UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

MONITORING OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES/COLOMBIA

LARGE-GROUP INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND CONFINEMENTS

(January to November 2023)

KEY FIGURES

213 Events[1]

141 Large-group internal displacement[2]

56,651 Persons

22,650 Families

39% Women*

31% Men*

30% Children and adolescents*

72 Confinements[3]

99,246 Persons

Families

37% Women*

34% Men*

29% Children and adolescents*

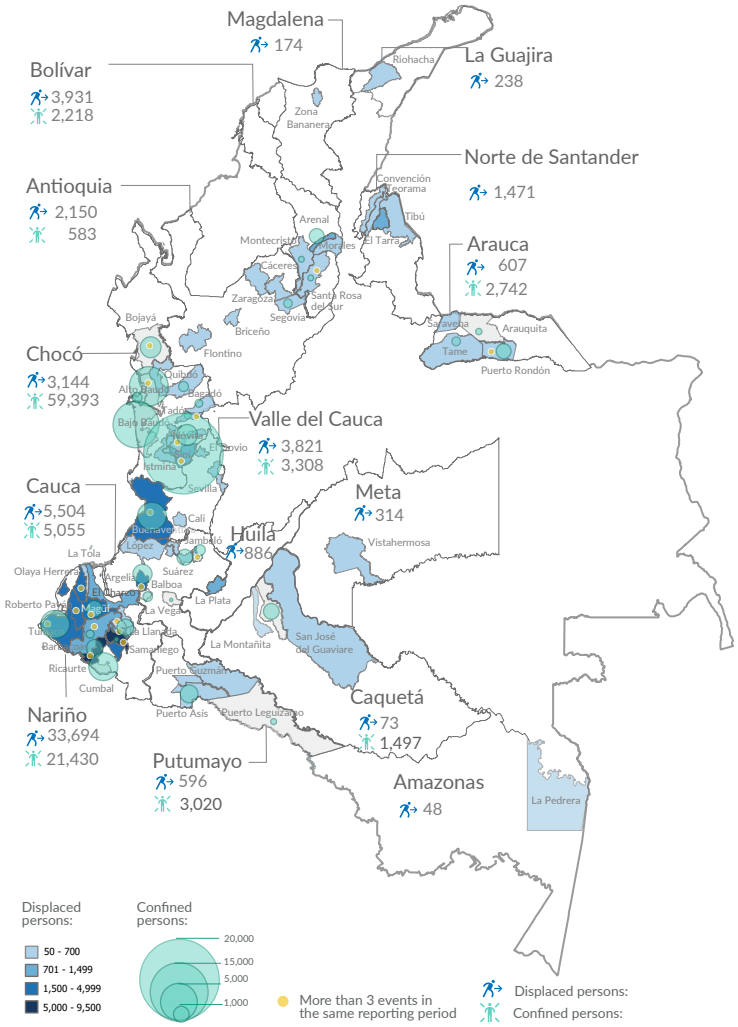
*The response rate for the gender and age disaggregation question was 48% of the total number of large-group internal displacement events recorded in UNHCR's monitoring...

Between January and November, UNHCR confirmed 141 large-scale displacement events affecting 56,651 people (22,650 families). The emergencies in November (11) took place in Amalfi and Briceño (Antioquia), Arenal, Morales, and Santa Rosa del Sur (Bolívar), Silvia (Cauca), Alto Baudó, Litoral del San Juan, and Sipí (Chocó), and Zona Bananera (Magdalena), affecting 4,304 people (1,793 families).

Compared to the same period last year, there was an 11% decrease in the number of events and a 5% decrease in the number of affected people. However, there has been an expansion of internal displacement into new areas in the departments of Bolívar and Antioquia. In southern Bolívar (Arenal, Santa Rosa, and Morales), communities were displaced at least four times during the year, with 2,100 people affected in November alone. The magnitude of these events has overwhelmed the response capacities of these municipalities, as reported by humanitarian actors on the ground.

