

# COLOMBIA

## VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

June 2021



Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

As of 31 January 2021, more than **1.7 million** Venezuelans were living in Colombia. Since the start of the mandatory isolation measures, introduced by the National Government in March 2020 as part of the COVID-19 response, (temporary) returns to Venezuela have increased. Although the borders were officially closed, since September 2020, a significant number of Venezuelans have re-entered Colombia while others are entering the country for the first time. It is expected that now, since **borders have officially open as of 2 June 2021**, around 200,000 Venezuelans will enter Colombia in the first 3 to 5 months, according to the Colombian Migration Authorities.<sup>a</sup> That said, the fact that Venezuela has yet to open its side of the border may mean that actual numbers of regular arrivals will be less.

### Venezuelans in Colombia<sup>b</sup>

**1,742,927**

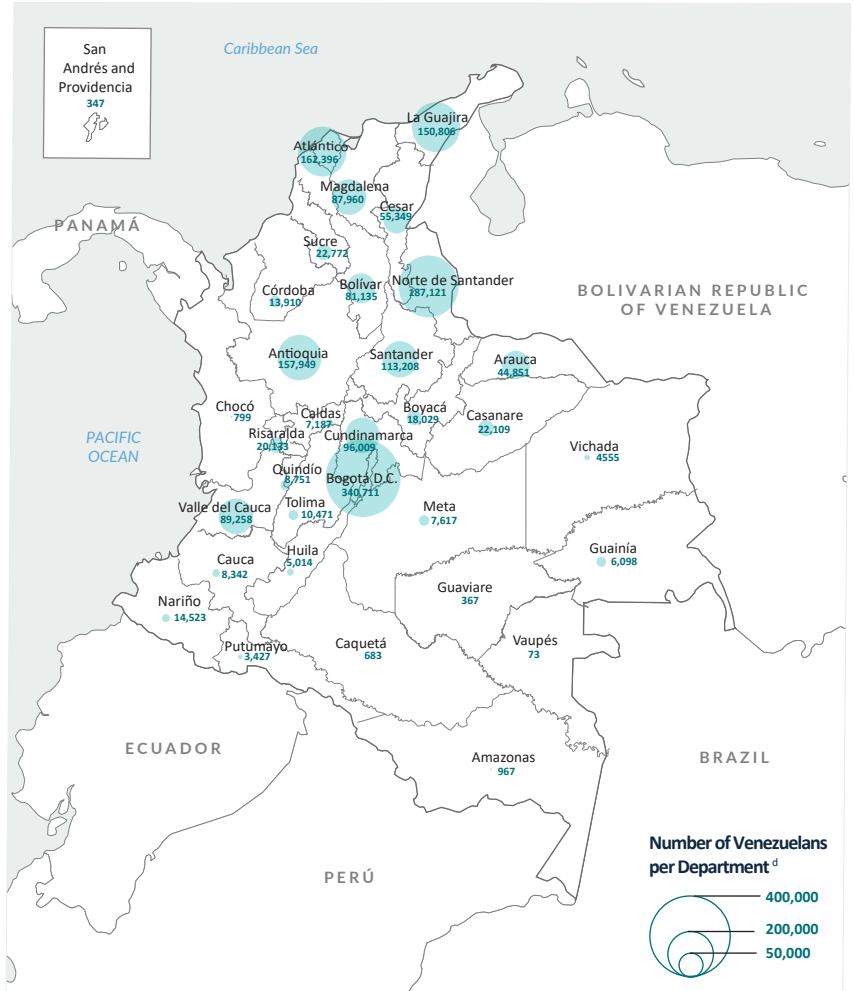
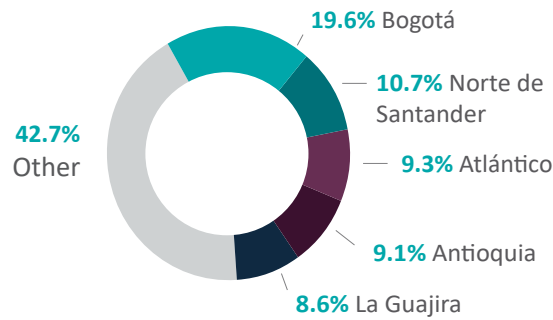
**56.4%** with irregular status

**983,343** ↑

**43.6%** with regular status

**759,584** ↓

Geographical distribution of the total Venezuelan population residing in Colombia, regardless of their migratory status:



### With the intention to stay<sup>c</sup>

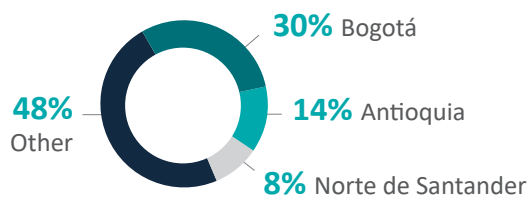
**730,025** Venezuelans with Special Stay Permits PEP, by its acronym in Spanish).<sup>b</sup>

**51%** Men with PEP

**49%** Women with PEP

**22%** are children

### Departments with the largest concentration of Venezuelans with Special Stay Permits:



### Returns to Venezuela<sup>c</sup>

**133,397**

exits into Venezuela through official crossing points from March 2020 to May 2021.



**12,388** exits through La Guajira.

**98,409** exits through Norte de Santander.

**23,200** exits through the Orinoquía region (Arauca & Vichada).

### Temporary Protection Permit (TPP) \*

**741,420**

Refugees and migrants who have completed the virtual pre-registration in the Single Registry for Venezuelan Migrants (RUMV in Spanish) since the beginning of Phase I, which began on 5 May, 2021.

(\*)The Government of Colombia announced in February 2021 that it would grant Temporary Protection Status (TPS) to Venezuelans. The TPS is a measure that seeks to positively impact the lives of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Through registration for the TPS and issuance of Temporary Protection Permits (TPPs), Venezuelans will have the opportunity regulate their status in Colombia and access basic services. The TPS will eventually replace all Special Stay Permits (PEPs).

Creation date: 1 June 2021 Feedback: Laura Bermúdez ([bermudla@unhcr.org](mailto:bermudla@unhcr.org))  
Sources: <sup>a</sup> La Opinión newspaper as of 30 September 2020. Nearly 80% of Venezuelans who had returned to their country are expected to re-enter Colombia in the coming months, accompanied by one more person (<https://bit.ly/3hvlwYf>). <sup>b/c</sup>Colombia Migration Infographic as of 31 January 2021, <sup>d</sup>Migration Report of Venezuelans in Colombia as of 3 May 2021.