

COLOMBIA FACTFILE

Where is Colombia?

- Colombia is a country in South America
- It borders Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela
- The coastline touches the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean

Capital city:

- The capital of Colombia is Bogotá

Population:

- About 49 million people live in Colombia

Time difference:

- Colombia is 6 hours behind Scotland (GMT -6)

Poverty:

- More than 1 in 3 people in Colombia live in poverty

Peace and Conflict:

- Colombia has faced a long history of violence and conflict.
- In 2016, a peace agreement was signed—but problems continue.
- Over 6.9 million people have had to leave their homes because of violence.
- Colombia is now considered the least peaceful country in South America.

MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES IN COLOMBIA

Where is Chocó?

Chocó is a region in Colombia, between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes mountains. It's full of nature, wildlife, and culture—but it's also the poorest area in Colombia.

SCIAF works with Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities in Chocó, helping them protect their land, culture, and rights.

EMBERÁ

Emberá people are one of Colombia's largest Indigenous groups. Many live in Chocó. Their culture is closely connected to the land and nature.

In the 1500's Spanish and other European colonists came to Colombia and took land from the Emberá. Emberá communities fought to protect their ancestral land from exploitation but were forced to move deeper into the forests.

Today, the Emberá people still face many problems:

- **Illegal mining and violence make it hard for them to live safely.**
- **Even though their rights are protected in law, they are still being pushed off their land.**
- **Many Emberá have been displaced (forced to move) because of conflict.**
- **The United Nations says the Emberá are one of the most at-risk Indigenous groups in the world.**

AFRO-COLOMBIAN COMMUNITIES

About 550,000 people live in Chocó, and most are Afro-Colombian. Their ancestors were brought from Africa as enslaved people in the 1600's.

Even after abolition, Afro-Colombian people continued to face racism, discrimination, and poverty.

In the 1990s, the government gave Afro-Colombian communities territorial rights, meaning they could legally live on their land —just like Indigenous groups.

Today, Afro-Colombian communities still face many problems:

- **Armed gangs and drug traffickers are taking over their land.**
- **Many Afro-Colombians have been forced to flee their homes.**
- **They are now some of the most excluded people in Colombia.**

VOCABULARY CHECK

MATCH THE MEANING TO THE WORD

WORD	MEANING
	People forced to leave their homes due to conflict or danger
	Original people of a land or region
	Treated unfairly due to race, background, or beliefs
	People who were taken and forced to work without freedom
	People who came to a land or country to take control and settle in it
	Unfair treatment or use of people or resources for benefit
	The act of ending something (like slavery) officially
	Legal permission to live and control a certain area of land