



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN THE REGION
264.9K



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE*
52.8K



FUNDING SITUATION**
21.8% FUNDED: \$10.46M
REQUIREMENT: 48.08M

Situation

Panama

- By the end of June, a total of 195,921 people crossed the Darien jungle region irregularly in 2023, including 100,555 Venezuelans (66% of total crossings). Despite the end of Title 42 in mid-May, 68,414 people crossed the Darien jungle in May and June, representing more than double the amount during the same period in 2022 (when 29,527 total crossings were registered).
- An R4V partner's protection monitoring exercise in June revealed that around half of interviewed Venezuelans were coming directly from Venezuela (53%), followed by the countries in which they reported having resided in the last year, mainly: Colombia (27%), Peru (10%), and Ecuador (6%).
- Many refugees and migrants lack the means to continue their journey north. Security incidents against refugees and migrants in transit continue to be reported, such as violence, rape, and human trafficking.
- During the reporting period, Panama's National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) granted refugee status recognition to seven Venezuelans.

Costa Rica

- On 6 June, the President of Costa Rica mentioned in an interview that Costa Rica hosts over one million migrants, a figure equivalent to 20% of the country's population. However, the Minister of Security reported that updated data on the foreign population in Costa Rica is 613,000. The President claimed that the cost to provide services and attention to these migrants is over USD 300 million per year. In the same interview, the President insisted on the need to "put order" in the asylum system to avoid its exploitation. Several congressmen have rejected this assessment as it further stigmatizes refugees and migrants in the country and increases xenophobic discourses.
- An R4V partner's [report](#) launched on 14 June places Costa Rica in third place of countries with the highest number of new individual asylum applications received in 2022.
- Costa Rica confirmed that it will implement the U.S. Safe Mobility Office (SMO) initiative, aiming to enable eligible individuals from Nicaragua and Venezuela who entered Costa Rica before 12 June 2023 to travel to the U.S. safely and lawfully.¹
- During the reporting period, some individuals who were sleeping in tents in Paso Canoas (southern border with Panama) were moved to the Government's Temporary Care Centre for Migrants (CATEM Sur) which currently has a maximum capacity of about 260 people per day.
- During a visit to CATEM, the Ministry of Health confirmed that gastroenteritis, respiratory problems, and joint pain are the main health problems faced by refugees and migrants in Costa Rica, particularly children.
- The Migration Authority [reports](#) a 50% increase in deportations so far this year in comparison to 2022. In 2023, 334 people have been deported for being in an irregular condition in Costa Rica. According to the authorities, the majority are Nicaraguan citizens (78%), followed by Colombians and Venezuelans.

¹ Starting on 12 June, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans registered with UNHCR were contacted for refugee resettlement as part of Phase I of the SMO initiative. Phase 2 is planned to begin in August, during which Nicaraguans and Venezuelans who arrived in the country before 12 June may register on the Safe Mobility platform and be redirected to either UNHCR or IOM for accelerated refugee resettlement or information on other lawful pathways to the U.S.



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- In June, the United Nations released a [study](#) on hate speech and discrimination in Costa Rica. In the last year, more than 1.4 million messages and conversations were detected on social networks in Costa Rica linked to hate speech and discrimination, compared to 937,000 messages detected in 2022, which represents an increase of 50%. If one compares the figure with that of 2021, the increase in two years was 255%.

Mexico

- On 2 May, following a meeting between the President of Mexico and the National Security Advisor of the United States, the Presidency of the Republic [released a statement](#) announcing the strengthening of the Joint Humanitarian Plan on Migration. It was highlighted that the United States will continue to accept individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela under its humanitarian parole program, while Mexico will accept the return of migrants for humanitarian reasons.
- Through the [Press Release 024/23 dated May 10, 2023](#), the Mexican National Institute of Migration (INM) announced the temporary suspension of 33 migrant detention facilities in the country, with a total capacity of 1,306 individuals. This suspension is in place while the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) concludes its supervisory visit to all detention facilities and prepares a special report about the mixed movements situation in the country and the state of the migrant detention centres. The INM clarified that [this suspension does not imply a halt in the continuation of its activities](#). In June, INM authorities announced the closure of the "Siglo XXI" detention centre.
- On 12 May, Title 42² in the U.S. came to an end. As a result, Title 8 returned into effect, under which individuals who cross the border without first seeking asylum can be expelled and prohibited from re-entering the country for a period of at least five years. On 21 March, the INM published a press release asserting that Venezuelans, Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans with a valid CBP One appointment can travel through Mexico without being detained.³ Despite the ending of Title 42, arrivals to Mexico continued in May and June (see [R4V Second Quarter Movements Report](#)) and shelters were above capacity.
- In Tapachula (southern border), an R4V partner identified approximately 3,000 migrants at the provisional INM Office who were waiting to obtain Multiple Migratory Forms (FMM) which allow them to travel freely throughout the country. Between 17 and 18 May, at least 10 buses chartered by the INM with more than 44 refugees and migrants each departed from Tapachula to Tuxtla Gutierrez in Chiapas. Once in Tuxtla Gutierrez, migrants received exit notifications, with three days to leave the country through the nearest border.
- During the reporting period, the Tláhuac municipality of Mexico City was over-occupied by 800 people, while around 1,000 people were concentrated outside in tents. The INM reported to be issuing a total of 1,000 Multiple Migratory Forms (FMM, in Spanish) per day at the shelter. In addition, a total of 9,324 refugees and migrants were recorded during the reporting period at the Mexico City North Bus Terminal, primarily from Venezuela, but also from Haiti, Ecuador, and Colombia. Most of the observed population is in an irregular situation.

