

# COLOMBIA

## Situational Report – April 2019



**RESPONSE FOR VENEZUELAN**  
Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

More than 1.2 million Venezuelans live in Colombia and large number of people continue to enter the country each day. Refugees and migrants, as well as Colombian returnees have unmet basic needs, including access to food, basic medical care, accommodation and documentation.

The increase in this population has led to an increased demand for services which exceeds the capacity of local institutions, affecting both the refugee and migrant population, as well as local communities hosting them. This

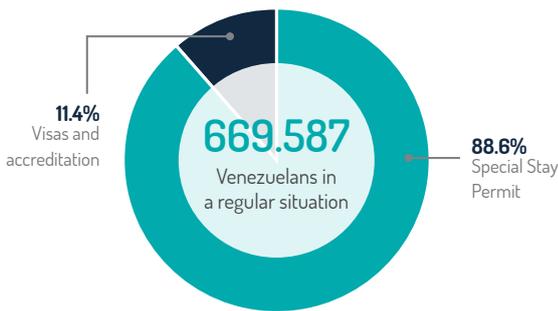
situation highlights the need to generate a comprehensive and timely response to provide assistance in critical areas, including medical care, registration, access to education, livelihoods and employment. Interagency attention is concentrated across four key areas of intervention: direct emergency assistance, protection, socio-economic and cultural integration, and strengthening Government capacity.

### KEY FIGURES

#### VENEZUELAN IN COLOMBIA<sup>a</sup>

**1.260.594** Venezuelans in Colombia

#### In a regular situation<sup>a</sup>



**+101.388** within period established by the law (includes tourist visas and other types of short term stays)

#### In an irregular situation<sup>a</sup>



**3.3 million** Venezuelans with Border Mobility Cards (TMF)<sup>b</sup>

**155.124** Venezuelans with Temporary Transit Permits (PIP-TT)<sup>b</sup>

**160.863** Venezuelans left the country via the Rumichaca International Bridge in 2019<sup>b</sup>

#### RESPONSE

**51** Partners and implementers

**270.000** Beneficiaries reached through one or more types of assistance

**24** Departments

**80** Municipalities

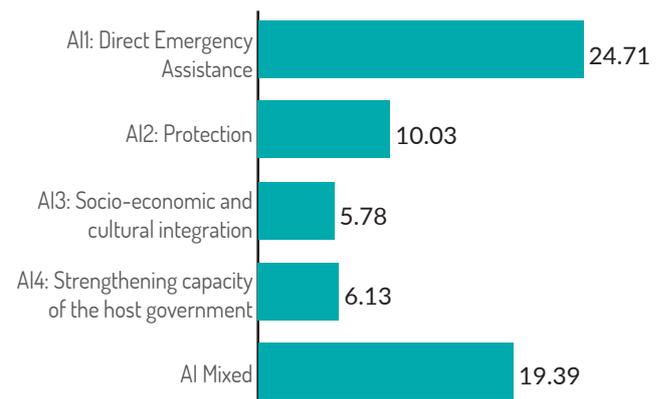
#### FUNDING STATUS<sup>c</sup>

**US\$ 315M** Financial Requirements

**US\$ 66M** Financed



#### Funding per area of intervention - in million US\$



<sup>a</sup>Data from Migración Colombia 31 March 2019, <sup>b</sup>Data from Migración Colombia 13 May 2019, <sup>c</sup>Partial financial information for Colombia for January to end of April from 21 RMRP organizations, includes paid contributions and commitments but does not include contributions for multiple countries. For more information: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary>

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- On April 14, President Duque [announced new measures](#) under an 'Impact Plan' to address the critical situation of Venezuelans, Colombian returnees and host communities in six departments along the Colombian-Venezuelan border – **La Guajira, Cesar, Norte de Santander, Arauca, Vichada and Guainía**. The Plan outlines an investment of US\$228 million will be implemented immediately for up to two years, and includes investment in health services, humanitarian needs including water, sanitation and hygiene, investment in schools, entrepreneurship, livelihoods and the generation of employment. Local GIFMMs in **La Guajira, Cesar, Norte de Santander and Arauca**, continue to coordinate with local authorities to provide technical support to the government's roll out of this plan.



