



# Migrant situation Colombia-Venezuela

Knowledge and attitudes towards HPV vaccination

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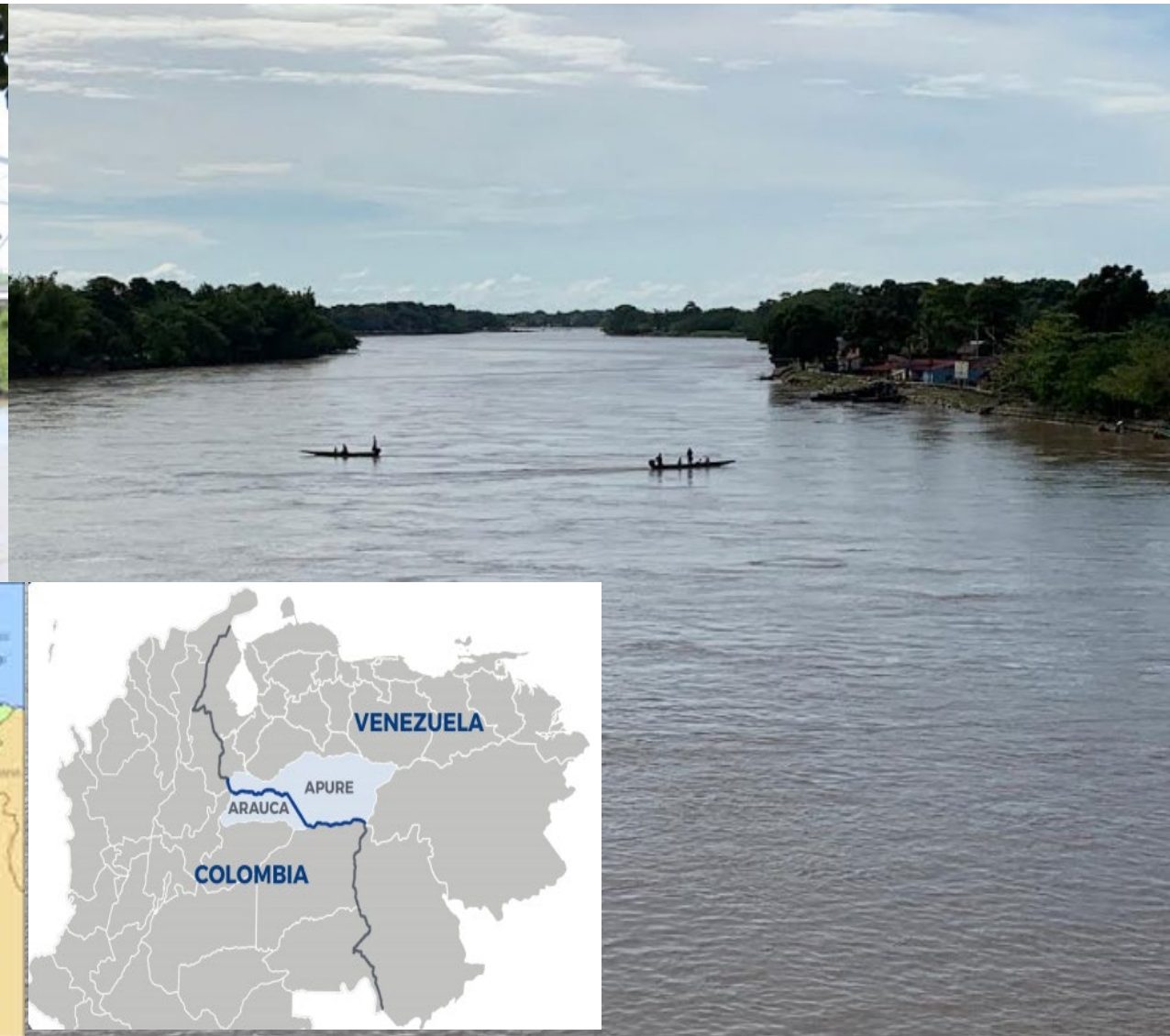
Director Social Area CLAC



