

Mobile Registration and Documentation Unit

Individual Registration

Mobile registration and documentation units supported by the Colombian government and UNHCR issue identification documents to people residing in remote areas of the country with little or no institutional presence.



UNHCR/A.M. Rodríguez

Background

Personal identification documents are an essential requirement for the enjoyment of rights. However, guaranteeing access to these documents for IDPs has been difficult for Colombian authorities. IDPs residing in isolated places with limited presence of civil institutions might have never had identification documents or considered getting them. Furthermore, those IDPs who do have identification documents often lose them during displacement.

The lack of documents is higher among women and indigenous and afro-Colombian communities, which makes them particularly vulnerable. Of special concern is the situation of adolescents, as the lack of a military ID (certifying that the holder has complied with the mandatory military service) might generate additional risks.

Given the situation, UNHCR has supported the Colombian government in its efforts to improve the registration of IDPs and provide them with the necessary documentation.

Location Bogotá and remote areas which are difficult to access and have little or no institutional presence.

Time & Duration 2000 - present

Population Groups IDPs

Actors UNHCR and Unidad de Atención a la Población Vulnerable (UAPV) – (Vulnerable Population-Assistance Unit)



Description

Mobile registration and documentation units find their way through the most remote areas of Colombia in order to reach populations which, due to the insufficiency or total lack of state institutions in their towns, have never been given personal identification documents. The remoteness of these populations' places of residence can often be linked to a considerable vulnerability to forced displacement, and therefore their registration is crucial for their protection.

Steps to Implementation

- Remote and vulnerable populations are identified.
- The mobile registration and documentation unit then goes to their places of residence to register the people and provide them with personal identification documents.
- The collected data is entered into the National Registry data base.

Impact and Results

- Since 2000, 216 registration and documentation campaigns have been conducted.
- 1,223 remote areas have been visited.
- During these campaigns 878,363 personal identification documents have been issued by the mobile registration and documentation units.
- Amongst those registered there has been an important representation of the Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.
- The success of the project has led 4 other organization to join the efforts of the mobile registration campaigns.

Constraints

The scope of the practice is limited due to the high costs associated to it, particularly in terms of transport.

Lessons Learned/Keys to Success

Registration and documentation campaigns can be used as a common platform to provide other services such as vaccination, and health and psychosocial assistance.

