



**BASELINE
REPORT**

 BASELINE
STUDY
COLOMBIA
PROJECT
**'CONNECT,
DEFEND,
ACT!'** 



gracias por resistir.

LORWAN
MENDOZA



INITIAL REPORT
BASELINE STUDY COLOMBIA PROJECT
'CONNECT, DEFEND, ACT'

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Amazonas Sin Fronteras	Fundación Artística Y Cultura Ancestros
Asmuvit	Fundación Caquetá Diversa
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Asociación Kuagro Monari Palengue	Fundación Identidad Pacífica
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Entérate Plato Noticias	Resguardo Indígena De Puracé
Funda Aludis Sectores Sociales Lgbtiq+	Resguardo Indígena De Rioblanco
	Resguardo Indígena Paniquita
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ACRONYMS

ACIN: Association of Indigenous Councils of Northern Cauca (<i>Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca</i>)	ICANH: Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History (<i>Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia</i>)
AGC: Gaitanist Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (<i>Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia</i>)	ICBF: Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (<i>Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar</i>)
AICO: Indigenous Authorities of Colombia (<i>Autoridades Indígenas de Colombia</i>)	INDH: National Human Rights Institute (<i>Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos</i>)
ANE: National Spectrum Agency (<i>Agencia Nacional del Espectro</i>)	INE: National Institute of Statistics (<i>Instituto Nacional de Estadística</i>)
ASC: Civil Society Actors (<i>Actores de la Sociedad Civil</i>)	JEP: Special Jurisdiction for Peace (<i>Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz</i>)
ATIC: Traditional Indigenous Authorities of Colombia (<i>Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas de Colombia</i>)	LGBTIQ+: Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, and other identities (<i>Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales, Transgénero, Intersexuales, Queer y otras identidades</i>)
BNC: National Library of Colombia (<i>Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia</i>)	MEN: Ministry of National Education (<i>Ministerio de Educación Nacional</i>)
CCP: Police Cyber Center (<i>Centro Cibernético Policial</i>)	MinCiencias: Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (<i>Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación</i>)
CIDH: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (<i>Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos</i>)	MinDefensa: Ministry of National Defense (<i>Ministerio de Defensa Nacional</i>)
CIT: Tayrona Indigenous Confederation (<i>Confederación Indígena Tayrona</i>)	MinInterior: Ministry of the Interior (<i>Ministerio del Interior</i>)
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation (<i>Alianza Mundial para la Participación Ciudadana</i>)	MinJusticia: Ministry of Justice and Law (<i>Ministerio de Justicia y del Derecho</i>)
CNMH: National Center for Historical Memory (<i>Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica</i>)	MinTIC: Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (<i>Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones</i>)
CONPES: National Council for Economic and Social Policy (<i>Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social</i>)	MINTIC: Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (<i>Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones</i>)
CRC: Communications Regulation Commission (<i>Comisión de Regulación de Comunicaciones</i>)	NARP: Blacks, Afro-Colombians, Raizales, and Palenqueros (<i>Negros, Afrocolombianos, Raizales y Palenqueros</i>)
CRIC: Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (<i>Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca</i>)	ONIC: National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (<i>Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia</i>)
DANE: National Administrative Department of Statistics (<i>Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística</i>)	OPIAC: Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (<i>Organización de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Colombiana</i>)
DAS: Administrative Department of Security (<i>Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad</i>)	PCN: Black Communities Process (<i>Proceso de Comunidades Negras</i>)
DNP: National Planning Department (<i>Departamento Nacional de Planeación</i>)	PGN: Office of the Inspector General (<i>Procuraduría General de la Nación</i>)
DP: Office of the Ombudsman (<i>Defensoría del Pueblo</i>)	PNC: National Police of Colombia (<i>Policía Nacional de Colombia</i>)
ECV: Quality of Life Survey (<i>Encuesta de Calidad de Vida</i>)	SIDOC: Information and Documentation System (<i>Sistema de Información y Documentación</i>)
ELN: National Liberation Army (<i>Ejército de Liberación Nacional</i>)	SIC: Superintendency of Industry and Commerce (<i>Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio</i>)
FARC-EP: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army (<i>Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia - Ejército del Pueblo</i>)	TIC: Information and Communication Technologies (<i>Tecnologías de la Información y la Comunicación</i>)
FLIP: Foundation for Press Freedom (<i>Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa</i>)	UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (<i>Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito</i>)
GAAT: Action and Support Group for Trans People (<i>Grupo de Acción y Apoyo a Personas Trans</i>)	ONU: United Nations (<i>Organización de las Naciones Unidas</i>)
GAO: Organized Armed Group (<i>Grupo Armado Organizado</i>)	UV: Victims Unit (<i>Unidad de Víctimas</i>)
GDO: Organized Criminal Groups (<i>Grupos Delincuenciales Organizados</i>)	
GEIH: Large Integrated Household Survey (<i>Gran Encuesta Integrada de los Hogares</i>)	
HIVOS: Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (<i>Instituto Humanista para la Cooperación en el Desarrollo</i>)	
IBD: Digital Divide Index (<i>Índice de Brecha Digital</i>)	

1. INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the project "Connect, Defend, Act!" is to support Civil Society Actors (CSA) in Colombia, strengthening their capacity to defend and expand civic space in the face of growing restrictions, particularly related to the exercise of digital civic rights. To this end, it is of priority interest to strengthen historically marginalized sectors in Colombia, such as indigenous people and NARP (Blacks, Afro-Colombians, Raizal and Palenqueros) - for its acronym in Spanish - as well as focusing on those populations affected by gender, sexual orientation and age inequalities, such as women, LGBTIQ+ people and youth.

Therefore, with the objective of evaluating the current state of civic space in Colombia, providing recommendations for the implementation of the "Connect, Defend, Act!" project. This baseline study has collected, systematized and analyzed various sources of information on the 6 geographic regions of Colombia, using a heterogeneous representative sample that has allowed to obtain a comprehensive view of the conditions, obstacles and existing digital civic capacities in different territories of the country.

HIVOS (Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation) is a Dutch NGO that currently works in 40 countries and has regional hubs in Latin America, East Africa, Southern Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). It has worked for over 50 years for equity, social justice and sustainable development and focuses on empowering groups and individuals who advocate for human rights and democracy, particularly those who have historically been excluded or marginalized.

In the Latin American region, Hivos has played a key role in strengthening civil society organizations, focusing on issues such as governance, citizen participation, LGBTIQ+ rights, women's rights, and government transparency. In this regard, it supports projects that seek to amplify the voice of vulnerable communities, fight against discrimination, and foster inclusive development that respects the region's cultural diversity.

In Colombia, Hivos for the past decades has worked mainly on LGBT+ rights and climate justice, with organizations such as Colombia Diversa, Fundación mi Sangre, Fundación Sidoc and the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) to defend civicspace and protect humanrights, through projects such as: Adelante con la Diversidad and UrbanFutures.

As part of the "**Connect, Defend, Act!**" project, HIVOS has joined forces with Consultores y Asesores TIC SAS, a partner in Colombia, to carry out a baseline study to better understand the needs and challenges faced by social organizations in accessing the digital civic space.

Consultores y Asesores TIC SAS It is a Colombian company with extensive experience in consulting and provision of technological and research services. It specializes in the implementation of innovative solutions for both the public and private sectors, offering its expertise in projects that require technical and methodological knowledge of high level. Currently since its foundation it has developed more than 40 projects with different entities and organizations in the country, given its commitment to quality. Consultores y Asesores TIC SAS has established itself as a strategic ally in the development of complex projects that require consulting in data analysis or technology, contributing significantly to the development of technological, social and research initiatives in Colombia.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1. Background

Indigenous populations and NARPs in Colombia face significant digital exclusion, which limits their access to fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, access to information and participation in the digital civic space. Such exclusion not only prevents these communities from fully exercising their digital civic rights, but also leaves them vulnerable to threats such as surveillance, stigmatization and repression. The lack of technological infrastructure and the absence of content adapted to their languages and cultures reinforce this marginalization, perpetuating structural inequalities that affect their ability to make their struggles visible, preserve their cultural identity and resist extractivist policies or projects that threaten their territories. It is worth mentioning that this digital precariousness, which limits civic rights, in turn restricts access to collective rights, such as education, work and opportunities for political participation, which deepens their vulnerability in an increasingly digitally interconnected world.

In Colombia, public policies and programs have been designed and implemented to increase connectivity in rural regions and improve access to ICTs for indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. At the local level, movements such as the Black Communities Process (PCN) and the National Organization of Indigenous People of Colombia (ONIC) have promoted the use of digital platforms to make their struggles visible, preserve languages and cultures, and strengthen their political participation. However, due to the lack of connection between the public and private sectors and the community sector, the obstacles and gaps mentioned above still persist.

2.2. Objectives

2.2.1. General Objective

Evaluate the current state of digital civic rights in Colombia by identifying and analyzing the needs and working methods of civil society actors in the territories prioritized by the baseline study, providing recommendations for the implementation of the "Connect, Defend, Act" project.

2.2.2. Specific Objectives

- a. Generate a report on the situation, barriers, and capacity gaps faced by civil society actors who defend and expand digital civic space in Colombia.
- b. Provide strategic recommendations for implementing the "Connect, Defend, Act" project to optimize the defense and expansion of digital civic space by civil society actors.

2.3. Target Population

Based on the Narrative Project (Hivos, 2023) and the contextual analysis of digital civic space in Colombia, the selection of priority populations (Indigenous and NARP) and cross-cutting populations (LGBTIQ+, women, youth) reflects their historical marginalization and vulnerability to armed conflict, unequal access to technology, and structural exclusion from decision-making processes. Civil society actors from these populations face systematic violence, displacement, and lack of representation, underscoring their need for training to protect and expand their participation in digital civic space. In this sense, an intersectional approach is essential to address the multiple forms of repression and discrimination affecting these populations.

According to the National Population and Housing Census conducted by DANE (2018), the Indigenous population in Colombia numbers 1.9 million people, representing 4.4% of the total population. Indigenous communities are primarily concentrated in departments such as La Guajira, Cauca, Córdoba, Nariño, Sucre, Chocó, and Amazonas. As for Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal, and Palenquero (NARP) populations, the census indicates that they represent approximately 9.34% of the total population, equivalent to over 4.6 million people. The main regions of residence include Chocó, Bolívar, Valle del Cauca, and the Caribbean region.

Women represent 51.2% of the country's population. However, they face barriers related to gender-based violence and inequality in political and economic representation, especially in rural departments like Chocó and Nariño, where these disparities are more evident. Meanwhile, the LGBTIQ+ population, according to DANE's Voluntary LGBTI Registry (2023), has been largely invisible in many previous studies, though it is estimated that around 1.2% of Colombia's adult population identifies as part of this group.

Finally, youth (aged 14 to 28) constitute 27% of the population. While they have the highest access to digital technologies, they also face challenges related to equitable access to connectivity in rural areas and digital training. In regions like Antioquia and Cundinamarca, they play a key role in social mobilization and digital participation.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Logical Framework Matrix

Narrative summary	Objectives	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
End	Assess the current state of the digital civic space in Colombia, based on the identification and analysis of the needs and ways of working of civil society actors in the territories prioritized by the baseline study, providing recommendations for the implementation of the project "Connect, Defend, Act".	Documented evidence at the national level demonstrating the main needs and ways of working of civil society actors in the context of shrinking digital civic space.	Baseline Study.	The baseline study will be approved by HIVOS and its recommendations applicable in the current Colombian socio-political context.
Purpose	<p>1. Generate a report on the situation, obstacles and capacity gaps of civil society actors that defend and expand the digital civic space in Colombia.</p> <p>2. Develop strategic recommendations for the implementation of the project "Connect, Defend, Act", to optimize the defense and expansion of the digital civic space by civil society actors.</p>	<p>1. Scope and relevance of the systematic report evaluated by HIVOS.</p> <p>2. Scope and relevance of recommendations implemented in the strategies of the "Connect, Advocate, Act" project.</p>	Final research report submitted and socialized. Strategic recommendations section evaluated by HIVOS.	The CSAs will be willing to share critical information about their capabilities and limitations for the analysis of the digital civic space. The recommendations developed in the study will be feasible to implement within the sociopolitical context of Colombia.
Results (Purpose 1)	1. Identify the coalitions and networks of civil society actors (CSAs), belonging to indigenous peoples and NARPs, that expand and defend civic space in the prioritized territories (TP), as well as their formal and informal coordination structures.	Number of key stakeholders identified by geographic location.	Population universe characterization Matrix of written sources Stakeholder mapping Stakeholder survey (general) Survey: Sociodemographic section Contrasted maps	Sufficient information is available to identify and map the CSAs in the prioritized territories.
	2. Analyze the strengths, needs, obstacles and capacity gaps of CSA organizations, including aspects such as financing, training, technology and access to information.	Organizational capacity level of CSAs prior to the project	Survey: Digital Media Uses and Obstacles Section	CSAs will be open to sharing information about their capabilities, gaps and needs.
	3. Assess the impact of digital security trends and developments on civil society's ability to defend civic space, through a matrix of risks and vulnerabilities.	Volume (number and level of risk) of historically identified digital civic threats.	Timeline Risk Matrix: CSA Threats	Information on digital security trends and developments is available for public access.
	4. Document and analyze the restrictions imposed by the government on the digital action and communication of independent media and marginalized groups, identifying the most restrictive laws, policies and practices.	Number of documented legal and policy restrictions related to independent media and marginalized groups. Estimated percentage of	Legal and jurisprudential analysis and compilation.	Restrictions on media and government policies will be accessible for legal analysis.

		compliance with jurisprudence and in the territories.		
	5. Evaluate the role of community media and independent journalists in ethnic populations, identifying their strengths, limitations and threats related to their work in defense of civic space.	Number of community media identified in the analysis.	Survey of coalitions and networks of the civilian population. On-site dialogues.	Information on community media and journalists will be made available in the capacity assessment process.
Results (Purpose 2)	Conclusions and strategic recommendations for the defense and expansion of the digital civic space by civil society actors, based on the report (Purpose 1).	Number and quality of strategic recommendations at the general level and by population sectors.	Final validated and justified document including strategic recommendations.	The conclusions and recommendations are applicable in the Colombian socio-political context.
Activities	1.1.1. Work plan (ANNEX 1)			

3.2. Research Techniques

To address the state of the art of the baseline study of the “Connect, Defend, Act” project, various research procedures and tools were used to facilitate the collection, analysis, codification and systematization of relevant information, with the aim of comprehensively understanding the situation of ethnic groups in Colombia, with particular emphasis on their digital civic rights.

The research approach was mixed, which made it possible to combine qualitative and quantitative techniques to obtain an integral vision that included both the experiences and local contexts of the communities to be investigated and large-scale data, essential for general analysis and for detecting patterns and trends. The following is a description of the procedure used to obtain the information and its subsequent analysis:

3.2.1. Data Collection

a) Data Collection and Analysis Matrices:

- Written sources: a total of 103 secondary sources were collected, such as reports from organizations, academic studies, human rights reports and public policies related to the digital civic space, which were organized in a systematization matrix (ANNEX 2) to perform a quantitative and qualitative analysis, located in the “Reference Research” section of this Report.
- Identification of key actors: 1953 (ANNEX 4) actors were tracked throughout the national territory, identifying exclusively their population sector (indigenous, NARP, LGBTIQ+, women and youth) and geographic location. Among them, the 59 most representative actors (ANNEX 3) (collectives/groups, networks, coalitions, organizations and movements) were identified in a matrix where several variables were analyzed (region, department, areas of work, specific groups, digital media and contact channels) specifying their strengths, needs, obstacles and capacity gaps.
- Maps: Maps from secondary sources were gathered and contrasted to visualize the location, dynamics and territorial context of the ethnic groups under study. In addition, maps were prepared based on the systematization of statistical data.

b) Surveys:

- Primary source collection instrument: A structured survey was designed to collect information directly from targeted civil society actors. Therefore, 60 surveys were conducted with leaders and active members of collectives/groups, networks and social movements, most of whom belong to organizations with more than 50 people, so that the information would have a wider scope (ANNEX 5). The topics referred to the geographic location of the organization, work with the region, digital access, technological capabilities, regulatory knowledge, among other topics of interest for the baseline study. The surveys were applied in different ways: in person, by telephone, through google meet meetings, by email and via WhatsApp; all of them through an online form.
- On-site dialogues with the NARP, indigenous and LGBTIQ+ population after applying surveys can be understood as a process of deepening social research, in which a horizontal and participatory

approach is adopted. This type of interaction allows researchers not only to collect quantitative data, but also to explore and understand the perspectives, experiences and meanings that the subjects themselves attach to their responses. By engaging in these dialogues, a space is provided where participants can question, add to or contextualize their initial responses, generating a more equitable and two-way relationship between the researcher and the community.

