

HIGHLIGHTS

- Outcomes and learnings of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)
- Promoting gender equality in humanitarian response, by Devanna de la Puente (GenCap)
- Empower women in Putumayo, by Alianza Departamental de Mujeres Tejedoras de Vida
- Post-demobilization armed groups continue creating humanitarian impact

FIGURES

# IDPs in mass events (May 2016)	572
#people affected by access and mobility constraints (April 2016)	109
# people affected by natural disasters (April 2016 UNGRD)	19.759

FUNDING

US\$ 48,904,731
2016 humanitarian funding being implemented as of 27 June 2016 (OCHA 4W)



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on stage at the closing ceremony of the World Humanitarian Summit, 24 May 2016. Photo: UNOCHA

In this issue

- How to be proactive in improving the humanitarian system: outcomes from World Humanitarian Summit P.1
- Colombia promotes Gender Equality in Humanitarian Response P.3
- The «Life Weavers» of Putumayo, an example of peace P.4
- The Humanitarian impact of Post-demobilization Armed Groups (January 2013-May 2016) P.5

How to be proactive in improving the humanitarian system: outcomes from the World Humanitarian Summit

There is one say in French: “Penser le changement pour ne pas changer le pansement...” (Think the change instead of changing the plaster).

Over the years, the humanitarian community has always tended to reform, restructure and organize its response post facto, following major disasters. From the Spitak earthquake (Armenia, December 1988) and the Gulf War which led to the UN GA Resolution 46/182 (December 1991) to the Asia tsunami (December 2003) and Haiti earthquake (January 2010) which set the basis of the humanitarian reform, the transformative agenda encompassing the cluster system, major disasters have always set the pace, forcing international partners to adapt. These unexpected events of large magnitude – also called “black swans” - have had a dominant role on the humanitarian modus operandi. They have profoundly shaped the way international partners coordinate, inform, fundraise and respond to emergencies.

Change is inevitable and constant. But for the first time, the international community is setting the agenda to re-invigorate a commitment to humanity and better prepare for crisis. Being proactive in adapting before the next disaster is definitely a laudable progress.

After three years of consultations with different actors of the humanitarian world, the Secretary-General of United Nations conveyed last 23 and 24 May at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, Turkey, some 9,000 participants from 173 countries, United Nations agencies, international, national and local NGOs as well as private actors. Participants came with more than 1,500 commitments. Expectations are high on how those commitments will have a positive impact on the humanitarian action.

The Colombian Government also participated with a Delegation composed by the Presidential Commissioner on Human Rights, the Director of the Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD), and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the International Cooperation Directory and Colombia Embassy in Turkey.¹

Major outcomes

Certainly one of the most important commitments is “The Grand Bargain”. Signed by 30 major donors and NGOs, it seeks more efficiency in humanitarian aid. The objective is to

¹ For more information click on: <https://goo.gl/ii982E>

harmonize donor's proposals and reporting requirements, reduce general costs, and ensure collective needs assessments and fund in line with agreed humanitarian priorities. In addition, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF, managed by OCHA) will increase from USD\$500 million to USD\$1 billion. In 2015, Colombia received \$3 million through the CERF to respond emergencies in Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Cauca and Arauca which affected 70,336 people.

Another commitment promoted by many South NGOs was to promote local action. The Grand Bargain signatories committed to donate by 2020 a quarter of humanitarian funds to national and local NGOs, whereas 27 INGOs committed to donate 20 per cent of their funds to national organizations, compared to 2 per cent today.

The initiative "Education Cannot Wait" is the recognition that education is a priority in emergency situations though it only represents 2 per cent of the humanitarian budget. This initiative aims at reaching \$3,85 billion in 5 years. At the same time, many donors committed to prioritize 30 per cent of their budget for education of children and youths living emergency situations and prolonged crisis.

