

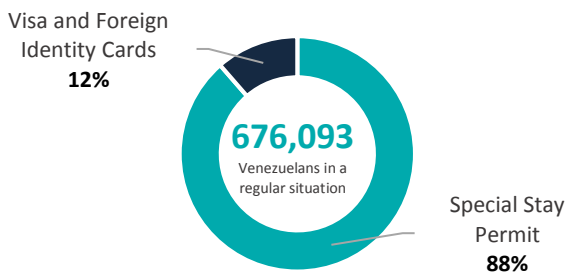
According to official figures from Migración Colombia by the end of June 2019, there were more than 1.4 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants living in Colombia. The majority of people have settled in the border departments of La Guajira and Norte de Santander, continuing to cities along the Caribbean coast, or larger cities inland such as Medellín and Bogotá. Significant numbers of Venezuelans continue to cross Colombia by foot, heading for larger cities with more opportunities and better services or towards the southern border with Ecuador to continue their onward journey to a third country. Refugees and migrants arrive in Colombia with immediate humanitarian needs including access to safe accommodation, food, basic health care, but the prolonged nature of their displacement also requires longer term solutions including access to formal employment, education and social integration. The Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) works closely with the Government at both the national level, and across 11 of the most affected departments, to deliver direct emergency assistance, protection, socio-economic integration activities and seeks to build the capacity of the host government.

### KEY FIGURES

#### VENEZUELAN IN COLOMBIA<sup>1</sup>

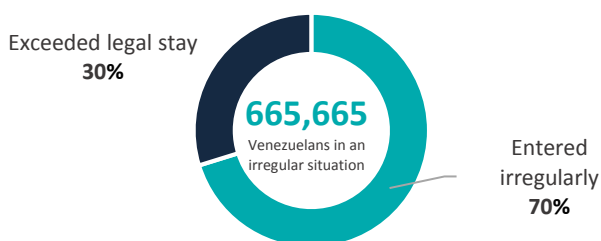
**1,408,055** Venezuelans in Colombia

##### In a regular situation



**+66.297** within period established by the law (includes tourist visas and other types of short term stay)

##### In an irregular situation



**3.7 million** Venezuelan with a Temporary Border Mobility Card (TMF)

**251.000** Venezuelans with a Temporary Transit Permit (PIP-TT)

**349,693** Venezuelans have left Colombia via the Rumichaca International Bridge in 2019

#### RESPONSE

**30** Key partners

**317,000**

Beneficiaries received one or more types of assistance

**35** Implementing partners

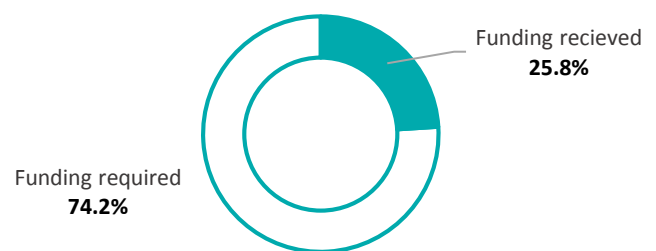
**23** Departments

**104** Municipalities

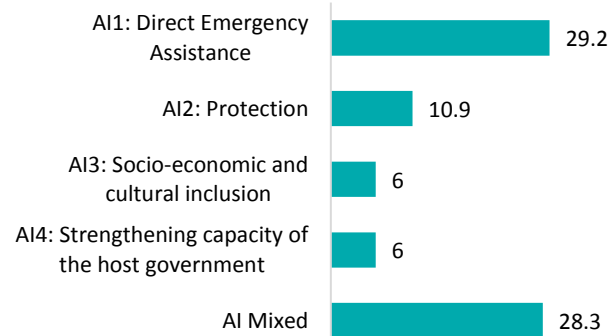
#### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW<sup>2</sup>

