

RMRP 2024 UPDATE

CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO PANAMA

OVERALL FIGURES



POPULATION PROJECTION (PP)

PROJECTED POPULATION IN-DESTINATION, IN-TRANSIT AND HOST COMMUNITY FOR 2024 IN PANAMA

513.6 K



PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

PEOPLE WHOSE WELLBEING AND DIGNIFIED LIVING STANDARDS ARE THREATENED OR DISRUPTED, AND WHO CANNOT RE-ESTABLISH MINIMAL AND DIGNIFIED LIVING CONDITIONS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.

430.0 K 83.7% OF PP



PEOPLE TARGETED

PROPORTION OF PIN WHOM THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN AIMS TO ASSIST. NORMALLY THIS NUMBER IS SMALLER THAN THE PIN BECAUSE HUMANITARIAN ACTORS MIGHT NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES OR CAPABILITIES TO CATER TO ALL THE PIN

106.8 K 24.8% OF PIN



VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION



64.8 K



27.8 K 43.0% OF PP



10.0 K 35.9% OF PIN



VENEZUELAN AND OTHER NATIONALITIES IN-TRANSIT

442.8 K

399.6 K 90.2% OF PP

95.7 K 23.9% OF PIN



HOST COMMUNITIES

6.0 K

2.6 K 43.0% OF PP

1.1 K 44.3% OF PIN



TOTAL REQUIREMENTS

\$21.69 M



RMRP PARTNERS*

15

ORGANIZATION TYPE

- Civil Society / National NGO 4
- Refugee and Migrant-led 1
- International NGO 6
- UN Agencies 5



* To be understood as RMRP appealing organizations that submitted activities as part of the RMRP framework.

CONTEXT

The majority of refugees and migrants in Panama are in transit northbound, with the U.S. as their intended destination. Most use irregular routes as they cannot meet visa requirements enacted by countries of transit and destination. The end of the U.S. COVID-19 pandemic-era policy (Title 42) in May 2023 resulted in a temporary decrease in irregular movements northbound, due to uncertainty around the impacts of this policy change. However, as of July 2023, northbound movements increased month-by-month and are expected to continue to be significant in 2024.

As of 31 December 2023, more than 520,000 refugees and migrants crossed the Darien jungle between Colombia and Panama, more than double the number of crossings in 2022 (248K), with over 1,300 unaccompanied and separated children crossing in 2023. Over 500 pregnant women also reportedly crossed the Darien jungle in 2023.

In September 2023, the Government of Panama announced new immigration enforcement measures, including additional requirements for arrivals to airports. Subsequently, on 10 October 2023, the governments of Panama and Costa Rica agreed to allow private bus companies to transport refugees and migrants from temporary reception stations in the Darien (Panama) to the temporary reception centre in Paso Canoas (Costa Rica). In this context of rapidly shifting policies and practices of countries of transit and destination in response to these movements, lack of access to reliable information leads to confusion among refugees and migrants and results in heightened vulnerabilities to risks such as human trafficking, exploitation, and other crimes.

With regard to Venezuelans in-destination, the results of Panama's National Population Census of 2023 showed a significant decrease from previous estimates, with a total of 58,200 Venezuelans in Panama. This decrease, resulted in a downward revision to 64,800 of the projected number of Venezuelans estimated to be in Panama by the end of 2024. To help facilitate access to regular status and socio-economic integration, in July 2023, the Government of Panama announced a new temporary protection permit and parallel work permit for those who have resided in the country for at least one year. Over 8,000 temporary permits were approved in 2023. However, a smaller number of Venezuelans were able to access this permit, likely in part due to high application fees amounting to approximately USD 1,000 per person. While this measure will facilitate greater access to regular status for some Venezuelans, those who cannot afford the fees and those who have arrived more recently will not have access to this temporary protection measure.

RESPONSE

The greatest needs identified through the RMNA 2023 for refugees and migrants in-transit in Panama include protection (including human trafficking and smuggling), shelter, and WASH, while priority needs for those in-destination include shelter, food security, and integration.

To respond to the needs of those in-transit, R4V partners in Panama will share timely and relevant information and provide referrals to increase awareness of regular pathways, risks (such as trafficking and exploitation), and protection services available, including for victims of trafficking and GBV. To address increasing shelter needs, partners have proposed activities to improve infrastructure and expand shelter capacities and overall conditions. R4V partners will also continue to provide life-saving services such as access to healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), including through hygiene kits distributed directly to populations on the move along transit routes and to those in shelters.

To enhance protection for those in-destination, R4V partners in Panama will provide information and facilitate legal assistance to refugees and migrants on accessing regular status (including the temporary protection permit and asylum), as well as on protection risks and protection services available, including for victims of trafficking and GBV. Partners will also support children's access to documentation to facilitate their enrollment in schools.

