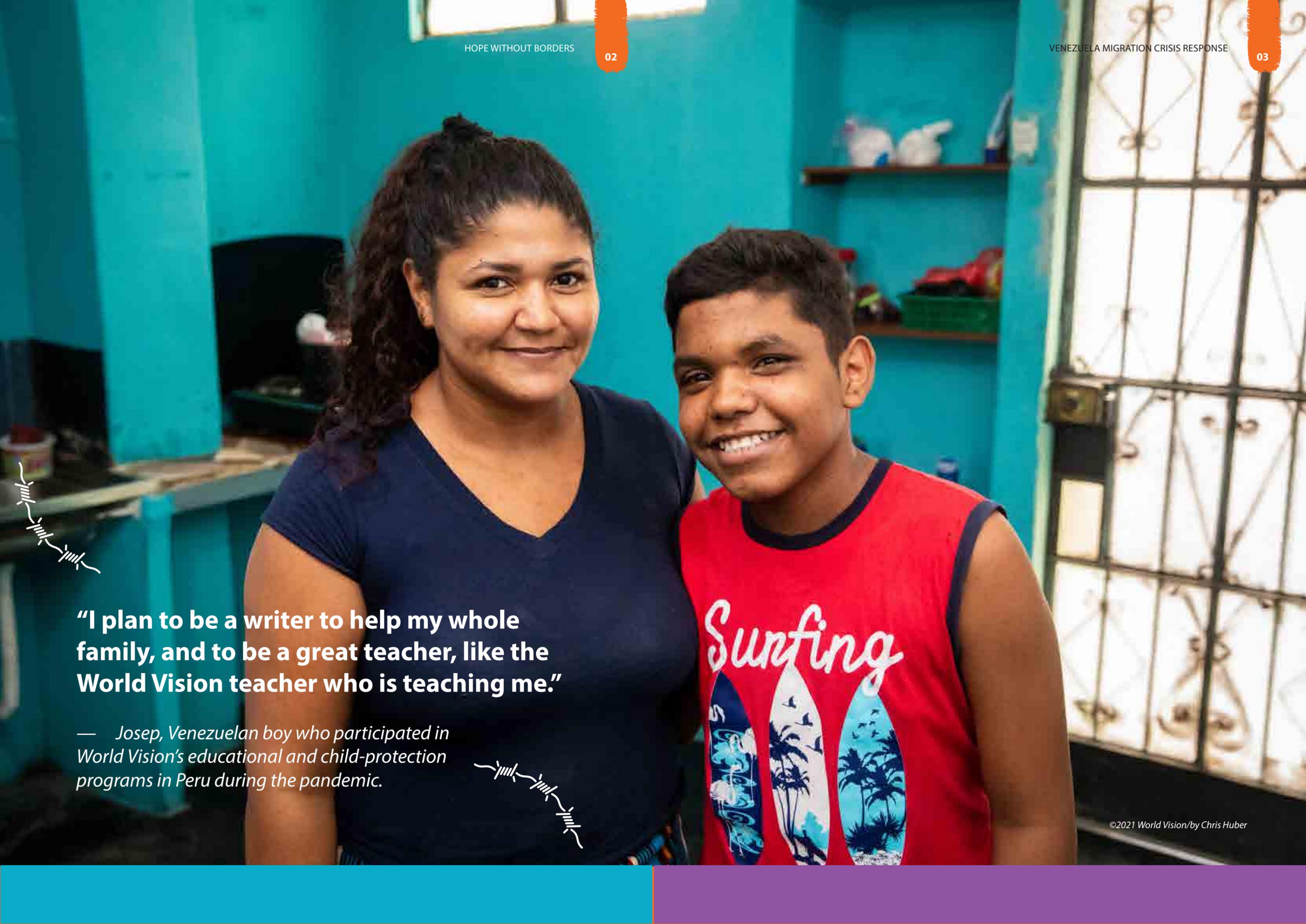


HOPE
Without Borders

Venezuela Migration
Crisis Response

2021
Annual Report



“I plan to be a writer to help my whole family, and to be a great teacher, like the World Vision teacher who is teaching me.”

— Josep, Venezuelan boy who participated in World Vision’s educational and child-protection programs in Peru during the pandemic.



HOPE

Without Borders

Venezuela Migration Crisis Response

This report was produced by Chris Huber on behalf of the Venezuela crisis response team at World Vision International in collaboration with World Vision field offices.

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Child and adult safeguarding considerations: All photos and stories were captured and used with informed consent.

Cover Photo: ©2021 World Vision/By Chris Huber

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Foreword from our leaders

Far from letting up, the displacement of Venezuelan children and families is increasing throughout the Americas. COVID-19 has further impoverished and deprived families from the basics: nutritious food, reliable employment and access to clean water, health services, shelter and education for their children.

As of March 2022, more than 6 million people had left Venezuela due to the ongoing political and economic crisis. As this upward trend continues, World Vision is strengthening our response and collaboration through effective interventions in Colombia, Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, and inside Venezuela.

World Vision's Hope Without Borders 7-country response has provided humanitarian aid to more than 1.3 million people over the past three years. As highlighted in the regional overview, nearly 27% of our \$45.2 million operating budget in 2021 consisted of multipurpose cash assistance. These critical programs help protect of the most vulnerable children and their families by providing flexible aid amid persisting economic crises throughout the region.

We are actively collaborating with corporations, international agencies and multilateral organizations to ensure the well-being of migrant children and their families, including those still living in Venezuela. We work to foster healthy relationships between migrant populations and host communities. We understand that promoting social and economic integration prevents conflict and xenophobia. That's why we focus much of our effort on partnering with and equipping local NGOs and Faith-Based Organizations.

Our objective in the years ahead is to ensure the protection of children and to help their families not only survive this crisis, but to thrive and dream about the future. Each of the stories highlighted in this report is an example of those dreams becoming reality.

