



# Migrant & Refugee Health Crisis in Latin America

## Situation Report #2

August 2024 Updates | Published September 29, 2024

**Project HOPE has been responding to the health crisis facing migrants and refugees in the Latin America and Caribbean region since 2018. Now, in 2024, as the number of migrants in the region rises and health and humanitarian needs become more urgent, our teams are expanding programs in Colombia, Ecuador and Honduras.**

### Response Overview

Health and humanitarian needs continued to increase in the region during August, with signs that the recent political developments in Venezuela and the violent aftermath could lead to even higher numbers of migration movement. Project HOPE continues to provide health support — paired with urgently needed protection and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services — to migrants and host community members in Colombia, Ecuador and Honduras, which host large numbers of migrants and are home to high-flow migratory transit pathways.

Project HOPE's regional response to the health crisis facing migrants and refugees is powered by support from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. During January

### Key Updates

- Project HOPE is supporting the **health, WASH, and protection needs** of migrants and local host communities in **Colombia, Ecuador, and Honduras**
- Local teams at **25 site locations** are providing **urgent health and humanitarian services** in areas hosting large numbers of migrants and/or high volumes of migratory transit
- Project HOPE's health teams are conducting **medical and psychological** outpatient consultations at **20 health facilities and mobile clinics**
- Our teams continue to distribute **WASH kits** (hygiene, dignity, and birth kits) to ensure migrants and host community members have access to essential, lifegiving supplies
- Essential infrastructure **rehabilitation and repair** projects are underway at **eight site locations**

to August 2024, Project HOPE reached migrants and host community members through the following regional response activities:

- Supported **26 site locations** — including health centers, shelters, transit centers, and mobile clinics — with health services, WASH repairs, rehabilitation projects, and equipment.
- Provided health services to migrant and host community members at **20 health facilities** and **mobile clinics**
- Continued to engage **35 health workers** to provide health services
- Provided **17,859 outpatient medical consultations** (including gynecological, primary care, psychological, and vaccination consultation services)
- Reached **7,926 people** with health promotion and community outreach services
- Completed WASH rehabilitations projects at **eight migrant support sites** (health facilities, shelters, and transit centers)
- Distributed **WASH kits** (hygiene, dignity, and birth kits) to **6,289 people**

## Colombia



A woman migrating through Villa del Rosario, Colombia participates in a psychological support session. Photo by Project HOPE Staff, 2024.

## Country Updates

Colombia continues to host the highest numbers of migrants and refugees from Venezuela of any country in the world. As of July 31, 2024, 2.8 million Venezuelan migrants are in Colombia. Now, following Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro’s claim to have won the July 28 presidential election and the subsequent turmoil and repression, there are signs that that migration along the Colombia-Venezuela border may increase. [Local media in Colombia](#) reported that the line to enter Cúcuta in Norte

*“Patient satisfaction with the health services they receive is very high at 98%.”*

*-Sara Leonard, Project HOPE Program Manager*

In **Colombia**, Project HOPE operates in three municipalities in **Norte de Santander Department**:

- Villa del Rosario
- Cúcuta
- Convención



Project HOPE teams provide support at **six health facilities** and **one shelter** in Colombia.

Project HOPE’s **response activities** in Colombia include:

- Medical staff surge support
- Pharmaceutical, medical supply, and equipment deliveries
- Medical consultations
- Psychological consultations
- Community health education
- WASH kit distributions
- WASH facility repairs and rehabilitation

de Santander Department, Colombia, from San Antonio del Táchira in Venezuela stretched for a kilometer on August 26. Violence has also intensified in the Catatumbo region of Colombia during August, increasing protection concerns for the local population and for migrants arriving from Venezuela, particularly for children and adolescents who are often targeted for recruitment by armed groups. Project HOPE remains prepared to respond to an emergency escalation in this region.

## Program Updates

Project HOPE continues to scale up response operations in Norte de Santander Department, responding to the urgent needs of migrant populations in the municipalities of Cúcuta and Villa del Rosario, as well as the needs of migrants and communities affected by ongoing armed conflict in the municipality of Convención in Catatumbo Region. Our teams continue to strengthen our partnerships with three Hospital Social Enterprises of the State (ESEs) in the identified support areas to facilitate the provision of health services to the unregularized migrant population, as well as host community members that have fallen outside of the health system.

