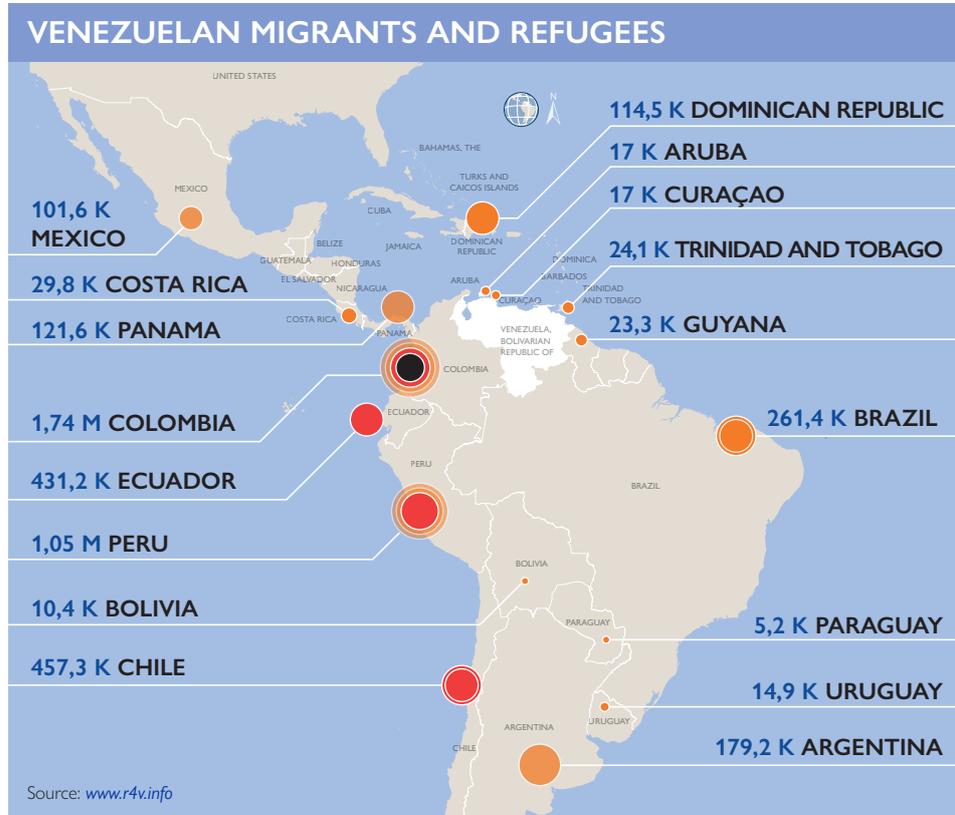
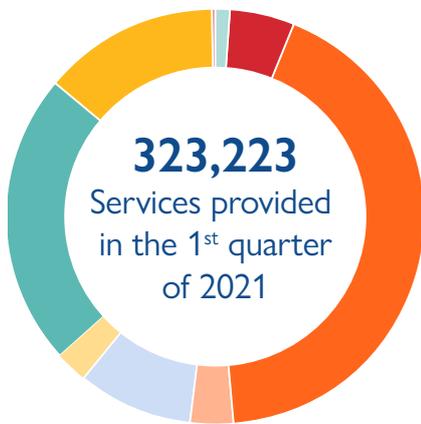


This report series aims at providing a summary of IOM's response and main achievements in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region from January to March 2021 thanks to the contributions and engagement of donors and partners.

## REGIONAL RESPONSE

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 and March 2021, IOM was able to provide the following services to beneficiaries per RMRP sector, as illustrated below:



### Education



**3,638**

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



**4**

Countries



**2,839**

Education supplies provided



### Food Security



**16,502**

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



**11**

Countries



**567**

Food baskets distributed



**7,550**

Meals distributed



### Health



**137,817**

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



**10**

Countries



**4,841**

Individual assisted with Psycho-social support



**588**

Healthcare providers trained



## Humanitarian Transportation



**10,135**

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



**6**

Countries



## Integration



**29,341**

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



**7**

Countries



**381**

Individuals who participated to entrepreneurship activities



**25,109**

Individuals reached with anti-xenophobia and anti-discrimination campaigns



## Multipurpose CBI



**7,772**

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



**5**

Countries



**100 % rent**

% of type of assistance



## Protection



**73,392**

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



**10**

Countries



**7,437**

Individuals supported with documentation and regularization processes



**22,426**

Individuals assisted with orientation on social services



## Shelter



**44,003**

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



**12**

Countries



**15,244**

NFI kits distributed (this includes, kitchen kits, clothing and excludes hygiene, dignity and school kits)



