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Colombia

Protection Analysis Update

Trend analysis on Protection Risks related to the armed conflict and natural disasters

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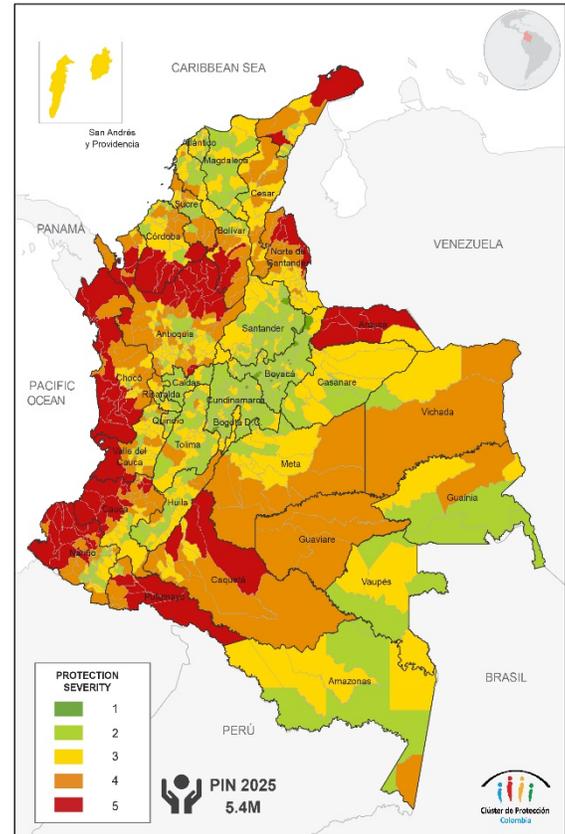
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the first half of 2024, Colombia faced ongoing armed conflict, mixed migratory flows and the impacts of climate change, which have increasingly restricted access to essential rights for communities in remote rural areas and urban peripheries. Persistent armed conflict across several regions has led to forced internal displacement and confinement, further deteriorating living conditions in both rural and marginalized urban areas. The fragmentation of non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and intensified conflicts among them have frayed the social fabric of affected communities, severely impeding access to rights, while compromising freedoms, security, and autonomy, thus straining the state's capacity for protection.

Despite ongoing humanitarian efforts, the continuous influx of refugees and migrants due to the Venezuelan migration crisis, whether transiting to third countries or intending to settle in Colombia, requires substantial state support in areas such as healthcare, education, and employment, particularly in border regions. This situation has heightened social tensions and increased challenges related to integrating refugees and migrants into the formal economy.

Floods and landslides have impacted various regions, affecting not only conflict-affected communities but also refugees and migrants. The “El Niño” phenomenon has been particularly devastating and these events continue to test the response capacities of the state and local communities, underscoring the critical need to intensify mitigation and prevention efforts to avert a more severe humanitarian crisis in the coming months.

The impact of crisis drivers generates greater severity in the **Pacific Axis (Chocó, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Nariño)**, the **Urabá-Catatumbo Axis (Antioquia, Córdoba, Bolívar)**, and the **regions bordering Venezuela (Guajira, Norte de Santander and Arauca)**. Protection risks in the southeast of the country, including the departments of Putumayo and Caquetá, saw an increase. The protection risks requiring immediate attention in the period covered by this analysis are as follows:



1. **Unlawful impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege and forced displacement.**
2. **Gender-based violence.**
3. **Forced recruitment and association of children in armed forces and groups.**
4. **Trafficking in persons, forced labour or slavery-like practices.**
5. **Presence of Mine and other explosive ordnance.**

URGENT ACTIONS NEEDED

To face the challenges that Colombia has experienced in 2024, it is imperative to implement urgent measures to mitigate the effects of the armed conflict, the migration crisis, and natural disasters.

- Strengthening local capacities is essential to ensure that the response extends beyond immediate humanitarian aid to foster social fabric reconstruction and reinforce local governance in the most impacted region.
- Inter-institutional coordination must be enhanced to prioritize timely, prevention-focused, and solution-oriented actions, reducing prolonged harm. It is crucial to address and overcome bureaucratic and administrative barriers that hinder affected communities’ access to rights protection. The active participation of community actors, local organizations, and self-governance structures within ethnic communities is indispensable for promoting self-management, reinforcing existing autonomous dynamics, and tailoring responses to local contexts.
- Developing an integrated response that reflects the diversity of population profiles—encompassing refugees, migrants, conflict victims, and those affected by natural disasters—is vital. Additionally, a differentiated approach should be applied, considering age, gender, ethnicity, and disability to meet each group’s specific needs. Implementing decentralized actions ensures a context-sensitive, timely, and relevant response that aligns with local realities.

CONTEXT

Persons internally displaced by the armed conflict	Persons confined by armed conflict	Refugees and migrants		People affected by climate change		Internal armed conflict
338.701ⁱ	8.114ⁱⁱ	2.932.346	377.895ⁱⁱⁱ	8^{iv}		
Individually displaced persons	Municipalities with confinement alert ^v	Persons in transit	Persons with vocation for permanence	Dry season	Rainy season	Non-state armed groups
79.685 ^{vi}	86	123.441	2.808.905	157.147	220.748	5

In Colombia, the humanitarian crisis has been prolonged, and the armed conflict continue to be the consequence of disputes over territorial control under particular interests. This has disproportionately affected peasant, Indigenous peoples, and Afro-Colombian communities in dispersed rural areas and on the periphery of urban centers. Forced displacements, both massive and individual, confinements, child recruitment, and accidents with Antipersonnel Mines (APMs) and Explosive ordnance (EO) are recurrent events that deteriorate the lives of these communities. In addition, threats to social leaders, human rights defenders, and gender-based violence persist in the context of the conflict, which aggravates the situation of lack of protection of the civilian population recognized in the national normative framework.

Despite the current government's proposed peace talks, there has been a proliferation of non-state armed groups and an increase in confrontation between them. This phenomenon has been driven, in part, by a shift in funding sources, with a growing interest in illegal mining, the resurgence of illicit crops, and human trafficking as a particular source of funding in the current context. The dispute over territorial control has exacerbated pressure on communities, which have seen their social fabric weakened, increasing the risk of takeover by non-state armed actors in strategic regions for confrontation.

This situation generates profound psychosocial effects in the communities, causing widespread fear and silencing as a survival mechanism. Black communities and Indigenous peoples continue to be disproportionately affected by confinement, forced displacement and other rights violations. Ethnic authorities warn that they are no longer at risk of physical and cultural extinction as the Constitutional Court warned in the framework of Ruling T 025, but rather that, this risk has become material and the process of extinction has advanced, generating profound consequences in the relationship between indigenous peoples and black communities in terms of survival in the territories^{vii}.

In addition to the effects of armed conflict, the crisis is exacerbated by the superposition of other factors, such as natural disasters and mixed migratory movements, which have placed additional pressures on communities and the state capacities. Climate change has intensified destructive natural events such as floods and droughts, severely affecting already vulnerable populations in both rural and urban areas. This scenario has evaluated the country's capacity to respond to multiple overlapping crises.

