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HIGHLIGHTS

- In ten months, the number of displaced persons in 2017 exceeded the total for 2016
- Access restrictions affect communities and humanitarian agencies
- The increase in attacks against civilians continues, particularly homicides and threats

FIGURES

No. of IDPs in massive events, October 2017 (OCHA)	2,255
No. of people with access restrictions, October 2017 (OCHA)	8,555
No. of attacks against civilian population, October 2017 (OCHA)	137
No. of affected by natural disasters, October 2017 (UNGRD)	2,871

FUNDS

US\$45,758,415
Total humanitarian funds received in 2017 at 04 December 2017 (4W)



Male and Female Human Rights Defenders Play a Key Role in Peace Building

By: Todd Howland, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia

For this reason, the United Nations Office for Human Rights performs a follow-up on the situation of leading human rights defenders, members of social and political organizations, as well as those who claim their rights within the framework of social demonstrations. Nonetheless, the Office prioritizes the follow-up of cases of leaders' homicides due to the impact of the aggression on communities and their organizational processes.

The Office observed that in this year most of the killings of leaders occurred in rural areas, particularly where the FARC-EP exerted influence and where there is no State presence, causing a power vacuum that renders the transformation of illicit economies impossible, thus generating a context of generalized violence in which the killing of defenders are framed.

Likewise, this year the percentage of assassinations of leaders recorded an increase in secondary urban areas where, contrary to what is observed in rural areas, the indications related to the killings are mostly inclined to the reporting of illegal activities. This is evidence of a recent change in the motives for which the defenders are murdered since previously the aggression was allegedly framed in a context of opposition to the State's policies and, currently, it is to support the government's policies against criminality which creates a risk for the work of human rights defenders. The foregoing, as well as the high number of homicides committed under the hit man modality, demonstrates the strong positioning of illegality.

In a third of the cases to which the Office followed up, there are different degrees of affectation to family members, communities and organizational processes, identifying community action boards in veredas and grassroots community organizations as the most affected. In the cases that occurred in Chocó, there was mass population displacement as a result of these homicides.

Finally, it is also worrying that this year there has been an increase in homicides within the context of the development of social demonstrations. Those who exercise the vindication of their rights cannot be considered as armed actors. The State must assume that the defense of human rights through participation in social demonstrations is legitimate and must be guaranteed by State entities, particularly by the National Police.

Humanitarian Situation in October 2017

The increase in mass displacements is worrying

During the first ten months of 2017, the number of people affected (13,096) by mass displacement increased by 32% compared to the same period in the previous year. It is worrying that displaced persons represent 120% of the total recorded in 2016. If this trend continues, 2017 could end with a number of displaced people in mass events equal to or higher than that of 2015 when there was one more armed actor part of the Colombian conflict and before the bilateral ceasefire between FARC-EP and the Government.

The Pacific region has concentrated 81% of the people in a situation of displacement, having a greater impact on Afro-descendant and indigenous communities (79%). The Colombia-Venezuela border region, particularly Norte de Santander, records 9% of the displaced persons and the north-western and southern regions the remaining 10%.

A 40% increase in the number of affected municipalities, from 20 to 28, stands out with respect to 2016. Of these, 19 municipalities (68%) correspond to the Pacific region and have recorded at least one event of mass displacement. The clashes between the different armed groups continue to be the main cause of these emergencies, followed by the unilateral actions of unknown armed groups according to OCHA monitoring.

New Dynamics and Gaps in the Registry Hinder Timely Response

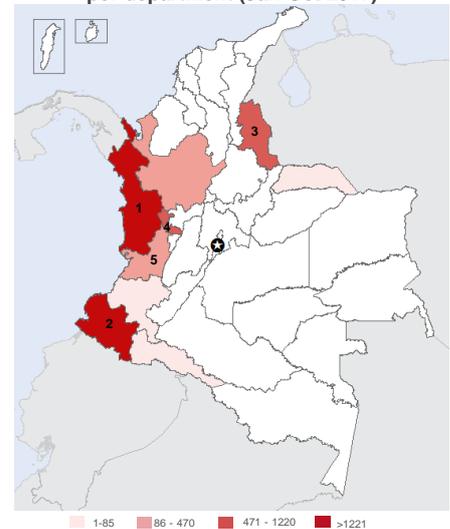
In October, there were four events of mass displacement affecting about 2,255 people in the departments of Chocó and Nariño, several of which related to attacks against leaders, putting their exercise in defense of the rights and territorial autonomy of communities at risk, particularly Tumaco, at both rural and urban levels, and the Baudó river basin. The foregoing has stood out this year because of disputes between armed actors, most of which unidentified in Nariño and with the participation of ELN and AGC in Chocó, as part of the reconfiguration of these actors. The geostrategic location with access to the sea of these territories, in addition to the gaps in some of peace accord implementation processes, propitiates an scenario so that the new dynamics of generalized violence generate an impact on the population.

