

PROTECTION

Co-led by: UNHCR-HIAS.

SUBSECTORS:

Child Protection (UNICEF -WVI)/ GBV (UNFPA -HIAS - STC)/HT&S (IOM - UN Women)



PROTECTION
SECTOR



Inter-Agency Coordination
Platform for Refugees and
Migrants from Venezuela



PEOPLE IN NEED

5.63M



PEOPLE TARGETED

1.29M



FINANCIAL REQUIRED

\$142M



RMRP PARTNERS

86

PRIORITY NEEDS

The adverse socio-economic effects of COVID-19 and related governmental mitigation measures have increased protection risks for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, with a disproportionate impact on people with specific needs.

RESPONSE STRATEGY

As a result of a [consultative process involving national sectors and regional members](#), the Regional Protection Sector strategic priorities for 2021 are:

1. Enhancing border monitoring activities to uphold access to / quality of asylum for Venezuelans.
2. Strengthen states' regularization and regular stay arrangements with protection safeguards, as well as access to birth registration / nationality and documentation.
3. Promote the inclusion of refugees and migrants in national protection systems and mechanisms / public policies / legal and institutional frameworks to guarantee durable solutions.
4. Support multi-stakeholder and coordinated efforts to mitigate disproportionate impacts on heightened-risk population groups, promote compliance with standards, good practices exchanges and prioritization of criteria across national legal frameworks, guaranteeing effective participation of refugees and migrants with special consideration for the most affected, and taking into account the needs of host communities.
5. Improve the collection and analysis of disaggregated data to identify protection risks and measures for an enhanced protection response linked to impacts of COVID-19 prevention measures.
6. Provide capacity-building to regional sub-sectors, national sectors and organizations in key thematic areas.
7. Maintain advocacy efforts on emergent protection risks and impacts.

The Regional Protection Sector will continue to provide technical guidance on protection and assistance services and will improve its regional capacity-building on specific thematic areas. Regional advocacy will aim to consolidate protection strategies with key stakeholders, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), Coalition for Venezuela, academia and authorities engaged in the Quito Process. Technical support will be provided to those countries and national/sub-regional sectors with less operational capacity in protection and throughout the design of targeted operational response and advocacy strategies.

Critical links between initiatives for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and the Protection Sector will be established: PSEA will be included in the Regional Sector TORs and work plan. Environmental impacts will also be surveilled. Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) will be at the center of the Sector's response in 2021 by developing community-based mechanisms to guarantee participation and inclusion, communication and transparency, feedback and response with an age, gender, and diversity approach. Strengthening regional initiatives such as the Support Spaces network will be prioritized.

The Protection Sector will continue and strengthen its role coordinating and finding synergies across the Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection and Human Trafficking & Smuggling (HT&SoM) Sub-Sectors.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



PEOPLE IN NEED

192M



PEOPLE TARGETED

163K



FINANCIAL REQUIRED

\$37.9



RMRP PARTNERS

54

As host countries grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of GBV have risen across the region. The risk of experiencing GBV is higher for refugees and migrants, including domestic violence/intimate partner violence (DV/IPV), sexual violence, early and forced marriage, survival sex and sexual exploitation. The Regional GBV Sub-sector has identified three priority needs:

- 1. GBV survivors face challenges in accessing life-saving and essential services.** Accessible, age-appropriate, multi-sectoral services adapted to the COVID-19 context are urgently required, including health, sexual & reproductive health (SRH), case management, livelihoods, legal, safety/ security and psychosocial support.
- 2. Those most vulnerable to GBV lack economic support/safety nets.** Difficulties in accessing

formal labour markets have been compounded by loss of livelihoods due to COVID-19.

- 3. DV and IPV have worsened during the pandemic.** In addition to providing care to survivors, it is necessary to roll out new and/or scale up existing prevention initiatives to address pre-existing gender inequalities and harmful gender norms at the root of GBV.

The Sub-sector will implement the following initiatives to meet the priority needs:

- To address barriers to lifesaving and GBV response services, **the Sub-sector will adapt inter-agency referral systems and operational protocols to ensure continuity and integration of GBV services**, and provide trainings to NGOs and government entities on GBV case management, clinical management of rape, remote psychosocial support, minimum standards for service provision & empowerment activities for adolescent girls.
- To promote access to economic support/safety nets for those most vulnerable to GBV, **the Sub-**

sector will work together with other R4V sectors to integrate GBV prevention and mitigation strategies in their activities, including the CVA Working Group, the Integration Sector and the Protection Sector.

- To strengthen GBV prevention strategies, **the Sub-sector will work on communication and educational packages to transform harmful gender norms that give rise to and justify violence**, developing skills for healthy relationships and improving awareness of GBV.

