



MMC Latin America and the Caribbean



This Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) covers the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. The core countries of focus for this region are the countries currently affected by the Venezuelan crisis, including Colombia, Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador, in addition to the Caribbean islands. Concerning northern movements to the United States, this QMMU covers Mexico and Central American countries. Depending on the quarterly trends and migration-related updates, more attention may be given to some of the countries over the rest.

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

The Mixed Migration Centre is a global network consisting of seven regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy development on mixed migration. For more information on the MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit <u>mixedmigration.org</u> and follow us at <u>@Mixed\_Migration</u>

### MMC's understanding of mixed migration

"Mixed migration" refers to cross-border movements of people, including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people in mixed flows have a range of legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Those in mixed migration flows travel along similar routes, using similar means of travel - often travelling irregularly, and wholly, or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

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# Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Latin America and the Caribbean

**Quarter 3 - 2020** 

### **Key Updates**

- Mixed migration flows out of Venezuela did not stop amid the pandemic. Since July, approximately 200,000 Venezuelans have left their country, bringing the total number of refugees and migrants of this nationality now out of their country to about 5.1 million. Since August, between 25 and 30 Venezuelans left their country and entered Colombia daily. Government officials predict 200,000 arrivals in Colombia from Venezuela in the next couple of months, following the reopening of the country's economy on September 1st.
- Parallel mixed migration flows in opposite directions have developed between Venezuela and Colombia. While some Venezuelans are leaving their country, about 110,000 reportedly returned to their country of origin between March and July 2020.
- During COVID-19, **crossing borders irregularly has been criminalized** in some countries of origin and country of destination of mixed migration movements. This is the case for Venezuelans trying to return to their country, as well as for Venezuelans trying to enter Trinidad and Tobago.
- Refugees and migrants have been blocked at various border points or got stranded in transit
  countries by COVID-related restrictions on international travel. This is the case of Venezuelans at the
  Colombian-Venezuelan border, as well as refugees and migrants from other nationalities in Panama
  and Costa Rica. In some of these countries, a negative COVID-19 test result is required to enter the
  territory. In most cases, people on the move must cover these costs themselves.
- COVID-19 as an opportunity for local integration. In some countries, such as Ecuador, Peru, and Chile, national responses to the pandemic became an opportunity for the integration of refugees and migrants into society, due to their potential role in combatting the spread of the virus.
- About 1.500 asylum seekers and migrants are stranded in a camp in Matamoros, at the border between Mexico and the U.S., either waiting for developments in their asylum proceedings or hoping to cross into the U.S.
- Contrary to predictions, remittances toward Central American countries have rebounded during the
  pandemic. Refugees and migrants living in the United States and eligible for government subsidies
  amid the pandemic were able to continue sending remittances.

### **Regional Overview\* United States** Approximately 1,500 asylum seekers and migrants - mostly from Central American countries and Mexico – are stranded at the U.S.-Mexican border, waiting for their court hearings or hoping to cross into U.S. territory Mexico Dominican Republic lamaica Over 110,000 Venezuelans returned home amid the pandemic, but about 200,000 are expected to leave Venezuela in the next couple of months Venezuela 2,600 refugees and migrants are stuck in two provinces of **Panama** (Darien and Chiriquí) due to the COVID-19 pandemic On August 28th, the **Brazilian** government Ecuador granted asylum to 8,000 Venezuelans The Caribbean Peru Dominican Haiti amaica Anguilla Puerto Antiqua & Barbuda Rico · Guadeloupe Martinique 165 Venezuelans were deported St Lucia Bolivia from Trinidad & Tobago between Barbados June and July for irregular entry Grenada Trinidad & Tobago Paraguay

riname

Chile

Colombia

Argentina

Uruguay

<sup>\*</sup>Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration flows within and out of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **Mixed Migration Regional Updates**

### Venezuelan mixed migration flows

As of the beginning of September 2020, the number of Venezuelans who left their country totaled around <u>5.1 million</u>, according to official data reported by the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants.

