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

(January to September 2023)

KEY FIGURES

168[1] Events

112 Large-group internal displacement[2]
- **47,884** Persons
- **18,492** Families
- **39%** Women*
- **30%** Men*
- **31%** Children and adolescents*

56 Confinements[3]
- **50,321** Persons
- **13,513** Families
- **38%** Women*
- **31%** Men*
- **31%** Children and adolescents*

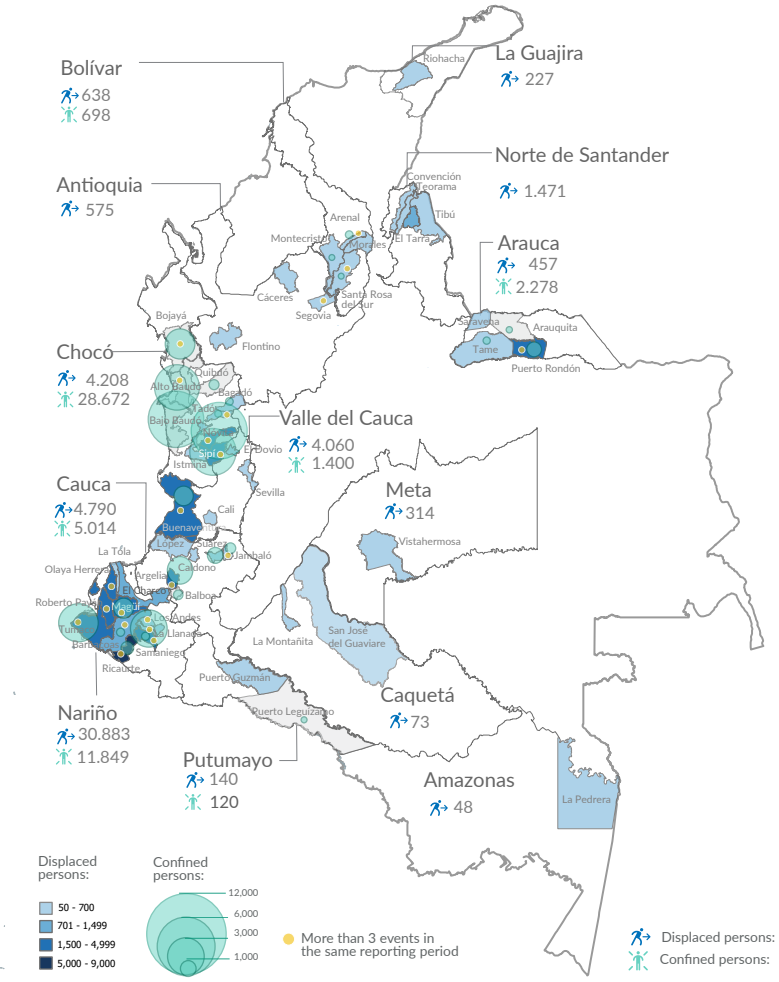
*The response rate for the gender and age disaggregation question was 48% of the total number of large-group internal displacement events recorded in UNHCR's monitoring.

Between January and September, UNHCR confirmed 112 large-group displacement events affecting 47,884 people (18,492 families). Emergencies in September occurred in Argelia (Cauca), Barbacoas, Magüí, Ricaurte, Samaniego, San Andrés de Tumaco (Nariño), and Puerto Caicedo (Putumayo).

Additionally, 56 confinement events affecting 50,321 people (13,513 families) have been confirmed. In September, over 2,056 people were affected in four events in Bojayá (Chocó), La Vega (Cauca), Ricaurte, and Santacruz (Nariño).

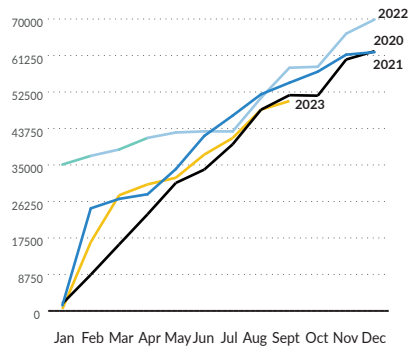
Compared to the last eight months of 2022, there is a 94% increase in the number of affected people, despite a 20% reduction compared to the same period in 2022.

These decreases in large-group displacements should be read alongside the rise in individual displacements and control scenarios by non-State armed groups (NSAGs), leading to underreporting in highly affected areas and risks for civilians due to armed group presence.

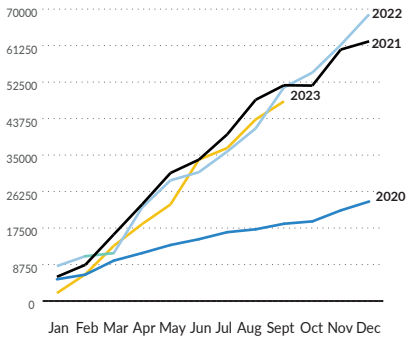


EMERGENCIES OVER TIME

Number of people confined (2020-2023)



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



> *Compared to the last eight months of 2022, there is a 94% increase in the number of affected people, despite a 20% reduction compared to the same period in 2022.*

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

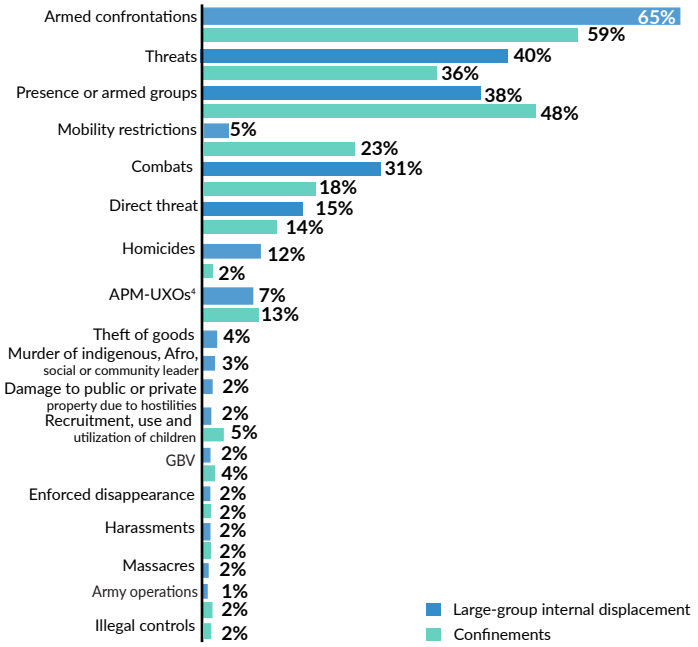
[2] The confinements and large-group internal displacement in the infographic and monitored by UNHCR correspond only to the departments in the areas covered by the field offices

[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, thus preventing access to goods essential for survival

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

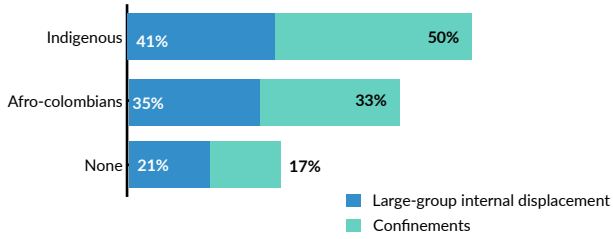
CAUSES OF EMERGENCIES*

In more than 68% of the displacements, confrontations between NSAGs are the main cause. Likewise, the presence of an NSAG and confrontations between them are the main causes of 59% of the reported confinements.



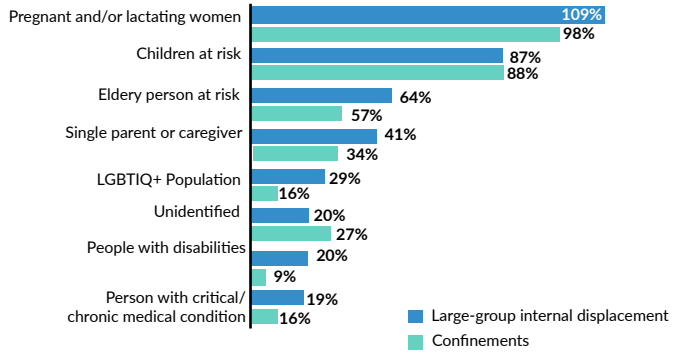
ETHNICITY

More than 30% of the displaced population identifies itself as Afro-Colombian, while more than 50% of the confined population recognizes itself as indigenous. The victim population that does not identify with any ethnic group accounts for approximately 21% of the total population victimized by massive displacement.

