

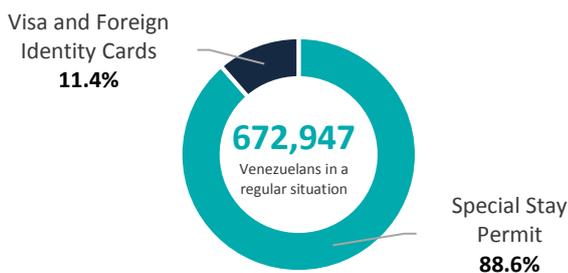
By the end of May 2019, just under 1.3 million Venezuelans were living in Colombia. As the number of arrivals of refugees, migrants and Colombian returnees continues to increase, their basic needs, including access to food, basic medical care, accommodation and documentation, continue to grow. Around 60% are in a regular situation and 40% in an irregular situation. In addition to these immediate humanitarian needs, access to the labor market is essential to ensure the long-term socio-economic integration of refugees, migrants and returning Colombians. The continued arrival of people of interest to Colombia requires comprehensive and timely assistance to provide emergency assistance in critical areas, such as health and registration, and also highlights the need to provide more durable solutions such as access to education, livelihoods and employment. The Inter-agency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) coordinates the response for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees and host populations, both at the national level, and through the local presence in 11 departments, in a manner that is complementary to the Colombian State.

KEY FIGURES

VENEZUELAN IN COLOMBIA¹

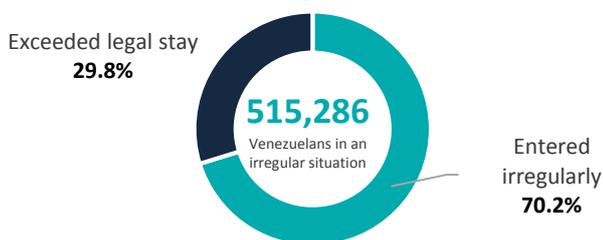
 **1,298,300** Venezuelans in Colombia

In a regular situation



+101,388 within period established by the law (includes tourist visas and other types of short term stay)

In an irregular situation



 **3.37 million** Venezuelan with a Temporary Border Mobility Card (TMF)

 **178,215** Venezuelans with a Temporary Transit Permit (PIP-TT)

 **242,025** Venezuelans have left Colombia via the Rumichaca International Bridge in 2019

RESPONSE

 **32** Key partners

 **272,000**

Beneficiaries received one or more types of assistance

 **31**

Implementing partners

 **26** Departments

101 Municipalities

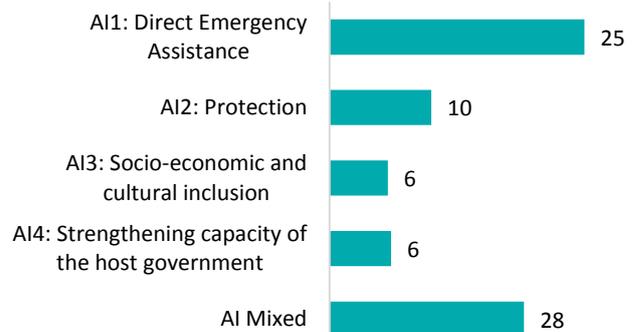
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW²

 **US\$ 315M** Requested funding

 **US\$ 75.5M** Funding received



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



¹ Data from Migration Colombia as of 31 March 2019.

² Partial financial information until the end of May from 22 RMRP partner organisations, which includes commitments and contributions paid, it does not include contributions for multiple countries. For more information: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary%20>

