MIGRANT AND REFUGEE VENEZUELAN CRISIS: IOM REGIONAL RESPONSE OVERVIEW

This report series aims at providing a summary account of IOM response in the region during the specified period, thanks to the contributions and engagement of donors and partners. This issue offers an aggregated overview of the main achievements in June 2019.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FLOW AND IOM RESPONSE BY PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

REGIONAL
R: 1,279,242.21
N: 19,067,162.00

TOTAL
R: 46,408,273.21
N: 154,039,588.00

BRAZIL
R: 4,838,743.09
N: 14,400,117.00

REGIONAL
R: 1,279,242.21
N: 19,067,162.00

ECUADOR
R: 5,556,405.28
N: 21,895,896.00

PERU
R: 4,679,279.82
N: 17,229,472.00

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA
R: 1,867,015.11
N: 6,537,899.00

COLOMBIA
R: 22,917,803.09
N: 51,315,600.00

SOUTHERN CONE
R: 3,489,413.46
N: 17,173,497.00

CARIBBEAN
R: 1,780,371.15
N: 6,419,945.00

REFERENCES

RMRP - IOM Funds requested for 2019 by country/sub-region and AoI
- Direct emergency assistance
- Protection
- Socio economic and cultural integration
- Strengthening the capacity of host governments

FUNDS RECEIVED (R)
FUNDS NEEDED (N)

Map source: Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) and Financial Tracking System (May 2019)
4.0 million of Venezuelans are living abroad\(^1\). 3.2 million (80\%) of which in Latin America and the Caribbean countries, according to updated official data. Due to complex and unpredictable developments of the Venezuelan situation, the increase in mixed flows of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the region has continued.

As part of the region’s ongoing efforts to adjust response structures at the national level to address Venezuelan migratory flows, countries continue to make adjustments and modifications in decisions related to their migration policies.

In this context, Peru and the United State of America announced different kind of measures to deal with Venezuelans flows on June 6\(^{th}\). The first one, informed that the Peruvian immigration control authorities, will only admit the entry to passport holders with a valid humanitarian visa starting from June 15\(^{th}\), 2019. Also, Venezuelan nationals may apply for a tourist, business or other migratory quality visas different to humanitarian visas, in any Peruvian Consulate abroad. On the other hand, the United Stated announced the acceptance of expired Venezuelan passports, both for the processing of visas and consular matters and for the entry into US territory. This measure is in line with the decree signed by the Venezuelan National Assembly on May 21\(^{st}\) to extend the validity of Venezuelan passports for 5 years once they have expired.

On June 8\(^{th}\), after more than a 3 months closure (February 23\(^{rd}\)) the Venezuelan Government re-opened the main border crossing points with Colombia. The Colombian migration authorities informed that around 74 thousand people entered and left Colombian territory through the border crossings between Norte de Santander (Colombia) and Táchira State (Venezuela), during the first day of the border opening; specifically more than 34 thousand Venezuelan citizens entered to Colombia, while about 40 thousand returned to their country.

In Chile, through the **Decree N\(^{o}\) 42.383** of June 20\(^{th}\), the government announced the implementation of the consular tourism visa for Venezuelan citizens as response to the expected increase of Venezuelan migrants since the implementation of the humanitarian visa in Peru. The Decree establishes as requirement for entry (recreational, sporting, religious or other similar purposes) the obtention of a consular seal giving the right to entrance and permanence for a maximum of 90 days. This is valid for individuals entering Chile without the purpose of immigration, residence or the development of remunerated activities.

Since 2015 and per end of June 2019, **1,916,700** million residence permits, and other forms of regular status have been granted approximately in Latin American and the Caribbean countries. As for some of the current ordinary and extra-ordinary regularization mechanisms, the latest available official figures of granted visas and permits are as follows:

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\(^1\) UNHCR/IOM joint PBN and DTM
RESIDENCE PERMITS AND OTHER FORMS OF REGULAR STATUS (FROM 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLOMBIA</td>
<td>661,517</td>
<td>2017 to April 2019</td>
<td>Includes Permiso Especial de Permanencia (PEP) / Special Stay Permit + Foreigner Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>596,077</td>
<td>as per April 30, 2019</td>
<td>Special Stay Permit (PEP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERU</td>
<td>532,190</td>
<td>2017 to May 23rd 2019</td>
<td>Includes Permiso Temporal de Permanencia (PTP)/ Temporary Stay Permit, Special Migratory Quality and other Migratory Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>522,721</td>
<td>as per May 23rd, 2019</td>
<td>Temporary Stay Permit (PTP) + Special Migratory Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26,863</td>
<td>as per February 2019</td>
<td>Democratic Responsibility Visa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGENTINA</td>
<td>152,053</td>
<td>2015 to May 2019</td>
<td>Includes temporary and permanent residency permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECUADOR</td>
<td>95,720</td>
<td>2015 to February 24th 2019</td>
<td>Includes all categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
<td>65,495</td>
<td>2015 to April 2019</td>
<td>Active records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANAMA</td>
<td>58,893</td>
<td>2015 to June 2019</td>
<td>Includes the total of legalizations (ordinary and extraordinary processes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URUGUAY</td>
<td>11,855</td>
<td>2015 to January 2019</td>
<td>Includes temporary and permanent residency permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEXICO</td>
<td>7,507</td>
<td>2015 to April 2019</td>
<td>Includes all categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</td>
<td>5,501</td>
<td>2015 to March 2019</td>
<td>Includes all categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOLIVIA</td>
<td>2,775</td>
<td>2016 to February 2019</td>
<td>Permanence Permits in force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURAÇAO</td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>2015 to 2017</td>
<td>Includes all categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARAGUAY</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>2017 to February 2019</td>
<td>Includes all categories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**DIRECT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

IOM is ensuring that new arrivals in transit or destination countries are provided with direct emergency assistance and basic services including temporary shelter and accommodation, food and non-food items, transportation and basic health care. IOM collaborates with government institutions, UN agencies and further partners to ensure the provision of assistance.

### DTM & Assessments

In June, 9,274 interviews were carried out through DTM flow monitoring exercises in 2 countries. DTM in Brazil focused on people living in the streets and occupied buildings in the cities of Boa Vista and Pacaraima, covering 7,040 people. Ecuador has started its 5th flow monitoring exercise in 7 municipalities, reaching 2,234 people. DTM reports were presented to government institutions and partners in 2 countries: in Brazil reports have been distributed to 200 users, whilst in Panama to one. Additionally, in Mexico 6 assessments have been carried out in the reporting period on service pathways for Venezuelans in vulnerable conditions.

### Temporary accommodation

During the reporting period, temporary shelter was provided in transit and destination areas in Argentina (58), Brazil (902), Costa Rica (4), Curacao (35), the Dominican Republic (7) Ecuador (660), Guyana (2) and Uruguay (4) accommodating a total of 1,672 Venezuelans. Specifically, in Argentina, Venezuelans were supported in the City of Mendoza through the implementing partner Fundación Católica Argentina de Migraciones (FCCAM), at Hogar “P. T. Rubin”; people accommodated stayed an average of 15 days per family.

### Transportation assistance

Humanitarian transportation was provided in Colombia to 446 people in 7 different municipalities; the most vulnerable migrants have been identified for assistance in transportation and in support to migratory procedures. Further migrants were assisted in Ecuador (4,301), Guyana (1) and Peru (498) for a total of 5,246 Venezuelans in the reporting period.

### Non-Food Items (NFI)

NFI kits were distributed to 3,856 Venezuelans in need in Ecuador (1,159), the Dominican Republic (17), Guyana (3) and Uruguay (3). In Colombia 2,674 migrants moving along the Walking Route were reached in the border municipalities of Pamplona, Espinal and Popayán. Along with the distribution of NFI kits, migrants are also offered guidance and information, physical and emotional first aid services, contact reestablishment for family reunification and bathroom service (for men and for women).

### MAIN CONTRIBUTORS

![MAIN CONTRIBUTORS](image)

### REGIONAL PROJECTS:

![REGIONAL PROJECTS](image)

### NATIONAL PROJECTS:

![NATIONAL PROJECTS](image)
Wi-Fi
IOM Ecuador keeps supporting free Wi-Fi in Rumichaca. In the reporting period 5,086 Venezuelans could access communication, giving them the opportunity to communicate with their families, support networks and access critical information on assistance services and the continuation of their journey.

Food assistance
In special circumstances, IOM has complemented its assistance with food items. In the reporting period, food items have been distributed in Guyana (5), Mexico (45) and in Panama (209) reaching 259 people in need.

Health
Emergency health care services were provided to 261 Venezuelans. Psychosocial support services were organized for Venezuelans in Costa Rica (38) through 2 emotional wellbeing days in the municipalities of Jaco in Puntarenas and San José. Workshops focus on how to deal with migratory grief, emotion management and integration. Further health service provisions were carried out in the Dominican Republic (18), Mexico (20) in Panama (185).

