

Background

Peru is the second country of arrival of Venezuelans worldwide, after Colombia, and the main host country for Venezuelans seeking asylum with some 400,000 claims. From the **over 862,000 Venezuelan citizens in the country**, more than 80 per cent lives in Lima y Callao, while increasing numbers are consistently being reported for Trujillo and Arequipa.

Arrival flows of refugees and migrants from Venezuela reached more than 80,000 persons per month in May and June. However, they dropped steeply after the **introduction of a new humanitarian visa** on 15 June 2019. Registered arrivals in July and August still exceeded 19,000 persons per month, but from September to December the average was of 5,645 persons. Nevertheless, and despite the considerable decrease of regular entries, partners report a significant increase of irregular arrivals into Peru.

In response, the Superintendence for Migrations and other national authorities, blocked identified paths used for human trafficking and smuggling, warned international haulers about the implications of transporting people who do not meet regular entry requirements into Peru, and have supported country-wide operatives to identify Venezuelan nationals with an irregular status.

The increase of irregular entries poses a challenge to effectively quantify the number of people arriving in the country aggravating the protection risks associated with their journey and their paths to access Peru.

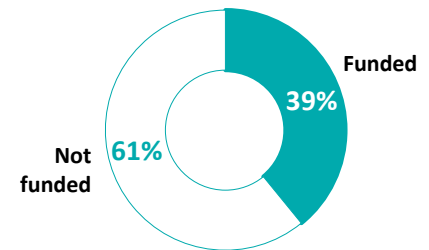
The total number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela and host community assisted for 2019 was of **534,000 persons**.

Above 862,000

Venezuelans in Peru

FUNDING STATUS

US\$ 106M Funding requirement
US\$ 41.6M Funded



AREA OF INTERVENTION 1 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

+266,000
Persons assisted

98,000 received NFI items
22,000 received health services
85,000 persons transported
71,000 sheltered in temporary accommodations

184,000 provided with food
29,000 assisted with nutrition support
105,000 supported through WASH
77,000 received CBI support

The emergency response focused mainly on **Tumbes** (north) and at the border point in **Tacna** (south) where the situation turned critical with the introduction of new visa requirements for Peru and Chile.

Between 10 and 18 June, the Tumbes local coordination group activated a **contingency plan** due to the introduction of the new humanitarian visa and the arrival of up to 8,000 people daily. This plan involved several government institutions and some 20 humanitarian organizations. Partners supported Migration authorities with staff and resources to accelerate entry procedures, provide orientation and counselling; opened the Refugee Housing Units (RHU) at the Binational Assistance Border Centre (CEBAF for its acronyms in Spanish) to offer safe shelter to the most vulnerable cases, and, in the city, provided additional temporary accommodations. Refugee and migrants were also

assisted with humanitarian transport and access to showers, food, drinking water, hygiene, baby and clothing kits along with other core relief items. Emergency health services on sexual and reproductive health, medical attention and vaccinations were provided by partners and governmental institutions. Partners also supported **over 15,000** persons through protection interventions such as psychosocial support, access to documentation, identification, referral and follow-up of cases of unaccompanied children, persons with urgent specific needs, victims of human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence etc. In total, **over 40,000 people were assisted**.

Similarly, **up to 800 Venezuelans** gathered daily in front of the Chilean consulate in Tacna from June to August to process their applications for the new tourist visa targeting persons from Venezuela. During that time, they had limited access to food, water and sanitary facilities. Moreover, the available shelter and accommodations in Tacna were insufficient to host most people. Nonetheless, partners assisted refugees and migrants to the best of their capacities with transport, medical assistance, food, water, safe shelter and communal accommodations, cash-based interventions (CBI), blankets, and hygiene kits.

In Tumbes, the response continued to be coordinated both in the city and at the CEBAF, as the first regular point of entry for the majority of Venezuelans in Peru before and after the contingency. However, with the rise of irregular entries following the introduction of Peru's new humanitarian visa, the increased vulnerability of Venezuelans, their dire need of assistance and gradual *invisibilization* poses new challenges to the response.

The provision of **direct emergency assistance** focuses on temporary shelter, medical services, legal orientation and counseling, access to showers, food and non-food items, drinking water, transportation, cash-based interventions and identification, referral and follow-up of the most vulnerable cases. From July to December 2019 there has been a steady and imperative need of emergency assistance, despite the decrease in formal entries. Notwithstanding the irregular status of an increasing number of Venezuelans, the waiting times at CEBAF for those who have applied for asylum, humanitarian visa and other specific cases remained long.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 2 PROTECTION

+160,000
Persons assisted

117,000 received general and legal orientation

42,000 children and adolescents supported through child-friendly spaces

44,000 supported through psycho-social assistance.

38,000 persons supported with case management

Under the coordination of the GTRM Protection sub working group, partners provided general and special orientations, legal assistance, and facilitated the referral and follow up of vulnerable cases. Protection assessments were organized year-round allowing for the continuous provision of information products to better understand and represent the needs of refugees and migrants. Additional relevant activities included training and sensitization on protection risks for both Venezuelans and host communities.

In Lima, partners set up 20 outreach centres and support spaces in relevant areas where refugee and migrant population from Venezuela gather. Since May, five of these centres have been providing general and specific orientations to over 10,000 Venezuelans. To help guarantee access to documentation, partners assisted the Peruvian government both financially, to allow for the **distribution of nearly 35,000 asylum seeker cards, and technically, to improve registration in border cities, and to issue the Temporary Residence Permit (PTP for their acronym in Spanish)**. In Tumbes and Tacna, partners continued to monitor the border, to identify vulnerable cases, and to redirect them to suitable services and temporary shelters.

More than 62,000 refugees, migrants and host population received information on protection risks and their prevention, mitigation and response, including on gender-based violence (GBV) through some 2450 informative fairs, seminars, and workshops organized by partners. Partners **also produced and provided 50,000 leaflets containing information and instructions on access to health services** to government entities for circulation to refugees and migrants in Lima.

The coordinated response identified specific needs among vulnerable groups such as women, children, LGBTI+ community, persons with disabilities and the elderly. This led to the referral and assistance of 3,300 women and adolescents' survivors of GBV and sexual exploitation receiving support through case management.

Child friendly spaces with trained volunteer personnel catered to **over 42,000 Venezuelan children and adolescents** offering social-emotional support and pedagogical activities. Moreover, in Tumbes, response partners identified some 300 separated or unaccompanied children and diverted them to the governments Special Child Protection Unit (UPE for its acronyms in Spanish) for specialized assistance.

Thirty workshops and fairs on the prevention of **human trafficking** were organized in the border regions of Tacna and Tumbes reaching out to more than 5000 people. This included the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the identification, reference, protection and assistance of survivors of human trafficking. More than 20 entities, including state institutions, NGOs, UN agencies, and international development and aid cooperation agencies supported these efforts.

Partners **supported the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) to decentralize their database** through the Qoricancha II system to all 12 Offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ODES for their acronym in Spanish) where asylum applications are received. Upon completion, each regional office will be able to print asylum-seeker identity cards, rather than all being centralized at the office in Lima. In September, the Ministry blocked the system from receiving new applications so to re-open it once the interoperability between the registration systems of the CEPR and the Superintendence for Migrations had been finalized. **Interoperability enables access to the list of asylum-seekers, protecting them from *refoulement*.**



AREA OF INTERVENTION 3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

+105,000
Persons assisted

100,000 persons reached through integration activities
6,600 persons accessed decent livelihoods
500 persons supported to access public services

840 persons accessed financial products and services
1,100 communities reached to promote integration

Access to livelihoods was consistently the main priority need identified by refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the different surveys and studies conducted throughout 2019. This is in line with the dire need of assistance with which they arrive and seek to overcome. However, there are major challenges for Venezuelans to enter the job market and access the formal economy. As a result, a vast majority of those economically active are working in the informal sectors, with the exploitation risks and other consequences that it entails. To respond to these multiple challenges, partners are working with a series of initiatives that support self-reliance to reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance. Entrepreneurship programmes and seed capital have been at the centre of these initiatives, contributing to the inclusion of refugees and migrants as producers, artisans and entrepreneurs who benefit the local economy. Moreover, these entrepreneurship programmes include women at risk of gender-based violence (GBV),

survivors of GBV, and other persons with specific protection needs and particularly vulnerable.

In June, the National Institute for Statistics (INEI for its acronyms in Spanish) published the findings of the **national survey on the Venezuelan population in Peru** (ENPOVE for its acronyms in Spanish). The study, carried out with the support of various GTRM members, provides a multi-sectorial overview of life conditions of Venezuelans in the country. This study highlights that 26 per cent of refugees and migrants arrived in Peru with a complete university education and diploma (including those with graduate and post-graduate education). Nevertheless, despite the usefulness of their degrees and expertise for Peru's economy and services, Venezuelans face multiple challenges in the recognition of their diplomas. Partners have thus engaged in supporting the institutional and financial process of certificates' recognition and validation, reinforced by the launch of studies and reports showcasing the social and economic benefits that the Venezuelan population represents to the country's economy.

There was a **significant increase in xenophobia and discrimination against refugees and migrants from Venezuela** throughout 2019. In March the national government announced significant policy changes towards Venezuelans accessing the country and prepared to **introduce the "humanitarian visa"**. The measures followed a national opinion survey that showed, for the first time, some discontent against refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Some media coverage strongly contributed to increase discontent among the host population and the discourse against Venezuelans became popular between political and public figures. In response, partners have focused on sensitizing host community, journalists and local authorities on the challenges faced by Venezuelan nationals, including awareness activities to prevent and address bullying at school and the role of media. All activities aimed at an external public, particularly to promote integration and prevent xenophobia, are held under the campaign **#TuCausaEsMiCausa**.

This campaign included numerous activities involving both Venezuelans and host communities. In February, over 2,500 people riding public buses in Lima participated in a sensitization activity that entailed a community theatre interacting with passengers. Another theatre activity took place in Callao for over 200 logistic workers, with the aim of increasing solidarity and strengthen empathy both in the workplace and across communities.

On 31 March, the first **"Gracias Causa"** Brigade was launched, with over 100 Venezuelan volunteers repairing a school in a Lima low-income neighborhood whilst offering free activities to 500 children. The launching received media coverage at local and national levels. A second "Gracias Causa" brigade was carried out in April in Barranco, Lima, where over 80 Venezuelan volunteers cleaned the beach, collected some 100kg of trash, and offered free activities and services to Peruvians. This activity was endorsed and attended by the Barranco Mayor, who stated the importance of collaboration between host and refugee communities. Some 400 Peruvians participated in the activities. Moreover, in August, partners presented the project "The ball has no flags" through which 200 children from two Lima districts participated in sports activities meant to strengthen resilience and to generate community cohesion and integration.

Both **#TuCausaEsMiCausa** and **"Gracias Causa"** continued steadily growing throughout the year, with some 700 Venezuelan and Peruvian volunteers working together in December alone to give-back to host communities by cleaning beach areas in Tumbes and the Rimac riverside in Lima; they also contributed to the reforestation efforts in Arequipa and Tumbes, and to renovate three schools in Cusco.



AREA OF INTERVENTION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING

+1,500 governmental authorities trained on international protection including child protection and GBV Partners contributed to three normative frameworks

Partners worked with local and national authorities to support and to strengthen public institutions and their ability to cope with the increasing number of arrivals. As access to health has been and remains challenging, it has been a main target of these efforts. GTRM partners supported local governments, local health authorities, the Superintendence for Migrations, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion to build their knowledge on the rights of refugees and migrants from Venezuela to access health services. In addition, partners have been advocating developing the capacity of the aforementioned authorities to strengthen a route for Venezuelans to access such services. Health authorities were also supported to strengthen their capacity in providing services to refugees and migrants living with AIDS.

Moreover, a collaboration with the **Ministry of Health** and the **Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations** (MIMP for its acronym in Spanish) strengthened the capacity of service providers in health and protection. Partners worked with the MIMP to support the *“Unidades de Protección Especial”* (special protection units for children) at country level, as well as emergency centres for women. GTRM partners helped to further developed the capacity of the Superintendence for Migrations to cater to vulnerable refugees and migrants and provide information on status regularization.

In **Tumbes**, partners provided support to the **Superintendence for Customs** (SUNAT for its acronyms in Spanish) in the design of a baseline for solid waste management in three main disposal sites at the CEBAF. **Law enforcement officials** representing different judiciary entities attended a workshop on the **investigation and prosecution of human trafficking**. The workshop was delivered for officials in Tacna as well. Partners also worked with the **Regional Direction for Education** to identify gaps in coverage for Venezuelan children hosted in Tumbes to access education.

Furthermore, in Arequipa, partners assisted the **Regional Instance for National Violence Against Women** to identify survivors of GBV, boosted information campaigns and trained public officials.

In **Cusco**, partners supported the **Education Regional Direction** to map public schools with available positions that could accept Venezuelans. Partners aim at assisting parents and students to make informed decisions on how and where to access the nearest available school vacancies.

Coordination

More than 60 **organizations**, coordinated by Peru’s National Coordination Platform (GTRM for its acronym in Spanish) provided assistance to refugees, migrants and host community in **12 departments and 17 provinces** around the country, with a particular concentration in the capital Lima and in the north at the border with Ecuador (Tumbes and Zarumilla) where the CEBAF is based. Local and international organizations are also present on a smaller scale in the south-east (Arequipa, Cusco, Ilo, Puno, Tacna, Tambopata and Yunguyo) and north-west (Chiclayo, Lambayeque, Piura and Trujillo) of the country.

Good practices, successes and opportunities

Following the **comprehensive joint review** undertaken in March on the GTRM's organizational structure, action was taken to boost the efficiency of the GTRM as key space to coordinate the response. This included the revision of the GTRM Terms of Reference (ToRs) to align the work of the GTRM with the RMRP 2020 and its new sectorial approach. This joint review, made by the great majority of partners, resulted in a clear understanding of how the GTRM should work in the future. The GTRM has become an active space for informed decision making on actions and activities by response partners and governmental authorities.

Local GTRM structures have been established in Tacna and Tumbes to better formalize the coordination structures of the local responses. The national GTRM format has been reproduced under the leadership of the regional governments and with the technical support of partners. These coordination mechanisms bring together local authorities and public institutions, local and international NGOs, UN agencies and other relevant key actors. As the situation in Tacna and Tumbes changed both due to the increase of irregular entries and the relocation of refugees and migrants in the border cities, these mechanisms aim to support and allow for effective protection and integration of persons from Venezuela. Similarly, in Arequipa, where the number of refugee and migrants continues increasing, authorities approved the establishment of a GTRM coordination platform whose structure is being finalized. This platform aims to address the growing intolerance by the Regional government, openly against hosting refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

The active participation of municipalities in joint coordinated efforts towards refugees and migrants grew in 2019. Access to their data on needs and challenges, supported information sharing and access to workplaces and areas of concentration of Venezuelan population, strengthening coordination structures, and empowering relevant local authorities. New municipalities have expressed their interest to join the GTRM sub-working groups in 2020.

The establishment of information management (IM), monitoring and reporting mechanisms within the GTRM have also been considered as best practices. Prior to 2019, partners (except for ad-hoc activations during natural disasters) did not report to a single coordination structure, nor did sector-based reporting. The GTRM strategy establishing regular reporting cycles allowed partners to make their presence and operations more effective and visible.

The GTRM undertook six technical capacity development exercises in 2019, mainly focusing on data literacy. These trainings are new in Peru and targeted two main audiences: partners with intermediate to high knowledge of information management, to increasing their expertise on data management and visualization tools such as Kobo, PowerBI, GIS, and R; and staff with little to no technical experience who benefited from basic trainings. Building the capacity of partners allows for better monitoring, correct use of essential tools, collect more and share better data.

A meeting with donors and the GTRM took place in June to present partners' main achievements and gaps while advocating for donors' support. Communication with donors, who actively and consistently participate in the GTRM, will continue in 2020 to ensure under-funding does not persist to negatively impact the overall humanitarian response to refugees and migrants in dire need of assistance.