Medical attention for children under 5 years old / Action Against Hunger

- On April 23, the municipal government in **Arauca** issued Decree 23 to ensure public order, following reports of increase insecurity in the department. This is expected to have consequences for persons of concern travelling to and from Venezuela by the Arauca River, as canoes crossing river are permitted to cross from 6am-6pm daily, when there have been no prior restrictions.
- On April 25, the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) in **Bogotá** hosted a high level visit of Mr Eduardo Stein, Joint Special Representative for the Venezuela Situation who briefed Ambassadors and Heads of Cooperation from more than 12 donor countries on the humanitarian needs in Colombia for refugees, migrants, returnees and host communities. Mr Stein also hosted a meeting with the national representatives of more than 30 interagency member organisations.



WASH officials test water quality at hydration points near the Simon Bolivar International Bridge/ Halu International

- Demonstrations and protests in Venezuela on Tuesday 30 April and Wednesday 1 May did not affect population flows greatly in the three border departments of **La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Arauca**. In **Norte de Santander** the border remains closed on the Venezuelan side, with humanitarian corridors existing on the three international bridges. During the month, a daily average of 12,386 entries and 12,336 exits to Colombia indicates that an average of 50 people are remaining in Colombia each day, a significant number given that the border remains officially closed. In **Paraguachón, La Guajira** a daily average of some 617 entries and 201 exits suggests that some 400 people are remaining in Colombia each day.
- Key updates from local GIFMMs include:
  - GIFMM Norte de Santander, Arauca and La Guajira:** there has been an increase in the demand for specialized medical care and treatment of chronic diseases for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. The need to strengthen and expand the capacity of educational institutions has been identified, given the large number of children and adolescents who need schooling.
  - GIFMM Valle de Cauca:** there has been a notable increase in 'caminantes' – people walking to reach other cities in Colombia or the southern border with Ecuador. Mainly single men and minors without documentation have been identified as those most in need of humanitarian transport assistance. Local GIFMM members are also focusing delivering medium and long term with actions for the socio-economic and cultural integration of the population.
  - GIFMM Bogotá:** During the month there has been a population increase around the transport terminal and the situation of unaccompanied minors continues to worsen. Concerted efforts from the child protection working group are required.

**RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

**Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance**

During the month of April, more than 243,000 beneficiaries received one or more forms of assistance through 39 partners and implementers, in 19 departments, reaching people in a total of 60 municipalities. The majority in those were in border departments, meeting the urgent needs of refugees, migrants and some of the most vulnerable returnees who have been forced to cross into Colombia irregularly due to the restrictions on the main official entry points.

**39** Partners and implementers

**243.000** Beneficiaries

**19** Departments

**60** Municipalities

More than 236,000 people were reached through food assistance, including the provision of hot meals served in community kitchens, food vouchers and in-kind food contributions. Activities promoting the decreased dependence on assistance and the promotion of self-sufficiency were delivered for 3,100 people who received agricultural tools, seeds and materials to cultivate crops, including fertilizers and pesticides, to help them grow their own food on small agricultural plots.

More than 29,900 people received primary health care services, including basic medical check-ups and gynecological and nutritional advice. More than 4,900 people were reached through mental health services, guaranteeing basic attention to their psychosocial needs and referrals for ongoing support. In addition, 2,700 children and adolescents were vaccinated. About 820 pregnant women received prenatal medical care, including check-ups, gynecological and nutritional advice for mothers and their unborn children.

Regarding the provision of shelter, some 2,800 people benefited from adequate and safe emergency accommodation, especially refugees and migrants in transit and vulnerable people living on the street. More than 8,200 people were reached through multipurpose cash transfers, allowing them to cover basic needs, such as paying rent or buying staple goods.

More than 7,500 people received kits containing non-food items, including people traveling by foot in Santander, Norte de Santander, Valle de Santander, Cauca, Nariño and people in vulnerable situations in La Guajira, Putumayo, and Bogotá. Another 3,800 people received hygiene kits with deodorant, a toothbrush and toothpaste, toilet paper and other basic hygiene items. Most of these kits were delivered to people travelling long distances by foot, or populations in transit in Santander, Norte de Santander, Arauca, Bogotá, Putumayo and Guainía.

