

FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACTS IN COLOMBIA: 2023.

In 2023 more than 290,000 people were displaced in Colombia.

Thirty-one percent did not reach out to supporting institutions, leaving them at risk of not receiving any assistance.

Children and ethnic communities are particularly affected by displacement.

Timely humanitarian aid is crucial for preventing displacement, and securing both livelihoods and a safe place are key factors in the aftermath of displacement.

OVERVIEW

The Forum is a coordination space of 36 national and international organizations operating in Colombia. The Forum, which is guided by core humanitarian principles (humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence), seeks to reach populations in dire humanitarian need.

Since 2021, the Forum has been estimating the number of displaced persons in Colombia and gauging the humanitarian impact to enhance understanding of the country's humanitarian landscape. This effort complements the displacement figures released by the Single Registry of Victims (RUV) and the monitoring of large-scale displacement and confinement conducted by OCHA.

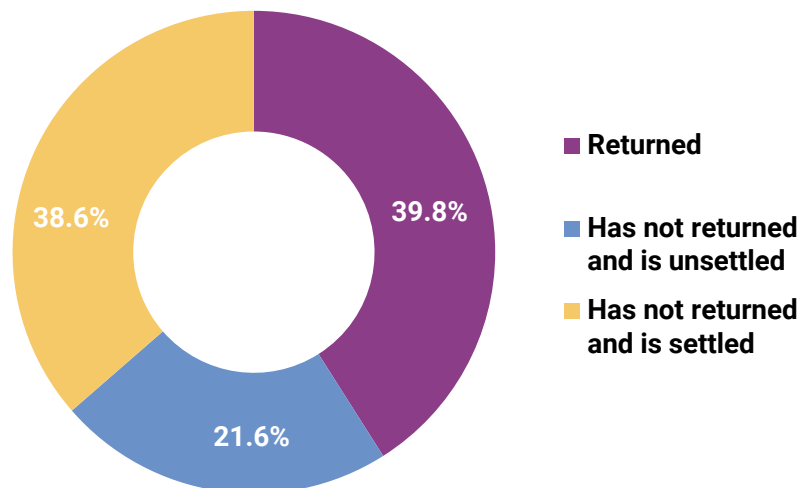
FORCED DISPLACEMENT SURVEY

The survey provides detailed insights into forced displacement in Colombia, caused by natural disasters, conflict, and armed violence, as well as its impact on Venezuelan migrants. The report focuses on the key findings concerning **forced displacement caused by armed conflict**. The questionnaire was reviewed by the IDMC, and their Global Report on Internal Displacement incorporates the data from the Forum monitoring forced displacement in Colombia

Sixth round (2023). In January 2024, the Forum conducted the sixth monitoring round to estimate the scale of forced displacement in Colombia, for the period (January - December 2023). A total of 4,827 completed surveys were collected throughout the country, providing a representative sample of people over 16 years of age with access to a cell phone or fixed internet. For this round of the survey, the sample's margin of error is 0.8% and the confidence interval is 95%.

DISPLACEMENT LANDSCAPE

Percentage of IDPs by return status



DISPLACEMENT LANDSCAPE

In 2023, armed conflict forced the displacement of at least 293,192 people, including 1.7% of migrants from Venezuela.

Triggers of displacement.

Half of the displaced persons (53.1%) left due to threats or armed violence or clashes between non-state and state armed groups.

Recurrence.

56.7% of displaced persons were forced to leave their homes more than once within the same year. This rate increases to 64.1% for indigenous and afro-colombian communities, which are more likely to experience displacement on multiple times.

Impact on children.

84% of all displaced persons were accompanied by children. In Indigenous and Afro-colombian communities this figure rises to 90%. Reoccurrences of displacement is very harmful on children's schooling and their personal and social development.

Collective displacement.

58% of displaced persons reported moving in groups of 10 households or more, indicating that such displacements often occur on a large scale from the onset. Indigenous and Afro-colombian communities, are particularly vulnerable to collective displacement. This figure rises to 65% among these populations.

Return.

At the time of the survey (January 2024), 39.8% of IDPs had returned. Among those who had not returned, 21.6% intended to return but were unable to do so. The remaining 38.6% considered their current location as their new residence.

