



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN THE REGION
265,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE*
3,255



FUNDING SITUATION**
% REQUIREMENT: 24.1M



Situation

- During the reporting period, the number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela transiting through Central America and Mexico increased exponentially compared to previous months, and Venezuelans are currently the main nationality hosted in **Panama's** Migration Reception Centre. According to [National Migration Services](#) (SNM) between May and June, 29,527 people entered Panama through the Darien gap, out of whom 21,203 (71.8 per cent) were from Venezuela, marking almost a 50 per cent increase compared to April. This confirms the trend observed from the beginning of the year, in which there has been a steady increase in the number of entries of refugees and migrants from Venezuelan through the Darien, mainly travelling in family groups, with at least eight children without birth registration that were referred to authorities. Partners operating in child friendly spaces indicate that children are physically and emotionally affected by the arduous journey. The main needs identified by R4V partners for the populations crossing the Darien were psychological first aid (for gender-based violence); child protection services (clothes, psychological support); health assistance (mostly to treat wounds, but also for respiratory diseases); psychological assistance (50 per cent of requested health services from partners in Darien are related to psychological support); and hygiene kits (light and suitable for people on the move and customized for children, women, and general ones).
- In May, Venezuelan nationals were the largest group crossing into **Costa Rica**. An [R4V partner survey conducted in May 2022](#) revealed that the main needs faced by refugees and migrants in Costa Rica were access to safe shelter (40 per cent), medical assistance (38 per cent), security (22 per cent) and food (17 per cent). Venezuelans represented 85 per cent of the nationalities surveyed, and 98 per cent among them indicated the United States as their destination.
- In **Mexico**, in June 2022, R4V partners rolled out a Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) targeting the Venezuelan population in several locations, including Tapachula, Monterrey, Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Villahermosa.¹ The most important needs identified were: lack of information about their right to request asylum; difficulties in accessing the asylum system at airports; implications of the visa imposed by the Mexican government in January 2022 to access Mexican territory by air and therefore the use of dangerous land routes; and absence of awareness and difficulties in initiating the naturalization and family reunification process, among others.
- Refugees and migrants from Venezuela continued to arrive in Mexico through airports: local media reported [three commercial flights](#) arrived at the AIFA international airport in Mexico City from Venezuela that were not registered by the Federal Agency of Civil Aviation, while [Government State officials](#) stated that 4,438 Venezuelan nationals have arrived in Mexico through that airport. On 6 May, the National Migration Institute (INM) [detained 1,608 migrants](#) from 38 countries in one day alone through different operations, 55 of them Venezuelans. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) registered [18,283](#) encounters with Venezuelan nationals across the U.S. Southwest land border in May and June 2022. This represented a 124 per cent increase from March and April period ([8,159 encounters](#)) of the same year. These numbers include encounters between ports of entry and at ports of entry. They also represent instances of attempted entry to the U.S., and not a number of individuals arriving as it is possible that an individual may attempt to cross the border multiple times. Current recidivism rates are at around 25 per cent.
- Between May and June 2022, a R4V partner registered 221 inquiries on assistance from Venezuelans to an Information Centre in **Costa Rica**. Request for economic assistance was the most frequent query, in particular for unemployed refugees and migrants and single parent. In **Mexico**, in recent months, the number of Venezuelans requesting appointments with the Mexican Refugee Commission (COMAR) to officially initiate their asylum process in Tapachula has increased considerably.² Nevertheless, due to long waiting times, many of the Venezuelans requesting appointments decide to continue their journey northwards and did not attend their interviews. By the end of June, Venezuelans were the fourth most represented

¹ R4V Mexico Joint Needs Assessment, June 2022 (forthcoming)

² According to official data, in January 2022 829 individuals requested an appointment with COMAR in Tapachula while 8,344 requested appointments in June, representing an increase of 906%.



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nationality among asylum-seekers with a total of 7,096 applications. In **Panama**, according to [ONPAR statistics](#), in May 2022, 7 new asylum requests from Venezuelans were submitted (6 women, 1 man), representing 11 per cent of the total cases (65 people). There were five cases of withdrawal of application by Venezuelans, 4 women and 1 man.

