



SAMU First Response and COG's next Region Forward Coalition

Sharing Experiences and Capacities

SAMU First Response

- "SAMU First Response is a US 501 ©(3) nonprofit organization committed to providing immediate humanitarian relief."
- SAMU First Response is an affiliate of SAMU, S.A. and Fundación SAMU, collectively bringing over 40 years of experience in humanitarian work.
- Our organization is built on the principles of compassion, empathy, and respect, ensuring that every individual who seeks our assistance is treated with dignity.
- With a strong foundation and a wealth of experience, SAMU First Response is prepared to address the evolving needs of migrants and contribute to their well-being.





Daily Operations at SAMU First Response



• Reception Services:



- We welcome migrants to our facilities, ensuring they have access to essential services and meeting their immediate needs.
- Our dedicated staff conducts an intake process to better understand their plans and next steps.
- We make sure that we treat everyone with dignity and respect throughout their time with us.

Emergency Respite Services:

- Migrants who need more time to rest, determine their next steps, book travel, or do not have a destination are provided with emergency respite.
- Our respite centers offer a safe and comfortable environment for migrants to rest, nourish, and receive support.

Cumulative Data

CUMULATIVE TOTAL

TOTAL SERVED
**9,725
INDIVIDUALS**

TOTAL MEALS
**45,764
MEALS**



TOTAL BUSES
RECEIVED BY SAMU
220 BUSES

SHELTER - TOTAL
NUMBER OF
MIGRANTS
**4,189
MIGRANTS**

SHELTER -
CUMULATIVE
NIGHTS
14,067 NIGHTS



Reception / Intake

Modes of Arrival:

- Buses: Migrants often arrive via state-sponsored buses, which facilitate their transition from border states.
- Transitions from Other Jurisdictions: Some migrants may arrive after transitioning from other jurisdictions, seeking support and resources along their journey.
- Direct Arrivals from the Southern Border: Migrants may arrive directly from the southern border, either through self-transport or with the assistance of NGOs.
- Referrals from Partners: We also receive referrals from trusted partners, including local jurisdictions, churches and aid networks, and the larger community.

Recent Trends:

- It always fluctuates. In May and June, we saw an increased number of buses from Texas and Arizona. In July, small decline with no Arizona buses this month.
- Coordinated Arrivals: Buses arriving from Arizona are highly coordinated, ensuring the presence of medical and other accompaniment services for the migrants. We are working to better coordinate buses arriving from Texas.

Services Provided



Emergency Respite:

- 3 days and 2 nights or more, depending on the case (as per case management request - following FEMA's guidelines).
- Time to rest, nourish and plan for their next steps.

Basic Needs:

- Nutritious meals provided.
- Clean clothing and hygienic supplies.
- Ensuring the well-being and comfort of our guests.

Medical Services:

- General assessments and access to OTC medications.
- Assistance with emergency (Pediatric and Adult) care.

Travel Coordination:

- Assistance in coordinating onward travel arrangements.
- Connecting migrants with sponsors or arranging transportation.

Legal Services:

- General orientations, videos and presentations from partners and legal providers, referrals and guidance in destination cities.
- Up-to-date information on immigration trends and changing rules.

Access to Public Services:

- Helping migrants navigate available public services.
- Healthcare, education, social welfare programs, information about parental expectations, and other community resources.
- Empowering migrants to access the support they need and connect with loved ones.

Therapeutic Interventions:

- Addressing emotional well-being and trauma.
- Group counseling services and support groups, along with 1:1 confidential sessions to better understand needs and links.

Additional Activities:

- ESL language lessons to enhance language skills.
- Holiday celebrations, movie nights, live music, and even Zumba classes.
- Creating a sense of community and promoting well-being.
- Academic Data Analyses.

Capacity

Respite Center in Washington, D.C.:

- The Respite Center in Washington, D.C. has enough capacity.
- It provides a safe and comfortable congregate space for migrants to rest and receive support.

