

*Should travel to Anorí not be feasible for weather reasons, participants will visit productive projects in the Medellín area.*

## **Reintegration process in Medellín**

Medellín, Colombia's second-largest city and capital of the department of Antioquia, is home to 245 former combatants (167 men and 78 women), which represents one-fifth of the total population in the process of reintegration in Antioquia<sup>1</sup>. Most of them have come to the city motivated by family reunification and employment opportunities, while others have fled their homes in rural areas to protect their lives and those of their families after suffering attacks and life threats.

Although the city has a robust institutional offer and a strong civil society representation to advance the peace agenda, the final agreement has faced significant challenges, especially with regards to the urban dimension of the reintegration process, the centrality of the victims, and reconciliation. While the collective model is more common in TATR, individual reintegration prevails in the urban context. There are only two collective projects in Medellín, one motorcycle repair shop, which benefits 13 people, and a second one with 31 people focusing on tourism, which is in its first phase of implementation. There are also efforts to develop reparation projects jointly with victims' organizations as part of the commitment to the transitional justice system.

Despite the challenges, in 2018 the "Reintegration House" was inaugurated with the support of the Government of Antioquia, which provided a physical space under a gratuitous bailment. This house has hosted hundreds of activities related to the implementation of the peace agreement as well as XB projects that have had a positive impact on the peace agenda, such as the Women's Market "Building Peace" and the community project "Weaving Bonds of Trust and Reconciliation". More recently, the house became the headquarters of the urban cooperative "COTEPAZ" and the Efraín Guzmán Federation, which represents 20 cooperatives from five departments in northwest Colombia.

### **XB Project - Women's Market "Building Peace"**

This project of 32 women was officially launched in December 2020 and its formulation process fostered alliances between UNDP, ARN, SENA, CNR-Comunes and the Mission. Despite the difficulties of the pandemic, women worked hand in hand with the institutions to adapt the space and establish the market in the Reintegration House. This project not only allows women to enhance their participation in economic activities but also makes visible their contribution to peacebuilding, helping to reduce the stigmatization that former combatants face in the city. The project is a pioneer in linking productive initiatives of former combatants from all over the country by creating mutually supportive alliances for commercialization, one of the biggest challenges of reintegration projects. The managers of the market have promoted the positive results of the project with other stakeholders and were able to capture additional resources and capacity building activities. In association with the Efraín Guzmán Federation, the market continues to grow with the aim of achieving sustainability.

### **XB Community Project "Weaving bonds of trust and reconciliation"**

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<sup>1</sup> Agency for Reintegration and Normalization (ARN), May 2023.

This project began in July 2020 with the purpose of promoting reconciliation activities between former combatants, civil society, and the public-private sector and positioning the Reintegration House as a reference for peace and reconciliation in Medellín. After refurbishing the house and setting up meeting spaces, three lines of work were established: 1) peace education through the arts; 2) strengthening of the women, gender and diversity committee; and 3) technical assistance to income generating projects. Among the organizations involved in the development of this project are ARN, the Mayor's Office of Medellín, the University of Antioquia, Ruta N, UNDP, COTEPAZ, the communities of Comuna 3 and 6, Corporación Mujeres que Crean and UNVMC, among others.

### **Efrain Guzman Federation**

Since the signing of the Peace Agreement, a large number of former combatants, men and women, located both in urban and rural settings, have been consolidating themselves into non-profit Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). In the case of the northwest region of the country, comprising the departments of Antioquia, Córdoba, Chocó, Risaralda and Caldas, 20 CSOs have been established. These are composed of signatories to the peace agreement and host communities, including victims of the conflict. Despite the many challenges of the reintegration process, these 20 CSOs have made joint efforts to strengthen their own capacity and have formed a Federation, which is a higher level of organization that allows the integration to the unions at the national level and the fulfillment of the universal values and principles of cooperativism with the aim of promoting the comprehensive implementation of the peace agreement. In 2022, the Embassy of France launched a call for proposals to fund projects aimed at promoting community reintegration. The proposal submitted by the Federation was selected for implementation, and they received 100.000 Euros to develop activities to strengthen reintegration. After successful implementation, the Federation has managed to mobilize more resources with other stakeholders and international cooperation, making the Federation a best practice case at national level in terms of self-management and collective work. The UNVMC has also promoted, together with partners from the academic sector, the creation of a certificate in digital marketing to support the commercialization of their products.

### **Comuna 3**

The urban area of Medellín is divided in six zones, which in turn are divided in 16 communes (Comunas in Spanish). The development of Comuna 3, located in the northeast zone of the city, was shaped by a long process of displacement and migration, mainly due to the conflict in the Uraba Region. As one of the areas with the highest number of victims in Medellín, Comuna 3 is a priority in terms of restoration due to the victimizing actions against the community in which the extinct FARC-EP, among other actors, participated. Currently, within the framework of the agreement signed between the Municipality of Medellín and the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), former combatants have presented a project for the restoration of the victims through the construction of a cultural house. The project aims to repair the social fabric through a pedagogical and reconciliation process, cultural events, and memory reconstruction. Former combatants work with victims to ensure their rights to truth, justice, reparation, and non-repetition, as stipulated by the peace agreement. While still in its early stages, a technical working group, integrated by community members, former combatants, government institutions and UNVMC meets periodically to further the initiative and make it feasible despite the challenges.

**XB Project - Women's Market "Building Peace"**





Ledys Restrepo, en proceso de reincorporación, presenta al Jefe de la Misión de Verificación de Naciones Unidas en Colombia, los productos de Confecciones la Montaña que se venden en el Mercado de Mujeres Construyendo Paz.



XB Community Project "Weaving bonds of trust and reconciliation"



ENCUENTRO LIDERES COMUNA 16:  
Septiembre 1 de 2021



Taller de Diagnostico con la Comunidad - Comuna 03



Marzo 24 de 2021

# Taller # 1: Sexo y género, construcción social y vivencia, relaciones de poder, lo masculino y lo femenino.



Junio 08 de 2021

# Taller #5: Genero y Paz

de Naciones Unidas en Colombia **Aldia de Medellín**



Octubre 06 de 2021  
Sede Comunal La Honda



## INAUGURACIÓN ALUDICA INFANTIL

Julio 24 de 2021



## PROYECTO: MERCADO DE MUJERES



Ubicación: Casa de Reincorporación  
Calle 30 a # 78 a 11



## PROYECTO: MOTO RALLY



Efrain Guzman Federation



#MarketingParaLaPaz



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INSTITUCIÓN UNIVERSITARIA DIGITAL DE ANTIOQUIA



