



HIGHLIGHTS

7.2 million

Registered internally displaced persons. About 80% live below the poverty line, 35% in extreme poverty.

340,000

Colombian refugees living abroad. The majority have found refuge in Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama and Costa Rica.

26,317

Families affected by 382 registered large group displacement events between January 2012 and August 2016

425,564

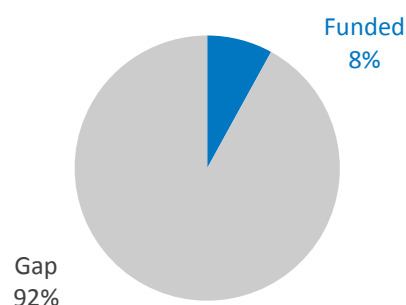
Persons are direct beneficiaries of UNHCR and its partners. At least 50% of the displaced have fled to marginal neighborhoods of 27 largest cities.

Context

- Since 2012, the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have held peace negotiations to end more than 50 years of conflict. The signed peace agreement was narrowly rejected in the plebiscite of 2 October 2016.
- The presence armed groups continues to cause mass displacement and displacement of children, closely associated to child recruitment.
- The lack of land regularization and access to basic services prevent the effective integration of IDPs.
- UNHCR's National Protection and Solutions Strategy aims to respond to new and on-going protection needs as well as to promote durable solutions for internally displaced peoples, refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR.
- Regional developments require UNHCR to provide support in strengthening asylum procedures to guarantee the rights of persons of concern arriving in Colombia.

Funding

USD 31.5 million requested



UNHCR Presence






Staff:

78 national staff
14 international staff
61 affiliate staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Bogota
1 Sub-Office in Pasto
7 Field Offices in Cucuta, Medellin, Quibdo, Villavicencio, Buenaventura, Florencia and Mocoa
2 Field Units in Arauca and Apartado



 UNHCR Country Office
  UNHCR Field Office
 UNHCR Sub-Office
  UNHCR Field Unit
 Refugee Urban Location

Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Printing date: 27 Jul 2016

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works in close coordination with Government institutions, civil society, UN agencies, regional bodies, and persons of concern. The organization also provides technical assistance to a broad range of public institutions, including the Constitutional Court, the Victims and the Land Restitution Units, the National Protection Unit, the National Registration Office, among others.
- The Ministry of Foreign affairs is a UNHCR's main interlocutor on Refugee Status Determination and border monitoring.
- UNHCR and the Government's Victims Unit have been working together since the Unit's creation in 2011; they continue to reinforce cooperation on protection and solutions. In 2016 UNHCR has been assisting the Unit in revising its return and relocation protocol, and together with the Ministry of Housing, helped establish an inter-institutional task force to promote comprehensive policies on the legalization of informal IDP settlements as an essential step for durable solutions to urban displacement.
- As leader of the Protection Cluster, UNHCR works closely with OCHA, UNICEF and UNDP in coordinating its strategy to respond to residual protection risks. In close cooperation with UNFPA and UN Women, UNHCR works to strengthen the quality of services provided by the Government to SGBV survivors and assist with systematic and confidential data collection as well as with analysis. With regards to the peace process, UNHCR is providing broad support to the UN Verification Mission to increase awareness of protection issues and ensure respect for displaced and affected communities.
- UNHCR works through 41 partners in Colombia, the vast majority of them local and community-based organizations.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Durable Solutions

The peace process has created new opportunities for UNHCR to consolidate the work it carried out on protection and solutions in the past and gear up efforts to assist the Government in finding comprehensive solutions to forced displacement, in this regard UNHCR is working to:

- Break the vicious cycle of recurrent displacement situations by helping communities overcome stigmatization and discrimination and assisting authorities in addressing root causes through activities such as land restitution and collective protection mechanisms.
- Provide assistance to the authorities to strengthen their presence in expulsion and reception areas, and build confidence between authorities and communities.
- Support the authorities in preparing, implementing and consolidating return and relocation movements by helping them adopt long-term coordinated reintegration approaches. Assist communities to consolidate their reintegration visions, help displaced communities legalize the status of their informal settlements and facilitate the launch of sustainable development interventions, also in urban areas.
- Promote long term protection strategies for youth to prevent forced recruitment and the exploitation of children and adolescents by various armed groups including, demobilized paramilitary groups.
- Support the Victims and Land Restitution Units in disseminating information on the Victims Law to Colombian refugees and other victims of the armed conflict. In the framework of the peace building process, UNHCR will assist the Government in drawing up a comprehensive voluntary repatriation and reintegration framework for refugees that spontaneously return to Colombia.

Border Monitoring

- Monitor the situation in border regions to provide effective protection to persons of concern crossing into Colombia.
- Ensure, together with OCHA, that the Interagency Contingency Plan for the Colombia-Venezuela Border is regularly updated.
- Work with the authorities to identify and respond to protection risks facing persons of concern, including those arriving from Venezuela.

Protection

- Strengthen the Migration authorities' knowledge of International Refugee Law, to help them identify and respond to the protection needs of persons of concern and to mixed migration flows, which are increasingly common in Colombia.
- Provide legal counselling on asylum procedures and promote the development of durable solutions for recognized refugees, including support to guarantee their local integration by providing assistance in finding formal employment, accessing productive initiatives and the validating ID documents.

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