

HIGHLIGHTS

- HCT identifies 4.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and plans to attend 2 million in 2015.
- After two years of peace talks, the impact of armed violence persists.
- Almost 60,000 people affected by floods in November.

FIGURES

# of IDPs in mass events Jan.-Nov. 2014 (OCHA)	16,957
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# of people affected by access / mobility constraints and confinement. Jan.-Nov 2014 (OCHA)	535,843
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# of people affected by natural disasters Jan.-Nov. 2014 (UNGRD)	1,238,584
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FUNDING

US\$70,422,135

2014 total humanitarian funding received as of 12 December 2014 (FTS)

US\$67,692,480

2014 humanitarian funding being implemented as of 12 December 2014 (OCHA 4W)



OCHA/Felinto Córdoba

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Planning for new realities in 2015

By Fabrizio Hochschild, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

Colombia is an upper-middle-income country with a robust legal and institutional framework for emergency response. Current peace talks between the Government and FARC-EP represent a historic opportunity to address some of the root causes of the conflict and end a main source of violence and victimization.

Despite these positive prospects, there are still important humanitarian needs in the country. According to official figures, 566,435 people were displaced between 2012 and October 2014 due to armed violence, 1,127 people were victims of anti-personnel mines¹, and more than 1 million people were affected by restrictions to their freedom of movement and had limited access to basic services. Some 2 million people were affected by natural disasters in this period.

In this context, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has prepared its 2015 strategy. The aim is to support Colombian authorities and communities in what could be a year of deep transformations for the country.

The HCT has identified 4,802,782 people who need humanitarian assistance². The international community will provide this assistance to about 2 million of these people in 2015. It will help improve State capacity to provide effective and timely assistance; address response gaps in areas most difficult to access; increase the resilience of affected and at-risk communities; and promote an effective, integral and multisectoral response that assures the centrality of protection.

The strategy also emphasizes the needs of less visible vulnerable groups, such as communities affected by restrictions on freedom of movement and humanitarian access constraints, as well as communities hosting new IDPs. IDP hosts often already live in conditions of structural poverty in areas affected by conflict or characterized by difficult access conditions. Acknowledging their needs and including these communities in humanitarian programmes is key to facilitating a more systematic link with sustainable solutions and peace-building efforts.

Through dialogue with Government counterparts and the communities we work with, the HCT will continue to support people who need assistance and protection in 2015. In anticipation of a possible peace agreement, we will also review and adapt our strategy to potential new realities on the ground.

¹ Civilians: 466, Military: 661. Source: DAICMA.

² This figure includes data 2012-2014 and estimated data for 2015.

Colombia Humanitarian Needs Overview

HNO FIGURES

# of IDPs (UARIV)	
2012	238,179
2013	221,785
Jan.-Jun. 2014	77,019
2015 (Est.)	173,182
Total	710,165

# of IDPs in mass events (OCHA)	
2012	48,074
2013	29,589
Jan.-Jun. 2014	11,106
2015 (Est.)	11,990
Total	100,759

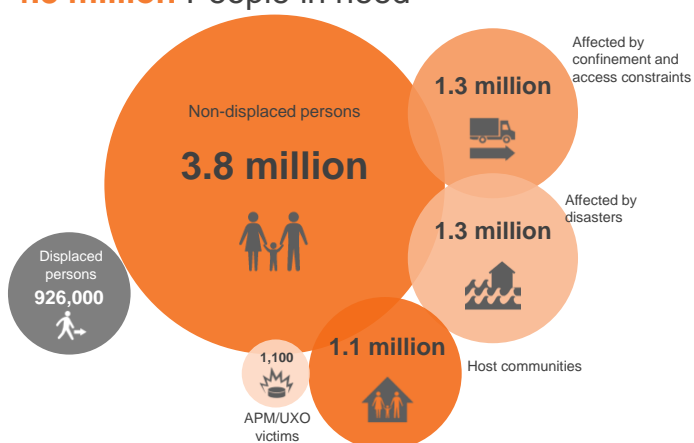
# of APM/UXO victims (DAICMA)	
2012	497
2013	368
Jan.-Jun. 2014	188
2015 (Est.)	126
Total	1,179