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- On May 3, several shots were fired from the Venezuelan side of the Simón Bolívar International Bridge, causing panic among people crossing the bridge and those waiting for their passports at the migration control point on the Colombian side of the border, in **Norte de Santander**. People inside the offices of the National Police, Migration Colombia, and the National Guard of Venezuela remained inside while the situation lasted. The local GIFMM continues to monitor the security situation on the bridge.
- On May 14, the government of Colombia announced its assistance plan for former members of the armed forces and Venezuelan police who live in Colombia, with the purpose of helping them to continue integrating into civilian life.
- On May 22, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Carlos Trujillo, held a press conference on the Venezuela situation, to draw attention to the response needs in Colombia for refugees, migrants and returnees. The Minister acknowledged the work of the GIFMM coordination platform and requested greater funding in Colombia for the 2019 RMRP. He also stressed the importance of the socioeconomic inclusion of the Venezuelan population in Colombia.
- On May 23, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Carlos Trujillo, visited the department of **La Guajira** where he participated in the weekly Unified Command Post meeting (Puesto de Mando Unificado, PMU), and attended the inauguration of the Migrant and Refugee Care Center in Riohacha, as well as visiting the Integrated Assistance Center in Maicao. During the same visit, the director of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) Juliana Pungiluppi, and the Colombian First Lady, María Juliana Ruiz, inaugurated a boarding school for victims of sexual violence which is operated by the Renacer Foundation in Riohacha and will house 50 children, Venezuelan and Colombian girls and adolescents between 7 and 17 years old.
- On May 29, Migración Colombia announced an extension to the validity of the Special Stay Permit (PEP) for the first phase of applicants; (68,000 people with PEP I) who obtained the permit between August 3 and October 31, 2017 and whose document is about to expire. The measure came into force on June 4, 2019, and allows the holders of this PEP an extension of two additional years; the extension can be requested through an online form, free of charge.



Venezuelans in transit in receive assistance at a humanitarian tent in Pamplona, Norte de Santander ©OIM.



Indigenous Yukpa children receive nutritional and medical attention in Cúcuta, Norte de Santander © Action Against Hunger.

OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSE

Área de Intervención 1: Asistencia directa de emergencia

During the month of May, 22 member organisations (with the assistance of 24 implementing partners) provided direct humanitarian assistance to more than 242,000 people in 20 departments, reaching people in 72 municipalities.

More than 56,700 people received basic medical assistance in 11 departments, and some 10,400 children were vaccinated during the month in 5 departments. 1,700 children received basic medical care mainly in border areas, where local health care services are overwhelmed in their capacity to deal with emergencies. The provision of psychosocial care and mental health assistance benefited more than 13,400 people during the month, 690 of whom were children. Some 4,800 pregnant women received prenatal care in [Arauca](#), [Atlántico](#), [Bolívar](#), [Cesar](#), [La Guajira](#), [Nariño](#) and [Norte de Santander](#). In addition to the provision of services, member organizations and their partners organized educational information days, sharing information with more than 23,900 people on how to prevent basic diseases and prevent malnutrition.

Throughout the month, more than 227,400 people received food assistance in 8 departments: [Arauca](#), [Bogotá](#), [Chocó](#), [La Guajira](#), [Nariño](#), [Norte de Santander](#), [Guainía](#) and [Santander](#). Some 159,400 people received meals served in community kitchens, more than 65,500 people received food vouchers in 4 departments and some 2,500 people received in-kind assistance. In five municipalities of [La Guajira](#), more than 9,600 people were reached through activities that seek to strengthen food security and nutrition. Members and partners provided technical assistance and training to small-scale farmers, as well as educational sessions on nutrition and provided tools and seeds to people to assist them to manage the production of their own food.

In [Norte de Santander](#), [La Guajira](#), [Antioquia](#) and [Arauca](#), more than 4,700 children were reached through improved educational spaces. 1,350 children benefited from emergency education activities in [Arauca](#), [La Guajira](#), [Nariño](#) and [Norte de Santander](#), and more than 470 educational kits were delivered to some of the most vulnerable refugee, migrant and returnee children in [La Guajira](#).

In May, members and partners provided humanitarian transportation to ensure the safe passage of more than 6,300 people, mainly those who had reached the border departments of [Santander](#) and [Norte de Santander](#), and who traveled to large cities in Colombia or to the southern border with Ecuador to continue their onward journey. Humanitarian transport reduces the risks associated with walking long distances, such as exposure to elements and traffic along major roads, threats due to the presence of armed groups in some areas and extortion, as well as negative coping mechanisms such as survival sex.

Some 9,750 people received support with emergency shelter along with the delivery of non-food items for personal hygiene in [Arauca](#), [Bogotá](#), [La Guajira](#), [Nariño](#), [Norte de Santander](#) and [Santander](#),

22 Key partners
24 Implementing partners
242,000 Beneficiaries
20 Departments
72 Municipalities



A young Venezuelan girl, who currently lives in one of Maicao's informal settlements with her family, learns how to wash her hands during a Save the Children distribution of water filters and mosquito nets in La Guajira. © Save the Children



People who are leaving the Integrated Attention Centre receive cash cards at a distribution event in Maicao, La Guajira. © Mercy Corps.

