

Colombia

June 2021

In June, Colombia's migration authority reported 1,063,903 registrations in the framework of the Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelans.

More than 19 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines (including over 7 million second doses) were administered within the four stages of the National Vaccination Plan.

In the framework of World Refugee Day on 21 June, the High Commissioner met President Duque in Colombia to discuss the progress of the TPS and the protection of refugees and migrants.

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

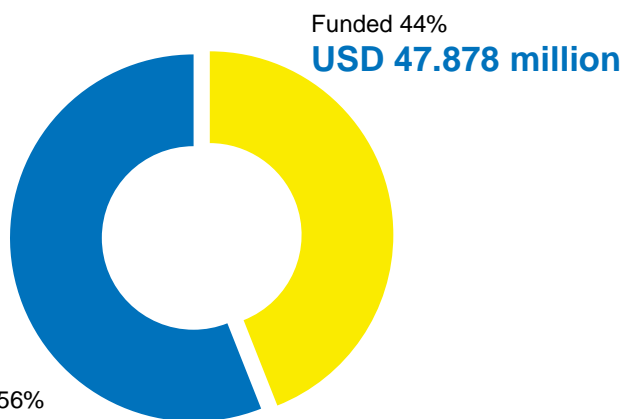
593,123

Source: Government of Colombia (30 May 2021)

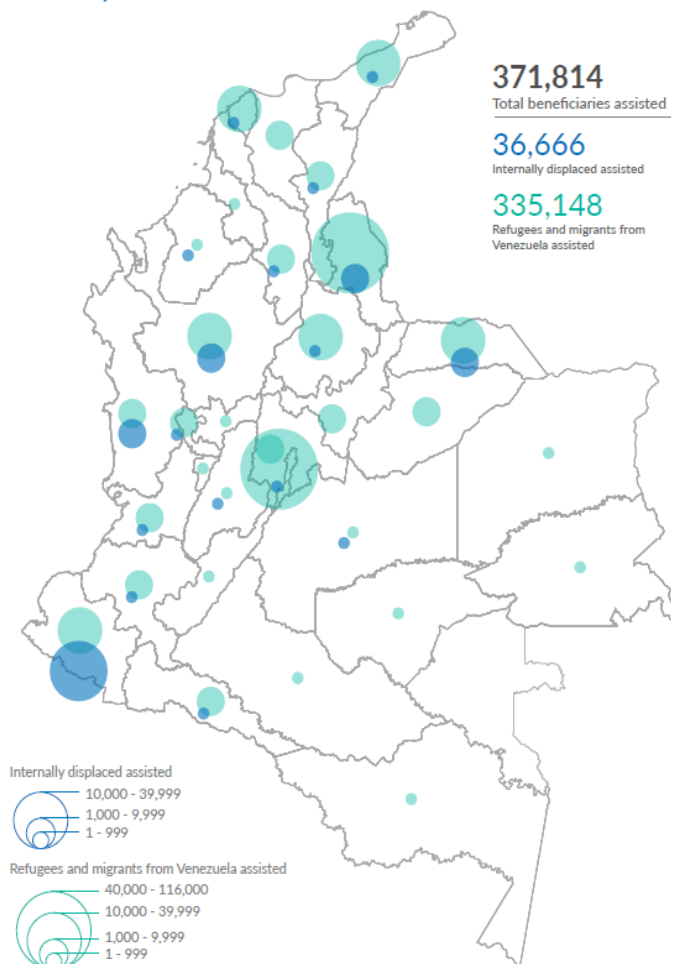
FUNDING (AS OF 2 JULY 2021)

USD 108.4 million

requested for Colombia



UNHCR Response Colombia January to June 2021



Operational Context

- Regarding the latest progress on registrations for the Temporary Protection Status (TPS), as of 27 June, Colombia's migration authority reported 1,063,903 registrations (with username and password created) in the Single Registry for Venezuelan Migrants (RUMV in Spanish), out of which 901,949 have finalized the profiling questionnaire and 983,360 have finalized the pre-registration process as of 11 July. Many Venezuelans create username/passwords multiple times, for instance because they face issues with the Migración Colombia website, so the number of registrations is not a reliable indication of the number of people that will register in the end. A total of 753,949 Venezuelans has been invited for in-person biometric registration to be launched in September.



