

FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACTS IN COLOMBIA: JANUARY - AUGUST 2023.

More than 245,000 people were displaced in Colombia between January and August 2023.

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

Children are particularly affected by displacement. The recruitment of children is one of the driving factors of displacement, along with social control and clashes between armed groups.

Timely humanitarian aid helps prevent displacement and enable people to return to their place of origin.

OVERVIEW

The Forum is a coordination space of 34 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.

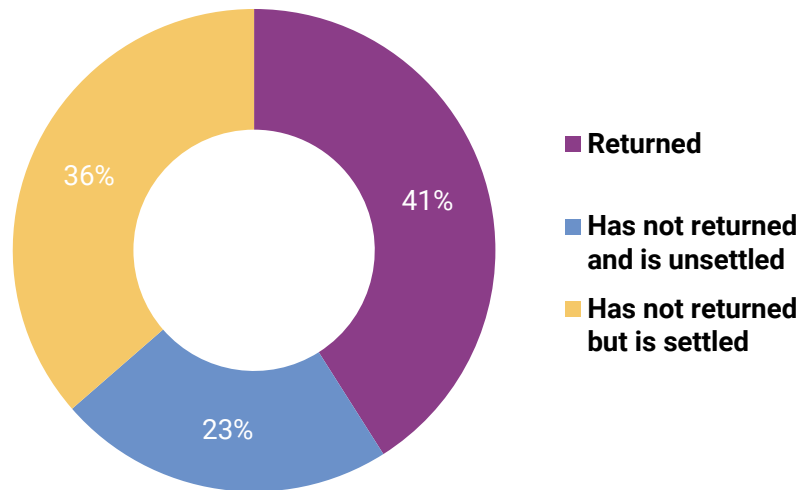
Since 2021, the Forum has been estimating the number of displaced persons in Colombia and gauging the humanitarian impact to enhance understanding of the country's humanitarian landscape. This effort complements the displacement figures released by the Single Registry of Victims (RUV) and the monitoring 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 main findings related to **forced displacement caused by armed conflict**.

Fifth round (January - August 2023). In September 2023, the Forum conducted the fifth monitoring round to estimate the scale of forced displacement in Colombia, for the period (January - August 2023). A total of 3,280 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 1.7% and the confidence interval is 95% .

SITUACIÓN DE DESPLAZAMIENTO



DISPLACEMENT LANDSCAPE

Between January and August 2023, armed conflict led to the displacement of at least 245,672 people and 4.4% of migrants from Venezuela. Forced displacement is an ongoing threat, affecting migrants today.

Triggers of displacement.

Half of the displaced persons left because of threats or violence against them (51.3%); the rest (48.7%) left due to clashes between armed groups (state and non-state).

Recurrence.

55.3% of the displaced persons had to leave their homes more than once in the same year. 23.3% had to do so more than 3 times 2023.

Impact on children.

83.3% of all displaced persons were accompanied by children, while 43.5% of displaced Venezuelan migrants left with children. Reoccurrences of displacement is very harmful on children's schooling.

Collective displacement.

64.9% of displaced persons reported moving in groups of 10 households or more, indicating that such displacements are often large-scale from the onset, whether the individuals arrive at their destinations individually or collectively. Notably, this percentage surpasses the 56.9% recorded in 2022.

Return.

At the time of the survey (August 2023), 41% of IDPs had returned. Among those who had not returned, 36.4% intended to return but were unable to do so. The remaining 22.6% considered their current place as their new residence.

Among those who want to return but were unable to do so (36.4%), the main reason for not returning is that their previous place of residence remains insecure (39.3%). For 17%, the reason is that they lost their home or land.