## Health Activities

### Medical Staff Surge Support

Fifteen health workers (three gynecologists, five general practitioners, and seven auxiliary nurses) were hired through agreements with the three hospital ESEs to provide primary care and gynecological consultations. Additionally, Project HOPE has hired a psychologist, a community promoter, and two coordinators as part of our teams on the ground. Project HOPE coordinates the rotation of these health workers to six health facilities and one shelter to bolster existing staff and strengthen access for migrants and refugees at supported locations across Convención, Villa del Rosario, and Cúcuta.

### Pharmaceuticals, Medical Supplies, and Equipment

During the early stages of our response in Colombia, Project HOPE purchased and delivered basic primary health care medicines as well as medical supplies and equipment to optimize health services at the seven supported locations. Project HOPE continues to coordinate with pharmacy managers at ESEs to monitor the usage of pharmaceuticals and equipment to ensure that supported locations have the supplies they need.

Going forward, Project HOPE plans to expand support to the ESEs through the procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies for emergency departments in Cúcuta and Convención, as well as dental health supplies for five health outposts in Convención. Additionally, Project HOPE will be supporting ESEs with the provision of laboratory exams for patients without existing linkages to the health system.

### Medical Consultations

In August, medical consultations were provided at six health facilities and one shelter location (Centro de Atención de Migrantes - CATM) across the three target municipalities. In total, 1,662 medical consultations were provided, including 431 obstetric/gynecological and 1,231 primary health care consultations. Medical consultation services are prioritized in the mornings, as this is when most migrant

## Colombia Impact

Outpatient Consultations	<b>August</b> 1,877 (1,662 medical & 215 psychological)
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**2024 Total**  
5,858

Community Outreach & Health Promotion (participants)	<b>August</b> 1,087 <b>2024 Total</b> 1,254
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WASH Kits (participants receiving)	<b>August</b> 2,247 <b>2024 Total</b> 3,887
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populations move between Colombia and Venezuela because the transit is safer. In a sample survey undertaken, 98% of patients reported satisfaction with the health services provided by Project HOPE. The program team is utilizing findings from surveys to strengthen health service delivery in supported locations.

**Table 1: Medical Consultations in Colombia By Location and Consultation Type, August, 2024**

Municipality/Facility	Type of Location	Primary Health Care Consultations	OB-GYN Consultations	Total
<b>Convención</b>	-	<b>549</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>659</b>
IPS Convención	Health facility	227	110	337
Puesto de Salud la Trinidad	Health facility	322	-	322
<b>Cúcuta</b>	-	<b>449</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>770</b>
UBA Comuneros	Health facility	210	152	362
UBA Puente Barco Leones	Health facility	239	169	408
<b>Villa del Rosario</b>	-	<b>233</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>233</b>
CATM	Shelter	24	-	24
Las Margaritas	Health facility	103	-	103
PS La Parada	Health facility	106	-	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 health facilities and 1 shelter</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>1,662</b>

While Project HOPE works with cooperative and allied organizations to facilitate comprehensive care, there are gaps in the health services available to the unregularized population, including laboratory tests and chronic disease care. Project HOPE continues to work to identify and improve these linkages to strengthen access and quality of care.

### Community Health Education

During August, Project HOPE scaled up community health promotion activities to reach the municipality of Villa del Rosario, in addition to Cúcuta, where activities had already started. In Villa del Rosario, community activities commenced in the two supported health facility catchment areas. In Cúcuta, activities expanded to ten locations. Activities focused on informing the population of the availability of services provided by Project HOPE, World Breastfeeding Day education, psychosocial workshops on self-care, and the delivery of WASH kits to participants identified as migrants in vulnerable positions, refugees, returnees, and host community members in vulnerable positions.

### Comprehensive Care Linkages

Project HOPE continued to identify and improve care linkages with cooperative and allied organizations to facilitate comprehensive care. So far, protection services for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, laboratory tests for further medical investigation, and specialized chronic disease care for conditions like cervical cancer are among the services provided by other actors that Project HOPE has mapped out.

