Emergency Response Program
Colombia
May 2019
Emergency Response Program Colombia

Key information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Emergency Response Program for refugees from Venezuela in Colombia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region/Location</td>
<td>La Guajira: Riohacha, Maicao and Uribia.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Santander: Migrant Route from Paramo de Berlin to Floridablanca.</td>
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<td>Nariño: Ipiales and the crossborder Rumichaca.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>SOS Children’s Villages Colombia in partnership with UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, ICRC, Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, SOS Luxembourg, SOS Norway, SOS Denmark, HMF, SOS Spain, SOS Iceland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementing period</td>
<td>June 2018 - June 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Overall estimated emergency response budget for the implementing period: 355,000€</td>
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<td>Final budget for the implementing period: 223,154€</td>
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<td>EIBI’s contribution: 62,500€</td>
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Situation

The humanitarian and political crisis in Venezuela has driven thousands of Venezuelans to seek international protection, shelter, food, health services and job opportunities in Colombia. Although the effects of the crisis have spread across all sectors of society nationwide in Venezuela, the impact has been truly devastating for the most vulnerable members of the population: children, women (single mothers, pregnant and nursing women) and indigenous people.

Target group

The target beneficiaries are Venezuelan migrants in Santander and La Guajira, in particular homeless families who stay in the country temporarily.

Priority will be given to children and young people (between 0 and 18 years old) who are affected by the crisis, who are unaccompanied or separated due to the humanitarian crisis, who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it as well as children victim of abuse (child labor, sexual exploitation, child trafficking) due to the crisis.

Expected results

- Children and young people are protected within their families and communities from risks associated with the humanitarian crisis by strengthening their skills in self-care and self-protection and by a comprehensive care response from the SOS team.
- Migrant families in transit are accommodated in a safe space and trained to protect themselves and their children from risks associated to the humanitarian crisis.
- Host communities have an increased awareness of the situation of the Venezuelan population in order to reduce discrimination towards the migrants.

Organisation

The Luxemburgish organisation SOS Villages d’Enfants Monde, founded in 1974 and recognised by the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs since 1986, works under the High Patronage of H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg. It is member of the worldwide federation SOS Children’s Villages, active in the field of child rights. For 45 years, SOSVEM works in Luxembourg to support vulnerable children worldwide. Its mission is to raise awareness, collect funds, educate about development matters and implement development and humanitarian programs in coordination with local partners.

We believe that every child belongs to a family and should grow up with love, respect and in security. We provide a family for children, we help them shape their future and we share in the development of their communities.
The humanitarian and political crisis in Venezuela has driven thousands of Venezuelans to seek protection, shelter, food, health services and job opportunities in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. The recent political developments have made the situation even more unstable thus increasing the number of people fleeing from the country and arriving in Colombia. According to OCHA estimations, this crisis has added 1.9 million people to the 5.1 people assessed as in need in Colombia for 2019. Among these 1.9 million people in need, 913,000 are Venezuelans who intend to stay in the country, 446,000 are migrants in transit, 108,000 are pendular migrants, 93,000 are Colombian returnees and 310,000 are members of the host community (OCHA, HNO, 2019).

Although the effects of the crisis have spread across all sectors of society nationwide, the impact has been drastic on the most vulnerable population groups such as children, women (single mothers, pregnant and nursing women) and indigenous people.

La Guajira, Santander and Nariño are some of the main regions with the highest concentration of migrants coming from Venezuela. La Guajira counts 11.78% of all migrants in the country (138,300 people) and Santander 5% (approximately 60,000 migrants) in the region. Migrants stay for short periods in cities such as Cucuta in the department of Norte de Santander and Maicao and Riohacha in the department of La Guajira, at the border with Venezuela.

In Santander, although there are no official figures yet, it is estimated that over 40,000 Venezuelan migrants have settled in the city (10,000 are estimated to be children) (UN, 2018).

Finally, 60% of the migrants arriving in Colombia leave the country through the Rumichaca immigration control post near the city of Ipiales, in Nariño.

Facing this situation, the capacity of local institutions and the host communities runs out.

