

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA IN:



THE WORLD
5.9 M

LATIN AMERICA &
CARIBBEAN
4.9 M



PEOPLE REACHED IN 2021 WITH
SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE**

2.7 M



FUNDING SITUATION*

32.5% FUNDED: 467.4 M
REQUIREMENTS: 144 BN

Highlights

During the reporting period, increases in irregular entries and onward movements of refugees and migrants between host countries were reported from across the region, including through the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama, at the northern border of Mexico with the United States, and along the border between Chile and Peru. As a result of ongoing COVID-19-related border closures and movement restrictions, refugees and migrants from Venezuela were compelled to use irregular channels and informal border crossings, resulting in dangerous journeys through harsh weather conditions and exposed to grave protection risks, including of human trafficking and smuggling, exploitation and abuse.

The Southern Hemisphere winter season, between June and September, implied increased hardship for refugees and migrants, particularly those in transit. The cold weather conditions and difficult terrain at the border between Bolivia and Chile led to the tragic deaths of 6 refugees and migrants between July and September, bringing the total number of fatalities there to 14 since the beginning of 2021. A majority of the deceased were identified as Venezuelans.

Incidents of xenophobia and discrimination were of growing concern. On 25 September, violent [protests against Venezuelans](#) took place in Iquique, Chile. Protesters gathered a day after local police had evicted refugees and migrants from a temporary camp on a town square and set fire to belongings of Venezuelans. A [statement](#) was issued by the Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan refugees and migrants condemning the xenophobic violence in Iquique and calling on political, social and community leaders, as well as the media, to work to prevent discrimination and xenophobia.

Main Developments

In July, the Government of [Brazil](#) announced the distribution of USD 1.2 million in federal resources to 16 municipalities in 11 states that receive refugees and migrants from Venezuela voluntarily relocated through the *interiorização* (interiorization) programme.

In August, the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) extended its [recognition](#) of Venezuelan asylum-seekers as refugees on a *prima facie* basis. The validity of all migration-related documentation of refugees and migrants was also extended until March 2022, according to Ordinance 25/2021 published by the Ministry of Justice on 10 August.

While the Government of [Chile](#) implemented its “[Colchane Plan](#)” first announced in February, there was an increase in entries of refugees and migrants through unofficial border crossings, often characterized by extreme weather conditions and protection risks, such as human trafficking and smuggling. Official figures on irregular entries vary, with sources reporting between

10,600 ([Police](#)) and **23,600** ([Investigations Police](#)) entries since the beginning of the year. As of end-September, 14 refugees and migrants had lost their lives trying to reach Chile through irregular pathways, a majority of whom were identified as Venezuelans.

On 18 July, presidential primary elections were held between the candidates of the *Chile Vamos* and *Apruebo Dignidad* coalitions. Refugees and migration were a central topic of debate in the lead-up to election day, due to the contrasting views of the candidates.

On 24 September, the police in Iquique carried out an eviction order for 158 refugees and migrants who had been sheltering at a public square in Iquique. The following day, a public demonstration took place to protest the entry of refugees and migrants to Chile. Episodes of physical aggression and burning of refugees’ and migrants’ belongings [were reported](#). (See below for R4V response).

* As of 26 July 2021. Source: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1021/summary>

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In **Colombia**, Migration Colombia initiated the [second phase of the Temporary Protection Statute](#) (TPS) on 1 September. Venezuelans having completed the first phase of the process were invited to schedule appointments for biometric registration, providing fingerprints, photographs and other data. By end-September, over 1.3 million Venezuelans had registered with the Single Registry for Venezuelan Migrants ([RUMV](#) for its Spanish acronym).

On 5 August, the Ministry of Health (MoH) issued [Resolution 1178](#), which established the Temporary Protection Permit as valid documentation to access the General System of Social Security in Health and the General Pension System. MoH also issued [Resolution 1255](#) to ensure access to the national COVID-19 vaccination plan for people without identity cards, including Venezuelans in irregular situations.

In **Ecuador**, in September President Guillermo Lasso [released](#) preliminary details of the Government plan to regularize 450,000 Venezuelans in Ecuador and indicated the need for international support.

Meanwhile, to complement the Government's vaccination programme for refugees and migrants, an Intersectoral Support Group (GAI) was established together with R4V partners (see below for R4V response).

