

RISK OF 'BOTTLENECK' OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN TRANSIT IN NECOCLÍ (ANTIOQUIA)

As of 27 July 2022

This product is a continuation of the two recently issued situation alerts (N°1 / N°2) on the current context in Necoclí.



KEY FIGURES

≈ **1.000** daily refugees and migrants at risk of a 'bottleneck' in **Necoclí** municipality, besides of ≈ **120 to 150** currently staying overnight at the beach

≈ **870** refugees and migrants in a 'bottleneck' at Migratory Reception Stations in **Panama** (as of 27 July)

CONTEXT UPDATE

During 23 and 24 July (Saturday and Sunday), despite the limited sale of tickets for people in transit by sea transport companies at **Necoclí**, no large crowds – that would require additional humanitarian response activation by local partners – were reported.

Figures on sea departures by population in transit, reported by local sea transport companies, indicate that the mobility of the weekend was largely transferred to the day before (Friday 22, with **970** people transported) and the day after the weekend (Monday 25, with **1,312** people transported).

As a health update, **four COVID-19 positive cases were reported**; however, these persons continued their transit to Panama. At the same time, in coordination with the San Sebastian Municipal Hospital, **surveillance is being maintained for possible cases of simian pox** and other transmissible diseases.

SECTORAL CAPACITIES



Shelter

- **1,000 trail support kits** containing: flashlight, whistle, repellent, sunscreen and zip-lock bags.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Availability of **six safe water distribution points** with a total capacity of **10,000 liters** for approximately **1,300 people/day**.
- Availability of **1,900 hygiene kits**, **600 water purification filters** and more than **11,000 water purification tablets**.
- **80 dignity kits** for menstrual hygiene.



Protection

- **Awareness sessions with the population** informing about the risks of the route, available services and safe spaces for psychosocial support.
- **Legal counseling and assistance**, juridical support and advice for self-protection, including translation and interpretation (French/Creole/Portuguese).
- Dissemination of **information on the refugee status application process**, and strategies to prevent **gender-based violence** and **child protection and assistance**.
- More than **900 baby carrier kits** and around **600 maternity kits** with identification bracelets and other elements.
- **Permanent monitoring of the public order situation** to warn about possible protection and security risks to the population in transit.



Health

- **Individual healthcare consultation** and **psychological first aid** for people in transit.
- Dental care and delivery of **100 oral health kits** (20 for children and adolescents and 80 for adults).
- **Consultations** in general medicine (low complexity matters), prenatal controls, follow-up of chronic diseases and medicine supply and laboratory tests to the **population in transit without affiliation to the healthcare system (SGSSS)**.
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)**: pregnancy tests and contraceptive attention including counseling, implant insertion/removal and permanent methods.



Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

- Availability of **450 non-perishable emergency food kits** and delivery through case management.
- Up to **180 multipurpose vouchers per month** to be delivered to specific profiles.



Communication / Communication with Communities (CwC)

- National **dissemination of key messages** on the situation and risks en route to the population in transit, to encourage informed decision making.

GAPS IDENTIFIED



Shelter

- Lack of short-term individual accommodation response strategies, which could leave about **1,000 people at risk of homelessness**.
- Assistance with more than **1,000 kits with household items** for clothing (including footwear) and items for thermal comfort is necessary.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Accompaniment to institutional efforts and **advocacy to address the structural deficit of access to safe water** for both host communities and in-transit refugees and migrants.



Protection

- **Strengthening of technical capacities of the teams in Nariño, Valle del Cauca and Antioquia** working at the different sector, to facilitate the **timely identification and case management regarding risks and incidents** of sexual exploitation, forced labor and risks associated with the smuggling of refugees and migrants.
- **Activation of protection pathways (including best interest determination processes) by local/national institutions**, ensuring assistance under AGD considerations.



Health

- In view of the **global epidemiological situation** (simian pox pandemic, persistence of COVID-19), it is necessary to clarify and communicate healthcare routes (including isolation) in situations of epidemiological interest, also considering the Level 1 attention at the San Sebastian local hospital. Given the transit nature of the population, health preparedness actions and assistance are also required on the Panamanian side of the border.



Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

- There is no current presence of **organizations that deliver hot meals**. Thus, about 57% of the population at risk of a 'bottleneck' would be left **without access to food**.

GAPS AT INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL:

Although Necoclí has a **Contingency Plan** related to mixed movements, such as a possible 'bottleneck', **there is still a lack of resources and institutional response capacity** in case that the plan requires to be activated.

NEXT STEPS

Given that the risk of a 'bottleneck' in **Necoclí** has not yet materialized, and that the preparedness actions by **GIFMM Urabá partners** (including those requiring support and complementary actions from the national level) have **already been analyzed**, local partners remain monitoring the situation in order to eventually warn of possible changes in the context.

Communication channels between **local partners and their counterpart offices** in Panama, and between the **national GIFMM and the R4V Regional Platform** also remain.

Therefore, the **local partners of GIFMM Urabá** remain ready to complement the institutional response to a possible 'bottleneck' situation, as required by the local authorities under the framework of the **Migration Management Table**, led by the **Necoclí Government Secretariat**.