

R4V MYR

MID YEAR REPORT
2019



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Mid Year
Report
2019

R4V

RESPONSE FOR
VENEZUELANOS

Coordination Platform for
Refugees and Migrants
from Venezuela

REGIONAL CHAPTER

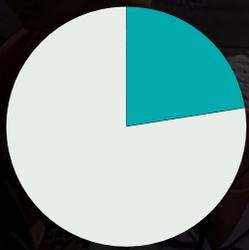
VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



4.2 M
in the World



3.6 M
in the Americas



REQUIREMENTS
USD 737 M

23.9% Contributions
USD 176 M

76.1% Funding Gap
USD 561 M

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REGIONAL CHAPTER

The political, human rights and socio-economic developments in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereinafter Venezuela) continue to lead to the outflow of millions of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, especially into neighbouring countries. It is estimated that the number of Venezuelans in countries across Latin America and the Caribbean rose from almost 695,551 in 2015 to over 3.6 million at the end of June 2019. Globally, this figure is estimated at over 4.2 million Venezuelans, 75% of which are in South America. Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean demonstrate continuous solidarity and generosity towards Venezuelans and largely maintain an open-border policy. As of 5 June, almost 2 million residence and regular stay permits were granted in the region, while approximately 460 thousand asylum claims were filed. With an average steady rate of around 5,000 daily arrivals in countries bordering Venezuela, the international community concerns remain high as the vulnerabilities of the refugees and migrants from Venezuela increase and the national capacities to respond to them overstretch, leading sometimes to negative responses from host communities. Additionally, an increasing number of Venezuelans remain in an irregular situation due to various factors, including lack of documentation, administrative procedures, long waiting periods and high application fees, among others. Venezuelans who are not able to access a regular status become more vulnerable to all forms of exploitation and abuse, violence and discrimination.

Partnership and Coordination

Currently, the Regional Platform has over 131 participating entities active across Latin America and the Caribbean, including 18 UN agencies, 41 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), over 30 donors, including international financial institutions, as reported by the national/sub-regional platforms each month as collaborating members.

The Regional Platform has been providing regular support to the governments in the region to strengthen their responses to the flows of Venezuelans. This is reflected in the Quito Declaration on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens in the Region, adopted in September 2018. This regional initiative demonstrates the solidarity of the governments in the region towards Venezuelans. Since the adoption of the Declaration, the governments developed an Action Plan in November 2018 and established a follow up mechanism in April 2019, during the III Meeting that took place in Quito. During this meeting, the funding needs of governments in the region to better address the refugees and migrants from Venezuela were analysed, highlighting of the need of international support and cooperation for the sustainability of the regional response.

Change in Planning Assumptions

The migratory balances for Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru show that the number of new arrivals from Venezuela remains similar to the previous year. Halfway through 2019, the new arrivals staying in these countries represent approximately half of the final stock figure for 2018. If this tendency continues, it is estimated that the stock figure in these countries will be 1.64 million, 410,000, and 1.17 respectively, by the end of 2019. Several countries in the region have introduced new requirements to access and remain in their territories. This change is in slight opposition to one of the assumptions used in the development of the RMRP in late 2018. On the other hand, access to asylum has remained available.

The number of persons from Venezuela staying in Brazil have also increased. Until June 30, the new arrivals staying in the country was around 82,000 people which is 43% higher than the final stock figure for 2018. If this tendency continues, the stock population figure for Brazil will pass 260,000 by the end of 2019.

Overarching Population's Needs across the Region

The types of needs of the refugees and migrants from Venezuela in transit and destination countries remained similar over the first semester of implementation of the RMRP. However, the urgency of those needs is increasing as the persons remain more time on the move and coping mechanisms become exhausted. Emergency needs encompass the access to basic services including, but not limited to, dignified shelters, food, health, and non-food items. Protection needs include predictable regular status and documentation, information on access to public services and rights, formal schooling, as well as medical referrals, especially for severe or acute conditions, and access to sexual (including HIV), reproductive and mental health services. Socio-economic integration needs refer to the access to the labour market, social and cultural integration activities and the recognition of academic degrees, titles and skills in host countries.

As the composition of the families coming from Venezuela is expected to change, an increase of cases of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), elderly, people with disabilities, single or young mothers and pregnant women is expected, along with an increase in their vulnerabilities and specific needs. Also, the usage of irregular routes might report and increment if new entry requirements are enforced, leading to heightened risks of exploitation, violence, human trafficking and gender-based violence.

Social tensions due to stressed capacities of host governments and the misinformation of host communities are expected to arise. Incidents of discrimination and xenophobia are the likely manifestation of these tensions. Therefore, the need for a constructive engagement with receiving communities and private sector, as well as the support to strengthen the capacities of national service providers to maintain expected levels of service to their nationals, while also caring for and supporting the socioeconomic and cultural integration of migrants and refugees. The support to host and transit governments is of crucial importance for the response.

REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS



AREA OF INTERVENTION 1 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

 **380,020**

Individuals receiving one or a combination of basic services or support across the region

The objective of the emergency response is to alleviate immediate and urgent needs of persons on the move or that recently arrived at their destination. Considering the stock population in the main countries of destination in Latin America and the Caribbean, namely Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Chile, it is estimated that over 1 million persons moved in and out of these countries in 2019. Refugees and migrants from Venezuela presented different levels of need, but the RMRP 2019 partners were able to offer relief for the immediate needs of almost 40% of them. As well as provide them with key information on what to expect during their journey in terms of rights, duties and access to services.

In Venezuela's neighbouring countries, the largest number of refugees and migrants were reached through the

provision of food and medical attention. Over 370,000 were provided with food assistance on a monthly basis and another 200,000 received medical attention. In Central America and the Caribbean, however, provision of information and medical attention had a larger reach.

The implementation of new entry requirements in some countries in the region, may lead to Venezuelans resorting to the use of irregular crossing points to reach their destination, increasing the risks to their safety and leaving them vulnerable to smugglers and exploiters who cheat them into giving them the little money they have. Therefore, families' basic and essential needs might increase in the second semester of 2019.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 2 PROTECTION

220,279

Individuals receiving one or a combination of protection services across the region

The objective of the protection response is to inform persons on their rights, facilitate regularization of migratory status of individuals and families, mitigate the negative effects of violations of rights, and create an environment of respect to individuals and families that prevents such violations.

For persons coming from Venezuela, RMRP 2019 partners provided countless hours of legal counselling and instruction on access to asylum and regular stay. Such activities had the largest reach, far exceeding others such as referrals and psychosocial support. Around 180,000 individuals received such support on a monthly basis. This may be explained by the scale of the first influxes coming from Venezuela and the age composition of the persons composing these influxes. It has been observed that the many young adults were the first ones to leave Venezuela and during the first semester of 2019 they were informing themselves of their rights and

duties before being joined by their families. This figure, however, does not mean that these people did not seek other kinds of assistance. Also, the RMRP country and sub-regional platforms recorded differing and varying protection responses which include child protection activities, airport monitoring, and GBV prevention and protection.

The expectation for the next semester is that families will become larger and representative of all ages and genders, which will demand more types of protection response. As native capacities will be put under greater pressure, the need for improved response capacity and community-based solutions will become even more critical.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

20,039

Individuals participating in integration and/or livelihood activities across all platforms

The objective of the social and cultural inclusion response is, above all, to enable persons coming from Venezuela to develop some sense of normalcy and dignity in their lives. By supporting them to clear barriers to access gainful employment and/or offering opportunities for professional skill development. Activities under this Area of Intervention aim to transition these persons from the often difficult, dependent of humanitarian assistance, and uncertain situation they find themselves upon arrival into one in which they have the means to provide for themselves.

To achieve this, RMRP partners approached integration from two directions. They directly offered vocational training, entrepreneurship support, or other integration related activities in order to prepare persons from Venezuela to be self-reliant – over 8,500 persons took part in those

activities; and they reached out to host communities to open an informed and educational dialogue about the arrival of persons from Venezuela in their communities and how to best act to make it a constructive experience to all. These took shape as information and anti-xenophobia campaigns that are estimated to have reached over 530,000 in social media considering interaction with this content on some of the major platforms. In addition, partners in Brazil supported over 6,000 persons to relocate to other states inside the country where they had been matched with employment, or reunited with families.

Socio-economic integration is nevertheless a complex activity as it is perceived by host countries to have potential to disrupt local economies. To come up with the concrete impact of the arrival of refugees and migrants in countries in Latin

America and the Caribbean is a real challenge and the need of stronger regional evidence showing this deprives RMRP partners of arguments to advocate along national governments and to design smart solutions. As the economic growth in Latin American and Caribbean is expected to continue in a downward trajectory during 2019, with deterioration in the average quality of employment, i.e. erratic jobs in the informal

sector with incomes that do not necessarily guarantee subsistence levels¹, the expectation is that national and local authorities will become even more worried with potential negative impacts for their constituents and consequentially more resistant of such activities.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING

 **5,778**

Government officials capacitated across all platforms

The objective of the capacity building response goes beyond preparing the national institutions of the countries receiving persons from Venezuela. It aims to reinforce the structure of those institutions in a way that will benefit the hosting countries in the long-term. Even though the public structures in the region are mostly strong, the majority of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have not had to address a mobility situation before. These countries have functioning institutions staffed with skilled professionals; however, they are not always familiar with the international regimes, policies, and procedures involved in a response to a refugee and migrant situation, much less to this scale.

Across the region, over 5,800 professionals received training, attended workshops, and many other capacity building activities that gave them the tools to better support persons from Venezuela and their fellow nationals. These activities covered international rights of refugee and migrants, asylum procedures, information management,

child protection, as well as prevention and response to gender based violence and human trafficking, among others. Over 270 national institutions also received support to deploy additional staff and material support in the form of computers, registration equipment, and office supplies. RMRP partners have recorded around 100 institutions adopting or changing national policies and procedures as a result of their intervention during the first semester of 2019.

The challenges ahead are to solidify these new practices, the institutional capacity, and to create a solutions-oriented culture that can flexibly adapt to the changes in the region. This means, among other things, that institutions need to be able to expand the response on short notice, considering national budget constraints. This is especially challenging taking into consideration the serious underfunding of R4V partner's that deeply limits their capacity to close these gaps.

¹ Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2019, CEPAL, 31 July 2019. Available at <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/44675>.

