

Protection and Solutions

UNHCR in Colombia | Operational update

January-June 2026

Publication July 2026

Our response in figures

 **119,173 people**

assisted by UNHCR and its partners.

 **74 municipalities**

with direct assistance across 22 departments.

 **17,410 people**

received information and guidance.

 **1,677 people**

received child protection services.

 **627 individuals**

received cash assistance.

 **1,003 people**

received legal assistance and protection services.

 **1,027 people**

strengthened institutional responses through training.

 **288 individuals**

benefited from community strengthening.

 **93,255 individuals**

supported in urban land regularisation and/or individual land-titling processes.

 **1,213 individuals**

benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions.

 **83 individuals**

supported through resettlement processes.

 **20 students**

of tertiary education, awarded with a DAFI scholarship.

Source: UNHCR Colombia OSMOSYS. Cut-off date: 30 June 2026

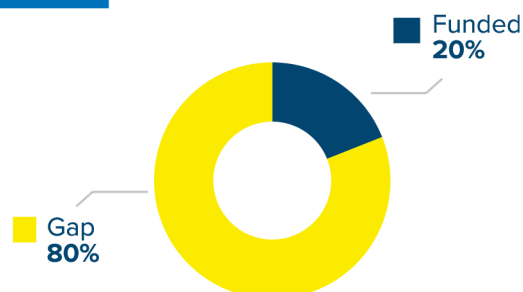
General context

UNHCR in Colombia serves refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people. Colombia hosts the world's largest refugee population (2.8 million, mostly from Venezuela) and 7.1 million internally displaced people, the second-largest displaced population after Sudan. Forced displacement and confinement remain the main protection challenges shaping the operation's response.

As of 30 June 2026, according to UNHCR's monitoring, some 17,797 people were affected by mass displacement events and 59,989 by confinement due to violence, particularly in Antioquia, Bolívar, Cauca, Chocó, Norte de Santander and Magdalena. UNHCR responded with emergency protection, shelter and cash assistance in the worst-affected areas.

Source: UNHCR monitoring, cut-off 30 June 2026 (consulted 31 July).

Funding



USD \$107.7 million required in 2026.

20 % of UNHCR's financial requirements for Colombia funded as of June 2026.

Featured response

- Together with the Ombudsperson's Office and the European Union, UNHCR opened Confined Paradises in Bogotá. This photographic exhibition shows how armed groups control entire communities in remote territories, restricting their access to food, health, education and livelihoods, and giving visibility to one of Colombia's fastest-growing protection risks.



Check out the section of "Confined Paradises" on our website. [Click here](#)

- With the support of the Humanitarian Fund for Colombia (RhPF), UNHCR scaled up its life-saving response in the highest-severity municipalities. The six-month intervention aims to reach more than 59,000 people with emergency shelter responses, legal guidance and protection services, Information and Orientation Points (PAOs) and cash-based interventions.

Protect

- **Asylum system.** By May 2026, Colombia's asylum system reform progressed towards more accessible, efficient and protection-oriented procedures. The UNHCR-GIT Refugio joint work strengthened the country's capacity to identify and respond to people in need of international protection.
- **PAO network.** Through 15 PAOs, four mobile teams and a chatbot run by 20 protection advisers, 15,320 people accessed protection, information and referral services on health services, asylum applications, humanitarian assistance, regularisation and protection routes.

Respond

- **Response to emergencies.** Following the severe flooding in Córdoba in February, UNHCR supported inter-agency coordination to complement the emergency response led by national and local authorities. UNHCR also responded to multiple forced displacement emergencies linked to armed conflict in San José del Guaviare (Guaviare) and Segovia (Antioquia), aggravated by environmental disasters in Briceño (Antioquia), southern Bolívar and Santa Bárbara (Nariño). By June, UNHCR had delivered 2,400 hygiene kits, 5,000 mosquito nets and 800 solar lamps.
- UNHCR also supported the monitoring of Colombia's response plans, the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) and the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), promoting greater alignment and more integrated, protection-centred and locally led responses.



On World Refugee Day, Colombia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR reaffirmed their commitment to refugee inclusion, launching the Decalogue for the Socio-Economic Inclusion of Refugees and advancing Colombia's first long-term National Asylum Policy, built through a participatory process with 670 stakeholders across 14 departments and 32 municipalities.

- **Legal clinics - ALMA Network launch.** In June, legal clinics across the country launched the ALMA Network (Access to Legal Assistance for Migrants, Refugees, Forcibly Displaced and Stateless People), which brings together 10 universities UNHCR has worked with. Since 2020, these legal clinics have provided assistance and guidance on access to rights to more than 71,600 refugees and internally displaced people.



Córdoba, 2026. UNHCR supports **locally led humanitarian coordination** in hard-to-reach areas.

