

31 March 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4.1 / 5	13.6 million	3.3 million	\$342 million	11.8%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNRP 2025/RMRP 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (HRP 2025/RMRP 2025)	Required to reach the target (HRP 2025)	Of the required funding secured (HRP 2025)
89 MSEK	-	4 MSEK	93 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

Despite progress in the implementation of the 2016 Final Peace Agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC-EP, Colombia has continued to face a protracted internal armed conflict. There are currently eight non-international armed conflicts ongoing of which three are between the government and Non State Armed Groups (NSAGs) and five are between NSAGs. Under President Petro's Total Peace policy, some progress has been achieved in new peace dialogue processes, and efforts for peace dialogues with for example the ELN (National Liberation Army). Confrontations among NSAGs, as well as between the government and armed groups have however intensified, with civilians either directly targeted or stuck in the middle of confrontations. At the same there is an increase in threats, coercion, extorsions, kidnappings, forced recruitment, sexual violence and landmines; all of this heavily impacting civilians. During 2024 a worrying trend has been seen with new municipalities, previously not affected by the armed conflict, recording events of mass displacements and explosive devises.

The situation is compounded by cyclical natural disasters, migration flows and a lack of state control in one third of the territory as well as limited state services in rural areas. There are in total 13.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including refugees and migrants. Colombia is one of the countries most affected by internal displacement with 5.1 million people living in displacement at the end of 2024 (IDMC). During 2024, around 330,000 people were internally displaced due to conflict. Only in the first quarter of 2025, an additional 90,000 people were displaced and confined in the area of Catatumbo, due to the intensification in the armed conflict. Colombia also currently hosts around 2.9 million Venezuelans.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

According to the Humanitarian Response Plan for Community Priorities (HRP) updated for 2025 and the preliminary Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) 2025, an estimated 9.8 million people face protection risks; 9.9 million people face difficulties to access health services; 7.5 million people have limited access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and 3.5 million children face unmet needs in terms of education. In terms of food insecurity, at least 13 million people in Colombia are moderately or severely food insecure (25 per cent of the population) and 10.8 per cent of the population suffer from chronic malnutrition, according to the World Food Programme (WFP) (EFSA May 2024). The Afro-descendant and indigenous populations as well as migrant and refugee populations on average experience higher levels of food insecurity as compared to the national average.

There has been an increase in attacks against health care institutions and personnel during 2023 and 2024 according to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with the departments of Cauca, Chocó, Arauca, Nariño and Caquetá mostly affected. Most cases were attacks on the life and safety of medical personnel, resulting in weakened or complete lack of health care services for entire communities.

OCHA reports an increase in coercion and threats exerted by NSAGs, an increase in child recruitment, the installation of explosive devices in indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and various forms of gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls. The presence of NSAGs increases risk factors associated to GBV, as well as barriers to access protection and health services for survivors and those in need. The Protection Cluster estimates that 3.3 million people are at risk of GBV in 2025. Data collected through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) established by the UN Security Council indicate that the verified number of cases of recruitment of children into armed groups as of August 2024 was higher than the number of cases during all of 2023. The 2024 UN Secretary General report on children and armed conflict specifically brings attention to the continued recruitment of children (262 cases recorded), the killing and maiming of children (63 cases) and the sexual violence committed against children, especially girls associated with armed groups. Other sources claim that around 1,000 children are recruited per year.

The frequency and severity of meteorological events due to climate change, including extreme weather events are also driving humanitarian needs and exacerbating the vulnerability of communities. Between January and October 2024, 1.7 million people were affected by climate variability-related disasters, representing an increase of 550 per cent compared to 2023. According to the HRP 2024-2025, at least 9.3 million people will be exposed to the impact of El Niño phenomenon in the short and medium term.

Humanitarian access continues to be a major challenge. In 2024, as of September, 197 humanitarian access impediment events had been recorded, of which the majority were related to hostilities from armed groups or military operations with the departments of Arauca, Cauca, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Chocó being the most affected. During 2024, 138,000 people

were affected by total mobility restrictions (confinement) due to armed actors controlling territories, representing a 57 per cent increase from 2023.

