

# COLOMBIA



## Operational highlights

- Of 163 comprehensive plans to assist internally displaced persons (IDPs) developed by local authorities with UNHCR's support, 134 were being implemented in 2011.
- Approximately 900,000 hectares of land were protected under the Government's Land and Property Protection Law benefiting some 15,000 people directly. The cumulative total of land protected and beneficiaries assisted by the programme since 2003 reached respectively 5.6 million hectares, and some 126,500 people. In addition, the land situation in nine communities was fully documented in 2011, opening the way for legal and administrative actions of direct benefit to more than 11,200 persons.
- Some 570 civil servants were trained to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Sixteen SGBV plans of action were developed and six multi-sectoral working groups established on the issue.

- To identify needs and protection gaps, 22 participatory assessments were carried out with the participation of over 2,100 IDPs.
- Measures to combat forced youth recruitment included capacity-building for youth groups, youth participation in municipal councils, workshops on prevention and protection, recreational and theatre activities, as well as advocacy.
- UNHCR provided technical assistance and advice to several governmental institutions and offered expertise to Colombia's Constitutional Court on the protection of IDPs' rights.

## Working environment

Internal conflict continued in various parts of the country, involving guerrilla post-demobilization groups and the national armed forces. As a consequence, more than 143,000 new IDPs were officially registered in 2011. More than 24 per

## Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Various	220	70	33	21
Asylum-seekers	Various	120	120	16	9
IDPs	Colombia	3,888,300	438,400	51	-
Stateless	Stateless people	10	-	8	-
Returnees (refugees)	Various	20	20	56	44
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,888,670</b>	<b>438,610</b>		

cent of the new IDPs were from Afro-Colombian groups, and some 3.6 per cent were indigenous people.

The changing dynamics of the conflict continued throughout 2011. Groups linked to drug trafficking proliferated in many areas of the country, and the FARC continued to operate despite significant losses. Communities in areas such as Putumayo and Chocó felt the impact of their confined movements and presence of land mines, restricting their access to services. The control over numerous communities by illegal armed actors, the forced recruitment of children and SGBV led to a rise in the number of intra-urban and large group displacements.

The period leading up to regional and local elections in October witnessed widespread instability in many parts of the country. According to official figures, 41 candidates were murdered, while the Ombudsman's Office warned that 18 per cent of all municipalities were at a high risk of violence during the elections: 14 per cent did, indeed, suffer from violence.

The passing of the Law on Victims and Land Restitution in June 2011, marked a groundbreaking step in terms of recognition of victims, reparation and restitution of their land, and the commitment of the Government to support them. Most victims (80 per cent) were IDPs. However, implementing the Law has presented grave dangers: 14 community leaders were killed in 2011.

## Achievements and impact

### Main objectives and targets

The aim of UNHCR in Colombia was to ensure that IDPs, refugees and people at risk of displacement were able to enjoy their rights. A total of 438,400 IDPs directly benefited from UNHCR's assistance. Moreover, some 2 million IDPs are believed to have benefited indirectly from UNHCR's interventions, especially in the area of institutional support.

### Favourable protection environment

- UNHCR worked with various governmental entities to improve the institutional response to internal displacement. The Office supported 18 accountability exercises, whereby local authorities rendered account of actions to protect and assist IDPs, in coordination with the offices of the Controller and the Procurator, and in the presence of IDPs.
- More than 229 governmental partners at local, regional and national levels received technical support from UNHCR. At the national level, work with the Presidential Agency for Social Action focused on registration. A Letter of Intent signed with the Vice-President's Office specified technical support for work with indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups, and on gender and youth issues. Technical advice was provided to the Ministry of Interior on individual and community protection cases, and to the Unit on Land Restitution within the Agriculture Ministry on the risks analysis of specific land restitution cases.

- UNHCR provided the Constitutional Court with three *amicus curiae* briefs for precedent-setting cases on the rights of the indigenous Hitnu and Makaguan groups, and the responses from the Procurator's and Controller's offices on the protection of IDPs' rights. UNHCR also contributed to the development of 163 comprehensive plans (134 under implementation) for the assistance of IDPs in the country. Protection by presence and the implementation of 45 practical protection projects as part of UNHCR's prevention strategy, benefited more than 24,300 IDPs.

