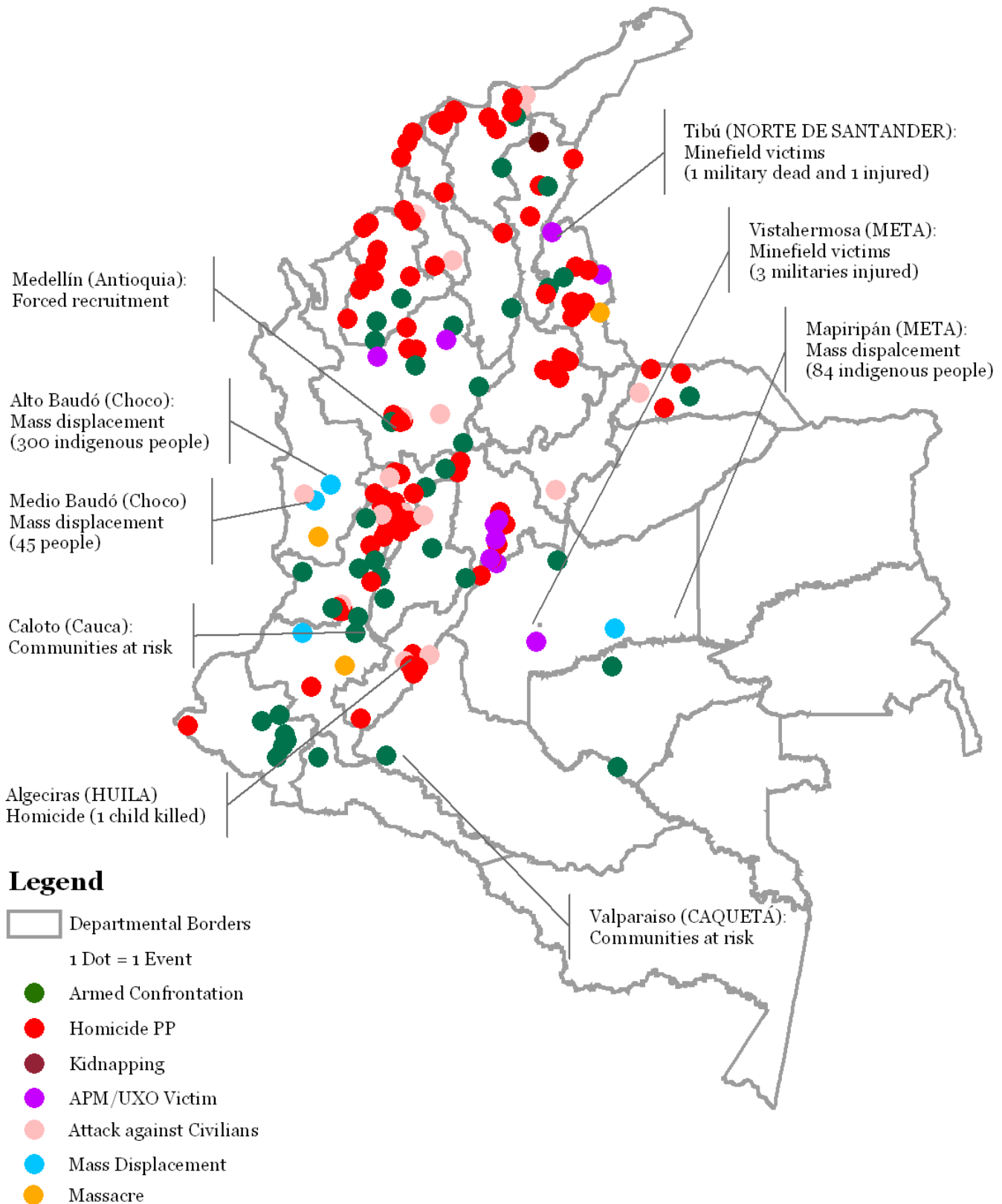
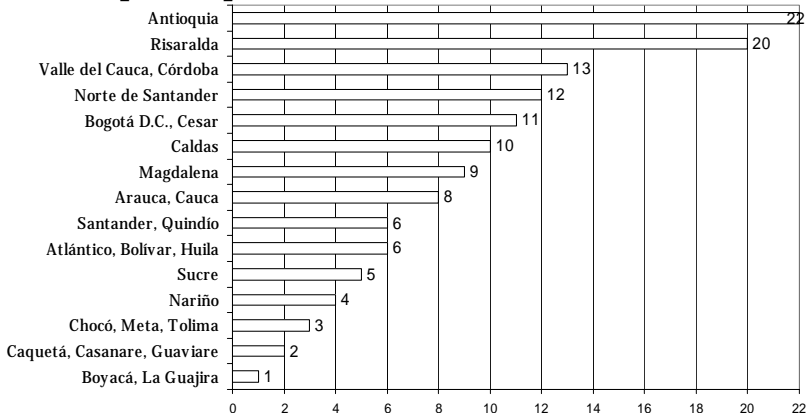




0 35 70 140 210 280
Kms.



