

Colombia

San Salvador, 16 December 2021

| SITUATION | |
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| <p>During the night of Monday the 22 October 2021, in the town of Necocli (Antioquia), Acandi and Capurgana (Chocó) in Colombia, a Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) has been conducted by OCHA, WFP, OIM, ACNUR, Pastoral Social, Cáritas Alemania, NRC, Terre de Hommes, MAPP-OEA, OPS/OMS, UNICEF, World Vision, CRC, FISCH and the Ombudsman in order to assess the dire humanitarian situation driven by mixed migratory flows, that sum up more than 15.000 refugees and migrants (about 20% of them are children¹) coming from Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela, and some African countries, who are stranded in the municipality of Necocli seeking to reach Central America and the US by crossing the Darien Gap. With the daily influx of more than 1.000 migrants, the humanitarian situation for refugees and migrants as well as host communities has worsened: local authorities are overwhelmed, transportation prices are dramatically increasing, public and social services are collapsed (mainly healthcare and WASH services), the creation of illegal migration routes and changes in socio-cultural dynamics that trigger negative coping mechanisms, mainly in adolescents who are dropping out school to seek irregular sources of income. Besides, the government of Panama only allows the entry of 500 people daily, contributing to the stagnation of refugees and migrants in the neighbouring towns. It is expected the situation will worsen as it has been foreseen an increase of the migration flow in the coming months.</p> | |
| NEEDS | |
| <p>The uncontrolled migration in the town of Necocli has created a state of crisis in which local authorities are not enabled to provide a proper humanitarian response. In terms of Health, many migrants reported respiratory-related illnesses, skin infections, physical injuries, post-traumatic stress, among others. Many expecting mothers do not have access to healthcare facilities, being forced to give birth in perilous conditions. Most of the migrants have reported not being vaccinated against COVID-19. Shelter conditions are precarious: migrants are living in poorly constructed and overcrowded places without proper WASH facilities, where up to 8 people share the same room and struggle to keep the basic hygiene. For women and girls, these places are not suitable especially for menstrual hygiene. Protection issues identified by the MIRA are the following: i) No access to life-saving information on migration routes, SGBV prevention, and related care services, shelter, among others; ii) one out three families mentioned to have encountered non-State armed groups during their journey, have experienced abuse of power by the national army and the exacerbation of violence by the Panamanian authorities; iii) more than 80% of refugees and migrants are exposed to attacks, robbery, and SGBV (three people declared have been subject of sexual abuse); iv) family separation during their journey through the Darien Gap; v) migrants are highly vulnerable to be used, utilized and forced recruited by organized criminal groups, mostly children; and vi) sexual exploitation of girls and women. Regarding Nutrition and Food Security, most people reported having two meals per day on average. Venezuelan migrants are the most vulnerable group as they are approaching the border, their income depletes dramatically, which led a dire situation where there struggle to find income sources, and, by extension, purchase nutritious food as prices have been raised by distortions in the local economy (the unprecedented migration inflow). RECOMMENDED: There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life, protection-related risks, and ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first. Local members have envisaged providing humanitarian relief through the adaptation of temporary shelters that meet the habitability conditions. It is also expected, through partners such as World Vision, to provide assistance in food security, WASH and Protection (including SGBV and Child Protection), and the delivery of traveller kits.</p> | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | sufficient food |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | safe shelter and basic non-food items |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | basic health services and facilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure |

1 <https://reliefweb.int/report/panama/more-91000-migrants-have-crossed-darien-gap-way-north-america-year>

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | livelihood activities | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | protection services | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | adequate nutrition | |
| STAKEHOLDERS | | |
| <p>Only a few humanitarian organizations are in the field providing support, unable to alleviate the needs of refugees, migrants, and host communities. The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:</p> | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | National government | Presidency of the Republic- Migration Colombia Security, clearing and repairing of roads, coordination through the Ministry of Planning, the Directorate for Civil Protection (DPC), the National Emergency Operations Centre (COUN), and emergency operations centres at departmental, communal and local level |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | UN Agencies | OCHA, UNICEF, WFP and, UHCNR are involved in the response process and support the DPC as well. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | INGOs | The presence of INGO is not strong. Only a few organizations such as WV are providing a response to the migrant population. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Red Cross Red Crescent Movement | Red Cross Colombia has a wide outreach in Colombian territory and seeks to provide humanitarian services. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Military presence | Click here to enter text. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | National NGOs | Even though the a weak humanitarian response in the zone, there are some national organizations such as CORSOC- ADRA in the front-line. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Civil society groups | Click here to enter text. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Faith based groups | There are churches from different faith traditions: the Local Catholic Church, Evangelical churches, and the Presbyterian Church. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Philanthropy groups | Click here to enter text. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Host communities | Host communities are coping with the migration influx in several ways, not always positive. There is a concert regarding the socio-economic and cultural changes that migration can bring to the social fabric. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Affected communities | Click here to enter text. |
| <p>The emergency response is currently being coordinated by Municipal Authority (Office Mayor). To ensure that the humanitarian response is well-coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (UNHCR- WV-CORSOC- UNICEF- WFP- ICBF- President-Office) and establish an open line of communication with crisis-affected people and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.</p> | | |
| ACT Alliance | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Alliance has been working in Colombia since 1997, now helping/planning to help people affected by the floods, and most recently, by the humanitarian migration crisis. Some of the organizations that belong to the Colombia Forum are WLF, DKH, IELCO ² , and IPC-Pazos ³ , currently providing humanitarian services in protection, health, shelter, and CVA/CBI. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the floods and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities | |

² Iglesia Evangelica Luterana de Colombia

³ Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia – Fundación Pazos

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and a better understanding of existing vulnerabilities. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in Food security for the host population, Non-Food Items, and Protection services for children, and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The ACT forum is planning on submitting a RRF proposal to provide protection services (especially to children), food vouchers, unconditional transfers, and traveller kits to ensure that the floods affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to Nutrition, Protection, Health. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing Traveller kits, energetic kits, food vouchers, unconditional transfers to affected households in the coming months. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the floods are amplified. |

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Director of Operations
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