

Annual Results Report

2024

Colombia

Acknowledgements

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

The situation in Colombia and neighboring Venezuela presented significant challenges in 2024, particularly for forcibly displaced people in the country. The Total Peace initiative in Colombia, which aims to address the country's long-standing conflicts by negotiating with various non-state armed actors, has suffered numerous challenges, including the breakdown of negotiations with multiple groups generating new displacements and mobility restrictions (confinements). At the same time, there has been a splintering within various groups leading to further armed clashes, displacement, and confinement. In total, over 274,000 people were affected by displacement and confinement, particularly in departments such as Nariño, Choco, Cauca, Antioquia, Bolivar, and Norte de Santander.

The presidential election in Venezuela on 28 July 2024 was highly contentious. Incumbent President Nicolás Maduro was declared the winner by the National Electoral Council (CNE), while the opposition, led by Edmundo González, claimed victory and accused the Government of electoral fraud. This dispute led to significant political tension and uncertainty in Venezuela, triggering the displacement of individual Venezuelans who had been involved in the election process, mostly towards Colombia.

In this context, UNHCR continued to provide support and technical assistance to national and local institutions, advocating for the effective mobilization of national and regional responses to address the situation. Facilitating the active presence of State protection agencies in the territory and empowering affected communities remain the most effective approach to responding to the situation, particularly in the increasingly challenging context detailed above. As such, UNHCR presence in field locations remains vital to this end.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Forcibly displaced and stateless people access a fair and efficient protection system, in line with universal and regional standards, that guarantees their rights.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.17%	2.30%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

A key milestone in 2024 was the 20th anniversary of the Constitutional Court's declaration of the Unconstitutional State of Affairs for IDPs. A national event organized by UNHCR on this occasion brought IDPs into national and regional discussions, highlighting their struggles and the need for solutions. It renewed commitment and action from various stakeholders.

Additionally, the design and handover by UNHCR of the HIT Information System to the Refugee Office has greatly improved the asylum application process. It simplifies registering and tracking asylum cases and ensures that applicants receive quick and accurate responses. This system is a major step forward in responding to asylum applications, making the process more organized and transparent.

The establishment of the Displacement Solutions Fund has also been a crucial development. This fund, allocated by the UNSG's Special Advisor on Displacement Solutions, aims to expedite durable solutions for the over 8.7 million displaced individuals in Colombia. By providing financial resources and support, the fund facilitates the development of costed policy frameworks and advances the integration and overall well-being of displaced persons in key locations across the country.

Furthermore, the government launched a new protection mechanism to regularize approximately 400,000 Venezuelans through the PEP tutor. This mechanism offers legal status and provides access to rights as active contributors of the economy and society.

In addition, a new visa category called "special visitor" was created for Venezuelans who entered the country before 4 December with a valid or expired passport. This visa grants access to essential rights, ensuring stability and opportunities for those affected.

These impactful measures reflected the State's continued commitment to upholding the rights of forcibly displaced and stateless people by placing their needs at the center of policy discussions and implementing practical solutions.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Forcibly displaced and stateless people effectively meet their immediate and specific basic protection needs with a human right, age, gender and diversity and environmental approaches.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
2.1 Proportion of people living below the national poverty line		
IDPs	51.60%	51.60%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.40%	63.40%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
IDPs	56.19%	21.11%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	93.32%	93.32%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Others of Concern	85.04%	85.04%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66.91%	66.91%

One of the key impacts has been the increase in the ceilings for material assistance provision by the government. This initiative has allowed individuals to better meet their priority needs, providing them with the flexibility to address their most urgent requirements. According to the PDM results, recipients' ability to cover basic needs has risen by 21% from 2023 to 2024. While 48% of recipients could meet half or more of their needs in 2023, 69% report doing so in 2024.

In 2024, the Colombian government included a further 123,886 Venezuelans in the national health system. This inclusion has ensured access to essential healthcare services.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health designed a special regularization mechanism for refugee pregnant women. This initiative will provide pregnant women with legal status, allowing them to access healthcare and ensuring their safety and the health of their unborn children.

Furthermore, 72,901 Venezuelans accessed the social protection program through the SISBEN survey. This program has offered vital support, helping refugees and migrants secure basic needs such as food, shelter, and education.

These measures advanced the overall being of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, although challenges remain for hundreds of thousands still not benefitting from legal stay documents

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

People under UNHCR's mandate and communities effectively exercise their right to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives with a human rights-based and an age, gender, and diversity approach.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	69.18%	80.75%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
IDPs	77.45%	77.45%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	53.02%	53.32%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
IDPs	72.62%	72.62%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	22.22%	30.70%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
IDPs	23.60%	23.60%
Others of Concern	32.07%	32.07%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21.35%	21.35%

In recent years, significant efforts have been made to ensure that communities can effectively exercise their right to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

UNHCR measured progress in 165 communities using the Impact Measurement Tool of the Community Mobilization Roadmap. Preliminary results show that 53 of these communities (32%) have achieved medium progress to reach protection and solutions.

A crucial achievement has been the active participation of Afro-Colombian people in monitoring the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the 2016 Peace Agreement. Such involvement has empowered these communities to take part in the peacebuilding process, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are protected.

Additionally, forcibly displaced and stateless grassroots organizations participate in global events like Cartagena +40 and COP 16. UNHCR's supported Indigenous and Afro Colombian authorities to raise their voices to reaffirm their key role as protectors of the environment and biodiversity. They highlighted the climate crisis and its disproportionate impact on their communities, bringing much-needed attention to these critical issues. UNHCR supported communities to highlight the displacement dimension of biodiversity degradation.

