



UN HUMANITARIAN SITUATION ROOM - COLOMBIA REPORT OCTOBER 2004

I. NATIONAL CONTEXT

- Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES) reported to the Humanitarian Situation Room that between January 1st and September 30th, 2004, there were at least 205,504 persons displaced within Colombia, which is a 15% increase as compared to the 175,270 persons reported displaced by this organization in the same period in 2003. According to CODHES, if those persons displaced to other countries are also taken into consideration, there were a total of more than 225,000 Colombians displaced by violence in the first nine months of 2004.

According to this NGO, the departments that have been most impacted by displacement, taking into account reception rates between January and September, are in order: Caquetá, Putumayo, Casanare, Vaupés, Guaviare, La Guajira, Meta, Arauca, Chocó, Cesar, Sucre, Norte de Santander, Guainía, Magdalena, Nariño, Huila, and Antioquia. These departments report reception rates equal or superior to the national rate, which in the January-September period rose to 454 persons per 100,000 inhabitants. In contrast, the national rate for the same period in 2003 was 393 per 100,000, which also reaffirms the tendency for an increase in displacement.

Based on this information, CODHES reiterated its concern regarding the effects of an escalation of the armed conflict on the dynamics of forced displacement of the non-combatant civilian population. This organization noted that forced displacements, as well as blockades of the civilian population, continue to be concerning indicators of the humanitarian crisis caused by Colombia's armed conflict.

For this NGO, the statistics demonstrate that it is important to focus efforts on implementing actions that prevent forced displacements and blockades of the civilian population, with the objective of guaranteeing humanitarian protection of thousands of persons that continue to face the effects of the armed conflict.

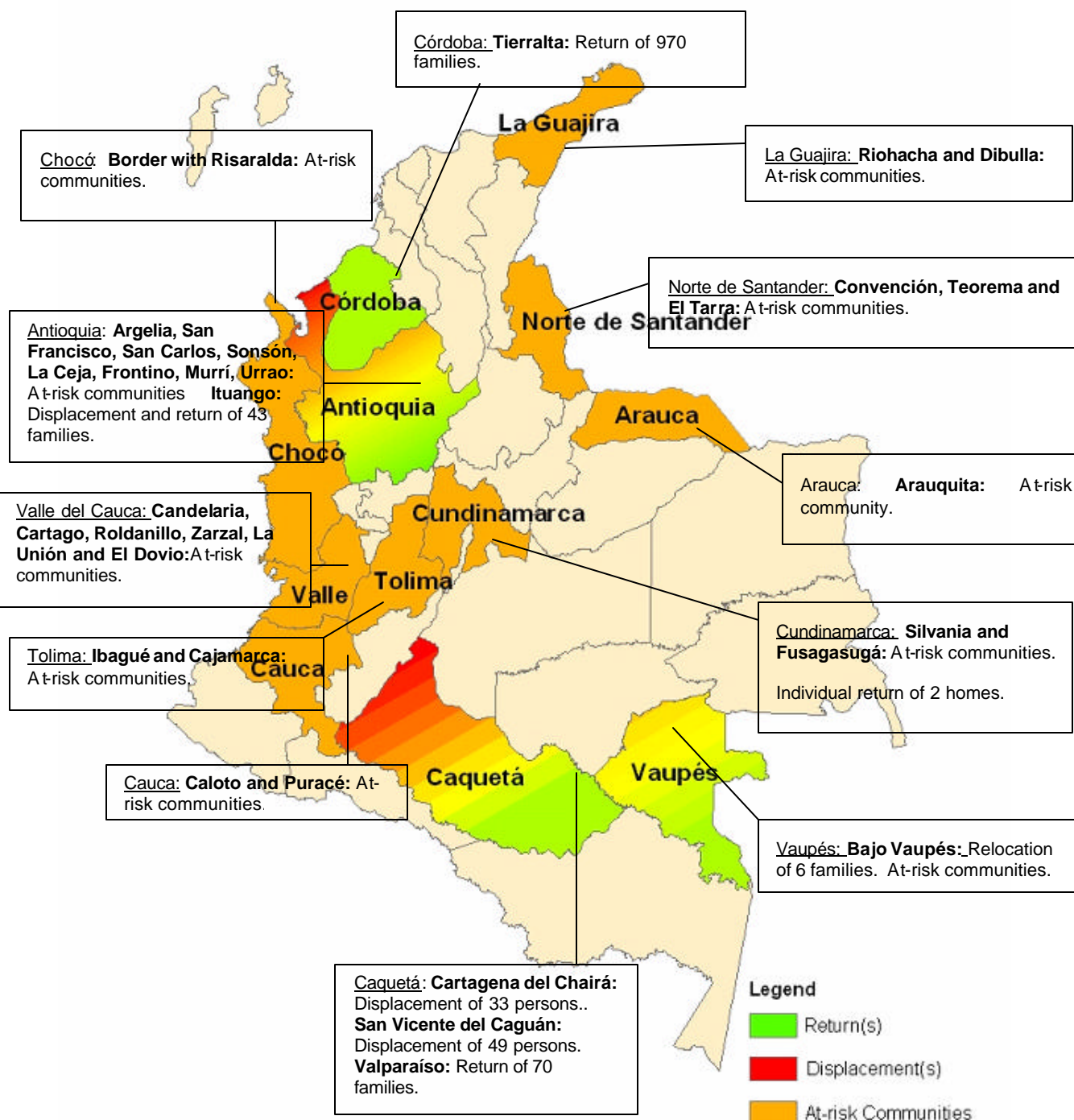
- The Ombudsman's Office presented the report "Monitoring the Cease of Hostilities Promised by the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia as a Sign of their Willingness for Peace for the Country". The report notes that between January and August 2004, there were 342 reported cases of threats or violations of rights of persons or property protected by international humanitarian law attributed to the AUC. The report was completed based on information gathered in 11 departments: Antioquia, Arauca, Casanare, Cauca, Cesar, Córdoba, La Guajira, Magdalena, Santander, Valle and Putumayo.

