

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of IDPs increased by 131 per cent compared with September's estimated figure (2,326). Between January and October 2012, over 40,000 people massively fled their homes due to the armed conflict.
- There was an increase in reports of security incidents affecting humanitarian access, confinements of communities and infractions against medical personnel, equipment and infrastructure.
- Effective coordination between humanitarian agencies and response authorities in Putumayo department mobilized US\$1.1 from the Central Emergency Response Fund rapid response window.



OCHA / Héctor Latorre

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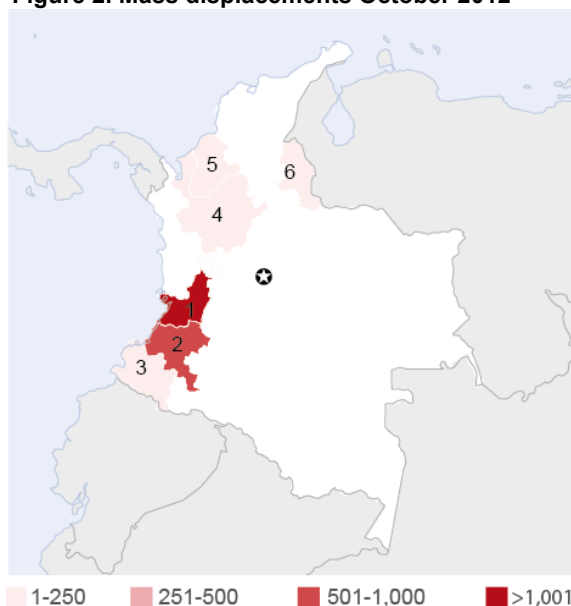
Mass displacements up 131 per cent in October

More than 5,300 people were displaced during October in 11 mass displacements according to OCHA estimates. The number of IDPs increased by 131 per cent compared with September's estimated figure (2,326). Between January and October 2012, over 40,000 people massively fled their homes due to the armed conflict. This figure represents a 29 per cent increase compared with the number of people reported as massively displaced between January and October 2011. The most affected departments during the reporting period were Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Nariño, Antioquia, Córdoba and Norte de Santander. These same departments have had the highest displacement figures over the year. Fighting between the army and FARC in Cauca and Norte de Santander caused 37 per cent of the mass displacements.

Violence by post-demobilization armed groups caused the remaining 63 per cent of mass events along the Pacific coast of Valle del Cauca, and in Córdoba, Antioquia and Nariño departments. Violent clashes between

post-demobilization armed groups and urban gangs to control illicit economies and the territories have caused a humanitarian crisis in Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca), the country's main port along the Pacific and Medellín (Antioquia the second largest urban centre). The main consequences for civilians include intra-urban mass displacements: there are now over 3,700 IDPs in Buenaventura and at least 100 in Medellín. The consequences also include forced recruitment; the use of children and adolescents for war and illicit activities; selective killings; and severe mobility restrictions. In the north-east of Antioquia and south of Córdoba departments, many interests converge over land and illegal economies. As a result, civilians bear the brunt of clashes by armed

Figure 2. Mass displacements October 2012



Source: SIDIH/OCHA – UNHCR

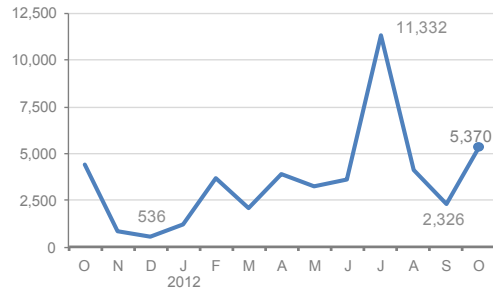
Department	# of IDPs	# events
1. Valle del Cauca	3,792	2
2. Cauca	692	2
3. Nariño	180	2
4. Antioquia	155	3
5. Córdoba	135	1
6. Norte de Santander	116	1

FIGURES

Humanitarian funding to Colombia 2012 (FTS)	\$48 m
IDPs in October	5,300
People reached with CERF funds 2012	77,000

The departments most affected by mass displacements during the reporting period were Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Nariño, Antioquia, Córdoba and Norte de Santander. These same departments have had the highest displacement figures over the year.

