

# Colombia

September 2018

Colombia is going through an important transition and reconfiguration with the implementation of the Peace Agreement with FARC guerrillas and, at the same time, it faces the need of responding to the extent of a humanitarian challenge generated by the massive arrival of population from Venezuela, a significant proportion of them with international protection needs. In spite of significant progress, some regions are still being affected by the conflict and violence, which subsequently

causes forced displacement and the increase of homicides against social leaders and Human Rights activists. According to the follow up carried out by UNHCR, forced displacement has been increasing, in 2017 there were displaced 15.348 people and 19.892 from January to July 2018. Additionally, over 7,7 million people have been victims of forced displacement, since 1985 to date, where afro Colombian and indigenous communities have been the main groups affected. According to the Ombudsman Office, 311 social

leaders have been assassinated between January 1st 2016 and July 30th 2018. The lack of land legalization processes, the ongoing violence –including the increase of child recruitment and gender violence–, as well as the increase of humanitarian impact, and the low access to basic services, make **difficult the effective integration** of the internally displaced people and the possibility to find solutions. Within this frame-

work, UNHCR provides support to the Government in order to respond to the prevention and protection needs in light of the risks of displacement and reach **solutions** for UNHCR persons of interest. Taking into consideration the **agency's international protection mandate** objective to address the **protection needs** of Venezuelans and citizens from different nationalities, including reinforcement of asylum procedures. In addition, UNHCR supports the return of Colombian refugees to the country.

## COLOMBIA SITUATION HIGHLIGHTS

7.7 million people have been victims of forced displacement in Colombia.

21.2% of them are afro-descendants, 6.2% are indigenous and 42.4% children and youth.

20,570 people affected by 65 massive displacement events registered between January and July of this year.

## VENEZUELA SITUATION HIGHLIGHTS

935,593 Venezuelans are in Colombia, from which a significant proportion are in need of international protection.

4,700 are estimated to cross official border points every day. 57% of them continue to Ecuador, while 43% remain in Colombia.

1,970 Venezuelans are still awaiting a response to their asylum request as of June 30th 2018.

442,462 Venezuelans participated in the Massive Registration of Venezuelans (RAMV Spanish acronym) organized by the Government. Out of this figure 49.67% are women and 11.46% are children between 0-5 years.

48.70% of registered children, between 6 and 17 years old, are schooled.

4,787 expecting or nursing mothers registered in the RAMV are lacking nourishment.

16,812 people registered in the RAMV are suffering chronic diseases.

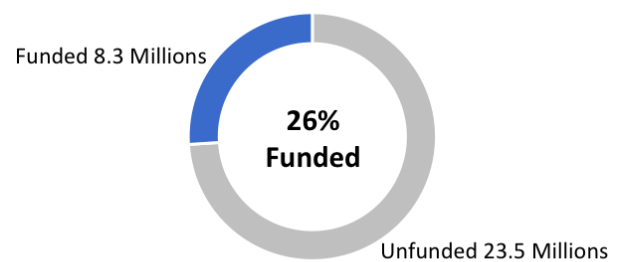
## RETURNEES, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS HIGHLIGHTS

250,000 Colombians have returned from Venezuela since mid 2017, including victims of the armed conflict, asylum seekers and refugees.

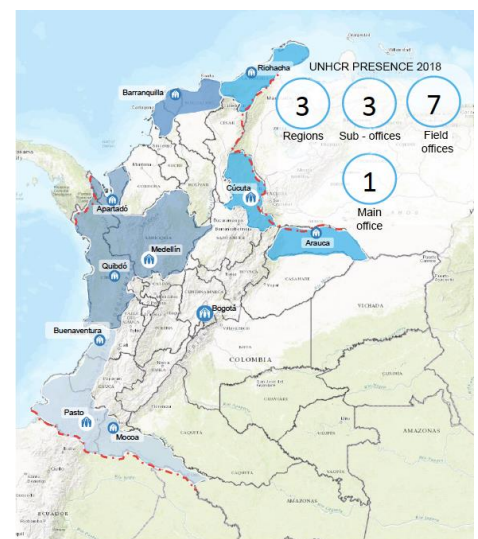
281 are the recognized refugees in Colombia as of June 30th 2018.

1,000 Venezuelans requested asylum from January 1st 2018 to June 30th 2018.

## BUDGET (AUGUST 16TH 2018) USD 31,8 MILLIONS REQUESTED BY COLOMBIA



UNHCR Colombia receives support from private donors and:



## Main Activities

Within the framework of Protection and Solutions Strategy 2018-2020, UNHCR has four strategic objectives that are developed in coordination with the Government, persons of interest, host communities, and other agencies of the United Nations System and civil society:

- 1. Asylum system, statelessness and capacity to respond to the inflow of persons in need of international protection:** contributing to the improvement of the international protection framework in Colombia, in order to ensure the response to protection needs and solutions for the persons of interest that are arriving to the country, as well as those in risk of statelessness, with an age, gender and diversity approach.
- 2. Prevention of forced displacement and protection:** supporting the consolidation of communitarian and institutional capacities in order to identify, visualize and respond to the risks of displacement.
- 3. Durable solutions:** supporting the consolidation of communitarian and institutional capacities to advance towards the overcoming of the vulnerability situation of displaced people. UNHCR supports the Government in order to guarantee the safe and decent return, and the effective reintegration of refouled Colombians.
- 4. Consolidation of peace:** promoting the implementation of the Peace Agreement between the Government and FARC guerrillas, with an emphasis on the rights of the victims (Point 5 of the Agreement), seeking the effective involvement of victims of displacement (women, children, ethnic groups, population with diverse sexual and gender orientation) within the expected mechanisms, as well as their possible participation in other peace processes developed in the country

## UNHCR Response

### Colombia situation

- Monitoring, from the presence on the field and the close relationship with the communities, the risks of protection that displaced, or in risk of displacement communities, face; as well as confinement situations, in order to alert about them, visualize the ongoing impact of the armed conflict, violence, and to promote an adequate answer by the Colombian Government.
- Strengthening the institutional response, including the Ministry of Interior, National Protection Unit, Ombudsman Office, the Early Alerts System (SAT Spanish acronym) and the Nation's General Procuracy, as well as the Organizations of the Civil Society, with the objective of enhancing their presence on the field, their capacity of facing the risks and needs of attention, and protecting the rights of the affected communities. 105 institutions have been enhanced by the UNHCR during 2018, as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Supporting the civil society organizations, including the strengthening of community based organizations and the representation of the rights of indigenous and afro Colombian communities. Support the presence on the field of the Ombudsman Office through communitarian leaders, 2 Rights Houses (in Soacha and Granizal), 2 Regionals of the Ombudsman Office (in Buenaventura and Tumaco) and, recently, support to the SAT through a project of joint cooperation in the framework of the United Nations MPTF.
- Supporting 18 communities with the implementation of collective protection measures, in the framework of the Decree 2078 of 2017, backed by UNHCR. Additionally, supporting the implementation and follow up of 4 Regional Prevention and Protection Plans in regions such as Nariño, Chocó, Putumayo and Catatumbo.
- Supporting the legal attention and orientation of the displaced population or in risk of displacement, through the Legal Clinic Network of 15 universities, benefiting over 10,633 as of August 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.
- UNHCR works with the Victims Unit, in order to strengthen the analysis regarding the situations of displacement and confinement, improve the registration processes, ensure humanitarian assistance in those cases where the local authorities lack response capacity, and enhance the tools of public policy solutions, through the adjustment of the Returns and Relocations Protocol, with an ethnic approach and including the protection of returned refugees and other victims of the armed conflict.
- Strengthening the response to find solutions, through the legalization of informal establishments in the cities where the displaced population is located. In coordination with the Housing Ministry, local authorities, communities and the Corporation Opción Legal, there is progress on the legalization of 30 informal establishments.

### Venezuela situation

- Strengthening UNHCR presence in border areas and zones with higher reception of population coming from Venezuela, through the monitoring of protection, support to persons in need of international protection and enhancement of the response of the institutional, communitarian, organizations of civil society and agencies of the United Nations.
- Supporting the regularization of 442,000 Venezuelans who participated in the Massive Registration of Venezuelans (RAMV), organized by the Government and backed by UNHCR and IOM.
- Legal support and orientation, through the Orientation and Attention Points (PAO Spanish Acronym) as well as the Legal Clinic Network, among other partners, in order to submit information about the Venezuelan population's access to rights. Upcoming opening of a House of Rights of the Ombudsman Office in Soledad (Atlántico) to provide support to the Colombian and Venezuelan population.
- Strengthening the response capacity of institutions such as the National Registry of the Civil State (RNEC Spanish Acronym), through the support to Mobile Units for the Attention of Vulnerable Population (UDAPV Spanish Acronym), with the objective of backing the registration, identification and complete documentation process to all the individuals with right to a Colombian nationality.
- Strengthening the response time of the Government regarding asylum requests, as well as support in the humanitarian assistance for UNHCR persons of interest with specific needs of protection.
- Strengthening the response in the framework of shelter and safe protection networks along the transit route with the objective of promoting a safe passage. UNHCR has supported 9 shelters.
- Supporting and creating protective environments for childhood in 5 cities, including the distribution of pedagogic material for the protection of children and teenagers (Cartilla Mi Viaje), as well as school kits to facilitate the access to education.
- Strengthening of prevention and response to SGBV, including support to the Network of Safe Spaces and an identification and response tool for Gender Based Violence cases with the support of 19 partners locally.
- Strengthening of the Ethnic Approach: Impact for the recognition of the constitutional right to binationality of transboundary indigenous communities.
- Strengthening of the Community Based Participation and Protection Right: support of communitarian protection networks of Venezuelans and/or mixed host communities, and both formal and informal organizational initiatives of Venezuelans

- Transboundary and inter-agency coordination to promote basic attention, including the strengthening of the response on the border with Ecuador, through the re-equipment on the migration control point in that border.
- Antixenophobia campaign Somos Panas Colombia

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**UNHCR Global Portal on the Venezuela situation**<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/vensit>