



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 six 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 mixedmigration.org and follow us at <a href="Mixed-Migration">Mixed-Migration</a>

#### 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.

#### Front cover photo credit:

Juan Carlos Tomasi/MSF/February 2018

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# Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: **Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Quarter 1 - 2022** 

# **Key Updates**

- According to the latest update of the <u>Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants</u> (R4V), as of February 2022, <u>6.041.690</u> Venezuelans left their country. Key actors at borders reported that mixed migration out of Venezuela remained significant in 2022, but also <u>identified</u> an increase of people returning to Venezuela from the countries in the region. There is no consolidated data on returnees, making it difficult to establish the scope of these return movements.
- The migration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to Central and North America increased considerably in 2021 and in the first months of 2022. In 2021, Venezuelans came fifth in terms of irregular entries into Panama (2% of the total number of irregular entries to Panama through the Darien, detected and registered by immigration authorities). In 2022, they became the top nationality, making up 26% of the total number of irregular entries in January 2022. This change has created new migration routes between Colombia and Panama.
- The <u>U.S. Customs and Border protection</u> (CBP) reported in January <u>22.779 encounters</u> the U.S.- Mexico border with Venezuelan citizens, an increase by <u>76 times</u> compared to January 2021. However, as of February 2022, this figure dropped again to <u>3.072</u>, a possible consequence of the implementation of the visa for Venezuelans in Mexico.
- On December 6, 2021, and despite having declared on several occasions <u>wanting to repeal it</u>, the United States federal government ordered the <u>application</u> of an expanded version of the program <u>Migrant Protection Protocols</u> (MPP), known as the "Remain in Mexico" program. Under this policy, persons who sought asylum to the U.S. authorities at the border, or after being apprehended while crossing irregularly, were returned to Mexico to await the various steps in the handling of their cases.
- On April 1, the <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u> (CDC) <u>announced</u> the agency would stop authorizing Title 42 on <u>May 23</u>, declaring the expulsions are no longer necessary <u>to protect US public health</u>. Three states (Missouri, Arizona and Louisiana) <u>have sued the US government</u> and seek to block the Title 42 termination. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is expecting an <u>increase</u> in arrivals at the southern border. Local and international organizations at the US Mexico border are also <u>preparing</u> for a shift in <u>migration patterns</u>.

#### **Regional Overview\* United States** January 1, 2022: murder of a Haitian migrant in **Tijuana**. Several organizations c the increase in violence against the migrant population in Mexico. Mexico On February 22, after three months of implementation of the new MPP protocol, the Department Dominican of Homeland Security (DHS) has lamaica Republic returned 800 people to Mexico. On January 20, the first migrant caravan of the year 2022 in Mexico left Tapachula with more than 500 migrants and asylum seekers. Venezuela Colombia The process of regularization of Venezuelans was delayed in Colombia. To date (March 2022), Temporal Protection Ecuador Permits (PTT) were delivered. The Caribbean Peru Haiti Dominican amaica Anguilla Puerto Antiqua & Barbuda Rico · Guadeloupe 1,053 Cubans and 2,284 Haitians were Martinique apprehended by the U.S. Coast Guard during the first 3 months of fiscal year St Lucia Bolivia 2022, illustrating the increase in these Barbados movements to the United States. Grenada

Trinidad & Tobago

riname

Colombia

Uruguay

February 2022: Entry

into force of the new regulation of the <u>Law</u> on <u>Migration and</u> <u>Foreigners</u> in **Chile**.

Chile

Paraguay

<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

#### Movements towards South America

According to the latest update of the <u>Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Venezuelan Refugees</u> and <u>Migrants</u> (R4V), as of February 2022, <u>6.041.690</u> Venezuelans left their country. <u>83%</u> of Venezuelan refugees and migrants are distributed throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, mainly in Colombia, (<u>30%</u>), followed by Peru (<u>21%</u>), Ecuador (<u>8%</u>) and Chile (<u>7%</u>).