- **Humanitarian Reset.** UNHCR drove forward the decentralisation and localisation of humanitarian coordination by leading 10 Local Coordination Teams (ELCs) and 6 Local Protection Groups (GLPs) in Antioquia, Urabá, Arauca, Norte de Santander, Valle del Cauca, Putumayo, Chocó, Cauca, Córdoba, Nariño, La Guajira and Magdalena Medio (based in Barrancabermeja).
- The ELCs and GLPs have integrated three crisis drivers, human mobility, armed conflict and climate variability, into their analyses and geographic scope, promoting area-based coordination.

- **Collective shelter in Medellín.** UNHCR rehabilitated and fully equipped the Temporary Collective Shelter (ACT) of the Mayor's Office of Medellín, strengthening the city's institutional capacity to provide safe, dignified and protection-sensitive emergency shelter and assistance for people forced to flee, through a sustainable, government-led response model.

Empower

- **Inclusive participation.** UNHCR supported the participation of around 700 stakeholders, including organisations led by refugees, asylum-seekers, young people, Indigenous people, LGBTIQ+ people and women, in shaping Colombia's first National Asylum Policy (2026), contributing to more inclusive asylum, protection and local integration frameworks.
- **Innovation for protection.** UNHCR's environmental projects turn ecological action into protection, inclusion and livelihoods. La Honda Con-Vida, in Medellín, manages waste and promotes the inclusion of informal recyclers. Guardianes del Mangle, in Turbo, Antioquia, restores mangroves and livelihoods with conflict-affected communities. In the Lleras settlement of Buenaventura, waste was recycled into musical instruments to protect children from forced recruitment and reinforce the Afro-Colombian identity of the Pacific.

Solve

- **Juntos por la Inclusión.** On 20 May 2026, the Government of Colombia, UNHCR and public, private and international partners launched Juntos por la Inclusión in Cali, a joint strategy to advance the socio-economic integration of refugees and internally displaced people. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, and with more than 120 participants, the event brought together actors committed to reducing barriers to formal employment and promoting inclusive hiring for the benefit of displaced people, businesses and host communities.
- **Graduation Model.** UNHCR is implementing the Graduation Model in Cali, supporting 100 households in situations of forced displacement and extreme poverty with comprehensive livelihoods and self-reliance interventions, with early results showing improved savings practices and greater financial resilience.
- **CONPES 4180 in the territories.** UNHCR supported the Government in disseminating the National Policy on Durable Solutions for internally displaced people, CONPES 4180 (2025). Sessions in Medellín, Tumaco, Cali, Buenaventura, Cúcuta and Quibdó brought together more than 350 authorities, victims' representatives, community leaders and partners in territorial dialogues to advance durable solutions led by local and regional actors.



[Click here to see a community turning environmental risk into opportunity.](#)

- **Protecting children in conflict-affected areas.** UNHCR's ADN Paz methodology operates in conflict-affected areas through the Conexión Catatumbo initiative (with UNICEF and the Diocese of Tibú) and in Arauca, fostering peaceful coexistence, emotional well-being and the protection of children from violence, and strengthening local protection networks and the resilience of children, caregivers, teachers and communities.



UNHCR's **Graduation Model in Medellín** helped 66 refugee and displaced families strengthen livelihoods and self-reliance toward local integration.

- **Wings for a New Future.** Twenty-five refugees from Venezuela who had sought protection in Colombia accessed jobs at Rome-Fiumicino Airport (Italy) thanks to the joint UNHCR-Aviapartner initiative, which expands safe, skills-based legal pathways in line with the Italian labour market.
- **Land and housing.** UNHCR supported settlement legalisation and access to land in 32 communities, following up cases in 20 municipalities across 10 departments to advance tenure security and durable solutions for displaced communities.

Stories from the field.

A welcoming Colombia; lives being rebuilt

On World Refugee Day 2026, UNHCR and Colombia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support of the European Union, shared three stories of people who fled Syria, Venezuela and El Salvador and are now rebuilding their lives in Colombia: Almotaz, who opened a restaurant in Bogotá; Miguel and Carolina, who obtained refugee status, employment and a home; and Mirleidy, who founded a community organisation and now aspires to study law. Together, their stories show that protecting refugees builds more inclusive and secure societies.



Read this and other stories at: [ACNUR, la Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados | ACNUR Colombia | ACNUR Colombia](#)

In focus



[Global Report 2025](#)



On social media

On World Refugee Day, **footballer Lucy Bronze, a UNHCR High Profile Supporter**, visited Colombia and played football with children who have been forced to flee their homes. A reminder that every child deserves safety, dignity and the chance to build a future.



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, Germany, Korea, Spain, Italy and Japan.

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