

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Colombia celebrated the humanitarian spirit on World Humanitarian Day.
- Critical humanitarian situation on the Colombo-Venezuelan border. More than 1,000 Colombians were deported, 9,000 have returned.
- Armed conflict dynamics fluctuate, while FARC-EP and Government of Colombia implement measures to de-escalate the conflict.

## FIGURES

No. of IDPs in mass events. Jul.-Aug. 2015 (OCHA)	3,606
No. of people affected by access and mobility constraints. Jul. - Aug 2015 (OCHA)	305,474
No. of people affected by disasters. Jul.- Aug 2015 (UNGRD)	69,986

## FUNDING

**US\$76,937,607**

2015 humanitarian funding being implemented as of 14 Sept. 2015 (OCHA 4W)



OCHA/Felinto Córdoba

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## Celebrating the humanitarian spirit

By Gerard Gómez, Head of Office, OCHA Colombia

Two important days in July and August celebrated vulnerable people and humanitarian work.

World Population Day was held on 11 July. The international community, Governments and civil-society organizations once again heeded the call of the United Nations Secretary-General to assign “a maximum priority to people, in order to help them develop resilience, peace and sustainable prosperity for future generations.”<sup>1</sup>

Conflicts and disasters affect women, boys, girls, men and ethnic groups in different ways. All of these people face different risks, and as a result they are victimized in different ways. Inequities, gender-based discrimination and ethnic-cultural inequalities, among others, which existed before a crisis, increase in emergency situations, putting the most vulnerable population groups at greater risk of gender-based violence and other violations of their human rights.

At the current juncture, more than 60 million people have been forced to flee conflicts or disasters. This is a dramatic statistic that requires our attention and constant efforts to provide an adequate and dignified response that helps alleviate human suffering.

We cannot forget that among these millions of people, already victims, there are groups that are particularly vulnerable, such as women and girls. It is important that Government and response entities have guidelines and mechanisms that guarantee the rights of all affected people in order to attend to their particular needs.

Another key event for the world’s humanitarian community was recognized on 19 August: World Humanitarian Day. The day raises public awareness of humanitarian work and the people who risk their lives to provide humanitarian aid.

Through World Humanitarian Day, the spirit of humanitarian work is also celebrated in a broader sense. As humanitarian organizations in Colombia, we used the day to inspire people all over the world to become involved in humanitarian causes, thus contributing to a more humane world.

With this spirit, the humanitarian community and donors in Colombia recognize five international and national organizations whose best practices have allowed us to reach the heart of the crisis, putting people at the centre of our work. We hope that these actions, which are detailed on page 10, inspire more people to commit to the humanitarian spirit.

<sup>1</sup> [www.un.org/es/events/populationday/2015/sgmessage.shtml](http://www.un.org/es/events/populationday/2015/sgmessage.shtml)

## Critical humanitarian situation on the Colombo-Venezuelan border

### More than 1,000 Colombians deported from Venezuela

The Government of Venezuela decreed a Constitutional State of Exception, militarization and closure of border crossings following an armed attack on 19 August against Venezuelan soldiers in San Antonio de Táchira (Táchira state), on the border with Colombia. The State of Exception, which was initially implemented in five municipalities on 31 August, was expanded to 10 municipalities.

These measures, which were intended to eradicate contraband and stop actions by alleged Colombian paramilitary groups, included the mass deportation of undocumented Colombians. Through 31 August, more than 1,000 people were deported in this way.

### More than 9,000 people return due to fear of deportation

Widespread fear among Colombians living along the border and in other areas of Venezuela led to the return of about 9,800 people in late August (see [sitrep No. 2](#)). Many of these deported or returned families have been unable to collect their belongings, meaning they are returning to Colombia in a situation of high vulnerability and with humanitarian needs. This flow occurred along formal and informal border crossings, which has complicated the registry process and limits people's access to aid.

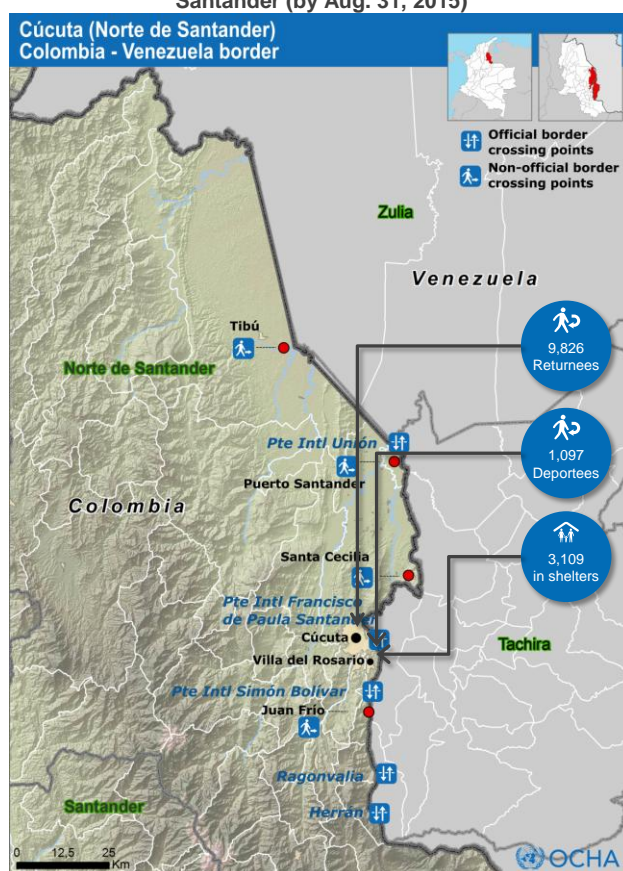
The majority of people arrived in Cúcuta and Villa del Rosario (Norte de Santander). However, at the time of publication, arrivals were also reported in border departments including La Guajira, Arauca, Boyacá and Cesar (see Map 1).

Among the deportees and returnees, there were many families who lived in Venezuela for decades seeking new opportunities, as well as victims of the Colombian armed conflict who had sought protection in Venezuela. UNHCR raised an alert that people with refugee status or requests for asylum in Venezuela were deported. At least 100 people in such situation were reported through late August.

### Institutions and international community mobilize response capacity

The disaster response unit (Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres - UNGRD) led the response from the very beginning of the emergency. Official shelters rapidly overflowed due to the arrival of such a large number of people in a few days. As a result, many people were living in improvised shelters. UNGRD and other institutions, together with the support of the international humanitarian community, worked to relocate these people in sites with minimum standards.

Map 1: Deportees and returnees situation in Norte de Santander (by Aug. 31, 2015)









The borders and names appearing on this map, and designations used, do not imply acceptance by the United Nations.

*By late August, more than 1,000 Colombians were deported from Venezuela and about 10,000 returned due to fear of deportation.*

The international members of the Local Humanitarian Teams in Norte de Santander and Arauca were activated when the emergency began. Coordination and response challenges of a rapidly evolving crisis required local teams to be strengthened with additional resources to carry out response actions.

**Illustration 1: Summary of humanitarian response by the Local Humanitarian Team - Norte de Santander**

	<b>+585</b>	Beneficiaries of non-food items from UNHCR, JRS, Caritas Colombia.
	<b>+4,200</b>	Persons with access to the registry through partners of the Protection cluster.
	<b>+700</b>	School kits provided by NRC.
	<b>+10,300</b>	Rations delivered by UNHCR, JRS, NRC and Caritas Colombia at registration points and makeshift shelters.
	<b>+975</b>	Received psychosocial support from the Colombian Red Cross.
	<b>471</b>	Beneficiaries from water access systems installed by OXFAM GB in shelters through an MOU with UNGRD.

By Sept. 8, 2015.

For more information about the humanitarian situation and response, go to: <http://bit.ly/1NsrDv>

*It is likely that the number of deportees and returnees will continue to increase*

### Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator visits affected area

The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC), and the heads of UNHCR, OCHA, WFP and IOM, visited the area with the largest concentration of returnees. The delegates listened to cases of family separation, losses of livelihoods, the demolition and occupation of homes and the destruction of identity documents, among other serious situations.

Despite national response efforts, there are persistent needs in shelter, registration, water and sanitation, health care and protection. In shelters, affected people expressed concern regarding their future and that of their families, who in many cases continue living on the other side of the border.

The Government of Colombia announced important measures to assist affected people. However, it is likely that the number of deportees and returnees will continue to increase so long as the current State of Exception continues. Following his visit to Norte de Santander, the RC/HC called on both countries to overcome the crisis through dialogue and cooperation (see [communiqué](#)).