We address immediate felt needs by providing cash and food assistance. But we also address people's long-term relational and economic needs by providing livelihoods, entrepreneurship, nutrition and violence-prevention trainings and access to education. While we continue working to scale our impact in Venezuela, we also are developing multi-country initiatives to focus our work in border areas between countries throughout the region. These initiatives are designed to reach the most vulnerable people in society, including unaccompanied children and people on the move.

At World Vision, we prioritize enabling safe environments and communities for children and their families to thrive. This is the most effective way to fight poverty and exclusion. We also understand that providing a sense of hope is instrumental to rebuilding opportunities for those who have left their families, possessions and their country behind.

We see ourselves as builders of societies that thrive with justice and opportunities for all, especially for children. We thank our staff, volunteers, faith leaders, community leaders, partner agencies, businesses and multilateral organizations that work with us to build better societies and create more opportunities for those forced to flee.

May this long-standing emergency, and the collaboration it promotes, be the seed to create the world our children deserve.



Peter Gape,

Director, World Vision Colombia
and Venezuela crisis multi-country
response



Joao Helder Diniz,

Regional Leader, World Vision LAC

Response Sectors and 2021 Impact



Cumulative program impact since January 2019

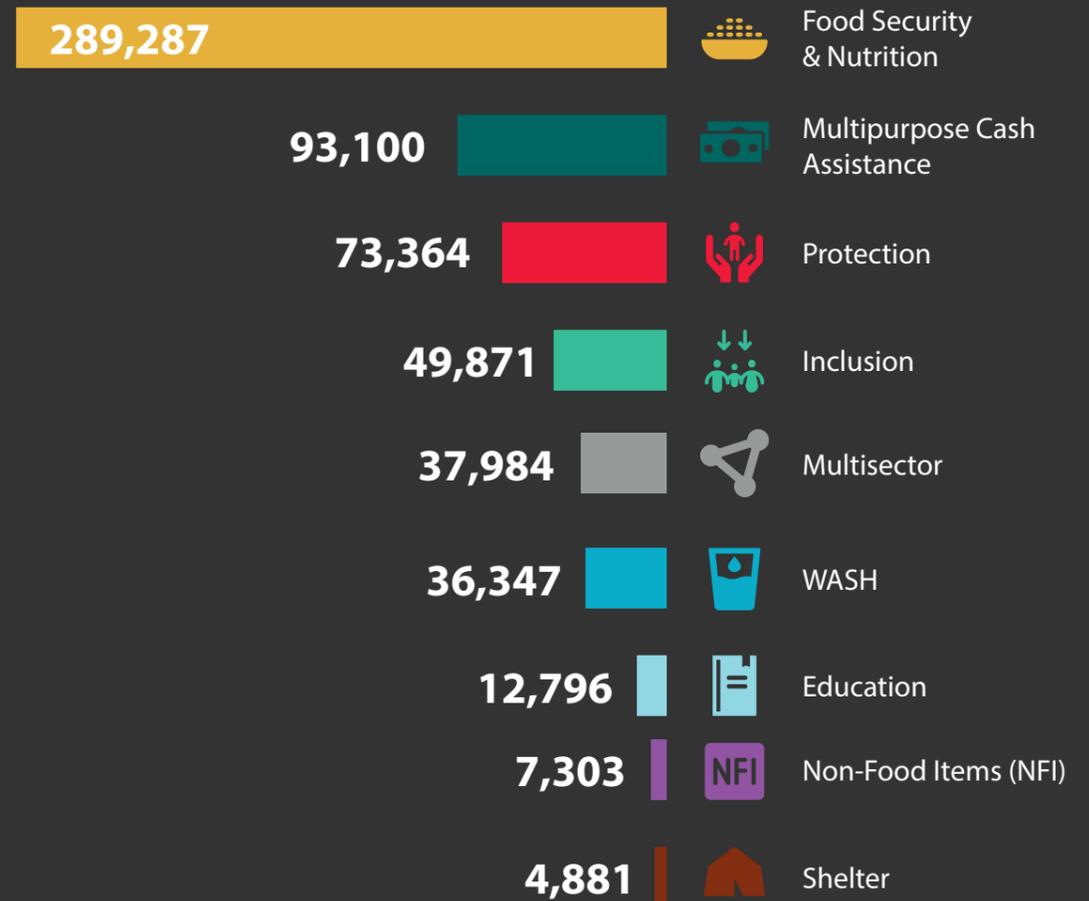
 **1,319,929 people** reached with some form of assistance since Jan. 2019.

 **Children**
584,174 | Boys 293,614 | Girls 290,560

Adults
754,772 |  **Men** 319,044 |  **Women** 435,729

Impact Jan 1, 2021– Feb 28, 2022: Total: 604,943 people

Sectors



Regional Finance Overview



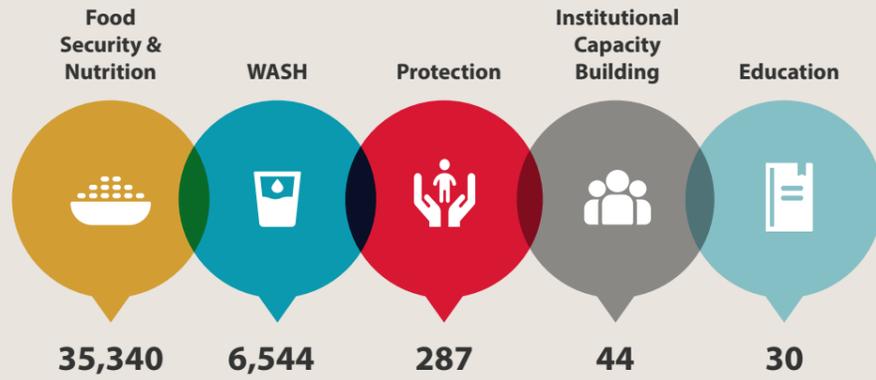
Budget spent 2021
USD \$45,213,418.90

Total Dollars distributed in multipurpose cash assistance in 2021:

 **\$12,055,800.60**

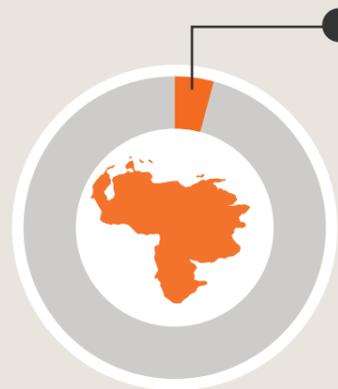
VENEZUELA

Impact Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021:



Total: 42,201 people*

Venezuela Finance Overview



Budget spent 2021
\$2,391,196.87

*Cumulative – 82,806 people (since Nov. 2019)



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Strengthening leaders to transform realities

Local Capacity Building

By: **María Andreina Pernaleté**

María Eugenia Morales is from Caracas, Venezuela. She is 48 years old and belongs to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is one of 54 church leaders who have received training through the Churches in Action project, which is carried out by World Vision's Hope Without Borders Network (RESF in Spanish).

Since 2015, María Eugenia has been running the Hands that Leave a Mark Foundation, together with her 28-year-old daughter Anlly Katherine. They help the most vulnerable people in Miranda state. At that time, 75.6% of Venezuelans were experiencing poverty, according to the National Survey of Living Conditions (ENCOVI 2015). Today, 94.5% of people are living in extreme poverty, according to the latest ENCOVI update, presented in October 2021.

Together with her team of more than 50 people, María Eugenia is in charge of developing programs and projects that improve the quality of life and well-being of children, young people and the elderly who are going through a difficult situation in the country. They do it through visits to communities where they provide clothing, shoes, non-perishable food and recreational activities for the little ones.

They also lead activities and support the families at the El Llanito Children's Oncology Center, at Dr. Domingo Luciani Hospital and other health centers in Caracas. In those places they celebrate special dates and birthdays and hold workshops for parents.

"I consider that God has blessed me so much that we have to emanate it outwards," María Eugenia says.



Photo courtesy of María Eugenia Morales

The World Vision Connection

She first heard about World Vision in 2020 through a friend, but it was through the RESF that she received an invitation to participate in the Churches in Action project. The project currently serves 16 churches in 7 states of Venezuela and trains members in the areas of protection, food security, nutrition and livelihoods, in order to reduce the impact of the crisis in the country.

During 2021, María Eugenia has received training on child protection, psychosocial care, and COVID-19 prevention, among other themes.

"If I had known this before, I would have implemented it, because they are very valuable tools," she says. **She takes lots of notes in each of the workshops. And she is working hard to apply what she's learning to her ministry and with the team she leads. "This should not be shelved, you have to replicate this information."**

These new tools have allowed her to be more aware and efficient with the children with whom she works.

"I have received new knowledge in these workshops that have impacted me," María Eugenia says. "I am delving into childhood much more, because there is a reality that often we do not know. We must improve as leaders in order to really help."

The impact of training on her work

After participating in the workshops, María Eugenia spoke with her team and suggested that they do a reorganization to be more efficient.

"If the children's needs are of a certain nature, we need to organize much more to be able to respond in time and in any emergency situation," she says. "I saw that in the training."

Now her foundation runs a workshop in Santa Cruz, Caracas, where they have replicated the awareness and biosafety training. Likewise, in the Adventist Church of José Félix Ribas, in Petare, they have trained in topics like violence against women and gender violence. They have even created a vacation Bible school for kids to attend during school holidays.

"The needs continue," María Eugenia says. "There will always be something to do. With little or much we continue working."

In the trainings, he also learned about World Vision's security policies.

"From there, we started researching how to adopt the policies into our foundation," she says.

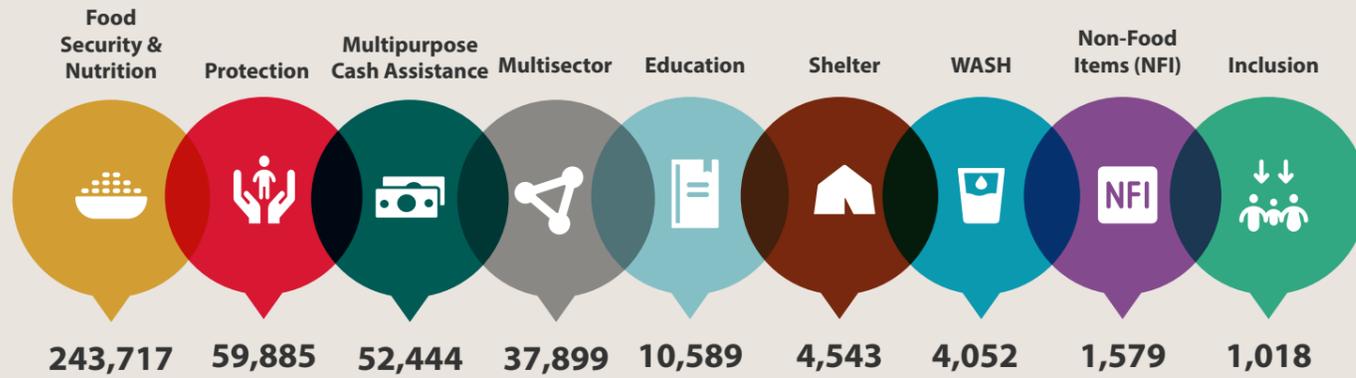
This will allow them to systematize a set of rules and procedures so that all staff can do a better job with and for the people they serve, and above all protect the rights of children.

Currently, María Eugenia and the foundation staff are coordinating to bring clothes to children and serve the population in the states of Miranda, Monagas, Anzoátegui and the Capital District.

