



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

SITUATION REPORT No. 4

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Highlights

Joint IOM-UNHCR mission to Tumbes
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- Venezuela's National Electoral Council announced on Sunday 20 May the re-election of President Nicolas Maduro for a new six-year term.
- The Lima Group of Latin American countries plus Canada convened a high-level meeting to define guidelines for a comprehensive response to the regional mixed flow of Venezuelan nationals.
- The Colombia-Venezuela border will be closed from 24 May to 28 May as part of the regular measures taken by the Government of Colombia to guarantee the security of the 27 May Presidential Election.

Situation Overview

Following the publication of the official results of the Presidential Election in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereinafter Venezuela), the 14-nation Lima Group issued a joint statement expressing its concern about the increasing number of Venezuelan nationals leaving the country and the impact of such flows on the region. The Group will hold a high-level meeting of migration authorities in early June in Peru to discuss a comprehensive response including documentation and regularization mechanisms. Additionally, health authorities of the member countries will meet to coordinate public health activities and further cooperation.

Meanwhile, countries in the region continue tailoring their migration management instruments to the scale of the flows and the protection and integration needs of the Venezuelan women, men, girls and boys crossing their borders. From 21 May onwards, Venezuelan applicants in Peru to the Temporary Stay Permit (*Permiso Temporal de Permanencia*, PTP) will be able to obtain online a Certificate of Extraordinary Work Permit which will allow them to work while waiting for a PTP decision. Also, the Government of Chile reported that, as of 16 May, 2,131 Visas of "Democratic Responsibility" had been issued by the Chilean consulates in Caracas (1,510) and Puerto Ordaz (621) and 20,683 applications were being processed. As of 17 May, 22,153 Venezuelan nationals have been registered as part of the 2018 Extraordinary Regularization Process in Chile.

Finally, nearly 30 civil society organizations from across the Americas gathered in Santo Domingo and requested that the Inter American Commission of Human Rights use the existing Coordination and Timely and Integrated Response Room (*Sala de Coordinación y Respuesta Oportuna e Integrada*, SACROI) to monitor the Venezuelan migrant situation, collaborate in identifying the dimensions of the problem, and provide technical assistance to States to incorporate a human rights focus; and work with the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.

DEVELOPMENTS IN REGIONAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) IMPLEMENTATION



DATA PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION

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

New DTM rounds will be implemented by IOM with CERF funding in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago, in addition to exercises carried out in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama funded by IOM’s Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM). In preparation, IOM technical teams conducted Training of Trainer sessions aimed at securing sufficient expertise at field level and guaranteeing methodological convergence and data quality. Meanwhile, IOM Ecuador completed the DTM data collection phase in Rumichaca (northern border with Colombia) where a steady increase in movements has been reported during the past months.



CAPACITY AND COORDINATION

At global level, IOM and UNHCR are operationalizing a Regional Interagency Mixed Flows Coordination Platform to improve strategic harmonization, field coordination and UNCT response capacity to Venezuelan flows.

In Peru, both organizations conducted a field visit to Tumbes on the border with Ecuador to establish a cooperation arrangement with local authorities in preparation for the opening of a joint Migration Support Center.

IOM Colombia and UNHCR are working with the Government of Colombia to improve the capacity of the *Registraduría Nacional de Estado Civil (RNEC)*, to roll out large-scale documentation operations in key border areas. IOM is also supporting RNEC in preparing basic information material on documentation processes, targeting first line RNEC officials and migrants.



DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND VULNERABILITY

IOM Brazil, in coordination with UNHCR and UNFPA, supported the Government of Brazil during the third operation of voluntary internal re-localization of Venezuelan nationals arriving in the northern state of Roraima. Twenty-nine Venezuelan migrants were relocated to the city of Cuiaba. IOM assistance included pre-departure orientation, fitness for travel checks, and support in logistics and documentation.

Also, in Brazil preparations are under way to set up a Migrant Support Center in Pacaraima (northern border with Venezuela). IOM, UNHCR and the Government of Brazil are finalizing arrangements to create a permanent center that will provide health, protection and documentation assistance and information on internal relocation alternatives.

In Costa Rica, a toll-free information line was officially launched by IOM in partnership with the General Directorate of Migration and the National Migration Council. Through the ‘800-Venezuela’ number, Venezuelan nationals in Costa Rica can get information to access social and integral services.



Providing orientation to a Venezuelan national in IOM San Jose © IOM Costa Rica 2018

This line complements the Migrant Referral Center which has already assisted 29 Venezuelans nationals living in San Jose in need of guidance on regularization mechanisms and health services.

Likewise, IOM Peru prepared 5,000 leaflets for distribution in coordination with Tumbes’ authorities as part of an information campaign on services available for Venezuelan migrants. In terms of emergency assistance, 297 persons arriving through the Ecuador-Peru Binational Border Service Center have received transportation subsidies to reach Tumbes or Lima and 670 persons have been assisted in a food distribution point, mainly women and children in vulnerable conditions.



PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) approved a USD 1.6 million contribution to IOM to implement life-saving activities in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago, as part of the Regional Action Plan.

IOM operations are supported by:



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