

Venezuela Situation

March 2018

The Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) reported that approx. **700 applications** are received on a daily basis in **Peru**.

180,000 Venezuelans have crossed into **Ecuador** in the first three months of 2018, compared to 230,000 in all of 2017.

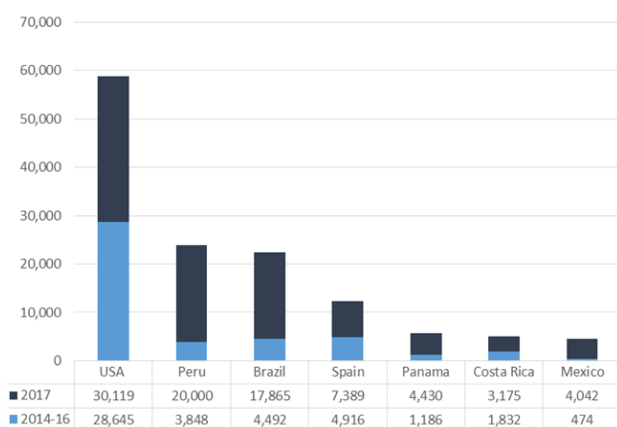
UNHCR, the Brazilian Government opened a **new shelter in Boa Vista**. 594 people who were living on the streets were relocated.

Many Venezuelans continue to arrive in neighbouring countries and beyond, in need of international protection and assistance, particularly access to shelter, health, education, and other essential services. Host countries and governments receiving Venezuelans have been working hard to provide an appropriate response; however, they are increasingly overstretched and need more international support.

UNHCR has been working to complement governments' strategies and efforts, and will continue to work hand in hand with other UN Agencies, partners, Venezuelan nationals and communities to strengthen the capacities of host societies.



Asylum applications 2014-17 in primary countries of asylum



444,820 Venezuelans with Alternative Legal Stay

Location name	Source	Data date	Population
Colombia	Government	7 Mar 2018	155,000
Chile	Government	10 Feb 2018	84,479
Ecuador	Government	10 Feb 2018	50,502
Panama	Government	10 Feb 2018	48,900
Argentina	Government	24 Nov 2017	40,884
Peru	Government	7 Mar 2018	30,200
Mexico	Government	10 Feb 2018	16,220
Brazil	Government	7 Mar 2018	10,963
Costa Rica	Government	24 Nov 2017	5,600
Uruguay	Government	24 Nov 2017	2,072

*Figures in the map have been rounded off for visualization purposes.
**All figures on this page derive from Government sources.

Brazil

Operational context

- President Temer signed a second Executive Act # 823 on 9 March disbursing approx. USD 58 million to the emergency response. All funds have been directed to the Ministry of Defense that is deploying 450 staff and equipment to set up screening and reception centres in Boa Vista and Pacaraima. A specific Sub-Committee on the voluntary relocation initiative (“interiorização”) is being led by the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Defense with technical support from UNHCR, UNFPA and IOM. UNHCR continues to lead support on registration, documentation, protection monitoring and profiling.

UNHCR’s response and partnerships

- Federal Police in Boa Vista decentralized pre-registration activities, increasing registration capacity and with the goal to issue asylum-seeker identification documents the same day that the application is filed.
- On 1 March, ten UNHCR interns started working at the Federal Police in Manaus supporting registration activities. The capacity increased from 30 to 47 applications/day, and is planned to increase to 80 a day.
- In partnership with the Amazonas State government and the municipality of Manaus, UNHCR organized a task force that provided quick on-site documentation, registration for enrollment to social programs and health assistance to Venezuelans. Over 2,000 services were provided.



PROTECTION



SHELTER

- To meet growing shelter needs and mitigate risks of Venezuelans living on the streets, which include sexual exploitation, violence, labour exploitation and xenophobia, UNHCR collaborated with the Government in opening Jardim Floresta, a new temporary reception shelter that now hosts 590 people, with another one expected to be opened in April. [Read more](#)
- UNHCR is supporting the Federal Government to ensure adequate shelter conditions. The Army has the lead on logistics, basic services, and the provision of man power to increase site capacity applying the layout designed by UNHCR. UNHCR is providing management support and biometrical registration.



Venezuelan families sleeping in a public square in Boa Vista’s city centre are voluntary relocated to the Jardim Floresta shelter, with the help of UNHCR, the Brazilian Army, federal and local authorities. © UNHCR/Reynesson Damasceno


- Site-management and coordination missions took place in Boa Vista: the first looking at shelter set-up and direct shelter management activities; and the second covering strategy development and technical advice to the authorities, UNHCR staff and partners managing the sites.
- UNHCR, the Brazilian Army and partner Fraternidade conducted a verification and registration exercise in Tancredo Neves shelter, providing registration and temporary site identification documents to approx. 750 Venezuelans.
- UNHCR conducted a registration exercise with Venezuelans living in the Simon Bolivar square in Boa Vista, reaching 871 people (633 male, 238 female).
- Following conversations between UNHCR, Public Defenders Office, Federal Police and Public Prosecutors Office, Recommendation No. 2/2018 was issued aiming to ensure access of Venezuelans without documents to asylum procedures in Manaus.
- The Child and Adolescent Working Group decided that school transportation for children housed in public shelters will be conducted by UNHCR and Fraternidade.
- On 20 March, UNHCR led the 2nd meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Working Group to discuss strategies for increasing dialogue between Brazilian and Venezuelan indigenous groups.
- WHO-PAHO is working with the Federal Government to combat the measles outbreak in Roraima, including establishing a vaccination station at the border. Vaccination campaigns in Boa Vista have benefitted 450 Venezuelans. UNHCR will continue to support the emergency local plan to ensure health care access in the new sites.



CHILD PROTECTION



HEALTH


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- EDUCATION
- On 19 March the Secretariat of Education of Amazonas issued the Normative Instruction No. 03/2018, which establishes rules and procedures for foreign students in the state.
 - The local government of Manaus created an emergency plan to enroll indigenous Warao children in the public education system. UNHCR is monitoring and supporting Warao children admission in the schools.

Colombia

Operational context

- Net migration of Venezuelans into Colombia has reached 4,000 per day, with an estimated 50% staying and the other 50% moving on to Ecuador.

UNHCR's response and partnerships


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- PROTECTION
- UNHCR and IOM continue supporting the Colombian Government in preparation for the registration exercise of Venezuelans, which will start on 6 April in 51 municipalities, in 21 departments. UNHCR recommended to include a non-return safeguard within the decree creating the registration, to ensure that information derived from this process will not be used for any form of expulsion/deportation, which was accepted by the Government. Migration control operations will also cease in these municipalities to ensure that Venezuelans can register without fear. The information consolidated through this exercise will serve to inform public policy on a long-term plan to promote the rights of Venezuelans.
 - In the lead up to the registration of Venezuelans, UNHCR scaled up training efforts with local officials and partners along the border to promote a protection-oriented approach to their needs.
 - UNHCR is acting locally and with its partners to monitor and prevent *refoulement*, and has raised the issue with the Government and through the Humanitarian Country Team.
 - UNHCR Colombia is increasing coordination with the World Food Programme, one of its key allies in the Inter-Agency Border Group, to provide food vouchers to UNHCR's people of concern through local networks.
 - UNHCR and IOM, as co-leads of the Inter-Agency Border Group, are providing situational analysis, strategic direction and leading coordination with the Government in regard to the response of arrivals from Venezuela in the run-up to the adoption of a plan that will be presented to the Government in April.
 - Following a request from the Government, UNHCR is working with authorities and community leaders to reach an agreement on peaceful coexistence with the Yukpa indigenous people that arrived from Venezuela, to provide a medium and long-term plan for attention to their protection, shelter and basic needs, as they are currently living in precarious conditions.

Panama

Operational Context

- In 2018, 893 Venezuelans have applied for asylum in Panama so far.
- During a press statement, the President of Panama declared the country is ready to receive an eventual increase of Venezuelan arrivals.

UNCHR response and partnerships

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- PROTECTION
- UNHCR held coordination meetings with different partners and organizations working with refugees in Panama, to define complementary actions to respond to the Venezuela Situation and enhance protection and assistance for Venezuelans in the country. Each organization presented potential support activities.
 - The UNDG LAC Regional Protection Working Group is working on a roadmap for the creation of an infographic on the Venezuelan flow in the region with a multisector approach and based on the available indicators from the different agencies. The first draft is expected by mid-April.
 - UNHCR shared the concept note for the profiling exercise in Panama with IOM and the Organization of American States (OAS) to foster cooperation. The exercise's objective is to identify people with international protection needs and obtain detailed information on profiles and protection needs. The agreement to launch the official Terms of Reference to start the exercise is expected in April.

- UNHCR participated in a joint UN mission to the land border with Colombia (Darién province) to monitor the situation in one of the centres where migrants are being held and screened before transiting to other countries (Costa Rica and up north). Meetings took place with local authorities, health, child protection, migration and border police (SENAFRONT).
- During an extraordinary meeting of the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE), UNHCR briefed the members on UNHCR's Guidance Note on the Outflow of Venezuelans.

Peru

Operational Context

- Following the resignation of Peru's President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, former Vice-President Martín Vizcarra, also Ambassador to Canada, took the Executive function on 23 March.
- So far the main entry point of Venezuelans to Peru remains the northern border with Ecuador, in Tumbes, mostly with Lima as final destination, however more and more Venezuelans are establishing along the route between Tumbes and Arequipa.
- The INTERPOL Office in Peru launched an online appointment system for Venezuelans to apply for Police Records, required to obtain the Temporary Permanence Permit (PTP). INTERPOL also set up a second Office in Lima for the attention of Venezuelans. On the inauguration day, INTERPOL's online system collapsed as nearly 6,000 requests were made on the first hours. According to INTERPOL, they are granting 120 daily appointments.

UNHCR's response and partnerships

- UNHCR has moved forward in identifying prioritized strategic interventions at a central level in Lima and in Piura (northern Region), where an assessment mission was conducted to further map key stakeholders, anchoring a multi-partner strategy (priority set on FIRC/Peruvian Red Cross, ADRA Perú, Scalabrini Foundation – PMH, Ombudsman Office and Universities).
- UNHCR in coordination with the Human Mobility Program of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference-PMH and IOM, is supporting the initiative to establish a first shelter ("Casa de Acogida") in Lima, currently providing technical advice on potential facilities.
- The Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR), UNHCR and Encuentros have developed a joint pilot mechanism for the identification and assistance of the most vulnerable asylum-seekers, which includes an attention route and social assistance by Encuentros, who will be present at the CEPR premises starting in April.
- UNHCR is coordinating a project partnership agreement with the International Federation of the Red Cross Regional Office in Peru to provide essential health services at the Binational Border Centre (CEBAF) between Ecuador and Peru.



UNHCR is working hand in hand with the Special Commission for Refugees in Peru to respond to the growing numbers of Venezuelan asylum-seekers. © UNHCR/Catía Lopes

Southern Caribbean

Operational Context

- During CARICOM's 29th Inter-sessional meeting held in Haiti on 26-27 February, 2018 the sub-regional group indicated that the 15 member nations would maintain a strict "non-intervention, non-interference" policy with regards to Venezuela.
- The U.S. Embassy announced a funding opportunity for NGO programs supporting Venezuelan asylum-seekers and vulnerable migrants in Aruba, Curacao and Trinidad and Tobago.

UNHCR's response and partnerships



PROTECTION

- **Trinidad and Tobago**
UNHCR conducted a mission to meet with key stakeholders following the issuance of the Guidance Note and the “[Venezuela Situation: Supplementary Appeal 2018](#)”¹.



PROTECTION

- **Aruba**
UNHCR conducted a mission to Aruba from 20-22 March to meet with key interlocutors, discuss the Guidance Note and the “[Venezuela Situation: Supplementary Appeal 2018](#)”, and assess the overall developments regarding the Venezuela Situation.



PROTECTION

- **Guyana**
UNHCR conducted a mission to Georgetown, Guyana on 11-15 March, to carry out consultations with stakeholders and government officials.

Mexico

Operational Context

- 4,042 asylum-seekers and 907 recognized refugees were registered in Mexico in 2017
- Through UNHCR’s partner PCR (Programme House for Refugees), 156 Venezuelans are receiving CBI, including 79 women and 9 LGBTI (Jan-Feb 2018). According to PCR, almost all the people of concern were informed of the possibility to request a visitor card for humanitarian reasons, which they have requested.

UNHCR’s response and partnerships



PROTECTION



HEALTH

- UNHCR has noted an increase in the number of cash-based interventions requests. Apparently in some cases, as inflation has severely affected their savings. There are not many requests for shelter.
- UNHCR has observed cases of Venezuelans that have left their country exclusively because they had no access to medicine or specialized medical services. COMAR (the Mexican Commission for the support of Refugees) does not have a clear response with regard to such vulnerable cases and they are not covered by the public health system beyond 90 days.
- Venezuelan people of concern have expressed interest in receiving psychosocial support.
- UNHCR has observed solid support networks in Mexico City. The Venezuelan community has access to extensive information on social media networks about support alternatives in Mexico City, including access to our partner PCR.
- Through the mass information platform El Jaguar, UNHCR has observed increased interest for revalidation of qualifications. UNHCR provides guidance and follow-up with national institutions in close collaboration with its local partner in Mexico City, PCR.



EDUCATION

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¹Read the full *Venezuela Situation: Supplementary Appeal 2108*: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/63088>