On the other hand, the migration crisis from Venezuela and mixed migration flows have generated significant pressure in border regions, with major challenges to integrate the migrant population into health, education, and employment systems. Social tensions have increased, and many refugees and migrants continue to face barriers in accessing basic services and fundamental rights, exacerbating their vulnerability.

ARMED CONFLICT

During the different processes of bilateral and temporary national ceasefires, implemented in the framework of negotiations between the Colombian government and various non-state armed groups (NSAGs), some humanitarian reliefs have been observed for communities affected by the conflict. However, clashes between these groups continue to severely affect the lives of the civilian population^{viii}, with an increase in human rights violations and challenges in terms of compliance with the International Humanitarian Law^{ix}. Violent clashes related to the search for criminal rents, such as illegal mining, drug trafficking and human trafficking, are common in strategic territories, generating new dynamics of territorial expansion and greater control over local communities; violent acts associated with the search for criminal rents have increased, which take place in contexts of territorial dispute and expansion;

and restrictions on free mobility have worsened as a result of greater expansive social control, which reflects the political positioning of the NSAGs in communities where they did not recently have a presence or influence.

The 2016 peace agreement with the FARC guerrilla, despite having demobilized a major armed group, has not been effectively implemented in at-risk territories, leading to fragmentation and proliferation of new armed structures. These groups are fighting for control of key productive zones associated with illicit economies, which has reignited territorial conflicts. Furthermore, other criminal activities have been consolidated, such as human trafficking, which has found in territorial control a particular source of funding. Rural, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant communities have been particularly affected, due to the vulnerability of their territories and the rupture of the social fabric.

In regions such as **Nariño, Cauca, Chocó, Arauca and Bajo Cauca in Antioquia**, territorial control by non-state armed groups has intensified clashes and generated new waves of massive, forced displacement and confinement. **This control has also severely restricted the mobility of communities in regions such as Putumayo and Norte de Santander**, making humanitarian emergencies invisible, limiting the autonomy of communities, and limiting access to basic services such as health, education, and livelihoods, which increases the conditions of rights violations.

The main victimizing events observed in the first half of 2024 include the forced recruitment of children and adolescents, gender-based violence, mass and individual forced displacement, confinement, and the antipersonnel mines. **The situation is particularly serious in the strategic corridors connecting the Pacific region with the borders of Panama, Venezuela, and Ecuador**, where clashes between armed groups have directly affected the civilian population and increased protection risks.

As for Indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombian communities, there are structural protection risks that threaten their physical and cultural survival. Through confinement and restricted mobility, they are denied the possibility of exercising their fundamental rights and their means of subsistence are endangered, which further aggravates the rupture of the social and community fabric. Many communities avoid going to institutions or activating protection routes for fear of reprisals from armed groups, which leaves these populations in a situation of unprotection and isolation.

The government, for its part, has made progress in implementing the 'total peace' policy, which seeks to address the gaps left by the 2016 Peace Agreement by setting up negotiating tables with different armed actors. This policy also includes military actions aimed at combating coca trafficking and seizing illicit crops, which has generated violent reactions from armed groups that depend on these illicit economies for their funding.

According to data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 44% of the territories with a presence of illegal mining in 2022 also had coca cultivation identified in 2021. Of these territories, 87% correspond to **areas of illicit exploitation, concentrated in the departments of Antioquia, Nariño, and Cauca**^x. This overlapping of illicit economies has intensified the fighting, aggravating the humanitarian situation in the affected areas.

Since 2018, there has been an increasing trend in the number of people affected by forced displacement and confinement. **If this growth trend continues, by December 2024 at least 200,000 people could be affected by this victimizing event^{xi}, consolidating 2024 as the year with the highest number of people affected by internal forced displacement after the signing of the peace agreement between the State and the FARC-EP**. During the period from January to June 2024, the main changes in the context of the conflict can be explained in part as a consequence of the implementation of the "total peace" policy. The political and economic interests of the different non-state armed groups have significantly impacted the strategic corridors of the Pacific region and the borders with Panama, Venezuela, and Ecuador, where protection risks have increased alarmingly.

The strategic positioning of non-state armed groups in these regions has also resulted in the imposition of severe restrictions on communities, such as control over coca production and commercialization, affecting the food security and livelihoods of the local population. In addition, an increase in negative coping mechanisms has been identified, such as the use of illicit crops for subsistence amid increasing pressure from armed groups.

In many cases, conflict-affected communities are also victims of natural disasters, leaving them even more vulnerable and exacerbating their precariousness.

MIXED MOVEMENTS

Colombia remains to be the country that hosts the largest number of Venezuelan nationals in the region, and as of April 2024, 2,813,992 people from Venezuela have been registered. Of this population, 84% (2,350,607)^{xii} are regularized or are in the process of regularization^{xiii}, while 16% (463,390) remain in an irregular situation. Despite the implementation of the Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelan Migrants (ETPV), many of those regularized still face significant difficulties in accessing their rights. Food insecurity, restricted access to clean water, overcrowding and barriers to health care are ongoing problems^{xiv}. These difficulties often stem from lack of knowledge on the part of officials about the procedures and rights of refugees and migrants, as well as gaps in access mechanisms.

On the other hand, those who have not managed to regularize their status face even greater challenges. For them, there are no clear options for accessing the ETPV^{xv} or other regularization mechanisms, which aggravates their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse by preventing them from accessing basic services and hindering their integration into the formal economy.

In addition, the transit population, those migrants who do not intend to stay in Colombia but who pass through on their way to third countries, face extremely high security risks. The vulnerability of women, children and adolescents on the route is highlighted, who are exposed to risks of sexual violence, forced recruitment, and human trafficking by non-state armed groups or other forms of violence by organized crime groups.

In border areas, especially in Urabá and Darién, the risk to the population has increased drastically. Colombia and Panama issued a joint alert in 2023, warning about the dangers faced by refugees and migrants in transit through these territories, especially due to the growing presence of armed actors and criminal gangs controlling border crossings. The situation has been exacerbated by restrictions imposed by the Panamanian government, which has closed five unauthorized crossings in the Darién jungle^{xvi}. This has forced pollution to use more dangerous routes, exposing them to greater risks of exploitation, human trafficking, and accidents.

Throughout the first half of 2024, there has been an increase in pendular movements and in people who, after attempting to continue their transit to other countries, have been stranded in specific areas of the country. **In departments such as Arauca, Santander, and Norte de Santander, as well as in the Urabá sub-region, many people intending to transit have had to remain in adverse conditions for months.** In these areas, it is common to find people in street situations or living on beaches, without access to basic services or support networks that allow them to subsist while they try to gather resources to continue their journey.

On the other hand, the situation of the refugee and migrant population intending to stay in Colombia continues to be worrying. Despite humanitarian efforts and policies implemented, serious barriers to their inclusion in the formal system persist. Lack of access to decent employment, discrimination by employers and the absence of adequate training programmes are some of the main obstacles to their inclusion in the formal system. Moreover, limited access to health and education services also remains as a major obstacle to improving their living conditions.

