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

(January to August 2023)

KEY FIGURES

157[1] Events

105 Large-group internal displacement[2] | **43,523** Persons | **16,725** Families | **36%** Women* | **31%** Men* | **32%** Children and adolescents*

52 Confinements[3] | **48,265** Persons | **12,816** Families | **36%** Women* | **31%** Men* | **1%** Other* | **32%** Children and adolescents*

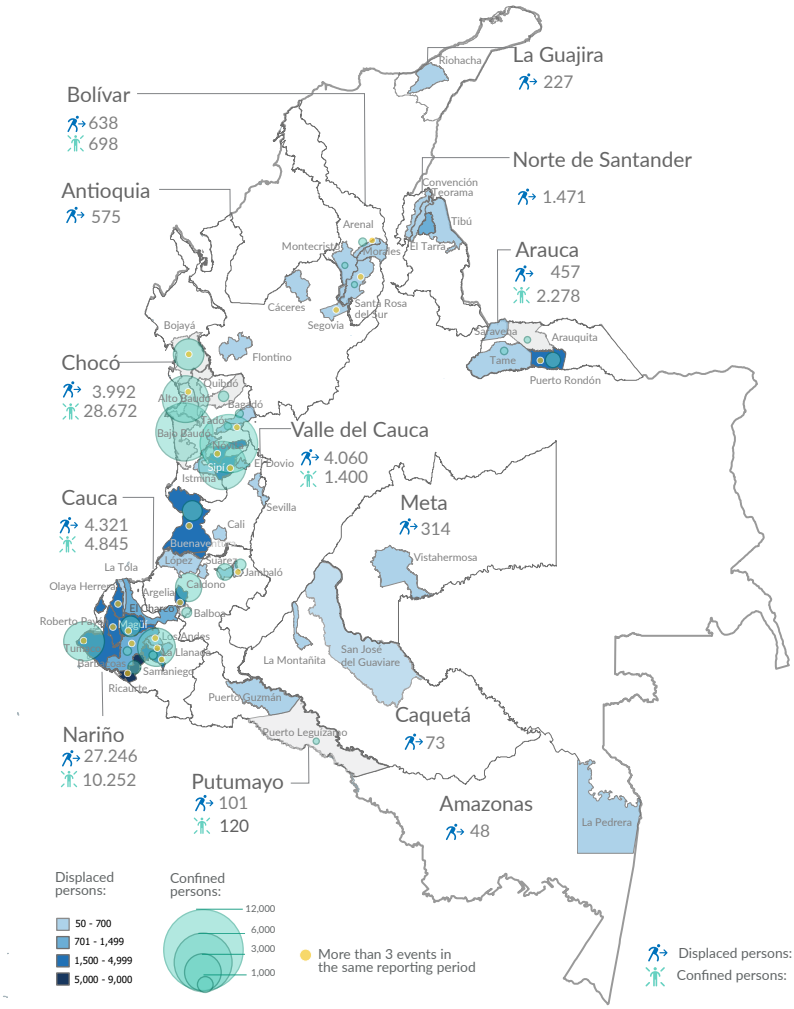
*The response rate for the gender and age disaggregation question was 46% of the total number of large-group internal displacement events recorded in UNHCR's monitoring.

Between January and August, UNHCR has verified 105 large-group displacement events impacting 43,523 individuals (16,725 families). August brought emergencies in Puerto Rondón (Arauca), Santa Rosa del Sur (Bolívar), Argelia, López de Micay (Cauca), Tadó (Chocó), Riohacha (La Guajira), Barbacoas, La Llanada, Ricaurte, Samaniego, and San Andrés de Tumaco (Nariño).

Despite a 3% reduction in affected individuals compared to the same period in 2022, August ranks as the second-highest month for large-group displacements in 2023, impacting over 6,800 people across at least 15 incidents.

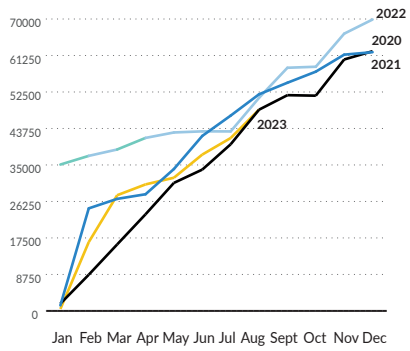
Additionally, 52 confinement events affecting 48,265 people (12,816 families) have been confirmed in the reporting period. In August, over 5,200 people were affected in at least nine events, occurring in Puerto Rondón (Arauca), Santa Rosa del Sur (Bolívar), Argelia (Cauca), Bojayá and Tadó (Chocó), La Llanada, Ricaurte, and Samaniego (Nariño).

