

# Situation Report

## November/December 2019

In October, the number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela reached **4.8 million worldwide**, with 4 million hosted in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The **financial contributions** towards the RMRP reached **52%** of the total requirements in December, with nearly 88 Million funding Direct Emergency Assistance (Aol 1).

In November, the Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela presented the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) 2020 in Bogotá, Colombia

### KEY FIGURES<sup>1</sup>

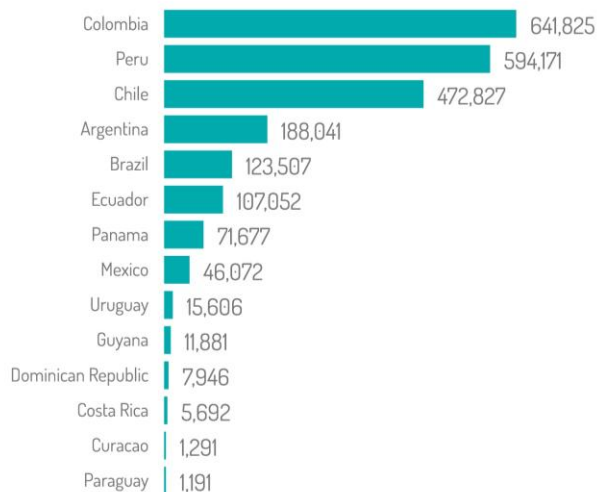
## 4.8 Million

Venezuelans worldwide

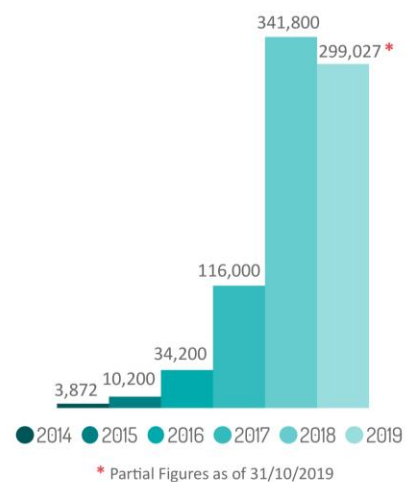
## 3.9 Million

Venezuelans living in Latin America and the Caribbean

Residence and regular stay permits granted to Venezuelans since 2014



Asylum claims per year



## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

On November 13, the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) was launched in Bogotá. The event was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Holmes Trujillo and the Joint Special Representative (UNHCR and IOM) Eduardo Stein. The funding required for the 2020 response plan is 1.35 billion USD for 4 million people in the 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The fifth Quito Process meeting was held in mid-November in Colombia and was attended by 11 countries that signed a joint declaration to strengthen the cooperation between the Quito Process and the Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela. During the meeting, the terms of reference for the “Friends of Quito Process” group were approved. The participating members reiterated the request that UNHCR and IOM continue supporting the Technical Secretariat of the Quito Process and the two agencies presented the terms of reference for the institutionalization of the Technical Secretariat to the Colombian Government. The main topics discussed and agreed upon were related to the

<sup>1</sup> Total population figures in this document represent the sum of Venezuelan migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers reported by host governments. It does not necessarily imply individual identification, nor registration of each individual, and may include a degree of estimation, as per each government’s statistical data processing methodology. As numerous government sources do not account for Venezuelans without a regular status, the total number of Venezuelans is likely to be higher. The figures of people with regular status do not include Venezuelans holding tourist visas, nor recognized refugees, or asylum-seekers. The figure of issued residencies and other form of regular status includes expired and valid residence permits, do not include tourist visas, and, in selected countries, do not necessarily account for the number of individuals but the number of administrative procedures.

immigration card, the strengthening of national refugee commissions, and the reception and orientation centre. Likewise, progress was made on issues such as human trafficking and child protection.

Partners in Peru continue reporting irregular entries to Peru through different informal entry points in Tumbes. On 7 December, the Ombudsperson's Office in Tumbes warned local authorities about new routes used for human trafficking, particularly through the precarious roads of Casitas (Tumbes department) bound for Máncora or Talara (Piura). In response to this, the Superintendence for Migrations (SNM), with the support of other national authorities, blocked trails and paths in Tumbes allegedly used for human trafficking and smuggling.

