns, such as the sexualization of threats and attacks on their private lives, which reinforces the need for collective and differentiated protection measures.

## III Invisible crimes

In addition to the murders and attacks mentioned above, there are other particularly alarming dynamics that are present in Colombia, especially at the local level. The control exercised by illegal armed groups in several regions is so extensive that people no longer report these events to the relevant authorities due to their fear of reprisals (“**silencing**”). Despite this situation, organizations have reported a number of serious crimes committed against their members including **sexual violence, sexual slavery, forced recruitment, forced labor, etc.**

This dynamic coexists with multiple reports of attempted co-optation and infiltration in territories historically neglected by the state. These strategies jeopardize the territorial autonomy achieved through the specific governance mechanisms established in Colombian law (such as indigenous reserves and community councils for Afro-descendant populations). These pressures have been evident in multiple

regions, including rural areas in Buenaventura, the Lower Atrato and Putumayo where PBI is present through its accompaniment of the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace and NOMADESC. These practices also undermine the social and organizational fabric, a situation that is evident in the San José de Apartadó Peace Community, the peasant communities of Northeast Antioquia and the Magdalena Medio region.

These figures fail to highlight the deaths and severe psychosocial impacts on social and community leaders caused by the constant physical and emotional pressures to which they are subjected. In late December 2025, [Everth Tulio Mosquera, a leader from the Naya River region](#) and [Olga Perdomo, a female leader from Meta](#), – both of whom were supported by the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace – died suddenly after many months of threats against them and the community processes they led.

## IV Challenges and opportunities

### ILEGAL INTELLIGENCE

Historically, PBI has highlighted the many crimes committed against human rights defenders that involve illegal intelligence activities (surveillance, phone tapping, email hacking, information theft, etc.). In a [landmark ruling](#) in 2024, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) **recognized the right to defend human rights as an autonomous human right** and held the Colombian State responsible for crimes of espionage (including psychological torture) against members of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers’ Collective (CCAJAR) and their families. However, the implementation of [the measures included in the ruling](#) has faced serious delays, particularly [reforms to the intelligence law](#) and the creation of a national protection fund.

### IMPUNITY

Despite some progress, impunity remains the norm for attacks against human rights defenders. According to the Somos Defensores Program, [just 12% of the murders of human rights defenders between 2002 and 2025 have resulted in convictions](#). The identification of intellectual authors of these crimes is rare, perpetuating the risk and recurrence of violence. In most cases, no criminal organizations or structures are identified as responsible and human rights advocacy is not systematically recognized as a motive for the crime.

(Section 3.4 of the 2016 Peace Agreement): Nearly 10 years since the signing of the Peace Agreement, the National Commission on Security Guarantees approved the Public Policy for the Dismantling of Structures Inherited from Paramilitarism in 2025. As OHCHR highlights in its [Annual report](#), “*significant limitations in inter-institutional coordination and territorial coordination persist, resulting in fragmented responses with a limited impact on improving access to rights for populations with continuing situations of risk.*”

### POLICY FOR THE DISMANTLING OF STRUCTURES INHERITED FROM PARAMILITARISM

### STATE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

The [landmark 2023 Constitutional Court Ruling SU-546](#) declared an **unconstitutional state of affairs regarding the protection of human rights defenders**. However, two years after this was issued, its key mandates – such as the creation and implementation of the Comprehensive Public Policy on Guarantees for the Defense of Human Rights (still pending as of early 2026) and the reorganization of the Special Investigation Unit (mechanisms established by the Peace Agreement) – have not been implemented. Despite progress and ongoing dialogue between the government and civil society, the following actions are still pending: reforms made to the protection model and the National Protection Unit (UNP); unification of the decrees on prevention and collective protection. Even though the Comprehensive Program of Guarantees for Women Leaders and Defenders has a 2023–2025 Action Plan, there has been a low level of implementation of this initiative at the local government level. [The National Roundtable on Security Guarantees](#), a space for consultation between the Colombian state and civil society with a focus on human rights defenders and supported by the international community, met three times in 2025. The human rights platforms and civil society organizations participating in the Roundtable have warned of a lack of progress in agreeing on security and participation measures for the defense of human rights, as well as a fragmentation of the institutional response.

**ENFORCED  
DISAPPEARANCE  
AND LAW  
2364 OF 2024 -  
LAW ON WOMEN  
SEARCHERS**

In June, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) [recognized Yanette Bautista of the Nidya Erika Bautista Foundation as a victim](#), of the armed conflict, acknowledging her work as a woman searching for victims of enforced disappearance. Yanette passed away on September 1, 2025, leaving an exceptional legacy as an advocate for victims of enforced disappearance and those who search for them. She had been the main driving force, alongside relatives of missing persons, for the approval of Law 2364 of 2024, a pioneering law at a global level for the recognition and comprehensive protection of women searching for victims of enforced disappearance. The regulatory decree for this law was approved in January 2026. This milestone is particularly relevant in a context where enforced disappearances continue. The International Committee of the Red Cross ([ICRC](#)) [warned](#) of the need to create a humanitarian alternative for the 2,144 people, primarily civilians, who have disappeared since the signing of the Peace Agreement. Between January and May 2025, the ICRC documented 136 new cases of people who have disappeared in connection with the armed conflict, including 26 children and adolescents.

**In this highly complex scenario, international accompaniment has been one of the tools used by organizations, processes and communities that defend human and environmental rights to persist with their advocacy work, as well as actions to build a sustainable and lasting peace with environmental justice.**

## WHO DO WE ACCOMPANY?

PBI Colombia accompanies organizations, communities, social leaders and defenders of human, environmental and territorial rights. Accompanying these organizations also means recognizing that they have made history in Colombia, not just through their resistance in contexts of violence, but also by establishing ethical and political benchmarks in national and international spaces. These processes preserve memory, defend territory, demand justice and keep alive the possibility of real peace that begins at the grassroots level.

The organizations we accompany support multiple community processes in different regions of the country: councils, networks, youth groups, women leaders, local organizational structures and peasant, Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. Our accompaniment is

embedded in a much broader fabric where each organization is a hub of territorial and political coordination.

Our work is carried out following a specific request for our presence. We respect the principles of non-interference and autonomy in accordance with our strategic priorities: land and territory, business and human rights, the fight against impunity, political participation and peacebuilding.

At the same time, we also recognize that accompaniment is not a closed model: **PBI Colombia is engaged in a constant process of reflection and critical review.** We remain open to proposals and dialogue on how to strengthen this international solidarity tool.

### In 2025, PBI Colombia accompanied:

- Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz (CIJP)
- Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo (CAJAR)
- Corporación Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CREDHOS)
- Comunidad de Paz de San José de Apartadó
- Corporación Jurídica Libertad (CJL)
- Claudia Julieta Duque
- Fundación Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos (CSPP)
- Asociación para la Investigación Social (NOMADESC)
- Corporación Acción Humanitaria por la Convivencia y la Paz en el Nordeste Antioqueño (CAHUCOPANA)
- Asociación Red de Defensores y Defensoras de Derechos Humanos (dhColombia)
- Fundación Nydia Erika Bautista (FNEB)
- Asociación Campesina del Catatumbo (ASCAMCAT)
- Asociación Campesina del Valle del Río Cimitarra (ACVC)