Key actors at borders reported that mixed migration out of Venezuela remained significant in 2022, but also <u>identified</u> an increase of people returning to Venezuela from the countries in the region. There is no consolidated data on the number of returnees, making it difficult to establish the scope of these return movements. Venezuelans mentioned their <u>willingness to return</u>, because of an assumed <u>economic improvement</u> of the country in recent months or because of the recent <u>restoration</u> of diplomatic communications with the United States.

# Migration and regularization process in Colombia

As of January 2022, <u>1.84</u> million Venezuelans were in Colombia. The <u>protection monitoring</u> of DRC - Colombia identifies that <u>92%</u> of the population surveyed between December 2021 and January 2022 expressed interest in accessing the <u>Temporary Protection Status</u>. Progress in the process and delivery of <u>Temporary Protection Permits</u> (PPT) in the last months of 2021 has been slow: the national government had the goal of closing the year with <u>800.000 PPT</u> delivered, but at the end of January, only <u>143.134</u> have been delivered.

It should be noted that in January, the Migration Unit accelerated the delivery of PTTs with large gatherings in sports venues and shopping centers in several cities around the country. According to the director of Migration Colombia, more than <u>50.000 PPTs</u> were delivered in the last week of January at the Movistar Arena of Bogotá. As of March, <u>795.196</u> PPTs have been printed and <u>639.355</u> delivered.

#### Peru

As of January 2022, <u>1.286.464</u> Venezuelans were in Peru. According to UNHCR estimates, as of June 2021, asylum applications in Peru by Venezuelans reached <u>531.600</u>.

Since June 9, 2021, the possibility of regulating the immigration status of foreigners in Peru was made possible through the <u>Temporary Permanent Permit Card</u> (CPP). This initiative of the Peruvian government established <u>no more than 180</u> days to submit the request for regularization. However, from January 6, 2022, the <u>National Superintendency of Migration</u> of Peru extended the possibility for foreigners to regularize their situation through the CPP by 90 additional days.

#### Brazil

As of February 2022, <u>224.023</u> Venezuelans were registered in Brazilian territory, according to the latest update of the <u>Brazilian National Immigration Registration System</u>. <u>50%</u> of the registered Venezuelans had a temporary permit, <u>32%</u> were residents and <u>17%</u> had a provisional permit.

For 2022, the validity of the <u>simplified prima facie procedures</u> has been extended, as announced by the Brazilian government in <u>August 2021</u>. This measure makes the asylum application process in Brazil for Venezuelans easier and faster, even to the point of waving the eligibility interviews. During 2021, the <u>National Refugee Committee</u> (Conare) of Brazil processed <u>3.800</u> asylum applications, <u>66%</u> of which corresponded to Venezuelan citizens.

#### Chile

As of January 2022, <u>448.100</u> Venezuelan refugees and migrants were in Chile. The first two months of 2022 saw a situation of acute tension develop in the country around the issue of migration.

The truckers' union in Chile began a series of <u>protests</u> demanding greater safety on the roads and greater migration control, particularly in the northern regions of the country, where in previous days there had been confrontations between members of this union and Venezuelans who had entered the country. The Chilean government responded to the protests by decreeing a "state of emergency" and used the crisis to announce the entry into force of the new <u>Migration and Foreigners law</u>. Several human rights organizations denounced the use of the migration situation for political purposes and the increase of <u>violence and xenophobia</u> against Venezuelans in the country.

The state of emergency allows the military deployment in four provinces in northern Chile, bordering Bolivia and Peru, with an expected duration of 15 days. However, the validity of this measure was recently <u>voted</u> in by the <u>Senate</u> and extended again until April 1st.

The new <u>law on Migration and Foreigners</u> simplifies the procedure of <u>expulsion</u> and <u>return</u> of foreigners, without the need for judicial proceedings, among other provisions.

