

BRAZIL

Situation Report – January 2019



Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

On January 1st the new Brazilian President, Jair Bolsonaro, took office, as well as the newly elected governors of Brazilian States, including the northern state of Roraima, main point of entry for Venezuelans. Despite the changes in the

administration, the Brazilian Federal Emergency Response, known as *Operação Acolhida*, was renewed for an additional year. This includes the continuation of the Federal Voluntary Relocation Programme

which would be scaled up.

As for access to the Brazilian territory, the Minister of Defense declared unequivocally that the border would remain open.

KEY FIGURES

- 199,365 Venezuelans entered Brazil in 2017 and 2018, with an estimated 98,437 remaining as of 31 December 2018.
- 83,893 Venezuelans applied for asylum in Brazil between 2014 – 2018 and another 39,771 have applied for temporary residency in 2017 – 2018.
- An average of 550 Venezuelans crossed daily into Brazil throughout 2018. This trend continues in 2019.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The Brazilian government's Emergency Response, initiated in February of 2018, rests on three pillars. The humanitarian community plays a key role in each of these areas of intervention:

- (1) Reception and Documentation: IOM and UNHCR registration staff present at state coordinated Reception and Documentation Centres at the border, facilitating documentation of Venezuelans;
- (2) Emergency Needs: UN Agencies and Civil Society Organizations complement the Federal Government initiative through the provision of food and non-food items, shelter management, referrals and accompaniments for basic services and protection referrals.
- (3) Integration and Voluntary Internal Relocation: The Federal Voluntary Relocation Programme transports documented Venezuelans from Roraima to other parts of Brazil where integration prospects are better, relieving pressure on border communities. Refugees and Migrants are transported on Military planes or commercial flights provided by IOM, and received in temporary shelters where they are supported for 3 months by local municipalities, civil society organizations and UN Agencies. Integration activities, including cash transfers, Portuguese lessons, vocational training and diploma validation among others are implemented both in the border state of Roraima and in destination cities for relocated persons. There's also the possibility of relocation through family reunification (where the beneficiary's family hosts them in their homes) or through job opportunities, where Venezuelans can be relocated after selection to a job opportunity by an employer.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW AND FUNDING UPDATE

Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

In the border state of Roraima, approximately 6,560 Venezuelan migrants and refugees are living in temporary emergency shelter sites, managed by UNHCR in coordination with the armed forces and Ministry of Citizenship. In January, 611 Venezuelans newly accessed shelter. Through a joint project implemented by UNICEF and ADRA, 4,806 people (1,316 women, 1,245 men, 1,093 girls and 1,152 boys) received improved access to safe water.

Outside the shelters, IOM reached 954 people (292 women, 260 men, 201 girls and 201 boys) in 5 different municipalities with rental assistance, for a total period of 3 months. In addition, 2,908 refugees and migrants (1104 women, 754 men, 487 girls and 563 boys) are receiving food assistance through cash transfer for the same period of 3 months, in 12 municipalities in Roraima. This was done in partnership with Caritas Brazil, responsible for identifying the beneficiaries, houses for rental, and handling the cash transfer, with support and monitoring from IOM field team.

In affected areas, 850 people (290 women, 261 men, 153 girls and 146 boys) were reached with messages on life saving skills and protective practices and behaviors in WASH, Health and Nutrition. 78 children under 5 years old (44 girls and 34 boys) accessed primary health care in UNICEF supported facilities and 202 children between 6 and 59 months (102 girls and 100 boys) received nutrition supplements to prevent undernutrition. 779 children (317 girls and 462 boys) had access to at least the minimum set of vaccines according to Brazil standards.

UNFPA distributed condoms and lubricants in the Documentation Centres in Pacaraima and Boa Vista as well as in the Reference Centre for Refugees and Migrants in Boa Vista. Additionally, UNFPA monitored and supported the distribution of information materials on GBV, rights, health services, social assistance and security services. 1,041 people in the Reception and Documentation Centre in Pacaraima. This included the distribution of 540 booklets with life-saving information on GBV, with tangible solutions to improve quality and access to survivor-centred, multi-sectoral services and referral systems to respond in a timely manner to GBV incidents; 180 booklets on HIV-AIDS; and 234 booklets on regularization options and 87 booklets on the federal government hotline (Disque 100). UNFPA also supports a safe house for people living with HIV that benefits 12 people with daily meals, social assistance and follow-up to ARV treatment as well as a psycho-social care centre for migrants and refugees.

