UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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

(January to september 2024)

KEY FIGURES

177[1] Events

96 Large-group internal displacement[2]
- **46,247** Persons
- **18,896** Families
- **35%** Women*
- **34%** Men*
- **31%** Children and adolescents*

81 Confinements[3]
- **88,942** Persons
- **26,745** Families
- **36%** Women*
- **41%** Men*
- **23%** Children and adolescents*

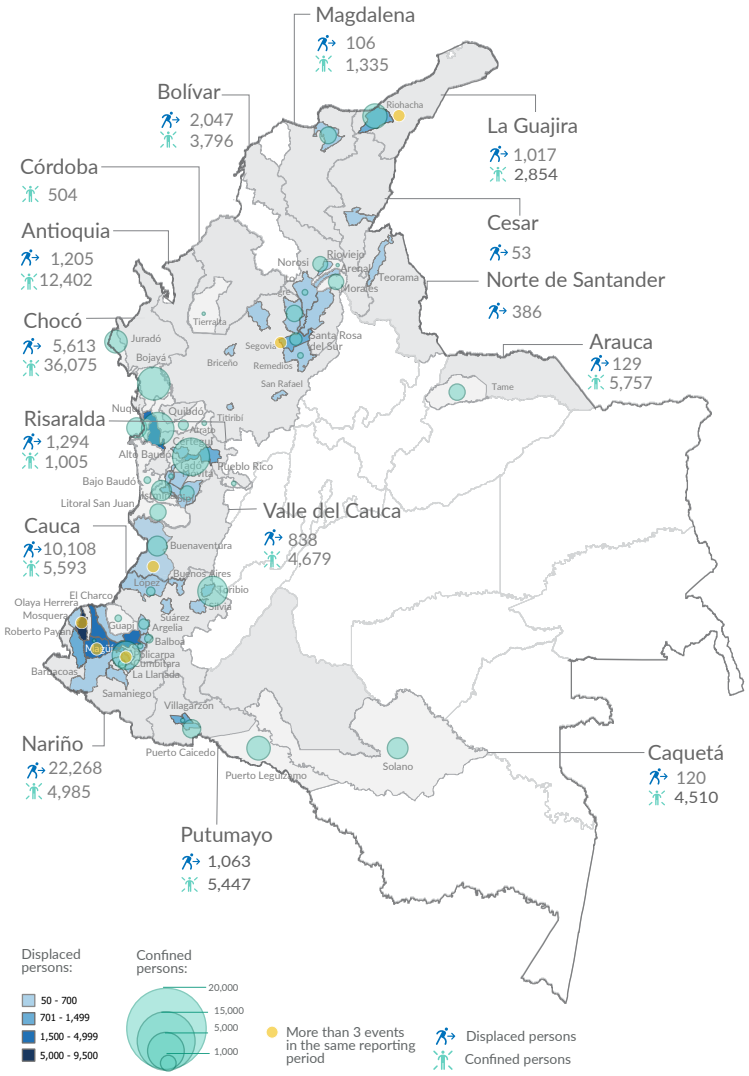
*The response rate for the gender and age disaggregation question was 33% of the total number of large-group internal displacement events recorded in UNHCR's monitoring.

Between January and September 2024, UNHCR confirmed 177 large-group internal displacement events, comprising 96 forced displacements and 81 confinement incidents, affecting 46,247 individuals (18,896 families) and confining 88,942 individuals (26,745 families). In the last quarter of 2024 (July toSeptember)), 33 new humanitarian emergencies were reported across 10 departments. In these new emergencies, fourteen (14) were related to forced displacements, affecting 6,271 people (2,913 families) in 8 departments, while 19 emergencies involved confinement events, affecting 27,302 individuals (8,259 families) in 6 departments. In the third quarter of 2024, a total of 33,187 individuals (10,992 families) were affected by forced displacement in Colombia.

Comparing these figures with the same period in 2023 (January to September) large-group displacement decreased in Colombia -, in 2023 there were 112 large-group displacements whereas in 2024 there were 96 events. There was a moderate reduction in the number of people affected by displacement, from 47,884 individuals in 2023 to 46,247 individuals displaced by September 2024 (-4%). Nevertheless, there was a significant increase in the number of confinement events (from 56 events occurring in 2023 to 81 events in the same period in 2024). The impact of confinement increased drastically from 50,321people affected between January and September of 2023 to 88,942 individuals affected during the same period in 2024 (+77%).

