

This report series aims at providing a summary of IOM's response and main achievements in the region from July through September 2020 thanks to the contributions and engagement of donors and partners.

VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES*

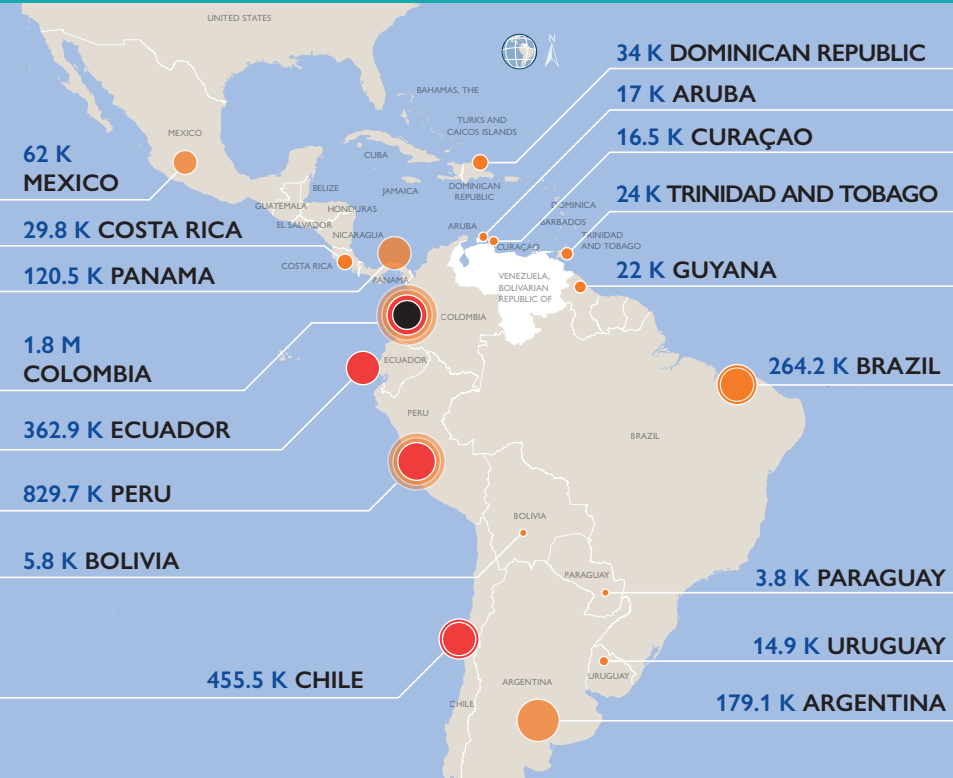
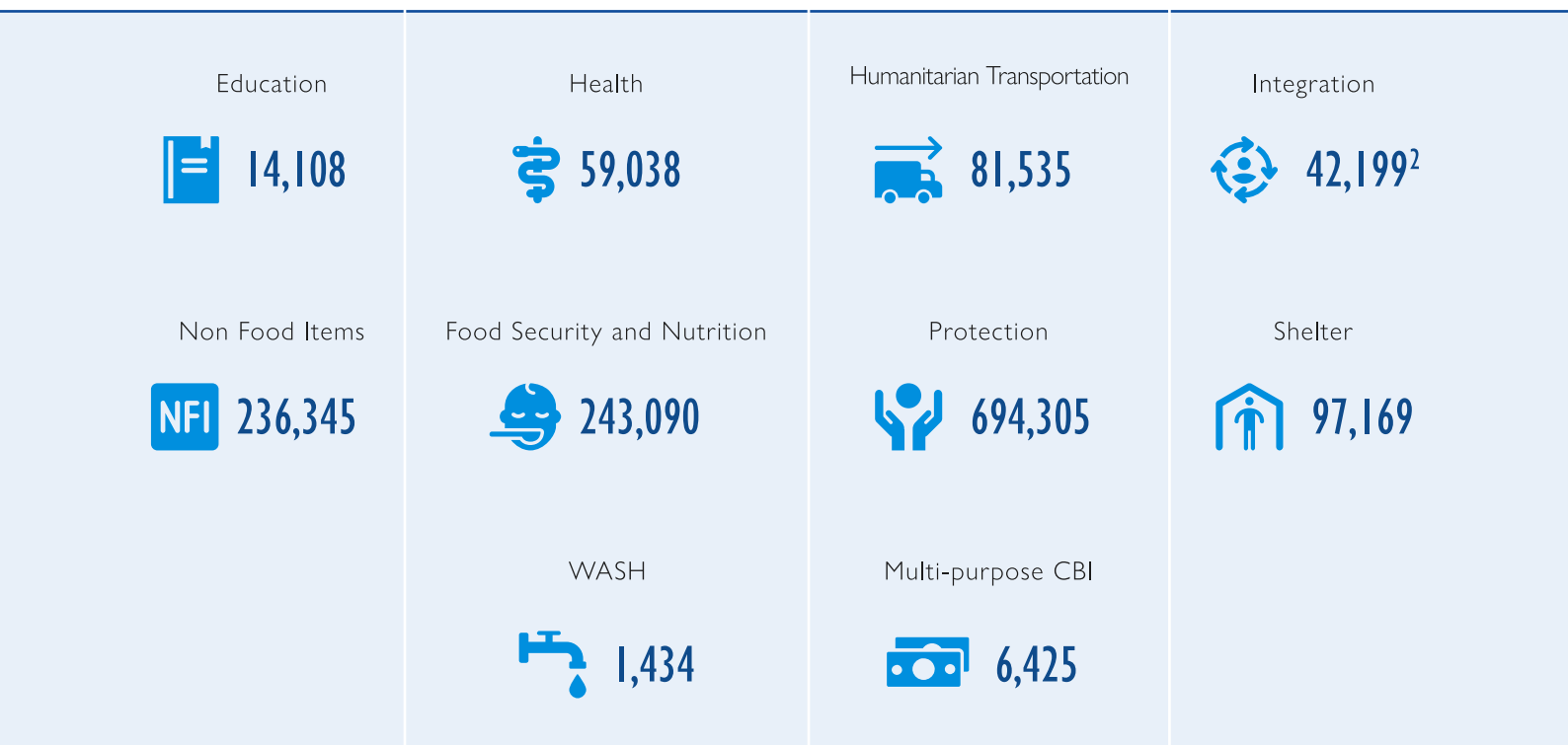