This context has created confusion for refugees and migrants trying to reach Chile. In the first days after the new immigration law came into effect, there was an increase in refugees and migrants <u>halted</u> in Peru and Bolivia, waiting to cross the borders. Due to the military deployment at the border between Chile and Peru, local actors <u>reported</u> an increase in the transit of Venezuelans through <u>Desaguadero</u>, a municipality on the border with Bolivia. There are few data sources on this new mixed migration route to the <u>southern</u> <u>cone</u> (Chile as the main destination, followed by Argentina and Uruguay).

#### Movements towards North America

The migration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to Central and North America increased considerably in 2021 and in the first months of 2022. In 2021, Venezuelans came fifth in terms of irregular entries into Panama, making up 2% of the total number of irregular entries to Panama through the Darien, detected and registered by immigration authorities. In 2022, they became the top nationality, making up 26% of the total number of irregular entries in January 2022. In turn, Haitians – making up the largest group in 2021 with 62% of the total entries recorded to Panama through the Darien, became the second nationality in January 2022 with 14% of the total entries to Panama.

This change has led to new migration routes to reach Panama from Colombia, most notably a maritime route through the Pacific, from the town of <u>Juradó</u> (<u>department of Choco</u>), <u>which is now used</u> in addition to the traditionally busier route through the Darien Gap, passing through the towns of Necoclí (<u>department of Antioquia</u>) and Acandi (<u>department of Choco</u>) in Colombia. On several occasions, the boats used by refugees and migrants were precarious, and several <u>shipwrecks</u> were registered in the Pacific Ocean.

According to information collected by the <u>Displacement Tracking Matrix</u> (DTM), <u>86%</u> of the Venezuelans interviewed in Panama were headed to the United States, <u>9%</u> to Mexico and <u>3%</u> to Canada.

Faced with the increase of refugees and migrants in transit through its territory, the Mexican government announced the creation of a special <u>visa</u> for Venezuelan citizens as of January 21st. Until that date, Venezuelan nationals could enter Mexico as tourists, without the need for a visa. However, this new requirement has prompted people to enter Mexico irregularly, as described by <u>local actors and international organizations</u>, since a significant proportion of Venezuelan refugees and migrants do not have the <u>necessary documents</u> (valid passport and/or identification card) or do not comply with the requirements to apply for the visa.

At the same time, the visa requirement for Venezuelans in Mexico resulted in an increase in asylum applications by Venezuelans. According to the <u>Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance</u> (COMAR), applications went from <u>403</u> in January to <u>1.554</u> in February.

In turn, <u>Costa Rica</u> and <u>Honduras</u>, transit countries for refugees and migrants heading north or by land, have replicated the initiative of Mexico and have implemented, starting <u>February 21st</u>, the visa requirement for Venezuelan citizens, making it even more difficult for this population to transit through Central America.

The <u>U.S. Customs and Border Protection</u> (CBP) reported in January <u>22.779 encounters</u> at the U.S.- Mexico border with Venezuelan citizens, an increase of <u>76 times</u> compared to January 2021. However, as of February 2022, this figure dropped again to <u>3.072</u>, a possible consequence of the implementation of the visa for Venezuelans in Mexico.

# Mixed migration in Central America

According to official data of the <u>National Migration Service of Panama</u> (SNM), in February 2022, <u>4.014</u> people on the move entered in Panama through the Darién Gap, on the border with Colombia, a decrease of 9.6% compared to January 2022 (<u>4.442 detected and registered entries</u>). Entries in 2022 decreased compared to the last months of 2021 (<u>21.772</u> entries recorded by the SNM in September, <u>25.904</u> in October). However, these numbers are still considerably higher than in January and February 2021 (<u>1071</u> and <u>1857</u> detected and registered entries, respectively).

In February,  $\underline{43\%}$  of people registered in Panama were Venezuelans, surpassing Cubans ( $\underline{18\%}$ ), Haitians ( $\underline{13\%}$ ), and Senegalese (6%).

