COLOMBIA:
HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES 2016

International Committee of the Red Cross

ICRC

REPORT

ICRC

www.icrc.org/co

ICRCespanol

@CICR_co

Produced by:
ICRC Communications Department – Colombia

Coordination:
Édgar Alfonso

Authors:
Rebeca Lucía Galindo and Édgar Alfonso

Production advisor:
Mariano Redondo

With help from:
Clara Lorena Araújo, Wbeimar Cardona, Andrea Carolina García, Santiago Giraldo, Faruk González, Andrés Monroy, Yohaysa Perea and Patricia Rey

Design:
Elkin Restrepo Núñez
PubliDirect SAS

Graphics:
Mauricio Duque

Maps:
Water and Habitat Unit/GIS, ICRC Colombia

Editing:
Margarita Polo, Communications Support Centre, ICRC Buenos Aires, Argentina

Printed in Bogotá, Colombia, February 2016, by Espacio Creativo

Cover photo: Rural area of Chocó, 2015. Faruk González/ICRC

CONTENTS

Andrea Carolina García /ICRC

EDITORIAL

It's now time to translate the Havana negotiations into action

Given the pace at which the talks in Cuba have progressed, the chances that the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP) will reach a peace agreement in 2016 are greater than they were a year ago. Expectations are high – an agreement would bring an end to an armed conflict that has lasted 52 years and would follow several previous failed attempts at peace. But if these expectations are to be met, there needs to be concrete action on the ground. And here, there's still a lot of work to be done.

In 2015 and the first four months of 2016, fighting between the FARC-EP and government forces fell to levels not seen in years. At the same time, key decisions on major humanitarian topics – such as searching for missing persons and clearing minefields – were announced from Havana. A pilot mine-clearing project in Antioquia and Meta has shown that the parties to the conflict can work together to implement agreements. The measures to find missing people expanded the scope of such pilot projects. In addition, progress has been made on four of the six negotiation points: agricultural development policy, political participation, illicit drugs, and victims.

Putting all this down on paper has been a major achievement – it shows that humanitarian issues and concrete measures to improve the situation of victims can be part of a political agenda for peace. At the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), we welcome this progress. However, waiting for the final agreement before implementing measures in Colombia would be a mistake. We now need to move on from the pilot phase and take action that will benefit all victims of the war. Many people have yet to see any real impact of the talks on their daily lives and are still in need of humanitarian relief.

As victims themselves have told ICRC staff – and as reflected in the pages of this report – the lives of many Colombians in both urban and rural areas affected by armed violence continue as if no peace talks were taking place: these people still have to deal with threats, displacement, sexual violence, restrictions caused by unexploded devices on their land, and disappearances. They live in hope that their situation will improve once an agreement has been signed. But agreements alone will not solve their problems.

And we mustn't forget that in cities, armed violence continues to take its toll on the population. At the ICRC, we are particularly concerned about the situation in Buenaventura, Medellín and Tumaco, three cities in which we focus our humanitarian work. In these cities – but also in other areas that are less well known among the public – armed violence has left the inhabitants of certain neighbourhoods in a very unstable situation.

We are fully aware of the extent of the humanitarian challenges facing Colombia. Even if an agreement is signed, the impact of the conflict and persisting armed violence will continue to be felt. That's why we are still working with victims and remain present in the areas of the country in which we are needed the most. We will also continue supporting the implementation of humanitarian agreements reached by the parties to the conflict. We stand ready to act as a neutral intermediary in any talks between the government and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

Finally, we would like to renew our appeal for the agreements to be translated into action. This opportunity to end the war once and for all should not be allowed to slip away. It could be years before this chance arises again.

Christoph Harnisch
Head of the ICRC Delegation in Colombia

Caquetá. An ICRC team on its way to a rural area affected by the armed conflict.

Insidious violence was on the rise in 2015

The conflict abated in 2015, with less fighting and fewer armed attacks in many parts of the country. Yet numerous communities were affected by less visible types of violence, such as killings, death threats, disappearances and restrictions on their movement.

Sebastián Castañeda

A member of the ICRC forensic team visits Tumaco, Nariño (South Colombia). It will take years to address the needs of families of the missing.

In December 2015, the Colombian government and the FARC-EP announced a new transitional justice system that will be put in place once a final peace agreement has been signed. At the same time as the announcement was being made in Havana, we were delivering food supplies to 200 families affected by the conflict in a rural area of Caquetá. In one small village, locals watched President Juan Manuel Santos' announcement on television.

They received the news with a mixture of enthusiasm and disbelief. "Here, we've always had to get by on our own," explained one local farmer. "I imagine that once we have peace, everything will be different; we'll be able to go for a walk and go out like before," said another local.

For years, these communities have been stifled by the constant danger of unexploded devices, the control imposed by weapon bearers and the lack of access to basic services such as water, health care and education. So the possibility of a future without violence means the possibility of more freedom for these people. However, while they feel their situation has improved slightly, they know that some problems – like the presence of mines and other unexploded devices – will take longer to resolve.

During most of 2015 and early 2016, our teams in the field saw signs that the armed conflict was abating in various regions; there were fewer armed clashes and less fighting between the FARC-EP and government forces. This easing of hostilities, which was the result of the measures agreed between the parties in Havana, undoubtedly helped to improve the dire situation in which many people live across various regions. There have, for example, been fewer mass displacements: in 2014, the ICRC dealt with 20 emergencies of this kind, while the figure was down to nine in 2015.

Yet we unfortunately also saw that armed violence continued to take its toll despite the progress made in the peace process. In 2015, in the 22 regions in which we focus our humanitarian work, our staff recorded 812 alleged violations of humanitarian rules by parties to the conflict and other armed groups. These violations affected 19,000 people and mainly involved death threats, ill-treatment, sexual violence and disappearances. In 2014, we recorded 875 such cases. Armed violence is therefore still a problem and continues to have humanitarian consequences for the population. Last year, those consequences were similar to the ones documented in the previous three or four years.

According to our records, as in previous years, the areas most affected were Antioquia, Cauca, Caquetá, Chocó, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Putumayo, and the cities of Buenaventura, Tumaco and Medellín.

Trends in 2015

Insidious violence was the type of violence most commonly recorded by ICRC teams in the field last year. This refers to attacks against an individual or a small group of people, which draw less attention, and includes death threats and sexual violence.

Violations of the rules of armed conflict were also documented. They included occupations of civilian properties like homes or schools and sides not taking the necessary precautions in attacks against military targets, which led to civilians being harmed. In many instances, violence against the population came from armed groups that have nothing to do with the conflict. In light of this growing problem, we have stepped up our confidential dialogue with these groups with a view to reducing the consequences for the population.

In addition, we recorded 670 cases of people who needed to be moved to safety because of threats or physical or psychological ill-treatment in 2015. This was a similar figure to that recorded in 2014 (see the graph below). The individuals came from a range of areas controlled by different weapon bearers, some of which were involved in the conflict but not all. The threats frequently follow a recruitment attempt or sexual violence.

These cases demonstrate how violence continues to harm the civilian population, which should be kept out of the fighting. They are clear examples of the smaller, less visible acts of violence that prevailed in 2015 and that continue to do so in 2016.

Women and children

In more than half of the cases of alleged violations of humanitarian rules recorded by the ICRC, the victims were women and children, highlighting just how vulnerable these two groups are in situations of violence and how a differentiated response is needed for them.

In 2015, we recorded 249 alleged violations of humanitarian rules concerning some 469 female victims. It is often women who bear the brunt of an armed conflict, and they also play a vital role in holding together communities affected by war.

Last year, 166 female victims of sexual violence received help from the ICRC, but the actual number of victims was much higher. The difficulties are far from over, even though hostilities have abated.

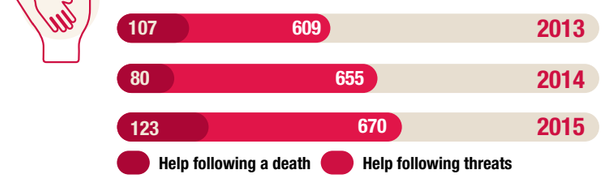
Children and teenagers also continue to be recruited and used by weapon bearers inside and outside of the conflict. In 2015, the ICRC recorded 181 alleged violations of humanitarian rules concerning 2,000 children and teenagers. Last year, 35 minors left armed groups and were able to get in touch with their families with help from the ICRC.

Violations against children and teenagers go beyond recruitment. They include using them as informants and drug mules, and as direct perpetrators of violence.

In 2015, our staff members reported 812 alleged violations of humanitarian rules.

CONTINUED
killings and death threats

In 2015, we continued to provide assistance to people who had been threatened and had to flee because their lives were in danger. We also helped families of individuals who had been killed.



Source: ICRC Colombia. The figures show the number of people we helped and do not necessarily reflect the general trend.

