

COLOMBIA

Situation Report (first pilot) January 2019



According to the official figures of the Colombian government, by January 2019 there were more than 1.1 million Venezuelans in the country. More than 30% of this population is located in border areas with Venezuela, and 23% in Bogotá.

Of the total population, 41% are in an irregular situation. Refugees and migrants have increasingly urgent protection needs including access to food, healthcare, employment and education.

The Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) coordinates the response for Venezuelan refugees and migrants nationally and through local presence in 12 departments, complementing the response of the Colombian government.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- In January, there has been a significant increase in *caminantes* – Venezuelans walking long distances in transit due to lack of documentation or resources to pay for public transport. In Norte de Santander, figures are notably higher than the month before, especially on the route from Cúcuta to Bucaramanga, and use of routes in Arauca has also increased.
- There has been slight fluctuation in population flows into Colombia during January following political instability in Venezuela. In Norte de Santander, entry numbers decreased significantly immediately following Juan Guaidó's announcement that he would assume the temporary presidency of the country on 23 January, but remained within normal averages for the rest of the month. In La Guajira, the number of Venezuelans entering Colombia with passports dropped by 50%. In both Norte de Santander and La Guajira, the number of people using irregular crossings has increased.
- Following the introduction of Ecuador's new entry requirements for Venezuelans on 26 January, the number of Venezuelans exiting Colombia through Rumichaca International Bridge in Nariño and San Miguel Bridge in Putumayo decreased notably, and irregular crossings, as well as risks associated to smuggling and human trafficking, have increased.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

GIFMM members continued to provide assistance and guidance near the Simón Bolívar International Bridge in Norte de Santander, the main entry point for more than 80% of all Venezuelans who enter regularly. On January 25, 2019, five container offices were installed to complete the installation of health facilities for arriving Venezuelans. Services supported by GIFMM in the area around the bridge currently include care and counseling, primary medical care, vaccination and family planning, access to drinking water and showers, safe spaces for children and community kitchens, which benefit a large number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

At the national level, the GIFMM coordinated with the government the response for 'walkers' (*caminantes*), including the provision of food, hygiene kits, temporary shelter, orientation and safe spaces in 14



A Venezuelan family in a community kitchen in La Vecindad Arauca © WFP/Diego Alvarez

departments. In the first week of January alone, GIFMM members provided assistance to an average of more than 250 people per day through attention points between Cúcuta and Bucaramanga in Norte de Santander.

Members provided food assistance including 80,000 hot meals served in community kitchens, as well as food vouchers and multipurpose cash transfers. **In La Guajira**, GIFMM members also assisted 1,003 families (30% Venezuelan, 31% Colombian returnees and 39% host families) with technical support and the delivery of tools, supplies and seeds for the rapid production of food intended for consumption, using a gender and ethnically sensitive approach. 18 water supply systems were rehabilitated with the aim of improving food production. In addition, three animal health inspections were carried out for goats and sheep which are the main source of livelihood and food for the Wayuu community. Members also worked with families to improve their food production capacity in drought conditions, and hosted practical food and nutrition education sessions to ensure the inclusion of high nutritional foods in the diet of Venezuelan and Colombian households.



Venezuelan women and host families receive training on how to grow their own crops © FAO / January 2019

Area of Intervention 2: Protection

GIFMM members have provided information and orientation on rights, regularization, documentation and access to asylum procedures to more than 2,300 people, as well as organized information workshops to provide legal orientation. Children and adolescents were benefitted through child friendly spaces and received psychosocial support in **La Guajira, Norte de Santander, Arauca, Cundinamarca, Barranquilla, Bolivar, Nariño and Antioquia**. In one child friendly space alone in **Cucuta, Norte de Santander** more than 950 children received assistance and protection.

The Working Group on Migrant and Refugee Children along with the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) finalized a standardized referral form and the guideline for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) which will improve case referrals of UASC directly to ICBF.

Area of Intervention 3: Socio Economic and Cultural Integration

During January, more than 1,000 new followers joined the already 40,000 people following the anti-xenophobia campaign [Somos Panas Colombia](#), which aims to promote solidarity towards Venezuelan refugees and migrants. In La Guajira, 500 children were involved in street football competition which aimed to promote integration and acceptance of Venezuelan refugee and migrant children.

Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening the Capacity of Host Government

In Atlántico, a training and capacity building workshop was conducted for local authorities on international protection standards and the access of basic rights for Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

COORDINATION

- There are 46 members in the national GIFMM, with 8 local chapters (and one in process*) in the departments of Arauca, Atlántico, Antioquia, Bogota, Cesar*, Norte de Santander, La Guajira, Nariño and Valle de Cauca.
- The GIFMM is coordinating with the Government on contingency planning and is working closely to complement its efforts on contingency planning and deployment of advanced preparedness measures at both the national and local level.
- **In Nariño**, the GIFMM worked with local authorities to activate the local contingency plan in response to the new requirements for Venezuelans entering Ecuador.
- **In Atlántico**, the local GIFMM participated in Migratory Management Committee meetings in Cartagena, Barranquilla and Santa Marta, strengthening relationships with local government and coordinating joint work plans for Venezuelan refugees and migrants.
- GIFMM members in **Arauca** met to coordinate an interagency response to the increase in *caminantes* in the department, including mapping locations for assistance and conducting assessments of basic needs.
- **In La Guajira**, GIFMM members met with the Mayor's Office to advocate against the closure of the World Food Programme run community kitchen in Maicao. Following advocacy efforts, the kitchen will remain open.

4W RESPONSE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS AND RMRP MONITORING

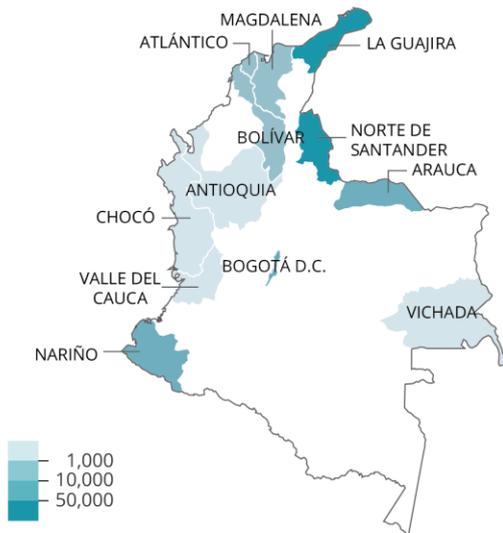
January 2019



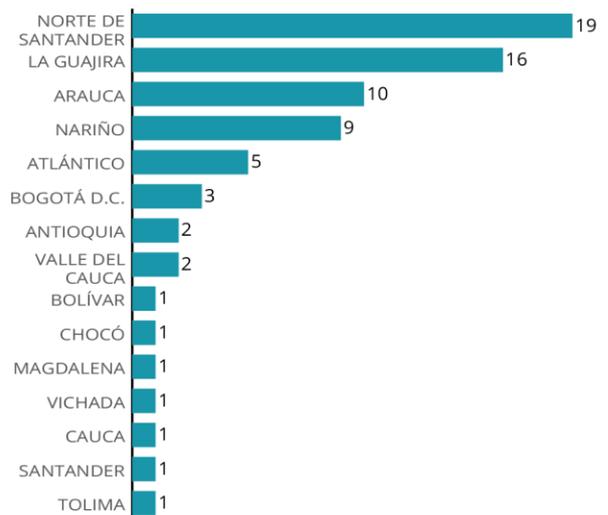
180,000 beneficiaries received one or more assistance through organisations in the RMRP

