



Colombia: Measuring durable solutions across government

A national framework to connect rights, official statistics and public decisions.

The framework is designed to help government identify places and groups facing persistent barriers, guide public investment and adjust policy. Linking population information with local conditions should make it easier to distinguish disadvantages associated with displacement from problems affecting the wider community. The intended result is better-targeted action for displaced and host communities; its effects will need to be tracked as implementation progresses.

Case study



At a glance

Country	Colombia.
Displacement context	Long-standing internal displacement linked to armed conflict, alongside continuing displacement and barriers to housing, livelihoods and services.
Government partners	National Planning Department; National Administrative Department of Statistics; Victims Unit; and relevant sector ministries.
Solution pathway	A national framework intended to track progress as people return home, build a lasting life where they now live (local integration), or settle elsewhere in the country.
Main challenge	Extensive but fragmented government records do not yet provide a fully integrated picture of progress towards durable solutions.
United Nations contribution	UNDP support to coordination and methodology; UNHCR technical partnership; and joint methodological work with the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS).
Headline results	Government working group launched in May 2026; a shared work plan agreed in June; a methodological publication released on 29 July; and a measurement pilot targeted for December 2026.
Remaining gaps	Data-sharing, indicator validation, pilot testing, recurring capacity and funding, and evidence of subsequent improvements in people's lives.



Fragmented information about interconnected needs

In Colombia, many displaced families are rebuilding their lives in towns and cities, where housing, secure access to land, employment and public services are closely connected. National authorities recognize persistent poverty, exclusion and inequality as key challenges among displaced families when presenting the new national policy in February 2026.

Colombia already had substantial experience in recognising and monitoring displacement. Since Law 387 of 1997, its first comprehensive displacement policy framework, and Law 1448 of 2011 on victims and land restitution, it has developed administrative records, indicators of the effective enjoyment of rights (IGED), and an assessment of whether people have overcome displacement-related vulnerability. The new initiative builds on these foundations.

The central obstacle was fragmentation. Administrative data, information collected by public bodies when registering people or delivering programmes, sit in different systems, governed by different rules and technical arrangements.

An individual service record does not establish that someone has rebuilt a stable life. A shared measurement framework is intended to help government see persistent disadvantages, compare conditions across places and population groups, and identify where further action is needed.

CONPES 4180

On 30 December 2025, Colombia approved its National Policy on Durable Solutions for Victims of Forced Displacement. The policy places long-term inclusion and solution pathways within a coordinated government agenda, within a framework of 10 years Action Plan. The development of this policy received comprehensive support from the UN's Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF).

The Action Plan (action 1.16) assigns the National Planning Department (DNP) responsibility for designing a national measurement model that brings together information about people, places and the wider context. Action 1.17 establishes a statistical working group within the National Statistical System. Together, these decisions connect the policy's ambitions to named public institutions and an official statistical process.



From a mandate to a practical sequence

The Sectoral Statistical Working Group on Durable Solutions for Victims of Forced Displacement was launched on 12 May 2026, attached to the Statistical Committee on Health, Social Well-being and Demography of the National Statistical System. At its first plenary on 18 June 2026, it agreed a four-stage work plan, assess information needs and existing sources; strengthen data exchange; develop the methodology; and test and validate it through a pilot. The group aims to complete a measurement pilot by December 2026 and will continue to operate in 2027, while the national measurement model has a design horizon to 2035.

Government institutions lead and own the process

The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) coordinates the working group with the Victims Unit. The latter, the public institution responsible for implementing victims' policy, holds its technical secretariat, supported by UNDP. DNP retains responsibility for designing the measurement model under the national policy.

Ministries and other public bodies contribute their sector responsibilities and official data. The technical secretariat reports 39 members, including government entities, UNDP, UNHCR and the World Bank. This creates a standing forum where the institutions that deliver policy and those that produce statistics can agree on definitions, address information gaps and develop a common approach. It gives the work a permanent institutional home while the connections between information systems are developed.

Through the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF), UNDP initially provided dedicated support to the technical secretariat, helping the working group coordinate and function. Following the closure of the fund in August 2026, UNDP has continued to provide this support directly. UNDP has led the data and measurement line of work; UNHCR and the World Bank contribute technical support to the group's current operation. The government remains responsible for the national framework.

The Government of Colombia, UNDP and JIPS also jointly developed Measuring Progress Towards Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in Colombia, published on 29 July 2026, as one of the results foreseen through the IDSF support. It translates the national policy commitment into a proposed practical methodology using official data and international standards. It adapts the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's durable solutions framework and international statistical recommendations to Colombia's existing rights indicators and vulnerability assessments. The proposal builds on administrative records aligned with the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS), identifies displaced people by matching those records with the Single Victims Registry (RUV), and proposes the Household Social Register as the data repository, placing interoperability at the centre of the design. Final validation and routine application remain subsequent steps.



Local authorities, displaced people and civil society connect policy to lived experience

The wider national policy was led by DNP and developed through consultations supported by UNHCR, involving more than 2,500 leaders from victims' organisations, social organisations and human-rights groups, according to DNP's February 2026 account. These consultations strengthened participation in policy development.

Local authorities are essential to translating national policy into planning and services. United Nations promoted dialogue with city authorities, displaced communities and civil society in Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Buenaventura, Florencia, Tumaco and Quibdó. Their role in applying and interpreting the national measurement framework will need to develop as implementation reaches local level.

The key value of this nationwide initiative is in the actions taken once measurements are produced, whether an authority changes a plan, allocates resources or removes an access barrier, and whether people subsequently experience an improvement.

Remaining challenges

The main challenge has shifted from developing the concept to making it function across institutions. It is now about interoperability: enabling different information systems to exchange and use data consistently. Achieving it requires agreed access arrangements, common definitions and compatible technical procedures.

The working group provides a place to address these issues, but government institutions still need to establish or strengthen data-sharing agreements and resolve gaps in access and coverage. Each participating institution will have to identify how to maintain the information it contributes and meet agreed standards over time.

Administrative records were generally designed to run programmes, not to measure durable solutions. They therefore need to be assessed for coverage, quality, comparability and frequency of updating. They may not fully describe local conditions, repeated displacement or differences between displaced and non-displaced populations.

Sustain the work through government institutions and resources

A formal mandate and a standing working group create a stronger basis for continuity than an isolated project. They do not, on their own, guarantee recurring staff time, technical capacity or funding. Sustained ownership, adequate resources and continued prioritisation across changes of government will be essential.

The framework therefore needs to become part of regular statistical production and policy monitoring. Its long-term value should be demonstrated through use in national and local decisions, including the prioritisation of places, the allocation of resources and the adjustment of services. The next phase will need to clarify the dedicated resources and recurring government financing required for regular application. The 2026 roadmap anticipates an agreed indicator set, prioritized data-sharing arrangements, a consolidated methodology and a validated pilot by year-end.