

**RMNA 2024**

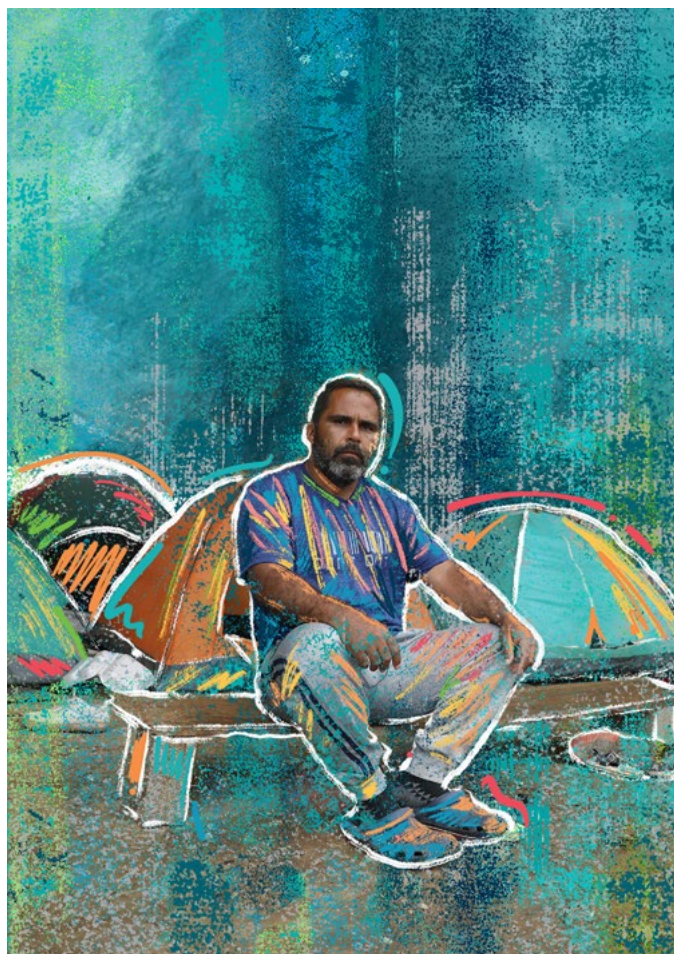
**REFUGEE AND MIGRANT  
NEEDS ANALYSIS**

Issued September 2024



Inter-Agency Coordination  
Platform for Refugees and  
Migrants from Venezuela





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# RM<sup>24</sup> NA

## REFUGEE AND MIGRANT NEEDS ANALYSIS

Issued September 2024



Inter-Agency Coordination  
Platform for Refugees and  
Migrants from Venezuela

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## FOREWORD

BY **EDUARDO STEIN**

**"AMID THE HOPE SPARKED BY LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN'S STRIDES OF MANY COUNTRIES IN REGULARIZING AND INTEGRATING, WE MUST NOT OVERLOOK THE PROFOUND VULNERABILITIES THAT STILL EXIST—CRITICAL NEEDS REMAIN FOR CONTINUED AND COORDINATED EFFORTS ACROSS THE REGION."**

Over the past year, the Latin America and Caribbean region has witnessed profound changes and developments that have shaped the lives of millions, particularly refugees and migrants.

2023 saw an unprecedented surge in irregular and multidirectional transit and onward movements, with more migrants and refugees embarking on dangerous journeys to reach new destinations. This refers to movements that go well beyond the Venezuelan population leaving its country of origin, or moving on from a previous host country, but increasingly includes a broad range of nationalities on the move, including several from beyond the American continent. Despite many commendable efforts undertaken by States and different partners to ensure a humanitarian response to those in need, to grant access to asylum, documentation and regularization processes, and to foster socioeconomic integration, unresolved socioeconomic challenges, along with rising anti-migration sentiments and xenophobia, have led to restrictive policies limiting access to territories, protection, and integration.

This underscores an urgent need for enhanced cooperation between regional initiatives, including state-led ones, such as the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection and the Quito Process, and collaboration with international financial and development institutions, and the private sector. In the spirit of the two Compacts (Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees), these efforts are essential to effectively share the burden and responsibilities, including providing predictable and adequate financial support to host countries.

The humanitarian response to this crisis has been marked by notable achievements, but also by additional significant challenges, underscoring the

need for sustained support and innovative strategies to effectively address the evolving needs of refugees and migrants. R4V has progressively expanded its operational response to include other nationalities in-transit across the region, addressing their humanitarian needs with a hemispheric and regional approach.

The RMNA 2024 shows that migrants and refugees persistently face critical needs across various areas, reflecting their daily struggles for formal employment, stable housing, and education for their children. Those in irregular situations, recent arrivals, and those in-transit are particularly vulnerable, with higher needs across all sectors. Available support has been insufficient to ensure that all people in vulnerable situations can access basic rights and services, to live a dignified life.

Across the region, nearly 67 per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants have secured regular migratory status or refugee recognition. However, the report shows that around 2.3 million remain in an irregular situation, mainly due to high costs, strict entry and visa requirements, and complex regularization and asylum processes.

The RMNA 2024 offers a detailed examination of needs faced by migrants and refugees. By understanding these dynamics, we can better address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, ensuring support reaches those most in need. More support is needed from the international community to enhance the humanitarian response to those in need and for the implementation of comprehensive solutions based on the principles of international cooperation, solidarity and responsibility sharing.



**DR. EDUARDO STEIN.**

**UNHCR-IOM JOINT SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**





# REGIONAL

Bienvenido  
Welcome





## REGION AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE IN NEED (PiN)	PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER				
	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS	
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>62.7%</b> <b>4.18 M</b>	 62.1%	 62.1%	 62.6%	 62.0%
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT*</b>	<b>88.4%</b>	90.1%	88.1%	87.0%	84.4%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT*</b>	<b>90.2%</b>	90.2%	90.0%	90.3%	90.4%
<b>PENDULAR**</b>	<b>68.4%</b>	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%	68.4%
<b>COLOMBIAN RETURNEES**</b>	<b>35.9%</b>	34.2%	28.8%	42.3%	52.6%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES***</b>	<b>35.5%</b>	34.5%	34.7%	37.8%	37.6%

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* This category includes refugees and migrants who are crossing an international border and engage in transit and onward movements, principally involving the following scenarios: (1) Initial departure from the country of origin; (2) Transit movements in order to cross one or more host countries before arriving at the country of destination; and (3) Onward movements to relocate directly from one host country to another host country.

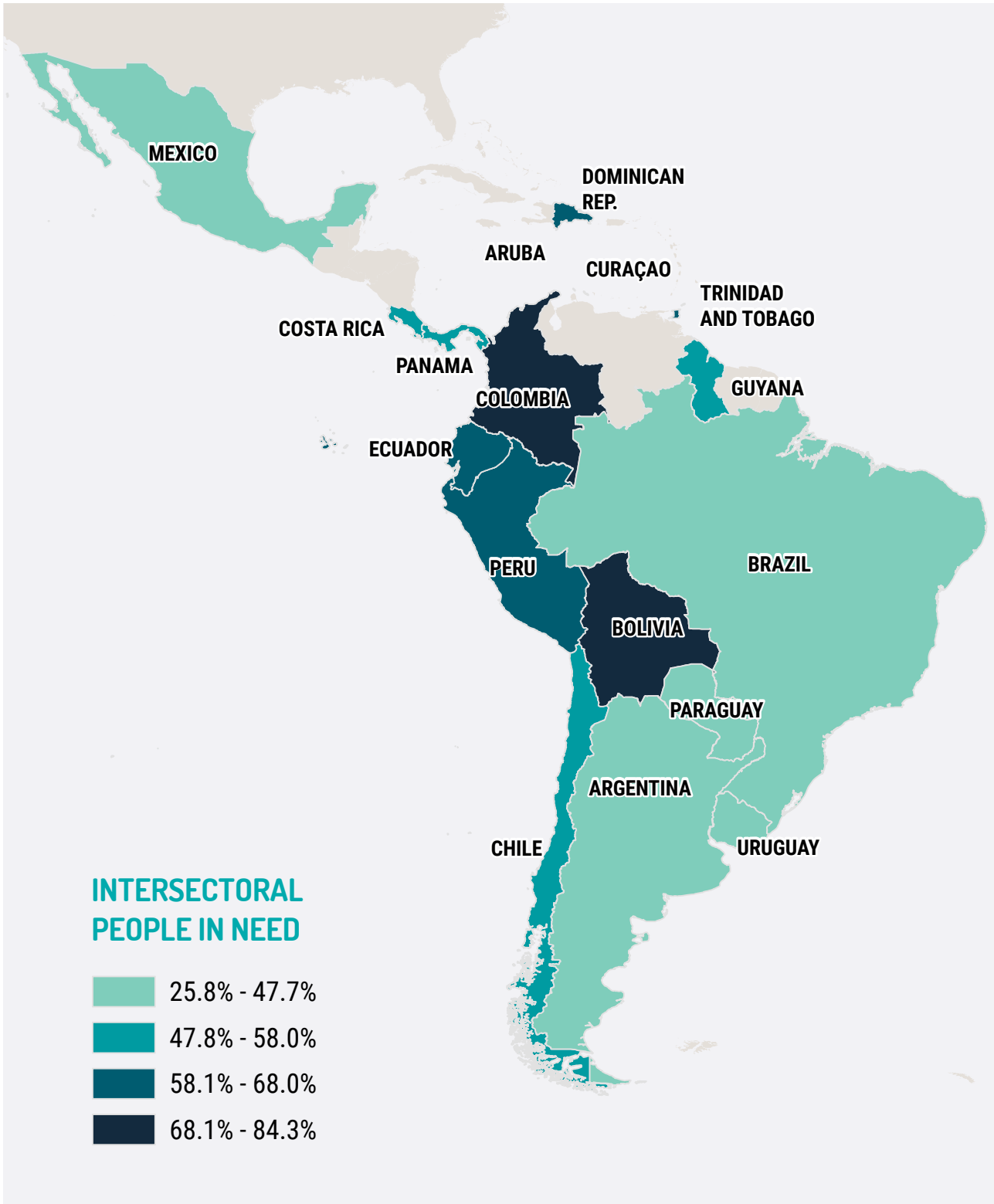
In the case of "others in-transit", this includes refugees and migrants of other nationalities in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

Despite showing a slightly higher percentage, the number of individual refugees & migrants of other nationalities in-transit in-need is significantly lower than the number of Venezuelan refugees & migrants in-transit in-need. Regional PiN figures for those in-transit are calculated using a weighted average.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\*This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

REGIONAL IN-DESTINATION PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

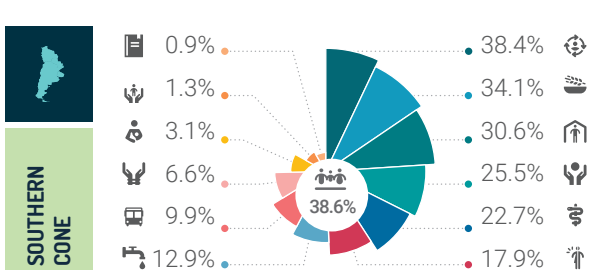
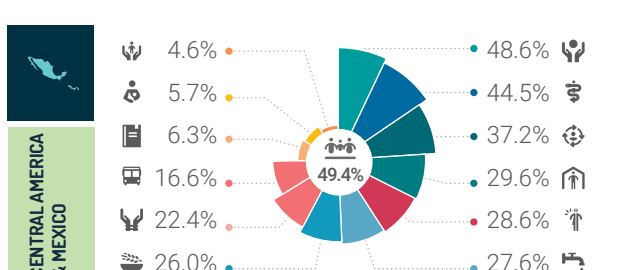
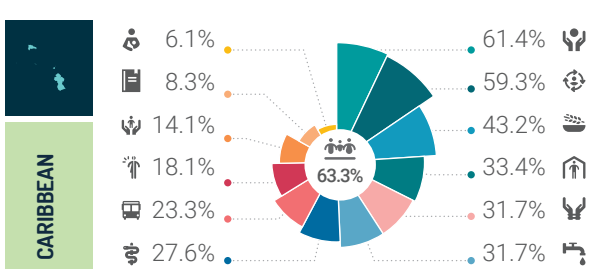
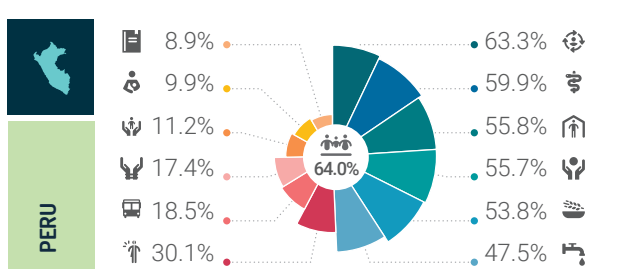
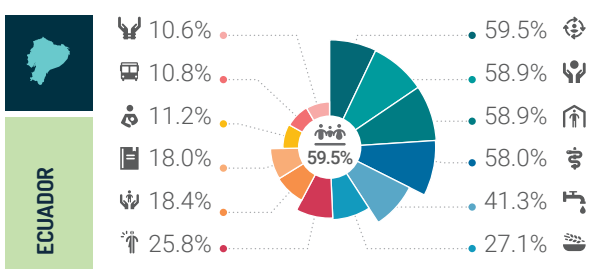
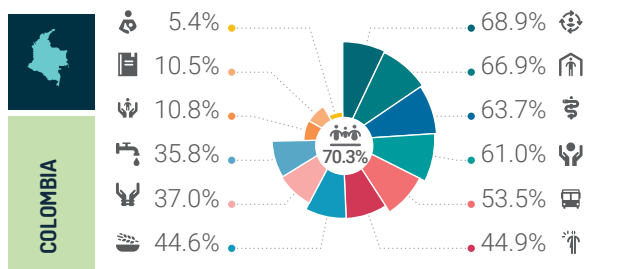
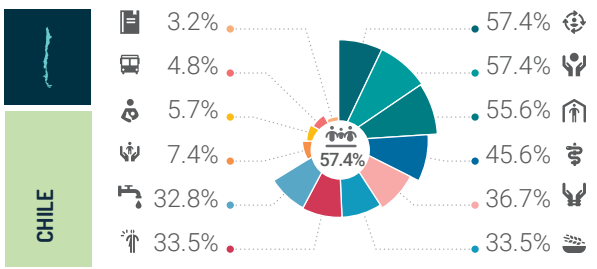
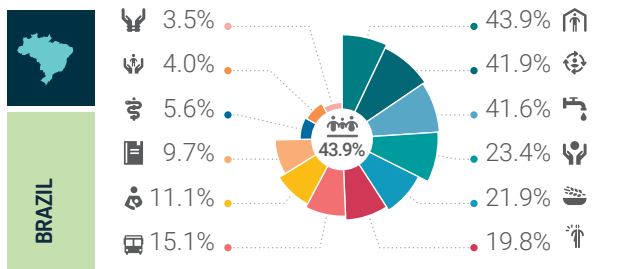
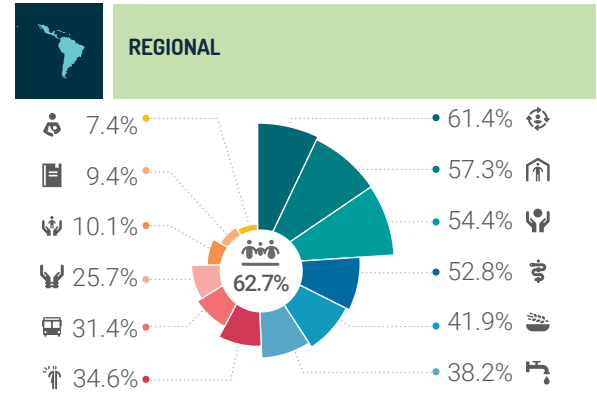
 MEN
  WOMEN
  BOYS
  GIRLS




# VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE BY SECTOR AND PLATFORM

**PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)**









- Education
- Food Security
- Health
- Humanitarian Transportation
- Integration
- Nutrition
- Protection
- Child Protection
- Gender-Based Violence
- Human Trafficking and Smuggling
- Shelter
- WASH






## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN) BY NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL PLATFORMS

<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>REGIONAL</b>	<b>BRAZIL</b>	<b>CHILE</b>	<b>COLOMBIA</b>	<b>ECUADOR</b>	<b>PERU</b>	<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>
 <b>INTERSECTOR</b>	62.7% 4.18 M	43.9% 256.9 K	57.4% 306.0 K	70.3% 1.98 M	59.5% 264.6 K	64.0% 1.06 M	63.3% 126.8 K	49.4% 95.5 K	38.6% 87.5 K
 <b>EDUCATION</b>	9.4% 628.3 K	9.7% 56.9 K	3.2% 16.9 K	10.5% 294.6 K	18.0% 80.2 K	8.9% 148.8 K	8.3% 16.6 K	6.3% 12.2 K	0.9% 2.1 K
 <b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	41.9% 2.79 M	21.9% 128.0 K	33.5% 178.6 K	44.6% 1.26 M	27.1% 120.5 K	53.8% 894.0 K	43.2% 86.5 K	26.0% 50.3 K	34.1% 77.1 K
 <b>HEALTH</b>	52.8% 3.52 M	5.6% 32.7 K	45.6% 242.9 K	63.7% 1.79 M	58.0% 258.0 K	59.9% 996.5 K	27.6% 55.4 K	44.5% 86.0 K	22.7% 51.5 K
 <b>HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION</b>	31.4% 2.06 M	15.1% 88.3 K	4.8% 25.4 K	53.5% 1.51 M	10.8% 48.0 K	18.5% 307.8 K	23.3% 46.6 K	16.6% 14.5 K	9.9% 22.4 K
 <b>INTEGRATION</b>	61.4% 4.09 M	41.9% 245.3 K	57.4% 306.0 K	68.9% 1.94 M	59.5% 264.6 K	63.3% 1.05 M	59.3% 118.8 K	37.2% 72.1 K	38.4% 86.9 K
 <b>NUTRITION</b>	7.4% 492.6 K	11.1% 65.0 K	5.7% 30.6 K	5.4% 151.9 K	11.2% 49.8 K	9.9% 165.3 K	6.1% 12.2 K	5.7% 11.0 K	3.1% 6.9 K
 <b>PROTECTION</b>	54.4% 3.62 M	23.4% 136.8 K	57.4% 306.0 K	61.0% 1.72 M	58.9% 262.0 K	55.7% 925.6 K	61.4% 123.0 K	48.6% 94.1 K	25.5% 57.7 K
 <b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>	10.1% 672.7 K	4.0% 23.4 K	7.4% 39.5 K	10.8% 302.6 K	18.4% 81.6 K	11.2% 185.5 K	14.1% 28.2 K	4.6% 8.9 K	1.3% 3.0 K
 <b>GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)</b>	34.6% 2.30 M	19.8% 115.9 K	33.5% 178.7 K	44.9% 1.26 M	25.8% 114.8 K	30.1% 500.0 K	18.1% 36.3 K	28.6% 55.3 K	17.9% 40.5 K
 <b>HUMAN TRAFFICKING &amp; SMUGGLING</b>	25.7% 1.71 M	3.5% 20.5 K	36.7% 195.6 K	37.0% 1.04 M	10.6% 47.1 K	17.4% 289.2 K	31.7% 63.5 K	22.4% 43.3 K	6.6% 15.0 K
 <b>SHELTER</b>	57.3% 3.82 M	43.9% 256.9 K	55.6% 296.0 K	66.9% 1.88 M	58.9% 262.0 K	55.8% 927.8 K	33.4% 67.0 K	29.6% 57.3 K	30.6% 69.3 K
 <b>WASH</b>	38.2% 2.55 M	41.6% 243.7 K	32.8% 174.7 K	35.8% 1.01 M	41.3% 183.7 K	47.5% 790.0 K	31.7% 63.6 K	27.6% 53.4 K	12.9% 29.2 K

VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		REGIONAL	BRAZIL	COLOMBIA	ECUADOR	PERU	CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO	SOUTHERN CONE
	INTERSECTOR	88.4%	51.3%	92.9%	95.2%	90.7%	92.8%	66.0%
	EDUCATION	10.5%	11.5%	9.2%	15.0%	3.7%	11.7%	10.7%
	FOOD SECURITY	79.2%	46.0%	83.6%	90.2%	90.7%	77.9%	66.0%
	HEALTH	48.6%	30.8%	73.9%	46.4%	18.0%	41.9%	10.0%
	HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	57.8%	27.0%	92.0%	93.4%	57.1%	8.5%	45.0%
	INTEGRATION	57.4%	41.0%	44.1%	74.8%	13.3%	81.3%	55.0%
	NUTRITION	8.2%	12.9%	4.8%	19.4%	4.3%	5.7%	28.6%
	PROTECTION	71.0%	34.1%	84.6%	89.2%	26.0%	75.7%	58.0%
	CHILD PROTECTION	9.5%	8.2%	9.4%	27.5%	1.9%	6.4%	3.9%
	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	33.7%	34.1%	55.2%	24.3%	5.9%	24.7%	28.8%
	HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	45.1%	15.0%	41.2%	60.2%	26.0%	58.0%	34.0%
	SHELTER	76.3%	42.2%	88.1%	95.2%	42.2%	78.8%	59.0%
	WASH	68.6%	51.3%	87.9%	79.1%	62.2%	54.6%	48.0%

OTHER NATIONALITIES IN-TRANSIT	REGIONAL	COLOMBIA	ECUADOR	PERU	CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO		SOUTHERN CONE
					COSTA RICA	PANAMA	BOLIVIA
 INTERSECTOR	90.2%	92.7%	82.0%	90.7%	87.0%	95.0%	66.0%
 EDUCATION	7.6%	6.7%	8.4%	3.7%	13.7%	8.0%	7.9%
 FOOD SECURITY	77.8%	74.7%	77.2%	90.7%	74.0%	79.0%	66.0%
 HEALTH	50.6%	78.7%	32.0%	18.0%	36.0%	39.0%	10.0%
 HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	59.0%	92.7%	80.9%	57.1%	13.0%	4.0%	45.0%
 INTEGRATION	39.7%	28.7%	56.2%	13.3%	61.9%	64.0%	55.0%
 NUTRITION	5.1%	2.4%	9.1%	4.3%	8.0%	4.8%	23.7%
 PROTECTION	73.5%	90.7%	71.8%	26.0%	64.8%	88.0%	58.0%
 CHILD PROTECTION	6.1%	6.0%	8.9%	1.9%	11.0%	5.0%	2.9%
 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	37.0%	63.3%	19.9%	5.9%	25.0%	20.0%	24.6%
 HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	43.3%	41.3%	18.3%	26.0%	53.0%	73.0%	34.0%
 SHELTER	75.3%	83.3%	82.0%	42.3%	87.0%	75.0%	59.0%
 WASH	77.3%	90.0%	69.4%	62.2%	50.0%	95.0%	48.0%

AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES*	REGIONAL	BRAZIL	CHILE	COLOMBIA	ECUADOR	PERU	CARIBBEAN	CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO	SOUTHERN CONE
 INTERSECTOR	35.5%	46.2%	21.2%	13.1%	56.5%	50.5%	63.8%	49.2%	32.6%
 EDUCATION	2.2%	1.4%	2.5%	2.8%	5.5%	1.4%	9.8%	6.3%	0.8%
 FOOD SECURITY	27.1%	27.6%	3.2%	9.0%	14.2%	50.5%	47.1%	26.0%	11.1%
 HEALTH	20.3%	40.0%	5.5%	13.0%	21.8%	26.4%	32.4%	44.5%	24.0%
 HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	19.9%	36.7%	18.3%	7.0%	-	29.0%	22.7%	16.6%	24.9%
 INTEGRATION	20.0%	7.9%	20.8%	12.0%	55.0%	18.9%	59.0%	36.5%	32.3%
 NUTRITION	2.8%	0.8%	0.8%	4.0%	6.1%	2.8%	6.0%	5.6%	0.6%
 PROTECTION	18.4%	36.7%	21.2%	10.0%	49.8%	15.4%	61.1%	48.5%	20.2%
 CHILD PROTECTION	4.3%	16.9%	3.6%	1.1%	18.2%	3.0%	14.2%	4.5%	4.6%
 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	13.1%	18.0%	11.2%	8.0%	25.3%	15.4%	21.2%	28.9%	7.1%
 HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	7.2%	1.6%	-	2.0%	2.3%	14.5%	32.8%	21.9%	2.1%
 SHELTER	19.4%	34.5%	13.2%	11.0%	14.6%	26.0%	39.4%	28.6%	16.0%
 WASH	15.0%	38.5%	3.7%	11.0%	32.2%	17.3%	34.5%	27.1%	3.6%

\*This year, the people in need (PIN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PIN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

### REGIONAL CONTEXT & IMPACT ON REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Since its establishment in 2018, the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (also known as “R4V”) has led a regionally coherent and consistent response for refugees<sup>1</sup> and migrants and affected host communities across 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>2</sup> In 2024, these efforts bring together 248 partners - including UN agencies, funds and programmes; international and national NGOs; a broad spectrum of civil society and faith-based actors, including some 65 migrant- and refugee-led organizations and the Red Cross Movement; international financial and development institutions; and academia – to support host governments in meeting the needs of millions of refugees and migrants, largely from Venezuela, but increasingly also from other countries of origin,<sup>3</sup> through the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP).

Building on their continuous and close engagement with migrants, refugees and affected host communities, as well as trustful relationships with national authorities, the R4V partners have observed 2024 as being a year with relatively stable populations of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, with only very modest outflows from their country of origin,<sup>4</sup> with some 150,000 having left their country via Colombia, and some 92,000 via

Brazil between January to 2024. With the vast majority of the 6.67 million Venezuelans that live in Latin America and the Caribbean in August 2024<sup>5</sup> having spent a number of years in their respective host countries, the focus of the R4V response has been on supporting this population with their integration and inclusion into national contexts, including through enhanced support to host authorities in the development and implementation of asylum recognition and regularization efforts, and to migrants and refugees in accessing and learning about these efforts. These initiatives have been coupled with support to authorities and to refugees and migrants in enhancing access to employment, education, healthcare and other key services.

These efforts and notable achievements notwithstanding, the region is witness to unprecedented mixed and onward movements of millions of migrants and refugees, from a broad range of nationalities, who have either been newly uprooted due to violence, discrimination and poverty, or who have been unable to benefit from regularization procedures and/or access to asylum, integration or have experienced obstacles to settle in a previous host country. By end-2023, more than 520,000 had irregularly crossed the treacherous Darien jungle,<sup>6</sup> marking the border between Colombia and Panama. This was more than twice the number of people having irregularly crossed in 2022,<sup>7</sup> and plenty times more than in pre-pandemic years (ranging from

[1] For the purposes of this document and all R4V materials, unless otherwise stated, any reference to “refugees” shall be considered to include asylum-seekers.

[2] The R4V response covers the countries of Argentina, Aruba, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

[3] Since 2023, the R4V response has included all nationals engaging in onward and transit movements in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, and since 2024, they have also been included in Bolivia.

[4] For information relating to the impact of the presidential elections in Venezuela on refugees and migrants in the region, please see the corresponding R4V, Special Situation Report, issued on 7 August 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/sitrep-electionsvzla>

[5] All population statistics used by the R4V Platform reflect official figures issued by the respective host governments. Their use and publishing for R4V products is closely coordinated with relevant government statistical offices and/or other national government departments responsible for management of migrant and refugee statistics. R4V Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, “Refugees and Migrants,” accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrants>.

[6] Servicio Nacional de Migración, Panama, Annual Statistics of Irregular Transit through the Darien, 2023, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.migracion.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/IRREGULARES-X-DARIEN-2023.pdf>.

[7] Servicio Nacional de Migración, Panama, Annual Statistics of Irregular Transit through the Darien, 2022, accessed August 18, 2024, [https://www.migracion.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/IRREGULARES\\_POR\\_DARIEN\\_DICIEMBRE\\_2022.pdf](https://www.migracion.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/IRREGULARES_POR_DARIEN_DICIEMBRE_2022.pdf).



559 in 2010, to 22,102 in 2019).<sup>8</sup> While at significantly lower levels, onward and transit movements have also characterized movements in Southern American countries, including at the trinational border area between Bolivia, Chile and Peru, where thousands have crossed the high-altitude ranges of the Andes,<sup>9</sup> in search of protection and economic livelihoods that could not be found elsewhere.

To portray an accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive picture of the situation and needs of these migrants and refugees – in-destination as well as of those engaging in onward and transit movements – this third Regional Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA) brings together the efforts of host governments' and R4V response partners coordinated, complementary and exhaustive data collection, assessments and analysis.<sup>10</sup>

The breadth needs, as outlined in this report, stand in contrast to the capacities of governments and partners to maintain levels of support, demonstrated over the past six years. While the response infrastructure has been adapted over the years to adjust to the shifting operational realities - from an initial humanitarian orientation to a more resilience and integration-based one -, recent developments in various countries have required governments and partners to strengthen capacities to respond to immediate humanitarian assistance for new outflows from Venezuela and those engaging in onward and transit movements, while also maintaining a priority focus on solutions for a resilient socio-economic integration wherever possible. This dual focus aims at providing aid and assistance that is fit for purpose and that offers solutions at all stages of refugees' and migrants' movements (also known as "hemispheric approach"). However, in 2024 these enhanced support and assistance efforts by governments and R4V partners have not been met by the necessary levels of international solidarity and support that were witnessed in earlier years. The 248

partners of the R4V response have, instead, been severely impacted by widespread funding shortages. With a mere 13.3 per cent of the needed USD 1.59 billion reported by mid-August,<sup>11</sup> some partners have had to close their operations, while others needed to recalibrate and reduce their activities, all resulting in a significantly smaller impact of the R4V response, reaching less than half of the migrants and refugees assisted at a comparable time in 2023.<sup>12</sup>

Against this background, the identified needs of refugees and migrants reflect both the reduced ability of the entire response community to assist, protect and integrate them, while highlighting priority areas (thematically and geographically) for a more accurate and targeted response planning for the next RMRP 2025-2026.

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Amidst an environment marked by political transitions, widespread violence, and unmatched diversity, Latin American and Caribbean states have demonstrated modest resilience and agility, rebounding slowly from global challenges, notably the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic impact stemming from conflicts in other parts of the world. Two years after the pandemic, the regional economic growth is between 1.6 and 2 per cent,<sup>13</sup> well behind other regions of the world.<sup>14</sup> According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the modest outlook is largely owed to a weaker external environment (including reduced demand for imports from Latin America), the weakness in internal demand, and the continued impact of national public policies that aimed to curb pandemic-era inflationary developments.<sup>15</sup> The lingering impact of previous years' extraordinary inflation and subsequent rise in cost of living is reflected in higher rents, costs of food and other expenditures of daily life, including transportation, sanitation and hygiene supplies, and education materials - all identified in the R4V Platforms'

[8] Servicio Nacional de Migración, Panama, *Annual Statistics of Irregular Transit 2010-2019*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.migracion.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/IRREGULARES-2010-2019-actualizado.pdf>.

[9] See hereto the quarterly *Movements Reports* issued by the R4V Platform: <https://www.r4v.info/en/movementsreport>

[10] Information on the methodology and scope of this RMNA is provided in the below section on "Data Sources and Methodology".

[11] R4V Interagency Coordination Platform, "Funding," accessed 4 September 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/funding>.

[12] By end-June 2024, some 890,100 migrants and refugees (out of a target of 2.93 million) were reached with some assistance under the RMRP. R4V Interagency Coordination Platform, "Monitoring," accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/monitoring>.

[13] These values do not consider the situations in Argentina and Venezuela.

[14] International Monetary Fund, *Regional Economic Outlook for the Western Hemisphere*, April 2024, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/WH/Issues/2024/04/19/regional-economic-outlook-western-hemisphere-april-2024>. World Bank, "State of the Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean," accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/lac/overview>.

[15] *Ibid.* William Maloney et al., *Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Review*, April 2024 - Competition: The Missing Ingredient for Growth? (Washington, DC: World Bank, April 2024), <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/41230>.

Joint Needs Assessments (JNAs) as heavily impacting the ability of refugees and migrants to make ends meet. With very few exceptions (notably Argentina and Venezuela), the countries in the region have seen reduced **inflationary pressures** throughout the past 12 months, receding to a regional inflation of 3.5 per cent (April 2024),<sup>16</sup> and they are anticipated to continue reducing as governments' monetary policies ease, global costs for fuel and agricultural goods reduce, and previous years' supply chain disruptions subside. This has translated in most countries seeing declining interest rates (well below those of OECD countries), permitting for further economic growth.

While levels of **employment** across the region have largely returned to pre-pandemic levels, real wages have failed to follow a similar recovery, often still below 2019 levels. This is particularly the case for earnings of less educated workers and elderly workers. These categories are also found not to have regained pre-pandemic employment levels, notably due to an inability to find jobs and the exit of demographic groups from the labour market.<sup>17</sup>

**Risk factors** affecting the regions socio-economic developments are manifold, ranging from rising levels of violence and social unrest to the impact of demographic change, to the ever more present impact of climate change and environmental degradation.

In a region characterized by high levels of **violence**, it is positive to note events of **social unrest** being on the decline, with 2023 recording the lowest level of such events since 2018.<sup>18</sup> In this same line, it is assessed that the presidential elections taking place this year in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay are likely to be peaceful in 2024. That notwithstanding, as evidenced by the uprooting of

refugees and migrants from Venezuela, Ecuador and parts of Colombia, the region remains the most violent, and the only one where violence continues to increase overall.<sup>19</sup>

The past 12 months witnessed no shortage of **environmental** disasters in the region. Wildfires rampaged across the Colombian capital of Bogotá and the Chilean seaside city of Valparaíso, claiming hundreds of lives and destroying thousands of homes, including of Venezuelan refugees and migrants; landslides and floods ravaged Ecuador, Peru, and most recently the southern Brazilian region of Rio Grande do Sul, affecting the situation of some 43,000 migrants and refugees. According to the World Bank, some 17 million people could be driven from their homes as a result of such events by 2025, and almost six million alone in the Latin American and Caribbean region driven into extreme poverty by 2030 due to a projected lack of potable water and increased exposure to excessive heat and flooding.<sup>20</sup> While adequate public policies to mitigate against the effects of known climatic phenomena (for example the El Niño weather phenomenon), let alone future unknown ones, positive developments in the region's decarbonization and use of green energies underscore its potential in developing a less dependent energy sector, in support of greater ecological sustainability.<sup>21</sup>

Finally, as a World Bank report shows, the Latin America and the Caribbean region is also experiencing challenges previously predominantly identified in Europe and Asia – **demographic change**. This comes as a result of rapidly declining fertility rates, coupled with increasing life expectancy, impacting the region's dependency ratio (the share of non-working-age population relative to the working-age population), projected to reach a minimum in 2027.<sup>22</sup> While this

[16] William Maloney et al., *Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Review, April 2024 - Competition: The Missing Ingredient for Growth?* (Washington, DC: World Bank, April 2024), <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/41230>.

[17] *Ibid.*

[18] Allianz Research, *Latin America: Shall we dance? What's the outlook for Latin American economies?*, 17 April 2024, [https://www.allianz.com/en/economic\\_research/insights/publications/specials\\_fmo/2024\\_04\\_17\\_latina-america.html](https://www.allianz.com/en/economic_research/insights/publications/specials_fmo/2024_04_17_latina-america.html).

[19] William Maloney et al., *Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Review, April 2024 - Competition: The Missing Ingredient for Growth?* (Washington, DC: World Bank, April 2024), <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/41230>.

[20] World Bank, "State of the Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean," accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/lac/overview>.

[21] According to the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), the region has the cleanest electric grid in the world, with Uruguay and Paraguay, maintaining almost 100% green electric matrices, Brazil's being 85% green, making the region attractive for energy-intensive industrial investments. CAF Development Bank of Latin America, "What to Expect from Latin America and the Caribbean in 2024?" (January 11, 2024), <https://www.caf.com/en/knowledge/views/2024/01/what-to-expect-from-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-2024/>.

[22] William Maloney et al., *Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Review, April 2024 - Competition: The Missing Ingredient for Growth?* (Washington, DC: World Bank, April 2024), <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/41230>.

demographic change is considered unavoidable, a region of 670 million people with abundant natural resources, active economic reform discussions, and increasing levels of innovation, is well-placed to overcome human capital challenges, *inter alia*, by drawing on its broad ethnic, racial and cultural diversity, and the opportunities arising from the movements and arrival of millions of skilled refugees and migrants.<sup>23</sup> These can be considered a major asset in achieving economic and political stability and helping to overcome historically rooted exclusionary practices that have created one of the regions with the highest levels of inequality between the rich and the poor.<sup>24</sup>

## MOVEMENTS DYNAMICS

Over the course of the past year, movement dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, and increasingly also from other countries of origin, were largely motivated by their desire to identify and settle in a country that would permit them to obtain a regular status and allow for their socio-economic integration. Owing to lack of integration opportunities, violence and persecution alongside those seeking to escape poverty, food insecurity, and the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, among others, hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees whose desires for a stable future in a host country were frustrated, engaged in new or successive movements. Some 150,000 Venezuelans were observed having left their country via Colombia, and some 92,000 via Brazil, between January to July 2024, while many Ecuadorians, impacted by increasing unrest and violence in their country, also sought safety and economic opportunities elsewhere.

While not a new phenomenon to the region, the scale at which these onward and mixed movements were observed since the second semester of 2023 was unprecedented and for many also unexpected; often

overwhelming the capacities of states and response partners. Undertaking dangerous journeys through Central America and Mexico, the vast majority intended to reach the United States of America, while many also considered Mexico as a viable alternative destination. In this context, new records were set in the number of irregular border crossings throughout the Central American sub-region. According to data by the Panamanian National Migration Service (SNM, for its Spanish acronym), by end-2023, over 520,000 people had crossed into Panama irregularly through the Darien jungle, including 328,650 Venezuelans (63%), 57,250 Ecuadorians (11%), 46,422 Haitians (9%) and 25,565 Chinese (5%),<sup>25</sup> more than doubling the number of total crossings reported in 2022 (248,284).<sup>26</sup> With a view to circumvent the perilous route via the Darien, these northbound movements included also new routes explored by refugees and migrants, including by boat from Colombia, via the San Andres Islands directly to Nicaragua,<sup>27</sup> and, more recently, partners have reported migrants and refugees taking flights from various South American states to Nicaragua and El Salvador, where for many the entry and visa requirements are easier to meet.

The first semester of 2024 saw a continuation of these movement trends, maintaining and at times exceeding 2023 levels of refugees and migrants engaging in these northbound movements in search of better opportunities and safety. Misinformation about potential access to the United States and perceived economic opportunities there further amplified these movements, driven by economic interests of human trafficking networks and criminal gangs operating across the region, benefitting from the desperation of migrants and refugees.

Unable to reasonably manage these high levels of arrivals of refugees and migrants,<sup>28</sup> in June 2024, the United States introduced new measures under Title

[23] International Monetary Fund (IMF), *Regional Spillovers from the Venezuelan Crisis: Migration Flows and Their Impact on Latin America and the Caribbean* (December 2022), <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-Papers/Issues/2022/12/01/Regional-Spillovers-from-the-Venezuelan-Crisis-Migration-Flows-and-Their-Impact-on-Latin-525729>.

[24] Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), *Social Inclusion and Economic Development in Latin America* (January 2024), <http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0012583>.

[25] Servicio Nacional de Migración, Panama, *Annual Statistics* (2023), <https://www.migracion.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/IRREGULARES-X-DARIEN-2023.pdf>.

[26] *Ibid.*

[27] R4V, "Movement Report," accessed August 19, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/movementsreport>.

[28] As of end-May, according to Mexico's National Migration Institute, 1.39 million foreigners were identified transiting through the country irregularly since the beginning of the year. <https://www.gob.mx/inm/prensa/en-los-primeros-cinco-meses-del-ano-el-inm-identifico-a-1-millon-393-mil-683-personas-extranjeras-que-viajaban-en-condicion-irregular>

8 processing to suspend irregular entry at the U.S.-Mexico southern border when daily encounters rise to 2,500 or more for seven consecutive days, reserving the right to deport those who enter irregularly, among other measures.<sup>29</sup> With migrants and refugees required to use regular pathways (i.e. the CBP One app), and facing waiting times of up to nine months,<sup>30</sup> many still resorted to irregular border crossings. Since the introduction of these new measures, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has recorded a 25 per cent reduction in encounters, compared to the month before these measure's introduction (130,419 in June vs 170,715 in May), and a 27 per cent decrease specifically for Venezuelan encounters (12,558 vs 17,140).

Also in Panama, new measures took hold in July, pursuant to which irregular entries through the Darien gap have been more closely managed by the new Panamanian government,<sup>31</sup> including through the closure of some of the irregular routes in the Darien jungle and the deployment of officials of the National Border Service (Senafrent) to curb the activities of smuggling and trafficking gangs, leading to a reduction in movements through this jungle by some 30 per cent.<sup>32</sup>

Against this background, the trend of northward movements that impacted the region since the end of pandemic-related movement restrictions, has notably declined. Similarly, by June 2024, onward and transit movements of refugees and migrants in South America largely reduced, at times by 30 per cent.<sup>33</sup>

## RETURN MOVEMENTS

Throughout the first half of 2024, return intentions among Venezuelan refugees and migrants were generally low. Approximately 4 – 4.6 per cent of those *in-destination* in Brazil and Colombia, respectively, considered a return option, while among those already *engaging in transit or onward movements*, some 10 percent were returning to Venezuela, and 31 per cent were considering returning to Venezuela within three months of being surveyed. According to R4V partner surveys, return considerations were motivated by family reunification, a lack of viable economic opportunities and the costs of living in host countries, need to access civil documentation, and the desire to participate in the 28 July elections.<sup>34</sup> While no official figures of returns to Venezuela have been reported by the government, in the first half of 2024, through spontaneous and, at times, host-country-supported initiatives, some Venezuelans were observed returning to their home country. In line with the above findings, it is understood that the majority of these individual spontaneous return movements were of exploratory and pendular nature.<sup>35</sup>

In view of the evolving situation in Venezuela following the contested presidential elections of 28 July 2024, this trend of individual incipient return movements has come to a halt, with those considering returning across the region having reportedly resorted to a “wait and see” position.<sup>36</sup>

[29] According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, “Since the Presidential Proclamation and Interim Final Rule went into effect on June 5, DHS has removed or returned more than 70,000 individuals to more than 170 countries, including by operating more than 150 international repatriation flights.” CBP Releases June 2024 Monthly Update. (15 July 2024) <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-june-2024-monthly-update> For further information on the new measure, see <https://www.dhs.gov/immigrationlaws>.

[30] El País, “The Dangers of CBP One, the App to Request Asylum at the US-Mexico Border: Extortion, Kidnappings and Months-Long Waits,” (July 14, 2024), <https://english.elpais.com/usa/2024-07-14/the-dangers-of-cbp-one-the-app-to-request-asylum-at-the-us-mexico-border-extorsion-kidnappings-and-months-long-waits.htm>.

[31] Mulino promete frenar ruta del Darién a migrantes,” CNN Español, 15 May, 2024, <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2024/05/15/mulino-promete-frenar-ruta-darien-migrantes-orix/>; and “Panamá no puede seguir cargando el problema migratorio, dijo Mulino en Darién,” La Estrella de Panamá, 15 May, 2024, <https://www.laestrella.com.pa/panama/nacional/panama-no-puede-seguir-cargando-el-problema-migratorio-dijo-mulino-en-darien-FL7814766>.

[32] Panamá y Estados Unidos ponen en ejecución programa de deportación para combatir la migración ilegal, Gobierno Nacional de Panamá, 20 August 2024, <https://www.presidencia.gob.pa/publicacion/panama-y-estados-unidos-ponen-en-ejecucion-programa-de-deportacion-para-combatir-la-migracion-ilegal>

[33] Entries and exits of refugees and migrants to/from Peru were 30% lower in the second quarter of 2024 than during the previous year. R4V Movements report for the second quarter of 2024, August 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/movementsreport>.

[34] R4V, Regional Scenario and Planning Workshop, 11 June 2024.

[35] According to the above-referenced partner surveys, 18% of those engaging in return movements from Brazil, 18% intended such returns to be permanent. Among those already engaging in a return movement from Colombia, 81% intended it to be a permanent return.

[36] R4V, Special Situation Report: Impact of the Elections in Venezuela on Refugees and Migrants, 5 August, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/sitrep-electionsvzla>.

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## SCOPE OF ANALYSIS

Needs analyses are a key component of humanitarian and resilience-oriented programming cycles as they foster evidence-based planning and inform response actors, host governments and donors about the magnitude of the required response as well as the nature of the primary needs faced by the population. In the context of the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), these needs are assessed for every population group across all Platforms and response sectors. This assessment provides insights into the varied challenges faced by refugees and migrants and their host communities.

As in last year's RMNA, the current analysis was conducted based on a joint, inter-sectoral and inclusive approach, in which R4V actors (including UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, civil society, academia and faith-based organizations) taking part in the different sectors and working groups, at national and regional level, engaged in joint needs assessments (JNA) and secondary data reviews (SDR), providing their individual expertise and utilizing their outreach networks. This approach results in a comprehensive and holistic understanding of cross-sectoral dynamics between needs and their root causes that inform a tailored and targeted response planning, as part of the RMRP 2025-2026. Furthermore, at a time where the mobilization of financial resources for humanitarian and resilience-oriented responses has become highly competitive, the RMNA offers a unique strategic regional overview, enabling host authorities and R4V actors to showcase their areas of strategic impact.

This year's RMNA shows the results of an enhanced regionally harmonized and coordinated needs analysis framework. Throughout 2023, harmonized indicators and questions were developed using an active and consultative process for estimating needs, based on identified thresholds for JNAs, oriented to people in-destination and to those engaging in onward and transit movements. This process involved the 12 regional

thematic sector groups of the R4V response, who developed and reviewed the questions and indicators jointly with experts in information management from the operational national, sub-regional, and regional coordination Platforms, as well as national sectoral experts.

Throughout the first semester of 2024, the resulting harmonized framework of indicators, questions and thresholds to identify the main needs of in-destination and in-transit migrants and refugees (available in this [catalogue](#)<sup>37</sup>), were implemented through primary data collection exercises in 15 out of the 17 R4V response countries for in-destination population and in 2 countries for in-transit populations (Colombia and Ecuador). Additionally, these indicators and questions were crucial for identifying secondary sources or proxy indicators to estimate the Population in Need (PiN) in all countries where no JNA could be conducted.

Following the data collection phase, the national information management teams focused their efforts on data cleaning, calculation of the "people in need" (PiN), and the ensuing needs analysis processes, jointly with national authorities and response partners. For this, the Regional Platform developed guidance (available [here](#)<sup>38</sup>), which includes an innovative approach to leverage the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) developed by Alkire and Foster (2007)<sup>39</sup> adapted for the PiN calculation to account for the simultaneous nature in which humanitarian and development needs affect refugees and migrants.

This methodology considers deprivations experienced by household and travel group members without restrictions on the indicators and corresponding thresholds used (which were developed by regional thematic experts for PiN calculation purposes), thus better capturing the experienced reality and context of affected populations in each sector, as well as its intersectionality. More information on the adapted

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[37] *Catalogo JNA R4V*, accessed 16 August 2024, [https://rstudio.unhcr.org/Catalogo\\_JNA\\_R4V/](https://rstudio.unhcr.org/Catalogo_JNA_R4V/).

[38] *R4V Platform, RMNA 2024 Planning Instructions*, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/rmna-2024-planning-instructions>.

[39] Alkire, S. and Foster, J. (2007). 'Counting and Multidimensional Poverty Measurement'. OPHI Working Paper 7, Oxford University. [https://ophi.org.uk/sites/default/files/ophi-wp7\\_vs2.pdf](https://ophi.org.uk/sites/default/files/ophi-wp7_vs2.pdf)

methodology is available in this short [video](#).<sup>40</sup> The MPI methodology and guidelines were closely followed in 10 out of the 17 R4V countries<sup>41</sup> to estimate the headcount ratio of people considered to be multidimensionally poor, as a proxy of people in need from an intersectoral perspective.

The outcome of the JNA exercises and resulting PiN calculations are shown in this RMNA, providing detailed and comparable data (by region and time), with disaggregated data for 12 thematic sectors across the region.

### Analyzing the intersectoral PiN based on the MPI methodology

The following graphs summarize the main results obtained from the application of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) methodology for the calculation of the intersectoral People in Need (PiN) of in-destination Venezuelan households in various countries. This methodology assesses deprivation across several dimensions, categorizing households into four groups: "No PiN" (no significant deprivation), "Low PiN," "Medium PiN," and "High PiN." A household falls into the PiN (multidimensionally poor) categories if more than 33.3 per cent of its needs are unmet across multiple dimensions. The distribution of populations across these categories varies by country, reflecting different levels of hardship faced by Venezuelans in each location.

The graphs illustrate how some countries have a higher proportion of people in the "High PiN" category, indicating greater levels of deprivation and potentially a more severe need for humanitarian and integration assistance, while others have more people in the "No PiN" category, indicating relatively better conditions. This approach helps to identify where the need is greatest and where resources should be focused.

Analysis of data from the countries following the global MPI methodological standards show some striking differences. In Paraguay and Uruguay, most people— 62

per cent and 74 per cent respectively — fall into the "No PiN" category, meaning they experience relatively low levels of deprivation. On the other hand, countries like Colombia and Peru paint a different picture, with 24 per cent and 13 per cent of their respective population in the "High PiN" category. Then there are countries like Costa Rica where there is a consistent distribution pattern across the low, medium, and high categories. However, they also have a notable share of their population in the "High PiN" group, suggesting that these areas might require more focused efforts to address the needs of those who are struggling the most.

### DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

The overall approach used for this RMNA follows the same steps recommended by the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF).<sup>42</sup> This framework, originally designed to assist country teams in conducting intersectoral analysis when preparing Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and subsequent Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) in contexts of internal displacement, is based on five key steps for undertaking a joint multi-stakeholder analysis process: (1) plan and design a joint intersectoral analysis process; (2) collate and collect data; (3) consolidate data; (4) conduct analysis; and (5) validate the analysis. Additionally, where applicable, SPHERE standards<sup>43</sup> were used as a baseline for determining people's needs and deprivations, such as in the case of WASH and Shelter. Furthermore, the construction of indicators reflecting the level of local integration of the people in host countries was also used as a foundation of the analytical framework. This aims to provide a more comprehensive analysis in the RMNA by assessing transformable needs that can later be compared with response efforts of R4V partners.

As in previous years, for this RMNA R4V Platforms conducted a Secondary Data Review (SDR), leveraging data provided by national statistical institutes and other official sources, as well as quantitative and

[40] R4V Platform, "R4V Presents the New Methodology for the PiN Calculation!" YouTube video, 1:33:07, posted July 19, 2024, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcKFJpa9m\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcKFJpa9m_c).

R4V Platform, "¡R4V presenta la nueva metodología para calcular el PiN!" YouTube video, 1:33:07, posted July 18, 2024, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVU8f5bS2\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVU8f5bS2_c).

[41] The Platforms that applied the MPI adapted methodology were: Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Central America and Mexico (in Costa Rica and Panama), Southern Cone (in Paraguay and Uruguay), and Caribbean (in Curaçao and Trinidad and Tobago).

[42] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) 1.1 for the Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2022, May 2021, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/04-joint-intersectoral-analysis-framework-11-humanitarian-programme-cycle-2022-may-2021>.

[43] Sphere Association, The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://handbook.spherestandards.org/>.

qualitative data shared by partners and stakeholders. However, in some cases, this data was not sufficiently recent or did not meet the levels of specificity and disaggregation required<sup>44</sup> to estimate the needs of migrants and refugees across each of the nine sector and three sub-sectors, resulting in partial information gaps. Some of these gaps were sector-specific, such

as in the case of Argentina and Guyana, while others related to cross-cutting themes such as gender, age and/or geographical administrative levels. Additionally, in some cases, the methodology of the studies identified through the SDR was not robust enough to draw conclusions regarding the needs of refugees and migrants in the region.

### INTERSECTORAL PIN DISTRIBUTION USING THE MPI METHODOLOGY

(Calculated for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination in selected countries)



[44] More information on the established criteria to use SDR for PIN calculation is available on page 10 of the RMNA 2024 Planning Instructions, R4V, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/rmna-2024-planning-instructions>.

To address these information gaps and enhance regional comparability for Venezuelan migrants and refugees in-destination, virtually all countries conducted R4V-led inter-agency surveys (JNAs), through the following modalities:

- **In-person:** Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama.
- **Remote** (including regular phone calls or video calls): Argentina, Aruba, Brazil, Curaçao, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago.

- **Hybrid:** Chile, Costa Rica, Guyana, Uruguay.

In total there were over 14,000 completed and effective household surveys conducted with refugee and migrant households in-destination, representing over 41,500 individuals. Over two thirds of the surveys were done in the Andean Corridor countries, i.e. in Colombia (36 per cent), Ecuador (22 per cent) and Peru (11 per cent).

More information on the results from these primary data collection exercises is included in the corresponding R4V Platform chapters hereunder.

## TYPE AND MODALITY OF DATA COLLECTION USED FOR THE IN-DESTINATION PiN COUNTRY CALCULATIONS





Although the JNA was the main data source used for PiN calculation purposes for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination (11 countries relied exclusively on it and 4 used it partially, as shown in the map above), other data sources were leveraged to conduct needs analysis for this population type, as well as to conduct the analysis and estimate the PiN figures for other population types, including for migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements and affected host communities.<sup>45</sup>

This year for the first time, the following (cumulative) criteria were established for the use of secondary data sources in the calculation of PiN figures:

- Reliability.
- Ability to disaggregate data for the required population groups.
- Publicly available and accessible for joint consultation.
- Relevance and timeliness of data to reflect on the actual needs in 2024.
- Information to be responsive to the RMNA's analytical framework (especially its indicators).

More details on the criteria, are available in section 6 of [Annex 1](#) of the [RMNA planning instructions](#).

These sources were broad, ranging from reports produced by the humanitarian sector, academia, local and international NGOs, to statistics provided by authorities and national census and statistical institutes. Reports by academia on refugees and migrants in the region contribute to the overall knowledge base on the topic and are used frequently by technical state institutions to support policy, planning and operational efforts. Those reports are particularly important to analyze the needs in sectors where household or individual interviews conducted by phone or in public cannot collect sensitive information, particularly on issues related to gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking and smuggling, and child protection. The

sources used for the PiN calculations<sup>46</sup> for all population types are consolidated and available for download in [R4V's HDX site](#).

## PEOPLE IN-NEED CALCULATIONS

People in Need (PiN) is a concept that refers to those whose wellbeing and dignified living standards are threatened or disrupted, and who cannot re-establish minimal and dignified living conditions without additional assistance. More specifically, people in need are those who suffer the consequences of a given crisis, natural or man-made, identified during the joint inter-sectoral analysis.

The inter-sectoral PiN corresponds to the total number of people in need per country or region. Conducting a full JNA survey with micro-level data, including all thematic sectors allows for a precise estimation of this figure, ensuring that individuals are counted only once. This year, the intersectoral PiN calculation for the countries that conducted a full JNA survey was obtained through a methodology based on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), allowing for an analysis of needs of households and travel groups simultaneously, and to gain a deeper understanding of people's needs within their households and travel groups.

However, where more than one data source is used, such as in the case of affected host communities, approximations to calculate the inter-sectoral PiN need to rely on strategies to reduce the risk of double-counting (since a person can be in need in multiple sectors). In those cases, the inter-sectoral PiN corresponds to the sector with the maximum number of persons in-need within a specific territorial area, also known as the mosaic method.

Both the sectoral and the inter-sectoral PiN calculations underpinning this RMNA for Venezuelans in-destination and for migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements rely on a harmonized set of indicators, questions, and thresholds to estimate the magnitude and nature of their main needs. In this regard, the figures below summarize this year's analytical framework. However, RMNA analysis goes beyond the themes shown in this framework, incorporating additional data for a deeper quantitative and qualitative understanding of the humanitarian and development challenges faced by refugees and migrants and their host communities, including risks and barriers regularly faced.

[45] The full definitions for these types are available in the "Definition of Population Types" section below.

[46] R4V Platform, Humanitarian Data Exchange, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://data.humdata.org/organization/r4v>.

## ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR IN-DESTINATION PEOPLE IN NEED



To see the core list of the indicators and questions recommended for each thematic area, please consult this [link](#). You can also access and download all related information (including deprivation thresholds and suggested questions) through this [catalogue](#).

## ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR PEOPLE ENGAGING IN ONWARD AND IN TRANSIT MOVEMENTS IN NEED



To see the core list of the indicators and questions recommended for each thematic area, please consult this [link](#). You can also access and download all related information (including deprivation thresholds and suggested questions) through this [catalogue](#).

## DATA LIMITATIONS

Prior to the current harmonization strategy, data comparability between countries and sectors was limited because each National Platform selected data sources, applying individual and distinct indicators and methodologies for calculating the sectors' PiNs. This challenge was overcome this year for in-destination populations, and partially for those engaging in onward and transit movements – as only two countries conducted a full Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for this latter population type, while others relied on proxy indicators aligned with the harmonized ones. This significant methodological improvement introduced a new challenge: the resulting new and regionally comparable PiN figures and underlying indicators are not always comparable to those from previous years. This issue should not persist in future years, as the analytical framework and related PiN methodology are solidified.

The JNA surveys conducted this year faced three main limitations:

- First, the sampling method varied significantly from country to country. In some cases, it was highly robust and statistically representative of the entire refugee and migrant population, as in Ecuador. In other cases, sampling frames were directly obtained from beneficiary databases or relied on partners' dissemination strategies, leading to selection bias due to their focus on populations that are regularly assisted by humanitarian and development organizations, which tend to have a specific vulnerability profile. Another sampling challenge was that, in some countries, it was not feasible to meet the required quotas for specific gender and age groups. This issue particularly affected sectors focusing their efforts on specific groups, such as Nutrition and Child Protection.
- The second main limitation is related to the survey modality. Although the JNA questionnaire was designed for a presential modality, only four countries conducted in-person surveys, while others had to rely on telephone or hybrid surveys. In-person surveys help verify observable variables that cannot be assessed using remote methods. Additionally, conducting surveys by phone can make it challenging to ensure that respondents fully understand the questions, requiring tailored adaptations to the questionnaires. On the other hand, in-person surveys are sometimes conducted in public spaces which can limit the ability to discuss sensitive topics, and even when

conducted in private spaces, the presence of other household members in the same place can pose an important challenge.

- The questionnaire for both population types was extensive, taking 40 to 60 minutes for in-destination populations and up to 40 minutes for people engaging in onward and transit movements. This length significantly affected the response and completion rates, leading some Platforms to recur to selection strategies of household members to shorten the survey and focus on specific profiles. Anticipating this duration challenge, during the questionnaire's design stage, all sectors were asked to keep their questions to a minimum. However, some sectors, flagged that this limitation hindered their ability to fully capture the magnitude of needs.

Finally, in the case of the countries that relied on SDR or hybrid strategies to estimate the PiN, one of the main limitations, in addition to comparability with the other countries, is that the intersectoral PiN tends to be underestimated due to the use of strategies to avoid double counting of individuals, such as the aforementioned mosaic method. Additionally, in the case of secondary data on people engaging in onward and transit movements, the lack of breakdown by nationality, limits comparisons between Venezuelan nationals and people of other nationalities, despite the quality of the sampling, geographic coverage and pertinence of those.

## DEFINITION OF POPULATION TYPES :

The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) monitors different population movement dynamics that have evolved over the past years, in multiple directions, such as outflows from Venezuela, southward and northward movements (including primary and secondary movements), Venezuelan return movements, as well as all other nationals engaging in onward and transit movements (since the RMRP 2023-2024). Against this background, both the RMNA and RMRP consider the following five population types:

- **In-destination:** Venezuelans who have left their usual place of residence with the intention to remain in a host country.

*NOTE: This includes individuals who have just arrived at the territory and are intending to stay in the medium to long term, including newly arrived individuals seeking asylum or looking to regularize their status in the host country.*

- **People engaging in onward and transit movements (Venezuelans and other nationals<sup>47</sup>):**

As migrants and refugees cross an international border, they engage in transit and onward movements. This may involve three scenarios:

**1. Initial departure** from the country of origin (e.g. moving from Venezuela to Brazil).

**2. Transit movements:** Refugees and migrants can engage in transit movements in order to cross one or more host countries before arriving at the country of destination (e.g. as they transit from Brazil, via Argentina, to Chile).

**3. Onward movements:** Migrants and refugees can engage in onward movements, when relocating directly from one host country to another host country (e.g. from Chile to Peru).

- **Pendular movements:** temporary and usually repeated population movements, which may represent a movement pattern between Venezuela and a neighbouring country. **NOTE: This population type only applies to neighbouring countries with Venezuela.**
- **Colombian returnees:** individuals who were refugees or migrants in Venezuela and left Venezuela in order to return to their country of origin (another country other than Venezuela). This does not include Venezuelan refugees and migrants returning to Venezuela.
- **Affected Host Community:** Local population affected by the arrival and presence of migrants and refugees.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISAGGREGATION

Since 2021, the population figures that support the RMRP and the associated response are developed and monitored at the primary administrative level (state/province/department/region). This level of detail, as applied to the current RMNA,<sup>48</sup> ensure a response tailored to the nuances of each context, while allowing for detailed planning, avoiding response overlaps, and concentrating the response's focus and corresponding monitoring of needs.

## DATA TRANSPARENCY

Data transparency efforts reflect R4V's commitment and accountability towards affected populations, host governments and the donor community, through a constant and open communication of all available data. This data, based on inputs received and/or validated by host authorities (on official population statistics), R4V partners (on activities, people reached, and funds received), donors (on funds committed) and the R4V National, Sub-regional and Regional Platforms (on underlying population projections, PiNs, targets and monitoring indicators), is leveraged to inform decision-making processes, communicate accurately, implement and monitor response efforts in an efficient manner, while addressing any existing response gaps in a rapid and effective manner.

All data relating to the RMNA, including data on PiN figures and their underlying indicators is publicly available on [r4v.info](https://r4v.info), as well as the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) R4V web page.<sup>49</sup>

[47] Where applicable.

[48] With the exception of the countries covered under the Sub-regional Platforms of the Caribbean and Central America and Mexico (CAM), which are only required to report the figures at the country level.

[49] R4V Platform, Humanitarian Data Exchange, accessed 16 August, 2024, <https://data.humdata.org/organization/r4v>.

## POPULATION TYPES ANALYZED BY COUNTRY AND PLATFORM

PLATFORM /COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)					
	IN-DESTINATION	VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT	OTHERS IN-TRANSIT	AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES	PENDULAR	COLOMBIAN RETURNEES
BRAZIL	X	X		X		
CHILE	X			X		
COLOMBIA	X	X	X	X	X	X
ECUADOR	X	X	X	X		
PERU	X	X	X	X		
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	.....					
ARUBA	X			X		
CURAÇAO	X			X		
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	X			X		
GUYANA	X			X		
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	X			X		
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	.....					
COSTA RICA	X	X	X	X		
MEXICO	X	X		X		
PANAMA	X	X	X	X		
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	.....					
ARGENTINA	X			X		
BOLIVIA	X	X	X	X		
PARAGUAY	X			X		
URUGUAY	X			X		

# CONDITIONS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

## SUMMARY OF NEEDS

The findings of this report underscore the commendable achievements of host countries, and of R4V partners in contributing to stabilization of refugees and migrants in their host communities, while also highlighting ongoing challenges faced by migrants and refugees (Venezuelans and other nationalities) in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Some 4.5 million<sup>50</sup> Venezuelans have benefitted from generous regulatory and protection frameworks to attain a regular migratory status or refugee recognition, and obtain documentation, as well as to pursue their education and access much-needed healthcare, while contributing to local economies.

Despite these efforts, and against a background of economic and socio-political uncertainties, refugees and migrants were also found facing considerable challenges. While across the region, nearly 68 per cent of refugees and migrants from Venezuela have succeeded in obtaining such a regular migratory status or refugee recognition, some 2.3 million remain in an irregular situation, predominantly owed to high costs and strict entry and visa requirements,<sup>51</sup> and complex legal processes.

Among migrants and refugees from Venezuela in-destination, the top sectoral needs were identified in the fields of **Integration, Shelter, and Protection**. These needs reflect the priority considerations underpinning the daily lives of refugees and migrants, aiming to integrate in a meaningful manner, through formal employment, to maintain a safe and stable home, put enough food on their tables and with children pursuing their education for a better future, none of which are feasible while being in an irregular situation.

The RMNA identifies those in an irregular situation, those who recently arrived at their destination, and those undertaking transit and onward movements, showing significantly higher rates of vulnerability, and

corresponding needs, across the sectoral spectrum of needs. Available support has so far fallen short of ensuring that all migrants and refugees in a vulnerable situation can exercise their basic rights, access basic services and lead a dignified life.

These efforts and notable achievements notwithstanding, the region is witness to unprecedented mixed movements of millions of refugees and migrants, from a broad range of nationalities, who have either been newly uprooted due to violence, discrimination, insecurity and poverty, or who have been unable to benefit from accessible asylum procedures, migratory regularization, integration and other opportunities to settle in a previous host country. Influenced by unresolved socio-economic challenges, concerning waves of anti-migration sentiments, and discriminatory and xenophobic incidents, have contributed to restrictive policies that limit access to territories, to protection, and to integration opportunities.

An increasing number of refugees and migrants in destination countries have therefore had to resort to onward movements to another country, while others have left their countries of origin for the various reasons making lives in their home countries untenable. For these migrants and refugees engaging in transit and onward movements, including Venezuelans and other nationals,<sup>52</sup> their primary needs were **Food, Shelter, and Protection**.

According to this RMNA, 16 per cent of surveyed migrants and refugees from Venezuela in the region are unemployed, while some 82 per cent of those who are employed work in the informal sector, often associated with lower wages, lack of social protection and unsafe working conditions. These barriers impact not only income generation and financial independence (compounded by 41 per cent having no access to financial services), but also their socio-economic integration. The lack of recognition of professional and academic titles contributes to widespread

[50] For details, see: <https://www.r4v.info/en/permits> and <https://www.r4v.info/en/asylum-seekers-refugees>.

[51] Omar Hammoud-Gallego, *The short-term effects of visa restrictions on migrants' legal status and well-being: A difference-in-differences approach on Venezuelan displacement*, *World Development*, Volume 182, 2024, 106709, ISSN 0305-750X, (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X24001797>).

[52] See the above section on Movement Dynamics for details.

underutilization of available human capital to the detriment of local economies and host communities.

Limited financial resources and high rental costs, along with often unattainable documentation (especially for those in an irregular situation), were identified as major barriers to securing safe and adequate housing. This leads to increased risks of evictions and homelessness – affecting one in five Venezuelan households in-destination, while every second Venezuelan household (52 per cent) in the region lives in dwellings with inadequate and unsustainable long-term conditions (excluding overcrowding). Over 23 per cent of these refugees and migrants live in overcrowded conditions. This affects their access to adequate and safe WASH services (affecting more than half of those in-destination) and has broader implications on their health, well-being, and safety, including risks of gender-based violence. Access to shelter and essential WASH services, including potable water, is at risk of being aggravated in areas vulnerable to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, such as droughts, wildfires, floods, and landslides.

The lack of economic resources is a cross-cutting issue with implications for refugees and migrants, along with host communities. Inability to afford nutritious food was identified as a primary reason for prevailing levels of food insecurity, with food security needs among 42 per cent of migrants and refugees in-destination, and among 50 per cent of those engaging in transit and onward movements. Consequently, many resort to

negative coping mechanisms to ensure access to food for themselves and their families.

Similarly, the costs for local transportation prevent access to vital services, such as medical appointments and children's access to school (with more than one in five Venezuelan children out of school; 22 per cent), as refugee and migrant households often report prioritizing money for more immediate needs, such as food and rent.

Almost one in five surveyed migrants and refugees (18 per cent) experienced incidents of xenophobia and discrimination at the workplace. Such incidents significantly impacting their everyday lives, from attendance at schools, and work to job searching security and access to healthcare, thereby creating additional obstacles to integration and deteriorating living conditions, and, while contributing to their decisions whether to remain in a host country, or to move on.

Across the region, refugees and migrants face various challenges to rebuild their lives. These persistent needs and obstacles have fuelled mixed movements, with migrants and refugees relocating from one host country to another. But without regular and safe access to countries (affecting one in four surveyed Venezuelan households), many resort to crossing borders through irregular and remote paths, through difficult terrains and conditions (including through treacherous jungles or high-altitude mountain ranges), subject to the control of criminal groups, traffickers and smugglers.

### TOP SECTORAL NEEDS OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN-DESTINATION IN THE REGION\*



14/17



11/17



11/17

**Integration**, **Shelter** and **Protection** are identified in 14, and 11 of the 17 countries as a top 3 need.

\*According to PIN estimates, these are the sectors with the greatest proportion of Venezuelans in need.



These complex movement dynamics expose refugees and migrants to numerous risks as they traverse dangerous routes and irregular crossings towards intended destinations. In addition to the physical and emotional challenges, many are unable to access food, shelter, safe transportation, medical attention, and WASH services. Among children, prolonged periods in transit and out of school risks leading to important learning gaps, trauma, and sustained damage to their health.

## AGE, GENDER AND DIVERSITY

In 2024, the R4V Platform continued to embed a comprehensive Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach in its needs assessments, ensuring that the distinct challenges faced by various population groups – such as women, children, LGBTQI+ people, people with disabilities, and indigenous communities – are recognized and addressed. This AGD lens has been instrumental in revealing the multifaceted vulnerabilities of these groups across all sectors and sub-sectors of the humanitarian and resilience oriented R4V response.

Economic and protection challenges remain at the forefront for many migrants and refugees, particularly women, youth, and indigenous people. Across the region, these groups face disproportionately high levels of irregularity, contributing to above-average unemployment and informal employment.<sup>53</sup> For instance, in Colombia, the unemployment rate among refugee and migrant women reached 15 per cent in 2024, with 79 per cent engaged in informal work.<sup>54</sup>

Similar challenges were identified in Brazil, where only 21 per cent of working-age women have access to formal employment compared to 42 per cent of men.<sup>55</sup> Indigenous populations, who often live in remote areas, experience even greater difficulties in securing stable employment. In Guyana, 76 per cent of indigenous people from Venezuela are unemployed,<sup>56</sup> compared to 17 per cent of the Venezuelan adults in the country.<sup>57</sup> Similarly, in Brazil, only 19 per cent of indigenous people are in formal jobs, compared to 32 per cent of non-indigenous people.<sup>58</sup> These economic barriers exacerbate the poverty and marginalization of these communities, limiting their access to essential services and opportunities for sustainable integration.

Shelter conditions for refugees and migrants vary widely across the region but are often inadequate,<sup>59</sup> affecting particularly women and girls, LGBTQI+ people,<sup>60</sup> people with disabilities,<sup>61</sup> and indigenous populations. Venezuelan migrants and refugees in-transit report sharing their accommodation with other households or resorting to sleeping on the streets due to the lack of affordable shelter options, which can lead to overcrowding in the first case, and in both cases to protection risks such as GBV. LGBTQI+ people frequently face discrimination and harassment in transit shelters,<sup>62</sup> while people with disabilities often encounter physical barriers that prevent them from accessing shelter facilities safely. Indigenous communities are particularly vulnerable to eviction and homelessness, especially in informal settlements where infrastructure is poor, and legal protections are limited.<sup>63</sup> The lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services further

[53] In Colombia, for example, according to 2024 Joint Needs Assessment results, Venezuelan refugee and migrants' households with female heads have a greater level of poverty (46%) and extreme poverty (29%) compared to those with male heads (43% and 21%, respectively).

[54] Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE) Colombia, *Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares - GEIH - 2024*, July 2024, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://microdatos.dane.gov.co/index.php/catalog/819>.

[55] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (2024)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[56] IOM, *Displacement Tracking Matrix, Guyana (2023)*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/guyana-flow-monitoring-surveys-indigenous-venezuelan-nationals-guyana-round-5-march-2023?close=true>.

[57] UNHCR, *Results Monitoring Survey, Guyana (2023)*, Internal document.

[58] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (2024)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[59] See the Shelter Sector's chapter.

[60] Samuel Hall and IOM, *Mapping and Research to Strengthen Protection and Assistance Measures for Migrants with Diverse SOGIESC*, IOM, Geneva, 2023, <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/PUB2023-036-SOGIESC-Report-Digital.pdf>; Encuentros, "Closed Doors and Windows: Barriers to Access to Public Services for LGBTQI+ People," August 2023, [https://www.r4v.info/es/document/EncuentrosSJM\\_DRC\\_Barreras\\_acceso\\_serviciospublicos\\_LGBTIQ%2B\\_ago23](https://www.r4v.info/es/document/EncuentrosSJM_DRC_Barreras_acceso_serviciospublicos_LGBTIQ%2B_ago23).

[61] Melina Holder, "Addressing the Challenges to Adequate Housing for Venezuelan Refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean" (2023), <https://www.shelterprojects.org/shelterprojects9/B.3-RentalAssistanceinLAC-SP9.pdf>.

[62] Bird, C., Somantri, A. R., Narasimhan, R., Lee, I., Bowers, G., Loo, S., Piwowarczyk, L., & Ng, L. C. Mental health disparities of sexual minority refugees and asylum seekers: Provider perspectives on trauma exposure, symptom presentation, and treatment approach. (2024) *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 71(4), 229–241. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cou0000731>

[63] See the Brazil chapter.

alienates indigenous populations, hindering their ability to integrate into host communities.

WASH needs are critical and continue to disproportionately affect women, children, people with disabilities, and indigenous groups. Access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities remains insufficient in many regions, with indigenous communities and those in rural or peri-urban areas being particularly affected. For instance, in Guyana, many indigenous Venezuelans rely on unsafe water sources, such as rivers and rainwater, which pose significant health risks.<sup>64</sup> The lack of privacy and safety in sanitation facilities disproportionately impacts women and girls, increasing their vulnerability to GBV. Furthermore, menstrual hygiene management remains a significant challenge, particularly for women and girls in-transit, who often lack access to necessary products and facilities, compromising their health and dignity.<sup>65</sup>

Health and nutrition services are essential for all, but certain groups face greater barriers to accessing them. Pregnant and lactating women, children under five, and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition and health issues due to inadequate access to services. For example, in Bolivia, 50 per cent of assessed pregnant and lactating women presented some level of anaemia,<sup>66</sup> while in Ecuador, 24 per cent of Venezuelan pregnant women are at nutritional risk,<sup>67</sup> posing serious risks to maternal and child health. Indigenous populations face additional challenges due to cultural and linguistic barriers, which hinder their access to healthcare services, further exacerbating health disparities.

Education remains a critical need, especially for children and youth, who are at risk of falling behind or dropping out due to the instability of their living conditions. Indigenous children and those in-transit face significant challenges in accessing education, often due to linguistic barriers, lack of documentation, or the need to contribute to household incomes.<sup>68</sup> The lack of educational opportunities not only hampers their integration into host communities but also

increases their vulnerability to exploitation and forced recruitment into armed groups, particularly in conflict-prone areas in Colombia.

Protection and legal services are crucial for ensuring the safety and rights of refugees and migrants, yet many groups, particularly women, LGBTQI+ people, and indigenous people, face significant barriers to accessing these services. Discrimination, fear of retaliation, and lack of information or documentation prevent many from seeking legal assistance or protection. Indigenous populations, who are often undocumented, are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, with their cultural and linguistic differences further complicating their ability to navigate legal systems and access justice.<sup>69</sup>

In conclusion, the 2024 RMNA highlights the complex and intersecting challenges faced by migrants and refugees across the R4V countries through an AGD lens. These vulnerable groups reflected above are in need of culturally sensitive interventions, differentiated approaches and services, and prioritization of their needs.

## PSEA

Humanitarian and development organizations play a crucial role in addressing gaps and needs of vulnerable populations, including refugees and migrants. However, operating within contexts of high vulnerability and reliance on assistance places response actors in positions of differential power, which can be exploited to take advantage of persons in vulnerable situations or those who place trust in personnel of UN agencies, NGOs, civil society actors, and other providers of assistance. Additionally, migrants and refugees who may lack awareness of their rights, who find themselves in unfamiliar environments, and particularly those who are in an irregular situation, are at even greater risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

The risks of SEA are particularly pronounced among women, adolescent girls, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and LGBTQI+ persons, with

[64] United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Protection Monitoring, Guyana (2023)*, Internal document.

[65] See the WASH Sector's chapter.

[66] United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Irish Aid, Global Nutrition Cluster, *Migrants of Venezuela in Bolivia: Diagnosis of the Nutritional Status of Children and Adolescents, Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women, November-December 2022*.

[67] World Food Programme (WFP), *Análisis de Vulnerabilidades Socioeconómicas de la Población Venezolana en Ecuador (EFSA)*, May 2024, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000159458/download/?ga=2.225156634.1859144237.1719948493-1309954782.1682369250>.

[68] See the Education Sector's chapter.

[69] See the Protection Sector's chapter and the Brazil chapter.

emphasis on those who are pregnant,<sup>70</sup> leading single-headed households,<sup>71</sup> and/or living with a disability. The inability to meet basic needs like food, shelter and transportation, combined with challenges in accessing asylum, a regular migratory status, integration and employment, as well as facing xenophobia and discrimination, exacerbates vulnerabilities and dependency on others, especially on humanitarian assistance and aid workers.<sup>72</sup> While not specifying who perpetrates the violence, requests for exchanges of sexual activities of people in vulnerable situations for material goods or benefits have been widely documented in recent studies.<sup>73</sup>

Both refugees and migrants in-destination and those undertaking transit and onward movements are also vulnerable to diverse forms of GBV, including SEA. According to R4V partners' observations, while reporting of such cases may remain very limited and are more likely to happen at destination, the actual incidents are widespread. Onward and transit movements are identified as one of the highest stages of vulnerability for migrants and refugees,<sup>74</sup> the limited regular pathways to asylum and regularization lead them to resort to move irregularly through locations with limited presence of services and protection, exposing them to various forms of exploitation and abuse, including SEA. A study conducted in Central America indicates that 41

percent of survey respondents know of women who have experienced diverse forms of GBV, including SEA, a figure believed to be underreported.<sup>75, 76</sup> Similar to other forms of GBV, SEA has devastating consequences on the victims, including health and mental health issues, stigmatization, unwanted pregnancies, further challenges to meet basic needs, and the inability to integrate into and contribute to a host community.<sup>77</sup> Additionally, by harming the people that organizations serve to protect and assist, incidents of SEA undermine the work and trust of the all humanitarian actors, and of the entire response community.

Communities expressed notable gaps in the prevention and response measures to SEA. These include insufficient communication with refugees, migrants, and host communities about available services;<sup>78</sup> limited knowledge of and access to SEA reporting channels, and more broadly, to feedback complaint mechanisms; and lack of information about the expected behaviour of personnel assisting them. Only half of households surveyed in the region that are receiving assistance from partners express knowing channels to provide feedback or complaints on the assistance received or the organizations' personnel, with in-transit households showing percentages of knowledge as low as 29 per cent.<sup>79</sup> More critical is the need for refugees and migrants to receive

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- [70] Mahbuba Zaman et al., "Experiences of Pregnant Venezuelan Migrants/Refugees in Brazil, Ecuador and Peru: A Qualitative Analysis," *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 24, no. 1 (2024): 157.
- [71] R4V Platform, *Grupo Interagencial sobre Flujos Migratorios Mixtos (GIFMM) Colombia, Desafíos y Oportunidades: Reporte sobre la Situación de Hogares con Jefatura Femenina en Contexto de Movimientos Mixtos*, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-desafios-y-oportunidades-reportesobre-la-situacion-de-hogares-con-jefatura>.
- [72] As indicated in the *Interagency Minimum Standards for GBV Programming in Emergencies* (2019), women and girls face a wide range of GBV risks that increase during displacement and conflict, including sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by male humanitarian actors (p. 68). United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), accessed August 16, 2024, <https://www.unfpa.org/minimum-standards>.
- [73] Susan A. Bartels et al., "Comparing Migration Experiences of Venezuelan Women and Girls: A Mixed-Method, Cross-Sectional Analysis of Refugees/Migrants in Ecuador, Peru and Brazil," *BMJ Public Health* 1, no. 1 (2023): e000027, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://bmjpublichealth.bmj.com/content/1/1/e000027>
- [74] This has been documented by studies conducted by the World Bank in *Understanding Poverty and Building Resilience in Crisis-affected Areas* (2024), accessed August 16, 2024, <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099050724190596746/p17913218978b10b51914918d3bde8e3d24>; and by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) in *Nuestro Derecho a la Seguridad: Estudio Regional sobre Mujeres en Movimiento en América Latina y el Caribe* (2022), accessed August 16, 2024, <https://segurasenmovilidad.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Nuestro-derecho-a-la-seguridad-estudio-regional-ES.pdf>, among others.
- [75] World Bank, *Survivor-Centered Accessibility Framework Evaluation (SAFE)* (2024), accessed August 16, 2024, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099050824111038117/pdf/P1791321ef84aa0af1bd0d1139bbf674dac.pdf>.
- [76] Plan International, *Mujeres Adolescentes en Crisis* (2024), accessed August 16, 2024, <https://plan-international.org/uploads/sites/96/2024/04/Mujeres-Adolescentes-En-Crisis-%E2%80%93-Resumen-Ejecutivo-ESPANOL-3.pdf>.
- [77] As indicated in the *Interagency Gender-Based Violence Case Management Guidelines: Providing Care and Case Management Services to Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings* (2017), gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), results in harmful physical, emotional, and social consequences. Published by the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) Steering Committee, accessed August 16, 2024, [https://www.gbvim.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/Interagency-GBV-Case-Management-Guidelines\\_Final\\_2017.pdf](https://www.gbvim.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/Interagency-GBV-Case-Management-Guidelines_Final_2017.pdf).
- [78] World Bank, *Survivor-Centered Accessibility Framework Evaluation (SAFE)*, 2024.
- [79] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for Venezuelan Population in-Destination*, forthcoming, 2024.

unequivocal information about rights and the nature of assistance: assistance is free, and nothing should be asked in exchange. This year's R4V Platforms' JNAs suggest that at least 12 per cent of surveyed households are unaware of this information, with in-transit households reporting rates as high as 32 per cent.<sup>80</sup> These findings are also corroborated by the 2024 UN Secretary-General's PSEA report, in which the need for safe reporting channels, improved technical capacity among staff, and more resources for timely investigations and victim support are highlighted, with these issues being particularly acute in humanitarian contexts.<sup>81</sup>

## AAP

Challenges faced by migrants and refugees in the 17 R4V countries, viewed through the lenses of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Communication with Communities (CwC), remain critical and interconnected, impacting the effectiveness of humanitarian responses across all sectors of the R4V response. Despite variations in needs between those having to engage in onward and transit movements for lack of local regularization and integration opportunities, and those in-destination, and differences across countries and sub-regions, overall, three main concerns consistently emerge

from this year's R4V JNAs and other analyses: access to information, community integration, and social cohesion and protection.

As in previous years, inconsistent and often inadequate access to reliable and timely information remains a persistent challenge. Refugees and migrants need accurate information to make informed decisions about their safety, regular status and access to much-needed services. For instance, in Costa Rica, 38 per cent of migrants and refugees undertaking transit or onward movements reported a lack of information about travel costs and their general orientation,<sup>82</sup> which exposes them to higher risks of facing dangerous routes, financial scams and sexual exploitation and abuse. In Ecuador, three out of four refugees and migrants struggled with insufficient information and resources for navigating their journeys safely.<sup>83</sup> Similarly, in Panama, 77 per cent mentioned that they were unaware of the dangers associated with routes through the Darien jungle.<sup>84</sup> In Colombia, 60 per cent of migrants and refugees in-transit reported that they did not receive necessary information about their rights and available services,<sup>85</sup> while in Peru 35 per cent of those undertaking transit and onward movements stated they needed more information about the routes (in various directions), including geographical and climatic conditions.<sup>86</sup>

[80] R4V Peru, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for Venezuelan Population in-Destination*, forthcoming, 2024.

[81] United Nations, *Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: A Report of the Secretary-General, A/78/774* (New York: United Nations, 2023), accessed August 16, 2024, [https://conduct.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/a-78-774\\_-\\_sg\\_report\\_on\\_special\\_measures\\_for\\_protection\\_from\\_sexual\\_exploitation\\_and\\_abuse.pdf](https://conduct.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/a-78-774_-_sg_report_on_special_measures_for_protection_from_sexual_exploitation_and_abuse.pdf).

[82] International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Data Story Map: Migrants in Transit Through Costa Rica, Flow Monitoring Survey, Costa Rica, June 2024*, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f0073e4e674e446b81d55a2b02f4e8c0#n-SsY6Jn>.

[83] R4V Ecuador, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[84] Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), *Monitoreo de Protección Binacional: Colombia y Panama de Abril 2023 a Abril 2024*, accessed August 16, 2024, <https://bit.ly/4dAMpZE>

[85] R4V Colombia, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, 2024, forthcoming, 2024.

[86] International Organization for Migration (IOM), *DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders—Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero (July 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024)*. According to participants in Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in Peru, social networks are consultation tools; however, they have a medium level of reliability. Information shared by word of mouth, particularly within the community in transit, is more trusted due to the shared vulnerability between them.

Social media is particularly critical for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America, with 50 per cent using it for real-time journey information.<sup>87</sup> However, 61 per cent faced obstacles accessing it, mainly due to a lack of internet, with 30 per cent unable to afford SIM cards, and 15 per cent citing high mobile data costs. Despite these challenges, migrants and refugees prioritize social media access, often selling belongings to afford it. This reliance exposes them to risks, as disinformation from smugglers can lead to dangerous decisions, including choosing hazardous routes and destinations, like the Darien jungle or treacherous paths between Peru, Bolivia and Chile borders.

Lack of access to information also impacts refugees' and migrants' ability to effectively pursue regularization processes, and hence their access to protection and community integration. In Ecuador, 55 per cent of the

household members surveyed did not register for the available regularization process due to insufficient information, limiting their access to employment, social services, and community activities.<sup>88</sup> This also leads to isolation from community life and decision-making. Similarly, in Chile, 27 per cent of households needed legal assistance, but 43 per cent could not access it due to financial constraints and lack of knowledge,<sup>89</sup> hindering their involvement in community initiatives.

From an AAP/CwC perspective, refugees and migrants require information tailored to their needs, preventing risks of trafficking and smuggling for those engaging in onward and transit movements, enhancing community integration for those in-destination, and fostering social cohesion to ensure that their voices are heard, their needs are met, and their contributions to their new communities are valued in their respective contexts.



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[87] Mixed Migration Centre, *Digital Lifelines: The Use of Social Media Networks Among Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants Heading North*, November 2023, accessed August 16, 2024, [https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/307\\_Digital-lifelines-Venezuelan.pdf](https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/307_Digital-lifelines-Venezuelan.pdf).

[88] R4V Ecuador, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[89] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

# PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS & RISK ANALYSIS: 2024 AND BEYOND

## INFORM

### RISK & SEVERITY OUTLOOK

Despite a background of several years of tumultuous economic developments, triggered, *inter alia*, by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent recovery, which was then compromised by the impact of war and conflict in other parts of the world; shifting political landscapes pursuant elections in some of the main refugee- and migrant-hosting countries of Latin America (notably in Argentina, Brazil, Chile Colombia and Ecuador and Peru); ever more visible and severe impacts of climate change and environmental degradation in almost all countries of the region; and the ever-growing phenomenon of mixed and onward movements of millions of migrants and refugees affecting all countries of the hemisphere; the risks of a humanitarian crisis appear to be generally and gradually easing.

Pursuant to the analysis in the *INFORM Risk Index* report of mid-2024,<sup>90</sup> the regionally average of 3.81 (out of a maximum value of 5) reflects only a small but consistent increase from previous years (3.79 in mid-2023, and 3.45 in mid-2022). This can be attributed to the higher risks faced due to the impact of so-called “uprooted people”<sup>91</sup> in Colombia (leading to an *INFORM Risk* rating of 10/10), Costa Rica (9.1/10), Peru (9.1/10), Panama (9.0/10), Ecuador (8.3/10), Chile (7.9/10) and Mexico (7.7/10), with Costa Rica,

Mexico and Panama all posting notable increases in this field, while risks in other areas (such as natural disasters, food insecurity and governance) have largely remained stable. Considering the severity of the risk involving “displacement”,<sup>92</sup> pursuant to the corresponding *INFORM Severity Index* of mid-2024,<sup>93</sup> the impact of refugees and migrants in Colombia and in Peru stand out with a severity ranking of 3.3 and 3.2 (respectively out of a maximum of 5), with the trends in Brazil (2.3), Ecuador (2.7) and Peru (3.2) indicating an increasing severity and impact. On the other hand, countries including Colombia (3.3), and Panama (2.0) are considered having a gradually decreasing level of severity.

The above analysis reflects the identified risk factors impacting the 2024 situation across the region, resulting from the continued movements of refugees and migrants from various countries of origin (most notably from Venezuela, Ecuador Colombia, Haiti, Cuba, in addition to those from Asia and Africa), being met by response capacities (state-led, as well as by R4V partners) that have been strained by more than six years of intense activity, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. Resulting levels of exhaustion and fatigue among host communities, coupled with instances of populist and demagogic political discourse have fed into previously unseen levels of

[90] *INFORM* is a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the European Commission. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission is the scientific and technical lead of *INFORM*. Its updated 2024 report is based on the data available at <https://drmhc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index>

The *INFORM Risk Index* is a composite index that simplifies multiple data sources informing about the risk of a particular country facing a humanitarian crisis or disaster. It uses 80 different indicators to measure hazards and peoples’ exposure to them, vulnerability, and the resources available to help people cope. The *INFORM Risk Index* creates a risk profile for every country. Each has a rating between 0 and 10 for risk and all of its components, permitting for a relative comparison.

[91] Where applicable, this category can include also internally displaced persons.

[92] The *INFORM Severity Index* has grouped displacement scenarios in the relevant R4V countries into the following groups: “Venezuela displacement”, “Venezuelan refugees in Trinidad and Tobago”, general “mixed migration” and “Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica”, reflective of the predominant population group (in the view of *INFORM*).

[93] The *INFORM Severity Index* is a composite indicator that measures the severity of humanitarian crises against a common scale. It seeks to communicate the current status of crises in a systematic, objective and understandable manner, building on an analytical framework for every crisis, covering the impact of the crisis itself, in terms of the scope and of its geographical, human and physical effects; the conditions and status of the people affected, including information about the distribution of severity (i.e. the number of people in each category of severity within a crisis); and the complexity of the crisis, in terms of factors that affect its mitigation or resolution. Available at: <https://drmhc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/>

discrimination and xenophobia against refugees and migrants<sup>94</sup> (irrespective of their origin), and increasingly restrictive asylum and migratory policies. The findings in this RMNA highlight the prevalence and impact of this development on the daily lives of migrants and refugees, endangering many of the remarkable achievements of host governments of the past years, while frequently contributing to onward and mixed movements.

In addition to the socio-economic, environmental and political developments and related risks outlined in the above, the outlook for the remainder of 2024 and for 2025 will need to consider additional elements. This includes the electoral process in the United States of America (in November 2024), as well as upcoming elections in Latin America and the Caribbean, notably those in Uruguay (in October 2024), Ecuador (February 2025), Bolivia (August 2025), Chile (November 2025), and those foreseen in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as some very relevant legislative elections in Argentina, Brazil and Chile. These have the potential to solidify and build on the achievements in protection and socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants, in a manner that not only safeguards their rights, but also benefits their host communities and economies.

## ASSUMPTIONS

Considering the manifold dynamics and risks - but also their opportunities - and to develop coherent planning assumptions and a subsequent planning scenario, the R4V Platform conducted its fourth regional planning and assumptions survey.<sup>95</sup> Among the 275 respondents from all 17 countries of the R4V response, approximately 70 per cent came from NGO and civil society actors. These findings informed the second Regional Scenarios and Planning Workshop with key stakeholders from across the R4V response.

Without pronouncing itself on the political situation in Venezuela, R4V partners considered a reasonable and balanced approach towards movement dynamics and needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Recognizing that the electoral process in Venezuela poses an important event for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, with significant impact on their future decisions, refugee- and migrant-led organizations were key to the deliberations on a regional planning scenario,

largely reflective of the actual post-electoral situation, which the R4V Platform continues to monitor closely.

While in the immediate aftermath of the elections no significant outflows were anticipated, the assumption of the R4V Platform's stakeholders is that the challenging socio-economic and political situation in the country will continue to create an outflow of Venezuelans over the coming year. It is, however, not assumed that this situation would be similar to the situation of 2018-2019, taking in account also the significant capacities and expertise which host governments and response actors have since established.

Restrictions on the ability of refugees and migrants to regularly cross borders are likely to remain in place and/or be further tightened, as has been observed along the Chilean-Peruvian border, as well as along the Darien jungle, between Colombia and Panama. The evolving situation in Venezuela has led many who were considering a potential return to adopt a "wait and see" position, while the impact of severed diplomatic and consular relations between Venezuela and seven countries of the region,<sup>96</sup> has led thousands into a situation of uncertainty. Civil documentation processes have been suspended, also impeding family reunification and regularization processes across the region, as well as the ability of Venezuelans to process visas in order to comply with host countries' entry requirements. Across the region, movement patterns of refugees and migrants are therefore likely to remain similar to those observed in the first half of 2024 though impacted by elevated levels of uncertainty. While this implies fewer active movements, with a reduction in the intensity of migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements, irrespective of their direction, R4V partners predominantly anticipate these movements to take place via irregular routes.

While laudable achievements have been recorded through state-led regularization initiatives across the region, extending regular stay arrangements and asylum to more than 4.5 million Venezuelans, backed by the findings of the regional assumptions survey, R4V partners and stakeholders are sceptical about the outlook for new and more continuous regularization initiatives, despite the constant priority need among refugees and migrants (of all nationalities) for regular status. In addition to political factors, the decline in

[94] Felipe Muñoz Gómez, Marta Luzes, and Lucina Rodríguez, "Shifting Perceptions on Migration: Insights and Strategies from Latin America and the Caribbean," *Migration Policy Practice* 13, no. 2 (July 2024), accessed August 19, 2024, [https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-policy-practice-volume-xiii-number-2-july-2024?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-policy-practice-volume-xiii-number-2-july-2024?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email).

[95] "Key Resources," R4V Platform, accessed August 19, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/keyresources>.

[96] As of mid-August 2024, these include Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

international support, witnessed over the past two years, for sustained regularization and integration efforts for migrants and refugees is unlikely to change, amidst globally reducing budgets for international cooperation and humanitarian support. This is likely to contribute to the ongoing nature of irregular movements, and many of the needs identified by those in irregular situations in this RMNA. The above notwithstanding, good practices, such as the maintenance of open and accessible borders in Brazil and Colombia - without arduous visa and access requirements, which are considered by researchers as ineffective in actually limiting access<sup>97</sup> - as well as legislative initiatives to expand education and healthcare to refugees and migrants, irrespective of nationality or status, through effective local regulations and procedures are expected to continue giving hope for refugees' and migrants' more sustainable inclusion in their host communities.

In this sense, the effective implementation of legal pathways and solutions for migrants and refugees in other countries remain a promising complementary approach. The so-called Safe Mobility Initiative<sup>98</sup> of the United States government, implemented in partnership with Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala provides opportunities for nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to access the United States' Parole Process,<sup>99</sup> while also processing family reunification, some asylum pathways as well as labour mobility and refugee resettlement through the United States Welcome Corps.<sup>100</sup> It is assumed by partners that these initiatives will continue providing valuable solutions for some profiles and will be complemented by similar initiatives from other governments, demonstrating their support and solidarity with the region's refugees and migrants.



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- [97] Omar Hammoud-Gallego, *The short-term effects of visa restrictions on migrants' legal status and well-being: A difference-in-differences approach on Venezuelan displacement*, *World Development*, Volume 182, 2024, 106709, ISSN 0305-750X, (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X24001797>).
- [98] U.S. Department of State, "Safe Mobility Initiative," accessed August 19, 2024, <https://www.state.gov/refugee-admissions/safe-mobility-initiative>
- [99] U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, "CHNV (Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela) Program," accessed August 19, 2024, <https://www.uscis.gov/CHN>
- [100] U.S. Department of State, "Welcome Corps," accessed August 19, 2024, <https://www.state.gov/welcome-corps>



## MONITORING OF SITUATION & NEEDS



The R4V Platform relies on a diverse array of sources to keep a current analysis of refugee and migrant movements, as well as their needs, throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Monitoring and reporting activities are conducted by various partners, either through collaborative inter-agency efforts or independently by individual organizations. Particular attention is given to tracking movements at informal border crossings, where official data is often scarce. Since 2019, National R4V Platforms in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru have been gathering data at critical border points, providing essential insights into movement patterns. These efforts are further enriched by qualitative data obtained from face-to-face interviews and online surveys, which shed light on migrants' experiences, their intended destinations, their main current needs and their previous countries of residence.

The RMNA synthesizes this information, with a special focus on inter-agency JNAs led by R4V partners. These JNAs use a participatory approach, collecting firsthand accounts and quantitative data to evaluate vulnerabilities and needs across various sectors. Significantly, partners have integrated the JNA framework into their monitoring efforts, supplying

crucial data on individuals in transit to the RMNA. This framework also allows for an in-depth analysis of the primary profiles and needs of refugees and migrants, tracking how these evolve over time. The collection of comparative data through annual JNAs enhances the understanding of changes in the situation and needs of these populations, allowing for evidence-based decision-making on prevention and response to these needs.

In addition to these assessments, reports from individual agencies contribute to a comprehensive picture of the needs of migrants and refugees, often focusing on specific themes or geographic areas. R4V platforms at regional, sub-regional, and national levels ensure ongoing and timely reporting through various products, including quarterly Movements Reports and regular Situation Reports. Financial tracking and monitoring of people reached are also crucial elements, with data updated bi-weekly on the [R4V Funding Dashboard](#), which reflects information submitted to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This continuous monitoring effort supports a responsive approach to the evolving needs of refugees and migrants in the region.



# EDUCATION

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

**9.4% • 627.7 K**

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



WOMEN



BOYS



32.3%

GIRLS



31.6%

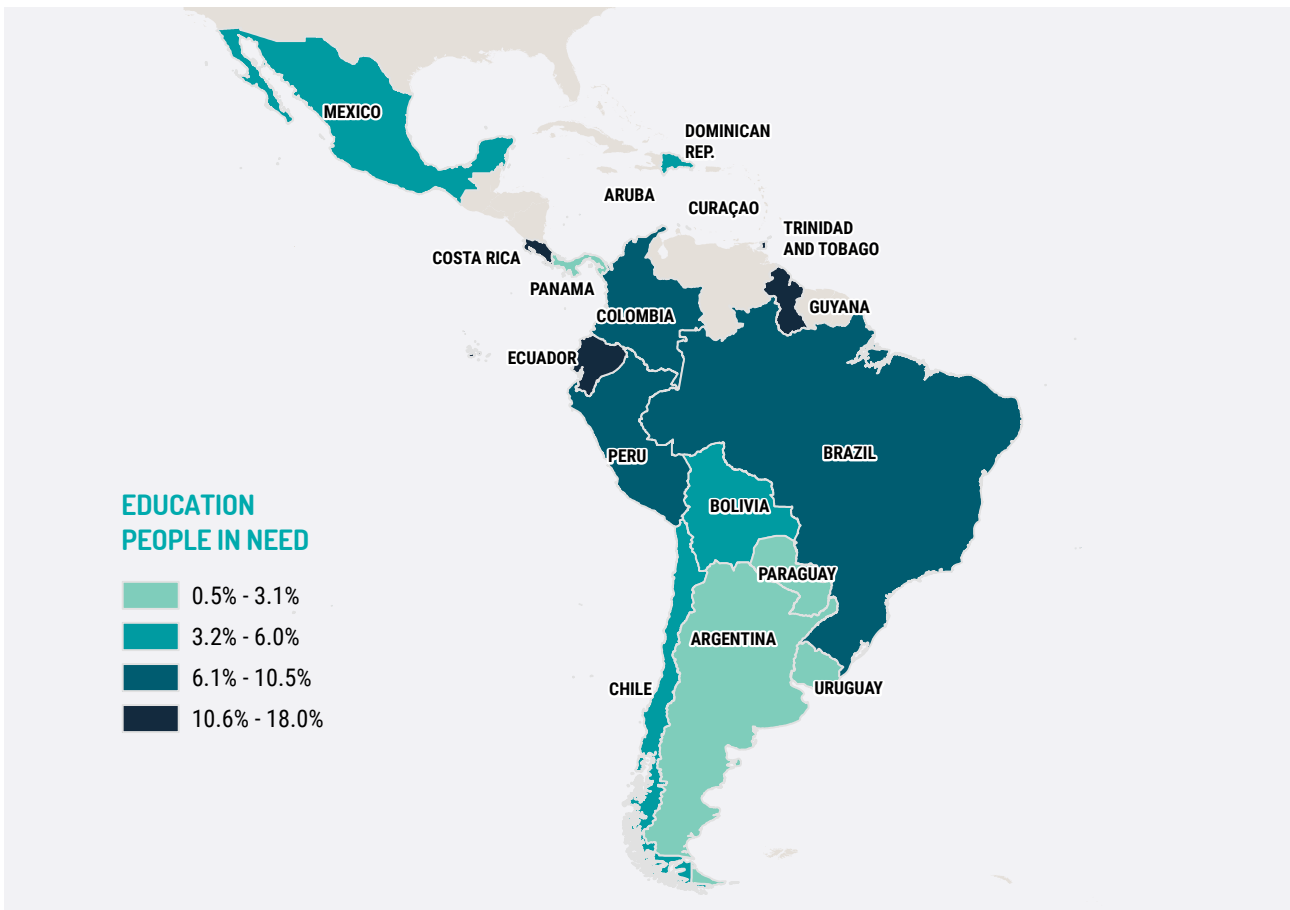
**10.5%**  
VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

**7.6%**  
OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

**3.4%**  
PENDULAR\*\*

**3.4%**  
COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

**2.2%**  
AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
			VENEZUELAN	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	9.7%	56.9 K	11.5%	-	1.4%
CHILE	3.2%	16.9 K	-	-	2.5%
COLOMBIA	10.5%	294.6 K	9.2%	6.7%	2.8%
ECUADOR	18.0%	80.2 K	15.0%	8.4%	5.5%
PERU	8.9%	148.8 K	3.7%	3.7%	1.4%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>16.6 K</b>	-	-	9.8%
ARUBA	1.6%	188	-	-	1.6%
CURAÇAO	6.6%	763	-	-	6.6%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	5.6%	7.0 K	-	-	5.6%
GUYANA	16.1%	3.7 K	-	-	16.1%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	17.0%	5.0 K	-	-	17.0%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>12.2 K</b>	11.7%	10.8%	6.3%
COSTA RICA	15.4%	4.5 K	12.6%	13.7%	15.4%
MEXICO	6.0%	6.4 K	13.4%	-	6.0%
PANAMA	2.2%	1.3 K	9.4%	8.0%	2.2%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>2.1 K</b>	10.7%	7.9%	0.8%
ARGENTINA	0.6%	976	-	-	0.5%
BOLIVIA	4.1%	740	10.7%	7.9%	3.5%
PARAGUAY	3.1%	164	-	-	0.3%
URUGUAY	0.5%	211	-	-	0.8%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 BOYS  GIRLS

50.7%

49.3%

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

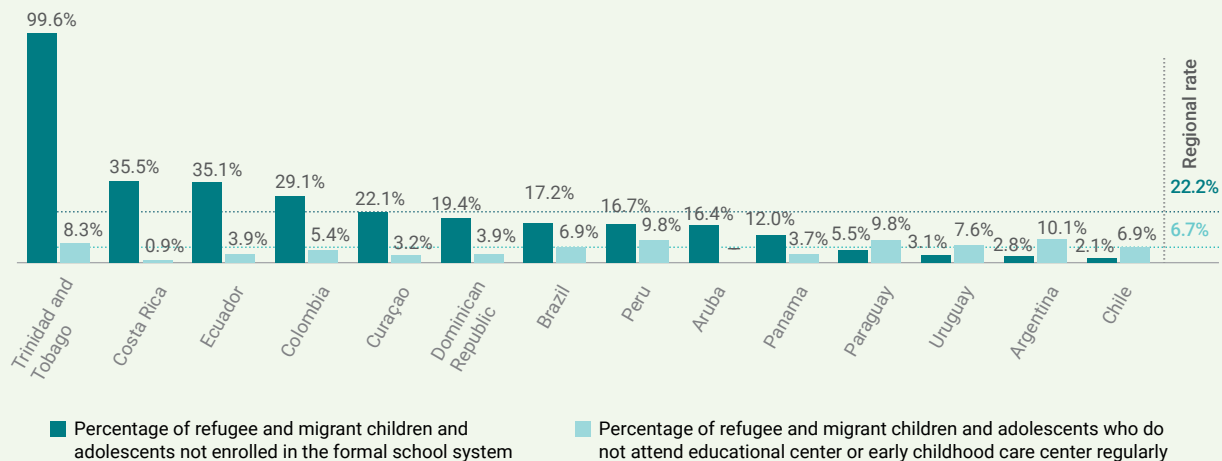
\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

## EDUCATION

Refugee and migrant children and adolescents in the region face significant challenges in accessing and remaining in education, preventing them from exercising their right to education. Their main needs are facilitated enrolment with less stringent documentation requirements, financial support or subsidies to meet school costs and transport, support with language adaptation and information on available services of early childhood development and care.

Joint Needs Assessments (JNAs) carried out by R4V partners in the region found that a significant number of refugee and migrant children from Venezuela were not enrolled in formal education.<sup>101</sup> Attendance is particularly low among children in-transit as they cannot attend schools regularly while engaging in onward and transit movements, affecting literacy and basic skills.<sup>102</sup> Those who have been traveling for long periods are even more affected, as they have often not had access to formal education for prolonged times.

### PERCENTAGE OF VENEZUELAN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS NOT ENROLLED IN THE FORMAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND WHO DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL REGULARLY



Note: The percentage of refugee and migrant children not enrolled in school includes children aged 0 to 3 years who are not enrolled in an early childhood development center or service. In the case of Chile, this indicator only includes children over 3 years old.

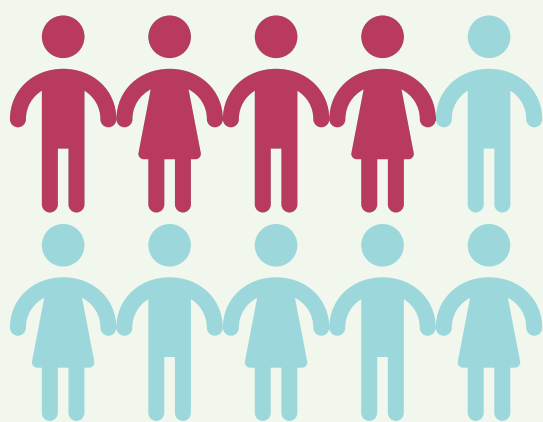
Source: JNA (2024) in the aforementioned countries, except in Trinidad and Tobago where only 23 children are currently enrolled in the upcoming school cycle out of 6,000 Venezuelan children estimated to be in Trinidad and Tobago based on UNHCR, Profile Global Registration System (proGres, 2023), internal data.

[101] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessments (2024). In Trinidad and Tobago, the non-enrolment rate is 68%, 35.5% in Costa Rica, 35% in Ecuador, 29% in Colombia, and 22% in Curaçao.

[102] In Costa Rica, 83% of children in transit have not received education during their journey, resulting in generally low school attendance rates for this population. Data calculated based on the following reports: UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP, Mixed Movements Monitoring (April–June 2024), accessed 16 August, 2024, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>, accessed 16 August, 2024. Similarly, in Colombia, the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) report indicates that 73% of refugee and migrant children in transit had not received education services during their journey.

Despite public education generally being available to all children in many countries,<sup>103</sup> **documentation requirements remain a significant barrier** for school enrolment. In Peru, 12 per cent of the children were not enrolled in school due to lack of necessary documentation, while in Ecuador, this figure rises to 19 per cent.<sup>104</sup>

**IN THE REGION, ALMOST 4 OUT OF 10 VENEZUELAN REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 3 YEARS ARE WITHOUT ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND/OR ADEQUATE CARE**



Based on JNA (2024) data retrieved in the following 13 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

Other obstacles to school enrolment include migrant and refugee households' **inability to meet the costs** for uniforms, school materials, and transportation, limited enrolment slots and information, language barriers, and internet connectivity. **Economic constraints** are often why enrolled refugee and migrant children often cannot attend school regularly. In Peru, 45 per cent of children miss school due to unaffordable transportation costs,<sup>105</sup> while, in Ecuador, 36 per cent skip school because they cannot meet school costs.<sup>106</sup> In Chile, the JNA found that migrant and refugee households had to prioritize basic needs, such as food and health, over educational costs, deprioritizing education.<sup>107</sup> In Guyana, financial limitations and language barrier also contribute to low participation and high dropout rates, as families struggle to afford transportation and school supplies.<sup>108</sup>

Access to early childhood development and care is limited, due to a lack of information on the process of enrolment in the educational system and/or families' unawareness of existing services, which has an impact on children's readiness for formal education. The 2024 JNAs show that over one third (36 per cent) of refugee and migrant children below three years of age lack these services in the region.<sup>109</sup>

**Policies to facilitate access to education**, such as Bolivia's Ministerial Resolution 001/2024,<sup>110</sup> which allows enrolment of undocumented children, Chile's "Policy for Foreign Children and Students: Guarantee of the Right to Education for Individuals in Mobility Situations",<sup>111</sup> Ecuador's Ministerial Agreement 0064-A<sup>112</sup> and others<sup>113</sup> are notable steps to overcome such

[103] Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

[104] R4V Ecuador, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.; R4V, Peru Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[105] R4V Peru, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[106] R4V Ecuador, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[107] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[108] R4V Caribbean, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[109] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) (forthcoming 2024), highlighted in Trinidad and Tobago (92% of those surveyed did not have access), Colombia (65%), Dominican Republic (65%), Curaçao (57%), Guyana (38%), and Brazil (34%).

[110] Ministerio de Educación de Bolivia, Resolución de Normas Generales para la Gestión Educativa (2024). <https://educacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2023/10/MINEDUC-MINEDUC-2023-00064-A.pdf>.

[111] Ministerio de Educación de Chile, Política de Estudiantes Extranjeros, January 23, 2024, <https://www.mineduc.cl/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2024/01/23.01.23-Documento-Poli%CC%81tica-Estudiantes-extranjeros-digital.pdf>.

[112] Ministerio de Educación del Ecuador, MINEDUC-MINEDUC-2023-00064-A, October 2023, <https://educacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2023/10/MINEDUC-MINEDUC-2023-00064-A.pdf>. This policy guarantees the socio-educational inclusion of children with priority attention to those who are in a vulnerable situation, including refugees and migrants.

[113] The approval of the Regional Policy for the Recognition, Validation, and Accreditation of Learning Results/Competencies of the countries of the SICA region and Mexico, which seeks to enhance the effective human right to education of children, adolescents, and young people in a situation of human mobility, Resolución CECC-01-2022: Aprobación de la Política Regional de Reconocimiento, Validación y Acreditación de Resultados de Aprendizaje/Competencias de los Países de la Región SICA y México (Central American Educational and Cultural Council [CECC], 2022), accessed at [https://www.sica.int/documentos/resolucion-cecc-01-2022-aprobacion-de-la-politica-regional-de-reconocimiento-validacion-acreditacion-de-resultados-de-aprendizaje-competencias-de-los-paises-de-la-region-sica-y-mexico\\_1\\_131687.html](https://www.sica.int/documentos/resolucion-cecc-01-2022-aprobacion-de-la-politica-regional-de-reconocimiento-validacion-acreditacion-de-resultados-de-aprendizaje-competencias-de-los-paises-de-la-region-sica-y-mexico_1_131687.html).

challenges but have yet to be effectively implemented. Similar policy and integration measures for refugee and migrant children are required across the region to strengthen the inclusion of refugee and migrant children in national education systems, improving access to education, and increasing school enrolment.

According to the findings by the National R4V Platforms, in school environments **migrant and**

**refugee children are regularly exposed to incidents of discrimination, xenophobia, and gender-based violence, primarily through bullying and largely based on their nationality.** These students face rejection and exclusionary behaviours, which are compounded by a lack of interculturalism and didactic resources in the education system to sensitize and capacitate teachers and students.





