

Protecting Land. Defending Life.





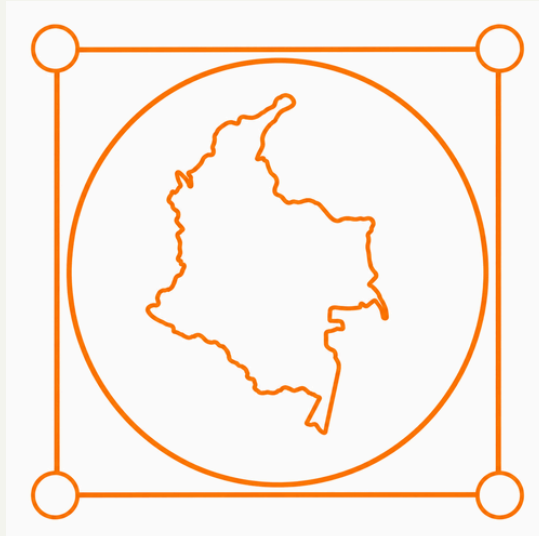
Message from the Team

The first months of 2026 in Colombia have been marked by rising uncertainty. International political pressures, framed through migration, drug policy, and security concerns, continue to shape the region in ways that directly affect local communities. At the same time, a pivotal electoral season is underway, one that will determine whether the country moves forward with a progressive agenda or shifts toward more hardline governance.

Beyond the political landscape, the reality on the ground remains urgent. Across diverse territories, communities are facing a deepening humanitarian crisis. Armed actors continue to threaten the autonomy of environmental defenders, while social and environmental instability intensifies.

In this context, our work is not theoretical. It is essential. During the first three months of 2026, your support has helped us stand alongside environmental and human rights defenders, strengthening their ability to protect their land, their communities, and their future.

What follows is a closer look at what that support has made possible, and why it matters now more than ever. As always, thank you for standing with Colombia.



Our work by region.

During the first three months of 2026, our accompaniment team visited three main regions to provide protective, in-person accompaniment to communities at risk. These field visits were reinforced by strategic political advocacy meetings in Bogotá, helping to elevate local concerns and strengthen protection mechanisms at the national level.

ANTIOQUIA

In Antioquia, our accompaniment supported interethnic and small farming communities in Blanquita-Murrí (Frontino), including the Agroecology School for Youth. In a region affected by armed actor presence, our work strengthens organizational processes, youth leadership, and protection through physical presence and advocacy.

HUILA

In southern Huila (Palestina), our accompaniment focused on the La Esperanza Biodiversity Zone and the House of Memory, community spaces for environmental peacebuilding and collective memory. In a context marked by organized crime and recent violence, our presence strengthens protection and visibility for local leaders.

PACIFIC

In the Pacific region, accompaniment focused on Afro-Colombian and Indigenous processes around Buenaventura and Valle del Cauca. In a context of ongoing violence and human rights risks, we supported community protection, advocacy spaces, and monitoring efforts tied to territorial rights and peacebuilding.



Frontino, Antioquia.

Blanquita-Murri, Frontino.

During the first quarter of 2026, two accompaniment visits (February and March) were carried out to support the Agroecological School led by Conpazcol in partnership with the Semillas de Agua Foundation. This initiative works with 50 young people from the interethnic and farming community of La Blanquita Murri, in Frontino, Antioquia. The process is a three-year program and is currently entering its second year of implementation.

This phase focused on supporting youth-led initiatives in agroecological production, community-based research, and territorial recognition, as designed by participants in the School. The visits also focused on community engagement with local authorities to strengthen respect for the organizational process and the protection of life and territory. The visits further support collective reflection and analysis of local, national, and international contexts affecting the community and its long-term territorial strategies.