The dynamics of the internal armed conflict in Colombia have further exacerbated protection risks for the refugee and migrant population. In areas affected by the conflict, such as the Colombian Pacific and the border regions with Venezuela and Ecuador^{xvii}, the population faces additional risks such as forced displacement, recruitment by non-state armed groups and exposure to landmines and unexploded ordnance^{xviii}. These victimizing events, which also affect the local population, highlight the particular vulnerability of the refugee and migrant population who, lack of support networks, are unaware of the protection frameworks, don't know the institutional response or experience barriers to access due to their nationality, often do not bring the events to the attention of the authorities.

The Ombudsman's Office has issued multiple alerts on human rights violations against refugees and migrants in border regions. In many cases, victims cannot access the Single Registry of Victims (RUV)^{xix} due to their irregular migration status, which prevents them from receiving the protection and reparation to which they would be entitled^{xx}. Furthermore, the sub-registration of cases of people who have suffered violations both in the country of origin and in Colombia, and the barriers to accessing information on rights and care routes, increase the vulnerability of this population, who fear exposure to situations of re-victimization or deportation and to officials without enough knowledge and approach to rights^{xxi}.

The electoral scenario in Venezuela is expected to aggravate the migration situation. In the coming months, Colombia could receive a significant number of people seeking international protection, highlighting the need to strengthen the country's reception and protection systems.

The barriers to integration and the difficulty of consolidating a response aimed at vindicating their rights, both in Colombia and in countries of the Southern Cone, mean that people of different nationalities^{xxii} continue their transit, creating secondary and even tertiary movements, mainly to North America, in search of conditions that guarantee a dignified and safe stay, and that allow for the reconstruction of people's life projects.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2024, Colombia has experienced a significant increase in natural disasters, adding to the already complex humanitarian situation resulting from armed conflict and mixed movements. Adverse weather events, exacerbated by climate change, have affected both rural areas and urban peripheries, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable communities, including those affected by conflict and mixed movements.

One of the most devastating events has been the El Niño phenomenon, which has intensified **droughts, water shortages and forest fires, affecting approximately 1.6 million people in departments such as Bolívar, Chocó, Córdoba, Nariño, and Sucre**^{xxiii}. Rural communities already facing difficulties in accessing basic services, such as drinking water and medical care, have seen their conditions aggravated by these phenomena, which has generated a food crisis in many regions. The loss of crops and livestock has affected the livelihoods of thousands of families, plunging several areas of the country into an emergency situation.

Simultaneously, with the onset of the rainy season, massive flooding has occurred in several regions, including La Mojana and the department of Chocó. These floods have caused partial or total destruction of homes, schools, businesses, and other infrastructure, severely affecting the population. In addition, the lack of access to clean water sources and medical services has led to the proliferation of diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, and malaria^{xxiv}. In the department of Atlántico, the emergencies caused by the rains have forced the displacement of families, including 200 Venezuelan families, who were already in a situation of vulnerability due to their migratory status.

The overlap between climate crises, armed conflict and mixed movements further aggravates the precariousness of affected communities, who not only face the consequences of conflict but also the devastating impact of natural disasters. In some regions, communities affected by armed conflict have been unable to access humanitarian assistance due to flooding, further limiting their resilience.

In the border departments of Arauca and Nariño, the refugee and migrant population affected by natural events or disasters was recorded, with 116 people affected. **Ethnic communities were affected in the departments of Amazonas, Antioquia, and Nariño, with 218,930 people affected by different types of events as of August 2024**^{xxv}. The response of the institutions responsible for attending to these situations is limited to attending to the survival needs of the people affected, through the provision of food supplies, elements of habitability, among others.

Despite these efforts, it is clear that the response to natural disasters must go beyond mere material assistance. A rights-based approach is needed at all stages of the response, integrating prevention, protection, and the restitution of rights to affected people. The current situation underlines the urgency of improving protection frameworks in the face of environmental disasters, an issue that has been recognized by the Constitutional Court in ruling T-123 of 2024^{xxvi}. This ruling urges legislative and executive bodies to fill existing legal gaps and to make the necessary administrative adjustments to bring attention to the environmentally displaced population into line with attention to the population displaced by the conflict.

PROTECTION RISKS

RISK 1

Unlawful impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege and forced displacement

Forced displacement and confinement continue to be a reality in Colombia threatening the physical and cultural existence of Black communities and Indigenous peoples. These groups are not only at risk of disappearing, but the process of physical and cultural extinction has already begun, contrary to what the Constitutional Court had warned in orders 004 and 005 of 2009. Recognizing the structural damage caused by these events is an urgent necessity for the State and those who have the responsibility to protect these communities^{xxvii}.

The armed conflict and the violence used to control strategic territories continue to have a serious impact on the life, liberty, security, and autonomy of the civilian population. Black communities, Afro-Colombian communities, Indigenous peoples, peasant communities, as well as refugees and migrants, are at constant risk of displacement or confinement due to the actions of multiple armed actors. In several regions of the country, many people are forced to flee to protect their lives, while others face restrictions that prevent them from leaving their territories, awaiting the reestablishment of their rights in places of arrival, such as townships or urban peripheries.

Non-state armed actors control areas to ensure the exploitation of illicit economies such as illegal mining, drug trafficking, extortion, and human trafficking, keeping communities in a critical situation. In this context, forced displacement is not only massive, but many people choose to move individually to avoid the visibility and reprisals of armed groups. In addition, there are intra-urban, inter-veredal and even intra-reserve, displacements, that challenge territorial entities and humanitarian actors to understand and respond appropriately to these dynamics urgently and in transition.

Forced internal displacement in Colombia continues to be a consequence of the persistence of the conflict and a strategy of territorial control by non-state armed groups to exert pressure on strategic areas. Communities, especially Black communities, and Indigenous peoples, continue to be disproportionately affected by the deterritorialization and uprooting caused by having to flee. In addition, children and young people are the population group most affected by forced displacement in the country. Women assume caregiving roles but at the same time are required to adapt their livelihoods to the places of arrival, generating fractures in family dynamics and/or exposure to violence in the context of the conflict. For their part, refugees and migrants are beginning to follow the forced internal displacement care route and are understood to be a population that is increasingly affected by the armed conflict.

Within the transformations of forced displacement, there is an urgent need to interpret not only mass displacement (10 families or 50 people and upwards), but also to trace the tracks of individual displacement, given that after checking the declarations in cities such as **Buenaventura, Popayán, Cucuta, Medellín, Cali, and Tumaco**, we can observe the arrival of people in individual displacement with urgent assistance and solution-building requirements that challenge the capacities of large capital cities, but also of medium-sized cities that may even be overwhelmed in their capacity to provide assistance. This requires not only emergency assistance schemes but also the strengthening of prevention schemes and guarantees of non-repetition.

