


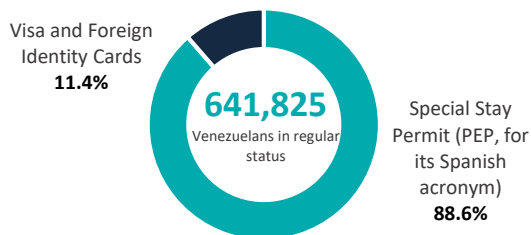
By the end of 2019, more than 1.6 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela were living in Colombia, according to the Colombia Migration office (data as of October 31). As the number of arrivals increases, there is a growing demand to meet short-term needs, as well as to implement humanitarian actions that are strategic, durable and benefit both: the Venezuelan population and the host communities. The Interagency Group for Mixed Migratory Flows (GIFMM, by its Spanish acronym) is currently composed of 61 members at the national level and coordinates the humanitarian response for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, Colombian returnees, and host communities. In addition to the national level, the platform includes eight local GIFMMs covering 11 departments. Assistance is provided to the target populations, complementing the Colombian State's response, and a back to back structure is utilized in close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team.

## KEY FIGURES

### VENEZUELAN IN COLOMBIA<sup>1a</sup>

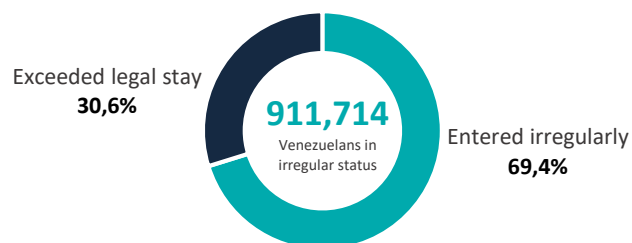
 **1,630,903** Venezuelans in Colombia  
**48%** Women and **52%** Men


### In regular migratory status<sup>1a</sup>





**+77,364** within the period established by law (including tourist visas and other types of short-term stay)

### In irregular migratory status<sup>1a</sup>



 **4.7 million** approved Temporary Border Cards (TMF, by its Spanish acronym)<sup>1b</sup>

 **408,020** Venezuelans with Temporary Transit Permit (PIP-TT, by its Spanish acronym)<sup>1b</sup>


 **462,305** Venezuelans have left Colombia in 2019 via the Rumichaca International Bridge<sup>1b</sup>

### RESPONSE

 **35**  
Key Partners


 **45**  
Implementing Partners

 **487,000**  
Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

 **27** Departments  
**97** Municipalities

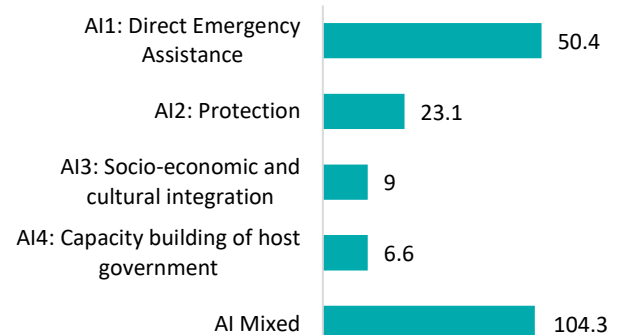
### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW<sup>2</sup>

 **US\$ 315M** Requested funding

 **US\$ 193.4M** Funding received



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



<sup>1(a)</sup>In-depth Analysis by Colombia Migration Infographic as of 31 October, and <sup>(1b)</sup>Migration Report of Venezuelans in Colombia as of 23 December 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Partial financial information until 31 December, including paid commitments and contributions, but not contributions for multiple countries. For more information: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary%20>

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- On 9 December, the Colombia Migration Director, **Christian Krüger**, presented his resignation letter to the Government<sup>3</sup>, thus making his resignation official. Kruger was in charge of the entity for five years, and remained in his position until 31 December, when his departure from the institution became effective.
- On 24 December, Colombia Migration announced the **extension of the validity of the second Special Stay Permit** (PEP for its acronym in Spanish)<sup>4</sup>, a measure that allows the Venezuelan population to legally reside in Colombia for a period of two years. This mechanism will be administered through the Colombia Migration website, where a certain amount of PEPs will be renewable daily according to the date of initial issuance of the document. Hence, more than 110,000 people who obtained the permit between February and July 2018 will have until June 2020 to renew the document, which will allow them access to the health system, formal employment and financial institutions.
- During December, the **national strike** which began on 21 November, continued. Different social and economic sectors raised 13 key issues to the national government. During this time, there was also an increase in expressions of discrimination and xenophobia against the population from Venezuela.
- Between 14 and 15 December, a television series called **“Friends without Borders”**, directed to children between 6 and 12 years old, premiered on the national television channel, Señal Colombia. The series, which is divided into 10 parts, tells stories of friendships between Colombian and Venezuelan children, promoting tolerance regardless of nationality or country of origin.



Venezuelan and Colombian children playing together in the child-friendly spaces of Villa del Sur in Riohacha.  
© SOS Children's Villages / A. Arcila

<sup>3</sup> El Tiempo (2019, 8 December). Recovered from: <https://www.eltiempo.com/unidad-investigativa/el-lunes-protocoliza-su-renuncia-christian-krueger-director-de-migracion-colombia-441500>

<sup>4</sup> Colombia Migration (2019, 24 December). Recovered from: <https://www.migracioncolombia.gov.co/noticias/202-diciembre-2019/desde-hoy-y-hasta-el-proximo-6-de-junio-de-2020-titulares-del-pep-podran-realizar-la-renovacion-de-su-documento>

## OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSE

### Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

With the objective of supporting the Colombian Government's response to the primary needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, the GIFMM members continued to provide direct assistance to the target population in Colombia.

During the month of December, in 13 departments, various activities were carried out to provide access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (WASH). Through these efforts, 45,600 people received dignity kits and 8,900 hygiene kits (including family, school and menstrual hygiene kits); as well as 26,800 children and adolescents in Atlántico, Nariño and Norte de Santander were in learning environments with WASH services, 13,600 people accessed a water source suitable for human consumption, and 10,800 received training in hygiene and sanitation, all according to the Sphere Standards.

Regarding the response to the needs of food security and nutrition, around 149,000 individuals received food in community kitchens, an additional 117,200 received food assistance in vouchers and another 8,600 in-kind. In addition, about 1,000 people received technical assistance for the rapid recovery of food production, and training in nutritional education. In Arauca and Norte de Santander about 1,130 families (approximately 3,400 people, based on an average household size of three people) increased the availability and access to food through production for self-consumption.

Considering the strained Colombian healthcare system, GIFMM members provided support related to health services to refugees and migrants from Venezuela. During the month, about 48,600 people were treated in 12 departments. General medical assistance, and other services such as prenatal care were provided to approximately 1,500 women; support regarding family planning and treatment of sexually transmitted infections to 2,800 individuals; 57 pharmacological terminations of pregnancy; 401 conducted measurements of weight and height in girls and boys under 5 years of age, pregnant women and infants in order to identify possible cases of malnutrition; and attention in mental health and psychosocial support to 9,300 people.

- 24** Key Partners
- 35** Implementing Partners
- 310,800** Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance
- 22** Departments
- 70** Municipalities



Furthermore, some 16,100 people from local emergency teams participated in trainings. The capacity building of these teams throughout the year also allowed 48,700 refugees and migrants to receive general medicine assistance in 13 departments, and 13,200 people to acquire new knowledge and possibility to influence their own health and nutrition.

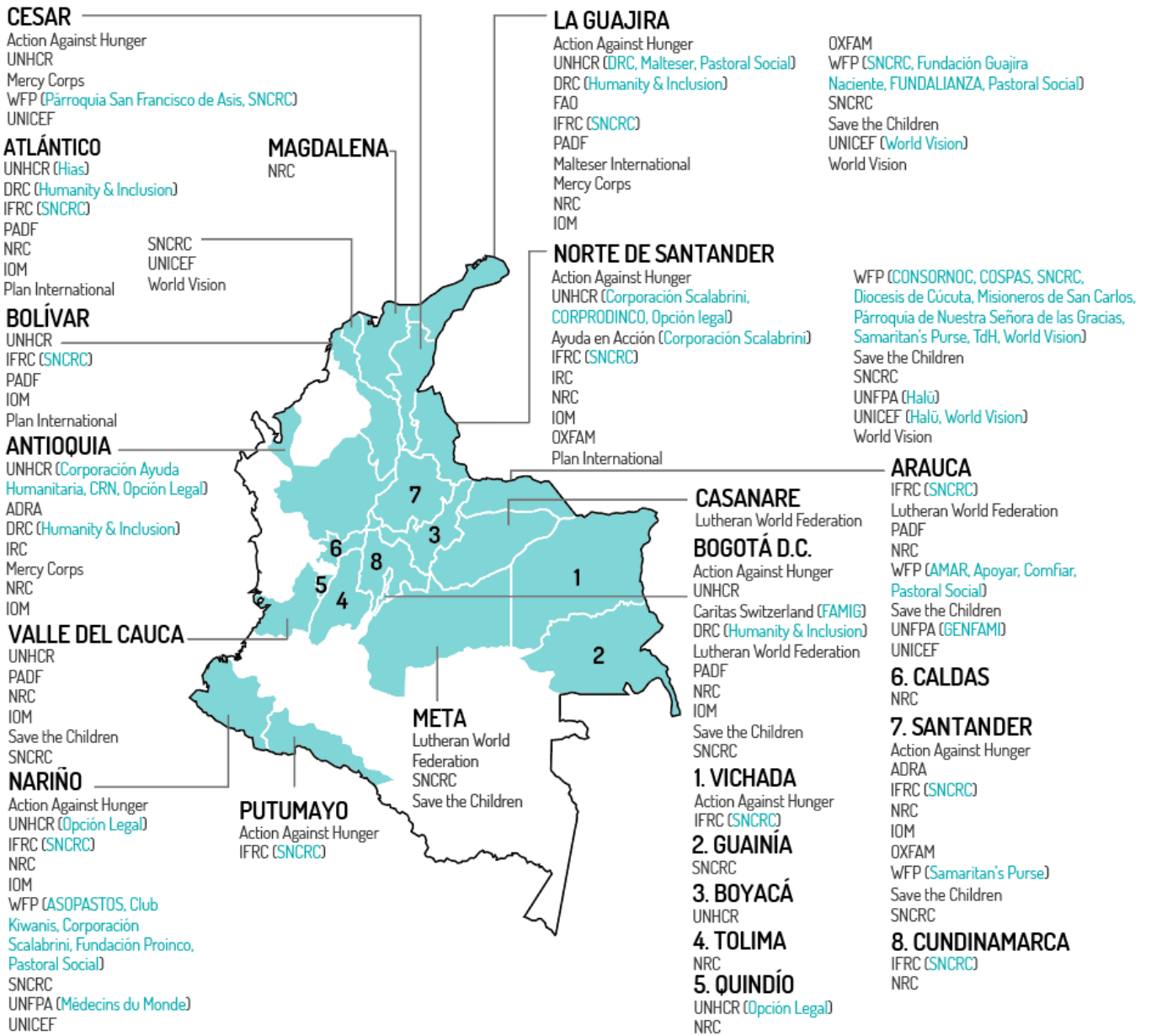
Also, with the aim to provide assistance to children according to their needs: 3,400 children and adolescents were vaccinated throughout the month, 3,000 children and adolescents accessed educational spaces that were built, improved or donated, and 4,000 children benefitted from education in emergency services.

*On the Caribbean Coast, IsraAid and TECHO Colombia made an alliance for the construction of the Friendly Space and Community Center called "Ciudad Cangrejo". © IsraAID*

Other achievements include the 11,000 people who received multipurpose cash transfers in [Antioquia](#), [Atlántico](#), [Cesar](#), [La Guajira](#) and [Norte de Santander](#). Support for adequate and safe emergency accommodation benefited 3,300 individuals, and 3,700 individuals were provided with non-food items. Lastly, with regards to communication actions of the GIFMM members, 10,600 refugees and migrants accessed communication/connectivity services. 22,400 received information on how to access mechanisms for the satisfaction of basic humanitarian needs; 3,900 were oriented (in host cities, transit points, etc.) on how to access humanitarian assistance, and 3,400 participated in campaigns or workshops on prevention, management and mitigation of risks related to humanitarian needs.

### Area of Intervention 1: Actors by department who reported activities in December

Key Partner (Implementing Partner)



## Area of Intervention 2: Protection

Given that refugees and migrants from Venezuela arrive in the country with significant needs of protection, GIFMM members worked in close coordination with the Colombian State to implement protection assistance throughout December.

Through the joint work, more than 14,700 people learned about rights, regularization processes, documentation and asylum. Legal guidance and/or legal assistance was provided to 13,500 people, and around 300 sessions on information, guidance and assistance focused on legal guidance and/or legal assistance were conducted mainly in **Chocó** and **Nariño** during the month.

More than 9,800 people were informed about prevention and protection against human trafficking, smuggling and labor exploitation. Approximately 1,050 cases were identified, referred to the Safe Spaces Network and other assistance mechanisms, and about 1,000 cases accessed the routes for prevention and response to gender-based violence in the country.

The implementation of various strategies to disseminate information for the promotion of rights, resulted in 1,700 Venezuelan refugees and migrants who actively participated in sport, art, culture and communication activities, as well as in activities for the prevention of falling victim for recruitment and abuse by illegal groups in **Bogotá** and **Valle del Cauca**, as well as in five other departments.

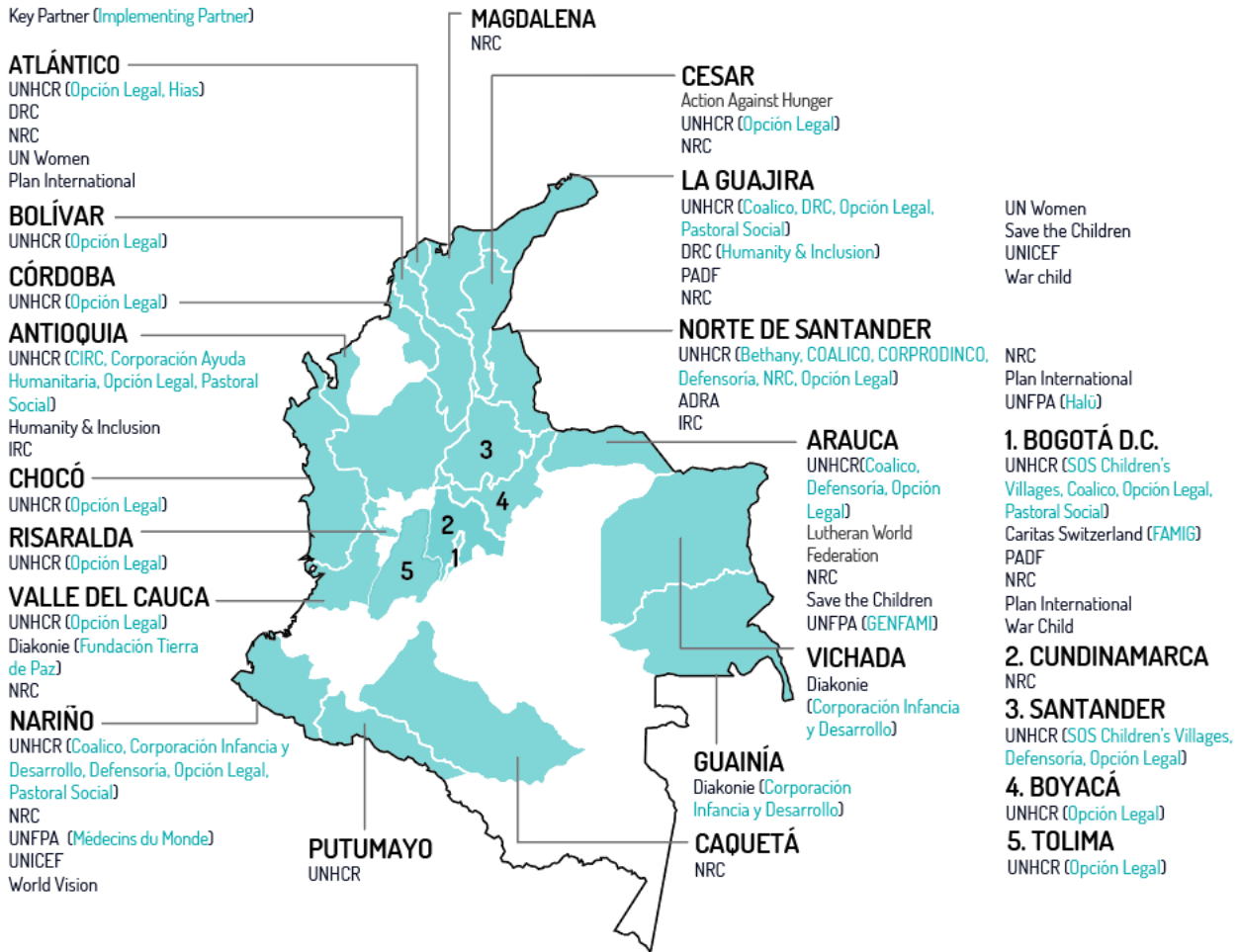
Considering the high vulnerability to which children and adolescents are exposed, GIFMM members focused their efforts on the protection and needs of this population. About 8,100 children and adolescents benefitted from protective and child-friendly environments created and strengthened, which influence community-based protection environments, mainly in **Santander**, **Norte de Santander** and **Nariño**. Furthermore, 1,000 children and adolescents accessed psychosocial care in **Bogotá**, **Atlántico**, **La Guajira** and **Norte de Santander**.

- 17** Key Partners
- 20** Implementing Partners
- 29,500** Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance
- 22** Departments
- 53** Municipalities



*A daily average of 44 refugees and migrants were attended during December in the “Y Antioqueña” Support Space in Arauca. They were provided with case identification and referral services, family reunification, a child-friendly space, among other services. © GIFMM Arauca*

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



**Feature Store: “With my children”**



Silvia Vanegas\* was born in Valencia, in the state of Carabobo Venezuela, where she worked as a hotel receptionist. However, due to changes in property ownership and lack of financial guarantees in the country, she resigned from her job and left Venezuela in search for a better future for her children.

This is how she found herself in Cúcuta, where she sought employment for a year without much success. Although living in Cúcuta allowed her to occasionally see her children who lived in Venezuela, she had to move to Santander de Quilichao, in the department of Cauca.

In Cauca, Silvia got a job at a company, packing food and weighing wire for hardware stores and agricultural centers. After several months, and with the support from her coworkers, she was able to travel back to Venezuela to reunite with her children.

Thanks to the coordinated response between the international cooperation and municipal authorities, today Silvia lives with her children in Santander de Quilichao. Her children already have a place in the school, and she continues to work with “whatever comes along”, but “always hand-in-hand with God who has never abandoned me”.

\* The name has been changed in order to protect her identity

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

To achieve that refugees and migrants from Venezuela meet their needs within health, education, housing, water and basic sanitation. Moreover, to do so autonomously and sufficiently, depends largely on access to livelihood opportunities and fair and equal treatment.

In order to promote integration, during December, five campaigns against discrimination and xenophobia were carried out in [Antioquia](#), [Arauca](#), [Boyacá](#), [Cauca](#), [La Guajira](#), [Nariño](#), [Tolima](#) and [Valle del Cauca](#). Most of the campaigns were also implemented in [Bogotá](#), as the city hosts the largest population refugees and migrants in the country.

In [Antioquia](#), [Arauca](#), [Atlántico](#), [Bogotá](#), [Cundinamarca](#), [La Guajira](#), [Magdalena](#), [Nariño](#), [Norte de Santander](#) and [Valle del Cauca](#), 6,132 refugees and migrants were assisted and/or informed to access basic services. Similarly, in [Antioquia](#), [Arauca](#), [Bogotá](#), [La Guajira](#), [Magdalena](#), [Nariño](#) and [Norte de Santander](#), about 2,800 people received specific information on the existing service routes to meet their basic needs.

**9** Key Partners

**11** Implementing Partners

**17,400** Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

**15** Departments

**36** Municipalities



Venezuelan woman employed in Arauca, with the support from COMFIAR. © COMFIAR

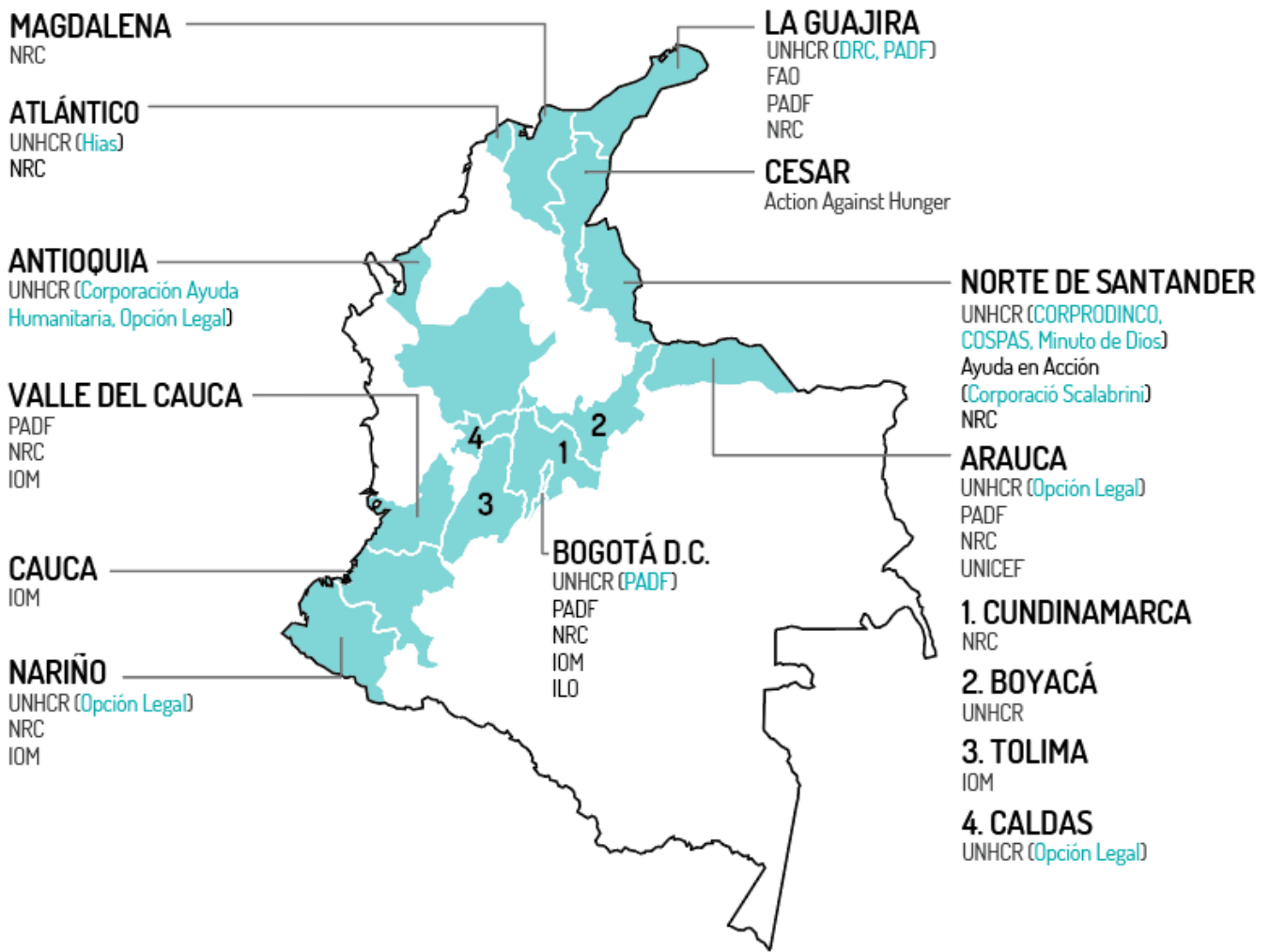
In [Nariño](#), 1,933 families (approximately 5,800 people, based on an average household size of three people) benefitted from the construction, improvement and provision of water and basic sanitation infrastructure.

In [Norte de Santander](#) and [Nariño](#), 2,200 refugees and migrants and people from the host communities participated in spaces for dialogue and recreation, to strengthen the ties between the two populations, improving coexistence and preventing xenophobia. In addition, to promote social inclusion in [Antioquia](#), [Caldas](#) and [Norte de Santander](#), 2,500 refugees and migrants and individuals from host communities participated in social cohesion activities, organized by the community.

Also, about 500 people participated in trainings on how to access employment and entrepreneurship in [Antioquia](#), [Arauca](#), [Bogotá](#), [La Guajira](#) and [Norte de Santander](#). Moreover, thanks to the international cooperation, 149 production units were created, and 233 families linked their agricultural production to local markets.

### Area of Intervention 3: Actors by department who reported activities in December

Key Partner (Implementing Partner)



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

The international cooperation provided Colombian authorities and governmental institutions with knowledge and tools to improve and strengthen their capacity to serve the Venezuelan population and host communities.

For this reason, 441 officials in Antioquia, Bogotá, Nariño and Risaralda participated in trainings provided by the GIFMM. 366 of the officials were sensitized and trained on the implementation of good practices and information management. They were also informed of the response within different areas, such as justice, documentation, regularization, health, safety and coexistence, among others; and 75 people received training on international protection mechanisms and the rights of refugees and migrants.

Furthermore, in Nariño and Risaralda around 53 government institutions adopted changes in the assistance and access to rights, including regularization of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, during December.

- 3** Key Partners
- 2** Implementing Partners
- 460** Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance
- 5** Departments
- 7** Municipalities



## COORDINATION\*

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

- The **national GIFMM**, organized an Interagency Workshop on Child Protection within the context of refugee and migration flows from Venezuela, on December 2 and 3 in **Bogotá**. The aim of the training was to evaluate and strengthen the response to the protection needs of refugee and migrant children, and about 60 representatives from several different members of the GIFMM participated.



Throughout the day, topics such as minimum standards for child protection, family reunification, care for caregivers, protective environments, recruitment and abuse of minors in border areas and protection risks related to smuggling and trafficking of children and adolescents were addressed, among others. © UNHCR / L. Gualdrón

- In **Barranquilla**, a Joint Needs Assessment of the GIFMM was piloted, with the purpose of investigating the needs of the Venezuelan population in three neighborhoods of the city. In the assessment, 417 families were surveyed, and 21 partners participated with the support of the local GIFMM in **Atlántico** and the national GIFMM.
- A humanitarian assistance session was carried out in town of Ciudad Bolívar, with the participation of members of the GIFMM in **Bogotá**. Psychosocial support, general medicine, employment counseling and restoring contact services were provided to 262 refugees, migrants and people from local host communities.
- The local GIFMM in **Cali** organized a Christmas celebration, in the community kitchen of the El Piloto neighborhood with population from Venezuela. About 600 refugees and migrants participated in the activity, including children, adolescents, families and people living on the street, all enjoying the traditional December food, recreational activities and the performance of the group Music without Border.
- On December 10 in the city of Bucaramanga, the leaders of the GIFMM of **Norte de Santander** officially established the satellite GIFMM office in **Santander**, which consists of 16 partners who participated in the launch. In the meeting it was explained how the coordination of the GIFMM will be managed from Cúcuta. The 2020 Response Plan (RMRP), its structure, thematic focus areas and a situational analysis regarding the refugee and migrant population in the department, was also presented.
- With the support from the local GIFMM in **Nariño**, and together with the Ipiales Migration Population Coordination and Assistance Bureau, the “Integration Culture and closing of the year” workshop was held at the Nubes Verdes shelter. The event was attended by about 350 people from the refugee and migrant population and from the community of the municipality, and included artistic activities, an integration lunch, sexual and reproductive health education talks, and t-shirt printing with images of refugees.
- During December, the response to the population in transit in the “Y Antioqueña” Support Space was established, thanks to the joint work of the GIFMM partners in **Arauca**. The support space served a total of 1,047 people during the month, with a daily average of 47 people. The services provided to the population are first aid and vaccination, identification and referral of cases, emergency psychological support, family reunification, child-friendly space, delivery of food kits and access to showers and sanitary batteries.
- As part of the commemoration of the International Migrants Day, the **GIFMM Arauca** members carried out several activities with the aim of promoting social cohesion.

- With the participation of 17 organizations of the local GIFMM of **Antioquia**, a “Service Festival” was held, where 483 refugees and migrants from Venezuela received information on assistance and guidance on institutional service routes, the international cooperation and community-based organizations.

## GIFMM MEMBERS\*

ACTED | Action Against Hunger | ADRA | Aid for AIDS | Alliance for Solidarity | American Red Cross | Amiceres | Ayuda en Acción | Bethany International | BLUMONT | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian Red Cross | Diakonie | Doctors of the World | 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 Women | Un Techo Para Mi País | UNDP | UNEP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | War Child | WFP | WHO | World Vision

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

## CONTRIBUTIONS

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

**OTHER DONORS:** Bloomberg, Central Emergency Response Fund, Dubai Cares, Dutch Relief Alliance, Education Cannot Wait Fund, 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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