

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA IN:



THE WORLD
5.6 M

LATIN AMERICA &
CARIBBEAN
4.6 M



PEOPLE REACHED IN 2021 WITH
SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE**

1.8 M



FUNDING SITUATION*

26.3% FUNDED: 378.5 M
REQUIREMENTS: 1.44 BN

Highlights

During the reporting period, [COVID-19 cases rose sharply in several countries in Central and South America](#), despite significant progress in vaccination campaigns, which led governments to reinstate or implement new movement restrictions. In this context, R4V partners worked to ensure inclusion of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in national vaccination plans, including, in some cases, by directly providing the vaccine and/or by engaging in information campaigns and efforts to counter misinformation associated with the vaccine.

Growing militarization of borders in the region, continued closures of formal border crossings, and deportations from Chile and countries in the Caribbean prompted the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to release a [statement](#) calling on states in the Americas to adopt migration and border management policies that incorporate a human rights approach, while the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants released a [statement](#) calling for an end to collective expulsions. UNHCR and IOM also released a [statement](#) on the need for safe pathways for refugees and migrants after a shipwreck in the Caribbean.

Meanwhile, the Government of [Colombia began the implementation of its Temporary Protection Status \(TPS\)](#) for Venezuelans in the country. In May, the country saw a 42% decrease in inflows from Venezuela, coinciding with reports of social unrest in the country. In parallel, outflows from Venezuela towards Brazil notably increased (by 72% from April to May). In June, Colombia opened its borders with Venezuela, yet total numbers of arrivals from Venezuela remained stable. Meanwhile, harsh winter conditions in the Southern Cone posed increasing health risks for those in transit.

On 17 June, the Government of Canada hosted the [International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants](#). The Conference was preceded by nine [thematic side events](#), organized by the Regional Sectors of the R4V Platform, to raise awareness on the needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela and the corresponding areas of the R4V response. Some 36 donors (including seven new ones) made pledges, [noting the central role of the R4V Platform](#) in coordinating the response across the 17 RMRP countries, as well as the role of the Quito Process as a forum for affected governments to share good practices in responding to the evolving situation.

Main Developments

In **Brazil**, on 20 April, the Ministry of Citizenship hosted a virtual event to celebrate the milestone of 50,000 Venezuelans voluntarily internally relocated from Roraima and Amazonas to over 600 Brazilian cities, providing them with opportunities for socio-economic integration.

On 3 May, severe flooding in Manaus damaged Operation Welcome's Reception, Documentation and Relocation Centre (PITrig) and the Manaus Transit Shelter (ATM). In coordination with the Army and local authorities, R4V partners promptly evacuated refugees and migrants to Operation Welcome's operational base and provided them with food and NFIs; referred the injured to local health providers; and conducted a damage and loss assessment in the Support Spaces.

By end-June, Brazil approved [Ordinance 655](#), introducing changes to the exceptional and temporary entry restrictions for Venezuelans; and [took over the pro tempore Presidency](#) of the Quito Process from Peru.

By end-April, Chile reached more than 1 million confirmed cases of the Coronavirus and reported more than 7,000 new daily cases. Despite Chile becoming the country with the second highest number of vaccines administered per capita in the region, R4V partners reported that some refugees and migrants from Venezuela remained wary of approaching health authorities for the vaccination out of fear of being expelled from the country.

* As of 26 July 2021. Source: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1021/summary>

For more information, please contact: Philippe Sacher: sacher@unhcr.org | Tim Howe: thowe@iom.int

As part of the so-called Colchane Plan, through which the Government plans to reinforce controls at unofficial border crossing points in the north and expel 1,800 foreigners who entered the country irregularly, Chile deported at least 111 Venezuelans on two flights in the months of April and June. In response to this, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and the UN Committee on Migrant Workers issued a [statement](#) expressing concern about expulsions from Chile.

The national media (*El Mercurio*, 31 May, print edition) reported that over 197,000 individuals (57% of them Venezuelans) [applied to regularize their status in Chile](#) since the new migration regulation process began on 10 April.

In **Colombia**, on 15 April the *Centro de Atención Sanitaria* (CAS) in Norte de Santander was inaugurated, providing refugees and migrants with health, protection and temporary shelter services. On 28 April, Migration Colombia released [Resolution 0971](#) commencing the implementation the country's Temporary Protection Statute (ETPV), which will provide regular status for Venezuelans in Colombia.

In June, the Colombian [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) declared the extended recognition (for ten years) of expired Venezuelan passports.

Protests and a national strike in Colombia began at the end of April and continued through June, resulting in blockages of transportation routes used by refugees and migrants to enter and transit within the country, causing groups to accumulate at some transit points.

