

VENEZUELAN REFUGEES & MIGRANTS IN THE REGION



5.75 M

APPROX. VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



6.81 M

TOTAL APPROX. VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE WORLD



UPDATE ON THE FIGURES ON REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA – UP TO AUGUST 2022

Refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the world: **6.81M**

Refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Latin America and the Caribbean: **5.75M**

Context

- The first five months of 2022 saw a significant increase in the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants engaging in onward movements; among them, in-transit movements by land routes northwards through Central America towards the USA. Due to closed borders and/or newly introduced visa requirements, refugees and migrants largely traveled along irregular routes where they are exposed to dangers of grave physical harm, exploitation, and abuse. Currently, all the countries in the Central America and Mexico sub-region have visa requirements for Venezuelans in place.
- As a result, in 2022, a considerable increase in **irregular flows** has been observed, which requires that governments and R4V actors adapt their responses to the humanitarian protection and integration needs, including through additional tools to reflect refugees and migrants from Venezuela in irregular situations in their population figure updates.
- As a result of the above developments, refugees and migrants from Venezuela have become even more vulnerable, *inter alia*, due to the loss of their already limited social and economical support to meeting basic needs, particularly in vital areas such as health, shelter, food, protection, and sanitary attention. The grave impact of the current situation has led some to consider returning to their country of origin, including via initiatives supported by the Government of Venezuela.
- In the context of the development of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA) and the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for 2023-2024, the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform (R4V) has actively coordinated with governments across the region. Besides ensuring that their priorities and planning projections are taken into consideration, these consultations included the elaboration of planning figures of refugees and migrants from Venezuela currently in their countries.

What is the reason for the recent increase in number of refugees/migrants from Venezuela?

Colombia: *The increase in the number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Colombia (+635,198) is based on official figures updated by Colombian migration authorities on 19 July 2022, thus increasing the refugees and migrants from Venezuela total in Colombia to 2,477,588. The observed changes since the last population update (reported on 31 August 2021) reflect a gradual increase in the population figures between September 2021 and February 2022.¹ The update of these figures is based on three categories, which are: “Regulars” (333,806²), those benefiting from the Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelans (ETPV; 1,848,744), and*

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/MigracionCol/videos/710599146703490>

² Corresponds to people who lost their regular condition plus an estimation from the Government of Colombia

“Irregulars” (295,038³). The registration at a national level and a socioeconomic characterization survey of Venezuelans in Colombia, as part of the ETPV process, has identified this significant number of Venezuelans residing in Colombia.

Panama: *The increase in the number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in-destination in Panama (+22,947) is the result of the update of the methodology used by Panamanian migration authorities for the calculation of “Foreigners with a Valid Legal Status” (previously characterized as: “Legalized”) and the inclusion of “Recognized Refugees and Asylum-Seekers” in 2021, increasing the total to 144,545. The last population update, provided in December 2020, included 121,598 individuals. It is noted that by July 2021 the migratory authority initially reported 2,862 legalized individuals, and as of August, regularization renewals were included. As a result, the report for that month included 11,127 individuals, which reflects an increase in population figures of +8,265 individuals in one month. It is important to highlight that Venezuelans, characterized by the authorities as migrants and considered being in a “Current Legal Situation” (“Situación Jurídica Vigente”) lead this category. On the other hand, for 2021, the Refugee Authority reported that individual asylum requests reached 2,453 while 61 individuals were recognized as refugees.*

How are these figures calculated?

The population figures reported by the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) reflect the official totals provided by the respective host governments in the region. Depending on the country, this is made up of reviewing and adding figures available from the different registration, asylum and other forms of residence systems that capture the number of Venezuelan refugees, migrants, and asylum-seekers in the country. This does not necessarily imply individual identification, nor registration of each individual, and may include a degree of estimation, as per each government’s statistical data processing methodologies. In some countries, authorities use the migratory balance, the difference between regular entries and exists, to reach a total number of refugees and migrants in their country. As numerous government sources do not account for Venezuelans without a regular status, the total number of Venezuelans is likely to be higher than the official communicated figures.

What happens to Venezuelans who enter countries irregularly?

It is important to point out that population figures communicated officially refer, in great parts, to regular movements (with some notable exceptions, as previously mentioned). It is assumed that, if all refugees and migrants from Venezuela in irregular situations were considered, the total number for the region could be superior to 6.81M.

³ <https://www.facebook.com/MigracionCol/videos/710599146703490>

Summary overview:

Region	Country	July	August	Difference
Caribbean	Aruba	17,000	17,000	-
Caribbean	Curacao	14,159	17,000	2,841
Caribbean	Guyana	19,388	19,643	255
Caribbean	Dominican Republic	115,283	115,283	-
Caribbean	Trinidad & Tobago	28,478	28,478	-
Central America	Costa Rica	29,906	30,107	201
Central America	Mexico	82,976	82,976	-
Central America	Panama	121,598	144,545	22,947
South America	Argentina	170,316	171,050	734
South America	Bolivia	13,144	13,776	632
South America	Brazil	351,958	358,412	6,454
South America	Chile	448,138	448,138	-
South America	Colombia	1,842,390	2,477,588	635,198
South America	Ecuador	513,903	502,214	(11,689)
South America	Paraguay	5,895	5,895	-
South America	Peru	1,286,464	1,286,464	-
South America	Uruguay	21,413	22,009	596
Africa	Africa	391	391	-
Asia	Asia	503	503	-
Europe	Europe	563,481	563,481	-
North America	North America	487,610	487,610	-
Oceania	Oceania	7,560	7,560	-
America Central	Central America	816	816	-
Rest of America	Rest of America	4,270	4,270	-
Total World	Total World	6,147,040	6,805,209	658,169
Total LAC	Total LAC	5,087,495	5,745,664	658,169