Topics such as risks reduction and resilience were also central preoccupations. The World Bank, United Nations (UNDP, FAO, OCHA and WFP) and the Finance Ministries of the group 20V (group of most vulnerable countries to natural disasters) presented their Global Partnership for Preparedness (GPP) to get ready for future disasters, mainly caused by climate change. The IFRC also launched its Global Alliance for disaster risk reduction that aims at building safer and resilient communities.

Finally, other additional subjects were raised at the Summit, such as women and girls rights in emergency situations and gender-based violence prevention, the promotion of cash transfer programs and the Connecting Business Initiative and Humanitarian Impact Bound to better involve private sector in humanitarian action.

Limitations

At the Summit, global leaders discussed how to effectively respond to major humanitarian challenges, and how to be better prepared to meet challenges of the future. In particular, the Summit was designed to re-inspire and reinvigorate humanity and to the universality of humanitarian principles. One disappointment expressed by the SG came from the absence of Security Council or G8 Heads of State but Chancellor Merkel out of the 55 Heads of State who attended the Summit. On the content, criticisms of this non-intergovernmental process alluded to the exclusion of conflict prevention and respect of International Humanitarian Law from the conversations. It fell short on hard political commitments. Something NGO Doctors without Borders had alerted weeks before. Migrants and refugees issues did not received either the deserved treatment, when Europe is being challenged by an unprecedented migrant wave on its marches.

Some people don't like change, but you need to embrace change if the alternative is disaster. The Summit was a unique opportunity to vastly consult, trying to put people at the centre with community engagement and recalling State obligations. We can see the Summit as a success depending on your own expectations and what to wait from an informal negotiation and non-binding agreements but a highly participative and inclusive meeting.

What is next?

The World Humanitarian Summit was not the end of the process, but rather a starting point. After this extraordinary amount of ideas and propositions, the challenge will be to turn commitments into real changes. This will require monitoring the implementation. A document resuming all commitments should be published in the coming weeks and Secretary-general Ban-Ki Moon will inform the General Assembly in September.

Man-made and natural disasters have left 130 million people in need of humanitarian aid in 2015 with requirements over USD\$18 billion. New challenges are emerging or growing in Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of non-conventional and insidious forms of violence, migrant and urban challenges which require attention. Changing how we do

Change is inevitable and constant. But for the first time, the international community is setting the agenda to re-invigorate a commitment to humanity and better prepare for crisis. Being proactive in adapting before the next disaster is definitely a laudable progress

business is vital. The success of this endeavor will depend on how much efforts and resources we put to improve the humanitarian system, our organization, to address both natural disasters and complex emergencies. Much progress has been done in the last 25 years since UNGA Resolution 46/182 in terms of humanitarian response. Let's ensure we are still on the front sit of the reform and don't wait for the next black swan to force us to adapt.

More detail is available on: <https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>

Colombia promotes Gender Equality in Humanitarian Response

This article was contributed by Devanna de la Puente (GenCap)

The humanitarian community in Colombia is committed to ensure women and girls remain central to the humanitarian response and peace process



Credit: OCHA, 2016
Photo: Focal Group with women from San José del Guaviare, Guaviare department.

The WHS has set a landmark for the gender equality agenda, setting a joint commitment presented and endorsed at the High Level Table on "Women and Girls: Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality."

The core commitments were referred to: Empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders; Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; Implement a coordinated global

approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts; Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive; Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights.

Colombia has led efforts to bring these commitments into action at the national and field level. At national level the Humanitarian Country Team has prioritize gender equality into its strategic planning for 2016, this includes the proposal for a Gender strategy and hosting of a gender advisor (GenCap).

There is also a concrete effort to strengthen the local capacity and to promote greater participation of women's organizations in the Local Coordination Teams (ELCs). For example in Chocó, the Women's Network of Chocó has participated in the MIRA assessments implementing the gender related MIRA tools and have been a key actor in engaging with women and girls currently displaced in the area.

In Putumayo, the Women's network of Putumayo is in process to become a member of the Local Coordination Team and support will be provided to strengthen their capacity as first responders Women of Putumayo were invited to present as panelist to the ECOSOC HAS² event on Gender Equality post WHS in New York, to speak about the role of women in Colombia in a post conflict scenario.

