

At the northern border in Tumbes, partners continued reporting an increase in irregular flows through informal entry points. These arrivals pose a challenge to calculate the real number of people entering the country.

Xenophobia and discrimination against refugees and migrants from Venezuela increased over the month as a result of a growing concern over an outbreak of criminality, attributed to the Venezuelan population by the media and public figures.

#TuCasaEsMiCausa campaign brought hundreds of Venezuelan and Peruvian volunteers together to give-back to host communities. Together they cleaned beach areas and riversides in Tumbes and in Lima, reforested Arequipa and renovated schools in Cuzco.

## KEY FIGURES

### Above 862,000

Venezuelans living in Peru

### Above 377,000

Asylum claims

### Above 485,000

Applications (granted and in process) to the PTP (Permiso Temporal de Permanencia)

### Some 1,534,000

Venezuelans arrived in or transited through Peru since 2016

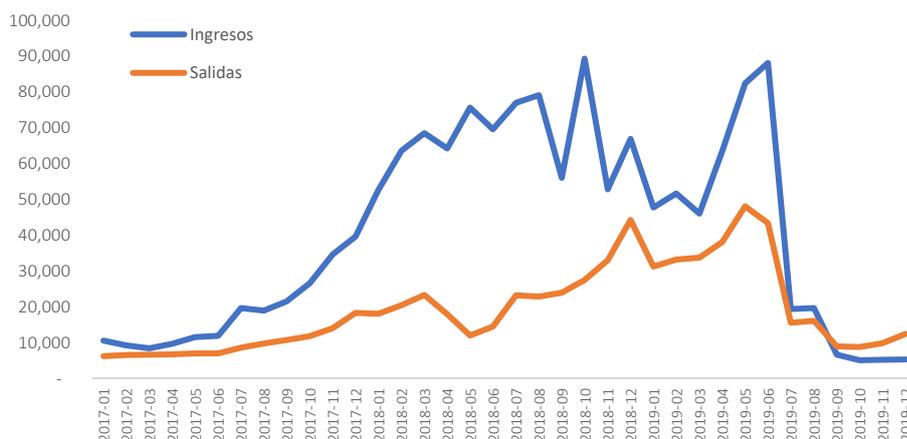


Figure 1 Arrivals and departures of Venezuelan refugees and migrants (2017-2019)

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Peru is the second country of arrival of Venezuelans worldwide, after Colombia, and the main host country for those seeking asylum.

Partners continue reporting irregular entries to Peru through different informal entry points in Tumbes. On 7 December, the Ombudsperson's Office in Tumbes warned local authorities about new routes used for human trafficking, particularly through the precarious roads of Casitas (Tumbes department) bound for Máncora or Talara (Piura). In response to this, the Superintendence for Migrations (SNM), with the support of other national authorities, blocked trails and paths in Tumbes allegedly used for human trafficking and smuggling. In addition, the SNM has warned international haulers that the transportation of people who do not meet regular entry requirements into Peru will be fined and subject to human trafficking investigation.

The Minister of Employment, Sylvia Cáceres, declared that the arrival of Venezuelan workforce is the second factor that contributes to youth unemployment among Peruvian nationals. The minister spoke about the impact of employers taking advantage of Venezuelans' need for jobs to pay lower salaries and replace the national workforce.

On 22 December, the Governor of Arequipa, Mr. Elmer Cáceres, urged president Vizcarra to close the borders to Venezuelan citizens. The Governor described the arrival of Venezuelans as an invasion that takes away job opportunities from the Peruvian people. The discourse coming from the Governor follows overt discontent, discrimination and xenophobia against Venezuelans, where media coverage has also played a major role.

## RESPONSE OVERVIEW

### Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

Twenty-nine partners delivered life-saving goods and services such as drinking water, food, shelter, humanitarian transport, non-food items (NFIs) and cash-based interventions (CBIs) among others.

Country-wide, partners continued providing orientation and emergency assistance as follows:

 <b>Health</b> 740 Persons medically assisted 60 Persons assisted on sexual and reproductive health 2,600 Children assisted with early childhood development support	 <b>Food</b> 1,400 Food rations distributed 2,300 Food kits (bars, cereals, energetic bars) 9,600 Persons assisted
 <b>Shelter</b> 1,600 Persons hosted in hotels or temporal shelters 2,200 Persons hosted in Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) in the Binational Assistance Border Centre (CEBAF)	 <b>NFI</b> 4,300 Articles (including repellents and diapers) 90 Kits (including Hygiene for individuals and families, clothing and baby kits)
 <b>Protection</b> 1,500 Persons legally assisted and counselled 300 Persons assisted with psychosocial support	 <b>Humanitarian Transport</b> 300 Persons transported between the CEBAF and Tumbes 250 Persons transported at interprovincial level
 <b>CBI</b> 820 Persons assisted	

In Tumbes, partners continued collecting information at the CEBAF through daily flow monitoring surveys (over 220 people interviewed), in order to obtain their profiles, difficulties and specific needs.

### Area of Intervention 2: Protection

Twenty-six partners worked on the protection response to groups with specific needs and strengthening activities for the reduction and prevention of protection risks, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Partners, along with host community, refugees and migrants, organized **over 50 activities nation-wide** within the framework of the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*, ending on 10 December. The goal of the campaign was to raise awareness on violence against women and trans-women from refugee and migrant communities and on the labour and sexual exploitation **risks to which they are exposed due to their displacement**. Partners engaged with refugee and migrant women who experienced sexual harassment and exploitation on their jobs while working informally and highlighted the need to create support spaces to address, prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.

Weekly self-empowerment therapy sessions commenced in line with the psychosocial assistance for refugee and migrant survivors of sexual and gender-based violence by partners to strengthen the protection response and referral of GBV **survivors** to the *Centros Emergencia Mujer* (CEM) from the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations.

Partners **supported the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) to decentralize their database** through the Qoricancha II system to all 12 Offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where asylum applications are being received. Upon completion, each office will be able to print asylum-seeker identity cards, rather than only the office in Lima. In September, the Ministry blocked the system from receiving new applications so to re-open it once the interoperability between the registration systems of the CEPR and the Superintendence for Migrations has been finalized. **Interoperability will enable access to the list of asylum-seekers, protecting them from being deported.**

Partners continued with the weekly monitoring at CEBAF where, on 27 December, they surveyed 140 people (81 per cent of which entered Ecuador irregularly) and identified some **40 vulnerable cases** including people with disabilities, elderly, pregnant women, candidates for family reunification and people with chronic diseases in need of treatment.

### Area of Intervention 3: Socio Economic and Cultural Integration

Socio-economic and cultural inclusion is currently covered by twenty-one organizations mostly in Lima and Tumbes. The work also focuses on promoting the integration of refugees, migrants and host community.

GTRM partners evaluated a diverse range of business plans developed during their capacity development entrepreneurship programmes and provided **130 refugee and migrant entrepreneurs with seed capital**. These entrepreneurs include **survivors of GBV, women at risk of sexual and gender-based violence, persons with specific protection needs and particularly vulnerable**. **Activities that support self-reliance** aim to assist refugees and migrants access the formal economy despite the generalized difficulty to access the regular job market.

According to a recent study 26 per cent of refugees and migrants from Venezuela arrived in Peru with a complete university education and diploma. However, despite the usefulness of their degrees and expertise for Peru's economy and services, **Venezuelans face many challenges in the recognition of their diplomas**. Partners have thus engaged in a project to achieve the **recognition of diplomas of Venezuelan medical doctors**, which can help reduce the deficit of health professionals in Peru. This project includes economic **support to pay for the university fees of some 30 persons**.



Partners continued working on several strategies and interventions to counter the increase in discrimination, fear and xenophobia against refugees and migrants from Venezuela. To **address this growing marginalization and promote spaces for integration**, partners took the opportunities presented by the Christmas holiday season to bring together host community, refugee and migrants. These festivities included religious celebrations, Peruvian traditions such as the “chocolatadas”, and cultural activities including fairs, counting with the participation of national and local authorities. These activities targeted **some 4,000 persons**.

Within the scope of #TuCasaEsMiCausa campaign and the “Gracias Causa” Brigade **some 700 Venezuelan and Peruvian volunteers** participated in activities to give-back to host communities by cleaning beach areas in Tumbes and the Rimac riverside in Lima; they have also contributed to the reforestation efforts in Arequipa and Tumbes, and to renovate three schools in Cuzco. Additionally, 13 billboards were placed on strategic locations around Lima to spread positive messages on socioeconomic and cultural integration.

These messages are based on real experiences from refugees and migrants and host community.

Furthermore, partners organized conferences and three workshops in Lima, Tacna and Cuzco for journalists on *refugees and migrants and the press* to highlight the role of media in the fight against xenophobia and discrimination.

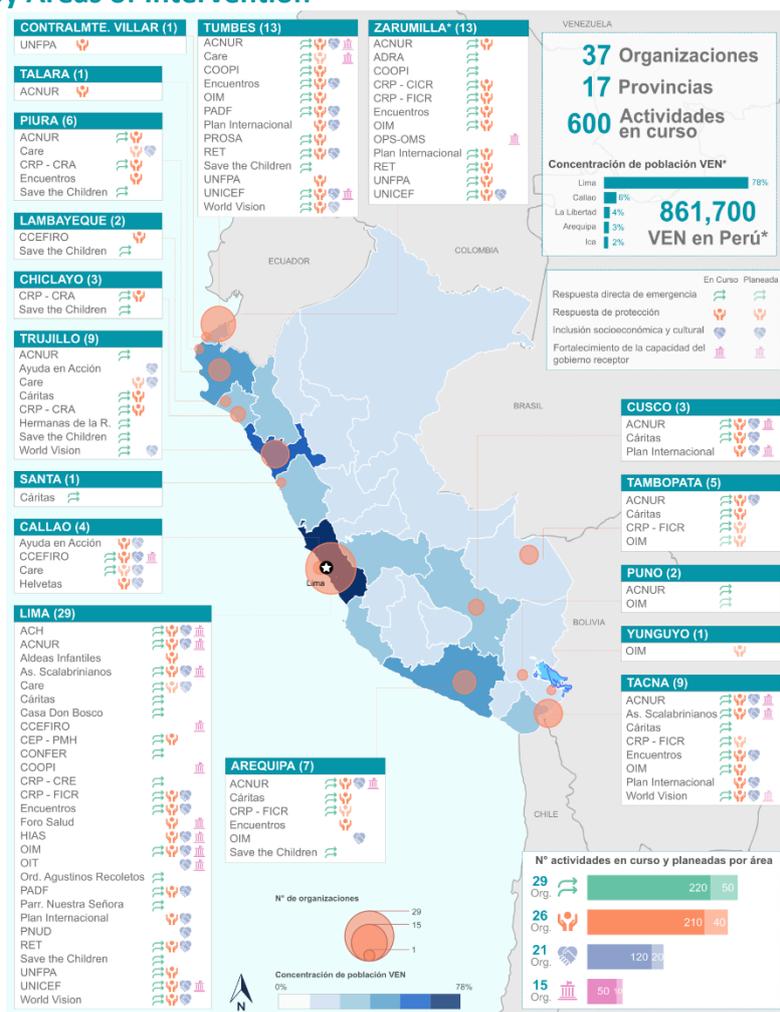
#### “International Migrants Day”

The Migrant Symphony, an orchestra composed of Venezuelan and Peruvian musicians, offered a Christmas concert as part of the celebrations of the “International Migrants Day”. The concert titled a gift from migrants to Peru brought together **over 1,200 persons** and reached more than **30,000 views online**.

The Global Migration Film Festival presented different stories and testimonies of refugees and migrants and was a good opportunity to support integration between Venezuelans and Peruvians. **Over 200 people** attended the festival.



## Operational presence by Areas of Intervention



## COORDINATION

A total of 37 organizations, members of the national platform for Peru (GTRM), have coordinated and reported their activities for the month of December. Partners have assisted refugees, migrants and host communities in 11 departments and 17 provinces around the country. One new organization expressed their interest to be part of the GTRM Peru, was accepted and confirmed their participation at the sub-working group level.

## PLATFORM PARTNERS

Acción contra el Hambre | ACNUR | ADRA | AECID | Amnistía Internacional | ASOCIACION CCEFIRO | Asociación Scalabrinianos | AVSI | Ayuda en Acción | British Council | Capellanía de migrantes venezolanos de la diócesis de Lurín | Care | Caritas Suiza | Caritas del Peru | CICR | Cesal | Conferencia Episcopal Peruana | Consejo Interreligioso - Religiones por la Paz | Cooperazione Internazionale COOPI | Cruz Roja Española | Cruz Roja Peruana | Encuentros | FICR | FORO SALUD Callao | HELVETAS | HIAS | Humanity & Inclusion | IDEHPUCP | ILLARI AMANECER | LWR | OCHA | OIM | OIT | ONUSIDA | OPS/OMS | ONU voluntarios | PADF | Plan Internacional | PNUD | Progetto Mondo mlal | PROSA | RET International | Save the Children | TECHO | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNODC | USAID/DART | We World | WFP | World Vision.

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