

+ Actions — Words



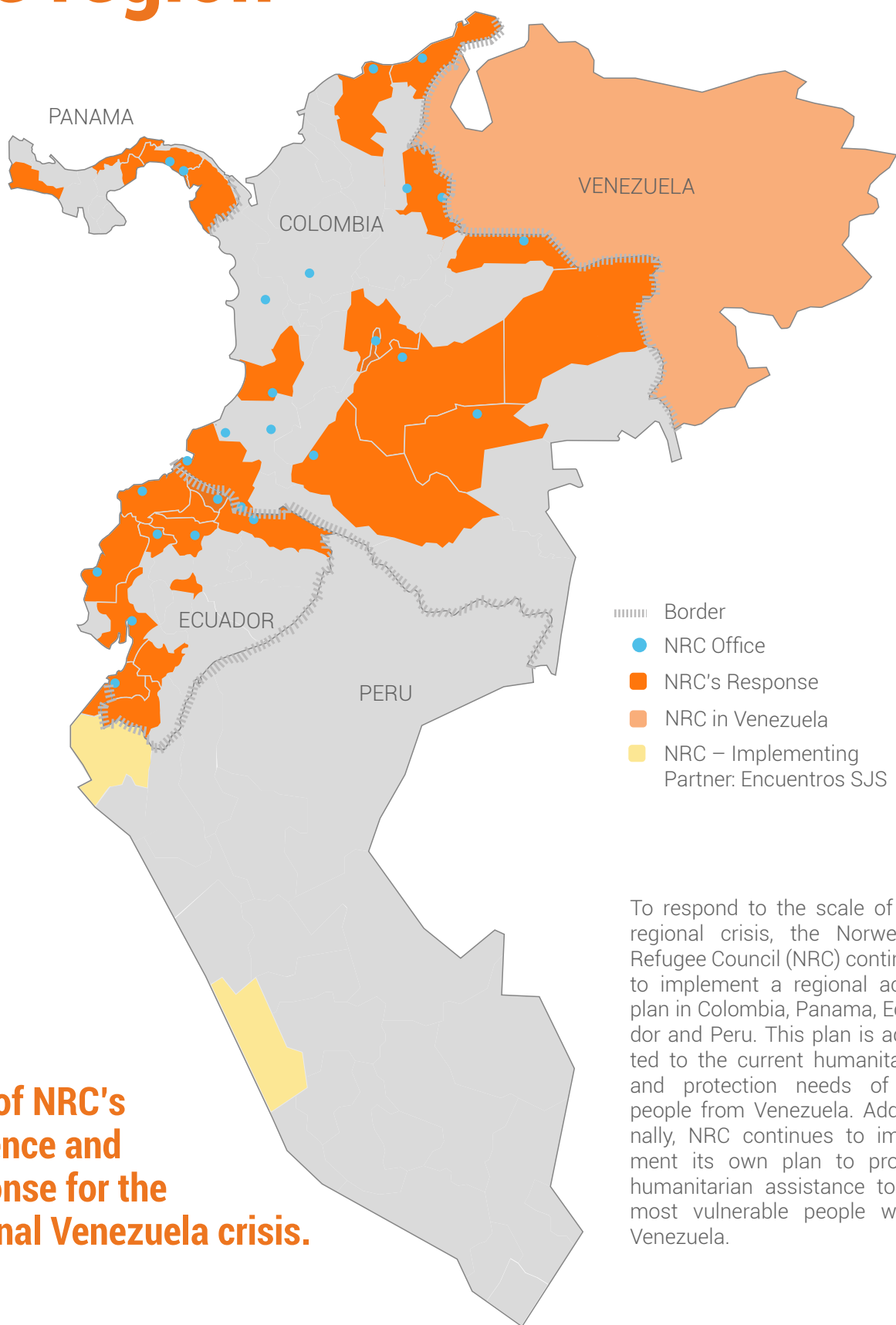
Venezuela
Situation

The people from Venezuela and from the host communities that we work with are strong, dignified and resourceful. Most have the capacity to look after themselves and each other.

But for those who have lost everything and are affected by the impacts of the pandemic, it can be difficult to maintain a sense of dignity and hope. This is why our staff, **over 400 people across the region, continue to work during the crisis to provide relief and promote options for integration.**

“Rights Respected, People Protected”

Upholding dignity across the region



Map of NRC's presence and response for the regional Venezuela crisis.

To respond to the scale of this regional crisis, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continues to implement a regional action plan in Colombia, Panama, Ecuador and Peru. This plan is adapted to the current humanitarian and protection needs of the people from Venezuela. Additionally, NRC continues to implement its own plan to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people within Venezuela.

In 2019 we assisted
302,338

Venezuelan migrants and refugees and persons from host communities in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

Our organisation provided assistance to **302,338** unique beneficiaries and delivered more than **449,000** services across the region. We provided assistance in 5 sectors, worked on communication and information campaigns, and advocated for rights to be respected.



