Southern Cone







PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME **FORM OF ASSISTANCE*** 10,697

FUNDING SITUATION** 28%

FUNDED: 11.7 MILLION **REQUIREMENT: 41.7 MILLION**

Situation

- November began with Argentina opening its frontiers to tourists from all countries with complete vaccination and a negative PCR test. The Ministry of Health was given the power to grant exceptions to compliance with the requirements. However, no exceptions have been made available for asylum-seekers, family reunifications, or other humanitarian reasons. Argentine Ministry of Transportation authorized and enabled the restarting of international land passenger transportation services, with Paraguay as the first country to sign the agreement. On 17 November the coach services began to operate and talks were underway during the month with the remaining neighboring countries to resume international bus services. As fears over spread of new Omicron COVID-19 variant, Argentina's government announced the implementation of a health pass to attend activities in closed spaces. Moreover, Argentina announced it will offer a third dose of coronavirus vaccine to "the entire population six months after the second dose," with the government hoping to reach the elderly "before autumn." Bolivia registered an increase of 13 per cent in COVID-19 cases over the last week of November and completed eight consecutive weeks with a sustained rise in infections. The Government has reinforced vaccination and the distribution of medicines and equipment for the care of the coronavirus patients. Health Minister Jeyson Auza pointed out that "six departments registered an escalation of cases, and three declines," with Santa Cruz, the country's economic engine, registering 54 per cent of cases. Paraguay imposed a travel ban on foreigners from 10 African countries in a bid to prevent entry of the Omicron COVID-19 variant by the end of the month. Health ministers of Paraguay and Brazil signed the agreement to articulate and coordinate health actions between the border towns of Ciudad del Este and Foz de Iguazú. The agreement entails the formation of Binational Border Health Teams, to define the guidelines and mechanisms for bilateral coordination in health to minimize the health risks related to COVID-19 and other public health events. On 1 November, Uruguay's borders were opened after 20 months where they remained closed. Foreigners arriving in the country may be vaccinated against COVID-19 as of December. Despite the menace of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, authorities do not foresse implementing further restrictions.
- The situation in Argentina's northwest border with Bolivia has continued to show a steady flow of refugees and migrants from Venezuela arriving to the city of La Quiaca (Jujuy), where partners registered the arrival of 181 refugees and migrants (154 in October), while entries in Puerto Iguazu (border with Brazil and Paraguay) decreased (16) comparing with the previous month (29 entries). The impossibility to initiate either migratory regularization or seek asylum in La Quiaca persist. Humanitarian assistance needs persist on the border between Bolivia and Chile. During November, 5,500 people entered Chile via Pisiga, most of them refugees and migrants from Venezuela (according to R4V partners in Chile). In Uruguay, partners reported the entry of 14 refugess and migrants from Venezuela during the firt half of the month via Chuy (border with Brazil).

Response Highlights***

ARGENTINA: APdeBA, Asociación de Psicólogos Venezolanos, Ashoka, AMIA, Banco Ciudad, CAREF, FCCAM, INICIA, IOM, Jesuit Migrant Service, MIRARES, Noblez Obliga, Red Cross Argentina, UNHCR. BOLIVIA: Caritas Bolivia, Caritas Cochabamba, Caritas Switzerland, IIICAB, IOM, Munasim Kullakita Foundation, Scalabrini Foundation, UNICEF, UNHCR, World Vision. PARAGUAY: IOM, Semillas para la Democracia, UNHCR. URUGUAY: Idas y Vueltas, IOM, UNHCR.

- In Argentina, partners continued with mental health activities for the benefit of refugees and migrants as well as social and legal guidance on access to asylum, migratory regularizations and documentation. At the end of November, various courses that seek the socioeconomic integration of refugees and migrants concluded, including employability courses, courses for caregivers and for customer service.
- In Paraguay, partners provided assistance with long-term lodging, hygiene kits, dengue products, food vouchers, maternity kits, integration activities, medical consultations, medicines and psychosocial support.
- In Uruguay some 28 Venezuelan asylum-seekers were recognized as refugees and they were all interviewed under the simplified procedure for Venezuelans adopted by the National Refugee Commission. R4V partners assited at least three family reunifaction of Venezuelans in the country and provided temporary shelter to new arrivals at borders.
- In **Bolivia**, partners provided school kitsn, gave psychosocial support to children and carried out psycho-pedagogical activities for their benefit; gave assistance for the purchase of medicines and for medical consultations; vouchers or cash assistance; clothes and shoes for newly arrived; and also guidance and legal advice to refugees and migrants.



Hum. Transp. Food Security 654 64

Health

1,132

Education 509

(÷) Integration 641

WASH

748

Protection

4,458

Shelter

1.246

••• CVA

1.245

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