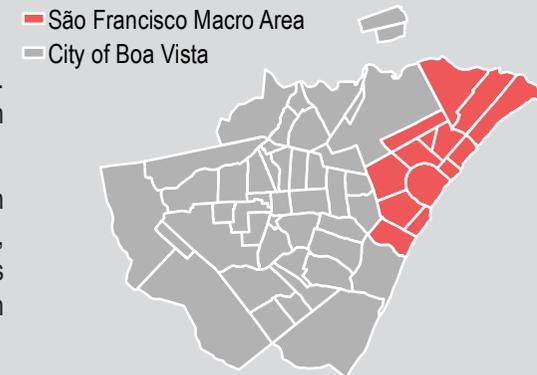


CONTEXT

Economic turmoil and civil unrest have led to the displacement of a large part of the Venezuelan population to neighbouring countries, including Brazil. The Northern State of Roraima has absorbed a large part of Venezuelans crossing over to Brazil, with an average of 416 arrivals per day (Brazilian Army, June 2018). With the aim to support humanitarian response in the State capital, Boa Vista city, REACH is conducting area based assessments.

This Neighbourhood Profile presents the current situation in Boa Vista's North Macro Area¹ of São Francisco consisting of the following thirteen neighbourhoods: 13 de Setembro, 31 de Março, Aparecida, Caçari, Calungá, Canarinho, Centro, Dos Estados, Mecejana, Paraviana, São Francisco, São Pedro, and São Vicente. Information presented here is based on qualitative data collected between 28 May – 11 June 2018. In total, 13 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 109 Venezuelan participants residing in the area have been conducted, as well as 14 key informant interviews (KII) with Brazilian community representatives and service providers. Findings are not statistically representative and should be considered as indicative only.

¹ Macro Areas are defined by the municipality of Boa Vista based on an administrative repartition of the city's neighbourhoods according to social services catchment areas.



DISPLACEMENT

Most commonly reported reasons for coming to this area

- 1) **Urban centrality and access to services**
- 2) **Availability of livelihood opportunities:** The area is characterized by the significant presence of street vending activities. As such, many Venezuelans reported working as street vendors in the area.

Intentions

Intentions to leave: Although the majority of Venezuelans residing in this area reportedly intend to stay for at least the coming 12 months, a significant number wish to leave Boa Vista in search of better livelihood opportunities. Most popular intended destinations include neighbouring Spanish-speaking countries such as Chile and Peru.

New arrivals

Larger waves of new arrivals have been reported mostly in the neighbourhoods of Calungá and Centro. Fewer new arrivals were reported in Paraviana and Caçari due to the high cost of living.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

Population composition

Population profile: Venezuelans residing in this area are mostly family groups. Fewer cases of non-family groups were reported to live in São Francisco and São Pedro neighbourhoods. Most Venezuelans in this area reportedly share rented houses or reside in host-community houses

where they work as cleaners or stonemasons.

Education background

High education levels: The majority of Venezuelans in this macro area reportedly have secondary and higher education. However, most are currently working in unskilled labour positions.

LEGAL STATUS

Documentation

Majority registered: A large majority of Venezuelans are reportedly registered with the Federal Police. Unregistered individuals were reported to be in-transit to other countries.

Legal pathway: The majority of Venezuelans in the area are reportedly registered as asylum seekers as it is perceived as the legal pathway that leads to better access to aid (food and shelter). Some Venezuelans expressed interest in registering as temporary residents* as this is perceived to facilitate their periodic return to their country of origin. Nonetheless, they lacked understanding of the means of access to this legal pathway.

*Under Brazilian legislation (2017), Venezuelan nationals have the right to apply for temporary residence in Brazil, valid for two years.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Awareness of legal rights

Low levels of awareness and lack of information: Most FGDs participants indicated having insufficient to zero knowledge of their legal rights in Brazil. Information needs were reported to

exist on minimum wages in Brazil.

Sources of information

The main reported information source is word-of-mouth via personal acquaintances. Internet is the next most important source of information to Venezuelans living in this area, including through social media (Facebook group: “Venezuelanos em Boa Vista”).