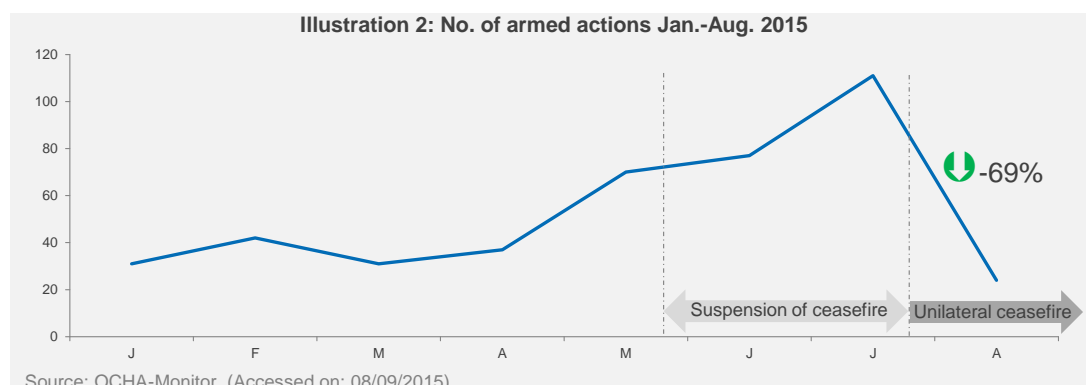
The increasing demand for humanitarian aid, protection and recovery actions will require major human and financial efforts by the responsible institutions, as well as the allotment of additional humanitarian resources by the international community. This response cannot be limited to the emergency phase, as the socioeconomic stabilization of the affected people should be considered. It is important to take into account that this crisis does not only affect deportees and returnees - it also significantly affects host communities where up to 80% of displaced have found shelter.



Photocredit: UNDP. The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator visited temporary shelters in Cúcuta and Villa del Rosario (Norte de Santander), Colombia. August, 2015.

## Armed conflict dynamics fluctuate

Between July and August, the Monitor information system registered at least 135 armed actions. With 111 events, July was the most violent month so far this year, nearly doubling the monthly average between January and August (52 events). This peak in armed violence trends is related to the escalation of armed actions observed when the FARC-EP guerrilla unilateral ceasefire was suspended between 22 May and 19 July (see [June - I Semester Humanitarian Bulletin](#)). In the framework of this escalation, the guarantors of the peace process (Cuba and Norway) made a call to all parties to seek a de-escalation of the conflict. On 20 July, FARC-EP announced a new unilateral ceasefire with a one month initial period, which was afterwards extended indefinitely.



### FARC-EP and Government of Colombia implement measures to de-escalate the conflict

*Armed actions decreased 69% during the first month of FARC-EP's unilateral ceasefire*

During the first month of the unilateral ceasefire (between 20 July and 19 August), the Monitor information system reported 35 armed actions,<sup>2</sup> or 69 per cent less, as compared with the month immediately prior. In 11 armed actions, FARC-EP was reported as a possible participant, either unilaterally or in confrontations. CERAC,<sup>3</sup> the think tank, which monitors de-escalation measures in the conflict, has similar figures with those reported in Monitor. This trend is similar to that observed in the prior ceasefire,<sup>4</sup> where a monthly average of 12 actions were reported with FARC-EP participation.

FARC-EP's compliance with the ceasefire was not complete, but it has been violated on fewer occasions than in previous ceasefires, according to CERAC. In addition, the Government of Colombia reduced its offensives against FARC-EP, while still maintaining major operations against other groups, such as EPL and Clan Úsuga.<sup>5</sup> This behaviour is in line with the pronouncements made by the parties at the negotiation table on 12 July, with the goal to accord permanent ceasefire terms.<sup>6</sup>

This major reduction in armed actions means that August was the least violent month in 2015 thus far, with 25 reported events, half of the monthly average, reported between January and August (see Illustration 2).

### Due to armed violence, 22,000 people suffer movement and access limitations

Despite a drop in armed actions, armed violence events still led to major limitations on movement or access to basic goods and services, affecting more than 22,000 people, according to OCHA's estimates (see ). In July, FARC-EP participated in 32 per cent of these events (six in total). In August it participated in none. The ELN, EPL and post-demobilization armed groups (PDAGs) were responsible for actions that limited movement or access to goods and services during August.

<sup>2</sup> Including: Attacks against military infrastructure, roadblocks, combats, combats between non-state armed actors, etc.

<sup>3</sup> CERAC: Centro de Recursos para el Análisis de Conflictos.

<sup>4</sup> 20/12/2015 – 21/05/2015

<sup>5</sup> Also called Autodefensas Gaitanistas or Urabeños.