The report highlights escalating armed confrontations among various non-State armed groups (NSAGs) and between these groups and the Public Force along the Pacific coast of Cauca and the slopes of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

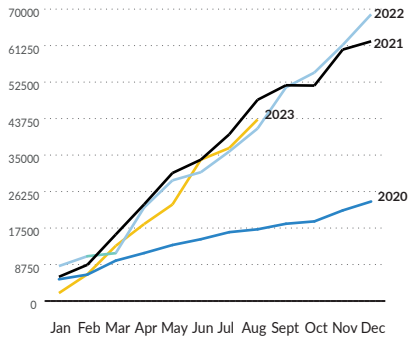


EMERGENCIES OVER TIME

Number of people confined (2020-2023)



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



> *Despite a 3% reduction in affected individuals compared to the same period in 2022, August ranks as the second-highest month for large-group displacements in 2023, impacting over 6,800 people across at least 15 incidents.*

[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

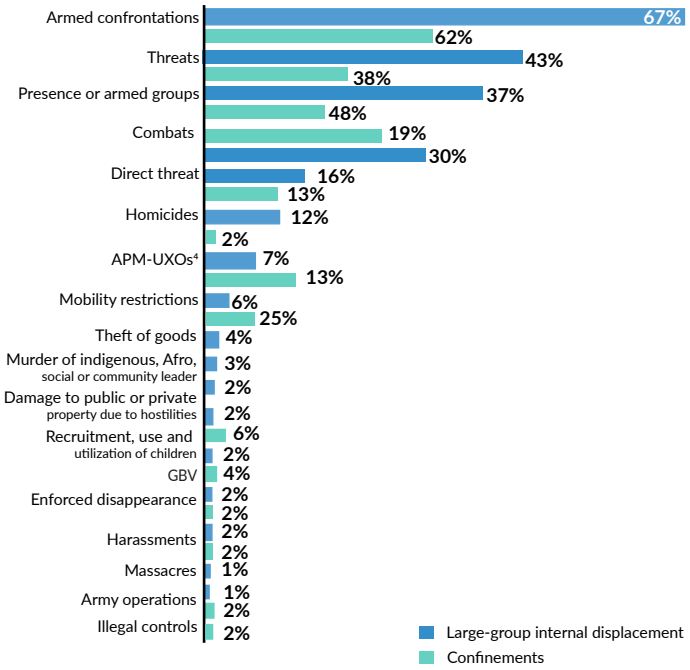
[3] Confinement is understood as a situation of violation of rights in which a community loses mobility as a result of the actions of Non-State Armed Groups, thus preventing access to goods essential for survival

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

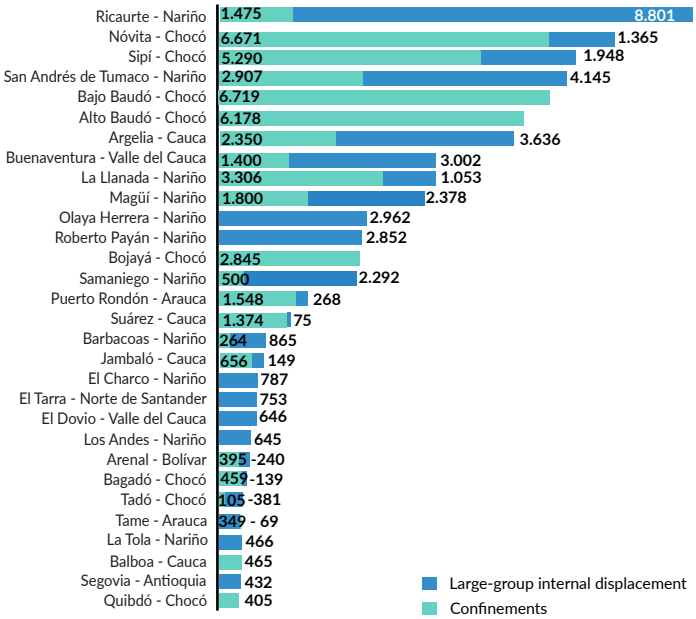
Moreover, intensified actions have been observed in the Nariño mountain range area.

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.

