



PHOTO: JULISSA NUÑEZ, ECONOMIC INCLUSION PROJECT USAID – WOCU

MIGRATION

OVERVIEW

Over seven million Venezuelans have fled Venezuela, seeking stability, security, and economic opportunities, with South America being the largest receptor for over 80% of such displacement. This exodus represents one of the largest human mobility crises in the world, posing urgent challenges for the migrant communities and their host countries.

The rapid and continued influx of Venezuelan migrants has strained host countries' capacity to absorb such an unprecedented and large flow of people. Migrants and refugees face unmet needs, including legal protection, social support, and economic opportunities to integrate and contribute to their host communities. Additionally, migrant women and LGBTQIA+ persons are at higher risk of suffering gender-based violence, harassment, sexual exploitation, discrimination and xenophobia.

To tackle these challenges, USAID seeks to improve the socio-economic integration of migrants and refugees in Peru, Ecuador and Brazil. This is accomplished through a mix of activities which are focused on enabling migrants, refugees, and host community members to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

GOALS

EXPANDING LIVELIHOODS

USAID is supporting small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through training programs, business development services, mentoring and access to seed capital. For those Venezuelans who seek employment, USAID provides soft skills training, job matching support and assistance with revalidation of professional and technical degrees.

INCREASING ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES

Financial services, such as checking and savings accounts, loans, and insurance, are crucial for sustainable socio-economic integration. However, many Venezuelans face exclusion from these services due to misinformation and difficulties navigating the banking system. To address this, USAID is collaborating with financial institutions to improve understanding of regulations and to develop new products that will enhance financial inclusion for both Venezuelans and local communities.

ADVANCING REGULARIZATION

Access to legal migration status is crucial for the long-term socioeconomic integration of migrants and refugees. USAID aims to improve access to migration-related services, enabling migrants and refugees to formalize their status, contribute to society through formal livelihoods, and gain equitable access to essential social services like education and health.

SUPPORTING HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS

Through partnerships with local and international organizations, USAID is supporting host country governments and civil society's efforts to pave the way for the economic integration of Venezuelan migrants and refugees and tackle the challenges arising from the largest migration event in recent Latin American history.

KEY RESULTS

Since 2019, the Migration program has achieved the following key results:

PERU:

- U.S. government assistance has supported the revalidation of over 4,000 Venezuelan professionals, allowing doctors, nurses, dentists, accountants, and teachers to devote their expertise and knowledge throughout Peru.
- Over 2,564 migrants, refugees, and host community members have been employed or improved their job; out of which over 28 percent self-reported increased income after receiving support from the Economic Inclusion Project (EIP).
- The Migracentros are the result of a public-private partnership with CEDRO, business conglomerate Intercorp, and the Superintendent of Migration office. They provide a wide range of Peruvian state services for migrants and refugees seeking to regularize their residency status in Peru.
- Through the Migracentros, the U.S. government supports the National Migration Superintendence (SNM) in delivering services to the migrant community in Peru, helping the regularization process of more than 120,000 foreign persons.
- 2,381 people received their Foreign ID Card (CE) or Temporary Residence Permit Card (CPP), thereby consolidating the regularization of their immigration status during the special document delivery event for foreign citizens.
- More than 135 partners and allies of the Economic Inclusion Project (EIP) including the public sector, private companies, financial institutions, international agencies, and civil society organizations.
- Over 90,000 migrants, refugees, and host community members have been included in the formal financial system through USG-assisted financial intermediaries.
- Over 4,000 entrepreneurs benefited through EIP.

ECUADOR:

- Over 2,163 migrants, refugees, and host community members have been employed or improved their job; out of which over 24 percent self-reported increased income after receiving support from the Economic Inclusion Project (EIP).

- Over 60,000 migrants, refugees, and host community members have been included in the formal financial system through USG-assisted financial intermediaries.
- More than 141 partners and allies of the EIP including the public sector, private companies, financial institutions, international agencies, and civil society organizations that expand employment and entrepreneurship support and services for migrants, refugees, and host community members.
- Over 5,000 entrepreneurs benefited through EIP.

BRAZIL:

- U.S. government assistance has supported over 40,000 migrants and refugees to contribute to sustainable socio-economic integration of migrants through the Oportunidades project.
- Over 6,000 migrants, refugees, and host community members have been employed or improved their job; out of which over 60 percent self-reported increased income after receiving support from the Oportunidades project.
- 6,075 entrepreneurs benefited through the Oportunidades project.
- 8,119 migrants and refugees have completed language training to gain proficiency in Portuguese.
- More than 230 partners and allies from the private sectors have been involved, out of which over 4,000 persons participated in training workshops promoting migrants and refugees' employability through the Oportunidades project.
- More than 6,000 migrants, refugees, and host community members received support with social protection and inclusion services aimed at promoting social cohesion through the Oportunidades project.

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