<sup>6</sup> See communiqué No. 55 12/07/2015: <https://www.mesadeconversaciones.com.co/comunicados/comunicado-conjunto-55-la-habana-12-de-julio-de-2015>


**Table 1: People affected by limitations on movement or access to goods, services or assistance, associated with armed violence events (July – August 2015)**

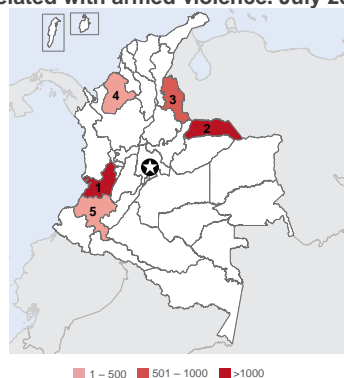
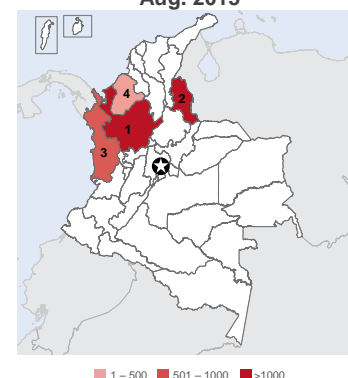
<b>22,198 approx.</b> People affected by limitations on movement or access to goods, services or assistance, associated with armed violence events (July – August 2015)	
<b>24 events</b>	
<b>July</b> <b>17,718 people approx. – 17 events</b>	<b>August</b> <b>4,480 people approx. - 5 events</b>

<b>Movement limitations</b> 	
<b>15,567 people approx. - 7 events</b>	<b>2,000 people approx. - 2 events</b>
Limitations on movement due to the placement of explosives on roads, illegal blockades, fear due to presence of armed actors, threats, recruitment risk, limitation of access to crops due to fear of hostilities	Limitations on movement due to fear of armed confrontations

<b>Education access limitations</b> 	
<b>2,059 people approx. - 6 events</b>	<b>2,480 people approx. - 3 events</b>
Fear due to presence of armed actors near educational institutions, use of educational infrastructure by an armed group, fear of hostilities	Threats against teachers and educational institution personnel

<b>Limitations on access to electricity</b> 	
<b>3 events (temporary suspension of service) – attacks on infrastructure</b>	

<b>Restriction on humanitarian access</b> 	
<b>1 event with attack on humanitarian organization's property and personnel</b>	

**Map 2: No. of people affected by access limitations related with armed violence. July 2015****Map 3: No. of people affected by access limitations related with armed violence. Aug. 2015**

Department	No. people
1 Valle del Cauca	15,000
2 Arauca	1,220
3 Norte de Santander	841
4 Córdoba	460
5 Cauca	197
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,718</b>

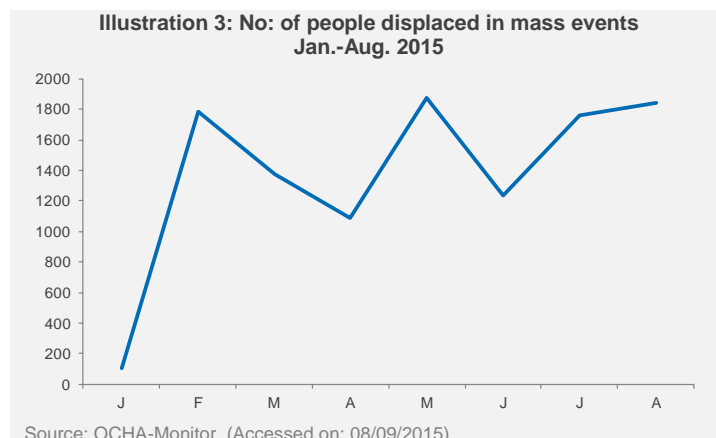
Department	No. people
1 Antioquia	2,000
2 Norte de Santander	1,200
3 Chocó	800
4 Córdoba	480
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,480</b>

Source: OCHA-Monitor. (Accessed on: 08/09/2015)

## Confrontations between armed forces and EPL guerrillas cause displacements

August was the least violent month thus far in 2015 and, according to CERAC, the least violent since 1974. However, 1,843 people were forcibly displaced in mass events during August. This level of displacement was only surpassed by May's displacement (see graphic). In July, 1,763 people were displaced in mass events (see Illustration 3).

In July, continuing trends observed in the first semester, the FARC-EP guerrillas participated in events causing half of the total number of persons displaced in mass events. In August there were no events involving FARC-EP. Nonetheless, military operations and confrontations between the EPL and the armed forces displaced about 1,000 people in the Catatumbo region of Norte de Santander.

