

COLOMBIA



Operational highlights

- UNHCR promoted community participation and leadership in efforts to address displacement in the 63 districts of Colombia most affected by it.
- Twelve action plans for displaced communities in five different regions of the country benefited more than 5,000 persons.
- The UNHCR-supported Land and Property Protection Project of the Colombian Government safeguarded more than 430,000 hectares to benefit 9,876 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and others at risk of displacement.
- National identification documents were provided to some 170,000 IDPs, 52 per cent of whom are either indigenous people or Afro-Colombians.

- UNHCR implemented 42 Practical Protection Projects in various parts of the country to improve basic services for more than 21,000 people of concern.
- The new Refugee Decree broadens the definition of refugee and includes procedures to ensure the protection of women and children.

Working environment

In 2009 the political context was dominated by the debate on the upcoming electoral process. In general armed violence and insecurity have been reduced; however, internal displacement remains a major challenge for the Colombian Government. In the last three years, more than 740,000 persons have been forcibly displaced, mainly from rural and remote areas to urban centres.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Various	200	70	31	19
Asylum-seekers	Various	120	120	19	5
IDPs	Colombia	3,304,000	572,300	49	-
Stateless	Various	10	-	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	Various	60	60	-	-
Total		3,304,390	572,550		

Displacement in Colombia affects very specific regions, with more than 60 per cent of cases of forced displacement occurring in roughly 10 per cent of the municipal districts. At the same time, 82 per cent of IDPs are hosted in less than 10 per cent of municipal districts, mostly in large urban centres.

The emergence of new armed groups and alliances contributed to increased levels of fighting, insecurity and forced displacement in the border departments of Nariño, Arauca, Choco, Vaupés, Vichada and Guainía as well as Antioquia and the Pacific Coast.

In 2009 the Colombian authorities ensured access to asylum procedures for an increasing number of extra-regional asylum-seekers, some of them victims of international trafficking networks.



Columbian IDPs during a documentation campaign in the Canyon de las Hermosas

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

The overarching goal in Colombia is to promote a comprehensive response to the displacement crisis. As part of a collaborative approach, UNHCR focused on strengthening the State's capacity to prevent displacement, protect IDPs and seek durable solutions. At the same time, UNHCR worked with the Government to provide international protection and find solutions for a growing group of refugees and asylum-seekers.

Protection and solutions

Colombia has an advanced legal framework and strong institutional capacity to address the needs of IDPs. In 2009, the Government allocated more than USD 615 million to displacement projects and expanded the programme providing documentation to IDPs, allowing them increased access to basic services and income-generation activities.

Nevertheless, major gaps exist in the implementation of national IDP policies and in the protection of population groups disproportionately affected by displacement, particularly Afro-Colombians and indigenous people.

In 2009, UNHCR focused on the implementation of a comprehensive protection response, including the prevention of further displacement and support for local integration in areas hosting IDPs. Although some successful returns were organized by the Government, unstable security conditions, difficulties in gaining access to land and limited opportunities for income generation have hampered the promotion of a large-scale return policy.

A new Refugee Decree adopted in 2009 substantially improves the legal framework in Colombia. The decree broadens the 1951 refugee definition, including those persons who fall under the ambit of the Cartagena Declaration and the Convention against Torture. It also looks at mechanisms to give priority to vulnerable cases and provide legal assistance to women and unaccompanied children.

Activities and assistance

Community services: Public programmes have been enhanced through the incorporation of guidelines for the protection of displaced children, persons with disabilities, youth, women, older people, Afro-Colombians and indigenous people. Comprehensive programmes were also implemented in Nariño, Putumayo, Meta, Chocó, the Atlantic Coast and Cúcuta for Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities.

Education: UNHCR provided technical support to the authorities in order to ensure the access of internally displaced children to education. As a result, close to 40,000 displaced children and adolescents from Norte de Santander, Tolima, Nariño, Santander and Antioquia have been successfully integrated into the education system.

Health: UNHCR chaired the UN thematic group for HIV and AIDS in Colombia. In coordination with the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, training was provided to health workers and IDP leaders. Furthermore, agreements were signed with two local Health Secretaries to promote the access of IDPs to sexual and reproductive health services.

Legal assistance: In coordination with national universities, a network of 14 legal aid clinics provided assistance to approximately 11,000 IDPs. In 2009, UNHCR supported 45 documentation campaigns in 32 districts

affected by displacement. Twenty-five workshops on the prevention of displacement and the protection of IDPs were also conducted for military personnel.

Shelter and other infrastructure: Practical protection projects served as strategic tools to prevent displacement and respond to IDPs' needs. Forty-five projects were implemented in 13 departments, benefiting more than 21,400 IDPs and others of concern. These projects also helped strengthen indigenous organizations in areas where there was a risk of displacement.

● Constraints

The humanitarian situation in some regions of the country deteriorated significantly during the year. In Nariño, many Awa indigenous people were killed; in Arauca and the Pacific Coast, there were reports of threats against community leaders and forced recruitment. Entire communities were forcibly uprooted or remained trapped in landmine-affected areas.

