

UNHCR Colombia and the influx from Venezuela

December 2018

With a border of more than 2,200 kms with Venezuela, Colombia is the main destination and transit country for populations leaving that country as a result of the deteriorating situation.

The influx to Colombia includes Venezuelans, returning Colombians and mixed families, including individuals in **need of international protection** and with **urgent humanitarian needs**.

UNHCR Colombia is working with authorities and communities to respond to the often **overlapping needs** of arrivals from Venezuela and Colombian IDPs. It has broadened its presence and monitoring capacity on the Atlantic Coast, with the opening of a new office in Barranquilla.

UNHCR's 2018 **Supplementary Appeal** for the Venezuela Situation covers nine countries. Financial requirements for Colombia, the country most heavily affected by arrivals from Venezuela is of USD 8.1 million.

KEY FIGURES ACCORDING TO MIGRACIÓN COLOMBIA

1, 032,016 total of Venezuelans in Colombia by this time.

23.1% Venezuelans are located in Bogotá.

434,654 Venezuelans who entered Colombia from August 3rd 2017 to November 13th 2018 have obtained the Special Stay Permit (PEP), a protection-oriented arrangement that allows regular stay and rights to work, education and healthcare.

KEY FIGURES ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT REGISTRATION OF VENEZUELAN (RAMV)

442,462 Venezuelans, who participated in the Government Registration of Venezuelans, will be regularised through the PEP.

48.70% of the children registered, between 6 and 17 years old, are schooled.

89.40% of the people registered expressed their will to stay in Colombia.

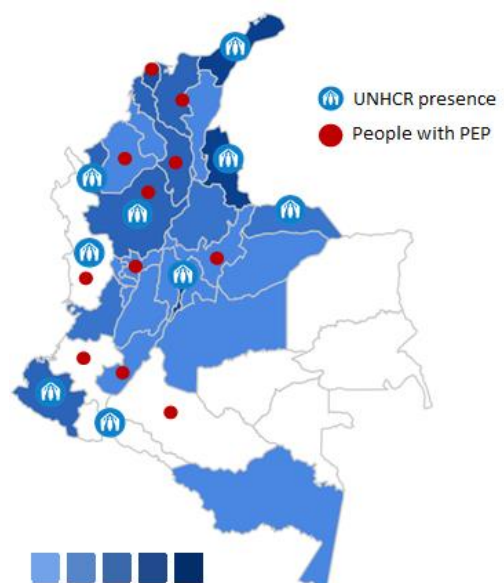
Nearly 99% of Venezuelans registered in the recent registration exercise are not covered by the health care system (over **437,000** persons).

Source: Migración Colombia

UNHCR PRESENCE IN COLOMBIA



UNHCR staff supporting the registration of Venezuelans in Soacha, near Bogotá, June 2018. UNHCR/ Reina, J.



Heat map of the presence of venezuelans in Colombia - RAMV

Source: Migración Colombia

UNHCR's response

Advocacy and capacity building

UNHCR's intervention to respond to the needs of persons displaced from Venezuela aims to build a comprehensive protection framework by working with authorities and communities. Key activities include:

- **Advocacy, technical assistance and capacity building** with Government partners to adopt protection-oriented public policies. The Office also provides material support and technical advice on issues related to child protection, GBV prevention and response by local authorities. UNHCR further supports the National Civil Registry in large-scale registration exercises in border and remote areas to identify and document individuals arriving from Venezuela who are entitled to Colombian nationality, and ensure birth registration of all children regardless of their nationality. At the local level, the Office provides orientation to authorities on access to health, education and basic services.
- **Reinforcement of protection alliances** with civil society, academia and host communities, as well as in reception areas and local neighborhood committees. Civil society partners and legal clinics are promoting access to rights for both Venezuelans and Colombian returnees through legal interventions in five departments.
- Strengthening the capacity of the **Office of the Ombudsman**, the **Office of the Inspector General** and local ombudsmen (Personeros) to monitor and respond to the situation of Venezuelans and returning Colombians.
- Increasing **public awareness and sensitivity** to the needs of Venezuelans, particularly through the "Somos Panas Colombia" anti-xenophobia campaign.

Emergency response capacity and humanitarian assistance

- UNHCR supported the government on the Registration of Venezuelans (RAMV) in 10 departments of the country.
- The Office is working to increase **shelter** availability at the border with Venezuela and in other areas receiving large numbers of Venezuelans, including at the border with Ecuador. UNHCR supports 5 organizations providing shelter to vulnerable persons in Cucuta, Maicao, Medellin, Ipiales and Pasto.
- UNHCR is expanding **community interventions** in reception areas, including support to schools and community centers that are providing services both to Venezuelans and local communities.

Advocacy and technical assistance for comprehensive solutions and self-reliance

- Advocate for and contribute to mechanisms that facilitate comprehensive solutions for persons of concern to UNHCR, including legal, economic and social **integration and peaceful coexistence**.

Working with our partners

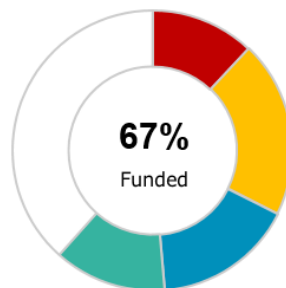
- UNHCR co-leads the **Inter-Agency Group on Mixed Migration** with IOM, which has 30 UN and NGO members.

UNHCR Colombia receives support from private donors and:



\$34.1 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2018



COLOMBIA

As of 26 November
2018

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

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Global UNHCR Venezuela Situation portal
<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/vensit>