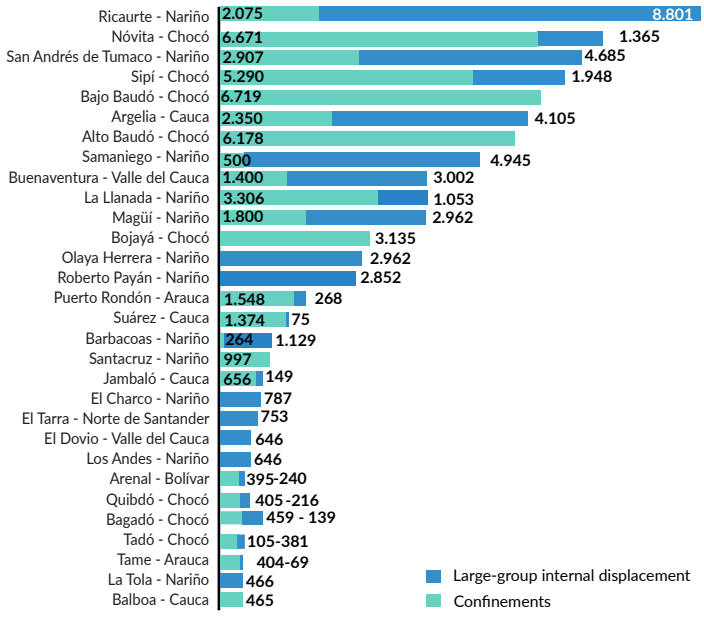


PROTECTION PROFILES IDENTIFIED

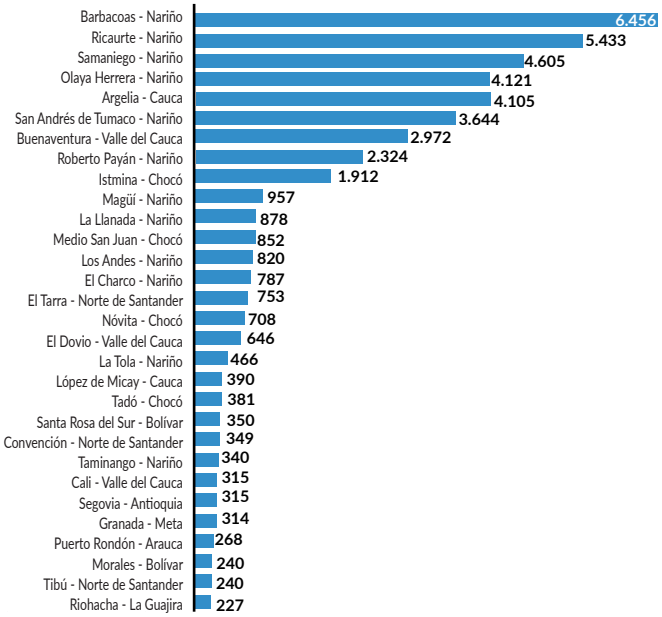
Among those most vulnerable to displacement and confinement are Pregnant and/or lactating women, children at risk, eldery person at risk, and single parents with young children.



TOP 30 | PEOPLE AFFECTED BY EMERGENCIES BY MUNICIPALITY



TOP 30 | MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVING DISPLACED POPULATION

