

SOUTHERN CONE

KEY FIGURES

END OF YEAR 2021

R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

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PEOPLE IN NEED

276 K



PEOPLE TARGETED

163 K



PEOPLE REACHED

77.2 K



TOTAL REQUIREMENTS



FUNDED

\$10.6 M
• (26%)

UNMET

\$31.0 M
• (74%)



7
REPORTING PARTNERS



27
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



1,875
REPORTED ACTIVITIES

NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS

9
DONORS

6
FUNDED ORGS.

SITUATION

Due to prolonged border closures, mobility restrictions and sanitary requirements throughout the region, Venezuelans increasingly used alternative routes or irregular pathways to enter countries, leading to an increase of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in an irregular situation in the Southern Cone. The last months of 2021 in particular saw a considerable increase in arrivals, resulting in challenges ensuring access to basic needs such as water, food, temporary shelter and basic health care. Limited presence and response capacities of government institutions and partners in border areas, as well as inadequate basic infrastructure, affected access to basic needs and services, especially for refugees and migrants in transit through Bolivia (*en route* to Chile) and those in border areas trying to enter Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay by land.

The irregular routes undertaken by many Venezuelans are increasingly associated with severe protection risks, including the border crossings between Peru and Bolivia, but in particular between Bolivia and the north of Chile, where at least 20 refugees and migrants died in 2021.

The protection space in the Southern Cone continued shrinking in 2021. This was mainly due to border closures, restrictive policies and practices regarding access to asylum and access to territory, and to considerable delays in the procedures to obtain residence permits and national identification documents. Refugees and migrants also reported difficulties with achieving family reunification services, and unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents lacked the conditions for safe entry into multiple countries of the Southern Cone. Nevertheless, there were also positive developments: at the end of 2021, Bolivia implemented a [regularization](#) programme, through which eligible Venezuelans currently in an irregular situation may receive two-year stay permits; and Paraguay recognized most Venezuelans who had applied for asylum in the country as refugees, which provides them a path to permanent residency and citizenship.

Despite the partial recovery of the economies of the four countries, the pandemic and its related containment measures continued to impact the living conditions of Venezuelans in the Southern Cone. For example, refugees

and migrants registered higher unemployment and informal labour rates in comparison with nationals. A large majority of Venezuelans suffered the partial or total interruption of their incomes due to the pandemic, and even in the second half of 2021, a significant proportion of refugees and migrants were not able to regain their pre-pandemic income levels.

In terms of health, refugees and migrants reported little access to health services available in Bolivia and Paraguay, frequently due to lack of information on national health systems, to administrative-bureaucratic documentation requirements, high costs and discrimination.

RESPONSE

For the RMRP 2021 response in the Southern Cone, the greatest number of refugees and migrants received support from the Shelter Sector (over 17K people reached) followed by Protection (almost 15K people reached) and Health (over 12K people reached). Meanwhile, the Humanitarian Transportation, WASH and Child Protection sectors and sub-sector all reached over 100% of their target populations.

As refugees and migrants continued reporting low-income levels in the aftermath of the pandemic, partners in the Southern Cone provided assistance to cover basic needs. To respond to the difficulties in accessing temporary accommodation and dignified housing, partners supported with shelter solutions. Interventions of the Shelter Sector also aimed to strengthen capacities in collective accommodation management and on related issues such as the environment, mainstreaming of age, gender and diversity (AGD) and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

In response to the increased number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in an irregular situation, R4V partners prioritized interventions related to protection and specialized services to guarantee access to territory, asylum and documentation. Partners also provided capacity-building to actors participating in the response to reinforce the protection environment and integrate AGD into their work. The Child Protection Sub-sector provided information on the risks children face *en route*, trained actors working on

child protection issues, and provided specialized child protection services to refugee and migrant children. The GBV Sub-sector held trainings and workshops for both the Venezuelan population and humanitarian actors involved in the prevention and mitigation of GBV risks, and provided specialized care and guidance to support survivors of GBV.

To address insufficient access to food, R4V partners reinforced food assistance activities through cash transfers, vouchers and food baskets. In a transversal way, the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Working Group managed to reach a significant proportion of the population – over 11K refugees and migrants – with cash assistance and multipurpose bank transfers being the most recurrent modalities to cover basic needs such as food, shelter and WASH items.

To respond to the needs of Venezuelans on the move despite ongoing mobility restrictions in the sub-region, the Humanitarian Transportation Sector expanded its activities (reaching 124% of the original target population) and provided border-to-border transportation, as well as internal transportation assistance and support for daily transportation in order to access protection services, basic goods and other services, in Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay.

In terms of integration, the main focus in 2021 was on capacity-building for self-employment initiatives and to provide access to job opportunities, financial inclusion and social cohesion. Partners also promoted the improvement of safety, health and hygiene conditions at workplaces.


Likewise, the Integration Sector supported public organizations to raise awareness on human mobility dynamics through workshops, trainings and campaigns on integration and social inclusion of refugees and migrants in the four countries.

LESSONS LEARNED

In 2021, the sub-region experienced a scenario of uncertainty, where patterns and diversification of transit routes and onward movements in between countries were difficult to predict. As a result, one of the greatest challenges for partners during the year was responding to more complex and vulnerable profiles of refugees and migrants traveling through dangerous irregular routes, who required more comprehensive assistance upon arrival and while in transit. The assistance required going beyond covering their immediate needs, to providing reinforced legal guidance, mental health services and psychosocial support. These elements are in the process of being reinforced in the RMRP 2022.

In 2022 it will also be a priority to reinforce states' capacities to prevent and respond to GBV and human trafficking and smuggling, as well as child protection issues. To that end, R4V partners are expected to reinforce their activities with a goal to achieve family reunifications and support unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents, especially at border points, to avoid situations of greater vulnerability.

POPULATION TARGETED AND REACHED, FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND FUNDING*

Sector	People reached	% Reached	Reached Targeted	People targeted	Requirements (USD)	Funded* (USD)	Funded Requirements	PiN
 Education	1.60 K	33%		4.90 K	\$1.70 M	\$174 K		16.8 K
 Food Security	9.52 K	52%		18.4 K	\$2.61 M	\$166 K		188 K
 Health	12.1 K	35%		34.5 K	\$1.17 M	\$120 K		122 K
 Humanitarian Transportation	2.15 K	124%		1.73 K	\$656 K	\$168 K		2.70 K
 Integration	10.3 K	7%		157 K	\$13.0 M	\$473 K		2.34 K
 Nutrition	-	-		-	-	-		-
 Protection	14.9 K	38%		38.9 K	\$6.01 M	\$190 K		107 K
 Child Protection	2.91 K	157 %		1.86 K	\$1.24 M	-		12.5 K
 Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	392	-		-	\$1.15 M	\$15.6 K		13.9 K
 Human Trafficking & Smuggling	-	-		800	\$855 K	\$19.0 K		3.16 K
 Shelter	17.6 K	74%		23.7 K	\$4.79 M	\$195 K		62.8 K
 WASH	12.6 K	107%		11.8 K	\$537 K	\$86.2 K		38.8 K
 Multipurpose Cash Assistance	11.7 K	-		-	\$5.21 M	\$3.00 M		-

* Funding information as reported to the [Financial Tracking Service \(FTS\)](#). This may not accurately represent all funds actually applied to each sector or country of the RMRP response, as unmarked funds from donors may not be reported to FTS with a sector or country designation at the time of receipt by RMRP partners.