

Southern Cone Situation Report October & November 2019

Approximately **14.1 per cent** of the total number of **Venezuelans** residing in Latin America and the Caribbean until November 2019, lives in the countries that conform the **Southern Cone** Chapter.

The **financial contributions** towards the requirements of the Southern Cone countries in the RMRP 2019 reached **14.6 per cent** as of mid-November, with only USD 5.2 million received among the four countries.

The **RMRP 2020** was launched on 13 November. The Southern Cone and Chile chapters plans to reach 259,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela and 134,000 host community members. These actions will need some USD 62.8 million.¹

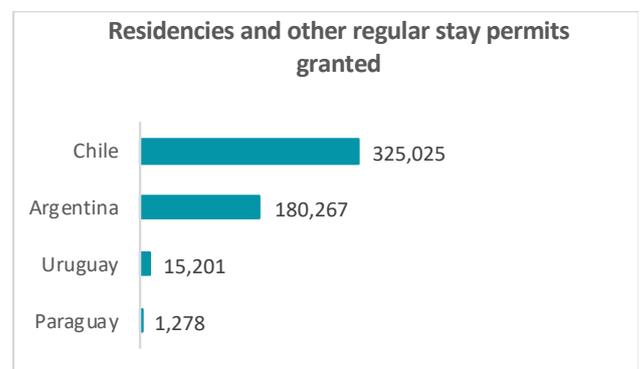
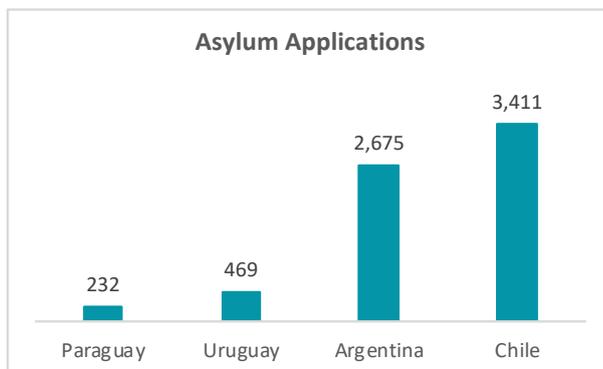
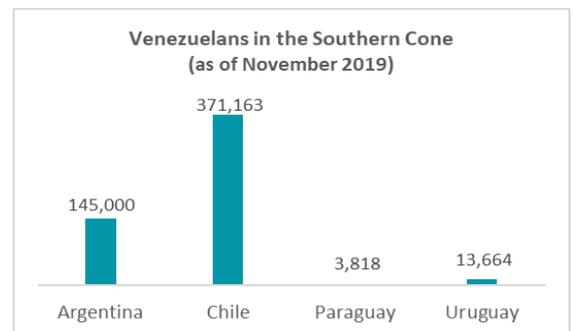
KEY FIGURES²

3.8 Million

Approx. Venezuelans in Latin America and the Caribbean

533.6 Thousand

Approx. Venezuelans in the Southern Cone



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

In Argentina and Uruguay, **presidential elections** took place at the end of October, resulting in a change of governmental authorities in the two cases. In Argentina, the elected president, Alberto Fernandez, will take office on December 2019; while in Uruguay, Luis Alberto Lacalle Pou will take office in March 2020. No changes in policies towards refugees and migrants from Venezuela is expected from any of the new administrations.

On 18 October, **violent protests broke out in Chile** that were mainly contesting the high cost of living, low pensions and high prices in medicine and health treatments. Some partners had to suspend or reduce activities during this time due to the volatile environment. As in other countries in South America where protests have spiked recently, Venezuelan

¹ In 2020, the Southern Cone Chapter will include Bolivia and not Chile. Chile will have its own chapter.

² Total population figures in this document represent the sum of Venezuelan migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers reported by host governments. It does not necessarily imply individual identification, nor registration of each individual, and may include a degree of estimation, as per each government's statistical data processing methodology. As numerous government sources do not account for Venezuelans without a regular status, the total number of Venezuelans is likely to be higher. The figures of people with regular status do not include Venezuelans holding tourist visas, nor recognized refugees, or asylum seekers.

migrants and refugees have been allegedly linked to violent activities during the intense riots that have been taking place, exacerbating the xenophobia discourse against them in Chile.