In **Ecuador**, Guillermo Lasso assumed the Presidency on 24 May, and in the days following, announced a new [regularization initiative](#) for Venezuelans. Meanwhile, a rise of COVID-19 cases and a 100% hospital occupancy rate led the authorities to implement new restrictive measures to curb the virus' spread. Despite having access to the vaccine, many refugees and migrants from Venezuela faced challenges due to the requirement of having to have Ecuadorian identification documents. The new government implemented a [new vaccination plan](#), extending access to the vaccine to all refugees and migrants regardless of their status.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) released a [statement](#) expressing concern about the **increasing military presence along Peru's borders** and the need for access to protection and respect for the human rights of Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic. The IACHR warned that the militarization of borders to contain population flows would be ineffective and violate human rights, while exposing those on the move to additional protection risks, including human trafficking and smuggling.

Meanwhile, the pre-registration process for renewed stay permits (*Carné de Permiso Temporal de Permanencia*, or CPP) in Peru closed on 7 April 2021. According to the Superintendence of Migration (SNM) some 368,000 foreigners, mainly from Venezuela (98%), submitted their pre-registrations, including over 130,000 asylum-seekers.

On 6 June, the second round of the presidential election was held, without a clear winner being declared during the month. Public protests and political polarization increased. The impact of the election on the situation of refugees and migrants had yet to be seen.

Increased COVID-19 cases in the **Caribbean sub-region** led to tightened movement and activity restrictions in several Caribbean countries. [Reports of boats capsizing](#) while traveling irregularly en route from Venezuela to Trinidad highlighted the protection risks of maritime crossings, with at least 3 Venezuelans losing their lives and 15 missing. Deportations of Venezuelans continued from multiple countries in the Caribbean: [178 Venezuelans](#) were deported from Trinidad and Tobago during the reporting period, while flights from Curaçao and Aruba in May and June deported at least 126 Venezuelans. Meanwhile, Guyana announced that it had received enough vaccines to inoculate the entire population, including refugees and migrants in the country.

Central America and Mexico: In Panama, 34 new asylum applications of Venezuelans were received in April, according to the National Office for Attention to Refugees (ONPAR), resulting in a total of 2,551 pending asylum cases of Venezuelans. In parallel, the National Migration Service of Panama reported a continuing increase of Venezuelans entering via the Darien Gap. Since January, 285 refugees and migrants from

** These are examples of activities carried out by National/Sub-Regional Platforms and/or Sectors. For further details, please see R4V.info. Numbers concerning people reached are available on the [RMRP 2021 Dashboard](#)

Venezuela entered Panama through the border with Colombia, out of whom 187 entered in June alone.

In early April, Costa Rica's land border with Panama reopened. According to the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners of Costa Rica, a total of 4,055 foreigners entered the country within the first week of reopening. Advances were made in the country's vaccination process for refugees and migrants. The National Commission of Vaccination and Epidemiology of Costa Rica [established](#) that any foreigner with health insurance, including all those in the process of regularizing their status, could be vaccinated.

Amidst moderate arrivals of refugees and migrants from Venezuela at the southern border, R4V partners and media in Mexico [reported](#) increasing numbers of

Venezuelans attempting to reach the United States via the Rio Bravo.

In the Southern Cone, the pandemic reached a critical phase, particularly in Uruguay which in April reported the [highest number of new cases per capita in the world](#). In Bolivia, [departments bordering Brazil witnessed an accelerated growth of COVID-19 cases](#) compared to the rest of the country. Bolivia entered a third wave in April and closed the border with Brazil. Desaguadero continued to be the main entry point into Bolivia for refugees and migrants, and Pisiga the main exit point, with significant irregular movements. In June, partners reported 146 refugees and migrants having entered Argentina via La Quiaca (Jujuy), at the border with Bolivia.

Response highlights**

In Brazil, in April R4V integration partners strengthened their partnerships with a wide range of private companies, including in Santa Catarina State, where 77 Venezuelans secured jobs in the food and furniture industries. In the same state, R4V partners offered sewing courses to 30 Venezuelans, as part of a cooperation agreement with Renner, one of the country's largest clothing retailers. With the Education Sector's technical support, school enrolment rates reached 100% of all children and adolescents living in two municipal shelters hosting indigenous populations in Tarumã Açu, Amazonas. In May, Protection Sector partners conducted a capacity-building program for 50 civil servants from various cities in Pará to strengthen their knowledge of and response to refugees' and migrants' needs.

