

ARAUQUITA CRISIS | COLOMBIA

As of 8 April, more than **5,834** persons have been affected by large-group displacements caused by armed confrontations between the National Bolivarian Armed Forces of Venezuelan and factions of the illegal armed group FARC taking place in the State of Apure, bordering the department of Arauca in Colombia. The number of Venezuelans and Colombian returnees (approx. 30 %) in need of international protection fleeing their houses and farms is **expected to increase in the coming days** as armed confrontations are ongoing.

UNHCR, as the co-leader of the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (in Spanish GIFMM), together with the Mayor's Office of Arauquita and the international community is coordinating the response within the National Taskforce for Emergencies (in Spanish, PMU).

UNHCR is providing **protection and humanitarian assistance** through counselling, orientation and information, registration, shelter, and delivery of core relief items (CRIs) both in transit centers and in the **57 identified concentration points** in the rural and urban area of Arauquita and Saravena. Among the high-risk risk profiles identified is the **Makaguan indigenous community¹** currently living in improvised housing at the Indigenous Educational Center in Vigía, a community on the outskirts of Arauquita, at the invitation of the community leader.

KEY FIGURES

5,834*

People characterized in 57 concentration points² as 6 April (GIFMM Profiling)

1,326

People registered in PRIMES, as 8 April

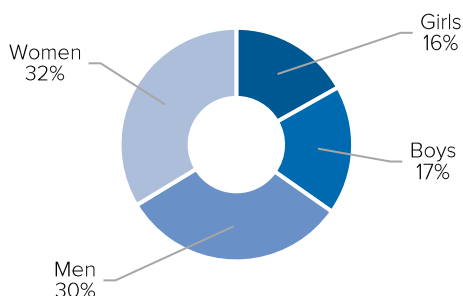
436

Families registered in PRIMES, as 8 April



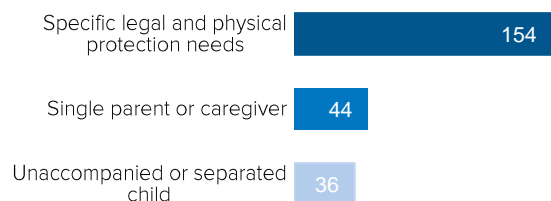
SEX AND GENDER

Profiling by The Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM)



21% of the population registered in PRIMES has been identified as having **one or more specific protection needs**.

Top 3 needs identified (# of people)



¹The Makaguan is a cross border indigenous group residing in Colombia and Venezuela. ² On average, between 7-10 families reside in each concentration point.

RESPONSE

Basic Needs and Essential Services

- Services for persons with specific needs strengthened: Psychosocial support and case management
 - Psychosocial care for children and adults, including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through local partner CISP and in coordination with the local Ombudsperson Office
 - Case management for persons with specific needs within the Protection Working Group
 - Community-based protection activities (CBP) at reception sites

- Health status of the population improved



Provision of sexual and reproductive health services



Provision of **9,000** facemasks



10 tents donated to the Health Secretariat to strengthen the COVID-19 response capacity



Technical assistance to improve access to water

- Population has access to sufficient basic and domestic items

3,849 persons benefiting from personal hygiene kits/items



4 sinks installed



115 liters of antibacterial gel



3,195 hygiene items (soap and sanitary napkins)



99 cleaning wipes



656 hygiene kits for women, men and children

4.480 relief items



1,000 shelter kits*



1,553 mattresses and mattresses covers



48 sleeping mats



290 thermal blankets



36 solar lamps

*(pillow, blanket, flashlight, raincoat, waterproof coat)

Fair Protection Processes and Documentation

- **Improving reception conditions sites and access to appropriate services** for 624 persons in **2 main locations**: the Gabriel Garcia Marquez School (GABO) accommodates 370 persons and Alcide Ceballos 254 persons as of 9 April. Measures taken to ensure adequate space and privacy in sleeping quarters, separate washing facilities for men and women, adequate sanitary and hygienic conditions and access to health services.

- **Identifying people with specific needs** and analyzing protection risks through a **registration process** which also facilitates assistance and activation of referral pathways. UNHCR and CISP are conducting biometric registration in the PRIMES for Venezuelan refugees and Colombian returnees **in reception sites and surrounding areas**.
- Enhancing referral pathways within the **Inter-agency Protection Working Group**, and as a co-lead, reinforcing community engagement and community participation, disseminating key messages on protection of persons with specific needs, prevention of SGBV, child protection and PSEA (Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) in reception sites and host communities.
- Ensuring compliance with **COVID-19 biosecurity measures**: within the GIFMM, and in close cooperation with local health authorities, health interventions are carried out in reception and transit centers (primarily Alcide Ceballos, GABO, and the Communitarian Integration Center/CIC) including raising COVID-19 awareness and distributing masks and antibacterial gel).



200 tents and 26
Refugee Housing Units
(RHUs) for emergency
response



85 family tents
installed



10 RHUs installed



20 supplies to support
shelter improvement

Alcides Ceballos Transit Site



69 family tents
installed



4 isolation tents
installed



6 RHUs installed



Capacity to provide
shelter to **365** people

Gabriel Garcia Márquez School



12 rooms



12 tents, with capacity
for **60** people



1 RHU installed for
registration



Capacity to provide
shelter for **400** people



1 RHU set up to serve as the Information and Orientation Centre in Malecón (point of entry)



2 RHUs installed at the Cultural Integration Center (CIC)



Refugee Housing Unit

Favorable Protection Environment

- Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved



1,326 persons/436 groups, registered in PRIMES³



7 lawyers available to provide guidance and legal assistance



6 professionals available for case management and psychosocial support



1 emergency coordinator with the Mayor's Office



Over 30 monitoring visits carried out in the rural area

³ Information as at 6 April, 2021

Leadership, Coordination, and Partnerships

- Coordination and partnerships strengthened
 - Co-leading the GIFMM coordination meetings
 - Coordinating with local, departmental, and national authorities.
 - Coordinating with WFP, UNICEF, IOM and implementing partners CISP, CORPRODINCO, Opción Legal, BENPOSTA, ProFamilia, among others, to respond the basic needs and provide protection.