

# Southern Cone



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS  
IN THE SUBREGION  
**202,373**



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*  
**15,422**



FUNDING SITUATION\*\*  
**49,9%** FUNDED: **17 MILLION**  
REQUIREMENT: **34,1 MILLION**

49,90%

## Situation

- **Uruguay, nine months after recording its first coronavirus case started seeing its “first wave” of infections**, threatening to undo the hard-fought gains made throughout the pandemic in terms of preventing the spread of the virus. Uruguay has increased its alert from yellow to orange amid exponential growth in daily cases since November. **Uruguay closed all borders, prohibiting access to its territory until 1 February.** As of 25 December, **Argentina introduced tighter restrictions on travelers entering the country**, limiting entry to nationals and residents, imposing strict testing and quarantine restrictions on most of these travelers and suspending the pilot test for tourism from neighbouring countries. **In the last week of December 2020, Argentina began COVID-19 vaccinations** (with Russian Sputnik V vaccine). **Paraguay announced that vaccinations will begin in the second quarter of 2021**, based on negotiations with the WHO COVAX initiative.
- **Increasing trend of entries of Venezuelan families in Desaguadero, Bolivia, coming from Peru through unauthorized border crossing points continued during November and December**, as well as further crossings through the Pisiga - Colchane border, towards Chile, despite land borders remaining closed due to COVID-19 measures.
- In **Argentina, the irregular entries through the border between Argentina and Bolivia (La Quiaca-Villazón) continued to rise**, while the borders continue to be closed without protection safeguards or the possibility of requesting asylum at the border.
- On **1 November** a total of **130 Venezuelans departed from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Venezuela via an humanitarian flight** carried out by the Conviasa airline in the context of the *Plan Vuelta a la Patria* (Venezuelan government-run plan). On **27 December**, some other **120 Venezuelans returned under the same scheme.**



Football tournament among refugees and migrants from Venezuelan and host communities - La Paz, Bolivia © UNHCR/2020

## Response\*\*\*



**ARGENTINA:** 100% Diversidad, ADRA, CAREF, FCCAM, IOM, Jesuit Migrant Service, MIRARES, Psychoanalytic Association of Buenos Aires, PSICOVEN, Red Cross Argentina, UNHCR.

**BOLIVIA:** Caritas Bolivia, Caritas Cochabamba, Caritas Switzerland, IOM, Munasim Kullakita Foundation, Scalabrini Foundation, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, World Vision.

**PARAGUAY:** IOM, Semillas para la Democracia, UNHCR.

**URUGUAY:** ADRA, Idas y Vueltas, IOM, SEDHU, UNHCR.

- Partners continued to provide: **shelter solutions** such as collective/individual shelter in the short/medium and long term **to prevent homelessness among** the most vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants, **NFIs** (especially medicines and hygiene/cleaning items), **food and multipurpose cash assistance** to cover their basic needs.
- On 20 November, **the official launch of the “U-Report - Uniendo Voces” tool was held in Bolivia**, with a soccer tournament organized in La Paz by R4V partners. In its first version, “U-Report Uniendo Voces” - available on Facebook and WhatsApp - the **contents** are accessed by refugees and migrants who interact with the tool and **include general information on Bolivia, access to territory and how to apply for asylum.**
- **Integration activities such as providing support for the set up of an online platform for remote music teaching for Venezuelan musicians**, provision of seed capital, and providing for the payment of fees to universities for the homologation of university degrees of Venezuelan doctors, were conducted by partners in Argentina.
- Partners provided **psycho-social and legal advice to refugees and migrants on access to asylum and regularization** procedures, access to basic social services and other documentation in the four countries.
- **Family reunifications were facilitated whenever possible in Uruguay in December.** In Uruguay, the National Refugee Commission (CORE) recognized 31 Venezuelans as refugees during November.



PEOPLE REACHED\*

Food Security  
**1,961**

Hum. Transp.  
**181**

Health  
**1,264**

Education  
**291**

Integration  
**858**

NFI  
**2,527**

Protection  
**3,240**

Shelter  
**434**

CBI  
**3,944**

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\*From 01/11/2020 until 31/12/2020 | \*\*Source: FTS Website | \*\*\*The list of partners per country include those who reported actions during the timeframe of this report and does not necessarily reflect all the partners that conform the National Platforms.