

In this issue

Armed attacks and forced displacement P.1

Humanitarian access P.3

Natural disasters: wildfires P.4

Coordination and Response P. 6

HIGHLIGHTS

- 73% decrease in FARC's armed attacks during the ceasefire announced by the guerrilla group between November 2012 and January 2013.
- Post-demobilization armed groups caused more displacement.
- The international community continues to request the release of official displacement figures.
- Conflict reduces access along the Pacific coast and on border with Ecuador.
- An estimated 26 children and adolescents demobilized voluntarily or were recovered from non-State armed groups in 12 of 32 departments.



OCHA / Katherine Catamuzkav

Forced displacement increases despite FARC ceasefire

Number of attacks reduces, but displacements rise due to armed groups' activities armed attacks by FARC during its two-month unilateral ceasefire fell by 73 per cent in December and January, as compared with the same period last year. However, OCHA recorded a 281 per cent increase in the number of IDPs between the start of the ceasefire on 20 November and its end on 20 January. There were 5,325 IDPs compared with 1,379 during the same period last year.

Regarding IDPs displaced by FARC, the number increased to 875 IDPs (last year's figure was 135). However, the relative significance of the FARC in displacement events dropped markedly vis-à-vis other armed groups, particularly the Post-Demobilization Armed Groups (PDAGs).

The number of armed attacks between December 2012 and January 2013 is nearly half the rate of the previous year. Armed attacks were concentrated along the Pacific coast, in northern and south-central Colombia and on the Venezuelan border.

FIGURES

# IDPs in mass events 2012	46,182
# Mine victims in 2012	502
# Natural disaster victims in 2012	971,105

FUNDING

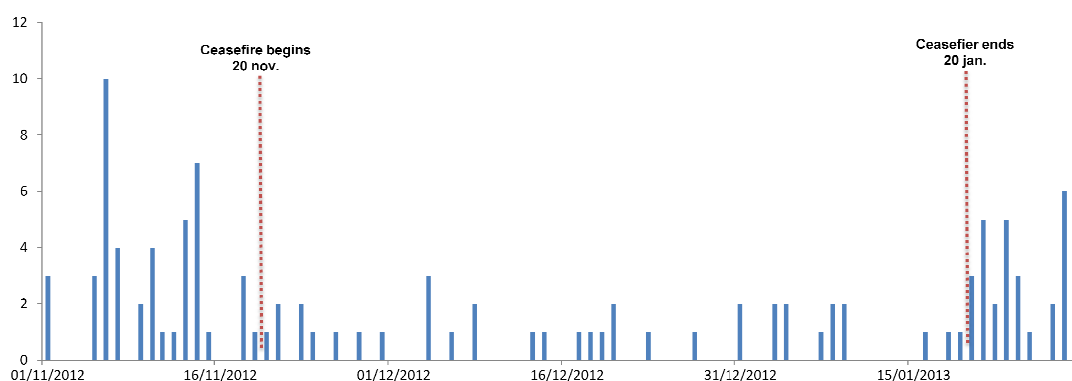
US\$20.2 million

Humanitarian funding for Colombia in 2013, FTS 29 Jan.

1.1 million New

contributions for ERF projects in 2013.

Armed actions involving FARC



Source: SIDIH/OCHA

During the ceasefire period, the largest increase in the number of IDPs was caused by PDAGs. They displaced five times as many people during FARC's ceasefire period as compared with a year earlier. Between 2011 and 2012, PDAGs displaced 437 people, but in the same period in 2012 and 2013, they displaced 2,548 people. The relative impact is of increasing concern, especially since the Government will not provide emergency assistance to many people displaced by these groups unless they are attended in "mass displacement" events (see page 2 for more details).

Most people displaced outside mass displacement events, i.e. events affecting more than 50 people, will still need humanitarian assistance.

IDPs in mass events during FARC ceasefire caused by armed actor		
Period of time	FARC	PDAG
20/11/11 - 20/01/12	135	437
20/11/12 - 20/01/13	875	2.548
Variation	548%	483%

Source: SIDIH/OCHA

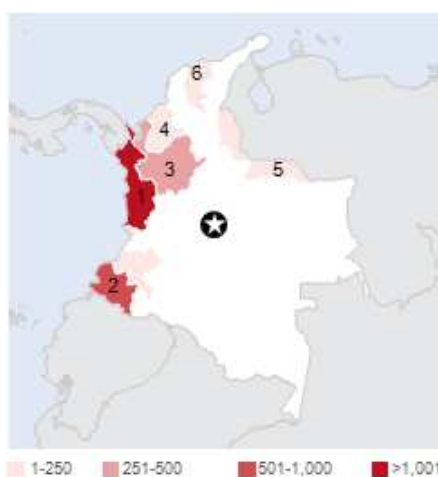
At the end of the unilateral ceasefire, FARC seized two police officers in Valle del Cauca department and displaced approximately 75 people in Turbo, Antioquia. According to other information sources, including the Ombudsman's Office, the number of armed attacks increased following the end of the ceasefire. The next issue of this bulletin will feature an analysis of the humanitarian impact of the end of the ceasefire.