3.2.2. Data Systematization:

Atlas TI Software:

- Organization and grouping of variables: The Atlas TI software was used to systematize and code the qualitative information obtained through the analysis matrices and surveys. This made it possible to organize the data into thematic categories that facilitated their analysis, in turn variables were identified, which were grouped to obtain more conclusive information.
- Generation of database: The quantitative and qualitative data collected were integrated into a consolidated database, facilitating the systematization and comprehensive analysis of the results.

3.2.3. Data Analysis

a) Operationalization of Variables:

- The key variables of the study, analyzed from the context of the armed conflict in Colombia, focused on digital civic rights, digital security, identification of networks and coalitions, being operationalized, i.e., clearly and specifically defined so that they could be measured and compared to the context of the study.

b) Analysis of Primary and Secondary Data by Categories:

- Categorization: The data was organized into relevant categories, both those yielded by primary and secondary sources, in order to understand, analyze and interpret the data obtained in the study.
- Triangulation of information: A data triangulation process was carried out, comparing the different sources of information (surveys, documents and on-site dialogues) to validate the findings and ensure the consistency of the results.
- Comparative Analysis: were used to identify key differences between ethnic groups in Colombia, based on their geographical location, access to digital resources, and the realities of the legal, social, and political context.

4. PRODUCTS

4.1. TIMELINE

4.1.1. Delimitation of the period of analysis in the State of the Art: 2010-2024

From the exposition of the historical milestones and the process of collecting written sources of the baseline research, the historical period of the State of the Art has been delimited from 2010 to the present year (2024), since it obeys the period where the uses of digital technologies by the prioritized ethnic populations (indigenous and NARP) emerge significantly, within the framework of the defense of their civic rights. The following are the three periods that support the defined temporal delimitation, reflecting the progressive incorporation of ICTs by the prioritized populations, from traditional media to contemporary digital activism:

a. 1991-2000: Community Communication (Background)

This period marks a milestone in Colombia with the 1991 Constitution, which recognized the country's ethnic and cultural diversity. During this time, indigenous and Afro-Colombians began

to use community communication as a means of asserting their rights. Through community radio stations and printed bulletins, these populations found in the traditional media a way to make their demands visible, such as the defense of their territories and cultures, and to organize themselves politically. This was a key period for strengthening ethnic identity in local public spaces, although access to digital technologies was very limited.

b. 2001-2009: Multimedia Media Expansion (Background)

With the development of technology, multimedia was introduced between 2001 and 2009 and began to transform access to information and the organizational capacity of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. During this period, documentaries, educational videos and multimedia platforms emerged as key tools to promote ethno-education and the visibility of human rights. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian organizations began to access cameras and computers to create audiovisual content that reflected their struggles, expanding their reach and connecting with audiences beyond their territories. Training in the use of multimedia software also improved their ability to create and distribute content, but internet access was still limited, and digital platforms were just developing.

c. 2010-2024: Internet and Digital Media Consolidation (Limited period)

With the massive expansion of the internet and the rise of social networks since 2010, indigenous and NARP populations gained access to new platforms that significantly expanded their capacity to organize and defend their rights. Virtual platforms became digital territories where communities not only shared information, but also fought for the preservation of their languages and traditions. In this period, digital activism was consolidated as a key strategy for social mobilizations, making visible demands around self-determination, territorial protection and the fight against social exclusion and racism. However, communities continue to face challenges, such as the digital gap and the lack of adequate technological infrastructure in rural areas.

4.1.2. Infografía: Línea de Tiempo

LÍNEA DE TIEMPO HITOS SOCIO-HISTÓRICOS EN COLOMBIA

The 1991 Constitution established fundamental rights and mechanisms for citizen participation that serve as the legal foundation for the work of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This document transformed the legal framework by recognizing Colombia as a pluri-ethnic and multicultural state, guaranteeing rights to Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, which is crucial in analyzing how CSOs can operate and protect the rights of these groups within the civic space.

Creation of Law 70 of 1993 (Law of Black Communities): This law recognized the right of Black communities to collective ownership, political participation, and local governance over lands in the rural riverside areas of the Colombian Pacific. It represented a landmark achievement for these communities in securing their territorial and cultural rights, enabling active decision-making and the preservation of their traditions, customs, and ways of life, which are intrinsically linked to their relationship with the land, through the establishment of Community Councils

Demobilization of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) (2004) and the Justice and Peace Law (2005): Advocacy: Over 30,000 combatants from this paramilitary group, which played a significant role in intensifying the armed conflict, were demobilized. While the process helped reduce violence in certain regions and led to the dismantling of the organized armed group, the agreement was criticized by human rights organizations due to limitations in the application of the Justice and Peace Law, which aimed to ensure truth, justice, and reparations for the victims of AUC crimes. Additionally, the reconfiguration of criminal groups or residual criminal gangs and the formation of armed structures by former AUC combatants (such as the Gulf Clan, Los Rastrojos, and Las Águilas Negras) limited the long-term impact on security in regions affected by the armed conflict.

Creation of Law 1448 of 2011 (Victims and Land Restitution Law) (2011): Advocacy:

This law includes mechanisms for individual and collective reparations, measures for the restitution of forcibly dispossessed or abandoned lands, and guarantees the active participation of victims in the reparations process. The law also provides for the return and relocation of displaced victims, as well as the implementation of policies to prevent re-victimization and promote guarantees of non-repetition. However, it still faces significant challenges related to security and funding, which are critical for strengthening the capacities and strategies of civil society actors in the current context.

Peace Agreements with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) (2016) and the Creation of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) (2017): Advocacy:

The Peace Agreements established a path toward the demobilization of the FARC and proposed a comprehensive approach to transitional justice, reparation, and reconciliation. As part of its implementation, the JEP was created to investigate and prosecute the most serious crimes of the armed conflict, ensuring victim participation and the pursuit of truth. The agreement includes mechanisms for reparation, the reintegration of ex-combatants, and the implementation of non-repetition policies. However, it faces ongoing challenges, such as residual violence and lack of resources, which complicate the work of civil society actors in defending victims' rights and promoting peace.

The pandemic forced Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) into a rapid adaptation to digital tools and platforms to continue their activities. This shift highlighted inequalities in access to technology and digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas and for marginalized communities. Furthermore, the intensive use of digital platforms exposed CSOs to new cybersecurity risks, underscoring the importance of strengthening their digital security capacities.

Social Unrest (2021): Advocacy:

During the 2021 protests, digital space became a crucial medium for the increased dissemination of alternative information by CSOs. However, there was also a rise in censorship and digital surveillance, which limited free and safe access to these spaces. This milestone highlights the need to protect the right of CSOs to digital self-expression and safeguard against surveillance and online harassment.

Human Rights Crisis and the Truth Commission Report (2022): Advocacy:

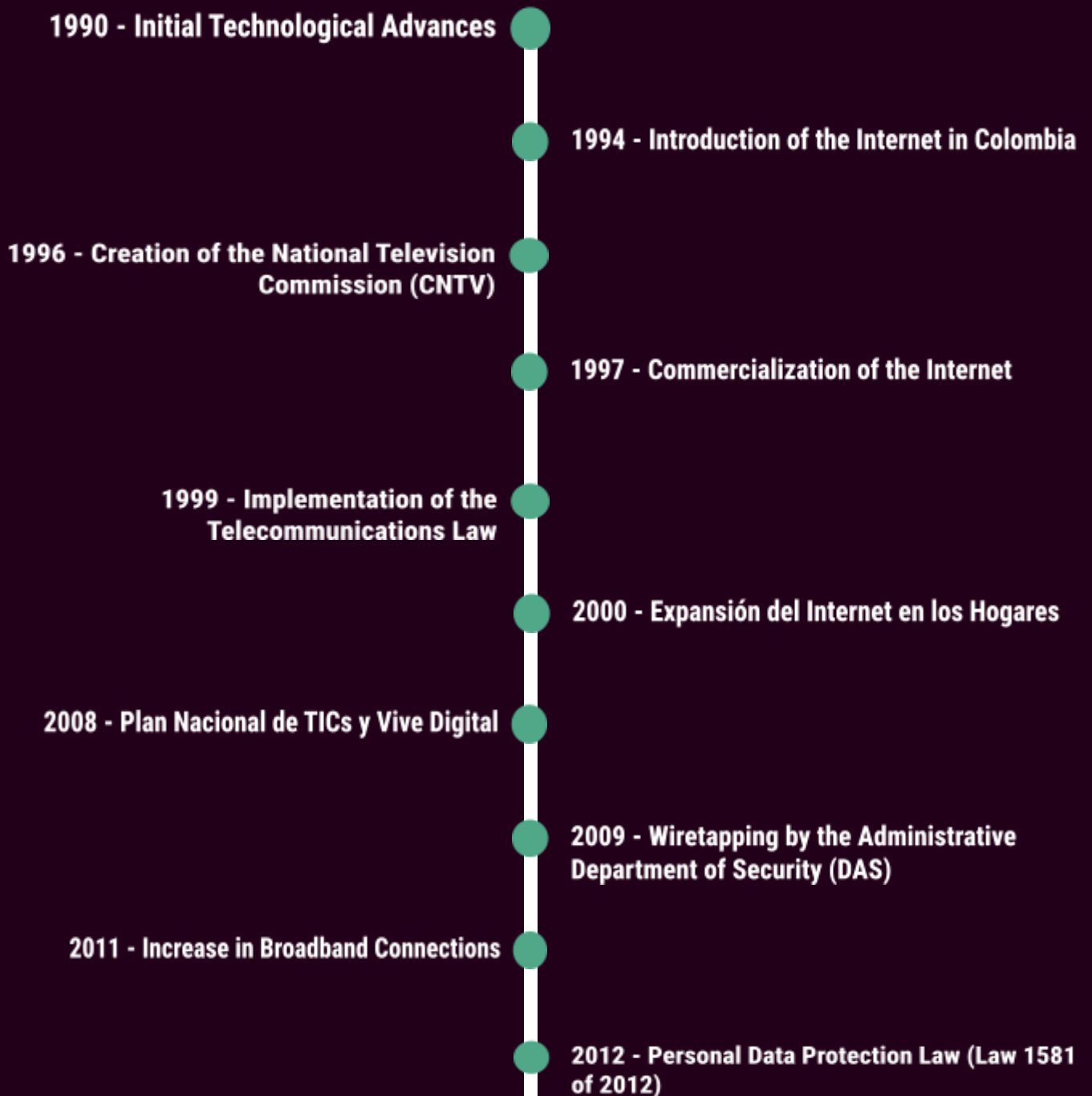
This seeks to clarify the truth by documenting systematic human rights violations and providing an in-depth analysis of the causes and consequences of the armed conflict in Colombia, highlighting the need for comprehensive reparation and justice for victims. The report acknowledges the fundamental role of civil society actors in promoting truth, building historical memory, and demanding justice and reparation. However, the use of these findings by CSOs faces challenges in terms of security and sustainability in the post-conflict or post-agreement context, which are crucial aspects for strengthening their advocacy capacities in the current environment.

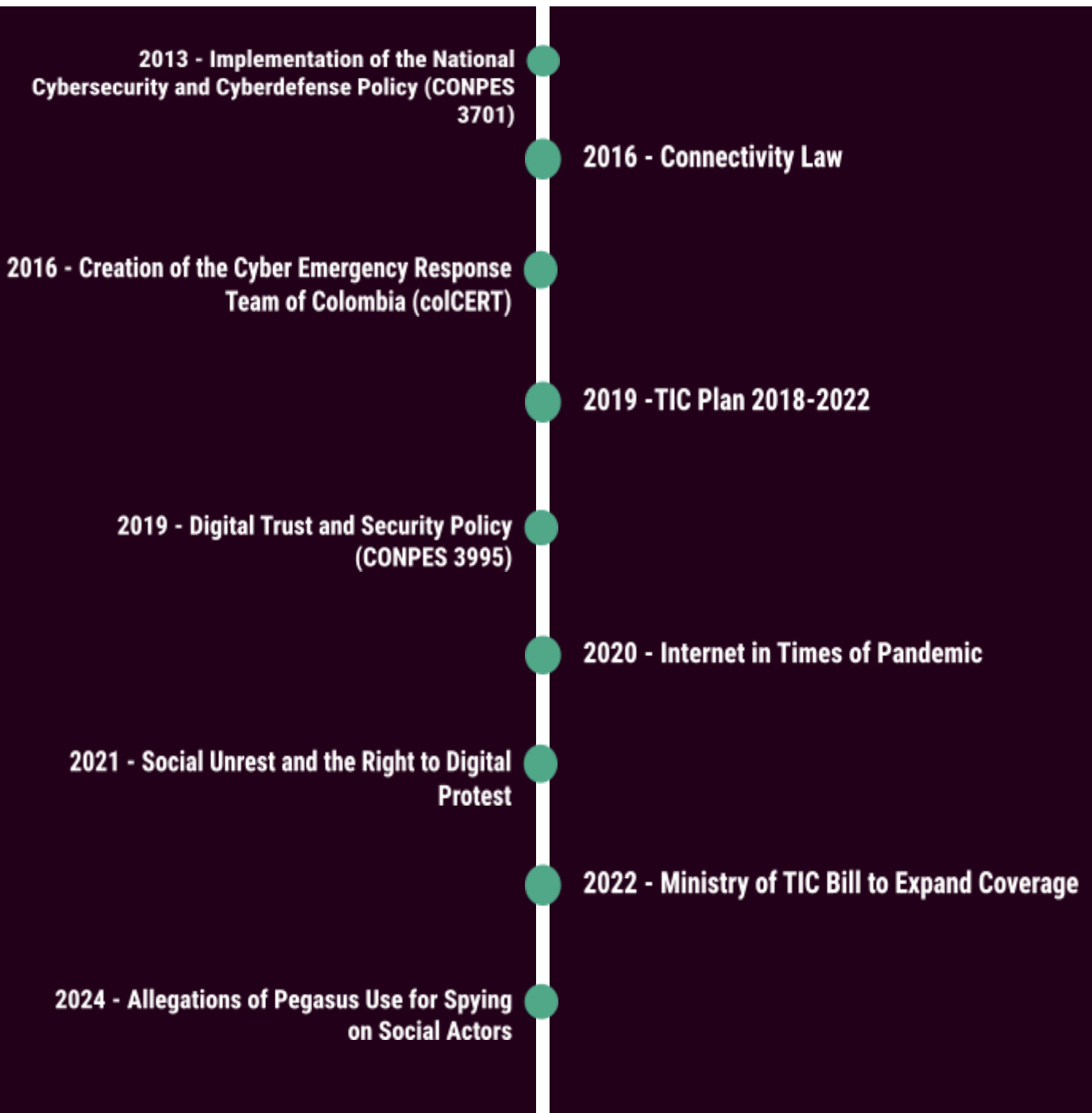
This policy proposes a comprehensive strategy to negotiate and de-escalate conflicts with various armed actors in Colombia, including guerrillas, dissidents, and criminal groups. Its approach aims for an inclusive and sustainable peace that considers both the demobilization and reintegration of armed actors and the active participation of affected communities. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play an essential role in monitoring and supporting these processes, as well as defending the rights of victims. However, challenges persist in terms of security and resources available for CSOs, critical aspects to strengthen their role in building a stable and lasting peace.

