

Colombia

May 2021

On 5 May, online pre-registration for the Temporary Protection Status began. Colombia's migration authority reported **888,550 registrations** by 31 May.

On 19 May, **Colombia opened its borders** with Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil, and on 2 June, borders were opened with Venezuela.

UNHCR and Fundación Mi Sangre launched the **#UnidxsSoñamos** initiative – an integration campaign using the power of art and creativity of young Venezuelans and Colombians.

VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

1,763,012

Source: Government of Colombia (28 February 2021)

RESIDENCE PERMITS AND REGULAR STAY GRANTED

759,584

Source: Government of Colombia (31 January 2021)

TOTAL NEW INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS SINCE THE 2016 PEACE AGREEMENT

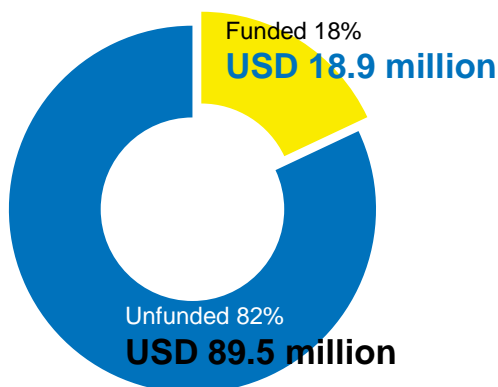
579,413

Source: Government of Colombia (30 April 2021)

FUNDING (AS OF 1 JUNE 2021)

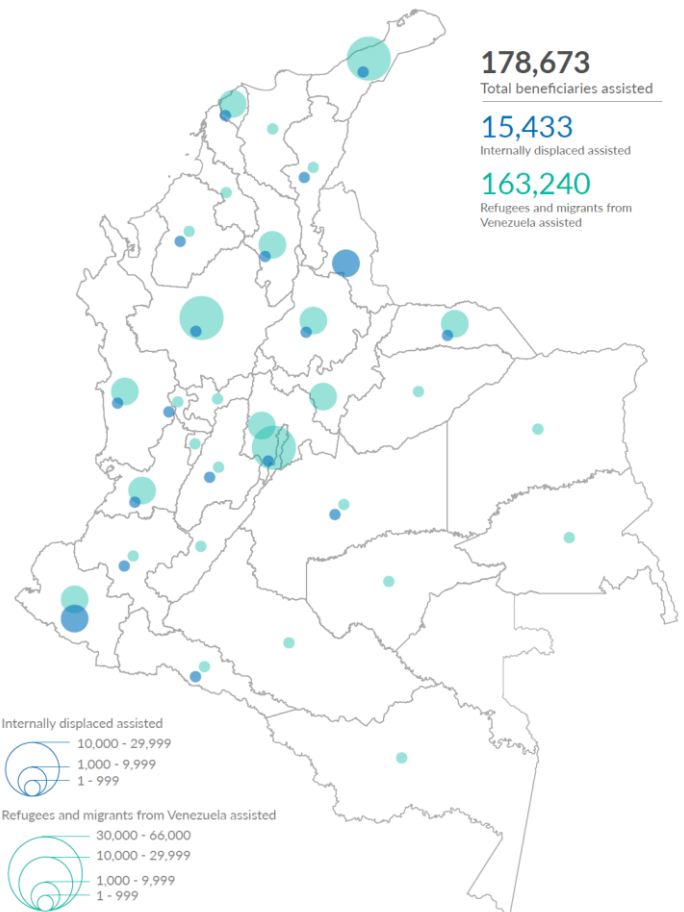
USD 108.4 million

requested for Colombia



UNHCR Response Colombia

January to April 2021



Operational Context

On 19 May, Colombia unilaterally re-opened its borders with Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil, and on 2 June with Venezuela. Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela, however, kept their sides of the border closed. According to Colombia's migration authorities, the opening of the border with Venezuela will be implemented gradually and follow schedules for entries and exits. Biosecurity measures have been furthermore strengthened and additional migration officials have been deployed in border areas. With these partial border openings, UNHCR has received reports that people continue to cross through informal entry points.

