

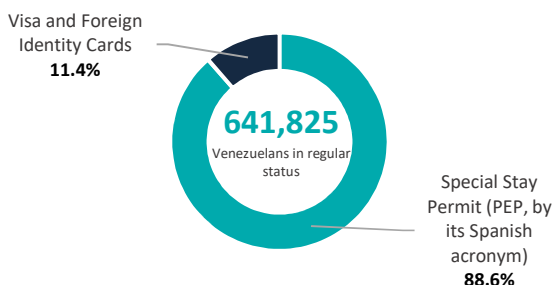
The number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Colombia reached 1.6 million by the end of October, according to official figures from Colombia Migration. The population has required and continues to require humanitarian action with a two-fold approach: on the one hand, addressing the immediate needs of the population in the short term, and, on the other hand, implementing sustainable initiatives as a long-term strategy. With this background, the Interagency Group on Mixed Migratory Flows (GIFMM, by its Spanish acronym) was formed, which is currently composed of 61 members at the national level and coordinates the humanitarian response for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees, and host communities. In addition to the national level, the platform includes eight local GIFMMs covering 11 departments, from which assistance is also provided to target populations, complementing the Colombian state's response, and a *back to back* system is utilised in close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team.

KEY FIGURES

VENEZUELAN IN COLOMBIA¹

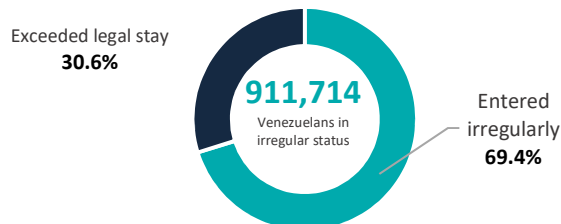
1,630,903 Venezuelans in Colombia

In regular migratory status



+77,364 within the period established by law (including tourist visas and other types of short-term stay)

In irregular migratory status



3.3 million approved Venezuelans with Temporary Border Mobility Card (TMF, by its Spanish acronym)

354,124 Venezuelans with Temporary Transit Permit (PIP-TT, by its Spanish acronym)

456,434 Venezuelans have left Colombia in 2019 via the Rumichaca International Bridge

RESPONSE

35

Key Partners

40

Implementing partners

342,000

Beneficiaries who received one or more types of assistance



26 Departments

109 Municipalities

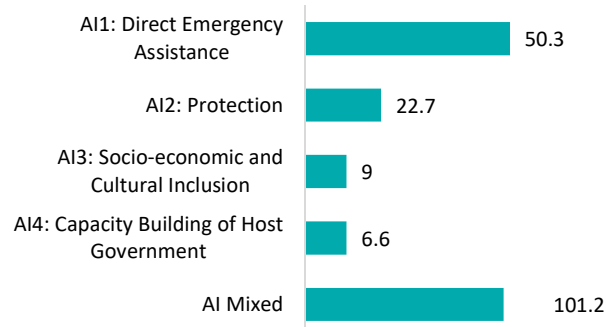
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW²

US\$ 315M Requested funding

US\$ 189M Funding received



Funding per Area of Intervention - in millions of US\$



¹ In-depth Analysis by Colombia Migration Infographic as of 31 October and Migration Report of Venezuelans in Colombia as of 21 October 2019.

² Partial financial information until the end of October, including paid commitments and contributions, but not contributions for multiple countries. For more information: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary%20>