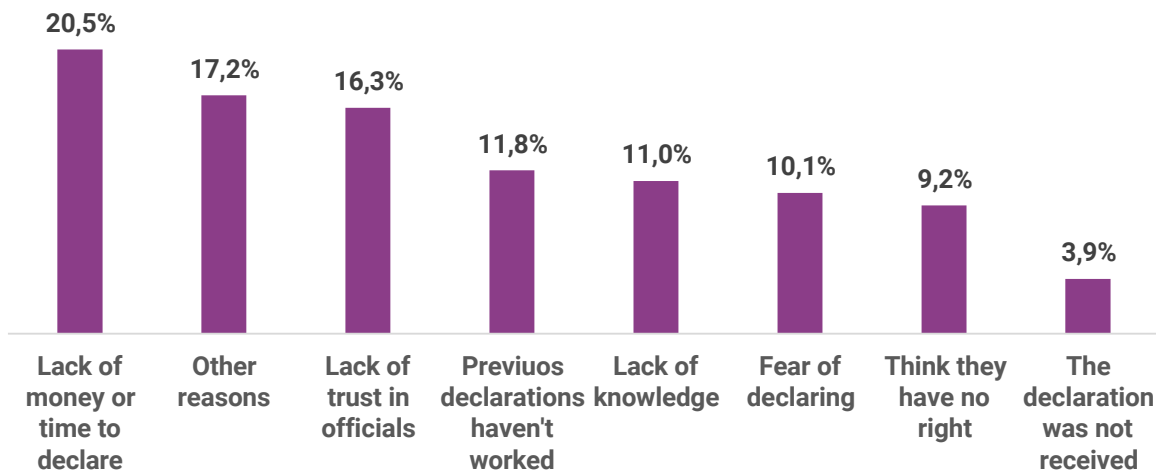
Other reasons include:

- Cost of living or limitations in earning income in their place of origin (12.3%).
- No family or friends in the place of origin (12.1%).
- Their place of origin lacks basic educational, health or medical services and a scarcity of water, sanitation or food (4.7%).

As well as being unable to return, they were asked why they would not settle in their current location. Twenty-nine percent of them deemed their current place unsafe (29%), 28.6% cannot afford the cost of living or get a job, and 14.3% lack housing or land. **Perception of their current location as insecure may trigger future displacement.**

DECLARATION TO THE SINGLE REGISTRY OF VICTIMS (RUV).

Reasons for not declaring.



36% of internally displaced persons did NOT declare their situation to the Public Ministry, meaning they cannot be included in the RUV. Thereby, they may not receive attention and assistance from the Unit for Attention and Integral Reparation to Victims (UARIV).

Consistency between this study and the RUV.

The estimated number of displaced persons who declared their status is 64%, which corresponds to 157,231 persons. This estimation is compatible with the UARIV's figure for January to September of 118,253, especially considering the UARIV's 90-day window for processing declarations, resulting in a delay and a lower figure.

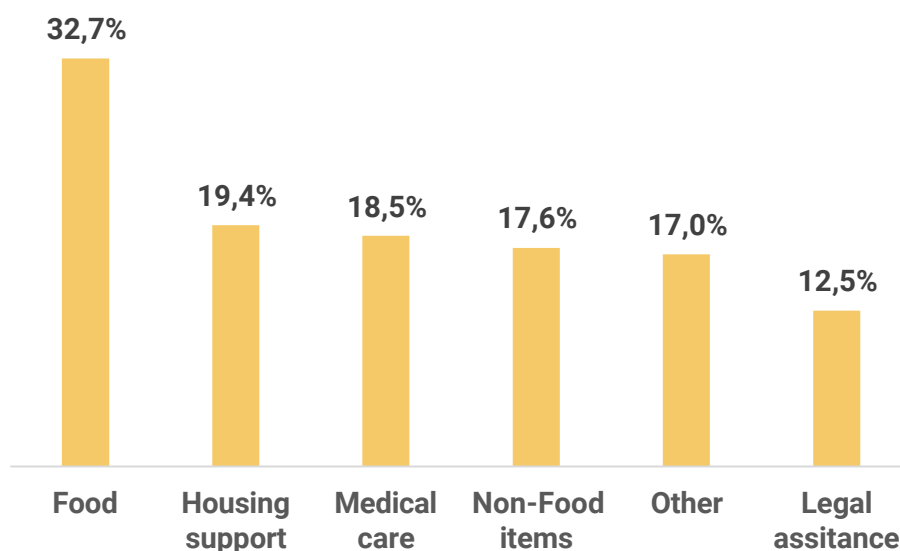
Double displacement.

