



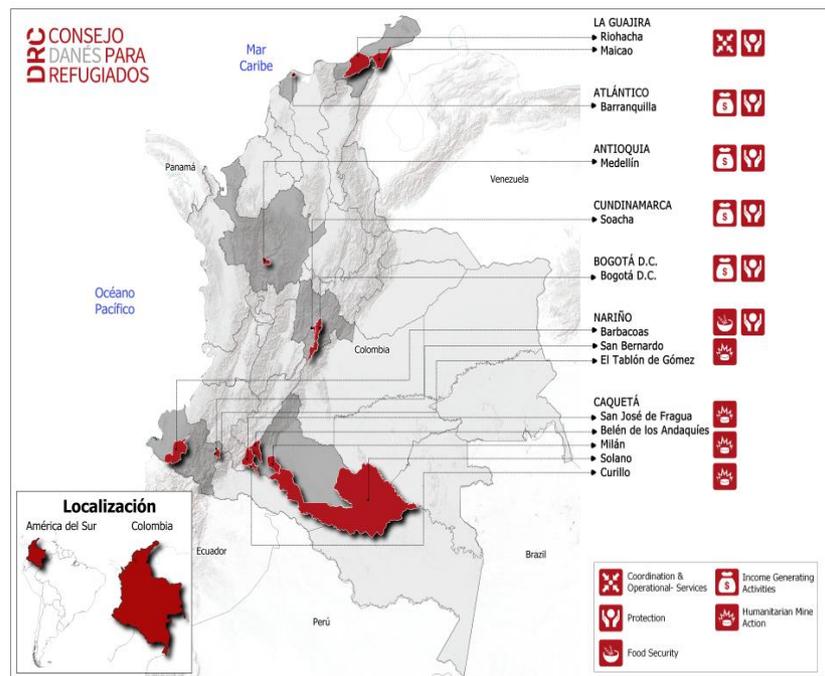
The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a humanitarian, non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1956 that works in more than 40 countries throughout the world. DRC fulfils its mandate by providing direct assistance to conflict-affected populations – refugees, migrants; Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities in conflict areas and by advocating on their behalf internationally and in Denmark, based on humanitarian principles and the Human Rights Declaration. Internationally, DRC actively participates in supporting the protection of refugees, and promoting durable solutions for conflict-affected populations.

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has been operating in Colombia since 2011, with a focus on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and the provision of support to conflict-affected populations. From 2018, the onset of large mixed migration flows into Colombia due to the Venezuelan crisis has required a major integrated humanitarian response to meet the urgent needs of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, Colombian returnees, and host communities.

Colombia hosts one of world's largest population of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) due to the armed conflict that has pervaded the country during more than 50 years. This situation results in severe protection issues, including forced displacement and/or confinements, threats, and assassinations, use and forced recruitment of minors, and sexual and Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Additionally, the conflict has also led to a heavy presence of mines, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), which create significant obstacles to a long-lasting peace and jeopardize opportunities for socioeconomic development.

Since 2014, Colombia has also been directly affected by the massive influx of Venezuelan refugees and migrants fleeing the Venezuelan crisis. It is the country that has received most of the mixed migratory influx, hosting approximately 1,7 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants in its territory, a figure that is likely to be underestimate.



DRC established its first office in Bogotá, Colombia in 2011 through its Humanitarian Demining department – formerly the Danish Demining Group (DDG) to start Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) activities in the country.

As a result of this operational scale up in Colombia, in 2018 DRC initiated emergency response and humanitarian assistance interventions in the Caribbean coastal areas of Colombia (Riohacha and Barranquilla) and in urban centers (Bogota and Medellin). In 2021, DRC started programming in Nariño to assist IDPs.

To date, DRC continues to deliver life-saving assistance to refugees, migrants, and host communities through its integrated humanitarian response with 8 offices around the country and more than 450 staff members.

DRC PROGRAMMES

HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION

DRC implements HMA through its demining Unit (DRC Humanitarian Demining (DRC HD) to contribute to return safe land to the community and contribute to the stabilization of fragile areas in Colombia. DRC HD has mainly focused in assisting the Colombian Mine Action authority by conducting NTS activities to provide accurate information on the scope and nature of contamination, develop tailored strategies to prevent and reduce casualties, and to allow for a more effective allocation of humanitarian mine action resources through the prioritization of clearance needs. DRC HD successfully started clearance operations during the first quarter of 2020. To date, DRC HD has released 630,000,000 m2 of cleared lands back to the communities in Belén de los Andaquíes, San José del Fragua, Milan, Solano, Curillo in Caqueta and Tablon de Gomez, San Bernardo in Nariño.



