

UNHCR Colombia

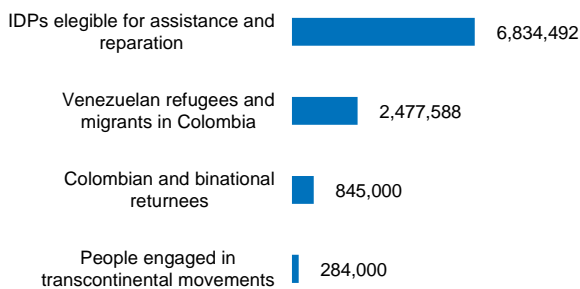
2023

UNHCR in Colombia works for the **protection and solutions** of **IDPs**, **refugees** and migrants from Venezuela, people from various nationalities engaged in **transcontinental movements** and people at risk of **statelessness**.

UNHCR has been present in Colombia **for over 25 years** and has two **Memoranda of Understanding** with the **Government of Colombia** for the response to **internally displaced people** and **refugee situations** respectively.

UNHCR's **workplan** with the Government of Colombia (*Plan Cuatrienal 2021-2024*) responds to the **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework** (UNSDCF 2020-2023); both documents align UNHCR's work to the priorities of the Colombian State.

PEOPLE UNHCR SERVES



* UNHCR also assists people at risk of statelessness and people of various nationalities who need international protection.

PRESENCE

Staff: 416 people (55% women, 45% men)

370 National Staff (including interns).

46 International Staff (including deployees).

Offices:

- 1 Branch Office in Bogotá.
- 4 Sub Offices in Cali, Cúcuta, Riohacha, and Medellín.
- 6 Field Offices in Apartadó, Arauca, Barranquilla, Bogotá, Pasto, and Quibdó.
- 8 Field Units in Bucaramanga, Buenaventura, Ipiales, Maicao, Mocoa, Montería, Pereira, and Popayán

UNHCR PRESENCE



N.B: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, are not imply endorsement or acceptance by the UN.

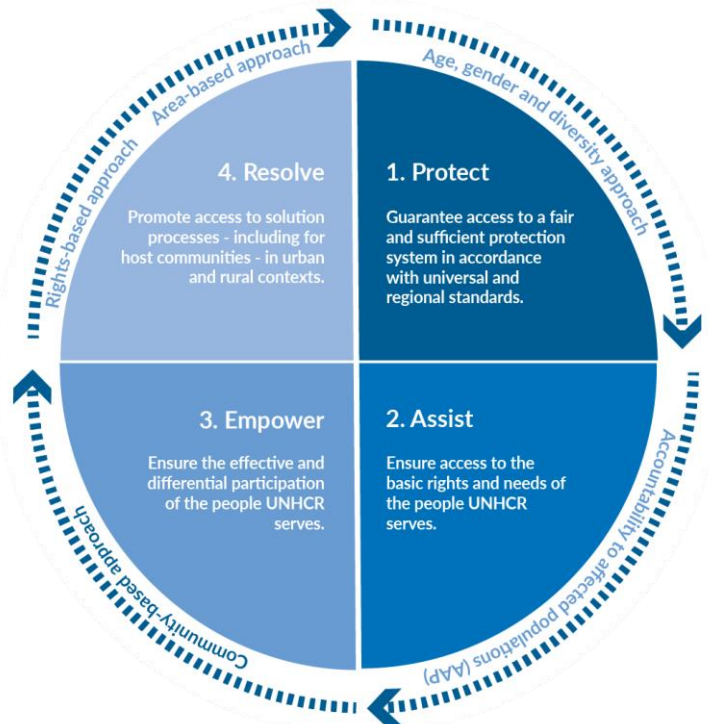
[PLEASE CONSULT UNHCR COLOMBIA 2023 MAP ONLINE.](#)

Protection and Solutions Strategy

In 2023, UNHCR will provide **lifesaving assistance**, promote **access to rights** and find **solutions** for the people it serves: Venezuelan refugees and migrants, people with international protection needs caught up in transcontinental movements, Colombian returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), people affected by conflict, and people at risks of statelessness.

UNHCR's interventions have **a focus on areas** and **communities most impacted** by **displacement**, to alleviate suffering, restore dignity and enable access to solutions for all the people we serve.

Based on UNHCR's **long-standing experience** in addressing **solutions to internal displacement in Colombia**, including technical assistance to key institutions, engagement with affected communities, and support for return and relocation processes as well as the legalization of informal settlements, UNHCR assumed the role of co-leader, jointly with UNDP, of the new UN Steering Group on Solutions to Internal Displacement.



