

## PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION MEASURES COVID-19

### UPDATE No 3

#### SITUATION/CONTEXT INFORMATION

- On 26 March, President Vizcarra extended the state of emergency and the quarantine period until 12 April following the recommendations of health specialists and of the different sectors battling against the spread of the virus.
- On 26 March, the President requested extraordinary legislative powers to the parliament for a 60-day period. If approved, the executive will be able to legislate on what is deemed needed to safeguard the right to health, livelihoods and security.
- The Ministry of Health (MINSA) has been testing suspicious cases of COVID-19 among refugees and migrants living in shelters. All tested negative.
- On 26 March, Police entered a shelter in Lima and detained refugees and migrants after allegedly neighbours complained about the noise and the overcrowded space. With the support of GTRM partners they were released in the afternoon.
- Partners are working with the MINSA to include some 100 Venezuelan doctors and health professionals to support the response.

#### BORDER SITUATION

- Previously to the COVID-19 emergency, the President declared that all persons entering the country irregularly would be expelled. Under the current situation, and despite the Superintendence of Migration (SNM) overturning any order to expel foreigners, the Police continues to detain irregular entries without a clear protocol as to how to handle these cases and how to proceed.

#### KEY IMPACTS, NEEDS AND RISKS

- Shelters require urgent food, WASH and management support to ensure compliance with governmental emergency sanitary policies, such as specific spaces to isolate potential or confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- While during the quarantine the executive decree allows mobility to supermarkets, pharmacies, hospitals (for emergencies) and banks within the area of residence, this mobility is conditioned by certain rules, including presenting a valid ID if requested by authorities. Asylum seekers ID is not a valid document to obtain free passage, and persons that have lost their documentation or have an irregular status cannot access these services if needed.
- According to the RMRP 2020 over 200,000 refugees and migrants are at heightened vulnerability risk for lack of shelter and food security. This situation is worsened by the current situation, including the extension of the mandatory social isolation, which prevents refugees and migrants who make their daily earnings working as street vendors.

#### RESPONSE

##### PREPAREDNESS

Coordination activities continue to take place:

- GTRM Protection WG (25.03.20)

1. Partners are improving emergency referral pathways for gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection in coordination with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) .

### OPERATIONAL MEASURES

1. Previously to the President's request for extraordinary legislative powers, the Ministry of Justice coordinated with GTRM partners on topics in support of refugees and migrants' access to health, protection of vulnerable groups, and labour rights.
2. GTRM partners are coordinating with local health authorities in Lima (DIRESA) to ensure refugees and migrants living with HIV, pregnant women and those with existing health conditions access health services and reproductive health needs.
3. Between 16 and 25 March, partners assisted some 2000 refugees and migrants through hotlines. These services allow the GTRM to identify highly vulnerable cases, referring them to available CBI support.
4. On 25 March, a Venezuelan family was found living in a truck in Lima. The pregnant woman and her two other children were supported by partners, in coordination with authorities, and relocated to a hotel. The mother received medical assistance and the baby was born on 26 March.
5. In coordination with the National Food Bank, GTRM partners distributed 1,300 chickens to shelters and other spaces supporting refugees, migrants and host community in Lima.
6. More than 260 vulnerable families have been assisted with CBI support since 20 March.
7. Partners are in discussions with banking institutions to improve the conditions and limitations for CBI assistance. BBVA money transfers via telephone allowed refugees and migrants to withdraw money at the cashiers without the need of a card. However, the previous transfer limitations meant that one account could only do seven transfers in a monthly period. Through these discussions BBVA extended the limitations of transfers allowing partners to support more vulnerable families.
8. Over 340 persons in shelters in Lima, Tumbes and Tacna have received food provisions, hygiene and prevention orientation on COVID-19. In addition, in shelters in Tumbes, pregnant women are constantly monitored with prenatal check-ups.
9. In the first 10 days of quarantine almost 42,000 persons were reached through the Veninformado platform and social media.

### AVAILABLE RESOURCES

**838K**

USD

**24**

Partners reporting

**13k**Refugees and Migrants  
plannedProtection, basic needs,  
CBI, health, nutrition and  
food security

Prioritized sectors