

VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN COLOMBIA

December 2018

According to the official figures of the Colombian government, at the end of December 2018 there were **more than 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, **649,125** are in a regular situation, **164,793** are in the process of regularization and **218,098** are in an irregular situation. Refugees and migrants have increasingly urgent needs.

The Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) coordinates the response, and supports the Government in responding to these needs.

This report reflects the response of the Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) to refugees and migrants from Venezuela, Colombian returnees, and host communities in December 2018.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On December 4, the government extended the deadline to obtain the PEP-RAMV from December 2 to 21 for Venezuelan citizens who registered with the RAMV (Administrative Registration of Migrants from Venezuela). The measure benefited over 170,000 Venezuelan citizens who, had not obtained their PEP-RAMV by the original deadline. A total of 281, 612 obtained their PEP-RAMV of the more than 442,000 people who registered with the RAMV.
- On December 14, the [Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants](#) from Venezuela was launched, covering 16 countries and 95 partners. The requirements in the 2019 regional plan are US\$738 million for 2.7 million people, including a request for funds for Colombia of \$315 million from 34 partners. The Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a [statement](#) welcoming the plan and highlighting the support of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Carlos Trujillo, who called for regional and international cooperation to respond to the situation. The GIFMM is in charge of coordinating implementation of the plan in Colombia.
- The Government introduced a new [temporary transit permit](#) for foreigners to enter Colombia and travel to a third country, coming into effect from December 27. Venezuelans, with and without a passport, can register to obtain the permit that gives them 15 days to travel through Colombia and exit to a third country for their onwards journey. The permit was introduced following the advocacy efforts by the national GIFMM.
- The Director of Migration of Colombia, Christian Kruger, announced that the Colombian government will [reintroduce the Border Mobility Cards](#) (TMF) for Venezuelans as of November 27, allowing beneficiaries to access border areas for up to seven days to purchase basic goods, services and visits to relatives. Requests for the TMF had been closed since February. By the end of December, more than 830,000 people had registered for the new round of TMF, more than 830,000 of whom registered in the first month.
- Two local GIFMMs were established in Bogotá (Cundinamarca) and Medellín (Antioquia) to coordinate with the establishment of Migration Management Round Tables in those departments. Of the more than one million Venezuelans living in Colombia, 23% are in Cundinamarca and 7% in Antioquia.

KEY FIGURES*

- **1,032,016** Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia (as of November 30).
- **551,134** Venezuelans have the PEP. Of these, 281,612 have the PEP-RAMV.
- **834,954** TMFs approved as of 1 January 2019, issued from 27 November 2018.
- **978,505** Venezuelans have left Colombia in 2018 via the Rumichaca Bridge, and airports.

**Official figures published by Migración Colombia on January 2, unless otherwise stated.*

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

This information includes activities of GIFMM members until the end of December, including activities that benefit refugees and migrants from Venezuela, Colombian returnees and host communities.

