



## Situation

### Sub-region

- During the reporting period, R4V platforms in Costa Rica and Panama conducted interviews with Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination (with the intention to remain in these countries) to understand their needs as part of the R4V's Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) exercise. The findings will be published in the Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA) to be launched on 5 September.
- Following the presidential elections in Venezuela on 28 July, and the allegations of irregularities and fraud raised by the opposition, several Latin American countries suspended diplomatic and consular relations with Venezuela, including Panama and Costa Rica, with Mexico calling for the publication of polling station results with a view to facilitating a peaceful resolution of the situation. This was followed by the suspension of direct flights between Venezuela and Panama. For more information, see [Special Situation Report: Impact of the elections in Venezuela on refugees and migrants | R4V](#)

### Panama

- Although migration authorities had anticipated an increase in the number of people transiting through Panama in 2024, [official data](#) indicates a decrease by 12% from January to July 2024 compared to the same period last year. The main countries of origin include Venezuela (66%), Ecuador (6%), Colombia (6%), and Haiti (5%). According to figures from the National Migration Service, a total of 111,574 people entered Panama via Darien Province between April and July 2024, compared to 164,368 during the same period in 2023, representing a 33% reduction in the second quarter of the year.
- On 5 May, [general elections](#) were held in Panama, resulting in José Raúl Mulino winning the presidency with 34% of the votes. During his campaign, he mentioned that to solve the migration crisis through Darien, he would close the borders. He later clarified that "border closure" was a philosophical concept and that there would be processes of return and deportation for those entering irregularly, emphasizing respect for human rights. In June, prior to the new government taking office, the National Migration Service began fencing [off](#) several routes used by refugees and migrants in the Darien jungle with barbed wire.
- With the election of the new government, new authorities were appointed, and transition processes began in different governmental institutions in June. The inauguration of President Mulino was held on 1 July.
- In July, Panama and the United States of America signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) for the repatriation to their countries of origin of people who enter Panamanian territory irregularly via the Darien.

### Costa Rica

- Costa Rica's [General Directorate for Migration](#) (DGME) reported a total of 117,963 migrants and refugees mobilized by public transportation from Costa Rica's Southern Migration Station (EMISUR) to Los Chiles between April and July.
- Restrictions implemented in December 2022 that limited asylum-seekers' ability to work were eased in June, facilitating the issuance of work permits to them. The new [resolution](#) contains two requirements for asylum-seekers whose claims are not adjudicated within three months to obtain work permits: Proof of enrolment in social security and an asylum-seeker ID card issued by the Refugee Unit. The new regulations entered into force on 1 July 2024.



## Mexico

- According to R4V partners' estimates, over 43,000 Venezuelans entered the country irregularly in the second quarter of the year.
- Between April and July, the [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#) (CBP) recorded 584,990 encounters at the Southwest border with Mexico, including 60,960 Venezuelans (10%).
- According to the Mexican Refugee Commission (COMAR), there were 46,920 [new asylum claims](#) in Mexico from January to July 2024. Venezuelans filed (+2,549) claims, which represent approximately five per cent of total claims. The [COMAR office in Mexico City](#) was closed between 27 May and 5 August, leading to a 50% decrease in pre-registrations in Naucalpan, State of Mexico. This has also affected 20 other states whose cases and proceedings are initiated and processed by the Mexico City office.
- On 16-17 July, [Foreign Affairs Minister, Alicia Bárcena, visited Washington, D.C.](#) to address topics such as human mobility, security, development cooperation, and investment. She [met with Marcela Escobari](#), Special Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection to explore ways to ensure safe, orderly and regular human mobility. She met Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and presented a [joint statement](#) which highlighted the importance of regional collaboration on human mobility and efforts to improve labour mobility.
- On 25 June, the Mexican government and IOM organized the Hemispheric Meeting on Regular Pathways for Labour Migration. [Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alicia Bárcena highlighted "the need to humanize migration."](#) She stated that "labour mobility must be urgently promoted, with (...) the participation of the private sector, a task that (...) puts the rights of migrants and refugees at its centre."
- On 4 June, U.S. President Biden issued a [Presidential Proclamation](#) (PP) and Interim Final Rule (IFR) which restrict access to asylum in the United States, penalizing those who enter the country irregularly and requiring asylum-seekers to manifest fear to access admissibility procedures. From 5-7 June, the U.S. carried out at least [17 deportation flights](#), including to Mexico. R4V partners [expressed deep concern](#) over these actions, highlighting the risks for refoulement and urging the U.S. government to uphold international obligations.
- Wait times for CBP One appointments increased from three to six months to [more than eight months](#), increasing the risks faced by migrants and refugees waiting in Mexico of extortion, theft, and kidnapping. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence.
- On 2 June, Mexico held its [largest-ever nation-wide elections](#) (which included presidential, legislative and regional/local positions). President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum is from the same MORENA party as the current President; however, the position of the new administration in terms of regulations for refugee and migrant populations are still unknown.
- Two large groups of migrants and refugees departed from Mexico's southern border during the reporting period. One called Caravana Viacruces del Migrante departed from Tapachula (Chiapas) on 30 April and arrived in Puebla on 12 May, with [614 individuals](#), including nationals of Venezuela, among many others. [Another group of 400 people](#), mainly Venezuelans, arrived in Chiapas on 11 May on their way to central Mexico.