In Argentina, the elected President, Alberto Fernandez, took office on 10 December, after which he announced a series of economic and social reforms that aim to "reactivate the economy, generate employment, revive consumption and fight against hunger and poverty". The measures include, among others, the launching of the Argentina Plan against Hunger; wage increases; a 30 per cent surcharge on the purchase of foreign currency; freezing of gas, electricity and public transportation tariffs; and an 8 per cent reduction in the price of medications.

In Chile, amidst the social unrest that begun in October, on 27 December, President Sebastian Piñera signed a decree that set the date for the referendum on the adoption of a new constitution for 26 April 2020, asking Chileans if they want a new constitution and who should draft it. A referendum on a new constitution was one of the key demands of Chileans who have been carrying out anti-government mass rallies.

In Costa Rica, authorities issued a new decree to allow undocumented persons working in agriculture to be regularized in the country, through the facilitation of a work permit. The decree applies to those who entered the country between January 2016 to May 31, 2019.

## RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

*These response highlights do not provide an exhaustive overview of all response activities by partners under the regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), but rather highlight some key activities implemented during the month. The R4V aims to support and complement national authorities' efforts across Latin America and the Caribbean, consistent with the principles outlined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.*

### Area of Intervention 1: Direct emergency assistance

**Strategic outcome:** Refugees and migrants are provided with life-saving goods and services.

#### Needs Assessments

Partners in the Southern Cone sub-region interviewed more than 689 Venezuelans to [assess their needs](#). Particularly, the objective of the assessments was to delineate the profile of the Venezuelan population and their needs regarding migratory status, employment and access to basic services, among other needs.

#### Basic Needs and Essential Services

In **Colombia**, during December, partners supported around 149,000 individuals with food in community kitchens, and an additional 117,200 received food assistance in vouchers and another 8,600 in-kind support. In addition, about 1,000 people received technical assistance for the rapid recovery of food production, and training in nutritional education. In Arauca and Norte de Santander about 1,130 families (approximately 3,400 people, based on average household size of three people) increased the availability and access to food through production for self-consumption.

In **Brazil**, during November, 2,375 hygiene and dignity kits were distributed to people living on the streets or in spontaneous settlements in Boa Vista, including 39 baby kits to pregnant and lactating women. In Manaus, 518 hygiene kits and cleaning kits were distributed to refugees and migrants at the bus station and to a local church. School in a Box Kits and Early childhood protection recreational kits were distributed in 10 different shelters with a Child-Friendly Spaces (Super Panas), reaching over 4,000 children.

In **Central America and Mexico**, partners delivered NFIs and cash-based interventions to support Venezuelans in the sub-region. In Costa Rica 23 food kits and 20 NFIs were distributed to Venezuelans. In Mexico, partners assisted refugees and migrants with e-wallets and monthly cash-based interventions to approx. 100 individuals.

In December, partners in the **Southern Cone** continue to provide direct emergency assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela. More than 1,600 refugees and migrants were reached with non-food items. Food

assistance was also provided by partners in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, reaching 175, 1,069, 29 and 354 individuals, respectively. Humanitarian transportation, especially from border areas to urban areas was provided to 136 vulnerable refugees and migrants in the subregion.

### Health and WASH

In **Colombia**, in December, various activities were carried out in 13 departments to provide access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (WASH). Through these efforts, 45,600 people received dignity kits and 8,900 hygiene kits; as well as 26,800 children and adolescents in Atlántico, Nariño and Norte de Santander were in learning environments with WASH services, 13,600 people accessed a water source suitable for human consumption, and 10,800 received training in hygiene and sanitation, all according to the Sphere Standards.

In **Brazil**, in order to promote sanitation and hygiene inside shelters, partners provided voucher cards for the purchase of personal items, cleaning products and the installation of private usage equipment, including toilets and related structures maintenance. R4V partners organized hygiene promotion workshops, aiding more than 1,200 migrants and refugees living in the streets and residents of spontaneous settlements in Boa Vista. Information sessions were conducted with beneficiaries.

