



7,903,912

CONFIRMED CASES
IN SOUTH AMERICA¹

248,532

DEATHS²

© IOM Brazil

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of the end of September, nearly 34 million confirmed cases have been reported as well deaths reaching beyond 1 million globally since the outbreak began. In South America, the number of cases is at 7,903,912, compared to 6,040,476 thirty days ago, an increase by 31%. Brazil leads with 4,732,309 cases, followed by Colombia, Peru, and Argentina, with 813,056, 805,302, and 711,325 cases respectively. Last week, the sharpest increases in cases were in Paraguay (15%) and Argentina (13%). In terms of mortality, Brazil also leads with 141,741 deaths, followed by Peru, Colombia, and Argentina, with 32,262, 25,488, and 15,749 deaths, respectively. In the whole region, the number of deaths is at 248,532, compared to 196,682 thirty days ago, an increase by 26%.

As new COVID-19 cases continue to be reported, measures and policies imposed by governments and authorities to limit its spread persist. There are some steps towards easing some of the restrictions in some countries: Focalized/selective lockdown, reduced

curfew hours, and lifting bans for certain economic sectors.

Governments are working towards safe reopening of borders with an aim to reduce the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on populations. Some governments have begun to lift bans on domestic and international flights. Several countries are slowly starting to reopen airports and international travel, however, human mobility in South America continues to be affected considering that most of land, sea and river borders remain closed or with heavy restrictions. This situation poses various complex challenges for different population groups, including international migrants. Coordinated efforts made by governments and different authorities to facilitate returns of their nationals stranded abroad are ongoing.

In response to the shifting COVID-19 context, some countries have eased COVID-19 mobility restrictions that also impact this region. For example, the European Union lifted the travel restrictions at the external

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

2- Ibidem

borders for “safe countries”, where Uruguay remains as the only South American country included. Governments, international organizations, and NGOs continue to provide assistance to different population groups, including migrants, affected by COVID-19 mitiga-

tion measures. Some measures put in place by national authorities such as direct or social assistances (i.e. cash transfers, free burial of the foreigners who died due to COVID 19) are helping migrants during the pandemic as well.

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 developed action plans with the leaders of community networks and community action boards for COVID-19 risk analysis. The activities targeted the most vulnerable communities hosting a large number of Venezuelan migrants and facilitated the identification of needs; the strengthening of community capacity to address health issues; socializing the routes of affiliation and health care in Bello, Caldas, Copacabana, Envigado, Itagüí, Medellín (department of Antioquia) and Bucaramanga (department of Santander). As well, in response to the emergency, IOM Colombia planned and coordinated actions with the local secretaries of health such as: construction or activation of care routes; implementation of prevention and care protocols; screening of respiratory symptoms and sampling; epidemiological surveillance and monitoring of cases; psychosocial support and prevention of violence; situational and risk analysis; strengthening the knowledge of human resources of the Public Medical Institutions and participation in different spaces with local health authorities.



© IOM Colombia



© IOM Colombia

IOM Peru signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ONCOFER Clinic in Tumbes, to provide health assistance to refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

IOM Uruguay participated in an Inter-Ministerial meeting with government authorities aiming to discuss the report on the Migration Governance Indicators and the challenges caused by the pandemic in Uruguay.



© IOM Uruguay

During the last Specialized Forum on Migration of MERCOSUR (September, 28-29), countries approved the elaboration of a compilation of norms and good practices to address COVID-19 challenges. This initiative will be supported by IOM and is aligned with the same initiative undertaken by the South American Conference on Migration (SACM).

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 in partnership with the civil society organization “Alianza x Venezuela” organized two workshops. The first one, called with "Building spaces of well-being in times of pandemic" counted with the participation of 54 Venezuelans. The workshop aimed to teach the interactive functioning of the Mind-Brain-Body systems and the influence of chronic stress on health. The second workshop "Social skills workshop: I'm Vampirina, a migrant girl!" was joined by 25 migrant children. Its objective was to facilitate emotional expressions in relation to common situations during the migration process. It was a workshop that utilized games and playing for children between 8 and 12 years old.

In addition, IOM Argentina jointly with the migrant organization “Psicoven” delivered five workshops: Management and support for teenagers (reflective workgroup, for teenagers from 14 to 17 years old): Building well-being spaces in times of pandemic (to teach the interactive functioning of the Mind-Brain-Body systems), listening to migrant women from a gender perspective, social skills workshop and inhabiting the migrant body (psychosocial workshop).

IOM Argentina issued a new edition of the magazine “International Migrations: Reflections from Argentina”. This edition includes articles from experts that analyze the migration panorama in the context of the COVID-19 emergency .



IOM Brazil and UNHCR held at Manaus bus station an information session on COVID-19 prevention targeting 80 refugees and migrants.

In a joint initiative to protect migrant and refugee workers in the context of the pandemic, IOM Brazil with the Brazilian Subsecretariat of Labour, Inspection of the Ministry of Economy, ILO and UNHCR launched the communication campaign "Protect the work" (“Proteja o Trabalho”), aimed at providing important information to workers, especially migrants and refugees, on the measures adopted in labour and employment relations . The campaign includes a series of webinars, the section “Proteja o trabalho” on website of the Ministry of Economy and information leaflets in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. IOM Brazil translated into English and Spanish the leaflet on prevention and impacts of COVID-19 at work.

IOM Colombia put in place in Santa Marta (department of Magdalena), Puerto Carreño (department of Vichada), Arauca (department of Arauca) and in Valledupar (department of Cesar, border with Venezuela) an awareness strategy at the community level and house-to-house education in cough management, proper use of masks, adequate hand washing, disinfection and protection, identification of symptoms and psychosocial support.

In addition, IOM Colombia implemented Information, Education and Communication strategies in Bucaramanga (department of Santander), in Cartagena (department of Bolívar) and in Arauca (department of Arauca, border with Venezuela) in Medellín, Envigado, Copacabana, Bello, Caldas, Itagüí (department of Antioquia) through workshops as well as virtual and in-person meetings, in prevention and self-care in times of COVID-19, care routes, mental health, affiliation and health rights, aimed mainly at the Venezuelan population, host communities and Colombian returnees.

IOM Venezuela reached vulnerable people through provision of life saving information in Apure state (56 women and 54 men), and in Táchira state (198 women and 77 men).



DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

IOM Brazil's Mobile Health Units continue to assist refugees, migrants and Brazilians in order to strengthen the primary care in Roraima and to reinforce the prevention of COVID-19. Medical visits were carried out in different shelters and spontaneous settlements and other strategic locations in Boa Vista and Pacaraima. In addition, IOM Brazil in partnership with the Red Cross, Operation Welcome, state and municipal governments, started providing medical care for refugees and migrants at the Manaus bus station.

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

IOM Colombia provided a medical mobile unit to the San José de Maicao Hospital (department of La Guajira, border with Venezuela) for the assistance of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees and host communities.



IOM Colombia detected respiratory symptoms in vulnerable rural and urban communities within migrant and host population, 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.

IOM Colombia identified persons suspected of contracting COVID-19, informed and, when necessary, referred to local health secretaries, the available health service provider network, or complementary services offered by other agencies for sample collection, care and follow-up in in Arauca (department of Arauca), Bucaramanga (department of Santander), Cartagena (department of Bolívar), and Valledupar (department of Cesar).

IOM Colombia delivered to the health authorities of the department of La Guajira (border with Venezuela) the Situational and Response Health Room (consisting of an equipped office), to strengthen the analysis of the daily situation of the pandemic in that department. In coordi-



© IOM Colombia

nation with the Venezuelan Red Cross, Caritas and Dióceses of San Cristobal, IOM Venezuela has provided 2,300 (1,449 female and 851 male) beneficiaries with primary health care assistance and 679 beneficiaries with psychological assistance, through the implementation of 82 community medical brigades that have been active in vulnerable communities in the States of Apure, Barinas, Merida, Táchira and Zulia.



POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

On September 12th, Eurofront's Migration Management IOM officers participated in a podcast with the International and Iberoamerican Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FFIAP). The podcast highlighted the importance of the work Eurofront is doing in the region and how it has been adapted to COVID-19, for example through the provision of thermometers to border agents in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru.

IOM Colombia developed education trainings on COVID-19 at entry points in the municipality of Ipiales (department of Nariño), Cúcuta, Villa del Rosario, Pamplona (department of Norte de Santander) and Riohacha, Maicao, San Juan del Cesar (department of La Guajira) on cough management and adequate hand washing protocols.

IOM Venezuela strengthened the surveillance of the inflow of returnees following the COVID-19 outbreak, in coordination with OCHA and other UN agencies, and is daily monitoring Venezuelan returnees from the Colombian and Brazilian borders in order to raise awareness on the multi-faceted crisis exacerbated by COVID-19.



© IOM Brazil

Arauca (department of Arauca, border with Venezuela), Cúcuta, Pamplona (department of Norte de Santander, border with Venezuela), Barranquilla and Soledad (department of Atlántico), Cali (department of Valle del Cauca) and Santa Marta (department of Magdalena).

IOM Colombia delivered more than 250 portable hand-washing sinks in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Bocayá, Bolívar, Cauca, Caquetá, Cesar (border with Venezuela), Casanare, Córdoba, Chocó, Cundinamarca, Guaviare, La Guajira, Magdalena, Meta, Nariño, Putumayo, Tolima, Santander, Valle del Cauca, and Vichada in order to support the efforts of the health institutional network and strengthen the community response plan to the COVID-19 emergency.

IOM Colombia donated in the departments of Casanare, Nariño (border with Ecuador) and Arauca (border with Venezuela) five tents to support hospitals and territorial entities. IOM Colombia donated 24 racks for thermo-freezer to the Public Health Laboratory in the department of Norte de Santander (border with Venezuela).

IOM Colombia delivered personal protection material consisting of 70,000 units of latex gloves, 1,050 masks, 5 digital infrared thermometers, 200 liters of alcohol gel, as well as a 10 x 5 m detachable tent, to the migratory authority Migración Colombia in the department of Nariño (border with Ecuador).

IOM Paraguay donated 3,000 KN95 masks to the Ministry of Health, which will be used in laboratories and hospitals in Asunción. IOM Paraguay also donated hygiene kits for 250 migrants, returnees and the host community in Encarnación, in coordination with the Paraguayan Red Cross and the Emergency Operations Center, represented by the City Hall. IOM Paraguay delivered in Asunción hygiene kits for 290 migrants, returnees and the host community in transitional shelters to COVID-19, in coordination with ADRA and

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

IOM Bolivia, in partnership with the Scalabrini Foundation, delivered hygiene kits and food items to 130 vulnerable Venezuelan families in the city of La Paz. As well, IOM Bolivia delivered hygiene items to 26 vulnerable migrants who were quarantining in a shelter in the city of Santa Cruz.



© IOM Bolivia

IOM Brazil distributed -in order to reinforce hygiene measures and mitigate the effects of the pandemic- slippers, mattresses and kits with soap and towels for refugees and migrants in different locations in Boa Vista (spontaneous settlements, shelters, “Casa de Saúde Indígena”- a health center for indigenous people managed by the Ministry of Health in Boa Vista-) and Santa Catarina.

IOM Colombia identified risks and designed an improvement plan incorporating guidelines for natural ventilation, social isolation, cleaning and disinfection in shelters in

the Emergency Operations Centre, represented by the MSPBS 18th Health Region.



IOM Venezuela equipped one Area of Integral Social Assistance - PASI (Puntos de Atención Social Integral for its acronym in Spanish) in Miranda State with a 5,000 L water tank for water storage. IOM Venezuela delivered -among other items- 50 hygiene kits to the PASI coordinators for the quarantine centers.

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 Argentina donated two trucks to the National Directorate of Migration in order to support the decentralization of administrative procedures facilitating and promoting access for migratory regularization.

IOM Colombia donated 10 Intensive Care Units to the San Francisco de Asís Hospital (municipality of Quibdó) to strengthen the health care response in the department of Chocó.

IOM Venezuela has contributed to several humanitarian aid shipments, as part of a joint effort by the United Nations, including more than 100 tons of health, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and education materials, to strengthen the health system, improve access to safe water for thousands of families and ensure continued assistance in other critical areas, including sexual and reproductive health.



CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

IOM continues providing essential services related to food, housing and others to address assistance gaps related to basic needs. These services are provided to migrants in highly vulnerable conditions.

IOM Argentina delivered food to three community kitchens, two in Buenos Aires city (Parish Church Nuestra Señora De Caacupé and San Pablo Church) and one in the city of San Miguel (Cáritas), reaching 700 families. In addition, 27,600 boxed meals were donated to Cáritas for the cities of Merlo and Moreno.

IOM Ecuador provided psychosocial assistance in Tulcán and Huaquillas through telephone calls and provided shelter assistance to 869 Venezuelan migrants.

IOM Peru provided -through its field office in Tumbes and jointly with ONCOFER Clinic- medical assistance for refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

IOM Uruguay distributed dairy products every week (1,108 products to 20 men, 17 women, 262 children) in coordination with civil society and private companies.

IOM Uruguay also assisted stranded migrants with accommodation, food packages, and regularization process, in coordination with Embassies and national authorities.



IOM Venezuela, in order to ensure the continuity of essential educational services and reduce drop outs following the pandemic, has assisted schools in border states with distribution of food supplies and school kits in Barinas, Táchira and Zulia. In coordination with the Venezuelan Red Cross, Caritas and Dioceses of San Cristobal,

IOM Venezuela distributed emergency NFI kits to vulnerable households, including baby kits, dignity kits, hygiene kits and habitat kits (mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, and hammocks) in Apure, Barinas, Merida, Táchira, Zulia States.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM Colombia supported 980 people with temporary accommodation in the Center for Transitional Care of Migrants (CATM for its acronym in Spanish) and in the Space for Preventive Isolation in the department of Norte de Santander. The temporary accommodation service at the CATM is for persons that have not shown symptoms and for others in isolation accommodations due to suspected COVID-19.

IOM Colombia coordinated meetings with local authorities and partners to ensure assistance, psychosocial support and information on prevention and control measures to the migrants in the temporary shelters and transit centers in Bogotá, in Ipiales (department of Nariño, border with Ecuador) in the department of La Guajira, Soacha (department of Cundinamarca) and in Norte de Santander.

IOM Venezuela through its partners Caritas, Red Cross and Dioceses of San Cristobal, is rehabilitating and equipping five temporary shelters to expand the capacity of sheltering for vulnerable returnees in Guasdalito (Apure), San Antonio (Táchira), Maracaibo (Zulia), Santa Elena (Bolívar) and Carupano (Sucre). In the shelter in Ureña, Táchira state food and hygiene kits were provided to returned Venezuelans.

in most vulnerable conditions. Some of the key examples are the following:

IOM Brazil held information sessions on human trafficking, labor exploitation, and prevention of COVID-19 In Manaus for more than 200 refugees and migrants.

IOM Chile assessed the situation of the "caminantes", delivered humanitarian assistance and provided orientation information to 86 persons in the northern regions of Tarapacá and Antofagasta. IOM has also engaged with local partners to coordinate assistance to refugee and migrant children, especially those that are unaccompanied.



© IOM Chile

IOM Colombia provided virtual training on prevention plans for gender, sexual, reproductive rights and adolescent pregnancy in several departments, including Bogotá. Through the Orientation and Referral Point (PRO for its acronym in Spanish) operations, an average of 320 orientation calls from Venezuelan migrants were responded and persons were assisted in the department of Norte de Santander and Bogotá.

IOM Colombia developed workshops on masculinities against GBV addressed to young men, in articulation with the gender roundtable the department of Cesar (border with Venezuela).

IOM Colombia also engaged in several outreach efforts related GBV such as "Abibe voces del pueblo" via Whatsapp and "Cambia de cuento" to promote equal rights as well as a campaign on "new masculinities" through social memory.

IOM Colombia contributed to the development of the COVID-19 mobilization strategy issued by the Roundtable on Migrant and Refugee Children. IOM Colombia will continue to support the development of guidelines to identify and assist adolescents and young migrants who enter Adolescent Criminal Liability System.

IOM Colombia participated in "Solidarity Dialogues with



PROTECTION

As a key protection actor in the region, IOM continues implementing activities that aim at preventing exploitation and abuse as well as strengthening capacity of local partners to coordinate or directly assist those migrants

Gender Approach" addressing issues of solidarity economics and feminist economics, alternatives for the autonomy and socioeconomic sustainability of ex-combatant women in the process of reincorporation to civil life.

IOM Paraguay organized a series of webinars on psychosocial wellbeing of migrants as well as Virtual Meeting of Care for the Venezuelan Population.



IOM Peru co-hosted with the Ministry of Interior and Terre Des Hommes Suisse the virtual event "MovilizarTE contra la trata". IOM shared lessons learned of the workshops held on the "Tool kit: On how to prevent human trafficking through art".

IOM Uruguay and the National Institute for Women (InMujeres) trained 100 public officials to commemorate the International Day against Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking. This activity was accompanied by virtual awareness sessions.

IOM Venezuela delivered two trainings on how to address and refer cases of human trafficking in Táchira state on September 4th and 16th.



IOM Venezuela provided relevant information on access to specialized protection services and critical protection (for

prevention of GBV, human trafficking and smuggling, sexual and labor exploitation and other forms of exploitation and abuse). The 1,728 beneficiaries received Information, Education and Communication material on those services.

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 141 CBI (Cash Based Interventions) to migrants from Venezuela (126), Haiti (8) and the rest from Colombia, Jamaica, Ghana, Paraguay and Peru. As well, 177 supermarket e-vouchers were distributed among migrants from Bolivia, Peru, Senegal and Venezuela.

In Manaus, IOM Brazil delivered food baskets benefiting 208 refugees and migrants in social vulnerability.

IOM Chile has provided rental subsidy to 7 families in 3 different regions of Chile (Antofagasta, Coquimbo and Santiago). This program in Chile includes a 3 months support with amounts between USD 300 and 1,000 per month.

IOM Colombia delivered and installed aquaponic systems for vulnerable populations in the departments of Cauca and La Guajira (border with Venezuela).

IOM Colombia supported 27 women as part of the accompaniment of collective productive projects for reincorporation with former combatants and the MILA program (Women, Innovation, Leadership and Autonomy for its acronym in Spanish) in Uribe (department of Meta) to strengthen and qualify their skills in the production of dairy products.

IOM Colombia keeps giving support for the production process (cutting, preparation and distribution) of masks in the department of Bolívar, which generates incomes

for 27 women. In the workshops, the recruitment phase has been completed and during the reported period 1,646 masks were produced.



IOM Colombia provided support to continue the production and commercialization of masks in eight municipalities in the Montes de Maria area (departments of Bolívar and Sucre). As of September 28, a total of 2,063 masks were produced and 955 were marketed directly, generating employment for 30 of the 45 women prioritized.

IOM Ecuador assisted through CBI 61 migrants in Huaquillas, Lago Agrio, Tulcán and Quito. In addition, around 340 Venezuelan migrants received rental subsidy in those cities.

IOM Peru/ADRA distributed food packages among 78 families which benefited 221 Venezuelan refugees and migrants located in Tumbes. Tumbes office also provided food packages to 135 families, benefiting 524 refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Furthermore, IOM distributed food kits and PPE to support 440 persons in rural areas in Tumbes.

IOM Peru, through its CBI team, provided direct assistance to Venezuelan refugees and migrants, in the regions of Lima, Tumbes, Tacna and other Peruvian regions such as Arequipa, Ayacucho, Callao, Ica, Moquegua, La Libertad, Ucayali and Puno.

"Heroes of the Lockdown" (Héroes de la Cuarentena) campaign ended September's last week, as a result 217 solidarity vouchers were donated and IOM Peru matched them with 200 additional bonus. As a result, 417 families were reached in Trujillo and received food vouchers for local shops. The campaign was disseminated through IOM Peru's social networks (Facebook and Twitter) and "Tu Causa es mi causa" - TCEMC (Facebook and Instagram).



IOM Venezuela 29 head of households have implemented food security projects in Barinas state, in the communities of Sabaneta, Socopó, Barranca, Santa Inés, Pedraza, Turunos, 30 in Táchira, in the municipality of Junín, and the communities of Caño de Agua, Baritalia, Las Cruces, Las Pisquereñas and Alberto Grimaldo, and 154 in Zulia, in Barrio El Modelo, Barrio Cecilia de Cuello, La Retirada, Ancón Bajo, Barrio 4 de Octubre, Costa Blanca, La Chamusca, Tepezuuu, Gordoncito and San Benito.



OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL UPDATES

Information Sharing and Communication

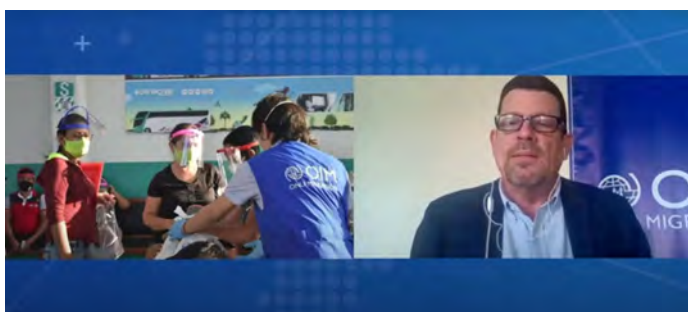
A new weekly newsletter was launched by the Regional Office with information on activities implemented by the country offices in South America, including those related to the COVID-19 response. The newsletter will be disseminated on Mondays.



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). 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 22,438,957, i.e. 72% of the total appeal funding requirement. The funding received include lines of funding from the US Government, Canada, the European Union, and the World Bank.

IOM continues the series of Facebook live interviews with the aim of first-hand learning on IOM COVID-19 planning and response in each South American country. The last live conversation was held with the IOM Peru Chief of Mission.



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

