# OCHA Colombia

## **HUMANITARIAN BULLETIN**

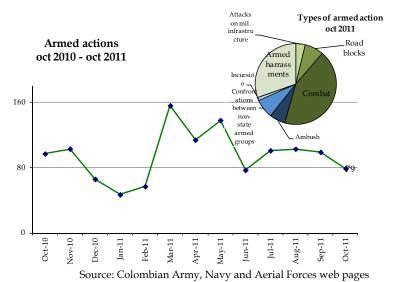
17 October - 14 November 2011

#### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Civilian population caught between armed confrontations in Cauca. Military operations registered over the past several weeks, which are likely to continue, have had serious consequences for the civilian population trapped by hostilities. Armed confrontations triggered mass displacements and restrictions on mobility and access to vital goods among civilians.
- Mass displacements in southern Córdoba. During the reporting period, Acción Social reported a new displacement in the department. According to information collected by OCHA, 20 displacements have taken place in Córdoba, through 2011. The figure indicates an increase by 185% in comparison to 2010, with seven mass displacements registered.
- Second Rainy Season: Death toll rises to 120, with more than 294 thousand affected. According to SNAPD official figures, between 1 July and 9 November, 294,825 people were affected by flooding, landslides and wind storms, which have killed 120 people. The trends are similar to the 2010 rainy season, indicating an urgent need to reinforce mitigation and risk management measures.

## Civilian population caught between armed confrontations in Cauca

Military operations registered over the past several weeks, which are likely to continue, have had serious consequences for the civilian population trapped by hostilities. Armed confrontations triggered mass displacements and restrictions on mobility and access to vital goods among civilians.



An increase in military activity in Cauca department has directly impacted civilians. Since

25 September, more than 800 people from indigenous communities have displaced as a protection measure. Since 4 November, there were at least one civilian killed and four injured in different attacks against Armed Forces in Piendamó, Jambaló, Caldono, Argelia and Suárez. On 6 November, Cauca Department was declared in red alert due to the likelihood of new FARC attacks following the killin of the FARC leader, "Alfonso Cano" (4 November). As a consequence, Armed Forces, including Air Forces, mounted presence.

#### Morales, Northern Cauca

Acción Social reported the displacement of 440 people in the rural area, within a Nasa indigenous reservation. Displacement followed hostilities after the killing of the FARC leader. IDPs gathered in a school, designated as a "permanent assembly site". According to Acción Social's report, the community denounced the presence of unexploded ordinances (UXO). The local committee for IDPs integral assistance has been responding to the emergency.

#### Caloto, Northern Cauca

On 8 November, there was a new mass displacement reported in the rural veredas of El Vergel and El Pedregal following ongoing

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hostilities in the zone and threats against several families. According to a preliminary census carried out by the Local Ombudsman's office, 336 persons are currently displaced in the municipal seat. Acción Social, the Ombudsman's Office, ICRC and supported the response and Diakonie monitoring the situation. Due to the continuous risks faced by civilians in the area, communities of El Vergel and El Pedregal were granted protection measures by the State Council and precautionary measures by the Interamerican Commission on Rights (IACHR) in 2010. Ombudsman's Office Early Warning System has been pointing to the persistent risks for these communities. Community representatives and local authorities agreed to call for a special meeting to follow up on protection measures, scheduled for 16 November.

#### Guapi, Pacific Coast

In Guapi, Cauca Pacific Coast, Afro-Colombian organizations are alerting on the consequences of confrontations between non-state armed actors and post-demobilization groups in the urban areas. Since early October, confrontations have left two civilians killed and two more injured. Over the past three months, Human Rights NGOs have reported an estimated 23 at-risk minors in Guapi municipality. Local Afro-Colombian authorities (COCOCAUCA) called for a four-day meeting (10-14 November) to discuss protection measures, with the participation of national authorities and humanitarian organizations.

#### Other situations affecting civilians

In related events, local sources reported military operations in rural Tame (Arauca) and Puerto Asís (Putumayo) near schools. In Teorama (Norte de Santander), there were confrontations reported affecting civilians, with homes occupied by armed groups.

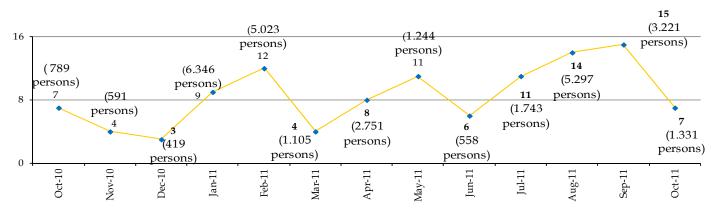
## Mass displacements in southern Córdoba

During the reporting period, Acción Social reported a new displacement in the department. According to information collected by OCHA, 20 displacements have taken place in Córdoba, through 2011. The figure indicates an increase by 185% in comparison to 2010, with seven mass displacements registered.

#### Tierralta, Córdoba

On 18 October, Acción Social reported the displacement of 11 Embera Katío indigenous families (34 people) in the rural area. IDPs arrived in the municipal seat where they remained without proper shelter for five days. Acción Social built a provisional shelter in a nearby area and has distributed food, shelter kits and non-food items. The Mayor's Office and Government of Córdoba announced that they would provide aid. However, there are reports on major gaps in food, health, and WASH. Post-demobilization armed groups' threats, homicides, massacres and armed incursions have resulted in seven mass displacements in this municipality in 2011.

#### Mass displacements (No. people) Oct 2010 - Oct 2011



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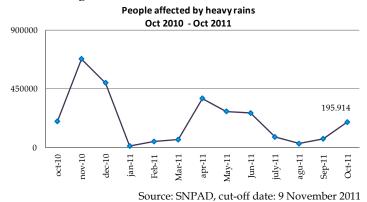
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## Montelíbano, Córdoba (follow-up on earlier reported mass displacement event)

Since 1 October, due to confrontations between post-demobilization armed groups, more than 1,400 people displaced to the urban areas of Tierradentro and Puerto Anchica. As of 11 November, Acción Social reported that IDPs began to return to their places of origin. However, on 9 November a Zenú indigenous leader was killed in Tierradentro, resulting in widespread fear among the population. This event mau dissuade returnees. See the Sitrep: <a href="http://www.colombiassh.org/site/spip.php?article">http://www.colombiassh.org/site/spip.php?article</a> 759

# Second Rainy Season: Death toll rises to 120, with more than 294 thousand affected

According to SNAPD official figures, between 1 July and 9 November, 294,825 people were affected by flooding, landslides and wind storms, which have killed 120 people. The trends are similar to the 2010 rainy season, indicating an urgent need to reinforce mitigation and risk management measures.



Heavy rainfall has caused widespread affectation throughout Colombia, with Antioquia, Atlántico, Boyacá, Chocó and Cundinamarca the most affected departments. On 5 November, a landslide in Manizales (Caldas) killed at least 48 people. For further information on affectation, with a focus on areas with 'double affectation' (conflict zones with

natural disaster events), please see the Sitrep: <a href="http://www.colombiassh.org/site/spip.php?articlef">http://www.colombiassh.org/site/spip.php?articlef</a>

Vulnerability conditions worrisome are communities already affected by La Niña in the 2010-2011 rainy season cycle, which have not yet recovered from those floods. This is the case of 24 families in Trujillo (Valle del Cauca) which, to the Comité Interinstitucional according Humanitario del Centro del Valle have been camped 5 months in tents with no humanitarian assistance received to date.

On 4 November started the implementation of the UN Joint Program, to cover the most pressing gaps in attention to the emergency caused by La Niña 2010-2011 along the Pacific Coast. This Program will last for 9 months.