PERU







Situation

In March, hundreds of refugees and migrants were stranded along Peru's southern borders with no access to food, shelter, water, or medical attention after the Chilean government <u>deployed the military</u> along its borders with Peru and Bolivia at the end of February. Refugees and migrants who were unable to cross the border from Peru to Chile were left waiting for the situation to change in the border area or in Tacna. Among people with the greatest needs were unaccompanied children, people with critical or chronic diseases, and LGTBQI+ persons who were sleeping on the streets due to a lack of accommodation.

On 26 March, the Government of Peru <u>decreed</u> a 60-day National State of Emergency, due to a large-scale disaster caused by heavy rains in the northern regions of Tumbes, Piura, and Lambayeque. As of 30 March, an estimated <u>184,000 people were affected</u>. As a result, GTRM partners coordinated with national and local authorities to support the humanitarian response, advocating for the inclusion of refugees and migrants and a "leave no one behind" inclusive approach.

Response

In the **Protection** Sector, GTRM partners assisted over 10,500 people with **counselling sessions** (over 4,800 for general matters and 5,600 regarding legal issues). In addition, almost 1,200 persons received cash assistance (CVA) to pay overstay fines to access regularization and documentation procedures. Complementing these sessions and cash transfers, partners provided **psychosocial services** to over 1,380 people, in the form of psychosocial support and/or psychosocial kits, targeting refugees and migrants from Venezuela as well as host community members in vulnerable situations. Lastly, over 900 people were supported with case management services, which included monitoring of sensitive protection cases and providing information to beneficiaries.

Over 2,450 **child protection** counselling services (830 general and 1,620 legal) were offered, which is four times as many as in the previous month. Most of these took place through a campaign to regularize the status of children. As part of efforts to mitigate the impacts of **human trafficking and smuggling**, 50 victims of trafficking received tailored assistance, including referrals to specialized entities.

In March, **Health Sector** partners provided primary health consultations to almost 2,300 refugees and migrants. Moreover, over 1,000 sexual and reproductive health consultations and over 1,600 mental health consultations took place to address specific needs of refugees and migrants. Some 250 people received CVA to access health care (a total of USD 36.3K) and others received support and orientation to access health insurance, such as Comprehensive Health Insurance (SIS).

WASH Sector partners distributed some 1,200 hygiene kits (individual and family) and 52 dignity kits for women and girls of reproductive age.

As part of efforts to improve **food security**, partners provided various forms of in-kind food assistance to refugees and migrants from Venezuela as well as host community members. Partners distributed over 22,400 hot food rations as well as over 3,290 family food baskets and over 6,400 snacks. Additionally, about USD 798,000 was distributed through CVA to tackle food security needs, to benefit over 12,140 people in need, which is four times as many people as in the previous month.

As part of **Nutrition** Sector activities, a total of 70 pregnant and lactating women and 746 children under the age of five received nutritional supplements and nutritional counselling. In addition, partners trained over 1,000 mothers, fathers, pregnant women and caregivers of children to improve their awareness of elements for a healthy diet.

In March, **Shelter** Sector partners reached over 1,000 people with temporary accommodation in hotels following the effects of heavy rains in Tumbes, Piura, and La Libertad, as well as the situation along the southern border in Tacna and Puno. In addition, some 850 people were accommodated in temporary collective shelters in Lima, Callao, La Libertad, and Trujillo. To complement the shelter response and improve the living conditions of those residing in temporary accommodations, partners distributed around 550 blankets and coat kits and 490 kits of essential household items to refugees and migrants.

Access to **education** is an essential step to establish successful, long-term integration for refugee and migrant children from Venezuela. To that end, GTRM partners distributed over 640

school kits to children and their families and provided 23 people with CVA to ensure access to basic education.

To support refugees and migrants from Venezuela with their local **integration** and to access the labour market, over 230 Venezuelans benefitted from the validation of their diplomas, degrees, or professional/technical credentials, and partners provided guidance on the validation process to an additional 41 people. Partners also provided cash transfers of over USD 200 to more than 460 people, distributed in the form of seed capital for the creation or maintenance of business initiatives or to

strengthen the management of social projects. Moreover, to complement these cash transfers, over 1,200 people received training for self-employment and entrepreneurship.

Lastly, to promote financial autonomy among refugees and migrants from Venezuela, 3,500 people received assistance to enter the financial system and some 200 people were supported through financial education programs.

Finally, partners distributed over USD 1.28 million in **multipurpose cash assistance**, enabling refugees and migrants from Venezuela to cover their needs across multiple sectors.

Coordination

On 9 March, the R4V platform in Peru (GTRM) held its **first plenary meeting of 2023**. During the session, representatives from the National Institute of Statistics and Information (INEI) presented the results of the Survey of the Venezuelan Population Residing in the Country (ENPOVE II). Additionally, GTRM coordinators summarized the main achievements of 2022, and leaders of the Education Sector shared their recommendations for a positive start to the school year. On 16 and 17 March, the <u>2023 International Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and their Host Countries and Communities</u> was co-hosted by Canada and the European Union in Brussels. In preparation, GTRM members gathered a day prior in virtual sectoral roundtable discussions. The Conference highlighted the relevance of maintaining the commitment to support refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Finally, a new member joined GTRM Peru – Movimiento Migrante – bringing the total number of partners toa 100.



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