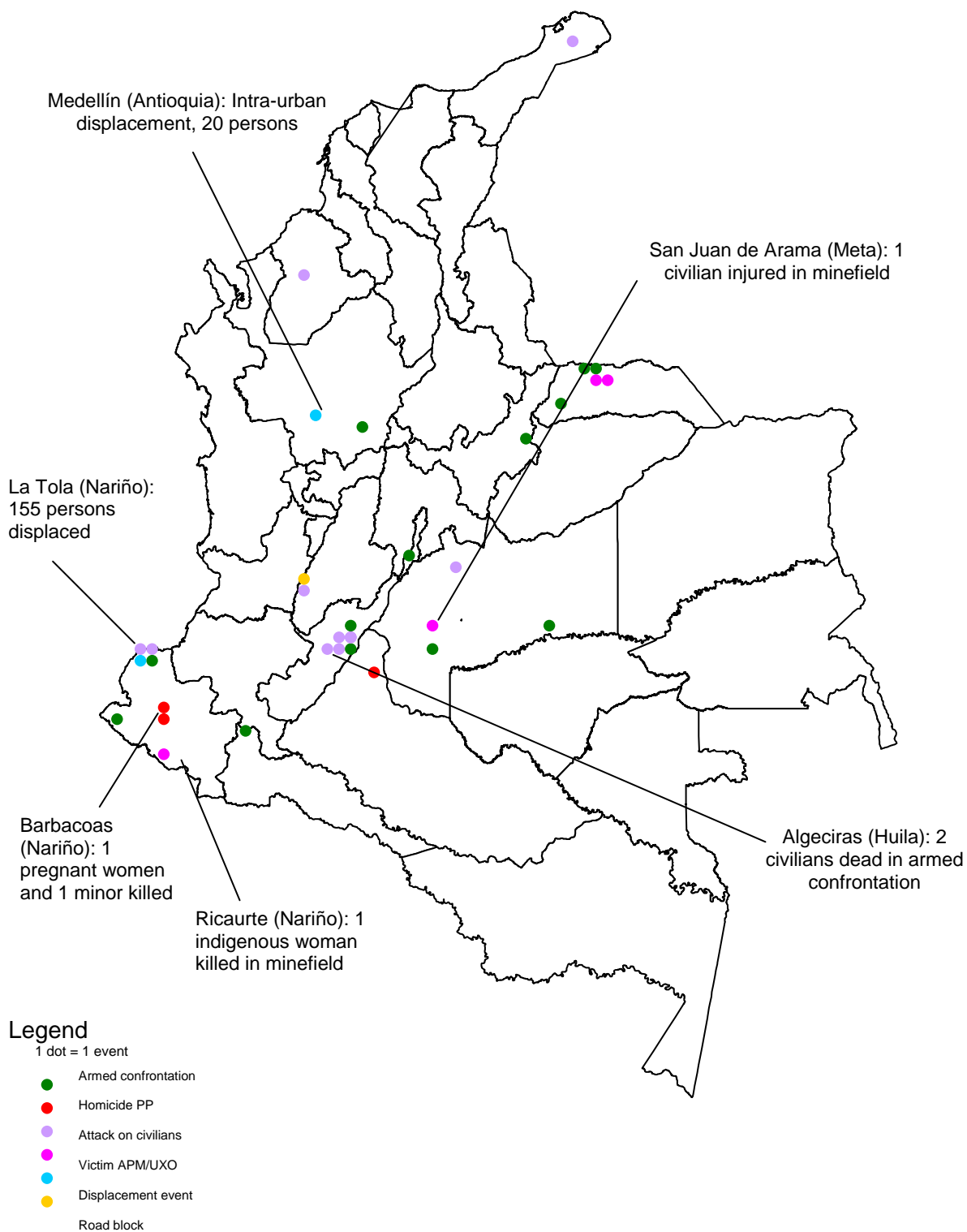


Highlights

1. More than 150 persons displaced in the Pacific Coast of Nariño Department
2. The Government of Colombia reports a reduction in the displacement trend during 2009