“I’m grateful for the support I have received from IOM and the community”

Jair Acagua, 39, from Monagas, Venezuela arrived in Trinidad and Tobago with his family and experienced living in dire conditions, while he worked towards improving their housing situation. The accommodation efforts made by IOM managed to help him and his family by moving them to a place with access to basic services, so they could enjoy a more hygienic and healthier environment, especially for his children.
PROTECTION

As means to promote effective protection of Venezuelans arriving in host countries, IOM is facilitating access to documentation and regularization; support in this area is also key for the enjoyment of human rights, and access to social services in receiving countries. Prevention and awareness on trafficking, human smuggling and other forms of exploitation are also key to protect migrants.

Orientation and information on documentation and regularization
In the reporting period 9,229 people were oriented and provided with information on documentation and regularization. 7,011 Venezuelans have been documented and regularized in Brazil and 1,435 were assisted in Colombia. Through the Migrant Support Center in Guyana and Panama, 10 and 67 Venezuelans respectively were provided with information on the regularization process and support service.

Specifically, in Colombia, one of IOM’s areas of intervention is the support to Colombian returnees from Venezuela. In this sense, 543 returnees have been provided with information and 163 were directly assisted in the process of getting identity cards.

Social services and access pathways
Information on social services and support pathways have been provided to 4,381 Venezuelans in the reporting period: 234 in Costa Rica, 31 in the Dominican Republic, Guyana (8) and 4,108 in Mexico.

Anti-trafficking, human smuggling and other forms of exploitation
An anti-trafficking, human smuggling and exploitation prevention campaign has been carried out in Mexico through social media, reaching more than 33,000 people on pages dedicated to the Venezuelan public.

“It is not time to cry or regret, it is time to fight and find a better future”
Gustavo Castro del Mar is 69 years old. He is a chef, welder and artist, three talents that gave him the strength to start a new life. He left Venezuela towards Ecuador. Before that, he crossed Colombia where he painted this message on a mural of the Transitory Assistance Center for Migrants (CATM by its acronym in Spanish) of Villa del Rosario, in Norte de Santander: “It is not time to cry or regret, it is time to fight and find a better future.” At the CATM, he received food, shelter and medical assistance, while he waited for his Peruvian identification documents to be able to continue his trip.
As Venezuelans are settling down temporarily or permanently into host communities, IOM works towards the promotion of social cohesion, labor insertion and sustainability of the receiving governments’ long-term operational responses. To achieve this, IOM works closely with the private sector, civil society organizations, local communities, local and national government authorities.

Livelihoods and income generation

1,143 Venezuelans have been assisted in the reporting period through different activities:

- In Costa Rica 36 entrepreneurs were provided with training on: i. the impact of the new fiscal reform in Costa Rica, application of VAT and other tax implications that affect Venezuelan entrepreneurs and; ii. management of social networks for the purpose of promoting businesses in collaboration with the partner Fundación Mujer;
- In the Dominican Republic 8 entrepreneurs were supported with trainings on how to develop new products and how to build services around their products;
- IOM in Brazil keeps supporting relocations from Roraima to different parts of Brazil. In the reporting period 1,099 migrants have been relocated in collaboration with the Brazilian Air Forces and UNHCR.

Social cohesion

In the reporting period 1,360 people were reached in the Dominican Republic with social cohesion messages thanks to the online radio sender: https://globalizateradio.com/; the space is promoting migrants’ rights and their insertion in the Dominican Republic as development factor. In addition, 8 Venezuelan migrants participated in the radio show fostering cohesion between social groups; the emission reaches around 1,000 listeners. Social cohesion activities were also carried out in Mexico, reaching 2 Venezuelan nationals and 38 host community members.

Ant-xenophobia and Anti-discrimination campaign

IOM is collaborating with other UN agencies, especially UNHCR, to develop and carry out anti-xenophobia and anti-discrimination campaigns and events. In the reporting period around 4,000 persons were exposed to the campaign Abrazos que Unen in Ecuador.

“We came to this country to work, to be part of a positive change”

Christian Sánchez moved from Venezuela to Argentina three years ago. He has a degree in Nursing and with colleagues from his homeland he founded the Association of Venezuelan Nurses, which seeks to achieve social, scientific and professional integration of these workers in their new country.

