



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Colombia's Untold Success Story





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Henrietta Fore USAID Administrator and Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance

“During my visit to Colombia August 5-6, I was able to witness the dramatic transformation Colombia has achieved with the help of United States assistance. It is clear to me from what I saw on my visit that what Colombia needs now is more trade and investment. The Free Trade Agreement between our two countries is the next step in Colombia's transformation and the best way to consolidate the gains Colombia has achieved.”





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Why Colombia is Important

- Our strongest ally in the region
- A country that is succeeding against armed groups designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations
- A government strongly committed to combating drug mafias
- The strongest economic reformer in Latin America with a dynamic, open economy
- A nation that needs our help to consolidate progress in overcoming years of armed conflict





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A Successful U.S. Foreign Policy Investment

- Real and tangible gains have been made in Colombia during the past 7 years
- The success has been achieved because of an excellent U.S. partnership with the Colombian Government and people – and a serious commitment of U.S. resources
- The United States should not lose the opportunity to consolidate – and extend – those gains now, at such a critical moment for Colombia (and indeed, for Latin America)





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An Example of USAID Support to Socio-Economic Recovery

- On my visit to Colombia in August I met Catty Campis
- Her father was kidnapped by FARC terrorists and held for 11 months
- Later she decided to help women displaced by the violence of such terrorist groups
- With USAID training and support, she opened a small jewelry business that sells the products these women produce



**Catty Campis with
Henrietta Fore**



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Plan Colombia Achievements

- Record economic growth and investment; poverty down almost 20% since 2002; unemployment at lowest level in decades
- 47,000 terrorists demobilized; FARC significantly weakened, as seen in July hostage rescue
- Since 2002, kidnappings down by 83%, terrorist attacks down 76%, homicides down 40%
- Law and order extended to most municipalities
- Since 2006, 535,000 acres of licit crops established, benefiting 245,000 families





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USAID's Role in Plan Colombia's Success

- USAID resources of \$130 million leveraged \$1 billion in Colombian resources in 2007
- USAID support to peace process, democratic governance, and strengthened rule of law
- USAID support to economic growth and poverty reduction
- USAID support for establishment of labor and human rights protections and strengthened environmental protection





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USAID Support to Expand Social and Economic Opportunities

- More than 150,000 jobs generated since 2005
- Expanded microfinance services, reaching more than 64,000 Afro-Colombians and 245,000 rural farmers
- More than 10,000 small and medium-scale enterprises strengthened
- 722,000 internally displaced persons or members of vulnerable groups with improved access to health care and 70,000 with access to education



USAID projects help generate employment for Internally Displaced Persons



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USAID Support to Improved Governance and Rule-of-Law

- USAID working in 699 municipalities in nearly all 32 departments in Colombia
- Improved local governance and increased public services in post-conflict and disadvantaged areas
- 47 Justice Houses providing access to justice established, handling 6.4 million cases
- 1,600 public defenders protecting rights of vulnerable populations



Ex-combatants participate in demobilization activities

USAID Support to Protection of Labor and Human Rights

- More than 51,000 people in the Human Rights Protection Program from 1999 to 2007, including over 11,000 labor union members
- 22 regional Early Warning System offices established and preventing human rights violations
- Reform of labor inspection system
- Reduction in child labor



A USAID program to remove children from labor force through education



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U.S. – Colombia Free Trade Agreement – An Opportunity to Create Lasting Success

- The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will consolidate and extend the progress that Colombia has made since 2001
- The FTA will level the playing field, providing U.S. exporters with better access to Colombian market
- Projected trade increases directly due to the FTA favor the United States:
 - U.S. exports to Colombia: \$1.1 billion (13.7 %)
 - Colombian exports to USA: \$487 million (5.5%)
- The FTA will attract both foreign and domestic investment with longer term horizons, adding to economic stability