Furthermore, Venezuelan organizations have shown remarkable leadership within the "Me Sumo" initiative. This initiative seeks to make visible the presence of refugees and migrants in the region and advocate for public policies to support them. Their engagement has strengthened their ability to influence policies and decisions that directly affect their lives.

Multiple other local capacity building and community strengthening have also been essential providing the tools and knowledge needed to participate, ensuring ownership and sustainability. Empowerment helped foster integration and allows forcibly displaced persons to contribute their full potential to society.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

People who have been forced to flee find the most appropriate solution to their situation with effective enjoyment of their rights achieving full inclusion.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	660	10,248
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	61	7

The Government of Colombia has implemented several programs to provide legal status, and work permits to Venezuelan nationals in the country. Through UNHCR’s extensive engagement and advocacy with the private sector, an increase in the number of Venezuelans accessing formal employment was achieved (approximately 27% had formal employment in 2024), which has contributed to the economic growth.

The private sector has played a crucial role in integrating Venezuelans into the workforce. Companies have partnered with public programs to offer temporary work permits, helping to fill critical workforce gaps while enhancing workplace cohesion and productivity.

Efforts have also been made to eliminate barriers to financial access, including opening bank accounts, obtaining credit, and accessing funds. As a result, according to the Pulso de la Migración Survey (2024), 29% of Venezuelans estimated to be in Colombia are now active participants in the financial system, supporting their economic independence and integration.

Additionally, resettlement to third countries has been a strategic approach to reduce pressure on the Colombian government, which faces challenges due to the limited resources and infrastructure to support large displaced populations. This strategy provided 10,248 refugees with new opportunities to rebuild their lives in safer environments in 2024.

Despite these advancements, many challenges remain for forcibly displaced and stateless people in accessing formal employment, validating their qualifications, and enrolling in higher education. Continued efforts are needed to ensure their full inclusion and the effective enjoyment of their rights.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2024, Colombia faced significant challenges for forcibly displaced and stateless people due to ongoing conflict and worsening humanitarian conditions. Setbacks in the Total Peace policy led to increased internal displacement, especially among Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

Despite efforts to provide legal stay permits for Venezuelans, the new regularization measures include stricter requirements, thereby limiting their reach. Asylum system reforms remain a work in progress, and changes in visa regulations affected refugees holding permanent residency.

Direct support to cover basic needs remained insufficient, and barriers to regularization further limited access to social protection and essential services. Health system enrolment remained difficult due to identification issues and high mobility among displaced populations.

Addressing socioeconomic inclusion challenges requires a multifaceted approach, including skills certification, training programs, financial inclusion advocacy, and employability initiatives. These efforts help refugees validate qualifications, gain new skills, access banking services, and secure stable employment. Targeted interventions for women, such as promoting labor market participation and affordable childcare, are also essential.

Due to resource constraints, UNHCR Colombia was compelled in 2024 to discontinue both economic

support (seed capital) and technical assistance for entrepreneurs, except within the framework of the graduation approach. As a result, our efforts will now be focused on the advocacy component, ensuring continued support for policies and initiatives that promote entrepreneurial development and sustainability.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR initiated the review of two Memoranda of Understanding with the Government of Colombia, supported by a 2025-2028 work plan outlining UNHCR's protection and solutions priorities. In 2024, key partners included the Constitutional Court, the Victims Unit, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, the Ombudsperson's Office, Migration Colombia, the Foreign Ministry, and various line ministries, along with local authorities.

The launch of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2024-2026 marked a significant milestone. UNHCR actively participated in the implementation of the UNSDCF, co-leading the Total Peace, Human Security, and Social Justice pillar as well as the Social Protection and Socio-Economic Inclusion for Refugees pillar. Additionally, the agency supported the Human Right to Food, Rural Development, Land Management, and WASH pillar.

UNHCR's collaboration with NGOs remained a crucial driver of progress, particularly through 16 partnership agreements that provided support to over 617,153 individuals throughout the year. Additionally, in 2024, UNHCR introduced an innovative initiative by partnering directly with COCOMASUR, an Afro-Colombian community-based institution, to further enhance its outreach and impact and advance localization efforts.

In 2024, UNHCR continued co-leading the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) with IOM, bringing together 87 partners under the National R4V Platform. This collaboration strengthened interagency coordination across Colombia, complementing national and local government efforts through 11 active local GIFMMs in key refugee and migrant hosting areas, mainly along the borders with Venezuela, Ecuador, and Panama.

The RMRP, under the R4V Platform and GIFMM framework, addresses the needs of Venezuelan refugees, migrants, and host communities. By December 31, 2024, it implemented \$197 million in activities in Colombia, benefiting over 943,000 people.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

People who have been forced to flee can access the territory without being returned.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
IDPs	98.69%	100.00%	98.69%
Others of Concern	37.27%	80.00%	37.27%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.79%	80.00%	23.79%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
IDPs	98.70%	100.00%	98.70%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	44.73%	90.00%	44.73%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	108,498
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
IDPs	134
Others of Concern	117
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	29,928

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The principle of non-refoulement is established in Decree 1067 of 2015, which regulates the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedure. This decree is currently under revision in 2025. The existing system does not allow asylum applications to be lodged in transit zones at the airports or other immigration checkpoints. In 2023, the Committee Against Torture (CAT) requested the Colombian Government to amend its regulations to ensure access to the RSD procedure in these zones, thereby preventing potential risks of refoulement. UNHCR continued advocating with the national authorities to address this issue.

Moreover, UNHCR has consistently engaged with Colombian authorities to guarantee access to the territory and prevent cases of refoulement and contributed legal analysis to the Constitutional Court when required on specific points.

UNHCR assisted the Public Ministry (national and local ombud's offices) in monitoring and intervening on behalf of persons at risk of refoulement, particularly in border areas. In coordination with Migración Colombia, UNHCR trained more than 580 local authorities and migration officers in international protection principles and in preventing xenophobia.

