



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN THE SUB-REGION
264.9 K



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE*
32.4K



FUNDING SITUATION**

21.8% FUNDED: **10.46M**
REQUIREMENT: **48.08 M**

Situation¹

Costa Rica

- In March, the Migration Authority in Costa Rica launched a [special temporary visa category](#) valid for two years (with possibility of renewal) for Cubans, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans. Applicants must have resided in the country from when they registered as asylum-seekers until the filing of their application; have a pending refugee application; or have been denied asylum as of December 2022. This category will allow them to work and travel, including to their country of origin.
- In April, there was a new [malaria outbreak](#) in Limón, adding to an already high number of malaria cases in Los Chiles, Alajuela— the area where refugees and migrants in transit arrive to cross the Nicaraguan border— putting the health of refugees and migrants in transit at risk.
- In April, the Migration Authority issued [a directive to discontinue the prohibition for asylum-seekers to travel abroad](#), as was stipulated in [decree 43.810 MGP](#). The previous policy effectively prevented asylum-seekers from leaving Costa Rica, as they were assumed to have abandoned their refugee application processes if they did.
- Significant increased arrivals of refugees and migrants from Ecuador, Haiti and Venezuela entering from the south and transiting to the north in Los Chiles overwhelmed institutional and community services and accommodations in host communities. As a result, refugees and migrants were sleeping unhoused on the streets and in public spaces.
- With the increase in transit movements of refugees and migrants, there has also been an increase in people sleeping in tents on the sidewalks around the bus stop in Paso Canoas, mainly single men who cannot access accommodations. In terms of shelter, in some neighbourhoods in the centre of Los Chiles, cuarterías or hostels without operating permits have been built to rent short-term accommodations to people who hope to cross into Nicaragua, charging around USD 5 per person.

Panama

- In March and April, respectively, there were 20,816 and 25,395 irregular entries of Venezuelans via the Darien, per official statistics published by the National Migration Service (SNM). Venezuelans were the top nationality in transit through the Darien, followed by Haitians, Ecuadorians and Chinese.
- On 1 March the SNM resumed the “Humanitarian Passageway” for the transportation of refugees and migrants from Darien to Chiriquí, allowing them to continue their transit northbound.
- On 11 April, a [Trilateral Joint Declaration](#) was signed between the Governments of the United States, Colombia and Panama, in which the countries agreed to work together on three main objectives: 1. Counter trafficking and smuggling networks by land and by sea in the Darien; 2. Establish new legal and flexible ways to diminish irregular migration; and 3. Launch a plan to reduce poverty, enhance public services, create employment opportunities and promote sustainable economic opportunities for border communities in the north of Colombia and Panama.

¹Cumulative figures as of April 30, 2023

** Figures as of 27 October according to FTS data.



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Mexico

- In March and April, 778 Venezuelans applied for asylum in Mexico. In the same timeframe, 289 Venezuelans were recognized as refugees by the Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees (COMAR).
- R4V partners observed an increase in refugees and migrants at the "Terminal de Autobuses del Norte" in Mexico City, with a significant presence of individuals from Venezuela. Interviewed refugees and migrants said that they were arriving at the terminal to get closer to a point of entry to the U.S. at the northern border or to surrender to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
- On 12 March, U.S. officials stopped hundreds of mostly Venezuelans from entering the country at the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez.
- On 15 March 2023, the Mexican Supreme Court of Justice [announced](#) its decision that foreigners subject to immigration proceedings in Mexico have the inalienable right to an adequate defense, and that the time periods established in the immigration law for their temporary detention are unconstitutional. In all immigration proceedings, the State is obliged to assign a public defender to the refugee or migrant. As a result, detention centres in Mexico must oblige with the maximum period of immigration detention of 36 hours.
- On 21 March, through [statement No. 185/23](#), the INM authorized transit through Mexican territory for foreign nationals from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, and Nicaragua who have an appointment via the CBP One application or an Advance Travel Authorization (ATA) to present themselves to enter the United States.
- On 27 March, a fire at an INM detention centre in Ciudad Juárez killed at least 40 persons detained there and injured 28 others, including individuals from Venezuela, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Security camera footage shows both a security guard and an INM official exiting the building without seeking to open the cell that held the 68 men, as the fire began to spread. Following the incident, the public prosecutor [opened a criminal procedure](#) against the Director of the INM and the INM General Director of Control and Verification. Hundreds of NGOs and advocates [issued a letter](#), and connected the deaths to the recent U.S. policy changes that have limited asylum-seekers' access to U.S. territory, such as the expansion of Title 42 and requiring the use of the CBP One app.
- In April, the initiative "[Viacrucis Migrante](#)" mobilized a group of more than 3,500 refugees and migrants, including Venezuelans, who departed in a group from Tapachula to reach Mexico City, with the objective of protesting the fire incident that took place in Ciudad Juarez. The group was intercepted by the INM and the National Guard, and in light of the changes in immigration detention practices ordered by the Supreme Court, they received Multiple Migration Forms (FMM) for humanitarian reasons and remained temporarily in Villa Comaltitlán, Chiapas. To address the emergency shelter and food needs of increased numbers of refugees and migrants in transit, the Government of Mexico City set up a [temporary shelter in the Tláhuac Mayor's Office](#) in March, which attended 7,788 persons on the move of various nationalities (171 Venezuelans) between 29 March and 22 April.



