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FUNDING SITUATION*

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Situation

On 7 May, the second iteration of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for COVID-19 was released, containing a dedicated chapter on the revised Refugee and Migration Response Plan (RMRP). It draws on the work of the [Regional Platform and its now 151 partners](#) who are part of the regional COVID-19 response for refugees and migrants from Venezuela and affected host communities. The revised RMRP is due to be released on 12 May and will be presented at the meeting of the Regional Platform on 14 May 2020.

Amidst rising level of despair among those who are unable to meet basic needs, host country governments are receiving increasing numbers of requests from refugees and migrants from Venezuela for support to return to their home country. This demonstrates the precariousness of the situation that an ever-growing number of refugees and migrants is facing in host countries and is a cause for great concern among R4V partners given the health and protection risks associated with returns under the current circumstances.

Some countries in the region including Aruba, Curacao, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, are beginning to ease movement restrictions, by reopening certain industries, such as mining and manufacturing, as well as government offices. On the other hand, in view of a continued rise in COVID-19 cases, other countries are extending the restrictions further.

Platforms' Response**

In [Colombia](#), on 3 May, the President announced the collaboration with the governments of Peru and Brazil to strengthen controls in the Amazon border area, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. On 6 May, the Inter-Agency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) launched the report of a [Joint Rapid Needs Assessment](#) developed by 13 partners, analyzing the results of 737 telephone surveys in 17 departments on the situation of refugee and migrant households in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the arrival of Venezuelans from Ecuador at the transport terminal of the Colombian border town of Ipiales the local GIFMM in Nariño is working with local authorities to provide an adequate response.

In [Brazil](#), the Area of Protection and Care (APC), created by *Operação Acolhida* to isolate and treat COVID-19 cases in Roraima, is currently hosting 80 refugees and migrants from Venezuela. R4V partners are supporting refugees and migrants in the Tancredo Neves shelter in Boa Vista to produce cloth masks for distribution to other sheltered Venezuelans. So far, a first batch of 220 masks was produced. This week, 15 refugee and migrant families in the Nueva Canaan shelter in Boa Vista were supported to apply for the emergency benefit of the Federal Government for the COVID-19 crisis.

The *Grupo de Trabajo para Refugiados y Migrantes (GTRM)* in [Ecuador](#) has begun discussions with six local GTRMs in order to strengthen coordination mechanisms. The national GTRM has published information on different services and information available to refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 emergency.

In [Peru](#), some industries are preparing to resume activities, however it is unclear whether the hiring or re-hiring of refugees and migrants will be permitted in the current context. Partners continue supporting hospitals with refugee housing units and blankets to increase patient reception capacity. On 7 May, the Superintendence of Migration (SNM) authorized the issuance of certificates to foreign citizens that had begun procedures to obtain the *carne de extranjería* and the temporary stay permit (PTP) before the COVID-19 emergency. These documents will ease the current mobility restrictions faced by undocumented refugees and migrants.

The contagion reached its peak last week in [Chile](#). Districts particularly affected by COVID-19 include Quilicura and Recoleta, counting large numbers of refugees and migrants amongst its residents. Final adjustments were made to R4V projects in line with global COVID-19 guidance, and R4V partners are being trained on R4V monitoring and reporting tools.

The Sub-Regional Platform in the [Caribbean](#) is prioritizing the sensitization of landlords and the general population on avoiding evictions and is establishing and strengthening communication networks to better monitor and assess trends and protection risks for effective planning and timely response. While Aruba and Curacao are planning to gradually lift restrictions in the next week, a severe socio-economic impact is reported across the sub-region, combined with increments in pricing and increasing concerns over food security.

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* Source: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/944/summary>

**These are examples of activities carried out by National/Sub-Regional Platforms and/or Regional Sectors. For further details, please see R4V.info.

In Central America and Mexico, the Sub-Regional Platform is initiating an inter-agency referral mechanism among partners in Mexico and is using digital/technological communication strategies to continue giving support on key needs such as psychosocial care, legal guidance and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and responses in Panama. In Costa Rica, partners distributed some 89 food items and 16 hygiene kits to 212 Venezuelans living in Jaco-Puntarenas, as the border closure has been extended until mid-June.

In the Southern Cone, Uruguay and Paraguay are beginning to ease some restrictions, whereas in Argentina and Bolivia restrictions are being extended. The Sub-Regional Platform continues to provide shelter solutions, NFIs and food assistance, often through CBI, to the most vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela in border areas and in the main urban centres. Following incidents of xenophobia in Desaguadero, Bolivia (on the border with Peru), R4V partners are coordinating the voluntary relocation (transport, reception and accommodation) of a group of Venezuelans to La Paz.

Regional Sectors**

The Regional Health Sector is concerned about the rapid transmission of COVID-19 in geographic locations in which refugees and migrants are living in the region. There is also an increase of transmission due to the unregulated movements of refugees and migrants across borders. The Sector is, through cooperation with relevant partners and ministries, ensuring access to health services to vulnerable refugees and migrants.

The Regional Integration Sector is establishing lines of coordination with the CBI working group and the GBV sub-sector, in order to promote cash transfers as one of the main resources to alleviate the lack of income among vulnerable refugees and migrants and host communities, and to prevent situations of violence which are aggravated by the lack of income within some households.

The Regional Shelter, NFI and Humanitarian Transportation Sectors are developing, in collaboration with the Protection sector, guidance, tools and key messages on the mitigation of and response to evictions of refugee and migrant tenants in the region. The Shelter sector continues to prioritize CBI and hotels for individual shelter. Cash-based interventions (CBI) are also being implemented to provide transportation assistance in the form of travel cards for refugees and migrants in need of mobility in order to access essential goods, services and assistance in their host communities.

The Regional Protection Sector is increasingly concerned about return movements of refugees and migrants to Venezuela. Following reports of increasing cases of smuggling services offered to Venezuelans attempting to return, the Regional Protection Sector is preparing information materials relating to returns. In parallel, the Sector is holding thematic discussions with National Protection Sectors on evictions, for the identification of concrete legal actions developed that could become a reference for the region. The **Human Trafficking & Smuggling** Sub-sector is mapping the operational capacity of government institutions and Civil Society Organizations that provide assistance to victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups.

Partners of the Regional Food Security Sector are adapting their programmes which were previously adapted to rural contexts to be able to assist refugees and migrants in urban areas, where the impact of COVID-19 has been significantly stronger. Likewise, partners are revising their targeting criteria to be able to include additional vulnerable people.

The Regional Education Sector is preparing to hold several webinars with Ministries of Education in the region by explaining, contextualizing and supporting them with the operationalization of the new Framework for Reopening Schools, jointly issued by UN agencies and the World Bank last week.

The Regional WASH Sector is conducting a COVID-19 risk mapping at national levels to identify municipalities most at-risk in order to prioritize its response. Additionally, a dedicated webinar was delivered jointly with the Cash WG on CBI in WASH. Based on a template developed by the Sector, several countries from the region (e.g. Paraguay) are applying their national COVID-19-related WASH response plans.

The Regional Nutrition Sector organized a webinar on Infant Young Feeding (IYF) inviting all partners in the region working on nutrition to strengthen the prevention of child malnutrition by ensuring the communication and dissemination of key recommendations on breastfeeding and infant young feeding during COVID-19.

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