# FOOD SECURITY

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

**41.9% • 2.79 M**

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



41.7%

WOMEN



41.5%

BOYS



42.3%

GIRLS



41.7%

**79.2%**

VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

**77.8%**

OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

**52.0%**

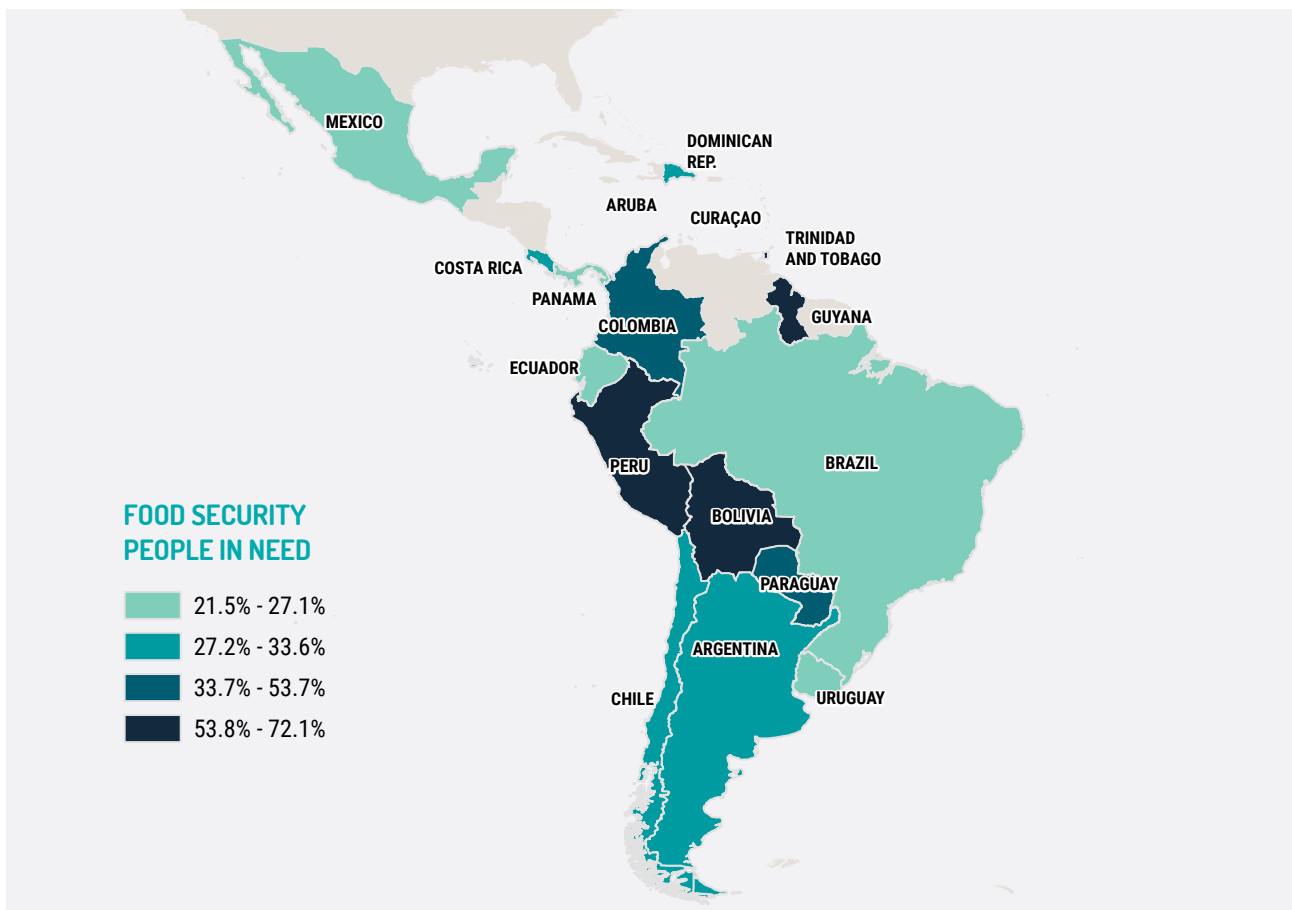
PENDULAR\*\*

**31.9%**

COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

**27.1%**

AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELANOS IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
	PERCENTAGE	ABSOLUTE VALUE	VENEZUELANOS	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	21.9%	128.0 K	46.0%	-	27.6%
CHILE	33.5%	178.6 K	-	-	3.2%
COLOMBIA	44.6%	1.26 M	83.6%	74.7%	9.0%
ECUADOR	27.1%	120.5 K	90.2%	77.2%	14.2%
PERU	53.8%	894.0 K	90.7%	90.7%	50.5%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>86.5 K</b>	-	-	47.1%
ARUBA	42.1%	4.8 K	-	-	42.2%
CURAÇAO	72.1%	8.4 K	-	-	72.1%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	33.5%	41.9 K	-	-	33.5%
GUYANA	54.2%	12.3 K	-	-	54.2%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	64.8%	19.1 K	-	-	64.8%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>50.3 K</b>	77.9%	76.5%	26.0%
COSTA RICA	29.9%	8.8 K	79.0%	74.0%	29.9%
MEXICO	25.4%	26.9 K	79.0%	-	25.4%
PANAMA	25.1%	14.6 K	76.0%	79.0%	25.1%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>77.1 K</b>	66.0%	66.0%	11.1%
ARGENTINA	33.6%	54.8 K	-	-	13.1%
BOLIVIA	66.0%	11.9 K	66.0%	66.0%	19.4%
PARAGUAY	33.9%	1.8 K	-	-	6.1%
URUGUAY	21.5%	8.6 K	-	-	2.5%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 MEN
  WOMEN
  BOYS
  GIRLS



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.



## FOOD SECURITY

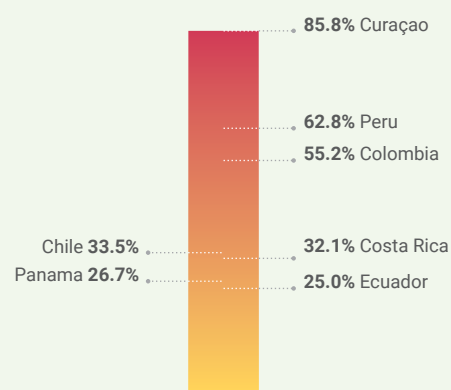
Throughout 2024, refugees and migrants in-transit and in-destination in Latin America and the Caribbean faced an alarming situation of food insecurity.

Data collected through the JNA complemented by thematic studies across the 17 countries of the R4V response confirm that food security remains one of the main needs of migrants and refugees in-destination and in-transit. Among those in-destination, moderate or severe food insecurity was found in various refugee and migrant households across the region (see Infographic). In countries such as Brazil, 22 per cent of the refugees and migrants interviewed experienced food insecurity, and 42 per cent had to ask for money to buy food or buy on credit.<sup>114</sup> In Colombia, 71 per cent of those interviewed reported access to food as their main need.<sup>115</sup> In Peru, 50 per cent of Venezuelan households reported allocating more than 65 per cent of their budget to food, and over 80 per cent cite access to food as their top need.<sup>116</sup> In Argentina, the JNA revealed that 59 per cent of migrants and refugees are moderately food insecure and 18 per cent are severely food insecure. This growing concern is primarily driven by the escalating food prices.<sup>117</sup>

Migrants and refugees who engage in onward and transit movements also face significant challenges in terms of access to adequate and nutritious food. For instance, in Ecuador and Colombia, 85 per cent and 83 per cent of these Venezuelan refugees and migrants, suffer from moderate or severe food insecurity.<sup>118</sup> Similarly, 79 per cent of refugees and migrants of other

nationalities in such transit movements in Colombia face food insecurity.<sup>119</sup> In Costa Rica, 47 per cent of migrants and refugees undertaking transit and onward movements consider access to food as their main need, and in Mexico, 50 per cent of Venezuelans in-transit reported to be in need of nutritious food.<sup>120</sup>

### PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH MODERATE OR SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). These thresholds follow the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) guidelines using the respective national poverty lines to estimate the households that are under moderate or severe food insecurity

Source: JNA (2024) in the aforementioned countries.

[114] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[115] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for the Population in-Destination, forthcoming 2024.

[116] World Food Programme (WFP), Essential Needs Assessment of Migrant Population in Peru (2023).

[117] R4V Southern Cone, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for Argentina, forthcoming 2024.

[118] R4V Ecuador, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming 2024. R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for Populations in-Transit and Pendular Movement, forthcoming 2024.

[119] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for Populations in-Transit and Pendular Movement, forthcoming 2024.

[120] See chapter for Central America and Mexico.

The most common barriers to accessing food are lack of employment and income, inequality, and rising food prices. In Costa Rica, between 2021 and 2024, the cost of the minimum expenditure basket increased by an average of six per cent each year.<sup>121</sup> Additionally, the region continues to record the most expensive nutritious diet globally, at almost five US dollars a day.<sup>122</sup> In Argentina, where a quarter of refugees and migrants report insufficient access to food, government food aid programs are more limited due to budget cuts and the elimination of social programmes.<sup>123</sup> In the Caribbean sub-region, there is also an increase in the cost of living and a high dependence on imported products. In Aruba

and Curaçao, 75 per cent and 66 per cent of migrants and refugees from Venezuela, respectively, have poor food consumption scores primarily due to the high cost of living and limited job opportunities.<sup>124</sup>

Due to these obstacles, a significant number of refugees and migrants resort to negative coping mechanisms, for example, in Trinidad and Tobago 90 per cent purchase cheaper food and reduce the number of meals per day.<sup>125</sup> In Costa Rica, 48 per cent report similar negative coping mechanisms. In the Darien jungle, Panama, 79 per cent of migrants and refugees have skipped meals, spent entire days without eating, or reduced adult food consumption to provide for the children.<sup>126</sup>



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[121] Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC), Índice de Precios al Consumidor Base Diciembre 2020 (2024; Costa Rica), <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fadmin.inec.cr%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2024-06%2FseEconomCBA052024-02.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>.

[122] FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to End Hunger, Food Insecurity and Malnutrition in All Its Forms* (Rome: FAO, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1254en>.

[123] R4V Southern Cone, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) Workshop: Argentina* (June–July 2024), forthcoming.

[124] R4V Caribbean, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)* (2024).

[125] R4V Caribbean, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)* (2024).

[126] Data calculated based on the following reports: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, *Mixed Movements Monitoring* (April–June 2024), <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>.



# HEALTH

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

**52.8% • 3.52 M**

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



52.3%

WOMEN



51.9%

BOYS



51.1%

GIRLS



49.1%

**48.6%**

VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

**50.6%**

OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

**57.9%**

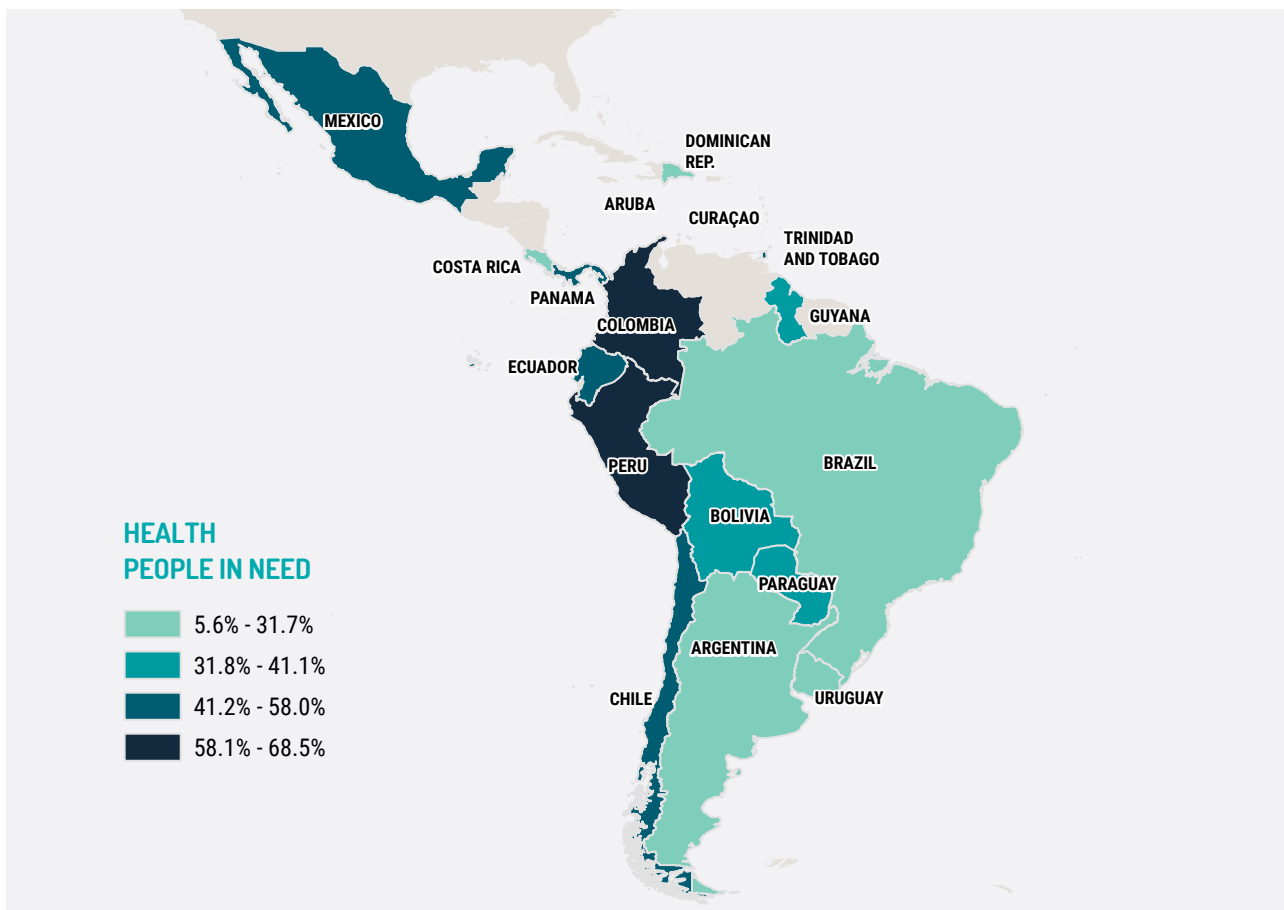
PENDULAR\*\*

**22.0%**

COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

**20.3%**

AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		VENEZUELAN	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	5.6%	32.7 K	30.8%	-	40.0%
CHILE	45.6%	242.9 K	-	-	5.5%
COLOMBIA	63.7%	1.79 M	73.9%	78.7%	13.0%
ECUADOR	58.0%	258.0 K	46.4%	32.0%	21.8%
PERU	59.9%	996.5 K	18.0%	18.0%	26.4%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>55.4 K</b>	-	-	32.4%
ARUBA	41.2%	4.7 K	-	-	41.2%
CURAÇAO	68.5%	7.9 K	-	-	68.5%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	14.5%	18.1 K	-	-	15.0%
GUYANA	33.0%	7.5 K	-	-	33.0%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	58.0%	17.1 K	-	-	58.0%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>86.0 K</b>	41.9%	37.5%	44.5%
COSTA RICA	31.7%	9.3 K	51.8%	36.0%	31.7%
MEXICO	45.7%	48.4 K	45.7%	-	45.7%
PANAMA	48.7%	28.2 K	29.0%	39.0%	48.7%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>51.5 K</b>	10.0%	10.0%	24.0%
ARGENTINA	21.8%	35.6 K	-	-	32.4%
BOLIVIA	36.0%	6.5 K	10.0%	10.0%	18.4%
PARAGUAY	34.0%	1.8 K	-	-	31.8%
URUGUAY	18.9%	7.6 K	-	-	1.1%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 MEN
  WOMEN
  BOYS
  GIRLS



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

## HEALTH

Access to healthcare for refugees and migrants in the region is marked by diverse challenges and priorities, reflecting a complex and often inadequate landscape. According to the JNAs, 14 per cent the migrants and refugees surveyed reported that they were unable to access healthcare in their destination countries when needing it (see infographic). Challenges to comprehensive access to health services were also identified in countries with universal health systems.<sup>127</sup> For example, in Colombia, while 52 per cent of Venezuelans are enrolled in the healthcare system, barriers such as long distances to services and financial limitations prevent full effective access.<sup>128</sup> Similarly, in Argentina, where public health services are generally free, 22 per cent of Venezuelans still face challenges in accessing them.<sup>129</sup> The findings from the JNAs highlight the critical need for policies that give effective access for refugees and migrants to healthcare systems, and to reduce administrative and other bureaucratic obstacles for those systems that are already inclusive, thus ensuring that all migrants and refugees can receive the care they need.

Depending on their status and other requirements, migrants and refugees face various obstacles to primary and specialized health services. Financial

barriers for medical services, medication, or transportation to access healthcare services were identified as key challenges in a majority of the countries of the region. Lack of documentation was another main reason for respondents being unable to access health services. For example, in Peru, Venezuelans in-destination who couldn't access health services largely attributed it to a lack of economic resources (50 per cent) and documentation (32 per cent).<sup>130</sup> Other challenges identified included a widespread fear of seeking services without regular documentation, as well as discrimination, unavailability of medical services, long waiting times and lack of information on how to access healthcare.

Access to sexual and reproductive health, as well as maternal and child health, are critical and often overlooked needs among refugees and migrants. In Brazil, 71 per cent lack adequate access to sexual and reproductive health services.<sup>131</sup> A concerning 29 per cent of pregnant women in Roraima, Brazil,<sup>132</sup> and 20 per cent in Bolivia<sup>133</sup> did not receive prenatal care. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) are also increasingly needed among migrants and refugees in the region. In Chile, the number of cases of refugees and migrants with severe depression increased by 329

[127] Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Health Organization (WHO), *Informe de Situación: Salud y Migración en la Región de las Américas* (June 2024; accessed July 22, 2024), <https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/informe-situacion-salud-migracion-region-americas-junio-2024>.

[128] Government of Colombia, *Observatorio Nacional de Migración y Salud: Base de Datos Única de Afiliados del Sistema General de Seguridad Social en Salud (BDUA-SGSSS)* (May 2024), <https://acortar.link/b1QqC1>. (Access restricted/geofenced to internet users within Colombia).

[129] R4V Southern Cone, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) in Argentina* (2024), forthcoming.

[130] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Joint Needs Analysis (JNA)* (2024), forthcoming.

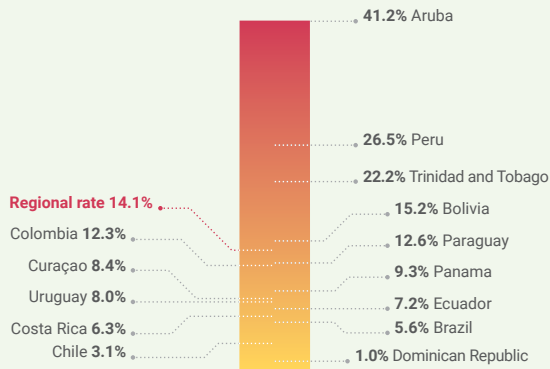
[131] International Organization for Migration (IOM) Brazil, *DTM: Monitoramento do Fluxamento da População Venezuelana, Rodada 8* (April 2024), [https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada\\_2023.pdf](https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada_2023.pdf).

[132] *Ibid.*

[133] R4V Southern Cone, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) Workshop: Bolivia* (June-July 2024), forthcoming.

per cent between 2019 and 2023, and suicidal ideation by 372 per cent in the same period.<sup>134</sup>

### PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES WHO REQUIRED HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN THEIR HOST COUNTRIES BUT WERE UNABLE TO ACCESS THEM



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelans in the countries shown in the graph.

Source: JNA (2024) in all aforementioned countries, except in Aruba and Bolivia, where UNHCR Aruba Protection Monitoring (2023) and Bolivia's UNHCR RMS (2023) were used.

JNA findings also highlight the importance of access to diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases. In Peru, 26 per cent of migrants and refugees had some non-communicable disease<sup>135</sup> out of which, 72 per cent lack treatment.<sup>136</sup> Bolivia and Argentina show similar trends, with 41 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively, unable to access medicines for their chronic or critical medical conditions.<sup>137</sup>

As more refugees and migrants engage in onward and transit movement, access to healthcare is an increasing challenge. The health needs often include conditions and injuries sustained while moving through irregular routes characterized by dangerous terrains and conditions. For example, migrants and refugees arriving to Panama after crossing the Darien jungle often face serious physical and mental health problems, including specific health needs for those who were sexually assaulted during their transit. Border monitoring surveys found that 54 per cent and 46 per cent of the refugees and migrants in-transit in Costa Rica and Mexico respectively reported being in need of healthcare during their journey.<sup>138</sup> Need for immediate care was also reported by 23 per cent of migrants and refugees in-transit in Peru, however very few were able to access the services needed, in particular pregnant women.<sup>139</sup> In Colombia, 26 per cent were in need of healthcare services with 36 per cent of them reporting that they were unable to access it.<sup>140</sup>

[134] Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes (SJM), *Anuario Estadístico de Movilidad Humana en Chile 2023* (2024), Santiago, Chile, <https://sjmchile.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Anuario-2023.pdf>.

[135] *Acción contra el Hambre, Estudio Multisectorial en Personas Refugiadas y Migrantes de Venezuela que Viven en Lima Metropolitana* (2023). Among refugees and migrants who reported suffering from a chronic disease, 27% reported having asthma, 22% high blood pressure, and 11% arthritis.

[136] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Focus Group Discussion with Refugees and Migrants in Transit*, forthcoming, 2024.

[137] UNHCR, *CBI Scorecard* (2023), internal document.

[138] Danish Refugee Council (DRC), *Monitoreo de Protección: México, Snapshot Marzo & Abril 2024* (2024), <https://pro.drc.ngo/media/hbzfrbpw/mex-snapshot-marzo-abril-2024-esp.pdf>; R4V Costa Rica, *Mixed Movements Monitoring* (April–June 2024), <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>. Calculations made by the R4V Platform based on these reports.

[139] IOM, *DTM Dashboard* (2024). Data related to entries at three borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero. From 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024. Also, 8.5% of respondents stated that one of the reasons they left their country of origin was the lack of medical services. UNHCR, HIAS, Caritas, *Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno and Madre de Dios* (2024).

[140] R4V Colombia, *Joint Needs Analysis (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.



# HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

**31.4% • 2.06 M**

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



30.9%

WOMEN



31.1%

BOYS



31.0%

GIRLS



30.9%

**57.8%**

VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

**59.0%**

OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

**55.9%**

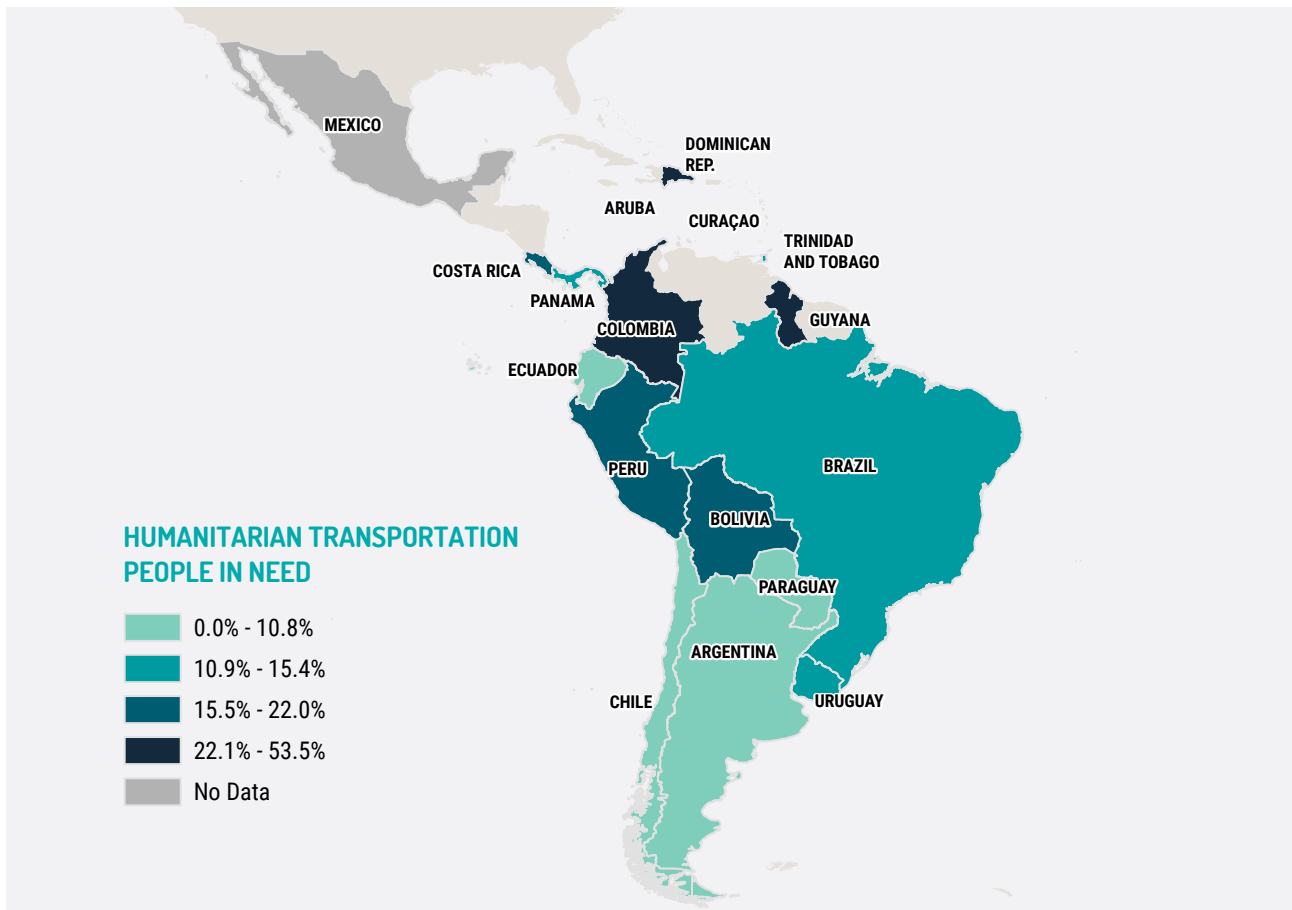
PENDULAR\*\*

**32.0%**

COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

**19.9%**

AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
			VENEZUELAN	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	15.1%	88.3 K	27.0%	-	36.7%
CHILE	4.8%	25.4 K	-	-	18.3%
COLOMBIA	53.5%	1.51 M	92.0%	92.7%	7.0%
ECUADOR	10.8%	48.0 K	93.4%	80.9%	-
PERU	18.5%	307.8 K	57.1%	57.1%	29.0%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>46.6 K</b>	-	-	22.7%
ARUBA	31.3%	3.6 K	-	-	31.3%
CURAÇAO	17.0%	2.0 K	-	-	17.0%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	24.7%	31.0 K	-	-	24.7%
GUYANA	29.0%	6.6 K	-	-	29.0%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	11.9%	3.5 K	-	-	11.9%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO**</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>14.5 K</b>	8.5%	8.5%	16.6%
COSTA RICA	19.0%	5.6 K	13.0%	13.0%	19.0%
MEXICO	NO DATA		NO DATA		
PANAMA	15.4%	8.9 K	4.0%	4.0%	15.4%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>22.4 K</b>	45.0%	45.0%	24.9%
ARGENTINA	8.3%	13.6 K	-	-	29.3%
BOLIVIA	22.0%	4.0 K	45.0%	45.0%	-
PARAGUAY	4.3%	230	-	-	-
URUGUAY	11.5%	4.6 K	-	-	23.5%

\*\* The humanitarian transportation PiN figures in the Central America and Mexico Sub-region, only consider data from Panama and Costa Rica.

### PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.





## HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION

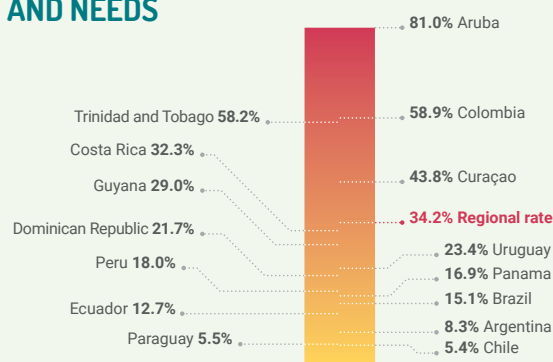
An important challenge faced by migrants and refugees in the region is access to humanitarian transportation. Safe and adequate transportation is essential for accessing protection (including documentation and regularization) and essential services, including education, healthcare, employability and integration opportunities. However, many refugees and migrants encounter multiple barriers and risks that limit their mobility and expose them to various forms of violence and exploitation.<sup>141</sup>

The lack of valid **documentation and regular status** affect access to transportation in most countries of the region. For example, in Mexico, migrants and refugees reported being denied transportation services or charged a higher price.<sup>142</sup> Similarly, in Curaçao<sup>143</sup> refugees and migrants reported incidents of law enforcement authorities conducting raids and checks in public transportation in order to identify those in an irregular situation for subsequent detention and deportation, thereby creating a strong disincentive to using public transportation.

These concerns are compounded by often **unaffordable costs** of urban transportation. Having progressively increased in the region,<sup>144</sup> regular urban transportation has become out of reach for many migrant and refugee households. For refugees and migrants who live far from their workplaces and their children's schools, this sometimes contributes to parents' decisions not to enrol their children or to withdraw them from school as

they are unable to afford transport costs. For example, 45 per cent of migrant and refugee children from Peru who did not attend school regularly cited unaffordable transportation costs as the reason.<sup>145</sup>

### PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES WITH TRANSPORTATION NEEDS TO REACH THEIR MOST COMMON SERVICES AND NEEDS



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted to Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelans in the countries the countries shown in the graph. Examples of common destinations may include going to work, school, a health center, the market, among other places.

Source: JNA (2024) in all aforementioned countries.

[141] As per the JNA in Ecuador individuals engaging in mixed movements face particular vulnerabilities, and as per the JNA in Colombia 25% cent of the population in pendular movement either walked or used cargo transportation.

[142] Transporte, "Les prohíben la compra de boletos de autobús por ser 'extranjeros,'" 14 June 2024, <https://transporte.mx/les-prohiben-la-compra-de-boletos-de-autobus-por-ser-extranjeros/>.

[143] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao (2024), forthcoming.

[144] This is the case of Bolivia and Peru where the costs of urban transport have increased due to inflation and the removal of subsidies.

[145] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

**Resources and information**<sup>146</sup> related to safe routes, geographic and climatic conditions, potential dangers, schedules, and available humanitarian and protection services were identified as one of the greatest needs in Chile,<sup>147</sup> Ecuador,<sup>148</sup> Peru<sup>149</sup> and Central America and Mexico.<sup>150</sup> This has a direct impact on refugees and migrants in navigating their journeys safely and efficiently. For example, in Colombia, JNA results showed that the lack of information on available humanitarian services and assistance was an obstacle to refugees and migrants.

The difficulties in accessing transportation inside and between cities can also expose migrants and refugees to protection risks, impacting their sense of security, and affecting their overall health, often resulting in them walking great distances on foot or to informal modes of transportation, including hitchhiking and use of cargo transportation, such as cargo trucks.<sup>151</sup>

This situation particularly exposes refugees and migrants to risks of human trafficking and smuggling, as observed in Ecuador,<sup>152</sup> Peru, Mexico, and Bolivia.<sup>153</sup> Furthermore, according to JNA findings, women and girls also reported avoiding using public transportation because they felt unsafe in the Dominican Republic<sup>154</sup> and Ecuador.<sup>155</sup>

The need for dignified, orderly, and safe humanitarian transportation is considered a crucial requirement for the integration and relocation of refugees and migrants. In Brazil, under the State's internal relocation program, those who were voluntarily relocated from Roraima to other cities in Brazil experienced better integration prospects, as it facilitates access to health and regularization services as well as increases rates of formal employment, improving the quality of life of migrants and refugees.<sup>156</sup>

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[146] Mixed Migration Centre, *Digital Lifelines: The Use of Social Media Networks Among Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants Heading North* (27 November 2023), <https://mixedmigration.org/resource/digital-lifelines-social-media-venezuelan/>.

[147] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024. In Chile, an R4V partner found that lack of information about safe routes was one of the two main obstacles for those who had recently arrived, representing 39% of those entering through Arica (border with Peru) and 47% of those arriving via Colchane (border with Bolivia).

[148] R4V Ecuador, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[149] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Focus Group Discussion with Refugees and Migrants in Transit*, forthcoming, 2024.

[150] *Migrants and refugees in Mexico face many obstacles accessing transportation due to lack of access to financial resources, lack of information on services available, and being denied transportation by bus companies, which exposes them to protection risks such as extortion, kidnappings, and trafficking.*

[151] See hereto the national chapters for Chile and Ecuador. In Chile, 84% use these unauthorized crossings, usually walking long distances or relying on informal transportation to reach their destination. In Ecuador 36% of those surveyed while in-transit reported that they have felt unsafe during their journeys, while an alarming 26% said they experienced some kind of violence, and 22.3% have suffered theft or extortion.

[152] In Ecuador 8.9% of surveyed travel groups said that at least one of their members was detained against their will by non-state actors during their journeys, and 15.3% were made false promises or otherwise manipulated into the decision to relocate.

[153] See respective platform chapters for more information.

[154] R4V Caribbean, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, Dominican Republic, forthcoming, 2024

[155] In Ecuador, 36% of women and girls from Venezuela avoid using public transportation because they feel unsafe.

[156] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.



# INTEGRATION

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

61.4% • 4.09 M

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



60.6%

WOMEN



60.5%

BOYS



61.3%

GIRLS



60.5%

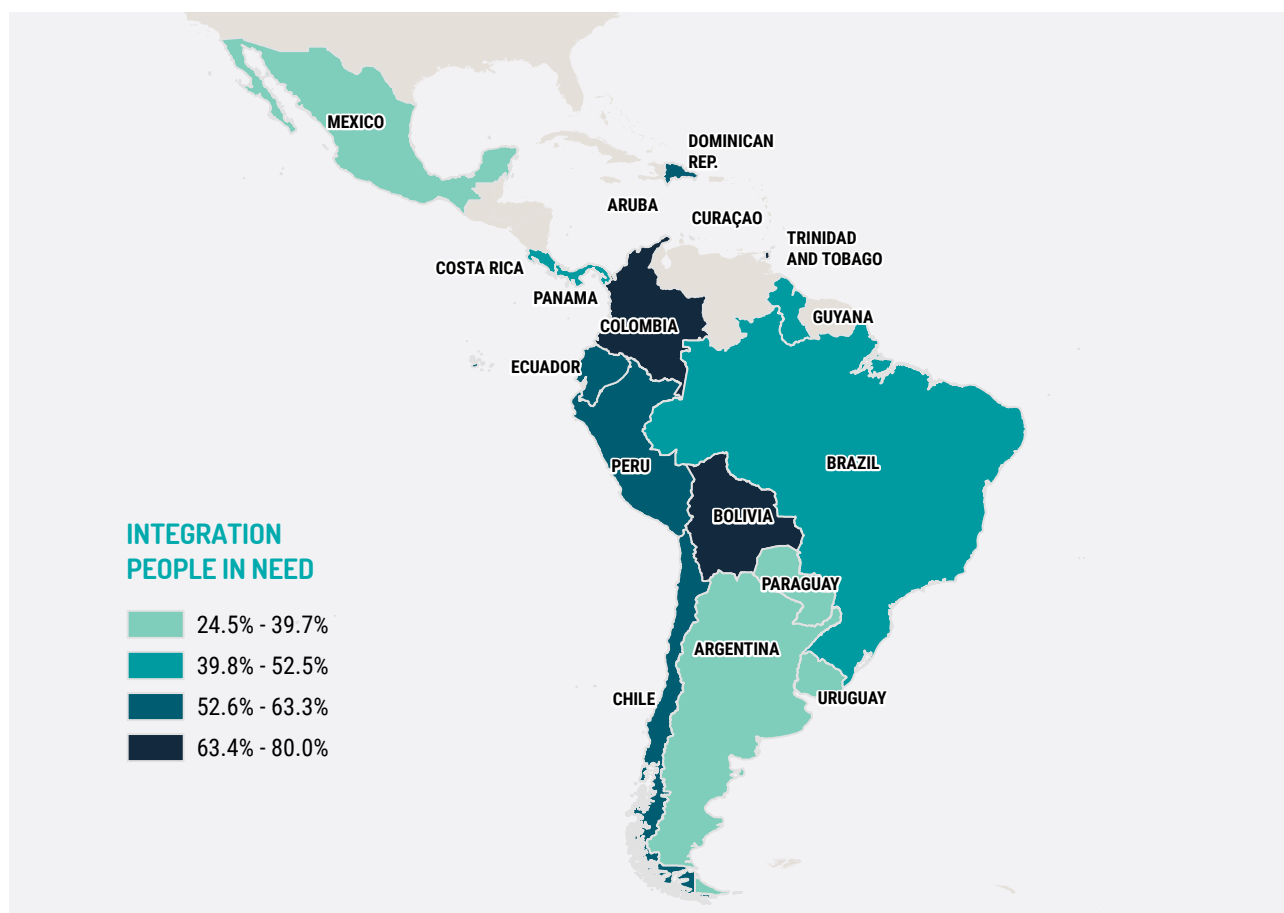
57.4%  
VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

39.7%  
OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

43.4%  
PENDULAR\*\*

32.9%  
COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

20.0%  
AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		VENEZUELAN	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	41.9%	245.3 K	41.0%	-	7.9%
CHILE	57.4%	306.0 K	-	-	20.8%
COLOMBIA	68.9%	1.94 M	44.1%	28.7%	12.0%
ECUADOR	59.5%	264.6 K	74.8%	56.2%	55.0%
PERU	63.3%	1.05 M	13.3%	13.3%	18.9%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>59.3%</b>	<b>118.8 K</b>	-	-	59.0%
ARUBA	39.7%	4.6 K	-	-	39.7%
CURAÇAO	78.7%	9.1 K	-	-	78.6%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	60.1%	75.2 K	-	-	60.1%
GUYANA	44.0%	10.0 K	-	-	44.0%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	67.7%	20.0 K	-	-	67.8%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>37.2%</b>	<b>72.1 K</b>	81.3%	62.9%	36.5%
COSTA RICA	48.4%	14.3 K	79.4%	61.9%	48.4%
MEXICO	25.8%	27.4 K	89.0%	-	25.8%
PANAMA	52.5%	30.4 K	77.0%	64.0%	52.5%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>38.4%</b>	<b>86.9 K</b>	55.0%	55.0%	32.3%
ARGENTINA	37.2%	60.6 K	-	-	31.8%
BOLIVIA	80.0%	14.4 K	55.0%	55.0%	54.8%
PARAGUAY	38.0%	2.0 K	-	-	42.3%
URUGUAY	24.5%	9.8 K	-	-	24.5%

PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

## INTEGRATION

With view to achieving comprehensive socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants across the region, their regularization is a first crucial step, which must then be complemented by comprehensive integration strategies. In nations where regular status is more prevalent, such as in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay, the primary focus shifts towards addressing the broader integration needs of refugees and migrants. Holistic integration approaches are needed to encompass access to education, healthcare, employment, and social services, fostering an inclusive environment where migrants and refugees can fully participate in and contribute to their new communities.

Access to income-generating opportunities is a priority for those who are unemployed or engaged in unpaid work: JNA unemployment figures range from 39 per cent per cent in Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil to 12 per cent in Peru. A staggering 76 per cent unemployment rate was reported among indigenous refugee and migrant communities in Guyana.<sup>157</sup> Those engaging in gainful employment often require improved working conditions, especially access to formal labour contracts. Venezuelan women in destination face substantial challenges, with employment rates generally below those of men (e.g. over 4 percentage points less

than men in Brazil).<sup>158</sup> Limited childcare support disproportionately burdens women, restricting their access to decent employment.<sup>159</sup> Youth and indigenous communities also experience high unemployment rates; in Ecuador, youth unemployment rose from less than eight percent in 2023 to nine percent in 2024.<sup>160</sup>

While the region is characterized by traditionally high rates of informal labour, the prevalence of this labour informality among Venezuelans in-destination is particularly high: In Peru, 97 per cent work in the informal sector,<sup>161</sup> while in Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, and Trinidad and Tobago, labour informality affects between 73 and 89 per cent of the Venezuelan working population.<sup>162</sup> Informality often entails longer working hours, with lower wages, lack of social protection and related benefits, and often unsafe working conditions. As a result, many resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as spending savings on food, taking children out of school, begging, and engaging in survival sex. In Bolivia, 30 per cent report having experienced labour rights violations.<sup>163</sup>

Degree and skills validation enable refugees and migrants to more meaningfully contribute to their host communities in their fields of professional expertise. However, this remains a crucial gap among Venezuelans. In Costa Rica, only 33 per cent work in

[157] IOM, *Displacement Tracking Matrix, Guyana (2023)*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/guyana-flow-monitoring-surveys-indigenous-venezuelan-nationals-guyana-round-5-march-2023?close=true>.

[158] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[159] *The burden of care limits women's ability to find formal work which makes them for vulnerable to exploitation and GBV perpetrated by informal employers. Plan International, Mujeres Adolescentes en Crisis (2024)*, 17, <https://plan-international.org/uploads/sites/96/2024/04/Mujeres-Adolescentes-En-Crisis-%E2%80%93-Resumen-Ejecutivo-ESPANOL-3.pdf>.

[160] Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), *Caracterización de Grupos de Población Específica (January 2024)*, [https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/EMPLEO/2024/Enero/empleo\\_poblaciones\\_especificas\\_enero2024.pdf](https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/EMPLEO/2024/Enero/empleo_poblaciones_especificas_enero2024.pdf).

[161] R4V Peru, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

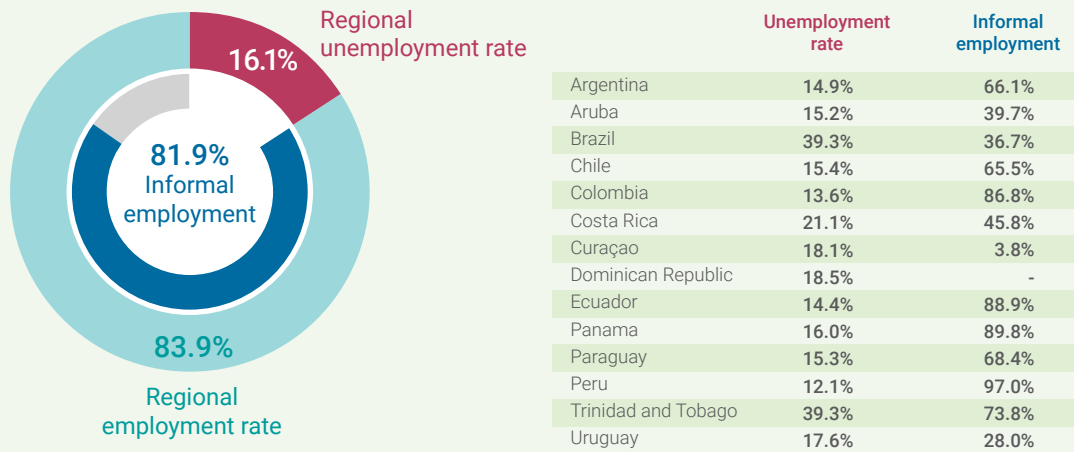
[162] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, 2024.; R4V Ecuador, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, 2024.; R4V Colombia, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, 2024.; R4V Caribbean, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, Trinidad and Tobago, 2024.

[163] UNHCR, *Results Report, Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) in Bolivia (2023)*. Internal document.

their trained professions, with 49 per cent unable to validate their degrees.<sup>164</sup> In Uruguay, 56 per cent have not validated their diplomas,<sup>165</sup> while in Chile, 63 per cent are not working in their trained professions<sup>166</sup> and 94 per cent have not been able to validate their diplomas.<sup>167</sup> In Colombia, 94 per cent of Venezuelans had not validated their degrees, and 96 per cent have not certified their skills.<sup>168</sup> In Ecuador, this mismatch between skills of Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their actual work translated to a missed potential of up to 2.5 per cent of the country's GDP in 2022.<sup>169</sup> Access to financial services is also limited for

Venezuelans in-destination, and largely owed to a lack of needed documentation and regular status. Affecting some 41 per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants living in the region, including over 85 per cent in Curaçao and Trinidad and Tobago, 75 per cent in Chile,<sup>170</sup> 61 per cent in Ecuador, and 51 per cent in Panama,<sup>171</sup> it limits their ability to conduct daily transactions, save money, receive regular salaries, pay rent, invest in businesses, and access credit. In Guyana, 95 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed report that they lack access to financial institutions or mobile money services due to a lack of resources, information and

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFORMALITY RATES OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE REGION



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted to Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelans in the countries shown in the graph.

Source: JNA (2024) in the aforementioned countries.

[164] IOM, Social Development Consulting Equilibrium, *Estudio de Impacto Económico de la Migración Venezolana*, Costa Rica, December 2023, <https://respuestavenezolanos.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl526/files/documents/2024-02/informe-costa-rica-estudio-impacto-migracion-venezolana-.pdf>.

[165] Cámara Venezolano Uruguaya de Empresarios y Profesionales (CAVENUY), *Inserción e Impacto de Profesionales Venezolanos en Uruguay* (2024), [https://www.cavenuy.com/resultados\\_2024.pdf](https://www.cavenuy.com/resultados_2024.pdf).

[166] Centro de Políticas Migratorias, *Casen Survey 2022 and Migration: Situation of Children and Adolescents* (2023), [https://www.politicasmigratorias.org/\\_files/ugd/78ba0f\\_d22b1e13b38c493d93db1ad323273d23.pdf?index=true](https://www.politicasmigratorias.org/_files/ugd/78ba0f_d22b1e13b38c493d93db1ad323273d23.pdf?index=true).

[167] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

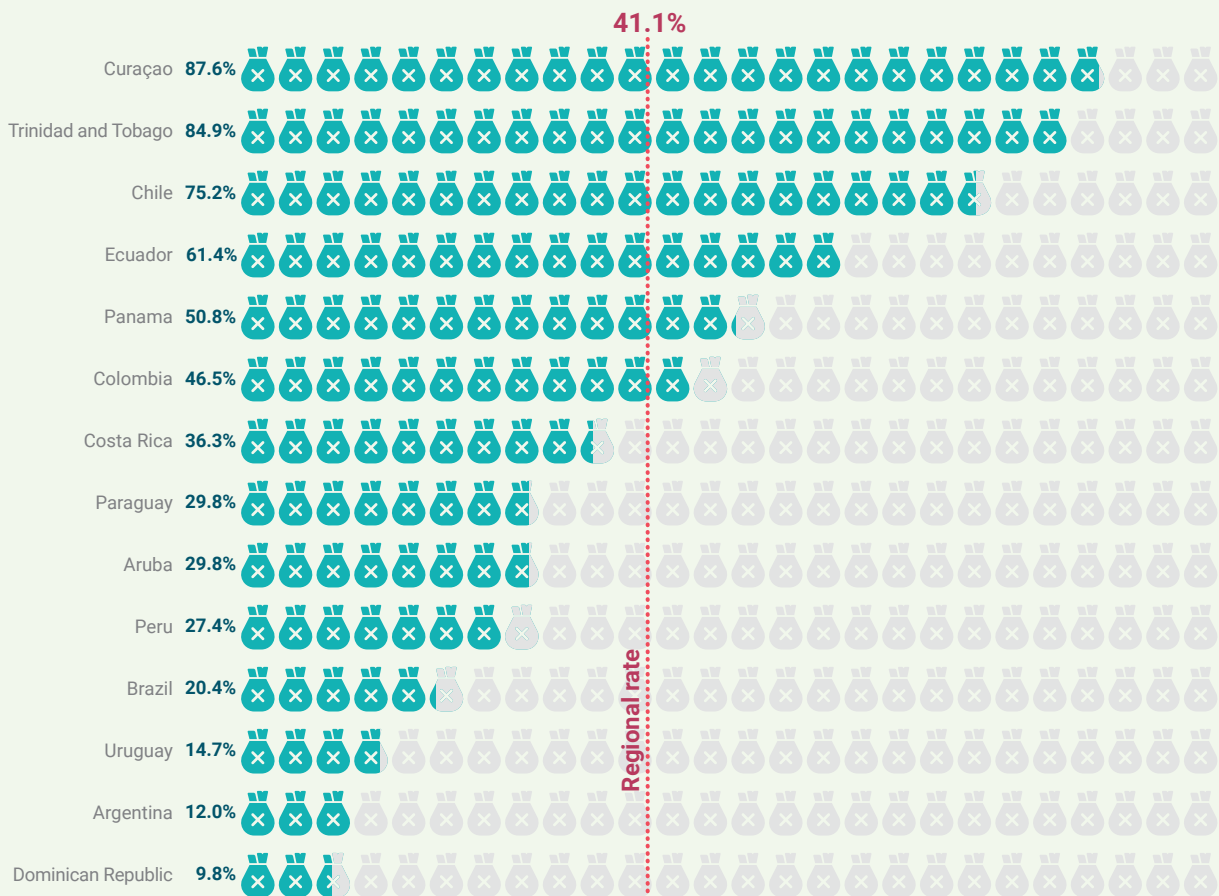
[168] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[169] International Monetary Fund (IMF), *Regional Spillovers from the Venezuelan Crisis: Migration Flows and Their Impact on Latin America and the Caribbean*, December 2022, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-Papers/Issues/2022/12/01/Regional-Spillovers-from-the-Venezuelan-Crisis-Migration-Flows-and-Their-Impact-on-Latin-525729>.

[170] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[171] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

## PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE REGION LACKING ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination. The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelans in the countries shown in the graph.

Source: JNA (2024) in the aforementioned countries.

documentation.<sup>172</sup> Women and LGBTQI+ persons are particularly affected, for example in Argentina, where 60 per cent of those surveyed indicate requiring seed capital to develop their enterprises.<sup>173</sup>

Venezuelan refugees and migrants also face rising rates of discrimination and xenophobia in the workplace or in entrepreneurship/self-employment due to their nationality, especially in Brazil (49 per

cent),<sup>174</sup> Trinidad and Tobago (39 per cent)<sup>175</sup> and Chile (23 per cent).<sup>176</sup> Discrimination based on nationality occurs in communities, employment, housing, and social services. Women and girls are often sexualized in media, increasing risks of gender-based violence. Xenophobia fuels discrimination, violence, and abuse, limiting refugees' and migrants' well-being, mental health, and opportunities to access their rights.

[172] UNHCR Guyana, Results Monitoring Survey, 2023. Internal document.

[173] IOM, Somos Parte: Report on Integration Needs for Women and Migrant Diversity Residents in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, 2023, <https://argentina.iom.int/es/recursos/proyecto-somosparte-informe-sobre-necesidades-en-integracion-para-mujeres-y-diversidades-migrantes-residentes-en-la-ciudad-autonoma-de-buenos-aires>.

[174] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[175] R4V Caribbean Sub-region, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, forthcoming, 2024.

[176] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.



# NUTRITION

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PiN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

**7.4% • 492.6 K**

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER\*

MEN



WOMEN



8.1%

BOYS



15.3%

GIRLS



15.0%

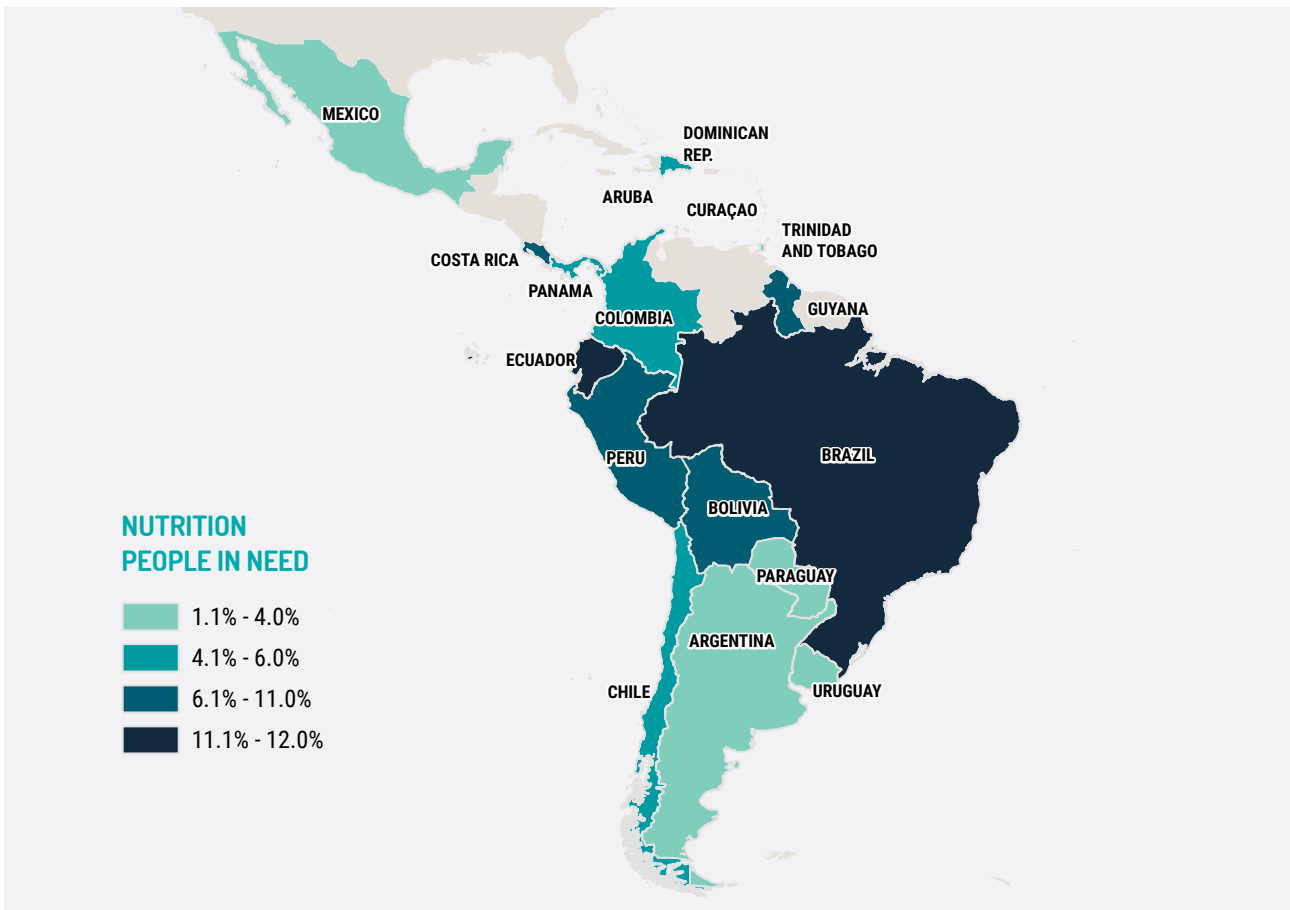
**8.2%**  
VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

**5.1%**  
OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*\*

**8.1%**  
PENDULAR\*\*\*

**5.3%**  
COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*\*

**2.8%**  
AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*\*



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\* Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA (applied in all countries except Mexico).

\*\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).



COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
			VENEZUELAN	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	11.1%	65.0 K	12.9%	-	0.8%
CHILE	5.7%	30.6 K	-	-	0.8%
COLOMBIA	5.4%	151.9 K	4.8%	2.4%	4.0%
ECUADOR	11.2%	49.8 K	19.4%	9.1%	6.1%
PERU	9.9%	165.3 K	4.3%	4.3%	2.8%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>12.2 K</b>	-	-	6.0%
ARUBA	12.0%	1.4 K	-	-	12.0%
CURAÇAO	5.0%	584	-	-	5.0%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	6.0%	7.5 K	-	-	6.1%
GUYANA	8.0%	1.8 K	-	-	7.9%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	3.0%	899	-	-	3.0%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>11.0 K</b>	5.7%	6.4%	5.6%
COSTA RICA	11.0%	3.2 K	8.0%	8.0%	11.0%
MEXICO	4.0%	4.2 K	3.8%	-	4.0%
PANAMA	6.0%	3.5 K	4.8%	4.8%	6.0%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>6.9 K</b>	28.6%	23.7%	0.6%
ARGENTINA	2.7%	4.4 K	-	-	0.6%
BOLIVIA	10.9%	2.0 K	28.6%	23.7%	1.1%
PARAGUAY	2.8%	152	-	-	1.3%
URUGUAY	1.0%	420	-	-	0.4%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER\*\*

 WOMEN  BOYS  GIRLS

40.3%

30.2%

29.5%

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA (applied in all countries except Mexico).

## NUTRITION

Migrant and refugee children under five years of age, especially those under two, and pregnant and lactating women, including girls, have inherently heightened nutrition needs and are those most at risk of undernutrition. In humanitarian situations, refugees' and migrants' limited access to health and nutrition services, food and safe drinking water, as well as unhygienic environments during transit and onward movements, or when adapting to a destination country, lead to reduced dietary intake and increased risk of infection, overall preceding undernutrition.<sup>177</sup> Transit is particularly challenging for these vulnerable groups, as their journey makes the adoption of optimal eating and feeding practices challenging; they have limited access to nutrition services such as support to breastfeeding when difficulties arise or access to micronutrient supplements to support their high nutrient needs.

Refugee and migrant infants under six months, who should be exclusively breastfed, are in need of evaluation and targeted counselling of feeding practices for their caregivers to ensure adequate nutrition and reduce the risk of morbidity and mortality.<sup>178</sup> However, according to the 2024 JNA results, some 23.4 per cent of infants under six months in 14 countries in the region were not

exclusively breastfed and received infant formula, plain water or juice, reaching up to 61 per cent in Ecuador.<sup>179</sup> Only five per cent and 30 per cent of caregivers of non-breastfed infants reported to have received counselling in Brazil and Ecuador, respectively.<sup>180</sup> Also, many caregivers interviewed as part of the 2024 JNA reported they did not receive the minimum package of interventions for infants under six months (nutritional assessment and counselling; see infographic for more information).<sup>181</sup> This situation leaves infants under six months at high risk of malnutrition, disease, and death, especially in resource scarce contexts with limited purchasing power and limited access to clean water.

Similarly, refugee and migrant children under five need minimum packages of nutrition interventions to prevent malnutrition.<sup>182</sup> According to JNA results in the region, between ten and 100 per cent of children between six to 59 months in-destination did not receive these interventions to prevent malnutrition in the last three months (see infographic). In addition, the JNAs also found that between one and 79 per cent of refugee and migrant children in a number of countries were not receiving the minimum dietary diversity,<sup>183</sup> therefore living in child food poverty.<sup>184</sup> These results put children under

[177] R4V Platform, *Introduction to the R4V Nutrition Sector*, August 2022, <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/introduction-r4v-nutrition-sector>.

[178] *Infants under six months are particularly vulnerable as they have an underdeveloped immune system and need to receive exclusively breast milk, to prevent mortality from infectious diseases, such as diarrhoea and pneumonia, in resource-scarce settings.*

[179] *Percentages of infants under six months not exclusively breastfed according to 2024 JNA results: Brazil, 22% in-destination; Colombia, 46% in pendular movements and 48% in-transit, 10% in-destination; Curaçao, 14% rely on infant formula; Ecuador, 61% in-destination, 100% in-transit.*

[180] *2024 JNA results from Brazil and Ecuador.*

[181] *See infographic for more information*

[182] *Children need access to nutritional interventions including assessment to identify and refer to malnutrition, counselling for caregivers on child feeding practices, and micronutrient supplementation.*

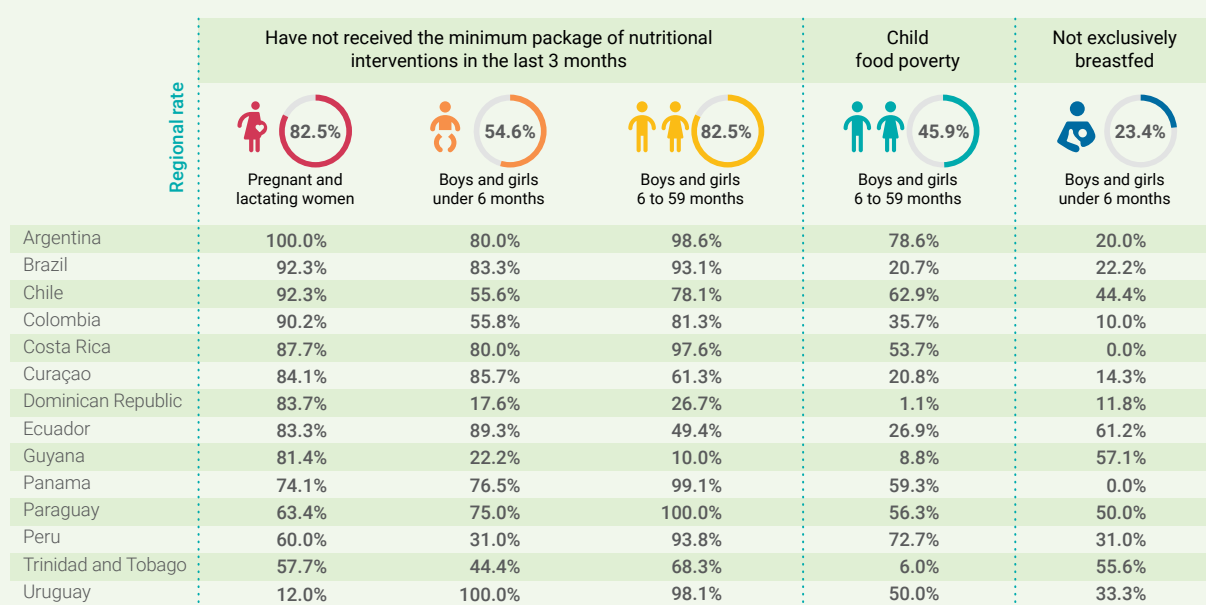
[183] *Lack of minimum dietary diversity means they were not consuming the foods from at least five out the eight recommended food groups. Percentages of infants under 6-59 months living in child food poverty according to 2024 JNA results: 79% in Argentina, 21% in Brazil, 63% in Chile, 36% in Colombia, 54% in Costa Rica, 21% in Curaçao, 27% in Ecuador, 9% in Guyana, 56% in Paraguay, 73% in Peru, 6% in Trinidad and Tobago, 50% in Uruguay.*

five at risk of malnutrition, including anaemia, wasting, and stunting.

Being on the move can lead to malnutrition among pregnant women due to micronutrient deficiencies in the journey, increasing their risk of dying during childbirth, giving birth to an underweight or mentally impaired baby, miscarriage, and stillbirth. In Bolivia, 56 per cent of 25 assessed pregnant and lactating women were diagnosed with anaemia.<sup>185</sup> In Colombia, 27 per cent of pregnant women in pendular movements and

in-transit were identified with underweight, posing perinatal risks. Among pregnant and lactating women surveyed in the JNAs, between 12 and 100 per cent did not access the minimum package of nutrition interventions in the three months prior to being surveyed (see infographic). Accessing these nutrition interventions<sup>186</sup> is key to ensure adequate growth and development of the unborn children, and adequate nutrition and wellbeing among women.

## PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES WITH NUTRITION-RELATED NEEDS



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the countries shown in the graph.

Source: JNA (2024) in the aforementioned countries.

[184] Child food poverty is defined as children's inability to access and consume a nutritious and diverse diet in the first five years of life (at least five of the eight defined food groups). Child food poverty can cause great harm to child survival, physical growth, and cognitive development as children receive insufficient dietary intake of essential nutrients for healthy growth and development. UNICEF. Child Food Poverty: Nutrition Deprivation in Early Childhood. June 2024. <https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-food-poverty-report-2024/>.

[185] UNICEF, Irish Aid, and Global Nutrition Cluster, Migrants of Venezuela in Bolivia: Diagnosis of the Nutritional Status of Children and Adolescents, Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women, November-December 2022. <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/resources/report-situation-diagnosis-nutrition-status-migrant-venezuela-children-adolescents-and>.

[186] In the context of the R4V response, pregnant and lactating women require at least i) evaluation of their nutritional status through weight and height and/or arm circumference, ii) counselling on nutrition during pregnancy and lactating, and iii) micronutrient supplementation to support their increased nutrient needs and prevent anaemia and/or other forms of malnutrition. Being on the move can also affect breastfeeding women, who have increased nutrient requirements. Care given to the infant can be affected by the mothers' undernutrition, leading to their poor health and development.

Lastly, among school aged children and adolescents,<sup>187</sup> malnutrition has been identified in two countries. In Panama, 30 per cent of children aged six and 12 years old and 56 per cent of children 13 to 19 years old in-transit were identified with anaemia after crossing the Darien jungle.<sup>188</sup> In three municipalities of Bolivia

receiving high number of refugees and migrants, 42 per cent of children aged six to 18 years had anaemia.<sup>189</sup> This limits their development, learning ability, reduces concentration in daily tasks, increases their vulnerability to infection and reduces physical fitness.<sup>190</sup>



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[187] Children 5 to 19 years are also vulnerable to malnutrition, they have high nutritional needs due to growth and development, especially in adolescence, that is a key time for brain development.

[188] UNICEF, *Lajas Blancas, Darién - Cuidado y Nutrición, en Migración*. YouTube video. Published April 18, 2024. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBFZjHiE\\_ps](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBFZjHiE_ps).

[189] UNICEF, Irish Aid, and Global Nutrition Cluster, *Migrants of Venezuela in Bolivia: Diagnosis of the Nutritional Status of Children and Adolescents, Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women, November-December 2022*. <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/resources/report-situation-diagnosis-nutrition-status-migrant-venezuela-children-adolescents-an>

[190] Usha R., *Nutritional Anemia* (Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2001), 8–12, [https://www.routledge.com/Nutritional-Anemias/Ramakrishnan/p/book/9780849385698?srsId=AfmB0or\\_yjLp-cZCtYpj3hZ3FlqvGCSFAXh0ZwU7jiKkTIBkbECQYf4g](https://www.routledge.com/Nutritional-Anemias/Ramakrishnan/p/book/9780849385698?srsId=AfmB0or_yjLp-cZCtYpj3hZ3FlqvGCSFAXh0ZwU7jiKkTIBkbECQYf4g). World Health Organization, *Prevention of Iron Deficiency Anemia in Adolescents: A Role of Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation* (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2011), <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/205656/B4770.pdf;sequence=1>. Beard, J.L., "Iron Biology in Immune Function, Muscle Metabolism and Neuronal Functioning," *Journal of Nutrition* 131, no. 4 (2001): 568S–580S, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11160590/>.



# PROTECTION

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

### VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION

**54.4% • 3.62 M**

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

### MEN



53.8%

### WOMEN



53.6%

### BOYS



53.0%

### GIRLS



51.6%

**71.0%**

VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

**73.5%**

OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

**55.4%**

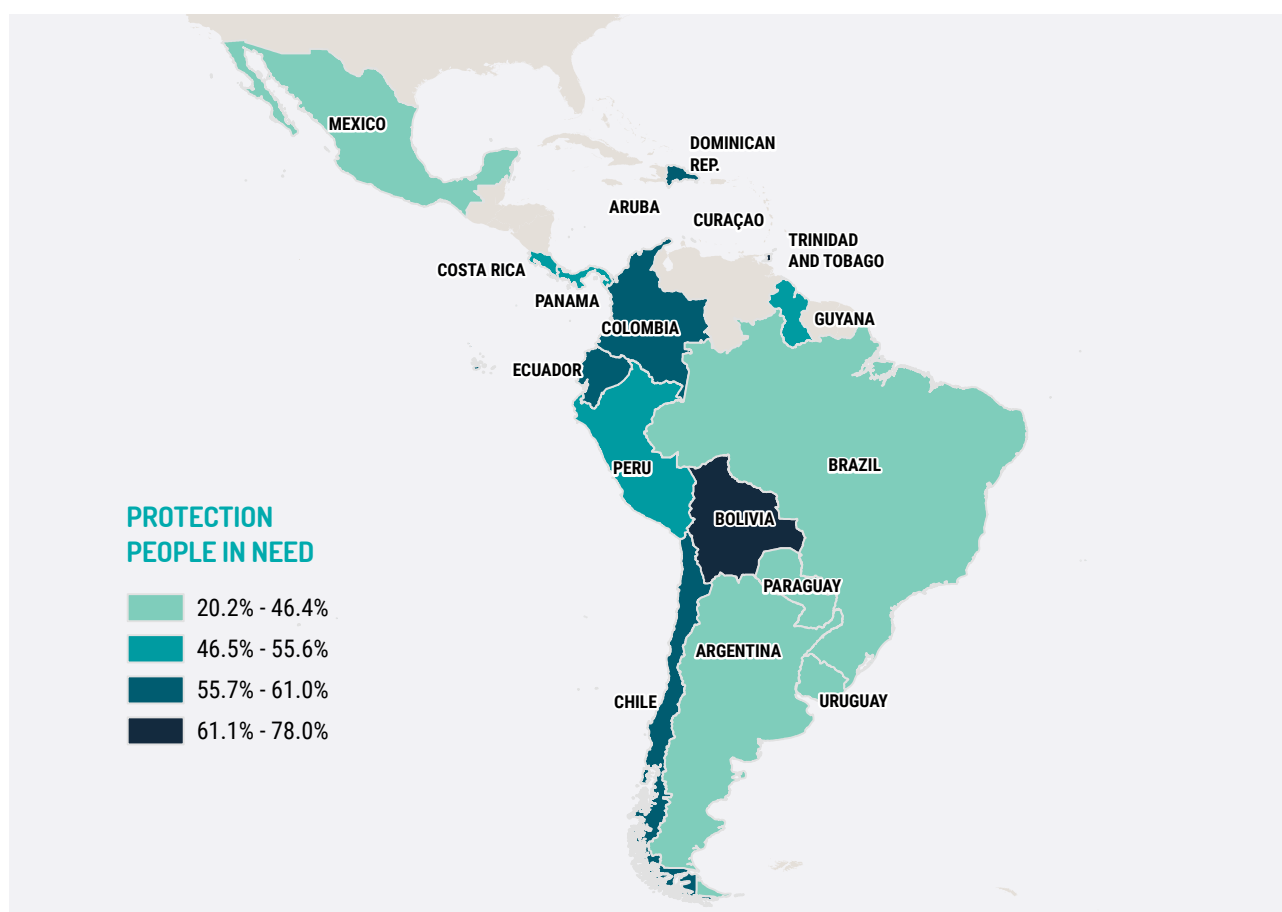
PENDULAR\*\*

**31.0%**

COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

**18.4%**

AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		VENEZUELAN	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	23.4%	136.8 K	34.1%	-	36.7%
CHILE	57.4%	306.0 K	-	-	21.2%
COLOMBIA	61.0%	1.72 M	84.6%	90.7%	10.0%
ECUADOR	58.9%	262.0 K	89.2%	71.8%	49.8%
PERU	55.7%	925.6 K	26.0%	26.0%	15.4%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>61.4%</b>	<b>123.0 K</b>	-	-	61.1%
ARUBA	74.2%	8.5 K	-	-	74.2%
CURAÇAO	78.0%	9.0 K	-	-	77.9%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	59.6%	74.5 K	-	-	59.6%
GUYANA	48.0%	10.9 K	-	-	48.0%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	67.8%	20.0 K	-	-	67.8%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>94.1 K</b>	75.7%	76.4%	48.5%
COSTA RICA	48.6%	14.3 K	60.0%	64.8%	48.6%
MEXICO	46.5%	49.2 K	80.0%	-	46.5%
PANAMA	52.6%	30.5 K	88.0%	88.0%	52.6%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>57.7 K</b>	58.0%	58.0%	20.2%
ARGENTINA	22.0%	35.9 K	-	-	20.0%
BOLIVIA	67.0%	12.1 K	58.0%	58.0%	46.0%
PARAGUAY	30.1%	1.6 K	-	-	36.0%
URUGUAY	20.2%	8.1 K	-	-	10.0%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 MEN
  WOMEN
  BOYS
  GIRLS



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

## PROTECTION

More than four million Venezuelan refugees and migrants have successfully settled and integrated into host countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, benefitting from generous residency and asylum regimes, and therefore able to integrate and contribute to their host communities. That notwithstanding, some 33 per cent of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in their destination countries remain in an irregular situation, subject to a broad range of restrictions and hurdles in accessing basic rights and services, as further elaborated in the various sectoral chapters of this RMNA. This widespread irregularity, coupled with manifold additional factors, contribute to multidirectional movements of refugees and migrants seeking protection and sustainable solutions in the region. Insufficient and/or inaccessible regular migratory status and asylum mechanisms, conflict, violence and discrimination in host communities, as well as challenges with long-term integration are some of the contributing factors to increasing onward movements, and corresponding protection risks. Restrictions on safe access to territory and limited safe routes for migrants and refugees engaging in such onward and transit movements increase risks, often forcing them to resort to irregular and more dangerous

means and routes of travel,<sup>191</sup> without serving the intended purpose of governments in deterring refugees and migrants from using irregular routes.<sup>192</sup>

Groups in vulnerable situations, including people with disabilities, single parents or caregivers with children, the elderly, pregnant and/or lactating women, LGBTQI+ persons, those living with chronic illnesses, and indigenous peoples, are further exposed to protection risks and abuses.

In various countries, Venezuelan refugees and migrants lack legal protection from risks of *refoulement*, deportations, prolonged arbitrary detentions, and abuses of authority.<sup>193</sup> They lack access to long-term solutions, such as asylum, regularization, regular stay arrangements, and essential services. Insufficient or inaccessible mechanisms for the recognition of refugee status hamper access to international protection for those in need (see infographic).<sup>194</sup>

Furthermore, despite some countries<sup>195</sup> adopting positive ad hoc regularization measures, most countries covered by R4V do not have active regular stay mechanisms accessible to migrants and refugees arriving in 2024.<sup>196</sup> Moreover, some of the implemented mechanisms do not necessarily guarantee long-term

[191] A 26% increase has been reported in mixed movements through the dangerous Darien jungle in 2024 towards Central America and Mexico, coupled with further multidirectional movements in South America. R4V regional platform. Movement Reports Q1 and Q2 2024. (2024) <https://www.r4v.info/en/movements-report-q1-2024>.

[192] Omar Hammoud-Gallego, *The Short-Term Effects of Visa Restrictions on Migrants' Legal Status and Well-Being: A Difference-in-Differences Approach on Venezuelan Displacement*, *World Development* 182 (2024): 106709, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X24001797>.

[193] *Examples of refoulement, deportations and arbitrary detention have been observed in Trinidad and Tobago, Panama and Mexico. See national chapters.*

[194] *In the Central America and Mexico and the Caribbean sub-regions, asylum systems have become less accessible due to a lack of efficient asylum law or systems; in Trinidad and Tobago and Bolivia, the systems are not accessible to Venezuelans due to normative deficiencies and operative barriers.*

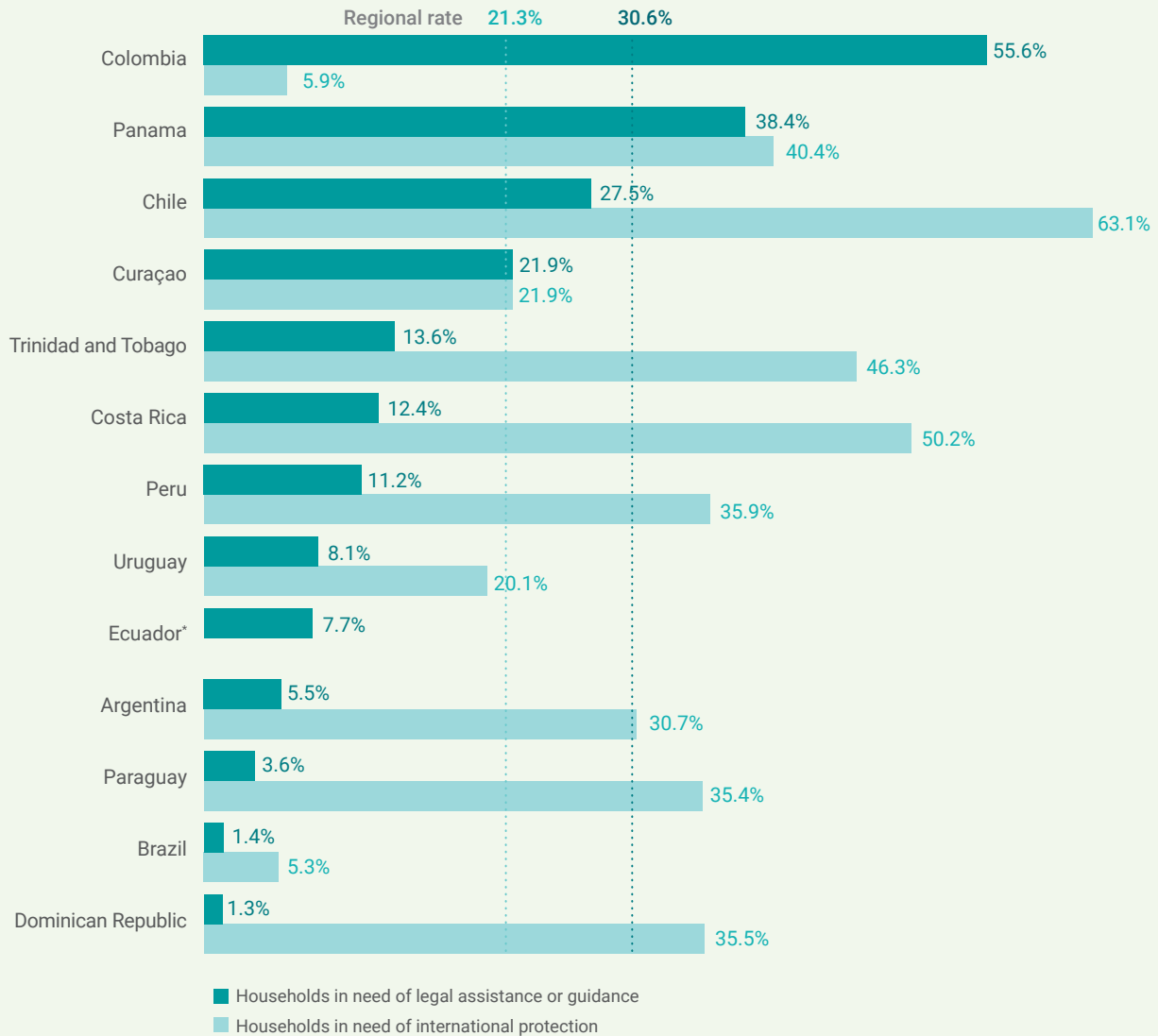
[195] *See the protection chapters of Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador.*

[196] *Active regularization mechanisms available for refugees and migrants from Venezuela entering the countries during the first semester of 2024, not including asylum systems, or tourist visas with a short time duration. Countries with active regular stay mechanisms include Brazil, Guyana, Argentina, and Uruguay. Argentina and Uruguay both included in their national migration laws the Common Southern Market (MERCOSUR) nationality residence criteria.*

solutions and integration, often due to barriers for service access and discrimination.<sup>197</sup> In addition, the widespread lack of valid documentation<sup>198</sup> impacts

refugees' and migrants' access to basic rights and vital services such as health, education, food, safe shelter, and social protection schemes.<sup>199</sup>

### PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE REGION IN NEED OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE OR GUIDANCE, AND IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the countries shown in the graph.

\*In Ecuador, no JNA data was available on the international protection indicator.

Source: JNA (2024) in the aforementioned countries.

[197] Amnesty International, *Regularizar y Proteger: Obligaciones Internacionales de Protección de Personas Venezolanas* (September 2023), <https://shorturl.at/MLGmC>.

[198] Among others, due to insufficient financial resources to pay for the administrative fees to obtain documents, bureaucratic hurdles in transit and destination countries, excessive document requirements, lack of available and functioning consular services.

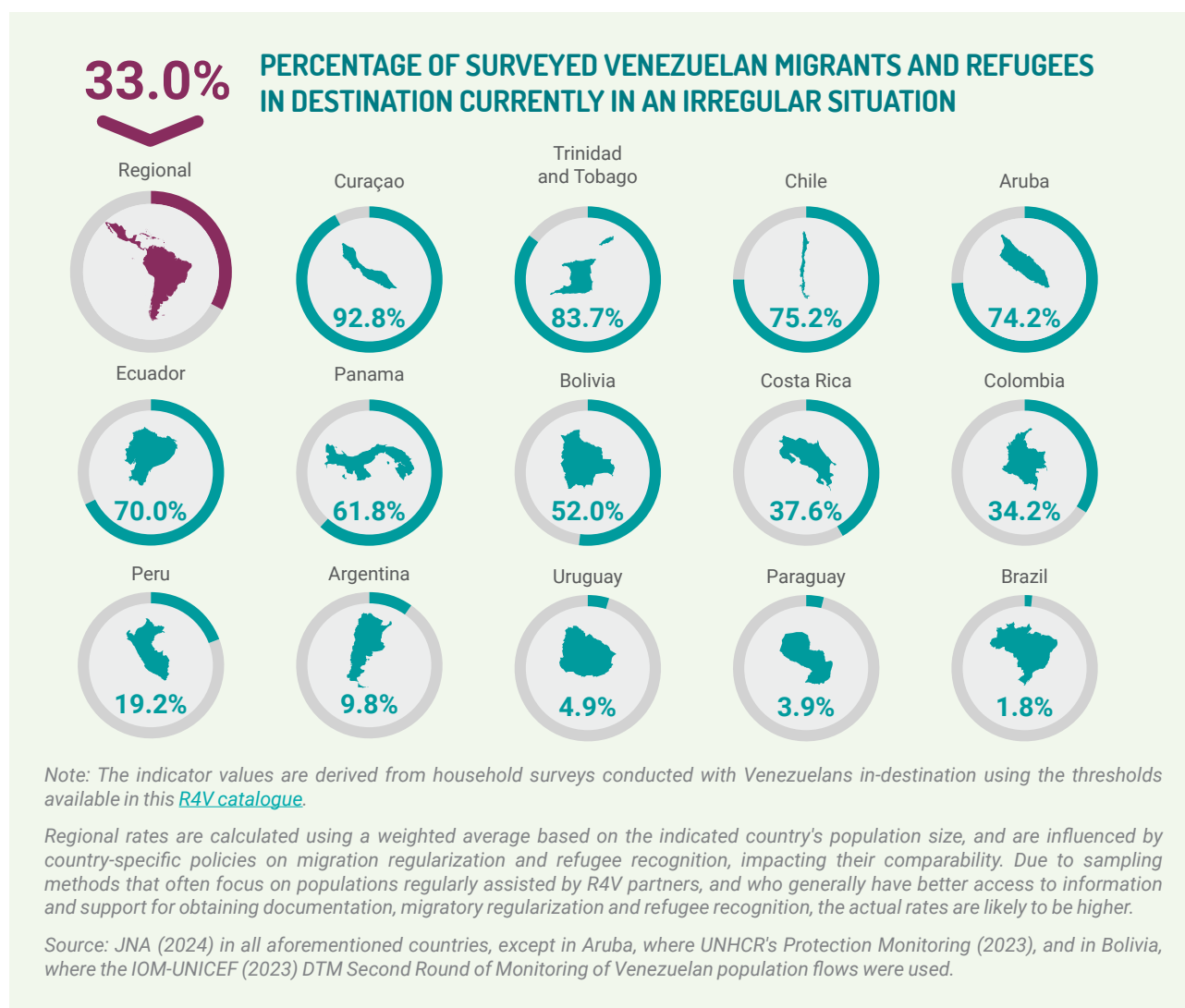
[199] R4V Platform, *Special Situation Report: Impact of the Elections in Venezuela on Refugees and Migrants* (5 August, 2024), <https://www.r4v.info/en/sitrep-electionsvzla>.



Substantial obstacles<sup>200</sup> to safe access and admission to territory,<sup>201</sup> regular entry, and transit permits endure, primarily due to a lack of protection-sensitive screening and referral mechanisms, inadequate reception arrangements, limited humanitarian transportation options, insufficient information on entry and regular stay requirements, available public services, and absence of legal orientation.<sup>202</sup>

Migrants and refugees need protection from various risks as well as access to specialized services. In

the region, 26 per cent refugees and migrants report security concerns and violations. Due to the inability to meet the requirements for regular entry, most migrants and refugees continue to rely on informal and unsafe routes.<sup>203</sup> As reported by those engaging in onward and transit movement, major protection risks include theft, fraud, sexual violence, physical, and psychological violence, homicide, extortion, bribery, arbitrary detention, kidnappings, disappearances,<sup>204</sup> human trafficking, and GBV.<sup>205</sup>



[200] R4V Platform and UNHCR, *Matriz Nacional de Acceso y Protección* (May 2024), <https://shorturl.at/3GM2G>.

[201] *Surveyed refugees and migrants in the region - Chile (85%), Curaçao (45%), Costa Rica (41%), Trinidad and Tobago (40%), Aruba (39%), Colombia (30%) and Panama (28%) - reported high percentages of households facing difficulties in safely accessing destination countries.* R4V Platform. *Joint Needs Assessments* (2024) forthcoming.

[202] *Aruba (82%), Colombia (59%), Mexico (50%) and Panama (38%) reported high percentages of households in need of legal assistance and orientation.* R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment* (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[203] *Border militarization and security approaches further restrict access to territory, thereby heightening risks and irregular movements, as seen in the Darien and the borders between Chile, Peru, and Bolivia.* DRC, *Mixed Movement Monitoring Q1, 2024* (2023); NRC, *Mixed Movement Monitoring Q1, 2024* (2024); UNHCR and WFP, *Mixed Movement Monitoring Q1, 2024* (2024), <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109507>.

[204] *Disappearances and deaths, especially in maritime routes, are reported in the Caribbean.*

[205] *UNHCR and WFP, Mixed Movement Monitoring Q1, June 2024, https://shorturl.at/0loJW. IOM, Risks and Protection through the Most Dangerous Zones along the Transit Migration Routes in Central America and Mexico, 2024.*



# CHILD PROTECTION

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

10.1% • 672.7 K

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



WOMEN



BOYS



34.3%

GIRLS



32.9%

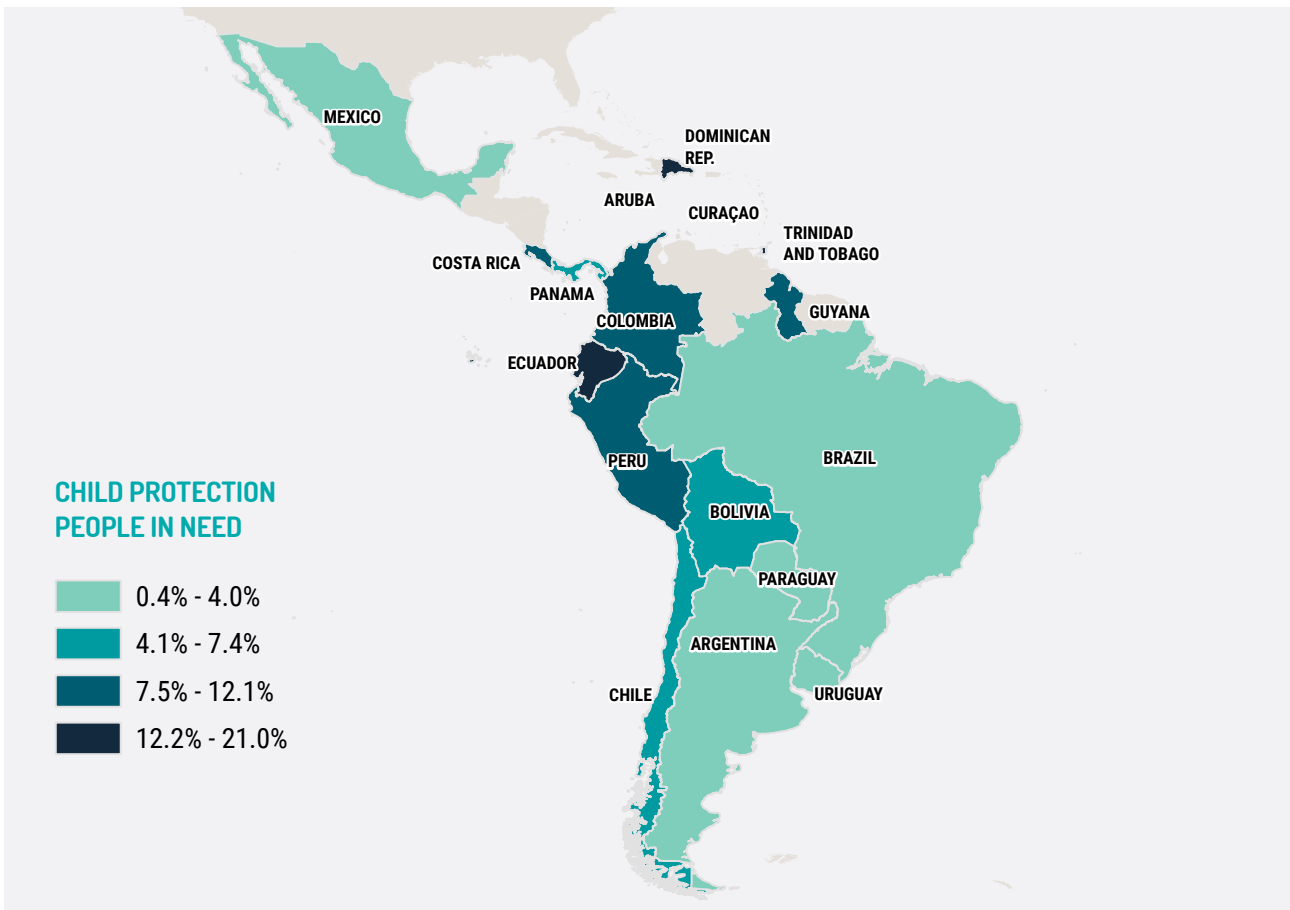
9.5%  
VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

6.1%  
OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

6.9%  
PENDULAR\*\*

4.5%  
COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

4.3%  
AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
			VENEZUELAN	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	4.0%	23.4 K	8.2%	-	16.9%
CHILE	7.4%	39.5 K	-	-	3.6%
COLOMBIA	10.8%	302.6 K	9.4%	6.0%	1.1%
ECUADOR	18.4%	81.6 K	27.5%	8.9%	18.2%
PERU	11.2%	185.5 K	1.9%	1.9%	3.0%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>28.2 K</b>	-	-	14.2%
ARUBA	5.7%	654	-	-	5.7%
CURAÇAO	21.0%	2.4 K	-	-	20.6%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	13.9%	17.4 K	-	-	13.9%
GUYANA	10.5%	2.4 K	-	-	10.5%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	18.0%	5.3 K	-	-	18.0%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>8.9 K</b>	6.4%	8.0%	4.5%
COSTA RICA	12.1%	3.6 K	8.0%	11.0%	12.1%
MEXICO	2.3%	2.4 K	6.0%	-	2.3%
PANAMA	5.0%	2.9 K	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>3.0 K</b>	3.9%	2.9%	4.6%
ARGENTINA	1.1%	1.8 K	-	-	5.0%
BOLIVIA	5.6%	1.0 K	3.9%	2.9%	2.8%
PARAGUAY	1.2%	62	-	-	2.9%
URUGUAY	0.5%	189	-	-	4.0%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 BOYS  GIRLS

51.2%

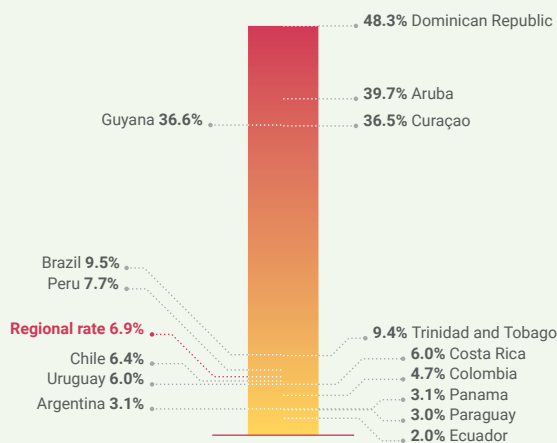
48.8%

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

## CHILD PROTECTION

### PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS THAT REPORT KNOWING A CHILD OR ADOLESCENT WHO EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE, ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION AND WHO DID NOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE OR SUPPORT



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the countries shown in the graph.

Source: JNA (2024) in all aforementioned countries.

Refugee and migrant children across the 17 countries covered by the R4V Platform present substantial child protection challenges, these include violence, including GBV, abuse, exploitation, trafficking, family separation and of lack of documentation. Unaccompanied and

separated children (UASC) are at even greater risks, due to the absence of caregivers and difficulties in accessing targeted protection services. Child protection services continue to be limited due to difficulties in providing appropriate, relevant, and articulated care among the actors of the national child protection systems, according to reports of needs from Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and the Southern Cone.

There are significant numbers of UASC in countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru.<sup>206</sup> In Brazil, 3,200 UASC cases were identified in Roraima in 2023, representing a 52 per cent increase compared to 2022.<sup>207</sup> In Panama, 21 per cent of those crossing the Darien jungle in the first half of 2024 were children, six per cent of them were unaccompanied or separated.<sup>208</sup> In Ecuador, the JNA found that 16 per cent of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant households included UASC, and 20 per cent of those engaged in onward and transit movement reported travelling with UASC. UASC are at increased risk both in transit and at destination, such as to exploitation and abuse, limited access to essential services, legal barriers, psychological affectations, family separation, among others.

Migrant and refugee children are also particularly vulnerable to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation without receiving assistance. In countries such as Brazil, 2024 JNA data shows that almost ten per cent of respondents knew children who had experienced one of these violences.<sup>209</sup> In Panama, almost 20 per cent of households knew of children who had experienced some type of violence in their home or community, of which 25 per cent had not received any type of service

[206] For more information on UASC, see the National and Sub-regional Platform chapters.

[207] UNICEF estimate calculated according to the data collected in the Information Management System (CPIMS+) in June 2024.

[208] Servicio Nacional de Migración, Panamá, Estadísticas, as of May 31, 2024, available at <https://www.migracion.gob.pa/estadisticas/>.

[209] UNICEF, Inter-sectoral Multi-partner Rapid Needs Assessment with a Focus on Children (ISNAC), June 2024.

or assistance.<sup>210</sup> For children in-transit in Ecuador, 31 per cent reported knowing children who had been exposed to sleeping on the streets, facing dangerous border crossings, child labour and encounters with armed groups.<sup>211</sup>

Refugee and migrant children in the region also need access to regularization, asylum, and documentation for their protection and integration, enabling them to access essential services like education and healthcare. The 2024 JNAs identified several challenges to regularization, such as high costs, delays in consular procedures, and the absence of procedures that prioritize them. These barriers, coupled with a lack of information on the processes, and poor-quality documentation hinder their regularization. In the Dominican Republic, the costs of the regularization process have left children without a regular status;<sup>212</sup> while in Guyana, 33 per cent of children under five years born in the country, 51 per cent of whom are indigenous

children, have not had access to civil registration.<sup>213</sup> Five per cent of children in Curaçao are at risk of statelessness due to lack of access to documentation or regularization possibilities.<sup>214</sup> For migrant and refugee children in an irregular situation, particularly in Aruba and Curaçao, their status leads to ineligibility for social services, creating the need for their inclusion and integration in social protection systems. Their non-inclusion hampers access to education, healthcare, and other essential services, impacting their growth. Access to documentation is also an issue for children born in-transit or those traveling without any national documentation. In Panama, for instance, children born in the Darien jungle are at high risk of becoming stateless due to difficulties of their caregivers in registering their birth.<sup>215</sup> There are reports of stateless children receiving assistance in this region in the past years,<sup>216</sup> however, cases and associated needs continue in the Darien and in other R4V Platform countries.<sup>217</sup>

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[210] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[211] R4V Ecuador, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[212] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, Dominican Republic, April to May 2024 (publication forthcoming). The regularization process costs between USD 85 to 200, and due to documentation requirements and the protracted nature of the process, additional expenses such as taxes, transportation, and document legalization fees are likely to be incurred by the applicants. R4V Platform, *Update on the Normalization Plan for Venezuelans - Dominican Republic*, April 2023, <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/update-normalization-plan-venezuelans-dominican-republic>.

[213] *In Guyana, birth registration is mandatory for access to birth certificates and other national identity documents needed to access social, legal, and health services.* UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring, Guyana (September to December 2023)*. Internal.

[214] UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao (November to December 2023)*. Internal document.

[215] UNHCR, *Sobreviviendo al Darién: la travesía de refugiados y migrantes por la selva. – Movimientos mixtos a través del Darién. Informe binacional Colombia-Panamá – ACNUR – Julio de 2022-Enero de 2023 (2023)*, <https://www.acnur.org/media/65783>.

[216] Human Rights Watch, *Neglected in the Jungle: Inadequate Protection and Assistance for Migrants and Asylum Seekers Crossing the Darién Gap*, April 3, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/04/03/neglected-jungle/inadequate-protection-and-assistance-migrants-and-asylum-seekers>.

[217] Olivia Bueno, *Research on Child Migration and Displacement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Understanding Evidence and Exploring Gaps (April 2024)*, <https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/7801/file/UNICEF-Innocenti-Migration-Latin-America-Caribbean-2024.pdf>.



# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

**34.6% • 2.30 M**

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



20.6%

WOMEN



50.5%

BOYS



11.7%

GIRLS



47.5%

**33.7%**

VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

**37.0%**

OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

**23.3%**

PENDULAR\*\*

**19.9%**

COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

**13.1%**

AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

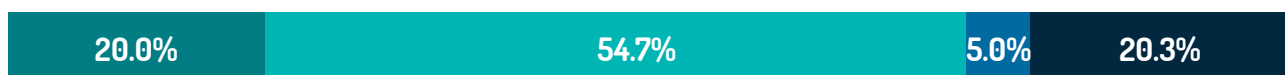
\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELANAS IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
			VENEZUELANAS	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	19.8%	115.9 K	34.1%	-	18.0%
CHILE	33.5%	178.7 K	-	-	11.2%
COLOMBIA	44.9%	1.26 M	55.2%	63.3%	8.0%
ECUADOR	25.8%	114.8 K	24.3%	19.9%	25.3%
PERU	30.1%	500.0 K	5.9%	5.9%	15.4%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>36.3 K</b>	-	-	21.2%
ARUBA	20.6%	2.4 K	-	-	20.6%
CURAÇAO	37.7%	4.4 K	-	-	37.7%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	10.0%	12.5 K	-	-	10.2%
GUYANA	21.0%	4.8 K	-	-	21.0%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	41.5%	12.2 K	-	-	41.7%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>55.3 K</b>	24.7%	22.5%	28.9%
COSTA RICA	17.4%	5.1 K	19.0%	25.0%	17.4%
MEXICO	34.2%	36.3 K	37.8%	-	34.2%
PANAMA	24.0%	13.9 K	20.0%	20.0%	24.0%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>40.5 K</b>	28.8%	24.6%	7.1%
ARGENTINA	17.8%	29.0 K	-	-	5.4%
BOLIVIA	28.0%	5.1 K	28.8%	24.6%	32.9%
PARAGUAY	14.6%	780	-	-	20.0%
URUGUAY	14.0%	5.6 K	-	-	1.7%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 MEN
  WOMEN
  BOYS
  GIRLS



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Venezuelan refugees and migrants, particularly women and girls, but also other vulnerable groups, including LGBTQI+ persons, face significant risk of gender-based violence (GBV) due to the presence of organized crime on irregular routes, barriers to social integration and deteriorating living conditions in some host countries. Main needs identified include limited access to continuous healthcare for survivors, information on available services, difficulties accessing transportation to these services, and persisting stigma and xenophobia.

JNA findings show significant GBV risks among migrants and refugees in-destination, with over 12 per cent of migrant and refugee women and girls avoiding certain places due to the threat of GBV. In Peru, 81 per cent of reported GBV incidents against non-national women between January and June 2024 were reportedly committed against Venezuelans.<sup>218</sup> Around 13 per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination felt insecure in their locality or community due to fear of GBV.<sup>219</sup> Across the region, women reported feeling unsafe in public spaces, while seeking

employment and on their way to school or work. Due to hyper-sexualization and racist stereotypes,<sup>220</sup> Venezuelan women and girls are prepositioned for sex in public spaces, restricting their freedom of movement and reducing their quality of life.

Migrants and refugees often work in informal sectors, making them particularly vulnerable to exploitation by organized criminal groups who target them for theft, extortion, kidnapping, sexual violence, and forced sex work.<sup>221</sup> Organized crime in the region has been directly linked to femicides, sexual exploitation and sexual assault and fear of retaliation reduces reporting and increases impunity.<sup>222</sup>

GBV in-transit is perpetrated by organized criminal groups, human traffickers and smugglers, border officials, and within collective shelters. In January 2024 alone, assistance was provided to 120 survivors of sexual violence in the Darien jungle and to 113 people in the first week of February,<sup>223</sup> continuing the trend of alarming increases in cases since November 2023.<sup>224</sup> Survivors include children sexually assaulted in the

[218] Government of Peru, Aurora Statistical Portal: 1177 Casos de Personas Extranjeras Atendidos en los Centros de Emergencia Mujer. Enero – Junio 2024 (Preliminar), July 2024, <https://portalestadistico.aurora.gob.pe/tipos-de-poblacion-enero-diciembre-2024>.

[219] R4V National and Sub-Regional Platforms, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[220] JNA findings found that stereotypes of hyper sexualization are increasing acceptance of GBV against Venezuelans. In Peru, 60% of Peruvians believe that Venezuelan women are flirtatious and secure jobs based on their appearance. R4V Peru, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[221] IOM and Queens University, Monitoring of Gendered Threats for Migrant and Refugee Women from Venezuela (2023), available at <https://respuestavenezolanos.iom.int/en/resources/monitoring-gendered-threats-migrant-and-refugee-women-and-girls-venezuela-location-briefs>.

[222] R4V platform, Riesgos e Impactos de la Doble Afectación y el Crimen Organizado sobre las Personas Refugiadas y Migrantes de Venezuela (2023), available at <https://www.r4v.info/es/riesgos-doble-afectacion>.

[223] Médecins Sans Frontières, Médecins Sans Frontières Forced to Suspend Medical Care for Migrants in Darien Gap, Panama. 7 March 2024. Available at: <https://prezly.msf.org.uk/medecins-sans-frontieres-forced-to-suspend-medical-care-for-migrants-in-darien-gap-panama>.

[224] Médecins Sans Frontières. Shocking Increase in Sexual Violence Reported in Darién Gap. 5 February 2024. Available at: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/shocking-increase-sexual-violence-reported-darien-gap>.

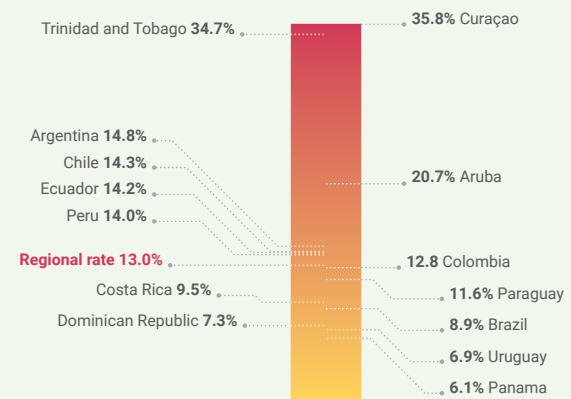


jungle.<sup>225</sup> According to JNA findings in Ecuador, 20 per cent of Venezuelan women and girls in-transit reported feeling unsafe in relation to GBV risks. In Colombia, this same percentage reached 35 per cent for Venezuelans and 33 per cent for other nationals in-transit. In Peru, women and girls in-transit reported being threatened and propositioned for sex in exchange for food and transportation.<sup>226</sup>

Between 60 and 80 per cent of women in-transit through Central America reported experiencing GBV.<sup>227</sup> However, barriers to GBV services include stigma, fear of retaliation, normalization of violence, lack of information about available services, inability to travel and/or lack of transportation. Along transit routes in Central America, only 39 per cent of GBV services are within one kilometre from the main road.<sup>228</sup> Other barriers include lack of tailored services, documentation requirements, service costs, time constraints and fear of arrest or deportation.<sup>229</sup> Furthermore, refugees and migrants surveyed by R4V partners in Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru reported prioritizing their journeys over seeking services, not knowing how to access GBV services, being poorly treated by law enforcement and service providers, and being blamed for intimate partner violence.<sup>230</sup> Lack of continuous care aggravates physical and psychosocial consequences of GBV. This also impedes sexual violence survivors from preventing unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as the window for receiving the medication regime is maximum 72 hours after the violence happened.

Refugees and migrant adolescents in-transit interviewed in Mexico reported that psychosocial distress and feelings of hopelessness after enduring GBV worsen during the journey.<sup>231</sup>

### PERCEIVED RATE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INSECURITY AMONG SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the countries shown in the graph. This question was asked for all members in the surveyed households.

Source: JNA (2024) in all aforementioned countries.

[225] Médecins Sans Frontières. *Lack of Action Sees Sharp Rise in Sexual Violence on People Transiting Darien Gap*. 29 February 2024. Available at: <https://www.msf.org/lack-action-sees-sharp-rise-sexual-violence-people-transiting-darien-gap-panama>.

[226] R4V Peru, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA): Focus Group Discussion with Refugees and Migrants in Transit for Peru*, forthcoming, 2024.

[227] World Bank. *SAFE: Gender-Based Violence Services for Women in Human Mobility in Central America*. 2024. Available at: [https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099050724190596746/pdf/P17913218978b10b51914918d3bde8e3d24.pdf?gl=1\\*dha8qd\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*NDM4Nzc5NzAuMTcyMzgyNDU4Mg](https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099050724190596746/pdf/P17913218978b10b51914918d3bde8e3d24.pdf?gl=1*dha8qd*_gcl_au*NDM4Nzc5NzAuMTcyMzgyNDU4Mg).

[228] *Ibid.*

[229] *Ibid.*

[230] R4V National and Sub-Regional Platforms. *Joint Needs Assessment and Focus Groups Discussions*, forthcoming, 2024.

[231] Plan Internacional. *Mujeres Adolescentes en Crisis*. 2024. Available at: <https://plan-internacional.org/uploads/sites/96/2024/04/Mujeres-Adolescentes-En-Crisis-%E2%80%93-Resumen-Ejecutivo-ESPANOL-3.pdf>



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

25.7% • 1.71 M

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



20.6%

WOMEN



25.8%

BOYS



23.8%

GIRLS



23.3%

45.1%  
VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

43.3%  
OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

26.2%  
PENDULAR\*\*

6.0%  
COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

7.2%  
AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELANAS IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
			VENEZUELANAS	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	3.5%	20.5 K	15.0%	-	1.6%
CHILE	36.7%	195.6 K	-	-	-
COLOMBIA	37.0%	1.04 M	41.2%	41.3%	2.0%
ECUADOR	10.6%	47.1 K	60.2%	18.3%	2.3%
PERU	17.4%	289.2 K	26.0%	26.0%	14.5%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>31.7%</b>	<b>63.5 K</b>	-	-	32.8%
ARUBA	14.5%	1.7 K	-	-	14.4%
CURAÇAO	46.6%	5.4 K	-	-	46.6%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	29.7%	37.1 K	-	-	29.7%
GUYANA	27.0%	6.1 K	-	-	27.0%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	44.5%	13.1 K	-	-	44.5%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	<b>43.3 K</b>	58.0%	63.0%	21.9%
COSTA RICA	17.9%	5.3 K	40.0%	53.0%	17.9%
MEXICO	16.0%	17.0 K	68.0%	-	16.0%
PANAMA	36.3%	21.0 K	68.0%	73.0%	36.3%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>15.0 K</b>	34.0%	34.0%	2.1%
ARGENTINA	5.6%	9.2 K	-	-	1.0%
BOLIVIA	28.0%	5.1 K	34.0%	34.0%	3.4%
PARAGUAY	2.3%	123	-	-	2.0%
URUGUAY	1.5%	601	-	-	4.8%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 MEN
  WOMEN
  BOYS
  GIRLS



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING

Migrants and refugees, particularly from Venezuela, face increasingly severe risks related to human trafficking and smuggling in Latin America and the Caribbean. While traffickers exploit the vulnerability of refugees and migrants primarily for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour, smugglers prey on vulnerable persons to facilitate irregular border-crossings, largely necessitated due to the inability of refugees and migrants to meet visa and other entry requirements imposed by near-to-all governments in the region,<sup>232</sup> putting their lives at risk. Based on R4V's JNAs across the region, the main identified needs of these populations are access to justice, prevention and response to sexual exploitation, forced labour, and gender-sensitive solutions to address the differentiated needs of women, men, girls and boys.

Refugees and migrants face risks associated with human trafficking and smuggling, where their economic vulnerability is exploited through false promises of employment, sometimes leading to debt bondage and severe threats to their safety. Reports indicate that situations of human trafficking were identified across all R4V countries, with the highest percentages being found in Curaçao (12 per cent), Trinidad and Tobago (11 per cent), Chile (9 per cent), and Guyana (7.5 per cent).<sup>233</sup> Situations of deceit, manipulation, or false promises of decent jobs lead to these cases,

only to arrive in situations of exploitation, abuse and exposure to GBV and other forms of degrading treatment. Those in an irregular situation face even more precarious situations.<sup>234</sup> Often unable to access rights and protective and legal services, including for fear of discrimination, revictimization, immigration detention, deportation or worse, perpetrators exploit their vulnerable situations. Due to inadequate access to justice and support, victims frequently endure lasting impacts on their physical health and mental well-being, including psychological trauma, diminished autonomy, and significant disruption to both personal and family life.<sup>235</sup>

Economic vulnerabilities are prevalent among refugees and migrants, making them particularly susceptible to trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, affecting mainly men and boys. In Panama, 27 per cent of Venezuelans who worked while engaging in onward and transit movements reported not receiving any payment or less than agreed.<sup>236</sup> Similarly, in Costa Rica, 14 per cent of refugees and migrants reported being paid less than agreed,<sup>237</sup> and in Bolivia 37 per cent of Venezuelans who worked during their transit indicated that they had not received payment for their work or did not receive the agreed payment.<sup>238</sup> The limited access to formal employment forces many into informal sectors where exploitation is rampant.

[232] Olivia Bueno, *Research on Child Migration and Displacement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Understanding Evidence and Exploring Gaps*. April 2024. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/7801/file/UNICEF-Innocenti-Migration-Latin-America-Caribbean-2024.pdf>.

[233] R4V National and Sub-Regional Platforms, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[234] International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Relatório Situacional sobre Tráfico de Pessoas e Contrabando de Migrantes*, forthcoming, 2024. Agência GOV. MTE Resgata 3.190 Trabalhadores de Condições Análogas à Escravidão em 2023. (January 2024). Available at: <https://agenciagov.ebc.com.br/noticias/202401/mte-resgata-3-190-trabalhadores-de-condicoes-analogas-a-escravidao-em-2023>

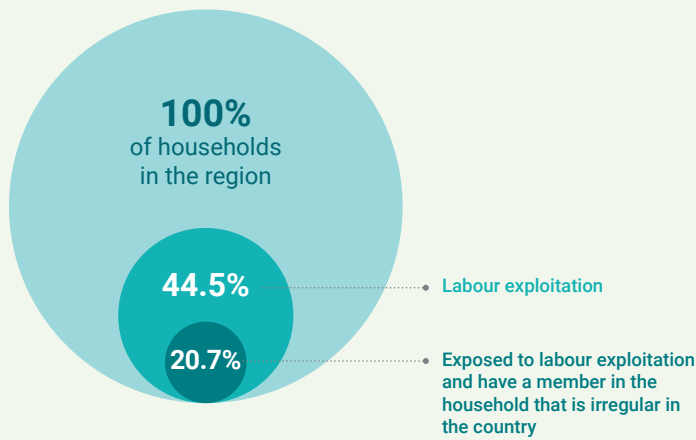
[235] U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2023*. Available at: <https://cl.usembassy.gov/es/informe-trata-de-personas-2023/>.

[236] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[237] R4V Central America and Mexico, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[238] IOM and UNICEF, *DTM Second Round: Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia (2023)*. Internal.

## PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEE AND MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SITUATIONS OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION AND HAVE A MEMBER IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION



	Labour exploitation	Labour exploitation and have a member in the household that is irregularly in the country
Chile	60.8%	47.3%
Aruba	53.7%	31.4%
Curaçao	53.3%	54.7%
Trinidad and Tobago	52.5%	50.0%
Guyana	51.9%	36.6%
Panama	51.3%	54.9%
Peru	48.5%	16.6%
Dominican Republic	44.6%	27.1%
Colombia	41.5%	21.5%
Uruguay	37.6%	3.8%
Brazil	37.0%	1.7%
Argentina	31.8%	6.3%
Paraguay	30.9%	2.5%
Bolivia	28.5%	-
Costa Rica	27.4%	18.1%

Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the countries shown in the graph.

Source: JNA (2024) in all aforementioned countries, except in Bolivia where UNHCR's RMS (2023) was used.

Venezuelan women, for instance, frequently resort to jobs in domestic labour where they reportedly face high risks of abuse.<sup>239</sup> In Ecuador, 15 per cent of those engaged in onward and transit movement reported being tricked or manipulated into traveling under false pretences, underscoring their need for better economic opportunities and protections against exploitative recruitment practices.<sup>240</sup>

Refugee and migrant women, UASC and LGBTQI+ persons are also identified at particularly high risk.<sup>241</sup> In Pacaraima, Brazil, reportedly some young girls resort to survival sex due to difficulties in accessing the labour market,<sup>242</sup> due financial burdens and lacking childcare support, among others.<sup>243</sup> In Peru, 10 per cent of the

migrants and refugees in-transit reported finding UASC while traversing the country<sup>244</sup> and, only in early January 2024, the National Police rescued 40 children and adolescents victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, 90 per cent of whom were Venezuelans.<sup>245</sup> In Ecuador, organized criminal groups forcibly recruit children for illicit activities, targeting boys for drug trafficking and girls for sexual exploitation.<sup>246</sup>

Smuggling is particularly prevalent on dangerous routes, such as those crossing the Darien jungle and Central America and Mexico, or along increasingly controlled borders, as observed along the Peruvian-Chilean border. Reports indicate that 66 per cent of the Venezuelans and 73 per cent of other nationalities paid

[239] See the Human Trafficking and Smuggling section of the Brazil chapter.

[240] R4V Ecuador, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[241] R4V Platform, Focus Group Discussions and Joint Needs Assessments Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[242] IOM, Relatório Situacional sobre Tráfico de Pessoas e contrabando de Migrantes, forthcoming, 2024.

[243] Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública e Escritório das Nações Unidas sobre Drogas e Crimes. Relatório Nacional de Dados 2021-2023, forthcoming, 2024.

[244] Caritas, Dashboard "Fronteras en movimiento: Evaluación transfronteriza de necesidades" (2023). Internal. Data collected from people in transit through Peru.

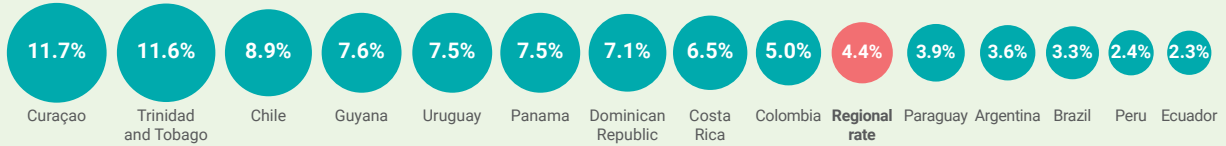
[245] Agencia Peruana de Noticias, "SMP: Policía Rescata a 40 Menores de Edad que Eran Explotadas Sexualmente," January 7, 2024, <https://andina.pe/agencia/noticia-smp-policia-rescata-a-40-menores-edad-eran-explotadas-sexualmente-969429.aspx>.

[246] See, e.g., World Vision, "Reclutamiento Forzado: La Triste Realidad de los Niños en Ecuador," May 22, 2024, <https://blog.worldvision.org.ec/reclutamiento-forzado-la-triste-realidad-de-los-ninos-en-ecuador#influencia>; and "Crece Reclutamiento Infantil en Guayaquil, Ecuador," InSight Crime, December 4, 2023, <https://insightcrime.org/es/noticias/crece-reclutamiento-infantil-entre-disputas-control-narcotrafico-guayaquil/>.

guides or coyotes to facilitate their crossing through the Darien.<sup>247</sup> Reports also indicate that armed groups in the Darien have established systems to monitor payments of refugees and migrants to cross the Darien.<sup>248</sup> Additionally, in Mexico, Venezuelan migrants

and refugees face risks, including kidnappings and extorsions, related to smuggling and trafficking networks offering transportation to enter the country and to cross into the U.S.<sup>249</sup>

### PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SITUATIONS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the countries shown in the graph.

Source: JNA (2024) in all aforementioned countries.



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[247] UNHCR and WFP, Mixed Movements Monitoring (January to June 2024), 2024, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/460>.

[248] Human Rights Watch, "This Hell was My Only Option: Abuses Against Migrants and Asylum Seekers Pushed to Cross the Darien Gap," November 2023, [https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media\\_2023/11/americas1123web\\_1.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2023/11/americas1123web_1.pdf).

[249] UNHCR Mexico, Mexico Mixed Movements Monitoring Report April 2024, 2024, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108903>.



# SHELTER

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

**57.3% • 3.82 M**

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



56.9%

WOMEN



56.7%

BOYS



57.8%

GIRLS



57.4%

**76.3%**

VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

**75.3%**

OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

**15.6%**

PENDULAR\*\*

**28.0%**

COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

**19.4%**

AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		VENEZUELAN	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	43.9%	256.9 K	42.2%	-	34.5%
CHILE	55.6%	296.0 K	-	-	13.2%
COLOMBIA	66.9%	1.88 M	88.1%	83.3%	11.0%
ECUADOR	58.9%	262.0 K	95.2%	82.0%	14.6%
PERU	55.8%	927.8 K	42.2%	42.3%	26.0%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>67.0 K</b>	-	-	39.4%
ARUBA	27.5%	3.2 K	-	-	27.6%
CURAÇAO	57.0%	6.6 K	-	-	57.1%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	20.0%	25.0 K	-	-	20.0%
GUYANA	58.0%	13.2 K	-	-	58.0%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	64.5%	19.0 K	-	-	64.5%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>29.6%</b>	<b>57.3 K</b>	78.8%	81.0%	28.6%
COSTA RICA	46.6%	13.7 K	93.7%	87.0%	46.6%
MEXICO	14.0%	14.8 K	65.0%	-	14.0%
PANAMA	49.5%	28.7 K	75.0%	75.0%	49.5%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>30.6%</b>	<b>69.3 K</b>	59.0%	59.0%	16.0%
ARGENTINA	29.4%	47.9 K	-	-	18.6%
BOLIVIA	53.0%	9.6 K	59.0%	59.0%	22.3%
PARAGUAY	38.3%	2.0 K	-	-	4.8%
URUGUAY	24.5%	9.8 K	-	-	7.2%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 MEN
  WOMEN
  BOYS
  GIRLS

33.2%

37.0%

15.0%

14.8%

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.



## SHELTER

Access to shelter is a top priority for refugees and migrants in-destination and in-transit. Social and physical barriers<sup>250</sup> have led to a dramatic increase in people in situations of homelessness, facing evictions, living in overcrowded or inadequate housing, and having to move to peripheral areas or informal settlements.<sup>251</sup> Additionally, numerous migrants and refugees are experiencing double or triple affectation due to escalating insecurity, violence and the consequences of climate change in their host countries.<sup>252</sup>

Approximately 73 per cent of refugees and migrants in-destination live in rented accommodation,<sup>253</sup> reaching around 90 per cent in Argentina, Ecuador and Panama. They encounter major obstacles such as high rental costs,<sup>254</sup> financial constraints,<sup>255</sup> difficulties accessing housing subsidies and strict rental requirements, such as having a regular status, proof of income or

securing a guarantor.<sup>256</sup> These challenges often lead to precarious living conditions. In 2024, around 20 per cent of households reported being at risk of eviction or having been evicted (see infographic). These conditions expose refugees and migrants to a situation of pronounced vulnerability, aggravated by informal rental agreements,<sup>257</sup> discrimination, xenophobia,<sup>258</sup> and lack of information about the rental market. This intersects with other vulnerabilities which can aggravate their situation. In Brazil, indigenous migrants and refugees are five times more likely to face eviction compared to the total surveyed refugee and migrant population.<sup>259</sup> Over a quarter of households surveyed were living in overcrowded conditions,<sup>260</sup> contrasting with a lower percentage of the national populations. For example, in Chile, 32 per cent of Venezuelan migrants and refugees were in this situation against approximately three per cent of the national population.<sup>261</sup> These circumstances

[250] Barriers to access to shelter are present both in emergency context and in destination. For example, the houses/collective shelters do not have the necessary habitability conditions or infrastructure.

[251] According to the JNA results, in Chile, 35% of families living in informal settlements were refugees and migrants; in Costa Rica 15% reported that they were living in poor housing conditions; in Argentina and Uruguay, refugees and migrants have moved to peripheral areas due to rising rental costs. In Brazil, 1,634 people in Pacaraima and 92 people in Boa Vista were living in spontaneous settlements, according to an R4V partner's report. IOM, *População Venezuelana Refugiada e Migrante Fora de Abrigos em Pacaraima*, May 2024, <https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1496/files/documents/2024-0>

[252] Such as the flooding in Rio Grande do Sul State in May 2024. For more details, see the Brazil chapter.

[253] Average of the results of JNA in the region: Brazil 78%, in Ecuador 87.7%, in Peru 69%, in Guyana 57%, in Costa Rica 52%, in Panama 87%, in Argentina 92.5%, in Uruguay 69%, in Bolivia 65%, in Paraguay 45%, and in Chile 63% are renters, contrasting the national majority of homeowners (61.5%).

[254] In Argentina, 51% indicated rising rents as their main difficulty.

[255] In Aruba and Curaçao, only 20% and 15% of the households can afford rent without financial distress. In Guyana, only 44% can afford paying rent on time, while in Dominican Republic, 20% engage in risky behaviour to afford rent. In Bolivia, 66% of renters are behind on payments.

[256] In Chile, requirements for renting in the formal market – such as having a national ID, proof of income, and securing a guarantor – are particularly challenging for migrants and refugees.

[257] In Curaçao, 68% of did not have formal rental contracts, similar to 63% in Aruba and 46% in the Dominican Republic.

[258] In Peru, some migrants and refugees were forced to choose inadequate or unsafe accommodation due to landlords' refusal to rent to Venezuelans.

[259] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[260] Refugees and migrants in-destination in Brazil (25%), Peru (25%), Colombia (30%) and Ecuador (13%) were living in overcrowded conditions.

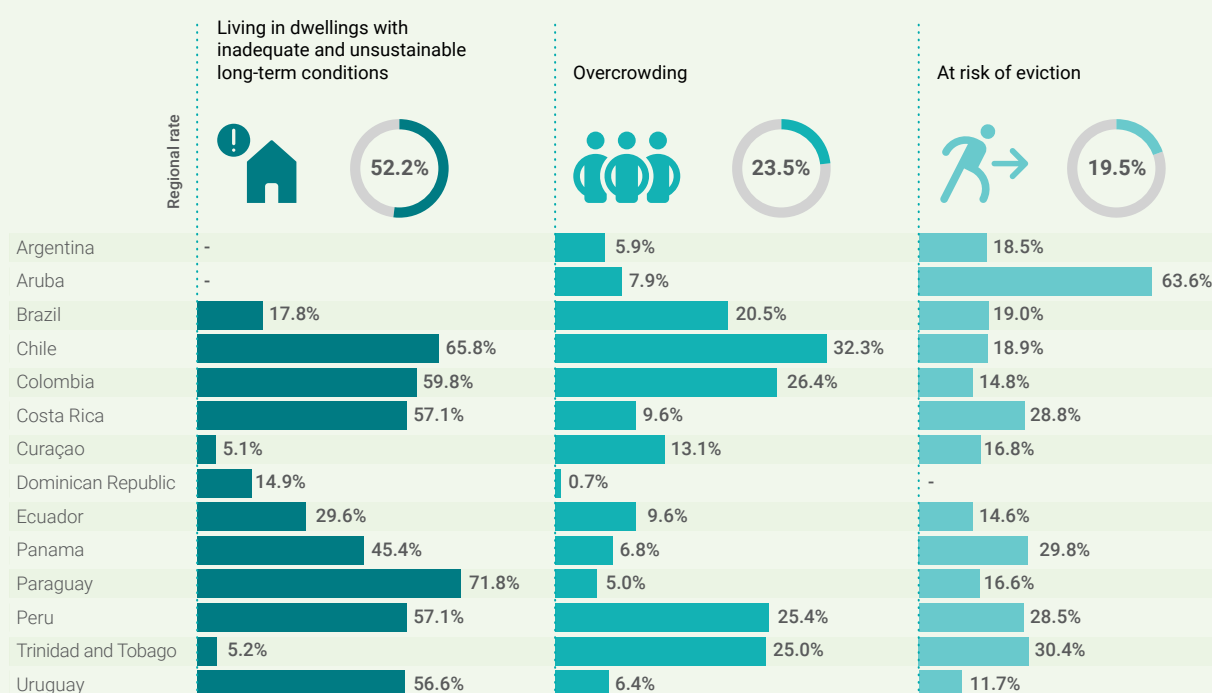
[261] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

not only compromise the refugees and migrants' well-being, making them feel unsafe where they live,<sup>262</sup> but also expose them to risks of GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse.

Access to safe and adequate temporary housing is an important challenge for refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements. Many of those surveyed in-transit reported having resorted to sleeping on the streets or in public spaces,<sup>263</sup> exposing them to GBV, robbery, and health risks, particularly

LGBTQI+ people and those with disabilities. Temporary collective accommodations cannot always meet the demand,<sup>264</sup> such as in Chile where closure of collective shelters has led to a critical shortage of emergency accommodation.<sup>265</sup> Limited numbers, capacities or inadequate infrastructure also complicate availability and overall safety.<sup>266</sup> The situation of collective emergency shelters is exacerbated by the accommodation needs of those engaging in onward and transit movements, including from other nationalities.<sup>267</sup>

## PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEE AND MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS WITH SHELTER-RELATED NEEDS



Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the countries shown in the graph.

Source: JNA (2024) in all aforementioned countries, except in Aruba and Argentina where UNHCR's Aruba Protection Monitoring (2023) and Argentina's INDEC Permanent Household Survey (EPH 2023) were used.

- [262] Insecurity is a concern with 19% in Costa Rica, 33% in Chile 33%, 15% in Argentina and Bolivia and 35% in Paraguay feeling unsafe in their living areas.
- [263] In Brazil 200 people were living in the streets of Boa Vista. In Colombia 49%, in Ecuador 55%, in Peru 59%, in Mexico 40% of those surveyed in the 2024 JNA reported having slept on the streets or in public spaces in the past seven days. In Peru, 27% of those sleeping in the street have had money or belongings stolen.
- [264] In 2024, only 11% of in-transit populations surveyed had accessed temporary shelters in Ecuador. High demand for shelters in Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico also limits the access of basic services and protection. In Panama, the capacity of the ETRM was exceeded by 61% most of the days between January and June 2024.
- [265] In Chile, following the governments closure of the Lobito and Colchane reception and transit shelters in May 2024, R4V partners have reported a shortage of emergency shelters. Dina Quinteros (@dqinterosr), "Gobierno confirma desarme de refugio para migrantes de Colchane," X (formerly Twitter), 6 August, 2024, <https://x.com/dqinterosr/status/1820522403606524078>.
- [266] In the ETRM in Panama, refugees and migrants typically stay in wooden cabins or tents and sleep on mattresses on the floor, exposing them to extreme weather conditions and privacy, increasing risks of sexual assault incidents.
- [267] In Mexico in the first five months of 2024, more than 16,000 people, including 3,200 Venezuelans, have been hosted by 141 shelters in Mexico, which are often operating above their capacity.

Living conditions are also impacted by the lack of access to essential household items for refugees and migrants, such as cooking and sleeping items. This impacts in their performance of their daily tasks both

in-transit and in-destination. On average, 49 per cent of migrants and refugees in the region reported not having access to these items, reaching 90 per cent in the case of Ecuador.<sup>268</sup>



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[268] In Colombia 68%, in Brazil 65%, in Chile 59%, in Argentina 55%, in Paraguay 50% and in Uruguay 41% stated that they do not have enough household items to perform their daily tasks.



# WASH

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN  
IN-DESTINATION

**38.2% • 2.55 M**

## PREVALENCE OF NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN



37.5%

WOMEN



37.6%

BOYS



40.1%

GIRLS



40.1%

**68.6%**

VENEZUELAN  
IN-TRANSIT

**77.3%**

OTHERS  
IN-TRANSIT\*

**64.9%**

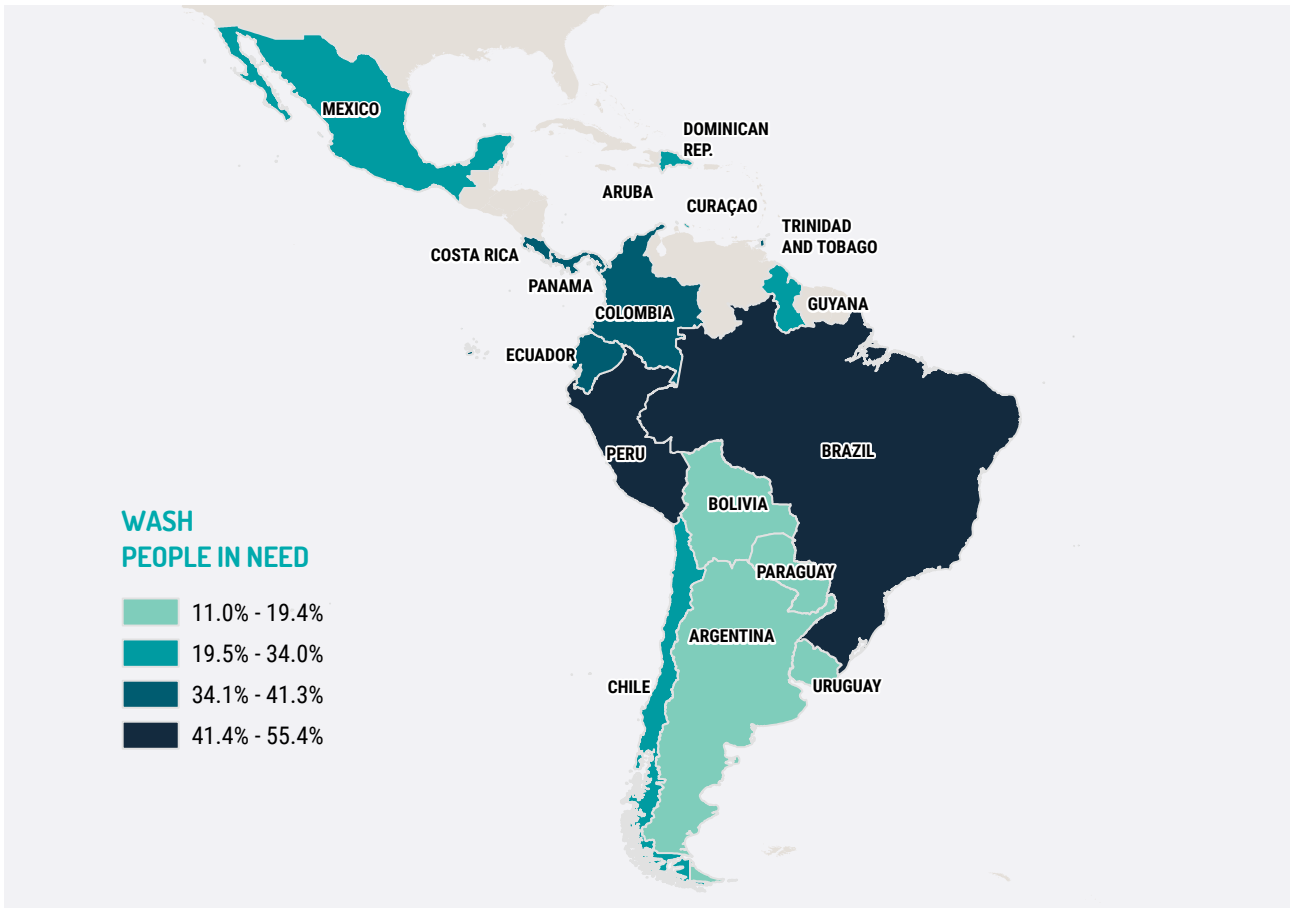
PENDULAR\*\*

**20.0%**

COLOMBIAN  
RETURNEES\*\*

**15.0%**

AFFECTED HOST  
COMMUNITIES\*\*\*



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in transit and onward movements in/to Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

\*\* Venezuelans engaging in pendular movements and Colombian returnees only apply to Colombia.

\*\*\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) has decreased. This is largely due to a reduction in the PiN estimate for the AHC in Colombia - the country with the second-largest affected host community in the region - resulting from a change in the methodology there (for details see the Colombia chapter).

COUNTRY	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT	OTHERS*	
BRAZIL	41.6%	243.7 K	51.3%	-	38.5%
CHILE	32.8%	174.7 K	-	-	3.7%
COLOMBIA	35.8%	1.01 M	87.9%	90.0%	11.0%
ECUADOR	41.3%	183.7 K	79.1%	69.4%	32.2%
PERU	47.5%	790.0 K	62.2%	62.2%	17.3%
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>31.7%</b>	<b>63.6 K</b>	-	-	34.5%
ARUBA	13.6%	1.6 K	-	-	13.6%
CURAÇAO	46.9%	5.4 K	-	-	46.9%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	26.0%	32.5 K	-	-	26.0%
GUYANA	34.0%	7.7 K	-	-	34.0%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	55.4%	16.3 K	-	-	55.4%
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA &amp; MEXICO</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>53.4 K</b>	54.6%	72.5%	27.1%
COSTA RICA	35.5%	10.5 K	45.0%	50.0%	35.5%
MEXICO	19.8%	21.0 K	16.0%	-	19.8%
PANAMA	37.8%	21.9 K	95.0%	95.0%	37.8%
<b>SOUTHERN CONE</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>29.2 K</b>	48.0%	48.0%	3.6%
ARGENTINA	13.0%	21.2 K	-	-	2.3%
BOLIVIA	11.0%	2.0 K	48.0%	48.0%	13.0%
PARAGUAY	19.4%	1.0 K	-	-	8.1%
URUGUAY	12.6%	5.0 K	-	-	3.8%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 MEN
  WOMEN
  BOYS
  GIRLS

32.6%

36.5%

15.5%

15.4%

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Others in-transit" include refugees and migrants of other nationalities in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

## WASH

In 2024, refugees and migrants face significant challenges in accessing safe water, sanitation, waste management, and hygiene services (WASH) in the region, which negatively impact their dignity and health, especially of those in vulnerable situations, including women, girls,<sup>269</sup> children, person with disabilities and indigenous people. Additionally, extreme weather events driven by climate change, as witnessed across the region,<sup>270</sup> can increase water scarcity<sup>271</sup> and aggravate WASH services conditions. Events include heavy rainfalls, extreme temperatures, floods and landslides, as seen in Brazil<sup>272</sup> and Peru<sup>273</sup> in 2024.

Access to water for Venezuelan refugee and migrant households in-destination often falls below national standards, leaving many unable to meet their daily drinking and domestic water needs. According to JNA findings, insufficient water availability was reported

by 31 per cent of respondents in Peru, 30 per cent in Paraguay and 23 per cent in Ecuador. This is particularly acute in rural and peri-urban areas, as well as in informal settlements characterized by overcrowding and economic constraints. Consequently, many rely on more costly and less reliable sources such as water trucks, unprotected wells, or surface water. In Guyana, Venezuelans in rural areas lack access to improved drinking water<sup>274</sup> and are forced to rely on surface water sources, such as rivers and rainwater,<sup>275</sup> which can potentially transmit waterborne diseases.

The JNA also highlights a lack of improved and functioning sanitation facilities, especially in Peru where this affects 38 per cent of the surveyed population in-destination, Guyana (27 per cent) and Costa Rica (27 per cent).<sup>276</sup> Sanitation facilities are often shared with other households or strangers, compromising

[269] *Inequalities in the accessibility, availability and quality of drinking water services impact women and men in different ways. Women and girls are more likely to be responsible for ensuring the household has sufficient water for drinking, cooking, cleaning and caring for children, older people and those with disabilities.* WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), *WASH Household: Special Focus on Gender* (2023), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://washdata.org/reports/jmp-2023-wash-households>.

[270] *The Latin American and the Caribbean is one of the most vulnerable regions to the effects of climate change, with more than 169 million children and adolescents living in areas exposed to at least two climatic or environmental shocks per year and one in six children are exposed to water scarcity.* UNICEF, *A Gender-Transformative Climate Change Programming Guide: Experiences from Latin America and the Caribbean* (2024), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/media/48051/file/A>.

[271] *Different large urban centres are already exposed to water scarcity, a situation that can only worsen without adaptive action as water demand rises in line with the arrival of new migrants and with increasing climate change impacts.* IOM, *World Migration Report 2024*, Chapter 7, <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2024>.

[272] BBC, "Brazil Floods: Hundreds of Rio Grande do Sul Towns Under Water," May 7, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-68968987>.

[273] ACAPS, *Briefing Note: Peru - Humanitarian Impact of Heavy Rainfall and Flooding*, March 19, 2024, [https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data\\_Product/Main\\_media/20240319\\_ACAPS\\_briefing\\_note\\_Peru\\_-\\_Humanitarian\\_impact\\_of\\_heavy\\_rainfall\\_and\\_flooding.pdf](https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240319_ACAPS_briefing_note_Peru_-_Humanitarian_impact_of_heavy_rainfall_and_flooding.pdf).

[274] According to WHO, "improved drinking-water sources are defined as those that are likely to be protected from outside contamination, and from faecal matter in particular.", <https://www.who.int/data/nutrition/nlis/info/improved-sanitation-facilities-and-drinking-water-sources#:~:text=Improved%20drinking-water%20sources%20are>.

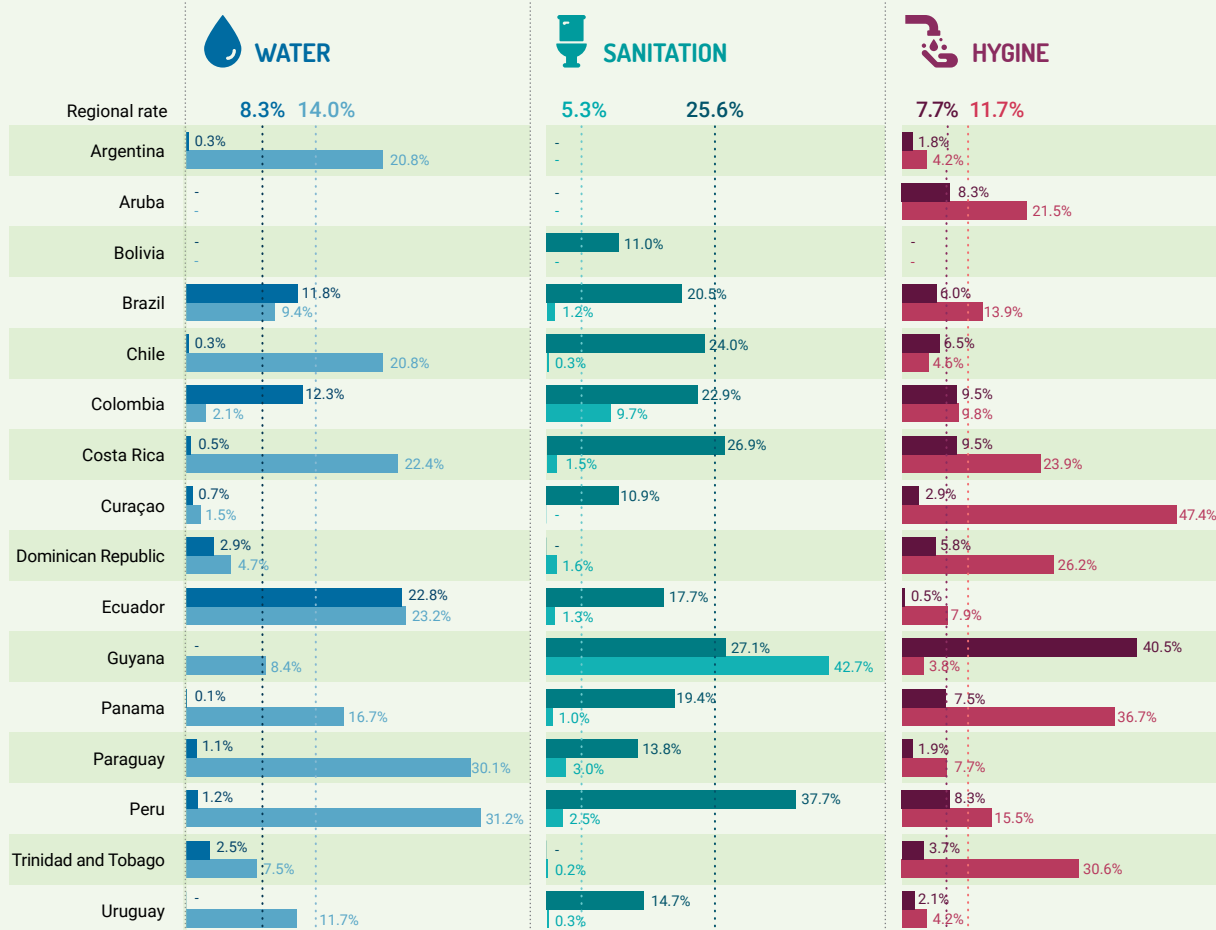
[275] UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring, Guyana* (2023), internal document.

[276] R4V, *National Platform JNAs*, 2024.

safety, privacy, and dignity.<sup>277</sup> Furthermore, lack of proper waste management practices that may lead to environmental contamination and proliferation of

vector borne diseases was reported, particularly in households in Guyana (43 per cent) and Colombia (10 per cent).<sup>278</sup>

### WASH-RELATED NEEDS AMONG SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE REGION



**Percentage of households of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination with:**

- No access to an improved primary source of water for drinking
- No continuous access to a sufficient amount of water
- No access to improved and functioning sanitation facilities
- Lack good waste management practices and environmental health in their surroundings
- No basic access to handwashing facilities
- No access to adequate menstrual hygiene items for women and girls

Note: The indicator values are derived from household surveys conducted with Venezuelans in-destination using the thresholds available in this [R4V catalogue](#). The regional rates are obtained using a weighted average based on the population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the countries shown in the graph.

Source: JNA (2024) in all aforementioned countries, except in Bolivia, where UNHCR RMS (2023) was used.

[277] IOM, Gender Inclusion and GBV Risk Mitigation Toolkit for WASH Programming (2021), accessed August 18, 2024, [https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/inline-files/annex-a\\_gender-inclusion-and-gbv-risk-mitigation-toolkit-for-wash-programming-2021.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/inline-files/annex-a_gender-inclusion-and-gbv-risk-mitigation-toolkit-for-wash-programming-2021.pdf).

[278] Ibid.

Migrants and refugees undertaking onward and transit movements, especially those on extended journeys, face significant limitations in accessing essential WASH services. The increasing number of arrivals at temporary transit spaces and within host communities in countries like Panama, Colombia, and Costa Rica are straining existing WASH facilities provided by humanitarian partners and institutions, which are often operating beyond their capacity. In the Central America and Mexico sub-region, notably Costa Rica, access to water is identified as one of the top three needs for those in-transit. Similarly, only half of those in-transit in Colombia report having sufficient water to drink.<sup>279</sup>

Furthermore, along their routes, hygiene, sanitation and access to water are frequently limited, costly, or non-existent, resulting in severe dehydration, limited personal hygiene, and unsafe open defecation practices. Limited and costly WASH services force many refugees and migrants to rely on surface water, leading at times to gastrointestinal diseases.<sup>280</sup> According to 2024 JNA, open defecation practices were reported among migrants and refugees in-transit,

with 18 per cent of women, 47 per cent of children, and 25 per cent of adolescents reporting it as the third most common practice in Norte del Santander, Colombia.<sup>281</sup> This is also the case for 21 per cent of the population in-transit in Ecuador and 100 per cent of those crossing the Darien jungle in Panama.<sup>282</sup>

A partner study in Mexico highlights that menstrual hygiene in-transit poses health risks for menstruating persons, both during transit and in temporary shelter spaces, due to lack of proper hygiene products, bathrooms and cleaning facilities.<sup>283</sup> According to the JNA 2024, high percentages of women and girls without access to menstrual products were found among populations in-destination in Curaçao (47 per cent), Panama (37 per cent), Trinidad and Tobago (31 per cent), Dominican Republic (26 per cent), Costa Rica (24 per cent) and Aruba (21.5 per cent). While on transit, 48 per cent in Colombia and 44 per cent in Peru faced similar issues. Additionally, a high percentage of travel groups reported limited access to bathing facilities<sup>284</sup> and essential hygiene items as soap and toilet paper.



[279] R4V, Colombia (GIFMM), JNA for population in-transit and in pendular movement, forthcoming, 2024.

[280] Health conditions observed in stranded migrants and refugees include gastrointestinal disease, such as diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach discomfort and dehydration related to contaminated water and food. IOM, Flow Monitoring Registry / DTM Costa Rica (June 2024), internal document.

[281] R4V, Colombia (GIFMM), JNA for population in-transit and in pendular movement, forthcoming, 2024.

[282] R4V Panama platform with WASH Regional Sector mentions that 100% of population in-transit through the Darien practice open defecation at least once and bath in rivers.

[283] Cadena, UNICEF, Periodos en Movimiento, Menstruar en la Frontera Sur de México (December 2023), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.unicef.org/mexico/informes/periodos-en-movimiento>.

[284] According to JNA 2024 findings, the percentage of travel groups without access to showers (hygiene) are 77% in Colombia, 78% in Ecuador, 46% in Peru.



## CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA)

The lack of income generating opportunities and financial resources is a significant barrier for refugees and migrants in meeting basic needs and exercising fundamental rights across the 17 countries covered by the RMRP. The region's slow economic recovery and persistent inflation exacerbate these challenges, increasing costs of living without creating new (formal) income-generating opportunities.<sup>285</sup> This financial strain increasingly forces migrants and refugees in the region to resort to negative coping mechanisms to make ends meet, including incurring debt or begging, compromising their safety and dignity. Particularly vulnerable groups include those engaging in onward and transit movements, women and girls, single-parent households, indigenous persons, and those in an irregular situation. They face specific challenges such as heightened risk of GBV,<sup>286</sup> human trafficking,<sup>287</sup> and lack of access to WASH facilities.

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) helps bridge the gap between limited income and expenses, reducing reliance on negative coping mechanisms. Moreover, it is often considered the preferred modality for humanitarian assistance delivery among refugees and migrants, as it allows people to prioritize spending on essentials such as food, housing, and health. While in 2023, both in-transit and in-destination populations preferred cash assistance, in 2024 results show a preference from in-transit populations for in-kind assistance in some cases. In Colombia, 60 per cent of migrants and refugees in-destination reported that they preferred cash assistance, while those undertaking

transit and onward movements favoured in-kind services.<sup>288</sup> In Peru, 48 per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants preferred cash assistance, with another 42 per cent favouring a combination of cash and in-kind assistance.<sup>289</sup> In the Southern Cone, migrants and refugees report improved living conditions due to cash assistance, which primarily addresses housing, food, and health needs.<sup>290</sup>

Use of negative coping mechanisms is closely linked to insufficient income among refugees and migrants in the region. These behaviours underscore the urgent need for humanitarian assistance to alleviate these hardships and improve living conditions. Needs vary depending on the duration of stay in the host country and regular status, with those in transit and irregular situations being especially vulnerable.<sup>291</sup>

People with the intention to remain in a host country, including settled migrants and refugees, have also seen their ability to cover their basic needs diminish due to high costs of living, limited access to sustainable livelihoods and to national social protection systems, including cash-based national safety nets. In Peru, only one per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants was able to access national cash transfer programs, mainly due to documentation requirements.<sup>292</sup> In the Southern Cone, high costs and bureaucratic barriers hinder access to adequate housing and healthcare.<sup>293</sup> This inability to access basic services exacerbates their vulnerability and increases reliance on negative coping mechanisms.

[285] In Ecuador, refugees and migrants surveyed in the JNA report frequently resorting to at least one negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing expenses on health items, using savings to meet basic needs, and begging for money. R4V Ecuador, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[286] Rachel Alsop, "Migration and Gender-Based Violence," in *Gender-Based Violence: A Comprehensive Guide*, ed. Parveen Ali and M. Meredith Rogers (Cham: Springer, 2023), [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-05640-6\\_28](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-05640-6_28).

[287] Loria-Mae Heywood and Leona Vaughn, *Financial Inclusion to Protect Vulnerable Populations from Modern Slavery: A Compilation of Practices (2024)*, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, 1–28, [http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:9642/Financial\\_Inclusion\\_Thematic\\_Review.pdf](http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:9642/Financial_Inclusion_Thematic_Review.pdf).

[288] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Joint Needs Assessment for the Population In-Destination (2024)*, and *JNA for the Venezuelan Population In-Transit (2024)*.

[289] UNHCR, *Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Peru, Consolidado de Indicadores PDM (2023)*.

[290] UNHCR, *Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) MCO Argentina, Consolidado de Indicadores PDM (2023)*.

[291] R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessments from National and Sub-Regional Platforms (2024)*, publication forthcoming.

[292] R4V Peru Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (2024)*, publication forthcoming.

[293] R4V Southern Cone, *Joint Needs Assessment (2024)*, publication forthcoming.

**BRAZIL**



## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION

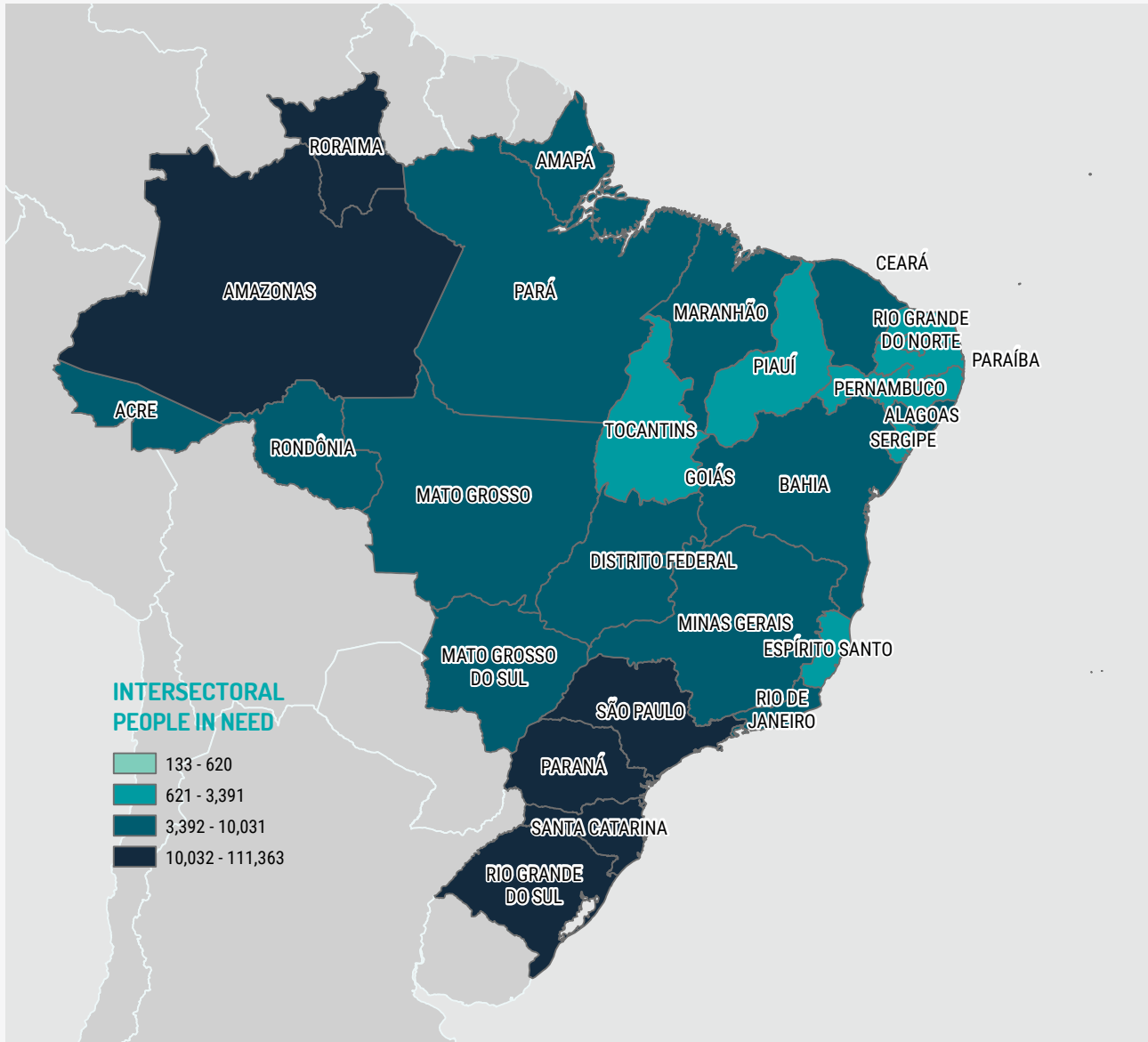
**43.9% • 256.9 K**

VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT

**51.3%**

AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES

**46.2%**



## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

 MEN
  WOMEN
  BOYS
  GIRLS














**25.7%**

**31.1%**

**18.9%**

**24.3%**

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

SECTOR		PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)			
		VENEZUELANOS IN-DESTINATION		VENEZUELANOS IN-TRANSIT	AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
	INTERSECTOR	43.9%	256.9 K	51.3%	46.2%
	EDUCATION	9.7%	56.9 K	11.5%	1.4%
	FOOD SECURITY	21.9%	128.0 K	46.0%	27.6%
	HEALTH	5.6%	32.7 K	30.8%	40.0%
	HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	15.1%	88.3 K	27.0%	36.7%
	INTEGRATION	41.9%	245.3 K	41.0%	7.9%
	NUTRITION	11.1%	65.0 K	12.9%	0.8%
	PROTECTION	23.4%	136.8 K	34.1%	36.7%
	CHILD PROTECTION	4.0%	23.4 K	8.2%	16.9%
	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	19.8%	115.9 K	34.1%	18.0%
	HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	3.5%	20.5 K	15.0%	1.6%
	SHELTER	43.9%	256.9 K	42.2%	34.5%
	WASH	41.6%	243.7 K	51.3%	38.5%

## BRAZIL: COUNTRY OVERVIEW

R4V partners in Brazil carried out a JNA<sup>294</sup> to identify the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the country, complemented by a Secondary Data Review (SDR). The primary data collection took place between June and July 2024, surveying 700 Venezuelan households, out of which 193 were in Roraima (27 per cent). The surveys were conducted through phone interviews, reaching a total of 2,914 refugees and migrants. The sample population was based on contacts from R4V partners, from the Unified Registry for Social Programs of the Brazilian government (CADÚnico)<sup>295</sup> and the Operation Welcome's<sup>296</sup> information management system *Acolhedor*. The geographical distribution of the interviews was defined by a stratified sampling by state. Sixty partners of the Brazil National R4V Platform, including 14 UN agencies and 46 NGO partners, were involved in the JNA process.

Regarding the demographic characteristics of the population surveyed, households had an average of four members and 76 per cent of them had at least one child. The JNA findings also show that most refugees and migrants (96 per cent) intend to stay and integrate in Brazil, regardless of the year of their arrival in the country, although many continue to face challenges in accessing public services and in meeting basic needs. The most pressing needs were identified as being in the areas of **shelter, integration and WASH**.

In terms of shelter<sup>297</sup> and WASH needs, the JNA found that **one in every five households was at risk of eviction within three months prior to the survey**, and the same proportion had no access to improved and functioning sanitation facilities in their residence. Low salaries<sup>298</sup> and limited access<sup>299</sup> to financial services also posed challenges to their socio-economic integration in the country. **Despite the increase in the number of Venezuelans entering the Brazilian labour market, there is still a high rate of unemployment and informal work, while their education level seems to bear no effect on employment stability or professional mobility**. In terms of food security, **over one in every five surveyed households experiences moderate or severe food insecurity**. In fact, 54 per cent of interviewed Venezuelans<sup>300</sup> reported that they had to spend their savings to buy food and three per cent had to take children out of school to contribute to household incomes. A majority of households (76 per cent) includes at least one child, and among those, nearly one in every five households has no access to any type of educational services, including early child development. Despite being the country with the highest rate of refugees and migrants in a regular situation with corresponding documentation, protection needs still remain significant, as 13 per cent of surveyed households needed support with legal services in the past year (of which over ten per

[294] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024. All interviewed Venezuelans had previous contact with either R4V partners and/or the government of Brazil's Operation Welcome ("Operação Acolhida", for its original title).

[295] *The Unified Registry for Social Programs of the Brazilian government (CADÚnico) is a system managed by the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger that allows for the identification and socio-economic characterization of low-income families. This information is used for social programs and policies geared towards such families, and for the government to identify which segments of the population are the poorest and most vulnerable.*

[296] *Operação Acolhida (Operation Welcome) is the government of Brazil's humanitarian response to the arrival of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. It includes three main pillars: border management (reception, identification, health checks, immunization, documentation of legal status and screening of refugees and migrants upon entry to the country in the city of Pacaraima/Roraima); humanitarian assistance (sheltering vulnerable refugees and migrants, providing meals, facilities for personal hygiene, orientation, training and leisure activities, and basic health care) and internal relocation (voluntary, safe and orderly relocation of refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations located in the states of Amazonas and Roraima to other cities in Brazil). It provides Venezuelans with opportunities to enter the labour market, to access public services and to be integrated into host communities in destination states and municipalities, thus increasing their chances of social, economic and cultural integration.*

[297] *Assessed shelter needs encompass the overall population of migrants and refugees in the country, including those not living in collective shelters.*

[298] UNHCR, *Informe sobre o mercado de trabalho formal para venezuelanos refugiados e migrantes no Brasil*. (March 2024) <https://www.acnur.org/portugues/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Informe-sobre-o-mercado-de-trabalho-formal-para-venezuelanos-refugiados-e-migrantes-no-Brasil-Marco.2024.pdf>

[299] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[300] *Ibid.*

cent could not access them), and one in every four households expressed concerns about facing risks if they were to return to Venezuela.<sup>301</sup> In addition, nearly one in every ten surveyed households with women and girls feel unsafe when it comes GBV in places such as on the way to school, shared social spaces or even their own homes.

According to the data collected, indigenous populations show a higher level of vulnerability - being<sup>302</sup> more likely to face evictions (24 per cent of households with indigenous members) than the national average (19 per cent) and having less access to formal employment. The surveyed indigenous population showed a prevalence of undocumented persons that was twice the national average, while having more needs for legal

assistance and lower success rates in accessing it. These needs are compounded by the vulnerabilities and cultural aspects particular to these indigenous groups (including the Warao, Pemon Taurepang, E'ñepa, Kariña e Wayuu).<sup>303</sup>

Lastly, in May 2024, the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul was hit by extreme floods and landslides that left a wake of devastation, including washed-out roads and collapsed bridges as well as damage to infrastructure and housing. Rio Grande do Sul is one of the main destination areas for the government's Voluntary Relocation<sup>304</sup> programme (with over 21,000 Venezuelans relocated there as of June 2024)<sup>305</sup> and with almost 30,000 Venezuelans registered under the national social assistance system (CadÚnico).<sup>306</sup>



[301] *Ibid.*

[302] *Ibid.*

[303] Governo do Brasil and UNHCR, *Iniciativas Intersetoriais Voltadas à Promoção de Direitos de Populações Indígenas Refugiadas e Migrantes no Brasil (2022)*, accessed August 18, 2024, [https://www.acnur.org/portugues/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Guia-de-Iniciativas\\_web-5.pdf](https://www.acnur.org/portugues/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Guia-de-Iniciativas_web-5.pdf).

[304] The Voluntary Relocation or Interiorization program is an integration strategy of the Brazilian government that enables Venezuelan refugees and migrants living in Roraima to safely move to other parts of Brazil, so to ease pressure on the northern region and facilitate integration. The process is voluntary, free and accessible to those refugees and migrants who obtained a temporary residence or were registered as asylum seekers. After completion of medical checks, beneficiaries are transferred via military or commercial flights to their destination municipality where they are received by local authorities, civil society entities, family members already residing those locations, private companies or individuals interested in receiving and supporting Venezuelans to settle and work in other Brazilian states.

[305] Ministério da Cidadania, *Interiorization Dashboard*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://aplicacoes.mds.gov.br/snas/painel-interiorizacao/>.

[306] Ministério da Cidadania, *CadÚnico Dashboard*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://bit.ly/4dLnXEQ>.

# EDUCATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		Male		Female	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	56.9 K	9.7%	-	-	22.5%	22.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		11.5%	-	-	26.5%	26.5%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		1.4%	-	-	5.4%	5.4%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

As the majority of refugees and migrants intend to stay in Brazil (96 per cent),<sup>307</sup> there is a continuously growing demand for educational services, particularly for the age group for which education is mandatory (four to 17 years). Among the interviewed households with children aged zero to 17, some 17 per cent were not enrolled in the formal school system, including early childhood development, mirroring similar findings from the 2023 RMNA.<sup>308</sup>

A verification exercise carried out by R4V partners in the shelters of Roraima showed that out of 1,696 surveyed migrant and refugee children, some 54 per cent were not enrolled in schools in 2024.<sup>309</sup> This represents a significant loss of learning, given that 87 per cent of these respondents have been in Roraima for more than three months. In Pacaraima and Boa Vista, neighbourhoods near shelters experience overcrowded schools and long waiting lists, with 40 per cent of those seeking enrolment waiting for available spots,<sup>310</sup> exemplifying how overcrowding and lack of slots represent significant barriers to school enrolment.<sup>311</sup>

The situation is even more critical for indigenous refugees and migrants. In one indigenous shelter, 86 per cent of children not enrolled in school had been in the country for over four months, underscoring the urgent need to increase corresponding capacities and infrastructure, to contribute to reducing educational access barriers for indigenous communities with a culturally sensitive approach.<sup>312</sup>

Data indicates that among the students who were not enrolled, 96 per cent have not taken a placement test, leading to Venezuelan students often being placed in lower grades.<sup>313</sup> This mismatch contributes to dropout and school abandonment rates. Additional barriers to educational integration include a lack of understanding of the Brazilian educational system, with 59 per cent of those not having sought enrolment services citing insufficient information, and 36 per cent not having attempted to start their enrolment process.<sup>314</sup> Among those who tried but were unsuccessful, 46 per cent cited language barriers, and 54 per cent were told that they had insufficient documentation.<sup>315, 316</sup>

[307] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[308] Both 2023 and 2024 RMNA reports indicated that 15% of school-aged Venezuelan children (6-17 years old) were not attending school.

[309] UNHCR, *Verificação de Educação: Abrigos da Operação Acolhida (February 2024)*, internal document.

[310] *Ibid.*

[311] This aligns with the previous RMNA 2023, which also pointed out that educational access issues were more pronounced for children in shelters, with 63% of those in Boa Vista shelters not enrolled in school.

[312] UNHCR, *Verificação de Educação: Abrigos da Operação Acolhida (February 2024)*, internal document.

[313] *Ibid.*

[314] *Ibid.*

[315] These findings echo the barriers highlighted in the RMNA 2023, such as the lack of documentation to validate Venezuelan schooling records (15%).

[316] UNHCR, *Verificação de Educação: Abrigos da Operação Acolhida (February 2024)*, internal document.

This is complemented by a lack of awareness among migrants and refugees about the mandatory nature of immediate enrolment in the country, as 41 per cent of households reported waiting for the *interiorization* process to commence enrolment of children.<sup>317</sup> It was, however, observed that once families had received

adequate guidance and support on the enrolment and school transfer process, educational inclusion levels improve. According to the JNA, among interiorized families, 87 per cent of children attend school, compared to 80 per cent for those who were not interiorized.<sup>318</sup>

## FOOD SECURITY

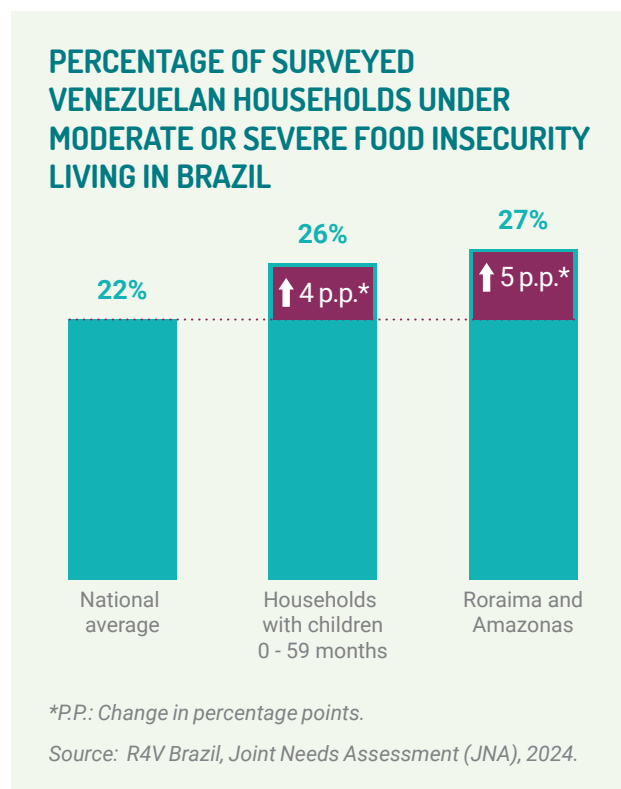


	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	128.0 K	21.9%	21.9%	21.9%	21.9%	21.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		46.0%	46.0%	46.0%	46.0%	46.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		27.6%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Food insecurity continues to be one of the main drivers for Venezuelans to leave their country for Brazil and is one of the challenges encountered upon arrival and during their integration in Brazil. A cross-border survey<sup>319</sup> showed that 63 per cent of refugees and migrants interviewed decided to leave Venezuela due to the lack of food availability, paired with high costs in their home country. During their journey, access to food was the biggest challenge faced by migrants and refugees. 51 per cent of those interviewed reported difficulties in purchasing food and 31 per cent experienced food shortages during the journey.<sup>320</sup>

JNA<sup>321</sup> data indicates that food security remains a challenge for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Brazil, with 22 per cent of those interviewed experiencing severe or moderate food insecurity and 42 per cent having to buy food or essential items on credit or borrow them. The highest percentages of Venezuelan households in such a situation were reported in the northern region, especially in the state of Roraima, with 50 per cent reporting buying food on credit. Additional reports by an R4V partner show



[317] *Ibid.*

[318] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[319] Caritas, *Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación transfronteriza de necesidades*, (2023), dashboard: <https://bit.ly/3Xp8STT>

[320] *Ibid.*

[321] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.







that 46 per cent<sup>322</sup> of migrants and refugees living in Roraima facing difficulties acquiring food for their own consumption.

To meet basic food needs, more than 86 per cent of the households surveyed said they spend 65 per cent or more of the value equivalent to the minimum wage<sup>323</sup> in Brazil on food.<sup>324</sup> Conversely, a majority of the surveyed refugees and migrants reported having to resort to negative coping mechanisms to meet their food needs, such as reducing healthcare and education-

related expenses (29 per cent), begging on the streets (10 per cent) and even resorting to actions they are hesitant to disclose (12 per cent), underscoring the severity of their situation. Additionally, three per cent of households reported having to take their children out of school to contribute to the household's earnings, which contributes to concerns about child labour and potential impacts on children's rights. This percentage is higher in Roraima (five per cent).

## HEALTH



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	32.7 K	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		30.8%	30.8%	30.8%	30.8%	30.8%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		40.0%	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Access to healthcare for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Brazil, particularly in Roraima, is a crucial concern. Recent studies highlight health-related needs of this population, including that 46 per cent of refugees and migrants arriving to Brazil cited a lack of access to health services in Venezuela, while 13 per cent indicated that Brazil was chosen as their destination specifically for its access to healthcare.<sup>325</sup> Also, 31 per cent of respondents reported experiencing symptoms of mental health issues.<sup>326</sup>

Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS) guarantees free universal access to health services, an aspect that contributes to the protection of refugees and migrants in the country, creating a reliance on the public health services to meet their needs. In terms of public health facilities, in Roraima, most Venezuelans access healthcare centres (82 per cent), followed by hospitals (15 per cent) and pharmacies (two per cent).<sup>327</sup>

According to the latest JNA, 26 per cent of migrants and refugees required healthcare services during the three months prior to their interview, with the vast

[322] OIM Brazil, DTM, Monitoramento do Fluxo da População Venezuelana, rodada 8 (April 2024), [https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdj1496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada\\_2023.pdf](https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdj1496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada_2023.pdf).

[323] The minimum wage in Brazil in 2024 is approximately USD 255. Presidência da República do Brasil, "Salário mínimo de 2024 terá ganho real e crescerá 3pp além dos 3,85% da inflação," Governo do Brasil, December 2023, <https://www.gov.br/planalto/pt-br/acompanhe-o-planalto/noticias/2023/12/salario-minimo-de-2024-tera-ganho-real-e-crescera-3pp-alem-dos-3-85-da-inflacao>.

[324] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[325] Caritas, Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación transfronteriza de necesidades (2023), Dashboard: <https://bit.ly/3Xp8STT>.

[326] Ibid.

[327] OIM Brazil, DTM, Monitoramento do Fluxo da População Venezuelana, rodada 8 (April 2024), [https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdj1496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada\\_2023.pdf](https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdj1496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada_2023.pdf).

majority of them being able to access them (94 per cent).<sup>328</sup> This was corroborated by an R4V partner's survey in Roraima, pursuant to which 24 per cent<sup>329</sup> of the refugees and migrants surveyed had initially faced difficulties accessing healthcare services, citing issues such as inadequate care, high costs of services and medicine, and instances of xenophobia or discrimination. Pacaraima stood out as the municipality with the greatest need for healthcare, with 72 per cent of migrants and refugees reporting having needed medical care.<sup>330</sup> However, Pacaraima lacks the capacity to handle urgent cases due to the smaller size and complexity of its municipal health system. Therefore, patients with severe and urgent medical situations require transfers by ambulance to the capital of Roraima, Boa Vista. Between June 2023 and June 2024, 2,480<sup>331</sup> refugees and migrants in crucial need of health assistance were supported with medical evacuations from Pacaraima to Boa Vista (1,966 in 2023 and 514 until May 2024).<sup>332</sup> The three most frequent medical conditions are chronic illnesses (50 per cent), difficult pregnancies (14 per cent), and lung infections and respiratory distress (10 per cent).<sup>333</sup>

Sexual and reproductive health is an area of particular

concern. Approximately 71 per cent of respondents in Roraima reported not having adequate access to reproductive health services, including lack of access to contraceptives, sexual health education and counselling, and testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.<sup>334</sup> It was also noted that 29 per cent of pregnant migrant and refugee women in Roraima did not receive vital prenatal care, highlighting critical unmet needs for maternal and child health.<sup>335</sup>

Despite the success in vaccination programs, ten per cent of children had not received the complete vaccination schedules through the SUS, highlighting the unmet need to ensure all Venezuelan refugees and migrants are protected against preventable diseases. Physical, intellectual, or sensory difficulties are also a significant challenge, especially for migrants and refugees arriving in Brazil, exacerbated by the journey itself. Among surveyed refugees and migrants, 15 per cent reported difficulties seeing, seven per cent noted challenges walking or climbing stairs, and five per cent noted memory or concentration difficulties, highlighting the need for health services adapted to address these conditions.<sup>336</sup>

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[328] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[329] OIM Brazil, DTM, *Monitoramento do Fluxo da População Venezuelana, rodada 8* (April 2024), [https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada\\_2023.pdf](https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada_2023.pdf).

[330] *Ibid.*

[331] *This number refers to the patients and their companions.*

[332] *Data regularly collected in Pacaraima from the Nucleo de Saúde da Acolhida, the health unit from Operação Acolhida and monitored in partnership with UNHCR.*

[333] *Ibid.*





[334] OIM Brazil, DTM, *Monitoramento do Fluxo da População Venezuelana, rodada 8* (April 2024), [https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada\\_2023.pdf](https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada_2023.pdf).

[335] *Ibid.*

[336] *Ibid.*

# HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	88.3 K	15.1%	15.1%	15.1%	15.1%	15.1%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		27.0%	27.0%	27.0%	27.0%	27.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		36.7%	36.7%	36.7%	36.7%	36.7%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Among migrants and refugees interviewed upon arrival in Roraima, 82 per cent reported lacking the resources to reach their intended destinations, facing significant challenges in moving around the country and settling in locations away from the border.<sup>337</sup> Many expressed a desire to relocate within the country. According to Operation Welcome's database, as of June 2024, some 4,200 Venezuelans had expressed their interest in being relocated and awaited corresponding humanitarian transportation, of which 58 per cent have already undergone the mandatory health screening ahead of travel. *Interiorization* remains key, as highlighted by the JNA: Venezuelans who were voluntarily relocated have better integration prospects than those who remain in Roraima. Also, out of those employed relocated adults present higher levels of formal employment (76 per cent versus 37 per cent in Roraima). Interiorization also has a positive impact on persons with specific needs: once relocated, 69 per cent of working women heads of households in single parent families had formal jobs, in comparison to 31 per cent of those residing in Roraima.

The State of Rio Grande do Sul is one of the main destinations for relocated Venezuelans. In 2023, the state welcomed 5,495 relocated refugees and migrants, representing 17 per cent of the total of persons who had access to the relocation strategy. More than half (58 per cent) travelled to the state through its family reunification modality. However, the floods in May 2024

affected 441 cities out of a total of 497 in that state, resulting in public calamity and halting the relocation strategy.<sup>338</sup> According to the *Acolhedor* system,<sup>339</sup> approximately ten per cent of migrants and refugees who expressed their voluntary participation in the *interiorization* strategy to the state of Rio Grande do Sul were unable to travel. Since the onset of the floods, the number of people relocated to Rio Grande do Sul plunged to 23 people in May, all of whom travelled through the program's employment modality. This reflects a significant decrease in relocations to the state which in 2023 was the third-largest receptor of relocated Venezuelans.

In Roraima, 61 per cent of refugees and migrants surveyed in the JNA reported making most of their daily errands in the city on foot or by bicycle; compared to a national average of 41 per cent. Considering people who benefited by the *interiorization* strategy living in other states, this number drops to 38 per cent. In this second group, a significant number of people (48 per cent), reported using public transportation services, compared to 17 per cent of those that access public transportation services in Roraima. Studies indicate that transportation costs can consume up to 11 per cent of the average Brazilian's budget.<sup>340</sup> This is particularly relevant as over 42 per cent of the surveyed refugees and migrants rely on public transportation to go about daily tasks, including to access health services.<sup>341</sup>

[337] Caritas, *Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación transfronteriza de necesidades (2023)*, dashboard: <https://bit.ly/3Xp8STT>.

[338] Governo do Brasil, UNHCR, and IOM, *Estratégia de Interiorização*, <https://bit.ly/3ATZ3nW>

[339] Operação Acolhida Information Management system.

[340] Summit Mobilidade, "Brasileiros Gastam Até 20% do Orçamento com Transporte Público," July 5, 2023, <https://summitmobilidade.estadao.com.br/compartilhando-o-caminho/brasileiros-gastam-ate-20-do-orcamento-com-transporte-publico/>.

[341] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

Transportation costs thus pose a substantial financial challenge, impacting their ability to obtain healthcare or

meet basic needs, thereby affecting their daily lives and access to essential services.

# INTEGRATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	245.3 K	41.9%	41.9%	41.9%	41.9%	41.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		41.0%	41.0%	41.0%	41.0%	41.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Approximately 93 per cent<sup>342</sup> of refugees and migrants arriving in Brazil cited unemployment or low wages as one of the primary reasons for leaving Venezuela, highlighting the criticality of access to livelihoods opportunities and corresponding socio-economic integration. Although Venezuelan refugees and migrants possess the same labour rights as nationals in Brazil, they encounter numerous barriers to their economic integration. According to the JNA, 39 per cent of interviewed respondents were unemployed, while 37 per cent worked in informal jobs.<sup>343</sup> This underscores a significant challenge for the integration of migrants and refugees posed by the fragility of the informal employment sector, such as lack of paid leave, retirement benefits, and other forms of social protection. Also, despite the increase in the number of refugees and migrants entering the Brazilian labour market in the first quarter of 2024, having a higher education does not seem to influence the employment stability or the professional mobility. The average salary

of this population is 17 per cent lower than the average salary of Brazilians hired in the same period<sup>344</sup> despite their educational levels being higher than the Brazilian average – 70 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed had concluded at least the secondary education, against 54 per cent of Brazilians.<sup>345</sup> It is worth noting that gaps in the national legislation impede the recognition of foreign diplomas and thus limit educational opportunities for the unemployed adult population. For example, R4V partners identified 275 Venezuelan doctors<sup>346</sup> who wish to practice in Brazil but cannot validate their diplomas.<sup>347</sup> Additional barriers include language-related issues, limited test availability (only in a few cities each year), and the need for diplomas bearing the Hague Apostille. Candidates also require financial means for travel, accommodation, food, registration fees, and other expenses. Also, the longer Venezuelan migrants and refugees remain unemployed in Brazil, the harder it becomes for them to enter the labour market in a field and level commensurate to their capabilities.<sup>348</sup>

[342] Caritas, *Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación Transfronteriza de Necesidades*, <https://bit.ly/3Xp8STI>.

[343] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[344] Mrittika Shamsuddin, Josefina Posadas, Raquel Tsukada, and Nikolas Pirani, *Insertion into the Formal Labor Market in Brazil of Vulnerable Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants, Dialogue with UNHCR and World Bank*, June 18, 2024 (Publication forthcoming, World Bank Group and UNHCR).

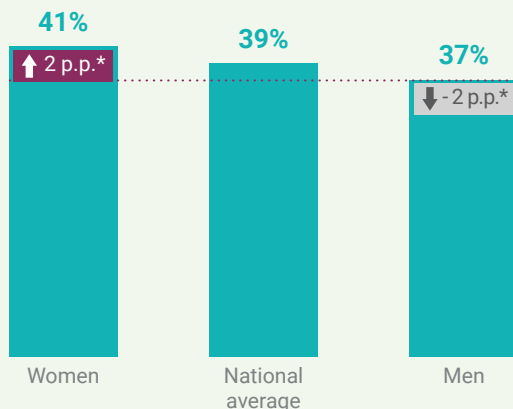
[345] IBGE, *Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios Contínua (PNAD)*, 2023.

[346] *Venezuelan doctors surveyed across the country: 62 in Roraima, 39 in Santa Catarina, 37 in Amazonas, 36 in Paraná.*

[347] *Survey conducted by Venezuela Global, in partnership with Asociación de los Venezolanos en Amazonas (ASOVEAM), Hermandad Sin Fronteras, Asociación Venezolana en Campo Grande y Casa Venezuela.*

[348] Mrittika Shamsuddin, Josefina Posadas, Raquel Tsukada, and Nikolas Pirani, *Insertion into the Formal Labor Market in Brazil of Vulnerable Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants, Dialogue with UNHCR and World Bank*, 18 June 2024 (Publication forthcoming, World Bank Group and UNHCR).

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS LIVING IN BRAZIL



\*P.P.: Change in percentage points.

Source: R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024.

Certain groups are disproportionately affected in terms of access to socio-economic integration. The JNA findings revealed a significant gender imbalance, where only 27 per cent of women of working age in Brazil access the formal labour market, compared to 51 per cent of men.<sup>349</sup> When analysing the situation of young women (aged 18 to 26) who are heads of families, only 23 per cent access the formal job market and, among those who were not supported by the *interiorization* strategy, this proportion drops to just 16 per cent. Furthermore, women in the formal labour market earn an average salary that is seven per cent lower than men, with this gap widening to 32 per cent at higher and postgraduate levels.<sup>350</sup>

Indigenous Venezuelans face considerable difficulties in accessing formal employment,<sup>351</sup> with only 28 per cent securing formal employment compared to 40 per cent of non-indigenous people. These challenges are exacerbated by cultural and language barriers, as well as discrimination, limiting their economic opportunities and integration into the Brazilian labour market.

Among indigenous Venezuelan households, 24 per cent reported that at least one of the members of their household experienced discrimination in the past 12 months, of which 86 per cent related to discrimination based on their nationality.<sup>352</sup> According to an R4V partner's study in Roraima, 27 per cent of refugees and migrants felt they had been discriminated because of their nationality during their integration process.<sup>353</sup> These issues of discrimination and xenophobia impact refugees' and migrants' access to employment, housing, and social services, hindering their ability to integrate, while contributing to feelings of marginalization and exclusion.

Regarding access to financial services, one out of five households have no access to this type of services.<sup>354</sup> Despite high documentation rates and the fact that only basic documentation is required to open an account in Brazil, only 69 per cent of refugees and migrants have bank accounts, which are needed to receive wages, pay rent, and other essential transactions.<sup>355</sup> Moreover, in Roraima where there is a high level of informal and autonomous employment, 25 per cent of refugees and migrants surveyed lack access to financial services, such as the credit line from the National Support Program for Micro and Small Enterprises (PRONAMPE),<sup>356</sup> which supports the developing and strengthening local and small businesses.

[349] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[350] UNHCR, Informe sobre o mercado de trabalho formal para venezuelanos refugiados e migrantes no Brasil (March 2024), <https://www.acnur.org/portugues/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Informe-sobre-o-mercado-de-trabalho-formal-para-venezuelanos-refugiados-e-migrantes-no-Brasil-Marco.2024.pdf>.

[351] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[352] Ibid.

[353] OIM Brazil, DTM, Monitoramento do Fluxo da População Venezuelana, rodada 8 (April 2024), [https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada\\_2023.pdf](https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11496/files/documents/2024-04/dtm-roraima-8-rodada_2023.pdf).





[354] Such as savings account with a financial institution, electronic wallet, microcredit, term deposit certificates, loans for home or vehicle purchase, personal loans, and credit cards. R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[355] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[356] Provides financial resources to micro, small and medium-sized companies, or entrepreneurs. These loans have lower interest rates and offer a longer period to start repayment.

# NUTRITION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
	Count	Percentage				
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	65.0 K	11.1%	-	14.9%	14.9%	14.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		12.9%	-	2.2%	28.2%	28.2%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		0.8%	-	0.9%	1.7%	1.7%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA.

Venezuelan children under five and pregnant and lactating women continue to arrive in Brazil experiencing limitations in addressing their nutrition needs which impact their health and overall wellbeing. According to border monitoring activities in 2023, among Venezuelan families entering Brazil, 48 per cent had at least one child under five, and four per cent and 17 per cent included pregnant and lactating women, respectively.<sup>357</sup> The northern region States and main entry points for new arrivals such as Roraima, Acre and Amazonas remain of special concern. Overall, a persistent need was identified for access to comprehensive nutrition services to prevent, identify, and refer malnutrition cases in a timely and effective manner – as corroborated by a rapid assessment made by an R4V partner.<sup>358</sup>

The JNA revealed that 78 per cent<sup>359</sup> of households with infants up to six months of age reported

practicing exclusively breastfeeding.<sup>360</sup> Additionally, six per cent of caregivers of infants under six months reported using formula or other alternatives instead of breastfeeding, while 17 per cent indicated a combination of both formula and breastfeeding.<sup>361</sup> Furthermore, evidence shows that only 17 per cent<sup>362</sup> of households with infants up to six months received the minimum package of nutritional interventions<sup>363</sup> in the three months prior to being interviewed, with this figure dropping to seven per cent for households with children over six months and below five years.<sup>364</sup> Also, 21 per cent of households reported children aged six months to five years without minimal dietary diversity, which indicates that they are living in child food poverty. According to partner analysis in Roraima, challenges in adequate food intake have been reported by nearly half of respondents, in contrast to access to water - which has been reported to be sufficient for at least half of

[357] Caritas, *Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación transfronteriza de necesidades*, 2023. Dashboard: <https://bit.ly/3Xp8STT>.

[358] UNICEF, *Inter-sectoral Multi-partner Rapid Needs Assessment with a Focus on Children (ISNAC)* (Brasília, 2024).

[359] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[360] Brazilian Ministry of Health, *Food and nutrition surveillance system public reports*, (2024) <https://sisaps.saude.gov.br/sisvan/relatoriopublico/index>

[361] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[362] *Ibid.*

[363] *Minimum package of nutritional interventions include nutritional assessment: weighing, measuring height, and measuring arm circumference, counselling/support for breastfeeding (lactation evaluation, breastfeeding positions, support in case of difficulties) and/or counselling/support for non-breastfed babies (how to prepare infant formula - water and hygiene elements - use and cleaning of feeding utensils, etc.)*

[364] *Nutritional interventions for children over six months include the previous items but also counselling from trained staff on how to feed young children with solid foods (variety/type of foods, food preparation, how to feed children), distribution of vitamin and mineral supplements such as iron, Vitamin A, and others in powder, drops, or syrups, deworming, or providing purgatives, distribution of yellow sachets for the prevention of acute malnutrition, distribution of red sachets for the treatment of acute malnutrition*





respondents.<sup>365</sup> Only seven per cent of households with children under five reported that children received micronutrient supplementation.<sup>366</sup>

Among 54 interviewed pregnant and lactating women, only 22 per cent underwent some form of nutritional assessment (including the measurement of weight, height, and arm circumference), 19 per cent benefitted from nutritional counselling, and 22 per cent received micronutrient supplementation for prevention and treatment of deficiencies.<sup>367</sup> 90 per cent of pregnant and lactating women reported not having received the minimum package of nutritional interventions<sup>368</sup> in

the three months prior to being interviewed.<sup>369</sup> These findings underscore critical gaps in nutritional support for these vulnerable groups, particularly in regions with high concentrations of refugees and migrants. The lack of adequate nutritional interventions for pregnant and lactating women not only compromises their health, but also the health and development of their children. Continued challenges in ensuring prompt and sustainable access to food security and social protection services, such as cash transfer interventions, as well as primary healthcare and potable water, as highlighted by sectoral JNA results, are also key contributors to this scenario.

## PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	136.8 K	23.4%	23.4%	23.4%	23.4%	23.4%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		34.1%	34.1%	34.1%	34.1%	34.1%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		36.7%	36.7%	36.7%	36.7%	36.7%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Six years after Operation Welcome was launched as a coordinated response to the situation of arriving Venezuelan refugees and migrants, prompted by evolving situations inside Venezuela, the inflow of migrants and refugees through the Pacaraima border point continues at a sustained pace, with an average of 331 daily entries in the first four months of 2024.<sup>370</sup> During the same period, an average of 33

exit movements were observed daily.<sup>371</sup> In July 2024, an increase in the border crossings was observed and attributed to the elections in Venezuela, with daily entries peaking at 648 in the days leading to the temporary border closure during the voting weekend.<sup>372</sup> According to R4V partner data collection at the border, 85 per cent of respondents exiting to Venezuela in 2024 expressed an intention to return to Brazil.<sup>373</sup> According to R4V

[365] UNICEF, *Inter-sectoral Multi-partner Rapid Needs Assessment with a Focus on Children (ISNAC) (Brasília, 2024)*.

[366] *Ibid.*

[367] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[368] *Minimum package of nutritional interventions for pregnant or lactating women include: nutritional assessment (weighing, measuring height, and measuring arm circumference), nutritional counselling on diet during pregnancy or breastfeeding, distribution of micronutrients: Iron, calcium, and/or folic acid, deworming, distribution of ready-to-use nutritional supplement (purple/violet sachet).*

[369] R4V Brazil, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[370] *Superintendência Regional em Roraima of the Polícia Federal, Brazil, data shared with R4V Brazil partners.*

[371] *Ibid.*

[372] *For more information on the situation following the elections in Venezuela, see the corresponding Special Situation Reports on the Elections in Venezuela by the Regional R4V Platform, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/sitrep-electionsvzla>.*

[373] R4V Platform, *Exit Movement Monitoring*, <https://bit.ly/47MdvJQ>

partner records registered in the first half of 2024,<sup>374</sup> the population of Venezuelans arriving in the country consists of many families with children (39 per cent), including those headed by only one parent (six per cent), present protection needs upon arrival, such as lack of documentation.<sup>375</sup> In addition, 13 per cent of registered households include elderly people, six per cent include persons with a disability or chronic illness, four per cent include women at risk, and 21 per cent include people with legal and physical protection needs.<sup>376</sup> Moreover 3,200 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) reached Brazil in 2023, representing a 52 per cent increase compared to 2022.<sup>377</sup>

In the framework of Operation Welcome, Brazil has in place a very effective registration and documentation system for Venezuelans, with dedicated screening and documentation centres in Pacaraima, Boa Vista and Manaus, and Federal Police stations providing immediate regularization and documentation services across the whole national territory. As a result, 98 per cent of Venezuelans interviewed for the JNA are in a regular situation (the highest rate of refugees and migrants being in a regular situation in Latin America), holding valid documentation that, in principle, grants them all basic rights and access to services, on equal footing as nationals.<sup>378</sup> However, four point five per cent of households encountered barriers to their entry in the country (such as insecurity, payment of unofficial 'tolls',

lack of reliable information), and 13 per cent required assistance with legal procedures, out of which ten per cent failed to access such assistance.<sup>379</sup>

Some ten per cent of surveyed Venezuelan households faced considerable security and protection concerns in Brazil in the past year. According to the JNA, two per cent of them reported direct threats against one of its members, three per cent experienced theft, assault, or extortion and two per cent had their personal identification documents destroyed or stolen.<sup>380</sup> Moreover, 13 per cent felt having been discriminated due to their nationality,<sup>381</sup> which has impacted their access to education, the formal labour market, formal accommodation, and social assistance programs.<sup>382</sup>

Venezuelan indigenous groups stand out as a particularly vulnerable group. Lacking the formal qualifications demanded by the formal labour market, this population often cannot afford adequate housing, resorting to living in emergency shelters for years, or settling in unhealthy and informal dwellings in unsafe communities often controlled by criminal groups, and without proper tenure documents.<sup>383</sup> As a result, they mainly engage in informal economic activities, including begging - a negative coping mechanism mostly resorted to by women and children, and that exposes them to significant risks.<sup>384</sup>

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[374] From 1 January to 30 June 2024, 11,628 individuals, part of 6,163 households were registered on ProGres in Pacaraima.

[375] UNHCR, ProGres Database, accessed August 18, 2024.

[376] *Ibid.*

[377] UNICEF estimate calculated according to the data collected in the Information Management System (CPIMS+) in June 2024.

[378] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[379] *Ibid.*

[380] *Ibid.*

[381] *Ibid.*

[382] UNHCR, Participatory Assessment 2023 (2023), <https://www.acnur.org/portugues/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Diagnosticos-Participativos-2023-.pdf>. The assessment was carried out in the states of Roraima, Amazonas, Pará, Goiás, Distrito Federal, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

[383] *Ibid.*

[384] *Ibid.*



# CHILD PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		Male	Female	Male	Female
	Count	Percentage	Icon	Icon	Percentage	Percentage
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	23.4 K	4.0%	-	-	9.2%	9.2%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		8.2%	-	-	19.0%	19.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		16.9%	-	-	63.0%	63.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Venezuelan children constitute a significant portion of the refugee and migrant population in Brazil (40 per cent).<sup>385</sup> UASC who arrive in Brazil from Venezuela are exposed to risks of violence and exploitation, including human trafficking, child labour and sexual exploitation. In 2023, approximately 3,200 UASC cases were identified in Roraima, representing a 52 per cent increase compared to 2022.<sup>386</sup> According to the JNA, five per cent of the people interviewed encountered boys and girls who were separated from their parents in the 12 months prior to their interview, a figure which is higher in the states of Rondônia (17 per cent) and Roraima (eight per cent).<sup>387</sup> Overall, approximately eight per cent of all the children arriving in Brazil through Roraima were unaccompanied or separated.<sup>388</sup> Also, seven per cent of the refugees and migrants arriving in Brazil interviewed reported that they encountered unaccompanied children along their journey.<sup>389</sup> A rapid needs assessment conducted in June 2024 in Roraima highlighted that 16 per cent of people interviewed identified unaccompanied children in their community, and 30 per cent believe support is necessary for UASC in the communities in general.<sup>390</sup>

Violence against Venezuelan children living in Brazil is a key concern. According to the JNA, two per cent of those interviewed reported knowing of a child suffering abuse or violence, including sexual, physical, or psychological violence, and of these, 55 per cent did not receive assistance.<sup>391</sup> Complementary data shows that violence against children was observed by key respondents, including 30 per cent noting psychological violence and nine per cent sexual violence.<sup>392</sup> Furthermore, 45 per cent of those interviewed reported that violence against children primarily occurs within family contexts, and 43 per cent do not know if their communities are aware of the reporting channels to address such violations.<sup>393</sup>

In addition, migrant and refugee children from Venezuela have mental health and psychosocial support needs. Reports shows that 47 per cent of respondents were aware of children in need of psychosocial support or mental health care (a reduction of ten per cent compared to the previous year).<sup>394</sup> In this respect, through qualitative reports by field teams of R4V partners, approximately 15,000 children needed

[385] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[386] UNICEF estimate calculated according to the data collected in the Information Management System (CPIMS+) in June 2024.

[387] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[388] UNICEF estimate calculated according to the data collected in the Information Management System (CPIMS+) in June 2024.

[389] Ibid.

[390] Ibid.

[391] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[392] UNICEF, Inter-sectoral Multi-partner Rapid Needs Assessment with a Focus on Children (ISNAC), June 2024.

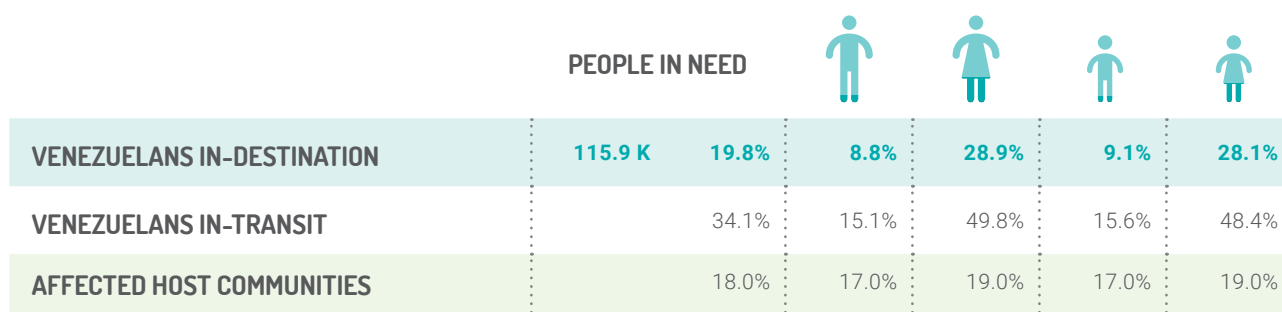
[393] Ibid.

[394] Ibid.

mental health and psychosocial support in Roraima in the first six months of 2024,<sup>395</sup> among these, there

was an increase in need for psychiatric assistance and autism spectrum disorder.<sup>396</sup>

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Venezuelan women and girls face gender-based violence (GBV) and human rights violations in Brazil. Between January 2023 and June 2024, the Ligue 180<sup>397</sup> registered 432 reports of violations of Venezuelan women and girls, 46 per cent of which were between 14 and 29 years old. Based on these reports, the riskiest places for these women and girls were their homes, whether they were living with the aggressor (41 per cent) or not (31 per cent).<sup>398</sup>

GBV impacted various aspects of their lives, including their physical, and psychological integrity, and patrimonial rights (totaling 226 reports), as well as their social rights, employment, health, and safety (104 reports). Cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) represented two per cent of the reports made by this group.<sup>399</sup>

Brazil has a network of specialized services for women who experienced violence, ranging from specific policing and sheltering, to legal and health services. Out of 2,599 services available nationwide, Amazonas and Roraima—states with significant populations of Venezuelan refugees and migrants—account for only three per cent of this network.<sup>400</sup>

In addition, according to a survey on GBV in Brazil,<sup>401</sup> 74 per cent of the women interviewed (regardless of nationality of those surveyed) considered that domestic violence had increased in the 12 months before being interviewed. According to the same source, the states with the largest populations of migrants and refugees from Venezuela also displayed higher rates of women having insufficient knowledge about the so-called *Maria da Penha* Law,<sup>402</sup> with 74 per cent in Amazonas and 71 per cent in Roraima, both well above the national average (67 per cent).

[395] *Ibid.*

[396] *Ibid.*

[397] Ligue 180 is a support and guidance service for women who are survivors of violence, provided by the National Human Rights Ombudsman of the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship.

[398] Central de Atendimento à Mulher - Ligue 180." Dados.gov.br, <https://dados.gov.br/dados/conjuntos-dados/central-de-atendimento-a-mulher-lique-180>.

[399] *Ibid.*

[400] Ministry of Women. "Ligue 180.", <https://www.gov.br/mulheres/pt-br/lique-180>.

[401] Instituto de Pesquisa DataSenado and Observatório da Mulher Contra a Violência (OMV), 10ª edição da Pesquisa Nacional de Violência Contra a Mulher (Brasília: Instituto de Pesquisa DataSenado, novembro de 2023), <https://www12.senado.leg.br/institucional/datasetado/publicacaodatasetado?id=pesquisa-nacional-de-violencia-contra-a-mulher-datasetado-2023>.

[402] Enacted in Brazil in 2006, this is a pioneering piece of legislation aimed at combating domestic violence against women. It establishes specialized courts and police stations to deal with cases of domestic violence, offers protective measures such as restraining orders, and obliges public services to support and assist victims. Brazil, *Lei Maria da Penha*, Law No. 11.340, August 7, 2006, [https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2004-2006/2006/lei/111340.htm](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2004-2006/2006/lei/111340.htm).

In contexts of increasing rates of GBV, the risks are amplified for women and LGBTQI+ persons in humanitarian situations<sup>403</sup> due to the disruption of support and protection networks, difficulties in

accessing basic services, lack of documentation, xenophobia, and exploitation, in addition to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



	PEOPLE IN NEED				
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	20.5 K	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

The Brazilian border municipality of Pacaraima is characterized as being on an international route for smuggling of the Venezuelan population.<sup>404</sup> In many cases, smuggling is related to human trafficking due to the vulnerability of the Venezuelan migrants and refugees and is also observed in municipalities in the states of Roraima and Amazonas.<sup>405</sup>

According to the JNA, two per cent of the households surveyed<sup>406</sup> claimed that they were deceived, manipulated, indebted, or received false promises aimed at persuading them to travel or migrate. One per cent of households reported being held against their will by an entity other than the country's authorities which may suggest the possibility of human trafficking.<sup>407</sup> Amazonas (44 per cent), Minas Gerais (40 per cent), Roraima (42 per cent), Santa Catarina (37 per cent)

and São Paulo (24 per cent) are states reported with refugees and migrants having experienced at least one situation of exploitation, such as not receiving any payment or receiving less than agreed.<sup>408</sup>

Venezuelan women and girls are more susceptible to be exploited under different forms of human trafficking, such as sexual exploitation, domestic forced labour, illegal adoption and organs removal.<sup>409</sup> In Pacaraima, it was reported that young girls in vulnerable situations were resorting to survival sex due to the lack of access to the labour market.<sup>410</sup> Reports by partners<sup>411</sup> indicate that women in general, including migrants, refugees and affected host communities, are less likely to find dignified job opportunities because of some employers' perceptions of burdens and complications arising from potential childcare obligations of women. They often

[403] UNFPA, Normas mínimas interagências para a programação sobre violência baseada no gênero em emergência (2021), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://gbvaor.net/>

[404] IOM, Relatório Situacional sobre Tráfico de Pessoas e contrabando de Migrantes, forthcoming, 2024.

[405] Ibid

[406] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[407] Ibid.

[408] Ibid.

[409] Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública and Escritório das Nações Unidas sobre Drogas e Crimes, Relatório Nacional Sobre Tráfico de Pessoas: Dados 2021-2023 (July 2024),

[410] IOM, Relatório Situacional sobre Tráfico de Pessoas e contrabando de Migrantes, forthcoming, 2024.

[411] Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública and Escritório das Nações Unidas sobre Drogas e Crimes, Relatório Nacional Sobre Tráfico de Pessoas: Dados 2021-2023 (July 2024), <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/sua-protecao/trafico-de-pessoas/relatorio-nacional-trafico-de-pessoas-oficial.pdf>.

find opportunities in the domestic labour cash-in-hand scheme;<sup>412</sup> however, they often report fear of being abused in this type of situations.





The profiles of victims suggest that men are usually recruited for the purpose of labour exploitation,<sup>413</sup> which is corroborated by other reports noting that Venezuelan men are more likely to be at risk of labour exploitation in sectors including civil construction, agriculture, mining, and general services.<sup>414</sup>

In 2023, 3,190 people were rescued from forced labour situations in Brazil,<sup>415</sup> among whom 25 were Venezuelans (compared to 14 Venezuelans out of a total 2,587 people rescued in 2022). The states with the largest number of people rescued were Goiás (739), Minas Gerais (651) and São Paulo (392), which correspond to the states that were also reported as places where Venezuelans had been identified in situations of exploitation according to the JNA.

In terms of geographic focus, as a result of the majority of arrivals of Venezuelans occurring in the state of Roraima, and a corresponding concentration of support there, needs in responding to incidences of exploitation have been reported in other parts of the country. This includes law enforcement capacities, as well as the resources of civil society organizations and local communities, who are often unable to identify, refer, and assist victims and potential victims of trafficking and exploitation nationwide. Additionally, existing services often lack a gender- and age-sensitive approach, failing to address the specific needs of refugees and migrants effectively. Many trafficking victims also experience severe psychological trauma and physical health issues, highlighting the urgent need for both immediate and long-term care that is currently inadequate.

## SHELTER



	PEOPLE IN NEED				
					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	256.9 K	43.9%	43.9%	43.9%	43.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		42.2%	42.2%	42.2%	42.2%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		34.5%	34.5%	34.5%	34.5%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants from Venezuela face challenges in accessing adequate housing in Brazil. JNA findings show that 19 per cent of interviewed households were at risk of eviction from rented housing in the three

months prior to their interview.<sup>416</sup> Figures were higher in Amazonas (31 per cent) and Roraima (24 per cent), which are the states with the largest population of Venezuelans. This contrasts the situation in other

[412] Cash-in-hand domestic labour refers to work performed in a private household where the worker is paid directly in cash, often without formal documentation, contracts, or reporting to tax authorities.

[413] Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública and Escritório das Nações Unidas sobre Drogas e Crimes, Relatório Nacional Sobre Tráfico de Pessoas: Dados 2021-2023 (July 2024), <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/sua-protecao/trafico-de-pessoas/relatorio-nacional-trafico-de-pessoas-oficial.pdf>.

[414] IOM, Relatório Situacional sobre Tráfico de Pessoas e contrabando de Migrantes, forthcoming, 2024. Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública and Escritório das Nações Unidas sobre Drogas e Crimes, Relatório Nacional Sobre Tráfico de Pessoas: Dados 2021-2023 (July 2024), <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/sua-protecao/trafico-de-pessoas/relatorio-nacional-trafico-de-pessoas-oficial.pdf>

[415] Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego, "MTE resgata 3.190 trabalhadores de condições análogas à escravidão em 2023," Agência Brasil, January 2024, <https://agenciagov.ebc.com.br/noticias/202401/mte-resgata-3-190-trabalhadores-de-condicoes-analogas-a-escravidao-em-2023>.

[416] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

states in Southern and Southeastern Brazil, with 13 per cent facing that risk (less than the national average of 19 per cent). The JNA also shows that 24 per cent of indigenous households surveyed had experienced evictions or were at risk of evictions during the three months prior to their interview.

### PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS AT RISK OF EVICTION



Source: R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

As for their housing conditions and arrangements, the JNA shows that one in every five households lives in overcrowded conditions,<sup>417</sup> with these rates being even higher in Amazonas (29 per cent) and Roraima (34 per cent). The survey also shows that 76 per cent of surveyed households live in rented spaces, while 11 per cent live in shared housing. The vast majority (65

per cent) of households lack access to at least one category of essential household items (kitchen sets, beds, cleaning articles, household appliances, etc.). This combination of inadequate living conditions and the widespread threat of eviction can have an impact on their access to livelihoods, services, and basic needs, as well as on their overall well-being and quality of life.

A considerable number of refugees and migrants live in even more inadequate conditions in cities in the border state of Roraima. As of May 2024, some 1,634 people in Pacaraima,<sup>418</sup> and 924 people in Boa Vista<sup>419</sup> were living in informal spontaneous settlements in public and privately-owned buildings, and 200 people were living on the streets of Boa Vista, with limited access to WASH infrastructure and exposed to several health and protection risks.

In addition, the severe floods<sup>420</sup> that have ravaged the Rio Grande do Sul state in May 2024 also impacted migrants and refugees living there. As one of the main destinations<sup>421</sup> for the *interiorization* program (with over 21,000 Venezuelans relocated there as of June 2024) and with almost 30,000 Venezuelans registered under the national social assistance system (CadÚnico),<sup>422</sup> refugees and migrants were disproportionately affected by the widespread damage to housing and infrastructure.

[417] For reference, a household is considered overcrowded when 3 or more persons share a room. National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), "Table 2, Summary of Major Features of Levels of Evidence," in *The Rehabilitation Specialist's Handbook*, 4th ed. (2019), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2>

[418] IOM, *Informe: População Venezuelana Refugiada e Migrante Fora de Abrigos em Pacaraima, Maio 2024*, accessed August 18, 2024, [https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1496/files/documents/2024-06/informe\\_populacao-venezuelana-refugiada-e-migrante-fora-de-abrigos\\_pacaraima\\_mai24.pdf](https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1496/files/documents/2024-06/informe_populacao-venezuelana-refugiada-e-migrante-fora-de-abrigos_pacaraima_mai24.pdf).

[419] *Ibid.*





[420] United Nations, *Brazil Floods: Rio Grande do Sul - Situation Report*, 25 June 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://reliefweb.int/report/brazil/brazil-floods-rio-grande-do-sul-united-nations-situation-report-25-june-2024>.

[421] Ministério do Desenvolvimento Social, *Painel de Interiorização*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://aplicacoes.mds.gov.br/snas/painel-interiorizacao/>.

[422] R4V Platform and Governo do Brasil, *Painel de informações sociais para refugiados e migrantes venezuelanos*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://bit.ly/3AMJWwL>.

## WASH



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	243.7 K	41.6%	41.6%	41.6%	41.6%	41.6%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		51.3%	51.3%	51.3%	51.3%	51.3%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		38.5%	38.5%	38.5%	38.5%	38.5%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to the JNA, 12 per cent of Venezuelan households lack drinking water in their current dwellings, and 39 per cent lack access to sewage systems, while 34 per cent lack garbage collection services.<sup>423</sup> Additionally, eight per cent of migrants and refugees arriving in Brazil report a lack of bathrooms and hygiene services upon arrival at the border and 51 per cent report greater difficulty covering costs for water and food during their journey.<sup>424</sup>

The state of Amazonas presents an average access to piped water below the national value (71 per cent),<sup>425</sup> against 85 per cent at country level.<sup>426</sup> In addition, according to a survey by partners in Roraima, 16 per cent of respondents to an R4V partner's survey<sup>427</sup> reported that their communities lacked access to piped water, water from tanker trucks, lakes, unprotected dug wells, or hand pumps. This data is even more relevant considering that about 11 per cent of the refugee and migrant population is aged between zero to five years,<sup>428</sup> an age group reported to be the most vulnerable to

death due to acute diarrheal diseases, especially among indigenous populations.<sup>429</sup>

Also according to the JNA, 26 per cent of households with women who menstruate do not have access to sanitary pads nor to other adequate menstrual hygiene articles.<sup>430</sup> Additionally, 44 per cent of migrants and refugees arriving in Brazil reported greater difficulty covering costs for hygiene items, 36 per cent report problems accessing soap, 29 per cent report problems accessing toilet paper and 21 per cent<sup>431</sup> report problems accessing feminine hygiene products.<sup>432</sup> The main WASH needs reported by refugees and migrants at the time of the data collection were sanitary services (33 per cent), clean water (26 per cent), and hygiene items (20 per cent).<sup>433</sup> The lack of access to such items, especially those related to menstrual health management, particularly impacts women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people, affecting their dignity, health and quality of life.<sup>434</sup>

[423] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[424] Caritas, Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación transfronteriza de necesidades, 2023. Dashboard: <https://bit.ly/3Xp8STT>.

[425] Brazilian Government, Sistema Nacional de Informações sobre Saneamento (SNIS), 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.gov.br/cidades/pt-br/aceso-a-informacao/acoes-e-programas/saneamento/snis/produtos-do-snis/painel-de-informacoes>.

[426] These findings are consistent with the 2023 RMNA, which also highlighted lower access rates to piped water in these states compared to the national average, underscoring the persistent disparities.

[427] UNICEF, Inter-sectoral Multi-partner Rapid Needs Assessment with a Focus on Children (ISNAC), June 2024.

[428] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[429] Ministério da Saúde, Saúde Brasil 2020/2021: Uma Análise da Situação de Saúde e da Qualidade da Informação (2021), accessed 18 August, 2024, [https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/centrais-de-conteudo/publicacoes/svsa/vigilancia/saude\\_brasil\\_2020\\_2021\\_situacao\\_saude\\_web.pdf/view](https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/centrais-de-conteudo/publicacoes/svsa/vigilancia/saude_brasil_2020_2021_situacao_saude_web.pdf/view).

[430] R4V Brazil, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[431] Caritas, Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación transfronteriza de necesidades, 2023. Dashboard: <https://bit.ly/3Xp8STT>.

[432] Compared to the 2023 RMNA, the 2024 RMNA shows a slight increase in the percentage of migrants and refugees facing difficulties in accessing hygiene items, indicating a worsening situation in terms of affordability and availability.

[433] Caritas, Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación transfronteriza de necesidades, 2023. Dashboard: <https://bit.ly/3Xp8STT>.

[434] UNICEF, Brazil Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1, 1 January - 30 June 2021, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://reliefweb.int/report/brazil/unicef-brazil-humanitarian-situation-report-no-1-1-january-30-june-2021>.

CHILE



# CHILE AT A GLANCE

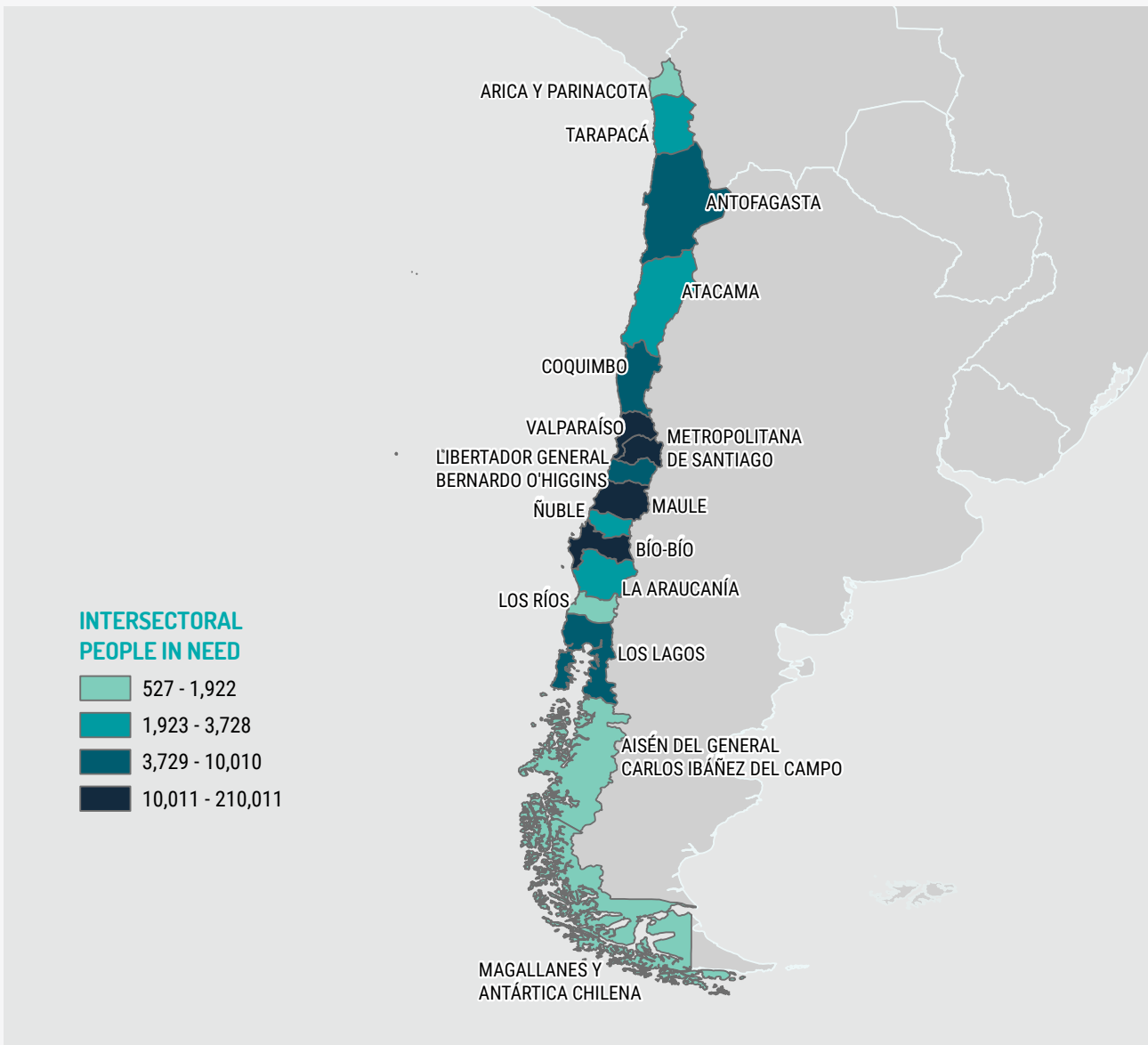
## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION

**57.4% • 306.0 K**

AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES

**21.2%**



## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN
 WOMEN
 BOYS
 GIRLS

42.4%














43.2%

7.2%

7.2%

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.



SECTOR		PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)		
		VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
	INTERSECTOR	57.4%	306.0 K	21.2%
	EDUCATION	3.2%	16.9 K	2.5%
	FOOD SECURITY	33.5%	178.6 K	3.2%
	HEALTH	45.6%	242.9 K	5.5%
	HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	4.8%	25.4 K	18.3%
	INTEGRATION	57.4%	306.0 K	20.8%
	NUTRITION	5.7%	30.6 K	0.8%
	PROTECTION	57.4%	306.0 K	21.2%
	CHILD PROTECTION	7.4%	39.5 K	3.6%
	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	33.5%	178.7 K	11.2%
	HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	36.7%	195.6 K	-
	SHELTER	55.6%	296.0 K	13.2%
	WASH	32.8%	174.7 K	3.7%

## CHILE: COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The situation of refugees and migrants has evolved significantly in Chile over the past years.<sup>435</sup> While Peru, Argentina, and Bolivia were once the primary countries of origin, the last five years have seen an influx of migrants and refugees from Venezuela and other countries arriving to Chile.<sup>436</sup> In addition to these mixed movements of refugees and migrants having settled in Chile, more recently, onward and transit movements, especially of Venezuelan nationals, both to and from Chile, have added to the complexity of movement patterns in the country.

By mid-2024, Venezuelans constitute 33 per cent of Chile's 1.6 million refugee and migrant population.<sup>437</sup> As of February 2024, over 182,000 adults (90 per cent Venezuelans)<sup>438</sup> who had entered the country through unofficial border crossing points were registered under the biometric registration process led by the National Migration Service (SERMIG, for its Spanish acronym).<sup>439</sup> Irregular entries totalled 105,000 between 2022 and March 2024. Measures by the Chilean government, including a strengthening of border controls and the presence of military forces at the northern borders contributed to a marked decrease of irregular entries by almost 18 per cent in 2023, compared to 2022.<sup>440, 441</sup>

Considering that children are not reflected in these figures and that many did not voluntarily declare their irregular entry to Chile, it is understood that these figures may not reflect the full extent of entries, as well as exits.

To assess the needs of refugees and migrants in Chile, the second joint needs assessment (JNA) was conducted by the National R4V Platform in Chile between May and June 2024, and involved in-person and telephone interviews with 1,384 people from 371 households<sup>442</sup> in eight regions.<sup>443</sup> Most respondents were female (81 per cent, 17 per cent more than in 2023) and the average household size was almost four people. The Chile R4V Platform also assessed the needs of refugees and migrants through secondary data reviews and consultations with more than 65 partners, including two validation workshops in Santiago and Iquique, including also partners from the Tarapacá Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM Tarapacá, for its Spanish acronym).

According to the findings of the 2024 JNA, Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Chile face significant obstacles in accessing protection mechanisms (including regularization, documentation and legal

[435] Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Social panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023* (LC/PUB.2023/18-P), Santiago, Chile, (2023), <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/type/social-panorama-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

[436] Center for Public Studies, *The faces of Janus: duality in perceptions about the last migratory wave in Chile*, Santiago, Chile, (April 2024), <https://www.cepchile.cl/investigacion/voces-del-cep-04-abril-2024/>

[437] National Migration Service, *Estimates of foreigners in Chile as of December 2022*, (2 April 2024), <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/estimaciones-de-extranjeros/>

[438] National Migration Service, *General statistics administrative record. Service National Migration Agency: Figures from January 2014 to December 2024*, (Report No. 3), (2024), <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/analisis-sermig/>

[439] National Migration Service, *Draft: Participatory Public Account 2024*, Santiago, Chile, (2024), <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Borrador-Cuenta-Publica-SERMIG-2024.pdf>

[440] La Tercera, *Reporte de la PDI: ingresos clandestinos alcanzan la cifra más baja de los últimos tres años*, (May 2024), <https://www.latercera.com/nacional/noticia/reportes-de-la-pdi-ingresos-clandestinos-alcanzan-la-cifra-mas-baja-de-los-ultimos-tres-anos/GQLRU43QXZFU3DADGX5V4OG5ZQ>

[441] According to data of the Investigation Police, entries through unofficial border crossings in 2021 amounted to 56,586 entries. In the years prior thereto, they amounted to 6,310 entries in 2018, 8,048 in 2019, and 16,848 in 2020. Owing regional movement dynamics, 2021 saw the highest number so far on record (56,586). In 2022, they slightly reduced to 53,875 entries, and in 2023 it decreased further to 44,235. This reduction is attributed to measures imposed by the government to increase the presence of armed forces at the northern borders.

[442] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[443] The survey was conducted in eight regions identified as having high rates of migrants and refugees: Arica y Parinacota, Tarapacá, Antofagasta, Coquimbo, Maule, Biobío, Los Lagos and Metropolitana. The participants of the survey were migrants and refugees from Venezuela who did not intend to change their current residence in at least the following month.

assistance), integration, and adequate housing. Over 45 per cent of those surveyed live below the national poverty line.<sup>444</sup> Seventy-five per cent of surveyed refugees and migrants are in an irregular situation (17 per cent more than in 2023), impeding their access to rights and services, including employment.<sup>445</sup> Safe and regular entry remains challenging, with 57 per cent of households lacking needed documentation (i.e. a passport).<sup>446</sup> While in 2023 the government granted refugee status to 201 asylum-seekers, including 36 Venezuelans,<sup>447</sup> the 2024 reform of the Chilean Refugee Law introduced a new pre-admission component, excluding those who had transited through one or more countries for more than 60 days. This new law also provides asylum applicants only seven days to apply for asylum upon arriving in Chile.<sup>448</sup> Integration into the local labour market remains a priority, with more than 15 per cent of Venezuelans unemployed,<sup>449</sup> and out of those who managed to find a job, 65 per cent are in the informal labour market (in comparison to 28 per cent among the national population).<sup>450</sup>

Despite efforts to improve child protection, the 2024 JNA found that 71 per cent of caregivers are unaware of available services to protect children in host communities. GBV remains a concern, with gaps in mental health support and labour discrimination against women. Between 2022 to 2023, only 27 per cent of visas were granted to GBV survivors,<sup>451</sup> including cases of domestic violence, due to unclear protocols, contributing to their re-victimization. Those having

to cross unofficial borders are particularly at risk of human trafficking, with nine per cent of respondents reporting that a household member had been deceived or manipulated into travelling irregularly.<sup>452</sup> In addition, only 18 visas were granted to trafficking victims in 2023 considering that over 54 victims were entered in the Intersectoral Protocol on Human Trafficking.<sup>453</sup>

Socio-economic integration of migrants and refugees is crucial but faces severe constraints. In the labour market, although three out of five working-age refugees and migrants are employed (which is less than the 71 per cent being employed in 2023), 60 per cent of them lack formal contracts (higher than in 2023 when 43 per cent lacked a formal contract), leading to increased job insecurity and low incomes. Additionally, 63 per cent of Venezuelans are not working in their trained professions, and 94 per cent of professionals have not been able to validate their diplomas due to administrative barriers and high costs of the procedure, leading to an underutilization of their capacities, to the detriment of the Chilean economy and host communities. Migrants and refugees face serious challenges accessing employment and with their social inclusion due to negative perceptions of migration and asylum, prevailing discrimination and xenophobia, with 46 per cent of households experiencing discrimination based on their nationality and three out of four households not participating in any community space, further hindering their social integration.<sup>454</sup>

[444] *Ibid.*

[445] *Ibid.*

[446] Since 2019, Venezuelans require a Tourist Consular Visa (VCT) to enter Chile. The cost is higher than the temporary visa, USD 50 vs USD 30 (average) and allows for a maximum stay of 90 days. It must be applied for with a valid or expired passport. The application is made online and is generally processed at consulates outside Chile (in family reunification cases exceptions are possible) and stamped in the passport. Other forms of national IDs are not accepted.

[447] National Migration Service (2024), General statistics administrative registry. Service National Migration Service: Figures from January 2014 to December 2024. (Report n°3), (2024), <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/analisis-sermig/>

[448] Gabriela Hilliger and Constanza Martinez, New law modifying the procedure for the determination of refugee status, *El Mercurio Legal*, (27 March 2024), [https://derecho.uahurtado.cl/web2021/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/COLUMNA\\_Nueva-ley-que-modifica-el-procedimiento-para-la-determinacion-de-la-condicion-de-refugiado.pdf](https://derecho.uahurtado.cl/web2021/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/COLUMNA_Nueva-ley-que-modifica-el-procedimiento-para-la-determinacion-de-la-condicion-de-refugiado.pdf)

[449] By June 2024, the unemployment rate of Chileans was 8,3%. Banco Central de Chile, "Unemployment rate", (June 2024), [https://si3.bcentral.cl/Bdemovil/BDE/Series/MOV\\_SC\\_ML3](https://si3.bcentral.cl/Bdemovil/BDE/Series/MOV_SC_ML3).

[450] National Institute of Statistics, STATISTICAL BULLETIN: LABOR INFORMALITY, Edition No. 27, (5 August 2024), <https://www.ine.gob.cl/docs/default-source/informalidad-y-condiciones-laborales/boletines/2024/ene-informalidad-27.pdf>

[451] National Migration Service, General Statistics Administrative Registry: Figures from January 2014 to December 2023 (Report No. 3), 2024, <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/240806-Reporte-3-Estadisticas-Generales.pdf>

[452] While these situations may indicate potential trafficking victims, they do not necessarily mean that all individuals involved were actually victims of trafficking.

[453] For context, in the same year, 54 people (80% women and 20% men) were entered in the Intersectoral Protocol on Human Trafficking, all of them direct victims of this crime. Of these, 80% were victims of international trafficking and 20% were victims of domestic trafficking. Venezuelans continue to be the main nationality of survivors (43%) since 2020, followed by Colombians (26%) and Bolivians (13%). Additionally, 59% of those who entered the protocol reported having suffered sexual exploitation, and 35% were forced to perform labour or other services.

[454] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

Adequate housing is one of the primary needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Chile. According to the 2024 JNA, 66 per cent of households live in accommodations considered unsuitable, while 32 per cent endure overcrowded living conditions.

Rising rents have pushed migrants and refugees into the informal rental market and informal settlements, increasing the risk of evictions, abuse and exploitation.



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# EDUCATION



## PEOPLE IN NEED



	16.9 K	3.2%	-	-	21.9%	21.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION						
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		2.5%	-	-	10.8%	10.8%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Since the enactment of the Inclusion Law No. 20.845 in 2019, the Ministry of Education is committed to advancing more inclusive education approaches that guarantee the right to education and learning in a diverse, stimulating, and non-discriminatory environment for refugee and migrant children. The Ministry has also implemented initiatives to improve access for refugees and migrants without proper documentation to enter the educational system. In this context, the updated 2024 "Policy for Foreign Children and Students: Guarantee of the Right to Education for People in Mobility Situations",<sup>455</sup> introduced the Provisional School Identifier (IPE, for its Spanish acronym)<sup>456</sup> and additional local programs that promote the integration of refugee and migrant children into the national education system.<sup>457</sup> Despite such efforts, significant challenges and barriers to access and continuity of educational trajectories of migrant and refugee children remain, evidenced by high dropout rates. Other challenges identified by R4V partners include the lack of validation of Venezuelan school records (owed to lack of educational certificates from the country of

origin); missing knowledge of the local educational system; financial constraints that lead to a prioritization of other needs over school supplies; long distances to educational centres and lack of transportation; as well as the absence of guidance for new arrivals and the unequal access to social services.<sup>458</sup>

The Ministry of Education has highlighted the stress on the educational system and the complexity of providing the necessary enrolment slots.<sup>459</sup> Between 2022 and March 2024, more than 150,000 IPEs were issued for refugee and migrant children to enter the education system. Considering an average of 500 students per educational institution, it is estimated that approximately 300 new schools would be needed to meet the demand.<sup>460</sup> Although some slots are available, they do not respond to the current and geographic demand, leaving children in more densely populated areas without a place or dropping out.

On the other hand, a study highlights the concerning dropout rates of migrant and refugee students. Over one-third of those enrolled in Chilean schools in 2019

[455] Following the Immigration and Foreigners Law (No. 21,325/2022), which ensures access to education, basic and middle preschool for foreign children in Chile, regardless of their immigration status, guarantees equal conditions with nationals and eliminates residence requirements for social security benefits in primary and secondary education. Ministerio de Educación de Chile, Política para Estudiantes Extranjeros, January 23, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.mineduc.cl/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2024/01/23.01.23-Documento-Poli%CC%81tica-Estudiantes-extranjeros-digital.pdf>.

[456] Chile, Circular Letter No. 1179 of the Ministry of the Interior, January 28, 2003. Within the framework of the "For the right to education" campaign, the incorporation of children of foreigners residing in Chile was promoted, regardless of the immigration status of the child or the respective family. The Ordinary Office no. 07/1008-1531 of the Ministry of Education established that education authorities and establishments must provide all the necessary facilities so that foreigners students can enter the school system expeditiously.

[457] R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago, forthcoming, 2024.

[458] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[459] Navarrete, J. "Alumnos sin matrícula: Cataldo dice que problema 'es de mediano a largo plazo' y apunta a migración entre las causas," La Tercera, (13 March 2024), <https://www.latercera.com/nacional/noticia/alumnos-sin-matricula-cataldo-dice-que-problema-es-de-mediano-a-largo-plazo-y-apunta-a-migracion-entre-las-causas/F24E2Z4RYFHSVHRV7GI7C4D6AU/>.

[460] Ibid.

were no longer attending it by 2022.<sup>461</sup> In 2022, 27 per cent of students of other nationalities up to the third grade were recorded as absent, compared to only two per cent of Chilean students.<sup>462</sup> The 2024 JNA found that more than seven per cent of Venezuelan children enrolled had low attendance, increasing the risk of dropping out.

According to the 2024 JNA, economic challenges, such as limited resources for transportation (27 per cent) and educational materials (78 per cent), contribute to non-attendance.<sup>463</sup> While, refugee and migrant households often prioritize immediate needs such as food and health over educational expenses (55 per cent), R4V partners highlighted that even though access to education is generally given, the practical implementation of well-intended legal and social protection mechanisms requires greater attention in order to reach their objectives in support of greater integration of migrant and refugee children.<sup>464</sup> For adolescents, this scenario poses higher risks of dropping out, as, in addition to navigating a new and

challenging education system, notable learning gaps have frequently evolved after prolonged periods out of school while in transit. These factors contribute to a de-prioritization of education, and refugee and migrant youths often entering the informal labour market prematurely to satisfy the urgent needs of the household, viewing work as a necessity for survival.<sup>465</sup>

As noted by R4V partners in Chile, the lack of reception and support protocols for new students and their families, and limited school enrolment capacities complicate their educational continuity.<sup>466</sup> Discrimination, rooted in societal perceptions of migrants and refugees as being linked to crime and violence, further isolates Venezuelan children in educational settings. Negative media portrayals contribute to these prejudices and hinder the formation of supportive networks necessary for their integration into the school community.<sup>467</sup> Although unenrolment dropped to two per cent of school-age refugee and migrant children,<sup>468</sup> compared to six per cent in 2023,<sup>469</sup> these challenges persist.

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[461] Gesta, *Marist Foundation for Solidarity, Access, Trajectories, and Experiences of Migrant Children and Adolescents in the Chilean Educational System (2023)*, accessed 18 August 2024, [https://www.fundaciongesta.cl/\\_files/ugd/25c98d\\_3a9b8807e7b74b05a6ddb41aad8483.pdf](https://www.fundaciongesta.cl/_files/ugd/25c98d_3a9b8807e7b74b05a6ddb41aad8483.pdf).

[462] *Ibid.*

[463] *R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[464] *R4V partners report that although refugee and migrant children can access education, cases of discrimination or administrative barriers created by civil servants limit their permanence in the education system. Additionally, sociocultural integration programs are lacking that would improve the integration of these children. Many educational institutions and personnel are not sensitized to the asylum and migration context and, at times, exclude children who enrol outside the regular enrolment periods, contrary to the provisions of national laws that permit for enrolment and school registration at any time of the year.*

[465] *R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago*, forthcoming, 2024.