"We are trying to expand our reach," she says. **"We are also organizing ourselves to continue replicating what we are learning."**

COLOMBIA

Impact Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021:



Total: 415,783 people*

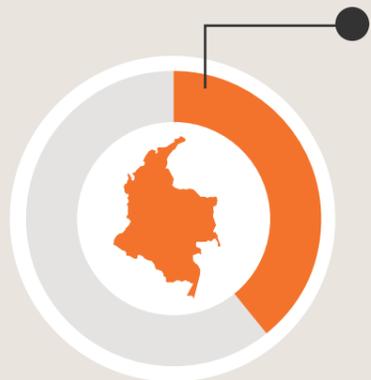
Colombia Finance Overview

Budget spent 2021

\$28,862,559.00

Dollars distributed in multipurpose cash assistance in 2021:

\$6,402,229.23



*Cumulative - 918,401 people (since Jan. 2019)



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Sinai's return: Returning to class after the pandemic

Education

By: **Barbara Melo**

On the first Monday of August 2021, Sinai, a migrant girl living in Norte de Santander state, Colombia resumed her in-person classes along with 40 other children and adolescents who returned the same day thanks to the assistance and support provided by Education Cannot Wait and World Vision.

With her hair well-brushed and tied back, she began very early to get her supplies ready to go to the school in her neighborhood. Pencils, markers, textbooks and notepads were packed in her backpack along with a new item that she will have to carry from now on: her face mask.



©2021 World Vision/by Barbara Melo

"I arrived in Colombia two years ago and at first it was a bit uncomfortable to be in a new place, but I have already adapted. There I attended the Liceo every day, but here it is better. I studied until the second year and they taught me mathematics and I learned some things," says Sinai, recalling her experiences in Venezuela moments before her older sister, Yelitza, took her to school on a motorcycle.

She went a long time without studying after arriving in Colombia. She helped her mother at home and her sister with some errands. From time to time her family bought her materials to make crafts such as foam, colored paper, scissors and decorative items to pass the time. However, when she finally was able to access a school in Norte de Santander, the pandemic closed everything down.

"For many months I had to study from home, on my cell phone, but it was not the same. That's why today I'm excited to go back to school and learn again about math, English and Spanish. I hope I can meet teachers who help me and I would like to continue going."

With backpack in hand and sitting on the back of her sister's motorcycle, Sinai returned to school again, a place where she can socialize and learn in order to achieve her dreams: to be a business-woman or a teacher to help her neighbors and children in her community with the subjects they don't know and teach them much more.

At the end of the school day, Sinai, with a smile invisible due to the mask but visible in her eyes, recounts her experience.

"It was fun to go back to school after a few months. To learn again, to study with my classmates and to be able to share again," she says. "It is very different to learn on the phone. Today we learned easier with the teacher and I was able to ask her things that I did not understand. Today what I liked the most was leaving the house and going back to that routine that we had before."

With the rehabilitation of the classrooms, Sinai was able to study safely with her classmates while maintaining biosafety protocols in the school. With her notebooks, textbooks and new desk, she spent the day learning from her teachers who guided her with her questions about the environment and citizenship.

"I tell the children to keep studying. Get over yourself and don't drop out of school so you can have a profession and be someone in life," Sinai says. "I would like everyone to come back so they can learn more as well as practice if they don't know some subjects."

Back home, Sinai's mother thanks ECW and World Vision for helping her daughter fulfill her dream and taking into account migrants like her. "They have always helped children who want to get ahead and who want to continue studying and succeed in life. I don't know how to thank you with all the help that migrants are receiving."

In the educational framework financed by Education Cannot Wait, and made up of UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the PLAN Foundation, we continue to provide safe access to education for the most vulnerable children in nine states in Colombia.



©2021 World Vision/by Barbara Melo

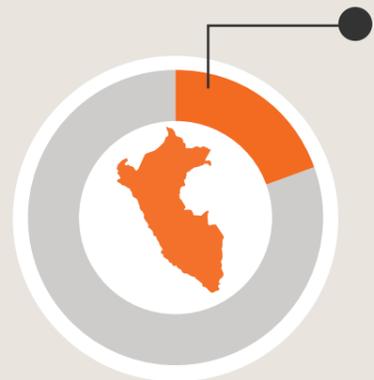
PERU

Impact Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021:



Total: 44,742 people*

Peru Finance Overview



Budget spent 2021

\$10,817,349.00

Dollars distributed in multipurpose cash assistance in 2021:

\$4,981,913.26

*Cumulative - 109,309 people (since Jan. 2019)



Cash assistance brings Chirllys' family hope for stability

Multipurpose Cash

By Chris Huber

Chirllys, José and their family had walked, hitched rides for thousands of kilometers from Venezuela, and passed through informal border crossings to get to Peru's northern border city of Tumbes. They were desperate. They couldn't wait for borders to open back up.

The family is among the more than 6 million Venezuelans who have become refugees and international migrants due to economic, health, and political factors pushing them out of their home country. It's the greatest humanitarian disaster in Latin America in recent history. And it doesn't show any signs of getting better.

Chirllys and José came to Peru in April 2021 with their three young children and their grandmother in tow and little more than the clothes on their backs.

Back home, they endured job loss and chronic sickness without doctors or critical medications to treat it. The children's school closed because most of the teachers left. And they were on the brink of malnutrition—skipping meals to survive.

"I couldn't feed them," says Jose, who did everything he could after losing his job at a butcher shop. "One day we would eat, then two days we wouldn't eat."

They had held out as long as they could at home in Venezuela before deciding to migrate south with hopes of finding stable jobs and opportunity for their children. The couple finally decided to leave Venezuela because they wanted stability and a future for their young children. Together they took a risky journey to get to Peru. They slept on the streets and endured wet and cold mountain passes.

