

NHRF COLOMBIA ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Behind every
personal story,
a community that
defends human
rights



NORWEGIAN
HUMAN RIGHTS FUND

In times of setbacks, we reaffirm our commitment to local communities that defend human rights

2025 was a very difficult year for the defense of human rights in the world, and in Colombia. It was marked by a strong decrease in cooperation aimed at the defense of human rights, a new deterioration in respect for human rights and the international system that defends them, and an increase in authoritarianism around the world. The cooperation sector is undergoing a process of transformation, and Colombia has felt the impact of cuts by several countries in their support for peacebuilding efforts and the defense of human rights and territory.

Facing such a context, at the NHRF we see even more clearly the importance of continuing to act in solidarity with social and community processes that are on the front lines of the defense of human rights. In Colombia, these processes represent the strength and core of peacebuilding in the country, the protection of its people, and the ecological diversity of the territory.

In this scenario, continuing to strengthen solidarity-based funding for grassroots organizations and seeking flexible ways to support their own agendas to defend human rights—built from their deep knowledge of local needs—remains our priority.

Ingeborg Moa
Executive Director NHRF

Katrine Ringhus
Country Director NHRF Colombia

2025 at a glance

86 Projects implemented

76 Partner organizations supported

6 Strategic partners

60 Women-led organizations

16.004

people participated in the projects in **2025**

8.712

participants are women

6.217

are human rights defenders

4.210

are women human rights defenders



Capacity development

- 6** experience exchanges
- 4** organizations strengthened
- 4** organizations linked with national and international actors
- 5** training sessions