To facilitate socio-economic integration, R4V partners will assist refugees and migrants in-destination to secure dignified employment opportunities, including through vocational training and entrepreneurship and empowerment programs, with a particular focus on women. R4V partners will also help refugees and migrants revalidate their degrees, professional credentials and certificates. They will carry out anti-xenophobia and community-building initiatives to facilitate social integration.

In parallel, in the context of rising costs of living and unemployment, R4V partners will provide food vouchers and multi-purpose cash (MPC) to support refugees' and migrants' ability to meet their own basic needs, including food and shelter. R4V partners will also support access to healthcare, including mental health and psychosocial support, medical consultations, and medications.

All activities proposed by partners for 2024 in Panama can be found at www.r4v.info/en/activity_explorer.

NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

| | TOTAL | INTERNATIONAL NGOs | NATIONAL NGOs / CSOs ¹ | UN AGENCIES | OTHERS ² |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | \$21.69 M | \$5.58 M (25.7%) | \$1.44 M (6.6%) | \$14.67 M (67.6%) | \$0 (0.0%) |
| ORGANIZATIONS | 15 | 6 (40.0%) | 4 (26.7%) | 5 (33.3%) | 0 (0.0%) |

¹ Civil Society Organizations.

² Others include the Red Cross Movement, academia and faith-based organizations.

The list of organizations only includes appealing organizations under the RMRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RMRP activities.

PEOPLE IN NEED, TARGET, AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY SECTOR

 People in Need (PiN)
  PiN Percentage
  People Targeted
  Target Percentage of PiN
  Total Requirements

| SECTOR* |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Venezuelans in-destination | Venezuelans and others in-transit | Venezuelans in-destination | Venezuelans and others in-transit | Venezuelans in-destination | Venezuelans and others in-transit | Venezuelans in-destination | Venezuelans and others in-transit | Venezuelans in-destination & Venezuelans and others in-transit |
|  EDUCATION | 7.8 K | 93.0 K | 12.0% | 21.0% | 764 | 0 | 9.8% | 0.0% | \$276.3 K |
|  FOOD SECURITY | 26.6 K | 124.0 K | 41.0% | 28.0% | 2.0 K | 400 | 7.5% | 0.3% | \$320.0 K |
|  HEALTH | 12.3 K | 169.3 K | 19.0% | 48.0% | 4.0 K | 28.3 K | 32.5% | 16.7% | \$1.85 M |
|  HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION | 12.3 K | 286.2 K | 19.0% | 74.0% | 10.0 K | 2.8 K | 81.2% | 1.0% | \$525.0 K |
|  INTEGRATION | 26.6 K | 12.5 K | 41.0% | 4.0% | 3.7 K | 0 | 14.0% | 0.0% | \$3.20 M |
|  NUTRITION | 20.7 K | 88.6 K | 32.0% | 2.0% | 1.3 K | 3.9 K | 6.0% | 4.5% | \$300.0 K |
|  PROTECTION*** | 19.4 K | 314.4 K | 30.0% | 71.0% | 7.5 K | 30.5 K | 38.6% | 9.7% | \$2.83 M |
|  CHILD PROTECTION | 5.2 K | 93.0 K | 8.0% | 21.0% | 491 | 17.1 K | 9.5% | 18.4% | \$2.89 M |
|  GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) | 22.7 K | 203.7 K | 35.0% | 46.0% | 2.3 K | 21.8 K | 10.1% | 10.7% | \$1.89 M |
|  HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING | 3.2 K | 283.4 K | 5.0% | 64.0% | 750 | 750 | 23.1% | 0.3% | \$205.0 K |
|  SHELTER | 27.9 K | 314.4 K | 43.0% | 71.0% | 1.2 K | 50 | 4.1% | 0.0% | \$1.46 M |
|  WASH | 3.2 K | 399.6 K | 5.0% | 100.0% | 3.1 K | 91.0 K | 96.2% | 22.8% | \$2.19 M |
|  MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE | - | - | - | - | 5.2 K | 3.0 K | - | - | \$1.40 M |
|  COMMON SERVICES**** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | \$2.36 M |

* While not being Sectors, data for Multipurpose Cash and for Common Services is included to inform on the overall targets and distribution of financial requirements in the RMRP 2024 update.

** The PiN calculations for some sectors (namely, Nutrition and Education, as well as Child Protection and GBV sub-sectors) are based on specific age and gender groups, resulting in a low PiN percentage as a proportion of the total population.

*** This includes Support Spaces.

**** This includes AAP-CwC, Communication, Coordination, Information Management, PSEA, and Reporting.

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