In August 2024, UNHCR handed over a tailored information system named HIT+ to the Colombian government. This system has enabled the Colombian government to improve and modernize individual registration for all asylum-seekers, process their claims, and issue relevant documents to individuals recognized as refugees.

According to the current visa regulation, by late September 2024, all foreigners, including refugees, were required to apply for a visa transfer. Due to the costs associated with this transfer and its impact on refugees, UNHCR assisted 30 refugees in renewing their documents.

Moreover, UNHCR continued to support the “Primero la Niñez” measure, which has enabled more than 114,000 children born in Colombia to Venezuelan parents to obtain Colombian nationality. UNHCR has actively promoted its implementation and continues to advocate for its extension, parallel to the gradual reopening of Venezuelan consulates in the country.

Finally, the Colombian Government announced a new regularization measure called Special Stay Permit for Tutors (PEP Tutor), benefiting parents of Venezuelan children who already hold Temporary Protection Status (TPS). This measure aims to guarantee the principle of family unity, considering that the children are already regularized but their parents are not. In 2025, UNHCR will support the implementation of this measure, which is expected to benefit an estimated 400,000 people.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Registration, documentation, and asylum processes, as well as temporary protection permit status are effective and accessible to people in need of international protection.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,016.00	765.00	1,345.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR has continued to strengthen its Attention and Orientation Centers (PAO) strategy. By the end of 2024, UNHCR had established 71 PAOs across Colombia. These centers provided 29,107 orientation sessions, assisting 19,877 individuals seeking information on their rights, regularization processes, or wishing to apply for asylum in Colombia or abroad. Additionally, PAOs supported 6,667 individuals in completing 5,658 individual and family asylum applications in Colombia.

As a result of the handover of the HIT+ Information System to the Foreign Ministry, all asylum-seekers are now being registered, enabling the government to gradually improve case traceability and enhance process efficiency. Despite the long average processing time (three years or more), improvements in identifying and prioritizing cases with specific needs, as well as in traceability, are expected to lead to greater efficiency in the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process.

Furthermore, UNHCR, in coordination with UNICEF and ICBF (National Institution for Child Protection), designed and disseminated information on the RSD process for children to improve their access to protection mechanisms.

Additionally, UNHCR supported the Victims' Unit in enhancing the registration process for internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conducting intensive training sessions for Public Ministry institutions, benefiting 417 officials in eight municipalities historically affected by armed conflict. UNHCR also facilitated a risk analysis exercise by sub-regions, which enabled a more comprehensive institutional response

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

The implementation of the legal framework and policy is improved and decentralized, and public programmes are developed to strengthen the protection system and access to rights with an age, gender, and diversity approach.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Not yet aligned	Broadly aligned	Not yet aligned

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
IDPs	Yes
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR provided technical assistance to the Foreign Ministry (MFA) and the Internal Working Group on Statelessness for the statelessness status determination procedure. In collaboration with the MFA, the National Registrar's Office, and the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF), UNHCR conducted specialized training for local and national authorities.

Under the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF), UNHCR supported the National Planning Department, the Social Prosperity Department, and the Victims' Unit (UARIV) in developing a national strategy for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) focusing on sustainable, rights-based approaches, to be finalized in the first semester of 2025.

UNHCR also supported UARIV in implementing return and relocation policies locally, accelerating progress in three pilot cases and systematizing best practices for public policy discussions.

Additionally, UNHCR promoted nine local technical sessions on ethnic rights, rehabilitation, protection, and land restitution to assess progress on the Unconstitutional State Affairs declared by T-025 ruling. During the anniversary of the Ruling T-025, UNHCR participated in public hearings, drawing significant attention to internal displacement and engaging new stakeholders.

In collaboration with the UARIV, ICRC, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Procurator's Office, UNHCR supported the design of a policy to protect refugees affected by the Colombian armed conflict, ensuring their access to rights and registration in the Victims' Registry System.

UNHCR provided technical assistance in revising the Victims and Land Restitution Law, working closely with UARIV, the Procurator's office, and the Ministry of Interior. Despite implementation challenges, UNHCR will continue supporting institutions to overcome obstacles.

UNHCR also provided technical assistance in reviewing public policies in response to Constitutional Court orders, emphasizing the need to accelerate implementation due to the deteriorating humanitarian situation, including the policies on prevention of displacement, attention to confinement, and the design of the territorial plans for protection and prevention.

ProBono, a foundation of lawyers, and the Legal Clinics Networking various universities, conducted key legal interventions before the judiciary system, making formal comments on the PEP Tutor Decree, constitutional review of residency proof requirements for children of foreign parents born in Colombia, promoting a collective ruling on the right to work for asylum seekers (T246/2024), and challenged the invalidity of expulsion procedures

Finally, at the COP16 summit, UNHCR highlighted the nexus between forced displacement, biodiversity, and climate change; provided technical support for legislative proposals addressing internal displacement due to climate change; and contributed to designing a new policy for minimum protection standards for IDPs affected by environmental factors.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

The risks of gender-based violence are reduced and gender-based violence survivors have adequate, timely and quality access to multisectoral services.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		80.00%	65.64%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Host Community	701
IDPs	321
Others of Concern	44
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,597

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR strengthened the National Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Specialized Partners Network by providing training and facilitating the exchange of best practices. These efforts enhanced operational capacity in the field, enabling partners to deliver timely, appropriate, and high-quality responses. Through protection, assistance, and risk mitigation and prevention measures, the Network ensured comprehensive support for survivors of violence, with a particular focus on women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ individuals. As a result, 6,207 survivors received specialized and improved care, in line with national and international standards set by Law 1257 2008, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belem Do Pará).