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- On 15 October, eleven countries in South, Central, and North America, as well as the Caribbean implemented the Unified Vaccination Card, which was proposed and promoted by the Colombian government. The card is intended for the Venezuelan population as a universal registry of vaccines in order to protect the health of card holders and provide them with more efficient services, as well as support public health efforts in the regions where Venezuelan refugees and migrants transit or settle.³
- On 20 October, the Advisor to the President for the Colombian-Venezuelan Border, Felipe Muñoz, announced the formation of a Migration Roundtable led by the government in Putumayo for the governmental response for the Venezuelan population in the department.⁴ Muñoz's statement is an important advance because, although Putumayo has a significant number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants due to the geographic characteristics of its border with Ecuador, the invisibility of this mostly irregular and highly vulnerable population has resulted in extremely limited assistance and the presence of very few humanitarian actors in the department.⁵
- On 27 October, regional elections in Colombia were held. It was noted that negative perceptions of Venezuelans were used in political campaigns in certain areas, on some occasions reaching the level of xenophobia.
- A presentation on the context of the humanitarian situation in Colombia⁶ revealed that, according to figures from the Victim's Unit (UARIV, by its acronym in Spanish) during the period of January to October 2019, 60,832 displaced persons were reported (52.4% women and girls). The most affected departments were Norte de Santander, Córdoba, Chocó, Valle del Cauca, and Nariño. At the same time, approximately 152,000 people were affected by floods. These figures confirm the situation of double and triple affectation in several parts of Colombia.



Oxfam and Fuerza de Mujeres Wayuu - FMW, support ethno-educational institutions with trainings on sexual and reproductive rights, delivery of non-food items, and conversion and adaptation of satellite classrooms. This photo shows one of the schools that serves as a protective space that welcomes children from Venezuela. © Oxfam

³ <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/Paginas/Las-Américas-ya-cuentan-con-Tarjeta-Unificada-de-Vacunación.aspx>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/felipemgomez8/status/118606335548704769?s=12>

⁵ José Guarnizo (10 October 2019). Video: "Crímenes y reclutamiento, los refugiados venezolanos atrapados en la guerra del Putumayo." *Semana*, <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/crimenes-y-reclutamiento-la-historia-de-los-refugiados-venezolanos-atrapados-en-la-guerra-delputumayo/636517>.

⁶ Contexto humanitario en Colombia. Enero a octubre 2019, OCHA. Available at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/es/operations/colombia/document/master-contexto-ene-oct>.

OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSE

Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

Considering the magnitude of the Venezuelan population's situation in Colombia, it is crucial to act quickly and efficiently with immediate assistance. To achieve this, the GIFMM complements the actions by the Colombian government in order to fill gaps in attention and satisfy the needs of the target population.

In ten departments, the GIFMM members ensured that the target population had access to adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, in addition to trainings on the subject. Nearly 1,500 people in **Norte de Santander** benefited from access to a source of potable water (in accordance with Sphere Standards); more than 25,200 individuals received kits for different profiles, including dignity kits, family kits, school kits, and kits for pregnant women, among others; and approximately 1,500 people were trained on sanitation and hygiene.

In response to food-related needs and as part of the fight against malnutrition in the Venezuelan population, around 178,800 individuals received food in community kitchens, and an additional 123,500 received food assistance through vouchers and another 1,500 in-kind. Also, more than 2,000 people attended nutritional prevention and management programs, three quarters of which resided in **Norte de Santander**, and 950 people in **La Guajira** participated in initiatives to increase production for self-consumption.

Considering the impact on the Colombian health system, the GIFMM members have made efforts to provide refugees and migrants from Venezuela with health services. For example, nearly 24,000 people in 16 departments received general medical assistance. Other services were provided, such as prenatal care to approximately 250 women, support for family planning and treatment of sexually transmitted infections to 2,000 individuals, methods of early detection and screening to 950 people, and mental health care and psychosocial support to 7,700 people.



In Barranquilla, HIAS attends the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population, including conducting sessions aimed at providing psychosocial support on sex and gender. © HIAS

multipurpose cash transfers benefited more than 1,000 individuals. Finally, about 12,700 beneficiaries received information on access to mechanisms for the satisfaction of basic humanitarian needs.

