

Regional Survey on Evictions of Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

Analysis of the main impacts and needs

February 2021



Supported by



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Content

1.	Recommendations	4
1.1.	For government authorities at local, departmental, and national levels	5
1.2.	For state control bodies: Ombudsman's Offices, Human Rights Defense Offices, and other official and independent human rights protection agencies	9
1.3.	Justice operators, including all judicial offices with competence in human rights matters	10
1.4.	For grassroots organizations, church organizations and the international community	11
1.5.	For Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their organizations	12
2.	Analysis of the Regional Evictions Survey	14
2.1.	Tenancy and housing	15
2.1.1.	Types of contracts to deal with the risk of eviction or evictions	15
2.1.2.	Living conditions of refugees and migrants at risk of eviction or who have been evicted	18
2.1.3.	Start of evictions and the reasons for carrying them out	18
2.2.	Prevention	21
2.2.1.	Perception of the main reasons for which they consider themselves at risk of eviction	21
2.2.2.	Situations limiting the identification of alternatives to eviction	22
2.2.3.	Main impacts if evicted	23
2.2.4.	Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Refugee and Migrant Housing in Venezuela	25
2.3.	Protection	27
2.3.1.	Actors who provided support during evictions	27
2.3.2.	Identification of incidents since departure from the country of origin and linked to eviction	27
2.3.3.	Mechanism for entry and regularization of immigration status in host country	28
2.3.3.1.	Visa and residence permits	28
2.3.3.2.	Access to the refugee status determination system or complementary permanence alternatives	29
2.3.3.3.	Measures taken by refugees and migrants from Venezuela to mitigate risk of eviction	32
2.3.4.	Assistance received for eviction prevention or protection	32
2.3.5.	Prior notice of eviction	34
2.3.6.	Needs of refugees and migrants in Venezuela and their correlation with risks of eviction	36
2.4.	Differential approaches and intersectionality	39
2.4.1.	Specific protection needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela	39
2.4.2.	Specialized service referral needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela	39
2.4.3.	Specific needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants according to the differential, gender, and intersectional approach	40
2.4.3.1.	Peoples of ethnic origin	40
2.4.3.2.	Genre	41



2.4.3.3.	Children and adolescents	43
2.4.3.4.	The elderly	43
2.5.	Durable solutions	45
2.5.1.	Perceptions of the risk of return	45
2.5.2.	Relocation or resettlement	47
2.5.3.	Local integration as a durable solution	47
3.	General Conclusions	48
4.	Technical Annex	52

1. Recommendations



1.1. For government authorities at local, departmental, and national levels

- 1.1.1 Adopt all administrative and legislative measures necessary to guarantee decent housing conditions for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, facilitating their access to existing state services for access to housing or special subsidy areas adapted to their socioeconomic situation.
- 1.1.2 Update or adapt domestic legal frameworks to include and recognize the rights of the refugee and migrant population to have access to adequate housing. To improve their access to state housing services, governments should promote the regularization of the migratory status of refugees and migrants and the supply of housing and temporary accommodation should not be limited by their migratory status.
- 1.1.3 Programs for access to adequate housing, temporary housing or shelters for refugees and migrants from Venezuela must take into account specific needs and prioritization mechanisms for: children and adolescents; female heads of household, pregnant and nursing mothers; the elderly; people living with disabilities and people undergoing medical treatment; as well as the cultural adaptation of housing or shelters to the particularities of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.
- 1.1.4 In the case of refugees and migrants from Venezuela who are tenants, and are at risk of eviction, their access to temporary subsidies for the payment of rent and/or utilities should be considered as measures to avoid evictions and so that they are not left in a street situation or in a situation that makes them more vulnerable or puts them at-risk in the places where they live.
- 1.1.5 In informal settlements inhabited by refugees and migrants from Venezuela, local authorities must ensure that their human rights are respected and that the migratory status, lack of documents or regularization of their migratory status is not a factor that puts them at increased risk of eviction, generates pressure or intimidation. Refugees and migrants from Venezuela should be part of the

census and characterization processes and their special needs should be considered in the relocation or local integration processes or plans that are implemented in the settlements they inhabit.

- 1.1.6** Local authorities should establish protocols for consultations with the families or communities of refugees and migrants from Venezuela that are planned to be evicted in informal settlements or occupations. These protocols should guarantee international standards in accordance with the obligations assumed by each State, primarily those derived from membership of the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights. These protocols should specifically focus on the prohibition of forced evictions and the proportional use of public force and its adherence to human rights standards during evictions, including the principle of family unity.
- 1.1.7** In the case of tenants, special guidance and counseling services should be provided so that refugees and migrants from Venezuela can present their cases to local authorities and avoid expulsions in cases where the legal procedures of each country are not complied with by tenants or homeowners.
- 1.1.8** Ensure that local authorities are aware of and enforce the prohibition of forced evictions as a guarantee of adequate housing that Venezuelan refugees and migrants are entitled to, regardless of the tenure status of the housing or land they inhabit. This can be achieved by providing training to judicial and administrative public officials and police who are responsible for processes in which evictions and other orders from public authorities to evict housing or land are requested¹.
- 1.1.9** In the case of planned evictions in the territories of indigenous or black communities where refugees and migrants from Venezuela are settled, it must be guaranteed at all times that ethnic authorities can exercise their powers of governance and control over their territories based on ILO Convention 169 and specifically their right to be consulted.
- 1.1.10** Implement the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing on the prohibition of evictions during the COVID-19 health crisis at a local level².
- 1.1.11** Guarantee the presence of local, state, or federal civil authorities and oversight agencies during evictions of refugees and migrants from Venezuela with officials who are aware of the rights of this population and referral mechanisms for people with specific needs.
- 1.1.12** Provide shelters and the necessary assistance for refugees and migrants from Venezuela who may become homeless or for those who temporarily need to wait for relocation or temporary housing. These shelters should be able to attend to people with specific needs³.
- 1.1.13** In the provision of assistance to cases of eviction risks or evictions, public entities must be able to identify and attend to people with specific needs, especially those who based on differential approaches suffer double or multiple affectations⁴. The authorities must establish prioritization criteria to serve the population in accordance with their needs and levels of vulnerability, supporting them to access existing specialized services.
- 1.1.14** It is recommended that local authorities establish a mechanism for the protection of the property of evicted refugees and migrants, such as furniture, household appliances, personal items, pets and other belongings through the possibility of arranging for their storage and safekeeping while a medium or long-term solution is offered to the evicted persons.



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- 1.115** Ensure that the eviction processes carried out have the necessary biosecurity protocols to prevent contagion among refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 crisis. Similarly, shelters should have biosecurity protocols to prevent contagion and provide permanent information on the measures in place in each country.
- 1.116** In any eviction situation ordered by a judicial or administrative authority involving Venezuelan refugee and migrant households, local authorities should promote mediation processes between the parties involved. These mediations should take into account the conditions of vulnerability experienced by refugees and migrants in relation to their migratory status, lack of livelihoods and documents and manifestations of xenophobia, discrimination or threats and consider the specific needs of children and adolescents, women and LGBTIQ+ persons, the elderly, people living with disabilities and those undergoing medical treatment. In the case of persons belonging to indigenous or Afro-descendant peoples, mediations must guarantee the collective rights derived from ILO Convention 169, specifically their recognition as collective subjects (peoples), the right to be consulted and the full exercise of the authorities of these peoples.
- 1.117** Civil authorities should provide protection against intimidation, threats or expressions of xenophobia linked to eviction processes by guaranteeing access to prevention and protection mechanisms for Venezuelan refugees and migrants who suffer these attacks.
- 1.118** The result of the consultations carried out by public authorities with the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in the framework of eviction processes must include agreements related to relocation or local integration plans that are agreed upon, as well as agreements related to the right to adequate housing in plans that provide long lasting solutions. In the case of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, these plans must include the adaptation of housing or accommodation to the cosmovision of the peoples of ethnic origin based on consultations through their authorities or representatives.
- 1.119** Local, national, and state authorities must take into account the characterizations or censuses carried out on the needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, and especially of populations with specific needs. These needs must be integrated into the planning and execution of relocation or local integration plans that provide housing solutions for this population.
- 1.120** The shelters or temporary housing offered to refugees and migrants from Venezuela must have the potential to refer people to existing state services that provide lasting solutions in terms of their right to adequate housing and to prevent them from living on the street or in a situation that violates their human rights. Temporary shelters must have cultural adaptations for people belonging to indigenous peoples and Afro descendants as well as guaranteeing accessibility and habitability for children, adolescents, pregnant and breastfeeding women, the elderly, people with disabilities and people undergoing medical treatment. In any case, consideration should be given to the establishment of mechanisms for cases of sexual violence within the shelters and to make the necessary referrals to entities specialized in dealing with these cases.
- 1.121** In situations of evictions, authorities are obliged to prevent family separation and ensure the reunification of Venezuelan refugee and migrant families who have been separated, especially in cases of evictions from settlements and informal occupations.



- 1.2. For state control bodies: Ombudsman's Offices, Human Rights Defense Offices, and other official and independent human rights protection agencies**
- 1.2.1** Provide guidance at the local level through oversight agencies to Venezuelan refugees and migrants on the scope of the contracts they sign for the housing they live in. This includes providing technical advice on their rights and existing administrative and judicial mechanisms to defend them in accordance with the norms of each country and human rights standards. They should also be supported to defend rights in the case of other types of contracts or when they occupy housing or land without authorization from their owners or the State.
- 1.2.2** Implement local information campaigns on the rights and obligations of refugees and migrants from Venezuela regarding the conditions in the rental contracts they sign, and their rights when they live in private housing. Establish telephone or chat lines, social networks or websites that include guidance on the right to adequate housing and the prohibition of forced evictions, including mechanisms to access accompaniment in cases of eviction by private individuals or public entities. There should also be campaigns aimed at host communities and influencing public opinion to raise awareness of the situation of refugees and migrants.
- 1.2.3** Guarantee the accompaniment of oversight and human rights guarantee agencies for refugees and migrants from Venezuela who are at risk of being evicted. Provide training to public officials from these entities on the right of refugees and migrants to adequate housing, prohibition of forced evictions and mediation techniques in cases of conflicts involving refugees or migrants.
- 1.2.4** Officials from oversight agencies should have the capacity to monitor the use of force in eviction situations and carry out legal protection actions in favor of refugees and migrants from Venezuela if there is a disproportionate use of force. Oversight bodies should promote the implementation of training and capacity building for security forces on the scope of the rights of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in which the international community and civil society organizations are invited to participate.
- 1.2.5** Support holding censuses and carrying out characterizations of the refugee and migrant population who are at risk of being evicted, prioritizing information related to the situation of: children and adolescents; female heads of households, pregnant and breastfeeding women; LGBTI population; elderly people; people living with disabilities or medical treatment and people belonging to indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. These censuses and characterizations should be carried out in agreement with the families or communities of refugees and migrants from Venezuela and their representatives. They should form the basis for the implementation of programs that promote prevention, protection, and lasting solutions⁵.
- 1.2.6** Oversight bodies should recognize and accompany the activities of the organizations representing the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population and establish spaces for dialogue with their representatives to learn about their expectations and opinions on their right to adequate housing, as well as consulting them on the best way to guarantee their right to not be forcibly evicted.

- 1.2.7** The accompaniment provided by oversight agencies to refugees and migrants from Venezuela should promote and facilitate mediation mechanisms on conflicts between tenants (or other types of contracts) with landlords and owners of housing or land. These mediations should consider the conditions of vulnerability experienced by refugees and migrants in relation to their migratory status, lack of documents, manifestations of xenophobia or discrimination. The mediations should also consider the specific needs of children and adolescents; female heads of households, pregnant and breastfeeding women; LGBTIQ+ people; the elderly; people living with disabilities and those undergoing medical treatment.
- 1.2.8** Specifically, and based on differential approaches,⁶for cases that involve double affectations of refugees and migrants from Venezuela control agencies must ensure that institutional mechanisms are activated to guarantee access to safe shelters, international protection and special assistance mechanisms in accordance with specific needs and state protection programs. If these do not exist, the oversight agencies should ensure that the States create services to address these situations.
- 1.2.9** The monitoring of oversight agencies about refugees and migrants from Venezuela should include follow-up on situations of the risk of evictions due to threats, intimidation or any expression of violence and discrimination. The oversight agencies should also establish the mechanisms that should be activated so that information about these situations is shared with the public forces and civil authorities responsible for implementing the existing prevention, assistance, and protection protocols. The oversight agencies should include in their action protocols or guidelines prevention against harassment, improper proposals and sexual violence that may occur in the form of threats related to the risk of or evictions in progress, as well as the establishment of mechanisms so that they can access complaints and institutional support.
- 1.2.10** Oversight agencies should ensure that refugees and migrants from Venezuela have free legal representation in administrative and judicial proceedings against them related to their right to decent housing and the prohibition of evictions regardless of migratory status. They should also support people at risk of eviction so that they can access the advice and representation provided by free legal clinics.
- 1.2.11** Oversight bodies must monitor the commitments established between Venezuelan refugees and migrants and public authorities in order to ensure compliance with public policies, plans and projects derived from consultations carried out by public authorities for the benefit of Venezuelan refugees and migrants⁷.

1.3. Justice operators, including all judicial offices with competence in human rights matters

- 1.3.1** Include training modules related to the human rights of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in training plans for judicial officials at all levels that are specifically focused on their right to adequate housing and the prohibition of forced evictions in accordance with international standards.
- 1.3.2** Guarantee the effective access of refugees and migrants to the judicial system through information campaigns on access mechanisms for filing constitutional actions in defense of their human



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rights as well as existing mechanisms in each country that guarantee their right not to be evicted without constitutional guarantees.

- 1.3.3** Design, disseminate and implement guidelines and protocols to facilitate the access of refugees and migrants to the justice system, with a special emphasis on rights related to suitable housing and the prohibition of forced evictions based on international and regional human rights standards.
- 1.3.4** In situations of risk of eviction or ongoing evictions of persons who have been granted refugee status, States should comply with international obligations on refugee protection and administrative or judicial eviction proceedings against refugee individuals or families.

1.4. For grassroots organizations, church organizations and the international community

- 1.4.1** Provide training to staff on rights related to adequate housing and the prohibition of evictions to improve the processes of accompaniment in cases of risk of eviction or to accompany ongoing evictions carried out against refugees and migrants from Venezuela. These training processes

should raise awareness about the international standard against forced evictions and institutional mechanisms for prevention and protection against forced evictions in the country.

- 1.4.2 Accompany processes to guarantee the right to adequate housing and the prohibition of forced evictions in specific cases through projects that provide technical advice, humanitarian support and accompaniment during the negotiation and establishment of agreements between Venezuelan refugee and migrant communities or families and public authorities.
- 1.4.3 International cooperation and donor countries could include specific resources to promote the right to adequate housing, either in processes that facilitate access to adequate housing and livelihoods provided by authorities or by supporting processes to guarantee the rights of Venezuelan refugee and migrant households at risk of eviction, including support for oversight agencies and judicial systems that implement initiatives against forced evictions.
- 1.4.4 Coordination between agencies, civil society organizations and oversight bodies, depending on their mandates and specialties, can be an element that can better organize the systematic monitoring of cases in which the right to adequate housing and the prohibition of forced evictions of Venezuelan refugees and migrants are managed in the medium and long term.

