

The most recent figures from Colombian Migration show that at least 1,408,055 Venezuelans are found within Colombian territory, a number which is continuously growing. All of those who arrive to Colombia have humanitarian needs, such as the pendular migrant population, which temporarily remains in the border regions in order to replenish supplies of basic items which are lacking in their country or to access health and education services. The *caminantes* (people transiting on foot), on the other hand, endure urgent needs of housing and access to potable water while transiting to other cities in the interior of the country or to third countries. Finally, the population with intent to stay faces the need of integrating into Colombian society and gaining economic independence. To this end, the Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows coordinates the humanitarian response on behalf of the agencies of the United Nations, national and international NGOs, and the Red Cross Movement to strengthen the response capacity of the Government of Colombia.

### KEY FIGURES

#### VENEZUELAN IN COLOMBIA<sup>1</sup>

**1,408,055** Venezuelans in Colombia

#### In regular migratory status



**+66,297** within the period established by law (including tourist visas and other types of short term stay)

#### In irregular migratory status



**3.8 million** Venezuelans with Temporary Border Mobility Card (TMF, by its Spanish acronym)

**266,441** Venezuelans with Temporary Transit Permit (PIP-TT, by its Spanish acronym)

**368,087** Venezuelans have left Colombia in 2019 via the Rumichaca International Bridge

#### RESPONSE

**24**

Key Partners

**39**

Implementing partners

**393,000**

Beneficiaries who received one or more types of assistance

**26** Departments

**108** Municipalities

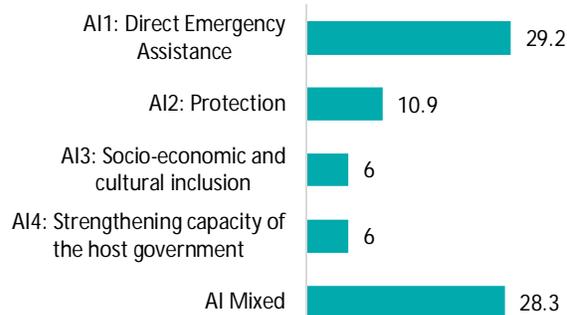
#### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW<sup>2</sup>

**US\$ 315M** Requested funding

**US\$ 96M** Funding received



#### Funding per Area of Intervention - in millions of US\$



<sup>1</sup> Colombian Migration Infographic (30 June) and Migration Report of Venezuelans in Colombia (29 July).

<sup>2</sup> Partial financial information until the end of August, including paid commitments and contributions, but not contributions for multiple countries. For more information: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary%20>

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- During the month of July, Colombia saw migratory fluctuations along its northern border with Venezuela. The local GIFMM in **Norte de Santander** reported that the number of entries of Venezuelan refugees and migrants crossing via the three international bridges had oscillated between 25,000 and 40,000 per week, with approximately 90% of the population returning to Venezuela in the same period, thus proving the phenomenon of circular migration. In fact, due to various power outages in Venezuela, 25 July was marked as the day with the largest number of registered crossings since 22 February 2019 when Venezuela announced the closing of the international bridges located along the Colombian border.
- In the same time period, several options for regularisation were available to Venezuelan refugees and migrants. With the 3 July issuance of the **Complementary Special Stay Permit (PECP, by its Spanish acronym)**, conditional access to formal employment was made available to those individuals whom had sought asylum in Colombia and whose applications were denied before 31 December 2018. On 13 July, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly announced the creation of the **Temporary Special Work Permit (PETT, by its Spanish acronym)**, a measure allowing the integration of the Venezuelan population with irregular migratory status into the formal labour market; which will take effect once the decree is issued by Colombian Migration. Lastly, under the new criteria of the **Special Stay Permit (PEP, by its Spanish acronym)** introduced in May of this year, former members of the Venezuelan Armed Forces and Police Forces in Colombia territory had until mid-July to apply for protection through this permit.
- On 26 July, the president of Ecuador, Lenín Moreno, announced the issuance of a decree and ministerial accord establishing regulation procedures specific to Venezuelan refugees and migrants. The decree introduces new procedures consisting of two visas available for this population: one being humanitarian in nature specific for entry into Ecuador, and the other being an exceptional temporary residence for Venezuelans already residing in the country. The announcement raised concern about the potential consequences of the decree in Colombian border departments, particularly regarding the possible upsurge in departures and entries of Venezuelans between Ecuador and Colombia as well as increased risks associated with irregular border crossings. In response, the local GIFMM in **Nariño** reviewed the preparatory efforts of its contingency plan.
- Historically, Colombia has endured humanitarian impacts related to armed conflict, natural disasters, and migration. These situations converge in several territories in the country, causing a triple effect on the population. According to OCHA's<sup>3</sup> figures during the period from January to June, 37 massive displacement events (11,917 people) were reported, along with 1,089 attacks against the civilian population, and 157,745 people affected by natural disasters, among others<sup>4</sup>. The departments of **Norte de Santander**, **Arauca**, **Antioquia**, and **Nariño** are among the territories affected by the conflict while also maintaining a large refugee and migrant population.



