

COLOMBIA



Operational highlights

- UNHCR worked to open and preserve humanitarian space in key displacement zones through community outreach, particularly with indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups, and by coordinating with local authorities in the 68 districts most affected by internal armed conflict and displacement.
- Selected communities and indigenous groups were given legal and technical advice on property rights. More than 1.2 million hectares of land were protected in 2010 through the Land and Property Protection Project managed by the Government and supported by UNHCR. This benefited some 16,600 people who were displaced or at risk of displacement.
- Following up on orders of the Constitutional Court, UNHCR helped indigenous-community organizations to

develop protection plans. Six plans were completed and another seven are under development.

- Six cross-border initiatives and several field missions in border areas benefited 1,890 people through direct protection interventions.
- In the last quarter of 2010 widespread flooding in Colombia affected 2.4 million people in areas also suffering from conflict-driven displacement. UNHCR provided non-food items in some of the most affected regions, and conducted training sessions on protection and the management of collective centres.

Working environment

The humanitarian situation in Colombia has become more complex, with a proliferation of illegal armed actors, many linked to drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as former paramilitaries.

Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Various	210	70	33	22
Asylum-seekers	Various	170	170	19	6
IDPs	Colombia	3,672,100	573,300	49	-
Stateless	Various	10	-	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	Various	30	10	-	-
Total		3,672,520	573,550		



UNHCR staff attend the traditional Tule ceremonial meeting to inform the members of this small Colombian ethnic group of their legal rights and UNHCR's activities.

UNHCR / B. HEGER

Though there has been a drop in the annual displacement rate in comparison with earlier years, more than 100,000 people were displaced in 2010. The Government reported that there were over 3.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country at the end of December. Of these, 75 per cent had moved from rural areas and 25 per cent from urban areas. Some 23 per cent of the displaced are from ethnic groups (mainly Afro-Colombian).

Urban areas, home to more than 1.7 million displaced people, are also witnessing an increase in violence as illegal armed groups of all types establish curfews, leading to incidents of sexual and gender-based violence and forced recruitment. In August 2010, the new Government took office and introduced a draft law on land restitution and reparations for victims of the conflict.

Following the re-establishment of diplomatic and political relations, Colombia and Ecuador set up a joint commission to consider the needs of refugees in Ecuador and to coordinate on the possible return of Colombian refugees.

| Achievements and impact |

• Main objectives and targets

In 2010, UNHCR's overall goal in Colombia was to help refugees, IDPs and people at risk of displacement to exercise their rights fully under Colombian and international law. The total number of IDPs assisted by UNHCR in 2010 stood at approximately 573,000.

• Activities and assistance

Favourable protection environment

- UNHCR gave technical support and training to the ministry responsible for recording IDP statements. It also supported the Government's efforts to improve the efficiency of IDP status-determination procedures. Furthermore, it provided technical advice on the assessment of specific status-determination cases and cases of group recognition, including those resulting from massive forced displacements which were not recognized by the authorities.
- Practical protection projects undertaken in 2010 responded to IDPs' needs. Forty projects were implemented in regions with a high risk of displacement, benefiting over 34,200 people in the sectors of education, health, food security and water and sanitation.

Fair protection processes

- Some 156,200 Colombians who were displaced or at risk of displacement were issued national identification documents in 2010. Among the beneficiaries, 32 per cent were Afro-Colombians, while 12 per cent were indigenous people. Of the total number of documents issued, 46 per cent were for individuals between 7 and 17 years of age. UNHCR worked with the Norwegian Refugee Council and local universities to provide legal aid on registration and property issues to more than 10,000 IDPs.

Security from violence and exploitation

- During the year, 13 UNHCR offices developed initiatives to address sexual and gender-based violence. Training sessions were provided to build IDP communities' capacity to prevent and address sexual violence, while HIV and AIDs prevention training was carried out in Cucuta, Atlantic Coast and Apartadó, targeting health workers and community leaders. Specific training materials were developed in coordination with UNAIDS.
- Manuals explaining how to mainstream gender, children and youth issues into all programmes for displaced people were published in cooperation with government ministries. UNHCR also helped disseminate court orders on the protection of displaced indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

Basic needs and services

- Fourteen action plans were put in place to enable displaced children to enter the education system, and some 84,430 displaced children began attending school in 2010. UNHCR provided technical assistance at the national and local level in coordination with regional authorities and the Ministry of Education. In addition, 380 asylum-seekers and refugees were assisted to gain access to the national health system. In Meta, Guaviare and Norte de Santander more than 800 people were provided with water and sanitation, health care, food and nutrition, and shelter assistance.