**US\$ 315M** Requested funding

**US\$ 81.3** Funding received



#### Funding per Area of Intervention – in millions of US\$



<sup>1</sup> Data from Migration Colombia as of 30 June 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Partial financial information until the end of June from 25 RMRP partner organisations, which includes commitments and contributions paid, it does not include contributions for multiple countries. For more information: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary%20>

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- [The re-opening of the main border crossing points](#) between Colombia and Venezuela on 8 June 2019, after their closure on 23 February, [led to changes in the entry dynamics](#) at Colombia's main entry points in **Norte de Santander**. On the day of the reopening, a 25% increase of the entries of refugees and migrants from Venezuela was observed in comparison to the first seven days of June although numbers have returned to their normal daily averages (**35,000 entries, 30,000 exits**) in the weeks following the reopening. The local GIFMM in **Norte de Santander** activated their emergency response plan, providing assistance in the areas of WASH, health and protection, and continue to monitor the situation.
- Simultaneously, the flow of refugees and migrants from Venezuela leaving Colombia to Ecuador also increased ahead of the introduction of [Peru's new visa requirements](#) on June 15. On June 14, the day before the new entry requirements was implemented more than 6,050 people left Colombia for Ecuador via the Rumichaca International Bridge in **Nariño**, while the following day this decreased to 5,000 people.
- GIFMM members and local authorities worked closely to scale up their response, providing around 700 temporary shelter spaces per day, 24 health and nutritional attention services as well as three hot meals a day to some 700 people. Members distributed information materials on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence prevention were to some 500 women at the Rumichaca International Bridge. From the 8-15 June, information on routes, hygiene, nutrition and health was delivered to more than 1,200 people at the border. Between the 14 and 21 June, the local GIFMM in **Bogotá** activated a contingency plan at the main transport terminal in **Bogotá** to respond to the increased flow of refugees and migrants in transit towards the border with Ecuador, ahead of Peru's new entry requirements. Key activities included providing information and orientation, temporary shelter for almost 200 people, humanitarian transport for some 300 people, distribution of hygiene kits and sleeping kits.
- [On Saturday 22 June](#), 1,000 Venezuelans arrived from Boca de Grita, Tachira, on the Venezuelan side of the border to the Municipality of Puerto de Santander, in **Norte de Santander**, Colombia, due to threats from armed groups. According to the Defensoria, there is a lot of fear of return, due to increasing violence following June 18 where 12 people were killed by armed groups. The majority of people stayed with friends or relatives, but 187 people (77 minors) slept in the sports stadium in the town. Although all the persons of concern have returned to Venezuela the local GIFMM in Norte de Santander continues to observe the situation.



Refugee and migrant children from Venezuela enjoy recreational activities including drawing, writing stories and playing games, thanks to Norwegian Refugee Council education in emergencies activities in the transport terminal in Salitre, Bogotá. © Marcela Olarte / NRC

## OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSE

### Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

A total of 283,800 people received one or more types of direct humanitarian assistance, delivered by 24 key partners and 27 implementing partners, across 19 departments and 70 municipalities.

Around 188,700 people received meals served in community kitchens in Arauca, Cesar, La Guajira, Nariño and Norte de Santander, more than 72,000 people received vouchers for food in Arauca, La Guajira, Nariño and Norte de Santander and more than 1,000 people received in kind food assistance in Arauca, Bogotá, Guainía, La Guajira y Norte de Santander. In five municipalities in La Guajira, more than 9,300 people were reached through activities that seek to strengthen food security and nutrition.

More than 35,500 people received basic medical assistance in 13 departments during June, one third of whom were in Nariño experiencing migratory bottlenecks due to changing entry requirements in Peru. More than 3,800 children received basic medical attention for illnesses in Arauca, Atlántico, Bogota, Bolivar, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte de Santander. Some 2,500 children were vaccinated during the month in 5 departments. The provision of psychosocial care and mental health assistance benefited more than 6,800 people during the month, more than half of whom were in Bogotá. Some 990 pregnant women, including more than 100 girls and adolescents, received prenatal care in Arauca, Atlántico, Bolivar, Cesar, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte de Santander. During the month, 23,700 people in 14 departments received information on nutrition and how to prevent diet related illnesses.