Likewise, forced displacement may be of short duration, or people may even choose to move to the town centers rather than to the urban centers. Deficiencies in emergency assistance, weaknesses in institutional management to guarantee returns with conditions of willingness, security, and dignity, as well as the communities' eagerness not to lose their minimum subsistence needs, force people to return even without recognition of the victimizing event of displacement.

In all cases, whether displacement is of long or short duration, a challenge of enormous proportions remains access to durable solutions, understood as not depending on humanitarian assistance for subsistence and access to rights without discrimination on the grounds of displacement. Despite multiple efforts, return, relocation and local integration continue to be scenarios that require maximum institutional effort.

For its part, confinement is a recurrent victimizing event in the peripheral regions of Colombia, disproportionately affecting Black communities and Indigenous peoples by denying them the autonomy to make decisions, including the possibility of fleeing to protect their lives. These situations reflect the transformation of the armed conflict, where confinement prevents communities from exercising their fundamental rights, puts their subsistence at risk, and deteriorates their networks and social fabric, which are their strongest mechanisms of resistance.

RISK 2 Gender-Based Violence

Natural disasters, armed conflict and mixed migration flows differentially affect women, girls and OSIEGD^{xxviii}. During humanitarian crises, inequalities are exacerbated, the burden of time spent in caring roles increases, families' livelihoods are put at risk, and gender-based violence (GBV) deepens, including sexual violence (used as a strategy of social control by illegal armed groups)^{xxix} and reproductive violence (forced pregnancy and maternity, forced abortion, forced sterilization, barriers to access to voluntary interruption of pregnancy, among others), as well as human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The Community Priority Response Plan (PRPC 2025) estimates that **3'281,408 people will be in necessity of protection to GBV-related risks**, including sexual violence by 2025, especially in municipalities in the departments of **Chocó, Nariño, Cauca, Antioquia, Bolívar, Caquetá, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander**.

So far in 2024, according to the report of the National Institute of Health of Colombia, 103,143 people have been reported to have suffered from GBV. Of the total number of reported GBV survivors, 76% are women, 46% are children and adolescents between the ages of 0 and 17^{xxx}, a highly worrying figure in terms of the humanitarian consequences for this population group.

However, migrant women - in transit, on the move or with a vocation to stay - face greater risks of suffering GBV, as they have fewer resources to travel and for the survival of their families, exposing them to situations of mistreatment and violation by illegal groups and acts of sexual violence. According to the Integrated Information System on Gender Violence (SIVIGE), so far this year 3,806 cases of physical violence against refugee and migrant women have been reported, of which 39.54% corresponded to women between 18-28 years old and 32.92% to women between 29-59 years old. In addition, 2,467 cases of sexual violence and 475 cases of psychological violence were reported.

Although the numbers have increased, the sub reporting of cases, especially those related to sexual and reproductive violence, is evident. This is the result, among other causes, of the normalization of practices that legitimize GBV: social control over the bodies of women, girls and adolescents and OSIEGD persons (including armed actors); sexual activity with minors; child marriage as a cultural practice; fear of reporting and seeking medical attention due to shame or social stigmatization. Likewise, the low capacities and investment of institutions with competence to provide an adequate response in terms of prevention, protection, health, and justice, especially in municipalities in categories 5 and 6, exacerbate this situation.

In terms of care, there are no safe referral channels, there is a notable absence of the application of a gender and intersectional approach by officials of the justice and health system, the non-existence of safe spaces for reporting and the deficiency in the response routes which, in cases of imminent risk, do not provide options for victims due to the absence of infrastructure, shelters or safe houses that allow for the implementation of protection actions. Access to and availability of these mechanisms may vary depending on the region and local policies, as well as the support of national and international organizations.

RISK 3 Forced recruitment and association of children in armed forces and groups

The Area of Responsibility for Child Protection estimates that 2.1 million children and adolescents face protection risks associated with recruitment, use and utilization, of which 566,108 live in geographic areas with extreme and severe risks. The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism under Resolution 1612 verified 263 cases of recruitment and use during 2023, the double than for 2022 (130), and there was a 61% increase in recruitment against adolescent girls and women with 86 verified cases. Of concern is the disproportionate impact on ethnic peoples - Indigenous and Afro-descendants - who account for 59% of the serious violations against children and adolescents in the context of the armed conflict^{xxxii}.

This dynamic has persisted during the first half of 2024. The Ombudsman's Office registered 159 cases of recruitment, use and utilization, of which 51% are of children and adolescents from Indigenous peoples and 79% are concentrated in the department of Cauca^{xxxiii}. In addition, the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) has dealt with 185 cases of disengagement of children and adolescents. Communities and families continue to be afraid to activate protection routes due to threats and social control by non-state armed groups^{xxxiii}.

According to the Index of Probability of Occurrence of Recruitment -IPOR- the high risk of recruitment, use and utilization is concentrated in 232 municipalities in the Pacific region (Nariño, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Chocó), the Amazon region (Putumayo, Caquetá, Meta and Guaviare), border areas with Venezuela (Norte de Santander and Arauca), southern Bolívar and Bajo Cauca Antioqueño^{xxxiv}. In these geographical areas there are enclaves of illicit economies associated with drug trafficking, micro-trafficking and illegal mining in which children and adolescents are used and used and the risks of sexual violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking are exacerbated. In addition, they face a context of violation of rights due to structural conditions that impede access to essential rights and services such as education, food security and health. At the territorial level, gaps persist in the activation of emergency funds in the face of imminent threats and in the construction of intersectoral strategies for the construction of protective environments.

Social control and constant threats by non-state armed groups in high-risk areas are having an impact on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of children and adolescents, families, and communities, creating obstacles to the construction of life projects and community processes and encouraging negative coping behaviors such as the use of psychoactive substances. Additionally, attacks on schools and threats to teachers, according to the monitoring conducted by COALICO^{xxxv}, doubled between 2022 (23 attacks) and 2023 (46 attacks), reaching 16,764 children and adolescents affected in the last year, which limits the capacity of education as a protective environment.

Refugee and migrant children and adolescents face protection risks in geographic areas with the presence of non-state armed groups and in transit through the country. During 2023 and the first half of 2024, humanitarian actors identified 2,512 unaccompanied and/or separated children and adolescents with risks associated with child labour, early unions, street habitation and recruitment, use and utilization by non-state armed groups. Seventy-five per cent of these cases did not enter the institutional care route despite referral to administrative authorities, which shows challenges for protection measures to be adapted to the needs of the refugee and migrant population.

RISK 4

Trafficking in persons, forced labour or slavery-like practices

In Colombia, human trafficking continues to be a persistent crime, as noted by the Attorney General's Office. Between January and June 2024, 191 cases have been registered, several of them linked to international human trafficking networks. The main victims are young women, between 18 and 26 years old, who are recruited mainly for sexual exploitation. In addition, the authorities indicate that there has been an increase in the number of complaints related to minors^{xxxvi}.

