

Country Sheet

Colombia





HI Team and intervention areas

HI Colombia, in the Latin America Regional Program has 250 staff members.





General data of the country

a) General data

DATA	Colombia	Venezuela	Belgium
Population	52.1	28.8	11.8
IHDI	0.568	0.6	0.878
SIGI Score	23.5	16.5	7.4
Maternal mortality	75	259	5
GINI Index	54.8	44.7	26.6
Population within UNHCR mandate	7.007.564	258.083	222.589
INFORM RISK	5.6	5.6	2.1
Fragile State Index	75.6	89	30.3
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	49.7	54.2	100
Net official development assistance received	1883.3	272.3	0

b) Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status	
Mine Ban Treaty	Ratified 06/09/2000	Article-5 Extension in force 2021-2025 Extension 2025-2030 under discussions
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Signed 03/12/2008	
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified 10/05/2011	



c) Geopolitical analysis

Since the signing of the peace agreement in 2016, the dynamics of the armed conflict in Colombia have changed and the panorama has evolved, with FARC-EP dissidents joining other organisations for territorial control. Other armed groups such as the ELN, Clan del Golfo and smaller criminal organisations have expanded their presence and influence, exacerbating the conflict in the country.

The Colombian government, under the presidency of Gustavo Petro, has promoted a policy of total peace, encouraging dialogue and ceasefires with some armed groups while keeping others on the sidelines. Despite these efforts, localised conflicts persist, resulting in eight non-international armed conflicts, according to the ICRC. According to the Community Priority Response Plan 2024-2025, developed by OCHA and the Humanitarian Country Team, Colombia faces the most urgent humanitarian needs this year in a protracted conflict with the presence of non-state armed groups in 534 municipalities (47.5% of the territory). Between 2020 and 2023, the number of people living under non-state armed groups control increased from 5.8 million to 8.4 million.

Considering the above, the main trends in the humanitarian situation for 2023 and 2024 are that, although overall displacement and confinement figures have decreased in 2023, an increase in violence has been observed in 2024 due to targeted violence in regions such as Chocó, Cauca and Nariño. At the same time, forced recruitment of children continues to be underreported, while cases of extortion have increased, particularly in Antioquia and Cundinamarca.

Contamination from anti-personnel mines continues to increase, with 929 incidents and 95 casualties recorded in 2023. In fact, the Colombian government is preparing its request to extend its obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty until 2030. Humanitarian demining continues, with 87 communities in action and 119 waiting to be deployed, as part of the efforts to improve access to unstable regions.

Humanitarian access remains restricted due to threats and hostilities, particularly in regions such as Guaviare and Norte de Santander.

In 2023, the Darién Strait recorded a record number of migrants, with more than 400,000 people crossing, including 88,000 children. In addition, climate impacts such as the El Niño phenomenon have exacerbated humanitarian challenges, with severe droughts and landslides affecting the most vulnerable populations.



Summary of HI presence in the country

Following a brief emergency intervention in 1986, HI has established a permanent presence in Colombia for 26 years (since 1998), starting with the implementation of actions focused on providing physical rehabilitation services and community-based rehabilitation. Since 2005, multisectoral assistance programming to landmine victims started in Bolivar and Antioquia Departments. Between 2014 and 2015, mine risk education activities began with indigenous communities in Colombia. 2016-2017 marked the start of comprehensive mine action operations through the set-up and start of land release activities (humanitarian demining) in Cauca, Caquetá and Meta departments, in the framework of the signing of the peace agreement in Colombia. In 2022 HI handed over the first two municipalities free from the suspicion of explosive devices. In recent years, Comprehensive Armed Violence Reduction (AVR) programming has also included conflict transformation initiatives, around community resilience and protection. AVR programming has often been undertaken in ethnic communities, in particular indigenous ones.

Additionally, HI started in 2019 its response to the Venezuelan migratory emergency, mainly through the direct service provision of mental health and psychosocial support and physical rehabilitation in the departments with greater presence of migrant population, such as La Guajira Antioquia and Cundinamarca. This combined coverage of health service gaps for vulnerable migrant populations was expanded in 2023 to include victims of the armed conflicts in the country, expanding operations to Cauca, Nariño and Norte de Santander.