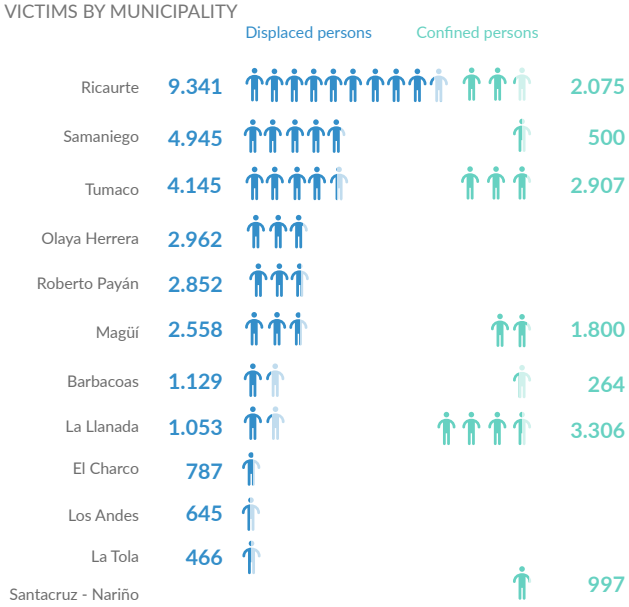


4 Contamination by anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance (AP-UXOs).
*Percentages add up to more than 100% because the same displacement event can have more than one cause.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

NARIÑO

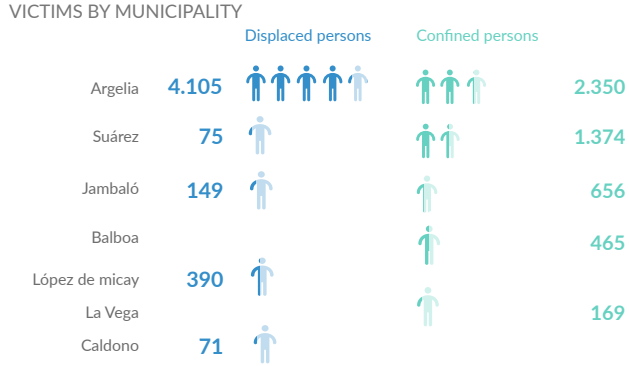
VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY



Civilian impacts due to intense armed confrontation between NSAGs in Nariño have extended to Samaniego, Andes, La Llanada, and Santacruz municipalities in the mountain area. Displacement affecting Awá and Pastos indigenous and rural communities in Samaniego was severe, with over 2,600 people displaced, and approximately 1,000 people confined in Santacruz due to clashes and landmine contamination.

CAUCA

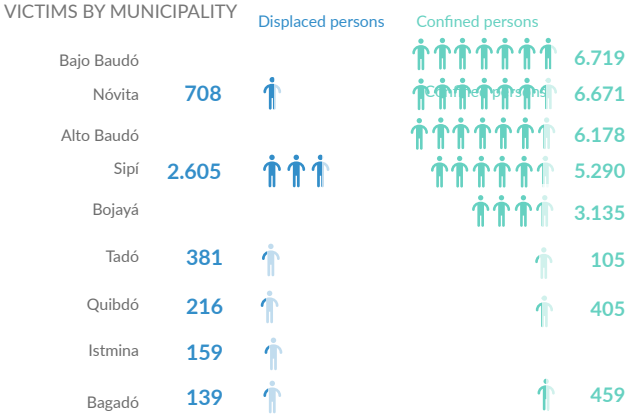
VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY



Government operations against NSAGs in the Río Micay canyon have severely deteriorated the humanitarian situation in the rural area of Argelia, especially in the El Plateado district. Resulting in over 460 displacements in September, adding up to approximately 4,000 displaced in large-group displacement events in 2023, along with recent armed actions causing the first reported confinement in La Vega municipality in 2023.

CHOCÓ

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY



Clashes between the Public Force and NSAG Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC) have led to recent displacements in rural Quibdó and Medio Atrato. Threats, increased recruitment risks, and landmine installation have aggravated the situation. Conflict in the Cuia and Opogadó rivers has confined over 1,700 people from nine Embera communities, along with persistent mobility restrictions for other ethnic communities due to ongoing presence of non-State armed groups.

PUTUMAYO

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

The large-group displacement event in Puerto Caicedo in September is a consequence of heightened violence stemming from confrontation between non-State armed groups. This situation has also affected the municipality of Puerto Asís, particularly impacting the indigenous reservations of Buenavista and Piñuña Blanco of the Siona People. The severity of this issue is exacerbated by underreporting, driven by pressure from illegal armed groups compelling civilians not to report incidents to authorities.