



UNHCR's presence in 2012	
Number of offices	11
Total staff	143
International staff	15
National staff	79
JPO staff	1
UNVs	40
Others	8

Overview

Operational highlights

- UNHCR conducted more than 1,000 field missions and implemented 56 practical protection projects in aid of some 28,000 people at risk of displacement.
- The launch of the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) by UNHCR and UNFPA vastly strengthened efforts to counter sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) supported legal-aid clinics based in universities and assisted more than 14,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- More than 50 sporting, cultural and other activities offered safe spaces for children in order to stem the recruitment of minors into armed conflict.
- The Transitional Solutions Initiative (TSI), launched by UNHCR and UNDP, supported the transition from providing immediate assistance to establishing longer-term solutions for displaced populations in seven communities.

People of concern

Most of the people of concern to UNHCR in Colombia are IDPs. Many of the most vulnerable in this group, including members of the indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, live in remote and rural areas such as the Pacific Coast, Central Colombia, Antioquia and the regions bordering the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Ecuador.

Partners

Implementing partners	Operational partners
<p>Government agencies:</p> <p>Ombudsman's Office</p> <p>NGOs:</p> <p><i>Action Contre la Faim</i>, Colombian Catholic Church's Secretariat for Social Ministry, Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement, <i>Corporación Infancia y Desarrollo</i>, <i>Corporación Opción Legal</i>, <i>Corporación para la Investigación y el Desarrollo de la Democracia</i>, <i>Corporación Retoños</i>, <i>Fundación Compartir</i>, Jesuit Refugee Service, Magdalena Medio Peace and Development Programme, National Indigenous Organization of Colombia, Oxfam</p>	<p>Government agencies:</p> <p>Institute for Family Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, National Unit for Protection, Special Administrative Unit for Victims' Support and Reparation, Special Administrative Unit for Land Restitution</p> <p>NGOs:</p> <p><i>Diakonie</i>, <i>Médecins Sans Frontières</i>, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children</p> <p>Others:</p> <p>ICRC, IOM, OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process, OCHA, OHCHR, Pan American Health Organization, UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC, UNFPA, WFP</p>

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Various	220	50	33	19
Asylum-seekers	Various	80	80	25	5
IDPs	Colombia	3,943,500	457,200	51	-
Returnees (refugees)	Various	10	10	-	-
Total		3,943,810	457,340		

| Report on 2012 results |

Achievements and impact

UNHCR's paramount aim in Colombia is to ensure that IDPs, refugees and people at risk of displacement are able to enjoy their rights. To this end, UNHCR assisted a total of 457,200 IDPs directly. More broadly, UNHCR advocated for the rights of displaced people in public policy and through support to relevant institutions.

Information on procedures for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) was regularly provided to those seeking support.

Favourable protection environment

- UNHCR implemented a number of practical protection projects, which are generally small community infrastructure projects designed both to improve a community's living conditions, and to enhance its safety through UNHCR staff presence. UNHCR deployed 49 staff members to areas of the country highly affected by armed conflict. It also undertook 1,256 field missions to accompany and monitor displaced people and those at risk of displacement.
- Some 14,300 IDPs spread across 12 departments of the country were assisted by the UNHCR/NRC project supporting legal-aid clinics in 13 universities.
- UNHCR helped the authorities to implement Colombia's 2011 Law on Victims and Land Restitution by signing memoranda of understanding with key State entities charged with assisting IDPs. These included the Special Administrative Units for Victims and for Protection, the Controller's Office, the Ministry of the Interior and the Institute of Family Welfare.

Fair protection processes and documentation

- UNHCR's registration campaigns helped the Colombian authorities to fulfil their obligation to provide identity documents to affected populations. Over 154,000 people, mainly from rural areas and at risk of forced displacement, received documentation. More than half of those who received documentation during these campaigns were members of the Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations.

Security from violence and exploitation

- The Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict in Colombia, published in 2012, identified grave

violations of the human rights of children in the country. The crimes included sexual violence, abduction and forced recruitment. UNHCR's efforts to fight these abuses included the implementation of 51 measures to prevent forced recruitment. Some 60,000 minors throughout the country benefited from recreational, cultural and sports activities and safe spaces.

