

AMERICAS MONTHLY REPORT

UNHCR/ Innovative handcrafts training for indigenous women Warao in Manaus, Brazil

This document provides an overview of key developments affecting the displacement situation in the Americas and some UNHCR response activities in line with the 2019 strategic objectives for the region.


 **4.8 MILLION** REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS from Venezuela living abroad (as of 5 December 2019)

 **3.9 MILLION** in Latin America and the Caribbean states (as of 5 December 2019)

 **751,732 REGISTERED ASYLUM-SEEKERS** (as of 5 December 2019)

377,047 IN PERU | **119,244** IN BRAZIL | **105,421** IN U.S.A

58,597 IN SPAIN | **17,981** IN MEXICO

 **OVER 2,1 MILLION VENEZUELAN**S WITH REGULAR STATUS including resident permits (as of 5 December 2019)

VENEZUELA SITUATION

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1. On 13 November, the [2020 Regional Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela \(RMRP\)](#) was launched in Bogota, in an event hosted by the Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Carlos Holmes Trujillo, and UNHCR-IOM Joint Special Representative, Eduardo Stein. The RMRP 2020 funding requirements amount to USD 1.35 billion to reach close to 4 million people across 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Venezuelan refugees and migrants and host communities. The plan will be implemented by 137 organizations.

2. The **Quito V meeting** took place on 14-15 November in Bogotá (Colombia). Eleven countries signed a [Joint Declaration](#) which strengthens the connection between the Quito Process and the Regional Interagency Coordination

Platform. During the meeting, the terms of reference of the Friends of Quito Group were approved and participating countries requested UNHCR and IOM to continue supporting a Technical Secretariat of the Quito Process. Chile will organize the Quito VI round of meetings within six months.

3. On 26 November, the World Bank launched the report: [An opportunity for all: Venezuelan migrants and refugees and Peru's Future development](#)¹, produced with the active participation of diverse government institutions, UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF, among others. The report includes recommendations to enhance productive inclusion of refugees and migrants.

4. In Colombia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that the government would evaluate a proposal to legally declare all Venezuelans in Colombia refugees. As stated, that measure would not only benefit Venezuelans but also enhance international community contributions to the humanitarian response.

UNHCR RESPONSE IN LINE WITH 2019 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

During the first regional Support Spaces, held in Panama, a dedicated [toolkit](#) and a regional service mapping was presented to 40 participants members of different organisations and UN Agencies from six countries.

In November, UNHCR opened the second phase of the Integrated Assistance Centre in Maicao, Colombian border area with Venezuela, which increases the capacity of the centre to offer temporary shelter to 700 individuals. Since its opening last March, more than 2,300 individuals, half of them being children, have been sheltered in this centre.

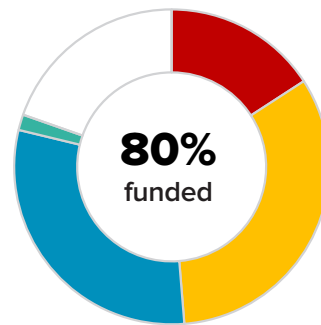
In Chile, UNHCR partner Caritas inaugurated a second shelter for Venezuelans in a situation of vulnerability in Santiago. Two existing shelters in the city can now host some 130 people. Also in the country, the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies together with UNHCR launched a new project aiming to support 20,000 persons of concern to UNHCR in Arica and Santiago. The project will provide psychosocial support, restoration of family links, guidance on access to rights, safe drinking water, and will also distribute some 1,400 family hygiene kits and 1,250 winter kits.

On 5 November, Operação Acolhida opened the screening, interiorization and documentation centre (PITRIG) in Amazonas State capital, Manaus (Brazil), which already serves some 400 Venezuelans daily. Prior to the opening of the centre, only individuals with appointments could access the process; thanks to these new facilities, spontaneous requests can also be attended. Venezuelan population, along with others of concern to UNHCR, can additionally access guidance on rights, basic documentation, special needs attention, registration and health services.

In coordination with the Government of Curaçao, UNHCR carried out a verification exercise with the population registered with UNHCR prior to July 2017. The exercise also included biometric enrolment and issuance of UNHCR certificates printed on secure paper.