Figure 1. Mass displacements Oct 2011- 2012



Source: SIDIH/OCHA – UNHCR

access. This represents an increase compared with September's figure (30). There was also an increase in reports of confinements of communities and infractions against medical personnel, equipment and infrastructure.

The most affected departments were Putumayo and Nariño, followed by Norte de Santander, Arauca, Córdoba and Antioquia. The main incidents registered were hostilities; violations against medical personnel, equipment and infrastructure; accidents with explosive devices; and restrictions imposed by non-State and post-demobilization armed groups (curfews, armed strikes, direct threats, and restricted access to goods and basic services).

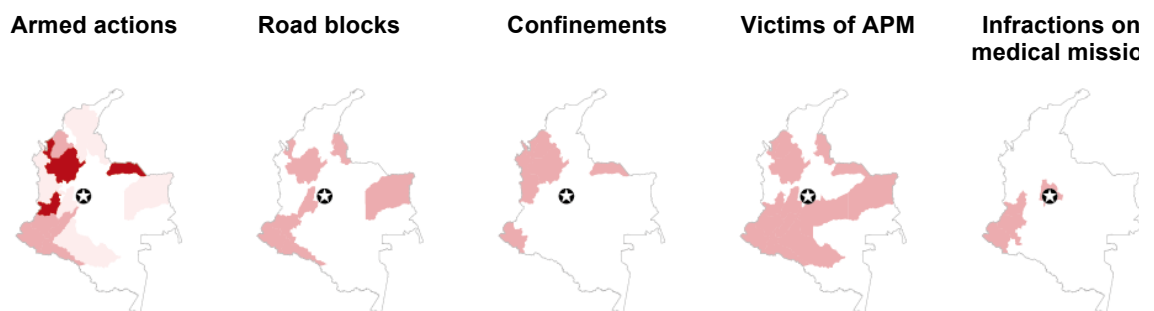
Security incidents directly affecting humanitarian missions were reported in Córdoba, Norte de Santander and Arauca. In Arauca, some humanitarian and State institutions have faced access constraints in remote rural areas of Arauca since early 2012 due to the presence of non-State armed groups. These limitations have seriously affected the regularity of food distributions to Hitnu indigenous people, who face food security and health crises due to long-term violence. In Norte de Santander, Córdoba, Nariño and Valle del Cauca, restrictions have raised security concerns and led to the temporary suspensions of humanitarian activities (provision of humanitarian aid, capacity building).

At least eight communities were reported as facing mobility restrictions. The duration of restrictions varied between one week and over one month. The most serious situations have been identified by humanitarian partners in Antioquia (north-east and Bajo Cauca subregions), Chocó (Atrato River) and Córdoba departments, where post-demobilization and non-State armed groups have imposed restrictions on the entrance of goods and basic services (food, medicines and agricultural inputs). These groups have also established curfews, illegal checkpoints and strict mobility restrictions.

In Zaragoza (Antioquia), five people were killed at an illegal checkpoint. In Putumayo, FARC imposed an armed strike on the civilian population and ordered the suspension of public transportation.

Figure 3. Type of incidents affecting humanitarian access, October 2012

Source: SIDIH/OCHA



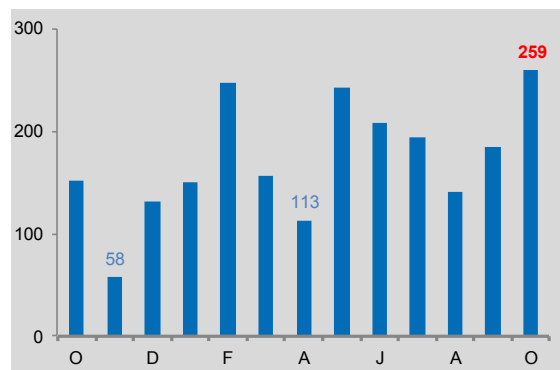
In Norte de Santander, Córdoba, Nariño and Valle del Cauca, access constraints have raised security concerns and led to the temporary suspensions of humanitarian activities (i.e., provision of humanitarian aid, capacity building).

In Putumayo and Antioquia, non-State armed groups allegedly forced rural inhabitants to join mass demonstrations against Government programmes. There have also been reports of the occupation of houses and schools by post-demobilization and non-State armed groups in these departments.