The procedure for immigration regularization in **Peru** (TUPA, for its Spanish acronym) came into effect on 9 July. Two months later, the Superintendence of Migration (SNM) reported that 159,000 Temporary Permit Cards (CPP) had been processed, as well as 23,8000 humanitarian residencies.

President Pedro Castillo was sworn in on 28 July. In August, the Peruvian Congress debated two new bills related to refugees and migrants: one to toughen penalties following irregular entries ([PL N° 00016/2021-CR](#)) and another regarding the expulsion of foreigners who commit administrative offences and crimes ([PL N° 00074/2021-CR](#)).

Despite increases in COVID-19 cases in the **Caribbean** sub-region, restrictions were partly eased in several Caribbean countries, including the partial re-opening of

schools. In the Dominican Republic, restrictions were relaxed for provinces with over 70 per cent of the population vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Aruba and Curacao targeted children and adolescents between the ages of 12 and 16 (17 in Curacao), including for refugee and migrant children

On 17 July, the largest organized repatriation of Venezuelans to-date occurred from Trinidad and Tobago when 753 Venezuelans departed via a commercial ferry organized with the Government of Venezuela. In addition, the governments of [Aruba](#), [Curacao](#) and Trinidad and Tobago all carried out deportations of Venezuelans in the reporting period. Meanwhile, in September, the Government of Guyana constituted a Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee for addressing the influx of Venezuelans in the country.

In **Central America and Mexico**, there were significant increases in the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants using overland routes for transit, including those attempting to reach the United States: in September, [U.S. Customs and Border Patrol](#) (CBP) reported an all-time high to-date of 10,814 encounters with Venezuelans attempting to enter from Mexico. July and August also registered the highest numbers of asylum claims lodged by Venezuelans in Mexico with the National Asylum and Refugee Commission (COMAR) so far this year, at 621 and 612, respectively. In September, related to this situation, Panama began implementing a bi-national [agreement](#) reached with Colombia to limit the number of daily entries of persons traveling via the Darien Gap, which subsequently reduced the number of Venezuelans using those routes.

Meanwhile, in Costa Rica, officials announced the preparation of a joint strategy between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health to include foreigners in irregular situations [in the national vaccination plan](#).

With increasing vaccination rates in the **Southern Cone**, several countries eased COVID-19 restrictions during the reporting period. In August, [President Alberto Fernández confirmed that COVID-19 restrictions would be loosened](#) in Argentina after 10 consecutive weeks of improving indicators. In Uruguay, it was announced that [borders would be open by November for all fully](#)

** These are examples of activities carried out by National/Sub-Regional Platforms and/or Sectors. For further details, please see [R4V.info](#). Numbers concerning people reached are available on the [RMRP 2021 Dashboard](#)

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[vaccinated foreigners](#); and sanitary requirements for people entering Paraguay were modified.

In Bolivia, President Luis Arce issued [Supreme Decree N° 4576](#), which established an exceptional regularization procedure, granting 2-year residence

Response highlights**

In Brazil, R4V partners provided support to a total of 6,358 Venezuelans who were voluntarily relocated from the states of Amazonas and Roraima in July, August and September through the *interiorização* (interiorization) programme, including transportation, temporary housing and labour insertion support. In addition, to support integration of relocated students into the national education system, R4V partners delivered learning kits to Venezuelan children and adolescents. Meanwhile, to support the increasing number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Roraima experiencing homelessness, R4V partners donated kitchen appliances and utensils to two municipal shelters, and conducted WASH activities. With the support of the Education Sector and with the objective to ensure successful implementation of education policies and child protection networks, an [Active School Search Steering Committee](#) was created in July. The Committee includes the Departments of Education, Health, and Social Assistance and several civil society organizations, and aims to identify and monitor children and adolescents who are out of school or at risk of dropping out.

In Chile, following the violent protests and eviction of Venezuelans from Plaza Brazil in Iquique in September, [R4V partners provided temporary shelter and other forms of support](#) to 158 refugees and migrants affected by the situation. Meanwhile, as a response to the harsh weather conditions, winter kits were provided to over 3,000 refugees and migrants at the start of the cold season in July, and the Ministry of Social Development distributed 1,300 thermal blankets donated by R4V partners throughout the country in August. R4V partners also assisted refugees and migrants with food

permits to foreigners of any nationality in an irregular situation, who were present in Bolivia by 24 August 2021 and who comply with documentation requirements, including presenting a passport, national identity document or card, and nationality certificate, among others.

and non-food items (including hygiene kits) in Arica, Antofagasta and Iquique, as well as in the Metropolitan Region.