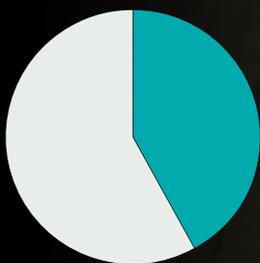
BRAZIL

VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



178,557

Venezuelans in Brazil*



REQUIREMENTS*

USD 56 M

42% Contributions

USD 24 M

58% Funding Gap

USD 32 M

**as of 30 of June 2019*



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BRAZIL

The Brazilian Government remains committed to supporting persons coming from Venezuela. On 4 April 2019, an Executive Order² apportioned an additional BRL 223.8 million (USD 56 million) to cover the three pillars of the response in Brazil, namely Reception and Documentation, Emergency Assistance (food, shelter and emergency healthcare) and Voluntary Internal Relocation, known as “Interiorization”, until 31 March 2019. The Casa Civil (Chief of Staff) continues to lead the emergency response as in the previous administration, while the Ministry of Defence maintains an operational role in the implementation of the response known as *Operação Acolhida*. According to Federal Police figures, more than 415,369 Venezuelans have arrived in Brazil since 2017. Among these, 253,478 have left Brazilian territory. In total, the Federal Police has recorded 103,697 asylum requests from Venezuelans and another 74,860 who applied for Temporary Residency³. The average daily number of individual border crossings of Venezuelans to Brazil through the border city of Pacaraima during the first semester of 2019, was 500⁴. Despite the border closure by the Venezuelan authorities on 21 February 2019 for almost 11 weeks, Venezuelan refugees and migrants continued to enter Brazil through alternative routes albeit in smaller numbers. The flow decreased by half in the first two weeks of closure with an average of 250 individual daily entries. It then raised to approximately 350 entries per day and remained steady until the re-opening of the borders on 10 May, when daily entries returned to the previous average of 500. Around 200 persons per day go through the Reception and Documentation Centre in Pacaraima, while others continue onward as tourists to process their documents in other cities. Most arrive in need of humanitarian assistance (documentation, shelter, food, healthcare) and protection.

² Available at http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2019-2022/2019/Mpv/mpv880.htm retrieved on 07 August 2019 at 12:39.

³ Source: <http://www.pf.gov.br/servicos-pf/imigracao/estatisticas>, latest official statistic available.

⁴ With a peak of 911 Venezuelans entering the Country on April 26th, Federal Police statistics.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 1

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

 **2,394**

Maximum number of people benefitting from primary services and emergency health services in a month

 **3,012**

Maximum number of people benefitting from cash-based interventions

 **6,938**

Maximum number of people living in an emergency shelter in a month

 **11,592**

Maximum number of people benefitting from food security in a month

 **4,843**

Maximum number of people benefitting from non-food items distribution in a month

 **13,091**

Maximum number of people benefitting from wash in a month

 **7,145**

Maximum number of people interviewed to perform systematic information collection exercises in a month

The Humanitarian community continues to strengthen the government capacity to receive and assist Venezuelans in reception, documentation and reference centers in Pacaraima and Boa Vista. A similar center is expected to be opened in Manaus. In the states of Roraima and Amazonas, 13 shelters (two of them for Indigenous population) host up to 7,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Outside shelters, over 10,000 Venezuelans are hosted in Roraima, 850 in the city of Manaus (including LGBTI population) and 700 in the state of Pará. Recent surveys⁵ show that 3,259 people are living on the streets in Boa Vista and 521 in Pacaraima. While a shelter solution is being devised for them, they receive assistance such registration and pre-documentation, health services, water, education, as well as legal counselling, GBV prevention and response, and psychosocial support in cooperation or complementing the federal and local authorities⁶. Civil Society actors, particularly local faith-based organizations, also provide meals for several thousand people living outside of shelters. Since April 2019, courses and awareness raising have been provided to persons coming from Venezuela in Roraima, Manaus and Pará, on topics including refugees and migrant law, water and hygiene, reproductive health, personal finance, entrepreneurship, cooking and

Portuguese language. Upon arrival, health screening and primary care is carried out by authorities and supported by the humanitarian community through complementary vaccination services. So far, approximately 430 children under 5 years of age and 1,245 children under 18 years-old have received primary healthcare⁷. The humanitarian sector acts as a facilitator of agreements between different entities for the delivery of specific services (i.e. water and hygiene in Belem, Pará) or relocation of Venezuelan indigenous people to shelters with improved conditions. About 4,500 Venezuelans benefitted from psycho-social support and case-management activities: 4,169 were children and adolescents being provided with psychosocial support through Child Friendly Spaces and intersectoral programming interventions. It is estimated that up to 4,500 Venezuelan indigenous have arrived in the North of Brazil such as Warao (68%⁸), Enepa (2%⁹) and Pemon Taurepan. The Brazilian Pemon communities near the border have received approximately 1,200 Venezuelan Pemons who arrived in February, supported by the humanitarian community with food, non-food items and livelihood solutions. About 1,000 indigenous Warao, but also a minority of Eñapa, in Roraima, are hosted in shelters and regularly receive food and non-food items.

⁵ IOM PDT-Federal Police assessment as of June 2019. Many other Venezuelans are spread out in Country but there is no any official figure.

⁶ The humanitarian community complement the Government response in management and the provision of services while the Federal Police remains the official authority to allow access to the territory and documentation, and the Army being the whole reception and assistance implementation operational arm.

⁷ UNICEF data, June 2019.

⁸ From Amacuro Delta. The Warao population is one of the largest Venezuelan ethnicities in Brazil in pendular movements (Amazonas, Pará, Maranhão, Ceará, Piauí).

⁹ From Venezuelan Amazon.

Shelter, documentation, protection and livelihood interventions have been put in place for all groups of indigenous population, especially in Roraima, but actions have been undertaken in Manaus, and recently in Belem to support the local government capacity.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 2 PROTECTION

7,145

Maximum number of people who received information and guidance in referral/orientation centers and other key areas in a month

4,139

Maximum number of people benefiting from psychosocial support in a month

3,770

Maximum number of people benefiting from the protection response through identification, referral, case management and access to services in a month

10,037

Maximum number of people benefiting from documentation/registration process to access regular status

Legal counselling, pre-documentation, information and registration, identification of vulnerable cases, psycho-social support, case-management, referrals, and the complementarity of the support offered by the humanitarian organizations and local stakeholders (including volunteers) to the existing services are part of the daily support given to persons coming from Venezuela in Roraima, Amazonas and recently Pará. Over 39,193 asylum seekers have received information and pre-documentation in the border State of Roraima in the first six months of 2019. Particular attention is given to the identification and referral of vulnerable cases upon arrival. RMRP Partners also provide staffing support to government institutions which provide information, reception and registration related activities. To assist the many persons from Venezuela out of shelter, the humanitarian community is deploying mobile child protection and education teams, as well as outreach volunteers to areas such as bus stations or peripheries. In Roraima, the 15 Child Friendly Spaces have catered to over 10,000 children and the 10 Temporary Education Centers catered to over 4,000 children. These have been merged and reorganized in May and there are now 23 Spaces for children and adolescents in Roraima and Manaus offering integrated care and psychosocial support, non-formal education and protection from violence. In 2019, in Roraima, the number of asylum seekers registered has been 28,188, while Venezuelan with temporary residence permit have been 24,522. The humanitarian response is designed following assessments and monitoring exercises based on rights, built

upon the consultation with the Venezuelan population and their host communities to prioritize their needs, strengthen their capacities and ensure their involvement in every step of the response through participative methodologies. The assessments also take into account the specific needs of diverse groups composed of women, children, persons of diverse sexual and gender identities, persons with disabilities and the elderly. Furthermore, access to information has been expanded under the framework of the Communicating with Communities strategy, for instance through the cooperation of outreach local volunteers in Roraima, Amazonas and Pará but also in Brazilian cities where Venezuelans have been interiorized. Besides trainings conducted with journalists and social media, the response includes awareness raising campaigns against xenophobia to sensitize the Brazilian population as well as awareness-raising sessions on refugees and migrants' rights also aiming to highlight the potential positive socio-economic contributions that Venezuelans can bring to local communities.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

 **2,753**

Maximum number of people benefiting from non-formal education activities in a month

 **725**

Maximum number of people benefiting from integration activities

 **6,049**

Total number of people benefiting from voluntary relocation

A key element of the humanitarian response has been the Federal Voluntary Relocation Program for Venezuelan refugees and migrants (Interiorization Program), for cases in which local integration prospects are limited. There are currently four official modalities of relocation being implemented: shelter-to-shelter, employment-based family reunification and social-based modality. In the first six months of the year, around 6,049 Venezuelans have been internally relocated across Brazil, raising the total since the beginning of the interiorisations in April 2018 to 10,200¹⁰. They were supported by the humanitarian community with cash transfers, humanitarian transportation (flights), temporary shelter upon arrival, entrepreneurship registration (linked to labour insertion), family reunification, language trainings, and counselling; in addition to shelter managers capacity-building on shelter management and livelihoods to support Venezuelan job-placement. As the government plans an expansion of the interiorization program in Manaus, an Interiorization Hub will soon be opened in this city. RMRP Partners have also engaged in building local capacities in the elaboration of standard procedures and policies, training civil and military personnel, as well as training on the rights and duties of migrants and refugees under Brazilian and International

Law. Partners also created and distributed information material containing successful examples of relocation and the development of networks among local stakeholders of civil society and Government. The goal of these activities is to enable a more sustainable and successful integration for those who are already living in these cities and preparing them for future arrivals. Over 2,000 people, including military personnel, civil society organizations, representatives, migrants and refugees were reached by these activities. Most importantly, a mapping to identify and catalogue the different institutions of civil society and government implicated in protection issues is being carried out throughout the country. The information on the mapping is intended to connect relocated Venezuelans with local services in an effort to improve the resilience at the local level. Other integration and labour insertion (and advocacy) activities are being carried out in the north of Brazil, through curriculum vitae writing support, interview preparation, and job-matching services with the support of the private sector and civil society. There are initiatives to help indigenous communities to engage in handicraft work as well as technical courses for the non-indigenous Venezuelan population.

¹⁰ Last reports from IOM/Federal Government on 30 June 2019.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING

6

Total number of laws/policies/regulations improved to the benefit of refugees and migrants

2,111

Total number of public officials trained

9

Total number of public authorities supported with information management

More than 2,360 government authorities at local and national level in the States of Roraima, Amazonas, Pará and Brasília, have been trained on camp coordination and management, shelter management, reproductive health, women's rights, working with LGTBI in displacement, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, labor exploitation, human trafficking. A total of 550 soldiers of the Brazilian Army were trained on prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Over 150 staff (teachers and assistants) of the newly opened Children and Adolescents Spaces were trained in emergency education, psychosocial support and protection. 107 teachers of the public sector were also trained on the integration of Venezuelan children in the formal Brazilian education system (over 800 children from shelters were supported for their enrolment in Brazilian schools), 461 stakeholders of the Public Legal System of Guarantee of Child Rights were trained on child protection across the 14 municipalities of Roraima (including on procedures of temporary legal guardianship). Moreover, trainings and workshops were offered on reception operation procedures, code of conduct, international refugee law, protection principles, migration governance and integration policies, relocation, and integration programming. The trainings were carried out by humanitarian organizations in cooperation with

universities and took place in Roraima, Manaus, Sao Paulo, Brasilia and Belem. Regarding policy/law changes in the first six months of 2019, apart from the already mentioned Federal Government's Executive Order, the Ministry of Justice released a web-based tool for registration and case management of asylum claims in Brazil¹¹, the SISCONARE. It is designed to render new asylum claims and re-registration of old claims more efficiently, in order to validate the Committee for Refugees' (CONARE) backlog, as well as improve communication regarding case status. The humanitarian actors in the country are playing a supporting role in the operationalization of this system. Furthermore, CONARE published an official position "recognizing the serious and generalized violations of human rights in Venezuela", according to the terms of article 1, III of law 9474/1997¹² which defines the mechanisms for the implementation of the 1951 convention in Brazil. The decision entails, among other measures, the adoption of simplified procedures for the processing of cases from Venezuela, admission interviews are to occur in a simplified manner, cursory check of criminal records, when relevant, and a review of the decision after 12 months from the date of initial decision. The humanitarian community supported, through advocacy or technical expertise, the formulation or implementation of these changes.

¹¹ The tools has been under development since 2015 but it is now involving also the Venezuelans asylum seekers.

¹² http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/LEIS/L9474.htm.

Coordination

Under the assumption that the humanitarian response will continue to require a strong engagement of partners at the national and regional levels, the R4V coordination is working to strengthen the joint response between UN Agencies and civil society. The coordination structure includes three support Working Groups (WG). The Communication WG is working on an anti-xenophobia campaign titled “A border cannot take rights”, as well as other communications products, including the R4V Brazil webpage in coordination with the platform co-leads. The Communications WG drafted a position paper to propose the harmonization of communication strategies between the R4V platform and *Operação Acolhida*. This group is now discussing how to increase visibility of the results achieved by the relocation programme. The Information Management WG, has begun to implement the ActivityInfo tool for the collection and analysis of indicator data, to create maps, and implement systematized information collection, storage and management. The platform also established in May 2019 a Protection WG and is rapidly working on the identification of protection needs and risks in close coordination with the field staff. An additional WG on Socio-economic and Labour Force Integration

will be created soon. In the north of Brazil (Roraima), UN agencies and civil society are involved in local coordination structures led by the Armed Forces¹³ and with the participation of several government bodies, UN teams, as well as civil society (Roraima, Amazonas and Pará) where operational issues are discussed. In particular, UN Agencies provide technical support to State and Municipal governments by co-leading the coordination of sector responses in Protection, CCCM, WASH, Indigenous issues, Labour, Health, Interiorization, Education, Child Protection and sub-groups on GBV. Partners have also been working on issuing standardized tools and operational guidelines. In Amazonas, partners are engaged in the implementation of the regional Support Spaces strategy where agencies and partners focus on providing a variety of services to Venezuelans refugees and migrants. So far, at least 10 Support Spaces have been identified by the humanitarian community, and discussion with the local authorities and actors is ongoing. The platform is working to strengthen its coordination with the Casa Civil, while consolidating the ongoing work with other government bodies including the Armed Forces. Finally, the terms of reference of the R4V Platform Brazil chapter are currently under revision to ensure they are aligned with the regional guidelines and local needs.

¹³ *Operação Acolhida*, established in March of 2018.

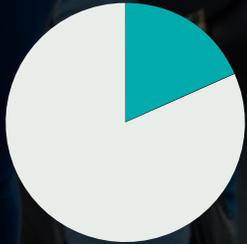
CARIBBEAN SUB-REGION

VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



146,900

Venezuelans in the
Caribbean Sub-Region



REQUIREMENTS*

USD 35 M

18.5% Contributions

USD 6.4 M

81.5% Funding Gap

USD 28.4 M

**FTS as of 15 of July 2019*

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CARIBBEAN SUB-REGION

The influx of Venezuelans in the Caribbean remained stable in the first half of 2019. Transit between Venezuela and countries such as Aruba, Curaçao and Trinidad and Tobago was interrupted in May, in a government move to reportedly prevent humanitarian aid from entering Venezuela¹⁴. In the first semester of 2019, at least three maritime incidents were reported, two in Trinidad and Tobago and one en route to Curaçao, claiming the lives of over 80 people. As the region's asylum system is still nascent, access to asylum remains limited and human trafficking networks continue to operate in the region. Instances of deportation or non-admission were reported across the Caribbean with the exception of Guyana. In Trinidad and Tobago, in June, the government undertook a two-week registration exercise that will grant work permissions for up to one year to over 16,500 Venezuelans who registered. Following this exercise, the Government introduced a visa scheme for Venezuelans, which took effect in mid-June. Previously, no visa was required for holiday and business travel for up to 90 days. In Guyana, the Government continued to register Venezuelans, granting renewable three-month stay permits upon registration. In the first months of 2019, onward travel of Venezuelans from border areas to the capital city of Georgetown was limited to those who have verified family members in the capital city.

¹⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-politics-military/venezuela-shuts-border-with-caribbean-islands-ahead-of-aid-efforts-idUSKCN1Q81Z2> retrieved on 22 August 2019.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 1

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

2,968

Individuals assessed

1,228

Vulnerable people who received food

1,347

Receiving NFIs

2,524

Venezuelans provided with emergency health care

1,221

People provided with temporary accommodation

1,523

Individuals receiving cash grants

Since the beginning of the year, partners conducted numerous assessments, reaching 2,986 individuals; and, in the process, informing the response of Government counterparts, civil society partners, international agencies and donor groups. These assessments guided partners to address some of the most critical needs of the Venezuelan population in host countries, namely food and non-food items (NFIs), access to healthcare, shelter, and accommodation.

As part of this response, partners distributed basic food and non-food items such as personal hygiene kits, baby kits and habitat kits, to the most vulnerable, including host communities, reaching 1,228 individuals with food items and 1,347 with non-food items. The provision of

emergency health services, including immunization and vaccination, is a critical area where partners provided significant support to the respective Governments, reaching more than 2,520 individuals over a six-month period. Formal employment and, in many cases, the lack of job opportunities in host countries, had a significant impact on Venezuelans' ability to sustain themselves and their families. As part of their emergency support, partners provided temporary rented accommodation to 1,221 individuals across the five Caribbean countries covered by the RMRP. Additionally, 1,523 vulnerable Venezuelans received provisional cash grants in three Caribbean countries.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 2

PROTECTION

3,713

Venezuelans counselled on access to protection

534

Venezuelans provided with legal assistance

194

Persons accessing psychosocial support

1,737

Individuals benefiting from accompanied visits to Gov. Services

537

Status determination procedures conducted

359

women, men, girls and boys accessing GBV prevention and response services in safe spaces

Coordinated protection activities benefitted more than 10,200 of the most vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela thanks to the efforts of 10 appealing agencies and 16 implementing partners. Activities ranged from advocacy interventions on regular stay pathways, alternatives to detention and access to asylum to community-based interventions and support to individual cases.

In light of the irregular status of many Venezuelans in the Caribbean, legal aid maintained a prominent role in the response throughout 2019, with 534 persons being assisted on matters relating to regularization, documentation and access to basic rights. Among the protection risks faced by persons arriving from Venezuela, gender-based violence (GBV) and human trafficking remained among the most

prevalent. To ensure that child protection cases, elderly persons, GVB survivors and others have access to specialised assistance, partners established mechanisms to identify cases with specific protection needs and safely refer them to relevant services. To complement this, child-friendly spaces were created in Trinidad and Tobago, providing Venezuelan children with a safe space for psychosocial support and access to learning, socialization and play. Communication with refugees and migrants from Venezuela was improved by establishing and strengthening community structures

and engaging Venezuelans in finding solutions to their situation. Partners also undertook protection monitoring activities in the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago to better understand the vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants from Venezuela and respond to their situation.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

 **20,500**

Persons from host communities participating in activities on prevention of xenophobia

Technical support and dialogue with authorities were maintained across the Caribbean to advocate for the provision of regular status and access to basic rights for Venezuelan migrants and refugees. To complement this, during the first half of the year, RMRP Partners reached more than 8,600 individuals with activities to support their socio-economic integration.

Access to education remained one of the main concerns in the Caribbean. To address this, various programmes were implemented based on the local context and challenges, benefitting over 680 children. These included the rehabilitation of public schools, establishment of English-as-a-Second Language classes, advocacy to overcome documentary or financial obstacles, and the provision of temporary learning spaces. In Trinidad

 **24**

Venezuelans started or strengthened their business

and Tobago, partners designed an online accreditation programme with both, English and Spanish curricula, which will be rolled out in the second half of 2019 for children who have no alternative access to education.

Consultations with relevant authorities on livelihood opportunities for Venezuelans are on-going. Extensive efforts were also undertaken to increase public awareness on the plight of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, and to combat the rise of xenophobia. Initiatives ranged from engagement with youth and universities, to Sports for Development (S4D) programmes and the production of a short film on the impact of the Venezuelan crisis, showcasing instances of solidarity with the host community.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 4

CAPACITY BUILDING

 **444**

Government officials trained

The magnitude of the refugee and migrant outflows is unprecedented for most of the Caribbean region. As a result, there is a great need to strengthen and, in many cases, develop host governments' capacities to manage the inflows. Training of Government officials such as immigration officers, health officials, social workers and civil society actors was a primary focus, with 444

 **15**

Government entities working on migration and asylum strengthened

individuals trained in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. In the Dominican Republic, from March to June 2019, two diploma degrees on refugee law were organised in close cooperation with national higher education institutions. Partners worked closely with host Governments to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to strengthen the role of authorities in responding to issues relating to

trafficking in persons, child protection, GBV, as well as, registration and documentation. Exchange of best practices in these areas was also promoted, thus building the capacity of host governments to address specific situations arising from mixed migration movements.

Other notable partners' achievements during the first

Coordination

In the first half of the year, three National Platforms/Refugee and Migrant Working Groups (RMWG) were established in Guyana, the Dominican Republic and the Lesser Antilles (covering Aruba, Curaçao and Trinidad and Tobago). In Trinidad and Tobago, a Protection Coordination Working Group (PCWG) was set up as part of the National Platform to improve case management on child protection, GBV, persons with specific needs and victims of trafficking. In Aruba, with the support of the RMRP partners, NGOs have established a Humanitarian Coordination Group that meets on a bi-weekly basis. As a first task, members of the group have started to jointly map education and health services available to Venezuelans. In Guyana, the National

Platform closely coordinates with the government-led multi-agency national committee for the Venezuela response, which brings together several public institutions, ministries and UN agencies to coordinate the response to the Venezuela Situation. Through the support of the R4V Regional Platform, an Inter-Agency GBV assessment took place in three regions of Guyana, highlighting the need to strengthen activities to prevent and respond to GBV, particularly among Venezuelan women at risk of exploitation. This will be the focus of the inter-agency coordinated response in Guyana in the second half of the year.