- In May and June, four large groups of refugees and migrants gathered in **protest over delays by Mexican migration authorities** in processing their requests in the southern border city of Tapachula (Chiapas) and with the intention of traveling north. According to monitoring conducted by R4V partners, on 9 and 10 May, that the first of such groups, summoned for was comprised of approximately 250 individuals, among whom some 60 per cent were Venezuelan nationals. An attempt to summon individuals to join a group and travel northwards was also reported on 27 May; 350 refugees and migrants protested outside the migrant detention centre but long waits and bad weather dispersed the group. Approximately 80 per cent of those participating in the protest were Venezuelan nationals. On 6 June, the largest group reported to date with approximately 2,000 – 3,000 refugees and migrants departed Tapachula in protest against migration authorities, though local media reported up to 10,000 participants. Approximately 80 per cent of the members of this group were also Venezuelan nationals. The last of said groups during the reporting period was formed on 23 June by approximately 1,100 to 1,500 persons, mostly of Honduran and Venezuelan nationality. Once all of these groups initiated their journey northwards, temporary stay permits in the form of FMMS valid for up to 30 days were allegedly granted to most members of these groups by the INM. Some Venezuelans [interviewed by local press](#) expressed that their main interest was to cross into the U.S., and requested the creation of a humanitarian corridor to reach said border. [Protests in the city of Monterrey](#) also arose mid-June when some 600 refugees and migrants, mostly of Venezuelan nationality, expressed their desire to continue their journey towards the northern border. Refugees and migrants asked for safe transit and buses as transportation companies refused to sell them tickets despite having a documented status in Mexico. The local Human Rights Commission (CEDH) established a care and guidance module on the local bus station to follow up on requests.
- On 8 May, the new President of Costa Rica, Rodrigo Chaves Robles took office. In his inauguration speech he promised to "order and rebuild Costa Rica", focusing, initially, on the challenges on education and poverty. The government appointed Allan Rodríguez Vargas as the new deputy director of the General Directorate of Migration (DGME), who had been serving as head of the Refugee Unit.
- In June, the Costa Rican Social Security was hacked. The authorities reported that this forced them to deactivate the entity's computer systems as a preventive measure, which has caused several problems in hospitals and clinics. According to the Social Security Fund, the deactivation of the Single Digital Health Record (EDUS) was required. This has directly affected an insurance agreement between an R4V partner and the CCSS that provides assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees. About 90 Venezuelan nationals are waiting to be insured since this hack and the process is currently on stand-by.
- In **Costa Rica**, as of 6 June, it is possible to modify gender identity in the Immigration Identity Document for Foreigners (DIMEX) by *non-binary (X), inclusion that is made to the options already contemplated in this recognition- masculine (M), feminine (F) and does not indicate (N/I).
- On the World Refugee Day (20 June), [the National Bank of Costa Rica announced that it will open loans for refugees](#) to improve their financial condition and quality of life. The offer of credits from the National Bank includes financing for housing, vehicles, education and productive activities, among others,
- The [study on Human Mobility Profile of Panama City](#) was launched by R4V Partners on 23 May in the framework of the Programme "Inclusive Cities: Enhancing the Positive Impacts of Urban Migration", aiming at supporting local and national authorities to create inclusive and non-discriminatory urban environments for all people. The document explores the challenges and opportunities that the city has for the effective and territorial integration of the refugee and migrant population with the host community and provides information for policy makers and practitioners on integration programming. Two separate events were held in coordination with local governments in Panama City and in La Chorrera to present the study.

For more information, please contact: Livia Manente – lmanente@iom.int | Helene Songe – songe@unhcr.org

* From 01/05/2022 to 30/06/2022 | **Source: FTS Website



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Response



FOOD
SECURITY

In **Costa Rica**, 317 Venezuelans received food assistance, mainly through food cards.



HEALTH

In **Costa Rica**, 172 Venezuelans received mental health and psychosocial support. Among them, 25 Venezuelans attended group workshops on emotional wellbeing. Furthermore, 7 Venezuelan received psychiatric care, private healthcare assistance and assistance during health fairs.

In **Panama**, 337 children (166 girls, 171 boys) and 106 adults (79 women, 27 men) received specialized and timely psychosocial support in the Darien province. On 29 May, remote and face-to-face psychosocial interventions were carried out on an individual basis to address the negative impact of limited job opportunities, family conflicts, and bereavement. Three open group psychosocial activities were organized to provide tools to the refugee and migrant population for stress management and positive coping mechanisms. Two group sessions were held for young people in La Chorrera, one to strengthen youth empowerment and the other to train social protection service providers.

