

## Impact and needs

COVID-19 and the measures required to contain further transmission have led to a rapid contraction of the Colombian economy, with a particularly strong impact on the informal economy, on which most refugees and migrants depend. This, combined with some instances of xenophobia, has resulted in an increasing inability for households to pay their monthly or daily rent or face other problems related to their tenure. During GIFMM's [Rapid Needs Assessment](#), half of all households reported problems self-isolating, and among those, **21% reported that they perceive they are at risk of eviction**. Among all the households included in the assessment, **53% report access to housing, including rental support, as their main need, making it the second most urgent need overall**.

**In some cities, the number of Venezuelans sleeping rough has increased, leaving them at a higher risk of contracting the disease as well as facing protection risks.** At the same time, collective shelters have had to limit their capacity and keep individuals that were already there under quarantine, which further limits their capacity to respond to the needs of individuals sleeping outside. Additionally, the situation creates the need for new shelter options that fulfill the conditions needed to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Likewise, as families spend more time indoors, the need for household items and telecommunication services increases. Humanitarian transportation between municipalities is currently not allowed.

Once mobility restrictions are lifted, partners will need to increase efforts to support rental accommodation and interventions aimed at new arrivals and individuals in transit.



Household item distribution in an informal settlement in Ipiales, Nariño. / World Vision

## GIFMM: COVID-19 Rapid Needs Assessment

Main needs reported by refugees and migrants:

-  **95%** food
-  **53%** housing
-  **45%** employment

## ¿Why is shelter essential in the context of COVID-19?

In the context of COVID-19 **adequate shelter saves lives:**

1. People sleeping outside are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and, in turn, of transmitting the disease to the rest of the community.
2. It is impossible to self-isolate without adequate shelter.
3. Adequate shelter provides access to water, a healthy environment, and the possibility of self-isolating, all of which are essential to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.
4. Having access to household items and telecommunication methods allows families to self-isolate in a dignified and safe manner, with access to essential information.
5. When an individual contracts COVID-19, the first measure is self-isolation, which requires closed off spaces that are often impossible to put in place without assistance.
6. A lack of adequate conditions to be able to self-isolate puts individuals with COVID-19 at risk of complications, which in turn increases the need for hospital care and places additional strain on the healthcare system.



Shelter kit distribution in Samaritan's Purse shelter in Chinácota, Norte de Santander. / Samaritan's Purse

## Response strategy

The strategy, in support of and complementary to the operations of national and local authorities, takes into account the current self-isolation phase, and, afterwards, the gradual re-opening of the economy and the lifting of mobility restrictions.

During the first phase, the main priorities are:

1. Supporting households and **reducing the risk of eviction** by providing cash transfers, guidance, practical and legal information and provision of household items and telecommunication means.
2. Responding to individuals sleeping outside by **strengthening and expanding the capacity** of shelters, hotels and other collective shelter solutions.

When mobility restrictions are lifted, the main priorities will be:

1. Supporting shelter exit strategies and the transition to **other housing solutions**, including rental support and provision of household items.
2. Supporting new arrivals who need integration support and people in transit through **shelter solutions, telecommunications and transportation in border areas, transit routes and cities where the population settles**.

### Key results\*

- > **2.100** individuals in **35** shelters in **10** departments
- > **1.500** individuals in **26** hotels in **6** departments
- > **13** new shelters with capacity for **3.000** people currently in the pipeline

### Challenges

Very reduced funding for the sector severely limits its response capacity

\*by 14 May

## GIFMM: Multisector Subgroup

The Multisector Subgroup coordinates assistance and services to refugees, migrants and host communities through interventions related to shelter and settlements, household items, humanitarian transportation and telecommunications.

PEOPLE IN NEED



**1.56 M**

TARGET POPULATION



**0.23 M**

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS



**\$ 48.94 M USD**

PARTNERS AT NATIONAL LEVEL



**24**

## Main partners at the national level

ACTED | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian Red Cross | DRC | PADF | iMMAP | IOM | JRS Colombia | JRS LAC | Lutheran World Federation | Malteser | Médecins du Monde | NRC | OFICA | PAHO/WHO | Pastoral Social | Samaritan's Purse | Solidarités International/Première Urgence Internationale | SOS Children's Villages | TECHO | UN Habitat | UNHCR | ZOA

Contact:

<https://r4v.info/en/working-group/216>

Nicolás Rodríguez Serna  
Coordinator  
[rodrigu@unhcr.org](mailto:rodrigu@unhcr.org)

Natalia Ramírez  
Coordinator  
[natalia.ramirez@cruzrojacolombiana.org](mailto:natalia.ramirez@cruzrojacolombiana.org)

Hugo Sánchez  
Coordinator  
[husanchez@iom.int](mailto:husanchez@iom.int)