# Mixed migration in Mexico

According to the National Institute of Migration of Mexico (INM), <u>17.560</u> people were apprehended in January, an increase of 94% compared to January 2021 (<u>9.022</u> people on the move apprehended). <u>18.497</u> people were apprehended in February. In the two first months of 2022, the apprehended population came mainly from Central America (<u>67%</u>), the Caribbean Islands (<u>14%</u>) and South America (<u>14%</u>). Minors accounted for <u>13%</u> of people on the move apprehended in the same period.

Asylum applications in Mexico increased during the first two months of the year:  $\underline{16.309}$  applications were made,  $\underline{21\%}$  more than the first two months of 2021. Applications were mainly processed in Tapachula ( $\underline{10.317}$ ) and Mexico City ( $\underline{2.613}$ ). The applicants were mainly citizens from Haiti ( $\underline{4.189}$ ), Honduras ( $\underline{3.675}$ ), Cuba ( $\underline{2.004}$ ), and Venezuela ( $\underline{1.957}$ ).

To date, 75% of asylum applications in Mexico <u>remain pending</u>, which has caused strong tensions in the south of the country. In Tapachula (Chiapas region), DRC reported in its protection monitoring of <u>January</u> that <u>hundreds of asylum seekers and migrants</u> formed an informal camp in the center of Tapachula, to denounce the decision times on their regularization procedures which face up to 6 months of delays. During the protests, <u>clashes</u> with the police and <u>dozens of wounded</u> were reported. Some protestors started hunger strikes or <u>sewed their mouths closed</u> to stress the urgency of their demands. After not receiving answers to their application for free transit through Mexico, members of these protests formed a <u>caravan</u> on January 20 and headed north. The caravan was <u>dissolved</u> by the <u>local authorities</u> on the outskirts of Tapachula.

These tensions exemplify the consequences of the asylum backlog in Mexico, as a result of the much higher number of applications between 2019 (70.351 applications) and 2021 (131.448) in the country.

# Migrant caravans to the US

The <u>first migrant caravan</u> of 2022, formed by approximately 800 Honduran and Nicaraguan nationals, left San Pedro Sula, Honduras on January 15. The Honduran authorities stopped the caravan near the Corinthian border point with Guatemala, where riots erupted. Between <u>150</u> and <u>300 people</u> entered Guatemala irregularly and were <u>detained</u> by the Guatemalan authorities.

### The situation at the US border

# **Apprehensions**

The <u>encounters</u> at the southern border of the United States have dropped slightly in 2022: <u>319.719</u> people were apprehended in January and February 2022 (against <u>354.126</u> apprehensions during the last two months of 2021). But mixed migration flows remain significantly higher than in previous years. In the first two months of 2022, <u>U.S Customs and Border Protection</u> (CBP) reported 78% more apprehensions than in the first two months of the previous year at the southern border.

In February 2022, the CBP reported for the southern border 11.810 encounters with unaccompanied minors, 37% more than in January of the same year. The <u>U.S. Department of Health & Human Services</u> (HHS), which is responsible for housing minors until they are relocated to their parents or family members, stated <u>encountering difficulties</u> to manage this increase in apprehension of minors.

# Expulsions and deportations

In December 2021, 242 organizations signed a <u>petition</u> asking the US government to repeal <u>Title 42</u>, as promised by candidate Joe Biden during his presidential campaign. Several <u>public health experts</u> testified at the <u>congress</u> that there was no <u>justification</u> to continue using public health justifications to install a protocol of automatic expulsions to anyone who lacked authorization to enter the country, including people seeking asylum.

Persons expelled under Title 42 have no active cases, leaving them on indefinite hold for a policy change that would allow them to access the asylum system in the United States or until they have the opportunity to cross the border irregularly.

