

# Venezuela Situation

November 2017

The total number of Venezuelans in Colombia has more than **doubled** in less than four months, reaching **660,000 individuals**, end-November, up from 300,000 in June.

Between January and October 2017 over **100.000 Venezuelan nationals** have entered Peru through the northern entry point in Tumbes, according to authorities.

In Brazil **15,645 Venezuelans** have **lodged asylum claims** in 2017, 1,680 Temporary Residence Permits have been granted and a total of 30,000 are estimated to live in the country.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

- In November the movements from Venezuela to **Colombia** continued to grow, according to government figures that show net arrivals from Venezuelans reached **4,000 people per day** (up from 3,500 in October), and 2,500 Colombian returnees per day. Colombian authorities also reported that some **200,000** have crossed into Ecuador.
- Over **1 million Venezuelans** have now registered for the Border Mobility Card (TMF) in Colombia.
- In Peru **19,000 Venezuelans** have applied for the **Temporary Permanence Permit (PTP)**, Peruvian authorities estimate. Since August 4,000 PTPs have been issued out of that total.
- At least **60,000** Venezuelans are estimated to be residing in the Southern Caribbean.
- In **Brazil** some **15,000** of all Venezuelan asylum-claims have been lodged in Roraima border state since 2014, 2,500 in Amazonas state and some 590 in Sao Paulo.



UNHCR conducts a follow up visit to a Venezuelan family waiting for a decision on their asylum application in Arauca, Colombia.

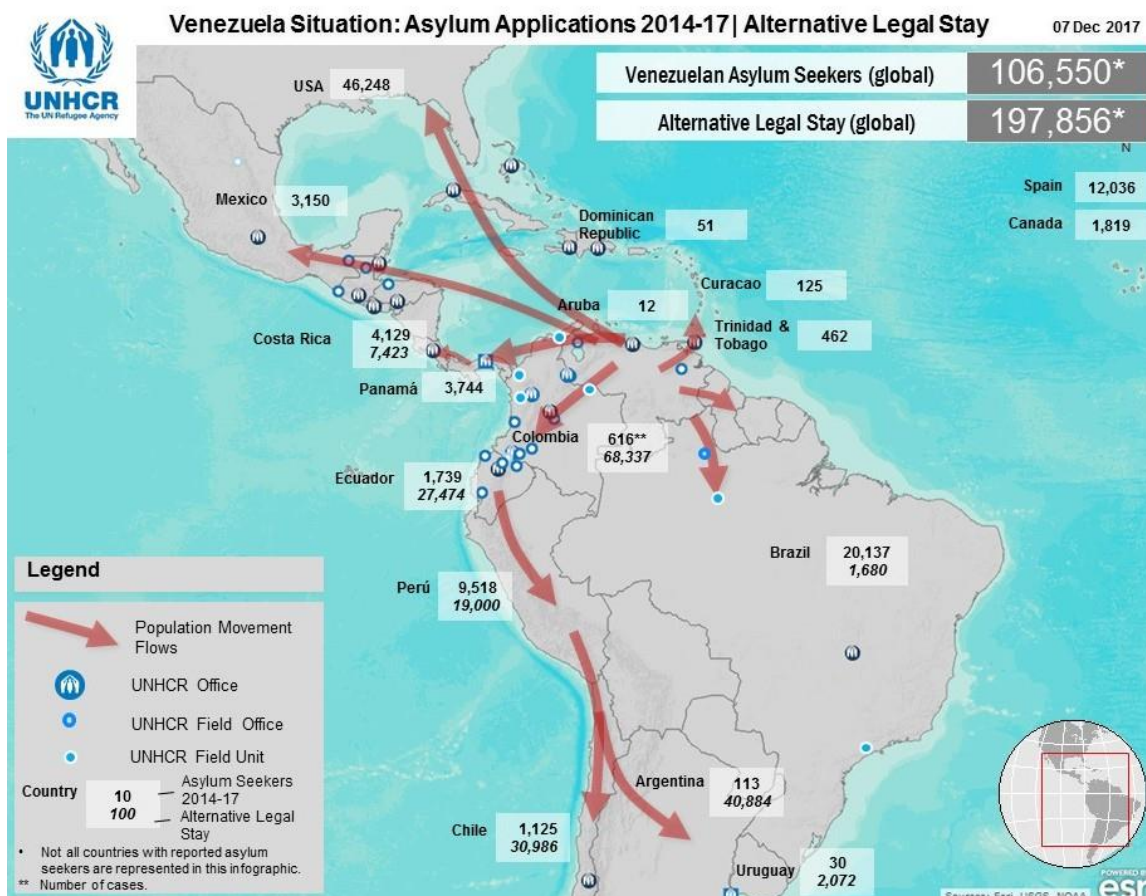
## CONTEXT INFORMATION

Over one million Venezuelans have left their country, according to host Government figures. Over 106,000 have sought asylum since 2014, more than half in 2017. Some 190,000 have also applied for alternative legal status across the region. They claim they are leaving for a variety of reasons, including threats by armed groups; fear of being targeted on account of their political opinion, real or perceived; insecurity and violence; lack of food, medicine and access to essential social services, as well as loss of income.

UNHCR has also identified hundreds of indigenous people crossing the borders, primarily into Colombia and Brazil. These groups sometimes travel long distances by land and have shown to be highly vulnerable as they do not have the financial resources to buy food or shelter. Additional support has been provided to them.

While the dialogue between the Government and the opposition coalition has restarted in the Dominican Republic, people continue to steadily leave the country. The socio-economic situation increasingly deteriorates and inflation has made it extremely difficult to access food, medicine, basic products and services. Reports from international organizations state that there is a considerable number of people with chronic malnutrition in the country, as well as a shortage of medicine. As a result of the strained resources, insecurity has also been increasing and having a rising impact on peoples' lives.

\*\* Data on Venezuelan arrivals and asylum claims is based on government sources.



## Operational Context

### Brazil

- The Government of Roraima has declared a state of social emergency due to the “intense, unlimited and disorderly flow of Venezuelans without means or conditions to sustain themselves” that arrive from Venezuela. Local authorities have expressed concerns about their capacity to provide an adequate security and health response, as well as to implement the recent government resolution that establishes standard operation procedures for the protection of unaccompanied and separated children, based on the recommendations by UNHCR.
- Among the reasons given by the Warao for leaving Venezuela, is that the government’s support to indigenous communities in the country has ceased. They claim that there are no available schools, health centres or services. Water distribution, usually their only source of potable water, has allegedly also stopped. The Warao also stated that they suffered discrimination in the access to ID- documents, which could help explain the considerable amount of Warao without identification arriving in Brazil.
- The Warao continue to move inward, confirming their intent to stay. Over 200 Warao are living in Pará state. The majority is living on the streets, while some 70 people are staying in a rural school set up as a temporary shelter by the Municipality. Following UNHCR’s counsel, Amazonas and Pará authorities created a formal communication channel to exchange experiences and lessons learned.

### Colombia

- Armed groups activities at the Colombian-Venezuela border, incursions by the Venezuelan military into Colombia, confrontations between governments and the lack of capacity to control the actions of armed

actors on both sides of the border are increasing risks for persons of concern in these areas. UNHCR continues to monitor the reports of violence at the border.

- In October, a pamphlet was distributed in Arauca by the “Araucan Social Cleansing Group”, accusing Venezuelan men of selling drugs to children and committing crimes and Venezuelan women of being prostitutes, and called for them to go back to Venezuela or face assassination.
- Colombian authorities are concerned about the spread of diseases including malaria, measles, diphtheria and tuberculosis in reception areas. They state that due to a lack of health access in Venezuela, arrivals are boosting transmission rates. More than 19,000 Venezuelans have received emergency treatment in Colombia, increasing pressure on local services. The Government is working with the Red Cross and WHO/PAHO to increase services, and UNHCR is advocating to ensure a protection-sensitive approach.
- The Special Stay Permit (PEP) application deadline expired on 31 October. Over 67,000 Venezuelans applied for the permit, which allows them to regularize their status, work and access basic services for up to two years in Colombia. UNHCR is advocating for this measure to be extended to ensure that legal pathways remain open, as is the case in other countries in the region.

## UNHCR Response



### Brazil

- Due to the limited registration capacity of the Federal Police, an increasing number of people are sleeping in front of the building where registration occurs in Boa Vista. UNHCR is coordinating with the Police to implement a scheduling system. With the 10 interns contracted by UNHCR and new pre-registration SOPs, registration capacity is expected to increase.
- Approx. 85 Warao were pre-registered in the Federal Police system, with the support of UNHCR, which is now coordinating a task force to continue with the legal procedures for the registration and protection of the 18 separated children identified during the process. Under UNHCR's request, the Police reserved a space for the registration of 25 Warao daily (within the quota of 150 registrations per day).
- Capacity of registration of asylum claims by the Federal Police in Manaus continues to be limited. New arrivals have appointments for February 2018 to formalize their claims. Until then, people remain undocumented with very limited access to rights and possibility of employment.
- A registration task force is now in place in Pacaraima, after UNHCR was informed of a large number of undocumented persons living in the shelters.
- UNHCR, the Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare of Roraima State, IOM and UNFPA, implemented an initiative aimed at promoting women's access to public services and women's rights. They provided services including health and employability. UNHCR provided information on documentation, the asylum process, temporary residency, access to services and rights.

### Colombia

- UNHCR is carrying out field missions in border areas in Norte de Santander and Arauca with UN Women, UNODC, Save the Children and OCHA to evaluate risks and responses to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and discrimination against girls, women and LGBTI individuals, including both Venezuelans and returning Colombians.
- From 30 October - 4 November UNHCR took part in a mission organized by the Inter-Agency Border Group (co-led with IOM, OCHA and WFP) with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Risk

Disaster Management Unit. During the mission to Riohacha, Maicao and Paraguachón (Guajira), Cúcuta (Norte de Santander) and Arauca (Arauca), participants worked with local authorities to review pressing needs and challenges of arrivals from Venezuela. As the agency with an operational presence in all three departments, UNHCR took the lead in updating the Humanitarian Country Team contingency plan.

- UNHCR continues to collaborate and support the National Registry Office, which registered 95 children who recently returned after having lived in Venezuela, who met the criteria, as Colombian nationals in La Gabarra (Norte de Santander).

### Peru

- UNHCR's and partner Encuentros inaugurated the office in Tumbes, establishing a permanent presence at the northern border with Ecuador. Encuentros-SJS has established contact with key actors to facilitate individual case orientation and referral with a community based approach, as well as identified key arrival points and transportation companies to improve access to information on asylum routes and alternative legal status.

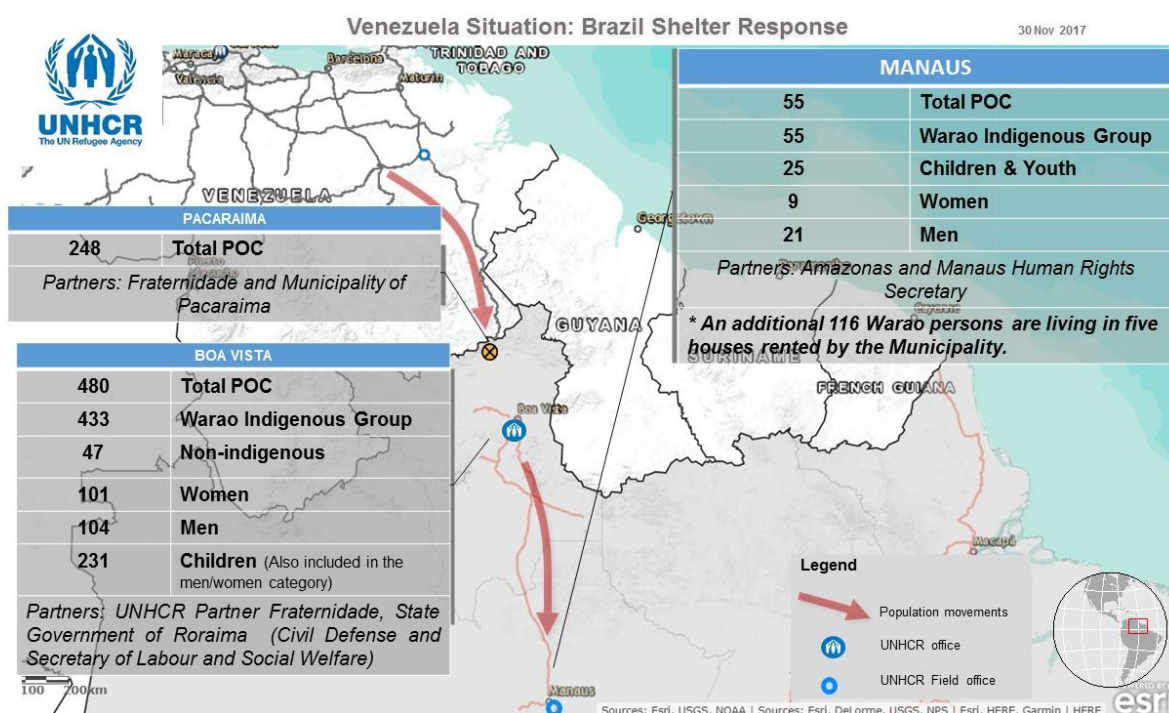
### Southern Caribbean

- UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago carried out a workshop in the framework of the Quality Asylum Initiative for Immigration Officers on the principles and legal framework of asylum, and provided guidance and tools on how to identify persons in need of international protection.



### Brazil

- The shelter response in Brazil is being deployed in three areas: Pacaraima town, Boa Vista, capital of Roraima state, bordering Venezuela; and Manaus, capital of Amazonas State. The response locations correlate with current displacement trends. While progress continues to be made, particularly regarding the involvement of local authorities and infrastructure improvements, living conditions remain precarious, particularly regarding Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and health services.



### Tancredo Neves (Roraima)

- Some 500 Venezuelans living on the streets and in the International Bus Station of Boa Vista were relocated to a gym (Tancredo Neves) which UNHCR considers needs significant improvements to ensure that it meets minimum shelter standards. In particular, there is no control of entries/exits to ensure the people's security as well as the registration of the Venezuelans residing in it. There is no identification and referral mechanisms for victims of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and no child friendly spaces. UNHCR immediately intervened to provide support and facilitated the identification of unaccompanied and separated children, adolescents' heads of family and children out of school. UNHCR's assessment is being shared with the Government and partners.

### Pacaraima (Roraima)

- On 2 November, the shelter in Pacaraima was formally opened. A total of 248 Waraos who were previously living on the streets have moved in. UNHCR has distributed 105 hammocks, 35 mattresses, 30 cooking and 250 kitchen sets. UNHCR also purchased hygiene and cleaning items.

### Boa Vista (Roraima)

- UNHCR completed the distribution of ID-cards for people living in the shelter. Fraternidade will continue registration activities to ensure issuance of the shelter ID card to new arrivals.

### Manaus (Amazonas)

- The Amazonas Social Assistance Secretary (SEAS) will request additional financial resources to maintain the Coroado shelter in 2018 (costs: USD\$1.2 million per year), as they informed that they no longer have the funds to support it. UNHCR will continue to advocate for the maintenance of the shelter.
- Since 1 September, Caritas' assistance project, financed by UNHCR, has assisted 220 individuals.

### Belém (Pará)

- UNHCR conducted a mission to Belém and found some 94 Warao, 30 of whom were living in houses in a dangerous area and 64 on the streets. After UNHCR met with state and municipal authorities, an agreement was reached to register them and rent a house near the centre to accommodate them.

## Colombia

- On 31 October UNHCR re-inaugurated the expanded Centre for Migrants and Refugees managed by Pastoral Social (Caritas Colombia) in Maicao (Guajira), after it was expanded to house a larger number of people. The centre has supported over 1,800 Venezuelans in 2017.
- UNHCR donated and delivered 500 family tents and 165 plastic rolls to the government in Cúcuta to be used for emergency reception in case of a mass influx.



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

### Brazil

- UNHCR was contacted by the Human Rights Secretary of Rio de Janeiro and coordinated, with the support of the Mormon Church, the transportation of two tons of basic items and food donated by the Venezuelan community from Rio de Janeiro, to Roraima. UNHCR will assist with donations will be distributed in the shelters of Boa Vista and Pacaraima.

## CONTACTS

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