

# VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN COLOMBIA

November 2018

According to official Colombian government figures, at the end of November 2018 there were more than **one million Venezuelans** in the country. Of these, **624,654** are in a regular

situation, **189,264** are in the process of regularization and **218,098** are in an irregular situation. Refugees and migrants have increasingly urgent needs.

The Interagency Group of Mixed Migratory Flows (GIFMM) coordinates the response of the United Nations and NGOs, and supports the Government in responding to these needs.

*This report reflects the response of the Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) to refugees and migrants from Venezuela, Colombian returnees, and host communities in November 2018.*

## KEY UPDATES

- On November 21, the Ombudsman indicated that more than 300,000 Venezuelan children and adolescents in 13 departments in Colombia require special attention, due to their exposure to "high-risk situations" such as sexual exploitation, trafficking and forced child labor. Those without documentation are especially vulnerable.
- On November 22, 43 Venezuelan women were rescued from situations of sexual slavery in Bogotá D.C, highlighting the protection needs of vulnerable women in Colombia.
- On November 24, the President of Colombia, Ivan Duque, published a strategic document on economic and social policy ([CONPES](#), in its Spanish acronym) to address the arrival of Venezuelans in Colombia. The document describes the government's strategy for the care of the Venezuelan population, which includes medical care, education, early childhood, adolescence, work, housing and security. The budget is an estimated 422,799 million pesos between 2019 and 2021. The Colombian Family Welfare Institute ICBF will receive 89% of the resources needed to help refugees and migrants from Venezuela.
- Migración Colombia, reopened on November 27 the registration for the Border Mobility Card, which allows the Venezuelan population to enter the border areas of Colombia to obtain goods and services for periods of up to 7 days.

## KEY FIGURES\*

- **1,032,016** Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Colombia.
- More than **300,000** Colombians have returned to Colombia in 2018.
- **434,654** Venezuelans have the PEP. **189,264** people are in the process of regularization.
- **838,479** Venezuelans left Colombia in 2018. Of these, **618,280** Venezuelans crossed Colombia and left the country through the Rumichaca Bridge in Nariño, on the border with Ecuador.

\* Official figures published on November 13

## OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

*This information includes activities of GIFMM members until the end of November, including activities that benefit refugees and migrants from Venezuela, Colombian returnees and host communities.*

### 1. DIRECT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

#### 1.1 HEALTH

- **The Adventist Agency for Development and Assistance Resources (ADRA)** made 317 medical consultations in Bucaramanga and Medellín.
- In the Care Centre of the **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** in Cúcuta, 364 women received prenatal care. Of these, 17 cases were referred to specialists for high-risk pregnancies, 55 women who were in labor were referred to hospitals, 40 women received counseling and provisions for family planning, 21 children under 5 received primary health care and a further 64 people attended health education sessions.
- **The Colombian Red Cross** has carried out 4,546 medical consultations with delivery of medicines, 12,096 nursing services and 1,524 first aid services in Migrant Care Stations, located in Santander, Norte de Santander, Arauca, La Guajira, Nariño, Vichada, Putumayo, Cundinamarca and Guainía. 563 people have been assisted through psychological consultation and 550 children and adolescents have benefitted from support activities.
- **The UN Population Fund (UNFPA)** in Norte de Santander and La Guajira have assisted 1,270 Venezuelan women: 320 adolescents were provided access to contraception, 555 women agreed to a long-term method of contraception, 318 women were given emergency contraceptives. A further 2,350 people received information about sexual reproductive health services. 2,238 people were given access to hygiene kits.
- **The Pan American Health Organisation and the World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO)** distributed 39 basic medical kits which can serve up to 1,000 people each, reaching a total of 39,000 refugees and migrants in La Guajira, Arauca, Norte de Santander and Vichada. 13 Comprehensive Community Care Units were delivered to treat people with acute diarrhea and respiratory infections, reaching a total of 3,900 beneficiaries. During November 24,464 people were vaccinated, through 754,255 doses delivered at 11 vaccination points supported by **PAHO**. A further 623 people received mental health care services and 11,190 health communication materials were distributed. 3,200 people received general medical attention, 500 people benefitted from health protection kits, and 7,500 rapid tests for malaria diagnosis were given to Health Secretariats for population screening. Health workshops were held for 130 people in Bogotá and 30 people in Norte de Santander.
- **The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** has provided the guidelines for the integrated management of acute malnutrition in children under the age of 5, through a virtual course which 1,155 professionals graduated from. The course was complemented by 3 training workshops in La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Bogotá with the participation of 174 medical professionals and nutritionists. In La Guajira, 188 children and pregnant and lactating women were treated for malnutrition while a further 1,668 were treated in Ipiales, Nariño. Health promotion and disease prevention activities reached 2,149 people in Ipiales, particularly on the Rumichaca Bridge.
- In La Guajira, **UNHCR, Malteser International** and a Venezuelan pediatrician provided basic medical attention to 153 patients in a medical attention day for refugees and migrants.
- **IOM** supported local hospitals in Villa del Rosario, Arauca, Maicao, Ipiales, Valledupar, Barranquilla, Tibú, Soacha and Bogotá to deliver 11 health days, which 3,839 people attended. In addition, expert consultants in tuberculosis, malaria, health provided specialised training to hospital staff.

