



# STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL RESPONSE TO LARGE-SCALE MIGRATION OF VENEZUELAN NATIONALS IN SOUTH AMERICA, NORTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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## Highlights

Venezuelan nationals at the Binational Border Service Center Ecuador-Peru  
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- The Government of Peru reported that more than 200,000 Venezuelan migrants are currently in the country, most of them with 183-day tourist entry permits, and 36,000 with Temporary Residency Permits.
- The Government of Venezuela lifted the suspension imposed on 5 April 2018 on all flights to Panama. The initial decision had represented a further reduction in the already limited number of international carriers still operating in Venezuela.
- The Government of Brazil led the second operation of voluntary internal re-localization of 233 Venezuelan nationals from Boa Vista (Roraima) to the cities of Manaus and Sao Paulo, which was supported by IOM, UNHCR and UNFPA.

## Situation Overview

According to new figures released by the National Superintendence of Migration, there are more than 200,000 Venezuelan nationals in Peru, there are more than 200,000 Venezuelan nationals in the country, most under tourist category holding an authorization to stay for 183 days while 36,000 of them have been granted Temporary Residency Permits. The binational border Service Center (CEBAF) Ecuador-Peru is facing a noticeable increase in the number of recent arrivals. IOM teams at this border observe an average of 1,000 crossings per day: approximately 1,200 on 1 May and between 1,200 and 1,400 on 3 May.

Meanwhile, the government of Chile reports that as of 3 May, 14,000 Venezuelan nationals have been registered as part of the 2018 Extraordinary Regularization Process launched on 23 April, a number that is only surpassed by the Haitian immigrant population with 28,000 persons registered. In parallel, the consulates of Chile in Caracas and Puerto Ordaz continue receiving a mounting number of applications to the “Visa of Democratic Responsibility” that is being implemented since 16 April 2018.

Implications and potential public health risks as a result of these large-scale flows have also been highlighted during the reporting period. The Government of Colombia issued a cooperation appeal to raise additional funding for the Response Plan of the Health Sector to Migration, while the World Health Organization reported that in Venezuela, between epidemiological week (EW) “26 of 2017 and EW 16 of 2018, a total of 1,631 cases of confirmed measles were reported and 904 from EW 1 to EW 16 of 2018. In Brazil, among the 81 confirmed measles cases in Roraima, 55 are Venezuelans (68%)”.

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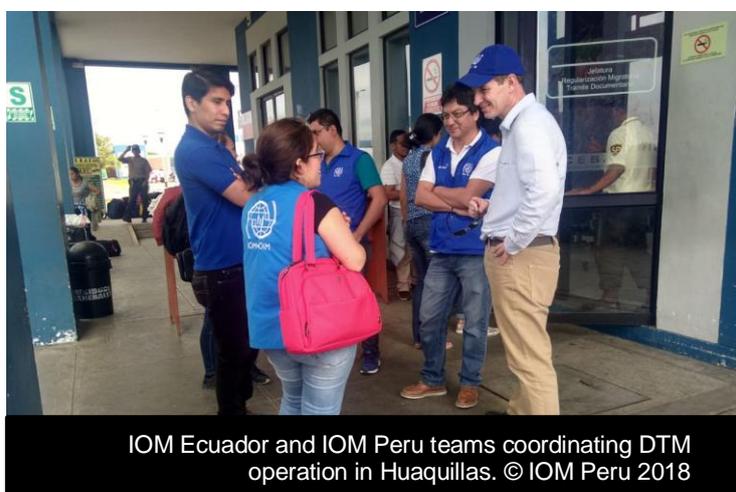
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## DEVELOPMENTS IN REGIONAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) IMPLEMENTATION

### DATA PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION

In Colombia, the *Registro Administrativo de Migrantes Venezolanos* (RAMV) continues expanding its operations and will run until 8 June 2018 assisted by both IOM and UNHCR. IOM supports registration points in five municipalities with 100 field staff. The latest RAMV report (7 May) indicates that 203,989 Venezuelan nationals have been registered across the country: 48% are women, 24% are girls, boys and adolescents and 8% belong to ethnic groups. More significantly, RAMV provides an outlook of their vulnerability conditions: only 5.7% of those registered are enrolled in the health insurance system, 28% of the girls, boys and adolescents are attending school, and 34,935 out of 189,281 (18%) respondents are unemployed.



IOM Ecuador and IOM Peru teams coordinating DTM operation in Huaquillas. © IOM Peru 2018

IOM continues planning and rolling out rounds of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), its flagship system to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information on movements and evolving needs of population mobility.

- First DTM rounds are being coordinated with the Governments and planned in Argentina, Chile, Guyana, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago. Complementarily, IOM Panama is designing a characterization study with UNHCR.
- In Peru, IOM is preparing a third DTM round, this time in Tumbes - border with Ecuador- and in Tacna - border with Chile.
- IOM Ecuador completed data collection in Quito and in Huaquillas and is also prepared to conduct DTM interviews in Tulcan (Rumichaca bridge area).
- In Brazil, IOM is in the planning stage of a second DTM round in the state of Roraima.

### DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND VULNERABILITY

IOM Brazil, in coordination with UNHCR and UNFPA, supported the Government of Brazil during the second operation of voluntary internal re-localization of Venezuelan nationals arriving in the northern state of Roraima. In this instance 233

Venezuelan migrants were relocated from the city of Boa Vista to the cities of Manaus and Sao Paulo, including 59 women, 100 men, 29 girls and 45 boys. IOM assistance included pre-departure orientation, fitness for travel checks, and support in logistics and documentation.



IOM supports the second round of voluntary re-localization © IOM Brazil 2018

In Peru, IOM provided food and Non-Food Items (NFI) to 20 Venezuelan families in vulnerable conditions, who were passing through the Binational Border Service Center Ecuador (*Centro Binacional de Atención Fronteriza*), on the border with Ecuador. Items distributed included drinking water, baby diapers, baby food and energy bars.



### CAPACITY AND COORDINATION

Discussions are underway between UNHCR and IOM at global and regional level to establish an interagency mixed flows mechanism that would set up a predictable forum for IOM and UNHCR to provide strategic and operational leadership for the response to the large-scale flows.

IOM-UNHCR coordination at national level resulted in the establishment of a joint working group on Refugees and Migrants in Peru with the participation of all UN agencies and that will focus on the response to the influx of Venezuelan nationals.

Meanwhile, in Trinidad and Tobago, UNRC, IOM and UNHCR have agreed to hold weekly meetings with the participation of all UNCT members to follow-up on the situation and coordinate interventions.



### PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING

IOM and UNHCR submitted coordinated *regional* proposals under a common umbrella strategy to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), following the ERC decision to allocate up to USD 6.2 million to support life-saving activities.

In line with the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) principles, IOM Costa Rica and the Association of Venezuelans in Costa Rica set up a working group to collaborate around RAP implementation.

Catholic leaders across South America launched 'Bridges of Solidarity', a two-year plan covering Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina to "welcome the newcomers, while at the same time supporting the most vulnerable members of local host communities".