

4.1.7. Confinement

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Confinement events were caused by the spread of illegal armed groups and confrontation between them as they seek social and territorial control and benefits from illicit economies and fights with the armed forces.⁵³¹ Confinement – as manifested in severe mobility restrictions on communities, curfews imposed by armed groups and the use of anti-personnel mines – remained a primary and increasing driver of humanitarian needs and risks.⁵³² As with displacement, figures tracking confinement varied among sources. However, ICRC reported that in 2024, community confinement became more widespread than any time since the 2016 FARC-EP Peace Agreement.⁵³³ UNOCHA also reported that, in 2024, 138 419 people were in confinement, marking a 58 % increase compared to 2023, with 66 % being from Afro-descendant and indigenous populations.⁵³⁴ Indicating a similar trend toward increased confinement, ICRC commented that the confined population in 2024 grew by 89 % compared to the previous year.⁵³⁵ They also noted that confinements in 2025 have spread to departments where previously there were none reported, such as Norte de Santander, Guaviare, and Amazonas.⁵³⁶ Below are examples of sources reporting on confinement figures:

Year	UNOCHA	ICRC	Office of the Ombudsperson
2022	96 200 ⁵³⁷ 87 646 mainly in	39 404 ⁵³⁸	62 380 ⁵³⁹
2023	Caquetá, Cauca, Chocó, Nariño ⁵⁴⁰	47 013 mainly in Chocó, Nariño, and Cauca ⁵⁴¹	66 279 mainly in Chocó, Putumayo, Nariño, Arauca, Valle del Cauca, and Cauca ⁵⁴²
2024	138 419 ⁵⁴³	88 874 mainly in Chocó (36 288), Antioquia, Arauca, Bolívar, Caquetá, Putumayo, Cauca ⁵⁴⁴	107 931 mainly in Cauca and Caquetá ⁵⁴⁵
2025		85 760 (January to May 2025) ⁵⁴⁶	11 490 ⁵⁴⁷ (January to May 2025)

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