



PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES REPORT
2024 — 2026

Fundación Malula

Building Peace Through Memory, Community & Culture

An overview of Fundación Malula's projects, partnerships, and activities across Colombia — from the neighbourhoods of Bogotá to the rivers of Chocó and the mountains of Risaralda.

Founded 28 February 2024

Fundación Malula is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable populations in Colombia. Through an integrated approach combining memory and research, social work, non-formal education, culture, and sport, we work alongside communities to strengthen their wellbeing, preserve their identities, and build lasting pathways toward peace and self-sufficiency.

Since our founding in February 2024, we have developed partnerships across Bogotá, Chocó, and Risaralda — working with displaced Indigenous communities, Afro-Colombian populations, conflict survivors, and urban residents facing the pressures of gentrification.

PROJECT 01 · MEMORY & RESEARCH · 2024 – PRESENT

Recovering the Memory of Barrio Belén

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Belén is one of the first six neighbourhoods founded in Bogotá — a close-knit urban community whose residents have built a strong social fabric centred around shared traditions and a way of life that resembles a village in the heart of the capital. Yet this community faces growing pressure from gentrification, the expansion of universities, and real estate developments that threaten to displace its residents and erase its history.

This project was born from a question posed within the Semillero Imaginarios por la Paz research group at Universidad del Rosario: how can academia break into its local context and open itself to listen to voices that belong outside its walls, but whose knowledge is equally valuable? A student who had lived in Belén brought the neighbourhood to the group's attention, and a working plan was developed in partnership with Professor Joaquín, whose leadership helped convene a group of residents — many of them over 60 years old — who carry the neighbourhood's living memory.

Through interviews, participatory workshops, and the review of photographs, personal archives, videos, and material objects, the team documents the stories, experiences, and



histories at risk of being lost. Residents are positioned as co-researchers — active shapers of their own narrative. The materials gathered are being compiled into a community archive to ensure that the identity of Belén can be preserved and passed down to future generations.

Partners

- Residents of Barrio Belén
- Universidad del Rosario — Semillero Imaginarios por la Paz
- Fundación Malula

PROJECT 02 · ECONOMIC AUTONOMY · MARCH 2025 – ONGOING

Bojayá: The Curcumetto Initiative

BOJAYÁ, CHOCÓ

In April 2025, Fundación Malula partnered with Planet Challenge Art — an organisation combining recycling, artistic creation, and environmental action — through an event called Sosteniéndonos in Los Angeles, where Latin American visual artists created works whose proceeds were intended to serve a social purpose. It was through this encounter that we were introduced to ASOVIVU, the Association of Conflict Victims and Vulnerable Populations.

ASOVIVU brings together Indigenous Emberá and Afro-Colombian communities in Bojayá, Chocó, to cultivate and commercialise organic turmeric under the brand Curcumetto. Rooted in peace and sustainability, the initiative drives interethnic economic development in a region deeply marked by violence. Today, 207 families — half Emberá Indigenous, half Afro-Colombian — depend on Curcumetto for their economic autonomy. Chocó is one of the rainiest regions on Earth, electricity is available only between 2 PM and midnight, and the farming communities are located up to nine hours away by boat from Bellavista, Bojayá.

We visited the community on 2 May 2025, during the commemoration of the Bojayá massacre — a tragedy that claimed 74 civilian lives in 2001, and that, over time, became the force that united diverse communities around a shared goal: building a future together through something they already knew how to do — cultivating the land.

Following the visit, we designed a training plan in direct response to the community's identified needs, delivering 16 virtual sessions covering conflict resolution, assertive communication, positive parenting, women's empowerment, intercultural integration, AI for entrepreneurship, social media, and digital marketing.

Alongside the training programme, we independently raised the funds needed to cover materials and labour for structural improvements to Curcumetto's production facility — upgrades that will enable the community to obtain INVIMA certification, expanding their client base, strengthening partnerships, and increasing sales for all 207 families involved.

The project closes in May 2026 with a return visit on 2 May, marking the commemoration once again. The visit will include a tour of the upgraded facility, the donation of school



supplies, clothing, and toys for 300 children from the 207 families, and a dreams workshop. We will also explore the possibility of building a memory space for the Emberá community of the territory.

Partners

- ASOVIVU — Bojayá Community
- Planet Challenge Art
- Fundación Malula

PROJECT 03 · PEACE & MEMORY · 2024 – 2026

Tongas de la Memoria: Pedagogies for Peace

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

This project makes visible a decade of work led by Virgelina Chará — a Colombian human rights defender, Nobel Peace Prize nominee (2005), and founder of the Unión de Costureros. Through her methodology of tongas de la memoria, she has built an artistic, healing, and political practice that gives voice to hundreds of conflict victims across Colombia through weaving, gastronomy, music, writing, and ancestral medicine.

Developed with Uriel Alberto Cárdenas and implemented through Fundación Malula, the project organises six gatherings of 35 to 50 participants — open to all, with priority given to members of the LGBTIQ+ community, people experiencing homelessness, individuals of ethnic belonging, and conflict survivors. Each gathering corresponds to one of Virgelina's five methodological approaches, concluding with a session on entrepreneurship and personal transformation.

Tongas Completed & Planned

- Harmonization Ceremony — International Peace Day, 21 September 2024, Plaza de Bolívar
- Tonga of Ancestral Medicine — 28 September 2024, Plaza de Bolívar
- Tonga of Sung Memories — 29 September 2024, Plaza de Bolívar
- Tonga of Writing — 30 November 2024, Casa de la Paz
- Tonga of Gastronomy — 17 May 2025
- Tonga: Fabric on Fabric — 2025, forthcoming
- Route of Freedom (Closing Session) — 2025, forthcoming

The project will conclude in 2026 with a methodological book and an audiovisual documentary capturing the full pedagogical process and its impact.

Partners & Funders

- Virgelina Chará — Unión de Costureros
- CAPAZ — Colombian-German Institute for Peace
- Elisabeth Käsemann Stiftung
- Universidad del Rosario
- Casa de la Paz



- Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación

PROJECT 04 · KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE · 2024 – ONGOING

Intercambio de Saberes — Spaces for Dialogue & Peacebuilding

BOGOTÁ & PEREIRA, COLOMBIA

This ongoing programme organises encounters and forums where individuals from diverse backgrounds — academic researchers, community leaders, conflict survivors, artists, peace signatories, and young people — come together to exchange knowledge and engage in critical dialogue. Academic expertise and lived experience are placed on equal footing, in spaces designed for structured listening, reflection, and the generation of new ideas that can contribute to peacebuilding and social transformation.

Activities

- Conversatorio 'Caquetá Somos Todos' — February 2024 and February 2025
- Discussion on the Ley del Biche — August 2025
- Visit to Fragmentos (monument and memory centre for victims of sexual violence in the conflict), with research group members and international volunteers — October 2025
- Art & Memory discussions at Casa de la Paz — November 2024 and July 2025
- Dialogue with peace signatories on forgiveness, reconciliation, and memory — October 2025 and at Universidad del Rosario, January 2026
- Feria del Libro de Pereira — 2024 and 2025, with two conferences per edition, a stand presenting projects and community products, and open discussion spaces

Partners

- Casa de la Paz
- Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación
- Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica
- Universidad del Rosario
- Community participants & academic collaborators

PROJECT 05 · INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES · OCTOBER 2025 – DECEMBER 2026

Emberá Community — Marsella, Risaralda

MARSELLA, RISARALDA

This project was born from a relationship of trust. César Núñez, a member of Fundación Malula's board of directors and rector of Hillside School, has spent over a year and a half supporting an Emberá Indigenous community resettled in Marsella, Risaralda — a territory entirely foreign to them. Every member of the community is a survivor of forced

displacement, uprooted from their ancestral land and relocated to a mountainous region where the altitude, the soil, and the landscape are unfamiliar, where they cannot grow the crops they have always known, and where they live surrounded by cultures different from their own — a daily pressure that threatens the survival of their language, history, and identity.

In October 2025, Fundación Malula made its first visit alongside international volunteers. The conversations that emerged revealed pressing needs — particularly among women: a near-total absence of healthcare access, services, and materials. In response, Hillside School awarded a scholarship for one community member to study nursing, building a first point of internal knowledge to reduce harm and provide basic assistance for injuries, infections, and complications arising from lack of specialised care.

What We Are Building Together

Beginning in June 2026, we will deliver first aid training for the women of the community — equipping them with practical skills while strengthening their voice within a structure where decisions are predominantly made by men. Each participant will receive a first aid kit. Training on sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights, and substance use prevention will follow between July and September 2026.

Alongside the health programme, we are documenting the community's Emberá language and cultural heritage — compiling a glossary, alongside records of traditions, recipes, and ancestral medicine. This will feed into an ethnoeducation plan developed between September and December 2026 in partnership with Hillside School, meeting the requirements of Colombia's Ministry of Education while protecting the community's culture for future generations.

We also support the economic independence of women through a speciality coffee cultivation project developed with **Cafeína Ética**, contribute feminine hygiene materials, and are providing construction support for a care centre for children aged 0 to 3. Peace-building activities and games designed to strengthen community cohesion are also part of the programme.

Partners

- Emberá Community — Marsella
- Hillside International School
- Cafeína Ética
- Fundación Malula

PROJECT 06 · PROSPECTIVE

Emberá Community — Pereira

PEREIRA, RISARALDA

We are currently developing a relationship with an Emberá community in Pereira, working alongside community partners to understand their needs and explore how Fundación Malula may be able to offer meaningful support. We have already visited the community



to deliver school supplies to children — sourced through a collection drive at Hillside International School — as a first step in building trust and dialogue.

Partners

- Emberá Community — Pereira
- Hillside International School

Donors & Institutional Support

2024

CAPAZ (Colombian-German Institute for Peace) supported the Tongas de la Memoria project, funding the Tonga of Ancestral Medicine. Elisabeth Käsemann Stiftung contributed materials for the Sung Memories group, enabling continuity of tongas with diverse communities. Universidad del Rosario provided semi-professional audiovisual recording equipment.

2025

Independently fundraised donations. Partnership with Planet Challenge Art. Framework agreement signed with Universidad del Rosario for access to spaces and materials; equivalent agreements with the Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación, the Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica, and Casa de la Paz.

2026

Independently fundraised donations. Continued partnerships with Universidad del Rosario, Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación, Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica, and Casa de la Paz for spaces and materials.