Additionally, UNHCR supported three safe houses, which provided shelter and specialized assistance to 452 women at high risk of femicide and their children.

UNHCR and its partners also collaborated with community organizations on prevention of violence initiatives. Programs such as the “Women's Support Circles” in Cali have empowered women leaders to identify risks of violence, strengthen community-based protection networks, and activate institutional pathways to refer survivors to appropriate and timely assistance.

To reinforce institutional response to violence against women and girls, UNHCR provided technical support and allocated human and financial resources to the Ombudsperson's Office for Women's Rights and Gender Issues. As a result, 1,288 survivors received legal assistance and obtained protection measures such as an aggressor's eviction from the house or protection in a safe house. Additionally, 400 public servants improved their understanding of standards and international protection protocols to protect women and girls from violence.

UNHCR and its partners also provided technical support and advocacy to public institutions, including the Office of the Attorney General, Family Commissariats, and the National Institute of Legal Medicine. These efforts aimed to ensure that forcibly displaced and stateless survivors of violence, as well as victims of human trafficking, have equal and timely access to their rights and to protection systems.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Forcibly displaced and stateless children are protected from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse, and discrimination, and have access to the child protection system and friendly procedures.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
IDPs	37.11%	70.00%	40.71%
Others of Concern	17.90%	70.00%	10.27%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.97%	70.00%	32.49%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
IDPs	4.91%	30.00%	11.18%
Others of Concern	0.11%	30.00%	0.10%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2.24%	30.00%	3.40%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
IDPs	5,565
Others of Concern	49
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,387

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continues to strengthen access and inclusion for forcibly displaced and stateless children in the national protection system, as well as child-friendly procedures. The agency also supports their protection against all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation through various initiatives.

The “Nos Mueve la Niñez” consortium, composed of six national partners, established child-friendly spaces in communities and educational institutions, benefiting 4,873 children who participated in artistic, sporting, and creative activities. Additionally, 1,237 children received comprehensive assistance, helping them cope with complex challenges such as prevention of all forms of violence, recruitment, and use. The initiative also strengthened the child protection capacity of 2,754 actors, including ombudspersons, family commissioners, teachers, and local education authorities. These efforts aimed to mitigate risks associated with armed conflict, such as recruitment.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Delegate from the National Ombudsperson’s Office for Children, UNHCR conducted training sessions for 6,009 staff members of the National Family Welfare System to ensure the implementation of the Ombudsman's procedure, which guarantees the safety, rights, and well-being of forcibly displaced and stateless children, benefiting 20,494 children and their families.

The Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) received technical and financial assistance from UNHCR to support 216 children with specific protection needs, including unaccompanied and separated children

(UASC). Additionally, UNHCR trained 630 ICBF staff members, facilitating the activation of institutional protection pathways to ensure the recognition of children’s refugee status.

Finally, under the Joint Plan of Action between UNHCR and UNICEF, the agencies achieved:
Advocacy for implementing the Policy for the Prevention of Recruitment, Use, and Sexual Violence against Children.

Strengthening of administrative authorities' capacities through eight workshops on international protection, statelessness, and safe routes.

Advocacy for the inclusion of international child protection principles in the Guideline “on protection, safe return, and identification of children and adolescents without parental care”;

Provision of inputs and case analysis for quarterly reports on the six grave violations, four global notes, the Annual Report, and the Secretary-General's Country Report on Children and Armed Conflict

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Forcibly displaced people are protected from the effects of armed conflict and other forms of violence and exploitation.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
IDPs	12,884
Others of Concern	1,266
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	22,596

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR promoted a comprehensive overview of the humanitarian situation affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and confined communities through protection monitoring, regional risk analysis, and context analysis sessions with the UARIV, the Ombudsperson's Office, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Procurator's Office, generating public awareness on protection concerns.

UNHCR led a subregional strategy with the Public Ministry, promoting a more comprehensive and coordinated response to regional humanitarian crises. The agency also supported the Ombudsman's Office in implementing actions to improve living conditions and access to rights of 16,600 refugees, migrants, and 20,429 IDPs. Additionally, UNHCR supported the Early Warning System of the Ombuds' Office, strengthening its capacity to monitor and issue alerts regarding IDPs and confined populations.

In collaboration with the Procurator’s Office, UNHCR monitored the implementation of Victims’ Law and the 2016 Peace Agreement, advocating for humanitarian emergency responses, prevention of forced recruitment, promotion of collective reparation processes, support for returns and relocations, and follow-up of rural reform policies, among others.

Within the network of legal clinics of 32 universities across the country, 16,703 people received legal assistance. 15 nationwide events were held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration, and a study was conducted on internal displacement due to climate change. ProBono expanded its reach to underserved areas, benefiting 53 refugees and 512 IDPs. The foundation also finalized the case management process of 1,545 cases and held virtual legal assistance sessions.

UNHCR provided support to the Ministry of the Interior to strengthen the National Prevention and Protection

Subcommittee, facilitating a more coordinated state response to IDPs and confined communities. As a permanent member of the subcommittee, UNHCR highlighted the humanitarian crisis and protection risks in the country. Additionally, UNHCR collaborated with the Ministry to respond to Constitutional Court orders of the Auto 894 related to the structural revision of prevention and protection policies, supporting the design and implementation of a territorial transformation strategy in selected regions to promote the civilian presence of the State and address the most urgent needs of IDPs and confined populations.

UNHCR also worked with the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) to reinforce the investigations into forced displacement, supporting the internal investigative group and facilitating context analysis sessions in Arauca, la Guajira, and Putumayo departments, highly affected by internal displacement.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Civic spaces are expanded, and forcibly displaced people and communities are empowered and have strengthened self-protection mechanisms and autonomous self-management mechanisms.

