



UNICEF Colombia/2022/Necocli

UNICEF Colombia

Humanitarian crisis caused by human mobility

Uraba

Report of activities in the municipalities of Acandí, Turbo and Necoclí

unicef 

para cada infancia

Report date: December 4 2023

1 Context information

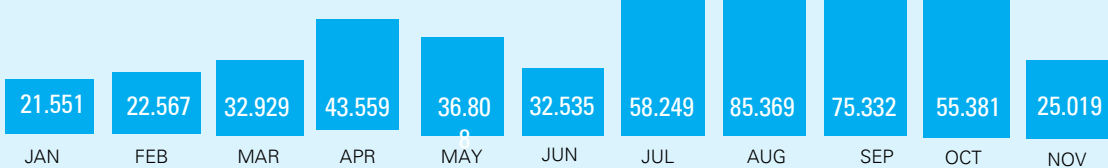
- In 2023, over 90,000 children and adolescents passed through the Darien Gap, with a significant portion of them being under 5 years old, and some making the journey without any accompanying adults or caregivers¹
- The journey through the Darien Gap may take from 5 to 10 days. Migrants encounter risks and vulnerabilities due to the challenging geography and climate. Children, in particular, are affected by the absence of essential services like drinking water and medical care, putting them at risk of diarrhea, respiratory diseases, and dehydration. Moreover, there are significant dangers related to violence, including sexual violence, human trafficking, kidnapping, and extortion.
- UNICEF, alongside its partners, is actively supporting the local government in Necocli and Turbo in providing water, hygiene, and sanitation services. Additionally, UNICEF is involved in implementing initiatives to protect children, including collaborating with authorities to identify cases of unaccompanied and separated children and providing families with information about potential risks along the migratory route and how to mitigate them.
- The municipality of Turbo is now a new departure point leading to Acandí and, subsequently, to Darién. Between 400 and 600 families find themselves in precarious street conditions, seeking resources to facilitate their ongoing transit, thereby heightening their vulnerability. Around 20% of these are children. In Necocli, migrant families resort to beachside camping while they gather the necessary resources to proceed with their journey through the Darién.²
- To ensure the protection and access to rights for migrant children, it is critical to continue strengthening the protection system, expanding the reach of rights-based services, incorporating a gender and age perspective both during the journey and within host communities. Prioritizing the pursuit of legal, orderly, and safe migration channels is crucial. Additionally, granting access to fundamental rights such as education, protection, and health for all migrant children should be a top priority.

1. Source: Migration Panama (cutoff October, 2023) 2. Source: GIFMM report

455.011 people have left Turbo and Necocli for Central and North America. (cut-off November, 2023)



1.581 Daily average | **84.6%** Are departures from Turbo (October)



Source: Migration Colombia (cut-off date November 2023)

- Acandí (COL) - Bajo Chiquito (PAN) - Lajas Blancas (PAN) transit route used by 90% of the people.
- Capurgana (COL) - Canaan Membrillo (PAN) - San Vicente (PAN) route: used by 10% of the people (+ extracontinental).
- Jurado [COL] - Jaque (PAN) - Puerto Quimba route: low traffic.

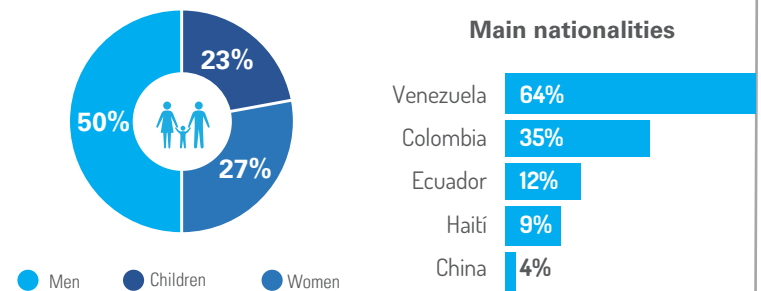
Urabá



Migratory movements

- 11** municipalities
- 18** indigenous reservations (Embera Katío, Zenú y Cuna)
- 533.926** Habs. (42% rural)
- 14.514** Venezuelans with the intention to remain in the country. Apartado and Turbo

408.972 people have crossed the Darien during 2023.



