

This report series provides a summary of IOM's main achievements in its response to the Venezuelan migrant and refugee situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, thanks to the contributions and engagement of donors and partners.

## Venezuelan migrants and refugees - March 2024



Source: R4V.info

## VENEZUELAN FIND REGULARIZATION FOR NEW BEGINNINGS IN PERU

"I feel I have truly blossomed. When I first came to this country, the challenges were immense, but the rewards have been priceless." says Karelys, a Venezuelan now living in Peru, as she started reflecting on her 14 years in the beauty profession. "Now I have stability for my family and a business I am proud of."

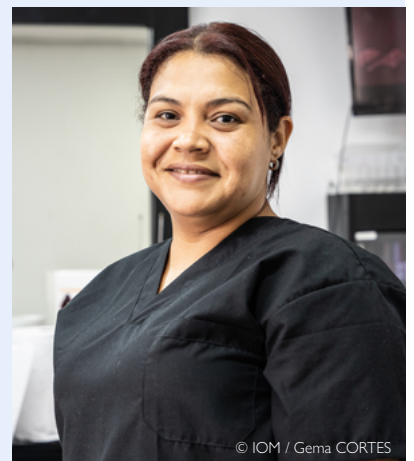
Karelys' life took a significant turn when she crossed the border from Ecuador to Peru in 2019. Leaving behind her career as a skilled stylist in her home country, Venezuela, she ventured into the unknown that would lead her to new opportunities and challenges.

Karelys teamed up with Yerly, a Peruvian podiatrist, and found strength in solidarity.

Speaking over the din of their bustling beauty store in a suburb of the Peruvian capital, Yerly proudly explained their cooperation "We are supporting each other, determined to give back."

Together, they are not only surviving, but also prospering having formed a successful business that provides a variety of beauty services, such as hairdressing, nail treatment, and podiatry.

In Lima, Karelys found hope through Peru's temporary regularization program for Venezuelans. This initiative granted her a temporary residence visa, allowing her to reunite with her family and pursue her dreams.

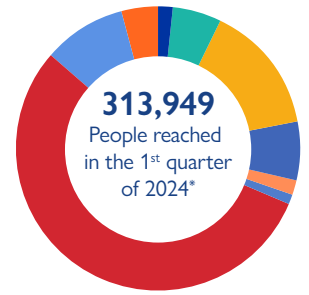


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Karelys found hope through regularization in Peru.

# REGIONAL RESPONSE<sup>1</sup>

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 January – March 2024, IOM was able to provide the following services to people reached\* per RMRP sector, as illustrated below\*\*



<sup>1</sup> Results of regional RMRP projects from January – March 2024

\* Not unique individuals reached.

\*\* Not reached by campaigns.

## EDUCATION



**5,728** People reached  
**8** Countries

## MULTIPURPOSE CBI



**3,311** People reached  
**7** Countries

## FOOD SECURITY



**16,952** People reached  
**12** Countries

## PROTECTION



**173,020** People reached  
**11** Countries  
**3,838** People supported with documentation and regularization processes  
**1,098** Individuals trained on protection issues

## HEALTH



**46,711** People reached  
**12** Countries  
**12,191** Healthcare providers and community workers trained in health-related issues

## SHELTER



**29,660** People reached  
**14** Countries  
**720** Shelter/construction and/or essential household items kits distributed following minimum standards

## HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION



**20,847** People reached  
**8** Countries

## WASH



**12,353** People reached  
**2** Countries

## INTEGRATION



**5,364** People reached  
**10** Countries  
**763** People who participated in employment and entrepreneurship activities

## COMMON SERVICES



**14** Countries  
**179** Common information management products, including DTM made available on a regular or ad hoc basis

# KEY OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

 Approximate number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees

 **7.72 M**  
In the world

 **6.54 M**  
In LAC

## COLOMBIA

**2.88 M** 

IOM and the energy company Enel Colombia partnered to delivered 2,000 school kits to refugee, migrant and host community boys and girls in Bogota, Cali, Barranquilla, and Cundinamarca. This 'Weaving Dreams with Energy' initiative promotes environmental stewardship and facilitated the Sustainable Development Goals of strengthening education and promoting environmental protection through the provision of backpacks made from recycled materials, filled with notebooks, crayons, pencils, sharpeners, and erasers, among other items.