1.5. For Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their organizations

- 1.5.1 In order to better exercise their right to adequate housing and to protect themselves against forced evictions, refugees and migrants should participate in collective processes and existing organizations that defend their rights, especially against forced evictions, the factors that impede access to housing. They should also obtain advice regarding processes in which there is a risk of eviction or evictions in progress.
- 1.5.2 Learn about the scope of the work carried out control agencies, international cooperation, and human rights organizations, as well as grassroots organizations that can accompany their processes of guaranteeing adequate housing and defense against forced evictions in the short, medium and long term.
- 1.5.3 Participate in training processes on their right to adequate housing and learn about existing institutional mechanism for presenting their demands or opinions on exercising their right to adequate housing and against forced evictions.
- 1.5.4 The organizations that represent the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population should ensure that oversight agencies are sufficiently aware of situations that involve the risk of eviction in advance so that they can carry out their work more effectively and guarantee that forced evictions do not occur.
- 1.5.5 Further recommendations are required: establish prioritization criteria for assistance, ensuring the identification of specific protection needs, taking into consideration whether families have already been evicted and are again at risk and establishing expedited access procedures for this support.



- 1.5.6 Adaptation of its programs/projects to include the right to housing as one of the key actions for the prevention, protection, and provision of durable solutions for refugees and migrants from Venezuela.
- 1.5.7 Focus assistance on families that have already been evicted and those at imminent risk of eviction as a priority, as well as those with multiple affectations linked to situations of armed conflict, mental health, threats and/or intimidation.
- 1.5.8 Include access to adequate housing, the allocation of resources and the linking of assistance programs to the mitigation of these impacts in their advocacy agendas.

- 1 For further guidance on legal procedures related to eviction processes, see “Legal Guide for the Protection of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants against Forced Evictions” produced by the Regional Protection Sector and available on the Sector’s website: www.r4v.info.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 For further guidance see the document titled “Mapping of best community practices to accompany situations of eviction of refugees and migrants from Venezuela”, produced by the Regional Protection Sector available on the Sector’s microsite: www.r4v.info
- 6 In analyzing the effects of forced evictions on vulnerable populations, it should be taken into account that a person may belong to more than one vulnerable group at the same time (for example, an indigenous woman, a refugee, an elderly person, or a person living with a disability) and, therefore, they can suffer multiple manifestations of discrimination or be affected more severely as a result. See the “Legal Guide for the protection of Venezuelan refugees and migrants against forced evictions”, produced by the Regional Protection Sector and available on the Sector’s website: www.r4v.info.
- 7 See “Mapping of good community practices to accompany eviction situations of refugees and migrants from Venezuela”. www.r4v.info

2. Analysis of the Regional Evictions Survey

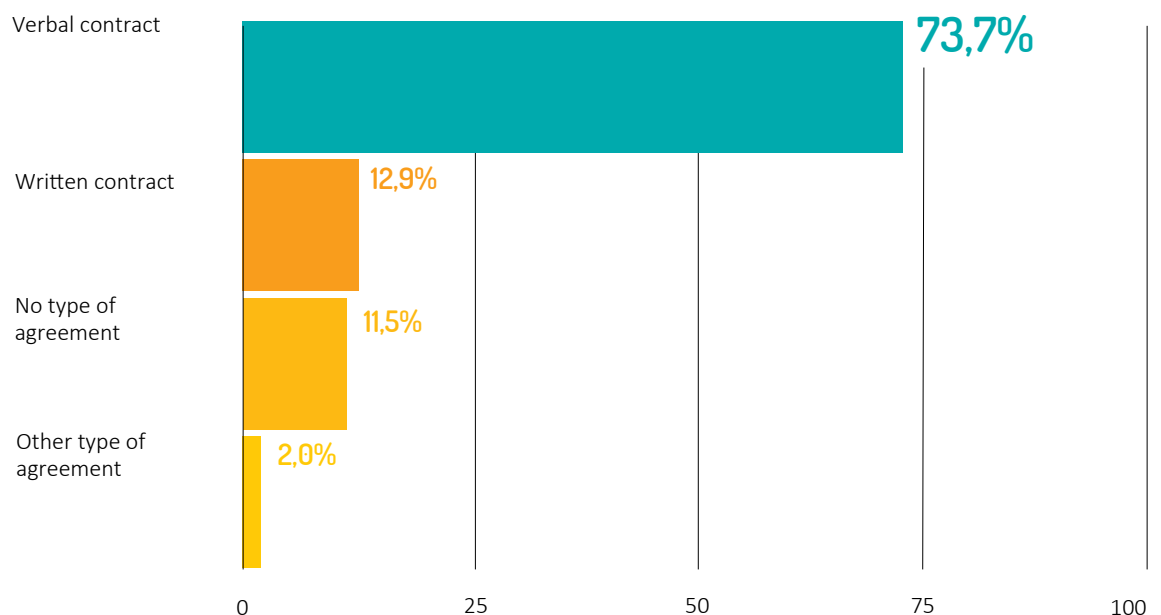


2.1. Tenancy and housing

2.1.1. Types of contracts to deal with the risk of eviction or evictions

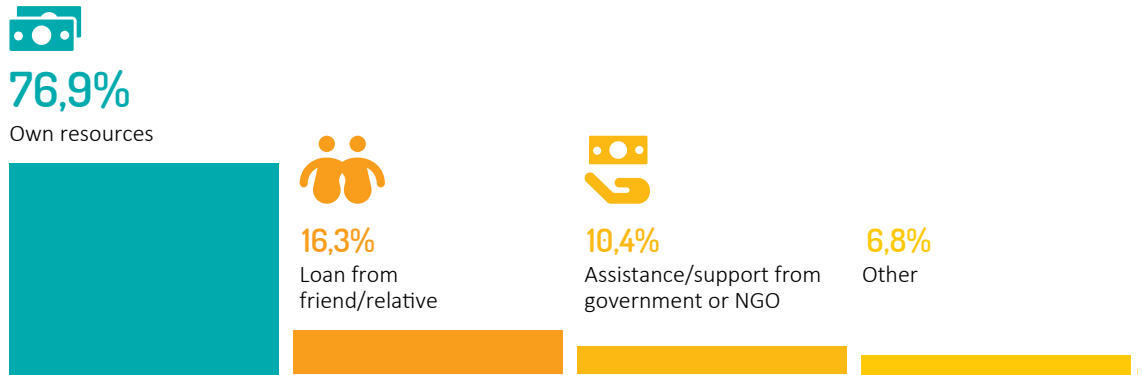
2.1.1.1. A central characteristic of the survey is that 86.6% of the households surveyed belong to refugees and migrants from Venezuela who have or have had rental or loan contracts for their housing (verbal or written). This means that they recognize an owner to whom they pay rent or who has lent them housing.

Type of contracts or agreements



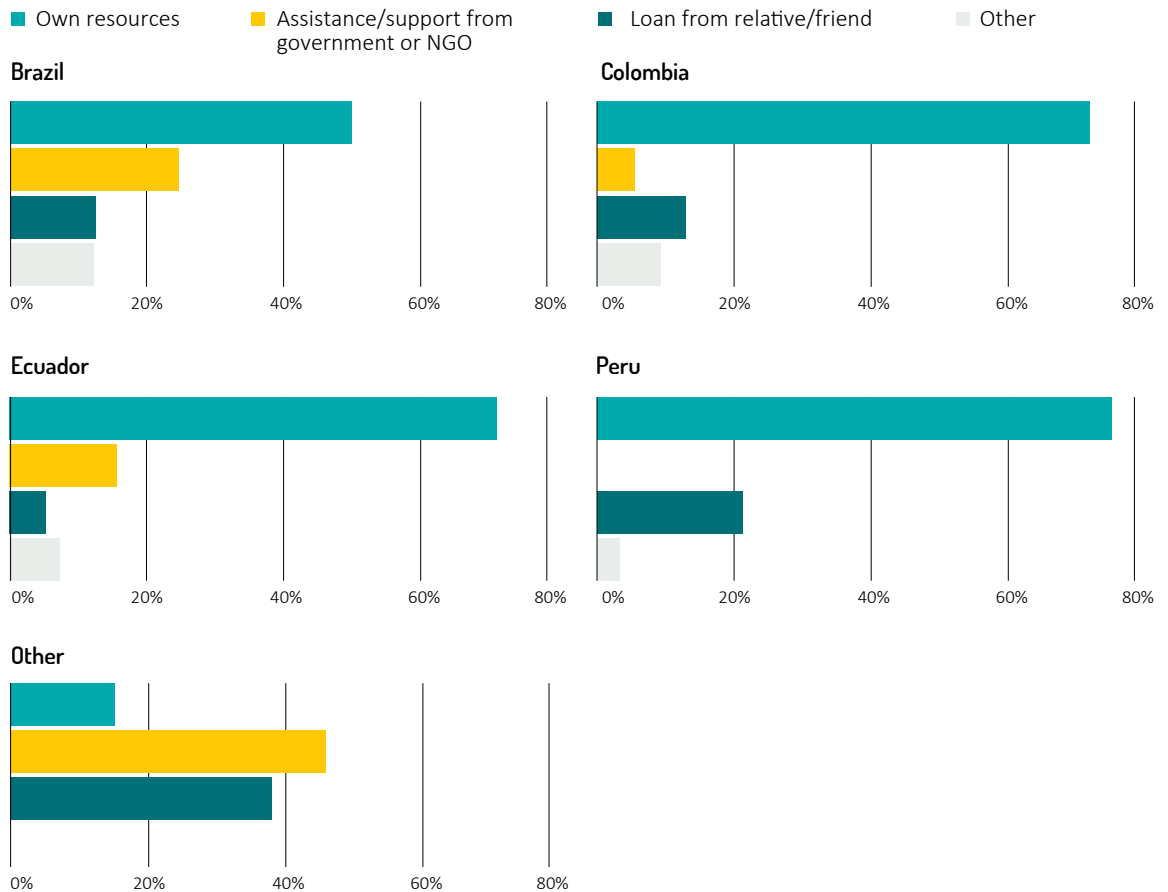
2.1.1.2. Of these households, 76.9% pay with their own resources and only 10.4% pay their rent with funds provided by government agencies or humanitarian support organizations (agencies, NGOs, Church, Red Cross, etc.).

Source of funds to pay for accommodation



2.1.1.3. In Brazil this support reaches 30%; in Ecuador close to 20%; in Colombia it is at 7% and in Peru it is 0%..

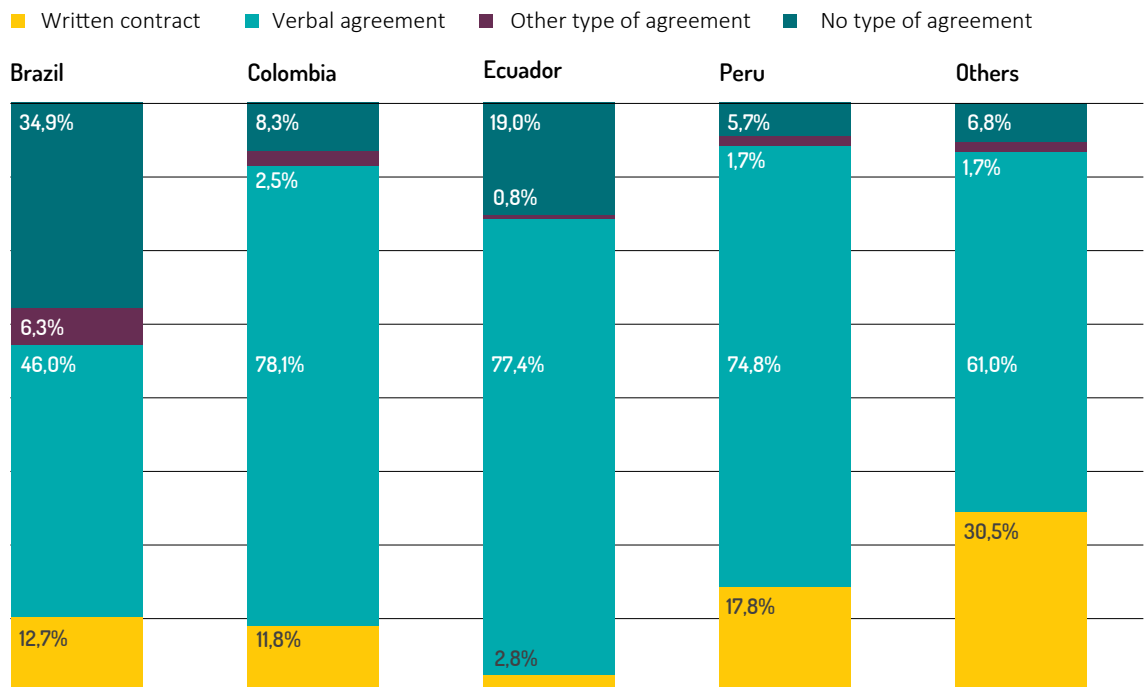
Source of funds to pay for accommodation





2.1.1.4. Regarding the different types of housing tenure for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, verbal contracts form the vast majority of rental agreements with 73.7%; 12.9% have written rental contracts; and 11.5% live in their homes without agreements or contracts. By country, Peru has the most written contracts with 17.8%; Brazil has 12.7%; and Colombia with 11.2%. In Brazil, more than 34.9% of the refugees and migrants from Venezuela have housing tenure without contracts or authorizations.

Country where you are currently living



2.1.1.5. Verbal contracts in the region (73%) are associated with less security of housing tenure and can more easily lead to different interpretations of the scope of the agreement and to conflicts between the parties. Verbal contracts, moreover, are generally not resolved by the entities in charge of providing justice or finding mediation alternatives. 12% of refugees and migrants rent homes without contracts or authorizations. This may include the occupation of private land without the consent of the owners or occupations in public spaces without authorization from the authorities.

2.1.1.6. There is an increased risk of being evicted when there is no written or verbal contract or authorization for housing tenure. Refugees and migrants from Venezuela who participated in the survey, and who did not have contracts or authorizations for their housing tenure, were evicted in more than 60% of cases, while those who had a written contract were evicted in about 30% of cases. This is possibly associated with the fact that people without contracts and authorizations, which account for almost 12% of the survey, may include households that lived in informal settlements on private land or public property such as parks, roads, terminals, among others.

2.1.2. Living conditions of refugees and migrants at risk of eviction or who have been evicted

2.1.2.1. The type of housing or lodging that refugees and migrants from Venezuela most frequently inhabit in the region are apartments or rented houses. The highest percentage of Venezuelan refugees and migrants living in rented housing is in Ecuador with more than 81%; Peru with more than 71% and Colombia with 65%. In the region, Brazil is the country with the highest percentage of refugees and migrants from Venezuela living in shelters or temporary housing, with more than 15%, followed by Colombia with 4%.

2.1.2.2. However, taking into account the high level of informality of contracts (73% of contracts are verbal in the region), it is possible that this figure is higher, due to the fact that some of the respondents are tenants living in areas that could be considered informal settlements.