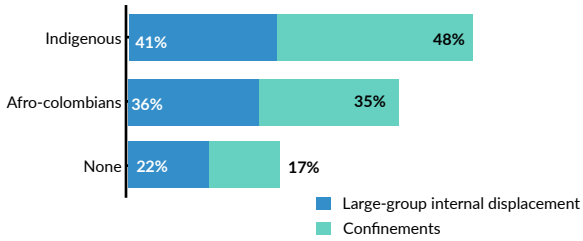


TOP 30 | PEOPLE AFFECTED BY EMERGENCIES BY MUNICIPALITY



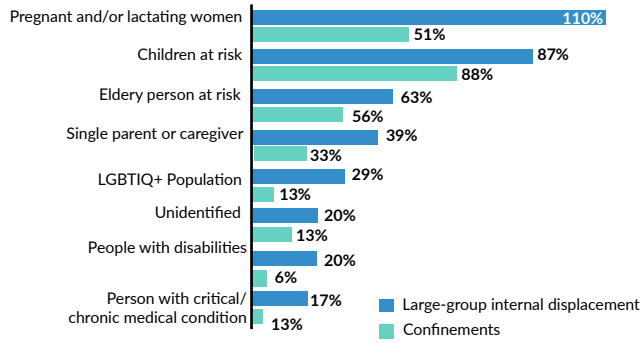
ETHNICITY

The Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations comprise nearly 77% of those impacted by large-group displacement occurrences and over 83% of those held in confinement. Meanwhile, the number of affected individuals not affiliated with any ethnic group has notably risen, with an average exceeding 3,000 impacted by large-group displacement events between June and August, compared to a mere 248 between January and June.

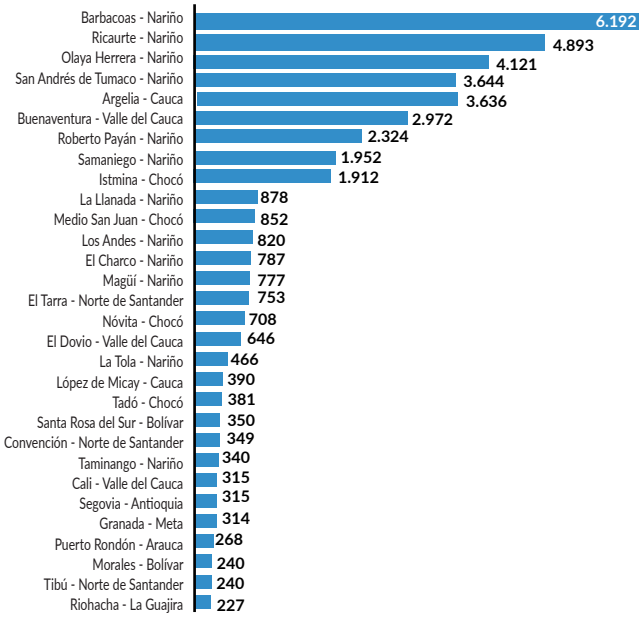


PROTECTION PROFILES IDENTIFIED

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 | 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

	Displaced persons	Confined persons
Ricaurte	8.801	1.475
Tumaco	4.145	2.907
Magüí	2.378	1.800
Olaya Herrera	2.962	
Roberto Payán	2.852	
Samaniego	2.292	500
La Llanada	1.053	3.306
Barbacoas	865	264
El Charco	787	
Los Andes	645	
La Tola	466	

Humanitarian situation in the mountain municipalities like Samaniego, Andes, and La Llanada is worsening due to increased armed actions between various non-State armed groups (NSAG) vying for control of drug trafficking nodes and illegal gold mining zones. More than 4,100 people were displaced, with Samaniego witnessing the most severe events due to their substantive impact. Xenophobic sentiments have emerged against Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving in the area, leading to a temporary suspension of actions by humanitarian organizations.

CAUCA

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

	Displaced persons	Confined persons
Argelia	3.636	2.350
Suárez	75	1.374
Jambaló	149	656
Balboa		465
López de micay	390	
Caldono	71	

The rural area of Argelia in the Río Micay canyon is under extensive government force operations against the NSAGs present in the region. This has led to over 3,600 displacements in at least seven large-group events, along with over 2,350 people being confined. UNHCR also acknowledges the first large-group displacement event of the year in López de Micay on the Cauca coast due to clashes between NSAGs, affecting Venezuelan population as well.

ARAUCA

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

	Displaced persons	Confined persons
Puero Rondón	268	1.548
Tame	69	404
Arauquita		326
Saravena	120	

Escalating armed disputes among controlling NSAGs have resulted in mobility restrictions, checkpoints, selective homicides, and direct threats to force population displacement or confinement in rural areas of Tame and Puerto Rondón. Humanitarian actors on the ground highlight a sharp increase in school dropout rates as a result of mobility restrictions and the high risk of new confinements.

LA GUAJIRA

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

	Displaced persons
Riohacha	227

Conflicts between NSAGs vying to control transit routes around the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, like the Troncal del Caribe, have affected civilians through forced displacements, such as in Riohacha, affecting over 227 people, mostly Wayúu ethnic group. Other factors contributing to possible displacements, like homicides and kidnappings, have increased in the neighboring municipality of Dibulla.