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PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE* 57.670



FUNDING SITUATION**

OOO FUNDED: 80M
REQUIREMENT: \$

Situation

On 8 January, the Superintendence of Migration (SNM) published the Resolution 009-2021 within the framework of the Decree 010-2020-IN approving special, exceptional and temporary measures to regularize foreigners whose stay permit has expired or who entered the country irregularly. The Resolution allowed for a calendar-month period for pre-registration in alphabetical order to obtain the new stay permit CPP through an online portal. Asylum seekers will also be able to pre-register and will have a section to include the information related to their asylum request. This process has no cost and while it does not condone any fine related to administrative sanctions it does include reductions to such fines.

On 21 January the Army, the National Police and the SNM began joint border control operations amid a substantial increase of irregular entries of refugees and migrants from Venezuela through the northern border with Ecuador, which has been closed since the beginning of the state of emergency declared by the government in March 2020. The militarization of the border followed a call from the regional government of Tumbes amidst concerns over the spread of the new strains of COVID-19 in the territory through the inflows of Venezuelan nationals.

Response

To support the efforts of the SNM, GTRM partners provided specialized orientation and support to refugees and migrants interested in the pre-registration process for the new CPP and legal counselling on issues of regularization and documentation to some 1,120 refugees and migrants. Some of the concerns expressed by the Venezuelan communities, as well as by partners, were related to potential consequences stemming from the pre-registration process, particularly regarding the threat of deportation and expulsion. The Protection Working Group agreed to continue providing legal advice on the issue through hotlines and social media and follow up on the concerns raised. Partners also reported that at the end of December 2020, the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) granted the Refugee status to some 640 Venezuelan nationals, including to unaccompanied or at risk children and persons with immediate needs of medical assistance, groups who had not been previously considered. This stand-alone figure also represented a 45 per cent increase compared to the rest of the recognized refugees throughout the year.

The GTRM also assisted some **2,120 persons** with general protection orientations and further supported some **600** refugees and migrants **through case-by-case management**. Through partners' continued efforts, some **1,700** persons received psychosocial support.

As part of the efforts to combat human trafficking and smuggling amid the increased risks faced by refugees and migrants entering the country through irregular pathways, partners developed new Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) covering five regions in the country. The SOP incorporates age-based routes and scenarios, as well as a consideration towards whether a formal police investigation has been started or not during the identification of the victim by GTRM actors. Roles and responsibilities among partners were also established.

To strengthen the efforts on child protection, partners assisted some **405** children and their parents through six safe spaces counting with remote pedagogic and ludic activities.

Some 110 vulnerable refugees and migrants benefited from alternative accommodation in both established shelters and improvised arrangements. Partners distributed over 13,520 hot and cold meals to support over 1,700 highly vulnerable refugees, migrants, and host community across the country. Some 410 persons had access to food through 56 soup-kitchens and more than 2000 persons were assisted with food kits. To boost efforts on food security and reach highly vulnerable families, over 15,200 received Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) for food security, a significant increase from previous months. As part of the efforts on WASH, partners distributed 2,560 hygiene kits to assist 3,300 highly vulnerable refugees and migrants. Furthermore, over 1,200 liters of water

were distributed to support almost 2,000 Venezuelan nationals in transit. Almost 30 persons benefited from humanitarian transport across provinces.

Almost 400 refugees and migrants received financial education to ensure a sustained long-term strategy to balance income and resource planning. Some 1,100 received training and entrepreneurships programmes to increase their livelihoods opportunities. Some of these entrepreneurships included inkind support through raw materials and equipment, while others received seed capital. A total of 65 persons benefited from (CBI) for livelihoods and some 19,540 persons through multisectoral CBI.

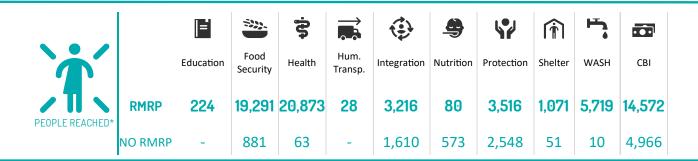
Moreover, partners achieved the **validation of 14 professional degrees** to enable refugee and migrants to attain higher levels of income and decent working opportunities according to their educational level. This is an important strategy to fight poverty and other vulnerabilities associated with inequality in access to opportunities for refugees and migrants. Partners also

supported some **200** students with school kits to help vulnerable refugee and migrant families overcome the economic challenges and ensure the permanence of students in the school system.

GTRM partners provided primary health assistance to some 15,340 refugees and migrants and host community members, including persons living with HIV. Similarly, partners provided sexual and reproductive health assistance to some 440 refugees and migrants. Some 130 persons received almost USD 19,000 in CBI support to access health services and treatment, 1,100 benefited from mental health services and 80 children received nutritional support to fight chronic malnutrition.

Coordination

GTRM's preparedness efforts have enabled its 79 partners to coordinate a sectorial approach to the emergency response. The GTRM's working groups developed their annual work plans following the objectives and strategic priorities established under the RMRP 2021, including the COVID-19 context. In response to the increased irregular mixed flows despite of the continuous closure of borders as part of the pandemic's containment measures, GTRM partners coordinated with local authorities in Tumbes in order to ensure humanitarian assistance, support and protection of highly vulnerable refugees and migrants.



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