**Background of the situation at the border:**

The current situation in the municipalities located on Colombia’s frontier with Venezuela is highly critical, as the social issues have become increasingly harder to confront. This has negatively impacted the quality of life of those living in the entire department of North Santander, predominantly for those in the city of Cúcuta, as this city is the main point of entry for Venezuelan refugees; who then spread across municipalities in search of refuge for their families, food, medical assistance, or even just a safe resting place before continuing their journey toward other departments in Colombia where they may find an opportunity for themselves and their families.

Following some research conducted by the National Army of Colombia, alongside data provided by the Mayors of these municipalities, it was determined that the municipalities of Ragonvalia, Herrán, Cucutilla, and Chitaga are the preferred sectors by Venezuelan refugees; due to these municipalities being located both next to the border and the main travel routes between the two countries. However, this ongoing transit of Venezuelan refugees brings with it a series of social issues for Colombians living in these municipalities. Considering the majority of these border crossings are conducted illegaly, the high influx of refugees further complicates the issues with the health system in these municipalities, which only count with one health center that solely provides general practice consults; meaning specialised services like dentistry, optometry, and pharmaceutical provision are not available to these populations. On top of this already complex situation are the medical needs of the rising refugee population. The most urgent cases are prioritized, but even still, providing immediate care is often challenging because there are more patients than the health center can handle.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened this already bad situation for both Colombians and Venezuelan refugees in these areas. These municipalities do not have the capacity to cover these people’s basic needs, and have had to focus only on highly critical patients; regrettably neglecting thousands of refugees in need. Venezuelan women who arrive either pregnant or lactating have not had access to medical services throughout a large of their pregnancy and also lack basic supplies (diapers, clothes, hygiene products) for themselves and their babies. A high nutritional deficit is also evidence amongst this immigrant population. Although health promotion and disease control efforts have been made, medical attention in these areas is clearly insufficient.

**Details about the mission this July, 2021:**

Duration: 10 days

Projected target: Provide medical attention and supplies to 9,000 people at the Colombia-Venezuelan border

We have already covered: Transport of Bogota teams to the mission zone and to the accommodations; Accommodation and food for the Conviventia team

What we need: Medicines, food packages, hygiene kits, and transport for the Bogota team from the mission zone to the actual border.

Areas we will serve: Northern Santander – Border zone

·         Ragonvalia

·         Herran

·         Chitaga

·         Cucutilla

Services we will be providing:

* Evangelism
* Medical consults
* Optometry services
* Dentistry services
* Distributing medicine
* Distributing food packages for high-vulnerability cases

**If you would like to support other humanitarian aid projects, or learn more about what we do, please visit** [**www.conviventia.us**](http://www.conviventia.us) **or email us at** [**info@conviventia.us**](mailto:info@conviventia.us) **today.**