UNHCR's work depends on having access to the most remote regions of the country. However, the changing nature of the conflict, particularly due to the emergence of new actors, has brought serious security risks for all humanitarian operations.

| Financial information |

During the past five years, generous funding has allowed UNHCR to reinforce its protection capacity in the region. Nevertheless, additional support is required to address the growing protection needs of the displaced populations and promote durable solutions.

| Organization and implementation |

In 2009 UNHCR had 12 offices in the country, with a total of 100 staff (21 international and 79 national). Following three external evaluations, UNHCR has strengthened its support for IDP organizations and consolidated alliances with key State bodies, such as the Procurator's Office.

| Working with others |

The Colombian Government continued to be UNHCR's main partner in the country. Furthermore, the Office cooperated with more than 40 UN agencies and international and national partners. In 2009, significant advances were made in terms of joint interventions.

The inter-agency protection group, co-chaired by UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council, continued to develop protection strategies at the national level as well as in eight regions affected by displacement. The group provided support to national early warning mechanisms and promoted activities to safeguard humanitarian space in high-risk areas.

| Overall assessment |

Though there were significant improvements in the allocation of resources and the reinforcement of institutional

capacities, serious protection gaps persist in the implementation of national policies and programmes at the local level. Comprehensive strategies need to be developed by the State, in collaboration with international and national actors, to improve coordination between national and provincial governments and strengthen the capacities of provincial governments and municipalities.

As part of the comprehensive approach, UNHCR will continue to promote community participation and self-management strategies and search for durable solutions. Special emphasis will be put on the strengthening of protection mechanisms for ethnic minorities and addressing land ownership issues.

UNHCR offices in the region are taking a coordinated approach to addressing the protection needs of people living in border areas through joint missions, community-based projects and campaigns involving actors on both sides of the border.

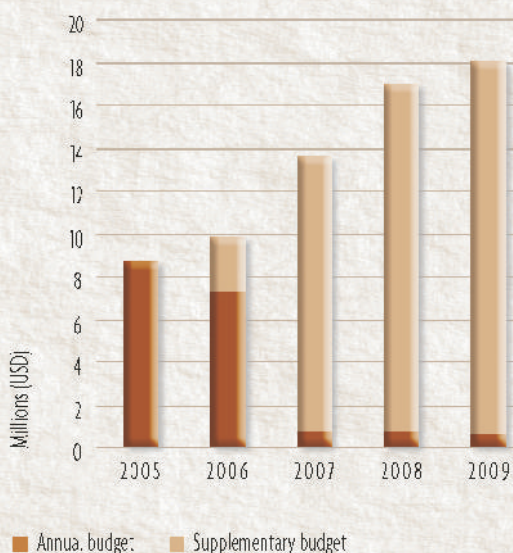
Partners

Government: *Agencia Presidencial para la Acción Social y la Cooperación Internacional, Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer, Programa Presidencial Colombia Jóven*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Protection, Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Territorial Development, *Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, Defensoría del Pueblo* (Ombudsman's Office), *Procuraduría General de la Nación* (Procurator Office), *Contraloría General de la Nación*, *Registraduría* (National Registry), *Universidad Nacional*, *Universidad de Antioquia*, Departmental Governments and Mayor's Offices (key regions), Colombian Armed Forces, the Constitutional Court, *Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural* (INCODER)

NGOs: *Acción contra el Hambre, Caritas Diocesana Medellín, Casa de la Mujer, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli, Consultoría de Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento* (CODHES), *Corporación Opción Legal, Fundación Compartir, Fundación Mujer y Futuro, Instituto Latinoamericano de Servicios Legales Alternativos* (ILSA), *Organizaciones de Población Desplazada, Programa Desarrollo y Paz Magdalena Medio, Secretaría Nacional Pastoral Social, Solidaridad Internacional, Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia* (ONIC)

Others: Private local universities, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, PAHO/WHO, UNHCHR, ICRC, UNFPA, UNIFEM, FAO, UNAIDS, IOM

**Expenditure in Colombia
2005 - 2009**



Budget, income and expenditure in Colombia (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	659,454	353,150	204,094	557,244	548,756
IDP operations in Colombia SB	22,570,757	20,924,792	2,079,635	23,004,427	17,564,534
Total	23,230,211	21,277,942	2,283,729	23,561,671	18,113,290

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Colombia (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	58,608	5,531,960	5,590,568	0
Community services	92,008	1,343,587	1,435,595	844,301
Crop production	0	13,592	13,592	90,772
Domestic needs and household support	64,432	0	64,432	15,459
Education	6,963	367,287	374,250	188,723
Health and nutrition	114,237	18,390	132,628	13,439
Income generation	2,958	10,496	13,454	37,584
Legal assistance	7,553	3,219,905	3,227,459	1,087,798
Operational support (to agencies)	54,978	1,048,638	1,103,616	232,151
Shelter and infrastructure	7,324	234,677	242,001	159,324
Water	0	0	0	2,490
Instalments to implementing partners	139,694	3,336,231	3,475,924	(2,672,041)
Subtotal operational activities	548,756	15,124,763	15,673,519	0
Programme support	0	2,439,771	2,439,771	0
Total Expenditure	548,756	17,564,534	18,113,290	0

Cancellation on previous years' expenditure

Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	415,410	7,836,481	8,251,891
Reporting received	(275,716)	(4,500,251)	(4,775,967)
Balance	139,694	3,336,231	3,475,924

Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:			
Outstanding 1st January			3,076,212
Reporting Received			(2,672,041)
Refunded to UNHCR			(335,143)
Currency Adjustment			0
Outstanding 31st December			69,027