

Colombia


July-October 2022

UNHCR coordinated with the **Transition Committee** of the **President's Office** to position **asylum, displacement and statelessness issues** with the new Government.


UNHCR actively supported the **Regional Binding Dialogues to foster community participation** in the forthcoming **Development Plans at National** and Department level, to include the priorities of both IDPs and refugees.


The **Government of Colombia** and of **Venezuela** resumed **diplomatic relations** after **4 years** paving the way for the restoration of flights and transport of goods, and the reactivation of consular services. **Peace Negotiations** were re-established with the National Liberation Army (**ELN**).

FIGURES

2,351,351 
Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in Colombia in process of regularization

Source: Government of Colombia

132,495 
Persons affected by new internal displacements in 2022

20,404 
Persons affected by confinements in 2022

Operational Context

The **new Government's "Total Peace"** approach has the potential to eventually **prevent new displacement** and facilitate **durable solutions for millions of IDPs (6.7 million remain in displacement in vulnerable conditions)**, as the Government envisions **peace talks** with illegal armed groups and strengthening its support to communities throughout the country, particularly in underserved areas where the State has been absent. UNHCR has a **long history of engagement with IDPs** and of strengthening **community structures**, notably among Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations in Colombia.

President Petro has **committed to upholding the Temporary Protection Status** for Venezuelan refugees and migrants and to pursue their socio-economic inclusion. Moreover, Colombia will be a **co-convenor** of the **Global Refugee Forum** in December 2023.

UNHCR also recognizes the commitment of the new Government to **strengthen the asylum system**, to ensure the efficient processing of increasing numbers of asylum applications and facilitating the recognition of refugee status for those who are in need of international protection

Temporary Protection Permits for Venezuelans (TPPs)

*October 31th, 2022.

2.3 million
Pre-registrations in RUMV

1.9 million
Bio-metrics registrations
(82%)

1.5 million
Permits issued
(plastic cards)
(65%)

*Source: Visibles - Migración Colombia
(migracioncolombia.gov.co)*

POPULATION TRENDS

Border population movements between Colombia and Venezuela did not significantly intensify with the reopening of the official border points for vehicles between the two countries on 26 September. Most formal entries in **La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Arauca** still represent pendular and trade related movements, but irregular entries continue to be higher than the regular movements. UNHCR conducted a binational analysis on border mobility which showed that half of the Venezuelans returning are claiming to do so permanently, and the other half just for family reasons due to the holiday season.

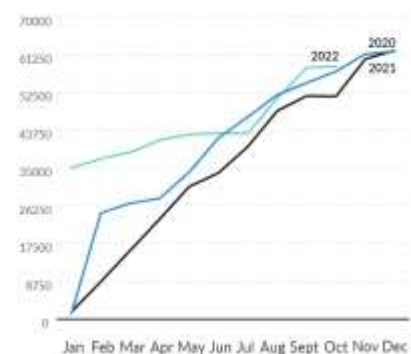
At the border between Colombia and Ecuador most opt to cross through informal border points (“*trochas*”) (as **Venezuelans are still required a visa** to enter Ecuadorian territory); there are more than 47 *trochas* operated and controlled by smugglers (“*coyotes*”), and individuals crossing are exposed to significant protection risks.

UNHCR continued to monitor the **mixed movements between Colombia and Panama**. In October, the U.S Government announced a “New Migration Process for Venezuelans” by including Venezuelans within the scope of application of Title 42, under which asylum-seekers from different nationalities are expelled to Mexico, when apprehended upon crossing the border irregularly. Consequently, the number of people leaving Necoclí for the Darién significantly decreased after having peaked that month (more than 57,000 arrivals). In 2022, up to the reporting period, more than **208,886** people have been registered **irregularly crossing the Darién region**; Venezuelans accounted for 70% of persons on the move. Whereas the dynamics of the mixed movements fluctuate in numbers, composition in terms of nationalities and profiles, it is clear that the flows continue unabated and present significant protection risks for the persons using these routes.

According to UNHCR monitoring, as of 30 October, more than **58,553 people** have been **confined in 67 events**, the great majority in **Chocó** (64%), followed by **Arauca** (13%) and Nariño (9%) mostly affecting **indigenous people**. In addition, during the same period, **54,778 people** have been uprooted since the start of 2022 by **144 large internal displacements** due to confrontations between irregular armed groups. The **Afro-Colombian population** was the most affected population group mainly in Nariño (49%), Cauca (12%), Chocó (10%).

CONFINEMENT EVOLUTION

Number of persons (2020-2022)