“We are very grateful to Argentina, that has opened its doors to us in an incredible way,” Christian told IOM during a meeting on rights and procedures organized for Venezuelans in the City of Buenos Aires. “We have many expectations of this country. As a representative of the Venezuelan community, I want to let everybody know that we came to this country to work, to be part of positive change,” said.
IOM teams at the national and regional levels adapt to the needs of governments to respond to the emergency. In this regard, IOM keeps providing technical assistance in the development of tools, sharing of best practices and coordination mechanisms; it supports government officials and key government partners in strengthening capacities through training and providing technical and financial resources to government institutions to improve their processing capacities.

Processing capacities
Thanks to IOM’s support to government agencies in the strengthening processing capacities a total of 17,506 Venezuelans were regularized in 3 countries: 688 people were assisted in their regularization process in Costa Rica and 295 in Uruguay. In Trinidad & Tobago over 200 government officials were trained prior to the registration period - including Immigration Division, Ministry of National Security and Trinidad and Tobago Police Service; thanks to IOM support through those training 16,523 Venezuelans have been regularized.

Trainings
Trainings were carried out covering 610 government officials and partners in Brazil on topics such as integration of migrants with special emphasis on young people and relationships with the private sector.

“Turning to IOM was very positive for me”
Amy Pacheco is a computer engineer. She left Venezuela with her husband towards Costa Rica in November 2018. They were looking for new opportunities. With effort, Amy managed to help her brothers to move to other countries. “Turning to IOM was very positive for me. They gave me advice on the regularization procedures I had to follow to obtain a permanent residency. The service was completely free of charge and the officers were very kind to me,” Amy told us.
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the official launch of the response in April 2018, donor contributions are supporting the consolidation of delivery systems and the scaling up of operations, both in terms of beneficiary targets and geographical scope. To date, IOM has completed 13 projects in response to the Venezuelan flows and is implementing another 11 initiatives in 16 countries of South and Central America and the Caribbean.

NUMBERS OF VENEZUELANS BENEFITTED BY SERVICE AREA
JUNE 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS OF INTERVENTION</th>
<th>Nº OF BENEFICIARIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DIRECT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data, monitoring and assessments</td>
<td>89,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter / Temporary accommodation</td>
<td>27,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFI</td>
<td>29,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectivity</td>
<td>64,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and nutrition</td>
<td>26,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency health care</td>
<td>17,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>35,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROTECTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on services pathways</td>
<td>85,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance on documentation, regularization</td>
<td>116,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special needs groups</td>
<td>3,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIP, smuggling and exploitation</td>
<td>110,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIO ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods/income generation</td>
<td>5,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills recognition</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social cohesion</td>
<td>7,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing capacity</td>
<td>25,792</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As part of the fulfilment of entrusted tasks by the UN Secretary-General to IOM and UNHCR to co-lead and coordinate the response at the regional and national level, IOM has continued to support the harmonization of the response through its work with UNHCR, as well as intergovernmental and coordination mechanisms providing technical assistance and articulation as requested by governments:

• At regional level, an internal meeting between UNHCR and IOM’s Interagency Coordination Platform members has been carried out in Panama on June 5th to June 7th to discuss the planning for the RMRP 2020. Key points have been agreed upon and work will start within national platforms to consolidate information for reporting 2019 and for the 2020 planning exercise.

• On Tuesday, June 18, the Government of Argentina held a meeting with representatives of donor countries and international cooperation organizations, in the framework of the preparations for the IV International Technical Meeting on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens - Chapter of Buenos Aires, a held on July 4 and 5, 2019. In the meeting, representatives of the National Directorate of Migration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, presented five profiles of projects that seek to strengthen the response to mobility from Venezuela at the regional level:
  › Evaluation of a Regional Mobility Card and Database;
  › Reception and Assistance Centers for Migrants and Refugees;
  › Network of Information and Orientation Centers for Refugees and Migrants;
  › Platform for orientation of migrations and human capital development;
  › Strengthening of the National Systems for the Determination of Refugee Status.

• Within the same process, IOM supported a technical meeting that took place in Buenos Aires on June 28th as preparation of the IV International Technical Meeting on Human Mobility Quito Process -Buenos Aires Chapter (July 4th and 5th 2019).
IOM is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, contributing to its activities with earmarked and softly earmarked funds at regional and national level. Currently IOM is implementing 11 projects in the Region through the following contributions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
<th>National Projects / Regional Projects</th>
<th>Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39,200,004</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,000,000</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>US Agency for International Development - USAID</td>
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<tr>
<td>4,699,999</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4,565,236</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>1,423,225</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
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<td>890,169</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Government of Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>539,275</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>347,254</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Government of Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>256,489</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Brazilian Cooperation Agency/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**66,921,650 TOTAL**