The Ombudsman's Office indicated that, despite the fact that November 29th, 2002, the AUC issued its call for a Declaration of Peace in Colombia, in which they promised a cease of hostilities starting December 1st that year, several members of the AUC continue to be responsible for forced displacements, threats, attacks or reprisals against the civilian population; attempts against the physical integrity or mental health of persons; individual murders, looting and kidnappings or hostage taking.

The report makes several recommendations to the Commission for Dialogue Process Verification, Negotiation and Agreement Signing between the Government of Colombia and AUC, the Attorney General's Office, and leaders of the AUC and their spokespersons. The Ombudsman's Office lauded the commitment undertaken by the MAPP/OAS mission.

II. ARMED CONFLICT - AFFECTED POPULATION

A) Population movements



B) Other Impact

- **At-risk communities:** Argelia, San Francisco, San Carlos, Sonsón, La Ceja, Frontino, Murri, and Urrao (Antioquia); Arauquita (Arauca), Caloto and Puracé (Cauca), Silvania and Fusagasuga (Cundinamarca), border area between Chocó and Risaralda; Riohacha and Dibulla (La Guajira); Convención, Teorema and El Tarra (Norte de Santander); Ibagué and Cajamarca (Tolima), Candelaria, Cartago, Roldadillo, Zarzal, La Unión and El Dovio (Valle del Cauca), Mitú and Cararú (Vaupés).

- **Returns:** Ituango (Antioquia), Valparaíso (Caquetá), Tierralta (Córdoba). Re-location in Vaupés.

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL LEVEL

	ICRC with support from the Colombian Red Cross	Reported that during the weeks between September 26 th and October 24 th , offered emergency assistance to 759 IDP families (3,264 persons). In addition, ICRC held 55 workshops, talks and provided technical assistance on IHL, humanitarian situation analysis, as well as info on Colombia activities. A total of 1,906 persons participated.
	IOM	Supporting the design and implementation of the Regional Orientation Centers for IDPs, Vulnerable Persons and Micro-businessmen. The first phase of these Centers will be implemented in Valle, Santander and Huila. IOM is also strengthening the National Registry for civilian registries and identification for IDPs. The project will assist 30,000 persons.
	WFP	Distributed 250 tons of food to 19,654 persons in 9 departments. WFP also distributed 447 tons of food for 99,072 children through the School Feeding program in 13 departments. WFP distributed 264 tons of food to 29,220 persons through its Food for Work program.
	SSN	Reported emergency actions in the food security component, with habitat kits, kitchen kits, utensilios kits, clearing kits, rent subsidies, return actions and production projects. These interventions benefited 37 homes (145 persons).

