



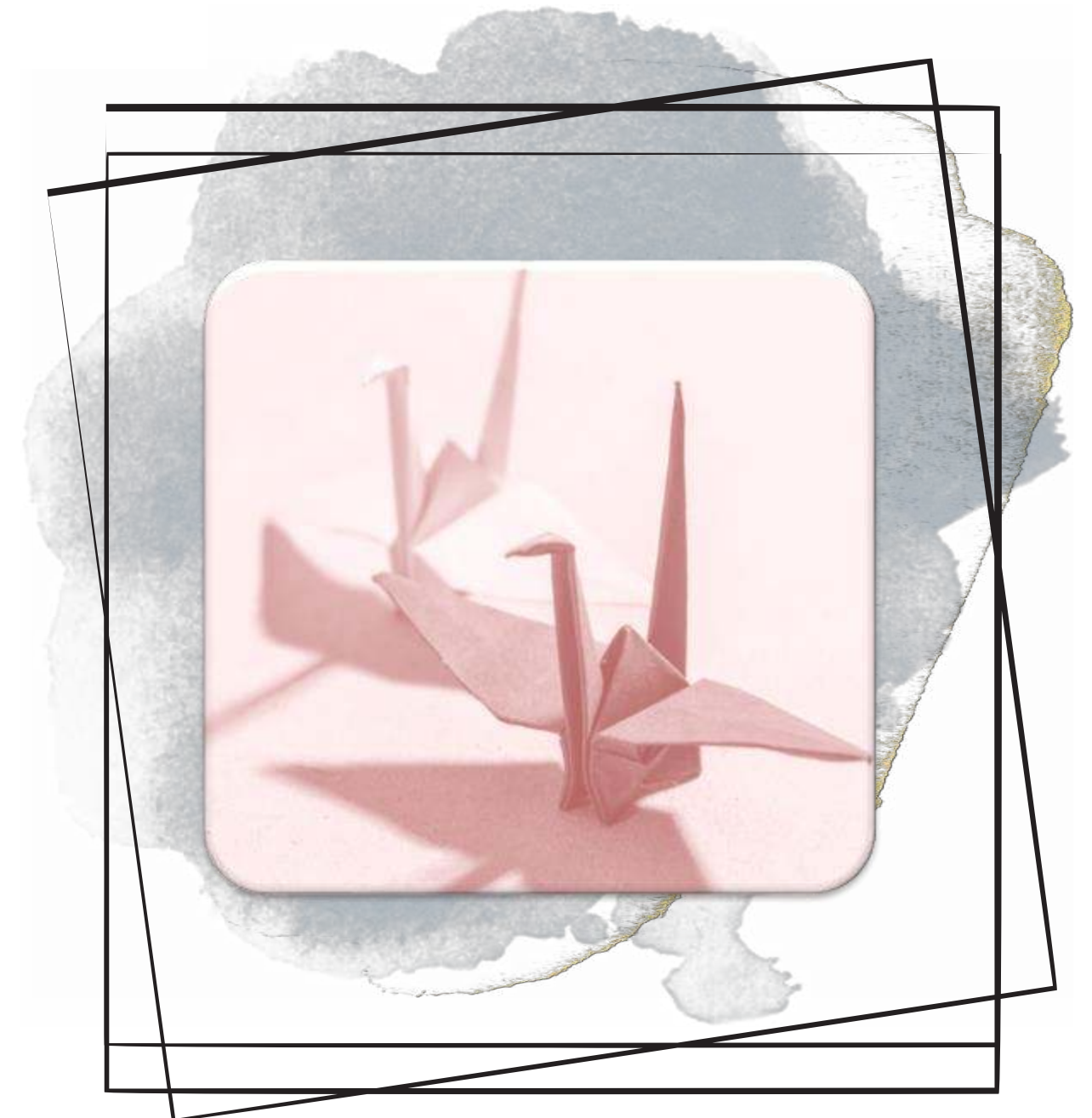
Building Bridges for Tomorrow!

March 4, 2025

Martha Inés Romero

Secretary General

m.romero@paxchristi.net



Pax Christi International Leadership 2023-2025



Our International Secretariat Team

A Multi-cultural group based in Brussels,
Spain, USA and Colombia

What the International Office for Pax Christi does?

