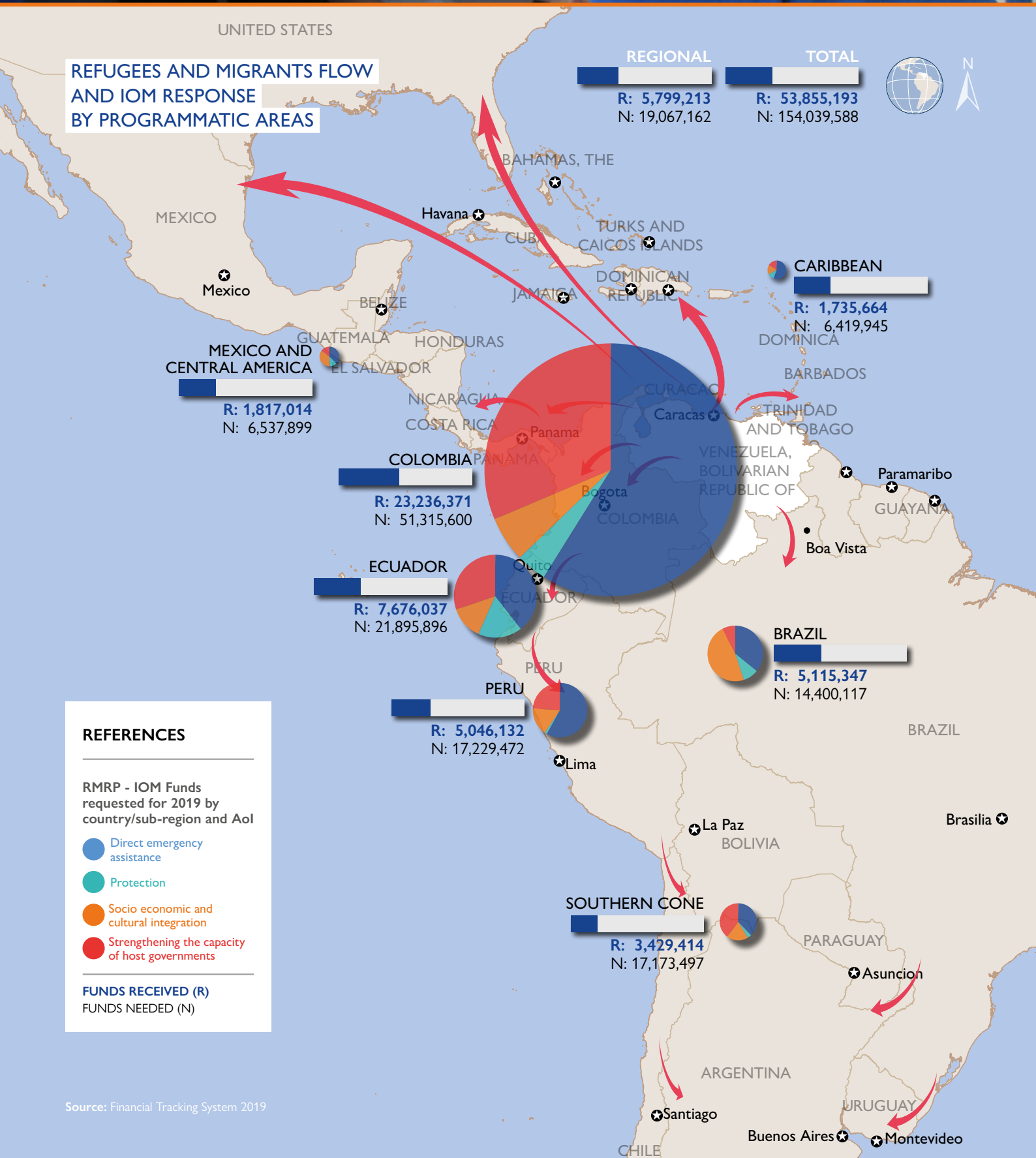


# MIGRANT AND REFUGEE VENEZUELAN CRISIS: IOM REGIONAL RESPONSE OVERVIEW

This report series aims to provide a summary account of IOM's regional response during the specified period, thanks to the contributions and engagement of donors and partners. This issue offers an overview of the main achievements in July 2019.

@ IOM Mexico



## MILESTONE TIMELINE JULY

2<sup>ND</sup>

Extension of the declaration of state of emergency in the provinces of Carchi, Pichincha and El Oro – Ecuador.

3<sup>RD</sup>

The Minister of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago announced that the total number of Venezuelans that were registered during the Venezuelan Migrant Registration Process in June was of 16,523.

4<sup>TH</sup>

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, published a report on Human Rights in Venezuela. The report urges the Government of Venezuela to take immediate measures to halt and remedy the violations of economic, social, civil, political and cultural rights documented in the country.

4<sup>TH</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>

The IV International Technical Meeting of the Quito Process took place in the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires. Government representatives from 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as representatives from UN agencies, regional organizations, development banks and members of civil society organizations participated in the meeting.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

**4,054,870 million of Venezuelans are living abroad. 3.3 million (82,5%) of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean countries, according to the most updated official data. Due to complex and unpredictable developments of the Venezuelan situation, the increase in mixed flows of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the region has continued.**

As part of the region's ongoing efforts to adjust the national mechanisms established to address the Venezuelan migratory flows, countries continue to make adjustments and modifications in their migration policies.

In this context, on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Minister of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago gave a clear figure on the total number of Venezuelans that were registered after the two-week Registration Process for Venezuelan migrants (May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 14, 2019). This process, supported by IOM, was carried out in three locations: Port of Spain, San Fernando and Scarborough. It reached a total of 16,523 Venezuelans. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the government of Trinidad and Tobago began distributing identification cards for Venezuelans registered through this process. This card is valid for 6 months and is renewable for another 6 months.

In Argentina, the Government announced the opening of a channel through which it is going to receive complaints of human rights violations suffered by Venezuelans citizens in their country. The measure was announced on July 22<sup>nd</sup> after the publication of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report on the Venezuelan situation. The Argentinian Government formalized the measure on July 18 through the [Resolution 511/2019](#) of the Ministry of Justice, published in the Official Gazette, instructing the Secretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism to collect testimonies from Venezuelans. The measure also includes the Center for Assistance to Victims of Crime (CENAVID, in its original acronym) as another institution that must support Venezuelan citizens that require said support within the framework of the Resolution.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the presidency of Ecuador signed a decree to implement the issuance of humanitarian visas for Venezuelans in Ecuador. The [Decree 826](#) grants immigration amnesty for all Venezuelan citizens who have regularly entered through the immigration control points into the territory of Ecuador or are in irregular migratory condition because they have exceeded the period of permanence allowed.

The Government of Colombia announced on July 26<sup>th</sup> the presentation of a draft national migration policy to the Congress of the Republic. The draft policy is based on the ever-changing migratory context in the country. The Colombian Chancellor assured that the bill was drafted in collaboration with representatives from different parties.

According to official available data, around 2 million residence permits, and other forms of regular status have been granted in Latin American and the Caribbean countries since 2015. As for some of the current ordinary and extra-ordinary regularization mechanisms, the latest update official figures of granted visas and permits are as follows:

10<sup>TH</sup>

The Government of Japan formalized a funding envelope to UN Agencies of USD 4.5 million to help assist Venezuelans in Colombia.

11<sup>TH</sup>

The Government of Norway announced that the representatives of the main political parties in Venezuela are continuing the negotiations that were initiated in Oslo. As part of this process, a negotiation table has been established in order to reach a common solution.

16<sup>TH</sup>














The Senior Officials of the International Contact Group (ICG) met in Brussels to discuss the latest developments in Venezuela.

23<sup>TH</sup>

The XV Meeting of the Lima Group was held in Buenos Aires with the participation of Latin American, Caribbean and North American Governments. The LG announced that it is going to forward the Report of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

## RESIDENCE PERMITS AND OTHER FORMS OF REGULAR STATUS (FROM 2015)

\* RESIDENCE PERMITS THROUGH EXTRAORDINARY REGULARIZATION MECHANISMS  
As a key step for effective protection, some countries have developed specific migration legislation to regularize Venezuelan migrants across the region.

	<b>COLOMBIA</b>	<b>676,093</b>	As per June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2019	
		* <b>597,695</b>	as per April 30, 2019	Special Stay Permit (PEP). *as per July 22 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
	<b>PERU</b>	<b>438,235</b>	As per July 10 <sup>th</sup> 2019	
		* <b>425,563</b>	as per July 10 <sup>th</sup> 2019	Temporary Stay Permit (PTP) + Special Migratory Quality. *as per July 10 <sup>th</sup> 2019
	<b>CHILE</b>	<b>321,468</b>	2015 to 2018	
		* <b>26,863</b>	as per February 2019	Democratic Responsibility Visa. *as per February 2019
	<b>ARGENTINA</b>	<b>156,900</b>	2015 to June 2019	
	<b>ECUADOR</b>	<b>103,725</b>	2015 to May 2019	
	<b>BRAZIL</b>	<b>74,860</b>	As per May 2019	
	<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>73,453</b>	2015 to June 2019	
	<b>PANAMA</b>	<b>62,887</b>	2015 to July 2019	
	<b>URUGUAY</b>	<b>12,645</b>	2015 to June 2019	
	<b>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</b>	<b>7,753</b>	2015 to June 2019	
	<b>COSTA RICA</b>	<b>4,339</b>	2015 to June 2019	
	<b>BOLIVIA</b>	<b>2,775</b>	2016 to February 2019	
	<b>PARAGUAY</b>	<b>923</b>	2015 to May 2019	



# DIRECT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

IOM is ensuring that new arrivals in transit or destination countries are provided with direct emergency assistance and basic services including temporary shelter and accommodation, food and non-food items, transportation and basic health care. IOM collaborates with government institutions, UN agencies and other partners to ensure the provision of assistance.

## MAIN CONTRIBUTORS

### REGIONAL PROJECTS:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands



Sweden  
Sverige

### NATIONAL PROJECTS:



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## DTM & Assessments

In July **8,761 interviews** were carried out through DTM flow monitoring exercises in 5 countries. In Brazil, a total of four assessments focusing on people living in the streets were conducted in the cities of Boa Vista and Pacaraima - two in each city. They covered 7,994 people. A first DTM exercise was conducted in Paraguay, reaching 111 people. Guyana has continued DTM activities in the Cuyuni-Mazaruni region in order to assess the needs of vulnerable migrants. The city of Bartica was visited by a team of enumerators, reaching 259 people. In Curacao, IOM has started out the third flow monitoring exercise, reaching 255 people. Additionally, in Mexico an assessment has been carried out in the reporting period on the needs of Venezuelan entrepreneurs in Mexico, reaching 142 people.

## Temporary accommodation

During the reporting period, temporary shelter was provided in transit and destination areas in Argentina (42), Brazil (1,034), Colombia (1,670), the Dominican Republic (6) Ecuador (722), Guyana (58), Peru (1,586) and Uruguay (17), accommodating a total of **5,135 Venezuelans**. Specifically in Colombia, temporary accommodation was provided for the population with the most needs and vulnerabilities in 7 departments through a community stabilization program. In Brazil, migrants living in the streets around the bus station in Boa Vista benefitted from 22 basic shelters set up by IOM in the surrounding area to alleviate the impact of climate conditions, especially at night.

## Non-Food Items (NFI)

NFIs were distributed to **7,396 Venezuelans** in need in Argentina (42), Aruba (5), Ecuador (499), Guyana (460) and Peru (27). In Colombia 6,363 migrants were reached, 3,968 of those were moving along the Walking Route in the border municipalities as Pamplona (1,689), Espinal (934) and Popayán (1,345). Along with the distribution of NFI kits, migrants are also offered guidance and information, physical and emotional first aid services and contact reestablishment for family reunification.

## Transportation assistance

Humanitarian transportation was provided in Colombia to 1,116 people in 8 different municipalities, including the migrant population on the "walking" route, who voluntarily wish to go to a third destination country. In Argentina, 8 people (two families in a state of vulnerability) were supported with transportation from the city of San Salvador de Jujuy to Buenos Aires and to the city of Mendoza, through the implementing partner Cruz Roja Argentina. Migrants were also assisted in Ecuador (2,402), Guyana (19) and Peru (3,529) for a total of **7,074 Venezuelans** in the reporting period.

## Wi-Fi

IOM Ecuador keeps supporting free Wi-Fi in Rumichaca and Huaquillas. In the reporting period **14,204 Venezuelans** could access online communication services, giving them the opportunity to communicate with their families, support networks and to access critical information on assistance services and the continuation of their journey.

## Food assistance

In special circumstances, IOM has complemented its assistance with food items. In the reporting period, food items have been distributed in Argentina (8), Colombia (1,670), Dominican Republic (8), Guyana (467), Mexico (140) Panama (73), Peru (6,751) and Uruguay (9) reaching 9,126 people in need. In Peru, the food was distributed at the Centro Binacional de Atención en Frontera (CEBAF) in Tumbes and in the city of Tacna (south border). This figure includes 2,298 women (34%) and 3,343 children (49%).

## Health

Emergency health care services were provided to 11,156 Venezuelans. Psychosocial support services were organized for Venezuelans in Uruguay (26) through the implementing partners Manos Veneguayas and Idas y Vueltas. In Colombia, 10,971 people were reached, this figure includes 4,270 people who participated in health days that IOM has organised in 8 cities. Activities have been coordinated with the municipal health secretariat and offered basic health care to Venezuelan migrant populations and host communities, prioritizing the attention to pregnant women and children. Further health service provisions were carried out in Costa Rica (65) the Dominican Republic (25), Ecuador (27), Mexico (11), Panama (12) and Peru (19).



## *“They offered us accommodation and services for the trip”*

María Angélica Pérez and her family left Los Teques, in the state of Miranda (Venezuela) towards Peru, where they hope to have new opportunities. They traveled by bus to San Antonio (Venezuela) and crossed the border through the so called “trochas”. They were muddy and tired. After that trip, they found assistance at the Migrant Transitory

Assistance Center (CATM, by its acronym in Spanish), in Villa del Rosario (Norte de Santander). “They offered us accommodation and services for rest of the trip,” María Angélica said to IOM. In the CATM, her children were able to use the sanitary services. They also received food and medical assistance.

[read full story](#)



# PROTECTION

As means to provide protection services to Venezuelans arriving in host countries, IOM is facilitating their access to documentation and regularization. Support in this area is also key for the enjoyment of human rights, and access to social services in receiving countries. Prevention and awareness on human trafficking, migrant smuggling and other forms of exploitation are also key in protecting migrants.

## MAIN CONTRIBUTORS

## REGIONAL PROJECTS:



### Orientation and information on documentation and regularization

As key activity to promote the effective protection and socio-economic integration of Venezuelans arriving in host countries, IOM is facilitating access to documentation and regularization. During the reporting period **8,159 people** were oriented and provided with information on documentation and regularization. 7,930 Venezuelans have been documented and regularized in Brazil and 229 were assisted in Costa Rica. In Brazil, IOM teams assist migrants in verifying, correcting, and providing required declarations, copies, and forms. Migrants are then referred to the Federal Police, which handles the residence permit applications.

### Social services and access pathways

Information on social services and support pathways have been provided to **3,316 Venezuelans** in the reporting period: 45 in the Dominican Republic, 2,784 in Ecuador, 460 in Guyana and 27 in Panamá.

### Anti-trafficking, human smuggling and other forms of exploitation

Due to the international day against human trafficking (July 30<sup>th</sup>), several activities were developed in order to raise awareness on the risk related to trafficking in persons and the assistance mechanisms available in each specific country. In Ecuador, 750 migrants were reached, 501 people of those received informative sessions on trafficking in persons, smuggling and GBV in border areas (Rumichaca and Huaquillas) and 249 persons with specific needs or identified at risk were directly assisted. A pact was signed between IOM Colombia, the Mayor's Office of Bogotá and the District's Institute for the Protection of Children and Youth (DIPRON), in order to contribute to the joint efforts to combat this crime in the city. This will be done through public awareness raising and the strengthening of both the district trafficking committee as well as the government secretary. Finally, in Brazil, the 6th Week against Trafficking in Persons was promoted in partnership with the Ministry of Justice. Film sessions were held at a bus station in Boa Vista. During the last week of July, IOM Brazil distributed information materials and exhibited movies followed by discussions with migrants on the subject. A total of 179 migrants (109 men, 70 women) attended the movie sessions.

## Martín's new life in Brazil

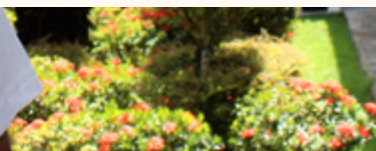
Martín Brazón was an engineering student in Venezuela, from where he left towards Brazil. In the new country, Martín lived in precarious conditions, without access to drinking water and depended on assistance from others to eat. Without documentation, he looked for irregular job in Boa Vista, North of Brazil, to buy hygiene and food items. IOM gave Martín information on access to documentation and thus he was able to obtain a temporary residence visa in Brazil which permitted him to work in the country. Once regularized, Martín was hired by an NGO, in which he helps other Venezuelans residing in Boa Vista to communicate with their relatives in Venezuela.



*“Thanks to the support of IOM and UNHCR, we have been able to give a helping hand to other Venezuelans”*

In 2017, José Gómez left Caracas, Venezuela, to go to the Dominican Republic with his family. There he developed his own business, which offers car mechanic services. As an entrepreneur, José created the San Cristóbal Association of Venezuelans, which aims to assist and guide other Venezuelans through their integration into the island's community.

“Thanks to the support of IOM and UNHCR, we have been able to give a helping hand to other Venezuelans, mainly by organizing health care activities in which we assisted 354 people. This kind of assistance is very much needed,” emphasized José





# SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION

As Venezuelans are settling down temporarily or permanently into host communities, IOM works towards the promotion of social cohesion, labor insertion and sustainability of the receiving governments' long-term operational responses. To achieve this, IOM works closely with the private sector, civil society organizations, local communities, local and national government authorities

## MAIN CONTRIBUTORS

## REGIONAL PROJECTS:



## NATIONAL PROJECTS:



El futuro es de todos

Cancillería de Colombia

### Inclusive Education

During the reporting period, humanitarian assistance activities focused on education were carried out in 5 municipalities of Colombia with the aim of supporting Venezuelan migrants that have applied for quotas and who have already been assigned to the local education system. **864 Venezuelans children and adolescents** were reached through the delivery of school kits. The school kits are meant for high school, elementary and pre-school students.

### Social cohesion

In the reporting period **2,536 Venezuelans** participated in **social cohesion activities**. In Paraguay, the "1st Information Day for the Integration of the Venezuelan population in Paraguay" was held on July 27, with the support of the General Directorate of Migration, the Ministry of Children and Adolescents and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPBS). In addition, other State institutions participated, such as the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Labor, the National Malaria Eradication Service (SENEPA), as well as NGOs such as *Puentes de Solidaridad*, and the Civil Association of Venezuelans in Paraguay. 343 Venezuelans participated and were informed about the services available in the country. The MSPBS oversaw the provision of clinical care and vaccination, as well as consultations related to nutrition issues. Further social cohesion activities were carried out in Brazil (853), the Dominican Republic (1,260) and Mexico (80).

### Ant-xenophobia and Anti-discrimination campaign

IOM is collaborating with other UN agencies, especially UNHCR, to develop and carry out anti-xenophobia and anti-discrimination campaigns and events. In the reporting period around **13,900 persons** were exposed to the campaign *Abrazos que Unen* in Ecuador.

### Livelihoods and income generation

**130 Migrants and Refugees from Venezuelan** have been assisted in the reporting period through different activities:

- In Costa Rica 65 entrepreneurs participated in the course "entrepreneurship with purpose, developing my business model". During the course, topics such as values, attitudes and entrepreneurial skills and the construction of a value proposition were addressed. From this group, 25 entrepreneurs will be selected to be advised and accompanied in their entrepreneurship.
- In the Dominican Republic 15 Venezuelans were supported with trainings on how to become an entrepreneur;
- IOM in Colombia kicked off the formation of Venezuelans and formulation of business plans after a pre-selection process carried out in the month of June. The process will last three months and is being carried out in coordination with the Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA) Atlántico. The work with the beneficiaries is being carried out in Barranquilla, Baranoa and Soledad.

Additionally, in Curitiba, IOM Brazil and UNHCR co-organized a Forum on Employment and Entrepreneurship with the private sector on July 2nd, where guidelines and good practices on migrant and refugee inclusion in the labor market were presented, as well as the IOM/UNHCR/UNCTAD "Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees". In this framework, IOM organized a workshop on migrant labor integration to human resource professionals in the private sector and CSOs, to raise awareness on migration issues and clarify doubts about hiring processes and legislation. 84 people including migrants, public officials, civil society members and staff from private sector participated in these events.





# INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

IOM teams at the national and regional levels adapt to the needs of governments to respond to the emergency. In this regard, IOM keeps providing technical assistance in the development of tools, sharing of best practices and coordination mechanisms; it supports government officials and key government partners in strengthening capacities through training and providing technical and financial resources to government institutions to improve their processing capacities.

## MAIN CONTRIBUTORS

## REGIONAL PROJECTS:



### Processing capacities

Thanks to IOM's support to government agencies in the strengthening processing capacities a total of **773 Venezuelans** were regularized in 2 countries: 366 people were assisted in their regularization process in Costa Rica and 407 in Uruguay.

### Trainings

Trainings were carried out in Argentina (31), Brazil (218) and Ecuador (194) covering **443 government officials and partners**. Topics ranged from human mobility, to the main protection needs of Venezuelan migrants. In Brazil, IOM conducted trainings after a request from the city of Curitiba's Social Assistance Foundation (FAS) on July 31st. 36 social assistants were trained at both municipal and state levels on migration issues, Brazilian legislation and how to better assist people from different cultures. Considering the importance of strengthened host government capacities, in Ecuador, 6 training sessions for officials were conducted in the border areas of Ecuador (Huaquillas and Tulcán) on Fraudulent Documentation Detection and Phishing.

## *“This knowledge contributes to my work”*

Adriana Padilla, advisor at the Mayor's Office of Barranquilla's Government in Colombia, has one of 1322 public officials and community members who attended the workshop “Salir o regresar ¡Al derecho!”. This is a pedagogical tool for the promotion of orderly and regular migration, implemented in 11 departments. “This knowledge contributes to my work since it gives us better guidance to provide more accurate assistance to migrants, whether in the return or arrival in the country,” Adriana said. She has provided information and guidance to Venezuelans and returning Colombians at the Reference and Opportunity for Return Center (CRORE, by its acronym in Spanish) and the City Hall. For her these workshops supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly with IOM “should continue to be carried out to identify what migration implies, its risks, actors and the benefits of orderly migration.”



@ IOM Colombia / Daniela Chaparro

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the official launch of the response in April 2018, donor contributions are supporting the consolidation of delivery systems and the scaling up of operations, both in terms of beneficiary targets and geographical scope. To date, IOM has completed 14 projects in response to the Venezuelan flows and is implementing another 10 initiatives in 17 countries of South and Central America and the Caribbean.

### NUMBERS OF VENEZUELANAS BENEFITTED BY SERVICE AREA

AS PER JULY 2019

AREAS OF INTERVENTION	N° OF BENEFICIARIES
<b>DIRECT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE</b>	
Data, monitoring and assessments	<b>98,303</b>
Shelter / Temporary accommodation	<b>32,767</b>
NFI	<b>36,854</b>
Connectivity	<b>78,654</b>
Food and nutrition	<b>36,064</b>
Emergency health care	<b>28,559</b>
Transportation	<b>42,381</b>
<b>PROTECTION</b>	
Information on services pathways	<b>88,440</b>
Assistance on documentation, regularization	<b>124,889</b>
Special needs groups	<b>3,117</b>
TIP, smuggling and exploitation	<b>111,012</b>
<b>SOCIO ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION</b>	
Inclusive education	<b>864</b>
Livelihoods/income generation	<b>5,606</b>
Skills recognition	<b>40</b>
Social cohesion	<b>9,562</b>
<b>INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY</b>	
Processing capacity	<b>26,565</b>

As part of the fulfilment of entrusted tasks by the UN Secretary-General to IOM and UNHCR to co-lead and coordinate the response at the regional and national level, IOM has continued to support the harmonization of the response through its work with UNHCR, as well as through intergovernmental coordination mechanisms by providing technical assistance and articulation as requested by governments:

- At the regional level, the VII Regional Interagency Coordination Meeting was carried out in Panama on July 10<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>. The UNHCR-IOM Joint Special Representative (JSR) for Venezuelan refugees and migrants (JSR), Mr. Eduardo Stein, participated via teleconference in the meeting and summarized the latest developments. As part of the coordinated efforts to produce updated information of the Response, during the reporting period the Regional Platform has published five documents:
  - › Map with the updated data on Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the region until July 2019;
  - › Funding Update on the RMRP;
  - › Factsheet on the national anti-xenophobia campaigns active across the region;
  - › Special Update on the Quito Process;
  - › Factsheet on the latest actions of the GBV Working Group.
- In the framework of the Quito Process, IOM provided technical and financial support in the development of the IV International Technical Meeting on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens in the Region, held in the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July. Government representatives from 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as representatives from UN agencies, regional organizations, development banks and members of civil society participated in the meeting, which was convened by the Government of Argentina. The JSR participated via teleconference in the meeting and highlighted the importance of the Quito process as a key space for communication and coordination among States as they can benefit from the exchange, articulation and harmonization of the many good practices that take place in the region.
- Finally, as a result of the IV Meeting of the Quito Process, a joint Declaration was signed by 11 countries<sup>1</sup> and a road map to facilitate integration in the region of refugees and migrants from Venezuela was adopted by 12 countries<sup>2</sup>. The road map is composed of specific actions related to issues including human trafficking, the provision of health care, and recognition of academic qualifications. It also includes the profile projects designed with IOM support in order to go forward in following initiatives: establishment of centers of information, reception, advice and assistance for refugees and migrants, a platform for orientation and development of human capital, and a regional mobility information card.

---

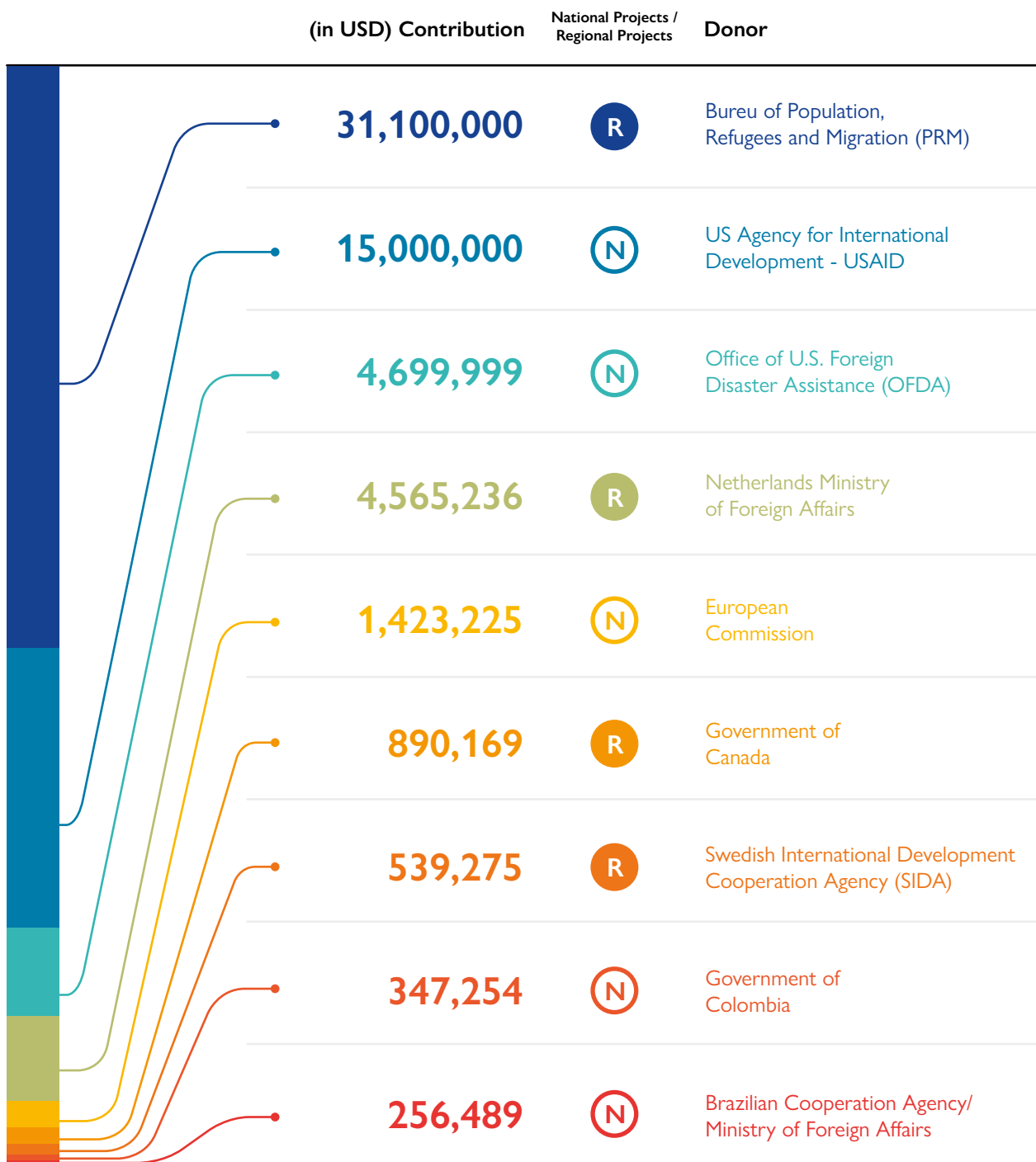
1 Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Venezuela.

2 Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic.



## DONORS CONTRIBUTIONS

IOM is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, contributing to its activities with earmarked and softly earmarked funds at regional and national level. Currently IOM is implementing 10 projects in the Region through the following contributions:



**58,821,646 TOTAL**



/OIMSuramerica