# of affected by access constraints/confinement (OCHA)	
2013	866,551
Jan.-Jun. 2014	225,064
2015 (Est.)	288,856
Total	1,380,471

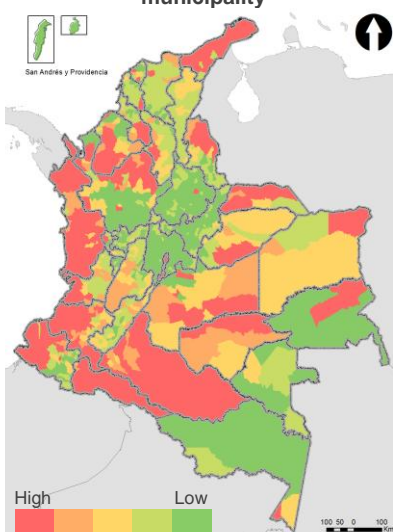
# of People living in host communities (Est. OCHA)	
2012	371,630
2013	319,537
2014	240,092
2015	176,503
Total	1,107,762

Colombia faces persistent humanitarian needs due to the impact of armed conflict and armed violence. The armed conflict continues between the Government and FARC-EP and ELN guerrillas, but other sources of violence, such as post-demobilization armed groups (PDAGs), pose increasing humanitarian and protection challenges. The main drivers of the conflict include land distribution inequality, drug trafficking, illegal mining and other illegal economies, limited State presence in remote areas and poor socioeconomic opportunities in rural isolated areas. The HCT estimates that 4.8 million people will have humanitarian needs by 2015. They will include thousands of newly displaced people; host communities of the most vulnerable municipalities; people facing mobility restrictions and constraints to access basic services; APM/UXO victims; and people affected by natural disasters in conflict-affected areas.

4.8 million People in need



Map 1: Overall humanitarian needs by municipality



Sources: HNO Colombia 2015.

Geographic scope of the crisis

The geographical prioritization was done taking into consideration sectoral indicators that were cross-analysed with armed conflict and natural disasters indicators for the 2012-2014 period. It also considered the analysis conducted by Local Humanitarian Teams (LHTs) on the most affected municipalities in their respective regions and the results of MIRA needs assessments. This resulted in the prioritization of 15 departments and 186 municipalities (16.6 per cent of the country's municipalities).

People in need in Colombia 2015 - Geographical prioritization

15 departments	186 municipalities	30% of the country's population	52% of Afro-Colombians
45% of indigenous population	76% of all IDPs (UARIV 2012 – Oct. 2014)	98% of people affected by mass displacements, mobility restrictions and access constraints (OCHA 2012 – Oct. 2014)	80% of people affected by natural disasters (UNGRD)

Most vulnerable people

- New IDPs (including those displaced in the last two years), especially single-parent head of households who have not received immediate humanitarian assistance in rural and urban areas.
- Indigenous and Afro-Colombian people living in isolated rural areas affected by conflict and/or natural disasters.
- Confined people, defined as those affected by mobility restrictions that last for more than one week and limit access to three or more basic services.
- People affected by natural disasters, with an emphasis on those living in conflict-prone areas, thus suffering from double vulnerability.

In these groups, the protection of women, children, adolescents, youths, the elderly and people with disabilities will be prioritized, taking into account the specific needs of each group with a gender-based focus.

Follow this link, for the [Humanitarian Needs Overview - Colombia 2015](#)

KEY HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

1 Human rights violations and infractions to international humanitarian law persist in conflict affected communities that present limited institutional risk assessment, prevention, assistance and response capacities.

2 Limited access to safe water and adequate sanitation and hygiene systems.

3 Weak health care services in rural areas.

4 Loss and/or deterioration of agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods, gaps in the provision of adequate and timely food assistance and nutritional support to affected communities.

Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan 2015

The HCT response strategy for 2015 was developed under the premise that talks between the Colombian Government and FARC-EP will continue and will take time to achieve results, without an effective ceasefire being declared during the negotiations. The HCT will follow up on possible new developments and will be ready to review and adjust its strategy based on emerging needs. The humanitarian situation may vary depending on different scenarios involving a diverse range of challenges and opportunities arising from a peace agreement. In this context, levels of violence may remain stable, diminish or increase parallel to the dynamics of the negotiations. Two concerns are the humanitarian effects of PDAGs' activities and the impact on human rights in rural and urban areas. The downward trend in forced displacement and homicides has been accompanied by a persistence of other less visible effects of the violence that are difficult to monitor (use and recruitment of children, selective killings, sexual violence) and by an increase of other issues (mobility restrictions and access constraints, social control, threats, extortion, etc.).

The international community plans to assist 2 million people from the identified people in need for 2015. All interventions will seek durable solutions, mainstreaming a rights-based approach.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1 Improve the response capacity to provide effective and timely assistance to **save lives**
- 2 Increase the **resilience** of the affected communities and those at risk
- 3 Promote an effective, integral and multisectoral response that ensures the centrality of **protection**



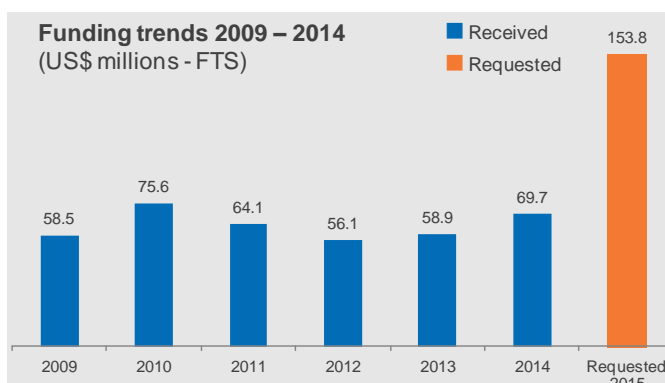
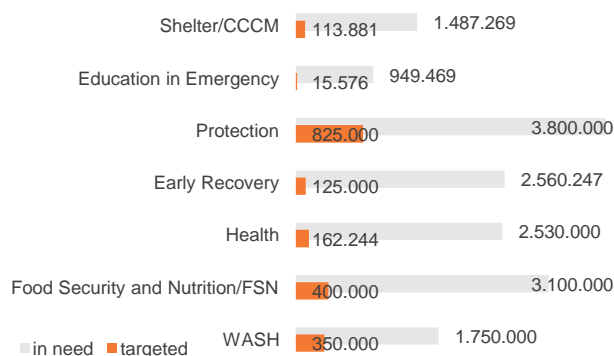
PEOPLE IN NEED
4.8 million



PEOPLE TARGETED
2 million



REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
136.1 million



A reduction in humanitarian funding for HCT interventions is a limiting factor for HCT interventions. Humanitarian financing diminished by 18% between 2010 and 2014. This downward trend can be explained by the higher visibility of other international emergencies, overall reduction of international cooperation budgets and the fact that Colombia is a middle-high-income country with strong institutional capacities. The perception that humanitarian issues have been alleviated with the initiation of peace negotiations with the FARC guerrilla group makes resource mobilization to response to humanitarian needs a challenge.

Two years of peace talks: the effects of armed violence persist

During the peace talks, humanitarian indicators such as mass displacement and APM/UXO accidents, have decreased, however threats and mobility restrictions have increased.

November 2014 marked two years of the peace process between the Government and FARC-EP. There is optimism regarding progress made at the negotiating table (agreements reached in three agenda items), but there are concerns for the continuation of armed conflict and violence.

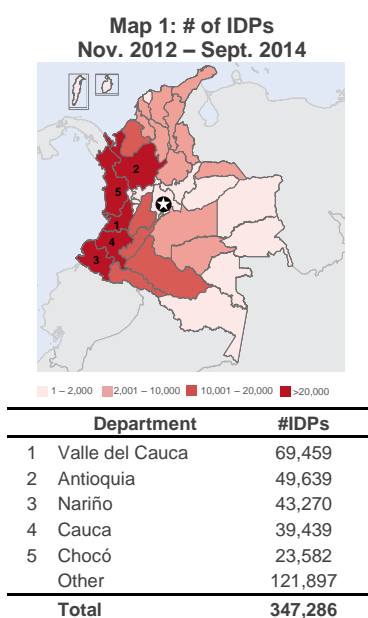
The peace talks have had a positive indirect effect on some humanitarian indicators, leading to reductions in mass displacements and APM/UXO accidents, but the number of people affected by the conflict is still significant. During the peace process, other indicators, such as attacks against unlawful targets, have remained at the same level as in previous years (2010-2012). Other indicators, such as threats (+42 per cent) and mobility restrictions, have increased.