Photo: IOM Paraguay / Ismael Torres

Roxy and her family, after a long journey from Venezuela, arrived in Paraguay last February. They recently welcomed their newborn daughter Emma during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the pandemic's effects, her family lost their main source of income, leaving them in a state of uncertainty and increased vulnerability. Within the framework of IOM's response to Venezuelans in Paraguay, IOM provided Roxy and her family with a maternity kit, including critical basic care items for Roxy and her baby.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED SERVICES BY RMRP SECTOR¹



* Data as of September 2020, Source: R4Vinfo

¹ IOM Beneficiaries of RMRP projects since 2019.

² In addition to beneficiaries listed, IOM reached 28,687,640 beneficiaries through a multi-media anti-xenophobia and anti-discrimination campaigns.



Photo: IOM Colombia

Jarvis Sanchez, 31, a communication specialist, came from Venezuela two years ago and today calls Medellín his new home. He currently directs the cultural group Pazaporte de Jóvenes con Talento, where through art, dance and music he helps young people develop their artistic skills; With the support of IOM, he has received training and seed capital to boost his small business. "This pandemic has been an opportunity to reinvent ourselves and move forward to continue integrating through art," Jarvis told us."

CONTEXT OVERVIEW

With approximately 9.12 million confirmed positive COVID-19 cases and 335,131 confirmed deaths as of 28 September 2020³, the Latin America and Caribbean region continues to suffer the health and socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, although the number of infections is slowly decreasing. Some countries have eased movement restrictions either by land or air.

Migrants and refugees from Venezuela are among the most vulnerable people in this context. The Venezuelan population continues to leave the country, many through irregular crossings which exacerbate their vulnerability and protection risks, including those to human trafficking, exploitation, and gender-based violence (GBV). GBV has been on the rise in the region, generating responses coordinated by the regional, sub-regional, and national branches of the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform ([R4V Webpage](#)).

