

Of the 4.3 million Venezuelans who have left their country of origin, more than 1.4 million can be found in Colombian territory. The continuous flow of the Venezuelan population as well as the needs of the population which is already settled in Colombia affirms the need to provide assistance to this population, transforming the vision of the response towards the medium and long term and aligning it with a focus on socioeconomic integration as well as access to rights and obligations. The Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM, by its Spanish acronym) is presently composed of 56 members at the national level and coordinates the humanitarian response for Venezuelans refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees, and host communities. Additionally, the platform has eight local GIFMMs which cover 11 departments, from which assistance is also provided to the target populations in a complementary fashion to the Colombian state's response, and a *back to back* system is utilised in close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team.

KEY FIGURES

VENEZUELAN IN COLOMBIA¹

 **1,447,171** Venezuelans in Colombia

In regular migratory status



+70,181 within the period established by law (including those with tourist visas and other types of short-term stay)

In irregular migratory status



 **4.1 million** approved Temporary Border Cards (TMF, by its Spanish acronym)

 **321,796** Venezuelans with Temporary Transit Permits (PIP-TT, by its Spanish acronym)

 **452,884** Venezuelans have left Colombia in 2019 via the Rumichaca International Bridge

RESPONSE

 **37**

Key Partners

 **45**

Implementing Partners

 **411,200**

Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

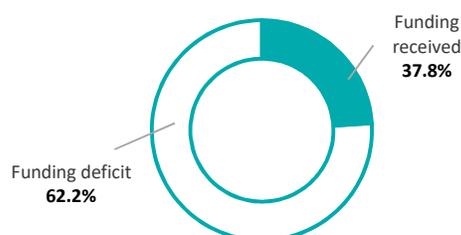
 **26** Departments

114 Municipalities

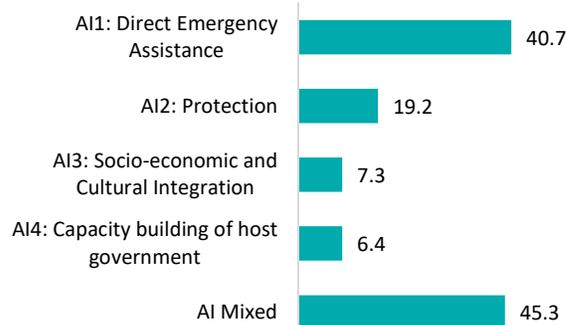
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW²

 **US\$ 315M** Requested funding

 **US\$ 119M** Funding received



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



¹ In-depth Analysis by Colombia Migration as of 31 July, and Migration Report of Venezuelans in Colombia as of 2 September 2019.

² Partial financial information for Colombia until the end of August. Paid commitments and contributions are included, but not contributions made for multiple countries. For more information: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary%20>

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- On 5 August, President Iván Duque signed the Resolution No. 8470 of 2019 which grants Colombian nationality to children born in Colombia to Venezuelan parents and with undetermined nationality.³ This protection measure is expected to benefit more than 27,000 children who are at-risk of statelessness as well as prevent future cases. The resolution will apply to those born from 19 August 2015 until the effective date and to those born in Colombia from the implementation of the measure for two years afterwards. For the first group, the children will receive an annotation in their Civil Registry of Birth which will constitute proof of nationality, and those in the second group will have an entry in their Civil Registries of “valid as proof of nationality”.⁴
- Eduardo Stein, the Joint UNHCR-IOM Special Representative for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, visited Colombia from 19 to 23 August in preparation for the fifth meeting of the Quito Process which will be held in Bogotá this November. During his mission, Stein met with high-level government officials – including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Director of Colombia Migration, and the Presidential Advisor for the Colombian-Venezuelan Border – with the goal of gaining a better understanding of the Colombian government’s current response, as well as the scheduled agenda specific to Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Additionally, Stein met with the National GIFMM to better comprehend the humanitarian situation in order to raise the profile of the crisis on the international level and highlight the need for more funding.
- With the implementation of the new regulation procedures by other countries in the region for Venezuelan refugees and migrants – such as the humanitarian visa required to enter Ecuadorian territory, which came into effect on 26 August –, the migratory flow on the southern border with Ecuador reached a daily maximum up to 7,000 registered departures in Nariño and 780 in Putumayo. After this date, the migration flow dropped substantially to nearly zero at the official border crossings. The ramifications of this measure resulted in high numbers of stranded Venezuelans, many of whom opted to overnight in the general vicinity of the Rumichaca International Bridge – reaching a peak of 180 people per day – with the hope that entry restrictions would be eased. Consequently, the situation raised concerns, especially with respect to the basic needs of this population considering the low temperatures and limited access to potable water in Nariño, and also the increase in irregular border crossings in both Nariño and Putumayo.



