MONITORING OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES/COLOMBIA
LARGE-GROUP INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS AND CONFINEMENTS

(January to May 2023)

KEY FIGURES

87[1] Events

57 Large-group internal displacements[2] | **23,147** Persons | **9,141** Families | **31%** Women* | **25%** Men* | **44%** Children and adolescents*

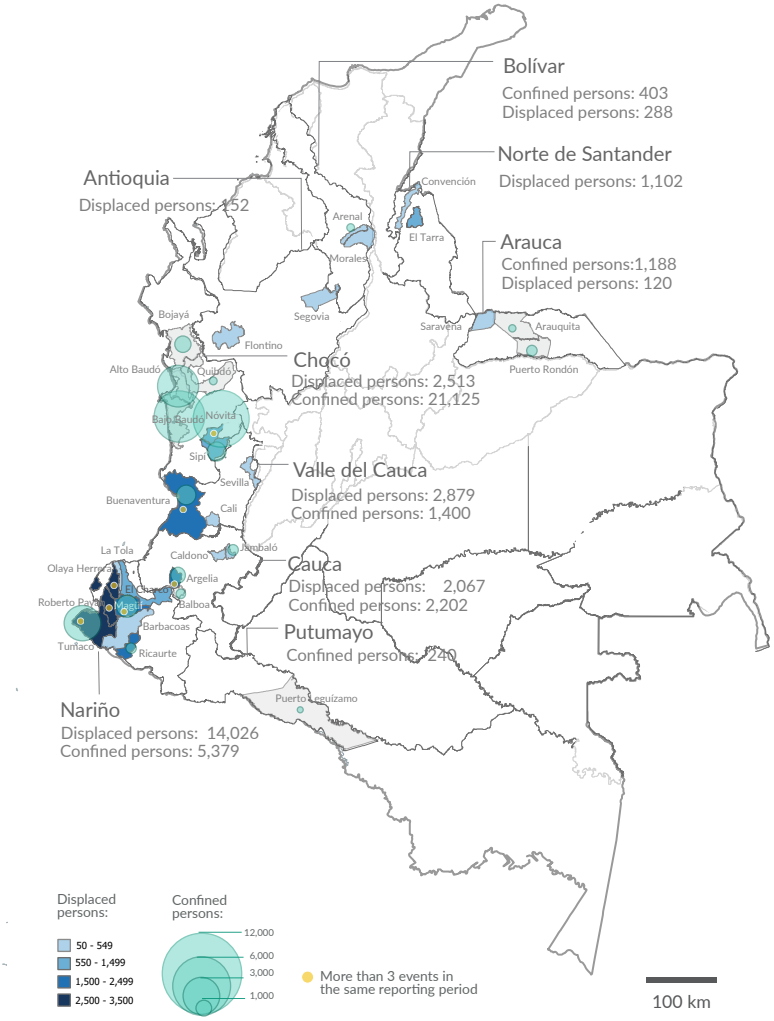
30 Confinements[3] | **31,937** Persons | **8,359** Families | **29%** Women* | **30%** Men* | **41%** Children and adolescents*

*The response rate for the gender and age disaggregation question was 33% of the total number of large-group internal displacement events recorded in UNHCR's monitoring.

Between January and May 2023, 57 large-group internal displacements took place in UNHCR´s areas of coverage, affecting 23,147 people (9,141 families). This means a 20% decrease in the number of persons affected compared to the same period of 2022. Concerning the last five months of 2022, the number of people affected decreased by 26%.

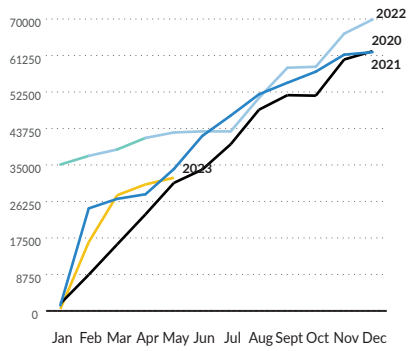
Despite this reduction, May recorded the highest number of people affected by forced displacement in the reporting period, with more than 4,697 victims (1,702 families). This is the second consecutive increase in the number of people displaced during large-group events, after the one observed in April. May´s emergencies occurred in Segovia (Antioquia), Caldono and Jambaló (Cauca), Nóvita and Sipí (Chocó), Barbacoas, Ricaurte y Olaya Herrera (Nariño) and Sevilla (Valle del Cauca).