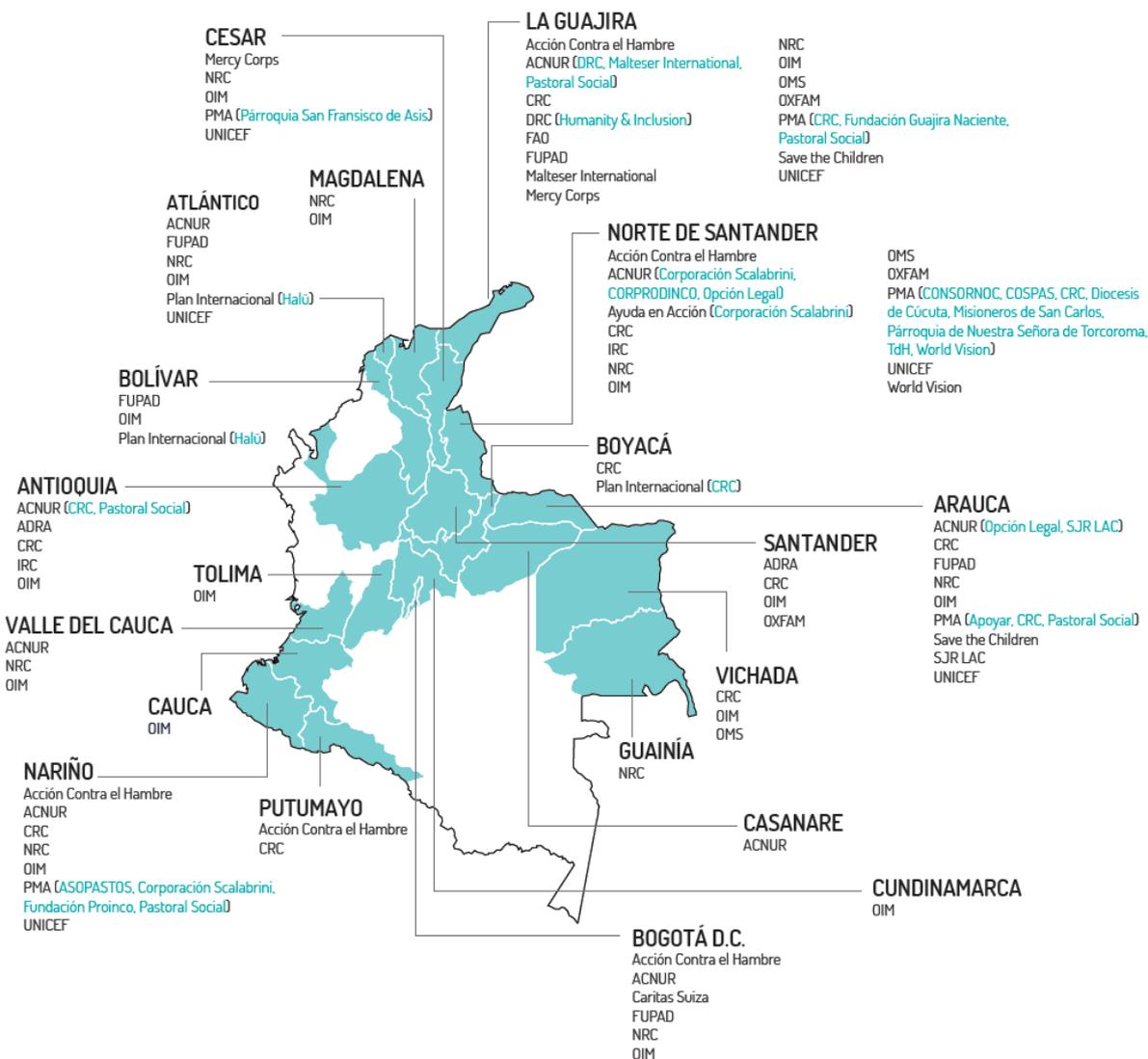
allowing them to have a temporary safe space to stay while they make contact with their families and other relatives and/or find longer-term options or plan their next trips.

In **Norte de Santander and Santander**, more than 17,600 people received non-food items, including household items such as crockery and cutlery, bedding and mosquito nets. In addition, 4,300 people received multipurpose cash transfers, which allows them to prioritize their most urgent needs, including food, shelter and other household items.

In terms of water, sanitation and hygiene activities, member organizations and partners supported the renewal of water sources that allowed more than 300 people to have access to safe drinking water during the month. In addition, some 2,000 people in 7 departments received hygiene kits containing deodorant, a toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper and other basic hygiene items including, for women, feminine hygiene products.

