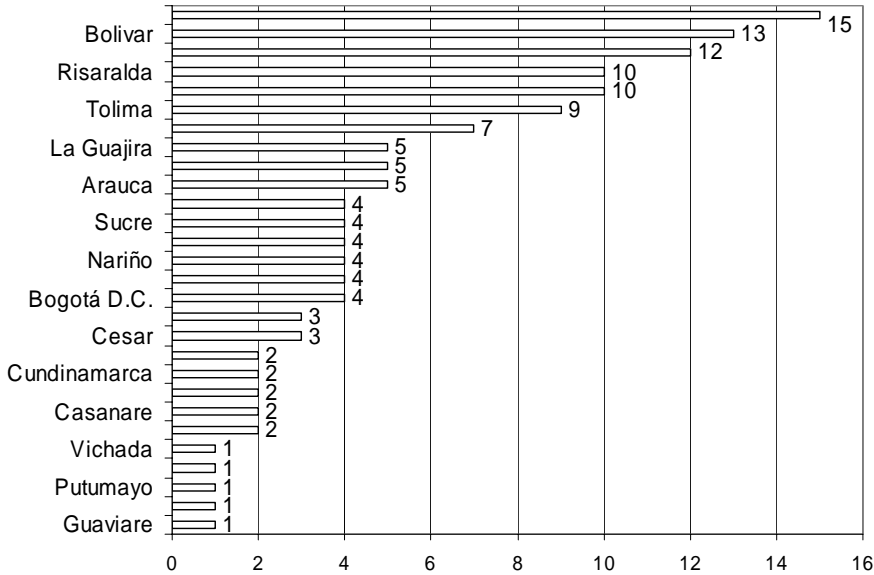


Legend

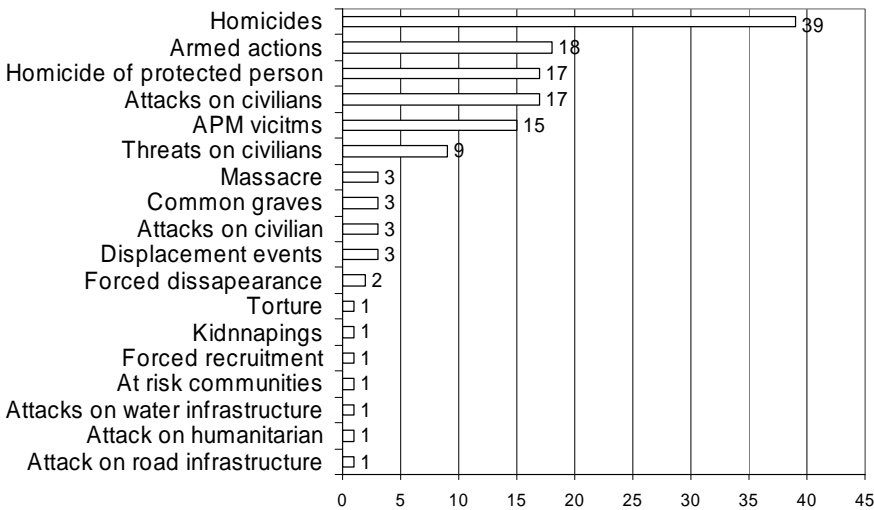
1 Dot = 1 Event

- Armed Confrontation
- Homicide PP
- Forced Recruitment
- Victim APM-UXO
- Attack on Civilians
- Massacre
- Mass Displacement
- At-risk Community
- Departmental Borders

Events per department



Events



Humanitarian situation

10 March

Mass displacements and confinements increase in Chocó department

Indigenous communities continue to be targeted by illegal armed actors in the municipalities of Alto Baudó and Medio Baudó where thousands suffer mobility restrictions, supply shortages and forced displacements.

On 4 March, indigenous people displaced within the municipality of Alto Baudó. Preliminary information gathered by OCHA indicates that intense combats between illegal armed groups, as well as continued intimidation against the population triggered the displacement (see detailed information in OCHA Situation Report No. 1 at www.colombiassh.org). Previously, on 5 March OCHA received information on the critical situation of the same communities, who remained confined in 5 villages of Alto Baudó and Medio Baudó since 25 February. According to the source, 1,862 persons (396 families) faced the consequences of mobility restrictions imposed by illegal armed actors in the region. People lack food, medicine and fuel. Currently, around 2,000 persons (among IDPs and people affected by restrictions) are settled in two villages. Local authorities and humanitarian actors began activating response mechanisms.

2 March

Increased violence causes mass-displacement in Cauca (Pacific coast)

Intense combats between the Army and the FARC triggered the displacement of afro-Colombian communities in the town of López de Micay

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116 families displaced from two villages fearing retaliations from the illegal armed group and further armed confrontations. According to the municipality's figures, there are currently 576 persons displaced in López de Micay among which 161 are children.

Continued clashes and the hardly accessible location have delayed the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Local authorities have indicated their capacities to cope with food and healthcare needs are crunched. IDPs are currently hosted in relatives' houses.