## PERU

**1.54 M** 

To inform, prevent and raise awareness among Venezuelan migrants and host communities on the dynamics and risks of human trafficking and smuggling, IOM launched the national campaigns "#SomeoneTriesToDeceiveYou" and "#APasoSeguro in Arequipa, Callao, Lima, Piura, Tacna and Tumbes. In the first quarter of 2024 billboards in airports and shopping centers received an average of 9,900,000 views while a digital social media campaign reached approximately 1,400,000 people. In addition, a radio campaign with a total of 257 spots reached 4,759,000 people in March. Press releases and information materials were also dissemination.



## BRAZIL

**510.5 K** 

IOM distributed 1,200 food baskets to vulnerable Venezuelan migrants and host communities in four Roraima municipalities, a state bordering Venezuela. Furthermore, to strengthen local capacities to assist Venezuelan migrants, IOM trained over 300 local partner organization on humane care approaches, active listening, migration law and migratory regularization, trafficking in persons, diversity, and the role of the Federal Government's Operation Welcome program.



## ECUADOR

**479.9 K** 

IOM, the Tulcan Mayor's Office, the organizations Patronato Municipal de Amparo Social, and Circuito Barrial El Olímpico and the National Police held a social integration event, at the "Cheverísima - 5K race" to commemorate International Women's Day, recognizing women's valuable contribution to society and facilitating social inclusion among migrants and host communities. Over 600 migrants, mainly Venezuelan, and host community members participated in the event, which included a 5k race, cultural activities, Venezuelan migrant vendors, services provided by organizations, and legal assistance provided by IOM.



## CHILE

**444.4 K** 

The All together, All On Skateboards workshop, a 2-month joint initiative between IOM and the Skatesencia Academy, facilitated cultural exchanges between 15 Chilean and migrant girls and adolescents. The exchanges include practical-theoretical skateboarding sessions that promote respect, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence, as well as develop athletic skills and reflections on self-esteem, a sense of belonging and empowerment.



## ARGENTINA

**217.7 K** 

To facilitate migrant's sociocultural inclusion into their host communities, IOM held 4 "Let's Draw Migration" workshops. 30 family groups, representing 60 individuals, of various nationalities, including Venezuelans, participated in these family education spaces. The workshops, which took a comprehensive approach, focused on artistic creation through designing comics that reflected on the migration process, and strengthened familial and community ties by promoting the benefits of diversity and inclusion and emotional well-being.



KEY OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

124.1 K 

IOM published the study “Investigation on the Number of Violence Complaints Reported by Women Venezuelan and Other Migrants in Greater Santo Domingo Area” on 1 March. The [study](#), written in collaboration with Dominican jurist includes GBV complaint channels, action protocols, regulations as well as the migrant women’s experiences reporting cases of violence in the Greater Santo Domingo area.



## MEXICO

113.1 K 

The Accompaniment Values Education Health (AVES by its Spanish acronym) Community Initiative launched in Tijuana, providing primary health, mental health, and psychosocial support services, as well as promoting migrant integration in host community. The Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez AVES initiatives combined served 61 Venezuelan migrants, providing a total of 100 services including medical consultations, mental health and psychosocial support counseling and workshops, health promotion and disease prevention workshops, and information on IOM programs.



## PANAMA

58.2 K 

IOM collaborated with civil society organizations, community leaders and La Chorrera District Government, to carry out three Somos Parte community initiatives, in Los Guayacanes, Barrio Vega and Tulihueca. The initiatives which ensure availability of safe community and gathering spaces for Venezuelan migrants and host communities included basketball court and soccer field improvements and a sports equipment donation in Los Guayacanes; fencing installation around recreational spaces and gazebo constructed in Barrio Vega; and painting, flood prevention drainage, accessibility ramps and doors in La Tulihueca.



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

36.2 K 

IOM as co-lead of the National Response for Venezuelans (R4V) Platform and lead of the Integration Sector held a three-day Migrant and Refugee Integration training session. 32 participants from 19 civil society organizations attended the training which covered topics such as Regional Integration Strategies and Examples of Best Practices; Integration Programming; 2024 RMNA and RMRP Integration Sector Needs and Priorities; Program Design; CBI for Integration; Trinidad and Tobago Context – Barriers for Integration; PSEA, Setting up the Integration Sector. Representatives from various UN agencies and the EU Delegation Programme Officer from the EU Delegation shared invaluable insights and best practices aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by displaced populations in achieving integration within their host communities.

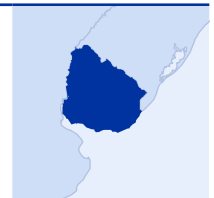


## URUGUAY

32.9 K 

“A trip through the carnivals of the world” summer school program, while supports 40 Venezuelan migrants and host community members, provided educators from 13 schools, 2 children’s clubs, and 1 kindergarten with integration training and tools that facilitate Venezuelan families’ integration into territorial institutions. The training and tools strength the programs ability to promote social cohesion by supporting comprehensive child development through activities that focus on children’s rights, cultural diversity, the right to play and the celebration and respect of different cultural traditions.