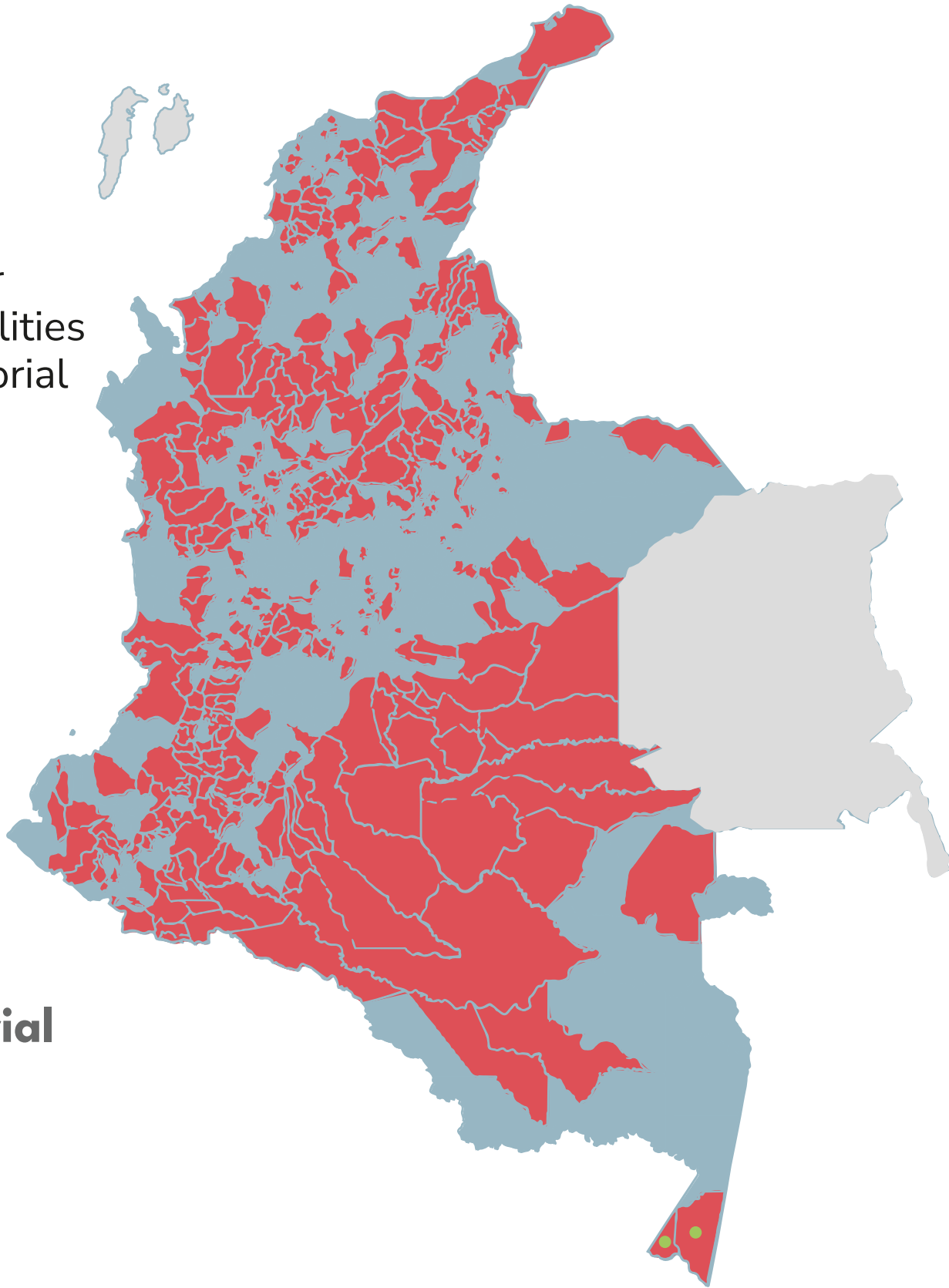
Sustainable Development Goals

The work of our partner organizations is mainly oriented toward three Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**):



Where we are