COVID-19 restrictions and their impact have forced some Venezuelans to return home or modify their migration journey. According to MMC data from July 2020, <u>27 percent</u> of respondents to a survey in Peru were planning to return home due to COVID-19. However, Venezuelans wishing to return faced barriers to re-entry. <u>Only 350 people could enter the country daily</u>, from Colombia, and on specific days (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday), totaling 1.500 entries per week. It has also been reported that, once in Venezuela, returnees had to face a strict 14-day self-isolation quarantine, in <u>unfitted shelters</u> without access to drinking water and without the possibility of communicating with their families or friends. Returnees have also been subject to <u>threats</u> upon arrival. Despite entry restrictions and a cold welcoming, the Office of the Organization of American States (OAS) General Secretariat for the Venezuelan Migrant and Refugee Crisis reported that over <u>106,000</u> refugees and migrants have returned to Venezuela.

In some cases, Venezuelans have waited up to 70 days at the border without knowing when they will be allowed to cross back. While around 1,300 refugees and migrants waited at the border in makeshift camps for days, waiting to return to their country, others gave up and decided to go back to their cities of reception. According to a local NGO that provides assistance to people on the move traveling on foot near the Colombian border town of Cúcuta, 30 percent of Venezuelans they assisted in July were returning to their country of origin while 70 percent were heading into Colombia.

275 Venezuelans who were <u>stranded in Panama</u> for over 6 months returned to their country of origin on September 21<sup>st</sup>. There are still 200 migrants stranded in the country who wish to return.

At the same time, the flow of refugees and migrants leaving Venezuela has not stopped. The situation in the country is dire, with <u>96 percent</u> of the total population living under the international poverty line.

### Movements towards South America

### Colombia

The latest figures indicate that nearly 1.8 million Venezuelans are living in Colombia, projected to rise to 2.4 million by the end of 2020. According to predictions of the Colombian government, reopening the economy after COVID-related restrictions will lead to around 200,000 refugees and migrants entering the country. Colombian authorities also declared that, since August, up to 35 Venezuelans have been leaving their country daily.

International flights into Colombia resumed in August and September, respectively; however, land borders continue to be closed. In the meantime, the validity of all permits held by refugees and migrants already in the country was automatically extended until October 2020, in connection to the suspension of immigration procedures amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Colombia only resumed such procedures on September 21st, after six months of suspension, and only at a 30 percent capacity.

The pandemic has left Venezuelans in Colombia in dire living conditions. According to the <u>July needs</u> assessment of the <u>Mixed Migration Interagency Group (GIFMM)</u>, 91 percent of respondents were living in food-insecure households, 67 percent needed housing assistance, and 54 percent needed support to find livelihood opportunities. Additionally, a surge in violence along the Colombian - Venezuelan border has been <u>reported</u> by OCHA, displacing around 1,000 people between June and July, including hundreds of Venezuelans refugees and migrants. The rate of Venezuelans victim of violent crimes (<u>disappearances and extrajudicial killings</u>) in Colombia has also increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Ecuador**

Refugees and migrants have been associated with <u>crime</u> and raising unemployment rates by Government officials and the media, causing an increase in xenophobia. At the same time, however, people on the move in Ecuador have been included in <u>strategies</u> to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their communities, through a UNHCR-led initiative. Refugees and migrants warn authorities of new COVID-19 cases in their communities, track the spread of the virus and, in some cases, even provide medical assistance.

The latest needs assessment conducted by the inter-agency Working Group for Refugees and Migrants Group (GTRM) in Ecuador indicates that the Venezuelan households interviewed between July and August were mostly in need of food (30 percent), access to housing (27 percent) and livelihood opportunities. The study also indicates that only 6 percent of refugee and migrant respondents had enough income to afford basic goods. Furthermore, 63 percent of Venezuelans suffered from discrimination and 11 percent have changed their migration plans because of the pandemic: while many respondents had decided to return home (56 percent), others decided to move within the city (20 percent), to a new city within Ecuador (15 percent) or to a new country (9 percent).

