



VENEZUELA MIGRATION CRISIS IN COLOMBIA

Economic collapse and internal conflict are driving millions of Venezuelans from their home. More than 1.8 million Venezuelan migrants have fled to Colombia and are in need of basic services like health, nutrition and WASH, protection, and education. During the COVID-19 crisis, Save the Children Colombia continues its operations in the departments of Arauca, La Guajira, Valle del Cauca, Santander, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Bogotá, the country's capital. The Health, WASH, Education, and Protection programs have adapted their operations with bio-security protocols and by adapting programs to other ways of reaching communities, via telephone or internet.

Many Venezuelans, since the beginning of the Venezuelan crisis (2018) are living in vulnerable conditions, with poor access to health care and other basic services. Since the beginning of the COVID emergency household heads have lost their jobs or are unable to earn an income due to quarantine measures, making access to food and safe shelter for their families a daily struggle. Migrant children are unlikely to access any distance learning education due to lack of computers or reliable internet. Many children and families are living in the street or in crowded informal settlements where physical distance is difficult to maintain. Furthermore, isolation measures can also place children at increased risk of experiencing physical and emotional abuse. Save the Children's programs respond to protracted and acute emergencies. We work in 7 regions of Colombia, including:



*** Bogotá**

1. La Guajira

2. Norte de Santander

3. Arauca

4. Santander

5. Valle del Cauca

6. Nariño

Since 2018, we have responded to the Venezuela migration crisis and, since **March 9th, 2020**, we have adapted our programs to the COVID-19 emergency response:

TOTAL REACH

Since 2018:	Since March 9th, 2020 - Adapting our programs to the COVID-19 emergency response:
227,330 people (including 69,504 girls, 67,779 boys, 52,483 women and 37,564 men)	86,466 people (including: 24,220 girls, 23,740 boys, 22,306 women and 16,200 men)

OUR PROGRAMS

Education

SC's EiE (Education in Emergencies) strategy focuses on 3 main areas:

- 1. Access** to education through the establishment of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and the preparation of children and adolescents for their transition to formal education. Due COVID-19, SC is supporting with home schooling activities.
- Improving education **quality** by training local teachers and improving their capacities.
- Increasing **participation** of parents and teachers and strengthening of their leadership skills. This, through the consolidation of education committees, the development of workshops and training courses. We seek to improve their ability to support learning processes in strategies such as: "SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Mindfulness, PEGIR - *Plan escolar de gestión del riesgo* (School Risk Management Plan), amongst others.

We want to ensure that all children who go through TLS complete their transition to formal education. We continue strengthening digital education strategies and skills as well as the development of an interactive teacher training package that is accessible online.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2018:

- The establishment and operation of **7** temporary learning spaces (TLS) to support **more than 500 out of school children**, where literacy, numeracy, and social and emotional learning activities are offered to migrant, binational, and foster community out-of-school children and adolescents.
- 23 classrooms** had been rehabilitated, including improvement on infrastructure, latrines, and water access.
- 446 teachers** had participated in trainings, workshops, and capacity building sessions.

Since our COVID-19 emergency response:

- 6,879** girls, boys and parents and / or caregivers have received EiE care.
- 693** children had received educational kits to practice recreational materials at home during COVID 19 and a total of 10,300 children and their families will be reached through the distribution of radios and learning materials.
- New ECW COVID 19 project was launch in order to support school's disinfection, in preparedness for the re-opening of schools.



Protection

Our Protection programs include the development of strategies and activities to prevent and address at risk situations for children, including abuse (physical, emotional or sexual), neglect, recruitment, abandonment and cases of unaccompanied or separated children and victims of sexual or domestic violence. Our main line of action is the establishment and operation of **Child Friendly Spaces** (*Espacios Amigables*), as protective and **safe environments for children**; as well as **our case management services**, the implementation of **community mobilization activities** and the strengthening of action paths to protect children. We work in through with **community-based child protection committees** as well as larger formal national systems (e.g. ICBF).

We continue to promote **mobile intervention** for children and families on the move and information hubs to encourage safe migration and protective behaviour of both unaccompanied children and those with their families or caregivers. Our Child Protection programs are mainstreamed across other sectors through a comprehensive integration plan. We want to increase our alliances and coordination mechanisms that allow the consolidation of protection networks in rural territories.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2018:

- The consolidation of networks and protective spaces in informal settlements of migrant populations in Arauca and La Guajira, and Valle del Cauca through the CFS, adolescent clubs, and protection committees. In total **10 CFS** had been established reaching **4,084 children**.
- Case management services: **739** children and their families are receiving psychosocial support and permanent accompaniment together with their family nucleus.
- **1,888 children** and adults on the move (*caminantes*) or "varados" (stranded) had received services in child protection support case management and IYCF information.

Since our COVID-19 emergency response:

- **18,920** actions have been made in the protection of children, including assistance in case management in different contexts.
- **475 families** had received food distribution support thought child protection emergency funds.
- **2,263 children kits** to develop activities at home during quarantine had been distributed.
- Radio key messages had been designed to inform communities to prevent child protection risk during COVID-19.