A Venezuelan girl takes part in UNICEF’s Recreational Vacations in Barranquilla, a space where children from both Colombia and Venezuela meet, play, and share. ©UNICEF

³ *Primero La Niñez*, <http://migracioncolombia.gov.co/primeroalaninez/>

⁴ *Id.*

OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSE

Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

In order to further strengthen the Colombian state's response, the GIFMM works to identify gaps in the coverage and quality of current humanitarian assistance to ensure that all vulnerable populations can enjoy a life of dignity in Colombia.

With the aim of reaching the largest number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants with information about the support available in Colombia, the GIFMM members informed at least 10,000 individuals, the majority of whom were located in [Norte de Santander](#), about routes to access humanitarian assistance. Additionally, more than 6,600 people accessed communication and connectivity services.

To guarantee access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for both the Venezuelan population as well as Colombian host communities, GIFMM members distributed about 30,900 hygiene kits aimed at profiles of families, schoolchildren, and pregnant women, among others. In addition, they ensured that more than 5,700 individuals successfully accessed a source of potable water (in accordance with Sphere Standards) in the border departments of [La Guajira](#), [Norte de Santander](#), and [Arauca](#). With regards to education on hygiene and sanitation, nearly 13,000 people in 14 departments were trained on topics of hygiene and sanitation.

With respect to health, more than 23,000 people in 13 departments received general medical care directly provided by GIFMM members. Specialised medical care was given to approximately 1,700 pregnant women who received prenatal care, to nearly 1,900 individuals with needs relating to family planning and treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases, more than 1,000 people underwent early detection and screening procedures, and to approximately 10,000 recipients of mental health and psychosocial attention. Finally, more than 11,000 people residing in nine departments were trained on preventative health and nutrition, and another 7,400 members of emergency teams in 14 departments received capacity-building activities.



A Venezuelan woman receives medical care in Maicao, La Guajira. Américas, in association with government entities in the health sector, opened this clinic to provide essential primary health care services and access to medicine for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. These actions are aimed at alleviating current pressure on the Colombian healthcare system. © Américas

form of vouchers and 21,300 in-kind. Similarly, the GIFMM members carried out several activities aimed at the long-term, including nutritional education workshops which reached nearly 700 people; prevention and nutritional management programs, which were accessed by more than 2,200 participants in border departments such as [La Guajira](#), [Norte de Santander](#), [Arauca](#), [Vichada](#), [Nariño](#) y [Putumayo](#); and support aimed to increase access to food through production for self-consumption, which benefited over 3,100 families.

Other achievements that took place throughout the month of August included emergency education services for approximately 4,800 children, nearly half of whom reside in [Antioquia](#) and [Arauca](#); the provision of adequate and safe emergency shelter to more than 1,800 people, 50% of whom were in [La Guajira](#); the delivery of 6,400 non-food item (NFI) in five departments; the distribution of multipurpose cash-transfers to nearly 3,000 people; and the provision of humanitarian transport to at least 1,400 individuals, the majority of whom began their journey in the cities of [Bucaramanga](#) and [Bogotá](#).