Partners in Arica, Chile, highlight the **rise of irregular Venezuelan refugees and migrants crossing** in October, in comparison with the previous month, with an increasing number of them staying in Arica for longer periods or with the intention to stay in that city. On another hand, due to social unrest in Bolivia after the presidential elections held on 20 October, the **flow of Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving by land in La Quiaca, Argentina, was limited** for a couple of weeks as main roads in Bolivia were blocked and passenger transportation restricted.

Southern Cone countries continued to work in benefit of the refugees and migrants from Venezuela. In October, Argentina and Paraguay implemented the **Unified Vaccination Card**. This measure aims at monitoring and avoiding duplication of vaccines of refugees and migrants, while keeping their populations protected.

Similarly, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and other countries in the region signed the joint declaration of the **V International Technical Meeting on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens** in the region on 15 November. In the declaration, the signatory countries agreed to continue their efforts to support the Venezuelans in a coordinated manner while seeking greater support from the international community.

Finally, on 13 November the **Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for 2020** to respond to the increasing humanitarian needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the communities hosting them was launched in Colombia. In this plan, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay will make part of the Southern Cone chapter, which is estimated to have 148,000 refugees and migrants in need in 2020 and aims at responding to 114,000 of them through the actions of 34 partners. The Southern Cone chapter will require USD 31.3 million to cover the needs of the targeted population. Chile will have its own chapter, with a financial requirement of USD 31.5 million, to answer to the needs of some 145,000 refugees and migrants (out of 295,000 estimated in 2020) with 17 partners in coordinated action. Both chapters include actions in five key sectors: health; education; emergency services, integration and protection.

RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

These response highlights do not provide an exhaustive overview of all response activities by partners under the regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), but rather highlight some key activities implemented during the month. The R4V aims to support and complement national authorities' efforts across Latin America and the Caribbean, consistent with the principles outlined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

Area of Intervention 1: Direct emergency assistance

Strategic outcome: *Refugees and migrants are provided with life-saving goods and services.*

Basic Needs & Essential Services

Partners in the Southern Cone continue to provide direct emergency assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela. **Cash assistance** was provided in Paraguay to 24 refugees and migrants while **non-food items**, including mattresses, hygiene kits for adults and newborns and maternity kits, were provided to 269 individuals in Argentina, 778 in Uruguay, 239 in Chile and 202 persons in Paraguay. **Food assistance** was provided by partners in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, reaching 269, 239, 201 and 109 refugees and migrants respectively. While **humanitarian transportation** from border areas to shelters and urban areas was provided to 164 vulnerable refugees and migrants in Argentina, 78 in Chile and 21 in Paraguay, internal transportation to facilitate mobility in Montevideo and Rocha was provided to 7 vulnerable individuals in Uruguay.

Temporary accommodation, especially for families, has been provided to over 200 persons in Argentina, 117 in Chile, 70 in Uruguay and 75 in Paraguay, where partners have also provided support to already-established shelter with beds, mattresses and building improvements. In Chile, partners opened two new shelters in Santiago for 130 persons.



Venezuelan woman hosted in one of the new shelters opened by partners in Santiago de Chile ©UNHCR/S. Escobar, 2019

Finally, during the reporting period, **emergency psychosocial support** and/or **referral services** were provided in Paraguay and Uruguay to 118 and 87 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, respectively.

Monitoring and Assessment Tools

Partners in the sub-region interviewed more than 2,400 Venezuelans to **assess their needs**. In **Argentina**, a total of 1,546 refugees and migrants from Venezuela were reached with monitoring and assessment in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and some other 112 persons in Arica and Iquique in **Chile**. In **Uruguay** (Montevideo and Colonia) some 133 refugees and migrants were reached with the same purposes, while in **Paraguay**, a total of 321 refugees and migrants were surveyed in key locations of the country, namely, the bus terminal of Asunción, the Central Offices of the General Migration Directorate and the General Directorate of Employment, the migratory checkpoint of

Ciudad del Este and integration events organized by partners in the capital city. These exercises included, among other aspects, questions regarding their needs in health, housing, protection, access to information, access to labour, well-being and coping mechanisms as well as their experiences while on the route to other countries.