- UNHCR trained over 500 civil servants in methodology for preventing and responding to SGBV. It also drew up 24 action plans and undertook 53 interventions to enable community participation in anti-SGBV efforts. As part of the High Commissioner's Special Projects on SGBV, UNHCR and UNFPA launched the GBVIMS to systematically register cases of SGBV in seven municipalities. In 2012, 444 cases of sexual violence were registered in these communities.

Community empowerment and self-reliance

- Almost 3,500 IDPs and people at risk of displacement participated in assessments to identify their most pressing needs. The main concerns were income generation and livelihood opportunities; access to health and basic services; security from forced recruitment; access to education; prevention of sexual violence; and land and housing rights.
- A total of 173 community self-management structures representing vulnerable populations (IDPs, women, indigenous groups, Afro-Colombians and youth) were trained to know and protect their rights, as stipulated in the Law 1448 on Victims and Land Restitution from 2011.

Durable solutions

- Within the framework of the TSI, UNHCR and UNDP conducted participatory assessments with concerned communities to identify gaps and devise action plans. The programme, which was successfully launched in seven municipalities in 2012, aims to improve living conditions, strengthen communities and protect IDPs. Discussions with the Government on the implementation of durable solutions continued to progress.

Leadership, coordination and partnerships

- UNHCR continued to co-lead the protection cluster with the NRC, in addition to serving as a member of the Humanitarian Country Team.

- UNHCR worked closely with donor countries to encourage an ongoing dialogue regarding the humanitarian situation. Approximately 150 bilateral meetings took place, and 16 joint field missions were carried out.

Logistics and operational support

- Field offices were supported by the country office throughout the year. A total of 24 internal monitoring visits were conducted, while 22 programme staff were dedicated resources to ensure transparency and accountability in programme implementation.

Assessment of results

Gaps in assistance to IDPs persist owing to the limited capacity of the Colombian authorities, especially in remote areas of the country, to respond to the populations' needs for protection, housing, education, and basic services. The provision of support for survivors of SGBV, the creation of income-generation opportunities and the prevention of further forced displacement were particular challenges in the protection of IDPs.

UNHCR, through its physical presence in critical areas of the country, continued to provide protection and advocate for improved assistance to IDPs. Considering the growth in the number of large group displacements (defined as 50 or more people displaced at one time) in 2012 UNHCR played a critical role in providing protection to the most vulnerable.

Economic growth in Colombia and the popular perception of the country as a post-conflict State could reduce the visibility

Working with others

UNHCR cooperated with more than 50 international and NGO partners and government entities in assisting IDPs. It coordinated its activities with humanitarian actors within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, as well as the humanitarian country team and the protection cluster.

of the humanitarian crisis in the country that affects some 4 million IDPs. Of particular concern is an escalation in violence perpetrated by post-demobilization armed groups. Renewed attention on the serious nature of the ongoing crisis in Colombia is necessary in order to ensure that adequate resources are made available to support humanitarian needs.

Constraints

Security remained precarious in the Pacific Coast region and along the country's borders. Freedom of movement was increasingly restricted in the strategic corridors which are disputed by armed groups. The consequent closure of these areas, such as the Putumayo Department, to humanitarian actors has restricted UNHCR's ability to intervene in these zones.

UNHCR's work with the Government on the search for lasting solutions was challenging due to the lack of a comprehensive solutions policy. For instance, no policies exist to facilitate the local integration of IDPs in urban areas where security is poor.