From January to May 2023, 30 confinements affected 31,937 people (8,359 families). This reveals an increasing tendency of confinements in the last ten months: compared to the last five months of 2022, there was an increase of almost 122% in persons affected and 66% in the number of events. In May, emergencies occurred in Jambaló (Cauca), Sipí (Chocó), and Ricaurte (Nariño).

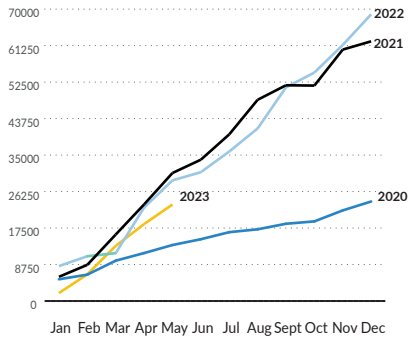


EMERGENCIES OVER TIME

Number of people confined (2020-2023)



Number of people displaced in large-group displacement events (2020-2023)



> *May recorded the highest number of people affected by forced displacement in the reporting period, with more than 4,697 victims (1,702 families). This is the second consecutive increase in the number of people displaced during large-group events.*

[1] Emergency events are constantly being verified and validated; therefore figures are subject to change

[2] The confinements and large-group internal displacement in the infographic and monitored by UNHCR correspond only to the departments in the areas covered by the field offices

[3] Confinement is understood as a situation of violation of rights in which a community loses mobility as a result of the actions of non-State armed groups (NSAGs), thus preventing access to goods essential for survival

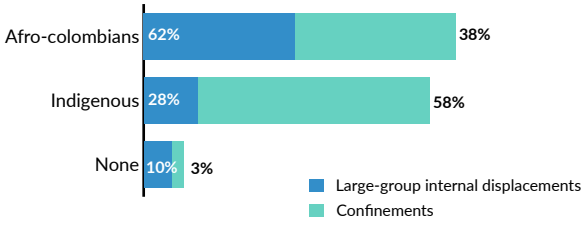
Note: This document was produced with the support of the European Commission´s Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

Ceasefire violations between the Colombian State and non-State armed groups (NSAG) should be considered as leading factors of large-group displacements in Chocó and Nariño, as well as the persistence and increase in confinements reported in these departments.

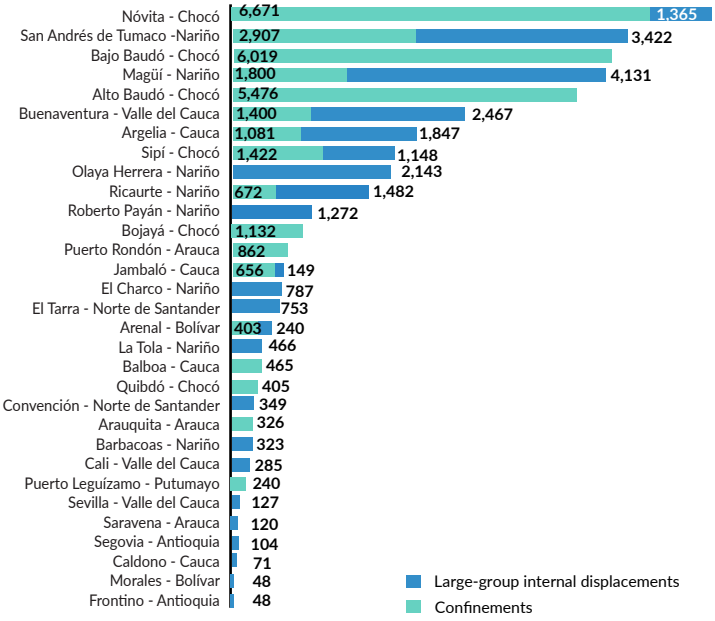
The increase in armed confrontations between NSAGs in the north and south of Cauca also has escalated the number of confinements in this region. It is important to highlight that armed conflicts and control actions by NSAGs are also intensifying out of UNHCR´s current coverage area, such as the departments of Casanare, Meta (especially in the southern municipalities), and Caquetá.

