CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO









FUNDING SITUATION**

REQUIREMENT: 14.8 M

Situation

PANAMA

As of 30 November, <u>126,675 people in mixed movements</u> have crossed the Colombian border through the Darien Gap and continued northward, including 26,000 children (more than half of whom are less than 5 years old). Main nationalities remain to be Haitian (including children born to Haitian parents in Chile and Brazil), Cuban, and Venezuelan.

According to health authorities, more than six million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been applied, and 79.4% of the target population has already completed the basic vaccination schedule. The application of COVID-19 booster doses for people over 18 years of age has started on 24 November.

R4V protection partners assessed current PSEA capacities and identified actions to be implemented to reach full capacity. The establishment of an implementation plan was agreed as a priority for the first quarter of 2022.

COSTA RICA

As of 10 November, the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration launched an improved web portal, facilitating the process of assigning appointments for passport renewals, immigration regularization procedures, and others.

The State of the Nation Program Report published in November, confirmed that the pandemic had an uneven impact on different population groups, while the State has had a limited capacity to promote human development. The COVID-19 effects on the labor market caused an increase in unemployment and a reduction in family incomes, with the consequent increase in poverty rates and food insecurity for many - as much as 43% of households in extreme poverty faced challenges in guaranteeing food for their members. Moreover, social inequality is also increasing due to the sharp deterioration of the labour market. The Report concluded that women, youth, and people with low education levels were the most impacted by the surge in unemployment. Furthermore, according to the National Household Survey ENAHO 2021, more than 56% of the total sample faced economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEXICO

According to media reports, November has seen various inflows of mixed movements, especially Venezuelans and Brazilians, seeking to cross the border into the US. On November 4, authorities detained at the border <u>75 people</u> (58 from Brazil, 16 from Venezuela and one from Portugal) hidden in a truck. Later, on 11 November, the director of the *Juventud 2000* shelter noted the arrival of a group of <u>150 Venezuelans and Brazilians</u>. Language barriers did not allow for comprehensive interviews of the goup members.

Response

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). In Panama, 76 Venezuelans (50% children) received multipurpose cash for basic needs such as food, healthcare, and medicines. In Costa Rica, 172 Venezuelans in vulnerable conditions received CBI for basic needs. In Mexico, 33 asylum-seekers from Venezuela received cash assistance to meet their

basic needs such as food and household and domestic items, and a contribution towards housing and utility bills. An additional 103 Venezuelans received sectoral top-ups addressing protection related risks identified, including contingency top-up for COVID-19.

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Integration. In Panama, 26 Venezuelans participated in local integration activities, including Thanksgiving dinner and other actions celebrating Panama's national holidays. Moreover, 20 Venezuelans (13 women, 7 men) were provided self-employment or entrepreneurship support. In Costa Rica, 56 Venezuelans participated in business training and consulting services, 6 attended technical training courses, and 122 graduated from short operational courses that improved their occupational profile. In Mexico, a contest to provide seed capital to ventures of displaced Venezuelans was launched. 5 ventures will be supported throughout December, seeking to boost business growth and strengthen livelihoods capacities of the entrepreneurs.

Protection. In Panama, 134 Venezuelans received legal assistance and counselling, 43 of whom (11 women, 13 men) attended virtual workshops on access to rights for displaced populations, including migrants and asylumseekers. Moreover, 82 Venezuelans were supported with cash for protection, facilitating access to the RSD procedure and other basic rights. In Costa Rica, 119 Venezuelans received information (including on the new Temporary Special Category of Complementary Protection), legal assistance, and, in qualified cases, support for the payment of their migratory procedures.

> GBV. In Panama, 4 Venezuelan women accessed case management systems, receiving psychosocial care services, access to support community meetings, and/or orientation on response pathways. Moreover, 10 Venezuelan GBV survivors (women) received psychosocial support. In Costa Rica, 2 Venezuelan GBV survivors were referred to support networks and access to justice, and 1 Venezuelan received a sexual and reproductive health kit.

Food Security. In Costa Rica, 107 Venezuelans received inkind food assistance (food baskets) or prepaid cards.

Health. In Panama, 54 Venezuelans (children and adults), 30 of whom in border regions, were provided with psychosocial services and other activities to improve their physical and mental health. In Costa Rica, 3 Venezuelans psychiatric attention and 73 received received psychosocial assistance, 29 of whom attended group workshops on emotional wellbeing. Moreover, 1,190 Venezuelans received medical insurance under a special agreement with the Costa Rican social security entity, and 4 Venezuelans attended health promotion fairs.

Shelter. In Costa Rica, 10 Venezuelans were supported with emergency shelter and 65 received support with the payment of rent for 3 months.

Education. In Panama, 32 children, adolescents, and youth were supported with supplies or services, seeking to promote academic permanence in both formal and informal education systems. In Costa Rica, 53 Venezuelans received educational support, including information on academic degree validation processes and training for the development of soft skills, empowerment and finances, and identification of occupational profiles, among others. Two Venezuelans received educational kits, and two children attended tutoring sessions for academic leveling and assessment of educational needs.

WASH. In Costa Rica, 67 Venezuelans received basic hygiene kits, 42 received face masks, and 5 children were supported with baby diapers.









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352



75

114