Intervention Area 1: Actors by department that reported activities in May

Socio principal (Socio implementador)



Area of Intervention 2: Protection

Coordinated protection activities reached more than 70,700 people in 24 departments and 74 municipalities across Colombia during May. 14 member organisations and 12 implementing partners worked to provide protection to some of the most vulnerable refugees, migrants and returnees in Colombia.

Throughout the month, basic legal guidance and/or assistance was provided to 22,564 people in 15 departments, with the majority of beneficiaries in the Colombian-Venezuelan border department of **Norte de Santander** and on the Caribbean coast in **Atlántico and Bolívar**. In addition, more than 3,700 people attended information and orientation days, and received information and guidance on how to access basic legal assistance in **Arauca, Atlántico, Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Valle de Cauca and Vichada**. More than half of these information days were held in Arauca, which has an increasing number of refugees and migrants who are arriving in an irregular situation.

In addition to the provision of information on legal assistance, more than 10,100 people received information focused on their rights, the process of regularizing their status, documentation and asylum routes. During the month, 545 Colombian repatriates received assistance or guidance and helped 15 Venezuelan asylum seekers apply for refugee status in the departments of **Atlántico, Bogotá, Nariño and Norte de Santander**.

During the month, almost 14,000 children and adolescents benefited from child-friendly spaces, allowing them to continue their development cycle and participate in activities organized with host communities, to play, socialize, learn and express themselves while recovering from the trauma of having to leave their homes in Venezuela. The majority of these children and adolescents were assisted in the border departments of **Nariño** (Colombia/Ecuador) and **Norte de Santander** (Colombia/Venezuela).

In May, more than 4,500 people were given guidance and information on the routes of care for victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), while more than 2,000 cases of SGBV were attended to by member organizations and their partners. In **Vichada, Valle de Cauca, Norte de Santander, Nariño, La Guajira, Chocó, Bogotá, Arauca**, some 680 cases were identified and attended in the network of safe spaces which provides care and protection for survivors of gender based violence throughout the cycle of displacement, including women, girls, but also male and female survivors of SGBV, children at risk, LGBTI people at risk and other people with specific needs.

The persistence of armed conflict in some regions of Colombia poses threats such as forced recruitment and participation in illicit economies for refugees and vulnerable migrants and Colombian returnees. During the month, more than 3,500 people of interest were informed of the protection risks they may face in the territory where they live, while more than 2,250 people participated in activities that promote prevention and raise awareness of the risks of forced recruitment.

The *Tu Vida Cambia* campaign was launched to prevent human trafficking. The main focus of the campaign is the song #TuVidaCambia, an adaptation of the famous Venezuelan bagpipes "Sentir Zuliano". The song

- 14** Key partners
- 12** Implementing partners
- 70,700** Beneficiaries
- 24** Departments
- 74** Municipalities