**Istanbul, February 2025.**

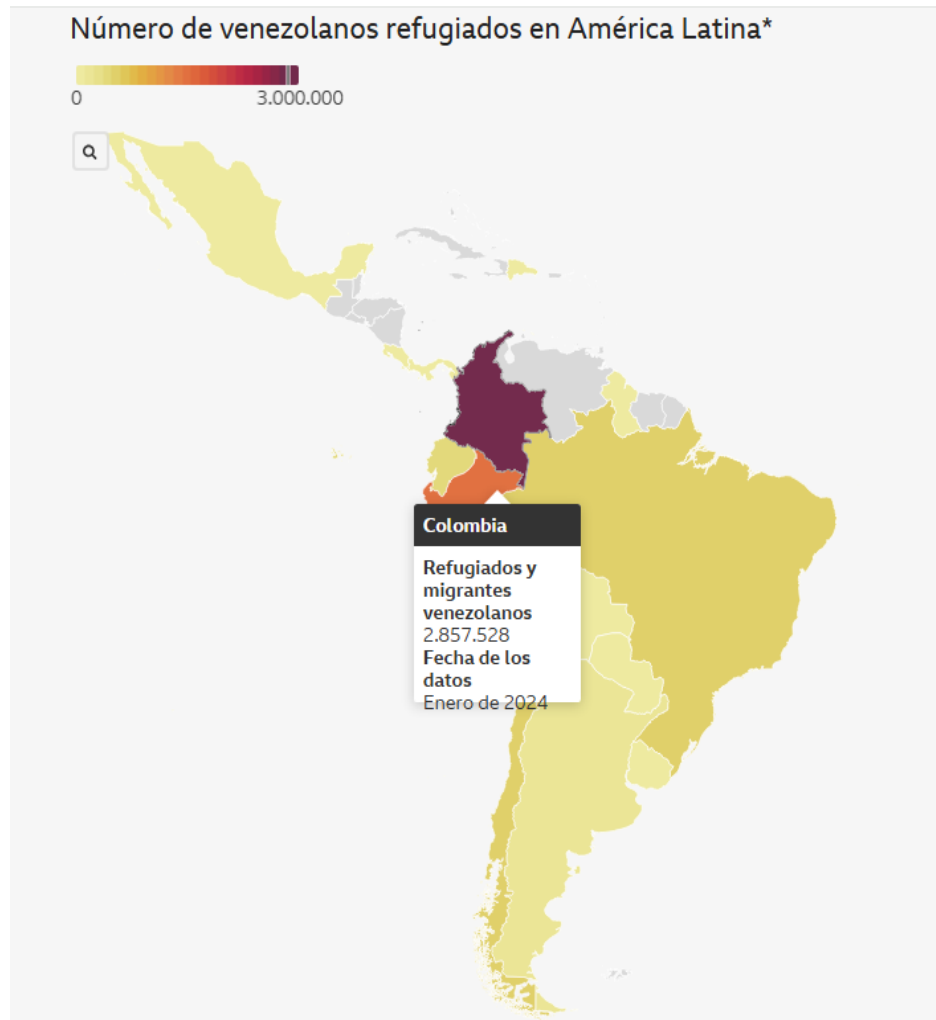


# Largest frontier with Venezuela: 2219 km



# Colombia is the country that has taken the most venezuelan migrants during the past decade.

7.7 million: **Col:2'888.505**- Peru:1.5-Brasil:568.000 Chile:500.000



Millions of people are forced to leave their homes due to conflict, violence, human rights violations, persecution, disasters and the impact of climate change every year.



According to UNHCR (2024,  
**Colombia hosts the thirs-largest  
Number of refugees in the world**

It also hosts the largest population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region with nearly 3 million seeking safety within its borders. It is a major transit country for Venezuelans and displaced people of othe nationalities who are moving north towards others parts of America.