In order to improve the quality of registration and to implement case management strategies, the Government of Ecuador and UNHCR deployed PRIMES during November, a Registration-

UNHCR's financial requirements 2019 for the Venezuela Situation (9 December 2019)



\$158.2 million required

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

Case Management System for asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern.

And, UNHCR in Brazil registered a total of 6,734 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, reaching a total registration of 112,076 people since April 2018. Due to support those in extreme vulnerability, a total amount of 125,000 USD has been delivered through direct cash to 1,772 households, being 97 per cent of the beneficiaries from Venezuela. Since the beginning of direct implementation in June 2019, some 3,202 people benefitted from this initiative.

Considering that 11 per cent of total asylum claimants in 2019 in Mexico (66,915 until end of November) are from Venezuela, UNHCR is supporting households in a vulnerability situation with multipurpose grants. As such, some 1,776 family groups have been supported by November to meet their basic needs such as: food, household and domestic products, and a contribution towards housing and utility bills. Besides, humanitarian assistance was also provided to 269 asylum-seekers from Venezuela.

To strengthen livelihood opportunities for refugees and migrants, UNHCR continues supporting coordinated actions with a wide range of actors. In Perú, along with its partners, 110 Venezuelan and Peruvian entrepreneurs were supported to attend the Expo Emprende fair. In Colombia, thanks to a

INSIDE VENEZUELA

In order to mitigate the impact on population of intermittent services availability, during November UNHCR continued providing with solar lamps (216), jerry cans (600) and water purification (20,950) tabs to various communities in Petare, Doromoto, and also targeting community based actors, as the Mundo sin Frontera Foundation, the Paez Municipal department and survivors of sexual and gender based violence under the Regional Safe Spaces Network in Guasdalito.

UNHCR is also supporting efforts to reduce the risk of school dropout. With this objective, backpacks and stationery items were delivered during November by UNHCR in San Cristóbal to children from the community of Laguna de García, in the Municipality of Uribante.



ACNUR Venezuela @ACNUR_VZLA · 12/11/19

Se entregaron lámparas solares, bidones y 1.700 pastillas potabilizadoras de agua a adultos mayores y mujeres en riesgo de la comunidad Antonio José de Sucre en [#Petare](#), mitigando riesgos de [#protección](#) identificados en la comunidad. [#RespuestaHumanitariaVZLA](#)

partnership with several government entities, including the Ministry of Labour, a training on recruitment processes of Venezuelan refugees and migrants was held with members of the National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI) - one of the country's most important private sector associations, whose members make up approximately 50% of Colombia's GDP. Fifteen companies from ANDI attended the training, representing sectors such as manufacturing, the service industry, distribution of industrial equipment, consulting, and call center work.

In order to promote social inclusion and tolerance, UNHCR organized performances by Clowns Without Borders in the Colombian cities of Barranquilla and Bogotá, which garnered the attendance of approximately 980 children, the majority of them Venezuelan. Meanwhile, in Lima, the children's book *Pabellón y Su Gran Nariz* -a UNHCR-IOM joint initiative in Peru -, was launched and expects to reach some 3 500 children in 40 schools. In Ecuador, UNHCR along with the Education Ministry, continue implementing the "We Breathe Inclusion" (Respiramos Inclusión) methodology in schools.

As part of the **16 days of activism against gender-based violence**, UNHCR is implementing a wide range of activities across the region.

NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA SITUATION

 **386,480** REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS from North of Central America worldwide

 **53,810** NEW ASYLUM APPLICATIONS of NCA nationals in 2019

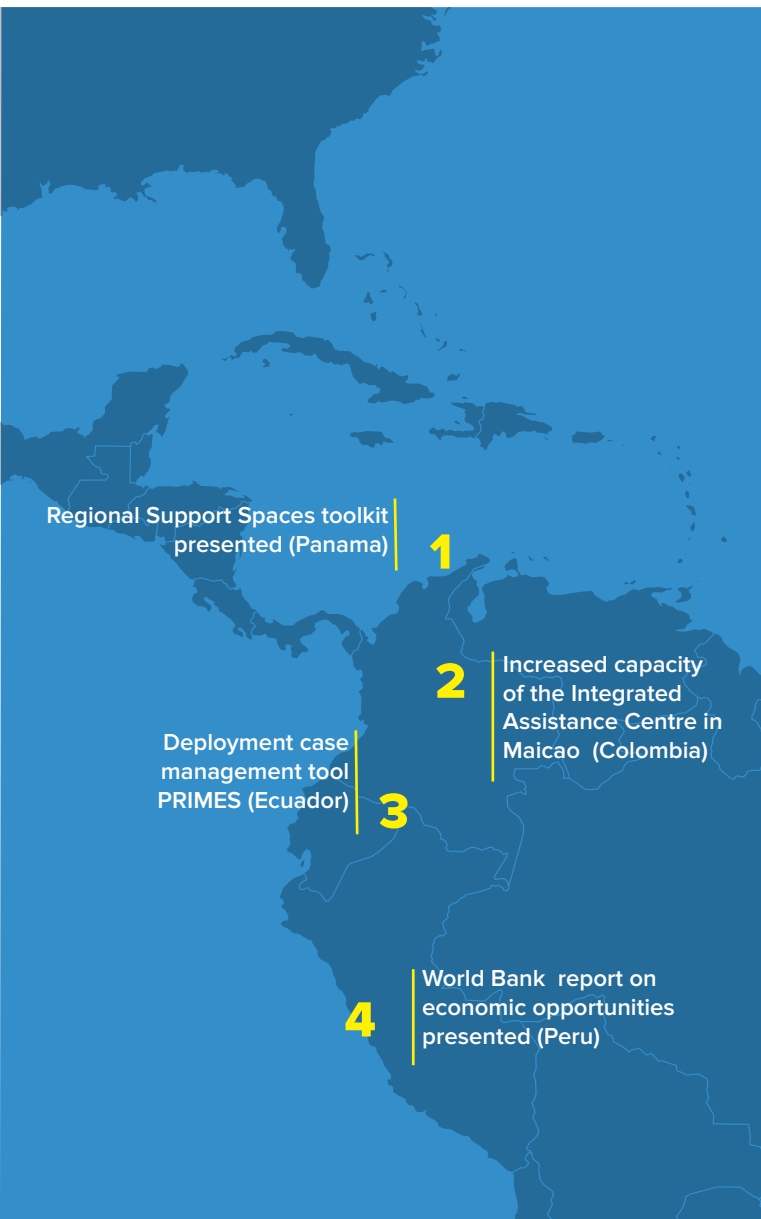
318,590 IDPS IN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

601,585 APREHENSIONS OF NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA NATIONALS in USA and Mexico between Jan-Aug 2019, a 149% increase compared to 2018

41,406 ASYLUM CLAIMS IN MEXICO from NCA Nationals received in 2019.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Member states of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) adopted the Mexico City Declaration during the second annual meeting held on 8 of November. As highlighted in the final [Joint Declaration](#), governments are committed to increase efforts to address root causes and the needs of forcibly displaced persons. Governments of the seven MIRPS countries (including El Salvador since July this year), representatives of countries from the Friends of MIRPS platform, UNHCR, OAS and other actors gathered to review the progress of the MIRPS process and define priorities for 2020. The [II Annual Report of the Regional Comprehensive Protection & Solutions Framework \(MIRPS\)](#), which now includes quantitative indicators of achievements, was released during the event. Ahead of the first-ever Global Refugee Forum, MIRPS countries continue to prepare for a high level event to take place on 16 December, where states will call for further support in line with the quantification of their needs.
2. Transfers to Guatemala under "Asylum Cooperation Agreements" begun. The new policy allows the US government to send non-Guatemalans -except unaccompanied or separated children- to Guatemala for processing of their asylum claim by Guatemalan authorities. Initial implementation is taking place in El Paso, Texas for Salvadoran and Honduran nationals only.
3. In El Salvador, a Trans woman and well-known community leader - member of the organization whose head won the regional Nansen award-, was murdered. UNHCR expressed its deep concern at the murder of the activist and called on national authorities to carry out the necessary investigations and prevent hate crimes from remaining in impunity.
4. As reported, the insecurity index in Honduras increased from 9 to 12 daily deaths. As indicated by the Violence Observatory of the National University, massacres have increased by 60 percent over last year. Students, public transport drivers, community leaders, youth and women are specially affected.



