

CHILE



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN CHILE
288,233



PEOPLE TARGETED IN 2020*
254,000



FUNDING SITUATION**
FUNDED: **0.7 %**
REQUIREMENT: **31,500,000**

Situation

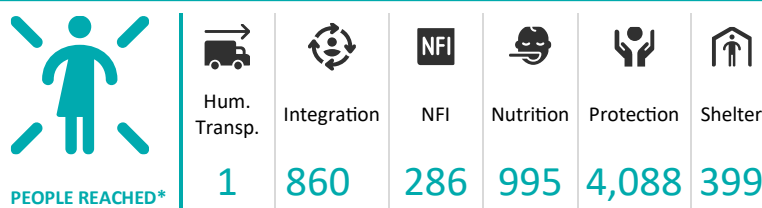
- **Chile hosts the third-largest number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America** representing 23% of the more than 1,25 million foreigners in country. The marked social unrest unfolding in Chile in the last quarter of 2019 particularly affected the lives of refugees and migrants in Chile, due to their financial vulnerability and reliance on steady income streams for survival. With the closure of businesses and service providers many people lost their jobs and others became precarious. Moreover, Platform partners faced constraints in delivering in a substantially altered operational context. The gradual de-escalation of the situation in the first two months of the year allowed partners to return to implementation, although at a slow pace.
- A national plebiscite is planned for 25 April 2020, which will determine the future of the Constitution in Chile. Migrants with permanent residence in Chile will be able to participate in the plebiscite and vote.
- Chile has assumed the presidency pro tempore of the Quito Process and will host the next meeting of the Process in Santiago de Chile, likely in June 2020. IOM and UNHCR closely coordinating the preparations for the meeting with the Government of Chile, and ensuring the substantive engagement of the National Platform.

Response

- The first meeting with members of the National Platform was held in January, and sector co-leads were confirmed for **protection, health, integration, education and humanitarian response (shelter, NFI, food security and WASH)**. The National Platform in Chile plans to reach some 295,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants across the country in 2020. USD 31.5 million will be required in order to meet the comprehensive needs of refugees, migrants and vulnerable host community members.
- Implementation of activities in the first two months focused on the provision of **psycho-social services** and **legal assistance**, access to **livelihoods**, as well as key **humanitarian needs** (food, non-food items and shelter) in Santiago de Chile, Arica, Antofagasta and Iquique. Refugees and migrants were provided with comprehensive information on registration, documentation and regularization, employment opportunities, education and health. Special shelter arrangements were put in place for particularly vulnerable individuals, including single-headed female households and children, along with psycho-social support, food assistance and hygiene kits.

The support spaces have served an important role in providing timely and comprehensive information and protection services to refugees and migrants arriving in Chile and/or transiting through northern Chile on their way to the capital. Between them, the support spaces provide information and access to services such as shelter, WASH services, food and child friendly spaces, among others.

- Substantial to engage parts of the Chilean society in community events, such as communal dinners, bringing together neighbours, refugees and migrants around food and music. In addition, UNHCR and UNESCO have begun developing a joint virtual training for journalists and editors on forced displacement, anti-xenophobia and non-stigmatization with a view to improving the overall protection environment in Chile and contributing to a more nuanced news coverage of migration and displacement-related topics.



For more information, please contact: Ximena Nowodworsky, xnowod@iom.int | Sweta Madhuri Kannan – kannan@unhcr.org

* From 01/01/2020 | **Source: FTS Website. Recent funding contributions to the Platform in Chile will be reflected shortly.