

# COLOMBIA



## Working environment

### The context

Internal displacement continues to present serious humanitarian concerns in Colombia, which had approximately 3.4 million people officially registered as internally displaced (IDPs) by mid-2010. The number has grown as a result of the long-lasting conflict between the Government and several guerrilla organizations, as well as the rise of new illegal armed groups and organized crime. The level of risk and vulnerability among IDPs remains high due to precarious living conditions, the absence of durable solutions and threats and selective killings, particularly related to the issue of land restitution.

While security has generally improved in densely populated areas in the highland regions, the situation has deteriorated in more sparsely populated areas, particularly in the coastal and border regions. Most IDPs are displaced from rural areas, but urban displacement is also on the rise. Of particular concern are Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations, which have been disproportionately affected by displacement, forced recruitment and sexual and gender-based violence.

The political debate in 2010 has been dominated by the presidential elections that took place in June. The new Government has announced it will give priority to the issue of land in relation to displacement. Many see this as a new opportunity to find solutions for IDPs.

Finally, a steady number of Colombians continue to seek international protection outside the country, with now more

## Planning figures for Colombia

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Various	210	80	220	110
Asylum-seekers	Various	120	120	130	130
Returnees (refugees)	Colombia	20	20	30	30
IDPs	Colombia	3,484,000	575,000	3,664,000	600,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,484,350</b>	<b>575,220</b>	<b>3,664,380</b>	<b>600,270</b>



The Afro-Colombian communities that live along the coast of Buenaventura are in danger of being displaced as they find themselves in the middle of a conflict between various armed groups.

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than 115,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in the region. In this respect, the new Government has worked swiftly to re-establish ties with neighbouring countries after a period of strained relations. Meanwhile, Colombia is fulfilling its international obligations to protect recognized refugees. A new decree adopted in November 2009 has improved refugee status determination (RSD) procedures, although the challenges arising from mixed migration flows are growing.

### ● *The needs*

The Government's response to the displacement issue has improved in recent years. Key advances include a substantial increase in resources allocated to displacement (more than USD 1 billion in 2010) and the revision of strategies in the key sectors of land, housing and income generation.

Nevertheless, critical gaps remain in implementation, particularly as far as local institutions are concerned, due to lack of funding or technical capacity. Providing protection remains the primary challenge in view of the security conditions and the particular vulnerability of people of concern. Finding durable solutions will remain difficult, as implementation of a comprehensive strategy to provide sustainable solutions has lagged.

## | Strategy and activities in 2011 |

In 2011, the Office will focus on the following strategic priorities:

- **Prevention:** UNHCR will work to address the conditions which generate displacement, including forced recruitment, particularly of children; lack of respect for international humanitarian law; the presence of illegal armed groups within communities; and conflict over control of territory. At the same time, the right to seek protection in another location within Colombia or in another country will not be limited.
- **Protection:** The Office will continue to focus on coordination between the actions of State institutions at all levels and on a direct, concrete response to community and individual needs, especially of those threatened because of land issues. UNHCR will seek to protect the property of IDPs and persons at-risk

## Main objectives and targets

### Favourable protection environment

- Policies on forced displacement allow for better protection.
  - *Policies, action plans and monitoring/evaluation mechanisms are improved.*
- The national administrative framework facilitates better protection.
  - *Clarity on institutional responsibility and resource allocation is improved.*
- Prevention of displacement is strengthened.
  - *Risks are identified and early warning systems put in place.*

### Fair protection processes

- Reception conditions are improved.
  - *The number of municipalities with reception centres or with the capacity to create one increases.*
- Access to asylum procedures is improved
  - *The criteria to guarantee access to status determination procedures are improved.*
- The potential for local integration is realized.
  - *The number of refugees and asylum-seekers able to integrate locally increases.*

### Durable solutions

- The durable solutions strategy is strengthened.
  - *Policies, action plans and monitoring/evaluation mechanisms improved with regard to solutions.*
- Rehabilitation and reintegration are made more sustainable.
  - *The establishment of IDPs' rights at the national level is improved.*