## Response



### EDUCATION

In **Panama**, an R4V partner trained 27 humanitarian organizations and other stakeholders on implementing the methodological package for assessing learning needs. Additionally, 28 people working in education attended capacity-building sessions and 1,201 people were provided with information on access to education in emergency services for people on the move. Moreover, 410 migrant and refugee children were supported with educational supplies and services.

In **Costa Rica**, 1,482 refugee and migrant children, both in transit and in destination, benefitted from early childhood learning kits, primary and secondary school supply kits, and reading stimulation kits. Those attending public schools received educational stimulation packages.

In **Mexico**, R4V partners supported 167 Venezuelan refugees and migrants with access to public and private education services. Additionally, 110 refugees and migrants received cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to cover education fees, materials, and uniforms in public and private schools, mitigating the risk of dropping out due to financial constraints. Furthermore, 30 Venezuelan refugees and migrants received assistance for the recognition of primary and secondary academic studies.



### FOOD SECURITY

In **Costa Rica**, nine Venezuelan refugees and migrants received food assistance through food cards. The cards vary in value, and beneficiaries were selected through an evaluation process that assesses vulnerability, including factors such as gender-based violence protection concerns, female-headed households, elderly women, unemployment, and the number of family members.



### HEALTH

In **Panama**, 17,115 refugees and migrants in-transit received health services at migration reception centres in the Darien province.

In **Costa Rica**, 1,378 refugees and migrants, either in-transit or at their destination, benefitted from primary health care consultations, including psychosocial sessions, access to medical insurance and free access to services at a partner hospital.

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\* From 01/01/2024 to 31/07/2024 | \*\*Source: FTS Website



PEOPLE IN NEED

743.31K

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*

207.1K



FUNDING SITUATION\*\*

12.9%

FUNDING REPORTED: 7.31M  
REQUIREMENT: USD 56.45M

INTEGRATION

In **Costa Rica**, 13 refugees and migrants received support for self-employment or entrepreneurship initiatives, including start-ups or recovery efforts, and assistance with enrollment in public training institutions for continuing education and professional preparation.

In **Mexico**, R4V partners assisted 17 refugees and migrants with the certification, recognition, or validation of professional diplomas, degrees, or credentials through tertiary education or professional/vocational schools.



SHELTER

In **Costa Rica** and **Panama** 201 refugees and migrants received temporary and emergency accommodation.



WASH

In **Panama**, 100 refugees and migrants in-transit received appropriate hygiene supplies and services, including menstrual hygiene management for women and girls. Additionally, 139,692 refugees and migrants in-transit were provided with lifesaving water, sanitation, and hygiene services at Temporary Migration Reception Stations (ETRM) in Darien and host communities to ensure dignified living conditions.

In **Costa Rica**, 25 small-scale repairs of WASH facilities were carried out, and WASH facilities were established at key points along in-transit migration routes to ensure access to safe water and sanitation. A total of 4,100 refugees and migrants were provided with appropriate hygiene supplies and services, including menstrual hygiene management for women and girls.



PROTECTION

In **Panama**, 123 refugees and migrants participated in community-based protection activities. A total of 1,706 refugees and migrants received protection-related assistance and specialized services, including case management, psychosocial and mental health support, and general protection services.

In **Costa Rica**, 861 refugees and migrants received protection-related assistance and specialized services, including legal and social assistance.

In **Mexico**, 98 Venezuelan refugees and migrants received assistance to start their applications for the naturalization process, as well as tailored support for those with specific needs. Moreover, 25 Venezuelans obtained their

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naturalization certificates and became Mexican citizens. Additionally, 106 children and adolescents in-transit were supported through technical assistance provided to the National Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence, and Family, aimed at implementing and sustaining alternative care measures for unaccompanied and separated children, as well as protection services.



CHILD PROTECTION

In **Panama**, 19,401 refugee and migrant children and adolescents in-transit received psychosocial support through Child-Friendly Spaces. Additionally, 106 children and adolescents benefited from R4V partner support to the National Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence, and Family to implement and sustain alternative care measures for unaccompanied and separated children, with a focus on border provinces.

In **Mexico**, 292 people working with refugees and migrants received Child Protection training to strengthen the capacities of government counterparts, partners, and other relevant actors on issues related to the protection of refugee and asylum-seeking children.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

In **Panama**, 75 awareness sessions were conducted to prevent GBV against refugees, migrants, and affected host communities. Eight people were trained in the prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV among refugees and migrants. Additionally, 10,238 refugees, migrants, and members of affected host communities were reached through GBV prevention programs.

In **Costa Rica**, 19 refugees, migrants, and affected host community members were reached through GBV prevention programs, which included assessments, specialized care, and referrals for GBV survivors to facilitate access to justice and support networks.



MPC

In **Panama**, 88, in **Costa Rica** 136 and in **Mexico** 20 Venezuelan migrants and refugees benefitted from multipurpose cash transfers (MPC).

Please see [R4V CAM 5W Dashboard](#) for additional information on activities reported by partners.



PEOPLE REACHED\*



Education

2.2K

Food  
Security

0.2K



Health

25.2K



Integration

38



Nutrition

9.3K



Shelter

0.4K



WASH

205.3K



Protection

4.4K



GBV

15.5K

Child  
Protection

29.8K



CVA

0.5K