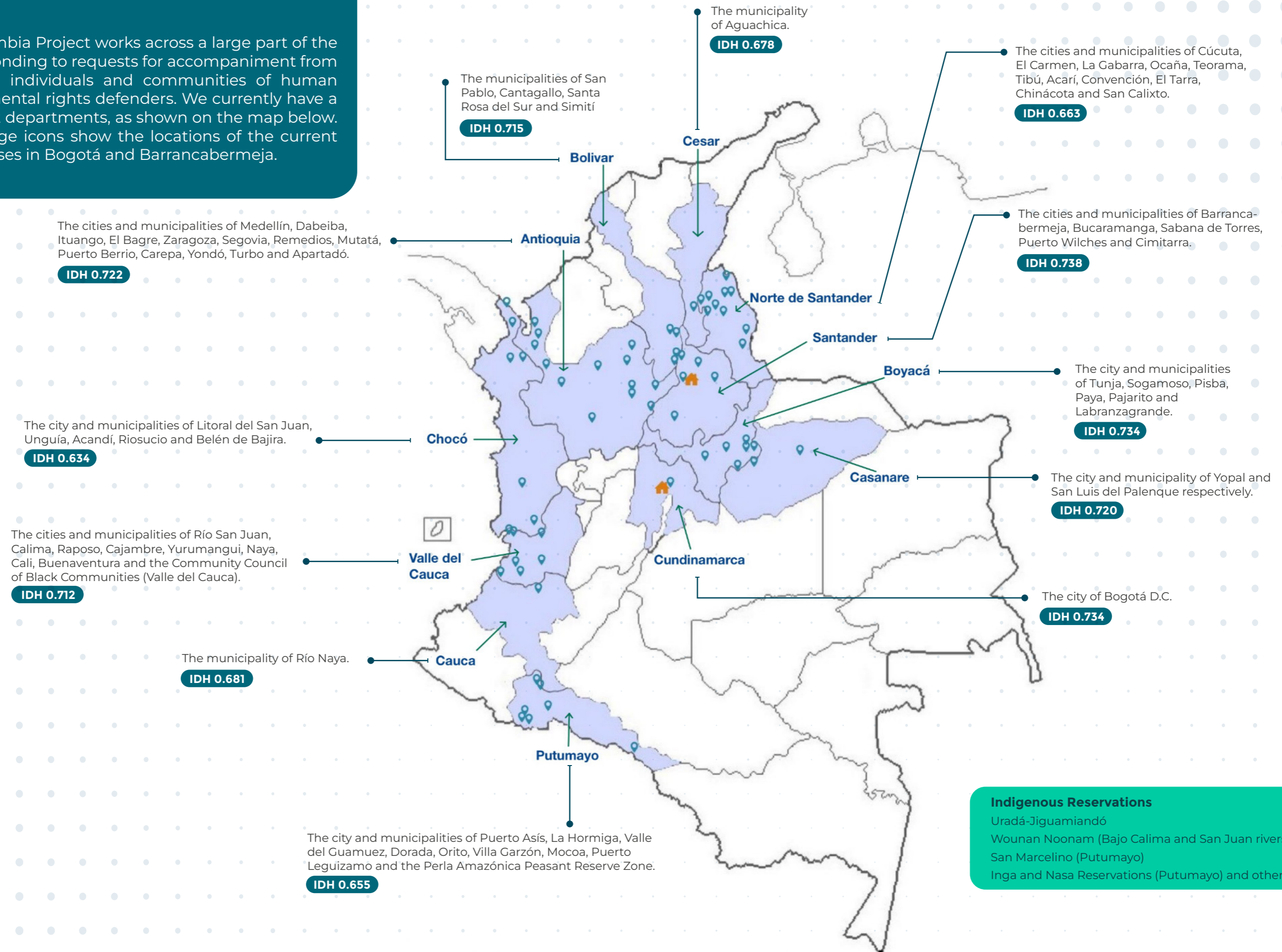


# MAPPING OUR SUPPORT: WHERE WE WALK



# LOCATION MAP

The PBI Colombia Project works across a large part of the country, responding to requests for accompaniment from organizations, individuals and communities of human and environmental rights defenders. We currently have a presence in 12 departments, as shown on the map below. The two orange icons show the locations of the current field staff houses in Bogotá and Barrancabermeja.



# PBI Colombia by the numbers

**Our impact in 2025.**  
*These numbers also have names, stories and struggles.*

**156** requests for support received

**117** requests for accompaniment accepted

**Two field teams**

accompanied during **399 days** to human rights defenders



## ADVOCACY

### At the international level

**102** meetings with organizations that have a national presence

**72** meetings with the diplomatic corps in Colombia

**21** meetings with international organizations that have a presence in Colombia

**29** meetings with national public authorities

**11** meetings with the Colombian National Army

**17** meetings with the Colombian National Police

**1** meeting with the Colombian Navy

### A nivel internacional

**62** meetings with various international stakeholders



**6** tours with human rights defenders

**3** meetings with permanent missions to the UN in the European Parliament

**8** meetings with high-level representatives of governments and international institutions

**33** meetings with our Support Network

**5** briefings distributed to interested parties

**1** Call to action

**8** oral statements at the UN Human Rights Council

**25** blog posts

**ARTS** **16** workshops and meetings with partner organizations | **14** days of workshops | **326** participants



# COMPREHENSIVE

## COMPREHENSIVE

## SUPPORT IN

## PRACTICE:

## THREE MUTUALLY

## REINFORCING DIMENSIONS

In 2025, PBI Colombia used a model of comprehensive accompaniment that integrates on-the-ground presence, international political action and collective care. These dimensions do not function as separate areas or as a linear sequence. They reinforce one another and only make sense as an interwoven whole. In a context marked by the shrinking of civic space, armed control and fragmentation of the social fabric, accompaniment involves working alongside organizations and communities to maintain minimum conditions so that collective action remains possible.

Below we present three central expressions of this model, which function as pillars of a single protective structure:

being present

building alliances

rebuilding the social fabric

# BEING PRESENT

## INTERNATIONAL ACCOMPANIMENT IN CONTESTED SCENARIOS

The importance of PBI's physical accompaniment in Colombia lies in the possibility of helping human rights defenders carry out their activities in safer conditions, thus reducing their exposure to risk. In territories where fear seeks to impose itself as the norm, international accompaniment creates spaces for organizations and communities to continue defending the right to a dignified life free from violence.

Without considering ourselves indispensable, international accompaniment remains a useful tool, precisely because it is subordinate to the autonomous processes of communities. Our work focuses on deterrence,

raising awareness and fostering solidarity among different groups.

We accompany long-standing processes that defend memory, territory and life, understanding that our international presence helps raise the political cost of repression, strengthens support networks and increases the visibility of the work carried out by Colombian organizations with national and international actors.

Our goal is to enable human rights defenders to continue their work by reducing the risks of attacks, harassment and stigmatization.

In 2025, PBI Colombia's physical accompaniment was carried out in alignment with our strategic priorities that reflect different dimensions of human rights defense in the country:

### 1 Access and use of land and territory

In the Urabá region of Antioquia, accompaniment of the **San José de Apartadó Peace Community** has been fundamental for the work of an organizational and civil resistance model that has now been in place for 29 years. By walking alongside the community on their journeys to outlying villages, PBI helps ensure that their actions in the area of food sovereignty continue with increased security guarantees. In a context marked by the presence and conflict of armed groups, international visibility

helps ensure that their principles of non-violence remain a guiding force for community life and autonomy.

In Putumayo, our presence alongside **CIJP** in the **La Perla Amazónica Peasant Reserve** supports organizational initiatives like **ADISPA**, which defends the territory against armed and economic pressure. Leaders like **Jani Silva** face threats and harassment for promoting a relationship with nature that challenges extractive interests and projects that cause land dispossession.



In the **Lower Atrato (Chocó)**, our accompaniment of **Humanitarian Zones and Biodiversity Zones** serves a similar purpose, helping deter potential attacks in regions where illegal armed groups exercise territorial control and community organizations are one of the main barriers against armed co-optation.

In the **Magdalena Medio region**, PBI's accompaniment occurs in a territory historically marked by conflicts associated with the exploitation of natural resources – particularly mining and oil – where armed actors and economic structures have disputed control over strategic corridors and illegal economies. In 2025 there was an expansion of illegal armed groups in this region, leading to a strengthening of social and territorial control dynamics that are linked to extractive interests and the illegal exploitation of resources.

In this context, the **Asociación Campesina del Valle del Río Cimitarra (ACVC)** continues to defend this territory through the implementation of alternative organizational and economic initiatives designed to strengthen collective forms of peasant production and

territorial autonomy. However, the rise of armed actors in the area has increased risks for productive projects that have been developed during years of struggle and organization. This doesn't just impact the livelihoods of local populations, it also affects the possibility of sustaining a community model based on collective work.