## Area of Intervention 2: Protection

*Strategic outcome: Refugees and migrants enjoy rights and protection.*

### Community Based Activities

In **Colombia**, the implementation of various strategies to disseminate information for the promotion of rights, resulted in 1,700 Venezuelan refugees and migrants who actively participated in sport, art, culture and communication activities, as well as in activities for the prevention of falling victim for recruitment and abuse by illegal groups in Bogotá and Valle del Cauca, as well as in five other departments.

### Access to Information, Referrals and Legal Support

In **Colombia**, 14,700 people learned about rights, regularization processes, documentation and asylum. Legal guidance and/or legal assistance was provided to 13,500 people, and around 300 sessions on information, guidance and assistance focused on legal guidance and/or legal assistance were conducted mainly in Chocó and Nariño during December.

Partners in Argentina and Chile supported 13 centres that provide key information and assistance to refugees and migrants across these countries. In Chile, partners opened a second [child-friendly space/day-care centre](#) in Santiago which will have the capacity to host some 25 children and parents.

### GBV and Human Trafficking prevention and response

Partners in **Brazil**, in November 3,705 individuals (53,2% females) were assisted with informative sessions. Those sessions aim to raise awareness on refugees and migrants GBV related matters. In Peru, weekly self-empowerment therapy sessions commenced in line with the psychosocial assistance for refugee and migrant survivors of sexual and gender-based violence by partners to strengthen the protection response and referral of GBV survivors to the Centros Emergencia Mujer (CEM) from the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations

### Child Protection

In **Brazil**, protection strategy for unaccompanied children and adolescents advanced significantly, with partners hiring 10 case managers for Boa Vista and Pacaraima. All case managers received training in partnership with the Public Defender's Office (DPU), Public Defender's Office of the State (DPE), and Childhood Court to assist child-protection cases.

## Area of Intervention 3: Socio-economic and cultural integration

*Strategic outcome: Refugees and migrants are socially, economically and culturally integrated in empowered communities.*

### Voluntary relocation programme

In **Brazil**, in November, 1,570 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were voluntarily relocated from Roraima State to other parts of Brazil through different modalities. Among these, 1,151 flew on planes operated by the Operation Welcome (Operação Acolhida) and 419 received flight tickets on commercial airlines by partners.

### Integration and self-reliance

Partners in Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Peru and Argentina provided regular **information and/or trainings** to refugees and migrants from Venezuela to improve their **income generation opportunities** and their integration in host communities. These included, courses on business models/plans, advice on compliance with labour laws, how to access social services and the job market, online courses in accounting, finances and entrepreneurship, among others. In November and/or December, 620 individuals were assisted in Brazil; another 500 persons were reached in Colombia; 130 refugees and migrants in Peru; over 150 in Argentina, and 900 in Chile. Partners have been working also with the private sector to support the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

### Anti-xenophobia and anti-discrimination initiatives

Partners in Peru have developed different activities or campaigns to combat discrimination and xenophobia towards refugees and migrants from Venezuela. 700 Venezuelan and Peruvian volunteers participated in activities to give-back to host communities by cleaning beach areas in Tumbes and the Rimac riverside in Lima; they have also contributed to the reforestation efforts in Arequipa and Tumbes, and to renovate three schools in Cuzco.

## Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening capacities of the host government

***Strategic outcome:** Government institutions' capacity to manage situations of refugees and migrants from Venezuela is strengthened.*

### Technical and material support

Partners continue to support national authorities across the region with human resources, infrastructure and technical assistance. In Costa Rica and Mexico, partners regularly support authorities in various forms including with human resources and technical support.

### Capacity Building Support

In **Brazil**, during November, R4V participated in the induction training, organized in Rio de Janeiro, for 600 military personnel who will be part of Operation Welcome for the next four months. Public authorities from Casa Civil, the Ministry of Citizenship and the Public Defender's Office were also able to participate.

In **Colombia**, 441 officials participated in trainings provided by the GIFMM. Some 366 of the officials were sensitized and trained on the implementation of good practices and information management. They were also informed of the response within different areas, such as justice, documentation, regularization, health, safety and coexistence, among others; and 75 people received training on international protection mechanisms and the rights of refugees and migrants. Furthermore, in Nariño and Risaralda around 53 government institutions adopted changes in the assistance and access to rights, including regularization of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, during December.

