

Southern Cone



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN THE SUBREGION
202,373



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE*
9,913



FUNDING SITUATION**
44,3% FUNDED: 16 MILLION
REQUIREMENT: 34,1 MILLION

44,3%

Situation

- **Argentina's coronavirus lockdown continued during September** with some inland provinces which are witnessing a worrying increase in cases. The Government of Paraguay approved the gradual, partial and temporary reopening of the Friendship Bridge that links the Paraguayan town of Ciudad del Este with the Brazilian city of Foz de Iguazú. **The first commercial fights between Paraguay and Uruguay were approved** in a "bubble" mode (after submitting negative COVID-19 tests, accreditation of international health insurance and signing an affidavit) and began on 14 September. **Border closures were maintained in the four countries.**
- Partners learned several cases of Venezuelans who entered Argentina within the framework of the "Program for Assistance to Venezuelan Migrants" (established in 2019) are being subject to unprecedented requirements in order to advance in their regularization processes in the country. Most of the accounts mention having received intimidation when they do not have valid passports / IDs and the presentation of criminal records from Venezuela for the change of category from temporary to permanent. UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation and will make the pertinent consultations with the competent authorities.
- **The housing situation of refugees and migrants continued to deteriorate in Argentina.** Although the decree that prohibits evictions remains in force until the end of January 2021, different measures of coercion have been reported to partners, used mainly by landlords and managers of informal rentals to force the exit of those who cannot pay for the accommodation.
- There were attempts by Venezuelans to move irregularly among borders of Southern Cone countries, mainly in Bolivia and Paraguay. Partners also received of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to return to Venezuela from Argentina. Groups of families were reported to have crossed from Argentina to Uruguay claiming asylum.



Venezuelan family queuing in La Paz, Bolivia to receive in-kind assistance © UNHCR/2020

Response***



ARGENTINA: 100% Diversidad, ADRA, AMIA, Banco Ciudad, CAREF, FCCAM, IOM, Jesuit Migrant Service, Psychoanalytic Association of Buenos Aires, PSICOVEN, Red Cross Argentina, UNHCR.
BOLIVIA: Caritas Bolivia, Caritas Cochabamba, Caritas Switzerland, IOM, Munasim Kullakita Foundation, Scalabrini Foundation, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, World Vision.
PARAGUAY: IOM, Semillas para la Democracia, UNHCR.
URUGUAY: ADRA, Idas y Vueltas, IOM, SEDHU, UNICEF, UNHCR.

- Partners continued to provide: **shelter solutions** like collective/individual shelter in the short/medium and long term to **prevent homelessness among** the most vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants, **NFIs** (especially medicines and hygiene/cleaning items), **food and multipurpose cash assistance** to cover their basic needs.
- **Provision of psychosocial support** as COVID-19 lockdown measures continue to be extended has been intensified by partners. The impact on refugees and migrants mental health is worsening with crisis stress and anguish due to economic uncertainty. Primary health care assistance as well as interventions targeting children's education and birth registrations in Bolivia and Uruguay continued.
- **Integration activities such as online workshops** to promote and train about small scale entrepreneurship, e-commerce, financial education, elderly care were conducted by partners.
- Partners provided **social-legal advice to refugees and migrants on access to asylum and regularization** procedures, access to basic social services and other documentation in the four countries.
- In Bolivia, partners conducted **online trainings for migration authorities** on the protection of human rights, the human rights of children and adolescents; and trafficking and smuggling of persons.



Food Security
3,934

Hum. Transp.
16

Health
679

Education
72

Integration
294

NFI
3,165

Protection
4,410

Shelter
465

CBI
582

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*From 01/09/2020 until 30/09/2020 | **Source: FTS Website | ***The list of partners per country include those who reported actions during the timeframe of this report and does not necessarily reflect all the partners that conform the National Platforms.