

DRC OPERATIONS IN COLOMBIA

DRC established operational presence in Colombia in 2011 with focus on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and providing support to conflict-affected population in the south of the country.

In 2018, DRC began providing humanitarian assistance to refugees, migrants, and host communities in urban and rural areas of Bogota D.C., Cundinamarca, Atlantico, Antioquia and La Guajira to respond to the onset of large mixed migration flows from Venezuela. DRC further provided lifesaving assistance to conflict-affected populations from 2021, through emergency preparedness and response to needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in conflict-affected areas of Nariño and Norte de Santander.



In 2022, DRC continues to deliver life-saving assistance to refugees, migrants, IDPs and host communities through integrated humanitarian response focused on most vulnerable individuals and communities affected by conflict and displacement in Colombia.

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT IN COLOMBIA

Colombia hosts **one of world's largest population of IDPs** due to the armed conflict that has affected the country for more than 50 years, resulting in severe protection issues, including forced displacement, confinements, threats and assassinations, forced recruitment of minors and gender-based violence. The conflict has also led to a heavy contamination of the environment by landmines and other unexploded ordnances, which pose significant obstacles to a long-lasting peace and jeopardize opportunities for socioeconomic development. In addition, natural disasters in Colombia continuously expose millions of people to climate-related events.

Since 2014, Colombia has been directly affected by the massive influx of Venezuelan refugees and migrants fleeing the Venezuela. As of 2021, **Colombia is hosting over 2 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants**. Venezuelan refugees and migrants are extremely vulnerable to multi-faceted protection risks, and face difficulties in meeting their basic needs, such as shelter, health, and education. They also face obstacles in securing an income – largely due to their lack of access to legal documentation.

DRC HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM



Protection: DRC provides integrated protection assistance to refugees, migrants, IDPs and host communities through protection monitoring, legal assistance and counselling, individual protection assistance, activities to counter gender-based violence, and community-based protection across the country. DRC is co-leading the Protection Cluster in Colombia.

In 2021, **31.841** vulnerable to protection risks individuals have been supported by DRC through holistic services.



Humanitarian Mine Action: DRC contributes to return safe land to communities and to stabilize fragile areas, through identification of contaminated land and mine clearance, as well as Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to communities affected by the presence of landmines.

DRC has cleared **13.645 m²** and declared **4 municipalities** free from suspicion of contamination in Caqueta and Nariño departments.



GBV prevention and response: DRC seeks to prevent gender-based violence through community workshops and support to networks of community leaders. DRC responds to gender-based violence survivors by providing safe houses where they can access legal and medical assistance, psychosocial care, holistic case management, and where DRC facilitates their socioeconomic inclusion through livelihoods activities to foster their resilience.



Camp coordination and management: DRC manages the Centro de Atención Integral (CAI) for refugees and migrants established by the Government of Colombia in La Guajira.



Cash and voucher assistance: Through cash and voucher assistance, DRC aims to enhance the resilience of beneficiaries, improving access to local services, and supporting their social and economic inclusion. DRC provides up to 6 months of unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance aiming to meet basic needs, including shelter, and improve food security of households impacted by conflict and displacement.

In 2021, DRC delivered multi-purpose cash assistance to: **25.695** individuals



Economic recovery: DRC provides persons with specific needs and survivors of gender-based violence with economic opportunities via on-the-job trainings, coordination with local authorities and local businesses – supporting the process of legalizing documents for new employees and covering part of their initial salaries.



Emergency Response to IDPs: In conflict-affected areas of Nariño and Norte de Santander, DRC contributes to strengthening the protective environment for conflict-affected populations by monitoring and addressing specific protection risks, while providing life-saving assistance and access to basic services. DRC's emergency response activities include the provision of legal assistance and counselling, individual protection assistance and cash-for-protection to support immediate protection needs, provision of food/hygiene kits and water filters, and emergency infrastructure improvements.



OPERATIONAL CONTEXTS IN COLOMBIA

Mixed migration flows

Most refugees and migrants are located in **Bogota D.C., Antioquia, Norte de Santander and La Guajira**, followed by **Cundinamarca, Arauca, Valle del Cauca and Atlantico**.

Refugees and migrants face obstacles to access **public services, earn livelihoods and meet their basic needs**, all of which are aggravated by a **lack of documentation and consequent irregularity**.






According to the R4V,

- 77%** of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia lacked access to healthcare
- 36%** lived in overcrowded conditions
- 31%** were at risk of eviction due to their inability to pay rent and utilities
- 26%** of children were not attending school
- 25%** consumed poor quality water
- 24%** faced food insecurity

The Colombian Government announced and began registration for the **Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelans (ETPV)**, which will provide eligible Venezuelans with a 10-year residence permit. As of 2021, 1.1 million refugees and migrants applied for the ETPV migratory status.

CURRENT DONORS AND GRANTS

In 2022, DRC programmes received funding from the following donors and grants:

Donor	Activities	Targeted location
	Multi-purpose cash assistance and economic recovery support towards refugees and migrants	La Guajira, Atlantico, Cundinamarca, Bogota D.C.
	Protection, camp coordination and camp management of the CAI, and shelter assistance towards refugees and migrants	La Guajira
	Protection, health and WASH response, and disaster preparedness and risk reduction for refugees, migrants, host communities and IDPs.	La Guajira, Norte de Santander, Atlantico, Bogota D.C., Cundinamarca, Antioquia
	Mine Action	Caqueta, Bolivar
	Mine Action, protection, economic recovery support, WASH response towards refugees, migrants, host communities and IDPs	Norte de Santander, Caqueta y Nariño

Internally Displaced persons (IDPs)

Out of Colombia's 48.2 million population, **more than 8.2 million are IDPs according to Colombian authorities**.

According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview, as of 2022, **humanitarian crises continue in large parts of the Colombian territory due to multiple factors of violence, natural disasters and mixed migration that generate humanitarian needs in various communities, especially those located in the areas most affected by the conflict**. Humanitarian emergencies and needs remain high in in the departments of the Pacific zone (Nariño, Cauca, Valle del Cauca and Choco), Northwest (Antioquia, Cordoba, Sur de Bolívar and Sucre), Frontier with Venezuela (La Guajira, Norte de Santander, Arauca and Vichada), and the Southern centered departments (Putumayo, Caqueta, Meta, Guaviare, Amazonas, Guainia and Vaupés).

DRC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE IN COLOMBIA

-  **500 STAFF MEMBERS**
-  **10 OFFICES**

Located in:
Barranquilla
Barbacoas
Bogota (2)
Medellin

Maicao
San Jose del Fragua
Milan
Montecristo
Tibu

