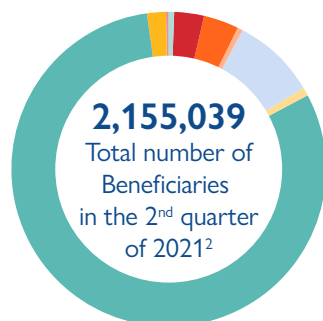


This report series aims at providing a summary of IOM's response and main achievements in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region from April to June 2021 thanks to the contributions and engagement of donors and partners.

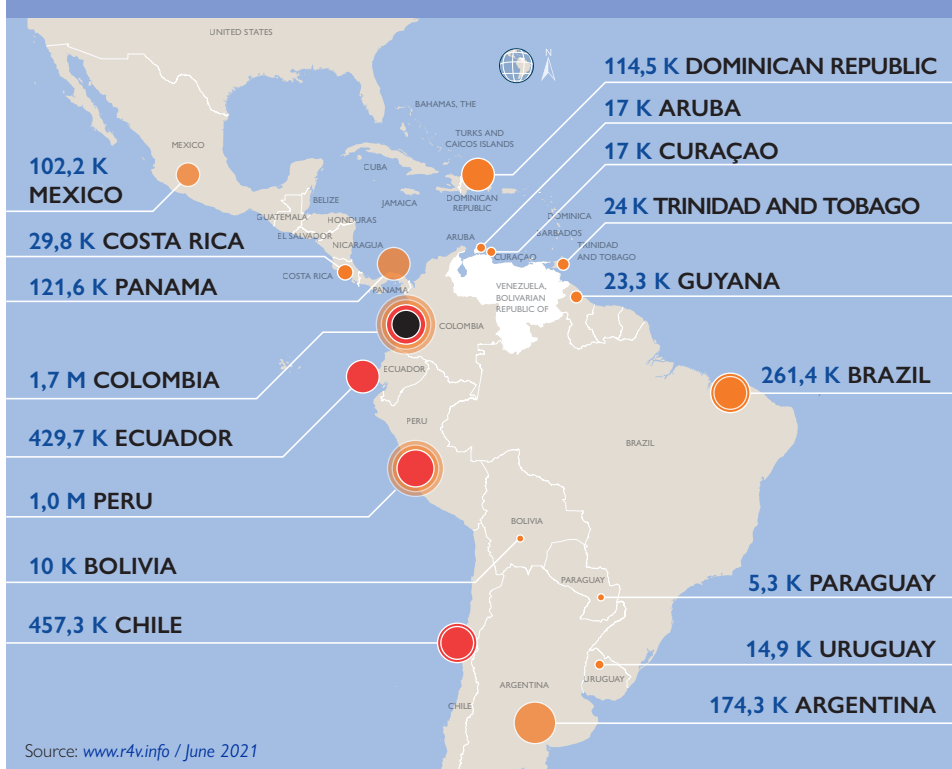
APRIL-JUNE 2021

REGIONAL RESPONSE¹

The IOM Regional Response to the Venezuela Situation takes place across 17 IOM Missions operating under the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP). Between April and June 2021, IOM was able to provide the following services to beneficiaries per RMRP sector, as illustrated below:



VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



Education



15,781

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



8

Countries



5,600

Education supplies provided



Food Security



67,850

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



16

Countries



4,299

Food baskets distributed



81,074

Meals distributed



Health



75,795

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



8

Countries



6,566

Individual assisted with Psycho-social support



15,204

Healthcare providers trained

1. Results of regional RMRP projects from April to June 2021.

2. Figures reported are not for unique beneficiaries.



Humanitarian Transportation



8,954

Number of orientation, pre-departure and logistical services provided to beneficiaries



6

Countries



Integration



190,039

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



16

Countries



402

Individuals who participated in entrepreneurship activities



8,673,744

Individuals reached with anti-xenophobia and anti-discrimination campaigns



Multipurpose CBI



13,191

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



6

Countries



Protection



1,736,487

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



15

Countries



7,458

Individuals supported with documentation and regularization processes



1,097,010

Individuals assisted with orientation on social services



Shelter



41,373

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



15

Countries



WASH



5,569

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



5

Countries



2,176

Hygiene/dignity kits distributed



Common Services



8

Countries

DTM

20

DTM field data collection rounds completed

16

DTM reports

KEY OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Venezuelan migrants and refugees in world - 5.6 million
Venezuelan migrants and refugees in LAC - 4.6 million

Colombia - 1.7 M

In partnership with World Vision International, Acción Contra El Hambre and the Danish Refugee Council, IOM implemented Multipurpose Cash Transfers and Cash Transfers aimed at rental support, in seven departments of the country, focusing on migrants from Venezuela, Colombian returnees and host communities. To date, a total of 9,085 people in socioeconomic vulnerability received Multipurpose Cash Transfer support, with priority given to households headed by women and with children, adolescents, the elderly and people with disabilities, and with the goal to improve access to basic food and non-food items. Cash Transfers for rental support were directed at households experiencing homelessness, those that live in makeshift housing or are at risk of eviction, benefiting 3,305 people with the payment of rent to individuals and/or families.

Guyana - 23,300

IOM implemented a training program on cosmetology for Venezuelan and Guyanese women, as a strategy to generate livelihood and promote mental health and wellbeing of all community members. The program aims to promote and empower women in the community, while activating and developing their skills for their integration in the labor market. Women are encouraged to build relationships with their peers and strengthen bonds of solidarity and resilience that promote the union between Venezuelan migrants and Guyanese nationals. This initiative was implemented in partnership with United Bridge Builders Mission (UBBM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and the Child Protection Agency of Guyana. To date, 18 Guyanese and 20 Venezuelan women have been supported.

Ecuador - 429,700

IOM delivered 330 tablets and 320 educational kits to local partner organizations and institutions, including RAFALEX Association, CREA TU ESPACIO Foundation, Hacienda Panas Foundation, the Municipality of Cuenca, the Azuay Province, FUDELA, HIAS and Uniendo Voluntades Foundation. With a view of supporting the continued online learning in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the items will be subsequently donated to children and adolescents in situations of human mobility as well as host communities in the province of Azuay.

Peru - 1.0 M

IOM implemented various activities aimed at improving the living and transit conditions of migrants and refugees, focusing on the key locations in the Northern and Southern border regions (Tumbes, Piura and Tacna). In a context marked by COVID-19 and the closure of land borders, IOM distributed over 6,700 hygiene kits, 5,700 food kits and almost 13,800 hot meals to ensure food security for this vulnerable population and in support to local authorities and partners' efforts. Likewise, at the beginning of the school year, IOM distributed over 220 school kits in coordination with regional directorates of education to support the permanence of refugee and migrant children in the educational system.

Bolivia - 10,000

IOM provided humanitarian assistance to Venezuelan migrants in transit in the border town of Pisiga, in the form of 800 hygiene kits, 400 food kits, 800 shelter kits, 500 personal protection kits, and 200 temporary housing vouchers. The capacities of local institutions were also strengthened to provide assistance and protection services to the migrant population through the delivery of medical equipment to the Pisiga health center and the provision of biosecurity supplies to the local Migration office. Finally, health personnel, immigration officials and police officers were trained on first aid and hand-washing stations were installed in different parts of the city.

Chile - 457,300

IOM, in close coordination with the Chilean Catholic Migration Institute, (INCAMI), continued to promote labor market integration of migrants and refugees from Venezuela, through the provision of technical courses on accounting and other areas requiring knowledge on local regulations. The training lasted ten days and reached 91 Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Argentina - 174,300