Among Venezuelans who were internally displaced (4.4%) in Colombia, only 20.7% declared their displacement.

Reasons for not declaring.

The main reasons for not declaring included a lack of money or time or being located too far from the registration entity (20.5%); lack of trust in officials (16.3%); declaring in previous situations has not worked for them (11.8%); lack of knowledge on how to declare (11%); and fear of declaring (10.1%).

NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Half of internally displaced persons reported receiving some kind of aid from the State, humanitarian organizations or individuals.

The declaration facilitates access to aid.

The declaration significantly improves access to aid from humanitarian organizations or state assistance programs. Among individuals who declared, 70.8% received some form of aid, compared to just 12.8% of those who did not declare.

Timely assistance favors resilience towards the places of origin.

Returnees report more frequently having received humanitarian assistance (62.8%) than those who do not intend to return (47.6%) or those who cannot return (30.6%).

Therefore, humanitarian aid is more likely to be targeted at places of origin rather than places of reception. It also shows that the delivery of timely humanitarian aid encourages families to return to their place of origin.

The main assistance received was food (32.7%); housing (19.4%); medical (18.5%) and hygiene, toiletries, non-food items (17.5%).

Those who return and those still displaced present different needs.

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

PROTECTION RISKS: THREATS TO LIFE AND INTEGRITY

Among those surveyed (displaced or not), 20.7% have identified one or more of the following conflict-related situations in their community:



10,1% Extortion. Armed groups charge money to businesses or individuals.



3,7% Recruitment. Children have been taken away or recruited by armed groups.



4,7% Fighting. There has been fighting and clashes between groups.



2,5% Confinement. No one in the community can leave or return for food or medicine because of the armed groups.



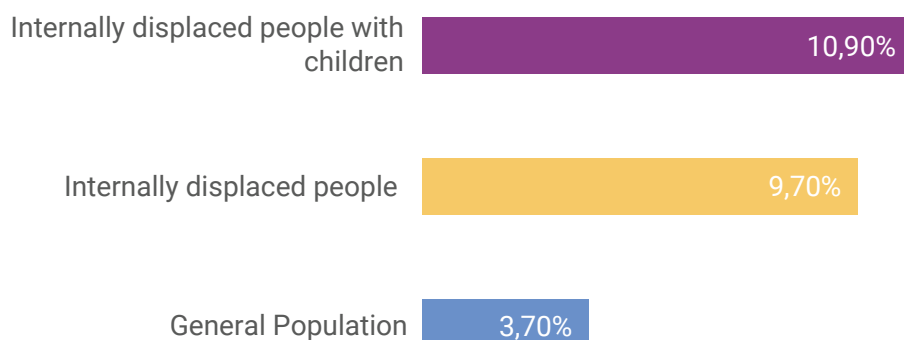
4,3% Control. Armed groups control who enters and who leaves.



2,3% Mines. Antipersonnel mines have exploded nearby (with or without injuries).

Children are particularly affected by the armed conflict. Among the **displaced population** accompanied by children, 10.9% 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 **3 times higher** in the case of displaced persons

Perceived Occurrence of Child Recruitment by Populations



Situations associated with conflict are perceived with greater intensity by those displaced, as shown in this table:

Impact on families and communities	Internally Displaced Persons	Total population
Children have been taken away or recruited by armed groups	9,7%	3,7%
Anti-personnel mines have exploded nearby (with or without injured people)	3,7%	2,3%
There have been fighting and clashes between groups	29,2%	4,7%
Armed groups control who gets in and who gets out	17,7%	4,3%
Armed groups charge money to businesses or individuals	17,2%	10,1%
In the community, no one can go out or come in for food or medicine because of the armed groups	8,1%	2,5%