After four years of Peace Talks between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP guerrillas, a Peace Agreement was signed in 2016. This major event should have also represented humanitarian relief for many regions of the country which had been hit by armed conflict for years. However, the deterioration of the domestic humanitarian situation in Colombia is reflected by the fact that more than 6.7 million people in need calculated for 2021 according to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2021, up from 5.1 million in 2020. The HNO in Colombia serves to provide people in need (PIN) data to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), including statistics on internally displaced people (IDPs), natural disaster victims and those affected by COVID-19.

The HRP in Colombia proposes a coordinated multi-sectoral response for 1.4 million people - focused on the most vulnerable groups, such as children, women, indigenous communities, displaced or confined populations as well as those with mobility restrictions and limited access to basic goods and services, requiring US$174 million for 2021.

iMMAP has been providing information management (IM) services to different actors in Colombia since 2009, with the most recent financing by USAID BHA of an Information Management Support package to Colombia between 16 December 2019 and 15 March 2021. Support during this period was around migrant and refugee information in coordination with Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flow Group (GIFMM). A redistribution of responsibilities in the country meant that continuation of all support in this area was financed through BPRM, however, leaving large areas, including forced displacement, disasters and COVID-19 without dedicated IM support.
Background

When responding to humanitarian crises, effective coordination saves lives. Information management is key for effective coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian action, in return, requires timely and reliable information on the potential numbers of people affected, their immediate needs, accessibility, risk exposure to natural disasters, community resilience and coping strategies. For efficient and effective application of available resources, the more organized and orderly processing and analyzing is, the greater impact interventions have. This is evident in all humanitarian action including, emergency responses, conflicts, disaster management and recovery.

Despite the significant advances Colombia made in the last decade with regards to development and the signing of the ‘Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict’ and ‘Build a Stable and Lasting Peace’ in 2016, the year 2020 saw the convergence of multiple factors, which aggravated the humanitarian situation in Colombia. These factors included the persistence of violence in parts of the country, which continue to generate protection challenges and humanitarian needs; the increase in the number of people affected by disasters, the impact of COVID-19 and related measures, as well as large mixed migration movements from Venezuela.

Objective

iMMAP aims to provide expert IM services and capacity building to humanitarian partners working in the selected clusters and the National Indigenous Organization in Colombia (ONIC). The services provided aim to improve the quality reporting of needs and activities by humanitarian stakeholders in a manner that takes into consideration gender, age and disability. Through these activities, the overall understanding of the crisis will be improved, thus leading to enhanced decision-making and efficient utilization of available resources.

Outcomes

The objective of the proposed program aims to ensure the continuation of combined IM services for selected clusters and to improve the IM capacity of the ONIC, in full coordination with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The design is based upon pre-existing processes that are familiar to most UN agencies and NGOs operating in Colombia.

The objective of iMMAP in the coordination sub-sector is to improve coordination in Bogotá from the cluster and in coordination with ONIC around humanitarian needs related to indigenous populations. This includes direct IM support to the Health, Food Security and Nutrition, Protection through the Gender-Based Violence AoR, Education and WASH Clusters. This direct support is complemented by engagement with OCHA and the local coordination teams in the field.