TIME LINE

The Evolution of the Internet and Civic Rights

Digital Rights in Colombia





4.1.3. Timeline Analysis.

a. Sociohistorical conditions for the exercise of civic rights in Colombia

Colombia's sociohistorical conditions have profoundly shaped civic rights, especially in the contexts of peacebuilding, armed conflict, and recognition of ethnic diversity. The 1991 Constitution recognized Colombia as a multiethnic and multicultural state, granting Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities legal tools, such as tutela, to protect their rights. The 1993 Law 70 consolidated the territorial rights of Afro-descendant communities, facilitating local governance and cultural preservation through Community Councils.

The armed conflict presented both challenges and opportunities for exercising rights. The demobilization of the AUC in 2004 and the Justice and Peace Law of 2005 had a limited impact, while the 2011 Victims Law aimed to provide reparations, though its implementation has been challenging due to security issues and resource constraints. The 2016 Peace Agreements with the FARC and the creation of the JEP in 2017 advanced transitional justice and reparation for victims, although residual violence remains.

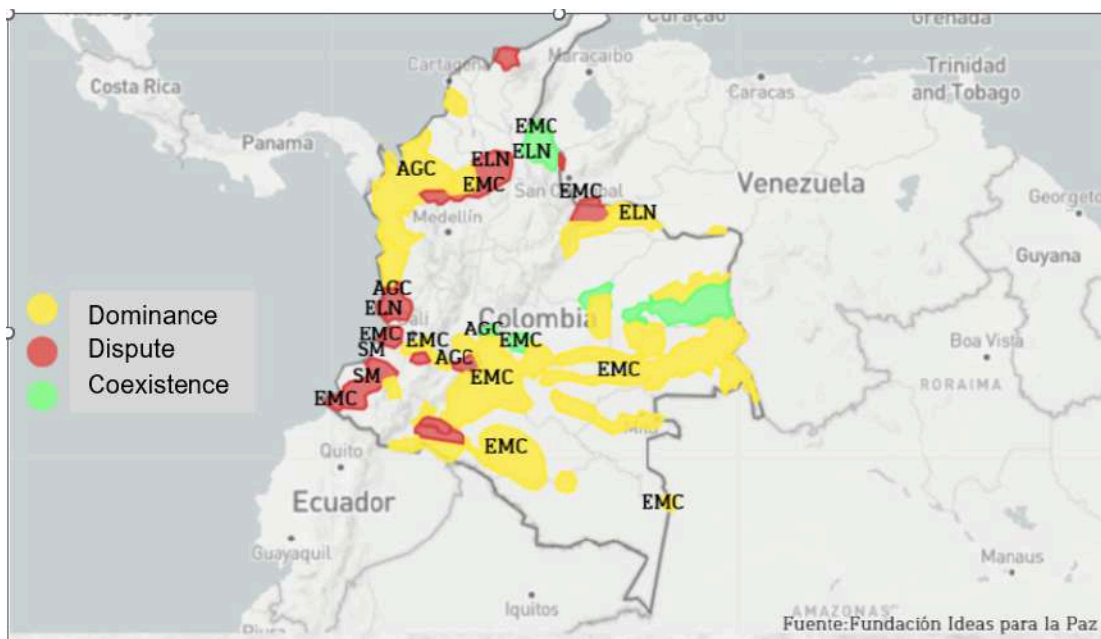
The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 forced Civil Society Actors (CSAs) to quickly adapt to digital platforms, revealing technological inequalities and cybersecurity risks. During the 2021 Social Unrest, CSAs used digital spaces for social mobilization, although they encountered censorship and surveillance. In 2022, the Truth Commission and the Total Peace Policy underscored the crucial role of CSAs in historical memory and justice, despite ongoing security and resource challenges.

Where is the armed conflict currently located in Colombia?

Según la información divulgada por la organización Sectorial (2024) a partir de datos recopilados por la Defensoría del Pueblo y la fundación Ideas para la Paz, es posible identificar la distribución geográfica y dinámicas territoriales de los grupos armados ilegales en Colombia, destacando la expansión de estos grupos a pesar de los esfuerzos del gobierno por lograr acuerdos en su estrategia de "Paz Total". Los principales actores armados identificados incluyen las **Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC)**, el **Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN)**, y las **disidencias de las FARC** (Estado Mayor Central y Segunda Marquetalia), así como diversos grupos delincuenciales organizados (GDO).

A saber, las dinámicas geográficas entre estos grupos se clasifican en zonas de dominio, disputa y coexistencia, con las áreas más afectadas siendo aquellas con problemas de narcotráfico y minería ilegal, donde también se reportan agresiones a líderes sociales.

Mapa 1. Geographies of the dynamics between armed groups in Colombia



Source: Prepared by Sectorial (2024) based on Fundación Ideas para la Paz.

Indeed, armed groups maintain significant influence in different regions of the country. The Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AGC), with some 10,000 members, maintain a presence in the Caribbean, southern Bolivar, Cordoba, Bajo Cauca Antioquia, Uraba and Choco. The National Liberation Army (ELN), which has five operational fronts, is involved in peace negotiations with the government, although ceasefire violations have occurred in several areas. FARC dissidents are divided between the Estado Mayor Central, with 26 substructures in the southwest, eastern Antioquia and southern Bolivar, and the Segunda Marquetalia, which operates mainly in the southwest. In addition, the Organized Criminal Groups (GDO), such as “los Pachencia,” “la Oficina,” and “la Cordillera,” have a presence in both urban and rural areas, connecting with other armed groups and expanding their influence in different territories of the country.

According to the same Sectorial report (2024), the territorial control of these illegal armed groups has increased the insecurity and unrest of communities in their territories of origin. Threats and aggressions against social leaders, together with the drug trafficking and illegal extractivist economy (such as mining), are cross-cutting phenomena that intensify the humanitarian and social crisis in various regions of the country.

b. Developments and trends in digital civic rights in Colombia

The development of digital civic rights in Colombia has been a constant process, marked by technological advances, regulatory policies, and challenges in terms of privacy and secure access. During the 1990s, the country's universities began to explore telecommunications technologies, laying the first foundations for the arrival of the Internet. In 1994, the Universidad de los Andes was connected to the global network, a significant milestone that opened the doors to a new era of connectivity in the country. In 1996, the creation of the National Television Commission (CNTV) allowed regulating and promoting access to telecommunications, including the Internet, which facilitated the expansion of digital services and the access of more citizens to the network. Since 1997, with the commercialization of the Internet, companies such as Telecom and Orbitel made it possible for more Colombians to access this technology, marking the beginning of the digital era in the country.

In the late 1990s, the implementation of the 1999 Telecommunications Law was key to encourage the growth of the sector, promoting equitable access to the Internet throughout Colombia. In the early 2000s, the expansion of the Internet to Colombian homes, driven by the entry of new providers such as ETB and EPM, generated competition, reducing costs and making the service more accessible. However, it was with the Plan Vive Digital of 2008 that more significant progress was made in reducing the digital gap, facilitating Internet access in rural and urban areas and improving infrastructure to support the development of digital services throughout the country.

However, the progress in connectivity and access to digital information has been overshadowed by threats to digital civic rights. In 2009, interceptions by the DAS revealed a scheme of illegal interception of communications of various civil society actors, including journalists and human rights defenders, which seriously affected public confidence in state institutions. This incident highlighted the need for privacy and digital rights protection policies in Colombia, which led to the dissolution of the DAS in 2011 and the creation of additional rules to regulate intelligence agencies.

The progress of broadband connections in 2011 and the enactment of the Personal Data Protection Law in 2012 established rights over the control of citizens' personal information, a critical step in protecting CSAs, who often face risks of surveillance and repression. The implementation of the National Cybersecurity and Cyber Defense Policy in 2013 added a framework for protection against cyber-attacks, although its scope and effectiveness have been limited, often leaving CSAs vulnerable due to lack of resources to adequately protect themselves.

Since 2016, the Connectivity Law improved infrastructure in rural areas, facilitating the access of marginalized communities to the Internet. That same year, the creation of the Colombian Cyber Emergency Response Group (colCERT) was a breakthrough in the response to cybersecurity incidents, protecting citizens and organizations in the digital environment. In 2019, the Digital Trust and Security Policy establishes measures to promote a safe and accessible digital environment, strengthening citizens' trust in the use of digital technologies as a tool for exercising their rights.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 accelerated the use of the Internet and highlighted the inequality in access to technology, which highlighted the need to improve infrastructure in order to ensure connectivity and guarantee access to digital civic rights. During the Social Outburst of 2021, digital platforms became key tools for citizen organization and expression. However, this milestone also underscored the risks of censorship and digital surveillance, highlighting the urgency of protecting the right to protest and freedom of expression in the digital space.

Recently, in 2024, the report on the use of Pegasus software to spy on social actors highlighted the persistent risks to privacy and freedom of expression. This incident reflects a direct threat to digital civic rights, generating an environment of self-censorship and distrust that affects free participation in digital spaces. This context reveals the importance of developing more effective and accessible cybersecurity policies to protect citizens and CSAs in their exercise of rights in the digital environment.

c. Where are the digital gaps in Colombia?

According to the Survey of Information and Communication Technologies in Households (ENTIC Hogares, conducted in 2021 by DANE (2022), access to digital technologies presents a marked gap between urban and rural areas. In fact, by 2020, although 60.5% of households nationwide had a connection, in rural areas and dispersed population centers this figure was drastically reduced to 28.8%, compared to 70.0% in urban areas.

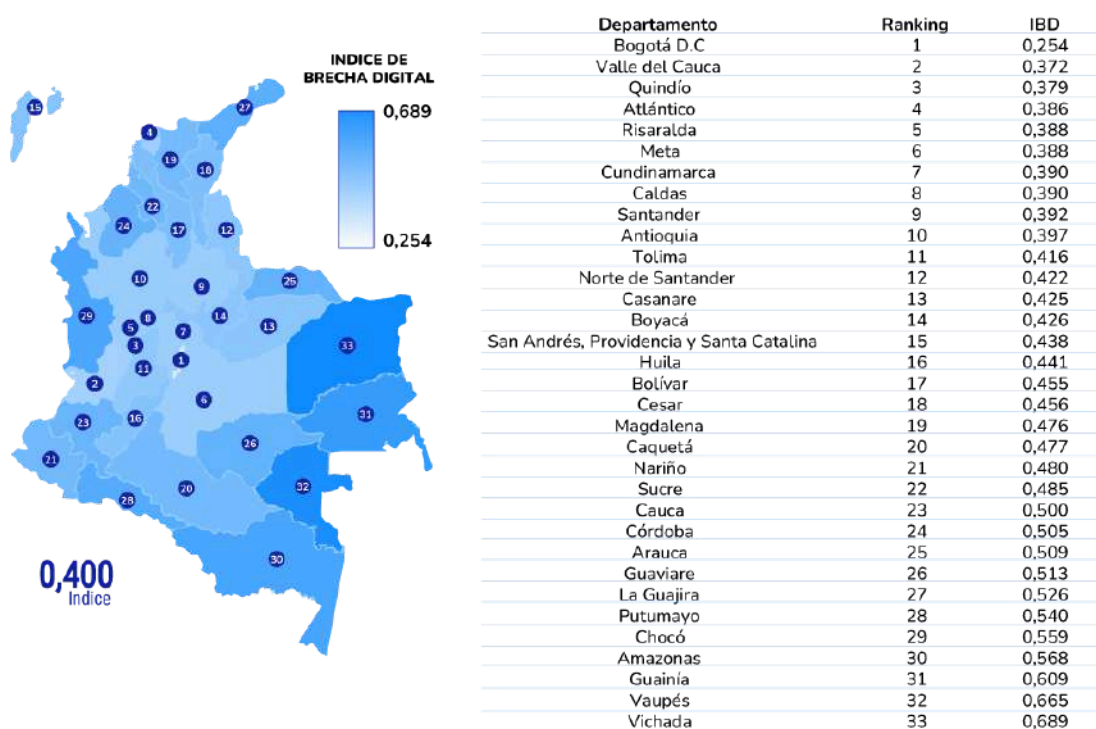
By department, Bogotá and Valle del Cauca led in connectivity, with 81.5% and 79.0% of households connected, respectively, compared to Vichada and Vaupés, where only 4.6% and 10.6% of households had internet access in 2021.

In terms of technological devices, in the national total for the same year, only 37.9% of households had a computer (desktop, laptop or tablet), reflecting the limited access to basic digital tools. The main reason for the lack of connection was cost, reported by 48.6% of households at the national level; this shows the economic impact as a critical obstacle to digital inclusion in Colombia.

However, with respect to the digital civic obstacles and gaps that affect the prioritized populations, the MINTIC (2023) in Colombia has constructed a Digital Gap Index (IBD), which reveals notable inequalities in access, use, advantage, skills and motivation with respect to digital technologies, especially when examining the data from the ethnic and gender perspectives.

The following is the digital gap map and Digital Gap Index (IBD) ranking by department for the year 2022:

Figure 2. Map of Digital Gap and IBD ranking by departments



Source: MINTIC IBD Results Technical Bulletin (2022). Note: Ranking 1 (highest access) and 33 (lowest access).

At the regional level, indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, particularly in the Orinoco-Amazon, Pacific and Caribbean areas, face significant gaps. These regions present high indexes in aspects such as Material Access and Digital Skills, showing that 34.9% of the national digital gap is attributed to the lack of digital skills. For example, in departments such as Vaupés and Chocó, where indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations reside, high access gap indexes are observed, with Vaupés reaching an index of 0.896 (out of 1.0) in this dimension. The lack of infrastructure and technological training restricts the participation of these communities in the digital sphere, limiting their civic rights and development opportunities.

From a gender perspective, the IBD also shows that women, especially from ethnic populations in rural areas, face additional obstacles in accessing and using technologies. Factors such as low motivation, influenced by perceptions of low usefulness and high technophobia, contribute to lower ICT use, with women reporting greater difficulties in digital skills.

The LGBTI population in Colombia also faces significant challenges in accessing and using digital technologies, further exacerbated by factors of discrimination and social exclusion. According to the IBD, these challenges include limitations in material access and a hostile environment in the digital sphere, which increases the risk of online harassment and violence.

In effect, these trends suggest that digital exclusion not only reflects pre-existing inequalities, but also perpetuates marginalization by hindering equitable access to education, health and digital civic participation, fundamental elements for the full exercise of rights in the digital age.

4.2. Risks and digital civic threats in Colombia

4.2.1. Risk Matrix description

The risk matrix has been taken as an analytical tool designed to identify, evaluate and classify potential risks affecting key civil society actors, in this case focused on the defense of digital civic rights in Colombia. This matrix systematically organizes different threats and quantifies them in terms of frequency (probability of occurrence) and risk level (severity of impact), thus allowing a clear and structured understanding of the factors that limit or threaten the security, freedom of expression and participation of these actors in the digital space.

The construction of this matrix has involved a series of methodological steps to ensure a rigorous and complete analysis:

1. Threat Identification: Data is collected on specific phenomena and cases that affect digital rights in Colombia, such as cyberbullying, unauthorized surveillance, disinformation and digital discrimination. Each threat is described in detail, with a context that allows understanding its origin and how it affects civil society actors.

