Situation

- After confirmation of the first case of COVID-19 in Colombia on 6 March, President Iván Duque introduced several measures to prevent further spread: On 14 March, all land and river borders with Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela were closed; the entry of non-Colombian foreign residents into the country has restricted, and educational institutions were closed.
- The National Government introduced additional measures in response to COVID-19: President Iván Duque ordered a national Mandatory Preventive Isolation, from 24 March to 13 April. Decree 457 stipulates the instructions, including exemptions for food distributions, access to health services, medicines, and banking and notary services.
- The National GIFMM and local GIFMMs have worked in coordination with national and local authorities to respond to the identified needs of the refugee and migrant population, adapting ongoing activities to circumstances and risks related to COVID-19. The biosecurity measures stipulated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the restrictions first introduced in March as well as the closure of educational institutions, have all had a multisectoral impact on the provision of aid, particularly activities related to food, shelter, education and protection assistance.

Response

- **WASH:** >25,000 refugees and migrants received sanitation and hygiene kits and items and >12,500 persons (including children and adolescents) accessed WASH services daily at various service delivery points.
- **Education:** >10,400 children and adolescent refugees and migrants benefitted from formal and non-formal education in emergencies services and 5,540 children and adolescents of school age were enrolled in national educational institutions.
- **Integration:** >3,300 people participated in community integration activities and >1,400 were supported to access employment and self-employment opportunities.
- **Multisector:** >12,000 refugees and migrants were supported with individual and collective short-term accommodation services, >7,100 accessed household items, and >7,000 accessed telecommunication services.
- **Protection:** >9,900 refugees and migrants received legal assistance, representation or advice, >7,000 accessed other protection services, and >6,700 girls and boys received protection services specialized for children.
- **Health:** >65,100 primary care consultations in physical and mental health took place, >8,900 people participated in health information, education and communication activities and >8,100 received mental health or psychosocial support.
- **Food Security and Nutrition:** >89,400 people were reached through food assistance through vouchers and cash, >73,100 people received hot meals, and food rations were delivered to >13,100 refugees and migrants.
- **Multipurpose CBI:** >46,100 people accessed multipurpose cash transfers.
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

During the month of March, more than 52,400 beneficiaries received one or more types of water and sanitation support from 24 RMRP direct and implementing partners, in 25 municipalities in 13 departments. Assistance was provided mainly in border departments, but also in departments of transit on an on-off basis. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, sector activities were modified, with an increased focus on handwashing with soap, distribution of hygiene kits, improvement of WASH services in health centers and other critical sanitary service points. Direct decisions were taken at the partner level, where activities to improve WASH services at the community and institutional level were carried out.

The main actions of the sector included the distribution of kits and sanitation and hygiene items for more than 25,000 refugees and migrants, while taking into account the diverse needs of, among others, women, girls, boys, adolescents, pregnant mothers. In addition, over 12,500 people benefitted from daily access to water and sanitation services at service delivery points (health centers, shelters, food distribution points, schools, etc.), including more than 6,600 children and adolescents who accessed these services in learning and child development spaces. Furthermore, more than 11,300 people -including the host community- accessed facilities and participated in training on safe water and basic sanitation in their communities. Additionally, more than 3,500 people received water and sanitation services at the community and institutional level.

ORGANIZATIONS*:
Action Against Hunger | ADRA | CAPELLANÍA OFICA | CISP | Caritas Germany (Pastoral Social) | Caritas Switzerland (FAMIG) | Colombian National Red Cross Society | SI and PUI Consortium | Diakonie (CID) | IOM | NRC | UNHCR (Opción Legal) /Colombian National Red Cross Society | UNICEF (APOYAR - Fundación Guajira Naciente - Halü - PROINCO - TdH Italy) | World Vision | ZOA

*Organizations included in parentheses are implementing partners. Organizations separated by slashes (/) correspond to joint implementation.

Education

With the support of the Education Cannot Wait fund, study materials were delivered to the homes of children of the Wayúu
In March, over 11,800 beneficiaries received one or more services through 14 RMRP direct and implementing partners, in 12 municipalities in 8 departments, in border and transit areas, as well as areas where refugees and migrants have an intention to stay.

More than 7,600 children and adolescent refugees, migrants, returnees and members of the host communities accessed non-formal and formal education in emergencies services, including activities to strengthen and reinforce access to education, in addition to other flexible education initiatives. In the context of the COVID-19 response, the modalities are being revised in order to facilitate virtual and home learning, taking into account the Competency Standards of the Ministry of National Education. In addition, 5,540 school-age children from Venezuela received school kits and were enrolled in national educational institutions, where they were supported to continue their academic trajectory.