1. DIRECT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1.1 HEALTH

- **The Colombian Red Cross** has supported 17 Migrant Assistance Posts (PAM) located in Santander, Norte de Santander, Arauca, La Guajira, Nariño, Vichada, Putumayo, Cundinamarca and Guainía to deliver: medical consultation and delivery of medicines for 3,713 people, nursing care for 2,799 people, health promotion and disease prevention activities for 268 people, community-based psychosocial care for 250 participants and individual psychosocial care for 1,342 people.
- In the **International Rescue Committee's (IRC)** Integral Community Center in Cúcuta, 414 women received prenatal care. Of these, 11 cases were referred to specialists for high-risk pregnancies and 41 women were referred to hospitals for delivery. 55 women received counseling and provisions for family planning, including subdermal implants and IUDs. 2 patients were treated for STIs. 21 children under 5 years of age received primary health care. Two women received medical treatment for gender violence.
- **Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)** carried out 1,068 medical consultations in Bucaramanga and Medellín, including conducting laboratories and delivering medications.
- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** in Norte de Santander and La Guajira provided 272 women with access to contraceptive methods. 185 women agreed to a long-term method of contraception, including sub-dermal implants and intrauterine devices.
- **Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)** assisted 282 people in La Guajira and Arauca through group psychosocial support, aimed at overcoming the negative effects of migration, providing self-management tools, creation of support networks and coping strategies for people arriving in Arauca, Saravena, Riohacha and Maicao.
- **The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** continues the implementation of health and nutrition activities for 3,600 people, including children under 9 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers, through extramural equipment linked to public hospitals (State Social Enterprises) - ESE, in Uribia, La Guajira, Villa del Rosario, Norte de Santander, Arauca and Ipiales in Nariño.
- **The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)**, in coordination with Profamilia, provided basic health services to 40 people in Quibdó, Chocó.
- In Cúcuta and Villa del Rosario, Norte de Santander, **Acción Contra el Hambre** assisted 320 people (of these 280 were minors) of whom 56 were malnourished, 198 children were dewormed and 300 children received micronutrients, 16 pregnant 24 lactating women were supported. In La Guajira, health and nutrition attention was given to 28 girls, 16 boys and 4 pregnant and lactating women.
- **The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** completed the delivery of medicines and basic supplies in hospitals, delivering 14 kits in La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Arauca for the care of 14,000 people. A donation of biomedical equipment was made to the Hospital of Riohacha for pediatric emergencies. Nutritional food supplements were made for the care of minors with moderate malnutrition in La Guajira (3,900 doses) and Norte de Santander (4,050 doses). 7,330 people received immunizations, through 20,756 vaccines. 612 people were treated for health problems. 36 adult PEP kits were delivered to 19 Hospitals in La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Arauca.

1.2 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- **The Colombian Red Cross** carried out hygiene promotion activities for more than 238 migrants, providing public bathing services for more than 413 migrants, as well as delivering fixed hydration points in Arauca, which delivered 3000 liters of water daily.
- **The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** in coordination with **ACH** improved access to potable water and agricultural production, through the adaptation, rehabilitation and maintenance of 5 water supply systems in the municipalities of Manaure and Maicao, benefiting 261 families.
- **ADRA** distributed vouchers for hygiene kits for 140 families, reaching a total of 700 people.
- In Nariño, **UNICEF** technically and financially supported the Sanitary Works Company of the Province of Obando (EMPOOBANDO), to rehabilitate toilets at the Rumichaca border point in Ipiales. **UNICEF** supported the local health institute (IPS) of Ipiales to develop processes to promote safe behaviors and key hygiene, water and sanitation practices.
- In Cali, **UNHCR** in Valle del Cauca and the **Colombian Red Cross** delivered 36 hygiene and food kits to Venezuelans walking on the route from Cali to Santander de Quilichao. **UNHCR** also provided legal guidance and the **Colombian Red Cross**, basic medical assistance.
- In La Guajira, **Acción Contra el Hambre** made the delivery of 1,593 vouchers for families for hygiene kits benefiting 6,372 people (1,388 men, 1,787 women, 1,551 girls and 1,646 boys). During the delivery of the kits, 1,593 people participated in awareness raising on key hygiene practices. Two portable toilets were delivered to the Paraguachón border crossing one for women and one for men, benefiting 1,680 people (1,176 women and 504 men) (data from December 18 to January 11).

1.3 HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORT

- In Bogotá, the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** have assisted with the transportation of 228 people, 137 men and 91 women, bound for the city of Ipiales where they were received by the IOM regional team, to continue to their final destinations of Ecuador and Peru.
- In Norte de Santander, **IOM** assisted with transportation for 109 people, and supported the reunification of 18 family groups on the Colombian – Ecuadorian border.
- In Valle de Cauca, **IOM** supported 37 people with transport from Cali to Ipiales.

