

9 APRIL 2020



FUNDING SITUATION\*

**3%**FUNDED: **40.4 M**  
REQUIREMENTS: **1.3 BN**

## Highlights

This week, the **Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform** launched the revision process of the **Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) 2020**. During this process, appealing organizations within the Platforms and Sectors will undertake a critical review of the Plan, taking into account COVID-19-related needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela as well as host communities. The updated RMRP will align with the Global Humanitarian Response Plan - COVID-19 (GHRP), issued by the UN Secretary-General on 25 March. As noted in the GHRP, the Platform will continue to coordinate the response for refugees and migrants from Venezuela through the RMRP, including as it concerns the COVID-19 situation.

For the **COVID-19 response**, **Regional Sectors as well as National Platforms have already been producing thematic and country updates**, **key messages**, **funding updates**, as well as a collection of **good practices in public policies** that support refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the context of COVID-19. All these materials are available on the **R4V website**.

## Situation

**Borders in the region have remained closed in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19.** As a result, R4V partners are reporting an increasing flow of refugees and migrants from Venezuela crossing borders irregularly. Several countries have also deployed armed forces near border areas to stem these flows of irregular entries and exits. The increase in irregular entries and exits raises concerns for public security, as well as risks of trafficking, smuggling, exploitation and abuse.

**Livelihood activities are largely suspended, aggravating the situation of those unable to sustain incomes.** Due to movement restrictions and the associated loss of employment, many are unable to sustain themselves and to access basic needs, such as food, medicines, hygiene products and accommodation. Social protection and inclusive health policies are pivotal at this point of the emergency to enhance the overall resilience of refugees, migrants and host communities.

## Platforms' Response\*\*

In **Colombia**, the **Inter-Agency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM)** has commenced the review of its chapter of the **RMRP** through meetings and consultations with authorities, issuance of guidance to sectors and partners, and a joint needs assessment and analysis exercise. Coordination is also ongoing with local authorities to increase the response of food security, WASH, cash, health and shelter.

In **Brazil**, the **Platform, together with partners and authorities, is coordinating the refugee and migrant-related response to the COVID-19.** This week, support was provided to *Operação Acolhida* for the establishment of a field hospital of Roraima and two isolation areas in Manaus. In addition, seven tents were installed in primary health clinics to support vaccination against seasonal flu and health care. Orientation on the prevention of COVID-19 was provided in shelters, while supporting was provided to the relocation of indigenous persons from overcrowded shelters.

In **Ecuador**, the **Grupo de Trabajo para Refugiados y Migrantes (GTRM)** started a **Rapid Joint Needs Assessment** to assess the needs of refugees and migrants and their access to services during the pandemic. While an inter-sector meeting took place to articulate actions of working groups for the specific attention of the refugee and migrant population, R4V partners supported refugees and migrants with food and shelter.

In **Peru**, the **GTRM, together with the UN Resident Coordinator and the National Institute of Civil Defense, coordinated the distribution of 5,000 food kits received from private donations.** Some 20,000 vulnerable persons in Lima and Callao (incl. refugees and migrants) were supported. Another 7,000 refugees and migrants throughout Peru have received cash assistance.

In **Chile**, the **Platform and its partners are coordinating the COVID-19 response for refugees and migrants from Venezuela hosted in the country.** Next week, the Platform will hold meetings with its Sectors to discuss priorities in the response and the review of the RMRP 2020 in the context of COVID-19.

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\* Source: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/944/summary>

\*\*These are examples of activities carried out by National/Sub-Regional Platforms and/or Regional Sectors. For further details, please see [R4V.info](http://R4V.info).

**The Sub-regional Platform in the Caribbean is supporting preparedness and response plans developed to contain the spread of the COVID-19.** The Platform has prioritized the provision of food and hygiene items to refugees and migrants. In addition, efforts are ongoing with local authorities to create hotlines for evictions cases and those needing psychosocial support. The Platform is also ensuring that refugees and migrants continue to have access to education through the online Equal Place platform. R4V partners are re-assessing their program criticality to deprioritize activities that are not lifesaving, such as workshops and trainings, while adapting the delivery of emergency assistance, psychosocial support and medical assistance for the most vulnerable by using remote interviews, cash-based interventions, and vouchers.

**In Central America and Mexico, the Sub-Regional Platform continues supporting the national response to COVID-19.** In this context, partners are prioritizing information dissemination regarding available services and provision of humanitarian support to the most vulnerable. Coordination with relevant governmental stakeholders is ongoing to ensure implementation of inclusive public policies and to identify opportunities that could benefit refugees and migrants.

**Partners of the Southern Cone Sub-Regional Platform have prioritized their response towards the provision of shelter solutions, NFIs, food assistance, and cash in border areas and in main urban centres.** Since the COVID-19 crisis has exposed refugees and migrants to greater vulnerability, advocacy with governments is ongoing to include them in national social protection systems and so that their rights and protection, including the right to seek asylum, are guaranteed.

## Regional Sectors\*\*

**The Regional Health Sector is concentrating its efforts to ensure that access to health services is provided to the most vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela.** The Sector is also prioritizing that safe water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in shelters and other facilities are available to vulnerable refugees and migrants.

**The Regional Integration Sector is working on an early recovery plan in the context of COVID-19** and is coordinating these efforts with all other Sectors. Reports indicate that without livelihood or integration opportunities, and given their already precarious situation, many Venezuelans are considering returning to their home country in spite of the conditions there. In this context the Sector has published an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the [labor situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela](#).

**The Regional Shelter, NFI and Humanitarian Transportation Sectors together with national Sectors are adapting Shelter and NFI responses towards cash-based interventions** and are developing mechanisms to assess vulnerability among the target population. In some countries, where restrictions allow, shelters are being reopened and existing ones are being expanded to create space for the isolation of confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases. Due to a lack of means and following evictions reported in various countries, partners struggle to meet the demand for shelters and are therefore advocating with authorities to facilitate the scale-up of the shelter response. In addition, the Sector is working closely with health partners to expand the infrastructure available for healthcare centers and thereby improve medical response capacity.

**This week, the Regional Protection Sector launched an online tool compiling 65 good practices in public policies of 15 countries** that support the protection of refugees and migrants. The Sector is consolidating key messages to address governments, services providers, humanitarian and healthcare workers, and developing related communication materials. The [Human trafficking & smuggling](#) Sub-Sector continues to monitor protection incidents of women, girls, boys and men, which have reportedly risen sharply in all countries that have applied quarantine measures for their populations.

**The Regional Education Sector is collecting and consolidating and systematizing good practices in flexible distance home-based learning** delivered through on-line platforms, radio and TV, depending on connectivity. The Sector is identifying and sharing good practices in psychosocial support for children, teachers and parents/caregivers.

**The Regional Food Security Sector is adapting modalities to ensure that most vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela receive assistance in a safe manner.** The Sector is advocating for the inclusion of vulnerable Venezuelans in the social protection systems of their host countries, with partners aiming to provide governments with the necessary technical assistance.

**The Regional WASH Sector prepared a plan on WASH during COVID-19, outlining strategic actions and recommendations to be shared with Ministries in the region,** and is mapping progress towards these activities at the country levels. National Platforms are preparing their plans based on these recommendations.