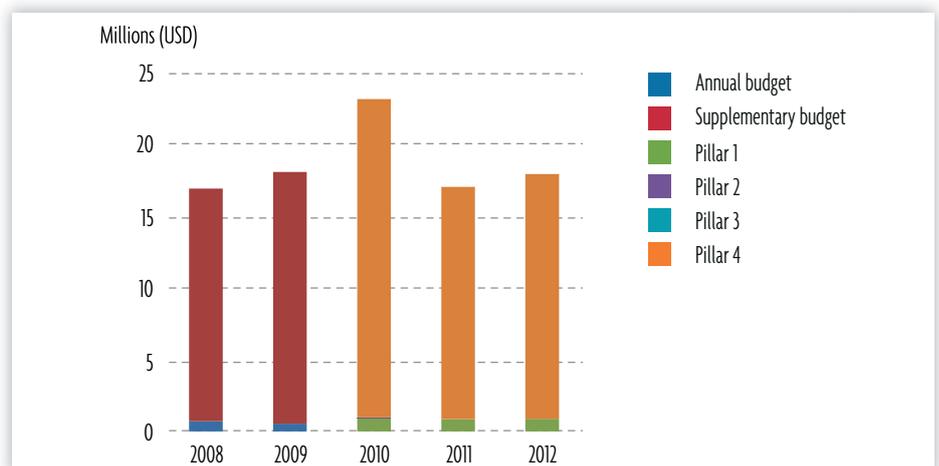
Unmet needs

- UNHCR could not expand its limited presence in some critical areas of the country (such as Magdalena Medio, Córdoba and Guaviare) owing to financial constraints.
- Lack of available resources also prevented amplification of coverage by the Community Ombudsman Programme in border areas and other prioritized regions in order to defend IDP rights.

| Financial information |

Expenditures for Colombia | 2008 to 2012

The financial requirements for UNHCR's operation in Colombia amounted to some USD 29 million in 2012, and the level of funding available allowed the operation to expend USD 17.9 million. Economic growth in Colombia and the popular perception of the country as a post-conflict State, the demands arising from other humanitarian crises, and the effects of the global economic crisis on donors have all detracted from resource mobilization for the operation. Nonetheless, several strategic and enduring partnerships with donors were maintained.



Budget, income and expenditure in Colombia | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
FINAL BUDGET	1,039,539	28,353,219	29,392,758
Income from contributions ¹	1,654,806	11,339,299	12,994,105
Other funds available / adjustments / transfers	(769,250)	5,745,276	4,976,026
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	885,556	17,084,575	17,970,131
EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN			
<i>Favourable Protection Environment</i>			
International and regional instruments	72,163	332,658	404,820
Law and policy	72,162	550,982	623,144
Administrative institutions and practice	54,122	387,503	441,626
Access to legal assistance and remedies	0	361,589	361,589
Access to territory and <i>refoulement</i> risk reduced	90,204	0	90,204
Public attitude towards persons of concern	0	522,954	522,954
Subtotal	288,651	2,155,686	2,444,337
<i>Fair Protection Processes and Documentation</i>			
Status determination procedures	181,561	173,279	354,840
Civil registration and status documentation	0	398,397	398,397
Subtotal	181,561	571,677	753,238
<i>Security from Violence and Exploitation</i>			
Protection from effects of armed conflict	0	3,288,146	3,288,146
Prevention and response to SGBV	0	883,104	883,104
Protection of children	0	751,351	751,351
Subtotal	0	4,922,601	4,922,601
<i>Basic Needs and Essential Services</i>			
Health	21,099	0	21,099
Basic and domestic items	62,037	0	62,037
Services for people with specific needs	48,189	0	48,189
Education	92,224	0	92,224
Subtotal	223,550	0	223,550
<i>Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance</i>			
Community mobilization	0	985,261	985,261
Self-reliance and livelihoods	93,562	0	93,562
Subtotal	93,562	985,261	1,078,823
<i>Durable Solutions</i>			
Comprehensive solutions strategy	0	900,841	900,841
Voluntary return	0	166,329	166,329
Reintegration	0	278,334	278,334
Integration	38,279	166,329	204,608
Subtotal	38,279	1,511,832	1,550,111
<i>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</i>			
Coordination and partnerships	0	1,408,578	1,408,578
Donor relations and resource mobilization	0	1,164,300	1,164,300
Subtotal	0	2,572,879	2,572,879
<i>Logistics and Operations Support</i>			
Logistics and supply	0	997,972	997,972
Operations management, coordination and support	0	1,077,339	1,077,339
Subtotal	0	2,075,311	2,075,311
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	59,952	2,289,330	2,349,281
Total	885,555	17,084,575	17,970,130

¹Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities - mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.