## WASH



**623**

Number of services provided to beneficiaries



**1**

Country



**8,727**

Hygiene/dignity kits distributed



## Common Services



**1**

Country



**2**

DTM field data collection rounds conducted

## KEY OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



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

### Mexico - 101,600

In close collaboration with local authorities, academia and the private sector, IOM supported 38 migrants and refugees from Venezuela with a 10-hour entrepreneurship course developed and implemented based on the IOM Migrant Entrepreneurship Manual. During the course, IOM provided recommendations and guidance to Venezuelan migrants on the fundamental aspects of starting a business venture in Mexico. The overall aim is to empower migrants, bring new skills and enable them to choose how to integrate into host Mexican communities.

### Dominican Republic - 114,500

IOM strengthened cooperation with the General Directorate of Migration (DGM, for its Spanish acronym), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Venezuelan community to effectively manage the migration information desks that will provide free orientation to Venezuelan migrants during the implementation of the Migration Normalization Plan for the Venezuelan population in the Dominican Republic. To that end, the first months of 2021 have been dedicated towards equipping the DGM, the MFA visa application center and the seven free orientation desks with human and technical resources. In addition, in coordination with partners, IOM began the implementation of a communication plan to orient the Venezuelan community regarding the processes, requirements and benefits of the plan.

### Aruba - 17,000

IOM donated ten laptops to the Aruba Adventist Academy in response to an identified need for increased school enrollment capacity in the Oranjestad area. The donation will support the opening of one additional classroom in a zone where many Venezuelan migrants reside. IOM will also support the payment of tuition fees for 28 vulnerable children from the Venezuelan migrant and refugee population as well as host community members, who will benefit from a school program that includes online classes in Spanish, English, and Dutch as second language.

### Costa Rica - 29,800

During the first months of 2021, the IOM Program 800-Venezuela developed tailored assistance plans for 10 Venezuelan households, in accordance with their security situation and available resources. The program aiming at addressing some of their health, housing, food, and hygiene needs. Specialized attention was provided to the most vulnerable people belonging to the LGTBQ+ community, survivors of gender-based violence and elderly women, as well as to mothers who are heads of household. Assistance was provided in the framework of the IOM Regional Mechanism for Assistance to Migrants in Vulnerable Situations.

### Panama - 121,600

IOM and the Venezuelan diaspora organization Fundación Activados Panamá are carrying out the program "Migrating to Entrepreneurship", aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and financial inclusion of the Venezuelan migrant and refugee population in Panama. Through the program, IOM offers technical and financial support in the form of materials, psychosocial support, entrepreneurship training and workshops to 100 participants, ultimately impacting family welfare, their access to livelihoods and ability to contribute to their communities and host country. In the next few months, 30 of the most outstanding participants will also receive seed capital to support their businesses.

### Curaçao - 17,000

**As a response to identified needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants,** IOM has worked towards diversifying NFI support, by offering clothing, shoes and other similar items. NFIs distributed by IOM have been acquired through private donations and will be offered in the charity thrift store "Ropera", where beneficiaries can collect the items of their choice. This initiative seeks to complement existing NFI activities, which during the pandemic have been largely focused on distribution of personal hygiene and other household items.

### Trinidad & Tobago - 24,000

Based on the results of a needs assessment focused on Venezuelan victims of trafficking (VoT), IOM scaled up its capacity to provide legal, shelter and case management assistance.

## 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, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute and other local and national authorities, on March 6th, 2021 IOM opened its first shelter for Venezuelan and Colombian Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). Located in the border municipality of Villa del Rosario, Norte de Santander, the shelter has assisted eleven teenage beneficiaries and completed seven family reunifications, with four more cases currently in process. IOM and World Vision also launched the national hotline for refugees and migrants, offering information about rights, general guidance, and referral to shelter and humanitarian assistance services. The hotline receives 180 daily calls on average.