22 Key partners

32 Implementing partners

321,400 Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

18 Departments

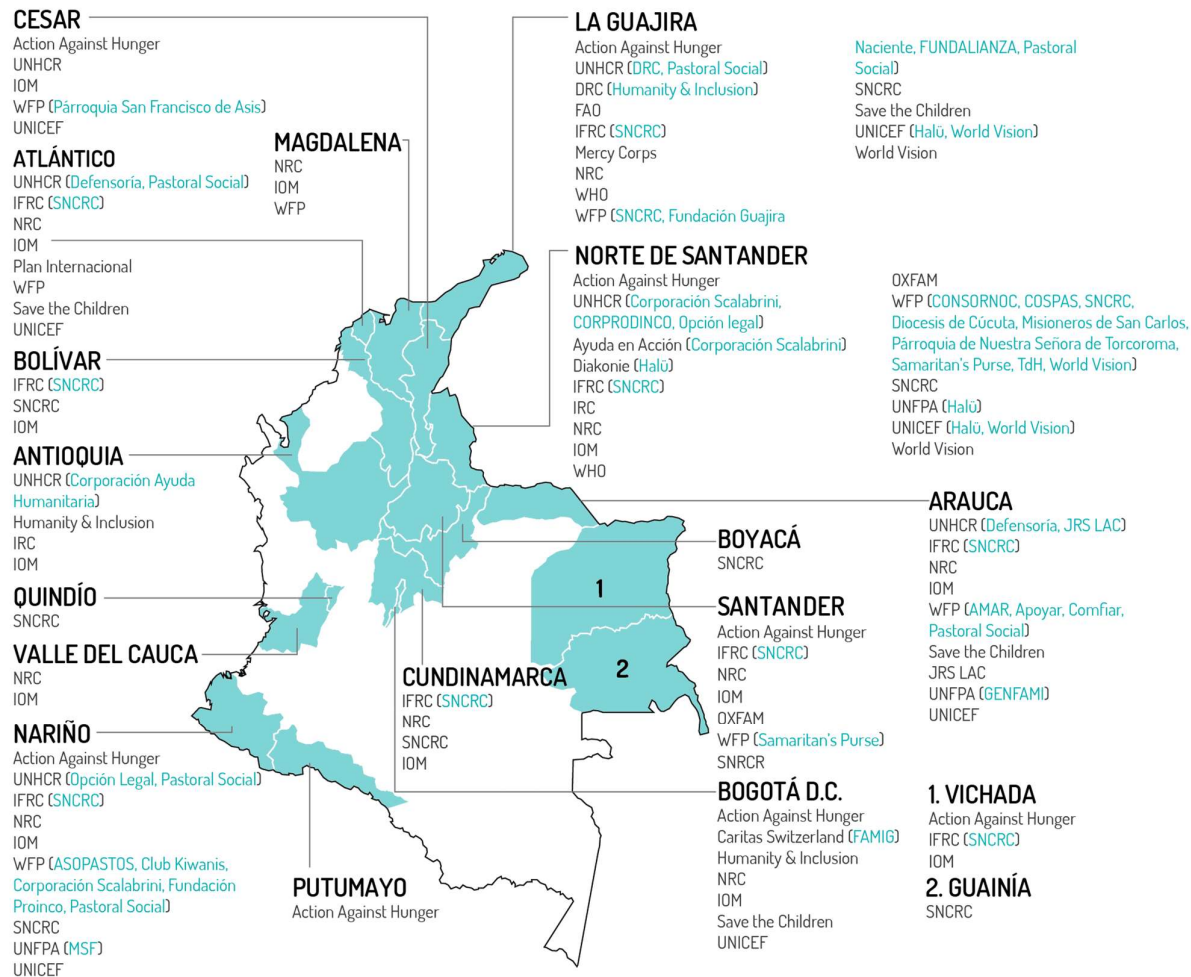
68 Municipalities

The GIFMM members also took on the specific humanitarian needs of girls, boys, and adolescents. Regarding the sector of education, 17,900 children - half of which were in **Nariño** - accessed educational spaces built, improved, and/or supported by GIFMM members. Another 4,200 children received emergency education services. Furthermore, nearly 31,600 children under the age of five suffering from acute malnutrition were attended.

In addition, the members of the GIFMM complemented the previously-mentioned actions with the provision of adequate and safe emergency housing to 1,800 people and rent subsidies to more than 280 people. Help with humanitarian transport reached 2,750 individuals, non-food items (NFIs) were delivered to some 4,500 people, and the distribution of

Area of Intervention 1: Actors by department who reported activities in October

Key Partner (Implementing Partner)



Area of Intervention 2: Protection

Throughout the course of October, GIFMM members attended the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population as well as Colombian returnees and host communities through various actions within the framework of protection and in close coordination with government entities. Approximately 12,000 people received legal guidance, and more than 18,000 people learned about their rights, regularization processes, documentation, and asylum processes. Nearly 600 of these individuals, the majority in Arauca and Valle de Cauca, applied for refugee status with the accompaniment of GIFMM members.