The voices of the victims

"Eight armed men arrived at my home. They told me that if I didn't do what they said, they'd make things much worse for me. Then they abused me. My baby was right there, crying. It was horrible to have to go through that. I keep asking myself, why me?"

Sandra, Quindío

"I used to work with my father on the farm, but one day I was blinded by an anti-personnel mine. It changed my life completely because I had to come to the city, and that was really hard. With the ICRC's help, I was able to find a job."

Dionardo, Norte de Santander

"My son told me one day that he was moving away to work in construction with a friend. He told me he'd come back soon, but he never did. Then a rumour went round that two bodies had been found in a grave and that one of them was my son. I waited six months to be able to bury him. Now I can rest because I know where he is, but I'll never forget what happened."

Liliana, Valle del Cauca

"Before, we didn't have the vegetable gardens that the ICRC helped us to build, and when there was fighting, we didn't know what to do. Now we have something to keep us busy, so we feel calmer. We don't feel alone in this war anymore."

Daniel, Cauca

When children leave an armed group that is not involved in the conflict, they may be accepted into the government's welfare programmes. But they are not entitled to compensation or a special reintegration programme, which is so necessary for them to rebuild their lives. Government authorities need to ensure they meet all the needs of these children, as they are victims too.

Edgar Alfonso / ICRC

Rural area of Caquetá. This boy and his family were part of an ICRC income-generating project.

Challenges for 2016

At the end of January 2016, the government had recorded a total of 7.9 million victims of the armed conflict (see the chart on page 9), around 116,000 of which (1.46%) involved acts that occurred in 2015.

Meeting the needs of the people who have suffered so much during this drawn-out conflict will be a colossal challenge for the country in the years to come. The possibility of a peace agreement between the government and the FARC-EP will undoubtedly increase expectations.

In 2015, the agreements on immediate steps to find missing people and on humanitarian mine-clearing, together with a joint decision to cease fighting, helped to lessen the consequences of the war. However, even after a peace agreement has been signed, there will still be a lot to do to alleviate the victims' suffering.

As we will see in the following chapters, thousands of families are still looking for their loved ones. And improvised explosive devices and other explosive remnants of war that have not yet been cleared will continue to be a threat to communities, preventing them from accessing their land. Conditions in the country's prisons are precarious and also need to be improved.

Peace talks between the government and the second-largest guerrilla movement in the country, the ELN, have been announced but are yet to produce concrete results. Finally, in 2016 armed violence by groups not involved in the conflict will be another risk factor for people in many regions.

For 47 years, we have been working to reduce the impact of violence in Colombia, and we will continue to do so this year, as always in partnership with the Colombian Red Cross.

7,9 MILLION victims and counting

People recorded in Colombia's Register of Victims (Registro Único de Víctimas) for acts committed since 1985

The five main reasons someone becomes a victim

Victims tend to report several consequences at the same time

- **88% Displacement** — 6,9 million people
- **12% Homicide** — direct victims and their families 976.000
- **4% Threats** — 325.000 people
- **2% Forced disappearance** — direct victims and their families 162.000
- **1% Loss of belongings** — 105.000 people

Sources: Unit for Victims' Attention and Reparation (UARIV) - Data at February 2016; World Bank 2014 population statistics.

FROM THE FIELD

Freeing people held by armed groups

Even though the intensity of hostilities eased last year, people continued to be held captive by armed groups.

Although most individuals were held for a matter of days or weeks, it can still have a huge impact on them. Both the individual and their family suffer a great deal. Last year, parties to the conflict and other armed groups both engaged in this type of activity.

During the year, we facilitated the release of civilians and members of the police and armed forces. ICRC medical staff also checked the health of those released.

In total, 23 people were freed thanks to the ICRC's intervention. Since 1994, the year in which the Colombian government authorized the ICRC to make contact with the armed groups, more than 1,600 individuals have been released.

EVERY DAY IN COLOMBIA

- **34 PEOPLE** with a disability attend a rehabilitation session
- **50 PEOPLE** in areas affected by violence get proper drinking water for the first time
- **25 DISPLACED PEOPLE** receive food and other supplies
- **233 DETAINEES** benefit from the visit of a delegate that verifies their living conditions.
- **25 PEOPLE** learn how to prevent accidents caused by unexploded devices
- **5 SICK OR INJURED PEOPLE** in areas affected by violence receive medical treatment

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our humanitarian work

During 2015, more than 275,000 people benefited from our work in Colombia, which we often conducted in coordination with the Colombia Red Cross. Here are some of our results.

Providing support to the population

Tumaco, Nariño. Aid arrives at a community affected by an oil spill.

96,000 victims filed a request, with help from the ICRC, in order to receive government assistance and compensation provided they fulfil a series of requirements.

9,200 displaced people received food and other supplies to help them through the emergency.

85,000 detainees were visited by ICRC delegates, representing 71% of the country's prison population.

670 people who had received death threats were able to move to a safer place.

18,000 people in areas affected by armed violence were given access to basic facilities such as water, sanitation, health care and education.

12,500 people with a disability – including mine victims – attended rehabilitation sessions.

290 families of missing persons received financial aid and psychosocial support to help them deal with the uncertainty.

1,800 sick or injured people in areas affected by the armed violence received medical care.

211 victims of sexual violence received psycho-social support.

Capacity building and prevention

Bogotá. Detainees in La Picota prison are fitted with prosthetics and orthotics.

18,000 inhabitants of areas affected by improvised explosive devices and other remnants of war received training on how to prevent accidents.

340 medical workers received training on how to improve the care given to victims of sexual violence.

6,300 people – including medical workers and community leaders – received training on the rights and obligations of the medical services.

1,600 soldiers, police officers and prison guards received training on the use of force and the application of humanitarian rules.

Helping people make a living

Guaviare. An ICRC technician visits an income-generating project.

8,300 farmers took part in income-generating initiatives to improve their access to food.

5,500 victims of violence received job-related training, obtained a temporary work contract in a private company and/or increased their production.

COLOMBIA, one of the ICRC's 15 largest operations in the world

2015 budget: **33,3 million** Swiss francs, which represents approximately **100,000 million** pesos (at the average 2015 exchange rate)

People helped in 2015: around **275,000**

Number of employees: **363**, including **299** Colombian employees and **64** foreign delegates

FROM THE FIELD

Oil spill leaves thousands without food or water

June and July were the busiest months for the ICRC, owing to an increase in armed attacks in various areas across the country. One of the worst emergencies happened in a rural area of Tumaco (Nariño), where 11 communities were left without food.

An armed attack on a section of an oil pipeline caused oil to spill into the River Mira, triggering an environmental and humanitarian disaster.

Over a week, four ICRC and Colombian Red Cross boats transported a total of 64 tonnes of food and water by sea and river to 2,200 people.

Eight out of every ten families in the affected communities make a living from fishing, so the oil spill left them without a livelihood. The fishermen told us that because the river had been contaminated they were only able to collect 50 shells each a day, rather than the 300 shells they would collect on a normal day.

"Nobody has helped us like this before. At the moment, we can't make a living. We depend on the shells, shrimps, fish and other food we get from the river," said one woman upon receiving a food package to help her and her family get through the emergency.

People were given supplies to last 45 days. We also helped to build wells, and Colombian Red Cross and ICRC experts provided water-treatment training and supplies.

On 15 July 2015, four boats left the port of Tumaco with 64 tonnes of supplies.

MISSING PEOPLE

There is a pressing need to find more missing people in 2016

All armed conflicts have consequences that are felt for decades. And the Colombian conflict will be no exception. Today, the fate of 79,000 people is still unknown, and the figure is rising by the hour. This is because families are now less afraid to speak out, but also because Colombians keep disappearing.

Bocas de Satinga, Nariño. In this small village on the Pacific Coast, the process of identifying the bodies buried in the local cemetery has begun.

Every hour another person is reported missing in Colombia. But a person is found – dead or alive – only every three hours. As a result, inside and outside the conflict 79,000 Colombians are still missing, according to the Information Network on Missing Persons and Corpses (Sistema de Información Red de Desaparecidos y Cadáveres) (see chart on page 16).

Looking for these missing people and helping their families must be a priority for Colombia in 2016 and quite possibly in the years to come as well. We have seen first hand the difficulties that the authorities face in searching for missing people and identifying remains, as well as the lack of solidarity that families have to deal with on a daily basis.

There is no way of knowing the exact number of people who have gone missing as a result of the conflict over the past five decades. However, based on data from the Register of Victims (Registro Único de Víctimas), the figure stands at more than 45,000. This is far higher than for any other country in the Americas and for most of the recent armed conflicts around the world.

We welcome all efforts to alleviate the suffering of families, as we stated on 17 October 2015, the day on which the government of Colombia and the FARC-EP announced that they would be taking a wide range of measures to find those who have gone missing as a result of the armed conflict.

