



Internal Displacement
Solutions Fund

It is time to act together:

Durable solutions for internally displaced persons in Colombia

January 2025



Introduction

Colombia faces one of the world's most complex humanitarian challenges with hope. With over 8.8 million people registered as internally displaced¹, the country ranks fourth globally in terms of the highest number of affected individuals, representing more than 10% of the global total². Despite this, Colombia has significant precedents, opportunities, and capacities to transform this reality and build a more dignified future for those forced to flee.

Although progress has been made, the majority of victims of forced displacement continue to live in conditions of vulnerability, marked by poverty and the persistence of armed conflict and violence in various regions of the country. Since the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016, more than 1.5 million people have been displaced, highlighting the urgent need to intensify efforts to ensure sustainable peace, acknowledge the multiple causes of this phenomenon, and address them with innovative approaches.

Internal displacement remains a critical issue, particularly for indigenous and afrocolombian communities, who face greater risks within the conflict and increased vulnerability to the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. Between 2022 and 2024, 80% of mass displacement cases occurred in indigenous and afrocolombian territories.

Internal displacement disproportionately affects women, children, and adolescents. Women head 80.6% of displaced households, facing multiple challenges in securing their livelihoods and supporting their families. Additionally, displaced children face significant barriers to their development and access to fundamental rights due to the presence of non-state armed actors and the risks of recruitment, use, and exploitation in their communities.

Overcoming this crisis requires durable solutions that restore the dignity of affected communities, reduce inequalities, and guarantee their rights. Rebuilding territories and livelihoods is not only an institutional challenge but also a collective commitment involving civil society, the private sector, the United Nations, and international cooperation in pursuit of equity, justice, and Colombia's future.

1. Victim's Unit. Colombia, November 2024.
2. Global Trends report, UNHCR, 2024.

Key figures

8.8
million
people*



registered as internally displaced, of which 7 million people are recipients of assistance.

1.5
million
people*



Internally displaced persons since the Peace Agreement (2016).

80%
of forced
displacements**



occurred in ethnic territories between 2022 and 2024.

80.6%
of displaced
households***



are led by women.

* Victim's Unit

** data.acnur.org

*** IV National Verification Survey on the Rights of the Displaced Population in Colombia, CODHES.



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**The time has come to find durable solutions for
Colombia's internally displaced population.**
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Robert Piper

Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement, at the event marking 20 years of ruling T-025. Bogotá, Colombia, 2024.

Durable solutions require joint efforts

Durable solutions are achieved when displaced people no longer require assistance or protection due to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination, fully integrated into their host communities³. This process aims to restore their dignity, autonomy, and ability to actively participate in decision-making, thus ensuring their inclusion and well-being.

The United Nations Secretary-General's agenda to promote global responses to internal displacement situations drives the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF), led by the Special Adviser on Forced Displacement, Robert Piper. The IDSF supports 15 countries in implementing sustainable solutions that address the structural causes of displacement, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach to prevent future crises and assist those already displaced.

The fund's central approach is to offer durable solutions that focus on the rights, needs, and capacities of internally displaced persons, always under strong government leadership and with the active collaboration of new actors, such as the private sector and the media.



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One team

The IDSF is a joint program involving the National Government, territorial governments, and agencies of the United Nations system.

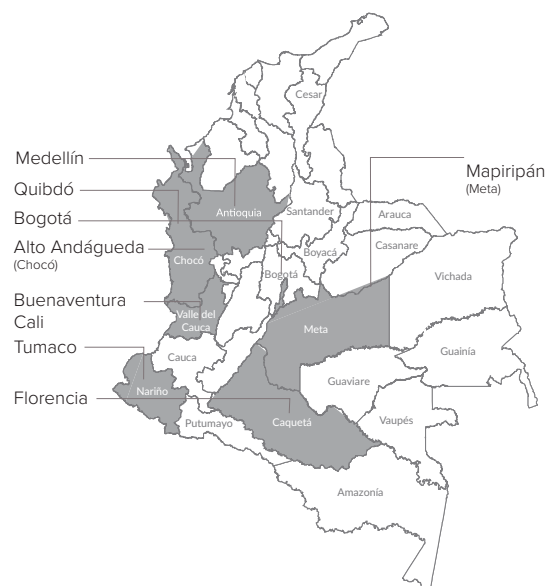
Leading entities at the national level:



UN Agencies:



Initial implementation municipalities:

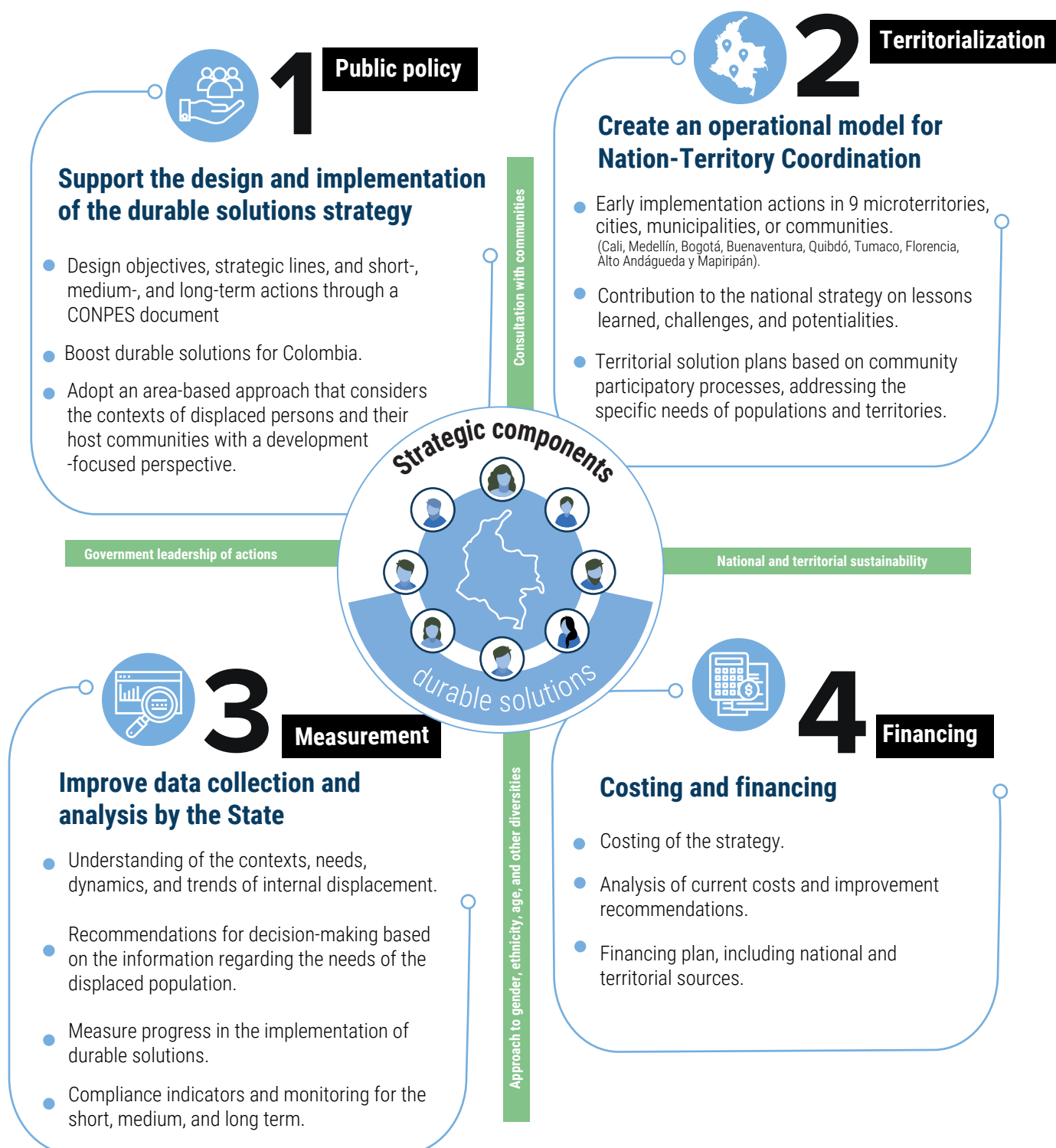


Focalized microterritories: Cali, Medellín, Bogotá, Buenaventura, Quibdó, Tumaco, Florencia, Alto Andágueda, and Mapiripán.

IDSF in Colombia

The main focus of the IDSF is to support the National Government and territorial governments in strengthening their pathways toward durable solutions through four key components:

Implementation period:
February 2024 – June 2025 (17 months)





Urban settlement of internally displaced population: Granizal, municipality of Bello, Antioquia, Colombia, 2024.

Progress of the IDSF in Colombia

During its implementation between 2023 and 2024, the IDSF in Colombia has achieved the following progress:

1. Design and Implementation of the National Strategy for Durable Solutions

A draft of the CONPES public policy document has been developed, aiming to:

Contribute to transforming the life projects of people affected by forced displacement in Colombia, enabling them to achieve durable solutions through the effective enjoyment of rights. This includes promoting their social and economic inclusion and ensuring sustainable opportunities for their integration into host or return communities. The implementation follows a territorial approach that upholds the rights of the population by improving the overall context in which they live and enhancing the quality of life for displaced households.