Virtual World Refugee Day festivities took place in Barranquilla, Colombia. The event was attended by the UN High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi. © UNHCR/Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo

- Although the Colombia-Venezuela border remains closed on the Venezuelan side, on 7 June Colombia reopened land and fluvial border migratory controls. Colombia's migration authority is implementing a series of control measures, including cameras to check body temperature; health screenings; and checkpoints to control irregular entries.
- In the framework of the World Refugee and Displaced Day (WRD), UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi visited Colombia. During the visit, he met President Duque with whom he discussed the latest developments regarding the TPS for Venezuelans as well as the protection environment in the country. On 19 June in Barranquilla, the High Commissioner also took part in the event **¡Así suena la integración!** (This is how integration sounds) to celebrate WRD.

POPULATION TRENDS

- Border crossings have fluctuated, correlating with the 7X7 modality in Venezuela, under which 7 days of strict quarantine are alternated with 7 days of a reduction in quarantine measures.
- In La Guajira, the northern department that receives most new entries from the Venezuelan state of Zulia, daily arrivals fluctuated in June between 100 and a 1,000 people, including the pendular movements of the Wayuu indigenous population. The Paraguachón official crossing point opened as of 2 June for pedestrians and heavy vehicles. During the first two weeks 1,010 persons crossed regularly. It is not expected that this situation will strongly impact current trends, as most of those that wish to cross lack relevant documentation.
- In Norte de Santander, in the second half of the month, a humanitarian corridor on the Francisco de Paula Santander International Bridge allowed 1,326 persons to cross. According to health authorities, most requested urgent medical attention, treatment for critical and chronic diseases, vaccination, laboratory samples, and diagnostic imaging.
- According to monitoring by Samaritan's Purse at the La Donjuana shelter in the municipality of Chinácota in Norte de Santander, an average of around 125 people crossed daily during the month of June. The monitoring shows that returns to Venezuela are ongoing, albeit at a much lower rate than in 2020. Reported reasons for return include to visit family and friends and a lack of access to income opportunities in Colombia.
- In Arauca, it was estimated that 49,000 persons entered and around 38,000 left through informal crossing points. Concentrations of those in transit are common in the department, with for instance 95 people arriving in one day to the Arauca bus terminal on 25 June.
- In Necoclí, UNHCR is currently monitoring the situation of mixed movements willing to cross the Colombia-Panama border. According to municipal authorities, 8 ferries will daily transport people across the Gulf of Urabá, at least 4 days per week, despite the closure of borders and COVID-19 restrictions.

Achievements

PROTECTION

- UNHCR launched an Outreach Volunteer pilot programme to raise awareness and information sharing on the [Temporary Protection Status](#) (TPS) for Venezuelans.
- UNHCR has been supporting and coordinating informative and awareness raising activities to promote access to the TPS across the country. As a result, 70 refugees and migrants benefited from an informative session on pre-registration in Nariño; 66 followed a session conducted by Venezuelan NGO FUNSTRANSVIDA in Cali; 216 received orientation and information in Norte de Santander and Santander; and 25 local community leaders received a training session in Apartadó.



In cooperation with Colombia's migration authorities and UNHCR, the National Federation of Ombudspersons (Fenalper) provided training on the TPS to representatives of Norte de Santander © Fenalper

- In Barranquilla, activities were also organized with the Colombian-Venezuelan Foundation Women Without Borders and the local Ombudsperson's Office. UNHCR office also organized an informative session via Instagram, followed by 200 viewers.
- In Mocoa, 100 staff members of different administrative entities followed a training on TPS with a special focus on children.
- In Cúcuta, UNHCR participated in a training session on TPS organized by the National Federation of Ombudspersons together with 30 civil society leaders.
- Limited understanding of the pre-registration process by beneficiaries, poor connectivity or lack of documentation were among the main challenges identified during pre-registration activities across the country.
- In Norte de Santander, UNHCR held TPS and international protection orientations, in coordination with Action Against Hunger, in 3 local communities Balcones de la Esperanza, Los Canarios and La Gloria de Dios for 43 Venezuelans and Colombians.
- In Ipiales, 24 national civil servants, including from the local Ombudsperson's office, participated in a workshop conducted by UNHCR.

