

POPULATION PROJECTION 2020 <b>33.4 K</b>	PEOPLE IN NEED <b>34.5 K</b>	PEOPLE TARGETED <b>14.5 K</b>	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS <b>\$ 14.2 M</b>	COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS <b>\$ 1.2 M</b>	RMRP APPEALING PARTNERS <b>6</b>
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## Strategic Response Priorities

- 1 Advocate with authorities to continue the registration process and the provision of documentation while providing information and guidance on asylum processes, regularization and documentation procedures to Venezuelans.
- 2 Improve capacity to provide and ensure legal remedies to refugees and migrants including counselling on access to justice and asylum procedures.
- 3 Advocate for Government's inclusion of refugees and migrants in the national protection system and social assistance programs.
- 4 Strengthen protection systems and capacity to identify and respond to vulnerable individuals, persons with specific needs and children in need of protection, such as unaccompanied minors and those not registered with the government.
- 5 Enhance social cohesion and local integration opportunities by launching remote sensitivity awareness campaigns to combat xenophobia and discrimination and support access to formal employment opportunities and the development of remote bilingual programs, which have become critical in addressing the multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6 Step up the provision of food assistance, essential goods and critical services such as emergency shelter facilities, emphasizing CBI, and non-food items (NFIs) including hygiene products to reach the most vulnerable refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 crisis.
- 7 Expand, promote and strengthen engagement in web-based education programs for refugee and migrant children and youth with full online delivery.
- 8 Establish communication with migrant and refugee communities through public information campaigns to promote awareness and public safety regarding COVID-19.



## Situation

Venezuelans continue to seek safety in Trinidad & Tobago because of serious threats to their lives, security, and freedom as well as the worsening socio-economic, political, human rights infringements, and other significant protection risks in their country of origin. In June 2019, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago implemented visa requirements for Venezuelans. Irregular entries via the porous Trinidadian maritime borders have been a concern since the introduction of the visa requirement, that was further compounded by border restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Venezuelans who attempt to enter the country irregularly are exposed to significant protection risks, including human trafficking and smuggling, detention and deportation.

In June 2019, the Government conducted a two-week registration exercise that granted Venezuelan nationals a stay-permit which also allowed them to work for 6 months to 1 year.<sup>1</sup> In spite of registration and the granting of stay permissions, Venezuelans face obstacles to integration, such as language barriers and the lack of recognition of professional certificates and diplomas from Venezuela. Access to specialized health care is limited, and Venezuelan children and youth encounter administrative barriers to the local education system. Labour and sexual exploitation, stigma and xenophobia are also among main challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic has considerably increased the vulnerability of Venezuelans and impacted the economy of the country. The lockdown has disrupted businesses leaving Venezuelans with limited or no access to livelihood opportunities, prompting evictions and preventing them from being able to secure basic necessities. Although the government has instituted various financial and economic measures to provide income, food, and rental fee support to vulnerable nationals and permanent residents, financially affected by the pandemic, the vast majority of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, because they do not hold permanent residency, will not benefit from these social programs. National platform partners all reported dramatic increases in requests for food and cash assistance amongst the Venezuelan community. A spike in domestic violence, child abuse cases and the resort to negative coping mechanisms were also noted, underscoring a need for psychological assistance for refugees and migrants to aid in coping with the stress of this crisis.

In June 2020, Trinidad and Tobago started to gradually lift restrictive measures. Despite these efforts, the pandemic is expected to have long-lasting effects on the economy and thus on the situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as the host community. The outlook on the integration opportunities is grimmer and more individuals than ever are in need of humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.

<sup>1</sup> These permits were automatically renewed when the Immigration Division was forced to close due to COVID-19 safety measures.

SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED*	PEOPLE TARGETED*	REQUIREMENTS - USD	PARTNERS
Education	3.4 K	1.6 K	\$ 749 K ●	● 2
Food Security		1K	\$ 265 K ●	● 1
Health	14 K	13K	\$ 1.3 M ●	● 5
Integration	34.5 K	9 K	\$ 34 M ●	● 3
Nutrition		200	\$ 2 K ●	● 1
Protection**	6.9 K	6.3 K	\$ 5.2 M ●	● 4
Shelter/NFI	6.9 K	1K	\$ 820 K ●	● 1
Multipurpose CBI			\$ 1.9 M ●	● 1
Support Services***			\$ 509 K ●	● 2

\*The figure of People in Need and People Targeted includes host communities | \*\*Includes GBV, Child Protection, Human Trafficking & Smuggling | \*\*\*Coordination and Information Management

### APPEALING PARTNERS: IOM | PAHO | PAHO/FPATT | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF

The total budget includes activities targeting refugees and migrants from Venezuela in-transit to other countries. In order to avoid duplications, and unless otherwise stated, this population group is not included in the key population projections, PIN and target population figures.