DRC HD has also provided Mine Risk Education (MRE) to children and adults in communities affected by the presence of landmines/unexploded ordnances and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Since 2018, DRC HD has reached 3.949 beneficiaries with more than 200 MRE sessions conducted. Furthermore, 30.000 indirect beneficiaries were reached by MRE radio campaigns in Nariño and 12.000 in Caquetá.



CAMP COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

DRC is managing the Centro de Atención Integral (CAI) for refugees and migrants established by the Government of Colombia in la Guajira.

During the first semester of 2021, DRC has managed to increase the shelter



capacity up to 40% thanks to fruitful coordination with UNHCR and the installation of additional WASH facilities within the CAI. By mid-2021 the CAI hosts approximately 450 persons. DRC expects that as the pandemic is further contained, the CAI will be able to reach its full capacity by the end of 2021. At the moment, strict COVID-19 prevention measures such as social distancing, frequent testing and handwashing are maintained to guarantee a safe stay for beneficiaries and partners working in the premises.

PROTECTION

DRC's protection teams are actively responding to the needs by providing integrated protection assistance to refugees and migrants and vulnerable Colombian communities. This is achieved through Protection Monitoring (to identify risks and needs of target population), Legal assistance and counselling, Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), prevention and response to Gender-Based Violence and Community based Protection across the country. In addition, DRC is coordinating with other humanitarian actors to refer specific cases such as people with disabilities and psychosocial distress. In 2020, over 100.000 people benefited from protection programming.



DRC PROGRAMMES

CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

DRC's Cash program aims to enhance the resilience of beneficiaries, improving access to local services, and supporting their social and economic inclusion. It does so by providing up to 6 months of unconditional Multi-

Purpose Cash Assistance, aiming at increasing household access to



social services, food and non-food items and shelter. With funding from BHA, ECHO, UNHCR, DANIDA and IOM, DRC has delivered MPCA to approximately 50.000 individuals for a total approximate amount of 14.000.000 USD since 2019. In 2021, DTC has pursued CASH programming under BHA and IOM funding.

LIVELIHOODS

During 2020 DRC implemented the modality Cash for Work in the CAI and benefitted 1.460 people. DRC also implemented a livelihood project in Barranquilla that to date has benefitted 23 individuals and their families (100 beneficiaries in total). The 23 participants took part in a four-month paid internship program for Persons With Specific Needs (PWSN) and GBV survivors. DRC supported beneficiaries with trainings, filling CV forms and contacting with the local authorities in Barranquilla.



Also, DRC offered local businesses support in legalizing documents of future employees (if they were selected for this program) and by paying 80% of their minimum salary for 4-months.



Thus, 23 successful cases were matched with different companies. This project has been of great success since vulnerable migrants have had the opportunity to work in small local businesses, develop specific work competences, integrate to the Colombian

job market, and increase their work network facilitating future employment opportunities. It has to be mentioned that once the project ended, 16 participants have renewed their contracts with the companies they were matched with, thanks to the support provided by DRC.

GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

DRC's GBV prevention and response program is based on two lines of intervention: (1) the prevention of



GBV through community workshops, training and establishment of community leaders networks, and support to authorities, and (2) a comprehensive response to GBV survivors including, safe houses where they can access legal and medical assistance, psychosocial care and accompaniment, as well as group and individual psychosocial support activities. DRC has already reached 785 beneficiaries through its GBV prevention sessions.

DRC Colombia will ensure that beneficiaries are always at the center of DRC's work and are active participants in humanitarian programming, and not only passive recipients of humanitarian assistance. It will also strengthen its engagement with the local communities and continue maintaining emergency preparedness and response capability.

DRC PROGRAMMES

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO IDPs IN NARIÑO



In June 2021, DRC has started an operation aiming to offer a multi-sector integrated humanitarian response based on protection which aims to enable the Persons of Concern to claim their rights while their basic needs are met by emergency assistance. The main core of it will be protection assistance (through legal counselling and cash for protection) to support vulnerable population, including Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs), persons in situation of confinement, returnees and local conflict-affected

communities to settle, and humanitarian assistance (such as food kits and water filters distribution for the most vulnerable). This project will be implemented in the south of the country in the so-called Telembí Triangle (Municipalities of Barbacoas, Magui Payan, and Roberto Payan), department of Nariño, Colombia.

DRC Colombia's programming is made possible thanks to the generous support of:



Financiado por
la Unión Europea
Ayuda Humanitaria



Sweden
Sverige



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