



**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

IOM supports the Extraordinary Migratory Regularization Process in Chile
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- Governments in the Region are continuously expanding their response mechanisms. Chile launched an Extraordinary Migratory Regularization Process and Brazil is setting up a Federal Committee for Emergency Assistance.
- A first Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report on Venezuelan nationals in Brazil was produced by IOM based on 3,516 interviews conducted in two cities of the border state of Roraima between January and March 2018.
- The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reported that 82 Venezuelan nationals were repatriated. According to UNHCR, the group included registered asylum-seekers and individuals who had declared an intention to apply for refugee status.

Situation Overview

During the reporting period, due to increased data collection and processing capacity, IOM was able to share information on some of the characteristics of Venezuelan migrants. The results of the first [DTM round](#) in Brazil show that 77% of surveyed Venezuelan migrants come from the states of Anzoátegui, Monagas and Bolívar and 52% seek another country as their final destination, particularly Argentina. Also, 67% of respondents indicated they left their country for economic reasons and 22% pointed at lack of access to food and health services. 57% reported to be unemployed and 82% of those employed worked in the informal sector.

Overall, governments in the Region remain actively engaged in monitoring and responding to the large-scale migration situation. On 23 April, the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security of Chile officially began the Extraordinary Migratory Regularization Process that will run until 22 July 2018. The mechanism, supported by IOM, is open to all migrants in irregular migration situation, including Venezuelan nationals. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility in Ecuador is adjusting its processing capacity for residence permit applications in response to increasing numbers of requests. The Congress of Brazil held public hearing sessions to discuss Provisional Measure No. 820/2018 on emergency action regarding large scale migration flows, which includes the creation of the Federal Committee for Emergency Assistance.

IOM is monitoring any possible effects on Venezuelan migration flows of new pull factors or changes in migration related policy measures, such as the decision of the government of Panama to suspend, initially for 90 days starting 25 April, passenger and cargo flights of Venezuelan airlines operating in the country.

DEVELOPMENTS IN REGIONAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) IMPLEMENTATION



DATA PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION

Main developments in this area relate to DTM findings, the IOM system composed of a variety of tools and processes designed and developed to track and monitor population displacement.

IOM Argentina worked with the Government to jointly identify border crossing areas for DTM implementation as well as to define the scope of a complementary qualitative study that will be conducted in collaboration with UNHCR.

In Brazil, IOM worked with the Ministry of Human Rights on validation of its first DTM report based on interviews conducted in January and March in Boa Vista (2,420) and Pacaraima (1,096).

IOM Dominican Republic is planning to roll out a first DTM round. As part of the preparatory process, IOM held meetings with Venezuelan migrants' associations to coordinate and facilitate data collection.



IOM team conducting DTM interviews in Quito © IOM Ecuador 2018

IOM Ecuador started a DTM round in Quito and is finalizing preparations for additional rounds in the border areas with Colombia and Peru. Meanwhile, in Peru, IOM is implementing a third DTM round in Metropolitan Lima and preparing a new round in Tumbes and Tacna, critical border areas with Ecuador and Chile.

IOM expert teams in DTM and Migrant Assistance are providing technical guidance to implementing missions and lead the adaptation and consolidation of a survey template that will enhance comparability and traceability of results across countries and rounds.

Finally, in Colombia, IOM continues providing support in the roll out of the *Registro Administrativo de Migrantes Venezolanos* (RAMV) in five municipalities, one department and Bogota.



DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND VULNERABILITY

IOM Costa Rica and government partners set up a Migrant Resource Center (MRC) and a hotline targeting Venezuelan nationals in vulnerable conditions.

The Center follows Standard Operating Procedures to guarantee alignment with national and international standards for the provision of assistance and information on regularization pathways.



IOM and UNHCR are planning to open joint offices in Tumbes (Peru) and Tulcan (Ecuador) to enhance coordination and improve comprehensive assistance to Venezuelan nationals.



SOCIO ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

IOM Costa Rica has engaged with government agencies to establish mechanisms to increase access to microcredit schemes for Venezuelan nationals in vulnerable conditions.

In Peru, IOM is engaged with other UN agencies in the design of a public information campaign against xenophobia and in support of Venezuelan migrants' integration.

IOM and the Government of Uruguay have approached private sector representatives to analyze perceptions on economic impact of Venezuelan migrants in the country, as a first step towards jointly designing sustainable socio-economic integration alternatives.



COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Coordination initiatives with UNHCR at global, regional and national level are materializing in joint presentations, assessments and studies (Argentina, Colombia, Guyana and Panama), integration of selected UNHCR data needs in IOM's DTM operations (Argentina, Peru) and operational field-level complementarity (Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru).

Both organizations are currently preparing proposals for the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), following the ERC decision to allocate up to USD 6.2 million to support life-saving activities (10% of UNHCR's one-year appeal and 5% of IOM's two-year plan). IOM country offices will liaise with the relevant RCs/HCs to secure proper harmonization at national level of UN support to governments and Venezuelan migrants, in line with IOM's RAP and UNHCR's appeal.