### Perú

Economic activities resumed on June 26<sup>th</sup> after months of COVID-related restrictions. The pandemic has had a strong adverse impact on refugees' and migrants' livelihoods: according to MMC data from July 2020, 85 percent of respondents to the 4Mi survey were in need of additional assistance due to the pandemic, mainly assistance to cover immediate basic needs (79 percent) and cash (72 percent). The <u>latest available GTRM data</u> indicates that cash-based assistance was delivered to 4,200 refugees and migrants in the country to respond to their most pressing needs.

At the same time, refugees and migrants residing in <u>Peru</u> who counted with medical qualifications were incorporated in the country's health system to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic. Between the end of June and beginning of July, about <u>9,300</u> online asylum applications were submitted in the country, despite temporary immigration office shutdowns.

### **Brazil**

To date, Brazil leads the list of countries that have granted asylum to Venezuelan refugees. Out of a total of 264,157 Venezuelans in the country, around 15 percent are recognized as <u>refugees</u>. On August 28th, the Brazilian government granted asylum to about <u>8.000</u> Venezuelans in just one day.

The government is currently debating on whether to extend <u>until December</u> a COVID-related economic relief programme for informal workers, regardless of nationality. Under this programme, up to 188,555 Venezuelan refugees and migrants working in the informal sector could benefit from a monthly subsidy of about 120 dollars.

### Movements towards Caribbean countries

Venezuelans awaiting deportation in <u>Aruba</u> are held in inadequate conditions in an immigration detention center. This has led to repeated protests, with those in detention reportedly asking to be returned to Venezuela due to the harsh conditions at this center: overcrowding, lack of basic toiletries, and violence from the guards. Additionally, Venezuelans held at the center are not allowed to receive visits and are only allowed to speak with their relatives once a week.

165 Venezuelans were deported from Trinidad and Tobago during the months of July and August. In September, at least 93 more were deported - including 19 asylum seekers. According to Amnesty International, authorities in the country have depicted Venezuelans as vectors for spreading COVID-19, which has stirred xenophobia. Not only are Venezuelans being criminalized for irregular entry, so are residents of the island who host or otherwise support irregular migrants.

### Mixed migration flows in Central and North America

Contrary to predictions by the World Bank, in June and July remittances to El Salvador reached a 14 percent increase, compared to the same months last year, and record-breaking monthly remittances to Guatemala have been recorded in June, July, and August, according to national banks. Remittances to Mexico, between January and July, increased 10.1 percent. Forecasts suggest an increase of 8.4 percent of remittances to Mexico for 2020, compared to last year. Although further research is needed, refugees and migrants in the U.S. have been sending home, in addition to the usual remittances, also some additional savings, out of concern for their family's situation and out of fear of an increased risk of deportation.

### Situation at the U.S. border

The temporary closing of border crossings and immigration courts in the U.S. has not stopped refugees' and migrants' attempts to enter the country, even if this means risking their lives. During the first week of September, four migrant families – including two pregnant women - were rescued while trying to enter the U.S. through the <u>La Rumorosa mountain area</u>. People on the move integrating these families were of Mexican, Haitian, and Honduran nationality. The group reportedly also included a U.S. citizen.

Even though the mixed migration flows heading to the U.S. have decreased due to COVID-19-related restrictions on freedom of movement, people on the move continue to reach the country's southern border. Between July and August, 140,590 refugees and migrants were apprehended right after entering U.S. territory. Data from the U.S. authorities, as cited in news reports, reveal that 88 percent of those apprehended in July were single men, a different trend compared to last year when most of those trying to cross the border were families. Reports also indicate that 105,000 expedited expulsions from the U.S. took place between March and July. Refugees and migrants' stories reveal that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, some of them attempted to cross the border more than once.

