UNHCR and the Government of Colombia signed in 1999 the "Memorandum of Intent regarding the cooperation in addressing the issue of forced displacement", to provide technical assistance in the implementation of protection and solutions strategies and to complement the State’s response.

During more than 22 years, UNHCR has worked with governments, communities and civil society to implement actions of prevention, protection, assistance, empowerment and solutions for IDPs and persons at risk of being forcibly displaced.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**Legal Framework**

- Law 387 of 1997
- Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement of the UN (1998)
- Law 1448 of 2011
- Law 2078 of 2021
- Jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court in the context of the follow-up of the decision of the Unconstitutional State of Affairs (2004)
- Policy on UNHCR’s engagement in situations of internal displacement (2019)
- Four-year plan between the Government of Colombia and UNHCR (December 2021)
- Letters of understanding signed with State institutions of national, regional and local level.

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

**Protection monitoring, advocacy, and operational response**

Response capacity based on context analysis and field presence

**Interagency response**

UNHCR leadership and active participation in coordination spaces

N.B: The central objective of UNHCR is to implement actions that aim to achieve full respect of the rights of the people we serve: refugees, asylum-seekers, people at risk and/or in the situation of forced displacement and/or confinement; people at risk of statelessness; returnees and host communities. The foundational document that defines the concept of "protection" remains the 2013 Statement by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action, which states that protection is all activities aimed at achieving full respect for the rights of individuals in conformity with the letter and spirit of the relevant law (international law of human rights), international humanitarian rights and international rights for refugees.
AREA BASED PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

- Institutional capacity to effectively respond.
- Level of community cohesion.
- Disproportionate impacts on populations of special constitutional protection.
- Humanitarian access and conditions of security.
- Opportunity to plan and consolidate solutions processes.
- Prioritization of communities in institutional processes (preventative measures, collective reparation processes, collective protection processes, Development Plans with Territorial Focus (PDET), land restitution judgements, among others).
- Low level of presence of other humanitarian actors, either protection or development actors.
- Accessibility in terms of capacity and logistics.

Tools for the Territorial Prioritization

- UNHCR programming addressed the protection gaps of the initial design.
- Levels of vulnerability of the community were reduced and the community counts with tools to effectively conduct advocacy with competent institutions.
- Presence of other State or humanitarian actors, either protection or development.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY UNHCR

- Develop strategic alliances with development actors.
- Establish and strengthen alliances with institutions with competencies in rural development, land restitution and legalization of urban settlements (focusing on solutions).
- Coordinate with the Participatory Development Programs with Territorial Focus-PDET.
- Support the design and implementation of Return and Relocation Plans; collective reparation; life plans and/or safeguard plans of indigenous communities and ethno-development plans.
- Implement actions with a restorative focus.
- Follow up and systematize the implementation of solutions processes.
- Support communities, ethnic authorities and community based organizations in their process of empowerment and self protection measures, including humanitarian assistance.
- Promote community participation in preparing emergency response and in solution processes.
- Work on the process of accountability and communication with communities (CwC).
- Promote and strengthen the renewal of community leadership.
- Design tools to transfer community processes as well as to ensure an adequate closure of UNHCR’s interventions.
- Train the population from Venezuela on the applicable regulatory framework for victims of displacement and/or confinement to promote the recognition and restoration of rights.
- Effectively lead interagency protection coordination spaces (Global Protection Cluster).
- Actively participate in interagency coordination spaces (Protection, health).
- Ensure the coordination between the Protection Cluster and the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM).
- Strengthen scenarios of interagency coordination related to early recovery and solutions.
- Promote a complementary response to emergencies.

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