

Factsheet 2026

UNHCR in Colombia

March

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is in Colombia since 1997, supporting the State and communities in the prevention of forced displacement, the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons and host communities, as well as advancing durable solutions.

In a context marked by renewed intensification of the internal armed conflict and increasingly complex dynamics of violence—compounded by mixed movements and a drastic reduction in humanitarian funding—UNHCR maintains a robust operational footprint across the country. Working with partners, civil society, communities, institutions and the private sector, UNHCR promotes tailored and local responses that connect humanitarian action, development and peace consolidation.

With a solid presence in 14 locations strategically positioned in border areas, conflict-affected territories, and major urban centres, UNHCR extends its reach through 15 fixed and four mobile Information and Orientation Points (PAOs). This network is further complemented by a remote chatbot service and the work of partners and allies operating on the ground.

Key figures



7,1 M

Internally displaced people with the right to assistance and reparation¹



2,8 M

Other people in need of international protection²



232,072

people displaced through large-scale and individual displacement events in 2025³



203,153

Affected by confinement in 2025⁴



29,305

Asylum-seekers⁵

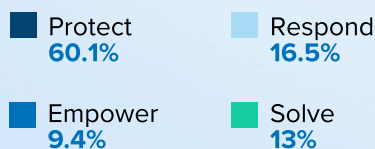
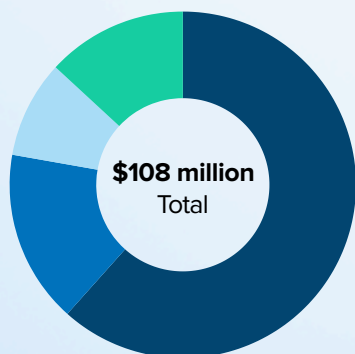


1,306

Refugees⁶

Needs based Financial Requirements – 2026

Allocation by Impact Area



Budget by outcome

| Outcome/enabling area | OP Budget |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| OA1: Access/Doc | \$2,943,478 |
| OA2: Status | \$21,498,434 |
| OA3: Policy/Law | \$15,124,966 |
| OA4: GBV | \$9,703,684 |
| OA5: Children | \$5,056,996 |
| OA6: Justice | \$11,351,443 |
| OA7: Community | \$10,148,066 |
| OA8: Well-being | \$17,826,001 |
| OA13: Livelihood | \$7,791,823 |
| OA15: Resettle | \$1,492,530 |
| OA16: Integrate | \$4,743,013 |
| Total | \$107,680,435 |

¹Victimis Unit, 2025.

²UNHCR Global Trends, 2025.

³Ibid.

⁴UNHCR monitoring, January-December 2025.

⁵Minister of Foreign Affairs 2024.

⁶Ibid.

Context

Colombia is at the epicentre of human mobility crisis in the Americas. Despite the 2016 Peace Agreement and ongoing negotiations under the Government’s “Total Peace” policy, the internal armed conflict has intensified in several regions, triggering new forced displacement, confinement and protection risks.

In 2025, forced displacement and confinement affected more than 430,000 people, with particularly severe impacts in regions such as the Catatumbo (Norte de Santander), La Guajira, Chocó, Cauca, Bolívar, Antioquia, Nariño, and other territories along the Pacific coast.

Violence perpetrated by non-State armed actors continues to drive acute protection risks. Mobility restrictions limit access to essential services and livelihoods, while the recruitment and use of children and gender-based violence further compound vulnerabilities. In contexts of limited State presence, these factors disproportionately affect Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, as well as Venezuelan refugees.

Colombia has a pivotal role in safeguarding regional stability. While northbound movements through the Darién Gap dropped sharply in 2025, growing reverse movements from Central and North America emerged, including children and adolescents exposed to serious protection risks. The adverse effects of climate events and disasters aggravate the situation of forcibly displaced people.

Xenophobia, disinformation and political polarization intensified in the lead-up to the 2026 elections, generating additional challenges to social cohesion and access to rights.



Map UNHCR presence. UNHCR/2026







For more information about our offices, visit:

www.acnur.org/co/acnur/oficinas-en-colombia



UNHCR PRIORITIES

| IMPACT AREAS | OUTCOME AREAS |
|---|---|
|  <p>PROTECT</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection monitoring and risk analysis. • Registration and documentation. • The asylum system is strengthened. • Children are protected from recruitment. |
|  <p>RESPOND</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation, referral and response mechanisms activated. • Timely and adequate access to essential services and assistance. |
|  <p>EMPOWER</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-way communication, feedback and response mechanisms. • Community leadership, peaceful coexistence and social cohesion. • Self-protection and community-based mechanisms are strengthened. |
|  <p>SOLVE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solutions through area-based approaches in urban and rural contexts. • Resettlement • Access to decent work, sustainable livelihoods, social protection systems and social dialogue. |

Key Activities

PROTECT

- Work with the Internal Working Group for Refugee Status Determination (in Spanish: GIT Refugio) to update asylum legal frameworks and procedures.
- Support local authorities to update and operationalize contingency and emergency response plans.
- Strengthen the National Ombudsperson's Office for protection monitoring and community outreach.
- Operate information and orientation centres, mobile units and digital channels to provide information and referrals.
- Facilitate access to justice and legal services in alliance with universities.
- Prevent recruitment and exploitation of children through play-based methodology.

RESPOND

- Distribution of essential items such as shelter kits, hygiene items, solar lamps or mosquito nets.
- Provide guidance on accessing vital services in emergencies.
- Emergency assistance for people suffering from forced displacement, mixed flows, and confinement.
- Contribute to efficient and coordinated responses to emergencies.



UNHCR's mobile Information and Orientation Point provides information, legal guidance and referrals in Argella, Cauca, supporting access to rights and protection services for forcibly displaced people and host communities. ©UNHCR

EMPOWER

- Strengthen community capacities for self-protection and preparedness.
- Strengthen organizational capacity and community advocacy.

SOLVE

- Jointly implement the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF) and pilot the rollout of the new national public policy on durable solutions ([CONPES](#)).
- Practical land and housing solutions through technical support for the legalization of informal settlements
- Support access to formal employment, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion to strengthen economic autonomy.
- Promote campaigns and partnerships with the private sector to promote socio-economic integration.
- Promote complementary pathways to third countries and support resettlement as a protection tool.



During the emergency in Catatumbo, UNHCR mobilized humanitarian assistance and deployed field teams to provide direct support to affected communities. ©UNHCR



Karol Rincón, a young Colombian woman and female head of household, works with the logistics company Operpar in Cali as part of UNHCR's inclusion strategy. ©UNHCR

Working In Alliance

As part of the Humanitarian Country Team, UNHCR co-leads the Protection Cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and works closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to mainstream the needs of refugees and migrants. Also, as leader of six local coordination teams and eight protection groups, UNHCR aims at strengthening coordinated, territory-driven protection responses.

Supporting the adjustment of Colombia's humanitarian architecture, UNHCR contributes to the integration of the response to IDPs, refugees and migrants into the national humanitarian system, while boosting local coordination mechanisms in priority regions.

UNHCR is active in the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Colombia (UNSDCF), which ensures that humanitarian, development and peace actions contribute to national priorities.

UNHCR thanks the donors that contributed in 2026 to its operations in Colombia and to global programmes.



And thanks the following private donors for their support



Australia with UNHCR, Colombia, France, Italy, Japan with UNHCR, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain with UNHCR, Sweden with UNHCR, the United Kingdom with UNHCR, UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

Interested in learning more?



External Relations Unit - colboacnur@unhcr.org
 Sonia Aguilar | Senior External Relations Officer | aguilars@unhcr.org
 Follow us @AcnurColombia
www.acnur.org/co