

CHILE



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN CHILE
457,324



PEOPLE REACHED
IN 2021*
46,569



FUNDING SITUATION**
FUNDED: **8.9 M**
REQUIREMENT: **USD 46.1M**

Situation

- Chilean authorities expressed their concern over the [increase](#) in arrivals of refugees and migrants during August. The new arrivals cross from Pisiga, Bolivia, to the border city of Colchane through unofficial border points. Authorities are concerned that this number of refugees and migrants (mostly from Venezuela) could overwhelm the limited public services available in Colchane, and create a situation similar to the one that took place in February. According to local authorities, in addition to walking through unofficial border points, refugees and migrants hitch rides on trucks or hire [smugglers](#) to enter the country.
- Authorities of the Antofagasta Region announced the [opening](#) of a health screening and customs office in the city of Tocopilla, on the coast, due to the increase of irregular entries in the region. The office is equipped to conduct COVID-19 tests. Refugees and migrants who test positive must stay in the city under quarantine, while those who test negative may continue their journeys. The city first opened such an office in 2020, but then transferred it north to the border with Tarapacá.
- The Government of Chile [welcomed](#) the renewal of the dialogue process between the government and the opposition in Venezuela that formally began on 13 August in Mexico, and issued a press release wishing the parties success in their efforts to reach a democratic transition and reiterating its commitment to a peaceful and democratic solution in the country.
- [Reports](#) show that by the end of August, for the first time during the pandemic, the COVID-19 positivity rate in Chile was less than 1%. According to the Ministry of Health, 672 new cases of COVID-19 were registered, a historic low since February.
- [Statistics](#) published by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and the Department of Immigration of Chile (DEM) show that the population of foreigners in 2021 has grown in all regions of the country. As of December 2020, there were 1.4 million foreigners in the country, 62% of them living in the metropolitan region of Santiago, followed by 7% in Antofagasta, and 4.7% in Tarapacá. Venezuelans comprised on average a third of all foreigners in Chile.
- A recently published study on the [“Rights of migrant children with irregular status”](#) by the NGOs *Inmigrantes de Chile* and *Colectivo sin Fronteras* presented figures on access to health and education for refugee and migrant children in Chile. The study showed that 51.7% of children and adolescents considered in the study lacked access to outpatient care. The study authors argue that this situation is due to a government health policy that effectively excludes refugees and migrants. Regarding education, 28% of children and adolescents were not enrolled in schools. The responsible adults interviewed mentioned not being able to find vacancies in schools (26.3%) and not having searched for schools (13.2%) as the main reasons for children not being enrolled.
- A [study](#) published by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) encouraged governments hosting growing outflows of Venezuelans to move from short-term humanitarian responses to long-term integration policies. The study argues that most of the countries now hosting refugees and migrants from Venezuela, such as Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, used to be nations of emigration and have outdated or limited policies to deal with the current arrivals. The study recommends reducing irregularity, facilitating credential recognition, addressing income gaps, improving access to education and healthcare, and sustaining transparency and research.

Response

- During August, **R4V partners assisted refugees and migrants with food and non-food items** (including hygiene kits) in northern cities such as Arica, Antofagasta and Iquique. In the Metropolitan Region, kits were delivered to refugees and migrants in need.
- R4V partners** also continued providing **shelter, cash and voucher assistance (CVA), protection, health assistance and humanitarian transportation**. In the case of cash transfers (CVA), 150 families received giftcards in various regions of the country, which allowed them to buy hygiene items, food and winter clothing, among others.
- The Ministry of Social Development distributed **1,300 thermal blankets donated by R4V partners** to refugees and migrants throughout the country as part of the winterization campaign.
- A Venezuelan family was transferred to the city of Valparaiso for **family reunification** by R4V partners.
- R4V partners conducted an **information survey** on the situation of refugees and migrants who arrived via unofficial border points, especially in the city of Colchane.
- In August, **three new partners joined the R4V National Coordination Platform in Chile**. The new civil society organizations carry out humanitarian aid programs.
- On 30 August, **the R4V Platform organized the first humanitarian coordination meeting for the northern border region**, to organize the actions of R4V partners. The meetings will recur regularly while the situation in the northern border remains active.
- The R4V National Platform** engaged in planning for the RMRP 2022, including by developing population projections, calculating people in need, reviewing secondary data, and other planning meetings.



Health

263



Education

0



Food Security

1,531



Integration

173



CBI

2,137



Protection

4,388



Shelter

849



Hum. Transp.

0



WASH

160