

A black and white photograph showing a large, dense crowd of people, likely migrants, walking through a fenced area. The people are carrying bags and some are wearing head coverings. The background features several tents and buildings, suggesting a temporary settlement or a transit point. The overall scene is one of organized movement and displacement.

# Report on Migration Colombia 2024 - 2026

A large crowd of people, many carrying bundles, walking along a path in a camp or settlement. The scene is filled with people of various ages and backgrounds, some wearing head coverings. The background shows a dense area of tents and structures, suggesting a temporary settlement or a large-scale event. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy, organized community.

**UNOSSC**  
**UN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**  
**Commission Social Development and Population**

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**APRIL 2026**

Colombia is establishing itself as one of the most complex and dynamic migratory landscapes in the Western Hemisphere. To its role as the primary host country for the Venezuelan population is added its status as a territory of transit, destination, and even return within the framework of new regional dynamics. We seek to offer a comprehensive analysis of the migratory situation in Colombia during the 2024–2026 period, with a focus on human rights, governance, and institutional sustainability.

The document identifies recent transformations such as reverse migration, the sustained increase in international migratory flows, and the persistence of protection risks, especially for vulnerable populations such as children and adolescents. Likewise, it examines the current legal framework, institutional progress—such as the Temporary Statute of Protection—and structural limitations regarding socioeconomic integration.

Finally, strategic recommendations are presented, aimed at strengthening international cooperation, the protection of rights, and the sustainability of migratory policies in Colombia, in alignment with United Nations System standards.

## **MIGRATION**

Over the last two decades, Colombia has experienced a notable transformation in its migratory dynamics. Traditionally characterized as a sending country, Colombian territory has consolidated itself, especially since 2015, as one of the main recipients of migrant populations in Latin America, primarily due to the sociopolitical and economic crisis in Venezuela.

According to UNHCR data (2024), more than 7.7 million Venezuelans have left their country, constituting one of the largest contemporary human displacements. Of this total, approximately 2.8 to 2.9 million reside in Colombia, making the country the primary recipient globally.

This change has generated profound legal, economic, and social implications, forcing the Colombian State to redesign its institutional and regulatory architecture to respond to a migratory phenomenon that is structural, prolonged, and multidimensional in nature.

Migratory behavior in Colombia during 2025 showed unprecedented dynamism. According to Migración Colombia, more than 16,151,237 migratory flows were recorded between January and October 2025, marking a historical record for the country's international mobility. This led to 2025 closing with a total of 21,704,118 migratory flows, representing a 6% growth compared to 2024. Of those flows, 94.4% of migratory movements took place via air transport.

## **REVERSE MIGRATION**

An emerging phenomenon of particular relevance is reverse migration. The Ombudsman's Office (Defensoría del Pueblo, 2025) documented that between January 15 and February 28, 2025, a total of 19,134 migrants entered via the Panama–Chocó route, averaging 84 people per day.

This flow is composed of individuals who, after attempting to settle in countries in the northern part of the continent, are returning south under conditions of extreme vulnerability. Notably, 19% of this population consists of children and adolescents, which heightens the urgency for institutional responses utilizing a differential approach.

## **HIGH-RISK ROUTES**

Transit through the Darien Gap remains one of the primary irregular migratory corridors. This territory represents a high-risk area where migrants face threats such as disappearances, human trafficking, extortion, sexual violence, and death. In 2024, although there was a 41% decrease in the number of people crossing the Darien compared to 2023, 302,203 crossings were still recorded.

## **CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF MOBILITY**

Migrant children constitute one of the most vulnerable groups within Colombia's migratory dynamics. According to data from UNICEF, the country is facing a sustained increase in children and adolescents in situations of mobility, including migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

## **ACCESS TO EDUCATION**

The Colombian educational system has responded with a significant expansion in coverage. The enrollment of migrant students rose from 34,030 in 2018 to 590,489 in 2023, representing exponential growth in educational access. Nevertheless, it is estimated that at least 135,000 migrant children remain outside the educational system, highlighting structural gaps in inclusion and access.

## **PROTECTION AND RISKS**

The Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) reported a surge in administrative proceedings for the restoration of rights, which rose from 47 cases in 2015 to 3,643 in 2021, including 246 cases involving unaccompanied minors.

In 2024 and 2025, the situation remains critical; the ICBF reported 15,853 rights restoration proceedings aimed at protecting minors who were victims of sexual violence. Furthermore, it is estimated that there are approximately 800,000 Venezuelan migrant children and adolescents in Colombia, nearly 90% of whom have already attained regularized status.

### **Associated Risks:**

**Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence:** The ICBF provided services to over 61,000 migrant children and adolescents in 2024, primarily through prevention and early childhood programs.

**Recruitment by Armed Groups:** The Ombudsman's Office reported 55 cases of recruitment during the first half of 2025, affecting both children and adolescents.

**Malnutrition:** The vulnerable situation of migrant children demands urgent and coordinated interventions. These factors severely compromise the comprehensive development of migrant children, necessitating immediate and synchronized action.

### **INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND CONVERGING CRISES**

Colombia simultaneously grapples with international migration dynamics and internal displacement. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the country records hundreds of thousands of displaced persons annually, within contexts linked to violence, armed conflict, and illicit economies. In 2024, there were over 7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Colombia, representing a 4% increase for that year. The departments most heavily impacted by this factor are Nariño, Chocó, Cauca, Bolívar, and Antioquia.

The coexistence of these dual crises exerts cumulative pressure on state institutions, particularly in border regions and territories with limited institutional capacity.

### **LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Colombia has developed a robust regulatory framework regarding migration, with the following highlights:

**Political Constitution of 1991:** Establishes the rights and duties of both nationals and foreign citizens within Colombia.

**Decree 1067 of 2015:** Regulates the entry and exit of individuals within the national territory.  
**Law 2136 of 2021:** Establishes the Comprehensive Migration Policy (PIM) to promote safe and regular migration.  
**Resolution 5477 of 2022:** Regulates the application process for Colombian visas.

### **TEMPORARY STATUTE OF PROTECTION (ETPV)**

The ETPV constitutes one of the most ambitious regularization policies globally. This mechanism has facilitated the regularization of millions of Venezuelan citizens, streamlining their access to: education, formal labor market.

### **RISKS OF LACK OF PROTECTION AND RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

Migrant women face additional burdens, particularly in contexts of caregiving, labor informality, and the absence of support networks, which exacerbates their economic and social vulnerability.

Caregiving: They assume a greater share of responsibility for family care, which restricts their access to employment and educational opportunities.

Labor Informality: The majority operate within the informal economy, preventing them from accessing labor benefits and social security.

Access to Basic Services: Difficulties in accessing dignified housing, healthcare, education, and formal employment. These barriers perpetuate cycles of poverty and exclusion.

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND STATISTICAL MANAGEMENT**

DANE's Migration Statistics Information System (SIEM) constitutes a fundamental tool for the management of migratory public policy.

This system integrates data regarding:

Migratory Flows: The number of individuals entering and exiting the country within a specific timeframe, typically one year.

Healthcare: Health status, affiliation with the healthcare system, and enrollment in Colombia's insurance regimes, among other factors.

Education: Level of educational attainment, accreditation of professional degrees, access to education, and school-based discrimination, among others.

Labor Market: Employment status, contract types, and access to financial services, among others.

### **MIGRATORY GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Colombia has entered into pivotal international commitments, most notably the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the South American Conference on Migration, and the Brasilia Consensus. These instruments are instrumental in fostering a more systematic and efficient response to this global phenomenon.

Additionally, the country has maintained an active presence in regional coordination forums, acknowledging that migration is a transnational issue necessitating synchronized multi-state responses. Nevertheless, the long-term viability of the Colombian model remains heavily contingent upon the financial and technical assistance provided by the international community.

Migration in Colombia represents a structural, multifaceted, and enduring phenomenon that calls for holistic, human-rights-centered solutions. By spearheading innovative policies such as the Temporary Statute of Protection, Colombia has positioned itself as a regional leader.

That notwithstanding, formidable challenges remain in terms of socioeconomic integration, fiscal sustainability, and the robust protection of fundamental rights. Overcoming these hurdles requires a concerted effort between the Colombian government, civil society, and international stakeholders.

A black and white photograph showing a large, dense crowd of people, likely migrants, walking through a fenced area. The people are seen from behind, moving away from the camera. The area is enclosed by a metal fence, and there are several tall, thin poles or structures within the enclosure. In the background, there are buildings, some with corrugated metal roofs, and a large tent structure. The overall scene suggests a processing center or a transit area for migrants. The text "Report on Migration Colombia 2024 - 2026" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Report on Migration  
Colombia 2024 - 2026**