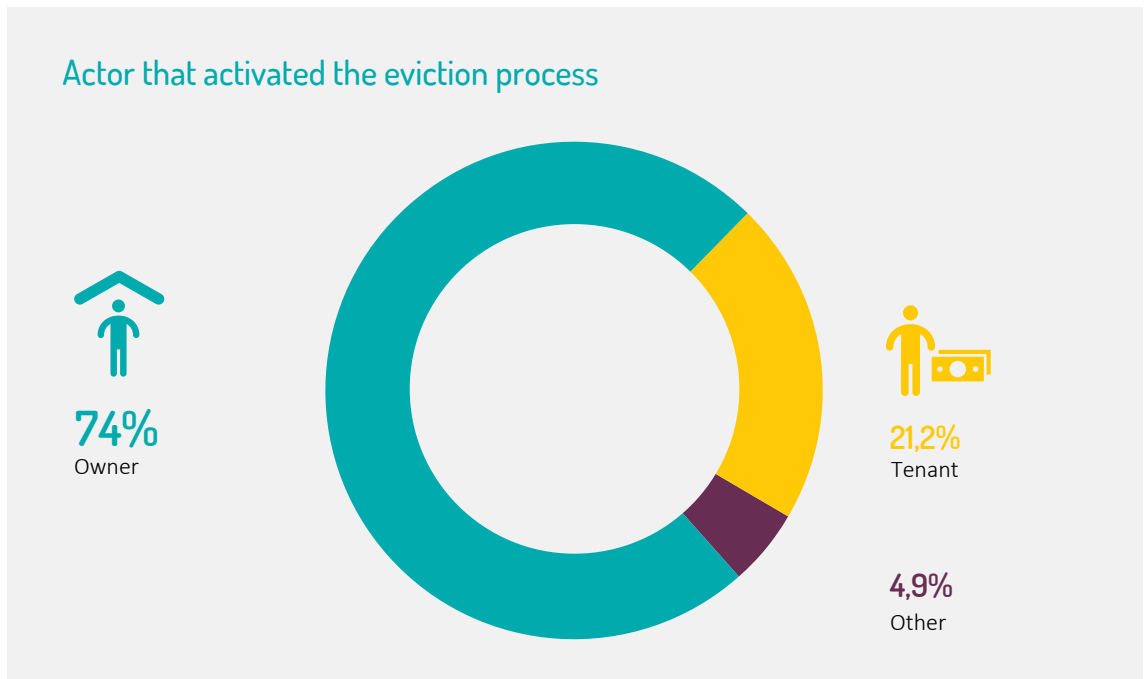
2.1.2.3. 50% of refugee and migrant households in Venezuela live in dwellings with one room and 18% in accommodation that does not have rooms. This contrasts with the number of people in the households: about 85% of households have more than three people and 32% of the households surveyed have five or more. An additional fact that shows the precarious living conditions of refugees and migrants from Venezuela is that 44% of households have only one bathroom, which must be shared. In Colombia and Ecuador, the percentage of people living in the same dwelling or accommodation with four or more members is close to 75%. In Peru and Brazil this figure is a little over 50%.

2.1.2.4. In the analysis of the relation between the number of persons living in a dwelling and eviction rates, it was possible to establish that of the total number of households that claimed to have been evicted (39%), more than 90% of the households had three or more people in the same dwelling at the time of eviction, while nearly 88% of the total number of households that have been at risk of eviction have three or more persons. Specifically, the highest frequency of evictions in both situations is that of five or more persons living in the same dwelling as 45% of those evicted are households with this number of people, while more than 40% of the total households of five or more people living in the same dwelling have been at risk of eviction.

2.1.2.5. In the analysis of the relation between the number of people living in the same dwelling and the type of tenure, it was found that the majority of households are inhabited by three or more people in the same dwelling and that this condition is shared by 87% of all households surveyed, regardless of the type of tenure they have for their dwellings (with an agreement or contract, without an agreement or without permission or authorization).

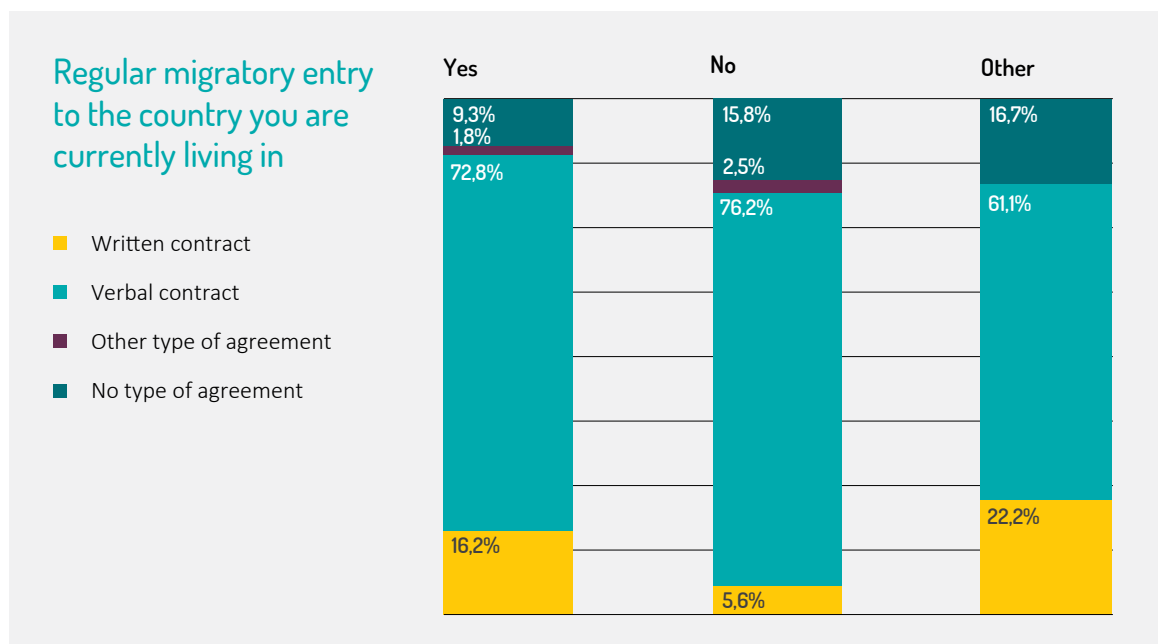
2.1.3. Start of evictions and the reasons for carrying them out

2.1.3.1. The survey, which was responded to primarily by renters (85%), shows that more than 95.2% of the evictions of those surveyed were initiated by the landlords or owners of the dwellings they lived in.



2.1.3.2. It is important to note that among Venezuelan refugees and migrants with written and verbal housing contracts, as well as when there is no agreement of any kind, the percentage of the lack of presence of local authorities in eviction cases exceeds 75% in the region.

2.1.3.3. In the relationship between regular entry into the destination country and the type of contracts that refugees and migrants establish with landlords and/or tenants, it is clear that those who entered irregularly tend to engage in verbal contracts or have no agreement to inhabit a dwelling. On the contrary, those who have written contracts tend to have entered the destination countries in a regular manner.



- 2.1.3.4.** From this result, it can be concluded that irregular entry into destination countries by refugees and migrants from Venezuela is associated with more precarious housing contracts and even the impossibility of signing them due to the lack of documentation or requirements that refugees and migrants from Venezuela cannot meet.
- 2.1.3.5.** At the regional level, the country with the highest irregular entry by refugees and migrants from Venezuela is Brazil, with more than 94%, followed by Peru with more than 78%. In terms of refugees and migrants who have entered the country in a regular manner, Colombia has the highest rate in the region with more than 62%, followed by Ecuador with more than 48%.
- 2.1.3.6.** In the case of Brazil, there is a contrast between having the highest percentage of refugees and migrants from Venezuela who entered irregularly in the region and being the country in which respondents have been most successful in obtaining asylum. Brazil is also the country in the region that has the highest rate of refugees and migrants from Venezuela wanting to stay, with a 0% level of intention to migrate to another country.

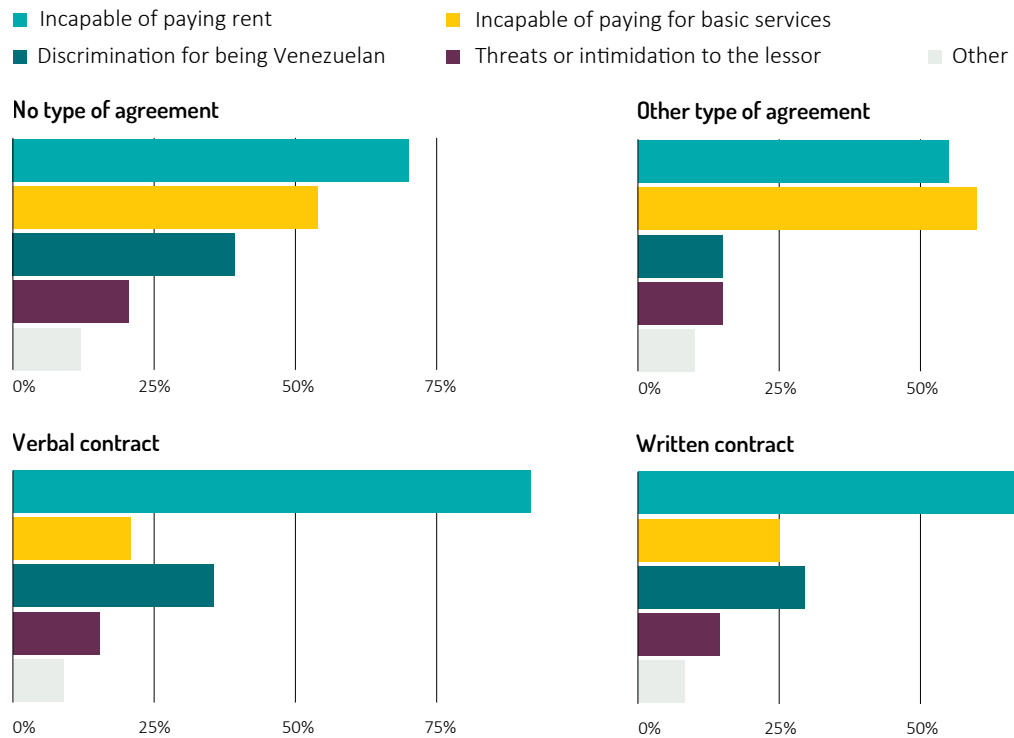


2.2. Prevention

2.2.1. Perception of the main reasons for which they consider themselves at risk of eviction

- 2.2.1.1.** The Venezuelan refugee and migrant households surveyed identified the three main reasons why they believe they are at risk of eviction: 87% stated that it was due to their inability to pay rent for their homes; 36% indicated that they are at risk due to their inability to pay for basic services in their homes; and the third reason was the discrimination they experience for being Venezuelan, cited by more than 17% of those surveyed. In Ecuador, 30% of respondents stated that they believed they were at risk of eviction due to discrimination for being a Venezuelan. Brazil is the only country where less than 50% of respondents stated that their inability to pay rent is considered to be a reason for the risk of eviction, a question that has a regional average response of 87%.
- 2.2.1.2.** The other reasons for which Venezuelan refugees and migrants feel they are at risk of eviction include: threats or intimidating actions by landlords (10.1%); increase in the cost of rent (8.3%); fear related to public health issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (4.9%); and conflicts or disputes with neighbors or other tenants (4.1%).
- 2.2.1.3.** In the results of the survey a close relationship can be seen between the perception of the risk of eviction seen above and the main measures taken to mitigate its impacts. When asked what would be required to mitigate this risk, respondents cited two mains related to the possibility of establishing agreements with landlords (35.5%) and the suspension or postponement of rent payments (34.9%). These eviction mitigation measures are linked to negotiation and mediation mechanisms that are used in each country to resolve disputes between Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their landlords.
- 2.2.1.4.** Solidarity among households with family ties is an important factor, considering that moving to a relative's house was cited by 17% of respondents when asked what action they would take to mitigate eviction. This shows the high level of solidarity among family members, but also highlights possible processes produced by receiving evicted family members in housing that is already in a precarious condition.
- 2.2.1.5.** Analyzing the reasons for which the people surveyed feel at risk of eviction with the type of contract they have, more than 90% of those who have a verbal contract for their housing say they are at risk of eviction because they cannot pay the rent, while the perception of risk for those who have a written contract reaches more than 80%. This means that in terms of the perceived risk of eviction, regardless of whether they have written or verbal contracts, a high percentage of refugees and migrants from Venezuela feel at risk because they do not have sufficient income to pay rent and utilities.

Reasons why you are currently at risk of eviction



2.2.2. Situations limiting the identification of alternatives to eviction

2.2.2.1. Of the total number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela who were surveyed, 44.1% reported having been in situations that limit the identification of alternatives to eviction. Of these respondents, nearly 50% are at risk of eviction and more than 45% have been evicted. This shows that there is a high probability that the people surveyed who were at risk of eviction have experienced situations that limited their identification of alternatives to eviction.

2.2.2.2. The 34.1% of respondents who stated that they have a situation that limits the identification of alternatives to eviction identified four main limitations: 50.9% cited their lack of support network, 48.3% expressed fears related to the risk of contagion from COVID-19; 25.5% lack information/guidance about the type of measures, resources or alternatives they can access to avoid eviction; and 18.8% are not aware of which institutions or organizations can help them.

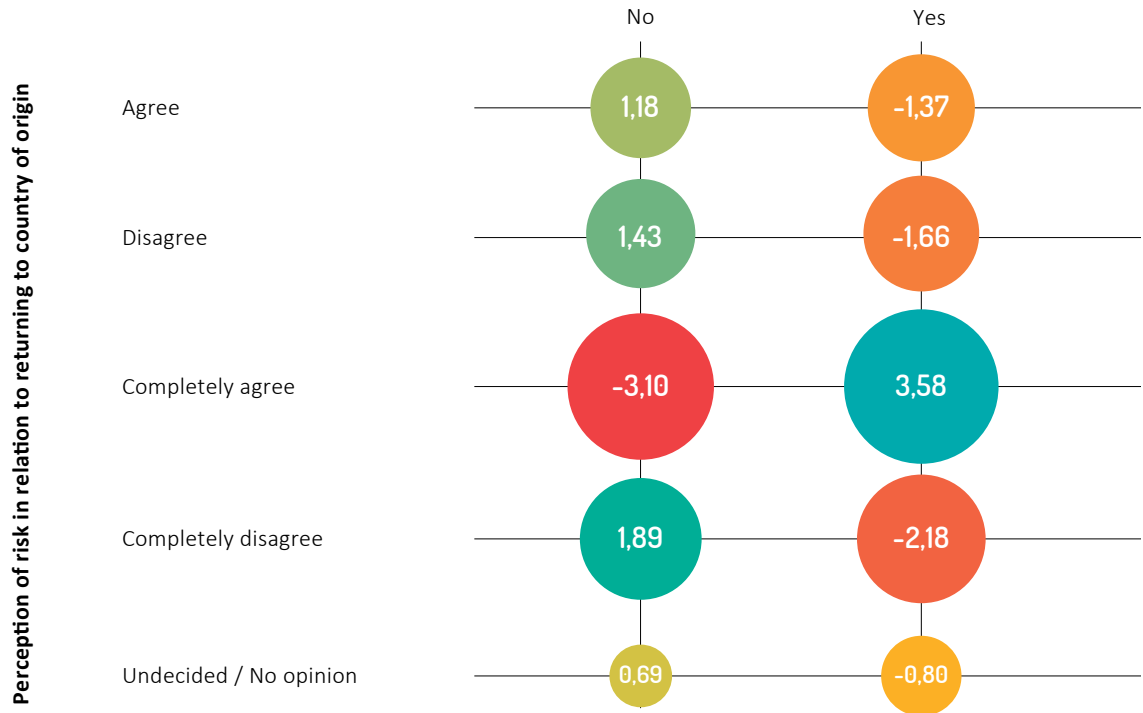
2.2.2.3. The other situations that limit the identification of alternatives to eviction less frequently are: mobility restrictions (11.9%); discrimination or xenophobia from the landlord, community or authorities (11.7%); confinement (10.9%); fear of reprisals (8.1%); and disability (6.4%).

2.2.2.4. The survey shows that there is a correlation between refugees and migrants from Venezuela who reported situations that would limit them from identifying alternatives to eviction with those who reported a high probability of being at a new risk of eviction and with a high perception of risk in the event of returning to the country of origin.