## Protection Activities

### Psychological Consultations

Project HOPE's psychologist continues to provide psychological first aid and psychosocial support at two locations in Villa del Rosario, CATM, and Centro Integral Las Margaritas. Dignity kits are also distributed to patients attending psychological consultations who meet the defined vulnerability criteria. A total of 215 psychology consultations were provided at these two locations in the month of August.

Given the demand for psychological support, Project HOPE plans to scale up support as we are able, in conjunction with ESEs. Services have not been able to be provided in Cúcuta as this service must be authorized by the ESE. However, Project HOPE has been able to refer patients from the health units who demonstrated a need for psychological support to our psychologist in Villa del Rosario.

### WASH Activities

#### Kit Distributions

Project HOPE continues to deliver WASH kits, including dignity kits, hygiene kits and birth kits, to participants in vulnerable positions (female heads of households, women and adolescent girls of reproductive age, pregnant and postpartum women, adults with minors in their nuclear family, older adults, people with disabilities, and unemployed adults). A total of 2,368 kits were distributed in August across the health facility and community levels.

#### WASH Facility Improvements

Following Project HOPE's rapid assessment that identified WASH needs at six of the seven supported program sites, Project HOPE began work to ensure functional WASH infrastructure at three of the health facilities (Las Margaritas, IPS Convención, Puesto de Salud la Trinidad) and at one shelter (CATM). These repairs are planned to be completed by October, with additional works at UBA Puente Barco Leones expected to launch in the coming weeks. In addition, a training module on water quality was provided to staff at the CATM shelter facility.

### Upcoming Activities

During September, Project HOPE will continue to:

- Work with ESEs and CATM to provide health and psychological consultations
- Undertake community health promotion sessions in Villa del Rosario and Cúcuta
- Undertake water quality and waste management trainings
- Continue the phased allocation of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to program sites as needs are identified
- Complete WASH and infrastructure repairs at four locations and begin repairs at two additional sites
- Develop an action plan with community leaders for sustainability, self-management, and the strengthening of community support networks, health management, and regularization in targeted areas

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**Dignity kits** include hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, sanitary pads, combs, and detergent.

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**Hygiene kits** for adults and children include items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, insect repellent, soap, and shampoo.

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**Birth kits** include items such as shampoo, soap, diapers, wet wipes, a newborn set, diaper cream, and nursing pads.

Project HOPE remains an active participant in the health cluster, led by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Ministry of Health, and the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows. Through these coordination mechanisms, as well as coordination with current health partners, Project HOPE will continue to monitor and evaluate changes in migratory flows and the vulnerabilities faced by both migrants and host community members the program operation area to ensure the program is meeting the most pressing needs.

## Ecuador



Marilyn, a psychologist with Project HOPE's medical team in Tulcán, Ecuador, leads a group therapy session for migrants at the Temporary Accommodation Center. Photo by James Buck for Project HOPE, 2024.

## Country Updates

People in vulnerable positions continue to represent the highest in-transit population in terms of inflows and outflows in Ecuador, according to data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Ecuador. A key update in August was the presidential decree that introduced an extraordinary regularization process for Venezuelans and their families, who currently lack regular status in the country. This new process is aimed at eliminating some of the barriers faced during the regularization process and its implementation has been praised by the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR.

## Program Updates

Project HOPE's response operations continued in August in Tulcán, which is located in the province of Carchi. This area is home to the border between Ecuador and Colombia, with an average of around 700 people of various nationalities passing through weekly, either trying to enter Ecuador or continuing their journey to other countries. Project HOPE is working to improve access to basic health services for migrants through integrated services at municipal service centers, shelters, and health facilities.

In **Ecuador**, Project HOPE operates in the border region of **Tulcán**, in **Carchi Province**.



Project HOPE teams provide support at **six site locations**, including health facilities, shelters, and humanitarian assistance points.

