



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS  
IN THE SUB-REGION  
265,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*  
14,147



REQUIREMENT: 24.1M USD

## Situation

### Panama

- In July, nationwide social [protests](#) in Panama led to the closure of main roads, including the Pan-American international highway, which in turn affected mobilization in the entire country. In the province of Darien, the supply of food, water, gasoline, electricity, the replenishment of money in ATMs, the circulation of goods and the movement of cargo and passenger vehicles, among other situations, were interrupted. Space at the San Vicente's Migration Reception Centre (ERM for its acronym in Spanish) for new arrivals was exhausted. For this reason, the Lajas Blanca ERM was set up to host stranded newcomers, which also experienced overcrowding and difficulties in providing and meeting the relevant assistance service needs. Several families decided to continue their journey northward by walking along the blocked roads, children were particularly at risk of health concerns (exposed to sunstroke, dehydration, foot laceration, among other).
- On 16 July, with more than 4,600 persons stranded in Panama, the authorities responsible for managing the flow negotiated with the leaders of the various blockade points to establish a humanitarian corridor and prevent any buses from being attacked. The negotiation allowed almost 5,000 refugees and migrants, most of them from Venezuela, to move safely to the border with Costa Rica by bus. Many refugees and migrants arrived sick, hungry and separated from their family members.
- R4V partners reported that the population on the move is increasingly ill, dehydrated, and without clothes or shoes with many lacking the economic resources they require to continue their journey onwards towards Costa Rica. The main route used by refugees and migrants entering Panama irregularly is through the indigenous community of Canaán Membrillo. Due to affordability and safety reasons, a rising number of people are also using the Bajo Chiquito route. People in-transit also continue to arrive in the Zapallal community, and at other informal reception points, without government registration mechanisms.
- On 24 August, [Executive Decree Nº 77](#) was published, which establishes that Venezuelans need to apply for a stamped visa at the Panamanian Consular Office in the country they are at. While applications for family reunification that were already being processed by 24 August 2022 will not be affected by the decree, the latter implies a higher economic burden on Venezuelan families.

### Costa Rica

- A sustained increase in the number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in-transit along Ciudad Quesada in the northern border of Costa Rica has been reported by local authorities. This increase is due to the opening of two irregular crossings in the San Carlos canton, from where refugees and migrants aim to cross into Nicaragua. Fines of up to USD 150 per person charged by Nicaraguan authorities for entries/exits through non-official border posts are prohibitive for many, and the presence of smuggling networks is on the rise.
- [Media sources](#) report the increase of Venezuelans in San Jose' Greater Metropolitan Area, either working informally and/or sleeping in tents to raise more funds and rest before continuing en route.



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## Mexico

- In Mexico, arrivals of Venezuelans through the country's southern border continued to increase throughout the months of July (5,135) and August (19,244)<sup>1</sup>. Tapachula, Chiapas, continues to experience high levels of no-shows for registration at the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) illustrating that the vast majority of the Venezuelan population transit through Chiapas and do not initiate or continue with their asylum processes.
- The [lawsuits against the imposition of the visa for Venezuelan nationals](#) continue to be analysed by the courts with no decision reached to date. R4V partners have not identified asylum requests filed at airports by Venezuelan nationals in the past two months. Throughout July and August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE) through the General Directorate of Consular Services (DGSC) reported a total of 436 Mexican visas of Venezuelan citizens applied through the National Platform of Transparency in July.
- According to the National Migration Institute (INM), a total of 10,054 entries of Venezuelan nationals were registered in July, and in August there was an increase of more than 150 per cent, to a total of 25,170 entries.<sup>2</sup>
- In July and August, asylum-seekers and migrants gathered in big convoys of [2,000](#) to [4,500](#) people across Tapachula (Chiapas), most of them Venezuelans. The objective was to request from INM offices, the Cross Border Integral Attention Centre in Huixtla, Chiapas, a permit that would allow them to freely move within the country so they could reach the Mexico-U.S. border. By the end of July, local news reported [hundreds of Venezuelans held demonstrations](#) in Tapachula. Unrest was reportedly due to extended delays in the issuance of migratory documents, as well as the lack of attention to the needs of migrant elderly people,
- children, and women with various health conditions. These movements have mostly been [intercepted by the INM and the National Guard](#).
- In the state of Veracruz, [local media informed about the rescue of 20 Venezuelans that were traveling in a modified truck](#). In August, local media reported multiple incidents that resulted in the death of Venezuelans, such as the death of [a minor](#) and [a woman](#), who were involved in a car accident, no reference to their family relations were reported. In a second incident a [couple](#) and [a man](#) traveling alone, lost their lives when trying to cross the northern border "Río Bravo" swimming.