2. Frequency and Risk Level Evaluation: Each threat is evaluated according to two main criteria:

Relative frequency (F): Estimates the continuity of occurrence of the hazard, on a scale of 1 (very low) to 5 (very high). This criteria makes it possible to prioritize the most recurrent threats and, therefore, of greater attention.

Risk Level (N): Estimates the severity of the impact of the threat on the affected stakeholders, on a scale of 1 (low impact) to 5 (critical impact). This level considers the consequences of the threat in terms of fundamental and civic-digital rights.

3. Risk Volume Calculation: This is obtained by multiplying the frequency and the risk level (Frequency x Risk Level). This quantitative value facilitates the comparison between hazards, indicating which represent a greater risk for civil society actors and therefore require more urgent mitigation strategies.

Table 1. Risk Matrix: Digital Civic Threats in Colombia

Threat	Period	Description	F ¹	N ²	V ³
Illegal Interception of Communications (Espionage by DAS)	2002-2010	DAS spying on journalists, human rights defenders, and political opponents, affecting privacy and limiting freedom of expression.	4	5	20
Surveillance and Repression of illegal armed groups	2004-Present	Reconfiguration of residual criminal groups that have led to self-censorship and damage to digital infrastructure.	4	5	20
2016 Peace Process Plebiscite discredited	2016	During the campaign for the peace plebiscite, hegemonic media and pro-establishment influencers positioned social representations to the detriment of the peace process,	3	3	9

¹ Frecuencia relativa (1-5): un valor de 1 indica una probabilidad o frecuencia muy baja en el periodo de tiempo delimitado, mientras que un 5 señala una ocurrencia constante o inevitable

² Nivel de Riesgo (1-5)

³ Volumen: Resultante de la multiplicación de la frecuencia y el nivel de riesgo

		creating a hostile digital environment for supporters of the peace agreements. (Pinzón Flórez, 2020)			
Cyberattacks and Disinformation against Environmental Activists	2018 - Present	Environmental activists, such as the <i>Rios Vivos</i> Movement, have been the target of cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns, discrediting their leaders, labeling them as “anti-progress” or “environmental terrorists,” spreading false information that unfairly links them to illegal activities. In addition, the attacks include hacking attempts to their accounts and direct threats to the movement's social networks and emails.	3	5	15
Gender-based Violence in Digital Environments	2018 - Present	Women human rights defenders, LGBTI activists and journalists in Colombia have faced an increase in gender-based violence in digital environments. This includes online harassment, threats of physical violence, smear campaigns and dissemination of intimate content without consent.	4	4	16
Government use of Pegasus for Surveillance and Espionage	2019 -2024	Use of software for mass surveillance, affecting the privacy of activists and social leaders.	3	4	12
Pandemic Cybersecurity Risks	2020 -2021	Increase in distributed cyber-attacks during the pandemic that exposed personal and financial data. Cases of DDoS attacks (denial of service attacks) and hacks targeting the media were reported.	4	3	12
Media misinformation and Digital Racism	2018 -Present	Misinformation and manipulation campaigns in social networks, which selectively affect indigenous and NARP populations (DeJusticia, 2021). These attacks not only seek to delegitimize their demands, but also promote a hostile environment that can lead to physical violence. Cases such as that of Francia Márquez, Ariel Palacios and the Misak and Nasa communities reflect the vulnerability of these groups in the digital sphere.	4	4	16
Censorship and Digital Surveillance during the Social Outburst	2019-2021	Network monitoring, selective recording with drones and blocking of digital content during protests, limiting the right to information and expression (documented cases where the use of drones, cameras and social media monitoring were used to identify and follow protest leaders (Human Rights Watch, 2021; Amnistía Internacional, 2021).	3	5	15
Exponential growth of cyber-attacks on the Healthcare Sector	2022-2024	Cyber-attacks on the Healthcare System (Sanitas case in 2022) that affected the privacy of millions of users and delayed medical care In 2024, the country has received 17% of cyber-attacks in Latin America, with most of them targeting healthcare entities (IBM, 2024).	3	4	12
Digital Gap and Limited Access in Conflict Zones	Permanent	Lack of infrastructure and digital assets in rural areas affected by the armed conflict, making it difficult to access digital information and services.	5	3	15

Source: Self-elaboration based on collection of reports generated by: *Fundación Karisma*. (2020 y 2024), *CIVICUS*. (s.f.), *FLIP* (2023), *Privacy International*. (s.f.), *OIT*. (2020), *Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres* (2020), *Human Rights Watch* (2021 y 2024), *Check Point Research*. (2023), *Dávila*, (2005), *Observatorio de la Universidad Nacional* (2020), *Pinzón Flórez* (2020), *IBM* (2024), *Amnistía Internacional*. (2021), *Dejusticia*. (2021), *CNMH* (2022).

Table 2. Risk Matrix: by ethnic group

People/Ethnic Group	Location Region	Distribution Departments	Armed Groups Presence	Type of Risk/Threat	Source of Information
Wayuu	Caribe	La Guajira	ELN, AGC	Forced displacement, territorial control	Ombudsman's Office
Nasa (Páez)	Pacífica, Andina	Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Huila	FARC-EP, ELN, AGC	Attacks against leaders, illegal mining	Ombudsman's Office
Emberá Chamí	Andina	Antioquia, Risaralda, Caldas	AGC, Clan del Golfo	Forced displacement, drug trafficking	CNMH, Ministry of Defense
Arhuaco	Caribe	Cesar, Magdalena	ELN	Territory control, violence against leaders	Ombudsman's Office
Zenú	Caribe	Córdoba, Sucre	Clan del Golfo	Resource exploitation, illegal mining	CNMH
Afrocolombianos	Pacífica	Chocó, Nariño, Cauca	ELN, FARC-EP	Territorial violence, drug trafficking	UNODC, CNMH
Raizales	Caribe	San Andrés y Providencia	Common crime	Ethnic discrimination, lack of access to services	CNMH
Palenqueros	Caribe	Bolívar	Clan del Golfo	Discrimination, targeted violence	CNMH, Ombudsman's Office

4.2.2. Risk Matrix analysis

The following is a brief analysis of the impacts of the threats identified against civil society actors (CSAs) in the digital civic space, based on the volume of risks calculated in the matrix:

In the first instance, the threats with the highest risk volume (V.20) are related to repression by territorial power structures, namely the state through the illegal interception of communications, and illegal armed groups through their surveillance and coercion. These threats foster self-censorship and distrust in digital communication, especially affecting human rights defenders and activists in the areas most affected by the conflict. Such risks restrict the ability of CSAs to articulate their demands and develop their work in a safe digital civic space.

Then, gender-based violence, media disinformation and digital racism are identified as threats with a high-risk volume (V.16), characterized by normalizing harassment based on gender, ethnicity or political ideology, as well as harassment and dissemination of content without consent, to the detriment of the security, association and digital participation of indigenous communities, NARP, LGBTI activists and journalists. This has increased the risk of self-censorship, the withdrawal of public platforms and the restriction in the defense of their territorial rights.

Threats of cyber-attacks and disinformation targeting environmental activists, along with censorship and digital surveillance during the Social Outburst, constitute significant risks (V.15) that have immobilized activists, limiting their ability to organize and express themselves freely in the public sphere. At an intermediate level of risk (12), we note the use of Pegasus for surveillance and cybersecurity dangers during the pandemic, which put CSAs vulnerable to retaliation and data

manipulation, affecting their security and trust in digital platforms. Finally, the smear campaign during the 2016 peace plebiscite, which presents a lower risk volume (9), undermined trust in the peace agreements and generated hostility towards its advocates, diminishing the security of the digital civic space for the promoters of the Peace Agreement.

a. In which territories does the armed conflict intersect with digital gaps in Colombia?

Based on the previous numerals, the crossover between the departments with the highest digital gap indexes and those most affected by the presence of illegal armed groups in Colombia reveals a critical intersection of social challenges. The departments of Vaupés, Vichada, Guainía, Amazonas and Chocó, which lead in digital gap indexes, also face a strong influence of armed groups. In these areas, limited digital infrastructure and low ICT skills, coupled with the influence of armed actors, further hinder access to essential digital rights and services for communities, affecting both their economic development and their participation in the digital civic space.

Such overlapping vulnerabilities imply that the lack of connectivity and digital skills in these regions not only restricts access to information, but also limits the ability of their inhabitants to denounce human rights violations and receive external support. In addition, barriers in motivation and digital use, especially observed in the Orinoco-Amazon region, reduce digital inclusion, while armed groups impose additional restrictions on the exercise of fundamental rights, such as free expression and access to impartial information relevant to their territorial realities.

4.3. Population Characterization: Ethnic Groups in Colombia

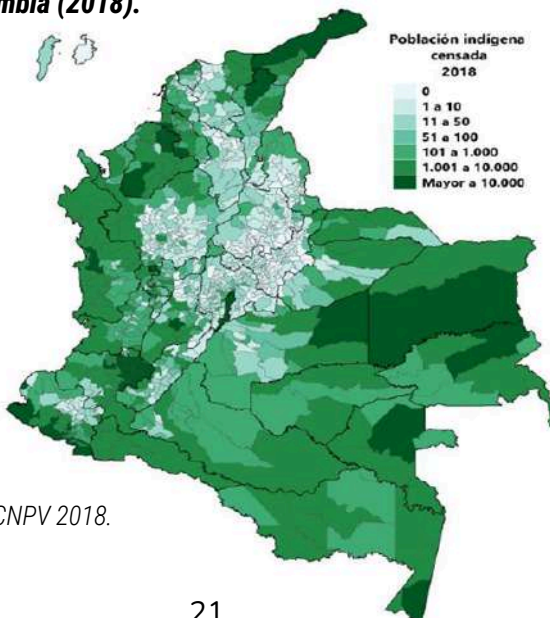
Indigenous people

A. Demographic data (total number, gender, age, groups, etc.)

The indigenous people in Colombia represent 4.4% of the national population, totaling about 1.9 million people distributed among 105 indigenous peoples. This population is largely concentrated in departments such as La Guajira (20.7%), Cauca (16.2%), Nariño (10.8%) and Córdoba (10.6%), where more than half of the total indigenous population (58.4%) live. The departments of Vaupés and Guainía have the highest relative proportion of indigenous population within their territory, reaching 81.7% and 74.9% respectively, which highlights the importance of specific territorial approaches to address their social and cultural needs.

Demographically, the indigenous population is predominantly young, with 64% between the ages of 15 and 59, and only 5.8% are older adults, reflecting a considerably low aging rate compared to the rest of the country. However, 19% of the indigenous population has been victims of the armed conflict, mainly in departments such as Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, Putumayo, Antioquia, and Córdoba. In terms of health, 98% of this population is affiliated with the subsidized regime of the General Social Security Health System (SGSSS), but with significant variations in affiliation coverage between departments, which poses challenges in terms of equitable access to basic services and the protection of fundamental rights for this population.

Map 3. Geographic distribution of indigenous population in Colombia (2018).



Source: Prepared by DANE based on CNPV 2018.

On the other hand, due to the marginality of information related to the intersection of ethnic and gender identity in Colombia, the LGBTI indigenous population presents particular challenges for the exercise of their civic rights. According to the Truth Commission (2021), in much of their territories, differentially affected by the conflict, armed actors have imposed patriarchal and hegemonic norms of behavior, which has generated stigmatization, sexual violence, and forced displacement for many indigenous LGBTI people. Often, young people who openly express their identities face discrimination and threats that force them to migrate to urban areas, where, however, they experience new forms of discrimination based on their ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation.

Despite these challenges, Infoamazonia (2019) has reported on the generation of spaces for dialogue and visibility for indigenous LGBTI identities, such as the International LGBT Indigenous Meeting in Barranquilla, where leaders from different communities have discussed the importance of recognizing and respecting sexual and gender diversity within indigenous peoples.

B. Geographic-human description:

From the contrast of official data from DANE and ICAHN with those published by organizations such as ONIC, AITC-Gobierno Mayor and ECLAC (2012), it has been possible to compile information on the more than 115 indigenous peoples registered in Colombia, with their respective languages, population (contrasted from DANE censuses in 2005 and 2018), and distribution by department and region. It should be noted that several of the indigenous peoples that are presented as extinct in some sources, are recognized in their survival by the ONIC and the AITC-Gobierno Mayor. Based on this, it is worth mentioning that an estimated 1,936,792 indigenous people have been referenced, differentiated by their worldviews, uses, customs, territories, languages and genealogy.

ITEM 1. Infographics/ human geographies map of indigenous peoples (map of indigenous population-Narp)

GEOGRAFÍAS HUMANAS **INDÍGENAS Y NARP**



- Andaquie
- Andoque
- Arzamas
- Baniva
- Bará
- Barasana
- Bora
- Cabiari
- Camsá
- Carapana
- Caviari
- Chamicuro
- Cocama
- Coreguaje
- Cubeo
- Desano
- Dujo
- Hupda
- Inga
- Je'eruriwa
- Juhup
- Kakua
- Kamëntsa
- Karijona
- Kawiari
- Kubeo
- Kurripako
- Letuama
- Makaguaje
- Makuna
- Mapayerrí
- Matapí
- Miraña
- Muinane
- Nonuya
- Nukak
- Ocaina
- Piratapuyo
- Pisamira
- Puinave
- Siona
- Siriano
- Taiwano
- Tanimuca
- Tariano
- Tatuyo
- Tikuna
- Tsiripu
- Tucano
- Tuyuka
- Uitoto (Murui)
- Wanano
- Wipiwi
- Yagua
- Yari
- Yauna
- Yeral
- Yukuna
- Yurutí



ANDINA
Region

- Barí
- Cañamomo
- Coyaima
- Emberá Chamí
- Guanaca
- Guane
- Muisca
- Nutabe
- Pijao
- U'wa

CARIBE
Region

- Arhuaco
- Arzario (Wiwa)
- Chimila
- Kankuamo
- Kogui
- Mokaná
- Wayuu
- Yupka
- Zenú

ORINOQUÍA
Region

- Achagua
- Amorúa
- Betoye
- Chiricoa
- Cuiba
- Guariquema
- Hitnü
- Kuiba
- Masiguare
- Sáliba
- Sikuni
- Yamalero
- Yaruro



PACÍFICA
Region

- Ambaló
- Coconuco
- Embera Dobida
- Eperara Siadipara
- Guambiano (Misak)
- Pasto
- Polindara
- Pubense
- Quizgó
- Quillacinga
- Totoró
- Waunan
- Yanacona

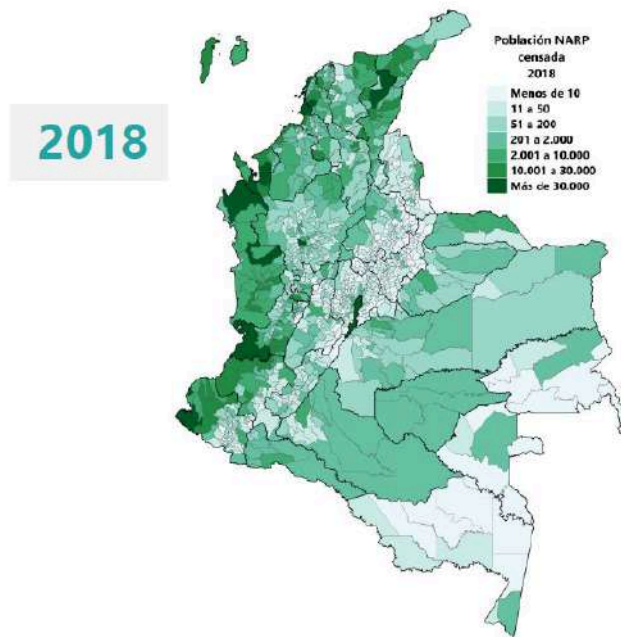
4.2.2. Blacks, Afro-Colombians, Raizal and Palenqueros (NARP)

A. Demographic data (total number, gender, age, groups, etc.)

In Colombia, the NARP (Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero) population represents 5.9% of the total population according to the National Population and Housing Census 2018 of DANE, of which 51.2% corresponds to women, including adolescents and girls, this means that approximately 2.39 million people of this population are women, while 48.8% are men, which translates into about 2.28 million men. This figure includes adults as well as children and youth.

