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Information Bulletin no. 5 Colombia-Panama-Costa Rica-Ecuador-Peru-Chile: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin N° 5	Date of issue: 22 September 2021
<p>Date of disaster: Ongoing since October 2018.</p> <p>The humanitarian crisis has experienced different peaks of migrant mobilisation during the last week.</p>	<p>Point of contact:</p> <p>Focal points in Colombia: Juana Giraldo, Migration Program Coordinator for Colombia juana.giraldo@ifrc.org</p> <p>Focal points in Central America: Gonzalo Atxaerandio, Disaster Management Coordinator Central America and Recovery focal point, gonzalo.atxaerandio@ifrc.org And Katherine Fuentes, Migration and social inclusion Coordinator for Central America, katherine.fuentes@ifrc.org</p> <p>Focal points in Ecuador: Roger Adolfo Calabuig, Coordinator, Operational Plan, Programs and Operations for Ecuador. Roger.calabuig@ifrc.org</p> <p>Focal points in Peru: Daniel Alfredo Rejas Untiveros, Regional Coordinator, Integrated Programmes for andean countries. Daniel.rejas@ifrc.org</p> <p>Focal points in Chile: Ruth Romero. Coordinator, Programs and Operations for Chile. Ruth.romero@ifrc.org</p>
<p>National Societies Presence : Colombian Red Cross Society, Costa Rica Red Cross and Panama Red Cross Society. Click here to view the overall numbers of volunteers, staff and branches per National Society based on FDRS data. The Colombian Red Cross has a support group in Necoclí with 5 volunteers. The situation is monitored with the Antioquia branch and the national migration team. The Panamanian Red Cross and the IFRC are in Darien with a staff of 12 people and more than 25 volunteers who rotate to cover the actions in the field.</p>	
<p>Number of people affected:</p> <p>In Colombia: By the 5 of September 2021, about 14,000 migrants were held up in Necoclí. Between 1000 and 100 migrants arrive daily in the municipality.¹ By the end of September, it</p>	<p>Number of people to be assisted:</p> <p>Colombia: For the initial response, it is expected to assist 8.000 people within the first 3 months of the response in the municipality of Necoclí.</p>

¹ [Migración Colombia. 10 September, 2021. Emergencia humanitaria por represamiento de migrantes en Necoclí. Radio Nacional de Colombia. September 5 of 2021](#)

<p>is expected to have 25 thousand migrants dammed in Necoclí².</p> <p>In Panama: In the first 7 months of 2021, 45,150 migrants transited, of which 12,073 (26%) represented minors.³</p>	<p>Panama: at least 10,000 migrants⁴ are expected to cross Darien jungle in the upcoming months and reach Bajo Chiquito Community and Lajas Blancas Migrant Reception.</p> <p>Costa Rica: In the next three month the expectation is to assist 3,000 migrants in 5 provinces of the country.</p> <p>Honduras: The National Society has estimated that they will reach 5,000 people by the end of October</p> <p>Guatemala: The Guatemalan Red Cross has planned to reach 3,500 people by the end of October 2021 by intervening in 6 regions.</p>
<p>National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) and Panama Red Cross Society (PRCS).</p>	
<p>Other partner organisations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Panamanian government institutions, including The Ministry of Health (MINSAs), The National Secretary of Children, Adolescents and Family (SENNIAF), The National Border Service (SENAFRONT), The National Migration Service (SNM) and The National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC); Médicos sin Fronteras (MSF), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) as well as other civil society organisations and churches., Migración Colombia (National Migration authority), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).</p>	

This bulletin is being issued for information and only reflects the current situation and details available as of September 2021. This document covers the situation and needs of population movement at the border between Colombia and Panama. It does not include information related to the migrant caravans travelling from Central America to North America. For further information, go to the [Honduras](#) and [Guatemala](#) population movement Plan of Action.