The migration situation in 2024 continued to be marked by illegal action, with armed groups increasingly controlling migration routes. Refugees and migrants have been strongly impacted by armed conflict and are exposed to numerous risks during their movements. The crossings through the dangerous rainforest of Darien gap towards Panama, Central America and the US slightly decreased and at the end of October 2024 was around 300,000 (compared to around 520,000/2023). The decrease is probably related to measures implemented by the US, the outcomes of the 2024 US elections and the elections in Venezuela. The ongoing political developments in Venezuela could trigger new waves of displacements towards Colombia.

3. The humanitarian response

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has presented a two-year Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2024 – 2025 that seeks to strengthen capacities at community level called the *Humanitarian Response Plan for Community Priorities*. The plan includes two overarching objectives; focusing on i) lifesaving humanitarian action to respond to at least 50 per cent of massive emergencies, and ii) resilience and contribution to durable solutions. The HRP requirement for 2025 is \$342 million with a target of 2.0 million people in 2025. The 2024 HRP budget was funded at 59.7 per cent as of December 2024. The geographical prioritisation is based on a severity of needs analysis and is focused on areas most severely affected by the armed conflict and hard-to-reach areas under the influence and control of NSAGs. An estimated 9.3 million people live under the influence and control of NASG in 55 per cent of the territory (compared to 8.3 million/47.5 per cent last year). These are also areas where state capacity to respond to humanitarian needs is limited and/or absent. The target for the response is focused on the most affected people who are women and children, especially those from afro-Colombian and indigenous communities located in the Pacific area, the border area with Venezuela, the north-western zone, and the central-south zone of the country.

The Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) chapter for Colombia contains a comprehensive and coordinated response, implemented through 49 partners, with a target of 1.28 million people in 2025. The funding requirement for 2025 is \$467.2 million. The 2024 plan was funded at 30.0 per cent as of December 2024. Priority is given to departments on the borders with Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama, as well as cities and territories with a high proportion of refugees and migrants in rural and remote areas.

Given that the US contributed more than 68 percent of the funding for the humanitarian response in Colombia during 2024, the global freeze and scale-back of US funding announced in January 2025 has major consequences. The HCT is adapting the response in light of the new funding landscape, giving priority to 2.2 million people in inter-sectoral severity level 4 and 5 across 7 geographical departments, with priority given exclusively to the first, life-saving, objective of the HNRP. In addition, measures are taken to streamline the coordination architecture to make more efficient use of resources.

The largest donors at the end of 2024 were the US followed by ECHO, Sweden, Canada and Switzerland. The US was the largest contributor in 2024 with around 69 per cent of the total funding. The three sectors with most funding is Food Security, Protection (excluding GBV) and early recovery. Major funding gaps are in the Shelter, Health and WASH sectors that were only funded at 17, 17, and 26 per cent respectively (as of September 2024).

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Support is prioritised to interventions in hard-to-reach areas mostly affected by armed conflict, as identified in the HNRP 2025, with focus on most severely affected populations, such as indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations. Actions focusing on the population most at risk, including both Colombians, refugees, and migrants will be prioritised. Multisector response, with a focus on protection will continue to be prioritised.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
AAH	Health, WASH, Protection, Nutrition	9,000,000 ¹
CHF (CBPF)	Multisector	5,000,000
DRC	Protection, WASH, Health, Food Security	9,000,000
ICRC	Multi-sector, protection	19,000,000
NRC	Multisector; protection, shelter, WASH, food security	15,000,000 ¹
PUI	Health, protection	9,000,000
UNHCR	Multisector, protection	18,000,000
UNICEF	Child protection; CAAC	5 000 000
TOTAL		89,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ²	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
NRC	4,000,000	-
TOTAL	4,000,000	-

¹ Already committed in 2023

² Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

ⁱ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.