



120,000
people

supported with cash to help meet basic needs



2,380
RHUs

delivered in 16 countries to strengthen the health response



985,000 items of personal protective equipment

distributed to national health authorities and first responders



170,000
individuals

received assistance after being registered by UNHCR and partners



500,000 people remotely informed

about health measures, their rights and accessing support programs



help.unhcr.org

provided updated information from **24 countries** throughout the region on prevention and remote services

As a consequence of the coronavirus outbreak in the Americas, the **population of concern to UNHCR** faced loss of livelihoods, evictions and health risks, due to limited access to national systems and lack of adequate quarantine facilities. Many of them saw no option but to return to their countries in adverse conditions. Amidst the severe economic downturn caused by lengthy confinements, xenophobia and discrimination against refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs or stateless population is on the rise. In order to respond to all these challenges, UNHCR's **response has prioritized**:

Strengthen and support health care and WASH services

Belize	4,700 facemasks made by asylum seekers
Costa Rica	6,000 refugees and asylum seekers insured by the National Social Security
Curacao	750 medical consultations provided
Ecuador	231,000 personal protective equipment delivered
Honduras	48,000 medical masks distributed to the communities affected by tropical storm Eta
Mexico	126 refugee health professionals identified to enter the public health system
Venezuela	20,000 hygiene kits including masks and gel distributed

Strengthen protection and community engagement

Argentina	7,400 refugees and migrants received protection services
Brazil	5,000 indigenous people from Venezuela assisted after UNHCR registration
Colombia	123,000 individuals registered (47,000 with special needs)
Peru	1,200 activities organized to prevent gender-based violence

Ramp up cash assistance, reinforce shelters, provide core relief items and improve self-reliance

Chile	2,300 refugees and migrants received food
Dominican Republic	1,200 food kits distributed among vulnerable refugees, migrants and host communities
Ecuador	16,000 pieces of clothing donated
Guatemala	96 Refugee Housing Units , or RHUs, helped improve conditions at reception centers for deportees and returnees
Costa Rica	3,500 household provided with cash assistance
Mexico	1,000 refugees and migrants can be hosted monthly in supported shelters
Peru	180,000 food rations provided in over 20 shelters, hotels and temporary centres since the start of the pandemic

Education

Bolivia	315 children benefited from a Mobile Friendly Space
El Salvador	30 schools remodelled
Ecuador	41 wi-fi hotspots installed to foster access to remote services
Panama	800 children provided with tablets to study remotely
Trinidad & Tobago	1,000 Venezuelan children able to access remote schooling

Situational highlights

As one of the hardest hit regions by the COVID 19 pandemic, **Latin America** counts over 12 millions of reported cases of the virus and the highest death toll. The disastrous effects of tropical storms in **Central America**, that left thousands of people in shelters, have aggravated the health emergency. Governments have launched plans to reactivate the economy amid serious concerns about a **long-term increase in poverty** in the region. The situation of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced populations, stateless people and others of concern to UNHCR remains critical.

Challenges faced by the population of concern

The pandemic exposes refugees and migrants to even greater hardships, as many have lost all sources of income and sometimes their homes amidst the lockdowns. This means they are at greater risk of **destitution, exploitation, gender-based violence and abuse**.

Most refugees, IDPs and other populations of concern to UNHCR are now **in need of urgent assistance to meet all their basic needs**, including shelter, food and healthcare. Amid growing fear and social unrest, many refugees and migrants are unable to comply with hygiene and physical distancing measures, **increasing the risk of stigmatization**. This situation is even more dire for women, children, indigenous population and LGBTI communities.

UNHCR is grateful for the **critical and generous support** provided by donors to the Coronavirus Emergency Situation globally, and to **the Americas**, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked funding.

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15.7 million people displaced in the Americas by the end of 2019

18% of all people of concern to UNHCR worldwide

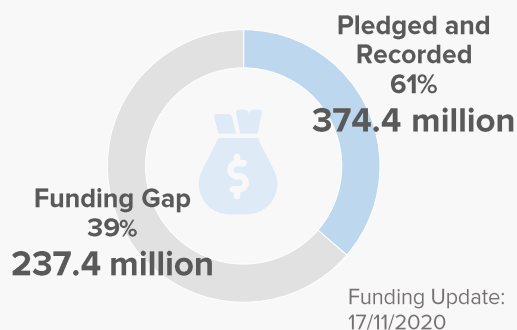
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COVID-19
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Progress report



UNHCR urgently needs
USD 611.8 million to save lives and protect the most vulnerable in the Americas



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