² El Espectador newspaper. "Tendremos más de 25 mil migrantes en Necoclí a finales de septiembre": alcalde. 8 September, 2021. <https://www.elespectador.com/colombia/mas-regiones/tendremos-mas-de-25-mil-migrantes-a-finales-de-septiembre-alcalde-de-necocli-antioquia/>

³ In July, the Panamanian Migration Services registered the transit of 19,142 migrants (42% of the total number of migrants registered from January to July 2021)

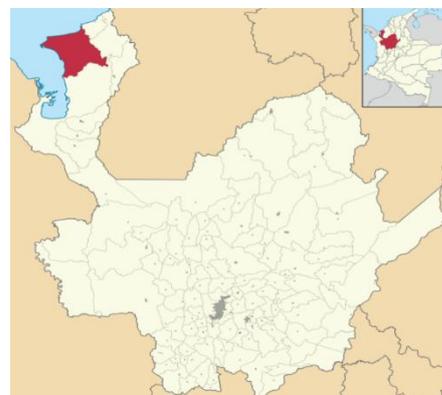
⁴ Information provided by SENAFRONT and checked with the local press articles from Virtual Newspaper: [La estrella de Panamá, July 27th](#) and [La Prensa Panamá, July 28th](#)

The Situation

COLOMBIA

The city of Necoclí, in the department of Antioquia, has been a reception and transit point for transcontinental migrants wishing to reach North America, mainly the USA, via the Pan-American route that crosses Colombia to Panama through the Darien Gap.

It is estimated that more than 46,500 migrants, of which more than 6,200 are children and adolescents, have transited through the Darién Gap between Colombia and Panamá during the last 5 years. Between January and August of 2021, 70,376 migrants (including 13,655 children) have crossed the Panamanian jungle.⁵ Since June 2021, the situation started to be of humanitarian concern due to the dam of more than 10.000 migrants in Necoclí. They could not continue their transit through the north of the continent, which led to the local authorities' declaration of a public calamity on 26 July. According to local news, on the 5 September of 2021, almost 14 thousand migrants, mostly Haitians, were stuck in Necoclí. The climate difficulties impacted the transfer of the people to the border with Panama and the entry migrant following the daily quota set up between both governments⁶. They face environmental, protection, social risks factors (armed and other violent actors), physical and mental health risks⁷.



Location of Necoclí municipality in Antioquia department, Colombia.

Due to the increase in the flow between Colombia and Panamá, on 11 August 2021, both governments established a daily quota of 500 migrants that could cross the Darien jungle. It has been a measure that attempts to alleviate the latent humanitarian situation on the border of both countries⁸.

However, the quota imposed on the transit of migrants in the Darién Gap has incentivised the creation of new routes, for instance, through Buenaventura/Jurado in the Pacific region of Colombia. It has also caused damming of migrants in regions like Nariño (Ipiales and Pasto), Valle del Cauca (Cali) and Antioquia (Medellín). Around 200 or 300 people form the groups, and they also want to reach Necoclí to continue their journey to Panama.⁹

In an interview for El Espectador Newspaper, the mayor of the Necoclí expressed his concern about the daily quota imposed, especially considering that around 1,000 migrants are arriving at the city daily. They expect almost 25 thousand migrants to be dammed there by the end of September 2021. This figure would represent 41% of the population of this town¹⁰.

⁵ [IFRC ramps up humanitarian assistance as record number of migrants cross the perilous Darién Gap. 20 September 2021.](#)

⁶ [Emergencia humanitaria por represamiento de migrantes en Necoclí. Radio Nacional de Colombia. 5 September 2021](#)

⁷ Data from the last SITREP report of the Colombian Red Cross. 2 August, 2021.

⁸ [France24 news. Colombia y Panamá fijan en 650 el tope diario de migrantes a cruzar la frontera entre ambos. 12 August 2021.](#)

⁹ CRCS Flash Update #4. 29 August 2021

¹⁰ [El Espectador newspaper. "Tendremos más de 25 mil migrantes en Necoclí a finales de septiembre": alcalde. 8 September, 2021.](#)

Some 12 migrants have died this year in the Darien, on the Colombian-Panamanian border. In addition, the major also reported in the interview that the municipality's population has doubled with the migrants, resulting in the collapse of the health, water, and sewage systems. The management of solid waste increased from having 15 to having 45 tons of garbage.

It is a big concern the situation of migrant children in this region. According to UNICEF, the number of children transiting increased from 109 in 2017 to 1,653 in 2020¹¹. The latest data obtained on the 2 August of 2021 by the Colombian Red Cross reported at least 20 out of every 100 people are minors.

