

ARAUQUITA CRISIS | COLOMBIA

As of 15 April 2021, more than **5,800** persons have entered Colombia to escape armed confrontations that began on 21 March between the National Bolivarian Armed Forces of Venezuelan and FARC dissidents in the Venezuelan State of Apure. Although small-scale spontaneous and unassisted returns to Venezuela have been reported within the last couple of days, higher numbers of irregular entries from Venezuela into Arauca continue to take place. Most Venezuelans and Colombians fleeing the armed confrontation in Venezuela have expressed an intention to stay in Arauquita for the foreseeable future. A COVID-19 outbreak in several reception points is a recent source of concern, with UNHCR strengthening the response capacity of local health authorities by providing isolation spaces and additional bio-security elements.

UNHCR is coordinating its response with the national interagency platform (GIFMM in Spanish) in support of the Arauquita Mayor's Office. In doing so, UNHCR prioritizes counselling, orientation and information, registration, shelter, and delivery of core relief items (CRIs) in two organized reception sites (Gabriel Garcia Marquez School, (GABO) and Alcides Ceballos) and in the **58 identified informal reception points** in the rural and urban areas of Arauquita and Saravena.

KEY FIGURES

5,877*

People characterized in 58 informal reception points¹ as of 15 April 2021 (GIFMM profiling).

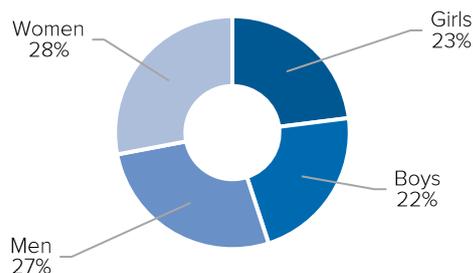
2,248

People (representing 730 families) registered in PRIMES, as of 15 April 2021.



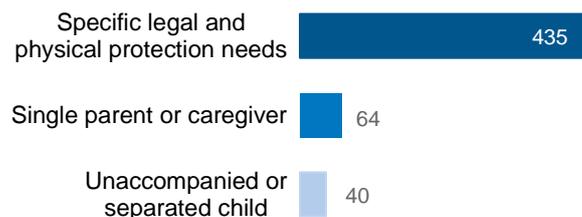
SEX AND GENDER

PRIMES, as of 15 April 2021



27% of the population registered in PRIMES has been identified as having **one or more specific protection need**.

Top three needs identified (# of people)



RESPONSE

Response to date by UNHCR, with support of its implementing partners

Protection

- Individual registration by a mobile team in the two organized reception sites and in informal reception points
- Individual counselling and identification and referral of persons with specific needs in the organized reception sites and host communities
- Community dialogue on peaceful coexistence, group activities and workshops for SGBV prevention with children, adolescents and adults in organized reception sites.
- Refugee Housing Units donated for individual and group assistance services in organized reception sites
- Child friendly spaces to be opened soon in organized reception sites.
- Enhancement of referral pathways, reinforced community participation and community engagement and dissemination of key protection messages and information on services and activities available in reception sites.



2,248 persons/730 families registered in PRIMES



7 lawyers providing guidance and legal assistance



6 professionals conducting case management and psychosocial support



1 emergency coordinator with the Mayor's Office



1 staff of the Ombudsman's Office for ethnic and minority affairs for the department of Arauca

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Improvement of water infrastructure in the two organized reception sites
- Rehabilitation and improvement of the water storage system in one organized reception site.
- Complementary support to the WASH response, under the leadership of UNICEF, national sector coordinator and Save the Children, departmental sector coordinator
- Inspection of WASH facilities of the temporary shelter CIC, Hogar Campesino and La Pollera to identify needs and advocate for their management at the GIFMM wash table
- Information sessions for families accommodated in one organized reception site to raise awareness on the proper use of the facilities and their maintenance, as well as the moderate use of water
- Technical design and direct implementation of the WASH response in several temporary shelters.

3,849 persons benefiting from personal hygiene kits/items



4 sinks



115 litres of antibacterial gel



3.195 hygiene items (soap and sanitary napkins)



99 cleaning wipes



656 hygiene kits for women, men and children

- **Alcides Ceballos** organized reception site



- **Gabriel Garcia Marquez School** organized reception site: Rehabilitation of the restaurant through the provision and/or instalment of:



Shelter

- Conditions in reception sites and access to appropriate services improved for 335 people in the GABO reception site and 264 people in the Alcides Ceballos as of 16 April.
- Adequate space and privacy in sleeping arrangements, separate washing facilities for men and women, sanitary and hygienic conditions, access to health services.
- Two-day workshop on emergency camp management delivered by UNHCR and IOM to 20 representatives of the Mayor's Office (shelter coordinators), Defensa Civil, Fireman "Bomberos"(coordinators of CIC), CISP, Benposta and Personeria. COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures also included.



- **Alcides Ceballos reception site:** Population of **264** people



69 family tents



4 isolation tents



6 RHUs


 Capacity for **365** people

- Set up of a temporary enclosure of the site, establishment of hydraulic connections and electrical wiring, as well as the extension of light network.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez School reception site: Population of **335** people



12 rooms


 12 tents with capacity for **60** people each


1 RHU for registration


 Capacity for **400** people

- Cleaning and fumigation of the areas as well as improvements to the community kitchen infrastructure.

4,480 core relief items



1,000 shelter kits*


 1,553 mattresses and
mattress covers


48 sleeping mats


 290 thermal
blankets


36 solar lamps

*Shelter kits contain a pillow, blanket, flashlight, raincoat and a waterproof coat.

Health

- COVID-19 biosecurity measures: awareness sessions in the two organized reception centres and the *Centro de Integración Comunitaria* (CIC) on COVID-19 prevention and distribution of masks and antibacterial gel.

				
Provision of sexual and reproductive health services	Provision of 9,000 facemasks	10 tents donated to the Health Secretariat to strengthen the COVID- 19 response capacity	4 isolation tents installed for COVID-19 patients, including 2 showers	2 RHUs for first aid use and 1 for health services provided to the Municipal Health Secretariat.

Leadership, Coordination, and Partnerships

- Memorandum of Understanding with the Mayor's Office of Arauquita signed
- Co-facilitation of the GIFMM coordination meetings
- On-going coordination with local, departmental and national authorities.
- On-going coordination with WFP, UNICEF, IOM and implementing partners CISP, Opción Legal, BENPOSTA, APOYAR, Profamilia, among others, to respond to basic needs and provide protection and assistance.