



9,347,456

CONFIRMED CASES
IN SOUTH AMERICA¹

287,689

DEATHS²

© IOM Brazil

SITUATION OVERVIEW

October 27th update: Brazil leads with 5,394,128 cases, followed by Argentina, Colombia and Peru, with 1,090,584, 1,015,885, and 888,715 cases respectively. From October 13th, the sharpest increases in cases were in Uruguay (24%), Argentina (22%), and Paraguay (20%). In South America, the number of cases is at 9,347,456, compared to 7,903,912 thirty days ago, an increase of 19%. In terms of mortality, Brazil also leads with 157,134 deaths, followed by Peru, Colombia, and Argentina, with 34,149, 30,154, and 28,896 deaths, respectively. In the whole region, the number of deaths is at 287,689, compared to 248,532 thirty days ago, an increase of 16%.

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

and school classes.

Governments are working on the safe reopening of borders to reduce the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Some governments have begun to lift bans on domestic and international flights. Despite these air travel flexibilizations in several countries, human mobility in South America persists affected as 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 who use mostly land crossings. Coordinated efforts made by governments and different authorities to facilitate returns of their nationals and residents stranded abroad are ongoing, including international flights and the opening of land crossing solely for nationals and residents.

In response to the shifting COVID-19 context, some countries in other regions have eased COVID-19 mobility restrictions that also impact in South America.

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

2- Ibidem

3- IOM Mapping of Mobility Restrictions: <https://migration.iom.int/>

For example, the European Union lifted the travel restrictions at the external borders for “safe countries”, where

Uruguay remains as the only South American country included.

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 Chile organized, in partnership with UNHCR and the main municipalities of the northern regions of Chile (Arica, Parinacota, Tarapacá, Antofagasta, Atacama and Coquimbo), a virtual meeting focused on the situation of migrants and refugees.

IOM Colombia coordinated and developed action plans jointly with the leaders of community networks and community action boards for: the analysis of risks of COVID-19, the targeting of the most vulnerable communities and populations (with great presence of Venezuelan migrant population), identification of needs, strengthening of community capacities in health, the socialization of the routes of affiliation and health care in Arauca, Caldas, Cúcuta, Villa del Rosario, and Pamplona.

protocols, application of screening for respiratory symptoms and sampling. Other actions put together: epidemiological surveillance and monitoring of cases, remote mental health and psychosocial support and prevention of violence, situational and risk analysis, strengthening the knowledge of human resources of the social institutions of State – ESE (for its acronym in Spanish) of first and second level of care and participation in different spaces with local health authorities.



© IOM Colombia

TRACKING MOBILITY IMPACTS



© IOM Colombia

IOM Colombia carried out a migrant counting exercise in order to monitor the volume of the flow of entry. The exercise took place in: La Majayura, Paraguachón, entrance way Maicao - Riohacha, La Guajira Department; Caño de Jesús, Villa del Rosario, Bus Station of Cali, Valle del Cauca Department; Altamira and Montebello, entrance way San Juan, Bus Station of Pasto and Los Patios. As well, the Mission developed a monitoring exercise of the re-entry of the Venezuelan migrant population. During the last days of the October, 2,268 people entered Colombia through the borders of Arauca, Norte de Santander and La Guajira.

IOM Colombia planned and coordinated with the local health secretaries of Cartagena, Medellín, Envigado, Caldas, Bello, Copacabana and Itagüí in response to the emergency, in actions such as: construction or activation of care routes, implementation of prevention and care

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 carried out 5 workshops, promoting migrants’ mental health and psychosocial well-being, together with Psicoven -organization of Venezuelan psychologists based in Argentina-. The workshops focused on topics such as embodiment of the migration experience; emotional support group for adolescents; building well-being spaces in times of pandemic; listening to migrant women from a gender perspective and a social skills workshop.

IOM Argentina, together with the Metropolitan Baseball League, published informative videos about physical exercises to do indoors, during the pandemic.



IOM Colombia put in place a strategy of awareness at the community level and house-to-house education in cough management, proper use of masks, correct hand washing, disinfection and protection, identification of symptoms and mental health and psychosocial support in Bucaramanga (department of Santander), Puerto Carreño (department of Vichada), in Santa Marta (department of Magdalena) and in Valledupar (department of Cesar).



IOM Colombia implemented information, education and communication strategies in Arauca (department of Arauca), in Bucaramanga (department of Santander), in Cartagena (department of Bolívar) and in Cali (department of Valle del Cauca) through 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 migrant population, host communities and Colombian returnees.



In Vista Hermosa, IOM Colombia is broadcasting a weekly radio program for the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) on community radio stations and internet. As well, it developed the communication strategy and content for Instagram and Youtube.



DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

IOM Colombia carried out a telephone follow-up of suspected cases or contacts of positive COVID-19 patients in Bucaramanga (department of Santander) and in Ipiales (department of Nariño), in order to raise awareness and provide guidance on practices for the protection and care of the virus, to identify health and mental health conditions of the population, and to help with the identification of respiratory symptoms.

As well, the Mission oriented and informed persons suspected of COVID-19 and, when necessary, referred to local health secretaries, the available health services provider network or complementary services provided by other agencies or cooperation organizations for sampling, care and follow-up in, in Puerto Carreño (department of Vichada) and in Santa Marta (department of Magdalena).



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, the Mission delivered hygiene items to 26 vulnerable migrants who were quarantining in a shelter in the city of Santa Cruz.

IOM Brazil delivered circa 1,000 hygiene and cleaning kits to refugees and migrants families living in shelters in Boa Vista and Pacaraima.

In Manaus, IOM Brazil delivered 547 hygiene kits to indigenous and non-indigenous Venezuelan refugees and migrants -200 of them living in shelters. In partnership with the Pastoral do Migrante and the Secretariat for Social Assistance, the Mission delivered in Manaus around 800 hygiene kits to Venezuelan families.



POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

IOM Chile and IOM Peru assisted (with transportation and face masks) 119 Peruvians stranded in Tacna (Southern Peru) due to COVID-19 containment measures and border closures. These migrants were able to return safely to Chile where they usually live.

IOM Colombia carried out an education campaign on cough management and hand washing at entry points at the borders with Ecuador in the municipalities of Ipiales (department of Nariño) and at the border with Venezuela in the municipalities of La Guajira, and Puerto Carreño.

IOM Colombia delivered 20 portable handwashing sinks in the departments of Guanía and Chocó to support the efforts of the institutional health network to strengthen the community response plan against COVID-19.

IOM Colombia delivered Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) -52,000 masks, 27 thermometers, 135 boxes of disposable gloves, 65 gallons of antibacterial gel, 230 moon glasses- in support of the hospitals in the Catatumbo (department of Norte de Santander with Venezuela).

IOM Chile delivered 1,000 face masks and 1,000 bottles of alcohol-based hand sanitizer to the Municipality of Antofagasta.



IOM Ecuador provided with health items (face masks, gloves, antibacterial soap and gel alcohol) to 813 migrants in Huaquillas, Lago Agrio, Tulcán and Quito.

IOM Peru distributed 381 hygiene kits and 141 face masks in Tumbes, among host communities, refugees and migrants – mostly Venezuelans.



IOM Venezuela held a health fair in the community of El Temi in Los Háticos (Zulia state), accompanied by two volunteer doctors from the Zulia Red Cross. 103 beneficiaries were assisted and received respective treatment according to their pathologies.

IOM Venezuela distributed 60 hygiene kits at the PASI (Puntos de Atención Social Integral for its acronym in Spanish) in the community of La Guajira and -in with coordination with the municipality of Táchira State- 120 kits were donated to the PASIs in Ureña and Bolívar. The PASI's assist returned nationals needing preventive isolation before continuing into the country. IOM Venezuela delivered 6 hygiene kits to the mayor of the Bolívar Municipality and the Mayor's Office of Pedro María Ureña, in the state of Táchira, to be distributed in the health centers of the cities.



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 items to 4 hospitals in the cities of La Plata, La Matanza, Lomas de Zamora and Quilmes (all of them in province of Buenos Aires). These donations included: 650 5-liter cans of gel alcohol, 780 boxes of disposable double-layer chinstraps, 880 boxes of disposable latex gloves, 650 5-liter cans of Antibacterial Liquid Hand Soap, 5,510 disposable onesies, 230 boxes of face masks protection, 36,100 disposable gowns and 280 boxes of disposable caps.

IOM Colombia donated almost 88,000 Personal Protection Items (PPI) to support public health laboratories in the departments of Putumayo, Norte de Santander, Bolívar, Amazonas, Arauca, Nariño, La Guajira, Vichada, Santa Marta, Cesar and Guainía; and to support the Catatumbo Hospital (department of Norte de Santander) and the National Health Institute. PPI consisted on masks, antibacterial gel, disposable gowns, gaiters, disposable caps, moon glasses, disposable gloves and sterile gloves.



IOM Colombia donated seven vertical ultra-freezers to public health laboratories in the departments of Cesar, La Guajira, Arauca, Vichada, Nariño, Putumayo and Magdalena. In addition, 31 biomedical equipment were donated to the Hospital de Ocaña (department of

Norte de Santander), consisting of IV Stand, scales with a measuring rod, baby scales, folding screen, hospital bed, crash cart, Snellen chart, episiotomy equipment, birthing care equipment, adult wall sphygmomanometer, stethoscope kit and office sphygmomanometer, vaccines carrier and defibrillator.



CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

IOM Argentina donated food and protective items for staff to 5 community kitchens in San Martin (province of Buenos Aires). As well, the Mission donated 100 hygiene and food kits to migrant families in the provinces of Córdoba, Santiago del Estero, Misiones and Santa Fe. IOM Brazil donated mattresses to 5 families of refugees and migrants in Boa Vista.

IOM Brazil donated mattresses to 5 families of refugees and migrants in Boa Vista.

IOM Chile, in coordination with local NGO's distributed 108 food items, 108 hygiene kits and 40 diaper bags to refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

IOM Colombia delivered food kits to 200 indigenous women from the Numino Fhutchá Foundation in Soacha (department of Cundinamarca. In addition, the Mission delivered food kits to 300 families belonging to the CONCOSTA Community Council in the municipality of Bajo Baudó (department of Chocó).

IOM Ecuador provided mental health and psychosocial support to 472 Venezuelan migrants in Tulcán and Huaquillas via telephone and at shelters.

IOM Paraguay -in coordination with the Red Cross-delivered food, personal hygiene products and house-

hold items to 11 migrant families residing in the department of Alto Paraná. Since July, remote mental health and psychosocial support services are available to migrants via telephone. Mental Health and PsychoSocial Services include Psychological First Aid, case management and weekly follow up, and referral to more specialized services when needed.



In Tumbes, IOM Peru provided 43 health consultations reaching 50 patients, mainly vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

IOM Venezuela provided food to a total of 325 caminantes (girls, boys, adolescents, adults and elderly) who were traveling to the border with Colombia.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM Brazil donated equipment and appliances (mattresses, freezers, wheelchairs and fans) to refugees and migrants living in shelters supported by the Raio de Luz Association in Roraima.



During the reported period, IOM Colombia provided temporary accommodation service at the Temporary Care Center for Migrants (CATM for its acronym in Spanish) in Norte de Santander to a total of 2,793 people. Additionally, 86 suspected COVID-19 cases were placed in isolation.

IOM Colombia gave support to shelters, located in Arauca, Cúcuta, Maicao, Pamplona, Rioacha, Valledupar and Villa del Rosario, through identification of risks and design of an improvement plan with guidelines for natural ventilation, social isolation and cleaning and disinfection actions.



PROTECTION

IOM continues providing direct assistance, implementing outreach activities to prevent abuses and exploitation and strengthening capacities of key counterparts to address protection-related needs of migrant communities.

IOM Brazil held several information sessions on preventing labor exploitation during the pandemic, benefiting more than 100 refugees and migrants at the Boa Vista Bus Station. The Mission also reached the milestone of 300 Venezuelan refugees and migrants benefited from the project that provides recreation activities and information sessions, including on the prevention of COVID-19 in the last Martes de Cine (Movie Tuesdays) session in Manaus.



IOM Chile continued providing support to vulnerable migrants affected by homelessness in the northern regions of Chile due to the COVID19 situation. Most of them had just arrived in Chile after crossing the border irregularly from Bolivia to Tarapaca Region. The assistance consisted in temporary community shelter and daily food for 330 refugees and migrants in Huaras.



IOM Peru through its field office in Tumbes identified 2 cases of GBV among refugees and migrants from Venezuela (one in Tumbes and one in Piura) and also provided information and guidance to the 2 survivors in addition to the referral to local authorities for direct protection assistance.

IOM Peru provided humanitarian transportation assistance to 6 refugees and migrants from Venezuela (1 woman head of household with her 5 children) and PPE was distributed as well.

IOM Venezuela held a medical care session in the community of Barrio Lago in San Cristobal municipality (Táchira State) in order to support vulnerable population. 60 beneficiaries in vulnerable situations (mostly elders) were assisted. The Mission carried out, together with the Zulia Red Cross, a medical care session in the Mota Blanca community (in Zulia State) in order to provide health assistance. 115 vulnerable beneficiaries were reached: 90 received medical care and 25 mental health and psychosocial support.

IOM Venezuela held a medical care fair in San Benito and Valle Frío communities, in Maracaibo (state of Zulia) jointly with the Red Cross giving general medical care to 209 beneficiaries.

IOM Venezuela assisted -together with UNHCR, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Jesuit Refugee Service in a special mission- 135 returnees from Aruba in a humanitarian flight coordinated between the governments of both countries. Passengers who tested positive for COVID-19 were isolated for 7 days to re-apply the PCR tests, in order to help their health conditions prior returning to their respective states.

IOM Colombia provided technical support to the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF for its acronym in Spanish) for the identification and assistance of migrant Venezuelan children and adolescents entering the country to strengthen the orphanage modality in Villa del Rosario, where cases of unaccompanied and separated adolescents have been identified.

Within the framework of the Commemoration of the Day of the Girl, IOM Colombia held in Puerto Asís (department of Putumayo) a workshop on stereotypes with 20 boys and girls.

IOM Colombia held the Virtual Regional Women's Forum (where 5 panelists participated, reaching 2,234 beneficiaries and having 285 interactions) for the Prevention of GBV in the municipality of Mutatá (department of Antioquia). In addition, the Workshop with Women "Weaving Peace" was held reaching 20 women in the Manaure (department of Cesar).

IOM Paraguay delivered supermarket vouchers to 90 families. As well, the Mission provided medium- and long-term accommodation assistance (housing) for 10 families.

IOM Peru, jointly with the Regional Education Board in Lima D.C., trained 42 teachers from public schools as part of the strategy to improve teachers' capacities for distance learning. The sessions aimed at preventing xenophobia, discrimination and prevention of trafficking.



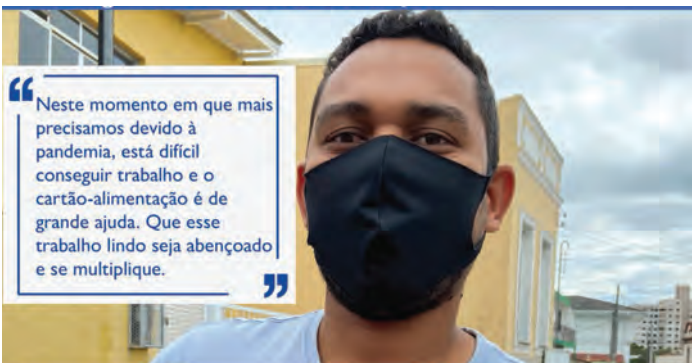
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

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

ADRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

IOM **Argentina** provided CBI (Cash Based Interventions) assistance to 225 migrants (Haiti, Jamaica, Paraguay and Venezuela) and distributed 141 supermarket e-vouchers among migrant families from Haiti, Peru, Venezuela, Syria, Colombia and Spain.

IOM **Brazil** distributed 126 vouchers for the purchase of food and essential items for Venezuelan families and vulnerable migrants in Paraná, Pará, São Paulo, Santa Catarina and Rio de Janeiro.



IOM Brazil supported the São Paulo Secretary of Education with the publication of student books in Spanish, English, French and Creole for more than 12,000 children, adolescents and young people enrolled in the public-school system.

To expand access to the labor market to migrants in a vulnerable situation, IOM Brazil -in partnership with SENAC (Education Institution) Minas Gerais- held a webinar on hiring migrants in the private sector.



As part of the work with the private sector, IOM **Chile** is collaborating with the "We Are Employment" initiative that consists of 20 webinars to improve the employability of people who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Under this network, 44,280 people have already been hired in outsourcing jobs through online job fairs. The last activity, held on October 8 and 9, had 3,500 positions available in addition to information sessions and training courses.



IOM **Colombia** supports the production line and commercialization of masks in 9 municipalities in the departments of Bolívar and Sucre (San Juan Nepomuceno, El Carmen de Bolivar, Chalán, El Guamo, Los Palmitos, San Antonio de Palmitos, Tolviejo, Ovejas and Zambrano). By the end of the reported period a total of 3,691 masks were produced and 2461 marketed directly, generating employment for 36 women.

IOM **Ecuador** supported through CBI 148 persons in Huaquillas, Lago Agrio, Quito and Tulcán. Also, this Mission Ecuador provided rental subsidy in Huaquillas, Lago Agrio, Quito and Tulcán to 798 Venezuelan migrants.

IOM **Peru** supported 1,398 refugees and migrants through CBI. Beneficiaries were located at Tumbes, Lima, and other regions such as Callao, Ica, Ucayali, Tacna, Arequipa, Moquegua, Puno, Huánuco, Ancash, Cusco and La Libertad.



IOM Peru -in coordination with UNCHR, members of the Basic Needs Sector of the GTRM in Peru, the

Civilian Defense Institute (INDECI for its acronym in Spanish) and the private sector- distributed 1,000 food baskets among vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela in San Juan de Lurigancho, Chosica and Huachipa.

IOM Peru distributed 1,953 hot food rations and 76 food baskets in Tumbes to refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

IOM **Uruguay** distributed 50 food parcels and 40 personal hygiene parcels in the city of Rivera (department of Rivera); one of the areas most affected by the pandemic.

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 \$ 24,824,233, i.e. 80% of the total appeal funding requirement. The funding received include lines of funding from the US Government, Canada, the European Union, the World Bank and the Government of Colombia.

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



OIMSuramerica



OIMSuramerica



ONUMigración

