

REGIONAL INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION PLATFORM FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA

September 2018



Context

With over 2.6 million refugees and migrants outside Venezuela, Latin America is experiencing the biggest exodus in its history. The outflow of people keeps increasing, while national capacities are increasingly overstretched.

In this context, several Governments seek political solutions, international solidarity and a robust well-coordinated and comprehensive regional approach to steer the operational response in support of refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

On 12 April 2018, the UN Secretary-General, tasked UNHCR and IOM to lead and coordinate the response at the regional level. On 28 May 2018, the IOM Director General, and the High Commissioner for Refugees, sent to the Secretary General a joint letter informing him of the establishment by the two agencies of an inclusive, overarching Regional Inter- Agency Platform to steer the response to the Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

On 19 September the first meeting of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela took place in Panama, showcasing the achievement of an inclusive mechanism with a consistent approach, a common vision, and a concrete operational response at both national and regional level.

Objectives

The Regional Platform aims at addressing the protection, assistance and integration needs of both refugees and migrants through accompanying, complementing and strengthening national and regional responses of governments, international organisations and civil society consistent with the principles outlined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

By supporting country-level inter-agency coordination, planning, resource mobilisation, monitoring and reporting on coherent and consistent country operational strategies, the Regional Platform facilitates interagency information management and reporting on the situation in an aligned and coordinated manner and, in this connection, collects, analyses and disseminates regional data and information on the situation.

Structure, partnership and working methodology

The Regional Platform is open to organisations with regional coverage responding to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Currently the Regional Platform counts 31 participating organisations among them fifteen UN agencies, nine NGO's, and two Red Cross Movement.

"LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS HAVE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS RAMIFICATIONS, WHICH CROSS ALL BORDERS. (...) NO ONE STATE CAN MANAGE SUCH MOVEMENTS ON ITS OWN."

New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, 19 September 2016.

Representatives of specific multilateral bodies, international financial institutions, the donor community and the private sector have also joined the Regional Platform. Five major donors (AECID, DFID, ECHO, OFDA and PRM) have accepted to participate in this inclusive space.

Furthermore, the IDB and the WBG have shown their intention to support the Platform efforts. In fact, the upcoming Platform single web-based entry point for all information related to the refugee and migrant response will ease donors and development partners' visualisation and consultations for an effective allocation of resources.

Moreover, the Regional Platform will reach out to faith-based organisations, regional federations of civil society organisations and Ombudsmen to ensure their representation and participation.

The Regional Platform is being replicated at country level by coordination mechanisms. The implementation of National Platform activities will be closely coordinated with relevant host governments.

Coverage

The Regional Platform covers four main areas:

1. Information management to direct the collection and production of statistics, data and analysis of affected populations (index of vulnerability and needs) in a consistent fashion throughout the region and to monitor implementation of the inter-agency response.
2. Regional strategy and support to country operations to strengthen the operational response by creating synergies that avoid duplication and fill identified gaps whilst fostering a coherent and consistent regional response, identifying and developing concrete operational tools.
3. Resource mobilisation by elaborating a Strategic Refugee and Migrant Response Plan

for 2019 that reflects comprehensive resource requirements identified by all the relevant UN, other international organisations and NGO partners, in coordination with national governments.

4. Communication aiming at catalysing joint advocacy, messaging and reporting.

AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE Stocks de Población Venezolana en la región A 26 de septiembre de 2018

PLATAFORMA REGIONAL DE
COORDINACIÓN INTERAGENCIAL
PARA REFUGIADOS Y MIGRANTES DE VENEZUELA



Strategic Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela for 2019

On 20 September, the Regional Platform met to discuss the Strategic Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (SRMRP) for 2019.

The meeting focused on the methodology, the beneficiaries, the geographical scope and the structure of the plan. The SRMRP not only defines the regional and national strategies, work plan and projected activities, but it showcases what assistance the UN agencies and NGOs (international and local) can provide to complement the efforts of the host Governments.

Working Sessions

Throughout its first meeting, the Regional Platform held six different sessions, each dedicated to a different priority area.

The purpose of the sessions was so participants, active in each specific area, join the development of products relevant for each area.

PLATFORM PARTICIPANTS
15 UN AGENCIES, 9 NGO'S, IFRC AND ICRC, 5 DONORS

Management (IM)

IM experts provided an overview of their work on the population figures, activity monitoring, website development, vulnerability analysis and other key visualization products. The Regional Platform is developing an information exchange protocol whereby data collected from its different members is consolidated in a comprehensive and unified manner allowing for reliable estimations of refugee and migrant population in each affected country. It will facilitate programming based on the available evidence from different data collection activities.

The IM team is therefore developing complementary methodologies and joint approaches to produce:

- Product Catalogue in consultation with national platforms to deliver integrated reports and infographics.
- Common Website with real-time harmonised data displaying instant and optimised country information.
- Population figures with full display of public official government sourced data.

- Activity monitoring (3Ws) to avoid financial and human efforts duplication in the region.
- Standardised vulnerability analysis throughout the region.
- Disaggregation of data with a gender diversity approach, and a geographic scope able to better locate refugee and migrant movements in the region.



Figure 1 New Arrivals at the Support Space in Pacaraima, Brazil

Session 2: Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

An initial set of products focusing on information dissemination and delivery of lifesaving services will be to reinforce the operational response by preventing and assisting survivors:

- Rapid assessment to identify i) SGBV needs and ii) available services) through consolidation and analysis of existing information from various sources.
- Develop and disseminate lifesaving information regarding prevention of SGBV and available services (working with national platforms and linking to safe spaces network).
- Establish integrated referral pathways (in 2018 focusing first on lifesaving services i.e. clinical management of rape and psycho-social support).
- Coordination strategy (e.g.: deployment of specialised staff to coordinate and provide technical support on SGBV matters).

Session 3: Communicating with Communities (CwC)

The Regional Platform, through national platforms, will:

- Collect relevant information and inputs from refugees, migrants' on-the-move and host communities.
- Develop an Inter-agency common message-bank to gather and harmonise key messages and self-care guides while enhancing the monitoring system to address rumours and misinformation in strategic social networks.
- Map existing tools such as mobile applications that enable people of concern to geolocate available services, safe routes and essential contacts.



Figure 2 Newly arrived family, Tumbes, Perú

Session 4: Safe Routes and Support Spaces

To reinforce the existing spaces, the Regional Platform will start by mapping the current Support Spaces and Safe Routes, harmonising the minimum operational standards required to run these spaces (methodologies, services and principles). The Regional Platform is therefore committed to support operations by:

- Mapping safe routes to ease the identification of relevant support spaces for refugees and migrants on the move.

- Mapping of services and existing support spaces (information points) in each operation, in border and urban/semi urban areas.
- Developing informational products available at each support space.
- Developing, tailor and implement best practices for each particular geographical location.
- Creating a common logo that clearly identifies the support spaces.
- Creating a regional network of support spaces able to identify, refer and provide inclusive specialised services.
- Working closely and in coordination with CwC teams to develop realistic integrated products.

Session 5: Anti-xenophobia Campaign

A major goal of the Regional Platform is, through cohesive partnerships, engage into a Regional Anti-Xenophobia Campaign in a bid to promote social cohesion between refugee and migrant communities, and the host communities.

A strategic outline for a regional anti-xenophobia campaign was presented bearing a unified message that will complement national efforts to increase visibility against Xenophobia.

Session 6: Communications

Aimed at catalysing joint advocacy, messaging and reporting as visibility efforts for the response to the Venezuela outflow at large, the Regional Platform is undergoing the creation of several joint communication products, namely:

- Common key Messages
- Joint Sitrep to generate regular update

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