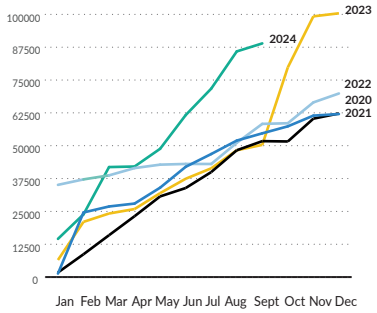
The departments most affected by forced displacement during the third quarter of 2024 were Cauca and Chocó. Cauca was the department most impacted by internally displacement, where a total of 4,827 people were affected in five large-group displacements. The other affected departments were Chocó (two events), Antioquia, Bolívar, Caquetá, Arauca, Nariño and Norte de Santander. In the case of Nariño, in July and August no large-group displacements occurred. This situation could be attributed to the peace negotiation that started between the National government and a non-state armed group (NSAG). They agreedto de-escalate violence in several municipalities.

The most affected departments by confinement Arauca, Cauca and Chocó. In Chocó, the armed strike declared by a NSAG in the month of August affected at least 12,500 people belonging to different indigenous and afro-Colombian communities of San Juan subregion, in the municipalities of Sipí, Nóvita, Medio San Juan, and Istmina. These communities experienced prolonged confinements, resulting in severe impacts, including restricted mobility and limited access to essential goods and services for weeks or even months.

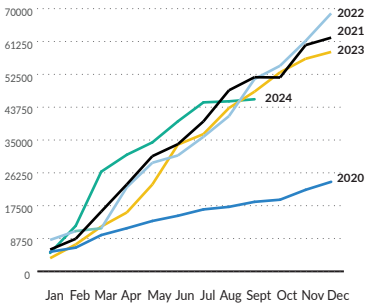


EMERGENCIES OVER TIME

Number of people confined (2020-2024)



Number of people displaced in large-group displacement events (2020-2024)



[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.

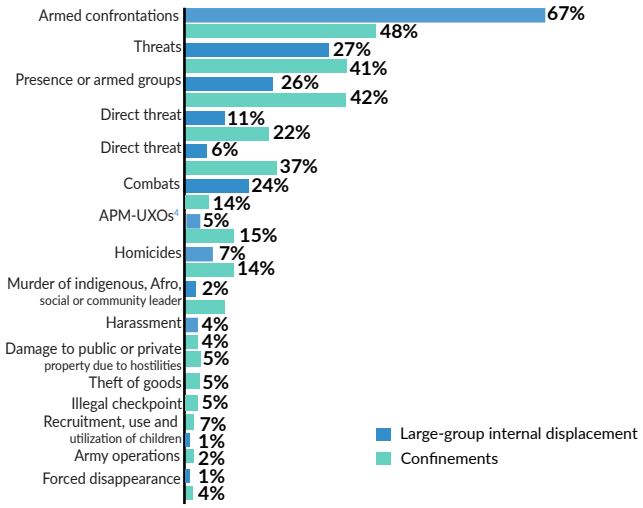
Note: This document was produced with the support of the European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

The clashes between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) continue to be the main cause of displacement and confinement in the country. Recent contextual situations, such as the postponement of peace negotiations with a NSAG, have affected the departments of Arauca, Norte de Santander, Antioquia (Northeast), and Chocó, where an increase in armed clashes and subsequent protection risks for the civilian population has been identified. Additionally, regions like Valle del Cauca and Cauca are experiencing a notable increase in the recruitment, use, and utilization of children and adolescents by NSAG, posing risks to individuals from Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. For instance, in Cauca, according to reports from the National Ombudsperson's Office, more than 190 cases of recruitment of children and adolescents were recorded between January and August 2024.[4]

CAUSES OF EMERGENCIES*

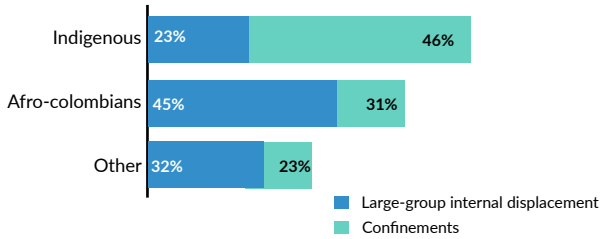
between January and September, armed clashes between NSAGs were the main cause of 64 large-group displacements (67%), followed by threats/intimidation, which caused 26 displacement events (27%), and the presence of the armed actor in 25 of these events (26%).