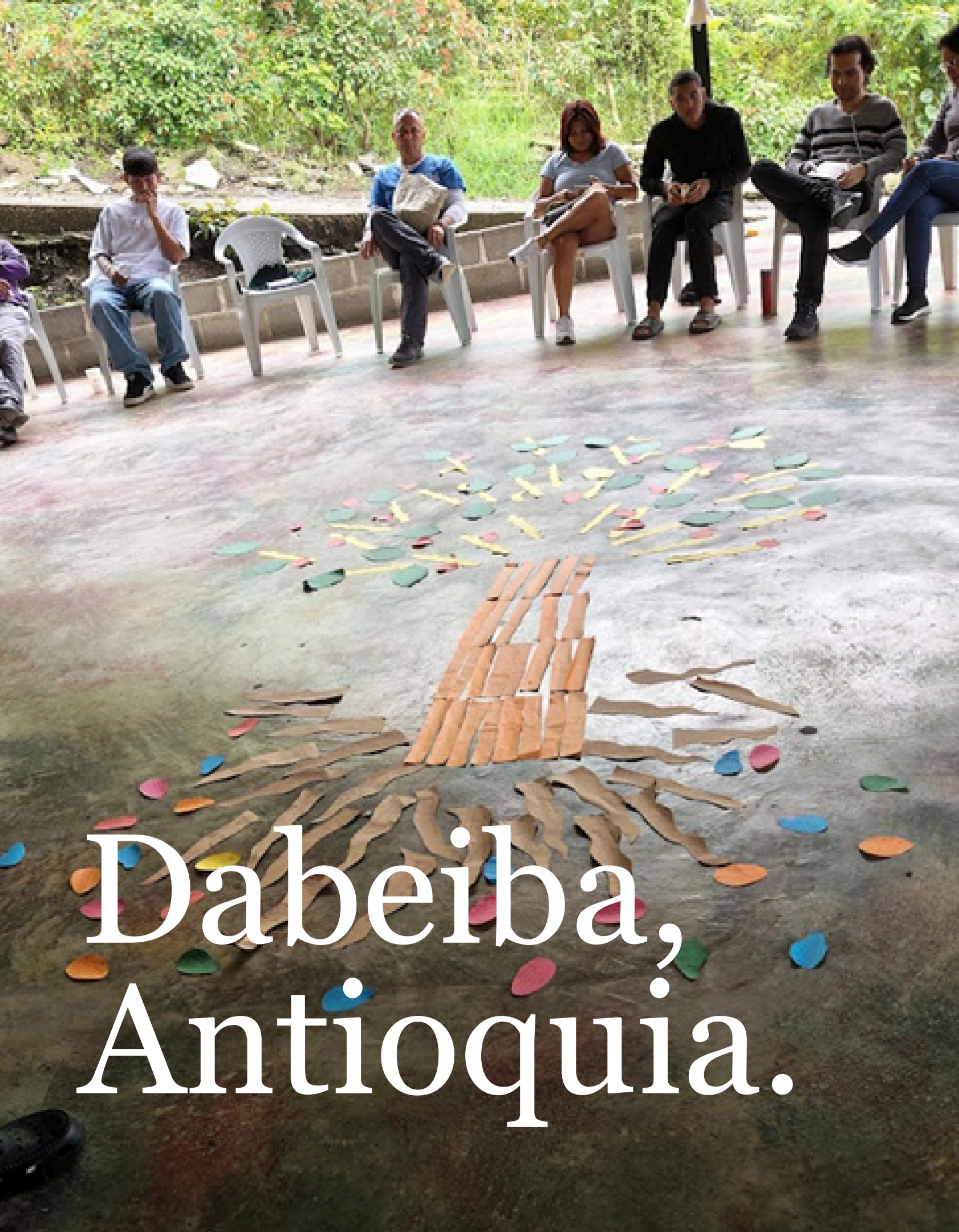
Mutatá.

In the rural community of Vereda San José de León, located in the municipality of Mutatá, FORPP accompanied Conpazcol in its efforts to strengthen peacebuilding processes, collective memory, and community organization. A key focus of this work is establishing the “Casa Remanso de Paz,” the House of Tranquil Peace, a space dedicated to remembrance, dialogue, and peaceful coexistence, which aims to serve as both a site of memory and a hub for fostering resilience and strengthening social ties.

The Mutatá community has been deeply affected by the killing of Erasmo Monsalve, an elderly community member who was killed in his home by state forces targeting the non-state armed group EGC (Ejército Gaitanista de Colombia). This incident underscored ongoing concerns regarding the protection of civilians in conflict-affected areas. Through this accompaniment, efforts continue to focus on documenting the case, advocating for accountability, and supporting community-led processes that seek to clarify what happened, ensure access to justice, and prevent similar events in the future, contributing to a broader commitment to peacebuilding grounded in dignity, memory, and the defense of human rights.



Mutatá, Antioquia.



Dabeiba, Antioquia.

Dabeiba.