Respite Center in Maryland:

- The Respite Center in Maryland has a capacity of 60 people.
- This facility is expandable to accommodate an additional 16 people for isolation or quarantine purposes.

Emergency Contingency Plans:

- In the event that our maximum capacity is exceeded, we have developed emergency contingency plans to ensure that new arrivals do not end up on the street.
- These plans include provisions to accommodate an additional 40 people.

Enough cots available to meet demand.



Overcoming Obstacles and Support



Case Management:

- Our partners offer comprehensive case management services to migrants, ensuring they receive personalized support and guidance throughout their journey.
- Case managers help navigate complex processes, connect individuals with resources, and provide ongoing assistance to address their unique needs.

Community Navigator's Sessions:

- We have established "know your rights" sessions, through our partner, Carecen, to provide legal guidance and support to migrants.
- Community navigators serve as advocates, helping migrants access services, navigate local systems, and integrate into their new communities.

Partnerships:

- We forge strategic partnerships with universities, organizations, and local jurisdictions to address obstacles faced by migrants effectively.
- American & Georgetown Universities, World Central Kitchen, B-Thrifty, Care for your health, Red Cross, Project Hope... are just a few of our partners.

Housing Information:

- We provide housing information to equip migrants with a minimum orientation of the DMV area and the differences between neighboring counties.

How Are Local Governments and Jurisdictions Helping Migrants?

Reception and Respite Services:

DC and MD governments collaborate with SAMU First Response to establish reception centers and respite facilities.

Food and Lodging:

SAMU is actively leveraging our outreach partners to improve on FEMA's meal budget to ensure nutritious meals are provided to migrants; and reviewing each case individually so that temporary lodging meets the needs between 3 and 30 days.

Case Management:

The Newcomers Initiative in MD and OMS in DC offer case management services to assist migrants in navigating various systems and processes.

Case Management:

Local governments and organizations offer case management services to assist migrants in navigating various systems and processes.

Healthcare Services:

Collaborating with healthcare providers, local jurisdictions ensure that migrants have access to medical assessments, vaccinations, and other necessary healthcare services.

This includes support for migrants with specific medical needs or conditions.

Immigration Legal Services:

Local organizations often provide immigration legal services, including assistance with asylum applications and understanding immigration policies.

This support is vital in helping migrants navigate the complex legal landscape.



How has Title 42's lift affected?

Surge Prior to the lifting:

Our monthly average has been 351 migrants a month. During April (541) and Early May brought many more migrants than average.

Local Resources Reinforcement:

DC was fast to open a new respite center. Reinforcing the number of Staff caring for migrants through SAMU. An additional recreation center was also made available as emergency shelter.

Record of Arrivals in May:

1055 persons in a month, that has been our all time record. Since then, the number of arrivals has decreased slowly: June 824 and July 414 up to date.

NYC & DC Capacity Depletion Communication :

Major city administrations are actively sending out messages stating there are no more hotel rooms available. This may deter some migrants from coming to DC and NYC.

Increased Travel Expenses:

In order to make room for more people, SAMU has been actively facilitating travel plans for many families.



What's Next?

Focus on Real-Time Needs and Preparedness:

- We will continue to prioritize meeting the real-time needs of arriving migrants, providing them with immediate humanitarian relief and essential support.
- Our team remains prepared and adaptable to respond to fluctuations in migration patterns and emerging challenges.
- Urgent Prenatal care

Reinforce the Network:

- We are actively engaging other cities and counties to prepare for the arrival of migrants.
 - Major cities are starting to saturate and openly stating they cannot accommodate more migrants, resulting in migrants being transferred to nearing communities.
- It's important for local and regional administrations to deal with migration as an opportunity.
 - Migrants are strong willed resilient people, actively seeking to be a positive contributors to their community.



Q&A

By working together, we can build a stronger and more inclusive society that embraces the diversity and resilience of those who seek a better life.

SAMU First Response will continue to be a beacon of hope and support for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, empowering them on their journey towards a brighter future.