1.4 FOOD SECURITY

- In partnership with **UNHCR**, the **World Food Program (WFP)** and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), **the Colombian Red Cross** has delivered more than 1,442 food kits in key border areas. In Riohacha, La Guajira, in partnership with **WFP**, maintains a community soup kitchen that currently benefits 1,300 migrants a day with more than 70,000 breakfast and lunch services per month.
- **FAO** carried out two animal health recovery brigades for 982 sheep and goats in the municipalities of Albania, Manaure and Uribia. About 1,087 people in 19 communities participated in practical workshops on rapid food production in the context of drought, healthy eating and agro climatic risk management.
- **ADRA** delivered hot food to 400 Venezuelans in Villa del Rosario, Norte de Santander.
- **PADF** in alliance with City Hall and Ombudsman, in the municipalities of Maicao, Riohacha and Arauca, delivered 128 food vouchers. It has been identified that families change their vouchers, mainly for fruits, vegetables, dairy products and proteins.
- **Acción Contra el Hambre** delivered 360 goats in the 10 communities, equaling 2 animals per participant, making a total of 36 per community.

- **WFP** through its partners has provided assistance to 72,471 beneficiaries in soup kitchens in Arauca, La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Nariño, 72,311 beneficiaries of food vouchers in Arauca, La Guajira, Norte de Santander and food kits in Alta Guajira and 5,847 children were provided school meals in La Guajira in the first week of December, before the school holidays.

1.5 NON-FOOD ITEMS

- In partnership with **UNHCR**, the **ICRC** and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the **Colombian Red Cross** has delivered more than 2,000 personal hygiene kits to women and children and more than 500 sleeping kits to those in key border areas.

1.6 TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION

- **UNHCR** is working with the mayor's office in Ipiales to open a temporary shelter on the Rumichaca Bridge, with an initial capacity of 20 beds for the month of January, growing to 40 beds in February. The beds are to accommodate vulnerable people in the priority line on the bridge.
- **The Colombian Red Cross** assisted 61 returned Colombians with temporary accommodation under an agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As of December 31, 2018, the **Colombian Red Cross** ceased operation of the Transit Migrant Care Center in Norte de Santander, and **IOM** who now manages the Centre, drafted the closing agreement. 510 people were assisted in the Centre in December.
- In Norte de Santander, the Transitional Migrant Assistance Center (CATM), currently administered by **IOM**, provided shelter to 510 people during the month of December. The regional office prepared the closing agreement with the **Colombian Red Cross**, which as of December 31, 2018 ceased to operate the CATM and activities were carried out to verify the inventory of the CATM with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNGRD.
- In Bogotá, **IOM** provided assistance in temporary accommodation to 19 people, where they received food, shelter and were able to contact their relatives under the agreement with the Canarian Association Special Employment Centers (CESCAMI).

1.6 EDUCATION

- In Arauca, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Cúcuta, Riohacha, Ipiales and Pasto, **UNICEF**, in coordination with the Ministry of National Education and the Secretariats of Education, developed alternative learning processes, through educational and recreational vacation programs, with the participation of 2,380 children and adolescents.
- In Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca, **UNHCR** delivered 42 educational packages to Venezuelan children in the Banco de la República library. In Candelaria, Valle del Cauca, **UNHCR** offered training to 68 teachers on the use of the **UNHCR's** [Mi Viaje](#) tool to support the strategy of a local school to ensure the effective integration of Venezuelan students and the host community.

1.7 MULTI-SECTOR

- **Mercy Corps** initiated the distribution of cash cards in La Guajira distributing US\$26,200 to 337 households in Maicao and Manaure. Each household will receive three monthly distributions.



Manaure, La Guajira: Mercy Corps distributes cash cards to Venezuelans.