There are still challenges associated with the registration of the displaced population due to both the presence and cooptation of armed actors and the limitations on procedures for the effective application of guidelines. This situation makes it difficult for administrative processes -at a local level- to take individual statements and characterize mass displacements, thus representing a barrier in the general monitoring of the situation and to determine the individual and collective response of the displaced population.

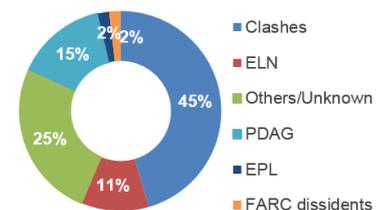
Restrictions Continue through Social and Territorial Control Actions

Between January and October 2017, at least 105,289 people have suffered limitations on mobility and restrictions on access to goods and services in 125 events recorded as a

Total population displaced in mass events per department (Jan-Oct 2017)



Actors responsible on mass displacement Jan-Oct 2017



2017 could end with a number of displaced persons in mass events equal to or greater than that of 2015, when there was one more armed actor who was part of the Colombian conflict and before the bilateral ceasefire between FARC-EP and the Government

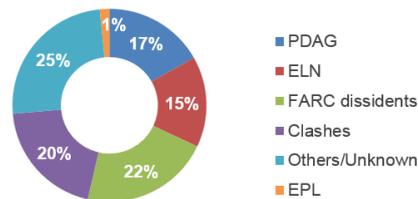
consequence of armed violence. There is a 54% increase in the total number of events against the same period in the previous year. The number of affected persons is expected to be greater given the impact of the affectation and difficult monitoring due to the characteristics of the events. Natural emergencies (47%), armed violence actions (40%) and social demonstrations (13%) are the main causes of these restrictions.

The unilateral actions of unknown armed groups, followed by FARC dissidents and the clashes between different armed groups, including the Public Force, are the triggers of armed violence events. In October, restrictions on electricity services were identified due to an attack in Cauca (6,700 affected), on education due to recurrent clashes in Nariño (1,393 BGAs and 250 adults) and mobility limitations for displaced and receiving communities in Chocó.

It should be noted that, in 2017, about 25 events of access restriction interfered with the operation and execution of humanitarian missions unlike previous years. In Guaviare, the presence of APLM/UXO limited the passage of civilians and humanitarian missions for 10 days and, in Córdoba, military operations restricted the activities of a humanitarian actor and access to goods, services and rights for communities in rural areas.

In October, restrictions on electricity services were identified due to an attack in Cauca, on education due to recurrent clashes in Nariño, and mobility limitations for displaced and receiving communities in Chocó.

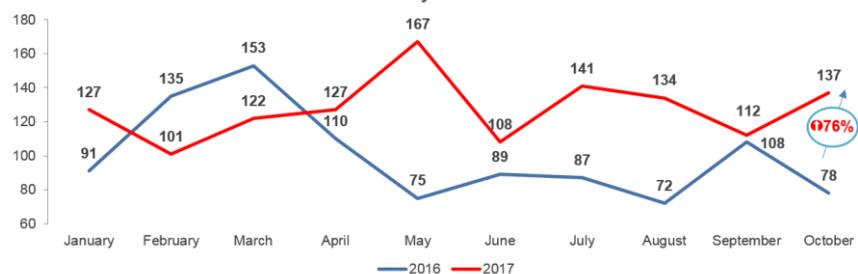
Actors responsible on mobility restrictions and access constraints caused by armed violence Jan-Oct 2017



Attacks against Civilian Population Continue to Increase

Between January and October, a 28% increase in the number of attacks against the civilian population were reported against those in the same period of the previous year, being Nariño, Antioquia, Norte de Santander, Cauca and Arauca the most affected departments. With the exception of February and March, there was an increase in the trend of events month by month against those of the previous year. Besides being one of the most violent months of the year, October showed a 76% increase in the number of attacks against that in 2016.