While each country faces distinct challenges, there is an overall need to support governments in this new phase of migration outflows as well as in continuing to strengthen a regional inter-agency approach to the multi-dimensional aspects of this crisis. Through a harmonized, coordinated operational response IOM and partners ensure that highly vulnerable migrant populations are not left behind by strengthening institutional capacity, increasing the absorption capacity of the communities in term of basic services, and promoting livelihood and economic opportunities.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Quito Process

On September 23 and 24, 2020, the VI International Technical Meeting on Human Mobility of Venezuelan citizens in the region, the VI Round of the Quito Process, Santiago Chapter was held with great success. The main outcomes include the formal constitution of the Group of Friends of the Process incorporated by the United States, Canada, the European Union, Spain, Swiss Confederation, France, the Netherlands and Germany; the [VI Joint Declaration](#), the launch of the Quito Process logo, and its future website⁴. In parallel, 10 side events were attended by more than 1,200 people. IOM led or co-led a large part of the workshops. Additionally, IOM's role with UNHCR throughout the preparatory process was widely recognized. Finally, the Republic of Peru was selected as the next Pro Tempore Presidency. The country will assume its role on November 27, 2020.

Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) 2021

IOM in its capacity as co-lead with UNHCR of the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform (R4V - at regional as well as sub-regional and national levels), along with strong ownership by the regional Sector leads, has been overseeing the planning phase of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Migrants and Refugees from Venezuela (RMRP 2021) including finalization of population projections, estimations on people in need (PIN), definition of sector indicators and submission of activities by all partners for the new RMRP which will launch on December 10, 2020. The Office of the Special Envoy in Panama (OSE) in its capacity as one of the main implementing partners within the RMRP has coordinated the internal review of 17 IOM Country offices' plans to ensure consistency with organizational and R4V priorities and strategies. Currently, IOM and UNHCR along with all Sector leads are finalizing the RMRP which is expected to be concluded in December.

The Organization of American States (OAS), with support from IOM, PADF, ILO, HCR, UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, Ryerson University and Club de Madrid, held a virtual launch for the OAS-led inter-agency project, "Strengthening the Capacities of Local Authorities in the Reception and Integration of Migrants and Refugees." The first phase of the project aims to collect and analyze data on the needs and best practices of local authorities in the reception and integration of migrants and refugees in Central and South America and the Caribbean, with a focus on migration flows from Venezuela.

IOM as co-lead of the GBV sub-sector moderated a session on the role of migrant and refugee women from Venezuela highlighting their urgent needs within the response during the **12th Regional R4V Meeting**. IOM continues to contribute to the regional Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) response, including providing in-depth guidance on how to incorporate PSEA into activities and narrative chapters, as well as developing a narrative chapter for PSEA as a cross-cutting issue. In addition, IOM launched an Inter-agency regional mapping and stocktaking of PSEA initiatives undertaken by partners at the national level. This constitutes an important phase in the process of strengthening PSEA prevention, response and accountability in the region.

The OSE continues to build capacity of its field and regional staff in socio-economic integration concepts and best practices, including on topics such community-based planning, green livelihoods and environmental entrepreneurship for migrants and host communities. The R4V Integration Sector organized a webinar for its national and regional partners on the IOM-EU tool on Integrating Migrants into the COVID-19 socio-economic response ([Toolkit](#)).

IOM regional initiatives

On August 27, 2020, IOM and the **Migration Policy Institute (MPI)**, launched their joint report: "Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean: A regional profile" at a high-level panel event featuring speakers from both organizations as well as Migración Colombia, the National Institute of Statistics in Peru, and OAS. Participants included IOM Director General, Antonio Vitorino, the DG's Special Envoy for the Venezuela Situation, Diego Beltrand, the MPI President, Andrew Selee, Joint UNHCR-IOM Special Representative for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Dr. Eduardo Stein, amongst others. This report presents a regional profile of migrants and refugees from Venezuela in 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries using data collected by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in 2019. The report sheds light on country-to-country variations in the characteristics of these migrants and refugees both in transit and host countries. This cross-sectorial data informs governments, UN agencies, and other stakeholders by providing data to inform evidence-based decision making.