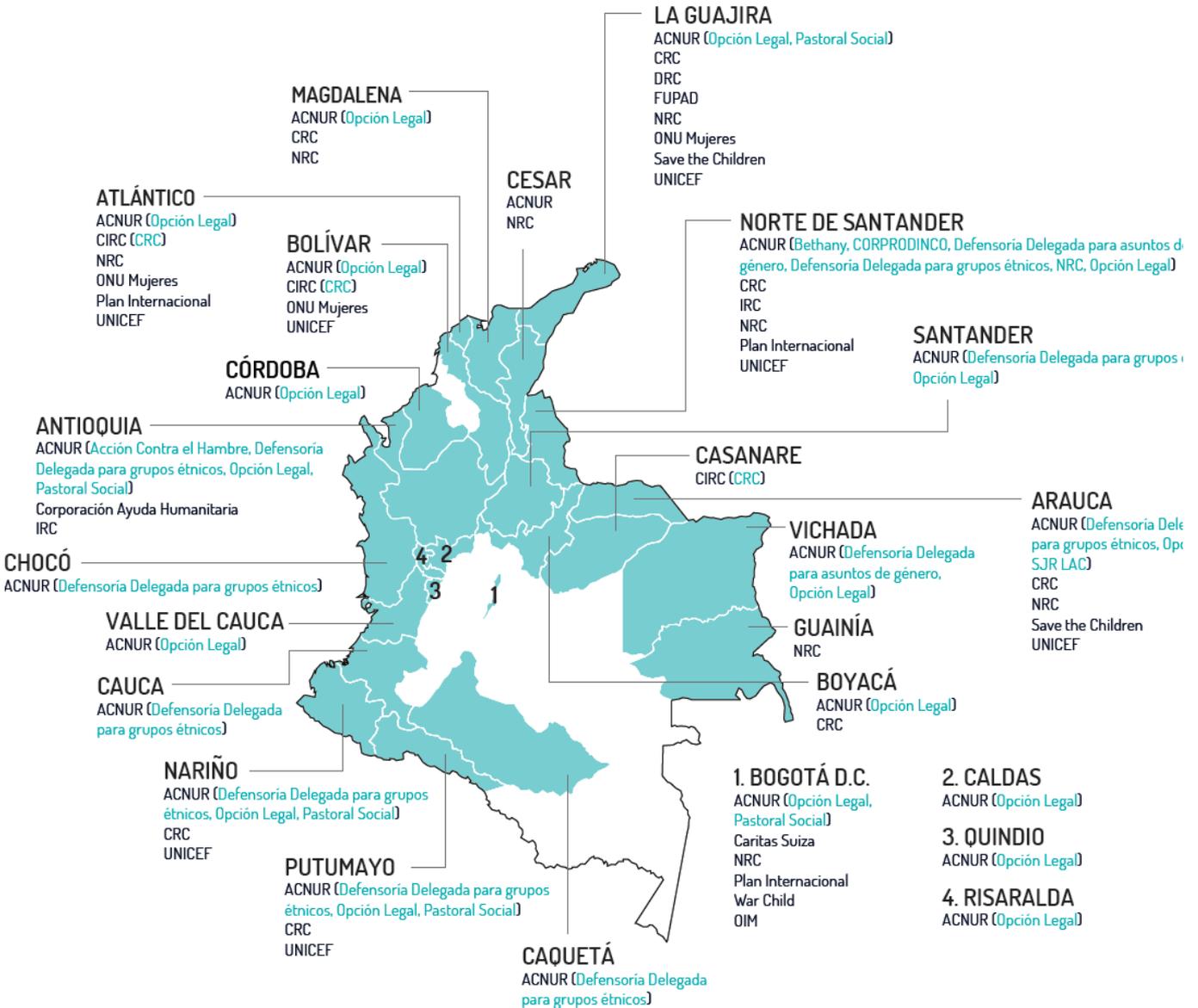


In child friendly spaces, children are encouraged to process their emotions and learn in a safe environment. In this image a Save the Children employee works with children in a child friendly space in Maicao, la Guajira. © Save the Children

communicates preventive messages which can be easily remembered and transmitted during the difficult journeys made by migrants during their passage through Colombia, and who, given their vulnerability, have a high risk of being potential victims of human trafficking. For more information: <https://bit.ly/2KC1JKQ>

Area of Intervention 2: Actors by department that reported activities in May

Socio principal (Socio implementador)



Area of Intervention 3: Socio-economic and cultural integration

During May, more than 6,100 people were assisted by socio-economic and long-term reintegration activities, implemented by 6 member organisations and implementing partners in 13 departments and across a total of 29 municipalities.

Member organizations and their partners conducted several orientation trainings for 191 private and 74 public institutions on how to facilitate employment for refugees, migrants and returnees in their existing workforce. Partners of the GIFMM facilitated a series of trainings in relation to entrepreneurship and employment, sharing information on orientation and

- 6** Key partners and implementing partners
- 6,100** Beneficiaries
- 13** Departments
- 29** Municipalities

advice of routes to seek formal employment for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. In terms of activities that encourage social integration and acceptance, more than 5,050 people participated in activities that promote rights through sports, art, culture and communication in [La Guajira](#), [Nariño](#), [Norte de Santander](#), [Arauca](#), [Atlántico](#) and [Bogotá](#). During the month, eight anti-xenophobia campaigns were carried out in [Bogotá](#), [Nariño](#), [Norte de Santander](#) and [Santander](#), promoting acceptance and solidarity towards the refugee and migrant population in these respective departments.

The socioeconomic and cultural inclusion subgroup presented its Terms of Reference to members, in order to provide the guidelines and work plan for the subgroup. A guide was designed with the most relevant concepts to the issue of integration, to have a tool that allows understanding of concepts among the members of the subgroup, and to assist the facilitation of dialogue with external stakeholders. At the local levels, meetings were held in [Barranquilla](#), [Arauca](#) and [Cúcuta](#).