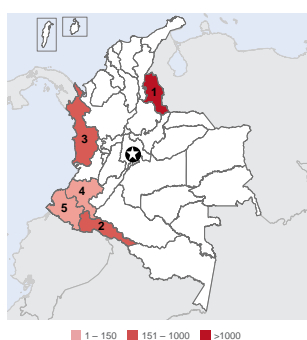


*Military operations against the EPL caused mass displacement and mobility constraints in Norte de Santander*

In this region, the FARC-EP ceasefire has not had a visible impact in reducing violence as in other areas around the country. This is partly due to the large diversity of actors present in the area: FARC-EP, ELN, EPL and PDAGs. Between July and August, the armed forces increased their military operations against the EPL. The intensity of combats led to mass displacements of several communities, movement limitations affecting more than 1,000 people, and limited access to the zone in order to carry out needs evaluations and provide humanitarian assistance.

The complexity of the scenario in the Catatumbo region needs to be studied closely in the face of a possible peace agreement with FARC-EP. The variety of armed actors, disputes over resources, illicit activities, coca crops and contraband, and the strategic location on the Venezuelan border all mean that the humanitarian consequences and impact on civilians will continue. OCHA and the Local Humanitarian Team prepared an analytical document, available at: <http://bit.ly/1L6IPSR>

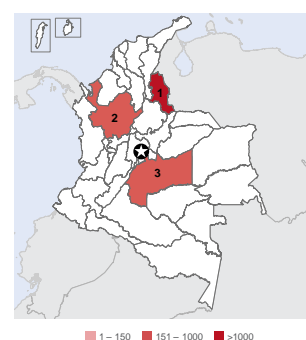
**Map 4: No. of IDPs in mass events. July 2015**



Department	No. IDPs
1 Norte de Santander	1,173
2 Putumayo	210
3 Chocó	197
4 Cauca	112
5 Nariño	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,763</b>

Source: OCHA-Monitor. (Accessed on: 08/09/2015)

**Map 5: No. of IDPs in mass events. Aug. 2015**



Department	No. IDPs
1 Norte de Santander	1021
2 Antioquia	575
3 Meta	247
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,843</b>

## World Humanitarian Day 2015: recognizing humanitarian work in Colombia

19 August was a time to recognize humanitarian work in Colombia. As part of the commemoration of World Humanitarian Day, OCHA led the organization of two public events in Bogotá and joined in with the global social network campaign [#sharehumanity](#)

With the support of the Humanitarian Donor Group and the Humanitarian Studies Institute, OCHA carried out the second edition of awards for best practices in humanitarian action, following the first awards held last year.



*"...a thank you...a smile...that is the satisfaction the community gives to us ..."*

Daniel de la Pava, Colombian Red Cross volunteer, speaking about the humanitarian work. Find more testimonies of humanitarian workers in this video: <http://bit.ly/1LVXaWX>

This year, the humanitarian community sought to recognize projects that alleviated suffering and saved lives, innovated, were efficient, incorporated a rights-based focus and contributed to peacebuilding. More than 30 projects were evaluated and five were selected by members of the Advisory Board of the Humanitarian Studies Institute to receive the award.

The unprecedented concurrence of major humanitarian crises, including those in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan and Iraq, has required the attention and financing of the international humanitarian community. At the global level, humanitarian financing has never been so high as today. However, due to the magnitude of the emergencies, the funding gaps are unprecedented. This has made it increasingly difficult to advocate for financing the humanitarian situation in Colombia, despite continuing humanitarian needs that are of great concern.

Despite limitations in maintaining financing levels for humanitarian operations in Colombia, national and international humanitarian organizations demonstrate their capacity every day to innovate, and to improve coordination and complementarity with institutions and communities. In this way, it has been possible to implement interventions that have changed lives while maintaining response quality.

Projects recognized as part of World Humanitarian Day are an example of the great potential of the impact of humanitarian work in Colombia, and they are evidence of the importance of maintaining financing.

See page 10 for more information on the five projects that received awards for best practices.

## World Population Day: guarantees for the rights of adolescents, youths and women in emergencies

This section is a contribution by UNPFA

To celebrate World Population Day on 10 July, UNFPA, OCHA and UNWOMEN held a forum titled Making visible the invisible: Guaranteeing the rights of adolescents, youths and women in emergency situations.

Almost 230 people attended the event, including public officials, social-organization representatives and the media.

The event had the objective of highlighting the disproportionate impact of humanitarian crises on women and adolescents – including the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation,

violence, undesired pregnancies, births unattended by qualified personnel and sexually transmitted diseases – and the need to provide an adequate response to guarantee their rights.

During the forum, Fabrizio Hochschild, the RC/HC in Colombia, said: “The armed conflict is the principal cause that there is a weaker presence of the State in the regions most harmed by violence. A degraded access to sexual and reproductive health care. A degraded performance of the judicial system that leads to higher rates of impunity.” He added: “If we fail to protect women, adolescents and girls from the risks in the post-conflict period; if we fail to convince them that the end of the conflict is also the end of violence against them, it will be very difficult to build a stable and lasting peace in Colombia.”