Finally, in recent years there have been interventions to promote Inclusive Humanitarian Action by humanitarian actors. In terms of disaster preparedness and response, HI has implemented several projects on inclusive disaster risk management (2019-2022) and provided response to several small crises, through multi-purpose cash provision, psychosocial support and distribution of non-food items.

Currently, comprehensive AVR programmed together with health service provision (rehab and mental health and psychosocial support) for both conflict and migration settings remain the main axis of action in the country. Presence and coverage in the country remains large, with approximately 7 bases and prolonged operations, in particular in Antioquia, La Guajira, Cauca and Nariño Departments.

According to the last annual monitoring the main achievements of the organization and its partners in **2023** are:



- 117.100 direct beneficiaries and nearly 151.300 indirect beneficiaries
 - o 5.500 people recognize themselves as disabled
 - 5.800 belong to children between 0-5 years old, 23.500 were young people between 6 -17 years old, 79.200 people are between 18-59 years old and 7.400 are people in the range of 60+ years old.

Regarding demining actions, there were 11.286 m² of land affected by mines or explosive remnants of war released. In addition, there were 29 explosive devices destroyed and/or neutralized.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
Bridging the Gap: Financial Inclusion for All in Colombia Economic inclusion, social development and social protection	 Strengthening of financial and economic capacities and access to financial services for migrants. Improving risk awareness and migrant-friendly service provision by targeted financial service providers. Engaging key actors of the financial inclusion ecosystem in a learning dynamic, fed by the project experience. 	Venezuelan migrants	Fundación Capital	Bogotá D.C., and Antioquia and Atlantico departments.	2021.12 – 2024.12	Agence Française du développement (AFD) - FISONG Banca de oportunidades
ACTIVA - Integral Action for the Reduction of Armed Violence and Protection of Affected Communities in the Departments of Antioquia, Cauca and Nariño, Colombia - Phase II	 Capacity-building of local risk management (Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, armed violence and disasters) Conflict Transformation Community livelihood micro-projects Strengthening of Community Protection Mechanisms 	 Community leaders Civil servants Indigenous community guards Local partners staff 	 Pastoral Social Sur Oriente y Pasto Fundación Tierra de Paz Fundación Nauta Corporación Paz y Democracia. 	Antioquia, Cauca and Nariño Departments	2021.04 – 2025.03	Medicor Foundation Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)



Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
Risk education, conflict transformation, Mental Health & Psychosocial support, economic inclusion, physical and functional rehabilitation, inclusive governance.	 Capacity-building on Community Based Rehabilitation Accompaniment for access to rehabilitation and psychosocial services Legal assistance Capacity-building of civil society representatives 	 Victim associations and Organization of persons with disability staff 				Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway
Protection-Building Peace with Colombian Indigenous Communities, especially Women & girls Phase II Protection Against Violence and abuse, Mental Health & Psychosocial Support, Conflict transformation	 Individual support Community protection plans design and implementation Trainings on rights and services 	 Community leaders Indigenous communities Women Civil servants 	 Asociacion Colombiana de Infectologia Institute Sur Alexander Von Humboldt Indigenous Organization of Antioquia 	Cauca, Antioquia, Nariño	2023.03 – 2025.02	Peace and Stabilization Operations Programme (PSOP) – Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
Land release in Chaparral - Zone 5, Department of Tolima, Colombia	Community LiaisonNon-Technical Surveys Risk EducationManual clearanceExplosive Ordnance Disposal	All individuals living in the task assignment	NA	Chaparral Municipality Tolima department.	2021.10 – 2024.09	PM/ WRA (US State Department)



Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
Land Release, Risk education						
Land release in Acandi, Choco Department, Colombia Land Release, Risk education	 Community Liaison Non-Technical Surveys Risk Education Manual clearance Explosive Ordnance Disposal 	 All individuals living in the task assignment Indigenous communities Afrocolombian communities 	NA	Acandi Municipality, Choco Department.	2021.10 - 2024.09	PM/WRA (US State Department)
Land Release in Paez, Inza and Santander de Quilichao Municipalities, Department of Cauca, Colombia Land Release, Risk education	 Community Liaison Non-Technical Surveys Risk Education Manual clearance Explosive Ordnance Disposal 	 All individuals living in the task assignment Indigenous communities Afrocolombian communities 	NA	Paez, Inza and Santander de Quilichao Municipalities, Cauca department	2019.09 - 2025.03	PM/WRA (US State Department) Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Land Release in Remedios, Segovia, Yali, and Vegachí	 Non-Technical Surveys Community liaison Risk Education Manual clearance Mechanical ground-preparation 	 All individuals living in the task assignment Indigenous communities 	NA	Remedios, Segovia, Yali, and Vegachí Municipalities,	2022.08 – 2025.08	PM/ WRA (US State Department)



Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
Municipalities, Department of Antioquia, Colombia Land Release, Risk education	Explosive Ordnance Disposal	Afrocolombian communities		Antioquia department		Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Land Release in Carepa Municipality, Department of Antioquia, Colombia. Land Release, Risk education	 Community Liaison Non-Technical Surveys Risk Education Manual clearance Explosive Ordnance Disposal 	 All individuals living in the task assignment Indigenous communities Afrocolombian communities 	NA	Carepa Municipality, Antioquia department	2022.08 - 2025.08	PM/WRA (US State Department) Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Land Release Puerto Concordia Municipality, Department of Meta, Colombia Land Release, Risk education	 Community Liaison Non-Technical Surveys Risk Education Manual clearance Explosive Ordnance Disposal 	 All individual living in the task assignment Indigenous communities. 	NA	Puerto Concordia Municipality, Meta department	2022.08 - 2024.12	PM/ WRA (US State Department)
Weaving ways II: A comprehensive protection and	Physical and functional rehabilitation.Mental health and psychosocial support.	Migrants and host communities	CARE (Lead)	Cauca (Buenos Aires, Suarez, Santander de	2023.06 – 2025.06	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian



Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
health response with an integrated gender and inclusion approach to the migration crisis and armed conflict in Colombia Mental Health & Psychosocial Support, physical and functional rehabilitation, Inclusive Humanitarian Action	• Inclusive humanitarian action	People affected by conflict and/or disasters		Q.), Nariño (Ipiales, Rosario, Policarpa), La Guajira (Maicao, Uribia) and Norte de Santander (Cucuta)		Aid Operations (ECHO)
Armed violence Component of "Weaving Peace and Opportunities in Colombia" Comprehensive Mine Action in affected communities through an Armed Violence Reduction approach.	 Capacity-building of local risk management (Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, armed violence and disasters) Conflict Transformation Community livelihood micro-projects Strengthening of Community Protection Mechanisms Capacity-building on Community Based Rehabilitation Accompaniment for access to rehabilitation and psychosocial services 	 Community leaders Civil servants Local partners staff. Victim associations and Organization of persons with disability staff. Multihazard victims. 	 Fundación Tierra de Paz. Corporación Paz y Democracia. Pastoral Social Pasto. Fundación Nauta 	Cauca Córdoba Nariño	2024.08 - 2026.07	GFFO



Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
	Legal assistanceCapacity-building of civil society representatives					
Land Release Component of "Weaving Peace and Opportunities in Colombia" Comprehensive Mine Action in affected communities through an Armed Violence Reduction approach.	 Community Liaison Non-Technical Surveys Risk Education Manual clearance Explosive Ordnance Disposal 	 All individual living in the task assignment. Indigenous communities. 	• NA	Cauca Córdoba Nariño	2024.08 - 2026.07	GFFO PM/ WRA (US State Department)



Donors

PM/WRA	AFD	SDC
	AFD AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT	Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederazione svizza Embajada de Suiza en Colombia Ayuda Humanitaria y Desarrollo (COSUDE)
ЕСНО	Norway MoFA	Medicor Foundation
Funded by the European Union	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	medicor foundation Liechtenstein
GFFO	Banca de oportunidades	GAC
german humanitarian assistance DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE	BANCA DE LAS OPORTUNIDADES	Canada