Peaceful coexistence and community leadership increases integration and resilience in communities and decreases discrimination and xenophobia.

People under UNHCR's mandate access two-way communication and feedback and response channels/mechanisms with adequate and timely information about their rights.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
IDPs	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
IDPs	27.09%	50.00%	27.40%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.01%	50.00%	16.08%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Host Community	812
IDPs	751
Others of Concern	183
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,083
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Host Community	2,192
IDPs	704
Others of Concern	198
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,151
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
IDPs	16,244
Others of Concern	1,345
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30,104

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR empowered communities and strengthened community-based protection networks through the implementation of its Community Mobilization Roadmap, enhancing community involvement in protection and solutions in 165 communities. Through 42 participatory assessments involving 2,243 forcibly displaced and stateless people, crucial insights into integration challenges and protection risks were gained.

UNHCR and its partners supported 90 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and 49 communities, benefiting 23,362 people through technical support, capacity building, and community action plans for local integration and peaceful coexistence. UNHCR also strengthened indigenous authorities on self-protection, cultural identity, and community participation. Additionally, with 42 volunteers, the agency enhanced communication, leadership, and feedback mechanisms in an exponential manner in 21 communities.

UNHCR supported the National Indigenous Colombian Organization (ONIC), strengthening the authorities of cross-border Indigenous peoples to advocate for their rights, particularly the right to Colombian nationality. It also supported ONIC's Human Rights Observatory, which monitors the human rights situation of indigenous communities, particularly those that are displaced and confined.

UNHCR collaborated with Afro-Colombian organizations such as CONPA and COMADRE, to enhance advocacy efforts for the implementation of the Peace Agreement's Ethnic Chapter and the ethnic agreements of the National Development Plan.

The agency also reinforced its alliance with the Ombudsman's Delegate for Ethnic Peoples to improve Indigenous cross-border communities' access to rights.

To enhance coordination of UN initiatives with ethnic peoples, UNHCR co-coordinated the UN Interagency Ethnic Task Force with the International Labor Organization (ILO). Additionally, UNHCR supported the missions of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent with analytic notes and operational support.

UNHCR and partners expanded access to in-person and online feedback mechanisms. The national feedback system recorded a 22% increase in feedback, with 83% of sensitive cases addressed within 24 to 72 hours, thanks to optimized procedures such as a feedback monitoring dashboard. In 2024, 3,834 feedback entries were processed, with over 50% related to protection, food assistance, and socio-economic integration. These insights led to program improvements, including direct support to cover basic needs and the expansion of friendly spaces for children.

A significant event celebrated the 2023 Nansen Prize for the Americas, awarded to Elizabeth Moreno, a prominent Colombian human rights defender. The event also marked the launch of a leadership school for Indigenous and Afro-Colombian women in Chocó, funded by the Nansen Prize.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Sufficient and efficient orientation and activation response mechanisms coordinated and articulated institutional response, and support of humanitarian, civil society and other relevant actors ensure that the affected population has timely and adequate access to services and assistance.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
IDPs	0.03%	1.50%	0.03%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.46%	1.50%	0.72%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
IDPs	95.00%	100.00%	95.00%
Others of Concern	41.61%	60.00%	41.61%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26.47%	60.00%	26.47%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Host Community	4,957
IDPs	1,363
Others of Concern	1,161
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	19,801
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
Host Community	74
IDPs	958
Others of Concern	0
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	500

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR worked with partners to ensure an effective response to the national humanitarian situation. It played a key co-lead role in the GIFMM, the local expression of the R4V Platform, and led the Protection Cluster within the humanitarian architecture for internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNHCR effectively responded to eight emergencies, which included, among other measures, supporting six shelters and hotel networks in border zones and intermediary cities, benefiting 3,900 people, and distributing 15,685 Core Relief Items.

UNHCR provided direct assistance to cover survival needs to 5,553 families (18,320 individuals) residing in Colombia with the intention to remain in Colombia (such support was not provided for those persons in transit). The majority (97%) of recipients reported accessing the assistance safely and without barriers, and prioritized its use on food (92%), rent/housing (61%) and hygiene items (49%), according to post-distribution monitoring surveys

Additionally, as part of its response in the Darien region, UNHCR provided counselling on risks to a wide variety of nationalities, including on alternatives to remain in Colombia and avoid the dangerous crossing of the Darien. To those who desisted from crossing, UNHCR provided humanitarian transportation to southern destinations such as Medellin. UNHCR also provided water purification tablets to 125,363 individuals for

humanitarian purposes and delivered mental health and psychosocial care services to 1,657 people.

UNHCR also contributed to the inclusion of Venezuelans in the national health system through joint work with the health authorities in two cities, where 1,701 new affiliates were registered and 2,021 existing affiliates revalidated their status, ensuring continuity of healthcare access. Additionally, UNHCR supported the implementation by local authorities of vulnerability surveys in four municipalities, leading to 10,230 surveys for 20,460 refugees and migrants and 1,353 surveys for 2,706 displaced people. Similarly, the agency supported the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in designing and providing pedagogical input for a self-learning course on health system affiliation, with a focus on refugees and migrants. The course, set to launch in the first half of 2025, aims to enhance the knowledge of state actors managing health insurance and mitigate institutional knowledge loss due to high staff turnover.