In order to utilize different strategies to disseminate messages and information for the promotion of rights, activities were carried out via sports, art, culture, and communication. These activities garnered the participation of approximately 1,400 individuals in the departments of Atlántico and Bolívar on the Caribbean coast, the border departments of La Guajira, Nariño, and Norte de Santander, and the capital of Bogotá.

17 Key partners

20 Implementing partners

33,600 Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

22 Departments

70 Municipalities



Humanity & Inclusion works together with people with disabilities and vulnerable populations to improve their living conditions and promote their fundamental rights. In La Guajira, an inclusion challenge was held for children with and without disabilities, with the idea that they support each other and that despite competing, everyone wins under the slogan “We are diverse, but we all deserve respect”. © Humanity & Inclusion

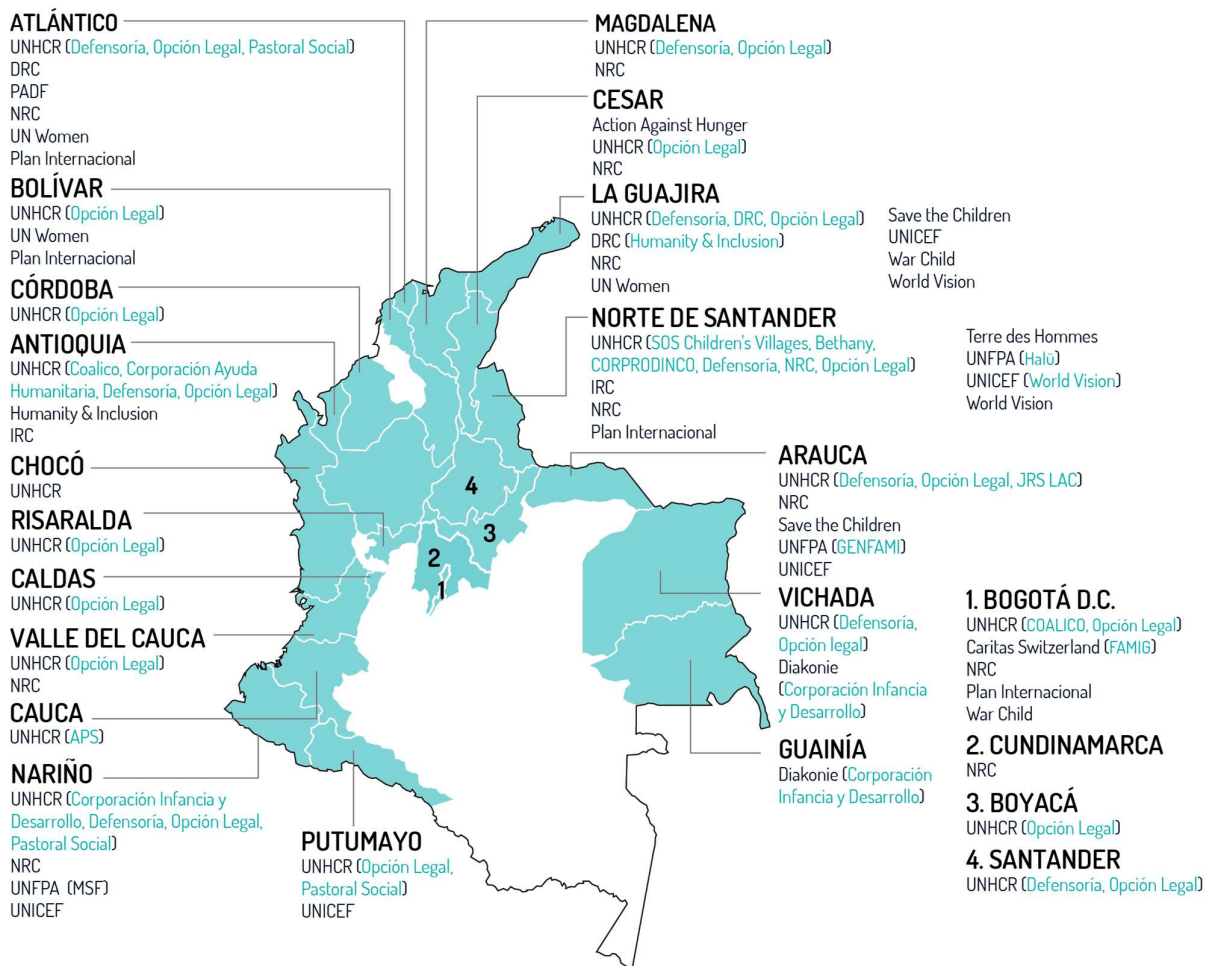
Considering specific protection risks for people entering Colombia from Venezuela, the GIFMM members reached approximately 13,000 individuals with information on the prevention of trafficking, smuggling, and labour exploitation, as well as protection against forced recruitment and use, anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance, and illegal economies. With regards to the needs of children, more than 1,200 benefited from newly-created or improved protective and child-friendly spaces.