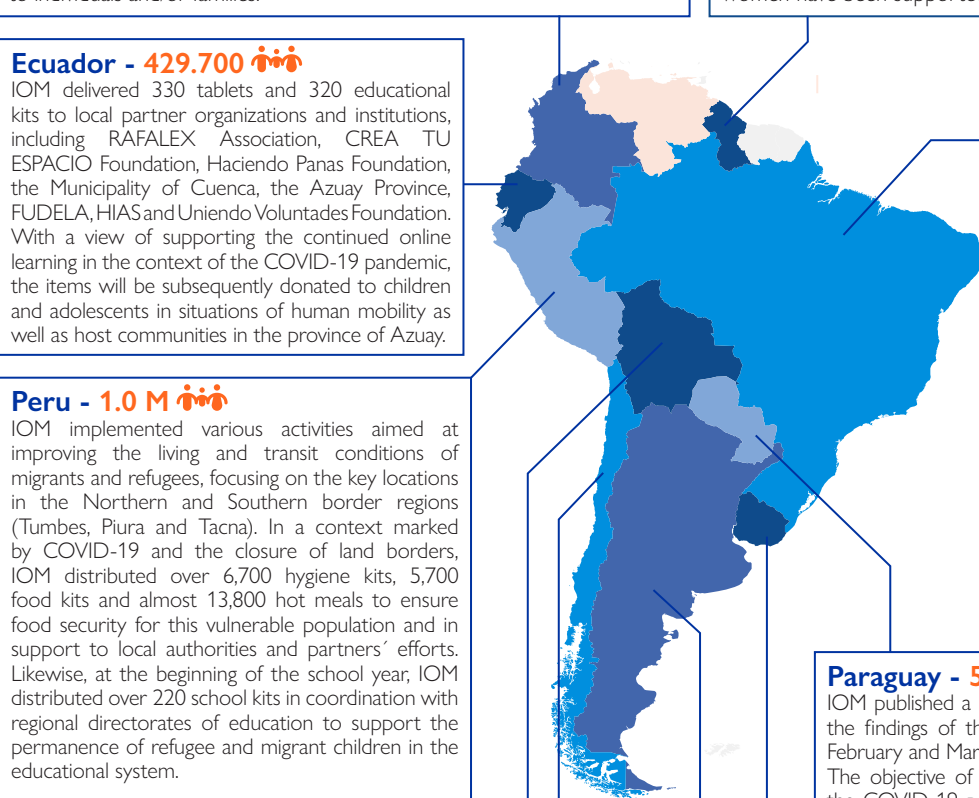
In close coordination with the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires, IOM donated 21,725 healthcare supplies and personal protection equipment (PPE) to the Ministry of Health to be used at local hospitals. The action took place in the framework of the campaign "Compromiso Bonaerense", aimed at strengthening the actions currently implemented by the provincial government to respond to the second wave of COVID-19 infections. Items donated included 4,000 face masks; 4,000 latex gloves; 1,725 units of liquid hand soap; 4,000 sanitary suits; 4,000 protective face shields; and 4,000 surgical scrubs.

Paraguay - 5,300

IOM published a *Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report* with the findings of the third round of surveys conducted between February and March 2021 with Venezuelan migrants and refugees. The objective of this DTM round was to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Venezuelan population residing in Paraguay. The top five aspects of respondents' lives that have worsened since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic were economic resources (63%), work (56%), housing and shelter (37%), clothing/shoes (33%), and medical care (22%).

Uruguay - 14,900

IOM implemented a pilot initiative to support 49 Venezuelan migrant entrepreneurs in the departments of Montevideo, Canelones, Maldonado, Rivera and Rocha. In partnership with relevant institutions, the program included a series of business management training sessions and the transfer of seed capital to support migrant owned businesses. The training sessions were well received by the migrant entrepreneurs, and the seed capital was used to purchase tools and materials to strengthen these 49 micro businesses.



KEY OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Venezuelan migrants and refugees in world - 5.6 million
Venezuelan migrants and refugees in LAC - 4.6 million

Mexico - 121,600

IOM delivered online workshops based on the Handbook for Migrant Entrepreneurship, counting with the participation of key partners and counterparts from both government and civil society. The workshops aimed to promote migrants' empowerment, their social integration and the generation of opportunities and livelihoods for migrant families and communities. Topics included business model development, financing strategy, marketing and sales planning, legal strategy, in addition to important matters for the establishment of microenterprises in Mexico. The online modality allowed the participation of 54 Venezuelan migrants located throughout Mexico, including Mexico City, Quintana Roo, Puebla, Querétaro, Nuevo León and Chihuahua. The Migrant Entrepreneurship manuals were personally delivered to those living in the capital and shipped to those located in other parts of the country.

Dominican Republic - 114,500

In support to the Dominican Migratory Normalization Plan, in April IOM inaugurated migration information desks in partnership with Venezuelan migrant organizations. The orientation desks are supplied with equipment and trained personnel to support Venezuelan migrants in completing their registration process, providing virtual as well as in person orientation in Santo Domingo, San Cristóbal, Boca Chica, La Romana, Bávaro, Dajabón and Santiago de los Caballeros. IOM partner organizations include Fundación Duendes y Ángeles Vinotinto, Diáspora Venezolana (DIASPOVERD), Fundación Colonia Venezolana (FUNCOVERD), Asociación de Venezolanos en Santiago (AVES), Fundación de Emigrantes Venezolanos (FEV), Fundación Churún Merún and Fundación Venezolanos en San Cristóbal. During the first phase of the Plan, between April and May 2021, IOM's direct support allowed the Dominican authorities to provide orientation to ten thousand migrants and refugees from Venezuela.

Aruba - 17,000

IOM collaborated with Stichting Onderwijs van de Advent Zending Aruba (SOAZA), a local education institution, in the implementation of a program aimed at providing daily breakfast to 50 Venezuelan migrant and host community students with limited access to food. At the end of the school year, IOM and SOAZA collaborated on a cultural and science fair event to promote social cohesion among the students. In partnership with UNWOMEN, IOM also supported SOAZA with the donation of laptops for their school program.

Costa Rica - 29,800

In the framework of the Program "800-Venezuela", IOM provided support to 20 Venezuelan migrants, including mothers' heads of households in vulnerable situations and survivors of gender-based violence, who required legal immigration assistance and economic support for their regularization. IOM also organized six virtual workshops on psychosocial care, for a total of 108 Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Topics covered included emotional and self-esteem management, as well as the effective approaches to coping with childhood trauma.

Panama - 121,600

As part of its engagement efforts with the National Commission against Trafficking in Persons, IOM organized a series of counter trafficking training sessions in various provinces of Panama, with the goal to raise awareness, sensitize and strengthen the capacities of personnel at ports, airports and other points of entry, as well as officials of the institutions involved in the prevention, protection and prosecution of the crime. In total, more than 100 government employees were trained. Most of the victims of trafficking identified in Panama in recent years were Venezuelan nationals.

Curaçao - 17,000

IOM has been collaborating with the teachers of Prins Bernhard school in an education project aimed at facilitating the enrolment and advancement of 18 Venezuelan migrant children to the Curacao education system by bridging their barrier to the Dutch language. Students received Dutch language tutoring for a period of three months, followed by a certificate of participation and the delivery of a school kit with various school supplies which will help them in their next school term.

Trinidad & Tobago - 24,000

Following the Easter holiday, Trinidad and Tobago reinstated movement restrictions in order to contain its third wave of COVID-19 infections. During these times of economic hardship, IOM has been one of the key agencies to aid both the local and the vulnerable Venezuelan migrant families, having partnered with the National AIDS Coordinating Committee, TTV Solidarity Network and the Parish Ministries for Migrants and Refugees to provide food support to approximately 200 families.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



The *International Donors Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants* was convened by the Government of Canada, in collaboration with IOM and UNHCR as co-leaders of the R4V on June 17th. The 34 donors, including states (31), the European Union and international banks (2) pledged a total of USD 2.3 billion (USD 957M in grants and USD 1.4B in loans) for the response to Venezuelan refugees and migrants in LAC. The conference was also attended by government representatives of thirteen host countries, UN agencies, civil society organizations, the IFRC, and six Venezuelan migrants who delivered remarks about their experiences and challenges in the region. The IOM Director General gave opening remarks highlighting the importance of socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants; and participated in the press conference after the pledges were announced, along with the Canadian Minister of International Development and the UNHCR High Commissioner.

R4V Side Events: Under the co-leadership of IOM and UNHCR, sector lead agencies of the Regional Interagency Platform (R4V) organized nine thematic side events during the month of May in the lead-up to the International Donors' Conference. The events brought together approximately 2,500 participants and provided highly participatory forums for perspectives ranging from migrants and refugees themselves to CSOs, diaspora organizations, UN agencies, host countries and donors. The meetings reflected the sectoral needs of 3.3 million persons estimated to be in critical need of assistance under the RMRP 2021 and the corresponding efforts and financial requirements of the 159 R4V Platform members working in 17 countries of the region. IOM had a leading role organizing the sector events on humanitarian transportation, shelter, trafficking and smuggling, and integration.



The DG's Special Envoy for the Venezuelan Situation opened the event **"How to advance the effective socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the context of a global pandemic?"** led by the Integration Sector. The Special Envoy highlighted the importance of integration processes, regularization pathways, formal work and social cohesion of migrants and refugees in the host communities. Governmental representatives along with leaders from the private sector and civil society from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Peru participated as panelists attesting to the joint efforts and concerns.



The side event organized by the Shelter Sector titled **"Access to Adequate Housing for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela"** hosted panelists from the Governments of Brazil and Colombia. In opening remarks, the IOM Colombia Chief of Mission emphasized that access to adequate housing can save lives, especially in the context of the current pandemic, being echoed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing and key donors including PRM.



The side event **"Invisible Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela during COVID-19: disproportionate impacts on special protection groups"**, led by the Protection Sector, allowed participants to join three different panel sessions. RO San Jose's Senior Regional Migrant Protection and Assistance (MPA) Specialist led the panel dedicated to sexual exploitation and trafficking. The panel was instrumental in highlighting that the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to worrying levels of exploitation of migrant and refugee women and children from Venezuela.



The event on **"Humanitarian Transportation and Trafficking in Persons"** was opened by the DG's Special Envoy for the Venezuelan Situation and was attended by more than 210 participants, including civil society, migrant diaspora organizations, UN agencies, and key donors. Amongst the panelists were representatives of the governments of Brazil and Paraguay, the President of the Coalition for Venezuela, several R4V partners and IOM Ecuador Chief of Mission. The meeting raised awareness on the unique role of humanitarian transportation services, including as an element in the prevention of human trafficking, and highlighted critical funding gaps under the RMRP 2021.



The Federative Republic of Brazil assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Quito Process during the handover ceremony organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru on June 22nd. The Director of the United Nations Unit of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Round VIII: Brasilia Chapter will be

of reflection on the agreements reached so far and will aim at maintaining the International Community's attention and promoting the implementation of regional initiatives. Participants included the Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants, the IOM DG's Special Envoy for the Regional Response, the UNHCR's High Commissioner for Refugees and member states, who congratulated Peru for its leadership and welcomed Brazil as the incoming Pro Tempore Presidency.

The Training Cycle for Leaders of Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees Organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean

was launched by the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) in partnership with the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (FLACSO) with the financial support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID in Spanish) to showcase the e-learning platform for migrants and refugees from Venezuela. The IOM Special Envoy, the Director of FLACSO, the Director of the Organization of American States (OAS) Social Inclusion Department, the AECID representative in Caracas, the Director of State and Public Policies from FLACSO, and the Coordinator for the Venezuelan Coalition highlighted the importance of the involvement of the Venezuelan diaspora in the regional response to the crisis. The event served as a platform for the 100 selected Venezuelan leaders to partake in this first cycle.



The R4V Interagency Coordination Platform co-led by IOM and UNHCR launched its new webpage r4v.info. Amongst the new features are separate spaces

for each national and subregional Platform as well as for R4V Regional Sectors and Working Groups. The webpage further provides regular updates, information on activities implemented under the RMRP, funding received (by means of FTS), an **Activity Explorer** on all proposed activities under the RMRP 2021 and monthly updates on population figures in the region. Previously hosted by UNHCR, the webpage migrated to IOM's server. The R4V Platform also began the **RMRP 2022 planning process**, by providing guidance and support to National and Sub-regional Platforms for their Joint Needs Assessments as the first stage of the planning process. The key tenets of the planning process for 2022 following the JNA stage were presented in the **16th Regional Platform meeting on Thursday 8th July**. The meeting had a participation of over 350 attendees and included two high-level panels of representatives from the Governments of Canada, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia, the Coalition LAC RMD, as well as IOM-UNHCR Special Representative. During the event, the achievements and lessons learned from the International Donor's Conference were discussed, as well as the progress and challenges around the regularization initiatives happening in the region.

On 8 July the final document of **IOM's Regional Protection Strategy** in the framework of the R4V was circulated to all IOM platform focal points in the region. The IOM R4V Regional Protection Strategy is a bottom-up built strategy to help guide IOM platform teams in all 17 countries in their advocacy and programming actions on fulfilling the rights of migrants and refugees from Venezuela, promoting IOM's expertise in the field, and in line with the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan 2021(RMRP). The strategy recognizes IOM's role in protection, advocacy and coordination in humanitarian responses. Since the IOM-R4V Regional Protection Strategy roll-out and validation in March, the IOM teams of GIFMM Colombia, GTRM Peru and Panama have begun a construction process of national protection strategies that has included the different IOM projects currently implementing activities for the protection of migrants and refugees, with the purpose of jointly identifying priorities, strengths and actions on protection. As part of the new global process towards defining an

institutional approach to protection at IOM, the regional strategy will serve as a basis to create a chapter on IOM's role in inter-agency coordination on protection.

On behalf of the R4V Regional GBV Sub-Sector, the OSE closed the two-month running regional campaign **“A Thousand Ways to Be a Man”** with a virtual event on Positive Masculinities. A diverse panel of regional experts discussed the impact of traditional masculinities and unequal gender relations on the daily lives of refugee and migrant women, men and persons with diverse gender identities and sexual orientation, and proposed entry points for programming that promotes more peaceful, equal and respectful relationships and communities. The panel, which was broadcasted in [English](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#), reached 800 views within five days. Overall, [the campaign](#) was an invitation for men in the affected community to rethink what it means to be a man as a means towards achieving better personal and interpersonal outcomes. The campaign reached eight million people on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

R4V finalized a regional methodology for carrying out Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) risk assessments aim to identify the risk of SEA happening and the risk that organizations operating in-country cannot respond effectively when incidents occur. Risk assessments are a collective exercise and a critical first step towards establishing interagency PSEA programs. Although extremely important, few crisis settings have undertaken risk assessments in the world. This innovative methodology will be launched and piloted in R4V countries in the third quarter of 2021.

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



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