Among those wanting to return but unable to do so (21.6%), the primary reasons include better conditions at their current residence (26%) and ongoing insecurity at their previous location (17.1%). Additionally, 13.5% were unable to return because they lost their home or land.

Other reasons include:

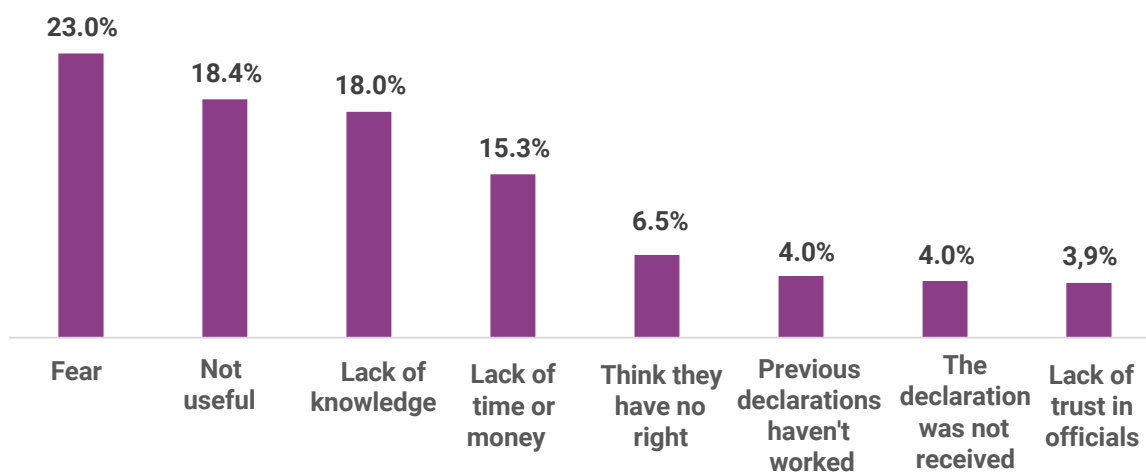
- Lack of means to enable the return (11.6%).
- Absence of basic services (education, health, water, sanitation, or food) at their place of origin (9.3%).
- Lack of family or friends remaining at the place of origin (5.4%).

They were also asked about obstacles to settling in their current location. 36% cannot afford the cost of living or get a job; 14.1% intend to relocate elsewhere; and 13.2% pointed out a lack of basic services.

Livelihoods and access to services are crucial for establishing a new place of residence.

BARRIERS TO ENROLLMENT IN THE SINGLE REGISTRY OF VICTIMS (RUV).

Reasons for not declaring.



31% of internally displaced persons did NOT declare their situation to the Public Ministry, as a consequence, they cannot be included in the RUV and they do not receive support and assistance from the Unit for Attention and Integral Reparation to the Victims (UARIV).

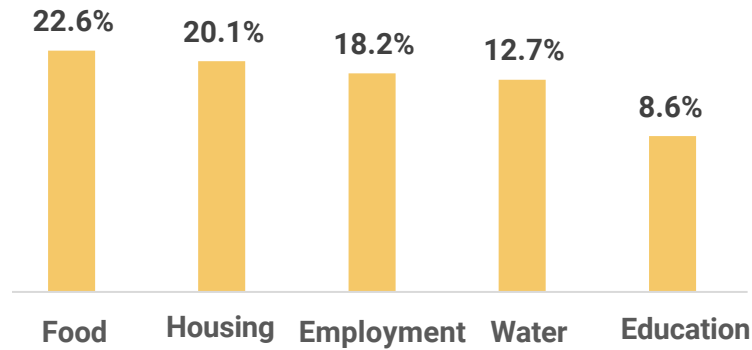
Reasons for not declaring.

The primary reasons for not filing a declaration include perceived risk or fear (23%), finding the declaration unhelpful (18.4%), and lack of knowledge about how to submit the declaration (18%).

Consistency between this estimation and the RUV

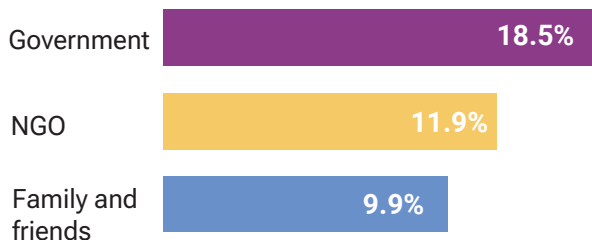
The estimated number of displaced persons who submitted a declaration to the RUV is 69%, totaling **200,880** individuals. This figure aligns with the UARIV's cutoff data for the 2023 period, which was reported as **200,862** by January 2024. This consistency suggests that the RUV's subregistry accounts for at least one third of the displaced population.