In the agreement, the parties requested our help in implementing these measures and undertook to provide any information they may have (see details on page 19). In the five months since the announcement, the ICRC has been working with the government, the FARC-EP, relevant authorities and the families of victims in order to make progress with these searches. We are renewing our appeal to the parties to speed up implementation of the agreement. If properly implemented, it will play a fundamental role in resolving this very serious issue, even if this may take years.

Unable to grieve

"What they do to the families – not telling us what happened – is inhumane however you look at it," says Emilio, a 75-year-old man who has spent the past six years looking for his son Edwin Mauricio, who disappeared at the age of 30 in Buenaventura. He and his wife Rosa have looked everywhere but still have no leads. The stories about torture, dismemberment and bodies thrown into the sea that you hear in this Pacific port fill them with fear. "Anyway, I hope my son will come back alive," he says.

Liliana, who comes from the same city, has a different story. Her 19-year-old son Jonathan had been gone for six months when it was confirmed that he and a friend he went to work with in another area of the city had been murdered and buried together. She confirms that although the pain of her loss is immense, at least she was given the chance to grieve, lay her son to rest and try to get on with her life. "Anyway, I'll never forget what happened," she says.

Disappearing a second time

Each disappearance is different. There are many reasons why it is not always possible to give an answer to the family. It is hard to get information on the fate of these people from those responsible because records are scarce. What's more, the procedures for reporting a person missing and triggering official search mechanisms are often plagued with complications for the families. The authorities in many regions have limited technical capacities, and there are not enough resources to properly handle the demand.

The voices of the victims

"We feel pain and frustration. We know that a lot of people are indifferent to these cases. I want them to know that today it's happening to us, but tomorrow it could happen to someone in their family. Now we need help to find out the truth. We want to start grieving – we haven't been able to do that yet."

Cecilia, Santander

"One afternoon my daughter went out to her aunt's house, but she never got there, and she never came home either. Since then, we've been looking for her everywhere, but we've still not found her."

Marta, Meta

Buenaventura. Emilio and his wife Rosa show a photo of their son Edwin Mauricio, who disappeared six years ago.

Looking for these missing people and helping their families must be a priority for Colombia in 2016 and quite possibly in the years to come as well.

The voices of the victims

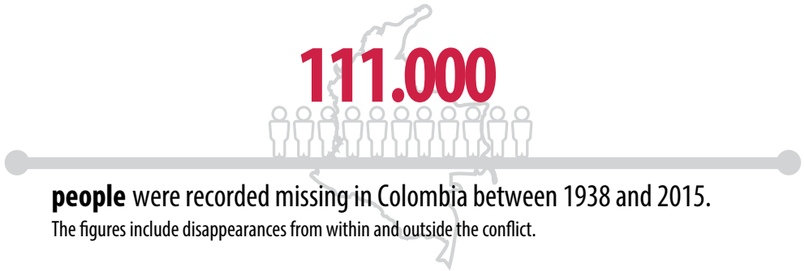
"The important thing is to know what really happened to them. That's all I ask for: the right to know. I don't want that right to be taken away. I want them to tell us what happened and where they are."
Carolina, Guaviare

"The pain never goes away because you can't cry for them; you don't have a place to go and mourn for them. It been very difficult not to be able to give my son a proper answer. He knows about cemeteries. He knows that's where we go when we die. He always asks me where he is and why we can't visit."
Andrea, Bogotá

"Since what happened with my daughter, I haven't been able to work. At first, every three days, every week or every two weeks, I'd find any reason I could to go and look for her. So I stopped whatever work I was doing: collecting coffee beans, spreading fertilizer or sowing sugar cane. Every job I was given went wrong. I lost work and now I have no money."
Esmeralda, Nariño

"I hope the remains are found so that I can take them to the cemetery. I always say: 'Lord, if the remains are found, although it'll bring tears, I'll be very happy to take them to the undertaker's.' I hope they are the remains."
Patricia, Antioquia

EVERY DAY people go missing in Colombia



1h In 2015, 10,900 people were reported missing. **Every hour, another case was recorded.**

Source: Information Network on Missing Persons and Corpses (SIRDEC). Data at: 14 January 2016.

In a lot of cemeteries, there's not even a record of where unidentified bodies are buried.

Finally, checking information about missing people against the bodies that have been found is another titanic task. According to SIRDEC's records, in the country's cemeteries and morgues there are at least 23,000 sets of remains that have not been identified. In a lot of cemeteries, there's not even a record of where unidentified bodies (know locally as "NN") are buried. Other bodies have been identified but are not claimed by the families. This means that a lot of people disappear a second time.

Our priority

Given the seriousness of the issue of missing persons, in 2016 we will continue to engage in dialogue with those presumed responsible. We are currently working on resolving more than 430 disappearances recorded by our employees in the field. Within the framework of the agreement between the government and FARC-EP, we will also continue to offer our services to help resolve priority cases.

We also intend to increase the assistance we give to the authorities in charge of searching for and identifying missing persons, and above all, we will continue to support the families.

For the first time, we will focus on three regions in which the number of disappearances is particularly high and where the authorities most need our help.

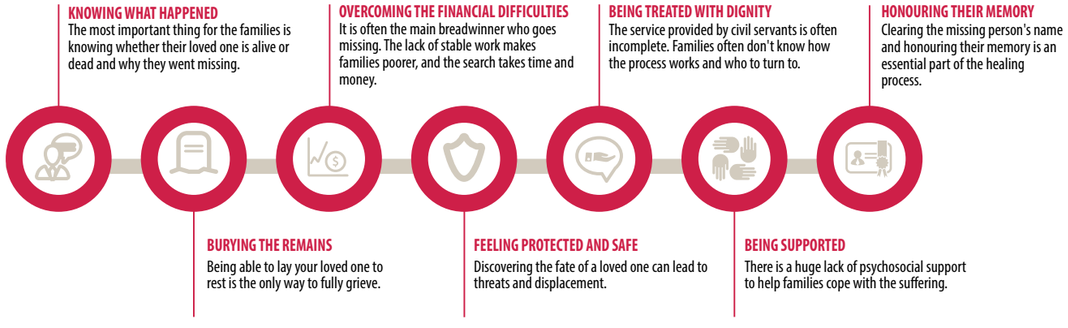
What the government and society as a whole do in 2016 to alleviate the suffering of the thousands of families looking for the loved ones will set the course taken by Colombia to repay – or not – one of its greatest humanitarian debts. That's why this issue is and will continue to be our priority in the country.


Sebastián Castañeda

Nariño. An ICRC forensic expert enters a cemetery in which unidentified bodies are buried.

THE SEVEN NEEDS of the families

This is what **205** people who are looking for their loved ones told us when we asked them what they thought they most urgently needed to alleviate their suffering:



Source: ICRC, 2013-2014. Report: The needs of the families of missing persons in Colombia. Get the full report from www.icrc.org/co.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our response to the humanitarian tragedy of the missing

In 2015, in addition to supporting families in their search for their loved ones, we built tombs for unidentified remains and provided training to the authorities on how to respond to families.

Supporting families

205 cases of missing people were recorded by ICRC teams in the field and, where possible, those allegedly responsible were contacted in order to try to get an answer. Of these cases, 20 individuals were found dead or alive.

290 families of missing people received financial support to help them find their loved ones. 150 of these families also received psychosocial support to help them deal with the uncertainty that the absence of a family member brings.

Sebastián Castañeda

Nariño. Messages from people looking for their missing loved ones.

Working with the authorities

400 people working with the families of missing persons received training on psychosocial and psychological care.

170 Colombian Red Cross Society volunteers, civil defence personnel and fire fighters were trained in handling human remains in emergency situations through ICRC workshops.

100 prosecutors, investigators and forensic experts attended ICRC seminars on good practices for identifying remains and providing legal and psychosocial support to families.

31 civil servants in Saravena, Quibdó and Buenaventura, places that have been particularly affected by disappearances, attended workshops on managing human remains in cemeteries.

Forensic work in the most difficult areas

ICRC

Rural area of Caquetá. Recovering human remains.

500 tombs and ossuaries were built in Buenaventura so that unidentified remains from various cemeteries across the city can be kept in the same place.

10 bodies were recovered by the ICRC's forensic experts in areas that are out of bounds to the authorities.

FROM THE FIELD

Florinda can finally lay her son to rest

This is the story behind one of the 20 cases of missing people that the ICRC helped to resolve in 2015, in cooperation with the Colombian Red Cross.

Andres Cortes/ICRC

Florinda visits her son's grave in the Barrancabermeja cemetery.

One day, some civil servants came to the fish stall that Florinda runs in Barrancabermeja. They asked her something that left her really worried: "Is one of your sons missing?" She replied that all of her six children were fine. Her third son had gone to work in the south of the country, but from what she had heard, he was fine.

"I had a really nasty feeling inside when they asked me that," recalls Florinda.