UNHCR RESPONSE



86,665
LEGAL ASSISTANCE



242,528
INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION



23,623
GENDER BASED
VIOLENCE (GBV)
PROTECTION
SERVICES



15,977
CHILD PROTECTION
SERVICES



151,876
HEALTH



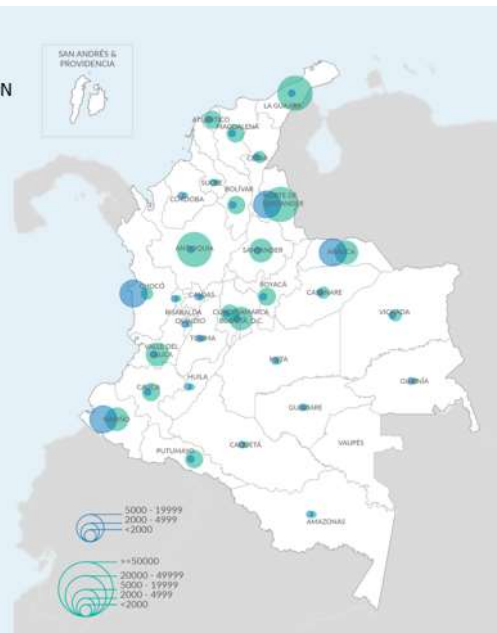
35,518
SHELTER & NFI



17,775
MULTIPURPOSE CASH



7,888
LIVELIHOODS



MAIN ACTIVITIES

CBI – CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS

To date UNHCR delivered **cash assistance** to **22,557 individuals** (6,569 households). Recently, UNHCR reached an agreement with the renowned financial services provider *Efecty* to revamp its Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) Program. *Efecty* is present throughout Colombia and UNHCR plans to assist 3,000 Venezuelan families (approximately 9,000 individuals) with cash transfers until the end of the year. The monthly multipurpose cash assistance value varies with the size of the family from \$USD 45 to \$USD 115, and the total budget for all UNHCR cash program in 2022 amounts to **\$USD 3.3M**.



Cash assistance in Antioquia @UNHCR

CONNECTIVITY

UNHCR allied with the Swedish Contingency Agency (MSB), Ericsson and CISCO to donate equipment and deploy experts throughout Colombia to establish **169 Internet hotspots** so that vulnerable Venezuelan refugee and migrants could register for the Temporary Protection Status (TPS). To date, more than **289,350 people** have accessed Internet through these points (roughly **3,200 per day**) to register for the TPS, as well as 48 partners that provide information and orientation.

HEALTH

Since 2020, UNHCR partnered with the Ministry of Health, IOM and implementing partner *Corporación Opción Legal* (COL) to support **26 Health Municipal Secretariates** in the affiliation process to the **National Healthcare System** of more than **86,000 people** (61,000 in 2022). Moreover, more than 44,000 Venezuelan refugee and migrants as well as Colombian returnees received information on how to access the national healthcare system, and approximately 11,000 civil servants and international were trained on the **legal framework for health affiliation**. UNHCR continues to work to secure the **affiliation** of all Venezuelans who have received the **Temporary Protection Status**.



TPS registration and affiliation to the national healthcare system in La Guajira @UNHCR

SOLUTIONS

UNHCR Colombia is the **lead** of the inter-agency working group (GIFMM) **on financial inclusion**. As such, most financial inclusion interventions conducted by UNHCR are executed through this working group. A key highlight this period was UNHCR's support in revising and launching the **orientation guide on financial inclusion targeting financial institutions** developed by Asobancaria.

Moreover, throughout 2022 the landmark project "*Tierras y Viviendas*" (lands and housing) has supported internally displaced people, refugees, migrants and returnees in 9 departments, with the **legalization of 11 informal settlements** and **individual titling of 14 neighborhoods**, adopting an area-based approach. Furthermore, UNHCR provided legal advice and assistance to **14 indigenous communities** to carry out processes of formal recognition and titling of their collective territory.

NEW FIELD PRESENCE


Meeting between the UNHCR Representative and representatives of the Mayor's Office of Pereira. ©UNCHR Colombia.

UNHCR opened a new field presence in the **Eje Cafetero** region (Risaralda, Caldas, Quindio) seeking to expand the implementation of its **Protection and Durable Solutions strategy** in terms of **labor inclusion** in the agricultural, tourism, textile and industrial sectors. Also to mobilize the presence of GIFMM actors in the territory and foster coordination among partners and allies to enhance opportunities for the population we serve.

CAMPAIGN #PeriodismoLibreDeXenofobia
[CLICK TO WATCH VIDEO](#)

UNHCR united with UNICEF to launch the initiative **"Jornalism free from xenophobia"**, in the framework of the media campaign **"Somos Panas Colombia"**. Recognizing the high impact of the media narrative in discrimination and stigmatization, UNHCR worked with the top Colombian media sources (newspaper, radio) and secured the commitment of 28, who subscribed to the "Decalogue", adopting a human-rights based approach to their editorial policy, while covering news about refugees and migrants. Several Colombian journalists are contributing to the campaign on social media with the hashtag **#PeriodismoLibreDeXenofobia**.



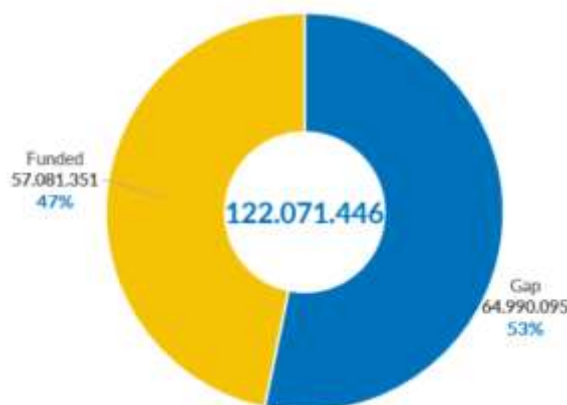
More information on the *Somos Panas Campaign's* Webpage:

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

UNHCR together with IOM, co-leads the Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group (GIFMM in Spanish), which includes **77 members**, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and members of the Red Cross movement. Its main objective is to coordinate the response to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees, and the host population in a complementary manner with the Government.

Special thanks to our major donors for 2022: Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom | United States of America | Central Emergency Response Fund | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | UN Trust Fund for Human Security | UN Environmental Programme

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FUNDING as of October 2022

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