The main concentrations are in Valle del Cauca (21.7%), Chocó (11.3%), Bolívar (10.7%) and Antioquia (10.5%). In addition, this population faces challenges in terms of social and economic inclusion and access to fundamental rights, such as health and education, which are addressed in policies for differentiated development and prior consultation to guarantee their participation.

Mapa 5. Distribución geográfica población NARP en Colombia



Source: Prepared by DANE based on CNPV 2018.

In this regard, it has been identified that the population of Blacks, mulattos, Afro-descendants or Afro-Colombians amounts to 4,639,008 people, distributed mainly in the departments of the Pacific Coast (Chocó, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, and Nariño), as well as in major urban centers such as Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Cartagena and Barranquilla. In addition, the Palenquero group has 6,637 people, located especially in San Basilio de Palenque, in the department of Bolívar, where they preserve the Palenquero language along with Spanish. The Raizal community of the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina is made up of 25,515 people, who maintain their traditions and speak Creole, English and Spanish. In total, the NARP population (Blacks, Afro-Colombians, Raizales and Palenqueros) is estimated at 4,671,160 people, differentiated by their cultural heritage, languages and territories.

B. Geographic-human description:

Based on the analysis of the figures recorded by DANE, information on the Afro-descendant population in Colombia has been consolidated, classified into three main subgroups according to a contrast between the amount exposed by the National Population and Housing Census of 2018 and the National Quality Survey of 2018 (ECV 2018).

It is worth mentioning that the 2018 National Population and Housing Census (CNPV 2018) recorded a population of 2.98 million people identified as Black, Afro-descendant, Raizal and Palenquero, showing a reduction of 30.6% compared to the 2005 General Census data. According to ILEX Acción Jurídica (2018), this significant decrease provoked questioning and rejection by Afro-descendant organizations, academics and other actors, who argued that the census results underestimated the true magnitude of these communities.

In contrast, the 2018 National Quality of Life Survey (ECV), also conducted by DANE, estimated the NARP (Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero) population at 4.67 million people, reflecting a growth of 8.3% over 2005 and representing approximately 9.34% of the country's total population. This figure offers a more accurate and balanced representation, providing a valuable database for developing social policies and programs focused on guaranteeing the civic rights of these communities and reducing the inequalities they face.

To be specific, in the CNPV 2018 there is evidence of an underreporting of the Afro-Colombian population, while in the ECV 2018 an underreporting of the Raizal and Palenquero populations, as presented by the DANE (2021) in the Report “Results of the National Population and Housing Census 2018. Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero Communities.” Therefore, the total NARP population register of the 2018 ECV has been taken, subtracting the registered population of Raizales and Palenqueros in the CNPV, to estimate the Afro-Colombian population.

ITEM 2. Population table/infographic of NARP Population in Colombia

Population Group	Language	Population (2018)	Distribution
Black, Mulatto, Afro-descendant, or Afro-Colombian (Negro, mulato, afrodescendiente o afrocolombiano)	Spanish	4,639,008	Pacific Coast Departments (Chocó, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Nariño), urban regions (Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Cartagena, Barranquilla)
Palenqueros	Spanish, Palenquero	6,637	San Basilio de Palenque, Bolívar
Raizales	Creole, English, Spanish	25,515	San Andrés and Providencia
TOTAL		4,671,160	

4.2.3. Gender approach:

Based on data from DANE's large integrated household survey (GEIH) on the LGBTIQ+ population, in 2024 there will be an estimated 477,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and non-binary people, equivalent to 1.3% of the country's population of legal age.

The GEIH found that 344 thousand people, corresponding to 1.8% of the people located in 23 cities and metropolitan areas such as Bogotá D.C., Medellín, Cali, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Manizales, Pereira, Cúcuta, Pasto, Ibagué, Montería, Cartagena and Villavicencio, Tunja, Neiva, Florencia, Riohacha, Popayán, Santa Marta, Valledupar, Armenia, Quibdó and Sincelejo.

Regarding women in Colombia, there is a gender gap of 1% in basic internet access, the significant connectivity gap is 17%. Lack of skills is a barrier to access to the digital right, being an important factor that keeps women offline. 50% of women in rural areas and 45% of women in urban areas said they do not use the Internet because they do not know how to do so.

When women go online, they are less likely to create certain types of content. Men are 29% more likely than women to post comments on political, social or economic issues, and 29% more likely to sell or advertise a product or service online.

Across a variety of personal data categories, women are more concerned about their privacy than men. Focus group participants shared concerns about the misuse of their personal data, including in relation to online harassment and abuse.

Women showed skepticism about technology companies using their data responsibly. Fifty-four percent of female respondents said they would not allow companies to use any of their data, compared with 47% of men

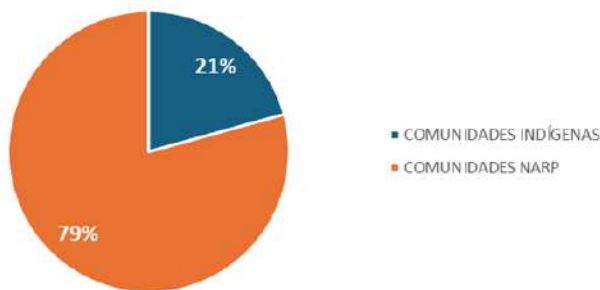
4.3 State of the Art

4.3.1. Mapping of Civil Society Actors (CSA)

a. Analysis of the survey of civil society actors secondary sources

For the survey of key CSAs, a first compilation of 1953 organizations, coalitions and coordination structures where ethnic peoples and LGBTIQ+ population in Colombia cluster together was made. There, they were classified from four variables that allowed to reference them by "name of the collective", "population group", "department" and "region" where they have developed their work.

Population group of surveyed actors



- Variable: NARP communities (79%): Reflects increased visibility and online activity of groups and organizations, which due to their composition and specific needs, use and produce more information in digital environments. The prevalence of NARP organizations in the survey could also be associated with a more flexible and mobile organization that allows for the creation of informal and dynamic online advocacy coordination structures to make their demands visible and preserve their cultural identity.
- Variable: Indigenous communities (21%): It is analyzed in relation to the formal and regulated nature of their organizations, such as cabildos, resguardos and consejos. These formal coordination structures may be less represented in the digital environment and opt for more discreet visibility online, limited by protocols and internal regulations of legally constituted organizations.

Region and departments of surveyed actors

Region and departments of surveyed stakeholders



The concentration of ethnic peoples' organizations is identified in the Caribbean Region (41.52%) and the Pacific Region (26.81%), followed by the Andean Region (20.45%). The departments of La Guajira, Valle del Cauca, and Bogotá D.C. stand out as key areas of impact. Organizations in the Caribbean and Pacific Region address issues of cultural resistance and territorial defense, while in the Andean and Amazon Region, the focus is on cultural autonomy and environmental protection. These differences reflect how

ethnic peoples' organizations adapt their strategies according to the specific challenges of each region, highlighting the need for differentiated support approaches.

When comparing this information with the distribution of ethnic peoples in Colombia (section 4.2.), the concentration of organized ethnic population in the Caribbean and Pacific regions is confirmed, while the dispersion of civil society actors, particularly indigenous people, in the Amazon and Orinoquía region.

Regiones de actores LGBTIQ+ sondeados



Cabe resaltar que en el Sondeo de actores (Anexo 4) se identificaron organizaciones representativas del sector LGBTIQ, que indican el carácter organizacional de la mismas, vinculado a coaliciones y redes más que a organizaciones locales legalmente constituidas que cuenten con visibilidad en línea, que sugiere que cada región prioriza sus esfuerzos de acuerdo con las necesidades y características socioculturales de su entorno.



En contraste, ambas con 20%, cuentan con organizaciones que también promueven derechos LGBTIQ+, pero con enfoques adicionales en interseccionalidad y empoderamiento en comunidades afrodescendientes y de contextos culturales más conservadores.

- a. Analysis of the mapping of civil society actors secondary sources

Additionally, 59 second and third level organizations were selected, that is, those that bring together other local organizations, on which an exhaustive analysis (mapping) was carried out based on the following variables:

- "Date of Conformation"
- "Name of the group"
- "Type of group"
- "Geographical Reference by Regions"
- "Geographical Reference by Department"
- "Population groups (1 and 2)"
- "Specific groups (1 and 2)"
- "Work Areas (1 and 2)"
- "Digital media"
- "Digital Media Type"
- "Link"
- "Contact Media"

Population sectors of the mapped actors:

Analysis of actor mapping shows a diverse representation between indigenous groups and NARP in the mapping. In indigenous communities, the Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa and Kankuamo (8.3%), followed by Embera and Awá (5.6% each), and other peoples who together represent 30.6%, reflecting the need for approaches adapted to specific realities. In the NARP population, Afro-Colombians constitute 60%, while Palenqueros, youth and women represent 10% each, reflecting the higher proportion of CSA who recognize themselves as Afro-Colombians, with other sectors of the NARP populations.

Typology of mapped actors:

Analysis of the types of groups according to the differential approach between indigenous communities and NARP reveals a predominance of coalitions (64.4%) between both groups, especially in indigenous communities where this type of organization brings together major lobbies, Regional and national councils and federations. Coalitions act as broad structures of representation and advocacy for collective rights, reflecting a complex and formalized level of organization aligned with the autonomy and self-determination of these communities.

It should be noted that the seven major organizations that make up the Permanent Bureau of Indigenous Peoples' Consultation in Colombia include ONIC, with a national impact; CIT, in the Sierra Nevada; AICO, in the south-west; Gobierno Mayor, in the Amazon and Orinoquía; OPIAC, in the Amazon; and CRIC and ACIN, in Cauca. Their joint work focuses on defending territorial, cultural and autonomy rights, as well as promoting inclusive policies and resistance to extractive projects that affect their territories.

For NARP communities, coordination structures and networks (8.5% each) are also identified as means of interdepartmental articulation. These organizations, such as the Movimiento Nacional Cimarrón and the

Red de Mujeres Afrocolombianas, represent initiatives that focus on the cohesion of efforts in the areas of human rights, social inclusion and territorial defense, Highlighting the importance of networking to strengthen political and social advocacy. In this context, organizations such as the National Conference of Afro-Colombian Organizations (C.N.O.A.), which brings together 270 Afro organizations in various regions, the Process of Black Communities- Reborn (Proceso de Comunidades Negras- Renacientes) and the major community councils of Cocomopoca and COCOMACIA stand out, bringing together 42 and 124 local community councils, respectively, underlining their territorial focus and role in defending specific NARP community rights. Partnerships (6.8%) are common in both groups, although more present in the NARP field, reflecting specific and organizational approaches at local level for the empowerment and visibility of their members.

Shaping periods of mapped actors

Most of the representative actors of civil society were formed in the 1990s (28.8%) and between 2000-2011 (23.7%), indicating a strengthening of democracy in those years, considering the 1991 constitution and the socio-digital advances of the new millennium. The 1980s also showed a remarkable growth (17%), while in more recent periods (2012-2016) new entities were created less (6.8%).

Human geography of mapped actors

The geographic analysis of civil society actors in Colombia reflects the diverse and broad scope of their activities. Indigenous organizations are concentrated mainly in the Pacific region (26.8%), the Amazon region (5.1%) and the Andes region (20.5%), with a significant presence in departments such as Cauca, Nariño, Putumayo, Chocó and La Guajira. These regions and departments represent areas of high ethnic diversity and challenges associated with the defense of territorial and cultural rights.

The actors belonging to the NARP communities (Blacks, Afro-colombians, Raizales and Palenqueros) have a notable incidence in the Pacific region (26.8%) and the Caribbean (41.5%), specifically in the Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Bolívar and Antioquia, In addition to a widespread presence throughout the country.

Mapped actors' work areas

Namely, 73% of the organizations of indigenous communities, distributed in regions such as the Amazon, Orinoquía, Pacífica, Caribe and Andina, focus on the defense of territorial rights and cultural preservation, while the remaining 27% covers areas such as indigenous governance and self-education. The work areas include biodiversity protection (16%), intercultural education (10%) and traditional health (8%), reflecting an intrinsic connection with their territories and a strong focus on self-determination and cultural resilience.

In contrast, NARP communities, especially present in the Pacific (65%) and Caribbean (25%), focus on Afro-descendant rights and collective participation (20%), along with cultural preservation (15%) Through alternative communication and natural resource management. The work areas also include peace building (12%), organizational strengthening (10%) and economic empowerment (8%), which highlights the search for social cohesion and sustainable development in their territories. Overall, this analysis reflects how both groups channel their efforts towards protecting their identity, culture and rights in the current Colombian context.

Finally, regarding digital channels and contact media, 75% of organizations have some kind of digital medium, while the remaining 25% do not use digital tools for their communication and dissemination. Within organizations that use digital media, 70% count as web sites -an institutional platform-, reflecting a structured approach to communication, Complemented by the dynamic and flexible use of social media in CSA digital communication.

Table 2. Strengths of mapped actors

Category	Indigenous CSA	NARP CSA
Organization and cohesion	Solid structure with coalitions, lobbies and federations that facilitate political representation, strengthening autonomy and self-determination.	Predominance of networks and coordination structures that drive organizational activism and flexibility, with a focus on human rights and social inclusion through dynamic structures.
Territorial and cultural Connection	Focused on the defense of territorial rights and cultural preservation, adapting strategies according to the region (Caribbean, Pacific and Andina) for autonomy and resistance.	Notable representation in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, especially in Valle del Cauca and Chocó, which allows them to address territorial defense and the cohesion of Afro-Colombian identity.
Work Areas	Priority in self-education, biodiversity and traditional health, reflecting a focus on self-determination and the preservation of their ancestral cultural and health systems.	Focus on Afro-descendant rights and collective participation, cultural preservation through alternative communication and natural resource management for cohesion and sustainable development.
Policy Advocacy	Participation in consultation panels that allow influencing public policies relevant to the protection of territorial and cultural rights.	Visibility in digital media and social networks that extend reach and influence on digital and territorial rights, with actors such as the Movimiento Nacional Cimarrón and C.N.O.A.
Digital Adaptation	Use of digital media, with visibility linked to the appropriation of radio, television and -in an emerging way- social networks.	Increased visibility and online activity, leveraging digital activism and organizational flexibility to make demands visible and strengthen your identity.

Source: Self-elaboration, based on mapping of actors

Entities or Organizations that influence access to digital civic rights

In Colombia, both public and private entities play a crucial role in the promotion and defense of digital civic rights. The most relevant actors in this field are listed below, categorized by their nature and key functions.