25 Key partners

33 Implementing partners

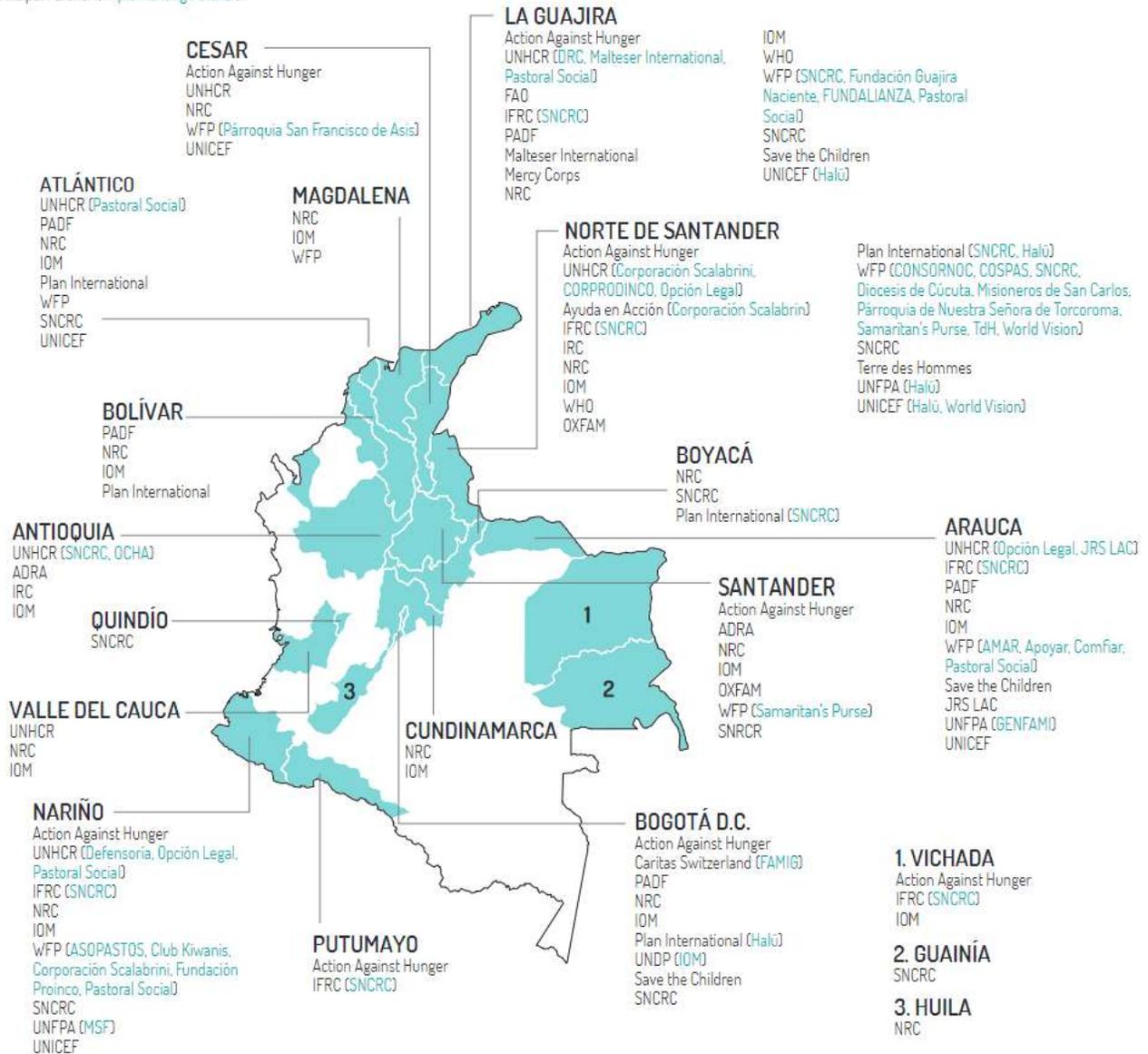
355,800 Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

19 Departments

79 Municipalities

Area de Intervention 1: Actors by department who reported activities in August

Principal Partner (Implementing Partner)



Area of Intervention 2: Protection

The GIFMM members, in close collaboration with local authorities and the national government and the national government, implement a wide range of activities and services to address the specific protection needs of the Venezuelan population.