She began to suspect something was wrong when she didn't hear from her son. Her fears were confirmed when her daughter Nancy received a call from the public prosecutor's office: "We can confirm that your brother is dead." Then began the agonizing task of recovering his remains.

With help from the ICRC, and after two years of red tape, the family was finally able to lay him to rest in Barrancabermeja, where he was known as the best footballer in the area.

"I never thought that one day they would bring my son's remains to the house he grew up in. The Red Cross was there even for the burial."

IN A FEW WORDS

Three questions on the Havana agreement

In October 2015, the Colombian government and the FARC-EP signed a humanitarian agreement to speed up the search for missing persons.

1 What is the role of the ICRC?

The agreement sets out two phases. In the first phase, the parties have agreed to hand over any information they have on missing persons. Once the information has been received, the ICRC will support the government authorities in designing and implementing concrete plans for looking for, locating, identifying and burying missing people.

The second phase, which will be implemented once the peace agreement has been signed, involves the creation of a special unit for searching for missing persons (Unidad Especial para la Búsqueda de Personas dadas por Desaparecidas, UBPD).

2 What's been achieved so far?

The public prosecutor's office handed over an initial batch of 29 human remains, mainly former FARC-EP fighters.

The public prosecutor's technical team has exhumed 81 bodies from the Cimitarra cemetery in Santander, 11 of which have been identified by the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science. Associations of victims and the national missing persons committee have met to draw up recommendations for the negotiators in Havana. The ICRC has been working in Havana with the government and the FARC-EP to determine the list of priority cases and has begun receiving information from both sides.

3 What remains to be done?

The list of priority cases to be resolved as part of the agreement's immediate steps has not yet been finalized.

We hope we will see some initial results in the first half of 2016.

It will be years before people walk again without fear

The suffering caused by mines and other unexploded devices will not go away overnight. While official records show that the number of direct victims has dropped, many people continue to live in isolation because of this threat. Over the past eight years, 90,000 people have learned about safe practices from the ICRC and the Colombian Red Cross.

Pasto. An ICRC physiotherapist and a victim of an anti-personnel mine during a physical rehabilitation session.

At the time this report was being printed, one community in Chocó was still mourning the deaths of three people last December. A farmer walking in a rural area was killed after he triggered an explosive device. When his neighbours went out to look for him, two other people were killed.

Before 2014, no such accidents had been recorded in that area. So weapon contamination may be more widespread than people think, and in many areas the extent of the contamination is not known.

As armed clashes have abated the ICRC has noticed a trend: displaced people return to their original homes without knowing for sure whether the paths are free of explosive devices, which puts them in danger. Other people who are at risk are the 'floating' population passing through dangerous areas. That's why prevention is still the most important tool for saving lives.

In the last eight years, the Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC have trained 90,000 people on accident prevention and the rights of victims. In future, this number will need to be doubled in order to avoid more tragedies like that in Chocó last December.

According to government figures, the number of civilian victims of mines and other unexploded devices fell to 73 in 2015, down from 103 in 2014. However, there continue to be tragedies among the population, and they do not always figure in official statistics. Last year, the ICRC helped close to 200 victims begin the process of claiming compensation from the government.

Even if the war in Colombia comes to an end, the problem of weapon contamination will remain: there will still be anti-personnel mines, improvised devices and other explosive remnants of war. An unknown number of these devices still litter the country, and it will likely take years to clear the whole territory.

Entire communities isolated

The consequences of weapon contamination go far beyond permanent physical and psychological scars. There are parts of the country where there have no injuries or accidents but where weapon contamination has nevertheless taken its toll.

The voices of the victims

"I was there when the armed groups arrived. They picked people out and killed them in front of us. On the day of my accident, I saw a woman who was also being taken to hospital. The same thing had happened to her."

Jaime, Nariño

"I thought there were mines only in a few places on the mountain. I didn't realize that we'd find them so close to the crops. It's awful. You have a life project and it all comes to nothing. You don't know what to do. I didn't let myself die though. I want to keep on living."

Arturo, Tolima

"It's not just your problem – it's your whole family's problem, and society's problem too. There's also a lot of discrimination. It's no secret that it's very difficult to get a job when you have a physical disability."

Dionardo, Norte de Santander

Training on safe practices run by the Colombian Red Cross.

Andrés Monroy /ICRC

Putumayo. A workshop on preventing weapon contamination for an indigenous community.

After Afghanistan, Colombia is the country with the highest number of victims of anti-personnel mines.

Weapon contamination also causes other, less visible problems that nonetheless have serious humanitarian consequences for thousands of families. These include: preventing access to crops and fertile land, causing the deaths of livestock and other animals needed to make a living, and stopping children from attending school because they have to pass through dangerous areas to get there.

This leaves communities isolated, people don't have enough food, and they live in fear every day.

The demining and decontamination agreement signed on 7 March 2015 by the government and the FARC-EP was an important step that we welcome. The political will on both sides has translated into pilot projects in the El Orejón area of Briceño (Antioquia) and in the Santa Helena area of Mesetas (Meta). However, there are still many other areas yet to be cleared, and this will be one of the most complicated tasks once the talks in Havana have come to an end.

"You're left with a ringing in your ears"

After Afghanistan, Colombia is the country with the highest number of victims of anti-personnel mines. According to government data, two out of every five people affected are civilians, and more than 800 people have died as a result in the last 25 years (see chart on page 25). Those who survive often need help for the rest of their lives.

That's the case of Jaime, who worked as a gold-miner in a mountainous area of Nariño. In September 2012, after a night of fighting in the area, an accident with an explosive device left him without any legs. After just five days in the hospital, Jaime was discharged and confronted with an extremely difficult task: going out in a wheelchair to find a taxi. "I didn't know how to lift myself into the taxi without my legs. That affected me really badly," he told us.

About 200km from there, in a rural area of Tolima, Arturo lost his left foot while working in the fields. He's now living temporarily in a hostel in another city whilst he receives treatment. Like Jaime, Arturo was also doing routine work when his life was changed forever. The explosions took them both by surprise: "There weren't any mines there anymore. They were in other places on the mountain. I didn't realize that we'd find them so close to the crops," Arturo added.

His brother was left unharmed and another farmer he was working with had burns and hearing problems. "You're left with a ringing in your ears. It's something you would never imagine would happen," said Arturo.

Dealing with the stigma

For children, who account for 26% of all victims, the impact on their future is even greater. Dionardo was left blind by an accident involving a mine when he was 16. He used to work in the fields with his family, but it got so complicated that he had to move to Cúcuta in Norte de Santander.

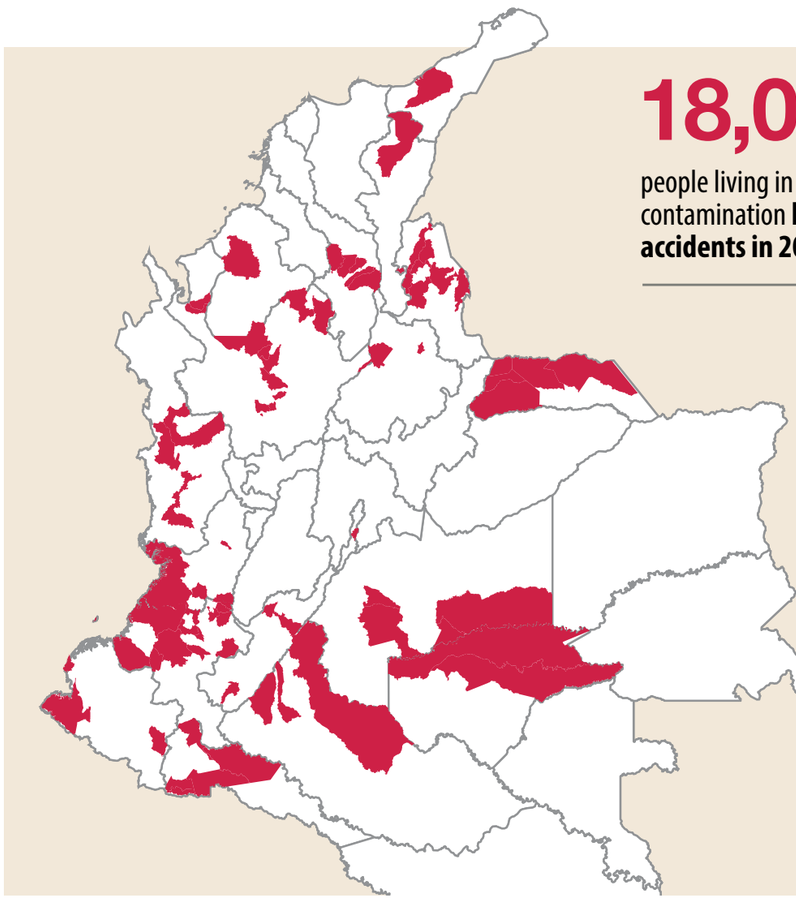
Now he works as a health promoter thanks to the ICRC's job opportunities programme. "It's really difficult to get a job when you have a physical disability," he added.