Table 3. CSA relationship matrix mapped with public, private and illegal actors

Type of Actor	Actor	Relationship description	Colaboración	Influencia	Dependencia	Conflicto
Public	Home Office (Ministry of Interior)	Promotes inclusion and representation of CSA, especially for NARP and indigenous communities, strengthening the focus on digital rights.	X	X		
	ITC Ministry (MinTIC)	Strengthens technology infrastructure and connectivity, facilitating CSA access to digital networks.	X		X	
	Ombudsman's Office	Supports digital human rights, focusing on marginalized populations such as indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.	X			
	Ministry of Justice	Provides legal frameworks that protect freedom of expression and access to information in digital environments.	X			

	National Spectrum Agency (ANE)	Regulates access to spectrum, facilitating connectivity in rural areas.	X	X		
	Ministry of National Education (MEN)	Promotes digital literacy programs in rural and indigenous areas, reducing the digital gap and strengthening local capacities.	X			
	National Planning Department (DNP)	Collaborates in the development of policies for digital inclusion, cybersecurity and access to technological infrastructure, promoting an accessible and secure digital environment.	X			
	National Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES)	Develop public policies for digital inclusion and cybersecurity that benefit CSA and promote equity in access to technology.	X			
	Victims Unit	Provides digital platforms that allow victims of armed conflict to access services and participate in the digital environment.	X			
	Communications Regulatory Commission (CRC)	Sets standards to ensure equitable access to telecommunications, facilitating digital inclusion of CSA across the country.	X			
	National Library of Colombia	Provides access to digital technology and training in low-connectivity areas, promoting digital inclusion in remote communities.	X			
Private	Telecommunications companies	Provide access to internet and connectivity in rural communities, promoting digital inclusion, but with a business model based on profitability.	X		X	
	Tech companies (Google, Microsoft, AWS)	Offer training platforms and digital tools for CSA, although with concerns about personal data privacy.	X		X	
	Media	They make visible social issues and digital rights, promoting transparency and active citizenship, although influenced by corporate interests.	X	X		
	Extractive companies	They adopt practices of social responsibility in some cases, but historically conflicted in indigenous and afro-colombian territories, limiting autonomy of CSA.	X	X		X
	Financial institutions	Promote financial inclusion through digital services, but at risk of debt in communities without adequate financial education.	X		X	
	Software Industry and Startups	Develop digital solutions adapted for CSA, promoting community empowerment, although they may not always align with traditional community structures.	X			
	Landowners	They control areas of land that affect the civic participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in rural areas.		X		X
Illegal	Illegal armed groups	They control territories and restrict CSA's civic, digital and social participation through intimidation and violence.		X		X
	Drug traffickers	They generate conflict and pressure rural communities, affecting CSA's autonomous development and limiting their digital rights.		X		X

Analysis of mapped actor relationships

Collaboration: Public actors such as the Ministry of Interior, MinTIC and the Ministry of National Education, along with private telecommunications and technology companies, collaborate with CSAs to improve digital inclusion in marginalized communities. This collaboration strengthens the impact of CSA, facilitating access to tools and connectivity, while entities such as the Ombudsman and the Ministry of Justice contribute to protecting digital rights through legal frameworks and digital education programs.

Dependency: The digital infrastructure in Colombia generates a dependence of CSA on private actors, especially in telecommunications companies such as Claro, Movistar and Tigo, whose business model prioritizes profitability, restricting universal access in low-income communities. This dependence extends to the big technologies like Google and Microsoft, which provide digital access platforms but also impose conditions for the use of personal data, limiting the autonomy of the CSA by conditioning them to these platforms and services.

Conflict: Extractive companies and illegal actors, such as organized armed groups, have a conflictual relationship with CSA in indigenous and Afro-Colombian territories. The activities of these companies and actors often violate communities' territorial and environmental rights, affecting their autonomous development and limiting the exercise of digital rights. Although some extractive industries have adopted social responsibility practices, their presence continues to create tensions in areas of cultural and territorial importance for the CSA.

Influence: Public and private actors exert a significant influence on the CSA, impacting their operational capacity and autonomy. Institutions such as the ANE and MinTIC regulate access to technology and spectrum, while telecommunications and technology companies control access to digital infrastructure and data management. In addition, the media, with its corporate agendas, can restrict the unbiased visibility of digital rights in ethnic contexts, reinforcing narratives that favor dominant sectors and limiting the voice of CSAs.

4.3.2. Baseline research documentary:

There are 103 records on access to digital civic rights in Colombia, which refer to data from the last 10 years, except for 12 cases that include data from before 2000. Focusing on ethnic and Afro-descendant populations, the findings reflect a growing academic and normative interest in inclusion and digital justice, although there remains low visibility in the media (7%). Most studies address national policies, highlighting the Pacific, Andean and Caribbean regions, while the Amazon, Orinoquía and Insular regions lack sufficient coverage. Key focus areas include digital inclusion, access to information and digital self-determination, essential to bridging gaps in environments with limited infrastructure, thus promoting more equitable digital participation for vulnerable communities.

Type of source analyzed

Entidades Autoras De Los Documentos



Documents and academic research **58%**

Documents and academic research (58%): reflects the commitment of academia and think tanks to study and make visible digital civic rights of ethnic populations, addressing issues of inclusion and social justice

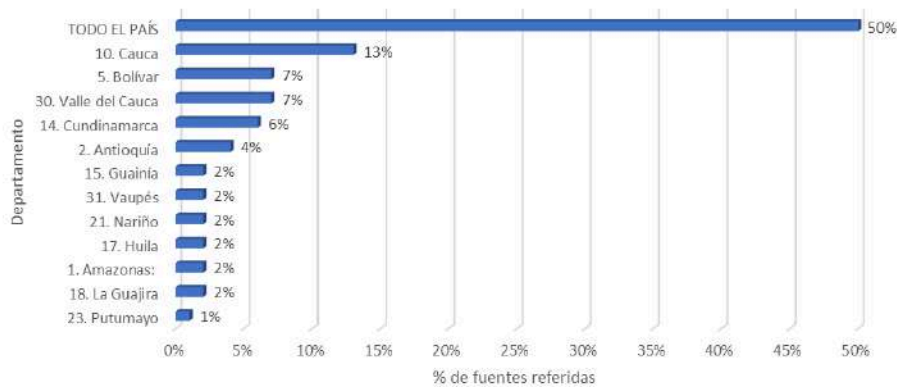


Case law and policies **35%**

Case law and policies (35%): The legal approach shows progress in the incorporation of digital rights within the regulatory framework, although with a need for greater systematization and effectiveness.

Entities Responsible for the Documents

- **Variable: State Institutions (45%),** high reliance on state documents reflects the focus in laws and public policies to regulate and protect the digital civic space in Colombia, despite its invisibility Colombia.
- **Variable: Academy (40%),** Academic contribution shows interest in research to understand and analyze in depth the access to digital civic rights in Colombia.
- **Variable: Civil Society Organizations (15%),** there is a practical and direct perspective on the challenges and needs of ethnic communities in accessing digital civic rights.
- **Variable: International Cooperation (1%):** The minimal representation of international

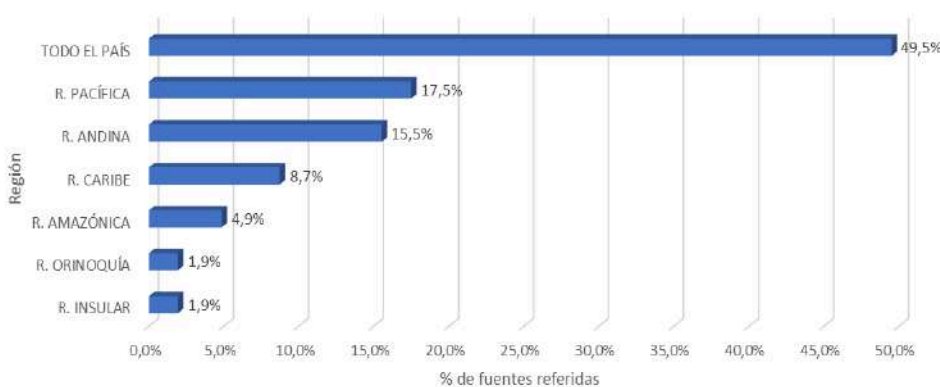


documents highlights a limited external perspective compared to local efforts.

Regions referred to in written sources

- **Variable: All the country (49.5%):** About half of written sources refer to content related to all regions of the country, Explained by the national coverage of public policies and case law in the face of the CSA's margin for action on their digital civic rights.
- **Variable: Regions with the highest percentage of references: Pacific (17.5%), Andean (15.5%) and Caribbean (8.7%).** Explained because these areas are home to more than half of the indigenous population and most of the Afro-Colombian population.
- **Variable: Regions with the lowest percentage of references: Amazonia (4.9%), Orinoquía (1.9%) and Insular (1.9%).** Limited public policy and investigative approach to digital civic rights is recognized in these regions. This document and policy gap highlights the need for greater focus and participatory planning in these areas, to ensure inclusive and equitable coverage of digital civic rights across the country.

Departments Referred to in Written Sources



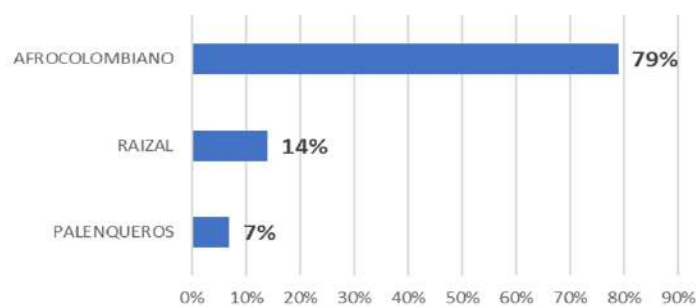
- **Variable: All the country (50%).** Half of the written sources collected for the study have a national approach (50 per cent), similar to the trend analyzed by region.
- **Variable: Departments with the highest percentage of references:** Cauca stands out for being referred to in 13% of sources, followed by Valle del Cauca and Bolivar, both with 7%. This is

explained by the fight against oblivion through digital media that indigenous peoples and NARP have carried out in departments with a higher level of social organization.

- **Variable: Departments with the lowest percentage of references.** Those with lower representation, such as Putumayo (1%), La Guajira, Amazonas, Huila, Nariño, Vaupés and Guainía (all with 2%), receive less attention in documentary sources. In fact, digital affordability is further limited by reporting on the remaining 19 departments of the country's 33, where historically marginalized ethnic peoples are dispersed and deprived of basic services, including digital infrastructure.

Indigenous population referred to in secondary sources

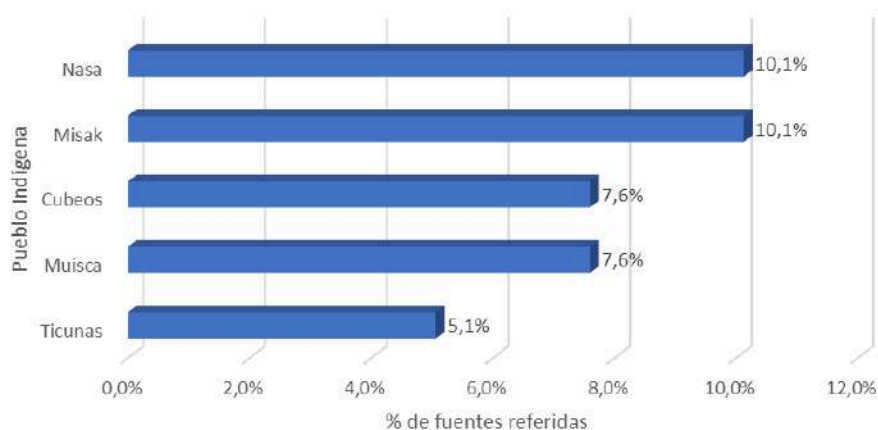
- **Variable: Indigenous peoples with higher percentage of references.** According to the references in the collected written sources, the villages of Nasa-Paez and Misak (Guambiana) stand out with 10.1% each. These groups are characterized by their active organization in the



promotion of territorial and cultural rights, especially through digital media. Followed by Cubeos and Muisca with 7.6 per cent, and Ticuna with 5.1 per cent, reflecting a significant level of visibility in the sources consulted.

- **Variable: Indigenous peoples with lower percentage of references.** Most other villages, including the Pastos, Piapoco, Bora, Piratapuyo, Curripacos, Puinaves, Emberá, Sikuni, Huitoto, Siriano, Muinane, Yukuna, Tucano, Andoque, Tujuuca, Emberá Chamí, Wanano, Yukpa, Wayuu, Awá, Yanacona, Desano and Yerales, have a representation of 2,5% each. This lower coverage in documentary sources suggests limited visibility, highlighting the need to broaden research on the diversity and needs of these groups in the context of civic and digital rights.

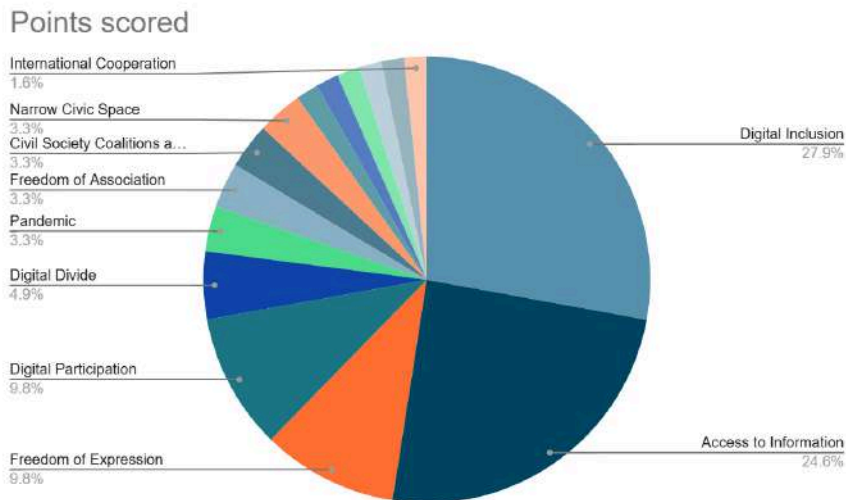
NARP population referred to in secondary sources



- **Variable: Afro-Colombians (79%),** the Afro-Colombian population represents a high percentage in the references investigated, although their access to digital civic law is limited by the lack of technological infrastructure in rural areas and in the so-called deep Colombia (Colombia Profunda).

- **Variable: Raizales (14%),** with a low documentary representation, this population, which resides in the archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina, Faces limited coverage of their digital rights due to their particular cultural context and lower prioritization in studies.
- **Variable: Palenqueros (7%),** The low representation of the palenquera population in documentary sources indicates a lower availability of specific studies on their digital civic rights.

Main themes in the texts



Digital inclusion and access to information are identified as the most relevant topics, accounting for 28% and 25%, respectively. Digital inclusion encompasses not only access to technologies, but also the development of skills for their effective use, which is essential to enable participation by prioritized populations. This is a way to reduce the access gap in deep Colombia "Colombia Profunda", where these groups face social exclusion and lack of digital resources. Access to information, regulated by the Law 1712 of 2014, guarantees the right of all persons to access public information and obliges institutions to proactively disclose it, this is crucial for transparency and informed participation in these contexts.

Other topics, such as freedom of expression and digital participation, account for 10% of the topics, highlighting as essential to promote active citizenship online. The digital gap (5%) also continues to limit access in rural and marginalized areas, reflecting the urgency of targeted interventions. Finally, issues such as digital security and digital welfare, although less frequent, point to the need to strengthen civic and organizational capacities in these territories.

Secondary themes in the texts

Analysis of secondary themes reveals that "Online Regulation" is the most prominent (19%), underlining the importance of regulations that protect digital rights and promote a safe environment for vulnerable populations, especially ethnic communities. Issues such as "Educational ICT use" (12%) and "Digital self-determination" (8%) reflect a growing interest in harnessing technology in education and strengthening the digital autonomy of communities, key to their development and equitable participation in the digital sphere.

Other areas, such as "Technological Infrastructure" and "Digital Literacy" (both 4%), highlight the need to reduce access and knowledge gaps. The mention of the "ethnic digital gap" indicates that these inequalities particularly affect indigenous peoples and NARP, highlighting the urgency of targeted interventions. Issues such as "Digital Sovereignty" and "Digital Networks," although minor, reflect the interest in creating autonomous networks and local control over digital resources, which is vital for an inclusive civic space adapted to the needs of civil society actors.

Qualitative analysis of secondary sources



DIGITAL DIVIDE

The records found suggest that the digital divide is a present reality in Colombian territory; however, only one case analyzes the relationship between Indigenous Communities and the digital divide. Regarding other populations, there is no mention related to databases (BD).