In this context, the international presence provided by PBI helped the ACVC gain access to the territory and carry out safeguarding actions and monitoring initiatives such as the Bufalera project, which included protecting seed capital. Threats made by armed groups against the organization reduce agricultural production and the safety of its members while also limiting the development of a collective peasant economy as an alternative to the current dynamics of dispossession and armed control.

In northeastern Antioquia, PBI accompanied the **Corporation for Humanitarian Action for Coexistence and Peace in Northeastern Antioquia (CAHUCOPANA)** on field visits related to long-standing demands for an agrarian solution and the defense of peasant communities' right to remain

on their land. These tours allowed human rights defenders to travel to areas where there are persistent risks of threats, intimidation and harassment. In a context marked by displacement and uprooting, PBI's international presence helped strengthen georeferencing processes that form part of land titling and tenure initiatives, reaffirming links between territory, identity and peasant rights.

## 2 Business, human rights and the environment

This area is a central part of PBI Colombia's work as we understand that there can be no stable and lasting peace without an economic model that respects human rights and nature.

In Colombia, extractive and agro-industrial projects – often driven by national and transnational interests – have worsened territorial and socio-environmental conflicts, disproportionately affecting peasant, ethnic and fishing communities.

These dynamics often reproduce contemporary forms of dispossession and coloniality where economic accumulation is sustained at the expense of community life and ecosystems.

The struggles to defend the **Magdalena Medio region** continue, despite the **Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP)** recognizing the Magdalena River as a collective victim and a subject of rights

due to severe social and environmental impacts.

Communities continue to face ongoing impacts caused by oil and mining exploitation, as well as structural obstacles that impede environmental remediation. In this context, organizations such as **CREDHOS** and the **Federation of Artisanal Fishermen of Santander (FEDEPESAN)** are engaged in monitoring and reporting efforts regarding the pollution and degradation of marshes, wetlands and water sources. These are fundamental for the subsistence and food sovereignty of fishing communities.

PBI's international presence helped create conditions for these organizations to carry out monitoring and documentation activities in places like **Caño Silvestre**, strengthening evidence collection and the public reporting of socio-environmental impacts. Our accompaniment helped highlight how these crises have differentiated effects on women, families and community economies in a region where the defense of water has become the defense of daily life.

*“International observation is the only thing that is currently working (in terms of protection in the territories).”*

Comisión Intereclesial Justicia y Paz

*“Their presence is very important, particularly in the territories, because the violence hasn't ended, there's just been a restructuring of the armed groups.”*

*PBI's support, regardless of where the staff come from, has been essential for the survival of DH. It allows us to carry out our work and it's felt much more strongly on the ground.”*

DH Colombia

In **Puerto Wilches**, PBI's accompaniment was coordinated with community processes reporting impacts on wells and wetlands associated with agro-industrial activities linked to palm oil companies.

In a context where environmental disputes intersect with powerful economic interests and risks to social leadership, our international presence continues to be essential for increasing the visibility of these issues and helping to reduce intimidation of those defending the territory.

PBI supported collective spaces aimed at strengthening alternatives for environmental defense and territorial sovereignty. One example was the **8th Ecological Camp** in the Cimitarra River Valley Peasant Reserve Zone organized by the **ACVC**, where experienced and emerging leaders gathered to consolidate strategies for environmental protection, strengthening of the social fabric and food sovereignty.

These gatherings are essential for sustaining regional coordination and organizational continuity in contexts with high levels of threats against social leaders.

PBI Colombia also accompanied international verification missions in 2025. We accompanied **CCAJAR** on an observation mission in southern Santander that was requested by community groups in response to the expansion of mining interests.

During the tour, serious socio-environmental impacts and risks were observed and members of the mission documented the concerns of social leaders and local authorities regarding threats and the lack of an institutional response.

PBI's international presence helped create safer conditions for the mission and strengthened its public visibility, facilitating subsequent actions such as the publication of a report, media coverage, a press conference and opportunities for dialogue with regional institutions.

In all of these processes, the defense of the environment is expressed as a defense of the territory, food sovereignty and community life against extractive models that exacerbate existing inequalities and violence.

International accompaniment seeks to ensure that these struggles continue with increased visibility and room for action, strengthening solidarity networks and raising the political cost of stigmatization and repression.

### 3 The fight against impunity

The fight against impunity is the cross-cutting theme that defines our work alongside organizations such as the **Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation**. In this process, our support for women searchers goes beyond physical protection.

In many instances, it is also an exercise in active listening and political recognition of their knowledge and life stories. Every time one of the searchers shares her story, she wins a battle of collective memory against oblivion.

In these cases, our role is to help ensure that her voice is heard, protected and legitimized, enhancing the visibility of her demand for justice and reparations and recognizing that her search sustains hope in all Colombian territories where others are also searching.

This commitment is also expressed through international observation of legal proceedings with supporting organizations such as **DH Colombia** and **NOMADESC** in landmark legal action.

In cases such as the **Arhuaco Mamos before the JEP**, the monitoring of proceedings stemming from the **2021 National Strike** or the case of the fire at the **San Mateo CAI in Soacha**, an international presence at hearings helps reduce the risk of intimidation and guarantees minimum conditions for compliance with procedural norms.

The goal is for those representing victims to carry out their legal and political work without harassment, threats or undue pressure in a country where impunity continues to function as a structural mechanism for the repetition of violence.

In the **Magdalena Medio** region, impunity has been a historical constant associated with the consolidation of paramilitary structures and counterinsurgency strategies that have left deep scars on rural and urban communities.

These dynamics have sustained cycles of violence, persecution and the disappearance of social leaders, particularly in areas such as **Barrancabermeja** where the defense of human rights has been marked by stigmatization and constant risk.

In this context, PBI's support for the **Regional Corporation for the Defense of Human Rights (CREDHOS)** in monitoring **Case 008 in the JEP** has contributed to the struggle for truth and historical memory. CREDHOS's participation has been essential for raising

awareness about accumulated responsibilities in the region and in supporting victims who have been engaged in years of reporting and seeking justice while facing attrition, threats and revictimization.

PBI's international presence at hearings, proceedings and judicial decisions reaffirms that international observers remain vigilant regarding the fulfillment of security guarantees, strengthens the legitimacy of the work of long-standing organizations and expands the scope of their actions in a context where paramilitarism and violence continue to evolve.

### 4 Safeguards for civil society's political participation

PBI's accompaniment aims to strengthen safeguards for the social and political participation of communities and organizations based on an understanding that building a lasting peace is only possible if civil society can organize, mobilize and exercise leadership without threats or stigmatization.



# HOPE

In Buenaventura, we were present at the **Civic Strike Assembly** and on tours for members of the **Intercultural University of the Peoples** organized by **NOMADESC** in Bahía Málaga.

These education and political coordination spaces are held in areas affected by armed control and territorial disputes with international accompaniment helping to expand the scope of action for community-led processes.

This same logic of accompaniment was applied in verification missions in the **Bajo Calima** and **Colombian Massif** where communities affected by confinement, mobility restrictions and humanitarian crises demand that the Colombian state and armed actors respect life and provide minimum safety guarantees for participation.

In these scenarios our international presence aims to ensure that public voices are not silenced and that community demands can be expressed in collective spaces without becoming an additional risk factor.

PBI's presence in the **Magdalena Medio** occurs in a region historically marked by armed conflict, political disputes and territorial control exercised by different actors.

These conditions have structurally limited civil society's opportunities for political participation, affecting the local population's access to justice, community organization and the full exercise of their civil and political rights.

In this context, the defense of human rights becomes an ongoing challenge for organizations such as the **Regional Corporation for the Defense of Human Rights (CREDHOS)**, a pioneering entity for the promotion and enforcement of rights in the region.

PBI's accompaniment helps strengthen CREDHOS's legitimacy at both institutional and territorial levels in a scenario where armed actors continue to attempt to limit, intimidate and restrict the organization's work.

CREDHOS's work is broad and comprehensive, linking access to justice with on-the-ground accompaniment in contexts where the state's presence is limited or intermittent.

