

MGOS RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOs IN PANAMA TO THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA

Thank you Madame/Monsieur/Ambassador, I am representing Major Groups and Other Stakeholders. After reviewing the VNR, we have the following questions for the Panamanian government.

1. Panama has enacted the bolsas de familia food programme in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, how do families enroll and are chosen to take part in this programme? How is the government ensuring that even the most remote communities are receiving this assistance? Further, how has nutrition been prioritized in these distributions and how do you see elements of this programme continue to be implemented in the community post-pandemic?
2. Panama has recognized that it has a GINI inequality index of 0.5. In the metropolitan areas and the areas surrounding them, there is a further visible inequality and poverty gap. The results of this are seen in a rise in violence in certain neighborhoods. What are the specific actions the government is undertaking to reduce the identified inequality and how is Panama supporting civil society organizations in reducing this gap and combating the increase in violence that is associated with it? Furthermore, what initiatives has your government undertaken to mitigate violence in these targeted areas and more generally, prevent arms transfers that contribute to gender based and other forms of violence?
3. With the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, Panama is hosting an estimated 94,600 venezuelan migrants. What are the specific initiatives taken to focus on the social groups that are often discriminated against, such as migrants and refugees, women, young persons, indigenous persons, older persons, persons with disabilities and LGBTI people, among others, including intersectionalities of these? What accessibility measures have you considered for addressing the challenges that these specific population groups face?

<https://reliefweb.int/map/colombia/latin-america-and-caribbean-venezuelan-refugees-migrants-region-february-2020>