*Empowering
Communities*



*Strengthening the
Catholic Church &
Church, People of God*



*Impacting
Public Policies*

**1. Disarmament &
Integral Human
Security**

**2. Just Peace in
the Holy Land**

**3. Impact of
Extractives in Latin
America & Caribbean**

Our role: Prophetic and Pragmatic

- Reads and interprets the signs of the times – Act in Solidarity, Compassion
- Advocates for those at the peripheries – speaking out, standing with and for them –Diplomacy for Peace and Justice –Global & Local
- Spreading signs of hope amongst our constituencies – Sense of Humanity in a Multi-cultural peace movement
- Being bridges and peace builders – embracing the just peace ethics from a North-South horizontal relations amongst our Members





Our Areas of Intervention

Communications

Fundraising

Digital Advocacy

Memberships



Advocacy Work: Impacting in Public Policies



United Nations New York

- Mary Yelenick
- Abigail Abysalh-Metzger
- Doug Hostetter
- Elizabeth Begley
- Joseph Cornelius Donnelly
- Marie Dennis
- Moses Osiro
- Sophie Jay



United Nations Geneva

- Jonathan Frerichs
- Mattia Tosato



United Nations Vienna

- Elisabeth Jungmeier
- Mag. Helga Tiffinger



UNESCO Paris

- Ghislain Le Ray
- Bérengère Savelieff
- Michel Kahla

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Council of Europe - Strasbourg

- Alfonso Zardi



Coordination - International Secretariat Brussels

- Martha Inés Romero,
Secretary General
- Giulia Bordin,
Advocacy Officer





Representation, Networking & Partnership





Our PCI Peace Award 2023 – The Parents Circle Families Forum

Rome, Sept. 2024



We are members of the following coalitions and networks:

European
Peacebuilding
Liaison Office
(EPLO),
Brussels

European
Network
for Central
Africa (EurAc),
Brussels

EU – LAC NGOs
Working Group,
Brussels

European
Youth
Forum

Platform for
International
Cooperation on
Undocumented
Migrants -
PICUM

Conference
of INGOs of
the Council
of Europe,
Strasbourg

Forum of
Catholic
inspired NGOs,
Strasbourg and
Brussels

NGO Security
Council
Working Group,
New York

NGO Mining
Working Group,
New York and
Washington DC

Religious at the
United Nations,
New York

DC Catholic
Coalition,
Washington

NGO Working
Group on Israel
and Palestine,
New York

Alliance for
Peacebuilding,
Washington DC

International
Peace Bureau
(IPB), Geneva

PIEF Core
Group World
Council of
Churches,
Geneva

Stop Killer
Robots
Campaign,
Geneva

Plataforma Paz,
Democracia
y Derechos
Humanos, Latin
America &
Caribbean

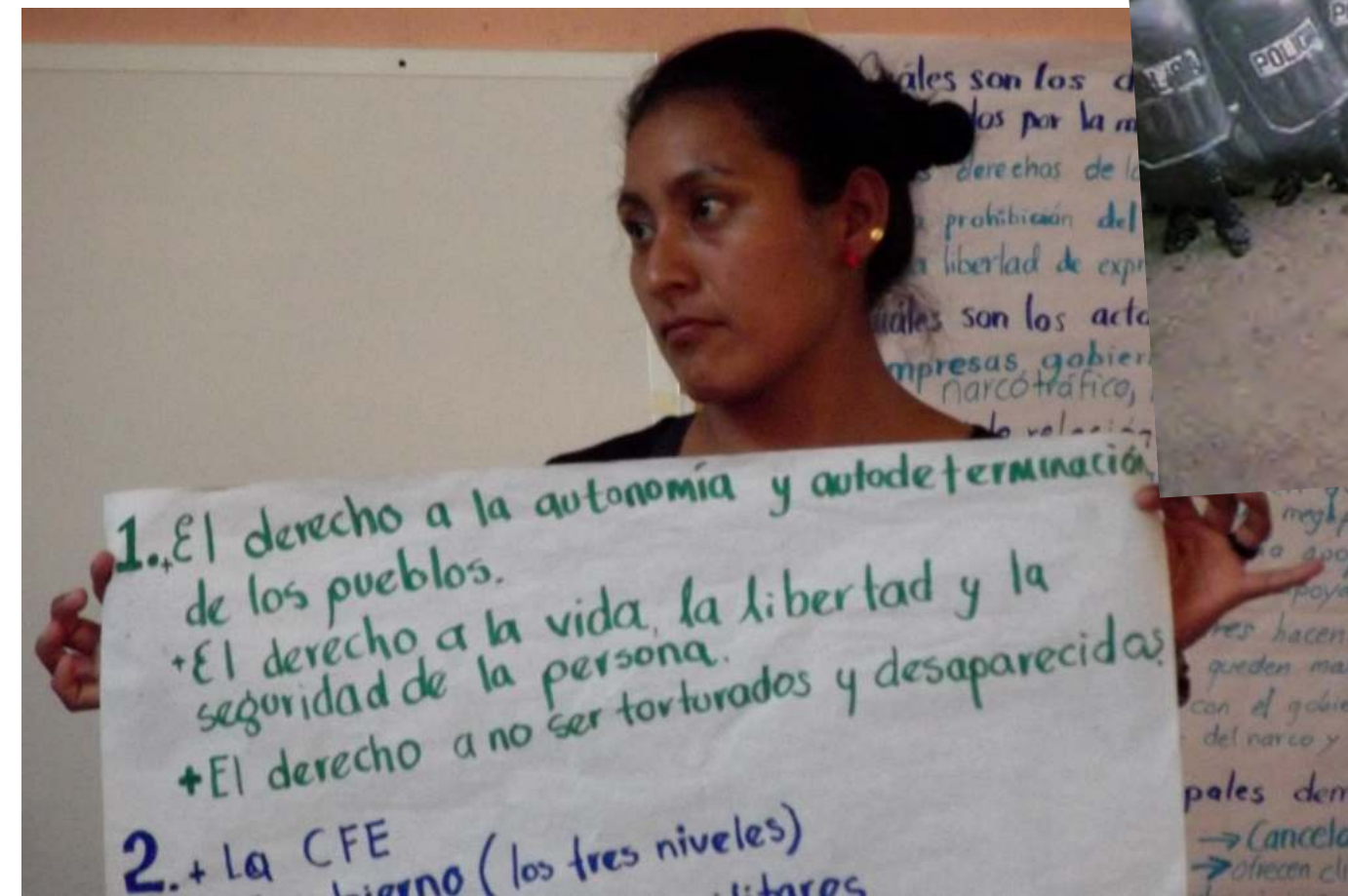
Comisión
de Ecología
Integral de
América Latina
y el Caribe,
CEILAC

Red Iglesias
y Minería,
América Latina
y Caribe

The Civil Society
Organisations'
Business &
Human Rights
Table, Latin
America &
Caribbean

Alliance for
Disarmament
with Social
Justice, Latin
America and
the Caribbean

The Local / Global Nexus: strengthening capacities from a community-based projects and global advocacy impact



Comunidad de La Puya, Guatemala.





Our Theory of Change in Africa:

“By training religious sister congregations on skills and methods of active nonviolence and peacebuilding, nonviolent communication, forgiveness, and trauma healing, women and girls affected by violence will encounter better accompaniment and recovery. Religious Sisters find a way of healing traumas and strengthening and improving their capacities to care and heal communities.”



Our Theory of Change in Latin America & Caribbean

Meeting of Communities in Resistance to Extractive Industries

Held from August 24 to 28, 2023 in Panama City, Panama. Organizations from all the countries referenced in the project **“Latin America: Between Violence and Hope”** participated: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Peru, Chile and Paraguay, in addition to the participation of allied organizations from the United States, Brazil, Panama and Ecuador. [Watch this video.](#)

Towards a **Culture of Nonviolence** and **Advocacy**, as Instruments for Strengthening Community Capacities in **Defense of the Territory**, using Participatory Methodologies for **Social Transformation**.