Attacks against civilian population January - October



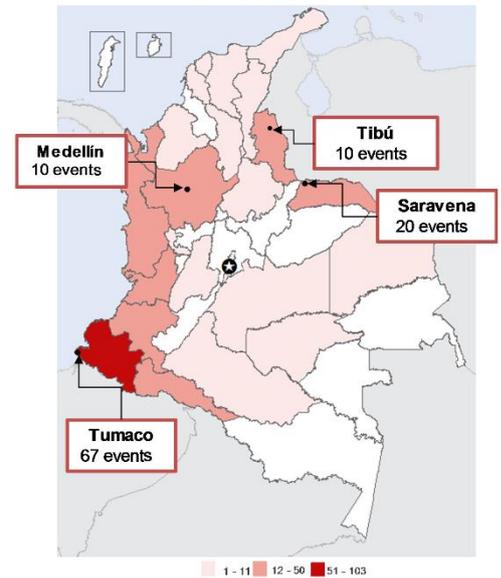
The persistence of threats (8%) and the alarming increase in the number of homicides (207%) and willful wounding of protected persons (230%)¹ are the attacks with the greatest impact in the year, followed by assassination attempts (59%) and kidnappings (44%), with respect to the same period in 2016. Unknown armed groups continue to be the main responsible for attacks against civilians (55%), followed by PDAGs (24%), ELN (12%) and, to a lesser extent, FARC dissidents and EPL. These events usually result in individual displacements or limitations on mobility and access to communities as a protection mechanism, thus making the humanitarian situation invisible.

¹ The homicides monitored by OCHA in Monitor are events against civilians who carry out different activities. They reflect cases of not only human rights leaders or defenders but also combatants who are left out of the possibility of fighting because of their condition of wounds, illness, shipwreck or that are deprived of their freedom because of the internal armed conflict, and people who enjoy special protection under IHL rules, causing the willful death of said person (CINEP and Justice and Peace)

In the first ten months of the year, the high increase in armed actions (357%) by EPL draws attention, being a risk factor for the communities where this armed group is concentrated, particularly on the border with Venezuela.

In October, the month in which the bilateral ceasefire between the ELN and the Government of Colombia began, there were five attacks against civilians, thus confirming a violation of this agreement. In this month, the threats were mainly concentrated in Nariño, Caquetá and Antioquia and the willful killings went from 20 to 45 (125%), being it the second month with the most homicides in the year. People who exert some sort of social leadership or human rights defense, both in vulnerable rural and urban areas with high risk and protection needs, are those who have suffered the impact of these attacks. The cities where a large number of homicides took place throughout October are: Tumaco (Nariño), Puerto Guzmán (Putumayo), Villa del Rosario (North Santander) and Medellín.

Departments and municipalities that stand out due to willful killing of a protected person Jan-Oct 2017



The persistence of threats and the alarming increase in the number of willful killings and wounding of protected persons are the attacks with the greatest impact in the year. They usually result in individual displacements or restrictions on mobility.

Emergencies and Affections due to the Rainy Season

Between January and October this year, rainy seasons in a large part of the territory have triggered emergencies, mainly due to floods (79%), affecting approximately 547,529 people², specially in the northwest, Pacific and south of the country. In October, official figures show at least 26,625 people affected by these events, with 84% of the affectation concentrated in Magdalena (six municipalities) and Cauca (Timbiquí) with 22,445 people affected. These emergencies were followed up from the field offices, including a [Flash Update No.1](#) for the case of Timbiquí due to the declaration of public calamity by the Disaster Risk Management Advisory Office of Cauca (OAGR for its acronym in Spanish).

In order to provide primary response to the families affected by the floods, in the case of Magdalena, NUDRM delivered emergency humanitarian aid (2,000 food kits, 2,000 cleaning kits and 9,000 blankets) as support for the municipal and departmental authorities. Likewise, it accompanied the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) and activated the yellow machinery bank mechanism in a manner complementary to the management of the Departmental Government in view of this situation. In the case of Timbiquí, at least 5,820 people (1,164 families) received emergency humanitarian assistance, delivered with the support of the local risk management authority.

² Source: National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (NUDRM). Cutoff Date: 10/31/2017. Consultation Date: 11/30/2017

Humanitarian Financing Reaches Different Regions of the Country

Colombia Humanitarian Fund Responds to Humanitarian Needs

So far this year, the Colombia Humanitarian Fund (CHF), supported mainly by Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, has allocated USD \$1,047,973M to finance projects through two modalities: the Reserve Fund, to respond to sudden emergencies, and the Financing Round, in response to chronic or prolonged emergencies, through national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to meet humanitarian needs.



Credit: Plan Foundation

Between August, September and October of 2017 a Financing Round was opened in response to chronic emergencies, with four approved projects and a total financing of US\$597,973, whose help will reach 14,855 people in Chocó, Putumayo, Arauca and Guajira

During the first half of 2017 (May and June), sudden emergencies occurred in the departments of Chocó, Nariño and Arauca associated with the armed conflict and natural disasters. To support the State's response, three projects were approved, each of which for US\$150,000 (US\$450,000 in total) financed through the Reserve Fund.

