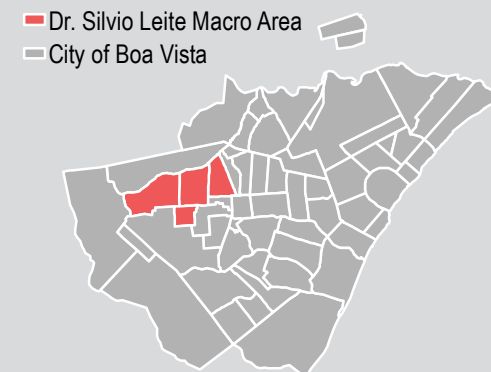


CONTEXT

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 North-west Boa Vista - the Macro Area¹ of Silvio Leite consisting of the following five neighbourhoods: Alvorada, Equatorial (including Residencial Cruviana and Residencial Nova Esperança), Santa Luzia and Silvio Leite. Information presented here is based on qualitative data collected between 21 - 25 June 2018. In total, 5 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 52 Venezuelan participants residing in the area have been conducted, as well as 4 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) **Affordable housing:** Venezuelans reportedly live in rented rooms in shared houses, rental price varying from 200 to 400 BRL*.
- 2) **Access to basic services and facilities:** The area is reported to offer easy access to public health and education services as well as other facilities such as markets.

*Exchange rate as of 9 July 2018: 1 USD = 3.87 Brazilian Reais (BRL).

Intentions

Intentions to stay: Although the area is reported to offer limited livelihood opportunities, a large majority of Venezuelans reportedly intend to remain in this area due to low rental prices and because their children are currently enrolled in nearby schools.

New arrivals

Few new arrivals: Both FGD participants and key informants reported there is a low number of new arrivals on a monthly basis in this area.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

Population composition

Mixed profile: Venezuelans residing in this area are living mostly in groups of family members and acquaintances. Single individuals are reported to live mostly in Alvorada and Santa Luzia neighbourhoods. No indigenous population groups were reported to live in the area.

Education background

Low education levels: The majority of Venezuelans living in the area have reportedly completed high school. Nonetheless, there is a minority group of professionals with higher education, such as nurses, within the community.

LEGAL STATUS

Documentation

Cases of undocumented individuals: Most Venezuelans living in this area are reportedly registered with the Federal Police. Cases of individuals residing in Brazil under a tourist visa were reported mostly in Equatorial neighbourhood. There were also reports of a few individuals with no form of registration with local authorities in Alvorada and Silvio Leite.

Legal pathway: The majority of Venezuelans have reportedly registered as asylum seekers and perceive this legal status as more conducive to acquiring a Brazilian work permit. Findings also revealed FGD participants lack understanding of the full range of legal pathways available to Venezuelans in Brazil, in particular regarding the option of temporary residence**.

** 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: All FGDs participants reported lack of awareness of their legal rights, as well as of legal services in case of rights violations.

Sources of information

The main reported information sources are the Federal Police and word-of-mouth via personal acquaintances. Internet as a source of information is only sporadically mentioned, with access to the web often reported to be limited due to lack of mobile phones and internet.

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Main trends

In this macro area, Venezuelans reported positive relation with host community, expressed through generosity and spontaneous aid. Tension and distrust between the two communities were reported mostly in Silvio Leite neighbourhood.

Reported tension factors

Also in the neighbourhood of Silvio Leite, health services are perceived by host community as being overstrained due to the inflow of Venezuelans. In this same neighbourhood, acts of xenophobia against Venezuelans were reported to happen often.




LIVELIHOODS

Employment

Access to job opportunities:	Limited
Commonly reported reasons limiting access to formal job opportunities:	Discrimination, language barriers and lack of documentation
Common source of livelihood:	Employment in informal sector on a daily basis, sometimes paid with various goods
Common sector of employment (male):	Construction, such as stonemasons, carpenters and welders
Common sector of employment (female):	Service provision, such as cleaning and sales
Average wages (daily basis):	The salary of one day of work is estimated to vary between 20 to 80 BRL. Women were reported to receive lower salaries, varying from 10 to 50 BRL per day of work.

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND AID

Reported access to the following services:

Service type	Level of access *	Additional details
Education		Venezuelans children residing in this macro area reportedly have access to schools. Nonetheless, lack of vacancies and documentation were reported as obstacles to accessing educational services.
Healthcare		Most Venezuelans reportedly have access to health services, considered to be good. The presence of Spanish-speaking doctors in some health units and the home vaccination program were among the good aspects of the health services mentioned by Venezuelans.
Humanitarian aid		Brazilian KIs reported the occurrence of spontaneous distributions of food and non-food items to Venezuelans by host community and religious institutions in the region. FGD participants report having limited access to aid, prioritizing livelihood opportunities as their main need.

* 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: The non-payment of agreed-upon salaries by employers and lack of safety equipment reportedly are the main risks faced by stonemasons and farm workers. Women working in cleaning reported incidents of sexual harassment.	

This map gives an overview of particularly vulnerable Venezuelan groups living in Silvio Leite Macro Area, Boa Vista. This was identified through 5 FGDs and 4 key informant interviews conducted in the area by REACH field staff. The reported data was collected between 21 – 25 June 2018.

