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**20,998,695**  
CONFIRMED CASES IN SOUTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

**547,362**  
DEATHS<sup>2</sup>

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Brazil leads with 12,658,109 cases, followed by Colombia, Argentina, and Peru, with 2,397,731; 2,332,765; and 1,540,077 cases respectively. Last week, the sharpest increases in cases were in Uruguay (25%), Paraguay (9.6%), and Chile (6%). In South America, the number of COVID-19 cases is at 20,998,695, compared to 17,966,508 thirty days ago, representing a 17% increase

of total cases. In terms of mortality, Brazil also leads with 317,646 COVID-related deaths, followed by Colombia, Argentina, and Peru, with 63,255; 55,736; and 51,801 deaths, respectively. In the region, the total number of COVID-related deaths is at 547,362, compared to 466,553 thirty days ago, an increase of 17%<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> WHO COVID-19 Situation Dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>  
<sup>2</sup> WHO COVID-19 Situation Dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>  
<sup>3</sup> WHO COVID-19 Situation Dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>

## SNAPSHOT OF IOM RESPONSE IN SOUTH AMERICA

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Ensure a well-coordinated, informed and timely response through mobility tracking systems and strengthening partnership and coordination structures established at the community, national and regional levels.

### COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

IOM Colombia coordinated and worked with leaders of community networks and community action boards to develop action plans to address the COVID-19 pandemic. These action plans included activities such as analyzing the risks posed by COVID-19, identifying the most vulnerable communities and populations in need of assistance (particularly those areas with a greater presence of Venezuelan migrants), identifying the needs of different groups, building community capacity in health services and assistance, dissemination of information on health care services and referral mechanisms in Funza (department of Cundinamarca), Maicao, Uribia (department of La Guajira), and in Cúcuta, Ocaña

Pamplona, Tibú, and Villa del Rosario (department of Norte de Santander).

In addition, the mission coordinated with local health secretaries in Cartagena (department of Bolívar) and Ipiales (department of Nariño) in their response to the emergency, by supporting them with actions such as: mapping and strengthening of health care service routes, construction or activation of care service routes, implementation of health prevention and care protocols, and establishment of screening and sampling mechanisms for respiratory symptoms. Other actions involved supporting epidemiological surveillance and monitoring of COVID-19 cases, remote mental health and psychosocial services, conducting a situational and risk analysis on the impacts of COVID-19, capacity-building of local government workers, working in primary and secondary healthcare and, finally, participating in different spaces with local health authorities.

IOM Uruguay opened a sub office in the city of Chuy (department of Rocha). This is a binational city on the border with Brazil hosting a significant migrant population deeply affected by the pandemic.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Contribute to global, regional, national and community preparedness and response efforts for COVID-19 to reduce associated morbidity and mortality.

 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

On International Women’s Day, IOM Argentina launched a campaign named “Migrantas, historias de mujeres en movimiento” (Female migrants, stories of women on the move), featuring a Venezuelan front-line physician in Argentina to highlight the contributions the migrant population has made throughout the pandemic.

The mission also launched a video summarizing the COVID-19 support and help provided to migrants in 2020, thanks to the support of different donors.



IOM Colombia launched an awareness raising campaign at the community level, involving house-to-house education, on cough management, proper use of masks, proper hand washing, disinfection and protection, and identification of symptoms and psychosocial support in Bucaramanga (department of Santander), in Santa Marta (department of Magdalena), and Cesar (department of Valledupar). These activities were addressed mainly to Venezuelans, host communities, and Colombian returnees.

The mission implemented information, education, and communication strategies in Bucaramanga (department of Santander), and in Cali (department of Valle del Cauca) through virtual and face-to face workshops and meetings. The topics covered included COVID-19 prevention and

self-care, routes for humanitarian assistance, mental health, psychosocial support, health insurance, and the right to health. This activity was addressed to Venezuelan migrants, host communities, and Colombian returnees.

 DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

IOM Brazil published a survey on the unsheltered refugee and migrant population in the cities of Boa Vista and Pacaraima (state of Roraima). The report describes the sociodemographic profile of this population and their living conditions, including health and COVID-19 information. The objective of the survey is to maintain frequent monitoring of the situation and support local authorities in decision-making and coordinating responses to the pandemic.

IOM Colombia carried out a telephone follow-up campaign of individuals with suspected cases or that had been in contact with positive COVID-19 patients in Ipiales (department of Nariño), Bucaramanga (department of Santander), Barranquilla y Soledad (department of Atlantico), and in Cali (department of Valle del Cauca) in order to raise awareness and provide guidance on COVID-19 protection and care practices. The telephone follow ups also served for learning more about the health and mental health conditions of the population and in identifying individuals with any respiratory symptoms.



## POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

IOM Colombia developed educational trainings on COVID-19 at points of entry in the municipality of Puerto Carreño (department of Vichada) and in Ipiales (department of Nariño). The training covered topics such as cough management and adequate hand washing protocols. Trainings were addressed to refugees, migrants, and returnees.

IOM Peru distributed 525 personal food kits to refugees and migrants in their transit through Tumbes. Additionally, 68 hygiene kits including personal protection equipment (PPE), water, and first aid kits (benefiting 179 refugees and migrants) were distributed in the same city.



The mission provided medical consultations to 1,200 Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Boa Vista, 700 people in Roraima, and 77 indigenous and riverside Brazilians in Manaus. In addition, IOM provided medical care to almost 1,100 Venezuelan refugees and migrants settled in Boa Vista (State of Roraima). In Manaus, IOM's team provided health care to indigenous and riverside communities, reaching around 500 people.

IOM Colombia focused their efforts in two main prevention areas: 1) identification of persons suspected of having COVID-19 and providing referrals to individuals for health services at local health secretariats and other health services, while also supporting other organizations with follow up health care services in Tibu (department of Norte de Santander); 2) dissemination of information and orientation to people going through the referral process.

IOM Ecuador assisted 1,747 migrants with health NFI (Non-Food Items) in Huaquillas, Lago Agrio, Quito, and Tulcán.

IOM Peru donated 763 food kits, 508 hygiene kits including PPEs, first aid kits, and 9,75 liters of water reaching 843 refugees and migrants in transit in Tumbes.

IOM Venezuela distributed 21 hygiene kits to families in Miranda (state of Zulia) and to another 140 families in Bolívar and Mi Pequeña Barinas community (state of Táchira). In total, 586 people (299 woman and 287 men) received these supplies.

IOM, in coordination with Cáritas, distributed hygiene kits in Páez (state of Apure) reaching a total of 87 people (48 women and 39 men).

## INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

In Manaus, IOM Brazil installed four hand washing stations in indigenous and riverside communities that also received medical assistance. The mission delivered 17,950 personal and family hygiene kits in indigenous and riverside communities in the state of Amazonas and in the state of Roraima.

IOM delivered 25,235 hygiene kits, including 12,059 kits in Roraima benefiting Brazilian indigenous populations and riverside communities, 3,191 kits in the state of Amazonas, and 10,000 kits in the state of Manaus.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Ensure access of affected people to basic services and commodities, especially to those in most vulnerable conditions, including health care and protection and social services.

 LOGISTICS, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

IOM Brazil donated three computers to the Health Secretariat of Roraima in order to reinforce psychosocial care services for COVID-19 patients.

IOM Colombia donated technological equipment and furniture, and enabled internet connectivity in the Risk Analysis Room of the Guainía Health Secretariat in Puerto Inírida (department of Vichada), to strengthen surveillance and response processes to COVID-19.

The mission supported the health authorities of Floridablanca and Bucaramanga (department of Santander) and Pamplona and Villa del Rosario (department of Norte de Santander) with the delivery of NFI's and medical equipment.

Further, health authorities of Floridablanca received biomedical equipment and hospital furniture consisting of: 2 pediatric examination couches, 2 stainless steel

2-step ladders, 2 stainless steel square aid tables, 4 stainless steel instrument trays, 2 sets of plastic tables with 4 plastic chairs without arms, 2 electric extensions, 2 plastic folding tables, 2 stainless steel cotton jars with lids, 120 disposable sheets for stretchers, 2 red 50-liter tanks, 2 green 50-liter tanks, 2 gray 50-liter tanks, 1 infrared thermometer, 1 standing fan, 1 rechargeable emergency lamp with LED lights, and 2 portable lavatories.

IOM Colombia- in order to support the country's health authorities to prevent COVID-19 infection- delivered 163,200 reusable face masks in 19 departments.

 CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

IOM Paraguay -in coordination with the Civil Organization "Seeds for Democracy" (Semillas para la Democracia in Spanish)- distributed food items and hygiene kits to Venezuelan families in Asunción, Luque, and Villa Elisa.

IOM Venezuela -in coordination with Dioceses of San Cristóbal- held four health fairs in the following communities in San Cristobal reaching 425 people (253 women and 172 men) with primary health services.

In coordination with Cáritas, the mission held a health fair in Barinas municipality (state of Barinas) where 33 women and 11 men received primary health care.



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Lastly, together with the Red Cross, IOM Venezuela held a health fair in the Santa Juana community, located in the municipality of Libertador (state of Mérida). In total, 136 people (108 women and 28 men) received primary health services.

## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM Colombia received 17 individuals with COVID-19 symptoms in the Temporary Attention Center for Migrants in Villa del Rosario (department of Norte de Santander) to be held in isolation.

IOM Venezuela assisted a total of 78 persons (42 women and 36 men) with shelter services in its Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC) located in Páez (state of Apure). The mission also assisted 229 beneficiaries (124 women and 105 men) with shelter services in its TAC in Pedro María Ureña (state of Táchira). In addition to receiving temporary accommodation, individuals also received food assistance, hygiene supplies, and life-saving information on human trafficking and smuggling.

## PROTECTION

IOM Argentina -jointly with APdeBa (Psychoanalysis Association of Buenos Aires)- held several containment and psychological accompaniment sessions addressed to 24 migrants affected during the pandemic.

**“La migración puede ser desafiante, recuerda que no estas solo/a”.**



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**GRUPOS DE ACOMPAÑAMIENTO / LUN o MIE 20 A 21.30hs.**  
Afrontar las dificultades cotidianas de la migración. Actividad Gratuita.

  ASOCIACIÓN PSICOANALÍTICA DE BUENOS AIRES COMPONENTE DE PA. FRENAL

▶ ¡Inscríbete! [apdeba.iom@gmail.com](mailto:apdeba.iom@gmail.com)

IOM Brazil’s health team held the workshop “Paths of mental health care, alcohol and other drugs in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic” in Manaus for 22 employees of the Casa de Saúde Indígena (Indigenous Health Unit). Health and social assistance professionals participated, including nurses, social workers, psychologists, and other technicians from the multidisciplinary team.

In the state of Amazonas -in partnership with the Ministry of Citizenship and the National School of Public Administration- the mission launched its third online training on Migration Assistance for local social workers in order to strengthen the social protection network in the state.

To promote mental health activities, IOM held workshops for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Pacaraima (border city with Brazil).

In addition, 25 Venezuelan women living at the Boa Vista bus station received baby kits from IOM Brazil.

IOM Ecuador provided psychosocial assistance through telephone line support to migrants housed in shelters, reaching a total of 382 Venezuelans in Tulcán, Huaquillas, Quito, and Guayaquil. The mission also provided food meals to 553 migrants in those cities.

IOM Paraguay and the Red Cross delivered food kits to Venezuelan families in the cities of Alonso, Asunción, Capiatá, Itá, Fernando de la Mora, and in Limpio Mariano Roque.



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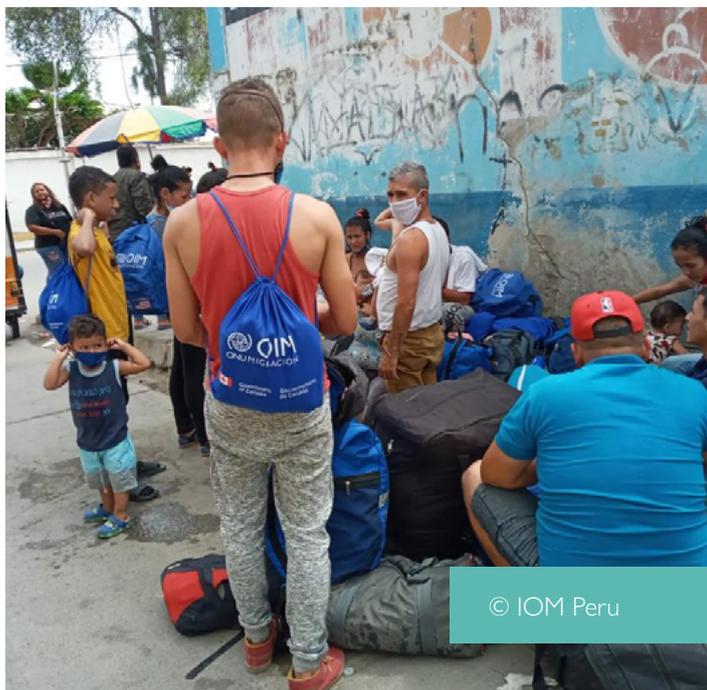
IOM Peru -jointly with the Regional Health Directorate of Tumbes- carried out a mapping exercise in order to detect symptoms associated with COVID-19 and reinforce prevention messages, reaching 2,253 people, including host community members and migrants.

IOM Venezuela assisted a total of 560 people on the move with water, served meals, and life-saving information on human trafficking and smuggling in San Antonio, Ureña, and Valdez (state of Táchira); Gran Sabana (state of Bolívar), and in El Amparo, Paez (state of Apure).

The mission -in coordination with Dioceses of San Cristóbal- held two informative sessions on human trafficking and migrant smuggling addressed to local NGO staff: one in the Don Ramón Velásquez School in Los Naranjos and the second one in the Lawyers School Headquarters in San Cristóbal (both in the state of Táchira), reaching 45 trainees (18 women and 27 men).

IOM Venezuela -in coordination with its partner Caritas- held several informative sessions on human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Alberto Arvelo Torrealba (State of Barinas) and in Páez (state of Apure). A total of 85 people was reached (53 women and 32 men).

In coordination with its partner Dioceses of San Cristobal, the mission held four informative sessions in Junín, San Cristóbal, San Lorenzo and in Fernández Feo municipality (state of Táchira). In total, 331 beneficiaries (237 women and 94 men) received life-saving information on human trafficking and smuggling.



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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Support international, national and local partners to respond to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.



ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

IOM Argentina delivered CBI (cash-based intervention) assistance to migrants from Colombia (5); Haiti (1); Morocco (1); Senegal (2) and Venezuela (84).

Within the framework of the guinea pig breeding initiative, supported by IOM Colombia and the UN Verification Mission in the country, IOM delivered inputs for the cultivation of fodder and pasture for guinea pig feeding in the city of Popayán (department of Cauca). A day of dialogues on solidarity, female empowerment and prevention of COVID-19 was also held.



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IOM Ecuador supported 411 persons in Quito, Huaquillas, Lago Agrio, and Tulcán through CBI. The mission also supported 586 migrants with rental assistance in those cities.

IOM Peru provided direct assistance through multipurpose CBI to 1,138 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, in Ancash, Callao, Ica, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Lima, Piura, Trujillo, and Tumbes.

In coordination with national hospitals and health centers, the mission assisted eight Venezuelan migrants with health needs in the city of Lima.

## OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL UPDATES

### Information Sharing and Communication

As part of the audiovisual series “Let’s talk about migration” (“Conversemos sobre Migración”), which includes Facebook live conversations between IOM specialists and experts on migration related topics, IOM Regional Office for South America (RO) aired an episode on natural hazards and human mobility.

The Regional Office announced the group of journalists selected for the third training in coordination and partnership with the Gabo Foundation, in March 2021. The training will be on the topic “Covering Migration and the link with Sustainable Development”.

### Resources Mobilization/Financial Updates

In September 2020, IOM published its revised Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), building on the April iteration, to strengthen its response to COVID-19 worldwide. The IOM Regional Office in Buenos Aires reviewed the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) for South America, increasing to USD 31,021,903 the financial needs to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable

migrants and their host communities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Currently, IOM has confirmed funding amounting to USD 27,943,460, i.e. 90% of the total appeal funding requirement. The funding received includes lines of funding from the US Government, Canada, the European Union, the World Bank, Spain (AECID), and the Governments of Brazil and Colombia.

For latest information on IOM tools and resources for COVID-19 pandemic response visit [www.iom.int/covid19](http://www.iom.int/covid19)



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