According to the bulletin issued by the Gender-Based Violence group of the Interagency Group on Mixed Migratory Flows (GIFMM), protection risks are present, especially for vulnerable groups. For instance, the group reported a notable increase in prostitution cases of migrants. High threats of sexual violence have been reported, especially for women and adolescents. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) attended 105 cases on the border with Panama between 6 and 11 July 2021. 96 of these cases happened between 24 and 120 hours, all in the Darien jungle.¹²

According to Flash Update #4 of the Colombian Red Cross on 29 August 2021, the Colombian authorities reported selling 2,838 tickets to transfer children and adolescents (between 2 and 17 years old), only for July 2021. It shows an apparent increase in interest in moving by this age group and as part of family groups. According to SENAFRONT Panama, 1,273 minors entered Panamanian territory during the first half of this year. There is evidence of the movement of adult men with children without identification of kinship.

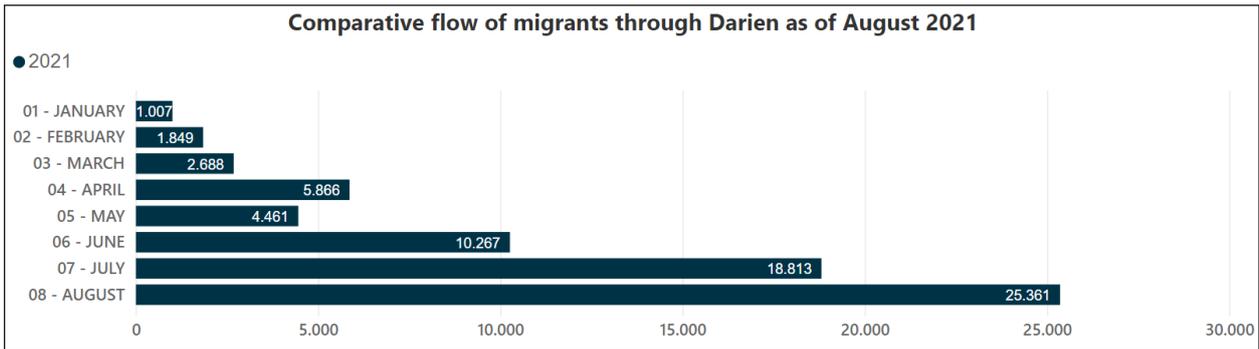
There is also evidence of a gradual and sustained increase in Venezuelan nationals using this transit corridor. In particular, there are more significant economic limitations and greater vulnerabilities for this type of population.

¹¹ [Quince veces más niños cruzando la selva de Panamá hacia EE.UU. en los últimos cuatro años \(unicef.org\)](https://www.unicef.org/colombia/stories/15-times-more-children-crossing-the-panama-forest-towards-the-us-in-the-last-four-years). 30 March 2021

¹² Recommendations from the GBV Sub-group on prevention, attention and mitigation of risks of Gender Based Violence (GBV) before and during the migratory route through the Darien Gap. Colombia GIFMM Gender Based Violence sub-group. August 2021.

PANAMA:

So far in 2021, the number of migrants crossing the Darien Gap has increased, alarming institutions and organisations that provide humanitarian assistance in the field. According to the registers of the National Migration Service of Panama (SNM by his acronym in Spanish), **between January and August 2021, 70,376 migrants (53,490 adults and 13.655 children)¹³ have arrived from Colombia after crossing the Darien Jungle.** According to the SNM, the number of migrants crossing the border in August from Colombia into the Darien increased by 89 percent compared to June's flow.



Migrants continue to arrive in Darien, most of them heading to North America. They endure risks while crossing the Darien jungle and along the migratory route in Central America and Mexico. Some of the main factors that have generated the increase in migration flows are the socio-political and economic situation in the countries of origin. Violence, unemployment, racism, inequality of opportunities, increased poverty, extreme weather conditions, and an essential triggering factor are disasters, such as the recent earthquake that occurred in Haiti on 14 August 2021. But, notably, there are many risks on the Darien migratory route. Other organizations working in the field, as well as the IFRC and the Panama Red Cross Society identify people who have been victims of violence on the route and are referred for appropriate follow-up, gender violence and sexual violence, add to the risks against the physical and emotional integrity of the people transiting through the Darien jungle. Several cases of sexual abuse against women and girls have been reported, as well as robberies, and deaths by authorities and humanitarian organizations.¹⁴

According to information provided by SNM, migrants who arrived in the country come from Antilles (mainly from Haiti and Cuba), South America, Africa, Asia, and Central America. Most of them with destination North America. IFRC has noted the increase of citizens from Venezuela using the Darien crossing route as a growing concern.

