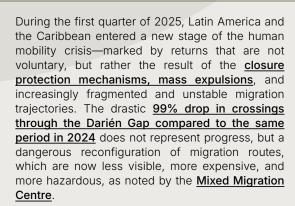


MULTI-COUNTRY RESPONSE"HOPE WITHOUT BORDERS"

SITUATION REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2025

Human Mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean

From forced mobility to an impossible return: Migrant children in a crisis with no way out



Migrant girls, boys, and adolescents are now facing a reality shaped by <u>forced returns to communities</u> <u>that are unable to receive them</u>, failed reintegration due to lack of livelihoods or basic services, and family decisions to migrate again under unsafe and unstable conditions. Repeated migration attempts are <u>being recorded in less than 30 days</u>, often without documentation, under new debts, and without any protection guarantees. In this scenario, <u>family separation</u> and the breakdown of caregiving bonds are intensifying, leaving children exposed to multiple and simultaneous risks.

Economic pressure is increasingly evident across Latin America and the Caribbean: loss of labor force, fewer hands in agriculture, shrinking local consumption, deterioration of the social fabric, and rising dependence on informal networks. The collapse of social programs, withdrawal of



humanitarian actors, and <u>reduction of legal pathways</u> have left thousands of children and their families without access to education, healthcare, or protection. World Vision teams warn that returning without safe and sustainable conditions has become a new form of child vulnerability.

The reduction in international humanitarian funding has marked a turning point. Key projects and protection services have been suspended in several countries, while overstretched public systems are unable to meet growing demand. The risk that thousands of girls and boys may be left entirely outside any protection systems is imminent unless new sustainable funding sources and more integrated response mechanisms are activated.

This is not a childhood in transit—it is a childhood trapped. Without the ability to move forward, return, or integrate, these children face a constant violation of their rights. Every closed border, restrictive policy, and budget cut deepens their isolation. This stage of the crisis cannot be addressed with fragmented responses or one-off humanitarian assistance. It requires leadership, investment, and a sustained presence in affected territories, along with flexible mechanisms that prioritize the right of migrant children to live and grow in safe, nurturing environments. Moreover, they must be actively included in long-term development and protection programs beyond immediate humanitarian aid.

REACH OF THE RESPONSE

CUMULATIVE FROM 2019 TO MARCH 2025

TOTAL: **2,65M**

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF SERVICES PROVIDED

561,83 K | 56 girls b

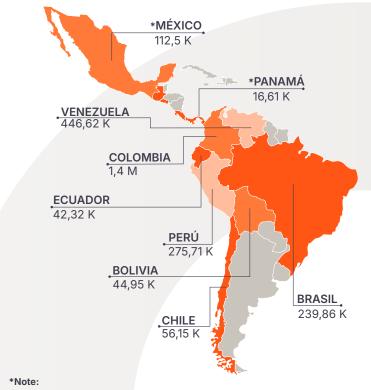
567,13K boys

859,23 K women

661,09 K men

nen others

*Note: Special Operations



• WV Mexico and Panama did not operate during the reporting period.

KEY TRENDS JANUARY - MARCH 2025



FINDINGS FROM THE FIELD THAT DEMAND SPECIFIC RESPONSES FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

- Internal displacement and confinement due to violence continue to affect migrant children in border areas. World Vision Colombia team reports the confinement of over 11,000 girls, boys, and adolescents, and the forced displacement of another 20,000, in context of escalating violence in areas such as Catatumbo and Puerto Santander. This situation has interrupted their integration processes, increased the risk of recruitment, and revealed the absence of protection systems adapted to mixed migration contexts.
- Child malnutrition and food insecurity are reemerging as a silent crisis in migrant communities. In Colombia, Brazil, and Ecuador, teams report a deterioration in the nutritional status of children under five, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. This trend is worsening in return contexts, where access to school meals, community feeding programs, or stable family income is increasingly limited.