Source: Migration Panama (cut-off date September 2023)

Second region with the highest poverty rates: informal employment (62.25%), low educational achievements (58.4%), low access to sewage and safe drinking water.

- Main destination countries:** United States, Mexico and Panama.
 - Reasons for travel:** lack of employment / low income; widespread violence; lack of access to food; fear of persecution; family reunification.
 - 86%** of the population in transit through Colombia starts in countries such as Ecuador, Venezuela, Haiti, Chile and Peru.
 - Approximately 60%** are in an irregular situation.
- Source: GIFMM (January, 2023)

December 4, 2023

2 Sectoral needs

Sector	Territory	Identified risks and needs	Response
<p>Water, sanitation and hygiene</p>	Uraba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited access to showers and toilets, and limited access to critical hygiene supplies for migrants in transit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling showers / bathrooms (Necoclí). Vouchers for access to showers and restrooms at the dock (Turbo).
	Uraba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No access to water in rural schools in the subregion. Low coverage, quantity and quality of water, sanitation and hygiene services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening safe drinking water systems in communities and schools. Strengthening institutions and public service providers. Support to small and medium-sized service providers. Incidence and advocacy spaces. Private sector as an ally.
	Necoclí, Turbo, Apartado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generating popular and ethnic economies associated with water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening strategies. Multi-donor alliance strategies.
<p>Protection of Children and Adolescents</p>	Turbo, Necoclí, Acandí and Apartado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High rates of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-based protection and institutional strengthening. Developing menstrual health strategies and psychosocial support. Support fund for critical and sensitive cases.
	Turbo and Necoclí	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unaccompanied and separated children, begging and child labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative care arrangements. Family reunification support fund.
	Necoclí	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living on the beach/street, lack of support networks and use of free time of in transit migrant children and adolescents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedagogical, recreational, recreational and psychosocial strategies in Playa del Carmen..
<p>Education in Emergencies</p>	Urabá	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low educational attainment, increased school dropout rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of educational institutions.
	Necoclí	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interrupted educational trajectory in children and adolescents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary learning spaces.
	Necoclí and Turbo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early childhood migrant children on the beach and piers with limited access to health and nutrition services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Childhood Emergency Strategy (PIO strategy)
	Necoclí, Turbo, Acandí	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health risks (cutting, suicidal ideation, among others) in school contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychosocial support and construction of mental health networks. Support for play and recreational strategies.
<p>Health and nutrition</p>	Necoclí, Turbo,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High rates of food insecurity. Mental health and maternal and child health problems (pregnant and breastfeeding mothers). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to prenatal care and growth and development (Turbo). Strengthening the health system.

3 Sectoral responses



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

More than 56.000

children, adolescents and their families benefited from access to hygiene, water and sanitation services (WASH) in Necocli and Turbo through the distribution of hygiene supplies, access to drinking water and portable toilets.



Child protection

More than 12.600

children and adolescents and more than 10,000 caregivers have participated in violence prevention activities, receiving key protection messages to mitigate risks along the route and gaining access to key inputs through psychosocial and pedagogical strategies and the activation of cases in the event of rights violations.

More than 200 officials have participated in technical capacity building activities at the local level.



Education in emergencies

More than 1.218

children have participated in child development and early stimulation activities through the **PIO strategy**, including more than 300 caregivers in strengthening their parenting skills and child-rearing practices.

We established spaces to help **strengthen teachers' capacities** in educational institutions and transferred the methodology to ICBF community homes, community leaders and local organizations.



Social and behavioral change and accountability

Creating and strengthening groups with adolescents and youth in Necocli and Acandi to address their interests and concerns and provide them with information on the migration process and key messages during their transit:

- **17 adolescents and young people** participated in the group "Dejando Huellas" ("Leaving your mark").
- **More than 50 students** are part of the group of mental health guardians, in Necocli, Acandi and Capurgana.
- **More than 5,700 children, adolescents and their caregivers** have received information on their migration process and self-protection.