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

Auditor-General's Office  
*Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer*  
 Constitutional Court  
*Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar*  
*Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural*  
 Ministries of Social Protection; Agriculture; the Interior and Justice; Education; and Foreign Affairs  
 National Armed Forces  
 National Registry  
 Ombudsman's Office  
 Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation (*Acción Social*)  
 Procurator's Office  
*Programa Presidencial Colombia Joven*  
 Regional governments and Mayor's offices

#### NGOs:

*Action contre la faim*  
*Asociación Tierra y Esperanza-*  
*Casa de la Mujer*  
*Centro de Estudios Regionales del Pacifico*  
*Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento*  
*Corporación Desarrollo y Paz del Magdalena Medio*  
*Corporación Infancia y Desarrollo*  
*Corporación Opción Legal*  
*Corporación para la Investigación y el Desarrollo de la Democracia*  
*Corporación Retoños*  
*Corporación Siempre Viva*  
*Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe*  
*Fundación compartir*  
*Instituto Latinoamericano de Servicios Legales Alternativos*  
*Mujer y Futuro*  
*Organización indígena de Antioquia*  
*Organización Nacional de Indígenas de Colombia*  
*Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social*  
*Solidaridad Internacional*

#### Others:

*Universidad de los Andes*  
*Universidad Javeriana*  
*Universidad Nacional*

### Operational partners

#### NGOs:

Norwegian Refugee Council

#### Others:

ICRC  
 IOM  
 FAO  
 OCHA  
 OHCHR  
 PAHO  
 UNDP  
 UNAIDS  
 UNFPA  
 UNICEF  
 UNIFEM  
 WFP

through the Land Initiative and will continue to promote “protection by presence” throughout its area of coverage, with the physical presence of staff in the most remote locations and tense contexts, being used as a tool of protection.

- **Durable solutions:** UNHCR will work more closely with selected communities on return, local integration and relocation, with the aim of identifying the factors that can make them successful. In selected cases, UNHCR will play a catalytic role in bringing together the relevant actors to promote a comprehensive approach and facilitate the transition to development-related initiatives managed by local authorities, development agencies and the concerned communities.

UNHCR will continue to focus on: implementation of public policies on forced displacement at the local level; active participation by all community members; protection of groups, such as indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities; and the response to the specific protection needs of children and youth, women and men, and the elderly.

#### ● Constraints

The changing nature of the conflict, including its links with criminal activities and illegal narcotics, and the proliferation of various armed groups, continue to raise concerns about the protection of displaced persons, especially adolescent girls and

boys, and the maintenance of humanitarian space in certain areas of the country.

### Organization and implementation

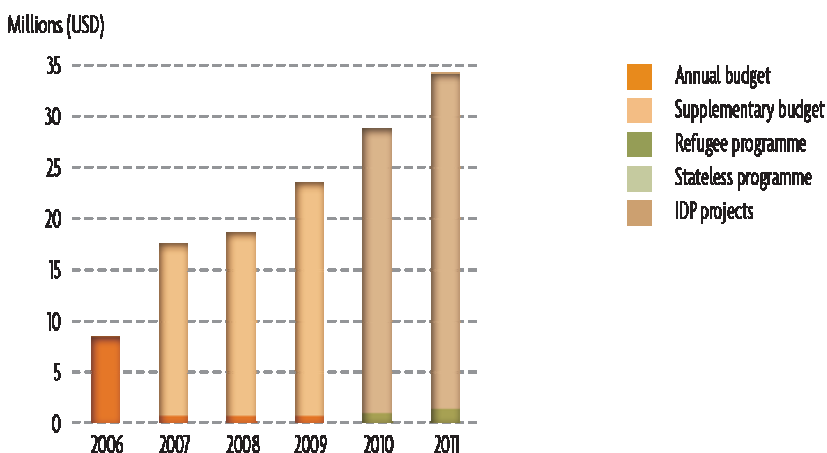
#### ● Coordination

The implementation of UNHCR's strategy relies on key partnerships with Colombian institutions, such as *Acción Social*, the primary government counterpart, ministries, agencies and regional and local administrations. On the other hand, of particular importance are relations with IDP and community-based groups, especially those comprising women and youth, and indigenous and Afro-Colombian organizations, such as the *Organización Nacional de Indígenas de Colombia*. Finally, UNHCR maintains close coordination with other UN agencies in the framework of the UN Country Team, a number of thematic programmes, and international and national NGOs. In particular, UNHCR co-leads, together with the Norwegian Refugee Council, the inter-agency thematic group for protection.