Moreover, in recent months, unattended children separated from their parents enter the country, accompanied by neighbors or extended family members that decided to cross the Venezuelan border to enter Colombia. This represents a high risk for these children, since they are not being cared for by their parents, and the conditions after arriving are critical, leaving them in high risk of being neglected, abandoned, exploited or abused.

The main risks migrants (children and adults) from Venezuela are facing are:

1. Recruitment, exploitation, abuse and child labour.
2. Being unattended.
3. Gender-based violence (GBV): in Colombia, women and girls are vulnerable for the risk of suffering violence and are involved in sexual exploitation for survival.
4. Discrimination: the high numbers of people arriving from Venezuela is generating a feeling of rejection among host communities who perceive the situation as a problem in terms of security and access to already limited public services.
5. Obstacles in registration and identification causing problems of access to services.
6. Insufficient capacity in temporary shelters: despite the government's efforts, Venezuelans have been sleeping in the streets, parks and other public spaces or informal settlements in neighbouring cities near the borders.
Active in the country since 1971, SOS Children’s Villages Colombia assists more than 11,500 children and adults by its 7 SOS Children's Villages across the country. In addition to its alternative care programs for children who are left alone, the association manages emergency response programs.

In response to the crisis, SOS Children’s Villages Colombia has developed and implemented a specific strategy to meet the needs of children, young people and their families who migrated from Venezuela looking for options to improve their living conditions. SOS Children’s Villages Colombia also supports unattended refugee children while trying to reunite them with their parents, distant family members or relatives who are willing to welcome them in their home.

Finally, children in these situations are exposed to traumatic events which is why the team provides psychological support.

The emergency response program in Colombia tackles these challenges and has been structured around 3 outcomes:

### Outcome 1

**Children and young people are protected within their families and communities from risks associated to the humanitarian crisis by strengthening their self-care and self-protection skills and by a comprehensive care response.**

**Activity 1.1.** Establishment of Child Friendly Spaces in the selected communities (Villa del Sur, Riohacha, Maicao and La Uribia).

Through weekly structured playful/pedagogical activities, 800 children (500 Venezuelan and 300 Colombian) will be able to identify risks to which they are exposed such as sexual exploitation, recruitment by armed groups and criminal gangs, drug consumption, gender-based violence (GBV) and other types of violence. The content of these activities includes topics such as sexual and reproductive rights, identification of symptoms in cases of child sexual abuse and GBV, available points of attention, early prevention, and identification of places of high risk.

**Activity 1.2.** Institutional coordination with Cooperation Agencies and the State to protect unattended children by foster family and kinship care. 100 unattended or separated Venezuelan children will be identified and placed under social services protection.

### Outcome 2

**Migrant families in transit are protected in a safe space and build their abilities to protect themselves and their children from risks associated to the humanitarian crisis.**

**Activity 2.1.** Provision of transportation services to the SOS facilities: humanitarian transports from Berlin moor to Floridablanca to the SOS shelter.

**Activity 2.2.** Temporarily family shelter for 200 children and their families that are walking through Santander (600 Venezuelan participants).

**Activity 2.3.** Delivery of basic food and hygiene kits to migrants in transit.

**Activity 2.4.** Diagnosis of family situation and referral to available services including legal and psychosocial support and case management for children that have lost the parental care or at risk of losing it.
ERP Colombia - Program description

Intervention strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome 3</th>
<th>Host communities have an increased awareness of the situation of the Venezuelan population in order to reduce discrimination towards the migrants.</th>
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<td>As part of the program, weekly group meetings will be held with 400 families (500 Venezuelan and 300 Colombian participants: 2 adults per child). These sessions will focus on topics related to the GBV prevention, child abuse, child protection practices and positive parenting. The group meetings will be carried out in spaces agreed with the community and local partners. A participative methodology will be used in these sessions.</td>
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**Activity 3.1. Community activities for social integration**

In coordination with project partners and local organizations, community activities will be held to promote social integration between the host communities and the Venezuelan population. This aims to reduce the discrimination practices that have been identified. The project will have a territory approach.

A communication campaign will be held to create empathy among community members and raise awareness about the situation that Venezuelans in Colombia are currently facing. This campaign will be displayed in local spaces with family stories and key messages around the humanitarian crisis that has led people to migrate to other countries. The campaign will be locally arranged in coordination with the project partners and local organizations. Community leaders and young people will be trained to promote the campaign in their communities.