UNHCR RESPONSE IN LINE WITH 2019 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

People from the North of Central America continue to leave their countries, fleeing violence, persecution and insecurity, as well as deteriorating economic conditions. Up to the first semester of 2019 there were 387,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from the North of Central America registered worldwide, almost 20 times more than at the end of 2011.

Through extensive field presence and in collaboration with a wide range of civil society partners, UNHCR provides responses to protect the rights of internally displaced people, refugees, asylum seekers and others of concern to UNHCR in the region, strengthening the asylum systems, reception conditions and ramping up assistance capacity.

In this regard, border monitoring missions have been conducted during November across the region, including to Darien (Panamá), Ocotepeque (Honduras), La Técnica (Guatemala), among others, to assess the conditions of people fleeing across borders, any changes in profiles and provide necessary counselling to people with international protection needs

Considering the continued increase of asylum claims in Tapachula (Mexico), UNHCR has worked with the national Refugee Commission (by the acronym in Spanish, COMAR) to simplify the registration process and bolster the capacity across the country but with a focus on Tapachula. A new registration centre was opened on 28 September by the High Commissioner and the waiting period has already been eliminated, as new arrivals are registered and receive documentation the same day. So far in 2019, some 39,460 new individuals across Mexico have received multipurpose cash grants to meet their basic needs. The program contributes to provide a timely response to immediate and persistent humanitarian needs, reduce protection risks, facilitate solutions and improve efficiency and effectiveness while supporting local economies.

With the aim of setting durable solutions, local integration and livelihoods opportunities, UNHCR is implementing various initiatives targeting the population in need.

In Mexico, some 4,771 people have been relocated from the

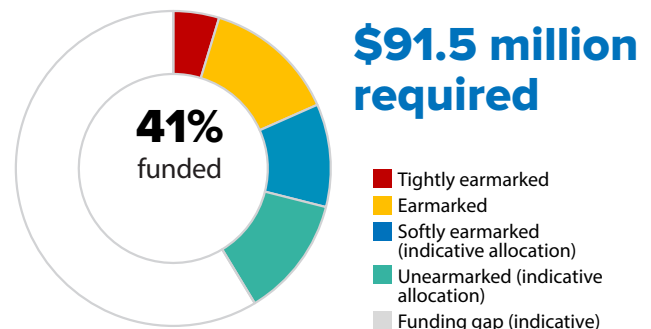
south of the country to central and northern cities. Besides, some 3,349 households (7,147 individuals) have been visited by one of UNHCR's seven teams deployed in five cities across the country since the launch of this initiative. With this mechanism, persons with specific needs can be identified and may be referred to specialized services, while it also offers the opportunity to monitor the progress of local integration.

In Costa Rica, 280 families in San José and 286 in Los Chiles received cash support during November. Due to gain a better understanding of the impact of this mechanism, a pilot of the post-delivery monitoring instrument was also carried out.


In El Salvador, a coordinated exercise was carried out with the municipality of San Miguel, which served to identify protection gaps and to outline a joint strategy targeting refugee population and others of concern to UNHCR.

In Honduras, UNHCR and the Fundación Hondureña de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial (FUNDAHRSE) signed a partnership to promote employment opportunities for displacement affected populations in San Pedro Sula. This joint effort will seize opportunities with FUNDAHRSE's member base of more than 100 companies and corporations that provides employment to more than 100,000 families in Honduras.

UNHCR's financial requirements 2019 for NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA Situation (9 December 2019)



NICARAGUA SITUATION

 **88,750 NICARAGUANS FORCED TO FLEE SINCE APRIL 2018** (includes registered asylum-seekers and those waiting to formalize their claim)

Since the onset of the socio-political crisis in Nicaragua in April 2018, thousands have fled the country seeking safety in neighbouring countries. While the majority have settled in Costa Rica, the impact of the crisis is also affecting the limited asylum capacity in Honduras.

In Costa Rica, UNHCR cooperates with the Government to streamline the refugee status determination procedure, prioritizing persons who could be identified as refugees by fitting predetermined profiles at risk of persecution in their home country.

Panama's Refugee Attention National Office (ONPAR by the acronym in Spanish) with the support of UNHCR has been running a Protection Monitoring. The exercise demonstrates that most of the Nicaraguan asylum seekers are young men between the ages of 19 and 30 years old, some of them with higher education studies.