On August 14, 2020, IOM held a regional meeting with the **Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN)** to strengthen the partnership and boost the joint work in the region which started in 2011. The meeting allowed both organizations to present priorities, exchange experiences of assistance and protection, share lines of work, and explore opportunities for cooperation in the framework of the current health crisis and its impact on migrants and refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean. Both agencies are currently working on a joint workplan for the year 2021.

The DG's Special Envoy, Diego Beltrand, convened a workshop with partner Fordham University to share results, best practices, lessons learnt and feedback on the initiative "Development of Casas Azules in South America" on September 9, 2020. IOM shelter experts from Headquarters (HQ), Washington, D.C., and the Latin America and Caribbean region also participated. The project consisted in developing a system of design actions illustrating a new approach for the integration of culture, beauty and dignity as key elements for information and resource spaces dedicated to refugees and migrants from Venezuela and the communities hosting them. These designed spaces allow for education, culture, and other support services under one roof, bringing an ethical approach to humanitarian design.

Ricardo Palmieri, a lawyer, native of Caracas, Venezuela, arrived in Argentina two years ago to search for new opportunities and stabilize himself in his new country. "It has been a long and complicated road. However, I have never lost hope," Ricardo told IOM. Thanks to the generosity of various donor partners to assist the Venezuelan population, IOM provided Ricardo with food assistance and hygiene kits including essential items such as soap, towels and alcohol gel.

Ricardo Currently works as a volunteer within the civil association "Alianza x Venezuela" helping the most vulnerable during the context of COVID-19 by participating in food distribution activities within the organization. "Among my goals is to contribute, produce and integrate into Argentine society," he added



Photo: IOM Argentina

IOM'S RESPONSE

Education

With the opening of schools after the COVID-19 lockdown, IOM Curaçao provided 41 boys and girls with school kits. In Colombia 7,000 beneficiaries accessed education services, of which 1,153 have received kits in coordination with the Ministry of Education and local authorities.

 **7,041**
Beneficiaries

 **2**
Countries

Food Security and Nutrition

In Brazil, 478 beneficiaries have been assisted with food assistance through vouchers and food baskets. Food vouchers were distributed to 172 migrants and refugees from Venezuela in Aruba and 64 in Trinidad and Tobago. Food kits were distributed to 48,090 beneficiaries in Peru, 19 in Uruguay, 55 in the Dominican Republic, and 652 in Argentina. Additionally, IOM provided food assistance to 229 beneficiaries in Uruguay, 199 in Paraguay, 147 in Argentina, 205 in Guyana, 551 in Colombia, and 424 in Costa Rica.

 **51,285**
Beneficiaries

 **9**
Countries

Health

Primary healthcare assistance was provided to 149 people in Panama, 177 in Uruguay, 7 in Guyana, 1 in Mexico, 1 in Trinidad and Tobago, and 1,217 women in Colombia.

In the Dominican Republic, IOM supported 12 beneficiaries with chemotherapy and medical treatments including medicines. Furthermore, 155 pregnant women received gynecologic consultations and associated medicine. IOM provided dental care services to 2 beneficiaries in Costa Rica and 454 in Uruguay.

 **6,954**
Health services
Beneficiaries

 **10**
Countries

In Colombia 40 people affected by HIV/AIDS received relevant treatment. Additionally, IOM Colombia sensitized 46 medical staff on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights; 39 pregnant women received emergency SRH services; and 413 pregnant women received prenatal care, safe delivery, post-natal care and breast-feeding support.

In Ecuador 2,000 boys and girls received psychosocial support (PSS) through IOM's provision of recreational kits. 80% of the kits were delivered through door to door modality. IOM reached beneficiaries in various countries, with PSS services including Argentina (114), Panama (99), Mexico (30), Trinidad & Tobago (65), Guyana (2), and Costa Rica (112), of which 45 in individual modality and 67 in group. IOM Argentina in collaboration with the association Psicoanalitica in Buenos Aires (APdeBA), organized weekly PSS workshops for migrants and refugees. In Panama, psychosocial care sessions were provided by Mental Health Specialists in a virtual format to address stress during the pandemic. This initiative was supported by the Ministry of Health and several Venezuelan organizations which posted videos in social networks. Also, IOM conducted trainings for Venezuelan community leaders as part of the psychosocial support strategy.

