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**37,598,627**

CONFIRMED CASES IN SOUTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

**1,150,287**

DEATHS<sup>2</sup>

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 30 September, Brazil leads with 21,351,972 COVID-19 cases, followed by Argentina, Colombia, and Peru, with 5,250,402, 4,951,675, and 2,173,034 cases respectively. In the last week of September, the sharpest increases in cases were seen in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2.3%), Brazil (0.5%), and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (0.5%). In South America, the total number of

cases is at 37,598,627, compared to 36,775,578 thirty days ago, demonstrating an increase of 2%. In terms of mortality, Brazil also leads with 594,443 COVID-19 related deaths, followed by Peru, Colombia, and Argentina, with 199,292, 126,145, and 114,862 deaths, respectively. In the whole region, the number of deaths is at 1,150,287, compared to 1,127,027 thirty days ago, an increase of 2%.

<sup>1</sup> WHO COVID-19 Situation Dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/> (accessed 21 October).

<sup>2</sup> WHO COVID-19 Situation Dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/> (accessed 21 October).

## 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 Boa Vista, **IOM Brazil** conducted a training session for the Operation Welcome team. This team is responsible for the Job Placement Modality within the Relocation Strategy of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. The training aimed at improving the processes of job placement mediation, grounded upon international ethical recruitment standards. Also, in the State of Amazonas, in order to strengthen access to services and the service networks for refugees and migrants in the region, IOM offered a training programme for 45 servants of the public education sector, health and social assistance areas.

**IOM Colombia** continued to coordinate and work with leaders of community networks and community action boards to develop action plans to address the COVID-19 pandemic. These action plans include activities such as analyzing the risks posed by COVID-19, identifying the most vulnerable communities and populations in need of assistance (particularly those areas with a greater presence of Venezuelan refugees and migrants), identifying the needs of different groups, building community capacity in the provision of health services and assistance, dissemination of information on health care services and referral mechanisms in the departments of Antioquia, Santander and Cesar.

IOM supported the health secretaries of the departments of Bolívar, Magdalena, and Cundinamarca in their response to the emergency, in actions such as: mapping and strengthening of health care service referral mechanisms, implementation of health prevention and care protocols, and in the establishment of screening and sampling mechanisms for respiratory symptoms. Other actions involved include supporting epidemiological surveillance and monitoring of cases, remote mental health and psychosocial services, conducting a situational and risk analysis on the impacts of COVID-19, capacity-building of local government workers, working in primary and secondary healthcare and, participating in different spaces with local health authorities.

### 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 supported the vaccination campaign for migrants (regardless of their migratory status or documentation) in the Province of Buenos Aires, through the translation and elaboration of videos in Spanish, English, French, Portuguese, Guarani and Arabic.

Furthermore, IOM office launched the “Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Manual for the attention of the Migrant and Refugee Population in the Argentine Republic”, which includes a chapter about the specific impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and psychosocial support of the general population and of migrants and refugees.

IOM Colombia launched an awareness raising campaign at the community level, involving house-to-house education strategies, on cough management, proper use of masks, proper hand washing, disinfection and protection, and identification of symptoms and

psychosocial support in Puerto Carreño (department of Vichada), in Ipiales and Pasto (department of Nariño), and in Cali (department of Valle del Cauca). These activities addressed mainly Venezuelans, host communities, and Colombian returnees.

IOM implemented information, education, and communication strategies in the departments of Antioquia, Amazonas, Atlántico, Arauca, Bolívar, Boyacá, Casanare, Cesar, Cundinamarca, Guainía, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Santander, Vichada, and Valle del Cauca through virtual and face-to-face workshops and meetings. The topics covered included COVID-19 prevention and self-care, routes for humanitarian assistance, mental health, psychosocial support, health insurance, and the right to health. This activity focused on Venezuelan migrants, host communities, and Colombian returnees.

IOM Peru delivered a virtual training concerning an “Update of prevention measures against the COVID-19 pandemic in the workplace”, for staff of the Superintendency of Migration within the National Customs Authority (SUNAT for its acronym in Spanish), four Mental Health Community Centers, and a Shelter House. This training reached 84 people.



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## POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

IOM Colombia developed educational trainings on COVID-19 at points of entry in the departments of Amazonas, Arauca, Guainía, La Guajira, Norte de Santander, Santander, and Vichada. The trainings covered topics such as cough management and adequate hand washing protocols. Trainings were addressed to refugees, migrants, and returnees.

IOM Peru carried out activities to detect early cases with symptoms associated with COVID-19 and to reinforce the prevention of contagion through orientation sessions at Guidance and Assistance Points in Tumbes (department of Tumbes). This activity reached 465 refugees and migrants in their transit through that northern department.

## DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

IOM Colombia carried out a telephone follow-up campaign of individuals with suspected COVID-19 cases or that had been in close contact with positive COVID-19 patients in the departments of Nariño, La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Vichada, to raise awareness and provide guidance on COVID-19 protection and care practices, as well as to learn about some health and mental health conditions of the population and identification of respiratory symptoms.

The IOM office in Colombia also conducted health care screenings, mainly through respiratory screening, in vulnerable rural and urban communities with migrant and host populations in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Atlántico, Bolívar, Cesar, Cundinamarca, Chocó, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Santander, Valle del Cauca and Vichada. From January to September 2021, 50,599 people were screened.

## INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

IOM Brazil assisted IOM Brazil conducted 827 medical consultations for Venezuelan refugees and migrants at Operation Welcome facilities in Manaus, while in the State of Roraima (Boa Vista, Pacaraima and other municipalities), 751 medical and 21 psychological



consultations were conducted for migrants and refugees from Venezuela.

IOM, in partnership with the Municipal Health Department of Amazonas, the Health Surveillance Foundation of Amazonas, UNFPA and Civil Society Organizations, deployed a taskforce to vaccinate the local population against chickenpox, measles, mumps and rubella, and influenza. In total, 131 people were vaccinated at Manaus Bus Station.

IOM Colombia focused their efforts in two main prevention areas: 1) identification of persons suspected of having COVID-19 and providing referrals to individuals for health services at local health secretariats and other health services, while also supporting other organizations with follow up health care services in the departments of Atlántico, Bolívar and Cesar; and 2) dissemination of information and orientation to people going through the referral process.

IOM Ecuador provided health Non-Food Items (NFIs) to 1,322 migrants in Cuenca, Huaquillas, Lago Agrio, Tulcán, and Quito.

### 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 Brazil donated more than 3,900 health items, such as scales, gloves, and aprons for the Health Municipality in the department of Pacaraima.

In order to strengthen the information system in the framework of the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan in the department of Guainia, IOM Colombia delivered 3 laptops and 15 fans to the Manuel Elkin Patarroyo Hospital. Also, IOM delivered 2,472 hygiene kits and 1,250 biosecurity kits to migrants, refugees, and host communities in the departments of Antioquia and Norte de Santander, as well as in the city of Bogotá.

IOM has supported health authorities in the departments of Amazonas, Guainía and Vichada, in their duty to prevent the COVID-19 contagions by delivering 48,990 Personal Protection Equipment's (PPEs) that included: disposable masks, Tyvek suits, disposable clothes, disposable scrub hats, disposable cover shoes, antibacterial gel, mono-glasses, surgical clothes, and disposable and sterile gloves.

IOM Colombia delivered 16 generators to strengthen the infrastructure of the public hospitals and health institutions in the departments of Atlántico, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Floridablanca, Ipiales, La Guajira, Maicao, Magdalena, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Pasto, Santander, Santa Marta, Riohacha, Tumaco, and Uribia as support the public health authorities.

As of 22 September 2021, IOM Bolivia -in coordination with and the National Ministry of Health- carried out a campaign to enroll the migrant population in the national health system. 5,304 people of different nationalities were enrolled and will be able to access free and comprehensive health services.

IOM Colombia supported the vaccination against COVID-19 of 476 pregnant women by providing

transportation to 161 of them in the departments of Antioquia, Atlántico, Bolívar, Cesar Cundinamarca, Guainía, La Guajira, Nariño Norte de Santander, Santander, Valle del Cauca, Vichada, and the city of Bogotá.

## CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

IOM Colombia coordinated the vaccination of 570 pregnant women in the departments of Antioquia, Atlántico, Bolívar, Cesar Cundinamarca, Guainía La Guajira, Nariño Norte de Santander, Santander, Valle del Cauca, Vichada and Bogotá. 228 of those women received transportation to the vaccination center.

IOM Venezuela held 8 health fairs in the indigenous communities of Chirikayen, Kinopon-Paru, Kako-Paru, Paraitepuy, Sampay and San Antonio del Morichal, all in the Gran Sabana Municipality in the State of Bolívar. In total, 1055 people (667 women and 388 men) received general medical services.

## PROTECTION

Jointly with APdeBa (Psychoanalysis Association of Buenos Aires), IOM Argentina held several sessions on emotional and psychological support reaching 44 migrants affected during the pandemic.

Through the partner organizations Aliance for Venezuela and Psicoven (Venezuelan Psychologists), IOM provided a workshop about “Living in the migrant body” for 33 Venezuelan migrants to provide support in accessing education and to provide emotional support as well.

In Boa Vista, Pacaraima, and Manaus, IOM Brazil offered 3,448 services of pre-regularization of migratory documentation for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, including indigenous population.

Furthermore, in Manaus, IOM managed 82 protections cases and referred 22 cases to the local protection network, while in Boa Vista, IOM managed another 56 protection cases and referred 18 cases, 13 of which were related to indigenous people. Upon contact from the Department of Human Rights and Citizenship of Amazonas, IOM’s protection team in Manaus accompanied the cases of 80 Haitians (48 women, 32 men, of which 11 are children and adolescents) intercepted by the Federal Police at the airport located in Manaus.

In addition, in Manaus and Boa Vista, IOM informed 105 Venezuelan children and adolescents and their families about the education system in Brazil to facilitate their access to formal education. At the event, they received guidance on enrolment processes at Brazilian schools and a presentation letter to show the school. This material is delivered during the pre-departure clinical evaluations as part of the relocation process in Manaus and Boa Vista.

IOM Ecuador provided psychosocial assistance to around 700 migrants in Huaquillas, Lago Agrio, Manta, Quito, and Tulcán.



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IOM Peru provided guidance and information on access to rights, access to the country, prevention against COVID-19, gender-based violence, and how to access humanitarian assistance to 982 migrants and refugees in their transit through Tumbes.

IOM Peru delivered 1,687 hygiene kits (294 for families, 971 for men, 266 for women and 156 for babies) for COVID-19 prevention and basic needs coverage, including masks and face shields, reaching at least 2,045 refugees and migrants in their transit through Tumbes, Moquegua, and Tacna.

In addition, IOM delivered, 839 individual hygiene kits and 839 liters of water and PPE kits (1,650 masks, 825 alcohol gel and face shield) for 822 Venezuelan refugees and migrants residing in Tacna. Furthermore, IOM delivered 100 educational kits in Tacna (containing masks and alcohol gel). Also, IOM, in partnership with The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA for its acronym in Spanish), delivered food baskets for 215 Venezuelan refugee and migrant families residing in Lima.

IOM Uruguay -together with UNHCR and IOM Venezuela – coordinated the family reunification of two Venezuelan families in Uruguay whose situation of vulnerability was aggravated by the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic. In addition, the mission received and responded to requests for voluntary return from beneficiaries expressing a desire to return to their countries of origin due to the consequences of the pandemic.



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#### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

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



#### ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

IOM Argentina, in coordination with implementing partners, assisted 53 Venezuelan migrants through Cash Based Interventions (CBI). Also, IOM delivered 118 hygiene kits for 392 Venezuelan refugees and migrants through the implementing partner Jesuit Service to Migrants.

In coordination with the Foundation of the Argentine Catholic Commission for Migration, IOM delivered 81 COVID-19 and hygiene kits reaching 261 Venezuelan migrants. Furthermore, IOM delivered bottled water in the Province of Jujuy to 20 Venezuelan migrants through the implementing partner Red Cross Argentina.

IOM Brazil conducted socioeconomic activities and projects within the indigenous community Taurepang-Pemon in Bananal, such as setting up a fish tank, a hen house, and a kitchen garden.

In Manaus, the IOM office in partnership with the Brazilian Service for Supporting Micro and Small Businesses offered a workshop on Canvas for 17 Venezuelan

refugees and migrants, as part of a business planning strategy focusing on the ideation of an enterprise and enterprise and/or business structure.

**IOM Ecuador** supported 1,254 migrants with rental assistance in 11 cities. Also, IOM provided CBIs to 1,500 migrants in, Huaquillas, Lago Agrio, Quito, and Tulcán. Furthermore, 2,084 migrants received meals in those same cities as well as in Ibarra.

**IOM Peru** provided direct assistance for health care to 66 Venezuelan migrants and refugees with health needs in hospitals and care centers in Lima. The IOM mission provided multipurpose CBI to 2,897 refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the regions of Ancash, Arequipa, Callao, Ica, Lambayeque, La Libertad, Lima, Moquegua, and Piura as well.

**IOM Uruguay**, in coordination with Latin American Center for Human Economics, the General Directorate

of Professional Technical Education, and the Office of Small Business and Employment of the Government of Cerro Largo, provided access to the training virtual course: “Entrepreneurship in Uruguay”, financed by the National Development Agency, to migrants living in Uruguay. The course aims at providing management tools and knowledge in entrepreneurship, sales, business, and marketing, and had over 200 participants.

**IOM Venezuela** served meals to vulnerable populations in the communities of Barrio San Pío, Barrio Santa Teresa, San Francisco, and Sarapay, all located in the Machiques de Perijá municipality in the State of Zulia, reaching 544 people (297 women and 247 men). Also, in those cities, IOM held three awareness raising sessions regarding human trafficking, migrant smuggling and Gender Based Violence for 310 people (182 women and 128 men).



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## OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL UPDATES

### Information Sharing and Communication

Within the framework of the MERCOSUR Specialized Migration Forum (FEM for its Spanish), the IOM Regional Office for South America presented the “Open South America” project, a platform that provides up-to-date information to migrants and other key stakeholders on government measures

on mobility, health, and security, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This web portal was developed by the South American Conference on Migration, with technical support from the IOM, and the MERCOSUR, under the Pro Tempore Presidency of Argentina.

### Resources Mobilization / Financial Updates

As of 31 September 2021, there is a total budget of USD 5.4 million in the region (active projects under implementation) for 2021, of which USD 2.9 million has been executed as of September 2021,

equivalent to 53% of the resources allocated for the implementation of activities in the framework of the COVID-19 emergency.

For latest information on IOM tools and resources for COVID-19 pandemic response visit [www.iom.int/covid19](http://www.iom.int/covid19)



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