"It was a dangerous ordeal," Chirllys says.

Within days of landing in Peru, Chirllys says they started working to sell sweets in the streets. The goal was to find a decent place to stay, get their kids in school, and earn enough to pay for much-needed medicines for Chirllys' epilepsy.

That's when they heard about World Vision's cash-assistance program, funded by USAID and implemented by World Vision.

In about one year, the project reached more than 47,500 people with \$?? worth of cash cards. It also reached about 3,000 children with educational and protection programs. In addition, 5,288 people benefited from 246,812 hot meals, served through 17 local food centers. And more than 5,100 youth, entrepreneurs and professionals received vocational training, technical assistance and livelihoods help.

José says the whole family was ecstatic when they received their first month's cash benefit.

"That was a great day. I was so excited," Chirllys says. "My husband went with the children to do the shopping. They bought food. I bought my children chicken, and we were so excited and happy."

She says ultimately they used much of the cash they received from World Vision to pay rent for the dirt-floored shelter made of woven-reeds in an informal settlement they call home on the outskirts of Tumbes. They received about \$300 per month for three months. It was enough to feed the whole family, buy medications, help them get on their feet and to start dreaming about the future.

"Thank God, I feel calmer, more stable, safer," Chirllys says.

The young couple want to start a business. They also want to send their children to school. They know they are in a precarious situation, and the struggle to get established in a new country is still an uphill battle.

"With this money, we can not only feed and clothe our family, but we can keep going forward," José says.

Both Chirllys and José say they are determined to make it on their own. They're hard workers and don't want to have to depend on World Vision or the government for help beyond the initial assistance they received. They are grateful for the opportunity this program gave them to start out on the right foot.

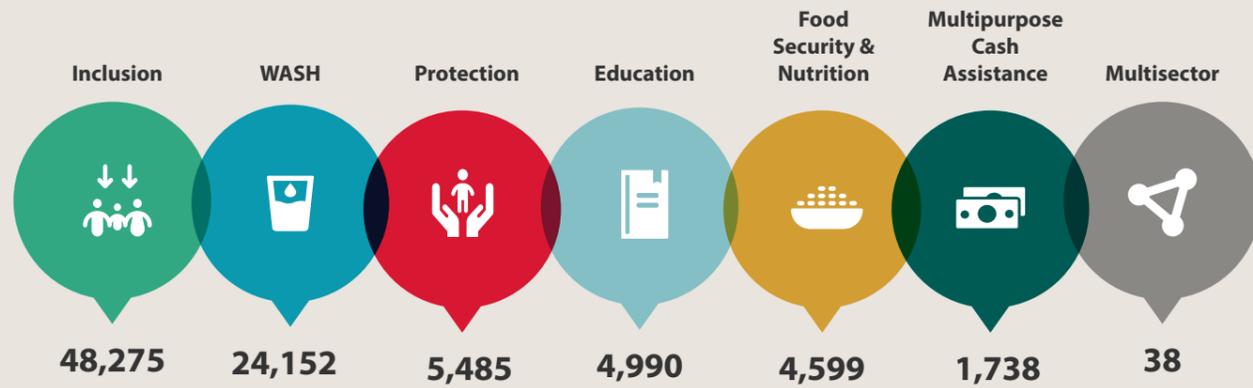
"We can see the present because it is right here," says Chirllys.
"This is where we are going to be. Here is where we are going to start the business and find stability for the children so they can study and have something better."



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BRAZIL

Impact Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021:



Total: 77,064 people*

Brazil Finance Overview



Budget spent 2021

\$1,959,108.00

Dollars distributed in multipurpose cash assistance in 2021:

\$444,747.18

*Cumulative - 162.116 people (since Jan. 2019)



My future is my children, I want them to be happy

Inclusion

By: Letícia Gonçalves and Renata Vaz

One of the main actions of World Vision is to act for the benefit of the most vulnerable. It was in this way that Yelimar, 41, met the organization at the beginning of 2021, when she arrived in Brazil. She put everything she had in her suitcase, left her job as a supervisor in a store, and with her daughters left Venezuela for Brazil.

“Since I left Venezuela we went through very difficult times. It took us a long time to get out of the country. While we were in Pacaraima, we lived in a distant community about 25 or 30 minutes from the city. I, a single mother, walked with my daughters at 3, 4 in the morning,” she says.

They were arduous days of journey through the forest, deserts and long walks. She faced the cold, fatigue, and hunger, along with her daughters Veronica, 17, and Victoria, just 3. The family endured the journey firmly, but with emotional and physical scars.



©2021 World Vision/by Danilo Stoqui

“Everything was very difficult. My youngest daughter still has consequences, because she was infected by a bacterium in Pacaraima. I don’t know if because of the water, the food. I do not know what happened. She had a bloody nose. At that moment I was certain that we had to get out of there. I said that we would leave or return to Venezuela,” she said.

Pacaraima, in the state of Roraima, Brazil, was the first city they visited and they settled for a short time, facing challenges, mainly because of the language, and later because of employment and residence.

For Veronica, the eldest daughter, experiencing sad moments was common on the journey. “My mom always cried for us. Very sad and worried,” she recalls.

But everything began to change when, through the local Batista church, World Vision welcomed the family, becoming present in their lives and helping in the internalization process for São Paulo, where they had relatives and could seek opportunities and health treatment for Victoria.

“When I heard the pastor say that we were going, that they had achieved the passages, I was moved, my heart was filled with happiness. I couldn’t believe it was true,” recalled Yelimar.

Until leaving Roraima for São Paulo, the three were assisted by World Vision, from registration in the “Come, You Can!” project, a response to the migratory emergency, to professional, educational and legal orientations about the rights of the family in Brazil.