HEALTH

- As of 30 June, Colombia reported 4,240,482 cases of COVID-19 and 107,639 deaths. This includes 49,416 cases of Venezuelans (including 559 deaths as of 10 June). The country ranks eighth in the region in COVID-19-related cases. The pandemic continues to present a major challenge to Colombia's health and social welfare systems, with Venezuelan refugees and migrants among the most vulnerable. The National Vaccination Plan entered its fourth phase in June, targeting persons aged 40 to 49: 6,897,046 doses were administered out of a total of 18,281,743.
- As of 30 June, in Maicao, La Guajira, 3,565 Venezuelans have been tested for COVID-19 at the San José Hospital with UNHCR support.
- In Norte de Santander, UNHCR and IOM supported the registration of 152 persons of concern and host community members in the health system in a campaign organized by Cúcuta Health Secretary and Opción Legal. UNHCR donated 4,000 COVID-19 tests to Villa del Rosario and Cúcuta and participated in an awareness raising exercise on access to the health system and insurances for 300 persons of concern.
- In Apartadó, Antioquia, UNHCR supported the vaccination of 270 children against measles and rubella and COVID-19 vaccination of 178 persons between 50 and 65 years old.

CHILD PROTECTION AND SEXUAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

- In Arauca, 10 cases of unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents were identified. They received psychosocial care and access to health, education, and food.

- In Ipiales, UNHCR donated 100 hygiene kits to refugee and migrant children in SOS Children's Villages shelters.
- In Nuquí, UNHCR and partners provided psychosocial support to 200 indigenous children and conducted workshops for 86 young members of the indigenous guard.
- In Cúcuta, 20 indigenous Yupka children were enrolled in the Simón Bolívar school in UNHCR's National Education Project. In Riohacha, a safe house was opened to provide Venezuelan and Colombian SGBV survivors with shelter as well as with legal and psychosocial assistance.
- In Cali, 70 refugee and migrant women benefited from a workshop supported by UNHCR and held with Heartland Alliance for the prevention of gender-based violence and promotion of feminine hygiene.

SHELTER/ NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

- In June, 58 solar lamps were delivered to recently displaced indigenous women in Bajo Baudó, Chocó; 1,039 education kits were provided to children in 4 local schools in Arauca; and 2,461 hygiene kits were delivered to the informal settlement La Loma, Barranquilla.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- UNHCR Colombia is supporting activities linking integration with sports. For instance, in Quibdó, it teamed-up with the NGO Goal Click and a local sports organization to conduct a photo exhibition on social inclusion through football.
- In Pasto, 70 young Venezuelans and Colombians from 20 cities participated in the inauguration of the mural "For a Colombia where everybody can dream" as part of UNHCR anti-xenophobia campaign [Somos Panas Colombia](#).



In alliance with NGO Goal Click, a photo exhibition was held in Quibdó as an activity for social inclusion through football. ©UNHCR/Catalina Betancur Sánchez

For more information on UNHCR response, please refer to the [UNHCR Response Dashboard](#).

Working in partnership

- UNHCR, together with IOM, co-leads the Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group (GIFMM in Spanish), which includes 78 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. In June, the platform launched the [GIFMM Support Plan for the Implementation of the TPS](#), which prioritized activities to coordinate support by GIFMM members to the Statute, according to the implementation needs prioritized by national authorities, which will require 33.6 USDM within the Refugees and Migrants Response Plan (RMRP) 2021. Also, the GIFMM is preparing for the strategic planning process as part of the **2022 RMRP**. During a donor conference on the 16th of June, convened by the Government of Canada in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, donors pledged US\$1.5 billion, including US\$954 million in grants, in support of the 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that are home to 4.6 million Venezuelans who have left their country. Finally, the platform has worked closely with the RCO to help prioritize health staff from GIFMM's INGO partners to ensure their access to COVID-19 within the National Vaccination Plan.

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