ANTIOQUIA

Peque	ICRC	Conducted 101 dental checkups, 220 medical checkup, 24 cytologies and 20 family planning sessions. Also distributed 493 oral hygiene kits.
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BOGOTÁ

	SSN	Inaugurated three classrooms for music education to be used by 360 IDP or vulnerable minors in the Batuta program. SSN also readied a computer lab for 100 IDP youth.
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BOLIVAR

	PAHO/WHO	Offered technical cooperation through mental health training to officials from the Secretaries of Health of 10 municipalities in Bolívar, from the District Secretary of Cartagena and NGO functionaries. PAHO also offered emergency and disaster training to create neighborhood committees (at-risk neighborhoods, including IDP neighborhoods).
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CALDAS

Belalcázar, Chinchiná, Manizales and Villamaría	SSN	Distributed humanitarian assistance to shelter 36 families and 31 groceries for 31 homes. Also distributed 36 living kits for 36 families.
	SSN	Began training for 25 IDPs in candy making. Began training for another 25 IDPs in basic tailoring.

CAQUETA

Florencia, Morelia, Doncello, and San Vicente del Caguán	IOM, WFP, UNODC and OCHA	Held an interagency mission with the goal of collecting humanitarian information from several sources and to learn about the humanitarian situation in the department. The mission found critical situations in the areas of housing, health, education and food security.
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CAUCA

Timbio	SSN	Distributed 18 groceries, 61 rental subsidies, 1 emergency assistance and 48 agricultural kits to 128 families relocated in Naya.
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CÓRDOBA

	PAHO/WHO	Offered technical assistance for the implementation of the System for the Management of Humanitarian Assistance received in Córdoba due to flooding. This flooding impacted 15 municipalities, 15 neighborhoods in Montería and approximately 6,000 persons.
Moñitos	PAHO/WHO	Offered training in the area of healthy housing to 26 facilitators in the municipality: 7 community leaders, 1 Secretary of Health official and 18 environmental health technology students from Universidad de la Guajira. The training will benefit approximately 500 families.

CUNDINAMARCA

Funza, Fusagasugá, Madrid, Soacha, Sibaté	SSN	Distributed emergency humanitarian assistance (rental subsidies and groceries) to 345 families in these municipalities.
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Soacha	PAHO/WHO	Held a mental health workshop for local health authorities. During the workshop a mental health diagnostic was presented for 2003. As a complement to the diagnostic, PA HO/WHO conducted a morbidity study of 383 persons in 6 commons of the municipality.
LA GUAJIRA		
Uribia	SSN	Conducted a social recovery session in the corregimiento of Bahia Portete. During the session 600 IDPs attended.
MAGDALENA		
Fundación and Aracataca	ICRC	Accompanied the medical team of Hospital de Aracataca in providing 200 dental checkups, 432 medical checkups, 521 nursing treatments and 16 cytologies. ICRC also distributed 700 oral health kits and 379 vaccine doses.
NARINO		
Pasto	SSN	Provided humanitarian assistance and cleaning kits to 17 families. SSN also provided rental subsidies to 142 families.
Ricaurte, Taminango, Guachucal and Barbacoas	IOM	Implementing a project to support the creation of Territorial Order Plans (POT in Spanish) in these municipalities. The project will benefit 5,089 persons.
11 municipalities	IOM	Through a family health strategy, implementing a health strengthening project to benefit 8,100 persons.
NORTE DE SANTANDER		
Convención	SSN	Distributed humanitarian assistance to 27 families.
	IOM	Strengthening the health assistance system for IDPs, relocated, returned and receptor persons in Honduras corregimiento. The assistance will be through a health post, and will benefit 2,275 persons.
Cúcuta	IOM	Began a pilot project for epidemiological monitoring for public health. The project is focused on IDPs in the municipality and will benefit 5,000 persons.
PUTUMAYO		
Villagarzón	SSN	Distributed 10 agricultural kits to homes in Naranjito corregimiento to help prevent displacement.
SANTANDER		
Bucaramanga and Floridablanca	PAHO/WHO	Supported the reactivation of the Alliance for Co-existence and Peace (ALCONPAZ), as an intersectoral team to coordinate health actions for IDPs.
	PAHO/WHO	Via the AIEPI strategy, began to provide medical assistance to vulnerable and IDP children under 5 in hospitals in the northern area of these two municipalities.
TOLIMA		
	SSN	Distributed rental subsidies to 27 families and groceries and living kits to 87 homes.
VALLE DEL CAUCA		
Buenaventura, Tuluá and Cali	PAHO/WHO	Offered technical assistance to the Technical Committee for Integral Health Assistance for Vulnerable Persons and IDPs in the mountainous areas, with a focus on commons 18. Also provided training on healthy housing.