While some people on the move decided to enter the U.S. irregularly, others have given up and returned home, and some have opted to endure the COVID-19 pandemic in Mexico while they wait for their court hearing in the U.S.. According to the Migration Protection Protocol, individuals seeking asylum in the United States must wait in Mexican territory while asylum proceedings are underway. In Matamoros, on the Mexican side of the border near Brownsville, Texas, there are reportedly more than 1,500 asylum seekers, mostly from Central American countries, living in a camp and waiting for developments in their asylum applications. As of 27 August, there were 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the camp and 25 more suspected infections. In the same month, the reported backlog of immigration cases pending in Texas was of 192,000 – meaning that asylum seekers in the Matamoros camp might be in for a long wait.

People on the move are also trying to reach the U.S. by sea. At the beginning of September, a boat with 15 migrants from the Caribbean (Haiti, Jamaica, and the Bahamas) was intercepted upon arrival in Florida and those on board were taken into custody to be later repatriated. According to U.S. Coast Guard reports, a total of 35 Cubans have tried to enter the country irregularly by sea this year.

Finally, a new <u>migrant caravan</u> is scheduled to depart on October 1st from Honduras, heading toward the U.S..

### Mixed-migration flows in Mexico

Alongside COVID-19 restrictions, some refugees and migrants living in towns at the border between the U.S. and Mexico - mainly Ciudad Juárez and Tijuana - are under some sort of <u>"self-imposed house arrest"</u> due to violence and insecurity in the area. They thus find themselves in a situation of triple vulnerability, as they face risks associated to COVID-19, they face security concerns and they are completely stuck in their places of residence.

A survey carried out by <u>IOM</u> among people on the move in Mexico revealed that, as of August, 84 percent of respondents planned to carry on with their journey towards the U.S. once borders are reopened, while only 10 percent of them had cancelled their migration plans. As for those who have decided to apply for refugee status in Mexico, the country has received <u>70,302</u> applications this year alone.

78 percent of respondents to the 4Mi survey in Tapachula, Mexico, <u>indicated reduced access to asylum</u> procedures and/or delays in the processing of their claims due to the pandemic. In the same way, 83 percent also reported reduced access to work, while 78 percent mentioned increased stress and anxiety. Most of those interviewed for the survey were from Honduras (41 percent), El Salvador (27 percent) and Nicaragua (19 percent).

Cubans represent another of the main nationalities of people on the move entering Mexico: as of September, there were around <u>4,100 Cubans seeking asylum</u> at Mexico's southern border, as reported by the Mexican Government.

### Return flows to Mexico and Central America

Between January and July of this year, <u>59,565 citizens</u> from the Northern Triangle of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) were deported to their country of origin from the U.S. and Mexico, according to the latest statistics. Between April and July, a total of <u>4,392</u> Guatemalans alone have been deported back home from these two countries.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and as of September, the U.S. had expelled more than 159,000 migrants from its territory, of which 8,800 were unaccompanied minors. Compared to the previous year, more apprehensions and expulsions were made in 2020. According to the authorities, these expulsions were justified under public health-related grounds. NGOs have shown concern about the inadequacy of these deportations and other measures implemented amid the pandemic. In June, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against the expulsions of a group of unaccompanied minors, who were being detained in hotels.

Additionally, approximately 263,000 Salvadorans with Temporary Protection Status (TPS) are at risk of losing humanitarian protection after, in September, a <u>U.S. court ruled</u> in favor of President's Trump decision to and the program.

Mexico, on its part, also deported people on the move back to their home countries during the pandemic. For example, in mid-August 100 Guatemalans were deported from Mexico to their country of origin by bus in just one day.

Despite the 14-day quarantine recommended by the World Health Organization, returnees to Central American countries have, in some cases, been <u>quarantined in holding centers for far longer</u> and in appalling conditions. This is the case of Salvadorans deported from the U.S. and Mexico to their country of origin. According to a recent <u>report</u>, quarantine centers in El Salvador did not implement measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and extended the stay of returnees for longer than necessary. Quarantines lasting up to 40 days had a negative impact on their mental health: some even reported suicidal thoughts.