Additionally, the national durable solutions strategy focuses on:

Enhancing Coordination and Institutional Capacities

The policy aims to strengthen the response to forced displacement through more efficient coordination of existing mechanisms, adjustments to institutional offerings, and the creation of new strategies tailored to current needs.

Recognizing that solutions must consider both displaced populations and host communities, understanding their contexts to generate more effective and sustainable responses. This includes guaranteeing rights through catalytic solutions related to at least education, health, income generation, housing, and habitat.

Promoting a Social and Participatory Approach

Fostering social cohesion, preventing discrimination, strengthening capacities, and encouraging the participation of displaced populations. This approach generates collaborative governance processes to ensure the rights of both displaced and host communities.

Additionally, it incorporates differential approaches based on age, gender, ethnicity, and diversity. Its formulation will ensure continuous dialogue with institutional actors, academia, and civil society through expert panels and other consultation spaces.

2. Developing an Operational Model for Nation-Territory Coordination

Support for Territories

The IDSF supports dialogue with territorial entities for the design and implementation of comprehensive interventions in nine micro-territories initially prioritized by the National Government: Cali, Medellín, Bogotá, Buenaventura, Quibdó, Tumaco, Florencia, the Embera people in Alto Andágueda, and the Sikuani people in Mapiripán.

Additionally, it assists in the planning of long-term territorial plans that foster durable solutions, following a subsidiarity approach and ensuring coordination between the multisectoral efforts of National and territorial Governments.

Micro-targeting

A methodology has been developed to enable the micro-targeting of intervention territories and the comprehensive planning of service provision, adopting an area-based approach.

This methodology takes into account territorial and environmental factors as well as population aspects of the communities, including displaced populations and host communities.

Community planning

A community-based planning methodology has been adapted to the Colombian context and made available to national and territorial entities for implementation in the formulation of community solutions plans.

This methodology ensures that both displaced populations and host communities play a central role in the definition, prioritization, and implementation of actions.

3. Measurement and data

- The measurement will include a component for analyzing population conditions and contextual conditions to ensure the guarantee of rights.
- A proposal is being developed in coordination with the Government to establish a regionalization and prioritization model for the municipalities to be intervened in Colombia under the durable solutions policy.
- A partnership was established with the REACH/IMPACT organization to carry out a characterization and analysis exercise of the population in the cities of Bogotá and Quibdó.
- A partnership was consolidated with the World Bank for potential funding to set up a working group for measuring durable solutions within the National Statistical System, in collaboration with DANE.

The measurement component is supported by JIPS (Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service). In collaboration with this organization, the IDSF has developed a proposal for measuring durable solutions, enabling the country to assess the progress of internally displaced persons in this area.

- The proposal is based on international standards and advancements in national measurement instruments.
- It has been discussed with public authorities at the national and territorial levels, experts in the field, and civil society.
- With the approval of the National Government and the necessary data management, the first calculation of this measurement is expected to take place in the first two months of 2025.



Internally displaced Indigenous woman, Yukpa people. ©UNHCR/Johnny Meneses

4. Costing and financing

- A preliminary methodological proposal for the national and territorial costing of durable solutions.
- In joint work with the DNP, the budget tracker was updated for all national investment projects focused on financing victim policies, including internally displaced persons, ensuring updated information on investments planned for the 2025-2031 period.
- Based on the updated investment tracker for policies targeting internally displaced persons, the costing of the public policy for the CONPES on Durable Solutions will be carried out.
- Together with the DNP and the Commission for Monitoring Public Policy on Internal Displacement, efforts are underway to organize a forum to promote the Financing Commission for victim policies, which will foster the search for and structuring of new funding sources.



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Technical team

Jairo Matallana

Manager of Justice and Crisis Response,
Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation (UNDP)
jairo.matallana@undp.org

Adriana Buchelli

Protection officer (UNHCR)
buchelli@unhcr.org

Lina Valencia

IDSF Coordinator Colombia (UNHCR)
valencli@unhcr.org

Adriana Plata

Program Specialist (UN Habitat)
adriana.platablanco@un.org

Ángela Prías

Deputy Coordinator, Victims Program (IOM)
aprias@iom.int

Contacto

Johnny Meneses

Report- Senior Communications Assistant (UNHCR)
menesesjp@unhcr.org