Both the Attorneys General Office and the Ombudsman's Office warn that official figures on human trafficking represent a considerable under-reporting, especially in areas of social and territorial control where state presence and social capacities are weak.

The Ombudsman's Office has issued 6 Early Warning Alerts - ATI for the territories of Caquetá, Casanare, Chocó, Meta, Bogotá, and Quindío on the risk of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, begging and forced labour^{xxxvii}. This highlights the geographical distribution of the situation, in which victims are subjected to deception, coercion, and face multiple threats, making it difficult to identify victims and perpetrators.

The territorial context of the risks of human trafficking is explained by the actions of illegal armed groups, the marked absence or differentiated presence of the state, particularly its social/civilian offer aimed at ensuring the effective enjoyment of the population's rights, and the weakening of coping mechanisms, self-protection, and social resistance.

The Ombudsman's Office warns that human trafficking, in many cases, is linked to other criminal conduct such as forced disappearance and/or the recruitment, use and utilization of children and adolescents. In addition, there is an increase in cases related to commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents - ESCNNA. In addition, there has been an increase in the occurrence of different types of conduct against transgender people^{xxxviii}.

However, in relation to migrant smuggling, it is important to mention the measures adopted by the Panamanian government, related to the closure of five unauthorized crossings in the Darien jungle, through the installation of barbed wire, have significantly increased the risks for migrants attempting to cross the border^{xxxix}. Faced with these barriers, many migrants have resorted to alternative routes, exposing them to new forms of exploitation and human trafficking.

These routes, especially by sea, depart from Buenaventura or the San Andres Islands to Central American countries, which are also dangerous, as criminal networks have extended their control to these areas, where refugees and migrants are often victims of human smuggling and trafficking. Crossings in precarious vessels increase the risk of shipwrecks and other accidents at sea. In addition, the lack of adequate control and surveillance, and the impossibility of access to assistance in these corridors, increases the risk for the population and reduces their chances of being rescued.

RISK 5

Presence of Mine and other explosive ordnance

Explosive ordnance (EO) contamination is a persistent threat to the civilian population in Colombia, significantly aggravating the humanitarian crisis. The presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO), anti-personnel mines (APL) and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in community areas restricts mobility, limits access to productive land and basic services, exposes rural communities to a constant risk of accidents and death, and even prevents the safe return of forcibly displaced communities. Additionally, the presence of EAs in the territories imposes access restrictions on humanitarian workers seeking to support communities affected by conflict and natural disasters.

Between January and July 2024, according to official figures from the Consejería Comisionada de Paz (CCP), there have been 62 victims of APL/UXO/IED^{xl}, of which the majority were civilians (63%). Of concern is the high percentage of children and adolescents who have been victims of EO so far this year, 45% of all civilian victims, and the disproportionate involvement of Indigenous communities (54% of all civilian victims). The department most affected by APL/UXO/IEDs so far in 2024 is Cauca, with 43% of the victims, followed by Nariño, Chocó, Antioquia, and Bolívar.

On the other hand, there is a significant gap between the information reported in official records and the actual cases of victims of this type of AE. Under-registration of victims has been observed in departments such as Cauca and Nariño, where at least another 30 victims of APL/UXO/IEDs are in the process of verification for the reestablishment of their rights. Among the causes of under-registration are victims' lack of knowledge of their rights, fear of reprisals by the NSAGs and lack of tools on the part of local authorities to report events and take statements. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross^{xli}, between January and May 2024, 194 victims of various AE (both victim-activated (APL/UXO), controlled detonation and launched AE) have been registered, of which 117 were related to APL and UXO. This represents an increase of 35% compared to the same period in 2023, reflecting the increase in the use of AE in the country and the deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

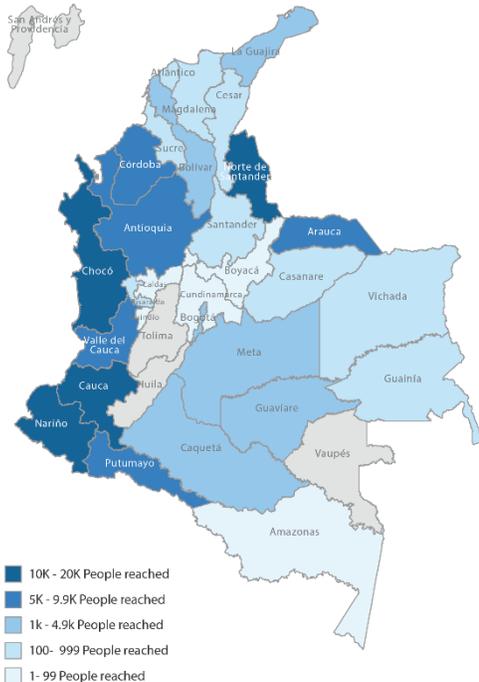
According to the CCP, as of August 2024, 87 municipalities are in the process of humanitarian demining and 119 are still waiting to be assigned to humanitarian organizations to carry out decontamination work. However, due to the presence and activities of NSAGs and the escalation of the conflict, some areas in the 87 municipalities have had to suspend operations and only some of the remaining 119 municipalities have basic security conditions to host humanitarian demining operations. The National Government is about to begin implementing humanitarian demining operations in areas with security instability factors. However, this process requires a cautious and strategic approach, always prioritizing the security of all parties involved.

Alarmingly, between April 2023 and May 2024, incidents such as military demining in operations and suspected minefields were reported in 36 municipalities^{xlii} that had been declared free of APL/UXO or had historically had no previous reports. This is evidence of the expansion of the problem in areas that were considered safe in previous years. Among the incidents, casualties were reported in El Doncello (Caquetá), Balboa and Piamonte (Cauca), Potosí (Nariño) and Bolívar (Valle del Cauca).

The Mine Action Area of Responsibility estimates that by 2025, 687,788 people living in 204 municipalities would be at risk of suffering an APL or UXO accident, or of being confined or displaced by the presence of these EO in their territories. This projection represents an increase of 13% in relation to the estimate for 2024, and 32% in relation to 2023, which responds to the evident escalation of the different armed conflicts taking place in Colombia and the continued contamination with APL/UXO/IEDs by NSAGs, which mostly affect ethnic, rural and border communities. Of the estimated total number of people in need of mine action activities by 2025, more than 185,000 people in 43 municipalities would be at risk of seeing their livelihoods collapse, due to difficulties in the use, enjoyment, and free transit of their territories in the presence of EO, which represent an imminent danger of accidents.

RESPONSE

PROGRESS MADE ON PROTECTION



As of August 2024, protection activities have been implemented in 28 departments of Colombia, involving 26 protection partners who have worked especially in the Pacific, Antioquia, Cordoba, Putumayo, Arauca, and Norte de Santander regions. So far, 150,178 people have been reached, of whom 37% are women, 23% men, 21% girls, 20% boys, 21% Afro-Colombians and 15% Indigenous people.