Given the participation of FARC-EP in armed-conflict events, a peace agreement with this non-State armed group or humanitarian agreements to mitigate the impact of conflict on civilians could help alleviate much of the suffering caused by the armed conflict. The UN system welcomed the negotiators' recent decision to prioritize the discussion on measures to de-escalate the conflict in the upcoming negotiation cycle.

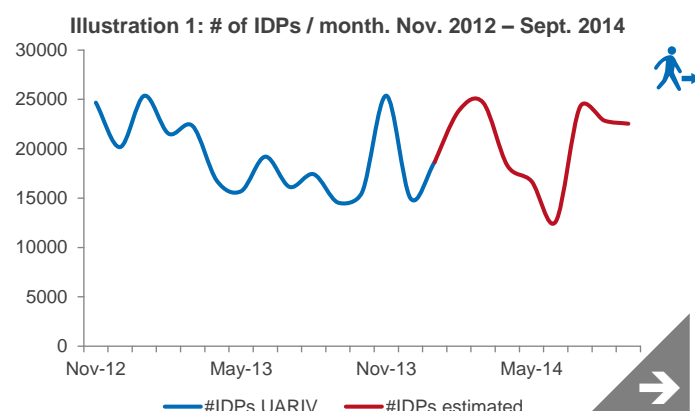
PDAGs and other armed groups are also responsible for the humanitarian situation in Colombia. Therefore, it is key to maintain assistance and protection measures to address needs, irrespective of who causes them. It is also necessary to better understand the dynamics and effects of other sources of violence, such as PDAGs, in rural and urban contexts.

Forced displacement

According to official data, in the first two years of the peace process (November 2012-September 2014), 347,286 people were displaced. This means that while the conflict continues every month, more than 15,000 people are forced to leave their homes.



Source: UARIV, OCHA estimates.



347,286 IDPs

November 2012-September 2014
(UARIV)

15,100 IDPs

Monthly average. November
2012-September 2014 (UARIV,
Est. OCHA).

The number of IDPs during the two-year peace talks is lower than that of the preceding period (November 2010-October 2012). However, it could increase given the time frame established by the law to receive and assess victims' declarations. Taking these facts into consideration, OCHA estimates that the number of IDPs during the first two years of the peace process could be almost 454,000. This would mean that the level of displacement

during the peace talks remains the same as that of the 2010-2012 period when 460,564 people were displaced. According to official data, the guerrilla groups are responsible for nearly half of the displacements, followed by PDAGs (officially known as criminal bands or *BACRIM*), which caused one out of every five displacements.

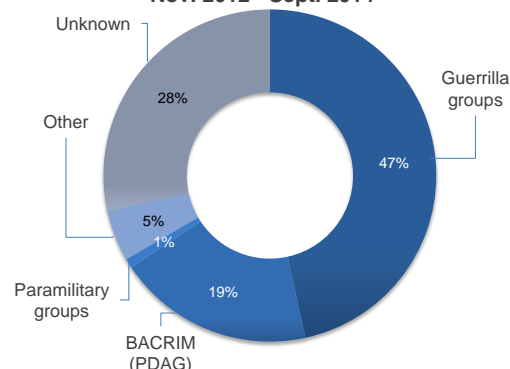
In one out of every three displacements, the responsible actor is unknown or there is reference to other groups. This indicates the complexity of armed violence in Colombia, characterized by multiple sources of violence.