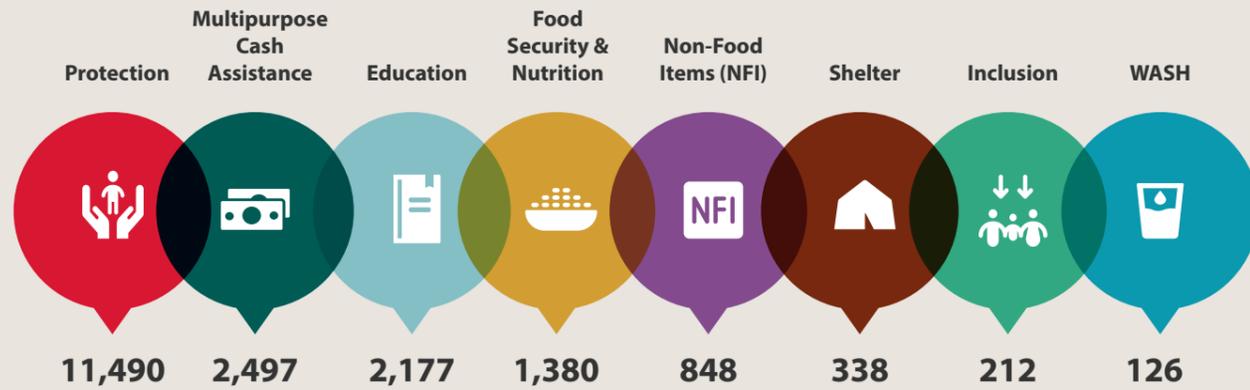
“I was very well treated from Pacaraima to Boa Vista, and from there to São Paulo. There is nothing to claim. All wonderful. There are no words to thank World Vision,” she stated.

Time passed and Yelimar was certain that the best thing for her family was to move to Guarulhos, in São Paulo, to live next to her brother. Currently, with the support of World Vision, she wants to get a job, learn the language, get a house, and get her daughters to study in the country she chose to live.

“My future is my daughters. I just want them to be happy, since in our country it was not possible. May God grant that these two have opportunities. What I want most is to offer everything that is best,” she concluded.

CHILE

Impact Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021:



Total: 41,618 people*

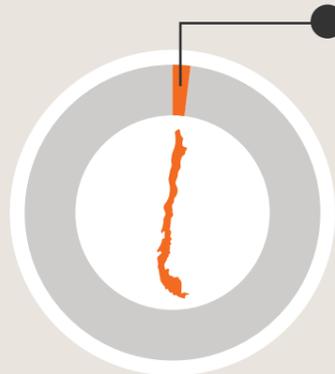
Chile Finance Overview

Budget spent 2021

\$746,665.83

Dollars distributed in multipurpose cash assistance in 2021:

\$214,705.88



*Cumulative - 39,973 people (since Jan. 2019)



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Waves in the desert

Multi-Sectoral

By: Fabrizio Guzman

“Those deserts are terrible, they are the worst nightmare

I could have had,” says a Venezuelan woman while sitting inside a clean and tidy tent set up outside a school located in the Pozo Almonte commune, in the Tarapacá Region. The school is closed, as a result of the holidays, but also of the pandemic that has affected the entrance to classes of thousands of boys and girls in Chile. There are no established shelters. The school, empty and semi-abandoned, remains with its doors closed while its front shelters a dozen tents with passing families willing to continue on their way, despite fatigue and terrible uncertainty.

The group of migrants and refugees is generally hopeful. Despite her swollen lips cracked by the sun, despite her ill-fated feet and her revealing thinness, despite having finished or lost her last savings, the yearning remains intact. Some have clarity. They go to other already established relatives who are anxiously waiting for them in their homes. Others simply walk until they reach a place where they are allowed to work.

The first question that one faces when talking to one of these people is “do you know of any work that I can do?” They do not reach out for a coin or ask for a plate of food, to the countless needs that they have in terms of health, food, hygiene or shelter, the question, even so, is about the possibility of obtaining a job.

“Here the currency is stronger than in other countries”, is also often heard, as one of the main arguments for traveling from so far to Chile. The change favors them since 10 percent of a Chilean minimum wage translates into several Venezuelan minimum wages. Those who come also have the mission of helping those who had to be left behind in their cities of origin. The road to here is long, but for his goal, very necessary.

Waves

In Colchane a couple of weeks ago an unprecedented collapse was experienced: hundreds of people wandered the streets of the small border town, drawing the attention of the entire country and especially the national press. This sea of people, this fourth wave of people who continue to migrate from Venezuela, seemed to catch the authorities off guard who, in their quickest reaction, have decided to deport these people, the vast majority of whom have arrived irregular to the country, a country that is already home to around 500 thousand Venezuelans, making today the foreign community with the largest number of inhabitants in Chile.

At night, the arid northern desert comes to life. There are thousands of men, women, boys, girls, adolescents and the elderly who have traversed eternal walks in perhaps one of the most inhospitable terrains on the planet. The desert, hieratic and unscathed, is full of waves that come and go, it is flooded with traces, sadness, hope or pain. The thirst of the desert does not seem to care even, from time to time, taking lives in its difficult terrain.

“I have seen at least twenty Venezuelans die,” says a man in Colchane while resting on one of the playgrounds in the square. “They die of hypothermia, an entire family died hugging each other while they spent the night outside,” he tells with regret, but without much astonishment, as if it were part of the landscape.

The waves continue to advance, spread to other towns, take other directions, some return and others settle.

In Iquique’s Plaza Brasil you can find one of the largest Venezuelan camps in the city, where at least 175 people live, some even having lived there for months.

The boys and girls of that square have fun while they run and laugh, some riding bicycles without tires that squeak against the ground, others riding swiftly on rusty skateboards with a single handle. It doesn’t seem to matter if a doll is missing its head, or if they have to take turns occupying the only bike in better condition they have.

“At one point when we were walking through the desert, someone at night shouted ‘who’s there!’ This has become a life story.