Most likely ●●●●●●●●●● Less likely

Situations that limit the identification of alternatives to evictions

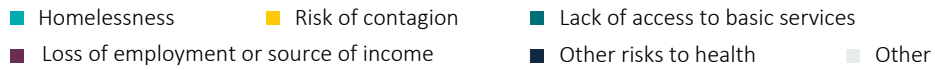


2.2.2.5. The survey results correlate that households in situations that limit the identification of alternatives to eviction are more likely to receive inappropriate requests to avoid eviction.

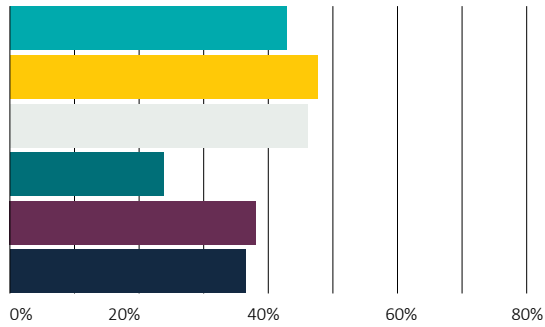
2.2.3. Main impacts if evicted

2.2.3.1. The three main impacts identified by respondents in the event of being evicted are: that the household will be forced to live on the street (74.7%); risk of contagion during the COVID-19 pandemic with 60.5%; and the lack of access to public services with 45.7%. This perception of impact remains stable regardless of whether they have a written or verbal contract, whether there are other types of contracts, or whether there are none. In Ecuador, respondents stated that the main impact of being evicted is being forced to live on the street, with more than 80%; in Peru and Colombia this answer was given by around 75% of respondents; while in Brazil less than 40% cited this as an impact. More than 60% of respondents in Ecuador and 70% in Peru cited the lack of access to public services as an impact in the event of eviction, while the average for the region is 45.7%.

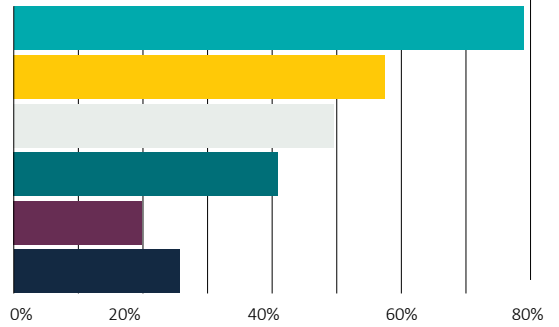
Main impacts if you were to be evicted



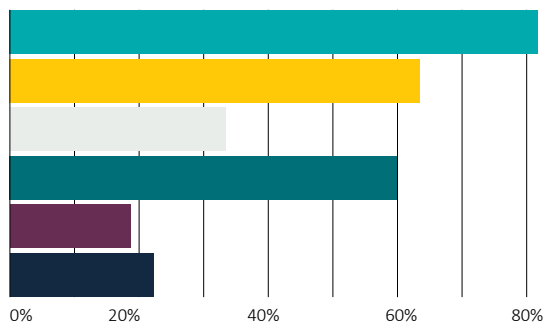
Brazil



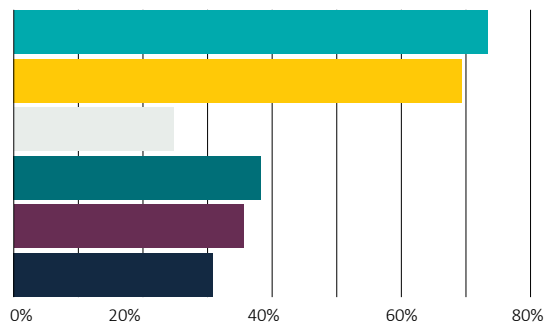
Colombia



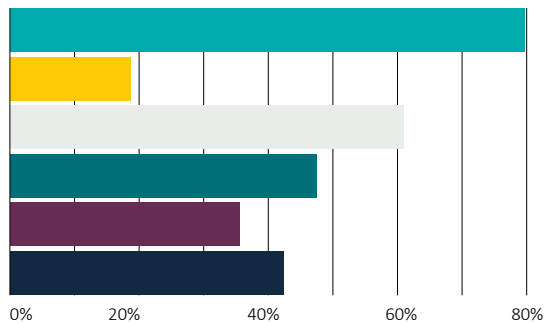
Ecuador



Peru



Other country



2.2.3.2. The measures that surveyed households consider should be taken or were taken to mitigate the impacts of an eviction are: first, establish agreements with tenants (around 40% of respondents); second, request a postponement or suspension of payments (around 35%); third, moving to a friend's or relative's house; fourth, a different type of measure (16.4%); fifth, move to temporary housing or shelter (12.4%); in sixth and seventh place requesting a loan and obtaining legal assistance (11.6%); eighth, return to Venezuela (7%); finally, 5.2% would move to another area of the



country where they are currently located. It is important to note that these responses show that returning to Venezuela is the second least preferred way to mitigate the impacts of eviction.

2.2.4. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Refugee and Migrant Housing in Venezuela

- 2.2.4.1.** The main impact that COVID-19 has had on the right to housing for the refugees and migrants from Venezuela who were surveyed has been to aggravate their economic situation, with 77% exposed to a higher risk of eviction and a greater risk of contagion as a result of the pandemic.
- 2.2.4.2.** 86% of respondents stated that the main impact of COVID-19 is the accumulation of debts, while for more than 45% it is their increase in exposure to the threat of eviction. An important finding of the survey is that for more than 41% of those surveyed, this threat resulted in an eviction, which caused more than 11% of respondents to find themselves in a situation of homelessness. In addition to this situation, COVID-19 has had an impact on their mental health (25.5%) and physical health (20.3%). In the context of COVID-19, 15.1% of respondents stated that they have been impacted by cuts to basic housing services, while 9.4% of refugees and migrants from Venezuela have received threats and intimidation.
- 2.2.4.3.** If we compare the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with the reasons why Venezuelan refugees and migrants consider themselves at risk of eviction, we can establish a correlation as the main impact of COVID-19 is the accumulation of debts and the two main reasons for which the surveyed households consider themselves at risk of eviction are inability to pay for either housing (87%) or basic services (36.7%).
- 2.2.4.4.** Based on the impacts of the health and social crisis caused by COVID-19, this crisis worsened the perception of financial insecurity among refugees and migrants from Venezuela. If we compare the main impact of COVID-19, which is the accumulation of debts (cited by 86% of respondents) with the measures taken to mitigate these impacts, there are two main actions taken by refugees and migrants from Venezuela: establish agreements with the landlords and requesting an extension/suspension of payment to landlords (cited by 70% of respondents).
- 2.2.4.5.** If we take into account that the greatest impact of COVID-19 on Venezuelan migrants and refugees include the accumulation of debts (86%) and the exposure to the threat of eviction (41%), it is understandable that when the surveyed households were asked about the measures taken or to be taken to mitigate the impacts of eviction, the first was the establishment of agreements with the landlord or owner (35.5%) followed by requesting an extension or suspension of payment (34.9%).



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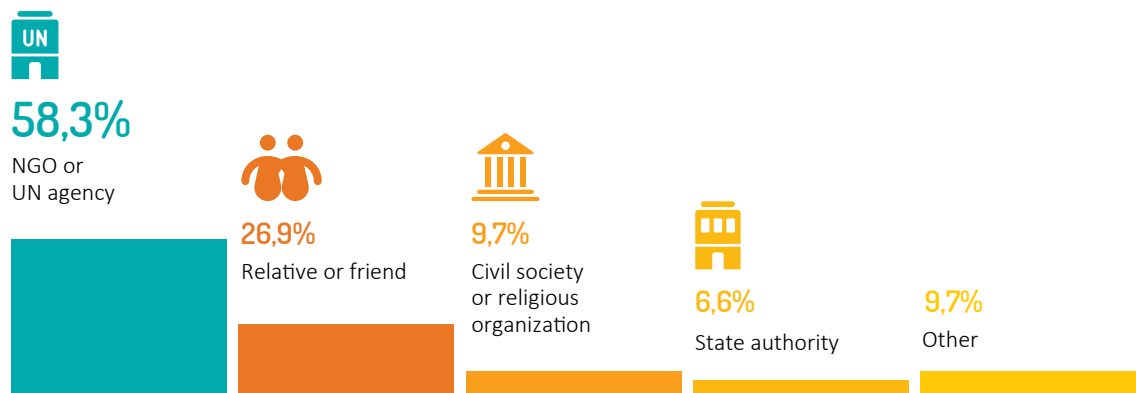


2.3. Protection

2.3.1. Actors who provided support during evictions

2.3.1.1. Regarding the actors that provided support at the time of the eviction, the Venezuelan refugees and migrants who responded to the survey identified Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and United Nations Agencies as the main actors that provided some type of support during the eviction (58.3%), civil society or religious organizations (9.7%) and government agencies (6.6%).

Actor that provided the support



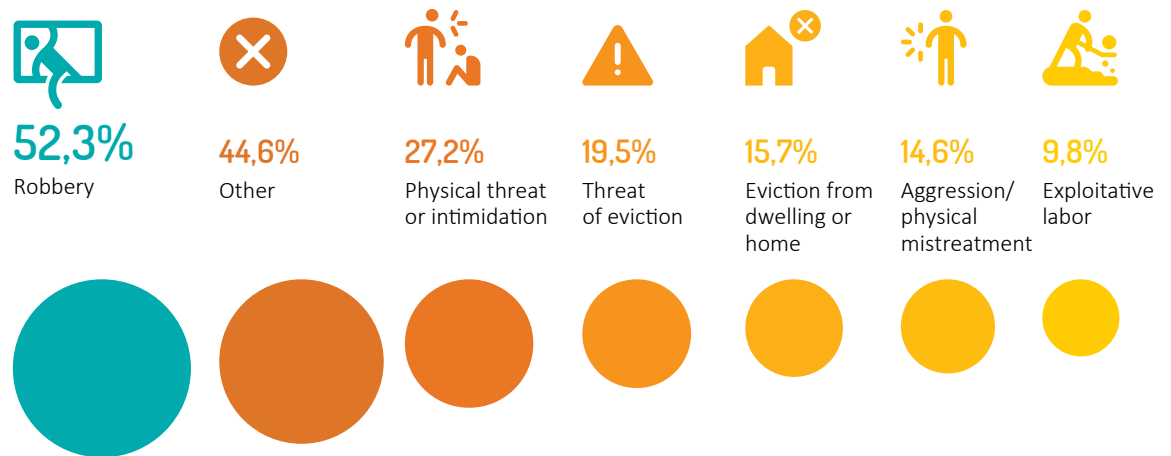
2.3.1.2. 81% of respondents who have been evicted stated that there was no presence of local civil authorities during the eviction. Only in Brazil was it identified that local civil authorities were present in at least 50% of evictions.

2.3.1.3. In only 12% of the cases of evictions did the Venezuelan refugees and migrants surveyed observe the presence of public forces at the time of the eviction. In Brazil the presence of the police and army was observed in about 40% of the cases. When asked about the entities that they accessed when the eviction occurred, only 27% of refugees and migrants stated that they requested support from a non-governmental or religious organization while just 3.2% accessed services from a government social protection entity.

2.3.2. Identification of incidents since departure from the country of origin and linked to eviction

2.3.2.1. 27% of the refugees and migrants from Venezuela surveyed reported that they have suffered some type of incident that put them at risk since leaving their country of origin. In terms of the type of incident that affected them or that they witnessed, 52.3% reported having experienced a robbery and 27.2% reported having received threats and intimidation.

Type of incidents experienced since leaving country of origin



2.3.2.2. Also, 77.4% of respondents stated that they had experienced some type of security incident related to the eviction. Of these, nearly 48% stated that they had experienced "other situations" of incidents related to the eviction in the country of destination: 27% had their basic services cut off, more than 23% had experienced direct confrontations with the landlord, more than 14% had experienced situations of discrimination or xenophobia and finally 10% had received intimidating messages by telephone.

2.3.3. Mechanism for entry and regularization of immigration status in host country

2.3.3.1. Visa and residence permits

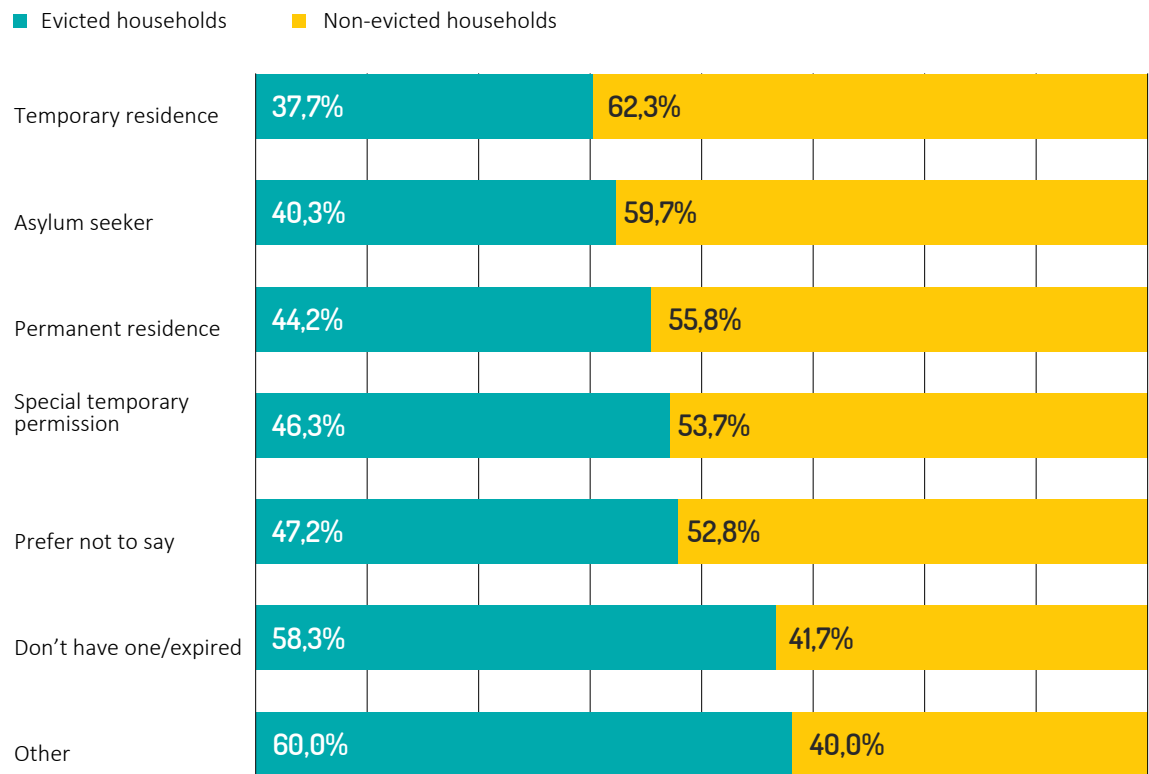
2.3.3.1.1. Of the 77.4% of Venezuelan refugees and migrants who responded to the survey, 44% stated that they do not have a visa or residence permit in the destination country, 18% claim to have a temporary permit from a special program, 10.3% claim to have a permit or visa as an applicant for refugee status and 9.3% claim to have a temporary residence visa or permit.

2.3.3.1.2. Only 4.7% of respondents have a permanent residence permit. For 4.6% of the surveyed population their visa or permit is pending or currently being processed. Only 0.8% of respondents have a valid visa or permit for work or studies while 0.5% have a valid tourist visa. This means that more than half of the respondents do not currently have a permit or visa.

2.3.3.1.3. In addition, comparing the risk of eviction with not having a visa or residence permit in the destination country, 58.3% of those without a visa or residence permit have been evicted while 41.7% are at risk of eviction.



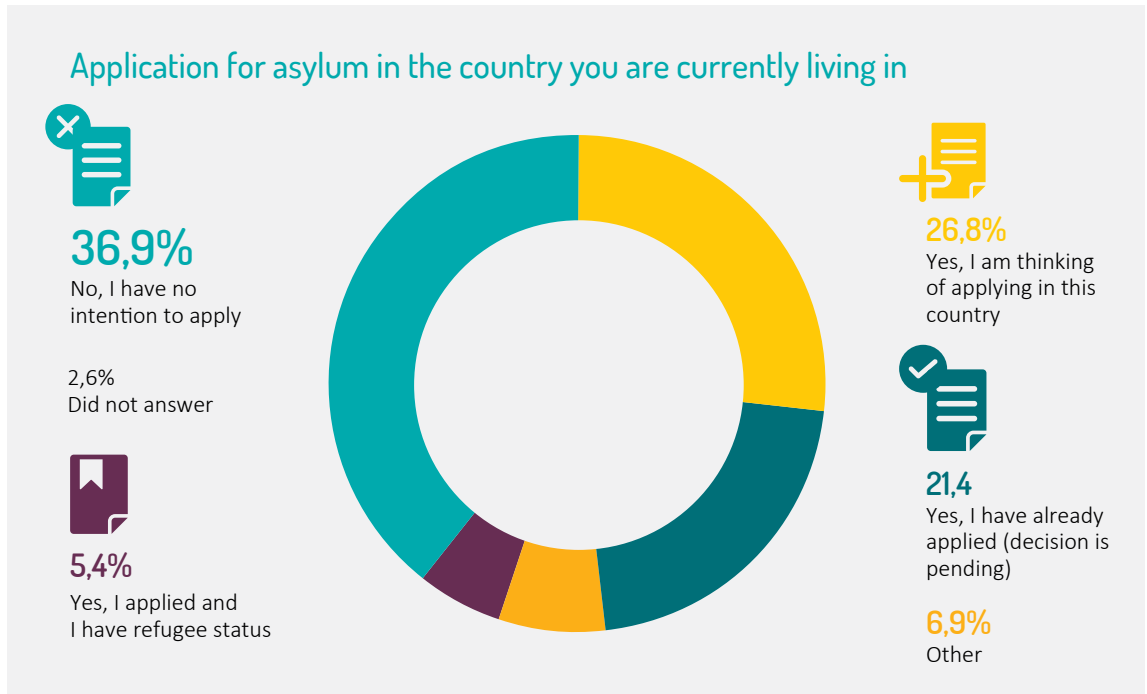
Type of residency or visa that you currently hold



2.3.3.2. Access to the refugee status determination system or complementary permanence alternatives

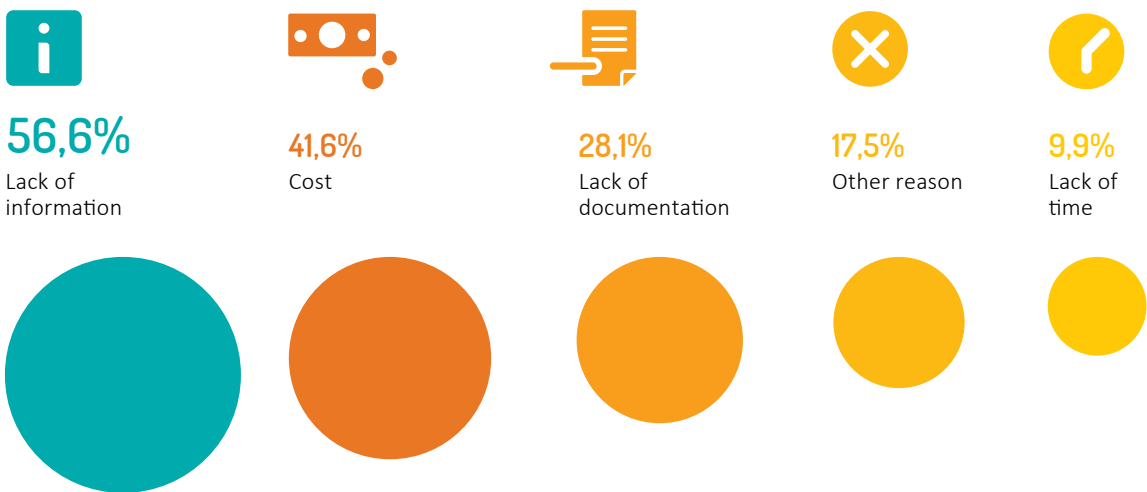
2.3.3.2.1. The intention to file an application for refugee status determination is common (50% of cases) among those who do not have any type of agreement or authorization for their tenancies and have yet to apply for refugee status. On the other hand, 30% to 40% of Venezuelan refugees and migrants who have some type of agreement or lease that is verbal, written or in another format do not intend to apply for refugee status, with these frequencies being stable across all types of housing tenure. This leads to the conclusion that those who participated in the survey and have a contract (of any type) have less intention of accessing the asylum procedure to determine their refugee status.

2.3.3.2.2. Regarding the intention or not to file an application for refugee status determination, of the 77.4% of the refugees and migrants from Venezuela who were surveyed: 39.6% do not intend to submit an application; 26.8% intend to submit an application, but have not yet done so; 21.6% have submitted their application and are awaiting a decision; only 5.4% of the refugees and migrants who participated in the survey have refugee status.



2.3.3.2.3. A significant number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants have not yet submitted their application, despite having the intention of applying for refugee status determination (29%). The main reason for not having applied is cited as a lack of information (56.6%). The other reasons cited by respondents were the cost of the asylum application process (41.6%), their lack of documentation with (28.1%), and finally a lack of free time with (9.9%).

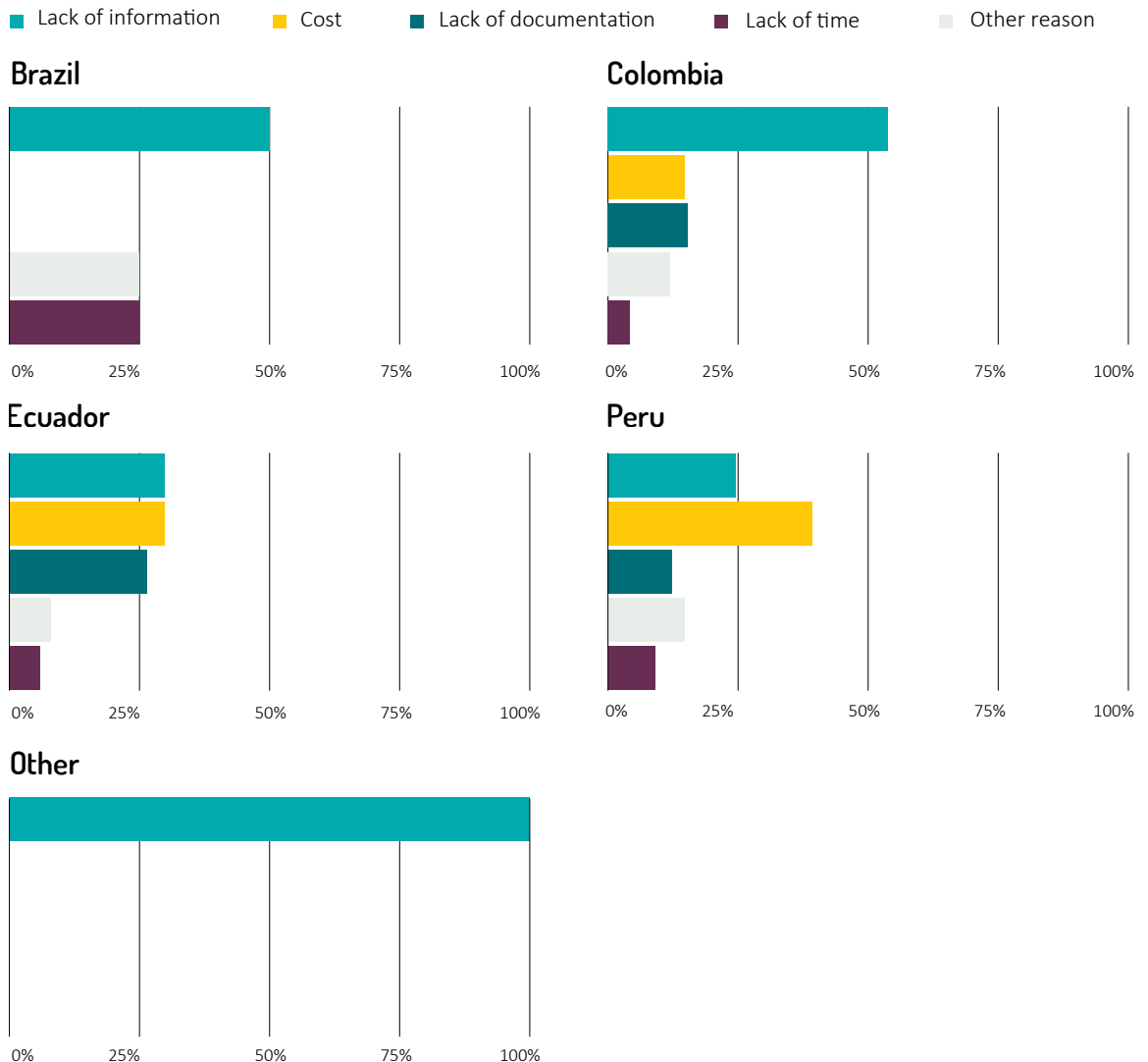
Reasons why you didn't apply for refugee status despite intending to





2.3.3.2.4. At the host country level, Colombia has the highest percentage of respondents citing a lack of information as a reason for not submitting an application for refugee status despite wishing to do so (more than 50%), followed by Brazil (50%) and Ecuador (more than 30%).

Reasons why you didn't apply for refugee



2.3.3.2.5. The percentage of Venezuelan migrants and refugees who cited cost as a reason for not submitting their application for refugee status despite having the intention in Peru was more than 55%, followed by Ecuador with almost 50% and Colombia with more than 15%. It is important to note that Brazil had 0% of respondents who cited this reason, meaning that cost has no impact on their reasons for not filing an asylum application. For those who responded that they didn't request asylum due to their lack of documentation despite having the intention, in Ecuador this reason was cited by 48% of respondents, followed by Colombia with more than 20%, while 0% of respondents in Brazil cited this reason.

- 2.3.3.2.6.** The percentage of Venezuelan respondents who have been granted refugee status is highest in Brazil (more than 20%), followed by Peru (more than 6%) and Colombia and Ecuador (a little more than 2%). In general terms, 94.7% of the Venezuelan refugees and migrants surveyed have not obtained refugee status for the reasons already mentioned and just 5.3% have managed to obtain refugee status.
- 2.3.3.2.7.** It is important to note that Brazil is the country where the surveyed households have obtained the greatest level of access to asylum, and it is also the only country in the region where no respondents cited the cost of the application or their lack of documentation as reasons for not applying for asylum. In the other countries, where the success rate for asylum seekers is lower, the main reasons for not applying for asylum despite having the intention to do so include a lack of information, the cost of the asylum process and a lack of documentation

2.3.3.3. Measures taken by refugees and migrants from Venezuela to mitigate risk of eviction

- 2.3.3.3.1** Among those who responded to the question about whether they had entered negotiations with the tenant or landlord to avoid eviction, 47.6% stated that they had done this. Among those who responded to the question and have been at risk of eviction, more than 70% sought to negotiate and among those evicted, 25% engaged in some type of negotiation with tenants or landlords.
- 2.3.3.3.2** When respondents were asked about other measures to mitigate the impacts of eviction, only 7% of those surveyed considered returning to Venezuela as a measure to mitigate these impacts while 5.2% stated that they would move to another area of the host country.
- 2.3.3.3.3** In general terms, this means that among the households that responded to the survey, the main measures that refugees and migrants from Venezuela take or would take to mitigate the impact of eviction include all the actions that would help them stay in the in the dwelling where they are currently living. The most cited measures were requesting agreements, extensions and suspensions of the contract directly with the landlord or owner.

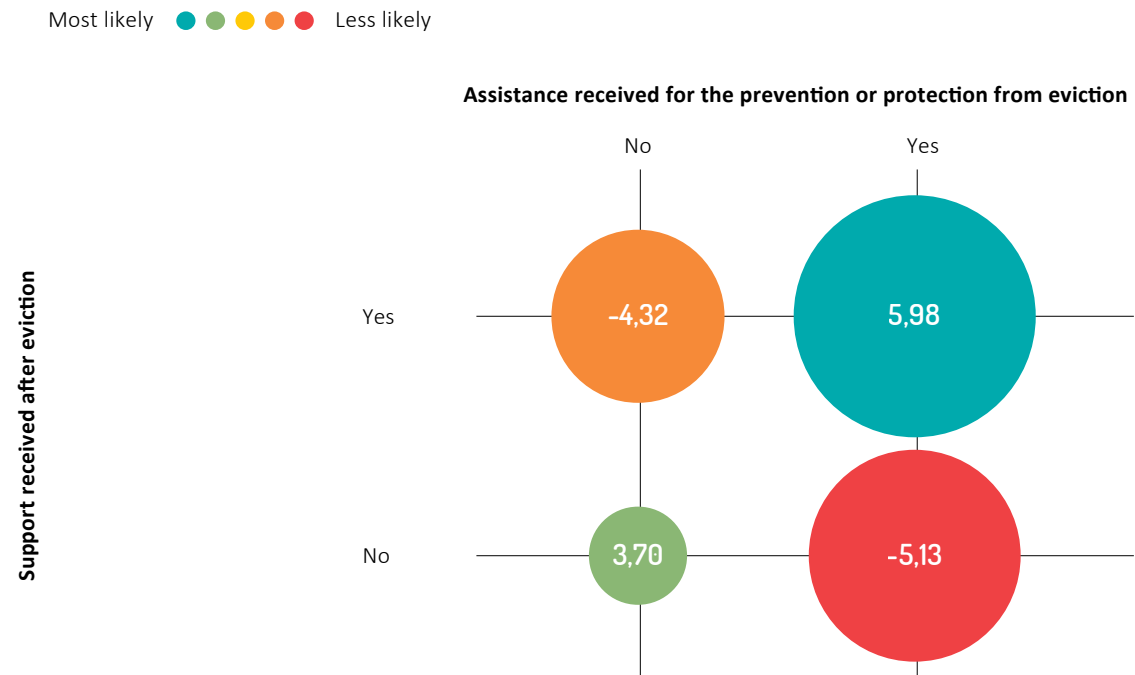
2.3.4. Assistance received for eviction prevention or protection

- 2.3.4.1.** Of the 77.4% of the surveyed households that responded to the question on assistance they have received, 69.8% do not receive any type of assistance that would allow them to prevent or have some protection against eviction. Of the 30.2% of the surveyed households that said they received assistance, 38% said they received cash assistance and 33.5% said they received food assistance. Only 27% reported receiving legal assistance, 19% temporary housing assistance that is primarily provided by humanitarian or civil society organizations while 13% received rental subsidies from the government. It is important to note that only 6% of these respondents received psychological support and just 3.8% received medical care.
- 2.3.4.2.** Access to legal assistance is still very limited to help Venezuelan refugees and migrants face the risk of evictions. It is important to take into account that most of the households at risk or that



have been evicted have oral or written contracts, and that most do not benefit from the intervention of a third party or a State entity that supports tenants' rights. Intermediation through technical assistance by civil authorities and control agencies is low, occurring in just 27% of cases.