Over 12,000 people had access to a potable water source, in accordance with Sphere Standards. In addition, some 1,100 people in 7 departments received hygiene kits containing deodorant, a toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper and other basic hygiene items including, for women, feminine hygiene products.

In Arauca and Norte de Santander, some 9,400 recently arrived Venezuelan refugees and migrants were provided information and orientation on where and how to access humanitarian assistance routes in Colombia. Some 4,600 people were able to access safe emergency accommodation not only in border departments with Venezuela and Ecuador, but also in Bogota and Valle de Cauca, highlighting the need for safe accommodation for people transiting through Colombia by foot and whom are in the first few days of their journey.

Just under 8,000 people accessed communication and connectivity services in the border departments of Norte de Santander and Nariño, in an attempt to connect with family and friends in Venezuela, as well as connect with people in Colombia or third countries. Access to internet is essential in

- 24** Key partners
- 27** Implementing partners
- 283.800** Beneficiaries
- 19** Departments
- 70** Municipalities



The Norwegian Refugee Council provides sleeping kits which include pillows, blankets, gloves, warm clothes and personal hygiene products such as soap.



Many refugee and migrant families who Ipiales, Nariño have spent weeks crossing Colombia in transit and have not had access to safe drinking water, putting their basic health at risk. In Ipiales, Nariño, Aldeas Infantiles and Acción Contra el Hambre work with the local government to provide safe drinking water to vulnerable Venezuelan families through the provision of 250 litre tanks in a number of Child Development Centres close to the border



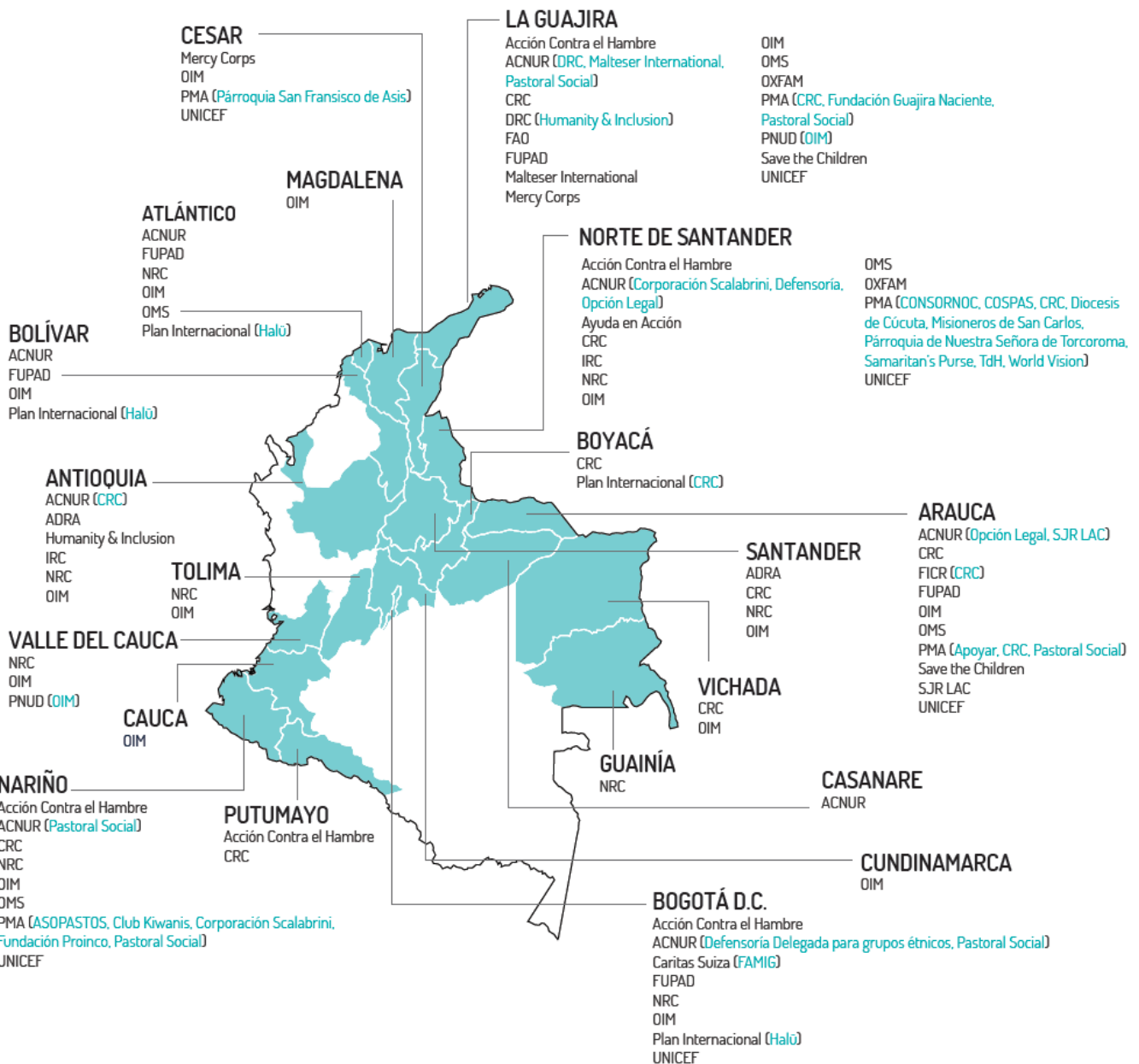
Venezuelan refugees, migrants and Colombian returnees access portable toilets and hygiene points at the border crossing in Villa de Rosario, Norte de Santander. Halu and UNICEF conduct information sessions on basic emergency hygiene practices for people who have recently arrived from Venezuela. © Halu

