

UNHCR Colombia

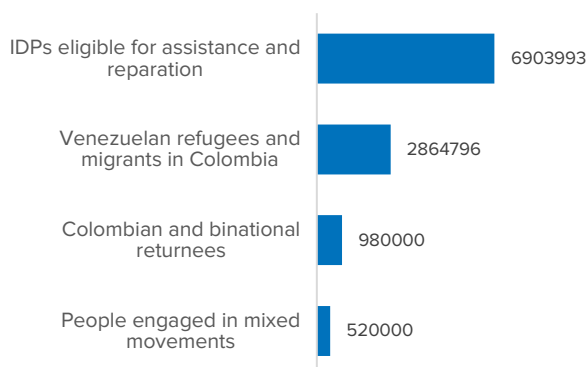
2024

2024 is a critical year to secure local authority ownership to address forced displacement issues with **newly elected municipal and departmental administrations**, who assumed their functions on 01 January 2024.

UNHCR is working with these authorities in key locations to ensure that their **development plans incorporate protection, assistance and solutions** for refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, and returnees.

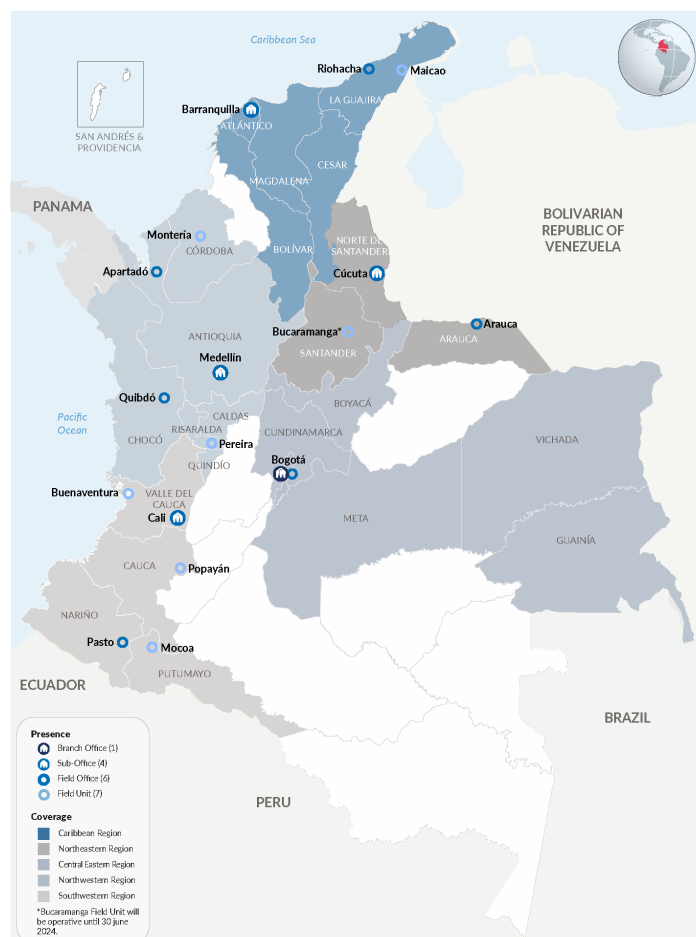
2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the ground-breaking T-025 sentence of Colombia's Constitutional Court on **internal displacement**, supported by UNHCR.

PEOPLE WITH AND FOR WHOM UNHCR WORKS



* UNHCR also assists refugees of other nationalities, stateless persons and others in need of international protection.

UNHCR 2024 PRESENCE



PRESENCE

Staff: 562 people (55% women, 45% men).

499 National staff (including interns).

63 International staff (including deployees).

Offices (18):

1 Country Office in Bogotá.

4 Sub-Offices in Barranquilla, Cali, Cúcuta and Medellín.

6 Field Offices in Apartadó, Arauca, Bogotá, Pasto, Quibdó and Riohacha.

7 Field Units in Bucaramanga (until June 2024), Buenaventura, Maicao, Mocoa, Montería, Pereira, and Popayán.

N.B: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the UN.

Please consult UNHCR Colombia 2024 map [online](#).

Protection and solutions strategy

Whereas there are promising advances with respect to the ongoing Peace negotiations to end Colombia's longstanding internal conflicts, **forced displacement** and **confinement** continue to increase in many parts of the country, particularly along the Pacific Coast and border regions. UNHCR will continue to support the State to prevent displacement and confinement, and, at the same time, empower local communities to build resilience.

Recognizing that **documentation** is a critical step for the protection of forcibly displaced populations, UNHCR will support Colombian authorities in ensuring that the remaining approximately 400,000 Venezuelans eligible for the **Temporary Protection Status (TPS)** receive their Temporary Protection Permit (TPP) in 2024.

Concurrently, UNHCR will promote effective access to fundamental rights of 1.9 million Venezuelans who have received documentation, including access to **social services** like healthcare and education, as well as **employment** and **entrepreneurship** opportunities in collaboration with the private sector and the National Vocational Training Service (SENA).

Considering the important flows through the **Darien**, which exceeded 500,000 persons in 2023 and with a myriad of protection risks, UNHCR will promote safe and accessible alternatives, including **integration opportunities** in Colombia and **safe legal pathways** such as **resettlement** to the United States and other countries, as well as providing **humanitarian assistance** such as legal counselling and psychosocial support.