Area of Intervention 2: Protection

12,094 Venezuelan refugees and migrants received the support of UNHCR and IOM in processing asylum (5,187) and residency applications (6,907) in the two documentation Centres in Boa Vista and Pacaraima, and the Reference Centre at the Federal University of Roraima. Together with this service, IOM also informs and provides information material on prevention of Trafficking in Persons and labor exploitation.

4,789 children (2,634 girls and 2,155 boys) received psychosocial support including access to Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) with intersectoral programming interventions and 2,603 children (1,252 girls and 1,351 boys) on the move, including adolescents accessed non formal learning activities. 553 children (276 girls and 277 boys) benefited from early childhood development activities.

4,254 people were assisted with information or protection referrals by UNFPA at the Documentation Centre in Pacaraima, and 2,012 at the Centre in Boa Vista (6,266 people in total were assisted). With the support of the UNHCR protection team in the Documentation Centres in Pacaraima and Boa Vista, transgender persons are now able to request to have their social name on their Brazilian documents such as Asylum Protocol, CPF (tax ID) and Work Permit, based on the implementation of Decree N. 9.631, dated 26 December 2018.

On 11 January, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF, in coordination with shelter management partner Fraternidade, facilitated the first round table on sexual and reproductive health for women at Janokoida Shelter, which houses indigenous Venezuelans. Approximately twenty women participated in the discussion, which aimed to create a safe space to share information and experiences related to the SRHR and promote women's integration, strengthen family bonds and promote woman's healthcare. This is the first of a series of regular discussion to be held at the shelter.

In Boa Vista, UNFPA conducted group chats/ talking meetings (“rodas de conversa”) with 107 women and girls: 21 people attended a session for pregnant women and 86 people joined meetings for general audience.

Area of Intervention 3: Socio Economic and Cultural Integration

311 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were voluntarily relocated, including under family reunification and labor modalities. In order to speed up the process IOM has been providing commercial flights, to complement the military flights used in the transportation. 16 Brazilian states have already received relocated Venezuelans under these modalities.

UNHCR began implementing a new cash transfer scheme through partner IMDH to support the new employment-based modality of relocation. At the request of the Federal Government, the CBI strategy in Roraima has been updated to also provide cash support to Venezuelans hired by private companies after having been relocated to receiving cities. This modality would provide access to basic needs in the first month of arrival before receiving their first salary payment.

Moreover, 1,300 Venezuelans benefitted from cash transfers from UNHCR and partners in locations throughout Brazil.

Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening the Capacity of Host Government

In support of the Brazilian government's response to the emergency crisis, UNFPA has helped strengthen the institutional capacities of local governments to provide services, as well as to disseminate information on rights and to promote community resilience of women, girls, adolescents, people living with HIV / AIDS, elderly people, persons with disabilities, youth and LGBTI population. UNFPA engaged actively in the humanitarian action response in articulation with UNHCR, IOM, UN Women, UNICEF, besides federal, state and municipal governments, and local network actors, carrying out a number of actions, such as: participation in the Gender Working Group - Migration Flow Response Coordination, visits to shelters, federal committee activities, Dignity Kits delivery, talking sessions (“rodas de conversa”), courses on PSEA / Protection against exploitation and sexual abuse. Since all humanitarian actors play a fundamental role in preventing and responding to GBV, UNFPA and its partners routinely offer training in Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) for professionals who work directly with border ordering, as the Brazilian Army and the UN agencies. The purpose is to raise awareness and sensitize the military regarding PSEA. At the occasion, they discussed the differences between sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, and it was emphasized that they must look after the protection of the migrant population. In January 2019, 416 army personnel and local officials received PSEA training in Boa Vista. Moreover, a workshop on referral flow was conducted with 24 Army members.

COORDINATION

The Coordination Structure at the Federal Level with the Government of Brazil remains, as well as the local coordination groups in Roraima, with handover to the new administration being carried out accordingly. The first general platform meeting took place in Brasilia, with a follow up meeting to present the Platform to the local stakeholders in Roraima scheduled for February.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Partners in the response are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, contributing to their activities with un-earmarked and earmarked funds.

Brazil | CERF | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Holy See | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Private donors | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

PLATFORM PARTNERS

| ADRA- Adventist Development and Relief Agency| Antonio Vieira Association - Jesuits of Brazil| ASBRAD Brazilian Association for the Defense of Women, Children and Youth| Caritas Brazil| Caritas Rio de Janeiro| CMDH Roraima Centre for Migration and Human Rights| Félix Guattari Institute|IMDH Institute for Migration and Human Rights| IOM | Pastoral Service of Migrants|SEFRAS Franciscan Solidarity Association| SOS Children's Villages of Brazil| UNAIDS |UNDP | UNEP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF UNODC |

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