Aiming to broaden monitoring capabilities in southern border towns in Honduras, UNCHR organized trainings on international protection and referral mechanisms. One of them, targeted a women network of human rights defenders from San Marcos de Colon, Ciudad Nueva, Santa Ana Yosguare, Marcovio and Choluteca.

In Mexico, a total of 1,456 Nicaraguans benefitted from Multi-Purpose Cash Grants (MPG) to meet their basic needs such as: food, household and domestic products, and a contribution towards housing and utility bills, across the country. Meanwhile, in Costa Rica, Nicaraguan asylum seekers in a vulnerable situation (1,232 households in the metropolitan area of San Jose and 684 in the northern region) received a multi-purpose cash grant to cover basic needs for a period of three months.


COLOMBIA SITUATION

 **8.8** MILLION VICTIMS OF CONFLICT

 **7.9** MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE since 1985

 **51,775** PEOPLE DISPLACED IN INDIVIDUAL DISPLACEMENTS IN 2019

 **20,463** DISPLACED PEOPLE AFFECTED BY 63 LARGE GROUP DISPLACEMENTS in 2019

 **66,742** COLOMBIAN REFUGEES IN ECUADOR by the end of October 2019

The Colombian Congress has advanced on a draft law to continue the 2011 Victims Law 1448 -which is set to expire in 2021-. By November, the proposal have been discussed

favourably in the first of four debates. Meanwhile, a law on the establishment of a public policy on migration has not seen substantive progress.

A worsening of public order was noted in several regions of the country during November, especially in the department of Cauca where the death of more than a dozen indigenous people was reported. There has also been an increase in confinements and threats against indigenous communities.

In the municipality of San José de Uré (Córdoba), almost 50 Embera indigenous people and rural families were displaced. In Alto Baudó, Chocó, an estimated of 1,812 people have been forcibly displaced due to armed clashes between ELN and Clan del Golfo, and another 1,586 people remain confined. UNHCR is providing technical assistance to community ombudspersons to receive displacement declarations.

In Rioacha, UNHCR supported the Foreign Affairs Ministry's program Colombia Nos Une ("Colombia Unites Us") in the informal settlement Brisas del Norte. UNHCR has supported productive and humanitarian community projects – in both cases with a livelihoods component- benefiting some 371 people.

FEATURED STORIES



10-year-old Moisés interviews his fellow Venezuelans about their journeys to Brazil

With a home made video camera, this Venezuelan boy is capturing the stories of those reaching the Boa Vista temporary shelter.



US\$1.35 billion needed to help Venezuelan refugees and migrants and host countries

The RMRP 2020 is the result of field-driven planning, bringing together 137 appealing organizations, included UNHCR.



UNHCR welcomes commitment by Central American states

The second annual meeting of the MIRPS brought together Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama to work together.



"Ya no quiero ser perseguido por pandilleros" [ES]

Gang violence in El Salvador is so extreme that fleeing to another country was the only alternative. These siblings are now in Mexico rebuilding their lives in safety.



Colombia's private sector opens its doors to Venezuelans

César has been deaf since birth and is a refugee in Colombia. Fast-food firm Sierra Nevada recognized in him a good employee.

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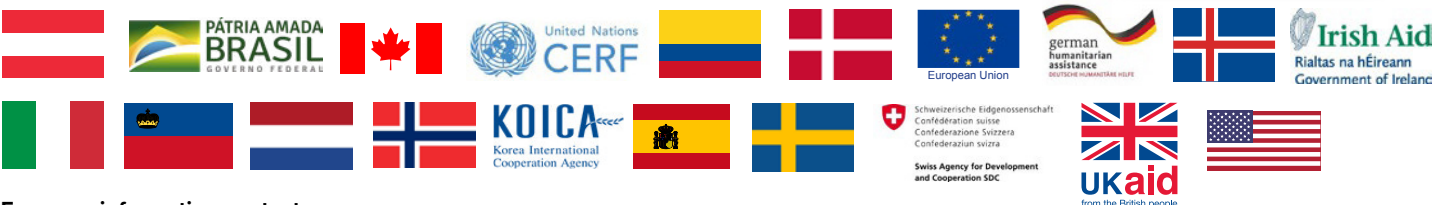
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