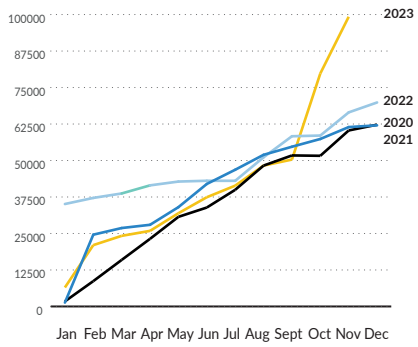
Between January and November, UNHCR also verified 72 confinement events affecting 99,246 people (27,569 families). In November, more than 19,419 people were affected in three events in Alto Baudó (Chocó) and in La Llanada and Santacruz (Nariño).

Compared to the same period in 2022, there is a 49% increase in the number of affected people, indicating a disproportionate rise in this form of victimization and its recurrent occurrence in Chocó and Nariño, the departments with the highest annual number of confinement events.

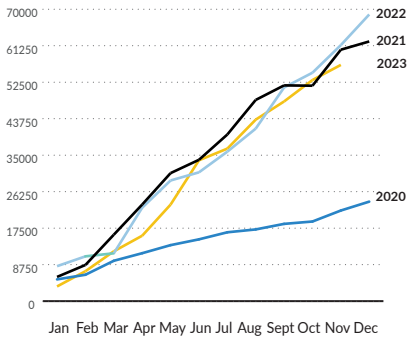


EMERGENCIES OVER TIME

Number of people confined (2020-2023)



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



> "Se However, there has been an expansion of internal displacement into new areas in the departments of Bolívar and Antioquia. In southern Bolívar (Arenal, Santa Rosa, and Morales), communities were displaced at least four times during the year (...)"

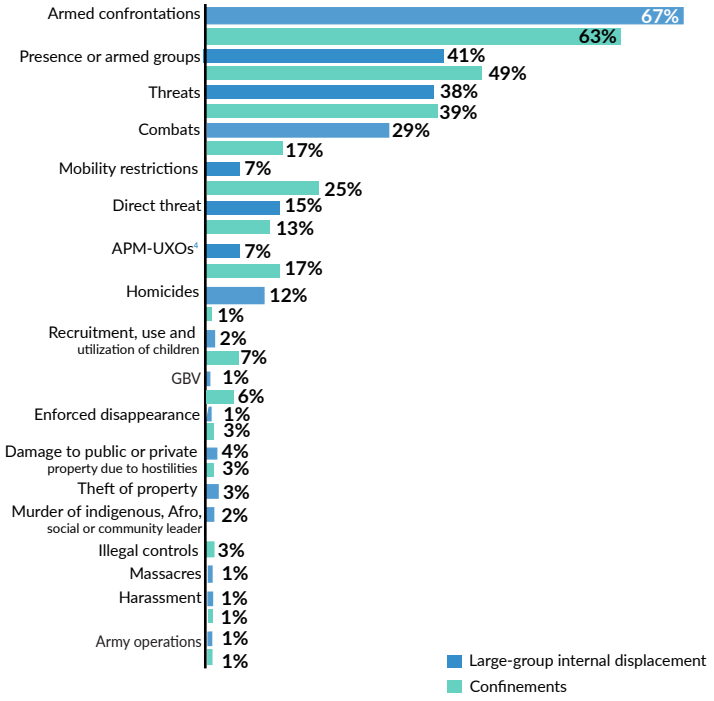
[1] Emergency events are constantly being verified and validated; therefore figures are subject to change
[2] The confinements and large-group internal displacement in the infographic and monitored by UNHCR correspond only to the departments in the areas covered by the field offices
[3] Confinement is 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).

The confinements in Alto Baudó and the Nariño mountain municipalities highlight the concentration of these emergencies in the Pacific region and the extension of armed conflict and violence into other areas of Nariño.

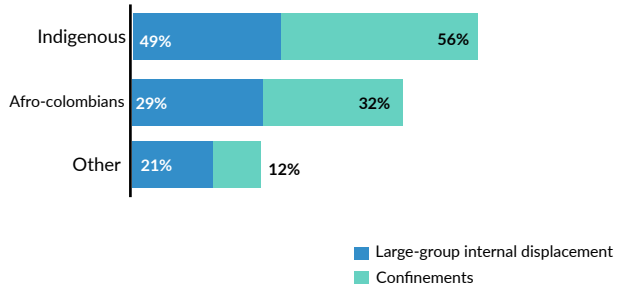
CAUSES OF EMERGENCIES*

Clashes between Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) remain the primary cause of both displacements (67%) and reported confinements (64%). Additionally, the presence of an NSAG in the territory accounted for 50% of these cases.