WASH

Without sufficient safe water for drinking and personal hygiene, it is difficult to stay healthy and combat the pandemic. We provide infrastructure and equipment for access to water and water treatment, as well as hygiene and sanitation kits. We also teach good hygiene practices and we help displaced families to achieve better living conditions and greater dignity.



Legal Assistance

NRC continues to provide reliable and up-to-date information on access to documentation, including the refugee status determination procedure and other regularisation mechanisms. We also provide information and guidance so that migrants and refugees can claim and exercise their rights. As many face particular challenges in accessing their rights to housing, we work with justice mechanisms –from traditional and state mechanisms to collaborative resolution mechanisms- to help resolve housing disputes and prevent evictions.



Shelter

NRC promotes access to safe spaces, ensuring protection, privacy and dignity. In specific situations and where we have added value, NRC improves and prepares shelters, builds temporary spaces for schools, sanitation facilities and community infrastructure, and provides necessary items for shelters. We provide accommodation solutions in order to guarantee health, and physical and social protection.



Education

We ensure that migrants and refugees continue to learn, despite the distancing measures imposed due to the pandemic. We continue to work with schools in order to reach people with educational materials and kits. We identify challenges and solutions to ensure continuity of education. Those out of school should not be neglected in this context.



Livelihoods and food

When migrants and refugees do not have access to food supplies, NRC provides food assistance. We promote livelihood strategies that protect, restart and strengthen the ability of individuals and households to earn a living. The inclusion of host communities in this response is key to preventing discrimination and xenophobia.



Cash transfers

In times of crisis, cash-based humanitarian assistance enables people in need to buy food, hygiene products or pay rent. NRC makes electronic transfers through different means (such as smartphones or electronic payment cards) to migrants, refugees and host communities. We also provide vouchers, coupons or cards that can be exchanged for a specific amount of goods and services.

10.8^{USD} million

was given to NRC to respond to the situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants

In 2019, NRC requested 15.3 million USD to respond to the Venezuelan refugee and migration crisis in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

our impact

On average, we used 3.4% of the total resources of the coordination platforms in Colombia and Ecuador, but our impact was proportionally larger.

1 out of every 10 beneficiaries

of the Coordination Platform in **Ecuador** (which includes 24 organisations) was assisted by NRC in 2019.

1,515

activities carried out

In 2019, we led 9.9% of the total activities of the Regional Platform (which includes 34 organisations) in **Colombia.**

More actions, less words

A man in a striped polo shirt and jeans is carrying a large, dark-colored suitcase on his back. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a solid orange color.

Today,
we need
greater
resources to
grow our
impact and
respond
decisively.

NRC's response in 2020

A prolonged emergency affected by a sudden crisis. This year, despite the ongoing pandemic, we have continued to provide assistance to hundreds of thousands of people from Venezuela. Each person has their own story.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, NRC updated and adjusted its funding request in the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (2020).

Between January and April 2020, NRC provided assistance to **146,161** Venezuelan migrants, refugees and persons from host communities in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

Between March 22 and April 30 (2020), more than **21,400** services were delivered to Venezuelan migrants, refugees and persons from host communities in the context of the pandemic.

In 2020 we hope to assist nearly **300,000** Venezuelan migrants, refugees and persons from host communities in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

During the pandemic, NRC has adapted its emergency response in border, transit and urban areas where Venezuelans are arriving and settling, as well as in territories with few humanitarian actors, across Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. Work with host communities and local networks that provide services and assistance to the population is essential for our operation.

Adjusted priorities

“I can stop eating, but I can't let my family sleep on the street.”

We need more resources today so that we can work on the integration of tomorrow. We know that the majority of Venezuelan migrants and refugees want to remain in their host countries. We will continue to ensure that people's rights are respected, including the right to documentation, in order to avoid evictions and to ensure that children can continue accessing educational opportunities or materials wherever they are. According to a recent needs assessment of the Inter-Agency Group on Mixed Migration Flows in Colombia, **45%** of the population is seeking access to employment or livelihood as a result of the pandemic.

“We were left without any help. All we wanted was to return to Venezuela, but the help we received gave us hope and we postponed our decision to return”.

Providing help to those on the move remains vital. Venezuelan people continue to cross borders through informal routes, which expose them to protection risks and increases the possibility of contagion. In addition, many continue to travel between cities in search of better living conditions. More than **70,000** Venezuelans have returned to Venezuela through the Colombian borders in the context of the pandemic.

“Thanks to your help, we will keep our roots in this country, and we will beat the virus”.

