In South America, Brazil leads with 2,733,677 cases, followed by Peru, Chile, and Colombia with 428,850, 361,493, and 317,651 cases, respectively. In the whole region, the number of cases is at 4,239,782, compared to 2,359,316 thirty days ago, an increase of 79%. In terms of mortality, Brazil also leads with 94,104 deaths, followed by Peru, Colombia, and Chile, with 19,614, 10,650, and 9,707 deaths, respectively. In the whole region, the number of deaths is at 146,951, compared to 89,112 thirty days ago, an increase of 65%. As for testing, Chile and Peru demonstrate higher indicators, averaging 87,000 tests per million people. Conversely, the lowest testing proportions are observed in Argentina, Bolivia, and Ecuador, with an average 16,000 tests per million people.

Travel restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact mobility in South America. However, amidst the restriction measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, there is continuation of initiatives to ensure the return of nationals from abroad and delivery of medical aid. Although, in response to the shifting COVID-19 context, some Governments and authorities have eased COVID-19 mobility restrictions that also impact this region. For example, the European Union lifted the travel restrictions at the external borders for “safe countries”, where Uruguay is the only South American country included. Internal initiatives to curb the spread of COVID-19 by limiting internal movement and imposing risk-mitigating measures, continue.

1. WHO COVID-19 Situation Dashboard: https://covid19.who.int/
2. Ibidem
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

In partnership with the Ministry of Citizenship, IOM Brazil and UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) delivered an on-line induction course on management and assistance of refugees and migrants within the public social service. Some 1,000 government officers accessed the course. IOM Brazil, in partnership with the municipal government of Manaus, supported the issuance of the identification document (Cadastro de Pessoas Físicas) and migratory regularization for 23 indigenous persons from one of the city’s shelters.

IOM Colombia as a co-leader of the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration (GIFMM by its acronym in Spanish) coordinated the response with local and national authorities as well as GIFMM members, to guarantee preventative isolation of refugees and migrants in the COVID-19 context. Some of the services provided included: complementary multisectoral response, both via in-kind, such as Non-Food Items (NFIs), Food, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) items and infrastructure adaptation. Also, IOM supported multipurpose Cash Based Interventions (CBI) targeted to specific population (e.g. returnees, refugees and migrants living in informal settlements, etc.) including health and WASH brigades. IOM Colombia with the Citi Foundation and the Bogotá Mayor’s Office supported the humanitarian assistance programme "Bogotá Solidaria en Casa". Food and basic hygiene items were delivered to 2,185 families (approximately 13,110 people) in the city of Bogotá. This action is one of the successful examples of the collective effort among the public sector, the private sector and international cooperation.

IOM Chile and ten other partners in Antofagasta are organizing the "Delivery of Solidarity", a campaign which seeks to contribute to the provision of food and sanitary security (food boxes, personal hygiene kits, elements of personal protection and diapers) to the most vulnerable families in the north region of the country.

IOM Paraguay provided technical support for the elaboration of the Institutional Strategic Plan of the Secretary for Returnees and National Refugees (SEDERREC by its Spanish acronym) which seeks to assist returnees in their reintegration process.

IOM Peru provided technical assistance to 11 national and regional Ombudsman’s Offices on direct support to vulnerable migrant population. Best practices and procedures to assist vulnerable migrants in Lima, Tacna and Tumbes were presented.

IOM Uruguay worked alongside United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) and the Uruguayan government to digitize documents related to travelers’ entry to the country during the first months of the pandemic. Approximately 6,000 forms were digitized with information regarding travel origin, medical situation (symptoms), and contact details for tracing purposes. Furthermore, IOM Uruguay, together with UNETE, held meetings with government institutions and civil society organizations to assess the impact of COVID-19 and the measures adopted for the most vulnerable populations.
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)

At the regional level, and as part of an interagency effort, IOM jointly with UNHCR; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); UN Women; the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean (REdLAC); the Regional Interagency Platform for refugees and migrants from Venezuela (R4V); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the on-line awareness-raising activity Women on the Move. It is a series of conversations with experts and civil society on the impact of COVID-19 on migrant women, children, adolescents, displaced persons and refugees.

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons IOM raised awareness on the need to protect victims of trafficking and promote their rights through a diverse set of campaigns. IOM Argentina launched the “What is it about” (“De qué se trata”) campaign, sharing advice on how to increase identification of trafficking cases during the COVID-19.