2 PROTECTION RESPONSE

2.1 REGISTRATION AND REGULARIZATION

- The total of PEP-RAMVs that **UNHCR** and its implementing partners supported was 45,573, out of a total of 281,612 during the process from August to December. **UNHCR** also assisted 1,148 people to correct their information in the registration system.
- **PADF** led 10 days of attention and orientation for the expedition of the PEP, assisting with the printing of 272 PEP, in Arauca, Guajira, Valle del Cauca, Nariño and Bogotá.

2.2 INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION

- **The Colombian Red Cross** oriented 259 people on referral routes, and assisted with putting families in contact, including national and international calls, access to Wi-Fi connection, recharging cell phone batteries and the delivery of Sim cards. These services were used by 628 women and 562 men.
- **UNFPA** in La Guajira and Norte de Santander informed 986 people on the services available for sexual and reproductive health and gender based violence and assisted women who required such services through previously established routes.
- **PADF** in alliance with the local Ombudsman, Pastoral Social, **UNHCR** and Migrant and Refugee Orientation and Attention Center, held 10 legal orientation days in Arauca, Guajira, Valle del Cauca, Nariño and Bogotá, reaching 1,998 people.
- In Putumayo, **UNHCR** and its partner Pastoral Social organized an information exchange session with 80 Venezuelans and helped 5 people to process their PEP-RAMV.
- **UNHCR** conducted participatory evaluations in Cúcuta, Norte de Santander (73 participants), La Guajira (100 participants), Quibdó, Chocó (170 participants) to identify needs including food, shelter and access to health services.
- In Ipiales, **UNHCR** organized a voluntary work day with the support of the Legal Clinic of the University of Nariño. Several cases of regularization and health care needs were referred to institutions for assistance and guidance on institutional routes, as well as awareness and guidance information provided to Venezuelans. At the border crossing of Rumichaca, an online orientation was carried out, as well as the sensitization of referral routes.
- In Cali, **UNHCR** and **IOM** provided information and legal guidance to 57 people and group information to approximately 400 people. On December 14, the **IOM**, **UNHCR**, **NRC**, **HAI** and Pastoral Migrantes, support an information day, offering legal guidance and assistance to issue the PEP, 120 Venezuelans were supported through the Integrated Local Administration Center in Terrón Colorado neighborhood. On December 21, the **IOM**, **NRC**, **HAI** and Pastoral Migrantes support an information and orientation day, led by the mayor of Cali, for the Venezuelan population in the Mariano Ramos neighborhood.

2.3 CHILD PROTECTION

- **The Colombian Red Cross** assisted 106 children and 84 female walkers. The provision of child friendly spaces was not available during the whole month, operating intermittently due to the variations in the migratory flows.
- **IRC** directly assisted 19 children in Cúcuta. 28 children attended services in the children's area located in the Integral Community Center in Cúcuta. 83 adolescents continued to participate in the 3-month SAFE program (support for adolescents and their families in emergency situations), which includes topics related to the development of life skills and education, such as healthy relationships and sexual and reproductive health. 75 parents and caregivers completed the Families Make the Difference program, which provides training and peer support for parents in emergency situations.
- Three Community Committees for the Protection of Children have been established by **Save the Children** in La Guajira. Participants of the committees are community leaders, parents and adolescents and their purpose is to deliver guidance and workshops on risk mapping, impacts and signs of abuse in children and adolescents, identification of children and adolescents with specialized support and referral needs.
- In Arauca, 360 people, including children and adolescents, have participated in three **Save the Children** Friendly Spaces. 118 new children and adolescents have been registered to participate in these spaces. Three child and adolescent led working groups were formed, with 58 children and adolescents, in Jerusalem, Brisas del Puente and Refugio in Arauca.
- **UNICEF** continues the implementation of 20 friendly spaces in La Guajira, Arauca, Nariño, Putumayo and Atlántico which have benefited 5,760 children, adolescents and young people. In its child friendly spaces of Arauca, Norte de Santander (Catatumbo), Putumayo and Nariño, **UNICEF** is working on the prevention of recruitment and accidents with anti-mining personnel.
- **UNICEF** participated in the joint initiative of Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), for the establishment of a temporary care shelter in Riohacha. Currently, it serves 51 children and adolescents. This initiative has been developed by **IOM, NRC, Save the Children** and **UNHCR**.
- **UNHCR** inaugurated three friendly spaces for children in La Guajira, in partnership with the ICBF, **UNICEF** and **NRC**.