According to SNM figures, in 2020, only 50 Venezuelan migrants crossed the Darien Gap, and during the first eight months of 2021, 1,045 migrants from Venezuela have already crossed the border.¹⁵

¹³ [SNM](#). Irregular transit of foreigners - July 2021.

¹⁴ AP News. Panamá: denuncian supuestos abusos sexuales contra migrantes. 2 September 2021.

¹⁵ [Datos sobre la migración en Darien facilitados por el gobierno de Panamá](#). Agosto 2021

The increasing flow has exceeded the response capacity of local authorities and the humanitarian organisations in the field. As mentioned above, around 10,000 migrants are still waiting to cross the Darien Gap from Necocli', Colombia. And according to reports for the last 7 months, the trend is expected to increase.

During the rainy season (June to December), rainfall and the worsening conditions for transit through the jungle are expected.

Since January 2021, Panama authorities have increased the daily transfer of migrants from Darien Province to the ERM Los Planes de Gualaca, close to the border with Costa Rica. To continue their migratory journey and avoid overcrowding in Darien ERM. According to the same authorities, during July, an average of 500 people per day are being transferred to the Migratory Reception Stations Los Planes de Gualaca.

However, along the migratory route, the needs of migrant families and individuals are diverse in both countries. Host communities as well require support based on their needs.

COSTA RICA:

Since 2016, Costa Rica has become a frequent passage route for migrants regional and extra-regional migrants. The numbers have increased in recent months. Countries in the region started to open their borders because of the easing of the pandemic restrictions.

The Costa Rican government temporarily restricted the entry of foreign nationals classified as non-residents. Based on Executive Decree 42238-MGP-S of 17 March 2020 and 30 October 2020, it was forbidden the entry of foreign nationals planning to cross the country from north to south and vice versa except for humanitarian reasons, as authorised by the General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs (DGME) and after coordinating with the relevant authorities in Panama and Nicaragua. This situation affected the humanitarian bridge that had allowed migrants to cross the country in "transit".

HONDURAS:

Honduras is a transit country with a flow of migrants seeking to reach Mexico and the United States. The department of Choluteca stands out as one of the border departments in the country where many migrants enter daily. The main entering point is Guasaule, with an estimated transit of 80% of the people, another 10% uses the border of El Espino, and the rest enter through blind stops.

The National Institute of Migration of Honduras (INM) has conducted operations in the department of El Paraíso to support the people's needs. The area reported a significant influx of people in the last months. The operations started in July 2021, and they have attended approximately 2,000 people entering the country.

Regarding the irregular migrant population that enters through the department of El Paraíso, the majority are from Haiti, 48.5%, and 40.14% are from Cuba. The rest of the migrants come from different countries with a large population from other continents such as Africa and Asia. In relationship with their sex, 65% are men, and 35% are women. Age-wise, 90 % of adults and 10% are children and adolescents accompanied by their parents¹⁶. The National Migration Institute (INM) has attended nationwide in all its Centers for Attention to Irregular Migrants (CAMI), a total of 10,681 migrants so far in 2021. (Information shared by the INM).

GUATEMALA AND MÉXICO:

Migration in transit through Guatemala is challenging to identify. Certain media outlets report that flows of migrants from other regions and continents move through Guatemala with human smugglers who lead them through blind spots.¹⁷ However, until they arrive in Mexico, one can get a glimpse of these migrant flows. Currently, there is an evident increase in asylum applications in Tapachula, the state of Chiapas (Mexico). From January to August 2021, 29,699 applicants from Honduras applied for refugee status, 18,843 from Haiti, and almost 8,000 from Cuba¹⁸.

Many of these migrants, outside Mexico and other continents, are being detained in southern Mexico for long periods. At the end of August 2021, a caravan of some 600 migrants, including Central Americans, Haitians and Venezuelans, left Tapachula for the United States. Most of them were detained by the Mexican National Guard. The United States reported in July 2021 the highest number of irregular migrants at its southern border, with a total of 212,672, the highest number in recent years¹⁹.

ECUADOR:

According to the information provided by the Ecuadorian Red Cross, there are three main routes from Brazil and Chile that cross the country.

Haitian population leaving Brazil: the situation in Brazil due to the pandemic, both from the health and economic point of view, led the Haitian people to move towards the United States. They are the largest Haitian communities in South America.