assisting people to plan their onward journeys, to have access to information regarding registration and their legal rights in Colombia, and other destination countries.

In 10 departments, more than 11,000 people received non-food items, including household items such as crockery and cutlery, bedding and mosquito nets. In addition, 5,900 people received multipurpose cash transfers, which allows them to prioritize their most urgent needs, including food, shelter and other household items.

### Intervention Area 1: Actors by department that reported activities in June

Socio principal (Socio implementador)



## Area of Intervention 2: Protection

Coordinated protection activities reached more than 91,700 people in 21 departments and 63 municipalities across Colombia during June. 12 key partners and 12 implementing partners worked to provide protection to some of the most vulnerable refugees, migrants, returnees and host communities in Colombia.

40,900 people received legal assistance in 18 departments, half of whom were in **Norte de Santander**, the department which receives the vast majority of refugees and migrants entering Colombia. Throughout the month 15,800 people in 12 departments were oriented on their rights in Colombia, the process of regularization, documentation and how to seek asylum, with the majority of beneficiaries in the Colombian-Venezuelan border departments of **Arauca and La Guajira**. In addition, more than 17,000 people attended information and orientation days, and received step by step guidance on how to access basic legal assistance. More than half of these information days were held in **Arauca**, which has an increasing number of refugees and migrants who are arriving in an irregular situation. In addition, more than 14,000 people were reached through activities that promote human rights, including sports and cultural events in **Atlántico, Bogota, Bolivar, La Guajira, Nariño and Norte de Santander**.

During the month, almost 27,500 children and adolescents benefited from child-friendly spaces, allowing them to continue their development cycle and participate in activities organized with host communities, to play, socialize, learn and express themselves while recovering from the trauma of having to leave their homes in Venezuela. The majority of these children and adolescents were assisted in the border departments of **Nariño** (Colombia/Ecuador) and **Norte de Santander** (Colombia/Venezuela).

9,800 people in **Arauca, Nariño, Norte de Santander, and Putumayo** were informed and educated about the risks that they face in these departments, including those related to the ongoing armed conflict, such as forced recruitment, land mines, micro trafficking. 4,800 people participated in activities that prevent forced recruitment, the vast majority of whom were in **Arauca** where the presence of armed groups presents a risk for arriving Venezuelans.