Its approach focuses on the defense of civil, political, economic, social and environmental rights from a perspective grounded in community realities. This work involves constant travel to areas where armed groups are present and the risk is permanent.

PBI's international presence helps generate conditions that facilitate the continuity of this work to defend human rights and prevent violations of international humanitarian law.

**CREDHOS'** territorial approach has been strengthened through alliances with organizations and human rights advocacy networks such as **ASOVIDES**, **AME** and **MOVICE**, promoting spaces for community coordination, documenting cases, the defense of memory and dialogue with local and national authorities. These processes have helped sustain forms of political

participation in territories where civic space has historically been restricted.

Based on the principles of non-interference and non-reporting, PBI's accompaniment allows these organizations to pursue their political and community agendas in contexts that are subject to armed control, expanding the scope for social participation without replacing or conditioning their autonomy.

*“PBI strengthens organization and supports stability in the region (so that the community can survive things like economic blockades). In a context where there is minimal respect for IHL and threats are becoming more aggressive, communities value the international presence as it gives them the security to raise their concerns.”*

ACVC-RAN



# WE PROTECT LIFE

## 5 Building a stable and lasting peace

Peacebuilding has emerged as a priority in regions such as Northeast Antioquia and Catatumbo, territories deeply affected by recent humanitarian crises (2024–2025) that are reflections of long-standing structural dynamics.

In these contexts, peace cannot be understood as a condition that is achieved and then becomes permanent but instead as a contested process marked by territorial, economic and armed tensions.

In this scenario, the **Peasants' Association of the Cimitarra River Valley (ACVC)** plays a central role in defending democracy in rural areas, promoting justice and collective and individual safeguards from within the territory.

PBI's presence has helped support these processes, strengthening conditions so that communities can voice their concerns, break cycles of silencing and reduce risks associated with armed control.

Territorial peacebuilding does not merely involve the absence of violence. It requires profound transformations in the social, political and economic organization of these territories.

Strengthening community structures such as **Community Action Councils (JAC)** is essential for sustaining spaces for participation and collective decision-making.

International support has helped expand the scope of action for these entities, facilitating the collection of information about the security situation and raising awareness regarding the concerns of rural communities.

In a context of persistent regional crisis, organizations such as **CREDHOS** and **ASCAMCAT** have promoted territorial coordination to collectively address the impacts of violence and institutional neglect.

An example of this was the **“Community Roundtable for Life”** promoted by CREDHOS, an activity that brought together social leaders to address urgent issues in their territories.

Our international presence in these spaces doesn't just contribute to risk reduction but also to the dissemination of information with national and international bodies that are committed to implementing peace agreements and guaranteeing human rights.

PBI has accompanied humanitarian tours in the Catatumbo region, regional youth gatherings and verification missions in different territories, highlighting the persistent impact of the armed conflict and strengthening local organizational processes.

Social organizations continue to commit to building peace from the ground up in these contexts, creating spaces where political proposals and collective visions for the transformation of historical conflicts are developed.



PBI's support for **NOMADESC** within the **Intercultural University of the Peoples (UIP)** is part of our commitment to a stable and lasting peace built from local and territorial levels. This

work seeks to strengthen the cultural, organizational and political diversity of communities, as well as their own forms of sovereignty and autonomy.

By bringing together community practices, ancestral knowledge and life projects tied to the territory, the UIP consolidates a network that contributes to coexistence and resistance against violence and control exercised by armed actors.

In this context, an international presence helps ensure that these spaces for coming together and coordination can be held with increased freedom of action and reduced exposure to risk.

Supporting these initiatives reaffirms that peace cannot be reduced to an institutional agreement. Peace is built daily through collective processes capable of sustaining life, organization and social transformation from the grassroots level.

# BUILDING ALLIANCES

## POLICY ADVOCACY AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION

At PBI, we view advocacy as one of the pillars of comprehensive international accompaniment. We design and implement our strategies based on actions that maintain sustained political pressure, both nationally and internationally, to ensure that the Colombian state fulfills its duty to prevent violence and protect those who defend human and environmental rights.

In accordance with our principles and values, we position ourselves as agents of solidarity-based diplomacy, contributing to the visibility and redefinition of solidarity in relation to local processes. We work to publicize, recognize and strengthen what has been built over decades by organizations and communities of defenders in the areas of comprehensive collective (self-)protection and peacebuilding, always appealing to collective shared responsibility.

We seek to expand and strengthen networks, alliances and synergies among peoples, organizations and collectives in Colombia, Europe and the Americas. All of these actions are carried out using a differential and intersectional approach that incorporates a decolonial perspective. For advocacy, understood as both political lobbying and actions that raise visibility and awareness through social media, events and other spaces, this involves building narratives and counter-narratives to highlight structural causes of the persistent violence in Colombia and the ways in which current economic and hegemonic models harm those who defend human and environmental rights.

Throughout 2025, PBI carried out a number of advocacy initiatives with the international community in Colombia, Europe and the Americas. In alignment with the priorities identified by PBI Colombia and in collaboration with the organizations and communities we support, the international community has been kept informed about the situation faced by rights defenders through the following actions: bilateral and multilateral meetings; the regular distribution of briefings; participation in forums such as the UN Human Rights Council; the organization of tours to Europe and the Americas for human rights defenders; participation in events and conferences; organizing field missions for embassies and multilateral organizations; and holding roundtable discussions in both Europe and Colombia.

*"The advocacy efforts supported by PBI have helped our reports and proposals gain greater traction at national and international levels. This strengthens protection for our communities and pressures the state to fulfill its human rights obligations."*

Fundación Nydia Erika Bautista



Sustained dialogue has continued with civil and military authorities from the Colombian state, appealing to their duty to protect human rights.

In 2025 this dialogue focused on the following issues: the need to make progress with adopting the Comprehensive Public Policy on Guarantees for the Defense of Human Rights; prioritizing the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement; and the importance of publicizing, recognizing and strengthening collective and community-based peacebuilding initiatives in territories such as the Humanitarian and Biodiversity Zones of the Lower Atrato and the Peasant Reserve Zones in Putumayo and the Cimitarra River Valley.

PBI also highlighted human rights violations linked to economic interests, raising awareness about relationships between illegal armed groups and military, political and economic elites (both national and international), as established in the Public Policy on the Dismantling of Criminal Structures approved in 2024 by the National Commission on Security Guarantees and created as part of the 2016 Peace Agreement.

Efforts have also been made in the fight against impunity in the country, which include international initiatives promoted by partner organizations such as the Law on Women Searchers –promoted by the Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation and approved in 2024 – and the lawsuit against former President Álvaro Uribe Vélez filed by the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR), the Comisión Jurídica Libertad (CJL) and the Committee for Solidarity with Political Prisoners (CSPP) in Argentina under the framework of universal jurisdiction.

Finally, PBI helped raise awareness regarding the severe humanitarian crises affecting large areas of Colombia that continue to escalate.

In 2025 we engaged in advocacy efforts regarding the unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Catatumbo where we have supported the Catatumbo Peasants' Association (ASCAMCAT).

PBI has also maintained our political support for the San José de Apartadó Peace Community in the face of constant threats and attacks against its members and their territory.

Recognizing that financial sustainability is one of the pillars of self-protection for the organizations and processes we accompany, we have helped these groups establish links with potential donors.

PBI Colombia has also contributed to strengthening their support networks by actively participating in networking and partnership initiatives, facilitating the exchange of contacts and knowledge.

All of these actions are part of the strategic priorities identified by PBI through its ongoing dialogue with the organizations we work with and accompany. In 2025 we prioritized the following areas:

- 1 The defense of land and territory
- 2 Political participation
- 3 Territorial peacebuilding
- 4 Human rights violations driven by economic interests
- 5 The fight against impunity

In accordance with these priorities, we coordinated actions in Europe, the Americas and Colombia, benefiting from the valuable collaboration of PBI entities that have a presence in different countries and the networks of which we are a member. Results of these joint actions have included: parliamentary questions from members of the European Parliament expressing concern about the situation of human rights defenders and calling for action by the UE<sup>1</sup> following the release of the PBI report on the situation in the Port of Buenaventura and surrounding areas (where PBI provides accompaniment to NOMADESC, the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace and the Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation); and the impacts of European investment (with a particular focus on Spain) on the local population and their territory.