- Migration regularization processes are being reduced or interrupted, leaving children without legal protection or access to fundamental rights. According to World Vision Ecuador, the suspension of the VIRTE visa process left more than 3,000 migrants — including families with children and adolescents— without documentation options as of the end of March. This situation is repeated in other operations, with teams reporting the end or slowdown of legal aid in critical areas.
- Educational exclusion and informal labor feed into one another in urban contexts with high migrant concentrations. World Vision Peru team reports an increase in absenteeism and school dropout among migrant children, associated with precarious economic conditions, lack of documentation, and access barriers. Many adolescents must work to support their families, and cases of children engaged in informal or risky activities have been identified. At the same time, migrant mothers with professional training are unable to access formal employment, which perpetuates economic dependence and household instability.
- Institutional capacity to serve migrant children is at its limit or has been replaced by community networks. In Chile and Brazil, World Vision teams report that, in the face of the withdrawal of State or international programs due to lack of funding, faith communities and local neighborhood networks are assuming the basic assistance to migrant families with children. While this reflects progress in local resilience, it also highlights the urgent need to reinvest in formal protection systems.
- Returning to rural communities of origin does not guarantee safe or dignified conditions for children. World Vision teams in Ecuador and Colombia have identified that many returned families face structural poverty, the loss of support networks, and lack of access to basic services, especially in rural areas. Some families have attempted to migrate again, which increases risks for children in terms of health, nutrition, and emotional stability, and compromises their overall development.





At World Vision, we reaffirm our vision and position in this critical stage of human mobility and forced displacement. We must act with a child-centered approach, regional coherence, and political will to transform the reality of those who remain trapped between borders—without protection and without real prospects for the future.

- The decline in irregular crossings should not be interpreted as a sign of relief, but as a warning. The containment of migration flows in border areas or host communities has left thousands of children trapped in circular displacements—without documentation, without services, and without clarity about their present or future. At World Vision, we believe that migration policies must not be measured by how much they reduce transit, but by how effectively they protect people and uphold fundamental rights, especially those of children and adolescents. We urge the inclusion of child protection indicators in regional migration agreements and reforms.
- Migrant children can no longer be overlooked in humanitarian funding priorities. The reduction in international resources is occurring at a particularly critical moment: returns without guarantees are increasing, protection systems are overwhelmed, and family fragmentation is intensifying. In the "Hope Without Borders" response, this was reflected in 19% drop-in services provided during the first quarter of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. World Vision warns that cutting investment in child protection within migration contexts not only weakens the immediate response but also compromises long-term integration efforts. We call on donors to prioritize flexible, predictable, and child-centered funding mechanisms that ensure the continuity of essential services and address emerging needs with a preventive, rights-based approach.

- The "social infrastructure" approach must replace fragmented interventions. Our experience in humanitarian assistance shows that isolated responses do not meet the complexity of the migration phenomenon. World Vision advocates for strengthening the social infrastructure of protection and inclusion in critical zones of transit, return, and settlement, by connecting institutional, community, and faith-based capacities. The humanitarian churches model, developed by World Vision, proves that a systemic, mobile, and connected intervention can work—and can be scaled up regionally.
- Community actors are not just implementing partners—they are strategic leaders. In the face of agency withdrawal and overstretched government services, community networks have become the last line of support. World Vision recognizes local organizations, faith collectives, and youth groups not merely as operational allies, but as core hubs of leadership and legitimacy. We call on governments and donors to strengthen these structures by providing technical support and formal recognition as child protection actors.
- Migration policies without a child-focused approach are not sustainable. The design and evaluation of public policies on human mobility must integrate the best interests of the child as a guiding principle. World Vision promotes the mainstreaming of child and adolescent protection across legal frameworks, budgets, and intergovernmental agreements. Child integration must not remain an appendix—it should become the standard that defines the humanity and viability of any state or regional response.

World Vision urgently **calls on governments**, donors, and humanitarian actors to:

- Mobilize new, flexible, and sustainable funding sources that prioritize the protection of children and adolescents in migration contexts.
- Guarantee legal and safe migration pathways for children and their families, avoiding separation and forced irregular journeys.
- Recognize and strengthen the role of community partners as an essential part of child protection systems.
- Promote integrated and sustainable responses that combine protection, inclusion, and regularization with a strong focus on children and adolescents.
- Ensure meaningful participation of children and adolescents in decisions that affect their future.



CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING



During the January–March 2025 quarter, the "Hope Without Borders" Multi-Country Response provided child protection services and psychosocial support to girls, boys, and adolescents in situations of human mobility and risk. The main actions reported by national offices include:

- In Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador, community capacities were strengthened for safe referral, psychosocial support, and case management. In Colombia, over 1,300 migrant and displaced children, adolescents, and their families participated in community sessions focused on preventing forced recruitment, domestic violence, and protection strategies. In Venezuela, 358 people were trained in safeguarding, safe referral, and positive parenting, and a specialized psychosocial care program reached 64 people. In Ecuador, 40 vulnerable cases were identified and supported, with strengthened referral pathways to key services. These actions provided emotional support and immediate protection to individuals exposed to violence and high-risk situations.
- In Peru, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador, psychosocial support and safe spaces were provided for migrant children and adolescents, contributing to their emotional well-being and reducing stress linked to displacement. In Peru, 1,688 children and adolescents in transit received care through child-friendly spaces offering recreational activities and emotional support. In Chile, 634 people accessed safe spaces and psychoeducational workshops. In Brazil, a new child-friendly space was opened at the Madre Teresa de Calcutá shelter, serving 35 to 40 children and adolescents. In Ecuador, seven safe spaces were equipped in Manabí and Guayas, benefiting over 300 people in human mobility contexts. These interventions were key to protecting children in transit, host, and long-term settlement contexts.
- In Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador, the strengthening of community protection networks was promoted by actively engaging caregivers, faith leaders, and community actors. In

Colombia, child protection processes were strengthened with more than 1,900 caregivers, and work was carried out with community leaders in critical areas such as Catatumbo and La Guajira. In Brazil, 455 people were trained on preventing domestic violence, protection networks, and rights. In Ecuador, 40 churches were certified as "Humanitarian Churches," expanding the emergency response network with a child-focused protection approach. These actions consolidated the local sustainability of emergency response mechanisms and strengthened protective environments.



- In Chile and Brazil, inclusive and safe educational environments were promoted for migrant children and adolescents. In Chile, workshops were held on rights, self-reporting, violence prevention, and the right to education. Additionally, 122 emergency kits and 32 school kits were distributed to migrant children and adolescents. In Brazil, 1,786 students were integrated into municipal schools using trilingual visual materials (Warao, Portuguese, and Spanish), and anti-xenophobia awareness activities benefited 883 people. These actions help reduce educational gaps, promote respect for diversity, and guarantee the right to education.
- University of Venezuela to involve students from Social Work, Nutrition, and International Studies in child protection projects, strengthening volunteer participation in the church network. This academic partnership enhanced the professionalization of community support and improved the territorial reach of the response.



CHALLENGES AND URGENT NEEDS IN THE SECTOR

- Expand protection services coverage for children and adolescents in high-risk areas, including border corridors, return contexts, and areas of origin where families face multiple, simultaneous vulnerabilities.
- Strengthen access to specialized psychosocial and mental health care for children, adolescents, and caregivers, as a priority response to trauma related to displacement, violence, or loss of support networks.
- Enhance community systems for identifying, assisting, and referring cases, through the training of volunteers, community leaders, and faith actors already acting as first responders.
- **Prevent forced recruitment,** domestic violence, and exploitation through sustained community-based protection actions articulated with national protection systems.
- Ensure that community organizations, including churches, are recognized and strengthened as key partners within the child protection ecosystem.
- Mobilize new sources of funding to guarantee the continuity of preventive and restorative child protection programs, especially in contexts where public systems are overstretched or absent.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

During the first quarter of 2025, interventions in Food Security and Nutrition focused on ensuring access to healthy and culturally appropriate food for children, adolescents, and their families, particularly in contexts of transit, return, migrant communities, and border areas.

