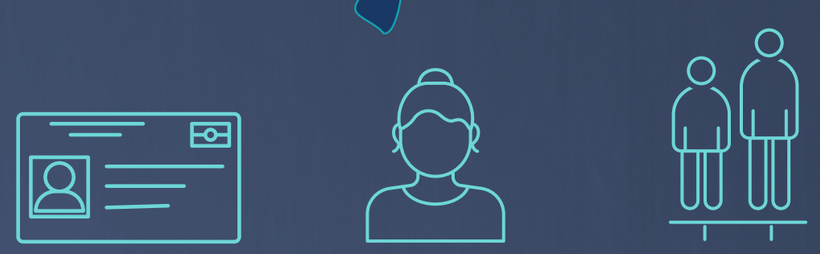
Venezuelan migration in Colombia during COVID-19

The multidimensional crisis produced by **COVID-19** has highlighted the risks of the most vulnerable populations, including **migrants.** In Colombian, **1,788,380 Venezuelan migrants live in the country** of which **43%** have a residence, **49.4% are women and 58% are between 18 to 39 years old** (***Migración Colombia, April 20, 2020***).

We present the current situation of **Venezuelan migrants in Colombia,** describing some main findings and challenges in line with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**



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Have a residence

49,4%
Are Women

58%
Between 18 to 39 years old

Job loss, income reduction, the lack of access to educational and health systems and the uncertainty of decent housing, increase multidimensional poverty gaps of the Venezuelan migrant population (See ***¿Cómo enfrentar la pobreza en tiempos de migración?*** SPA)

Only **15% eat three times per day,** however the quality of the food eaten does not provide the proper micronutrients. **95% are in need of food aid** (***Grupo Interagencial sobre Flujos Migratorios Mixtos, 2020*** SPA)

By Ministerial order, Venezuelans who have regular immigration status can join the insurance system. For those who are in an irregular condition, the Health Ministry decreed that public hospitals should help only pregnant women and ***minors*** (SPA). Likewise, ***all migrants must receive medical attention for COVID-19*** (SPA)

46% of households are not carrying out any activity with their children and only **14%** are receiving virtual classes (***Grupo Interagencial sobre Flujos Migratorios Mixtos, 2020*** SPA)

According to Forensic Medicine [***Medicina legal (2020)*** (SPA)], **during the quarantine, 310 Venezuelan women** have been victims of different violence acts. Intimate partner violence is the most frequent complaint **(142 cases)**

30% do not wash their hands adequately due to the lack of soap and water, and adequate facilities (***Grupo Interagencial sobre Flujos Migratorios Mixtos, 2020*** SPA)

The makeshift camps, where up to 6 people live, do not have sanitary facilities, drinking water or electricity (***BBC, 2020*** SPA)

75% of migrants worked in the informal labour market before the pandemic, mainly in Commerce, hotels and the restaurants sector, wich corresponds to **46.3%** (***Observatorio del Mercado de Trabajo y la Seguridad Social, 2014-2019*** SPA)

A vast majority of children and teenagers **(97%)** do not have a computer. The predominant element are televisions **(65%),** cell phones **(48%)** and radios **(17%)** (***Grupo Interagencial sobre Flujos Migratorios Mixtos, 2020*** SPA)

More than **81,000 Venezuelans** have crossed the border into their country. Every week, the Venezuelan government allows **1,750 nationals** to cross. This implies an additional challenge due to the damming of people on the border (about 30,000), under unfavorable conditions (***Migración Colombia, 2020*** SPA)

Migrant families face housing needs due to the lack of resources to pay a rent or to return to their country, which implies spending nights in makeshift camps. The government has made temporary camps on the border with **capacity for 600 people and medical care** (***El Tiempo, 2020*** SPA)

145 multilateral organizations from civil society, public and private sectors have joined forces to support the Venezuelan migrant population through more than **6,600 activities** focused on providing basic services and improving their life quality: Health days, learning materials and shelters (See ***Plataforma de Coordinación para refugiados y migrantes de Venezuela*** SPA)

"If we have ever needed to remember that we live in an interconnected world, the new Coronavirus has succeeded"

- Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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