



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS  
IN THE REGION  
265,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*  
5,056



FUNDING SITUATION\*\*  
% REQUIREMENT: 24.1M



## Situation

- In March, R4V partners reported increased irregular entries of Venezuelan refugees and migrants on the southern border of **Costa Rica**<sup>1</sup>, and increased crossings into Nicaragua, where refugees and migrants are charged an 'entry fee' of USD 150 for persons who enter Nicaragua irregularly<sup>2</sup>. Many Venezuelans cannot afford to pay this fee. Meanwhile, the effects of the new visa requirements introduced on 21 February for Venezuelans were notable, and the migration authorities released further instructions regarding the visa request process, which pose an obstacle for Venezuelans' regular entry to the country. Additionally, the Ministry of Housing and Settlement (MIVAH) indicated that refugees are eligible to access its social programs and services. This decision follows the revision of refugee legal terminology by migration authorities, who confirmed that refugees are considered permanent residents and are therefore entitled to the same benefits. This resulted from the revision of the Government of Costa Rica's ([MINARE](#)) commitments in 2021, and it is expected to positively impact the approximately [1,700 recognized Venezuelan refugees](#) in Costa Rica and potentially benefit the [over 5,000 Venezuelan asylum-seekers](#) awaiting resolution. Separately, Venezuelan refugees and migrants newly arriving to Costa Rica indicated to R4V partners that they urgently require food, clothing, and access to health services that require medical insurance. Partners also reported [increased demands](#) for emergency shelter for Venezuelans who typically require a few nights lodging before they continue their trip up north. Separately, Costa Rica and the United States announced a new [collaboration on migration and protection](#) with a focus on [strengthening immigration and border policing](#) in the Central American country, during a visit by the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security.
- Venezuelans' arrival by land into the south of **Mexico** continued to increase notably in April compared with previous months, with Venezuelans becoming the number one nationality requesting asylum in Chiapas by the end of April. Additionally, the National Migration Institute (INM) [reported](#) intercepting a total of 5,688 foreigners traveling irregularly (including 395 Venezuelan nationals) through various operations between 21 March and 14 April. Many were found in safe houses, trailers, cattle trailers or hidden in overcrowded bus compartments or truck cabins, without ventilation, water and food. Separately, media reports highlighted [ongoing protests](#) by refugees and migrants, including Venezuelan nationals, at the pedestrian crossing into Mexico from the Guatemalan border, to demand that the INM grant them humanitarian visas to be able to transit through Mexico. On 14 March, mainly Central American, Cuban and Venezuelan refugees and migrants [arrived at the international bridge](#) between Mexico and Guatemala to pressure the authorities to grant them permits.

<sup>1</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/costa-rica-panam%C3%A1-monitoreo-de-flujos-de-personas-en-situaci%C3%B3n-de-movilidad-por-las-0>  
<https://displacement.iom.int/reports/costa-rica-panama-monitoreo-de-flujos-de-personas-en-situacion-de-movilidad-por-las-1>  
<https://displacement.iom.int/reports/costa-rica-panama-monitoreo-de-flujos-de-personas-en-situacion-de-movilidad-por-las-2>  
<https://migration.iom.int/reports/costa-rica-panama-monitoreo-de-flujos-de-personas-en-situacion-de-movilidad-por-las-3?close=true>

<sup>2</sup> According to information received by R4V partners, irregular entrants in transit south-north (including Venezuelan refugees and migrants) who enter Nicaragua through Tablillas (in Nicaragua Don Pancho) are issued a ticket and their data is collected. Checks are made along the route to verify payment of the 150 USD fee.



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- Further, Mexican authorities agreed to [accept more Cuban and Nicaraguan asylum-seekers and migrants expelled by the United States](#) under the Title 42 public health order, even as [more refugees and migrants arrive at the US-Mexican border with growing backlogs of persons waiting to cross](#) into the US. According to figures obtained through the National Transparency Portal from the INM, as of March 1st, there were 67,047 Venezuelans in Mexico with valid immigration documents, most in Mexico City, Nuevo León, and Quintana Roo.
- According to information from the National Migration Service ([SNM](#)) and R4V partners, the number of Venezuelans entering **Panama** through the Darien (land border with Colombia) continued to increase, with Venezuelans being the top nationality (35% of all entries in March, or 1,704 out of 4,969)<sup>3</sup>. Separately, the Government of Panama hosted a Ministerial Meeting on Migration on 19 and 20 April, with more than 31 delegates [representing countries in the Americas and Caribbean](#), and culminated with Panama and the United States signing a bilateral agreement with commitments to improve the management of irregular migration and protection issues in the region. The Panamanian Attorney General, meanwhile, highlighted [joint work undertaken with neighbouring countries which allowed increased prosecutions of crimes](#) such as smuggling of migrants, human trafficking, transnational organized crime, and criminal finances.