In Chile, R4V partners assisted refugees and migrants from Venezuela with food and non-food items (including hygiene kits) in northern cities such as Arica, Antofagasta, and Tarapacá (where R4V partners had set up humanitarian distribution centers). In the city of Antofagasta, R4V partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, provided mental health assistance and dedicated support to HIV-positive Venezuelans. Humanitarian Transportation actors supported 5 families with family unification in the main cities. R4V partners jointly launched a national anti-xenophobia

social media campaign on 10 June, which includes videos showcasing stories of refugees' and migrants' successful integration in Chile, many of them making important contributions to their communities. The Sectors that [reached the most people](#) during the reporting period were Protection (13,314), Food Security (6,456), and WASH (4,637).

In Colombia, in April and May, in addition to assisting Venezuelans' regularization and access to the ETPV, the R4V response focused on assistance to Venezuelans and Colombian returnees who fled hostilities in the Apure region of Venezuela. In Colombia's Arauquita area, partners of the R4V National Platform (GIFMM), in coordination with Border Management, consolidated points of attention and assisted with shelter, health, food, nutrition, protection and NFI needs, including through the rapid deployment of cash-and voucher assistance (CVA). The greatest number of refugees and migrants were [reached](#) with food and CVA assistance.

In Ecuador, given the state of emergency as of April, partners of the R4V National Platform (GTRM), including those that recommenced providing assistance in-person, had to return to remote assistance or suspend activities (e.g. in Support Spaces). That notwithstanding, essential services, such as food distribution and shelter (in temporary spaces such as hostels and hotels) continued. Likewise, there was a

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strengthening of labor integration activities in line with the growth of the population with a permanent vocation. In June, the GTRM Inter-Agency Border Monitoring and Population Profiling System noted a significant increase in Venezuelan arrivals, with over 59,000 entries (compared to 29,600 - 35,000 monthly entries the first five months of 2021), likely linked to the reopening of travel routes within Colombia that had been closed during their National Strike.

In Peru, in May, GTRM partners responded to the increased military presence at both the northern (Tumbes) and southern (Tacna and Puno) borders by strengthening advocacy and community-based protection efforts. R4V partners met with representatives of local police stations and facilitated access to protection for highly vulnerable cases, including through assistance to obtain the *Carné de Extranjería*. GTRM partners assisted over 31,000 refugees and migrants with general protection orientations and legal counselling in April, May and June. Meanwhile, in May, after R4V partners identified attempts by persons impersonating humanitarian actors to defraud refugees and migrants in exchange for services under the country's CVA programs, the GTRM released an inter-agency statement to alert and provide refugees and migrants with tips on how to avoid them. On 11 June, the Peruvian government published the [National Action Plan for Enterprises and Human Rights](#) which, pursuant to R4V partners' advocacy, contained provisions that facilitated the acceptance of refugees and migrants' work permits in job application platforms.

In the Caribbean sub-region, the Protection, Food Security and Health sectors reached the greatest number of people within the reporting period. In April, requests for food assistance doubled in T&T as a result of major job losses. Cash and voucher assistance continued to be the main modality of providing assistance in the sub-region, including for shelter, cash-for-work, and support for returns to school. Entrepreneurship training and start-up funding was provided in Aruba and T&T. Partners provided healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health, counselling for GBV survivors, as well as COVID-19 vaccines through a partner clinic in Guyana. Refugee and migrant survivors of GBV requiring emergency

assistance received CVA in Guyana. In addition, the [Canadian High Commission, in collaboration with R4V partners, funded a project to provide GBV prevention and response services to refugee and migrant women and girls](#) in Guyana. R4V partners issued a [statement](#) in response. Meanwhile, R4V partners launched a [mapping of actors engaged in the prevention and protection of victims of trafficking in the Dominican Republic](#).

In Central America and Mexico, refugees and migrants received CVA including COVID-19 grants and assistance to access education. In Panama, 185 people participated in entrepreneurship initiatives and personalized mentoring in April, such as the *Programa Migrando al Emprendimiento* and the General Entrepreneurship School. The health response in Panama and Costa Rica focused on psychosocial support and mental health, whereas support to obtain medicines and prescriptions for glasses were provided in Mexico. Refugees and migrants in both countries also received assistance for rental payments to ensure continued access to shelter. The Protection, Health and Food Security sectors [reached the greatest number of people by end of June in the subregion](#).

In the Southern Cone, R4V partners assisted refugees and migrants at the Argentine border with Bolivia, the Tripartite Border Zone, and in key urban areas with NFIs, food kits, shelter, humanitarian transport, and mental health support activities. In Argentina, multipurpose cash transfers were provided to vulnerable persons, and trainings were given to restaurant and food service entrepreneurs on fundamental topics of hygiene and safety, as well as seed capital for microenterprises.