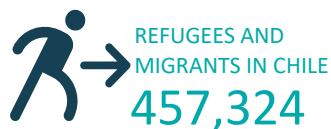


# CHILE



## Situation

- In the northern border regions of Chile, the situation of migrants and refugees who enter irregularly continues to be a concern for local authorities, host communities and R4V partners. Regional Governor of Tarapaca (border with Bolivia) stated that in September more than 53 per cent of the new COVID-19 cases in the region corresponded to foreigners that have entered Chile and were quarantining in the city of Iquique, while noting that healthcare residences are at the limit of their capacity. In Tarapaca, the bed occupancy rate reached 97 per cent, with 87 per cent occupied by Venezuelans; Antofagasta reported that 50 per cent of people with COVID-19 are refugees and migrants from Venezuela who have recently entered the country.
- By the end of October, partners reported the presence of around 400 Venezuelans (including 100 children) in Huara, a small town located in the border with Bolivia, in a makeshift settlement and in a situation of extreme vulnerability. So far, for those who voluntarily declare their irregular entry to Chile, they are generally taken to quarantine for 14 days at the nearest healthcare residences, according to availability. This is being handled directly by the regional authorities (the Governance and municipalities), the police and the local health authorities.
- After several months of waiting, a humanitarian return flight from Venezuelan State-run airline Conviasa to Venezuela took place on 10 October. Up to this point, two flights with 456 persons departed to Venezuela in May (217 individuals) and October (239 individuals).



Venezuelan families receiving assistance in Huara © IOM/2020

## Response

- In early October, R4V partners in the main municipalities of the northern regions organized a virtual meeting focused on migrants and refugees. During the activity, the first of its kind, the current contexts of the Arica and Parinacota, Tarapacá, Antofagasta, Atacama and Coquimbo regions were assessed, and the challenges of the health emergency were addressed by preparing a joint intervention. In this way, **R4V partners joined efforts with local actors and authorities to seek solutions to assist 260 refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Huara** with shelter, daily food and orientation. Some 60 refugees and migrants in very vulnerable conditions, such as pregnant women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities were transferred to a hostel to receive special attention.
- **Partners also continued with their regular planned activities related with the provision of food items (830), non-food items (1,298), shelter (485) and cash-based support (69),** providing for their basic and urgent needs, including rent payments.
- On 19 October, a **ministerial meeting with the participation of the Group of Friends of the Quito Process was organized by the Chilean Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT)** to follow-up on the main agreements of the Sixth Chapter technical meeting. IOM's Director General, UNHCR's High Commissioner and the Joint Special Representative Eduardo Stein attended this virtual conference. Following the second and last stage, the PPT announced that 11 thematic workshops will be held in November before handing over the Presidency to the Government of Peru.
- **The National Platform finalized the submission of their data sets and targets for the RMRP 2021.** Additionally, the Platform, alongside their Sector Leads have been working on the Chile Chapter narrative draft for the RMRP 2021. By the end of the month, the Coordination started to work on the 2020 Evaluation process and the design of the 2021 work plan.