In August, the GIFMM members were able to reach more than 17,000 people in 19 departments, providing them with legal orientation, and approximately 18,100 cases were identified, referred, and attended through various care mechanisms, including the Network of Safe Spaces, in 12 departments. Additionally, approximately 3,500 cases made up of Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as members of Colombian host communities accessed routes for prevention of and attention to gender-based violence (GBV). Regarding documentation and international protection, 16,600 people were informed of their rights, regularisation processes, and asylum in 16 departments, a third of which were in [Nariño](#) due to the introduction of the humanitarian visa in Ecuador.

With the goal of strengthening civil society's response, the GIFMM members facilitated 165 community organisations and networks in bolstering their mechanisms of both community protection and rights enforcement (including community grievance mechanisms), in addition to 800 leaders of such groups. Also, approximately 3,400 individuals attended activities that promote human rights through sports, art, culture and communication, with [Bogotá](#) being the region with the greatest participation.

Initiatives aimed at child protection also took place, such as the provision of newly-created and strengthened child-friendly and protective spaces, of which nearly 4,000 children benefited; the identification and referral of children to national and local systems, which resulted in more than 500 children receiving regularisation and documentation; and the provision of psychosocial care to 1,500 children, primarily in [Bogotá](#).

21 Key partners

19 Implementing partners

46,700 Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

24 Departments

82 Municipalities



In Cartagena, Bolívar, UN Women supports the government's Mobile Units, providing public services and humanitarian assistance to refugee and migrant women from Venezuela as well as women from host communities. Between May to August of 2019, more than 4,000 women accessed services provided by these Mobile Units and they also recognized the importance of the presence of public services in their communities. ©UN Women

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

Principal Partner (Implementing Partner)



Feature Story: Guaranteeing the rights of survivors of gender-based violence in Norte de Santander

Staff at the International Rescue Committee (IRC), together with UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNFPA and in the *back to back* framework of the GIFMM’s Gender subgroup, held a workshop with local authorities in Norte de Santander focused on knowledge exchange as well as training on the use of a gender-approach in the care of refugees and migrants. Thirty-eight officers from Colombian Migration, the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, and members of different departments of the local police force attended the event. The training focused on concepts of GBV, the survivor-based approach, psychological first aid, child protection – particularly for girls and female adolescents –, international protection, and care routes.



Local government officers in Cúcuta who participated in the workshop on GBV pose with their certificates of completion. © IRC

Although any refugee, migrant, or returnee may experience GBV – no matter the gender that they identify with or the sex they were assigned at birth –, the majority of the cases seen by IRC are women and girls who are doubly vulnerable due to the protection risks associated with having to leave their country, lack of documentation, regular migratory status, and knowledge about services and care routes in a new country.

One of the participants at the workshop who was from the police force reiterated how difficult it is to see women – alone – carrying their luggage and crying in front of the bridge: “We see them every day, everywhere, and it makes you feel powerless. We know a lot of things, but in the day to day, it is difficult to know what exactly to do.”

Both the participating officers as well as the training facilitators recognised the benefits of the initiative. The officers gained a broader understanding of the experiences of women and girl refugees and migrants as well as better coordination in handling GBV cases, while IRC and the UN agencies were able to consolidate channels of collaboration for service providers (such as themselves) as well as for formal institutions, in order to ensure a rapid and effective response. Perhaps the most important was that, through the workshop, the facilitators found a “very human group of officers who have the desire to learn, strengthen their skills, provide quality care to migrants who are survivors of GBV,”. Given the positive experience in this first exercise, it is planned to repeat this training in Cesar, Bogotá, and Nariño during the final quarter of the year.

Area of Intervention 3: Socio-economic and Cultural Integration

During the month of August, more than 6,100 people were informed of the existing routes to access basic services related to education, health, and food security. In **Norte de Santander**, the construction, adaptation, and expansion of infrastructures related to education, water, and basic sanitation were carried out, which will benefit approximately 1,400 families of migrants and in host communities (5,200 people, taking into account an average household of three people). This type of investment reduces pressure on access to basic services and facilitates the social inclusion of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Fifteen campaigns were carried out to fight discrimination and xenophobia against Venezuelan refugees and migrants, including sensitisation workshops aimed at journalists, community dialogue, and instructional recreational activities in the departments of **Antioquia**, **Norte de Santander** and **Nariño**. Additionally, nearly 2,200 individuals participated in initiatives and spaces for dialogue in host communities in order to promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion, a key factor in guaranteeing access to goods and services for refugees and migrants in receiving territories.