TANGIBLE NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



The three most critical tangible needs identified by IDPs are food (22.6%), housing (20.1%) and employment (18.2%).

Only 32% IDPs reported receiving some kind of aid, whether from the State, humanitarian organizations or family and friends. The government accounted for aid to 18.5% of IDP's while NGOs assisted 11.9% of the displaced population and family and friends gave support to 9.9% of the IDPs.



By sector the assistance received by IDPs included: child education (28.2%); hygiene, and non-food items (20.2%); legal assistance (15.6%) and food (15%).

The declaration facilitates access to aid.

The declaration significantly improves access to aid from state assistance programs or humanitarian organizations. Among individuals who declared, 41% received some form of aid, compared to just 12.1% of those who did not declare.

Those in collective displacement are more likely to receive help.

36% of displaced persons moving in groups of 10 households received help, comparing to the 26.2% of those displaced in smaller groups.

Those who return and those still displaced present different needs.

Needs differ based on the situation: returnees primarily require food and services, while non-returnees have a greater need for employment and livelihood opportunities.

PROTECTION RISKS: THREATS TO LIFE AND INTEGRITY

Among the population in Colombia over 16 years of age with access to a cell phone or fixed internet (displaced or not), 18.9% have identified one or more of the following conflict-related situations in their community:



8.2% Extortion. Armed groups threaten demanding money to businesses or individuals.



2.5% Recruitment. Children have been taken away or recruited by armed groups.



2.8% Fighting. There has been fighting and clashes between groups.



1.9% Confinement. No one in the community can leave or return for food or medicine because of the armed groups.

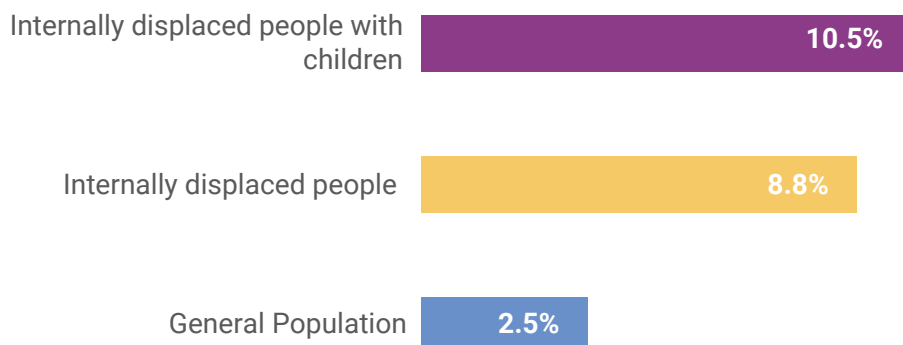


3.6% Control. Armed groups control who enters and leaves.



1.7% Mines. Antipersonnel mines have exploded nearby (with or without injuries).

Perceived Occurrence of Child Recruitment by Populations



Children are particularly affected by the armed conflict. Among the displaced population accompanied by children, 10.5% are aware of armed groups taking or recruiting children in their community or family. In other words, the perceived risk of recruitment of children and adolescents is 4 times higher in the case of displaced persons with children.

Situations associated with conflict are perceived more intensely by those who are displaced. For instance, **56%** of displaced persons have experienced at least one violent incident, compared to only **18.9%** of the general population. The table below compares how internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the general population identify conflict-related situations affecting families and communities:

Impact on families and communities	Internally Displaced Persons	Total population
Children have been taken away or recruited by armed groups	8.8%	2.5%
Anti-personnel mines have exploded nearby (with or without injured people)	9.5%	1.7%
There have been fighting and clashes between groups	14%	2.8%
Armed groups control who gets in and who gets out	19%	3.6%
Armed groups charge money to businesses or individuals	21.5%	8.2%
In the community, no one can go out or come in for food or medicine because of the armed groups	6.4%	1.9%