Project HOPE's **response activities** in Ecuador include:

- Medical staff surge support
- Pharmaceutical, medical supply, and equipment deliveries
- Medical consultations
- Psychological consultations
- **Referral pathways for protection services**
- WASH kit distributions
- Potable water assistance
- WASH facility repairs and rehabilitation

## Health Activities

### Medical Staff Surge Support

Two physicians, two nurses, and two psychologists engaged by Project HOPE continued to provide health services in August 2024.

### Pharmaceuticals, Medical Supplies, and Equipment

Project HOPE's medical teams have been fully equipped with medical supplies and medical equipment to ensure the provision of quality health services. Additionally, through Project HOPE's agreement with DIFARE, a local pharmacy, we were able to provide 646 people who sought care at supported providers with free-of-charge pharmaceuticals in the month of August.

### Medical Consultations

Health services are being provided on a weekly basis at shelter locations. In August, 806 primary health care consultations were provided by the medical and nursing teams. The patient population was 55% Venezuelan, 9% Ecuadorian, and 35% other nationalities (Haitian, Colombian, Peruvian, Chilean, or other). Of the 806 total consultations, 321 (40%) were provided to people in transit, while 452 (56%) were provided to women and 312 (39%) were provided to children.

Project HOPE's team coordinates with both governmental and non-governmental organizations to strengthen and enhance comprehensive care. During the month of August, Project HOPE provided care to a number of referral cases received from the Ministry of Health and the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM).

**Table 2: Medical Consultations Provided by Location in Tulcán, August 2024**

Location	Number of Medical Consultations
CAT Rumichaca	140
Alebergue Patronato	89
Cáritas Dining Room	76
Project HOPE Medical Office	424
Hotels OIM	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>806</b>

### Community Outreach and Health Education

During outpatient consultations, 97 patients reported that they learned about Project HOPE's services in Tulcán through brochures available at transit and migration points, as well as through referrals by other organizations.

Flyers with information on Project HOPE's free health services are displayed at key migration points in Tulcán. Service information is also provided during hygiene kit distributions, during which education on the contents of kits and safe hygiene practices are also provided.

## Protection Activities

### Psychological Consultations

Psychological consultations are provided by Project HOPE’s two psychologists and delivered via rotational services at shelters. In total, 147 psychological consultations were provided across the supported locations during August.

**Table 3: Psychological Consultations Provided by Location in Tulcán, August 2024**

Location	Total
CAT Rumichaca	18
Alebergue Patronato	20
Cáritas Dining Room,	30
Project HOPE Medical Office	60
Hotels OIM	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>

During these consultations, patients reported a variety of conditions and emotions, with 84% reporting having anxiety and stress, 20% reporting feelings of culpability, 7% reporting irritability, 20% reporting insomnia, and 1% reporting excess sleeping.

### Referral Pathways for GBV survivors

Project HOPE has worked in collaboration with the GTRM to provide GBV survivors with access to specialized care, including case management, social, and legal services. Referral pathways have been identified with organizations that specialize in protection support and are activated to provide prompt specialized assistance during medical and psychological consultations when people are identified as having experienced GBV. Within the past six months, four GBV cases have been identified and referred to the designated protection route for further assistance and support.

## WASH Activities

### Kit Distributions

Hygiene kits distributions scaled up in August, with a total of 2,391 kits provided to target populations, of which 939 were provided to men and 865 were provided to women. Kits were also provided to children, with 409 children between the ages of 3 and 10, and 178 of children between the ages of 0 and 2 receiving kits. Distribution was accompanied by hygiene promotion and education on the usage of received items and the importance of integrating good hygiene practices into everyday routines.

Kits were distributed in locations where Project HOPE provides medical and psychological care, as well as in spaces where other partners in Tulcán have invited Project HOPE to join community outreach activities. Some of these partners include Espacio de Apoyo Integral, Grupo Adolescentes HIAS, and various community spaces in Carchi and Huacas.

## Ecuador Impact

Outpatient Consultations **August**  
953  
(806 medical & 147 psychological)  
**2024 Total**  
3,245

Community Outreach & Health Promotion (participants) **August**  
97  
**2024 Total**  
97

WASH Kits (participants receiving) **August**  
2,391  
**2024 Total**  
2,402



## WASH Facility Improvements

WASH facility repairs scaled up in August, with improvements undertaken at ten locations in Tulcán, including Health Center No. 1, Urbina, El Carmelo, Julio Andrade, Huaca, Pioter, Mariscal Sucre, Chical, Maldonado and the Carchi GAD restroom facilities in the Piedra Lisa community. Cleaning kits will be delivered to health facilities in September to assist with the appropriate cleaning and maintenance of WASH facilities.