Route 1: Brazil - leaving through the Amazon region to the north of Peru (Peruvian Amazon) and entering Ecuador through the province of Orellana, reaching the parishes of Tiputini and Nuevo Rocafuerte from where they travel to the region of Sucumbios, to the capital Lago Agrio, and there they cross the border to Colombia, initially to Cali.

¹⁶ [Flujo migratorio por Honduras aumentó en inicio del 2021 - Diario El Herald](#)

¹⁷ [Prensa Libre.](#)

¹⁸ [Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados.](#)

¹⁹ [Los Angeles Times.](#)

Route 2: Brazil – departing from the Amazon region to the north of Peru (Peruvian Amazon) and entering Ecuador through the province of Orellana, arriving in the parishes of Tiputini and Nuevo Rocafuerte from where they travel to the region of Carchi, to the capital Tulcán. From there, they cross the border to Colombia from the Urbina border crossing to Ipiales. In this route of arrival through Orellana, groups of between 10 to 12 people have been identified, mostly family groups, at least once a week since August 2021. Other nationalities such as Afghans, Bangladeshis, Senegalese, and even Brazilians have also been identified in this route.

Haitian population leaving from Chile: in August 2021, the flow of Haitians from the south of the continent to the United States has increased.

Route 3: They enter through Peru to the province of El Oro (Huaquillas), through Ciudadela 9 de Octubre. From Huaquillas, they take transport to the northern border of Ecuador (Tulcán) and leave for Colombia. On this arrival route through Huaquillas, groups of 15 to 30 people have been identified, mostly family groups, at least two or three times a week.

PERU:

The Puno region has two border checkpoints: Desaguadero and Kasani. It is frequented by local people, Peruvians, and Bolivians, to enter and leave the country. It is also used by migrants and refugees who want to reach the southern cone countries such as Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. The Bolivian authorities have recorded a major influx of Haitian population in the area.²⁰ Denying their permit to travel through the country. So far, between January and August, the number has climbed up to 5,000 people.

Also, according to the IOM DTM in Desaguadero²¹, the movement of Venezuelan migrants and refugees is heavily related to the commercial dynamics of the communities in both countries. They can travel through the area without being noticed and even earn some money with daily jobs. Despite the restrictions generated by COVID-19, the activity in the borders has not stopped, and fair trades were held. However, it has been observed that, due to the closing of the borders, the migrant and refugee population used transit points that are not authorised for international crossing, mainly using boats as means of transportation to cross the border.

A meeting held with humanitarian actors in the region (CARE, CEDEH, and Sister of Mercy) highlighted that one of the main difficulties for refugees and migrants is harsh climatic conditions. The low temperatures and the difficulties in accessing coats, blankets, and fine clothes threaten to ensure a minimum quality of life. In fact, in June 2021, UNHCR²² monitored the Protection of Venezuelan families in the region. The results showed that 34% of the families in transit who participated in the evaluation mentioned that they had to sleep on the streets; therefore, there is an evident need to provide them with temporary accommodation and housing assistance.

²⁰ [Más de 5.000 haitianos descubiertos intentando pasar por Bolivia de forma irregular - La Razón | Noticias de Bolivia y el Mundo \(la-razon.com\)](#) August 2021

²¹ [Perú — Flujo de Migración Venezolana Evaluación de Área: Desaguadero, Puno \(Marzo 2021\) | DTM \(iom.int\)](#) 18 March 2021

²² [Monitoreo de Protección en Puno - Junio 2021 | R4V](#) June 2021

The same report noted that 57% of the families interviewed had to reduce the quality and quantity of food they consume, and even 4% of these families had to collect leftover food in the streets. Consequently, food security is another of the needs to be covered. Moreover, since their economic resources are limited and their needs increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regarding protection cases, most Venezuelan migrants have felt discrimination in Peruvian territory. UNHCR²³ reported that 82% of the population interviewed reported having suffered protection incidents such as xenophobia, theft of documents or belongings and degrading treatment. Likewise, according to the information gathered, the city of Juliaca has a significant presence of migrants due to its commercial dynamics. In some districts of this city and Desaguadero, people reported moving to other provinces in the early morning or afternoon hours to go unnoticed. That situation leads to protection exposure, especially in terms of human trafficking.

Last week UNHCR Peru shared information about the monitoring of Tumbes²³ (border with Ecuador) conducted in July and August 2021. They observed that:

- 45% of men are from 18 to 59 years old.
- 17% of women are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- 6% of children and adolescents are separated or unaccompanied.
- 6% present some medical condition
- 65% intend to stay in Peru (see destination cities).
- 35% go to Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia, with Desaguadero and Tacna as departure points.

