

Greater needs, greater commitment



**Colombian armed
conflict & violence**

March 2021

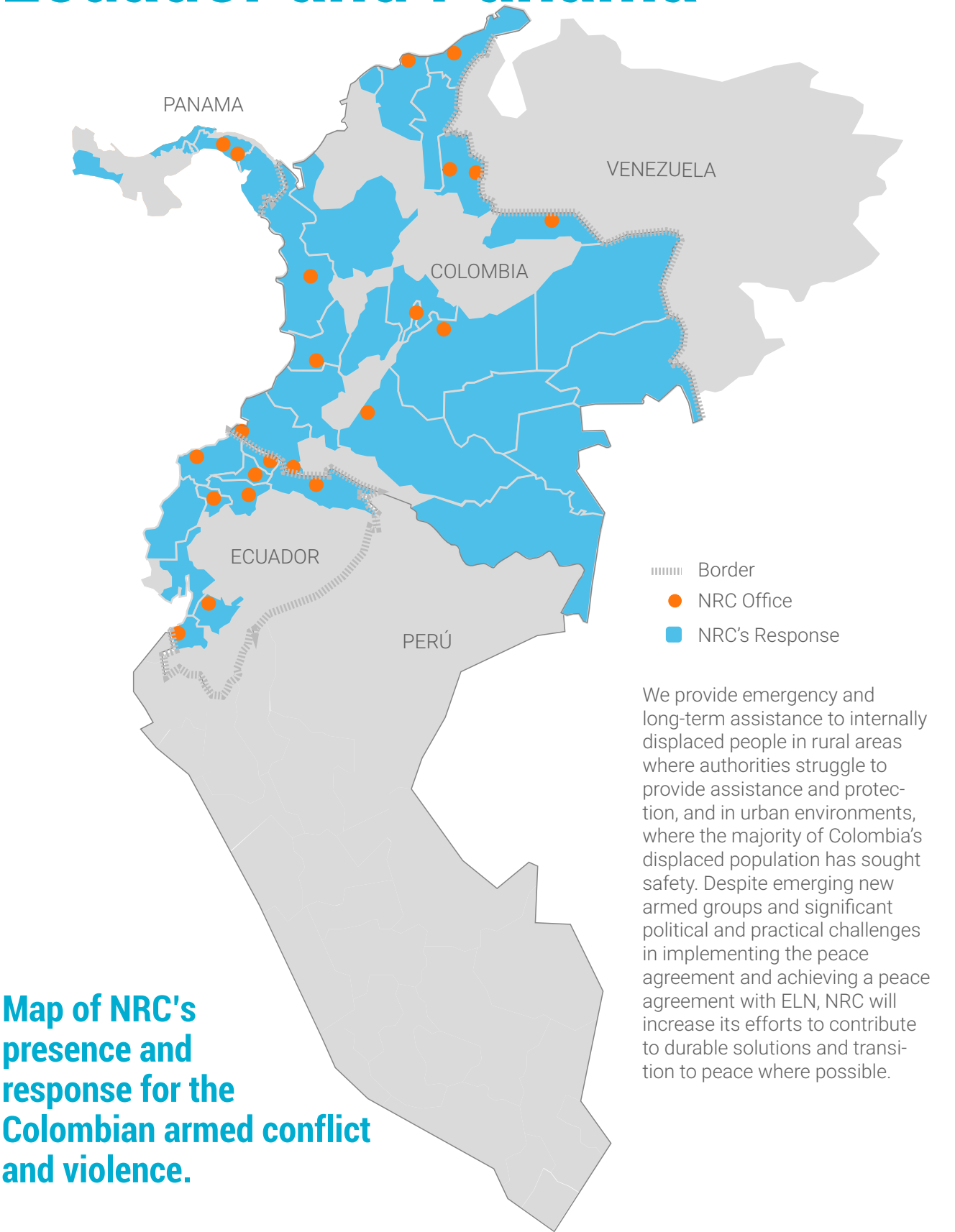
In Colombia a displaced family might flee their rural village to a nearby city, hoping for a better chance to survive. They might live in the middle of a country, incapable of crossing its vast interior. They might find themselves stranded at a closed international border, unable to cross as a consequence of the pandemic. However, some continue to seek relief in neighbouring countries such as Ecuador or Panama. Some flee violence, conflict or persecution. Others escape natural hazards, disasters or negative effects of climate change. Many flee both, a deadly combination that quells their chances of returning home.

Additionally, Venezuelans fleeing crisis at home have now become victims of armed conflict in Colombia.

This is why our staff, over 250 people across Colombia, Ecuador and Panamá continue to work during the crisis to provide relief and promote options for integration.