This issue has been discussed by Milbia Diaz from the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace in several European countries. We have focused our actions on drawing attention to one of the crimes that remains largely overlooked to this day, enforced disappearance, which is highlighted in this [media article](#).

PBI raised awareness about what is happening in the Catatumbo region in 2025 through our support for ASCAMCAT in promoting the “Catatumbo Pact” and the “Strategy for Prioritizing Basic Needs, Assistance, and Immediate Humanitarian Actions”.

This work also involved facilitating dialogue with embassies, international organizations and government agencies. These advocacy actions helped strengthen international political support for humanitarian initiatives in the region and publicly legitimized the work of social organizations in the face of stigmatization and violence.

Examples include producing videos<sup>2</sup> for the initiative and calling on armed actors to respect humanitarian minimum standards and commit to negotiated solutions to the conflict. These campaigns were supported by the EU Special Envoy for Peace in Colombia, members of the European Parliament and representatives of networks of international and European organizations.

In 2025, PBI continued to highlight communities' own initiatives and collective processes regarding (self) protection and peacebuilding from the ground up. PBI accompanied representatives of the San José de Apartadó Peace Community on tours in both Colombia and Europe, drawing attention to the situation occurring in the region. This contributed to achieving a “Friendly Agreement” between the Peace Community and the Colombian state.

PBI also disseminated [statements by networks](#) and advocacy actions such as questions in the European Parliament regarding the situation in the Humanitarian Biodiversity Zones of the Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó river basins (Chocó). During 2025, PBI continued to highlight the work carried out by ADISPA in defending human and environmental rights in Putumayo.

At the end of the year, PBI had to activate its highest-level response mechanism following an attempted attack on members of the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace in the southwestern part of the country. Multiple meetings were held with embassies, staff from UN agencies and different public officials from the Colombian government.

[1] EU Monitoring and the Peace Process in Buenaventura. The situation regarding violence in Buenaventura and the role of European companies.

[2] 10FFVV Videos and photos MEPs:



Press releases and statements were issued to raise awareness about the case and demand security guarantees for human rights defenders. International organizations and networks have contributed to this advocacy through letters, videos and messages of support from a range of political actors and members of international civil society.

In a context of escalating violence and weakened international protection mechanisms, PBI Colombia will continue to prioritize building alliances and maintaining political pressure to expand safeguards for human rights defenders.

**We will continue to strengthen international solidarity networks that help draw attention to what is being silenced and support peacebuilding from the ground up.**

# REBUILDING THE SOCIAL FABRIC

## THE PSYCHOSOCIAL APPROACH AS AN ETHICAL-POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO PROTECTION

### Protection and reconstruction of the social fabric: an ethical-political commitment

Colombia remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for defending life and territory. In this context, the accompaniment and protection of organizational processes requires a commitment that goes beyond an immediate response to risk.

The violence faced by communities and organizations is rooted in historical dynamics of dispossession, exclusion, plunder and extractive industries, a situation that calls for approaches that address both its manifestations and structural causes.

From this perspective, the psychosocial approach guides how PBI Colombia understands and carries out its protection work. This approach situates harm within its social and political context, recognizes its structural causes and considers its impacts on people, relationships and organizational dynamics

Violence doesn't just affect a person's physical safety. It also affects trust, the capacity for connection and the sustainability of collective processes.

This is why our protection approach is comprehensive. It integrates physical, political and psychosocial dimensions and is focused on strengthening the autonomy, organizational capacity and self-protection strategies of the organizations and communities we support.

Rebuilding the social fabric is part of the conditions required to ensure the sustainability of collective action and its continued presence in territories.

The current context reinforces the relevance of this approach. Globally, there is a growing legitimization of violence as a mechanism of control, combined with limitations in international protection systems.

These dynamics generate effects that are also felt at the local level, such as the normalization of harm, the weakening of empathy and the spread of despair.



In Colombia, these trends are reflected in the persistence of territorial violence that directly affects organizational processes.

The presence of armed actors, the criminalization of collective action and mobility restrictions in a number of different regions limit opportunities for organization and participation.

Risk is a persistent condition that impacts collective action, community ties and the social fabric.

At PBI Colombia, this understanding translates into an international accompaniment strategy aligned with organizations' self-protection capacities and practices.

This approach involves strengthening meeting spaces, promoting collective care and sharing interpretations of the dynamics of violence and possible responses from the territories.

This approach also increases visibility of the differentiated impacts of violence. Factors such as gender, racialization, territorial belonging and socioeconomic conditions influence the configuration of risk and how people are affected by violence.

Incorporating this perspective contributes to the relevance and effectiveness of protection strategies.

In a context marked by a tendency to individualize distress, the psychosocial approach reaffirms the collective dimension of harm and care. It situates suffering within its structural conditions and strengthens community responses. Collective care is understood as a practice linked to the protection and sustainability of organizational processes.

Strengthening coordination spaces is another key element of the psychosocial approach. As a response to contexts where fragmentation limits collective action, PBI Colombia organizes meeting spaces, facilitates the exchange of experiences and contributes to the construction of shared agendas in order to expand protective capacities and reinforce collective strategies.

Rebuilding the social fabric involves strengthening communities' capacities to organize, care for one another and sustain their work over time.

This requires the consolidation of conditions for collective life in contexts of violence, recognizing the centrality of connections, trust and organized action. In a scenario where violence tends to become normalized and conditions for forming organizations are restricted, the psychosocial approach provides a foundation for protection centered on life, its collective sustenance and the defense of bodies and territories.



***“This space has allowed us to share a lot of information, analysis and context. The support from the Justice and Peace Commission and PBI helps us immensely. Having spaces where communities can participate is very valuable to us. The fact that you can be our voices in other spaces – that our communities cannot access – is very valuable.”***

Leader of the Rio Naya Community Council



PAZ CATATUMBO

# CATATUMBO

**COMPREHENSIVE  
ACCOMPANIMENT IN PRACTICE**

The comprehensive accompaniment provided by PBI during 2025 evidenced the combination of physical presence, political advocacy and strengthening of the social fabric that characterize our protection model.

In a context marked by the intensification of the armed conflict, an increase in human rights violations and the weakening of safeguards for those defending life and territory, PBI coordinated actions at local, national and international levels to support social organizations and strengthen their collective protection strategies.

One of the most representative initiatives was accompaniment of the **Catatumbo Peasants' Association (ASCAMCAT)** where PBI used a range of tools and strategies to contribute to the protection of those defending human and environmental rights in one of the regions hardest hit by the armed conflict and humanitarian crisis in Colombia.

An international tour was conducted in June in collaboration with **International Action for Peace (IAP), PBI Netherlands, PBI Norway and PBI Catalonia** with the rights defenders Yenni Yajaira Sáenz (ASCAMCAT) and Yésica Méndez (ACVC). This event allowed representatives of communities affected by the humanitarian crisis in the Catatumbo region, and its extension into the Magdalena Medio region, to share their experiences firsthand, call for global shared responsibility with what is happening in these regions of Colombia and request immediate preventive and reactive actions to guarantee their right to defend rights.

In Brussels, Catalonia, Oslo and a number of cities in the Netherlands, the rights defenders held meetings with political representatives from European institutions, members of different parliaments, foreign ministries, international organizations, European solidarity networks and media outlets.

This international advocacy work was supported by an ongoing protection analysis conducted by PBI that identified risks, strengthened support networks and expanded mechanisms for raising awareness and securing political backing.

The tour occurred at a particularly critical time for both defenders: Yenni Yajaira Sáenz was in a situation of forced internal displacement, her fourth since 1999, while Yésica Méndez was participating in a temporary shelter program in Catalonia due to the level of risk she faces.

In this context, and in collaboration with IAP and the networks and other platforms of which PBI is a member, our physical and political accompaniment helped increase protection guarantees, strengthen the defenders' legitimacy in the face of stigmatization and facilitate safe spaces for international advocacy actions.

