

## DRC OPERATIONS IN COLOMBIA

DRC established operational presence in Colombia in 2011 with a focus on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and providing support to conflict-affected populations in the south of the country. In 2023, DRC continues its HMA operations in Caquetá and Bolívar, and started operations in Norte de Santander.

In 2018, DRC began providing humanitarian assistance to refugees, migrants, returnees and host communities in urban and rural areas of Bogota D.C., Cundinamarca, Atlántico and La Guajira to respond to the onset of large mixed migration flows from Venezuela. DRC later on started to provide lifesaving assistance to conflict-affected populations from 2021, through emergency preparedness and response to needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities and other vulnerable groups affected by the armed conflict in Nariño and Norte de Santander.



In 2023, 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 explosive ordnance, which poses significant obstacles to a long-lasting peace and jeopardizes 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, making it the number one host country for this population.** 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. Finally, inflation and economic downturn over the last two years linked to both domestic and international instability have exacerbated economic vulnerability and food insecurity, adding to the vulnerability of the population DRC supports in Colombia.

## DRC HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM



**Protection:** DRC provides an integrated protection response to refugees, migrants, IDPs and host communities through protection monitoring, legal assistance and counselling, individual protection assistance and case management, activities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and community-based protection across the country. DRC is co-leading the Protection Cluster in Colombia and active in several protection coordination spaces around the country.

In 2022, **19.255** individuals with specific protection needs have been supported by DRC through holistic services.



**Cash and voucher assistance:** Through cash and voucher assistance, DRC aims to enhance the resilience of People of Concern (PoC), 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 in situations of human mobility.

In 2022, DRC delivered multi-purpose cash assistance to: **28.616** individuals



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

From 2018 to 2022 DRC has cleared **33.213 m<sup>2</sup>** and declared **4 municipalities** free from suspicion of contamination in Caqueta and Nariño departments.



**Economic recovery:** Since 2022, DRC implements a comprehensive livelihoods programme, providing migrant and vulnerable host communities with economic opportunities through employability and entrepreneurship support, including training, seed capital, coaching and mentoring.



**GBV prevention and response:** DRC seeks to prevent gender-based violence through community prevention activities, support to community leaderships and networks in recognising and understanding risks and situations of GBV, mapping and using assistance pathways and promoting behavioural change. DRC provides a response to GBV survivors with case management, including legal assistance, psychosocial support and cash assistance based on needs, facilitating sustainable exit strategies.



**Emergency Response to IDPs:** DRC's emergency response combines a flexible approach in response to sudden displacements or restrictions to mobility (confinement) caused by armed violence or natural disasters. It includes distribution of food assistance, hygiene items, and tailored kits for babies and women and is provided in an integrated manner with WASH and protection assistance, based on identified needs.



**WASH:** DRC supports people in conflict-affected areas with safe access to drinking water through water filter distribution, hygiene promotion in rural communities, and small scale rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure.



## OPERATIONAL CONTEXTS IN COLOMBIA

### Mixed migration flows

Colombia is the country with the widest range of movement dynamics between pendular and transit populations with 2.48 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees living there.

Over the past two years, improvements were observed through the implementation of a large scale migration regularization scheme (Temporary Protection Status), expanding access to basic services such as healthcare and education and to social protection. The new government which took office in 2022 renewed Colombia's effective commitments to sustainable and effective integration of refugees and migrants.

Nevertheless, according to the R4V:

**92%** of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia have inconsistent and inadequate access to potable water.

**82%** of households in-destination have inadequate housing.

**52%** earn less than the minimum wage.

**51%** eat two meals a day or less.





**48%** of children are attending school.

**19%** are unemployed.

The reopening of official border crossings with Venezuela in **October 2022 facilitated the subsequent increase in regular entries into Colombia** (and a corresponding reduction in irregular entries), along with continued returns and pendular movements to and from Venezuela.

## CURRENT DONORS AND GRANTS

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

Donor	Activities	Targeted location
 BHA	Multi-purpose cash assistance and economic recovery support towards refugees and migrants	Atlantico, Cundinamarca, and Bogota D.C.
 Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid	Protection, multipurpose cash and WASH response, and disaster preparedness and risk reduction for refugees, migrants, host communities and IDPs.	Bogotá D.C., Cundinamarca, Atlántico, La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Nariño.
 PM/WRA	Mine Action	Caqueta, Bolivar and Norte de Santander
 SIDA	Protection, economic recovery support, WASH response towards refugees, migrants, host communities and IDPs	Norte de Santander and Nariño

### Internally Displaced persons (IDPs)

According to Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022 (HNO) out of a 51.6 million population, at least 9.4 million people have officially registered under various victimizing events. Of these, 89% correspond to internally displaced persons.

The HNO also states that in 2023, **humanitarian crises continue in large parts of the Colombian territory due to the confluence of a deterioration of the internal armed conflict resulting from the expansion and consolidation of multiple non-state armed groups (NSAG), the increase of natural disasters aggravated by climate variability, accelerated inflation rates throughout 2022, and the country's limited capacities to meet both the needs of people affected by the conflict and the still significant number of migrants crossing its borders.** Humanitarian emergencies and needs remain high in **departments where there are multiple affectations** due to the occurrence of displacement, confinement, natural disasters and presence of migrant populations, such as Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Córdoba, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Vichada. These departments are characterized by very limited state presence and capacities, and thus are not able to provide immediate attention to the affected population, while all humanitarian actors are increasingly experiencing access limitations as a result of strengthened territorial control imposed by NSAGs.

## DRC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE IN COLOMBIA



**+450 STAFF MEMBERS**



**13 OFFICES**

Located in:  
**Barranquilla**  
**Barbacoas**  
**Bogota (2)**  
**Maicao**  
**Milan**  
**Montecristo**

**Labateca**  
**Riohacha**  
**San Jose del Fragua**  
**San Martín de Loba**  
**Tibu**  
**Tumaco**

