



SITUATION SUMMARY

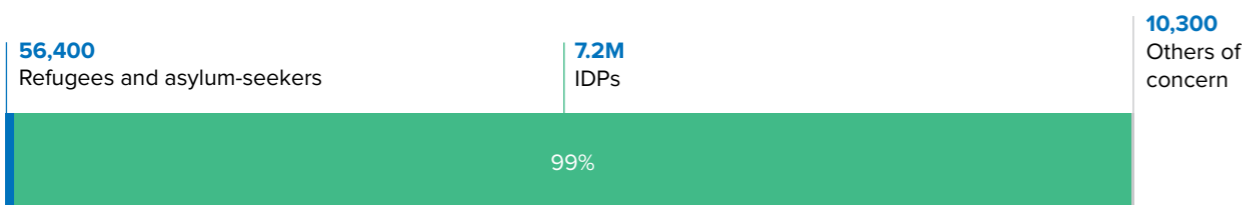
Lizardo and Nancy were displaced by violence and found safety in Granizal, one of Colombia's largest informal settlements, where 90% of families are victims of the armed conflict. As in other neighbourhoods shaped by displacement, communities such as Bello Oriente have developed collective solutions to improve access to water, basic services, and overall living conditions. © UNHCR/Cristian Cardenas

Colombia situation

Country operations involved in the response: Argentina multi-country office, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama multi-country office, Peru, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

2025 year-end population figures

7.2 million Colombian IDPs and refugees in neighbouring countries



Context

In 2025, Colombia remained at the epicentre of a complex and increasingly volatile displacement crisis, facing its most severe humanitarian conditions in a decade. Armed violence intensified across multiple regions, resulting in an 85% increase in large-scale internal displacement and a 68% rise in confinement incidents compared to 2024. UNHCR verified 248 humanitarian crises – including 142 mass displacement events and 106 confinement situations – leading to the displacement of approximately 300,000 people.

An additional 192,000 individuals remained confined throughout the year, unable to move safely due to the expanding territorial presence of non-State armed groups. By the end of 2025, Colombia hosted more than 7 million internally displaced people (IDPs), the highest number in the Americas. Forced displacement beyond Colombia's borders also persisted, with more than 378,000 Colombians having sought asylum abroad.

The conflict expanded into regions previously less affected by armed violence, including parts of the Caribbean and Amazon regions, while protracted emergencies continued in the Pacific and north-western areas. Catatumbo experienced its largest displacement in a decade, with more than 100,000 people affected. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities were disproportionately impacted.

Climate-related shocks – particularly large-scale flooding – further undermined stability and access to services in rural and peri-urban areas. In July 2025, floods affected 80% of the department of Córdoba, impacting more than 156,000 people, including IDPs and refugees.

Colombia also continued to host 2.8 million Venezuelans, alongside refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries and a small number of stateless persons, reflecting its dual role as both a country of origin and one of the region's largest host countries.

Mixed movements shifted significantly during the year. While 302,000 people crossed the Darién from Colombia into Panama in 2024, only 3,000 did so in 2025, reflecting major changes in migration patterns. Conversely, 20,500 people travelled from Panama into Colombia, reshaping humanitarian needs along border regions and requiring adapted protection responses.

UNHCR in action

Emergency response remained central to UNHCR's operations. In Norte de Santander – where the largest internal displacement of the year occurred – UNHCR deployed protection teams, supported joint needs assessments, and distributed relief items to over 40,000 affected people. In Colombia, UNHCR also provided temporary shelter to more than 1,300 IDPs and delivered multipurpose cash assistance to 3,000 people. UNHCR further strengthened the Ombudsperson's Early Warning System, enhancing the State's capacity to anticipate risks, issue alerts and respond effectively to conflict-related protection threats.

Major achievements in Colombia

- 40,000+** people received relief items
- 3,000** people received multipurpose cash assistance
- 34** land and settlement regularization processes supported, benefiting 63,000+ people
- 10,000+** asylum and documentation claims supported through technical assistance

In other countries

- 11,300+** people received emergency shelter support in Ecuador
- 1,700+** people received legal and documentation assistance in Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay

A major milestone in 2025 was the adoption of CONPES 4180, Colombia’s first comprehensive public policy on durable solutions for IDPs. UNHCR played a key role in its development by providing technical expertise and facilitating community consultations. In parallel, UNHCR supported 34 land and settlement regularization processes benefiting more than 63,000 people. These efforts resulted in the legalization of five informal settlements and the issuance of 356 land titles.

Community-based protection remained a cornerstone of UNHCR’s approach. Across 100 locations, UNHCR supported participatory assessments, strengthened community self-protection mechanisms, and fostered linkages between local authorities and affected populations. Support to refugee-led, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant organizations enhanced leadership and advocacy capacities, while youth- and women-led initiatives expanded in areas affected by recruitment risks and gender-based violence. Digital engagement also increased significantly, with nearly one million interactions recorded and improved two-way communication through the HELP platform.

Socioeconomic inclusion advanced through the *Juntos por la Inclusión* platform, which supported more than 2,200 refugees and IDPs with employment pathways, entrepreneurship support and graduation models.

Resettlement remained an essential protection pathway: 1,492 refugees departed for third countries, and a labour mobility pilot with Italy created opportunities for 25 refugees scheduled for departure in 2026.

UNHCR also reinforced national protection systems by expanding technical assistance to asylum and documentation authorities and supporting the processing of more than 10,000 claims. Improvements in refugee status determination procedures, including reduced processing times, enabled faster access to protection and assistance for people in need.