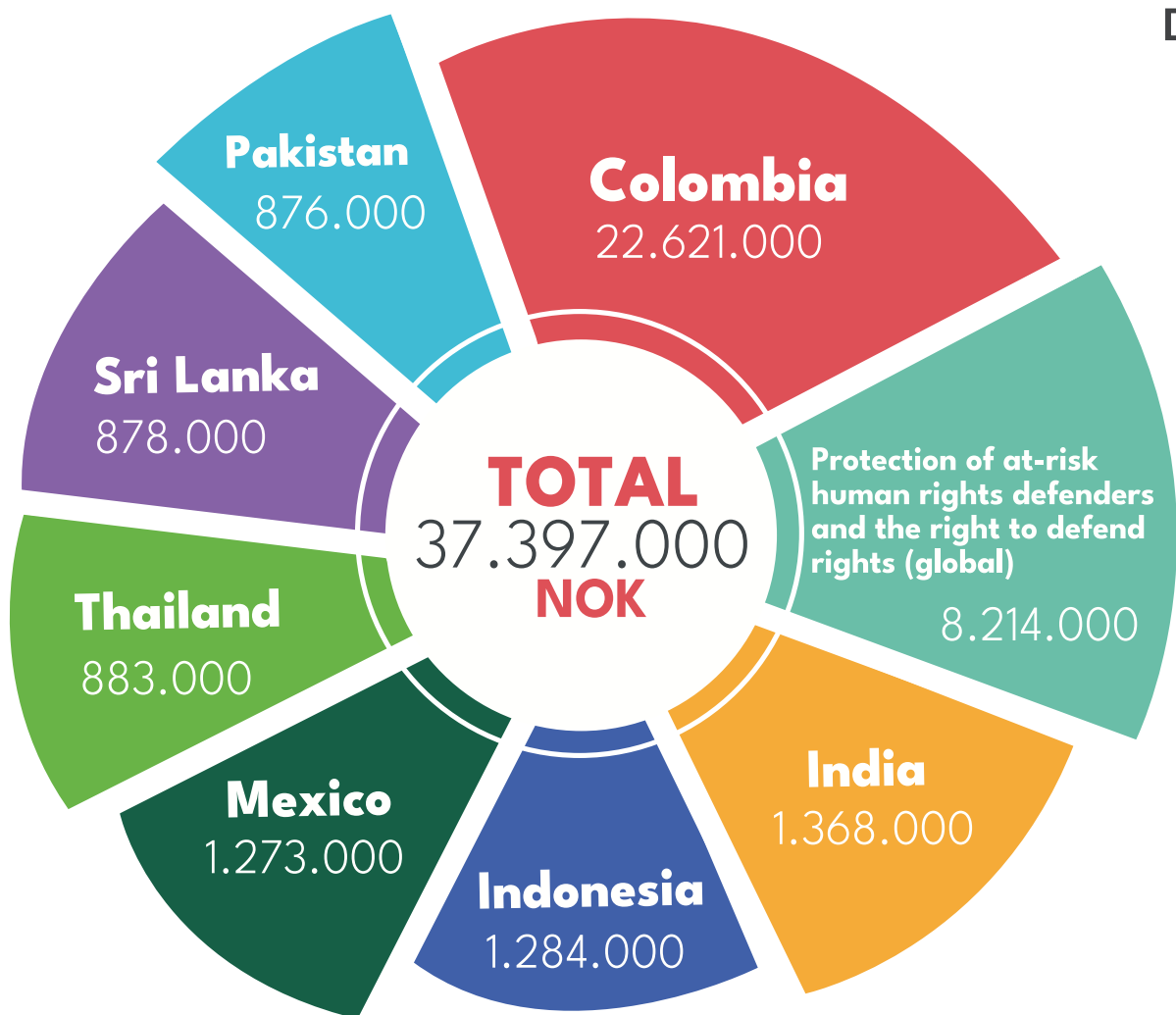
On this map, it is possible to observe the coverage and implementation of our partner organizations by departments and municipalities in Colombia, as well as by Indigenous territorial entities.