Total displacement figures remained similar to those of previous years, but there is a significant reduction (-34 per cent) in the number of people displaced in mass events during the peace process (November 2012-November 2014) compared with the same period two years ago (2010-2012). This decrease could be linked to a similar decline in the number of

armed attacks during the peace process, but it could also be due to a change in the modus operandi of non-State armed groups, which avoid causing major emergencies that trigger military responses and public rejection. Thus, armed groups have opted for less visible actions, such as individual displacements, threats and mobility restrictions.

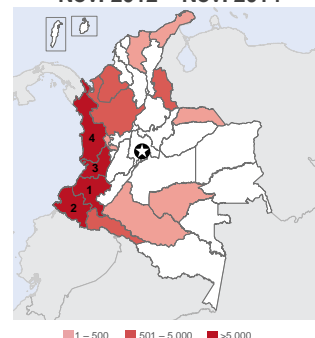
During the peace talks, 79 per cent of all mass displacements were concentrated in four departments along the Pacific Coast (Nariño, Cauca, Valle del Cauca and Chocó) (see Map 2). Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities were the most affected, with 62 per cent of all displaced people in this period. During the peace dialogues, FARC-EP has been the armed group with the major participation in mass displacements in Colombia (59 per cent) due to combats against the armed forces (37 per cent), unilateral actions (17 per cent) or clashes with other groups (5 per cent).

Illustration 2: % of IDPs by alleged responsible.
Nov. 2012 - Sept. 2014



Source: UARIV.

Map 2: # IDPs in mass events.
Nov. 2012 – Nov. 2014



Department		#IDPs
1	Cauca	12,362
2	Nariño	9,906
3	Valle del Cauca	9,342
4	Chocó	8,745
5	Antioquia	3,968
	Other	6,509
Total		50,832

Source: OCHA-Monitor

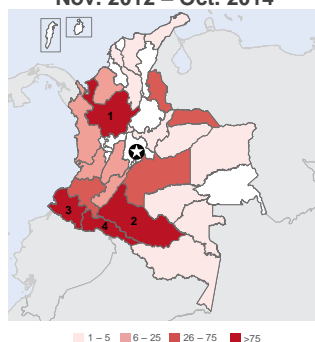
APM/UXO victims

According to official figures, there were 676 APM/UXO victims during the first two years of peace talks (November 2012-October 2014). This represents a decrease of 39 per cent compared with the preceding period (November 2010-October 2012). The peace process has had a positive effect on the reduced number, but every month approximately 28 Colombians become a victim of these devices.

During the peace negotiations, 37 per cent of all APM/UXO civilian victims were children and adolescents. There are recorded APM/UXO accidents in 23 of Colombia's 32 administrative departments, but 74 per cent of all victims were concentrated in six departments characterized by the presence of coca crops and/or strategic corridors (Antioquia, Caquetá, Nariño, Putumayo, Arauca and Norte de Santander) (see Map 3).

The peace process has had a positive effect on the reduced number of APM/UXO victims; however every month approximately 28 Colombians become a victim of these devices.

**Map 3: # of APM/UXO victims
Nov. 2012 – Oct. 2014**



Department	#Victims
1 Antioquia	145
2 Caquetá	93
3 Nariño	91
4 Putumayo	76
5 Arauca	49
Other	222
Total	676

Source: DAICMA.

Illustration 3: # of APM/UXO victims / month. Nov. 2012 - Oct. 2014



676 APM/UXO victims

November 2012-October 2014
(DAICMA)

62%

Military
personnel

38%
Civilians

**28 APM/UXO
victims**

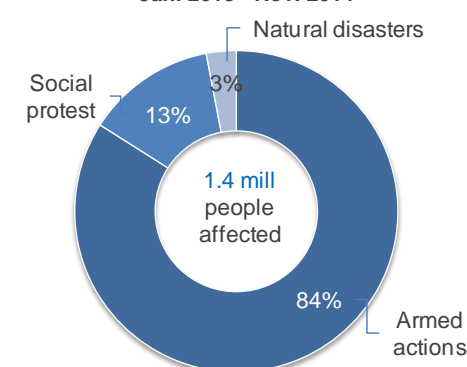
Monthly average.
November 2012-October
2014 (DAICMA)

