In 2019, our work benefited 557,000 people

- 261,000 people received income and improved their living conditions.
- 179,400 people received psychosocial care.
- 100,000 people received medical and health care.
- 100,000 people received sexual violence support.
- 29,400 people received livelihood inputs and other social services.

More reasons to be at your side
In 2019, we supported over 557,000 people*

- In areas affected by conflict and violence, our teams worked to improve health and hygiene conditions.
- In areas affected by conflict and violence, our teams provided psychological support.
- In areas affected by conflict and violence, our teams supported businesses.
- In areas affected by conflict and violence, our teams provided income and improved living conditions.

*The same person may have received more than one service.

In 2019, explosive devices and mines killed or maimed a new victim every day, people had to flee their homes or were confined to their homes due to the risk of violence. The conflict has left millions of people with a disability, with 557,000 people receiving medical care and 29,400 people receiving livelihood inputs and other services. In areas already stricken with low health coverage; natural resources were suffering; and people who were displaced were vulnerable to new forms of violence.

The tales of people who have suffered from the conflict and armed violence reflect the difficulty of moving for many in Colombia today. In 2019, Colombia received 17,900 refugees, with many more eligible for international protection. The ICRC’s Red Cross and Red Crescent partners remain committed to providing support. With 50 years of experience on the front line of the armed conflict in Colombia, we remain committed to finding pragmatic solutions to the challenges if they do not command sufficient resources to meet the needs of the population, and if their humanitarian action does not place the dignity of those who seek assistance at its very heart the voices of those who know the conflict and violence best are documented by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the ground. The fear underlying the victims’ tales, however, reveals an ever more complex panorama of abuses. We therefore call urgently on government bodies and civil society to take more forceful action to respond to people’s needs, amid ongoing violence. There are still over 700,000 people internally displaced, 130,000 refugees, and 29,400 people who are yet to receive aid. We need to ensure that those who have been proven guilty for their actions and omissions, such as members of the armed forces and other armed groups, assume unequivocal responsibility for their actions and omissions. All armed players must assume responsibility for their actions.

We are the International Committee of the Red Cross. We help people around the world affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence. We provide immediate assistance to those affected and support the efforts of states and other organizations to prevent and mitigate suffering. Our mission is to protect and help all those affected by conflict and violence.

More reasons to be at your side

HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES 2020

Protecting dignity amid conflict

The tales of people who have suffered from the conflict and armed violence reflect the difficult reality for many in Colombia today. In 2019, Colombia received 17,900 refugees, with many more eligible for international protection. The ICRC’s Red Cross and Red Crescent partners remain committed to providing support. With 50 years of experience on the front line of the armed conflict in Colombia, we remain committed to finding pragmatic solutions to the challenges if they do not command sufficient resources to meet the needs of the population, and if their humanitarian action does not place the dignity of those who seek assistance at its very heart the voices of those who know the conflict and violence best are documented by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the ground. The fear underlying the victims’ tales, however, reveals an ever more complex panorama of abuses. We therefore call urgently on government bodies and civil society to take more forceful action to respond to people’s needs, amid ongoing violence. There are still over 700,000 people internally displaced, 130,000 refugees, and 29,400 people who are yet to receive aid. We need to ensure that those who have been proven guilty for their actions and omissions, such as members of the armed forces and other armed groups, assume unequivocal responsibility for their actions and omissions. All armed players must assume responsibility for their actions.

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We provided medical and psychosocial care.

We donated medicines and medical supplies.

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A complex panorama of abuses

New outbreaks of violence enveloped Colombia in 2019. Although the agreement signed between the Colombian government and the ELN in November 2016 led to a reduction in the number of acts of aggression against health care workers, there has been a decrease in the number of acts of aggression against health care workers. However, the number of cases remains high, with 42 deaths and 352 victims of explosive devices and anti-personnel mines.

A wounded person being evacuated by the ICRC

Victims of explosive hazards and improvised mines

There has been a decrease in acts of violence linked to the conflict, but a rise in new challenges related to the humanitarian situation in the country. The phenomenon of under-reporting also complicates the ability both to analyse the situation and to respond appropriately.

Migrating to conflict zones

The figures contained in this document help us to grasp the spiral of pain that too many Colombians are enduring, as well as the problems afflicting prisons in Colombia go on generating hard to solve, together with other institutions.

Health care under threat

In 2019, the peace agreement implemented in the Colombian government and the ELN led to a reduction in the number of acts of aggression against health care workers. Although the number of cases remains high, with 42 deaths and 352 victims of explosive devices and anti-personnel mines, the number of cases has decreased in recent years, as the conflict has waned. In 2019, we recorded 93 new disappearances, 10% of which were related to the activities of armed groups. Other groups sometimes made them disappear or killed them.

The phenomenon of under-reporting also complicates the ability both to analyse the situation and to respond appropriately. In many cases, under-reporting is due to the inability of the authorities to provide the necessary support to the people we are searching for, only 116 cases were resolved in 2020, which currently total over 83,000*, with no sign of the problem waning. In 2019, we recorded 93 new disappearances, 10% of which were related to the activities of armed groups. Other groups sometimes made them disappear or killed them.

We urge the authorities to continue providing support to the Missing Persons Search Unit, in order to fulfill its mission.

To armed actors

We urge the Armed Forces and armed groups to comply with their obligation to know, respect the activities of health workers. This is equally relevant for armed players.

To the authorities

We urge the authorities to continue providing support to the Missing Persons Search Unit, in order to fulfill its mission.

To the international community

We urge the international community to step up its funding for humanitarian programmes aimed at meeting the needs of families who still do not know what happened to their loved ones.

We call on our colleagues

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