During the first two months of 2022, the US government <u>continued to invoke public health reasons</u> to expel people under Title 42: <u>173.439</u> people were expelled from the United States, under that policy.

Faced with the increase in Venezuelans on the southern border of its territory, the United States began to return Venezuelans by <u>plane to Colombia</u>, under the justification that they had lived in this country previously. For the first time, on January 27, 2022, <u>2 Venezuelans</u> were returned to Colombia. A White House spokesman said he hoped that flights to Colombia with Venezuelan returnees would be conducted on a "<u>regular basis</u>". In February, <u>20 Venezuelans</u> were returned to Colombia by plane.

# **Changes in US policy**

On December 6, 2021, and despite having declared on several occasions <u>wanting to repeal it</u>, the United States government ordered the <u>application</u> of an expanded version of the program <u>Migrant Protection Protocols</u> (MPP), known as the "Remain in Mexico" program. Under this policy persons who sought asylum with the U.S. authorities at the border or who are apprehended when crossing irregularly, were returned to Mexico to await the various steps in the handling of their cases.

The policy was initially ordered by a <u>decision</u> of a Texas justice court, but the extension of the decree was an initiative taken by the U.S. federal government. The new version of the policy covers any asylum seeker from the Western Hemisphere, when the first version of the MPP covered only Spanish and Portuguese-speaking people on the move. The MPP now also applies to Haitian asylum seekers and <u>minors</u> travelling with their family.

The MPP has returned people to some of the most dangerous cities in Mexico, which increased their exposure to threats, including violence, kidnapping and robbery, among others. During the first week of the implementation of the new version of the MPP, 114 asylum seekers have been deported to Ciudad Juárez, where studies showed that people on the move were identified and specifically attacked by organized crime.

On December 21 and January 22, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reported having returned 403 asylum seekers to Mexico under the MPP, mainly men from Nicaragua, Venezuela and Cuba. DHS officers commented that the deportation of people of those nationalities was prioritized through the MPP, since Mexico would not accept their return under Title 42.

On March 12, the US government decided to end the application of Title 42 for unaccompanied minors. The US government justified the decision by the decrease in Covid-19 cases at the national level and the increase in vaccination rates in the United States.

On April 1, the <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u> (CDC) <u>announced</u> the agency would stop authorizing Title 42 on <u>May 23</u>, declaring the expulsions are no longer necessary <u>to protect US public health</u>. Three states (Missouri, Arizona and Louisiana) <u>have sued the US government</u>, alleging the termination of the policy will bring an "<u>unprecedented crisis at the United States southern border</u>" and seeking to block the lifting of Title 42. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is expecting an <u>increase</u> in arrivals at the southern border and is developing <u>contingency plans</u>, to face several possibilities. Local and international organizations at the US- Mexico border are also <u>preparing</u> for a shift in <u>migration patterns</u>.

# **Extra-regional mixed migration flows**

According to official data from the National Migration Service of Panama (SNM), 8.438 people entered Panama through the Darien Gap during the first two months of 2022.

Out of the total number of extra-continental refugees and migrants (so excluding Venezuelans) entering Panama through the Darien Gap in January 2022, 14% were from Haiti (636 people), 13% from Senegal (590 people), 8% from Cuba (367 people), 4% from Angola (198 people), 3% from Uzbekistan (164 people), 2% from Ghana (113 people), 2% from Nepal (108 people), among other minor nationalities with fewer recorded entries.

The IOM's <u>DTM</u> interviewed a sample of people on the move who left Panama for Costa Rica, crossing through the state of Chiriquí (<u>3.724</u> people registered in January by the SNM). <u>75%</u> of the interviewees were headed to the United States, <u>19%</u> to Mexico, and <u>5%</u> to Canada.

