

# Colombia

Colombia's migration authority initiated the in-person **biometric registration phase** for over 1.3 million persons registered in the National Registry for Venezuelan Migrants (RUMV) processing more than 3,298 in person biometrics by 3 October.

UNHCR and the Migration Authority signed a **Letter of Understanding** on 1 October improving access of Venezuelans to rights and regularization process through the Temporary Protection Status (TPS).

**The Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants** held consultations with the Government. President Duque reaffirmed his commitment to carry out the largest regularization process in Latin America.

## FIGURES

1,842,390 

Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants

64% 

% in process of regularization through the TPS

51,737 

Persons affected by new internal displacements in 2021

47,216 

Persons affected by situations of confinement in 2021

## UNHCR Response

### Direct beneficiaries in 2021



## Operational Context

On 1 October UNHCR signed the [Letter of Understanding](#) with Colombia's Migration Authority, a framework that strengthens bilateral cooperation and territorial presence across the country particularly during the implementation of the TPS. The Letter stipulates the delivery of 15 mobile units in support of reaching Venezuelans in remote areas and of capacity building workshops on international protection, access to rights and the asylum system as well as on the prevention of xenophobia and on the protection of survivors of gender-based violence and children at risk.

The Government of Colombia received the visit of the Mr. Eduardo Stein, the UN Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants between 6 and 8 September 2021 who praised the solidarity of the Colombian state with the Venezuelan refugees and migrants. President Duque equally [reaffirmed his commitment](#) to deliver more than 1.8 million Temporary Protection Permits (TPPs) which would constitute the largest regularization process in Latin America.



President Duque's press conference with the occasion of the visit of Joint Representative Stein, 8 of September 2021

The Colombian Migration Authority – the main implementing national body of the Temporary Protection Status - initiated on 1 September the second phase of TPS, the in-person biometric registration of Venezuelans that completed their pre-registration into the RUMV which as of 30 September exceeded 1,3 million people. The biometric registrations fast tracked in the “Visible Points” offices reached over 3,300 out of over 1 million in person appointments.



The delivery of the first TPP by President Duque and Migration Colombia Director Juan Francisco Espinosa

**1,3 million**

Pre-registration into RUMV

**1,183,210**

Appointments

**3,298**

Bio-metrics registered



REGISTRO ÚNICO DE MIGRANTES VENEZOLANOS		MIGRACIÓN	
RUMV		MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES	
NOMBRES:	MARIA	APELLIDOS:	PÉREZ PÉREZ
FECHA DE NACIMIENTO:	21/05/1986	NACIONALIDAD:	VENEZOLANA
TIPO DE IDENTIFICACIÓN:	PEP - PERMISO ESPECIAL DE PERMANENCIA	NO. DE DOCUMENTO:	12345678990
GÉNERO:	FEMENINO	FECHA DE REGISTRO:	02/06/2021

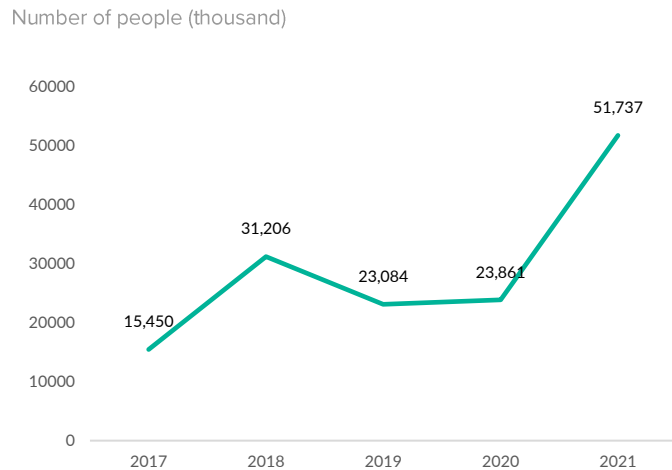
\*Recuerde que esta certificación no es un documento de identificación.