This was also the thorn in Jaime's side, but then his doctor told him he should sell lottery tickets and he now runs his own microbusiness. "It's not just your problem – it's your whole family's problem, and society's problem too. There's also a lot of discrimination," he told us.

In 2015, the ICRC heard dozens of stories like those of Jaime, Arturo and Dionardo. Our staff in the field saw first hand that the presence of anti-personnel mines, improvised devices and other explosive remnants of war continues to take its toll on many Colombians. We will keep providing support, physical rehabilitation and guidance in 2016. Sadly, the victims' needs will not go away overnight.

PREVENTION
in 70 municipalities

In 2015, we worked in 19 regions affected by **weapon contamination** while the Colombian Red Cross covered other regions.



18,000

people living in areas affected by weapon contamination **learned how to prevent accidents in 2015.**

FROM THE FIELD

El Palo gets its water supply back

In the region of Cauca, one of the areas hit hardest by the presence of mines and other explosive remnants of war, 2,000 people living in the Bajo El Palo area of the municipality of Caloto were always thirsty because the presence of mines made it impossible to properly maintain their aqueduct.

The village plumber had an extremely difficult job: avoiding armed clashes and mines in order to repair the aqueduct. Finally, the old aqueduct became so rundown that villagers were left without even a drop of water.

With technical and financial support from the ICRC, the community built a new aqueduct that guarantees them a water supply for the next 25 years. "Now, there are no groups around; they no longer ask for things and there's no risk of bombs or mines," said the plumber.

Erika Tovar/ICRC

Bajo El Palo, Cauca. The new aqueduct should provide a water supply for the next 25 years.


Edgar Alfonso/ICRC

Caquetá. A rural community that received humanitarian aid from the ICRC.

IN A FEW WORDS

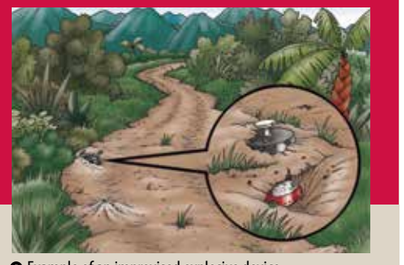
Anti-personnel mines are just the tip of the iceberg

Anti-personnel mines are only one of several types of weapons that kill, injure and isolate hundreds of people in Colombia.

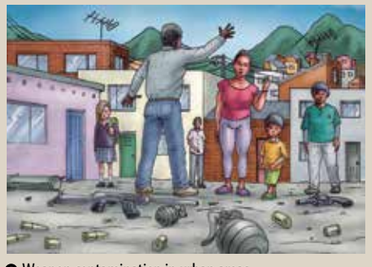
That's why we talk about "weapon contamination." This term is broader and covers the full range of weapons that can be dangerous for the civilian population.

The problem is not just a rural one – there are victims in cities too.

- Explosive remnants of war (unexploded or abandoned munitions)
- Improvised explosive devices
- Booby traps
- Small arms and light weapons
- Anti-personnel mines: most are hand-made devices, which means they actually fall in the category of improvised explosive devices. However, they are commonly referred to as "mines" because they are triggered in the same way as a manufactured anti-personnel mine.


Example of an improvised explosive device


Explosive remnants of war


Weapon contamination in urban areas

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our response to weapon contamination in cooperation with the Colombian Red Cross

18,000 people living in areas affected by the conflict learned how to stay safe and about their rights as victims, thanks to workshops run by the Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC.

17 people killed by anti-personnel mines, improvised explosive devices and other explosive remnants of war were given a proper funeral with help from the ICRC.

108 victims of weapon contamination received an artificial limb and/or physical rehabilitation in the six centres sponsored by the ICRC.

140 victims received financial support from the ICRC to help them through the process of getting assistance and claiming compensation.

6.700 people were able to produce food in safe areas, which reduced their vulnerability to weapon contamination.

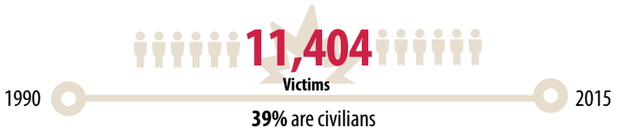

Pontifex Orrego/ICRC

Cúcuta, Norte de Santander. Dionardo, who was blinded during an accident involving an anti-personnel mine, works as a health promoter thanks to the ICRC's job opportunities programme for victims.

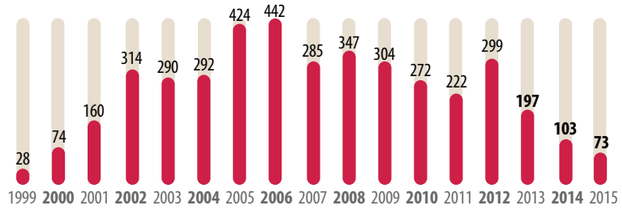
5.000 people living in contaminated areas benefited from the construction or repair of water facilities, shelters and schools near their homes, making them less vulnerable.

VICTIMS of explosive devices and other explosive remnants of war

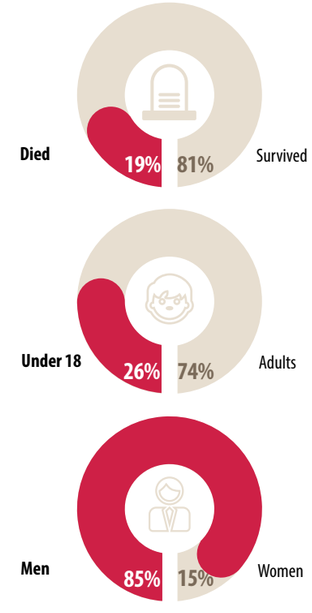
According to official figures, 39% of victims of weapon contamination are civilians. However, many incidents are not officially recorded, especially those involving explosive remnants of war.



NUMBER OF CIVILIAN VICTIMS



OVERVIEW of civilian victims

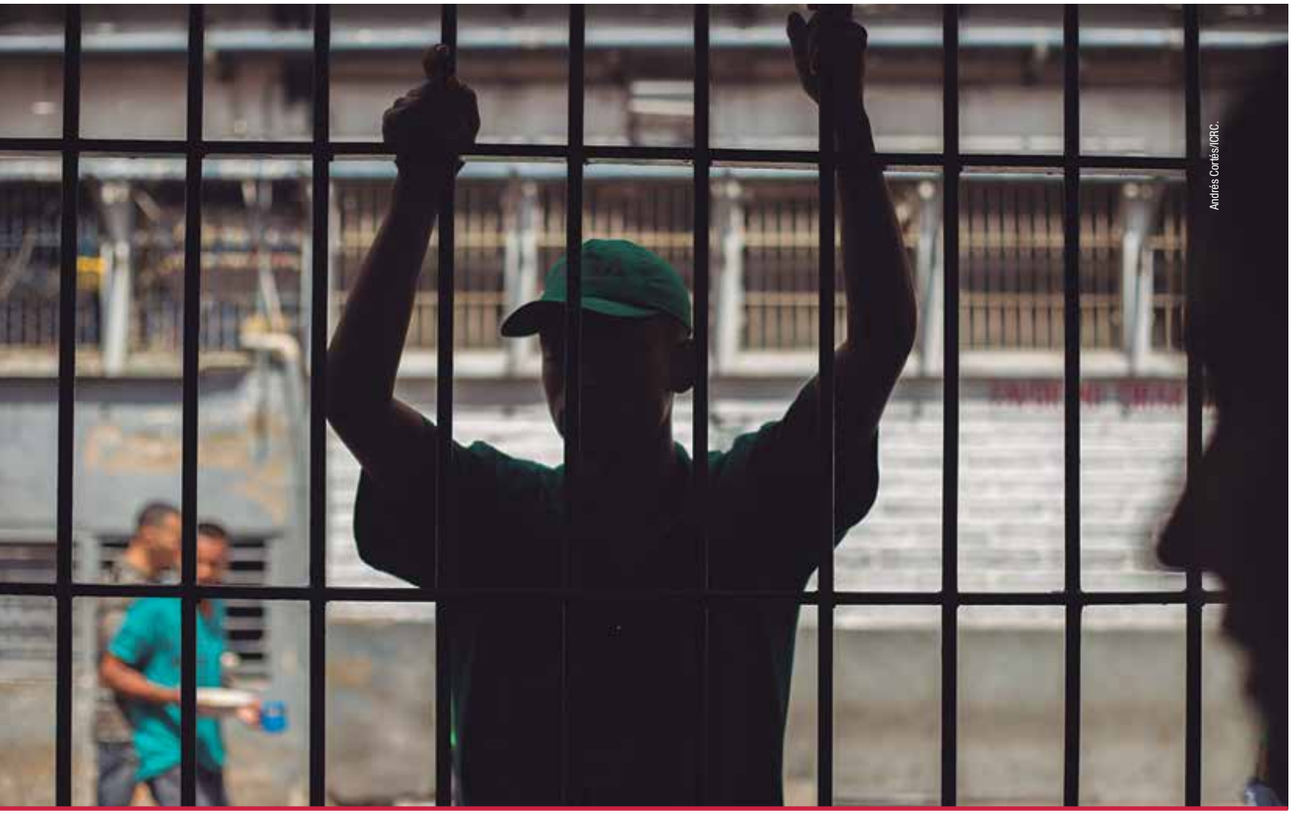


Source: Office for comprehensive action against anti-personnel mines (Dirección para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal). Data at 31 December 2015.

