



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE SUB-REGION

198,600


PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE*

2,983


FUNDING SITUATION**

10.25 FUNDED: **2,5 M**
 REQUIREMENT: **24.15 M**

Situation

COSTA RICA

The Directors of the Migration Authority of Costa Rica and Panama met on 16 August with Colombian authorities and R4V partners, to discuss the migration flows coming by land through these countries, mostly of Venezuelans, Cubans and Haitians. The discussion was focussed on the need to coordinate an approach with United Nations agencies. The authorities emphasized their lack of resources to manage these flows and stated their position not to allow the passage of refugees and migrants traveling by land through the national territory, due to the logistical complications that this entails and the current pandemic situation. Through its baseline for monitoring irregular migratory flows in Costa Rica, the Migration Directorate estimates that 1,272 Venezuelans entered Costa Rica in transit between May and June. Due to the increased flows of Haitians, Cubans, and Venezuelans, the Migration Police stated that they had been carrying out “rejections” at the southern border, referring to the practice of detaining and deporting Venezuelans and other foreigners entering irregularly, largely without facilitating access to asylum procedures

Meanwhile, R4V partners in Costa Rica implemented a High Frequency Survey (HFS) in a self-administered form accessible online, disseminated through social networks and groups of Venezuelans. The HFS assesses needs in order to [add in purpose of survey]. Venezuelans could complete the HFS through an online link, available from July 28 to August 23, accessible to all regardless of immigration status. A total sample of 298 people completed the survey. After data cleaning, a total sample of 241 was recorded.

The Refugee Unit of the Migration Directorate started a campaign to speed up processes related to asylum applications, renewal of asylum-seeker documentation, and issuance of work permits. Efforts were made to maximize the number of appointments, expedite wait periods and ensure the needs of asylum-seekers are met during their refugee status determination (RSD) processes.

PANAMA

In August, the Migration Service registered 466 Venezuelan nationals in transit through Panama, who entered through the Darien Gap with Colombia. This is an increase of 89% from July (when 246 Venezuelans entered via this route). Regarding this change in population movements, prior to this year, transit of Venezuelans through Panama was not very common, and totaled ~20 people in 2020. Those cases recorded were usually people whose interest was to stay in Panama and who did not have the resources to travel to this country by other means. As of 2021 and coinciding with some changes in migration policies in the United States, an increase in the flow of Venezuelan refugees and migrants with the intention of continuing their transit to the north, especially to the United States, began to be registered. Since this population is not part of the controlled flow agreement between Panama and Costa Rica, initially the Venezuelan population that entered through the Darien was detained at the Migratory Reception Stations; however, as of June of this year, they were allowed to continue their transit. Interviews by R4V partners have identified that much of this population does not come directly from Venezuela, but rather, are secondary movements, having resided previously in Ecuador, Colombia and more recently there has been an increase in people residing previously in Peru). Most are young people, either traveling alone or with a partner (who in some cases is a national of the country in which they previously resided).

Based on an independent assessment by [add name of authors and/or hyperlink to document] shared with the Government, unemployment in Panama will remain above 20% this year and in the first months of 2022. According to the assessment, to decrease unemployment, large construction projects should be prioritized for activating direct and indirect jobs. According to national media, economists and lawyers, informal work continues to gain ground exponentially in the country. The collapse of formal employment has raised informality to 53%. This trend also appears to have affected refugees and migrants, according to R4V partners.

MEXICO

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* For the month of August 2021. Source: R4V.info/en/monitoring | **Source: FTS Website.

R4V partners identified an increase of the migratory flows of Venezuelans to Mexico, with July and August registering the highest number of asylum claims lodged with the national asylum and refugee commission (COMAR) by Venezuelans so far this year, at 621 and 612, respectively. These are the highest number of asylum claims of Venezuelans registered so far in 2020 and 2021.

The national platform worked on the planning of a Joint Needs Assessments (JNA) to better understand the protection and integration needs of the Venezuelan population in Mexico. These exercises will be carried out in September and October in Querétaro, Monterrey, Puebla, Cancun and Playa del Carmen, with a report to be drafted with the main findings of the JNA.

Response

Education. In **Costa Rica**, 61 Venezuelans received educational support from R4V partners. Actions included the distribution of educational kits, support with information on academic degree validation processes, training for the development of soft skills, empowerment and finances, technical training for income generation and identification of occupational profiles.

Food Security. In **Costa Rica**, 144 Venezuelans received food assistance in the form of food baskets or prepaid cards.

Health. In **Costa Rica**, 66 Venezuelans received psychosocial assistance. Of these, 18 Venezuelans attended group workshops on emotional wellbeing. 1,094 Venezuelans received medical insurance in August under a special agreement with the Costa Rican social security entity. 4 Venezuelans attended health promotion fairs. In **Panama**, 73 Venezuelans received psychosocial attention or other therapeutic programs, and 121 received health assistance.

Integration. In **Costa Rica**, 9 Venezuelans participated in training activities for entrepreneurship. 51 Venezuelans were assisted to homologize or validate their degrees and to identify their professional profiles. 8 Venezuelans received disbursements to procure supplies, equipment or materials needed to continue with a small business. In **Panama**, 85 Venezuelans received support for self-employment / entrepreneurship initiatives and social cohesion activities. In **Mexico**, planning for a Virtual Course for Migrant Entrepreneurship is being developed with the objective of providing the tools and knowledge necessary for the creation of entrepreneurship projects or self-employment opportunities.

NFI. In **Costa Rica**, 117 Venezuelans received basic hygiene kits, 90 received masks and 3 infants and children received diapers.

Protection. In **Costa Rica**, 3 Venezuelan GBV survivors were referred for access to justice or support networks. 245 Venezuelans received information and legal assistance and, in qualified cases, support for the payment of their migratory procedures. This included consultations on the new Temporary Special Category of Complementary Protection. 2 community groups were supported with community-based protection programs.

In **Panama**, 473 people participated in information sessions (individual and/or group) on access to rights (parental rights, alimony, resolving conflicts, etc.), sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), and other topics.

Shelter. In **Costa Rica**, R4V partners provided 21 Venezuelans with emergency shelter. In **Panama**, 147 Venezuelans were assisted through 50 temporary accommodations interventions.

CBI/CVA. In **Costa Rica**, 316 Venezuelans in vulnerable conditions received cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to meet basic needs. In **Panama**, 127 Venezuelans received multipurpose cash assistance (MPC) (market coupons or prepaid cards). In addition, 22 families (49% with children) received multipurpose cash assistance to support access to education. In **Mexico**, 203 asylum-seekers from Venezuela benefitted from cash-based interventions in July: 111 received MPC to meet their basic needs, while 92 received sectoral top-ups addressing identified protection-related risks (including contingency top-up for COVID-19).



PEOPLE REACHED*



Education

61



Food Security

144



Health

1,376



Hum. Transp.

0



Integration

153



NFI

210



Nutrition

0



Protection

0



Shelter

168



WASH

0



CBI

871

CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO



**RESPONSE FOR
VENEZUELANOS**
Coordination Platform for
Refugees and Migrants
from Venezuela



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