Feature story: Entrepreneurship as a means to integration



*Jose Santana, a participant in Mercy Corps Multipurpose Cash Assistance Program in Maicao, La Guajira.
© Mercy Corps.*

18 months ago, Jose Aldemar Santana Garcia left his family in Venezuela and travelled to Colombia in the hope of finding work to send remittances to his family. He had owned and ran a small bakery in Venezuela but with the worsening economic situation it became too difficult even to find enough basic ingredients. In December 2018, Mr Santana was selected as a beneficiary of Mercy Corps’ Multipurpose Cash Assistance program. He invested part of each transfer into simple baking and cooking equipment which he now uses to make fried plantains and to bake traditional bread and cheese pastries called *deditos de queso*. With his new equipment, he has the capacity to make up to 1,000 *deditos* per day. From 1 kilogram of flour and 1 kilogram of cheese he can make 100 *deditos*, which he sells in packs of 20 *deditos* (ready for frying) for \$2. He currently sells 25 to 40 packages of *deditos* per week.

A key to Mr. Santana’s business success has been his partnership with a Colombian single mother of seven children. She provides him with a place to live and work and he shares the profits with her, which helps her support her children. Mr. Santana is now able to support himself, help support his host family, and on most weeks send between \$8 and \$10 to his sister and mother in Venezuela. Mercy Corps multipurpose cash assistance program is an example of how GIFMM members continue to support refugees, migrants and returnees to build livelihoods and integrate into Colombia.

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

The GIFMM works in close collaboration with different Government institutions to support its response to Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Throughout May, capacity building activities were delivered by two members and four implementing partners reached more than 400 people in six departments and 8 municipalities throughout Colombia.

172 government employees received training on international protection and access to rights in [Norte de Santander](#) and [Vichada](#), while 27 other government employees in the [Atlantic](#) participated in information exchange days to strengthen the protection response to trafficking, focusing on children and unaccompanied adolescents. In [Vichada](#), 25 government officials were sensitized and trained in the implementation of good practices and the management of information and knowledge in various sectors, such as health, justice, documentation, regularization, security and coexistence. In [Arauca](#), the Municipal Government Secretariat requested national level support for to strengthen the response to refugees and migrants in the municipality.

- 6** Key partners and implementing partners
- 400** Beneficiaries
- 6** Departments
- 8** Municipalities

COORDINATION

The national GIFMM has 53 participating members, with eight 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.

On May 9 and 10, the local GIFMM members in **Bogotá** that form the work group for temporary housing met for the second time, with the intention of strengthening the coordination and management of temporary shelters in **Bogotá**. The members discussed the progress and challenges of 6 temporary shelters in **Bogotá** and two in the municipalities of **Soacha and Tunja**. On May 17 and 18, the GIFMM members of **Bogotá** organized days of integrated basic health assistance for refugees, migrants and returnees in **Soacha**. There were 297 people, 56 of whom were pregnant women.

The GIFMM in **La Guajira** held its first meeting with the elected mayor of **Riohacha**, to inform him about the context of mixed flows in the department and the response of the GIFMM. During the month, local GIFMM members in **La Guajira** participated in the Unified Command Post (PMU) meetings in **Uribia, Maicao and Cesar**. In addition, GIFMM members have been consolidating their contingency planning and making progress in their cash, protection, health and WASH working groups.

Member organisations and government met during May with the objective of articulating and knowing the response to the Venezuelan population in transit or travelling by foot through Colombia. Since last year, the GIFMM has mapped the response along the route used by this population. Currently the group has a Kobo form to identify assistance points and response actions.



Venezuelans crossing Colombia by foot in Bucaramanga, Santander © OIM

GIFMM MEMBERS *

Action Against Hunger | ADRA | Amiceres | Aldeas Infantiles | Ayuda en Acción | BLUMONT | Bethany International | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian Red Cross | Diakonie | DRC | FAO | Global Communities | 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 | Premiere Urgence | RET International | Save the Children | TdH Lausanne | UN Habitat | Un Techo Para Mi País | UN Women | UNDP | UNEP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | War Child | WFP | WHO/PAHO | World Vision

*including organizations in the 2019 RMRP

CONTRIBUTIONS

Austria, Aviation without Borders, Bloomberg, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, DOB Foundation, Dubai Cares (UAE), Dutch Relief Alliance, the European Union, Germany, Gilead Sciences Inc., Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Korea, Medicor Foundation, Museum of Quai Branly, New Zealand, Norway, Novo Nordisk, Ole Kirk Foundation, Spain, the United States of America, Stichting Vluchteling, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom.

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