- In Venezuela, 19,953 households were reached (approximately 68,397 children, adolescents, and adults) through food kit distributions, school feeding system strengthening, and the implementation of community kitchens in the states of Barinas, Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, Falcón, Monagas, and Zulia. Additionally, school kitchens were rehabilitated, benefiting 450 children, and 264 nutritional screenings were conducted, with follow-up to at-risk cases in Delta Amacuro.
- In Colombia, 3,714 migrants in transit, pendular movement, or return situations were supported through the provision of hot meals in the municipality of Pamplona (Norte de Santander) and unconditional cash transfers, implemented in partnership with the WFP. These actions addressed contexts of high nutritional vulnerability and economic exclusion.
- In Peru, nutritional support was provided to 195 children under 5 in Tumbes. Of these, 17 were identified with some level of malnutrition, activating differentiated care protocols. Additionally, 60 breastfeeding mothers received guidance, three of whom were diagnosed with underweight. The response included screenings, distribution of nutritional supplements and specialized kits, strengthening the prevention of child malnutrition.
- In Ecuador, food cards were distributed to 40 migrant families in vulnerable situations in Manabí, as part of the services offered in safe spaces. This intervention enabled immediate access to dignified food and was targeted at cases identified by community and protection teams.
- In Brazil, food security was promoted through local production and community distribution of crops harvested in community gardens, with an emphasis on sustainable agroecological practices. Gardening workshops, activities with vulnerable groups, and equitable distribution among project participants were implemented, with special attention to informal settlements and Indigenous communities such as Sorocaima.

CHALLENGES AND URGENAL NEEDS IN THE SECTOR Prioritize the nutritional deterioration of

- Prioritize the nutritional deterioration of children under five, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers in border, rural, and return areas.
 - Ensure sustained access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food for highly vulnerable migrant families, especially those in transit or living in informal settlements (Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador).
- Integrate nutrition as a core component of safe spaces and protection services, given its direct impact on child development and family resilience.
- Strengthen logistical capacities for food distribution and supplementation in remote contexts, such as Amazonian or rural areas with limited institutional presence.
- Coordinate with local authorities and community networks to improve the targeting, coverage, and sustainability of food assistance, avoiding duplication and ensuring timely access.



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SOCIOECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOODS

Between January and March 2025, the response in socioeconomic inclusion emerged as a key pillar to ensure the sustainability of integration processes for local families, migrants, and host communities. Interventions focused on access to livelihoods, financial inclusion, technical training, entrepreneurship, and income generation.

- In Ecuador, 73 migrants and host community members participated in training sessions on entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. Through a partnership with Banco VisionFund, 49 people opened savings accounts and 45 accessed microcredits, facilitating their financial integration and economic autonomy. Additionally, the Super Flash seed capital program was implemented in Montecristi—a zone without humanitarian coverage from other actors—benefiting four entrepreneurs through direct financial support, supplies, and technical assistance.
- In Chile, 310 migrants received economic assistance through multipurpose vouchers, and 60 people received seed capital or protected purchases to strengthen their businesses. Additionally, 28 people were referred to housing assistance programs or housing subsidies, contributing to the economic and social stability of the supported families.
- In Brazil, 420 migrants benefited from economic inclusion interventions that included technical training, seed distribution, training for 80 participants in sustainable gardens, support for small producers, and coordination with local authorities to generate job opportunities. Four community gardens were created in informal settlements, and the expansion of the model to the Indigenous community of Sorocaima began, integrating environmental sustainability and food resilience.
- In Peru, productive capacities were promoted among migrant families through sessions on savings, family budgeting, and small businesses. Personalized support was provided to 24 people (15 in workshops and 9 through mentorship), strengthening their integration into the labor market in contexts of informality and vulnerability.
- In Venezuela, a local economic development program with a community and faith-based approach was implemented, benefiting 40 people in Zulia and Delta Amacuro. Activities included psychosocial support, financial education, technical training in productive trades, and the strengthening of local economic support networks and resilience.



CHALLENGES AND URGENT NEEDS IN THE SECTOR

- Expand access to sustainable livelihoods, especially in rural, hard-to-reach, or return areas where humanitarian coverage remains low.
- Overcome barriers to financial inclusion, such as the lack of valid documents, expired passports, or limited credit history, which hinder access to banking and credit services.
- Strengthen the link between economic inclusion and protection, ensuring that livelihood access contributes to reducing risks of exploitation, child labor, or gender-based violence.
- Adapt entrepreneurship programs to local cultural contexts, prior capacities, and environmental opportunities—particularly in Indigenous or marginalized communities.
- Mobilize public-private partnerships to expand access to technical training, formal employment opportunities, seed capital, and services for migrant and refugee entrepreneurs.