2.4 GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

- **IRC** in Cúcuta provided case management services to 49 women in crisis, including individual psychosocial care and referral to health services for survivors of GBV. 81 women participated in group psychosocial activities in their communities and in the Integral Community Center in Cúcuta. 15 women and girls used the safe space for women and 31 women attended a legal advisory session provided jointly by **IRC** and **NRC**.
- **UNFPA** conducted four emergency health brigades in Cúcuta and strengthened their capacity to respond to GBV. **UNFPA** referred 10 women who had suffered GBV to psychosocial services.
- **UNFPA** supported the Erasmo Meoz Hospital, of Reference for Norte de Santander, to implement the service of voluntary interruption of pregnancy. The hospital at this time has the ability to perform procedures based on a safe technique for women who require it, which is in some cases decriminalized by Colombian law, including for survivors of sexual violence.
- In Riohacha, **UNICEF** supported the ICBF, in partnership with **IOM, NRC, Save the Children** and **UNHCR**, to establish a special care center for girls and adolescents victims of sexual violence.
- In Carepa, Antioquia, **UNHCR**, in coordination with local partners, met with 30 women to discuss personal care and solidarity as a protection mechanism for women facing GBV risks. 30 hygiene and personal care kits were distributed.

- In Putumayo, **UNHCR** and its partner Pastoral Social held group discussions with various groups of Venezuelan women involved in sexual survival. **UNHCR** provided information on how to access legal assistance and identified a great need for sexual and reproductive health services, as well as psychosocial support.

3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INCLUSION

3.1 INCLUSION ACTIVITIES

- In partnership with the Ministry of Labor, the Public Employment Service Unit, the National Apprenticeship Service (SENA), **UNHCR** and other local partners, **PADF** led a strategy focused on socio-economic inclusion of the migrant population and refugee population.
- In Arauca, **UNHCR** supported 80 children between 7 - 17 years old who delivered three theatre performances to mark the closure of the "integration and protection of children on the border" project implemented by CIDEMOS, a partner of **UNHCR**. The performance was attended by 150 community members.
- In Cartagena, **UNHCR** conducted a workshop for journalists to provide guidance on the correct use of information on the situation faced by Venezuelans in Colombia.
- **UNHCR** donated audiovisual equipment to two public schools in Pasto and Ipiales. The institutions have a number of registered Venezuelan children and the donations are intended to strengthen the capacity of the schools and support local integration and cohesion.

3.2 PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

- **The Colombian Red Cross** held 10 workshops on peace and non-violence in Norte de Santander with 100 participants.

4. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF HOST GOVERNMENT

- **UNHCR** provided training to 9 local ombudsmen, from Arauca, Vichada and Boyacá, on how to identify and properly handle human trafficking cases.

DATA AND ANALYSIS

No new information.

COORDINATION

- On December 5 a local GIFMM was opened in Bogotá, covering the department of Cundinamarca. On December 13, the local GIFMM in Norte de Santander was officially inaugurated.
- The local GIFMM in Nariño participated in two institutional and governmental meetings on the contingency plan to have a more concrete response to flow of Venezuelans during the months of December and January.
- In Cali, on December 21, the second Migration Board led by Migración Colombia and the Border Office of the Presidency was held. The GIFMM Cali under the leadership of **IOM** and **UNHCR** presented key numbers of those assisted, and explained the response of member organizations.

For more information please contact:

UNHCR: Jessica Watts wattsj@unhcr.org or **IOM:** Andrea Lamprea lamprea@iom.int