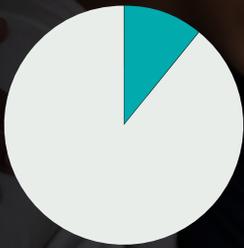
CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



156,600

Venezuelans in
Central America and Mexico



REQUIREMENTS
USD 21.7 M

11% Contributions
USD 2.4 M

89% Funding Gap
USD 19.2 M

©UNHCR/Santiago Escobar Jaramillo

CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

The region has been witnessing steady arrivals of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. In hosting countries, the national systems are sometimes overwhelmed, resulting in significant delays to obtain documentation. In the case of Costa Rica for example, processes for refugees or migrants can last between six months and a year. This in turn hinders Venezuelans' access to basic services such as health care. Moreover, countries in the region offer diverse legal frameworks, not always providing refugees and migrants with adequate pathways to access social services and the labor market. The resulting lack of access to livelihood opportunities has been identified as one of the major concerns in all three countries¹⁵. Some positive developments have, however, taken place in this regard, such as the recent decision by the Panamanian Government to allow asylum-seekers to work once admitted to the process.

The influx of increasingly vulnerable Venezuelans comes in addition to other displacement crises that the region is facing, such as the increase of Nicaraguans arriving in Costa Rica and Panama, the displacement situation from the North of Central America crossing through Mexico and the continued mixed movements through the Darien border in Panama. Therefore, although countries in the region are not a primary destination for the Venezuelan population, the hosting of other refugee and migrant populations has a great impact on their capacity to address the increasing protection needs, resulting in gaps faced by the Venezuelan population.

¹⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-politics-military/venezuela-shuts-border-with-caribbean-islands-ahead-of-aid-efforts-idUSKCN1Q81Z2> retrieved on 22 August 2019



AREA OF INTERVENTION 1

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

 **1,482**

Refugees and migrants received NFIs

 **1,971**

Received food assistance

 **1,874**

Benefited from health services, medicines and/or psychosocial support

 **1,246**

Received multipurpose cash grants

 **2,119**

Were informed about access to rights and life-saving goods or services

Throughout the first semester of 2019, RMRP Partners conducted individual assessments of Venezuelans to understand their main needs. In discussions with the Venezuelan refugees and migrants, the primary needs identified were food and shelter. Whenever possible, multi-purpose cash-based interventions have been used as a flexible way to help the population respond to their basic needs and settle into their host communities. When relevant, partners have also provided direct housing support, in addition to providing information services on access to housing, health and education rights. The difficulties faced by Venezuelans when trying to obtain documentation in host countries, inhibits

Venezuelans' access to basic services, such as healthcare. On occasions, refugee and migrant populations have reported¹⁶ that they may be denied access to services particularly when personnel are not aware about procedures for these persons.

Emotional wellbeing is not always recognized as a priority by beneficiaries, but partners were able to identify important gaps in psychosocial assistance through regular monitoring. All sexual and gender-based violence cases identified were immediately referred to psychosocial attention with close follow up by trained health professionals.

¹⁶ <http://mexico.iom.int/producci-n-y-difusi-n-de-datos#Resultados%20de%20la%20Encuesta>.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 2 PROTECTION

 **3,862**

Refugees and migrants informed to access the asylum system or regularization of their migratory status

 **1,892**

Who received assistance and/or legal representation to access the asylum system or regularization of their migratory status

 **893**

People with specific protection needs identified and assisted

 **117**

Border monitoring missions carried out, including at airports

In addition to the provision of general information and orientation, persons coming from Venezuelan in Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama received information and legal assistance targeted to the asylum process, their migratory status regularization, general rights and documentation. Services provided were comprised of legal aid, information on other free services, as well as career assessments and guidance on the academic degree validation process, available health services and access to services at specific geographic locations. Partners also set up hotlines and information centers to offer information and counseling to Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Along with the provision of

information, partners also carried out protection monitoring and supported the identification and referral of cases with specific protection needs. Vulnerable cases, such as unaccompanied children, pregnant women or people with chronic illnesses, received special attention.

Although most Venezuelans arriving at countries in the region do so via aerial routes and do not face the same risks as others crossing borders by foot or by boat, many still have specific protection needs. Women in particular are still at risk of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking, for example.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

 **918**

Refugees and migrants benefited from livelihood, skill-capacitation and employment programs

 **1,892**

Unaccompanied children were supported to access education centers

 **703**

Extremely vulnerable people received extended multipurpose cash grants

 **531,718**

People reached by communication campaigns against discrimination and xenophobia

Employability and socio-economic integration have been cited as key needs by the Venezuelan population in the region¹⁷. During the first semester of 2019, Venezuelans were assisted with socio-economic inclusion activities in all three participating countries. One of those activities were professional trainings. When possible, trainings were offered based on previous assessments that measured individuals' skillsets and career interests. Topics included food handling, basic computing, customer service, job interview preparation, brand registration, basic accounting and negotiation workshops. These trainings strengthen skills and offer an opportunity for Venezuelans to find gainful employment which, in turn, opens more opportunities for integration into their host communities. Some beneficiaries received a microcredit loan, which supported them in the establishment of their own businesses. Still, even when refugees and migrants are able to obtain

documentation to enter the labor market, they face challenges in obtaining formalized job opportunities, often because companies lack the necessary information to hire this population. Therefore, partners have been working on raising awareness and have provided relevant information to private companies and line ministries.

Several activities have sought to combat xenophobia and promote peaceful coexistence among the host community and the refugee and migrant population. These regional initiatives include communication campaigns such as Paises Hermanos in Costa Rica and Conectando Comunidades in Mexico. In Panama, the campaign Somos Lo Mismo has carried out different cultural activities to promote peaceful coexistence between Panamanians and Venezuelans, having reached over 50,000 persons on social media

¹⁷ <http://mexico.iom.int/producci-n-y-difusi-n-de-datos#Resultados%20de%20la%20Encuesta>.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING

51

Entities responsible for migratory management, international protection or access to rights strengthened with staff and/or equipment

1,461

Government workers capacitated on international protection, migration and rights issues

26

Advocacy interventions carried out towards government agencies

RMRP Partners in the subregion work in close collaboration with different government institutions and support their response to the influx of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. During the first semester, government employees working on migration and international protection received training on legislation and access to rights, as well as support in the development of guidelines and standard operating procedures directly relevant to their response. The beneficiaries of the trainings ranged from social welfare institute workers to airport police, civil servants of the judiciary, children institute staff and refugee officers. The trainings aimed namely at the better identification of cases of extreme vulnerability

requiring humanitarian assistance, and the referral process to the appropriate institutions.

RMRP Partners also provided technical and material support, particularly in the form of ITC equipment, to the governmental entities in charge of refugee and migrant issues, to strengthen capacities in response to the influx of Venezuelans, including in the area of documentation. Given the existing backlog of cases in all three countries, staffing support to the respective refugee bodies and migration institutions in case management was of particular importance.

Coordination

RMRP Partners coordinate efforts with relevant government entities, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, the private sector and others. Given the mixed nature of the movements and the complexity of the situation in all three countries, partners often must stretch their limited resources to support Venezuelan refugees and migrants, in addition to other populations on the move and host communities. Limited earmarked funding targeting Venezuelans has hindered the capacity of RMRP Partners to report on activities.

Solutions Framework (MIRPS) and based on the countries' commitments towards the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration. Particularly relevant to support the governments' responses is the work of the national refugee bodies and migration institutions; however, the response also stretches across line ministries, to facilitate local integration and other solutions, including access to education, health and social inclusion.

This collaboration aims at a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response, achieved in line with the Comprehensive Regional Protection and

At national level, in each of the three countries participating in the RMRP 2019, regular meetings of the coordination groups have been set up in order to monitor the implementation of the Plan, identify new gaps and avoid duplication of efforts.

COLOMBIA

VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



1,408,055

Venezuelans in Colombia



REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 315 M

26% Contributions*

USD 81.4 M

74% Funding Gap

USD 234.7 M

*as of 30 June 2019

©WFP/Carlos Diago

COLOMBIA

As of the end of June 2019, over 1.4 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants were living in Colombia. In addition, many Venezuelans entered Colombia to transit to third countries, with more than 251,600 people who have accessed temporary transit permits since December 2018 and approximately 349,693 Venezuelans who have exited Colombia via the Rumichaca Bridge to Ecuador, in the first six months of 2019.¹⁸ In addition, an estimated 3.7 million Venezuelans have border mobility cards, which allow them to enter Colombia for up to seven days. Furthermore, an estimated 400,000 Colombians have returned from Venezuela. As the arrival of refugees and migrants continues to grow, so does their urgent need for humanitarian and protection assistance, including access to food, medical care, shelter and accommodation, documentation, and a response to GBV. This situation, in turn, has required comprehensive and timely interventions to provide emergency assistance, which is especially urgent in border areas, where the local capacity to respond is already saturated. In addition to these immediate humanitarian needs, the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) and the national Government agree that the sustainability of the response requires activities that ensure long-term socio-economic integration, including, access to employment, livelihoods and education; taking into consideration that some 597,000 people possess the Special Stay Permit (PEP), which enables them to access to education, healthcare, and employment. From January to June 2019, 34 members of the GIFMM, part of RMRP, implemented activities within the four areas of intervention, in 28 departments and 138 municipalities.

¹⁸ Data from *Migración Colombia Radiografía* 30 June 2019.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 1 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

 **198,598**

People received basic medical attention, including vaccinated children.

 **234,380**

People reached through food assistance,

 **249**

Children under the age of 5 received attention for acute nutrition

 **42,151**

People accessed a safe potable water source in accordance with the Sphere Standards.

 **34,425**

People received multi-purpose cash transfers.

 **7,927**

Children benefitted from education in emergencies activities and services

 **25,738**

People provided with safe emergency accommodation in accordance with the Sphere Standards

 **10,943**

People reached through humanitarian transport assistance

GIFMM members and partners have prioritized the delivery of direct emergency assistance across a number of sectors, including health; food security and nutrition; shelter; humanitarian transport; WASH; cash transfers; and education. On health, the GIFMM worked to provide basic medical attention to refugees and migrants who arrived with a wide range of medical needs. In addition, 26,413 people were reached through psychosocial and mental health assistance, 19,704 children received vaccinations and 4,863 pregnant women received prenatal attention. Activities also included educational information sessions, reaching 3,752 people, thus allowing identification and referral of cases to local health services for follow-up. On food security, attention was focused on the delivery of food assistance (community kitchens, food vouchers, etc.). Partners also worked to deliver technical assistance and training to 1,003 families, in order to enable them to start small-scale agricultural production for their own consumption or to sell. In addition to the provision of safe potable water sources, two of the key activities within WASH included distributing hygiene

kits to 52,768 people and reaching 4,734 children in learning spaces who could access adequate WASH services according to the Sphere Standards. In terms of education, in addition to children who were provided access to emergency education services, 14,141 children benefitted from improved learning spaces. In regards to shelter and non-food items, 94,741 people were supplied with household items (crockery, cutlery, bedding and mosquito nets). Similarly, 30,386 people received information and orientation on where to go to access basic humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, as the number of people crossing Colombia by foot continued to increase, 10,943 people were provided with humanitarian transportation, reducing the risks associated with walking long distances.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 2 PROTECTION

 **63,851**

People oriented on their rights, regularization processes, documentation, and asylum procedures

 **4,813**

Cases who accessed prevention and assistance for GBV

 **98,843**

Children benefited from child friendly spaces.