² Humanitarian Affairs Segment, Economic and Social Council (HAS/ECOSOC). See: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/has2015/>

The «Life Weavers» of Putumayo, an example of peace

This article was contributed by Alianza Departamental de Mujeres Tejedoras de Vida del Putumayo.

The Departmental Alliance of Women «Life Weavers» of Putumayo was born to respond to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in 2000.³

Putumayo's people were suffering « all types of wars »: the *Plan Colombia* and its areal sprayings ; terror of paramilitary groups that used cruelty to dominate the communities ; and social and territorial control imposed by the FARC. In the words of locals “we were living a war in the air and on earth.”



Credit: Alianza Departamental de Mujeres Tejedoras de Vida del Putumayo.
Photo: Working group Public Policy on women. May 2016. Puerto Asís, Putumayo department

They have called themselves «Life Weavers» because to connect, meet and empower women and their organizations is their reason of being

The women of Putumayo lived the worst part of the conflict. In places like El Placer, El Tigre, La Tesalia, La Dorada, Puerto Colón, Puerto Asís, hundreds were forced to sexual and labor slavery, prostitution and domestic activities, while others were raped, assassinated or disappeared. As victims and survivors, they cared about their family and ensured daily survival. But, at the same time, they resisted and defended life in many ways. In 2005 several women-leaders united to manage the humanitarian assistance to respond to the shortages caused by a prolonged armed strike of the FARC-EP. In this opportunity women discovered their capacities and strengths to support and fight for life and their territory.

Since then, they have called themselves « Life Weavers » because to connect, meet and empower women and their organizations is their reason of being. They have focused their work on: 1- Women, human rights and peace, 2- Women, History and political participation, 3- Women and social and economical development.

Strategies implemented by the network of Life Weavers are focused on:

- a) To identify women organizations and their leaders. Today, more than 100 women organizations were identified in 13 rural and urban municipalities of Putumayo. This confirms that women play a key role in sustaining this region Supporting and impulsing the actions of these organizations is pivotal to strengthen social structures and to build a sustainable peace.
- b) To empower organizations and their members through trainings on women rights, self-confidence, generating capacities and motivating their participation to political decision and peace building. The first Gender Diploma was created in 2010 for 100 women who are today promoters of gender in their different social and workings places. Recently, the Peace Mediation Diploma was finalized with 60 mediators who today build action plans for peace in their municipalities.

³ According to the Registro Único de Víctimas (RUV), 218,000 people were internally displaced of a total population of 320,000 in the department.

- c) The monitoring of violence against women,⁴ its denunciation, and social mobilization, is another field of action of Life Weavers. They have especially shed light on assassinations of women leaders, sexual violence, feminicides and forced disappearance, a crime against humanity about which only a few speak.⁵ The four sisters Galarraga who were assassinated and disappeared by paramilitaries, Martha Jamioy, indigenous leader assassinated by the FARC for having defended her territory, Luz Marina Benavidez, leader who denounced the lack of action against paramilitaries in Villagarzon, these names belong to the 250 names of women and girls written on the Wall paintings of Truth in Mocoa and Villagarzon, places where «Life Weavers» meet regularly to remember them and claim for justice and truth.

These are «Life Weavers», who resisted to war and who are today ready for peace.

The Humanitarian impact of Post-demobilization Armed Groups (January 2013-May 2016)

According to OCHA monitoring, 67,056 people were displaced in mass events between January 2013 and May 2016. Of them, 30 per cent were displaced due to unilateral actions by post-demobilization armed groups and as a consequence of confrontations between these actors and other armed groups

Mass displacements continue to impact civilians

According to OCHA monitoring, 67,056 people were displaced in mass events between January 2013 and May 2016. Of them, 30 per cent were displaced due to unilateral actions by post-demobilization armed groups and as a consequence of confrontations between these actors and other armed groups. According to the Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas (UARIV), in the past three years more than 330,000 people were victims of post-demobilization armed groups, of which 97 per cent were victims of forced displacement, both mass and individual.⁶