### Fair protection processes

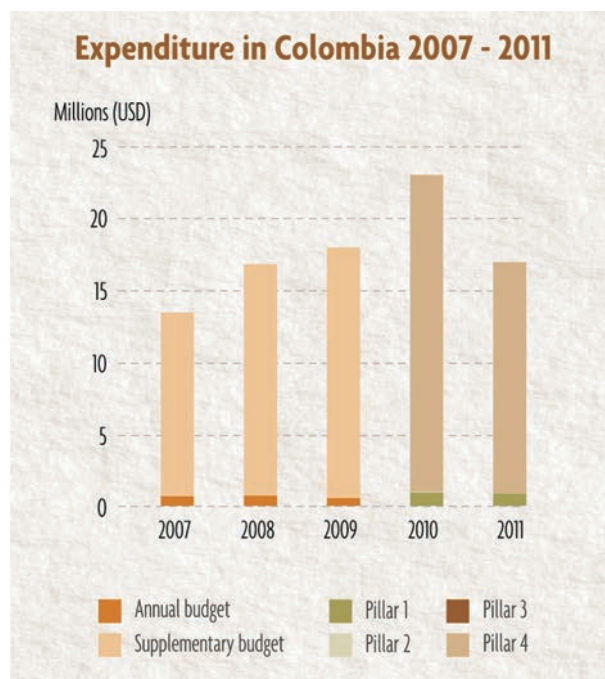
- UNHCR conducted 27 registration campaigns in 21 departments and 104 municipalities. Mobile brigades processed a total of 129,300 documents for IDPs. Moreover, facilities at five reception centres in Puerto Leguizamo, Mocoa, Tame, Ipiales and Medellín were improved during 2011, benefiting over 31,100 IDPs.

### Security from violence and exploitation

- UNHCR created or supported a total of 18 multi-sectoral teams and inter-agency working groups (six more than in 2010). The working groups focused on accessible, prompt and confidential assistance to survivors of SGBV. Some 570 civil servants were trained in SGBV prevention and response, and 16 action plans addressing the issue were established.

### Basic needs and services

- In the area of HIV and AIDS, UNHCR collaborated with local partners, universities and UNAIDS on training programmes and awareness campaigns addressing prevention issues. More than 7,000 people were made aware of relevant issues through community sessions.



## Community participation and self-management

- In order to define protection and assistance gaps among displaced populations, UNHCR carried out 22 participatory assessments involving over 2,100 IDPs. The results were used for planning processes, political advocacy and the implementation of specific programmes targeting, for instance, youth or indigenous groups. Through the implementation of action plans and capacity-building activities, 231 community organizations, including those representing indigenous people and Afro-Colombians, were able to strengthen their self-management capacity.

## Durable solutions

- The passing of the Law on Victims and Land Restitution opened the way to new solutions for IDPs. Although the Government gave priority to return, UNHCR continued to advocate for enhanced rural relocation as well as urban local integration (51 per cent of IDPs live in the suburbs of 26 cities). Surveys indicated that a large percentage of IDPs were unlikely to opt for return. Under the framework of the Transitional Solutions Initiative, UNHCR worked with UNDP and the Government on a proposal to support the transition from humanitarian assistance to solutions and development. The proposal is targeting eight IDP communities for a period of three years subject to funding availability.

## External relations

- UNHCR continued to seek to raise awareness of internal displacement, SGBV, the difficulties facing indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations, and the link between HIV and AIDS and forced displacement. This was done through five campaigns, 23 field missions with journalists or donors, 83 interviews, several short documentary films, a film cycle with 64 screenings and web stories.

## Logistics and operational support

- Monitoring and evaluation visits were made throughout the year. A comprehensive audit of the operation by the Board of Auditors was conducted in January 2011. Implementing partners were trained on audit principles and on UNHCR's programme cycle.

## | Constraints |

The election period slowed down the implementation of projects as well as negotiation processes with authorities. Defining mechanisms for the implementation of the new Law on Victims and Land Restitution, as well as the Government's administrative restructuring process, also led to a slowing down of some activities.

## | Financial information |

The operation in Colombia faced a significant challenge in fund raising in 2011 because of the effects of the international economic crisis on the main donors and the requirements of other humanitarian emergencies.



## | Organization and implementation |

UNHCR closed three field offices at the end of September 2011—Barranquilla, Barrancabermeja and San José del Guaviare—but maintained its coverage of Guaviare through a mobile team based in Villavicencio. The Office extended its coverage to certain municipalities in Córdoba using a mobile team from Medellín. In 2012, the Bogotá Country Office will cover the regions of Magdalena Medio, Montes de María and La Guajira with regard to land issues.

## | UNHCR's presence in 2011 |

□ Number of offices	<b>11</b>
□ Total staff	<b>143</b>
International	15
National	82
JPOs	2
UNVs	34
Others	10

## | Working with others |

Governmental authorities and institutions continued to be UNHCR's main partners in the country at local, regional and national levels. UNHCR cooperated with over 40 international and national partners. The Office also coordinated its activities within the UN Country Team. Together with the UN Population Fund, UNHCR initiated a pilot project on information management in SGBV issues, while a campaign to protect land claimants was conducted with OHCHR and the Catholic Church.