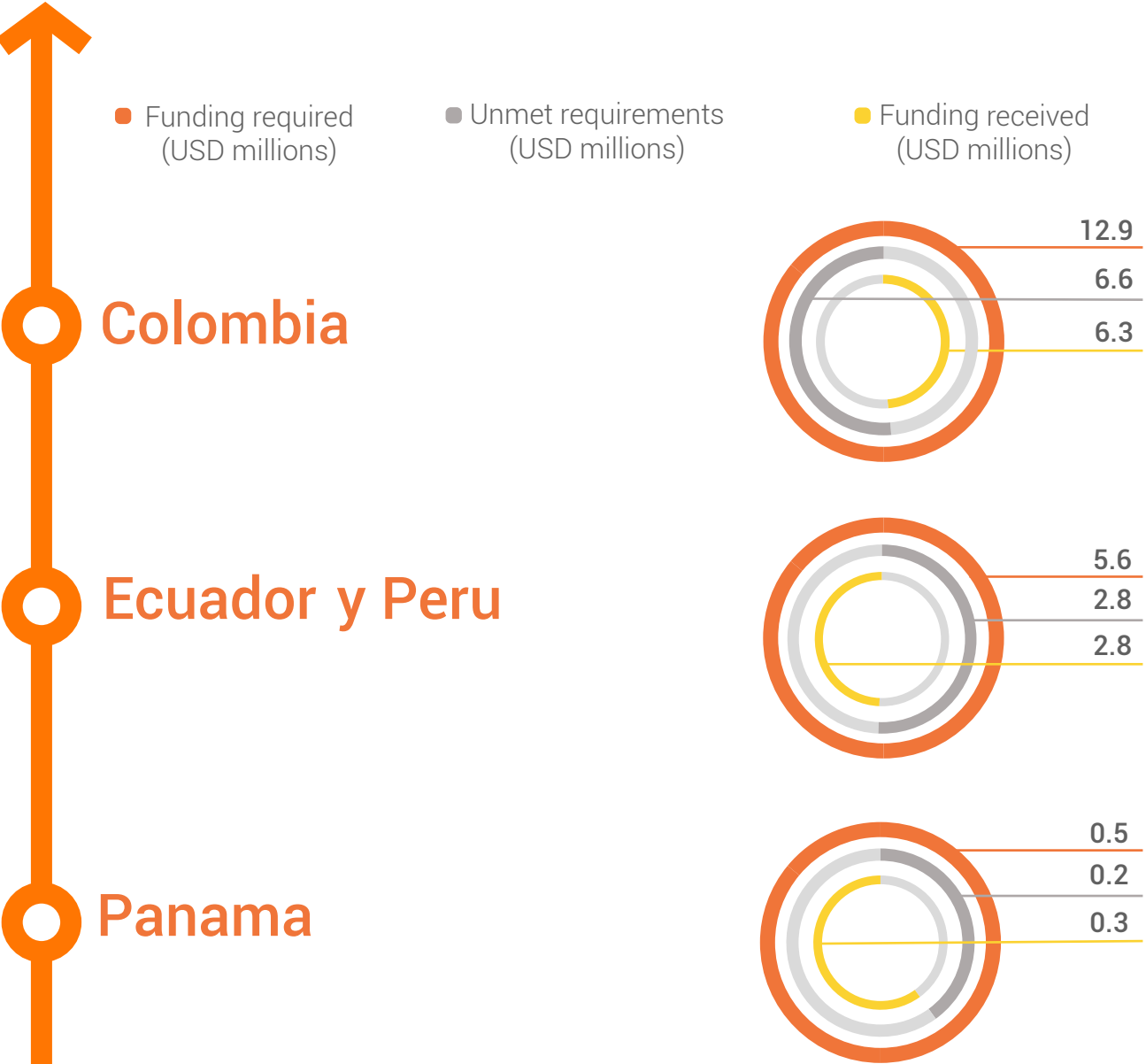
We need to commit to prioritising and providing shelter and protection. Through our digital channels, we have received **1,221** requests for support related to accommodation. During the pandemic, **4 out of 10** people who have received money transfers have used the money to pay for accommodation.

“Today there are no differences: either Colombians and Venezuelans work together, or we all get left behind”.

A stronger community approach. To mitigate the effects of the economic consequences of the pandemic, we will work with social networks within countries, including host communities. As such we will also avoid increasing discrimination and xenophobia.

More funding, more action

Your support will continue to make a difference



In 2020, we will assist more than **300,000 people**, a similar number to the total amount of unique beneficiaries that we assisted in 2019. However, this year **we are requesting an additional \$8.2 million USD**. This would enable us to invest **44%** of the 2020 budget into the **livelihoods sector**, providing for essential projects to contribute towards the economic recovery from the pandemic and hence contribution to durable solutions and local integration. In 2019, more than **5,500 people benefited** from our livelihoods activities; this year we are working towards **assisting more than 34,000 people in this sector**.

Thank you to our donors



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