DETAINEES

The situation in Colombia's prisons has hit crisis-point

The situation of Colombia's 120,000 detainees was a major concern in 2015 and continues to be so this year. In addition to overcrowding, the medical services available to inmates have deteriorated, which makes their living conditions even worse.



Andres Cortés/ICRC.

Medellín, Bellavista Prison. ICRC staff regularly visit detention facilities in Colombia. The main concern is still overcrowding.

For ICRC staff who visit prisons on a daily basis, there was a surge in cases of detainees who could not access medical services despite serious illness in early 2016.

At the time this report was being completed, for example, in a prison in the Pacific region, two detainees who had broken their legs had been waiting months to have the pins used to stabilize the bone removed.

Even though there were already signs of infection and they could both have lost their leg, their situation was not considered life threatening, so they were continually denied care. The ICRC intervened and managed to get both detainees examined in a medical centre outside the prison. However, despite our efforts, authorization for surgery was still pending at the time this report was finished.

It is already difficult for the general population to access medical services, with long waiting times and frequent treatment refusals. And for detainees, the problem is much worse. Just getting out into the yard where prisoners gather in order to be seen by a doctor can be an epic journey. But it doesn't end there. They then have to compete with all the other detainees to be included on the short list. And that's just to see the doctor. Their chances of actually receiving treatment are even smaller.

With little chance of being seen by a doctor, they often just have to deal with their pain without any treatment.

From a humanitarian standpoint, this situation is unsustainable. We have been visiting prisoners around the world for more than 100 years, and we know solutions require time, resources and above all political will. But we also know that the needs of the prison population cannot be put aside any longer, and that finding a solution must be a priority.

The origin of the crisis

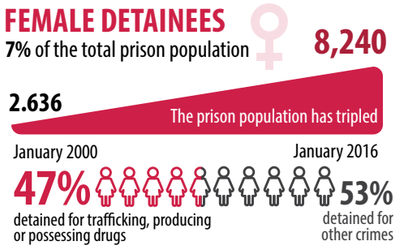
The medical services available in prisons have been made worse by the precarious health-insurance system for detainees, which is currently being transitioned to a new model. While the adjustments are made, the lack of services continues. We have stepped up our efforts with the authorities to ensure that the changes lead to an improvement for detainees and not just more limitations on their access to health care.

The humanitarian situation in Colombia's prisons has been difficult for years. The most visible factor is overcrowding. In January 2016, overcrowding stood at around 54%, according to figures

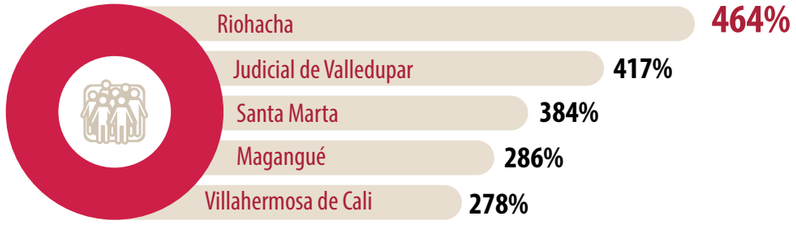
COLOMBIA'S PRISONS
house 42,783 detainees too many

One of the most visible symptoms of the **difficult situation of Colombia's prisons is overcrowding.**

Surplus population: 42,783
Overcrowding: **54.9%**



THE FIVE MOST OVERCROWDED PRISONS



Source: Statistical report by the National Prisons and Corrections Institute (INPEC). Data at: 31 January 2016

In early 2016, there was a surge in cases of detainees who could not access medical services despite serious illness.

A female detainee in the prison in Cúcuta, a city on the border between Colombia and Venezuela, talks with an ICRC delegate.

Just getting out into the yard where prisoners gather in order to be seen by a doctor can be an epic journey.

from the National Prisons and Corrections Institute (INPEC) (see chart on page 27). This means there are some 43,000 prisoners too many, which is equivalent to seven times the capacity of the country's largest prison, La Picota, in Bogotá.

The real problem

As we have been stating for years, the lack of an effective and comprehensive criminal policy for the government as a whole has led to an unsustainable level of overcrowding in prisons.

For us, an effective criminal policy would be one that chooses between one of two ways of resolving the prison crisis. The first option is to increase the capacity of prisons in line with the number of people sent to prison. This solution is costly, as it would require large investments in order to maintain minimal living standards.

The second option is to apply other measures as an alternative to confinement, based on the concept that detention is just one of several options available within the criminal justice system.

These other options, which would only be applied if the individual meets strict criteria based on their prior record and behaviour, include: postponing the sentence for a given period, placing the individual under house arrest, sending a detainee home or to a medical centre if they are seriously ill, granting parole and monitoring individuals electronically (such as with an electronic bracelet).

A coherent criminal policy and wider access to these other measures, together with better conditions in prisons, would help to reduce overcrowding and its consequences both for those who remain in prison and those who receive other types of sentences.

We know that in a country in which there are frequent calls to increase sentences, its less controversial to keep sending more people to prison. However, the ongoing crisis in the prison system needs to be resolved, starting in 2016. We are, as always, ready to provide advice and help find solutions.

FROM THE FIELD

Human beings, inside and outside

Through an ICRC campaign, the voices of detainees were heard in six different cities throughout 2015. The initiative marked the 100th anniversary of our visits to people deprived of their freedom around the world. It combined art and life stories and aimed to remind people that those living behind bars are humans too.

Cúcuta: inside. A music group formed by detainees and a guard composed a piece for the campaign.

"Although I'm a prisoner and I've lost my freedom, I'm still a human being."

Bogotá: inside. The campaign was supported by artist Benjamin Betsalel, who talked with detainees about their experiences in prison and painted some of their portraits.

Quibdó: inside. A female detainee looks in a mirror while painting a self-portrait as part of a creative workshop.

Bogotá: outside. The "Humans beings, inside and out" campaign was launched with an exhibition of Betsalel's portraits in the National Museum, which is located in a former jail.

Bogotá: inside. To end the campaign, which reached more than 8,000 people, the exhibition went back to its subjects in various prisons, including La Picota.

IN A FEW WORDS

The Constitutional Court speaks out about the crisis

In February 2016, a ruling was handed down on the situation of detainees by the highest court in Colombia. In ruling T-762/15, the court once again affirmed that the dire conditions in Colombia's prisons were unconstitutional.

The Court urged the government to find solutions and invited the ICRC, as an "organization that safeguards the rights of people deprived of their freedom and that has determined a series of minimal conditions", to be part of the "process of monitoring the progress, setbacks and difficulties concerning the prison situation."

Backed by this ruling, we are ready to continue our humanitarian work in the country's prisons and our advisory work with government authorities, drawing on our technical expertise and humanitarian experience.


Andrés Cortés/ICRC

Medellín, Bellavista Prison. During prison visits, ICRC delegates talk directly with detainees about their problems.

A DETAINEE'S STORY

Living with a disability in prison

There are close to 800 detainees in Colombia with a disability. For them, life in prison is particularly harsh. For years, Manuel had to walk with two left legs because of a shortage of artificial limbs.


Andrés Monroy/ICRC

An ICRC employee shows Manuel how to use his new prosthetic leg.

Manuel lost his right leg in a road traffic accident, and has had a prosthetic leg ever since. When he arrived at La Picota prison in Bogotá, his artificial leg was so worn down that he had to buy another one for 50,000 pesos (around 17 US dollars). There was just one problem: it was for the wrong leg.

Walking with two left legs was not easy for this 62 year old. In prison, he found it hard to keep up with his work as an electrician.

"Working in prison meant that I could get coffee, bread, biscuits and cigarettes and that I could buy tools and other things for myself. I never asked my family for anything," he told us.

In 2015, the ICRC worked with government authorities responsible for detainee welfare and the CIREC Foundation to provide prosthetic devices, wheelchairs and physiotherapy to 31 detainees in La Picota prison. We hope that in 2016 the programme will be extended to prisons in other cities such as Cali and Medellín.

Manuel got a new prosthetic leg and is now optimistic. "I'm in prison because I did something I shouldn't have done, but I want to work. It's difficult now because I'm old and not in good shape, but I can still produce, serve and make a contribution," he said.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our humanitarian work for detainees

In 2015, we continued our oldest activity in Colombia: visiting detainees. We also worked to bring the situation of detainees to the authorities' attention.