At the same time, according to the Nicaraguan government, approximately <u>58,000 Nicaraguan citizens</u> returned home from Costa Rica between March and August 2020, due to the economic impact of the pandemic. Returnees include around 3,000 asylum seekers who <u>abandoned their claim</u> in Costa Rica.

### **Extra-regional mixed migration flows**

Despite closed borders throughout the region, migrant smuggling continues, especially in the case of people on the move from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. On September 5th, two men in the <u>Darien Straight</u> were detained for smuggling four adults and a child of Haitian nationality into Panama. A few weeks later, a Panamanian citizen was detained for smuggling <u>16 migrants</u> of different nationalities from Panama into Costa Rica. 10 smugglers were also captured in August at the border between Colombia and Ecuador for smuggling refugees and migrants from <u>Haiti, Cuba, and Africa</u>. On September 29th, 94 Haitians nationals, on their way to Panama, were left <u>stranded at sea</u> by smugglers. According to <u>official data</u>, around 3,000 Haitians have been deported back home this year.

### **Costa Rica**

On <u>August 8th</u>, a migrant caravan dubbed "Cubano Unidos", made up of about 200 Cuban nationals, arrived at Peñas Blancas, at the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, planning to continue their journey toward the U.S. They however found themselves stuck due to Nicaragua's new requirement of presenting a negative <u>COVID-19 test</u> before entry, which many people on the move cannot afford. Most members of this caravan refused to be moved to a temporary shelter, as well as using free return flights, since they wish to continue with their migration.

In September, the Costa Rican government decided to reactivate a <u>bilateral treaty</u> with Cuba, which had been suspended since 2016, to manage the deportation of undocumented migrants back to the island, allegedly aiming to promote regular migration flows between the two countries.

### Uruguay

Cuban, Venezuelan and extracontinental refugees and migrants, specifically from Nigeria, are reaching Uruguay from Brazil. While at least part of these Cuban and Venezuelan nationals apparently have refugee status in Brazil, they are <u>lodging a second asylum application in Uruguay</u>. Although a negative COVID-19 test result is required to enter the country, costs are covered by the <u>Ministry of Public Health</u>, contrary to what happens in other countries.

# Thematic Focus: Extra-regional refugees and migrants stranded in Panama due to COVID-19

## No end in sight, a protracted situation for more than 2,600 people on the move in Panama.

About 4,000 refugees and migrants have crossed the Darien Gap into Panama this year alone. Due to border closures triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, however, <u>2.600</u> people - mainly from Haiti and African and Asian countries - have been blocked for months at various reception centers in Panama, specifically in the Darien (2.000) and Chiriquí (600) provinces. These refugees and migrants wish to continue their journey towards the U.S., but Panamanian authorities have impeded that.

Approximately 280 people are scheduled to be deported to their country of origin following protests gone violent in the Peñita Camp (Darien). 12 Haitian nationals were set to stand trial after throwing rocks to border service officers and burning some tents. Refugees and migrants were protesting against camp conditions – mainly lack of drinking water and inadequate sanitation – and demanding to be allowed to continue their journey towards the U.S. This situation has provoked tensions with the local population and, in an effort to avoid further unrest, the government has assured anyone involved in these types of protests will be deported back home. Adding to the tensions, as of May 2020, approximately 168 cases of COVID-19 were reported in the Peñita reception center. No recent figure is available on infections in the camp.

A new camp is being built in Lajas Blancas but its construction was postponed due to the pandemic. In the meantime, about 200 refugees and migrants wait in a makeshift camp in Lajas Blancas. Tensions have also been reported at this encampment between hosted population and police officers, for the same reasons behind the protests in the Peñita Camp. After a 5-month lockdown, people on the move tried to continue their journey, but they were <u>sent back</u> to their respective reception centers. The Panamanian government has announced easing restrictions and reopening more economic activities on <u>September 7th</u>, meaning that people on the move might be able to continue their journey towards North America soon.