A Venezuelan mother with her child in the Maternal and Infant Space set up in Los Patios, Norte de Santander. ©Terre des Hommes

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

<sup>4</sup> Situación Humanitaria de Enero a Junio – OCHA. Available at:

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/es/operations/colombia/document/situacion%20C3%B3n-humanitaria-enero-junio-2019>

## OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSE

### Area de Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

To continue strengthening the Colombian state's response, the GIFMM works to identify gaps in the coverage and quality of current humanitarian assistance to ensure that vulnerable populations can enjoy a life of dignity in Colombia.

Throughout July, approximately 11,000 individuals - the majority of whom were recently-arrived persons from Venezuela - were oriented on routes to access humanitarian assistance in order for them to gain the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions. More than 2,600 people were able to safely move throughout Colombia thanks to humanitarian transport, and around 670 individuals in [Nariño](#) and [Norte de Santander](#) gained access to communication and connectivity services. Moreover, non-food items (NFI) kits were delivered to nearly 20,000 people in need in 13 departments, and multipurpose cash-transfers were issued to 1,400 recipients in 10 departments.

Basic nutritional needs were addressed primarily in the border departments of [La Guajira](#), [Norte de Santander](#), and [Arauca](#) by means of in-kind food assistance and in the form of vouchers, reaching more than 8,000 and 102,600 beneficiaries, respectively. Furthermore, 205,600 people were fed in community kitchens, and approximately 1,000 people participated in nutritional education workshops.

**22** Key partners

**30** Implementing partners

**364,500** Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

**22** Departments

**73** Municipalities



*Fundación Halü conducts a course on the care and prenatal attention for pregnant women in the Priority Healthcare Center (CAPS, by its Spanish acronym) in Pablo Sexto, Bogotá. ©Fundación Halü*

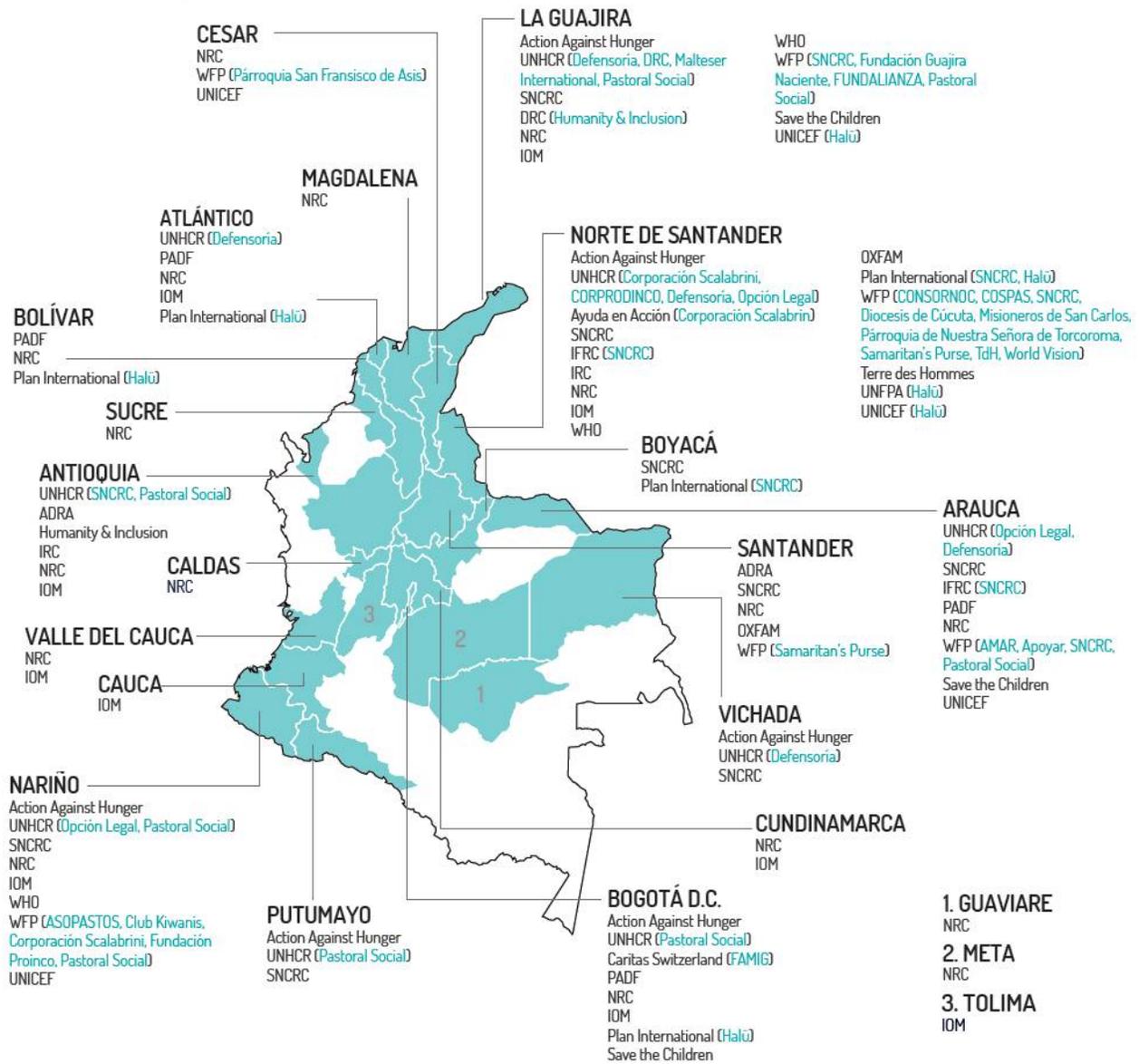
With regards to the target population's health, approximately 40,500 individuals in 11 departments received general medical care; additionally, more than 770 gestating women benefited from prenatal care in five departments, and 7,800 children in eight departments were provided medical and first aid care. An additional 1,600 people were afforded services related to sexual health, such as family planning and treatment for sexually-transmitted infections. Mental health care and psychosocial support were offered to at least 9,000 individuals in need residing in 10 departments.

