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Humanitarian Action for Children

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Children and populations affected by the migration flows from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are hosting over 3.7 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees out of the 4.5 million Venezuelans migrating worldwide.¹ The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is the country of origin for the second largest number of people displaced across international borders.² Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago are hosting at least 2.8 million people – 77 percent of all migrants and refugees in the region.³ The projection for 2020 is that 6.15 million people will need assistance, including 1.98 million children, compared with 1.18 million children in 2019.⁴ The most disadvantaged indigenous populations are among those in need. The tighter immigration policies adopted by several countries in 2019⁵ established requirements that often cannot be met.⁶ This new development has increasingly led migrants to consider irregular routes and has hampered the monitoring of children on the move, ultimately depriving these children of access to regular status and basic social services and preventing the integration of the most vulnerable, including indigenous people. Children and adolescents are at risk of family separation, insecurity, trafficking, exploitation, child recruitment and gender-based violence.⁷ The scale and urgency of the needs have strained limited capacities to absorb additional demand, and prevented children from accessing child protection, education, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and social protection services. The migration flows include an increased number of families and young children hoping to reunite with their relatives.⁸ While humanitarian needs vary from country to country, it is clear that the crisis is evolving and more people are looking for opportunities in the main cities. This requires enhanced efforts to foster integration and build the long-term resilience of both migrants and host communities. Humanitarian and development partners must strengthen joint efforts with governments to respond to this crisis and prioritize integration.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF has prioritized actions in six countries, including bordering countries, that concentrate 86 per cent of the population in need across the region and where the humanitarian needs are highest, due to the conditions of migrants and refugees and national and local capacities.⁹ Given the changing flow patterns and multidimensional nature of the migration crisis, combined with the higher number of people who are settling in urban areas, UNICEF will respond to each country context by bridging life-saving relief with efforts to foster longer-term access to basic services. In 2020, UNICEF will continue working in hotspots at the border and in the transit paths but will also scale up its response to address pressing needs in urban settings and keep child protection at the centre of its humanitarian action. UNICEF will apply the following approach in the six affected countries: 1) conduct humanitarian action as per humanitarian principles, in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, to ensure that children have access to protection, education, health, nutrition and WASH services; 2) enhance advocacy on the rights of migrant and refugee children and their families, in collaboration with national stakeholders and key partners; and 3) foster resilient and equitable development, focusing on social inclusion and integration, especially in Colombia and Peru,¹⁰ and advocating for migrant access to social protection systems. Key enablers for achieving the proposed approach include: supporting public systems to absorb additional demand, improving migrant and refugee capacities to better integrate into host communities, and supporting host communities to benefit from the opportunities created by the migration dynamic. UNICEF's response will cover border areas, transit routes and destination cities through an increased footprint on the ground. Accountability to affected populations will be strengthened, as will the use of services that are age-, gender- and disability-appropriate. At the regional level, UNICEF will continue to provide technical assistance and quality assurance to the field, enhance advocacy efforts and contribute to the inter-agency Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan. This will include strategic leadership in the child protection, education, nutrition, WASH and communications sectors. Inter-agency initiatives will focus on supported space, communication for development, prevention and management of gender-based violence and information management.

Total people in need
6.15 million¹⁴
Total children (<18) in need
1.98 million¹⁵
Total people to be reached
1.29 million¹⁶
Total children to be reached
633,000¹⁷

2020 programme targets

Nutrition

- 91,100 caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling
- 18,600 children under 5 years screened for malnutrition, including anaemia

Health

- 17,900 children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles
- 215,100 children and women receiving primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities

WASH

- 178,000 people, including host community members, accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water as per agreed standards at the community level
- 63,800 people accessing key hygiene items

Child protection

- 38,700 children accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 150,900 children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- 136,700 children accessing interventions to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation

Education

- 68,200 children accessing formal or non-formal education
- 100,300 children under 5 years benefiting from early childhood development activities

Social inclusion

- 6,700 households receiving cash transfers

Communication for development

- 70,200 people reached with messages on life-saving skills and protective practices or information on uptake of services
- 52,000 affected populations in targeted areas actively participating in accountability mechanisms supported by UNICEF
- 513,000 people in host communities participating in community activities on the prevention of xenophobia, promotion of inter-cultural dialogue or inclusion in crisis-affected areas

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$22.7 million available against the US\$69.49 million appeal (33 per cent funded).¹¹ UNICEF has a long-standing presence in the seven countries¹² affected by the increased migration flow and has provided children and families – both migrant children and children from host communities – with protection support, life-saving relief and development assistance. With UNICEF support, more than 226,000 children received assistance through services and supplies in key areas such as education, health, nutrition, WASH, protection and social inclusion. More than 32,000 children were vaccinated, over 13,000 children aged 6 to 59 months received nutrition supplementation to prevent undernutrition and more than 66,000 children received psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces. In Colombia, UNICEF supported the Government initiative to prevent statelessness, and in Ecuador, UNICEF contributed to strengthening procedures on protection and support for migrant children through the establishment of a national protocol for unaccompanied and separated children. Across affected countries, UNICEF supported ministries of education to revise and adapt current regulations to guarantee the inclusion of migrant children in the education system. In Peru, UNICEF prioritized formal education and early childhood development, reaching nearly 42,400 boys and girls, including adolescents on the move. UNICEF supported local communities to build youth and adolescent capacities to play a positive role and prevent xenophobia through social media campaigns that reached more than 20 million people.¹³ As part of joint work with governments, UNICEF facilitated sessions on child protection in Brazil and worked with Panamanian national authorities to strengthen capacities to implement protocols for referring children in need of international protection. In Guyana, UNICEF supported local service providers to cope with the additional demand faced by education and child protection referral systems. In Trinidad and Tobago, UNICEF supported non-formal learning activities by providing language classes and establishing an online education platform. At the regional level, UNICEF established a multi-sectoral migration team to provide technical support, quality assurance and field visits to country offices. UNICEF contributed to the 2019 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan, and plays an active role in the coordination mechanism.

	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results
CHILD PROTECTION		
Girls and boys provided with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces, with inter-sectoral programming interventions		
Brazil	14,000	20,830
Ecuador	14,400	10,494
Panama	362	-
Peru	29,000	34,264
Children benefiting from programmes to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation (including gender-based violence) being mobilized and strengthened		
Brazil	12,000	336
Colombia	130,000	144,632
Trinidad and Tobago	1,000	656
EDUCATION		
Girls and boys on the move, including adolescents, accessing formal education and early childhood development services		
Ecuador	45,000	16,239
Peru	45,000	42,399
Trinidad and Tobago	450	853
Girls and boys on the move, including adolescents, accessing non-formal learning activities		
Brazil	5,600	7,857
Colombia	40,000	7,201
Ecuador	12,000	2,711
HEALTH AND NUTRITION		
Boys and girls with access to at least the minimum set of vaccines according to each country standard		
Brazil	6,000	2,844
Colombia	31,250	28,176
Guyana	800	1,096
Boys and girls under 5 years with access to primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities		
Brazil	6,000	2,737
Peru	9,600	10,390
Boys and girls aged 6 to 59 months receiving nutrition supplementation to prevent undernutrition		
Brazil	3,000	2,131
Ecuador	14,000	6,566
Peru	9,600	4,318
Targeted caregivers (men and women) of boys and girls aged 0 to 23 months with access to infant and young child feeding counselling for appropriate feeding		
Brazil	3,000	1,493
Colombia	33,000	87,922
Guyana	1,000	2,530
Peru	9,600	7,856
Trinidad and Tobago	200	155
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE		
People (men, women, boys and girls) with daily access to WASH services at service delivery points (health centres, shelters, migration points and transit points) as per agreed standards (according to context)		
Brazil	13,000	36,086
Ecuador	48,697	101,251
Guyana	2,000	1,148
Boys and girls in schools and learning spaces with access to WASH services as per agreed standards (according to context)		

Brazil	14,000	10,355
Colombia	13,000	6,049
Ecuador	119,800	10,494

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Affected people in target areas actively participating in accountability mechanisms supported by UNICEF

Brazil	5,000	456
Colombia	8,000	2,275
Ecuador	600	853
Panama	6,000	432
Peru	300	1,503

People reached in affected areas with messages on life-saving skills and protective practices and behaviours, as well as information on access to and the use of services

Brazil	54,000	14,950
Colombia	100,000	196,563
Ecuador	200,000	132,422
Guyana	6,000	-
Peru	167,000	52,411
Trinidad and Tobago	17,000	10,955

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Families with boys and girls on the move who receive social protection services as part of a programme supported by UNICEF (including cash-based interventions)

Brazil	1,000	-
Ecuador	10,000	2,873
Panama	500	164

* Results are as of 31 August 2019 unless otherwise noted

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$65.6 million to meet the needs of 633,000 refugee and migrant children in Latin America and the Caribbean and respond to the situation of children on the move from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and host communities in 2020. Adequate, flexible and multi-year funding from public and private donors will enable UNICEF to implement life-saving interventions, link humanitarian action and development support and strengthen systems to ensure that no child is left behind. At the regional level, UNICEF will actively monitor the multi-country migration flow and provide quality technical support. UNICEF is committed to working closely with host governments to integrate urgent interventions and ensure the inclusion of migrant and refugee children's best interests in national policies and programmes. UNICEF values support that can generate a positive impact on the lives of children and their families. Without adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to protect the most vulnerable children, adolescents and women, ensure their access to basic social services and facilitate their integration into host communities.

Country	2020 requirements (US\$)
Brazil	13,496,000
Colombia	22,099,000
Ecuador	15,238,000
Guyana	975,000
Peru	5,045,000
Trinidad and Tobago	906,000
Regional technical support, coordination and other countries	7,860,000
Total	65,619,000

Sector	Brazil	Colombia	Ecuador	Guyana	Peru	Trinidad and Tobago	Regional technical support	2020 total requirement (US\$)
Health	1,660,000	3,000,000	500,000	20,000	794,000			5,974,000
Nutrition	1,025,000	831,000	200,000	50,000		50,000		2,156,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,218,000	4,533,000	2,520,000	310,000				9,581,000
Education	2,450,000	4,603,000	4,000,000	270,000	858,000	400,000		12,581,000
Child protection	3,350,000	4,366,000	4,118,000	135,000	1,150,000	350,000		13,469,000
Social inclusion / cash transfers	830,000	636,000	2,220,000	70,000	526,000	30,000		4,312,000
Advocacy / communications	300,000	940,000	430,000	90,000	176,000	16,000		1,952,000
Communication for development	810,000	1,181,000	1,000,000	30,000	711,000	60,000		3,792,000
Cross-sectoral	853,000	2,009,000	250,000		830,000			3,942,000
Regional technical support, coordination and other countries ¹⁸							7,860,000	7,860,000
Total	13,496,000	22,099,000	15,238,000	975,000	5,045,000	906,000	7,860,000	65,619,000

- ¹ Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, 'Latin America and the Caribbean: Venezuelan refugees & migrants in the region', R4V, October 2019.
- ² The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is second after the Syrian Arab Republic. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 'Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis', September 2019. The source compares the cumulative total number of refugees or refugee-like people by year since the beginning of different crises, using data from the United Nations, without taking into account the duration of each crisis.
- ³ As of October 2019, the number of refugees and migrants is: Colombia: 1.4 million; Peru: 860,900; Ecuador: 330,400; Brazil: 212,400; Trinidad and Tobago: 21,000; Guyana: 17,000. 'Latin America and the Caribbean: Venezuelan refugees & migrants in the region'.
- ⁴ 'Latin America and the Caribbean: Venezuelan refugees & migrants in the region'.
- ⁵ In June 2019, Chile and Peru established a humanitarian entry visa requirement that must be previously obtained in the country of origin or transit. In Ecuador, the requirement took effect in August 2019.
- ⁶ Among the requirements for applying are passports, identification cards, criminal records, birth certificates and certified travel permits for children.
- ⁷ 'Latin America and the Caribbean: Venezuelan refugees & migrants in the region'.
- ⁸ Mixed Migration Centre, 'Waning welcome: The growing challenges facing mixed migration flows from Venezuela – A field assessment study in Colombia and Peru', MMC, September 2019.
- ⁹ The countries referenced in UNICEF's appeal and response strategy include: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago; and consider Refugee and Migrant Response Plan projections for: migrants in destination (3.2 million), pendular movements (0.5 million), returnees (350,000) and host communities (1.3 million).
- ¹⁰ The humanitarian requirement in Peru and Colombia for 2020 is lower because of the increased focus on integration and longer-term sustainable solutions. The UNICEF Country Programme Document in Colombia will be aligned with the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2020–2024, which is anticipated to integrate the migration response as one of its pillars. In Peru, UNICEF's response will focus mainly on development and integration. The activities at the border area will be narrowed to child protection, and a contingency plan has been developed in case rapid response is required in WASH, nutrition and education. The other explanation for the lower requirement despite rising needs is that more actors are responding to the crisis.
- ¹¹ Available funds include US\$14.4 million received against the 2019 appeal and US\$8.3 million carried forward from the previous year.
- ¹² The countries are: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Panama, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.
- ¹³ United Nations Children's Fund, 'Migration Flows in Latin America and the Caribbean', Situation Report No. 7, UNICEF, August 2019.
- ¹⁴ This is based on the 2020 Refugee and Migrant Response Plan projections, including: migrants in destination (3.8 million), pendular movements - people crossing borders to meet basic needs on a temporary and usually repeated basis (0.5 million), returnees – mainly Colombians who have left the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and returned to their country of origin (350,000) and host communities (1.5 million); in 17 countries in the region (Argentina, Aruba, Brazil, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay). Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, 'RMRP 2020 for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, January - December 2020', R4V, November 2019.
- ¹⁵ Ibid. The percentage of children was calculated based on the population distribution in host countries (for host communities) and in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (for in destination, pendular and returnees).
- ¹⁶ This is the sum of countrywide overall targets (details available with the countries) for Humanitarian Action for Children priority countries: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. The countrywide overall targets are calculated based on a number of key indicators with the highest targets, without double counting. Women and girls make up 49 per cent of the total population, according to United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) population projections. An estimate of persons with disabilities to be reached by UNICEF cannot be provided due to a lack of targeted programming and disaggregated information.
- ¹⁷ This was calculated based on key indicators and activities planned by each of the Humanitarian Action for Children priority countries, without double counting. Girls make up 49 per cent of the total child population, according to United Nations DESA population projections. An estimate of children with disabilities to be reached by UNICEF cannot be provided due to a lack of targeted programming and disaggregated information.
- ¹⁸ This includes technical and coordination support at the regional level, to all country offices responding to needs related to this crisis, including countries in the region where the situation may deteriorate as it evolves.

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