In June, health counterparts contacted Mexico R4V Partners to provide surgery supplies for two victims of gunshot wounds. The people declared being separated from a so-called “caravan” then the alleged smugglers shot them and left them behind. The individuals received assistance at the nearest hospital.



EDUCATION

In **Costa Rica**, 109 Venezuelans received short and technical courses (enrolment, follow-up and graduation) to improve their occupational profile.

In **Mexico**, 102 Venezuelan nationals received support with primary and secondary school enrolment; 45 individuals received support for vocational studies, 332 people received university grants, and 7 were assisted with the validation of their previous studies.



SHELTER

In **Panama**, 23 people (including 12 women) received cash assistance for shelter.



WASH

In **Costa Rica**, 281 Venezuelans received basic hygiene kits and 22 children received diapers.

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INTEGRATION

In **Costa Rica**, 30 Venezuelans received assistance in identifying their occupational profile and information on the process for the recognition of their degrees; 32 Venezuelans received training in soft skills development, legal empowerment and financial education. Furthermore, 14 Venezuelans finalized business management trainings and will seed capital.

In **Panama**, through the Inclusive-Cities, Communities of Solidarity project website, 302,500 people were reached with integration messages and instruments to promote refugees' and migrants' inclusion. In addition, two participatory workshops were held in the intervention unit territory, involving both refugees and migrants and local community members. To promote the integration of refugees and migrants and the strengthening of the protection environment, R4V partners conducted capacity strengthening session with 22 members of the National Police, MITRADEL, MIDES, and National Migration Service, on how to improve care and promote access to rights of refugee and migrant women survivors of GBV, people who require legal orientation and in general on access to rights of refugees and migrants.

Venezuelans continued to participate in online courses on digital competencies aimed at economic inclusion. Four workshops with 15 participants were held on technical topics to improve income through entrepreneurship, seeking to promote and strengthen existing skills. In addition, five seed capital grants were given to women entrepreneurs who completed their business plans.



MPC

In **Costa Rica**, 122 Venezuelans in vulnerable conditions received cash interventions for basic needs, while 53 receive emergency support through cash assistance.

In **Mexico**, 139 asylum-seekers from Venezuela received multipurpose cash assistance in May and June to meet their basic needs such as: food, household and domestic products, as well as to use as a contribution towards housing and utility bills. An additional 40 Venezuelan nationals received sectoral cash and voucher assistance (CVA) addressing protection related risks identified, including contingency top-up for COVID-19 during the same period.

In **Panama**, 109 Venezuelans (62 women) received multipurpose cash assistance to support them while they await government refugee status determination (RSD) procedures. 37 per cent were children.



PROTECTION

In **Costa Rica**, 227 Venezuelans received information and legal assistance, 97 people were assessed for protection needs and 11 Venezuelans received support for the payment of migratory procedures for their regularization.

In **Panama**, 101 Venezuelans received legal information and orientation about access to rights. Besides the lengthy RSD process, the main concern of Venezuelans is focused mainly on the increasing arbitrary detentions at checkpoints, for not knowing the provisional document granted by ONPAR to asylum-seekers. R4V partners conducted five group sessions to provide legal information to refugees and migrants on access to rights and available services. 37 Venezuelans, including 22 women, participated in these sessions.

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In **Mexico**, 21 Venezuelans benefitted from assistance to initiate their naturalization procedure and obtain the Mexican nationality, while 153 Venezuelans were supported to regularize their migratory status.



GBV

In **Panama**, with the aim of reducing the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) among vulnerable refugees and migrants, 14 community workshops were held in safe community spaces and guidance on routes to address violence in Central Panama, San Miguelito, West Panama, and the migrant reception stations of San Vicente, Darien, and Gualaca, Chiriquí. A total of 56 Venezuelan women participated in these activities. Furthermore, 17 Venezuelan GBV survivors received essential GBV response services from partners during the reporting period.



PEOPLE REACHED*



Education

160



Food Security

317



Health

195



Integration

301



Shelter

14



WASH

315



Protection

1969



GBV

4



Child Protection

735



MPC

320