A significant proportion of respondents mentioned having started their migratory journey from a country other than their country of nationality, which highlighted the importance of successive and onward migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, a dynamic on which there is a lack of information. Of the people surveyed with Cuban nationality, 20% resided in Suriname and 10% resided in Uruguay before travelling to the United States. Of the people surveyed with Haitian nationality, 82% resided in Brazil. For respondents with Senegalese nationality, 50% resided in Brazil, 17% in Argentina and 12% in other countries of the region (Ecuador, Venezuela and Uruguay).

In January, a ship with <u>39</u> people on board capsized in U.S. maritime territory. The ship, with Haitian and Cuban people on board, came from an island in the Bahamas and headed for Florida. Only <u>one person</u> survived the wreck. Shipwrecks are increasingly frequent, as more <u>attempts have been made</u> to reach the coasts of Florida irregularly by sea, mainly by Cuban and Haitian nationals. <u>1.053</u> Cubans tried to enter the United States irregularly by sea during the first 3 months of the year and were apprehended, a number larger than the <u>838</u> Cubans returned to Cuba throughout 2021. Cuban migration to the United States is growing; a consequence of the impact of Covid-19 on the country's economy and more specifically on <u>tourism on the island</u>, in addition to the new <u>sanctions from the US</u> after the <u>social protests</u> of June 2021. Haitian refugees and migrants also increasingly resort to this form of migration: <u>2.284</u> Haitians were apprehended by the <u>U.S Coast Guard</u> in the first 3 months of 2022.

# Thematic focus: Double impact: Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia caught up in armed conflict and further displacement

In some contexts, people already displaced from their home countries <u>again end up in situations</u> that force them to flee again in their host countries, for example as a result of <u>armed conflict</u> or natural disasters. In Colombia, Venezuelan refugees and migrants are vulnerable to the risks of forced disappearances, recruitment, sexual violence, threats, homicides, displacement, confinements and other consequences of the continuing <u>armed conflict</u> in the country.

The year 2022 began with an <u>increase in violence</u> in the border regions between Colombia and Venezuela and in the Colombian Pacific region. Conflicts over the control of drug trafficking routes on both sides of the border between <u>Organized Armed Groups</u> (GAO) and <u>Organized Crime Groups</u> (GDO) have led to cross-border displacements from Venezuela to Colombia and interdepartmental displacements within Colombia. In these regions, attacks were <u>reported</u> against the civilian population, since these <u>non-state</u> <u>armed groups</u> (GANE) implement strategies of <u>violent social control</u> that keep the civilian population living in fear.

The first <u>cross-border displacement</u> of the year occurred on January 8 when <u>433</u> families residing in Puerto Páez, Apure state, Venezuela, moved to Puerto Carreño, in the department of Vichada, Colombia, as a result of <u>confrontations</u> between <u>GANE</u>. Almost two months after this first displacement, <u>1.882</u> displaced persons were registered, including Venezuelan nationals (<u>90%</u> of the displaced persons, according to a <u>local organization</u>), Colombian returnees from Venezuela and members of ethnic minorities comprising a total of 520 families.

In recent months, another department which has suffered the increase in violence and the consequent displacement of people has been Arauca, a region bordering the Venezuelan state of Apure. In this department, since January 2022, there have been several <u>attacks</u> against the civilian population and the military, perpetrated by <u>GANE</u>, including homicides, bursts and explosives against <u>state infrastructure</u>, as well as armed strikes. Until the end of January, there were a total of <u>2.237</u> displaced persons registered, <u>83%</u> of Colombian nationals and <u>13%</u> of Venezuelan nationals with international protection needs.

In those regions, the <u>protection situation</u> has become more complex and conflicts between organized armed groups at the border have not stopped. Despite the efforts of international organizations and local authorities, displaced persons suffer from insufficient access to basic needs (water, food, shelter) and health care. Moreover, <u>GANE</u> continues to threaten displaced families: <u>Human Rights Watch reported</u> in February several cases of murder and kidnapping of this population. In this context, minors are particularly exposed to <u>risks</u> of forced recruitment.