Starting on September 26th, the government started transferring stranded refugees and migrants to a new camp, called San Vicente, in the Darien province. This camp has a capacity to house 400 families and is already equipped. According to government data, there were already <u>30 families</u> living there. Priority for transfer was awarded to specific groups including children, single mothers and refugees and migrants from Asia and Africa.

## **Highlighted New Research and Reports**



<u>The Impact of COVID-19 on Migrant Children in Trinidad and Tobago</u>

### UNICEF | July 2020

This study analyses the possible impact of COVID-19 on approximately 2,400 migrant children in Trinidad and Tobago. The report focuses on changes caused by COVID-19 that could lead to ensuing risks, including school and business closings, and movement and travel restrictions. Despite ensuring inclusive education through a temporary learning centre (TLC), "Equal Place" - an online learning platform, and Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), migrant children were already having difficulties in accessing these services prior to COVID-19.

Results from the study reveal that children who attend CFS miss their friends and teachers, and feel stressed or anxious at home, causing them to argue with family members and spending more time on-line. Business shutdowns could also affect the well-being of migrant children, since loss of income can lead to family conflicts, as well as undernutrition and mental health deterioration.



### (In)Movilidad en las Américas: COVID-19

### **July 2020**

This on-going joint research project launched in July focuses on (in)mobility and immigration control in the United States and in LAC. It includes country-specific data on migration flows, legal and policy frameworks, life stories, heightened protection risks amid COVID-19, among other topics.



# Relative Severity of Food Insecurity During Overland Migration in Transit Through Mexico

### Alondra Coral Aragón Gama · Cesar Infante Xibille · Verónica Mundo Rosas · Xinhua Liu · Manuela Orjuela-Grimm | August 2020

This article draws on 15 interviews and 95 surveys with Central American refugees and migrants transiting through Mexico during their journey to the

United States, focusing on food insecurity along this route. The study was conducted at the end of 2016 and reveals that 74 percent of respondents experienced some degree of food insecurity during their migration.

The article also confirms a positive correlation between the severity of food insecurity and three factors: i) the duration of the migration journey; ii) prior conditions that impede mobility during transit (such as respiratory infections, dehydration and wounds, among others); iii) and illnesses that affect someone's travel companion, when not travelling alone. This article not only highlights the degree of food insecurity that Central American refugees and migrants face during their journey, it also identifies factors that increase the severity of food insecurity among this population.

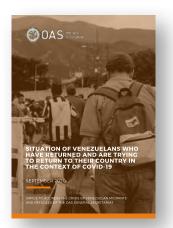


# Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Regional Profile

### Mixed Migration Policy- IOM | August 2020

This factsheet is based on a joint effort between the Migration Policy Institute and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and draws on 32,920 surveys conducted in 2019 across 11 LAC countries using the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). It offers a profile of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region. The authors identify three groups of countries (bordering countries, nearby countries, and distant countries) that tend to attract Venezuelans with different demographic and socioeconomic profiles, and whose living conditions

are diverse, as well as their intentions to stay.



Situation of Venezuelans who have Returned and are Trying to Return to their Home Country in the Context of COVID-19

### **Organization of American States | September 2020**

This report describes the situation of Venezuelan returnees as well as migrants who are trying to return to Venezuelan amid COVID-19. Since Venezuelan refugees and migrants work mostly in the informal sector, COVID-19 has caused a decline in wages and employment opportunities. At the same time, this situation has led to an increase in evictions, which ultimately has forced many Venezuelans to return (in)voluntarily to their country. However, their

return has been halted by the Venezuelan government, stigmatized, and sometimes criminalized. The report highlights the importance of guaranteeing the safe return of Venezuelans to their country through humanitarian corridors and repatriation flights, and their protection while stranded in transit countries.