PDAGs are not part of the current peace dialogue, and they are not recognized as actors of the conflict under International Humanitarian Law.

End of ceasefire increases conflict.

Requests continue for official IDP registry figures

No official IDP figures are currently available in Colombia for the 2012 period. Since early 2012, international community continues to request the release of official displacement figures. In December



# in the map	Department	# of IDPs	# events
1	Chocó	2.949	4
2	Nariño	540	1
3	Antioquia	253	3
4	Córdoba	232	2
5	Arauca	205	1
6	Magdalena	188	1

Source: SIDIH/OCHA

Most people displaced outside "mass displacement" will still need humanitarian assistance. This is because the Government considers these people to be the victims of crime groups, for which they are not considered victims of an armed actor under International Humanitarian Law. Government assistance is generally designed to provide assistance to the victims of armed conflict.

The non-inclusion of these IDPs is worrisome, since the number of these people is believed to be significant. Despite the lack of official displacement figures for 2012, many sources state that PDAGs are perpetrators of displacements. OCHA recorded 29 mass-displacement events (approximately 22 per cent) during 2012 that were attributed to PDAGs. Some displacement events, such as one in Buenaventura (Valle) in December, included thousands of people over a short time span. These events put tremendous pressure on social services and infrastructure in some of the country's poorest locations.

2011, a newly formed unit responsible for IDP registry began operating under the new Victim's Law (Law 1448 of 2011). As part of that transition, the scope of the registration system was expanded to not only include IDPs, but also other types of victims, including victims of rape, land seizures, homicides and massacres.

The revision period for IDP registry enrolment has lengthened, while IDP evaluation criteria have been altered. Backlogs and delays in the release of official figures have been common over the last several years, but there has never been a period of 12 consecutive months without official IDP figures made available.

Concern over potential assistance gaps to IDPs displaced by PDAGs.

The criteria used by the Government's IDP registration system will exclude those people who declare themselves displaced by PDAGs, according to information provided to OCHA. This will not affect the provision of assistance to people displaced in events affecting more than 50 IDPs (mass displacement), since those people are covered by separate emergency assistance. However, it will likely exclude a large number of people who declared they were displaced by these groups (individual displacement).

More than 5.000 indigenous people were affected by events limiting humanitarian access.

Conflict has a severe impact on displacement, access and children

Displacement continues to be focused along the Pacific coast.

IDPs in mass events in Chocó department		
Municipality	Persons	Month
Tadó	469	December
Quibdó	120	December
Bajo Baudó	1,234	December
Litoral del San Juan	1,126	January
Total	2,949	

Source: SIDIH/OCHA

These were largely caused by PDAGs. Chocó comprised one quarter of all events and more than half of all IDPs in December.

In December, the most affected departments in Colombia were concentrated along the Pacific coast, with some events in northern Colombia and along the Venezuelan border. The most significant events occurred in the poor and sparsely populated department of Chocó, where 2,949 people were displaced in large events during the ceasefire period.

Conflict reduces access along the Pacific coast and Ecuador border.

Major conflict events reduced access and mobility for affected people along the Pacific coast. PDAGs were responsible for displacement, the confinement situations in several Afro-Colombian communities on the Pacific coast, and the conditions for potential further displacements. Indigenous groups were also affected, with about 5,000 indigenous people confined in access-related events.

Along the border with Ecuador, indigenous groups were confined by widespread mine contamination. Groups not displaced were either affected by mines or were in fear of further military operations in the area. The Awá indigenous group, considered to be threatened with extinction, was particularly affected, with the humanitarian community unable to access several areas. Another 1,800 Afro-Colombians in the area were also confined and suffered food insecurity as they could not reach their crops.

Children continually affected by conflict.

In December 2012, the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict released its conclusions on Colombia¹. It strongly condemned the FARC-EP and ELN guerrillas for the grave violations against children, including recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, attacks against schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access. It urged the groups to immediately stop these violations.

During December and January, an estimated 26 children and adolescents (12 in December and 14 in January) demobilized voluntarily or were recovered from non-State armed groups (FARC-EP and ELN) in 12 of 32 departments. The persistent use of children by non-State armed groups was also evidenced by the capture of two children who allegedly participated in ELN's kidnapping of five people in southern Bolívar.

OCHA's media monitoring detected that between December 2012 and January 2013, at least three children were injured and one died due to landmine contamination in four conflict zones throughout Colombia. An accident with explosive remnants of war also injured one child and killed another near the border with Ecuador. Two children were injured in combat between the National Army and ELN in Chocó. Despite the unilateral ceasefire, FARC-EP's use of IEDs injured one child in southern Colombia.

¹ S/AC.51/2012/4 Available at: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N12/662/66/PDF/N1266266.pdf?OpenElement>

There is a red alert in 20 of the 32 departments due to wildfires.