The Protection Cluster partners have concentrated their efforts in the municipalities with the highest risk severity: 88% of the activities have been developed in municipalities classified with severity 5, 59% in municipalities with severity 4 and 23% in municipalities with severity 3. However, it has been identified that the departments of southern Bolívar, Caquetá, and Amazonas, as well as some municipalities in Cauca, Nariño, Córdoba and Antioquia, present important response gaps, indicating the need for greater coverage and efforts in these areas.

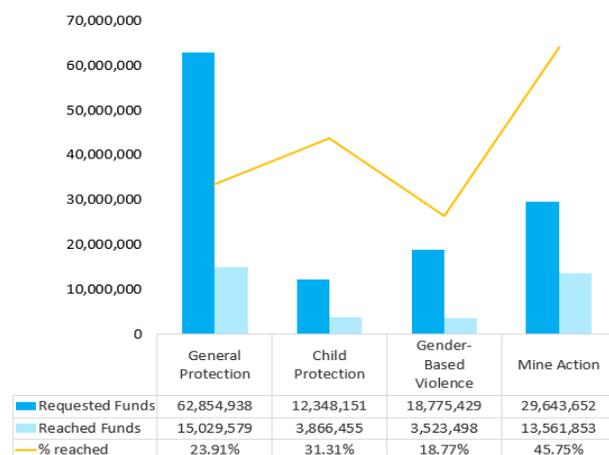
In terms of the nature of the response provided by Protection Cluster partners, 48% of the activities have focused on prevention and protection from risks faced by affected communities and individuals. In addition, 34% of the actions have been complementary to the state's efforts to provide protection against the violation of rights. Finally, 18% of the activities have contributed to the achievement of durable and sustainable solutions, within the framework of the armed conflict and climate.

CRITICAL GAPS IN FUNDING AND POPULATION REACHED

At the end of 2023, the Protection Cluster obtained a 49.7 million in funding, representing 41% of the funds requested, which enabled support to be provided to 388,048 people with protection activities. Up to August 2024, the funding secured is \$35.9 million, covering only 29% of what is required and reaching 150,178 people. However, this marks a 42% decrease in response compared to the number of people reached by August 2023 .

The areas most affected by the reduction in funding in 2024 compared to 2023 have been general protection activities, with a 38% drop, and mine action, which saw a 22% decrease.

Funding Requested & Received (in USD Millions)



RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the complex protection challenges affecting the population in Colombia, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses both the structural causes and the immediate consequences of the crises. It is a priority to strengthen the state's presence in the most affected areas, implement specific violence prevention programmes, establish comprehensive care centres for victims, and guarantee humanitarian assistance for those suffering displacement and confinement. It is also necessary to improve funding for humanitarian demining programmes, increase capacity to respond to gender-based violence and forced recruitment, and strengthen strategies to combat human trafficking. These actions are designed to improve the protection of affected communities, promote durable solutions, and mitigate the impact of these risks on the most vulnerable populations, ensuring their security and access to fundamental rights.

RISK 1

Unlawful impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege and forced displacement

THE GOVERNMENT

- **Update emergency response routes, ensuring that all responsible entities have clear protocols, resources, and standardized processes to act in the context of the forced displacement and confinement contingency.** This involves training field staff to identify the needs of affected communities in a timely manner and to rapidly activate appropriate responses within the framework of subsidiarity and complementarity.
- **Strengthen the local management of public policy for comprehensive attention to victims** in order to set up territorial transitional justice committees (CTJT) that guide actions in prevention, emergency assistance and the construction of solutions. To this end, it will be essential to strengthen systemic approaches to victim care at the departmental level that include the participation of competent entities, which favour the participation of victims, and that provide support in the municipalities with the greatest financial and technical weaknesses.
- **Increase actions in the area of prevention.** This includes orienting development plans to communities at risk, strengthening the presence of civil institutions, promoting community infrastructure works, health care workshops, documentation workshops, human rights promotion processes, strengthening Community Action Boards, and recognizing the competencies of ethnic-territorial authorities. This implies increasing the strengthening of territorial planning processes through community dialogue.
- Advance in the implementation of actions contained in CONPES 4031 of 2021^{xliii} to strengthen the actions of Peace and Victims, with the objective of increasing the Nation - Territory relationship and boosting the implementation of actions for comprehensive attention to victims from the very expertise of the National Planning Department.

THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

- Transcend the reading of the phenomenon of forced displacement only from aggregate figures. It is necessary to understand displacement and the effects it has on women, children, young people, the LGBTIQ population, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and Indigenous peoples, and communities. It would be key to **update the guidelines for comprehensive attention to forced displacement from a differential approach** to support a local response consistent with the impact that forced displacement generates on populations.
- Increase **protection actions based on communities** at risk as a catalyst for solutions. The humanitarian community must strengthen local knowledge management, increasing the capacity of local and community authorities to address risks and generate local governance processes for the public policy of comprehensive attention to victims.
- Develop and fund **comprehensive risk prevention projects** that focus on early identification of areas at risk of forced displacement and confinement. These projects should include the implementation of early warning systems that integrate local communities and authorities to rapidly detect and respond to hazards before they materialize.
- Promote **durable solutions** through immediate humanitarian assistance processes. This implies investing in programmes that strengthen **local capacities** for territorial management and community protection, including training local leaders and communities in **self-protection and risk management measures**, so that affected populations can prevent and mitigate the consequences of armed conflict and make decisions regarding the most appropriate type of solution.
- **Strengthen inter-agency coordination for protection in humanitarian action.** Coordination is a necessary resource for adding synergies, increasing impact, and localizing the response according to the requirements of the context.

THE DONORS

- Continue to prioritize funding for programmes in Colombia, especially those related to the protection of communities in conflict zones and areas affected by forced displacement and confinement. It is recommended to **support prevention initiatives, and long-term initiatives that focus on rebuilding the social fabric**, restoring livelihoods and community resilience, enabling communities to strengthen their capacities to respond to conflict.
- Secure resources for **local capacity building**, facilitating collaboration between international organizations, local government, and communities to promote the sustainability of interventions, supporting both the provision of basic services and the training of community leaders in risk management and protection.

RISK 2 Gender-Based Violence

THE GOVERNMENT

- Ensuring comprehensive care for survivors of gender-based violence, including sexual and reproductive violence, especially for children and adolescents, is essential. To achieve this, it is necessary to increase the availability of medical, psychosocial, and mental health services that offer timely and quality care, focused on the needs of survivors. This care must be confidential and free of discrimination in order to minimize the harm caused by violence.
- Establish mechanisms to facilitate survivors' access to care services. Health services should have standardized procedures to guarantee appropriate referral to services that ensure the safety and protection of survivors. Globally, having specialized and integrated services in one place has been shown to be good practice, as it prevents survivors from having to interact with multiple providers, some of whom may not be sufficiently trained or follow procedures that could re-victimize the individual.