## POPULATION TRENDS

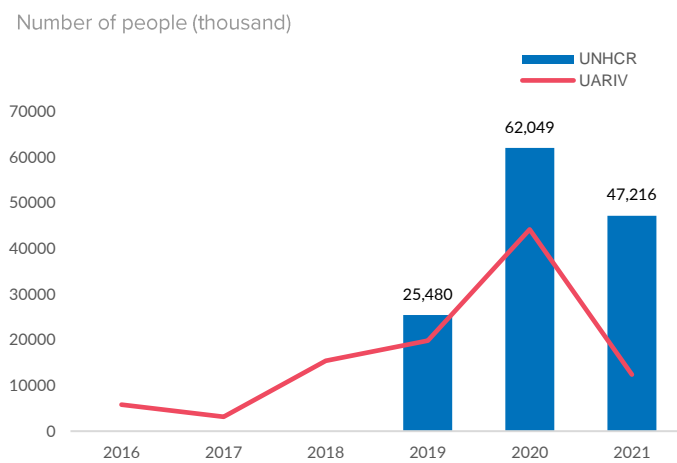
According to UNHCR monitoring, as of 30 September, 51,737 people, or 17,721 families, have been uprooted since the start of 2021 by 106 large-group displacement events. This represents an increase of 179% compared to the same period in 2020. During the month of September 11 large group displacements took place in the departments of Chocó (5), Cauca (3) Nariño (2) and Norte de Santander (1) impacting 3,487 persons, or 1,219 families. In addition, more than 47,216 people, or 12,441 families, have been confined in Chocó, Nariño, Antioquia, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Risaralda and Putumayo.



### Annual evolution of large group displacements | 2017 - 2021



### Annual evolution of confinements | 2016 - 2021



- In Norte de Santander, the humanitarian corridor was activated during the first week of September for the access of Venezuelan students to tertiary education exams in Colombia and of people in need of medical treatment.

- In La Guajira, the number of irregular entries vary on a weekly basis between 300 and up to 1,500 per day depending on the COVID-19 restriction or flexibilization measures applied on the Venezuela side of the border. These movements include those of indigenous Wayyu in search of medicine, food and services.



■ In Necocli, the number of people stranded in the Gulf of Urabá trying to access routes for their journey towards the USA exceeded 19,000 (most of whom of Haitian nationality) despite Panama authorities limiting the daily entries to 500. This led to new networks of smugglers offering informal boat rides between Colombia and Panama, increasing protection risks. 39 persons benefited from sexual and reproductive health services and medical support in the Gulf of Urabá though UNHCR implementing partner ProFamilia.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR and NRC launched on 1 September the National Call Center (LAN in Spanish) with a toll free number and coverage all throughout Colombia to provide information and orientations to Venezuelan refugees and migrants, asylum seekers, internally displaced, stateless people and Colombian returnees.

The Call Center identifies individuals in highly vulnerable situations and refers them to UNHCR staff and partners working in 59 Orientation and Information Centers (PAOs in Spanish) and to NRC’s legal service for specialized assistance (ICLA). During the month of September out of the **3,245 family groups registered** in the UNHCR PRIMES eco-system, 1,827 were oriented on legal documentation and access to the TPS; 220 Venezuelans were directly assisted with pre-registration activities into the RUMV; **143 families** were assisted with information on the **asylum system** in Colombia and 28 in another country and; 557 families were oriented on access to health services.

UNHCR and partners continue with the orientation, registration and identification of vulnerable profiles in PRIMES via 82 telephone reception points – including LAN and 59 PAOs - registering **8,802 people** during the month of September, 82 percent of whom are women which brings the total number of people registered since 1 January 2021 to 52,113. Of these 8,226 (**16%**) have been carried out through **Mobile** PAOs in support of Venezuelans in remote areas and informal settlements.

## NATIONAL CALL CENTER AND PAOs

UNHCR ACNUR NRC CONSEJO NORUEGO PARA REFUGIADOS

¿ERES UNA PERSONA REFUGIADA, MIGRANTE, VÍCTIMA DEL CONFLICTO O COLOMBIANA RETORNADA, Y NECESITAS ORIENTACIÓN?