31 organizations in **15** departments

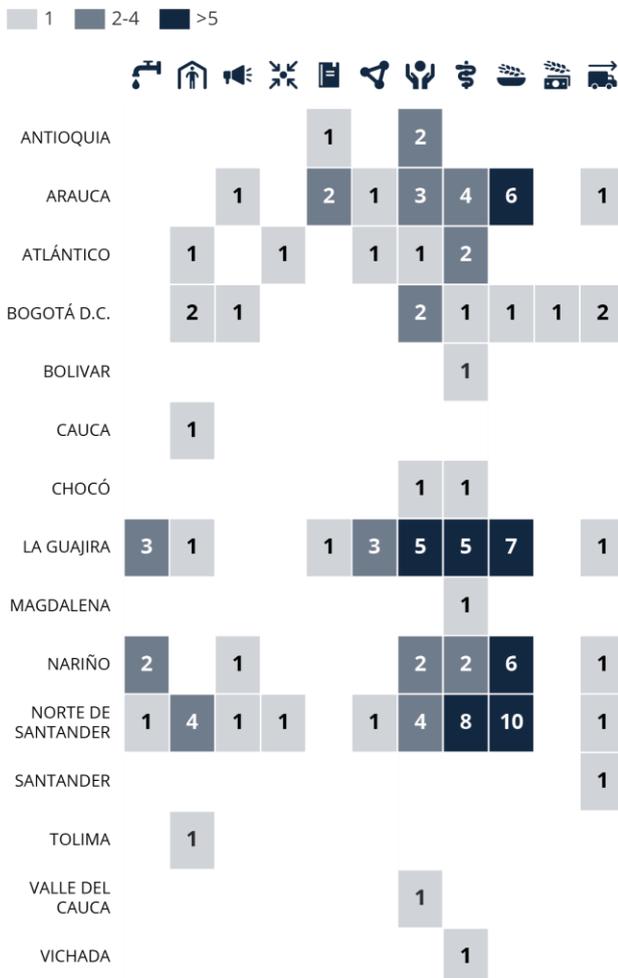
BENEFICIARIES BY DEPARTMENT



ORGANIZATIONS BY DEPARTMENT



ORGANIZATIONS BY DEPARTMENT AND SECTOR



LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS BY SECTOR

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**
ACF, IOM, OXFAM, SAVE THE CHILDREN, UNHCR, UNICEF
- Shelter and Non-Food Items**
CARITAS SWITZERLAND, IOM, IRC, SCALIBRINI CORPORATION
- Communications** **Coordination**
UNHCR, UNICEF IOM, UNHCR
- Education**
SAVE THE CHILDREN, UNHCR
- Multisectoral**
ACF, IRC, IOM, MERCY CORPS, SAVE THE CHILDREN, UNHCR
- Protection**
CARITAS SWITZERLAND, PADF, IRC, IOM, OPCION LEGAL, OXFAM, PLAN INTERNATIONAL, SAVE THE CHILDREN, UNHCR
- Health**
ACF, AMERICARES, CARITAS SWITZERLAND, HALU, IRC, IOM, PADF, PLAN INTERNATIONAL, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO
- Food Security and Nutrition**
APOYAR, ASOPASTOS, CARITAS SWITZERLAND, CONSORNOC, COPAS, CRC, DIOCESIS DE CUCUTA, FAO, FUNDACION GUAJIRA NACIENTE, FUNDACION PROINCO, IOM, MISSIONARIES OF SAN CARLOS, PARISH OF OUR LADY OF TORCORMA, PADF, PASTORAL SOCIAL, SAVE THE CHILDREN, SCALIBRINI COOPERATION, TdH - LAUSANNE, UNHCR, WFP, WORLD VISION.
- Livelihoods** **Humanitarian Transport**
CARITAS SWITZERLAND CARITAS SWITZERLAND, IOM

Source: GIFMM

GIFMM MEMBERS *

ACF | ADRA | Americares | Ayuda en Acción | BLUMONT | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian Red Cross | Diakonie | DRC | FAO | Halü | Humanity & Inclusion | ICRC | IFRC | ILO | iMMAP | IOM | IRC | JRS Colombia | JRS Latin America and the Caribbean | Lutheran World Federation | Malteser International | Mercy Corps | Norwegian Red Cross | NRC | OACNUDH | OCHA | OCR | OXFAM | FUPAD | Pastoral Social | Plan International | RET International | Save the Children | TdH Lausanne | UN Habitat | Un Techo Para Mi País | UN Women | UNDP | UNEP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | War Child | WFP | WHO/PAHO | World Vision

**including organizations in the 2019 RMRP*

CONTRIBUTIONS

Bloomberg, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Gilead Sciences Inc, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Medicor Foundation, Stichting Vluchteling.

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