Similarly, armed clashes are the main cause of 39 confinement events (48%), followed by the presence of NSAG, the probable cause of 34 events (42%), and threats/intimidation, which are the cause of 33 confinement events (41%).



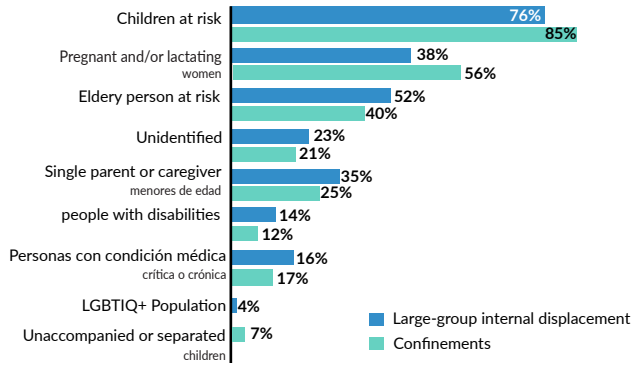
ETHNICITY

The Afro-Colombian and Indigenous population constituted 68% of the total number of individuals affected by large-group displacements and approximately 77% of confined people. In the events reported by UNHCR, 32% of the forcibly displaced population and 23% of the confined population are not associated with an Indigenous or Afro-Colombian group.

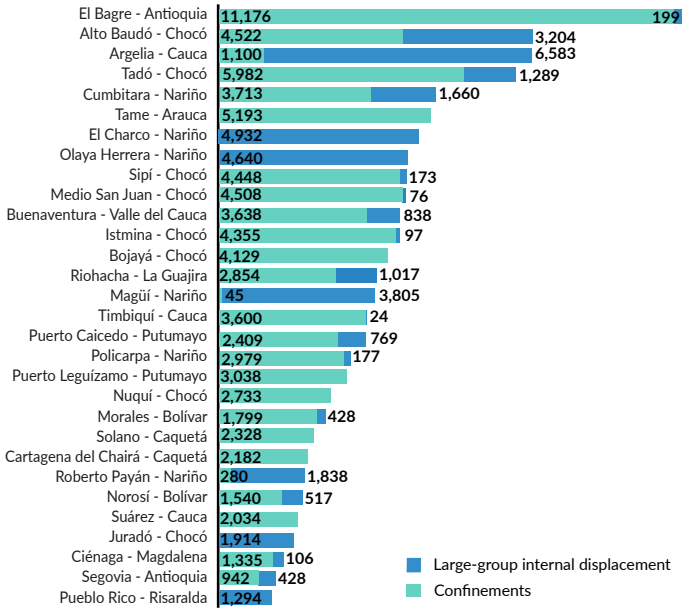


PROTECTION PROFILES IDENTIFIED

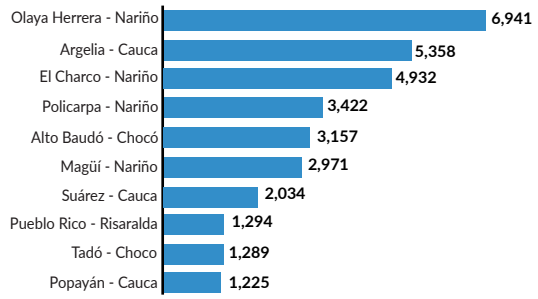
the most vulnerable population groups affected by both forcibly displacement and confinement are children and adolescents (76% and 85%, respectively), followed by pregnant and/or breastfeeding women (38% in displacement and 56% in confinement). Older adults (60 years or older) constitute 52% of the people affected by displacement.