7 Key partners

12 Implementing partners

7,200 Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

13 Departments

43 Municipalities

In the departments of [Atlántico](#), [Antioquia](#), [Bogotá](#), [Chocó](#) and [Norte de Santander](#), 578 beneficiaries participated in different work-training courses to strengthen their technical skills. Business management, opening of market opportunities, strengthening of channels of commercialisation or food handling were a few of the topics addressed in the training courses.



A Venezuelan woman traveled hundreds of kilometers with her husband and daughter in search of better opportunities. The family settled in Fonseca, La Guajira, when they benefit from PADF, which carries out community actions in order to transmit messages of solidarity. © PADF

With the Special Administrative Unit of the Public Employment Service (UAESPE, by its Spanish acronym), a pilot was presented which focused on the diversified employment routes for the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in [Bogotá](#), [Barranquilla](#), [Cartagena](#), and [Riohacha](#). In each city, an average of 50 participants attended, representing the Network of Providers from the Public Employment Service (SPE, by its Spanish acronym), the national government, local authorities, international organisations, Venezuelan associations, trade unions, and business people. This pilot focuses on strengthening the management and placement of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the labour market by identifying barriers to labour market insertion and expanding the available tools for its mitigation.

Finally, members of the Ministry of Labour launched the “Guide for the Employment of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in the Republic of Colombia”, a tool intended to help employers who are interested in hiring Venezuelan refugees and migrants, but are unaware of the legal context in the country as well as the set of available instruments that can be used to carry it out.

Life Story

I’m Martha Angelica Acuña Pico. I was born in the city of Barranquilla, and at the age of 15, I went to live in Venezuela with my mom. However, due to the current situation in Venezuela, we made the decision to return to Colombia, specifically to Barranquilla, where we have been living since January 16, 2016.

I arrived in my country with many expectations and the hope to restart my life, and for this reason I decided to enrol in the Registry of Returned Persons (RUR, for its Spanish acronym), under the category “return for production” (*retorno productivo*) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ program called “Colombia Unites Us” (*Colombia Nos Une*). After registering, I was contacted by IOM and Colombia Unites Us to connect me to the program lead by these two entities relating to “return for production”. Through this program, I received training on entrepreneurship, marketing, administration, operations, and finance, and as a result, I was able to start my own business called “Holy Art” (*Arte santo*), which consists of the production and commercialisation of pastry, bread, and dessert products as well as catering. In order to implement my project and in addition to the training process, Colombia Unites Us and IOM provided me seed capital invested in machinery, equipment, supplies, raw material, and advertising.



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To establish my project, I also received personalised advice on marketing strategies, management of project accounts, short-, medium-, and long-term goal projection, production time optimisation, and marketing management to introduce my project on social networks. The project also helped me connect with SENA for a short course on food handling, which prompted me to continue my studies in “Inclusive Cuisine and Bakery” technical training with this entity, which I completed in November 2018.

Area of Intervention 4: Capacity Building of the Host Government

During the month of August, a total of 774 government officials were trained on mechanisms of international protection and access to rights for refugees and migrants, the implementation of good practices and information management, and knowledge in different sectors (e.g. health, legal framework, documentation, regularisation, security, coexistence, management of public spaces, etc.). The majority of the officials were trained in [Valle del Cauca](#).

In [Arauca](#), more than 150 government officers received recommendations, which ultimately promotes a better protection response for the population. Additionally, 55 protection systems were established which will ensure the best interest of children in the long term.

In response to the Resolution No. 8470 of 2019, the Government of Colombia requested support from the GIFMM members to implement this measure through the deployment of teams throughout the territory with a communication strategy.

