



STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL RESPONSE TO LARGE-SCALE MIGRATION OF VENEZUELAN NATIONALS IN SOUTH AMERICA, NORTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION



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Highlights

Relocation of Venezuelan migrants from the State of Roraima to other cities in Brazil
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■ On 10 April 2018, IOM launched the Regional Action Plan (RAP) to strengthen the response to large-scale migration of Venezuelan nationals in South America, North America, Central America and the Caribbean.

■ The two-year action plan covers 19 countries and reflects support needs identified with the governments in data, institutional capacity and coordination, direct assistance and integration. The required funding for the RAP activities reaches USD 32 million.

■ IOM has activated its Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM) to ramp up RAP implementation, with the expectation that donor contributions will be received shortly.

Situation Overview

The latest statistical [report](#) produced by IOM on the migration of Venezuelan nationals (April 2018) estimates that the number of Venezuelan nationals abroad increased from 700,000 to more than 1,600,000 between 2015 and 2017. While there are challenges due to data and information gaps, there is clear evidence of continued large-scale migration in South America as indicated by a significant increase of Venezuelan nationals in the sub-continent - approximately 900 per cent between 2015 and 2017 (89,000 Venezuelan nationals in 2015; and up to 900,000 in 2017). In Central America and the Caribbean, the number of Venezuelan nationals doubled, from around 50,000 in 2015 to almost 100,000 in 2017. IOM and other organizations foresee that this trend will continue.

As new migration data is published or produced, government agencies, policy makers, IOM and engaged partners can form a more precise and comprehensive vision on the size and characteristics of this large-scale flow. For example, information recently released by Statistic Office of the Dominican Republic (Second National Immigrant Survey, 2017) indicates that Venezuelan immigration increased from 3,434 people in 2012 to 25,872 in 2017, which represents a 653% growth. Also, the Colombian Government reported that as to 14 April and after one week of implementation, more than 63,329 persons have been registered in the *Registro Administrativo de Migrantes Venezolanos* (RAMV), an innovative mechanism supported by IOM to gather information on Venezuelan migrants in irregular situation.

IOM will continue monitoring closely multiple sources of official data and integrate the results from its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) operations to provide regular updates and include new perspectives in understanding the evolving situation in the ground.

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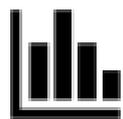
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DEVELOPMENTS IN RAP IMPLEMENTATION



DATA PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION

During the first week of RAP roll out, IOM has stepped up the preparation and reporting of DTM rounds in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru using existing capacity and internal funds. The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is an IOM system composed of a variety of tools and processes designed and developed to track and monitor population displacement.

In Argentina and Peru, the preparation includes technical cooperation with UNHCR to integrate protection variables in DTM instruments and prevent duplication of data collection efforts.

IOM Ecuador is finalizing preparations for a DTM round in the cities of Quito, Huaquillas and Tulcán that will be completed by the end of May.

In the case of Peru, DTM findings will be complemented with a qualitative study on migratory pathways, migrants' rights and protections needs.

IOM Brazil has submitted its draft DTM report—Roraima state round (in the cities of Boa Vista and Pacaraima) for government feedback and validation.

In parallel, IOM Headquarters' teams have been providing methodological guidance to regional and country offices planning DTM operations under the RAP to secure context relevant adaptation and a consistent application across countries. For more information on DTM please visit <https://displacement.iom.int>.



DTM exercise in the border with Venezuela ©IOM Colombia /Patricia Tinoco



DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND VULNERABILITY

A second round of voluntary internal re-localization of Venezuelan migrants will take place in Brazil in May 2018 and IOM is prepared to provide support in pre-departure, movement and arrival in line with national and international standards.

IOM supported the Government of Brazil in the first round of voluntary internal relocation of Venezuelan nationals, which re-located 265 Venezuelan nationals from Roraima to other states in the country. IOM country office in Brazil was officially established only in 2016 but has already increased its operational capacity and field presence and has since been fully engaged in the response to the arrival of Venezuelan nationals in Roraima.



Venezuelan migrants flying to Sao Pablo from Boa Vista © IOM Brazil 2018

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN COORDINATION

During the reporting period, IOM set up the initial management outreach and coordination arrangements for an expanding RAP roll out, considering the Organization's steadfast commitment to collaborative and constructive relationships with Member States, donors, civil society partners and other UN agencies, at global, regional and national level.

As stated in the RAP, IOM commends all countries in the region that have adopted and implemented migration instruments that have facilitated access to rights for Venezuelan nationals. IOM also recognizes the decisive response by UNHCR, WFP and other partners through their respective appeals and actions. IOM works closely with these Agencies to increase synergies in the ground and prevent duplication and overlapping in funding or operations.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator decided to provide initial seed funding to UNHCR and IOM for life-saving activities and requested a joint CERF application of up to USD 6.2 million. IOM is fully engaged in discussions with several donors at global, regional and national level, and expects to secure significant additional funding in the coming weeks to rapidly expand operations. RAP donor briefings were held in Madrid and Brussels and two additional sessions are scheduled with Canada and Japan.