This information confirms the transit over the border point in Desaguadero.

CHILE:

On 16 August 2021, the Chilean Red Cross and the IFRC held a meeting in the Municipality of Iquique with the Mayor and the Migration Office of that public institution. They informed about a migrant smuggling network moving Haitian nationals by bus from the Tarapacá Region to Choco, Colombia, a region that borders Panama. And then, they return, moving Venezuelan nationals from Colombia to Colchane (Bolivia-Chile Border).

In the last month in Iquique, there has been a notable increase in the flow of Haitian nationals. They arrive from different parts of the country and quickly leave the city by bus. It is important to note that the Peruvian press has begun to report this phenomenon that has become noticeable in Tacna (Peru), a border city with Arica and Parinacota (Chile). The local media published reports about it and how the Peruvian police have intervened.

Regarding the flow of Haitian citizens to the north of the continent, the Municipality of Iquique explained that migrants are being deceived into believing that they can enter the United States without a visa and only using the Chilean carnet for foreigners. However, this does allow them to cross South America without a visa.

²³ [Monitoreo de Frontera en Tumbes \(Perú\) - Julio-Agosto 2021 | R4V](#) July/August 2021.

During the field visit, the team observed that a large part of the current flow comprises entire family groups with children. Some of them were born in Chile, and because of that, they are eligible to enter the United States. Chilean passport holders have a special visa waiver that allows it.

In August 2021, the media Deutsh Welle²⁴ published an article on its Spanish site stating that the governments of Panama and Colombia established a daily quota from Monday to Friday to allow the formal passage of 650 migrants per day reduced to 500 in September. According to this media outlet, both countries are experiencing a migratory transit phenomenon composed mainly of Haitians and their mixed Brazilian, Chilean, and Peruvian families. The Movement operations in Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and northern Central America maintain communication and coordination to monitor these flows.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

COLOMBIA:

By the 10 September of 2021, the Colombian Red Cross, in support of the German Red Cross, ICRC, and ECHO, has been assisting the transcontinental migrants as follows:

- Providing 2.675 health attentions, 676 to women and 528 to men from 11 August to 10 September.
- Providing 923 connectivity services related to battery charging, calls and access to Wi-Fi and internet connection, assisting 363 women and 560 men.
- Delivering more than 25,000 masks since the beginning of the response.
- Coordinating with the municipal ESE for the provision of health services.
- Accessing translation services through Cash for Work.
- Installing a Humanitarian Services Point through modules (containers) facilitating complementarity.
- Installing a mobile health intervention team (since 11 August), offering medical, nursing, first aid, psychological support and medication delivery services, with a ratio of 100 services/day and a scope of 1500 services rendered to date (health care).
- Strengthening the information associated with the RFL component, multilingual, facilitating access to services.
- Offering RFL and connectivity by maintaining the intervention scheme generated since March 2021 and improving the approach to transcontinental response.
- Preparing a container type module with 2 units and allowing the installation of HSP type operational unit. Also improving the conditions of provision, dignity and access to services.