a regional initiative that seeks to ensure that refugees, migrants, returnees from Venezuela, and the host population have access to - at a minimum - quality information, orientation, and basic services that respond to their urgent needs in a coordinated and joint manner.

Similarly, a total of 660 cases in the border departments of Arauca, Norte de Santander, Arauca, and Nariño were identified, referred, and attended by the Support Spaces Network. The Network is

Area of Intervention 2: Actors by department who reported activities in October

Key Partner (Implementing Partner)



Feature Store: My pain has no borders

After losing her son, what afflicted Lorena* - a 52-year-old Venezuelan woman - the most was not being able to give her son a Christian burial in her home country. Little is known about the circumstances of the 15-year-old boy's death, only that he was killed in his work as a "trochero" (guide) leading refugees and migrants across the border between Venezuela and Colombia through informal paths. In the midst of her grief, Lorena also found herself with the difficulty of carrying out the burial process in Colombia, as several of the procedures were expensive or she lacked the necessary documentation. Even so, it was a more feasible option than transporting her child's body to the state of Barinas in Venezuela.



During this period, Lorena's emotional state impacted her physical health and she experienced loss of appetite and lack of sleep. Lorena approached the Bethany International's Attention Point in Nuevo Escobal, Cúcuta (Norte de Santander), a protective space available for people in vulnerable conditions, including Venezuelans children and adults as well as Colombian returnees. In this space, several protection-related services are provided, including group and individual psychosocial counselling, with additional programs aimed at children as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. Thanks to this attention, Lorena had a proper grieving process, and even took advantage of Bethany International's family services to attend family therapies with her other son, whose safety she worries about since he also works as a *trochero*.

Today, Lorena says she is calm: "I feel good because I was able to bury my son...I couldn't take him to Venezuela, but I preferred to bury him here rather than leave him lying around." According to Bethany International, Lorena's case is admirable due to the strength and the resilience she has developed during the last weeks in her grieving process. Similarly, they highlight the process Lorena has undertaken, as many of the practices Lorena learned have been incorporated into her daily life, providing her with adequate active listening skills, tools to cope with loss, and emotional support.

* Lorena's name has been changed in order to protect her identity.

Area of Intervention 3: Socio-economic and Cultural Integration

In October, the international cooperation continued its activities related to entrepreneurship, employability, social cohesion, xenophobia prevention, and orientation/dissemination of information to the refugee and migrant population from Venezuela.

In [Atlántico](#), [Bogotá](#), [Nariño](#), and [Valle del Cauca](#), 550 refugees and migrants participated in trainings or received barrier mitigation services to strengthen their labour insertion process. In [Atlántico](#), [Bogotá](#), [Cesar](#), [Nariño](#), [Santander](#), and [Valle del Cauca](#), 107 entrepreneurs participated in sensitization exercises, information sessions on the necessary processes for the recruitment of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, and identification of employment opportunities. Business management is the first step of a successful employability process.