Visiting detainees

71% of Colombia's prison population benefited from our visits, representing **85,000 detainees**. We keep close watch on the situation of these detainees in order to detect possible ill-treatment and ensure that they have adequate living conditions and medical care.

After our visits, we submitted 195 confidential reports to the prison authorities with specific recommendations on how to improve the situation of detainees.

We pay particular attention to the situation of 6,000 female detainees and 1,500 teenagers in youth detention centres.

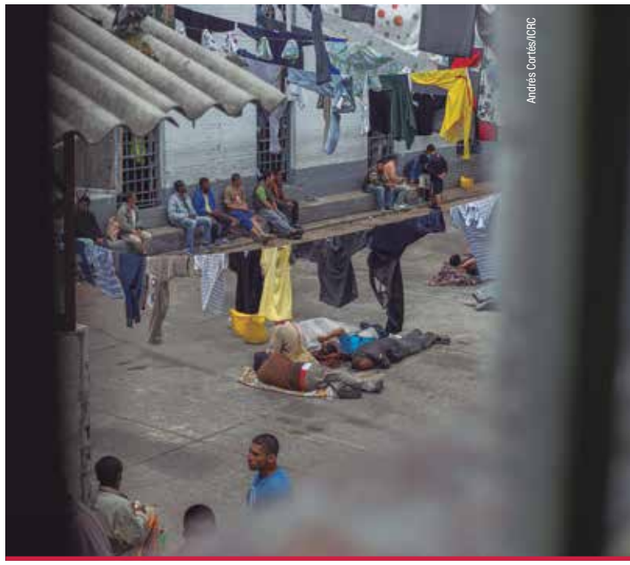
In 2016, we will expand our support programme for detainees with disabilities, providing prosthetic devices and physiotherapy. Last year, we helped an initial group of 31 detainees in Bogotá.

Advising the authorities

We are in regular contact with the authorities and work to ensure compliance with judicial guarantees, particularly concerning children and teenagers that have left armed groups.

Raising awareness

To mark 100 years of our work in the world's prisons, our campaign "Human beings, inside and outside" reached out to 8,000 people from prison authorities, universities, the media and detention facilities, spreading the message that detainees are human beings too.


Andrés Cortés/ICRC

Voices from the inside

"The past is the past. I learnt that you need to think before you act. I'll never make the same mistake again. I hope God will give me another chance to live outside of prison."

Dorila, Quibdó

"A big problem in this prison is overcrowding. But health is the worst problem in Colombia's prisons. Here, you just can't get ill. If you get ill, you die because the medical care is terrible."

John, Bogotá

Dealing with armed violence is a long-term challenge

One in every four of the alleged violations of humanitarian rules recorded by the ICRC last year occurred in urban areas. Violence that is unrelated to the armed conflict continues to take its toll on the population.

Edgar Alfonso/CRC

Buenaventura. In this city, the ICRC built 500 tombs to keep the remains of unidentified people.

Just imagine how it feels not to be able to go back to your own home. If you do, you might be threatened or, in the worst-case scenario, attacked. Your only option is to go and live elsewhere.

That's what happened to Gloria, in Buenaventura. After her two sons were murdered at the ages of 20 and 21, she started to receive threats. She left her nephew to look after her home and fled. With our help, she set up a small internet business so that she could support herself.

We heard many stories like Gloria's last year – people continued to suffer from the actions of organized groups that have nothing to do with the armed conflict. In 2015, we visited neighbourhoods left abandoned because of armed violence by gangs, as well as rural areas in which people live in constant fear because of these types of groups. Even once a peace deal has put an end to the armed conflict, this problem will loom large as a long-term challenge.

In 2015, there were 124 alleged violations of international humanitarian law and other humanitarian rules in urban areas. This represents a quarter of all the alleged violations recorded by the ICRC last year. It is twice the number recorded in urban areas in 2014. While the intensity of the armed conflict has eased, this other type of violence is on the rise. Most of these cases were recorded in Tumaco, Medellín and Buenaventura.

New forms of violence

In urban areas, ICRC employees recorded cases of turf wars, extortion and intra-urban displacement. Some cities on the Pacific Coast have become notorious for sexual violence and disappearances, although other urban areas around the country are not spared.

These different forms of violence, particularly the turf wars between armed gangs, have a direct impact on people not participating in the clashes. In some places, "curfews" and "invisible frontiers" prevent people from moving around freely in their neighbourhoods, limiting their access to basic services such as health and education.

Children are also often caught up in the fighting and used as informants by the armed groups. And for women, sexual violence by these groups is a constant threat.

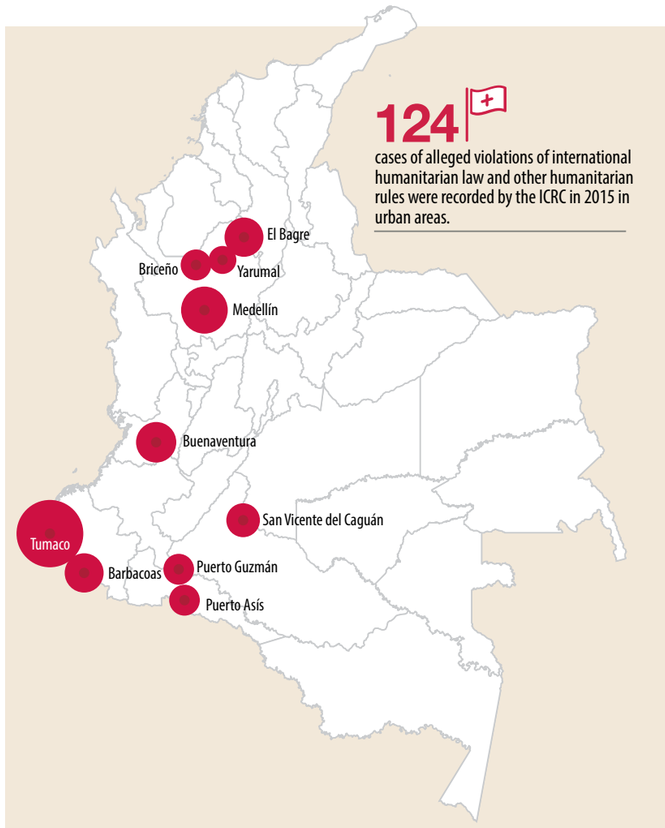
Maintaining a dialogue with the groups so that they comply with humanitarian rules represents a challenge for the ICRC, despite more than a century and a half of experience throughout the world. And the challenge all the greater because being able to access affected communities and provide them with humanitarian aid is still essential.

Getting better little by little

Esperanza still feels afraid, even in the tourist-filled part of Medellín in which she now lives. The place brings back memories of worse times: it's been 13 years since the massacre in which her husband was killed. Now she runs a microbusiness and gives work to other victims. She talks about her life with strength and humour, but she's still afraid.

THE IMPACT OF ARMED VIOLENCE
in urban areas

The ten cities in which the ICRC recorded the highest levels of violence affecting the population in 2015.



124

cases of alleged violations of international humanitarian law and other humanitarian rules were recorded by the ICRC in 2015 in urban areas.

The voices of the victims

“I can’t sleep peacefully”


Rebeca Lucía Gallindo / ICRC

Débora was a victim of sexual violence and had to move away from Buenaventura. For years now, she’s been working with other victims of sexual violence from the same city. “I’ve heard horrible stories about women who’ve been raped on a boat and then thrown into the sea. I met one woman who had been abused so many times that the trauma made her go deaf, and another woman who was burned with an iron. Tell me, how can I know all these things and sleep peacefully?”

She didn’t want photos of her face or her real name to be used, so she’s going by the name Esperanza. She says it sadly as if she thinks her life story is insignificant. She left her village seven years ago after her elder son, who was born with a mental disability, was assaulted. When they arrived in the city, they became victims all over again.

“We arrived in Medellín in pieces already and, and after just a few days, the threats started: they were coming to get us; they were coming to kill me and my sons,” she told us. “There are days I can talk about it and not cry,” adds Esperanza. But today isn’t one of them.

Victims like Esperanza face the daily challenge of rebuilding their lives little by little. Today, Esperanza has five machines in her small sewing business, the product of training and support from the ICRC, the Colombian Red Cross and government entities. She dries her tears and gets back to her sewing. She greets her customers with a business card. She’s smiling and it’s no wonder: she’ll soon be given two more machines and she’ll be able to employ more mothers so they can support their families.

It’ll be difficult to find the peace she had before she started receiving threats and lost her husband. But now nobody can take away her stability: “I want to study psychology, to help other men, women and children who have been through the same things as me.”