A virtual entrepreneurship course in Rivera trained 12 Venezuelan women on business plans, SWOT analysis, and budgeting. The 5-class, weekly course, aimed to facilitate financial autonomy and access to communal support networks for Venezuelan migrant women.



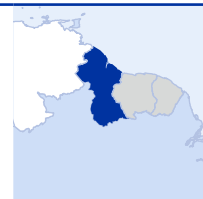
## KEY OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**COSTA RICA**29.4 K 

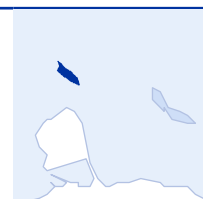
Vulnerability interviews were conducted, resulting in 178 Venezuelan migrants in transit and in destination receiving food cards. Food card denominations depend on family size, with \$30 for 1 person, \$120 for 4 people, and \$180 for 4+ people. These food cards can be used in four different supermarkets with significant presence throughout Costa Rica.

**GUYANA**21.7 K 

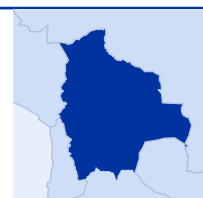
To ensure basic needs are met, IOM provided 122 households comprising of 482 Venezuelan migrants and host community with multipurpose cash assistance. The cash for food was delivered through vouchers typically amounting to one week of meals for a family/household of 3-5 people, while rent payments ranging from one to three months, were delivered through bank transfers to landlords. Households received between USD125 and USD400 based on a vulnerability index score, with criteria including unemployment, single parenthood, and health conditions. Supplementally IOM distributed food and non-food items to migrants who scored above a 7 on the vulnerability index.

**ARUBA**17.1 K 

IOM and Equilibrium Social Consulting presented the Venezuelan Migration in Aruba Impact Study: Reality vs. Potential which measures Venezuelan migrants' contributions to the Aruban economy and evaluates the potential impact of human capital development through the implementation of policies that reduce barriers to economic insertion. The study comprised of 702 irregular Venezuelan migrant survey responses and 5 expert interviews. Study findings suggest that current labor market gaps can be addressed by providing irregular migrants with work permits.

**BOLIVIA**16.4 K 

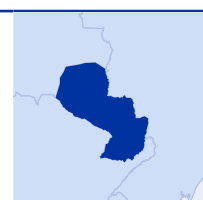
The IOM Information and Assistance Point in the border town of Pisiga receives approx. 150 migrants, daily, 92% of which are Venezuelans, in need of basic assistance and services. In response, IOM provided 1,868 migrants with food kits, 1,604 migrants with warm clothing kits, 696 migrants with hygiene kits, and 664 migrants with vouchers redeemable for accommodation in hotel rooms.

**CURAÇAO**14.0 K 

Post-natal care and Maternity kits were delivered to 16 pregnant Venezuelan migrants, who are approaching their due date. The kit contained essential post-delivery products such as soap, shampoo, cream, powder, diapers, and wet wipes. The kits aim to alleviate the initial financial burden new and single mothers' experience.

**PARAGUAY**5.2 K 

As co-coordinator, IOM held the first R4V Platform meeting in Paraguay, of which 15 organizations participated. The platform aims to ensure a coordinated, effective, and contextualized response to the Venezuelan migrant situation in Paraguay. During the meeting participants discussed Venezuelan migration flow and mobility statistics, 2023 achievements and the 2024 response plan, as well as the upcoming joint needs assessment to be carried out between April and July 2024.



# REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



IOM provided support to the **1st Regional Summit of the Venezuelan Chambers of Commerce’s Regional Network’s (CAVEX)**, which took place in Panama City on 5 March 2024. More than 100 government officials, businessmen, entrepreneurs, partners, civil society organizations, and stakeholders gathered at the all-day event. IOM presented the Regional Employability Study, which was carried out by IOM, The International Organization of Employers (OIE) and National University of *Tres de Febrero* (UNTREF), and funded by Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) the leading regional financial institution. In addition, regional entrepreneurs success stories of were presented. Stanley Motta, Panamanian business owner of the country's main brands, spoke about entrepreneurship. An agreement between civil society (Coalition for Venezuela & Red Clamor) and the business chamber was signed, to promote creating opportunities for migrant’s job searches. Networking allowed entrepreneurs to connect with each other and strengthen their professional ties. At the same time, the presidents of the 10 national chambers of Venezuelan businessmen in the region held their first meeting to outline a road map for the region.



