

Voices OF HOPE

Colombia

In the small town of Tasco, Colombia, community members occupied the road to the iron mine pit for a year, blocking trucks from moving iron from the mine to the plant. Iron exploitation pollutes water reservoirs and weakens the soil that in turn limits the water feed to streams, creeks, lakes and rivers. Lack of water also destroys surrounding vegetation. Local and foreign multinationals are pressing communities to vacate the Paramos region, the land they have protected for generations, where they live and farm, and where much of the country's fresh water originates.

PWRDF partner ILSA, a rights-focused organization, is helping women become stronger leaders, empowering them to protect the environment and to develop income alternatives. They are advocating and seeking reparations for personal and environmental damages and the end of mining activities. Group members have organized and promoted community discussions with electoral candidates and more people are participating in municipal public affairs and policy development, something that has never been done. Women want to have a say in the socioeconomic and environmental agendas of their local governments.





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