### Ecuador - 443,700

IOM donated a total of 760 tablets to students from migrant and host communities in Guayaquil and Manta, so that children and adolescents can continue their online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and avoid missing school and a “lost year”. The donation was made directly to the beneficiaries, with the Ministry of Education of Ecuador facilitating the beneficiary selection process based on vulnerability criteria. The tablets have a chip that will provide internet access, which will allow students to access the educational content of the Ministry of Education from anywhere, as well as a tracking software that will allow the devices to fulfill their function and be used for the education of the beneficiaries.

### Peru - 1.0 M

During the first months of 2021, IOM has strengthened its cash-based interventions (CBI) response mechanism, by introducing two new providers and expanding its distribution options. The expansion will allow families to also be assisted with remittances and prepaid cards, which ultimately provides IOM with a range of CBI modalities to be selected according to beneficiary needs.

### Bolivia - 10,000

IOM has established a permanent presence and scaled up its operations to provide support to Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the border area of Pisiga. Responding to identified needs, IOM will distribute NFIs, install sanitation and hygiene facilities, provide food assistance, temporary accommodation, medical items and COVID-19 tests to local health facilities, protection through dissemination of information, as well as provide transportation and communications support to migrants. IOM will also support the government with regularization and documentation, a precondition for migrants to access essential services such as health, education, social protection and socio-economic integration.

### Chile - 457,300

IOM continued to support the operations of the Chilean Catholic Migration Institute, which provides information and legal advice on migration matters to the Venezuelan migrant and refugee population in different communities of the Santiago Metropolitan Region. For example, IOM staff offered advice on migration matters as well as social and labor integration. IOM also distributed basic yet essential equipment such as computers, tablets and portable printers that will facilitate the delivery of documentation to those in need once quarantine measures are lifted in the country’s capital. This successful model of assistance in Santiago will be replicated in the Arica region.

### Guyana - 23,300

In partnership with the Roman Catholic Church and the local NGO Blossom Inc., IOM continued to mitigate the risks of eviction by providing safe and dignified shelter and cash-for-rent support to Venezuelan migrants and refugees in four different regions of Guyana. Beneficiaries are either referred by partners or contact IOM directly via its hotlines, and after an assessment of vulnerability and needs, they are referred to an emergency shelter, to a hotel, or receive rental support paid directly by IOM. In 2021, 1,236 Venezuelan migrants received support from IOM to cover their shelter needs, over 50% were women and girls.

### Brazil - 261,400

IOM’s health professionals continued to provide medical assistance to the most vulnerable population in the State of Roraima, northern region of Brazil that borders Venezuela, including Venezuelan refugees and migrants. IOM’s two Mobile Health Units operate with vehicles that include equipment, medical supplies and medications to support the healthcare system of municipalities which have had demands increased during the pandemic. The efforts are part of IOM’s support to Operation Welcome, the Brazilian Federal Government’s overall humanitarian response.

### Paraguay - 4,900

IOM developed and implemented a visual social media campaign entitled “My life in 2 suitcases”, where the life stories of migrants and refugees from Venezuela residing in Paraguay are acknowledged and visualized. The campaign will be subsequently expanded with audiovisual materials to be launched soon.

### Uruguay - 14,900

As part of a comprehensive strategy for families with dependent minors and in close coordination with UNICEF, civil society and local authorities, IOM’s interdisciplinary migrant assistance and protection team provided virtual psychosocial care, advice on the regularization process, employment search support, promoted income generation strategies, as well as facilitated the process of access to the education and health systems to the vulnerable Venezuelan population. Toys and games were also donated to Venezuelan children and babies for the Three Kings Day celebration.

### Argentina - 179,200

As part of a holistic program aimed at addressing migrant’s mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs, IOM and its partners – the Asociación Psicoanalítica de Buenos Aires (APdeBA), Alianza x Venezuela / PSICOVEN and Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes (SJM) – have offered group and individual therapy sessions and thematic webinars to more than 100 migrants and refugees from Venezuela so they can better cope with the consequences of the pandemic and the challenges of migration. IOM also worked to strengthen the skills and practical experience of thirteen Venezuelan psychologists directly attending to the migrant population, by providing trainings and individual supervision sessions.



## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



The **International Donor Conference in solidarity with Venezuelan refugees and migrants** will be held on 17th June 2021 and will be accompanied by nine R4V roundtable events based on the nine RMRP sectors, an event led by civil society organizations, Info Sessions addressing UN Member states and donors in Geneva, as well as OAS members and an event with the World Bank. ([Donor Conference website](#)) The Steering Group composed of high-level representatives of the Government of Canada, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, the European Union, IOM, UNHCR and IADB meet periodically to define strategic issues ensuring the engagement of key stakeholders in the preparatory process.



