



Colombia

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

The European Commission's humanitarian aid to Colombia since 1994 amounts to **€231.2 million**.

Aid for 2017 amounts to **€3.2 million**.

Colombia has **7.3 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** according to 2016 government figures.

In 2015 and 2016 **345 271 new IDPs** were registered.

In **2016, 1.7 million** Colombians were affected by **natural hazards** (UNOCHA).

The European Commission's aid for **Disaster Risk Reduction** amounts to **€0.9 million** for 2017, and **€11.7 million since 1994**.

Through EU humanitarian funding, over 120 million people are helped each year in more than 80 countries around the world through approximately 200 partners.

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Indigenous populations are among the most affected by Colombia's armed conflict.

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Key messages

- **Since 1994**, the European Commission has provided **€231.2 million in humanitarian aid to Colombia**. Funding has focused on the **consequences of the ongoing internal armed conflict**, which has claimed over 220 000 lives, and on responding to disasters.
- Colombia has **7.3 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** – the world's largest caseload. Despite the 2016 peace agreement with one of the largest guerrillas, violence, forced displacement, the recruitment of children and sexual or gender-based violence still affects thousands.
- **Natural hazards** - floods, landslides, droughts or earthquakes - recurrently affect Colombia. On 1st April 2017, a massive landslide buried several neighbourhoods overnight, killing 306 in the southern city of Mocoa (441 persons are still missing). In November 2016, floods displaced at least 20 409 families (approximately 80 000 people) in the western Chocó department.
- Colombian children displaced by the conflict are a focus of the EU's **Education in Emergencies** funding, ensuring their ongoing education in conflict-affected regions, by providing access to safe schools and psychological support.
- Colombia is included in the European Commission's list of **forgotten crises** - a serious humanitarian crisis whose people receive insufficient international aid.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

The Government of Colombia is implementing a peace accord with the country's largest guerrilla group, the FARC, after more than 50 years of conflict. However, civilians continue to suffer the humanitarian consequences of the ongoing violence by several armed groups, including the ELN (*Ejército de Liberación Nacional*), EPL (*Ejército Popular de Liberación*) and others. The resulting violence has increased. In 2016 alone, 94 social and indigenous leaders and human rights defenders were murdered.



In 2015 and 2016, 345 271 new forced displacements were registered officially. Murders, death threats, extortion, the forced recruitment of minors by armed groups, sexual violence, landmines, forced confinement and lack of access to basic goods and services affect many, particularly in remote rural areas. Thousands flee the violence in the countryside and migrate to cities with limited protection and opportunities for livelihoods.

With more than 7.3 million IDPs, Colombia has the world's largest displacement caseload (according to government figures). An additional 360 000 Colombian refugees have sought refuge in neighbouring Ecuador and Venezuela (UNHCR figures for 2016), where they are vulnerable and need protection.

Major needs and related problems

Main needs for conflict-affected populations include **protection, food assistance, access to healthcare, education** as well as **safe water**. Refugees and IDPs require temporary housing and basic household items (hygiene kits, kitchen utensils), as well as **psychological support** and assistance to apply for legal assistance or refugee status.

Colombia is also one of the most **disaster-prone countries in the world**, and highly vulnerable to climate change-induced disasters. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, severe recurrent floods and droughts affect millions throughout the country. The European Commission's disaster preparedness, [disaster risk reduction](#) and [resilience](#) programmes focus on rural, urban and peri-urban communities in disaster-prone areas, to support local communities and institutions involved in disaster risk management.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The European Commission pays special attention to victims of forgotten crises - severe, protracted humanitarian crises where affected populations are receiving insufficient international aid, such as Colombia. With more than **€231.2 million in humanitarian aid since 1994**, Colombia is the largest recipient of the Commission's humanitarian aid in Latin America. **In 2017 alone, it allocated €3.2 million in aid to Colombia.**

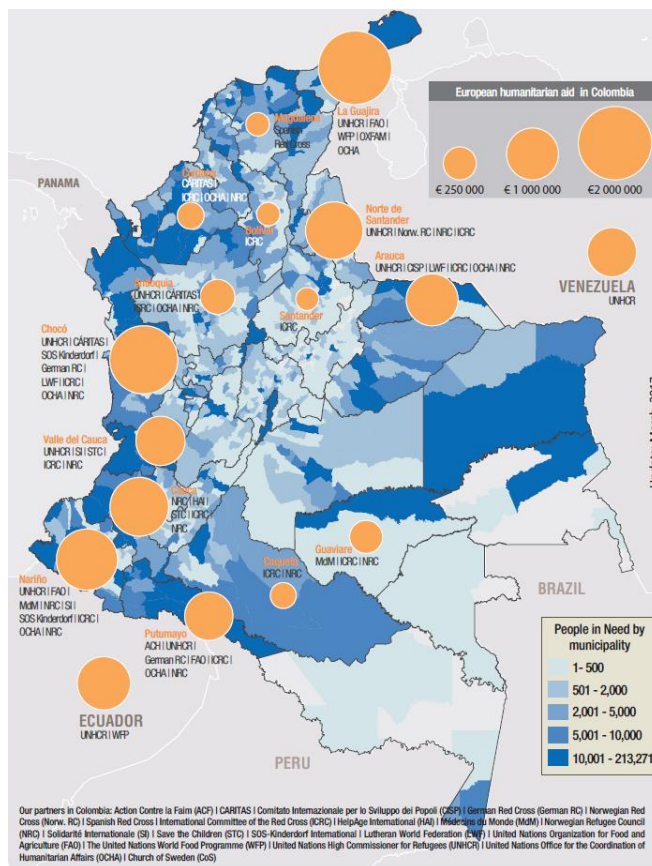
The **needs of Colombians affected by the conflict**, including IDPs, refugees and People in Need of International Protection (PNIP) in neighbouring countries (mainly Ecuador and Venezuela) account for 88% of the Commission's humanitarian funds (**€204.6 million**). **Response to natural disasters** accounts for 7% of the funding (**€14.9 million**). Projects to strengthen communities and institutions' preparedness to face natural hazards make up 5% (**€11.7 million**) of the Commission's humanitarian funding since 1994.

Humanitarian response to the armed conflict

Colombians affected by the conflict, whether in their communities or displaced by the violence, are a priority for the Commission's humanitarian aid which focuses on providing **protection, health care, water and sanitation** to vulnerable groups such as women, children, as well as indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations. The Commission also emphasizes strengthening [food assistance](#), particularly for those whose livelihoods are constrained by armed groups, and **support to education**, to ensure that internally displaced children or refugee minors in Ecuador and Venezuela do not interrupt their schooling.

Natural hazards and resilience improvement

The Commission's emphasis on reducing the **risks associated with natural hazards** increases the [resilience](#) and preparedness of the populations most vulnerable to floods, droughts, landslides and earthquakes. [Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and capacity-building is integrated into all projects, so as to limit the impact of natural hazards and to strengthen the response capacity of communities and



institutions. In 2017, the programme is funding one covering Colombia, for **€0.9 million**.



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