In Brazil, at the Manaus Bus Station, two information sessions on COVID-19 - with a focus on the current sanitary situation in Brazil, health access, personal hygiene and hygiene of common spaces and travel restrictions - were carried out by IOM and UNHCR. In Manaus, IOM held information sessions on prevention of COVID-19 at the Reception and Support Post (PRA) targeting more than 100 migrants and refugees. IOM Brazil distributed the ‘Manitas Brillantes’ Booklet on personal hygiene and prevention against COVID-19 and other diseases in Boa Vista, State of Roraima. The document was produced in partnership with Cáritas, and delivered to 100 children of ages 6 - 12 years old in the Ka’ubanoko site, (“spontaneous occupation”).

IOM Colombia implemented a virtual care and prevention strategy within COVID-19 context. Activities were coordinated with victims of the armed conflict’s organizations in Popayán, Department of Cauca. In Colombia, IOM is providing support to health authorities and the hospital network in the development of health information and education activities, through in person and virtual meetings. These actions have benefitted 65,052 people so far, including officials from municipal/departmental health secretariats, hospitals/health posts and coordination committees, as well as host communities and the refugee and migrant populations in shelters across the country. Communication strategies for community leaders to support them in their roles as prevention agents in cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) were developed in the Departments of Norte de Santander (border with Venezuela), Vichada and Guajira.

IOM Colombia developed virtual educational actions for the promotion of best practices and the prevention of the risk of contagion by COVID-19. A wide dissemination has been achieved through the web, social networks, digital applications, gifs, flyers, posters and
radio podcasts in Spanish and in native languages (indigenous population of the departments of La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Vichada) and through the community radio stations.

IOM Chile coordinated a health information session in Antofagasta City for community leaders and public officials. In addition, IOM and the Ministry of Health of Chile hold the online conference Inclusion as an intelligent response to COVID-19, which the participation of more than 130 people.

IOM Colombia provided support for the epidemiological monitoring of suspected, probable or confirmed cases of COVID-19 referred by the Health Secretariats or local hospitals, or identified by telephone and home visits in the Departments of Antioquia, Atlántico, Bolívar, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte of Santander and Valle of Cauca. As well, IOM Colombia supported the identification and management of health and biosecurity risks in shelters and lodgings in the Departments of Antioquia, Atlántico, Cesar, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Santander, Valle del Cauca and the city of Bogotá.

IOM Colombia supported the National Institute of Health (INS) to strengthen its response capacity for provision of integrated and intersectoral information in the departments of Antioquia, Cundinamarca (Soacha) and Norte de Santander. IOM Colombia supported territorial public health laboratories in Cartagena (Department of Bolivar), Puerto Carreño (Department of Vichada), Ipiales (Department of Nariño), Arauca (Department of Arauca), Leticia (Department of Amazonas) and Puerto Inírida (Department of Guainia). IOM Colombia supported the detection of respiratory symptoms in vulnerable rural and urban communities in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Vichada, Norte de Santander, Santander, Atlántico, Bolívar, La Guajira, Magdalena, Cundinamarca, Cesar, Nariño and Valle del Cauca.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

IOM Colombia supported the National Institute of Health (INS) to strengthen its response capacity for provision of integrated and intersectoral information in the departments of Antioquia, Cundinamarca (Soacha) and Norte de Santander. IOM Colombia supported territorial public health laboratories in Cartagena (Department of Bolivar), Puerto Carreño (Department of Vichada), Ipiales (Department of Nariño), Arauca (Department of Arauca), Leticia (Department of Amazonas) and Puerto Inírida (Department of Guainia). IOM Colombia supported the detection of respiratory symptoms in vulnerable rural and urban communities in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Vichada, Norte de Santander, Santander, Atlántico, Bolívar, La Guajira, Magdalena, Cundinamarca, Cesar, Nariño and Valle del Cauca.
POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

At regional and national level, IOM is compiling information for the IOM COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Portal, which includes primary and secondary data about Points of Entry (PoE) such as operational status, types of restrictions, duration of restrictions, population categories affected and public health measures.

IOM Colombia has been working in close coordination with national authorities and international organizations to maintain the operation of the Sanitary Assistance Centre (CAS by its acronym in Spanish) at the International Bridge of Tienditas in the border area with Venezuela.

IOM Ecuador provided the Sub Department of Migration (Subsecretaría de Migración in Spanish) with supplies such as disinfectant gel, infrared thermometers, batteries, and disinfectant trays. These items were delivered in 20 Migratory Supporting Offices (SAM for its acronym in Spanish) and 22 Migration Control Offices (UCM by its acronym in Spanish).

With the support of IOM Paraguay, the General Directorate of Migration has completed the adaptation of spaces in its central office to respond to migrants’ needs and enhancing points of entries interventions.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

In partnership with Pastoral do Migrante and “Welcome Operation” (the humanitarian response from the government of Brazil), IOM Brazil delivered hygiene and cleaning kits in Boa Vista and municipalities in the Southern region of Roraima State. In partnership with Casa da Mulher Brasileira (public entity) and UN Women, IOM Brazil delivered alcohol gel at the Boa Vista bus station during the “Quarantine without violence” campaign. Hygiene kits and diapers were also distributed to 58 refugee and migrant families at the Reception and Support Desk in Manaus (Amazonas State).

IOM Colombia delivered 163 portable handwashing machines (plus soap and other products), 5 water tanks, and 503 hygiene kits in the Departments of Nariño (border with Ecuador), Norte de Santander, La Guajira and Arauca (border with Venezuela), Choco, Cundinamarca, Santander, Valle del Cauca, Vichada and Bogota. IOM Colombia delivered 324 litres of glycerin alcohol, in the Departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Atlántico, Cundinamarca, Bolívar, Cesar, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Santander, Valle del Cauca, Vichada and in the city of Bogotá, to support “Health Days” and community activities.
CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

IOM continues providing essential services support to stranded migrants throughout the region.

In Brazil, IOM is facilitating the services of an ambulance to support the transport of patients between health units and the field hospital in Boa Vista. IOM’s mobile health units are also continuing to provide care, one anchored in the basic health unit operating next to a field hospital, and the other providing mobile support amongst various locations. In Manaus, IOM Brazil, UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNFPA supported the municipal government in relocating 157 Warao indigenous persons to the new permanent shelter “Tarumá Açu”.

IOM Colombia delivered 110,348 personal protective equipment (face masks, antibacterial gel, thermometers, gowns, gaiters, disposable caps, monogoggles, and tyvek suits) in the Departments of Amazonas (border with Brazil), Atlántico, and Antioquia, Bolivar, Boyacá, Cundinamarca, Cesar (border with Venezuela), La Guajira (border with Venezuela), Guainía (border with Venezuela), Magdalena, Nariño (border with Ecuador), Norte de Santander (border with Venezuela), Putumayo (border with Ecuador and Peru) and the capital Bogotá. This action supported and strengthened the COVID-19 emergency response plan. It also provided 59 sleeping kits (include single bed mat, pillow, blanket, etc) in La Guajira.

IOM Paraguay, in collaboration with the government of Paraguay, delivered humanitarian aid of food, hygiene products and blankets to people stranded at the border with Argentina.

IOM Colombia celebrated a “Day of Integrated Health Care” in order to strengthen care for Venezuelan nationals and host communities” in the municipality of Villa del Rosario, Norte de Santander Department. During a “Health Day” in the Yukpa indigenous community settled in El Escobal (department of Norte de Santander), IOM Colombia provided health services to 129 children, 118 youth, 6 pregnant women and 4 elders. Services included general medicine, oral hygiene, nutrition, gynecology and the delivery of multivitamins, calcium and medical formulas.

IOM Uruguay, working closely with civil society organizations and UNICEF, delivered 180 food and hygiene baskets to assist migrants in mandatory isolation in Chuy and Montevideo.
To complement the provision of essential services, IOM Uruguay, IOM Ecuador and IOM Colombia provided psychosocial assistance directed at refugees and migrants while promoting self-care and mental health; support in follow-up of cases of gender-based violence through individual personal telephone assistance.

IOM Brazil donated furniture, appliances and equipment to state shelters in Roraima. The donation included items for personal hygiene, for physiotherapy sessions, and improved housing conditions.

IOM Colombia delivered 145,000 disposable mouth caps, 100 gallons of antibacterial gel and 2,900 boxes of nitrile gloves to the national immigration authority - Migración Colombia.

IOM Colombia delivered approximately 10,000 Non-food items (NFI) - hygiene kits, health and scholar kits - to migrants and host communities in Departments of Norte de Santander and La Guajira (border with Venezuela), Nariño (border with Ecuador), Antioquia, Cundinamarca, Boyaca, Valle del Cauca and Atlantico, as well as the capital city Bogota. In the municipality of Tumaco (Department of Nariño), IOM Colombia provided 1 computer, 1 printer, 11 filing cabinets, 60 chairs and a 1000-liter water storage tank to various vulnerable populations.

IOM Ecuador provided supplies (beds, sheets, pillows, Infusion poles, screens, surgical gowns, masks, garbage cans) to establish temporal attention centers for the Municipality of Quito.

IOM Brazil launched a publication on Durable Solutions for Indigenous Migrants and Refugees in the Context of the Venezuelan Flow in Brazil. It includes recommendations on education, health, social assistance and children’s right, shelter reception and exit strategies, institutional aspects of governance and dialogue, and recognition of the indigenous condition, documentation and community reinforcement.

IOM convened key counter-trafficking South American stakeholders to jointly identify challenges to assist trafficking victims in the context of the Pandemic and share best practices. Over 200 participants joined each of five- session webinar cycle: “Trafficking in times of the COVID 19”. IOM launched the study “Diagnostic on the situation and incidence of trafficking in humanitarian context in South America”. The study compiles policy frameworks, identifies challenges and provides recommendations for public policies.
An ABC Model for preventive surveillance of the counter trafficking activities, designed by IOM Colombia, is implemented now by the Government of Colombia as a tool for support implementation of public policies to protect victims and prosecute traffickers. IOM also designed a geo-referencing GPS-based mobile application to detect trafficking victims and activate immediate assistance.

IOM Chile, in coordination with the local governments and NGOs, launched three webinars in various regions of Chile (Arica, Iquique and Coquimbo).

IOM Peru supports the implementation of pandemic-specific referral pathways for refugees and migrants from Venezuela who have been victims of trafficking in persons (TIP) or who could be potential victims. To complement this initiative, over 1,000 public officials, service providers and humanitarian actors nationwide have been trained to detect and refer potential victims of trafficking. In the post-quarantine and economic recovery context, IOM has implemented the virtual community prevention strategy “Caja de Juegos” (Game Box) to train facilitators in the identification and prevention of human trafficking in children and adolescents.

IOM Chile, IOM Ecuador and IOM Peru, in collaboration with the Alas de Colibrí NGO convened to discuss the Andean View: Post-pandemic scenario of trafficking in persons”. Participants agreed to develop a network of key government institutions to increase labor inspection and to strengthen mechanisms to increase detection of cases.

IOM Ecuador issued a publication that identify needs, capacities and protection gaps of LGBTI+ refugees and migrants. Also, IOM has been working to assist trafficking victims in coordination with NGOs and State institutions and has produced two handbooks on TIP: Handbook for journalists on how to report cases and a Policy Operations Guide.
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

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

ADRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

IOM in Argentina processed 30 cash transfers and delivered 55 food vouchers to assist migrants in conditions of extreme vulnerability. In addition, IOM delivered hygiene supplies and food for the preparation of 20,000 meals to 230 families.

IOM Brazil, in partnership with Cáritas Paraná, distributed 130 food boxes and 27 food stamps to Venezuelans in 12 municipalities in Paraná. Through the Pana Project⁴, implemented by Cáritas Brasileira, IOM Brazil sheltered 98 refugees and migrants in Brasilia, Porto Velho, São Paulo and Florianópolis. In addition, IOM Brazil delivered food to 196 stranded migrants at the border city of Assis (Acre State). IOM Brazil alongside with the work group Analysis of the Emergency Program for Maintaining Employment and Income, has held meetings to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants in Rio Grande do Sul.

IOM Brazil, UNICEF and the São Paulo Municipal Secretariat of Education delivered educational material to 4,000 migrant and refugee children from public schools who are attending virtual classes due to COVID restrictions. The content was translated into English, French and Spanish to provide better educational opportunities for children who are not Portuguese native speakers.

On 29 July, ILO, FAO and IOM Chile launched the study "Labor insertion of migrants in the rural sector in Chile", which address the main challenges that rural migrant workers face.

On 31 July, in the framework of OIM Chile’s work with the Private Sector was launched the collaborative network "Four Winds" (Cuatro Vientos) with the Gender Equality Network Diversity and Inclusion (RED EG) and two other partners. This initiative aims to support food and health security of migrant families affected by the social crisis and COVID-19.

IOM Peru supported those in need with 412 food kits and 20,387 hot meals in Lima, Tumbes and Tacna. 81 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, sheltered by IOM in Tumbes, received CBI and were able to reach their final destinations in Peru (Lima and other Peruvian cities). IOM Peru surveyed 127 direct beneficiaries (91 women and 36 men) of cash-based interventions delivered between March-July. As a result, the report “Monitoring of CBI” was published, highlighting the importance of CBI during the pandemic, and indicating the main use of the aid.

OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL UPDATES

Information Sharing and Communication

The IOM Regional Office for South America together with the Country Offices have been supporting the UN campaign "Pause, take care before you share", which is part of the UN Verified initiative to encourage to check the information on COVID-19 before is shared in social media.

Resources Mobilization/financial updates

The IOM Regional Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) has been seeking USD 21,255,000 to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable migrants and their host communities in ten South American countries, namely Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The IOM Regional SPRP for South America is a comprehensive, coordinated response that addresses immediate and long-term health concerns with regards to COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, IOM has confirmed funding amounting to USD 11,602,006, i.e., 55% of the total appeal funding requirement of USD 21,255,000. The funding received include reprogramming of projects and new lines of funding, mainly from the USA (PRM, for all countries covered in the appeal), Canada (Venezuela, Peru, and Brazil), the World Bank (Peru and Argentina), and the European Union (from DEVCO for Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, and ECHO for Venezuela).

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