Between August, September and October of 2017, a Financing Round was opened, in which the CHF received a total of 10 project proposals to respond to chronic emergencies in the areas prioritized by the Advisory Board: the border with Venezuela, the Pacific and Putumayo. Four projects were approved in this round with total financing of US\$597,973 and a duration of six to eight months, focusing attention on the sectors of Early Recovery, Basic Sanitation, Water and Hygiene, Health, Protection and Food Security and Nutrition, Education in Emergencies and Shelters.

The aid will reach 14,855 people, which will benefit 3,705 women, 3,753 girls, 3,695 boys and 3,702 men in the departments of Chocó (rural area of the municipalities of San Juan and Litoral del San Juan) and in rural and urban areas of Putumayo (Mocoa), Arauca (Arauca) and Guajira (Riohacha and Maicao).

Great efforts have been made to especially strengthen the capacities of national NGOs. This is how, in 2017, 57% of the resources were allocated to them and 43% to international NGOs, as evidenced in the third quarter's report³ and infography⁴ of Colombia Humanitarian Fund.

Donor Visits in the PACIFIC and the Border with Venezuela

By: María José Daza, National Program Officer, Embassy of Sweden.

Between October 2 and 6, the Embassy of Sweden, OCHA and the ICRC carried out a mission to Riosucio and Medio San Juan in the department of Chocó, two of the municipalities most affected by the persistence of armed violence, despite the signing of the peace accords. In Riosucio, the Embassy learned first-hand about the work carried out

³ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/colombia/document/informe-tercer-trimestre-fondo-humanitario-de-colombia-2017>

⁴ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/colombia/document/infograf%C3%ADa-tercer-trimestre-fondo-humanitario-de-colombia-2017>

by the Plan Foundation with nine displaced families from the Juinduur indigenous communities, who are included in a project that benefits 327 people affected by the armed conflict. According to these families, they left their territory out of fear because, in the last year, there have been several clashes between different armed groups within the community. Additionally, they expressed their concern for those members of their community who remain in the territory in confinement due to the existence of APLMs and UXOs.

In this context, the project implemented by the Plan Foundation in partnership with Halü Foundation and Restrepo Barco Foundation, called "Emergency Humanitarian Response due to Mobility Restrictions for the Juinduur and Quiparadó Indigenous Communities", seeks to provide comprehensive assistance in matters of health, nutrition and protection to the beneficiary population.

In October, projects funded by CHF were visited. The Embassy of Sweden, OCHA and ICRC carried out a mission to Riosucio and Medio San Juan (Chocó). The Humanitarian Donors Group also carried out a joint mission with OCHA and NRC in San Calixto (Norte de Santander) and with CHF in these areas.



Credit: Embassy of Sweden

After four days of visits, meetings with communities, local authorities and humanitarian organizations in the field, it was evident that, although the peace accord has allowed a reduction in indicators of violence against civilian population in several areas of the country, there are other regions where the opposite phenomenon has occurred and there is concern about the deterioration of the situation.

In this sense, maintaining a humanitarian presence, prioritizing work at a program and geography level and building bridges with development actions will allow for a timely and comprehensive response to the challenges posed by the post-accord, thus contributing to peace building and stabilization process.

Presence of the Humanitarian Donor Group in Norte de Santander

Between October 17 and 20, the Humanitarian Donor Group, formed by Canada, PRM and ECHO, carried out a joint mission with OCHA and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Norte de Santander in which different projects financed by these donors and CHF were visited and implemented by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The CHF project called "Promotion of School and Community Protective Spaces in Rural Areas Affected by the Armed Conflict" in San Calixto stands out, with 800 direct beneficiaries, out of which 152 are women, 360 girls, 88 men and 200 children, with intervention in the sectors of education in emergencies and protection.

This mission also focused on making visible and informing about the humanitarian situation in Catatumbo and the border with Venezuela through meetings with the Local Coordination Team, municipal representatives, the Office of San Calixto Mayor, social leaders, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Unified Command Post (UCP) and the Migration Center in both Cúcuta and other municipalities in the Catatumbo region.

Good Preparation Will Allow Saving Lives in Large-Scale Emergencies

By: National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (NUDRM)

6th National Emergency Response Drill

The drill included the participation of municipal and departmental administrations, Disaster Risk Management Councils, different sectors and social and community organizations, together with OCHA in the role of observer.