**Activity 3.2. Articulation with local institutions to increase awareness about the situation of migrants in the targeted communities.**

_Hundreds of children waiting for the lunch prepaid by the community members. Settlement of Villa del Sur, Riohacha, La Guajira._
Main achievements of outcome 1

1.1 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS): with the support of parents, caregivers and community leaders, SOS Children’s Villages Colombia has established Child Friendly Spaces in the department of La Guajira for boys, girls and adolescents. Within these spaces, the SOS team has carried out activities focusing on the development of capacities such as self-protection, self-esteem, sexual and reproductive rights of children, adolescents and their families to make them aware of their rights.

To date, 18 CFS in La Guajira have been established in the communities where the project is taking place (municipalities of Riohacha, Maicao and Uribia) reaching 750 children (around 500 Venezuelan and 250 Colombian) and 145 parents/caregivers. The activities carried out in these spaces include access to basic food (refreshments and nutritional complements for children with malnutrition conditions). These CFS will be open until June 30, 2019.

Initially, it was planned to accommodate migrants, families and children in a Family and Community Development Centre (FCDC) in Bucaramanga (dep. Santander). Unfortunately, on January of 2019, the Mayor Office of Bucaramanga decided to drive out the migrant families and children from the “Water Park”, the place where they were transiting to other areas of the country. Due to this decision of the Mayor Office, the local foundation that offered SOS its space to open the FCDC had to move to another place. The decision was then made to reinvest the budget allocated to these activities in more CFS in La Guajira.

1.2 112 unaccompanied Venezuelan children (44 in Santander, 35 in Nariño and 33 in La Guajira) were identified as unaccompanied children. These cases were managed by the SOS team together with the support of the ICBF (Colombian Family Welfare Institute). All of them were reported in the local protection system and some of them were reunified with their families. Some children are now living in an institution. 6 children in La Guajira have been supported in a SOS temporary family-base care space.

Main achievements of outcome 2

2.1 Transport services: SOS has offered pick up services from different points nearby the SOS Villages in Santander and Nariño to the SOS facilities. In Santander, the team picked up families in Paramo the Berlin and transported them to the SOS Village in Floridablanca. To date, 561 families have been transferred to the Family Protective Space (temporary shelter).

In addition, refreshments – hot drinks and bread – have been distributed to the migrants “Caminantes” as well as first aid in the nearby area of Paramo de Berlin. 11,700 migrants in transit (8,800 in Santander and 2,900 in Nariño) have received this support.

2.2 Family Protective Space: SOS Facilities in Floridablanca (Santander) and Ipiales (Nariño, close to the border with Ecuador) are used to provide temporary shelter to migrants in transit. The most vulnerable people, such as families with children under 5 years old and lactating women are given priority. Depending on each individual case, temporary shelter is provided between 1 to 3 days. In addition to shelter, the migrants receive food support, information on available services and safe routes and protection activities for children and families. To date, 1,833 migrants in transit have been supported in the family protective spaces (1,249 in Santander and 584 in Nariño): approximately 1,000 are children under 18 years old and 833 are adults.

2.3 Delivery of basic food and hygiene kits to migrants in transit: as part of the attention in the Family Protective Spaces, migrants in transit received food and hygiene kits. To date, approximately 900 food and hygiene kits have been provided to families in the Family Protective Space in Floridablanca and 100 kits have been delivered to the “Caminantes” (walkers) in Paramo de Berlin.
2.4 Psychosocial Support and Legal Aid: aware of the effects that the situation has on the life and development of children, adolescents and their families, as well as the risks to which they are exposed, the SOS team supports their emotional recovery and the return to a sense of normality in their daily life. Children and their families in La Guajira and Santander have participated in group meetings to strengthen their protection and care skills, identify and mitigate risks and develop resilience amidst the crisis. To date, 2,728 people have received psychosocial support in La Guajira and Santander (children in the CFS) from whom 1,750 are children and 978 adults. Furthermore, families have received legal orientation about the different routes and services available for Venezuelan migrants in accordance with the legislation and protocols of attention.