 **1,183**

Organisations or networks which have been strengthened through community protection mechanisms.

Refugees, migrants and Colombian returnees continue to arrive with a number of urgent protection needs. GIFMM members and their partners have prioritized a range of protection activities: more than 63,000 were reached through information regarding registration and documentation processes, allowing them to access to basic services (health, education, employment and asylum procedures). Effective access to information represents a first measure of protection for refugees and migrants who require orientation related to requirements for entry and needed documentation. The majority of those who received orientation were located in the Colombian-Venezuelan border departments- crucial crossing points for the majority of people arriving to Colombia. With the provision of child friendly spaces, more than 98,000 children were reached, so they could continue their development cycle. Through pedagogical activities, psychological assistance, self-care and participatory methods, children were provided with preventive and protective

measures to reduce risks of sexual exploitation, forced recruitment by illegal armed groups and criminal gangs and trafficking in persons. The majority of these children were assisted in the border departments of Nariño and Norte de Santander. More than 4,800 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were provided with assistance by being referred to specialized health services, psychosocial support and justice services, including through the network of Safe Spaces in Riohacha, Arauca, and Cúcuta. People also received training on prevention and how to reduce the risk of GBV and trafficking in persons. Training was provided for more than 1,100 organizations, including community-based organizations, to strengthen social cohesion, promote participation of community members and reinforce their capacity to respond to arriving refugees and migrants.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

491

People participated in trainings on routes to access employment

A key priority area is to ensure the long-term socio-economic integration of arriving refugees, migrants, and returning Colombians. There is a focus on providing educational capacity and employment related strategies to reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance and support long-term inclusion within host communities. Additionally, it is believed that the successful long-term socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants helps reduce xenophobic attitudes directed at them, as well as generating a sustainable income for them and the host communities. In the first six months of 2019, there was an active and permanent participation from 33 entities, consisting of UN agencies, international organizations and government institutions, in the subgroup of the area of intervention 3, which defined three specific working groups: entrepreneurship, employability, and sociocultural integration. GIFMM members also participated in the working groups dedicated to employability and entrepreneurship, led respectively

404

People participated in trainings to access entrepreneurship

by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism and the Ministry of Labor, where strategies to achieve employment and/or entrepreneurship, and Public Employment Service were analyzed and provided with feedback. The GIFMM subgroup is aligned with the national government's strategic plan related to income generation for Venezuelans, Colombian returnees and host communities; the plan identifies bottlenecks hindering the adequate economic and social integration and identifies priorities to be addressed by different government entities, jointly with the GIFMM. The strategy includes a gender, age and diversity perspective. Another important breakthrough was the joint coordinated work with the private sector and strategic local actors, as well as the technical assistance provided to the local GIFMMs, focused on income generation and livelihoods.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING

846

People trained on international protection and access to rights for refugees and migrants

Members and partners of the GIFMM worked closely with the government to complement its response and strengthen its capacity at the national and local levels. The assistance was provided through the GIFMM and its eight local GIFMMs, and consisted on working with the existing humanitarian architecture in the country to leverage the expertise on coordination and response

59

Institutions adopted changes in the attention of and access to rights, including registration of refugees and migrants.

to the situation of internal displacement. In light of the GIFMM's objective, members and partners provided technical and material support to the government to strengthen its response capacity. 846 people received training on the fundamentals of international protection and access to rights, with the objective of increasing awareness and understanding of the needs

101

Local authorities and health institutions supported with technical assistance, logistics and capacity building for health services

of refugees and migrants arriving from Venezuela. A critical area in which the government requires further support in order to respond effectively is the health sector, including sexual and reproductive health. Health services have already exceeded maximum capacity in many of the key receiving departments where the demand for emergency health services and referrals for Venezuelan refugees and migrants exceeds the existing local capacity. The GIFMM has

supported 101 local health authorities and institutions with technical assistance (including donations of medical equipment), logistics, and trainings for key government counterparts. The GIFMM has supported 59 local government institutions to adopt changes in the way they provide access to rights for refugees and migrants, including the regularization of their migratory status and the activation of committees against trafficking in persons.

Coordination

The national GIFMM is the Colombian national platform which coordinates the response in favour of refugees, migrants, returnees, and their host communities. It is co-led by IOM and UNHCR, and it has 53 participating members at the national level, including UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and the Red Cross Movement. In its work, the GIFMM coordinates closely with authorities at the national level, as well as leading government agencies in each sector of the response. The Colombian chapter of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) provided an operational blueprint for members of the GIFMM, who hold a plenary session each month, with sector subgroups who also meet to coordinate the operational response. At the local level, the GIFMM works in close collaboration with authorities in 11 departments through eight local GIFMMs (with one in process of structuring in Cesar) in Norte de Santander, La Guajira, Atlántico, Arauca, Valle del Cauca, Nariño, Bogotá, and Antioquia. The local GIFMMs work with partners to ensure operational coordination and service delivery on the ground, as well as to strengthen local government capacity. Some key activities developed by the GIFMM in the first half of 2019 include: coordination of a national emergency contingency plan complementary to the one developed by national authorities; local contingency plans in Norte de Santander, Arauca and Guajira; data collection and coordination in response to the “caminantes” (people transiting on foot); a protocol for Cash Based Interventions (CBI); a monthly monitoring system of the response with situational reports and infographics; interinstitutional workshops on statelessness, nutrition, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and GBV for national and local

authorities, jointly with government institutions (such as the ICBF) on referral pathways for unaccompanied and separated children; a checklist for local GIFMMs on prevention of and response for GBV cases, creation of a task-force on trafficking and smuggling, mapping of temporary shelters, coordination of response of underserved areas (i.e. Vichada), and standardization of the response of nutritional kits for the caminantes.

A monthly monitoring software was established for the response-Activity Info- which has allowed the issuance of monthly reports and infographics since February 2019 and has facilitated the follow-up and monitoring of the RMRP 2019. Additionally, since March 2019, conversations about software interoperability have been taking place with the Humanitarian Information System of Colombia. Similarly, the Financial Tracking System (FTS) has allowed partners, donors and the government to know the status of the RMRP’s resources.

ECUADOR

VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



305.893²³

Venezuelans in Ecuador



REQUIREMENTS
USD 117 M

18% Contributions
USD 21 M

82% Funding Gap
USD 96 M

23 According to data from the Ministry of Interior. This number corresponds to the cumulative migratory balance from 2010-2019 period, as of 30 June 2019.

ECUADOR

By the end of June 2019, several events have impacted the flows of Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving to Ecuador, in particular the implementation of two Inter-ministerial agreements, which established the requirement for Venezuelan nationals to present a certified criminal record to enter Ecuador, with some exceptions¹⁹. These measures were suspended by the Constitutional Court approximately 2 months later, but until then, cases of denial of access, increase of irregular entries and deportations²⁰ were observed; restrictions on access to the territory for vulnerable groups, including those who may have needed international protection, were also reported. Of the 515 cases of denial of regular access interviewed during February, more than 77% indicated that they had been unadmitted for not having a criminal record²¹.

After the suspension of these measures in April 2019, regular entries increased to an average of 2,500 daily arrivals²², which was comparable to the trends observed at the end of 2018. This average was observed during the following months, except for the days preceding the implementation of the humanitarian visa in Peru. Arrivals of refugees and migrants rose significantly between 12 and 15 June 2019, with a peak of more than 8,000 entries registered on the 14 June 2019, generating a mobilization of GTRM members to respond to identified needs

¹⁹ Ministerial agreement 0001/2019 established the requirement for Venezuela national to present certified criminal records to enter Ecuador while the 0002/2019 agreement established exceptions to this requirement, in cases of family reunification, people in transit in possession of a visa or a residence permit in a third country and for exceptional cases authorized by migration or human mobility authorities. These measures came into effect starting from 26th January 2019.

²⁰ The precautionary and protective measures requested by the Ombudsman's Office related to de facto deportations were accepted by the competent court.

²¹ UNHCR protection monitoring

²² Government of Ecuador (migration) - <https://www.ministeriodegobierno.gob.ec/migracion/>



AREA OF INTERVENTION 1 EMERGENCY RESPONSE²⁴

 **3,476**

People assisted with multipurpose cash transfers

 **3,634**

People assisted with hygiene kits

 **30,138**

People received food assistance²⁵

 **792**

Children (6-59 months old) received nutritional supplements

 **5,439**

People assisted with emergency shelter

 **3,656**

People assisted with safe humanitarian transportation (border to border)

The emergency response provided by members of the Refugee and Migrant Working Group (GTRM), mainly at the northern and southern borders²⁶, incorporated, among others, the following interventions:

1) Delivery of information to refugees and migrants on a variety of topics (e.g. mechanisms of regularization, access to asylum, rights and obligations, prevention of trafficking in persons, gender-based violence, rights of LGBTI individuals and access to services), with a monthly average of 24,000 people assisted during the first six months of 2019.

2) Through the support provided to the Ministry of Public Health, strengthening of epidemiological surveillance, identification and treatment of common childhood illnesses, and training on mental health towards the host communities and health public servants was provided. Meanwhile, medical attention was supported through the delivery of equipment, supplies and kits for the benefit of public hospitals and health centers. This assistance allowed 9,125 people to receive assistance at the borders (most of them presenting respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases); the conduction of 65,817 medical screenings; the hiring of professionals to support the administration of vaccinations (28,175 vaccines administered) and the carry out of a nutritional evaluation to a total of 5,511 children²⁷.

3) In terms of water, sanitation and hygiene, a monthly average of 868 families were reached, between January and June 2019, with supplies to improve water quality. A total of 16 water and sanitation facilities have been installed and/or improved, while hygiene promotion activities were carried out at border areas. The construction of a wastewater treatment plant was initiated at the CENAF in Rumichaca.

4) Support and rehabilitation were provided to a total of 14 shelters through the provision of household utensils, bedroom furniture and kitchen appliances; as well as, teaching materials for children and adolescents and internet connection to facilitate contact with family members. Temporary resting spaces are also managed on the northern border, benefiting a monthly average of 3,500 vulnerable people.