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Response



FOOD
SECURITY

In **Costa Rica**, 274 Venezuelans received food assistance in the form of food kits (in-kind) or cards for the purchase of food in authorized supermarkets.



HEALTH

In **Costa Rica**, 776 Venezuelans benefited from health interventions provided by R4V partners. Of these, 751 Venezuelans received health insurance under the Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social (CCSS) agreement with a partner agency. In addition, 25 Venezuelans received individual psychosocial support. An R4V partner also donated over 1,300 mosquito nets to the Ministry of Health in response to the malaria outbreak. In **Mexico**, R4V partners provided more than 499 medical consultations to Venezuelans. R4V partners also donated medicines and medical supplies to civil and governmental organizations in Baja California, Chiapas, Tabasco, and Tamaulipas. In **Panama**, in March and April, 7,549 refugees and migrants in transit (2,073 women; 2,799 men; 1,278 girls and 1,399 boys) received health services.



EDUCATION

In **Mexico**, 110 Venezuelan university students received monthly grants from an R4V partner's scholarships program (31 of them being DAFI refugee students).² In addition, refugee and asylum-seeker children and youth received support for enrollment in primary and secondary schools.



SHELTER

In **Costa Rica**, 42 Venezuelans received support with temporary emergency shelter. In **Mexico**, R4V partners provided shelter to 7,922 Venezuelans in Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Sonora, Baja California, Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Tabasco.



WASH

In **Costa Rica**, 230 Venezuelans received family hygiene kits with basic supplies, and 21 children and infants received diapers. In **Mexico**, through donations to civil and governmental organizations, R4V partners delivered more than 13,200 personal hydration kits (one litre of water, oral electrolytes, water purification tablets with a manual and a one-litre thermos), distributed in Chihuahua, Baja California, Mexico City and Chiapas.



INTEGRATION

In **Mexico**, 221 Venezuelans were supported with social cohesion activities, and 119 refugees and migrants received support enabling them to access or keep formal employment. Furthermore, 26 refugees and asylum-seekers received



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assistance for the recognition of academic degrees and titles. In **Panama**, 13 refugees and migrants from Venezuela (7 women, 3 men and 3 boys) were supported through social cohesion initiatives and activities in March.



MPC

In **Costa Rica**, 78 Venezuelans in vulnerable situation received cash assistance as emergency support to cover various needs. In **Panama**, 43 Venezuelans (22 women, 9 men, 6 girls and 6 boys) received 2,515 USD in MPC. In **Mexico**, 89 Venezuelans benefitted from multi-purpose cash (MPC) transfers for the first time, benefiting a total of 240 persons in their family units.



PROTECTION

In **Costa Rica**, 88 Venezuelans received legal assistance on migration and refugee matters to regularize their status in the country. In **Mexico**, 1,039 refugees and migrants received protection-related assistance and specialized services. A total of 878 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with legal advice in Mexico, while 169 persons received cash and voucher (CVA) support for their naturalization, migratory regularization or protection. 63 Venezuelan refugees started their naturalization processes with financial and legal support from R4V partners. It is expected that they will get their naturalization certificates from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the second half of the year. More than half (52%) of all requests for naturalization in Mexico are filed by Venezuelan nationals. In Mexico City, R4V partners monitored the "Terminal de Auto buses del Norte" to identify Venezuelan arrivals and provided 34 referrals for migration regularization processes, shelters and health centers through partners or public agencies.



CHILD PROTECTION

In **Mexico**, partners trained 245 professionals working with refugees and migrants on Child Protection.



GBV

In **Mexico**, 141 professionals working with refugees and migrants were trained on prevention, mitigation and responses to GBV. In **Panama**, a Route for Equality event with the participation of 13 women was organized in La Chorrera, Panama City, together with the Municipality. Personnel from the Municipality, the local Venezuelan organization Sin Fronteras, survivors of GBV and members of the general public participated in evaluating public spaces to make them gender neutral.



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

In **Panama**, as part of activities to address trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, in March a capacity-building workshop was carried out to train 41 persons (8 women and 33 men) with the National Commission against Trafficking in Persons in Bocas del Toro. In addition, 49 public servants of the National Commission against Trafficking in Persons

CENTROAMERICA Y MEXICO



RESPONSE FOR VENEZUELANOS
 Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela



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participated in meetings with the goal to provide protection to victims and possible victims of trafficking. On 24 and 26 April, an R4V partner facilitated a training on International Protection and Statelessness – including the importance of birth registration, and the procedure for recognition of statelessness – for 44 police officers in Colon, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Electoral Tribunal Civil Registry Unit.

PEOPLE REACHED*	Education	Food Security	Health	Hum. Transp.	Integration	Nutrition	Shelter	WASH	Protection	GBV	Child Protection	Human trafficking & smuggling	MPC
347	663	10,726	41	231	0	4,427	581	10,066	0	5,572	0	532	