In **Argentina**, partners provided the government with a guide for addressing human trafficking at the consular level, strengthening the responses capacity of the Argentine Consulates. Also, capacity building workshops on tools for detecting and addressing cases of human trafficking and smuggling were provided to 40 officials of the previously mentioned institutions, the National Directorate of Migration and labour inspectors.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*RMRP Partners are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, contributing to their activities with un-earmarked and earmarked funds.*

Aktion Deutschland Hilft | Australia | Austria | Bloomberg | Brazil | Canada | Central Emergency Response Fund | Colombia

Denmark | Dubai Cares (UAE) | Dutch Relief Alliance | European Commission | ECHO | Ford Foundation | Frantz Hoffman Foundation | Germany | Gilead Sciences Inc | Iceland | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Republic of Korea | Latter-Day Saint Charities | Luxembourg | Medicor Foundation | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Novo Nordisk | OXFAM International | Ole Kirk's Foundation | Pan American Development Foundation | Private (individuals & organizations) | Spain | Spanish Red Cross | Start Fund | Stichting Vluchteling | Stichting War Child | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | World Bank | World Vision International

### RMRP PARTNERS

Action against Hunger | ACAPS | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | Alianza Venezuela Costa Rica | Amnesty International | Antonio Vieira Association - Jesuits of Brazil | Argentine Catholic Migrant Commission Foundation | Argentinian Commission for Refugees and Migrants | Asociación Inmigrante Feliz | Ayuda en Acción | Blumont | Brazilian Association for the Defense of Women, Children and Youth | CARE | Caritas Brazil | Caritas Germany | Caritas Peru | Caritas Rio de Janeiro | Caritas Switzerland | Caritas Vicaria Pastoral Social | Center for Documentation in Human Rights, "SMM SJ" Inter-American Platform for Human Rights, Democracy and Development | Centre for Migration and Human Rights | Civil Construyendo Caminos de Esperanza frente a la Injusticia, el Rechazo y el Olvido | Cooperazione Internazionale | Danish Refugee Council | Dialogo Diverso | Diocese of Lurin | Ecumenical Service for Human Dignity | FAO | Franciscan Solidarity Association | Félix Guattari Institute | Foro Salud | Fundación Halu Bienestar Humano | Fundación de las Americas | Fundación Mujer | Fundación Scalabrini | Handicap International | Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society | Idas y Vueltas | iMAP | Institute for Migration and Human Rights | Instituto de Democracia y Derechos Humanos | Illari Amanecer | ILO | IOM | International Rescue Committee | Jesuit Migration Service | Jesuit Refugee Service | Jesuit Service for Migrants | Lutheran World Federation | Malteser International | Manos Veneguyas | Medicor Foundation Spain | Mercy Corps | Migrants, Refugees and Argentine Social Entrepreneurs | Misión Scalabrini | Norwegian Refugee Council | OXFAM | Pan American Development Foundation | Pastoral Service of Migrants | Plan International | Progetto mondo mlal | Programa de Soporte a la Autoayuda de Personas Seropositivas | REACH | Red Cross Argentina | Red Cross Chile | Red Cross Colombia | Red Cross Ecuador | Red Cross Uruguay | RET International | Religiones por la Paz América Latina y el Caribe | Save the Children | Semillas | Social Assistance Foundation of the Christian Churches | SOS Children's Villages of Brazil | TECHO | Terre des Hommes | UNICEF | UNDP | UNESCO | UN Women | UNEP | UNHCR | UN-Habitat | UNOCHA | UNODC | UN OHCHR | UNOPS | UNFPA | UNAIDS | University of Buenos Aires | University of Costa Rica, Faculty of Law | University of Diego Portales, Legal Clinic for Migrants and Refugees | War Child | Without Borders - Private Assistance Institution | WFP | WHO | World Vision

#### For more information, please contact:

**Juliana Quintero**, Media and Communications Officer, **IOM**, [robuepress@iom.int](mailto:robuepress@iom.int)

**Philippe Sacher**, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer Regional Platform, **UNHCR**, [sacher@unhcr.org](mailto:sacher@unhcr.org)