Theory of Change: Transformative Grassroots-based effect







80 Years for Peace: Building Bridges for Tomorrow

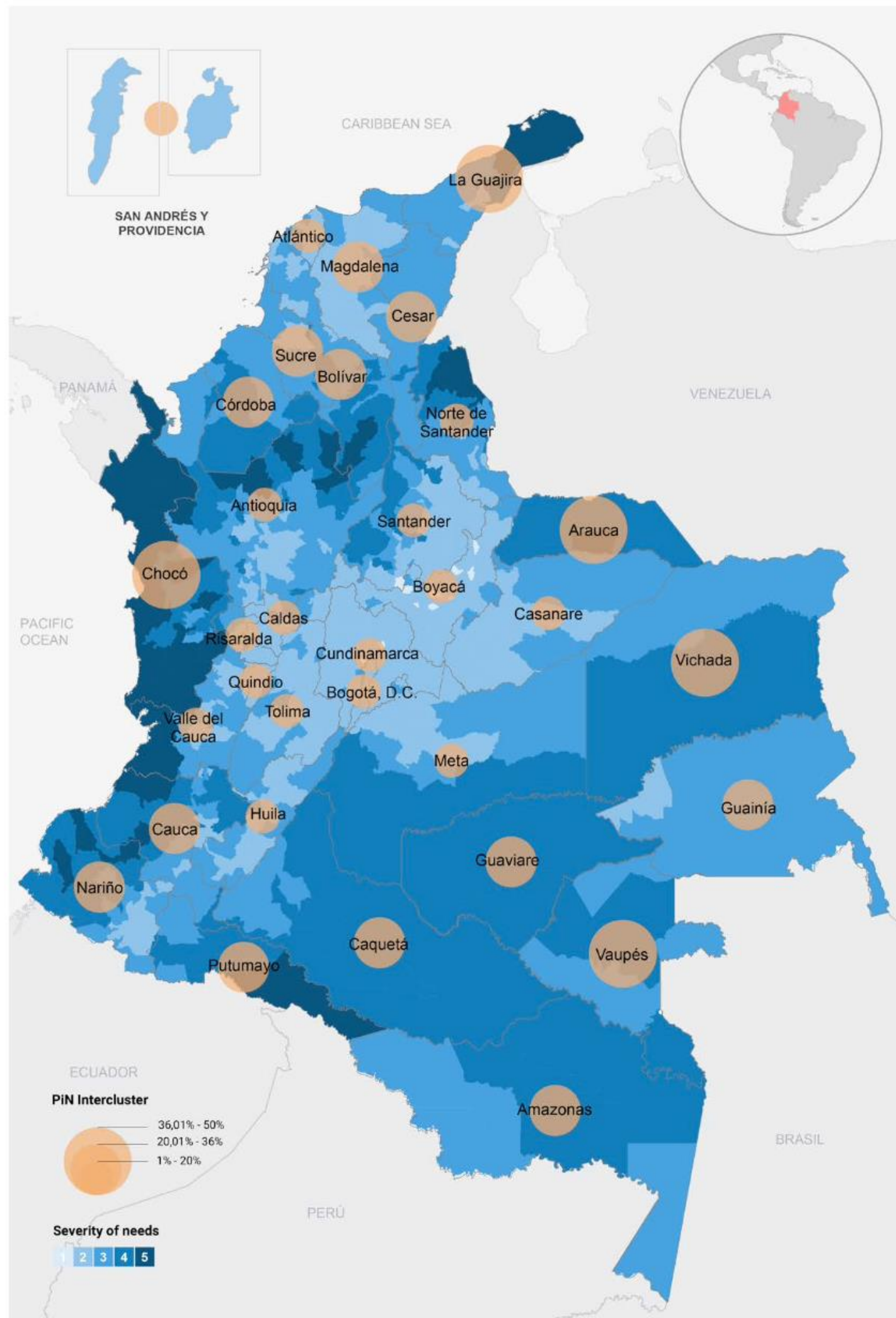
Celebrating Pax Christi International's Legacy

Objectives

- **Commemorate Pax Christi's Rich History:** Highlight significant milestones and achievements of Pax Christi through the decades.
- **Reaffirm our Commitment:** Reinvigorate the global commitment to peace and justice, emphasizing the urgent need for nuclear disarmament, conflict resolution and climate justice.
- **Engage and Expand Our Community:** Strengthen connections with existing members and engage new audiences, especially youth, to ensure the continuity and relevance of our mission.

