SITUATION REPORT 🖾 MAY 2020

CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO



FC FC

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE* 9.968



R23

FUNDNG SITUATION** 140/ FUNDED: **2.7M** REQUIREMENT: 18.4 M

RESPONSE FOR

VENEZUELANS

Situation

- International borders in <u>Panama</u> and <u>Costa Rica</u> remained closed. Costa Rica has reinforced security on the border with drones, helicopters and additional police officers. In <u>Mexico</u>, cases under MPP program, including Venezuelan population, whose hearings were scheduled in May, are now scheduled at the end of June and early July at the port of entry.
- The <u>Mexican</u> government suspended the aslyum procedures *sine die*. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended the suspension of several activities including the reception of naturalization processes. <u>Costa Rica</u> became the first county in Central America to legally recognize same-sex marriage which strengthens the protection system for LGBTI refugees by recognizing the validity of civil unions within the different procedures (i.e. family reunification, extension of the status of refuge to the spouses). A workshop on the Cartagena Declaration was carried out with Government officials for the incorporation of the Cartagena definition to provide greater protection, particularly for those populations arriving from Venezuela. In <u>Panama</u>, the moratorium on loan payments was extended until December, including mortgages, personal loans, to small and medium-sized companies, and the payment of public services was suspended for four months.
- In <u>Mexico</u>, delays continue for Venezuelan population seeking to obtain migration related documentation including permanent residency. In <u>Costa Rica</u>, technical difficulties remained in facilitating access of migrants and refugees to *Bono Proteger* (employment/under employment benefit program). In Panama, ONPAR and the National Immigration Service extended the validity of expired ID cards until June 15. Gradually, and taking biosecurity measures, some government offices such as ONPAR are being reactivated.

Response

- Health: 711 Venezuelans insured under the CCSS-ACNUR agreement (Costa Rica). More than 400 people were vaccinated, including the Venezuelan population (Panama). Chronic medical treatment has been provided to a Venezuelan person (Mexico).
 - Psychosocial support: 30 Venezuelans received psychosocial support because of the stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic (Panama). Community-based strategy on mental health and psychosocial support has been reinforced, focusing on women at high risk (Costa Rica).
- **Shelter and NFI**: hygiene and sanitation supplies for prevention of COVID-19 has been provided in Queretaro reaching 18 Venezuelans (Mexico).
- Cash-Based Interventions and NFIs: 473 Venezuelans were provided with forms of CBI, food assistance and NFI in Costa Rica, 269 benefitted in Mexico, and 147 people received multipurpose cash to meet basic needs and ensure access to rights in Panama. 529 Venezuelans in Mexico received sectoral top-ups addressing some protection related risks identified and 8 e-wallets for food security to Venezuelans were delivered.
- Integration: In the subregion, 174 Venezuelans participated in online courses to develop the curriculum and seek formal jobs.

Entrepreneurship support was provided to start formally or informally opening a business from home.

- Dissemination of information: In Costa Rica, free information continues through 800-Venezuela, 800-Refugio and email, as well as through events in Instagram. In Panama, sessions focused on immigration measures implemented during the pandemic and different actions in labor matters regarding migrant population. <u>#SomosLoMismo</u> campaign joined the International Film Festival's 2020 edition.
- **Protection:** 116 Venezuelans (63 women and 51 males) in Costa Rica and 91 in Panama received legal assistance focused on documentation, legal residence, RSD, food, healthcare and housing, expired ID cards until June 15. Gradually, and taking biosecurity measures, some government offices such as ONPAR are being reopened.
- Protection: In Costa Rica, 228 Venezuelan individuals (136 families), 113 males and 115 females, mostly ranging between 24 and 35 years old. Among the 288 Venezuelans processed in May, 152 individuals had a serious medical condition, 34 some sort of disability, 15 women at risk, 16 a single parent, 9 had specific legal and physical protection needs.

