

COLOMBIA

Context

The humanitarian situation in Colombia, particularly along the Pacific Coast, remains dire, with over **8.3 million people** estimated to be in need of assistance in 2024, due to persistent **conflict and climate-related disasters**.¹ The territorial expansion of non-state armed groups has heightened **security and protection risks** for vulnerable communities, severely impacting **humanitarian access**. Conflict dynamics have led to a 69 per cent rise in access restrictions compared to 2022, preventing thousands from receiving life-saving support.² Additionally, Colombia's exposure to **extreme climate events** further exacerbates vulnerabilities.

CERF UFE allocation in 2023

In 2023, violence resurged in the Pacific Coast region, severely affecting indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and peasant communities by limiting mobility, restricting access to essential services, and disrupting livelihoods and cultural practices. In response, CERF allocated **\$6.5 million through its first Underfunded Emergency window** to support close to 18,000 people in the most conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas, through multi-sectoral assistance across the education, WASH, health, protection, and food security sectors.

This allocation advanced the Flagship Initiative, which aims to transform humanitarian action by responding to community-identified priorities, advancing local solutions, and reducing long-term aid dependency.³ Consultations with affected populations guided the planning of assistance and ensured a coordinated response among UN agencies and local partners. Informed by community priorities, key interventions included psychosocial care for violence survivors, education, mine risk training, the provision safe drinking water, and livelihood restoration.⁴ The allocation prioritized collaboration with national and local NGOs, including ethnic and women-led organizations, during both the strategy formulation and implementation. Amidst a challenging implementation context, UN agencies and partners have been able to work jointly and cohesively in affected communities – with support from CERF and thanks to extensive community engagement – for greater impact and sustainability.

Overview of all CERF allocations to Colombia 2020 – 2024 (as of 14 November 2024)

Year	RR (US\$)	UFE (US\$)	Emergency Type	Total (US\$)
2020	N/A	\$5M	Post-Conflict Needs	\$5M
2021	\$2M	N/A	Floods	\$2M
2022	\$3M \$2M	N/A	Violence/Clashes Floods	\$5M
2023	N/A	\$6.5M	Violence/Clashes	\$6.5M
2024	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total 2020-2024	\$7M	\$11.5M		\$18.5M

¹ Colombia - Humanitarian Response Plan for Community Priorities 2024-2025.

² Colombia - Humanitarian Response Plan for Community Priorities 2024-2025.

³ More information on the Flagship Initiative here: <https://www.unocha.org/flagship-initiative>

⁴ More examples and stories here: <https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/power-working-together-lessons-cerf-implementation-sanquianga-narino>

[Biography of Ms. Mireia Villar Forner, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Colombia](#)

Ms. Villar Forner started her career at UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States, later serving as Head of the Program Section for the Electricity Network Rehabilitation Program in Northern Iraq. She then focused on Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Arab States within UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. She also served at the UNDP Liaison Office in Brussels. She then held various senior positions at the UNDP, including that of Resident Representative in Uruguay, Deputy Resident Representative in Bolivia, and Deputy Resident Representative in Iraq. Most recently, she served as Resident Representative and Resident Coordinator in Uruguay, leading UN efforts on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She was appointed Resident Coordinator in Colombia in July 2021.