## 1.2 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- **FAO**, in partnership with **UNFPA**, provided 100 hygiene kits to vulnerable women in the municipality of Maicao and held workshops on sexual and reproductive rights.
- **The Colombian Red Cross** distributed 41,887 litres of bottled water in the points of Santander, Norte de Santander and La Guajira. Fixed hydration points in Arauca and Nariño continue to provide 3,000 litres of drinking water daily. In partnership with **UNHCR**, **the Colombian Red Cross** has delivered 2,408 personal hygiene kits to men, women and children.
- **ADRA** has distributed vouchers to be claimed for hygiene kits to 150 people in Bucaramanga.
- In Norte de Santander, **UNICEF** installed a hydration point at the CENAF point at the Simón Bolívar Bridge and in Puerto Santander, benefiting 1,200 people. In Cúcuta, 200 families (1,000 people) benefitted from the installation of domestic water tanks and forty litre water filter and a further 6,000 children and adolescents are guaranteed access to clean drinking water after the installation of 7 pumps in Cúcuta. 900 family toilet kits and 900 oral hygiene and hand washing kits for children and adolescents were distributed in local schools in Villa del Rosario and Cúcuta, and 200 adults were trained on alternatives to sewage and waste water management.
- In Arauca, **UNICEF** delivered 24 hygiene kits to Venezuelan families.

## 1.3 HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORT

- In Cúcuta, **IOM (International Organization for Migration)** has provided transport for 80 people, 38 men and 42 women. Of the 80 people assisted, 52 said their final destination was Ecuador and 29 said Peru. In Guajira, 18 people with international protection needs were supported with transport.
- In Bogotá, IOM transported 521 people to the city of Ipiales, 60% of whom travelled to Peru, 35% to Ecuador and the remaining 5% to Chile.

## 1.4 FOOD SECURITY

- **The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** carried out the second of three animal health missions, providing veterinary inspections for 8,200 sheep, goats and cattle owned by 974 rural families in the municipalities of Uribia, Manaure, Maicao, Riohacha and Manaure in La Guajira.
- **FAO**, in coordination with the **World Food Program (WFP)**, delivered food kits to 1,964 families in the municipalities of Manaure, Maicao and Uribia in La Guajira.
- **World Vision International (World Vision)** in partnership with WFP, gave food vouchers to 5,670 people in Cúcuta, and trained children, parents and caregivers on healthy eating and personal hygiene habits.
- **The Colombian Red Cross**, in partnership with **UNHCR**, has distributed 1,034 individual food kits through Migrant Assistance Centres in Santander, Norte de Santander, Arauca, Guajira, and Nariño. In addition, deliveries of 2,860 family market kits have been made in Norte de Santander in association with the Spanish Red Cross and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). In Riohacha, La Guajira, in partnership with the **WFP**, the Colombian Red Cross deliver hot meals to 1,300 migrants a day with 65,336 breakfast and lunch services delivered in the month of November.
- **ADRA** delivered hot food to 2,840 Venezuelans in soup kitchens in Saravena, Villa del Rosario and Bucaramanga.
- **UNHCR** carried out, with the support of the Government and the ICBF, the delivery of nutritional liquid supplements to 1,185 people in the municipality of Maicao within the framework of the Paraguachón (Attention and Orientation Points (PAO) project, La Guajira. In Arauca, 185 people who were forced to sleep in the bus station on the night of November 30 due to roadblocks were given breakfast on the 1 December.
- **UNICEF** in coordination with **UNHCR** is operating a safe space in Rumichaca, and with the support of **WFP**, are delivering 270 refreshments daily in this space. More than 1,000 people use this space weekly.

