

Southern Cone



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN THE SUBREGION
235,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE*
7,138



FUNDING SITUATION**
REQUIREMENT: **41.7 MILLION**

Situation

- In Argentina, the Ministry of Health extended “emergency” authorisation to China’s Sinopharm vaccine, of which 904,000 doses arrived on 25 February (earmarked for teachers). It was announced that the Sputnik V vaccine will begin to be produced and manufactured in Argentina by a local company. A batch of 194K doses of the Sinovac vaccine arrived in Uruguay and were distributed in all departments, as a prelude to the national operation that will start on 1 March beginning with health personnel. Some **44 vaccination centers were set up in the interior of the country and 46 in Montevideo**. In Paraguay, with the arrival of 4,000 Sputnik V vaccines on 18 February, the Ministry of Health set up a vaccination schedule for the first round of immunization for front-line personnel, which began on 22 February. Bolivia began the inoculation of half a million people with the Sinopharm vaccine on 25 February, added to 20,000 doses of the Sputnik V vaccine used in the initial phase in January for health personnel.
- On 18 February, the National Migration Service of Argentina extended the validity of all residence permits for all foreigners for 30 days, a measure which taken monthly since March 2020 in the context of the pandemic, while also discouraging in-person procedures.
- In Pisiga, Bolivia (border with Chile), the crossing of refugees and migrant from Venezuela crossing towards Chile s decreased during February due to increased control of the border on the Chilean side. R4V partners and the Bolivian Migration Service conducted a needs assessment of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Pisiga in early February, identifying ongoing needs in shelter, food, hygiene and biosecurity items, and clothes. In Desaguadero (border with Peru), there was a very low presence of refugees and migrants reported by R4V partners , although attempts to pass through informal crossings were still reported. Chilean and Bolivian media reported the presence of refugees and migrants in transit through a route south of Pisiga, including a crossing through Uyuni (Bolivia), passing through Abaroa Station (border point in Bolivia) to the town of Ollagüe (Chile).
- The situation in Argentina’s northwest border with Bolivia continues to show a steady flow of refugees and migrants from Venezuela arriving to the city of La Quiaca (Jujuy). The majority of refugees and migrants there are undergoing quarantine and waiting for residence permits. Some 39 Venezuelans sought asylum in Argentina during February through La Quiaca.
- In Rivera, Uruguay (border with Brazil), evacuation shelters have been set up to respond to emergencies that may arise and to the arrival of migrant populations, as a way of containing the spread of the virus. R4V partners are working closely with government authorities and other stakeholders.

Response***



ARGENTINA: ADRA, CAREF, FCCAM, IOM, Jesuit Migrant Service, Red Cross Argentina, UNHCR.

BOLIVIA: Caritas Bolivia, Caritas Cochabamba, Caritas Switzerland, IOM, Munasim Kullakita Foundation, UNHCR, World Vision.

PARAGUAY: IOM, Semillas para la Democracia, UNHCR.

URUGUAY: ADRA, Idas y Vueltas, IOM, SEDHU, UNHCR.

- Four R4V partners in Argentina met to plan assistance at the La Quiaca border. An **assistance pathway** has been established among partners and they are providing assistance based on agreed assigned activities to prevent duplication of efforts.
- Partners continued to provide collective and individual **shelter solutions** in the short/medium and long term to **prevent homelessness** among the most vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants, **NFIs** (especially medicines and hygiene/cleaning items), **food, multipurpose cash assistance** to cover basic needs, and **humanitarian transportation, especially in border areas of Argentina and Bolivia**.
- Partners provided **psycho-social assistance and legal advice** to refugees and migrants on access to asylum and regularization procedures, access to basic social services and documentation in the four countries.
- One family reunification was facilitated in Paraguay.
- R4V Platform Plenary sessions took place with **governments and donors** in Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay. Newly established leads of the **Basic Needs and Integration/Education sectors** in Bolivia held their first coordination meetings.
- Partners delivered biosecurity supplies and medicines to the **health centres in border areas** of Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay, as well as hygiene and cleaning items.



PEOPLE REACHED*



Food Security

722



Hum. Transp.

168



Health

424



Education

128



Integration

323



WASH

942



Protection

2,060



Shelter

747



CBI

1,623

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*From 01/02/2021 until 28/02/2021 | **Source: FTS Website | ***The list of partners per country include those who reported actions during the timeframe of this report and does not necessarily reflect all the partners that conform the National Platforms.