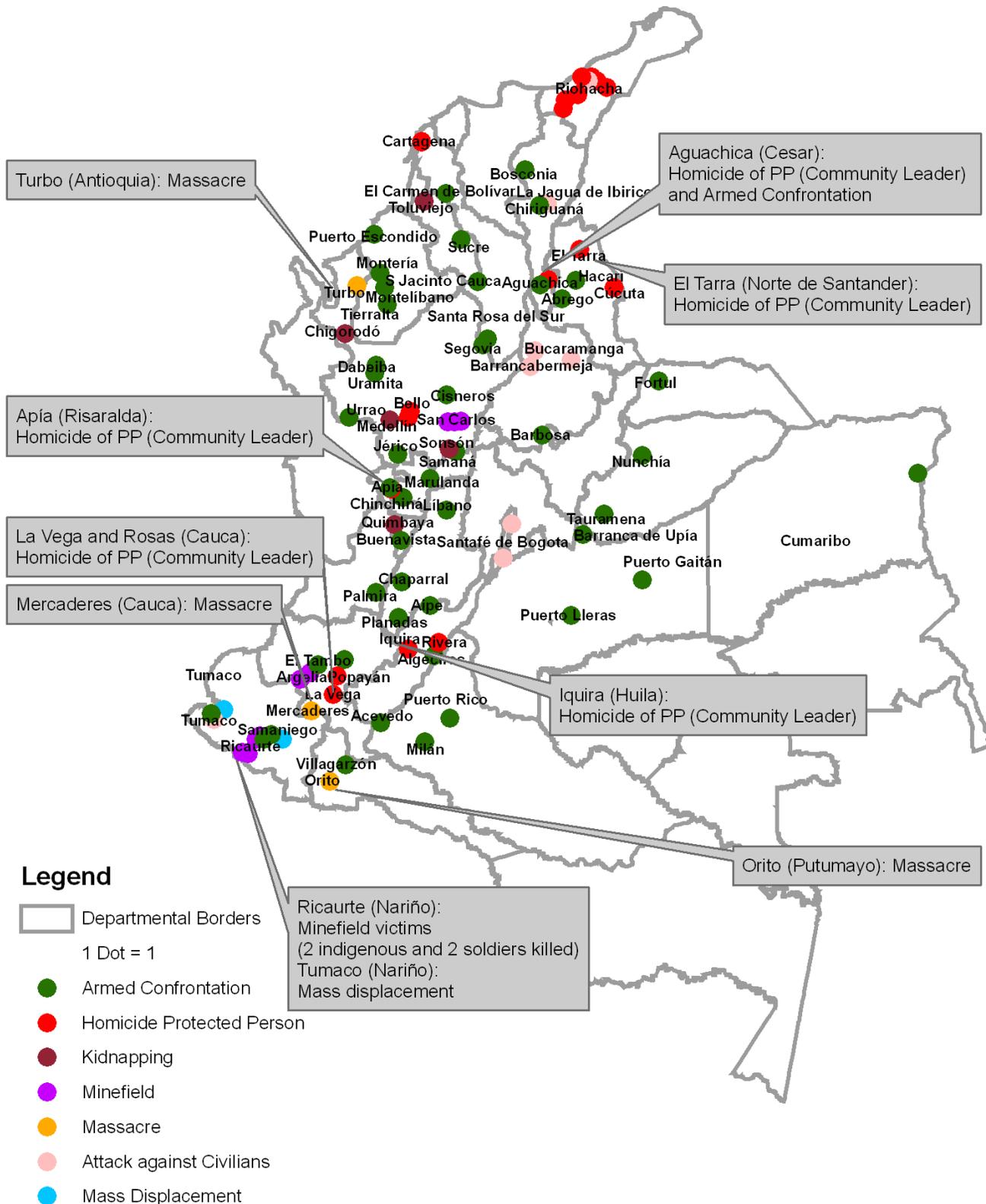


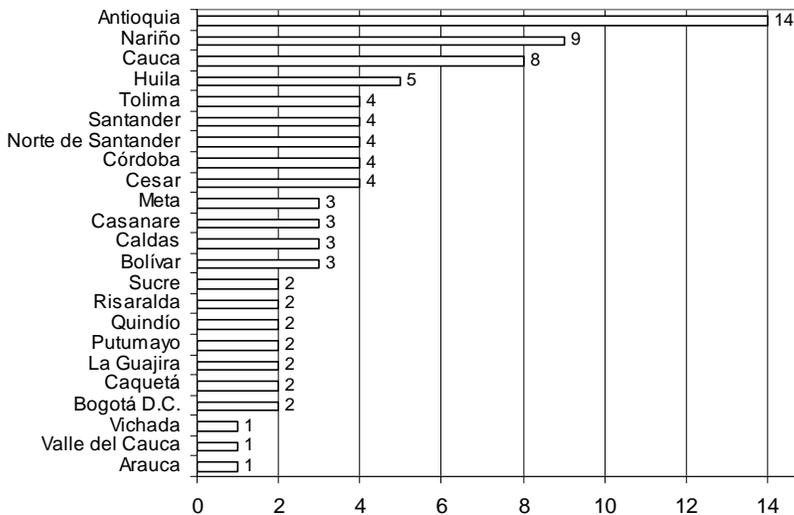


0 3570 140 210 280
Kms.



I. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW

EVENTS PER DEPARTMENT

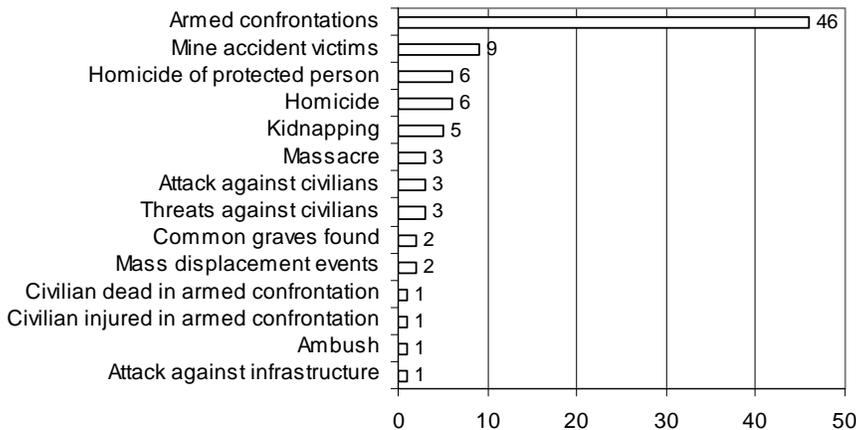


MASS DISPLACEMENT CRISIS IN THE PACIFIC COAST OF NARIÑO
1,700 displaced from Tumaco into Ecuadorian territory whereas more than 300 have displaced within Samaniego, Leiva and La Llanada.
Nariño is the most affected department by displacement with more than 60,000 IDPs (CODHES).

• BORDER DISPLACEMENT

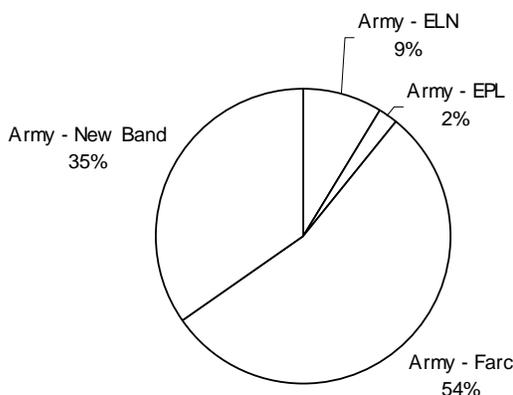
On August 23, approximately 2,000 persons displaced from rural villages near Tumaco into the Ecuadorian town of San Lorenzo located in the Province of Esmeraldas.

EVENTS



On July 20 the government announced manual eradication of coca fields would be preponderant over aerial glifosate spraying. The measure commenced early in August through manual eradicators sent to work in rural Tumaco. Inhabitants denounced threats and hazards arising from strong presence of FARC and other non-State armed actors in the area. President Uribe visited Tumaco (August 26) and stated that displaced peasants were being pressured by FARC into growing coca. Due to the number of people that have crossed the border, Ecuadorian Foreign Affairs Minister stated her country only had enough capacity to provide humanitarian attention to displaced Colombians until August 30 given that emergency response capacities collapsed (more shelters are expected to start functioning in the city of Ibarra, near Quito).