Comunícate GRATIS desde tu celular al #675

De lunes a sábado de 8:00 a.m. a 6:00 p.m. No días festivos.

Brindamos información sobre tus derechos y rutas para acceder a servicios como regularización migratoria, salud, educación, justicia, entre otros.

RECUERDA QUE TODOS NUESTROS SERVICIOS SON GRATUITOS




**WORKSHOPS**

During the month of September, UNHCR carried out 10 capacity building workshops on **international protection routes and antixenophobia** with the participation of 200 civil servants and local authorities in Leticia, Pasto, Cartagena, Pereira y Medellín from the Observation of Human Rights Group, part of the project **#Micasaestucasa**, an initiative with Migracion Colombia.


**VACCINATION**

The Government of Colombia has scaled up its COVID-19 vaccination campaign with more than 35% of the population being fully vaccinated as of 31 September. The pandemic however continues to challenge Colombia's health and social welfare systems, with Venezuelan refugees and migrants being among the most vulnerable.

UNHCR and implementing partners have been strengthening the response capacities of departmental health authorities and

advocating for the inclusion of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Starting 8 October, all Venezuelans regardless of their legal status have now access to the national vaccination plan. Nevertheless, according to WHO data, the number of Venezuelans fully vaccinated against COVID-19 corresponds to only 2% (37,035 people) of the total Venezuelan population in Colombia. Additionally, 101 Venezuelan older adults received boosters and 35,457 are waiting for their second dose. UNHCR continues to inform and orient the population of concern on accessing vaccination points activated in cities across Colombia.

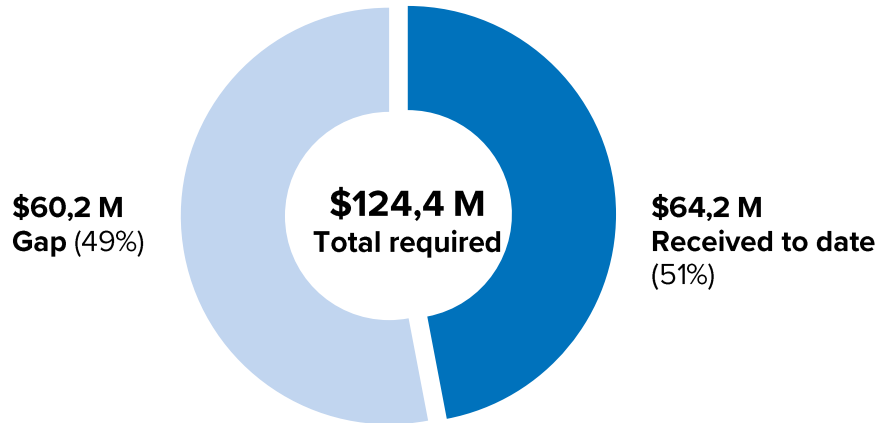
**ENCOUNTERS**

Somos Panas Colombia, UNHCR's campaign against xenophobia, launched the miniseries Encounters ("Encuentros" in Spanish) a 4 episode initiative featuring experiences of Venezuelan refugees and migrants and Colombian IDPs (re)integrating into host communities. The episodes have been disseminated through YouTube and other social media, reaching over 144,000 views. In addition, the advertising of the miniseries has reached over 1 million people.



## FUNDING

### UNHCR Funding (As of September 2021)



### Working in partnership

■ UNHCR, together with IOM, co-leads the Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group (GIFMM in Spanish), which includes 77 members, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and members of the Red Cross movement. Its main objective is to coordinate the response to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees, and the host population in a complementary manner with the Government.

**Special thanks to our major donors for 2021:** Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | KOICA | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom | United States of America | Central Emergency Response Fund | UN Programme on HIV/ AIDS | UN Trust Fund for Human Security | UN Environmental Programme |

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## LINKS

For more information, please visit [Colombia Global Focus](#) and [Colombia Operational Portal](#)