



COLOMBIA FACTSHEET

February 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

7.3 million

Registered internally displaced persons. 425,564 persons are direct beneficiaries of UNHCR and its partners. At least 50% of those displaced fled to slums of the 27 largest cities.

340,000

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

28,898

Families affected by 416 registered mass displacement events between January 2012 and August 2016.

245

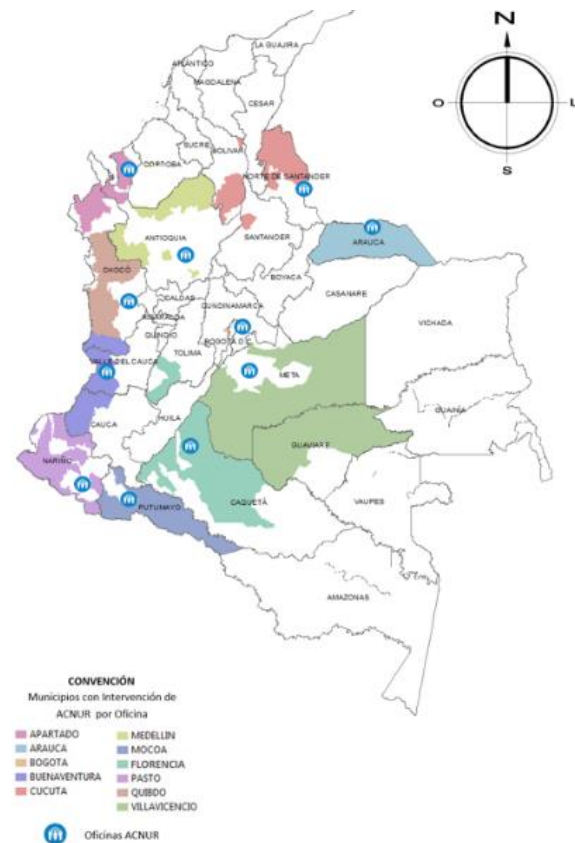
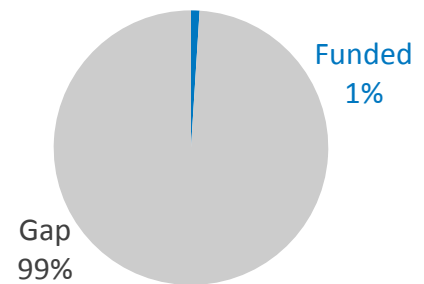
Refugees live in the country and 280 people applied for asylum between January and June 2016. Most of them come from Cuba, Venezuela, Ethiopia and Nicaragua.

Context information

- At the close of four years of intense negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a final peace agreement entered into force on 1 December 2016, after being approved by Congress.
- The Government is also in the process of initiating peace negotiations with the National Liberation Army (ELN), the second largest guerilla in the country.
- The presence of armed groups linked to the control of illegal economies; violence against human rights' activists, community leaders and land claimants continue to cause mass displacements in some regions of the country.
- 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 help achieve durable solutions for internally displaced people, refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR.
- Regarding the regional situation, UNHCR works to strengthen asylum procedures to guarantee the rights of persons of concern who arrive in Colombia.

Funding requirements

USD 27.7 million



UNHCR presence

Staff:

78 national staff and 14 international staff

Offices:

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

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 key partner in terms of international protection and border monitoring.
- UNHCR and the Government's Victims Unit have been working together since the Unit's creation in 2011 and continue to reinforce their cooperation on protection and solutions for displacement victims. In 2016 UNHCR has been assisting the Unit in revising its return and relocation protocols, 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 coordinates with OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP and NGOs, a strategy to highlight and respond to residual protection risks. In cooperation with UNFPA and UN Women, UNHCR is working to strengthen institutional and community based services provided to SGBV survivors.
- Within the framework of the peace process, UNHCR has been invited to be part of the countries and entities that will form an international taskforce to accompany the implementation of the Final Agreement; while also providing support to the UN Verification Mission to augment awareness of protection issues and ensure the respect for displaced and affected communities.
- UNHCR works through 41 partners in Colombia, the vast majority local and community-based organizations.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Peace Building and 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 the problem of forced displacement, in this regard UNHCR places special emphasis on:

- Breaking the vicious cycle of recurrent displacements, emergencies, returns, humanitarian assistance and new emergencies by helping communities overcome stigmatization and discrimination, and assisting authorities in addressing root causes through activities such as land restitution and collective protection mechanisms.
- Providing assistance to State authorities to strengthen their presence in expulsion and reception areas, and build confidence between authorities and communities.
- Supporting the authorities to prepare, implement and consolidate return and relocation movements by helping them adopt long-term coordinated reintegration approaches. Assisting communities to consolidate their reintegration visions, helping displaced communities legalize the status of their informal settlements and facilitating the launch of sustainable development interventions, also in urban areas.
- Promoting long term protection strategies for youth in order to prevent forced recruitment and exploitation of children and adolescents by various armed groups, including post demobilization armed groups.
- Supporting the Victims and Land Restitution Units in disseminating information on the Victims Law in asylum countries with 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 Colombian refugees that spontaneously return to Colombia.
- Strengthening intra- and inter-ethnic conflict resolution processes, the reconstruction of social fabric, and the effective participation of Afro-Colombian and Indigenous peoples, disproportionately affected by the armed conflict and at risk of physical and cultural extinction, to provide them with adequate protection and solutions.

Border Monitoring

- Monitoring the situation in border regions to provide effective protection to persons of concern crossing into Colombia, and working with authorities to provide a proper response to their protection risks.
- Supporting OCHA in the update of the Interagency Contingency Plan for the Colombia-Venezuela Border.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers Protection

- Strengthening Migration authorities' knowledge on International Refugee Law to help them identify and respond accurately to persons of concern and mixed migration flows now more common in Colombia.
- Providing legal counselling on asylum procedures and promoting 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 validation of their ID documents.

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