On October 25, the 6th National Emergency Response Drill was carried out, allowing better planning, coordination and communication for the effective response to events generated by different threats, thus meeting the proposed objective: "Improving planning, coordination and communication between public, private entities and the community for an effective response to events generated by different threatening phenomena".



Credit: Nariño Field Office

This exercise included the participation of the district/municipal and departmental administrations, Disaster Risk Management Councils, the different sectors and social and community organizations. Likewise, peer organizations of the United Nations System, such as OCHA, accompanied the exercise in a role of observers, both nationwide and in various regions of the country.

The different sectors and social and community organizations put the effectiveness of their emergency response plans, protocols and procedures to the test, thus allowing the assessment of communication, alert and alarm systems at a local level.

Results of the execution of risk scenarios	
Scenario	Participation Percentage
Earthquakes	76%
Floods	10%
Mass movements	5%
Hurricanes or other Tropical Cyclones	2%
Volcanic activity	1%
Tsunami	1%
Other scenarios (structural fire, forest fire, hazardous materials, etc.)	5%
TOTAL	100%

According to the scope of the National Simulation, operational entities that are part of the national risk management system participated, thus putting their coordination and communication mechanisms to the test in an articulated manner with the National Crisis Room.

A total of 80,294 people belonging to the National Navy, Colombian Red Cross, National Firefighter Subsystem, Civil Defense, National Army, Colombian Air Force and National Police were evacuated. This National Drill also tested the different emergency response strategies by conducting local drills and facing possible risk scenarios proposed by UNDRM, with 100% execution.

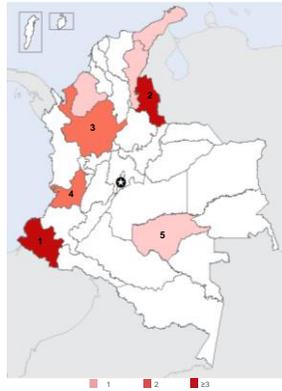
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For OCHA humanitarian newsletters, please refer to: www.salahumanitaria.co | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int

All the information collected in this report has been processed by OCHA from official and secondary sources. Data on mass displacement and civilian protection have been processed by OCHA Colombia through the Comprehensive Information System, SIDI/Monitor.

Map 1: Number of Warlike Actions



Department	#Events
1 Nariño	12
2 Norte de Santander	7
3 Antioquia	2
4 Valle del Cauca	2
5 Guaviare	1
Total	27

Source: OCHA. Cutoff Date: 08 November 2017

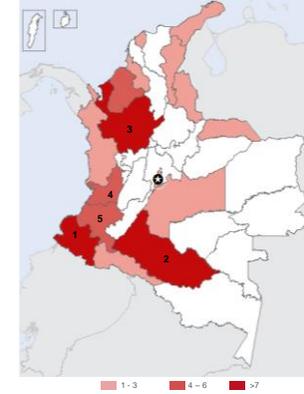
Map 2: Number of Attacks against Civilian Population



Department	#Events
1 Nariño	41
2 Antioquia	17
3 Valle del Cauca	10
4 Caquetá	10
5 Cauca	10
Total	137

Source: OCHA. Cutoff Date: 08 November 2017

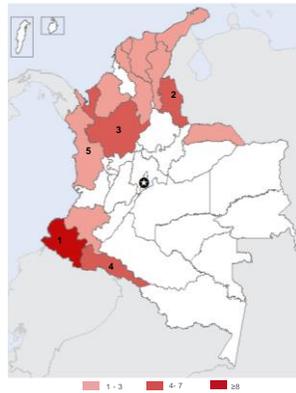
Map 3: Number of Threats



Department	#Events
1 Nariño	13
2 Antioquia	9
3 Caquetá	9
4 Valle del Cauca	6
5 Cauca	6
Total	63

Source: OCHA. Cutoff Date: 08 November 2017

Map 4: Willful Killings of a Protected Person



Department	# Events
1 Nariño	16
2 Norte de Santander	7
3 Antioquia	5
4 Putumayo	4
5 Chocó	3
Total	45

Source: OCHA. Cutoff Date: 08 November 2017

Map 5: Natural Disasters (NUDRM)



Department	# Persons
1 Antioquia	1,081
2 La Guajira	500
3 Tolima	404
4 Risaralda	170
5 Atlántico	170
Total	2,871

Source: NUDRM. Cutoff Date: 08 November 2017

Map 6: Mass Displacement



Department	# Persons
1 Nariño	1,651
2 Córdoba	604
3	
4	
5	
Total	2,255

Source: OCHA. Cutoff Date: 08 November 2017