

COLOMBIA



Colombia disproportionately bears responsibility for the ongoing Venezuelan refugee crisis while simultaneously struggling to recover from internal conflict and battling pervasive food insecurity, economic inequality, and gaps in healthcare infrastructure.

Country Context

Colombia currently faces steep domestic challenges, including a stalled recovery from a decades-long civil conflict with the FARC guerilla movement and other armed actors, and the largest internally displaced population in the world. In ethnic and rural communities, basic needs go unsatisfied among pervasive diet imbalances, restricted access to healthcare, and limited educational opportunities. Amid these internal crises, Colombia has served as both the main transit and destination country for displaced Venezuelans, straining services further. While the government responded with welcoming policies, it faces challenges that will deepen without more significant international support and humanitarian funding.

Key Figures



7 million

in need of humanitarian assistance



7.8 million

internally displaced people



1.4 million

Venezuelan refugees hosted in 2019



3,500

former guerilla fighters returned to civilian life



\$739 million

requested as part of the U.N.'s Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan

How is the U.S. Involved?

The U.S. has supported the Colombian government's counternarcotics and counterterrorism efforts, implementation of a peace accord ending the conflict with the FARC, and recently provided over \$120 million in additional assistance to address the Venezuelan refugee crisis. The U.S.'s total contribution since FY 2017 is \$376 million.

On-the-Ground Perspective

- Over 430 human rights activists have been murdered since 2016.
- In the wake of a fragile peace accord signed between the Colombian government and the FARC in 2016, as many as 3,000 militants have resumed fighting, threatening lasting peace and human rights.
- Displaced Venezuelans in Colombia are especially vulnerable, with family separation rates five times higher than typically seen in emergency contexts, unemployment rates twice that of the local population, and chronic exploitation of women and girl refugees.

Responses and Actions

- NGOs are providing internally displaced people, migrants, and refugees information, counseling, and legal assistance. The Norwegian Refugee Council's education and shelter programs reached 77,798 and 20,252 people, respectively.
- Mercy Corps provides education and skills building to over 62,000 children and teens in rural and urban conflict zones.

References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