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Main trends

In all FGDs, participants underlined the generosity of their host community towards Venezuelans. However, this was reported to have reduced over time. A growing distrust of Venezuelans by the host community was also reported, attributed to the progressive decrease of interaction between the two communities.

Reported tension factors

While Venezuelans reported cases of xenophobia and labour exploitation, host community members expressed a growing feeling of insecurity. However, no security incidents involving Venezuelan nationals were reported in the area.

LIVELIHOODS

Employment

| | |
|---|--|
| Access to job opportunities: | Limited |
| Commonly reported reasons limiting access to formal job opportunities: | Language barriers; lack of means to prove professional experience, limited job offers and perceived discrimination |
| Common source of livelihood: | Employment in informal sector on a daily basis |
| Common sector of employment (male): | Construction and street vending |
| Common sector of employment (female): | Service provision (cleaning) |
| Professional aspirations: | Equal wages and professional opportunities equivalent to their education level and professional background |

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND AID

Reported access to the following services:

| Service type | Level of access * | Additional details |
|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Education | ● | Although the majority of respondents do not have school-aged children, they reported having access to education services. Nonetheless, the lack of vacancies in schools was mentioned as a potential barrier to access education services. |
| Healthcare | ● | Venezuelans reportedly have sufficient access to needed medical services and medication. Although health services were considered of good quality, some incidents of discrimination were reported in the neighbourhood 31 de Março. |
| Humanitarian aid | ● | A limited network of aid was reported to exist in the area, consisting mainly of sporadic food distribution done by the host community members. Priority needs mentioned include employment and housing. |

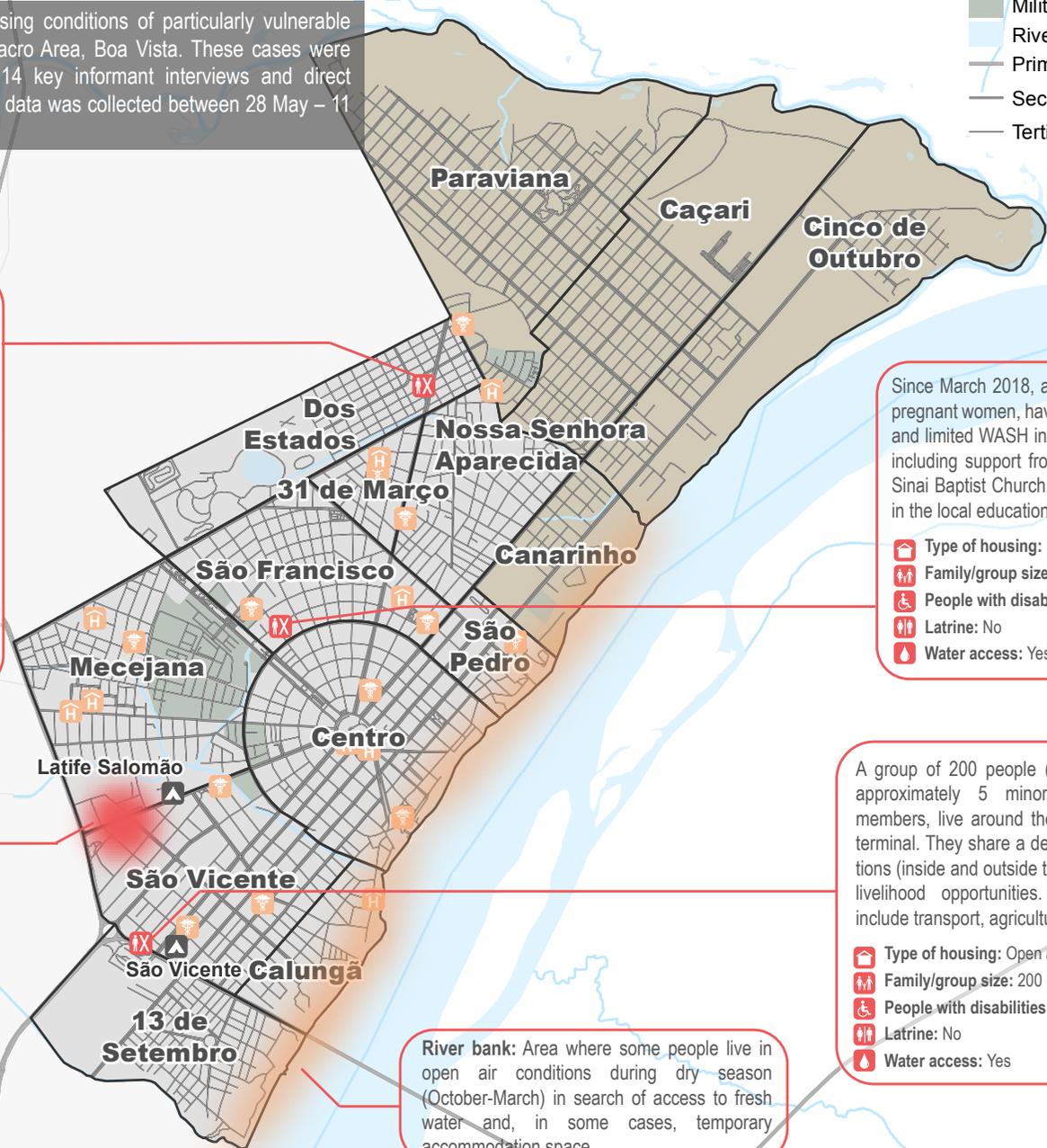
* Level of access to services: ● Good ● Moderate ● Limited

