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SITUATION OVERVIEW

Brazil leads with 7,773,746 cases, followed by Colombia, Argentina, and Peru with 1,675,820, 1,640,718, and 1,019,718 cases. In the last week of December, the sharpest increases in cases were in Uruguay (24.5%), Colombia (5.1%), and Bolivia (5%). In South America, the number of cases is at 13,312,267, compared to 11,517,276 thirty days ago, an increase of 16%. In terms of mortality, Brazil also leads with 196,018 deaths, followed by Colombia, Argentina, and Peru, with 43,965, 43,482, and 37,830 deaths, respectively. In the whole region, the number of deaths is at 364,862, compared to 332,085 thirty days ago, representing a 10% increase of COVID-19 related deaths.

In the last days of December, vaccination campaigns against COVID-19 began in Argentina and Chile. New

variants of the virus causing COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) were detected in Chile. The consequent effect of the new COVID-19 variant has also led to further restrictions on global mobility and migration with several new passenger bans and flight suspensions imposed to curtail infection. For instance, Argentina canceled flights from the United Kingdom. Regulations and measures are evolving rapidly, as evidenced by the recent shifts in response to the new COVID-19 variant. IOM missions in South America are working with governments and partners to ensure that migrants, whether in regular or irregular situations, as well as returnees and forcibly displaced persons, are included in all aspects of COVID-19 preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

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

2- Ibidem

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 like 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 populations, building community capacity in health services and assistance, dissemination of information on health care services and referral mechanisms in the municipalities of Cúcuta, Pamplona Cúcuta, Pamplona, Villa del Rosario (department of Norte de Santander) and Medellín, Envigado, Caldas, Copacabana, Itagüí, Bello (department of Antioquia) and in Bucaramanga (department of Santander).



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(department of Nariño) and Puerto Carreño (department of Vichada) 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 services routes, implementation of health prevention and care protocols, 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 COVID-19, capacity-building of workers in the government entity, working in primary and secondary healthcare and, finally, participating in different spaces with local health authorities.

IOM Paraguay organized, jointly with the Ministry of Women, a training to strengthen the technical capacities of institutions that work in combatting of Trafficking in Persons (TiP), particularly those institutions in prevention and holistic assistance.

Jointly with SEDERREC (Secretariat of Returnees) and within the framework of the project "Strengthening the Return and Reintegration Processes in Paraguay," - the mission is developing and implementing a web and mobile software (Integral System with Web and Mobile Environment) as part of the Migration Information and Data Analysis System Project (MIDAS), which is a high-quality, affordable system that collects, processes and records information in order to support in the identification of travelers, data collection and information analysis.



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In addition, the mission coordinated with local health secretaries of Bogotá, Chía, Soacha (department of Cundinamarca), Cartagena (department of Bolívar), Ipiales

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)

IOM Argentina announced the results of the photography contest Transparency: "Cultural diversity in times of pandemic", organized together with the Under Secretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism of the City of Buenos Aires and the Argentine School of Photography.



IOM Brazil, in partnership with the Secretariat of Health of Rio Grande do Sul, developed an informative guide (in Portuguese, French and Spanish) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among migrant populations.

Further, the mission shared two audio messages and two graphic cards via Whatsapp to alert and inform Brazilian indigenous and riverside communities about hand hygiene and other sanitary prevention measures. Additionally, IOM distributed 1,300 handwashing leaflets in three Health Units located in rural areas in the State of Roraima.

IOM Colombia put in place a community awareness-raising strategy and house-to-house



education on cough management, proper use of face masks, correct hand washing, disinfection and protection, identification of symptoms, and mental health and psychosocial support, in Bucaramanga (department of Santander), in Bello, Caldas, Copacabana, Envigado, Medellín (department of Antioquia), in Valledupar (department of Cesar) and in Santa Marta (department of Magdalena).

Additionally, the mission implemented information, education and communication strategies in Cartagena (department of Bolívar), in Bucaramanga (department of Santander), in Cali (department of Valle del Cauca) and in Riohacha (department of La Guajira) by organizing workshops, talks, and virtual and face-to-face meetings, in prevention and self-care, assistance routes, mental health, psychosocial support, affiliation and health rights. These activities were addressed to Venezuelan population, host communities, and Colombian returnees.

IOM Colombia designed and delivered awareness brochures with updated information on the pandemic caused by COVID-19, in 15 municipalities in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Nariño, Cauca, Córdoba, Chocó and Santander.

IOM Venezuela together with the Red Cross Venezuela, held a training session for officials from different NGOs on issues of human trafficking and smuggling at the Red Cross headquarters in Zulia State. In total, 23 beneficiaries (14 women and 9 men) were trained.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

IOM Colombia carried out a telephone follow-up of suspected cases or contacts of positive COVID-19 patients in Ipiales (department of Nariño), in the municipalities of Barranquilla and Soledad (department of Atlántico), in Bucaramanga (department of Santander), and in Cali (department of Valle del Cauca) in order to raise awareness and provide guidance on COVID-19 protection and care practices, as well as to learn about health and mental health conditions of the population and to identify respiratory symptoms.

In addition, the mission detected respiratory symptoms in vulnerable rural and urban communities with migrant and host populations through respiratory screening in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Atlántico, Bolívar, Cesar, Cundinamarca, Chocó, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Santander, Valle del Cauca and Vichada.



POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

IOM Argentina organized a webinar within the framework of Component 1 of the EUROFRONT Program on "Border Management - considerations for the reopening of borders in South America in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic", in which 228 people participated.

IOM Colombia developed education trainings on COVID-19 at entry points in the municipality of Ipiales (department of Nariño), in Puerto Carreño (department of Vichada) and in Maicao, Riohacha (department of La Guajira) in cough management and adequate hand washing protocols.



INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

IOM Brazil delivered approximately 1,500 personal hygiene kits to Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Roraima and 200 cleaning items (brooms, detergent, and buckets) were also delivered in spontaneous occupations in Boa Vista. IOM distributed a total of 5,000 units -including personal hygiene kits and cleaning items- among Brazilian indigenous and riverside communities in the State of Roraima during

the reported period. In addition, IOM delivered mattresses and tarpaulins to 50 people in the same communities. In Manaus, IOM distributed more than 1,200 cleaning items to help with cleaning and maintenance of shelters for refugees and migrants in the city.

The Mobile Health Units held over 394 medical consultations to assist Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as host communities in spontaneous sites, including the central bus station in Boa Vista. In addition, 146 people received medical assistance in the riverside and indigenous communities in Amazonas during the reporting period.



IOM Colombia identified persons suspected to have COVID-19, guided and informed them and, if necessary, referred them to local health secretaries, available health service providers or complementary services provided by other agencies or cooperation organizations for sampling, care and follow-up in Arauca (department of Arauca); in Cúcuta, Pamplona, Villa del Rosario and Tibú (department of Norte de Santander); in Santa Marta (department of Magdalena) and; in Barranquilla and Soledad (department of Atlántico).

The mission conducted a series of virtual workshops with the leaders of the territories on menstrual education at which 14 female leaders from the departments of Guaviare, Meta and Cauca participated.

IOM Ecuador assisted 450 migrants with health NFI (Non-Food Items) in Tulcán, Lago Agrio, Huaquillas, and Quito.



In addition, the mission distributed 75 personal hygiene kits at the PASI - SENIAT (Punto de Atención Social Integral for its acronym in Spanish) located in El Amparo (Apure State), in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among returnees in preventive isolation.

Furthermore, the mission also distributed 70 kits with PPE to the Maracaibo University Hospital and the Dr. Armando Castillo Plaza Maternal Hospital located in Maracaibo (Zulia state). Another 80 PPE kits were distributed in sentinel hospitals and public institutions in the Pedro María Ureña municipality (Táchira state). 76 PPE kits were donated to sentinel hospitals located in Guasdualito (Apure state). These kits consist of antibacterial gel, nitrile or latex gloves for examinations, surgical masks, hand soap, powder soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, toilet paper, shampoo, and an ecological bag with a handle.

IOM Venezuela delivered 45 institutional hygiene kits to sentinel hospitals located in the Pedro María Ureña (Táchira state) and in Guasdualito (Apure state).



IOM Peru distributed 275 hygiene kits among 537 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, including Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). As an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, IOM in Tumbes distributed 330 hygiene kits, which also included PPE, to benefit a total of 744 refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

Moreover, the mission, -jointly with Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), trained 317 people in Tumbes and Piura on COVID-19 prevention. 91 of the training participants worked in local markets. As increasing numbers of refugees and migrants are arriving in Peru via the northern border, IOM in Tumbes has increased humanitarian assistance provision to those in need: 180 liters of water were distributed to 190 people in transit in Piura and Tumbes, an action implemented with COOPI.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the most vulnerable communities, IOM Venezuela distributed 40 hygiene kits to families in La Popita community of the Bolívar municipality (State of Táchira) and in La Victoria, Guasdualito and Amparo (Apure State), reaching 201 beneficiaries (113 women and 88 men). IOM, together with Cáritas, distributed 134 hygiene kits to families in vulnerable communities in Carúpano (Sucre state). In total, over 700 people received these kits, including girls, boys, adolescents, adults and the elderly.

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 [Colombia](#) delivered 2,038 hygiene kits to children and adolescents in the departments of Arauca and La Guajira to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This activity also included the delivery of 34 water tanks and hand washing stations, and information materials on health protection and good hygiene practices.

The mission provided support to health authorities in Riohacha, La Guajira, with the delivery of the first phase of the differential health post with an ethnic and gender focus at Nuestra Señora de los Remedios Hospital, while a Health Situation Analysis Room was equipped in the department of Atlántico.



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CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

IOM Argentina, -jointly with Buenos Aires Psychoanalytic Association (Apdeba)- conducted three additional training sessions aimed at migrant psychologists working through the pandemic. These

trainings addressed family management and trauma, its vicissitudes and impacts on counseling subjectivity working through the pandemic.

IOM [Paraguay](#) collected and distributed 100 food kits to migrant families in collaboration with migrant associations and NGOs in the country.

IOM [Peru](#), jointly with National Hospitals located in Lima (Daniel Alcides Carrión, Hipólito Unanue and Dos de Mayo), provided health treatment and assistance to 19 refugees and migrants, as an effort to guarantee access to health services for refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

In order to provide medical assistance to the most vulnerable communities, IOM [Venezuela](#) held three health fairs in the community of Táriba (state of Táchira). In total, 195 people received assistance. Together with Cáritas, the mission carried out a health fair in the Center of the San Fernando de Apure (state of Apure) where 42 individuals were assisted with general medical services. In addition, IOM Venezuela, jointly with Red Cross Venezuela, organized a health fair in Cerros de Marín (state of Zulia) reaching 60 beneficiaries and providing them with general medical services.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM [Colombia](#) provided temporary accommodation at the Temporary Care Center for Migrants (CATM for its acronym in Spanish) in the department of Norte de Santander. A total of 280 individuals (70 girls, 56 boys, 99 women and 55 men) were assisted. Similarly, 18 people (six girls, two boys, five women and five men) were placed in isolation due to suspicion of COVID-19 symptoms.

IOM [Venezuela](#) assisted people on the move in the state of Táchira with food at the Temporary Accommodation Center (TAC) located in Ureña. In total, 711 people (354 women and 357 men) received assistance, including boys, girls, adolescents, adults and the elderly. In addition, IOM assisted 89 people in TACs located in Apure state. 44 women and 45 men received temporary assistance services and participated in information sessions on human trafficking. Beneficiaries also received hygiene kits, shower services, and menstrual cups.

Together with Cáritas Carúpano, the mission assisted 25 individuals (17 women and 8 men) in the TAC located in Carúpano (state of Sucre) through the provision of shower services, food, and information sessions on human trafficking and smuggling. 12 beneficiaries received temporary shelter and another 11 received individual hygiene kits.

PROTECTION

As part of the international campaign, "16 days of Activism to end violence against women", IOM Brazil, UNFPA, and Roraima Federal University organized a film session in Boa Vista with 47 Venezuelan women, including Warao indigenous women, to raise awareness on domestic violence.

IOM Chile, -with the Ministry of Health, the Resident Coordinator's Office, PAHO/WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA- carried out a training "Rights of migrants" with a special focus on children and the pandemic.

The mission assisted migrants and refugees entering by Colchane (Tarapaca Region, border with Bolivia) with short-term individual shelter and three daily meals. This was accomplished through an arrangement with local hotels and other housing accommodations and local restaurants to provide short-term individual shelter and three daily meals. Since October, around 600 people have been assisted with collective or individual shelter and daily meals.

In coordination with local authorities, IOM Chile delivered humanitarian kits (including PPE and food) and



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conducted orientation sessions for refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the cities of Arica, Iquique, Calama and Antofagasta. So far, 6,000 humanitarian kits have been distributed through local partners.

IOM Colombia delivered food kits to different civil society and government organizations: 300 kits (worth \$32,745,700 COP) for the Indigenous Cabildo of the INGA community in Bogotá DC; 200 kits for the District Women's Committee in Bogotá and 640 kits for the District Mayor's Office in Bogotá, which were delivered to vulnerable populations in the neighborhoods of Kennedy, Bosa, Usme and Ciudad Bolívar.

IOM Ecuador provided psychosocial assistance to 426 Venezuelan migrants in shelters and via telephone in Quito and Guayaquil.

IOM Peru, through its field office in Tumbes, identified three protection cases related to GBV survivors and vulnerable people who were referred to regularization services and psychosocial support and orientation networks provided by public institutions and international cooperation. In addition, 30 refugees and migrants received orientation jointly with the prosecutor's office to identify possible cases of TiP and migrant smuggling.

As part of the strategy for strengthening regional networks against TiP in the current context, IOM Peru supported two major events, the "Regional Southern Forum: Good Practices and Experiences in Combating Trafficking in Persons in the Context of COVID-19" with 67 public



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officials attending and a “Workshop on Detection, Reference and Access to Assistance and Reintegration Services for Victims of TiP” in the Piura Region, with 54 public officials and NGO members attending. Participants improved their skills to identify and refer TiP cases.

The mission provided temporary shelter to seven Venezuelan refugees and migrants and five Venezuelan nationals were provided with humanitarian transportation assistance.

IOM Uruguay, -jointly with IOM Brazil and civil society partners, distributed food vouchers in the city of Chuy (department of Rocha) at the Uruguayan-Brazilian border.



IOM Venezuela, together with Caritas, assisted 13 people (five women and eight men) in the TAC located in Guasdualito (state of Apure), with food, temporary accommodation, hygiene, shower services and information sessions. In addition, another 37 people (21 women and 16 men) were assisted at the TAC in La Victoria (also state of Apure). In Ureña (state of Táchira), the mission, -jointly with Diocese of San Cristóbal, provided food rations to 215 families on the move, reaching a total of 519 people (278 women and 241 men) at the TAC. Together with Caritas, the mission assisted a total of 148 individuals (63 women and 85 men) at the TAC in Maracaibo (state of Zulia) through the provision of food and information sessions to raise the awareness on human trafficking and smuggling issues.

In coordination with the Diocese of San Cristóbal, IOM Venezuela assisted 67 beneficiaries (36 women and 31 men) with meals at the TAC located in the Pedro María Ureña (state of Táchira).

The mission, together with the Red Cross, carried out a psychosocial care session for 22 individuals (19 women and three men) in the El Modelo community (state of Zulia).

IOM Venezuela and the Dioceses of San Cristóbal held a training session to raise awareness on human trafficking and smuggling in the communities of El Chicaro, Barrio Amarrillo, both located in the Rubio Parish, and Mesa de Chaucha, located in the San Cristobal Parish (all in state of Táchira). In total, 112 beneficiaries (59 women and 53 men) were trained. The mission, in coordination with Cáritas Carúpano, provided information on trafficking in the state of Sucre where 123 beneficiaries (62 women and 61 men) received life-saving information.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

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

ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

During the month of December, IOM Argentina delivered 1,043 CBI (Cash Based Interventions) assistance to migrants in need, from different nationalities.

IOM Brazil, in partnership with the State Government of São Paulo, supported the printing of schoolbooks in several languages to assist the learning process of more than 12,500 children, young people and adult migrants enrolled in the São Paulo school system.

The mission, in partnership with Aliança Emprendedora, launched during a live transmission on YouTube the online platform "Estamos Juntos" and the course "Entrepreneurship in Brazil: how to manage your business during the crisis". More than 1,000 people registered for the event, which featured 390 simultaneous views. The online course, which was developed in Spanish and is totally free, seeks to support migrant entrepreneurs who



are facing challenges to manage their businesses under the context of economic crisis aggravated by the pandemics. The video covered topics such as financial management, business management, pricing, business formalization, online sales and entrepreneur's mental health.

In order to help Haitian migrants resume their professional activities during the pandemic, IOM Brazil, in partnership with ADRA, registered 32 individuals to participate in job interviews (of which four have already been hired) in Rio Grande do Sul.

To support refugees and migrants to purchase food and basic items and to cope with the economic impacts of the pandemic, the mission provided direct assistance through the distribution of food cards. The action was carried out in partnership with SODEXO and the Stop Hunger Brasil Institute and has already helped more than three thousand people.

IOM Colombia provided eleven clothing workshops of the "Narrar para Vivir" Corporation, to support the production of facemasks contributing to the generation of income for 33 women victims linked to the Corporation. The workshops were held in the region of Montes de María (departments of Sucre and Bolívar).



IOM Ecuador supported 730 persons in Guayaquil, Ibarra, Cuenca, Machala through CBI direct assistance.

During December, IOM Peru provided multipurpose CBI assistance to 1,655 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, most of them located in Lima, Callao, Arequipa and Lambayeque.

In coordination with ADRA, the mission distributed more than 5,000 food rations among refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Tumbes.

IOM Venezuela, in conjunction with Red Cross Venezuela, distributed supplies for the implementation of productive food security projects in the Ancón Bajo community (State of Zulia). In total, 29 kits with agricultural supplies were distributed to families in that community, reaching a total of 150 people (66 women and 84 men). These agricultural supplies consist on seeds and tilling tools, while technical assistance is provided through trainings sessions held by an agronomist engineer and are periodically monitored.

OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL UPDATES

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 the coronavirus disease 2019 (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 28,177,683, i.e. 91% of the total appeal funding requirement. The funding received include lines of funding from the US Government, Canada, the European Union, the World Bank, Spain (AECID), and the Government of Colombia.

For latest information on IOM tools and resources for COVID-19 pandemic response visit
www.iom.int/covid19



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