The Pro-Tempore Presidency, the Republic of Peru, organized high-level meetings with IOM, UNHCR, the Joint Special Representative, regional intergovernmental bodies such as the Andean Community, the South American Conference on Migration, the Organization of American States, and the Red Cross to present the agenda of the chairmanship for this semester. **The main areas of interest of the Presidency** are: 1) socioeconomic integration, 2) COVID-19 and mental health, 3) migration regularization, and 4) international cooperation. In addition the Group of Friends of the Quito Process will continue to provide technical support to the Forum.



On March 31st, OSE published an **Exploratory Study on Venezuelan Organizations of Migrants and Refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean** in 2020 that gives an up-to-date information about the history of these organizations, their structure (over 50% were of interviewees were women), as well as the effects of COVID-19 pandemic had on their work and how they have coped ([study](#)).



On March 16, IOM in its capacity as co-lead of the Regional Interagency Platform (R4V) and together with UNHCR as the other co-lead, organized **the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform**. The meeting was held in virtual format and attended by more than 215 participants. One key element of the meeting was a presentation by the Government of Colombia on the Temporary Statue for the Protection for Venezuelans (TSPV) which will provide a regularization pathway for around 1 million Venezuelans currently in an irregular situation. In addition, the meeting featured a presentation by the Government of Canada on the forthcoming June 2021 International Donor Conference which is organized jointly with IOM and UNHCR. Other speakers in the sessions included PRM and ECHO as key donors both to R4V and to IOM. Finally, the meeting provided an overview of implementation under the RMRP 2020 and an IOM-led task force presented on advances towards the first ever R4V Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) framework.



The IOM Director General's Special Envoy for the Regional Response to the Venezuelan Situation participated as a panelist at the event "**Venezuelan Migration in 2021: COVID-19, Elections, and Human Rights**" organized by the Council of the Americas to reflect on current challenges of Venezuelan migration amidst the COVID-19 impact on health, economy and society, as well as the regional response and recent developments regarding immigration policies and electoral processes in Latin American countries.



In March, the DG's Special Envoy for the Regional Response to the Venezuelan Situation, Chief of Mission of Colombia, and the IOM-UNHCR Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan refugees and migrants attended various meetings on the presentation of the TPSV including the official announcement by the President of Colombia. IOM and partners affirmed interest in supporting the Government of Colombia in the implementation of the different phases of the TSPV to reduce vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees in the country, facilitate their access to healthcare, education, and protection services, as well as to strengthen socio-economic integration.



Between January and March 2021, **the IOM Regional Mechanism for Assistance to Migrants in vulnerable situations** provided support to 89 Venezuelan migrant beneficiaries with special protection needs who are currently hosted in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay. Assistance has been tailored to the special needs of each individual beneficiary, and may have included safe shelter, food, and clothing; medical care and psychosocial assistance; legal and documentation assistance; among others. Assistance through the Mechanism is complementary to other interventions and has three groups of potential beneficiaries, including victims of trafficking, survivors of gender-based violence and other people in need of special protection that may not belong to any of the other beneficiary groups.



**IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** data has been collected in nine host countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) and inside Venezuela. *Trinidad and Tobago* shared results on mobility, vulnerabilities and needs of Venezuelans that migrated to the islands. *Ecuador* collected information on characteristics, migratory routes, access to health, protection risks and needs. Uruguay focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Venezuelans in the country. Colombia's report looks at the situation of children and adolescents who have been living in the street. IOM Peru published two reports, one focusing on the '*caminantes*' in the Panamericana North in Tumbes and an *area assessment* about flows between Peru and Bolivia. In addition, OSE produced four factsheets that focus on refugee and migrant women from Venezuela exploring their experiences and characteristics in relation to demographics (in *English* and *Spanish*), employment and education level (*English* and *Spanish*), access to health services (*English* and *Spanish*) and GBV and risk factors faced during the journey (*English* and *Spanish*).

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:



From the People of Japan



Citi Foundation



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada



El futuro es de todos

Gobierno de Colombia



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Cooperación Española



For further information please contact the Programme Support Unit of the Office of the DG's Special Envoy for the Regional Response to the Venezuela Situation at [VRTPSU@iom.int](mailto:VRTPSU@iom.int)