SALUD

During the first quarter of 2025, the Health response focused on ensuring access to essential services related to physical health, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health for children, adolescents, and their families in situations of human mobility, as well as in host and local communities—particularly in areas with low institutional coverage and high vulnerability.

- In Venezuela, 3,236 people were referred to health centers in Delta Amacuro, including breastfeeding mothers and children under five. Additionally, preventive actions against unwanted pregnancies and early detection of obstetric warning signs were carried out for 121 individuals, incorporating gender, age, and diversity approaches. Furthermore, 26 health workers were trained in emergency obstetric care, mental health, infection prevention, and management of sexual violence—strengthening local technical capacity in remote areas.
- In Colombia, mental health, sexual health, and psychosocial services were provided to **4,830 migrants and victims of armed conflict** in border areas through the "A tu lado" (By Your Side) project funded by ECHO. The intervention included primary services, community-based support, differentiated care, and coordination with the public health system.
- In Peru, adolescent migrants received guidance on sexual and reproductive health, along with sessions on self-care, psychological first aid, and emotional support at service points in Tumbes. These actions were integrated with protection and nutrition efforts, facilitating comprehensive care for children and adolescents in transit.
- In Brazil, access to health services was facilitated through timely referrals of Indigenous and migrant children and adolescents requiring specialized care. Activities focused on Pacaraima and Indigenous communities such as Sorocaima, where significant geographic, institutional, and cultural barriers limit access to healthcare.



CHALLENGES AND URGENT NEEDS IN THE SECTOR

- >>> Ensure timely and continuous access to primary healthcare services for migrants, prioritizing children, adolescents, and pregnant women.
- Strengthen community-based mental health and psychosocial support, especially for children and adolescents who have experienced displacement, trauma, or family separation.
- services, including adolescent pregnancy prevention, emergency obstetric care, and rights promotion in migration contexts.
- Improve coordination with public health services to ensure effective inclusion of migrant and refugee populations in national systems.
- Mobilize resources to guarantee the availability of medicines, specialized personnel, and medical transport in rural, riverine, or hard-to-reach areas.



EDUCACIÓN

Between January and March 2025, the education response focused on supporting access, retention, and school reintegration for children and adolescents in contexts of high mobility, exclusion, and return. Actions were implemented in coordination with safe spaces, family support processes, and inter-institutional partnerships, prioritizing border, rural, and informal settlement areas.

- In Venezuela, more than 900 school kits were distributed in the states of Zulia, Bolívar, and Delta Amacuro, reaching students, teachers, and educational institutions. Over 50% of participants were from Indigenous communities. Additionally, school kitchen facilities were rehabilitated for 450 children, promoting school feeding as a key incentive for school retention in rural and hard-to-reach areas.
- In Chile, 32 school kits were distributed to migrant children and adolescents, and informative sessions were held with parents and caregivers on the right to education, enrollment processes, and self-reporting mechanisms in case of administrative barriers. These activities were conducted in Arica, Iquique, Santiago, and Alto Hospicio, strengthening community-based support for migrant families.
- In Brazil, 1,786 migrant students were integrated into five municipal schools using visual materials in three languages (Warao, Portuguese, and Spanish). Inclusion processes also began in Indigenous schools, incorporating the Teurepang language. Awareness sessions on xenophobia prevention and inclusive education reached 883 individuals, including teachers, authorities, and families.
- In Peru, educational guidance was provided to children and adolescents in transit in the **Tumbes** region, in coordination with protection and health services. Support included the delivery of school kits and information on school enrollment procedures and available services at the border.
- In Colombia, 100 children strengthened their skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and socioemotional development through the Unlock Literacy model. They also received educational kits including booklets, notebooks, stationery, pencils, backpacks, and other basic supplies. As part of a sustainability commitment, 27 teachers were trained in adapted and innovative pedagogical practices based on the Unlock Literacy approach. These educators now have the installed capacity to replicate learnings and independently continue educational activities in their communities.