Maintenance of adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) was guaranteed to 40,000 persons via the supply of improved sanitary services in [La Guajira](#), [Norte de Santander](#), [Vichada](#), and [Putumayo](#) as well as through the provision of a source of potable water to 8,900

individuals in [La Guajira](#), [Norte de Santander](#), and [Arauca](#), both of which services met Sphere standards. In order to improve general knowledge related to WASH, approximately 5,800 people in [La Guajira](#) received training in hygiene and sanitation, and almost 18,000 hygiene kits were delivered throughout several departments in Colombia to a wide-range of recipients, including profiles of families, schoolchildren, gestating mothers, and menstrual hygiene, among others.

## Area of Intervention 1: Actors by department who reported activities in July

Principal Partner (Implementing Partner)



## Area de Intervention 2: Protection

Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia make up a highly-vulnerable population at risk of violation of their rights. The members of the GIFMM, in close coordination with local governments and the national government, implement a wide range of activities and services in order to address the specific needs of this population.

A total of nearly 20,600 people attended information and orientation days focused on legal assistance throughout July, 75% of which days took place in **Norte de Santander**. By means of these days, as well as other interventions such as the network of safe spaces, at least 960 individuals in six departments were identified, referred, and attended to. Similarly, an additional 19,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as Colombian returnees received consultations concerning regularisation, documentation, and asylum processes, all of which were very important topics during this month seeing that several migration procedures were offered to Venezuelans in Colombia.

The members of GIFMM addressed the protection needs of other at-risk groups; more specifically, nearly 1,000 victims and survivors of gender-based violence accessed prevention and care routes in seven departments. More than 24,000 people in seven departments were oriented on the prevention and protection against trafficking, smuggling, and labour exploitation, of which 18,000 of said people resided in **Nariño**. As for children and adolescents, approximately 1,200 members of this population benefited from protective and child-friendly environments directed at vulnerable children, providing them with a measure of relief from the stress and trauma of their status as migrants or refugees.

Finally, other activities based in sports, art, culture, and communication and with the goal of promoting human rights were implemented in **La Guajira**, **Nariño**, and nine other departments, attaining the participation of almost 14,600 individuals, both belonging to the Venezuelan population as well as host communities.

**14** Key partners

**12** Implementing partners

**69,300** Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance

**23** Departments

**81** Municipalities



*In Los Patios, Norte de Santander, Terre des hommes facilitates and manages actions aimed at improving living conditions by identifying the needs of children, adolescents, and their families through the coordination of family, institutional, and community support networks. Services include reception and identification of cases, activation of care routes, referrals and coordination of services, and case management with prioritisation of the most urgent cases. © Terre des hommes*

## Area of Intervention 2: Actors by department who reported activities in July

Principal Partner (Implementing Partner)



## Feature Store: The Fight against Human Trafficking



A snapshot from an animation created as an interagency message for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. One message from the piece is: "If we take the side of silence and indifference, we take the side of the aggressors. Let's make a commitment to protect victims of human trafficking."