Efforts to prevent statelessness continued. The extension of the *Primero la Niñez* measure until 2027 ensured that children born in Colombia to Venezuelan

parents were protected from statelessness. UNHCR also contributed to the implementation of the Special Stay Permit for Tutors, enabling Venezuelan guardians to regularize their status. Technical guidance and support for the distribution of identity documentation to thousands of families further strengthened access to rights and protection.

UNHCR supported 2,871 Colombians who applied for asylum in Ecuador by strengthening asylum procedures, assisting 886 families with basic needs, and providing emergency shelter support to more than 11,300 people.

In Panama, UNHCR worked with the Oficina Nacional para la Atención de Refugiados (ONPAR) – the Panamanian government agency mandated to receive and process asylum applications – and Indigenous communities to reinforce asylum systems, enhance community-based protection and expand economic opportunities.

In the Southern Cone – Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay – more than 2,200 Colombian refugees and 3,800 asylum-seekers required protection, with over 1,700 individuals receiving legal and documentation assistance from UNHCR and partners.

Coordination and partnerships

UNHCR led and supported regional coordination across the Americas through platforms such as R4V, the Quito Process, and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS). These mechanisms enabled governments and partners to plan jointly, advocate effectively, and mobilize resources, translating regional commitments into national action on asylum, regularization, and inclusion.

This coordination strengthened asylum systems across Latin America and the Caribbean, expanded access to documentation and legal stay, and opened more pathways for forcibly displaced and stateless people to contribute to local economies. Engagement with development actors, international financial institutions, local authorities and refugee-led organizations enhanced sustainability, participation, and accountability.

Use of flexible funding

Flexible funding was critical in sustaining core protection activities in a highly underfunded environment. It enabled UNHCR to address critical gaps in community-based protection, specialized gender-based violence services, well-being, and local integration; maintain essential services for children and persons without legal status; and respond flexibly to emerging protection risks affecting Colombians both inside the country and across the region.

Advancing Durable Solutions in Colombia

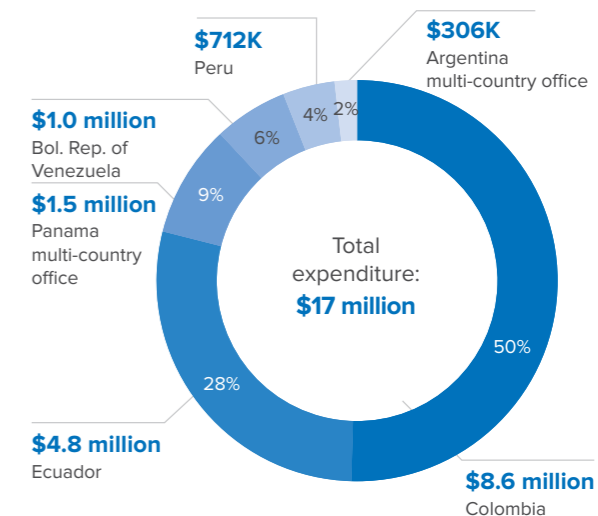
The National Policy on Durable Solutions for IDPs (CONPES 4180), adopted in December 2025, sets out a 10-year national plan, with about \$2.5 billion in investment, to better support people displaced within the country. It brings together 24 government institutions and aims to shift the response from fragmented, short-term measures to a coordinated, long-term approach. Importantly, it integrates solutions for displaced people in national development planning, rather than treating them separately.

UNHCR and partners helped shape this policy by supporting broad consultations with over 2,600 participants, ensuring that the policy reflected people’s needs and priorities, and included practical tools for implementation.

At the local level, UNHCR also worked with authorities, displaced people and host communities to develop seven detailed area-based plans. These plans helped identify where needs are greatest and how to respond, using data on vulnerability, services and population concentrations. As a result, the government was better equipped to target support to more than 51,000 IDPs.

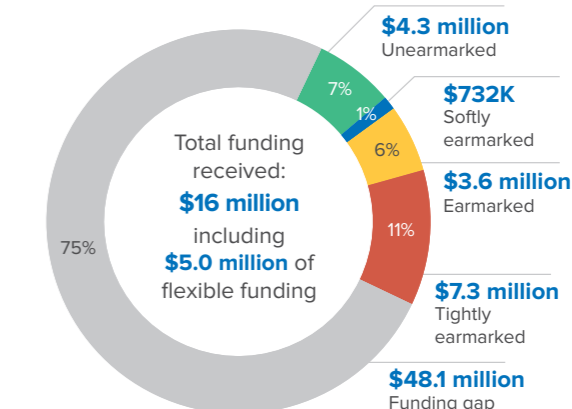
Financial overview

Expenditure by operation

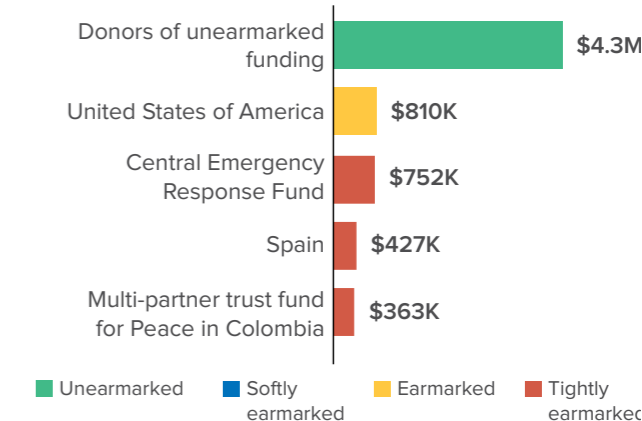


Funding received (USD)

In 2025, UNHCR required a total of \$64 million to address the situation in Colombia and neighbouring countries, but received only 25% of that amount.



Top 5 donors



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments were \$9.3 million.