

Colombia


Colombia's Migration Authority issued **43.000 Temporary Protection Permits** to Venezuelan children.


UNHCR donated **15 mobile units (4x4 cars)** to the Migration Authority to improve access to rights for Venezuelans in remote areas.


UNHCR launched the campaign "**Ombudspersons against Xenophobia**", a "Somos Panas Colombia" initiative engaging local human rights defenders.

FIGURES

1,842,390 
Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in Colombia

87% 
% in process of regularization through the TPS

58,750 
Persons affected by new internal displacements in 2021

53,398 
Persons affected by confinement in 2021

Operational Context

The Colombian Migration Authority (Migración Colombia) – the main implementing body of the Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelans – proceeded during the months of October and November with the delivery of **Temporary Protection Permits (TPPs)** to over **12.000 children** with ages comprised between 0 and 7. These permits enable them to access basic rights, education and health services, child protection pathways and socio-integration policies. A total of over 43.000 TPPs have been issued as of 31 November and are available to be claimed at designated "Visible Points" offices.

On 28 October, UNHCR Representative took part in the annual meeting of the **National Federation of Local Ombudspersons** (FENALPER in Spanish) organized in Bucaramanga with the participation of over 500 human rights defenders. The Representative addressed some of the protection challenges faced by those forcibly displaced and reiterated the vital role municipal authorities play in securing their access to rights and their protection.

On 18 November, UNHCR donated **15 mobile units (4X4 cars)** to Migración Colombia in support of securing access to the TPS for Venezuelans in remote areas in a ceremony that took place in Bogotá with the participation of Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Raouf Mazou. Mr. Mazou applauded the remarkable mobilization efforts of the Government of Colombia, and in particular of Migración Colombia, and the promising results registered so far with the regularization of almost 50% of a total of 1.8 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

1,266,356
Appointments

1,6 million
Pre-registration in RUMV

761.406
Bio-metrics registered

43.000*
Plastic cards issued

**for Venezuelan children between 0-7 years old*



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Donation ceremony hosted by UNHCR in Bogotá to deliver the keys of the first mobile unit donated to Migración Colombia in November 2021.

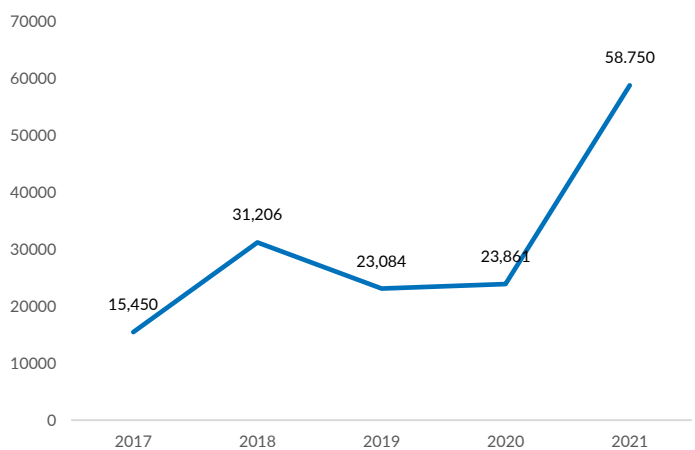
POPULATION TRENDS

The reopening of the Colombian-Venezuelan border - on the Venezuela side only on 25 October - resulted in around 15,000 daily entries through the three official checkpoints in **Norte de Santander**, 80 % representing pendular and trade related movements. In **La Guajira**, around 500 daily entries are reported by Migracion Colombia via the Paraguachon checkpoint in addition to the irregular daily entries increased to 800 and 1,000 (double than in September) which include the pendular movements of the Wayuu ethnic group from Guarero, Moína, Los Filuos and Paraguaipao. In **Arauca**, Migracion Colombia reports a total number of 3,348 official entries through the International Bridge Jose Antonio Paez between June and October.

According to UNHCR monitoring, as of 30 November, **58,750 people**, or 19,940 families, have been uprooted since the start of 2021 by **134 large-group displacement events**. This represents an increase of 170% compared to the same period in 2020. During the month of November 12 large group displacements occurred in the departments of Cauca (3) Valle del Cauca (3) Nariño (2), Norte de Santander (1), Putumayo (1) Cordoba (1) and Choco (1) impacting 4,629 persons, or 1,508 families. In Argelia (Cauca), confrontations between illegal armed groups and these with the army lead to three large-group displacements affecting 390 families (878 persons). In addition, more than 53,398 people, or **14,314 families**, have been **confined** in Chocó, Nariño, Antioquia, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Risaralda, Putumayo and Norte de Santander.

Annual evolution of large group displacements 2017 - 2021

Number of people (thousand)



UNHCR Response

Direct beneficiaries in 2021



MAIN ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES

UNHCR and partner **Opción Legal** launched in June 2021 a **Community Volunteers** project that equipped 60 volunteers with orientation and legal tools to support TPS activities in their respective communities and beyond. Together with PAO mobile units, GIFMM partners and local authorities, the community volunteers carried out more than 531 information and orientation sessions on international protection routes, access to refugee status recognition and TPS facilitating access to regularization for more than 1,396 Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Additionally, UNHCR and partners continue with the orientation, registration and identification of vulnerable profiles in **PRIMES** through PAOs and the national call center (LAN in Spanish) registering a total of **20,854 people** during the months of October and November, 79 percent of whom women. This brings the total number of people registered in 2021 to **72,967**.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Gender based violence (GBV) knows no nationality, no age and no gender. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic gender based violences spiked both in Colombian homes and among the Venezuelan refugees and migrant population, particularly the LGBTIQ+ community. Compared to 2020, between January and November 2021, UNHCR has registered 338% more cases of woman at risk and 301% of GBV cases. UNHCR expanded its network of **Safe Spaces** in 8 departments to offer legal and psychosocial assistance, temporary housing, food and protection pathways to GBV victims.



©UNHCR/ Karolina Rojas
 Women and LGTBI+ Community members in Arauca celebrating the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in November 2021.

WORKSHOPS



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 International protection workshop provided by UNHCR staff to Migración Colombia officers to enhance their response and tackle xenophobia.

In support of Migración Colombia's regularization process of Venezuelan refugees and migrants through the TPS, UNHCR carried out a total of 12 capacity building workshops on **international protection routes and antixenophobia** with the participation of 150 Migración Colombia civil servants and local authorities in major departments, part of the initiative **#Micasaestucasa**.

The TPS represents a unique socio-economic integration opportunity for the Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as a catalyst of economic growth for the Colombian state. UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) organized **7 trainings on international protection and on TPS opportunities** with the participation of **125 work inspectors** in 6 territorial directorates (Cali, Medellín, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Valledupar and Bogotá).

COVID-19 VACCINATION AND HEALTH AFFILIATIONS

The number of Venezuelans fully vaccinated against COVID-19 corresponded to only 2% (37,035 people) of a total of 48% Colombian population fully vaccinated with over 56 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines. New vaccination points for Venezuelan refugees and migrants opened in the municipalities of Facatativa, Madrid, Mosquera, Soacha, Cota and Zipaquirá (Cundinamarca) and in departments bordering Venezuela. UNHCR together with IOM and the Ministry of Health carried out **health affiliation campaigns** benefiting 22,287 Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as **capacity building workshops** with 7,137 government employees and 14,859 Venezuelans.



Rigorberta Menchú, Guatemalan Nobel Peace winner, and Colombian singer Andriana Lucía, participated in the “Ombudspersons Against Xenophobia” event and shared their messages on about solidarity and integration.

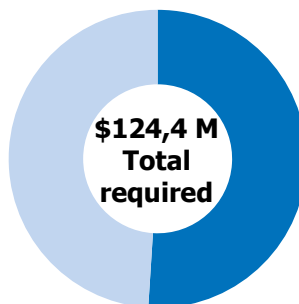
OMBUDSPERSONS AGAINST XENOPHOBIA

Somos Panas Colombia, UNHCR’s campaign against xenophobia, launched on 28 October – within the annual meeting of the National Federation of Local Ombudspersons (FENALPER in Spanish) – the campaign “**Ombudspersons against Xenophobia**”. The initiative aims to strengthen the role of the Ombudsperson’s offices in countering any form of discrimination against refugees and migrants and in promoting local integration opportunities. The event featured Colombian singer Adriana Lucía and the Guatemalan Nobel Peace winner, Rigoberta Menchu who spoke about the value of local integration and social cohesion.

[CLICK TO SEE VIDEO](#)

FUNDING

\$60,2 M Gap (49%)



\$64,2 M Received to date (51%)

Working in partnership

UNHCR, together with IOM, co-leads the Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group (GIFMM in Spanish), which includes 77 members, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and members of the Red Cross movement. Its main objective is to coordinate the response to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Colombian returnees, and the host population in a complementary manner with the Government.

Special thanks to our major donors for 2021: Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | KOICA | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom | United States of America | Central Emergency Response Fund | UN Programme on HIV/ AIDS | UN Trust Fund for Human Security | UN Environmental Programme | **And to our private donors:** L'Oréal Fund for Women | Major League Baseball Players Trust | Olympic Refugee Foundation | Private donors Australia | Private donors Germany | Private donors Italy | Private donors Japan | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors Spain | Private donors Sweden | Spain for UNHCR | Sweden for UNHCR | Swedish Postcode Lottery | UK for UNHCR | USA for UNHCR | Viva Air Foundation | Other Private Donors.

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