



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



Protection-sensitive migration: Understanding outflows from Venezuela

Who is on the move?

- Asylum-seekers and refugees
- Women and girls at risk
- People with physical or mental disabilities
- People who voluntarily express a wish to return to their country of origin (e.g., have become “stranded”)
- Elderly persons
- People seeking to join their families
- Victims of human trafficking or torture
- People whose movement is primarily motivated by economic concerns
- People seeking higher education opportunities
- Stateless persons
- People seeking medical treatment
- Unaccompanied and separated children
- Others with specific needs

What is protection?

“Protection is defined as all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of law, namely human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.”

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)



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Challenges in ensuring protection

States have the sovereign right to choose who can enter and stay in their territory. This is subject to international obligations, including under international refugee and human rights law.



States implement measures to curb irregular migration, to control and secure their borders, and to ensure safety of journeys



Desperation of persons fleeing conflict, upheaval, or humanitarian crisis; few economic resources or savings expended for migration



Impact on refugees, impact on others with specific needs traveling in mixed flows



Impact on migration systems, including asylum systems



Vulnerability to exploitation and abuse

Examples of protection-sensitive approaches

Protection Sensitive Entry Systems

- Entry officials are responsible for identifying and referring asylum-seekers and other persons who may have specific needs to the responsible authorities.

Reception Arrangements

- Measures to meet the immediate needs of new arrivals including basic material and psycho-social needs (accommodation, food, clothing, medical), prohibition on arbitrary detention

Mechanisms for Profiling and Referral

- Gathering information, Establishing a preliminary profile, Referral systems to specialized services

Differentiated Processes and Procedures

- Asylum procedures, Child protection systems, Family tracing, Procedures for identifying women and girls at risk, Support to victims of trafficking, Statelessness determination procedures, •Support for people with disabilities, torture or trauma victims, elderly persons

Figures & Trends

- **Unprecedented regional outflows:**
 - **3.7 M** total
 - **5,000** per day (trend)
 - **414,000** asylum seekers & refugees
 - **1.4 M** with regular status

In addition....

- Returnees (**500,000** Colombian, other nationalities)
- Circular migration to respond to immediate needs (**COL: 3M Cross-border cards**)



Main Protection concerns and vulnerabilities

- **Access to territory/protection:** Irregular crossings, deaths/trafficking/smuggling, deportations.
- **Alternative Legal Stay** lacks protection safeguards and depend on political will.
- Half are in an **irregular situation**, no access to rights, exploitation, trafficking, onward movement.
- **SGBV, trafficking**, sexual exploitation (women/men, boys/girls, LGBTI).
- **Forced recruitment** in border areas, targeting adolescents
- **Unaccompanied/separated children**, family separation
- **Specific needs** including medical needs, survivors of violence/torture,

Why are they leaving?

- Political, social & economic **breakdown** (food, medicine, inflation, energy, etc...)
- **Criminality/Impunity** (98% homicides not investigated)
- Imputed **political opinions** (Loss of employment, Carnet de la Patria/CLAPS).
- **Human Rights** violations, persecution, homicide, torture, political detention, sanction for treason).

Resolution Human Rights Council, September 2018: “serious **human rights violations** in a context of a political, economic, social and humanitarian **crisis**”

UNHCR Guidance Note on the Outflow of Venezuelans, March 2018: While individual circumstances vary, **international protection needed** for a significant proportion of the population, urges States to allow the access to their territory and to adopt pragmatic protection-oriented responses

Quito Process

- **Regional Framework:**
 - Declaration of Quito on Human Mobility of Venezuelan citizens in the region (Sept 2018, 11 countries), Plan of Action (Nov 2018, 8 countries), and Quito III (April 2019, 9 countries)
- **Main Priorities:**
 - Harmonisation of legal stay arrangements (1,2M) / regularization
 - Access to social & economic rights (health, education, labour market)
 - International Cooperation
 - Dialogue with Venezuela for specific issues (documentation, health)
- **Synergies / Complementarity:**
 - Joint Special Representative (Facilitate coordination, assist in the establishment of follow-up mechanism, dialogue with Venezuela)
 - **Regional Platform** (Operational - technical support, visibility)



TOPICS

- ✓ Documentation
- ✓ Titles and certifications
- ✓ Laboral Insertion
- ✓ Anti-xenophobia campaign
- ✓ Attention to UASC
- ✓ Lactating and pregnant women
- ✓ People with disabilities
- ✓ Trafficking and smuggling
- ✓ Humanitarian Assistance
- ✓ Social and productive inclusion policies
- ✓ Health, education, work, access to justice

Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform

- **UNHCR and IOM co-leadership**
- **Active & diverse participation** more than 40 members from UN, NGOs, Red Cross movement, faith-based organizations, int'l financial institutions, key donors).
- **6 inter-agency platforms / groups** operational in main host countries. More than 100 members throughout the región.
- Regional Platform aligned and complementary to **Government**-led initiatives (ie – **Quito Process**).
- Development of **RMRP and Regional Products, including Caribbean sub-region coordination platform**

Regional Platform

17 UN Agencies

20 NGOs, IFRC, ICRC, Church

WB, IADB

5 Top Donors

www.r4v.info

Caribbean Sub-Regional Refugee & Migrants Response Plan - Summary Figures

Dominican Republic



35

Appealing Partners

Trinidad and Tobago



177K

Refugees & Migrants in Need

Guyana



141K

Refugees & Migrants Targeted

Aruba



25K

Target Host Community

Curaçao



35M

Financial Requirements

Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan

- **Launched (Dec/18) including:**
 - 16 countries
 - 95 partners
 - Targeting **2.2M** direct beneficiaries + 500K host community members
- **Serves as both**
 - Regional **operational strategy** and
 - **Fundraising** tool
- **Strategic Objectives:**
 1. Refugees and migrants are provided with **life-saving goods and services**.
 2. Refugees and migrants **enjoy rights and protection**.
 3. Refugees and migrants are **socially, economically and culturally integrated in empowered communities**.
 4. **Capacity of host governments**, to provide protection and manage situations of refugees and migrants is enhanced.



REGIONAL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT
RESPONSE PLAN

for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

January - December 2019

