

Colombia

January-February 2022

Colombia's Migration Authority provided more than **500,000 Temporary Protection Permits (TPPs)** to Venezuelan refugees and migrants since January 2022.

UNHCR donated **biometric equipment** to the 15 mobile units (4x4 cars) previously handed over to Colombia's Migration Authority to promote access to the Temporary Protection Status (TPS).

UNHCR launched the **"Financial inclusion handbook for refugees and migrants"**, an inter-agency initiative in the framework of the *"Somos Panas Colombia"* anti-xenophobia campaign.

FIGURES

2,013,333



Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in Colombia in process of regularization

147,564



Persons affected by new internal displacements in 2021

24,686



Persons affected by confinements in 2021

709,211



Persons affected by internal displacements since the 2016 Peace Agreement

Source: Government of Colombia

Operational Context

Colombia's Migration Authority (*Migración Colombia*) – the main implementing body of the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Venezuelans (TPS) – delivered during the months of January and February 2022 **Temporary Protection Permits (TPPs)** to over **500,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants**. These permits give Venezuelans a 10-year protection status and enable them to access basic rights, education, health services, labour market, as well as socio-economic policies that pave the way for a sustainable integration.

Moreover, more than **1,300,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants** conducted their bio-metric registration to access the TPS and over **2 million people** already registered to access the TPS, surpassing the initial target of 1.8 million refugees and migrants – as of March 2022.

UNHCR and partners, in close coordination with the local GIFMMs (Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group), supported Migración Colombia in setting-up **registration points** ("Puntos Visibles"), particularly in urban centers of rural municipalities throughout the country to foster the registration of the hard-to-reach population. **Massive registration days** were organized to facilitate a broader access to the TPS, resulting in an exponential increase of bio-metric registrations and permits handed-out.

In parallel, UNHCR continues to work with the Government to strengthen the **asylum system** both with human resources and equipment with the aim of processing the **caseload of 29,000 asylum claims**.

Temporary Protection Permits for Venezuelans (TPPs) *March 15th, 2022.

2 million

Pre-registrations in RUMV

1,388,614

Bio-metrics registrations (69%)

553,567

Permits issued (plastic cards) (27.6%)

Source: Visibles - Migración Colombia (migracioncolombia.gov.co)

POPULATION TRENDS

Border population movements between Colombia and Venezuela continued with entries slightly decreasing; most formal entries in **La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Arauca** represent pendular and trade related movements but there are also irregular daily entries, which generally are higher than the regular movements registered. The GIFMM registered less people on the road (“*caminantes*”) due to the “*paro armado*” or armed strike announced by the ELN-National Liberation Army; their main destination is Ipiales (44%) followed by three major Colombian cities: Bogotá, Medellín and Cali, as well as Floridablanca in Santander.

The border between Colombia and Ecuador was re-opened on December 15th, 2021 and all people transiting need to show their COVID-19 vaccination card. However, as **Venezuelans are required a visa** to enter Ecuadorian territory, most opt to cross through informal border points (“*trochas*”). As there are more than 47 *trochas* guided by smugglers (“*coyotes*”), individuals crossing are exposed to significant protection risks.

UNHCR continued to monitor the **mixed movements of population between Colombia and Panama**. According to **the Panamanian authorities**, a total of 8,456 people transited the Darien region irregularly in January and February the main nationalities being Venezuelans (2,497 or 29%), followed by Haitians (13%), Senegaleses and Cubans.

According to UNHCR monitoring, as of February 28th, **11,099 people**, or 3,639 families, have been uprooted since the start of 2022 by **28 large-group displacement events** due to confrontations between illegal armed groups. The **Afro-Colombian population** was the most affected population group; the departments concerned were Nariño (8), Chocó (7), Valle del Cauca (4), Norte de Santander (2), Putumayo (2), Cauca (2), Arauca (2), and Antioquia (1).

In addition, during the same period, more than **35,715 people**, or 8,399 families, have been **confined in 11 events**, the great majority in **Chocó**, affecting both indigenous people and Afro-Colombians, but also in Valle del Cauca and Arauca.

UNHCR Response

MAIN ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES

Together with the **Norwegian Refugee Council**, UNHCR in August 2021 rolled-out a single toll-free call centre – **Línea de Atención Nacional-LAN** (#675) – with countrywide coverage to increase access to trustworthy information about rights and services for refugees, particularly access to the TPS, and internally displaced persons. Tasked with 42 agents, the LAN is also a means to identify persons with specific needs and refer them to adequate and specialized services.



ACNUR
Y EL CONSEJO NORUEGO PARA REFUGIADOS
 nos unimos para fortalecer un único canal de atención telefónica en toda Colombia

Si eres una persona refugiada, migrante, colombiana retornada o víctima del conflicto y necesitas orientación

Comunícate gratis desde tu celular al:
#675

- Información y apoyo legal sobre tus derechos y deberes.
- Regularización migratoria, documentación.
- Rutas para acceder a servicios (salud, educación, justicia).

Horario de atención: Lunes a sábado de 8:00 a.m. a 6:00 p.m. No festivos.

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GUIDE FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION

UNHCR with the support of UNDP, IOM and ILO launched the **“Financial inclusion handbook for refugees and migrants”**, an inter-agency initiative in the framework of the **“Somos Panas Colombia”** anti-xenophobia campaign.



This handbook is meant to provide basic financial education to Venezuelan refugees and migrants and promote effective access to financial institutions and products, such as banks and credits.

[CLICK TO SEE VIDEO](#)



REGISTRATION

Additionally, UNHCR and partners continue with the **orientation, registration and identification of vulnerable profiles** in **PRIMES** through the LAN and Information and Orientation Centers (PAOs) (**more than 100 registration points**) registering a total of **48,489 people** during the months of January and February. The total number of people registered **since 2018** is **555,558**, **91%** of whom are **Venezuelan refugees and migrants**. The great majority of people identify **legal protection** as their main protection need, and almost a third express having **unmet basic needs**; **20%** do not possess adequate **legal documentation**.

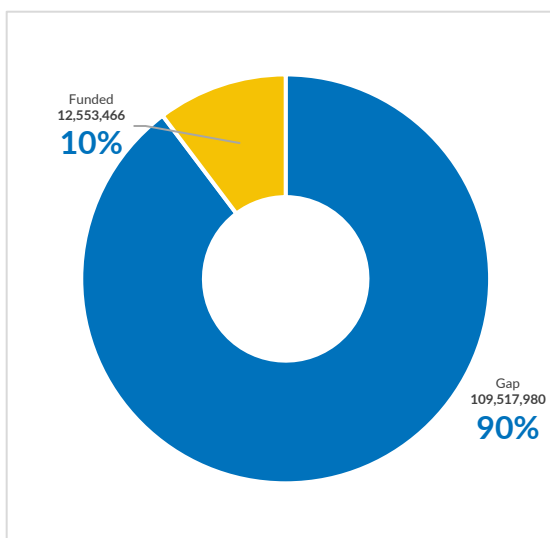
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

UNHCR together with IOM, co-leads the Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group (GIFMM in Spanish), which includes 75 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 |

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