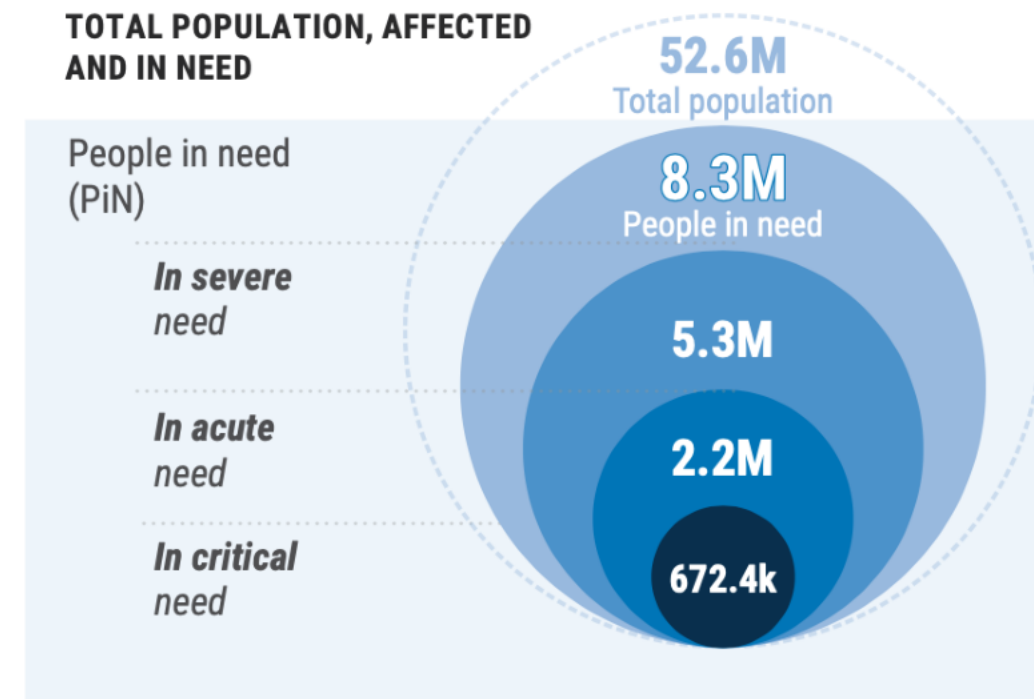


COLOMBIA, A COMPLEX AND CONFLICTIVE CONTEXT



PEOPLE IN NEED	POPULATION TARGET	RPCP FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD\$
8.3M	1.7M	332M

TOTAL POPULATION, AFFECTED AND IN NEED



PEOPLE IN NEED DISAGGREGATED DATA

Women 4.184.408	Men 4.122.720	Elderly 1.132.949
Girls 1.219.045	Boys 1.274.312	People with disabilities 243.838

COLOMBIA - Background

more than 60 years of political violence...

The illegal multi-actor dispute for social and armed control in urban and rural areas

Land dispossession and exclusion

Multiple forced displacements

Inequality - low development rates and higher levels of poverty

The rapid expansion of illicit crops

A traditionally weak institutional framework with high levels of corruption

The non-guarantee of the right to life

Lack of access to justice - impunity

Social mobilisations!

Extractive mega-projects: metal mining, agribusiness, dams...

Source: Comités por la Defensa del Agua y de la Vida del Tolima



**Peace Accord 2016
Implementation:
between Hope and
real Challenges**



Source: CINEP

TOTAL PEACE – PAZ TOTAL

- A very audacious initiative!
- Legal approval by Congress
- Includes political insurgency and illegal (narco-paramilitaries) groups
 - ELN process -negotiation
 - Other non-political illegal actors –submission to justice
 - Former FARC-EP Nueva Marquetalia...
- Peace as a State policy –again
- Opposition in the Delegation –Peace process with ELN
 - Social Service (+ military service)
 - Buenaventura –Pacific and other

The Total Peace

Challenges for civil society organization and social movements

- Economic crisis –global and with impacts on poverty
- Total Peace: good intentions towards those who take up arms are never enough...
- Other big reforms: health, pension and labor reforms
- Francia Márquez has lost prominence since elections
- Most of the structural proposals at the Congress level has not been approved
- Polarisation and mistrust
- Change takes more than a presidential term...