In June, 1,200 cases of SGBV accessed assistance provided by member organizations and their partners in **Antioquia, Atlántico, La Guajira and Nariño**. More than 160 leaders of community organisations were trained during the month on how to strengthen their leadership and promote effective participation of community members within the departments of **Arauca, Atlántico and Nariño**.

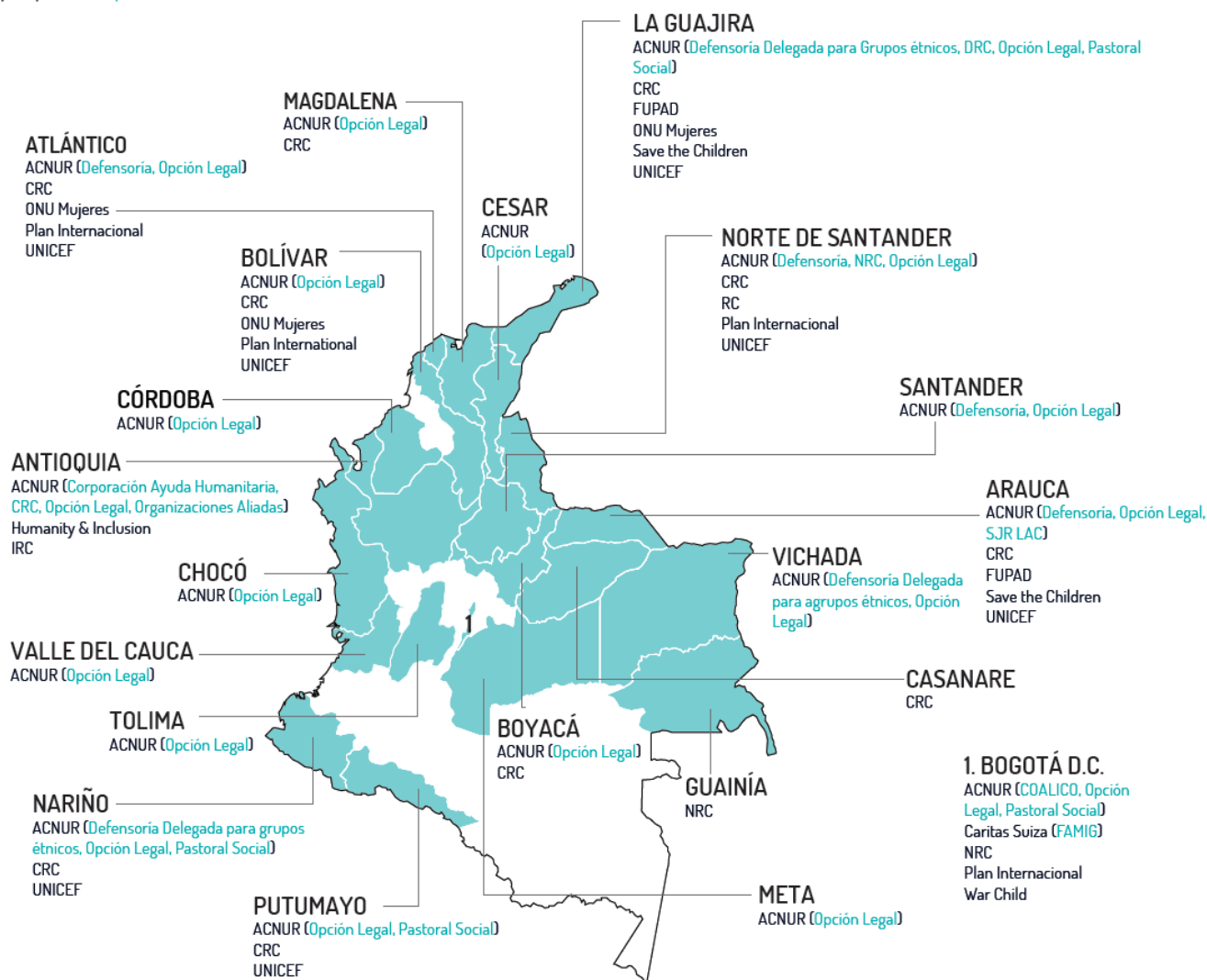
- 12** Key partners
- 12** Implementing partners
- 91,700** Beneficiaries
- 21** Departments
- 63** Municipalities