Community participation and self-management

- More than 1,590 displaced people participated in assessments of protection gaps, following which 17 community-action plans were developed to aid the local institutions responsible for responding to the needs.

Durable solutions

- UNHCR has been working to promote comprehensive durable solutions strategies with all relevant stakeholders, with major achievements related to support and follow-up for relocation.

External relations

- In 2010, issues relating to the protection of women, indigenous people and people of African descent, as well as land restitution were the focus of public-information activities. Campaigns highlighted the challenges related to IDPs' and refugees' solidarity and land restitution.

Logistics and operational support

- UNHCR provided support to a complex network of partners across the country. Joint monitoring and protection teams covered a vast territory, often under difficult security restrictions.

Constraints

- The changing nature of the conflict, including links with criminal activities and illegal drugs, and the proliferation of illegal armed groups, raised serious concerns about security and sustainable return in many parts of the country. Moreover, forced displacement tends to be most extreme in isolated rural and border areas where the presence of central authorities is weak or non-existent, complicating UNHCR's efforts to support State capacity.

Financial information

Donors continued to support the Colombian operation in 2010. Two major multi-year agreements were signed. Additional funding ensured continuity of operations and implementation of UNHCR's protection interventions. Nonetheless, funding to promote durable solutions was inadequate.

Organization and implementation

In order to reflect changing operational priorities, at the end of 2009 the field office in Altos de Cazucá and the sub-office in Bucaramanga were closed, while in 2010 a field office in Neiva and field units in Guaviare, Buenaventura and Barrancabermeja were opened.

UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of Offices	14
□ Total Staff	161
International	21
National	89
JPOs	4
UNVs	47

Working with others

The Colombian Government continued to be UNHCR's main partner in the country at all levels. UNHCR also cooperated with more than 40 international and national partners and coordinated its efforts in the area of internal displacement with other UN agencies and IOM. New joint initiatives, such as the UNHCR-UNDP Transitional Solutions Initiative, were explored in 2010.

Overall assessment

The new Government's focus on defending of the rights of the displaced and implementing the land restitution policy may offer new opportunities for solutions. Nonetheless, the challenges are great and there is concern that implementation of the land restitution law could lead to further conflict.

Despite the strengthening of local capacity in certain municipalities, the implementation of public policies requires greater political will in some areas. What is needed is more focus on the allocation of resources at local level combined with greater coordination on policies by the national authorities.

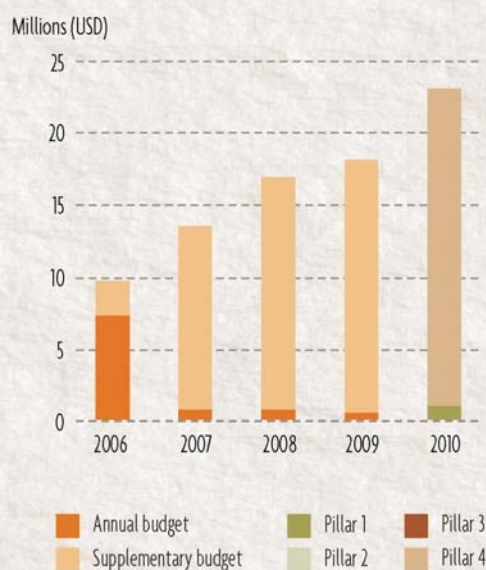
Partners

Government agencies: *Agencia Presidencial para la Acción Social y la Cooperación Internacional, Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer, Programa Presidencial Colombia Joven*, Ministries of Foreign Affairs; the Interior and Justice; Education; Agriculture; Social Protection; Environment; and Housing and Territorial Development, *Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, Defensoría del Pueblo* (Ombudsman's Office), *Procuraduría General de la Nación* (Prosecutor Office), *Contraloría General de la Nación, Registraduría* (National Registry), *Universidad Nacional, Universidad de Antioquia*, departmental governments and mayor's offices (key regions), the Colombian Armed Forces, the Constitutional Court, *Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural* (INCODER)