Edgar Alfonso /ICRC

Buenaventura. A group of women receive support from the ICRC to help with their business of collecting shellfish.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our response to violence beyond the armed conflict

The humanitarian problems generated by armed groups or gangs operating inside and out of cities require an integrated response. The ICRC supported victims in their efforts to find work and helped them move forward with their financial projects.


Didier Revol / ICRC

Fanny arrived in a dangerous part of Medellín after being displaced from her village. Selling potatoes allowed her to make enough money to support her children.

4,200 people in 13 cities affected by violence received support and training to help them find a job. 420 of them were from Buenaventura.

330 victims of the conflict living in six cities improved the productivity of their businesses thanks to a financial support programme organized in conjunction with the National Learning Service (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje, SENA).

3,800 inhabitants of both rural and urban areas of Tumaco (Nariño) were given better access to water through rainwater collection systems and other facilities.

500 tombs were built in the Buenaventura cemetery for unidentified bodies.


Didier Revol / ICRC

Roger lives in a neighbourhood affected by clashes between gangs and where finding a job is almost impossible. However, with help from the ICRC, he was able to open a barbershop and improve his family’s situation.

FROM THE FIELD

More humanitarian spaces, more alternatives

Catalina Fernández/ICRC

Medellín. In schools, pupils learn about safe practices in order to avoid being injured during armed clashes.

After four years of work, last year the ICRC and the Colombian Red Cross completed the "More humanitarian spaces, more alternatives" project aimed at reducing the effects of armed violence in six neighborhoods of Medellín.

In 2016, we will continue to work with communities in four priority areas of the city.

The initiative focused on three aspects:

1. Preventing violence in schools by raising awareness, setting up "school brigades" and conducting workshops on how to avoid accidents involving guns and explosive devices.

2. Protecting the population by establishing a dialogue with armed groups so that they respect those not involved in disputes. Communities were also trained in first aid, sexual health and psychosocial support and learned how to access government aid.

3. Helping victims to improve their financial situation through professional training, support finding formal jobs and access to microcredits.

In 2016, we will continue to work with communities in four priority areas of the city.

Some results achieved in Medellín between 2012 and 2015

170 families were given microcredits, advice and equipment to improve their standard of living and strengthen their business.

375 families were offered courses, professional training and references for companies in order to boost their income.

9,400 pupils and 950 teachers received training on safe practices when caught in crossfire and how to avoid accidents involving weapons and explosive devices.

240 members of youth and women's networks were given new tools for raising awareness of sexual and reproductive health in their communities.

150 teachers learned how to raise awareness among their pupils about the consequences of violence and the creative transformation of conflicts.

1,900 members of the security forces learned about international humanitarian law, the use of force, and human rights.

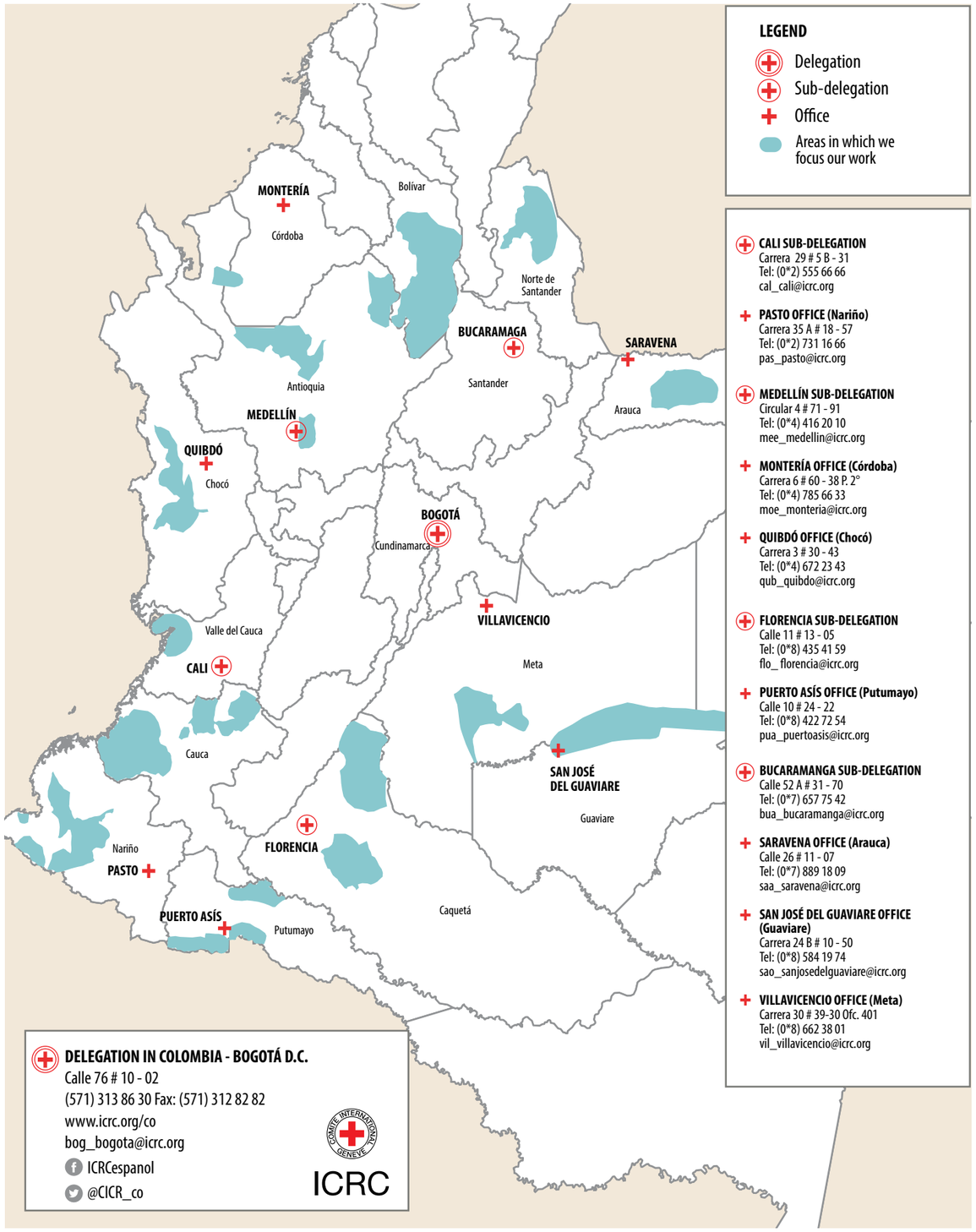
830 young detainees in specialized centres were visited by the ICRC.

Catalina Fernández/ICRC

Medellín. The project strengthened existing prevention mechanisms within communities.

WHERE WE WORK

The ICRC has 12 offices across Colombia, with
299 Colombian staff and 64 foreign delegates.



LEGEND

- Delegation
- Sub-delegation
- Office
- Areas in which we focus our work

CALI SUB-DELEGATION
Carrera 29 # 5 B - 31
Tel: (0*2) 555 66 66
cal_cali@icrc.org

PASTO OFFICE (Nariño)
Carrera 35 A # 18 - 57
Tel: (0*2) 731 16 66
pas_pasto@icrc.org

MEDELLÍN SUB-DELEGATION
Circular 4 # 71 - 91
Tel: (0*4) 416 20 10
mee_medellin@icrc.org

MONTERÍA OFFICE (Córdoba)
Carrera 6 # 60 - 38 P. 2°
Tel: (0*4) 785 66 33
moe_monteria@icrc.org

QUIBDÓ OFFICE (Chocó)
Carrera 3 # 30 - 43
Tel: (0*4) 672 23 43
qub_quibdo@icrc.org

FLORENCIA SUB-DELEGATION
Calle 11 # 13 - 05
Tel: (0*8) 435 41 59
flo_ florencia@icrc.org

PUERTO ASÍS OFFICE (Putumayo)
Calle 10 # 24 - 22
Tel: (0*8) 422 72 54
pua_puertoasis@icrc.org

BUCARAMANGA SUB-DELEGATION
Calle 52 A # 31 - 70
Tel: (0*7) 657 75 42
bua_bucaramanga@icrc.org

SARAVENA OFFICE (Arauca)
Calle 26 # 11 - 07
Tel: (0*7) 889 18 09
saa_saravena@icrc.org

SAN JOSÉ DEL GUAVIARE OFFICE (Guaviare)
Carrera 24 B # 10 - 50
Tel: (0*8) 584 19 74
sao_sanjosedelguaviare@icrc.org

VILLAVICENCIO OFFICE (Meta)
Carrera 30 # 39-30 Ofc. 401
Tel: (0*8) 662 38 01
vil_villavicencio@icrc.org

DELEGATION IN COLOMBIA - BOGOTÁ D.C.
Calle 76 # 10 - 02
(571) 313 86 30 Fax: (571) 312 82 82
www.icrc.org/co
bog_bogota@icrc.org
ICRCespanol
@CICR_co

ICRC

OUR MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

ICRC

2016.0043/002 03.2016 200