

COLOMBIA

Situational Report
March 2019



More than 1.2 million Venezuelans are living in Colombia, and thousands continue to enter each day. Refugees and migrants, as well as returning Colombians are arriving with protection and basic needs including access to food, basic healthcare and shelter. In addition, essential services and infrastructure in host communities are being impacted by the volume of arrivals.

The continued arrival of refugees and migrants in the country, coupled with ongoing insecurity in border areas and challenges in the State response, require a comprehensive and timely response to deliver assistance in critical areas including healthcare, registration, access to education, livelihoods and employment.

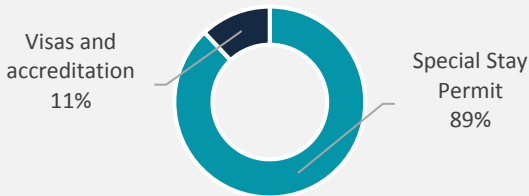
The Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM), coordinates the response for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees and host communities, both at the national level and through local presence in 11 departments, complementing the response of the Colombian State.

KEY FIGURES*

1,202,408

Venezuelans in Colombia

657,732 Venezuelans in a regular situation



443,989 Venezuelans in an irregular situation



+ 100,687 within period established by the law
(includes tourist visas and other types of short term stays)

Data from [Migración Colombia](#): 31 December 2018

Venezuelans in Colombia



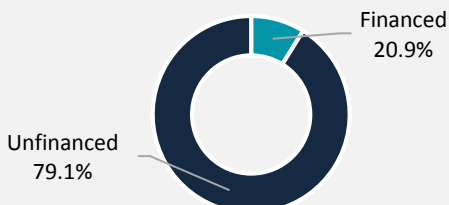
3.173 million Venezuelans with Border Mobility Cards (TMF)

108,821 Venezuelans with Temporary Transit Permits (PIP-TT)

125,454 Venezuelans left the country via the Rumichaca International Bridge in 2019

Data from [Migración Colombia](#): 04 March 2019

Total Financial Requirements (US\$315m)*



215,000 beneficiaries who received one or more types of assistance through RMRP partners during March

Activities implemented by 39 organizations in 17 departments
*Partial financial information for Colombia for January, February and March from 21 RMRP organizations, includes paid contributions and commitments but does not include contributions for multiple countries.

For more información: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary>

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- Official border crossings in [Arauca and Norte de Santander](#) remain closed on the Venezuelan side, following events on February 23 however humanitarian corridors continue to remain open for those with special needs, including school children, pregnant women, the ill and the elderly. On 11 March, [Migración Colombia reported](#) that some 5,000 Venezuelans (3,300 school children and 1,800 adults with medical needs) were permitted to cross the border via the humanitarian corridor. The official closure of these border crossings continues to give rise to crossings via irregular and often unsafe alternative routes. In Cucuta, Norte de Santander, heavy rains in the last week of March caused the swelling of the Táchira River made the irregular river crossing more dangerous for Venezuelans crossing into Colombia. The border in Paraguachón, La Guajira remained open during March with an average of 2,500 people entering Colombia with stamped passports per week during the month, an increase from an average of 2,070 weekly entries in February.
- On 8 March, the [Migración Colombia announced](#) an extension of the validity of Venezuelan passports for two years from their date of expiry, permitting Venezuelans with expired documents to enter Colombia regularly. The measure is expected to benefit some 500,000 Venezuelans who are expected to travel on passports that have expired, or are about to expire. The measure is intended to encourage regular entries and reduce the risk of threats such as bribery, trafficking and exploitation for those who might otherwise be forced to enter Colombia irregularly.
- The [suspension of Ecuador's entry requirements](#) for Venezuelans came into effect at the Rumichaca International Bridge in [Nariño](#) from Thursday 29 March where GIFMM members reported a reduction in identified cases and referrals to services in Colombia, as people are able to cross into Ecuador more easily without additional documentation. At the San Miguel International Bridge in [Putumayo](#), the measures came into effect on Sunday 31 March. In both [Nariño and Putumayo](#), roadblocks and demonstrations by indigenous groups on key highways restricted the flows of Venezuelans reaching the border to cross into Ecuador. When consensus was reached between the Government and indigenous authorities, blockades were lifted causing a large arrival of Venezuelans in Ipiales, causing long lines at the CEBAF, and some people forced to sleep outside overnight.
- On 8 March the Integrated Assistance Centre was inaugurated by the local government and international cooperation in [Maicao, La Guajira](#), with a capacity to host up to 350 refugees and migrants. In Maicao, a needs assessment showed that more than 81% of Venezuelans had an urgent need for shelter.



Actividad en el Centro de Atención Temporal al migrante (CATM) en Villa del Rosario, Norte de Santander / OIM

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

During the month of March, 34 GIFMM member organisations and their implementing partners delivered humanitarian assistance across 9 sectors including provision of basic healthcare, temporary accommodation, water and sanitation, food nutrition and support for humanitarian transport. Members delivered assistance in 13 departments across 58 municipalities.