EDUCATION

Three of the reviewed documents emphasize the importance of incorporating ethnic education and digital education processes as a way to reduce the technology gap. This approach aims to enable not only access to technology but also access to information, addressing a historical barrier faced by Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities: the exclusion of these groups from quality educational processes that take into account the unique characteristics and traditions of each.



INTERACTION

A concept that emerges from the conducted review is the idea of interaction as a core element for measuring or calculating the impact that media—in this case, from the studied groups—has on the social life of each community. This gives rise to the notion that interaction serves as a gauge of the reach that Indigenous and Afro-descendant populations may achieve in the digital world.



EXCLUSION

In the reviewed texts, this concept is closely associated with Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. The context highlights how simply belonging to these groups has led to experiences of exclusion. Likewise, this context addresses the links with poverty and educational disadvantage. One document points out how technology ultimately becomes another form of exclusion, serving as a barrier to information access for these groups.

Through a study tool, of the 103 secondary sources, 52 sources were reviewed which included information on targeted population groups and digital civic rights in Colombia. From these secondary sources, a process of systematization of the information was carried out which allowed to generate figures in terms of type of file, type of source, main subject of documents, among others.

However, for the document review, summaries of each source were included, and an analysis was carried out using the Atlas IT tool. This exercise identified the claims in the sources about digital civic rights in Colombia and in relation to ethnic groups. The following findings were obtained:

KEY WORDS

The following words, which are more frequently used, take precedence in the document keyword review:

In the analysis of digital civic law in Colombia, keywords highlight essential aspects for the inclusion and protection of digital rights of vulnerable communities. **Digital** reflects the environment in which rights must be guaranteed, promoting the use of inclusive technological tools. **Rights** refers to the guarantees necessary for communities to participate on an equal basis in the digital environment, especially for **indigenous and Afro-Colombian** people who have historically faced exclusion. **Participation** and access underline the importance of all groups having equal opportunities to integrate and express their voices in the digital space. **Equality** becomes a pillar to remove obstacles of discrimination and ensure a fair presence online. **Protection** is essential to protect these communities from digital threats and abuse, while **communities** and **culture** point to the need for an approach that respects collective and cultural identities, enabling them to be reflected and strengthened in the digital environment.

PREVAILING CONCEPTS

1. **Cultural identity:** Cultural identity represents the values, practices, languages and traditions that define a group. For NARP, indigenous and LGBTIQ+ communities in Colombia, preserving their cultural identity in the digital environment is crucial to maintain their legacy and express themselves freely without facing discrimination.
2. **Technology:** Technology, in this context, refers to the digital tools and platforms that enable access to information and communication. It is an essential resource for participating in civic space and accessing rights and opportunities, and it involves ensuring equitable access to technology for NARP, indigenous and LGBTIQ+ population in Colombia. However, there are significant obstacles such as the lack of infrastructure in rural areas and discrimination faced by some people when accessing digital spaces.
3. **Education:** Education is key in order to develop the skills and knowledge needed in the digital environment. For ethnic communities and the LGBTIQ+ population in Colombia, not only facilitates access to digital rights, but also promotes empowerment and defense of their online identities, starting with digital rights content, privacy, online security and citizen participation. Ethno-educational programs are adapted to cultural and linguistic realities by addressing issues of inclusion and respect for diversity.
4. **Cultural Diversity:** Cultural diversity refers to the coexistence of different cultural and practical identities within a single society. In the digital context, cultural diversity is a wealth that must be protected and promoted, recognizing and respecting cultural diversity.
5. **Social inclusion:** Social inclusion refers to the equitable integration of all individuals into society, ensuring that they have equal opportunities and rights. In the digital environment, social inclusion means removing obstacles that prevent certain groups from accessing and participating in the digital civic space. This includes implementing anti-discrimination measures online, creating safe and accessible spaces, and ensuring that these communities can access digital services in a fair way.
6. **Community participation:** It is the ability of individuals to participate in decision-making and social life in their communities. In the digital environment, community participation allows these groups to make their struggles, interests and traditions visible; community participation is fundamental for NARP peoples, indigenous and LGBTIQ+ communities can voice their voices and defend their rights in the digital environment.

ARTICULATED CONCEPTS

According to the advanced search through the ATLAS IT software, the following pairs of concepts are in trend, which are taken simultaneously in some of the analyses:

1. **Community Participation + Cultural Identity:** Community participation in the digital environment is crucial for NARP, indigenous and LGBTIQ+ communities to express and defend their cultural identity. These groups find in the digital space a means to make their traditions, languages, values and struggles visible, contributing to the preservation of their identities in an increasingly globalized world.
2. **Social Inclusion + Cultural Diversity:** Social inclusion and cultural diversity are fundamental in order to build a fair and representative digital environment, especially in places where there is no access to anything in Colombia. Colombia's digital inclusion policies must recognize and celebrate cultural diversity.
3. **Human Rights + Minorities:** NARP, indigenous peoples and LGBTIQ+ communities are often minorities in the national context and as such face human rights violations, both physical and digital. Digital civic law must ensure that these communities can exercise their rights without fear of discrimination, harassment or exclusion.
4. **Community Participation + Cultural Diversity:** Community participation in the digital environment, when combined with respect for cultural diversity, allows NARP, indigenous and LGBTIQ+ peoples to organize and express themselves in an environment that values and respects their cultural differences. This participation allows these groups to make their demands visible, strengthen their identities and build networks of support and resistance.
5. **Education + Technology:** Education and technology are key tools for NARP, indigenous and LGBTIQ+ peoples to integrate and benefit fully from the digital environment. Digital education helps bridge the

knowledge gap by enabling these groups to use technology for their empowerment, access to rights and identity defense.

Written Sources results:

Population	Important findings
Indigenous	<p>Digital and Exclusion Gap of Indigenous People: The documents highlight a considerable digital gap in Colombian indigenous communities, especially in rural areas and isolated regions such as Vaupés and Cauca. The lack of technological infrastructure severely limits their access to information and digital rights, which prevents social and political inclusion of these populations. This lack of connectivity not only restricts access to basic digital services, but also negatively impacts their development and well-being.</p> <p>Digital Sovereignty, Regulation and Data Protection: There is growing concern about the lack of regulations that guarantee the digital autonomy of indigenous communities, who need a regulatory framework that respects their rights and traditions in digital environments. Without this regulation, communities face risks such as invasion of their privacy and loss of control over their information. The need for policies that promote an inclusive, autonomous and secure digital civic space, adequately protecting their cultural heritage and rights is stressed.</p> <p>Cultural Preservation, Digital Communication and Cultural Resistance: The documents highlight the importance of digital communication for indigenous communities, allowing them to use digital media to preserve and disseminate their culture, language and identity. With communication tools adapted to their contexts, these peoples can make their demands visible and protect their cultural heritage from external influences. This approach is fundamental to digital self-determination, allowing technology to act as a means of cultural resistance and community empowerment.</p> <p>Social Mobilization and Visibility in the Digital Environment: ICTs have been essential for cultural resistance and social mobilization of indigenous communities. Platforms such as social networks and indigenous radio stations serve as tools to disseminate their struggles and counteract the stigmatization of mass media. Examples such as the Communication Network (Tejido de comunicación) of ACIN in Cauca show how communities use technology to preserve their cultural autonomy and communicate their demands to the public, strengthening their identity in the digital space.</p> <p>Sustainability and Technology Infrastructure Strengthening Challenges: Financial sustainability and limited infrastructure are critical obstacles to indigenous media and access to digital rights. Lack of connectivity in remote areas such as the Amazonía and Orinoquía prevents digital inclusion and limits opportunities to access vital information. Strengthening infrastructure in these areas would increase their development opportunities and integration with the rest of the country, promoting their participation in the digital space and the protection of their cultural and civic rights.</p>

Results for NARP Population according to written sources review

Digital Inclusion and Connectivity in Isolated Regions: The documentation reveals that the NARP population, especially in rural areas and territories with poor technological infrastructure, faces critical limitations in their digital inclusion. These documents highlight the urgency of improving connectivity infrastructure in hard-to-reach regions such as the Pacific coast and the archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina. Lack of access restricts not only digital participation but also the exercise of fundamental rights online, which requires interventions that extend the reach of digital networks to these territories

Educational Gaps and Digital Autonomy: Among the most highlighted issues are the difficulties of access to digital educational programs and the need to strengthen digital autonomy in Afro-descendant communities. This involves creating spaces where NARP can build their own content and narratives on digital platforms, facilitating their own communication that responds to their cultural and social needs. Sources indicate that this would be key to overcome the ethnic digital gap and enabling these communities to take full advantage of technological tools for local development and identity preservation.

Civic Participation and Digital Rights: The literature review highlights the lack of specific regulatory frameworks that ensure the protection of the digital rights of the NARP population, limiting their civic participation in digital environments. This legal vacuum not only puts your data and privacy at risk, but also restricts your ability to express yourself freely on digital platforms. The relevance of this finding lies in the need to develop digital inclusion policies that not only provide access, but also security and active participation for these groups in safe and rights-respecting digital spaces.

Results for LGBTI Population according to written sources review

LGBTI people face multiple economic and social obstacles that make difficult their access to technology and the internet, especially in regions with income inequalities and infrastructure limitations. Employment discrimination and harassment, which affect their employability and economic stability, exacerbate the difficulty of paying for internet services, preventing many people in the community from accessing online resources and support networks.

The LGBTI community experiences high levels of online violence and harassment, which affects their ability to freely express themselves and participate freely in digital environments. This hostility not only limits their safe access to the internet, but also negatively impacts their well-being and security, leading many people to restrict their online activity or hide aspects of their identity to avoid risk.

In order to close the digital gap, it is essential to implement inclusive policies that guarantee equal access to technology for the LGBTI community. This includes legal reforms that protect their right to privacy, remove structural gender barriers in official documents, and encourage the creation of safe digital spaces. In addition, financial support and cooperation between social movements and governments are essential to address the accessibility and security obstacles that still affect this community in the digital environment.

4.4. Survey

The instrument used for this study is a survey (Annex 5 Survey) Cross-sectional design, which has 27 items, of which 10 are open questions, 7 of these were scale type Likert and 10 multiple selection type with an answer option.s

4.5 Constitutional and Legal Overview in Colombia

4.5.1 Background 1991-2010 – Constitutional Foundations and First Technological Advances

The access to the Internet as a tool for democratic participation and its relationship with fundamental rights began to acquire relevance in Colombia with the 1991 Constitution, which introduced the concept of the Social State under the rule of law. This constitutional framework establishes the guarantee and respect for fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression, access to information and citizen participation (Art. 20 and Art. 23 of the Political Constitution of Colombia), applicable to all citizens. The Constitution served as a basis for historically excluded sectors, including indigenous communities, NARP (Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero) communities, and the LGBTIQ+ population, to advance in the defense of their rights and find formal recognition within a country in transformation.

During this period, access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) was not explicitly addressed from a constitutional perspective as a fundamental right. However, its relevance began to grow as the country moved towards the digitization of public and private services. ICTs became a key tool for these communities, not only to access information, but also to seek visibility in a space that would allow them to exercise their fundamental rights and autonomy. In a context of access gaps, digital platforms began to play a significant role, especially for communities facing barriers in traditional media and in the exercise of civil rights.

An important milestone in this period was the enforcement of Law 134 of 1994, which, in development of the new Constitution, introduced mechanisms for citizen participation, such as the referendum, plebiscite, and popular consultation. Although these instruments were not specifically aimed at digital rights or the rights of minority communities, they established a framework that promoted inclusion and access to democratic means of participation. Indigenous, NARP, and LGBTIQ+ communities, historically marginalized, found in these mechanisms an emerging channel for advocacy

and representation, which would later be integrated with access to digital tools and platforms for expression in the virtual sphere.

Towards the end of the 2000s, in line with the global development of technology, the use of the Internet and access to ICTs began to be integrated into the Colombian political agenda. The Constitutional Court, in Judicial Sentence T-719 of 2003, highlighted for the first time the importance of ICTs in facilitating the exercise of fundamental rights, such as education and access to information. Although a legal framework guaranteeing universal access was still lacking, this ruling set a key precedent that communities such as the indigenous, NARP and LGBTIQ+ communities took advantage of to strengthen their right to information, expression and equality in a digital environment.

However, challenges continued, especially in rural or remote regions, where structural barriers limited access to technology and knowledge of rights for these communities. The lack of infrastructure and connectivity not only restricted access to digital services and platforms, but also perpetuated the invisibility and isolation of these groups. The indigenous community, for example, faced difficulties in accessing educational and communication platforms, while the NARP community continued to face a digital gap that reflects the country's historical and social inequities. For the LGBTIQ+ community, access to digital spaces represented an opportunity for expression and protection of rights, but also exposed them to new forms of discrimination and vulnerability.

In conclusion, this stage established the basis for technology to begin to be seen as a means for inclusion and equity in Colombia. Legal advances and the development of fundamental rights opened a space for indigenous, NARP and LGBTIQ+ communities to make their demands visible and exercise their rights in an environment that recognized their particularities. Digital inclusion and technological infrastructure would be fundamental in the following decades to achieve comprehensive inclusion, promoting equal opportunities and the recognition of diversity within the Colombian social network.

4.5.2 Legal Framework from the period 2010-2024 - Consolidation of Digital Rights and International Governance

The development of the regulatory framework on Internet access in Colombia during the period 2011-2024 shows significant progress towards the consolidation of ICT access as a fundamental right and essential service. One of the most relevant milestones is Law 2108 of 2021, which declared Internet access as an essential and universal public service. This law is crucial to guarantee democratic access to basic rights such as education, health and citizen participation, especially prioritizing communities in rural areas and historically marginalized territories, including indigenous communities, Afro-descendants and the LGBTIQ+ population. However, in practice, significant gaps persist in the effective implementation of these rights, reflecting the need for resources and infrastructure to materialize the principles of this law in underserved areas.

On the other hand, Decree 338 of 2022 on Digital Security Governance and Compes 3995 of 2020 on national policy on trust and digital security have established strategies to strengthen the digital environment and make it safe and accessible. These regulations represent progress in mitigating digital exclusion and protecting privacy, critical elements for vulnerable communities that face not only connectivity problems, but also specific risks of discrimination and violation of rights in digital environments. Law 1581 of 2012, which regulates the protection of personal data, reinforces this approach by establishing a security and privacy framework that seeks to protect users from abuses of both state and private power.

At the institutional level, agencies such as the Communications Regulation Commission (CRC) and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies (MinTIC) have played a key role in regulating access to ICTs and promoting digital participation. Social movements and NGOs such as the National Organization of Indigenous People of Colombia (ONIC) and the Black Communities Process (PCN) have used the digital environment to defend their rights and make the struggles of their communities visible, although their access continues to be limited by socioeconomic and structural factors that require more effective technological inclusion policies.

At the supra-constitutional level, the signing of the Pact of Cartagena in August 2024 and the Global Digital Pact in September 2024 represent fundamental commitments in the region. The Pact of Cartagena establishes a governance framework for artificial intelligence (AI) in Latin America and the Caribbean, seeking to ensure an ethical, inclusive and safe use of this technology, in line with the principles that will be developed in the Global Digital Pact. In the Cartagena Declaration, the countries of the region emphasized the importance of articulating an AI governance framework that responds to

their local realities and defends fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and privacy. However, the pact has been criticized by some sectors for its generalized approach and lack of a solid commitment to its implementation, which may limit the effectiveness of its measures on cybersecurity and equitable access issues.

Despite these commitments, significant challenges remain. The lack of cohesion in regional policies and the ambiguity in some provisions of the Global Digital Pact have generated criticisms that point to the possibility of excessive state control, which could negatively affect freedom of expression and other fundamental rights. In addition, judicial systems in the region, such as the Colombian Constitutional Court, will have to take an active role in the interpretation of these new regulations, especially to ensure that the international framework is adjusted to the local needs of vulnerable and minority communities.

