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

(January to March 2023)

KEY FIGURES

56[1] Events

33 Large-group internal displacement[2] | **13,215** Persons | **5,405** Families | **31%** Women* | **25%** Men* | **44%** Children and adolescents*

23 Confinements[3] | **27,740** Persons | **7,265** 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.

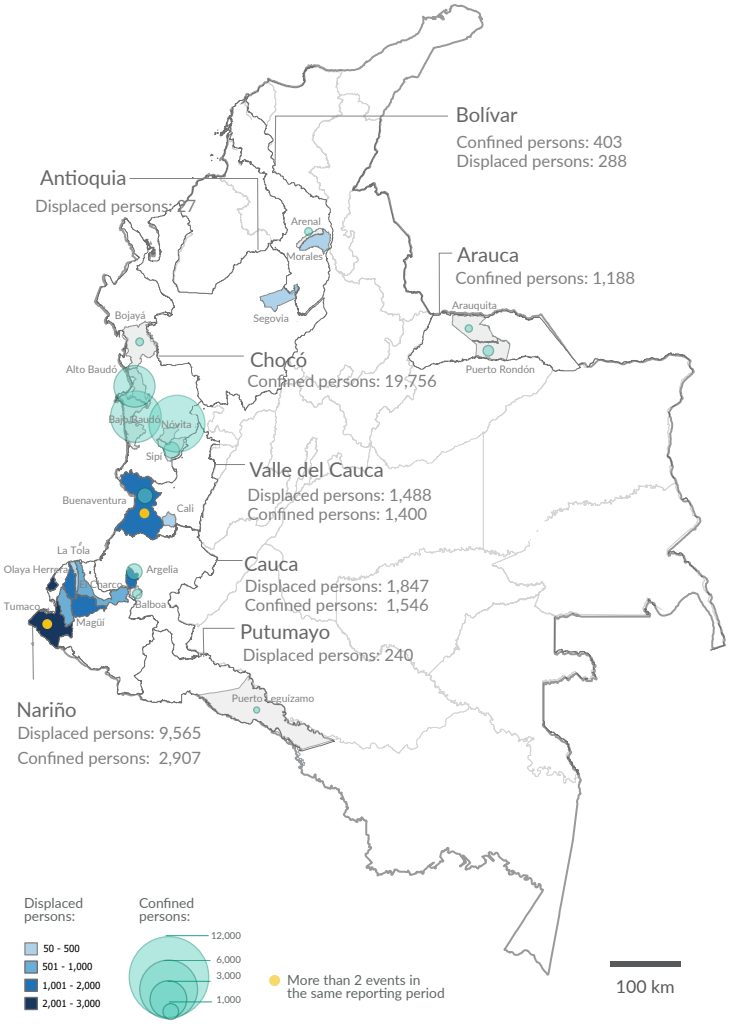
Between January and March 2023, 33 large-group displacement events occurred in UNHCR's areas of coverage, affecting at least 13,215 people (5,405 families). This number implies a 15% increase in the number of persons affected compared to the same period in 2022. In the last quarter of 2022, the number of individuals affected decreased by 6%, and the number of events fell by 47%.

March's emergencies affected 4,215 people (1,476 families) in Tumaco, Olaya Herrera, Roberto Payán y Ricaurte (Nariño), Segovia (Antioquia), Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca), Arenal and Morales (Bolívar), and Argelia (Cauca). Besides, there are emergencies in the process of verification in Roberto Payán, Ricaurte and Tumaco (Nariño), and Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca).

Additionally, from January to March 2023, 23 confinements affected 27,740 people (7,625 families). This implies an increase of 414% in the number of persons affected in confinements and of 283% in the number of reported events, compared to the last quarter of 2022. However, compared to the same period in 2022, the number of individuals affected decreased by 28%.

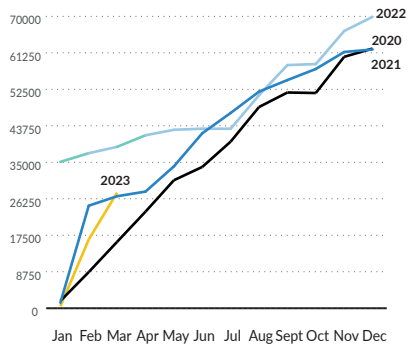
March's events occurred in Arenal (Bolívar), Argelia (Cauca), Alto Baudó, Nóvita, and Sipí (Chocó). Other events under verification took place in Montecristo (Bolívar), Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca), Nóvita, Sipí and Quibdó (Choco), Valdivia (Antioquia).