6 Key partners

5 Implementing partners

1,500 Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

11 Departments

19 Municipalities

COORDINATION*

The local GIFMMs, as the territorial expression of the national platform, are spaces for the strategic coordination of the operational response at the local level, working in close collaboration with the authorities’ coordination mechanisms. The following are the noteworthy events from the month of August:

- In response to the implementation of the humanitarian visa in Ecuador, a contingency plan was launched by the GIFMM in [Nariño](#) to help the stranded Venezuelan population with the provision of several types of assistance. The activities carried out included: the delivery of hygiene kits as well as 1,200 blankets, 370 scarves, 500 gloves, and 500 hats to prevent cases of hypothermia in Rumichaca’s cold climate; the provision of transportation, food, and housing in shelters to more than 600 people; the placement of hydration points in Rumichaca; and the guarantee of a continuous supply of water, cleanliness of restroom facilities, and collection of solid waste.
- The local GIFMM in [Bogotá](#) launched a new contingency plan in response to the spikes in the migratory flow due to the 26 August implementation of the humanitarian visa required for regular entry into Ecuador by the Venezuelan population. Between 20 and 23 August in the Salitre Transportation Terminal – one of the more important transportation points in Bogotá – the GIFMM, in coordination with the local government, attended more than 2,000 Venezuelans in transit with services such as re-establishing contacts, humanitarian transport, temporary housing, food, hygiene and cleaning kits, and legal orientation.
- At the monthly meeting of the GIFMM in [Atlántico](#), members applied a checklist aimed at evaluating the response to situations of GBV; this checklist is developed specifically to understand the capacity and preparedness of the response to and prevention of GBV for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. The checklist is an interagency tool to validate and gain knowledge of the services of prevention that the local GIFMMs have, as well as those services offered by the State to care for victims of GBV.
- In [Arauca](#), work between the local GIFMM and the local government brought about concrete actions to help several vulnerable populations from Venezuela. Firstly, in coordination with local authorities, the GIFMM reviewed and updated the institutional care routes for cases of GBV victims, considering the context in which more than 115 cases of gender-based violence, domestic violence, and sexual violence have been reported among the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population during the course of 2019, of which 57% of cases involved children from 0 to 11 years-old. Secondly, the GIFMM members, along with the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, have reported 92 cases of unaccompanied children and 20 separated minors since the beginning of 2019. They have also supported “House Homes” (*Casas Hogares*) with various supplies, so that

children and pregnant or nursing women – who have their rights at risk – receive the care and family intervention required to re-establish their rights.

- To address the needs of more than 23,000 Venezuelans residing in the coffee region (*Eje Cafetero*), the local GIFMM in **Antioquia** took part in the working group coordinated by the Colombia Presidency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which aims to strengthen the coordination and collaboration between government responses in Risaralda, Quindío, and Caldas.
- Throughout the HNO-RMRP 2020 workshop in **Norte de Santander**, the local GIFMM members focused on identifying the primary needs and risks that could be faced during the coming year, highlighting the need to roll out actions in the regions of Catatumbo and Santander as well as the importance of fundraising for long-term projects directed at all four population profiles of interest.

GIFMM MEMBERS*

Action Against Hunger | ADRA | Americares | Ayuda en Acción | Bethany International | BLUMONT | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian Red Cross | Diakonie | DRC | FAO | Global Communities | Halü | HIAS | 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 | OCHA | OCR | OHCHR | OXFAM | PADF | Pastoral Social | Plan International | Premiere Urgence | Profamilia | RET International | Save the Children | SOS Children's Villages | Tearfund | Terre des Hommes - Lausanne | UN Habitat | Un Techo Para Mi País | UN Women | UNDP | UNEP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | War Child | WFP | WHO | World Vision

**National members, including organisations which are part of the RMRP 2019 and observer organisations.*

CONTRIBUTIONS

GOVERNMENTS: Austria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

OTHER DONORS: Bloomberg, Central Emergency Response Fund, Dubai Cares, Dutch Relief Alliance, Ford Foundation, Franz Hoffman Foundation, Gilead Sciences Inc., International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Labour Organization, Latter-Day Saint Charities, Medicor Foundation, Novo Nordisk, Ole Kirk's Foundation, Oxfam Intermón, Oxfam International, Pan American Development Foundation, Spanish Red Cross, Stichting Vluchteling, Stichting War Child, United Nations Children's Fund, World Vision Canada, World Vision International, World Vision Korea, World Vision USA.

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