



# SDC's Rapid Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE** in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## Context

On March 11 WHO declares COVID-19 a Global Pandemic. As COVID-19 cases increased, countries proceeded to declare a state of emergency with measures to control (internally and at borders) people, to contain its spread. Initially for several weeks, and then increasing for additional weeks, which in some cases lasting until June.

In the Andean Region, the health crisis highlighted the lack of biosecurity protocols, as well as deficiencies in health systems, which in certain regions collapsed. On the other hand, the COVID-19 eroded countries with fragile policies and economies; the restrictive containment measures implemented had a direct impact on their economies, especially on the informal sector, to which Venezuelan migrants are added, exacerbating the situation of vulnerability.

Despite the health, financial and social support actions focused on the most vulnerable populations and the gradual economic reactivation measures implemented by the governments of the region, unmet humanitarian needs have been identified in aspects of food security, water and sanitation, health prevention, shelter and protection.

Against this background, SDC's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Rapid Response (RR) Hub in Lima, in consultation with its networks and partners in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, mapped out the priority demands of these countries, in order to design a humanitarian assistance programme that would help save lives and alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable. This action is being carried out through four interventions in the areas of i) food security, ii) biosecurity in shelters, iii) hospital care, iv) water and sanitation, and capacity building in water and sanitation in municipal technical areas.

## Swiss Government Support for the international response

In a spirit of solidarity, Switzerland responded quickly and effectively, making strategic adjustments to its ongoing programmes and taking measures - in several countries - to alleviate the economic and social effects of the pandemic.

To date, the SDC has contributed CHF 101.42 million to the fight against COVID-19 from the existing budgets of its Humanitarian Aid, Bilateral Development Cooperation and Global Cooperation programmes.

On 29 April, the Federal Council approved an additional CHF 400 million to support international action against the pandemic by distributing an interest-free loan of CHF 200 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross, CHF 25 million to a rapid credit line of the International Monetary Fund, and CHF 175 million for humanitarian aid, the development and production of diagnostics, therapies and vaccines, and for efforts to ensure equitable access to these medical solutions at the global level.

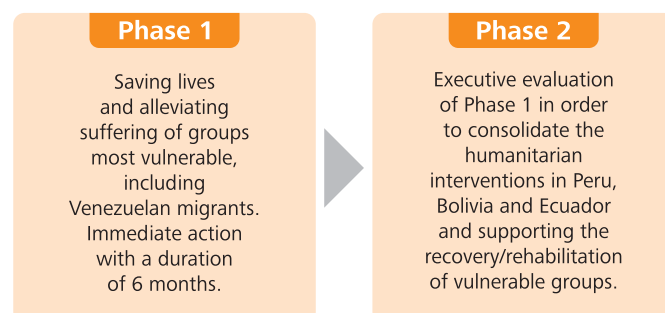


©Embajada de Suiza en el Perú

## SDC support in the Andean region

Switzerland focuses its support on three countries in the region, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, with which it has been working for more than four decades. It makes financial contributions to leading organisations active in the humanitarian field, which have a contractual relationship with the SDC in Lima, strengthening institutional relations and expressing the commitment and solidarity of the Swiss Confederation. It is worth noting the strategic role that the Swiss Embassies in the region will play in supporting the Lima Hub for the implementation of the response actions, in particular in Ecuador and Bolivia.

The actions of the Lima Hub, within the framework of COVID-19, are articulated in two phases:



For Phase 1, the SDC contribution was CHF 180,000 (50,000 for Bolivia, 50,000 for Ecuador and 79,000 for Peru). The interventions responded to priority and urgent demands in these countries; and resource mobilization was carried out through reorientation and realignment of the project portfolio, and its approach was subsidiary to SDC's overall multilateral HA contribution in response to the pandemic.

For Phase 2, the situation will be assessed to explore future possibilities.

# BOLIVIA

## Intervention axis

**Strengthening the capacity of biological risk management in the operation of VIDECI's shelters in the border, La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz**

Living conditions and biosecurity in the temporary shelters for Bolivian and Venezuelan migrants are guaranteed for more than 600 beneficiaries for 3 months. SDC's contribution to support the actions implemented by the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI) is 50,000 Swiss francs and will be implemented through the NGO Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies of Bolivia (CAHB).



©VIDECI-Bolivia

## Results chain for intervention in Bolivia, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation

### Activities

VIDECI's capacity building in shelter management (in border and provinces), food security, WASH, infectious waste management, protection, awareness raising (prevention)

### Results

Maximize distribution of food and hygiene kits, access to water and sanitation, protection of vulnerable people

### Purpose

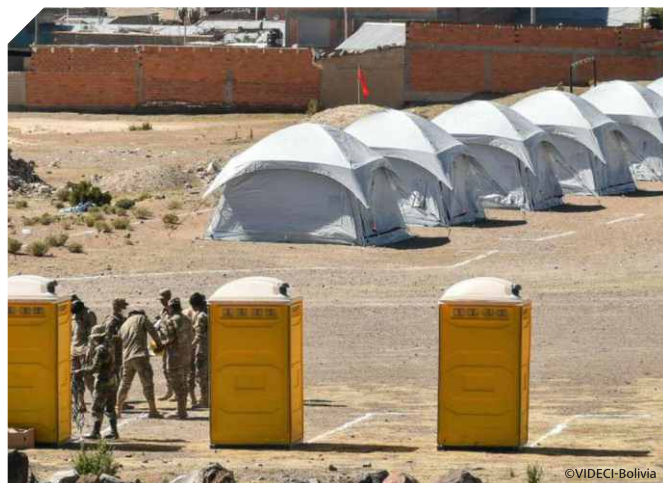
Increase the quality of care in shelters and comply with biosecurity standards

### Goal

Contribute to improving the health and hygiene of people in shelters, reducing levels of food and nutrition insecurity, raising awareness, Alleviating suffering



©VIDECI-Bolivia



©VIDECI-Bolivia

*Although our operations have become more complex, it is important for us to be present on the ground and to continue to place people in need at the centre of our action.*

Manuel Bessler - Delegate for Humanitarian Aid and Head of the SHA (The Humanitarian, June 2020).

## Contact

### Martin Jaggi

SDC Cooperation Director  
Tel. (+ 51 1) 264 0305  
lima.sdc@eda.admin.ch

### Carlos Muñoz

Advisor on Disaster Risk Reduction and Rapid Response  
Tel. (+51 1) 264 0305 annex 845377  
carlos-enrique.munoz@eda.admin.ch  
<https://www.cooperacionsuiza.pe/cosude/gestion-del-riesgo/>