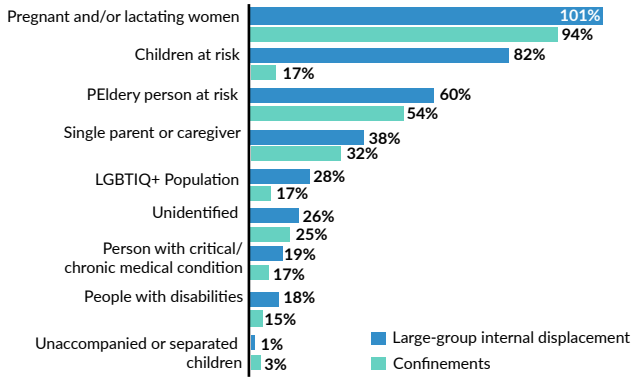
ETHNICITY

Afro-Colombian and Indigenous populations constitute almost 75% of those affected by large-scale displacements and over 80% of those confined. There is a notable increase in confinement among ethnic communities, primarily occurring in Pacific region areas.

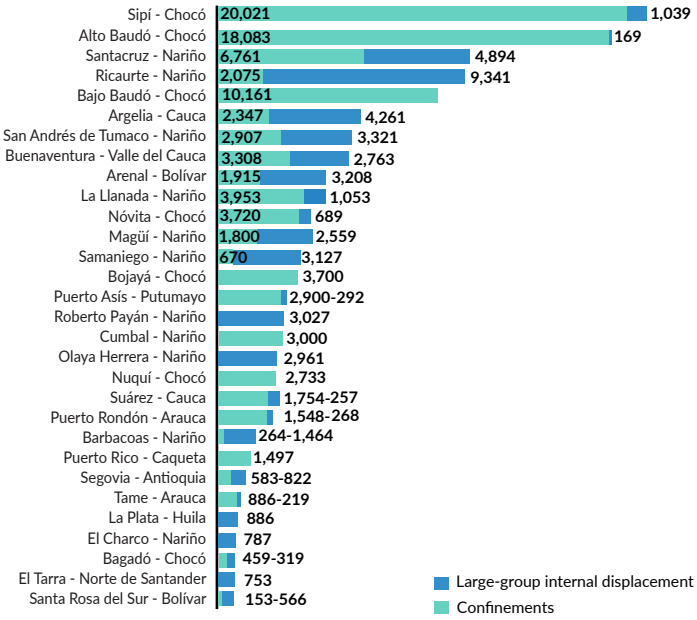


PROTECTION PROFILES IDENTIFIED

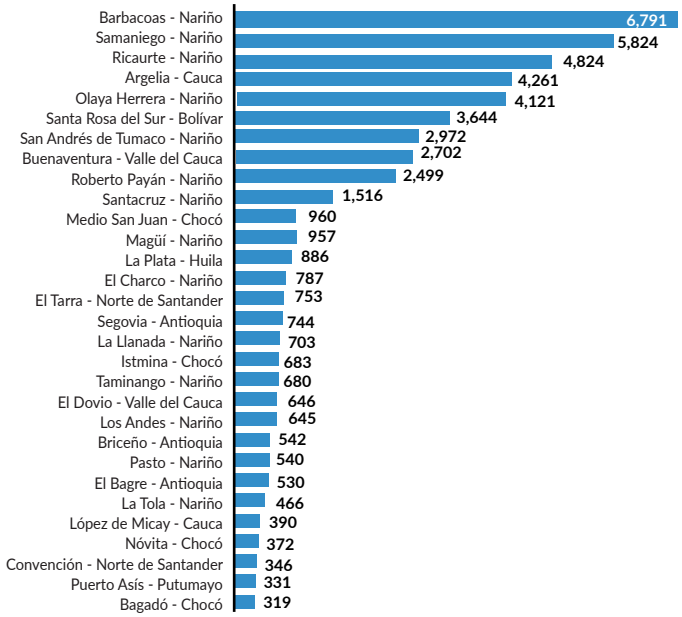
The most affected profiles by displacement and confinement include children and adolescents, who show an increase from the previous month, as well as older persons, single parents with young children, pregnant and/or lactatating women.