Some authorities have been emphatic in saying that this settlement must be expelled from there.

It seems that the new migratory waves, at least in Chile, are destined to flow until, hopefully, move away from here or even, magically, evaporate.

Humanitarian aid

“From World Vision we are convinced that in the face of any humanitarian crisis, the State and we as a society, must take charge of providing the greatest possible help to these people who have lost a lot and who, on their journeys, continue to suffer” comments the Director Executive of World Vision Chile, Harry Grayde.

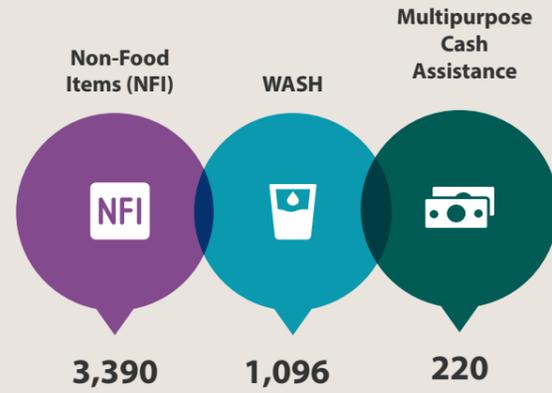
In an evaluation mission, the organization verified the situation in the Tarapacá Region, finding basic needs such as comfortable footwear, hygiene and sun protection elements, light thermal clothing for shelter, the need for tents, carts to carry bags, among others. elements that facilitate the irremediable fact that these people make most of their journeys on foot, and that their journeys continue to distant cities such as Arica, La Serena, Santiago, Antofagasta, among others.



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ECUADOR

Impact Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021:



Total: 4,706 people*

Ecuador Finance Overview

Budget spent 2021

\$13,331.60

Dollars distributed in multipurpose cash assistance in 2021:

\$7,400.00



*Cumulative - 21,139 people (since Jan. 2019)



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Traveling far for food and healthcare

Need

By: **Gabriela Becerra**

As of February 8, 2022, nearly 509,000 Venezuelan migrants and refugees had settled in Ecuador. Thousands more pass through the country on their way to Peru, Chile and Bolivia.

Ami is a 5-year-old migrant girl who traveled almost 3,000 kilometers from her native Falcón state, in the Venezuelan Caribbean, to the city of Huaquillas, on the Ecuadorian border with Peru. She traveled with her grandmother Nancy, 53, and her father Anfernee, 25. Ami and her family entered the country in March 2021 via an informal crossing because they did not have their official documents. She keeps as a souvenir her only toy from that part of the trip, a Mickey Mouse stuffed animal that her grandmother washed and stitched back together.

Little Ami lives with two significant disabilities—she is deaf and mute. This means she is extra dependent on her dad and grandmother for protection and provision. And because of their precarious situation, she is especially vulnerable to exploitation, hunger, and lack of reliable access to health care for her conditions. Nancy and Anfernee do not know if Ami's disability was caused during birth, or if it developed as a consequence of the strong course of antibiotics she received as treatment for a severe infection when she was 8 months old.

“When Ami reached the age that children typically begin to speak, she was only making muffled sounds,” says Nancy. “We took her to a specialist who told us that she was deaf and that she was not going to speak. She never received therapy to help improve her condition.”

Ami doesn't leave her grandmother's side. She looks for her and when they are together she seeks to maintain contact. Nancy is protective and loving towards Ami.

“My granddaughter does not speak and does not hear, that makes her very vulnerable to an accident or to people who can hurt her, so I never lose sight of her,” says Nancy. Nancy has cared for Ami since she was 1 year old, when her mother abandoned them.

“Ami's mother has sporadic contact with her, and sometimes they do video calls, but they have been separated for four years,” says Nancy. “When my son decided to look for work in Colombia, Ami stayed with me. For this reason, I consider Ami as my own daughter.”

Ami's disability and the lack of food in Venezuela are Anfernee's greatest motivations to migrate in search of a place where they can help to improve her living conditions.

Huaquillas, Ecuador, a city of around 50,000 people on the border with Peru, is the main crossing point for Venezuelan migrants heading to the southern part of the continent, having previously passed through Colombia and Ecuador. According to the Mayor's office in early 2021, approximately 200 families, mostly Venezuelan, were living on the streets, 20% to 30% of whom are children. Ami is part of this statistic because she and her family were homeless for the first seven days here.

Nancy says that one of the worst consequences of traveling and living on the streets is reflected in Ami's poor diet.

“We don't have a place to cook, we don't have utensils, and the little money we get is for a meals,” says Nancy. “

There are days when my son has nothing to sell and begs for food. They give him soft drinks or sweets and that is what Ami eats. We cannot buy vegetables or fruits because the heat damages them quickly or we cannot cook them well because we have to take turns using the stove in this place.”

Nancy has noticed that Ami has a stomachache because she complains and at night she wakes up with itchiness. She believes that it is because of the poor sanitation in which they live, and they are not equipped for correct handwashing. They don't have soap. They lack access to safe water. They spend a lot of time outdoors and the food, for the most part, is not very nutritious. Many times, as a strategy to secure food for Ami, one of the adults foregoes eating so that she can eat.

After about a week of searching, they found an old house to rent with a few other families. But within weeks of settling in, Ami's father and grandmother were unable to sustain the modest payments. Eventually, they risked their personal safety to cross into Peru through another informal border crossing. Their opportunities ran out. It was their only choice.



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BOLIVIA

Impact Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021:



Total: 1,384 people*

Bolivia Finance Overview



Budget spent 2021

\$256,201.00

Dollars distributed in multipurpose cash assistance in 2021:

 **\$12,205.00**

*Cumulative - 3,639 people (since Jan. 2019)



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When I grow up I want to help my mom

Protection

By: Jenny Escobar

Wilmer is a migrant boy who arrived in Bolivia with his mother, Rosa, four years ago. For Wilmer despite the length of the trip, he shared with us what he thought during the trip.