510 people were assisted with humanitarian transport services to continue their trip to other cities in Colombia, or the southern border with Ecuador to continue to a third country and / or meet with family members. Humanitarian transport reduces the risks associated with walking long distances, such as exposure to elements and traffic along major roads, the threat of armed groups and extortion, as well as situations that encourage negative coping mechanisms such as survival sex.

GIFMM member organizations are also supporting activities to improve access to education and support for educational institutions through the renovation and improvement of existing learning spaces: around 5,700 children benefited from access to these spaces during April. Another 3,200 children and adolescents benefited from renovated spaces with safe access to water and hygiene facilities. 2,100 children were reached with education in emergencies activities, including the rehabilitation of temporary classrooms, provision of pedagogical materials and flexible pedagogical activities.

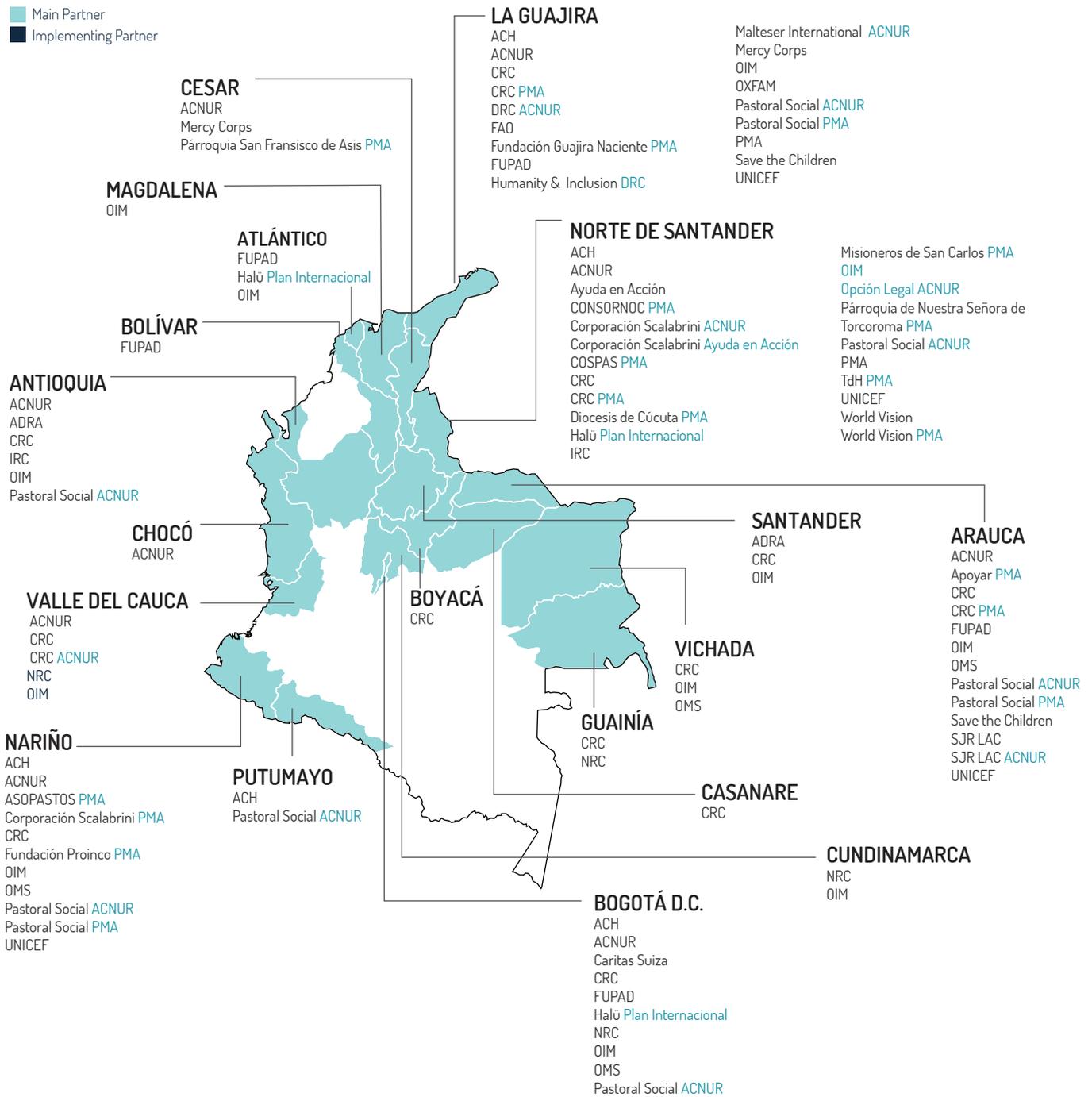


A workshop promoting health hygiene practices is carried out for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Malpaso, Bucaramanga / ADRA



Venezuelans in an irregular situation receive basic health attention at a health point in Bucaramanga / ADRA

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



**Area of Intervention 2: Protection**

During April, more than 68,200 refugees, migrants and returnees were reached through one or more protection activities delivered through 19 partners and implementers in 21 departments and 46 municipalities. The strengthening of friendly spaces for children and adolescents was a priority for member organizations; more than 41,900 children and adolescents were reached through protective spaces helping to reduce the risk of exploitation, abuse and the violation of rights.

The interagency Child Protection Working Group met 4 times during the month to coordinate actions on the effective protection of children from Venezuela. Training days were held for local ombudsmen and authorities, with the purpose of strengthening the identification and care of cases of unaccompanied and separated children managed by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute in Barranquilla and La Guajira.

- 19** Partners and implementers
- 68.200** Beneficiaries
- 21** Departments
- 46** Municipalities



The migrant care post at the El Buque assistance point in Pamplona, Norte de Santander is one of the Red Cross supported points of attention for people crossing Colombia by foot / Colombian Red Cross

Around 13,000 refugees and migrants received information about protection risks, including the presence of antipersonnel mines and other unexploded ordnance, human trafficking and the risks of exploitation and sexual abuse. 16,500 people participated in prevention activities of recruitment by illegal armed groups.

During the month, 14,700 people were provided with specific information about their rights in Colombia, including the process of regularization, access to documentation and information on how to request asylum. More than 4,300 people received legal assistance, and 12 people received direct support to submit their asylum applications in Colombia. Throughout the month, member organizations held a series of workshops through which more than 700 people were able to receive important information about legal assistance and guidance on their rights in Colombia.

1,000 people received training on how to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and were informed on the institutional routes available to access services and care for victims of gender based violence.