UNHCR has actively promoted solar energy projects, engaging displaced communities as key stakeholders in their implementation and long-term maintenance. These projects have enhanced environmental conservation efforts while improving the quality of life in affected communities, fostering a more sustainable and resilient future.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Government and private sector ensure access of forcibly displaced and stateless people to decent work and sustainable livelihoods, social dialogue, and social protection systems.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
Others of Concern	37.86%	70.00%	37.86%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.79%	85.00%	51.31%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Others of Concern	6.72%	20.00%	6.72%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5.83%	20.00%	5.83%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Host Community	7,908
IDPs	1,921
Others of Concern	704
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9,158

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR implemented the Graduation Model, benefiting 60 families by helping them generate better incomes through the initiation of new businesses or strengthening existing ones or access to formal employment. This initiative significantly improved their economic stability and integration into the workforce. To enhance employment opportunities, partnerships with 14 private sector entities provided professional guidance, job placement, and skills training for 438 Venezuelan refugees, Colombian returnees, and IDPs. Among them, 155 participated in long-term skills programs, and 195 secured formal employment. To promote job retention, 150 newly employed individuals received material assistance.

UNHCR leads the GIFMM Financial Inclusion Working Group, advocating for refugees' access to financial services through partnerships with financial institutions, financial technology companies, and the association of financial entities in Colombia. Currently, 28.8% of Venezuelan refugees in Colombia have savings accounts, while only 4% have access to credit. UNHCR supported 1,321 refugees in accessing banking services. Fintech companies in Colombia play a key role in financial inclusion for refugees with the Temporary Protection Permit (PPT) as a valid document, allowing this population to access bank accounts—something traditional banks do not offer. Additionally, fintechs reduce barriers to the formal economy and provide tailored financial solutions, such as remittance services. Their innovation fosters economic stability and integration. UNHCR established strong alliances with financial service providers Aavance, Nequi, Retorna, Nubank, Ualá, and Quipu.

In education, the DAFI Scholarship Program supported 20 refugee and displaced students in their academic and integration processes in 2024. UNHCR has also contributed to the government's education policy through initiatives such as the Xenophobia Protocol, Somos Panas Colombia, and Mi Viaje. Additionally, SENA's (the Colombian vocational training institute) certification programs improved employment prospects for 1,241 Venezuelans, and 638 completed vocational training.

UNHCR supported 1,002 small businesses with training, investment, networking opportunities, and in-kind seed capital to scale operations, increasing their average income by 13.8%. Additionally, UNHCR raised awareness on refugee employment among 18 private sector entities, resulting in increased job opportunities for refugees. Furthermore, seven community enterprises were strengthened, enhancing their capacity to support local economic development.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Durable solutions are accessible to people in need of international protection with specific protection needs who cannot locally integrate in Colombia.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6,540	40,000	32,897

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR achieved significant outcomes, surpassing resettlement quotas for all countries, including submitting 32,607 applicants to the United States of America. For other countries such as New Zealand and Canada, UNHCR facilitated the resettlement of 144 individuals, including emergency priority cases, ensuring timely support for those in urgent need.

The introduction of a rigorous anti-fraud procedure significantly enhanced the integrity of UNHCR's resettlement processes, leading to a rise in reported inconsistencies towards the end of the year—an indication of improved fraud detection capabilities. UNHCR's capacity-building initiatives for caseworkers, implemented in collaboration with the regional Bureau for the Americas and the country office, significantly improved submission quality, particularly in addressing inadmissibility concerns. These advancements were praised by immigration officers responsible for conducting interviews of individuals submitted by UNHCR for resettlement during multiple debriefing sessions.

Furthermore, UNHCR supported 7,188 Venezuelan, Haitian, and Cuban nationals with direct assistance to cover survival needs, ensuring they had the necessary support while awaiting their appointments with the relevant resettlement state authorities. Approximately 1,500 people identified during pre-screening and resettlement interviews accessed vital psychosocial support delivered through a UNHCR partner. This assistance - provided both in person and remotely—primarily benefitted trauma survivors, including women and girls survivors of violence, helping them rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

To further expand resettlement and complementary pathways, UNHCR developed a three-year project proposal for Canada and secured 80 spots for refugees interested in labor pathways to Italy. These initiatives revitalize complementary pathway efforts, offering new opportunities for refugees to achieve economic stability and contribute to their new communities.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Forcibly displaced people and host communities in urban and rural contexts have access to solutions process through an area-based approach.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land			
IDPs	19.48%	45.00%	19.48%
Others of Concern	6.33%	25.00%	6.33%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.53%	25.00%	0.53%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems			
IDPs	37.60%	70.00%	37.60%
Others of Concern	45.72%	70.00%	45.72%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.84%	70.00%	27.84%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
IDPs	Partially

Others of Concern	Partially
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Partially
16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures	
Others of Concern	21
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	784

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Land Restitution Unit (URT), implemented interventions in four key areas:

- Revising the type of land to be used as compensation measures.
- Redesigning the internal route within the URT for the restitution of victims abroad.
- Supporting ethnic cases in the final draft of restitution demands.
- Facilitating panels to highlight the nexus between development and land restitution with protection against climate change in the context of COP16.

The Victims' Unit and UNHCR supported the acceleration of three cases of durable solutions. The strategy focused on advocating for the full implementation of return and relocation plans, whether by promoting responses from the authorities and institutions in charge or by financing some of the plans' activities, such as furniture and school supplies.

The Letter of Intention with the Ministry of Housing was renewed, and progress was made in disseminating practical tools to advance the legalization of informal settlements. With UNHCR's support, the Ministry provided technical assistance to local authorities to facilitate this process.

UNHCR, in partnership with UNDP, led the Steering Group on Durable Solutions, ensuring a comprehensive UN response for IDP solutions. Additionally, UNHCR's leadership was recognized by national institutions and UN agencies through the coordination of the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF) implemented by 4 agencies: UNDP, UN Habitat, IOM and UNHCR. Through these efforts, UNHCR contributed to the implementation of the triple nexus agenda, integrating Development, Peace, and Humanitarian Action.