PROTECTION PARTNERS

- Ensure the availability of sex- and life course-disaggregated data by organizations implementing humanitarian action projects in general and those involved in GBV response in particular.
- Update and adapt the mitigation and response pathways for GBV survivors to the local conditions of the entities responsible for providing care. This should be done by actively involving women's organizations and considering community coping mechanisms that can help bridge gaps in access to services.
- Support mechanisms to disseminate and access information on the rights and remedies of GBV survivors, adapted to the situation of isolation and diversity of women and their communities and to the gender and intersectionality approach. Directly involve groups at higher risk (pregnant women, Indigenous women, Afro-descendants, people with disabilities and LGBTI people, as well as people living with HIV), girls and adolescents. Strengthen people's capacities and resources to recognize contexts of risk, including digital communication as a resource.
- In terms of protection, strengthen the capacities of municipalities and competent entities to create safe spaces for women and girls in migration and humanitarian contexts, as well as shelters for victims of GBV or at imminent risk of femicide, especially in the territories, so that they can quickly protect themselves and their children.

HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

- Promote in all coordination spaces (at national or territorial level) the incorporation of gender analysis taking into account women in conditions of greater vulnerability (girls and adolescents, women survivors of gender-based violence and armed conflict, women who have lost their livelihoods, migrant and refugee women, women belonging to indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, OSIEDG population, and people with disabilities).
- Advocate for inclusive access of refugees and migrants to public health, justice, and protection services without discrimination on the basis of their place of origin, nationality, or migration status.

RISK 3 Forced recruitment and association of children in armed forces and groups.

PROTECTION PARTNERS

- Conduct interventions that strengthen community protection mechanisms for the prevention of recruitment, use and utilization, guaranteeing differential approaches based on gender and ethnicity and the participation of children and adolescents that support the construction of their life projects.

- Implement intersectoral strategies for the construction of protective environments from the education sector and psychosocial accompaniment at community and family levels.
- Accompany the institutional framework in a complementary manner to strengthen the routes for the prevention of recruitment, use and utilization at local levels.

THE GOVERNMENT

- Generate a strategy for the prevention of recruitment, use and utilization that defines responsibilities and budget allocations for prevention actions at the territorial level and integrates differential approaches based on gender and ethnicity.
- Implement the safe schools action plan in high-risk geographic areas to protect schools in the midst of armed conflict and strengthen the protective role of education.

HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

- To make visible the situation of recruitment, use and utilization in Colombia. It is urgent that funding is sustained and increased given the rise in grave violations against children in the context of the armed conflict.
- Support sustained actions in the medium and long term in geographic areas at higher risk that allow for the construction of protective environments.

RISK 4 Trafficking in persons, forced labour or slavery-like practices

HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

- It is recommended to strengthen articulation scenarios with the inclusion of public and private entities, representatives of local communities and civil society organizations to address the prevention, care, and protection of human trafficking.

THE GOVERNMENT

- Establish a joint mechanism for access to justice that does not expose the population accessing these services to additional risks. In relation to care for survivors of the crime of human trafficking, care and assistance strategies and processes in departmental and territorial committees should be strengthened, especially focused on physical, psychosocial, and emotional health, economic insertion, capacity building, social and educational inclusion.
- It is essential that the national government ensures both immediate and immediate assistance to potential victims of human trafficking, prioritizing conflict-affected, border and rural areas. This includes the provision of safe shelter, access to education, training, and employment, as well as specific assistance for persons with disabilities, ensuring their inclusion in the design of these measures.

THE DONORS

- Support the strengthening of expertise of local, migration and judicial authorities for the early identification of potential victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks through innovative and technological strategies, as well as the reinforcement of protection systems and strategies, including shelter spaces and comprehensive care services for victims, which are essential to ensure safety and recovery.

RISK 5 Presence of Mine and other explosive ordnance

THE GOVERNMENT

- Strengthen Comprehensive Assistance Victims (AIV) of APL/UXO/IEDs, seeking to close the gaps in care and allocating sufficient resources for each of the stages of the route. Likewise, the mechanisms for collecting information for the state database of victims must be strengthened, through controls and validation of the different sources of information on victims to contrast data and leave no one behind, facilitating the AIV in the territory and overcoming under-registration.
- Designing a protocol for information exchange between the AICMA Group, organizations, territorial entities, and the health system is key to overcoming underreporting. It is recommended that a National AIV Standard be adopted to clearly define the roles of each entity to the survivors and their families.
- Ensure the security of communities and humanitarian personnel during the early stages of implementation of the *National Humanitarian Demining Standard in areas with unstable security and response to specific events*.

HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

- There is a need to continue and expand advocacy where mine action challenges are made visible in humanitarian architecture forums, Local Coordination Teams and the donor group, strengthening collaboration with key actors and promoting the integration of mine action strategies to ensure a more coordinated, effective and efficient response in managing and mitigating the risks associated with EO.

THE DONORS

- Retake the country as one of the strategic priorities for cooperation, considering the growing needs of the population and the imminent risk to which they are exposed. It is necessary to continue supporting humanitarian demining projects, national and local capacity building, Education on the Risk of Explosive Devices and Assistance to Victims, which in a complementary manner can support the most vulnerable and reduce civilian casualties.

PROTECTION PARTNERS

- Strengthen cohesion and coordination among mine action partners to ensure comprehensive coverage, including in hard-to-reach locations, avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing the impact of available resources.