Photocredit: UNFPA. Fabrizio Hochschild, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator during the forum “Making visible the invisible: Guaranteeing the rights of adolescents, youths and women in emergency situations”. Bogotá, Colombia, July 2015.



Photocredit: UNFPA. Jorge Parra, UNFPA Representative in Colombia, presenting an overview of the situation of sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youths. Bogotá, Colombia, July 2015.

Jorge Parra Vergara, UNFPA Representative in Colombia, presented an overview of the situation of sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youths in Colombia, prepared by UNFPA based on available information on the humanitarian situation in Colombia. The findings showed a disproportionate impact of the armed conflict and natural disasters on the lives, sexuality and reproduction of adolescents and women. This analysis found that there are clear gaps in these areas, comparing municipalities with the presence of armed actors and unaffected municipalities:

- In municipalities affected by the armed conflict and natural disasters, adolescents and women become pregnant at younger ages and are more likely to die during childbirth.
- Maternal mortality rates are 7.6 times higher in municipalities with presence of armed actors and affected by natural disasters than in unaffected municipalities.
- Pregnancy rate among girls between 10 and 14 years old is double. Despite this fact, denunciation of sexual abuse is 10 times less in these municipalities than in unaffected municipalities.
- Less than half of cases of domestic violence cases are denounced.

UNFPA highlighted the importance of the country providing data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity in order to prepare for and respond adequately to humanitarian crises. It is fundamental to design response routes and services to attend to sexual violence, particularly for girls and women. Protecting sexual and reproductive rights for women and youths in humanitarian contexts can save lives and must be a priority. In emergency situations, sexual and reproductive health-care services must have sufficient capacity – both in terms of personnel and supplies – in order to help people, and to provide obstetric services to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.



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## In brief

### **OCHA published report on trends during peace talks**

In August, OCHA published the report *Humanitarian and Peace Trends November 2012 – June 2015*. The report, prepared with partners in the Humanitarian Country Team and the United Nations system in Colombia, monitors the humanitarian situation over 32 months while the peace talks in Havana were ongoing between the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP. The report was presented by the RC/HC in Colombia and the OCHA Head of Office.

With the initiation of peace talks in November 2012, mass displacement dropped by 27 per cent, as compared with the 32 months prior. During this period, there was also a reduction in armed actions, attacks on civilians, victims of antipersonnel mines and unexploded munitions and kidnappings.

These positive trends have partly been a product of the five periods of unilateral ceasefire by FARC-EP. However, it should be noted that the armed conflict with FARC-EP is not the only cause of humanitarian needs in the country. For example, since the talks began, about half of all mass displacements were caused by other armed groups. This reality partly explains why, since the peace process began, an average of 17,000 people were forcibly displaced each month, nearly 2.5 million people suffered movement and access limitations, and each month 26 people were victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance. Many others were victims of less-documented incidents, such as extortion, sexual and gender-based violence and the recruitment of minors.

See the graphic below, which summarizes the principal indicators. The complete report is available here: <http://j.mp/HumTre15l>

# Humanitarian Trends Colombia

(Nov. 2012 – June 2015)