Finally, IOM Colombia provided health assistance to 351 women and girls at risk or survivors of GBV along with mental health and psychosocial support, while 272 Colombian medical staff have been trained in medical assessment and assistance of GBV.

Humanitarian Transportation

In Brazil, 3,853 beneficiaries have been relocated to other states of Brazil on commercial flights with IOM's support. In addition, transportation assistance was provided to 16 migrants and refugees from Venezuela in Uruguay and 6 in Ecuador.



Integration

IOM reached 104 beneficiaries with employment initiatives and provided 185 entrepreneurs with training in Costa Rica, including one on digital marketing to facilitate the access to the market. IOM reached 552 in Mexico and 85 people in Ecuador with entrepreneurship support. In Argentina 1 person was provided with job placement support, and 134 with entrepreneurship support. Specifically, IOM Argentina in collaboration with the Banco Ciudad supported migrant and refugee entrepreneurs to ease the challenges brought by the pandemic through an online workshop on “How to strengthen your brand in Instagram” and an e-commerce training to explore new business opportunities and develop a digital marketing plan.



In the Dominican Republic, 22 people were assisted with seed capital. IOM reached 107 migrants and refugees in Panama with vocational training. IOM Uruguay supported 95 beneficiaries accessing job opportunities.

IOM has also organized anti-xenophobia campaigns. In Panama, IOM with UNHCR continue to promote the online campaign [#SomosLoMismo](#), with messages in both a webpage and social networks such as Instagram and Facebook. The campaign aims at entertaining and educating in values such as peace, respect and solidarity⁶. IOM Panama also organized a Book Fair that gathered journalists from the country and the region, seeking to generate a space for reflection that promotes the awareness of about forced displacement and migration. In Colombia, IOM's campaign “[Juntos Más Grandes](#)” reached around 100,000 people. IOM Argentina has reached a total of 17,068 people with a) awareness raising campaigns, and b) development and conducting of training for journalists and academics on interculturalism, which was finalized with the publishing of 14 articles on: www.cronicas-migrantes.com. The regional antixenophobia campaign “[Acortemos distancias](#)” reached more than 3,000 in Dominican Republic.

Non Food Items

In Ecuador, IOM provided 7,735 beneficiaries with NFI kits which included coats, hygiene kits, dignity kits, travel kits and health care kits. Distribution was done mainly in Quito and in the North and South borders of the country with a focus on *caminantes* and migrants and refugees living in the street. IOM Colombia distributed 27,858 NFI kits in temporary accommodations through partnership with foundations and NGOs. IOM reached 5,339 migrants and refugees with hygiene, WASH, and shelter items including those living in spontaneous settlements and indigenous communities in Boa Vista and Pacaraima, Brazil. NFI distributions also benefitted 657 migrants and refugees in Argentina, 95 in Trinidad and Tobago, 157 in Guyana through hygiene kits, 533 in Paraguay, 43 in Costa Rica with hygiene kits amongst others, and 70 in Uruguay.



5 This does not include indirect beneficiaries reached with antixenophobia campaigns (2,117,068 during the reporting period)

6 According to the report of the advertising company, 2 million people visualized online messages of the campaign #SomosLoMismo in the webpage, Facebook and Instagram.

Protection

In Costa Rica 552 people have been provided with legal assistance through telephone calls and fairs. To reach beneficiaries, IOM scheduled appointments using the IOM free 800 telephone line as well as a mobile line through which beneficiaries can be assisted via WhatsApp. The migration fairs are implemented in virtual modality with a group of six-eight lawyers that provided legal consultations to the beneficiaries.



77,415
Beneficiaries



10
Countries

In the Dominican Republic 93 beneficiaries have been supported with visa procedures, documentation, and family reunification. IOM has reached 4,999 people with assistance on documentation, regularization, and asylum applications in Brazil, 1,438 in Aruba, and 152 in Ecuador. In Uruguay, 160 beneficiaries were supported with pre-registration and documentation assistance. IOM provided support in regularization services for 388 people in Costa Rica and 5,444 in Ecuador.