CHALLENGES AND URGENT NEEDS IN THE SECTOR

- Ensure school access and retention for migrant children and adolescents through family accompaniment and sustained provision of school supplies, especially in transit settings and informal settlements.
- Address administrative and social barriers to enrollment, academic recognition, and school continuity, including lack of documentation or institutional discrimination.
- Integrate education efforts with other sectors—such as protection, health, and nutrition—ensuring a comprehensive, child-centered approach.
- Strengthen the capacities of teachers and educational communities to respond to the cultural, linguistic, and experiential diversity of children on the move.
 - Mobilize resources and multisectoral partnerships to scale up educational interventions in areas with high concentrations of migrant and refugee populations, including Indigenous and rural communities.



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SERVICES DELIVERED

+

JANUARY TO MARCH 2025

TOTAL: **58,7 K**



EDUCATION



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORT



LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION



CASH AND MULTIPURPOSE TRANSFERS



MULTISECTORAL ASSISTANCE



NON-FOOD ITEMS



CHILD PROTECTION



SHELTER AND HOUSING



WASH

- >> 5,95 K
- >> 14,19 K
- >> 0,05 K
- >> 2,33K
- >> 5,53 K
- >> 5,07 K
- >> 0,71K
- >> 20,27 K
- >> 0,47 K
- >> 4,14 K



"HOPE WITHOUT BORDERS" N THE MEDIA:

- Migrant families in Turbo and Necoclí experienced the holiday season in a different way
- Migrants in Kennedy, Bogotá, participated in a job fair to promote their social integration
- Unprotected migrant children
- Concerns over evicted minors in Cerro Chuño
- Former Customs Building in Arica hosts photo exhibit on territory and regional migration - Arica365
- El Boro community invited to participate in project on rights and violence prevention
- >> Over 3,000 children to benefit from new support program in Alto Hospicio

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OFFICES OF:

- >> WV GERMANY
- >> WV CANADA

>> WV KOREA

- >> WV UNITED STATES
- >> WV UNITED KINGDOM >> WV TAIWAN
- >> WV SINGAPORE

PARTNERS

UNHCR, ECHO, Venezuela Humanitarian Fund (FHV), GIZ, Nexus (WV Canada), Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), PRM, UNICEF, USAID, Visser, WFP.

DONORS

ADRA, ASEINC, AVSI, VisionFund Bank, Cáritas, Chamber of Commerce, ChildFund, Juana la Avanzadora Collective, Youth Collectives and Networks, Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights of Portoviejo, Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights of Manta, Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights of Santo Domingo, International Red Cross, Civil Defense, Children's Ombudsperson, Regional Directorate of Education - Tumbes, Regional Directorate of Housing and Sanitation - Tumbes, Brazilian Army, Integral Support Spaces, Fundación Emplea, Fundación Esquel, Fundación JUBASCA, Fundación Manos Venezolanas, Fundación Oncoaching, Fundación Sembrando Esperanza, Fundación Teatro a Mil, HIAS, Humanity & Inclusion, Igreja Batista, Igreja Vila Nova, Municipality of Alto Hospicio, INDH, IED, Technical Youth Directorate of the GAD of Portoviejo, Ministry of Equality, Ministry of Labor, MTPE, Local Child Welfare Offices, IOM, Pastoral Organization for Migrants, Organization for the Protection of Vulnerable Populations (APPV), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), Orguídea Cultural, Social Pastoral, Peace, Life and Hope, Hope Without Borders Network, National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), SENAPRED, SENA, Jesuit Service for Migrants, National Training Service, National Migration Service, Regional Ministerial Secretariat of Education, Subdirectorate of Social Inclusion, Subdirectorate of Youth, Subsecretariat for Children, SUNEDU, Techo para Chile, Arturo Prat University, University of Tarapacá, Technological University of Guayaguil, A World Without Limits, UNICEF, Vicariate of Caroní, Social Pastoral Vicariate, Wine to Water.