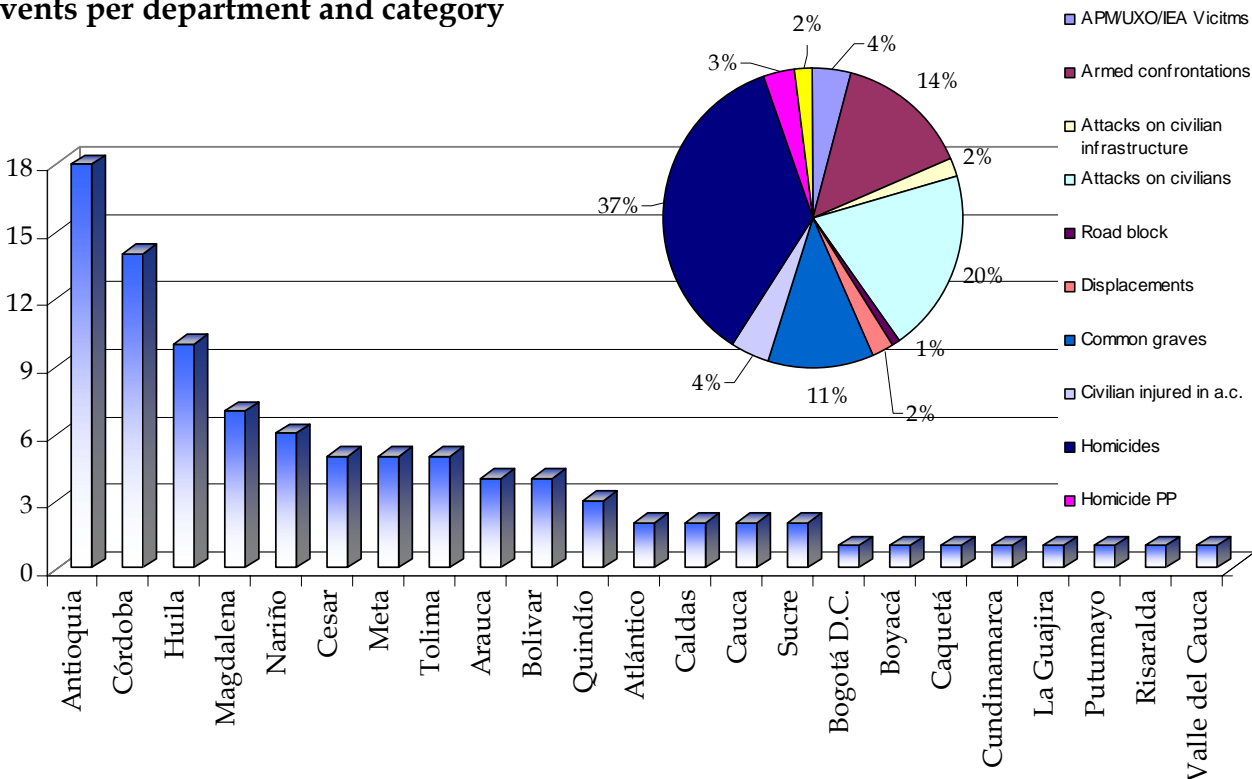
Displacement in Nariño Department

Rural inhabitants of the municipality of La Tola fled after the incursion of an illegal armed group

On 2 January, Acción Social reported that 31 families (nearly 150 persons) from the rural area of the municipality of La Tola (in the Pacific coast) displaced towards the urban area and the nearby municipality of El Charco. The displacement was triggered by the incursion of alleged members of an illegal armed group in the village of Tangareal, where two people were injured (one of them died afterwards). According to ICRC, 98 persons arrived in the urban area of La Tola (among which are 48 children between 2 and 13 years and 2 pregnant women). Also, 3 families were reported to arrive in the village of San Antonio (La Tola) and 5 more (approximately 15 persons) arrived in the urban area of the nearby municipality of El Charco. IDPs are currently staying in a public facility in La Tola. Local authorities both from La Tola and El Charco and ICRC are providing humanitarian assistance for IDPs. The Local Committee for IDPs Assistance is monitoring the situation and coordinating response. Most of the population in the area belongs to Afro-descendant communities.

⇒ At least 22 displacement events were registered by OCHA in Nariño department during 2009, with nearly 17,000 affected persons.

Events per department and category





HUMANITARIAN BULLETIN

ISSUE 1 | 28 December - 3 January 2010
COLOMBIA

Government declares a drop in displacement figures

The National Observatory of Forced Displacement, led by Acción Social, issued a report on the displacement trend for 2009

According to Acción Social, figures from the official IDP registry (RUPD) indicate “a drop of 56% in the number of displaced and of 20% in the number of displacement declarations received by the Public Ministry between January and November 2009, as compared to the same period in 2008”. Reportedly, the decreasing trend is a consequence of “a decrease in the factors associated with armed confrontation”.

The report highlights that the decreasing trend has been registered since 2008. However, national NGOs have denounced a consistent under-registration of IDPs, which results in many people not being included in the RUPD. In contrast with the decreasing trend reported by Acción Social, the local NGO CODHES estimated an increase of 24% in the number of IDPs during 2008.

⇒ *According to Official figures and NGOs estimates, the total number of IDPs in Colombia may range between 3.3 and 4.5 million.*

* All data herewith presented was processed by OCHA from official and secondary sources.