The advocacy carried out during the tour also had a specific collective protection goal: secure international support for the "Initiative for the Strategic Prioritization of Humanitarian Minimum Standards" that was promoted by more than 40 social organizations in the Catatumbo region and launched in Ocaña on June 21.

Thanks to PBI's support, representatives of European institutions, MEPs and international networks sent public messages of support to human rights defenders and called on armed actors to respect humanitarian standards and make progress with negotiated solutions to the conflict.

These gestures of international support helped reinforce the legitimacy of social organizations in a context of finger-pointing and stigmatization.

At the same time, PBI also supported national advocacy efforts led by ASCAMCAT and other Catatumbo organizations to promote comprehensive humanitarian responses and demand the implementation of the Peace Agreement and what is known as the "Catatumbo Pact."

In May, PBI coordinated an advocacy tour in Bogotá during which representatives of accompanied organizations held meetings with key Colombian public institutions, including the Ombudsperson's Office, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Land Agency, the Agency for Territorial Renewal, the Directorate for the Substitution of Illicit Crops and the National Protection Unit.

These meetings supported the delivery of concrete institutional responses and strengthened dialogue channels between communities and the Colombian state.

***"PBI's physical accompaniment serves as a shield for us against armed groups amid the crisis in Catatumbo. It's protection for our lives."***

ASCAMCAT



The comprehensive accompaniment also included PBI's physical presence in two humanitarian and observation missions organized by Catatumbo-based organizations. These had the goal of demanding respect for international humanitarian law and raising awareness about the grave situation facing rural communities.

PBI's participation in these forums, alongside key entities such as the **Ombudsperson's Office** and representatives of the **Senate's Peace and Human Rights Commission**, strengthened security guarantees for participants and helped broaden the political reach of the demands made by affected communities.

In addition to these humanitarian tours, PBI provided physical protection accompaniment to ASCAMCAT at key moments in the organization's work. A total of 12 physical accompaniments were provided, including attendance at three of the organization's assemblies.

PBI's presence was significantly important in terms of protection, especially in the context of the severe humanitarian crisis affecting the Catatumbo region, direct threats made against the organization and serious security incidents.

PBI accompanied **ASCAMCAT** with the implementation of its different productive projects in the region, which in turn supported the continued

permanence of communities and community leaders in the region.

In accordance with protection measures implemented by PBI, regular security patrols were carried out in the vicinity of this organization's offices, both to maintain direct communication with defenders and consistently highlight international accompaniment as one of the collective (self-) protection strategies adopted by **ASCAMCAT**.

Finally, psychosocial support and strengthening of the social fabric were a cross-cutting theme throughout the entire process. Through the building and expansion of international support networks, backing for peasant and women's leadership and the creation of spaces for the political and human recognition of defenders, PBI helped sustain organizational processes deeply affected by violence, displacement and emotional strain caused by the armed conflict.

The integration of physical presence, political advocacy and psychosocial care contributed to the individual protection of women defenders and, above all, the collective capacity of organizations so that they can continue to defend human rights, territory and peacebuilding in their communities.



# WE BELIEVE IN PEACE



## PBI COLOMBIA'S TEAM IN 205

**PBI Colombia is a team** that strives to be as diverse as possible in terms of backgrounds, origins and experiences while recognizing that this is an ongoing commitment and cannot always be fully achieved. Our diversity is not just an organizational principle. It's a condition we strive to uphold as it directly influences how we understand accompaniment, interpret contexts and engage with the processes we support.

PBI Colombia's operations are structured into three main components. Members of the Field Team provide on-the-ground accompaniment across the country. For security reasons, and due to the strategic design of our protection model, this team consists entirely of international staff.

Our commitment is to continue expanding the geographic and political diversity of this team, understanding accompaniment as an international solidarity practice that is built on members' diverse backgrounds in the fields of activism, advocacy and human rights work, as well as their wide range of experiences and commitment to social justice.

We also actively encourage Colombians interested in PBI's work to join other projects implemented by our organization in different countries where their experience from the local context can act as a fundamental contribution to strengthening international solidarity in other settings.

PBI Colombia's Support Team consists of international staff who work in the fields of administration, logistics, advocacy, human resources, fundraising, rebuilding the social fabric and coordination, ensuring the continuity of comprehensive accompaniment.

Finally, the organization's work is complemented by Colombian staff who are responsible for administration, logistics, finance and support for our houses in

Bogotá and Barrancabermeja. The Local Team is responsible for the organization's operations and ensuring the material conditions that make accompaniment possible.

**47**  
People

**32** Field team  
**8** Support team  
**7** Local team



Arriving in Colombia was a novel experience. A different country I had never been to before. It wasn't just about coming to a new place, but also about meeting many people who had also come to learn and share.

# STORIES THAT INSPIRE

## Valeria Gonzalez Guerra

Field Volunteer in Barrancabermeja

Octubre 2024 - abril 2026

Some of them already had prior experience in international accompaniment. Others had previously spent time in the country, whether on vacation or for academic reasons.

There was something that united us all, despite our differences. We shared a desire to be here and the conviction that we need to inhabit spaces that create and sustain conditions for a dignified life.

Before I arrived in Colombia I hadn't been very familiar with or involved in international accompaniment. I only had a vague understanding of it, since it was through PBI Mexico that I came to join PBI Colombia. I first learned about PBI through the work they were doing at the Casa del Migrante in Saltillo, where I had previously volunteered.

There are very different ways in which those of us who have been part of PBI engage with international cooperation. As someone from Latin America, I knew it existed, but I perceived it as something abstract and distant. I didn't understand its scope.

Being part of PBI Colombia gave me the opportunity to connect with other international organizations, the diplomatic corps and public institutions. More importantly, it allowed me to embrace the possibility and responsibility of enga-

ging with grassroots social organizations, human rights defenders, communities and young people. It opened the door to an environment that few people in Latin America can access.

It also allowed me to approach aid from a different perspective. Not from a place of charity, but from a place of solidarity. Over time, I witnessed the importance of the international presence in this context, the strength of coordination between those who provide support and the organizations that receive it, and the power that this connection generates in communities, villages, report presentations, advocacy tours, verification missions and social processes. I witnessed the concrete impact of this work and its relevance in turbulent and volatile times.

Approaching this work as a Mexican – having witnessed firsthand the threats, risks and vulnerabilities faced by human rights defenders in my own country – was an extremely valuable, challenging and rewarding process.

When I arrived to the project, we were asked why we were in Colombia or what had brought us there. One of the people in the group replied that it gave her hope to think that in Mexico there was someone doing the same thing as us. Someone willing to leave their home, who believed in this form

of accompaniment and in the struggle and resistance of the searching mothers, the peasants and others.

That reflection stayed with me for a long time because it helped me recognize a central idea: international solidarity implies a willingness to look beyond what we know. It means holding on to the conviction that we all deserve a safe space, that satisfying basic needs should not cost a person their life, that what seems foreign or distant also concerns us, and that through humility, respect and service we can help amplify struggles and protect life.

It also requires understanding that organizations do not carry out their work because of our presence. It is they who make it possible for us to be there, alongside them. To accompany their work is to witness their tenacity, their drive, their courage, their devotion and their care for the land, the water, the countryside and the animals. They defend their territories and communities not because they belong to them, but because of the intrinsic value that each element holds and the strength of the collective.

Now that, after a year, my time as a PBI Colombia volunteer has come to an end, I am left with a deep sense of gratitude and, at the same time, a very clear responsibility: understand

that this process is not a parenthesis but a watershed moment. My experience in Colombia was a time to reaffirm my convictions, learn about collective construction, connect with the countryside and face head-on the pain of a land that has been deeply wounded. It was also a time to reflect on the many wounds shared with my own country.

This journey broadened my perspective on the real impacts that solidarity and international presence have today. At the same time, it led me to question how these practices can continue to evolve to meet the current needs of organizations.

Being a volunteer with PBI Colombia was and will continue to be a deeply valuable experience, not in individual terms but collectively. My time with the project cannot be understood in isolation.