Mobility restrictions and humanitarian access constraints

Between January and November 2014, at least 1.4 million people have suffered mobility restrictions and constraints to access assistance and basic services due to armed actions, roadblocks in the context of social protests and natural disasters (see Illustration 4). About 72 per cent of the population affected by mobility and humanitarian access restrictions during the peace process were found in the departments of Nariño, Putumayo, Antioquia and Caquetá (see Map 4). For 20 per cent of the affected population, the restrictions were especially severe, leading to confinement³. According to data from Monitor, FARC-EP participated in 21 per cent of all confinements due to unilateral actions and combats against the armed forces, followed by PDAGs. However, the lack of information on the perpetrator in most cases is evidence of the complexity of the sources of violence in Colombia (see Illustration 5).

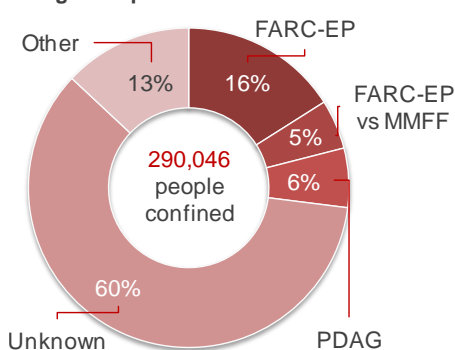
There is no data on mobility restrictions and access constraints prior to 2013, but they are a growing concern for the humanitarian community. The decrease in the most visible type of emergencies (i.e., mass displacements) has been accompanied with a greater control of non-State armed groups over communities, which translates into mobility and access constraints, as well as other types of effects that are difficult to monitor (individual displacements, threats, etc.). The Protection Cluster, for example, has raised awareness on widespread human rights violations in urban settings, including murders, extreme physical violence,

Illustration 4: % of people affected by access constraints / main causes. Jan. 2013 - Nov. 2014



Source: OCHA-Monitor

Illustration 5: % of people confined by alleged responsible. Jan. 2013 - Nov. 2014

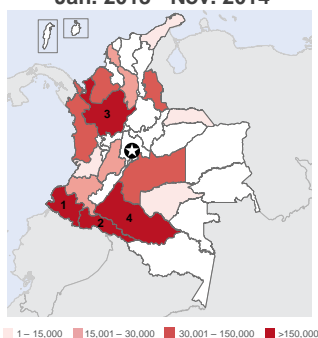


Source: OCHA-Monitor

³ OCHA Colombia defines "confinement" as a situation where in at least three basic goods and services are cut off for a period of one or more.

threats and sexual violence, which particularly affect children, adolescents and women.

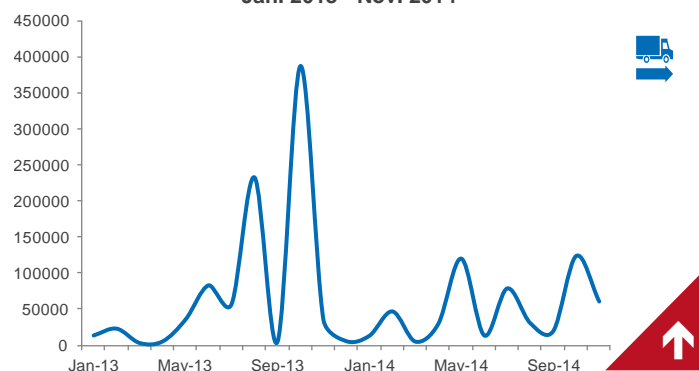
**Map 4: # of people affected by access constraints.
Jan. 2013 - Nov. 2014**



Department	#People affected
1 Nariño	381,275
2 Putumayo	254,498
3 Antioquia	229,312
4 Caquetá	160,003
5 Meta	117,973
Other	272,249
Total	1,415,310

Source: OCHA-Monitor.

