

CB Country Weekly Highlights

30 November-3 December 2020

COLOMBIA

Hurricane Iota and Social Cohesion

Crisis Bureau is supporting response to both social and natural crisis in Colombia. In terms of natural disasters, Hurricane Iota, a category 5 hurricane, blasted along the Colombia coastline on 16 November 2020 on its way to Central America. With winds up to 240 km/p., Iota affected 272,467 people, resulting in 26 missing and 20 fatalities (OCHA/21.11); with 7000 persons directly impacted, the San Andrés archipelago was particularly hard hit. Official government reports that 100% of infrastructure in the islands of Providence and San Andrés were impacted, and 80% of the homes destroyed (OCHA/19.11). Drawing on the wealth of experience responding to hurricanes on small islands in the Caribbean, UNDP has dispatched a team to support a housing and building assessment. Following the assessment, UNDP aims to support housing and community infrastructure repair through cash for work, provide technical assistance on build back better, and support small & medium enterprise to get back on their feet in the islands. Crisis Bureau is supporting these efforts through a declaration level one; the Digital Assessment remote support team has conducted an initial training to CO staff and local engineers and will provide ongoing accompaniment in the HBDA implementation.

On the social cohesion front, UNDP is supporting the migration and socioeconomic integration of Venezuelans in Colombia. Colombia hosts more than 1.8 million Venezuelans, according to the National Authority of Migration, and promotion and support to coexistence and social cohesion is needed. Through the Banco Amable Project, awareness-raising work between the citizens is being promoted as well as the integration and good coexistence between host communities and newcomers to the territory. At this time the experience and methodology of Banco Amable are being systematized to share it at the regional level.

The Panama Regional Hub colleagues in the Governance Team are providing technical support to the CO in planning human mobility actions for 2021 such as strategies for economic reactivation and local economic development, prioritizing digital livelihoods interventions and innovative answers; these include an e-commerce platform for migrants and locals entrepreneurs, and a mechanism for digitalization of migrant trajectories. All these actions respond to UNDP's role in the UNDP-ILO regional strategy for socio-economic integration of migrants.

Key action points and follow-up

- >>HBDA training
- >>Systematization of best practices in host-migrant community social cohesion
- >>Support to CO for strategic planning in human mobility

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