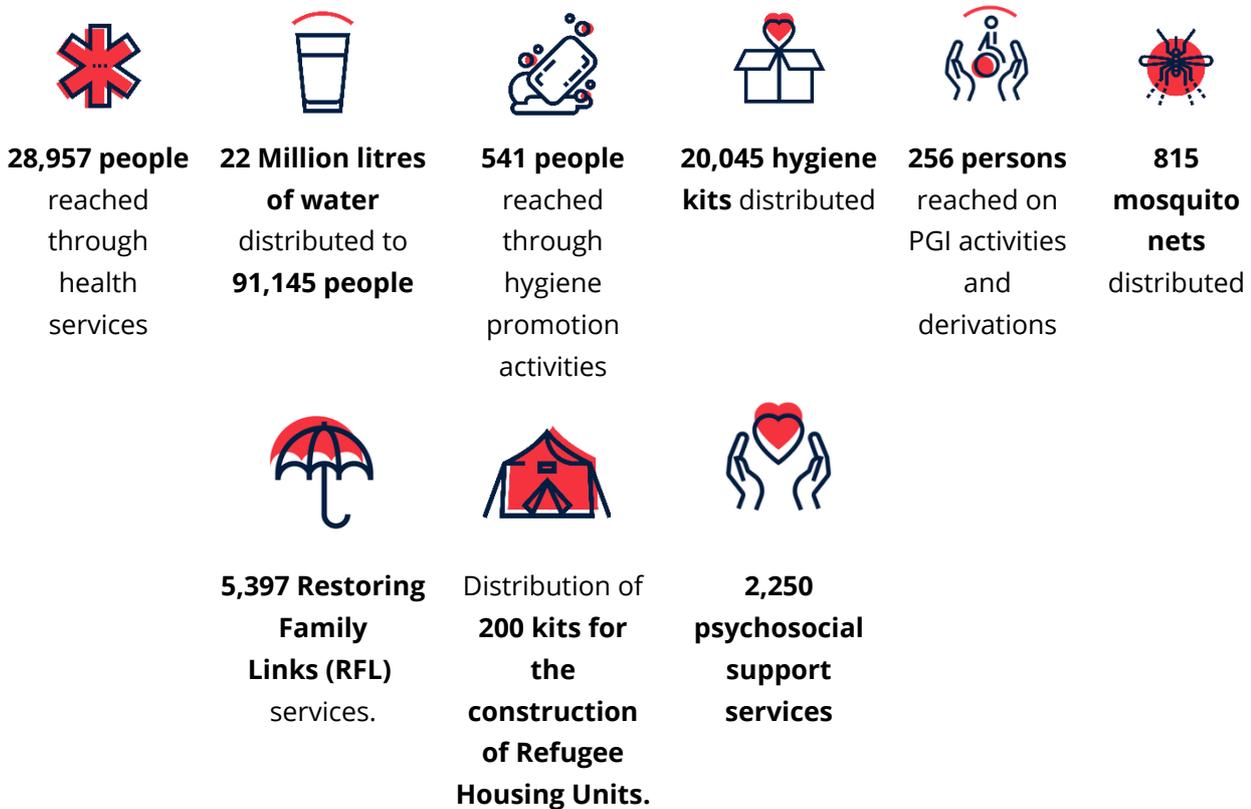
A person accessing to a health services of the CRCS in Necodí. September, 2021. Source: CRCS

²⁴ [Colombia: 650 migrantes cruzan la frontera panameña a diario | Las noticias y análisis más importantes en América Latina | DW | 21.08.2021](#) 21 August 2021

PANAMA:

The operation in Panama has focused primarily on responding to the circumstances in the Darien, given the highly vulnerable condition of migrants arriving there. In Bajo Chiquito, Lajas Blancas, and San Vicente, IFRC and Panamanian Red Cross Society personnel work in coordination with UNICEF and with the Panamanian authorities, such as SENAFRONT, SNM, SENNIAF, the Ministry of Health (MINSAs), and the National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC), to provide services in WASH, Health, Migration and Protection, Gender and Social Inclusion.

From January 2021 to August 2021, the Panamanian Red Cross Society has assisted more than 37 thousand people through humanitarian assistance and services provided in the field, with the support and accompaniment of different operations and programs:²⁵



The International Red Cross Movement, with the support of other actors, continues to provide services and attention to migrants in the Darien region from 2019 until the present, working as an auxiliary to the public authorities. The Panamanian Red Cross Society has initiated a process of programmatic actions into the country plan implemented from February 2021, which seeks to continue assisting a medium and long-term approach framed in its Migration Strategy.

Since April 2021, the Colombian Red Cross has focused on implementing the following activities in Necocli:

²⁵ Data updated as of August 31, 2021.

- Orientation and access to information.
- Restoring Family Links activities.
- Health care days.

Since January 2021, IFRC, ICRC, and Panamanian Red Cross Society have focused on implementing the following activities in Darien:

- Implementation of recurrent multisectoral and interagency coordination meetings.
- Training of mental health professionals and communities on Psychosocial Support Services.
- Provision of mental health and psychosocial support to migrants and host communities.
- Derivation and follow up of cases requiring urgent attention on PGI and PSS.
- Restoring Family Link services (phone calls, internet connection, battery charging, etc.)
- Distribution of safe water to host community members and migrants.
- Establishing portable lavatories and handwashing stations.
- Community hygiene promotion and personal hygiene sessions.
- Distribution of jerrycans, buckets and mosquito nets (from the Red Cross) and mattresses (from UNICEF).
- The provision of health services and assistance to MINSA's health post.
- In coordination with UNICEF, maternal/infant care continues to be provided, including the following services:
 - Verifying nutritional conditions in children and infants, referring cases of possible malnutrition to complementary medical services and providing follow up during their stay in Bajo Chiquito, Lajas Blancas and San Vicente.
 - Promotion of proper breastfeeding practices for infants under 24 months.
 - Suggesting complementary feeding in cases of possible malnutrition and to children over 6 months.
 - Monitoring and referring pregnant women to the health post.

