

3.2. Conflict dynamics and main areas of dispute

3.2. Conflict dynamics and main areas of dispute

This report does not purport to capture all the dynamics and ever-changing complexities of each conflict situation on the ground, and the following chapter presents a sampling of what are the main dynamics reported according to sources. It is important to note that they capture only a picture of the situation at a specific moment in time.

In 2024, the ICRC identified eight non-international armed conflicts taking place in Colombia, including between the State and the ELN, the AGC and FARC dissident groups; and FARC dissident groups against the AGC, the ELN and other FARC dissident groups.[300] The July 2025 military intelligence report identified 13 main areas of dispute by illegal armed groups, as well as the areas where alliances have been identified and areas where confrontations are taking place, as follows:[301]

Area	Alliances	Confrontations
Norte de Santander	-	ELN – EMBF
Southern Bolívar	ELN – EMBF	AGC – EMBF and ELN AGC – ELN and EMBF
Lower Cauca River, Antioquia	ELN – EMBF	AGC – ELN and EMBF
Arauca	-	ELN – EMC
Vichada/Guainía	-	SM – ELN ELN – SM
Chocó, Pacific coast	ELN – Shottas	ELN – AGC
Cauca	SM – EMC	SM and EMC – ELN
Nariño	FCS (Autodefensas Unidas de Nariño, AUN) – SM	EMC – FCS (AUN) and SM
Putumayo/Caquetá	-	EMC – FCS
La Guajira/Magdalena	-	EMBF – EMC AGC – ACSN

Area	Alliances	Confrontations
Valle del Cauca	Front 57 FARC dissidents – SM	ELN – AGC Front 57 FARC dissidents – EMC
Guaviare	-	EMBF – EMC
Meta	-	EMBF – EMC

In its September 2025 report on the mutations of armed groups, FIP provides a map showing the areas of influence and overlaps where armed and criminal groups have presence in Colombia:

Imported image pandoc_image_2.png

Figure 3: Geographic influence of armed and criminal groups in 2025302

Imported image pandoc_image_3.jpeg

Figure 4: Epicentres of violence in Colombia based on ACLED violent incident data (2018-2025)303

According to information provided to EUAA by Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), between 1 January and 24 October 2025, nearly 60 % of the violence in this period concentrates in 5 departments: Cauca, Antioquia, Norte de Santander, Nariño, Arauca.304 The epicentres of that violence, according to ACLED, are visualised in the map at Figure 4.305 Some of these epicentres are described below in additional detail.

Imported image pandoc_image_4.png

Figure 5: Municipalities with recorded presence of armed groups, 2018-2024306

ACLED also reported that the number of municipalities with a recorded presence of armed groups has increased from 355 in 2018, to 456 in 2024, marking an expansion dating before President Gustavo Petro and continuing under his administration.307 ACLED further noted there have been over 900 armed clashes between armed groups, marking a 61 % increase in that period.308 The conflict is marked by fragmentation due to volatile alliances and divisions within armed and criminal groups themselves.309

- 300

  ICRC, The human cost of armed conflicts in Colombia, 3 April 2024, url

- 301

  Infobae, Estas son las zonas en las que hay alianzas entre grupos armados de Colombia: Fuerzas Militares revelaron objetivos del accionar, 30 October 2025, url; Caracol, Estas son las zonas más criticas en cuestión de alianzas de grupos armados ilegales en Colombia, 30 October 2025, url

- 302

FIP and El Diálogo, Colombia, Mutaciones del crimen organizado, September 2025, url, p. 9

- 303

  ACLED, Data on political violence and demonstrations in Colombia, October 2025. Unpublished information provided to EUAA.

- 304

  ACLED, Data on political violence and demonstrations in Colombia, October 2025. Unpublished information provided to EUAA.

- 305

  ACLED, Data on political violence and demonstrations in Colombia, October 2025. Unpublished information provided to EUAA.

- 306

  ACLED, Data on political violence and demonstrations in Colombia, October 2025. Unpublished information provided to EUAA.

- 307

  ACLED, Data on political violence and demonstrations in Colombia, October 2025. Unpublished information provided to EUAA.

- 308

  ACLED, Data on political violence and demonstrations in Colombia, October 2025. Unpublished information provided to EUAA.

- 309

  ACLED, Data on political violence and demonstrations in Colombia, October 2025. Unpublished information provided to EUAA.

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu