

PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION MEASURES COVID-19

UPDATE No 2

SITUATION/CONTEXT INFORMATION

- Following the closure of all borders, the declaration of state of emergency and of the quarantine with mandatory curfew, authorities confirmed that refugees and migrants from Venezuela are not part of the governmental bonus reserved to families in poverty and extreme poverty during the quarantine. Yet, authorities are coordinating with GTRM partners to ensure assistance arrives to highly vulnerable Venezuelan nationals, especially elderly people.
- The Ministry of Health (MINSa) is the one authority currently performing detection tests. The MINSa has assigned more staff to attend the emergency and essential material is being distributed throughout the country. Nevertheless, limited health personnel in Tumbes raises concerns.
- Venezuelan doctors are to join the response supporting the MINSa.

BORDER SITUATION

- Mobility restrictions during the quarantine are hindering partners efforts to follow up on the situation at the borders. In addition, the government, in coordination with the Superintendence for Migrations (SNM), determined that all persons entering the country irregularly will be detained. Over 460 detentions have been reported, however, the Superintendence for Migration (SNM) has suspended administrative sanctions during the period of quarantine for foreigners who have overstayed and for those with irregular entries. Appointments for migration services are being rescheduled and the SNM is temporarily overturning any order to expel foreigners and extended the validity of all immigration ID cards.

Local Response Tumbes (northern border):

- GTRM Partners are supporting some two hundred refugees and migrants with shelter, food, access to drinking water and hygiene kits during the covid-19 emergency.
- Partners have secured funding to cover ongoing treatments and access to medicines and core relief items for children, persons with disabilities, elderly and persons with chronic conditions among the refugees and migrants.
- Partners are providing orientation and counselling services through hotlines to ensure continuity of assistance.

Local Response Tacna (southern border):

- GTRM partners are providing orientation and counselling services through dedicated hotlines as well as supporting shelter and distributing food.

KEY IMPACTS, NEEDS AND RISKS:

- Partners report that national ID is needed to test for COVID-19, limiting the screening for refugees and migrants.
- Asylum seeker identity cards are not considered as valid documentation to access the free passage permit. This aggravates their vulnerability during the emergency.
- The government Special Protection Units' (UPE) child protection services are limited, heightening the risk of increased violence and need for psychosocial support.

- Twelve families with children have been evicted from their accommodations. The ongoing mobility measures are limiting the capacity of GTRM partners to relocate them to existing shelters.
- Procurement challenges increased with the shortage of suppliers working and/or with products availability.

RESPONSE

PREPAREDNESS

Coordination meetings continue to take place:

- GTRM Protection WG (20.03.20)
 1. GTRM partners are assisting highly vulnerable families through one of two mechanisms:
 - those already being assisted with CBI and holding a card, are receiving 380 soles (alike the government bonus to the most vulnerable nationals).
 - those identified as vulnerable but with no card, are receiving (in a pilot phase) a money transfer through their telephone, where they can access a code that allows them to withdraw cash at the bank's cashier.
 2. The Communication WG is preparing information tailor-made kits for the regions across the country.
 3. Partners have expanded their hotline services to ensure psychosocial support to refugees and migrants.

Follow up actions on 23 March:

1. Partners are preparing a briefing for the National Humanitarian Network (RHN), who requested to join coordination efforts with the GTRM during this emergency given the platform's operational capacity, to highlight the needs of refugees and migrants for this specific emergency. The document includes the impact on access to territory and documentation, gender-based violence, child protection, and living conditions, alongside with the identified risks, gaps, needs, strategies and recommendations to address them. GTRM partners' hotline numbers for psychosocial support, counselling, orientation and social assistance for Arequipa, Cusco, Lima, Tacna and Tumbes, are being disseminated through the R4V.
 2. Partners are evaluating shelter alternatives through partnerships with hotels and food security with supermarkets in different locations in the country.
- GTRM Basic Needs WG and Coordinators' meetings (23.03.20)
 1. The IMWG developed an online matrix to map all available resources and activities by partners for this emergency.
 2. Partners produced a quick assessment on shelters to complement the ongoing GTRM service mapping.
 - RHN/GTRM Early recovery and livelihoods (23.03.20)
 1. Partners are identifying working opportunities to support the emergency (health professionals, teleoperators, etc.).

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

246K

USD

16

Partners reporting

11k

Refugees and Migrants
planned

Protection, basic needs,
CBI, health, nutrition and
food security

Prioritized sectors