ORGANIZATIONS*:
CISP | Caritas Switzerland (FAMIG) | GIZ/Corporación Scalabrini | IOM | IRC | NRC | Plan International | Save the Children | UNICEF (CID - Opción Legal - World Vision) | World Vision

*Organizations included in parentheses are implementing partners. Organizations separated by slashes (/) correspond to joint implementation.

Integration

In March, more than 5,000 beneficiaries received one or more types of support through 18 RMRP direct and implementing partners, in 12 municipalities in 9 departments, in border and transit areas, as well as areas where refugees and migrants have an intention to stay. Over than 3,300 people were reached with activities that promote social cohesion, including community integration days with the host population. Additionally, more than 900 refugees and migrants were supported to access employment opportunities, and more than 500 received assistance in the form of self-employment or entrepreneurship initiatives, including capacity building activities and distribution of productive asset. In addition, 79 people participated in activities supporting financial inclusion.

ORGANIZATIONS*:

*Organizations included in parentheses are implementing partners. Organizations separated by slashes (/) correspond to joint implementation.
Feature story: “Steps, uncertainty and hope in the middle of COVID-19”

Juan Villalobos is a man with a big smile who, together with his family, arrived two months ago in Riohacha, La Guajira. Before the COVID-19 restrictions, he would go out into the street every day, in search of employment, and some days he managed to get small jobs, working in various trades, such as unloading packages of mules, selling vegetables or doing masonry work. Despite his struggle, he continues to be grateful for being able to make a living every day.

But his efforts were disrupted by the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in Colombia. “Everything changed, there were fewer and fewer people on the streets, fewer jobs to find, more uncertainty in my little house, more fear when I would go out looking for a job”, says Juan. People are obligated to stay within their houses, and preventive measures established to prevent the spread of the pandemic in the department and the country.

“One morning, sitting on the bed, I felt that my dream of stability was collapsing, and that my steps were already tired from walking”. However, Juan Villalobos says that received second chance when he learned about the food security program provided by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the Colombian Red Cross in La Guajira. Through this program, he received a food voucher for three months. “It was not luck, but human solidarity and the ability of humanitarian organizations to help those in need, it has really been very helpful”, says Juan.

As Colombia implements prevention and control procedures in the spread of COVID-19, the WFP has rapidly adapted its humanitarian aid modalities, prioritizing assistance such as this, through monetary transfers, while implementing innovative procedures to comply with the guidelines stipulated by the Colombian Government and local authorities.

The COVID-19 confinement has also been an opportunity for Juan and for other refugees and migrants. They are not only guaranteed food security with food vouchers, thanks to the joint work of the WFP and the Colombian Red Cross in La Guajira, but they are also able to enjoy more time with their families, in Juan’s case with his 3 and 11 year old’s who now enjoy doing activities with their father.

In March, over 20,400 beneficiaries received one or more type of assistance from 21 RMRP direct and implementing partners, in 21 municipalities in 12 departments, in border and transit areas, as well as areas where refugees and migrants have an intention to stay. More than 12,000 managed to access collective and individual accommodation, while, more than 7,100 people accessed household items (e.g. kitchen kits and household items). In addition, more than 7,000 refugees and migrants accessed telecommunications services and more than 1,500 people benefitted from humanitarian transportation.

ORGANIZATIONS*:
Action Against Hunger | Caritas Germany (JRS Col - Pastoral Social) | Caritas Switzerland (FAMIG - Pastoral Social) | CISP/INTERSOS | Colombian National Red Cross Society | SI and PUI Consortium | IOM | NRC | OXFAM (Fundación Mujer y

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Protection

In March, more than 23,600 beneficiaries received one or more protection services from 42 RMRP direct and implementing partners, in 61 municipalities in the 23 departments, in border and transit areas, as well as areas where refugees and migrants have an intention to stay. More than 9,900 refugees and migrants received legal assistance, representation or advice. Meanwhile, despite the operational limitations on the provision of protection services as a result of the nationwide lockdown, several spaces essential for the care of unaccompanied and separated children have been adapted, while several Support Spaces partially continue to guarantee vital services for the population in the current context. More than 7,000 people accessed protection services such as support and guidance on how to access rights and assistance. Over 6,700 girls and boys received specialized child protection services, to prevent and respond to violations of rights during their migration process, including access to care and shelter spaces for unaccompanied children and/or adolescents often living on the street, in coordination with the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare. Furthermore, 80 people, including refugees, migrants and host communities received services in various Support Spaces.

In addition, more than 1,400 people were trained in the prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV) and GBV in the context of mixed migratory flows. In addition, more than 900 refugees and migrants received information services related to the prevention of and response to GBV, through community strengthening initiatives and guidance on protection routes.