Rights Respected, People Protected

Upholding dignity across Colombia, Ecuador and Panama



In 2020 we assisted
186,732

displaced persons, Colombians in need of international protection and persons from host communities in Colombia, Ecuador and Panama.

Our organisation delivered more than **236,300** services to address armed conflict and violence consequences. We provided assistance in 6 sectors, worked on communication and information campaigns increasing the visibility of the humanitarian consequences of the armed conflict, and advocated for rights to be respected.



Education

We help displaced families keep their children in school, and work with youth and adults so they can complete their education and find safe vocational training opportunities. We conduct censuses in municipalities affected by conflict to identify out-of-school children and give technical support to educational authorities to provide alternative education programmes for those out of school. We work with children so they can attend flexible education model programmes and technical and vocational skills training.



Legal assistance

We improve access to registration procedures and legal humanitarian assistance as well as access to land and housing for communities who have had their land or houses seized or abandoned. Our teams assist displaced people in rural and urban areas who have not yet declared their displacement to the Public Ministry and provide legal services to displaced people who are victims of usurpation or abandonment of land or housing. In Ecuador and Panama, we are working to ensure that people in need of international protection can access the refugee procedure.



Livelihoods

Despite the continuation of violence and armed conflict, and the challenges in implementing the peace agreement; the potential for working towards durable solutions remains an opportunity in Colombia, mainly linked with the support and follow-up of the Habana Peace Accords, focusing NRC work in Community Dispute Resolution, livelihoods and social integration. The start-up of livelihoods is key in pursuing durable solution within the context of the implementation of the peace agreement.



Protection

NRC has focused its programmes on responding to the protection needs of people affected by the armed conflict and violence (including Venezuelan migrants and refugees). The emerging work on protection of leaders and victims of sexual violence continues to expand as a stand-alone protection project. Mitigating risks associated with gender-based violence and forced recruitment are also a priority for NRC. We also continue to promote collective community protection activities, especially in ethnic communities.



Shelter & WASH

NRC promotes access to safe spaces, ensuring protection, privacy and dignity. In specific situations and where we have added value, NRC improves and prepares shelters, builds temporary spaces for schools, sanitation facilities and community infrastructure, and provides necessary items for shelters. We provide accommodation solutions in order to guarantee health, and physical and social protection. hygiene practices and we help displaced families to achieve better living conditions and greater dignity. Hand washing facilities continue to be installed in places where the displaced population is located.



Emergency response

When a new conflict arises in remote locations, we provide humanitarian assistance to communities where no permanent field presence has yet been or can be established. We also help newly displaced children go to safe learning environments during acute emergencies. We train teachers so that they can best teach and support their pupils during an emergency and provide newly displaced people with safe learning environments. NRC build temporary classrooms and latrines and upgrade school infrastructure and supply food and temporary shelters.

14.2^{USD} million

was given to NRC to respond to the situation of armed conflict and violence.

In 2020, NRC requested 14.6 million USD to respond to the situation of armed conflict and violence in Colombia, Ecuador and Panama.

our impact

Some 90,000 conflict-affected people were assisted by NRC in hard-to-reach areas in 2020. Nearly 70% during the pandemic.



1 out of every 4 services

reported in the Humanitarian Response Plan in Colombia was delivered by NRC in 2020.

NRC is present in 70%

of the municipalities identified as hard to reach areas in Colombia, Ecuador and Panamá
(ACAPS methodology)

The data on this page is from OCHA: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) final monitoring report (4 March, 2021).

Greater needs, greater commitment

A black and white photograph of a pregnant woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white surgical mask. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a light-colored t-shirt with a graphic of a baby in a basket on the front. Her hands are resting on her pregnant belly. The background is a solid light blue.

We need
greater
resources to
attend greater
needs and
promote
durable
solutions.

NRC's strategic response in 2021

A protracted emergency affected by a sudden Covid-19 crisis. Despite the ongoing pandemic, we have continued providing assistance for those who continue fleeing or confining themselves to protect their lives.

In 2021, we expect to deliver more than 269,500 services to populations at risk of displacement, displaced, people in need of international protection, returnees and persons from host communities in Colombia, Ecuador and Panama.

NRC aims to expand its stand-alone protection projects.

Durable solutions are a priority, but remain a challenge and still largely underfunded in our programs.

Our education, legal aid, shelter and WASH core competences will have the common approach of integrated programming.

Ensuring the humanitarian space is kept open through advocacy work become even more important.

One year after the coronavirus alarm went off, NRC's employees have been working hard to provide help to displaced people and prevent contagion. In September 2020, NRC published a report showing that the sharp economic downturn had forced many into hunger, homelessness and an education crisis.

Adjusted priorities

“If we had not fled, a stray bullet would have hit us. Now COVID is another enemy”.

