

Southern Cone



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN THE SUBREGION
235,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE*
13,288



FUNDING SITUATION**
TBC FUNDED: TO BE CONFIRMED
REQUIREMENT: 41,7 MILLION

Situation

- **In Argentina, the President called for greater caution amid fears of a second wave of COVID-19**, especially given that neighbouring Brazil is registering record caseloads. The government suspended all flights from Brazil, Chile and Mexico until further notice. **Uruguay suffered a rise in coronavirus cases that is putting the health system at risk, while still managing to inoculate a large part of its population.** The new Brazilian variation of COVID-19 was identified already in 7 departments of the country. Vaccination has begun at an advanced pace in the country, but only for those with a valid Uruguayan identity document. **Paraguay's coronavirus infection rate has soared during March**, becoming one of the worst in the Americas, and its already shaky health system has been stretched to the breaking point. The borders remain open, with strict controls over fulfillment of requirements for entry. **Bolivia announced the closure of its border with Brazil as of 2 April** and ordered to speed up vaccination campaigns at the end of the month in towns on the border with Brazil, due to fears that the new COVID-19 variant may be circulating.
- **At the border between Bolivia and Peru, a steady flow of Venezuelan refugees and migrants continues to arrive in Desaguadero.** Of those interviewed in March by an R4V partner, over 40 per cent indicated their intentions to stay in Bolivia, 30 per cent were in transit to Chile and the other 30 per cent to Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- **The situation in Argentina's northwest border with Bolivia continues to show a steady flow of refugees and migrants from Venezuela arriving to the city of La Quiaca (Jujuy)**, where partners in the field continue providing protection and humanitarian assistance. **Partners also reported irregular movements through the "frontera seca" between Argentina and Uruguay to enter Uruguay**, hundreds every week, and a dramatic increase in the need for food, shelter and sanitation.

Response***



ARGENTINA: ADRA, APdeBA, CAREF, FCCAM, IOM, Jesuit Migrant Service, Red Cross Argentina, UNHCR.

BOLIVIA: Caritas Bolivia, Caritas Cochabamba, Caritas Switzerland, IOM, Munasim Kullakita Foundation, Red Internacional de Migración Scalabrini, UNHCR, We World GVC, World Vision.

PARAGUAY: IOM, Semillas para la Democracia, UNHCR.

URUGUAY: ADRA, Idas y Vueltas, IOM, SEDHU, UNHCR.

- **Shelter, NFI, food, cash and voucher assistance** for the most vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela **was increased in border areas of the sub-region** as movements across borders gained new momentum.
- Over 600 refugees and migrants were assisted at the Jujuy border point in **Argentina** during March, where many Venezuelans are arriving from Bolivia. Seed capital was directly delivered to small entrepreneurs to support integration. Psychosocial support services were provided to refugees and migrants while mental health professionals' practices were strengthened through courses and supervision.
- An R4V partner in **Paraguay** delivered hygiene kits and non-perishable food kits to almost 200 refugees and migrants in Asuncion, the capital.
- **R4V partners reinforced field presence in Oruro, Bolivia**, from which the border with Chile, at a 4 hour vehicle ride, has begun to be regularly monitored. Families and individuals continue to try to cross the border within a day of arrival and in some cases stay overnight at local accommodations which lack basic services.
- During March more than 2800 Venezuelans were identified and assisted by R4V partners in the field in **Bolivia**, out of which 37 per cent were children.
- **R4V Partners in Uruguay began to plan for the arrival of winter**, with two main concerns: the lack of employment and the lack of quality shelter to permit survival through the winter season. R4V partners are distributing vouchers to vulnerable refugees and migrants, and support is being given to develop resumés for job applications. Partners coordinated with the government to guarantee vaccine coverage, provide hygiene vouchers, and support contingency centers to guarantee obligatory and preventative isolation in border areas.
- **The Uruguayan government recognized 42 Venezuelans as refugees and granted regular status to 16 other Venezuelans** in March.



Food Security
953

Hum. Transp.
210

Health
1,050

Education
239

Integration
592

WASH
1,170

Protection
2,964

Shelter
779

CVA
941

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*From 01/01/2021 until 31/03/2021 | **Source: FTS Website | ***The list of partners per country include those who reported actions during the timeframe of this report and does not necessarily reflect all the partners that conform the National Platforms.