In the month of January, FORPP accompanied the Phanor Semilla School, held in the Humanitarian Zone of La Balsita in Dabeiba, Antioquia. The school brings together young participants from diverse regions including Putumayo, Huila, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Antioquia, and Atlántico and serves as a formative space aimed at strengthening youth leadership in issues related to territory and land, human rights, and grassroots peacebuilding. Throughout the program, participants engaged in collective learning processes that emphasized knowledge exchange, historical memory, territorial analysis, and political education, fostering critical thinking and deeper connections between community-based initiatives. The Phanor Semilla School also creates space for reflection on collective care and cultural identity rooted in territory, while equipping participants with practical tools to support community organizing and advocacy efforts. The Phanor Semilla School is not only an agroecology school. Through environmental workshops and collective gardening, youth foster diverse connections across cultural divides in a region where interethnic cooperation is limited, despite shared common challenges and a commitment to advancing social transformation from within their communities.

A photograph showing two women in blue shirts sitting at a table, focused on a large map or document spread out before them. They appear to be in a collaborative meeting or workshop. The woman on the left is looking down at the map, while the woman on the right is pointing at a specific area. There are various items on the table, including pens, markers, and other documents. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what looks like a meeting room setting.

Pacific.

Cabildo of Valledupar, Wounaan Nonam.

The Indigenous community of the Wounaan Nonam has been undergoing a prolonged and complex relocation process, marked by multiple forced displacements from their ancestral territories, significantly impacting their stability and cultural continuity. Throughout this process, CONPAZCOL has played a key role in supporting the community, advocating for their rights, and ensuring that their perspectives are represented in decision-making spaces. During the first quarter of this year, FOR Peace Presence (FORPP) accompanied CONPAZCOL in two meetings with the Wounaan Nonam community—one in Buenaventura and another in the municipality of Trujillo, Valle del Cauca—held within the framework of Return and Relocation subcommittees. These spaces brought together institutional and community actors to review progress, address challenges, and coordinate next steps. Through this accompaniment, FORPP contributed to strengthening dialogue and supporting a rights-based approach to the relocation process.

Buenaventura.

In parallel, FORPP has continued to play an active accompaniment role in key civil society and institutional spaces focused on human rights, access to justice, and territorial protection. This has included supporting the Civic Strike movement's roundtable on access to justice, victims, protection, and memory, which remains central to monitoring and verifying the implementation of the 2017 Civic Strike Agreement, while ensuring that the voices and demands of affected communities continue to be elevated and addressed. FORPP also accompanied Conpazcol in its participation in the Buenaventura Peace Roundtable, a civil society platform that systematically follows and issues public reports on the human rights and ethno-territorial situation in the Pacific region, raises visibility, accountability, and supports advocacy efforts. In addition, FORPP accompanied meetings with the Ombudsman's Office (Defensoría del Pueblo) in Buenaventura, helping to create space for dialogue on current dynamics impacting both rural and urban communities, including protection concerns and humanitarian conditions.



Buenaventura.

A man in a dark shirt and cap stands at a podium, speaking into a microphone. He is addressing a group of people seated in white plastic chairs outdoors. In the background, several people are standing and talking near a white SUV. The setting appears to be a community meeting or a public event in a rural area with hills visible in the distance.

Human Rights Challenges

KILLING OF AFRO-COLOMBIAN LEADER

Afro-Colombian leader Luis Carlos Vallejo was illegally detained, forcibly disappeared, and later found murdered after being held by a non-state armed group, highlighting extreme risks faced by territorial leaders.

INTERFERENCE IN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

An armed group forcibly blocked the autonomous assembly of the Río Naya Community Council, threatening leaders and preventing their democratic participation, violating Afro-Colombian self-governance & autonomy.

ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN HUILA

Organized crime violence in southern Huila has resulted in at least 13 killings between August 2025 and April 2026, reflecting worsening insecurity and threats to communities.

PEACEBUILDING AMID VIOLENCE

Despite ongoing violence, Colombian communities continue reconciliation efforts, including collective environmental actions that strengthen territorial ties and promote grassroots peacebuilding and long-term sustainable resilience.

What's Next

In 2026, our focus will be on providing continued support to our partners in Colombia. This includes accompanying the Phanor Semilla School, which aims to reach new communities and emerging youth-led initiatives. It also includes ongoing accompaniment of communities in Buenaventura and Blanquita Murri, strengthening long-term community processes and reinforcing local capacities for organization, resilience, and peacebuilding. At the same time, we will continue to support efforts to further connect these territories through shared learning spaces, amplify youth leadership, and support sustainable, community-driven projects that respond to evolving needs on the ground. None of this would be possible without our supporters, allies, and a community committed to the ideals of nonviolence and peace.

Thank you for making this project possible.