“In Venezuela, you went to a supermarket, everything was empty, there was nothing, we left Venezuela because we couldn’t find food.”

Wilmer and his mother arrived in Bolivia and lived in a 1-room apartment that was temporarily provided by a World Vision Bolivia partner organization, the Munasin Kullakita Foundation.

“There was like a home there, it was all girls and there my mother worked in the bakery and there we went to a small apartment,” Wilmer says. “My mother worked and we could eat every day.”

When it was their turn to leave the place, Wilmer and his mother went to the city of El Alto and then moved to the southern part of town.

“In general I like a lot of things,” Wilmer says. “The only thing I don’t like is discrimination. There are a lot of good people, only before, when I arrived with my mom, sometimes she went to look for work, many people rejected her because she was a foreigner. I like the country, its food, there are many good people, very good people who help. It makes me happy that they treat you well. There are also bad people; they discriminate against us and we suffer.”

Since they arrived in Bolivia, World Vision has helped Wilmer and Rosa with things like school supplies and vouchers for food and other household necessities. At that time his mother was unemployed and did not have money to buy those types of things.

When Wilmer thinks about the future, he plans to finish school and study medicine, so he can help his mother have a better life.

“When I finish studying I want to become a professional,” he says. “I want to study medicine, to help people. The truth is, I would like to go back to my country, but it scares me, I know that if I go I won’t have a source of food or the opportunity to study.”

When asked what advice he would give to other children who are in Venezuela and want to migrate to other countries, he says that they should follow their dreams.

“I would tell them to have faith and fight to get something better and live better,” he says. “One does not know what will happen tomorrow, if you will be well or not. But they should pursue their hopes and dreams.”



Grants Pipeline

Funding Needs and Gaps

In 2021, we were able to reach

US\$68.7 million

in funding for the regional response.

About **64%** of that funding powered our work in Colombia, **21%** in Peru, **10%** for our response in Venezuela and a combined **5%** in Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile.



The regional response's grant acquisition represents **37%** of the total World Vision LAC regional resource development goal for 2021.

Our overall funding goal for 2022 is US\$50 million.

Looking to 2022, our current goal for Grant Acquisition from institutional donors is US\$32 million. This figure takes into consideration any pre-approved proposals and grants already under negotiation with donors. As of the close of the first quarter of our fiscal year 2022 (Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2021), we have signed new agreements worth over US\$18 million. This represents 55% of the target we set October 1 (\$32 million). World Vision Colombia's work accounts for 54% of that portfolio, followed by Venezuela (36%), Chile (8%) and Brasil (2%).

As of March 2022, our current funding opportunities project we could raise as much as \$43.5 million this year.

However, considering our overall goal of \$50 million, our current funding gap is about \$6.5 million, if we were to raise the full-projected funding noted above.

Our top donors thus far have been:

- World Food Program (WFP)
- The USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).

We also have received funding from:

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- UN's International Organization on Migration
- United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- U.S. State Department (PRM)
- Education Cannot Wait (ECW),
- Government of Germany (GIZ)
- Other private donors.

LESSONS LEARNED 2021

1. Childhood first

These are some of the realities that children are facing in this crisis: risks of exploitation, separation from their families, the gap in access to rights such as health and education, uprooting from their native country, and the presence of systemic violence in their host communities, among others.

Numerous calls have been made from various sectors and from within the regional response, to strengthen our work towards migrant children, in a way that contributes to reducing the negative effects that the crisis is having on the population. Our lesson then, is a reaffirmation of our vision as an organization—For every child, life in all its fullness. We also continue to learn about the importance and role of churches, to ensure that our response puts children first. Local and faith-based organizations are critical actors who are able to respond in places where children are most vulnerable.



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2. Actions against xenophobia

Due to strong acts of xenophobia in the countries where we are responding, 2021 set a precedent for the need to increase our work in this area; more specifically, to include anti-xenophobia programming within the activities of our projects. From several offices in the region, essential work was carried out with host communities to promote acceptance and integration of Venezuelan migrants. We learned that, although there is work to meet urgent needs among migrants, work must also be done in the host communities because they are also being greatly impacted by migration. We still have important work to do in order to consolidate projects and raise funds to focus on this important work.

3. Work as a single regional response

Strengthening the response at the regional level to consolidate a single block of work has been a challenge of great interest to the organization. This is especially challenging since the majority of funding is not flexible and comes from donors with diverse goals and reporting needs. However, we took important steps toward integration in 2021 that we expect to consolidate into country-level strategies during the coming years of the response. This will allow the regional effort to become a more consolidated multi-country response, maximizing resources, experience and approaches for the vulnerable populations affected by the crisis in Venezuela, especially children.

4. From a short-term to a sustained response

It has been shown that the effects of the crisis in Venezuela have generated a need for a response not only as emergency assistance, but also as a sustained response. This has led the team to reflect on the need to initiate actions along these lines. The national teams are identifying approaches that allow project participants to not only ensure their immediate survival, but also to create resilience and opportunities for social integration.

5. Information matters

The response is growing more and more, and with it the number of people who are participating in our projects is increasing. Such a large amount of data being gathered and processed in the projects must be translated into relevant and actionable information for decision-makers. We also need to consolidate the numbers of participants and activities that are being carried out throughout the region.

Having a clear information management strategy will amplify the voices of the communities with which we work in decision-making spaces and will make them even more involved in the projects. In addition, smart and strategic information management allows for greater certainty and evidence for the advocacy spaces in which we participate as an organization.



Additional Resources

[Venezuela Crisis Response Regional Capacity Statement](#)

[Two Years On: Hope in the Midst of Heartache](#)

[A Double-Edged Sword: Protection Risks Facing Venezuelan Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

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