ARMED CONFRONTATIONS

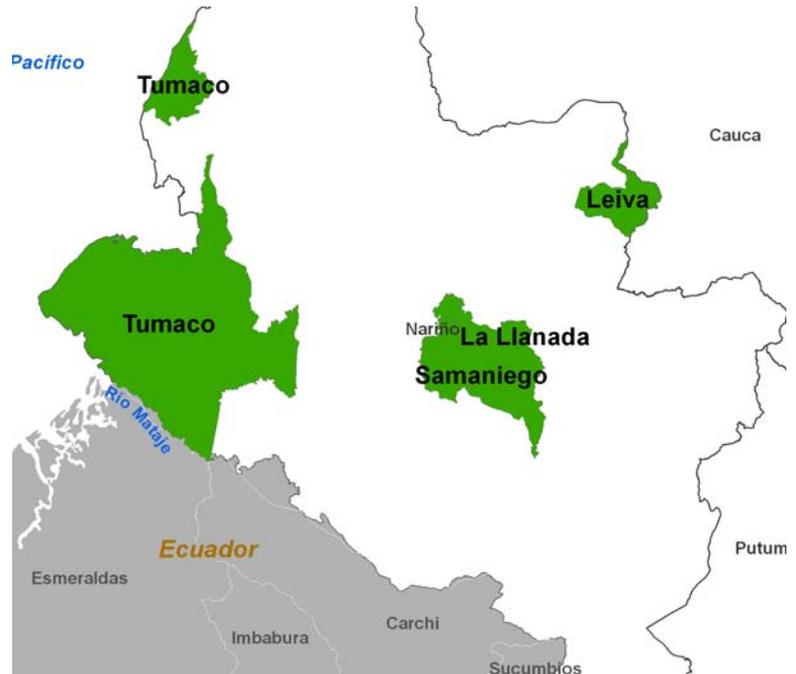


Ecuador deployed the civil defense, food aid programs, mobile brigades and local authorities to manage the situation, and asked Colombia to facilitate the return and contribute with humanitarian assistance.

Even though response capacities in San Lorenzo were overstretched, the Defense Minister of Ecuador denied a possible closing of the border to impede the access of more Colombians. However, Minister Espinosa requested the Colombian Government to facilitate their prompt return for which she made a proposal for the conformation of a commission that could assist the population currently in Ecuador and facilitate their return (August 27). According to UNHCR Ecuador 170 people were moved to the neighbor city of Ibarra where temporary shelters were installed.

Although there is information about the return of some persons, it has not been confirmed yet. The rest of the displaced population remains in temporary shelters in this town (11 places comprising school facilities, churches and municipal buildings). Local sources informed that most of the people that arrived in Ecuador are women, children, Awá indigenous, elder persons and Ecuadorian citizens; allegedly, most men were forced by FARC to remain working in the coca fields. On August 28, President Rafael Correa together with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Internal and External Security visited the population temporary settled in Ibarra.

Meanwhile, nearly 18,000 remain in the Colombian town of Vallenato, in the border with San Lorenzo, protesting against the manual eradication of coca plantations. According to information provided by IOM, 1,300 male peasants are in permanent assembly in the urban center of the town, blocking the access of eradication groups; another 150 gathered in the rural area of Guayacana (Tumaco) to join the assembly. Recent information reported that peasants agreed to negotiate with the National Government the conditions for eradication of coca plantations.



On August 27, the Departmental Committee for IDPs Integral Assistance held a meeting to assess the situation and to define immediate actions to face the emergency in the border and in the rural areas where the displacement originated. Over the weekend, a joint mission integrated by Human Rights NGO CODHES, the Church's Social Pastoral, the Ombudsman's Office, the Departmental Government and UNHCR visited the town of Vallenato, where the population remains in poor shelter and WatSan conditions. According to the mission's report, an estimate of 40% of the population in Vallenato presents diarrheic diseases. During the visit, the delegates sustained meetings with the local peasant associations whom expressed their concerns about the governmental coca eradication programmes and asked for urgent humanitarian assistance. As a result of the visit, Nariño's Health Institute, the ICBF, Acción Social and ICRC started a humanitarian mission to Vallenato on August 29 to assist the population with food aid and a health brigade.

UN agencies in Ecuador and other humanitarian and local organisations of the country are ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance and are also offering legal and psychological assistance; UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF have sent food rations and are attending the displaced settled in San Lorenzo. NRC sent a commission to monitor the situation. UN agencies will continue to monitor and deliver humanitarian assistance on both sides of the border.

Today (August 30), press sources informed that the population displaced in Ecuador agreed to return after a negotiation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs that includes an economic alternative to coca growing, security conditions for the return and the participation of the peasants of the region in the governmental programme Familias Guardabosques. The population's return will start today.

