**Situation**

On 13 January, President Vizcarra announced that those who are irregular in the country will be immediately expelled. The aim is to protect the citizenry over the risen discontent with criminality growth. On 21 January, the Minister of Interior established a dedicated police task force to target criminal activity by foreigners in Peru. Organizations and activists criticized the measure and its negative impact on the growing discrimination and xenophobia against refugees and migrants from Venezuela. The government assured that the task force will adhere by human rights, but that crime has to be firmly prosecuted independent of the origin of those breaking the law.

On 26 January a temporary Parliament has been elected to conclude the 2016-2021 legislative cycle. Its members will assume office in March 2020 until a new president and a new parliament take office. During the campaign, several new parliamentarians voiced their opposition to the flow of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, promising harsher entry and oversight policies.

**Response**

Partners have scaled up their shelter response through different initiatives such as covering electricity expenses, water and other basic services of nine shelters serving over 180 persons within the most vulnerable districts of Lima, and the distribution of hygiene kits in coordination with WASH efforts.

In Lima and Tacna shelters, partners have provided daily breakfast and dinner to more than 300 refugees and migrants, as well as three meals and snacks for children, pregnant women and persons with health problems. In Tumbes, this assistance is provided to more than 230 refugees and migrants and is complimented with protection support, information and orientation. Humanitarian transport (at interprovincial level) to more than 350 persons.

Child protection partners ensured that psychosocial and socio emotional support was given to vulnerable children and their families. Initiatives for children aim to strengthen their resilience through the recognition of their own capacities and resources. Similarly, their families have access to safe spaces where they can share the emotional vicissitudes faced in displacement. Over 2,100 children also were supported through activities in the safe spaces.

These efforts seek to enable families to overcome the traumatic effects of displacement and uncertainty, and to build a new path forward.

GTRM partners also ensure assistance to particularly vulnerable refugees and migrants through support spaces. This is an initiative that aims at strengthening community-based protection and it is done mostly by local community and faith-based organizations.

Through the support spaces, partners have provided information, counselling and psychosocial support, access to food and core relief items, safe spaces for children, for women and for survivors of gender-based violence. Moreover, partners use these spaces to share information on nutrition, child protection in emergencies, hygiene, protection mechanisms and routes for survivors of GBV.

To register and regularize refugees and migrants, partners are supporting the Superintendence for Migrations (SNM) and the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) to issue documentation through two procedures, the carnet of calidad migratoria especial residente (CMER) and through asylum-seeker identity cards.

Partners support the CEPR to decentralize their data base through the Qoricancha II system. The work is done at country level, in the 12 offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where asylum applications are received. This will enable interoperability between the registration systems of the CEPR and the SNM. So far some 21,000 applicants received their printed identity cards.

Partners guaranteed the resources needed to secure the SNM staff and offices essential to assist Venezuelan
nationals to shift from the PTP towards the Calidad Migratoria Especial Residente (CMER) preventing them from becoming irregular and so far supporting the issuance of CMER ID Cards to some 100,000 Venezuelans in order to obtain permanent residence status.

Only some 10 per cent of refugees and migrants have access to the public health system. Groups with a heightened vulnerability such as pregnant women, children under five, and HIV/AIDS patients also struggle to have access to limited health services. GTRM partners are liaising with health authorities to grant health services and treatment to those in dire need such as patients living with HIV, chronic tuberculosis and people with disabilities.

Coordination

Six new partners have joined the GTRM and will be coordinating their work through the Protection and Integration working groups. Their expertise focuses namely on entrepreneurship, to contribute to local development, economic and financial inclusion; on inclusive cities and non-discriminatory urban environments; on gender equality, women empowerment, assistance to LGBTI+ communities, and on mental health support to those affected by structural violence, displacement and the resulting heightened vulnerability.