Health and Nutrition

In March 2019, Save the Children's Emergency Health Unit set up a **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Unit in Maicao**, to provide **SRH services** directly to Venezuelan migrants. Venezuelan migrants are only offered emergency care in case of life or death situations and very limited preventive healthcare. Through our programs we offer **mental health and psychosocial support** (MHPSS), especially due **to sexual- and gender-based violence** (SGBV); **Attention in Sexual and Reproductive Health and family planning; prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections** (STIs); and **referrals for vaccination, hospital-level services and cash assistance**.



We continue our support to teach mothers, fathers and caregivers to **prevent acute malnutrition** in children under two years of age; how to achieve an optimal development of boys and girls through **exclusive breastfeeding** up to 6 months of age as well as a complementary, varied, balanced and hygienic diet for at least 2 more years during early childhood. We want to strengthen our support to the community through the **nutrition counselling service**, which allows solving doubts in the lactation and/or complementary feeding process.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2018:

- Our SRH unit has provided more than **13,990 consultations** (from April 2019 to May 2020).
- There has been a growth in the percentage of exclusive breastfeeding and dietary diversity (consumption of more than 4 food groups) in our beneficiaries.
- **13,713 health services** (including ANC, PNC, SGBV and others) have been provided to **mainly children and pregnant women** in La Guajira.

Since our COVID-19 emergency response:

- More than **1,345 women** trained in breastfeeding and complementary feeding.
- **2,605 patients** attended in sexual, reproductive and mental health.
- **3,454 phone calls** to promote and support of IYCF good practices.
- **85 staff members (including 23 health SC staff)** were trained about COVID 19 prevention and how to use EPP.
- **More than 1,200 EPP** kits will be distributed to hospitals and members staff to prevent COVID-19.



WASH

Our Wash programs have been supporting the response to the Venezuelan migration crisis in Colombia specially in the municipalities of Maicao (La Guajira) and Arauca (Arauca). We have provided **access to safe water**, improving conditions of **basic sanitation**, as well as dry latrines in informal settlements in La Guajira and Arauca. Furthermore, we continue strengthening our **Wash committees** in informal settlements in La Guajira and Arauca, to emphasize on the self-management of basic hygiene needs and drinking water. We also continue supporting the implementation of **long-term access to water solutions** for the Venezuelan migrant population.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2018:

- During 2019 more than **three million liters** of water were delivered to informal settlements and schools in La Guajira.
- Our intervention in the municipality of Uribía, included the delivering **water purification kits** in informal settlements.
- **7,335 people** have been able to access safe and ecological latrines in informal settlements, schools, and child friendly spaces.
- More than **1,200 mosquito nets** were distributed to prevent malaria to **5,713 people**.
- **29,859 people** received "dignity kits", with soap and other hygiene items.
- The digging of a well in the Centre of integrated Attention of UNHCR service over 1.000 Venezuelan.

Since our COVID-19 emergency response:

- **123 families** received water tanks in conjunction with UNICEF– La Guajira and **25,044** people have received information on COVID 19 prevention.
- **900 COVID-19 prevention kits** are being distributed in Arauca, La Guajira and Nariño.
- Through the CASH program, **2,728 COVID-19 prevention kits** were distributed to CASH beneficiaries and host communities.
- In 4 informal settlements and 2 UNHCR camps hand washing points were installed.
- **9,923 hygienic kits** are being distributed to most vulnerable families in Nariño in order to prevent COVID-19.

Through our CASH programs we perform **multipurpose cash transfers** to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable people. Cash transfers are made once a month for 6 months. Through our COVID-19 Emergency Response, we have performed quick **emergency cash transfers** and we have created an accountability system to assure the effectiveness of our response. We plan to reach 10,010 beneficiaries with multipurpose cash assistance, representing more than **35,000** beneficiaries.

We are part of the VenEsperanza Consortium, which includes: International Rescue Committee, Mercy Corps and World Vision. Furthermore, we continue to expand our alliances with other organizations to support children and their families or caregivers to achieve the survival, protection, development and participation of all boys and girls.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2018:

- Signing of the framework agreement with a new financial services provider such as EFACTY, which has 10,000 service points nationwide.
- **36,322 people** have received multi-purpose transfers to 3 different Cash programs in Arauca, La Guajira, and urban areas such as Bogotá and Cali.
- More than **5,000 positive, complaints and feedbacks** have been addressed in order to improve communication with affected population and accountability with beneficiaries.

Since our COVID-19 emergency response:

- In Arauca, Bogotá, La Guajira, and Valle del Cauca, **11,191 families** have benefited from multipurpose monetary transfer, including the delivery of food vouchers.
- Adaptation to merge transfers to support with more resources cash beneficiaries during quarantine.
- An economic and market evaluation is taking place to determinate COVID-19 impact in migrant and host household.
- New CASH program with UNHCR is ready to start in aim to support Venezuelans families affected by COVID-19.