• MASS DISPLACEMENTS IN SAMANIEGO, LEIVA AND LA LLANADA

The local authorities of Nariño registered the displacement of 248 people (102 children among them) to the urban area of Samaniego beginning on August 23, allegedly due to armed confrontations between illegal armed actors ("New Generation Self Defenses" and ELN) taking place in some places of the town's rural area. Preliminary information reports that there is an undetermined number of people arriving to the urban area for food supplies before the displacement, and haven't been able to return; this poses a serious situation due to an elevated number of children and elder persons that were left unaccompanied within the rural communities currently under pressure (nearly 2,500 people in 19 rural areas according to the local mayor). Because armed confrontations have not ended, more people are expected to arrive to the urban area in the next days. So far, IDPs have been assisted by the local government which is coordinating health assistance, Acción Social, delivering food aid in coordination with the National Red Cross and by the Ombudsman's Office and PHAO who sent

representatives to the area to assess the situation. According to information provided to PHAO, local authorities are estimating the number of unaccompanied children in the rural areas, in order to request the Army for their urgent protection. The Catholic Church informed that the main needs are clothing, mattresses and blankets. This is the third displacement event registered in Samaniego during this year.

On the other hand, OCHA was informed about two more mass displacement events in the municipalities of La Llanada and Leiva. According to PHAO, 117 people (30 children) displaced to the urban area due to alleged confrontations between New Generation Self Defenses and ELN. Furthermore, according to information provided by IOM, 3 groups of manual eradicators arrived in the town with 1,200 members of the Armed Forces. So far, IDPs are temporarily settled in one a school facility. Recent reports informed that 10 people that tried to return for their families are currently missing. The Catholic Church and the Ombudsman's Office, as well as ICRC and UNHCR also arrived to the municipality to assist IDPs. The Catholic Church requested for clothing, mattresses and blankets.

IOM reported that nearly 70 people from different rural areas displaced to the urban area of Leiva fleeing from confrontations between New Generation Self Defenses and FARC. Information about the situation of IDPs is still not available. UN continues monitoring the situation.

In light of current events in the department, OCHA called members of the Regional Humanitarian Coordination Mechanism (IASC Nariño) to meet tomorrow. Participants will share further information, evaluate the situation and coordinate response actions.

TWO MORE AWÁ INDIGENOUS DIED IN MINE ACCIDENTS IN RICAURTE (NARIÑO) **The situation of Awá indigenous remains critical as reported on previous issues due to mine accidents, blockades and displacement.**

The latest communiqué issued by CAMAWARI and ONIC informed a new mine accident within the indigenous reservation causing the death of two more members of the community on August 18. Since mid-July, seven Awás have died in the minefields that surround their reservations. According to the release, 1,287 Awás are currently besieged and 17 have died throughout the year by homicides and mine accidents. Indigenous authorities (CAMAWARI and ONIC) made a public appeal to the National Government to stop military operations in their territories and demanded from FARC to respect to their lives and territories. Furthermore, Awá indigenous authorities requested the Ombudsman's Office to publicise the report whereby the situation of their communities is denounced (see issue # 22).

FOLLOW – UP: MAS DISPLACEMENT IN CONDOTO (CHOCÓ) **IDPs remain in the urban area waiting for adequate conditions to return to their homes**

According to the Community Council of Condoto (Afro-Colombian communities' authority) and a local organisation, 473 people remain in the urban area of the municipality; 337 (145 children) come from the rural area of El Paso which is now uninhabited whereas 136 (72 children) come from the area of Charco Largo. So far, IDPs remain temporarily settled in the school until an empty building is set up as shelter. Information received by OCHA reported that this situation has caused conflicts among the population because the school calendar was suspended and the urban inhabitants are demanding the return of IDPs.

The Local Committee for IDPs Integral Assistance held a meeting on August 15 in which the communities expressed their will to return once security conditions are met. The Armed Forces announced a visit on August 17 in order to verify the situation and determine the possibility for the return of IDPs. The Committee will meet again on August 31.

A joint mission with representatives of DASALUD (Chocó Department's Health Institute), PAHO, UNHCR and OCHA visited the Condoto on August 16 to assess the situation and coordinate response actions. DASALUD and PHAO are coordinating the health assistance for IDPs whereas Acción Social is delivering food aid and non-food items together with ICRC. The local Registry Office is coordinating the identification of IDPs. UNHCR, PHAO and OCHA keep monitoring the situation. Among the basic needs of IDPs are food, medicines and sanitation facilities.

FOLLOW-UP: HUMANITARIAN GATHERING IN CANTAGALLO (BOLÍVAR)

The Peasant Association of South Bolívar declared a permanent assembly for the defense of peasants' rights

For nearly 2 months, communities from South Bolívar sustain a humanitarian gathering in Cantagallo in protest for the situation of human rights in the region. Peasant organisations decided to declare a permanent assembly in order to prepare proposals for the next meeting with the National Government summoned for September 3.