## Forced displacement

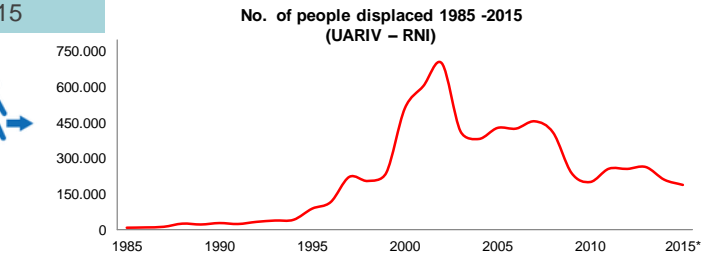
Nov. 2012 – Jun. 2015

**541,034**  
People displaced  
(UARIV)



**17,000**  
People  
displaced/month

**-27%\***  
People displaced  
in mass  
events(OCHA)



**64%**  
Mass displacement in the Pacific region  
and Antioquia

## APM/UXO victims

Nov. 2012 – Jun. 2015



**836**  
APM/UXO victims  
(DAICMA)

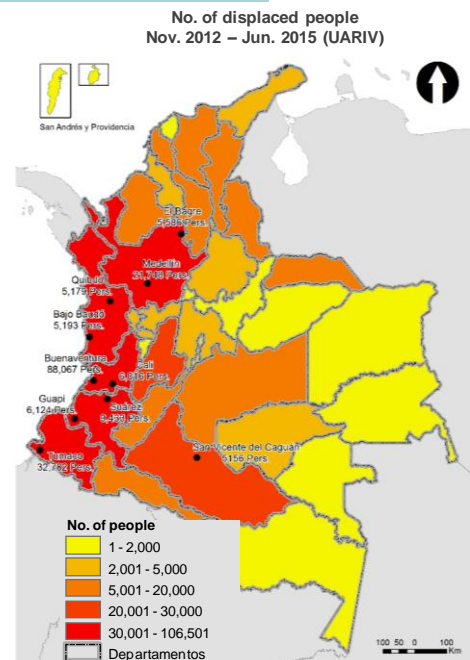


**-48%\***  
APM/UXO victims  
(civilian, military)



**39%**  
of civilian victims were  
children

**70%**  
APM/UXO victims were in Antioquia,  
Nariño, Caquetá, Putumayo, Arauca,  
Norte de Santander



\* In comparison with previous 32 months (March 2010-Oct. 2012)

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at: [www.salahumanitaria.co](http://www.salahumanitaria.co) | [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

All the information reflected in this report has been processed by OCHA from official and secondary sources. Data for mass displacement and protection of civilians has been processed by OCHA Colombia through the Integrated Humanitarian Information System. Sources: Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas (UARIV); Dirección para la Acción Integral Contra Minas Antipersonal (DAICMA); Sistema Integrado de Información Humanitaria (SIDIH/Monitor).

**Education on landmine risk in emergency situations and assistance to antipersonnel mine, unexploded munition and improvised explosive device victims, in the departments of Arauca, Meta, Guaviare, Caquetá and Norte de Santander**

A project by: **Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas**



Awarded in the category:  
**Alleviate suffering and save lives**

**Duration:** Six months (July 2014 - January 2015).

**Beneficiaries:** 15,063 people. Boys, girls and adolescents, rural residents and indigenous communities living in rural areas of 14 at-risk municipalities with antipersonnel mine (APM) and explosive remnants of war (unexploded ordnance (UXO), improvised explosive devices).

The project was designed to carry out the following processes: i) prepare emergency response for APM, UXO and improvised explosive devices, ii) emergency response, iii) early recovery actions, including activities for institutional, school and community strengthening.

***How does this project contribute to alleviate suffering and save lives?***

Boys, girls and adults in prioritized population centres improved their knowledge for self-care facing the risk caused by the presence of APM, unexploded munitions and improvised explosive devices.

Beneficiaries acquired tools for mine-risk education facing emergency situations.

An estimated 80 per cent of people trained, at the end of the process, showed a high level of knowledge and aptitudes regarding safe behavior facing APM and UXO risks, which represents a reduction in risk and to save lives.



**After the project was finished, the Nukak indigenous community -in the department of Guaviare-, found a deposit of explosives...normally they would have take this to their community, however they remembered the messages about not to handle or transport these devices ... this change in their behavior saved their lives ...**

## Implementation of PDA terminals to collect data for Damage Evaluation and Needs Analysis (EDAN)

A project by: **Colombian Red Cross Society**



Awarded in the category:  
**Innovation**

**Duration:** One year (September 2015 – August 2016)

**Beneficiaries:** Needs-evaluation teams in Medellín (Antioquia), Cali (Valle del Cauca), Yopal (Casanare), Bogotá D.C. Through coordination between UNGRD and the Colombian Red Cross, the project is designed to implement a data-capture system that determines the type and quantity of humanitarian aid required in emergencies so that it can be delivered opportunistically.

### **Why is this project innovative?**

In emergency and disaster situations, it is necessary to capture data rapidly and accurately in order to determine the type of aid to be delivered to the affected population. This process is carried out manually with forms, meaning there is a risk of losing registered information if the forms become damaged, waterlogged, or erased when written, making the writing illegible. A duplicity in registration can also occur, e.g., affected people and delivered aid are registered more than once. The cleaning of data can take between one and two weeks, depending on the size of the emergency.

With this project, the Colombian Red Cross becomes the first aid institution in the country to implement PDA terminals to collect EDAN data online, creating a bar code for each beneficiary family and thus reducing the time needed for data capture, cleaning and aid delivery. Captured data is stored in a central server and allows for the verification and tabulation of results in the crisis room.