In **Argentina** partners reached over 490 refugees and migrants living with HIV to assess their needs and overall access to health care.

Area of Intervention 2: Protection

Strategic outcome: Refugees and migrants enjoy rights and protection.

Access to information

Partners in the Southern Cone have been providing information on **referral pathways and protection services** to refugees and migrants from Venezuela on a regular basis. During the reporting period, 88 persons were supported with orientation and information on access to social services in Chile and 143 persons in Paraguay. In Argentina, some 119 persons were provided with information, out of which 70 were in the border areas of Jujuy and Misiones.

Documentation and regularization

Partners in Paraguay and Uruguay provided support, advice and guidance to 72 and 33 refugees and migrants from Venezuela for obtaining a **regular status** and identity documents. In Uruguay partners supported 20 Venezuelan asylum-seekers to file their **asylum applications**.

Area of Intervention 3: Socio-economic and cultural integration

Strategic outcome: Refugees and migrants are socially, economically and culturally integrated in empowered communities.

Access to employment and livelihoods

During the reporting period, 154 refugees and migrants were reached with support for accessing job opportunities in the **formal sector** in Argentina through integration workshops in Buenos Aires and Salta. Similarly, in Paraguay, 138 persons were reached with **job placement** support.

Partners in Paraguay also provided refugees and migrants from Venezuela with assistance for the recognition and **validation of diplomas**, reaching 66 persons.

In Chile, partners met with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Association of small manufacturers and artisans in Iquique, to assess employers needs in order to hire Venezuelan refugees and migrants and explore collaboration opportunities to **improve their employability**. The entities confirmed their willingness in working together to strengthen Venezuelans economic inclusion in the region of Tarapacá. Partners held a workshop in Santiago with the governmental institution *Chile Valora*, gathering some 170 Venezuelans interested in work opportunities in Chile.

Socio-cultural integration

Partners in Paraguay reached 376 persons through integration activities, such as **dancing** events and **information sessions** on regularization, health and labour inclusion; while in Argentina, partners provided support to 75 refugees and migrants from Venezuela through **sport events**.

Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening capacities of the host government

Strategic outcome: Government institutions' capacity to manage situations of refugees and migrants from Venezuela is strengthened.

Technical and material support

Partners continue to support national authorities with human resources, infrastructure and/or technical assistance. In Uruguay, partners regularly provide the Directorate General of Consular Affairs with human resources, allowing 497 Venezuelans to initiate their **regularization process**. Constant support is also provided to the National Migration Board through its technical secretariat and the National Refugee Commission to improve their inter-institutional coordination.

Capacity building

In Argentina, partners presented a **guide on entrepreneurship** policies, which counted with the attendance of 73 people. Also, four governmental institutions participated in the sixth **seminar on informal economy**. Towards a future of work without informality with the support of partners.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

United States of America | United Kingdom

RMRP PARTNERS

Argentina: ADRA | Amnesty International Argentina | CAREF | FECCAM | ILO | IOM | MIRARES | OHCHR | Office of the Resident Coordinator | PAHO | Red Cross Argentina | UBA | UNAIDS | UNDP | UNHCR | UNICEF

Chile: ADRA | ECLAC | FAO | FASIC | ILO | Inmigrante Feliz | IOM | Jesuit Refugee Service | Jesuit Refugee Service | Office of the Resident Coordinator | OHCHR | PAHO | Red Cross Chile Scalabrini/INCAMI | UDP Legal Clinic | UNAIDS | UNDP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | Vicaria Pastoral Social | World Vision

Uruguay: ADRA | El Paso | Idas y Vueltas | ILO | IOM | Manos Veneguayas | OHCHR | PAHO | Red Cross Uruguay | SEDHU | UNAIDS | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNOPS

Paraguay: Asociación Civil de Venezolanos en Paraguay | IOM | OHCHR | PAHO | Pastoral de Movilidad Humana | Red con Migrantes y Refugiados | Semillas para la Democracia | Red Cross Paraguay | UNFPA | UNHCR

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