*This Support Space opened in Arauca in May and provides assistance up for up to 150 people per day. It is one of 36 such spaces in Colombia in which provide a range of essential services for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, and vulnerable Colombians including vaccinations, basic health checkups, access to clean drinking water, child friendly spaces, information and orientation and private areas for breastfeeding mothers.*  
© UNHCR

## Area of Intervention 2: Actors by department that reported activities in June

Socio principal (Socio implementador)



## Feature story: Temporary Learning Centres help Venezuelan children continue their education



*Angelis (13), who arrived from Venezuela to Maicao, La Guajira a few months ago, is one of almost 2,800 children who have benefitted from educational activities in Save the Children's four Temporary Learning Centres in La Guajira and Arauca.*

For Angelis (13) – who is currently living with her mother and four younger siblings in an informal settlement in Colombia's border town of Maicao – one of the hardest parts about the crisis in back home in Venezuela was that she was no longer able to keep going to school. "I really like to go to school," she says, "so this was really difficult for me." Since relocating to Maicao a few months ago, Angelis has been unable to formally enroll in school. However, she attends the Save the Children Temporary Learning Center (TLC) in the informal settlement where she's living – and she is a star pupil. Her tutor says she is curious, diligent, studious, and always ready to learn.

Save the Children has set up four static TLCs in La Guajira and Arauca to help out-of-school children like Angelis continue their studies, focusing on literacy, numeracy, and socioemotional learning. Children who are registered attend either morning or afternoon sessions, and are immersed in lessons developed by Save the Children's educational team. Since January 2019, Save the Children has reached nearly 2,800 children through static and mobile education activities and school kit distributions. The primary goal of the TLCs is to help refugee and migrant children close their learning gaps after many months, and sometimes years, of displacement and interrupted education. Save the Children also seeks to find solutions to help enroll children in formal schooling at the earliest possible moment to minimize long term disruption to their education.

"I love it," Angelis says of the TLC. "I learn a lot. They teach us a lot of educational things, like math and reading, and also about all of our rights that we have as children." Angelis hopes to continue studying so that she can become a lawyer. "I want to help people," she says. "I am going to be someone really important. I think I already am."

## Area of Intervention 3: Socio-economic and cultural integration

Throughout June, 8,700 people were reached through activities encouraging social, economic and cultural integration into host communities in Colombia, delivered by 4 key and 7 implementing partners in 9 departments and 19 municipalities.

Anti-xenophobia activities play an important role in encouraging integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in host communities, and key partners implemented 13 campaigns with the aim of sensitizing local populations to the needs of arriving Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Some 780 people were reached through community dialogue initiatives that promote tolerance and seek to prevent discrimination and xenophobia in [Atlántico and Norte de Santander](#).

Similarly, partners delivered 29 activities that promote peaceful co-existence and social tolerance of refugees and migrants, reaching more than 8000 people in [Antioquia, Arauca, Atlántico, Bogota, Choco, La Guajira, Nariño and Putumayo](#). 7 productivity units were established during the month, providing 170 people with the opportunity to begin microenterprise businesses in the [Atlántico](#) department. Furthermore, 160 people in [Bogota and Antioquia](#) participated in training sessions on how to seek formal employment or how to access training courses.

- 5** Key partners
- 7** implementing partners
- 8,700** Beneficiaries
- 9** Departments
- 19** Municipalities

## Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening the capacity of the host government

More than 70 civil servants were reached through 7 training sessions on international protection in [Antioquia, Atlántico, Bogota, Bolivar and La Guajira](#) while 80 civil servants participated in 3 information sharing sessions in [Atlántico, Bolivar and Nariño](#) to strengthen the protection response to trafficking, with a focus on the risks for children and adolescents.

