



Talking points
**HIGH LEVEL PANEL: Addressing the increasing complexity of
health
challenges in humanitarian contexts**
HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT
ECOSOC

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- I would like to thank my dear Ambassador Hilale for chairing the humanitarian segment and for his commitment with these issues.
- I take this opportunity to share the challenges we have face in my country regarding this pandemic.
- The Colombian government is committed to providing health services to every person in vulnerable conditions.
- We have been facing an important challenge, mainly related to the institutional capacity to respond to the migration phenomenon from Venezuela. At this moment we have received more than 1.8 million Venezuelans.
- Since the beginning of the health emergency, the National Government engaged in close coordination with donor countries, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and local authorities to articulate their efforts. Also, to assure the inclusion of migrant populations and their host communities in the response strategies to the pandemic.
- The health care route and standards for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases is the same for Venezuelan migrants as for any Colombian citizen.



- To this end, the Government designed a **six-point response plan** within the context of the health emergency declared by the Government to respond to COVID-19.
- In that regard, let me mention some measures we are taking:
 1. All response partners are working on alternative **mechanisms to deliver food** directly to migrant households as communal dining halls are currently suspended.
 2. Coordination with cooperation partners has also allowed a substantial increase of beneficiaries and amounts of **multipurpose cash transfers**, aiding migrants and their families with their housing and food expenses.
 3. Besides, 10,000 **school kits** are also being delivered to Venezuelan children and adolescents who live in Venezuela but are nonetheless enrolled in Colombian education institutions.
 4. More than **120 of UNHCR's Refugee Housing Units were also set up in these territories**, mostly supporting health infrastructure for isolation and COVID-19-related medical care.
- In conclusion, the Colombian government is addressing the increasing complexity of the health challenges aforementioned with determination and a sense of urgency to attend the affected communities.