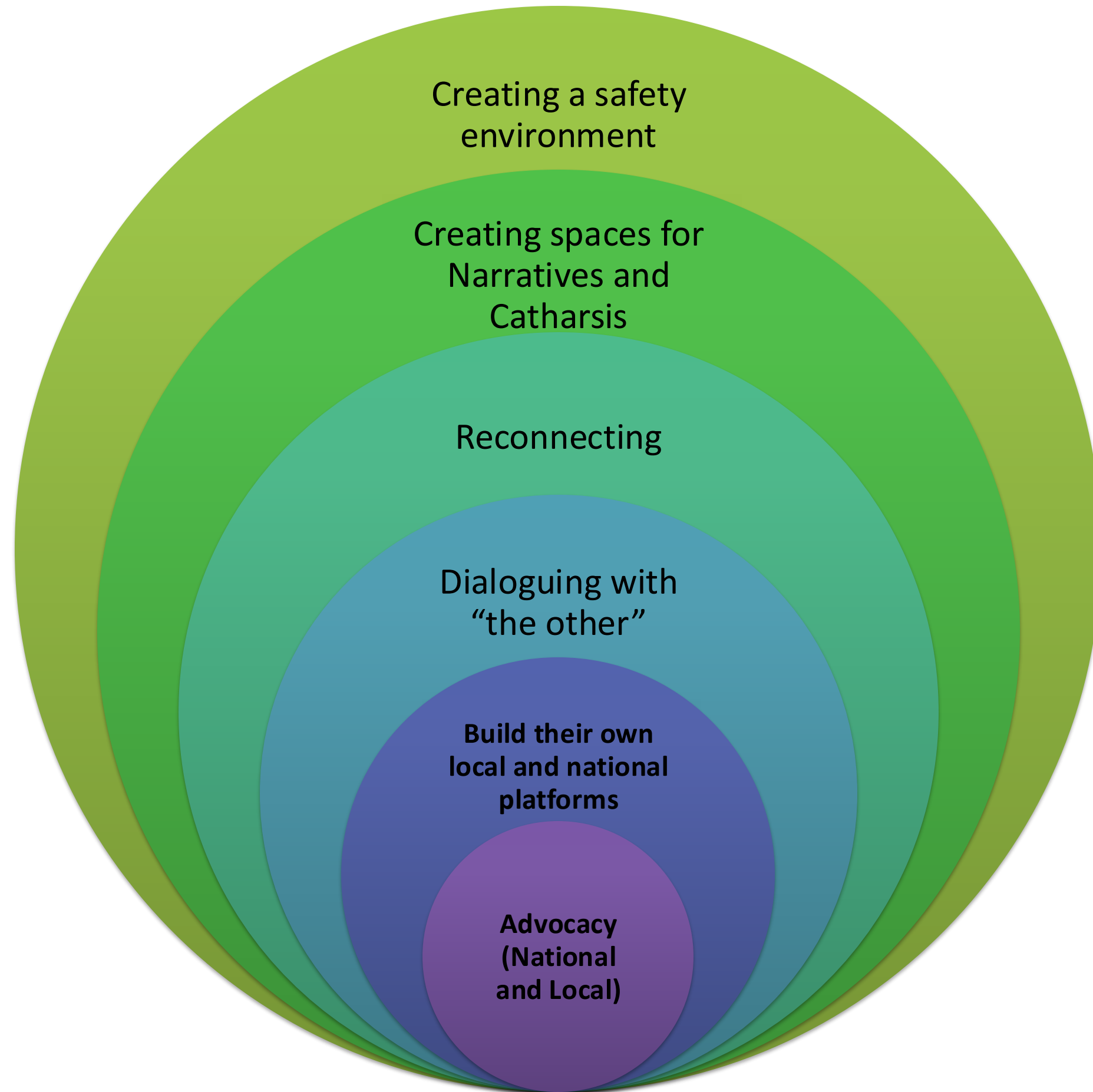
There is a conciliatory spirit, a search for consensus, a willingness to respect democratic rules and an intention to carry out major social, economic and political reforms.

It depends on Colombians –and others....

Time is running, 2026 will be elections and the the pendulum can move to the right...



Grassroots' Strategies – My experience



The power of the local communities

Life Projects

- Leadership-Gender based
 - Critical analysis
 - Design for change
- Solidarity and Cooperation
- Governance –land, water

Community Identity

Geography of
Ownership-Sense of
Belonging

Resilience and Resistance

- Reparation
- Trauma Healing
- Cultural Rituals
- Eco-Spirituality

Peacebuilding and Active Nonviolence

- Conflict Transformation + Social Cohesion
 - Dialogue & Capacity to Negotiate
 - Change processes
 - Organizational and advocacy skills
- Democratic participation at the local level



¡Gracias! Tapadh leat! Thank you!!