**Illustration 6: # of people affected by access constraints / month.
Jan. 2013 - Nov. 2014**



1,415,310 people affected by access constraints

Jan. 2013-Nov. 2014 (OCHA-Monitor)

290,046 people confined

Jan. 2013-Nov. 2014 (OCHA-Monitor)

61,500 people affected by access constraints

Monthly average. Jan. 2013 - Nov. 2014 (DAICMA)

Stories from the field

The peace is possible if we all do our part

By CCCM Arauca/Guillermo Murcia

Guillermo Murcia is a peasant from the municipality of Fortul in the department of Arauca, proud of the beautiful land where he was born and where he grew surrounded by crops and livestock. As it is unfortunately the case for many children, adolescents and youth living in a senseless war, for Guillermo the sounds of explosions, bullets and armed clashes, armed actors crossing his land and passing nearby his home and the fear of anti-personnel mines were part of his daily life. Despite the fact that he had nothing to do with the war one day he became one of its victims. A couple of days before his 22th birthday Guillermo experienced the tragedy of the war when he fell victim of an explosive device laid only 30 meters from his house, where his wife and his 3-year old children Sergio were at the moment.

That moment completely changed Guillermo's history, as well as his life and dreams, which were gone forever. For Guillermo it became clear that the APM not only kill, injure and maim but also destroy dreams, hopes and life projects. Fortunately, after a long and painful recovery, things began to improve for this survivor and he had the opportunity to be trained in Mine Risk Education (MRE) by the Colombian Campaign Against Mines (CCCM), where he actually works as coordinator for the department of Arauca. CCCM is an active member of the Humanitarian Local Team.

In his struggle to defend victims' rights, Guillermo was summoned to participate in the fourth delegation of victims that travelled to Havana in the framework of current peace talks between the Government and the FARC-EP. To prevent new Colombians from suffering the impacts of this war, Guillermo invited the Government and the FARC-EP to make a special agreement to immediately begin with humanitarian demining operations in 57 areas of the country and put an end to child recruitment. He also raised awareness on the situation of regions (such as Arauca) where the peace process has not translated in an improved situation for civilians, but where the conflict has escalated as a result of both parties trying to strengthen their positions before the war ends. Thus Guillermo's call for a bilateral cease fire that brings civilians out of harm's way.

As a victim of the armed conflict, today Guillermo believes in the possibility of peace and reconciliation. His trip to Havana gave him back hope; but he believes that we all need to do our part for peace to be possible. It won't be easy because the conflict has left so much hatred, resentment and open wounds. But we must avoid hatreds in our families to prevent our children and grandchildren becoming the perpetrators of the future.

More people affected by natural disasters

About 60,000 people affected by floods in November, the highest number so far in 2014.

The second rainy season, which started in September, is still affecting several areas. In November almost 60,000 people were affected by floods. Floods caused the loss of livelihoods and damages to houses and infrastructure. The most affected departments were Magdalena, Bolívar, Cesar in the north, Cauca on the Pacific Coast and Meta in the centre (see Map 5). Due to floods and strong winds, seven municipalities declared a state of public calamity as their local capacities were overwhelmed.

UNGRD responds to emergencies in Magdalena and Meta

Based on information from the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and OCHA, about 19,000 people were affected by floods in the municipality of Fundación, in Magdalena department (Caribbean Coast). The hospital's infrastructure was also severely affected. In the centre, in the Ariari region (Meta), more than 5,000 people from five municipalities were affected by the overflowing Ariari river. Heavy rains also caused the death of one person, and mobility was restricted between two municipalities due to a collapsed bridge. Meta department remained on red and orange alert for floods and landslides (see [Flash Update](#)).

In both emergencies, UNGRD delivered humanitarian assistance and non-food items. In Meta, the Colombian Red Cross complemented the response with non-food items.

Heavy rains increase humanitarian needs in conflict-affected areas

In early November, floods affected about 2,000 people in Timbiquí (Cauca), on the Pacific Coast. Livelihoods were lost and there were damages to houses, bridges, aqueducts, schools and community infrastructure. Local authorities declared a state of public calamity due to limited local capacity. Affected people have not received humanitarian assistance, despite the request from local and regional authorities. Timbiquí is one of Colombia's poorest municipalities: 73 per cent of its inhabitants have unmet basic needs. It is also frequently affected by the armed conflict. In November, 200 people were displaced from rural to urban areas due to armed clashes. About 1,300 people have faced mobility restrictions since September due to the presence of non-state armed actors in their territories.

