



### HAZARDS & IMPACT

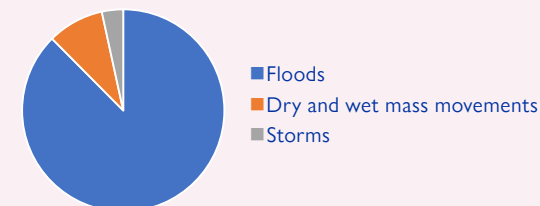
Colombia is the country with the highest disaster risk index in Latin America and the fourth highest globally due to its high exposure, vulnerability and challenges in counteracting extreme environmental events, according to the [Global Risk Index \(2022\)](#). Based on the Global [Climate Risk Index \(2021\)](#), Colombia ranked 38th among the countries most affected by disasters worldwide from 2000 to 2019, mostly due to the high number of fatalities resulting from these phenomena.

Between 2016 and 2022, Colombia registered 536,000 new displacements due to disasters (52.4% of them only in 2022, equivalent to 281,000 displacements) most of them linked to floods (87.3%), particularly affecting the northern region of the country ([IDMC, 2023](#)).

High climate variability exposes certain communities, especially those settled in flood-prone areas and unstable land in mountainous regions ([IDEAM, 2010](#)). Soil damage and water scarcity pose a risk to local communities in the Andes, while in coastal and island areas, flooding and sea level rise affect human settlements and economic activities ([SACM, 2022](#)).

For instance, in the Eje Cafetero region, displacements have been recorded due to floods, droughts, landslides, environmental degradation, gradual disasters such as reduced water availability, desertification, contamination, among others, ([CARDER, 2007](#) cited in [IOM, 2022](#)). It should be noted that the region is home to 56% of the country's population, contributes 76% to the country's gross domestic product, 75% of trade and 73% of general services (*ibidem*).

#### NEW INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS DUE TO DISASTERS (2016 - 2022)



**536K** Internal Displacements | **305** Reported Events

Source: IDMC, 2023





# Environmental and climate mobility in South America

## FACT SHEET: COLOMBIA

JUNE 2023



### NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND COMMITMENTS THAT HAVE INTEGRATED THE TOPIC

Colombia's long-term climate strategy E2050 to comply with the Paris Agreement includes the governance of human mobility as a strategy for the management of climate change. It encompasses an information system and the reduction of vulnerability at origin and destination for people exposed to displacement risk. The strategy calls for the inclusion of human mobility in national risk management systems and a national population strategy for the protection and inclusion of displaced and migrant communities.

The **Nationally Determined Contribution Update** (2020) acknowledges that climate change affects vulnerable sectors, particularly displaced populations, in a differentiated manner. It also recognizes that climate change causes environmental displacement.

**Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (2017) recognizes the impact of internal movements on the environment and notes that urbanization processes increase risks in cities.

The **National Climate Change Adaptation Plan** (2016) acknowledges that disasters can cause displacement and calls for greater technical and technological capacity to develop projection models in the territory (impacts on the productive structure, migration, settlement patterns of communities and the supply of ecosystem services).

**Law 1523** (2012), reforming the National System for Disaster Risk Management and Environmental Migration, establishes humanitarian aid in the context of disasters, providing shelter for three months to affected families, supports the recovery of livelihoods, establishes humanitarian aid channels, allocates temporary housing and provides temporary subsidies for rent.

### IOM ACTIONS TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE MOBILITY IN COLOMBIA



**Production of evidence on migration in contexts of environmental degradation, climate change and disasters:** IOM works to improve the evidence base on environmental migration and climate change in the region and in the country level through the project “**Strengthening the evidence base on migration, environment and climate change to improve IOM’s work in South America (2023 - 2024)**”.



**Technical support in the development of national and territorial climate change adaptation plans:** IOM provides assistance for the development of public policies on environmental and climate human mobility.



**Capacity building for better governance of environmental migration:** IOM strengthens government response capacities to environmental and climate migration by planning humanitarian assistance projects and generating response and recovery strategies. It also supports the implementation of assistance to communities affected by disasters, promoting their adaptation to climate change and strengthening resilience.

### MILESTONES 2023 (REGIONAL AND GLOBAL AGENDA)

1st & 2nd round of the Working Network on Migration, Environment, Disasters and Climate Change of the South American Conference on Migration, SACM

May 19 and August

Meeting of the South American Conference on Migration, SACM

September 7 and 8

Forum of Environment Ministers 2023

October 23 - 25

Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week

October 23 - 27

COP28

30 November - 12 December



This fact sheet has been developed in the framework of the regional project “Strengthening the evidence base on migration, environment and climate change in South America”, with the support of IOM’s Migration Resource Allocation Committee (MiRAC), 2023 - 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [ROBUENOSAIRE.IOM.INT/EN/MIGRATION-AND-CLIMATE-CHANGE](https://robuenosaires.iom.int/en/migration-and-climate-change) | CONTACT INFORMATION: [IOMBOGOTA@IOM.INT](mailto:iombogota@iom.int).

