



WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN REPORT

ISSUE 31.32 | August 3 - 16, 2009

COLOMBIA

Displacement of indigenous and afro Colombian communities **Armed confrontations in the region continue triggering displacements of entire communities, mainly indigenous and Afro Colombian people in Cauca and Nariño departments**

The Ombudsman's Office reported that 402 persons from an afro Colombian community in the rural area of Mosquera -department of Nariño- arrived in the villages of Naranjo, Mulatos and Mosquera (1 August) fleeing from intense combats between the Army and an illegal armed group. The Ombudsman's Office has received denounces by the community of alleged abuses by members of the Armed Forces. Although there is still no information available on the response to the emergency; preliminary information indicates that IDPs sheltered in El Naranjo (nearly 120 persons) would have already returned to their homes.

Press reports informed on the displacement of some 3.800 indigenous people of the Eperara Siapidara and Guambiano ethnic groups in the municipalities of López de Micay (Pacific coast of Cauca department) and Buenos Aires (Northwest of Cauca department). According to the source, IDPs are fleeing from combats between the Army and various illegal armed groups present in the department. IDPs are arriving in the city of Cali -Valle del Cauca department-, the urban area of Buenos Aires and the municipalities of Santander de Quilichao, Timba and Jamundí, in Cauca department. OCHA is currently checking this information with local authorities.

Displacement and at-risk communities in Antioquia department **Some 77 persons displaced in rural Nechi. More than 100.000 people at risk in the region of Bajo Cauca -municipalities of Caucasia, Zaragoza, El Bagre and Nechí-**

The SAT (Early Warning System for its acronym in Spanish) highlighted that the risk situation is due to armed confrontations between illegal groups that emerged after the demobilization of paramilitary groups. According to the risk report the fight for the control of illicit crops is increasing forced displacements in the region.

The most recent displacement occurred on 8 August, when 77 persons displaced within the rural area of Nechí. According to local authorities, the entire community of La Arenosa (98 persons) would have displaced. The Departmental Committee for IDPs is currently assessing the situation. Acción Social is providing emergency humanitarian assistance.

In the report, the SAT also indicates an increase in killings of protected persons, threats against teachers and community leaders, displacements and forced recruitment of children and teenagers. Zenú and Embera Katio indigenous communities bear the brunt of this territorial dispute. In order to define a joint plan and prioritize actions for 2010 the IASC Antioquia is planning a fact-finding mission to the region by the end of August.



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Awa organisations continue to alert on their precarious humanitarian situation

Mobility restrictions and displacements are worsening the already critical situation of food insecurity among Awa communities, resulting in the death of 5 children

During the last weeks, Awa indigenous authorities -UNIPA and CAMAWARI- issued communiqués on the critical situation of their communities. UNIPA denounced that during the last two weeks, 5 children -ages 1 to 2- died of malnutrition in the municipality of Ricaurte. According to UNIPA, the community in most critical conditions is located “El Verde” -municipality of Barbacoas- where nearly 200 indigenous IDPs arrived in February, following the massacre of 17 members of their community (see issue # 6). UNIPA reports that food supplies are scarce, shelter conditions are still poor and IDPs are not being assisted. In consequence, some of them are displacing towards nearby municipalities. A Nutritional Recovery Centre for the assistance of children under six was installed in El Verde and is expected to start functioning by September.

CAMAWARI has also raised concerns on the continuous targeting of Awa communities by illegal armed groups. In particular, 280 people are facing serious mobility restrictions and death threats by an illegal armed group in the communities of Piguantis, La Babosa and Puente Piedra, in the rural area of the municipality of Ricaurte. In order to reach the blocked communities 200 indigenous guards have announced a “humanitarian mission” to the area.

Colombia ratifies the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Law 1346 of 31 July 2009 gives a step forward to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy all human rights on an equal basis with others. The Convention and its Optional Protocol came into force on May 3, 2008. So far, 64 countries have ratified the Convention.

* Maps and graphics are not displayed in this issue due to technical maintenance on OCHA’s Humanitarian Information Integrated System (SIDIH). Data analysis from this period will be presented in the next issue.