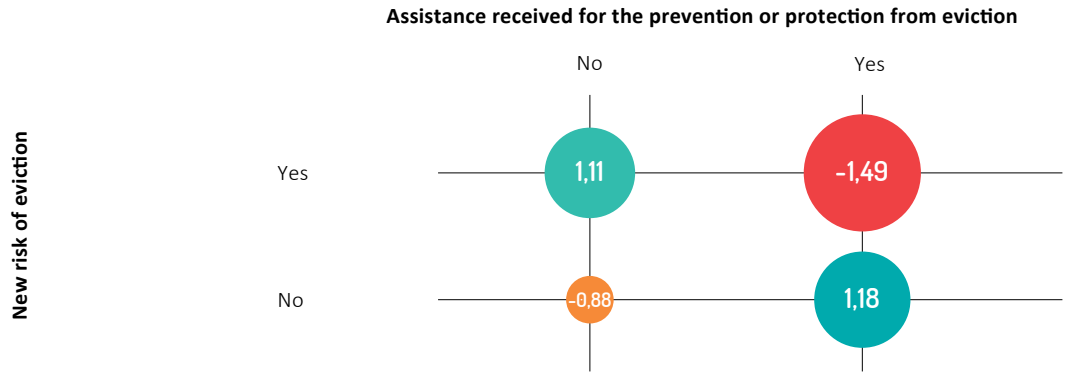
2.3.4.3. It is likely that those who did not receive assistance to prevent eviction, or have some protection from evictions, also did not receive post-eviction support. In contrast, the Venezuelan refugees and migrants surveyed who received assistance prior to the evictions are also highly likely to have received support after they were evicted.



2.3.4.4. At the regional level, Brazil (37%), is the country where refugees and migrants received the most assistance to prevent or protect themselves from evictions, followed by Peru (32%), Ecuador (31%) and Colombia (25%).

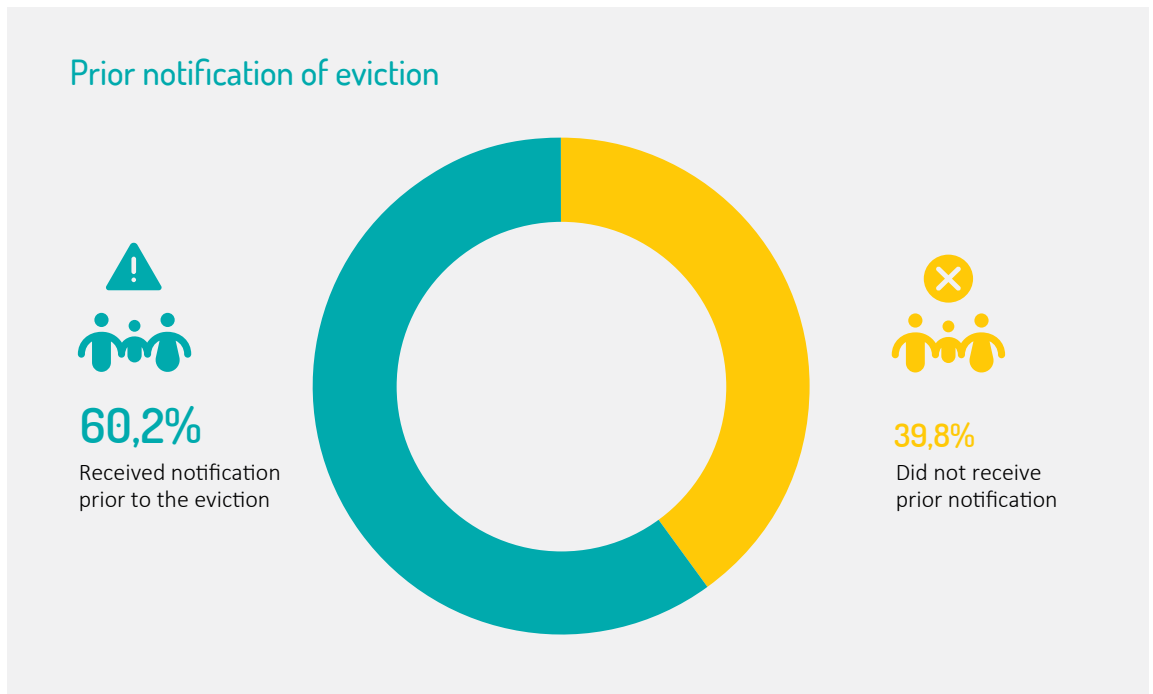
2.3.4.5. Finally, there is a higher probability that people who have received eviction prevention/protection assistance will not face a new risk of eviction. There is also a high probability that people who did not receive assistance in any of the phases will face a new risk of eviction. This means that eviction prevention/protection assistance plays a key role in mitigating new eviction risks.

Most likely ● ● ● ● ● Less likely



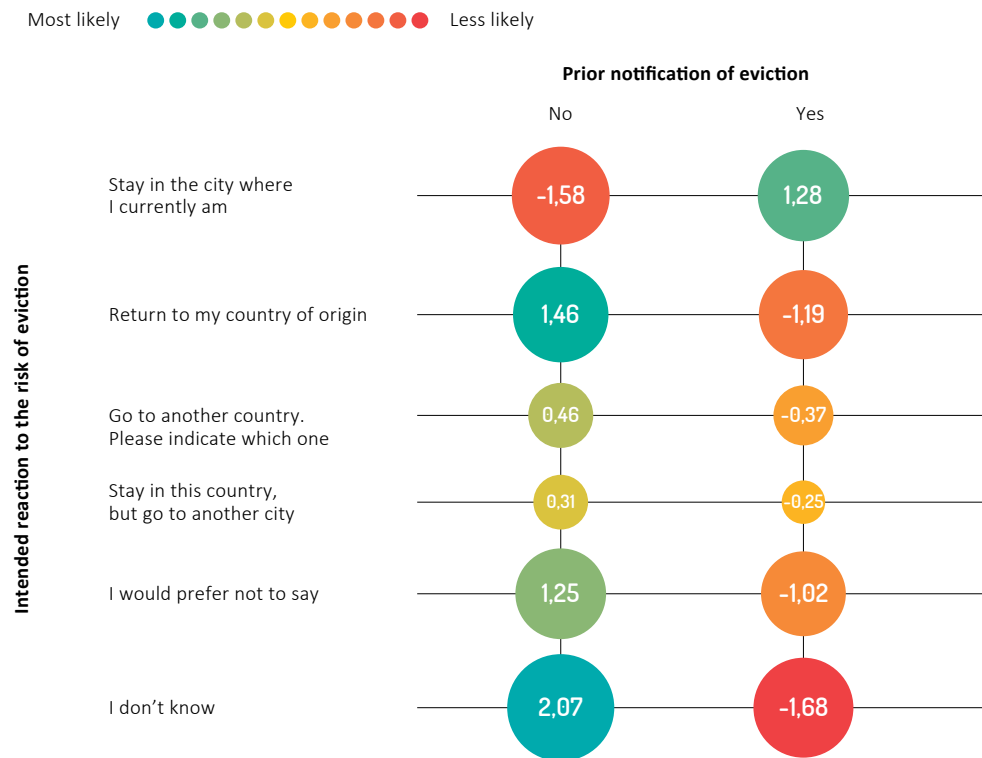
2.3.5. Prior notice of eviction

2.3.5.1. 60.2% of the refugees and migrants from Venezuela who responded to the survey and were evicted received a pre-eviction notice, 37% did not.



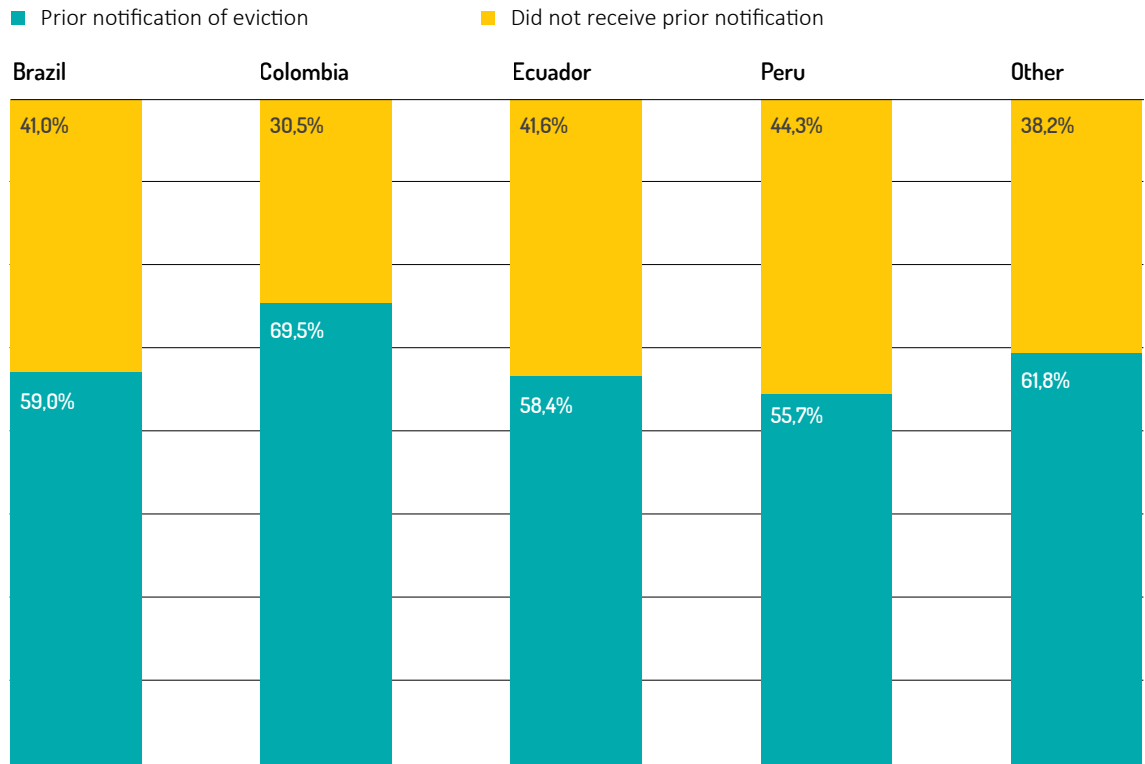


2.3.5.2. In terms of the relationship between pre-notification of eviction and the intentions of the surveyed households in relation to the risk or the eviction that has occurred, the survey results indicate is that those who have been given a pre-notification of eviction are more likely to decide to stay in the city where they live.



2.3.5.3. Colombia is the country with the highest number of cases in which the surveyed households received prior notification of the eviction (69.50%), followed by Brazil (59%), Ecuador (58.4%) and Peru (55.7%). In terms of the relationship between host country and the probability of receiving a notification, Colombia and Brazil are the countries where respondents are most likely to have received a notification prior to eviction, while Peru is the country in the region where Venezuelan refugees and migrants are least likely to receive prior notification of the eviction.

Country in which you are currently in



2.3.5.4. As evidenced in the analysis on housing tenure, the survey shows that about 95.2% of the cases of eviction were initiated by owners and landlords. However, when eviction processes are initiated by local authorities, it is likely that refugees and migrants from Venezuela will face increased limitations for identifying alternatives to evictions.

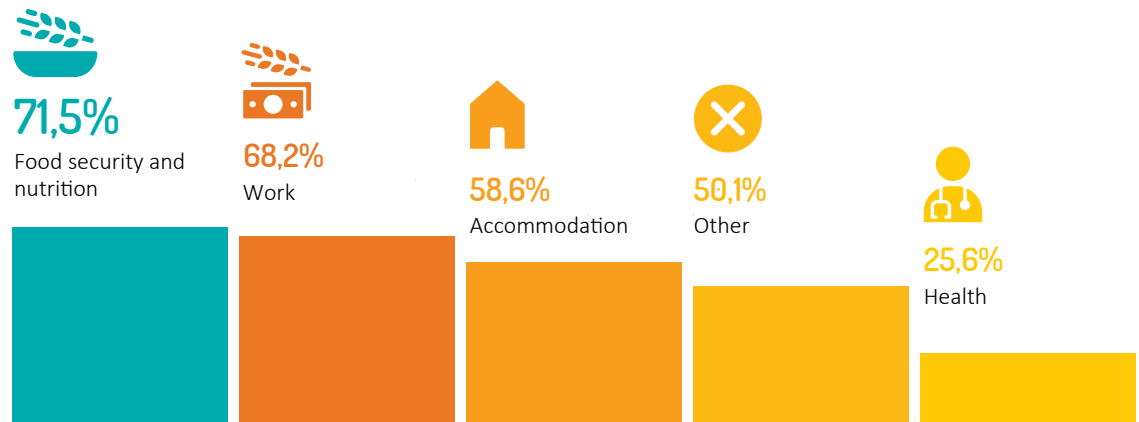
2.3.5.5. It is also very likely that households that were not affected by an incident after leaving Venezuela have an increased chance of preserving the family unit, and those households that face a new risk of eviction perceive a greater risk in terms of returning to their country of origin.

2.3.6. Needs of refugees and migrants in Venezuela and their correlation with risks of eviction

2.3.6.1. The three most important needs reported by the households surveyed that had been evicted were: work 71.5%, food security 68.2% and shelter 58.6%. In terms of physical health needs, Peru and Ecuador are the countries where the highest levels of needs were reported (more than 64%).



Your three main needs at this time



- 2.3.6.2.** Once evicted, the top three new locations for refugees and migrants from Venezuela were: renting houses or apartments (46%); staying in the homes of relatives (26.2%); and going to rental accommodation paid daily (10%). It is highly probable that households that do not manage to find a new location will face greater difficulties with preserving the family unit, they will not be able to remove their assets and property during the eviction, and they will not be referred to specialized services.
- 2.3.6.3.** In the specific case of asset removal, 17.7% of the households surveyed stated that they were unable to remove their assets during their eviction. In Ecuador, Colombia and Peru this percentage is just over 20%. The survey identified that it is more likely that those who did not receive a prior eviction notice were not able to remove their goods.
- 2.3.6.4.** It is important to highlight that the three main types of housing that refugees and migrants from Venezuela had before the eviction include: renting or leasing an apartment or house (69%); through a housing scheme involving housing systems or daily paid accommodation (17.9%); and staying in the houses or rooms of family and/or friends, (5%).
- 2.3.6.5.** Following the eviction, the types of housing in which refugees and migrants from Venezuela find themselves are: apartments or houses for rent (68.8%); housing schemes involving housing systems or daily paid accommodation (17.9%); staying in homes/rooms of family and/or friends (5.4%). Renting houses or rooms is the main type of accommodation used by refugees and migrants surveyed and these types of dwellings do not change before or after the eviction (a steady 72%).
- 2.3.6.6.** The second most popular type of housing before the eviction, which is the housing scheme through housing systems or daily paid accommodation, changes after the eviction with a preference for staying in the homes/rooms of family and/or friends. Staying in housing schemes through housing systems or daily paid accommodation is the third most popular option for refugees and migrants from Venezuela after they have been evicted.



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2.4. Differential approaches and intersectionality

2.4.1. Specific protection needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela

2.4.1.1 Of the total population of refugees and migrants from Venezuela who responded to the survey, 21.7% have a medical or chronic condition, 20.3% of the population are either pregnant or breastfeeding women, 17.1% are single parents with minor children, 10.6% are persons with a physical disability, 5.9% are elderly persons aged 60 or older, 3.3% are children or adolescents who have been separated from their family and/or caregivers and finally 3.1% are survivors of physical, psychological and/or sexual violence or abuse.

2.4.1.2 The above figures show the diversity of specific care needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela that should be considered in public policies, as well as the types of plans that should be put in place to meet this population's special needs, through prevention and protection programs that should be established by host countries.