It is about recognizing that our presence goes beyond us, that we must continue to have people willing to stand in solidarity, that struggles must continue to grow, that international cooperation must keep its focus on this territory and that solidarity is built through the act of sharing, of looking at one another, of acknowledging our differences and then choosing to walk together.

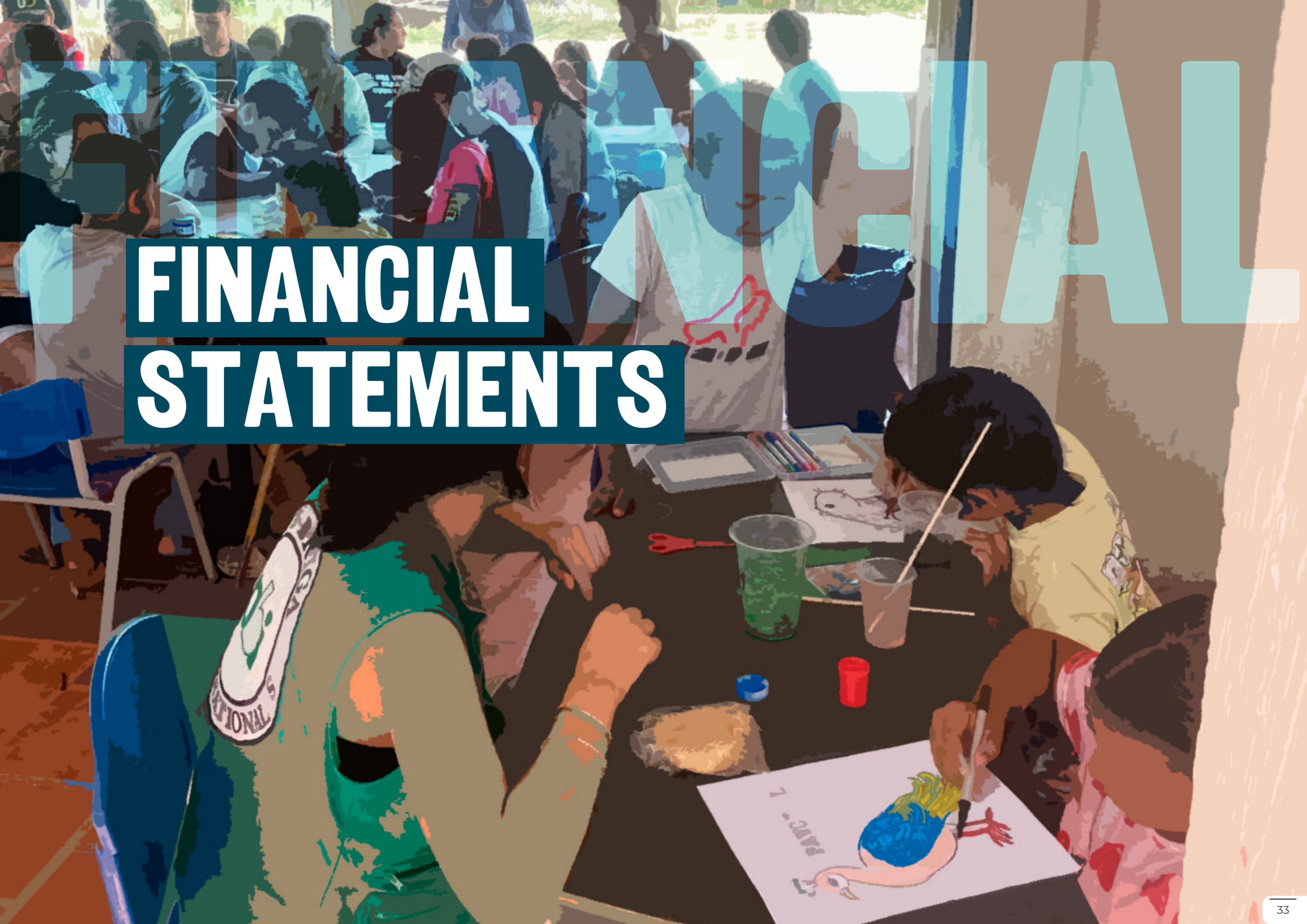




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*“CJL has adopted many protection measures learned from PBI that include alerts and monitoring measures during travel, traveling in pairs and ongoing dialogue with civil and military authorities at all levels, among others. We have also benefited from many workshops with PBI in recent years on digital security, advocacy, self-protection and collective self-care.”*

Comisión Jurídica Libertad (CJL)



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSET

#### CURRENT ASSETS

##### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash desks

Banks in Colombia

Foreign banks

Remittances in transit

Fixed-term deposits

31/12/2025

COP

31/12/2025

EUR

31/12/2025

USD

4.585.352

1.044

1.227

348.066.631

79.214

93.105

59.689.307

13.584

15.966

44.779.300

10.191

11.978

204.737.453

46.595

54.766

**661.858.043**

**150.627**

**177.042**

##### Trade Receivables and Other Accounts Receivable

To related companies

Other debtors

Donations receivable

Pending health insurance reimbursements

Advances and progress payments

Advances to volunteers

Employee advances

Accounts receivable from contractors

9.070.810

2.064

2.426

322.114.257

73.307

86.163

21.868.607

4.977

5.850

428.963

98

115

-

-

.

-

-

.

**353.482.637**

**80.446**

**94.554**

**1.015.430.680**

**231.073**

**271.595**

#### TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

#### OTHER ASSETS

Financial income receivable

6.181.766

1.407

1.654

**6.181.766**

**1.407**

**1.654**

#### TOTAL ASSETS

**1.021.522.446**

**232.480**

**273.249**

### LIABILITIES

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

##### Trade and other payables

To related companies

Accounts Payable PBI International Secretariat

200.961.607

45.735

53.756

Accrued costs and expenses			
Other accounts payable	74.624.888	16.983	19.962
	<b>275.586.494</b>	<b>62.719</b>	<b>73.717</b>
<b>Provisions for Employee and Volunteer Benefits</b>			
Local staff payroll	-	-	-
Social benefits	39.923.506	9.088	10.679
Provision for Volunteer Repatriation	39.152.029	8.910	10.473
	<b>79.075.535</b>	<b>17.996</b>	<b>21.152</b>
<b>Current Tax Liabilities</b>			
National taxes payable	3.754.300	854	1.004
Foreign taxes payable	728.330	166	195
	<b>4.482.630</b>	<b>1.020</b>	<b>1.199</b>
<b>Other Non-Financial Liabilities</b>			
Restricted funds to be executed	95.943.438	21.835	25.664
	<b>95.943.438</b>	<b>21.835</b>	<b>25.664</b>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>455.088.097</b>	<b>103.570</b>	<b>121.732</b>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Provisions for Contingencies</b>			
Provision for Emergency Situations	543.497.419	123.690	145.381
Funds received on behalf of third parties	22.936.930	5.220	6.135
Other reservations	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<b>566.434.349</b>	<b>128.910</b>	<b>151.517</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1.021.522.446</b>	<b>232.480</b>	<b>273.249</b>
<b>HERITAGE</b>			
Loss from prior years	-	-	-
Exchange rate variance – Prior year surpluses	-	-	-
Result for the period	-	-	-
Adjustments for changes in accounting policies	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>1.021.522.446</b>	<b>232.480</b>	<b>273.249</b>