## | Overall assessment |

Institutional and political changes, internal restructuring and the evolving dynamics of the internal conflict called upon UNHCR's ability to adapt to new circumstances. Though in general UNHCR achieved its objectives, there were concerns about some aspects of the new Law on Victims

and Land Restitution as well as its implementation. The mainstreaming of age, gender and diversity considerations in the work of local administrations needs to be strengthened in order to achieve real impact.

The proliferation of post-demobilization groups and the unpredictability of the conflict have caused serious concerns, along with the growing number of intra-urban and other displacements, while security conditions deteriorated in some areas of the country. Attention needed to be focused on border areas, and the potential for spontaneous returns and repatriation (depending on developments in neighbouring countries) closely monitored.

### | Unmet needs |

- Expansion of protection activities in some priority regions, such as the Córdoba department, was limited.
- Capacity in the Pacific coastal regions, and in particular in the Cauca and Valle del Cauca departments, which were among the most affected by forced displacement, was insufficient.

- There were not enough staff to ensure monitoring and enforcement of the return and relocation process, or to make progress on local integration initiatives.

Partners
<b>Implementing partners</b>
<b>NGOs:</b> <i>Action contre la Faim, 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, Fundación compartir, Local diócesis, Organización indígena de Antioquia, Organización Nacional de Indígenas de Colombia, Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social</i>
<b>Others:</b> <i>Universidad Javeriana</i>
<b>Operational partners</b>
<b>NGOs:</b> Norwegian Refugee Council
<b>Others:</b> ICRC, IOM, FAO, OCHA, OHCHR, PAHO, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP

## Budget, income and expenditure in Colombia | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>891,090</b>	<b>32,567,240</b>	<b>33,458,330</b>
Income from contributions	1,921,550	14,069,991	15,991,541
Other funds available	(1,052,530)	2,139,452	1,086,922
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>869,020</b>	<b>16,209,443</b>	<b>17,078,463</b>

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN			
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>			
International and regional instruments	22,301	181,875	204,176
National legal framework	22,301	214,305	236,606
National administrative framework	22,301	347,374	369,675
Policies towards forced displacement	0	412,359	412,359
National and regional migration policy	22,301	0	22,301
Prevention of displacement	0	2,149,532	2,149,532
Cooperation with partners	97,138	801,925	899,063
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	0	203,980	203,980
Access to territory	22,301	0	22,301
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>208,643</b>	<b>4,311,350</b>	<b>4,519,993</b>
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>			
Reception conditions	88,964	225,242	314,206
Registration and profiling	26,761	0	26,761
Access to asylum procedures	27,930	200,447	228,377
Refugee and stateless definitions	26,761	0	26,761
Fair and efficient status determination	26,761	200,447	227,208
Civil status documentation	0	258,632	258,632
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>197,177</b>	<b>884,768</b>	<b>1,081,945</b>

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>			
Effects of armed conflict	0	276,103	276,103
Gender-based violence	0	297,933	297,933
Protection of children	0	214,106	214,106
Access to legal remedies	0	294,136	294,136
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,082,278</b>	<b>1,082,278</b>
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>			
Primary health care	36,651	0	36,651
HIV and AIDS	33,451	306,992	340,443
Education	36,632	314,105	350,737
Services for groups with specific needs	43,508	225,940	269,448
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>150,242</b>	<b>847,037</b>	<b>997,279</b>
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>			
Participatory assessment	0	474,335	474,335
Community self-management	0	959,950	959,950
Self-reliance and livelihoods	137,158	0	137,158
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>137,158</b>	<b>1,434,285</b>	<b>1,571,443</b>
<i>Durable solutions</i>			
Durable solutions strategy	0	400,040	400,040
Voluntary return	0	242,413	242,413
Rehabilitation and reintegration	0	785,120	785,120
Local integration	81,110	235,771	316,881
Resettlement of IDPS elsewhere in the country	0	235,771	235,771
Reduction of statelessness	66,902	0	66,902
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>148,012</b>	<b>1,899,115</b>	<b>2,047,127</b>
<i>External relations</i>			
Donor relations	0	204,419	204,419
Resource mobilisation	0	204,419	204,419
Public information	0	312,915	312,915
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>721,753</b>	<b>721,753</b>
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>			
Supply chain and logistics	0	1,685,288	1,685,288
Programme management and coordination	0	1,215,413	1,215,413
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,900,701</b>	<b>2,900,701</b>
Other objectives	0	5,608	5,608
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	27,789	2,122,550	2,150,339
<b>Total</b>	<b>869,021</b>	<b>16,209,445</b>	<b>17,078,466</b>