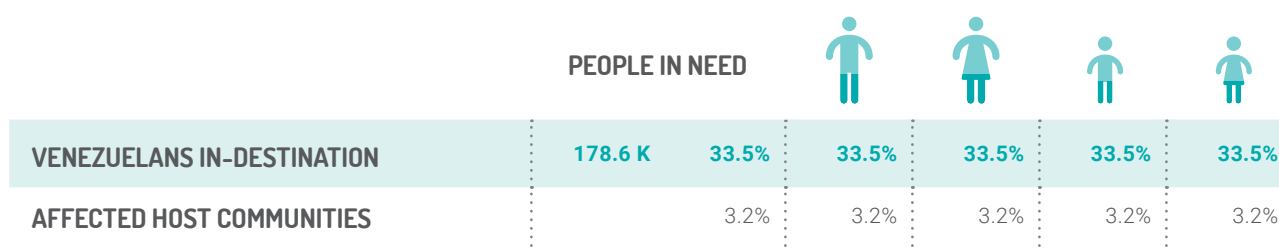
[466] *R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago and Iquique*, forthcoming, 2024.

[467] *Ibid.*

[468] *Unenrolment impacts mostly girls. The low rate can also be attributed to government efforts to improve integration in the educational system and a potential bias in the JNA's focus on migrants and refugees established in the country.*

[469] *Based on the national policy for educational inclusion for refugees and migrants, and the increase in IPE numbers that facilitate enrolment.*

# FOOD SECURITY



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to the 2024 JNA, 70 per cent of migrant and refugee households surveyed identified food scarcity in their country of origin as one of the primary reasons for having left Venezuela, underscoring their critical food insecurity upon arrival.<sup>470</sup>

Despite the overall low prevalence of hunger in Chile (two point five per cent),<sup>471</sup> the JNA found that 14 per cent of refugees and migrants were moderately or severely food insecure. High costs of food was identified as one of the main concerns. According to the Ministry of Social Development and Family, by June 2024, the value of the Minimum Expenditure Basket recorded an increase of more than seven point two per cent in the past year.<sup>472</sup> Moreover, 71 per cent of Chileans anticipate increased food expenditures, exacerbating financial strains.<sup>473</sup>

As a result, migrant and refugee families resort to various negative coping mechanisms to mitigate food insecurity in the face of rising living costs and food prices. For instance, 91 per cent of households reported consuming less preferred or cheaper food between one and seven days a week, with 47 per cent doing so daily.<sup>474</sup>

Furthermore, 62 per cent of households reduced the number of daily meals at some point during the week, affecting nutrient intake, especially among children. Reducing portion sizes was reported by 67 per cent of households. Additionally, 46 per cent of households reduced adults' food intake to ensure children's meals, primarily affecting women's food security since they are largely responsible for its administration under gender norms present in the households.<sup>475</sup> Borrowing food or relying on support from friends and family was another common negative coping mechanism that 48 per cent of households reported.<sup>476</sup>

Coping mechanism point to insufficient income to cover basic needs and threaten long-term health and nutritional well-being. Additional measures reflect the families' economic desperation to secure food access, as 66 per cent resorted to their savings to access food, while 44 per cent bought food or other essentials on credit or borrowed it. While 31 per cent sold personal belongings, and 15 per cent liquidated productive assets<sup>477</sup> or means of transportation for food access.<sup>478</sup> Moreover, 53 per cent cut spending on health, education, or clothing to prioritize food, jeopardizing the long-term

[470] R4V Chile, JNA, 2024 (forthcoming).

[471] FAO, (2023), *Latin America and the Caribbean - Regional overview of food security and nutrition 2023*, Santiago de Chile, Chile, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/d5796653-42c5-4de3-915b-a4d58c1308c9>

[472] Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, "Canasta Básica de Alimentos registra una disminución de un -0,4% en lo que va del año," 9 July 2024, accessed 18 August 2024, <https://www.desarrollosocialyfamilia.gob.cl/noticias/canasta-basica-de-alimentos-registra-una-disminucion-de-un-04-en-lo-que-va-del-año>

[473] Ipsos Group S.A., "Monitor IPSOS del costo de vida, encuesta global," May 2024, accessed 18 August 2024, <https://www.ipsos.com/es-cl/chile-se-mantiene-como-el-segundo-pais-del-mundo-donde-mas-personas-declaran-tener-dificultades>

[474] R4V Chile, JNA, forthcoming 2024.

[475] Oxfam, *Elecciones imposibles: La lucha de las mujeres contra el hambre*, accessed 18 August 2024, <https://www.oxfam.org/es/elecciones-imposibles-la-lucha-de-las-mujeres-contra-el-hambre>

[476] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[477] *Productive assets referred to resources or items owned by individuals or households that are used to generate income or support economic activities.*

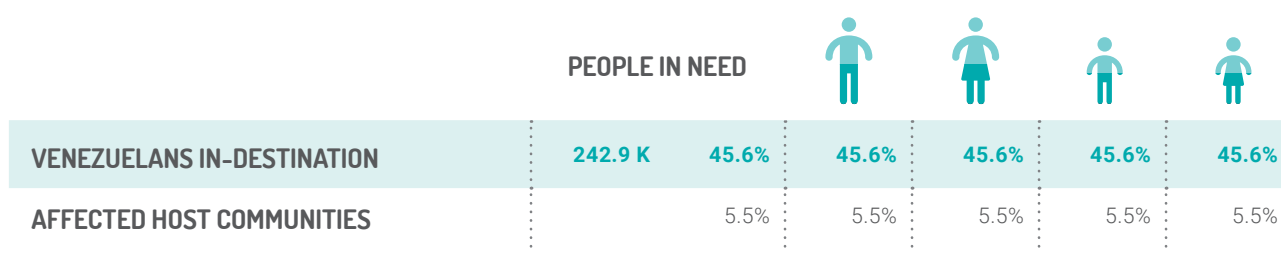
[478] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

well-being of their families.<sup>479</sup> Although less common, begging or seeking donations affected eight per cent of households, with higher rates among newly arrived households in border areas.

R4V partners in Chile identified three critical food security needs among Venezuelan refugees and migrants. First, information, as they may be unaware of or unable to participate in community mechanisms for optimizing food consumption, such as urban gardens and community kitchens. Second, access to

nutritious diets as financial constraints and the high costs of nutritious food limit dietary adaptations and deny access to healthy and nutritious diets. Finally, a lack of cultural adaptation poses a barrier especially for people who have lived in the country for less than a year. Adjusting to new products, linguistic variations, and market dynamics can push families to limit their diet to familiar products that are within their purchasing power.<sup>480</sup>

## HEALTH



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants arriving in Chile, often through unofficial border points in northern border areas, such as Colchane (border with Bolivia) and Arica (border with Peru), face significant health concerns, including chronic illnesses (11 per cent).<sup>481</sup> The harsh environment and extreme temperatures cause altitude sickness, dehydration and hypothermia, especially among vulnerable groups of refugees and migrants (including children, the elderly, and pregnant women), and those without adequate protection from the elements (including appropriate clothes and shoes). Before reaching Chile, refugees and migrants have often travelled long distances on foot, leading to exhaustion and injury without adequate access to water and food, further compromising their health upon arrival.<sup>482</sup>

In principle, migrant and refugee have access to healthcare under the same conditions as nationals, regardless of their status.<sup>483</sup> There is also a special agreement between the National Health Fund (FONASA for its acronym in Spanish) and the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security that guarantees comprehensive health care for refugees.<sup>484</sup> These legal guarantees have improved access to healthcare for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Chile. According to the 2024 JNA, 97 per cent of those who needed medical care received it. While does not reflect the situation of those having recently arrived in Chile, for those having settled in Chile, this represents a significant improvement from previous years, when 20 per cent reported not receiving needed care. This also

[479] *Ibid.*

[480] R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago and Iquique, forthcoming, 2024.

[481] IOM, Flow Monitoring Survey Pisiga (Bolivia) and Colchane (Chile) Rounds 1 & 2, IOM, August 2023, Chile, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/reports/DTM%20Encuesta%20de%20monitoreo%20de%20flujo%20en%20Pisiga%20%28Bolivia%29%20y%20Colchane%20%28Chile%29%20-%20Rondas%201%20y%202.pdf>.

[482] Jesuit Migrant Service, *Crossing the Border in the Middle of the Desert: The Stories of Migrants Who Lost Their Lives Trying to Get to Chile* (2022), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://sjmchile.org/uncategorized/cruzar-la-frontera-en-medio-del-desierto-las-historias-de-migrantes-que-perdieron-la-vida-intentando-llegar-a-chile/>.

[483] Migration and Foreigners Act (2021), Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, Republic of Chile, Law 21,325 of 2021, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1158549>. This law consolidated the guarantees and provisions of Circular A15 No. 4 and Supreme Decree No. 67 of the Ministry of Health, both of 2016. See also: <https://www.minsal.cl/salud-del-inmigrante/>.

[484] Chile, Exempt Resolution No. 2453 of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Health, August 2, 2007.



comes as a result of better dissemination and access to information on access to healthcare.

These achievements notwithstanding, the JNA workshop highlighted some persistent barriers – physical, geographical, financial, and others – impacting access to healthcare, particularly for those having recently arrived in Chile and marginalized groups such as those living in remote areas with few healthcare facilities, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.<sup>485</sup> Migrants and refugees often arrive in Chile after having faced severe and untreated health conditions in their country of origin, and as a result of experiences of violence and deprivation during their transit.

Regarding mental health, between 2022 and 2023, the demand for mental health services among refugees and migrants increased by 24 per cent. Among the most frequent mental health conditions are severe or moderate depression, suicidal ideation, and anxiety disorders.<sup>486</sup> This issue is critical given the prevalence of traumatic experiences among people before, during, and after their journeys. Widespread irregularity or unresolved residence applications contribute to increased stress and anxiety.<sup>487</sup>

Instances of discrimination against migrants and refugees have been documented and include accounts of health workers apparently discriminating against foreigners by making non-regulatory demands, such as requiring proof of self-reporting<sup>488</sup> of those in an irregular situation.<sup>489</sup> Such discriminatory experiences contribute to mistrust among refugee and migrant communities towards healthcare providers which can discourage them from seeking necessary medical care, leading to more complex health conditions and marginalization.<sup>490</sup> A study by the University of Chile found that all interviewed LGBTQI+ migrant and refugee women reported that they experienced, at some moment in their life, suicidal intentions due to the violence they experienced, particularly related to their sexual orientation or gender identity.<sup>491</sup> R4V partners have also reported negative experiences faced by transgender people, which impede their personal growth and well-being while perpetuating cycles of vulnerability, discrimination, and undermine their access to vital services.<sup>492</sup>

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[485] R4V Chile Platform, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago (June 2024).

[486] Jesuit Migrant Service (SJM), *Statistical Yearbook of Human Mobility in Chile 2023*, Santiago, Chile, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://sjmchile.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Anuario-2023.pdf>.

[487] CELAM, *Migration in Times of Pandemic: Diagnosis of Latin America and the Caribbean (2023)*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://celam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/1-movilidad-en-tiempos-de-pandemia-1.pdf>

[488] Venezuelans, and other persons who enter Chile irregularly, can voluntarily declare their irregular entry to the Federal Investigative Police (PDI). For more information: <https://pdichile.cl/tr%C3%A1mites-online/denuncia-por-ingreso-clandestino>

[489] Amnesty International, *Nobody Wants to Live in Secrecy: Lack of Protection for Venezuelan Refugees in Chile*, Chile, 2023, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr22/6437/2023/es/>.

[490] R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Iquique, forthcoming, 2024.

[491] Catherine Galaz (2023) *Mental health of LGTB+ migrants in Chile*. Retrieved from: <https://opinion.cooperativa.cl/opinion/salud/salud-mental-de-personas-migrantes-lgtb-en-chile/2023-01-05/174518.html>

[492] R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago, forthcoming, 2024.

# HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION



## PEOPLE IN NEED



	25.4 K	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION						
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		18.3%	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Humanitarian transportation plays a pivotal role in facilitating access to essential services for refugees and migrants. Given the significant barriers that migrants and refugees face in accessing education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, targeted transportation solutions are crucial for improving their quality of life and integration into new communities.

Refugees and migrants often travel substantial distances within or between cities to reach vital services. Data shows that a considerable proportion of these individuals experience long travel times. For example, 35 per cent of migrants and refugees require between 30 and 60 minutes for their regular trips, navigating urban or suburban areas.<sup>493</sup> Eighteen per cent of refugees and migrants face even longer journeys, taking more than 60 minutes.<sup>494</sup> These extended travel times are typically required to access employment opportunities or essential services located further from their current residences. The strain (and costs) of such prolonged travel can be considerable, adding to the numerous challenges already faced.

For those seeking employment or accessing critical services, long travel distances may lead to additional financial burdens and logistical difficulties. This can result in less frequent visits to healthcare providers or other essential service points, exacerbating health conditions and creating barriers to needed

support. Transportation costs significantly impact the education access of migrants and refugees in Chile. The 2024 JNA identified that limited resources for transportation (27 per cent) may contribute significantly to non-attendance.<sup>495</sup> Many families, often residing in peripheral or remote areas, struggle to afford daily transportation expenses.

In addition, many Venezuelan refugees and migrants enter Chile through unofficial border points, due to difficulties obtaining formal visas. Their lack of financial means to pay for safe transport has increasingly led them to resort to irregular and risky forms of travel.<sup>496</sup> The dependence of newly arrived migrants and refugees on such informal and irregular transport poses significant risks, even more so for (UASC, who are particularly vulnerable due to their lack of adult supervision and the inherent risks of traveling without guardians. R4V partners have identified these vulnerabilities, exacerbated by the lack of effective mechanisms for reporting abuses and the absence of adequate information on protection routes for refugees and migrants. They have also drawn attention to a slight resurgence of *caminantes* (individuals who walk the long distance from Colchane to Iquique, a route that takes approximately four hours by car), highlighting the increased risk of exploitation and harm associated with this trend.<sup>497</sup>

[493] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

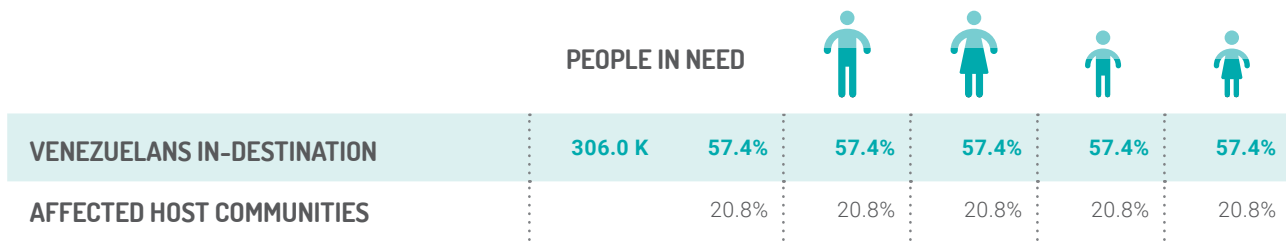
[494] *Ibid.*

[495] *Ibid.*

[496] International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Flow Monitoring Survey of Land Terminals in Arica, Chile (2023)*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/chile-encuesta-de-monitoreo-de-flujos-arica-rondas-7-8-agosto-septiembre-2023>. International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Flow Monitoring Survey Pisiga (Bolivia) and Colchane (Chile) Rounds 1 & 2 (2023)*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1461/files/reports/DTM%20Encuesta%20de%20monitoreo%20de%20flujo%20en%20Pisiga%20%28Bolivia%29%20y%20Colchane%20%28Chile%29%20-%20Rondas%201%20y%202.pdf>

[497] R4V Chile, *JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago and Iquique*, forthcoming, 2024.

# INTEGRATION



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to data from the 2022 National Socioeconomic Characterization Survey (CASEN, for its Spanish acronym),<sup>498</sup> a majority of refugees and migrants in Chile are of working age,<sup>499</sup> underscoring the potential of this population to cover their basic needs and also to contribute to the host country's economic development.<sup>500, 501</sup> The 2024 JNA indicates that three out of five working-age refugees and migrants are employed, but that most lack formal contracts (61 per cent) and have low wages, as many engage in low-skilled occupations.<sup>502</sup> Migrants and refugees earn 36 per cent less than the minimum wage on average.<sup>503</sup>

CASEN findings also demonstrate that 63 per cent of Venezuelans in Chile do not work in their trained profession (45 per cent men and 55 per cent women) due to difficulties validating their higher education or professional degrees.<sup>504</sup> The 2024 JNA found that 83 per cent of respondents have completed technical or secondary education, and 35 per cent have higher education degrees. However, 95 per cent have not validated their higher education degrees (37 per cent) or have failed in their attempts to do so (58 per cent) due to an inability to obtain needed documents from the country of origin.<sup>505</sup> This contributes to refugees and migrants accessing only the informal labour market. In fact, the informal employment rate grew one point four percentage points in the last 12 months preceding

[498] Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia. (2022) Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional (CASEN), Retrieved from: <https://observatorio.ministeriodesarrollosocial.gob.cl/encuesta-casen-2022>.

[499] Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, Resultados de Personas Nacidas Fuera de Chile, Encuesta Casen 2022, "the majority of migrants in Chile are concentrated in age groups with higher labor productivity. More specifically, between 2006 and 2022, there has been a sustained increase in the proportion of the migrant population in the 30 to 44-year age range," accessed August 18, 2024, <https://observatorio.ministeriodesarrollosocial.gob.cl/encuesta-casen-2022>.

[500] Centro de Políticas Migratorias, Casen Survey 2022 and Migration: Situation of Children and Adolescents (2023), accessed August 18, 2024, [https://www.politicasmigratorias.org/files/ugd/78ba0f\\_d22b1e13b38c493d93db1ad323273d23.pdf?index=true](https://www.politicasmigratorias.org/files/ugd/78ba0f_d22b1e13b38c493d93db1ad323273d23.pdf?index=true)

[501] R4V partners emphasize rethinking human mobility from the perspective of the local economy, focusing on how migrant and refugee integration can drive innovation, productivity, and competitiveness. The Jesuit Migrant Service's 2023 Handbook shows that tax revenue from Venezuelans based on VAT was USD 254.197.535 representing 0.9% of Chile's total VAT revenue in 2022, countering the stigma of asylum and migration as an economic burden. This is underscored by the findings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), demonstrating the healthy impact of refugees and migrants from Venezuela on the national GDP of Chile, amounting to an increase of up to 2% between 2016 to 2022.

International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Regional Spillovers from the Venezuelan Crisis: Migration Flows and Their Impact on Latin America and the Caribbean," December 2022 <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-Papers/Issues/2022/12/01/Regional-Spillovers-from-the-Venezuelan-Crisis-Migration-Flows-and-Their-Impact-on-Latin-525729>

[502] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[503] La Tercera, "Encuesta de Migraciones: el 66,4% de los extranjeros empadronados ingresó de forma ilegal al país entre marzo de 2018 y febrero de 2022," June 2024, Santiago, Chile, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.latercera.com/nacional/noticia/encuesta-de-migraciones-el-66-4-de-los-extranjeros-empadronados-ingreso-de-forma-ilegal-al-pais-entre-marzo-de-2018-y-febrero-de-2022/ILL3FQNUBJGVTMEEPV7C7BLHTI/>

[504] Centro de Políticas Migratorias, Casen Survey 2022 and Migration: Situation of Children and Adolescents (2023), accessed August 18, 2024, [https://www.politicasmigratorias.org/files/ugd/78ba0f\\_d22b1e13b38c493d93db1ad323273d23.pdf?index=true](https://www.politicasmigratorias.org/files/ugd/78ba0f_d22b1e13b38c493d93db1ad323273d23.pdf?index=true)

[505] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

March 2024.<sup>506</sup> Underutilization limits upward mobility and workforce potential.<sup>507</sup>

R4V partners emphasized the lack of regular status and adequate documentation as one of the main barriers to labour inclusion, contributing to job insecurity, low incomes, limited social protection, exclusion from the financial system, and difficulties securing adequate housing.<sup>508</sup> Furthermore, the 2024 JNA shows that 75 per cent of surveyed households do not have access to financial products or services, often owed to a lack of required legal documentation or formal residence in the country.<sup>509</sup> It is worth noting that these gaps in financial inclusion not only pose an immediate challenge but also have long-term implications. The difficulty in accessing basic financial products hinders the building of a credit history, essential for obtaining financing. This can slow down investment and economic development opportunities, perpetuating financial disparities between refugee and migrants with host community members. According to a 2023 CAF study, 67 per cent of refugees and migrants opt for family savings and support networks for financing in case of disasters.<sup>510</sup>

These factors undermine a longer-term integration of refugees and migrants into Chilean society, while even those who have a regular status face discrimination and lack of social inclusion from the host communities. According to the 2024 JNA, 46 per cent of refugees and migrant households experienced discrimination, mainly due to their nationality, with incidents mostly occurring at work, in neighbourhoods, and during job searches.<sup>511</sup> This impacts their integration, with three out of four households not participating in any shared community space.<sup>512</sup> Data from the Public

Studies Center shows mixed attitudes of the host community towards migrants and refugees, where 74 per cent of Chileans hold generally unfavourable views of migration, while 65 per cent view refugees and migrants as hardworking, and 52 per cent as honest.<sup>513</sup> In this scenario, a vast majority of Chileans also agree on promoting equal access to social rights regardless of status, and acknowledge migrants' and refugees' contributions to society through new ideas and culture. Nonetheless, 42 per cent of Chileans support banning all immigration, and 69 per cent associate increased crime with immigration, contributing to significant stigma and discrimination.<sup>514</sup>

The findings in the JNA are complemented by the priority needs identified by R4V partners on the ground. The effective integration of refugees and migrants into the labour market through the recognition of technical skills, as well as the construction of positive perceptions regarding the real contribution of asylum and migration to the country's economic development, need to be addressed as a priority.

Considering the particular situation of refugee and migrant women in Chile, the 2024 JNA shows that movements of migrants and refugees have reinforced traditional gender roles, increasing the caregiving burden on women. According to the JNA, 11 per cent of respondents primarily do domestic work, with 87 per cent being women, highlighting the feminization of caregiving. Among refugees and migrants who reported being in employment (61 per cent), 45 per cent were women, while this rate is higher for entrepreneurs with 58 per cent being women according to the JNA.<sup>515</sup> Women are pushed more into informal sectors with lower wages because they are forced

[506] Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas, *Boletín Estadístico: Empleo Población Extranjera* (Edition No. 30), May 3, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.ine.gob.cl/docs/default-source/ocupacion-y-desocupacion/boletines/2024/poblacion-extranjera/ene-extranjeros-30.pdf>.

[507] World Bank, *Barriers and Facilitators of the Integration of the Migrant Population and Refugee in Chile: New Evidence from the National Immigration Survey 2022, Latin America & Caribbean, December 2023*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099121923182536895/pdf/P1757801692ed804b1a7c31a842860f6076.pdf>

[508] R4V Chile, *JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago and Iquique*, forthcoming, 2024.

[509] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024

[510] Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF), "¿Qué tan incluida financieramente está la población migrante en América Latina y el Caribe?" February 14, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.caf.com/es/conocimiento/visiones/2024/02/que-tan-incluida-financieramente-esta-la-poblacion-migrante-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe>

[511] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[512] *Ibid.*

[513] Centro de Estudios Públicos, *Estudio de Inmigración en la Macrozona Norte en Base a Encuesta CEP 90* (septiembre-noviembre 2023) (April 2024), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.cepchile.cl/encuesta/estudio-de-inmigracion-en-la-macrozona-norte-en-base-a-encuesta-cep-90-septiembre-noviembre-2023>

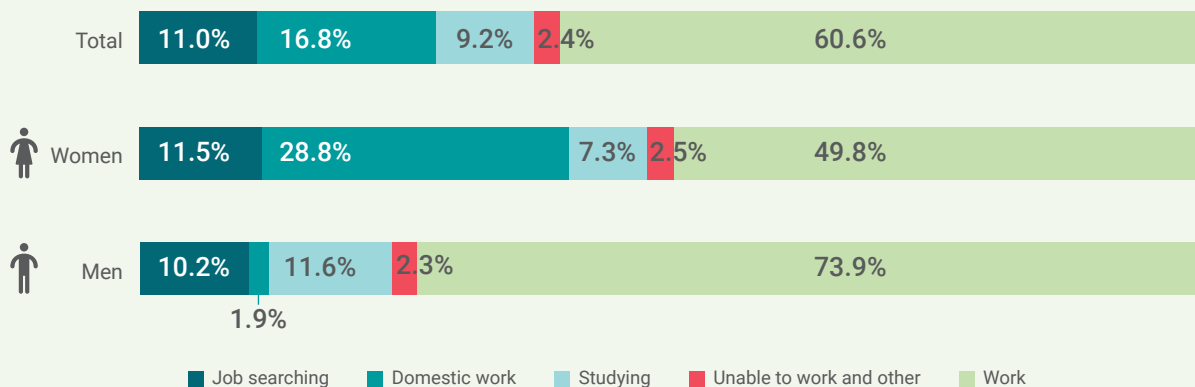
[514] *Ibid.*

[515] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

to seek the flexibility to manage their time between their productive and domestic duties. This places a disproportionate burden on women, who often face poor labour conditions, including the lack of formal

contracts (62 per cent) and social security coverage (59 per cent), leading to unsafe work environments and potential exploitation, harassment, and abuse.

### GENDER DIFFERENCES IN TIME ALLOCATION FOR WORK, JOB SEARCH, AND DOMESTIC TASKS



Source: R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024.

## NUTRITION



### PEOPLE IN NEED

	Total	Male	Female	Children < 5
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	30.6 K	5.7%	-	6.7%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		0.8%	-	1.5%
				0.8%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA.

Compared with other countries in the region, Chile has a lower rate of stunting among children under five years of age (two per cent).<sup>516</sup> However, the prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age remains a significant concern, affecting nine percent of this

population.<sup>517</sup> That notwithstanding, data from R4V partners and the 2024 JNA indicates that factors such as high living costs, rising food prices, and complex labour integration, together with difficulties accessing to primary health services and potable water in

[516] UNICEF, WHO, and World Bank Group, Levels and Trends in Child Malnutrition: UNICEF / WHO / World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates: Key Findings of the 2023 Edition (New York, 2023), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-report-2023a>.

[517] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Latin America and the Caribbean - Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2023 (Santiago de Chile, Chile, 2023), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/d5796653-42c5-4de3-915b-a4d58c1308c9>

some parts of the country, coupled with the strains on the health of those having overcome challenging transit conditions before reaching Chile, negatively impact migrants' and refugees' access to healthy and safe food.<sup>518</sup>

Significant gaps and unmet needs exist in addressing infant malnutrition and providing nutritional interventions for children under five, pregnant women, and lactating mothers among refugees and migrants in Chile. The 2024 JNA found that 91 per cent of households resort to survival strategies to overcome food shortages (see also the elaborations under the Food Security sector above).<sup>519</sup> This has led to less healthy diets that fail to meet basic nutritional needs, particularly for pregnant or lactating women and children under five.<sup>520</sup>

In 2023, the healthcare system faced an economic crisis with ongoing consequences,<sup>521</sup> including long waiting times to receive care (72 per cent) and high healthcare costs (63 per cent). Other relevant problems, though mentioned less frequently, include a lack of specialists (49 per cent), which may reflect in inadequate specialized care for pregnant women and longer waiting times for prenatal care.<sup>522</sup> Among women surveyed in the 2024 JNA, 11 per cent were pregnant or lactating, yet only 51 per cent accessed health services.<sup>523</sup> Forty-four per cent of them did not access any essential nutritional interventions like nutritional evaluation,

micronutrient supplements, or breastfeeding support in the last three months.<sup>524</sup> Only 29 per cent of them had access to micronutrient supplementation. The high cost of such supplementation could be reason for this low percentage. R4V partners also mention barriers to accessing these services and supplementation due to a lack of understanding of the public system and its services, as well as the fear of identification due to their irregular status.<sup>525</sup>

While 100 per cent of children under six months in the surveyed households were found to be exclusively breastfed,<sup>526</sup> alarmingly, 78 per cent of children between six months and five years did not receive minimum nutritional interventions.<sup>527</sup> Of those who did, only 14 per cent received dietary supplements, 27 per cent received micronutrient supplements, and 53 per cent received some form of counselling and nutritional evaluation, mainly through primary public healthcare services.<sup>528</sup> Additionally, 63 per cent of children in this age group do not have access to an age-appropriate diet with adequate micronutrient intake.<sup>529</sup>

Gaps remain in nutritional support for children and pregnant or lactating women, especially those newly arrived or in-transit. Prevention and treatment of severe malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation, and support for breastfeeding and infant feeding practices are limited.<sup>530</sup>

[518] R4V Chile, *JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Iquique, forthcoming, 2024.*

[519] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.*

[520] Jesuit Migrant Service, *Yearbook 2023, 2024*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://sjmchile.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Anuario-2023.pdf>

[521] Centro de Políticas Migratorias, *Boletín Voces del CEP N°2 (2024)*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.cepchile.cl/investigacion/voces-del-cep-02-enero-2024>

[522] Ipsos Group S.A., *Report N°28, April 2024*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.cepchile.cl/investigacion/voces-del-cep-02-enero-2024/>.

[523] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.*

[524] *Ibid.*

[525] R4V Chile, *JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago and Iquique, forthcoming, 2024.*

[526] *Ibid.*

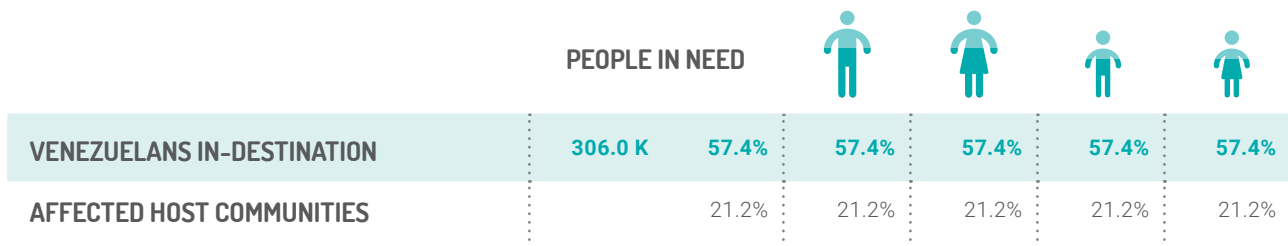
[527] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.*

[528] *Ibid.*

[529] *Ibid.*

[530] R4V Chile, *JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago, forthcoming, 2024.*

# PROTECTION



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

In June 2023, the government launched a biometric registration process to identify foreign adults who entered the country irregularly, registering 182,117 people, 90 per cent of whom were Venezuelan.<sup>531</sup> However, this initiative focuses on strengthening public policy, national security, and law enforcement rather than regularization and therefore does not provide a regular status to those registered.<sup>532</sup> A large majority (75 per cent) of Venezuelans surveyed in the 2024 JNA remain in an irregular situation, which hinders their ability to exercise rights, access social services and engage in the formal labour market.<sup>533</sup>

The 2024 JNA results also show that 85 per cent of refugee and migrant households faced significant barriers to safe entry into the country. The predominant challenges were lack of the required documentation (56 per cent) and insufficient financial resources (55 per cent). In addition, the lack of adequate transportation (21 per cent) and safe routes (38 per cent) not only complicates their journey but also exposes them to risks such as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and abuse. These findings confirm the data presented in the previous 2023 RMNA and underscore the significant obstacles faced by Venezuelan migrants and refugees entering Chile through the northern borders.

Difficulties in obtaining documentation from their country of origin remain one of the fundamental

problems in regularizing the status of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Only 27 per cent of the migrants and refugees surveyed have a valid passport and 17 per cent have no documentation at all, while 48 per cent of migrant and refugee children have a valid birth certificate.<sup>534</sup> Temporary Residence for Humanitarian Reasons is a permit available to foreigners in Chile who are victims of violence or are in vulnerable situations. This permit applies to five specific groups, including children, pregnant women, victims of human trafficking, victims of smuggling, and GBV survivors. In 2023, a total of 42,725 permits were granted to children, 570 to pregnant women, 29 to victims of human trafficking, 18 to victims of illicit smuggling, and four to people affected by domestic violence.<sup>535</sup>

Refugees and migrants seeking international protection in Chile face obstacles in the refugee status determination (RSD) process. The 2024 JNA found that from the 26 per cent of Venezuelans who had requested or attempted to request asylum in Chile, 71 per cent were unable to formalize their requests due to lack of knowledge (36 per cent) and bureaucratic hurdles, including delays in attention (31 per cent) or lack of available services (26 per cent) and other reasons (34 per cent).<sup>536</sup> According to an R4V partner, by December 2023 there were 2,343 recognized refugees in Chile, 68 of them Venezuelan, while the cases of

[531] National Migration Service, General Statistics Administrative Registry: Figures from January 2014 to December 2023 (Report No. 3), 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/analisis-sermig/>.

[532] National Migration Service, "In-person Phase of the Biometric Enrolment Begins," July 11, 2023, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/comienzo-la-fase-presencial-de-empadronamiento-biometrico/>.

[533] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[534] Ibid.

[535] National Migration Service, General Statistics Administrative Registry: Figures from January 2014 to December 2023 (Report No. 3), 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/analisis-sermig/>.

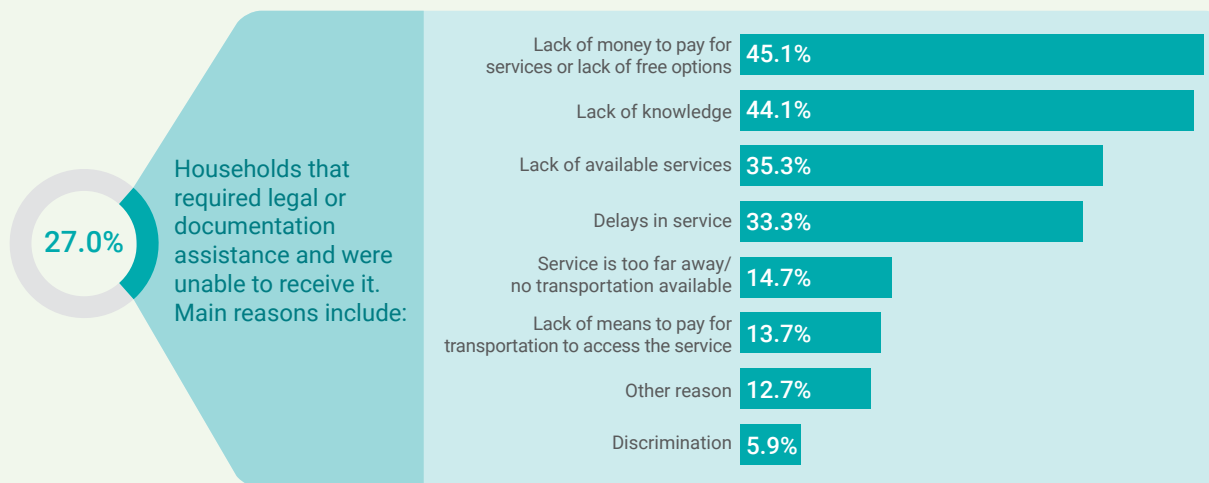
[536] Ibid.

8,627 Venezuelans are pending.<sup>537</sup> Despite the overall low recognition rate of refugee status for Venezuelans (3 per cent between 2010 and 2023<sup>538</sup>), 2023 saw the highest number of recognitions, with 36 Venezuelans being granted refugee status.<sup>539</sup>

The Refugee Law reform which introduced a new admissibility criteria, has limited the effective access to asylum by requiring that the asylum application is submitted within seven working days of the applicant's entry into the country, and any transit between the country of origin and Chile via a third country must not have been for more than sixty days.<sup>540</sup> R4V partners have expressed serious concerns about the practical application of this law and its impact on individuals seeking international protection in Chile.

Venezuelan migrants and refugees face significant barriers to accessing legal assistance and guidance. According to the JNA, 65 per cent of households reported needing help with legal procedures, but 43 per cent were unable to access it. The main reasons for this were lack of financial means for legal assistance (45 per cent), lack of knowledge about the available services (44 per cent), unavailability of services (35 per cent) and long waiting times (33 per cent).<sup>541</sup> In addition to the above, R4V partners identified significant challenges with access to local information resources and digital gaps.<sup>542</sup>

## PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT REQUIRE LEGAL OR DOCUMENTATION ASSISTANCE AND HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RECEIVE IT



Source: R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024.

[537] UNHCR, Refugee Data Finder, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=Mpn2PJ>.

[538] Gabriela Hilliger and Constanza Martinez, "New Law Modifying the Procedure for the Determination of Refugee Status," *El Mercurio Legal*, March 27, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, [https://derecho.uahurtado.cl/web2021/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/COLUMNA\\_Nueva-ley-que-modifica-el-procedimiento-para-la-determinacion-de-la-condicion-de-refugiado.pdf](https://derecho.uahurtado.cl/web2021/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/COLUMNA_Nueva-ley-que-modifica-el-procedimiento-para-la-determinacion-de-la-condicion-de-refugiado.pdf).

[539] National Migration Service, General Statistics Administrative Registry: Figures from January 2014 to December 2024 (Report No. 3), 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/analisis-sermig/>.

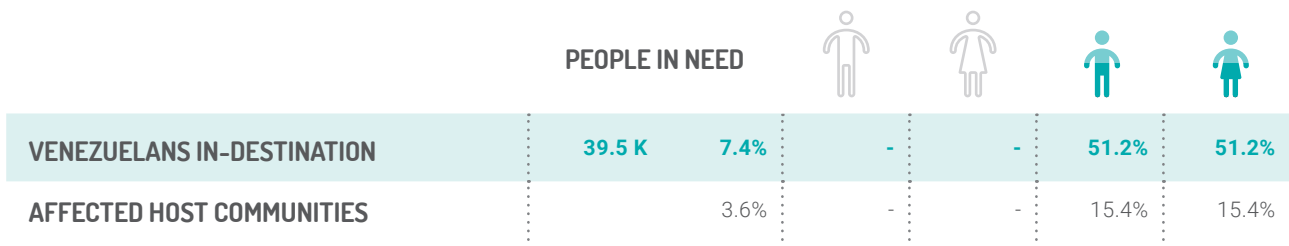
[540] Republic of Chile, Law No. 21.655 (2024), Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1201169>.

[541] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[542] R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago and Iquique, forthcoming, 2024.



# CHILD PROTECTION



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

In principle, refugee and migrant children have free access to public healthcare, preschool, primary and secondary education, and specialized child protection systems. However, despite the existence of programs such as "*Niñez Migrante*" and an Ombudsman for Children's Rights,<sup>543</sup> the 2024 JNA found that 72 per cent of parents, guardians and caregivers were unaware of available services in their host communities that would protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation,<sup>544</sup> contributing to inadequate protection and support for vulnerable migrant and refugee children.

According to the 2024 JNA, six per cent of households reported knowing a child that had been exposed to violence, abuse, neglect, or exploitation without receiving assistance.<sup>545</sup> In addition, R4V partners highlighted concerns about the enforcement of measures against neglectful or abusive parents and caregivers.<sup>546</sup> They also reported children with sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which may indicate risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.<sup>547</sup> The lack of adequate responses to these issues can lead to long-term trauma for children, disrupting their life trajectory, perpetuating cycles of abuse and violence, and undermine their trust in protective systems and adults. According to R4V

partners, this situation is even more problematic when considering the gaps in mental healthcare for children, including the absence of mental and psychosocial support to help them cope with the stressful situations faced during their movements.<sup>548</sup>

The 2024 JNA validation workshop sessions highlighted ongoing challenges in regularizing children's status. These include difficulties obtaining essential documents, including birth certificates and national identity documents from their country of origin. According to R4V partners, there were also reports of cases of discrimination in response to regularization applications, abuse and social exclusion.<sup>549</sup> In addition, the prolonged uncertainty about their status can adversely affect their mental and emotional well-being and consequently hinder their integration in their host communities.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian visas for children have been the most approved group among all humanitarian visas. In 2023, 29,818 temporary residences for humanitarian reasons were granted to this group (37 per cent of which were granted to Venezuelan children), compared to 12,907 in 2022.<sup>550</sup> This reflects a prioritization by the authorities to ensure

[543] The Program '*Niñez Migrante*' develops strategies to promote a regular status from a rights-based perspective, enhancing the social inclusion of refugee and migrant children and adolescents into Chilean society. The Office of the Children's Ombudsman is an autonomous public corporation with legal personality and its purpose is to disseminate, promote, and protect the rights of children and adolescents living in Chile.

[544] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[545] *Ibid.*

[546] R4V Chile, *JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago*, forthcoming, 2024.

[547] *Ibid.*

[548] *Ibid.*

[549] *Ibid.*

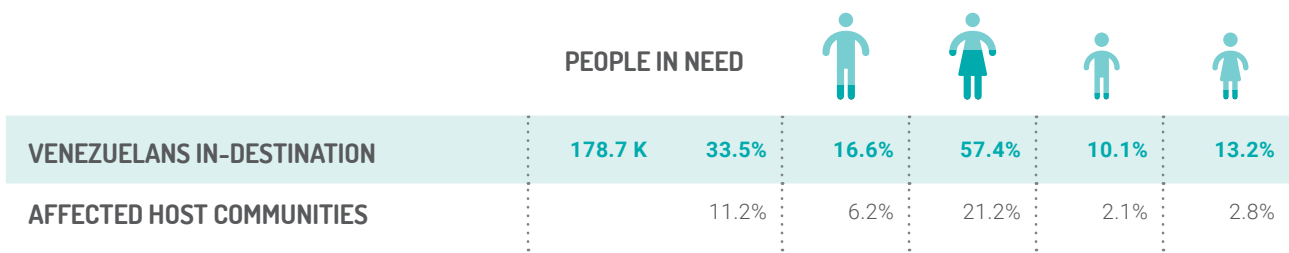
[550] National Migration Service, *General Statistics Administrative Registry: Figures from January 2014 to December 2024 (Report No. 3)*, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/analisis-sermig/>.

the safety, well-being, and rights of vulnerable children. However, in many cases, while children are regularized, their families are not, which also prevents them from generating income to support the children and integrate meaningfully in the country.<sup>551</sup>

The difficulties faced by UASC are of particular concern. At the end of 2020, the Family Court in Iquique informed the Supreme Court about the situation of children and adolescents who were in an irregular situation, and the considerable increase in requests for

protective measures for children and adolescents who were unaccompanied by their parents or responsible adults in the Tarapacá Region. Although a protocol was established for the protection of UASC in the context of migration and/or in need of international protection, R4V partners reported difficulties in its implementation.<sup>552</sup> These children are highly vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and human trafficking, which can affect their ability to form stable relationships and hinder their educational and social development.

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

GBV affects survivors' control over their bodies, their fundamental freedoms, and their right to a life free from violence. A national survey from 2023 shows that 16 per cent of women surveyed had experienced sexual abuse, with the average age of the victim being 12,<sup>553</sup> while by July 2024, 24 femicides had been recorded.<sup>554</sup> To respond comprehensively, Law 21.675 was enacted establishing measures to prevent, punish and eradicate GBV against women.<sup>555</sup> This legislation contributes to recognizing and addressing women's rights and safety, emphasizing that courts must give special consideration to cases where the survivor is in a situation of vulnerability, including to refugees and migrants.

Regarding security, according to 2024 JNA data, 15 per cent of households with women and girls reported avoiding certain places due to concerns about experiencing GBV.<sup>556</sup> In addition, 14 per cent of refugees and migrants reported feeling unsafe in their localities or communities due to the risk of GBV.<sup>557</sup> These fears and insecurities have a significant impact on women and girls, restricting their freedom of movement, reducing their access to essential services and opportunities, increasing levels of anxiety and stress, and reducing their overall quality of life.

Chile's legal framework includes criteria for humanitarian visas to be prioritized for gender-based violence, including cases of domestic violence, among

[551] R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Iquique, forthcoming, 2024.

[552] Ibid.

[553] Ministry of Health, National Survey on Health, Sexuality, and Gender (2022-2023) (Santiago, Chile, 2023), accessed August 18, 2024, [https://epi.minsal.cl/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/MINSAL\\_ENSSEX\\_2022\\_2023\\_Informe\\_ejecutivo.pdf](https://epi.minsal.cl/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/MINSAL_ENSSEX_2022_2023_Informe_ejecutivo.pdf).

[554] National Service for Women and Gender Equity, Statistics on Femicides, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, [https://www.sernameg.gob.cl/?page\\_id=27084](https://www.sernameg.gob.cl/?page_id=27084).

[555] Republic of Chile, Law No. 21,675, Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1204220>.

[556] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[557] Ibid.

other vulnerable situations.<sup>558</sup> However, between 2022 and 2023, only four permits were granted to migrant and refugee survivors of such violence, highlighting a significant gap between policy intent and outcomes. Low application rates contribute to this, with just one application in 2022 and 15 in 2023.<sup>559</sup> R4V partners consider that unclear protocols and information for GBV survivors seeking visas are the main barriers for this disconnect. This includes challenges with online application processes due to digital gaps on access and management and strict criteria for humanitarian visa eligibility, including the need for GBV to be confirmed by a family court as a prerequisite for applying for the visa.<sup>560</sup>

According to civil society organizations, eight out of ten women in Chile had a negative perception of their attempt to report or effectively denounce GBV.<sup>561</sup> Key issues faced include the lack of clear information on how to access necessary resources. Many victims are unfamiliar with the proper procedures for filing a report, impacting their ability to seek justice or protection, while maintaining the continuity of a report can be difficult due to bureaucratic obstacles, inadequate follow-up, and concerns about intimidation or retaliation. These factors limit access to necessary legal protection.<sup>562</sup>

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to the JNA, 85 per cent of surveyed migrants and refugees had to resort to irregular border crossings, usually walking long distances or relying on informal transportation to reach their destination.<sup>563</sup> This not only exposes them to dangerous geographic conditions — such as the reported nine deaths at the Colchane border crossing with Bolivia in 2024 — but also increases their

vulnerability to human trafficking and smuggling.<sup>564</sup> Additionally, to circumvent the stronger border controls and the presence of new police and military observation and control points, human traffickers and smugglers use new and increasingly dangerous irregular access routes.<sup>565</sup>

[558] National Migration Service, Permit for Victims of Domestic or Gender-Based Violence, Santiago, Chile, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/residencia-temporal/subcategorias/vif/>.

[559] National Migration Service, General Statistics Administrative Registry: Figures from January 2014 to December 2024 (Report No. 3), 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/analisis-sermig/>.

[560] R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago and Iquique, forthcoming, 2024.

[561] Chilean Network Against Violence against Women, Report on Gender Violence in Chile: Feminist Organizations Reflect on Violence Rates Against Women, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <http://www.nomasviolenciacontramujeres.cl/informe-de-violencia-de-genero-en-chile-organizaciones-feministas-reflexionan-sobre-indices-de-violencia-contras-las-mujeres/>.

[562] Chilean Network Against Violence against Women (2024), "Report on Gender Violence in Chile: Feminist Organizations Reflect on Violence Rates Against Women" <http://www.nomasviolenciacontramujeres.cl/informe-de-violencia-de-genero-en-chile-organizaciones-feministas-reflexionan-sobre-indices-de-violencia-contras-las-mujeres/>.

[563] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[564] Felipe Zamarin and Cristian Núñez, "Dead Body Found on the Border with Bolivia: Mayor of Colchane Points to Migrant Smuggling Groups," Bio-Bio, Chile, July 6, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.biobiochile.cl/noticias/nacional/region-de-tarapaca/2024/07/06/hallan-cadaver-de-mujer-en-la-frontera-con-bolivia-alcalde-de-colchane-apunta-a-trafico-de-migrantes.shtml>

[565] For example, near Colchane, the Pampa Llama sector has become one of the new entry points for refugees and migrants led by coyotes from Bolivia.

Law 20,507 criminalizes migrants smuggling and trafficking in persons. The national Interagency Taskforce on Human Trafficking (MITP) is the governmental commission in-charge of coordinating the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons with a focus on prevention, victim protection, punishment and international cooperation against this crime.<sup>566</sup> Despite government efforts, public officials acknowledge that refugees and migrants, particularly Venezuelans, are at increased risk.<sup>567</sup> Although the crime of human trafficking can affect both Chileans and foreigners, figures from the Ministry of the Interior show that since 2017, all victims in Chile have been foreigners.<sup>568</sup> In 2022, 78 per cent of the cases involved a Venezuelan victim. Human traffickers exploit both refugees and migrants in a regular and irregular situation, including those with temporary visas. Transnational criminal organizations predominantly target foreign women and girls for sexual and labour exploitation. With limited access to justice and support, victims often suffer long-lasting effects on their physical health and mental stability, including psychological trauma, loss of autonomy, and profound disruption of personal and family well-being.<sup>569</sup>

Given the above obstacles, refugees and migrants often resort to the use of smugglers, while being at a significant risk of being victims of human trafficking.<sup>570</sup> The 2024 JNA highlights that nine per cent of respondents reported that household members have been exposed to human trafficking situations and seven per cent of respondents reported that a household member had been deceived or manipulated to travel or migrate.<sup>571</sup> Due to widespread underreporting, lack of self-identification as a victim and the complexity

of distinguishing trafficking from other forms of exploitation, these figures likely underestimate the true extent of the problem in Chile.<sup>572</sup> The mechanisms of subjugation and uprooting used by traffickers prevent a prompt denunciation. Criminal groups also employ the social media to recruit victims.<sup>573</sup> Often intimidated from reporting such crimes, victims suffer in silence without receiving the support and protection they need, which perpetuates the cycle of exploitation and abuse, as human traffickers operate with less fear of detection and prosecution.

According to the JNA, 57 per cent of households had experienced situations of labour exploitation that could indicate trafficking.<sup>574</sup> For example, 40 per cent reported working longer hours than agreed upon without additional compensation, 32 per cent reported being paid less than agreed upon, and 16 per cent reported not being paid for their work. In addition, 30 per cent said their employers poorly treated them.<sup>575</sup>

Regarding access to humanitarian visas, these visas are linked to investigations that may take longer and/or involve other crimes. As a result, the ability to respond effectively may be compromised, delaying the prompt issuance of documentation. According to the latest available data, in 2023, only 18 visas were granted to victims of trafficking and 14 to smuggled migrants and refugees who are in need of support, assistance and protection. While this represents an increase from 2022, when 11 visas were granted to victims of trafficking and four to smuggled refugees and migrants, the overall numbers remain very low.<sup>576</sup> This is critical for the most vulnerable, including UASC or those accompanying their parents in trafficking situations.

[566] Currently, the MITP is composed of 22 institutions of the state, civil society and international organizations. For more information, see Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, Republic of Chile, "Interagency Taskforce on Human Trafficking (MITP)," accessed August 18, 2024, <http://tratadepersonas.subinterior.gov.cl/mesa-intersectorial>

[567] United States Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, *Trafficking in Persons Report (2023)*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://cl.usembassy.gov/es/informe-trata-de-personas-2023>

[568] Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, Interagency Taskforce on Human Trafficking (MITP). *Data 2011-2022*, accessed August 18, 2024, <http://tratadepersonas.subinterior.gov.cl/media/2023/05/Informe-estad%C3%ADstico-Trata-de-Personas-2011-2022-MITP.pdf>.

[569] United States Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, *Trafficking in Persons Report (2023)*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://cl.usembassy.gov/es/informe-trata-de-personas-2023/>

[570] IOM, *Combating Human Trafficking, Chile*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://chile.iom.int/es/lucha-contr-la-trata-de-personas>

[571] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[572] R4V Chile, *JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago and Iquique*, forthcoming, 2024.

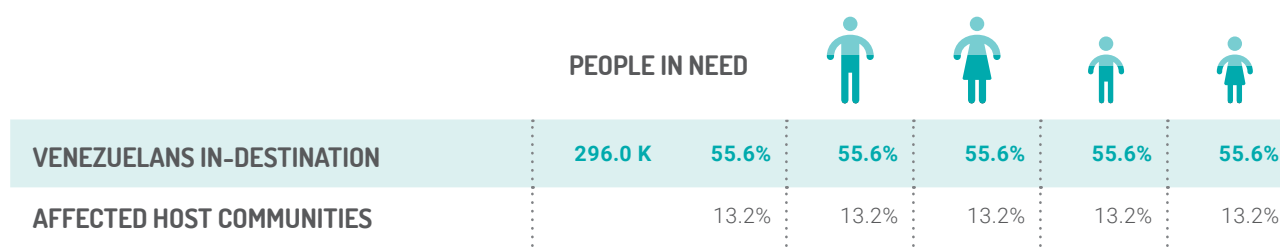
[573] *Ibid.*

[574] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[575] *Ibid.*

[576] National Migration Service (2024). *General statistics administrative registry. Service National Migration Service: Figures from January 2014 to December 2024. (Report n°3)*. Retrieved from <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/analisis-sermig/>

# SHELTER



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Housing is a primary need for refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Chile. They face significant challenges in accessing adequate housing that ensures dignity, security, and access to essential services and urban opportunities. An important barrier to such shelter arrangements is the lack of affordability, driven by limited income sources and rising rental costs. According to the 2024 JNA, 64 per cent of respondents are renters, while the majority of Chileans are homeowners (61 per cent).<sup>577</sup> A housing crisis that has evolved throughout Chile over the past years, is particularly pronounced in Santiago, the city with the largest migrant and refugee population. The rental costs have surged by up to 53 per cent from pre-pandemic levels.<sup>578</sup> In addition, one in three households lives in shared housing or single rooms in apartments.<sup>579</sup> This strategy is an alternative to reduce costs and adapt to the economic constraints imposed by their irregular and often unemployed status.

R4V partners identified a link between the ability to access adequate housing and difficulties applying for public housing subsidies, where national IDs are a common requirement.<sup>580</sup> Many face problems accessing such programs as they do not meet the specific requirements set by subsidy programs, even if they are in urgent need of assistance.

In addition, the requirements for renting in the formal market, include having a national identification number, proof of income, and a guarantor. Meeting these requirements is particularly challenging for most refugees and migrants, given the widespread irregularity and inability to engage in the formal labour market. As a result, many turn to the informal housing market, where conditions are often precarious, and where tenants are exposed to abusive landlords that take advantage of vulnerabilities. The struggle for access to formal housing has also driven many to seek housing in informal settlements. According to a humanitarian actor in Chile, 35 per cent of families living in informal settlements are migrants and refugees, mainly concentrated in Tarapacá, Antofagasta and the Metropolitan Region. A comparison with 2020-2021 report on informal settlements shows an increase in absolute numbers, from 24,964 (reflective 30.6 per cent of refugees and migrants at the time), to 39,567 refugee and migrant families (34.7 per cent of refugees and migrants).<sup>581</sup>

According to the Ministry of Social Development, 21,727 people are in situations of homelessness in Chile, of whom 313 are migrants and refugees. However, this figure may be very under-represented, largely owed to those in an irregular situation not reporting themselves as homeless.<sup>582</sup>

[577] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[578] Jessica Marticorena, "Sharp Rise in Rents in Greater Santiago: Prices Have Risen up to 53% Since Before the Pandemic," *El Mercurio Digital*, May 4, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024,

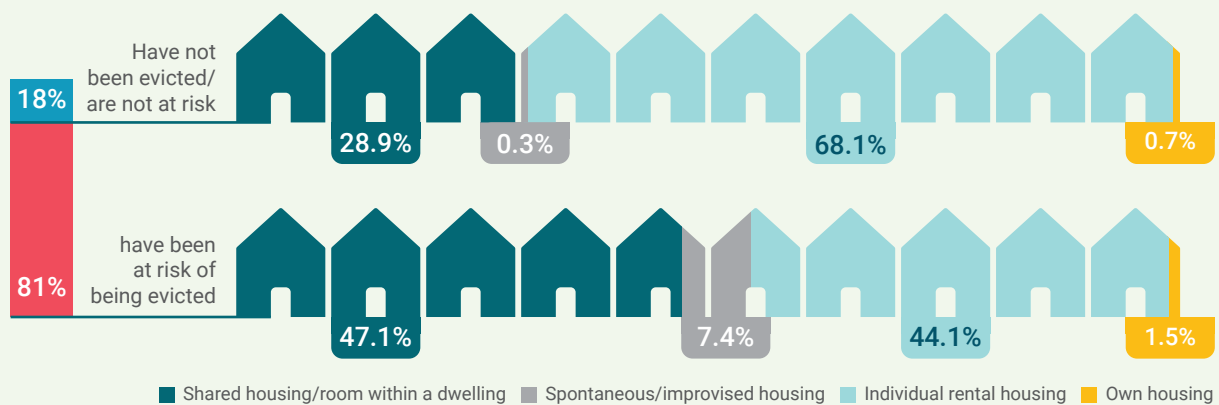
[579] R4V Chile, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[580] R4V Chile, *JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago and Iquique*, forthcoming, 2024. For detailed requirements, see Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (Chile), <https://serviurmetropolitana.minvu.gob.cl/programas>

[581] TECHO-Chile, *National Informal Settlement Census 2022-2023*, Santiago, Chile, 2023, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://cl.techo.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2023/03/CNC22-23.pdf>

[582] Felipe Lagos, "Upward Trend: 21,727 Homeless in April 2024," *Le Monde Diplomatique*, April 30, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.lemondediplomatique.cl/tendencia-al-alza-21-727-personas-en-situacion-de-calle-en-abril-de-2024-por.html>

## EVICTON RISK ACCORDING TO ACCOMMODATION TYPE



Note: The 1% remaining correspond to households that has been evicted

Source: R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024.

Habitability and tenure insecurity are additional areas of concern for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. According to the JNA, 66 per cent of households live in dwellings considered unsuitable for long-term stay, while 32 per cent endure overcrowded living conditions - only three per cent of the national population lives in such conditions.<sup>583</sup> Among those renting, 19 per cent are at risk of eviction, exacerbated by discrimination and xenophobia, which complicates their access to safe and dignified housing.<sup>584</sup> In addition, 59 per cent of households lack basic household items, further exacerbating their vulnerability.<sup>585</sup> Despite these

challenges, two-thirds of respondents report feeling safe in their homes or neighbourhoods, with concerns about theft and assault persisting among those who feel unsafe.<sup>586</sup>

Finally, R4V partners highlight a critical shortage of available emergency shelters.<sup>587</sup> The government has announced the closure of the Lobito and Colchane reception and transit shelters (near the country's northern border with Bolivia) in May 2024, raising concerns about a potential lack of alternative shelter for newly arriving migrants and refugees.<sup>588</sup>

[583] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[584] *Ibid.*

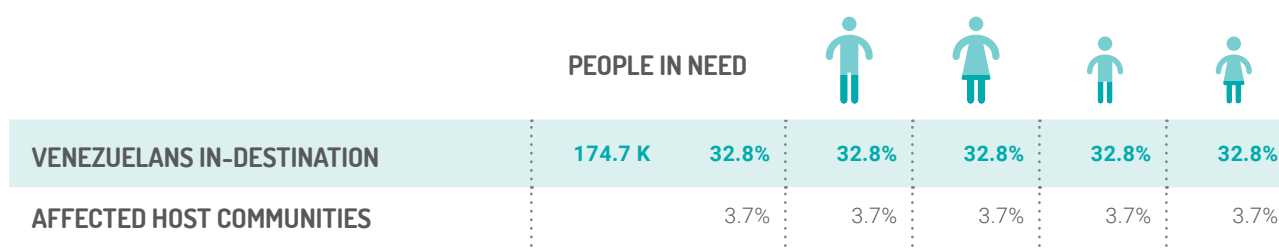
[585] *Ibid.*

[586] *Ibid.*

[587] R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Santiago, forthcoming, 2024.

[588] Álex Choque, "Government Confirms Closure of Lobitos Shelter in Iquique and Relocation of Shelter for Migrants from Colchane," Radio Paulina, May 23, 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://radiopaulina.cl/2024/05/23/gobierno-confirma-cierre-de-albergue-lobitos-en-iquique-y-reubicacion-de-refugio-para-migrantes-de-colchane/>.

# WASH



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees, whether engaging in onward and transit movements (including those who recently arrived), or settled in Chile, encounter significant challenges regularly accessing WASH services. These essential services are critical for promoting the health and well-being of these vulnerable populations. The right to safe drinking water and sanitation is fundamental for reducing poverty, combating social inequality, and ensuring the fulfilment of other human rights, aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Inadequate access to WASH services directly impacts the quality of life, health, and well-being of refugees, migrants, and host community members, underscoring the urgent need for targeted interventions and support.

R4V partners report that gaps in access to basic services persist and could escalate, considering the irregular status and lack of documentation of the migrant and refugee population, and the limitations this imposes on accessing adequate housing.<sup>589</sup> The increase of this population in informal settlements highlights this urgency, where 35 per cent of families in informal settlements are refugees and migrants. In these settlements, 44 per cent of drinking water comes from an unauthorized connection to public water lines and 31 per cent depend on water trucks for their supply, a method that is especially common in the northern regions of the country where public infrastructure is less developed, and water scarcity is more pronounced. Only six per cent of informal settlements have regular,

authorized access to drinking water. As concerns sanitation facilities, 33 per cent of informal settlements access sanitation via latrine over a cesspit. This lack of regular sanitation access exacerbates health risks and undermines the quality of life for residents of these settlements.<sup>590</sup>

According to the JNA, 93 per cent of households can access potable water from the public network through taps or faucets. One in three households lives in shared accommodations or single rooms in dwellings where basic services are shared.<sup>591</sup> Furthermore, seven per cent of the surveyed households obtain potable water through tanker trucks (five per cent) or bottled water (two per cent),<sup>592</sup> that could be due to informal settlements and the precarious conditions, as mentioned above. Additionally, three per cent of households do not have enough water to meet their basic needs, and three per cent do not have access to potable water 24 hours a day. Considering the presence of children, persons with specific needs and other vulnerable individuals in these households, the needs are even more critical.

The lack of basic services, focused on access to potable water, availability of water taps within the home, and an adequate excreta disposal system, is most critical in the Atacama Region, with 38 per cent of households lacking these essential services; Tarapacá, with 30 per cent; and Arica y Parinacota, with 23 per cent.<sup>593</sup> As observed, the most significant deficiencies of refugees and migrant households are clustered in the northern

[589] R4V Chile, JNA Validation Workshop Sessions, Iquique, forthcoming, 2024.

[590] TECHO-Chile, National Informal Settlement Census 2022-2023, Santiago, Chile, 2023, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://cl.techo.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2023/03/CNC22-23.pdf>.

[591] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[592] RR4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[593] Jesuit Migrant Service, Yearbook 2023 (2024), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://sjmchile.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Anuario-2023.pdf>.

zone, in Tarapacá, Atacama, and Antofagasta regions, as they are the primary reception areas for migrants and refugees. An analysis conducted by an R4V partner found that all families surveyed live below the extreme poverty line (with monthly expenditures between USD 83 and USD 187)<sup>594</sup> and those that are living in informal settlements spend between USD 50 and USD 80 per month on water.<sup>595</sup> This poses a complex challenge considering the high price for this public service and their constraints, which in many cases may even limit access due to the lack of economic resources within the household.

In line with the 2023 JNA findings, where 95 percent of surveyed households had sanitation/toilet facilities connected to the public sewage system, 98 percent of surveyed households reported having such facilities in 2024, while 32 per cent shared their sanitary facilities with other households.<sup>596</sup> Additionally, one per cent of households did not have a device such as a tap, sink, or washbasin with water and soap for daily handwashing.<sup>597</sup> For women, lack of access to menstrual health services and supplies was relatively low, according to JNA 2024, only four point three percent of households reported inadequate access to menstrual hygiene products.<sup>598</sup>



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[594] According to JNA 2024 findings. As of May 2024, the poverty line for a household of four in Chile is USD 647 (CLP 606,355), while the threshold for extreme poverty is USD 431 (CLP 404,237). This is higher than the average income of 45% of Venezuelan families surveyed, who have monthly expenses averaging USD 83 (CLP 78,000) per capita, or USD 333 (CLP 312,000) for a household of four. All households surveyed live below the extreme poverty line, with 45% of them having average monthly expenses of USD 83 and the other 55% of the sample averaging USD 187 (CLP 175,000) per capita.

[595] UNICEF, WASH Assessment, forthcoming, 2024.

[596] R4V Chile, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[597] *Ibid.*

[598] *Ibid.*



COLOMBIA



# COLOMBIA AT A GLANCE

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION

**70.3% • 1.98 M**

**92.9%**

VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT

**92.7%**

OTHERS IN-TRANSIT

**13.1%**

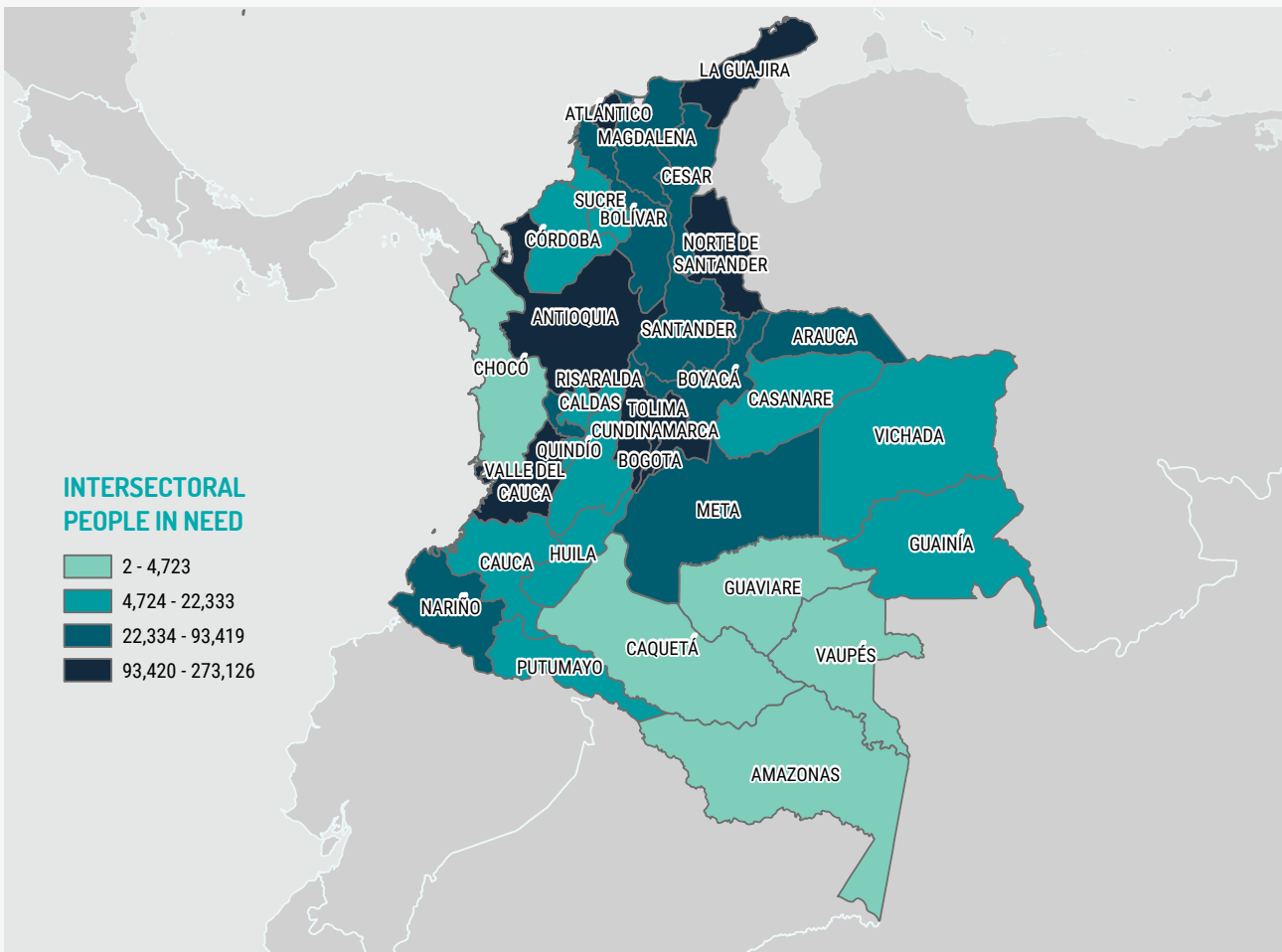
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES\*

**68.4%**

PENDULAR

**35.9%**

COLOMBIAN RETURNEES



## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN WOMEN BOYS GIRLS

**33.8%**














**37.7%**

**14.3%**














**14.2%**

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* This year, the people in need (PiN) estimate for affected host communities (AHC) in Colombia has decreased significantly. This is due to a change in the methodology used in Colombia, the country with the second-largest AHC figures in the region. Previously, PiN figures in Colombia were calculated using an opportunity cost analysis, while in 2024, they are based on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) provided by Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE).

PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)							
SECTOR	VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES	PENDULAR	COLOMBIAN RETURNEES
	%	Number	VEN	OTHERS			
	70.3%	1.98 M	92.9%	92.7%	13.1%	68.4%	35.9%
	10.5%	294.6 K	9.2%	6.7%	2.8%	3.4%	3.4%
	44.6%	1.26 M	83.6%	74.7%	9.0%	52.0%	31.9%
	63.7%	1.79 M	73.9%	78.7%	13.0%	57.9%	22.0%
	53.5%	1.51 M	92.0%	92.7%	7.0%	55.9%	32.0%
	68.9%	1.94 M	44.1%	28.7%	12.0%	43.4%	32.9%
	5.4%	151.9 K	4.8%	2.4%	4.0%	8.1%	5.3%
	61.0%	1.72 M	84.6%	90.7%	10.0%	55.4%	31.0%
	10.8%	302.6 K	9.4%	6.0%	1.1%	6.9%	4.5%
	44.9%	1.26 M	55.2%	63.3%	8.0%	23.3%	19.9%
	37.0%	1.04 M	41.2%	41.3%	2.0%	26.2%	6.0%
	66.9%	1.88 M	88.1%	83.3%	11.0%	15.6%	28.0%
	35.8%	1.01 M	87.9%	90.0%	11.0%	64.9%	20.0%

**LEGEND**

-  Intersector
-  Education
-  Food Security
-  Health
-  Humanitarian Transportation
-  Integration
-  Nutrition
-  Protection
-  Child Protection
-  Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
-  Human Trafficking & Smuggling
-  Shelter
-  WASH

## COLOMBIA : COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Colombia hosts the largest population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, with 2.81 million people as of April 2024.<sup>599</sup> Colombia also serves as a transit country for migrants and refugees moving toward Central and North America, to other countries in South America, as well as for those engaging in return movements to Venezuela. During the first semester of 2024, those engaging in onward and transit movements (in various directions) increased by 24 per cent, rising from 189,000 in 2023, to 234,000 in the same period in 2024.<sup>600</sup> Additionally, the Colombia-Venezuela border maintains a pendular movement dynamic, with people entering the country seeking medical services and medicines, education, livelihoods, and access to goods and services.

The National R4V Platform in Colombia (GIFMM) conducted two joint needs assessments (JNA), one focusing on Venezuelans in-destination and one on refugees and migrants engaging in onward, transit and pendular movements. In coordination with the

Humanitarian Country Team in Colombia, the GIFMM conducted 19 joint workshops<sup>601</sup> to analyse needs and priorities.<sup>602</sup>

The JNA for the populations in-transit and in pendular movements<sup>603</sup> consisted of interviews with 2,032 travel groups (1,509 in-transit and 523 in pendular movements), characterizing 4,277 people in eight departments and the Bogotá's Central District.<sup>604</sup> The JNA for those in-destination was conducted in two phases.<sup>605</sup> A total of 3,113 households were surveyed, characterizing 11,306 people in 11 departments and Bogotá's Central District.<sup>606</sup> Both JNAs were implemented through face-to-face surveys.

For the population in-destination, the main needs identified in the JNA include access to food (71 per cent),<sup>607</sup> employment or income-generating activities (61 per cent) and shelter/housing assistance (56 per cent).<sup>608</sup> Ten per cent also reported insufficient water for basic use, and 29 per cent were concerned about water quality and quantity.

[599] R4V, *Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela*, August 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrants>.

[600] *Migración Colombia, Dashboard Irregular Migration in Transit*, consulted on August 6, 2024, <https://acortar.link/LwphsG>.

[601] Norte de Santander, Vichada, Arauca, La Guajira, Costa Caribe, Meta, Guainía, Chocó, Magdalena Medio, Nariño, Amazonas, Antioquia, Urabá, Guaviare, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Putumayo, Córdoba - Sucre y Caquetá.

[602] *Joint workshops on the Response Plan for Community Priorities (PRPC), the Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) were conducted in coordination between the National R4V Platform (GIFMM) and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). This methodology, contributed to a joint vision and operationalization of the Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus. It analyzed the identified needs and priorities, while assessing severity at the municipal level and risk scenarios that affect different populations. The workshops engaged the key stakeholders: national authorities, community-based organizations, community leaders and international cooperation partners of the Local Coordination Team (ELC)/Mix Local Humanitarian Team (EHL), Magdalena Medio Humanitarian Team (EHMM) and Local GIFMMs.*

[603] *In collaboration with 32 R4V partners. The information includes data on people of Venezuelan, Ecuadorian, Peruvian, Cuban, Brazilian, Chilean, Haitian, Argentinean, and other nationalities.*

[604] Norte de Santander: Cúcuta, Bochalema, Los Patios, Pamplonita, Villa del Rosario y Chinácota. Santander: Bucaramanga, Piedecuesta y Tona. Arauca: Arauca, Arauquita y Tame. Antioquia: Medellín, Necoclí y Turbo. La Guajira: Maicao y Riohacha. Nariño: Pasto, Ipiales y Taminango. Valle del Cauca: Cali, Palmira y El Cerrito. Cauca: Popayán y Villa Rica, y Bogotá D.C.

[605] *During the first phase, data collection was carried out by a research consultancy; the second (complementary) phase was based on data collection by GIFMM partners in municipalities not reached during the first phase.*

[606] Phase 1: Bogotá D.C., Antioquia: Medellín y Bello. Norte de Santander: Cúcuta y Villa del Rosario. Atlántico: Barranquilla. Valle del Cauca: Cali. Bolívar: Cartagena. La Guajira: Riohacha y Maicao. Santander: Bucaramanga. Magdalena: Santa Marta. Arauca: Arauca. Cundinamarca: Soacha. Cesar: Valledupar. Phase 2: Antioquia: Itagüí, Rionegro; Amazonas: Leticia; Atlántico: Soledad, Malambo; Bolívar: Turbaco; Cauca: Popayán; La Guajira: Uribia; Nariño: Ipiales, Pasto; Norte de Santander: Los Patios; Risaralda: Pereira; Santander: Floridablanca, Barrancabermeja; Valle del Cauca: Palmira, Jamundí; Arauca: Saravena, Tame.

[607] *The four territorial workshops revealed that municipalities affected by violence have pressing food needs and discussed the situation in informal settlements and rural areas.*

[608] *The territorial workshops highlighted the importance of regularization as a requirement to access formal/dignified employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities.*

According to the JNA findings, the main needs of migrants and refugees who engage in onward and transit movements are access to food (67 per cent), access to livelihoods (42 per cent), and transportation (21 per cent). The JNA found that 75 per cent of travel groups could not afford to pay for their journey, which contributed to 55 per cent having to walk during their transit, and 68 per cent indicated that they only ate between one and two meals a day.<sup>609</sup>

For those in pendular movements, the JNA found that access to medication (32 per cent) and medical treatment (54 per cent), food (69 per cent), and livelihoods (49 per cent) were their main needs. Nearly 50 per cent of travel groups reported problems accessing toiletries and hygiene items. Over half borrowed money or relied on help from family, friends, or neighbours to

meet their needs. In addition, 64 per cent indicated that in the last three months before being surveyed they faced barriers to access healthcare services.<sup>610</sup>

Regarding the regularization process (granting a Temporary Protection Status; TPS), as of April 2024, 2.2 million Venezuelans were enrolled and had successfully registered in the Registry of Venezuelan Nationals (RUMV), of whom 1.9 million held the Temporary Protection Permit (TPP).<sup>611</sup> However, approximately 462,000 Venezuelans did not regularize their status,<sup>612</sup> which is crucial for accessing the health system and formal employment. Consequently, Venezuelans entering Colombia must apply for ordinary procedures, such as obtaining visas,<sup>613</sup> which require a valid Venezuelan passport, or apply for asylum.

## AAP/CWC

In the 2024 JNA, 60 per cent of refugees and migrants in-transit stated they had not received information on rights, availability of services, and humanitarian assistance throughout their journey. This lack of information increases their vulnerability owed to a greater likelihood of protection risks going unidentified and unaddressed.<sup>614</sup>

Among the 36 per cent of respondents who noted having been informed about rights, services, and humanitarian assistance, 93 per cent considered that the provided information was useful. Those engaging in onward and transit movements mentioned that the most appropriate communication channels to receive information are social media (47 per cent) and word of mouth communication (30 per cent).<sup>615</sup>

Among Venezuelan migrants and refugees in-destination, 80 per cent of households surveyed said they had not received information on their rights, services, or humanitarian assistance. Nearly 19 per cent of households said they had received information on these topics, out of which 15 per cent considered the information as useful. Finally, 64 per cent of households in-destination indicated that WhatsApp was the most appropriate means of communication to receive information.<sup>616</sup>

Both those in-transit and in-destination do not have sufficient information concerning their rights, availability of humanitarian services and assistance in the country. This need is even greater among those in-destination, who mostly mentioned not having received information about these topics.<sup>617</sup>

[609] According to the territorial workshop in the border zone, humanitarian transport is the priority need of the population in-transit.

[610] The workshops emphasized the need for access to health services for those in pendular movements. Pregnant women and people with chronic illnesses were found entering Colombia needing treatment and medication. In the case of children, needs were found relating to medication for the treatment of malnutrition.

[611] Migración Colombia, Report on Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia, May 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://acortar.link/daPLdd>

[612] *Ibid.*

[613] In June 2024, the Colombian government announced a regulatory project for the Special Permit of Permanence for Tutors (PEP Tutor), aimed at regularizing Venezuelan nationals who meet a series of requirements, including demonstrating their status as a legal representative or custodian of a minor with a valid PPT and residing in Colombia.

[614] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[615] *Ibid.*

[616] *Ibid.*

[617] *Ibid.*

## CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA)

According to the 2024 JNA findings, 60 per cent of refugees and migrants in-destination<sup>618</sup> preferred receiving assistance in cash, while those having to engage in onward and transit movements preferred to be assisted through in-kind services. However, these preferences for assistance modalities can vary based on the specific needs of each population group.<sup>619</sup>

Among the population in-destination, the main needs were access to food (71 per cent); employment or income-generating activities (61 per cent) and shelter/housing assistance (56 per cent). Those who expressed a need for employment, income generation, shelter/housing assistance, food, and transportation preferred to receive cash-based assistance. Inversely, services were preferred for psychosocial and legal support. In the case of medications, while the majority prefer cash assistance (38 per cent), a significant percentage (23 per cent) prefer to receive the medications in-kind.

In terms of migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements, whose main needs were access to food (67 per cent), livelihoods (42 per cent), and transportation (21 per cent), 38 per cent prefer to be assisted with cash, while 16 per cent prefer to be assisted through in-kind assistance to

cover their food needs. Some 36 per cent of this population prefer to be assisted with services and 31 per cent in cash to afford transportation costs. Finally, 39 per cent out of people interviewed mentioned that they prefer cash to cover income needs.

Validating information collected by a partner in the Humanitarian Transportation Sector across the departments of Arauca, Bogotá, Casanare, Santander, and Norte de Santander, transportation was one of the main expenses of beneficiaries using cash and voucher assistance (CVA) (55 per cent).<sup>620</sup>

For those engaging in pendular movements, the main needs identified by the JNA were medication (32 per cent) and medical treatment (54 per cent), food (69 per cent), and employment and livelihoods (49 per cent). In order to cover these needs, pendular refugees and migrants prefer to be assisted through cash (41 per cent) and through vouchers (23 per cent) to cover medicine needs. Concerning medical treatments, 38 per cent prefer to receive the service and 33 per cent cash. To cover food needs, 50 per cent prefer cash, while 25 per cent prefer vouchers assistance. Finally, concerning employment and livelihoods, 57 per cent prefer cash and 22 per cent specialized services.<sup>621</sup>

[618] *Ibid.*

[619] *Ibid.*

[620] ZOA, *Emergency Protection Assistance Delivered Through Multipurpose Vouchers for Walkers in Colombia*, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://n9.cl/tabletodecontrol>

[621] *Examples include support in preparation for interviews, structing of business plans, guidance on labour rights protection etc.*

## PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is an overarching priority for the R4V Regional Platform. In Colombia, according to the 2024 JNA, only two per cent of those engaging in pendular movements, and 15 per cent of those engaging in onward and transit movements were aware of mechanisms to provide feedback or complain about staff misconduct. Information on the free provision of services, and mechanisms for reporting misconduct are key to mitigating the risks associated with sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Therefore, there is a great need for information on PSEA channels. Only 14 per cent of the population in pendular movements and 19 per cent of those engaging in onward and transit movements were aware that services are free of charge, and that humanitarian workers should not ask for money or other kinds of services or compensation to provide assistance. This limited knowledge not only increases their vulnerability to manipulation and deception but also creates significant barriers to reporting SEA.

During the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Overview (SEARO) consultative workshop, humanitarian actors identified SEA risks in contexts

of mixed movements in Colombia,<sup>622</sup> highlighting that in the course of certain activities, such as the provision of food assistance, cash-based interventions, and the distribution of non-food items, there are higher SEA risks, especially for vulnerable migrants and refugees.<sup>623</sup> According to the JNA results, 70 per cent of households had received food assistance and 37 per cent were assisted through cash-based interventions. This translates into a significant number of people who could be at risk of SEA.

According to the Annual Survey on Implementing Minimum PSEA Standards in 2023,<sup>624</sup> 86 per cent of organizations reported that they conducted regular trainings on the matter, and 94 per cent reported having reporting mechanisms in place. However, only 36 per cent conducted community awareness-raising activities at least once a year. As a result, there is a need to further strengthen training and inter-agency coordination capacities and protective measures to identify, reduce and address incidents of SEA, particularly for communities in areas with a high incidence of violence and low levels of access to services.





[622] *Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Overview (SEARO) Composite Index: Sub-national Adaptation Workshop Pilot Project in Colombia on 18 June, with the Participation of the Local GIFMM and the Local Coordination Teams*, accessed July 5, 2024, [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1\\_5p0sm2sWnmpEYK5KA-6GgWa6Mfnebl4](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1_5p0sm2sWnmpEYK5KA-6GgWa6Mfnebl4).

[623] *According to the SEARO, some studies and experts consulted, types of aid that involve provision of goods (such as food, cash or NFIs) increase the risk of SEA and other types of misconduct performed by aid workers. Additionally, the higher the gaps in funding aid activities, the more likely operations would overlook basic protective mechanisms when distributing aid. Inter-Agency Standing Committee, SEARO Beta v1.1 Methodology and Concept Note*, accessed August 18, 2024, [https://psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/SEARO\\_Beta\\_v1.1\\_Methodology\\_and\\_Concept\\_Note.pdf](https://psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/SEARO_Beta_v1.1_Methodology_and_Concept_Note.pdf)

[624] *This survey was completed by 14 UN agencies, 11 national NGOs and 24 international NGOs, members of the PSEA focal points network in Colombia.*

# EDUCATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
	Count	Percentage				
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	294.6 K	10.5%	-	-	37.2%	37.2%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		9.2%	-	-	47.1%	47.1%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		6.7%	-	-	38.0%	38.0%
PENDULAR		3.4%	-	-	15.7%	15.7%
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		3.4%	-	-	11.2%	12.8%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		2.8%	-	-	10.0%	10.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

In Colombia, the enrolment of Venezuelan refugee and migrant children in the formal education system increased from 34,000 scholars in 2018, to 589,823 in April 2024. While this represented six per cent of all students in the formal education system, the number of Venezuelan students enrolled in the system decreased by five per cent between 2023 and 2024, mirroring national enrolment trends. This decline can be attributed to population mobility between cities and school dropouts. Among the Venezuelan children enrolled in 2024, 50 per cent were girls, 21 per cent study in rural areas, four per cent belong to ethnic communities, and 93 per cent are enrolled in public schools.<sup>625</sup>

The main educational needs of refugee and migrant children are access to the educational system, with a particular focus on early childhood and secondary education; creating conditions to reduce dropout rates and increase the permanence of children in the education system; and addressing learning

gaps among refugee and migrant children to ensure educational progress.

In Colombia, the law guarantees access to the school system for all children. As such, the lack of documents or regular status ought not be a barrier to school enrolment. Additionally, the law grants access to the Temporary Protection Permit (TPP) to all Venezuelan children enrolled in the Colombian school system.<sup>626</sup> Despite this, as of April 2024, according to the Ministry of Education, 236,926 Venezuelan students (45 per cent of those enrolled) do not have a valid identification document, which impedes access to the certificate upon completion of secondary school (*baccalaureate, Título de Bachiller*).<sup>627</sup>

According to the Colombian National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE, for its Spanish acronym),<sup>628</sup> between May 2023 and April 2024, 34 per cent of the economically active<sup>629</sup> Venezuelan population had not completed high school and 80 per cent did not have a higher education degree. By

[625] Ministry of National Education, Strategy Dashboard for the Educational Attention of the Venezuelan Migrant Population (2024), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://acortar.link/2NjUlp>

[626] Ministry of Public Function (Colombia), Norma No. 159606, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=159606>.

[627] Ibid.

[628] National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE, Colombia), Great Integrated Household Survey (GEIH), May 2023-April 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://acortar.link/UFWP6F>. Calculations by the National Integration sector.

[629] The economically active population includes those who participate (employed) or are interested in participating (unemployed) in the labour market.



June 2024, 94 per cent of migrant and refugee heads of household surveyed who had obtained a higher education degree in Venezuela had not had it validated, and 96 per cent had not certified their skills with any authorized entity.<sup>630</sup>

The 2024 JNA for population in-destination highlighted that for children aged zero to five, main barriers to education include insufficient family income for school expenses (15 per cent) and the lack of required documentation (13 per cent). For children aged six to eleven, key barriers are inadequate family income to cover expenses (28 per cent), missing required documentation (17 per cent), and limited availability of school placements (18 per cent). Adolescents aged twelve to seventeen face challenges due to insufficient school places (24 per cent) and lack of financial resources to cover school expenses.<sup>631</sup>

The 2024 JNA also found that among Venezuelan refugee and migrant children in-destination, eight per

cent of those aged zero to five attended childcare for four days or fewer during the last month prior to the survey. For those between six and 17 years old, 31 per cent mentioned not being enrolled in the educational system.<sup>632</sup>

Regarding migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements, according to the JNA, 83 per cent of children in early childhood (zero to five years) did not receive any type of educational assistance and 77 per cent mentioned that they are not enrolled in any school. On the other hand, among children aged six to 11 years, 64 per cent of the children reported not receiving educational assistance and 12 per cent mentioned never having attended school.<sup>633</sup>

Finally, 72 per cent of adolescents (12 - 17 years old), reported not receiving educational assistance and 63 per cent reported not being enrolled. In addition, 16 per cent stated that their last grade completed was the sixth grade, and only 33 per cent eleventh grade.<sup>634</sup>



[630] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[631] *Ibid.*





[632] *Ibid.*

[633] *Ibid.*

[634] *Ibid.*

# FOOD SECURITY



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	1.26 M	44.6%	44.6%	45.2%	46.8%	46.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		83.6%	83.6%	83.6%	83.6%	83.6%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		74.7%	74.7%	74.7%	74.7%	74.7%
PENDULAR		52.0%	52.0%	52.0%	52.0%	52.0%
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		31.9%	30.6%	26.4%	38.2%	44.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants face a concerning food insecurity scenario. According to the 2024 JNA, 83 per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-transit experienced food insecurity (43 per cent severe, 40 percent moderate). Similarly, 79 per cent of those engaging in onward and transit movements face food insecurity (37 percent severe, 42 percent moderate).<sup>635</sup>

Those engaging in onward and transit movements primarily consume cereals, roots, tubers, and sugars. This diet lacks diversity and essential nutrients, being classified as poor for 36 per cent of Venezuelans in-transit and 24 per cent of other nationalities. The 2024 JNA for this population showed that nutritionally richer foods such as meats, dairy products, and fruits were typically consumed less than three days per week.<sup>636</sup>

According to the JNA for migrants and refugees in-destination, 47 per cent of surveyed households are moderately food insecure and four per cent severely food insecure. Female-headed households experience greater food insecurity (52 per cent) than those led by men (40 per cent). This can be attributed to their higher economic vulnerability. Households with female

heads (in-destination) show a higher incidence of poverty (46 per cent) and extreme poverty (29 per cent) compared to those with male heads (43 per cent and 21 per cent respectively). Seventy per cent of surveyed refugees and migrants in-destination reported daily consumption of foods such as sugar, sweets, fats, and oils, and only 38 per cent declared that they consume proteins daily.<sup>637</sup>

Migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements reported that they had to resort to negative coping strategies to access food. Thirty-two per cent of people resorted to crisis coping strategies, 25 per cent used emergency coping strategies, and 31 per cent employed stress coping strategies.<sup>638</sup> The main negative coping mechanisms include reducing the size of daily food portions (on average five days per week), consuming less preferred or cheaper foods (four days per week), and reducing the number of daily meals consumed (four days per week). Additionally, 59 per cent of travel groups reported asking for money and begging to access food. More than half of refugees and migrants of other nationalities engaging in onward and

[635] *Ibid.*

[636] *Ibid.*

[637] *Ibid.*

[638] *Coping strategies are distinguished between stress, crisis, and emergency strategies. Stress strategies indicate a reduced ability to deal with future shocks as a result of a current decrease in resources or an increase in debts. Crisis strategies are often associated with the direct reduction of future productivity. Finally, emergency strategies also affect future productivity, but are more difficult to reverse or are more dramatic in nature than crisis strategies.*





transit movements also resorted to negative coping mechanisms.<sup>639</sup>

As for the pendular population surveyed in the JNA, 54 per cent resorted to negative coping mechanisms such as borrowing money and seeking help from family, friends or neighbours while 36 per cent reduced

expenses on health, education, and clothing. According to the JNA for Venezuelans in-destination, 32 per cent resorted to crisis coping strategies, 25 per cent to emergency coping strategies, and 31 per cent to stress coping strategies. The most frequently adopted strategies were consuming less preferred and less expensive foods and limiting the size of portions.<sup>640</sup>

## HEALTH



	PEOPLE IN NEED		   			
	1.79 M	63.7%	63.6%	63.8%	64.2%	64.2%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION						
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		73.9%	73.9%	73.9%	73.9%	73.9%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		78.7%	78.7%	78.7%	78.7%	78.7%
PENDULAR		57.9%	57.9%	57.9%	57.9%	57.9%
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		22.0%	21.0%	18.2%	26.3%	30.6%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

The number of migrants and refugees with health needs in Colombia rose in 2024, increasing from 74 per cent in 2023 to 79 per cent. The most pressing needs include access to health services, such as primary and specialized medical care, and mental and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

As of May 2024, 1.48 million refugees and migrants (52 per cent) are affiliated with the Colombian health system. However, 1.36 million individuals (48 per cent) remain unenrolled. Moreover, enrolment does not guarantee access to the health services.<sup>641</sup> Among the primary barriers to healthcare access, the JNA found that 40 per cent of migrants and refugees in-destination cite

financial constraints as the most significant obstacle. This is followed by geographical barriers, such as living far away from medical centres (17 per cent), availability of health services (12 per cent), and cultural barriers, such as language differences (5 per cent).<sup>642</sup> As a result, refugees and migrants attend medical appointments less frequently (44 per cent), undergo fewer medical procedures (42 per cent), and have fewer medical consultations (50 per cent) compared to the local population.<sup>643</sup> Venezuelans also face greater delays in receiving diagnoses and treatments for common conditions.<sup>644</sup> The low attendance to the health system can also be explained by the lack of financial resources

[639] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[640] Ibid.

[641] Migration and Health Observatory, Base de Datos Única de Afiliados (BDUA), May 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://acortar.link/b1QqC1>. (Access restricted/geofenced to internet users from within Colombia).

[642] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[643] Colombia Health Benefits Provisioning Systems, Registro Individual de Prestaciones de Servicios de Salud (RIPS), June 2024.

[644] Colombia, SIVIGILA (Sistema de Vigilancia en Salud Pública), 2024.

for transportation, lack of knowledge about the system, distrust, and documentation issues.<sup>645</sup>





According to the 2024 JNA, 49 per cent of migrants and refugees having to engage in onward and transit movements indicated that their primary reason for entering Colombia was to access medicines, while 43 per cent sought medical treatments. Among those involved in transit and pendular movements, 27 per cent reported needing healthcare, with 36 per cent of these individuals unable to access the required services. Additionally, 22 per cent of respondents needed sexual and reproductive health services, of this figure with 72 per cent specifically requiring guidance and

contraception, 14 per cent needing prenatal care, and two per cent needing mental healthcare and five per cent general medical care. Given that these refugees and migrants are not integrated into the national health system, access to these services is limited.<sup>646</sup>

In remote areas and regions affected by armed conflict and extreme weather events (including floods and landslides), access to the healthcare system is a greater challenge. These regions often lack adequate infrastructure, specialized staff, and sufficient medical supplies, exacerbating the difficulties in addressing the needs of migrants and refugees effectively.

## HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>1.51 M</b>	<b>53.5%</b>	<b>53.1%</b>	<b>53.4%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT</b>		92.0%	92.0%	92.0%	92.0%	92.0%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT</b>		92.7%	92.7%	92.7%	92.7%	92.7%
<b>PENDULAR</b>		55.9%	55.9%	55.9%	55.9%	55.9%
<b>COLOMBIAN RETURNEES</b>		32.0%	31.7%	26.5%	32.6%	47.0%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES</b>		7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants in Colombia face challenges accessing safe and regular transportation means due to their vulnerable socio-economic conditions and irregular status. Concerning local transportation needs, 20 per cent of households in-destination reported walking or commuting more than 20 minutes to access health centres, hospitals, or clinics. Additionally, 14 per cent of surveyed households required 30 minutes or more to reach their most common destination, and 47 percent walked to their primary destination.<sup>647</sup> These findings underscore that

limited access to local transportation creates barriers to essential goods and services, obstructing effective socio-economic integration processes. Furthermore, migrants and refugees are often unable to access public transportation due to high costs relative to their income, coupled with persistent xenophobia in public transportation spaces. As a result, many rely on other forms of transportation such as cycling or walking.

Among those engaging in pendular movements, 25 per cent either walked or used cargo transportation; among those who resorted to walking (15 per cent), 92 per cent

[645] Colombia Health Benefits Provisioning Systems, Registro Individual de Prestaciones de Servicios de Salud (RIPS), June 2024

[646] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[647] Ibid.

walked one or more days to reach their destination (usually cities in border areas such as Arauca, Maicao, Riohacha, Villa del Rosario, Cúcuta, Ipiales or Pasto).<sup>648</sup>





Refugees and migrants having to engage in onward and transit movements in Colombia face challenges accessing safe and regular transportation means due to their vulnerable socio-economic conditions and irregular status. Most migrants, refugees and in-transit populations lack valid documentation. Based on the country’s decree 1720/23, Colombia’s migration authority created the app *transito seguro*, which provides a virtual pass to transit through the country for a maximum of 10 days, and it is mandatory to be transported legally under Colombian law. Challenges are therefore faced by those requiring more than 10

days, predominantly affecting those traveling along the routes Cúcuta-Bucaramanga-Bogotá, Arauca-Yopal-Bogotá, and Bogotá-Cali-Ipiales. According to the JNA, 67 percent of migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements reported needing humanitarian transportation assistance.<sup>649</sup>

Furthermore, according to the JNA, 55 percent of refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements reported that they had walked at some point during their journey, and 40 percent used cargo transportation in Colombia, such as trucks and trailers (by hitchhiking). Eight percent had been walking for a week or more when surveyed, and 55 percent stated walking, on average, between eight and 16 hours per day.<sup>650</sup>

## INTEGRATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	1.94 M	68.9%	68.4%	68.8%	69.7%	69.8%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		44.1%	44.1%	44.1%	44.1%	44.1%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		28.7%	28.7%	28.7%	28.7%	28.7%
PENDULAR		43.4%	43.4%	43.4%	43.4%	43.4%
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		32.9%	31.4%	27.2%	39.4%	45.3%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to the JNA, 70 per cent of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in-destination were in multidimensional poverty in Colombia.<sup>651</sup> In order to reduce their levels of economic vulnerability, the refugee and migrant population needs to be integrated

into the economic and social dynamics of the country. This integration would lead to positive impacts to the national economy, as in 2022 when this population generated a positive fiscal impact in Colombia with a tax income of USD 522 million,<sup>652</sup> and a positive

[648] *Ibid.*

[649] *Ibid.*

[650] *Ibid.*

[651] See hereto the methodological elaborations on the RMNA 2024. This is distinct from the multidimensional poverty index (of 28%) and relating monetary poverty (54%) values developed under the Colombian National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), which are based on a distinct indicator framework, and which consider a different scope of nationals for its assessment.

[652] OIM, Equilibrium, Cavex, and FIP, *Estudio del Impacto Fiscal de la Migración en Colombia: Realidad vs Potencial (2024)*, accessed 18 August 2024, [https://respuestavenezolanos.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1526/files/documents/2024-04/0403\\_reporte-colombia-kas-short\\_vf-002.pdf](https://respuestavenezolanos.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1526/files/documents/2024-04/0403_reporte-colombia-kas-short_vf-002.pdf).

contribution to its overall GDP of more than two per cent (potentially increasing to three per cent by 2030).<sup>653</sup>

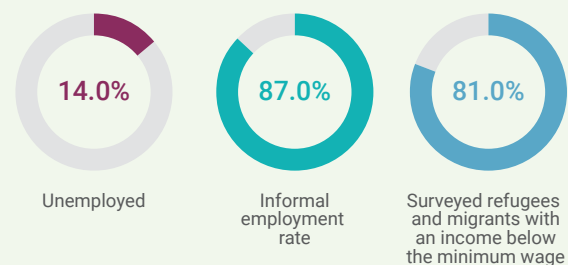
Refugees and migrants also showed a need to access employment opportunities under decent work conditions. Data from JNA found that 14 per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination were unemployed,<sup>654</sup> in comparison to a general rate of unemployment of 10 per cent in Colombia.<sup>655</sup> Eighty-seven per cent of refugees and migrants pursuing gainful employment did not have a formal signed contract, and 81 per cent of those surveyed in-destination<sup>656</sup> reported an income below the minimum wage.<sup>657</sup>

Refugees and migrants also faced barriers in access to business opportunities and financial inclusion. Based on data from the JNA, more than half of the refugees and migrant households (56 per cent) did not have access to financial services, and 45 per cent of self-employed migrant and refugee heads of household reported difficulties starting their businesses. Among them, 83 per cent faced obstacles obtaining formal credit, 17 per cent lacked documentation, and 14 per cent were unaware of the legal requirements for establishing a business. Based on data from DANE,<sup>658</sup> between May 2023 and April 2024, only five per cent of refugees and migrant households (including all foreign nationals) had access to credit products<sup>659</sup> and 45 per cent to saving products.

Additionally, the ongoing need for migrants and refugees to be socially accepted and welcomed in the host community remains critical. According to the JNA, 21 per cent reported feeling discriminated against since arriving in Colombia. Of those, 50 per cent experienced discrimination while searching for a job, 33 per cent at their workplace, and 30 per cent in their neighbourhood.

Certain populations face greater integration challenges, including women, LGBTQI+ persons and youth, due to factors such as lack of labour market experience, discrimination, or cultural patterns<sup>660</sup> that affect their access to decent work.<sup>661</sup>

### EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME STATISTICS AMONG VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN-DESTINATION



Source: R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Analysis for Population in Destination (JNA), June 2024.

[653] International Monetary Fund (IMF), *Regional Spillovers from the Venezuelan Crisis: Migration Flows and Their Impact on Latin America and the Caribbean*, December 2022, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-Papers/Issues/2022/12/01/Regional-Spillovers-from-the-Venezuelan-Crisis-Migration-Flows-and-Their-Impact-on-Latin-525729>

[654] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[655] DANE (Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística), "Employment and Unemployment," DANE, accessed August 28, 2024, <https://www.dane.gov.co/index.php/en/statistics-by-topic/labor-market/employment-and-unemployment>

[656] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[657] The legal minimum wage in Colombia is approximately 320 dollars in 2024. Ministerio del Trabajo (Colombia), "En el 2024, el salario mínimo es de un millón 300 mil pesos y auxilio de transporte de 162 mil pesos," January 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.mintrabajo.gov.co/comunicados/2023/enero/en-el-2024-el-salario-minimo-es-de-un-millon-300-mil-pesos-y-auxilio-de-transporte-de-162-mil-peso>

[658] National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE, Colombia), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.dane.gov.co/>





[659] In comparison to 18% of the host community.

[660] Cultural patterns like leaving children care to women influence the distribution of time between work and domestic activities, thus affecting labour participation.

[661] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Guidelines for the Inclusion of Gender and Diversity Approaches in Socioeconomic Integration Activities for Refugees, Migrants, and Host Communities* (2023), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://acortar.link/aypM7>

# NUTRITION



	PEOPLE IN NEED						
	151.9 K	5.4%	-	8.1%	8.3%	8.3%	
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	151.9 K	5.4%	-	8.1%	8.3%	8.3%	
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		4.8%	-	9.6%	9.6%	9.6%	
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		2.4%	-	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	
PENDULAR		8.1%	-	12.3%	12.3%	12.3%	
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		5.3%	-	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		4.0%	-	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA.

According to the JNA for refugees and migrants engaging in onward, transit and pendular movements, 15 per cent of pregnant women and 41 per cent of children under five years old reported not receiving nutritional care such as nutritional assessment, breastfeeding counselling, micronutrient supplementation, and prevention/treatment of acute malnutrition. Around half of the migrant and refugee children under five (39 per cent of boys and 42 per cent of girls) did not receive any nutritional care.

The nutritional assessment<sup>662</sup> included in the 2024 JNA for refugees and migrants<sup>663</sup> identified that 27 per cent of pregnant women were underweight, and 29 per cent are overweight, which are maternal-perinatal risk factors, 60 per cent of pregnant women and 55 per cent of children under five years reported not having received nutritional interventions.<sup>664</sup>

According to the same JNA, eight per cent of children aged zero to five months were not exclusively breastfed, which is below the recommended levels.<sup>665</sup> Additionally, 15 per cent of children aged six to 23 months in-transit and four per cent in pendular movements had minimal dietary diversity, increasing their risk of nutritional deficiencies, chronic diseases, and impaired cognitive development.<sup>666</sup>

Regarding children under five years, nine per cent of those in pendular movements and three per cent of those in-transit were at risk of acute malnutrition. In 2024, among the in-destination population, the JNA did not identify any cases of acute malnutrition or risk of death from malnutrition. Overweight was more prevalent among children under five years old in-transit (13 per cent) compared to those in pendular movements (six per cent).

[662] During the JNA for populations engaging in onward, transit and pendular movements, the Food Security and Nutrition sector included a nutritional assessment module targeting pregnant women (79 groups in pendular movements and 57 in transit, with 87 and four pregnant women evaluated, respectively); and travel groups with children aged 0 to 10 years old (233 children in pendular movements and 652 in transit, with 125 and 76 children evaluated, respectively).

[663] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[664] The nutritional interventions in general are: Nutritional assessment, breastfeeding counselling, non-breastfed infant counselling, complementary feeding and nutritional counselling, micronutrient supplementation and prevention/treatment of acute malnutrition.

[665] In accordance with the recommendations set forth by the Nutrition Sector, it is advised that infants under the age of six months exclusively breastfeed.





[666] According to the Nutrition Sector, minimum dietary diversity is the percentage of children aged 6 to 23 months who, during the previous day, consumed foods and beverages from at least five of the eight defined food groups.

According to the same JNA, for those engaging in pendular movements, 45 per cent of children under five years old showed stunted growth. One third of children were at risk of stunting (33 per cent) and, nine per cent at risk of thinness. Regarding children in-transit, 25 per cent of children under five years old showed stunted growth, 19 per cent were at risk of thinness, and 11 per cent were overweight.

Among migrants and refugees in-destination, the nutritional assessment included in the JNA 2024 found that nine per cent of children aged zero to five months were not exclusively breastfed, falling below the recommended levels. Additionally, 12 per cent of children aged six to 59 months faced food insecurity. Furthermore, 12 per cent of pregnant women had not received nutritional interventions. This figure increases to 25 per cent among children aged six to 59 months.<sup>667</sup>

## PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>1.72 M</b>	<b>61.0%</b>	<b>60.4%</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>61.0%</b>	<b>61.0%</b>
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT</b>		84.6%	84.6%	84.6%	84.6%	84.6%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT</b>		90.7%	90.7%	90.7%	90.7%	90.7%
<b>PENDULAR</b>		55.4%	55.4%	55.4%	55.4%	55.4%
<b>COLOMBIAN RETURNEES</b>		31.0%	29.6%	25.6%	37.1%	42.8%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES</b>		10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

As of April 2024, 462,000<sup>668</sup> Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination in Colombia were in an irregular situation, which impacts their access to rights and essential services, including to health, education, and to regular employment.<sup>669</sup> Venezuelans with regular status also face barriers in ensuring that their rights are met: for those who have a Temporary Protection Permit (TPP) certificate in process, according to the 2024 JNA, 33 per cent reported difficulties with accessing public social services, particularly health (70 per cent), financial services (40 per cent), education (43 per cent), and justice (22 per cent). These figures underscore the

limitations they face in exercising their fundamental rights.<sup>670</sup>

To access other regularization mechanisms, such as visas, migrants and refugees incur administrative costs and require valid Venezuelan passports, which cost approximately USD 200, along with travel expenses. Due to these factors, refugees and migrants are discouraged from pursuing regularization through ordinary visa mechanisms.

The obstacles are even greater among migrants and refugees in irregular situation, who are not able to access the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) or other

[667] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), JNA for the Population In-destination, 2024.

[668] Migración Colombia, Report on Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia, May 2024, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://acortar.link/daPLdd>. In addition, 1,400 people have so far been granted refugee status, while 24,000 are registered as asylum-seekers, awaiting recognition, according to UNHCR, Country Data Centre, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/co>

[669] UNHCR, Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants, accessed August 6, 2024, <https://acortar.link/3i7Qx6>.

[670] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.



regularization pathways.<sup>671</sup> The 2024 JNA found that 45 per cent of refugees and migrants in-destination were unaware of the regularization process for children,<sup>672</sup> nine per cent had tried to obtain regularization but have faced barriers, and eight per cent indicated other reasons for not accessing regularization, such as the lack of knowledge of the process through the regularization site, the difficulty to meet the requirements of the process, such as proving residence in Colombia before 31 January 2021, the lack of identity documents, and the fear of possible expulsion from the country.

As for protection incidents that occurred to refugees and migrants in-destination, 59 per cent of households surveyed in the 2024 JNA were concerned about violence, theft, and extortion; 32 per cent about physical, psychological or verbal abuse and violence related to discrimination, and 19 per cent had their documents (IDs and other important documents) stolen, hidden or damaged.<sup>673</sup>

Moreover, 88 per cent of the refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements surveyed reported having experienced discrimination because of their nationality, eight per cent because of their age, and five per cent for other reasons, increasing the difficulty for migrants and refugees to fully enjoy their rights to a dignified life in the host communities.<sup>674</sup>

Additional elements that impact the protection environment of refugees and migrants in Colombia

include the internal armed conflict and illicit economies. The Ombudsman's Office warned of human rights violations against migrants and refugees, mainly in the border areas with Venezuela, Ecuador and in the Pacific Region.<sup>675</sup> There are barriers to the recognition of refugees and migrants as victims of armed conflict, as they need to have regular status to be included in the institutional registry of victims (RUV, for its Spanish acronym).<sup>676</sup> This requirement exacerbates the vulnerability of this population.<sup>677</sup>

Forty-six per cent of those engaging in onward and transit movements reported concerns about violence, theft, and extortion, 33 per cent about physical violence, psychological, verbal abuse and violence related to discrimination.<sup>678</sup> On the other hand, 24 per cent indicated that they would be at risk if they returned to their country of origin. Of these, 36 per cent would be at risk due to insecurity, 29 per cent to generalized violence and 23 per cent due to being unable to find a job to ensure their or their family's livelihood.

Lastly, the recent and gradual closure of assistance points and shelters has considerably exacerbated the protection risks encountered by those engaging in onward and transit movements.<sup>679</sup> In terms of legal advice, 18 per cent of respondents indicated that they needed assistance or support with legal matters, of these, 57 per cent were unable to access this orientation due to a lack of knowledge of their rights and how to access and exercise them (25 per cent).<sup>680</sup>

[671] TPS regularization cannot be obtained by migrants and refugees who entered Colombia after May 2023 nor by those who and not registered in the Single Registry for Venezuelan Migrants (RUMV for its Spanish acronym) by May 2023. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Special Administrative Unit of Migración Colombia, Resolution 971/2021 (2021), accessed August 18, 2024, <https://acortar.link/nrjy7n>.

[672] Under the TPS (Decree 216), all Venezuelan children who are in the Protection System or are enrolled in school have access to the Registry of Venezuelan Nationals (RUMV) and are eligible to obtain the TPP and therefore to be regularized.

[673] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[674] According to the National Institute of Legal Medicine, 286 Venezuelans were victims of homicide in 2023; as of April 2024, 123 had been cases reported. Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forenses, Lesiones Fatales de Ciudadanos Venezolanos en Colombia, accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.medicinalegal.gov.co/lesiones-fatales-de-ciudadanos-venezolanos-en-colombia>.

[675] Between June 2023 and May 2024, the Ombudsman's Office issued 13 early imminent warnings (ATI by its Spanish acronym), underscoring risks linked to the presence of, or disputes for control between armed actors, actions of organized crime, selective homicides associated with recruitment practices and even xenophobic discourse endorsed by these groups. Colombian Ombudsman's Office, Early Warnings (2024), <https://acortar.link/OliMI>

[676] The Single Registry of Victims (RUV) is an official database used to identify, register, and recognize individuals and communities who have been victims of various forms of violence, including forced displacement, sexual violence, land dispossession, homicides, kidnappings, and other violent situations within the framework of the armed conflict since January 1, 1985. About these risks see Colombian Ombudsman's Office, Alerta: Aumento de Riesgos para Migrantes Irregulares (2024), <https://www.procuraduria.gov.co/Pages/alerta-aumento-riesgos-migrantes-irregulares.asp>

[677] The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that refugees and migrants from Venezuela were affected by the armed conflict in 747 municipalities across 31 Colombian departments in 2023. The departments with the highest rate of affected refugees and migrants were Arauca, Putumayo, La Guajira, Córdoba and Norte de Santander.

[678] Out of those surveyed, 39% reported having been discriminated against, 79% attributed it to their nationality.

[679] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Situation Report: Temporary Shelter Response (April 2024), <https://acortar.link/jfPnuq>.

[680] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

Based on the above and the results of the JNA, it can be concluded that the primary needs of the population engaged in onward and transit movements include ensuring safety during their journeys, access to information and guidance regarding protection risks and available services, as well as protection

against discrimination. Conversely, the population in-destination requires regularization mechanisms to facilitate socio-economic integration, protection against risks associated with internal armed conflict, and the opportunity to access available protection routes without discrimination.

## CHILD PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		GENDER			
	Total	Percentage	Male	Female	Male	Female
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	302.6 K	10.8%	-	-	38.2%	38.2%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		9.4%	-	-	47.6%	47.6%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		6.0%	-	-	34.0%	34.0%
PENDULAR		6.9%	-	-	31.8%	31.8%
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		4.5%	-	-	15.0%	17.2%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		1.1%	-	-	4.0%	4.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to *Migración Colombia*, as of May 2024,<sup>681</sup> there were 790,100 migrant and refugee children from Venezuela in Colombia. These children are disproportionately vulnerable to various forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation. Children in-transit, and particularly UASC, are exposed to risks such as family separation, trafficking, GBV,<sup>682</sup> and recruitment by non-state armed groups.<sup>683</sup>

The Colombia’s Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF, for its Spanish acronym) assisted 3,221 refugee and migrant children in 2023 through administrative processes for

the restoration of rights due to omission or negligence by their guardian, sexual violence and homelessness.<sup>684</sup> From January to June 2024, 1,449 children were admitted to the national child protection system (PARD), maintaining the trend of recent years.<sup>685</sup> According to the 2024 JNA for those in-destination, among households aware of risk situations affecting migrant and refugee children, 50 per cent cited family separation, 35 per cent mentioned cases of violence (physical, sexual, emotional), and 16 per cent highlighted incidents of discrimination or exclusion. In 2023, 1,936 cases of UASC were reported<sup>686</sup> in the departments of Antioquia,

[681] *Migración Colombia*, Report on Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia (May 2024), <https://acortar.link/daPLdd>.

[682] Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Quarterly Report: October - December 2023 (drc.ngo, consulted August 7, 2024), <https://pro.drc.ngo/media/gvxg4xqi/col-informe-trimestral-oct-dic-2023-esp.pdf>.

[683] UN Secretary-General, Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Colombia (S/2024/161, 2024), <https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/los-ninos-y-el-conflicto-armado-en-colombia-informe-del-secretario-general-s2024161> (consulted August 7, 2024).

[684] Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, INGRESOS\_PARD | Tableau Public, <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/anal.tica.institucional.icbf/viz/TableroDatosAbiertosICBF/DashboardDatosAbierto>

[685] 3,609 refugee and migrant children were admitted to the national child protection system in 2021, 3,322 in 2022, and 3,221 in 2023.

[686] In 2022, R4V partners identified 3,786 cases of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). In 2023, the number of partners decreased, which impacted the monitoring of this risk on the ground. Despite this, partners in 2023 continue to emphasize the ongoing risk in specific geographic areas, particularly along border regions

Arauca, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Santander.<sup>687</sup> Out of these cases, the authorities assisted 132 UASC under the social protection system.<sup>688</sup>

For refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements, those who were aware of risk situations affecting migrant and refugee children, 34 per cent identified children sleeping on the streets and 17 per cent children facing dangerous crossing on the route. According to the 2024 JNA for this population, 20 per cent of those surveyed indicated that children suffered from negative emotional states. Eight per cent reported having witnessed children at risk of child labour and discrimination, and 24 per cent said they were unaware of any children receiving any kind of service or assistance. Also, girls and adolescents face differential risks in their transit, 32 per cent of the people surveyed on the route mentioned that the risks of GBV occur on adolescents and another eight per cent on girls.<sup>689</sup> Among the those engaging in onward and transit movements traveling with children, 69 per cent reported not having received assistance for their children. Furthermore, 23 per cent of travel groups observed UASC during their journey.