## Response



### EDUCATION

Venezuelans participated in short courses in **Costa Rica** and partners supported with enrolment, follow-up and graduation to improve their occupational profiles. Separately, 16 Venezuelans in Costa Rica received assistance on the process to have their degrees recognized. Partners in **Mexico** also provided CVA for education initiatives.



### FOOD SECURITY

R4V partners in **Panama** assisted 10 families, including 31 refugees and migrants, with food vouchers worth USD100 reach, while in **Costa Rica**, 428 Venezuelans received food assistance, mainly through food cards. Additionally, two Venezuelan entrepreneurs were financially supported to distribute meals to Venezuelans in vulnerable situations. Further, partners in **Mexico** addressed food security through cash and voucher assistance (CVA), for disproportionately affected refugees and migrants.



### HEALTH

In **Panama**, 123 Venezuelans and Host community members received primary health care consultations with health professionals in collaboration with R4V partners, and 66 health personnel were trained in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) techniques. In **Costa Rica**, 123 Venezuelans received psychosocial assistance through partners. Of these, 29 Venezuelans attended group workshops on emotional wellbeing. 1,545 Venezuelans received medical insurance under a special agreement with the Costa Rican social security entity. Further, 23 Venezuelans received psychiatric care and 3 more private healthcare assistance.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.migracion.gob.pa/images/img2022/PDF/IRREGULARES\\_POR\\_DARIEN\\_MAYO\\_2022.pdf](https://www.migracion.gob.pa/images/img2022/PDF/IRREGULARES_POR_DARIEN_MAYO_2022.pdf)



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### INTEGRATION

**Panama** partners reached 261 refugees and migrants and host community members with workshops and online courses to promote refugees and migrants' socioeconomic inclusion while other Venezuelans received training in soft skills development, legal empowerment and financial education, business management. Five Venezuelans received seed capital for the implementation of their business plans. Additionally, R4V partners in **Mexico** provided 45 Venezuelan women with a 16-hour entrepreneurship course to help them launch or strengthen their businesses. Moreover, a series of public Entrepreneurship Master Classes in partnership with a local Mexican university was developed with the objective of promoting access to information and tools to refugees and migrants who want to consolidate or start a business. A total of 189 people registered for the initiative, 45% of whom were Venezuelans.



### MPC

79 Venezuelans in **Panama** received multipurpose cash (MPC) assistance. Separately, 12 refugees and migrants received MPC to support rent payment. In **Costa Rica**, 119 Venezuelans in vulnerable conditions received CVA for basic needs. In **Mexico** 199 Venezuelans received CVA during the months of March and April to meet their basic needs such as: food, household and NFIs including household products, as well as to use as a contribution towards housing and utility bills. An additional 51 Venezuelans received sectoral CVA addressing protection related risks identified, including contingency top-up for COVID-19 during the same period.



### PROTECTION

521 refugees, migrants and host community members received information, orientation, and legal assistance services for migratory processes and access the refugee status determination (RSD) procedure, safe spaces and other essential rights **in Panama**. Additionally, 153 children in-transit received specialized protection services at the borders and safe spaces in Panama. In **Costa Rica**, 226 Venezuelans received information and legal assistance, 53 people were assessed for protection needs and 2 Venezuelans were included in the intervention model of the *Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social* (Joint Institute for Social Assistance). Further, 29 Venezuelans received support with the payment of migratory procedures for their regularization. Separately, to reduce the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and enhance protection for women, girls, adolescents, and other groups at risk of GBV, 15 community workshops were held in community safe spaces, addressing topics of self-care, menstrual hygiene, violence prevention, leadership skills, and pathways for comprehensive care for survivors, at migratory reception centres in San Vicente (Darién) and Gualaca (Chiriquí) and in Panama Centro, San Miguelito and Panama Oeste. A total of 128 persons participated, 81 of whom were Venezuelan (in destination and in



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transit). Furthermore, in **Costa Rica**, one Venezuelan assessed for access to justice or support networks and two more participated in GBV sensitization workshops in Costa Rica. R4V partners have also been working with the **Mexican** Refugee Commission (COMAR) to strengthen its capacity in Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures and continuously monitor migrant detention centers in Mexico to provide information and ensure that the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are not infringed.



PEOPLE REACHED\*

Education	Food Security	Health	Hum. Transp.	Integration	Nutrition	Protection	Shelter	WASH	MPC	GBV
194	985	406	0	273	0	1652	129	428	403	3