It is important to analyze the decrease in displacements figures taking into consideration scenarios, such as the incidence of individual cases in the total number of displacement modalities, based on the trend observed in 2022.[4]

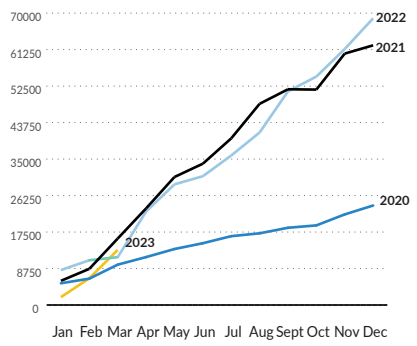


EMERGENCIES OVER TIME

Number of people confined (2020-2023)



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



> *This implies an increase of 414% in the number of persons affected in confinements and of 283% in the number of reported events, compared to the last quarter of 2022.*

[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
[4] Consolidated official data are presented for 2022, since the information for 2023 may not reflect the number of declarations of forced displacement still being processed for a decision on their inclusion in the Unified Registry of Victims

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

UNHCR Colombia - Operational Data Portal

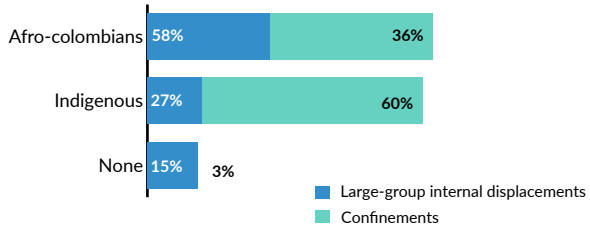
According to data from the National Registry of Victims (RUV) and UNHCR, large-group displacement events represented a minor percentage of total displacements in almost all monitored departments. A comparison of large-group internal displacement and individual displacement figures can be found here.

The lack of information or the difficulties to characterize mobility restrictions and confinements by institutions and humanitarian actors should also be taken into account to understand the decrease in the number of events and confinement cases. Other factors related to this scenario include the persistence of social control by non-State armed groups (NSAGs), which prevent the civilian population from denouncing abuses, for instance, by prohibiting the population's mobility and restricting the humanitarian access of State institutions and humanitarian actors.

Additionally, cases of forced displacement have been reported outside the areas covered by UNHCR: in La Montañita (Caquetá), La Macarena (Meta), La Chorrera (Amazonas), and Bocas de Uga (Vaupés). In the first case, the causes are related to direct threats from illegal armed actors to the communities to force them to abandon their land. Other cases have in common the risk of child recruitment.[5]

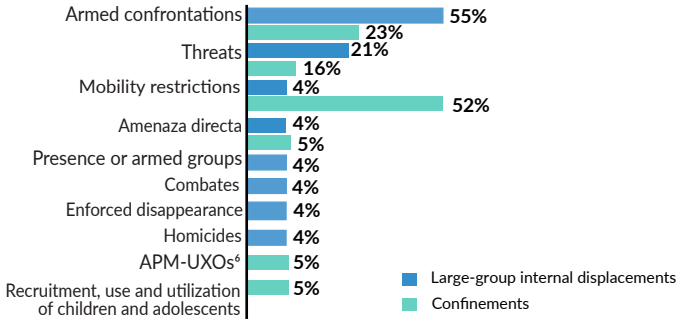
ETHNICITY

The ethnic population continues to be particularly affected: Afro-Colombian, Raizal or Palenquero people accounted for 36% of the victims of confinement and 58% of the displacements, while the indigenous population has been affected in 60% of the confinements and 27% of the displacements.

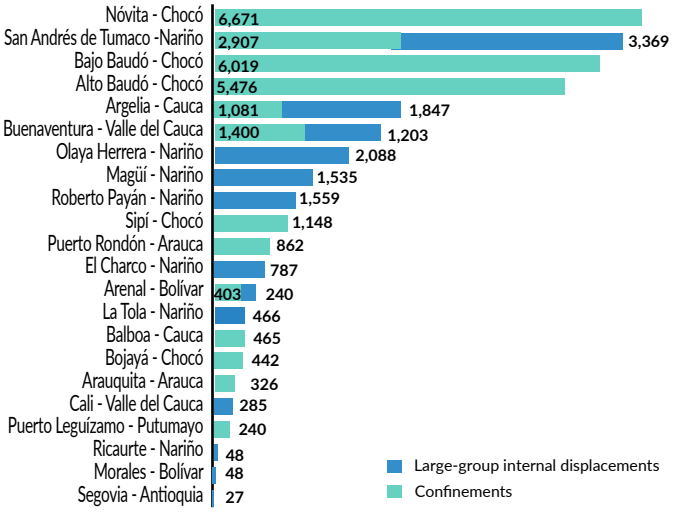


CAUSES OF EMERGENCIES*

Armed confrontations between NSAGs continues to be the main cause of large group displacement events, followed by generalized threats. As for confinements, the main causes are mobility restrictions and armed confrontations.