Amid increased violence and demonstrations related to the nationwide strike that began on 28 April, the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights is set to carry out a fact-finding mission between 7 and 11 June. Negotiations between President Duque and representatives of the National Strike Committee continue to yield no results, and new demonstrations have been announced.

As of 31 May, Colombia's migration authorities report 888,550 registrations (with username and password created) in the Single Registry for Venezuelan Migrants (RUMV in Spanish), out of which 715,176 Venezuelans have completed their pre-registration and 680,428 have finalized the profiling questionnaire, a prerequisite for finalizing the pre-registration process. A total of 563,384 Venezuelans are already scheduled for in-person biometric registration (which is scheduled to begin in August).

POPULATION TRENDS

- According to UNHCR monitoring as of 31 May, 30,700 people (9,369 families) have been affected by 64 large-group displacement events since the start of 2021. This represents an increase of 128% compared to the same period in 2020.
- UNHCR monitoring as of 31 May has also reported more than 26,900 people (6,860 families) affected by confinements in five departments (Chocó, Nariño, Antioquia, Cauca, and Valle del Cauca).
- In Arauca, the local Ombudsperson's office reports an estimated 6,630 people having entered via informal crossing points, of whom 5,792 returned to Venezuela. In the last week of May, approximately 400 people in transit were identified: 200 at the transport terminal and 200 walking on the road, and 827 people have been assisted in the Support Spaces throughout the department.
- In La Guajira, the number of irregular entries currently varies between 200 and 300 per day, depending on the COVID-19 transportation measures being applied on the Venezuela side of the border. The majority of these movements are circular and include indigenous Wayuu.
- Roadblocks related to nationwide demonstrations continue to impede mobility and have severely affected livelihoods, mobility and health care throughout the country. Incidents affecting transit, including humanitarian transport of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, have been reported in Nariño, Norte de Santander, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Putumayo and in and around Bogotá.
- In Nariño and Putumayo, small groups of Venezuelans and Colombians have been reported both crossing into Colombia and leaving Colombia for Ecuador and Peru through irregular crossings.

Achievements

PROTECTION

- In Norte de Santander, UNHCR carried out information sessions on the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) and international protection for more than 200 Venezuelans. A number of challenges were identified, including lack of access to internet, lack of ICT tools as well as skills to use digital platforms. A further session oriented 282 people on how to conduct pre-registration; additional challenges included difficulties in accessing the platform, as well as people with poor reading and writing skills.

- In Santander, UNHCR, in coordination with Universidad Autónoma of Bucaramanga and Opción Legal, held a workshop on TPS and international protection benefiting 26 families, seven of which were referred for legal aid.
- In Barranquilla, UNHCR and UN Women together with University del Norte co-facilitated a virtual workshop for 19 community leaders on the asylum process and on international refugee law in Colombia.
- In Choco, UNHCR held meetings with the local Ombudspersons of Bahía Solano and Juradó, and with the Mayor of Juradó in order to identify protection gaps related to IDPs and mixed movements transiting Colombia towards the United States.
- In Medellín, UNHCR participated in a workshop organized by Casa Diversa and Caribe Afirmativo, as part of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia during which Venezuelans and Colombians shared their experiences. On 21 May, UNHCR held a capacity building workshop on gender-based violence and intersectionality in LGBTI with personnel from the Ombudsperson's Office of Bello, with the support of the Antioquia Women Secretary and Caribe Afirmativo.
- In La Guajira, UNHCR together with Migración Colombia provided training on TPS to 15 local Ombudspersons within a workshop organized by the National Federation of Local Ombudspersons (FENALPER). The training also included sessions on tackling xenophobia in the framework of the UNHCR-led [Somos Panas Colombia](#) antixenophobia campaign.