² Title 42 is a public health law mandate that allowed for the expedited expulsion of undocumented migrants and asylum-seekers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

³ [Autoriza INM paso a migrantes extranjeros que cuenten con cita confirmada por CBP | Instituto Nacional de Migración | Gobierno | gob.mx \(www.gob.mx\)](#)



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- On 17 May, the [Secretary of National Defense reported the rescue of kidnapped migrants between the borders of the states of San Luis Potosí and Nuevo León](#). Seven Venezuelan individuals out of a total of 49 migrants were rescued. These individuals were granted Humanitarian Visitor Cards (TVRH in Spanish), as reported by the National Institute of Migration.
- In Tijuana (northern Mexico), on 1 June, according to R4V partner field staff, approximately 300 people were sleeping outside the San Ysidro Port of Entry, from Venezuela, Honduras, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, and Nicaragua. On 5 June, local authorities closed the Matamoros International Bridge due to a large group of migrants trying to enter the United States irregularly. It was reported that over 50 people (single adults and family groups) crossed the border, while more than 200 people were on the bridge. On 5 June, a new informal settlement was established next to the San Juan Shelter in Matamoros. Shelter staff estimated that 1,000 people were arriving to this area nightly.

Response



FOOD
SECURITY

In **Costa Rica**, 265 Venezuelans received food assistance in the form of food kits (in kind) or cards for the purchase of food in authorized supermarkets.



HEALTH

In **Mexico**, an R4V partner's medical staff have provided more than 259 medical consultations to Venezuelans. In **Costa Rica**, 737 Venezuelans benefited from health interventions. All of them received health insurance under the CCSS agreement with a partner agency. An R4V partner hired a nurse to support the Health Contact Centre in the south and provide medical assistance during the weekends to refugees and migrants (previously, there was only one doctor providing services, and only from Monday to Friday, thus people had no medical attention during the weekends). In Panama, 4,583 Venezuelans (807 girls, 860 boys, 1,334 women and 1,582 men) benefitted from primary health care consultations at the border in May.



EDUCATION

No education activities reported during this period.



SHELTER

In **Mexico**, partner shelters provided accommodation to 4,409 Venezuelans in Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Sonora, Baja California, Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Tabasco. There was an increasing proportion of Venezuelan population in shelter spaces in Mexico City. In **Costa Rica**, 135 Venezuelans received temporary emergency shelter support.

For more information, please contact: Janine Hutchison – jhutchison@iom.int | Helene Songe – songe@unhcr.org

* Cumulative figures from 01/01/2023 to 30/06/2023 | **Source: FTS Website



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WASH

In **Costa Rica**, 304 Venezuelans received family hygiene kits with basic supplies, and 23 minors received diapers.



INTEGRATION

In **Panama**, R4V partners provided 10 Venezuelans (3 girls, 2 boys, 3 women and 2 men) access to community centres and other support spaces.



MPC

In **Costa Rica**, 72 Venezuelans received cash assistance as emergency support for being in a situation of vulnerability. In **Panama**, 40 Venezuelans (2 girls, 6 boys, 14 women and 18 men) beneficiaries identified as vulnerable received more than USD 2,500 in MPC support.



PROTECTION

In **Mexico City**, R4V partners continued to monitor the "Terminal de Auto buses del Norte" to identify Venezuelan population flows, reasons for arrival, migration regularization processes, as well as the need for referral to shelters and health centres through partners or public agencies. Partners provided information to 542 refugees and migrants, including Venezuelans. In **Costa Rica**, 91 Venezuelans received legal assistance related to regularization process in the country. In **Panama**, 42 Venezuelans (9 girls, 6 boys, 15 women and 12 men) received specialized protection services. In **Panama**, an R4V partner, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Electoral Tribunal Civil Registry Unit, facilitated a training workshop for 212 government officials from the Regional National Police and National Migration Service (NMS) from the provinces of Herrera, Los Santos, Coclé, Veraguas and Panama on international protection, refugee status recognition procedures in Panama, and the importance of birth registration as a mechanism to prevent statelessness.



GBV

In **Mexico**, R4V partners continued to strengthen capacities to prevent gender-based violence. Between May and June, 96 persons (R4V partner staff, and government personnel) were trained in Mexico City and Michoacan on GBV response mechanisms.

CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO



RESPONSE FOR VENEZUELANOS
 Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela



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PEOPLE REACHED*

Education	Food Security	Health	Hum. Transp.	Integration	Nutrition	Shelter	WASH	Protection	GBV	Child Protection	Human trafficking & smuggling	MPC
493	928	15,571	69	555	0	5,364	908	18,107	11	11,523	0	679

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