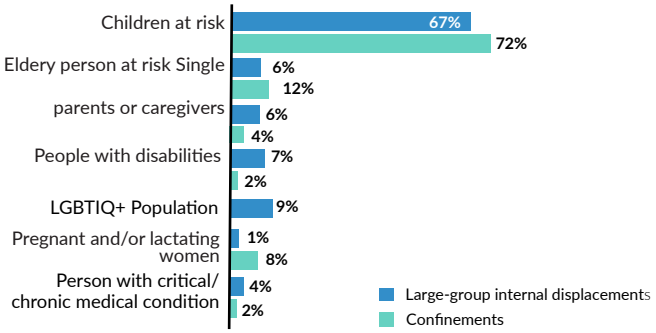


PEOPLE AFFECTED BY EMERGENCIES BY MUNICIPALITY



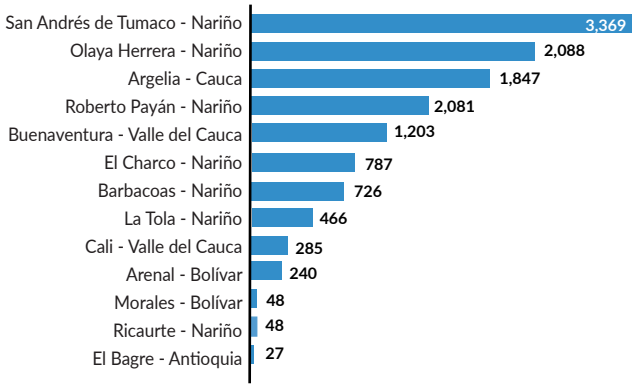
PROTECTION PROFILES IDENTIFIED

The most vulnerable population groups are children, adolescents, young people, the elderly, those physically or mentally disabled, single mothers or fathers, and pregnant or lactating women.



MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVING DISPLACED POPULATION

Tumaco and Olaya Herrera (Nariño) and Argelia (Cauca) are the municipalities with greater reception of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).



[5] Monitor OCHA, Defensoría del Pueblo.
[6] 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

ANTIOQUIA

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

	Displaced persons
Segovia	27

In March, the miner strike in Bajo Cauca caused severe mobility restrictions and constrained access to food supplies to the indigenous community of Montefrío, on the border of Segovia and Zaragoza, forcing them to move to Puerto López in the neighboring municipality of El Bagre.

VALLE DEL CAUCA AND CAUCA

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

	Confined persons	Displaced persons
Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca	1,400	1,203
Cali, Valle del Cauca		285
Argelia, Cauca	1,081	
Balboa, Cauca	465	

The humanitarian situation in the southern, pacific, and northern regions of Cauca is deteriorating due to the escalation of the armed disputes between different NSAGs from the Pacific region of Nariño to the Naya region, bordering the municipality of Buenaventura. The increase in the number of forced recruitment cases is alarming, as well as the way recruited children are being relocated to highly conflict-affected areas within the department, such as Cañón del Micay, Argelia or El Tambo.[7] The rural area of the municipality of Argelia continues to be a frequent battleground, resulting in three large-group displacement events between January and March.

CHOCÓ

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

	Confined persons
Nóvita	6,671
Bajo baudó	6,019
Alto Baudó	5,476
Sipí	1,148
Bojayá	442

More than 80% of confinements in 2023 have occurred in Chocó, worsening the humanitarian situation of Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations of the Atrato, Baudó, and San Juan river basins, which suffer long-lasting negative consequences related to limited mobility and access to food and essential services for survival.

NARIÑO

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

	Displaced persons	Confined persons
Tumaco	3,369	2,907
Olaya Herrera	1,801	
Roberto Payán	1,559	
Magüí	1,535	
El Charco	787	
La Tola	466	

The more prominent characteristic of the severity of the humanitarian situation in the Pacific Coast of Nariño is the recurrence of large-scale forced displacement due to the high intensity of armed confrontations between NSAGs. In this period, municipalities such as Olaya Herrera, Roberto Payán, and Tumaco have reported more than two forced displacements in their territories.

[7] Peace and Reconciliation Foundation (Pares in Spanish), September 1, 2022, The recruitment and use of children in war overshadows Cauca (pares.com.co)