VULNERABILITY

| | |
|---|------------|
| Reported instances of child labour: | YES |
| Reported instances of unaccompanied and separated minors: | NO |
| Reported instances of security incidents within host community: | NO |
| Reported risk activities: Stonemasons reportedly have to work without safety equipment (such as helmets and safety gloves) and women working in service provision such as cleaning and elderly care have been reportedly exposed to sexual harassment. | |

This map gives an overview of the living/housing conditions of particularly vulnerable Venezuelan groups living in São Francisco Macro Area, Boa Vista. These cases were identified through 13 neighbourhood FGDs, 14 key informant interviews and direct observation by REACH field staff. The reported data was collected between 28 May – 11 June 2018.

- Military area
- Rivers and lakes
- Primary road
- Secondary road
- Tertiary road
- Vulnerable groups
- Shelter
- Public health services (UBS)
- Roraima general hospital
- Reported shelterless population area
- Area of reported child-labour
- São Francisco Macro Area
- Area of low presence of Venezuelans



A group of 30 people, including 5 children and a pregnant woman, live in an old public structure. Although they have access to electricity, the infrastructure of the site is unstable. The group reported having limited access to assistance, including food distributions, non-food items, and assistance with documentation provided by religious organizations and Brazilians living in the area. Children are reportedly not attending school due to lack of required documentation.

- Type of housing: Unused public structure
- Family/group size: 30 (21 adults, 9 minors)
- People with disabilities: 0
- Latrine: Yes
- Water access: Yes

Since March 2018, a group of 260 individuals, of which 50 children and 8 pregnant women, have been living in an old public building with no electricity and limited WASH infrastructure. The group reported having access to aid, including support from the State Government, University and the Monte Sinai Baptist Church. Priority needs mentioned include registering children in the local education system.

- Type of housing: Unused public structure
- Family/group size: +/- 260 (+/- 50 children)
- People with disabilities: 2
- Latrine: No
- Water access: Yes

A group of 200 people (mostly males), out of whom approximately 5 minors accompanied by family members, live around the Boa Vista international bus terminal. They share a desire to move to other destinations (inside and outside the country) in search of better livelihood opportunities. Desired livelihood sectors include transport, agriculture and construction.

- Type of housing: Open air
- Family/group size: 200 (50 minors, 10 elderly)
- People with disabilities: 0
- Latrine: No
- Water access: Yes

River bank: Area where some people live in open air conditions during dry season (October-March) in search of access to fresh water and, in some cases, temporary accommodation space.

Feira do Produtor (local market)