IOM's Regional Coordinator, Diego Beltrand, remarked during the National GIFMM's meeting with the Joint Special Envoy Eduardo Stein, that although it is known that human trafficking is taking place, there is not currently enough evidence to launch a more comprehensive response - a jarringly accurate depiction of the current situation. The insidiousness of human trafficking of Venezuelans in Colombia, particularly for the purpose of sexual exploitation, has garnered the attention of media outlets ranging from Colombian<sup>5</sup> to international press<sup>6</sup>, yet, "...the full nature and scope of human trafficking in the context of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant crisis remains elusive,"<sup>7</sup>.

UNODC has taken a significant step to quantify the impact of human trafficking in Colombia. In November and December 2018, UNODC conducted a survey of 379 Venezuelan refugees and migrants residing in Norte de Santander and Arauca, finding that, out of 21 possible indicators associated with human trafficking, 19% of survey respondents presented between 11-21 indicators. However, even more alarming is the figure indicating that 9% of respondents reported being forced to have sexual relations.

As the gravity of the situation continues to unveil itself, the need for a distinct response specific to this problem has become increasingly obvious, ultimately leading to the creation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group. As an independent initiative co-lead by IOM, UNODC, UNFPA, and UN Women and falling within the structure of the Protection Subgroup, the working group aims to utilise interagency coordination to strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking in Colombia.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, commemorated July 30th, presented itself as one such way to bring attention to this issue of concern. Three member organisations of the working group - IOM, UNODC, and UNICEF - led or participated in a total of 37 events spanning 10 departments. Highlights include: IOM shared their campaign *Tu Vida Cambia* (*Your Life Changes*), and promoted academic and institutional spaces for debate about the fight against human trafficking; UNODC opened up a call for participants of the second version of *Bluehack*, a *hackathon* aimed to build technology solutions to address anti-trafficking challenges related to prevention and investigation in Colombia; and UNICEF



High school students at Colegio San Francisco de Asis in Pamplona, Norte de Santander learn about prevention of human trafficking through the campaign "Tu Vida Cambia". ©OIM

collaborated extensively with the Departmental Committee to Combat Trafficking in Cúcuta, not only providing technical assistance to their action plan, but also holding an associated forum entitled "With Trafficking There is No Deal", in partnership with Universidad Libre, which attained the participation of 1,100 people in public activities scheduled as part of the forum.

<sup>5</sup> Redacción Bogotá (2018, 30 July). *Venezolanos, los más afectados por trata de personas en Bogotá*. *El Espectador*. Available at: <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/>.

<sup>6</sup> Zulver, Julia (2019, 26 de febrero). *At Venezuela's border with Colombia, women suffer extraordinary levels of violence*. *The Washington Post*. Available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

<sup>7</sup> Refugees International, *Searching for Safety: Confronting Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Venezuelan Women and Girls*, 5 August 2019, available at: <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2019/8/2/searching-for-safety-venezuela-trafficking> [accessed 16 August 2019].

## Area de Intervention 3: Socio-economic and cultural integration

In a protracted crisis such as that which is occurring in Venezuela, the creation of opportunities for socio-economic and cultural integration for Venezuelan refugees and migrants becomes important. Venezuelans face risk of xenophobia and are highly vulnerable economically due to difficulties of accessing livelihoods. In this complex context, the GIFMM addresses these problems by employing different measures to promote the economic independence of Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as foster ties between Venezuelan and Colombian populations.

During the month of July, five alliances were formed with private companies in [Bogotá](#) and [Atlántico](#), and more than five coordination meetings were held in [Antioquia](#) with the goal of increasing the formal hiring of members of the Venezuelan population. In the department of Atlántico, Colombian returnees from Venezuela received information related to accessing entrepreneurial projects, initiating design phases of business plans, and other trainings.

The Venezuelan population and host communities benefited from several campaigns and dialogues related to discrimination and xenophobia against Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as the dissemination of messages of peaceful coexistence and social cohesion. Specifically, 28 activities were carried out across seven departments, four of which were sensitisation workshops directed at Colombian journalists in [Valle de Cauca](#), [Antioquia](#), [Arauca](#), and [Norte de Santander](#).