Displaced by
the armed conflict

Be a leading displacement agency in hard to reach areas.

After decades of continuing and increasing displacement, NRC will consider a combined response that can be suitable for combination of protracted crisis and emergency. First, taking into consideration the deteriorating situation in hard to reach areas it will be increasingly important to scale up the emergency response. Secondly, NRC will seek to adopt mediation and collaborative dispute resolution approaches to address challenges of reconciliation in areas affected by armed conflict, and where land and property ownership, among others, is causing social tensions and conflict.

“One of our teachers lost his foot in a mine, students are frightened by the sound of bullets and bombs and many families have been forced to displace due to the fear of losing their lives”.

Be a champion for durable solutions. According to the Victims Unit nearly seven out of 10 victims by Colombian's armed conflict have not received the promised compensation for crimes committed against them. NRC aims to expand its contribution to durable solutions through developing livelihood programme, support the access to rights and by broadening community-based programming for the next strategic period. This will be done through transitional funding, but also by seeking to obtain development funds.

“I do not want peace to be a matter of the future, I want peace to come today, just like the help you have given us”.

We need to commit to prioritising and providing emergency shelter, protection and education. Amongst others, partnerships and consortia will be established, and innovative programmatic approaches will be fostered; for example, how to better respond to the needs of people affected by displacement in situations outside a formally recognized armed conflict.

“Many children do not study because there are no teachers in their schools. Many choose not to teach in rural areas because they also flee after conflict related emergencies”.

Maintaining humanitarian space. NRC is a strong organization working in contexts where needs are significant but where the humanitarian space is challenged. Through a timely humanitarian response and advocacy, NRC is seeking to maintain and expand the humanitarian space, and work with governments, the UN and civil society to establish and strengthen legal frameworks that ensure the rights of the displaced population.

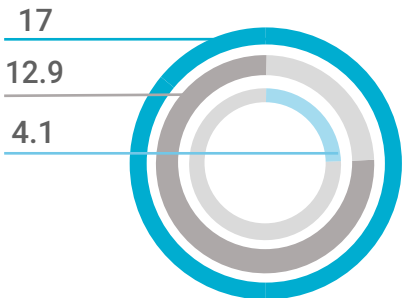
Your support will continue to make a difference

Armed conflict doesn't stop during a pandemic. Those fleeing conflict must find assistance in a country that will grant them with safety, create space for shelter and recognize their rights to protection and education. Already insufficient state presence in hard-to-reach areas limits access to humanitarian assistance and rights of the population affected by the conflict.



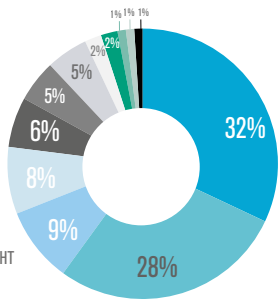
Funding

- Funding required (million USD)
- Funding received (million USD)
- Unmet requirements (million USD)



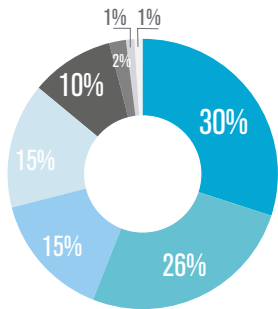
Donors (funding received)

- BPRM
- Norwegian Embassy
- NMFA
- BHA
- PBF
- SIDA
- ECHO
- UNHCR
- NORAD
- SDC
- NETHOPE / PLURALSIGHT
- MEN / UARIV



Our core competences (In accordance with the funding received)

- ICLA
- EDUCATION
- PROTECTION
- SHELTER & WASH
- LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY
- CASH TRANSFERS
- INNOVATION
- ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION



This year we are requesting \$17 million USD. This would enable us to invest 35% of the 2021 budget into the livelihoods sector, providing for essential projects to contribute towards the economic recovery from the pandemic and hence contribution to durable solutions and local integration.

The proposed transition of UN OCHA into a Humanitarian Advisory Team in Colombia and the non-appointment of a Humanitarian Coordinator could diminish the importance of the ongoing armed conflict on civilians and could further put at risk their protection and access to critically needed assistance. Not only your financial support is key, but also your advocacy to raise the profile of the humanitarian situation caused by armed conflict and violence.

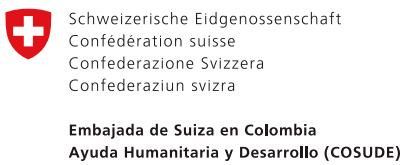
Thank you to our donors



Funding provided by the United States Government



Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid



Contact us

 www.nrc.no / www.nrc.org.co

 Consejo Noruego para Refugiados

 @NRC_LAC