# Los “Caminantes” (walkers)...migrants.

HPV vaccination in Venezuela doesn't exist as a national program.

Needless to say the lack of information regarding disease and vaccination.



# Armed conflict in Colombia...guerillas recruiting young venezuelans migrants





World Health Organization



Advancing Universal Health Coverage for refugees and migrants: from evidence to action

2 - 6 DECEMBER 2024

Hybrid event - Web streamed from Bogotá, Colombia



# ESCUELA GLOBAL SOBRE SALUD DE REFUGIADOS Y MIGRANTES

Avanzando hacia la Cobertura Universal de Salud para migrantes y refugiados: desde la evidencia a la acción

2 - 6 DICIEMBRE 2024

Evento híbrido - Transmitido por vía web desde Bogotá, Colombia



OPS/OMS Colombia  
Imagen

## The Government of Colombia has implemented various initiatives to ensure equitable access to health services particularly to refugees and migrants from Venezuela including:

1

Border Management through the creation of humanitarian corridors with COVID-19 biosecurity protocols;

2

Equal access to health services to migrants and refugees, including emergency mechanisms for irregular status holders;

3

Cash-based programmes for housing, food, WASH assistance, health and shelter services.

**This has had a positive impact in the lives of refugees and migrants through:**

Improved access to healthcare for over two million Venezuelans;

Enhanced capacity of healthcare workers to address refugee and migrant health needs;

Strengthened disease surveillance and outbreak response.



# Challenges Faced by Migrant Women



1

## Heightened HPV Risk

Migrant women face an increased risk of contracting HPV due to limited regular access to healthcare services.

2

## Constant Mobility

Frequent movement makes it difficult for migrant women to prioritize their health.

3

## Previous Diagnoses

Some cases include women with prior diagnoses of precancerous lesions or cervical cancer in Venezuela, who had not received timely treatment.



# HPV Associated Cancer Prevention for Migrant Population in Colombia

The **Colombian League Against Cancer** has partnered with UNHCR and IOM to develop a comprehensive approach to prevent cervical cancer and promote HPV vaccination among migrant populations in Colombia. This initiative addresses the unique challenges faced by migrant women, who are at higher risk due to limited healthcare access and constant mobility.

# Vaccination Efforts for Migrant Children

## Vaccination Numbers

Up to 2024, nearly 21.645 migrant children have been vaccinated against HPV under the program.

**Vaccine FREE of charge** for adolescents 9-17, gender neutral, one dose.



## Inclusive Approach

Emphasizes that vaccination requires no specific documentation, making it accessible to **all** migrant families.





# "A Generation Free of HPV" Program



## Raising Awareness

The program aims to educate at-risk families, including migrant families, about HPV vaccination.



## Emphasizing Safety

Highlights the safety and effectiveness of the HPV vaccine.



## Cancer Prevention

Stresses that vaccination can prevent multiple types of cancer.

# HPV vaccination of venezuelan adolescent migrants (9-17 ), 2020-2024, in Bogotá DC.

- 2020: Girls:1616 Boys:5 Total:1621.
- 2021: Girls 2872 Boys:17 Total:2889.
- 2022: Girls: 4110 Boys:27 Total:4137.
- 2023: Girls: 4327 Boys:384 Total: 4711.
- 2024: Girls:4366 Boys: 3921 Total:8287
- **TOTAL .....21.645**



• Total number of migrants : **undetermined**...many keep walking to different countries.