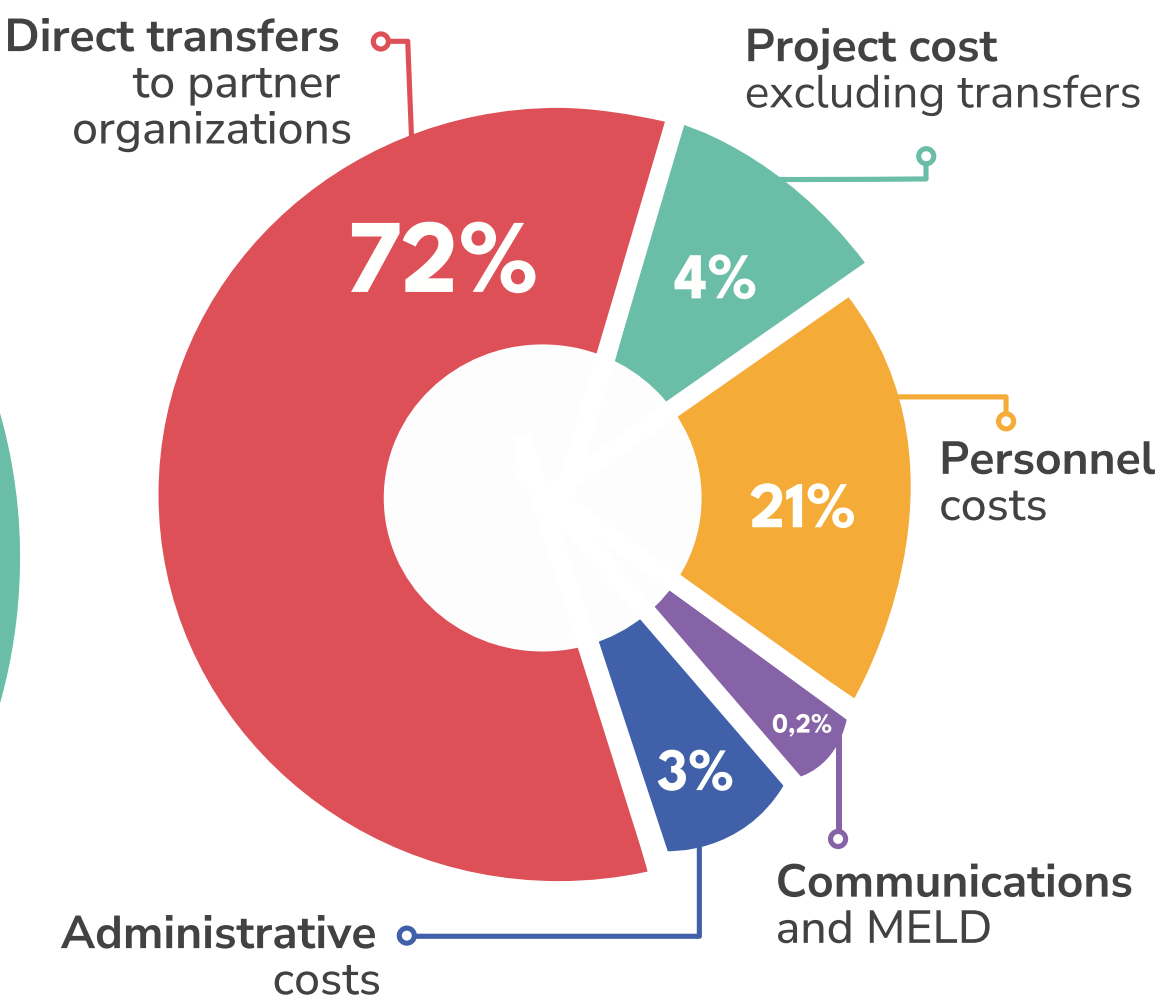
Accounts

NHRF thanks its member organizations of the Board of Directors and its donors—the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Colombia, and others—for their generous support in 2025.

Direct funding to partner organizations by country



Accounts and distribution in Colombia



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Eidani Lamadrid Montes

Is a woman who survived forced displacement from Carmen de Bolívar and a community leader of **Ciudad de las Mujeres**, a community-built neighbourhood in Turbaco, Bolívar. In her resettlement process, and through the recognition of her rights, she joined the **Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas** and, through association with the partner organization **Alianza Iniciativa de Mujeres por la Paz – IMP**, began a path of training, organization, and advocacy that has strengthened her leadership and that of hundreds of women in the territory. Eidani has been an active part of the construction of dignified housing, the promotion of a gender justice agenda, and the recognition of women as subjects of collective reparation. In the face of persistent contexts of violence, exclusion, and risk, the League of Displaced Women has consolidated support networks, community leadership, and collective protection mechanisms, demonstrating that women's organization is a strategy of resistance, development, and peacebuilding.

Alicia Parente

Grew up listening to her grandfathers and grandmothers tell stories of birds that protect, teach, and sow life in the territory. In her community, San Pedro de los Lagos or Marepü (the nest of the united bee), these songs accompanied her from childhood. Today, Alicia is an Indigenous leader that has helped consolidate the Aitcha initiative that observe, identify and monitor birdlife in her territory. **Aitcha** is part of the **Red Indígena Amazónica de Observadores de Aves**. Her life changed when she brought together the traditional knowledge of her Magüta people with scientific tools learned alongside our partner organization, the **Fundación Grupo PROA**. Her work is a generous gesture: sharing knowledge, building memory, and assuming a commitment to the conservation of the Colombian Amazon.



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Yisela Penagos

Began her journey with the **Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Sostenible Perla Amazónica - ADISPA** when she was just a child who danced in community performances. Without imagining it, those first steps led her to become a young peasant leader in the Peasant Reserve Zone Perla Amazónica. With the support of the **MEMPA** women's group, the **JURADIPA** youth collective, and ADISPA's peasant promoter program, Yisela discovered the power of her voice and strengthened her knowledge to accompany organizational processes and sustainable alternatives such as beekeeping, the transformation of local products, ecotourism, biodiversity monitoring, and the development of landscape management tools, through which 600 hectares of forest have been restored.



Janeth Murillo

Is a peasant woman associated with the **Asociación de Mujeres Campesinas Ambientalistas de la Cristalina del Lozada por sus Derechos -ASMUCACD**. However, this was not always the case. From a very young age, Janeth worked as a manicurist and, after getting to know ASMUCACD, she went from using her hands to paint nails to using them to grow a diversity of foods in the village of Caño Azul, in Colombia. This has not only resulted in a significant change in strengthening her community work, her food sovereignty, and her contribution to the family economy, but have also allowed Janeth and her family to integrate into the territory and to consolidate her role as a woman human rights and environmental defender who participates in the construction of sustainable alternatives for her community.



