



**120,000**  
people

supported with cash to help meet basic needs



**2,380**  
RHUs

delivered in 16 countries to strengthen the health response



**985,000** items of personal protective equipment

distributed to national health authorities and first responders



**170,000**  
individuals

received assistance after being registered by UNHCR and partners



**500,000** people remotely informed

about health measures, their rights and accessing support programs



**help.unhcr.org**

provided updated information from **24 countries** throughout the region on prevention and remote services

As a consequence of the coronavirus outbreak in the Americas, the **population of concern to UNHCR** faced loss of livelihoods, evictions and health risks, due to limited access to national systems and lack of adequate quarantine facilities. Many of them saw no option but to return to their countries in adverse conditions. Amidst the severe economic downturn caused by lengthy confinements, xenophobia and discrimination against refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs or stateless population is on the rise. In order to respond to all these challenges, UNHCR's **response has prioritized:**

### Strengthen and support health care and WASH services

Belize	<b>4,700 facemasks</b> made by asylum seekers
Costa Rica	<b>6,000 refugees and asylum seekers</b> insured by the National Social Security
Curacao	<b>750 medical consultations</b> provided
Ecuador	<b>231,000 personal protective equipment</b> delivered
Honduras	<b>48,000 medical masks</b> distributed to the communities affected by tropical storm Eta
Mexico	<b>126 refugee health</b> professionals identified to enter the public health system
Venezuela	<b>20,000 hygiene kits including</b> masks and gel distributed

### Strengthen protection and community engagement

Argentina	<b>7,400 refugees and migrants</b> received protection services
Brazil	<b>5,000</b> indigenous people from Venezuela assisted after UNHCR registration
Colombia	<b>123,000 individuals registered</b> (47,000 with special needs)
Peru	<b>1,200 activities</b> organized to prevent gender-based violence

### Ramp up cash assistance, reinforce shelters, provide core relief items and improve self-reliance

Chile	<b>2,300 refugees and migrants</b> received food
Dominican Republic	<b>1,200 food kits distributed</b> among vulnerable refugees, migrants and host communities
Ecuador	<b>16,000 pieces of clothing</b> donated
Guatemala	<b>96 Refugee Housing Units</b> , or RHUs, helped improve conditions at reception centers for deportees and returnees
Costa Rica	<b>3,500 household</b> provided with cash assistance
Mexico	<b>1,000 refugees and migrants can be hosted monthly</b> in supported shelters
Peru	<b>180,000 food rations</b> provided in over 20 shelters, hotels and temporary centres since the start of the pandemic

### Education

Bolivia	<b>315 children</b> benefited from a Mobile Friendly Space
El Salvador	<b>30 schools</b> remodelled
Ecuador	<b>41 wi-fi hotspots installed</b> to foster access to remote services
Panama	<b>800 children</b> provided with tablets to study remotely
Trinidad & Tobago	<b>1,000 Venezuelan children</b> able to access remote schooling

## Situational highlights

As one of the hardest hit regions by the COVID 19 pandemic, **Latin America** counts over 12 millions of reported cases of the virus and the highest death toll. The disastrous effects of tropical storms in **Central America**, that left thousands of people in shelters, have aggravated the health emergency. Governments have launched plans to reactivate the economy amid serious concerns about a **long-term increase in poverty** in the region. The situation of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced populations, stateless people and others of concern to UNHCR remains critical.

## Challenges faced by the population of concern

The pandemic exposes refugees and migrants to even greater hardships, as many have lost all sources of income and sometimes their homes amidst the lockdowns. This means they are at greater risk of **destitution, exploitation, gender-based violence and abuse**.

Most refugees, IDPs and other populations of concern to UNHCR are now **in need of urgent assistance to meet all their basic needs**, including shelter, food and healthcare. Amid growing fear and social unrest, many refugees and migrants are unable to comply with hygiene and physical distancing measures, **increasing the risk of stigmatization**. This situation is even more dire for women, children, indigenous population and LGBTI communities.

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**15.7 million people** displaced in the Americas by the end of 2019

**18%** of all people of concern to UNHCR worldwide

Global Focus  
COVID-19  
Situation page



UNHCR  
response to  
COVID-19.  
Progress report



**UNHCR urgently needs**  
**USD 611.8 million** to save lives and protect the most vulnerable in the Americas