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.

ANÁLISIS REGIONAL

MAGDALENA

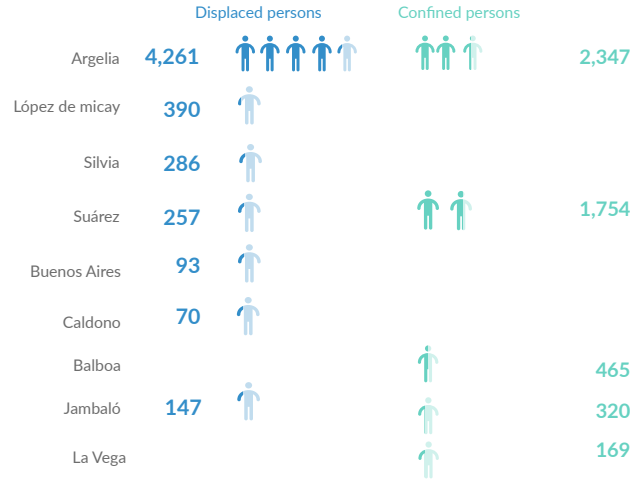
VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

The displacement in the hamlet of Guayacamal, Las Mesas village, Zona Bananera municipality, affected more than 174 people and is the first reported in the department in 2023. Families displaced to Santa Marta and Ciénaga, and the event was only reported at the end of the month despite occurring on November 5. Families fled due to intimidation and threats from NSAGs in the area.

Authorities warn of escalating conflict in the municipality Zona Bananera and increasing individual displacements from the southern and central subregions to Santa Marta.

CAUCA

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY

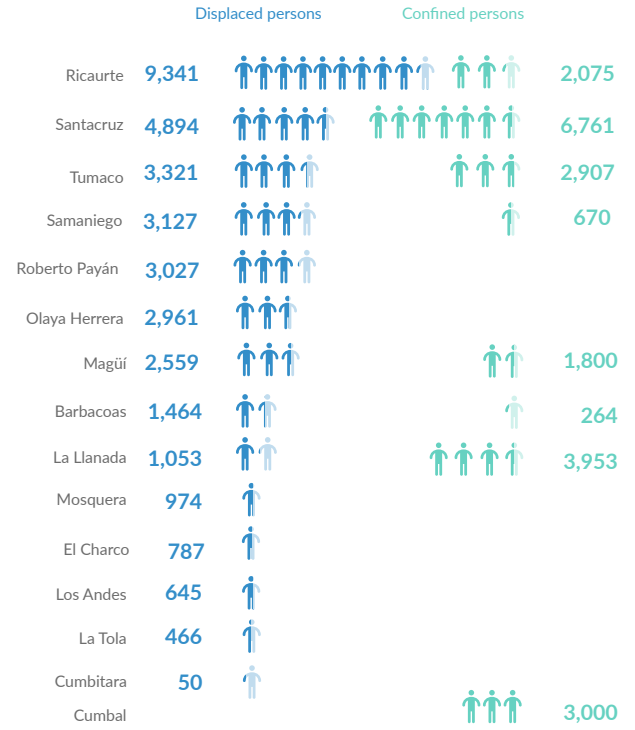


The complex humanitarian situation persists in Cauca, with reports of increased threats, illegal checkpoints, homicides of leaders, and the use of improvised explosive devices (IED) by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs).

A displacement in the municipality of Silvia affected at least 286 people due to clashes from November 27 in this area. Throughout the year, there have been at least 25 events (15 displacements, 10 confinements), making Cauca the third most affected department, with over 10,000 people displaced and confined.

NARIÑO

VICTIMS BY MUNICIPALITY



Since mid-June, clashes between NSAGs have been occurring for control of the municipalities of Samaniego, La Llanada, and Los Andes, which are strategic corridors between Nariño's mountainous area and the Telembí subregion towards the Pacific Ocean.

Additionally, the destruction of El Socorro bridge (route to El Sande Indigenous reservation) affected communities in Santacruz, leading to the confinement of at least 5,700 people due to threats from NSAGs in the area.