## Upcoming Activities

Health, protection, and WASH activities will continue in September, including WASH improvements at additional locations and additional hygiene kit distributions. Hygiene kits are scheduled to be delivered at the dining room shelter, WFP assistance points (both transit and permanent), and the Espacio de Apoyo Integral. A meeting with the Carchi GTRM health subgroup is planned for September, with the aim of coordinating health actions over the following months and possible participation in health brigades.

## Honduras



Lisbeth\*, who is migrating from Venezuela, receives care from Dr. Valeria Morales, a doctor with Project HOPE's medical team in Honduras. "We crossed the border with Colombia into Panama and walked through the Darién Gap," she said. "It was very difficult. We saw people in the road dead. Twenty-seven hours we walked." Photo by James Buck for Project HOPE, 2024.

## Country Updates

Between January and July of 2024, 272,168 migrants and refugees were reported to have entered Honduras. Of these, 97% entered the country through the El Paraíso department, where Project HOPE is currently providing services in three municipalities (with the remaining 3% entering through Choluteca Department).

Due to its geographical location, Honduras has become a regular transit country for migrants on route to the United States and Mexico. Numbers continue to be elevated compared to 2023, suggesting that humanitarian needs will continue to be elevated.

In **Honduras**, Project HOPE operates in the most affected municipalities of the **El Paraíso Department**:

- Alauca (Los Manos border crossing)
- Danlí
- Trojes



Our teams provide support at **13 sites**, including health and shelter facilities.

Project HOPE's **response activities** in Honduras include:

- Medical staff surge support
- Pharmaceutical, medical supply, and equipment deliveries
- Medical consultations
- Psychological consultations
- Mental health and resiliency trainings for staff at migrant support site locations
- WASH kit distributions
- WASH facility repairs and rehabilitation

The National Migration Institute (INM) reports that the increasing numbers of migrants transiting through the country forms a humanitarian crisis on the southeastern border as the scale of need surpasses the capacities of local and national organizations to provide both adequate shelter and humanitarian assistance. Given this situation, Project HOPE’s activities in Honduras continue to elevate in both importance and impact.

## Program Updates

In the month of August, Project HOPE continued response operations in the most affected areas of the El Paraíso department, working to provide health, WASH, and protection support in municipal centers, shelters, and health facilities to improve access to basic primary health services for people transiting through or living in El Paraíso.

## Health Activities

### Medical Staff Surge Support

Thirteen health staff continue to be engaged by Project HOPE and are providing health services. The health team includes five doctors, four nurses, one psychologist, and three Community Health Workers (CHWs). One additional doctor and one additional psychologist are planned to be added to the team in September.

### Pharmaceuticals, Medical Supplies, and Equipment

Project HOPE has provided medical supplies, medical equipment, and pharmaceuticals to support static clinics and ensure the ability of our health teams to provide quality care through mobile clinics.

### Community Health Education

Project HOPE’s CHWs conducted community outreach efforts to reach migrants with health promotion activities. Key topics included education on hygiene practices, the prevention of communicable diseases, and the warning signs of dehydration. During August 2024, 2,613 people were reached with health promotion activities, including 2,204 at four locations in Danli and 409 at three locations in Trojes.

### Medical Consultations

Project HOPE operates mobile clinics and also supports static health facilities to provide primary health care consultations. Two mobile clinics are currently rotating between three locations, while also providing services in consultation rooms at the CAMI Danli Migrant Care Center and the Consorcio Life Temporary Rest Center. Project HOPE also supports two static health facilities, Gabriela Alvarado Hospital Outpatient Department in Danli and Amigos de las Americas Health Facility in Trojes. During August, 2,039 medical consultations were provided across the two municipalities.