- In November, **WFP** began a communication, information and education campaign on hygiene and nutrition for children under 2, pregnant and lactating women, and the use of vouchers to improve nutrition and diet diversity in La Guajira, Arauca, Norte de Santander and Nariño.

### 1.5 NON-FOOD ITEMS

- **The Colombian Red Cross** has delivered 530 shelter kits in Norte de Santander and Nariño.

### 1.6 TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION

- **The Colombian Red Cross**, in partnership with **IOM** and **UNGRD**, has provided comprehensive assistance to 7,240 people through the Transitional Migrant Assistance Centre in Norte de Santander. 50 Colombian returnees have been assisted with temporary housing.
- With the support of **UNHCR** funds, 290 people were accommodated during the month at the Scalabrini Migrant Centre.
- **UNHCR** supported a network of hotels in La Guajira that offers temporary shelter for a total of 65 people. The support was directed to families and consists of 3 to 6 days. **IOM** in Bogotá provided temporary accommodation to 190 people, who received food, shelter and were able to contact their relatives and loved ones under the agreement with and Association of Special Employment Centres (CESCAMI for its Spanish acronym).

### 1.7 EDUCATION

- **Save the Children** created two community education committees, each comprised of 21 people in Arauca, in Brisas del Puente and Jerusalem. The committees supported two educational institutions Francisco José de Caldas and La Santa Teresita to strengthen their inclusion and welfare capacity to care for children in vulnerable situations. 2,700 children and adolescents attend these institutions. In addition, **Save the Children** rolled out their "Improving Together Learning Environments during Emergencies" strategy Gustavo Villa Díaz and the Monserrate Educational Centre, to improve the learning environments of an additional 1190 children and adolescents.
- **Save the Children** trained the teaching team and supported the establishment of community education committees in three indigenous educational centres in Maicao, which will benefit more than 5,000 children and adolescents.
- **World Vision** delivered educational and hygiene vouchers to 107 children and adolescents in Cúcuta, and held training child protection training sessions with 82 educational leaders.
- In La Guajira, 3,420 children and adolescents accessed alternative educational spaces through **UNICEF** and have benefitted from the delivery of school kits. A further 374 children received a hygiene kit, and 10 educational institutions received teaching materials. **UNICEF** delivered 362 educational suitcases to teachers from schools in Uribía and Manaure, benefitting 608 students. Training was provided to 513 teachers for the management of temporary spaces or classrooms. **UNICEF** installed 3 classrooms in Manaure, Uribía and Maicao and donated school equipment. 2,540 children and adolescents received psychosocial attention in three temporary educational spaces.

### 1.8 MULTI-SECTOR

- The **IRC** completed its last round of multi-purpose emergency cash distributions in Cúcuta in October, and continues to provide follow-up and support to beneficiaries to answer questions and concerns about their debit cards, including the replacement of lost or stolen cards. The cash team has received references from more than 100 families from the **IRC** health and protection programs, as well as from other agencies, which will be evaluated according to pre-established vulnerability criteria for their possible inclusion in the multi-purpose cash program as of December.

