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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Fundación Abba Colombia, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 August 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Mass forced displacement in Colombia and migration exodus; protection guarantees for affected families

Current situation: Colombia is currently experiencing massive forced displacement in the region of Antioquia; more than 4,100 people from the municipality of Ituango (data as of July 2021) have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to internal conflicts in the region. Different media have catalogued it as the largest forced displacement in Colombia's recent history, leaving especially families, women and children homeless. The massive and forced internal displacement in Colombia is considered one of the largest in the world, with the country immersed in an internal conflict that has been going on for more than 50 years. Families affected by this internal displacement have had to leave their few belongings and homes behind and have been caught up in dead-end crossroads in order to rebuild their lives. Many of these families are seeking urgent assistance and guarantees of protection, as well as the right to live and remain in their territory.

In the last decade, the region of Antioquia has been affected in different ways, not only by forced displacement, but also recently by the arrival of migrants in the municipality of Necoclí, an exodus that is currently being experienced by migrants from Haiti and Cuba.

The difficult situation currently faced in the country requires joint humanitarian work not only in the region of Antioquia, but in all territories, where displacement, confinement, migratory exodus and more are being involved on a massive scale.

Needs:

Food security and sanitary kits: Both food and sanitary kits are required to reach the affected people directly.

Temporary shelter: Temporary or transitional shelter is essential for affected families, where they can take temporary refuge while the different organisations in the area carry out the necessary intervention.

WASH: Water, sanitation and hygiene: Sanitation kits are not enough for the affected people, they require basic water and sanitation especially during covid-19; the implementation of campaigns focused on hygiene is fundamental.

Coordination on emotional support and mental health (MHPP): Mental health and emotional programs coordination is required to provide support for families and individuals who are being affected in different ways.

Responses:

Fundación Abba Colombia is currently present in the region in different ways. Joint work agreements have been reached with the Colombia Red Cross, Antioquia region to work on issues related to child protection and emergencies, especially in these emergencies that require joint work.¹

The implementation of this humanitarian work will reach its full success by joining forces both at the national level with the different entities that are being affected and entities that are working on the ground, and also at the international level with organizations that are working in the country or wish to join the humanitarian work that Abba Colombia is currently carrying out in the country.²

Cruz Roja Colombiana Seccional Antioquia, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

¹ <https://spark.adobe.com/page/rojUCaMTW11WV/>.

² <https://abbacol.org/contacto/>.