UNHCR's legalization of informal settlements strategy prioritized 24 settlements across 9 departments, benefiting 12,306 households (49,224 people). The settlements are composed of IDPs, refugees, Colombian returnees, and host communities. The strategy also involved mapping and analysis of settlements predominantly inhabited by IDPs; promoting land titling in 9 additional settlements in collaboration with the ministry and local authorities; advancing the constitution, extension, and/or restructuring of indigenous lands for 8 communities; and conducting the analysis of the land situation in an Afro-Colombian community.

Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2024)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
IDPs	33
Others of Concern	49
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,857
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Host Community	296
IDPs	0
Others of Concern	3

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,836
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR registered 171,646 individual cases (54% women and 46% men), including 7,270 children at risk; 3,673 women at risk; 2,599 individuals with disabilities; 858 older persons at risk; 1,874 survivors of violence; and 900 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

UNHCR strengthened participation tools like Participatory Assessments (PA) and protection monitoring, conducting 42 PAs with 2,243 people (860 women, 301 men, 551 children, and 111 older adults).

Community leadership initiatives included the “Youth Leadership and Own Government School,” which enhanced 580 Indigenous youth; “Circles of Power,” for women; and “Ashe Masai,” for Afro-descendant youth.

To improve communication with communities, UNHCR adapted communication channels and offered digital and in-person options using information kiosks, volunteers, and Community-Based Organization (CBO) meetings for two-way communication.

UNHCR optimized its feedback system, closing 82% of feedback (around 18% was unreachable) and responding to 76% of cases on time. UNHCR prioritized in-person interactions and sustainable partnerships with CBOs, increasing direct funding and localization efforts.

UNHCR partners implemented tailored feedback mechanisms, adapting programs based on consolidated data. In Acandí (Chocó), UNHCR partnered with COCOMASUR to strengthen organizational capacity, including PSEA policies, leading to a direct partnership agreement.

UNHCR supported 3,145 refugee women and 2,756 displaced women in leadership, organizational strengthening, peaceful coexistence, and social integration activities. UNHCR prioritized women at high risk and survivors of violence in livelihoods programs. Lifesaving support was provided to 6,207 survivors of violence, with 77% of beneficiaries being women. UNHCR also established a network with five partners specialized in strengthening services protection to protect women and girls from violence.

Section 3: Resources

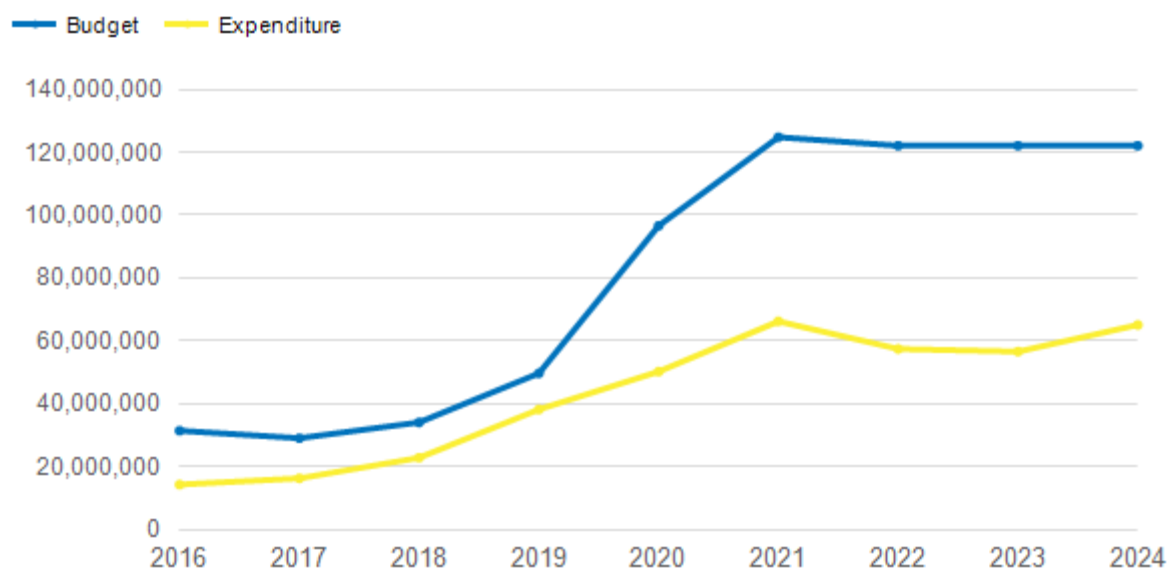
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