**Having real-time information, humanitarian assistance can be delivered 72 hours after the emergency...this way, the affected population is assisted in a timely manner presenting an ID, avoiding a long wait...**

Photocredit: CRC

## Peace on time, virtual diploma in peacebuilding

A project by: **UNICEF**



Awarded in the category:  
**Efficiency**

**Duration:** Seven months (May 2014 - November 2014)

**Beneficiaries:** 3,154 boys, girls, adolescents and youth members of youth councils and youth organizations, or who have the objective of building peace in their community.

The project trains and strengthens the capacities of boys, girls and adolescents so that they exercise leadership with responsibility, considering the knowledge of the reality in their territories and making them capable of carrying out their commitment to build a present with future within the environments of protection and peacebuilding that allows them to develop as a person and as a citizen. The project makes use of information technology and communication tools as effective education tools. In the project, 181 boys, girls and youths or IDP victims of the conflict participated.

### ***Why was there an efficient use of available resources in the implementation of the project?***

The diploma was carried out with the creation of virtual classrooms, which allowed at least 60 students per class, thus maximizing available resources for each class. The same students were from all 32 departments in the country. In each region there was a local coordinator who accompanied and monitored the process in order to avoid desertion, and to ensure follow up on completion and advance with each student.

The virtual environment of the diploma allowed participation of students from remote areas and with poor connectivity.. In these cases, with the support of Colombia Youth Presidential Program, UNFPA, Universidad Santo Tomas and UNICEF, Governors' and Mayors' offices, as well as entities with a presence in municipalities, spaces were created so that students could have virtual access at least once every week and thus participate effectively. The articulation of international cooperation agencies, national and regional Governments, and the academy allowed for efficient and timely implementation with limited resources.



***“...conflicts are not good or bad, what matters are the results...when people suffering political, social and economic issues get together, conflicts may appear...however, diversity in itself is not bad...we can make the best of each group to put it at the service of peace...”***

**Diploma student, in Pasto (Nariño)**

Photocredit: UNICEF

## Promotion of human rights in Suba locality through legality

A project by: **Fundación Comunitaria Pluriétnica de Colombia**



Awarded in the category:  
**Rights-based Focus**

**Beneficiaries:** 60 leaders trained, 1,000 people trained

The objective of the project was to carry out integral actions to provide aid, accompaniment and strengthened social inclusion strategies to promote formal, informal and community judicial mechanisms, alternative conflict resolution, victims' rights, and peace and reconciliation in Suba locality.

### *How did this project incorporate a rights-based focus?*

With the implementation of the project the goal is to create conditions that allow the community to promote the defense of human rights, facilitating the participation of leaders who fight for a better quality of life for the locality's inhabitants.

The project promotes a local space for permanent meetings around the topics of peaceful conflict resolution, peacebuilding and reconciliation. It creates information-consultation spaces that conform to the legal needs of the locality's population.



**this project aims to create conditions that allow the community to promote the defense of human rights...the community will be able to identify the characteristics, advantages and benefits of community justice and equity...**

Photocredit: Fundación Comunitaria Pluriétnica de Colombia

## Psychosocial accompaniment of a group of boys, girls, adolescents and youths in Cazucá in Soacha municipality, through a theater forum and peace education tools

A project by: **Corporación Otra Escuela**



Awarded in the category:  
**Peacebuilding**

**Duration:** 2.5 years (June 2013 – December 2015)

**Beneficiaries:** 110 boys, girls, adolescents and youths between 6 and 20 years old, mostly from poor families, victims of armed violence and displacement.

The project objectives included: carrying out the psychosocial accompaniment of boys, girls, adolescents and youths through theatre and peace-education tools; provide an alternative space for the use of free time; provide psychosocial tools to support children in vulnerable situations; implement a training process with adolescents and youths in the Forum Theater methodology to create a group of future cultural proponents in the community to provide sustainability for the project; create a theatre group with children to create and produce works of theatre where situations of conflict and social violence are presented in order to seek alternative solutions in the Theater Forum.

### *Why does this project contribute to peacebuilding?*

The theatre tool linked to education for peace allows children and youths to strengthen their effective capacities, but above all, their comprehension of what conflict means, as well as how to situate themselves facing conflicts and learn what actions they can take to avoid common situations of violence. Participants today are people who converse - not only those who took part in the project, but also their families and friends who seek alternatives to transform conflicts in their homes, at school and in the neighbourhood.

The theatre has been the route through which participants have been able to humanize their daily routines and thus discuss their ideas about how they live and feel.



**This project has provided them an alternative to the context of violence that surrounds them...this space has become an opportunity to share, to say what they feel, to express through their bodies and words, what they have kept in silence...**

Photocredit: Corporación Otra Escuela.