Direct emergency assistance represented 70.3% of the total assistance provided by the GTRM during the first half of 2019. Despite limited resources in border areas and the changes observed in population flows during the reporting period, which represented a major challenge in adjusting the response to new priorities, contingency plans were established at the northern and southern borders to anticipate increased flows of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

²⁴ Unless specified otherwise, numbers represent a monthly average of people reached with assistance during the reporting period

²⁵ Food security interventions have been carried out through the delivery of coupons in exchange of food and food assistance being provided to 14 shelters, specialized shelters and kitchens (comedores).

²⁶ 5,859 at the northern border (cumulative number January-May) and 3,266 at the southern border (cumulative number January-June)

²⁷ These numbers of assistance are cumulative numbers over the period.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 2 PROTECTION²⁸

 **21,528**

People received orientation on migratory regularization procedures and access to asylum

 **327**

Children at risk were referred

 **458**

Members of the civil society trained on protection issues²⁹

The protection response, which represented 28.4% of the assistance provided during the reporting period, included activities to facilitate access to documentation, procedures of migratory regularization and access to asylum through orientation, legal assistance and cash transfers to cover expenses related to regularization procedures. Protection activities focused on providing durable solutions to the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population and ensuring that needs for international protection of refugees and asylum seekers are met, while promoting an orderly and safe migration. During the reporting period, a Regional Network for the Protection of LGBTI+ People on the Move (6 countries and 12 NGOs) was established, to develop, with a regional focus, case management and referral protocols as well as information-sharing mechanisms. Regarding the response to gender-based violence,

several safe spaces were maintained in border areas, as well as specialized shelters that were supported by GTRM members to accompany survivors in need of immediate assistance. The development of reporting protocols, reference mechanisms, referral pathways, legal and psychosocial orientation and the promotion of durable solutions constituted key components of the response to gender-based violence. In terms of child protection, psychosocial support was provided through child-friendly spaces located at border areas, as well as the identification, referral and assistance of children at risk. Additionally, risk prevention and rights promotion activities were implemented with children and adolescents. Cases in need of health services were identified and referred; while psychosocial and emotional care activities targeted adolescents traveling alone.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION³⁰

 **763**

People participated in activities with host communities

 **279**

People received orientation to access adequate housing

Interventions carried out by GTRM members in the area of socio-economic and cultural integration included:

1) The promotion of access to education, through technical support provided to the Ministry of Education for the development of public policies guaranteeing

the right to education for refugees and migrants. At the local level, technical advisory was provided to families for the enrollment of children in schools. On the other hand, advocacy activities were carried out to enable the registration of university and postgraduate diplomas. The recognition of professional degrees of refugees and migrants has remained a challenge

²⁸ Unless specified otherwise, numbers represent a monthly average of people reached with assistance during the reporting period.

²⁹ GBV, Access to territory, human trafficking, others

³⁰ Unless specified otherwise, numbers represent a monthly average of people reached with assistance during the reporting period.

during the reporting period due to the requirement of presenting certification.

2) Regarding the livelihoods response, several interventions were carried out³¹, including advocacy initiatives with relevant Ministries in the productive, labour and economic inclusion fields; or with local banks and financial institutions for expanding access to credit and financial products. Workshops on employability and entrepreneurship were organized with the public and private sectors, as well as outreach to training centres. Provision of seed capital and vocational scholarships in different professional fields, to facilitate access to processes of national certification of professional competencies were also reported, along with agreements with the productive sector to elaborate employment pathways and promote inclusive markets. Several organizations also delivered non-conditional cash transfers for housing, benefitting families wishing to settle in Ecuador.

3) In order to achieve social cohesion, a variety of communication campaigns against xenophobia were implemented, among them: “Abrazos que unen”, “Seamos Amigos”, “Ante todo son niños”, “Somos Migrantes” and “No a la discriminación”. Additionally, a social media initiative, the #ChallengeDelAbrazo, was launched and generated more than 42,000 reactions on Instagram, 400 on Twitter and more than 1,500 on Facebook.

The socio-economic and cultural integration area represented 1.3% of the assistance delivered by GTRM members³² and is the least funded area of the response plan.³³ However, integration needs increase as more and more refugees and migrants express their intention to stay in Ecuador. This requires increased responsibility-sharing from donors and states, so as to facilitate the process of integration of Venezuelans and support host communities.

AREA OF INTERVENTION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING³⁴

 **533**

Civil servants trained on protection and gender-based violence

 **150**

Civil servants trained on border management

 **250**

Health personnel trained

GTRM partners supported the host government through several initiatives. First, civil servants from different institutions were trained on a variety of issues, such as protection and human mobility (international law, access to asylum, GBV, procedure for unaccompanied or separated children), sexual and reproductive health, best practices for poverty eradication in vulnerable groups, employability and livelihoods initiatives that contribute to guaranteeing decent working conditions. Trainings in communications in crisis, mental health and response to crisis were directed to personnel of health institutions and health professionals. Similarly, the establishment of public-private mechanisms for the promotion of inclusive businesses and

entrepreneurships were supported. Members of the Ombudsman’s Office were trained on the processes of migratory regularization, the identification of people in need of international protection, access to asylum and the protection of children and adolescents in situations of human mobility.

Second, several GTRM members provided technical assistance to the government with dedicated staff deployed to a variety of State institutions and provision of equipment. This support also translated in the provision of guidance and recommendations for the development and implementation of public

³¹ Including a total of 992 interventions (cumulative number for the period) to facilitate access to work and employment.

³² Low numbers of people assisted results from a lack of quantitative indicators of this area of intervention

³³ 6.75% of the total funding received

³⁴ Numbers represent monthly average of assistance

policies. By way of example, the initiative of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion aiming to create a Directorate specialized in Human Mobility within its organic structure, a process which is still underway – is a result of technical support activities. Finally, GTRM partners maintained an active participation in coordination mechanisms led by governmental institutions, both at the national and local levels, particularly in the context of the

“Human Mobility Roundtable”. This has allowed the creation of a space of dialogue, inter-institutional coordination and key advocacy, to assess issues at the local level and identify gaps and support needed by governmental institutions.

Coordination

Several Working Groups (WG), both thematic and cross-cutting, constitute the GTRM coordination structure and were established or reinforced during this semester, with the approval of terms of reference and the identification of key priorities, in particular:

1) the Food Security WG focused on the harmonization of food kits delivered to Venezuelan refugees and migrants;

2) Members of the WASH, emergency shelter, and non-food items WG initiated a mapping of active shelters to improve the response and standardize protection and assistance mechanisms;

3) The Socio-economic Integration WG started an articulated process with all the members of the GTRM maintaining regular advocacy opportunities with public and private institutions that support integration processes; among others, on issues related to access to work and sustainable access to education.

Meanwhile, entrepreneurship and employability workshops were organized for skills enhancements within host communities;

4) The Cash-Based Interventions WG prioritized getting a better understanding of the assistance delivered through multipurpose cash for a better articulation with cash-based sectorial interventions;

5) The Communication WG identified the need to prioritize working on key messages, as well as on expanding the existing communication campaigns to the local level and the development of harmonized information products;

6) The Protection WG delivered a series of trainings on Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian personnel, which benefited a total of 533 people. The working group also developed an action plan that includes the elaboration of an inter-agency protocol for the referral of complaints related to sexual exploitation and abuse.

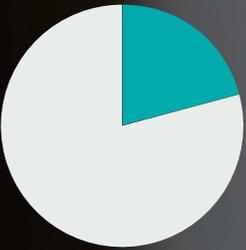
PERU

VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



850,000

Venezuelans in Peru



REQUIREMENTS
USD 106 M

21% Contributions
USD 22 M

79% Funding Gap
USD 84 M

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PERU

Peru is the country with the second largest Venezuelan population worldwide, after Colombia, and the main host country for Venezuelans seeking asylum, with over 285,000 claims. From the more than 850,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the country, the majority lives in Lima. Nevertheless, increasing numbers are being reported in other areas of Peru.

While the monthly entry average between January and March was of 50,000 persons, arrival flows of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, dropped steeply after the introduction of the new humanitarian visa on the 15 June 2019. In the days leading to the visa introduction, arrivals in Tumbes peaked at 8,000 in one day. In the last week of June, entries then lowered to less than 400 per day.

It has been noted that while in the first half of 2018 less than 30 per cent of Venezuelans that arrived in Peru were in transit, this number increased to over 60% during the same period in 2019.


AREA OF INTERVENTION 1
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

40,000
 Received NFI items

38,000
 Provided with food

26,000
 Sheltered in temporary accommodations

US\$ 470,000
 Distributed

The emergency response has focused strongly on Tumbes (north); however, particularly from mid-June on, with the introduction of new visa requirements for Chile, the situation at the border point in Tacna (south) has turned critical. In Tumbes, the response is coordinated both in the city and in the Binational Assistance Border Centre (CEBAF for its acronyms in Spanish), as it is the first point of entry for the majority of Venezuelans in Peru.

In the CEBAF and Tumbes, the focus is on the provision of direct emergency assistance with temporary shelter, transportation, non-food items, health, water, legal orientation, cash-based interventions and attention to the most vulnerable cases. Existing systems to support and inform the operational partners include Protection Monitoring exercises and the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The coordination response team in Tumbes

activated a contingency plan between 10 and 18 June, to respond to the introduction of the new humanitarian visa on 15 June, involving around 20 humanitarian organizations and several government institutions.

After the introduction by Chilean authorities of a consular tourist visa for Venezuelans on 22 June, up to 800 Venezuelans started gathering in front of that country's consulate in Tacna, southern border, to process their applications. These persons were found to be in a situation of particular vulnerability due to lack of food, water and sanitary facilities in the area. Furthermore, the available shelter and communal accommodations in Tacna are not sufficient to host most people and cannot remain available for a long number of days.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 2 PROTECTION

 **26,000**

Received legal orientation

 **30,000**

Were supported through psycho-social assistance, child-friendly and safe spaces

 **65,000**

Were sensitized on protection risks or provided general orientation support

The Protection response in Peru is national and focuses on the provision of general or specialized orientation and legal assistance, as well as the referral and follow-up of vulnerable cases. Partners also focus on the provision of information products and hold regular data collection exercises for protection monitoring across the country. Activities under this area of intervention are coordinated by the Protection Working Group.

In Lima, a joint Orientation Centre officially started operations in April. The Centre is located in the building of the Superintendence for Migrations and, by the end of the first month, was providing legal assistance to 150 people daily.

In Tumbes, during the activation of the contingency plan in June, partners and outreach volunteers provided orientation to refugees and migrants, identifying vulnerable cases and referring them to appropriate services. With a view to providing shelter to persons stranded at the crossing point waiting for an entry permit, partners installed 17 Refugee Housing Units at the border, where they have been

hosting some 90 mothers with babies (0-2 years old) and unaccompanied children every night. During the response, partners provided 9,000 persons with orientation, hosted 4,100 persons in safe and child-friendly spaces and attended 1,500 GBV cases. Between 15 and 20 June, partners identified 50 unaccompanied children in Tumbes and, in coordination with relevant authorities, followed up on these cases.

