

CHILE



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN CHILE

457,324



PEOPLE REACHED
IN 2021*

101,403



FUNDING SITUATION**

26% FUNDED: 11.8 M
REQUIREMENT: USD 46.1M

Situation

- On 6 December, the government sent Decree 296 to the [Controller General's Office](#), which contains the expected regulation for the New Migration Bill, promulgated in April 2021. The regulation defines the procedures for obtaining and renewing immigration permits, as well as the new expulsion procedure. According to the regulation, "[plural](#)" expulsions will not be considered collective deportations.
- According to the framework of the new migration bill, Venezuelan refugees and migrants who have arrived in Chile through unofficial border points and whose migratory status has not yet been regularized have time to normalize their situation until 7 January. According to [official data](#), as of 7 December, [668,806 applications for regularization had been submitted and only 201,108 had been processed](#). The Venezuelan population residing in Chile asked for a speedier process to obtain a visa, while the National Migration Service reported that on average 20,000 visas and 400,000 permits were granted monthly.
- On 10 December, the National Migration Service (SNM) in conjunction with the National Statistics Institute (INE) released the Chile [Migrant Employment Bulletin](#) for the first time, which reveals the employment situation of foreigners in Chile, showing a growth of 18.7 percent in the last twelve months. Between August-October 2021, they estimated the unemployment rate of foreigners at 7.1 percent, registering a decrease of 6.3 percent points in twelve months as a consequence of the increase in labor force (10.7 percent).
- The Public Ministry of Chile reported (El Mercurio, 12 December) that human smuggling in the Tarapacá region increased exponentially: while in 2019 only 7 cases were reported, during 2021 there were one hundred twenty reported cases of human smuggling. The Presidential Delegate of Tarapacá said that the government response has focused on dismantling migrant smuggling groups. On 30 December, the national police (*Carabineros*) reported the detention of a truck, in which a [dozen Venezuelan](#) refugees and migrants were being transported inside of a container, including four children.
- In December, [Chile became the country with the highest number of COVID-19 vaccine booster](#) doses per 100,000 inhabitants in the world, with 43.92 percent versus 43.90 percent in Israel. Despite this situation, Chile closed the year with [1,831 new COVID-19 cases and 19 deaths](#) reported on 31 December, and the case positivity rate reached 2.85%, the highest in the month. With this, the number of people who have tested positive reached [1,806,494](#), and the number of deaths grew to [39,115](#) since the pandemic began in the country.
- During December 2021, there was a notable increase in the number of entries of Venezuelan refugees and migrants through unofficial border points in the north. According to R4V partners, around [500 people](#) are arriving in the country daily. Therefore, the [United Nations in Chile](#) reported on 24 December that it would strengthen its presence and distribution of humanitarian assistance at the northern border. The number of homeless refugees and migrants from Venezuela staying outside the cathedral, bus terminal, and Morro Sector in Iquique (Tarapacá Region) have also increased. An estimated [550 people are currently homeless](#). Host communities have been delivering food and non-food items (NFIs) to support this large population.
- As a result of elections held on 19 December, the left-wing and former student leader [Gabriel Boric will become Chile's youngest president](#) at 35-year-old, after winning the run-off presidential election against the right candidate, José Antonio Kast. The new president will be sworn in on 11 March 2022.

Response

- During December, R4V partners **provided refugees and migrants with 8.023 food and non-food items** (including hygiene kits) in Arica, Antofagasta and Tarapacá as well as in the Metropolitan Region.
- R4V partners have also provided adequate solutions for temporary or long term accommodation to **3.341 refugees and migrants from Venezuela**. **2.712 families** have received cash transfers (CVA), which allowed them to purchase hygiene items, food and medicines. Finally, R4V partners have provided **protection assistance** to 2.518 venezuelans.
- Regarding WASH, **R4V partners installed chemical toilets** in Colchane and Alto Hospicio cities for refugees and migrants in transit.
- "Health duos" (1 doctor + social worker) supported by R4V partners provided support to 140 refugees and migrants in temporary shelters and along principal transit routes. These health teams also continued making daily

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* Accumulated figures up to 31/10/2021 | **Source: FTS Website.

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visits to sanitary residences and visiting other areas of the northern border zone.

- On 29 December, 16 female Venezuelan entrepreneurs finished a training provided by R4V partners in digital skills for entrepreneurs to enhance their small businesses. This training has benefited almost 60 women entrepreneurs during 2021.
- R4V partners delivered humanitarian aid to the parish-shelter of Colchane and *Carabineros* of Colchane and the El Loa customs control point (border between the Tarapacá and Antofagasta regions) to be distributed to refugees and migrants transiting through those points. According to *Carabineros*, an average of 100 refugees and migrants pass through this customs control point per day, of whom at least 30% are children.
- R4V partners carried out an activity for **Christmas**, and delivered hot food and toys to the children's health residence in Colchane.

- Due to the extreme weather conditions that affected the northern border regions in December, Colchane's temporary shelter was flooded. R4V partners worked together to **evacuate 100 people to a temporary shelter in Huara**.

- On 21 December, the R4V National Platform in Chile held its last general meeting of the year, in which partners and allies participated. In this meeting, the coordination team presented 2021 results and accomplishments as well as key elements of the RMRP 2022 – Chile Chapter, including challenges and objectives for the year ahead.



PEOPLE REACHED*



Health

140



Education

0

Food
Security

8.023



Integration

3.842



CBI

2.713



Protection

2.528



Shelter

3.341

Hum.
Transp.

0



WASH

0