Civilians significantly affected by violence in October

During the reporting period, civilians were significantly affected by hostilities, access constraints and violence directly targeting specific people. Medical personnel, indigenous people, adolescents, youngsters and community leaders were directly targeted by non-State and post-demobilization armed groups. Indiscriminate attacks killed at least seven civilians and injured over 70, including children.

Figure 4. Attacks on civilians, Oct 2011-2012



Source: SIDIH/OCHA

Children and adolescents continue to be victims of the conflict

In Cauca and Antioquia, at least two children were killed and two were injured during armed clashes and military operations. The demobilization and surrender of children and adolescents were recorded in Arauca, Antioquia, Nariño, Tolima and Valle del Cauca. In Antioquia (Dabeiba), FARC members are allegedly forcing families to hand over their children and adolescents to join their ranks.

There are concerns regarding continued reports of forced recruitment and of the disproportionate impact on children and adolescents of non-State armed groups' use of antipersonnel mines and IED. Child-protection concerns have also been raised due to increased armed violence in some areas of the country linked to territorial disputes between post-demobilization armed groups. Children and adolescents have been injured or killed in these clashes. Post-demobilization armed groups have used children and adolescents in illegal and criminal activities, and have incurred severe social and mobility controls in their areas of influence. These violations have been documented by the UN Secretary General in his [reports on children and armed conflict](#) in Colombia.

Nineteen victims of antipersonnel mines in October

Seven civilians and 12 military personnel were victims of antipersonnel mines (APM), according to official sources. Figures show a steady decreasing trend in the number of victims since June. According to OCHA records, four children and adolescents were among the civilian casualties in Vichada, Putumayo, Cauca and Norte de Santander. Accidents were reported in 10 departments, with Antioquia and Putumayo the most affected and ranking as the departments with more accidents in 2012 (70 and 58, respectively).

During the reporting period, children and adolescents continued to be affected by APM contamination by non-State armed groups. Children in Caquetá, Norte de Santander, Putumayo and Vichada were injured. In Cauca, an adolescent was killed by an APM. In October, at least 24 children were injured and one killed in several IED-related incidents and attacks in Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Meta and Guaviare departments. In Pradera (Valle del Cauca), 32 civilians (14 of whom were children) were injured by an attack with explosive devices in the urban area. In Antioquia and Valle del Cauca, several children were injured or killed in increased violence due to disputes between post-demobilization armed groups and local gangs.

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Humanitarian funding

US\$1.1 million for rapid response in Putumayo

Devastating floods and windstorms in July and August affected over 100,000 people. Effective coordination between humanitarian agencies and response authorities in Putumayo department mobilized US\$1.1 from the Central Emergency Response Fund rapid response window, as well as an allocation from the Emergency Response Fund (\$250,000). These funds will benefit 26,000 people through coordinated and integral interventions in WASH, health, nutrition and crop rehabilitation.

During the second half of 2012, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has mobilized an estimated \$4.5 million from CERF and ERF, providing increased capacities to humanitarian stakeholders on the ground to address the most urgent needs. These funds effectively complement the important humanitarian financing efforts by donors in Colombiaⁱ, which amount to an estimated \$48 million in 2012ⁱⁱ.

Natural disasters

The number of people affected by natural disasters decreased by 22 per cent in October (61,566 people affected). Compared with the same period last year, the number fell by 79 per cent. The most affected departments were Córdoba, Cesar, Bolivar and Vichada, mainly by floods, avalanches and windstorms. Between January and October 2012, about 850,000 people were affected by natural disasters.

Heavy rains caused major emergencies in eight municipalities of Córdoba department (mainly in the rural and urban areas of the south) where overflows in various rivers and tributaries affected tens of thousands of people. These areas are also hard hit by violence due to clashes between non-State and post-demobilization armed groups. In these areas, rural inhabitants and indigenous people face serious access constraints and continuous violations (killings, threats, gender-based violence and forced displacement). IDPs are among the people affected by floods. They settled spontaneously in high-risk areas along rivers and brooks.

ⁱ Main donors of the humanitarian operation in Colombia are ECHO, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, Norway, Germany, Spain, Luxembourg, United States, France, the CERF and the ERF. For 2013, ECHO announced a EUR13 million contribution responding to the Country Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP).

ⁱⁱ Source: [Financial Tracking Service](#). All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

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