IOM provided information on rights, risks and protection assistance through counselling and referrals to migrants and refugees in different countries including Ecuador (2,772), Brazil (6,202), Panama (85), Trinidad and Tobago (318), and Costa Rica (64). In Aruba, IOM reached 68 people with access to this information through distribution of posters and flyers. In Colombia, 2,125 people were provided with information on access to social services, while 15,347 beneficiaries accessed orientation services. In Argentina, 23 people at risk or with specific needs have benefitted from IOM referrals services and were assisted by its local partner to meet their primary needs.

In Ecuador, 1,893 people were assisted with GBV information, prevention, and response services mainly in three border areas: Tulcán, Lago Agrio y Huaquillas, while 32,646 beneficiaries were reached with Trafficking in Person (TiP), smuggling and exploitation prevention campaigns. Additionally, 2,646 people were reached with messages to prevent human trafficking and smuggling. Due to COVID-19, IOM Ecuador created four videos with the collaboration of Venezuelan and Ecuadorian artists.

IOM conducted training for public institutions and staff of its partners on protection assistance. 167 public officials in Brazil, 5 in Trinidad & Tobago, 114 civil society members and 26 public officials in Ecuador have been trained on protection assistance, standards and good practices. In Colombia (Cucuta) 372 officials attended capacity building activities to respond to TiP, while in Ecuador (Huaquillas) 91.

In Ecuador, IOM trained staff of three transit and referral centers on referral mechanisms. In Panama, IOM trained 16 public officials on protection practices.

Shelter

IOM, in coordination with national authorities, has supported in the mapping of shelters to support the COVID-19 emergency response. National R4V Platform members are monitoring protection risks for beneficiaries in shelters. In addition, IOM is conducting food distribution within existing shelters. Where needed, IOM implementing partners have received support to upgrade physical spaces, which includes purchasing of equipment, training of staff, installation of isolation spaces, and re-designing of sleeping and gathering spaces to promote physical distancing.



15,096
Beneficiaries



12
Countries

In Dominican Republic, IOM supported 574 beneficiaries at risk for eviction with rental assistance, through bank transfer. Beneficiaries were mainly female heads of household (FHH). Colombia provided 10,628 migrants and refugees from Venezuela, as well as Colombian returnees with short term shelter through its partners. In Paraguay, IOM provided 151 beneficiaries with individual medium and longer-term accommodation support in Asunción, Central and Alto Paraná. IOM Ecuador provided accommodation assistance to 1,943 migrants and refugees from Venezuela in Quito and three border areas of Carchi, Sucumbios, and El Oro.

IOM provided temporary accommodation support to refugees and migrants in various countries, including 6 in Argentina, 6 in Panama, 288 in Brazil, 11 in Chile, 13 in Trinidad & Tobago, 441 in Guyana, 10 in Costa Rica, 889 in Ecuador, and 136 in Uruguay.

Multipurpose Cash-Based Interventions

In Ecuador 1,344 beneficiaries have been assisted through multi-purpose cash initiatives. In Peru, 2,214 beneficiaries have been assisted with CBI through vouchers spendable in local supermarkets, and in Curaçao 432 beneficiaries (households and their dependents) were supported with e-vouchers.



3,990
Beneficiaries



3
Countries

Support Services (Coordination, Communication and Information Management)

In Colombia, more than 199 sectorial and intersectoral meetings have been convened.

In Colombia 111 information management products, including infographics, statistics as well as 13 communication products such as press releases, social media assets, audiovisual materials on antixenophobia and counter trafficking have been elaborated and published. IOM Brazil has conducted regular DTM flow monitoring and assessments ([link](#)).

IOM is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, contributing to national and regional initiatives. Following contributions are currently being implemented in the region during the reporting period.



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada



El futuro es de todos

Gobierno de Colombia

Watch: IOM REGIONAL RESPONSE OVERVIEW



This video summarizes IOM response activities from July to September 2020, and shares the story of Kelly Valenzuela, a Venezuelan musician that works for a better future in Guyana, while using music as an instrument for integration.