IFRC and Panamanian Red Cross Society teams, including CEA, PGI and PSS experts, have made monitoring visits to Bajo Chiquito, Lajas Blancas, San Vicente and La Peñita. During these visits, they had the opportunity to conduct interviews with migrants to obtain first-hand information about their primary needs. Moreover, since January 2021, the technical staff of the IFRC America Regional Office and the Panamanian Red Cross Society have accompanied CEA, Protection, Communication, PSS, and Coordination.

Moreover, IFRC ARO continuously monitors the situation and coordinates with the two National Societies to have a precise scenario and a response plan adapted to the two countries and the capacities in the field.

During the first week of September, the Costa Rican Red Cross and the Panamanian Red Cross conducted a needs assessment of the southern border of Costa Rica and the northern border of Panama. The document will not be made public, as it will serve as the basis for the intervention strategy in the area.

COSTA RICA:

Due to the different contextual situations occurring in Panama and Colombia. Costa Rica Red Cross and IFRC are in the process of preparing for a response to the possible increase in migrant flows. Some of the actions being taken or to be initiated:

- In the coming days, the Costa Rica Red Cross will be conducting a field assessment in the southern part of the country to identify entry points and needs of migrants entering through blind spots.
- The National Society throughout the country monitors the media and maintains a dialogue with the authorities to identify a possible increase in migrant flows in the border zones.
- The migration scenarios have been updated.
- A preparedness plan will be developed to provide a relevant response, including Migration, PGI and CEA training for border branches in southern and northern zones.
- The provision of differentiated hygiene kits has been planned.
- Key messages and information for migrants in transit are prepared.

HONDURAS:

The HRC with the accompaniment of various partners, including the ICRC provides services within the Center for Attention to Irregular Migrants (CAMI), mainly RFL and prehospital care services. Through the Monarch Butterfly program, the SN began in 2020 to provide differentiated services to migrants in transit through Honduras, mainly in the department of Choluteca. Currently, the SN and IFRC are working on the action strategy in that area of the country, following up on humanitarian assistance actions, such as hygiene kits, transportation assistance, food, in the CAMI but also in coordination with other organisations that provide shelter to these flows.



Volunteers from Base 2 in Tegucigalpa provide pre-hospital assistance to migrants in CAMI.

ECUADOR:

Currently, the National Society is monitoring the Provincial Boards of Orellana and Sucumbíos, as well as through the Principles and Values team from Headquarters. They are in direct communication with local and national authorities and other organisations.

The Provincial Boards of Orellana and Sucumbíos do not currently have kits or supplies to provide to the migrant population. Above all, it would require kits or supplies for COVID contagion prevention: masks and alcohol, gel for hands.

It is also necessary to ensure the capacity (cell phones and telephone plans) to provide the RFL service and a local team in Aguarico to the migrant population.

PERU:

Taking into account, the needs identified, it is justified to work with the migrant and refugee population of the Puno region, focusing the intervention in the cities of Desaguadero and Puno, and in a complementary way in Juliaca, implementing the following activities:

a) Health and protection

- Distributing of kits according to needs (shelter, COVID-19 or hygiene).
- Disseminating of protection and health promotion information in communities and shelters.
- Providing medical and first aid support in border areas and migrant shelters.
- Providing mental health and psychosocial support services in shelters and in conjunction with medical campaigns.
- Offering training on psychosocial support for interveners and shelter administrators to create spaces and activities for mental health.
- Disseminating information on state institutions or channels to turn to in different migratory/legal situations.

b) Social Inclusion

- Promoting inclusion in local communities and organisations.

In a complementary manner, considering the low availability of information, periodic monitoring should be considered to update the information on needs and migratory flows in the border area. Also, strengthening coordination in these exercises with other actors present in the region and the thematic area.

The Peruvian Red Cross has a branch office located in Puno, approximately 3 hours from the border. It has at least 30 volunteers familiar with the local context and the primary needs of migrants in the area. However, they have not received specific training in migration or protection.

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate, and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.