


 REFUGEES AND
 MIGRANTS IN CHILE

457,324

 PEOPLE REACHED
 IN 2021*

46,569


FUNDING SITUATION**

REQUIREMENT: USD 46.1M

Situation

- On 15 and 16 May, [Chile held elections](#) for Constitutional Convention delegates, regional governors, mayors, and municipal council members. For the first time in the country's history, elections included a gender parity requirement to ensure women a proportional number of seats, and reserved 17 seats for Indigenous people. However, the turnout was low at only [43 per cent of eligible voters casting their ballots](#). Candidates independent of political parties received an unexpectedly high number of votes obtaining 48 of the 155 seats to the new Constitutional Convention. The Electoral Service (SERVEL) confirmed that around 415,000 immigrants were registered to vote; among them some 10,200 Venezuelans were the seventh most populous immigrant community registered to vote, which was double the number of Venezuelans registered in the last election period 4 years ago, when they were over 5,000.
- National media news (El Mercurio, 31 May, print edition) reported that over 197,000 persons applied for regularization of their status in Chile since the new immigration regulation process entered into force on 10 April. So far, 37,000 completed their application and received a work permit. Overall, 57 per cent are Venezuelans, 22 per cent are from Colombia and 13 per cent are from Peru. Over 70 per cent of those who applied live in the Santiago Metropolitan Region, and 47.4 per cent are women.
- The Government of Chile arrested 24 Venezuelans and was preparing to expel them on 9 May. The expulsion was suspended, because the government decided to wait for background information on these persons requested from the Venezuelan government.
- On 25 May a [59-year-old Venezuelan woman died](#) from breathing problems while she was making the journey that connects the towns of Pisiga (Bolivia) and Colchane (Chile). Her daughter and granddaughter, who were travelling with her, are now in a transitory quarantine shelter in Iquique. So far in 2021, [six refugees and migrants have died](#) on this route, demonstrating the dangers faced by those traveling on it.
- COVID-19 cases in Chile increased [24 per cent](#) from April to May, from 5,510 cases to 6,839. As the vaccination campaign has fully immunized almost 50 per cent of the population, President Piñera announced that Chile [will implement a "mobility pass"](#) to those inoculated against the coronavirus in an effort to encourage younger adults who may be reluctant to turn out for their shots. The government also [extended the closure of borders until 30 June](#).
- Venezuelan refugees and migrants have been eligible for vaccines regardless of their migration status in the country, but a newspaper of large circulation in Chile published testimonies of Venezuelans and other foreign nationals who are applying for visas or are in an irregular situation, describing problems with accessing COVID-19 vaccines. In response, the Ministry of Health explained to the press that [the vaccination process](#) is open to all people living in Chile, but there is no data on how many have been vaccinated to-date. [On 25 May, R4V partners published the results of a population profiling exercise surveying refugees and migrants in Chile.](#) It shows the conditions of those people who have migrated to Chile through unofficial border points. The main objective was to identify the socio-demographic characteristics and difficulties faced by Venezuelans in the country.

Response

- During May, R4V partners assisted refugees and migrants with food and non-food items** (including hygiene kits) in northern cities such as Arica, Antofagasta and Iquique (where R4V partners have set up humanitarian distribution centers). After the elections, the delivery of emergency kits increased.
- R4V partners** also continued providing shelter, cash and voucher assistance (CVA), protection, health assistance and humanitarian transportation. In the city of Antofagasta, R4V partners have been working closely with the Ministry of Health in order to provide assistance related to mental health problems and for HIV-positive Venezuelans. Regarding Humanitarian Transportation, in 17 May, a family was transferred to the City of Santiago for family reunification.
- R4V partners and the Iquique family court developed and presented an online training about the rights of refugee and migrant children and adolescents for the police (Carabineros), the Chilean Army, and the Investigative Police (PDI). The 300 attendees, among them professionals involved in the care of refugees and migrants, received training to ensure the protection of the basic rights of children and adolescents and exchanged experiences, challenges and opportunities to advance in their protection.
- The National Platform** R4V partners celebrated the second plenary session of the year with partners for the RMRP 2021. Sector leads presented their work and partners provided updates about population flows in the country.



Health

0


Education

0

 Food
 Security

1,405


Integration

215


CBI

1,359


Protection

4,788


Shelter

633

 Hum.
 Transp.

1


WASH

700