

# UNHCR Colombia

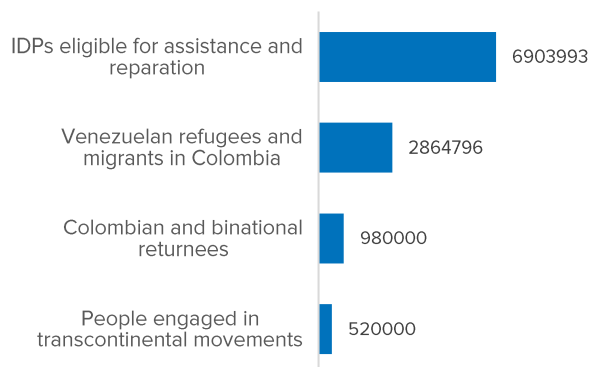
2024

2024 is a critical year to ensure **local authority buy-in** to address forced displacement issues with **newly elected municipal and departmental administrations** assuming their functions on 1 January.

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

2024 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ground-breaking T-025 sentence of Colombia's Constitutional Court on **displacement**, supported by UNHCR, which underscores the **State responsibility to restore the rights** of those **affected by conflict**.

## PEOPLE WITH AND FOR WHOM UNHCR WORKS



\* UNHCR also assists people at risk of statelessness and people of various nationalities who need international protection.

## 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.

## UNHCR 2024 PRESENCE



**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

Although there are promising advances with respect to peace negotiations to end Colombia's multiple ongoing internal conflicts, **displacement** and **confinement** continue to trend upwards in many parts of the country, particularly in the Pacific Coast and border regions. UNHCR will prioritize supporting local authorities in preparing for and responding to displacement and confinement, and, at the same time, empowering local communities to build their resilience and **capacity for self-protection** in the face of armed conflict.

Recognizing that **documentation** is the critical step in ensuring 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 work to ensure that the 1.9 million Venezuelans who have received documentation are able to effectively benefit from the related rights, 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 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

- Continue to advocate for the expansion of the **Temporary Protection Status (TPS)**, as a complementary protection 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 who need protection.
- Support the Government's efforts to strengthen and modernize the **asylum system**, recognizing that hundreds of thousands of forcibly displaced Venezuelans and other nationalities do not currently have access to the TPS.
- Strengthen UNHCR **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 barriers faced by the people with and for whom UNHCR works to access rights.



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

## Assistance

- Expand our **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 and 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

- 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

- Work with the Victims Unit to **accelerate solutions** for displaced persons, including **legalization** of informal settlements (also benefiting the many refugees and migrants residing in these communities) and voluntary and sustainable **returns**.
- Strive to support affected populations from the emergency phase of their 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** meant 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 materializing 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 fulfil 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

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## Links

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