**5** Key partners  
**12** Implementing partners  
**7,400** Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance  
**16** Departments  
**47** Municipalities

## Area de Intervention 4: Strengthening the capacity of the host government

In humanitarian crises, it is crucial that strategies focused on fostering long-term sustainability include capacity building of government institutions, especially in the case of Colombia in which these strategies are designed by different institutions and sectorial entities. With the goal of strengthening the government's response and resilience, the GIFMMs at the local level collaborate with various stakeholders, including both state entities (government as well as decentralized and autonomous entities) and civil society.

To bolster the capacity of the healthcare system, 47 different health centres in Maicao and Barranquilla received biometric equipment, and in Apartadó, 420 mosquito nets were delivered to local health centres to address the dengue emergency. Additionally, a total of 143 officials were trained on the protection of vulnerable persons, 61 of which participated in information and orientation days in [Nariño](#) and [Putumayo](#) focused on how to provide protection against trafficking and smuggling and another 82 individuals across five departments learned about mechanisms of international protection available to refugees and migrants.

With the help of local GIFMMs, at least 60 institutions implemented changes to improve assistance for refugees and migrants as well as improve their access to rights, including regularisation of migratory status; 130 initiatives (such as information and orientation days, sessions, workshops, etc.) on similar subjects were carried out. In the border departments of [La Guajira](#), [Norte de Santander](#), [Arauca](#), and [Nariño](#), 295 entities received support in the design of municipal-level institutional emergency plans, and 112 officials in [Arauca](#) received training specific to the approach to food and nutritional security in migration contexts with a focus on protection and management of agro-climatic risks.

**7** Key partners  
**7** Implementing partners  
**5,200** Beneficiaries of one or more types of assistance  
**14** Departments  
**29** Municipalities

### COORDINATION\*

The GIFMM plays the role of coordinator in the humanitarian response in support of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees, and host communities, facilitating collaboration between the 55 members of the national forum. With eight local GIFMMs covering 11 departments, GIFMM members provide assistance to the target population, complementing the Colombian State's response and employing a *back to back* system via close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team.

- The local GIFMM in **Antioquia** was proposed as co-leader with the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF, by its Spanish acronym) of the newly-formed Protection of Refugee and Migrant Children Working Group, which was approved by the Interinstitutional Technical Committee on Public Policy for Early Childhood, Childhood, and Adolescence, a collegiate body responsible for the elaboration, implementation, and evaluation of the public policy for the protection and comprehensive care of children and adolescents. UNICEF and the Children's Unit will provide technical support relating to the topic of children's issues while the GIFMM will provide its knowledge and expertise on issues related to refugees and migrants.
- The local GIFMM in **Nariño** re-established the Socio-economic Integration and Livelihoods Working Group with the objective of progressing with interagency activities related to local integration, income generation, support for host communities, and technical assistance to local institutions. As the first measure, the working group will focus on conducting a needs assessment and also support Colombian Migration in the initiative to hold sessions on labour market access and migratory status regularisation.
- The local GIFMM in **Bogotá** completed a mission to identify humanitarian response needs and protection risks faced by Venezuelan refugees and migrants in several municipalities in the departments of **Boyacá** and **Cundinamarca**.
- In close collaboration with the Mayor's Office in **Norte de Santander**, the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Human Rights Advocators on the border, the local GIFMM conducted a characterisation of the homeless population in Villa del Rosario. This characterisation will allow the development of a Work Plan within the Unified Command Post where a complementary response will be developed by the GIFMM. In addition, the local GIFMM in **Norte de Santander** attended the Border Migration Working Group in **Santander**, where the Presidential Advisor for the Colombian-Venezuelan Border endorsed the Regional Platform's initiative to expand the local GIFMM's coverage to Bucaramanga and encouraged the implementation of new actions in the department.

## GIFMM MEMBERS\*

Action Against Hunger | ADRA | Amiceres | Ayuda en Acción | Bethany International | BLUMONT | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian Red Cross | Diakonie | DRC | FAO | Global Communities | Halü | HIAS | Humanity & Inclusion | ICRC | IFRC | ILO | iMMAP | IOM | IRC | JRS Colombia | JRS Latin America and the Caribbean | Lutheran World Federation | Malteser International | Mercy Corps | Norwegian Red Cross | NRC | OCHA | OCR | OHCHR | OXFAM | PADF | Pastoral Social | Plan International | Profamilia | RET International | Save the Children | SOS Children's Villages | Tearfund | Terre des Hommes - Lausanne | UN Habitat | UN Women | Un Techo Para Mi País | UNDP | UNEP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | War Child | WFP | WHO | World Vision

*\*National members, including organisations which are part of the RMRP 2019 and observer organisations.*

## CONTRIBUTIONS

**GOVERNMENTS:** Austria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Netherlands, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

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