In general, mass displacement has decreased since 2014. However, total displacement (including both mass and individual displacement) has remained constant. According to a recent report published by the NGO Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES), in 2015 about 225,842 people were forcibly displaced, a 10 per cent increase as compared to 2014.⁷

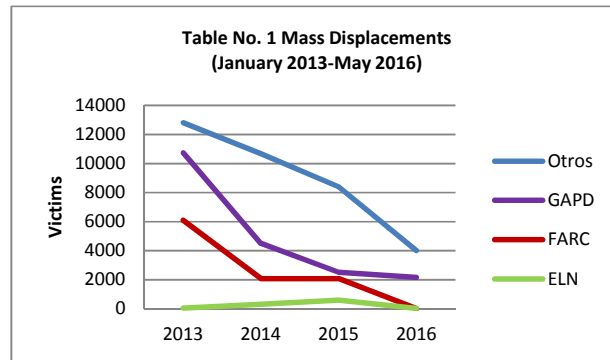
OCHA has observed that while the participation of the FARC-EP in mass displacement events has significantly decreased since 2014, in line with de-escalation measures taken by this group, the participation of post-demobilization armed groups has remained constant since 2015, and has been greater than FARC-EP's participation. In terms of ELN participation in mass displacement, this has remained almost constant since 2014, with a more significant increase in 2015 (See Table 1).

⁴ The first and unique diagnostic that documents women situation has been done by the «Life Weavers» in 2009 and identifies that 90% of 600 women surveyed were physically hit and that 11% suffered from sexual violence. The study also identifies the norms and punishments suffered in contexts of high militarization and victimization. 62% of Putumayo's mothers have in average 2 sons killed.

⁵ At national level, the department is the 5th in number of women disappearances: from 281 cases of disappeared women, 53% were forced disappearances, most of them concerning young women, who could have suffered from other connected crimes such as human trafficking, forced recruitment or sexual slavery.

⁶ ELTIEMPO.COM. Ya van 332.149 víctimas de las bandas criminales en el país. 28 de abril de 2016. See: <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/cifras-de-victimas-de-las-bacrim-o-bandas-criminales-en-colombia/16575453>

⁷ CONSULTORÍA PARA LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS Y EL DESPLAZAMIENTO (CODHES). Displacement increase despite the unilateral cease fire and the de-escalation of conflict. Displacement Report 2015.



Post-demobilization armed groups increase their participation in mass displacements in 2016

OCHA has also observed that during the first five months of 2016,⁸ there was a 49 per cent increase in the number of IDP's victims of mass displacement due to the actions of post-demobilization armed groups, as compared to the same period in 2015. This situation could be explained by their territorial expansion in several areas of the country, seeking to occupy strategic areas. This is particularly evident in the department of Chocó, where the dispute between the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC)/Clan Úsuga and ELN for territorial control provoked the mass displacement of more than 5,000 between February and May 2016.⁹

OCHA has observed that during the first five months of 2016, there was a 49 per cent increase in the number of IDP's victims of mass displacement due to the actions of post-demobilization armed groups, as compared to the same period in 2015

Map 1: departments most affected by Mass Displacements



Monitor OCHA (01/01/13 - 23/05/16)

**Table No. 2 Departments most affected by Mass Displacement
(January 2013-May 2016)**

Departments	Victims	Percentage
Chocó	8.004	40%
Valle del Cauca	7.136	36%
Antioquia	292	15%
Córdoba	612	3%
TOTAL	16.044	94%

Mobility restrictions increase

According to OCHA monitoring, between January 2013¹⁰ and May 2016, nearly 5.6 million suffered movement restrictions or limitations on access to basic goods and services caused by armed violence. Around 43 per cent of these cases were due to unilateral actions of post-demobilization armed groups and confrontations between these actors and other armed groups. The participation of post-demobilization armed groups increased significantly in these types of events starting in 2014 and continued to increase through 2016.