In Tacna, previously a transit city, partners scaled up their response before the introduction of the new tourist visa in Chile and sent additional staff while setting up an information kiosk at the bus terminal. A transportation service from the border complex to Tacna city was activated, including referrals to required services for those unable to enter Chile. Vulnerable cases were systematically identified for referral to appropriate services. Coordination with the Special Child Protection Unit (UPE for its acronyms in Spanish) enhanced the overall response to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).



AREA OF INTERVENTION 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

 **6,000**
Persons assisted

Activities promoting the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants in Peru are held across the country particularly in Lima, the capital city, where the highest number of Venezuelans reside. In April, a new working group was created by the National Coordination Platform, also known as Grupo de Trabajo para Refugiados y Migrantes (GTRM for its acronym in Spanish), to coordinate activities under this area of intervention.

In June, the findings of the national survey on the Venezuelan population in Peru (ENPOVE for its acronym in Spanish) were published by the National Institute for Statistics (INEI for its acronym in Spanish). The study, which was carried out with the support of various organizations, provides a multi-sectorial overview of life conditions of Venezuelans in the country. Additionally, partners are involved in a new study titled “Faces of the Venezuelan Migration in Lima”, which will provide a sociodemographic profile of the Venezuelan population, including information on the overall labour, health, and migratory situation. An analysis of the presence of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the labour markets of Lima, Piura and Arequipa is also close to completion. This study aims to identify and establish a “road to labour insertion”, which in turn is set to facilitate a shift from the informal to the formal economy for both Venezuelan and local populations.

All activities aimed at the general public, particularly to promote integration and prevent xenophobia, are held under the campaign #TuCausaEsMiCausa. This campaign has included numerous activities involving both Venezuelans and host communities. In February, over 2,500 people riding public buses in Lima participated in a sensitization activity that entailed a community theatre interacting with passengers. Another theatre activity took place in Callao for over 200 logistic workers, with the aim of increasing solidarity and strengthen empathy both in the workplace and across communities.

On 31 March, the first “Gracias Causa” Brigade was launched, with over 100 Venezuelan volunteers repairing a school in a low-income neighborhood in Lima and offering free activities for 500 school-aged children. The activity received great media coverage at local and national levels. A second “Gracias Causa” brigade was carried out in April in Barranco, Lima, where over 80 Venezuelan volunteers cleaned the beach, collected some 100kg of trash, and offered free activities and services for Peruvians. This activity was endorsed and attended by the Mayor of Barranco, who stated the importance of collaboration between host communities and refugees and migrants. Some 400 Peruvians participated in the activities.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING

Over **70** national, regional and local institutions supported

Partners contributed to **3** normative frameworks

Capacity development is transversal to most activities conducted in Peru. Partners actively support and strengthen local and national authorities' response in all regions with increased operational presence.

GTRM partners support the Peruvian government to better include the Venezuelans in legal protection mechanisms against violence. In this context, an existing collaboration with the Health Ministry and the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP for its acronym in Spanish) is allowing for the strengthening of the capacity of service providers in health and protection. Partners are working closely with the MIMP to strengthen the "Unidades de Protección Especial" (special protection units for children) at country level, as well as emergency centres for women.

In Tumbes, partners are working jointly with the Regional Direction for Education to identify gaps in educational coverage for Venezuelan children. Also, partners have contributed to strengthening the health board with the regional health directorate and other humanitarian actors, with a work agenda that considers the contingency plans for epidemic outbreaks and puts special emphasis on children and adolescents. Furthermore, together with the regional

government of Tumbes, partners provided support to the Superintendence for Customs (SUNAT for its acronyms in Spanish) in the design of a baseline for solid waste produced in three main waste disposal sites at the CEBAF.

In Lima, partners delivered two training modules for teachers and principals to the Ministry of Education for their review and approval, to ensure alignment with the National Curriculum for Regular Basic Education and teacher training activities. In the North of Lima, partners are working with the Comprehensive Health Insurance (SIS for its acronym in Spanish) to improve access to health for Venezuelans, particularly children.

In Arequipa, support is being provided to the Regional Instance for National Violence Against Women to identify survivors, enhance information campaigns and train public officials.

In Cusco, partners supported the Education Regional Board to map public schools with positions that could be available for Venezuelans. The list was shared with the local office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Venezuelan community. Meanwhile, partners have also provided the Superintendence of Migrations with equipment and material to support its work.

Coordination

A total of 43 organizations, coordinated by the national coordination platform for Peru (GTRM) provide assistance to refugees, migrants and host communities in 11 departments and 15 provinces around the country, with a particular concentration in the capital Lima and in the north, at the border with Ecuador (Tumbes and Zarumilla) where the CEBAF is based. Local and international organizations are also present on a smaller scale in the south-east (Tacna, Tambopata, Arequipa, Puno, Cusco, Ilo and Yunguyo) and north-west (Piura, Trujillo, Chiclayo and Lambayeque) of the country.

As of March, the GTRM undertook a comprehensive joint review of its organizational structure in a meeting to better understand the needs of the various partners. The session resulted in clear, tangible and transferable measures the GTRM needs to activate, in order to overcome current bottlenecks and improve

ownership by GTRM members in the RMRP and their interaction with relevant government actors. In April, the GTRM approved the creation of a new working group on Socio-Economic Inclusion.

Throughout June, coordination efforts focused on supporting the scaling up of operations in Tumbes, during the activation of the contingency plan. Not only the government but also partners provided additional staff and resources, and the existing capacity and overall response was tracked and monitored on a regular basis. During the response, regular coordination meetings were held, and situation reports were systematically shared internally with GTRM members to highlight the ongoing situation and activities. An external document³⁵ was also shared after the contingency plan was deactivated, quantifying the overall response and identifying remaining gaps.

35 <https://data2.unhcr.org/es/documents/details/70384>

SOUTHERN CONE

VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



442,322

Venezuelans in the
Southern Cone



REQUIREMENTS
USD 35.6 M

8% Contributions
USD 2.8 M

92% Funding Gap
USD 32.7 M

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SOUTHERN CONE

Since 2017, the number of Venezuelans in the Southern Cone has grown more than 30% in the four countries that conform it. Until the end of June 2019, the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Chile reached 288,233³⁶; in Argentina, 145,000; in Uruguay, 8,589; and, 500 in Paraguay.

An increasing number of land arrivals walked all the way to the Southern Cone countries, the so-called “caminantes”. In addition to the long walks that exposed them to many risks to their health and well-being, the prolonged waits at border crossings, due to entry restrictions and documentation requirements, increment the refugees’ and migrants’ vulnerabilities. Examples of measures that render entries more burdensome are the Democratic Responsibility Visa and the consular tourist visa that Chile introduced. To cope with these challenges, Venezuelans are obliged to tap into resources that would otherwise have been used in the country of stay, therefore rendering them even more vulnerable and at risk of resorting to negative coping mechanisms. Also, the arrival of a higher percentage of families with children, often with few to no resources, has increased, leading to an intensification in protection risks such as trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, labour exploitation, etc.

Public infrastructures, such as hospitals and schools, as well as labour markets, are under increased pressure; this, combined with the lack of information available, represent major impediments for refugees and migrants from Venezuela to become self-reliant.

While Bolivia was not officially part of the RMRP 2019, emergency response, contingency preparedness and coordination mechanisms are being established and will continue to scale up in 2020.

³⁶ While official data for Chile is available until December 2018, other public sources have estimated that, until June 2019, the presence of Venezuelans in the country reaches approximately 400,000 people



AREA OF INTERVENTION 1

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

 **1778**

Refugees and migrants provided with emergency food assistance

 **227**

Refugees and migrants provided with temporary accommodation

 **2306**

Persons reached with assessment and monitoring tools

 **10**

Assessments/mappings conducted

 **23**

Partners reached with information products from assessments and mappings

 **733**

Refugees and migrants provided with emergency psychosocial support services

The organization of the national emergency responses in the Southern Cone started around May, propelled by the intensification of the influx of persons from Venezuela to the region. Therefore, some of the activities will start materializing during the second half of the year.

However, during the first six months of 2019, data was collected and analysed to better understand needs, movement patterns and protection risks in order to inform planning and programming, as well as

the prioritization of needs. These exercises targeted more than 2,300 persons and reached at least 23 partners and government organizations.

Temporary accommodation, emergency food assistance and/or psychosocial support was offered to 1,778 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, particularly in Argentina and Chile.


AREA OF INTERVENTION 2
PROTECTION
 **1935**

Refugees and migrants provided with information and guidance for protection

 **6**

Active information centers/points supported

Progress was made in establishing a conducive protection environment in the Southern Cone countries, notwithstanding remaining gaps in outreach to communities, referral systems, and prevention of transnational crimes and exploitation.

Information on access to social services, legal advice on regularization and access to asylum applications and guidance on protection mechanisms was provided to around 1,900 persons through dedicated centres and information points in strategic locations in Chile, Argentina and Uruguay.

Specialized protection services were offered to survivors of GBV and other highly vulnerable migrants and refugees. Technical working groups were established to support the creation of a national protocol on child protection and mechanisms were strengthened to ensure prevention of and response to victims of GBV.

Joint vulnerability criteria were established to guarantee coherence between partners and information campaigns were implemented to ensure Venezuelan migrants and refugees have access to timely information on rights and access to services.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

 **2377**

Persons who participate in integration activities

 **11**

Anti-xenophobia and anti-discrimination campaigns/
activities implemented

 **462**

Persons assisted on economic inclusion

Infrastructures such as hospitals and schools, especially in border areas, are under increased pressure and often unable to maintain levels of service. Additionally, the barriers to access the labour market, such as the need for particular documentation that Venezuelans cannot obtain in their country of origin, discrimination, and lack of information on the options available to refugees and migrants, represent major impediments for them to establish livelihoods and become self-reliant. To address these issues, several activities reaching over 2,700 persons promoted local integration, social and economic inclusion, and self-reliance focused in the provision of access to the labour market, self-employment, and at ensuring access to financial services.