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María Socorro Abril

Has personally experienced the wounds of the armed conflict. When she had the option to leave Colombia after multiple threats, she chose to stay and found the **Asociación de Desplazados Asentados en el Municipio de Barrancabermeja – ASODESAMUBA**, because she knew that hundreds of displaced families, including her own, needed it. Our partner organization, the **Corporación para el Desarrollo del Oriente – Compromiso**, became an important support for Socorro and many other victims of the conflict in the Magdalena Medio region, as they learned about self-protection, how to claim their rights, and develop collective strategies to face risk. Thanks to this joint work, a community alert system now exists in this region, making it possible to prevent risks and activate peasant protection networks. This tool is now one of the greatest defenses against armed actors, mining expansion, and the violence that seeks to silence those who defend the territory.

Luis Alberto Pai

Counselor of the binational **Gran Familia Awá**, is an Indigenous leader who has devoted his life to the defense of the territory and community protection. This work has been shaped by a context of violence, generating fear in Luis and in his community to raise their voices in the face of systematic human rights violations. However, the support of the Awá Grand Family and our partner organization, the **Unidad Indígena del Pueblo Awá - UNIPA**, has transformed these fears into a driving force for the defense of human rights. Luis points out that the visibility of rights violations is increasingly greater, as is their capacity for response, thanks to the human rights observatory built by the community with the support of UNIPA. This initiative represents a major step forward in the defense of rights, environmental justice, and the struggle for territory.

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Luis Gabriel Ahué

For many years, Luis Gabriel Ahué, an Indigenous leader of the Ticuna people, worked in road construction far away from his community in Puerto Nariño. He spent months without seeing his children. Although he knew he did it out of necessity, he felt his life was moving away from the territory he loved. Everything changed when **Fundación OMACHA** invited him to support fauna rehabilitation and monitoring initiatives. Luis returned to the territory and, from that moment on, has led—together with Ticuna, Cocama, and Yagua families—a collective process of vegetation restoration in degraded fishing areas. The project is also guaranteeing food sovereignty and the construction of productive, economic, and territorial permanence alternatives. Today, his work is interwoven with his daily life: visiting communities, accompanying curacas (traditional Indigenous authority), guiding mingas (collective workday), planting alongside those who share his dream of conserving the Amazon rainforest, always returning home each afternoon to be with his family.

