


 REFUGEES AND  
MIGRANTS

223,300


 PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*


FUNDING SITUATION\*\*

14%

FUNDED: 2.7M

REQUIREMENT: 18.4 M

## Situation

- In **Panama**, a total of **33,550 accumulated cases (20,087 in June alone)** have been registered since the start of the **COVID-19 pandemic in March**. The measures taken by the government are: suspension of international flights for an additional 30 calendar days from June 22; establishment of three new sanitary perimeters in the country (two in the province of Bocas del Toro, one in the province of Colón). The Health Authority has re-implemented a general quarantine that limits the mobility of people by days and sex due to the notable increase in COVID-19 cases. As the general quarantine is maintained and the Venezuelan population is not able to engage in income generating activities, the need for food, health and safe housing are significantly increasing. As for the documents issued by the National Immigration Services and the documentation presented for the immigration procedures that expired between March 13 and July 31, they have been extended until October 31 and without fines. In addition, the Ministry of Labor has extended the validity of work permits until October 21, 2020.
- In **Costa Rica**, after the first **COVID-19 case registered on March 7**, the **Government (GoCR)** has directed several measures to control the infection rate. These measures include movement restrictions, closure of national borders (restrictions on entry to nationals and residents) and social distancing protocols until August 1. During the month of June, 3459 people were diagnosed with COVID-19. Government authorities declared an "orange alert" to certain areas of the Central Valley area (including San José). Due to the difficulty of controlling the spread of the virus, the San José metropolitan area was declared under community contact and the reopening plan was delayed, affecting vehicle mobility, commerce and refugee and migrant livelihoods. Due to this series of measures, humanitarian actors have changed the response strategy to greater online support, while CBI and health insurance cards operate through the local mail service. The Office of the Ombudsman of Costa Rica received complaints that the refugees and migrants were denied access to the GoCR Protect Bond (unemployment and underemployment assistance program) and included the issue in the institution's Annual Report indicating that the denial Access to this program constitutes a discriminatory measure against populations that are in extreme affected areas, specifically refugees and asylum seekers, further aggravating their situation. Congress rejected the Executive's request to allocate additional resources to finance 200,000 new requests. This happens as unemployment reaches its highest ever rate of 15.7% for February - April, deeply affecting refugees and **migrants and adding pressure on R4V partners to obtain assistance**.
- In **Mexico**, during the month of June, the decrease in Venezuelan arrivals at international airports continued. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended the suspension of various activities due to COVID-19, including naturalization processes, which continue to be suspended until the health authorities determine otherwise. In consultations with R4V partners in June, the protection concerns of Venezuelan refugees and migrants was identified due to the long waiting time for documentation (certificates of asylum seekers, refugee status determination resolutions and general documentation to access basic services). The United States immigration courts remain closed until mid-July, affecting the Venezuelan population at the northern border whose hearing have again been rescheduled. NGOs reported in recent months there has been an increase in inquiries from Venezuelans requesting information on how to apply for asylum at Mexican airports, as they would be planning to travel to Mexico as soon as travel restrictions in the region are lifted.

## Response

### MULTIPURPOSE CBI:

- In **Costa Rica**, humanitarian assistance through CBI was delivered to 262 Venezuelans and 39 more received training on soft skills and financial integration. In **Panama**, multipurpose cash to meet basic needs and to access rights was delivered to 233 Venezuelans. In **Mexico**, 332 Venezuelans received CBI in June in order to meet their basic needs, while others received sectoral top-ups to address protection related risks identified.

### FOOD SECURITY, NFI AND SHELTER:

- In **Costa Rica**, 110 food assistance kits were provided to 362 Venezuelans. 406 Venezuelans were provided with some scheme of food assistance and 121 received NFI. In **Panama**, food assistance with different mechanisms (paper voucher, e-vouchers, in-kind), was distributed to 70 families, reaching 109 persons and short-term shelter to 10 migrants and refugees. In **Mexico**, 26 new e-wallets for food security to Venezuelans were delivered, in Mexico City, Queretaro, Puebla and Quintana Roo. Additionally, 84 e-wallet holders, to affected people in the same locations received top-ups for the month.

### HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT:

- In **Costa Rica**, 96 Venezuelans were provided with virtual psychosocial support during June provided through individual appointments or group workshops. 178 Venezuelans received their medical insurance cards during June. During the month 28 people obtained regularized support from governmental agencies and some 30 people with new pair of glasses. Some 6 cases of legal specialized assistance were referred to a partner and 4 cases of psychological assistance were referred to a psychiatric. This month, 91 people (57 women and 34 men) were assisted via phone or e-mail with counselling related to their legal status and work. In **Panama**, partners provided psychological support including a psychosocial care session with Mental Health specialists jointly with several Venezuelans organizations and Community managers from Venezuelans social networks. It was also supported by the Ministry of Health. A total of 113 people was reached. In **Mexico**, the Migrant Attention Unit in Playa del Carmen, received hygiene, sanitation and medical supplies to establish two health facility and for prevention of COVID-19, reaching 23 Venezuelans in June.

### INFORMATION AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE:

- In **Costa Rica**, 150 Venezuelans received information and/or virtual legal assistance including documentation, access to asylum, access to rights and, legal residence. Some 66 received legal information on refugee status determination

(RSD) and access to rights and some 124 received legal assistance and counseling on RSD and access to rights. In **Panama**, information dissemination and counselling regarding legal information about migratory and labor rights, access the asylum system, information about GBV, housing, referral to existing services such as humanitarian assistance, medical attentions, among other services were provided to 349 Venezuelan migrants and refugees

### CAMPAIGNS AND INFO DISSEMINATION:

- In **Panama**, a social network campaign, *#SomosLoMismo*, reached 544,966 people with anti-xenophobia messages. Also, *#SomosLoMismo* promotes the campaign *"Detrás de la mascarilla, Todos Somos Lo Mismo"* in the Covid-19 context provided masks to 400 persons, in two subway stations.
- Webinars addressed to migrant population on Financial Education was held addressing 188 Venezuelans. In **Mexico**, a partnership with Pictoline (a media company in Mexico) was signed in June, with four posts related to promote cooperation and fighting against xenophobia with love. Likewise, a *"Manual para el Emprendimiento Migrante"* was released through a media campaign on Facebook, including a Facebook live. A total of 682 downloads were reported on the website.

### TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- In **Panama**, educational advice and guidance on new study modalities (virtual, television and radio) were provided to a total of 33 children and adolescents. Partners have also carried out economic inclusion activities, consisting of training courses, for youth to promote a culture of peace during the pandemic, reaching 43 Venezuelans. In **Costa Rica**, a virtual migratory workshop was carried out where 75 people obtained assistance. Some 16 people completed all training modules on self-employment program. 21 started the process of validation of diplomas obtained in country of origin and 56 participated in short training sessions to improve their employment opportunities

### SPECIALIZED ASSISTANCE:

- In **Mexico**, family reunification allowed the stranded relatives in Colombia to successfully join a Venezuelan refugee living Mexico.



PEOPLE REACHED\*



Education

254



Food Security

3,703



Health

385



Integration

591



Protection

3,226



Shelter

16



CBI

1,793