TOP 30 | PEOPLE AFFECTED BY EMERGENCIES BY MUNICIPALITY



TOP 10 | MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVING DISPLACED POPULATION



[4] Ombudsman's Office. Ombudsman's Office warns of alarming increase in recruitment of minors in Cauca. October 15, 2024. Available at this link.
[5] 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

NORTE DE SANTANDER

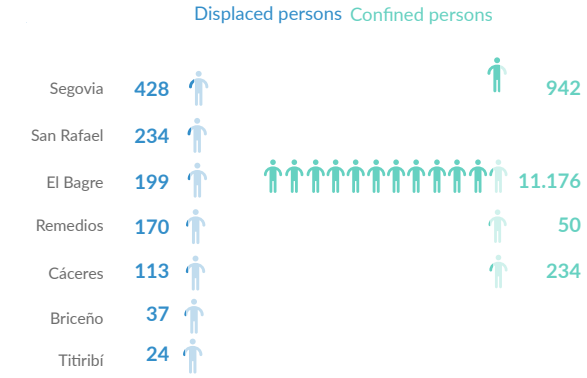
VÍCTIMAS POR MUNICIPIO

In the Catatumbo region, many victimizing events go unreported due to communities' fear of reprisals from NSAG and the group's strong presence, which restricts mobility. Protection risks for the population increase from September due to the unstable negotiations with the NSAG and clashes over territorial control. In Norte de Santander, the municipalities presenting the highest protection risks are Tibú, El Tarra, Teorama, Sardinata, and some areas of the city of Cúcuta.

At least one (1) large-group displacement was reported inSeptember 26 of 2024 in the municipality of Teorama (Vereda Llanabaja) due to armed clashes between the public armed forces and an NSAG, with 386 individuals (130 families) forcibly displaced. The National Ombudsperson's Office, publicly disminated theEarly Warning 021-2024 in August 15, warning of the imminent risks for communities in the municipality of La Esperanza (Norte de Santander) and rural areas of the municipality of San Alberto (Cesar). The Early Warning System had already issued Early Structural Warning 009-2023 in March 2023 for the municipalities of Bucarasica, El Zulia, and Sardinata, which alerted about forced recruitment, the use and exploitation of children and adolescents, and the risk of large-group and individual forced displacement.

ANTIOQUIA

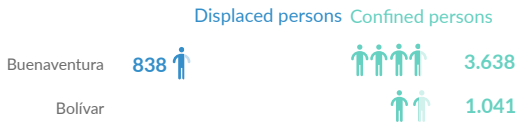
VÍCTIMAS POR MUNICIPIO



In 2024, the humanitarian situation in the department of Antioquia has worsened in the northern, northeastern, and lower Cauca regions, where the armed conflict remains critical due to territorial disputes and control of strategic corridors between NSAG. So far in 2024, thirteen (13) large-group displacement events have occurred in the department, affecting a total of 463 families and 1,205 individuals in seven (7) municipalities. The clashes between NSAG and the fighting have also led to seven (7) confinement events, affecting 4,308 families and 12,402 individuals in four (4) municipalities. In the municipalities of El Bagre, Segovia, and Remedios, both large-groupdisplacement and confinement events occurred. These regions of Antioquia are territorially connected to other regions such as southern Bolívar (Serranía de San Lucas) and southern Cesar, strategic corridors that remain in dispute between various NSAG for control of illicit economies, creating a scenario of heightened protection risks for the civilian population living in these areas.

VALLE DEL CAUCA

VÍCTIMAS POR MUNICIPIO



Between January and September 2024, four (4) large-group displacement events and eight (8) confinement events occurred, seven (7) in Buenaventura and one (1) in Bolívar. During July and September, protection risks were reported due to the confinement event that occurred in August in the municipality of Bolívar, where no humanitarian emergencies had been reported previously during the year. This area is bordering the department of Chocó, and since August, the humanitarian situation has worsened due to the territorial control dispute between NSAG in this strategic corridor connecting the two departments. The confinement affected the communities of the Emberá Chamí Indigenous peoples in the Cañón del Río Garrapatas and San Quinini Resguardos. Additionally, in the rural areas of El Naranjal, Cristales, and El Catrese, mobility restrictions were reported for Indigenous and peasant communities.