NGOs: *Acción contra el Hambre, Casa de la Mujer, Consultoría de Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento* (CODHES), *Corporación Opción Legal, Fundación Compartir, Instituto Latinoamericano de Servicios Legales Alternativos* (ILSA), *Organizaciones de Población Desplazada, Programa Desarrollo y Paz Magdalena Medio, Secretaría Nacional Pastoral Social, Solidaridad Internacional, Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia* (ONIC), *Faro del Catatumbo, Diakoni, Centro de Estudios Regionales del Pacífico, Corporación Infancia y Desarrollo, Corporación para la Investigación y el Desarrollo para la Democracia, IDEMOS, Asociación Tierra de Esperanza, Corporación retoños, Cruz Roja Colombiana*

Others: Private local universities, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, PAHO/WHO, UNHCHR, ICRC, UNFPA, UNIFEM, FAO, UNAIDS, IOM

Expenditure in Colombia 2006 - 2010



Budget, income and expenditure in Colombia | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
FINAL BUDGET	2,515,267	50,000	28,022,088	30,587,355
Income from contributions ¹	159,143	0	13,549,729	13,708,872
Other funds available	779,463	42,977	8,675,991	9,498,432
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	938,607	42,977	22,225,720	23,207,304

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN				
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>				
International and regional instruments	0	0	152,167	152,167
National legal framework	32,233	0	189,884	222,117
National administrative framework	32,233	0	403,958	436,190
Policies towards forced displacement	0	0	857,755	857,755
National and regional migration policy	32,233	0	0	32,233
Prevention of displacement	0	0	2,596,999	2,596,999
Co-operation with partners	101,816	0	1,005,154	1,106,970
National development policies	32,233	0	152,167	184,400
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	0	0	185,685	185,685
Access to territory	32,233	0	0	32,233
Emergency management strengthened	0	0	383,336	383,336
Subtotal	262,979	0	5,927,104	6,190,083
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>				
Reception conditions	84,350	0	112,286	196,636
Registration and profiling	38,679	0	107,894	146,573
Access to asylum procedures	40,092	0	107,894	147,985
Refugee and stateless definitions	38,679	0	107,894	146,573
Fair and efficient status determination	38,679	0	107,894	146,573
Civil status documentation	0	0	189,975	189,975
Subtotal	240,479	0	733,836	974,315

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>				
Impact on host communities	0	0	141,884	141,884
Effects of armed conflict	0	0	379,195	379,195
Gender-based violence	0	0	317,311	317,311
Protection of children	0	0	141,884	141,884
Access to legal remedies	0	0	287,957	287,957
Subtotal	0	0	1,268,230	1,268,230
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>				
Shelter and other infrastructure	0	0	252,766	252,766
Primary health care	35,630	0	0	35,630
HIV and AIDS	32,233	0	281,449	313,682
Education	34,093	0	347,059	381,153
Services for groups with specific needs	36,857	0	200,499	237,356
Subtotal	138,813	0	1,081,774	1,220,587
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>				
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	0	0	689,052	689,052
Community self-management and equal representation	0	0	1,695,874	1,695,874
Self-reliance and livelihoods	130,337	0	0	130,337
Subtotal	130,337	0	2,384,926	2,515,263
<i>Durable solutions</i>				
Durable solutions strategy	42,977	0	227,129	270,106
Voluntary return	0	0	195,012	195,012
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	0	0	1,291,056	1,291,056
Local integration support	55,374	0	195,012	250,386
Resettlement of IDPS elsewhere in the country	0	0	195,011	195,011
Reduction of statelessness	0	42,977	0	42,977
Subtotal	98,351	42,977	2,103,219	2,244,547
<i>External relations</i>				
Donor relations	0	0	159,784	159,784
Resource mobilisation	0	0	164,426	164,426
Public information	0	0	377,077	377,077
Subtotal	0	0	701,287	701,287
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>				
Supply chain and logistics	0	0	2,016,708	2,016,708
Programme management, coordination and support	0	0	1,574,549	1,574,549
Subtotal	0	0	3,591,258	3,591,258
Instalments to implementing partners	67,539	0	4,434,086	4,501,625
Other objectives	108	0	0	108
Total	938,607	42,977	22,225,720	23,207,304

¹ Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.