In [Norte de Santander and Nariño](#), 70 representatives of ethnic associations participated in a dialogue with the local government with the objective of increasing their awareness of, and response capacity to, the situation of Venezuelans arriving in the communities. In Bogota, Bolivar, Chocó, La Guajira and Nariño, 40 civil servants were sensitized on best practices for how to manage information and lessons learned across a diversity of sectors, including health, justice, livelihoods, management of public space, regularization and documentation.

- 4** Key partners
- 3** Implementing partners
- 1,600** Beneficiaries
- 10** Departments
- 15** Municipalities

Partner organisations worked with 9 local government institutions in 8 departments to help them strengthen their public policy towards their income generation initiatives, with the purpose of reaching Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as members of the host community. In Chocó, Bogota and Arauca, 5 local government institutions have adopted changes in the way they provide access to rights for refugees and migrants, including the regularization of their migratory status in Colombia.

## COORDINATION\*

The national GIFMM has 53 participating members, with eight local chapters (+1 in process of formation\*). The GIFMM works in close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team using a back to back system with the aim of providing a coherent response to the needs of the population and generating population needs analysis.

On June 17 the local GIFMM in [Barranquilla, Atlántico](#) met to map the organisations who are delivering education activities and to define focal points, leading to the discussion of the creation of the Child Protection Working Group. In the monthly GIFMM meeting on 27 June, results of education mapping were presented to the 16 members, including an update on the progress of a child protection space in the barrio of Rebolo, as well as discussion of mobile units to provide immediate health care to Venezuelan women.



During their monthly meeting the local GIFMM in **Medellin, Antioquia** took stock of progress in the first quarter of the year, highlighting progress in coordination between member organisations, stronger links with public institutions in the areas of health, education and childhood and advances in coordinated training on access to basic rights and international protection. Key response challenges identified include a concerning lack of funding for projects that support Venezuelans with shelter and food and the lack of capacity for existing child protection projects to accept new beneficiaries. The local GIFMM was invited to present their work at the third migratory round table meeting in **Medellin**, and was congratulated by the Secretary of Social Inclusion of **Medellin**.

In **Norte de Santander** the local GIFMM presented a [Guidance Note on International Protection](#) for Venezuelans as well as the routes for providing assistance to acutely malnourished refugee and migrant children under 5.

The local GIFMM in **La Guajira** inaugurated a clinic specializing in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services for refugees, migrants and returnees and initiated a working group for socio-economic and cultural integration. Working groups in cash, health, protection and SGBV met to discuss progress and challenges in their relevant subgroups. The local GIFMM has observed an increase in arrivals through the **Paraguachón** border crossing and continues to monitor the situation. Three new members joined the local GIFMM, bringing the total number of members to 28.

## GIFMM MEMBERS \*

Action Against Hunger | ADRA | Americares | Aldeas Infantiles | Ayuda en Acción | BLUMONT | Bethany International | Caritas Germany | Caritas Switzerland | Colombian Red Cross | Diakonie | DRC | FAO | Global Communities | Halü | Humanity & Inclusion | ICRC | IFRC | ILO | iMMAP | IOM | IRC | JRS Colombia | JRS Latin America and the Caribbean | Lutheran World Federation | Malteser International | Mercy Corps | Médecins Sans Frontieres | Norwegian Red Cross | NRC | OACNUDH | OCHA | OCR | OXFAM | FUPAD | Pastoral Social | Plan International | Premiere Urgence | RET International | Save the Children | TdH Lausanne | UN Habitat | Un Techo Para Mi País | UN Women | UNDP | UNEP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | War Child | WFP | WHO/PAHO | World Vision

*\*including organizations in the 2019 RMRP and observer organisations*

## CONTRIBUTIONS

**Government:** Austria, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, the United States of America, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom.

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