200,593 people benefitted from food assistance activities during the month, including hot meals at community kitchens, in kind food contributions and vouchers. The majority of these beneficiaries were in departments along Colombia's borders with Venezuela and Ecuador.



Un taller en Bogotá sobre salud sexual y reproductiva con venezolanos recién llegados, en el Centro Integral de Atención al Migrante / ACH

Some 10,563 people were reached through health assistance in 8 departments, of which 7,223 people received basic medical attention including general checkups and referrals and 3,328 people received psychosocial and mental health support. GIFMM member organisations began to deliver health activities and trainings for some 300 people admitted to the Integrated Assistance Centre in Maicao, La Guajira. In addition, 4,985 people received non-food items including hygiene, shelter and cooking kits. Moreover, 811 people were assisted with humanitarian transport.

Area of Intervention 1: Actors by department who reported activities in March



Area of Intervention 2: Protection

In March, 12 GIFMM member organizations and their implementing partners delivered protection activities reaching refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees and host communities in 13 departments and 58 municipalities. A total of 18,484 people received legal assistance and were guided on rights, regularization processes, documentation and asylum; including 317 returned Colombians.

Among the protection risks faced by people arriving from Venezuela, gender-based violence is a risk for adults and children during their entry or transit through Colombia. GIFMM members assisted 578 cases of Venezuelan victims of gender based violence to access prevention and care routes in 6 departments to assist with ensuring their dignity and development. On the other hand, more than 6,200 children and adolescents benefited from protective environments, in which they could receive basic care and educational activities.

In Arauca and Nariño, GIFMM member organisations worked with 656 members of community organizations and networks to strengthen their organizational processes. Through these processes, GIFMM members seek to activate joint protection networks between refugees and migrants and the host population, and identify common needs.

Area of Intervention 2: Actors by department who reported activities in March



Area of Intervention 3: Socio-economic and cultural integration

7 GIFMM members and their implementing partners carried out activities on socio-economic and cultural integration in 3 in 9 departments, across 36 municipalities. On March 5 GIFMM members coordinated the first working session for the Socio-economic and Cultural Inclusion Sub-Group of the Mixed Migratory Flows Group (GIFMM).

Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening capacity of host government

3 GIFMM members delivered capacity building activities in 9 departments, within 13 municipalities. GIFMM members met on 13 March to discuss planned implementation activities of UN organisations and international NGOs and decide on next steps for delivering these activities. The first meeting of the subgroup will be held on April 10, 2019.

COORDINATION

The national GIFMM has 47 participating members, with 8 local chapters (+1 in process of formation*). The GIFMM works in close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team using a *back to back* system with the aim of providing a coherent response to the needs of the population and generating population needs analysis.

- In **Nariño**, the Shelter Committee and members of the GIFMM Multisector Subgroup conducted a joint evaluation mission to 4 temporary shelters in Ipiales to identify improvement needs and response gaps and to improve shelter response at the local level, which continues to be impacted by entry requirements into Ecuador. In addition, the local coordination team met with the GIFMM to discuss future planning, and to strengthen coordination on gender issues.
- Members of the GIFMM in **La Guajira** held a meeting with the Mayor of Maicao, the Secretary of Government and the Secretary of Health to conduct training with local authorities on the coordinated response delivered in the municipality by GIFMM members and other partner organisations.
- The GIFMM in **Atlántico** welcomed 8 new member organisations during March. 16 organizations now participate in the local GIFMM. Members presented to the local government interventions for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Atlántico, Magdalena and Bolívar. The Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) presented their operational *'Guidelines for the Care of Venezuelan Children and Adolescents'*.
- In **Ipiales, Nariño** the GIFMM conducted an extraordinary meeting to share updates on the border context; identify risks facing the Venezuelan population and to discuss the joint work plan. Members presented the durable solutions framework to promote livelihoods actions for the population of concern.

GIFMM MEMBERS *

ACF | ADRA | Americares | Aldeas Infantiles | Ayuda en Acción | BLUMONT | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian Red Cross | Diakonie | DRC | FAO | Halü | Humanity & Inclusion | ICRC | IFRC | ILO | iMMAP | IOM | IRC | JRS Colombia | JRS Latin America and the Caribbean | Lutheran World Federation | Malteser International | Mercy Corps | Norwegian Red Cross | NRC | OACNUDH | OCHA | OCR | OXFAM | FUPAD | Pastoral Social | Plan International | RET International | Save the Children | TdH Lausanne | UN Habitat | Un Techo Para Mi País | UN Women | UNDP | UNEP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | War Child | WFP | WHO/PAHO | World Vision

**including organizations in the 2019 RMRP*

CONTRIBUTIONS

Austria, Aviation without Borders, Bloomberg, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, DOB Foundation, Dubai Cares (UAE), Dutch Relief Alliance, the European Union, Germany, Gilead Sciences Inc., Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Korea, Medicor Foundation, Museum of Quai Branly, New Zealand, Norway, Novo Nordisk, Ole Kirk Foundation, Spain, the United States of America, Stichting Vluchteling, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom.

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