As of May 2024, 857,171 refugee and migrant children from Venezuela had applied for the TPS.<sup>690</sup> Additionally, to protect Venezuelan children from statelessness, the

government has implemented the *Children First* policy through the National Civil Registry, allowing children born in Colombia since 2015 to Venezuelan parents be able to acquire the Colombian nationality.<sup>691</sup>

Despite access to the TPS, children face barriers to accessing social services that guarantee their rights. These barriers stem from a lack of awareness about the benefits of regularization. Additionally, although Colombia has been widely praised for its policies to protect children from irregular status (ensuring that all children enrolled in school and those in the protection system have the right to be regularized<sup>692</sup>), there are still families with parents and caregivers who remain in an irregular situation. This situation impacts directly on the children's integration process.

Migrant and refugee children also face risks related to the impact of the armed conflict in Colombia. The UN Secretary-General's Report on Children and Armed Conflict indicates that 23 Venezuelan and Ecuadorian children suffered serious violations between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023.<sup>693</sup> In addition, a report from a civil society organization<sup>694</sup> notes 31 cases of survivors of forced recruitment, including Venezuelan and Colombian-Venezuelan nationals in 2024 – a 158 per cent increase from those reported in 2022.

[687] Identification of UASC conducted by GIFMM partners, 2023.

[688] Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF), Report on Children Admitted to the Administrative Processes for the Restoration of Rights (2024), <https://acortar.link/KWXFT>

[689] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[690] Migración Colombia, Temporary Protection Status (2023), <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/migraci.n.colombia/viz/EstatutoTemporaldeProteccion-Prerregistros/Pre-registrosPublic>.

[691] Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Primero la Niñez* (consulted August 7, 2024), <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/primero-la-ninez>.





[692] Colombian Department of Public Function, Ley 1976 de 2019 (consulted August 7, 2024), <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=159606>.

[693] UN Secretary-General, Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Colombia (S/2024/161, 2024), <https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/los-ninos-y-el-conflicto-armado-en-colombia-informe-del-secretario-general-s2024161> (consulted August 7, 2024).

[694] Coalition Against the Involvement of Children and Young People in the Armed Conflict in Colombia (COLIACO), ONCA Bulletin No. 30: Niñez y Conflicto Armado en Colombia (2024), <https://coalico.org/publicaciones/boletin-onca/boletin-de-monitoreo-n-30-ninez-y-conflicto-armado-en-colombia/>.

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	1.26 M	44.9%	37.0%	59.4%	17.3%	55.4%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		55.2%	41.8%	76.7%	40.0%	74.2%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		63.3%	50.5%	92.7%	48.5%	92.7%
PENDULAR		23.3%	17.3%	21.8%	38.9%	34.8%
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		19.9%	14.9%	22.2%	13.7%	32.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		8.0%	5.9%	9.0%	5.5%	12.8%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrant women in-transit, in pendular movements and in-destination<sup>695</sup> in Colombia face significant risks of suffering GBV.<sup>696</sup> They are exposed to organized criminal groups and sexual violence. An eight per cent increase was registered in cases of physical violence against Venezuelan migrant and refugee women in 2023 compared to the previous year (3,806 vs 3,586). Psychological violence had the highest percentual increase (475 vs 411), followed by sexual violence, (2,467 vs 2,160).<sup>697, 698</sup> The main needs of these populations, according to 2024 JNA findings, are access to services from institutions responsible for prevention, response, and protection against GBV with a differential approach and free from xenophobia; safe spaces and case management for GBV survivors; and empowerment of women, including economic autonomy and promotion of cultural transformations, including new masculinities.

According to the 2024 JNA, 21 per cent of women engaging in onward, transit and pendular movements feel unsafe regarding the risk of suffering GBV, and nine per cent feel very unsafe. Meanwhile, for women in-destination, four per cent feel very unsafe, nine per cent feel unsafe, and 20 per cent feel neither safe nor unsafe). Six per cent of refugee and migrant women in-destination considered GBV their main safety concern at home,<sup>699</sup> while nine per cent report avoiding certain places due to the risks of GBV. The locations where they feel the most unsafe include social areas, on the way to or at school, and at home.

According to the JNA, nearly eight percent of the migrants and refugees in-destination stated that they were aware of cases of psychological abuse, while six percent were aware of cases of domestic violence. A majority (80 per cent) reported they did not know assistance was available in the event of GBV. Regarding

[695] 51% of the population in-destination and 30% of the population in-transit are women. Migración Colombia, Report on Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia (March 2024), <https://acortar.link/tcejps>.

[696] Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Risk and Needs Analysis of GBV Executive Report (December 2023), <https://pro.drc.ngo/media/1mxnxvgd/col-informe-ejecutivo-analisis-de-riesgos-y-necesidades-de-vbg-dic-2023-esp.pdf>.

[697] National Institute of Health (INS), Dashboard: Gender and Domestic Violence Event and Chemical Attacks, <https://bit.ly/3Mrpe83>

[698] Integrated System of Information on Gender Violence (SIVIGE), Cases of Gender-Based Violence Reported to the Public Health Surveillance System (2024), <https://www.sispro.gov.co/observatorios/onviolenciasgenero/Paginas/home.asp>

[699] The JNA question considers GBV as situations of physical, psychological, or verbal abuse and/or violence related to discrimination.

those engaging in transit and onward movements, 12 per cent reported being aware of cases of psychological abuse, and eight per cent of cases of domestic violence. For this population, girls and adolescents are especially vulnerable to abuse and unwanted pregnancies.<sup>700</sup>

Between 2023 and 2024 there was an increase in GBV cases including sexual-/ intimate-partner and psychological violence against refugee and migrant women and girls, both in-transit and in pendular movement, driven by an increase in criminality and a lack of access to services, such as (physical and mental) health, protection and justice as well as preventive

information focused on survivors<sup>701</sup>. Meanwhile, migrant and refugee women in-destination suffered on average nine per cent greater economic or intimate partner/ex-partner violence because of deteriorating living conditions and limited institutional response.<sup>702</sup>

Among refugees and migrants engaging in onward, transit and pendular movements, pregnant women, female-headed households, and persons with disabilities are more likely to face GBV risks. It is important to mention that eight per cent of the LGBTQI+ people surveyed also reported having experienced GBV.<sup>703</sup>

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



	PEOPLE IN NEED				
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	1.04 M	37.0%	37.0%	37.1%	37.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		41.2%	41.2%	41.2%	41.2%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		41.3%	41.3%	41.3%	41.3%
PENDULAR		26.2%	26.2%	26.2%	26.2%
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		6.0%	5.7%	4.9%	7.1%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to the Human Trafficking Crime Observatory of the Ministry of Interior, in 2023, Colombia registered a significant increase in human trafficking cases, reporting some 264 cases, a 164 per cent increase

compared to 2022.<sup>704</sup> This rise is not only indicative of an increase in the crime, but also of improved identification and referral of cases by authorities. This situation is especially alarming for Venezuelan migrants and

[700] 70% of cases of sexual violence corresponded to this population group (up to 18 years old) and there were 42 births (1.3%) of girls aged ten to 14 years. Cúcuta, Maicao and Saravena were the cities with the highest frequency of cases. Integrated System of Information on Migration and Health (SISPRO), National Observatory on Migration and Health (consulted 7 August, 2024), <https://www.sispro.gov.co/observatorios/onmigracionysalud/Paginas/Observatorio-Nacional-de-Migracion-y-Salud.aspx>.

[701] "La violencia contra las mujeres pasa por un nuevo pico en Colombia," El País, July 18, 2024, <https://elpais.com/america-colombia/2024-07-18/la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-pasa-por-un-nuevo-pico-en-colombia.html>. "Darién: Aumento de la brutalidad contra migrantes," Médicos Sin Fronteras, August 28, 2024, <https://www.msf.org.co/actualidad/darien-aumento-de-la-brutalidad-contra-migrantes/>.

[702] This document highlights the major obstacles to women's access to livelihoods. R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Desafíos y Oportunidades: Reporte Sobre la Situación de Hogares con Jefatura (Red de Soluciones para los Refugiados y Migrantes en América Latina, 2024), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-desafios-y-oportunidades-reportesobre-la-situacion-de-hogares-con-jefatura>.

[703] DRC, Situación de protección de personas con orientación sexual, identidad y expresión de género diversa (OSIEGD), (August 2023). [https://pro.drc.ngo/media/j4tfc3u5/col-informe-tem%C3%A1ti\\_co-situaci%C3%B3n-de-protecci%C3%B3n-de-personas-osiegd-agosto-2023-esp.pdf](https://pro.drc.ngo/media/j4tfc3u5/col-informe-tem%C3%A1ti_co-situaci%C3%B3n-de-protecci%C3%B3n-de-personas-osiegd-agosto-2023-esp.pdf).

[704] Office of the Attorney General, Bulletin 268-2024 (March 2024), <https://acortar.link/WVQr7S>.

refugees, who represent 33 per cent of the victims.<sup>705</sup> Armed conflict dynamics and the growth of criminal networks have exacerbated the risks for refugees and migrants in-destination and for those having to engage in onward and transit movements. Along Colombia's border with Panama, organized criminal groups impose restrictions on mobility, threats and other forms of coercion, thus increasing the vulnerability of affected populations.<sup>706</sup>

The main needs identified for refugees and migrants in relation to human trafficking and smuggling are prevention and assistance, with access to a timely response, provision of comprehensive and coordinated support and assistance to the victims, and increased security in border areas and territories with the presence of criminal networks. Furthermore, there is a need to access information on human trafficking and migrant smuggling to mitigate the risks associated with mobility, to recognize and avoid situations of vulnerability and to find assistance if needed.

The presence of organized armed groups increases human trafficking risks, particularly for sexual and labour exploitation, in areas such as Necoclí and Acandí. This is due to the presence of illegal armed groups and organized crime networks exerting effective control; consolidation of illicit economies (smuggling, drug trafficking, and human trafficking); limited institutional response in assistance and protection due to low operational and technical capacity; transformation of local economies with impacts on living costs (prices); among other factors.<sup>707</sup> *Migración Colombia's* report from 15 July 2024 on irregular movements, established that 55 per cent of the exits towards North and Central America come from Venezuela, and 44 per cent from

Nariño, routes that have smuggling networks present at their border areas such as Norte de Santander and Nariño. In 2023, more than 520,085 people departed from Necoclí and Turbo to Panama, a significant increase compared to 2022.<sup>708</sup> This significant increase reveals the existence of criminal structures that facilitate human trafficking and smuggling.

The JNA 2024 identified that five per cent of Venezuelan migrants and refugees engaging in onward, transit and pendular movement knew someone whose documents were destroyed or confiscated. This is a common practice used by criminal networks to gain control over populations in vulnerable situations. In addition, two per cent knew someone who had been forced to work without pay during their journey,<sup>709</sup> suggesting possible cases of human trafficking for forced labour in sectors such as coca leaf harvesting and illegal mining in border areas.<sup>710</sup> Moreover, 23 per cent of respondents reported encountering UASC along their route. This situation is alarming as these children are in a highly vulnerable situation and are at a significant risk of becoming victims of trafficking. The lack of protection and assistance exposes them to various forms of exploitation, abuse, and violence.

Moreover, the JNA 2024 identified that about five per cent of respondents reported having been held against their will by an entity other than the Colombian authorities during their journey, a common practice used by traffickers and criminal groups to subdue their victims.<sup>711</sup> In addition, nine per cent reported being deceived or manipulated into migrating under false promises, further highlighting the vulnerability of refugees and migrants to recruitment tactics used by traffickers.

[705] Ministry of the Interior, Human Trafficking Crime Observatory (2024), <https://acortar.link/N2oJR4>.

[706] Ombudsman's Office, *The Contrasts of Humanitarian Reality* (2024), <https://acortar.link/naw7xy>.

[707] Office of the Attorney General, *Trata de Personas, Microtráfico y Abandono Estatal: Problemas que Afrontan los "Caminantes" en Cúcuta y el Tapón del Darién* (consulted 7 August, 2024), <https://www.procuraduria.gov.c>

[708] Ombudsman's Office, *Más de 520.000 Personas Migrantes Atravesaron la Selva del Darién en el 2023* (consulted August 7, 2024), <https://n9.cl/4us6y>





[709] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[710] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Risks and Effects of the Double Impact and Organized Crime on Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants* (February 2023), <https://www.r4v.info/es/riesgos-doble-afectacion>.

[711] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

# SHELTER



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
	1.88 M	66.9%	66.7%	67.3%	68.5%	68.6%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION						
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		88.1%	88.1%	88.1%	88.1%	88.1%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		83.3%	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%
PENDULAR		15.6%	15.6%	15.6%	15.6%	15.6%
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		28.0%	26.7%	23.1%	33.5%	38.7%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Access to timely, dignified, affordable and safe shelter is one of the main needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination as well as refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements, regardless of their nationality, Colombian returnees and affected host communities.

In terms of housing tenure, according to the 2024 JNA for migrants and refugees in-destination, 70 per cent of Venezuelan households have verbal and informal rental contracts, and four per cent resort to living with relatives or friends. Verbal and informal rental agreements are often an alternative for refugees and migrants who do not have the necessary documentation to have a formal contract. This increases the risk of eviction, as landlords can order them to leave at any time. Among the households surveyed, 18 per cent had experienced eviction or considered they were at risk of eviction in the three months prior to being interviewed. The main reason cited for possible evictions was lack of money to pay rents (83 per cent). To a lesser extent, the risk of eviction has been due to xenophobia or discrimination of the host community (six per cent), and for being located in areas of high risk of landslides, flooding, or occupation of natural reserve zones (five per cent).<sup>712</sup>

According to the JNA for refugees and migrants in-destination, 22 per cent of Venezuelan households

interviewed live in shared accommodation, and six per cent live in temporary collective shelters, makeshift shelters, and daily paid rentals. Three out of ten households, among the entire refugee and migrant population interviewed, live in overcrowded conditions (three or more people sleeping in the same room), which directly impacts their quality of life, health, and well-being.<sup>713</sup> This implies a lack of privacy in the household setting and higher risks of suffering GBV, aggression and domestic violence, theft and, therefore, poor rooting in the places of destination and difficulty in integrating into the community.

The JNA found that 36 per cent of Venezuelan households reported that their housing conditions were inadequate, mainly due to poor infrastructure (four out of ten of those who reported being in inadequate housing) and insecurity (three out of ten of those who reported being in inadequate housing). In addition, the rest of the respondents felt that their housing was inadequate as they consider there is not enough privacy, or they live in an area exposed to the risk of natural disasters, or due to the hygienic conditions surrounding them. According to the JNA, 37 per cent of surveyed households in-destination lack access to at least one public service, including natural gas, electricity, sewage systems, reliable water supply or waste collection.<sup>714</sup>

[712] *Ibid.*

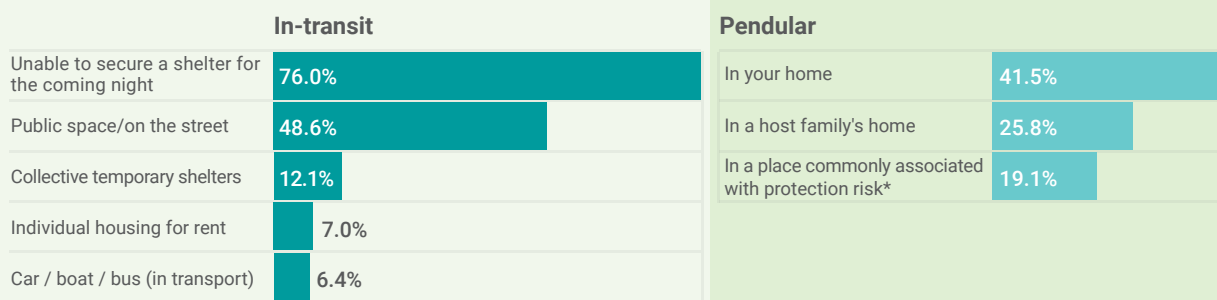
[713] *Ibid.*

[714] *Ibid.*

Due to a lack of resources, most Venezuelan households cannot afford essential household and clothing items. Regarding the population in-destination, 45 per cent lacks bedding and essential clothing items and 51 per cent lacks items for cooking, consuming and storing food. As for the migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements, the JNA found that the items travel groups require most comprise clothing, including weather protective clothing (57 per cent), shoes (50 per cent), items such as thermal blankets, sleeping bags, quilts and sleeping mats (53 per cent);

items to provide sustainable artificial lighting to ensure personal security - lanterns, candles, torches and lamps - (39 per cent); and backpacks (33 per cent).<sup>715</sup> According to the JNA, 24 per cent of this population stated that their main need was housing support or access to temporary shelter solutions. In addition, 49 per cent of travel groups reported that they had slept on the streets or in public areas, mainly in Santander, Valle del Cauca, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Antioquia, Bogotá and Arauca.<sup>716</sup>

### TYPE OF SHELTER USED BY REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



\* For example: improvised housing with weak infrastructure.

Source: R4V Colombia (GIFMM). Joint Characterization of Mixed Movements, May 2024.







[715] Ibid.

[716] Ibid.



## WASH



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
	1.01 M	35.8%	35.4%	35.8%	37.3%	37.3%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION						
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		87.9%	87.9%	87.9%	87.9%	87.9%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		90.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%
PENDULAR		64.9%	64.9%	64.9%	64.9%	64.9%
COLOMBIAN RETURNEES		20.0%	19.1%	16.5%	23.9%	27.8%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to the 2024 JNA for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination,<sup>717</sup> 19 per cent of the surveyed households use water supply methods without pre-treatment or disinfection, or those that are difficult to access due to cost or availability. Of these, 14 per cent are refugee and migrant households in situation of high vulnerability (makeshift housing, daily rental, in situations of homelessness, and others). In comparison, the average number of households in Colombia with access to unimproved water sources is 14 per cent.<sup>718</sup>

Regarding the quantity of available water, 10 per cent of the surveyed households reported insufficient water to meet their needs.<sup>719</sup> Additionally, 29 per cent of households expressed concerns about the quality and quantity of water, particularly those in makeshift housing (15 per cent), foster families (17 per cent), and daily rentals (19 per cent), who have reported water-borne illnesses. Furthermore, 14 per cent of the surveyed households reported restrictions in service continuity.<sup>720</sup>

In terms of sanitation, the JNA 2024<sup>721</sup> indicates that 97 per cent of households have toilets connected to sewage systems or septic tanks. However, 22 per cent of these households share their toilets with other households. Additionally, 14 per cent lack formal solid waste collection services, and 24 per cent of migrant and refugee families are concerned about living in an unhealthy environment, due to accumulated solid waste and stagnant water.

Regarding hygiene, 30 per cent of households indicate the high prices of hygiene supplies as the main access barrier, restricting at least 13 per cent of households from performing safe handwashing. In addition, eight per cent of households with menstruating members reported that they did not have access to safe menstrual management supplies.

The JNA for populations in-transit and in pendular movements estimates that only one in two people have sufficient access to drinking water.<sup>722</sup> Bottled water is the main source of water for those engaging

[717] *Ibid.*

[718] National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), National Population and Housing Census (2018) regarding unimproved water sources for the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Atlántico, Bogotá, Bolívar, Cesar, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, Magdalena, Norte de Santander, Santander, and Valle del Cauca.

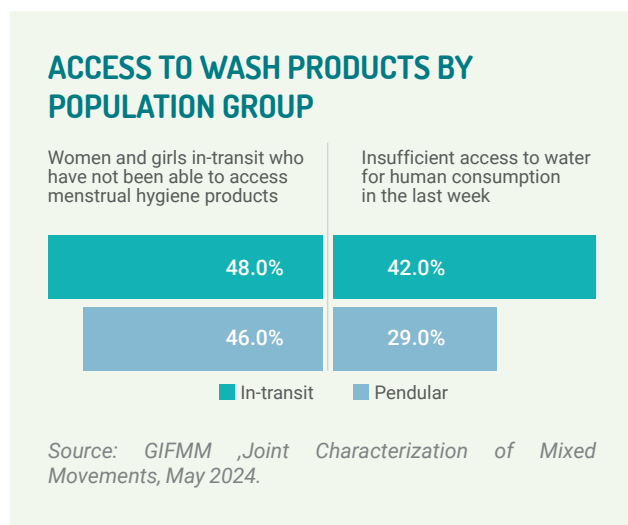
[719] R4V Colombia (GIFMM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[720] *Ibid.*

[721] *Ibid.*

[722] *Ibid.*

in transit and onward movements (37 per cent), and for those in pendular movements between Colombia and Venezuela (61 per cent).



In terms of sanitation, the JNA identifies high costs of services (58 per cent), availability (37 per cent) and quality (12 per cent) as the main barriers to accessing sanitation services. The cost barrier was especially

prevalent in Darien, while the availability barrier was more predominant in Nariño. The main modalities of access to sanitation include paid services in commercial establishments and households.

Unsafe practices such as open defecation are related to infectious outbreaks and expose people, especially women, to a higher risk of GBV. According to the JNA 2024, open defecation is a common practice among adolescent girls (18 per cent) and children (17 per cent) during their transit, particularly in Norte de Santander.

Regarding hygiene, access to showers is limited, with 19 per cent of migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements using rivers or lakes for body washing. This practice is most common in Valle del Cauca and Santander, compared to alternatives like paid or borrowed showers in homes or businesses. Access to personal hygiene products is limited due to their costs, including soap (67 per cent), toilet paper (58 per cent), and oral hygiene products (59 per cent). Adolescent and young women also face challenges in obtaining menstrual management products (54 per cent).<sup>723</sup>

[723] *Ibid.*

# ECUADOR



# ECUADOR AT A GLANCE

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION

**59.5% • 264.6 K**

VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT

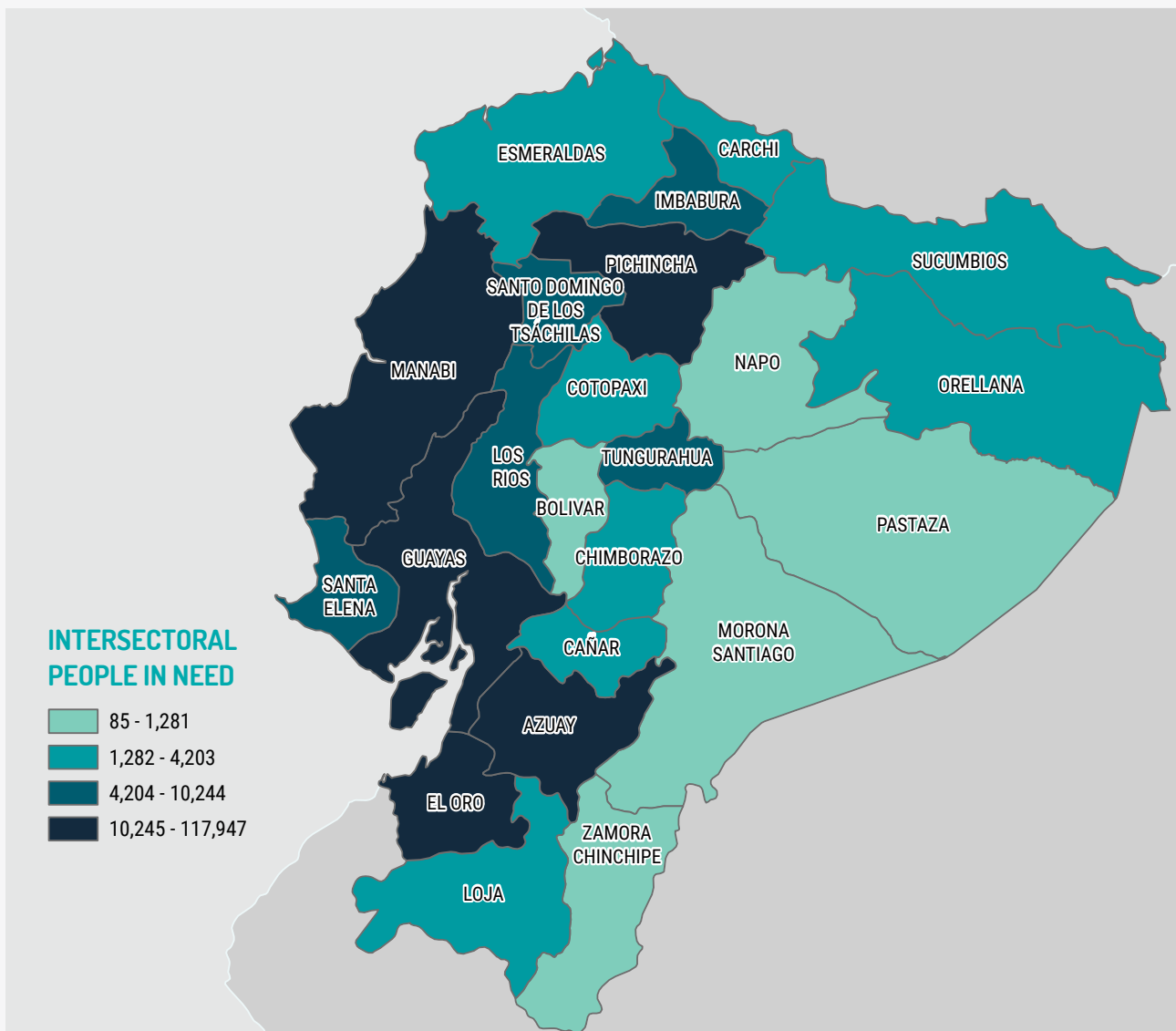
**95.2%**

OTHERS IN-TRANSIT

**82.0%**

AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES

**56.5%**



## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN
 WOMEN
 BOYS
 GIRLS














**29.3%**

**34.7%**

**20.4%**

**15.6%**

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

SECTOR		PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
		VENEZUELANOS IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
				VENEZUELANOS	OTHERS	
	INTERSECTOR	59.5%	264.6 K	95.2%	82.0%	56.5%
	EDUCATION	18.0%	80.2 K	15.0%	8.4%	5.5%
	FOOD SECURITY	27.1%	120.5 K	90.2%	77.2%	14.2%
	HEALTH	58.0%	258.0 K	46.4%	32.0%	21.8%
	HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	10.8%	48.0 K	93.4%	80.9%	-
	INTEGRATION	59.5%	264.6 K	74.8%	56.2%	55.0%
	NUTRITION	11.2%	49.8 K	19.4%	9.1%	6.1%
	PROTECTION	58.9%	262.0 K	89.2%	71.8%	49.8%
	CHILD PROTECTION	18.4%	81.6 K	27.5%	8.9%	18.2%
	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	25.8%	114.8 K	24.3%	19.9%	25.3%
	HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	10.6%	47.1 K	60.2%	18.3%	2.3%
	SHELTER	58.9%	262.0 K	95.2%	82.0%	14.6%
	WASH	41.3%	183.7 K	79.1%	69.4%	32.2%

## ECUADOR: COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The 2024 Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) in Ecuador was implemented during an "internal armed conflict" declared by the Government in January 2024, with states of emergency extended in provinces with the greatest concentrations of refugees and migrants. Despite security and logistical challenges, R4V partners conducted in-person interviews for the first time as part of the sixth JNA in Ecuador with both in-destination<sup>724</sup> and in-transit populations.<sup>725</sup>

For the in-destination population, 3,047 households with at least one Venezuelan member were interviewed in the ten provinces where over 90 per cent of the Venezuelan population lives.<sup>726</sup> The sampling methodology, based on the 2022 National Census, was proportionate and representative of the Venezuelan population in Ecuador,<sup>727</sup> allowing the results to be extrapolated to the broader Venezuelan population in Ecuador.

Thirty-three per cent of the surveyed in-destination population had been in the country for less than two years; 38 per cent between two and five years; and 29 per cent for over five years. Over half of the Venezuelan households (51 per cent) were headed by women and 49 per cent by men. The average household size was three people. Sixty-one per cent of households included children under 18, and 23 per cent included Ecuadorian children. One in every three household members was a

child,<sup>728</sup> and five per cent of children were identified as UASC. Regarding other groups with special needs, five per cent of households included elderly persons (over 65); 12 per cent people with a disability; 22 per cent chronic medical needs; six per cent pregnant women and ten per cent lactating women; and two per cent of all individuals identified themselves as LGBTQI+.

For the in-transit population, R4V partners interviewed 872 travel groups in Tulcán and Lago Agrio (north) and Huaquillas (south). Some 70 per cent of interviewees were from Venezuela, 28 per cent from Colombia and two per cent were mixed or other nationals.

According to the JNA, over 96 per cent of Venezuelan households planned to stay in Ecuador.<sup>729</sup> Beyond the specific sectoral needs discussed in the following chapters, three overarching needs drive refugees' and migrants' decisions to remain or relocate in (or leave) Ecuador: **labour and employment / livelihoods opportunities, family reunification, and security and stability** (or the prevalence of violence and insecurity).<sup>730</sup> Of those planning to leave the country, the main motivations were employment opportunities elsewhere (50 per cent), family reunification (43 per cent), the lack of employment / livelihoods in Ecuador (38 per cent), and violence and insecurity (21 per cent).<sup>731</sup>

[724] The GTRM (the national R4V Platform in Ecuador) together with the financial support of four partner organizations (IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP) contracted the polling firm Opinión Pública Ecuador, which carried out the in-person interviews with the population in-destination for the 2024 JNA in April and May 2024.

[725] Eighty interviewers from 26 R4V partner organizations in Ecuador conducted in-person interviews with the in-transit population JNA in May 2024. Participating organizations included AVSI, ACNUDH, ACNUR, ADRA, Alas de Colibrí, Aldeas Infantiles SOS, AMOR, Cáritas Ecuador, CDH, COOPI, Cruz Roja Ecuatoriana, FHISI, FOVSA, FUDELA, HIAS, NRC, OIM, PLAPERTS, PMA, SJR Ecuador, UNICEF, GIZ, IRC, CISP, UNESCO, and Diálogo Diverso.

[726] Azuay, El Oro, Guayas, Imbabura, Los Ríos, Manabí, Pichincha, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo and Tungurahua.

[727] According to the GTRM Ecuador sampling methodology, the JNA survey has a 95% confidence interval and a 1.6% national margin of error.

[728] Similarly, according to the 2024 JNA in-transit, 29% of migrants and refugees in-transit were children.

[729] 93.7% of the Venezuelan households planned to remain in the country, 2% planned to relocate within Ecuador, 2.2% planned to leave the country and 2.4% were unsure or did not respond.

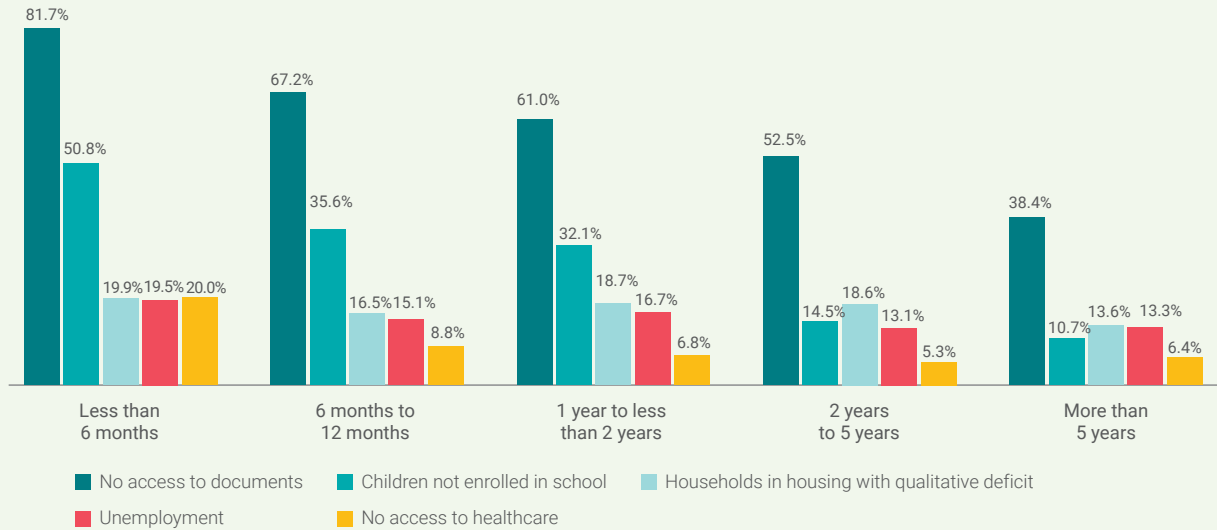
[730] Overall, 55% of Venezuelans said insecurity had worsened over the past 12 months where they lived (with 72% in Manabí saying the situation had worsened – the highest rate).

[731] Among households who planned to relocate within Ecuador, top reasons were employment opportunities elsewhere (69.5%), a lack of employment or livelihoods opportunities in their current city of residence (23.3%), family reunification (19%), and violence and insecurity (18.2%). Both questions permitted multiple responses, so they do not add up to 100%.

Other cross-cutting factors affecting needs include the **length of time in the country**: those having recently arrived in-destination and those in-transit have greater **humanitarian and protection needs**, while those in the country for longer than two years need **support for local integration**.

Finally, **regularization and documentation** are cross-cutting needs: the JNA identified that only 30 per cent of Venezuelans in Ecuador have regular status, while 70 per cent are in an irregular situation.<sup>732</sup> Several sectoral needs are greater among the population in an irregular situation.

### ACCESS TO SERVICES AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS BY LENGTH OF RESIDENCE AMONG VENEZUELAN IN ECUADOR







Source: R4V Ecuador (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) (July 2024)

[732] Between June 2023 and May 2024, the Ombudsman’s Office issued 13 early imminent warnings (ATI by its Spanish acronym), underscoring risks linked to the presence of, or disputes for control between armed actors, actions of organized crime, selective homicides associated with recruitment practices and even xenophobic discourse endorsed by these groups. Colombian Ombudsman’s Office, Early Warnings (2024), <https://acortar.link/OliMIln>.

# EDUCATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		 		 	
	Count	Percentage	Male	Female	Male	Female
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	80.2 K	18.0%	-	-	50.1%	50.1%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		15.0%	-	-	44.2%	44.2%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		8.4%	-	-	49.2%	49.2%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		5.5%	-	-	15.8%	15.8%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

The Ecuadorian state has implemented important actions to promote the inclusion of migrants and refugees in the educational system, such as Ministerial Agreement 0064-A.<sup>733</sup> That notwithstanding, refugee and migrant children continue facing barriers accessing education.

In Ecuador, the number of Venezuelan migrant and refugee children enrolled in the educational system<sup>734</sup> has decreased annually since the 2021-2022 school year, with 60,146 students enrolled, to 55,759 in 2022-2023, and 53,013 in 2023-2024.<sup>735</sup> This decline has occurred simultaneously with a reduction in the overall population of Venezuelans in Ecuador over the past two years.<sup>736</sup> Meanwhile, according to the JNA, 19 per cent of Venezuelan children are not enrolled in schools. This percentage increases to 38 per cent of the Venezuelan population residing in Ecuador for less than two years. Out-of-school children are exposed to

greater protection risks, including violence, child labour and begging.

The JNA results show that the four main reasons<sup>737</sup> for non-enrolment of children aged five to 17 are insufficient enrolment quotas (26 per cent), lack of information about admissions procedures (20 per cent), inability to pay for tuition costs and educational materials (24 per cent) and lack of documents for registration (20 per cent). Some 17 per cent of families mention other reasons, including lack of interest, recent arrival, change of residence and insecurity, among others.

The families surveyed indicate that approximately 60 per cent attend school five days a week (regular attendance); however, among families in the country for less than two years, six per cent of children and adolescents do not attend classes at all, despite being enrolled.<sup>738</sup>

[733] As of October 2023, Ministerial Agreement Nro. MINEDUC-MINEDUC-2023-00064-A replaced Ministerial Agreement 00026-A (which had been in force since May 2021). Ministry of Education, Resolución Ministerial No. MINEDUC-MINEDUC-2023-00064-A (October 2023), <https://educacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2023/10/MINEDUC-MINEDUC-2023-00064-A.pdf>. Agreement 00064-A guarantees the socio-educational inclusion of children with priority attention to those who are in a vulnerable situation (including refugees and migrants) through comprehensive care, socio-emotional support, psychosocial care and academic levelling.

[734] Taken from the administrative records of the Ministry of Education. Ministry of Education, Datos Abiertos (consulted 7 August 2024), <https://educacion.gob.ec/datos-abiertos/>.

[735] According to the Ministry of Education, 91% of these children are enrolled in the country's public school system.

[736] The number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Ecuador has decreased from 513.9K in May 2022, to 444.8K in May 2024. See R4V, Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (accessed 23 July, 2024), <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrant>

[737] The main reasons for non-enrolment vary by province: for example, in Guayas, Imbabura and Tungurahua, it is the shortage of places in the educational system; in Azuay and Pichincha, it is the lack of information; and in Los Ríos, Manabí, Santo Domingo and Santa Elena, it is the lack of documents required for registration.

[738] The main reasons given for children not attending classes regularly (either from 0 to 4 days a week) include: i) 34% lack of resources for school expenses; ii) 11%, lack of school uniforms; iii) 10% serious illness or accident of a household member; and iv) 9.2% lack of places at school (some children are enrolled in the levelling process before they are enrolled in the educational system, while they continue to wait for a place to attend school).







Some 37 per cent of Venezuelan households indicate having incurred in education-related expenses in the 30 days prior to being interviewed, with 10 per cent of those households spending between 50 to 100 USD on monthly education expenses. This is significant given that a lack of resources can lead to absenteeism and eventually to students dropping out of school.

In conclusion, in addition to previously identified barriers that hinder the implementation of public policies to promote refugee and migrant children’s school enrolment and retention – such as local educational

staff’s lack of knowledge regarding policy, inability to reach the refugee and migrant population with key information, xenophobia and insecurity in school environments – the JNA identified further challenges. These included a lack of available places in educational institutions (particularly in Guayas, Imbabura and Tungurahua), households’ limited economic resources to cover education costs, lack of information about enrolment processes and regulations, difficulties related to documentation and illness or injury of family members. These factors negatively impact educational inclusion for migrants and refugees in Ecuador.

## FOOD SECURITY



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>120.5 K</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT</b>		90.2%	90.2%	90.2%	90.2%	90.2%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT</b>		77.2%	77.2%	77.2%	77.2%	77.2%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES</b>		14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Food insecurity persists as a key concern for refugees and migrants in Ecuador, particularly for those in-transit and those having arrived in-destination within the last year. According to the 2024 JNA, 25 per cent of Venezuelan households in Ecuador<sup>739</sup> suffer from food insecurity (moderate and severe). Meanwhile, according to the JNA with the population in-transit, 89 per cent of migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements in Ecuador suffer from food insecurity (moderate and severe), with food being one of their greatest and most urgent humanitarian needs.

This is complemented by data from an R4V partner’s 2024 assessment<sup>740</sup> that identified 59 per cent of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in Ecuador for less than one year as food insecure (moderate and

severe). This same assessment found greater food insecurity in households with vulnerable profiles, such as households with a member suffering from a chronic illness or disability (64 per cent), children aged 3 to 5 years (63 per cent) and pregnant women (62 per cent). This situation forces a greater proportion of migrant and refugee households to adopt coping strategies to ensure their access to food. For example, according to the JNA, five in ten households in-destination have had to spend their savings to buy food, and six in ten people in-transit resort to donations, begging, or alms on the streets.

Also, according to the JNA, Venezuelan households in Ecuador report having spent an average of USD 171 on food during the month prior to the survey, far below the

[739] Including all Venezuelan households surveyed through the JNA in 2024, irrespective of the length of time they have spent in Ecuador.

[740] World Food Program (WFP), Análisis de Vulnerabilidades Socioeconómicas de la Población Venezolana en Ecuador (EFSA, May 2024), [https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000159458/download/?\\_ga=2.225156634.1859144237.1719948493-1309954782.1682369250](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000159458/download/?_ga=2.225156634.1859144237.1719948493-1309954782.1682369250).

USD 262 allocated for food costs within the monthly Minimum Expenditure Basket as of January 2024.<sup>741</sup> To cope with having less money to spend on food, the JNA observed very limited dietary diversity among Venezuelan households, which reported consuming fruits or vegetables on average less than three days per week. This is complemented by data from a partner’s 2024 study where 42 per cent of Venezuelan households were found to have a moderately diverse diet and 30 per cent have a minimally diverse diet.<sup>742</sup>

Among the most food insecure populations in the country, refugees and migrants in-transit interviewed

for the JNA reported a number of coping strategies to address food insecurity. These included seeking free food and support from friends and relatives three days per week (70 per cent) and restricting food consumption among adults in favour of the needs of children (36 per cent), in addition to reducing the number and size of daily food rations (91 per cent).

Given these challenges, food insecurity continues to be a pressing concern for migrants and refugees in Ecuador, especially for those in-transit or recently arrived in-destination.

## HEALTH



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	258.0 K	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		46.4%	46.4%	46.4%	46.4%	46.4%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		32.0%	32.0%	32.0%	32.0%	32.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		21.8%	21.8%	21.8%	21.8%	21.8%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Challenges persist regarding access to health services by refugees and migrants. Access to healthcare has been affected by the current context of insecurity in Ecuador; needs have deepened in those provinces with higher crime rates that coincide with border areas and coastal provinces with a high prevalence of migrants and refugees in-transit or in-destination, due to the lack of health personnel working in conflict zones and health centres in neighbourhoods controlled by criminal gangs.<sup>743</sup>

According to the 2024 JNA, 27 per cent of Venezuelan households required some form of health assistance during the three months prior to the survey. Out of these, 65 per cent required primary healthcare, 27 per cent emergency care and ten per cent sexual and reproductive healthcare. Among the respondents who required healthcare, 93 per cent received it, demonstrating broad access to services. Some 80 per cent went to a public institution and 17 per cent to a private healthcare provider, with an average health expenditure of USD

[741] The expenses considered in the Minimum Expenditure Basket (which totals USD 795.74) include food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous, with the percentage allocated to food being 33.2%, equivalent to 262.61 USD. Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), Boletín Técnico No 01-2024-IPC (2024), [https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Inflacion/2024/Enero/Boletin\\_tecnico\\_01-2024-IPC.pdf](https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Inflacion/2024/Enero/Boletin_tecnico_01-2024-IPC.pdf).

[742] World Food Program (WFP), Análisis de Vulnerabilidades Socioeconómicas de la Población Venezolana en Ecuador (EFSA, May 2024), [https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000159458/download/?\\_ga=2.225156634.1859144237.1719948493-1309954782.1682369250](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000159458/download/?_ga=2.225156634.1859144237.1719948493-1309954782.1682369250).

[743] For example, in 2023 there was a 32% drop in the coverage of sexual and reproductive health services compared to the previous year, due to factors such as those noted here. UNFPA-UNICEF-MSP, Dashboard: Mapeo del Embarazo Adolescente en Ecuador 2018-2023 (2023), <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/45ff3231dc204c1b93782d4553c16846>.

20 in the last 30 days. However, seven per cent of respondents were unable to access healthcare, mainly in Imbabura and Pichincha. In Ecuador, while public health services are supposed to guarantee free and universal access, Venezuelan households surveyed for the JNA identified various barriers. These included a lack of available appointments at public health centres, mistreatment, discrimination, xenophobia, requests for unavailable identity documents and high costs. Other studies identified a lack of knowledge of the services offered.<sup>744</sup> These barriers limit refugees' and migrants' access to services and increase their out-of-pocket expenses.

Among groups that need priority and specialized medical attention, the JNA found that nine per cent of Venezuelan household members self-identified as having a chronic disease (arterial hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, or cancer); seven per cent were pregnant and ten per cent were lactating women; four per cent had some type of disability (physical two per cent, visual one per cent, intellectual point five per cent or hearing point five per cent); and two per cent were elderly (over age 65). In

addition, the Ministry of Public Health has a registry of migrants and refugees living with HIV in Ecuador, including Venezuelans, in order to facilitate their access to regular retroviral treatment.<sup>745</sup> Among adolescents, the greatest identified health needs include prenatal checkups and access to contraception.<sup>746</sup> Regarding mental health needs, a partner's study found that seven out of ten surveyed refugees and migrants self-reported having an unaddressed mental health condition needing a comprehensive approach.<sup>747</sup>

For the in-transit population, the main health problems requiring treatment that were self-reported through the JNA were respiratory issues, gastrointestinal problems, dehydration, allergies, trauma, and injuries. These results coincide with health partners' reports of needs and services provided at mobile transit points.<sup>748</sup>

Overall, the economic situation in Ecuador generates practical barriers for refugees, migrants and the host community to access the public health system, and thereby limits the reach of universal and free healthcare. The situation of violence has exacerbated this context, making access to health centres in high-risk areas increasingly difficult.

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[744] International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Estudio Descriptivo de la Demanda de Servicios de Salud de la Población en Situación de Movilidad Humana en Ecuador 2017-2021* (2023), <https://ecuador.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1776/files/documents/2024-01/estudio-descriptivo-de-la-demanda-de-servicios-de-salud-de-la-poblacion-en-situacion-de-movilidad-en-ecuador.pdf>.

[745] Ministerio de Salud Pública del Ecuador, *Registro Diario Automatizado de Consultas y Atenciones Ambulatorias (RDACAA 1.6 y RDACAA 2.0), Plataforma de Registro en Atenciones de Salud (PRAS): Número de Pacientes por Enfermedad por Virus de la Inmunodeficiencia Humana - VIH con Diagnóstico Confirmado por Laboratorio y Definitiva Inicial en Establecimientos del MSP* (2022).

[746] International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Estudio Descriptivo de la Demanda de Servicios de Salud de la Población en Situación de Movilidad Humana en Ecuador 2017-2021* (2023), <https://ecuador.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1776/files/documents/2024-01/estudio-descriptivo-de-la-demanda-de-servicios-de-salud-de-la-poblacion-en-situacion-de-movilidad-en-ecuador.pdf>

[747] World Vision and Consejo Nacional para la Igualdad de la Movilidad Humana, *Estudio Nacional sobre las Afectaciones Psicosociales y el Estado de la Salud Mental de la Población en Movilidad Humana con Enfoque de Igualdad* (2024), <https://hubspotusercontent1.net/studio-movilidad-salud.pdf>

[748] For example, Red Cross Ecuador, *Reporte de Atenciones Puntos Móviles, 2022-2024*, forthcoming, 2024.

# HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED				
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	48.0 K	10.8%	10.8%	10.8%	10.8%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		93.4%	93.4%	93.4%	93.4%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		80.9%	80.9%	80.9%	80.9%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		-	-	-	-

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

In Ecuador, transportation barriers have a detrimental impact on migrants’ and refugees’ well-being. Accessing safe and adequate transportation presents a multifaceted challenge beyond affordability. Refugees and migrants in-transit in border provinces face particular vulnerabilities due to their unfamiliarity with public transportation routes, schedules, fares, and the inherent risks associated with informal transportation methods or other perilous strategies employed to cross borders or travel domestically. The JNA 2024 underscores this issue, revealing that three out of four migrants and refugees in-transit lack sufficient economic resources and information to navigate their journeys safely and efficiently.

While in-transit, refugees and migrants often face heightened safety concerns due to a lack of the required documentation, which may have been lost or stolen during their journeys, or due to a lack of information about such requirements. This can discourage them from using regulated formal transportation options. According to the JNA, 39 per cent of migrants and refugees in-transit resort to walking, increasing their exposure to health<sup>749</sup> and security risks. Some 36 per cent reported that they felt unsafe during their journeys, while an alarming 26 per cent said they experienced some kind of violence, and 22 per cent had experienced theft or extortion. The high need for safe transportation and corresponding exposure to risks of human trafficking and smuggling among those in-transit is also concerning. Among JNA respondents, nine per cent of travel groups said that at least one of

their members was detained against their will by non-state actors during their journeys, and 15 per cent were offered false promises or otherwise manipulated into the decision to relocate.

Refugees and migrants in-destination also face significant barriers to accessing safe and affordable options for local transportation. In the JNA, 18 per cent of Venezuelan women and girls report avoiding environments that make them feel unsafe, with 36 per cent avoiding public transportation for that reason (this figure exceeds 40 per cent in Guayas, Manabí, and Pichincha). The report further highlights the vulnerability of girls attending school due to risks faced during their commutes: of girls and women who reported feeling unsafe in one or more places, eight per cent encountered risks of violence and insecurity on their way to and from school (this figure triples to 25 per cent in Santa Elena and Manabí and 23 per cent in Los Rios).

The above findings demonstrate how a lack of safe transportation impedes migrants’ and refugees’ ability to access essential services like education and healthcare. Out of the seven per cent of refugees and migrants in-destination who reportedly refrained from seeking medical care within the three months prior to the JNA survey, one per cent did so due to a lack of resources to cover transportation costs. Moreover, of the 19 per cent of children aged five to 17 who are not enrolled in schools, 10 per cent reported not enrolling or withdrawing their children from school due to an inability to cover transportation costs.

[749] According to the JNA, 25% of refugees and migrants surveyed while in-transit were in a state of dehydration and 14% presented a physical injury.

# INTEGRATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		♂	♀	♂	♀
	Count	%	%	%	%	%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	264.6 K	59.5%	59.5%	59.5%	59.5%	59.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		74.8%	74.8%	74.8%	74.8%	74.8%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		56.2%	56.2%	56.2%	56.2%	56.2%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		55.0%	55.0%	55.0%	55.0%	55.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

In addition to Ecuador’s decrease in economic growth in 2023,<sup>750</sup> and even though the government of Ecuador has promoted regularization for Venezuelans, many refugees and migrants have not found opportunities to integrate into the formal labour market. The 2024 JNA found that 93 per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants carry out economic activities in the informal sector, in contrast to the 55 per cent of Ecuadorian nationals engaging in informal work.<sup>751</sup> If Venezuelan migrants and refugees were adequately included in the formal labour market, projections show that the GDP of Ecuador would have increased by up to two point five per cent between 2016 and 2022, and could increase by up to four point five per cent by 2030.<sup>752</sup> Also linked to the high prevalence of informality, Venezuelans face barriers to participation in the formal financial and social protection systems: according to the JNA, some 61 per cent of refugee and migrant households in-destination have no access to banking services, and

over 90 per cent of those working are not enrolled in social security.

According to the JNA, 71 per cent of working-age Venezuelan household members (15 years-old and older) dedicate between 42 to 50 hours per week to working and receive an average monthly income of USD 350. This is less than half of the USD 796 cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (as of May 2024) and 24 per cent less than the minimum wage (USD 460).<sup>753</sup> Venezuelan women are particularly affected. Although they represent 52 per cent of the economically active population, their unemployment rate is 22 per cent, compared to just seven point five per cent unemployment for men.<sup>754</sup>

Another study shows that the proportion of Venezuelan migrant and refugees engaged in wage-earning employment is significantly lower in Ecuador (27 per cent) compared to their prior activity in Venezuela (43 per cent).<sup>755</sup> Of this group, 54 per cent became self-

[750] In 2023, the economy in Ecuador grew by just 2.4 per cent, 3.8 per cent less than in 2022. By February 2024, the unemployment rate stood at 4.2 per cent, a 0.3 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2023. Central Bank of Ecuador, “La Economía Ecuatoriana Registró un Crecimiento de 2,4% en 2023” (March 28, 2024), <https://www.bce.fin.ec/boletines-de-prensa-archivo/la-economia-ecuatoriana-registro-un-crecimiento-de-2-4-en-2023-1616>.

[751] According to the National Institute for Statistics and Census (INEC).

[752] International Monetary Fund (IMF), “Regional Spillovers from the Venezuelan Crisis: Migration Flows and Their Impact on Latin America and the Caribbean” (December 2022), <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-Papers/Issues/2022/12/01/Regional-Spillovers-from-the-Venezuelan-Crisis-Migration-Flows-and-Their-Impact-on-Latin-525729>

[753] Ecuador’s National Institute for Statistics and Census (INEC), Boletín de Empleo ENEMDU (February 2024), [https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/EMPLEO/2024/Febrero/202402\\_Boletin\\_empleo\\_ENEMDU.pdf](https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/EMPLEO/2024/Febrero/202402_Boletin_empleo_ENEMDU.pdf)

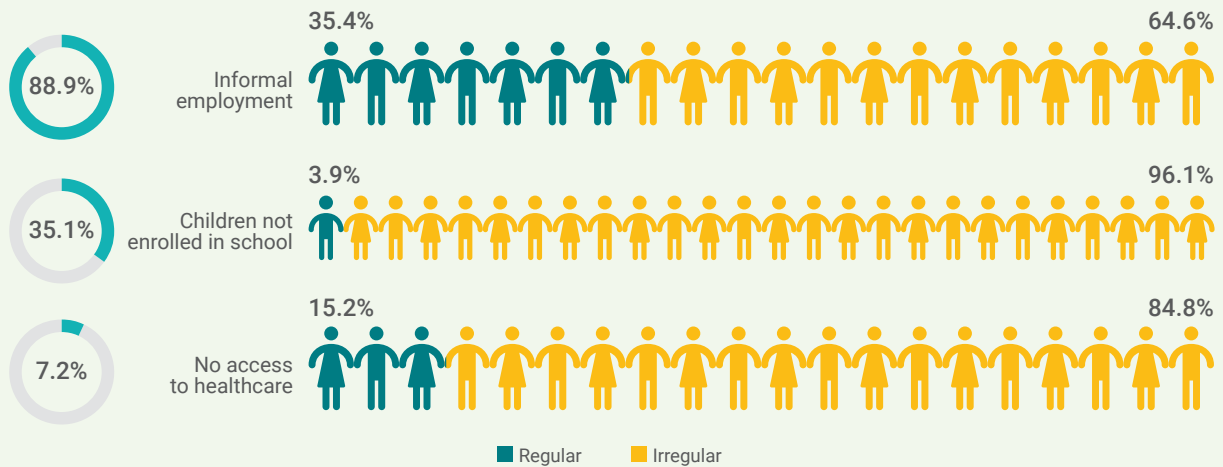
[754] R4V Ecuador (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[755] International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ecuador, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Round 18 (November 20 – December 1, 2023), <https://ecuador.iom.int/es/dtm-ronda-18>.

employed in Ecuador (while only 24 per cent were self-employed in Venezuela) which indicates that more than half have started or manage their own businesses

in Ecuador.<sup>756</sup> Some 41 per cent of Venezuelans who now have an independent business in Ecuador were previously employed in Venezuela.<sup>757</sup>

## ACCESS TO SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT BY REGULAR AND IRREGULAR STATUS



Source: R4V Ecuador (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) (July 2024)

Poor economic growth and limited opportunities in the formal sector – including for refugees and migrants – are exacerbated by escalating violence. Extortion, a growing problem in Ecuador,<sup>758</sup> is also the third most frequent security problem reported by 16 per cent of Venezuelan households in the 2024 JNA. By end-2023, other studies found that four out of ten small- to medium-sized businesses in Ecuador had reportedly been extorted, which has led to the closure of businesses, moving businesses to other cities and/or including extortion payments in their cash flows.<sup>759</sup>

The JNA found that both the lack of job opportunities and insecurity and violence were the main causes for migrants and refugees wanting to relocate to another city and/or to leave Ecuador.<sup>760</sup>

This situation has a differentiated impact on the youth. In January 2024, the unemployment rate among 18 to 29-year-olds increased to nine per cent, compared to seven point six per cent in the same period in 2023.<sup>761</sup> Impoverished youth and those in vulnerable situations are more exposed to forced recruitment by armed groups.<sup>762</sup> On the one hand, they seek out a means of

[756] *Ibid.*

[757] *Ibid.*

[758] Extortion increased from 1,210 reported cases in 2020 nationwide to 8,300 reports by the end of 2023, according to the Attorney General's Office. By end-2023, Ecuadorian Observatory of Organized Crime and PADF found that four out of ten small- to medium-sized businesses in Ecuador had reportedly been extorted, which has led to the closure of businesses, moving businesses to other cities and/or including extortion payments in their cash flows. OECCO, *Radiografía de la Extorsión en Ecuador* (May 2024), <https://oeco.pdf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Radiografia-de-la-extorsion-en-Ecuador-OECO-compress.pdf>

[759] Fundación Panamericana para el Desarrollo, *Tipologías y resultados de la Encuesta Nacional de Victimización de Casos de Extorsión Empresarial*, (2023), <https://oeco.pdf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Radiografia-de-la-extorsion-en-Ecuador-OECO-compress.pdf>

[760] In response to the 2024 JNA question "During the last 12 months or the time you have resided in (canton), has insecurity increased, decreased or stayed the same?" 55% of the households surveyed at the national level perceive that there is an increase in insecurity in their place of residence.

[761] Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), *Caracterización de Grupos de Población Específica* (January 2024), [https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/EMPLEO/2024/Enero/empleo\\_poblaciones\\_especificas\\_enero2024.pdf](https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/EMPLEO/2024/Enero/empleo_poblaciones_especificas_enero2024.pdf)





[762] Katherine Herrera Aguilar, *Double Criminalization in "High Danger" Cantons in Ecuador: An In Situ Analysis* (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung & Red de Estudios Estratégicos en Seguridad y Defensa, 2024).

subsistence in environments where gang membership is increasingly a significant means of obtaining income. Yet, they are more likely to be forcibly recruited: according to a study carried out in Guayas, Los Ríos, Manabí y Esmeraldas, children and adolescents are recruited to commit illicit activities in exchange for money, material goods, or due to intimidation.<sup>763</sup> The

JNA also shows access to employment is more critical among the youth as they dedicate more hours in a week to seeking a job in contrast to the adult population (eight vs. five hours). Moreover, the proportion of the young population working with a formal contract is even lower than that of the adults (seven per cent vs. ten per cent).

## NUTRITION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>49.8 K</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	-	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT</b>		19.4%	-	19.1%	42.0%	42.0%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT</b>		9.1%	-	31.2%	5.5%	5.5%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES</b>		6.1%	-	7.3%	10.3%	10.1%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA.

For the first time, the 2024 JNA included specific questions on nutrition, revealing several challenges for refugees and migrants in accessing quality nutrition services, especially children under five and pregnant and lactating women. Out of the 3,047 households interviewed, 61 per cent had children. Among caregivers of children under five years old, 51 per cent did not receive any nutrition services in the last three months prior to the survey. This low coverage of services is reflected in the limited reach of specific nutrition interventions targeted to those age groups most at-risk of malnutrition, such as nutritional assessment or micronutrient supplementation, which reached only 42 per cent and 15 per cent of children between one to five years old, respectively, among Venezuelan households in Ecuador.

Out of the 3,047 households interviewed, six per cent had children under 12 months. In terms of child and infant feeding practices, according to the JNA, a low proportion of the respondent mothers self-reported exclusively breastfeeding their children under six months (only 48 per cent), while 40 per cent

of children under six months are fed infant formula. Meanwhile, 16.7 per cent of caregivers of infants in-destination under six months did not report receiving any professional counselling for non-breastfed infants. As for feeding practices with children between six to 12 months of age, less than 50 per cent of these children had access to the recommended diversity of the eight food groups.

Diseases affecting the nutritional status of children under five years of age were also reported, which included the occurrence of recurrent diarrheal and respiratory diseases: according to the JNA, 19 per cent of children under one year of age were reportedly suffering from diarrhoea and 38 per cent of the same age group reported suffering from respiratory diseases within two weeks prior to the survey. This can suggest inadequate access to clean water, sanitation, and/or health services to prevent the appearance of these pathologies, all of which are important factors to promote adequate nutrition.

Additionally, according to the JNA, 15 per cent of children in-destination between zero and six months





[763] Ibid.

of age did not have the complete age-appropriate immunization schedule. For those in-transit, the lack of complete immunizations increases to 22 per cent. For children between seven to 11 months of age, these immunization gaps expanded, as 18 per cent of children in-destination and 22 per cent in-transit do not have the complete vaccination schedule. Access to immunization is one of the entry points to monitor the growth (weight-height) and nutritional status of children. If the access gap increases in children over six months, this is indicative of worse nutritional status and an absence of specialized support.

An R4V partner’s study<sup>764</sup> on anthropometric data of children from six to 59 months in destination and the nutritional conditions of pregnant and lactating women, screened 172 children and found that five per cent of boys and two per cent of girls were acutely malnourished; five per cent of boys and two per cent of girls were overweight and obese; six per cent of boys and seven per cent of girls were underweight, and 12 per cent of boys and 17 per cent of girls were stunted. The same assessment found that 24 per cent of pregnant women and 19 per cent of lactating women among the migrant and refugee population in Ecuador are either overweight, obese or underweight.<sup>765</sup>

## PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>262.0 K</b>	<b>58.9%</b>	<b>58.9%</b>	<b>58.9%</b>	<b>58.9%</b>	<b>58.9%</b>
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT</b>		89.2%	89.2%	89.2%	89.2%	89.2%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT</b>		71.8%	71.8%	71.8%	71.8%	71.8%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES</b>		49.8%	49.8%	49.8%	49.8%	49.8%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to the 2024 JNA, one of the main protection challenges faced by the refugee and migrant population in Ecuador is accessing regular status. At the time of the JNA survey, 70 per cent of Venezuelan family members reported not having a valid visa or a valid certificate of permanence, indicating that they were in an irregular situation.<sup>766</sup>

As a result of the registration and regularization process of the Ecuadorian government, the rate of those in an irregular situation is now lower than in 2023.<sup>767</sup> However, only 26 per cent of the households interviewed for the 2024 JNA reported having registered for this process

by the time it had closed in April 2024. Primary barriers that were reported through the JNA by those who did not register included a lack of information (affecting 55 per cent of those interviewed), the lack of required documentation (35 per cent) and issues related to time, scheduling, and challenges navigating the online registration platform (19 per cent). Meanwhile, although 74 per cent of Venezuelan households report having a valid ID document or passport, according to the JNA, only 31 per cent completed the registration and regularization process and obtained the exceptional temporary residence visa (VIRTE). The main barriers

[764] WFP, “Análisis de vulnerabilidades socioeconómicas de la población venezolana en Ecuador” (EFSA), May 2024, [docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000159458/download/?\\_ga=2.225156634.1859144237.1719948493-1309954782.1682369250](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000159458/download/?_ga=2.225156634.1859144237.1719948493-1309954782.1682369250).

[765] *Ibid.*

[766] According to the JNA, only 0.5% of household members interviewed have asylum-seeker visas and 0.3% have international protection visas.

[767] R4V Ecuador (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) (July 2023), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gtrm-ecuador-evaluacion-conjunta-necesidades-julio-2023>.



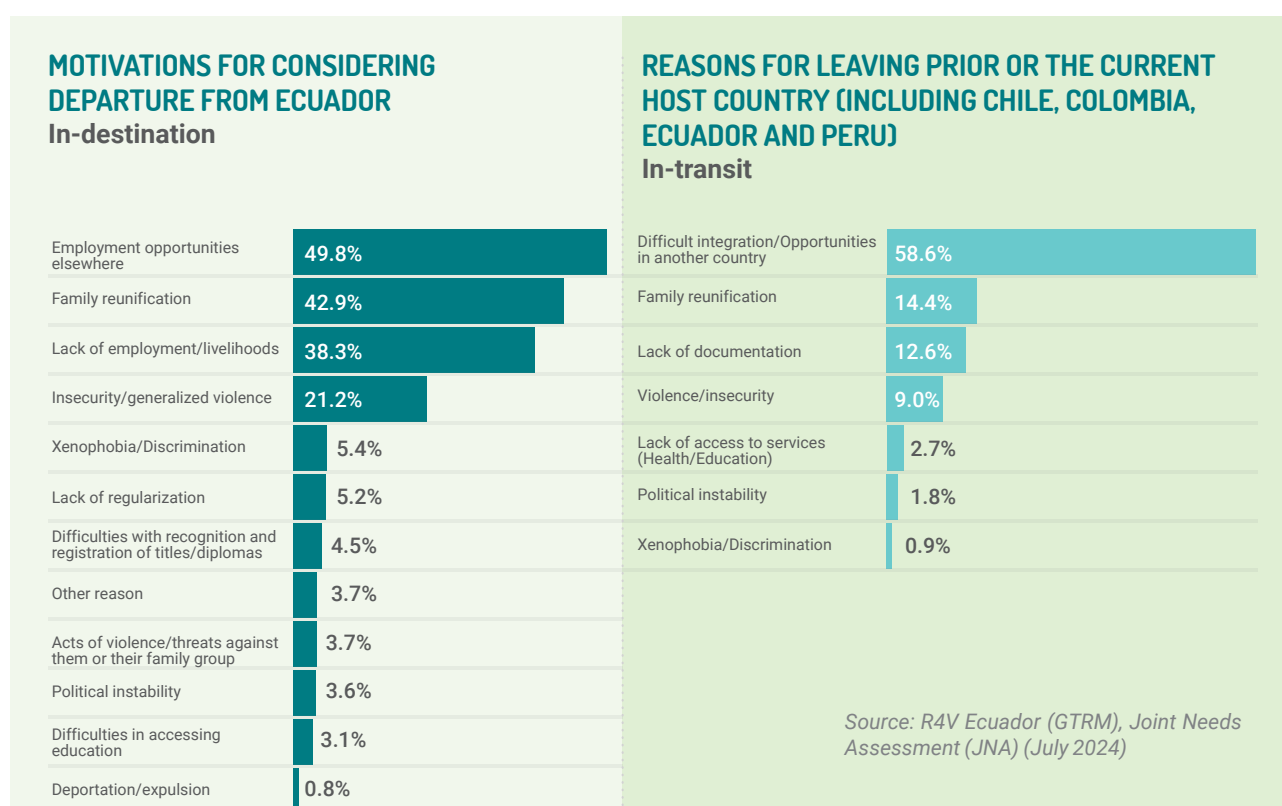
that JNA respondents identified to obtaining this visa were the lack of valid or poor-quality documentation (36 per cent) and insufficient financial resources to pay for the form and identification order (34 per cent).

The persistence of irregular status among the Venezuelan population in Ecuador – despite improvements from 2023 – continues to restrict access to rights and services for migrants and refugees. The complexities of the regularization process also led to more vulnerable profiles experiencing greater difficulties in participating in the process and therefore being more likely to remain in an irregular situation.<sup>768</sup> In response to these challenges, in May 2024, the Ecuadorian government announced that it would undertake another regularization exercise<sup>769</sup> aiming to ensure better integration and access to essential services and rights.

Beyond the issue of irregularity, 30 per cent of refugees and migrants interviewed for the JNA reported experiencing discrimination in the past 12 months, primarily due to their nationality. This highlights protection issues such as xenophobia and lack of acceptance faced by migrants and refugees in Ecuador.

For refugees and migrants in-transit – 96 per cent of whom were traveling irregularly – 71 per cent of travel groups surveyed for the JNA reported encountering protection threats during their journey. The most recurrent issues were related to violence (experienced by 26 per cent of respondents) followed by assaults, robbery, extortion, and threats (experienced by 22 per cent). In addition to these challenges during their journeys to countries of destination, 27 per cent of surveyed migrants and refugees expressed that they would also be at risk if they were to return to their country of origin or their last country of residence. This underscores the precarious nature of their situation and the limited options available to them.

Finally, according to the JNA, almost 30 per cent of refugees or migrants who are considering moving to another city within Ecuador plan to do so due to experiencing threats to their safety or due to the situation of generalized violence<sup>770</sup> as well as due to discrimination in public places and educational institutions.







[768] For example, GTRM partners note that some family groups with limited resources prioritized the regularization of a male head of household or a single household member, leaving out children, young women, the elderly and household members with disabilities.

[769] See, e.g. “Cancillería Prepara Norma para Nuevo Proceso de Regularización de Venezolanos en Ecuador” (El Comercio, July 9, 2024), <https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/cancilleria-nuevo-proceso-regularizacion-venezolanos-ecuador.html>.

[770] Among the main reasons why JNA respondents reported wanting to move to another city included generalized insecurity/violence 21% and specific acts of violence/threats 9%.

# CHILD PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		 		 	
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	81.6 K	18.4%	-	-	51.0%	51.0%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		27.5%	-	-	81.0%	81.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		8.9%	-	-	52.4%	52.4%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		18.2%	-	-	52.3%	52.3%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

According to the 2024 JNA, 61 per cent of Venezuelan families in Ecuador have children within their households. Among the household members surveyed, 34 per cent are children (25 per cent between zero and 11 years old, and nine per cent between 12 and 17 years old). Of particular concern, five per cent of all children were identified as UASC: one point five per cent have their parents in another city in Ecuador, one point four per cent in Venezuela, one point three per cent in the United States and less than one per cent in another country.<sup>771</sup>

In a context of increasing violence in Ecuador, the JNA identified a notable difference in the exposure and experience of violence among migrant and refugee children in-transit and those in-destination. Among children in-transit,<sup>772</sup> 85 per cent reported knowing other children exposed to some type of risk, with the highest being sleeping outdoors (31 per cent) followed by dangerous border crossings (16 per cent), child labour (seven per cent) and encounters with armed groups (six per cent). Only 12 per cent reported having benefitted from services or assistance in response to such incidents. In contrast, among children of Venezuelan households in-destination, only nine per cent reported knowing children exposed to some type of risk. Nevertheless, R4V partners identified that one of the reasons for the decrease in Venezuelan children's enrolment in the 2024-2025 school year is due to forced recruitment in and near schools.<sup>773</sup>

Among in-transit travel groups interviewed for the JNA, 20 per cent reported having travelled to Ecuador with UASC. R4V partners report that an increase in self-reporting and identification of UASC among households may be due, at least partially, to the continued implementation of the Special Procedure for Regularizing Foreign Children and Adolescents, carried out by the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) of the Ecuadorian government. This process has highlighted the presence of UASC who were previously invisible. It provides mechanisms for regularization that cater to the specific needs of UASC, promoting their permanence in protective family environments and preventing family separation. However, regularization procedures for children and adolescents continue to present challenges, as the process has not removed financial disincentives for regularizing accompanied children and those in single-parent households, nor for UASC, limiting the exercise of their human rights.

Refugee and migrant children in-transit are exposed to additional risks related to the increased violence in Ecuador. Key informants among travel groups surveyed for the JNA report that six per cent of children they know encountered non-state armed actors during their movements, and five per cent faced family separation. These factors increase the risk of children's exposure to other rights violations such as human trafficking, sexual violence, and forced recruitment.

[771] Another 0.3% have deceased parents, while 0.1% did not respond to the question.

[772] Of members of travel groups surveyed in the 2024 JNA with the population in-transit, a total of 29% of refugees and migrants in-transit were children and adolescents.

[773] See, e.g. "Más de 60.000 Estudiantes No se Matricularon en el Último Año Escolar, en la Costa" (Primicias Ecuador, April 19, 2024), [https://www.primicias.ec/noticias/sociedad/estudiantes-abandono-escolar-pobreza/?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social](https://www.primicias.ec/noticias/sociedad/estudiantes-abandono-escolar-pobreza/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social).

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



	PEOPLE IN NEED		Male		Female	
	Count	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	114.8 K	25.8%	3.1%	45.0%	6.5%	51.1%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		24.3%	7.3%	48.9%	24.3%	24.3%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		19.9%	3.0%	57.0%	19.9%	19.9%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		25.3%	5.0%	59.5%	9.1%	10.1%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

The elevated risk of refugee and migrant women and children experiencing GBV – whether in-destination or in-transit— is well-documented.<sup>774</sup> More than one in three travel groups surveyed for the 2024 JNA included women and girls in-transit who reported feeling either “very insecure” (19 per cent) or “insecure” (17 per cent) during their journeys due to a risk of GBV. Meanwhile, according to the JNA with refugees and migrants in-destination, more than 18 per cent of women and girls in Venezuelan households in Ecuador feel at-risk of violence and avoid areas where they feel insecure. This includes public spaces (75 per cent), public transportation (36 per cent), their homes (11 per cent), workplaces (11 per cent) and while traveling to and from schools (9 per cent).<sup>775</sup> A total of nine per cent of Venezuelan households had a member who

reported experiencing psychological violence over the past 12 months, and three per cent physical violence. Concerningly, the JNA also identified that over eight per cent of pregnancies in Venezuelan households are among girls aged 12 to 17, indicating high rates of early sexual initiation and possible sexual violence.

Other GBV risks affecting especially women and girls were identified in the context of the increasing prevalence of organized criminal groups, and military operations that are part of the “states of exception” decreed by the government in 2024. Civil society organizations registered 321 femicides in 2023; 172 having occurred in criminal contexts and 27 victims having been refugees and migrants (of all nationalities).<sup>776</sup>

[774] ACNUR-HIAS, “Nuestro Derecho a la Seguridad: Capítulo Ecuador” (March 2023), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/acnur-hias-nuestro-derecho-la-seguridad-capitulo-ecuador>. Amnesty International, “Desprotegidas en Ecuador: Mujeres Venezolanas Refugiadas Sobrevivientes de Violencia Basada en Género” (February 2023), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/amnistia-internacional-desprotegidas-en-ecuador-mujeres-venezolanas-refugiadas>. ONU Mujeres – HIAS, “Diagnóstico sobre las Mujeres en Movilidad Humana y la Violencia Basada en Género” (July 2021), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/onu-mujeres-hias-diagnostico-sobre-las-mujeres-en-movilidad-humana-y-la-violencia-basada>.

[775] Responses vary by province: El Oro and Los Ríos have the greatest proportion of women and girls who feel unsafe in public spaces (94% and 93% out of the 27% and 23%, respectively, who report feeling unsafe somewhere, or 25% of all refugee and migrant women and girls in El Oro and 22% in Los Ríos) while Pichincha has the greatest proportion of women and girls who feel unsafe in their homes (16% of the 18% who feel unsafe somewhere, for a total of 3% of all refugee and women and girls in Pichincha feeling unsafe in their own homes).





[776] “De 321 Femicidios que Hubo en el 2023, en 29 Casos las Víctimas Fueron Menores de Edad” (El Universo, August 9, 2024), <https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/ecuador/de-321-femicidios-que-hubo-en-el-2023-en-29-casos-las-victimas-fueron-menores-de-edad-nota/>. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), “Femicidios en Ecuador: Realidades Ocultas, Datos Olvidados e Invisibilizados” (September 14, 2023), <https://www.undp.org/es/ecuador/publicaciones/femicidios-en-ecuador-realidades-ocultas-datos-olvidados-e-invisibilizados>.

In terms of other populations at higher risk of GBV, the JNA found that two per cent of members of Venezuelan refugee and migrant households self-identify as LGBTQI+. <sup>777</sup> Migrants and refugees with diverse sexual

orientations and gender identities report experiencing discrimination based on their sexual orientation, as well as a lack of access to sexual health services. <sup>778</sup>

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	47.1 K	10.6%	10.6%	10.6%	10.6%	10.6%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		60.2%	60.2%	60.2%	60.2%	60.2%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		18.3%	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

The 2024 JNA helped to identify the prevalence of several risk factors and indicators associated with human trafficking, which taken together with other sources, paint a picture of the needs of refugees and migrants who are at risk for or who have been victims of trafficking for purposes of labour or sexual exploitation in Ecuador.

According to the JNA, a greater proportion of migrants and refugees in-transit than in-destination displayed warning signs of having been victims of trafficking within the last year or during their transit. When asked if any person other than the country's authorities had held them in any place against their will, a concerning nine per cent of those in-transit answered affirmatively, compared to one per cent of those in-destination. Even more alarming, 15 per cent of those in-transit highlighted that someone in their travel group had been tricked, manipulated, or given false promises to induce

them to travel, while four per cent of refugees and migrants in-destination said the same about someone in their household over the past year. <sup>779</sup> Although it cannot be confirmed that a crime of trafficking in persons has occurred in these cases, the prevalence of affirmative responses is a strong indicator, suggesting that incidents of trafficking may also be prevalent.

As noted in the introductory chapter for Ecuador, migrants and refugees in-destination reported the main motivations for considering moving to other cities in the country as being a lack of job opportunities, obtaining means of subsistence and insecurity and violence. The underpinning lack of employment opportunities and access to means of subsistence are considered as risk factors for recruitment and exploitation for labour or other purposes, <sup>780</sup> generating additional drivers for trafficking, in particular for those unable to meet their basic needs.

[777] According to the 2022 Census, this is similar to the 2.4% of the Ecuadorian population who identifies as LGBTQI+. "Ecuador: 2,4% de la población es parte de la comunidad LGBTQI+." (La Hora, August 15, 2024), <https://www.lahora.com.ec/pais/lgbtiq-censo-estadistica-lesbiana-gay-bisexual/>.

[778] According to the JNA 2024, 56% of LGBTQI+ respondents report feeling insecure.

[779] Rates were higher than the national average in Pichincha (6.6%), Manabí (4.9%), Tungurahua (4.6%) and Santa Elena (4.5%).

[780] Also, according to the JNA, 25% of those in Venezuelan households worked longer hours than agreed, 21% were paid less than agreed, 11% were mistreated by their employers, 10% were not paid for the work performed, and 2.5% performed activities against their will. All of these are indicators associated with potential trafficking for purposes of labour exploitation.

Refugee and migrant children are another highly vulnerable population group exposed to risks of trafficking. Sources on recent human trafficking trends in Ecuador<sup>781</sup> report that organized criminal groups are forcibly recruiting children from the most vulnerable communities to commit illicit activities in exchange for money, material goods, or due to intimidation.<sup>782</sup> These groups make children offers of money or gifts, or threaten to harm their families, while girls in particular are recruited and trafficked for sexual exploitation or to force them into relationships with gang members.<sup>783</sup>

In relation to human trafficking, the most vulnerable groups continue to be children and adolescents, both for sex trafficking and labour trafficking. Women and girls are more vulnerable to sex trafficking; while for labour trafficking, men and adolescent boys are more vulnerable. Although the majority of victims of human

trafficking are Ecuadorian, victims from Colombia, Peru and Venezuela have reportedly been exploited in different coastal and border cities. False promises to improve the quality of life, the withholding of documents, threats for reporting immigration irregularities, the provision of money, lodging or food are used as a means to entrap and subdue trafficking victims.<sup>784</sup> From 2023 to June 2024, a total of 28 trafficking cases were identified in Ecuador, of whom 84 per cent were women.<sup>785</sup>

The situation of growing insecurity in Ecuador has therefore increased the presence and visibility of migrant smuggling and human trafficking networks (including for the forced recruitment of children) resulting in greater needs for protection from smuggling and trafficking and responses for those who have already experienced these violations.

## SHELTER



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	262.0 K	58.9%	58.9%	58.9%	58.9%	58.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		95.2%	95.2%	95.2%	95.2%	95.2%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		82.0%	82.0%	82.0%	82.0%	82.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		14.6%	14.6%	14.6%	14.6%	14.6%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Amidst the complex situation of human mobility in Ecuador, housing and shelter needs emerge as a critical and persistent concern for migrants and refugees seeking stability and safer conditions in the country.

According to the 2024 JNA, both those in-transit and in-destination face serious difficulties accessing accommodation and/or adequate housing.

[781] U.S. Department of State, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Ecuador (2024), <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/ecuador/>.

[782] Katherine Herrera Aguilar, Double Criminalization in "High Danger" Cantons in Ecuador: An In Situ Analysis (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung & Red de Estudios Estratégicos en Seguridad y Defensa, 2024), Ecuador.

[783] See, e.g. World Vision, "Reclutamiento Forzado: La Triste Realidad de los Niños en Ecuador" (May 22, 2024), <https://blog.worldvision.org.ec/reclutamiento-forzado-la-triste-realidad-de-los-ninos-en-ecuador#influencia>. "Crece Reclutamiento Infantil en Guayaquil, Ecuador" (InSight Crime, December 4, 2023), <https://insightcrime.org/es/noticias/crece-reclutamiento-infantil-entre-disputas-control-narcotrafico-guayaquil/>.

[784] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Informe Mundial sobre Trata de Personas 2022: Principales Hallazgos (2022), [https://www.unodc.org/documents/peruandecuador/Adjuntos/BriefGLOTIP2022\\_Ecuador.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/peruandecuador/Adjuntos/BriefGLOTIP2022_Ecuador.pdf).

[785] Ministry of the Interior, Government of Ecuador, "Interactive Map of Crimes of Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling in Ecuador" (accessed July 24, 2024), <http://trataytrafico.gob.ec/estadisticas/mapaecuado>

For refugee and migrant families in-destination, according to the JNA, renting remains the primary means of accessing housing (88 per cent) with an average cost of 139 USD per month, a six per cent increase compared to the previous year's 131 USD. More than 13 per cent of these families reported that they face risks of eviction, and a concerning two per cent were evicted over the last year, exacerbating their housing insecurity and protection concerns.

Families in-transit face even more precarious conditions. Over 55 per cent of those surveyed in-transit in the JNA reported having slept on the streets or in public spaces over the past seven days prior to being surveyed, while only a small percentage (11 per cent) were able to access temporary shelters, highlighting the urgent need for safer and more accessible accommodations.

The JNA also revealed significant national disparities in housing access. Coastal provinces like Manabí and Santa Elena show greater rates of migrant and refugee households' access to owned (25 per cent and 24 per cent respectively) or borrowed (15 per cent and 16 per cent respectively) housing, suggesting a more attractive environment for settled families. Meanwhile, provinces in the Andes region such as Tungurahua and Santo Domingo demonstrate notable deficits in housing quality for Venezuelan households<sup>786</sup> as well as for host communities.

In terms of basic services, although most Venezuelan households have access to electricity and potable water, provinces such as Manabí, Santa Elena, and Santo Domingo have the greatest service deficits<sup>787</sup> (including the aforementioned services, as well as sanitation, garbage collection, natural gas, and internet) further limiting living conditions and indicating that available housing often does not meet minimum standards.

Overcrowding is another palpable concern: 13 per cent of families in-destination report living in overcrowded conditions, exacerbating health and safety risks in their daily lives.

Essential household items needed by families in-transit include appropriate clothing (18 per cent), hygiene items, sexual and reproductive health supplies (13 per cent), basic first aid medications (13 per cent) and sleeping items like sheets, blankets, and mattresses (12 per cent).

The JNA thus provides additional data on the multifaceted challenges and needs associated with the housing and shelter situation for refugees and migrants in Ecuador. Venezuelans in-destination and refugees and migrants from multiple nationalities in-transit require improved housing conditions, access to shelter and basic services, and protection against eviction to ensure that families can rebuild their lives with dignity and security in a country grappling with exacerbated violence and instability.





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[786] *In qualitative terms, at the national level, 70% of JNA respondents in-destination indicated that their homes being in a good condition, 25.5% in fair condition, and 4.3% in poor condition; 64% of the roofs are made of concrete, 25% of zinc, and 7.1% of fiber cement or asbestos. Concrete roofs are mainly found in the central highland provinces, while zinc is the predominant material in coastal provinces. Regarding the floors, 69% of respondents stated that the floors of their homes are in good condition, 27% in fair condition, and 4.1% in poor condition. Concerning the exterior walls, 68% indicated that their walls are in good condition, 27.5% in fair condition, and 4.7% in poor condition.*

[787] *Housing deficits encompass both quality and quantity issues in housing. The qualitative deficit refers to residences that have deficiencies related to structure, space, and the availability of public household services, and therefore, require improvement or expansion of the housing unit (INEC, 2021). In the Sierra, 15.1% of homes need significant structural improvements, while in the Coast, 18.8% are in such a situation. The quantitative deficit, on the other hand, points to the number of homes whose conditions are considered irrecoverable, based on the combination of materials and their condition, and is expressed as a percentage of the total number of homes (INEC, 2021). This quantitative deficit indicates a shortage of sufficient housing for the population, with 2% of families in both regions lacking adequate housing. Analyzing both deficits is crucial for a better understanding of housing needs and to formulate policies that improve the quality of existing homes and the availability of new housing.*

## WASH



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	183.7 K	41.3%	41.3%	41.3%	41.3%	41.3%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		79.1%	79.1%	79.1%	79.1%	79.1%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		69.4%	69.4%	69.4%	69.4%	69.4%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		32.2%	32.2%	32.2%	32.2%	32.2%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees, particularly while in-transit, but also those settled in Ecuador, face disproportionate difficulties accessing WASH services.

In Ecuador, according to the 2022 National Census, 16 per cent of the overall population lacks access to a public water network.<sup>788</sup> These WASH service gaps are more severe for residents of the Coastal (24 per cent) and Amazon (29 per cent) regions, compared to those in the Ecuadorian Highlands (18 per cent).<sup>789</sup>

The 2024 JNA found that 24 per cent of Venezuelan households in-destination in Ecuador do not have access to water through a public network, which is six percentage points less than the general population<sup>790</sup> and represents a decline in access of two percentage points compared to 2023.<sup>791</sup> Similar to the geographical trends observed in the general Ecuadorian population, Venezuelan households in the Highlands have greater access to water through public networks, while coastal provinces such as El Oro, Santa Elena, Los Ríos, and

Manabí show greater service gaps (averaging 49 per cent), forcing many households to supplement their supply with bottled water.<sup>792</sup>

Access to continuous public water services<sup>793</sup> also remains a challenge for many Venezuelans in-destination. In the JNA, 15 per cent of the overall Venezuelan population did not have a continuous water supply, while in the Manabí region, some 76 per cent of the surveyed population lacked continuous service. The average monthly household expenditure on water was 12.02 USD in 2024.<sup>794</sup>

In terms of sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, the 2022 National Census found that seven out of ten households in Ecuador reported having regular access to sanitation and hygiene services.<sup>795</sup> The JNA found that 1.5 per cent of Venezuelan households in-destination lack sanitation services. Meanwhile, 21 per cent of refugees and migrants in-transit surveyed for the JNA reported practicing open defecation due to the

[788] Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), 2022 National Census in Ecuador (results published in 2023), "Resultados - Censo Ecuador" (2023), <https://www.censoecuador.gob.ec/resultados-censo/>. Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), 2022 National Census in Ecuador (results published in 2023), "Info Nacional - Datos" (September 2023), <https://www.censoecuador.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/InfoNacionalDatos.pdf>.

[789] *Ibid.*

[790] R4V Ecuador (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[791] *Ibid.*

[792] GTRM Ecuador, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[793] The analysis refers to continuous access to public water services, meaning households where water does not reach inside the home 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

[794] GTRM Ecuador, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[795] Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), 2022 National Census in Ecuador (results published in 2023), which includes the Ecuadorian population as well as foreign nationals (including refugees and migrants), <https://www.censoecuador.gob.ec/resultados-censo/>.

lack of sanitation services. Additionally, nine per cent of the population in-transit reported not having access to showers.<sup>796</sup>

Regarding hand hygiene, there was a notable improvement for the population in-destination in 2024 compared to 2023, as less than one per cent of JNA

respondents reported not having water and soap, compared to the 16 per cent that lacked this service in 2023. Finally, in terms of menstrual hygiene, less than one per cent of JNA respondents report not having access to menstrual hygiene products, with the most used (and needed) product being sanitary pads (85 per cent).<sup>797</sup>



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[796] GTRM Ecuador, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[797] *Ibid.*



## CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA)

The JNA also reflects refugee and migrant households' capacity to generate income, with the average income per capita of families with one to four members amounting to 230.90 USD. This remains below the monthly basic salary level of Ecuador (460 USD). However, the Minimum Expenditure Basket is valued at 795.74 USD<sup>798</sup> per month for Ecuadorian families, and at 853 USD per month for refugee and migrant families.<sup>799</sup>

Moreover, with an average monthly income of 351.52 USD, migrant and refugee households in-destination lack the financial resources to meet their needs, considering average monthly expenditures reach 400.39 USD<sup>800</sup> (which does not include expenses for items such as clothing, cleaning products, leisure activities and connectivity that are otherwise part of the Minimum Expenditure Basket for the refugee and migrant population in Ecuador).<sup>801</sup> Resulting from this inability to meet their basic needs, migrants and refugees surveyed in the JNA report frequently resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including reducing expenses on health items (52.5 per cent), using savings (51 per cent) and purchasing food items on credit (35 per cent). Additional negative coping strategies reportedly include carrying out activities they never

thought they would have to do<sup>802</sup> (71 per cent) and begging for money (68 per cent).

Refugees and migrants in-transit, without access to income-generating activities, face an even more precarious situation in terms of their inability to meet their basic needs.

Furthermore, migrants and refugees face legal and practical barriers to be included in the national social protection system, especially in the cash-based programs of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) implemented since 2019.<sup>803</sup> As of October 2024, beneficiaries of this assistance are required to have an account at a financial institution in order to receive the grant,<sup>804</sup> which, owing to the low rate of access to banking services among refugees and migrants in Ecuador (see Integration Sector) represents a high barrier for migrant and refugee families.

Given these barriers to accessing forms of cash-based social support that are available to host community households but are largely out-of-reach for refugee and migrant families, Venezuelan households have comparatively even greater needs for cash-based support when faced with a gap between their income and expenses.

[798] Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC), "Informe Ejecutivo de las Canastas Analíticas: Básica y Vital" (May 2024), [https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/inflacion/canastas/2024/Mayo/1.Informe\\_Ejecutivo\\_Canastas\\_Analiticas\\_may\\_2024.pdf](https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/inflacion/canastas/2024/Mayo/1.Informe_Ejecutivo_Canastas_Analiticas_may_2024.pdf).

[799] Cash Working Group/R4V Ecuador (GTRM). "Understanding the Minimum Expenditure Basket for refugees and migrants in Ecuador" (2022), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gtrm-ecuador-canasta-basica>. The Cash Working Group consulted partners, sectors and the Venezuelan population to define items in the MEB for refugees and migrants. Some items that do not appear in the Ecuadorian MEB were included, such as bottled drinking water, clothing for children and connectivity expenses.

[800] According to the JNA findings, migrant and refugee households in-destination have (on average) the following monthly expenses: health 19.80 USD, rent 139.20 USD, transportation 25.60 USD, education 32.13 USD, drinking water or service 12.02 USD and food 171.64 USD, amounting to a total of 400.39 USD.

[801] R4V Ecuador (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[802] According to the JNA, this includes activities that may be viewed as degrading or dangerous (such as engaging in sex work or exchanging sex for goods and services), but which respondents may be reticent to report or would feel re-victimized if they were asked explicitly about them.

[803] Regulation 804 (2019) established a national cash transfer program under the comprehensive social protection system. See <https://www.gob.ec/regulaciones/804-establecese-operatividad-programa-transferencias-monetarias-sistema-proteccion-social-integral>

[804] Ministerio de Inclusión Económica y Social (MIES), "Más recursos para los más vulnerables: MIES inicia proceso para finalizar convenios de prestación de servicios con concentradores financieros que recibían comisión por cobros de bonos y pensiones" (7 June 2024), <https://www.inclusion.gob.ec/mas-recursos-para-los-mas-vulnerables-mies-inicia-proceso-para-finalizar-convenios-de-prestacion-de-servicios-con-concentradores-financieros-que-recibian-comision-por-cobros-de-bonos-y-pensiones/>

# PERU

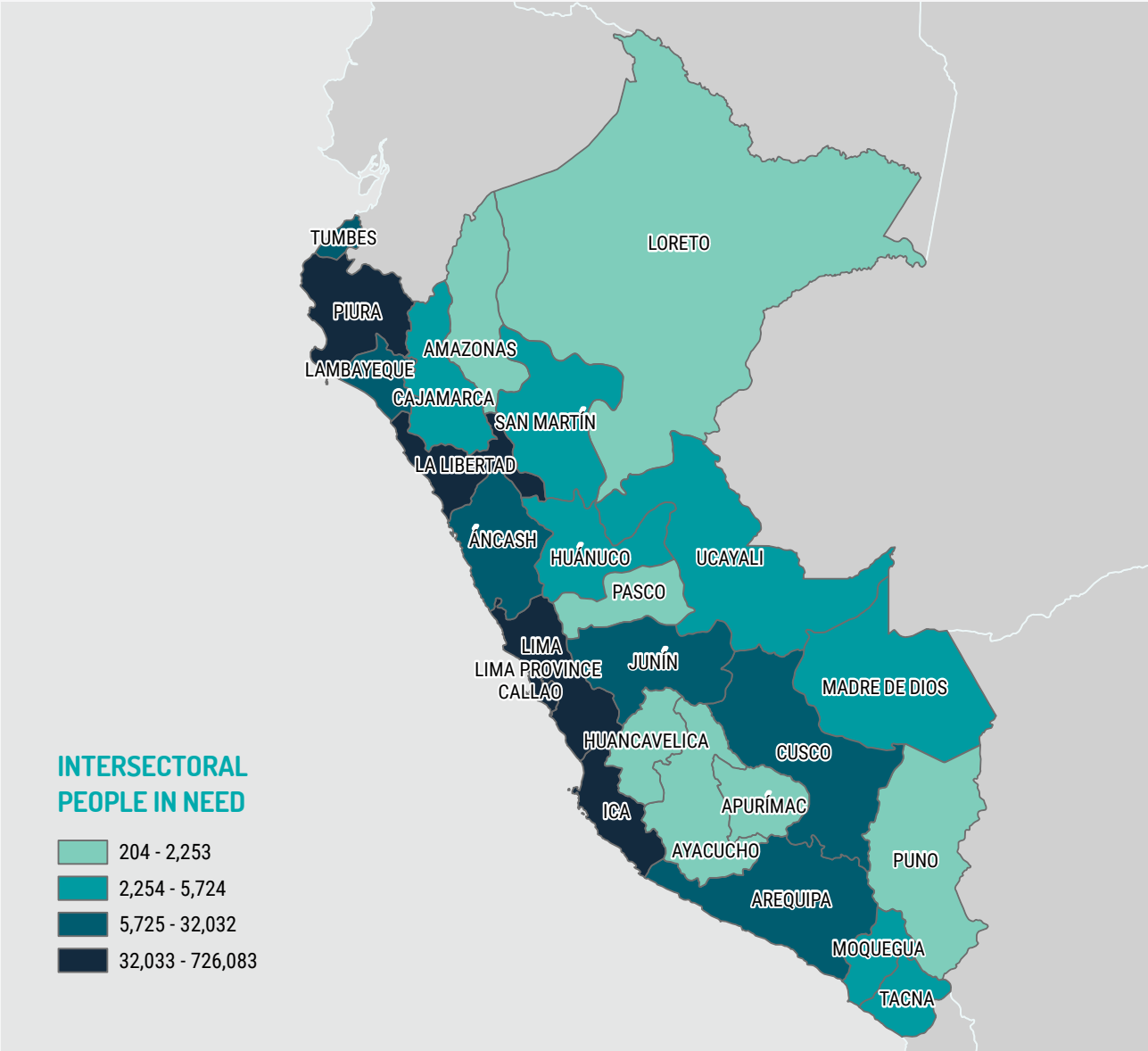


# PERU AT A GLANCE

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION **64.0% • 1.06 M**

VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT **90.7%**    OTHERS IN-TRANSIT **90.7%**    AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES **50.5%**
















## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

**MEN**    **WOMEN**    **BOYS**    **GIRLS**

**32.7%**    **35.0%**    **16.7%**    **15.6%**

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

SECTOR		PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
		VENEZUELANOS IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
				VENEZUELANOS	OTHERS	
	INTERSECTOR	64.0%	1.06 M	90.7%	90.7%	50.5%
	EDUCATION	8.9%	148.8 K	3.7%	3.7%	1.4%
	FOOD SECURITY	53.8%	894.0 K	90.7%	90.7%	50.5%
	HEALTH	59.9%	996.5 K	18.0%	18.0%	26.4%
	HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	18.5%	307.8 K	57.1%	57.1%	29.0%
	INTEGRATION	63.3%	1.05 M	13.3%	13.3%	18.9%
	NUTRITION	9.9%	165.3 K	4.3%	4.3%	2.8%
	PROTECTION	55.7%	925.6 K	26.0%	26.0%	15.4%
	CHILD PROTECTION	11.2%	185.5 K	1.9%	1.9%	3.0%
	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	30.1%	500.0 K	5.9%	5.9%	15.4%
	HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	17.4%	289.2 K	26.0%	26.0%	14.5%
	SHELTER	55.8%	927.8 K	42.2%	42.3%	26.0%
	WASH	47.5%	790.0 K	62.2%	62.2%	17.3%

## PERU: COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Peru hosts 1.66 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants,<sup>805</sup> representing just under 20 per cent of all Venezuelans outside their country.<sup>806</sup> Despite the government of Peru having implemented various regularization efforts over the past years, persistently high rates of irregularity among refugees and migrants characterize the situation in the country. In 2023, over 140,000 migrants and refugees in such a situation were granted amnesty on fines that had arisen as a result of being in the country without a regular status,<sup>807</sup> while Temporary Residence Permits (CPP) were issued to 264,158 Venezuelans,<sup>808</sup> making them eligible for longer-term residence.<sup>809</sup> As of June 2024, 364,099 Venezuelans have such a residency status,<sup>810</sup> including 27,148 asylum-seekers<sup>811</sup> with a Humanitarian Migration Status (CMH).<sup>812</sup> The prevalence of refugees and migrants in an irregular situation has been found being attributable to a lack of information on regularization opportunities and their requirements, inability to meet these requirements, and limited

regularization options since November 2023. In parallel, the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR)<sup>813</sup> is undertaking a process to reduce the backlog of asylum claims, which by July 2024 affected some 500,000 Venezuelans awaiting decision.

To assess the needs of refugees and migrants, the National R4V Platform in Peru (GTRM by its Spanish acronym) conducted a JNA from April to June 2024, accompanied by a SDR of 32 reports produced by GTRM partners and official data from 18 governmental entities. For this, GTRM partners conducted 1,573 phone interviews with Venezuelan households in-destination (5,827 people) across 17 departments,<sup>814</sup> and convened six focus group discussions (FGD) and 19 in-depth interviews with 53 refugees and migrants in-transit<sup>815</sup> in Lima, Tacna, Tumbes, Desaguadero (Puno), and Madre de Dios.<sup>816</sup> The FGDs provided insights into needs, security concerns, and future aspirations. Finally, from 3 to 10 June 2024, national

[805] National Superintendence of Migration (SNM), June 2024.

[806] As of August 2024, 7.85 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants live outside of Venezuela. R4V, *Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela*, <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrants>

[807] Fines are imposed for those in an irregular situation and their payment is considered a requirement for regularization. In 2023, many Venezuelans had accumulated fines beyond their financial capacity. The amnesty on fines reduced this financial burden, without leading to regularization. Nevertheless, 53,000 foreigners with granted amnesty were also regularized (91% of them Venezuelans). Additionally, the general cost of fines was also reduced 14 times its original value (from USD 13.2 per day, to USD 0.90 per day).

[808] Includes 122,271 people holding CPP 1 (awarded between end 2020 and early 2023), valid or expired, and 141,887 holding a valid CPP 2 (granted between May 2023 and November 2023). National Superintendence of Migration (SNM), June 2024.

[809] Supreme Decree 003-2023-IN allows foreigners with a 6-month-old CPP to apply for the Special Resident Migratory Category (CMER). The processing fee for the CMER has also been reduced from PEN 162.5 (USD 43) to PEN 40,6 (USD 10). Those with a CPP that passed to a CMER can access the *carne de extranjería*, which is key to accessing most social protection programs.

[810] National Superintendence of Migration (SNM), June 2024.

[811] The amendment of the Legislative Decree on Migration on 14 November 2023 is a significant step, as it directs immigration authorities to grant the CMH to all asylum-seekers.

[812] National Superintendence of Migration (SNM), 23 June 2024.

[813] This process aims to confirm asylum seekers wishing to continue to pursue their asylum claims in Peru. As a result of this validation exercise, the number of asylum-seekers is likely to significantly reduce. For more information, see National Superintendence of Migration, *Refugio 2024*, accessed 18 August, 2024,

[814] The data source used a non-random sampling based on the families and people registered in the UNHCR and IOM systems as having received some kind of assistance in the last 12 months prior to the interview. Consequently, the results reflect the needs of these people and cannot be generalized to the entire Venezuelan population living in Peru. Additionally, phone interviews present obstacles to collecting information on sensitive topics and exclude those without a phone.

[815] Mostly Venezuelan, but also including one Ecuadorian, Colombian, and a participant from Burkina Faso.

[816] Two FGD and three interviews in Tacna, two FGD and six interviews in Tumbes, one FGD and three interviews in Lima, one FGD and four interviews in Desaguadero, along with three interviews in Madre de Dios. These FGD complemented the data from border monitoring exercises collected at the borders undertaken by R4V partners and part of the SDR.

sectors, and sub-sectors convened workshops to analyse the results of the data collection exercises and to consolidate the needs of migrants and refugees by sector.<sup>817</sup>

Based on the JNA results, the three top cross-cutting needs of refugees and migrants in Peru are (i) safe access and entry into the country and subsequent residence,<sup>818</sup> (ii) formal and dignified livelihoods, and (iii) protection from discrimination and xenophobia. Insufficient information and intersecting factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity challenge their ability to meet these needs.

Meeting entry requirements for Venezuelans to Peru has become increasingly challenging, requiring a valid passport and visa,<sup>819</sup> even for people with specific needs.<sup>820</sup> As a result of being unable to meet these requirements, many resort to entering irregularly,<sup>821</sup> often using smugglers and exposing themselves to risks of human trafficking and violence.<sup>822</sup> Once in the

country, Venezuelans who were not able to access the asylum system or did not benefit from regularization and documentation processes, and others in-transit in an irregular situation, are at risk of sanctions<sup>823</sup> while having limited access to protection, health, and other services.

Integration is crucial to meet basic needs and to reduce migrants' and refugees' need to engage in dangerous onward and transit movements. The majority (88 per cent) of economically active Venezuelan refugees and migrants work, but mostly in informal and sometimes precarious conditions.<sup>824</sup> Only five per cent of Venezuelans surveyed have formal contracts,<sup>825</sup> with many working long hours for low wages, in low-productivity sectors. The JNA found that 37 per cent of households experienced discrimination, mostly based on nationality, especially at work and school.<sup>826</sup> This also affects their capacity to meet basic needs and rights, particularly of women and girls who are often sexualized in the media.<sup>827</sup>

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[817] Some 44 member organizations of the GTRM participated in the sectoral workshops, convening nearly 60 participants per each of the five workshops, online, and in person, with a significant participation of refugee and migrant-led organizations.

[818] Highlighted as a cross-cutting need or cause in all sectoral workshops.

[819] Resolution N° 000121-2024-MIGRACIONES. More information about the implications of this resolution can be found in the Protection chapter. National Superintendence of Migration, Reglamento Interno de la Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones No. 0121-2024, January 2024, <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/migraciones/normas-legales/5694957-0121-2024-migraciones>

[820] Children seeking family reunification, those in extreme vulnerability, pregnant women, or elderly persons who previously could enter with an ID or birth certificate, according to National Superintendence of Migration, Reglamento de Organización y Funciones No. 0177-2019, November 2019, <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/migraciones/normas-legales/4827440-0177-2019-migraciones>

[821] Although it is possible to lodge an asylum application at the border, asylum-seekers complain of occasional inefficiencies in the processing of their cases due to the lack of regulations and standard operational guidelines, which often leave the decision to the discretion of the official they are in contact with.

[822] R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group discussion with Refugees and Migrants in-transit, May 2024.

[823] On 15 November 2023, Legislative Decree 1582 incorporated a Special Sanctioning Procedure (PASEE), which allows for the removal from the country within 24 hours of anyone having entered irregularly, and prohibition from legal re-entry to Peru for up to 15 years. UNHCR, 5 cosas que debes conocer sobre el Procedimiento Administrativo Sancionador Especial Excepcional (PASEE), November 15, 2023, <https://help.unhcr.org/peru/2023/11/15/5-cosas-que-debes-conocer-sobre-el-procedimiento-administrativo-sancionador-especial-excepcional-pasee/>.

[824] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.





[825] *Ibid.*

[826] 31% at work and 29% in school or enrolment processes. *Ibid.*

[827] UNHCR and Amnesty International, Representation of Refugee and Migrant Women in the Media and Social Networks in Peru, August 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/yap898f6>.

# EDUCATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		 		 	
	Count	Percentage	Male	Female	Male	Female
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	148.8 K	8.9%	-	-	27.7%	27.7%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		3.7%	-	-	13.7%	13.7%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		3.7%	-	-	13.7%	13.7%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		1.4%	-	-	4.2%	4.2%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

The right to education is motivating some refugees and migrants with school-age children to leave their countries of origin.<sup>828</sup> This is particularly relevant for Venezuelans, as 40 per cent of children aged three to 17 had irregular school attendance in Venezuela.<sup>829</sup> Besides, 13 per cent of non-Venezuelans in-transit choose the country of destination for education opportunities.<sup>830</sup>

**Peru guarantees universal access to education, yet refugee and migrant children face barriers to their enrolment.** Twenty-six per cent indicated that limited enrolment places were a challenge.<sup>831</sup> From January to April 2024, the Ministry of Education registered 104,768 Venezuelan students in schools,<sup>832</sup> a 12 per cent increase since 2019 with a higher enrolment of girls than boys.<sup>833</sup> That notwithstanding, 17 per cent of migrant and refugee children surveyed are not enrolled in school.<sup>834</sup> Among the reasons for this, 40 per cent of

families report struggling to pay for school uniforms, learning materials, etc.<sup>835</sup> Limited enrolment slots is also a major barrier, with refugees and migrants often unaware of enrolment procedures, or available places at times being unsuitable due to distant locations or schools being located in unsafe areas. Moreover, the inconsistent application of enrolment requirements across schools and the limited capacity of education staff to identify and address these barriers hinder the access. For example, although having a regular status is not a requirement, an absence of documentation impedes access for 12 per cent of those surveyed.<sup>836</sup>

**Once enrolled, migrant and refugee children face challenges in completing their studies.** Families struggle to find affordable accommodation close to work and do not prioritize proximity to schools.<sup>837</sup> Forty-five per cent of households cite transport costs as a barrier to school attendance,<sup>838</sup> with an additional

[828] R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[829] Andrés Bello Catholic University, National Survey of Living Conditions (ENCOVI) 2023, 2024, <https://www.proyectoencovi.com/>.

[830] UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024

[831] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[832] In all of 2023, there were 138,941 Venezuelan students registered in Peru. Ministry of Education, 23 May 2024. Letter N° 00983-2024-MINEDU.

[833] According to the Ministry of Education, in the first four months of 2024 there were 49,265 boys and 55,503 girls from Venezuela enrolled in school. Ibid.

[834] Between the ages of 3 to 17. R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[835] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[836] This can be due to schools asking for documents that are not commonly used by refugees and migrants, such as passports, or education staff being unaware of the documents that Venezuelans need to access education. Ibid.

[837] Pereyra, Juan, Gabriel Devoto, and Santiago Lau, The Urban Dimension of Venezuelan Migration in Metropolitan Lima: Housing, Residential Trajectories and Processes of Segregation, April 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/ysuakurm>.

[838] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

eight per cent noting that schools are too far or inaccessible by any means of transport. Additionally, refugee and migrant children who lack timely and adequate protection and socio-emotional support from discrimination or violence in school are at risk of dropping out. Migrant and refugee children who work, or teenage mothers with parental responsibilities, face particular challenges.<sup>839</sup>

**Achieving academic performance that corresponds to their age is a priority for refugee and migrant children to avoid falling behind in their studies.**<sup>840</sup>

Frequent relocation and long periods in transit disrupt educational continuity.<sup>841</sup> During their journey to Peru, many children experienced traumatic events or separation from their parents, impacting their ability to focus on their studies.<sup>842</sup> Furthermore, Venezuelan children with learning gaps have limited support,<sup>843</sup> as

flexible learning models with alternative schedules or attention modalities are not well known to most migrants and refugees,<sup>844</sup> underscoring the absence of a human mobility-sensitive approach in learning modalities.

Bullying and discrimination aggravate this context, affecting access, retention and learning outcomes. According to the JNA, 28 per cent of households surveyed experienced discrimination during the enrolment processes or at school.<sup>845</sup> Harassment makes children feel unsafe, impacting their academic performance and potentially leading to non-attendance or dropping out.<sup>846</sup> While mechanisms like the SíseVe Portal<sup>847</sup> exist to report school violence, they are underutilized by refugee and migrant students due to limited awareness or confidence to report.<sup>848</sup>

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[839] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Education Sectoral Workshop*, forthcoming, 2024.

[840] From 2016 to 2022, the rate of Venezuelan students enrolled in a grade two years above the normative age increased to 4.6%, whereas among Peruvian students, it decreased to 3.9%. Gálvez, Juan, and Ana Villanueva. *Situación de los estudiantes venezolanos en Perú*. Ministry of Education, 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/yc2m84ar>.

[841] *People in-transit spend on average 24 days en route, where attending school is difficult*. IOM, DTM Dashboard. Data regarding entries at three borders: Tumbes, Tacna and Desaguadero. From 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024. NHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, *Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios*, July 2023 to May 2024.

[842] Velarde Castillo, Luis. "Vacancy Only for Peruvians: Notes on an Investigation of Venezuelan Children in the Peruvian Educational System", 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/228zf93m>.

[843] Particularly those aged 9 to 13 in urban areas. R4V Peru (GTRM), *Education Sectoral Workshop*, June 2024.

[844] *Alternative Basic Education (EBA) is aimed at people aged 14 and over who have not had access to, or have not completed, their primary or secondary education, and who wish to complete their studies while continuing to work*. Gobierno del Perú. "Educación Básica Alternativa (EBA) para Adolescentes, Jóvenes y Adultos". Accessed August 18, 2024. <https://www.gob.pe/21720-educacion-basica-alternativa-eba-para-adolescentes-jovenes-y-adultos>.

[845] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[846] Velarde Castillo, Luis. "Vacancy Only for Peruvians: Notes on an Investigation of Venezuelan Children in the Peruvian Educational System". 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/228zf93m>.

[847] Ministry of Education's online platform to report cases of school violence in Peru. *Sistema de Información de la Violencia de Género (SISEVE)*. "Sistema de Información de la Violencia de Género en el Perú". Accessed August 18, 2024. <https://siseve.pe/web>

[848] In 2023 only 2 cases were presented by Venezuelans in the SíseVe Portal, and none have been reported as of April 2024. Ministry of Education, 23 May 2024. Letter N° 00983-2024-MINEDU.



# FOOD SECURITY



	PEOPLE IN NEED		♂	♀	♂	♀
	Count	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	894.0 K	53.8%	53.8%	53.8%	53.8%	53.8%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		90.7%	90.7%	90.7%	90.7%	90.7%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		90.7%	90.7%	90.7%	90.7%	90.7%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		50.5%	50.5%	50.5%	50.5%	50.5%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

**Access to food is a top priority need for refugees and migrants.** With an average of 24 days in transit to reach Peru,<sup>849</sup> over 80 per cent of migrants and refugees entering Peru through Tumbes, Tacna, Desaguadero (Puno) and Madre de Dios reported access to food as their top priority need.<sup>850</sup> The situation for those having to engage in onward and transit movements is particularly dire, with the inability to meet basic food and nutritional needs being one of the main reasons for leaving their country of origin.<sup>851</sup> According to assessments, 91 per cent of refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements are food insecure.<sup>852</sup> The limited resources available to satisfy their food needs<sup>853</sup> force migrants and refugees in-transit to adopt negative coping strategies such as reducing the number of meals eaten per day (79 per cent),<sup>854</sup> reducing the quantity of

food consumed (75 per cent) and prioritizing children food needs over their own (43 per cent).<sup>855</sup> Also, as noted in GTRM focus group discussions, refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements resort to begging for food<sup>856</sup> and consume mostly flour and sugar-based foods as these are cheaper and provide a sense of satiety.<sup>857</sup> Strategies are adapted depending on the area migrants and refugees pass and the type of transportation available. For example, when walking long distances, hydration is prioritized; those travelling in groups typically carry some cooking utensils and turn to cooking on the street, mostly pasta and rice-based meals; and when in vehicles, refugees and migrants mostly eat bread and crackers.<sup>858</sup>

[849] International Organization for Migration (IOM), "DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024". UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

[850] *Ibid.*

[851] *Ibid.*

[852] World Food Program (WFP), *Essential Needs Assessment of Migrant Population in Peru in 2023*, forthcoming, 2024.

[853] 78% of those surveyed indicated that they do not have resources to satisfy their needs when in transit. 17% have financial resources/savings to cover their needs but only for a couple of days of their journey. UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

[854] World Food Program (WFP), *Essential Needs Assessment of Migrant Population in Peru in 2023*, forthcoming, 2024.

[855] UNHCR, Caritas, "Madre de Dios Border Monitoring (July-September 2023)", [https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACNUR\\_Caritas\\_Monitoreo\\_Frontera\\_MadredeDios\\_sep23](https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACNUR_Caritas_Monitoreo_Frontera_MadredeDios_sep23). UNHCR, Caritas, "Madre de Dios Border Monitoring (October-December 2023)", [https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACNUR\\_Caritas\\_Monitoreo\\_Frontera\\_MadredeDios\\_dic23](https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACNUR_Caritas_Monitoreo_Frontera_MadredeDios_dic23). UNHCR, Caritas, "Madre de Dios Border Monitoring (January-April 2024)".

[856] 68% of the population in transit turns to begging to cope the lack of access to food and 13% of Venezuelan households in destination resort to this strategy. World Food Program (WFP), "Essential Needs Assessment of Migrant Population in Peru in 2023", forthcoming.

[857] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Focus Group Discussion, (May 2024)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[858] *Ibid.*

Despite the gradual reduction of inflation and more favourable economic outlook for 2024,<sup>859</sup> refugees and migrants in-destination in Peru face difficulties to access the food they need. Almost half of the surveyed Venezuelan households allocate over 65 per cent of their budget solely on food.<sup>860</sup> Among the most used mechanisms to make ends meet are consuming cheaper and least preferred foods (five days per week) and reducing the portion sizes (three days per week).<sup>861</sup> Additionally, the need to buy food in small quantities due to limited financial capacity, along with the lack of equipment such as fridges and cookers, further complicates their regular access to food.<sup>862</sup>

**Migrants' and refugees' diet is found to be of low nutritional value**, consistently 66 per cent of

Venezuelans in-destination face moderate or severe food insecurity in Peru.<sup>863</sup> This is due to a combination of factors, including a lack of resources, lack of nutritional awareness, the limited availability of traditional food and ingredients from their country, and the lack of knowledge of the nutritional value of the locally available products.<sup>864</sup>

**Access to government food assistance programmes, that could reduce the food access gap, remains limited for refugees and migrants.** The *Qali Warma* programme, a national school feeding initiative aimed to provide nutritious and balanced meals to public school students,<sup>865</sup> reached 65 per cent of Venezuelan students enrolled in the public school system in 2023 (78,212 of the total of 121,007).<sup>866</sup>



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[859] By the end of April 2024, the Peruvian Central Reserve Bank (BCRP by its acronym in Spanish) registered an annual inflation rate of 2.42%, marking the return to the expected target range after almost three years. Banco Central de la República del Perú (BCRP), "Nota de Estudios 41-2024," 2024, <https://www.bcrp.gob.pe/docs/Publicaciones/Notas-Estudios/2024/nota-de-estudios-41-2024.pdf>. Also, after four quarters of negative readings, the national economic activity increased on 1.4 per cent in early 2024. BBVA Research, "Situación Perú: Junio 2024," June 2024, <https://www.bbvarresearch.com/publicaciones/situacion-peru-junio-2024/>.

[860] Households are considered in economic vulnerability when spending over 65% of their incomes in food. World Food Program (WFP), "Essential Needs Assessment of Migrant Population in Peru in 2023", forthcoming

[861] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[862] R4V Peru (GTRM), Food Security Sectoral Workshop, forthcoming, 2024.

[863] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[864] R4V Peru (GTRM), Food Security Sectoral Workshop, forthcoming, 2024.

[865] The *Qali Warma* programme reaches students aged to 3-11 years, enrolled in public schools, focusing on areas of poverty and extreme poverty. The goal is to improve students' dietary habits, ensure attendance, permanence and overall learning achievements. Since only enrolled students can access the programme, barriers to education extend their negative impact to the food security of children. For more information regarding enrolment difficulties, please refer to the Education Sector. Ministerio de Desarrollo e Inclusión Social (MIDIS), "Qali Warma," accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.gob.pe/qaliwarma>

[866] Ministerio de Desarrollo e Inclusión Social (MIDIS), Number of Venezuelans within the *Qali Warma* national programme, December 2023.

# HEALTH



	PEOPLE IN NEED		Male	Female	Male	Female
	Count	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	996.5 K	59.9%	59.9%	59.9%	59.9%	59.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		26.4%	26.4%	26.4%	26.4%	26.4%

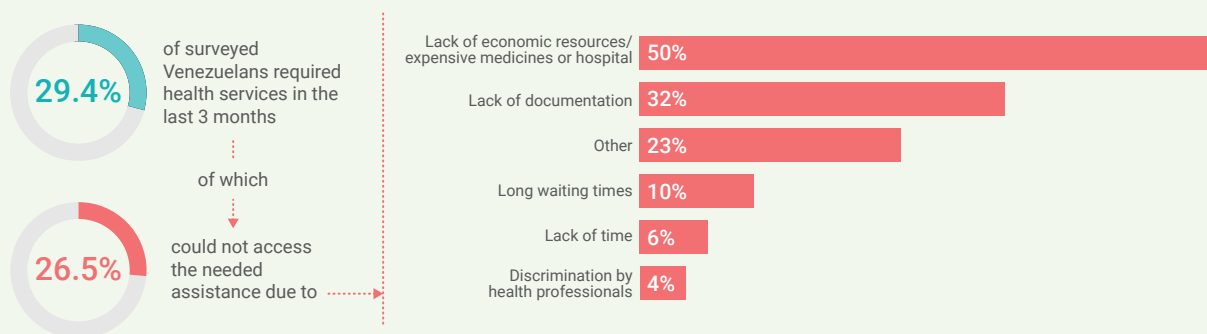
The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

**Access to health services in Peru remains limited for refugees and migrants.** As of June 2024, 287,547<sup>867</sup> Venezuelans (17 per cent of those in-destination) were affiliated to the Comprehensive Health Insurance (SIS).<sup>868</sup> According to the JNA, 27 per cent of Venezuelans living in Peru who required medical attention could not access health services due to lack of economic resources (50 per cent) and required documentation (32 per cent).<sup>869</sup>

Regarding the population in-transit, 23 per cent considered access to healthcare an immediate need.<sup>870</sup> However, very few, particularly pregnant women in-transit, were able to effectively access such services.

The overall perception among refugees and migrants is that to receive the medical attention, one must display a very serious health problem. As such, preventive care and health checks are largely deemed

## PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN PERU WHO REQUIRE HEALTH SERVICES AND WERE UNABLE TO ACCESS THEM



"Source: R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024.

[867] Between 2022 and 2023, the active affiliations grew by 13,6%, and between 2023 and April 2024, they increased by 26%. Quiroz, Luis Napoleón. "SIS, Seguro Integral de Salud." Ministry of Health presentation to the Intersectoral Working Group for Migration Management (MTIGM), June 27, 2024.

[868] SIS is the most popular health insurance because it prioritizes access to health services for vulnerable populations and people living in poverty. By January 2024, 7 out of 10 Peruvians were affiliated to the SIS. Affiliation is restricted to those with an ID or carné de extranjería, with some exceptions (children under five, pregnant women, etc.).

[869] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[870] International Organization for Migration (IOM), "DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024". Also, 8.5% of those surveyed stated that one of the reasons they left their country of origin was the lack of medical services. UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

unviable, leading many to self-medicate.<sup>871</sup> Among migrants and refugees who accessed the Peruvian health system, 17 per cent reported that they had experienced discrimination when seeking health attention.<sup>872</sup> Refugees and migrants also reported lack of information on how the health system functions and can be accessed, causing discomfort and overall dissatisfaction. Considering that these organizational, administrative, and bureaucratic hurdles affect all parts of society in Peru, host communities<sup>873</sup> have reported similar discontent.<sup>874</sup>

**Venezuelans with chronic and communicable diseases face additional challenges when accessing health services.** While 26 per cent of migrants and refugees reported having a chronic disease,<sup>875</sup> 72 per cent indicated that they are not receiving treatment.<sup>876</sup> Access to treatment of chronic diseases is more difficult<sup>877</sup> for those engaging in onward and transit movements, aggravated by the time spent travelling (on average 24 days to reach Peru).<sup>878</sup>

Refugees and migrants in an irregular situation who are living with HIV are largely unaware that their condition qualifies them for access the SIS. There are 3,951 migrants and refugees living with HIV currently receiving treatment in Peru, but it is estimated that the total figure ranges from 7,200- and 8,400 refugees and

migrants living with this condition.<sup>879</sup> Twenty-five per cent of refugees and migrants with HIV left Venezuela in order to access treatment options, while 37 per cent of those living in Peru also have a syphilis co-infection.<sup>880</sup>

With only 9,134 migrants and refugees from Venezuela over the age of 60 being affiliated with the SIS,<sup>881</sup> it is understood that many face heightened vulnerabilities due to a lack of access to treatment of common age-related diseases.

**Access to quality mental health services in primary care is a priority.** Some 75 per cent of those in-transit experienced symptoms of mental health illnesses or disorders,<sup>882</sup> and 32 per cent of Venezuelan households in-destination reported emotional and behavioural changes among adolescents under the age of 15, while adults reported having trouble sleeping (61 per cent), feeling uneasy (51 per cent) and experiencing profound sadness (44 per cent). However, 73 per cent did not seek help<sup>883</sup> despite considering mental health as a priority. Additionally, for those having to engage in onward and transit movements, security incidents, the uncertainties caused by changing conditions of the routes and limited access to food and basic services contribute to feelings of sadness, despair, and frustration, without being able to access the needed assistance.<sup>884</sup>

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- [871] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.
- [872] Acción Contra el Hambre (ACH), "Estudio Multisectorial," December 2023, [https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACH\\_Estudio\\_Multisectorial\\_Dic23](https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACH_Estudio_Multisectorial_Dic23).
- [873] International Organization for Migration (IOM), "Servicio de Consultoría para el Fortalecimiento de Capacidades a Personal de Salud y Agentes Comunitarios en Prácticas Alimenticias, Acceso a Servicios y Estado de la Comunicación en Salud para la Promoción de Prácticas de Cuidado y Salud Nutricional en Lima Norte," 2023.
- [874] Regarding the quality of attention and waiting time in public health centers, 50% of Peruvians living with disabilities qualify it as regular and 43% as bad. *Humanity & Inclusion*. "GIZ, Diagnóstico de Accesibilidad Estructural en Centros de Salud Piloto
- [875] Acción Contra el Hambre (ACH), "Estudio Multisectorial," December 2023, [https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACH\\_Estudio\\_Multisectorial\\_Dic23](https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACH_Estudio_Multisectorial_Dic23). Among refugees and migrants with chronic disease, 27% reported having asthma, 22% high blood pressure and 11% arthritis.
- [876] *Ibid.*
- [877] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Focus Group Discussion*, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.
- [878] International Organization for Migration (IOM), "DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024". UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".
- [879] Ministry of Health and UNAIDS, bill 5253/2022-CR and 7260/2023-CR, proposing SIS to cover prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis for refugees and migrants, 13 May 2024.
- [880] International Organization for Migration (IOM), "Final Report, Biobehavioral Survey among the Venezuelan Migrant Population Living in Lima, Callao and Trujillo," May 2, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/49wk9mvc>.
- [881] Ministry of Health. Letter N° 135-2024-SIS/GA-UAF-WOQ, May 20, 2024. 1.8% of the refugee and migrant population living in Peru are over the age of 60 (29,880 individuals). Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) and Secretaría Nacional de Migración (SNM), "Perú: Estadísticas de la Migración Internacional al 2023 (Una visión desde los Registros Administrativos)," December 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/4kr2a3zp>. According to this calculation, the access gap to the SIS in this population is approximately 69%.
- [882] Caritas. *Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación Transfronteriza de Necesidades*, 2023. Data collected from August 1 to 19. <https://caritas.org.pe/dashboard-proyecto-transfronterizo/>
- [883] Action Against Hunger. *Estudio Multisectorial en Personas Refugiadas y Migrantes de Venezuela que Viven en Lima Metropolitana*, December 2023. [https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACH\\_Estudio\\_Multisectorial\\_Dic23](https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACH_Estudio_Multisectorial_Dic23).
- [884] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Focus Group Discussion*, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

# HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION



PEOPLE IN NEED



VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	307.8 K	18.5%	18.5%	18.5%	18.5%	18.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		57.1%	57.1%	57.1%	57.1%	57.1%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		57.1%	57.1%	57.1%	57.1%	57.1%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

**Refugees and migrants find it challenging to access safe and reliable transportation.** Those in-destination encounter challenges in accessing their workplace and services, including education, due to limited public transport available. Among those engaging in onward and transit movements in Peru, 50 per cent reported transportation as an immediate need, third only to the need for food and water.<sup>885</sup> Limited financial resources represent one of the main barriers to safe transportation,<sup>886</sup> as does irregular entry into the country due to refugees’ and migrants’ inability to meet documentation requirements.<sup>887</sup>

The Migration Law of November 2023<sup>888</sup> introduced sanctions to interprovincial bus companies that provide services to migrants and refugees who are in an irregular situation. According to GTRM focus group discussions, refugees and migrants usually resort to hitch-hiking due to limited resources. This allows them

to travel long distances in less time but exposes their physical integrity to severe risks.<sup>889</sup> Despite being aware of safety hazards, such as exposure to trafficking groups, violence, extortion, and being stranded,<sup>890</sup> refugees and migrants have adopted protective mechanisms. For example, designating a member of their travel group to monitor the route, helping to avoid possible detours or intrusions and mitigating protection risks.<sup>891</sup> This is particularly important for women, who reported having experienced harassment and being forced into exchanging sexual favours to continue their journey.<sup>892</sup>

Migrants and refugees unable to regularize their situation or to integrate locally resort to onward or transit movements. The majority of those arriving via Desaguadero (Puno, along the border with Bolivia) and Tacna (at the border with Chile) indicate that Venezuela was their intended destination.<sup>893</sup> Those moving through Madre de Dios (at the borders with Brazil and

[885] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024.

[886] Ibid. 83% of refugees and migrants state that they do not have resources to satisfy their needs while in transit.

[887] See the chapter on Protection for a more detailed explanation of the requirements to enter the country.

[888] The Migration Law modified the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code to establish a procedure for the removal of foreigners who enter the country without submitting to migration controls and those found engaging in activities that would put at risk or threaten public and internal order, as well as national and citizen security. Perú, Ley N.º 31385, Ley que Regula el Procedimiento Administrativo Sancionador Especial y Excepcional para el Procedimiento Administrativo Sancionador de la Ley de Migraciones, published in El Peruano, October 3, 2023. <https://busquedas.elperuano.pe/dispositivo/NL/2234429-1>.

[889] IOM, Alternativas para el Transporte Humanitario, July 2023. <https://peru.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1951/files/documents/2023-07/alternativas-para-el-transporte-humanitario.pdf>.

[890] Among the main reasons are police operations and drivers trying to avoid sanctions from their hiring company. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[891] While men tend to adopt this role, the route is also unknown to them, and most don’t have mobile phones and/or internet access to verify if the drivers are not deviating from a planned route. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, forthcoming, 2024.

[892] Ibid.

[893] These findings predate elections in Venezuela and the resulting impact on return movements to Venezuela.

Bolivia) largely plan to remain in Peru, while for those entering along the northern border of Tumbes, the main destinations are Peru and Chile.<sup>894</sup> On this basis, 35 per cent of the population engaging in onward and transit movements reported needing more information on the available routes,<sup>895</sup> including geographical and climatic conditions, potential dangers and available humanitarian and protection services.<sup>896</sup>

Main needs for refugees and migrants in-destination include safe and affordable local transportation in urban and peripheral areas to access healthcare, education, work and protection services. This includes access to the centralized migration services, which are mostly in main cities and Lima, whose transport system is limited.<sup>897</sup> According to the JNA, public transport is the most used mean of transport (57 per

cent) and is considered as the most economical option (65 per cent). Walking is the second most common form of transport (29 per cent) also because its more economical (41 per cent). In this regard, considering the 5,1 per cent increase in local transportation fees between May 2023 and May 2024,<sup>898</sup> and that six per cent of Venezuelan households' total expenses are invested in transportation,<sup>899</sup> access to basic services is compromised. Twenty-three per cent of women in reproductive age cannot access sexual and reproductive health services due to high cost of transportation.<sup>900</sup> Concerns about rising transportation costs are shared among migrants, refugees and members of the host community, with 64 per cent of the overall population of Lima and Callao unsatisfied with the services provided.<sup>901</sup>

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[894] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024". UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024.

[895] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024. Social networks are consultation tools; however, they have a medium level of reliability. Mouth to mouth information, particularly that shared among the community in transit, is more trusted given the shared vulnerability between them. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024

[896] R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[897] Lima has been characterized as having the worst traffic in Latin America. *El Comercio*, "¿Qué tiene Lima el peor sistema de transporte en Latinoamérica?", 17 August 2024. <https://elcomercio.pe/respuestas/que/lima-tiene-el-peor-sistema-de-transporte-en-latinoamerica-tdpe-noticia/?ref=ec>

[898] Banco Central de Reserva del Perú (BCRP), "Nota de Estudios 39-2024," 2024, <https://www.bcrp.gob.pe/docs/Publicaciones/Notas-Estudios/2024/nota-de-estudios-39-2024.pdf>. Lima has the third most expensive urban transport costs in Latin America, after Montevideo (Uruguay) and Santiago (Chile). Victor Lozano *El Peruano*, "Transporte urbano es un factor de eficiencia económica", *El Peruano*, October 16 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/4yruabjw>.

[899] World Food Program (WFP), Essential Needs Assessment of Migrant Population in Peru in 2023, forthcoming, 2024.

[900] Action Against Hunger, *Estudio multisectorial en personas refugiadas y migrantes de Venezuela que viven en Lima Metropolitana*, December 2023, [https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACH\\_Estudio\\_Multisectorial\\_Dic23](https://www.r4v.info/es/document/ACH_Estudio_Multisectorial_Dic23). According to the report, 23% of women in reproductive age did not access sexual and reproductive health services due to high cost of transportation.

[901] Victor Lozano, *Transporte urbano es un factor de eficiencia económica*, *El Peruano*, October 16 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/4yruabjw>.

# INTEGRATION



## PEOPLE IN NEED



	1.05 M	63.3%	63.3%	63.3%	63.3%	63.3%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION						
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		13.3%	13.3%	13.3%	13.3%	13.3%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		13.3%	13.3%	13.3%	13.3%	13.3%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		18.9%	18.9%	18.9%	18.9%	18.9%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Accessing decent and formal employment, having sustainable self-employment, and living a life free of discrimination and xenophobia are the main needs for migrants and refugees in Peru to achieve socio-economic integration.

**Most Venezuelans are part of the Peruvian labour market but face precarious conditions.** Sixty-four per cent of Venezuelans in Peru are economically active,<sup>902</sup> with 88 per cent of them actively working.<sup>903</sup> Although the majority of Venezuelans are engaged in income-generating activities, most are in informal jobs. Only five per cent have a formal contract,<sup>904</sup> which means they lack stability and access to social

protection. Venezuelan workers earn lower wages than Peruvians,<sup>905</sup> sometimes going unpaid,<sup>906</sup> and often working long hours.<sup>907</sup> Venezuelan women face additional challenges as they are 29 per cent less likely to be economically active compared to men, and their employment rate is five percent lower.<sup>908</sup> Limited childcare services contribute to this situation, with 32 per cent of Venezuelan women reporting being unable to work due to the inability to find appropriate care for their children.<sup>909</sup> Refugees and migrants in-transit equally reported precarious working conditions, such as low salaries or not getting paid despite long working hours.<sup>910</sup> As a result, 60 per cent of those exiting Peru state leave due to difficulties finding employment.<sup>911</sup>

[902] 72% for the Peruvian population in urban areas. Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI), Encuesta Nacional de Hogares (ENAH) 2023, Peru.

[903] 79% for the Peruvian population in urban areas. Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI), Encuesta Nacional de Hogares (ENAH) 2023, Peru.

[904] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>. According to the Ministry of Labour, there were 49,393 contracts of Venezuelan workers from January to February 2024. The rate for Peruvians with formal contracts is 24,5%. CEPLAN, "Persistencia de la informalidad laboral y del empleo vulnerable," July, 2023. <https://observatorio.ceplan.gob.pe/ficha/t29>

[905] In 2022, the average monthly income of the economically active employed Venezuelan population was 1,200 soles (USD 319), three-quarters of the average monthly income of the Peruvian population of 1,607.80 soles (USD 428). Data based on: INEI, EPEN 2022, and ENPOVE 2022. World Bank, UNHCR, "Venezuelans in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. A development opportunity," February 21, 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/3dp6h3vj>

[906] In 2023 there were 3,523 complaints filed by foreign workers, where the most recurrent subject was remuneration. National Superintendence of Labour Inspection (SUNAFIL), Email N° 094284-2024-SUNAFIL, 22 May 2024.

[907] According to the last available data, Venezuelans work an average of 61 hours a week, while Peruvians work 45 hours a week. Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI), Encuesta Nacional de Pobreza y Vulnerabilidad (ENPOVE) 2022, Peru. Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI), Encuesta Nacional de Hogares (ENAH) 2022, Peru.

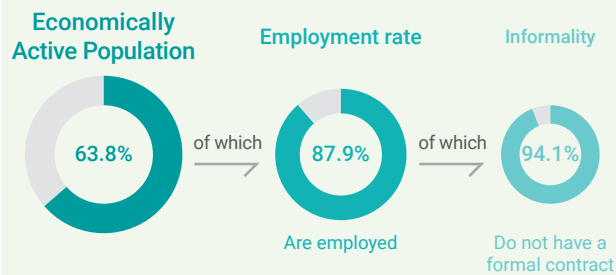
[908] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[909] Flores and Delgado, "Study on the needs of the Venezuelan population in Peru", October 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/48dcc6pb>

[910] R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion with Refugees and Migrants in Transit, forthcoming, 2024. According to IOM, only 25% refugees and migrants formally employed in the country they lived in before entering Peru International Organization for Migration (IOM), "DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024".

[911] Ibid.

## KEY EMPLOYMENT-RELATED FIGURES OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS LIVING IN PERU



Source: R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024.

**The main barriers to formal and decent employment** include employers' mistrust and lack of familiarity with documentation of migrants and refugees,<sup>912</sup> combined with discrimination in hiring processes and at work.<sup>913</sup> Challenges in degree recognition and revalidation<sup>914</sup> continue to cause under-employment of Venezuelans<sup>915</sup> contributing to a majority working in low-skilled occupations, such as sales, storekeeping, or security,<sup>916</sup> despite having high education levels.<sup>917</sup> Additionally, refugees and migrants face normative restrictions to access the formal labour market, such as restrictive quotas for hiring of foreigners<sup>918</sup> and the flat 30 per cent income tax imposed on non-Peruvians.<sup>919</sup>

**Migrants and refugees face obstacles to establishing sustainable and productive self-employment and businesses.** As of May 2024, only 9,000 Venezuelans had a taxpayer registration number (RUC),<sup>920</sup> which is a prerequisite for formalising a business. Other challenges include limited access to and awareness of financial products and services available,<sup>921</sup> scarce knowledge about entrepreneurship development opportunities,<sup>922</sup> and entrepreneurs' lack of association, which is essential to share resources, scale up, and access networking opportunities.<sup>923</sup>

**Rising xenophobia towards Venezuelans further hinders socio-economic integration.** According to the JNA, 37 per cent of households experienced discrimination, mostly for their nationality (95 per cent). The three main places where they experienced discrimination are in public spaces or on the streets (39 per cent), at work (31 per cent), and in school (29 per cent), restricting and affecting access to essential services, such as labour and education. According to a survey by an R4V partner and Ipsos, 62 per cent of Peruvians believe that refugees threaten national security, demonstrating the high levels of xenophobia in Peru.<sup>924</sup> Venezuelan women face a dual challenge, with media often linking them to crime while also sexualizing them and associating them with transactional sex.<sup>925</sup>





- [912] Documents allowing formal work are the *carne de extranjeria*, the *Temporary Residence Permit (CPP)*, and the virtual authorization to work and ID for asylum seekers. Refer to the Protection sector chapter for the limitations to access documentation. As an example, although those with an asylum-seeker ID can work formally, between January and February 2024, only 16 Venezuelans with this document had a formal contract. Ministry of Labour and Employment Promotion (MTPE), Letter N° 002432-2024-MTPE, 24 May 2024.
- [913] 31% of households surveyed faced discrimination at the workplace and 10% in the job search. R4V Peru (GTRM), JNA, May 2024.
- [914] Recognition is a verification process carried out directly by the Superintendence of University Higher Education (SUNEDU), while revalidation is carried out by Peruvian universities endorsed by SUNEDU.
- [915] According to a partner study, only 14% of those surveyed were able to validate their title. The main barriers are lack of understanding among Venezuelans of the process, the economic cost of recognition, amounting to PEN 325.10 (USD 85), and the limited required documentation available. USAID, World Council, *Proyecto de Inclusión Económica: Refugiados y migrantes venezolanos en Perú desarrollado en las ciudades de Tumbes, Trujillo, Lima / Callao, Ica y Arequipa*, November 2023, <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/usaaid-world-council-proyecto-de-inclusion-economica-refugiados-y-migrantes-venezolanos>.
- [916] Ministry of Labour and Employment Promotion (MPTE) from Peru, Letter N° 002432-2024-MTPE, 24 May 2024.
- [917] According to the last available data from INEI, 32% of Venezuelans in Peru have completed tertiary or higher education. World Bank, UNHCR, *Venezuelans in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru: A Development Opportunity*, February 21, 2024, <https://www.jointdatacenter.org/resources/publications-and-reports/venezuela-migration-report>.
- [918] Legislative Decree N 689 imposes a quota of maximum 20% of foreign workers within companies.
- [919] Foreign workers pay an income tax rate of 30%, unlike locals, who pay a progressive rate based on their earnings, which can discourage refugees and migrants to pursue formal employment.
- [920] Ministry of Labour and Employment Promotion (MPTE) from Peru, Letter N° 002432-2024-MTPE, 24 May 2024.
- [921] 39% of households surveyed in the JNA do not have a bank account, and 99% lack microcredits, which can serve as capital to improve businesses. R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.
- [922] Women with care responsibilities face additional obstacles to attend workshops that usually happen in the afternoons when they need to take care of children. ILO, "Evaluation of the supply and demand of business development services to promote access for refugees and migrant women from Venezuela in Peru", 2023.
- [923] R4V Peru (GTRM), Integration Sectoral Workshop, May 2024.
- [924] Above the global average of 41%. Ipsos, UNHCR *Global Attitudes Towards Refugees*, June 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/yap898f6>.
- [925] UNHCR, Amnesty International, "Representation of refugee and migrant women in the media and social and social networks in Peru", August 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/yap898f6>.



This discourse legitimizes discriminatory behaviour towards migrant and refugee women and can increase GBV.

## NUTRITION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	165.3 K	9.9%	-	8.9%	21.1%	21.1%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		4.3%	-	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		4.3%	-	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		2.8%	-	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA.

Refugees and migrants, particularly children under five and pregnant and lactating women, are often exposed to numerous aspects that contribute to malnutrition, such as lack of access to health services, inadequate WASH conditions and food insecurity.

According to the Ministry of Health in Peru, between January 2023 and April 2024, a total of 439 Venezuelan children under five years of age were diagnosed with iron deficiency anaemia, 133 children with malnutrition and 125 children presented developmental delays due to malnutrition. Additionally, out of the total of prenatal attentions to pregnant Venezuelan women, 2,035 were diagnosed with anaemia that complicated pregnancy, labour, and postnatal period.<sup>926</sup> Owing to persisting limitations to accessing healthcare in Peru, and national data only being available for those affiliated

with the SIS, the aforementioned figure of diagnosed women does not take into account the considerable under-reporting of concerned migrants and refugees who are not affiliated with the SIS.

The JNA also found a lack of knowledge about appropriate infant feeding practices and limited access to nutritional counselling, with 32 per cent of infants under six months not exclusively breastfed and 10 per cent of this population not receiving any nutritional intervention in the last three months, despite the recommended monthly monitoring of growth and development for infants younger than six months of age.<sup>927</sup> Additionally, the lack of information on Venezuelan food culture (names of foods and preparations) by health workers impedes the provision of nutritional counselling.<sup>928</sup>

[926] Ministry of Health, Number of children between 0-5 years and pregnant women affiliated to the SIS attended within Ministry of Health premises in 2023 and 2024. For more information regarding access to health services, please refer to the Health chapter.

[927] CRED by its acronym in Spanish, is a vital monthly check up where a nutritional evaluation take place; weight and height are measured and monitored. Parents receive counselling regarding exclusive breastfeeding and adequate feeding for lactating mothers. R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[928] IOM, "Servicio de consultoría para el fortalecimiento de capacidades a personal de salud y agentes comunitarios en prácticas alimenticias, acceso a servicios y estado de la comunicación en salud para la promoción de prácticas de cuidado y salud nutricional en Lima Norte", 2023.

Reports show that households including young children and pregnant and lactating women **have diets of low nutritional value due to economic constraints and limited access to food and nutrition information that includes national foods and preparations** such as viscera, widely known for its high levels of iron to fight anaemia.<sup>929</sup>

**Venezuelans have limited access to government counselling and food assistance programmes that promote and facilitate access to nutritious food.** In 2023, 17,174 children in pre-school (aged three to five) accessed the *Qali Warma* programme, 14 per cent less than in 2022.<sup>930</sup> Furthermore, the so-called *Cuna Mas* programme, aimed at providing nutritional support and services to children under the age of three and offering counselling on nutrition, care and development to their

families, reached only 14 Venezuelan children in the first four months of 2024, despite being open to non-nationals.<sup>931</sup>

**Refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements face a heightened vulnerability due to prolonged transit and limited access to food, water and sanitation.** It is estimated that one in every 20 women in-transit is pregnant and/or breastfeeding and 15 per cent are children under the age of five.<sup>932</sup> These groups have limited access to pre-natal care and often suffer from diarrhoea and respiratory diseases.<sup>933</sup> The risk of malnutrition is exacerbated by the climatic and geographic conditions that those engaging in onward and transit movements pass through,<sup>934</sup> and lack of resources to meet basic needs.

[929] For instance, Sangrecita is viscera of high iron and protein content. It helps strengthen bones, detoxifies the body and provides vitamins A, C, D and B12. 100 grams of sangrecita provide 29.5 milligrams of iron, seven times more of what is found in red meat, greatly surpassing the daily nutritional requirements. its properties and low cost make it accessible to people living in poverty and extreme poverty. 50% of refugees and migrants expressed their willingness to learn more about Peruvian food and preparations. IOM, "Servicio de consultoría para el fortalecimiento de capacidades a personal de salud y agentes comunitarios en prácticas alimenticias, acceso a servicios y estado de la comunicación en salud para la promoción de prácticas de cuidado y salud nutricional en Lima Norte", 2023

[930] Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS), Number of Venezuelan within the Qali Warma national programme, December 2023. For more information regarding the Qali Warma programme, please refer to the Food Security Section.

[931] Non-nationals can register in the program by presenting immigration card or CPP, CRED control card, among other. Government of Peru, Acceder al Servicio de Cuidado Diurno del PNCM, n.d. <https://www.gob.pe/9563-acceder-al-servicio-de-cuidado-diurno-del-pncm>. For more information regarding the Cuna Más programme, please refer to the Food Security section. Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS), Number of Venezuelans within the Cuna Más National Programme, April 2024.





[932] International Organization for Migration (IOM), "DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024". UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

[933] ADRA, "Informe de evaluación de necesidades", Proyecto ECHO, Tacna, 2023.

[934] Refugees and migrants traversing Peru experience abrupt changes in temperature, from extremely hot climate at the northern border and desert areas (during the day), to a sharp drop in temperatures in Andean regions and desert areas at night. Changes in altitude, and humid climates also affect the population in transit. The caloric and hydration demands to undertake this type of journey are not met. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion with Refugees and Migrants in Transit, forthcoming, 2024.

# PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	925.6 K	55.7%	55.7%	55.7%	55.7%	55.7%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Access to regular entry, to asylum, to pathways for regular permanence, and adequate protection services, remain cross-cutting priorities for migrants and refugees in Peru.

Since 2 July 2024, Venezuelan nationals intending to enter the country regularly must present a valid passport and visa.<sup>935</sup> This requirement also applies to people with specific needs, such as children seeking family reunification, people in extreme vulnerability, pregnant women, or elderly adults, who were previously permitted entry on humanitarian grounds. With only four per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants holding a valid passport,<sup>936</sup> most see no alternative but to enter irregularly,<sup>937</sup> therefore exposing themselves to human

smuggling and potentially trafficking, GBV, persecution, and robbery.<sup>938</sup> While asylum can be claimed at border crossings, to date there are no operational guidelines for the processing of cases, leading to a discretionary processing of asylum claims.<sup>939</sup>

Under Special Administrative Sanction Procedure (PASEE), introduced in November 2023, those entering irregularly are also at risk of severe sanctions, including nationals exempted from visas, such as Colombians and Ecuadorians. Legislative Decree 1582, which established the PASEE, foresees the removal of those having irregularly entered and a prohibition of legal re-entry into Peru for up to 15 years.<sup>940</sup> This exacerbates the vulnerabilities of at least half of the migrants and

[935] Based on Resolution N° 000121-2024-MIGRACIONES, Reglamento de la Ley de Migraciones No 0121-2024. National Superintendence of Migration, January 2024. <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/migraciones/normas-legales/5694957-0121-2024-migraciones>. According to the Ministry of External Relations, this requirement does not apply to nationals and residents of countries of the Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia), Comunidad Andina (Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador), and Alianza del Pacífico (Chile, Colombia and Mexico). The application of visa and passport requirements vary for other nationalities, for instance it is applied to Cubans. For more information on entry requirements for foreigners: <https://tinyurl.com/29wzhxc5>. The most common visa application is the tourist visa, which has a cost of USD 30, and can be processed in: <http://137.184.129.142:8080/VisaAppointments/index.jsp> However, the closure of Peruvian consulates in Venezuela limits this process. Foreigners can also ask for a work, student, or family visa, amongst others. Humanitarian visas for Venezuelans stopped being processed during the COVID-19 pandemic and are unavailable on the website of Peruvian consulates in Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela.

[936] The process of obtaining a passport can take one to two years and costs approximately USD 216, according to: R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[937] According to a partner survey 86% of people surveyed reported entering Peru irregularly. DRC, Regional Protection Monitoring: Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela (2023).

[938] Over half of refugees and migrants interviewed in border monitoring exercises report having suffered security incidents along their route, principally robbery, discrimination, and threats. UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024". Some focus group participants reported being impacted by increased violence in Ecuador. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[939] Asylum seekers may encounter challenges to launch a claim at borders, since a lack of guidelines leaves the decision to the discretion of the civil servant the asylum-seeker interacts with. The online platform of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs once in the country is another alternative, but with limited internet connectivity along the routes and regular incidents of theft of phones, access to this platform can be limited. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[940] For more information, see: UNHCR, "5 cosas que debes conocer sobre el Procedimiento Administrativo Sancionador Especial Excepcional (PASEE).", November 15, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/mr9vdz65>.

refugees engaging in onward and transit movements who indicated that they would face risks in meeting basic needs and health services or be subject to threats if they returned to their countries of origin.<sup>941</sup>

**Longer-term residency remains an unmet need, despite ongoing regularization efforts.** The Peruvian government has taken significant steps to document and regularize refugees and migrants, offer amnesty from fines,<sup>942</sup> implement procedures to obtain the Temporary Permanence Permit (CPP),<sup>943</sup> and update the normative framework.<sup>944</sup> Consequently, over 264,000 Venezuelans (16 per cent of those in-country) holding a CPP<sup>945</sup> are eligible to apply for residency<sup>946</sup> and over 364,000 Venezuelans (22 per cent of those in-country) have resident status.<sup>947</sup>

Those accomplishments notwithstanding, challenges persist, including the need for assistance with regularization procedures,<sup>948</sup> as confirmed by 48

percent of households surveyed.<sup>949</sup> Additional barriers include incomplete documentation,<sup>950</sup> costs associated with the regularization process,<sup>951</sup> lengthy procedures, mistrust in government institutions, and centralized migration services.<sup>952</sup>

The common need of Venezuelans in-destination is obtaining permanent residency or naturalization, as the periodic renewal of current mechanisms can lead to irregularity.<sup>953</sup> For those in an irregular situation,<sup>954</sup> they have very limited possibilities to regularize their situation and to obtain residence, increasing their vulnerabilities and susceptibility to onward and transit movements.

With nearly 500,000 Venezuelan asylum-seekers and 4,906 recognized refugees in Peru,<sup>955</sup> the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) has been undertaking an asylum application validation exercise.<sup>956</sup> In this context, difficulties remain, including

[941] UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

[942] Law N° 31732 allowed to apply for an amnesty of migratory fines between 28 April and 28 October 2023, with 140,695 people applying, of which 54,250 processed an extension of residence (91% of which are Venezuelans). The cost of fines for overstay was also reduced from PEN 49.95 (USD 13.3) to PEN 5.15 (USD 1.38) a day. Database of the Integrated System of the National Superintendence of Migration (SNM). Last update: 13 November 2023.

[943] Supreme Decree 003-2023-IN and Resolution 109-2023-Migraciones allowed accessing the CPP until 10 November 2023 for those who arrived before 10 May 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/2ym8ux2f> and <https://tinyurl.com/mryyyxte>

[944] Supreme Decree 003-2023-IN authorizes the SNM to enable new regularization processes in exceptional situations.

[945] Includes 122,271 people holding CPP 1, valid or expired, and 141,887 holding a valid CPP 2. SNM, June 2024.

[946] Supreme Decree 003-2023-IN allows foreigners with a 6-month-old CPP, valid or expired, to apply for the Special Resident Migratory Category (CMER). The processing fee for the CMER has also reduced from PEN 162.5 to PEN 40.6.

[947] National Superintendence of Migration (SNM), June 2024.

[948] Focus group participants expressed confusion about passing from a CPP to CMER. Besides, they mentioned information received is limited and untrustworthy. R4V Peru (GTRM), FGD, May 2024. Moreover, 1 in 10 people in-transit require documentary assistance to regularize their immigration status. IOM, DTM Dashboard. Data regarding collected in three borders: Tumbes, Tacna and Desaguadero. From 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024

[949] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>,

[950] Migrants and refugees in-transit reported having their documentation stolen or lost. Ibid.

[951] For instance, the cost of the CPP for those over 18 was PEN 47,7 (USD 12), and a *carne de extranjería* for family residency costs PEN 161,24 (USD 42). La República, "Nuevo TUPA: Mira aquí el costo de los trámites migratorios para venezolanos en Perú," 23 October, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/bdfhbcw6>.

[952] As refugees and migrants living far from migration offices face unaffordable transport costs or have to leave their livelihoods and care responsibilities. Ibid.

[953] For instance, the Special Migratory Status based on vulnerability needs to be renewed each year, presenting proof of continued situation of vulnerability, with medical exams or other means, even in cases of chronic disability.

[954] According to SNM, some 587,332 Venezuelans were in irregular situation in Peru as of June 2024. From July 2023 to June 2024, an average of 20,206 persons entered and 18,649 left the country irregularly each month. R4V, "Movements Report Q4 2023," January 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/movements-report-q4-2023>. R4V, "Movements Report Q1 2024," July 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/movements-report-q1-2024>.

[955] The number of asylum seekers will be reduced considerably after the data validation process currently conducted by the CEPR. Government of Peru, "Refugio 2024," accessed August 2024, <https://www.gob.pe/refugio2024>. UNHCR, Annual Statistical Report, 2023.

[956] This process aims to confirm which asylum seekers wish to continue pursuing their claim, and thereby permit the CEPR to assess cases faster to determine who requires international protection. For more information: Government of Peru, "Refugio 2024," accessed August 2024, <https://www.gob.pe/refugio2024>

lack of information on how to access international protection,<sup>957</sup> recognition of documents,<sup>958</sup> long processing times and lack of long-term solutions.<sup>959</sup>

**Accessing adequate protection services is a common concern.** Migrants and refugees experienced violence, theft,<sup>960</sup> and threats,<sup>961</sup> which are aggravated for those in-transit often sleeping on the streets, and having unmet basic needs.<sup>962</sup> Most refugees and migrants are unaware

of available assistance and fear sanctions.<sup>963</sup> Others are neglected when trying to access services or asked for unnecessary documents<sup>964</sup> because judicial, legal, and other protection services have no standardised criteria for assisting refugees and migrants. Overall, migrants and refugees are largely unaware of their rights,<sup>965</sup> lack understanding of judicial processes, and are unable to afford the costs of proceedings.<sup>966</sup>

## CHILD PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		GENDER			
	Count	Percentage	Male	Female	Boys	Girls
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	185.5 K	11.2%	-	-	34.6%	34.6%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		1.9%	-	-	7.1%	7.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		1.9%	-	-	7.1%	7.1%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		3.0%	-	-	9.2%	9.2%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugee and migrant children and adolescents face discrimination and violence, underscoring the need for documentation, regularization, and adequate protection services, particularly for UASC.

**UASC require special attention given the lack of family protection.**<sup>967</sup> Travelling without their parents or legal guardians, often through irregular routes, makes them easy targets for trafficking, forced recruitment by illegal groups, and organized crime. According to an

[957] R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, 2024.

[958] Documents accessible for asylum seekers are mostly unknown by state entities and service providers, hampering their access to rights and services.

[959] Law 27891 states that refugees who remain in the country can obtain naturalisation, but there are still pending regulations to make this possible.

[960] According to the National Peruvian Police (PNP), 80% of complaints filed by Venezuelans are against patrimony (theft, robbery, and extortion). PNP, April 2024.

[961] Surveyed households mention having experienced violence (20%), theft or extortion (19%), and direct threats (5%), amongst others. R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024.

[962] With more acute needs for women vulnerable to gender violence, children vulnerable to human trafficking, or LGBTQI+ individuals exposed to discrimination. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, 2024.

[963] This stems from their migratory status, previous experiences of ill-treatment, and emotional distress from traumatic experiences. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, 2024.

[964] IDEHPUC, "Research on Barriers to Access to Justice Faced by Refugees and Migrants in the Cities of Lima, Tacna, Tumbes, Arequipa, and Trujillo", 2023.

[965] According to the study only 11% of refugees and migrants surveyed know their rights in Peru. Flores and Delgado, "Study on the needs of the Venezuelan population in Peru", 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/48dcc6pb>

[966] These include legal fees, transportation costs, expenses for photocopies, or the interruption of income-generating activities. Ibid.

[967] According to partner surveys, 1% of the those in-transit are UASC. International Organization for Migration (IOM), "DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024". UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

R4V partner's report, nearly half of UASC in-transit sleep on the streets or in parks, and over half experienced a security incident along their route.<sup>968</sup>

Barriers persist for UASC to receive adequate protection services.<sup>969</sup> For example, in the first quarter of 2024, 272 Venezuelan migrant and refugee children<sup>970</sup> received assistance in Special Protection Units (UPEs).<sup>971</sup> Nevertheless, access by UASC to UPEs is impeded, as they are not included in the legal framework for children and adolescents without care or at risk of losing it.<sup>972</sup> While, on an *ad hoc* basis, pursuant to the progressive autonomy resolution,<sup>973</sup> UASCs may be granted free movement, this approach fails to extend to them the right to rent, work, or process documentation.<sup>974</sup> A final obstacle is the lack of adaptation of child protection services to UASC,<sup>975</sup> scarce personnel and infrastructure, particularly affecting children seeking reunification with families outside Peru.<sup>976</sup>

### **Regularization and documentation are pivotal to access essential services,<sup>977</sup> yet challenges persist.**

Children who are regularized based on vulnerability<sup>978</sup> have limited options to transfer to other types of migratory status once their situation of vulnerability ends. This can take place when an UASC becomes an adult.<sup>979</sup> Moreover, new entry requirements,<sup>980</sup> and the few options for regular stay for newly arrived children or for those who have not benefited from recent regularization processes exacerbate these problems,<sup>981</sup> as do the challenges of obtaining documents<sup>982</sup> and the limited information about regularization processes available to children and adolescents.<sup>983</sup>

**Comprehensive child protection services remain inconsistent.** According to border monitoring exercises, more than half of the refugee and migrant children in-transit have encountered security incidents, including robbery (27 per cent), discrimination (25 per cent), and threats (12 per cent).<sup>984</sup> Particularly girls were exposed

[968] UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

[969] Based on Legislative Decree 1350, the competent authorities, in this case the Director of the UPEs, asks the National Superintendence of Migration to grant them special resident migratory status (CMER) declaring they are in family deprivation or at risk of it.

[970] Mostly concentrated in Tumbes (30%) and North Lima (17%). Additionally, for the same period, there were 6,923 Peruvian children registered in UPEs. Source: MIMP, 20 May 2024, Letter N° D000540-2024-MIMP-DGNNA.

[971] The UPEs are administrative entities of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) that handle procedures for children and adolescents without parental care or at risk of losing it, including exercising interim protective measures and assuming state guardianship.

[972] The Legislative Decree N° 1297 describes children and adolescents who lack protection or are at risk of it, but the definition excludes unaccompanied or separated children.

[973] Progressive autonomy is a general provision of Law N° 30466 establishing Parameters and Procedural Guarantees for the Best Interest of the Child. However, it is granted on an *ad-hoc* basis as there is no legislation to guide the processing of this resolution.

[974] Although Migration Law 1350 establishes that children and adolescents, particularly those unaccompanied are in a vulnerable situation and should have documentation, migratory authorities often ask for a legal guardian to represent them to access documentation. When UASC are recognized as such, the UPEs or Residential Care Centers where they stay can act as guardians. However, lengthy times for recognition hinder this process.

[975] The Protocol for UPEs to assist refugee and migrant children and adolescents at risk of or in family deprivation was approved in 2023 by the MIMP. It has increased guidance and awareness, yet migratory, and judicial authorities remain often unaware of the implications of being UASC. Resolución Directoral N.° 076-2023-MIMP-DGNNA: <https://tinyurl.com/2jkt3cy4>.

[976] Due to limited personnel, cases that require more effort may not receive the complete attention. Lack of infrastructure results in some regions being unattended in a timely manner. Additionally, there are no bilateral agreements with other countries to process these cases, leading to

[977] For instance, children over five cannot access the national health system (SIS) without a residency card.

[978] Children receiving a resident migratory status based on situations of extreme vulnerability (children with serious illnesses, severe disability, for instance), and asylum-seekers or unaccompanied children and adolescents receiving a humanitarian migratory status (CMH).

[979] The special migratory status based on vulnerability requires yearly renewal, and according to the Legislative Decree 1350, UASC are considered in a vulnerable situation as long as they are under 18. Additionally, adolescents in secondary school lose their residential training migratory status upon graduation, enrolment in an education facility is a requirement. <https://tinyurl.com/3j29ph84>

[980] Resolution N° 000121-2024-MIGRACIONES requiring visa and passport to Venezuelans, even those with specific needs.

[981] Supreme Decree 003-2023-IN and Resolution 109-2023-Migraciones allowing access to the Temporary Residence Permit (CPP) until 10 November 2023.

[982] A Focus Group participant mentioned he was unable to process a CPP for his son due to a lack of resources to notarize documents, usually costing around 60 USD. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group discussion with Refugees and Migrants in transit (FGD), May 2024.

[983] Refer to the Protection chapter for further details on the barriers to regularizing and documenting refugees and migrants.

[984] UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

to GBV or sexual exploitation.<sup>985</sup> Migrant and refugee children in-destination face discrimination (eight per cent), violence (five per cent), family separation (four per cent), and risks of child labour (three per cent). Nonetheless, almost half of them have not been able to access the needed assistance.<sup>986</sup>

Moreover, a partner study found that emotional changes among refugees and migrants under 15 increased by 24 per cent from 2019 to 2023.<sup>987</sup> Children with psychological needs may not receive appropriate care because institutions they interact with are often

unaware of services beyond their sector.<sup>988</sup> For instance, students may not be given necessary mental health counselling if teachers do not refer them.

Social protection programs can mitigate vulnerability and prevent abuse, yet access remains limited for migrants and refugees. The Municipal Child and Adolescent Ombudsman's Office (DEMUNAs)<sup>989</sup> offer preventive services, but services are not adequately adjusted to address the specific challenges and circumstances of refugee and migrant children.<sup>990</sup>



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- [985] According to the MIMP, 34,6% of non-nationals who registered attentions in Women's Emergency Centers (CEM) are under 18. <https://tinyurl.com/ybxrpbay>.
- [986] This is partly due to the limited capacity and familiarity with refugee and migrant children among protection services. R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.
- [987] Emotional changes refer to trouble sleeping, sadness, stress, and the like. Action Against Hunger (2023). "Multi-sectoral study on the refugee and migrant population living in Metropolitan Lima 2023", 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/3sd6hr6c>.
- [988] R4V Peru (GTRM), Child Protection Sector Workshop, June 2024.
- [989] DEMUNAs receive complaints from children, adolescents, or caregivers about situations going against the rights of the child and provide guidance to prevent critical situations. "Defensoría Municipal del Niño y del Adolescente (DEMUNA)," Government of Peru, accessed August 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/52xvd8ds>.
- [990] There is a heterogeneity of services and referral difficulties, for instance, the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) should certify DEMUNAs to refer cases to UPEs, but this is a bureaucratic process leading to few certified DEMUNAs in the country.

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



	PEOPLE IN NEED		Male		Female	
	Count	%	%	%	%	%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	500.0 K	30.1%	6.2%	52.3%	5.8%	56.0%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		5.9%	1.0%	13.7%	1.1%	11.2%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		5.9%	1.0%	13.7%	1.1%	11.2%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		15.4%	3.2%	26.8%	3.0%	28.7%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

**Violence against girls and women is a pressing issue** with 142,182 cases reported in 2023,<sup>991</sup> including 2,220 cases against Venezuelans.<sup>992</sup> Psychological (41 per cent), physical (38 per cent) and sexual (20 per cent) violence were the main types of violence reported,<sup>993</sup> while for 79 per cent of survivors, it was not the first time they had experienced violence.<sup>994</sup>

From January to May 2024, 760 cases of GBV against migrants and refugees were reported.<sup>995</sup> With 77 per cent of Venezuelan women who reportedly suffered some type of violence having indicated that they did not seek help or assistance,<sup>996</sup> it can be claimed that the actual prevalence of GBV is significantly higher.

According to the JNA, 14 per cent of refugees and migrants in-destination feel at risk of suffering GBV where they live, while 18 per cent indicate that girls and women avoid certain areas such as community spaces

(54 per cent), specific areas on their commute to/from work or school (52 per cent) and public transportation (12 per cent) because they feel insecure and at risk of suffering violence.<sup>997</sup>

Owing to the previously elaborated risks associated with onward and transit movements, women and girls in-transit also face notable risks of GBV.<sup>998</sup> Affected girls and women highlighted goods and services (in the shape of food and transportation) being offered in exchange for sexual favours. When refused, they often face verbal aggressions and threats.<sup>999</sup>

**Migrant and refugee and migrant women and girls make limited use of public protection services.** Deep-rooted cultural norms and societal attitudes that perpetuate discrimination affect the exercise of the right to a life free from violence, hindering individuals from seeking and obtaining protection and support.<sup>1000</sup>

[991] Aurora Programme, Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Population, "Cases handled in CEM 2023," <https://tinyurl.com/z2d2ku2z>.

[992] Aurora Programme, Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Population, "Number of non-nationals that registered attentions in Women's Emergency Centers (CEM) in 2023, disaggregated by nationality," 2023. Between 2019 and 2023 a total of 9255 cases of violence against women were registered, 2024 until May: 780; in total 10,319 cases were registered during those years. In 90% of the cases between 2019 and 2024, the survivor was a woman.

[993] Aurora Programme, Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Population, "Cases handled in 2023," <https://tinyurl.com/z2d2ku2z>.

[994] Ibid. In 2022, the CEM registered 133,436 cases of violence against girls and women, 1,951 being Venezuelan. The upward trend in GBV cases suggests that girls and women are at high risk, particularly refugees and migrants, whose cases often go underreported.

[995] Aurora Programme, Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Population, "Foreign women attended in CEMs from January to May 2024," 2024.

[996] 85% did not seek for help because they did not consider it was necessary, 9% did not do so because they felt embarrassed. Action Against Hunger, "Estudio Multisectorial en personas refugiadas y migrantes de Venezuela que viven en Lima Metropolitana", 15 December, 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/bdhjpu33>

[997] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[998] 3% of individuals had experienced incidents of GBV along the route. International Organization for Migration (IOM), "DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024".

[999] R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, 2024.

[1000] Decreto Supremo N° 008-2019-MIMP. <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/mimp/normas-legales/271118-008-2019-mimp>.



Additionally, lack of information on available protection services, fear of retaliation from perpetrators, and exposure to discrimination are among the main reasons for not using protection services, such as legal support for denouncing cases.<sup>1001</sup>

Venezuelan women also refrain from reporting when the aggressor was Peruvian, as nationality is perceived to be a key factor in custody processes and the implementation of protection measures such as removal of the aggressor from home and relocation to safe spaces for victims.<sup>1002</sup> The lack of support networks and information on available services, limited time availability, process-related costs (such as payment of procedural and lawyers' fees, cost of transportation to participate in proceedings and hearings etc.), irregular status and overall lack of trust in authorities<sup>1003</sup> compromise refugees' and migrants' access to the protection and justice systems.

### Groups with specific needs struggle to access services that recognize them in their diversity.

LGBTQI+ migrants and refugees who are victims of violence often choose not to report out of fear of discrimination and xenophobia, especially towards people with non-normative gender expressions.<sup>1004</sup> Discrimination in services and overall social tolerance for violence is exacerbated by the hyper-sexualization of Venezuelan women. Six out of ten Peruvians believe that women from Venezuela are flirtatious and get jobs because of their appearance.<sup>1005</sup> Additionally, refugees, migrants, and host community members who engage in sex work are highly stigmatized and victims of multiple forms of violence,<sup>1006</sup> with emphasis on institutional violence, considering authorities as their principal offenders. The nature of their work and being in an irregular situation exacerbates institutional violence and even reaches their families when trying to access basic services such as health and education.<sup>1007</sup>



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[1001] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Focus Group Discussion with Refugees and Migrants in Transit*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1002] Care Peru, *“Diagnóstico sobre la operación del sistema de protección para las mujeres migrantes y/o refugiadas, frente a la violencia basada en género, desde la perspectiva de los actores”*, 2023.

[1003] IDEHPUCP, *“Investigación sobre barreras para acceder a la justicia que enfrentan las personas refugiadas y migrantes en las ciudades de Lima, Tacna, Tumbes, Arequipa y Trujillo”*, 2023.

[1004] 46% know someone who suffered from psychological violence, 44% physical violence and 29% sexual violence. IOM, *“Refugees, and migrants from Venezuela LGBTQI+ in Peru: Situation, leadership and collectives”*, 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/5y57u7n9>.





[1005] UNHCR, Amnesty International, *“Representation of refugee and migrant women in the media and social and social networks in Peru”*, August 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/yap898f6>.

[1006] Sex workers reported knowing someone who was victim of physical violence (15,3%), psychological violence (16,1%) and sexual violence (2,8%). IOM, *“Evaluación rápida sobre las mujeres en su diversidad, refugiadas y migrantes en situación de trabajo sexual en Lima”*, 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/ucp5mv6d>.

[1007] *Ibid.*

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



	PEOPLE IN NEED				
					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	289.2 K	17.4%	17.4%	17.4%	17.4%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

**Human trafficking and smuggling remain a significant and increasing concern.** In 2023, according to the Public Prosecutor Office, prosecutors attended 1,831 cases linked to human trafficking, smuggling and related crimes. A total of 3,179 victims were identified, 51 per cent Peruvian, 16 per cent Venezuelan, four per cent Ecuadorian.<sup>1008</sup> Seven out of ten victims were women and 27 per cent were underaged. In 2023, an average of two girls and adolescents per day fell into the hands of criminal networks.<sup>1009</sup> Lima and Arequipa are the areas with the highest number of incidents of this crime.<sup>1010</sup> Despite the efforts by the authorities to combat these offences,<sup>1011</sup> only 139 sentences were issued in 2023.<sup>1012</sup>

Nevertheless, in 2023, access to the protection system improved. The number of victims of human trafficking

assisted by the Witness Aid Services Unit (UDAVIT by its acronym in Spanish) increased by 145 per cent.<sup>1013</sup> Yet, the limited resources of refugees and migrants, lack of support and protection networks and documentation still hinder the identification, investigation, and rescue of victims,<sup>1014</sup> increasing vulnerability.

**Migrants and refugees face obstacles to access justice becoming more vulnerable while criminal groups and smugglers expand geographically.**

International crime networks operate in the borders and in the national territory with rampant violence and cruelty.<sup>1015</sup> Among the most common methods to lure their victims are social media networks offering advice on routes and transportation to leave their countries and false job offers.<sup>1016</sup>

[1008] 23% with not identified nationality to be identified, and 6% other nationalities such as Colombians, Malaysians, Haitians, Burkinese, Angolan, Argentinans, Congolese, among others.

[1009] Representing 753 girls and adolescents. CHS Alternativo. "Trata de Personas y Criminalidad: Se Necesitan Acciones Urgente

[1010] Both transit and destination areas of refugees and migrants, registered 29% (Lima) and 12% (Arequipa) of these cases respectively. The number of cases attended in 2023 increased by 68% compared to 2022.

[1011] In 2023, a total of 887 operatives were developed: 646 preventive and 226 investigation operatives.

[1012] Public Prosecutor Office, "Condemnatory sentences issued on 2023", 2023.

[1013] UDAVIT is a national assistance program of the Public Prosecution Office that provides legal, psychological and social aid to victims and witnesses whose physical integrity, freedom and/or assets are at risk. The number of victims attended to by UDAVIT grew from 57 in 2022 to 140 in 2023. Gobierno del Perú, "Programa de Protección y Asistencia a Víctimas y Testigos," accessed August 18, 2024, <https://www.gob.pe/47892-programa-de-proteccion-y-asistencia-a-victimas-y-testigos>.

[1014] International Rescue Committee, "Análisis de sensibilidad al conflicto y acción sin daño", forthcoming, 2024. The interoperability among actors such as the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Public Prosecutor Office, National Police, UDAVIT, is necessary for wider access to the justice and protection system.

[1015] Ibid. Organized criminal groups have been identified in 10 regions on Peru. Abby Ardiles, "Red criminal 'Tren de Aragua' se extiende de forma imparable en Perú: ya están en 10," July 26, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/4jwhxxt6>

[1016] Women are offered housing and clothing. The imposed cost of taking them from Venezuela to Peru fluctuates between S/. 13,000 – S/. 15,000 (equivalent to USD 3,783). Organized crime has been changing methods to avoid detection, now captured women are accommodated in multiple houses to divert rescue efforts. Ibid.

In border areas, criminal groups operate with total audacity and openly approach those in-transit, particularly those travelling alone, offering them short-term jobs to make money or rides.<sup>1017</sup> According to a partner report, 12 per cent of the population in-transit that reported suffering security incidents indicated that they had used the services provided by smugglers to gain access to territory.<sup>1018</sup> Given the combination of porous borders (for example, in Tumbes at least 29 irregular crossing points have been identified<sup>1019</sup>), strict restrictions and border security, R4V partners indicate that the use of smugglers as “advisors” may increase. In 2023, National Police carried out 86 operations to prevent and detect smuggling cases; as a result 63 people were arrested and 766 refugees and migrants were identified as alleged victims.<sup>1020</sup> According to border monitoring surveys, 15 per cent of Venezuelan, 14 per cent Colombian and 6 per cent Ecuadorian refugees and migrants refer to having received such job offers in Peru before leaving their country.<sup>1021</sup> These crime networks, connected to other illegal activities

such as extortion, illegal mining, drug trafficking and contract killings, benefit with the irregular crossings where they lure and capture their victims who are inevitably caught in the middle of violent territorial disputes to gain hegemony.<sup>1022</sup> It has been identified that criminal gangs dedicated to human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation are operating in at least 10 regions of Peru.<sup>1023</sup>

**Limited access to specialized services to protect groups in vulnerable situations, such as migrants and refugees who enter Peru irregularly, particularly children.**<sup>1024</sup> Children are at high risk of forced recruitment and being victims of human trafficking. Some 10 per cent of the refugees and migrants in-transit surveyed at the borders reported encountering UASC while traversing Peru.<sup>1025</sup> Only in early January 2024, National Police rescued 40 children and adolescent victims of sexual exploitation.<sup>1026</sup> According to the National Observatory for National Security, 73 per cent of people captured by trafficking networks are exploited for sexual and labour purposes.<sup>1027</sup>

[1017] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Focus Group Discussion*, 2024.

[1018] UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, “Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024”.

[1019] Infobae, “Vigilante 29 pasos clandestinos en la frontera de Perú y Ecuador para evitar el paso de extranjeros indocumentados,” November 15, 2023, <https://www.infobae.com/peru/2023/11/15/vigilante-29-pasos-clandestinos-en-la-frontera-de-peru-y-ecuador-para-evitar-el-paso-de-extranjeros-indocumentados/>

[1020] National Police of Peru (PNP), *Dirección de Trata de Personas y Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes (DIRCTPTIM)*, 2023.

[1021] International Organization for Migration (IOM), *DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024*.

[1022] CHS Alternativo, “N 295: Trata de personas y criminalidad: se necesitan acciones urgentes”, February 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/2p84d58t>.

[1023] Lima, Piura, Cusco, Arequipa, Junín, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Ancash, Ica and San Martín. Ardiles, Abby. “Red criminal ‘Tren de Aragua’ se extiende de forma imparable en Perú: ya están en 10 regiones.” *El Comercio*, July 26, 2023. <https://elcomercio.pe/peru/red-criminal-tren-de-aragua-se-extiende-de-forma-imparable-en-peru-ya-estan-en-10-regiones-noticia/?ref=ecr>

[1024] *Ibid.* Refugees and migrants in-transit declared that they do not apply to regularization processes because they cannot find appropriate counselling and assistance that would provide information of the requirements and benefits of being in regular situation. Processes are deemed as confusing, cumbersome, lengthy and expensive; also, the lack of digitalization is problematic: refugees and migrants at times lose their documents while being in-transit (21 days on average), become victims of robbery, or possess documents in poor conditions given the geographic and climatic changes during their journey. R4V Peru (GTRM), *Focus Group Discussion*, 2024.





[1025] Caritas, “Fronteras en movimiento: Evaluación transfronteriza de necesidades”, 2023. Data collected from 1 to 19 August. <https://caritas.org.pe/dashboard-proyecto-transfronterizo/>

[1026] Andina, “SMP: Policía rescata a 40 menores de edad que eran explotados sexualmente,” January 07, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/26jpetcx>.

[1027] International Rescue Committee, “Análisis de sensibilidad al conflicto y acción sin daño”, forthcoming, 2024.

## SHELTER



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	927.8 K	55.8%	55.8%	55.8%	55.8%	55.8%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		42.2%	42.3%	42.3%	42.2%	42.2%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		42.3%	42.3%	42.3%	42.3%	42.2%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants on the move in Peru have limited access to temporary accommodation, especially those in vulnerable situations, such as LGBTQI+ persons and people with disabilities.<sup>1028</sup> Among migrants and refugees in-destination, the main challenges relate to finding adequate housing.

According to border surveys among refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements, 59 per cent reported that they had slept on the streets and in parks, and 12 per cent near border crossings,<sup>1029</sup> exposing them to GBV, robbery and health risks.<sup>1030</sup> Fifty-four per cent of those in-transit consider shelter an immediate need.<sup>1031</sup> Among those sleeping on the streets, 27 per cent have had money or belongings stolen.<sup>1032</sup> Where temporary collective shelters are available, they often cannot meet the demand due

to limited capacity and infrastructure.<sup>1033</sup> They are particularly needed in border areas like Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios.<sup>1034</sup> Moreover, migrants and refugees need information on the locations of available shelters before their journey.<sup>1035</sup>

Refugees and migrants with disabilities require shelters adapted to their mobility needs, yet most are inaccessible to them. Moreover, trans people are particularly exposed to discrimination as they are assigned to sleeping spaces based on their sex at birth.<sup>1036</sup>

**Refugees and migrants in-destination also face challenges on housing.** According to the JNA, a quarter of the households surveyed live in overcrowded conditions,<sup>1037</sup> often leading to risks of violence, diseases,

[1028] R4V Peru (GTRM), Shelter Sectoral Workshop, June 2023.

[1029] UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

[1030] Many focus group participants experienced fever, altitude sickness, and respiratory conditions due to their exposure to extreme weather events such as heat waves in Tacna, heavy rains in the North, or high altitude in Desaguadero. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, 2024.

[1031] International Organization for Migration (IOM), "DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024". UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

[1032] UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024".

[1033] Almost all shelters in Northern Peru and Lima require constant repairs due to deficient infrastructure. R4V Peru (GTRM), Shelter Sector Workshop, June 2023.

[1034] This is exacerbated by the lack of public funding these shelters receive, which are mostly managed by civil entities, in addition to the vague legislation about shelter installation and management.

[1035] The directory with information on operational shelters in Peru is at times not widely shared at the request of the shelter managers given the very limited number of spaces available. This directory is shared with service providers who, in turn direct people to the available shelters. R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, 2024.

[1036] R4V Platform, "Barreras de Acceso a Servicios Públicos para Personas LGBTQI+," accessed August 19, 2024, [https://www.r4v.info/es/document/EncuentrosSJM\\_DRC\\_Barreras\\_acceso\\_serviciospublicos\\_LGBTIQ%2B\\_ago23](https://www.r4v.info/es/document/EncuentrosSJM_DRC_Barreras_acceso_serviciospublicos_LGBTIQ%2B_ago23). Other groups with unmet and specific shelter needs include men travelling alone and large families, as they often have limitations when accessing collective shelters.

[1037] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

and threatening their mental health. Short-term and informal employment contribute to overcrowding, as refugees and migrants live closer to city centres with job opportunities, and with higher rent costs.<sup>1038</sup> Furthermore, refugees and migrants are exposed to tenure insecurity and risks of eviction or abuse due to informal rentals. The legal obligation of landlords to verify the regular status of foreign tenants<sup>1039</sup> has become a pretext to raise rents or service costs, while keeping rents informal and exposing migrants and refugees in irregular situations to abuse and discrimination.<sup>1040</sup> One-fourth of households surveyed in the JNA feared eviction.<sup>1041</sup> Frequent changes of residence also take a toll on mental health and children's education permanence.<sup>1042</sup>

**The lack of economic resources is a significant factor contributing to these risks**, particularly with 69 per cent of refugee and migrant households surveyed living in rented properties,<sup>1043</sup> lower salaries in comparison with nationals,<sup>1044</sup> and rental prices increasing in

2024.<sup>1045</sup> Discrimination, xenophobia, and limited information about the housing market and relating legal frameworks further exacerbate the capacity to access adequate housing, particularly for people with specific needs such as people with mobility restrictions and LGBTQI+ individuals. Moreover, some refugees and migrants are forced to settle for inadequate or unsafe accommodation because landlords refuse to rent to Venezuelans.<sup>1046</sup>

Lastly, migrants and refugees live in **housing options which are vulnerable to extreme weather events and earthquakes**. In this regard, 14 per cent of households surveyed feel unprotected due to the quality of their accommodation, and an additional 10 per cent report living in a disaster-prone area.<sup>1047</sup> These households are exposed to recurring natural and man-made hazards in Peru, including heavy rains and floods, as those triggered by the El Niño weather phenomenon in early 2024.<sup>1048</sup>

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[1038] Pereyra, Devoto, and Lau, "The Urban Dimension of Venezuelan Migration in Metropolitan Lima: Housing, Residential Trajectories and Processes of Segregation", April 2023, [https://www.r4v.info/es/document/GIZ\\_PUCP\\_CIES\\_La\\_dimension\\_urbana\\_de\\_la\\_migracion\\_venezolana\\_Abril23](https://www.r4v.info/es/document/GIZ_PUCP_CIES_La_dimension_urbana_de_la_migracion_venezolana_Abril23).

[1039] Based on Legislative Decree No. 1350, landlords need to present a document proving the regular migratory status of foreigners with whom they sign a rental contract, non-compliance can incur a fine of S/. 5,150 (USD 1,376).

[1040] Pereyra, Devoto, and Lau, *The Urban Dimension of Venezuelan Migration in Metropolitan Lima: Housing, Residential Trajectories and Processes of Segregation*, April 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/ysuakurm>.

[1041] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*,

[1042] *Changes of residence can hamper access to social programs that are census-based, such as the free national health system (SIS)*. Pereyra, Devoto, and Lau, "The Urban Dimension of Venezuelan Migration in Metropolitan Lima: Housing, Residential Trajectories and Processes of Segregation", April 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/ysuakurm>.

[1043] R4V Peru (GTRM), *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[1044] The average monthly salary of Venezuelans in Peru is 1,200 soles (USD 319), whereas for Peruvians 1,607.80 soles (USD 428). INEI, E

[1045] According to Urbania, in 2024 the average rental price increased 3.2%. Urbania, "Urbania Index Lima: Alquiler," accessed August 19, 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/2dkr7ddm>.





[1046] Pereyra, Devoto, and Lau, "The Urban Dimension of Venezuelan Migration in Metropolitan Lima: Housing, Residential Trajectories and Processes of Segregation", April 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/ysuakurm>.

[1047] *San Martín de Porres is the district with the most Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Peru, some of them live near the Rimac River, and are vulnerable to floods when the river flow increases, as in early 2024*. Alejandro Aguilar, "San Martín de Porres: familias se encuentran en riesgo por el aumento del caudal del río Rimac," 3 January 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/te23kn7k>.

[1048] *Heavy rain and associated floods affected the country since December 2023, resulting in two 60-day states of emergency in 19 departments due to severe rainfall*. El Peruano, "Declaran en Emergencia a 96 Distritos de 15 Regiones por Lluvias," accessed 19 August, 2024, <https://www.elperuano.pe/noticia/235622-declaran-en-emergencia-a-96-distritos-de-15-regiones-por-lluvias>.

## WASH



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	790.0 K	47.5%	47.5%	47.5%	47.5%	47.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		62.2%	62.2%	62.2%	62.2%	62.2%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		62.2%	62.2%	62.2%	62.2%	62.2%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees in Peru have largely inadequate access to water, sanitation, hygiene, and proper waste management. Economic constraints, lack of information about available services, and deficient infrastructure contribute to this.

During transit and onward movements, refugees and migrants often struggle to access sufficient and safe water due to financial limitations for purchasing bottled water, insufficient knowledge about hydration points, and limited public water resources along their route.<sup>1049</sup> Heavy rains since December 2023 have further disrupted water infrastructure,<sup>1050</sup> affecting access to clean water for those passing through Tumbes.<sup>1051</sup> For those in-destination, most migrant and refugee households surveyed (91 per cent) have access to a public water supply network in their homes,<sup>1052</sup> but 12 per cent do not have enough water to meet their domestic needs. Interruptions in water supply contribute to this, as households unable to satisfy domestic needs are 49 per cent more likely to

encounter water interruptions.<sup>1053</sup> These interruptions highlight deficiencies in water distribution in Peru which also affect the host community.

**Accessing sanitation and hygiene is another priority need.** Due to limited access to showers, refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements often rely on tissues or bottled water for their sanitary and hygiene needs.<sup>1054</sup> Fifty-one per cent of migrants and refugees in-transit lack soap, and 30 per cent toilet paper.<sup>1055</sup> Thus, most rely on temporary shelters or bus terminals for free and available bathrooms and showers.<sup>1056</sup>

Refugees and migrants in-destination mostly have bathrooms connected to public sewerage networks in their homes (90 per cent), yet 37 per cent share bathrooms with other families.<sup>1057</sup> When accessing schools, hospitals, or other community centres, migrants and refugees sometimes encounter sanitation facilities without adequate hygiene, hygiene products, and limited accessibility, affecting particularly people with

[1049] 63% of refugees and migrants interviewed in border monitoring exercises needed hydration. UNHCR, HIAS, and Caritas, "Border Monitoring in Tacna, Tumbes, Puno, and Madre de Dios, July 2023 to May 2024". International Organization for Migration (IOM), "DTM Dashboard: Data Regarding Entries at Three Borders: Tumbes, Tacna, and Desaguadero, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024".

[1050] ACAPS, "Peru Humanitarian impact of heavy rainfall and flooding", March 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/54dzc2my>.

[1051] R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[1052] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

[1053] Only 18% of these households can access water for some hours, whereas this represents 67% of households with unmet domestic water needs. *Ibid.*

[1054] R4V Peru (GTRM), Focus Group Discussion, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[1055] Caritas, "Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación Transfronteriza de Necesidades," 2023, data collected 1-19 August, accessed 19 August, 2024, <https://caritas.org.pe/dashboard-proyecto-transfronterizo>.

[1056] *Ibid.*

[1057] R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2024. <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/evaluacion-conjunta-gtrm-peru-2024>.

mobility restrictions.<sup>1058</sup> According to a partner study, hygiene products like tissues or deodorant are scarce among refugees and migrants, often due to financial constraints.<sup>1059</sup>

Women and girls, especially those menstruating, face additional hurdles in accessing water sanitation and hygiene, essential for preventing infections. Half of menstruating people were unable to access menstrual hygiene products while transiting through Peru.<sup>1060</sup> These products are often deprioritized and the stigma surrounding menstruation can discourage them from seeking assistance.

**Waste management poses a significant challenge for migrants and refugees.**<sup>1061</sup> Along their route, refugees and migrants needing to engage in onward and transit movements find few waste disposal options, requiring them to discard waste on their path and, thus, increasing exposure to diseases.<sup>1062</sup> Whereas 94 per cent of those in-destination dispose of their waste in municipal garbage bins,<sup>1063</sup> the frequency or adequacy of these waste management services is not optimal. According to the JNA, 16 per cent perceive their neighbourhood as unhygienic.<sup>1064</sup> Limited municipal capacity and insufficient awareness among migrants and refugees about local waste management collection systems compound these challenges.<sup>1065</sup>



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[1058] R4V Peru (GTRM), WASH Sector Workshop, June 2023.

[1059] Action Against Hunger, R4V Platform, Estudio Multisectorial 2023, accessed 19 August, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/sites/default/files/2023-12/ESTUDIO-MULTISECTORIAL-2023-NUEVA-VERSION.pdf>.

[1060] Caritas, "Fronteras en Movimiento: Evaluación Transfronteriza de Necesidades," 2023, data collected 1-19 August, accessed 19 August, 2024, <https://caritas.org.pe/dashboard-proyecto-transfronterizo>.

[1061] This can cause additional health risks for refugees and migrants, who already face challenges attending to their health needs. Ministry of Environment, "General Directory of Solid Waste Management", August 2023, Peru, <https://tinyurl.com/pvjuue4n>.

[1062] Refugees and migrants stranded at the border with Chile in the second half of 2023 stressed the already limited waste management infrastructure.

[1063] In Tacna, 7% of households report that they dispose of waste in streets or rivers. R4V Peru (GTRM), Joint Needs Assessment (JNA),

[1064] Ibid.

[1065] R4V Peru (GTRM), WASH Sector Workshop, June 2023.

# CARIBBEAN



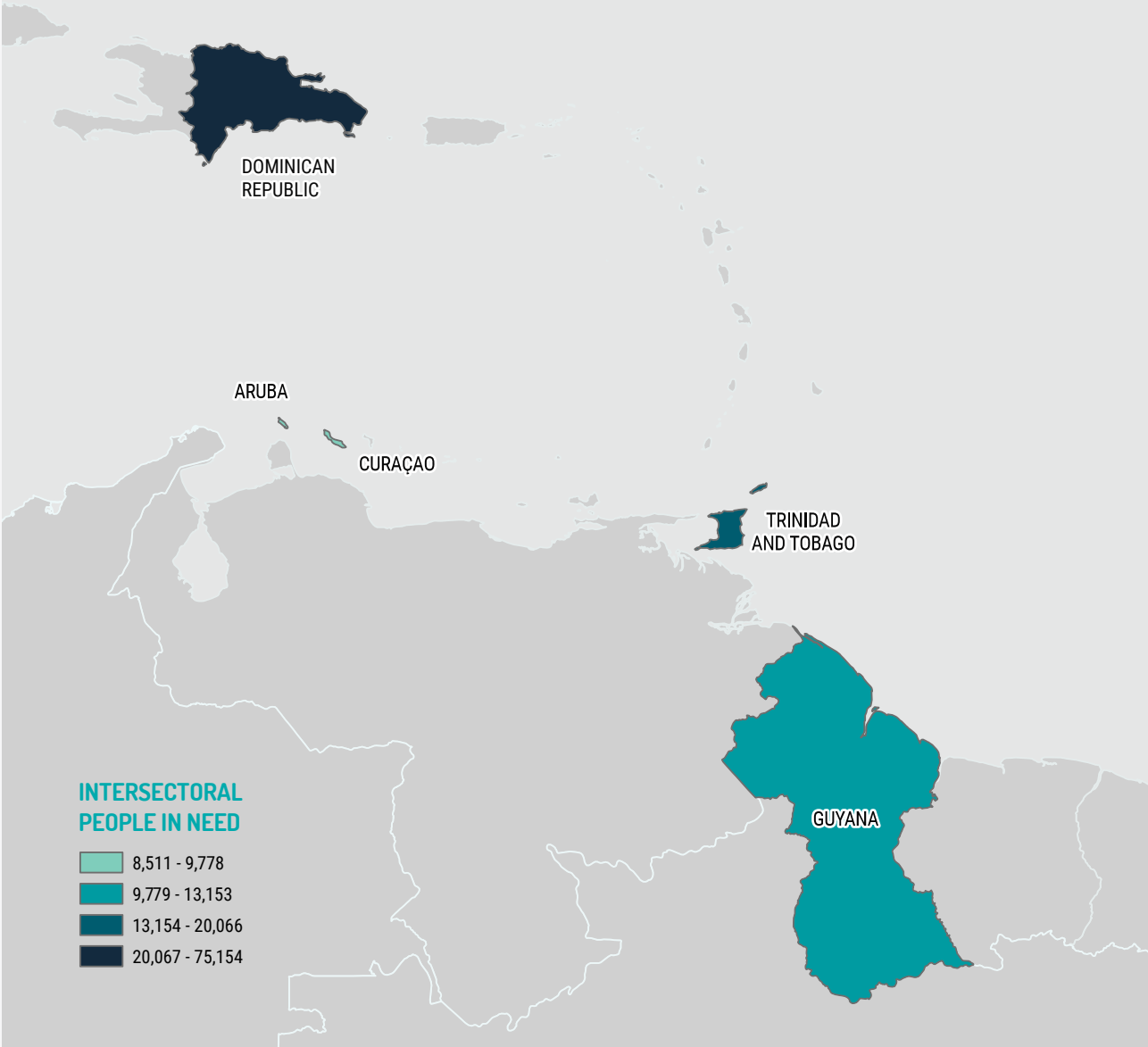


# CARIBBEAN AT A GLANCE

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION **63.3% • 126.8 K**

AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES **63.8%**
















## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN WOMEN BOYS GIRLS



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

SECTOR		PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)		
		VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
	INTERSECTOR	63.3%	126.8 K	63.8%
	EDUCATION	8.3%	16.6 K	9.8%
	FOOD SECURITY	43.2%	86.5 K	47.1%
	HEALTH	27.6%	55.4 K	32.4%
	HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	23.3%	46.6 K	22.7%
	INTEGRATION	59.3%	118.8 K	59.0%
	NUTRITION	6.1%	12.2 K	6.0%
	PROTECTION	61.4%	123.0 K	61.1%
	CHILD PROTECTION	14.1%	28.2 K	14.2%
	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	18.1%	36.3 K	21.2%
	HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	31.7%	63.5 K	32.8%
	SHELTER	33.4%	67.0 K	39.4%
	WASH	31.7%	63.6 K	34.5%

## CARIBBEAN: SUB-REGIONAL PLATFORM OVERVIEW

Refugees and migrants from Venezuela seek livelihood opportunities and protection in the Caribbean. Among those unable to access regular status, asylum or socio-economic integration some have decided to move onwards to other countries. In 2024, the official numbers of Venezuelan migrants and refugees were revised in Aruba, Curaçao, and Trinidad and Tobago, based on new data from governments and partners.<sup>1066</sup> On the other hand, increases in the number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela were monitored in Guyana and the Dominican Republic, which experience continued entries. Profiles of Venezuelans in the Caribbean range from professionals seeking new career opportunities, to individuals in vulnerable situations and in need of protection, including international protection, with specific needs, such as UASC or indigenous Venezuelans in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2024 JNA led by the sub-regional R4V Platform were conducted across all five countries of the Caribbean sub-region: Aruba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. A range of methodologies were employed as part of an inter-agency effort to directly consult the Venezuelan population with the intention to stay in host countries (in-destination) and assess their priorities and needs. These included primary data collection in all five countries, through in-person interviews and phone surveys, and a review of secondary data.

The R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform carried out primary data collection using the R4V's harmonized regional indicators and questionnaire, adapted to country contexts. R4V partners in Aruba surveyed 121 Venezuelan households via phone surveys (representing 150 people), while partners in Curaçao reached 137 households via phone (representing 366 people). R4V partners in the Dominican Republic conducted in-person interviews in information hubs in three main cities in the north (Santiago), east (Punta

Cana), and the capital (Santo Domingo) to capture regional nuances and experiences of refugees and migrants in the country, reaching 451 Venezuelan households (1,078 people). In Guyana, partners completed 133 in-person and phone surveys across multiple regions (540 individuals). Trinidad and Tobago partners conducted phone surveys covering urban and rural areas across 15 municipalities, surveying 404 households representing 1,427 people. Limitations in the data collection methodologies, such as small or targeted samples, limit the representativeness of the findings. Results from protection monitoring and displacement tracking surveys conducted by partners in 2023 were also used, ensuring a broad and inclusive understanding of the needs across the sub-region.

As in 2023, the primary needs identified for migrants and refugees from Venezuela, including indigenous populations, through the JNA analysis in the Caribbean sub-region include integration, protection, shelter, and health. Socio-economic integration remains a significant challenge for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Continued strict and largely unattainable visas, permits, and entry requirements in many countries of the sub-region limit access to regular pathways and documentation, leading many to resort to irregular routes which expose them to severe protection risks, including trafficking and fatal shipwrecks. Those in an irregular situation lack access to formal employment opportunities, requiring them to engage in informal labour, without legal protection and access to social security benefits, exposing them to risks of exploitation and abuse. Lack of stable employment affects their ability to cover basic needs such as food and shelter. In this respect, 79 per cent of migrants and refugees in Aruba and Curaçao highlighted regularization as a top priority.<sup>1067</sup> In Guyana, 76 per cent of interviewed Indigenous Venezuelans reported being unemployed.<sup>1068</sup> Despite

[1066] In 2024, the number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees increased in the Dominican Republic and Guyana, while decreasing in Aruba, Curaçao, and Trinidad and Tobago. Updated methodologies in some of the countries have permitted for more accurate assessments of needs in these countries. The regular updates on population statistics are available on the R4V Platform: "Refugees and Migrants," accessed 19 August, 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrants>.

[1067] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Aruba (2023), internal document. UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Curaçao (November to December 2023), internal document.

[1068] Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Guyana. Guyana Flow Monitoring Surveys: Indigenous Venezuelan Nationals in Guyana, Round 5 (March 2023). Accessed 19 August, 2024. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/guyana-flow-monitoring-surveys-indigenous-venezuelan-nationals-guyana-round-5-march-2023?close=true>

the Dominican Republic's *normalization plan* (aimed at providing a regular status) carried out in 2021, many were left without access to regular status, with 60 per cent of households requiring legal assistance, primarily for regularization. In Trinidad and Tobago, only 16 per cent of respondents held a regular status.<sup>1069</sup> In English and Dutch/Papiamentu speaking Caribbean countries, language barriers further complicate integration for Venezuelans who speak Spanish and indigenous languages. Social exclusion, xenophobia, and discrimination further compound these challenges, undermining efforts to achieve economic stability and social cohesion.

Across the sub-region, those in an irregular situation are at risk of detention, deportation, and, in some cases, *refoulement*. Detentions and deportations continued in 2023 from Aruba, Curaçao, and Trinidad and Tobago, including cases of *refoulement*, particularly following a High Court ruling of July 2023 that held that the 1951 Refugee Convention is not enforceable under national

law in Trinidad and Tobago. Refugees and migrants also face risks of violence due to high levels of crime in several Caribbean countries.

Shelter and housing emerged as critical needs, with many refugees and migrants facing high rental costs and economic instability, leading to difficulties in securing safe and dignified housing and risks of eviction. In Aruba (63 per cent<sup>1070</sup>) and in Curaçao (68 per cent<sup>1071</sup>) migrants and refugees from Venezuela did not have formal rental contracts, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation. The rising cost of living and reduced purchasing power further exacerbated these challenges in the Caribbean.

Finally, access to healthcare remains a significant challenge for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the sub-region. Those in an irregular situation lack access to public health systems in Aruba and Curaçao, while in other countries they face challenges accessing specialized healthcare and medications.



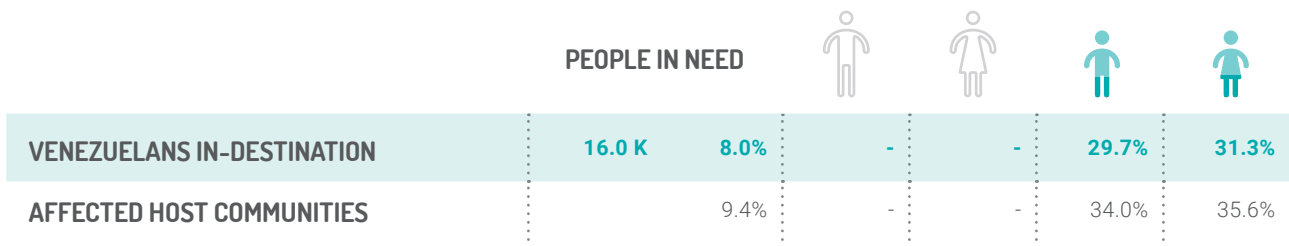
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[1069] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago (May to June 2024)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1070] UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring Survey, Aruba (2023)*, internal document.

[1071] UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao (November to December 2023)*, internal document.

# EDUCATION



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees across the Caribbean sub-region face substantial challenges to access adequate education, including administrative and financial constraints, and language and cultural barriers.

Legal and administrative challenges hinder refugees' and migrants' access to education across the sub-region. Although laws guarantee universal access to education, in 2024, four per cent of interviewed Venezuelan households in Aruba<sup>1072</sup> and two per cent in Curaçao<sup>1073</sup> reported school-aged children not being enrolled in schools,<sup>1074</sup> primarily due to high costs for registration, school supplies, utilities, health insurance, and transportation.<sup>1075</sup> In the Dominican Republic, while in principle all children have access to education, financial constraints related to transport and school resources (among others) and lack of information on enrolment present obstacles to education, leaving five per cent of school-aged children unenrolled.<sup>1076</sup>

In Guyana, by mid-2024, approximately 3,000 non-Guyanese students, including Venezuelans, were enrolled in public schools, and benefitted from Ministry of Education grants.<sup>1077</sup> Despite non-nationals having access to education, structural barriers in the hinterland and rural areas, such as limited school capacities, result in long waiting lists of between three to six months. A 2023 survey highlighted that 96 per cent of children were enrolled in schools, including 62 per cent enrolled in primary education and 34 per cent in secondary education, yet 26 per cent of households interviewed with school-aged children noted them not having attended school in 2023.<sup>1078</sup> Food insecurity and limited funds for transportation and school supplies contributed to low participation and high dropout rates.

In Trinidad and Tobago, following the government's July 2023 commitment to integrate registered<sup>1079</sup> Venezuelan children into public schools, school registration<sup>1080</sup> for eligible children began<sup>1081</sup> in June

[1072] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[1073] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[1074] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, (May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[1075] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Aruba (2023), internal document.

[1076] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, (April to May 2024), forthcoming, 2024.

[1077] INews Guyana, "Over 3,000 Migrants Enrolled in Local Schools; Revised Curriculum to Include Spanish – Edu Minister." 2023, accessed on July 10, 2024, <https://www.inewsguyana.com/over-3000-migrants-enrolled-in-local-schools-revised-curriculum-to-include-spanish-edu-minister/>

[1078] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Guyana (September to December 2023), <https://reliefweb.int/report/guyana/guyana-protection-monitoring-profiles-needs-and-situation-venezuelans-guyana>

[1079] Loop T&T News, "Migrant Children may be Allowed to go to School in the New Term," (July 2023), <https://tt.loopnews.com/content/migrant-children-may-be-allowed-go-school-new-term>

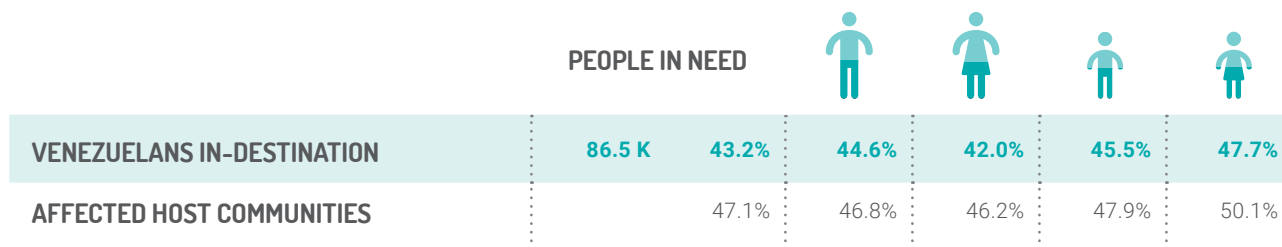
[1080] Lindo, P, Migrant Children School Registration Begins on June 25 (21 June 2024), <https://newsday.co.tt/2024/06/21/migrant-children-school-registration-begins-on-june-25/>

[1081] On 22 February 2024, section 44 of the Immigration Act, Chapter 18:01 was amended to permit the integration of refugee and migrant (with a regular status) children into public schools. This includes Venezuelan refugee and migrant children who registered with their parents under the 2019 Migrant Registration Framework and whose parents would have re-registered in the subsequent re-registration exercises.

2024 for the next school year beginning in September 2024.<sup>1082</sup> Yet, most of the 6,000 Venezuelan children<sup>1083</sup> will remain unenrolled due to legal and administrative barriers that still exist and restrict access to or exemption from necessary student permits. Other non-regulated and informal education alternatives remain the only alternative. Yet, 62 per cent of interviewed households with school-aged children indicated that they were not enrolled in any alternative informal education in Trinidad and Tobago.<sup>1084</sup>

In Aruba, Curaçao, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago, language barriers impede educational access and advancement of Venezuelan children whose native languages differ from the instructional languages of English, Dutch, and Papiamentu. Nonetheless, some positive developments have been seen in the region such as in Guyana, where the Ministry of Education is including Spanish in the curriculum for secondary education.<sup>1085</sup> Additionally, in the last two years the national secondary school entrance examination was translated to Spanish to better accommodate Spanish-speaking learners.<sup>1086</sup>

## FOOD SECURITY



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Economic constraints and limited availability of adequate food impact food security of Venezuelan refugees and migrants across the Caribbean sub-region. Their limited access to employment and livelihood opportunities further compound food insecurity (see Integration Sector). Across the sub-region, increasing costs of living, decreasing purchasing power and reliance on imported goods make food prices particularly volatile and unaffordable for low-income households. According to a report on food security in the Caribbean of April 2024, 96 per cent of respondents in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago

indicated that food prices had increased in the three months prior to the survey.<sup>1087</sup>

Rising food prices make it difficult for families to afford balanced meals, forcing many to resort to cheaper, less nutritious foods, reduce meal portions, and rely on food aid to cope with food insecurity. This reliance on suboptimal food choices impacts the overall nutritional needs of refugees and migrants, leading to poor health outcomes. In Trinidad and Tobago, 79 per cent of respondents experienced poor dietary diversity and nutritional adequacy.<sup>1088</sup> Similar conditions are observed in Guyana, where restricted access to a variety

[1082] Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Education, Media Release “Admission of Migrant Children of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela into Schools in Trinidad and Tobago,” (21 June 2024), <https://storage.moe.gov.tt/corporate/2024/06/Media-Release-Admission-of-Migrant-Children-June-2024.pdf>

[1083] UNHCR, Profile Global Registration System (proGres), Trinidad and Tobago (2023), internal data.

[1084] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

[1085] <https://newsroom.gy/2023/07/12/spanish-will-be-compulsory-in-schools-from-september-foreign-teachers-could-be-hired/>

[1086] iNews Guyana, “NGSA 2023 Papers translated in Spanish...” (2023). <https://www.inewsguyana.com/ngsa-2023-papers-translated-in-spanish-more-centres-more-time-to-write-exams/>

[1087] Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey (April 2024). <https://www.wfp.org/publications/caribbean-food-security-livelihoods-survey-april-2024>

[1088] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

of nutritious foods has led to diets predominantly composed of carbohydrates, contributing to acute malnutrition and poor health among migrants and refugees with the lowest incomes.<sup>1089</sup>

Access to healthy foods like fruits and vegetables is a significant hurdle in the Caribbean due to heavy reliance on imports and logistical challenges leading to quick spoilage. Consequently, many choose longer-lasting, less nutritious alternatives, compromising their health. Interest in growing their food exists, but barriers such as limited space, high water costs, and lack of arable land hinder these efforts.<sup>1090</sup> This exacerbates their reliance on suboptimal food options and perpetuates the cycle of poor nutritional health.

For refugees and migrants with limited financial resources and support networks, this leads to difficult choices between food and other essential expenses. In Aruba, 75 per cent of migrants and refugees were rated as having poor food consumption scores primarily due to the high cost of living and limited job opportunities affecting access to food,<sup>1091</sup> with the cost of food in Aruba increasing by two point six per cent in June of 2024 over the same month in the previous year.<sup>1092</sup> Thirty-seven per cent of interviewed Venezuelan households reduced their meals at least once in the previous week.<sup>1093</sup> Similarly, in Curaçao, 66 per cent of Venezuelans cited food insecurity as a primary concern, with 84 per cent<sup>1094</sup> with poor or borderline

food consumption.<sup>1095</sup> Around 71 per cent reduce their number of meals at least once a week. In the Dominican Republic, refugees and migrants faced inflation rates of three point six per cent in 2023.<sup>1096</sup> By May 2024, food costs in the Dominican Republic increased by more than four percent compared to the same month in the previous year,<sup>1097</sup> where Venezuelan households spend an average of USD 228 on food,<sup>1098</sup> while the average minimum salary is USD 245,<sup>1099</sup> forcing many to resort to negative coping mechanisms. As a result, many noted consuming cheaper or less preferred food (28 per cent) and have reduced the number of meals per day (9 per cent). As of May 2024, the cost of food in Guyana had risen by almost eight per cent, compared to the same month the previous year.<sup>1100</sup> A partner survey shows that 33 per cent of respondents have less purchasing power compared to the same period of the previous year.<sup>1101</sup> In Trinidad and Tobago, food costs increased by more than three percent in May of 2024, compared to the same month in the previous year,<sup>1102</sup> with fifty-two per cent of households demonstrating a medium to high economic vulnerability based on food expenditure indicators, and 90 per cent resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as consuming cheaper foods and skipping meals.<sup>1103</sup> The impacts on migrants and refugees include increased food insecurity due to high food costs and limited availability, financial strain from rising food prices, and nutritional deficiencies as affordable, nutritious food becomes harder to access.

[1089] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Guyana, June 2024.

[1090] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessments, 2024.

[1091] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, May 2024.

[1092] Trading Economic-Aruba Food Inflation. (2024) Source: Aruba Central Bureau of Statistics. <https://tradingeconomics.com/aruba/food-inflation>

[1093] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, May 2024.

[1094] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao, May 2024.

[1095] Ibid.

[1096] International Monetary Fund (IMF), Regional Economic Outlook for the Western Hemisphere, April 2024, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/WH/Issues/2024/04/19/regional-economic-outlook-western-hemisphere-april-2024>

[1097] Trading Economic-Dominican Food Inflation (2024). Central Bank of Dominican Republic. <https://tradingeconomics.com/dominican-republic/food-inflation>

[1098] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, May 2024 (publication forthcoming).

[1099] Diario Libre, "Estos serán los nuevos salarios mínimos de los empleados del sector privado no sectorizado" (March 2023). <https://www.diariolibre.com/economia/empleo/2023/03/08/nuevos-salarios-minimos-de-los-empleados-privados/2249060>

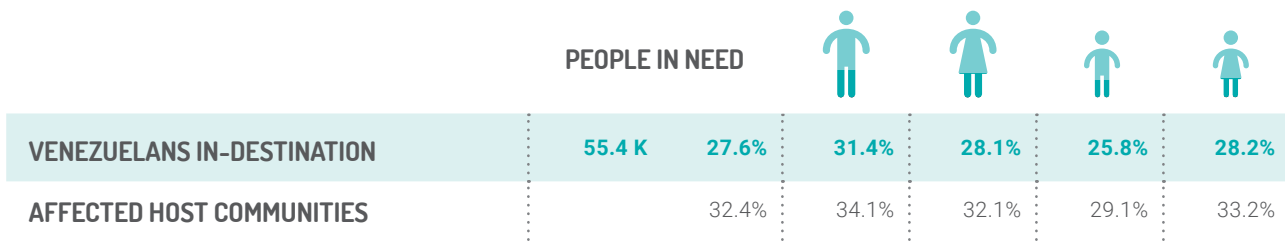
[1100] Trading Economics. Guyana Food Inflation. Source: Statistics Guyana. <https://tradingeconomics.com/guyana/food-inflation>

[1101] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Guyana (September to December 2023). Internal

[1102] Trading Economics- Trinidad and Tobago Food Prices. (2024) Source: Central Statistical Office, Trinidad and Tobago. <https://tradingeconomics.com/trinidad-and-tobago/food-inflation>

[1103] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

## HEALTH



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees in the Caribbean face significant health-related needs, including access to affordable healthcare, availability of specialized and emergency medical care, and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS).

In Aruba and Curaçao, those in an irregular situation are excluded from national health insurance and unable to access public health services without paying high fees. More than half (55 per cent) of surveyed Venezuelan households in Aruba reported difficulties accessing healthcare, with 43 per cent citing the unaffordability of private insurance as the main reason.<sup>1104</sup> In Curaçao, despite not having access to the public health system, as concerns access to healthcare provided by humanitarian actors, including R4V partners, a smaller percentage (10 per cent) reported difficulties accessing them in 2024.<sup>1105</sup> In the Dominican Republic, while primary healthcare is largely accessible,<sup>1106</sup> Venezuelan leaders and organizations report that people do not know how to access health services and fear approaching service providers without valid documents.<sup>1107</sup> Although healthcare is free in Guyana, availability of

some healthcare services and medications at health facilities continues to be a significant challenge due to lack of resources, especially in rural areas. Access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services is limited in these areas; 27 per cent of Indigenous respondents stated they needed these services but did not have access,<sup>1108</sup> which may lead to unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and maternal and newborn deaths. The main areas of concern are the mining areas,<sup>1109</sup> located in the dense Amazon rainforest, prone to *Aedes* and *Anopheles* mosquitoes known for transmitting malaria<sup>1110</sup> and dengue fever.<sup>1111</sup> In Trinidad and Tobago, while non-nationals have access to primary, emergency and maternal public healthcare, they need to approach private health services for secondary or tertiary healthcare. While the majority (80 per cent) of interviewed households reported that they did not require healthcare within three months before the interview, 22 per cent of those who required health care were not able to access it<sup>1112</sup> due to perceived discrimination and high costs of medicine and private health care.<sup>1113</sup>

[1104] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, May 2024.

[1105] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao, May 2024.

[1106] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, May 2024.

[1107] *Ibid.*

[1108] International Organization for Migration, Guyana Flow Monitoring Surveys: Indigenous Venezuelan Nationals in Guyana, Round 5, March 2023, accessed 4 September 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/guyana-flow-monitoring-surveys-indigenous-venezuelan-nationals-guyana-round-5-march-2023?close=true>

[1109] "Health Ministry Distributing Insecticide Nets to Mining Camps to Tackle Malaria," Newsroom Guyana, 9 May 2024, <https://newsroom.gy/2024/05/09/health-ministry-distributing-insecticide-nets-to-mining-camps-to-tackle-malaria/>.

[1110] "U.S. Assisting Guyana in Fight Against Malaria," Newsroom Guyana, 20 July 2024, <https://newsroom.gy/2024/07/20/u-s-assisting-guyana-in-fight-against-malaria>

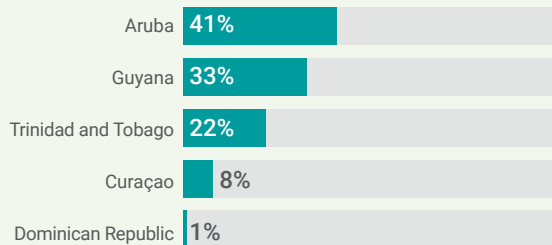
[1111] "Mesas Nacionales de Consulta a Pueblos Indígenas Venezolanos 2021: Guyana | R4V" March 10, 2022.; NTP-Migrant Workshop 2022, Grand Coast Hotel, 19 April 2022."

[1112] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

[1113] *Ibid.*



### PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS THAT REQUIRED HEALTHCARE IN THE SUB-REGION BUT WERE UNABLE TO ACCESS IT



Sources: R4V Aruba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago JNA (2024), and Guyana UNHCR RMS (2023).

Access to specialized and emergency medical care is limited for refugees and migrants in the sub-region. In Aruba, Curaçao, and Trinidad and Tobago, specialized care is unaffordable for most refugees and migrants as they do not have access to medical or social insurance coverage. In Aruba and Curaçao, 36 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively, of interviewed Venezuelan

households stated that a member of their household has a critical or chronic medical condition,<sup>1114</sup> while eight per cent of those in Curaçao reported living with someone with a disability.<sup>1115</sup> Venezuelans in the Dominican Republic rely on public services and health centres, though they do not provide adequate care due to lack of capacity.<sup>1116</sup> In Guyana, due to the limited availability of specialized health services in remote areas, persons often require medical evacuation by plane to the national hospital in the capital city to receive treatment. Furthermore, the limited availability of medicines, language and cultural barriers can lead to a lack of treatment and follow-up in most cases.<sup>1117</sup>

The experience of leaving one's country brings challenges that impact mental health and well-being. Refugees and migrants face stress and mental health issues related to isolation and fear of detention and deportation, as well as economic hardship. Mental health challenges and the need for support were highlighted by migrants and refugees in Curaçao during focus group discussions carried out in November 2023,<sup>1118</sup> and similar observations have been made by R4V partners in other countries. Venezuelans report lacking social support networks, prolonging their social integration process, as they encounter xenophobia, barriers to regularizing their status.

[1114] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Aruba (2023), internal document.

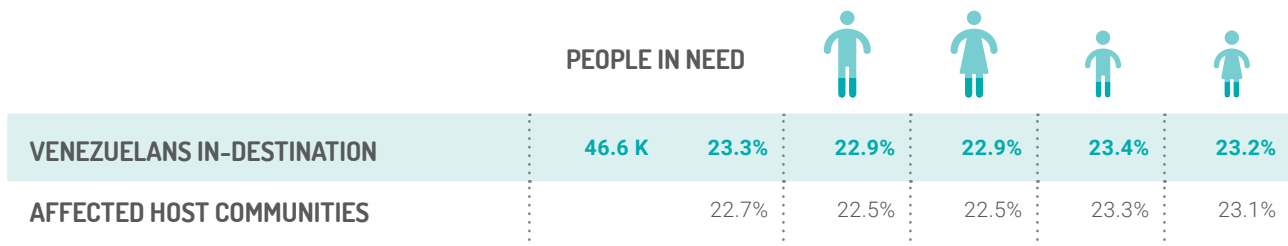
[1115] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Curaçao (November to December 2023), internal

[1116] To access public health services in Aruba and Curaçao, a valid resident permit, proof of health insurance, identification (passport or ID), and registration with a local healthcare provider are generally required. Visitors require a travel insurance covering medical expenses. Emergency services are available but may require proof of insurance or payment ability.

[1117] Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Guyana, 2023, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/guyana-flow-monitoring-surveys-indigenous-venezuelan-nationals-guyana-round-5-march-2023?close=tru>

[1118] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Participatory Assessment, Curaçao (November 2023), internal document.

# HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Lack of access to transportation poses challenges for refugees and migrants, impacting their access to essential services, employment, education, healthcare and well-being in some Caribbean countries. In Aruba, over 70 per cent of the migrant and refugee population takes more than half an hour to reach their most common destinations such as daily errands, education, work, and health services, with 25 per cent walking despite the intense heat and 20 per cent relying on hitchhiking.<sup>1119</sup> Public transportation, used by only 20 per cent of respondents, is limited to a single route with numerous stops, leading to prolonged travel times.<sup>1120</sup> Similar issues are faced in Curaçao, where 47 per cent of respondents use public transport and 15 per cent walk. Police raids in public transportation have taken place, which has led to the detention and deportation of undocumented persons, increasing the fear among those in an irregular situation of using public transport.<sup>1121</sup> Nearly half of refugees and migrants in the Dominican Republic rely on public transportation and walking. According to the JNA results, Venezuelan women in the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago feel unsafe using public transport due to fears of violence or harassment, and migrants and refugees in irregular situations experience heightened anxiety during travel due to fear of potential detention and deportation.<sup>1122</sup>

Migrants and refugees face difficulties accessing healthcare and other emergency services due to lack of transportation. In Guyana, movement policies between regions, implemented by the government, continue to challenge refugees and migrants residing in remote areas. Venezuelans who need to travel for emergency medical treatment or for protection-related reasons, including GBV survivors or victims of human trafficking, child abuse, or persecution, require authorization from immigration authorities, which is only provided on a case-by-case basis, with medical needs being prioritized. In some cases, non-urgent medical cases go untreated, and GBV survivors face re-traumatization and risks during the complex travel authorization process, sometimes forcing them back into violent situations.<sup>1123</sup> Even though R4V partners, in conjunction with immigration and health authorities organize medical evacuations for urgent cases, gaps remain in meeting these needs. Moreover, returning from a medical evacuation to remote regions, like Region 1, is exclusively available by plane, and limited resources from R4V partners and government entities lead to only a few urgent cases receiving such support. Furthermore, movement restrictions in regions with scarce livelihood opportunities hinder the ability of refugees and migrants to achieve self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life.

[1119] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, May 2024.

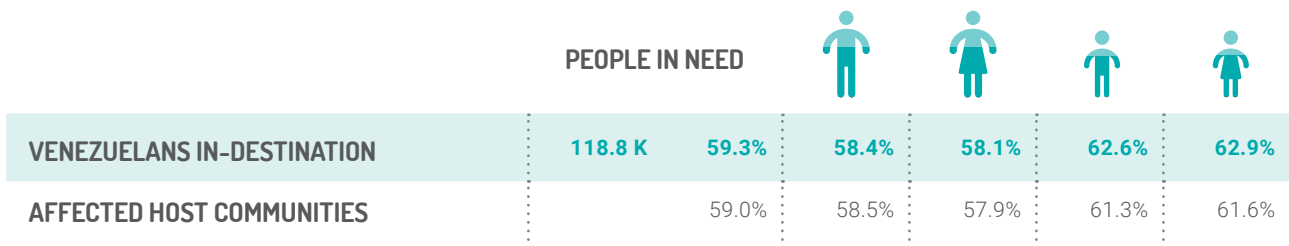
[1120] *Ibid.*

[1121] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao, May 2024.

[1122] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, May to June 2024.

[1123] Observations by R4V partners in Guyana, 2024.

# INTEGRATION



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Integration remains one of the most pressing needs for Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the sub-region. Refugees and migrants in an irregular situation are unable to access formal employment, education and other essential services, contributing to heightened risks of exploitation, detention, deportation, and precarious living conditions (see Protection Sector chapter). In Aruba, bureaucratic hurdles in obtaining work permits force 85 per cent of working-age adults into informal employment.<sup>1124</sup> Similarly, in Curaçao, only between eight and ten per cent of working migrants and refugees have formal jobs, with 89 per cent of interviewed households not having a formal labour contract or providing receipts for services, indicating informal employment lacking job security and social benefits.<sup>1125</sup> In the Dominican Republic, although 81 per cent of respondents said that they dedicated the majority of their time to working, 47 per cent of those reported not having a formal labour contract or providing receipts for their services.<sup>1126</sup>

In Trinidad and Tobago, 61 per cent of respondents were employed, although 74 per cent of them worked in the informal sector.<sup>1127</sup> In Guyana, a partner survey showed that 57 per cent of adult respondents were employed in the previous week; of this 98 per cent engaged in gainful employment.<sup>1128</sup> Seventeen per cent stated their second most urgent needs were work opportunities and income. According to a partner's survey among indigenous Venezuelans,<sup>1129</sup> 76 per cent of respondents reported being unemployed, showing heightened challenges faced by Indigenous populations. Lack of formal employment opportunities results in inadequate income, thereby limiting refugees' and migrants' ability to cover basic needs such as food, housing, and healthcare. Across the sub-region, migrants and refugees lack access to information on labour rights and available resources to empower Venezuelan communities.<sup>1130</sup>

[1124] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Aruba (2023), internal document.

[1125] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao (November to December 2023), internal document; R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao, May 2024.

[1126] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

[1127] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024.

[1128] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Guyana (September to December 2023). <https://reliefweb.int/report/guyana/guyana-protection-monitoring-profiles-needs-and-situation-venezuelans-guyana>

[1129] IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix, Guyana (2023). <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/guyana-flow-monitoring-surveys-indigenous-venezuelan-nationals-guyana-round-5-march-2023?close=true>

[1130] Observations by R4V partners in the Caribbean sub-region.

## PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE SUBREGION ENGAGING IN INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT\*



\* Does not include those who are unemployed.

Sources: R4V Aruba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago JNA (2024), and Guyana UNHCR RMS (2023).

Refugees and migrants across the sub-region face challenges accrediting academic certificates, which impedes their ability to secure employment commensurate with their qualifications. For example, a study in the Dominican Republic found that, of the total number of interviewed Venezuelans with higher education, 42 per cent were practicing their profession, but only five per cent had been able to validate their degree in the Dominican Republic due to bureaucratic challenges.<sup>1131</sup>

Migrants and refugees across the sub-region lack access to financial services, including due to lack of required documentation and lack of formal employment. 36 per cent of surveyed Venezuelans in Aruba lack access to financial services while 90 per cent reported not having access in Curaçao due to insufficient documentation, unfamiliarity with the local financial system, economic barriers (as a deposit is required to open accounts), and irregular status. In the Dominican Republic, as the majority of people interviewed had regular status, 84 per cent of those interviewed had either a checking or savings account,

showing an important linkage between regularization and access to financial services.<sup>1132</sup> In Guyana, 96 per cent of surveyed Venezuelans did not have an account with a bank, financial institution or mobile money service provider, due to unattainable administrative requirements for opening an account (confirmation of salary, home address for longer than six months, utility bills, which most people lack).<sup>1133</sup> Access to financial services is also very limited in Trinidad and Tobago for refugees and migrants, where 85 per cent state not having access.<sup>1134</sup> Lack of access to financial services also impedes access to formal housing and employment as landlords and employers require bank accounts for payment. It also impedes migrants' and refugees' ability to save, while exposing them to risks associated with informal payments, such as extortion due to lack of payment records for rent and other expenses.

Refugees and migrants in an irregular situation in the sub-region tend to limit their societal participation due to a fear of detention and deportation, exacerbating their social exclusion and economic vulnerability

[1131] International Organization for Migration, *Integration of Venezuelan migrants in the Dominican Republic study* (2022), <https://dominicanrepublic.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl911/files/documents/Reporte%20del%20estudio.%20ENG.pdf>

[1132] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024*.

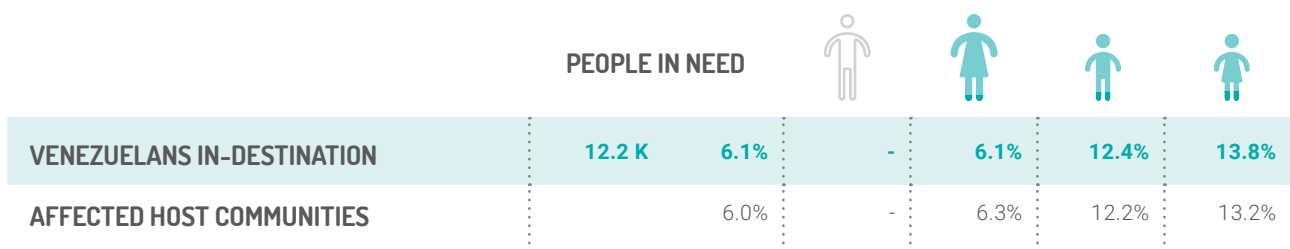
[1133] UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring, Guyana (September to December 2023)*, <https://reliefweb.int/report/guyana/guyana-protection-monitoring-profiles-needs-and-situation-venezuelans-guyana>

[1134] *This is due to the demanding bureaucratic process and requirements of opening a bank account including two forms of local ID, a utility bill with their name and address, and, for those who are self-employed, audited financial statements.* <https://republictt.com/personal/personal-interest-chequing-account> and <https://www.firstcitizensgroup.com/tt/documents-required-savings-chequing/>

and impacting their mental health and overall well-being. Venezuelans face significant obstacles due to incidents of xenophobia, stigmatization, and discrimination. In Aruba, Curaçao, Guyana,<sup>1135</sup> and Trinidad and Tobago, language and cultural barriers exacerbate these challenges, leading to social isolation and marginalization. In Trinidad and Tobago, social exclusion and discrimination impede integration. According to the JNA, 60 per cent of interviewed Venezuelans reported that they experience discrimination at the workplace and while searching

for work, within the community and while accessing public services.<sup>1136</sup> In Aruba, while there is generally a positive attitude towards Venezuelans, 25 per cent of the surveyed population said they felt discriminated based on their nationality,<sup>1137</sup> while 31 per cent felt discrimination in the workplace. Similarly, 88 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed in Curaçao reported workplace discrimination based on age, gender, and nationality.<sup>1138</sup> Meanwhile, less discrimination is reported in the Dominican Republic, with 87 per cent of households<sup>1139</sup> reporting no discriminatory experiences.

## NUTRITION



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA.

Underlying determinants of malnutrition, such as precarious WASH conditions, lack of access to health services, and restricted access to nutritious food, pose a particular high risk to pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of five. Gaps in access to these services may expose refugees and migrants in the sub-region to increased risks of various forms of malnutrition, compromising their overall health and well-being.

Some eight per cent of interviewed households in Curaçao include a pregnant or lactating woman, who have specific nutrition needs,<sup>1140</sup> among them, 60 per

cent had not received any nutritional support in the three months prior to the interview.<sup>1141</sup> In the Dominican Republic, approximately five per cent of women surveyed in 2024 reported being pregnant or lactating, with 67 per cent relying on infant formula for their babies, indicating a gap in support for proper maternal and infant nutrition. More than 80 per cent reported their children receiving at least one type of nutritional intervention, with the most common being nutritional evaluations, supplement delivery, and deworming.<sup>1142</sup> In Guyana, 59 per cent of interviewed women were breastfeeding and eight per cent were pregnant.<sup>1143</sup> At least 80 per cent of those women had not received

[1135] IOM, *Displacement Tracking Matrix, Guyana, 2023*, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/guyana-flow-monitoring-surveys-indigenous-venezuelan-nationals-guyana-round-5-march-2023?close=true>

[1136] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024*.

[1137] UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring Survey, Aruba (2023)*, internal document.

[1138] UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao (November to December 2023)*, internal document.

[1139] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024*.

[1140] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao, May 2024*.

[1141] *Ibid.*

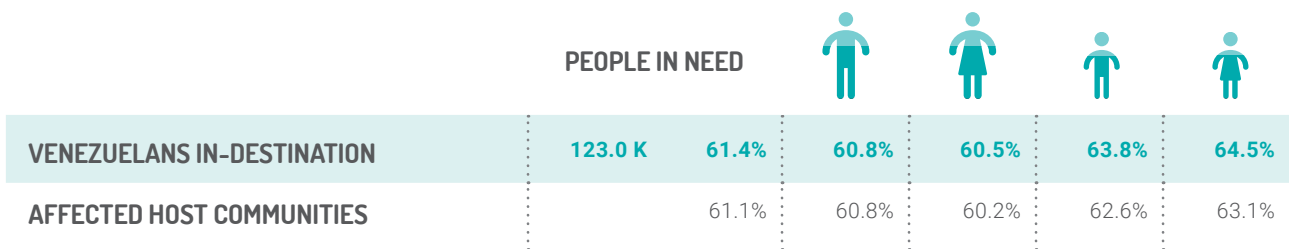
[1142] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024*.

[1143] R4V Caribbean Subregional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Guyana, June 2024*.

any nutritional services in the last three months. Among interviewed households with children aged 6 to 59 months, 35 per cent had received a nutritional evaluation in the past three months, 18 per cent had received vitamin and mineral supplements, 16 per cent deworming or delivery of purgatives. In Trinidad and Tobago, 42 per cent of women indicated that they were breastfeeding, while 29 per cent indicated they were pregnant, representing five per cent of total JNA

respondents. Of this total, seven per cent indicated that their babies had received breast milk in the few days preceding the JNA survey, additionally, 63 per cent of the pregnant and lactating women interviewed have had no nutritional interventions in the three months prior to being surveyed.<sup>1144</sup> Likewise, 63 per cent of the interviewed households indicated their children had not received any nutritional interventions in the three months prior to the interview.<sup>1145</sup>

## PROTECTION



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

In the Caribbean sub-region, refugees and migrants face challenges accessing asylum, regular status, documentation, legal assistance, and justice. Those in an irregular situation face, among others, risks of detention, deportation and *refoulement*, while being largely unable to access formal employment or housing, and in some countries of the sub-region, education and healthcare. They also face other protection risks such as violence and extortion.

In Aruba and Curaçao, 79 per cent of interviewed refugees and migrants identified regularization as a top priority.<sup>1146</sup> The lack thereof impacts access to formal employment and essential services, including healthcare, and exposing people to risks such as exploitation, detention, deportation, precarious working conditions, as well as a fear of using public

services (ranging from education, healthcare, and public transportation). The Dominican Republic government launched a regularization program (*Normalization Plan for Venezuelans*) in 2021 through which approximately 25,000 of the estimated 100,000 Venezuelans in an irregular situation have been able to obtain a regular status, leaving approximately 60 per cent of the Venezuelan population in an irregular situation. This can also be attributed to high processing costs for those intending to regularize their situation pursuant to this plan.<sup>1147</sup> The Trinidad and Tobago government issued work permit exemptions in 2019 through which 16,500 of the approximately 30,000 Venezuelan nationals received permits. However, as of December 2023, approximately 7,000 of the initial 16,500 Venezuelans (42 per cent) have been able to renew their work permits.<sup>1148</sup>

[1144] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024.

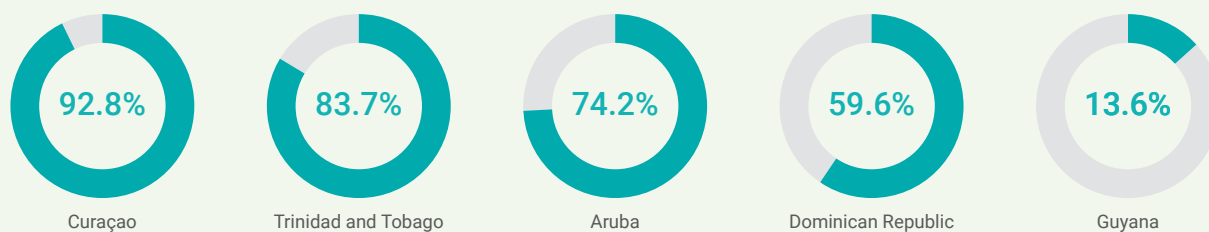
[1145] Ibid.

[1146] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Aruba (2023), internal document; UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao, November to December 2023, internal document.

[1147] The PNV process costs between USD 85 to 200, and due to documentation requirements and the protracted nature of the process, additional expenses such as taxes, transportation, and document legalization fees are likely to be incurred by the applicants. R4V Partners are providing direct financial support for the most vulnerable cases. Update on the Normalization Plan for Venezuelans-Dominican Republic. <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/update-normalization-plan-venezuelans-dominican-republic>

[1148] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, June 2024.

## PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE SUB-REGION IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION



Note: Regional rates are calculated using a weighted average based on the indicated country's population size, and are influenced by country-specific policies on migration regularization and refugee recognition, impacting their comparability. Due to sampling methods that often focus on populations regularly assisted by R4V partners, and who generally have better access to information and support for obtaining documentation, migratory regularization and refugee recognition, the actual rates are likely to be higher.

Sources: R4V Curaçao JNA (2024), R4V Trinidad and Tobago JNA (2024), UNHCR Aruba Protection Monitoring (2023), R4V Dominican Republic estimates based on stock population (2024), and Guyana UNHCR RMS (2023).

In Guyana, Venezuelans are granted renewable stay permits upon entry, but these do not allow them to work.<sup>1149</sup> Fourteen per cent of Venezuelans in Guyana have an irregular or expired status,<sup>1150</sup> partly due to the application requirements to extend these permits every three or six months, coupled with complex and centralized administrative procedures resulting in lengthy processing times. Specific groups in Guyana, such as indigenous populations, sometimes lack documentation from Venezuela, facing additional challenges due to stricter enforcement of documentation requirements for stay permits.

Many countries in the sub-region lack a national asylum law or system, leaving those with international protection needs unable to access asylum.<sup>1151</sup> In Aruba, 22 per cent of surveyed households mentioned leaving their country of origin due to attacks and intimidation, while 17 per cent cited political insecurity.<sup>1152</sup> Around 34 per cent of those interviewed said they require legal assistance or guidance, including 29 per cent for regularization-related support.<sup>1153</sup> In Curaçao, the main reasons cited for leaving Venezuela included

lack of employment (28 per cent), lack of food (21 per cent), lack of access to health services and medication (14 per cent), and fear of the general violence and insecurity (14 per cent); eight per cent of interviewed households said they were victims of violence, threats or intimidation.<sup>1154</sup> Thirty-nine per cent of interviewed households said they require legal assistance, including for regularization and migratory procedures (42 per cent) and to obtain civil documents (42 per cent).<sup>1155</sup> Fifty-eight per cent of those requiring legal assistance were not able to access it.<sup>1156</sup> Despite the Dominican Republic's 2021 *Normalization Plan for Venezuelans*, 60 per cent of interviewed Venezuelan households require legal assistance, primarily for regularization.

In Trinidad and Tobago, 57 per cent of interviewed Venezuelans fear physical security risks such as threats, violence, and persecution upon potential deportation and *refoulement*.<sup>1157</sup> Immigration detentions and deportations continue in Trinidad and Tobago particularly since a High Court ruling of July 2023 that held that the 1951 Refugee Convention is not enforceable under national law in Trinidad and

[1149] Work permits need employer sponsorship, making formal employment hard to access and increasing exploitation risk.

[1150] UNHCR, Results Monitoring Survey, Guyana (2023), interna

[1151] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Legal Frameworks in the Caribbean*. December 2023. <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/legal-framework-factsheet-caribbean-2023>.

[1152] UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring, Aruba*, (2023). Internal.

[1153] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba*, May 2024.

[1154] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao*, May 2024.

[1155] *Ibid.*

[1156] *Ibid.*

[1157] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago*, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

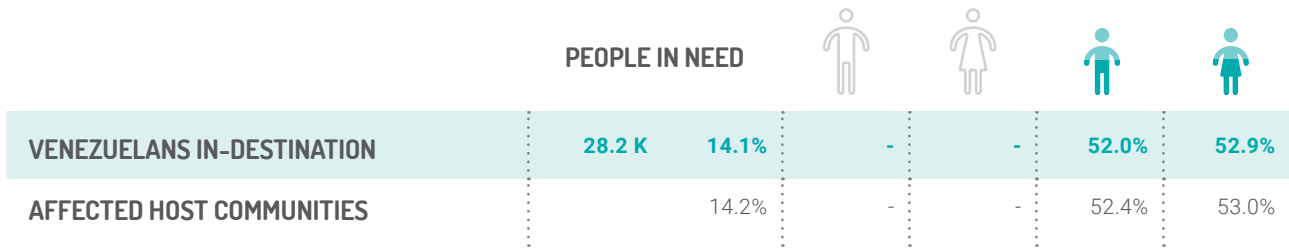
Tobago, subjecting many Venezuelans who are in need of international protection to potential detention or deportation. Attempted *refoulement* ranked as the country's third main security and protection concern.<sup>1158</sup>

In English and Dutch-speaking countries, the scarcity of Spanish-speaking legal service providers also limits Venezuelan migrants' and refugees' access to legal assistance and representation, including for addressing rights violations.

Protection from various forms of violence and exploitation remains a critical need across these countries. While the majority (88 per cent) of respondents in Aruba reported not having any security

concerns, of those with security concerns, 23 per cent were related to physical or psychological violence.<sup>1159</sup> In Curaçao, 20 per cent of interviewed households said that they had protection concerns, including physical, psychological or verbal violence (41 per cent), direct threats (21 per cent), assault, theft or extortion (10 per cent), and arbitrary detention by authorities (eight per cent).<sup>1160</sup> While 75 per cent of respondents in the Dominican Republic reported no security concerns, the largest concerns reported among those with concerns were assault, theft or extortion.<sup>1161</sup> Twelve per cent of Venezuelans in Guyana stated in a partner survey that they faced labour exploitation and human trafficking concerns.<sup>1162</sup>

## CHILD PROTECTION



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Across the sub-region, refugee and migrant children are at risk of neglect, abuse, violence, and family separation. Children face significant barriers to accessing legal and social services, including documentation, especially for those in an irregular situation.

In Aruba and Curaçao, undocumented children are ineligible for social services, while fear of detention and deportation deters many from reporting abuse or neglect which exacerbates their vulnerability, inflicts long-term psychological harm, and violates their fundamental rights, while perpetuating systemic

inequalities. Migrants and refugees face difficulties accessing child protection services as national child protection authorities are overburdened with limited resources to manage high caseloads. One per cent of surveyed individuals in Aruba and five per cent in Curaçao are at risk of statelessness due to lack of access to documentation. This risk is perpetuated when the child is born to parents in an irregular status.<sup>1163</sup> Without a birth certificate, children struggle to obtain other documents, putting them at risk of statelessness. In the Dominican Republic, the high cost<sup>1164</sup> for

[1158] *Ibid.*

[1159] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, May 2024.

[1160] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao, April to May 2024.

[1161] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

[1162] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Guyana (September to December 2023), internal document.

[1163] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao (November to December 2023), internal document.

[1164] The PNV process costs between USD 85 to 200, and due to documentation requirements and the protracted nature of the process, additional expenses such as taxes, transportation, and document legalization fees are likely to be incurred by the applicants. R4V Partners are providing direct financial support for the most vulnerable cases. Update on the Normalization Plan for Venezuelans-Dominican Republic. <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/update-normalization-plan-venezuelans-dominican-republic>



Venezuelans aiming to regularize their situation under the normalization plan has left many children in an irregular situation.<sup>1165</sup> There are additional challenges for children born to refugee and migrant parents in the country who are *not entitled to Dominican nationality pursuant to the jus solis principle<sup>1166</sup> applied in the country, leaving them at risk of statelessness* if they are unable to obtain proof of Venezuelan nationality.<sup>1167</sup> Some 77 per cent of households are unaware of available child protection services in the Dominican Republic, underscoring the need for greater access to information.<sup>1168</sup>

Moreover, in Trinidad and Tobago, lengthy and challenging birth registration processes and lack of information hinder migrant and refugee parents' ability to obtain legal documentation for children born on the island, further restricting these children's access to national programmes. Fear of interacting with authorities, the capacity of national systems, language barriers and the lack of streamlined processes for migrants and refugees exacerbate these challenges.

In Guyana, birth registration is mandatory for access to birth certificates and other national identity documents needed to access social, legal, and health services. Thirty-three per cent of children under five born in Guyana had not been registered with civil authorities, 51 per cent of those were indigenous children.<sup>1169</sup> Furthermore, language barriers and the limited capacity of child protection services hinders effective access to assistance for cases of exploitation, abuse, neglect, and violence against children.

Refugee and migrant children in the Caribbean are susceptible to various forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including being unaccompanied or separated from their parents or guardians. In Aruba,

50 per cent of surveyed Venezuelan households have at least one child outside the country, i.e. separated, and one in ten reported dependents being denied entry or deported, exacerbating risks of abuse and family separation.<sup>1170</sup> Similarly, in Curaçao, 58 per cent of households have children outside the country, ten per cent mention dependents being denied entry or deported.<sup>1171</sup> Children, particularly girls, face sexual harassment and human trafficking and exploitation risks, with unaccompanied children arriving by boat being separated from family members without proper procedures. News reports have shown children arriving irregularly by boats in Curaçao without their legal guardians.<sup>1172</sup>

A 2024 report from the Dominican Republic<sup>1173</sup> indicates that over 40 per cent of migrant and refugee children are engaged in some form of labour to support their families, with children as young as five seen begging in urban areas.<sup>1174</sup> While 79 per cent of children remain under the care of an adult over 18 within their household, others are left in vulnerable situations. In Trinidad and Tobago, many children lack regular documentation impeding their access to schools and other services. There were also cases known among those interviewed of children having faced physical or psychological violence, family separation, disrespectful requests, child labour, and discrimination.<sup>1175</sup>

Refugee and migrant children face challenges accessing recreational activities, essential for their development. In Aruba and Curaçao, partner monitoring and focus group discussions note that children lack safe areas to play sports and engage in recreational activities. In Curaçao, children report feeling unsafe on the streets due to threats such as sexual harassment.

[1165] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

[1166] *Jus Solis* - A rule of law that a child's citizenship is determined by his or her place of birth.

[1167] The challenge relates to statelessness due to restrictive nationality laws, where children born in the Dominican Republic to Venezuelan parents risk statelessness if they cannot obtain Venezuelan nationality, as Dominican nationality is only granted if one parent is Dominican.

[1168] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba and Dominican Republic.

[1169] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Guyana (September to December 2023), internal document.

[1170] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Aruba, (2023), internal document.

[1171] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao, November to December 2023, internal document.

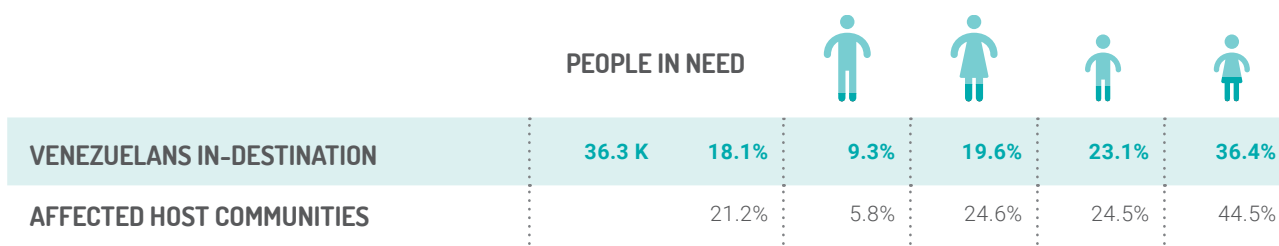
[1172] Curaçao Chronicle, "Venezuelan children who arrived in Curaçao by boat were reunited with their mothers," October 2023, <https://www.curacaochronicle.com/post/main/venezuelan-children-who-arrived-in-curacao-by-boat-were-reunited-with-their-mothers/>.

[1173] UNICEF, Needs Assessment with Venezuelan and Haitian Migrants residing in the Dominican Republic, (2024)

[1174] *Ibid.*

[1175] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees, particularly women and girls, face risks of GBV, encompassing physical, psychological, emotional, and economic forms, with Venezuelan women feeling unsafe in some of the host communities. Many depend on their partners financially and, in some cases, also for visa or residency permits, which exacerbates their vulnerable situation. Across the sub-region, women and girls face trauma, high stress, xenophobia, and discrimination. Concerns about supporting families exacerbate stress and lead to harmful coping mechanisms such as informal work, begging or engaging in survival sex, which increase their vulnerabilities to protection risks. LGBTQI+ persons face additional challenges, including stigmatization, harassment, discrimination, and lack of access to essential services like sexual and reproductive healthcare. In Aruba and Curaçao, LGBTQI+ persons face increased discrimination, as same-sex marriage was not legally performed until mid-2024.<sup>1176</sup> National protection systems often fail to recognize violence against LGBTQI+ persons, including concerned refugees and migrants, as GBV.

Nine per cent of assessed households in Aruba and 84 per cent in Curaçao reported there were areas in their community where girls and women felt unsafe or are at increased risk for violence. The reported risks were associated with the sale or use of drugs, sexual harassment, and being mistaken for sex workers.<sup>1177</sup> In the Dominican Republic, ten per cent of Venezuelan

households with women reported feeling unsafe in some areas in their community, public transportation, and in some cases, in their homes, with the greatest concerns being assault, theft or extortion (57 per cent) and physical, psychological or verbal violence (24 per cent).<sup>1178</sup>

In Guyana, 51 per cent of households with women reported feeling unsafe overall walking after dark in their neighbourhood.<sup>1179</sup> The remoteness of the indigenous Venezuelan population contributes to their increased vulnerability to sexual and labour exploitation.

In Trinidad and Tobago, while over 80 per cent of respondents identified public transport, community spaces, workplaces, and homes as unsafe,<sup>1180</sup> many cannot avoid these locations.<sup>1181</sup> Public transport was overwhelmingly cited as the least safe space on the island.

Survivors of GBV in the sub-region face challenges accessing required assistance. Survivors often do not report incidents, including due to their irregular status, fear of deportation and fear of retaliation from employers or perpetrators, usually compounded by stigmatization. In English and Dutch-speaking countries, language barriers, fear of discrimination, and stigmatization further hinder access to services, delaying or preventing critical medical attention, including sexual and reproductive health services. Survivors lack required attention due to inadequate

[1176] In July 2024, the High Court ruled that based on the existing laws same sex marriage is allowed within the entire Kingdom, including Aruba and Curaçao.

[1177] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao, (2023), internal document.

[1178] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

[1179] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Guyana (September to December 2023), internal document.

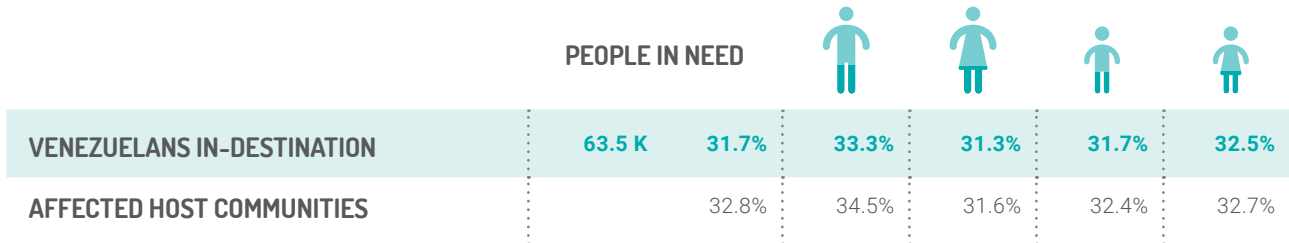
[1180] Ibid.

[1181] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024.

legislation and minimal response protocols. In Guyana, 82 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed stated that they knew how to access GBV protection services.<sup>1182</sup> Many survivors are unaware of existing protection services,

as reported by Venezuelan organizations. In Trinidad and Tobago, 58 percent of Venezuelans surveyed in 2024 reported an inability to access assistance or support after experiencing GBV.<sup>1183</sup>

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the Caribbean are exposed to risks of human trafficking, including for sexual and labour exploitation, and smuggling. Despite ongoing challenges, two of five countries in the sub-region’s rankings in the 2024 U.S. Trafficking in Persons report were upgraded based on their efforts to combat human trafficking. With Tier 3 being the worst ranking: Curaçao was upgraded from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List, and Trinidad and Tobago from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2. In Trinidad and Tobago, the first successful conviction of a trafficker<sup>1184</sup> serves as an impetus to the state’s commitment to further efforts in the areas of both prosecution and protection. Aruba remained Tier 2, the Dominican Republic Tier 2 Watch List, and Guyana Tier 1.<sup>1185</sup>

Partners in the sub-region continue to identify cases of human trafficking and smuggling which include Venezuelannationals. Strict visa and entry requirements imposed by governments in the sub-region lead to the use of irregular routes by many migrants and refugees, including via smugglers, increasing their risk of falling victims to traffickers and being exposed to other risks, including shipwrecks.

In many Caribbean countries, refugees’ and migrants’ irregular status and lack of access to formal employment further increase their vulnerability to this crime. Traffickers employ increasingly sophisticated tactics, such as the use of social media and online platforms to advertise false job opportunities, which in some cases lead to sexual and labour exploitation. Misinformation is a significant factor contributing to exploitation, and migrants and refugees in the sub-region lack awareness of the risks of trafficking, including the identification of false information and scams.<sup>1186</sup>

Six per cent of respondents in Curaçao and four per cent in the Dominican Republic noted that they had been lied to, deceived, manipulated or put into debt, or experienced false promises that in some way motivated them to move from their country of origin.<sup>1187</sup> Furthermore, eight per cent of interviewed households in both Guyana and in Trinidad and Tobago reported that a member of their household had been detained against their will in the past 12 months by someone other than the authorities.<sup>1188</sup>

[1182] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Guyana (September to December 2023), internal

[1183] Ibid.

[1184] Daily Express Newspaper Article “First offender convicted as human trafficker...”, 4 November 2023. [https://trinidadexpress.com/news/local/first-offender-convicted-as-human-trafficker-but/article\\_827ccc10-7ab4-11ee-9136-337d4ef1335b.html](https://trinidadexpress.com/news/local/first-offender-convicted-as-human-trafficker-but/article_827ccc10-7ab4-11ee-9136-337d4ef1335b.html)

[1185] U.S. Department of State, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2024. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

[1186] Observations by R4V partners in the Caribbean sub-region.

[1187] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao, May 2024.

[1188] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Guyana, May to June 2024.

In Aruba, 22 per cent of respondents reported that they had been paid less than the agreed amount for their work and 26 per cent reported working longer hours than agreed.<sup>1189</sup> Similarly, in Curaçao, 19 per cent of respondents noted that they had been paid less than the agreed amount for their work and 18 per cent reported working longer hours than agreed.<sup>1190</sup> Sixteen per cent reported that they had not been paid at all for work completed.<sup>1191</sup> In the Dominican Republic, 23 per cent reported that they had been paid less than agreed and 40 per cent reported working more without additional compensation.<sup>1192</sup> Similarly, 41 per cent of respondents in Guyana reported working longer hours without additional payment; 12 per cent reported receiving less than the agreed payment; and another 12 per cent reported not being paid at all for work completed.<sup>1193</sup>

Labour trafficking and exploitation of persons in mining, agriculture, forestry, and domestic service have been highlighted as ongoing challenges in Guyana in 2024.<sup>1194</sup> Indigenous Warao women have been recruited to work as cooks in the mines but are often forced into commercial sex or exploited by illegal armed groups. While both sex trafficking and labour trafficking

occur in remote interior mining communities, limited government presence in the country's interior renders the full extent of trafficking there unknown.<sup>1195</sup> Twenty-five per cent of respondents in Trinidad and Tobago reported that they or a member of their household were forced to work against their will, signalling that labour exploitation is a challenge.<sup>1196</sup>

Victims of trafficking, including exploitation, often lack awareness of available services and access to required assistance, as NGOs and government entities lack the capacity for comprehensive victim assistance, investigators, equipment, and support.<sup>1197</sup> Victims lack access to holistic support services, including food, accommodation, personal hygiene items, mental health and psychosocial support, and legal and medical assistance. Additionally, victims require specific support for skills development through vocational training, job placement and educational opportunities to ensure they are empowered in their recovery and re-integration. Furthermore, victims face challenges accessing justice due to a lack of capacity to identify trafficking victims.

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[1189] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, Aruba, May 2024.

[1190] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, Curaçao, May 2024.

[1191] *Ibid.*

[1192] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

[1193] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, Guyana, May to June 2024.

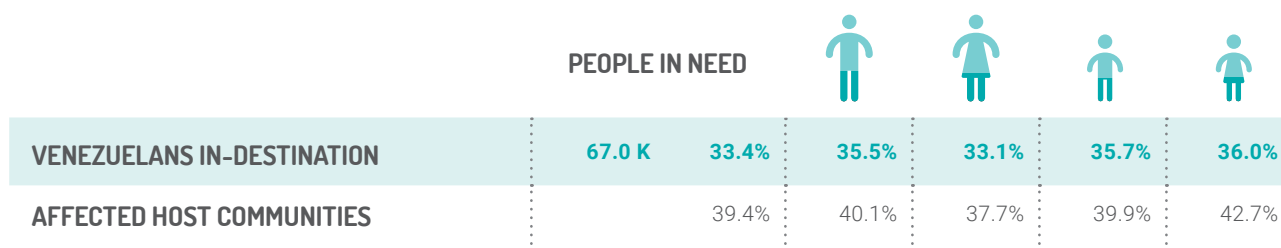
[1194] U.S. Department of State, *2024 Trafficking in Persons Report*, June 2024. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

[1195] *Ibid.*

[1196] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024.

[1197] *Observations by R4V partners in the Caribbean sub-region.*

# SHELTER



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Primary challenges faced by refugees and migrants include the lack of access to safe, dignified and adequate shelter, risks of evictions and housing insecurity, and the lack of recourse for addressing instances of landlord abuses and exploitation. High rental costs, economic hardship and prevailing irregularity and limited documentation make securing safe, dignified, formal and adequate shelter difficult for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the sub-region, leading to unsafe, suboptimal and irregular living conditions. Tenants, including refugees and migrants, are typically required to provide a security deposit when entering into a rental agreement, often impeding their ability to either afford rent or to change housing. In some cases, this situation forces migrants and refugees to live in precarious conditions.

The demand for housing continues to outpace available resources. In Aruba, 43 per cent reported difficulties finding a place to stay and only two out of ten households could afford rent without financial distress.<sup>1198</sup> In Curaçao, 42 per cent of surveyed Venezuelans reported difficulties finding a place to stay, while only 15 per cent could afford rent without significant financial strain.<sup>1199</sup> In the Dominican Republic, 20 per cent of households reported engaging in activities that risk their safety to afford rent.<sup>1200</sup> In Guyana, half of the surveyed Venezuelan households reported decreased incomes, with 64 per cent seeing

their purchasing power reduced.<sup>1201</sup> Most refugees and migrants have been renting their accommodation (57 per cent), while those recently arrived stay in hotels or in informal settlements. Available collective shelters are overcrowded, lacking privacy, and many women reported sleeping on the floor with their children. Eighty-six per cent of households reported not residing in physically safe and secure settlements, 49 per cent without access to electricity, and 83 per cent lacked adequate housing conditions. In Trinidad and Tobago, over 60 per cent of Venezuelan migrants and refugees live in rented accommodation, followed by about one third living in shared houses, contributing to overcrowded and unsafe conditions, and increasing their risk of eviction. Access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and consistent electricity is limited. 27 per cent of respondents indicated<sup>1202</sup> that they were missing at least one service in the dwelling.<sup>1203</sup>

Refugees and migrants in the sub-region often do not have formal rental contracts (but mere verbal arrangements), particularly those in an irregular situation, exposing them to increased risks of housing insecurity, evictions, and exploitation. In Aruba, 63 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed did not have formal rental contracts. In Curaçao, 68 per cent lacked formal rental contracts.<sup>1204</sup> In the Dominican Republic, 46 per cent of households interviewed indicated they do not have formal rental contracts.<sup>1205</sup>

[1198] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Aruba, (2023), internal document.

[1199] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao, November to December (2023), internal document.

[1200] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

[1201] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Guyana (2023), internal document.

[1202] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024.

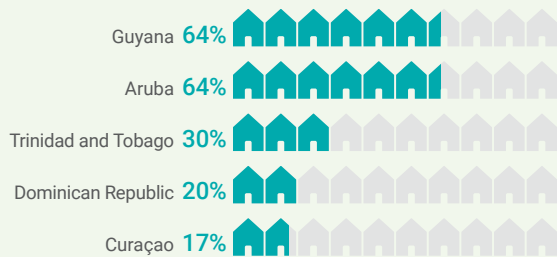
[1203] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

[1204] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Curaçao, November to December (2023), internal document.

[1205] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

Migrants and refugees face the risk of eviction and, in some cases, have experienced evictions, contributing to their housing insecurity. Fear of eviction or utility disconnections is common in Aruba, with 50 per cent

### PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN HOUSEHOLDS IN THE SUBREGION AT RISK OF EVICTION



Sources: R4V Aruba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago JNA (2024), and Guyana UNHCR RMS (2023).

of respondents reporting being at risk of eviction in the three months prior to being interviewed, and four per cent of respondents reported having been evicted.<sup>[1206]</sup> Meanwhile, in Curaçao 14 per cent reported being at risk of eviction (with two per cent having been evicted), and

in the Dominican Republic, 15 per cent of Venezuelan households faced eviction threats in early 2024 due to financial constraints (though only 0.5 per cent of those surveyed, amounting to two individuals respondents had been evicted). In Guyana, nine per cent had been previously evicted, and ten per cent were threatened with eviction.<sup>[1207]</sup> Risks of eviction is also widespread among refugees and migrants in Trinidad and Tobago, with 26 per cent reporting being at risk.<sup>[1208]</sup>

Furthermore, Venezuelan refugees and migrants face instances of exploitation and abuse by landlords, including withheld documents, unfair rental agreements, and threats of eviction. In Aruba and Curaçao, refugees and migrants report threats from landlords, including being reported to the authorities if they do not pay or report issues.<sup>[1209]</sup> In Trinidad and Tobago, some landlords charge elevated rents for substandard housing.<sup>[1210]</sup>

Refugees' and migrants' general lack of knowledge of their rights as tenants, housing regulations, and an inability of access and/or afford legal assistance further undermines their abilities to assert their rights and seek redress for abuses.

[1206] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, May 2024.

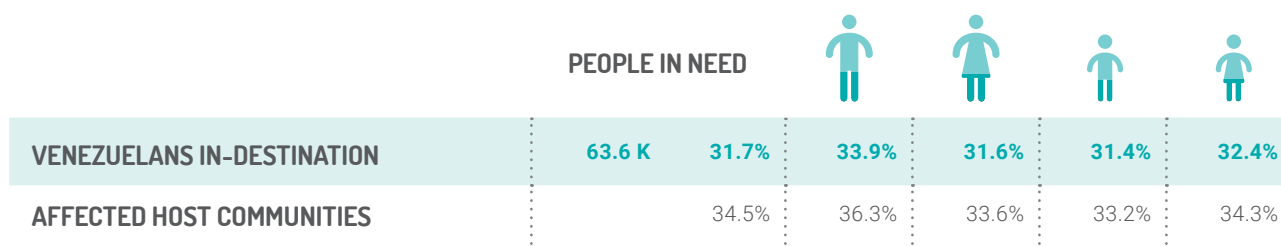
[1207] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring Survey, Guyana (2023), <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109313>

[1208] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

[1209] Observations by R4V partners.

[1210] *Ibid.*

# WASH



The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

WASH challenges for refugees and migrants in the sub-region can be categorized into three main needs: (i) water quality and availability, (ii) sanitation facilities, and (iii) hygiene supplies.

In Aruba, despite potable water being widely available across the island, 76 per cent of surveyed Venezuelans reported murky and odd-tasting water.<sup>1211</sup> Although 89 per cent of the population has potable tap water at their accommodation, migrants and refugees face difficulties addressing water quality issues with their landlords due to a widespread lack of rental contracts and regular status.<sup>1212</sup> In contrast, refugees and migrants in the Dominican Republic largely rely on bottled water, with 90 per cent of Venezuelan households using it for consumption.<sup>1213</sup> Venezuelans in Guyana's rural areas suffer from severe water access issues. Thirty-two per cent stated they lack improved drinking water sources, nine per cent relied on rivers and 14 per cent relied on rainwater.<sup>1214</sup> Access to potable water and water sources for sanitation and hygiene purposes is generally available in urban areas at a cost. In Trinidad and Tobago, 42 per cent of surveyed households rely on bottled water, while 39 per cent drink water from the tap; the remaining 18 per cent retrieve water from

public taps or water kiosks.<sup>1215</sup> For those with tap water available in their dwelling, 10 per cent said that it flows less than three days per week.<sup>1216</sup>

Migrants and refugees in some countries of the sub-region face various challenges in terms of access to sanitation facilities. The Dominican Republic provides relatively better access to sanitation, with nearly 80 per cent of households having toilets connected to sewage systems and almost all homes having soap and water for handwashing. Nonetheless, 12 per cent of refugee and migrant households share toilets with other families, and those living in rural areas still face challenges accessing adequate sanitation facilities such as lack of access to running water and using shared bathroom facilities.<sup>1217</sup> Many rural communities in Guyana, especially indigenous ones, use rivers for water, sanitation and waste disposal, posing considerable health and environmental risks.<sup>1218</sup> In urban areas, 45 per cent of JNA respondents stated that they had access to water via pipes, 47 per cent had access to a toilet connected to a septic tank, and 48 per cent mentioned that waste disposal is typically managed through designated collection areas or service providers.<sup>1219</sup> In Trinidad and Tobago, although

[1211] IOM Aruba, internal survey for shelter assistance programming (June 2023 to June 2024), internal document.

[1212] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, May to June 2024.

[1213] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

[1214] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Guyana (2023), internal document.

[1215] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024.

[1216] Ibid.

[1217] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Dominican Republic, April to May 2024.

[1218] International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix, Guyana (2023). <https://dtm.iom.int/guyana>. Flow Monitoring Surveys of Indigenous Venezuelan Nationals in Guyana, Round 5 (March 2023)- <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/guyana-flow-monitoring-surveys-indigenous-venezuelan-nationals-guyana-round-5-march-2023?close=true>

[1219] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Guyana, May to June 2024.

98 per cent of households have toilets connected to sewage systems or septic tanks, 33 per cent of respondents share sanitation facilities with other households.<sup>1220</sup>

Hygiene supplies are essential yet insufficient across the five countries of the sub-region, particularly for rural and vulnerable populations. In Guyana, 29 per cent of interviewed households only wash their hands with water, but without soap.<sup>1221</sup> In Trinidad and Tobago, of households interviewed in the JNA, 30 per cent of women and girls are without access to appropriate menstrual hygiene items. While in the Dominican Republic, surveyed migrants and refugees

report that almost all homes have soap and water for handwashing, only half (49 per cent) of women and girls have access to menstrual hygiene products.<sup>1222</sup> In Aruba, nine per cent of households said they do not always have water and soap to wash hands.<sup>1223</sup> In Curaçao, the majority of respondents (97 per cent) have access to water and soap to wash hands.<sup>1224</sup> The lack of hygiene supplies, especially for women and girls, leads to unhealthy practices and health risks. Cultural differences exacerbate these issues, making the promotion of healthy sanitation practices challenging and necessitating sensitization campaigns in multiple languages.



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[1220] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Trinidad and Tobago, May to June 2024.

[1221] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Guyana, June 2024.

[1222] Ibid.

[1223] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Aruba, May 2024.

[1224] R4V Caribbean Sub-regional Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Curaçao, May 2024.



# CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO



# CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO AT A GLANCE

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION **49.4% • 95.5 K**

VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT	<b>92.8%</b>	OTHERS IN-TRANSIT	<b>91.0%</b>	AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES	<b>49.2%</b>
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## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

**MEN** **WOMEN** **BOYS** **GIRLS**

<b>34.6%</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
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All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

SECTOR		PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
		VENEZUELANOS IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
				VENEZUELANOS	OTHERS	
	INTERSECTOR	49.4%	95.5 K	92.8%	91.0%	49.2%
	EDUCATION	6.3%	12.2 K	11.7%	10.8%	6.3%
	FOOD SECURITY	26.0%	50.3 K	77.9%	76.5%	26.0%
	HEALTH	44.5%	86.0 K	41.9%	37.5%	44.5%
	HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION*	16.6%	14.5 K	8.5%	8.5%	16.6%
	INTEGRATION	37.2%	72.1 K	81.3%	62.9%	36.5%
	NUTRITION	5.7%	11.0 K	5.7%	6.4%	5.6%
	PROTECTION	48.6%	94.1 K	75.7%	76.4%	48.5%
	CHILD PROTECTION	4.6%	8.9 K	6.4%	8.0%	4.5%
	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	28.6%	55.3 K	24.7%	22.5%	28.9%
	HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	22.4%	43.3 K	58.0%	63.0%	21.9%
	SHELTER	29.6%	57.3 K	78.8%	81.0%	28.6%
	WASH	27.6%	53.4 K	54.6%	72.5%	27.1%

\*The PiN figures corresponding to humanitarian transportation in the Central America and Mexico subregion, only consider data from Panama and Costa Rica.

## CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO: SUB-REGIONAL PLATFORM OVERVIEW

As of August 2024, the R4V Platform<sup>1225</sup> estimates that Mexico hosts over 106,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, while Costa Rica hosts approximately 29,000. Significant cross-border movements of refugees and migrants in Central America and Mexico have continued throughout 2023 and 2024, seeking livelihood opportunities, security, and protection, including international protection, driven by the lack of regularization and integration opportunities in previous countries of residence. In 2023, over 520,000<sup>1226</sup> refugees and migrants crossed the Darien jungle between Colombia and Panama (over double the number of crossings in 2022<sup>1227</sup>), an estimated 98 per cent of which also crossed Costa Rica. About 63 per cent of this population were Venezuelan nationals. Almost 1.4 million people undertaking onward and transit movements from 177 countries were identified in Mexico in 2024, with more than 23 per cent being Venezuelans.<sup>1228</sup> Confronted with limited integration and regularization opportunities in most countries in the region, many intend to reach the United States of America (U.S.), while 27 per cent consider Mexico,<sup>1229</sup> and four per cent Costa Rica<sup>1230</sup> as alternative destinations.<sup>1231</sup>

In 2024, the Central America and Mexico Sub-regional R4V Platform applied a combination of primary data collection and a review of secondary data to assess the needs of in-destination and in-transit populations of refugees and migrants. In both Costa Rica and Mexico, the scope of the assessment includes Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination. For in-transit populations, Venezuelans and other nationals are included in the assessment for Costa Rica, while in Mexico the assessment focuses on Venezuelans.

*For more information on the needs assessment and findings in Panama, please refer to the Panama chapter below.*

R4V partners in Costa Rica conducted their first JNA in 2024. In-person household surveys were carried out in the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM) of Costa Rica, including in San Jose, Alajuela, Cartago, and Heredia, based on an analysis of where the population is proportionally concentrated. As data was collected through convenience sampling between May and June 2024, this may not necessarily result in representative findings about the entire migrant and refugee population in Costa Rica. The sample consisted of 201 households with at least one member of Venezuelan nationality, representing 552 people. In Mexico, a review of secondary data from various sources, such as monitoring surveys and other reports conducted by R4V partners, was carried out to identify needs of Venezuelans in-destination. Through these analyses, the main needs identified for Venezuelans in-destination in Costa Rica and Mexico include protection, integration, health, and food. To identify and analyse the needs of the in-transit populations, R4V partners in Costa Rica and Mexico conducted secondary data reviews of existing monitoring exercises. Primary needs identified through this analysis include protection, shelter, integration, and food.

Despite the high recognition rate of Venezuelans as refugees in Mexico and the special temporary category in Costa Rica launched in 2023, Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Costa Rica and Mexico face difficulties accessing regular status, including documentation and asylum, leading to heightened protection risks and limited possibilities for integration, including access

[1225] For more information on the situation and findings in Panama, please refer to the Panama chapter.

[1226] Migracion Panama, TRÁNSITO IRREGULAR POR DARIÉN 2023,

[1227] Migracion Panama, TRÁNSITO IRREGULAR POR DARIÉN 2022, [https://www.migracion.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/IRREGULARES\\_POR\\_DARIEN\\_DICIEMBRE\\_2022.pdf](https://www.migracion.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/IRREGULARES_POR_DARIEN_DICIEMBRE_2022.pdf)

[1228] National Migration Institute (INM) México, Comunicado No. 59/24, (June 2024), <https://www.gob.mx/inm/prensa/en-los-primeros-cinco-meses-del-ano-el-inm-identifico-a-1-millon-393-mil-683-personas-extranjeras-que-viajaban-en-condicion-irregula>

[1229] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Tijuana, Mexico, November to December 2023, <https://dtm.iom.int/es/reports/mexico-monitoreo-de-flujos-migratorios-en-tijuana-noviembre-diciembre-2023?close=true>

[1230] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Rica, June 2024, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f0073e4e674e446b81d55a2b02f4e8c0#n-SsY6Jn>.

[1231] R4V Platform, R4V Movements Report: First Quarter 2024, May 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/movements-report-q1-2024>.

to the formal labour market. In Mexico, 40 per cent of Venezuelans work in the informal sector,<sup>1232</sup> compared to 46 per cent in Costa Rica,<sup>1233</sup> resulting in increased vulnerabilities and protection risks, as well as lack of access to social security, including healthcare. Their lack of access to employment and income-generating activities results in challenges accessing adequate food and housing. In Costa Rica, 18 per cent of Venezuelan JNA respondents reduced the number of meals they eat during a week due to financial challenges, and nine per cent restricted adult food consumption, prioritizing their children's access to food.<sup>1234</sup>

Refugees and migrants in-transit face serious protection risks; many of the surveyed Venezuelans suffered security incidents, including extortion by authorities, theft, aggression, GBV, and other protection related issues. During the first six months of 2024, 78 per cent of people interviewed in Mexico reported having been victim of a protection incident, compared

to 44 per cent during the same period in 2023. Their lack of access to regular status and documentation further exacerbates their vulnerability to these risks. In both countries, the increased number of migrants and refugees undertaking onward and transit movements, coupled with limited reception capacities, has led to overcrowding in shelters, increasing the need for adequate shelter spaces. The lack of access to income-generating activities and financial resources during their transit hinders obtaining adequate food and housing. Access to food is an important concern for 47 per cent of refugees and migrants in-transit in Costa Rica.<sup>1235</sup> In Mexico, more than half of Venezuelans in-transit surveyed reported that they were in need of nutritious food and had to resort to begging to meet their basic needs, increasing their vulnerabilities and exposure to potential protection risks.



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[1232] National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), National Survey of Occupation and Employment, (2024), [https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/boletines/2024/ENOE/ENOE2024\\_05.pdf](https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/boletines/2024/ENOE/ENOE2024_05.pdf)





[1233] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming)

[1234] Ibid.

[1235] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Rica, June 2024

# EDUCATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
	Count	Percentage				
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>12.2 K</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	-	-	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>33.7%</b>
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT</b>		11.7%	-	-	55.9%	55.9%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT</b>		10.8%	-	-	51.6%	51.6%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES</b>		6.3%	-	-	35.2%	34.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

In Costa Rica and Mexico, refugee and migrant children generally have access to education, which is granted to all children regardless of nationality or migratory status under the constitutions of these countries. Nevertheless, migrants and refugees face challenges accessing education. 35 per cent of Venezuelan children in Costa Rica<sup>1236</sup> are not enrolled in school, with this percentage varying based on the household's vulnerability profile. Identification documentation requirements as well as the need to present accredited certificates of previous studies completed continue to present barriers to education access.

In Mexico, 37 per cent of Venezuelan children are not attending school, with 16 per cent out of primary schools and 21 per cent not attending secondary school.<sup>1237</sup> Many of these children work to support their families (30 per cent), while others lack resources (20 per cent) to purchase school supplies, including uniforms. Documentation requirements for school enrolment and administrative processes can also impede refugee and migrant children's access to education.<sup>1238</sup> For example, in Mexico, the Unique Population Registry Code (CURP, for its Spanish acronym) is needed to access diplomas/certificates of completed studies.<sup>1239</sup> To obtain the CURP as a foreigner, a person must

have a regular status. In some cases, migrants and refugees lack information on the process to obtain these documents, which can also take up to months due to administrative delays, thus impeding or delaying access to the required documents for school enrolment and access to education. The combination of limited access to education and poor economic conditions results in most low-performing students coming from groups in vulnerable situations, including indigenous and refugee and migrant populations. These groups are more susceptible to dropping out of school which negatively impacts their long-term opportunities for formal employment.<sup>1240</sup>

Children in-transit lack access to education and have lower educational outcomes due to being out of school for extended periods of time during their transit, ranging from months to years. According to R4V partners, refugee and migrant families in-transit are moving from one place to another, prioritizing onward movement or the search for employment and often are not able to prioritize complex processes to enrol their children in the local schools for the time they stay in each country. In Costa Rica, 17 per cent of the in-transit population left their country of origin or residence between one year and more than five

[1236] R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

[1237] Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMARE), Unit of Migratory, Registration and Identity of Persons (UPM), Ministry of the Interior, UNHCR, "Third National Survey on the Refugee Population in Mexico" (ENPORE), 2024 (publication forthcoming). <https://www.acnur.org/mx/noticias/comunicados-de-prensa/arranca-tercera-encuesta-nacional-de-la-poblacion-refugiada-en>

[1238] Government of Mexico, Ministry of Public Education (2024). <https://www.sep.gob.mx/work/models/sep1/Resource/5216/4/images/CARTEL%20MIGRANTES-VA-2.pdf>

[1239] *Ibid.*

[1240] *Ibid.*





years ago.<sup>1241</sup> While the average transit through Costa Rica in 2024 took three days, transit times in Mexico can take months to years. By the time Venezuelans in-transit reach Mexico, they have been on the move for numerous months or even years, limiting their access to education during this time, except for child friendly spaces or special classes in shelters. In Costa Rica, 83 per cent of Venezuelan children in-transit and 91 per cent of other nationals engaging in the same onward and transit movements had not received any type of educational service within one to three months before being surveyed, except skills diagnosis (96 per cent).<sup>1242</sup> More than half (59 per cent) of children in-transit do not have documentation that certifies their studies were completed, while 84 per cent do not have information

regarding the requirements needed to enrol in their country of destination.<sup>1243</sup>

Finally, migrant and refugee children face difficulties adjusting to new schools due to xenophobia, discrimination, and stressors, such as different school curricula, culture, and facilities. In Costa Rica, 40 per cent of interviewed households reported experiencing discrimination, with 10 per cent of cases being in the education system.<sup>1244</sup> Particularly vulnerable to intersecting racial discrimination and xenophobia in this region are indigenous and black children engaging in onward and transit movements.<sup>1245</sup>

## FOOD SECURITY



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	50.3 K	26.0%	25.9%	25.8%	26.5%	26.3%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		77.9%	77.9%	77.9%	77.9%	77.9%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		76.5%	76.5%	76.5%	76.5%	76.5%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		26.0%	25.9%	25.8%	26.6%	26.4%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees, both in-destination and in-transit in Costa Rica and Mexico, face significant challenges in accessing food due to lack of availability of adequate food (particularly along transit routes), limited financial resources, and decreased purchasing power due to rising prices. As a result, they are forced to take different measures such as reducing the amount

or frequency of food intake, asking for help from others, and reducing the quality of the food that they consume. In Costa Rica, the cost of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) saw an average increase of six per cent per year between 2021 and 2024 (approximately USD 107 as of June 2024), reflecting a consistent upward trend in living expenses over the three-year period.<sup>1246</sup>

[1241] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on the following reports: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, Mixed Movements Monitoring (2024), <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>.

[1242] Ibid.

[1243] Ibid.

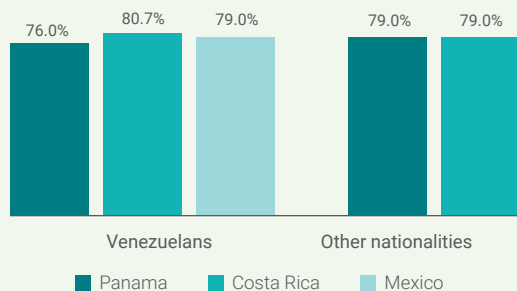
[1244] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming)

[1245] Marcus, Rachel, et al. Children on the Move in Latin America and the Caribbean: Review of the evidence. (2023). UNICEF, ODI. <https://oro.open.ac.uk/88637/1/Children-on-the-move-in-LAC.pdf>

[1246] Costa Rica, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC). Costa Rica. Costo mensual y diario de la Canasta Básica Alimentaria (CBA) 2011. (2024). <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fadmin.inec.cr%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffile%2F2024-06%2FseEconomCBA052024-02.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

In Mexico, the average price of the MEB stands at approximately USD 45 as of April 2024,<sup>1247</sup> a 70 per cent increase since 2019.

### PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN-TRANSIT WHO RESORTED TO NEGATIVE COPING MECHANISMS RELATED TO THEIR FOOD INTAKE\*



\*The strategies selected for the analysis were: skipping a meal, spending a whole day without eating, eating less expensive food, and restricting adult's meals to allow children to eat.

Sources: UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF Mixed Movements Monitoring in Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico (2024).

Lack of access to employment or income-generating opportunities impact refugees' and migrants' access to financial resources and their ability to meet basic needs, including food. This is exacerbated for those in an irregular situation or in-transit as they face additional challenges to make an income. In Costa Rica, 81 per cent of Venezuelans in-transit and 59 per cent of other nationalities reported that they consumed less expensive food, sometimes went the whole day

without eating, or had to skip meals due to financial constraints.<sup>1248</sup> Almost half (48 per cent) identified access to food as their main need,<sup>1249</sup> while 17 per cent reported that one of their reasons for leaving their country of origin or previous residence was insufficient access to food.<sup>1250</sup> In Mexico, 79 per cent of in-transit Venezuelans reported that they frequently ate less than they needed or skipped meals; 37 per cent had eaten only one meal or none at all the day before being surveyed.<sup>1251</sup> In addition, 53 per cent of Venezuelans in-transit said they have had to resort to begging to meet basic needs, including food and nutrition.<sup>1252</sup> This increases their vulnerability and exposure to potential protection and safety risks. Moreover, Venezuelans are at times charged higher prices than locals, for example while shopping in informal street markets.<sup>1253</sup>

Venezuelans in-destination reported having to resort to negative coping mechanisms to access food due to financial challenges or a lack of certain foods, impacting their overall health, safety, and well-being. In Costa Rica, 48 per cent of Venezuelans said they tend to opt for lower-priced or less-preferred foods or reduce the number of meals they eat between five and seven days per week. Nine per cent of respondents mentioned that they restricted their food consumption seven days a week to ensure their children can eat, while another nine per cent said they do so between one and six days a week.<sup>1254</sup> Thirteen per cent of respondents borrowed money or asked for help to buy food between five and seven days a week, and 29 per cent indicated they had done an activity they never thought they would ever do such as begging and prefer not to mention to access food.<sup>1255</sup> Furthermore, 22 per cent of respondents reported sending one or several family members to friends' or relatives' houses to eat.<sup>1256</sup>

[1247] Government of Mexico, Federal Consumer Protection, "Precio promedio de la canasta básica está en 808 pesos". 1 April 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/profeco/prensa/precio-promedio-de-la-canasta-basica-esta-en-808-pesos?idiom=es>

[1248] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on Mixed Movements Monitoring. UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP. Mixed Movements Monitoring (2024), <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>.

[1249] International Organization for Migration (IOM), Displacement Tracking Matrix, 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/es/online-interactive-resources/costa-rica-migrants-mobility-across-americas-spanish>.

[1250] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on Mixed Movements Monitoring, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, 2024.

[1251] R4V Mexico calculations based on Mixed Movements Monitoring, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, 2024.

[1252] IOM, DTM, Ciudad Juárez, Tijuana, Tapachula, Mexico City, Mexico, November-December 2023. <https://mexico.iom.int/es/matriz-de-seguimiento-del-desplazamiento-dtm>.

[1253] This was reported to UNHCR and partners in interviews and protection monitoring.

[1254] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

[1255] *Ibid.*

[1256] *Ibid.*







Finally, according to JNA results, 32 per cent of Venezuelan households in-destination in Costa Rica are moderately or severely food insecure.<sup>1257</sup> Seventy-two per cent of Venezuelans surveyed in Costa Rica

said they tend to consume more accessible and affordable foods, particularly carbohydrates such as corn, rice, pasta, and yuca, and fats like lard, margarine, and other oils.<sup>1258</sup>

# HEALTH



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
	86.0 K	44.5%	44.7%	45.2%	42.8%	43.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION						
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		41.9%	41.9%	41.9%	41.9%	41.9%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		37.5%	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		44.5%	44.6%	45.1%	42.6%	43.3%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Although public health facilities in Costa Rica offer treatment to refugees and migrants in emergency situations and to pregnant women and children regardless of their status, they face obstacles to access health services due to a lack of access to social insurance, documentation, and high costs for medication and certain procedures.<sup>1259</sup> In Mexico, migrants and refugees in theory have access to public healthcare; however, they face challenges in accessing it, due to lack of information, long waiting times or difficulties in obtaining appointments, and discrimination within the medical system.

Costa Rica has a well-developed public healthcare system that aims to provide comprehensive services to its residents, including to refugees and migrants, through the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS, for its Spanish acronym), commonly known as *La Caja*. While *La Caja* aims to provide affordable healthcare, and those who are formally employed have access via their employer, for those who are not employed, who work informally, or for those with a low income, the cost of

voluntary insurance contributions can be unaffordable. Over 17 per cent of interviewed Venezuelan refugees and migrants said that they faced difficulties accessing healthcare due to prohibitive out-of-pocket expenses for medications and certain procedures.<sup>1260</sup>

Costa Rica places a strong emphasis on maternal and child health. Women without access to documentation have free access to prenatal, childbirth, and postnatal care. Children under five receive free essential healthcare services regardless of their status. However, about 15 per cent<sup>1261</sup> of interviewed Venezuelans in-destination could not access required healthcare, with 77 per cent of these cases being due to a lack of documentation. Those in an irregular situation are typically only eligible for free emergency medical services, maternal and child healthcare, and some public health programs.

In Mexico, although in theory all persons have the right to access healthcare regardless of their status under the country's constitution, 46 per cent of 184 migrants and refugees surveyed in March and April

[1257] *Ibid.*

[1258] *Ibid.*

[1259] CONAPRED and SEGOG, "Thematic factsheet: Discrimination against migrants," (November 2023). [http://www.conapred.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/FT\\_PMigrantes\\_Noviembre2023\\_v2.pdf](http://www.conapred.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/FT_PMigrantes_Noviembre2023_v2.pdf)

[1260] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May-June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

[1261] *Ibid.*

2024 stated that the members of their household have not received the necessary medical care to address their health needs.<sup>1262</sup> Approximately half of the respondents referred to structural factors, such as the absence of a specialized care, which undermines their ability to access required care. 57 per cent noted a lack of information about their rights and processes, while more than a third cited the costs associated with transportation to health centres and corresponding treatments as important barriers. Additionally, 15 per cent were attended in shelters, 11 per cent did not seek medical attention, three per cent self-medicated, and two per cent were unable to seek medical attention in a medical centre.<sup>1263</sup> There is also a general lack of capacity in Mexico’s public healthcare system and in preventative care, particularly in areas where refugees and migrants in-destination live (due to affordability).<sup>1264</sup>

For Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-transit, 54 per cent of those surveyed in Costa Rica reported needing healthcare during their journey (vs. 39 per cent of other nationalities).<sup>1265</sup> It is worth noting that about 15 per cent of interviewed women in-transit were pregnant and therefore face specific health needs.<sup>1266</sup> In Mexico, 46 per cent of the Venezuelan population in-transit reported being in need of medical attention and were unable to access the required care due to lack of information (57 per cent), while more than a third cited the costs associated with traveling to health centres and the corresponding treatments as significant barriers.<sup>1267</sup> More than 27 per cent of this population listed medical care as their main need, indicating a lack of access.<sup>1268</sup> Migrants and refugees, including children, also need psychosocial support due to the psychological impacts of the experience of moving to a new country.

## HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	14.5 K	16.6%	16.6%	16.3%	17.3%	17.0%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		8.5%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		8.5%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		16.6%	16.7%	16.3%	17.4%	17.1%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees in the sub-region face difficulties accessing transportation due to various reasons such as lack of resources and long distances to access essential services like education and health. Most refugees and migrants in-destination

have access to transportation, though some face challenges, particularly those in an irregular situation. Those in-transit in Mexico face obstacles in accessing transportation due to a lack of access to financial resources, lack of information about available services,

[1262] Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Protection Monitoring, Mexico (March-April 2024) <https://pro.drc.ngo/media/hbzfrbpw/mex-snapshot-marzo-abril-2024-esp.pdf>

[1263] UNHCR, Protection Monitoring, Mexico, January-March 202

[1264] Ibid.

[1265] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on Mixed Movements Monitoring, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, 2024.

[1266] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Ric

[1267] Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Protection Monitoring, Mexico (March-April 2024), <https://pro.drc.ngo/media/hbzfrbpw/mex-snapshot-marzo-abril-2024-esp.pdf>

[1268] IOM DTM, Ciudad de México, Tapachula, Tijuana y Ciudad Juárez. Mexico (January-March 2024), <https://mexico.iom.int/es/matriz-de-seguimiento-del-desplazamiento-dtm>

and refusal by bus companies to transport them. These barriers expose them to significant protection risks such as extortion, kidnapping and trafficking.

Regarding Venezuelans in-destination, in Costa Rica, most said they walk (67 per cent) and/or take public transportation (64 per cent) on a regular basis to go to work and run daily errands; 46 per cent indicated taking 30 minutes or longer to get to their destination.<sup>1269</sup> Venezuelans living in Mexico generally have access to public transportation networks in major cities. However, according to R4V partners, Venezuelans in less central locations and those unable to afford it, face difficulties accessing employment opportunities, protection services, healthcare, education and other essential services as part of their local integration process, particularly those in an irregular situation. This is also the case for many of those who apply for asylum in the south of the country and choose to move to other cities that offer greater employment opportunities.

An R4V partner's flow monitoring in Costa Rica from January to July 2024 recorded 228,351 entries at Paso Canoas (southern border with Panama), with 98 per cent of people taking buses from the Southern Migration Station (EMISUR in Spanish) from Paso Canoas to Los Chiles (northern border).<sup>1270</sup> The cost of a bus ticket for this journey is approximately ₡16,000 (USD 30) per person. Owing to a lack of local integration

or regularization opportunities, most intend to reach the U.S., while 27 per cent consider Mexico<sup>1271</sup> and four per cent Costa Rica<sup>1272</sup> as alternative destinations. Depending on the households' financial situation, transportation expenses can be a significant burden, especially for large family groups, leaving many stranded in precarious situations without being able to continue their journey.<sup>1273</sup> Lack of access to financial resources, coupled with lack of access to reliable travel-related information, could be related to the number of stranded people in Costa Rica. Between January and June 2024, 38 per cent of surveyed migrants and refugees in-transit cited travel costs and information on available services and orientation as the primary needs.<sup>1274</sup>

In Mexico, refugees and migrants in-transit are often denied access to transportation by bus companies, even if they hold documentation from the National Migration Institute (INM), despite this practice being illegal.<sup>1275</sup> As a consequence, migrants and refugees are more at risk of scams and are frequently made to pay much higher prices than nationals, decreasing their available financial resources to cover other basic needs. Organized criminal groups are increasingly focusing on transportation of populations in-transit, further exposing refugees and migrants to increased risks, such as kidnapping, extortion, and abuse (see Central America and Mexico Protection Sector).

[1269] R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024* (publication forthcoming)

[1270] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Rica (June 2024), [https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/reports/05\\_24\\_DTM\\_Mobility\\_Across\\_America\\_National.pdf](https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/reports/05_24_DTM_Mobility_Across_America_National.pdf).

[1271] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Tijuana, Mexico, November to December 2023, <https://dtm.iom.int/es/reports/mexico-monitoreo-de-flujos-migratorios-en-tijuana-noviembre-diciembre-2023?close=true>

[1272] International Organization for Migration (IOM), Data Story Map: Migrants in Transit Through Costa Rica, June 2024, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f0073e4e674e446b81d55a2b02f4e8c0#n-SsY6Jn>.





[1273] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Rica, May 2024, [https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/reports/05\\_24\\_DTM\\_Mobility\\_Across\\_America\\_National.pdf](https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/reports/05_24_DTM_Mobility_Across_America_National.pdf).

[1274] International Organization for Migration (IOM), Data Story Map: Migrants in Transit Through Costa Rica, June 2024.

[1275] Transporte MX, *Les prohíben la compra de boletos de autobús por ser "extranjeros"*, (June 2024), <https://transporte.mx/les-prohiben-la-compra-de-boletos-de-autobus-por-ser-extranjeros/>

# INTEGRATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	72.1 K	37.2%	35.4%	36.9%	37.8%	37.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		81.3%	81.3%	81.3%	81.3%	81.3%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		62.9%	63.0%	62.9%	63.0%	62.9%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		36.5%	35.4%	36.9%	37.9%	37.6%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Economic growth in Costa Rica and Mexico offers opportunities for refugees and migrants from Venezuela to contribute to the national economies. However, despite their high educational levels and skills, they face barriers to their socio-economic integration, such as limited access to formal employment and financial services, difficulties validating their credentials, and discrimination. Additionally, migrants and refugees in-transit struggle to find income-generating opportunities to cover their basic needs.

A large percentage of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination in Costa Rica have high education levels, including university studies (74 per cent) or higher technical studies (17 per cent), showing great potential for economic contribution.<sup>1276</sup> While 79 per cent of economically active Venezuelans surveyed in May 2024 were employed, 21 per cent were actively looking for employment (representing almost triple of the national unemployment rate of eight per cent).<sup>1277</sup>

Among those working, 46 per cent do not have a formal employment contract or provide any receipts for services, indicating informal labour.<sup>1278</sup> Furthermore, their average income is 48 per cent lower than the national average for informal workers, and for those in the formal labour market, their average income is 24 per cent lower.<sup>1279</sup> Only 33 per cent of professionals are actively working in their field,<sup>1280</sup> with about half (49 per cent) indicating the main reason is their inability to validate their academic and or professional degrees due to administrative requirements.<sup>1281</sup>

In Mexico, four per cent of Venezuelans are unemployed in contrast to less than three per cent of Mexicans.<sup>1282</sup> Venezuelan migrants and refugees face barriers to integration in Mexico; some 40 per cent are engaged in informal labour and therefore have access to less services and face increased vulnerabilities.<sup>1283</sup> In Mexico, even those who have regular status face administrative barriers in accessing the national

[1276] IOM, Social Development Consulting, Equilibrium, "Estudio de Impacto Económico de La Migración venezolana Costa Rica", December 2023, <https://respuestavenezolanos.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl526/files/documents/2024-02/informe-costa-rica-estudio-impacto-migracion-venezolana-pd>

[1277] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming)

[1278] Ibid.

[1279] Costa Rica, Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, Lista de Salarios Mínimos por ocupación, año 2024, (14 December 2023), <https://www.mtss.go.cr/temas-laborales/salarios/lista-salarios.htm>

[1280] International Organization for Migration (IOM), Social Development Consulting, Equilibrium, "Estudio de Impacto Económico de La Migración venezolana Costa Rica", December 2023. <https://respuestavenezolanos.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl526/files/documents/2024-02/informe-costa-rica-estudio-impacto-migracion-venezolana-pd>

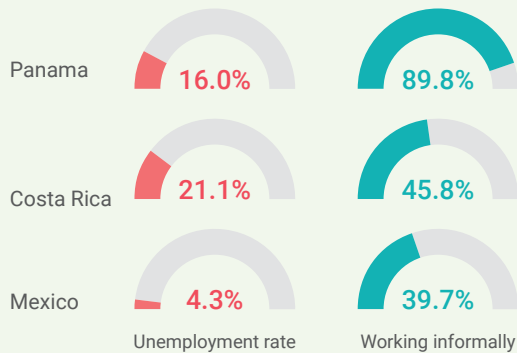
[1281] Ibid.

[1282] Mexico, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). National Survey on Occupation and Employment (ENOE) Mexico. (2024) [https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/boletines/2024/ENOE/ENOE2024\\_05.pdf](https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/boletines/2024/ENOE/ENOE2024_05.pdf)

[1283] Ibid.

taxpayer number (RFC, for its Spanish acronym) and the Unique Population Registry Code (CURP, for its Spanish acronym), both needed to access formal employment, including long processing times and lack of information on the process.

### UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFORMALITY RATES OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS LIVING IN THE SUB-REGION



Sources: *In-destination JNA (2024) surveys in Panama and Costa Rica forthcoming publication, and Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo (ENOE Q1 2024) in Mexico.*

Refugees and migrants also face challenges accessing financial services. In Mexico, the lack of the necessary documentation (such as a valid passport or proof of residence) to open a bank account hampers employment opportunities, as many employers require bank accounts as a condition of employment. In Costa Rica, 36 per cent of Venezuelan households do not have

access to financial products (such as bank accounts or credit cards).<sup>1284</sup> According to R4V partners, this may be due to a lack of resources or documentation, but it could also be related to a lack of information among staff at financial institutions who do not recognize temporary residence cards or refugee identification as valid or sufficient documentation.

Moreover, refugees and migrants from Venezuela increasingly face discrimination: 39 per cent of those in-transit in Mexico report experiencing discriminatory or xenophobic incidents during their journey.<sup>1285</sup> In Costa Rica, 46 per cent of Venezuelan households encountered discrimination, mainly due to their nationality (40 per cent). This discrimination occurred in their communities (48 per cent), during job searches (43 per cent), or at workplaces (41 per cent).<sup>1286</sup>

Finally, migrants and refugees in-transit lack access to income generating opportunities and financial resources required to cover their basic needs such as food and shelter. In Costa Rica, 80 per cent of Venezuelans and 45 per cent refugees and migrants of other nationalities reported a need for income generation.<sup>1287</sup> Similarly, 89 per cent of the Venezuelan migrants and refugees in-transit in Mexico expressed the same need.<sup>1288</sup> For 17 per cent of refugees and migrants in-transit in Costa Rica, finding employment or income is their second greatest need.<sup>1289</sup> This transitory nature and short duration in Costa Rica further hinders their ability to identify income-generating opportunities, with 43 per cent having no source of income and 23 per cent relying on humanitarian assistance or loans (11 per cent).<sup>1290</sup>

[1284] R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024, forthcoming.*

[1285] IOM, DTM, Tapachula, Tenosique, Ciudad Juárez, Tijuana, Reynosa y Matamoros (February-June 2023), <https://mexico.iom.int/es/matriz-de-seguimiento-del-desplazamiento-dtm>

[1286] R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024, forthcoming.*

[1287] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on *Mixed Movements Monitoring, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, 2024.*

[1288] R4V calculations based on *IOM DTM data in Mexico (2024).*

[1289] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Rica, January – May 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/es/online-interactive-resources/costa-rica-migrants-mobility-across-americas-spanish>.

[1290] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on *Mixed Movements Monitoring, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, 2024.*

# NUTRITION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		GENDER			
	Total	%	Male	Pregnant/Lactating Women	Children < 5	Girls
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	11.0 K	5.7%	-	0.5%	29.4%	29.2%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		5.7%	-	0.8%	25.9%	25.9%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		6.4%	-	0.9%	29.3%	29.3%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		5.6%	-	0.5%	29.4%	29.3%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA. (except in Mexico).

Migrants and refugees in-transit in the sub-region, in particular pregnant or lactating women and children under five, face a heightened risk of malnutrition due to limited access to nutritious food, potable water, and adequate health and nutritional services. The main health conditions observed among stranded refugees and migrants in Costa Rica includes dehydration and malnutrition.<sup>1291</sup> In Mexico, more than half (53 per cent) of surveyed Venezuelans in-transit in 2024 stated a lack of nutritious food as their number one concern.<sup>1292</sup>

For those transiting through Costa Rica and Mexico, inadequate access to nutritious food can exacerbate these issues, exposing them to nutritional risks and long-term diet-related illnesses. Malnutrition is particularly worrisome for pregnant and lactating women, as well as children due to its impact on the development of children aged six to 23 months. It is worth noting that about 15 per cent of interviewed women in-transit in Costa Rica were pregnant while six per cent of Venezuelan women and girls in Mexico

aged 12 and older reported being pregnant or lactating, requiring specific nutritional needs.<sup>1293</sup>

Regarding access to nutritional services for Venezuelans in-destination in Costa Rica, nearly 62 per cent of pregnant Venezuelan women in-destination have not received any form of nutritional assistance. Some have reported receiving nutritional evaluations (eight per cent) or counselling related to pregnancy or lactation (31 per cent).<sup>1294</sup> This situation can lead to short- and long-term diet-related noncommunicable diseases, impacting both education and socio-economic development for their families.<sup>1295</sup> While 80 per cent of children under six months of age have not received the minimum package of nutritional interventions, this rises to 98 per cent for babies aged between six months to five years.<sup>1296</sup>

Similarly, in Mexico, refugees and migrants in-destination face limited access to nutritious foods due to lack of resources. The Mexican National Health and Nutrition Survey (ENASUT) indicates that 13 per

[1291] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Rica, May 2024, [https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/reports/05\\_24\\_DTM\\_Mobility\\_Across\\_America\\_National.pdf](https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/reports/05_24_DTM_Mobility_Across_America_National.pdf).

[1292] IOM, DTM, Ciudad Juárez, Tijuana, Tapachula, CDMX, Mexico (January - March 2024), <https://mexico.iom.int/es/matriz-de-seguimiento-del-desplazamiento-dtm>

[1293] IOM DTM, Ciudad Juárez, Tijuana, Tapachula, CDMX, Mexico (July 2023-May 2024), <https://mexico.iom.int/es/matriz-deseguimiento-del-desplazamiento>

[1294] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming)

[1295] De Sanctis, V., Soliman, A., Alaaraj, N., Ahmed, S., Alyafei, F., & Hamed, N., "Early and Long-term Consequences of Nutritional Stunting: From Childhood to Adulthood", 2021, <https://doi.org/10.23750/abm.v9i2i.11346>.





[1296] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming)

cent of the children under five were stunted (national population average).<sup>1297</sup> Rising commodity prices have made it increasingly difficult for Venezuelan families to maintain a diet that meets their basic nutritional needs.

This can have a significant impact on the overall health and development of pregnant and lactating women, as well as children under five.

## PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	94.1 K	48.6%	48.3%	48.7%	48.4%	48.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		75.7%	75.7%	75.7%	75.7%	75.7%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		76.4%	76.4%	76.4%	76.4%	76.4%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		48.5%	48.2%	48.7%	48.4%	48.5%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination in Costa Rica and Mexico face significant protection risks, particularly related to violence, including GBV, lack of access to regular status, and lack of access to protection and support services. Strict and often unattainable visa and entry requirements as well as barriers to access regular pathways and asylum leave many in an irregular situation, further increasing their vulnerability to protection risks.

In both Costa Rica and Mexico, Venezuelan migrants and refugees encounter risks of violence and insecurity, including GBV, kidnapping, extortion, and trafficking. In Costa Rica, homicide rates have reached record levels in 2023,<sup>1298</sup> with 25 per cent of surveyed Venezuelan refugees and migrants having safety concerns in the country.<sup>1299</sup> Main concerns reported include robberies

(34 per cent), physical, verbal, or psychological violence (29 per cent) and threats to family members (15 per cent).<sup>1300</sup> In Mexico, high rates of violence and kidnapping heighten risks for those in-transit and for those in an irregular situation.<sup>1301</sup> Seventy-one per cent of surveyed Venezuelans in-transit in northern Mexico in 2024 reported having suffered a security incident, including extortion by authorities (25 per cent), theft (25 per cent), physical threats or intimidation (22 per cent), kidnapping or abduction (18 per cent), aggression or physical mistreatment (13 per cent), fraud (11 per cent), and arbitrary/illegal detention (six per cent).<sup>1302</sup> Furthermore, 49 per cent of surveyed Venezuelans in-transit reported having been detained by private or government agents.<sup>1303</sup> More than 60 per cent of people living in Mexico feel their city or place of residence is

[1297] Survey on Health and Nutrition, Mexico, 2022. <https://es.studenta.com/content/132682015/27-nutricion-de-menores-ensan-ut-2022-14799-72472-2-10-20230619>

[1298] Woolston, S. & Vicent, B., As security crisis deepens, Costa Rica struggles [Review of InSight Crime], 20 February 2024, <https://insightcrime.org/news/as-security-crisis-deepens-costa-rica-struggles>.

[1299] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024, forthcoming.

[1300] Ibid.

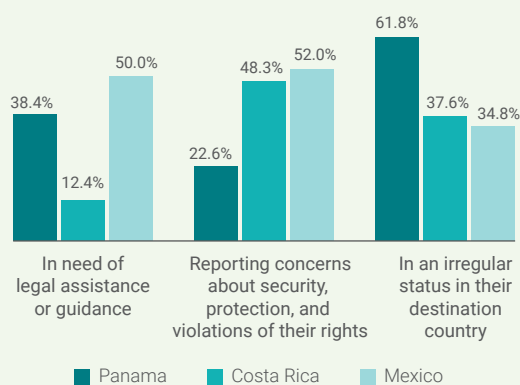
[1301] De los Reyes Muñoz, Janette, Conexión Migrante, Travesía por México: los peligros de migrar en autobús, May 2024, <https://reportajes.conexionmigrante.com/travesia-por-mexico>

[1302] UNHCR Mexico, Mixed Movements Monitoring Report, April 2024. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108903>

[1303] Calculations done by R4V Platform with data from IOM DTM, Ciudad de México, Tapachula, Tijuana y Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, (July 2023-May 2024), <https://mexico.iom.int/es/matriz-de-seguimiento-del-desplazamiento-dtm>

insecure, and some 35 per cent of Venezuelan women and 14 per cent of men feel insecure or very insecure in their neighbourhoods.<sup>1304</sup>

### PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED VENEZUELAN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS IN THE SUB-REGION WITH PROTECTION-RELATED NEEDS



Sources: R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, 2024. R4V Platform, JNA, Panama, 2024 and R4V Mexico calculation based on UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF Mixed Movements Monitoring (2024).

Strict visa and entry regulations impede Venezuelans' ability to regularize their status, access protection, and to integrate locally. In Costa Rica, while a special temporary permit category<sup>1305</sup> was introduced in March 2023, aimed to assist those in irregular situations,<sup>1306</sup> only about 3,000 Venezuelans<sup>1307</sup> benefitted from this option.<sup>1308</sup> Many Venezuelans who entered irregularly are ineligible for this permit, leaving them without legal status or an option to regularize their stay.<sup>1309</sup> Seventy-

nine per cent of migrants and refugees in-transit in Costa Rica identified regularization as their second most pressing need after reaching a destination country.<sup>1310</sup> This also highlights the importance of accessible regular pathways for integration.

In Mexico, the main regular pathway for Venezuelans is a renewable temporary residence permit that allows them to stay and work for an initial period of up to four years.<sup>1311</sup> Applications must be submitted and approved prior to arriving in Mexico from a country in which applicants have regular status. Therefore, it excludes those already in Mexico from applying, as well as a large portion of migrants and refugees who have left their country of origin and who have been unable to obtain a regular status in any of the countries in which they resided or transited. Although refugees in Mexico are eligible for permanent residency, since October 2023, Mexico stopped issuing Humanitarian Visitors Cards (TVRH) to those with protection needs, placing many in an irregular situation and consequently exposing them to heightened protection risks, like fraud and extortion, while undermining their integration opportunities.

Accessing asylum and legal assistance remains a challenge for Venezuelans in both countries. 45 per cent of Venezuelans in Costa Rica have required legal assistance, with 27 per cent not being able to access this support.<sup>1312</sup> Furthermore, 68 per cent acknowledge being at risk in their country of origin if they returned, with 58 per cent having been directly threatened and 44 per cent expressing danger due to general violence.<sup>1313</sup> Over half (53 per cent) of Venezuelans in-transit interviewed were seeking asylum, with many needing legal assistance to navigate their options.<sup>1314</sup>

[1304] UNHCR Mexico, 2023 Annual Report, Naturalization Chapter, <https://www.acnur.org/mx/media/mexico-esperanza-de-un-nuevo-hogar-2023-principales-resultados-acnur-mexico>

[1305] Government of Costa, Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería, Categoría Especial Temporal, (2023) [https://www.migracion.go.cr/Paginas/Categor%C3%ADa%20Migratorias%20\(Extranjer%C3%ADa\)/Categor%C3%ADa-Especial-Temporal.asp](https://www.migracion.go.cr/Paginas/Categor%C3%ADa%20Migratorias%20(Extranjer%C3%ADa)/Categor%C3%ADa-Especial-Temporal.asp)

[1306] For further information on this programme, see: R4V Central America and Mexico, Situation Report - Central America and Mexico (March-April 2023), 2 January 2024, <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/situation-report-central-america-and-mexico-march-april-2023>

[1307] Data shared with R4V partners by the Government of Costa Rica.

[1308] Applications for this category closed in February 2024 with no extension announced as of July 2024.

[1309] Data collected in May 2024 indicated that 45% of interviewed Venezuelans in destination entered through irregular routes. R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024 (publication forthcoming).

[1310] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Rica. <https://dtm.iom.int/es/online-interactive-resources/costa-rica-migrants-mobility-across-americas-spanish>.

[1311] Government of Mexico, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Temporary Residence, Visa de residencia temporal <https://www.gob.mx/sre/acciones-y-programas/visa-de-residencia-temporal>

[1312] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024, forthcoming

[1313] Ibid.

[1314] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Rica, <https://dtm.iom.int/es/online-interactive-resources/costa-rica-migrants-mobility-across-americas-spanish>.



Restrictions implemented in December 2022 that limited asylum seekers' ability to work were eased in June 2024, facilitating the issuance of work permits to asylum-seekers.<sup>1315</sup>

Despite the high refugee recognition rate of Venezuelans (82 per cent in 2023) in Mexico, two measures introduced in 2024 have contributed to a 37 per cent drop in asylum claims by Venezuelans in comparison to 2023.<sup>1316</sup> In March 2024, the authorities reinstated a requirement for asylum-seekers to report weekly to the authorities to confirm their continued presence in the same location where they requested

asylum. In many cases, people were not aware of the changes, which resulted in many cases being closed due to abandonment. The lack of infrastructure and access to services, as well as rising insecurity in the South, where 70 per cent of people are seeking asylum, force many to continue moving north, despite the geolocation requirement. In May 2024, the suspension of the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR)'s operations in the capital further impacted access to asylum processes and naturalization opportunities.<sup>1317</sup> These developments have resulted in increased protection needs among migrants and refugees in the sub-region.

## CHILD PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	8.9 K	4.6%	-	-	24.6%	23.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		6.4%	-	-	30.3%	30.3%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		8.0%	-	-	38.1%	38.1%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		4.5%	-	-	24.8%	24.1%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrant and refugee children engaging in onward and transit movements in the sub-region are affected by the trauma of leaving their homes and moving to a new country. Children in-transit face heightened protection risks, like separation from their families, abuse, GBV, violence within or outside the family.

In Costa Rica, seven per cent of Venezuelan groups of refugees and migrants in-transit with children and 11 per cent of other nationalities reported that a child

travelling in their group was separated from their parent or guardian.<sup>1318</sup> Similarly, R4V partners in Mexico have observed a rise in the separation of children from their families in recent years. This happens especially in bi-national families (when the children hold more than one nationality) and during deportations from Mexico, especially if children are not travelling with their legal guardian. There have also been cases of children who have been separated from their families and/or relatives after being detained by National Migration

[1315] The new resolution contains two requirements for those asylum-seekers whose claims are not adjudicated within three months: proof of enrolment in social security, and asylum-seeker ID card issued by the Refugee Unit. The new regulations are scheduled to enter into force on 1 July 2024. Costa Rica, Imprenta Nacional. ALCANCE N° 112 A LA GACETA N° 108 de la fecha 14 06 2024. (2024) [https://www.imprentanacional.go.cr/pub/2024/06/14/ALCA112\\_14\\_06\\_2024.pdf](https://www.imprentanacional.go.cr/pub/2024/06/14/ALCA112_14_06_2024.pdf)

[1316] Government of Mexico, (May 2024), [https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/919541/Cierre\\_Mayo-2024\\_1-Junio\\_.pdf](https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/919541/Cierre_Mayo-2024_1-Junio_.pdf).

[1317] Government of Mexico, Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, May 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/comar/articulos/aviso-importante-366398?idiom=es>.

[1318] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on Mixed Movements Monitoring, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, 2024.

Institute (INM) and brought to the National System for Integral Family Development (DIF, for its Spanish acronym). In 2023, 17 per cent of Venezuelans in an irregular situation reported by the Mexican immigration authorities were children.<sup>1319</sup> Moreover, there has been a surge in recent years of children being recruited by organized crime in Mexico who attempt to use them to smuggle others across the U.S.-Mexico border.<sup>1320</sup> Family separation and other traumas experienced by children can cause significant distress and they often lack access to required assistance, including psychosocial support while in-transit.<sup>1321</sup>

Venezuelan children in-destination in Costa Rica have access to free healthcare, education, and justice under the country's constitution<sup>1322</sup> and the Code of Children and Adolescents of Costa Rica,<sup>1323</sup> regardless of status. Primary needs identified for children under

the age of six months include clothes (63 per cent), food/formula (25 per cent), nutritional evaluation (25 per cent), and diapers (25 per cent). For children from six months to 17 years old, the main needs are finding safe environments or educational spaces (49 per cent), clothing (66 per cent), food (60 per cent), psychological support (21 per cent), and medical attention (23 per cent). In terms of protection needs, 13 per cent of Venezuelans in-destination head of households reported knowing a child experiencing or witnessing incidents within a period of 12 months, including violence and discrimination (four per cent), family separation, and child labour (two per cent). Of those affected, 78 per cent were unable to access any type of assistance or services.<sup>1324</sup> In Mexico, 14 per cent of cases among children aged one to 17 years who were victims of family and non-family violence in 2023 did not receive care.<sup>1325</sup>



[1319] Government of Mexico, Migratory Policy Unit, 2024. <http://www.politicamigratoria.gob.mx/es/PoliticaMigratoria/CuadrosBOLETIN?Anual=2023&Secc=3>.

[1320] Madrigal, Daniel, "Use of minors for illegal migrant smuggling soars 140%", *Crónica*, (February 2024), <https://www.cronica.com.mx/nacional/dispara-140-menores-trafico-ilegal-migrantes.html>

[1321] Medecins sans frontieres, *South of Mexico: Violence against Women*, (December 2023). *Sur de México: violencia contra mujeres e infantes migrantes* | MSF. <https://www.msf.es/noticia/atrapados-sur-mexico-se-recrudece-la-violencia-mujeres-e-infantes-migrantes-chiapas-y#:~:text=Atrapados%20en%20el%20sur%20de%20M%C3%A9xico.%20se%20recrudece,de%20M%C3%A9xico%20ha%20desencadenado%20una%20nueva%20emergencia%20humanitaria>

[1322] Article 78 of the Costa Rican Constitution states: "Preschool, general basic and diversified education are compulsory and, in the public system, free and paid for by the Nation." Similarly, access to healthcare for minors is guaranteed. Government of Costa Rica, Constitution of Costa Rica. <https://www.asamblea.go.cr/sd/Publicaciones%20a%20Texto%20Completo%20%20Revistas/Constituci%C3%B3n%20Pol%C3%ADtica%20de%20la%20Rep%C3%BAblica%20de%20Costa%20Rica,Reglamento%20de%20la%20Asamblea%20Legislaiva.pdf>





[1323] Government of Costa Rica, Código de la Infancia N 27. [http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm\\_texto\\_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=37743&nValor3=109634&strTipM=TC](http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=37743&nValor3=109634&strTipM=TC).

[1324] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024, forthcoming

[1325] Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México (REDIM), *Violencia familiar contra la niñez en México (2010-2023)*, (26 June 2024), <https://blog.derechosinfancia.org.mx/2024/06/26/violencia-familiar-contra-la-ninez-en-mexico-2010-2023/>

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
	55.3 K	28.6%	14.6%	40.6%	12.0%	44.4%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION						
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		24.7%	8.4%	54.5%	10.3%	40.6%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		22.5%	7.4%	50.1%	9.1%	37.3%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		28.9%	18.3%	37.6%	15.3%	42.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants, especially women and girls, face heightened risks of GBV due to their vulnerable situations.

Among migrants and refugees in-transit in Costa Rica, 31 per cent of Venezuelan travel groups with women and girls and 25 per cent of other nationalities indicated that during their transit, they feel or have felt insecure due to the risk of GBV, while two per cent indicated that someone in their group experienced sexual assault while travelling, which are expected to be underreported.<sup>1326</sup> In Mexico, focus group discussions with women undertaking onward and transit movements revealed a lack of respectful treatment by public servants, lack of awareness of their rights and the institutions that can protect them, challenges accessing basic services, lack of availability of safe spaces, limited opportunities to obtain regular status, and a sense of lack of solidarity from the local population.<sup>1327</sup>

The underreporting of GBV is further compounded by survivors often not reporting incidents due to fear of retaliation because of their irregular status.<sup>1328</sup> Irregularity among refugees and migrants in Costa Rica and Mexico, coupled with their inability to regularize their situation and integrate locally further increases

underreporting. Those in-transit often do not report GBV incidents as the legal procedures may require them to stay longer than planned in-country, and therefore delay the time until they can reach a country to settle in. While the Mexican government and R4V partners provide a number of psychosocial services for GBV survivors, many survivors are unaware of these services.

For the in-destination population, in the past year, Costa Rica has seen a 52 per cent increase in reported cases of domestic violence compared to 2023, and according to the most recent epidemiological bulletin from the Ministry of Public Health, women continue to be the primary victims of such violence.<sup>1329</sup> As of June 2024, there have been 29 violent deaths of women in Costa Rica, with 10 classified as femicides and 18 pending classifications by the Interinstitutional Subcommittee for Femicide Prevention.<sup>1330</sup> A quarter of interviewed Venezuelan women in Costa Rica reported not feeling safe (to different extents),<sup>1331</sup> while 13 per cent reported avoiding certain places due to safety concerns. In Mexico, femicides have been on the rise since 2015, with 2024 seeing high monthly rates of violent killings of women. Every day, approximately ten women are

[1326] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on Mixed Movements Monitoring, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, 2024.

[1327] Observations by R4V partners in Mexico.

[1328] Observations by R4V partners.

[1329] Costa Rica, Ministerio de Salud, "Boletines epidemiológicos", San José – Costa Rica, 2024, <https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/biblioteca-de-archivos-left/documentos-ministerio-de-salud/material-informativo/material-publicado/boletines-boletines-vigilancia-vs-enfermedades-de-transmision-vectorial/boletines-epidemiologicos-2024?limit=20&limitstart=>

[1330] Costa Rica, Poder Judicial, "Observatorio de Violencia de Género contra las Mujeres y Acceso a la Justicia – Femicidio", <https://observatoriodegenero.poder-judicial.go.cr/index.php/soy-especialista-y-busco/estadisticas/femicidi>

[1331] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024, forthcoming.

killed in Mexico.<sup>1332</sup> 70 per cent of women aged 15 years and older have experienced at least one situation of violence in their lifetime. Psychological violence was the most common (51 per cent), followed by sexual violence (50 per cent).<sup>1333</sup> The community setting is where they experience the most significant violence (46 per cent), followed by in intimate relationships (40 per cent).<sup>1334</sup> Among migrant and refugee women, 34 per cent perceive sexual violence as the main threat they face in the country, followed by trafficking (20 per cent), psychological violence (17 per cent) and

physical violence (17 per cent). Community violence is also experienced by some who suffer discrimination for being foreigners.<sup>1335</sup> Refugee and migrant women in Mexico also experience institutional violence. Trans-women are at heightened risk and report discrimination because they are denied recognition of their gender identity and detained in spaces with men. Many women feel insecure about speaking up or going to the authorities to report GBV because they are in the country irregularly and fear deportation.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



	PEOPLE IN NEED		GENDER			
	Total	%	Male	Female	Male	Female
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	43.3 K	22.4%	21.4%	22.8%	21.2%	21.7%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		58.0%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		63.0%	63.0%	63.0%	63.0%	63.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		21.9%	21.3%	22.7%	21.1%	21.5%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees from Venezuela continue to be exposed to human trafficking and smuggling, while in-transit and in-destination. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual and labour exploitation.<sup>1336</sup> Unattainable visa and entry restrictions, as well as limited or lack of documentation, for refugees and migrants, including for Venezuelans, have led to a high prevalence of (and reliance on) smuggling networks along irregular routes.

In Costa Rica, increased law enforcement efforts in 2023 led to the prosecution of 46 traffickers and the conviction of eleven, a significant rise from six prosecutions and three convictions in 2022.<sup>1337</sup> Despite identifying 36 victims in 2023 (20 sex trafficking, six labour trafficking, and ten both), the government reduced its anti-trafficking budget by more than half in 2023 (to USD 1.1 million from USD 2.2 million in 2022), resulting in less capacity to combat trafficking.<sup>1338</sup> Nearly three per cent of surveyed migrants and refugees

[1332] Americas Quarterly, Violence Against Women Is at the Center of Mexico’s Security Crisis, (16 April 2024) <https://www.americasquarterly.org/article/violence-against-women-is-at-the-center-of-mexicos-security-crisis/#:~:text=In%20Mexico%2C%20around%2010%20women%20and%20girls%20are,this%20total%2C%20only%20830%20were%20categorized%20as%20femicides>.

[1333] National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), National Survey on Household Dynamics, August 2022: [https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/boletines/2022/endre/Endireh2021\\_Nal.pdf](https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/boletines/2022/endre/Endireh2021_Nal.pdf)

[1334] México, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía INEGI 2023: [https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/aproposito/2023/EAP\\_EmbNoPlanificado23.pdf](https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/aproposito/2023/EAP_EmbNoPlanificado23.pdf)

[1335] Laureles, Jared and Xantomila, Jessica. “More foreigners denounced for mistreatment by Immigration agents”, (April 2024), <https://www.jornada.com.mx/2024/04/07/politica/010n1pol>

[1336] U.S. Mission to Mexico, “Report on Human Trafficking” (2023), <https://mx.usembassy.gov/es/reporte-sobre-trata-de-personas-2023/>

[1337] U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica, Trafficking in Persons Report 2024, Costa Rica (Tier 2), <https://cr.usembassy.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report-2024/>.

[1338] Ibid.

in-destination reported having been held against their will by non-state actors in the past 12 months, and four per cent were deceived in some way to compel them to migrate.<sup>1339</sup> Venezuelan refugees and migrants also faced labour exploitation in Costa Rica, 14 per cent reported being paid less than agreed, 13 per cent required to work longer hours than agreed without proper compensation, and seven per cent reported not receiving fair treatment from their employer.<sup>1340</sup> In Mexico, among 3,498 reports of trafficking cases analysed, half of the identified victims are under 18 years old, and 70 per cent are women. Refugees and migrants were identified among those groups most at risk of trafficking due to their heightened vulnerabilities and very limited opportunities for obtaining a regular status in the country.<sup>1341, 1342, 1343, 1344</sup>

Migrants and refugees in-transit face increased risks of exposure to smuggling and trafficking networks, including due to their lack of access to safe transportation and documentation. In Costa Rica, 55 per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants and 51 per cent of other nationalities reported exposure

to situations associated with illicit smuggling during their journey.<sup>1345</sup> Four per cent reported experiencing labour exploitation.<sup>1346</sup> With more than 90 per cent of Venezuelans in-transit not carrying valid documentation in Mexico,<sup>1347</sup> and considering that many formal transportation companies refuse services for undocumented people, migrants and refugees from Venezuela face risks related to the use of smuggling and trafficking networks offering transportation to enter the country and to cross the border to the U.S., such as kidnapping and extortion.<sup>1348</sup> Recent reports from 2024 reveal that some people paid an average of USD 400 per person for what they thought was private transportation, but instead were abandoned in a remote location.<sup>1349</sup> Between 2022 and 2023, there were 130 reports received through the national hotline against trafficking in persons (LNCTP) related to people on the move: 20 per cent requested information about shelters, immigration offices or how to file a complaint; 18 per cent were cases of human trafficking; eight per cent sought financial support to return to their country of origin.<sup>1350</sup>

[1339] R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment, Costa Rica, May to June 2024*, forthcoming.

[1340] *Ibid.*

[1341] Assman, Parker and Dudley, Steven, "Human trafficking on the U.S.-Mexico border: family clans, coyotes or 'cartels'?" (August 2023), <https://insightcrime.org/es/investigaciones/clanes-coyotes-carteles-trata-frontera-estados-unidos-mexico/>

[1342] Quintana Roo Prosecutor's Office, (January 2024), <https://www.fgeqroo.gob.mx/comunicados/detalle/rescata-fge-25-mujeres-victimas-de-trata-de-personas-y-asegura-droga-durante-cateo-un-establecimiento-en-othon-p-blanco>

[1343] R4V calculations based on IOM DTM data in Mexico (2024).

[1344] UNHCR, *Protection Monitoring Mexico January - March 2024*, (2024), internal document.

[1345] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on *Mixed Movements Monitoring*, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, 2024.

[1346]

[1347] R4V Mexico calculations based on UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, *Mixed Movements Monitoring Mexico, January-June 2024*.





[1348] UNHCR Mexico, *Mixed Movements Monitoring Report April 2024*, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108903>

[1349] Torreso, Liliana, "Migrants pay 7,000 pesos to private people from Chihuahua to Juarez; abandoned in Samalayuca", *El Heraldo de Chihuahua*, (May 2024), <https://www.elheraldodechihuahua.com.mx/local/juarez/pagan-migrantes-a-particulares-7-mil-pesos-de-chihuahua-a-juarez-los-abandonan-en-samalayuca-11956099.html>

[1350] Consejo Ciudadano de México, *Tercer Informe Anual Trata de Personas, desafío global y virtual enero 2022-junio 2023* (2023). <https://consejociudadanomx.org/media/pdf/9/3ER%20REPORTE%20TRATA.pdf>

# SHELTER



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	57.3 K	29.6%	27.1%	29.0%	30.7%	30.1%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		78.8%	78.8%	78.8%	78.8%	78.8%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		81.0%	81.0%	81.0%	81.0%	81.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		28.6%	27.1%	29.0%	30.8%	30.1%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Shelter and housing are identified as a top need in the sub-region, particularly for refugees and migrants in-transit. With the increasing number of people resorting to onward and transit movements, shelter capacities are overwhelmed and are unable to accommodate all those in need. For migrants and refugees in-destination, the increasing costs of living and lack of access to employment opportunities hinders migrants' and refugees' ability to access adequate housing.

In Costa Rica, 23 per cent of people in-transit identified shelter as their second greatest need upon entering Costa Rica in February 2024, following food (39 per cent) and preceding water (21 per cent).<sup>1351</sup> 2024 has also witnessed an increase in shelter needs; in May 2024, there was a 58 per cent increase in the demand for shelters compared to April 2024.<sup>1352</sup> There has also been a shift in the distribution across Costa Rica's three main zones (northern, central, and southern), which has been attributed to changes in the routes of refugees and migrants, and the lack of financial resources to continue their journeys, resulting in many being stranded in shelters across the country for longer periods of time. An R4V partner's report also indicates that collective shelters are accommodating

larger groups of three or more people within one space, underscoring the increased scarcity of collective shelters.<sup>1353</sup> This has created significant pressure on the effective operation of collective shelters, limiting access to basic care services due to lack of capacity. Additionally, shelters house a higher proportion of children (45 per cent among those stranded in shelters versus 30 per cent among those in-transit).<sup>1354</sup>

Similarly, in the first five months of 2024, more than 16,000 migrants and refugees, including 3,200 Venezuelans, were hosted in 141 collective shelters in Mexico, which are often operated above their capacity.<sup>1355</sup> One challenge identified by R4V partners is the limited availability of collective shelters dedicated for children, especially those who are unaccompanied. The lack of access to safe collective shelters poses serious protection risks for refugees and migrants, including to human trafficking, labour exploitation, kidnapping, and GBV. In April 2024, 25 per cent of interviewed Venezuelans in-transit were staying in collective shelters, while 40 per cent were sleeping on the streets.<sup>1356</sup> Seventeen per cent of the people interviewed had just arrived in Mexico and did not know where they could stay.<sup>1357</sup>

[1351] United Nations Costa Rica, *Respuesta de Operacional del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas antes el flujo mixto de personas en Tránsito por las Américas*, February 2024

[1352] International Organization for Migration (IOM), *DTM, Costa Rica, May 2024*. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/flow-monitoring-people-move-across-americas-locations-high-transit-and-presence-migrants-5?close=true>

[1353] International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Data Story Map: Migrants in Transit Through Costa Rica*, June 2024.

[1354] *Ibid.*

[1355] *Mexico Interagency Shelter Monitoring (internal)*.

[1356] UNHCR, *Mexico Mixed Movements Monitoring Report April 2024*. (2024) <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108903>

[1357] *Ibid.*





For Venezuelans in-destination in Costa Rica, more than half (52 per cent) live in individual rented housing. However, 35 per cent reported discomfort due to factors such as insecurity (19 per cent) and poor housing conditions (15 per cent).<sup>[1358]</sup> While nearly 89 per cent of all houses have access to basic services, around 8 per cent lack access to water inside the house and 7 per cent lack electricity.<sup>[1359]</sup> Furthermore, 40 per cent indicated a lack of essential kitchen items, and 37 per cent reported a lack of essential items for sleeping. The lack of water is particularly concerning as it is associated with poor sanitation, which can lead to health issues such as water-related illnesses (e.g., diarrhoea), environmental hazards due to pollution, and economic costs from healthcare expenses, lost

income, and reduced productivity. Additionally, 29 per cent of respondents have faced risks of eviction in the last three months prior to being surveyed, largely due to lack of financial resources to pay rent, adding another layer of vulnerability, especially for large families and those with children. Of those surveyed, four per cent have already been evicted.<sup>[1360]</sup>

Venezuelan migrants and refugees in-destination in Mexico are often unable to access adequate housing due to financial constraints and rising rates of discrimination. Twenty-six per cent of households reported living in dwellings with inadequate and unsustainable long-term conditions and 15 per cent are at risk of eviction.<sup>[1361]</sup>

## WASH



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	53.4 K	27.6%	26.4%	27.3%	28.0%	27.8%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		54.6%	54.6%	54.6%	54.6%	54.6%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		72.5%	72.5%	72.5%	72.5%	72.5%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		27.1%	26.3%	27.3%	28.1%	27.8%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants in-transit in the sub-region face urgent needs related to access to WASH services. Women and girls are particularly impacted by the limited access to WASH services, including to menstrual hygiene products, heightening risks of GBV by increasing their exposure to dangerous environments, such as isolated or poorly lit areas, when they seek out basic hygiene facilities, making them more vulnerable

to violence and exploitation. In Costa Rica, access to water is the third greatest need identified by surveyed refugees and migrants upon entering the country.<sup>[1362]</sup>

Between January and May 2024, an average of 17 per cent of interviewed migrants and refugees identified access to water as an urgent need in Costa Rica, particularly after their long journey from Panama. This lack of access is also linked to the main health issue

[1358] R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024* (publication forthcoming).

[1359] *Ibid.*

[1360] *Ibid.*

[1361] Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMARE), Unit of Migratory, Registration and Identity of Persons (UPM), Ministry of the Interior, UNHCR, "Third National Survey on the Refugee Population in Mexico" (ENPORE), 2024. <https://www.acnur.org/mx/noticias/comunicados-de-prensa/arranca-tercera-encuesta-nacional-de-la-poblacion-refugiada-en>

[1362] International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM, Costa Rica, January-May 2024, [https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzxbd1461/files/reports/05\\_24\\_DTM\\_Mobility\\_Across\\_America\\_National.pdf](https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzxbd1461/files/reports/05_24_DTM_Mobility_Across_America_National.pdf).

faced by this population: high levels of dehydration.<sup>1363</sup> Additionally, 37 per cent of Venezuelan women and girls and 46 per cent of other nationalities do not have access to adequate menstrual products.<sup>1364</sup> Among the surveyed Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-transit in Mexico, 16 per cent reported needing access to drinking water, as one of their main necessities.<sup>1365</sup> Especially in informal settlements, there are issues with access to sanitation facilities and potable water due to overburdened capacities.<sup>1366</sup>

For Venezuelans in-destination in Costa Rica, 96 per cent of respondents have access to potable water, primarily through in-house pipes.<sup>1367</sup> A smaller proportion access potable water through public fountains (two per cent) and wells (point five per cent). For those without in-house water access, 33 per cent of respondents reported spending more than 30 minutes to collect and return with water. Although water availability is generally good, 42 per cent of respondents mentioned experiencing issues with continuous access to a sufficient amount of water throughout the week.<sup>1368</sup> For those without immediate

access, the time investment to collect water highlights a vulnerability that can impact daily living and health. Meanwhile, 23 per cent of Venezuelans in-destination in Mexico stated that they do not have enough resources to buy bottled water, which is the case in many places in the country, considering that in Mexico the majority of the population drinks bottled water given the country's lack of potable water supply.<sup>1369</sup>

In terms of sanitation, 97 per cent of the households surveyed have toilets connected to a sewer system (49 per cent) or septic tank (48 per cent). Nonetheless, some families face significant challenges as two per cent lack an in-house toilet and one per cent still practice open defecation. These conditions can lead to diarrheal diseases, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, and psychosocial impacts.<sup>1370</sup> Furthermore, 22 per cent of in-destination Venezuelans in Mexico are also without access to improved and functioning sanitation facilities and almost 11 per cent are without basic access to handwashing facilities.<sup>1371</sup> It is important to outline that most of the country has been facing water shortages.

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[1363] *Ibid.*

[1364] R4V Costa Rica calculation based on Mixed Movements Monitoring, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF, 2024.

[1365] Mexico Mixed Movements Monitoring Report Data from January - May 2024

[1366] IOM Rapid Needs Assessment, Mexico (northern and southern borders and Mexico City), (May 2023)

[1367] R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), Costa Rica, May to June 2024, forthcoming

[1368] *Ibid.*

[1369] Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMARE), Unit of Migratory, Registration and Identity of Persons (UPM), Ministry of the Interior, UNHCR, "Third National Survey on the Refugee Population in Mexico" (ENPORE), 2024. <https://www.acnur.org/mx/noticias/comunicados-de-prensa/arranca-tercera-encuesta-nacional-de-la-poblacion-refugiada-en>

[1370] Duncan Mara, *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*, "The elimination of open defecation and its adverse health effects: a moral imperative for governments and development professionals", 1 March 201

[1371] National Survey of Demographic Dynamics, ENADID – Encuesta Nacional de la Dinámica Demográfica 2023





# PANAMA

SECTOR		PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
		VENEZUELANOS IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
				VENEZUELANOS	OTHERS	
	INTERSECTOR	52.6%	30.5 K	95.0%	95.0%	52.6%
	EDUCATION	2.2%	1.3 K	9.5%	8.0%	2.2%
	FOOD SECURITY	25.1%	14.6 K	76.0%	79.0%	25.1%
	HEALTH	48.7%	28.2 K	29.0%	39.0%	48.7%
	HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION*	15.4%	8.9 K	4.0%	4.0%	15.4%
	INTEGRATION	52.5%	30.4 K	77.0%	64.0%	52.5%
	NUTRITION	6.0%	3.5 K	4.8%	4.8%	6.0%
	PROTECTION	52.6%	30.5 K	88.0%	88.0%	52.6%
	CHILD PROTECTION	5.0%	2.9 K	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	24.0%	13.9 K	20.0%	20.0%	24.0%
	HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	36.3%	21.0 K	68.0%	73.0%	36.3%
	SHELTER	49.5%	28.7 K	75.0%	75.0%	49.5%
	WASH	37.8%	21.9 K	95.0%	95.0%	37.8%

## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN
 WOMEN
 BOYS
 GIRLS



All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

## PANAMA: OVERVIEW

Panama's geographic location and the economic prospects it offers have resulted in the country being at the crossroads of onward and transit movements as well as offering settlement opportunities for refugees and migrants. Panama has long been a destination for those seeking new beginnings, with a significant number of foreign residents, including from Venezuela (representing 24 per cent of all foreign residents).<sup>1372</sup>

Given the lack of livelihood and increasingly scarce regularization opportunities in an increasing number of host countries in South America, since 2022, Panama has been observing increasing movements of migrants and refugees, entering via the Darien jungle at its border with Colombia. Between 2022 and 2023, the numbers of crossings doubled from 248,000 (in 2022) to 520,000 (in 2023).<sup>1373</sup> From January to May 2024, these northbound movements increased by two per cent compared to the same period in 2023. Owing to the general inability to remain and integrate in Panama,<sup>1374</sup> the majority of these individuals continue northward in pursuit of protection and the chance to build a new life. Over 60 per cent of the refugees and migrants who entered Panama in 2023 were from Venezuela, with 11 per cent coming from Ecuador, 9 per cent from Haiti, and 5 per cent coming from China. An increasing number of large family groups with children engaging in onward and transit movements was observed.

To assess the needs of migrants and refugees in-destination and engaging in onward and transit movements in Panama, partners of the R4V Platform in Panama carried out a JNA and a secondary data review. The JNA for the Venezuelan population in-destination was largely based on the findings from surveys carried

out between May and June 2024 through face-to-face surveys conducted in Panama and Panama Oeste provinces, the areas with the highest populations of Venezuelans in vulnerable situations.<sup>1375</sup> In total, 898 surveys were carried out in 60 districts of Panama (600 surveys) and Panama Oeste (298 surveys), reaching 2,546 people,<sup>1376</sup> out of which 54 per cent were female and 46 per cent were male. 49 per cent of assessed households had children, and 12 per cent of households had children between zero to three years. Thirty-nine per cent of the households were headed by women.

To assess the needs of refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements, a secondary data review was conducted based on findings from regular monitoring mechanisms that R4V partners maintain in border areas of Panama, mainly in the provinces of Darien and Chiriquí. This analysis included the situation and needs of Venezuelans and other nationals engaging in onward and transit movements and draws on data that was collected between January and June 2024, as well as some data from late 2023.<sup>1377</sup> A JNA workshop was conducted on 20 June 2024 with R4V partners in Panama City to discuss and validate the findings and information on the main needs of migrants and refugees in-destination and engaging in onward and transit movements.

The **main sectoral needs identified for the Venezuelan population in-destination relate to protection, integration, shelter, and health.** They lack access to regular status and formal employment; 62 per cent of those interviewed were in an irregular situation and 90 per cent worked informally. Lack of access to income-generating activities results in significant challenges

[1372] 2023 census: National Institute of Statistics and Census, XII National Population Census and VIII Housing Census, Panama (2023). <https://www.inec.gob.pa/archivos/P0705547520240219121201Cuadro%205.pdf>

[1373] Migración Panama, Estadísticas, Tránsito Irregular por Darién, <https://www.migracion.gob.pa/estadisticas/>

[1374] For more information situation of migrants and refugees considering remaining and integrating in Panama, please see the below chapters on Integration and Protection.

[1375] Based on government census data. INEC, República de Panamá, XII Censo Nacional de Población y VIII de Vivienda, 2023.

[1376] The main districts covered in Panama were 24 de Diciembre, Las Mañanitas, Pedregal, Juan Diaz, Don Bosco, Pueblo Nuevo, Tocumen, Amelia Denis, Omar Torrijos, Parque Lefevre, Bella Vista, Calidonia, El Chorillo, Betania, Pacora, Chilibre, José Domingo Espinar. The districts in Panama Oeste included Barrio Colon, Barrio Balboa, Puerto Caimito, Playa Leona, Arraján Juan Arosemena, El Coco, Herrera.

[1377] Data from: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, Mixed Movements Monitoring, January to June 2024; IOM, DTM, May 2024; National Migration Service (January to May 2024); Defensoría del Pueblo, 2023.

in meeting basic needs, such as food and shelter, with one quarter of refugees and migrants facing risks of eviction in Panama. High costs and lack of required documents also impact migrants' and refugees' ability to access healthcare, with almost one third of those with health needs being unable to access the required

care. For **refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements (irrespective of nationality), primary needs include WASH, protection, including against GBV, child protection, food, and shelter.**

## EDUCATION



Educational challenges faced by migrant and refugee children in-destination in Panama include a lack of access to documentation and information on how to enrol. For those engaging in onward and transit movements, those of school age face challenges in accessing formal education since leaving their countries of origin or residence. In several cases, children have been travelling with their families for years, without attending school.

According to the Ministry of Education, 5,587 Venezuelan children were enrolled in Panamanian schools by the end-2022, representing the highest group of foreign nationals enrolled in schools.<sup>1378</sup> While data from the 2023 national census in Panama suggests that 92 per cent of the censused Venezuelan children and adolescents between five and 19 years were attending school or an educational facility,<sup>1379</sup> the 2024 JNA found that 15 per cent of interviewed refugee and migrant households with school-aged children (three to 18 years old) were not attending any formal education. Among those attending school, six per cent attend less than five days a week. For children under three years of age, seven per cent attended an early childhood development, while those not attending an early childhood education stayed at home with parents (92 per cent) or another caregiver (seven per cent).<sup>1380</sup>

Previous research by R4V partners<sup>1381</sup> identified as a main barrier to accessing education the requirement of certificates of previous education authenticated by the relevant education authorities in Venezuela. Moreover, foreigners with less than ten years of residence in the country do not have access to social assistance programs to cover the costs of education and incentivize school attendance and retention granted by the government of Panama.<sup>1382</sup> In addition, refugees and migrants face enrolment challenges due to limited places available in nearby schools. As a result, families have to enrol their children in schools in more distant locations, which may increase of their households' costs of living and transportation, leading to the difficult decision of not enrolling their children in school or lower attendance rates.

Although a legal framework<sup>1383</sup> exists to facilitate access to public education for children of refugee and asylum-seeker families, many schools are unaware of its existence and request the submission of documents which asylum-seekers and refugees often cannot provide, limiting their access to the school system.<sup>1384</sup>

According to R4V partners, refugee and migrant children who have moved through Darien have shown deficiencies in literacy, general knowledge, and skills corresponding to their age. This is due to often

[1378] Ministry of Education, Panama, School Enrolment Statistics, 2022, <https://www.meduca.gob.pa/sites/default/files/editor/49/Extranjeros%202022.pdf>.

[1379] INEC, República de Panamá, XII Censo Nacional de Población y VIII de Vivienda, 2023, [https://www.inec.gob.pa/publicaciones/Default3.aspx?ID\\_PUBLICACION=1199&ID\\_CATEGORIA=19&ID\\_SUBCATEGORIA=71](https://www.inec.gob.pa/publicaciones/Default3.aspx?ID_PUBLICACION=1199&ID_CATEGORIA=19&ID_SUBCATEGORIA=71).

[1380] R4V Panama, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[1381] IOM, UNHCR, UN Habitat, "Perfil de Movilidad Humana en las ciudades: Área Metropolitana de Ciudad de Panamá", May 2022, <https://ciudadesincluyentes.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/perfil-de-movilidad-Panama-v-final.pdf>

[1382] Programa de Asistencia Social Educativa – Universal (PASE-U) from elementary to high school, <https://www.ifarhu.gob.pa/becas/pase-u/>.

[1383] Executive Decree 1225 of 2015 available at: [https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.pa/pdfTemp/27897\\_B/GacetaNo\\_27897b\\_20151026.pdf](https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.pa/pdfTemp/27897_B/GacetaNo_27897b_20151026.pdf)

[1384] Observations from R4V partners in Panama.

prolonged periods of successive movements, travelling with their parents or, on many occasions, being alone for weeks, months, or even years, preventing them from accessing adequate learning opportunities or formal education. Approximately 60 per cent of migrant and refugee children who entered Panama irregularly

through the Darien jungle in 2024 were of school age (six to 12 years).<sup>1385</sup> However, monitoring surveys showed that among assessed travel groups with school-age children, only 55 per cent of those from Venezuela, and 62 per cent from other nationalities had been enrolled in school in the month prior to being surveyed.<sup>1386</sup>

## FOOD SECURITY



Refugees and migrants face urgent food needs, coupled with concerns about the quality of their diet. Faced with high costs of living, including rising food costs, those in-destination encounter difficulties accessing existing social assistance programs due to a lack of required documentation and information. Those engaging in onward and transit movements have insufficient access to food, often requiring them to go one or more days without a meal. Families with children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly, and people with chronic diseases or disabilities face increased food insecurity.

Overall food security findings of the JNA showed that 17 per cent of the assessed households of Venezuelan migrants and refugees living in Panama experience moderate or severe food insecurity. Due to difficulties meeting their food requirements, many resort to harmful coping mechanisms,<sup>1387</sup> including using savings for food (59 per cent), spending less on health and education (63 per cent), and resorting to credit cards or borrowed money (34 per cent). In addition, 29 per cent of interviewed households reported that they had to do something they had never done before and preferred not to mention to access food. Some 18 per cent have sold personal items and 16 per cent have begged for donations or charity.

Food security needs are critical for refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements, who often arrive to Panama hungry and exhausted after spending days crossing the Darien jungle. Food was reported as the top priority need by 42 per cent of the migrants and refugees interviewed in Darien.<sup>1388</sup> According to border monitoring surveys, for these refugees and migrants, partners reported that 76 per cent of Venezuelans and 79 per cent of other nationals in Darien have resorted to negative coping strategies to meet their food requirements (e.g., skipping meals, spending an entire day without eating, or reducing adult's food consumption to provide for the children), making food one of their greatest needs.<sup>1389</sup>

An R4V partner's assessment noted that during their movements through the Darien jungle, migrants and refugees have inadequate access to food, leading to days without eating or relying solely on high-energy snacks like *panela* (solidified sugarcane juice),<sup>1390</sup> or other low-quality, expensive, and limited food that does not meet the specific needs of children, pregnant and lactating women, and other people with chronic diseases. The nutritional provisions supplied by governmental entities at Temporary Migration Reception Stations (ETRM) lack the necessary differentiation to cater to the distinct dietary requirements of individuals engaging

[1385] Based on UNICEF case management data: UNICEF, *Atención a la niñez en movilidad y a las comunidades de acogida en Darién y Chiriquí*, <https://www.unicef.org/panama/atencion-la-ninez-en-movilidad-y-las-comunidades-de-acogida-en-darien-y-chiriqui>

[1386] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP. *Mixed Movements Monitoring (April – June 2024)*, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>.