- **OXFAM, CRC/ FICR** (with UNHCR funds), **NRC, Capellania Nacional, Samaritan's Purse y Fraternidad Internacional** have provided more than 58,000 multisector services (WASH, Shelter, Protection, GBV, Information and NFI) provided to walkers on the route Cúcuta - Bucaramanga.

## 2. PROTECTION RESPONSE

### 2.1 REGISTRATION AND REGULARIZATION

- In November, **UNHCR** managed the issuance of 5,201 Special Stay Permits (PEP) in La Guajira. In Arauca, 2,588 people were attended at the Orientation and Attention Points (PAO).
- **UNHCR**, in partnership with the National Registry Office, supported 17 people with the process of civil registration, pending access to their identification. **UNHCR**, in partnership with the local government, carried out the systematization of information for people from Venezuela with registration and documentation needs in the communities of Nazareth and Puerto López in the municipality of Uribía, La Guajira benefiting 1,140 people.
- In Cali, the Ministry of Health held an information day to assist the migrant and refugee population to be registered with the subsidised social security scheme (SISBEN for its Spanish acronym) and update their data in the system. With the support of **NRC, Pastoral del Migrante, IOM, UNHCR and World Vision**, guidance and legal advice was provided, 19 PEPs were issued and information was provided to more than 200 people. In Popayan, **Alianza por la Solidaridad** with the support of **NRC and UNHCR** carried out an information and orientation day for the Venezuelan population. 14 PEPs were issued and 160 people received information.

### 2.2 INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION

- **The Colombian Red Cross** oriented 3,347 migrants and refugees in Santander and Norte de Santander, 2,536 people accessed free WIFI services, 1,131 people used national call services and 1,932 people used mobile phone charging stations in Norte de Santander, Guajira and Nariño.
- Together with the Government, **UNHCR** provided assistance and guidance to 4,736 people in Riohacha, Maicao, Fonseca, San Juan and Uribía through Attention and Orientation Points (PAO). A further 1,391 people benefitted from legal advice through the network of local ombudsman.
- **UNHCR** opened a new PAO in Valledupar with the objective of providing legal advice and assistance to people of interest residing in the area. The project is being implemented together with the support of the local authorities of Cesar.
- **UNHCR** assisted in orienting 260 people in Arauca, in partnership with the Ombudsman Protection Network, and 39 people in Bogota, in partnership with the legal department at Rosario University.
- With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **IOM** designed and implemented a pedagogical tool for the promotion of orderly and regulated migration and the prevention of irregular migration called *Leaving or returning, with rights* (in Spanish, *¡Salir o regresar, al derecho!*). The workshops were held in Bogotá, Pereira, Armenia, Barranquilla, Cartagena, Cúcuta and Pasto, and around 450 people participated.

### 2.3 CHILD PROTECTION

- **IRC** directly assisted 72 children and adults in Cúcuta, including individual psychosocial care for child survivors of abuse and neglect, information for parents about available services and children's rights, and referrals to other agencies for specialised services, including school enrollment. 70 children attended services in the children's area located in the **IRC** Care Centre in Cúcuta. 86 adolescents have begun to participate in the 3-month SAFE program. 134 parents and caregivers participated in the *Families Make the Difference* program, which provides training for parents in emergency situations. IRC trained 19 community leaders on how to refer child protection concerns.

- **NRC**, with funds from **UNHCR**, have provided 8,870 children with child friendly spaces near the Simon Bolivar International Bridge, and in the La Margarita Health Centre in Cúcuta.
- **Save the Children** provided protection for more than 400 children in friendly spaces in Arauca and La Guajira and held an awareness workshop with 17 parents at the Migrant Assistance Centre, Maicao.
- **UNICEF** has been implementing a new Mine Risk Education initiative in Putumayo, with the aim of protecting migrant children and adolescents in border areas by providing humanitarian assistance to victims of anti-personnel mines, unexploded ordnance and explosive traps. The project reaches 4,000 children and adolescents and 3,000 adults and caregivers. In Arauca, **UNICEF** carried out recruitment prevention activities for 30 children and adolescents and 8 adults, in Nariño, they supported the Government in the identification of recruitment prevention routes for 6 cases.
- **WFP** supports the "child-friendly space" run by **UNICEF** near the Rumichaca Bridge, providing healthy snacks for 270 children and their mothers daily.