IOM developed and delivered a training package to advance and strengthen institutional **Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Harassment (PSEAH)** measures in the region. The content targeted 25 Spanish-speaking PSEA Focal Points in 20 countries in South and Central America and the Caribbean and was developed to increase knowledge and use of the PSEAH toolkit. The workshop was a collaborative platform that fostered a sense of community among practitioners. It encouraged them to share their experiences, learn from each other, and build a supportive network. The workshop was facilitated by IOM’s PSEAH Senior Coordinator, a professional external facilitator, and the Regional Gender Based Violence (GBV) Specialist, who all played a crucial role in creating a conducive learning environment. Before and after the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on their confidence in relation to the topics covered. For ten topics, participants rated their confidence on a 7-step scale, from “very low confidence” to “very high confidence.” The results taken after the training show a 2.1 point increase, on average, in confidence in all topics, representing a jump of two confidence levels. Furthermore, 86% of the participants reported the workshop exceeded their expectations, while 14% were very satisfied.



IOM launched a pilot initiative that provided dedicated support for the development and implementation of robust policies and procedures to prevent and respond to **Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)**. The initiative consists of a mentorship program for IOM/R4V partners, particularly Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), that kicks off with completing a PSEA common capacity assessment. The initiative includes financial and technical support for introducing and/or updating existing organizational PSEA policies and codes of conduct, establishing human resources systems to prevent SEA, reporting mechanisms, and ensuring victim assistance and investigations. Four CSOs in Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, and Chile are participating in the pilot. The pilot will finish mid- 2024 with the completion of Implementing Partners (IP) capacity implementation plans.



IOM, in collaboration with World Food Program (WFP) and UNHCR, worked on the adaptation of [PSEA materials](#) based on the global campaign **“Together We Say No.”** The materials were launched on 18 January, in a hybrid event attended by 150 people. The event gathered personnel from R4V partner organizations at the regional and country level to reflect on the consequences of SEA from a survivor-centered approach and understand the profound impact of this form of Gender Based Violence on victims, communities, and organizations. The event unpacked perpetuating cycles of trauma and vulnerability through a Feminist Forum Theatre technique. IOM’s Regional Director opened the event, side by side with Regional Directors from WFP and UNHCR.



The R4V’s documentary, [“The Journey That Never Ends”](#), produced by IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF and Save the Children was digitally released. The documentary showcases the struggles, hopes, dreams and contributions of four Venezuelan families who left their country in search of a better life in Peru, and Ecuador as well as highlights the experience of crossing the Darien Province. The documentary aims to raise awareness on the Venezuelan migrant and refugee situation in the region, keep the issue on the global agenda, and combat the stigma and discrimination that impacts Venezuelans integration and stabilization in host communities.

## DANCE TO LIVE: THE JOURNEY OF A VENEZUELAN IN PUNTA CANA

A trio of student dancers from various nationalities congregate in the vibrant streets of Punta Cana, surrounded by swaying palm trees and roaring waves. Among them is Alberto, a seasoned dancer whose journey has created a tapestry of rhythm and resilience.

As classical music symphonies cascade through the air, Alberto and his students, who come from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Venezuela, dive deeply into their rigorous rehearsals. However, behind the graceful pirouettes lies a journey of struggle and separation, as Alberto’s trip to the Dominican Republic was shaped by economic hardship, which tore him away from his dancing studio and his beloved family on Margarita Island.

“To be migrant is to be a warrior. After working so hard and leave everything behind it is very difficult,” Alberto says remembering when he left Venezuela 8 years ago.

For Alberto, dance is not only a means of expression – it is a way of life. For as long as he can remember he has been dedicated to dance. The 40 -year-old Venezuelan artist started learning dance at the age of six. He began playing professionally at the age of 16, and now through the Albert Studio Dance School, he opens doors for young talents as an instructor and mentor, while fostering a culture of inclusion and empowerment within Punta Cana’s bursting dance



Alberto watching students rehearsal.

community. He teaches classical and modern dance, as well as make-up and sustainable fashion design.

“Punta Cana is a breeding ground for talented dancers,” Alberto says, underlining the necessity of providing opportunities for young artists, “My mission? To enable these young artists to shape their futures, for when the music stops, they must be ready to dance to their own beat.”

Alberto and his students represent the spirit of unity and collaboration via a mix of Venezuelan and Dominican traditions. “The exchange of ideas and experiences among young dancers of different nationalities is very interesting,” Alberto shares as he gently corrects the postures of his students. With every movement, “In their shared passion, they find common ground, bridging divides with every twirl”.

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:

