

# VENEZUELAN MIGRATION RESPONSE



## Key data from our operations



**6,900 +**  
volunteers engaged



**7.2 million +**  
services delivered

From July 2017 to February 2021

As of March 2021, over 5.5 million Venezuelans have left their country. These migrants face significant challenges in meeting their basic needs and accessing essential services and income sources in their countries of origin, transit and at their final destination. Social and cultural barriers, coupled with limited support networks, hinder access to reliable information resources and contact with their families. This also exposes them to frequent xenophobia and discrimination, especially harmful for those who do not have a recognized migration status.

These risk factors are exacerbated in the current COVID-19 context. More than ever, migrants need access to essential services such as:

- Health care, including emergency and maternal healthcare, as well as COVID-19 prevention, treatment and vaccinations;
- Psychosocial support;
- Shelter;
- Food;
- Income-generation activities;
- Accessible and trustworthy information about their rights and legal processes;
- Support to facilitate their integration; and
- Services that support them to maintain and restore family links.

## The Movement

The International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (herein referred to as “the Movement”), comprising the National Societies, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), is at the forefront of the efforts to provide critical humanitarian services to migrants regardless of their immigration status, including ensuring their protection.

## MOVEMENT SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA

Operating as one Movement, the Red Cross has more than 14,000 volunteers and hundreds of staff in the 17 countries where we are supporting the needs of Venezuelan migrants. Our work is guided by the Fundamental Principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Leveraging our collective capacities and areas of expertise, the Movement is responding to and supporting National Societies in a wide-ranging, multidisciplinary response, paying special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable and at-risk populations.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked toward maintaining a comprehensive response across the region. The Movement’s existing presence in local communities, coupled with our capacities and dialogue with all actors concerned, allows us to reach those in need in a timely, effective and meaningful way. The Movement is working together to respond in a way that complements local government plans and strategies to support their own health authorities and overall systems. We work in close coordination with national governments, the United Nations and local organizations, while maintaining our independence and neutrality.

The humanitarian imperative drives our approach to supporting migrants. It is focused on addressing their humanitarian needs and protection during their journey to ensure that they are treated with dignity, regardless of immigration status, while ensuring their sustainable and safe inclusion into society. Our approach focuses on the multiple opportunities that migration can create, both for migrants and host communities. We acknowledge the barriers and constraints for both groups in the integration process, as well as the situation at the community level. Migrants contribute positively to local economies

through several means, including joining the workforce, creating jobs, and contributing through taxes and social security. These contributions are only possible, though, if migrants are properly included within the countries' legal framework.

We base our intervention on three approaches:

- Protection and “do no harm”;
- Advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy; and
- Inclusion of migrant population in humanitarian programs.

Our programs and actions contributing to protection and guaranteeing the rights of migrants focus on the following areas:

- Humanitarian assistance;
- Basic health services, water, hygiene and sanitation;
- COVID-19 prevention, treatment and vaccination;
- Psychosocial support services;
- Humanitarian diplomacy;
- Livelihoods / employability;
- Urban settlement;
- Protection, gender and social inclusion; and
- Specific protection response to family separation, including missing and unidentified migrants, immigration detention, use of force, deportations and forced returns.

We also ensure attention to several cross-cutting approaches, including:

- Gender and diversity;
- Community engagement and accountability; and
- Environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Gender and diversity inclusion is essential to ensuring people are safe from harm. Our programming in the region works to acknowledge and support gender and migrants' diversity, including ethnicity, age and disabilities, and associated differing needs in all our actions, while drawing on their capacities in the most non-discriminatory and effective way possible.

As a Movement, we seek to continuously improve the quality of our activities by adapting technologies and methodologies, conducting rapid assessments, and providing effective humanitarian support, while using cash and voucher assistance when appropriate.

As part of this effort, we use a community engagement and accountability approach, which works to ensure that target groups become active participants in identifying and implementing solutions that address their particular needs. This also ensures that migrants and host communities have access to crucial information, and that their needs, priorities and feedback inform operational decisions and shape activities at all stages of the response.



*The International Red Cross and Crescent Movement uses a deliberately broad description of “migrants” to include all people who leave or flee their home to seek safety or better prospects, and who may be in distress and need protection or humanitarian assistance. Migrants may be workers, students and/or foreigners deemed irregular by public authorities. They can also be refugees, asylum seekers and/or stateless persons.*

## LOOKING AHEAD

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Americas Migration Plan for 36 months includes:



### Target population

Migrants from Venezuela, populations in host communities and Venezuelans in vulnerable conditions in their country.



### Target contexts

Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Guayana, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Bonaire, Aruba, Sint Maarten, Paraguay, Panama, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago.



### Movement-wide funding requirements (CHF)

**236 million**

The ICRC 12-month budget to respond to the needs of Venezuelan migrants in the region is 15 million CHF and for the response inside Venezuela it is 36.8 million CHF.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For information, please contact your relevant Movement Focal Point.