Red alert for potential wildfires during the dry season

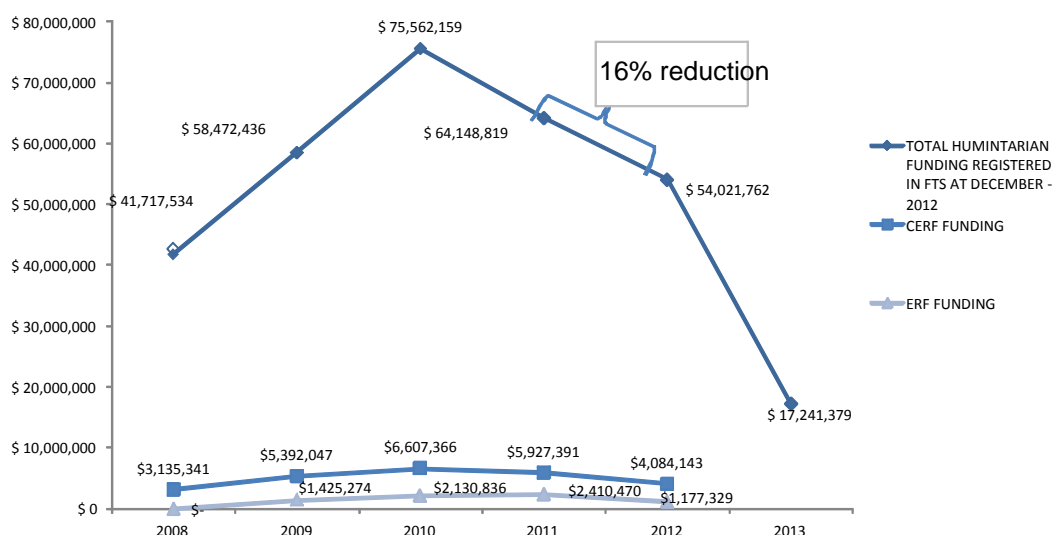
The dry season began in Colombia in late December. According to the national weather authorities, it will last until March 2013. A red alert was issued in several departments suffering from wildfires. In January, according to the natural disaster response authorities, at least 10 per cent of the country suffered from arid conditions, with 150 municipalities affected by 267 wildfires in 20 of the 32 departments. So far, 5,490 hectares have been affected.

The Humanitarian Country Team will develop rapid response protocols with the Government of Colombia.

Humanitarian Country Team to improve ties with the Government's response authorities

In January 2013, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) held two workshops with Government counterparts responsible for providing support to victims of forced displacement and natural disasters. The first workshop was held with the Unidad Nacional de Gestión de Riesgo de Desastres (UNGRD), which is responsible for natural disaster response. More than 20 Government officials, together with HCT members, shared information on how their respective institutions functioned, and they discussed key areas for collaboration in 2013. About 100 officials from the Unidad para la Atención y la Reparación Integral a las Víctimas (UARIV), which is responsible for IDP emergency assistance, participated in a similar workshop, also seeking to define key areas for collaboration in 2013.

Reduced humanitarian funding challenges 2012 response to IDPs



Despite clear challenges for the Government in providing assistance to IDPs during 2012, international humanitarian funding reduced significantly in 2012. A drop of almost 16 per cent was recorded, as compared with 2011. Funding gaps were noted in the Health, Food Security and Nutrition, Education in Emergencies and WASH clusters. Donors have requested more strategic programming of their resources. Clear key messages and communication will be required on Colombia's most urgent

ECHO confirmed around US\$ 17 million in humanitarian funding for 2013.

humanitarian needs, with a focus on IDPs' needs in urban areas and remote rural locations with access barriers.

ECHO confirmed that its humanitarian response funding during 2013 will total €13 million (US\$17.5 million). Other traditional donors, such as Norway and Germany, confirmed their humanitarian funding in December 2012.

The perception in the international community outside Colombia is that the current peace talks may lead to the end of the humanitarian crisis. Many donors said that these perceptions could lead to a decrease in humanitarian funding. A steady humanitarian situation accompanied by a further drop in funding is likely to open major gaps in responses to humanitarian needs in Colombia.

Emergency Response Fund increases support to IDPs

In December, the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) Advisory Board, hosted by Humanitarian Coordinator Bruno Moro, revised the project presentation requirements and expanded the coverage of funds to initiatives that support the victims of complex emergencies in cases where no other funding sources are available.

Agreements were reached to expand the mandate of the ERF Colombia in 2013. It will be used for more strategic purposes by the HCT, including for support to rapid response. This agreement will increase the clusters' involvement in project design and strategic coordination. Efforts are also underway to obtain additional ERF contributions in 2013, with a target of \$4 million.

For further information, please contact:

OCHA Colombia, ochacolombia@un.org Tel. +571 6221100

For media enquiries, please contact Héctor Latorre, Information Officer: latorreh@un.org Tel. (+57-1) 6221100 Ext. 1304

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org | www.colombiassh.org | 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 Administrativa Especial de Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas (JAEARIV); Programa Presidencial para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal (PAIMCA); UNHCR; CODHES; Sistema Integrado de Información Humanitaria (SIDIH/OCHA).