9 Key partners

16 Implementing partners

11,200 Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

13 Departments

34 Municipalities

195 refugee and migrant families and from host communities were supported by the international cooperation to start or strengthen their enterprises - mainly through capitalization with cash transfers - in the Arauca, Bogotá and Norte de Santander. The promotion of independent businesses is important in territories with high rates of unemployment and informal employment, like Arauca and Norte de Santander.

In Antioquia, Arauca, Atlántico, Bogotá, Cesar, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Santander, and Valle del Cauca, 7,000 refugees and migrants and Colombians from the host communities received guidance and information on how to utilise existing services of health, education, employment, and documentation provided by both the National Government and the international cooperation. The Integral Actions program is highlighted, being developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, with approximately 3,800 beneficiaries in the departments of Cesar, Santander, and Valle del Cauca.

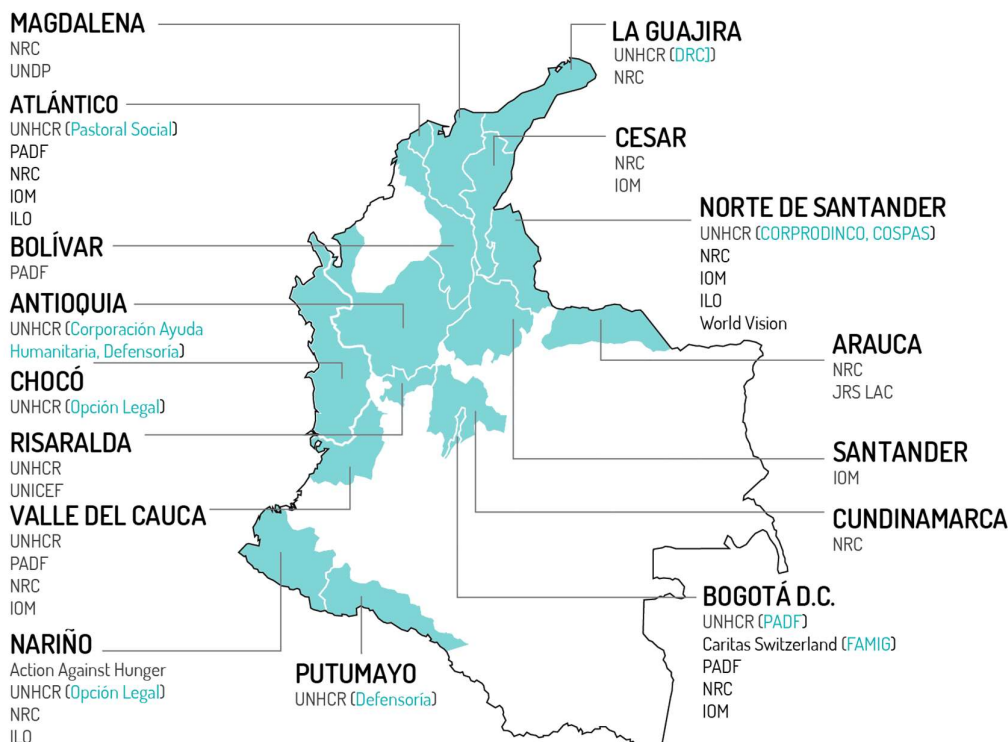


In a validation session held in Barranquilla, ILO collects inputs from the refugee and migrant population on the relevance, language, and usefulness of the Orientation Guide, a document that focuses on informing this population about the particularities of the Colombian labor market. © ILO

In Antioquia, Atlántico, Bogotá, and Norte de Santander, more than 4,000 refugees, migrants, and members of host communities participated in dialogue spaces and workshops to promote hospitality, social cohesion, development of community building, and to prevent discrimination. Finally, campaigns against discrimination and xenophobia were carried out, primarily in Bogotá.

Area of Intervention 3: Actors by department who reported activities in October

Key Partner (Implementing Partner)



Area de Intervention 4: Capacity Building of Host Government

Encouraging strategies and learning for Colombian government institutions related to care provided to the Venezuelan population and host communities allows these entities to have better tools when serving the population in need of their services.

With this purpose in mind, 282 officials in eight departments were trained in international protection mechanisms and access to refugee and migrant rights, and 85 recommendations were shared with the authorities in [Norte de Santander](#) and [Vichada](#), which ultimately promotes a better response in protection of the population.