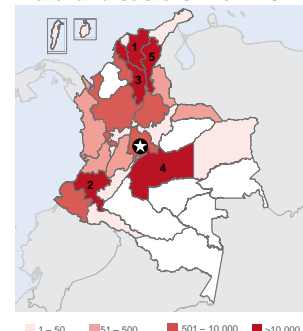
Floods also affected 2,000 people in Achí municipality (Bolívar) in the north. Since July 2014, people of this municipality have faced severe mobility limitations and constraints to access to basic services due to restrictions imposed by a PDAG (see [Flash update](#)). The Córdoba LHT conducted a MIRA mission, highlighting humanitarian needs in food security, health and WASH (see [Flash MIRA](#)).

Monitoring of volcanic activity continues in the south

Authorities have maintained an orange alert for the Chiles and Cerro Negro volcanoes in Nariño department on the border with Ecuador. The HCT is following up on coordination with Redhum and the Ecuador HCT.

The area at risk includes four indigenous reservoirs (about 37,000 people) located in Cumbal. The Nariño LHT conducted a MIRA assessment in these communities, identifying needs in WASH, health and food security (see [Flash MIRA](#)). The mission recommended that preparedness actions also focus on these sectors.

Map 5: # of people affected by natural disasters. Nov. 2014



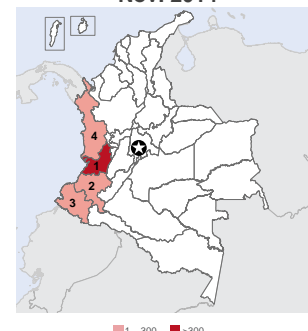
	Department	#People affected
1	Magdalena	27880
2	Cauca	12906
3	Bolívar	6713
4	Meta	5200
5	Cesár	1176
	Other	5,884
	Total	59,759

Source: UNGRD

In brief

- Following FARC-EP's detention⁴ of an Army General and one military and one civilian staff, increased military presence in Chocó generated fear of hostilities among the local population, causing mobility constraints for about 2,000 people in rural areas. This limited their daily activities and access to school activities, farming, hunting, fishing and health services. Humanitarian organizations also limited their access to the area for safety reasons. These limitations continued for about two weeks and increased confinement, according to OCHA Colombia (see Flash Update). The LHT and the Ombudsman Office will visit the area in December to identify possible humanitarian and protection needs.
- ELN imposed an armed strike in Chocó on 25 and 26 November. River and land transportation was suspended for two days due to fear of reprisals from the armed group. The armed strike added to the already tense situation in the department. It aggravated constraints to access to basic goods and services, and interfered in the humanitarian operation.
- Since September, armed confrontations between the armed forces and an unidentified armed group have caused severe mobility constraints that have affected nearly 3,000 people in indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities located on the border between Chocó and Valle del Cauca. At the end of November, about 400 people from this area were displaced to Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca). They are sheltering in precarious conditions as the municipality does not have emergency infrastructure. With this group, by the end of November there were about 800 IDPs in Buenaventura who have been displaced from rural areas since September. The local response has been limited, but the international humanitarian community (ICRC, MSF-Spain, SJR, PMA) has complemented humanitarian assistance for IDPs and communities affected by access constraints (see [Flash Update](#)).
- In Arauca, on the Venezuelan border, two members of the National Army were detained⁵ by FARC-EP. Fear of a military surge and increased operations restricted the mobility of about 325 inhabitants of rural areas, affecting food security and livelihoods.

Map 6: # of IDPs in mass events.
Nov. 2014



	Department	#People affected
1	Valle del Cauca	308
2	Cauca	287
3	Nariño	272
4	Chocó	236
	Total	1,103

Source: OCHA-Monitor

Find the Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin – Colombia November 2014 dataset in HDX: <https://data.hdx.rwllabs.org/dataset/datos-boletin-humanitario-ocha-colombia-noviembre-2014>

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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); Programa Presidencial para la Acción Integral Contra Minas Antipersonal (DAIMCA); Sistema Integrado de Información Humanitaria (SIDIH/Monitor).

⁴ Deprived of liberty for reasons related to the conflict, according to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II, in non-international armed conflicts.

⁵ Idem.