### 2.4 SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

- **IRC** in Cúcuta provided case management services to 112 women in crisis, including individual psychosocial care and connection to health services for survivors of SGBV. 298 women participated in group psychosocial activities in their communities and in the Care Centre and 18 women and girls used the women's safe space.
- The **Colombian Red Cross** conducted 10 activities to promote non-violence in Norte de Santander, Arauca and Nariño.
- **NRC** (with **UNHCR** funds) attended 5,489 women in November through its protective spaces on the Simon Bolívar Bridge and La Margarita Health Centre, Norte de Santander.

## 3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INCLUSION

### 3.1 INCLUSION ACTIVITIES

- In Arauca, **Save the Children** held meetings with 79 community members to discuss approaches on community inclusion.
- **Save the Children** created two community protection committees made up of 16 people in the informal settlements of Brisas del Puente and Jerusalém, Arauca.
- In Cúcuta, **World Vision** trained 97 people in entrepreneurship, market and financial studies. During November they supported 30 microenterprises.
- In Cúcuta, the **Colombian Red Cross**, in partnership with the Spanish Red Cross and AECID, has carried out identification, characterization and profiling of 61 microenterprises for migrants and receiving communities at a group and individual level.
- In Cúcuta, **UNHCR** and **IOM** participated in the *Attention and Service Fair for Returned Colombians and Venezuelan Migrants* in Cúcuta, promoted by the Ministry of Labor and in Arauca **UNHCR** funded a job fair, attended by 70 people. **UNHCR** conducted training on mixed migration for 40 journalists from La Guajira in collaboration with El Tiempo and Semana Rural.
- **Pastoral Social** in Ipiales is carrying out an assessment of the Venezuelan population with status of permanence in Colombia, with the purpose of prioritizing programs for the local integration of this population in 2019. Initial findings suggest that some 1,000 families have been identified.
- In Atlántico and Bolivar, **IOM** in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, assisted 43 beneficiaries with seed capital for their micro-enterprises to assist with their productive return to Colombia.

### 3.2 PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

- In La Guajira, **UNHCR** held a community awareness meeting with a Wayuu community in Chichituy, which borders the site where a planned transit centre is expected to house approximately 1,000 refugees and migrants. **UNHCR** held a participatory meeting with 110 community leaders, providing

training on International Refugee Law, identifying social cohesion initiatives, mapping institutional presence and discussing the social fabric in their communities.

### DATA & ANALYSIS

- **World Vision** conducted 2 Rapid Context Assessments in La Guajira and Ipiales.
- The **UNFPA** Regional Measles Adviser visited Cartagena and Cúcuta to conduct assessments.
- **FAO, WFP and UNICEF** conducted a needs analysis on food security and nutrition of migrants in 15 municipalities in Arauca, La Guajira and Norte de Santander in August 2018. According to the recently published results of the study, almost 60% of the migrant population are at risk of food insecurity and more than 40% are at high risk of food insecurity.

### COORDINATION

- On November 16, the first Migration Committee meeting was held in Cali led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with participation of department and local representatives and local **GIFMM** members. On November 30, the **GIFMM** Cali held their first meeting with 6 members.
- On November 26, **UNHCR and IOM** supported the development of a regional workshop with six Venezuelan organizations in Cúcuta and Bucaramanga (19 people) and local authorities. This workshop was part of the government's process to promote the participation of the Venezuelan people in the design of national public policies to respond to the Venezuelan situation.
- On November 29, Felipe Muñoz, Director of Borders, Raúl Buitrago, General Secretary of the Mayor of Bogotá and Cristina Vélez, Secretary of Social Integration, hosted the first session of the intersectoral migration working group in Bogotá. **UNHCR and IOM** affirmed their joint commitment to the response for migrants and refugees in the city of Bogotá through the GIFMM Bogotá.

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