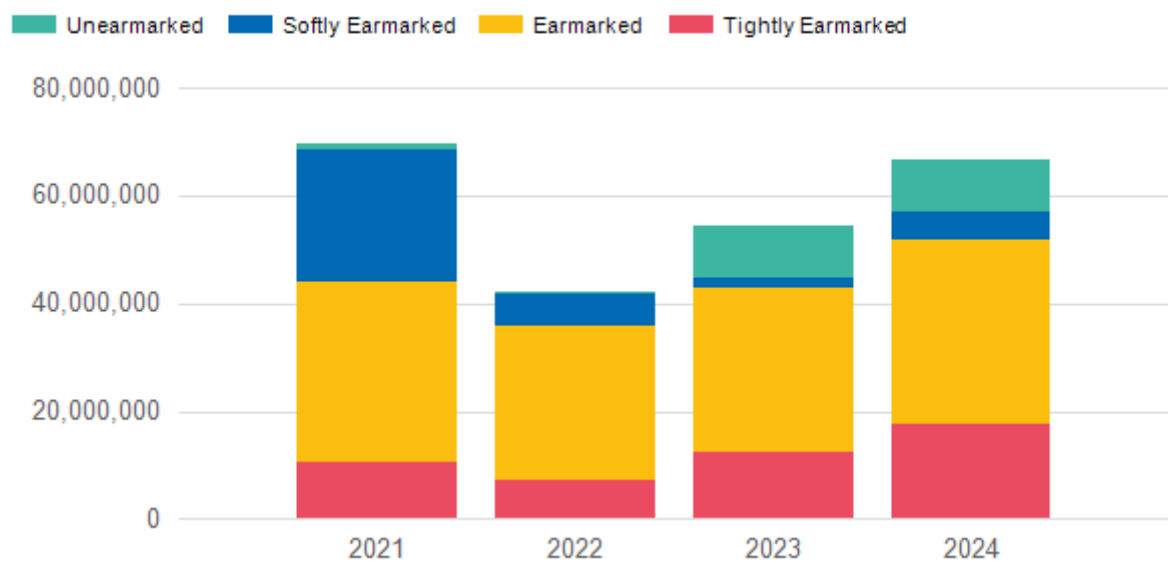
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	55,258,634	27,725,570	50.17%	27,358,819	98.68%
IA2: Assist	17,900,197	11,049,694	61.73%	10,997,459	99.53%
IA3: Empower	13,545,491	5,513,088	40.70%	5,446,263	98.79%
IA4: Solve	35,394,478	21,481,091	60.69%	21,314,027	99.22%
All Impact Areas		254,137			
Total	122,098,800	66,023,581	54.07%	65,116,568	98.63%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	2,186,030	1,454,194	66.52%	1,454,194	100.00%
OA2: Status	17,020,018	7,545,009	44.33%	7,545,009	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	11,403,169	4,745,301	41.61%	4,579,027	96.50%
OA4: GBV	8,146,143	4,234,629	51.98%	4,192,862	99.01%
OA5: Children	8,632,516	4,661,315	54.00%	4,586,136	98.39%
OA6: Justice	7,870,757	5,085,122	64.61%	5,001,591	98.36%
OA7: Community	13,545,491	5,513,088	40.70%	5,446,263	98.79%
OA8: Well-being	17,900,197	11,043,524	61.69%	10,997,459	99.58%
OA13: Livelihood	7,341,289	3,758,609	51.20%	3,752,439	99.84%
OA15: Resettle	23,143,100	13,445,725	58.10%	13,445,725	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	4,910,089	4,282,927	87.23%	4,115,864	96.10%
All Outcome Areas		254,137			
Total	122,098,800	66,023,581	54.07%	65,116,568	98.63%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2024, UNHCR Colombia’s budget remained dependent on a limited pool of funding sources, with a growing emphasis on earmarked contributions. While this support remains essential, the restrictive nature of earmarked funding limits flexibility in responding to evolving humanitarian needs and emergencies. Ensuring a balanced approach to resource mobilization remains a priority to sustain protection and solutions efforts.

As part of a new funding approach, Colombia joined the Multi-Year Funding and Programming Target (MYFPT) pilot, providing greater budget predictability from the beginning of the year but without an increase

in the overall budget. This requires ongoing engagement with partners to align priorities while maintaining the ability to adapt to emerging challenges.

Given these constraints, UNHCR Colombia must strike a balance between targeted funding opportunities and maintaining the operational flexibility needed to effectively support displaced populations and host communities.

In 2024, UNHCR maintained its core operational presence in Colombia, investing a much greater proportion of its resources across all geographic regions on selected key initiatives determined as being the most likely to bring a significant change to people's protection—for example, facilitating access to documentation, supporting the ombudsperson function, and expanding the network of Information and Orientation Centers (PAOs).

With flexible funding from donors like Ireland, which supports VENSIT at the regional level, and Sweden and Switzerland, which provide earmarked contributions to the Colombia operation, UNHCR implemented a coordinated field response under the 2024-2025 Humanitarian Response Plan for Community Priorities of Colombia (PRPC) and continues to co-lead the Protection Cluster alongside local teams. This support also strengthens UNHCR's leadership in the Inter-Agency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM), driving key initiatives for the socioeconomic integration of Venezuelan refugees.

Switzerland's support, in particular, enabled UNHCR Colombia to enhance the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) system. Between 2023 and 2024, feedback submissions increased by 22%, while timely response rates rose from 17% to 76%—a 59-point improvement.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

In September 2024, UNHCR reviewed progress, context, and challenges for 2025. The operation will maintain the three key pillars—promoting integration focusing on solutions, mitigating armed conflict impact and supporting peacebuilding, and addressing critical needs of refugees and migrants transiting through Colombia. UNHCR pledged to step up its implementation of sustainable programming, focusing on supporting authorities in assuming their responsibility to protect and communities in being able to advocate for their rights. UNHCR will improve community involvement in program design and implementation and increase accountability to communities through feedback mechanisms, aligning with the Community Manifesto developed as part of the UN's Flagship Initiative with Colombia as one of four pilot countries.

During the strategic reflection, the operation agreed to take several measures in 2025, including:

- Developing criteria to support state entities ensuring UNHCR support builds capacity, not dependency.
- Establishing a direct relationship with the critical Ombudsperson function locally to ensure a more sustainable capacity development (discontinuing the NGO partnership);
- Resetting collaboration with National Ombudsman's offices for a strategic response to displacement and confinement.
- Creating stringent criteria for working with community organizations to strengthen their capacity.
- Ensuring nationwide coverage of the community volunteers' program to enhance protection outreach.
- Expanding direct partnership with key community and Church organizations to further localization efforts.
- Focusing child protection activities on mitigating the risk of recruitment by non-state armed actors.
- Concentrating Attention and Orientation Points (PAOs) on refugees to avoid undermining local authorities' responsibility for internal displacement.
- Stepping up its support of the legalization of informal settlements initiative given its high impact on solutions.



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