In Ecuador, during the reporting period R4V partners intensified activities related to health promotion and the COVID-19 vaccination process. The R4V National Platform in Ecuador (GTRM) established an Inter-sectoral Support Group (GAI for its Spanish acronym) with the participation of 16 R4V partners to provide technical and financial support to the government-led vaccination campaign. In August the group launched a communications [campaign](#), including videos, radio spots and printed materials, to promote the vaccination of refugees and migrants. R4V partners provided 12,372 referrals to specialized protection services for refugees and migrants in July, 11,024 in August and 12,944 in September. The increase in irregular movement also called for emphasis on support in shelter, NFIs and food security. In parallel, in July and August GTRM partners increased activities related to integration (reaching 21,498 refugees and migrants with assistance in July and 27,944 in August), including through entrepreneurship workshops and activities aimed at promoting access to employment.

In Peru, R4V partners provided general protection orientation and legal counselling for 9,630 refugees and migrants in July, 19,600 in August and 10,800 in September. Most queries during the orientation sessions were related to the CPP process. As a response to immediate needs, partners continued to distribute hot and cold meals to highly vulnerable refugees and migrants (in-transit and in-destination), as well as host community members. Throughout the reporting period, some 99,120 hot and cold meals were distributed. To enable access to livelihoods and

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integration, GTRM partners supported the validation of professional degrees (130 in July, 30 in August, 190 in September) and organized entrepreneurship programmes (in which around 1,100 refugees and migrants participated in September).

In Colombia, in support of the implementation of the TPS, R4V partners provided operational support to the authorities, including during the phases of pre-registration and biometric registration of Venezuelans. By end-September, over [1.4 million](#) refugees and migrants from Venezuela as well as affected host community members were reached with some form of assistance in 32 departments across Colombia since the beginning of the year.

In the **Caribbean** sub-region, R4V partners conducted various activities to support access to education for refugee and migrant children. In Trinidad and Tobago, a Content and Language Integrated Learning methodology was developed to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) based on the local curricula, in order to accelerate children's ability to improve language proficiency. In Guyana, ESL and after-school tutorials were organized from August to September. In Aruba, children were supported with school enrolment through a Back-to-School Campaign. In terms of protection, partners in Aruba and Curacao continued to support refugees and migrants through protection hotlines, and in the Dominican Republic, legal assistance was delivered on topics such as protection and labour rights. R4V partners across the region also continued to provide support in integration, health, WASH, shelter and food security.

In Central America and Mexico, R4V partners supported access to basic rights and services for refugees and migrants through multipurpose cash and voucher assistance (CVA). In Panama, psychosocial support was provided to those having crossed the Darien Gap. In Costa Rica, information, legal assistance and support with migratory fees, in particular in relation to consultations on the new [Temporary Special Category of Complementary Protection](#), reached 146 Venezuelans in July, 245 in August and 276 in September. In Mexico, 122 Venezuelans were supported to regularize their situation in the country in July. Integration activities during the reporting period

included entrepreneurship activities, vocational training, provision of seed capital and validation of professional degrees.

In the Southern Cone, R4V partners provided direct assistance to vulnerable refugees and migrants, including hygiene kits, food vouchers and medical consultations. In Argentina, following joint advocacy by R4V partners, a [Resolution](#) for the regularization of more than 6,800 Venezuelan children was adopted by the authorities on 8 July. This is expected to enable vulnerable refugee and migrant children in irregular situations to receive provisional IDs and consequently facilitate the exercise of their rights. In Bolivia, partners conducted a registration campaign and enrolled 1,078 Venezuelans in the Unified Health System (SUS), which, as a result, will enable refugees and migrants to access comprehensive and free health services. R4V partners in Uruguay provided information on migratory regularization procedures, how to apply for asylum, and referrals for COVID-19 tests. In an effort to improve economic integration in Paraguay, R4V partners launched a project to strengthen refugees' and migrants' entrepreneurial capabilities and economic integration through the use of digital technology.