### <u>Immigration, Crime and Crime (Mis)Perceptions</u>

## Nicolas Ajzenman, Patricia Dominguez-Rivera and Raimundo Undurraga | September 2020

This article explores the relationship between immigration and crimes, or beliefs about crime, in Chile. Contrary to widely held perceptions, the authors show that there is no link between immigration and increased crime or victimization. Immigration, however, is often associated with crime related concerns and public safety. Crime-related concerns are higher among citizens in municipalities with a high concentration of migrant population. Finally, the authors mention an over-representation of crimes committed by migrants in the

news, which ultimately leads to an increase in discrimination, xenophobia, aporophobia, and fear.



### <u>Durable Solutions for Indigenous Migrants and</u> <u>Refugees in the Context of the Venezuelan Flow</u> in Brazil

### International Organization for Migration | September 2020

This large-scale mixed-method qualitative project was implemented during 2019 and 2020 through workshops and interviews with key informants. A total number of 216 participants took part in the research, specifically Venezuelan indigenous people from the Warao, Eñepa and Pemón groups. This document is a description of the life these indigenous groups lead in Brazil, including access to shelter, healthcare and to education, and the professional

profile of Venezuelan indigenous refugees and migrants. The study argues that the concept of durable solutions (voluntary return to one's country of origin, resettlement to a third country, and local integration) must be reevaluated and adjusted to an indigenous cosmovision. The document also contains a set of recommendations on developing culturally appropriate durable solutions, one of which is the inclusion and participation of Indigenous groups in the decision-making process.

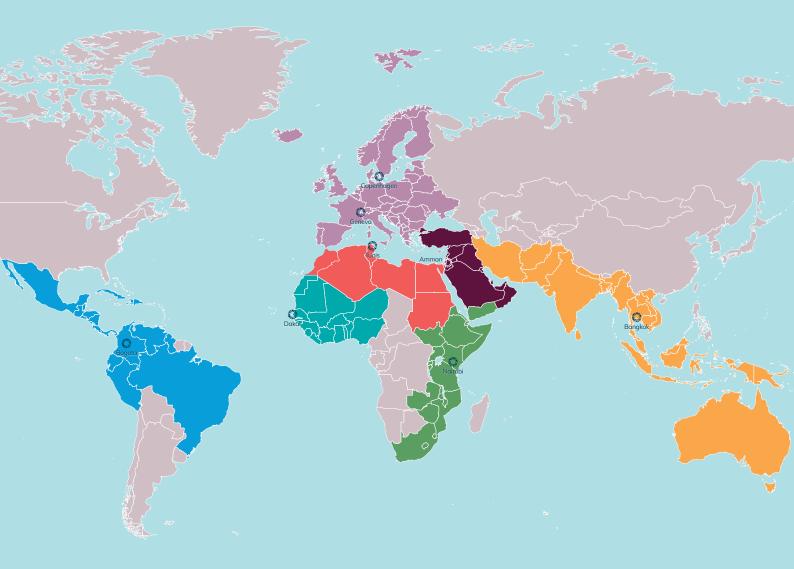


### <u>InfoPa'lante</u>

### September 2020

This digital platform was launched in September by the International Rescue Committee in collaboration with some tech companies, with the objective of informing Venezuelan refugees and migrants about their rights, job opportunities, and healthcare access, once they are in Colombia or prior to their arrival. It contains a map of the available services and assistance distribution location (education in emergencies, child friendly spaces, legal and psychosocial

support, healthcare, leisure and recreational activities) along the route. This initiative is also available in Central American countries (El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala) and is called CuentaNos. It will also be launched in October in Mexico.



The MMC is a global network consisting of seven regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration. The MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise on mixed migration. The MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. The MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

The MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Global and regional MMC teams are based in Amman, Copenhagen, Dakar, Geneva, Nairobi, Tunis, Bogota and Bangkok.

### For more information visit:

mixedmigration.org and follow us at @Mixed\_Migration