Events per department

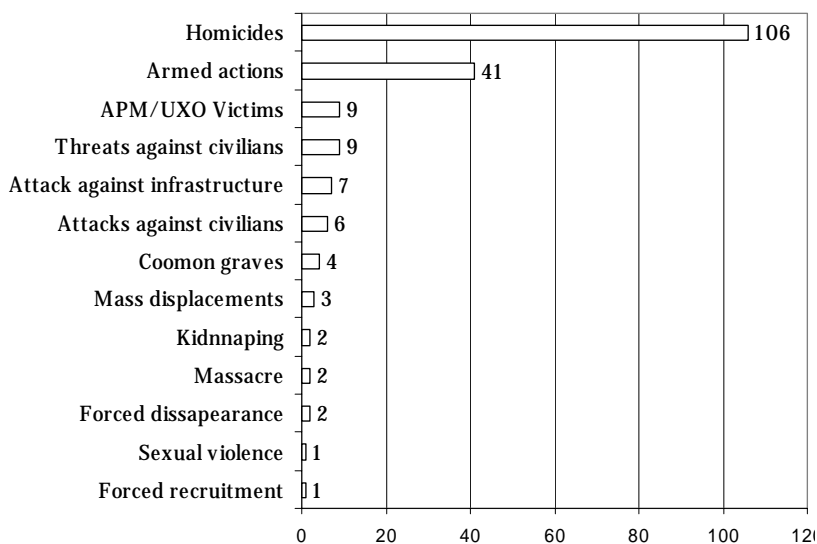


Humanitarian situation

MASS DISPLACEMENTS IN CHOCÓ DEPARTMENT

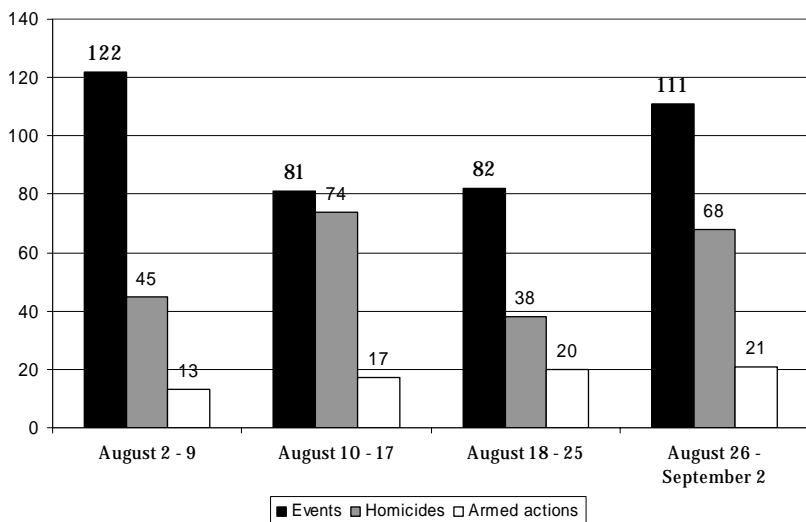
Two new mass displacements of indigenous and Afro Colombian communities were registered in the period under review in the municipalities of Alto Baudó and Medio Baudó respectively. This is the second mass displacement of the year in each municipality.

Events



On August 14, nearly 300 Embera indigenous (66 families) displaced within the rural area of Alto Baudó fleeing from the abuses and threats of alleged members of the illegal armed group known as Los Rastrojos. According to the local authorities of the municipality, the armed actors committed lootings and pillage in the community's houses and stores, after which they threatened the population. IDPs are currently staying at relatives' houses as well as in temporary shelters improvised in the local school, the health centre and the community house of La Playita the village. Consequently, the school calendar has been temporary suspended. The Catholic Church is gathering information among its local churches; the local Ombudsman visited the area and raised the alerts among the national authorities and the UN. The local mayor summoned a meeting of the Local Committee for IDPs Integral Assistance (CMAIPD in Spanish) on September 4. Acción Social is undertaking the population's census and is providing assistance in coordination with ICRC. The Ombudsman's Office, UNHCR, PAHO and MSF-Belgium are monitoring the situation and will undertake a mission to the area. WFP and OCHA are monitoring the situation. Based on the recent events on the area and the geographical conditions, restrictions on humanitarian access and a worsening of the situation in the area are feared. It is worth recalling that in July 7, 193 Embera indigenous also fled from armed confrontations registered in the rural area between the Army and FARC (see issue # 25).

Monthly trend



All data herewith presented was gathered from official sources by OCHA Colombia

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

Meanwhile, in the municipality of Medio Baudó, 11 families (45 persons) members of Afro Colombian communities displaced towards the urban area after a community leader was abducted by an undetermined illegal armed group on August 21. So far, the man remains missing. There are nearly 200 more members of the community in high risk of mass displacement. The local and National Ombudsman's Office have already been informed on the situation; ICRC will enter the area in order to provide assistance. UNHCR and OCHA are assessing the situation. This is the second mass displacement event in the year since April (see issue # 13/14).

