Description: The Colombia Business in Development Facility Hub promotes public-private partnerships to create, develop and expand income-generation projects in rural areas to improve quality of life for people affected by armed conflict. The hub is part of a global network of Business in Development Facility hubs that supports shared value among the public and private sectors, international organisations and non-governmental organisations and is part of the implementation of development co-operation commitments made in Busan in 2011.

Objectives: The hub seeks to: promote, catalyse and support public-private partnerships to achieve business and development goals; help the public sector increase the effectiveness of aid by working more systematically with the private sector; build partnering capacity and support and strengthen the partnering element of existing initiatives to boost impact; and strengthen dialogue between the public and private sectors.

Partners: The ANDI Foundation (Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia – National Business Association of Colombia) hosts the hub. The hub’s executive committee is comprised of representatives from the foundation, Embassy of Sweden in Bogotá and Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation. Its advisory committee includes more than 40 organisations from the public and private sectors, civil society, the international community and academia. The local United Nations Global Compact network is also involved. In addition to Sweden, Development Assistance Committee members that support the hub include Germany, the Netherlands and the United States. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency were involved in the hub’s establishment and supported the Centre of Partnerships for Development and Partnering Initiative in the scoping exercise that lead to the hub’s formation.

Key activities: The hub’s various activities include capacity development and knowledge generation through training programmes and tools, acceleration and incubation of partnerships through pilot projects and incubation of new projects, impact measurement through the development of frameworks and tools for monitoring and evaluation, and communication and motivation through developing communication strategies to highlight successes of partnerships and increase awareness.

Results: As of October 2015, the hub had incubated ten new partnerships and accelerated five existing partnerships, with over 32 organisations involved in 15 social impact projects. Anticipated results include increased trust between sectors, increased awareness, identification of what works, greater success in partnerships and increased development impacts.

Monitoring and evaluation: As part of the global network, local Business in Development Facility hubs are expected to fulfil reporting requirements. Reports in Spanish have been produced for donors, but reports in English are unavailable for the global network.

Insights: Qualitative and quantitative research was used to inform the establishment of the hub, ensuring that interest existed in Colombia and the hub’s projects matched the needs of rural communities.

SOURCE: