











## **PRIORITY NEEDS**

The challenges in education have been severely exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the region. Since March 2020, as COVID-19 spread in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Ministries of Education (MoE) progressively closed schools at preschool, primary and secondary levels. It is estimated that over 159 million children (69.5 million

girls) have been affected in LAC, with refugees and migrants from Venezuela particularly harshly impacted. Among the reasons for Venezuelan children not attending school are reduced financial resources of refugee and migrant households, lack of access to IT devices and internet connectivity, discrimination and xenophobia, and lack of documentation.

## **RESPONSE STRATEGY**

The regional Education Sector promotes regionwide coherence in the education response through evidence generation and knowledge management for advocacy and policy dialogue, capacity development, monitoring and reporting, and resource mobilization, integrating gender, age and diversity approaches. The regional

response will focus predominantly on the countries hosting the largest numbers of refugees and migrants from Venezuela (Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Peru and Brazil) but will seek to expand its support to the Southern Cone, the Caribbean and to Central America and Mexico in 2021.

## **Response priorities**

Complementing national efforts of direct assistance, the regional Education Sector aims to:

Generate Advocacy and Policy Dialogues: Implement evidence-based policies and normative frameworks to increase access & retention of refugee, migrant & host community children in education with quality, dignity and ensuring equity, non-discrimination, and inclusion.

**Capacity Development**: Enhance the capacity of regional and national education stakeholders to ensure access, permanence and learning outcomes for

refugee, migrant and affected host community children, as well as to increase the resilience of the education system.

**Evidence Generation**: Ensure MoEs have access to reliable, accurate, relevant, and timely data disaggregated by gender and age on access and learning of refugee and migrant children to strengthen the education planning capacities of hosting countries.

## Integrated response approaches

For the Education Sector, the promotion of actions with a multisectoral and gender- and age-responsive approach will be maintained within its scope of coordination and advocacy. The Sector will collaborate with relevant Sectors, Working Groups and Focal Points on issues related to Child Protection, Gender, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA); coordinate with the

Health Sector on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and sexual and reproductive health; develop and apply joint strategies with the WASH Sector to enhance safe water and hygiene measures in schools; and work with the Nutrition and Food Security Sectors to improve the provision of school meals for refugee and migrant children from Venezuela.

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