Humanitarian Response

The Local Committee for IDPs Integral Assistance met on 3 March; Accion Social is currently assisting the emergency. The Catholic Church delivered food aid during the weekend and until 10 March. On March 16, the National System for IDPs Integral Assistance called a meeting to prepare a contingency plan for the municipality. The local IASC coordination mechanism conducted a mission to the area to evaluate the situation and put together a longer-term humanitarian action plan. Diakonie, WFP, PAHO, UNICEF and OCHA are monitoring the situation. UNICEF is providing psycho-social assistance to children.

In light of the deteriorating crisis, this municipality was selected by UN agencies to benefit from projects to be financed by the CERF Under-funded Emergency grant approved to Colombia in February (USD 5 million). Proposals to be submitted to the CERF will address needs identified by the local IASC in Cauca.

Follow-up: humanitarian situation of Awa indigenous community in Nariño

Awa communities who were displaced after the massacre of 27 of their members on 4 February, remain gathered in El Verde. UNIPA is currently conducting a new population census because some 100 people have left the temporary shelters in the last week.

According to the last census, there are 254 people in El Verde (230 hosted in the emergency shelter) and 24 more staying at neighbouring houses. Approximately 50% out of the total population are children and 40% are women. In addition to the displaced population, more than 100 people from the Indigenous Guard are settled in El Verde. The indigenous governor of El Sande in the neighbouring municipality of Samaniego reported that 60 people are staying at relatives' houses and 30 more have already returned to their homes. According to information received by the IASC in Nariño, an undetermined number of people are confined in the Tortugaña-Telembi reservation.

Indigenous authorities and local institutions continue responding to the emergency with the support of national institutions, the Catholic Church, the Cauca Indigenous Guard and humanitarian organisations. However, many needs still have not been addressed. Indigenous authorities denounced that some members of their communities have been threatened by three strangers present in El Verde.

Needs:

- Shelter, food and non-food items for more than 100 people of the indigenous guard are required
- The Government of Nariño made a public appeal through the media for the donation of clothing

Humanitarian response:

Protection

- UNHCR is working with the indigenous guard in capacity building and strengthening of the indigenous organization; also UNCHR began a registration campaign

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

- A permanent meeting and discussion space for the people gathered in the temporary shelter has been encouraged around the showing of movies and documentaries

Wat/San

- OXFAM provided 30 handmade water filters

Food and non-food items

- UNICEF delivered clothing for children under 10 years old and diapers

OAS 12th quarterly report on DDR

Rearming and emergence of criminal bands are a threat to the sustainability of the peace process signed between the GoC and the AUC in 2003.

On 25 February the OAS published the 12th quarterly report of the Secretary-General to the Permanent Council on the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia. The report highlights that during the post-demobilisation phase illegal activities associated to the presence and rearming of groups pursuing control of drug-trafficking have had a direct impact on civilians in several areas of the country. This constitutes a “multi-dimensional threat” to the process, which not only affects security and jeopardises the so needed transition to civilian life of former fighters, but also the full implementation of the Peace and Justice Law. R

Regarding the advances on the demobilization process, the OAS reported that 23,000 out of the total 31,000 demobilised paramilitaries (74%) are currently “active” (i.e. participating in at least one psychosocial activity) However, in certain regions like lower Cauca, Cordoba, Santander and N. de Santander, demobilised groups that are formally part of and are benefited from the reintegration programme, are still engaged with illegal activities. There are 28 zones affected by presence of reorganised paramilitary holdouts, which comprise 153 municipalities equivalent to 14% of Colombia’s towns. In several of these regions, victims fear the presence of paramilitaries, which has a repercussion on the victims’ participation in the Peace, Justice and Reconciliation process.

2,133 children reported as victims of illegal armed groups

The figures were reported to UNICEF by the Prosecutor’s Office

According to the report, 2,122 victims correspond to paramilitaries and 11 to the FARC. Youngsters between 14 and 17 years old were the most affected by the actions of paramilitaries, with 685 victims. So far, demobilised paramilitaries have confessed the homicide of 79 children of less than 1 year of age and the remains of 104 children have been recovered by the Prosecutor’s Office in common graves, most of them in Magdalena, Meta, Putumayo and Antioquia departments. Forced displacement appears as the first crime committed by illegal armed actors against children in Colombia.

CERF for Underfunded Emergencies in Colombia

In 6 February the ERC authorised the apportionment of USD 5 million to Colombia from the CERF UFE Window.

These funds will be used to address humanitarian needs of Afro-descendant and indigenous communities particularly affected by the armed conflict and natural disasters in the Pacific coast. Bajo Baudó and Litoral de San Juan (Chocó), López de Micay (Cauca) and Tumaco (Nariño) are the selected municipalities, on the basis of needs assessments conducted by the local IASC coordination mechanisms, studies and baseline information

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

provided by OCHA and other agencies. The UN lead agencies will be FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO/PAHO, UNHCR and IOM. IASC implementing partners are being identified and consulted. The local IASC mechanisms, namely in Choco, Cauca and Nariño, have already played a role in the identification of the needs and gaps and will be heavily involved in a coordinated implementation of the CERF resources. Colombia's submission is scheduled for 16 March.