2023 Priorities

Protection

- Support the authorities in **providing access to complementary protection for Venezuelans** through the **Temporary Protection Status (TPS)**.
- Strengthen **Colombia's Public Ministry (Attorney General Office, Ombudspersons at national and local level)**, to improve access to rights for IDPs, refugees and people who need protection. UNHCR contributes to the strengthening of public institutions through technical assistance, as well as financial, human resources and logistical support.
- Support the Government's efforts to strengthen and modernize the asylum system.
- Conduct **protection monitoring** to identify key protection risks and promote an adequate response, as well as support the effective implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement.
- Advocate with public institutions in terms of **prevention, protection and solutions** to overcome situations of internal displacement.
- Promote **access to justice**, fostering the coordination of legal assistance partners, identifying opportunities for **strategic litigation** on the main barriers faced by the people UNHCR serves to access rights.



An information and Orientation Center (PAO) in Arauca ©UNHCR.

Assistance

- Maintain a **network of Information and Orientation Centres (PAOs)** that give guidance to the people UNHCR serves so they can access rights and services.
- Conduct case management for individual cases with **specific protection needs** (children, gender-based violence).
- Provide **complementary humanitarian assistance** in case of **emergencies** (i.e. large-scale displacement events and confinements).
- Promote access to **public services** (health and education). Particularly, supporting children to access and stay enrolled in school.
- Reinforce **cash assistance** focused on **multi-purpose grants for all communities**.



Cash assistance ©UNHCR Colombia.

Community Empowerment

- Contribute to strengthening **community structures** and **organizations**, particularly first and second level **ethnic authorities**, to improve their self-protection mechanisms. Foster community leadership and expand spaces for their effective participation and advocacy in local and national planning and decision-making fora.
- Promote the **participation** of women, children, youth, LGBTQI+ in community processes.
- Support a network of **community outreach volunteers** to identify and support people facing heightened protection risks.



Environmental leaders in the city of Santa Marta are Colombians and Venezuelans who work for local integration through community care of the environment. ©UNHCR/Erick Galet.

Durable Solutions

- Strive to support affected populations from the emergency phase of their displacement to their full **socio-economic inclusion** by facilitating **access to the labour market: formal employment, entrepreneurship**, and **self-employment** opportunities, as well as processes aimed at **financial inclusion**.
- Support to **return and relocation plans** of ethnic communities to pave the way for the **reparation** of their **rights**.
- Accompany the **legalization of informal settlements** in urban centers populated by displaced Colombians.
- Pursue with the **Somos Panas anti-xenophobia campaign** meant to promote integration while countering xenophobia and discrimination.

Working with Partners

UNHCR leads the **Protection Cluster** since 2006, with NRC & DRC. The Protection Cluster promotes a rights-based approach in the humanitarian response to the effects of the armed conflict. Moreover, UNHCR leads 4 out of 11 **Local Coordination Teams** (LTCs or ELC in *Spanish*) in Antioquia, Arauca, Nariño and Putumayo; as well **as 5 Protection Working Groups** (GTP in *Spanish*) in Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca.

UNHCR co-leads since 2016 with the IOM the **Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group** (GIFMM in Spanish), which includes **80 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, mixed and transcontinental movements and the host population in a complementary manner with the Government. There are **11 local GIFMMs** co-led by UNHCR and IOM operational in Antioquia, Arauca, Bogotá and Cundinamarca region, Bolívar, Costa Caribe, Cesar, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Urabá and Valle del Cauca.

Nineteen (19) implementing partners support UNHCR throughout Colombia in materializing its protection and solutions mandate through partnerships with local NGOs, international NGOs and UN agencies.

A special thanks to each of them:

Local Partners (11): Comfenalco Antioquia, Consultoría para los derechos humanos y el desplazamiento (CODHES), Corporación Ayuda Humanitaria, Corporación Colectiva Justicia Mujer (CCM), Corporación de Profesionales para el Desarrollo Integral y Comunitario (Corprodinco), Corporación de Sedecom, Federación Nacional de Personerías de Colombia (Fenalper), Fundación Renacer, Fundación Save the Children Colombia, Opción Legal Colombia (COL), Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social (SNPS).

International Partners (7): Bethany Christian Services Global, Cuso International, Federation Humanity and Inclusion, Fundación Capital, Heartland Alliance International (HAI), HIAS inc., Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

UN Agencies (1): Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Financial Information

For 2023, UNHCR in Colombia requires **USD 122.1 million** to fulfil its **Operation Plan**.

UNHCR thank the contributions of our **donors in Colombia** and those who have contributed to the **global** programs with **flexible funds**.



Contacts

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Links

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