

CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO

KEY FIGURES

END OF YEAR 2021

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PEOPLE IN NEED

127 K



PEOPLE TARGETED

44.0 K



PEOPLE REACHED

20.4 K



TOTAL REQUIREMENTS



FUNDED

\$2.56 M

• (11%)

UNMET

\$21.5 M

• (89%)



6

REPORTING PARTNERS



8

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



667

REPORTED ACTIVITIES

NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS

3

DONORS

4

FUNDED ORGS.

SITUATION

The situation in Venezuela, coupled with heightened vulnerabilities in host countries throughout the region brought on by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, led refugees and migrants to continue to embark on dangerous journeys in search of safety and better opportunities. 2021 saw an increase in onward movements of refugees and migrants from countries where they had previously resided but faced challenges to meet their basic needs, secure livelihoods and integrate locally. The economic downturn, health crisis, and volatile socio-political environments – including increasing levels of xenophobia and discrimination – resulted in more refugees and migrants from Venezuela searching for solutions and protection in countries such as the United States, and both transiting through – and remaining in – Panama, Costa Rica, and Mexico *en route*. A total of [2,819 Venezuelans](#) crossed through the Darien Gap land border between Colombia and Panama in 2021, a 3,700 per cent increase from 2017, when only 76 Venezuelans used this route. Most continued their transit northward through Central America and Mexico, despite the protection risks faced along the way, including gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking and smuggling, kidnapping and extortion.

In Panama, [Executive Decree 235](#) was introduced in September 2021, which established new fees for status regularization processes, a challenge for many to afford the corresponding procedures due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, [Executive Decree No. 1316 of 10 December 2019](#) (allowing the use of expired Venezuelan passports for migratory and other administrative procedures) expired in December 2021, leaving Venezuelans with inadequate documentation and limited access to rights and procedures. In Costa Rica, the Complementary Protection Category for Venezuelans was modified through resolution No. [DJUR-0133-07-2021-JM](#) to include Venezuelans who have “physically and continuously remained in the national territory” from 1 January 2010 to 18 March 2020, and also extended the reception period until February 2022. A total of 1,031 Venezuelans were granted two-year residency permits and work rights in 2021. In Mexico, the authorities registered an increase in new asylum claims

from Venezuelans (6,220 compared to 3,342 in 2020) while there was also an increase in Venezuelans entering irregularly through the border with Guatemala and arriving regularly by plane, and traveling north to the border with the United States (which reached [a total of 106,755 “encounters” with Venezuelans](#) attempting to enter the United States via the land border with Mexico in 2021).

RESPONSE

In 2021, more than 20,400 refugees and migrants from Venezuela and members of host communities received assistance from R4V partners (6,839 in Panama; 4,559 in Costa Rica; and 9,020 in Mexico) representing 46% of the targeted population. Assistance provided to the greatest numbers of people included protection (reaching over 12,000 refugees and migrants), multipurpose cash assistance (over 3,000 people) and health (over 2,700 people). Partners also provided support in education, food security, integration, GBV and child protection sub-sectors, shelter and WASH.

R4V education partners focused on fostering academic permanence in formal and informal education programmes. In Panama, school supplies and educational kits were provided, including connectivity solutions for remote education. In Costa Rica, partners provided information on academic degree validation, technical training for income generation, identification of occupational profiles, and the development of soft skills, empowerment and finances. In Mexico, assistance was delivered to enhance access to education and school enrolment.

Food security partners delivered food assistance both in-kind and through prepaid cards, prioritizing the most vulnerable households with specific needs.

To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic context, health partners prioritized access to primary and specialized health services, and psychosocial support. In Panama, Venezuelans received psychosocial support and general healthcare assistance. In Costa Rica, under a special agreement with the national social security entity, over 1,000 Venezuelans were

enrolled in health insurance, and others received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). In Mexico, partners facilitated access to medicines, tests and assistive devices through cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and through direct assistance.

Seeking to enhance livelihoods and access to income-generating alternatives during the pandemic, integration partners promoted self-reliance, skill-building and self-employment. Refugees and migrants in all three countries received seed capital and business supplies, vocational training and skills certifications for job placement. In Mexico, second editions of the [Manual for Migrant Entrepreneurship](#) were distributed.

R4V protection partners implemented actions to strengthen protection and access to rights for Venezuelans, including through legal assistance and counselling, information sessions, CVA to cover documentation costs, and support for regularization procedures. In Panama, seeking to strengthen the capacity of the authorities on trafficking in persons (TiP), officials were trained on protection and the prevention of trafficking and labour exploitation.

Shelter solutions in all three countries were provided in the form of emergency shelter, CVA and temporary accommodations, especially targeting Venezuelans in situations of homelessness or at risk of homelessness, including due to evictions. Households in vulnerable conditions received CVA to meet basic needs – including food, housing, and utilities – and to facilitate access to rights and services, including refugee status determination (RSD) procedures.

Under the WASH Sector, partners distributed hygiene kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) to meet ongoing COVID-19 biosafety guidelines, and provided diapers to those in need.





























LESSONS LEARNED

The trend of increasing numbers of refugees and migrants from Venezuela entering and transiting through Central America and Mexico has imposed significant challenges in the sub-region. An increase in direct activities aimed at supporting populations in-transit and improved coordination among partners made it possible to mitigate some risks, but the needs of many vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela remained largely unmet.

R4V partners highlighted the importance of promoting the identification and engagement of community entities in the development and implementation of activities. Increased participation of community organizations in 2022 should improve the impact of activities, foster social cohesion and enhance the empowerment of refugees and migrants to promote their protection.

After two years of the pandemic, the support network for new arrivals shows signs of fatigue in Costa Rica. This situation, coupled with the increase in arrivals of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, has also created the need for improved shelter options. R4V partners will seek to strengthen local shelters' capacities to ensure the availability of beds and enhance accommodation options in 2022.

POPULATION TARGETED AND REACHED, FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND FUNDING*

Sector	People reached	% Reached	Reached Targeted	People targeted	Requirements (USD)	Funded* (USD)	Funded Requirements	PiN
 Education	1.88 K	50%		3.78 K	\$840 K	-		21.1 K
 Food Security	2.50 K	44%		5.66 K	\$1.00 M	\$103 K		70.9 K
 Health	2.75 K	28%		9.93 K	\$2.45 M	\$202 K		52.5 K
 Humanitarian Transportation	-	-		50	\$10.0 K	-		3.19 K
 Integration	2.26 K	19%		12.1 K	\$6.49 M	\$395 K		109 K
 Nutrition	-	-		-	-	\$49.4 K		28.7 K
 Protection	12.1 K	49%		24.6 K	\$5.00 M	\$85.9 K		122 K
 Child Protection	85	8%		1.08 K	\$219 K	\$60.7 K		12.3 K
 Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	12.1 K	30%		2.72 K	\$919 K	-		34.0 K
 Human Trafficking & Smuggling	22	63%		35	\$428 K	-		25.5 K
 Shelter	509	11%		4.67 K	\$885 K	\$65.7 K		81.8 K
 WASH	1.25 K	139%		900	\$96.0 K	\$60.2 K		1.79 K
 Multipurpose Cash Assistance	3.19 K	23%		13.7 K	\$4.57 M	\$936 K		91.0 K

* Funding information as reported to the [Financial Tracking Service \(FTS\)](#). This may not accurately represent all funds actually applied to each sector or country of the RMRP response, as unmarked funds from donors may not be reported to FTS with a sector or country designation at the time of receipt by RMRP partners.