In January there have been 18 large-group internal displacements affecting more than 8,381 people (2,773 families). This statistics show an increase of 44% of internally displaced persons compared to the same period of 2021.

The events took place in the departments of Chocó (5), Nariño (4), Norte de Santander (2), Valle del Cauca (2), Putumayo (2), Arauca (2) and Antioquia (1). The causes related with these events are mainly confrontations between illegal armed actors (AAI) and combat between them and the public forces, threats to the population, risk of recruitment, targeted killings of social leaders and harassment of the civilian population. The Afro-Colombian population was the most affected, representing 80% of the total displaced population for this month.

The year began with a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Arauca: as a result of armed actions by illegal armed actors, 677 families (1,867 people) were individual displaced during January and at least 11 communities were confined in the Villa Paz Territorial Training and Reincorporation Center (ETCR) and in 10 indigenous communities: Vigía, Julieros, Puyeros, Cusay La Vigía, Julieros, Puyeros, Cuiloto II, La Esperanza, Palma Real, Parreros, Macarrieos, Cuiloto II, La Esperanza, Palma Real, Parreros, Macarrieos, Cusay La Colorada y Las Vegas.

These communities were forced into confinement due to threats from AAI.

In regard to these events, mostly individual statements were taken, which included people from Venezuela in need of international protection.

Likewise, in Chocó and Nariño, displacements continue to happen and communities continue to be affected: this month took place in the village of Bella Vista, within the Predio Putumayo indigenous reservation of the Murui Muina indigenous people, 35 families (120 people) were displaced as a result of confrontations between illegal armed factors.

UNHCR response to displacement in the department of Arauca included: (i) participation in institutional spaces (Transitional Justice Committee / Transitional Justice Commission / TJC and Subcommittees for Prevention, Protection and Guarantees of non-repetition) and support to municipal authorities to identify main protection risks and response needs (ii) support in promoting technical assistance actions to territorial entities and the Victims Unit (UARIV) for the development of contingency plans that allow the identification of gaps for victim assistance (iii) advocacy to promote the response of the Governor’s Office, (iv) UNHCR, through Opción Legal, provided support through the Protection Network of Personerías de Arauca and Cubará financed by UNHCR for the taking of statements from victims, as well as Access to rights for displaced communities.

NATIONALITY

Less than 1% of the population victim of displacement was of Venezuelan nationality.

CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT

Armed confrontations 44%
Threats 17%
Homicides 11%
Combats 11%
Harassment by armed groups 6%
Recluitment 6%
Terrorist attack 6%

¹ Large-group displacements are events where more than 10 families or 50 people are displaced. The displacements reported in the infographic and monitored by UNHCR correspond only to those that occurred in the areas covered by its field offices. Note: This factsheet was produced with the support of the European Union’s Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (ECHO). *The large-group internal displacement events are under constant verification and validation, therefore figures are subject to change.