Of the patients reached with health services, 48% are from Venezuela, 21% are local Hondurans, 9% are from Cuba, 5% are from Haiti, 5% are from Colombia, and the remaining identify as other nationalities. Of the 2,039 consultations provided, 1,632 (80%) were provided to people with irregular migratory status, 966 were provided to women (47%), and 460 (23%) were provided to children.

## Honduras Impact

Outpatient Consultations	<b>August</b> 2,144 (2,039 medical & 105 psychological)
	<b>2024 Total</b> 8,756

Community Outreach & Health Promotion (participants)	<b>August</b> 2,614
	<b>2024 Total</b> 8,756

**Table 4: Medical Consultations Provided by Location in El Paraíso, August 2024**

Municipality/Facility	Type of Location	Primary Health Care Consultations
<b>Danlí</b>		<b>1,727</b>
Centro de Atención al Migrante Irregular (CAMI)	Hostel	747
Gabriela Alvarado Hospital Outpatient Department	Health facility	116
INM Office El Pescadero	Mobile clinic	591
Bus Terminal	Mobile clinic	273
<b>Trojes</b>		<b>312</b>
INM Border Control	Mobile clinic	167
Consortio Life Temporary Rest Center	Hostel	8
Amigos de las Americas Health Center	Health facility	137
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 health facilities, 2 hostels, and 2 mobile clinics that rotate between 3 locations</b>	<b>2,039</b>

## Protection Activities

### Psychological Consultations

Project HOPE’s psychologist provides psychological first aid (PFA) and psychosocial support to migrants in transit through at mobile clinics. PFA sessions were expanded to two locations in August. Of these consultations, 100% of migrants reported feelings of anxiety and stress, 4% reported feelings of culpability, 8% reported irritability, 14% reported insomnia. 3% reported experiencing physical violence, 21% reported experiencing psychological violence, and 5% reported experiencing sexual violence.

**Table 5: Psychological Consultations Provided in Danlí, August 2024**

Municipality/Facility	Type of Location	Primary Health Care Consultations
<b>Danlí</b>		<b>105</b>
Centro de Atención al Migrante Irregular (CAMI)	Hostel	29
INM Office El Pescadero	Mobile clinic	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 locations</b>	<b>105</b>

### Mental Health and Resiliency Training for Staff

Project HOPE’s psychologists continue to train institutional staff at health facilities, temporary rest centers, and other migrant support locations in mental health and resiliency, reaching 117 health workers in August. Project HOPE’s team also strengthened staff capacity in PFA and problem-solving with patients on the move.

## WASH Activities

### Kit Distributions

Project HOPE procured 13,753 hygiene kits and planned future distributions. Donated water bottles were delivered to partners in August, with 60,520 bottles delivered to Agua Pura Para el Mundo, CAMI, and Child Fund, where staff will distribute to migrants.

### WASH Facility Improvements

Project HOPE conducted WASH repairs at eight health facilities in August. Drying and washing machine supplies were also delivered to the CAMI hostel. In Pescadero, Project HOPE began providing and emptying mobile toilets, as current services were not meeting the demand among migrants. This collaboration began through the WASH cluster after the Norwegian Refugee Council was unable to provide the services.

**Table 6: WASH Facility Improvement Progress by Municipality, August 2024**

Municipality	Health Facility	Status
Trojes	CIS Amigos de las Américas	99% complete
	UAPS El Chaparral	86% complete
La Apertura	La Apertura	Completed work, awaiting delivery
Danlí	Gabriela Alvarado Hospital	66% complete
	CIS Nueva Esperanza	To be completed in September
	Sanitary Health Region	67% complete
	OSI Las Manos	Completed
	CIS Luis Lazo	Completed
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 facilities</b>	-

### Upcoming Activities

During September, Project HOPE plans to undertake the following activities to further expand support for migrant and host populations:

- Extend health care hours at the INM Border Control location and LIFE Consortium in Trojes to accommodate increased demand
- Expand psychological consultation services to two additional locations, INM Border Control and LIFE Consortium Hostel in Trojes
- Deliver final WASH facility improvements at identified locations
- Begin WASH kit distributions at supported locations
- Establish a child-friendly recreational space at the CAMI-Danlí Hostel