ORGANIZATIONS*:

Health

85,678 beneficiaries in March | 16 departments

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During the month of March, more than 85,600 beneficiaries received one or more services from 31 RMRP direct and implementing partners, in 32 municipalities in 16 departments, in border and transit areas, as well as areas where refugees and migrants have an intention to stay. More than 65,100 primary physical and mental health care consultations and more than 4,000 emergency care consultations were carried out for refugees and migrants, including deliveries and neonatal care. Similarly, more than 8,900 people participated in health information, education and communication activities. In addition, more than 8,100 people received mental health care or psychosocial support. Regarding sexual and reproductive health, more than 3,300 people received prenatal gynecological, comprehensive and medical care. In addition, 47 people were vaccinated according to the national schedule and 15 boys and girls under 5 years of age with acute malnutrition were treated.

In March, the response focused on the mitigation of possible risks related to the effects of the protection measures adopted in the context of COVID-19, in coordination with the Ministry of Health. The response prioritized the departments of Norte de Santander, Arauca, La Guajira, Nariño, Magdalena, Atlantico and Vichada. The main activities included: elaboration of documents and communication material on the physical and mental health care risks in response to COVID-19, technical assistance to line 192 of the Ministry of Health and to other teleorientation, as well as workshops on psycho-education and care for health teams and humanitarian workers who serve the refugee and migrant population.

**Inclusion Organizations**: Action Against Hunger | ADRA | AID FOR AIDS | Americares | CAPELLANIA OFICA | CISP | Caritas Germany (JRS Col) | Caritas Switzerland (FAMIG - Pastoral Social) | Colombian National Red Cross Society | GIZ/Hospital Erasmo Meoz | Humanity & Inclusion | IOM | IRC | Malteser International | PADF | Samaritan’s Purse | UNHCR (DRC - Humanity & Inclusion - Malteser International - Opción Legal - Pastoral Social) | UNICEF (Dusakawi IPSI - E.S.E. Jaime Alvarado y Castilla - E.S.E. Jorge Cristo Sahium - ESE HOSPITAL SAN JOSE DE MAICAO - I.P.S. Municipal de Ipiales - MIRED IPS) | ZOA

*Organizations included in parentheses are implementing partners. Organizations separated by slashes (/) correspond to joint implementation.

**Food Security and Nutrition**

In March, more than 200,900 beneficiaries received one or more types of food and nutrition through 48 RMRP direct and implementing partners, in 50 municipalities in 16 departments, in border and transit areas, as well as areas where refugees and migrants have an intention to stay. Preventive measures by national and local authorities to contain COVID-19 have had an impact on regular food assistance operations, including the closure of most community kitchens, as well as the suspension of school activities, impacting the distribution of meals through school feeding programs. In light of this situation, delivery modalities have been quickly adapted to ensure the continuity of assistance to the most vulnerable, as well as to temporarily identify and attend to new needs related to COVID-19.

More than 89,400 people were reached through food assistance, both through transfers (>70,600 people) and cash distributions (>18,800). In addition, hot meals served in community kitchens were provided to more than 73,100 people, while food rations were delivered to more than 13,100 people. More than 3,500 people transiting by foot (“caminantes”) received food kits. Additionally, activities related to the promotion of food self-sufficiency were carried out, benefitting over 17,500 people, including more than 13,100 people who received agricultural tools, seeds and cultivation materials, including fertilizers and veterinary supplies. In addition, over 4,300 people received inputs to increase self-sufficiency, in order to help people grow their own food on small agricultural plots, thus reducing their dependence on assistance. Similarly, more than 2,300 children

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and adolescents, as well as more than 1,700 particularly vulnerable pregnant and lactating women, received specific nutrition interventions. Over 2,600 caregivers received counselling on child nutrition.

*This figure includes activities that, by nature, reflect multiple types of assistance to the same beneficiary. The food security and nutrition sector, with the support of the GIFMM is continuously monitoring these calculations to avoid duplication. Therefore, the figures are subject to change.*

**ORGANIZATIONS**:

*Organizations included in parentheses are implementing partners. Organizations separated by slashes (/) correspond to joint implementation.*

**Multipurpose CBI**

During the month of March, more than 46,100 beneficiaries received one or more types of assistance from 12 RMRP direct and implementing partners, in 33 municipalities in 13 departments. The beneficiaries were supported through various modalities of multipurpose transfers. Most of these distributions are accompanied by awareness raising sessions on the use of cards or other distribution mechanisms, and in addition, aimed at providing guidance on nutritional issues, financial inclusion and protection concerns.