María Fernanda Payares

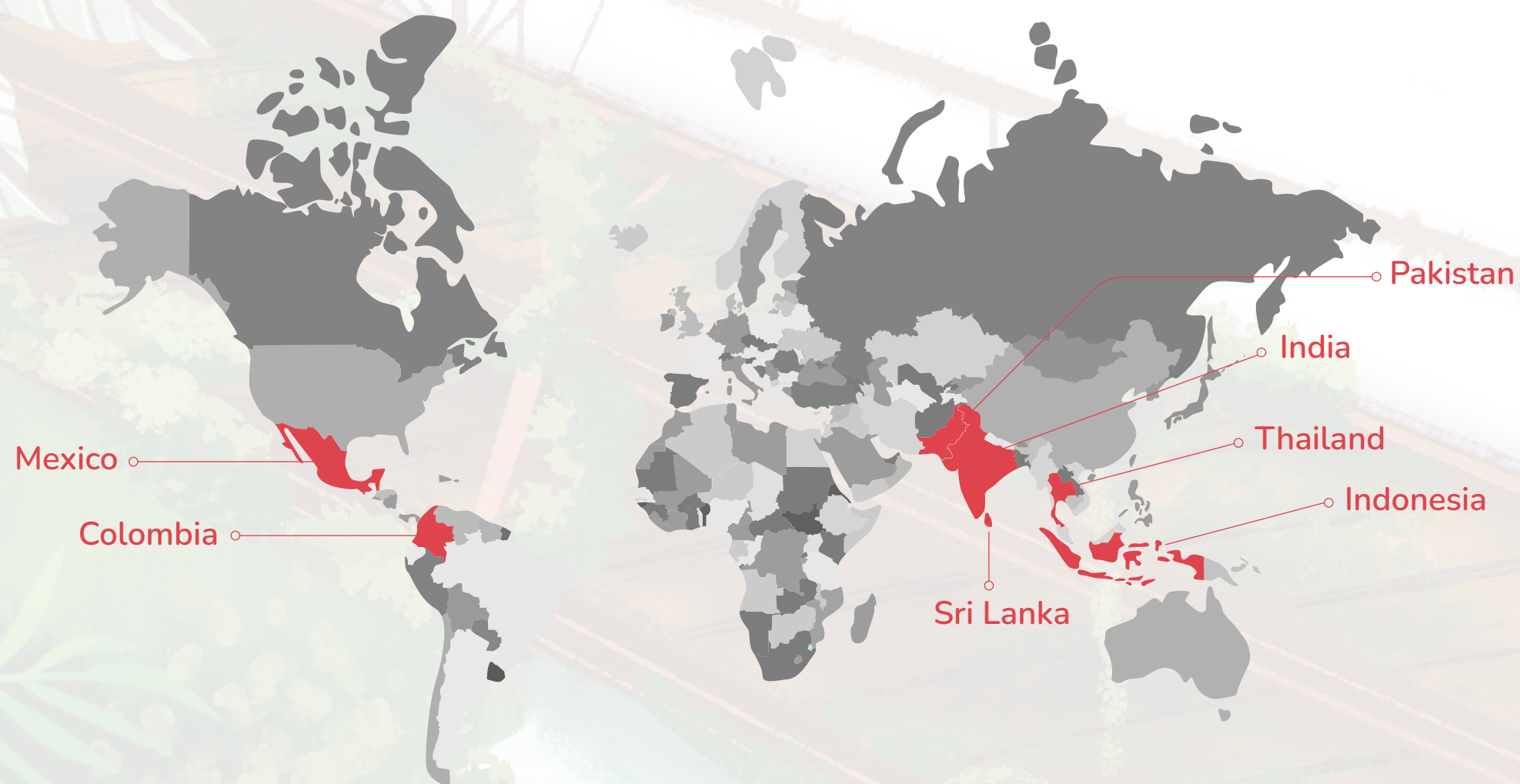
Always thought that, as the accountant of the **Asociación Agrícola, Pecuaria y Pesquera del Guayabo – AGROPEGU**, her responsibility was centered on numbers. But she later understood that her work goes much further. In knowledge exchanges organized by the NHRF, María discovered that administrative matters are also a tool to take care of the broader organizational process that AGROPEGU has built over more than ten years. María also learned about the risks of ONGization in the exchange: that pressure to appear as overly technified organizations. The participating partner organizations, including María, emphasized that strengthening organizational processes should be undertaken progressively. This approach should respect their autonomy and their role within a social fabric, while recognizing the structural barriers and adverse conditions they face in their territories. This is the case of AGROPEGU, which strengthens its organization while working to protect more than 17,000 hectares of wetlands at risk due to the expansion of extractive and agro-industrial projects.

ABOUT NHRF

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF) was founded in 1988 by Norwegian civil society, the academic sector, and labor unions. Our mandate is to protect and promote human rights internationally by being a courageous and flexible donor and partner, acting in solidarity with local human rights organizations and human rights defenders around the world.

In 2025, the following organizations continue to support NHRF through their representation on the Board of Directors: the Atlas Alliance, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, Amnesty International Norway, the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations, together with one independent member. The updated list of Board members is available on our website.

We work in seven priority countries and, additionally, in other countries we support organizations and projects focused on the protection of human rights defenders and the right to defend rights.



NHRF IN COLOMBIA

NHRF has worked for more than three decades in Colombia through direct financial support to local organizations working in the defense of human rights. In addition, we support local organizations through organizational development and the creation of connections that open doors.

Graphic design, layout, and illustration: Kevin Valenzuela

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