MASS DISPLACEMENT IN META DEPARTMENT

On August 26, Acción Social reported a new mass displacement (the third in the year) of 84 indigenous people (17 families) in the municipality of Mapiripán.

According to ICRC, the indigenous population displaced within the rural area after one of its members was killed. The local Ombudsman's Office already undertook the population's census. ICRC is assessing the situation.

COMMUNITIES AT RISK IN CAUCA AND CAQUETÁ DEPARTMENTS

Acción Social is monitoring imminent risk of mass displacements in the municipalities of Caloto and Valparaiso.

According to the source, armed actions against the population of Caloto (Cauca) by alleged FARC members can trigger a mass displacement. Similarly, 150 families of 8 villages of Valparaiso (Caquetá) are at a high risk of mass displacement due to the territorial dispute among 4 illegal armed groups. In both cases, Acción Social is assessing measures in order to prevent an emergency.

UNDERAGE FORCED RECRUITMENT IN MEDELLÍN (ANTIOQUIA)

On August 28, the Instituto Popular de Capacitación (IPC), an organization of the civil society, denounced that an increasing number of youngsters are being recruited by illegal armed actors in marginal neighbourhoods of Medellín.

Although the alert has already been raised by human rights organizations, the conflict situation in the poorest sectors of Medellín is worsening due to the control imposed by new illegal armed groups, joined with the critical life conditions of the population. The community has denounced that these groups are forcing children between 9 and 16 years to take part in robberies, extortion, drug trafficking, weapon transportation and the manufacture of explosive material. According to the source, those who refuse to participate are beaten, threatened or exiled. As a consequence of this situation, crime figures in the capital city of Antioquia are registering an important increase.

FOLLOW-UP: MASS DISPLACEMENT IN LÓPEZ DE MICAY (CAUCA)

After two weeks of two consecutive mass displacements in a rural community of the municipality, official figures now register 1.237 IDPs in the urban area. According to the latest reports the situation remains critical due to access restrictions (joined with a transporters' strike throughout the country) that are causing food shortages and the delay in the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance. Moreover, a boat with 6 tons of food aid sent from the neighbour port of Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca) sank in the sea on August 21. The local mayor has requested a helicopter in order to reach the affected population with humanitarian aid.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

IDPs are currently staying in critical conditions of overcrowding in relatives' homes and temporary shelters improvised in two of the municipality's facilities. Wat/San conditions are worsening due to the permanent arrival of IDPs to the shelters. Among the basic needs are food and non-food items, temporary shelters suitable to assist the emergency and a contingency plan in education for the 1.200 students affected by the displacement (between host population and IDPs). Also, a contingency plan for health assistance is required. So far, more than 200 cases of diarrheic disease have been registered.

A meeting of the CMAIPD took place on August 25 in order to assess the situation and will meet again on September 2; the municipality provided the first humanitarian aid until Acción Social arrived in the area with 200 food kits. The government of Cauca department declared a red alert for the emergency. The health secretariat of Cauca department provided 10 water tanks, 10 latrines and 5 septic tanks for the shelters. The Mobile Unit of ICBF arrived on August 28 to assess the situation of IDPs, particularly children and pregnant women and has delivered 405 emergency alimentary kits for the most vulnerable population.

ICRC delivered humanitarian emergency aid (including food and non-food items) for 1.300 IDPs and for 358 more people who face mobility restrictions (and food shortages therefore) due to the continuing armed confrontations in the rural area. PAHO is giving advice to the health secretariat for the formulation of the contingency plan and in the identification of health needs and risks. Diakonie, Solidarity International, UNHCR and OCHA arrived in the area on August 30 in order to monitor the situation and give advice. OCHA is also giving advice to the CMAIPD. UNICEF is providing psycho-social assistance for the population in coordination with ICBF. The IASC local group is monitoring the situation as well.

FOLLOW-UP: MASS DISPLACEMENT IN POLICARPA (NARIÑO)

After two weeks from the emergency, the number of people affected is still uncertain due to the difficulties accessing the area. On August 19, after a mission undertaken by UNHCR and ICRC, UNHCR reported that there are nearly 540 IDPs in the village of Santa Cruz, while 400 more decided to return in spite of the continuing clashes, due to the lack of assistance. There are 115 more IDPs in the village of Madrigal, currently staying at an improvised shelter with no capacity for that number of people. Also, nearly 900 IDPs have arrived in the urban area of Policarpa, staying at the school facility. No emergency humanitarian aid has been delivered to Santa Cruz or to Madrigal. So far, the local stores have provided some food for the affected population. The local hospital declared to have no resources to assist the emergency in the rural areas where access is restricted; so far, health assistance has only been provided in the urban area and a red alert has been declared.

The local government and Acción Social provided food aid for the IDPs in the urban area. The local Ombudsman is undertaking the population census in the urban area and part of the rural areas affected. ICRC and the Mobile Unit of ICBF arrived in the urban area on August 16. UNHCR, PHAO and OCHA are monitoring the situation and giving advice to the CMAIPD. According to preliminary information, the armed confrontations in the rural area continue posing high risks for the population.