ETHNICITY

The indigenous population and Afro- Colombian concentrate 90% of people affected by large-group internal displacement; more than 6,700 Afro-Colombians have been displaced to municipalities of the Pacific Coast of Nariño.

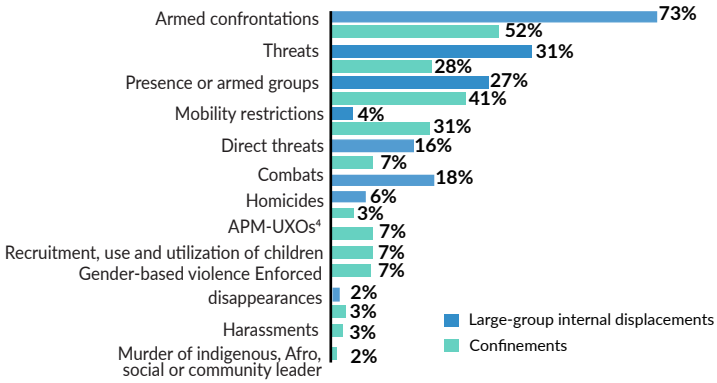


PEOPLE AFFECTED BY EMERGENCIES BY MUNICIPALITY



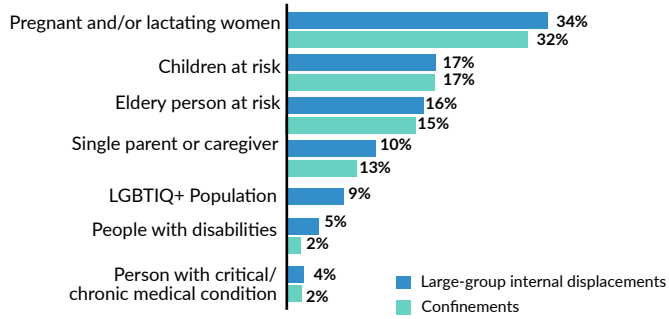
CAUSES OF EMERGENCIES*

More than 73% of displacements originated from clashes between NSAGs. Likewise, the presence of NSAGs and the armed clashes among them are the leading cause (93%) of the reported confinements.

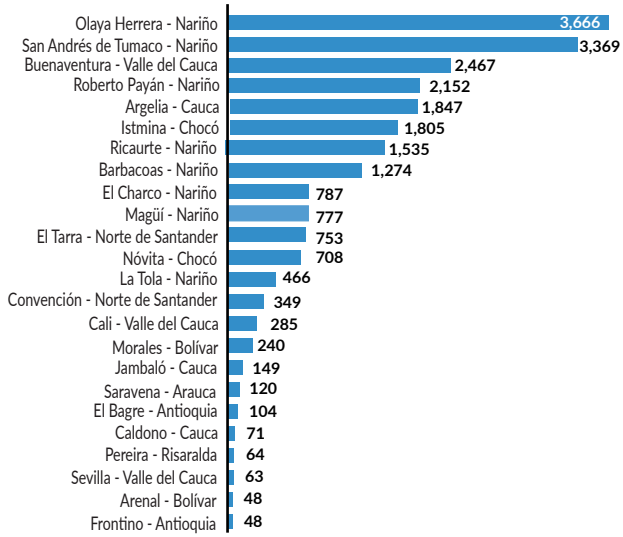


PROTECTION PROFILES IDENTIFIED

The most vulnerable population groups are pregnant or lactating women, children at risk, the elderly, single parents or caregivers, among others.



MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVING DISPLACED POPULATION



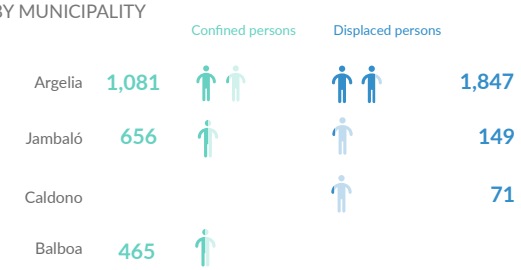
[4] Contamination by anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance (AP-UXOs).

*Percentages add up to more than 100% because the same displacement event can have more than one cause.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

CAUCA

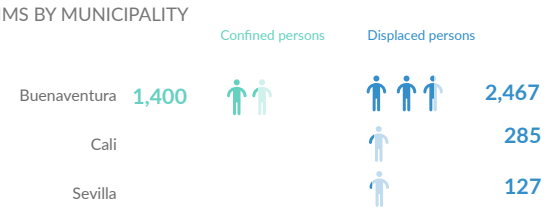
VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY



The deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the department of Cauca has been noticeable since early 2023 because, in addition to the situation in Argelia or El Tambo, the escalation of forced recruitment, threats, homicides against the civilian population in the northern region, and armed disputes between NSAG have caused displacement and confinement events in Jambaló and Caloto.

VALLE DEL CAUCA

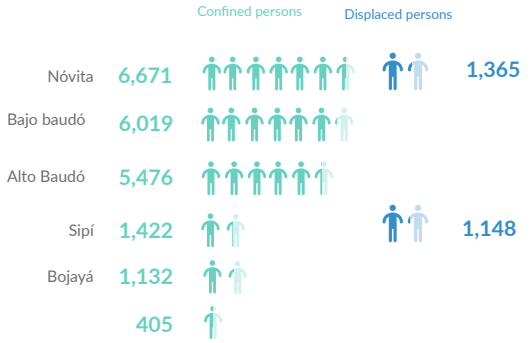
VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY



Although UNHCR reports no large-group events in this department, it is important to highlight the magnitude of individual displacement. Official data estimates that by May 31st, 7,300 reports of forced displacement were registered in municipalities such as Buenaventura or Cali and reports a similar number of individual expulsions. As a result, the department leads national statistics on the recurrence of this victimizing event.

CHOCÓ

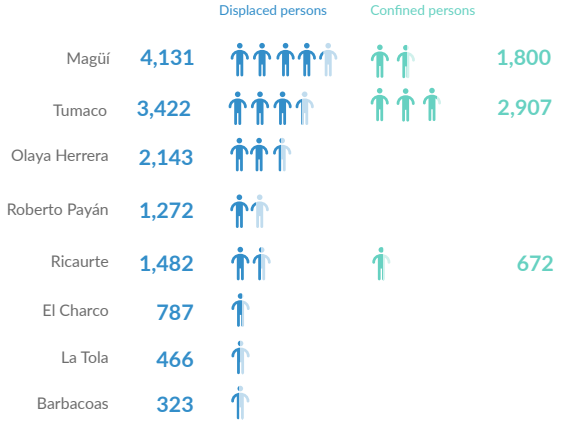
VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY



Confrontations between NSAGs continue to occur in different parts of the rivers Atrato, Baudó, and San Juan and intensified in the last month in the municipalities of Sipí and Nóvita. In the latter municipalities, armed clashes and the threat of an armed strike have led to the confinement of approximately 270 people and the displacement of more than 2,400 persons in just over a month. In addition to these actions, there are APM installed and cases of child recruitment. According to sources in the field, the announcement of an armed strike restricted humanitarian access.

NARIÑO

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY



Armed confrontations between NSAGs and their fight against the public security forces have expanded to the municipalities of Ricaurte and Barbacoas in the south of the department. Due to armed conflict, more than 2,000 people from the Awá indigenous group have been displaced within the municipality, and more than 600 persons have been forced into confinement. According to sources in the field, NSAGs have installed antipersonnel mines (APM), aggravating the population's mobility restrictions.