This review of the Colombian legal framework underscores the need for effective implementation and follow-up mechanisms to reduce the digital gap, ensuring that historically excluded communities, such as indigenous, Afro-descendant and LGBTIQ+ communities, fully benefit from technological advances. Without a joint and determined effort, these groups will continue to face structural barriers that limit their digital inclusion and their rights in a country that, otherwise, runs the risk of deepening its backwardness in technological development and in the respect for the principles of equality and human dignity.

4.5.3 Legal Concept: from general to specific

In the Colombian context, the possibilities of action for social actors and international NGOs within the legal framework are diverse and formally accessible. Instruments such as Article 23 of the Constitution, which enshrines the rights of petition, the tutela action, popular or group actions, constitute suitable mechanisms for citizens to demand the protection of their civic and digital rights in the face of any violation. However, an accurate diagnosis cannot overlook the systemic barriers that limit the effectiveness of these mechanisms. Among the greatest obstacles are the generalized lack of knowledge about the exercise of these rights and the lack of access to quality legal assistance, despite the fact that the State offers free services through institutions such as the municipal ombudsman's offices and the Ombudsman's Office.

In the specific case of the LGBTIQ+ community, the 1991 Constitution and subsequent reforms have represented significant advances in the protection of their rights. Prior to this date, homosexuality was criminalized in Colombia, and it was only with the establishment of the Social State of Law that equality before the law began to be recognized, opening the way to decriminalize and legally protect this community. Despite these formal advances, great challenges remain: discrimination and social prejudice are still a palpable reality, even within law enforcement institutions, such as the police, where cases of discrimination and abuse are commonplace.

Furthermore, although legislation has advanced with protective norms, such as Law 1482 of 2011 that criminalizes discrimination based on sexual orientation and other personal characteristics, effective implementation faces significant obstacles in rural contexts and in areas where cultural and social discrimination is profound. Complaint figures show that in regions with less access to connectivity and education, LGBTIQ+ people are less likely to report and have less knowledge of their rights.

Regarding legal limitations, it is important to note that although Colombia has a strong constitutional structure and has ratified international instruments such as the American Convention on Human Rights (especially Article 13 on freedom of expression), regulatory ambiguity persists in key laws such as Law 1621 of 2013 on intelligence and counterintelligence and Decree 338 of 2022 on digital security governance. These norms present significant risks of broad interpretation that could allow the State to carry out activities that limit the exercise of fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and privacy in digital environments. The Tshwane Principles on Oversight of Intelligence Activities and the Balance between Security and Human Rights suggest that there should be greater transparency and accountability in the application of these regulations, to avoid abuses that could undermine fundamental rights.

In terms of institutional infrastructure, Colombia has agencies such as the Communications Regulation Commission (CRC) and the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies (MinTIC), responsible for regulating access to ICTs and guaranteeing citizen participation in political life through digital media. Social movements and NGOs, such as the National Organization of Indigenous People of Colombia (ONIC) and the Black Communities Process (PCN), have used the digital environment to

defend their rights and make visible the struggles of their communities. However, a deeper analysis reveals that the lack of a clear digital rights protection policy and the limited focus on issues such as data privacy and cybersecurity continue to leave vulnerable communities exposed, including the LGBTIQ+ community, who often face harassment and hate speech in digital environments.

In addition, Colombia's progress towards a global or regional Digital Pact has been more significant than expected. At the global level, the Global Digital Compact is still under development, and although Colombia has shown interest, its commitment remains at an exploratory stage, with no concrete steps at the international level. However, at the regional level, the Cartagena Pact, signed in August 2024, has provided an initial framework for advancing the governance of artificial intelligence, with a focus on education, digital security and inclusion. Although the pact addresses crucial aspects on the ethical use and governance of AI, intervention in digital rights still requires greater articulation and cohesion among countries in the region to avoid policy fragmentation. This reflects a structural risk for Colombia, where the lack of a consolidated strategy on digital rights could weaken national efforts to ensure equitable inclusion and protection in the digital and technological sphere.

This situation not only affects equality of opportunities, but also increases existing gaps, particularly for historically relegated communities such as indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTIQ+ and other minorities. Limited access to connectivity and the lack of adequate technological infrastructure in remote territories pose significant risks for the digital inclusion of these populations. Law 2108, although it represents a step forward, has not been able to effectively close the digital gap, which puts at risk the full exercise of fundamental rights in the digital environment, such as access to information, democratic participation and access to education and health.

From a jurisprudential point of view, the efforts of the Constitutional Court have been fundamental in making visible the relationship between fundamental rights and access to ICTs. In particular, the Court has issued relevant rulings that guarantee access to health, education and justice services for LGBTIQ+ persons, recognizing their right to a life free of discrimination. However, there are still important gaps in the protection of digital rights in specific cases of violation by state or private agents, especially when it comes to illegal interceptions or excessive control of social networks under the pretext of security. Here we see the danger of a disproportionate interpretation of state control over digital speech, which could be detrimental to individual freedoms.

As for future challenges, the fourth industrial revolution and the advance of artificial intelligence (AI) present an even more complex panorama. If Colombia does not align itself with international standards and does not subscribe to global pacts that guarantee a balance between technological development and human rights, the country risks falling further behind and widening the digital gap. The future of work and education will be increasingly mediated by advanced technologies, and those countries that do not implement clear policies on AI and automation will see their population lagging behind, which will further affect marginalized communities.

This diagnosis reveals the need for a comprehensive review of the Colombian legal and regulatory framework on digital rights. Legislative advances, such as Law 2108 of 2021, must be complemented with an effective implementation that closes the digital gap and ensures that the most vulnerable communities can fully benefit from ICTs. Likewise, it is imperative that Colombia takes a proactive role in the international agenda, both by subscribing to the Global Digital Pact and promoting regional agreements such as the Cartagena Pact. This is the only way to ensure that fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression, privacy and access to information, are respected in an increasingly complex and challenging digital environment. Without coordinated and decisive action, Colombia not only risks falling behind in technological development, but also risks undermining the principles of equality and human dignity that must guide all public policy.

4.5.4 Recommendations and propositions from Jurisprudential analysis

Strengthening Internet access and the protection of digital civic rights in Colombia requires more effective articulation between social actors, the private sector and international NGOs, especially in terms of access to early warning information for the protection of rights. The digital transformation and the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) present a challenge not only for Colombian society in general, but particularly for historically neglected communities, including indigenous, Afro-descendant, LGBTIQ+ and other minorities. This context demands policies that promote the country's competitiveness while ensuring respect for human rights and equal opportunities.

Given the essential nature of digital inclusion, the approach must start from strong legal regulation and executive policy that prioritizes the digital rights of minorities. It is essential that the legislator remains attentive and coordinated with the new digital realities, legislating in favor of “positive discrimination” that prioritizes historically relegated communities. This effort must be supported by a flexible and adaptive justice system that guarantees respect for fundamental rights in the digital environment, responding effectively to the new technological challenges.

- a. **Strengthening equitable access:** It is recommended that Colombia adopt a digital inclusion policy to ensure equal access to the Internet in rural and marginalized areas, where many minority communities live. The promotion of a robust and accessible technological infrastructure in these areas should be a priority for the state, preventing digital progress from deepening the existing social and economic gap.
- b. **Creation of coalitions and support networks:** Encourage the creation of coalitions or networks that promote the exercise of digital civic rights through constitutional and legal instruments, such as protection action, popular actions and petition rights. These networks can serve to provide legal assistance to disadvantaged communities and facilitate their access to digital tools that promote their democratic participation and rights in the digital environment. For the LGBTIQ+ community, this is essential as they face additional barriers of discrimination in justice systems and access to basic service.

These coalitions, in collaboration with the private sector, could also drive reskilling and upskilling programs for marginalized communities, providing new digital skills and adapting these populations to technological demands. This approach would reduce the risk of exclusion in the employment market, which often affects LGBTIQ+ people and other vulnerable groups.

- c. **Protection and regulation of digital rights in the face of AI and technological progress:** With the development of AI and its impact on labor and education sectors, it is crucial that Colombia follow international models such as the Global Digital Compact and the EU and US Digital Pacts. US, adapting cybersecurity, privacy and ethics standards in the use of AI to protect vulnerable communities. Surveillance technologies and AI, if not properly regulated, can perpetuate the marginalization of these populations. Protection against misuse of these technologies is essential to prevent AI and other digital innovations from becoming tools for unwarranted discrimination or surveillance.e. Digital education and inclusion in the educational curriculum
- d. **Support for community and alternative media:** It is essential that community and alternative media receive state and private support to strengthen their capacity to represent the voices of vulnerable communities. These media not only disseminate information, but also create spaces for empowerment and visibility of historical struggles, essential for a balance between national competitiveness and respect for human rights. For the LGBTIQ+ community and other minorities, these media are critical channels to share their experiences and advocate for their rights in an environment that may still be hostile or discriminatory.
- e. **Digital education and inclusion in the educational curriculum:** Including digital literacy and ethical use of AI in the curriculum from elementary to university levels is essential to prepare all citizens, especially those from vulnerable communities, for the digital future. This will ensure that all Colombians, in the long run, have the opportunity to actively participate in the digital economy, reducing the chances of exclusion. An educational approach aligned with equal opportunities will enable people not only to access technology, but also to understand and exercise their digital rights in an ethical and effective manner.
- f. **Proposals for a competitive and guarantee-based society:** Colombia’s digital competitiveness must go hand in hand with a commitment to guarantee human rights. The state must establish frameworks for action that allow all citizens to benefit from the digital economy and AI without compromising fundamental rights. Digital equity must be a right accessible to all, providing opportunities for development and democratic participation, especially for LGBTIQ+, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.
- g. **Awareness and citizen education in digital rights:** It is crucial to educate citizens, especially those who have not had equitable access to educational opportunities, to know and demand their digital rights. This education should include the exercise of participatory rights and transparency, as well as the ethical and safe use of digital tools. For the LGBTIQ+ community, which faces significant challenges due to historical discrimination, digital rights training could empower its members by making it easier to report abuses and defend their rights.

These recommendations aim to close the digital gap and ensure that technological advances, especially in artificial intelligence, do not exclude historically marginalized sectors. In a context of digital transformation, only through inclusive policies and the protection of digital rights will Colombia be able to face the challenges of modernity while maintaining a solid basis of equality and competitiveness on the global scene. To do this, it is imperative an active and coordinated commitment from the legislative branch, an executive that leads policies of inclusion, and a justice committed to equity, to ensure that technology is a tool for development and dignity for all Colombians.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COLOMBIA

5.1 Conclusions

General

- The situation of armed conflict in Colombia exacerbates inequalities in access and exercise of digital civic rights, in ethnic communities, LGBTIQ+, youth and women, in regions affected by conflict, lack of digital infrastructure, insecurity and surveillance limit access to the internet and communication tools, restricting communities' ability to express their opinions, defend their rights and participate actively in civic space. The intersection of conflict and digital exclusion perpetuates the marginalization of these sectors, highlighting the urgency of policies that not only promote connectivity, but also protect the safe exercise of digital civic rights in contexts of violence and high vulnerability.
- A significant gap in access to digital rights is revealed for ethnic communities, especially in rural and dispersed areas. The importance of triangulating basic needs (BSN), technological infrastructure and digital capabilities – understood as resources, skills and support networks – is fundamental to address this gap in a holistic way. Although digital inclusion policies and training programs have been implemented, structural barriers remain that affect connectivity, cultural autonomy and civic participation of indigenous and NARP populations.

5.1.1. NARP

- Despite efforts to improve connectivity in rural areas and deep Colombia, the NARP (Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizales and Palenqueros) population continues to face significant digital exclusion. The lack of technological infrastructure and access to devices limits their ability to participate fully in the digital civic space, which prevents their inclusion in decision-making processes, visibility of their rights and defense of their culture and identity.
- The low representation of the NARP population in the digital space highlights the need for specific policies that not only improve access to technology, but also promote content and tools adapted to their cultural contexts. This would allow NARP communities to use digital platforms to strengthen their identity, make their struggles visible and organize politically, thus contributing to a more active and equitable participation in the digital environment.

5.1.2. Indigenous people

- The digital gap in indigenous communities not only affects their access to online services, but also limits their capacity for civic and political participation in the digital environment. Prior consultation policies and digital inclusion efforts are insufficient to close this gap, which raises an urgent need for institutional strengthening and an inclusive and sustained approach that addresses the specific needs of these communities.
- Indigenous communities face a significant challenge in terms of cultural preservation in the digital environment. The lack of culturally relevant content and the dependence on imported technology

expose these communities to acculturation processes, threatening their identity and traditional practices. This highlights the need for platforms and content adapted to their worldviews and linguistic contexts.

5.1.3. Cross-cutting (women, LGBTI, youth)

- **Limitations in Access and Use of Technology:** The LGBTIQ+ population in Colombia faces significant barriers to access and use technology safely and effectively. These barriers include economic factors, such as lack of employment due to employment discrimination, as well as challenges in accessing digital infrastructure in rural areas. Additionally, online harassment and discrimination generate insecurity, limiting the full participation of this population in digital spaces.
- **Vulnerability to Digital Exclusion and Discrimination:** LGBTIQ+ people in Colombia experience digital exclusion that is exacerbated by social and cultural discrimination. Despite some progress in public policies, such as Decree 762 of 2018, which protects the rights of this community, implementation is insufficient, leaving many LGBTIQ+ people without the tools and protection necessary to enjoy their digital rights equally.

4.2. Strategic recommendations by population

NARP

- Specific programs are recommended to improve connectivity in areas where the NARP population resides, ensuring affordable internet access and appropriate technology devices. To this end, the infrastructure in rural and remote areas of the country must be strengthened. This could include support between government, private sector and community organizations to establish local communication networks, ensuring greater digital inclusion and participation in civic space.
- It is essential to develop digital skills training programs for the NARP population, with a focus on using technologies that allow them to generate their own content and manage their narratives in digital platforms, through ethno-education, to promote digital skills from knowledge in their territory, including tools for the creation of visual content that reflects their culture and identity, and ensure their digital civic rights in the country.

Indigenous people

- Support the development of communication platforms that respond to the linguistic and cultural particularities of indigenous communities, facilitating their autonomy and capacity for expression in the digital civic space. This includes the creation of training programs in audiovisual production and digital media management, promoting communities to disseminate their knowledge and demands from their worldviews. Additionally, it is crucial to implement programs that support Digital Sovereignty, allowing these communities to manage their data, protect their intellectual property and maintain digital self-determination.
- It is essential to territorialize studies and processes of social intervention, prioritizing regions where connectivity is extremely limited. The implementation of adapted technological infrastructure, such as satellite internet networks and community WiFi zones, will help to reduce the digital gap in remote areas. In addition, developing digital literacy programs tailored to the socio-cultural contexts of these communities, with a focus on digital rights, privacy and security, will facilitate safe and effective use of technologies, promoting active and sustainable digital inclusion.

Cross-cutting (women, LGBTI, youth)

- Develop Digital Literacy and Psychosocial Support Programs: Specific digital literacy programs for the LGBTIQ+ community need to be implemented, including training in digital security and online harassment management. These programs should consider psychosocial aspects and offer support to address the risks of discrimination in the digital environment, empowering the community in its safe and effective use of technology.
- Strengthen Digital Inclusion Policies with a Diversity Perspective: The Colombian state should improve the implementation of digital inclusion policies focusing on sexual and gender diversity. This involves creating safe spaces and platforms that allow LGBTIQ+ people to participate without fear of retaliation or discrimination and ensuring that digital infrastructure reaches rural and marginalized areas.

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