2024 priorities

Protection

UNHCR guarantees access to a fair and efficient protection system in accordance with universal and regional standards.

- Continue to advocate for the expansion of the **Temporary Protection Status (TPS)**, as a complementary protection mechanism for Venezuelans.
- Conduct actions aimed at facilitating the delivery of **Temporary Protection Permits** (approved in the framework of the TPS, notably for eligible children and youth).
- Expand the support of the critical function of **Colombia's Public Ministry** (Attorney General Office and Ombudspersons at national and local level), to reinforce their ability to reach communities most affected by humanitarian emergencies and improve access to rights for those in need of protection.
- Support the Government's efforts to strengthen and modernize the **asylum system**, (recognizing that many forcibly displaced Venezuelans and refugees of other nationalities do not have access to the TPS).
- Strengthen UNHCR's **protection monitoring** role, particularly in border areas, generating concise and impactful reports that contribute to informed decision making on displacement issues.
- Promote **access to justice**, fostering the coordination of legal assistance partners, identifying opportunities for **strategic litigation** on the main obstacles in the access to fundamental rights of the people with and for whom UNHCR works.



An inter-institutional assistance day so that Venezuelans can access the Temporary Protection Status (TPS), in Bello, Antioquia. ©UNHCR.

Assistance

UNHCR promotes access to rights and responds to the basic needs of forcibly displaced persons.

- Expand the **network of more than 78 Information and Orientation Centres (PAOs)** throughout the country that give guidance to the people with and for whom UNHCR works so they can connect with government and NGOs to access rights and services.
- Promote access to **public services** (health education), particularly supporting children to access the TPS, and stay enrolled in school.
- Support individual cases with **specific and heightened protection risks** including children and survivors of gender-based violence.
- Reinforce **cash assistance** focused on multi-purpose grants for **highly vulnerable people**.
- Provide **complementary humanitarian assistance** in case of **emergencies** (i.e. large-scale displacement events and confinements) and on an exceptional basis for **at-risk individuals** who are not eligible for assistance under government initiatives.



A mobile information and orientation center (PAO) receiving people who require guidance and assistance in Quibdó, Chocó. ©UNHCR.

Community empowerment

UNHCR ensures the effective and differential participation of the people with and for whom UNHCR works.

- Contribute to strengthening **community structures** and **organizations**, particularly first and second level **ethnic authorities**, to improve their self-protection mechanisms. Foster community leadership and expand spaces for their effective participation and advocacy in local and national planning and decision-making fora.
- Promote the **participation** of women, children, youth and LGBTQI+ in community processes.
- Support a network of **community outreach volunteers** to identify and support people facing heightened protection risks.



Centro Intégrate supports migrants, refugees, returnees, and host communities in accessing employment, livelihoods, and entrepreneurship. Medellín, Antioquia. ©UNHCR.

Durable solutions

UNHCR promotes access to solutions involving host communities in urban and rural contexts.

- Work with the Victims' Unit to **promote sustainable solutions** for internally displaced persons, including **legalization** of informal settlements (also benefiting the many refugees and migrants residing in these communities) and voluntary and sustainable **returns**.
- Support affected populations from the emergency phase of their forced displacement to their full **socio-economic inclusion** by facilitating **access to the labour market: formal employment, entrepreneurship**, and **self-employment** opportunities, as well as **financial inclusion**.
- Pursue with **anti-xenophobia campaigns** to promote integration while countering xenophobia and discrimination.

Working with partners

UNHCR will continue to demonstrate strong leadership in **coordination**, both as co-leader of the **Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group (GIFMM)** in Spanish), and as the co-lead of the the **Protection Cluster** for internal displacement since 2006, with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

The **Protection Cluster** promotes a rights-based approach in the humanitarian response to the effects of the armed conflict and natural disasters. Moreover, UNHCR leads 4 out of **14 Local Coordination Teams (ELC)** in Spanish) in Antioquia, Arauca, Nariño and Putumayo; as well as **5 Protection Working Groups (GTP)** in Spanish) in Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca.

The GIFMM, which includes **82 members**, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and members of the Red Cross movement coordinates the response to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees, mixed, and transcontinental movements and the host population in a complementary manner with the Government. There are **11 local GIFMMs** co-led by UNHCR and IOM operational in Antioquia, Arauca, Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Caribbean Coast (Atlántico, Bolívar and Magdalena), Cesar, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Urabá, and Valle del Cauca.

Fourteen (14) partners support UNHCR throughout Colombia in operationalizing its protection and solutions mandate through partnerships with local NGOs and international NGOs as well as UN agencies.

Special thanks to each of them:

Local Partners (9): Comfenalco, Corporación Ayuda Humanitaria, Corporación Colectiva Justicia Mujer (CCM), Corporación de Profesionales para el Desarrollo Integral y Comunitario (Corprodinco), Corporación de Sedecom, Fundación Renacer, Fundación Save the Children Colombia, Opción Legal Colombia (COL), Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social (SNPS).

International Partners (5): Cuso International, Fundación Capital, Heartland Alliance International (HAI), HIAS inc., Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Financial information

For 2024, UNHCR in Colombia requires **USD 122.1 million** to fund its **Operation Plan**.

UNHCR thanks the contributions of our **donors in Colombia** and those who have contributed to the **global** programs with **flexible funds**.



Private Donors from Colombia, France, Spain, Italy, Japan, Korea and Sweden

Contacts

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