



Bello Oriente is a neighborhood located on the mountain slopes on the urban outskirts of Medellín, Colombia, and it is home to refugees, migrants, internally displaced people, victims of armed conflict, and host communities. | © UNHCR/Catalina Betancur Sánchez

COLOMBIA

Although Colombia's President is determined to set a path to peace after 60 years of armed conflict and to normalize relations with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the country is struggling to overcome multiple forced displacement crises. On the one hand, it is working to include millions of Venezuelans who are fleeing and unable to return to their country, having delivered 1.7 million temporary protection permits by August 2023. On the other, conflict and armed violence continue to uproot Colombians; over 900,000 people have been displaced since the 2016 Peace Agreement. Forced displacement and confinement persist in areas controlled or disputed by irregular armed groups, affecting indigenous, rural and Afro-Colombian communities especially. Targeted killings of human rights defenders, massacres, recruitment of children by illegal actors, gender-based violence, and the use of mines and unexploded ordnance continue to challenge the authorities. The Government's Victims' Unit registered over 247,000 victims of forced displacement in 2022, the highest number since the 2016 Peace Agreement. In 2023, over 6.8 million IDPs still required assistance and reparation.

Colombia has a strong legal and protection framework, but challenges remain in its implementation, including lengthy processes and limited measures for the reintegration of Colombian returnees. The refugee status determination process is complex, with cases often taking years, and asylum-seekers face difficulties accessing work and basic rights. Despite significant progress, some Venezuelans with temporary protection still encounter problems finding employment and accessing financial, educational, and health services, and many experience discrimination and xenophobia.

Sustaining UNHCR's presence in field locations is crucial in 2023 to bolster coordinated efforts to monitor and quickly respond to displacement and confinement. UNHCR works with the Government to improve the response to internal displacement and will continue its efforts to ensure access to asylum, documentation, civil registries, essential services, and inclusion in national social protection systems. However, more funding is urgently needed if UNHCR is to empower communities to identify and pre-empt risks and take action with the authorities to help IDPs and host communities in the search for long-term solutions for the displaced population.



POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **9,835,191**

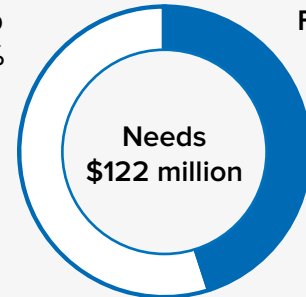
Largest population group: IDPs - **6,834,492 / 69%**



FUNDING

Gap
55%

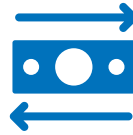
Funded
45%



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



Protection: limited projects that mitigate the impact of the internal conflict (only a third of the planned community ombudspersons could be hired).



Cash assistance: significantly reduced the number of families assisted with monthly cash payments.



Gender-based violence and child protection: reduced casework capacity to manage situations of gender-based-violence and child protection (only 30% of the case workers could be hired).



Shelter: reduced the number of informal settlement where IDPs live that are selected for legalization processes (only 20% of identified legalization processes can be supported).

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



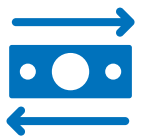
Protection - \$20 million: UNHCR was obliged to substantially curtail activities related to strengthening the ombudsperson function in Colombia.

UNHCR also limited its projects that mitigate the impact of the internal conflict, particularly prevention of recruitment by armed actors.



Solutions - \$10 million: UNHCR is severely limited in providing solutions for IDPs such as legalization of informal settlements, or return and relocation processes (currently 6.8 million IDPs are eligible for assistance and reparation).

Only 20% of legalization processes and 25% of return and relocation processes are being supported.



Cash assistance - \$17 million: UNHCR had to reduce its cash programme in 2023, and only prioritize specific protection cases, reaching only 12% of eligible families.

GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

Maintaining a favourable protection environment in conflict-affected areas, and particularly prevention and response to IDPs.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$70.53 million, if not more.