

CROP

Colombian Reform on Property

Carly | Katarina | Micah | Jamie

Why Land Reform?

- FARC originally formed in response to land reform by gov't
 - ultimately contributed to the conflict
- UN: “Land reform critical to lasting peace in Colombia”
- 7 million people forced from their land in the conflict
 - 87 000 land claims registered w gov't, over 179 000 hectares disputed land

Who We Are

- Global Affairs Canada
 - Latin America and Caribbean Bureau
 - South America Division

and in consultation with....

- Indigenous and Northern Affairs
- Canadian legal experts on land disputes

Government Initiative (CRR): Four Steps

1. Creation of a land fund to identify and recover land
2. Mass formalization of small and medium rural properties (all lands to be formalized)
3. Establishment of an agrarian jurisdiction (court)
4. Creation and modernization of a multiple cadaster*

Our Plan

- promote and facilitate the land reform process through settling land claims; getting displaced Colombians back on their land
- WE ARE
 - collecting evidence
 - providing legal resources to claimants
 - training local Colombians to handle land disputes
 - collaborating with gov' to arbitrate cases
- WE ARE NOT
 - dealing with issues of security, demobilization
 - dealing with drug land use issues

Engaging Stakeholders

- National Land Agency - Colombia
- Special Land Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- NGO: The Forging Future Foundation
- Local Colombians, Department Leaders

The Plan - Collecting Evidence

- Conduct outreach with local communities
- Meet with claimants, neighbours, other relevant stakeholders to collect additional information
- Creation and modernization of a cadaster linking the property registry with ownership of each parcel of land

The Plan - Legal Advice

- Seek the assistance of Canadian legal experts (ex. Prof Pam Palmater and Prof Brady Deaton)
- Experts will work on the ground providing advice to officials as well as be involved in training local Colombians involved in the program

The Plan - Arbitration

- Set up an arbitration process that is transparent and has local ownership
- A Canadian arbitrator working with local government officials to settle claims
- Train local arbitrators to handle land disputes

Resources Needed

- Translators
- Legal professionals
- Staff and researchers
- \$20 million dollars over a four year period
- Hire 20 Canadians and the rest of the staff should be Colombians

Measurability

- Currently there are 179,510 hectares of disputed territory, as we see that number go down, we can assess the efficacy of the program
- Measurability will also be determined by engaging with a local council which includes regional representatives, representatives of the 32 Colombian departments, and FARC leaders.