# Vaccination vs HPV in ARAUCA(Venezuelan frontier)

Disease don't respect frontiers



# HEROÍNAS

## Vacunadoras en Arauca



# Heroines and heroes





# Appreciation and applause!

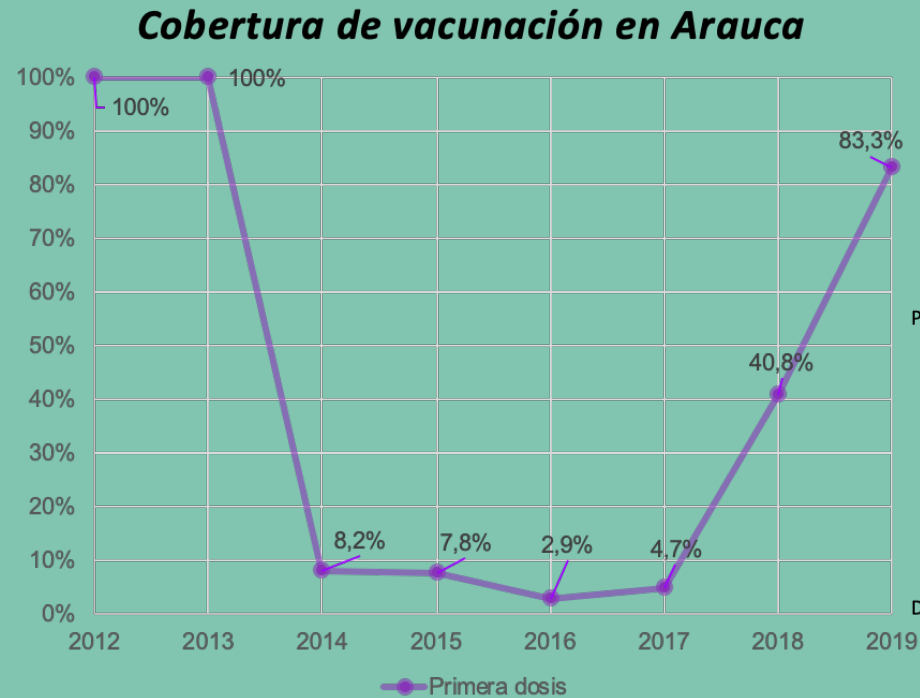


# Involving the community...parents, adolescents, health providers and teachers..! Back to schools to vaccinate adolescents, free of charge, gender neutral, one dose.