**Main achievements of outcome 3**

3.1 Involvement of host communities in the planned activities with Venezuelan migrants to promote the social integration and reduce the discrimination against migrants: the strategy called “take my hand” has a territory approach instead of a population approach in order to promote social cohesion and reduce discriminatory practices. To date, 900 people participated in the awareness raising campaign in La Guajira. Approximately 60% of the participants to the activities were migrants from Venezuela and 40% were members of the host communities. Topics such as identity, conflict resolution and assertive communication have been approached during the group activities in the CFS in La Guajira.

3.2 Articulation with local institutions to increase awareness about the situation of migrants in the targeted communities:

The SOS staff has worked collaboratively with key local actors and institutions in order to make visible the situation of migrants across the country and increase awareness about the difficult situation and challenges they face on a daily basis. Communication campaigns and joint activities (e.g health brigades) have been carried out in the host communities. ICBF, Social Pastoral, UNICEF, Education secretary, Educational institutions, Mayor’s offices and UNHCR are a selection of local partners the activities were organized with.

*Transport services are provided*

*Hygiene kits distributed to migrants*
In the border areas (La Guajira, Norte de Santander), the migrant population settles informally and still lives in precarious conditions (lack of access to basic services: water, electricity, dignified housing). The population in transit to other countries, known as “Caminantes” - "walkers", walk the roads of the country and are exposed to dangers. They have to travel for several hours, crossing mountainous areas that make them cope with a temperature drop from 35º C to -5º in a single day without appropriate clothes.

Due to the presence of armed groups in the border areas and the inherent risks of migration (overcrowding, circular migration movements, new arrivals to the communities), protection is a priority for both migrants in transit and settled down migrants, especially for children, mainly considering those unattended or separated from their families.

On the other hand, it is important to bear in mind that many of the migrants are unaware of the available mechanisms or do not have access to psychosocial care, social services and legal protection, and face xenophobia, discrimination and, in certain cases, violence in the host communities.

Additionally, the host communities, located mainly in informal settlements, face a lack of access to basic services and need to implement mechanisms of care and protection for children in this regard.

The SOS Children's Villages team in Colombia continues to work with the migrant population from Venezuela, in the communities where it has settled, building friendly spaces for families, and with walkers that travel to the south of the continent offering humanitarian transportation, shelter and food. The 18 CFS currently running in La Guajira will be open until June 30, 2019. The project has not had any operational obstacles, however, the increase of the migrant population makes it necessary to expand the coverage in other regions of the country. The migration crisis is increasing day-by-day and despite the fact that the efforts of different organizations and institutions, including SOS, have been great and pertinent, there is need to seek out more resources and thus expand the attention to the population that is at risk in terms of protection and human rights violation. SOS Children’s Villages Colombia hopes to be able to continue the activities for children in those CFS, as these spaces are still highly needed due to the current situation of the migrant families.
## Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget line</th>
<th>Project budget</th>
<th>Current total expenditure</th>
<th>Current total expenditures in % of original project budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>137,734.49 EUR</td>
<td>121,664.60 EUR</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families &amp; children attention and daily operation (Snacks, FDC rental, public services)</td>
<td>45,721.90 EUR</td>
<td>41,421.85 EUR</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency kits and materials (Emergency kits, child-friendly space equipment)</td>
<td>25,499.92 EUR</td>
<td>25,068.32 EUR</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs for operational monitoring by SOS Children's Villages Colombia</td>
<td>14,197.83 EUR</td>
<td>13,170.83 EUR</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>223,154.14 EUR</strong></td>
<td><strong>201,325.60 EUR</strong></td>
<td><strong>90%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs for monitoring and coordination by SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde</td>
<td>4,375 EUR</td>
<td>4,375 EUR</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>227,529.14 EUR</strong></td>
<td><strong>205,700.60 EUR</strong></td>
<td><strong>90%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The requested budget of 355,000€ could not be covered by donations. The team has worked with a final budget of 223,154€ to carry out the activities described above that will be finalised end of June 2019.

The EIBI has contributed to the implementation of the program in the regions of La Guajira and Santander with an amount of 62,500€.

### Your contact

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