In addition, in [Nariño](#), 67 members of local authorities and/or health institutions received support with technical assistance, supplies, human talent, logistics, or health care infrastructure.

2 Key partners

3 Implementing partners

500 Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

11 Departments

15 Municipalities

COORDINATION*

The local GIFMMs, as the territorial expression of the national platform, are spaces for the strategic coordination of the operational response at the local level, working in close collaboration with the authorities' coordination mechanisms. The following are the highlights of the month of October:

- The Regional Interagency Workshop on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) was held on 16-18 October 2019 in [Bogotá](#). The workshop is part of the work plan of the Communication with Communities Group (CwD-C4D) of the Regional Coordination and Response Platform for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants (R4V). The workshop had 44 participants from 18 organizations, one third of which were members of the National GIFMM. An important result of the workshop included the designing and drafting of the first drafts of joint AAP plans to be implemented in 2020.
- In [Atlántico](#), the first steps were taken towards conducting the Joint Needs Assessment (ECN, by its Spanish acronym), which is a tool to assess the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants (in relation to all sectors). It will also be harmonized with other planned evaluations, including the DTM. It will serve as a pilot for the GIFMM and can be replicated elsewhere in the country, as needed. The process began with an initial meeting with the members of the local GIFMM, the determination of the partners that will participate in the assessment, and the discussion of the development of the methodology.
- The local GIFMM in [Antioquia](#) organized a health day in the municipality of Marinilla in coordination with the local Secretariats of Education and Health as well as the San Juan Dios de Marinilla Hospital. More than 200 people received medical care, including general medicine, nursing, oral hygiene, dentistry, medication, psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health, and visual screening, as well as additional services such as the Education Program for Peace and the reestablishment of family contacts through international calls.
- An interagency initiative was launched in [Valle de Cauca](#) to create a protection space within the local GIFMM. The purpose is to conduct context analysis and in-depth discussions on key issues of protection, as well as reflect on obstacles, needs, and policies regarding the issue of refuge and migration, in order to formulate recommendations to improve programs and contribute to advocacy at the central level.
- In [Nariño](#), members of the local GIFMM implemented several initiatives aimed at the attention of refugees and migrants with intent to stay in Colombia, such as different characterizations, a socioeconomic and cultural inclusion project, and another focused on socioeconomic stabilization.

GIFMM MEMBERS*

ACTED | Action Against Hunger | ADRA | Aid for AIDS | Alliance for Solidarity | American Red Cross | Americares | Ayuda en Acción | Bethany International | BLUMONT | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian Red Cross | Diakonie | DRC | FAO | Global Communities | Halü | HIAS | Humanity & Inclusion | ICRC | IFRC | ILO | iMMAP | IOM | IRC | JRS Colombia | JRS Latin America and the Caribbean | Lutheran World Federation | Malteser International | Médecins du Monde | Mercy Corps | Norwegian Red Cross | NRC | OCHA | OCR | OHCHR | OXFAM | PADF | Pastoral Social | Plan International | Premiere Urgence | Profamilia | RET International | Save the Children | SOS Children's Villages | Tearfund | Terre des Hommes - Lausanne | UN Habitat | UN Women | Un Techo Para Mi País | UNDP | UNEP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | War Child | WFP | WHO | World Vision

**National members, including organisations which are part of the RMRP 2019 and observer organisations.*

CONTRIBUTIONS

GOVERNMENTS: Austria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Netherlands, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

OTHER DONORS: Bloomberg, Central Emergency Response Fund, Dubai Cares, Dutch Relief Alliance, Education Cannot Wait Fund, Ford Foundation, Franz Hoffman Foundation, Gilead Sciences Inc., International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Labour Organization, Latter-Day Saint Charities, Medicor Foundation, Novo Nordisk, Ole Kirk's Foundation, Oxfam Intermón, Oxfam International, Pan American Development Foundation, Spanish Red Cross, Stichting Vluchteling, Stichting War Child, United Nations Children's Fund, World Vision Canada, World Vision International, World Vision Korea, World Vision USA.

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