### Financial information

In recent years, UNHCR's Colombia operation has received increased support from the international community. In 2011, financial requirements will remain in line with the previous year. UNHCR will work to deepen its protection network.

### UNHCR's budget in Colombia 2006 – 2011



## 2011 UNHCR Budget for Colombia (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
International and regional instruments	0	199,925	199,925
National legal framework	80,961	990,023	1,070,984
National administrative framework	80,963	1,393,221	1,474,184
Policies towards forced displacement	0	1,687,987	1,687,987
National and regional migration policy	80,963	0	80,963
Prevention of displacement	0	3,515,417	3,515,417
Cooperation with partners	117,809	748,288	866,096
National development policies	0	199,925	199,925
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	0	412,176	412,176
Access to territory	44,117	0	44,117
Emergency management	0	490,291	490,291
Subtotal	<b>404,814</b>	<b>9,637,252</b>	<b>10,042,066</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Reception conditions	91,056	474,673	565,729
Registration and profiling	44,117	521,503	565,619
Access to asylum procedures	44,117	139,782	183,898
Refugee and stateless definitions	44,117	396,360	440,477
Fair and efficient status determination	44,117	527,008	571,124
Civil status documentation	0	372,742	372,742
Subtotal	<b>267,523</b>	<b>2,432,068</b>	<b>2,699,591</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Effects of armed conflict	0	551,660	551,660
Gender-based violence	0	479,151	479,151
Protection of children	0	171,825	171,825
Access to legal remedies	0	485,936	485,936
Subtotal	<b>0</b>	<b>1,688,572</b>	<b>1,688,572</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Primary health care	61,097	0	61,097
HIV and AIDS	61,097	360,967	422,064
Education	61,097	445,939	507,036
Services for groups with specific needs	61,097	191,021	252,118
Subtotal	<b>244,388</b>	<b>997,927</b>	<b>1,242,316</b>
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	0	1,040,051	1,040,051
Community self-management and equal representation	0	2,694,746	2,694,746
Self-reliance and livelihoods	235,208	0	235,208
Subtotal	<b>235,208</b>	<b>3,734,797</b>	<b>3,970,005</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Durable solutions strategy	73,528	943,458	1,016,986
Voluntary return	0	1,804,431	1,804,431
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	0	2,256,188	2,256,188
Local integration support	98,609	1,612,209	1,710,818
Resettlement of IDPs elsewhere in the country	0	1,613,678	1,613,678
Reduction of statelessness	73,528	0	73,528
Subtotal	<b>245,665</b>	<b>8,229,965</b>	<b>8,475,630</b>

## UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	<b>14</b>
□ Total staff	<b>169</b>
International	17
National	93
JPOs	4
UNVs	49
Others	6

## Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- UNHCR's prevention and "protection by presence" strategy will be restricted, the number of field missions curtailed and operational capacity reduced.
- Some 20 of the 80 districts most affected by forced displacement will not benefit from UNHCR's presence and projects.
- The operational capacity of the new field units in Buenaventura and San José del Guaviare will be reduced, having a negative impact on relations with local institutions and communities.
- Between 10 and 15 of the planned Practical Protection Projects will not be implemented.
- Two boarding schools will not be rehabilitated.
- The number of communities selected for monitoring of return, local integration and relocation processes will be reduced.

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>External relations</b>			
Donor relations	0	151,911	151,911
Resource mobilisation	0	165,282	165,282
Public information	0	421,505	421,505
Subtotal	0	738,699	738,699
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Supply chain and logistics	0	3,599,482	3,599,482
Programme management, coordination and support	0	1,683,480	1,683,480
Subtotal	0	5,282,962	5,282,962
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,397,596</b>	<b>32,742,242</b>	<b>34,139,838</b>

	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>2010 Revised budget</b>	<b>957,302</b>	<b>59,852</b>	<b>27,476,204</b>	<b>28,493,358</b>