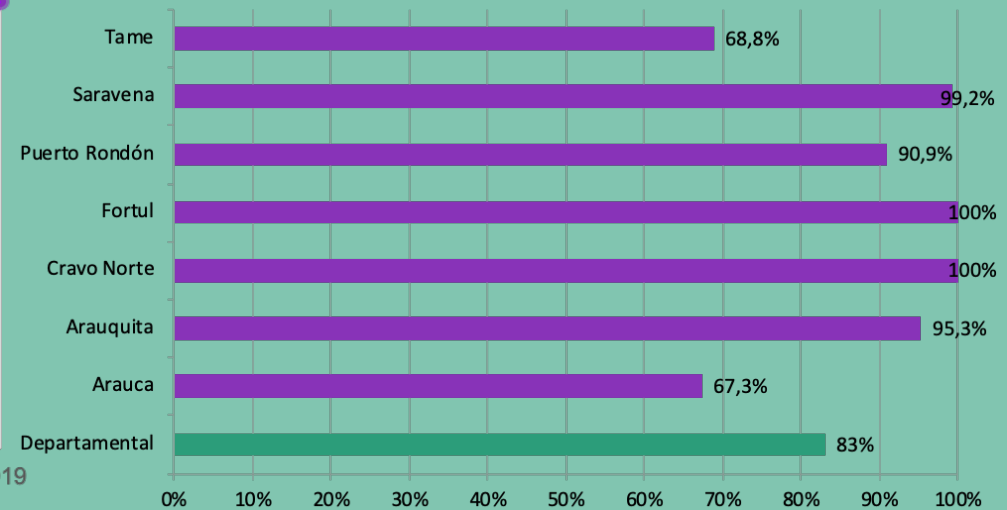


Taller virtual para capacitadores de Arauca Septiembre, 2020

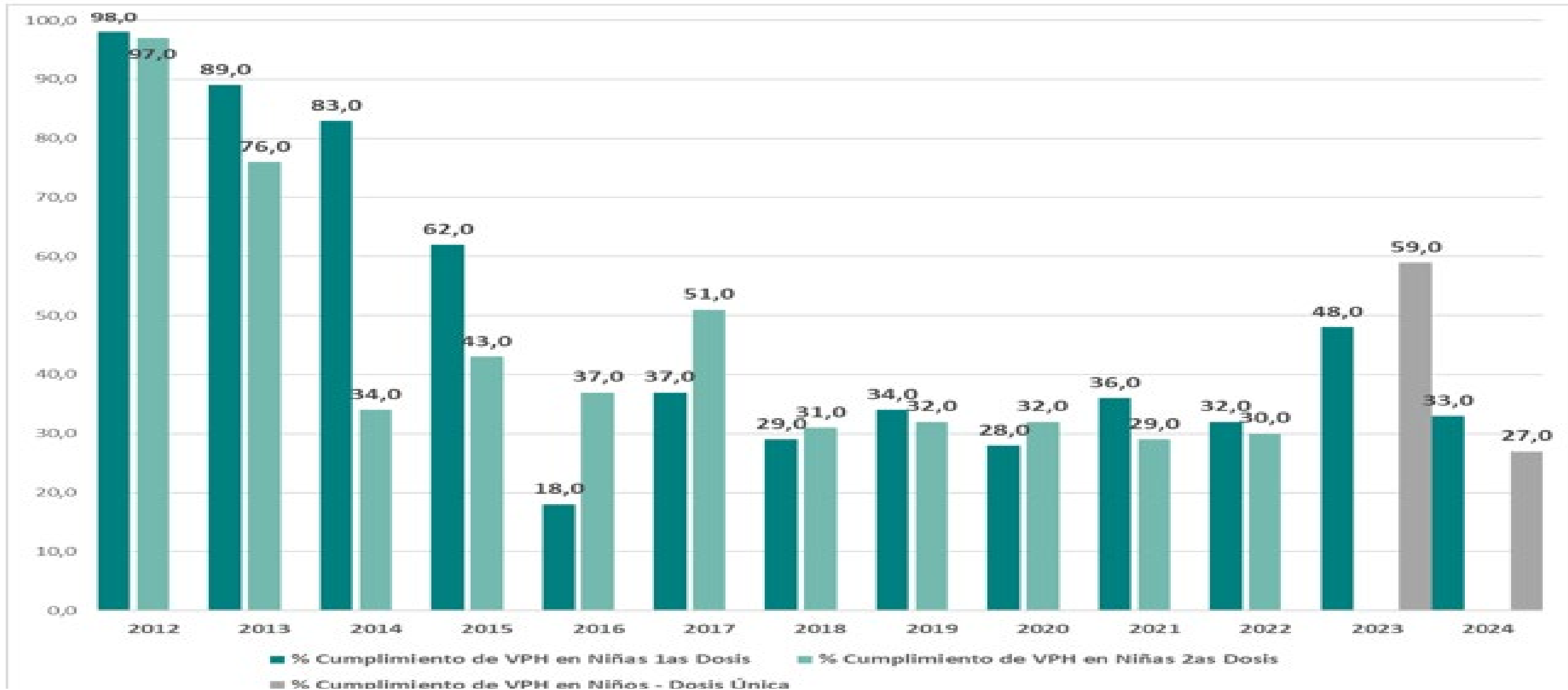
# Coberturas de Vacunación en Arauca



### Cobertura de vacunación por municipios A 31 de diciembre de 2019



# de VPH en niñas de 9 años con 1as y 2as dosis 2012 – 2024





¡GRACIAS!

Thank you!

Teşekkür ederim

Together we can prevent HPV associated malignancies, and the premature death of women dying of cervical cancer



Banco Interamericano  
de Desarrollo



**Vacunar**  
contra el cáncer de cuello uterino  
es un regalo *de vida*