2.4.2. Specialized service referral needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela

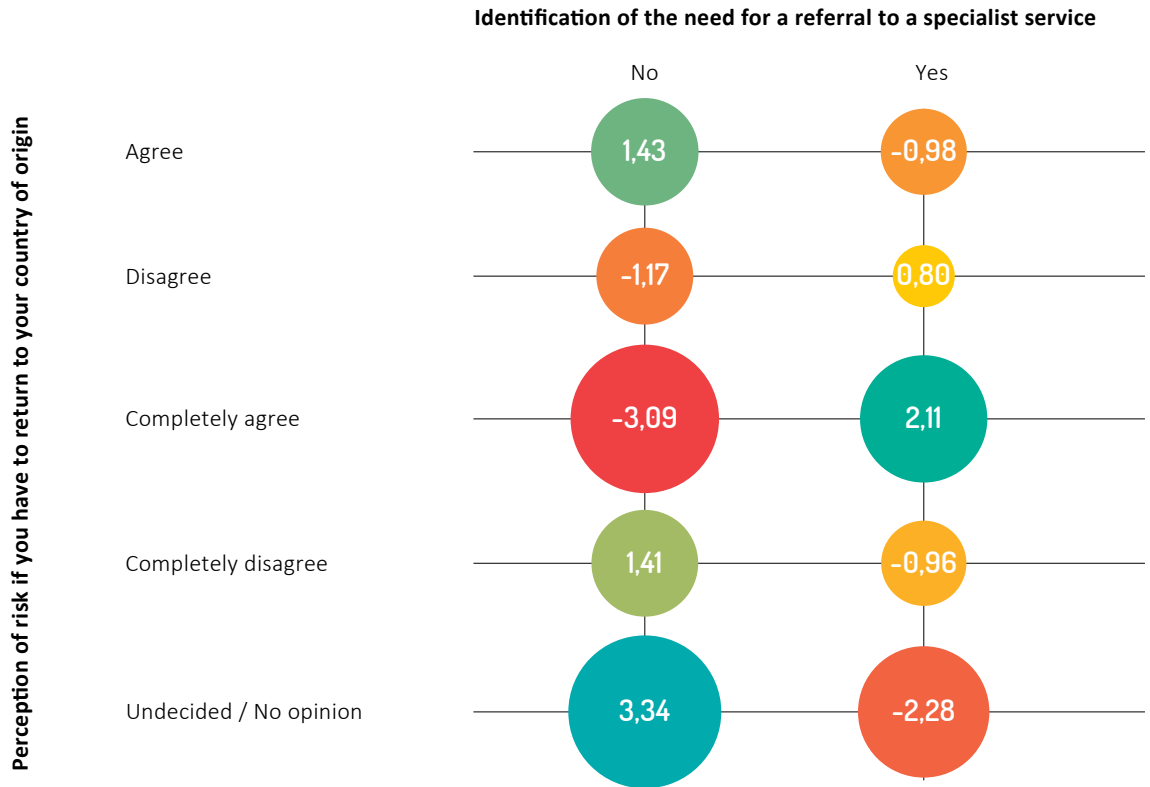
2.4.2.1 The survey shows that 64.6% of refugees and migrants from Venezuela have referral needs to specialized services. This means that just 35.4% of the surveyed households stated that they do not need to be referred to a specialized service.

2.4.2.2 Those who have been at risk of eviction have a high level of need for referral to a specialized service (65%), a figure that is slightly lower for those who have experienced an eviction (just over 60%). In Peru, more than 85% of refugees and migrants require a referral to a specialized service, followed by Ecuador and Colombia with more than 60%; and finally, Brazil and Panama with more than 15% of this population requiring referrals.

2.4.2.3 Of the surveyed households that responded on the type of support required, 60.7% required food assistance, 59% required cash transfers and 25.7% required medical assistance. These were followed by a need for legal assistance (17.7%); livelihoods assistance (16.4%), support with non-food items (10.8%) and psychological assistance (6.8%).

2.4.2.4 Refugees and migrants from Venezuela who need to be referred to a specialized service are more likely to perceive more risks in the event of returning to their country of origin and are more likely to be those who are at risk of further eviction.

Most likely ●●●●●●●●●● Less likely



2.4.2.5 It is important to note that refugees and migrants from Venezuela that need to be referred to a specialized service are more likely to have housing or accommodation that does not have separate rooms, which means they are in a situation of precarious or overcrowded housing, are temporarily in a shelter without separate rooms or are homeless. They are also more likely to experience situations that limit the identification of alternatives.

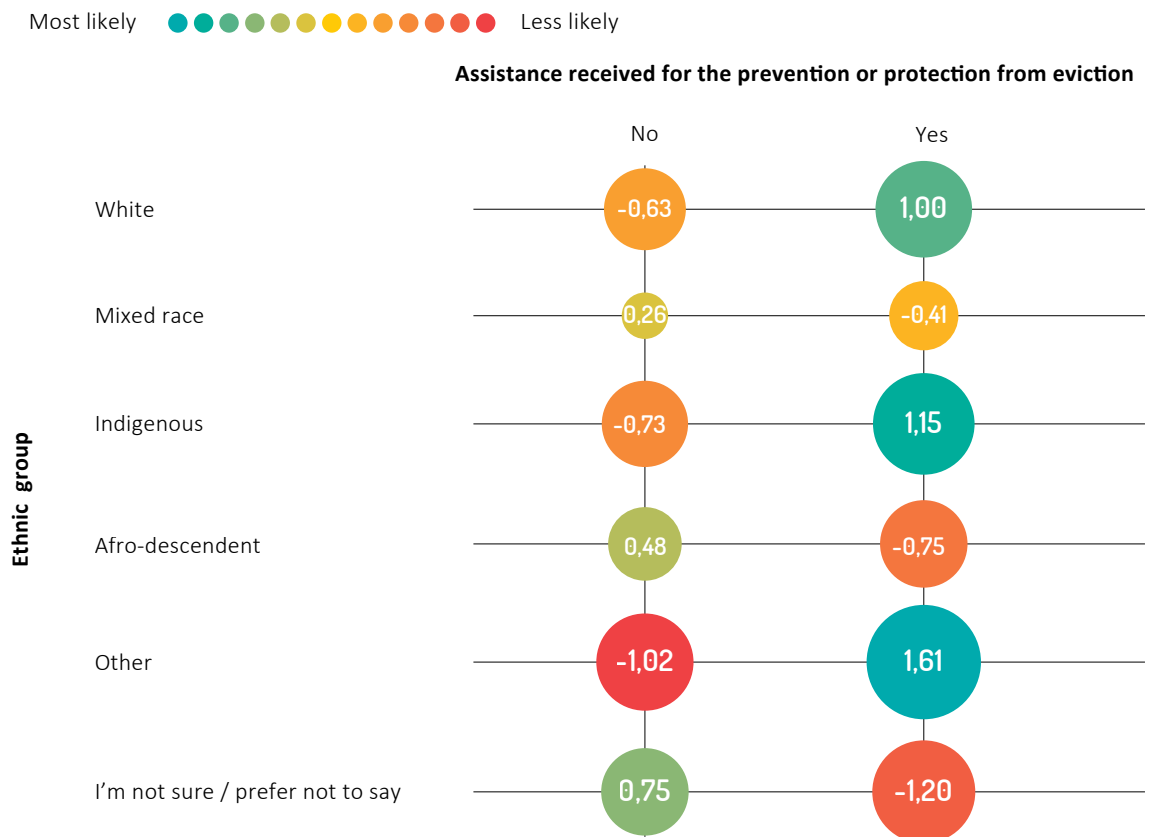
2.4.3. Specific needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants according to the differential, gender, and intersectional approach

2.4.3.1. Peoples of ethnic origin

2.4.3.1.1 6.2% of refugees and migrants from Venezuela surveyed identified themselves as Afro-descendants and 1.8% identified themselves as belonging to indigenous peoples. In terms of housing tenure and housing for peoples of ethnic origin, other types of agreements dominate that are different from written and verbal contracts. These other types of contracts are also used by afro-descendants (more than 10%) and among those who identify themselves as indigenous (more than 7%), followed by verbal rental contracts used by those who identify themselves as Afro-descendants (more than 6%) and as indigenous people (1%).



- 2.4.3.12 These results show that members of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples generally engage in other types of agreements that are different to rental contracts. These may be related to agreements to inhabit land with landowners, peasant communities or communities of ethnic origin. It is important to note that a significant number of those surveyed have lodgings in shelters, informal settlements and housing provided by the private sector or the State.
- 2.4.3.13 4.9% of respondents fell into the category of "others" who have a different ethnic identity that is not covered by the categories of indigenous, Afro-descendants, mestizos, and whites. This is possibly because they belonged to other forms of self-identifying ethnic groups that exist in the region but were not mentioned in the survey questions.
- 2.4.3.14 In terms of the differential approach, the correlations between assistance received for prevention or protection from eviction and ethnicity were analyzed and it was found that, for example, in the case of Afro-descendants they are less likely to have received such assistance.



2.4.3.2. Genre:

2.4.3.2.1 The population of women who participated in the survey exceeded the population of men by four times. The population of women surveyed reached 79.8%, while the population of men was 19.6%. This means that when we talk about percentages in terms of the different affectations or situations faced by refugees and migrants from Venezuela, we must contextualize it based on this gender differential.

- 2.4.3.2.2** At the regional level, Ecuador was the country with the largest population of women refugees and migrants from Venezuela who participated in the survey (more than 90%), followed by Colombia and Brazil (more than 80%), and Peru and Panama (more than 70%).
- 2.4.3.2.3** Women (more than 45%) are more likely to not have a visa or residence permit. In relation to the rest of the surveyed population they are more vulnerable to eviction and the risk of eviction.
- 2.4.3.2.4** In terms of the risk of eviction, more than 79% of the women responded that they face this risk. In terms of housing and housing tenancy conditions, refugee and migrant women from Venezuela live with the most insecure tenancies, as more than 85% are in another type of agreement that is different from verbal and written contracts. More than 83% of women do not have any agreement or authorization to be on the housing or land they are currently inhabiting, which means that they may possibly be living in informal settlements or occupations of public spaces.
- 2.4.3.2.5** The four forms of types of housing that are most common among women are: 68% live in rented or rented apartments or houses, 18% live in housing schemes through housing systems or daily paid accommodation, 5.5% stay in family and/or friends' houses/rooms and 5% occupy private land.
- 2.4.3.2.6** Women refugees and migrants from Venezuela who have been evicted have higher food and nutrition needs than men. In addition, 20% of women refugees and migrants from Venezuela are pregnant or breastfeeding. More than 22% of women refugees and migrants from Venezuela have a critical or chronic medical condition, including HIV, and have no access to treatment or medicines.
- 2.4.3.2.7** More than 35% of Venezuelan refugee and migrant women heads of household have more than five family members who are dependent on them. In addition, more than 92% of the households headed by women refugees and migrants from Venezuela have children in their homes 60% have between 1 and 2 children, 25% have between 3 and 4 children, and 9% have 5 or more children living in their homes.
- 2.4.3.2.8** 10% of refugee and migrant women in Venezuela have a physical or mental disability. More than 3% are girls or adolescents who are not accompanied by their family or caregiver. Of the 3% of survivors of physical, psychological and/or sexual violence or abuse, more than 65% are female heads of household and 19% are their daughters.
- 2.4.3.2.9** More than 60% of women require a referral to a specialized service. The types of support most required include food assistance (61%), followed by cash transfers (more than 50%), and medical assistance needs (more than 27%).
- 2.4.3.2.10** These figures show the significant impact suffered by refugee and migrant women in Venezuela in relation to the risks of evictions. They also demonstrate the need to consider specific needs in plans for access to adequate housing. An additional element is the importance of considering the challenges of providing assistance and referring women to social and health services in situations where they are at risk of eviction or evictions are in progress, taking into account their vulnerability, as demonstrated in the survey.



2.4.3.3. Children and adolescents

2.4.3.3.1 60% of the households that participated in the survey have between 1 and 2 children; 23% have between 3 and 4 children; and 4.1% have 5 or more children. More than 60% of households that have between 1 and 2 children are at risk of eviction; compared to 24% of households that have between 3 and 4 children are at risk of eviction; finally, there are households that have 5 or more children, of which 6% are at risk of eviction.

2.4.3.3.2 In households with 1 to 2 children, more than 60% have been evicted; in households with 3 to 4 children, 28% have been evicted; and in households with 5 or more children, 9% have been evicted.

2.4.3.4. The elderly

2.4.3.4.1 Of the total population surveyed, 5.9% are adults over 60 years of age. Of the total number of surveyed refugees and migrants from Venezuela who are at risk of eviction, 6.7% are adults aged 60 years or older, and of those evicted, 5% were adults aged 60 years or older.

2.4.3.4.2 Among the population of people with disabilities are elderly parents or grandparents (12.9%). On the other hand, 21.9% of people with a medical condition and who are without treatment are elderly parents or grandparents.



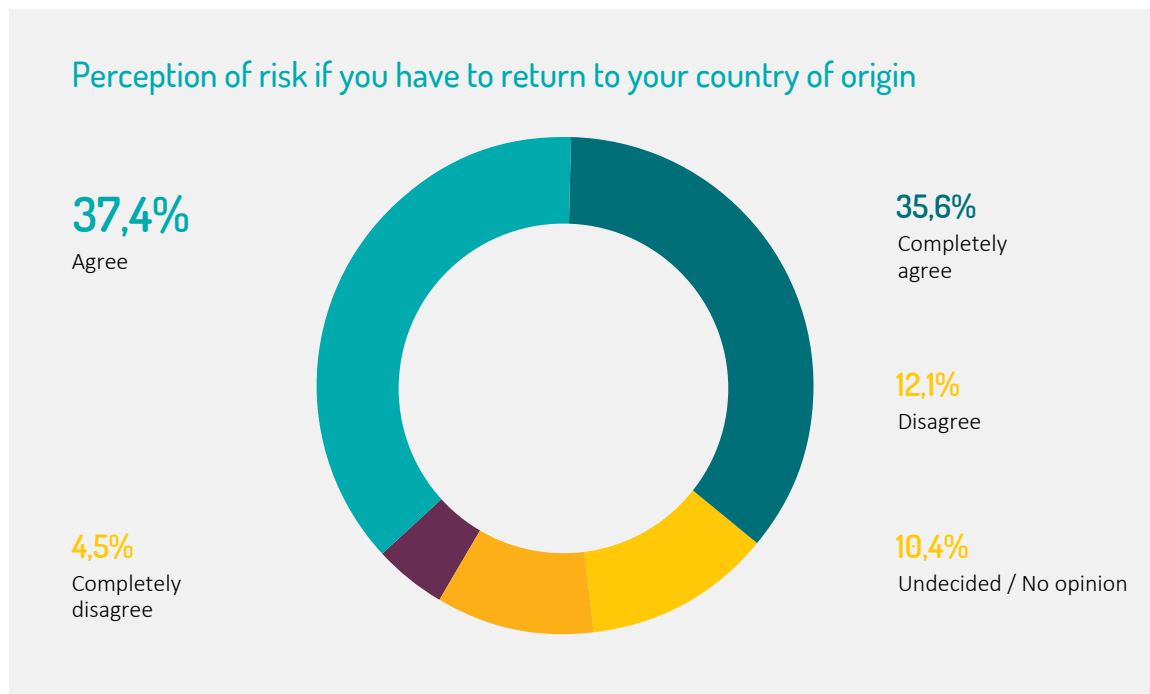
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2.5. Durable solutions