## Response



### PROTECTION

- In Panama, 197 (99 women) refugees and migrants from Venezuela participated in information sessions (individual and/or group) about refugee status determination (RSD) and access to rights. A total of 350 persons

<sup>1</sup> Source: Instituto Nacional de Migración/Dirección General de Control y Verificación Migratoria, "Entradas de personas de nacionalidad Venezolana en puntos de internación aérea, terrestre y puertos", Public Record Request N. 330020322000888 of 05/09/2022, Plataforma Nacional de Transparencia: <https://www.plataformadetransparencia.org.mx/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



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people received information on the asylum system in Panama. Partners carried out three capacity-building activities, with 130 participants, to strengthen the protection environment. Some 869 Venezuelan; 618 children (324 girls and 294 boys) and 251 adults (209 women and 42 men) received specialized protection services at the border. Seventy officials appointed to border areas were trained on international protection and statelessness.

- In Panama, 47 Venezuelan children received timely specialized protection services at the border. Some 218 persons receive information regarding mitigation, protection and GBV response, while 8 GBV cases were referred to access to justice and support networks.
- In Costa Rica, 359 Venezuelans received legal assistance in refugee and migration matters to determine their regular status in the country. In addition, the protection needs of 76 Venezuelans were assessed.
- In Costa Rica, on 12-15 July, an R4V partner implemented a training programme on international protection and other topics pertaining to refugee and asylum-seeker rights for personnel from the Costa Rican Police forces, including the Public Force, Professional Migration Police, Border Police, Tourist Police, and the ADI in the area.
- In Mexico, 26 Venezuelan nationals received sectoral CVA addressing protection related risks identified.



## HEALTH

- In Panama, 10,000 persons received primary health care and first aid in Darien at the safe space set up by R4V partners.
- In Mexico, partners started the payment of prescribed medicines, medical devices, and orthopaedic equipment, medical consultations, or exams through the help of a local diaspora implementing partner.
- In Costa Rica, 1,063 refugees and migrants from Venezuela benefited from interventions by the R4V Health Sector. Of these, 910 received health insurance under the Costa Rican Social Security agreement with a partner agency. In addition, 60 Venezuelans received individual psychosocial assistance and 85 received group psychosocial assistance. Twenty-two received psychiatric health services and 1 Venezuelan received private health care.



## INTEGRATION AND EDUCATION

- In Panama, 170 refugees and migrants from Venezuela were supported through self-employment/entrepreneurship initiatives and social cohesion activities.
- In Panama, 55 Venezuelan children (26 girls and 29 boys) received support for the purchase of school supplies.
- In Costa Rica, 42 Venezuelans received training in soft skills, legal empowerment and financial education. Seventy-eight received enrolment and follow-up and graduation in short courses and other technical courses to improve their occupational profile. Twenty-eight Venezuelans were supported with livelihood diagnostics to identify their occupational profile and received information on the process of homologation and validation of degrees. Sixteen received training in business management and the opportunity to compete for seed capital.

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\* Cumulative figures from 01/01/2022 to 31/08/2022 | \*\*Source: FTS Website



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#### SHELTER, WASH AND FOOD SECURITY

- In Panama, 33 refugees and migrants from Venezuela received financial assistance for temporary housing solutions.
- In Costa Rica, 36 Venezuelans received support with temporary emergency shelter, while 4 Venezuelans received support with the payment of rent.
- In Costa Rica, 286 Venezuelans received food assistance in the form of in-kind food kits or cards for the purchase of food in authorized supermarkets. These supplies were supplemented by family hygiene kits, including diapers.



#### MULTIPURPOSE CASH (MPC)

- In Costa Rica, 91 Venezuelans received cash assistance as emergency support and for being in a situation of vulnerability. While 65 Venezuelans were referred to the Mixed Institute for Social Assistance (IMAS) for assessment.
- In Mexico, 93 asylum-seekers from Venezuela received multipurpose cash grants during the months of July and August to meet their basic needs such as: food, household and household products, as well as to use as a contribution towards housing and utility bills.



PEOPLE REACHED\*



Education

449



Food Security

1,658



Health

942



Integration

913



Shelter

254



WASH

895



Protection

8,523



GBV

10



Child Protection

2,615



MPC

1,175