An increase in negative perceptions regarding migration has been observed among the general public in some Southern Cone countries. Opinions are that migration impose challenges to the economy and development. However, the Chilean Central Bank published a study in December 2018 presenting data showing that migrants had then integrated into the country's labour market relatively easily and the arrival of other immigrants could potentially have positive effects for the economic growth of the country. In this sense, partners have been working in anti-discrimination and anti-xenophobia campaigns, reaching approximately 2,600 persons in Argentina and Chile. Furthermore, approximately 638 persons have participated in activities related to cultural and economic inclusion.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING

 **32**

Public officials trained on assistance, protection and integration standards and practices

 **8**

Government agencies supported in developing response policies and tools

 **3**

Government agencies supported to increase processing capacity of regularization and asylum applications

A particular emphasis in the Southern Cone countries was placed on capacity building and working in complementarity with national, local and municipal authorities. Several activities with this objective were organized to strengthen technical expertise in the areas of assistance, protection and integration standards and practices, particularly in Argentina and Uruguay. In terms of supporting governments to increase capacities for the regularization and access to asylum of Venezuelans, partners have been providing technical and financial support in Uruguay and Chile. Also, numerous studies on opportunities to access the labour markets, access to public services, and crisis response best practices tools with emphasis in childhood, have been shared with authorities. Just to name a few, in Argentina, the study of “Venezuelan

engineers in the Republic of Argentina” was published in May and; in Uruguay, a set of tools for teachers to work in inclusion of migrant children was presented to the National Administration of Public Education in June. These tools function as an advocacy tool, as well as inform and raise awareness on the development opportunities that come with the integration of migrants and refugees into the receiving communities, at local and national level. A clear example of their impact is the integration program that the Argentinian government started, in order to relocate doctors and engineers around the country’s territory. Partners in Chile are also developing tools to support the government that will be available during the second semester of 2019.

Coordination

The increase of influx to the sub-region prompted a rapid scale up of the response, particularly in border and urban areas where there were few to no humanitarian actors present. The RMRP national teams established in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, count with a network of 44 partners which include civil society, faith-based organizations, NGO and UN agencies, working in close coordination with national authorities. The R4V Platform in the Southern Cone brings together a wide range of actors from civil society, UN agencies, authorities, academia and financial institutions. Close relationships are being established with the UN Development system and briefings to UNCT members are a regular agenda

item during the monthly meetings. While all coordination platforms have been established only in the last few months, the specialized working groups along the areas of intervention have been meeting regularly in order to establish joint criteria and standards, identify gaps and ensure complementarity in response. Further efforts will be made in the next few months to strengthen the analytical capacity of the platforms in order to provide context specific and specialized information products to help inform the response and prioritize activities, as well as to expand the network to other stakeholders involved in the response to the crisis.



**RESPONSE FOR
VENEZUELAN**

Coordination Platform for
Refugees and Migrants
from Venezuela

WORKING GROUPS

COMMUNICATIONS

During the first half of 2019, the communications group focused on:

1. The recognition of the R4V brand by the response actors at the regional and national levels;
2. R4V products and technical documents to be taken as reference in discussions on refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

R4V Brand

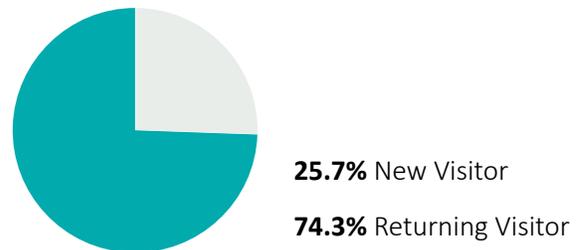
Development of 39 standardized pieces of common use that follow the branding guidelines. These products include the R4V logo in English, Spanish and Portuguese; templates and, folders.

Briefing Kit

Design and publication of 5 documents that form the R4V briefing kit, reaching over 1,000 downloads. These documents include three Factsheets about Support Spaces, Gender Based-Violence and Campaigns against Xenophobia, with inputs received from regional working groups and national platforms.

Website

Over 27,500 visits to the R4V.info webpage. The R4V website includes key information and documents on the response for refugees and migrants from Venezuela. The RMRP 2019 document, for example, was downloaded over 170,000 times. For more people to have access to this information, the communications working group links all the R4V communication products, as well as social media messages and interactions with news outlets to the webpage. The top locations by visits are the United States, Colombia and Venezuela.



Social Media Initiative #SonBienvenidos

The #SonBienvenidos initiative was supported by different countries and was replicated by many R4V member agencies such as AECID, UNAIDS, OCHA, UNV Latin America, NRC, and IPPF / WHR.

The initiative reached more than half a million people on social media, showing the tremendous impact that

a coordinated initiative among all the R4V members can achieve. The initiative included a video and 18 photographic designs that were produced along with key messages of welcome, tolerance, integration and respect towards refugees and migrants from Venezuela. The posts were published between December 17-28 2018 and between 3-11 January 2019.

| SOCIAL MEDIA | RESULTS UNHCR/IOM/UNICEF TOTAL | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | POST | PEOPLE REACHED |
| FACEBOOK | 78 | 154.831 |
| INSTAGRAM | 11 | 98.700 |
| TWITTER | 30 | 309.544 |

News

Joint press releases reached over 1,760 pieces of coverage in News Media. The figures produced by R4V had great visibility, becoming a reference for governments, academia and media when reporting on topics related to refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

Creation and dissemination of social media products

Creation of over 10 gifs and videos on figures of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, R4V Support Spaces and Quito Process. The content on figures of Venezuelans in the region proved to be the most successful, reaching around 700,000 people on Twitter. In general, the R4V content has had a positive response in social media, however, since there are no specific R4V social media accounts, it is important that partners continue to use their channels to expand R4V messages.



COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES / COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

During the first half of 2019, the work of the Communication with Communities / Communication for Development (CwC/C4D) Working Group focused on its reactivation and implemented an online collaboration management mode. The group also continued with the development of the actions included in the 2019 work plan, as follows:

Message bank

The regional message bank was designed as a tool that aims to provide updated information to Venezuelan refugees and migrants on different topics that are of their interest and need, including access to protection systems, risk prevention, access to asylum and regular entry and stay mechanisms (legal information), and available social services.

The development of updated information material on human mobility, adapted to the needs of different population groups, including children and adolescents, people with special needs and indigenous groups, among others, was considered a priority during the construction of the tool.

During the second half of the year, the Working Group will focus on the dissemination of the message bank across

countries and populations targeted, in collaboration with other Working Groups and partners.

Regional training on CwC (2-day workshop)

A two-day Communicating with Communities (CwC) training was conducted in May 2019 with 36 platform and CwC focal points from countries involved in the response for Venezuelans. The workshop included a review of the activities prioritized in the regional work plan to support the development and implementation of a CwC/C4D regional strategy.

The Regional Information and Communication Needs Assessment, was one of the priorities of the Working Group. Its planning process started in June and its implementation will take place between July and September 2019. This exercise aims at identifying the preferred ways of communication, sources of information and information needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, as well as opportunities and challenges for partners to better guide their work in 2019 and redefine the planning for 2020.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Achievements

There has been significant progress in the implementation of the actions outlined in the GBV Working Group work plan. These are:

In relation to Direct Emergency Assistance, GBV standard operating procedures (SOPs) were designed in two countries: Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago. A mapping of support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and for LGBTI persons is being developed. Several assessments to characterize GBV issues in cases of human trafficking and smuggling, have been carried out in Peru, Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. In addition, GBV needs assessment tools were developed, as well as a toolkit for joint GBV and Trafficking assessments.

In relation to Protection activities, regional materials on GBV, human trafficking and smuggling have been developed for use in awareness raising campaigns targeting refugees, migrants, and host communities. Training activities were implemented on a range of topics including: CCCM and trafficking; GBV Safe identification and referral; GBV case management; GBV coordination; SOPs for GBV and TIP; detection and referral of victims of human trafficking; Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA); assistance, protection and relocation process for child refugees and migrants. Training was provided in Brazil, Colombia, the Ecuador-Peru border, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay, among others.

Concerning Socio-Economic and Cultural Integration activities, a regional socio-economic assessment about the condition of women and girls is ongoing.

In relation to alliances and coordination, referral pathways and information management for GBV and Human Trafficking

were strengthened, especially in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Chile. A fact sheet regarding the work of the group was shared with participants in the Oslo Conference on Ending Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises in May 2019.

Challenges

Under-reporting of GBV, trafficking and smuggling, hinders the ability to provide a full picture of the extent and nature of these phenomena among refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Survivors may avoid reporting due to fear, ignorance of their rights and relevant laws, and/or the need to prioritize continuation of their journey.

Related to the above, the GBV priorities of the platform continue to be underfunded. It is hoped that the shift to a sector approach in the RMRP 2020, with specific targets and indicators for GBV and human trafficking, will bring more visibility and support.

Expectations for the second semester

Strengthen support to the national GBV working groups in the next phase of the RMRP. To this extent, the regional working group has prepared a survey for the national subgroups to better understand their achievements and their support needs.

The GBV needs assessment tools and the toolkit for joint GBV and Trafficking assessments will be shared with the national platforms.

Develop and roll out child/girl-friendly guide for service providers around prevention and care.

SUPPORT SPACES

The Support Spaces Working Group was established in September 2018 to promote coordinated and joint efforts to respond to the urgent needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela at border areas, along the routes and in host communities. The Support Spaces Working Group, comprised of UN Agencies and International NGOs and networks of faith-based organizations have jointly designed the strategy and tools for this initiative and have focused its work in the first semester of 2019 on the following deliverables:

Interagency missions to four piloting countries Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil:

to assess the structures in place, services and organizations working on the response for Venezuelans; socialize the Support Spaces initiative and assess the possibility of its implementation in the piloting countries, providing recommendations on the way forward. Two regional inter-agency reports were drafted for these missions (January and April 2019). As well, preparatory meetings were organized for the upcoming missions to Chile, Argentina and Guyana starting in August 2019.

Support Spaces toolkit:

a toolkit was drafted as part of the regional tools for the implementation of Support Spaces. These include: 1) Concept Note; 2) Guide for Setting-up and managing Support Spaces; 3) Support Spaces Standard Operating Procedures and Annexes (10). The toolkit is available in both Spanish and English.

Regional capacity building plan:

a capacity building plan was designed to support national platforms in the implementation of the regional toolkit, strengthening the response of all actors working in the Support Spaces. Detailed modules were developed as part of the training package.

Support Spaces Visibility:

a Support Spaces logo was designed in coordination with the Communications Working Group. Other materials such as a regional factsheet was created. Until June 2019, Support Spaces visibility has been placed in Colombia.

Regional Service Mapping:

compilation of Support Spaces and service providers in each location receiving refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the four piloting countries. A service mapping database was created and will be available in October 2019 in Google Maps, with interactive PDFs and a Chabot.

Monthly coordination meetings:

monthly meetings have been organized with Support Spaces members at regional level, as well as Support Spaces focal points from national platforms.

Support Spaces across the region

A total of 91 Support Spaces have been identified, established and are operating in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil (pilot countries). More than 100,000 beneficiaries access these structures and are receiving support from different organizations and governmental institutions per month.

Additionally, more than 1,300 Support Spaces and services have been mapped in these four countries. This information will be available in the service mapping dashboard.

The Support Spaces initiative will continue to be implemented and strengthened in the four pilot countries and will be expanded in coordination with national platforms to other countries in the region such as Argentina, Chile and Guyana in the second semester of the year. New actors and Spaces will be also included in the regional service mapping.



ESPACIO DE APOYO



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MID YEAR REPORT
2019

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