**ORGANIZATIONS**:
Action Against Hunger | DRC/Action Against Hunger | IRC | Mercy Corps | NRC | OXFAM (Fundación Mujer y Futuro) | UNHCR (DRC - Pastoral Social) | Colombian National Red Cross Society | World Vision | ZOA

*Organizations included in parentheses are implementing partners. Organizations separated by slashes (/) correspond to joint implementation.*

**Local coordination**

Local GIFMMs, the field level representation of the national platform, are spaces for strategic coordination of the operational response at the local level, working in close collaboration with the local authorities’ coordination mechanisms.

- Members of the GIFMM carried out a mission to identify the needs of the population in transit in 8 municipalities in the department of Casanare, specifically in Hato Corozal, Paz de Ariporo, Pore, Nunchía, Yopal, Aguazul, Monterrey and Villa Nueva. During the year, 123 surveys were carried out with the refugee and migrant population transiting on foot ("caminantes"), meetings with local authorities, and from the information collected, it is highlighted that the most urgent needs for this population are food, transportation, water, shelter, and hygiene and sanitation. This information has been key for the GIFMM partners, as well as for local and national authorities.

- Members of the local GIFMMs in La Guajira, Norte de Santander, Santander and Arauca strengthened and adapted their response in key sectors. With regards to access to water and sanitation, infrastructure was installed, and WASH services
were provided in essential spaces. To address protection concerns, care was provided remotely or to small groups within the Support Spaces and Protective Spaces; and temporary shelters were adapted to include isolated spaces for the population in transit or other potentially infected people.

- In accordance with the exception for humanitarian organizations, stated in decree 457 on the Mandatory Preventive Isolation, the departmental authorities of Antioquia, Arauca, Cesar, La Guajira and Norte de Santander authorized the movement of organizations that carry out humanitarian work.

- In Antioquia, the local GIFMM maintained close coordination with the departmental authorities, to support local government’s “Antioquia Solidaria” program, focused on providing food kits, hygiene kits, and psychosocial support to the refugee and migrant population.

- The Mayor’s Office and local GIFMM in Bogotá provided a response through cash transfers, and the distribution of different types of kits (cleaning products, hygiene, food, energy and kitchen sets) and by providing access to temporary accommodation in the city. In addition, cash transfers and distributions of kits (food, hygiene, cleaning products and shelter kits) were provided to people in the municipality of Soacha.

- In Cesar, the local GIFMM supported the distribution of food vouchers in coordination with the local authority and preventive measures were organized at the supermarkets, through telephone calls at specific times. Also, support and guidance were given by telephone, and supplies such as face masks and hygiene kits were delivered to hospitals.

- The local GIFMM Costa Caribe has coordinated key actions at the departmental level: in Atlántico, this included distributions of food aid, cash transfers, delivery of supplies to the Secretary of Health, and on-line and phone-based support and guidance. Similarly, in Bolivar assistance included the distribution of biosecurity supplies, food, orientation to the population (on-line and by telephone), while in Magdalena, cash transfers were provided.

- The GIFMM in Norte de Santander was part of the improvement of the contingency and hospitalization area of the Erasmo Meoz University Hospital with 30 Refugees Housing Units (RHU). Four RHUs were installed to facilitate triage procedures at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in the city of Pamplona. Similarly, in Santander, the GIFMM and the Mayor’s Office of Bucaramanga prioritized the response for the refugee and migrant population who are specifically vulnerable, including people living on the street, as well as facilitating the establishment of temporary shelters with capacity for 410 people.

- Through close coordination between the local GIFMM in Nariño and the local authorities, household, hygiene and food kits were delivered to the refugee and migrant population in Pasto. In addition, the authorization of temporary shelters for the population from Venezuela living on the street was coordinated with the authorities.

### GIFMM members

| Action Against Hunger | ACTED | ADRA | Aid for AIDS | Alliance for Solidarity | American Red Cross* | Américores | Ayuda en Acción | Bethany International | BLUMONT | Capellanía OFICA | CARE | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian National Red Cross Society | Diakonie | Doctors Without Borders* | DRC | FAO | German Red Cross* | Global Communities | Halü Foundation | Heartland Alliance | HelpAge International | HIAS | Humanity & Inclusion | IFRC* | ILO | iMMAP | IOM | IRC | JRS Colombia | JRS Latin America and the Caribbean | Lutheran World Federation | Malteser International | Médecins du Monde | Mercy Corps | Norwegian Red Cross | NRC | OCHA | OCR | OHCHR | OXFAM | PADF | PAHO/WHO | Pastoral Social | Plan International | Profamilia | RET International | Save the World | Save the Children |

### Donors

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**Other donors:** Dubai Cares (UAE) | ECHO | Education Cannot Wait Fund | Fondation Chanel | Ford Foundation

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