There are difficulties in measuring the extent of the double impact on the Venezuelan population in Colombia, in part due to the lack of official records of the Venezuelan population who have been victims of armed violence in Colombia. In addition, there are enormous challenges in responding to needs in the different regions of the country. Diplomatic relations between Colombia and Venezuela ceased in February 2019, resulting in challenges in communication on the needs of displaced people in the border areas. For Venezuelan refugees and migrants, this leads to additional barriers when filing legal complaints in case of human rights violations against them.

The Colombian law 1448, articulated through the <u>Victims' Unit</u>, was created to document and address the acts committed in the context of the armed conflict in Colombia. A majority of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia do not have access to this system: to provide testimony to this entity, Venezuelans must be regularized, otherwise, they must go to humanitarian organizations that can provide some response to document and address human rights violations against this population. The <u>Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement</u> (CODHES) <u>recommends</u> allowing access to the Victims' Unit to all, regardless of their immigration status, and to "thoroughly investigate the refugee and migrant population victim of the armed conflict, assistance programs, the contexts of victimization, the barriers to access to public policy and manage the mechanisms to guarantee the effective enjoyment of their rights". In this sense, humanitarian organizations with a legal approach play a fundamental role in the impact they can exert.

# **Highlighted New Research and Reports**



Mexico - Understanding the Venezuelan Migration Flow (2021) | DTM (iom.int)

#### International Organization for Migration | January 2022

The DTM consists of the analysis of surveys with Venezuelan migrants, about their migratory patterns and situations that drove their displacement, as well as about their current situation in Mexico and their needs throughout the journey. Migrants willing to do the survey were located in the cities of Acuña, Ciudad Juárez, Piedras Negras and Mexicali.



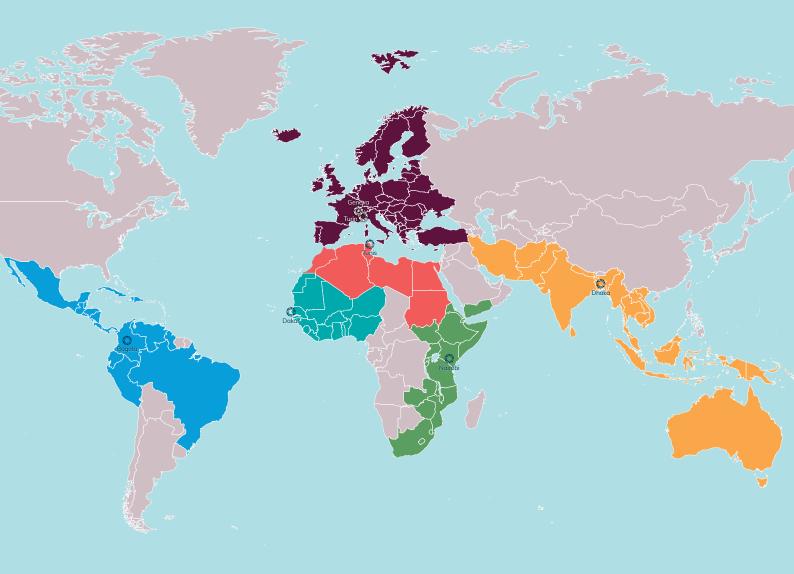
Protection Denied: Humanitarian Consequences at the U.S. Southern Border One Year Into the Biden Administration



<u>Protection Denied: Humanitarian Consequences</u> <u>at the U.S. Southern Border One Year Into the</u> Biden Administration

#### International Rescue Committee | January 2022

This report provides an update on continued externalization of asylum and the resulting humanitarian impacts at the U.S.-Mexico border.



The MMC is a global network consisting of six 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 Geneva, Turin, Dakar, Nairobi, Tunis, Bogota and Dhaka.

#### For more information visit:

mixedmigration.org and follow us at @Mixed\_Migration