Notes

- ⁱ Victims of forced displacement between January 2023 and August 2024. The historical register of victims of forced displacement in the context of the armed conflict in Colombia is 9,844,331. Single Registry of Victims (RUV), Unit for the Attention and Integral Reparation of Victims (UARIV).
- ⁱⁱ Victims of confinement during 2024. Single Registry of Victims (RUV), Unit for the Attention and Integral Reparation of Victims (UARIV).
- ⁱⁱⁱ Reports of people affected during the dry season and rainy season in 2024. Single Registry of Disaster Victims, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD).
- ^{iv} International Committee of the Red Cross, [Colombia: Humanitarian Balance 2024](#).
- ^v Ombudsman's Office, Municipalities with Confinement Risk Alerts issued in 2024, [Ombudsman's Office Early Warning System Dashboard](#).
- ^{vi} UARIV, Declarations of Individual Displacement. Blumont, Forced Displacement Analysis 2024.
- ^{vii} Cfr. Follow-up orders 004 and 005 of 2009, Constitutional Court of Colombia.
- ^{viii} Ombudsman's Office, [The balance of the ceasefire over the last year does not show real gestures of peace by the armed groups](#), 5 February 2024.
- ^{ix} Special Jurisdiction for Peace, [Analysis of the Human Rights and Security Situation in Colombia: Impacts of the Ceasefires and Total Peace 2022-2023](#).
- ^x UNODC, [Colombia: Alluvial gold mining 2022](#).
- ^{xi} Blumont; <https://response.reliefweb.int/es/colombia/dashboard-datos-oficiales>.
- ^{xii} Migration Colombia, [Report on Venezuelan migrants in Colombia in March 2024](#).
- ^{xiii} Additionally, 1,400 people have been recognized as refugees, while 24,000 have asylum seeker status, awaiting recognition decision. UNHCR, [Country Data Centre](#), (2024).
- ^{xiv} R4V, [RMNA 2023 - Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis](#).
- ^{xv} Regularization through the ETPV is not possible for those who enter Colombia after May 2023 or who have not completed the Single Registry of Venezuelan Migrants (RUMV) by this date. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Unidad Administrativa Especial de Migración Colombia, [Resolution 971 of 2021](#).
- ^{xvi} R4V, [RMNA 2023 - Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis](#).
- ^{xvii} Between June 2023 and May 2024, the Ombudsman's Office issued 13 [Early Warning Warnings](#), highlighting risks linked to the presence of or disputes for control between armed actors, the actions of organized crime, selective homicides associated with recruitment practices and even xenophobic discourse promoted by these groups.
- ^{xviii} R4V, [RMNA 2023 - Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis](#).
- ^{xix} UARIV, [Evaluation Criteria Manual](#).
- ^{xx} The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that there were refugees and migrants from Venezuela affected by the armed conflict in 747 municipalities in 31 departments of the country in 2019. The departments where these profiles were most identified were Arauca, Putumayo, La Guajira, Córdoba, and Norte de Santander. On the other hand, according to information gathered by the Europa project, between 15 July 2019 and 17 November 2020, 161 cases of refugee and migrant children and adolescents of Venezuelan nationality who suffered forced displacement due to the internal armed conflict were identified. Taken from [Persons in international forced human mobility and victims of the internal armed conflict: an analysis of the double affectation in the Colombian context](#).
- ^{xxi} *Ibid*, p21.
- ^{xxii} The increase in the number of population flows and their particular vulnerabilities have aggravated the pressure on the border with Panama, especially in the municipalities that are part of the Urabá sub-region. The flow of the Venezuelan population and the gradual increase of the Ecuadorian and Colombian population stand out. For the second half of 2024, mixed flows will surely be impacted by the electoral context in Venezuela and the United States, as well as by the internal situation in Ecuador and the imposition of mobility restrictions by the Panamanian government.
- ^{xxiii} OCHA, [Colombia Humanitarian Trends and Impact Report 2024](#), Cut-off date: January - July 2024. Publication: 03 September 2024.
- ^{xxiv} Humanitarian Situation Alert - [Flooding in the municipality of Quibdó \(Chocó\)](#), 30 August 2024.
- ^{xxv} Data on natural disasters compiled by [OCHA-Monitor](#).
- ^{xxvi} Ruling by which, among others, the Constitutional Court recognizes forced internal displacement due to environmental causes.
- ^{xxvii} Black communities of the Colombian Pacific, facing debates on the urgency of collective protection as a required action in the territories.
- ^{xxviii} [Sexual Orientations and Diverse Gender Identities and Expressions](#).
- ^{xxix} During 2023, 204 cases of sexual violence in the framework of the armed conflict were reported among children and adolescents aged 0-17 years. Source: [SIVIGE](#).
- ^{xxx} Source: National Institute of Health INS. The question asked in the NAB includes within Gender Based Violence (GBV), situations of physical, psychological, or verbal abuse and/or violence related to discrimination. Court 24/08/2024. [Gender and domestic violence and attacks with chemical agents](#).
- ^{xxxi} UNICEF (2024) [UN Secretary-General's Report on Children and Armed Conflict](#).
- ^{xxxii} Ombudsman's Office, [51% of cases of recruitment known to the Ombudsman's Office correspond to children and adolescents from indigenous peoples](#), 12 July 2024.
- ^{xxxiii} Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, [Programme Dashboard for Disengaged Children and Adolescents](#).
- ^{xxxiv} Office of the Presidential Advisor for Human rights and International Humanitarian Law, Colombia (2024) [Index of Probability of Occurrence of Recruitment, Use and Utilization](#).
- ^{xxxv} Coalition against the involvement of children and young people in the armed conflict in Colombia.
- ^{xxxvi} Office of the Inspector General of Colombia, [More than 190 cases of human trafficking registered in first semester, 2024](#), 30 July 2024.
- ^{xxxvii} Ombudsman's Office, [Ombudsman's Early Warning System Dashboard](#).
- ^{xxxviii} Ombudsman's Office, [74% of human trafficking cases handled by the Ombudsman's Office were for the purpose of sexual exploitation](#), 30 July 2024.
- ^{xxxix} UNHCR, [Mixed Movements Darien and Chiriqui](#), July 2024.
- ^{xl} [Register of information on effects of APL and UXO and intervention](#), AICMA Group Colombia, Consejería Comisionada de Paz.
- ^{xli} [The humanitarian situation in Colombia has continued to deteriorate in 2024 - Figures January to May 2024](#), ICRC.
- ^{xlii} In the departments of Amazonas, Antioquia, Bolívar, Caquetá, Casanare, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Guainía, Huila, La Guajira, Magdalena, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, Tolima, Valle del Cauca, and Vaupés.
- ^{xliii} Conpes 4031 (1).pdf "This document updates the guidelines of the National Plan for Attention and Integral Reparation to Victims (PNARIV), responding to the new realities of the policy, considering the lessons learned from nearly ten years of its implementation and taking into account the constitutional framework of the Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Repetition (SIVJRN). To this end, it includes actions aimed at preventing the occurrence of new acts that affect the lives, personal safety, freedom and integrity of the victims of the armed conflict, as well as mitigating the effects they have on the affected population; improving their socio-economic conditions, especially those of victims of forced displacement; contributing to the reparation of victims for the damage caused in the context of the armed conflict, and providing solutions to the challenges that still persist in the functioning of the institutional framework set up to implement the policy".

Methodology

Between June and July 2024, the Protection Cluster and the Protection sector of the GIFMM participated, together with the Areas of Responsibility (AoR) gender-based violence, child protection, mine action and the sub-group on trafficking and smuggling, in the humanitarian programming workshops for the update of the Community Priority Response Plan (PRPC) with the intention of deepening protection issues in the territories prioritized by the Humanitarian Country Team. This participation in the territory complemented the review of official data extracted mainly from the Ombudsman's Office (Early Warnings); new victimizing events registered by the Victims Unit (UARIV) and indicators for monitoring the situation of vulnerability derived from forced internal displacement (Vulnerability Overcoming Indicator). The analysis was based on the Protection Analysis Framework (PAF) and on quantitative and qualitative data from the territorial teams of the Protection Cluster and the Protection sector, as well as from partners of the protection coordination structure in the country, with whom it was possible to deepen the analysis of risks in the territories most affected by the overlapping humanitarian emergencies in Colombia. It should be noted that the Protection Cluster and the Protection Sector carry out protection monitoring missions and hold bimonthly meetings with the territorial teams, which enrich the protection analysis presented in this document.

Limitations

The qualitative data is limited to areas where the Protection Cluster and the Protection sector have territorial teams. Integrated information is available for the Pacific Axis, the Border with Venezuela axis, and capital cities. The south-east of the country has a limited presence of protection actors, which is why the related information is mainly official.



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