## STATEMENT OF RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

	Enero a Diciembre 2025		
	COP	EUR	USD
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>			
Government funding	2.372.714.539	524.698	605.959
Foundation funding	240.303.069	53.329	62.325
Private donations	0	0	0
National groups contributions	300.977.976	68.508	80.522
Multilateral funding	130.147.488	28.800	33.698
Use of 2025 reserves	198.241.682	45.116	53.028
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>3.242.384.753</b>	<b>720.451</b>	<b>835.533</b>
<b>NON-OPERATING INCOME</b>			
Recoveries and discounts	1.177.863	258	267
Petty cash overages	576.705	126	131
Other income	212.880	47	48
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>1.967.448</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>446</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3.244.352.201</b>	<b>720.881</b>	<b>835.978</b>
<b>BILLS</b>			
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Compensation, Voluntary Benefits, and Personnel</b>			
Colombian personnel	431.228.596	94.346	97.695
Representatives in Europe	215.059.473	47.052	48.722
Volunteers in the field	508.563.563	111.266	115.215
Specialized support staff	405.071.410	88.623	91.769
	<b>1.559.223.042</b>	<b>341.286</b>	<b>353.402</b>
<b>Training and Capacity Building for Staff and Volunteers</b>			
Training workshops	4.597.642	1.006	1.042
Annual project retreat	14.156.334	3.097	3.207
Mental health support for volunteers	17.726.824	3.878	4.016
Ongoing training	27.463.595	6.009	6.222
	<b>63.944.395</b>	<b>13.990</b>	<b>14.487</b>

<b>Volunteer accommodation and meals</b>			
Houses/offices for rent	169.372.364	37.056	38.371
Public services	51.712.547	11.314	11.716
Home/office maintenance and security	28.660.498	6.270	6.493
Food	226.456.383	49.545	51.304
Household and Office Assets	10.119.227	2.214	2.293
	<b>486.321.019</b>	<b>106.399</b>	<b>110.176</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Office expenses (telephone, office maintenance, postage, etc.)	69.776.316	15.266	15.808
Financial expenses	0	0	0
Equipment purchase and maintenance	7.387.821	1.616	1.674
	<b>77.164.137</b>	<b>16.882</b>	<b>17.482</b>
<b>Physical, media and political accompaniment</b>			
Physical support: Materials, Transportation, and Per Diems	246.054.742	53.833	55.744
Media support: publications, website, and social media	26.788.541	5.861	6.069
Political support: advocacy and tours	169.453.781	37.074	38.390
Psychosocial support and training for defenders	146.070.675	31.958	33.092
	<b>588.367.739</b>	<b>128.725</b>	<b>133.295</b>
<b>Project-level governance</b>			
Institutional audit	26.000.000	5.688	5.890
Legal and other advisory service	92.990.078	20.345	21.067
Annual project assembly	5.760.564	1.260	1.305
Triennial external evaluation	44.000.000	9.626	9.968
cpc-cpf Project committee expenses	16.549.858	3.621	3.749
Contingency costs	0	0	0
	<b>185.300.500</b>	<b>40.541</b>	<b>41.980</b>
<b>PBI International Governance</b>			
Audit of PBI International accounts	2.660.546	582	603
Contribution to PBI national groups	17.280.480	3.781	3.915
PBI International Secretariat membership fee	204.397.911	44.719	46.307
	<b>224.338.937</b>	<b>49.082</b>	<b>50.824</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>3.185.359.769</b>	<b>696.905</b>	<b>721.646</b>

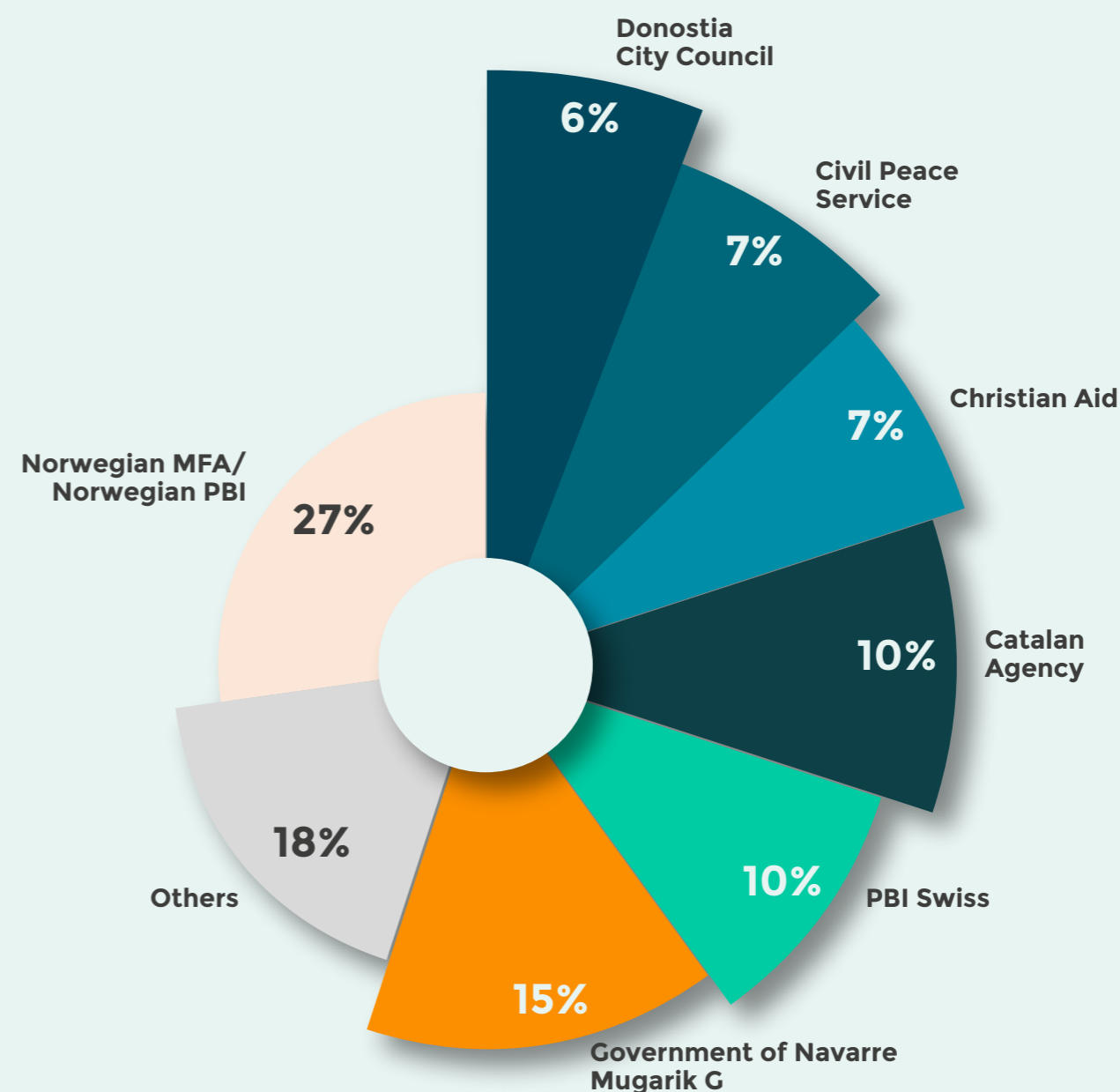
## NON-OPERATING EXPENSES

Extraordinary expenses	17.189.596	3.761	3.894
Exchange rate difference	41.802.836	9.146	9.470
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>58.992.432</b>	<b>12.907</b>	<b>13.365</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3.244.352.201</b>	<b>709.812</b>	<b>735.010</b>
<b>EXERCISE RESULT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The attached chart illustrates the distribution of funding by donor, covering one or more projects during the last financial year. As can be seen, 27% of the funds come from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whilst the remaining 63% is distributed amongst other donors who have contributed less than the amounts shown in the table. The data indicates that the main donors increased their contributions last year, reflecting confidence in and satisfaction with the implementation of the projects and their results.

Name	Total	%
Norwegian MFA/Norwegian PBI	873.041.999	27%
Others	590.482.615	18%
Government of Navarre - Mugarik G	478.579.050	15%
PBI Swiss GDP	340.487.198	10%
Catalan Agency	339.802.902	10%
Christian Aid	219.769.052	7%
Civil Peace Service	212.086.050	7%
Donostia City Council	190.103.335	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.244.352.201</b>	<b>100%</b>

On the other hand, contributions from smaller donors support specific projects that are sometimes aligned with the Organisation's institutional mission strategy. This argument is supported by the graph to visually highlight the diversification of funds and emphasises PBI's trustworthiness, implementation and management capacity.





 **Peace Brigades  
International**

**PBI Colombia**