[1387] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1388] UNHCR, WFP, *Mixed Movements Monitoring, January to June 2024*. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/107698>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106699>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106698>

[1389] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP *Mixed Movements Monitoring (April – June 2024)*, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>

[1390] UNHCR, WFP, *Mixed Movements Monitoring Report, Q4, 2023*, available at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/107832>

in onward and transit movements. Consequently, the sole alternative is to seek food from local vendors who charge highly inflated prices. Consequently, it was reported that within the sub-region, Panama has the

highest proportion of people who reported going an entire day without eating (33 per cent during the first quarter of 2024).<sup>1391</sup>

## HEALTH



Migrants and refugees face challenges accessing healthcare due to high costs and barriers, such as lack of documents to access basic, specialized, and emergency healthcare. For those engaging in onward and transit movements through the Darien jungle, many arrive with injuries, having experienced traumatic events, resulting in physical and mental health assistance needs. Survivors of sexual violence and abuse need specialized urgent medical assistance, including Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits, sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening, and psychosocial support.

The Constitution of Panama generally guarantees universal access to healthcare, and children under five years of age have access to free vaccination and free health programs regardless of their migratory status. In addition, some specialized health services such as prenatal care, emergency care, and hospitalization entail costs that can be managed in payment arrangements at public health institutions, based on a socio-economic assessment by the hospital's social workers. Health services are also provided through the Social Security Fund (CSS), although only ten per cent of interviewed Venezuelan households reported being affiliated. The lack of CSS affiliation is largely owed to a requirement of holding a legal work contract in Panama (only 12 per cent hold such a formal labour contract).<sup>1392</sup>

Despite universal healthcare access, more than a third of surveyed Venezuelan households in-destination (34 per cent) reported a health need in the last three months and 27 per cent could not access the required

assistance.<sup>1393</sup> Moreover, many of those who can access healthcare report other access-related challenges such as the high cost of medicines, medical tests, and specialized visits, which despite having the same prices and conditions as for Panamanians, impact disproportionately the more vulnerable and lower-income Venezuelan refugee and migrant families.

According to R4V partners' assessments, Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination in Panama often prioritize stabilizing their socio-economic situation over preventive healthcare.<sup>1394</sup> Therefore, they often seek medical assistance only when their medical conditions have become more severe and urgent. The JNA results also confirmed this, as 63 per cent of households reported that they had to reduce their expenditure on health and education as one of their coping strategies to meet their pressing food needs.<sup>1395</sup>

Migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements, especially those passing through the Darien jungle experience a dangerous journey with serious consequences on their physical and mental health. Physically, hundreds of refugees and migrants require medical care every day to treat their injuries, including insect bites, skin injuries and swollen feet related to the accidents and the conditions during their passage through the jungle. According to an R4V partner's assessment, 11 per cent of Venezuelan travel groups and 39 per cent of migrants and refugees of other nationalities who needed medical assistance during their transit reported that they had not received the help they needed.<sup>1396</sup> A particular concern is the specific

[1391] UNHCR, WFP, *Mixed Movements Monitoring Report, Q1, 2024*. <https://data.unhcr.org/es/documents/details/109507>

[1392] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1393] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1394] UNHCR, IOM, UN Habitat, *Perfil de Movilidad Humana en las ciudades: Área Metropolitana de Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá, 2022*. <https://ciudadesincluyentes.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/perfil-de-movilidad-Panamá-v-final.pdf>

[1395] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1396] REACH, Caritas, CRS, *Situación Humanitaria de la población en movilidad en la frontera Colombia – Panamá, November 2023*, [https://repository.impact-initiatives.org/document/impact/6363ddab/Fronteras-en-movimiento\\_Colombia-Panamá\\_VALIDATED-1.pdf](https://repository.impact-initiatives.org/document/impact/6363ddab/Fronteras-en-movimiento_Colombia-Panamá_VALIDATED-1.pdf)

health needs of refugees and migrants, predominantly girls and women, but also boys, men, and LGBTQI+ persons who have been sexually assaulted during their journey.<sup>1397</sup> In many cases, they are unable to access

PEP kits within the 72-hour window after the assault to prevent infections as well as emergency contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancies.



## HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION

Humanitarian transportation needs for refugees and migrants are highest among vulnerable populations who need support to access urgent medical care, legal assistance, and other essential services. This includes migrants and refugees who need humanitarian transportation support to access regularization and documentation processes, those with chronic or urgent medical needs who need transportation to medical centres, including survivors of GBV, among others.

Most Venezuelans residing in Panama and Panama Oeste provinces use public transportation (83 per cent) to commute, followed by walking (40 per cent) and private transport (21 per cent).<sup>1398</sup> For those residing in rural and more remote areas where public transportation is not readily available, transportation needs are typically associated with urgent medical needs or legal procedures (including procedures related to seeking asylum and regularization), and most do not have the resources to commute. Venezuelans in rural and distant areas of Panama face significant transportation challenges, including the limited coverage and availability of public transport options, high costs, inadequate infrastructure, social isolation, and safety concerns. These issues make it difficult for them to travel for work, education, or healthcare, restricting their mobility and access to essential services.

For the population engaging in onward and transit movements, since October 2023, the governments of Panama and Costa Rica authorized bus companies to transport refugees and migrants directly from the ETRMs in the Darien to the Southern Migration Station in Paso Canoas, Costa Rica (EMISUR) for a fee of 60 USD per person.<sup>1399</sup>

Those who cannot cover the cost of the fare are forced to stay at the ETRM until they can obtain sufficient resources to continue their journey (through money sent by family members or by doing informal work at the ETRM, such as selling items or cleaning); some decide to leave on foot on their own but, when identified, are returned to the ETRM.

Until July 2024, the office of the Ombudsman coordinated limited humanitarian transportation for specific vulnerable cases, particularly individuals with chronic diseases, pregnant women, and single parents with children, among others. It is estimated that nearly four per cent of the refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements benefitted from this humanitarian assistance.

About two per cent of migrants and refugees also need humanitarian transportation from the jungle or the ETRMs to nearby hospitals, or in critical cases, to Panama City. This includes cases of critical medical evacuations, survivors of GBV. This also concerns asylum-seekers whose applications have been accepted and who have been authorized to leave the ETRM while they wait for their case's official resolution.

[1397] Human Rights Watch, "This Hell was My Only Option" Abuses Against Migrants and Asylum Seekers Pushed to Cross the Darien Gap, November 2023. [https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media\\_2023/11/americas1123web\\_1.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2023/11/americas1123web_1.pdf)

[1398] R4V Panama, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), forthcoming, 2024.

[1399] Children under five years old are exempt from this payment.

# INTEGRATION



Venezuelan refugees and migrants face difficulties in accessing regularization and documentation, a key first step required to access livelihoods and socio-economic integration. The majority of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination in Panama arrived in the country through regular points of entry, mainly through the international airport in Panama City. Among those surveyed in-destination, only 11 per cent entered the country irregularly through the Darien jungle. Some 40 per cent of surveyed households arrived at their current place of residence three or more years ago - an indication that refugees and migrants continue seeing Panama as a destination country.<sup>1400</sup>

Those in an irregular situation face significant administrative barriers to accessing documentation, validation of academic and professional qualifications, and livelihood opportunities in Panama. Additionally, there are about 45 protected professions and quotas for hiring foreigners, including jobs in medicine, social work, engineering and security, among others,<sup>1401</sup> making it even more difficult for non-Panamanians to secure employment opportunities.

Migrants' and refugees' widespread inability to access regular status and to obtain corresponding documentation undermines their access to the formal labour market and sustainable integration in Panama, which contributes to refugees' and migrants' onward movements. In 2024, the JNA found that 90 per cent of surveyed households work informally, due to the restrictive labour laws, lengthy and costly residency processes, a crowded job market, and instances of xenophobia and discrimination. These barriers make it difficult for them to find formal employment, pushing them to seek informal work despite the lack of job security and benefits, impacting their ability to access social services, including healthcare. Only 12 per cent have a formal labour contract and three per cent are independently registered workers.<sup>1402</sup>

More than half of interviewed Venezuelan migrants and refugees in-destination face difficulties accessing

financial services, which also limits their possibilities to diversify their sources of income, since many economic transactions are done mainly through online banking and credit services. According to the JNA, 51 per cent of assessed households reported not having access to any financial service, while 35 per cent had access to savings accounts, eight per cent to checking accounts, three per cent to credit cards; the remaining three per cent preferred not to answer.

Xenophobia and discrimination are also important obstacles to the integration of refugees and migrants. According to the JNA, approximately one quarter (23 per cent) of assessed households reported having experienced discrimination in the last year, with the greatest number indicating that it was based on their nationality (20 per cent). Some 59 per cent reported that they had experienced discrimination in their workplace and 40 per cent reported that it happened while searching for a job. Another 29 per cent indicated that the discrimination took place in their neighbourhood.

Despite these challenges, 77 per cent reported never feeling discriminated against and 92 per cent of assessed households intend to remain in the place where they currently reside in Panama for at least the next six months. This reflects a considerable improvement to previous years, when in 2019 an R4V partner's survey with Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Panama showed that only 48 per cent of the assessed households intended to stay in Panama that year.<sup>1403</sup> Despite an overall reduction in the number of Venezuelans in Panama, from 147,000 in 2019 to 58,000 in 2023 following the release of the national census,<sup>1404</sup> those who remained have a stronger intention to establish their lives in Panama. These positive signs of social integration highlight the need to continue investing in integration efforts to avoid losing those gains, and to close the gap for vulnerable populations who have not had access to regular status and meaningful livelihoods.

[1400] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1401] Government of Panama, Ministry of Work and Labour Growth, "List of Regulated Professions or Jobs." <https://www.mitradel.gob.pa/empleo/listado-de-profesiones-u-oficios-reguladas-en-panama-restringidas-para-trabajadores-migrantes/>

[1402] *Ibid.*

[1403] IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, OEA, *Situación de la población refugiada y migrante de Venezuela en Panamá*, 2019.

[1404] For more information on the changes in number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Panama, see <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrant>

# NUTRITION



Venezuelan refugee and migrant women, including pregnant and lactating women, and children face risks of malnutrition, especially those engaging in onward and transit movements. They lack access to micronutrient supplements for children under five and to fortified foods that are nutritionally diversified. Those engaging in onward and transit movements lack access to nutritional services, including regular screening, and adequate treatment and follow-up until nutritional recovery.

R4V partners identified that four per cent of assessed women and girls in-destination were either pregnant or lactating at the moment of data collection. However, according to the JNA, 88 per cent had not received the minimum package of nutritional interventions in the last three months. Around half (47 per cent) of them had not received nutritional evaluations and 32 per cent had no nutritional counselling, and 70 per cent had no micronutrient delivery.<sup>1405</sup>

Eleven per cent of the surveyed households in-destination included children between the ages of zero and three. Most babies under six months (78 per cent in Panama province and 100 per cent in Panama Oeste) had been breastfed in the last 24 hours, but 76 per cent did not receive the minimum package of nutrition

interventions in the last three months. According to the JNA, 59 per cent of assessed children aged six to 59 months did not have a minimal dietary diversity and 99 per cent had not received the minimum package of nutritional interventions in the last three months.<sup>1406</sup>

Migrant and refugee infants and children up to five years in-transit are particularly susceptible to malnutrition, as they have limited access to potable water, nutritious food, and healthcare services along the routes. It is estimated that 30 per cent of the children who arrived in Panama after crossing the Darien jungle in 2024 were between zero to five years old.<sup>1407</sup> Based on case management data from an R4V partner,<sup>1408</sup> close to 27 per cent of the children who received assistance from partners upon arrival in 2023 and 2024 had moderate to acute malnutrition based on their weight and size. Around one per cent had moderate or severe acute malnutrition based on their mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC)'s measurement. Further, 95 per cent of children were identified with low levels of haemoglobin. In the Darien, among refugees and migrants, one out of three children between 6 and 12 years, and one in two adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17, were identified with anaemia.<sup>1409</sup>

[1405] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1406] *Ibid.*

[1407] UNICEF, "Atención a la niñez en movilidad y a las comunidades de acogida en Darién y Chiriquí", Panama (2023), <https://www.unicef.org/panama/atencion-la-ninez-en-movilidad-y-las-comunidades-de-acogida-en-darien-y-chiriqui>

[1408] UNICEF, "Response to Children on the Move and Host Communities in Darien and Chiriquí", Panama (2024). <https://www.unicef.org/panama/atencion-la-ninez-en-movilidad-y-las-comunidades-de-acogida>

[1409] UNICEF, *Care and Nutrition, Lajas Blancas, Panama* (April 2024). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBFZjHiE\\_ps](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBFZjHiE_ps).



# PROTECTION



Refugees and migrants lack access to regular pathways and documentation in Panama. They also face difficulties in accessing the asylum system to protect them from *refoulement* and other risks. Refugees and migrants entering irregularly via its southern border with Colombia often experience a traumatic journey while crossing the Darien jungle, with physical and psychological consequences that require specialized protection assistance.

According to the JNA, only three per cent of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in-destination hold permanent residency permits and 31 per cent hold temporary residency permits. Overall, some 62 per cent of those interviewed are in an irregular situation in Panama. Despite efforts by the government of Panama since July 2023 to offer a Temporary Protection Permit (TPP) for those who have been in the country for at least one year, prohibitive costs of up to USD 3,000 per person (including legal fees) have largely kept this possibility out of reach for most refugees and migrants, undermining their ability to remain and integrate in Panama. As of June 2024, 4,742 Venezuelans had applied and were granted the TPP.<sup>1410</sup> The last day to submit documentation to have access to the Temporary Protection Permit was 19 July 2024.

Almost two thirds of surveyed households (61 per cent) reported needing legal assistance for regularization and documentation, yet only 38 per cent had access to it. Moreover, an R4V partner survey reported that only 28 per cent of those interviewed after crossing the Darien were aware of regular pathways and opportunities to reach countries of their intended destination.<sup>1411</sup> The lack of regular status exposes Venezuelan migrants and refugees to risks of abuse and exploitation, while also undermining their access to essential services such as health, education, and formal employment.

Those with international protection needs face barriers to accessing asylum and services in Panama due to administrative delays and lack of awareness of documents issued to asylum-seekers. As of June 2024, 24 per cent of all asylum application cases<sup>1412</sup> launched since 2018 remain open and only seven per cent have received a decision, including 83 Venezuelans recognized as refugees (representing two per cent of applicants).<sup>1413</sup> For those with pending cases, although they are not in an irregular situation, the documentation that is provided is not adequate with public and private institutions unaware of the documents, often not considered as valid, contributing to similar situation of vulnerability as those in an irregular situation. Of the 13 per cent of asylum-seekers who entered the country irregularly, none have been admitted to the status determination procedure, nor recognized as refugees.

According to border monitoring surveys among those engaging in onward and transit movements, migrants and refugees entering Panama report a number of reasons for having left their countries of origin, including generalized violence, direct violence against them, threats, and intimidation (between 50 and 58 per cent of Venezuelans and 60 and 71 per cent of other nationals), economic reasons (71 and 98 per cent), and to access education, healthcare or other services (43 per cent).<sup>1414</sup>

For those crossing the Darien jungle, they are exposed to several protection risks such as theft, attacks, physical and sexual assault. An R4V partner's survey highlighted that 59 per cent of surveyed Venezuelans and 64 per cent of other nationals reported experiencing at least one of these protection incidents while crossing the Darien jungle. However, in most cases these crimes are not reported due to a lack of trust in the authorities, fear of detention and deportation due to their irregular status, and their desire to continue their journey.

[1410] Data shared with R4V partners by the Government of Panama

[1411] IOM, DTM, Panama, June 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/panama-flow-monitoring-migrant-population-darien-june-2024?close=true>.

[1412] Since 2018, ONPAR's office has received 2,297 applications (3,900 individuals) from Venezuelans.

[1413] Oficina Nacional para la atención de los refugiados (ONPAR), Ministerio de Gobierno, Estadísticas 2024.

[1414] UNHCR, WFP, Mixed Movements Monitoring, January to June 2024. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/107698>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106699>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106698>

Based on the National Ombudsman's Office, only 12 per cent of victims who experienced a security incident while crossing the jungle filed an official report to the authorities.<sup>1415</sup> Regarding the situation within the Darien jungle, which covers both Panama and Colombia, a partner's assessment identified that, owed to the tightly controlled operations of smuggling and trafficking networks operating on the Colombian side of the jungle, insecurity appeared to be greater on the Panamanian side of the jungle.<sup>1416, 1417</sup> An R4V

partner report documented that 77 per cent of the interviewed refugees and migrants between Colombia and Panama were not aware of the risks of this route, and that this lack of information had exposed them to extortion, robbery, and violence.<sup>1418</sup> In this context, the new Panamanian government that took office in July 2024 has made efforts to reduce crossings through the jungle and enhance security on the Panamanian side of the jungle.<sup>1419</sup>

## CHILD PROTECTION



Migrant and refugee children have been found in need of psychosocial support and specialized services. This is particularly acute for children who have experienced traumatic experiences in the Darien jungle UASC. To mitigate the risks of statelessness, refugee and migrant children require access to documentation.

According to the JNA, half of the surveyed households in-destination (49 per cent) included children and nearly six per cent of households were aware of children who had experienced some type of violence (physical, sexual, or emotional) in their household or community. Four per cent of children were separated from their families, two per cent received disrespectful requests, and two per cent had been subjected to discrimination. Half of those who had experienced these incidents (46 per cent) had not received any type of service or assistance, 31 per cent had received assistance, and 18 per cent did not know the available services, demonstrating significant lack of access to required services for children.<sup>1420</sup>

Regarding those engaging in onward and transit movements, according to the government of Panama,

children constituted 22 per cent of the migrants and refugees who entered through Darien in 2023 (113,000).<sup>1421</sup> In 2024, 35,838 children had crossed the Darien by May 2024.<sup>1422</sup> Among these children, 3,300 (three per cent) were unaccompanied or separated in 2023 and already 2,450 (seven per cent) in 2024, demonstrating an increasing trend and corresponding increase in vulnerabilities of children who are subjected to these movements.<sup>1423</sup> The journey through the jungle has a very negative impact on refugee and migrant children, exposing them to threats and risks including drowning, violence (including sexual violence), trafficking, exploitation, and other serious health conditions.

Despite the extreme hardship of the jungle, 15 children were born along the route in 2023, and four in 2024 (as of May 2024).<sup>1424</sup> As these children born in the jungle, for those travelling without any national documentation they are in great need of protection to guarantee access to identity and nationality in order to prevent statelessness.

[1415] Defensoría del Pueblo de la República de Panamá, *Situación de Derechos Humanos de las personas Migrantes y Refugiadas, Provincia de Darién*, February 2024, <https://www.defensoria.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/Factsheet-Migracion-Darien-REV.pdf>

[1416] NRC, *Monitoreo de protección binacional: Colombia y Panama, April 2023 - April 2024*, <https://bit.ly/4dAMpZF>

[1417] Human Rights Watch, "This Hell was My Only Option" *Abuses Against Migrants and Asylum Seekers Pushed to Cross the Darien Gap*, November 2023, [https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media\\_2023/11/americas1123web\\_1.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2023/11/americas1123web_1.pdf)

[1418] NRC, *Monitoreo de protección binacional: Colombia y Panama, April 2023 - April 2024*, <https://bit.ly/4dAMpZF>

[1419] Senafront, Government of Panama, "Senafront cierra tres pasos no autorizados en la frontera de Darién", 3 July 2024, [www.senafront.gob.pa/senafront-cierra-tres-pasos-no-autorizados-en-la-frontera-de-darien/](http://www.senafront.gob.pa/senafront-cierra-tres-pasos-no-autorizados-en-la-frontera-de-darien/).

[1420] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1421] *Migracion Panama, Estadísticas, Tránsito Irregular por Darié*

[1422] *As of end-May. Migracion Panama, Estadísticas, Tránsito Irregular por Darié*

[1423] UNICEF, *Gestión de casos de ninez no acompañada o separada*, <https://www.unicef.org/panama/atencion-la-ninez-en-movilidad-y-las-comunidades-de-acogida-en-darien-y-chiriqui>.

[1424] *Data shared by the government of Panama with R4V partners.*



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Refugee and migrant GBV survivors lack knowledge of services and how to report incidents. Women and girls comprise 54 per cent of the assessed Venezuelan households in 2024. Further, 39 per cent of them were the heads of their households.

According to the JNA, 17 per cent of the Venezuelan households in-destination reported places in their neighbourhoods and communities that girls and women from the household avoided for safety reasons. Similarly, 18 per cent of the women reported feeling very unsafe or unsafe about the risk of suffering GBV in their neighbourhood or community. These proportions were higher for women residing in Panama City, where nearly a quarter (24 per cent) reported there were unsafe places in their communities and 21 per cent reported not feeling safe due to risks of GBV in their neighbourhood.<sup>1425</sup>

Venezuelan women and girls who are settled in Panama are at risk of different forms of violence, including domestic violence; sexual abuse/rape; sexual harassment at work; bullying at school, with an emphasis on sexuality; and stigmatization, among others. In 2023, the Public Ministry of Panama received 17,521 reports of domestic violence, a decrease of almost one per cent with 138 fewer reports than in 2022 (17,659).<sup>1426, 1427</sup>

Situations of sexual exploitation of women have also been reported, especially in domestic service. According to R4V partners working on these matters,

most of these cases are not brought to the attention of the authorities, mainly due to fear of detention or deportation, or the fear that it can pose another obstacle to their integration. Furthermore, most migrants and refugees who are survivors of these abuses are unaware of the existence and services provided by the Ministry of Women (MIDEMU, for its Spanish acronym), the Ombudsman Office, or the Municipal Gender Secretariats.<sup>1428</sup>

For the population engaging in onward and transit movements, the risk of sexual abuse and violence is one of the greatest threats refugees and migrants face, particularly women and girls. According to the Ombudsman's Office, nearly 20 per cent of interviewed women had been subjected to sexual violence, and more than half of the interviewed people knew about incidents of sexual violence against someone else.<sup>1429</sup> Additionally, there were several reports of women being requested for sexual favours in exchange for their safety or other benefits.<sup>1430</sup>

Women who experience sexual violence during their journey through the jungle often arrive at the ETRMs with worsened medical complications and with insufficient time for post sexual violence treatment to be effective. Assistance provided to survivors of sexual violence in the Darien jungle increased more than sixfold<sup>1431</sup> in December 2023 compared to previous months, a trend that continued into January and February 2024.<sup>1432</sup> Survivors include sexually assaulted children in the jungle.<sup>1433</sup>

[1425] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1426] Public Ministry, Government of Panama, "Report on Crimes against Legal Order...", (January 2024). <https://ministeriopublico.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Informe-Estadistico-de-Delitos-Contra-El-Orden-Juridico-Familiar-y-el-Estado-Civil-a-Nivel-Nacional-Diciembre-2023.pdf>

[1427] Public Ministry, Government of Panama, "Report on Domestic Violence...", (January 2023). <https://ministeriopublico.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Informe-Estadistico-de-Violencia-Domestica-a-Nivel-Nacional-Diciembre-2022.pdf>

[1428] Defensoría del Pueblo de la República de Panamá, *Situación de Derechos Humanos de las personas Migrantes y Refugiadas, Provincia de Darién*, February 2024, <https://www.defensoria.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/Factsheet-Migracion-Darien-REV.pdf>

[1429] *Ibid.*

[1430] *Ibid.*

[1431] Médecins Sans Frontières, « Médecins Sans Frontières Forced to Suspend Medical Care for Migrants in Darien Gap », Panama, (7 March 2024), <https://prezly.msf.org.uk/medecins-sans-frontieres-forced-to-suspend-medical-care-for-migrants-in-darien-gap-panama>

[1432] Médecins Sans Frontières, "Shocking increase in sexual violence reported in Darién Gap", (5 February 2024), <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/shocking-increase-sexual-violence-reported-darien-ga>

[1433] Médecins Sans Frontières, "Lack of action sees sharp rise in sexual violence on people transiting Darien Gap", (29 February 2024), <https://www.msf.org/lack-action-sees-sharp-rise-sexual-violence-people-transiting-darien-gap-panam>

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



Given prevailing complexities in accessing Panama via regular routes, migrants and refugees from Venezuela are exposed to human trafficking and smuggling, with those engaging in onward and transit movements being particularly vulnerable in areas that offer little protection and safety.

Refugees and migrants who cannot reach Panama using regular routes (by air) due to an inability to meet the visa and documentation requirements often pay high fees to smuggling networks to access the country through the treacherous Darien jungle. Particularly on the Colombian side, this route is heavily controlled by organized criminal groups.<sup>1434,1435</sup> Also known as “guides,” these smugglers show refugees and migrants the routes and sometimes accompany them part of the way. Recent reports have also exposed extracontinental smuggling networks, including groups dedicated to smuggling Chinese nationals who pay large sums to enter Panama through the Darien Province, often avoiding crossing the jungle.<sup>1436</sup> These increased movements have had an impact on local communities in this region, who have abandoned traditional livelihoods to provide services to those participating in these onward and transit movements.<sup>1437</sup> According to partners’ reports, 66 per cent of the Venezuelans and 73 per cent of other nationals crossing the Darien in 2024 reportedly paid a smuggler to facilitate their crossing through the jungle; armed smuggling groups operating in the Darien track migrants’ and refugees’ payments

as they cross the various points in the Darien.<sup>1438,1439</sup> Another R4V partner’s survey reported that six per cent of Venezuelans and 12 per cent of other nationals interviewed had received dangerous or risky “travel offers”, charging significant amounts of money with disinformation on the routes and conditions. The same survey reported that two per cent of Venezuelans and eight per cent of other nationals had received a suspicious job offer during their transit, luring them into situation of human trafficking.<sup>1440</sup>

Panama was classified as Tier 2 in the 2024 U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report. Based on this assessment, the government of Panama does not meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking while making significant efforts to do so.<sup>1441</sup> The report also highlights that Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Panama are increasingly at risk of both sex and labour trafficking. Traffickers exploit those moving through Panama through sex trafficking or forced labour in their destination countries.

The National Anti-Trafficking Commission of Panama continues to make efforts to combat trafficking. In 2023, the government ruled on the status of 36 victims (compared to 22 in 2022); it granted 20 of these victims’ full status as trafficking victims, providing them support services, including shelter, psychological and legal assistance. The government reported it could take several months for the commission to confirm

[1434] International Crisis Group (ICG), “Bottleneck of the Americas: Crime and Migration in the Darien Gap”, (November 2023), <https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/andes/colombia-central-america/102-bottleneck-americas-crime-and-migration#:~:text=Each%20year%2C%20hundreds%20of%20thousands,Panama%20perpetrate%20assaults%20on%20migrants>.

[1435] Ebus, Bram, “Trapped in the Gap: Migrants and Smugglers in the Darien (August 2023), <https://facesofconflict.crisisgroup.org/trapped-in-the-gap-migrants-and-smugglers-in-the-darien>

[1436] Voz de America, “Panama begins judicial and police operations against groups dedicated to smuggling Chinese migrants”, (7 August 2024), <https://www.vozdeamerica.com/a/panama-realiza-operacion-judicial-policial-contr-grupos-dedicados-al-trafico-migrantes-chinos-7733574.html>.

[1437] International Crisis Group (ICG), “Bottleneck of the Americas: Crime and Migration in the Darien Gap”, (November 2023), <https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/andes/colombia-central-america/102-bottleneck-americas-crime-and-migration>.

[1438] UNHCR, WFP, Mixed Movements Monitoring, January to June 2024. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109386>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108940>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108399>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/107698>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106699>; <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106698>.

[1439] Human Rights Watch, “This Hell was My Only Option” Abuses Against Migrants and Asylum Seekers Pushed to Cross the Darien Gap, November 2023. [https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media\\_2023/11/americas1123web\\_1.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2023/11/americas1123web_1.pdf)

[1440] REACH, Caritas, CRS, Situación Humanitarian de la poblacion en movilidad en la frontera Colombia - Panamá,

[1441] These efforts include investigating and prosecuting more alleged traffickers, identifying more confirmed trafficking victims, and issuing permanent residency permits to survivors. U.S. Department of State, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Panama, June 2024, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/panama/>

other potential victims' status, leaving them without protection and without urgently required assistance for extended periods. However, potential and preliminary victims could access shelter and other services while their status is pending. During this year, the government identified Colombian, Congolese, Costa Rican, Panamanian, and Venezuelan victims; there were 13 women, six men, and one girl.<sup>1442</sup>

Due to a lack of capacity of institutions responsible for investigating cases and providing services, victims of trafficking in Panama lack access to legal processes and specialized support. Refugees and migrants are also often reluctant to report incidents due to fear of retaliation by perpetrators or of detention, deportation for those in an irregular situation.

According to the JNA, five per cent of assessed households reported being forced/manipulated/indebted in some way to entice them to travel/migrate,

and two per cent of households reported that at least one household member had been detained against their will by someone other than the authorities during the past 12 months. Furthermore, 51 per cent of households had been exposed to unsafe or exploitative conditions at work, including working extra hours without payment (29 per cent), and receiving less than the agreed wage (27 per cent).

For migrants and refugees in-transit, reports have highlighted the prevalence of human trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation, including child labour, begging, and domestic work.<sup>1443</sup> The presence of organized criminal groups associated with human trafficking along the Colombia-Panama border (especially in the Darien jungle) further increases the risks for refugees and migrants who rely on this passage to access Panama.

## SHELTER



While most Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination rent individual accommodations, some live in shared households with inadequate conditions and in insecure environments. Many also face risks of eviction, which can contribute to other protection risks. For the population engaging in onward and transit movements, migrants and refugees lack access to adequate shelter due to the lack of capacity and inadequate conditions of ETRMs.

The JNA provided new insights into the shelter situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants living in Panama. While most households (69 per cent) live in individual rented accommodation, 18 per cent shared their accommodation with other households which can lead to overcrowding and potential protection risks such as GBV. Some 68 per cent of households were living in an accommodation with one or two rooms, while the average household size was four people. Regarding shelter conditions, 14 per cent reported that their shelter had bad hygienic conditions, issues with waste management, mosquitoes, and rodents, among others.<sup>1444</sup> Concerns about the insecurity of

the neighbourhood were highlighted by 12 per cent in Panama province, but only two per cent of the surveyed households in Panama Oeste. Nearly a quarter of surveyed households (22 per cent) reported having experienced risks of eviction within three months of being surveyed, while three per cent reported having been evicted before in Panama province and five per cent in Panama Oeste, showing a slightly higher proportion of households evicted in Panama Oeste.<sup>1445</sup> The main reason people are evicted from their homes is due to non-payment of rent. Typically, rental agreements are made verbally and are not registered with the competent authority, leaving tenants at the discretion of the landlords, exposing them to potential exploitation and abuse and lack of protection of their rights.

Regarding those participating in onward and transit movements in Panama irregularly, until March 2024, migrants and refugees arrived at the two government-managed ETRMs of San Vicente and Lajas Blancas located in Meteti, Darien Province, with capacities of 544 and 255 people, respectively. Due to a fire incident

[1442] 2024 U.S. TIP report: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/panama/>

[1443] InSightCrime, *How Organized Crime Profits from Migrant Flow Across Colombia's Darien Gap*, November 2022. <https://insightcrime.org/news/organized-crime-profits-migrants-darien-gap/>

[1444] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

[1445] *Ibid.*

at the San Vicente ETRM in March 2024, as of July only the Lajas Blancas ETRM remained operational, reducing shelter capacity to only 255 people.<sup>1446</sup> With daily arrivals ranging from a few hundred to over a thousand people, in the first half of 2024 the capacity of the remaining ETRM has been exceeded by 61 per cent on most days.<sup>1447</sup> On average, refugees and migrants stay four to five days at the ETRM, before being able to access a bus to Costa Rica. However, those with severe medical conditions, those submitting an asylum claim, those without the financial resources to pay for the bus to Costa Rica,<sup>1448</sup> and those needing to pass a biometric verification conducted by Panamanian authorities typically spend more time in the ETRM, further reducing their shelter capacity. R4V partners have identified

cases of families or people who have stayed for several months at the ETRMs, including asylum-seekers.

Migrants and refugees typically stay in overcrowded wooden cabins or tents and sleep on mattresses (often on the floor) highly exposed to extreme weather conditions and vectors. There is also a lack of privacy which is particularly worrisome for women and girls, exposing them to insecurity and risks of sexual assault incidents.

Refugees and migrants engaging in onward and transit movements lack access to potable water, sanitation, and hygiene services both at the ETRM and throughout their journey, including through the jungle, where no services are available.

## WASH



Refugees and migrants in-destination in Panama generally have regular access to water, sanitation and hygiene services. While the JNA found that 94 per cent of surveyed households have access to tap water within their accommodation or nearby, 78 per cent received the water supply 24 hours per day and seven days a week. Eleven per cent of these households had access to water on a daily restricted schedule, or for three or less days per week. Access varied depending on the areas where they live. Those living farther away from urban centres or in smaller towns – particularly as housing options are more affordable in these areas – may have less access.

In terms of access to sanitation, 97 per cent of the Venezuelan migrant and refugee households reported having access to a toilet connected to the sewage system or a septic tank. Some 19 per cent of the households, however, indicated that they shared it with other families.

Concerning hygiene, most households reported having access to handwashing facilities (93 per cent with water

and soap or hand sanitizer). In terms of household garbage disposal, 64 per cent of households reported having access to a formal trash disposal system from the local municipality. A higher proportion (96 per cent) of these were registered in Panama Oeste than in Panama (48 per cent).<sup>1449</sup>

For the population engaging in onward and transit movements, almost all refugees and migrants only have access to water from the rivers and streams in the jungle, which often leads to gastrointestinal problems, especially among children. The same rivers risk contamination from garbage and waste due to the large number of people using this route with no facilities. After crossing the jungle and before arriving at the ETRM, migrants and refugees transit through indigenous communities of Bajo Chiquito and Canaan Membrillo, which are not connected to the national water, electricity, sewage, or sanitation systems. The only available potable water available in these communities is provided by humanitarian partners. The only alternative is to buy bottled water in these communities for those who can afford it.

[1446] Telemetro, *Reconstruirán Estación Temporal migratoria en Darién tras incendio*, March 2024, <https://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/reconstruiran-estacion-temporal-migratoria-darien-incendio-n597156>

[1447] *Considering the daily average number of people that have entered the ETRMs from 1 January to 30 June 2024, and the capacity of the ETRMs of 799 people until early March, and 255 people following the fire in San Vicente that occurred on March 1, 2024. Source: R4V partner internal data.*

[1448] See chapter on *Humanitarian Transportation* for more information.

[1449] R4V Panama, *Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)*, forthcoming, 2024.

Access to potable water and other WASH services is also a challenge within the ETRM, where refugees and migrants rely on distributions and installations by humanitarian partners, which have a limited capacity; partners can only reach 1,600 people per day, resulting in concerning service gaps when more people arrive, or when bus services to decongest the facility are interrupted (as was the case during protests in late 2023). As the overall hygienic conditions of the ETRM is very poor, families with children, especially those with diarrhoea and other gastrointestinal problems

(following the challenging Darien crossing), face significant challenges in accessing potable water, hygiene, and sanitation services and items, while being exposed to risks. The water supply at the ETRM also depends largely on the river levels. During the days when the number of people exceeds the existing water supply capacity, hundreds of people are left without access to potable water for drinking or bathing. The risk of vector-borne diseases is also high in transit communities and the ETRM, where dengue and malaria cases are common.<sup>1450</sup>



[1450] Ministry of Health, Government of Panama, Weekly Dengue Report, (January 2024), [https://minsa.gob.pa/sites/default/files/publicacion-general/informe\\_de\\_dengue\\_semana\\_4\\_0.pdf](https://minsa.gob.pa/sites/default/files/publicacion-general/informe_de_dengue_semana_4_0.pdf)

# SOUTHERN CONE





# SOUTHERN CONE AT A GLANCE

## PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)

VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION

**38.6% • 87.5 K**

VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT\*

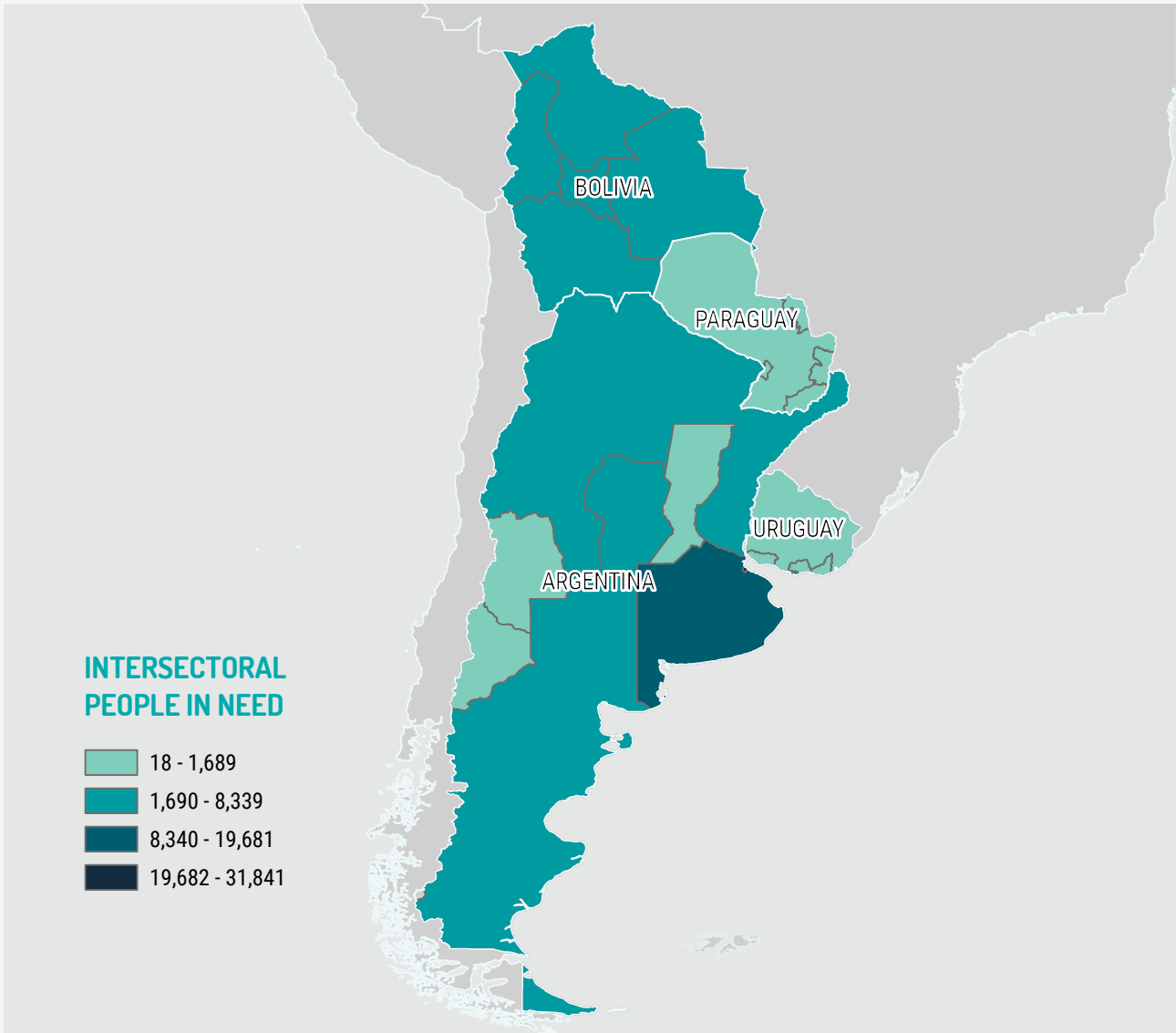
**66.0%**

OTHERS IN-TRANSIT\*

**66.0%**

AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES

**32.6%**



## PEOPLE IN NEED BY AGE AND GENDER

MEN
 WOMEN
 BOYS
 GIRLS

**40.9%**














**43.9%**

**7.7%**

**7.5%**

All percentages and absolute values used in table maps, graphs and other infographics are, unless otherwise stated, based on the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination, as referenced in the August 2024 population update annexed to this document.

\* "Venezuelans in-transit" and "Others in-transit" only applies to Bolivia.

SECTOR		PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)				
		VENEZUELANOS IN-DESTINATION		IN-TRANSIT		AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES
				VENEZUELANOS	OTHERS	
	INTERSECTOR	38.6%	87.5 K	66.0%	66.0%	32.6%
	EDUCATION	0.9%	2.1 K	10.7%	7.9%	0.8%
	FOOD SECURITY	34.1%	77.1 K	66.0%	66.0%	11.1%
	HEALTH	22.7%	51.5 K	10.0%	10.0%	24.0%
	HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	9.9%	22.4 K	45.0%	45.0%	24.9%
	INTEGRATION	38.4%	86.9 K	55.0%	55.0%	32.3%
	NUTRITION	3.1%	6.9 K	28.6%	23.7%	0.6%
	PROTECTION	25.5%	57.7 K	58.0%	58.0%	20.2%
	CHILD PROTECTION	1.3%	3.0 K	3.9%	2.9%	4.6%
	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	17.9%	40.5 K	28.8%	24.6%	7.1%
	HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING	6.6%	15.0 K	34.0%	34.0%	2.1%
	SHELTER	30.6%	69.3 K	59.0%	59.0%	16.0%
	WASH	12.9%	29.2 K	48.0%	48.0%	3.6%

## SOUTHERN CONE SUB-REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The Southern Cone sub-region presents two contrasting scenarios: in countries primarily characterized as destination countries for migrants and refugees from Venezuela, such as Argentina and Uruguay and, to a lesser extent, Paraguay, needs of refugees and migrants have largely evolved within a level of continuity (concerning their type and severity), similar to those identified in 2023 - despite specific advances and setbacks described in each sector.

In Argentina, a large majority of the 164,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela have been residing in the country for more than five years. In Paraguay, the Venezuelan population has modestly declined over the past year reaching 5,580. On the other hand, Uruguay continues to observe a considerable increase in Venezuelan refugees and migrants, which has increased by more than 150 per cent between end-2021 to mid-2024 when the total figure exceeded 40,000.<sup>1451</sup>

In these three countries, R4V partners have identified that the main needs of the Venezuelan migrants and refugees in-destination are (i) integration, such as access to formal employment and/or self-employment and revalidation of diplomas and/or certification of skills, (ii) shelter, in particular decent rental housing in large urban centres such as Montevideo or Buenos Aires, and, (iii) access to nutritionally adequate food, especially in Argentina where high inflation affects prices of food.

On the other hand, the situation of refugees and migrants in Bolivia has not improved from previous years. Those entering via irregular routes are met with scarce access to regularization options and to the asylum system.

Many in an irregular situation face obstacles to access healthcare and other public services, impacting their overall well-being and protection situation. Access to potable water, sufficient and quality food, and decent and safe temporary housing has declined for those in-transit - predominantly Venezuelans, Colombians and Haitians - and those in-destination. The increased presence of criminal groups that exploit vulnerable migrants and refugees, especially women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, has heightened their exposure to human trafficking, exploitation, abuse, GBV and other health and protection risks.<sup>1452</sup>

R4V partners in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay conducted a JNA between December 2023 and July 2024. Primary data collection was carried out among refugees and migrants in-destination based on the regionally harmonized questionnaire. In the case of Argentina and Uruguay, non-probabilistic convenience sampling was carried out and, in the case of Paraguay, a probabilistic sampling was carried out based on official records of the National Commission for Refugees (considering that the majority of Venezuelans in Paraguay are refugees or asylum-seekers; 4,730 and 850 people respectively).<sup>1453</sup> In all cases the samples were stratified by gender and age based on different official sources.<sup>1454</sup> The surveys in Argentina and Paraguay were conducted via telephone, and in Uruguay via a hybrid exercise (face-to-face and telephone surveys). The survey targeted in-destination households containing at least one Venezuelan national. In Argentina and Paraguay, the samples included 384 and 362 households, respectively, and in Uruguay 334 (out of a target sample of 400).

[1451] R4V Platform, (2024), <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrant>

[1452] *Ibid.*

[1453] R4V Platform, (2024), <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrants>

[1454] For Argentina, data from the 2022 Census were used as a reference, and in Uruguay and Paraguay, data from asylum applications granted in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

In parallel, a comprehensive SDR of sources published between June 2023 and June 2024 was carried out. The review included 60 sources in Argentina, 38 in Uruguay, 28 in Bolivia and 28 in Paraguay; including sources that contained information from more than one of the Southern Cone countries.<sup>1455</sup>

Based on consolidated results of the primary data collection and the SDR, between June and July 2024, JNA workshops were held in the four countries of the sub-region to review and discuss the results among R4V partners and key stakeholders, including technical representatives of national and local governments, academia, and donor representatives.







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[1455] The main documents reviewed were mostly produced by UN System agencies. These included results of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), participatory diagnostics, High Frequency Survey (HFS) results, Results Monitoring Survey (RMS), situation reports and sectoral reports. Also included were reports from national sources in each country, such as the Institutes of National Statistics and the National Directorates of Migration, together with their databases, and academic publications on the subject. Particularly noteworthy as a source for this analysis is the National Migrant Survey of Argentina (2023 edition), which has a national scope and regional representativeness.

# EDUCATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		 		 	
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>2.1 K</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	-	-	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT</b>		10.7%	-	-	48.0%	48.0%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT</b>		7.9%	-	-	48.0%	48.0%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES</b>		0.8%	-	-	3.1%	3.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Although public education is, in principle, accessible to all children regardless of their nationality or status in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, difficulties persist in enrolment and sustaining attendance, mainly due to a lack of available places at schools, economic limitations of the refugee and migrant households to purchase school materials, lack of internet connectivity and the distance from schools.

In Bolivia, 25 per cent of refugee and migrant children in-destination in the households surveyed were not enrolled in the education system.<sup>1456</sup> In Paraguay the percentage reached 20 per cent, in Argentina 13 per cent, and in Uruguay six per cent.<sup>1457</sup> Among the reasons that have hindered enrolment are: having recently arrived in the country or outside usual school enrolment periods, lack of available slots in schools, and lack of documentation. R4V partners also identified information gaps among refugees and migrants regarding their educational rights and the possibilities to enrol their children regardless of their status.

In Argentina, it is estimated that 64 per cent of households surveyed in 2023 had at least one child attending school, among them 14 per cent had had difficulties in accessing the school system, due to a

lack of places in schools (77 per cent of respondents) and difficulties in obtaining school documentation from the country of origin (five per cent).<sup>1458</sup> Respondents also mentioned the requirement of Argentine national identity document as an obstacle to enrolment (16 per cent).<sup>1459</sup>

Owing to a lack of recognition of previous learning achievements, migrant and refugee children in-destination were also reported as not being in courses that correspond to their educational levels.<sup>1460</sup> Primarily due to economic inabilities to cover school-related expenses, 10 per cent of refugee and migrant children in Argentina attended school less than five days a week; nine percent in both Paraguay and Uruguay.<sup>1461</sup>

The availability of early childhood development and care spaces for young children (zero to three years of age) is low in all countries, apart from Uruguay. In Paraguay, 89 per cent of those surveyed stated that they did not have access to early childhood care, in Argentina the percentage was 57 per cent and in Uruguay 23 per cent.<sup>1462</sup> In Uruguay, the lack of access to these care spaces is related to lack of information on their existence.

[1456] UNHCR, Results Scorecard CBI, 2023.

[1457] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)

[1458] Red Derechos Humanos CONICET, National Migrant Survey of Argentina, 2023, <https://redderechoshumanos.conicet.gov.ar>

[1459] Argentina National Migrations Act N° 25871, [https://www.migraciones.gov.ar/pdf\\_varios/campana\\_grafica/pdf/Libro\\_Ley\\_25.871.pdf](https://www.migraciones.gov.ar/pdf_varios/campana_grafica/pdf/Libro_Ley_25.871.pdf)

[1460] UNHCR, Participatory Diagnostics of Argentina, October 2023.

[1461] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, (2024)

[1462] Ibid

In 2023, the Bolivian government issued Ministerial Resolution 001/2024<sup>1463</sup> which foresees the enrolment of refugee and migrant children in the formal education system, without restrictions and regardless of their status or documentation from the country of origin. Despite the new resolution, these children still encounter challenges enrolling as the resolution is not yet widely implemented. Although refugee and migrant children in-transit have access to mobile classrooms in La Paz and Santa Cruz de la Sierra that operate twice a week, partners report low levels of attendance. In other transit municipalities, there are no educational alternatives for children.<sup>1464</sup>

Children in Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia (specially in La Paz and El Alto) report facing situations of rejection and discrimination at schools. In Argentina, 16 per cent of children report having experienced discrimination in school environments.<sup>1465</sup> R4V partners refer to the absence of interculturalism in schools, discrimination by peers and teachers, and the lack of didactic resources to raise awareness among teachers to foster more

inclusive environments.<sup>1466</sup> Despite policies in place for the recognition of prior educational achievements through levelling procedures in all four countries, R4V partners report that some schools do not implement them due to a lack of knowledge about the regulations, resulting in migrant and refugee children repeating grades or being inappropriately graded.<sup>1467</sup>

Furthermore, barriers were also identified in the access to government subsidies. In Argentina, the Annual School Assistance (*Ayuda Escolar Annual*) is granted exclusively to those who receive the Universal Child Allowance (*Asignación Universal por Hijo*), which requires at least two years of permanent residence in the country.<sup>1468</sup> In Bolivia, refugees and migrants reported having been denied access to the national conditional cash transfer program *Bono Juancito Pinto*,<sup>1469</sup> an economic incentive for school retention, amounting to 200 Bolivian pesos (USD 29) monthly, whose allocation is subject to the discretion of the educational institution's authorities.<sup>1470</sup>



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[1463] Ministry of Education, Resolución Ministerial N° 0001/2024, Normas Generales para la Gestión Educativa 2024 del Subsistema de Educación Regular, 2024, [https://www.minedu.gob.bo/files/documentos-normativos/resoluciones-ministeriales/2024/Resolucion-001\\_2024-Ed\\_Regular\\_web.pdf](https://www.minedu.gob.bo/files/documentos-normativos/resoluciones-ministeriales/2024/Resolucion-001_2024-Ed_Regular_web.pdf)

[1464] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessments Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024).

[1465] National Migrant Survey of Argentina 2023 (ENMA), CONICET, R4V. Simplified report: Living conditions and access to rights of Venezuelan, Colombian, Cuban, Dominican and Haitian migrants and refugees in Argentina, 2024.

[1466] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessments Workshop: Argentina (June-July 2024).

[1467] Ibid.





[1468] CAREF, Asignación Universal por Hijo y familias migrantes, Informe N 4, December 2021, <https://caref.org.ar/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Asignacion-Universal-por-Hijo-y-familias-migrantes.pdf>.

[1469] Ministry of Education, Reglamento de Entrega del Bono "Juancito Pinto", 2016. [https://www.minedu.gob.bo/files/documentos-normativos/instructivos/2016/Bonojuancito2016\\_ProyectoReglamentoDeEntrega.docx.pdf](https://www.minedu.gob.bo/files/documentos-normativos/instructivos/2016/Bonojuancito2016_ProyectoReglamentoDeEntrega.docx.pdf)

[1470] Caritas, FMK, World Vision, FUSB, UNHCR, Participatory Assessment Bolivia, October 2023, <https://www.acnur.org/media/diagnostico-participativo-bolivia-octubre-2023>.

# FOOD SECURITY



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	77.1 K	34.1%	33.5%	33.1%	35.1%	34.8%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		66.0%	66.0%	66.0%	66.0%	66.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		66.0%	66.0%	66.0%	66.0%	66.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		11.1%	10.9%	10.9%	11.5%	11.5%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Food security needs of refugees and migrants in-destination in the Southern Cone are largely tied to economic challenges that impede their ability to afford adequate and sufficient food. Those in-transit through Bolivia face persistent disruptions in food supply due to unstable living conditions, financial constraints, and limited access to food markets. The food security situation for refugee and migrant population in the Southern Cone has worsened compared to 2023, with rising food prices and limited government assistance forcing many to resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing the food quantity and quality, prioritizing children's consumption, and reducing spending on non-essential items.

In Bolivia, 50 per cent of the refugees and migrants in-destination surveyed reported having reduced the number of daily meals due to lack of financial resources in the 30 days prior to the interview.<sup>1471</sup> Some 15 per cent of those surveyed by an R4V partner could only afford food the day of the survey, and 23 per cent for one or two more days.<sup>1472</sup> As a result, 97 per cent of those surveyed reported having reduced the quantity or quality of food consumed, 88 per cent reduced spending on non-essential items, and 74 per cent limited food

consumption among adults to prioritize children.<sup>1473</sup>

On a positive note, as a result of the measures to facilitate access to education for children in an irregular situation pursuant to Ministerial Resolution 001/2024, since its implementation in March 2024, R4V partners have observed an increase in access to school meals in Bolivia, positively impacting the concerned households' food security.<sup>1474</sup>

In Argentina, food insecurity among the migrant and refugee population is a growing concern due to the escalating food prices<sup>1475</sup> and decreased access to sustainable livelihoods. Over half of the refugees and migrants surveyed (59 per cent) were moderately or severely food insecure, out of which 18 per cent were severely food insecure.<sup>1476</sup> According to another survey by an R4V partner with 512 migrants and refugees, 67 per cent have access to two meals a day, only 16 per cent to three or more, 16 per cent to one meal. Forty-six per cent of respondents indicated having limited food consumption among adults to prioritize children. All respondents sought help from humanitarian agencies or NGOs, 77 per cent used their savings to pay for food, 26 per cent received family support or remittances, 48 per cent received donations from the community

[1471] UNHCR, Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) in Bolivia, 2023.

[1472] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: "Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia", 2023.

[1473] UNHCR, Results Scorecard CBI, 2023.

[1474] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024).

[1475] The Consumer Price Index recorded a monthly increase of 4.6% in June 2024, accumulating a variation of 79.8% in the first half of the year. In the year-over-year comparison, the increase reached 271.5%. [https://www.indec.gob.ar/uploads/informesdeprensa/ipc\\_07\\_24C42AFC489C.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/uploads/informesdeprensa/ipc_07_24C42AFC489C.pdf)

[1476] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina (2024)

or religious organizations, and 26 per cent borrowed money to buy food.<sup>1477</sup> R4V partners report that access to government food assistance programs was more limited than in the previous years due to budget cuts and the cancelation of social protection programs, including distribution of food packages.<sup>1478</sup>





Uruguay also saw a sustained increase in the costs of living and of the minimum expenditure basket.<sup>1479</sup> Over 35 per cent of surveyed households experienced moderate or severe food insecurity.<sup>1480</sup> Almost half (48 per cent) have reduced their daily intake to two meals, 30 per cent to one meal. To cope with the situation, 78 per cent of refugees and migrants reported that they reduced the quantity or quality of food, 65 per cent reduced spending on non-essential items, and 80 per cent limited food consumption among adults to prioritize children.<sup>1481</sup> Figures show a marked

deterioration of the situation in both Argentina and Uruguay.

In Paraguay, 43 per cent of surveyed households in-destination experienced moderate or severe food insecurity. According to another report, 64 per cent of those surveyed had access to two meals a day, 33 per cent to one meal. To cover basic needs, 90 per cent of people reduced the quantity or quality of food, 60 per cent reduced spending on non-essential items, and 54 per cent limited food consumption among adults to prioritize children. In addition, 46 per cent of respondents reported needing a referral to food assistance services.<sup>1482</sup> As in Bolivia, partners consider that school feeding, such as the *Hambre Cero en las Escuelas* program, which is available to children at all schools in Paraguay, has contributed to improving the levels of food security.<sup>1483</sup>

## HEALTH



	PEOPLE IN NEED		   			
	51.5 K	22.7%	22.6%	22.4%	23.1%	22.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION						
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		24.0%	23.8%	23.8%	24.6%	24.7%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Health needs remain markedly different in Bolivia compared to other countries of the sub-region, particularly in terms of access to public health services. Recently, health-related challenges have also emerged in Argentina, while access to medicines and to sexual,

reproductive and mental health services is a significant challenge for refugees and migrants across all four countries.

In Argentina, despite public health services supposedly being free of charge for all, irrespective of nationality

[1477] UNHCR, Results Scorecard CBI, 2023.

[1478] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina (June-July 2024).

[1479] Inflation in 2023 was 5% and year-over-year inflation in Uruguay in June was nearly 5% <https://www.bcu.gub.uy/Politica-Economica-y-Mercados/Paginas/La-inflacion-y-sus-expectativas.asp>

[1480] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Uruguay (2024)

[1481] UNHCR, Results Scorecard CBI, 2023.

[1482] Ibid.

[1483] The creation of the School Feeding Fund (FONAE) to centralize management with state resources and ensure implementation at the national level also contributed positively. Southern Cone R4V Platform, JNA Workshop: Paraguay (June-July 2024).



or status, recent restrictive measures at the sub-national level, requiring non-residents to pay for medical services, have limited effective access for migrants and refugees, specifically in the provinces of Salta (bordering Bolivia, Chile, and Paraguay)<sup>1484</sup> and Mendoza (bordering Chile).<sup>1485</sup>

Furthermore, 70 per cent of surveyed refugees and migrants reported difficulties in securing appointments and experiencing delays in obtaining healthcare.<sup>1486</sup> As a result, 22 per cent of those in need of healthcare were unable to access it.<sup>1487</sup> This is particularly concerning in Argentina, where, according to the National Census in 2022, 46 per cent of the migrant and refugee population relies exclusively on the public healthcare system (in contrast to 35 per cent among the overall population).<sup>1488</sup>

In Bolivia, 38 per cent of the refugees and migrants in-destination surveyed reported difficulties in accessing healthcare. Among them, 36 per cent stated that they were unable to register in the Unified Health System (*SUS*), 32 per cent lacked required documentation to receive care (mainly documentation issued by Bolivian authorities), 20 per cent did not have the necessary financial means, and 12 per cent were denied healthcare due to discrimination.<sup>1489</sup> R4V partners attributed these difficulties to unclear regulations and the increase in xenophobic and discriminatory situations in health centres.<sup>1490</sup> Among the 15 pregnant women surveyed, 20 per cent reported that they had not received prenatal care despite Bolivian regulations assuring access to the

*SUS* for pregnant women, regardless of their nationality or status.<sup>1491</sup> The population in-transit in Bolivia faces additional vulnerabilities due to insufficient or non-existent public health services along transit routes<sup>1492</sup> with many resorting to self-medication. Also, migrants and refugees in-transit indicated that they experienced discrimination when trying to access health services.<sup>1493</sup>

In Paraguay, R4V partners report that access to public healthcare is broad and unrestricted for refugees and migrants, with constraints mainly related to the cost of treatments, which affects 13 per cent of migrants and refugees surveyed.<sup>1494</sup> On the other hand, R4V partners in Uruguay observed that difficulties faced by refugees and migrants in affiliating to the State Health Services Administration (*ASSE*) were due to the lack of the required documentation, rather than barriers in the affiliation system itself, as reflected by eight per cent that could not access to healthcare.<sup>1495</sup>

Owed to shortages in Bolivia and Paraguay, and increasing costs in Paraguay and Argentina, access to medicines is challenging for migrants and refugees,<sup>1496</sup> especially for those with critical or chronic medical conditions, which represents seven per cent in Paraguay and Uruguay,<sup>1497</sup> and in Bolivia ten per cent<sup>1498</sup> of those who received assistance. Among those with critical or chronic conditions, 41 per cent in Bolivia indicated that were unable to obtain the medicines they need for their treatment, in contrast with the 16 per cent in Paraguay and eight per cent in Argentina and Uruguay.<sup>1499</sup>

[1484] CAREF, "Carecer de DNI no es carecer de derechos", 29 February 2024. <https://caref.org.ar/carecer-de-dni-no-es-carecer-de-derechos>.

[1485] SAIJ, Decreto Reglamentario de la Ley 9.535 - Atención gratuita a los pacientes que no cuenten con ningún tipo de cobertura médico asistencial, June 2024. <https://bit.ly/3X9w1YX>.

[1486] National Migrant Survey of Argentina 2023 (ENMA), CONICET, R4V. Simplified report: Living conditions and access to rights of Venezuelan, Colombian, Cuban, Dominican and Haitian migrants and refugees in Argentina, 2024.

[1487] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina (2024)

[1488] INDEC (2024). National Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2022. Final results: International and internal migrations. Expanded edition. (November 2023).

[1489] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: "Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia", 2023.

[1490] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024).

[1491] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: "Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia", 2023.

[1492] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024).

[1493] UNHCR, Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) in Bolivia, 2023.

[1494] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Paraguay (2024)

[1495] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024).

[1496] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay (June-July 2024). In the case of Argentina, it is important to add that those medicines that are covered by public health systems were in some cases discontinued or are irregularly delivered (some months they are available, while in others they are not).

[1497] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)

[1498] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: "Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia", 2023.

[1499] UNHCR, High Frequency Survey in Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay and Paraguay, 2023.

The abovementioned barriers also impact access to sexual and reproductive health services as well as MHPSS services in Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay.<sup>1500</sup> In Argentina and Uruguay, partners reported that

accessing these services through the public sector is very slow or nearly impossible, leading many to turn to private providers.<sup>1501</sup>

## HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>22.4 K</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT</b>		45.0%	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT</b>		45.0%	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES</b>		24.9%	25.1%	25.3%	24.2%	24.2%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Migrants and refugees face challenges accessing transportation, largely owed to economic challenges and service limitations, affecting both transportation from border areas to destination cities, as well as within cities to essential locations like schools, medical centres, government agencies, and other frequently visited places.

Refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the four countries of the sub-region expressed a need for transportation within their cities of residence, to access essential services such as health, schools, and government agencies for regularization procedures, and protection services. This need comes against rising costs of urban transportation driven by persistent levels of inflation and the removal of governmental subsidies in all countries of the sub-region<sup>1502</sup> (except for Bolivia where such subsidies have remained in place). Eight per cent of households surveyed in Argentina reported taking more than 30 minutes to reach their usual destinations on foot or by bicycle. This percentage is considerably higher in Uruguay, where 23 per cent of

respondents have similar travel times, while in Paraguay only five per cent reported traveling over 30 minutes.<sup>1503</sup> As a consequence, R4V partners report that migrants and refugees face difficulties in maintaining school attendance, monitoring chronic illnesses, completing procedures related to regularization, or accessing protection services.<sup>1504</sup>

Migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements face significant protection and health risks in Bolivia, especially in the border areas with Chile and Peru. Their journeys are characterized by challenging terrain, high altitudes exceeding 4,000 meters and harsh climatic conditions. The presence of organized criminal groups dedicated to smuggling and trafficking further complicates the situation. Conflicts between these groups and regular transportation providers affect the safety of people in-transit, who are often exposed to resulting tensions and violence.<sup>1505</sup> Transportation services in border areas are scarce, infrequent, and precarious. Criminal networks take advantage of the lack of official information along

[1500] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay (June-July 2024).

[1501] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina and Uruguay (June-July 2024).

[1502] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay (June-July 2024)

[1503] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024).

[1504] Ibid.





[1505] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024).

the route and the fears related to police controls and potential fines or expulsions, operating overnight and charging excessive prices. A heightened need for such humanitarian transportation has been identified among those who have experienced incidents of violence and theft, as well as those with medical needs and particularly vulnerable refugees and migrants, including UASC.<sup>1506</sup>

Although the number of land entries to Argentina has decreased, migrants and refugees in La Quiaca, Puerto Iguazú, and San Salvador de Jujuy have expressed difficulties accessing transportation to Buenos Aires and other urban destination centres.<sup>1507</sup> Similarly, R4V partners identified a persistent need for transportation support from the border of Mayor Infante Rivarola with Bolivia to the city of Asunción.<sup>1508</sup>

## INTEGRATION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION</b>	<b>86.9 K</b>	<b>38.4%</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>39.5%</b>	<b>39.1%</b>
<b>VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT</b>		55.0%	55.0%	55.0%	55.0%	55.0%
<b>OTHERS IN-TRANSIT</b>		55.0%	55.0%	55.0%	55.0%	55.0%
<b>AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES</b>		32.3%	32.0%	31.9%	33.2%	33.2%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants in the Southern Cone are grappling with significant challenges in securing stable livelihoods to sustain a dignified life. These obstacles are linked to rising unemployment rates in Argentina and Paraguay,<sup>1509</sup> high prevalence of informal work,<sup>1510</sup> precarious working conditions for those engaged in informal work, especially in Bolivia, and challenges in generating sustainable self-employment initiatives related to limited access to financial resources. In Argentina, the inflationary and devaluation process has deepened since late 2023. The adoption of measures such as tightening monetary policies has

caused the Argentine Peso to devalue against the US Dollar, while cutting subsidies and enacting austerity measures have impacted the costs of living and real salaries, for the host community and migrants and refugees alike.<sup>1511</sup>

Unemployment rates among surveyed refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the sub-region range from five percent in Bolivia,<sup>1512</sup> 15 per cent in Argentina and Paraguay, to 18 per cent in Uruguay.<sup>1513</sup> Sixty-six per cent of those surveyed in Argentina reported engaging in informal work; 68 per cent in Paraguay, and 30 per cent

[1506] *Ibid.*

[1507] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina (June–July 2024).

[1508] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Paraguay (June–July 2024).

[1509] Unemployment in Argentina was 7.7% in the first quarter of 2024, an increase of two percentage points compared to end-2023 <https://www.indec.gob.ar/indec/web/Nivel3-Tema-4-31>

[1510] Out of 20 million workers in Argentina, 52% are either informal or self-employed under the "monotributo" regime, <https://www.cippec.org/textual/vivir-en-negro-los-multiples-costos-de-la-informalidad-en-el-mundo-laboral/>.

[1511] INDEC, Índice de Precios al Consumidor, June 2024. [https://www.indec.gob.ar/uploads/informesdeprensa/ipc\\_07\\_24C42AFC489C.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/uploads/informesdeprensa/ipc_07_24C42AFC489C.pdf)

[1512] UNHCR, Results Monitoring Survey (RMS), Bolivia, 2023.

[1513] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, 2024.

in Uruguay.<sup>1514</sup> In Bolivia, over 90 per cent of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in-destination surveyed are employed in the informal sector (98 per cent among men and 92 per cent among women).<sup>1515</sup> In addition to lower wages, 30 per cent of employed refugees and migrants had experienced labour rights violations, such as excessive working hours, unfair dismissals, late payment of wages, unpaid overtime, hazardous work without proper safety measures, and workplace mistreatment.<sup>1516</sup> A major obstacle for migrants and refugees in accessing formal employment that corresponds to their professional qualifications relates to difficulties of diploma and certificate recognition, as well as the validation of skills and knowledge. Half of the of Venezuelans interviewed in Argentina reported difficulties in accessing employment,<sup>1517</sup> with the recognition of diplomas and studies being the most common issue.

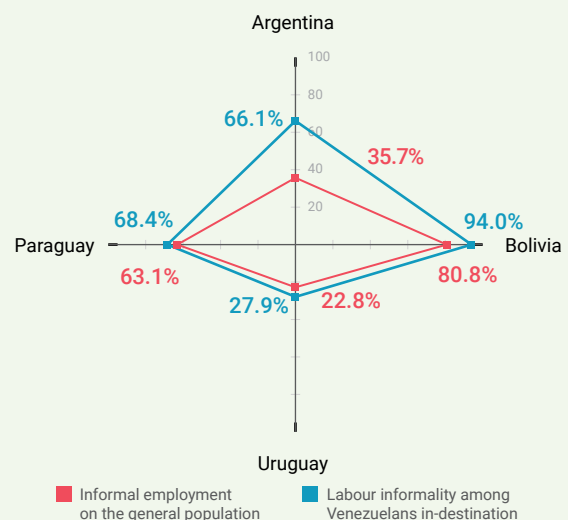
According to R4V partners, some of the factors contributing to this are inadequate documentation from the country of origin, the high costs (USD 200 on average in Argentina<sup>1518</sup>) and complex bureaucratic procedures involved in validating foreign degrees and certificates, which can also delay the process. Despite some inclusive practices and initiatives, including dedicated advocacy efforts by partners in Bolivia and Uruguay and by Venezuelan professional associations, the recognition and validation of tertiary qualifications and university degrees, professional certifications for access to employment and higher education is a persistent need: In Argentina, an R4V survey states that 27 per cent of refugees and migrants faced difficulties in validating their degrees, with 18 per cent being unable to complete the process.<sup>1519</sup>

In Paraguay, significant advances have been made in the recognition of foreign qualifications, with the implementation Resolution 41/2024<sup>1520</sup> aimed at simplifying and expediting the process. Requirements

have been simplified, making the submission of a certificate of studies optional in many cases. Fees have been reduced, and a complete fee waiver has been implemented for refugees.

R4V partners indicate that Venezuelan migrants and refugees face challenges in securing formal employment due to a lack of awareness among employers regarding the validity of asylum applications as work permits. This issue is especially prevalent in Paraguay, where 90 per cent of Venezuelans hold refugee status or have an active asylum application.<sup>1521</sup>

### LABOUR INFORMALITY AMONG VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION VS GENERAL RATE



Source: Data on Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay comes from JNA for population in destination, 2024.

Data on Bolivia, RMS UNHCR 2023.

For the general rate, Permanent Household Surveys for Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Labor Overview 2023 Latam and Caribbean ILO for Bolivia - <https://www.ilo.org/es/publications/flagship-reports/panorama-laboral-2023-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe>.

[1514] *Ibid.*

[1515] UNHCR, Results Monitoring Survey (RMS), Bolivia, 2023.

[1516] *Ibid.*

[1517] Red Derechos Humanos CONICET, National Migrant Survey of Argentina, 2023. <https://redderechoshumanos.conicet.gov.ar>

[1518] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia, June-July 2024.

[1519] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Bolivia, 2024, publication forthcoming.

[1520] Resolution CONES No. 41/2024 "BY WHICH THE PROCEDURE FOR THE RECOGNITION OF DEGREES ISSUED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ABROAD IS REGULATED" – National Council of Higher Education, <https://cones.gov.py/resolucion-cones-n-41-2024-por-la-cual-se-reglamenta-el-procedimiento-para-el-reconocimiento-de-los-titulos-expedidos-por-instituciones-de-educacion-superior-en-el-extranjero/>

[1521] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Uruguay (June-July 2024)

In Argentina, R4V partners highlighted the difficulties that women face in accessing formal employment due to their dedication to caregiving and the lack of support networks.<sup>1522</sup> In terms of self-employment and entrepreneurship, refugees and migrants were found often lacking the necessary seed capital for entrepreneurship, and knowledge of market needs to adapt their proposals. A survey in Argentina found that 60 per cent women and LGBTQI+ persons in Buenos Aires require greater access to capital for business development, 30 per cent were unfamiliar with the local market, 24 per cent lacked marketing channels, while 22 per cent did not have the means of production necessary to sustain their businesses.<sup>1523</sup>

Access to financial services remains largely elusive for Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the Southern Cone. In Argentina, 12 per cent of respondents lack access to financial services; 15 per cent in Uruguay,<sup>1524</sup> 30 per cent in Paraguay,<sup>1525</sup> and 40 per cent in Bolivia.<sup>1526</sup> Reasons for these low rates of accessibility to financial services include the requirements of national identity cards and proof of income or salary, which presupposes formal employment, therefore largely out of reach for refugees and migrants in irregular situations, without the right documentation, or without a formal employment.<sup>1527</sup>

R4V partners identified a lack of job opportunities in areas of specialization for Venezuelans, especially among women.<sup>1528</sup> In Argentina, 72 per cent of respondents identified a need for support to generate income through training on entrepreneurial skills.<sup>1529</sup>

Lastly, the results of the JNA in Argentina showed the cross-cutting impact of discrimination and xenophobia on the migrant and refugee population: 18 per cent of those surveyed cited this as a barrier to accessing employment; 19 per cent reported discrimination and xenophobia as a reason for not being able to access healthcare; and ten per cent felt discriminated against when looking for accommodation.<sup>1530</sup> In this context, R4V partners warned that these situations could be aggravated by the closure of institutional spaces for complaints and responses.<sup>1531</sup>

The JNA found that nationality-based discrimination in workplace was reported by ten per cent of refugees and migrants in Argentina, 15 per cent in Paraguay and Uruguay.<sup>1532</sup> In Bolivia, an R4V partner survey indicated that this affects up to 60 per cent.<sup>1533</sup> In Uruguay, R4V partners reported an increase in expressions of xenophobia and discrimination against refugees and migrants, especially in the workplace, and that there is still a lack of information on the available mechanisms for reporting and response.<sup>1534</sup>

[1522] Southern Cone R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Argentina* (July 2024)

[1523] IOM, *Somos Parte: Report on integration needs for migrant women and diverse groups residing in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires*, July 2023. <https://argentina.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1901/files/documents/2023-07/somos-parte-final.pdf>

[1524] Southern Cone R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina and Uruguay* (2024)

[1525] Southern Cone R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment: Paraguay* (2024)

[1526] UNHCR, *Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) in Bolivia*, 2023.

[1527] UNHCR, *Participatory Diagnostics, Paraguay*, 2023.

[1528] Southern Cone R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay* (June-July 2024)

[1529] IOM, *DTM: Venezuelan Population Flow Monitoring 14 (June - November 2023)*, 2023. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/argentina-informe-monitoreo-de-flujo-de-poblacion-venezolana-14-junio-noviembre-2023?close=true>

[1530] *National Migrant Survey of Argentina 2023 (ENMA)*, CONICET, R4V. *Simplified Report: Living Conditions and Access to Rights of Venezuelan, Colombian, Cuban, Dominican and Haitian Migrants and Refugees in Argentina*, 2024.

[1531] *In particular, the partners expressed concern about the closure of the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI) last February*. Southern Cone R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina* (June-July 2024).





[1532] Southern Cone R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina and Paraguay* (2024)

[1533] UNHCR, *Results Scorecard CBI*, 2023.

[1534] Southern Cone R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Uruguay* (June-July 2024).

# NUTRITION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	6.9 K	3.1%	-	2.4%	13.4%	13.1%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		28.6%	-	52.1%	52.1%	52.1%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		23.7%	-	52.1%	52.1%	52.1%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		0.6%	-	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Nutrition needs are estimated only for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old, following the Nutrition Sector's strategy and methodology for identifying needs in the RMNA.

Across the sub-region, migrant and refugee children lack general access to key nutritional interventions relevant to preventing and treating malnutrition, affecting both their growth and development.

In Paraguay, 75 per cent of the children under six months from the surveyed households had not received the minimum package of nutritional interventions, whereas none of those aged six to 59 months had received any such interventions.<sup>1535</sup> R4V partners note that these figures are comparable to those of the national population, particularly in the departments of the Paraguayan Chaco.

Similar levels were observed in Argentina and Uruguay, where 80 per cent and none of the children under six months of age from the surveyed households had not received the minimum package of nutritional interventions, respectively. Among children aged six to 59 months, only one per cent and two per cent received these interventions in each country.<sup>1536</sup>

As for pregnant and lactating women, a majority of the women surveyed for the JNA had not received the minimum package of nutritional interventions in the previous three months: 100 per cent in Argentina, 92 per cent in Uruguay, and 83 per cent in Paraguay.

In Bolivia, an R4V partner study on the nutritional situation in Desaguadero, El Alto and La Paz highlighted

a critical lack of nutritional supplementation for refugee and migrant children under five and pregnant and lactating women in-destination. Some 75 per cent of the surveyed children under six months were not exclusively breastfed and six per cent of children aged two to five years old presented some form of acute malnutrition. Among pregnant and lactating women, 69 per cent experience overweight and obesity or underweight, and around 50 per cent of them simultaneously present some level of anaemia. Among the surveyed children in the same study, 65 per cent of those aged six to 59 months present some degree of anaemia and those aged five to nine present various forms of malnutrition due to excess and/or deficit, with prevalence rates of ten per cent for overweight and/or obesity, 15 per cent for underweight, and 46 per cent for anaemia. The same report also highlights that children between the ages of ten and 18 years old present various forms of malnutrition as well, with prevalence rates of 13 per cent for overweight and/or obesity, 13 per cent for underweight, and 42 per cent for anaemia.<sup>1537</sup>

The situation of children under five and pregnant and lactating women in-transit in Bolivia is even more concerning, as they face a greater risk of malnutrition due to the precarious conditions in which they move, and the exposure to underlying causes, such as lack of access to safe drinking water, food, and adequate health

[1535] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Paraguay (2024)

[1536] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Uruguay (2024)





[1537] UNICEF, Irish Aid, Global Nutrition Cluster, Migrants of Venezuela in Bolivia: Diagnosis of the nutritional status of children and adolescents, pregnant and breastfeeding women, November-December 2022.

services. High rates of anaemia, moderate malnutrition and overweight and obesity issues have been identified by R4V partners in the in-transit population, often due

to frequent consumption of ultra-processed foods of low nutritional quality.<sup>1538</sup>

## PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	57.7 K	25.5%	25.9%	25.2%	25.8%	25.5%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		58.0%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		58.0%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		20.2%	19.9%	19.7%	21.3%	21.3%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

The Southern Cone is characterized by distinct protection environments. While in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, there are specific concerns and challenges that affect a reduced number of refugees and migrants, mainly related to obstacles to access asylum, delays obtaining regularization of migratory status processes and/or personal IDs, the context in Bolivia shows a significant deterioration in the protection environment. This includes a rising number of migrants and refugees in an irregular situation and barriers to accessing asylum. Meanwhile, refugees and migrants in-transit face risks to their physical integrity, exploitation, and abuses during their journey.

While the percentage of migrants and refugees in a regular situation is comparatively high in Argentina

(91 per cent), Paraguay (88 per cent) and Uruguay (98 per cent),<sup>1539</sup> the percentage in Bolivia is estimated at more than 40 per cent of those in-destination.<sup>1540</sup> That notwithstanding, increasing administrative fees in Argentina (having increased by 1,500 per cent between 2021 and 2024),<sup>1541</sup> have become an obstacle for those wishing to regularize their status.<sup>1542</sup>

In Uruguay, due to the high volume of petitions and the consequent delays in the resolution of asylum applications at the *Comisión de Refugiados* (CORE), the authorities have implemented measures to expedite processing such claims, and to facilitate the residence procedure for Venezuelans already in the country.<sup>1543</sup>

[1538] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024)

[1539] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)

[1540] R4V Platform estimates based on multiple surveys and monitoring conducted by partners in the main settlement destinations of the population in Bolivia. Among other recent sources: IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: "Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia", 2023. Other complementary sources: UNDP/OECD/ OECD/IDB (2023) What is the situation of migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean? Mapping socio-economic integration. <https://publications.iadb.org/en/publications/spanish/viewer/En-que-situacion-estran-los-migrantes-en-America-Latina-y-el-Caribe-mapeo-de-la-integracion-socioeconomica.pdf>

[1541] CAREF, "El Gobierno de Milei pone trabas para la regularización migratoria", 16 July 2024. <https://caref.org.ar/el-gobierno-de-milei-pone-trabas-para-la-regularizacion-migratoria>

[1542] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina (June-July 2024). In relation to the above, Decree 584/2024 recently increased immigration fees for migrants from MERCOSUR and non-MERCOSUR countries. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/310125/20240705>

[1543] The Uruguayan government announced on the one hand Decree No. 138/024 creating the "Programa de Residencia por Arraigo" (accessed on 8/7/2024) cf. <https://www.refworld.org/es/leg/decre/pejec/2024/es/147994>; and, on the other hand, the "Plan piloto para la determinación prima facie de la condición de refugiado" de la Comisión de Refugiados (CORE) (accessed on 8/7/2024) cf. <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-relaciones-exteriores/comunicacion/noticias/gobierno-establece-procedimiento-abreviado-para-solicitantes-refugio>

Owed to a range of documentary and high financial requirements (around USD 517<sup>1544</sup>), regularization pathways in Bolivia are highly elusive. Additionally, the asylum system continues to operate restrictively, with only two asylum applications from Venezuelan nationals registered during 2023.<sup>1545</sup> The situation of those in an irregular situation has been further aggravated since end-2023, when authorities increased controls in major cities, imposing fines of approximately USD 4.50 per day on those found in such a situation.

In Bolivia, 40 per cent of the refugees and migrants in-transit and in-destination surveyed entered the country through an irregular route,<sup>1546</sup> exposing them to risks such as violence, discrimination, and xenophobia. Some 15 per cent of migrants and refugees in-transit and in-destination, reported experiencing violence or discrimination due to their irregular situation during their journey, including extortion, informal *refoulement* and fraud by state agents and service providers.<sup>1547</sup>

In Paraguay, 17 per cent of the households surveyed faced difficulties entering the country, particularly at one border point,<sup>1548</sup> mainly due to expired documentation.

In Argentina, 22 per cent of surveyed households reported difficulties in gaining safe access to the country.<sup>1549</sup> Platform partners attributed this to a change in the interpretation of regulations, specifically the extended application of the “false tourist” provision to MERCOSUR nationalities,<sup>1550</sup> which has led to stricter reinforcement of the requirement to obtain a visa prior to arrival in the country.<sup>1551</sup>

A need for legal assistance and guidance was identified across the sub-region, with 6 per cent of the households in Argentina, 4 per cent in Paraguay and 8 per cent in Uruguay expressing this need.<sup>1552</sup> In Bolivia, among the top priorities of refugees and migrants, 18 per cent reported needing assistance to access documentation (second-highest priority), and 6 per cent needing legal assistance to regularize their situation (fifth-highest priority).<sup>1553</sup>

Migrants and refugees from Venezuela also face challenges in terms of accessing social protection and assistance programs. In Argentina, barriers to social protection include the lack of ID cards or other necessary documentation (2 per cent), non-compliance with the required minimum length of residence in the country (4 per cent), and lack of awareness of the applicable procedures to access such services (6 per cent).<sup>1554</sup> In addition, partners of the Platform warned that the general reduction of social programs affects not only the general population, but also migrants and refugees.<sup>1555</sup> Meanwhile, in Bolivia, 76 per cent of refugees and migrants do not receive any government assistance (either national or local), which comes as a result of the prominent situation of irregularity and the lack of documentation.<sup>1556</sup> Additionally, 98 per cent of refugees and migrants surveyed in Paraguay do not have access to social protection programs,<sup>1557</sup> while in Uruguay partners expressed the view that access to programs are broad, with certain restrictions mainly due to lack of documentation.<sup>1558</sup>

[1544] Which includes the costs of the procedure at the DIGEMIG and the foreigner ID.

[1545] UNHCR (2023). *Population Statistics. Bolivia 2023. Refugees and migrants from Venezuela*.

[1546] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: “Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows”, 2023.

[1547] Caritas, FMK, World Vision, FUSB, UNHCR, *Participatory Assessment Bolivia, October 2023*. <https://www.acnur.org/media/diagnostico-participativo-bolivia-octubre-2023>.

[1548] *Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Paraguay (2024)*. According R4V partners this issue was identified predominantly in Infante Rivarola’s border crossing.

[1549] *Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina (2024)*.

[1550] *Disposition 4362/2014 of the National Directorate of Migration (DNM) regulates the provision of “false tourist” which entails the identification and possible rejection of the migrant when the authority has suspicion that his/her intention for entering the country is other different from tourism*.

[1551] *Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina (June-July 2024)*.

[1552] *Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)*

[1553] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: “Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia”

[1554] *National Migrant Survey of Argentina 2023 (ENMA), CONICET, R4V. Simplified Report: Living Conditions and Access to Rights of Venezuelan, Colombian, Cuban, Dominican and Haitian Migrants and Refugees in Argentina, 2024*.

[1555] *Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina (June-July 2024)*.

[1556] UNHCR, *Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) in Bolivia, 2023*.

[1557] UNHCR, *High Frequency Survey (2023) in Paraguay*.

[1558] *Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina (June-July 2024)*.



# CHILD PROTECTION



	PEOPLE IN NEED		Male	Female	Male	Female
	Count	Percentage	Icon	Icon	Icon	Icon
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	3.0 K	1.3%	-	-	9.2%	9.0%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		3.9%	-	-	17.4%	17.4%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		2.9%	-	-	17.4%	17.4%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		4.6%	-	-	17.1%	17.2%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugee and migrant children in-transit through Bolivia face various protection risks, in particular UASC. Overcoming challenges to regularization of children in Argentina (largely owed to the expiration of a regulation pursuant to which a Venezuelan ID or birth certificate was deemed sufficient) and the insufficient response capacity of child protection mechanisms (e.g. for UASC, legal representation and/or advice in asylum or regularization processes, etc.) in Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina, are additional priority needs in the Southern Cone.

At the border areas of Bolivia, 32 per cent of refugees and migrants in-transit interviewed were traveling with children, averaging two children per family group, predominantly aged between two and nine.<sup>1559</sup> According to R4V partners, the number of children traveling alone or unaccompanied had increased, often associated to children on their way to reunite with parents who reside in countries such as Chile, Argentina or Uruguay.<sup>1560</sup> These children's vulnerabilities are exacerbated by long journeys and successive movements between countries, contributing to health and mental health issues including periodic headaches (15 per cent), decreased appetite and modified eating habits (16 per cent), and behavioural changes like estrangement

from family members and/or crying more than at the beginning of the journey (22 per cent).<sup>1561</sup> Additionally, they are exposed to risks of violence and exploitation, including sexual violence and labour exploitation, with Venezuelan children observed begging or hawking in cities such as La Paz, Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Oruro.<sup>1562</sup>

The national child protection system in Bolivia has a limited or no presence in certain cities, particularly at various border points, especially those with a high presence of migrants and refugees. There is also a lack of adequate child-friendly spaces with differentiated accommodation for families with children and specialized personnel.

Children who choose to remain in Bolivia or who are compelled to stay longer than the typical three to five days of transit, face similar or even greater difficulties to regularize their status than adults. In addition to the challenges in meeting criteria for regular status, the high administrative and processing fees, there are often requirements for IDs, birth certificates and/or parental consent that are difficult or impossible to obtain.<sup>1563</sup> Children born in Bolivia to foreign parents in an irregular situation have faced obstacles in obtaining

[1559] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: "Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia", 2023.

[1560] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Bolivia (July 2024).

[1561] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: "Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia

[1562] Informal commerce on public roads – and in some cases the need to resort to begging – constitutes the main source of income for many families. Therefore, children's stories continue indicating that they must participate in activities such as selling sweets or jellies, painting dock breaks or cleaning windshields. This exposes them to dangerous situations and affects their schooling and permanence, <https://www.acnur.org/media/diagnostico-participativo-bolivia-octubre-2023>

[1563] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Bolivia (June-July 2024)

Bolivian nationality, despite the applicability of the *jus soli* principle, especially in Santa Cruz de la Sierra which is home to most of the refugee and migrant families with children.<sup>1564</sup>





Meanwhile in Argentina, although the percentage of children in an irregular situation is smaller, they face obstacles obtaining the required documentation and to afford the corresponding processing fees.

Among Venezuelan refugees and migrants settled in Argentina and Uruguay over the past three to five years,

family reunification with children who have remained with relatives in Venezuela or in other countries is becoming increasingly important.<sup>1565</sup> When accessing family reunification in Argentina and Uruguay, refugees and migrants noted the following obstacles: meeting certain documentation requirements (including the written authorization of both parents), high costs (around USD 600 in Argentina and Uruguay) and extensive delays in consular processing.<sup>1566</sup>

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
						
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	40.5 K	17.9%	7.4%	27.1%	7.2%	29.2%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		28.8%	9.9%	54.6%	11.2%	47.2%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		24.6%	7.5%	56.5%	9.7%	39.6%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		7.1%	2.9%	10.4%	3.2%	13.1%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

GBV, especially against women, girls and LGBTQI+ persons, continues to affect refugees and migrants in the Southern Cone. Although underreporting and the complexity of data collection makes it difficult to adequately assess the needs, in 2024 progress has been made to better measure the needs and certain indicators generate alert.

In Argentina, 12 per cent of the Venezuelan women surveyed reported having experienced GBV, a figure that reached 32 per cent and 28 per cent in the case of Colombian and Cuban women, respectively.<sup>1567</sup>

Additionally, the JNA found that 15 per cent of migrants and refugees in Argentina, 12 per cent in Paraguay and 7 per cent in Uruguay feel or have felt unsafe in their locality or community due to the risk of GBV.<sup>1568</sup> In Uruguay, 37 per cent of households reported that girls and women avoided going to certain places because they felt unsafe, reaching a 20 per cent in Argentina and 19 per cent in Paraguay.<sup>1569</sup> Likewise, a survey among refugees and migrants in Bolivia indicated that 31 per cent of women felt unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood of residence.<sup>1570</sup>

[1564] Caritas, FMK, World Vision, FUSB, UNHCR, Participatory Assessment Bolivia, October 2023, <https://www.acnur.org/media/diagnostico-participativo-bolivia-octubre-2023>.

[1565] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Argentina and Uruguay (July 2024)

[1566] Protection Sector R4V Uruguay Platform. The situation of children and adolescents in the context of human mobility in Uruguay and their rights R4V Southern Cone Platform, 2024 and Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Argentina and Uruguay (July 2024)

[1567] National Migrant Survey of Argentina 2023 (ENMA), CONICET, R4V. Simplified Report: Living Conditions and Access to Rights of Venezuelan, Colombian, Cuban, Dominican and Haitian Migrants and Refugees in Argentina, 2024.

[1568] Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)

[1569] Ibid.

[1570] UNHCR. Results Report. Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) in Bolivia, 2023.

A focus group discussion in Bolivia with migrant and refugee women from Venezuela and other nationalities found two common characteristics of GBV that reflect the widespread underreporting and resulting difficulties in addressing the problem: GBV mainly occurred in the private sphere and with their partner or other affective referent (stepfather, brother) being the perpetrators.

In Uruguay, R4V partners observed that the incidence of GBV against women, boys and girls may have increased due to the longer stay of families in inadequate housing including with host families or hotels, where they live with and share facilities with unknown adults.<sup>1571</sup>

In the four countries, refugee and migrant women and girls face obstacles in accessing programs for GBV survivors, mainly due to the lack of information and the adaptation of services to the specific needs of refugees and migrants. In many cases, women, children and LGBTQI+ persons face revictimizing situations when

trying to report GBV incidents to security forces, including the refusal to file a complaint based on the survivor’s irregular status and lack of seriousness from police officers.<sup>1572</sup>

Access to GBV protection services is significantly lower outside urban areas, and there are no specialized services in many border areas. In Argentina, the reduction of funding for certain public policies and the restructuring and/or closure of specialized services has led to a reduction in the availability and effectiveness of the response to GBV situations since December 2023.<sup>1573</sup>

Finally, according to partners observations migrant and refugee survivors of GBV or those at risk of GBV often lack local support networks, such as friends and family who can help them avoid social isolation and reduce dependency on potential perpetrators or provide information on available support for survivors.<sup>1574</sup>

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	15.0 K	6.6%	6.6%	6.3%	7.0%	6.8%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.0%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

The high prevalence of migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements towards and across the Southern Cone (especially in Bolivia), coupled with strict entry restrictions in some destination countries in the region, particularly Chile and Peru, has led many to resort to organized criminal groups and networks for irregular border crossings.

In Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay a lower prevalence of human trafficking and smuggling was observed, (4 per cent of the surveyed households in Argentina and Paraguay, and 8 per cent in Uruguay).<sup>1575</sup> In contrast, it is particularly prevalent in Bolivia, where smuggling networks benefit from refugees and migrants being unable to cross borders via regular routes, where information and humanitarian assistance could be

[1571] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Uruguay (July 2024).

[1572] Caritas, FMK, World Vision, FUSB, UNHCR, Participatory Assessment Bolivia, October 2023.

[1573] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshops: Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay (June-July 2024)

[1574] Ibid.

[1575] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)

provided.<sup>1576</sup> Partners reported that some migrants and refugees had experienced or were at risk of extortion by the authorities or the border communities.<sup>1577</sup> Refugees and migrants without valid documentation are particularly vulnerable.<sup>1578</sup>

The presence of organized crime involved in trafficking and smuggling is an issue across the sub-region. In Argentina, partners warned of the increased presence of transnational criminal networks dedicated to smuggling, especially in the northwest of the country.<sup>1579</sup> In Paraguay, partners highlighted that the difficulties of regular access to the territory by land at Infante Rivarola (border with Bolivia) constitutes a risk factor for the migrant and refugee population to be exposed to trafficking or smuggling networks.<sup>1580</sup>

The risks of human trafficking and smuggling also have a gender-differentiated impact. In Bolivia, around 4 per cent of men responded that they had hired a smuggler at some point during their trip, a figure that is twice as high among women (8 per cent).<sup>1581</sup> Additionally, 10 per cent of surveyed refugee and migrant women reported being manipulated, indebted, made false promises or deceived to travel or migrate.<sup>1582</sup>

In Uruguay, due to the new measures facilitating asylum and residency (see hereto the elaborations under Protection above) but benefitting only those already

in the country as of 23 May 2024,<sup>1583</sup> R4V partners warned of the presence of traffickers who, based on false information, continue to lure people to enter the territory, with the false promise that they will be able to benefit from the new regulations, despite not being eligible.<sup>1584</sup>

Labour exploitation was identified in Bolivia among those in-transit, with 37 per cent of refugees and migrants who worked during their transit having indicated that they had not received any payment for their work or did not receive the agreed payment. Two per cent also indicated that they performed work against their will, 70 per cent of these situations having occurred in Bolivia.<sup>1585</sup>

High levels of risk of labour exploitation were also reported among migrants and refugees in-destination, with 32 per cent of respondents in Argentina having been exposed to any situations of labour exploitation, 36 per cent in Paraguay and 27 per cent in Uruguay responding affirmatively to the survey.<sup>1586</sup> In Paraguay, labour exploitation risks were identified among refugees and migrants, especially in the Greater Asunción and among workers in food delivery services.<sup>1587</sup>

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[1576] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: "Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia", 2023.

[1577] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024).

[1578] Miranda, C., *Rapid evidence assessment of migrant population protection risks in South America, Phase II*, 2023.

[1579] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina (June-July 2024).

[1580] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Paraguay (June-July 2024)

[1581] UNHCR. *Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) in Bolivia*, 2023.

[1582] *Ibid.*

[1583] See the Protection section for more information.

[1584] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Uruguay (June-July 2024).





[1585] IOM, UNICEF, DTM 2nd Round: "Monitoring of Venezuelan Population Flows in Bolivia", 2023.

[1586] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)

[1587] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Paraguay (June-July 2024).

# SHELTER



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	69.3 K	30.6%	30.5%	30.1%	31.1%	30.9%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		59.0%	59.0%	59.0%	59.0%	59.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		59.0%	59.0%	59.0%	59.0%	59.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		16.0%	15.9%	15.9%	16.4%	16.4%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants in the four countries of the sub-region face significant needs in access to adequate shelter. For migrants and refugees in-destination, the difficulties are related to access and sustained adequate rental housing options<sup>1588</sup> (particularly in main urban areas in Argentina and Uruguay) due to high rental costs and legal and market related requirements (including the requirements for a bank account, references, guarantees or a regular salary). In most vulnerable cases, these barriers lead to risks of eviction. In Bolivia, the lack of access to temporary shelter and poor conditions of shelters are the main challenge identified by refugees and migrants in-transit.

In Argentina partners observed an increasing trend of families allocating a higher percentage of the assistance they received to cover rents,<sup>1589</sup> as evidenced by 51 per cent stating that rising rental cost is their main difficulty.<sup>1590</sup>

In Uruguay, 12 per cent of households surveyed reported being at risk of eviction, mainly due to their inability to pay rent, a figure that reached 17 per cent in Paraguay and 18 per cent in Argentina.<sup>1591</sup> In Bolivia, 66 per cent of surveyed migrant and refugee households who indicated they were renting highlighted that they owed more than one payment period.<sup>1592</sup>

Escalating rental costs, especially in urban centres in Argentina and Uruguay, have led people to move to peripheral areas. In Buenos Aires since June 2023 rents have increased by at least 240 per cent.<sup>1593</sup> Similarly, partners observed an increase in Venezuelans moving to other provinces where costs are lower and housing spaces are larger.<sup>1594</sup> Meanwhile, in Uruguay, it was noted that refugees and migrants were prompted to move to areas perceived as more insecure.<sup>1595</sup> The same trend was observed in Argentina, where 15 per cent of the people surveyed indicated that they did not feel safe in the area where they live; 16 per cent in Bolivia and 35 per cent in Paraguay.<sup>1596</sup>

[1588] In Argentina, 92.5% of the migrants and refugees surveyed reported renting (either formally or informally). cf. National Migrant Survey of Argentina 2023 (ENMA), CONICET, R4V. Simplified Report: Living Conditions and Access to Rights of Venezuelan, Colombian, Cuban, Dominican and Haitian Migrants and Refugees in Argentina, 2024. In Uruguay, this percentage reaches 69%, while in Bolivia it is around 65% of those surveyed and in Paraguay the percentage is around 45%. UNHCR, Results Scorecard CBI, 2023.

[1589] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina (June-July 2024).

[1590] National Migrant Survey of Argentina 2023 (ENMA), CONICET, R4V. Simplified Report: Living Conditions and Access to Rights of Venezuelan, Colombian, Cuban, Dominican and Haitian Migrants and Refugees in Argentina, 2024.

[1591] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)

[1592] UNHCR, Results Scorecard CBI, 2023.

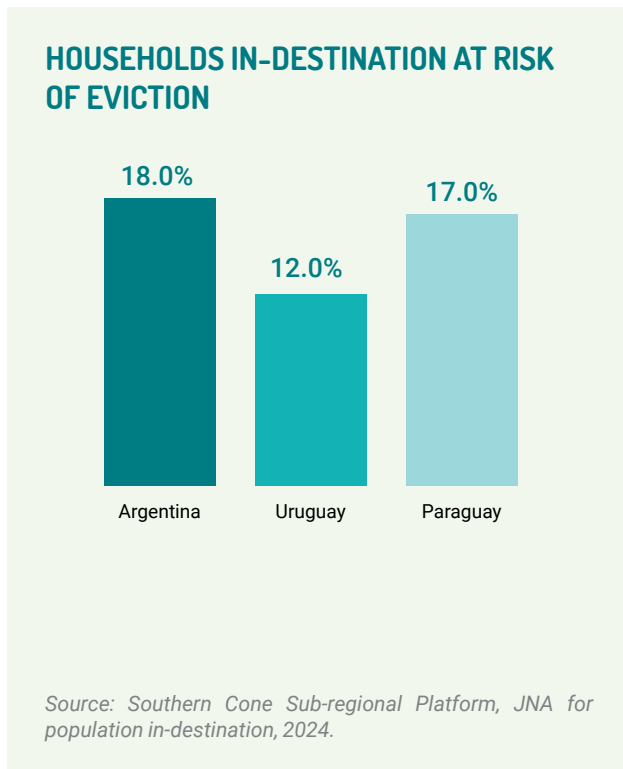
[1593] Cámara Inmobiliaria Argentina (2024), Zonaprop Index, Informe de Mercado Ciudad de Buenos Aires, junio 2024, [https://cia.org.ar/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/INDEX\\_CABA\\_REPORTE\\_2024-06.pdf](https://cia.org.ar/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/INDEX_CABA_REPORTE_2024-06.pdf)

[1594] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Argentina (June-July 2024).

[1595] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Uruguay (June-July 2024).

[1596] UNHCR, Results Scorecard CBI, 2023.

As noted above, the difficulties to comply with legal and market related requirements for formal rental options (such as a minimum time of residence, presenting guarantees, etc.) exposes migrant and refugee households to informal rental arrangements which entails risks of extortion, discrimination, and eviction.<sup>1597</sup>



Among those residing in apartments, access to adequate household supplies necessary for daily chores (such as kitchen, bed or cleaning items like sheets, plates, etc.) was highlighted as a need affecting 55 per cent of the households surveyed in Argentina, 50 per cent in Paraguay and 41 per cent in Uruguay.<sup>1598</sup>

Regarding the housing conditions, overcrowding (households that share a room with other two or three persons) was identified among the refugee and migrant community in the sub-region, among six per cent of surveyed households in Argentina and Uruguay, and five per cent in Paraguay.<sup>1599</sup>

Finally, migrants and refugees engaging in onward and transit movements in Bolivia face difficulties in accessing available and adequate temporary housing facilities due to structural precariousness of the facilities, especially in Desaguadero and Pisiga, where there are no basic services - even for the local population.<sup>1600</sup> Despite one shelter being operational in Pisiga, managed by a civil society organization, the demand outweighs its capacity to attend to people with specific needs. Moreover, refugees and migrants in-transit mentioned that the lack of information over available temporary housing options in Desaguadero forced them to sleep in the streets.<sup>1601</sup>

[1597] R4V, Informe de resultados del Taller sobre Acceso a la Vivienda de Alquiler de personas refugiadas y migrantes en Uruguay, 2024 (in publication) and Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024).

[1598] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)





[1599] Ibid.

[1600] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024).

[1601] UNHCR, Participatory Assessment, Bolivia, October 2023.

# WASH



	PEOPLE IN NEED					
	Count	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION	29.2 K	12.9%	12.8%	12.8%	13.0%	13.0%
VENEZUELAN IN-TRANSIT		48.0%	48.0%	48.0%	48.0%	48.0%
OTHERS IN-TRANSIT		48.0%	48.0%	48.0%	48.0%	48.0%
AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES		3.6%	3.6%	3.5%	3.9%	3.9%

The PiN percentages for each gender correspond to the prevalence of need within each respective age and gender group.

Refugees and migrants in the Southern Cone are in need of continuous access to safe water, improved sanitation facilities and hygiene items. A high proportion of refugee and migrant households in-destination in Southern Cone countries face challenges in accessing sufficient water. In Argentina, 21 per cent of these households face this situation, while in Paraguay the figure is 30 per cent and in Uruguay, 12 per cent.<sup>1602</sup>

In Paraguay, although the availability of water resources is abundant, the impact of limited sanitation infrastructure and access to quality drinking water is related to fragmented water management by specialized government agencies and the underutilization of groundwater resources.<sup>1603</sup>

R4V partners note that in the urban centres of Argentina and Uruguay, where most migrants and refugees reside, access to potable water is generally adequate. However, housing conditions have deteriorated due to the increasing number of people sharing spaces, whether overcrowded or not (see Shelter Sector). This situation has resulted in a decrease in the availability of safe water.

Moreover, access to improved and functioning sanitation facilities is also limited. In Argentina, eight per cent of refugee and migrant households lack this access, in Paraguay 14 per cent and in Uruguay 15 per

cent.<sup>1604</sup> A significant percentage of migrant and refugee households report sharing sanitary facilities with other families or with strangers: 40 per cent in Argentina, 49 per cent in Uruguay, 63 per cent in Paraguay and 81 per cent in Bolivia.<sup>1605</sup>

Although to a lesser extent than other needs in the sector, the high cost of personal hygiene items represents a challenge for refugees and migrants as well as members of host communities in the four countries. Four per cent of migrant and refugee households in Argentina and Uruguay struggle to access essential personal hygiene products, while in Paraguay, this figure rises to eight per cent.<sup>1606</sup> R4V partners across all four countries reported persistent difficulties in accessing differentiated hygiene items for menstruating, breastfeeding and elderly people due to the high costs of these items and the inability to afford them.

Refugees and migrants in-transit face specific challenges related to the lack of access to WASH services, including potable water, showers and hygiene items along the routes. This aggravates the health and nutrition situation, particularly for those with chronic illnesses or specific medical conditions related to high altitude and extreme temperatures, especially in cities such as El Alto, Oruro, Desaguadero and Pisiga. According to R4V partners with a presence along

[1602] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)

[1603] Sanitation and Water For All, Resumen del País: Paraguay, November 2020. [https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020%20Country%20Overview\\_Paraguay\\_ES.pdf](https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020%20Country%20Overview_Paraguay_ES.pdf)

[1604] Southern Cone R4V Platform, Joint Needs Assessment: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2024)

[1605] UNHCR, Results Scorecard CBI, 2023.

[1606] Ibid.

border areas in Bolivia, the situation is worsened by water contamination, mainly in Pisiga and Desaguadero, where water is not suitable for human consumption due to microbiological factors and metal contamination.<sup>1607, 1608</sup>

Lastly, among refugees and migrants residing in Bolivia surveyed by an R4V partner on environmental matters in their communities, 29 per cent of respondents considered that the main concern was poor waste

management including improper disposal of residues, insufficient collection services and inadequate treatment facilities, while 34 per cent identified air and water pollution (rivers, seas and water reservoirs) as primary environmental concerns.<sup>1609</sup>



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[1607] Southern Cone R4V Platform, *Joint Needs Assessment Workshop: Bolivia (June-July 2024)*.

[1608] Defensoría del Pueblo, "Defensoría del Pueblo en Oruro lamenta el poco interés de las autoridades municipales para resolver la mala calidad y la carencia de agua potable en Pisiga", November 2022. <https://www.defensoria.gob.bo/oficinas/prensa/defensoria-del-pueblo-en-oruro-lamenta-el-poco-interes-de-las-autoridades-municipales-para-resolver-la-mala-calidad-y-la-carencia-de-agua-potable-en-pisiga>.

[1609] UNICEF, *Voices of Change*, 2023, <https://uniendovoces-bol.ureport.in/story/1090/>.



# ANNEXES



AUG 2024

# VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS



7.85 M

ESTIMATE NUMBER OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS GLOBALLY



6.67 M

ESTIMATE NUMBER OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



## POPULATION PER COUNTRY

COLOMBIA	2.81 M
PERU	1.66 M
BRAZIL	585.4 K
CHILE	532.7 K
ECUADOR	444.8 K

## THE CARIBBEAN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	125.1 K
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	29.5 K
GUYANA	22.7 K
ARUBA	11.5 K
CURAÇAO	11.6 K

## THE SOUTHERN CONE

ARGENTINA	163.0 K
URUGUAY	40.1 K
BOLIVIA	18.1 K
PARAGUAY	5.3 K

## CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO

MEXICO	106.0 K
PANAMA	58.0 K
COSTA RICA	29.5 K

## OTHER COUNTRIES\*

	1.19 M
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These figures represent the sum of Venezuelan refugees and migrants shared by host governments. They do not necessarily imply individual identification, nor registration of each individual, and may include a degree of estimation, as per each government's statistical data processing methodology, at times in collaboration with national R4V Platforms.

\*This includes other countries outside the 17 Latin American and Caribbean R4V countries. For more information on the countries included, refer to the table on the last page.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: Aug 2024, more [information available in: http://r4v.info](http://r4v.info)

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION



## UPDATE ON THE NUMBER OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS – AUG 2024

### CONTEXT:

The statistics displayed above on Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the 17 countries of the R4V Response reflect official figures issued by the respective host governments. Their use and publishing for R4V products is closely coordinated with relevant government statistical offices and/or other national government departments responsible for management of refugee and migrant statistics. These statistics are periodically updated, with some governments updating them monthly, while others update them in other undefined intervals. As a result, an increase in reported figures from one month's R4V publication to the next in any country could appear as a significant increase in arrivals of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, while, in fact, it is mostly related to individual host country reporting and publishing procedures.

### What is the reason for the recent increase in number of migrants and refugees from Venezuela?

#### ARUBA:

In 2024, the methodology to calculate the in-destination population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Aruba was updated, based on new data received from the government and from R4V partners, to better reflect the impact of irregular arrivals by sea. The updated methodology resulted in a decrease in the stock figure from an estimated 17,085 (June 2023) to 11,470 (December 2023), which aligns with R4V partners' estimations. Government sources used to calculate the updated figure include the 2020 census, asylum-seekers data by year (2021-2023), Civil Registry and Population Office registrations (2021-2023), and regular entry and exit data (2021-2023). Finally, based on partner observations and public data from the Aruban Coast Guard on intercepted boats, R4V partners estimated the number of irregular entries per year (2021-2023).

#### BRAZIL:

Since the last update of the in-destination figure of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Brazil in March 2024, a total of 17,303 entries were recorded by the International Traffic System (STI) of the Federal Police Department of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. From January 2017 to May 2024, the National Migration Registration System (SISMIGRA) of the Federal Police has documented the presence of 495,806 Venezuelan nationals with active residence authorization in Brazil. Additionally, up to May 2024,

CONARE, the governmental body responsible for recognizing refugee status, has granted this status to 132,626 Venezuelans.

#### COLOMBIA:

According to the April 2024 update of the Colombian migration authority, the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in Colombia is 2,813,997. This figure reflects a reduction of 43,531 (1.52%) individuals compared to the previous update of January 2024, when 2,857,528 Venezuelan migrants and refugees were reported in the country.

As of April 2024, the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia with regular status is 2,283,384, including 353,415 people in the process of obtaining the Temporary Protection Status, and 1,929,969 people with a Temporary Protection Permit (PPT for its Spanish acronym) issued. Also, the Colombian migration authority estimates 463,390 migrants and refugees in the country with an irregular status.

#### PERU:

The new figure of 1,662,889 Venezuelan individuals provided by the National Superintendence of Migrations (SNM) reflects an increase of 120,885 people since the last update (June 2023). This increase is particularly due to the regularization initiatives implemented in Peru, which have allowed more people to be registered during 2023. It is important to note that this figure is being reviewed at the institutional level due to a validation exercise of refugee application registered by the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR), as a result of Peru's commitment at the Global Refugee Forum, which may lead to substantial revisions in the future.

#### TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:

The number of in-destination population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants was calculated based on the sum of registrations in UNHCR's ProGres database since 2019 (taking into account potential overlaps with those registered with the government), population data from the government reflecting regular entries, repatriations and deportations, UNHCR case closures, and UNHCR's data on returns. While not yet available, data from the household budget survey and the survey of living conditions (both covering January 2023 to January 2024, and inclusive of Venezuelan households), implemented by the government's Central Statistics Office (CSO), will be reflected in future updates.

COUNTRY	PREVIOUS UPDATE (PUBLISHED MAY 2024)	CURRENT UPDATE (PUBLISHED AUG 2024)	DIFFERENCE
COLOMBIA	2,857,528 (as of January 2024)	2,813,997 (as of April 2024)	-43,531
PERU	1,542,004 (as of June 2023)	1,662,889 (as of December 2023)	+120,885
BRAZIL	568,058 (as of March 2024)	585,361 (as of May 2024)	+17,303
CHILE	532,715 (as of December 2022)		
ECUADOR	444,778 (as of March 2024)		
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	124,141 (as of June 2023)	125,132 (as of May 2024)	+991
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	36,218 (as of June 2023)	29,509 (as of May 2024)	-6,709
GUYANA	21,676 (as of June 2023)	22,677 (as of March 2024)	+1,001
ARUBA	17,085 (as of June 2023)	11,470 (as of May 2024)	-5,615
CURAÇAO	14,000 (as of June 2022)	11,593 (as of December 2023)	-2,407
ARGENTINA	164,024 (as of March 2024)	162,975 (as of June 2024)	-1,049
BOLIVIA	18,006 (as of March 2024)	18,061 (as of April 2024)	+55
PARAGUAY	5,349 (as of December 2023)		
URUGUAY	39,689 (as of December 2023)	40,071 (as of June 2024)	+382
MEXICO	113,108 (as of June 2023)	106,015 (as of May 2024)	-7,093
PANAMA	58,158 (as of July 2023)	57,979 (as of May 2024)	-179
COSTA RICA	29,048 (as of December 2023)	29,493 (as of May 2024)	+445
OTHER COUNTRIES	1,188,909 (as of May 2023)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,774,494</b>	<b>8,159,023</b>	<b>+384,529</b>

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>AAP</b>	Accountability to Affected Populations	<b>ENPOVE</b>	Encuesta dirigida a la población venezolana que reside en el país, Spanish acronym for Survey directed to the Venezuelan population who reside in the country in Peru
<b>AGD</b>	Age, Gender and Diversity	<b>ERM</b>	Migration Reception Centres
<b>ARV</b>	Antiretroviral	<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>CAM</b>	Central America and Mexico	<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussions
<b>CMH</b>	Humanitarian Immigration Status	<b>FTS</b>	Financial Tracking System
<b>CCUI</b>	Single Inter-Agency Counting and Characterization exercise	<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>CONADIS</b>	National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities	<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease	<b>GIFMM</b>	Grupo Interagencial para los Flujos Migratorios Mixtos, Spanish acronym for Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows, the National Platform in Colombia
<b>CPP</b>	Temporary Residence Permit	<b>GMP</b>	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
<b>CVA</b>	Cash and Voucher Assistance	<b>GTRM</b>	Grupo de Trabajo sobre Refugiados y Migrantes, Spanish acronym for the National Platforms in Peru and Ecuador
<b>DANE</b>	Departamento Administrativo Nacional Spanish, acronym for National Administrative Department of Statistics in Colombia	<b>HDX</b>	Humanitarian Data Exchange
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Refugee Council	<b>HIAS</b>	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
<b>DTM</b>	Displacement Tracking Matrix	<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean		

<b>HNO</b>	Humanitarian Needs Overviews	<b>MINEDU</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan	<b>MPC</b>	Multipurpose Cash
<b>HT&amp;S</b>	Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants	<b>MSF</b>	Doctors Without Borders
<b>IASC</b>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>ICBF</b>	Colombian Institute of Family Welfare	<b>NNGO</b>	National Non-Governmental Organization
<b>ID</b>	Identity Document	<b>NFIs</b>	Non-Food Items
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>PEP</b>	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organization	<b>PIN</b>	People in Need
<b>INAMU</b>	National Institute for Women	<b>PNV</b>	Normalization Plan for Venezuelans in the Dominican Republic
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate partner violence	<b>R4V</b>	Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for the Response for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela
<b>JIAF</b>	Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework	<b>RBE</b>	Regular Basic Education System
<b>JNA</b>	Joint Needs Assessment	<b>RMNA</b>	Refugee and Migrants Needs Analysis
<b>LAC</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean	<b>RMRP</b>	Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan
<b>LGBTQI+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex	<b>RDS</b>	Refugee Status Determination
<b>MHPSS</b>	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	<b>RUC</b>	Taxpayer registration number

<b>RUMV</b>	Registry of Venezuela Nationals in Colombia	<b>UNAIDS</b>	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>SDGS</b>	Sustainable Development Goals	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>SDR</b>	Secondary Data Review	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>SEA</b>	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>SENA</b>	Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>SIS</b>	Comprehensive Health Insurance	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>SISEVE</b>	System to Report Cases on School Violence	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>SIVIGILA</b>	National Health Surveillance System in Colombia	<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>SJM</b>	Jesuit Migration Service	<b>UPE</b>	Special Protection Units (for its Spanish acronym)
<b>SNM</b>	National Migration Service of Panama	<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health	<b>VOT</b>	Victims of Trafficking
<b>STI</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infection	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>SUS</b>	Unified Health Care System in Brazil	<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>TIP</b>	Trafficking in Persons	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>TPS</b>	Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelans	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>UASC</b>	Unaccompanied and Separated Children		
<b>UN</b>	United Nations		



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