2.5.1. Perceptions of the risk of return

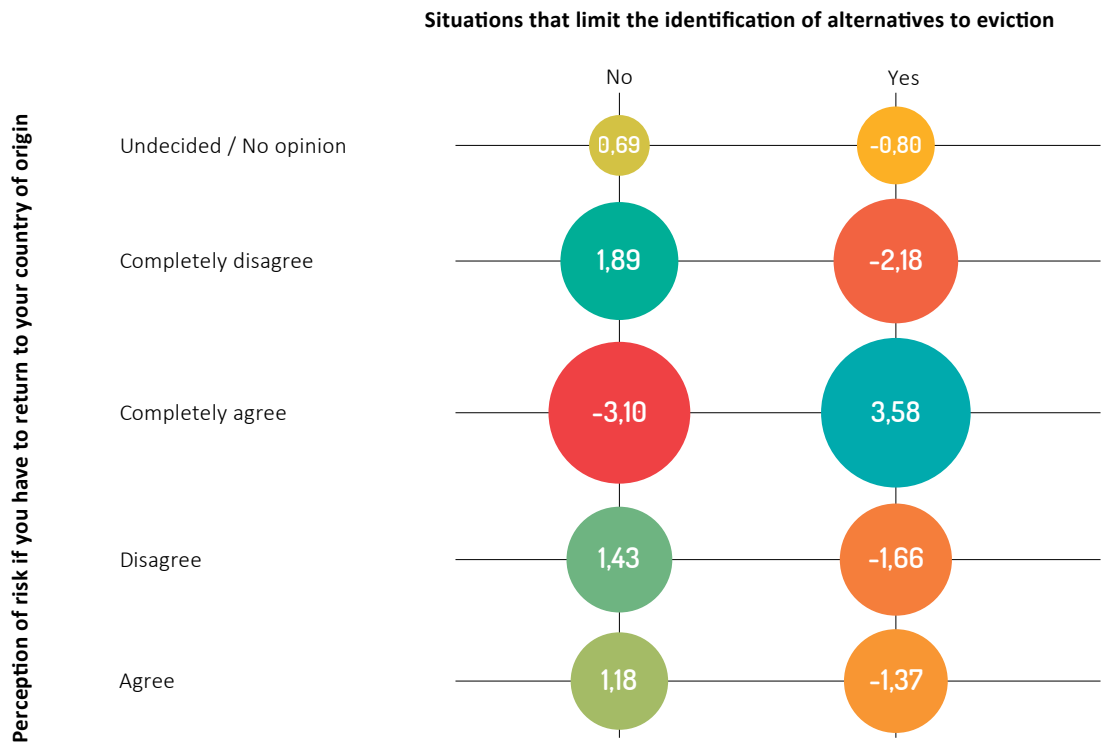
2.5.1.1 Of the total number of respondents who answered the questions on the perception of risks in the event of returning to their country of origin, 37.4% completely agree that they would be at risk and 35.6% agree with this statement. This means that, of the total households surveyed, 73% think that returning to the country of origin represents a risk for their households.



2.5.1.2 These perceptions of the risk of returning to the country of origin continue in both situations of being at risk of eviction and having been evicted, 37% completely agree and 35% agree that this risk exists. There is a very small difference in the responses to this question from those who are at risk of being evicted and those who have been evicted. The survey also shows that, regardless of housing tenure or housing conditions, this perception of risk involved with returning to the country of origin is the dominant one.

2.5.1.3 The perception of risk with returning to the country of origin has a high probability of coinciding with the surveyed households that experience situations that limit their access to housing alternatives as a response to the risk of eviction and eviction. This means that even in very difficult conditions in terms of seeking alternatives to evictions, refugees and migrants from Venezuela believe that there is more risk if they return to their country of origin.

Most likely ●●●●●●●●●● Less likely



- 2.5.1.4** For respondents with the needs for a referral to a specialized service, it is highly likely that they perceive a risk with returning to their country of origin. It is also important to highlight that even if there is a new risk of eviction, this perception of completely agreeing with the risk of returning to the country of origin remains high. Even if the surveyed households are at risk of a new eviction, they believe that they would be at greater risk if they return to their country of origin.
- 2.5.1.5** According to their perceptions, the risks that refugees and migrants from Venezuela would face upon returning to their country of origin include not being able to find a job with which they could support themselves and their family (52%), that their home would be in danger due to the situation of insecurity in the country (45%) and finally that their health would be at imminent risk (24.1%).
- 2.5.1.6** If we contrast the perceived risk of not getting a job if they returned to the country of origin (52%), with the fact that for those who have been evicted their main need is to find work (more than 70%) it is clear that despite having this need, these Venezuelan refugees and migrants have decided to stay in the host country (81% of all respondents).
- 2.5.1.7** This situation in which returning to the country of origin is perceived as a risk to the life and livelihood of refugees and migrants from Venezuela explains why only 7% are considering returning to Venezuela and only 8.1% intend to one day return to their country despite the risk of eviction or eviction that has already occurred.



2.5.2. Relocation or resettlement

- 2.5.2.1** The question about a refugee or migrant household's intention in relation to their risk of eviction or actual eviction reveals a willingness to relocate or resettle in terms of moving to a new city and/or country. In terms of their intentions in the face of the risk of eviction or having been evicted, 66.8% wish to stay in the city where they are and 14.3% wish to stay in the same country but move to another city. Only 1.4% wish to go to another country. A total of 81.1% wish to stay in the country where they are, despite being at risk of eviction or having already been evicted.
- 2.5.2.2** In terms of the intention of refugees and migrants from Venezuela to relocate (only 1.4% of respondents responded affirmatively to this question), taking into account the level of application of the surveys by country, in Ecuador 2.5% of migrants have this intention while in Colombia this figure is at 1.7%. It is noteworthy that respondents in Brazil have 0% intention to move to another country. In general, the figures on intention to relocate to another country are very low.
- 2.5.2.3** Taking into account the reduced percentage of having the intention of going to another country, the countries that refugees and migrants from Venezuela intend to move to include: Chile (22.2%), followed by Ecuador and Colombia (16.7%), followed by Peru and Brazil (11.1%) and finally Guatemala, United States and Argentina (5.6%).

2.5.3. Local integration as a durable solution

- 2.5.3.1** As we have seen, the integration of households in the locations where they live at the time of the survey is perceived as the most desired lasting solution by the vast majority of refugees and migrants from Venezuela as more than 82% intend to stay in their current host country. Nearly 80% of refugees and migrants from Venezuela wish to continue to stay in Brazil and Colombia. These are the countries that have the highest response to this question in the region.
- 2.5.3.2** In correlating migration intention in the face of risk of eviction or eviction with the number of dependents in the household, households with five or more dependents are most likely to intend to stay in the city where they are currently staying. Households with one dependent are likely to intend to move to another country, or to a lesser degree, they are likely to want to stay in the country where they are but move to another city. Similarly, refugee and migrant households are more likely to intend to stay in the city they live in if they have received an eviction notice.
- 2.5.3.3** Even among those households that do not have a rental agreement or permit in the housing they live in, more than 80%, expressed intention to stay in the host country despite facing difficult conditions in terms of housing tenure or accommodation, such as not having an agreement or permit (and possibly living in an informal settlement).
- 2.5.3.4** If we contrast the majority of respondents' intentions to remain in the host country with the top four needs currently expressed by those who have been evicted- work (more than 70%); food security and nutrition (more than 67%), housing (more than 59%), and health (29%)- even under these circumstances the intention to remain in the place where they live at the time of being surveyed is still the same.

3. General Conclusions



- 3.1** The main form of housing tenancy for Venezuelan refugee and migrant households in the region are rentals in private homes or rooms through mostly verbal and, to a lesser extent, written rental contracts. In these types of accommodation, the majority of households have three or more people and in many cases they do not have the minimum conditions of public services, or sufficient rooms for the number of people staying there. A smaller proportion of households live in informal settlements or in housing built on public property in precarious living conditions.
- 3.2** Most of the households surveyed live with tenancies mediated by contracts or agreements with private parties governed by private law, with a high proportion of informality and low level of intervention by the State when conflicts arise between them. These conflicts over rental contracts were already present due to the lack of opportunities and livelihoods of the surveyed households but have worsened due to the social and health crisis caused by COVID-19. This has meant that a large proportion of refugee and migrant households from Venezuela are at risk of eviction despite measures taken by governments from the region to avoid forced evictions of vulnerable populations. These measures were short-lived or even not implemented.
- 3.3** The main reasons for eviction risk identified by the surveyed households include the impossibility of paying for housing and public services, and in a lower but no less revealing proportion, due to discrimination and disputes with landlords or violence in the area where they lived. This situation was aggravated in 2020 by the health and social crisis caused by COVID-19, which made it more difficult for refugees and migrants from Venezuela to earn basic income. In general, evictions had a low intervention rate from local authorities in terms of mediation or offering mechanisms to help them access the justice system.
- 3.4** The survey shows that people with irregular migratory status or lack of documentation have more informal housing tenure contracts and generally live in housing without contracts or authorizations or are households living in informal settlements. The lack of a regular migratory status is a factor in the precariousness of housing and land tenure and habitability, which, in turn, increases their level of exposure and risk and reduces their ability to cope with the situation.

- 3.5** When the surveyed households suggested the measures, they think should be taken to mitigate the risks of eviction and evictions, they highlighted the need for mediation. Despite the efforts of oversight agencies in Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil, these agreements continue to be made with little mediation from oversight agencies or civil society organizations. The Regional Evictions Survey evidences that mediations are the most effective instrument for dealing with eviction risks and evictions that are in progress between refugees and migrants and homeowners, taking into account that refugees and migrants usually do not have legal counsel for entering into negotiations nor to defend their rights in what are primarily verbal contracts.
- 3.6** The survey evidences the disproportionate impact suffered by women in contexts of being at risk of eviction or evicted. They have the worst medical situation and the highest need for specialized services. They also face the highest probability of suffering violence and threats. For pregnant and breastfeeding women and/or heads of household, the risk of eviction has a greater impact compared to rest of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population. In the cases of evictions, their situation of vulnerability is aggravated by the low level of intervention of local authorities and specialized assistance mechanisms.
- 3.7** For indigenous peoples and Afro descendants, the dynamics of land tenure are different. Firstly because, according to the survey, they engage in other types of tenancies that are different to lease contracts and inhabit the dwellings based on their own cultural patterns. For this reason, when working with this population the approach must transcend the vision of rental contracts and focus on their collective rights and the right to be consulted on the plans that affect them, both refugees and migrants and members of host communities. In the case of Afro-descendants, the survey shows a higher risk of evictions as well as the fact that they receive less assistance from States.
- 3.8** Especially for children and adolescents, as well as for women, overcrowded and precarious housing conditions create conditions that are conducive for violence and sexual abuse. At the same time, the lack of legal advice and presence of the State through specialized services adapted to their needs makes the provision of assistance more complex in contexts of risk of eviction or evictions.
- 3.9** For the elderly, people living with disabilities and those undergoing medical treatment, the risk of eviction or evictions becomes an additional burden to their condition. This is compounded by their need for referral to specialized services and the low intervention rate by public authorities.
- 3.10** In terms of lasting solutions, the survey showed that refugees and migrants prefer to remain in the localities where they live, primarily in the cities where they have been at risk of eviction and even in the cities where they were evicted. In general terms, they feel that returning to Venezuela puts the safety of their families at risk and makes it impossible for them to achieve an adequate livelihood. Although they are in precarious conditions, most of them prefer to remain where they are rather than return to their country.
- 3.11** This means that the assistance provided by local, national and federal authorities, depending on their area of responsibility, should be directed primarily to guarantee the housing conditions where refugees and migrants live. This should occur in the immediate term through shelters and temporary housing and in the medium and long term through their inclusion in housing plans in the localities where they stay and avoiding the circle of non-assistance: eviction- homelessness- eviction.



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- 3.12** Despite having the largest percentage of irregular entry of refugees and migrants from Venezuela compared to the rest of the region, Brazil is the country where they achieve a higher percentage of international protection, where they receive higher levels of assistance and support, including accommodation in shelters and temporary housing, and where they face less situations that put them at risk. Perhaps because of these conditions, Brazil is the country where most respondents want to stay.
- 3.13** Oversight bodies should play a more decisive role in the provision of legal advice and mediation processes required by Venezuelan refugees and migrants on the right to adequate housing, the prohibition of forced evictions and asylum application procedures in each country.
- 3.14** The survey shows that the significant majority of refugees and migrants do not intend to return to Venezuela, not just because they wish to stay in the host country, despite all the problems and situations that violate their rights. Beyond the provision of humanitarian assistance and support, which refugees and migrants identify as necessary to achieve lasting solutions, respondents highlighted the importance of local integration that is achieved through being able to exercise a productive activity, such as having a job.

Technical Annex

A total of 1810 interviews were conducted between October 8 and November 11, 2020. The data was reviewed using a program with data cleaning quality standards (High Frequency Checks) that is certified by the World Bank and Innovations for Poverty Action's best practices.

For data cleaning we considered: tests sent, elimination of outliers, quality control of interviews (too long or too short), enumerator errors, misunderstood questions and other problems that occurred during data collection.

Following the data cleaning process and excluding those who did not consent to continue with the interview (3 persons), the sample consisted of 1220 interviews. Of these households, 42.2% had been evicted and 41.5% were at risk of eviction. The rest, equivalent to 16.3%, were not considered population of interest and their interview was terminated. This left a final sample of 1021 completed interviews. Of these, 50.4% were evicted and 49.6% were at risk of being evicted. Of those who had been evicted, 38.4% were again at risk of eviction in their current situation.

Of those interviewed, 80.2% were women, 19.8% men. The interviews were conducted by 79 interviewers from 21 participating organizations (16 NGOs and 5 universities/legal clinics). Most of the interviews were conducted in Peru (405, 39.7%), Colombia (242, 23.7%) and Ecuador (252, 24.7%). The remaining interviews were conducted in Brazil (63, 6.17%), and in Panama, Guyana and the Dominican Republic (combined and categorized as 'Other countries'; 59, 5.78%). Due to the small number of interviews in the latter two countries, comparisons and statements should be made with great caution.

The data collection exercise involved some limitations that should be considered when making statements based on the results. First, only refugees and migrants from Venezuela were surveyed, so conclusions cannot be extended to populations of other nationalities that are also displaced in these countries. The survey did not include nationals from the host countries, so comparisons with the national population cannot be made. Also excluded were those households that had not been evicted or that were at risk of being evicted, which also limits possible comparisons.

Second, there was no *sampling frame* of reference (*sampling frame*) for evicted households and households at risk of eviction in the region. This is because the situation has changed rapidly due to the health emergency and mobility restrictions in the region.

It should also be noted that this is the first time that a specific survey has been conducted in the region to determine the housing situation for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, and especially their situation in relation to evictions in the host countries. Therefore, there is no comparative data produced prior to this survey that could be used.

Finally, the sample size was not calculated or weighted as being proportional to the population of interest residing in these countries.

Information gathered by country

Countries	Department/States	Cities	Organizations	Total Surveys
Ecuador	12	30	2	252
Peru	12	94	4	405
Colombia	15	64	11	242
Brazil	4	9	5	63
Otros	7	41	2	59

Participant Organizations

Save the Children
COOPI
ACNUR
HIAS
World Vision
Norwegian Refugee Council
Corporación Opción Legal
Colombian Red Cross
UN Women
Caritas
Danish Refugee Council
Aldeas Infantiles SOS
Pastoral Social
International Rescue Committee
ADRA-MIES
Jesuit Refugee and Migrant Service
IDDI
PDDMS
Heartland Alliance
Personería de Arauca
Universidad Cooperativa
Universidad Javeriana- Colombia
Universidad del Rosario-Colombia
Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga- Colombia
Universidad del Norte- Colombia



SECTOR
PROTECTION



Inter-Agency Coordination
Platform for Refugees and
Migrants from Venezuela