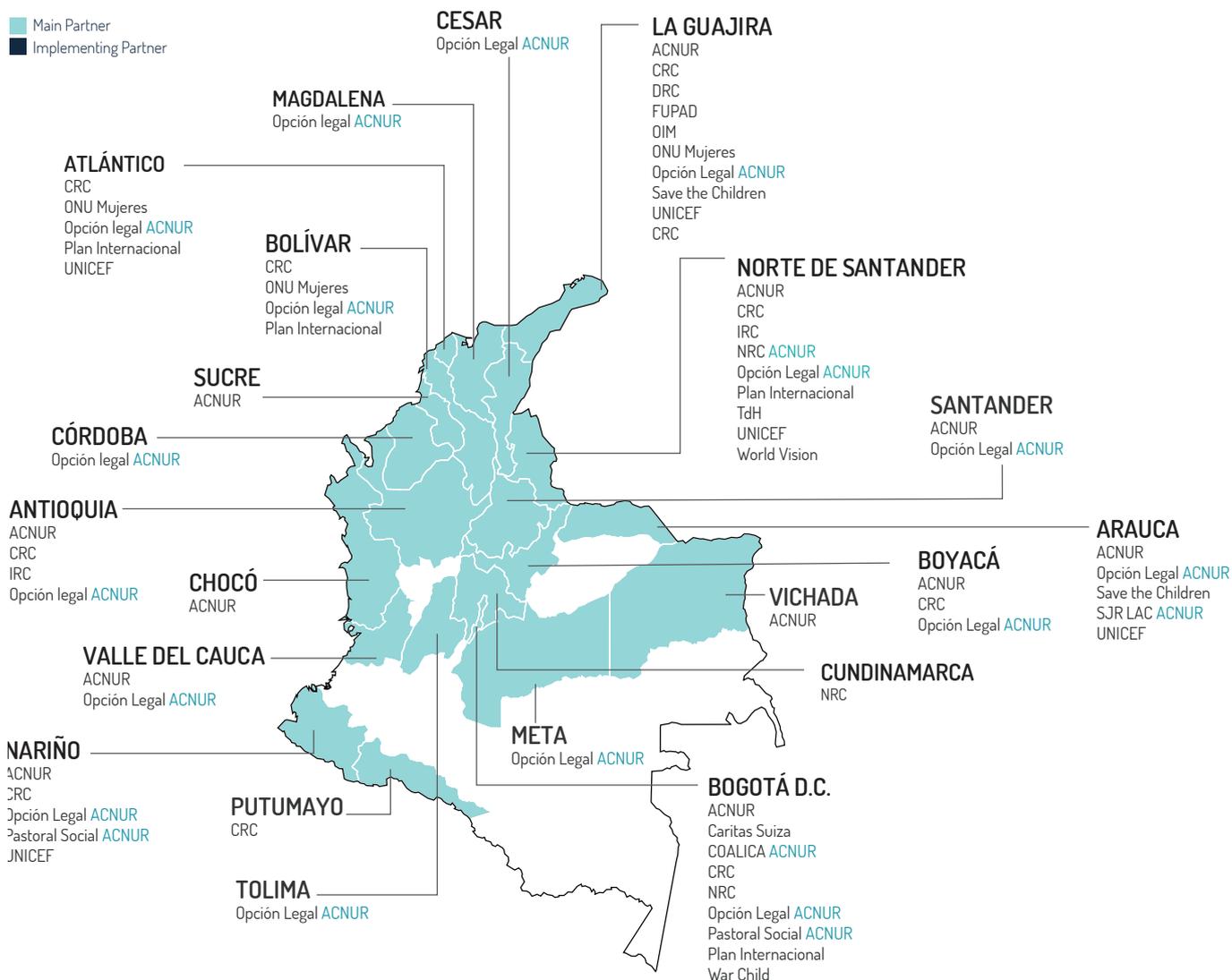


Colombian Red Cross

Juan arrived in Colombia with his son, Santiago, at the end of October 2018. “We arrived in Colombia on October 31, the day of my birthday. For a few days, I collected aluminum cans in the streets of Cúcuta to sell them for recycling, so I had at least a small amount of money. I had to take Santiago with me as I did not have a place to leave him. He was the reason to leave my country and it is my motivation to keep moving ahead.”

After the scorching heat of the border city of Cúcuta, Santiago and Juan traveled kilometers along winding roads, passing through the cold and the rain, through steep mountain passes and lush valleys, before someone picked them up and helped them cross the freezing Paramo de Berlin by car – the hardest stage of the trip to Bucaramanga. GIFMM members work to provide assistance to people who cross Colombia by foot (“known as walkers”) towards major cities in Colombia or third countries such as Ecuador and Peru. GIFMM members offer services including shelter temporary, hygiene kits and points of orientation and integration in the main roads.

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



### Area of Intervention 3: Socio-economic and cultural integration

During April, more than 3,300 beneficiaries received one or more types of assistance through 12 partners and implementers in 12 departments and 20 municipalities in Colombia. 3 campaigns were implemented throughout the month in Nariño with the intention to raise awareness and reduce discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes toward Venezuelans and promote solidarity towards those who are living in Nariño. In addition, 7 initiatives were implemented to promote peaceful coexistence, reaching more than 2,900 people in Antioquia, Arauca, La Guajira and Norte de Santander.

Support for sustainable economic integration of refugees and migrants is another key focus for member organizations in Area of Intervention 3. To this end, 26 returned Colombian and mixed families received support for training in entrepreneurship in an agreement with the Foreign Ministry. In order to help people of interest to connect with relevant services that promote their social integration, 342 people received information on how to access basic services in Antioquia and La Guajira.

### Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening capacity of the host government

The GIFMM works closely with the Colombian government to support its response to refugees and migrants. Throughout the month, capacity building activities reached a total of 228 people through 5 partners and implementers in 5 departments and 7 municipalities. For example, member organizations provided training to 56 government officials in Ipiales, Nariño, through an interactive workshop on international protection and access to basic legal rights.

In terms of strengthening state institutions, the following actions were carried out during April:

- Working closely with the National Registry of Civil Status to delivery equipment to strengthen the Unit of Attention to the Vulnerable Population (UDAPV).
- Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Federation of Departments to provide technical assistance to manage the effects of the migration crisis and to support the planning of territorial rural development.
- Strengthening the technical capacity of Migration Colombia, through the supply and installation of equipment for biometric enrollment in the Migratory Control Posts of Villa del Rosario and Rumichaca.
- On April 8, the first meeting of the Area of Intervention 4 subgroup was held; partners agreed on a joint work strategy to propose to the Government of Colombia

## COORDINATION

The national GIFMM has 52 participating members, with 8 local chapters (+1 in process of formation\*). The GIFMM works in close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team using a back to back system with the aim of providing a coherent response to the needs of the population and generating population needs analysis.

In **La Guajira** the local GIFMM attended the Unified Command Posts (PMU) of Maicao and Departmental PMU of **La Guajira** to discuss contingency planning and provided an update of the work carried out by the UN agencies and local and international NGOs and the local authorities. Members of the local GIFMM also hosted a visit from USAID, the US Embassy and the University of Antioquia.

In **Medellín, Antioquia** a meeting was held with USAID and several GIFMM organizations such as the Red Cross, ADRA, IOM, IRC, among others, to discuss a general context of **Antioquia** in terms of health and education, with special emphasis on labour inclusion for Venezuelan migrants. The meeting resulted from USAID interest in planning actions to face intra-urban conflict.

In **Pasto, Nariño** members of the local GIFMM met with the Departmental Institute of Health of Nariño (IDSN), to articulate and coordinate the Departmental Response Plan in the health sector for Venezuelans in transit as well as those who wish to remain in **Nariño**. In **Ipiales, Nariño** an inter-agency Case Analysis Board meeting was held by GIFMM members in order to establish terms of reference as well as focal points and routes for the referral and monitoring of cases that are identified at the Information and Orientation Point in **Rumichaca and Ipiales**.

In **Cali, Valle del Cauca** members of the local GIFMM also accompanied a health session for Venezuelan persons of concern in Commune 16, organized by the Health Secretary. Mof the local GIFMM, local government agencies, Migración Colombia and the Public Ministry jointly updated the assistance protocol for the migrant population in transit.

In **Cartagena, Bolivar**, GIFMM members met with 30 local government officials from 14 institutions to discuss the work of member organisations with Venezuelans in the department. Local authorities and members agreed to carry out a Mobile Justice House campaign in Bayunca, to serve the Venezuelan population that is located in an informal settlement. In **Cucuta, Norte de Santander** four new member organisations joined the local GIFMM. On 30 April the local GIFMM hosted a meeting on caminantes, discussing key needs identified and the use of a monitoring tool to conduct daily monitoring of populations walking from the border in **Norte de Santander** to large cities in Colombia, or onwards to Ecuador and Peru.

The National GIFMM together with the Presidency held a meeting to monitor the situation of ‘caminantes’ – people traveling large distance by foot, using the humanitarian Kobo software to georeference the response points of where GIFMM members are located. The software captures information on hours of service, the type of response and contact details of the focal point at each station. A focus of the meeting was to understand how State institutions can support this effort.

## GIFMM MEMBERS \*

ACF | ADRA | Amiceres | Aldeas Infantiles | 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

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**For more information, please contact:**

Jessica Watts, UNHCR, [wattsj@unhcr.org](mailto:wattsj@unhcr.org)

Catalina Pinzón, IOM, [cpinzon@iom.int](mailto:cpinzon@iom.int)