HEALTH

- Colombia continues to be the third most affected country by COVID-19 in the Americas region. The pandemic is challenging Colombia's health and social welfare systems, with Venezuelan refugees and migrants among the most vulnerable.
- Colombia reported 3,406,456 cases of COVID-19 and 88,774 deaths as of 31 May. This includes 35,465 cases of Venezuelans in Colombia (including 451 deaths as of 14 May).
- As of 30 May, 9,825,772 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (3,273,855 second doses) have been administered within the National Vaccination Plan, which represent 69% of over 14,240,044 doses in Colombia. The third stage of vaccination, targeting people aged 50 to 59, starts on 31 May.
- In Cucuta, 1,130 individuals (refugees, migrants, host community) participated in a health day in Montevideo II neighborhood, organized by the Villa del Rosario Health Secretary and the Hospital Jorge Cristo Sahium as part of a UNHCR health project.

SHELTER/ NFIs

- In Norte de Santander, UNHCR delivered two 20-meter containers to the Los Patios Transitory Health Assistance Centre (CASLP in Spanish) and finalized the internal and field adaptations, including connection to the electric grid. Additionally, two Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) were installed for psychosocial services and warehousing. In Pamplona, three additional RHUs were installed at the San Juan de Dios Hospital.
- In Arauquita, according to inter-agency monitoring, around 800 people are accommodated in four temporary shelters and three spontaneous settlements in rural areas.
- In Cali, UNHCR assisted 400 Venezuelans stranded in the main bus terminal with temporary accommodation and hotel accommodation for pregnant women and mothers, as well as people with critical medical conditions.
- In Pasto, UNHCR assisted 73 people affected by roadblocks with emergency shelter and organized a health screening session with Pastoral Social that included a distribution of hygiene kits. In Ipiales, UNHCR distributed 70 male hygiene kits to the Guayarillo Support Space, as well as two computers and one printer to the Peace and Human Rights Secretariat of the government of Nariño.

- In Mocoa, UNHCR donated two prophylactic kits to the José María Hernández de Mocoa Hospital for the management of two pregnant patients with a diagnosis of HIV, antiretroviral drugs and baby formula. Additionally, 29 Venezuelans affected by roadblocks were assisted on 20 May with shelter and food due to roadblocks.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- Over 70 Colombian and Venezuelan Youth participated in the [#UnidxsSoñamos](#) integration initiative and jointly created three pieces of art: a video, a rap song and a mural design that was replicated across several Colombian cities. This initiative of UNHCR and Mi Sangre Foundation is an effort to create space, through art, to hear the voices of young Colombians and Venezuelans.
- In Barranquilla, UNHCR participated in an [Instagram live event](#) hosted by the Venezuelan organization FUVADIS and facilitated a workshop on TPS implementation for 20 members of Venezuelan organizations.



A young girl participates in the painting of a mural with a message of unity in Bello Oriente neighborhood of Medellín. © UNHCR/ Catalina Betancur Sánchez

Working in partnership

- UNHCR, together with IOM, co-leads the Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group (GIFMM in Spanish), which includes 77 members, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and members of the Red Cross movement. The GIFMM coordinates the response to the needs of Venezuelan refugees, migrants, Colombian returnees and the host population in a complementary manner with the Government.

Special thanks to our major donors for 2021: [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [Italy](#) | [KOICA](#) | [Spain](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [United States of America](#) | [Central Emergency Response Fund](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/ AIDS](#) | [UN Trust Fund for Human Security](#) | [UN Environmental Programme](#) | [Major League Baseball Players Trust](#) | [L'Oréal Fund for Women](#) | [Spain for UNHCR](#) | [Sweden for UNHCR](#) | [UK for UNHCR](#) | [USA for UNHCR](#) | [Viva Air](#) | [Other Private Donors](#).

And donors of unearmarked funding: [Belgium](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Germany](#) | [France](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Norway](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [Private donors Spain](#) | [Private donors Republic of Korea](#) | [Private donors Japan](#)

For more information, please visit [Colombia Global Focus](#) and [Colombia Operational Portal](#), or **contact** Natalie Schmidhaeusler, External Relations Officer, schmidth@unhcr.org