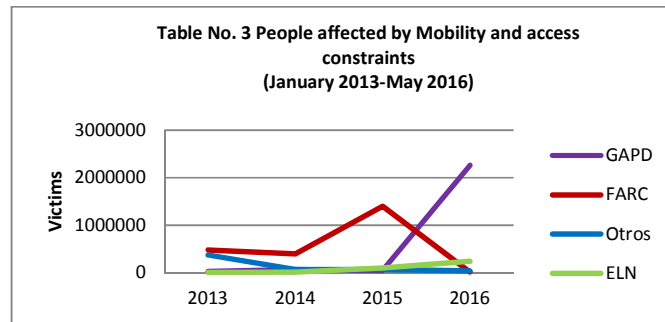
⁸ Monitor OCHA, (01/01/13 - 23/05/16).

⁹ See: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/es/system/files/documents/files/300516_humanitarian_bulletin_abr2016.pdf

¹⁰ The data on Mobility and access constraint is available only from 2013, when OCHA started the monitoring process, and mostly includes information from the zones where OCHA has presence.

The participation of the FARC-EP dramatically fell starting in 2015, in line with de-escalation measures implemented by the group.¹¹ For its part, ELN participation in movement restrictions has slowly increased starting in 2014, with a major increase in 2015 which has continued through 2016. It should be highlighted that in just five months in 2016, the ELN has doubled its participation in terms of the number of victims of mobility restrictions as compared to the total for all of 2015. This situation is related to the armed strike declared by this organization in February, which primarily impacted the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Cesar, Cauca, Bolívar, Chocó and Norte de Santander (See Table No. 3).

In Chocó, about 8,000 people from Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities suffered prolonged mobility restrictions due to confrontations between post-demobilization armed groups and other non-state armed groups since February 2016



Post-demobilization armed groups participation in movement restrictions increase in 2016

During the first five months of 2016, there was an 8,000 per cent increase in the number of people suffering limitations on movement due to the action of post-demobilization armed groups. The armed strike by the AGC/Clan Úsuga in March 2016, although only lasting for 24 hours, impacted nearly 2.2 million people including the capital cities of Montería and Sincelejo, showing their capacity for intimidation and territorial control, and representing a major challenge for the protection of civilians and security in these regions. In Chocó, about 8,000 people from Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities suffered prolonged mobility restrictions due to confrontations between post-demobilization armed groups and other non-state armed groups since February 2016.

Map 2: Departments most affected by Mobility and access constraints



Monitor OCHA (01/01/13- 23/05/16)

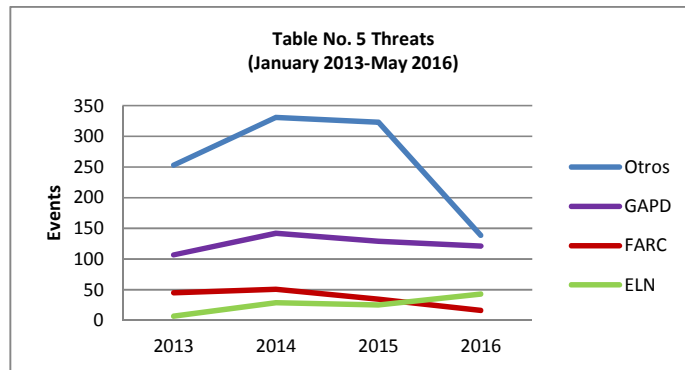
Table No. 4 Departments most affected by Mobility and access constraints (January 2013-May 2016)

Departments	Victims	Percentage
Córdoba	1.145.184	48%
Antioquia	777.933	32%
TOTAL	1.923.117	80%

¹¹ The highest point in Mobility and Access constraints by the FARC-EP armed actions between May and July 2015 is because of the interruption of the unilateral cease fire period by this group.

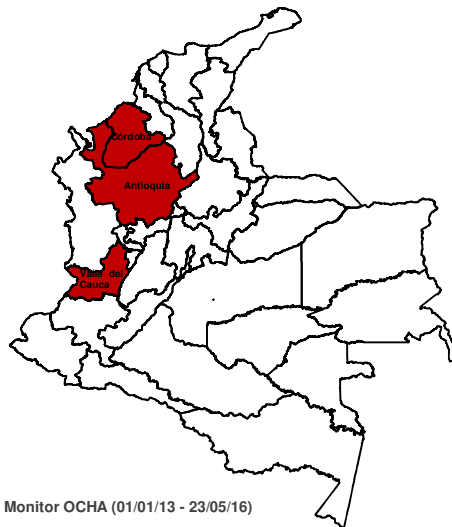
Intimidation and social control increase

According to OCHA's monitoring, other forms of intimidation and social control imposed by post-demobilization armed groups, in particular threats, are increasing. Between January 2013 and May 2016, 105,378 people were victims of attacks against civilians;¹² 96 per cent of them were victims of threats. These figures indicate a decrease in lethal violence while other forms of aggression and intimidation increase, creating new challenges for the protection of civilians. Post-demobilization armed groups participated in 28 per cent of all threats identified by OCHA between January 2013 and May 2016.



Threats monitored by OCHA were principally concentrated in the departments of Valle del Cauca, Antioquia, Córdoba. The situation of Cauca is of particular concern. According to OCHA's monitoring,¹³ thus far in 2016 there have been 41 threats mostly against social, Indigenous and rural leaders. Eleven of these threats have been attributed to post-demobilization armed groups and 16 to unknown sources, five to FARC-EP, four to ELN, five to others. The Ombudsman's office issued two alerts on this situation in May.¹⁴

Map 3: Departments most affected by Threats



Monitor OCHA (01/01/13 - 23/05/16)

**Table No. 6 Departments most affected by Threats
(January 2013-May 2016)**

Departments	Events	Percentage
Valle del Cauca	103	21%
Antioquia	65	13%
Córdoba	41	8%
TOTAL	209	42%

¹² According to Monitor OCHA, *Attacks against civilians* include subcategories such as: Threats, (individual/collective), attacks, disappearances, injury to protected persons, homicide to protected persons, massacre, recruitment, kidnaping, hostage taking, torture, sexual violence, etc. For more information visit: <http://monitor.salahumanitaria.co/>

¹³ Monitor OCHA, (23/06/16).

¹⁴ DEFENSORÍA DEL PUEBLO. *Defensoría alerta por nuevos brotes de conflictividad en el departamento del Cauca*. Mayo 27 de 2016. En: <http://www.defensoria.gov.co/es/nube/noticias/5284/Defensor%C3%ADa-alerta-por-nuevos-brotes-de-conflictividad-en-el-departamento-del-Cauca-Cauca-Defensor%C3%ADa-del-Pueblo-Santander-de-Quilichao.htm>;

DEFENSORÍA DEL PUEBLO. *Defensoría pide fortalecer medidas de prevención y control en El Tambo, Cauca*. Mayo 10 de 2016. En: <http://www.defensoria.gov.co/public/es/nube/noticias/5190/Defensor%C3%ADa-pide-fortalecer-medidas-de-prevenci%C3%B3n-y-control-en-El-Tambo-Cauca-El-Tambo-Defensor%C3%ADa-del-Pueblo-Panfletos-AUC.htm>

In Brief

23/06/2016 Colombian Government and FARC-EP signed an agreement on “The end of conflict.”

With the UN Secretary General's presence, the Government and the FARC-EP signed an agreement in Havana on the agenda item “end of conflict”. This includes a bilateral cease fire, security guarantees, fight against criminal organization and endorsement mechanism.

Parties agreed on FARC-EP troop's concentration in 23 'Transitional Zones' and 8 base camps where disarmament process and reintegration phase will take place over a 180-days period.

The UN political mission will monitor this process. On the endorsement mechanism, parties have agreed to respect the Constitutional Court decision over the legality of the 'peace plebiscite' proposed by the Government. There are high expectations that the final agreement will be signed in July or early August.