CHILD PROTECTION



CHILD
PROTECTION
SUB-SECTOR



Inter-Agency Coordination
Platform for Refugees and
Migrants from Venezuela



PEOPLE IN NEED

1.70M



PEOPLE TARGETED

349K



FINANCIAL REQUIRED

\$42.9M



RMRP PARTNERS

43

Refugee and migrant children and adolescents from Venezuela face challenges in transit and destination, due to the lack of safe pathways for them and their families. Based on the high prevalence of irregular status across the region, which may be aggravated by factors such as ethnicity, gender and disability, they are highly vulnerable and often encounter forms of violence, abuse, and neglect, including recruitment by irregular armed groups, labour and sexual exploitation, and are at heightened risk of GBV, human trafficking, smuggling, and discrimination.

Based on these identified needs, the Child Protection Sub-Sector set the following objectives for 2021:

1. Support the **provision of assistance and specialized services to protect refugee and migrant children and adolescents** according to their needs and in coordination with national authorities, especially in response to COVID-19.
2. **Strengthen the capacities of stakeholders (governments, NGOs, international and community-based organizations, and civil society)** at the regional, national and local levels, to improve and establish guidelines and legislation for articulated inter-institutional coordination, and to enhance access to child protection services, including national child protection mechanisms, justice, international protection and fundamental rights, integrating gender, ethnic and intersectoral approaches.
3. **Advocate at national and regional levels to enhance access to rights and protection of children, adolescents and their families**, while sensitizing and disseminating coherent information among populations to ensure their safety and protection, considering gender, ethnic, and diversity approaches.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING

 HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING SUB-SECTOR

 Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela



PEOPLE IN NEED

504K



PEOPLE TARGETED

14.3K



FINANCIAL REQUIRED

\$18.7M



RMRP PARTNERS

22

Human trafficking (HT) and smuggling of migrants (SoM)¹ are crimes with serious human rights implications that are accentuated in times of crisis. With the outbreak of COVID-19, refugees and migrants from Venezuela face specific vulnerabilities to these crimes. Unprecedented travel and mobility restrictions intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have impacts which have led to an environment where refugees and migrants are abused and exploited, particularly those in irregular situations. The increasing use of dangerous routes and inadequate means of transportation, risks related to lack of regular status or access to regularization, lack of information, loss of income, increase of risks of GBV and discrimination, and limited access to rights and basic services all compound these situations of vulnerability.

The response of the regional Sub-sector, in close coordination with the Protection Sector, will focus on the **4Ps** of **prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships**:

In terms of **prevention**, the Sub-sector will continue implementing efforts to inform refugees and migrants of the risks of human trafficking and smuggling. The Sub-sector's work will also include the development of information materials and their dissemination, as well as articulation with the Support Spaces Working Group and strengthening of the regional R4V Service mapping to allow for the identification of referral routes.

In terms of **protection**, the Sub-sector will continue to support the development of tools to ensure access to comprehensive and specific assistance and protection services for Venezuelan refugees and migrants who are victims of trafficking or who are smuggled, along with their families.

On **prosecution**, the Sub-sector will continue to support the national Sub-sectors in their work to

promote the development of tools and technical actions that allows access to justice and effective protection for victims of trafficking and/or for smuggled migrants in the region, supporting national justice systems and integrating gender, age, and diversity approaches.

Lastly, in terms of **partnership**, the Sub-sector will strengthen regional coordination between the national, sub-regional and regional Human Trafficking and Smuggling sub-sectors in the different RMRP countries, encouraging spaces for dialogue and exchange of experiences, good practices, tools and information, the creation and/or strengthening of working groups, coalitions, and key regional advocacy actions on trafficking and smuggling (Quito Process, Mercosur and Migratory Consultations from the Caribbean).

¹ The Sub-Sector uses the terminology of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime (UNTOC) with regard to the term migrant smuggling but recognizes that this crime also affects refugees.



The Support Spaces Working Group² is an interagency initiative of the R4V Platform to promote a coordinated network of 186 spaces in eight countries (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina and Uruguay) where refugees and migrants from Venezuela receive information, orientation, and basic services that respond to their urgent needs.

During the pandemic, Support Spaces (*Espacios de Apoyo*) play a crucial role in guaranteeing access to information on rights, essential and specialized services and assistance, adapting their work to remote and virtual attention. Implementation is coordinated with a wide range of actors including civil society, faith-based organizations, grassroots organizations and community networks, national and local governments and UN agencies, among others.

In 2021, the priorities will focus on:

4. Strengthening access to in-person, remote and virtual service provision. Reinforcing and adapting the identification and referral of persons with specific needs. Expanding coverage to key locations and other countries of the Venezuela response
5. Promoting the strengthening of the community-based protection approach, including working closely with community networks and community structures.
6. Updating the regional Support Spaces toolkit and monitoring its implementation.
7. Ensuring that communication with communities is enhanced, with useful, accessible and updated information that responds to the needs. Improving digital access to Support Spaces and services through the regional R4V service mapping tool. <https://espacios.r4v.info/es/map>
8. Strengthening community complaints and feedback mechanisms, PSEA and reinforcing overall AAP.
9. Strengthening mechanisms for M&E, identifying lessons learned and systematizing good practices in the region.
10. Enhancing the coordination and advocacy with regional and multi-sectoral processes, including the Quito Process.

² <https://r4v.info/es/working-group/234?sv=39&qeo=0>