

PERU

Influx of Venezuelans in Tumbes

Arrivals of Venezuelan refugees and migrants via Ecuador at Peru's northern border at Tumbes saw a significant increase at the beginning of June in the lead up to new and stricter entry requirements. Under the new rules effective 15 June, Venezuelans are required to present a passport, irrespective of whether it is expired, and a "humanitarian visa" obtained in Peruvian consulates before arrival in the country. Between 8 and 15 June, some 34,000 people arrived at the border, causing long backlogs in processing and adding pressure on humanitarian assistance. Reported priority needs of new arrivals at Tumbes include food and nutrition, water, medicines, protection, and shelter (Reuters 16/06/2019; CNN 15/06/2019; Gestion 13/06/2019; UNHCR 06/2019).

Migration route of Venezuelans entering Peru via Tumbes

Source: UNHCR 18/06/2019



NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



IMPACT



Anticipated scope and scale

Fear of additional restrictions could potentially lead to a **new surge in arrivals** should people attempt to cross the border before further rules are put in place. An increase in arrivals may leave humanitarian organisations with limited capacity to respond. Legislative changes in **neighbouring countries** are likely to also impact the situation in Peru. As Peru is both a **transit and destination country** there might be additional increases in needs in other regions of the country.

Key priorities



+34,000
arrivals between 8-15 June



health assistance
for vulnerable populations



Livelihoods/cash
assistance

Humanitarian constraints



No access or operational constraints reported from the affected area.

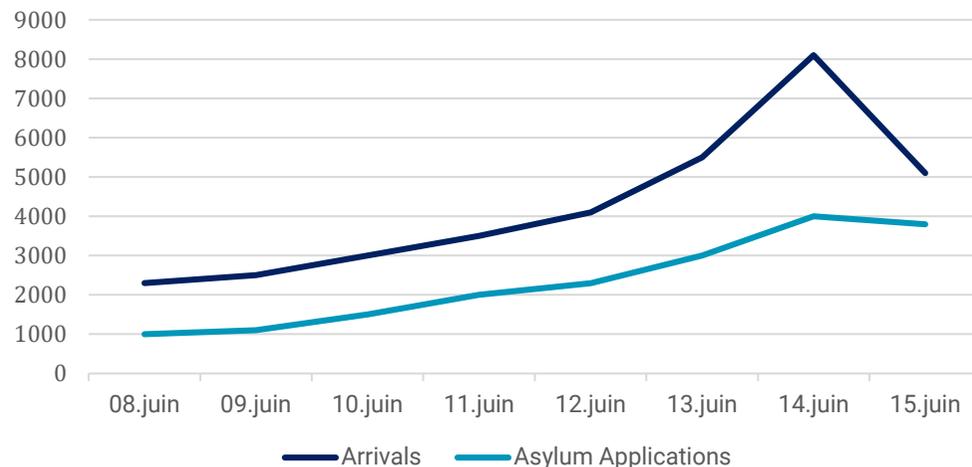
Limitations

While a general scale-up to the increase of arrivals at Tumbes between 8 and 15 June is reported, the gaps in the current response are unclear. Information on humanitarian needs following departure from Tumbes is limited.

Crisis impact

On 6 June, Peru's president, Martin Vizcarra, announced new entry requirements coming into effect on 15 June, under which Venezuelans are required to present a passport, irrespective whether it has expired, and a "humanitarian visa" that must be acquired pre-arrival in Peruvian consulates (GoP 07/06/2019; El Comercio 08/06/2019). This led to a significant surge in arrivals on the Ecuador-Peru border between 8 and 15 June (UNHCR 15/06/2019). Between 8 and 15 June, some 34,000 Venezuelans entered Peru via the Binational Border Centre (CEBAF) near Tumbes (R4V 18/06/2019).

Arrivals and Asylum Applications in Tumbes



Source: R4V 18/06/2019

UNHCR states that Venezuelans unable to present these documents may still seek asylum in Peru because under international law asylum seekers are not required to present passports. However civil society organisations have still expressed their concern for the protection of vulnerable individuals (R4V 18/06/2019; Venezuelan Human Mobility 11/06/2019; Reuters 16/06/2019).

Given the number of people who tried to enter before the 15 June deadline, the influx exceeded available assistance in places and created backlogs at the border crossing, which forced a scale-up of the humanitarian response. Although the arrival rate has decreased and reached below-average rates since 15 June, the sudden influx led to an increase in humanitarian need in the area (El Comercio 22/06/2019; UNHCR 15/06/2019; El Comercio 14/06/2019).

Although the number of people remaining in Tumbes is unclear, many new arrivals arrived in a particularly vulnerable state (UNHCR 15/06/2019). While most arrivals at Tumbes generally report to have travelled directly from Venezuela until their entry to

Peru, some families had been walking for 30 to 40 days upon their arrival (R4V 18/06/2019; DTM April 2019). This plus the arrival of more people at the border is likely to take a toll on the response capacity of humanitarian agencies. Priority needs of new arrivals at Tumbes include food and nutrition, water, medicines, protection and shelter (CNN 15/06/2019; Gestion 13/06/2019; UNHCR 06/2019).

Food: Food assistance is one of the priority needs of new arrivals at the Peruvian borders who are in an increasingly vulnerable situation (UNHCR 06/2019; Reuters 16/06/2019). 68.5% of DTM respondents at the Tumbes entry point in April stated they did not have access to food; half of those with access to food were able to afford food items for only 1 or 2 days (DTM April 2019).

Livelihoods and Cash Assistance: Due to hyperinflation, deep recession and increasing prices, vulnerable Venezuelan citizens arrive in Peru without assets. The lack of livelihood opportunities has been stated among one of the priority needs of Venezuelans in Peru and is essential in order to meet other urgent needs (DTM April 2019; UNHCR 06/2019).

Health and nutrition: Poor health conditions due to exhaustion, dehydration, and malnutrition among the displaced have been reported (UNHCR 15/06/2019; El Comercio 16/06/2019). High temperatures and unsanitary conditions in transit and displacement sites aggravate the situation (El Comercio 16/06/2019).

Many of the people arriving at the border are in need of medicines and health assistance (UNHCR 06/2019). 4.5% of respondents in Tumbes suffered from a chronic illness or disability, largely requiring daily medicines which they were likely unable to get in Venezuela (DTM April 2019). This is compounded by the lack of health services and medicines within Venezuela.

WASH: Access to drinking water, especially as temperatures are high, has been reported as an urgent need (UNHCR 06/2019; R4V 18/06/2019). Hygiene practices due to long travels and limited availability of hygiene items within Venezuela are likely to increase the need for hygiene kits. Information on the location of displaced people who have left Tumbes is limited, however, limited availability and accessibility of sanitation facilities is likely.

Shelter and NFIs: Humanitarian partners provided temporary shelter to some 200 people per day in Tumbes. Considering the consistent influx post 15 June and earlier arrivals who still remain in Tumbes, this likely leaves several hundred people without shelter (R4V 18/06/2019; UNHCR 06/2019). People without sufficient financial resources are staying in the open however there are currently no estimates on how many people this affects. Estimations from April state that 40% of arrivals are staying in Tumbes while searching for resources to continue their travel; it is likely that these people are in need of shelter and transportation assistance (El Comercio 16/06/2019; Canal N 06/06/2019)

Protection: Venezuelan citizens face multiple protection risks in Peru and require legal and documentation assistance (UNHCR 15/06/2019). The lack of resources is putting many in particularly vulnerable positions and increases risks of negative coping strategies such as survival sex and labour exploitation (DTM April 2019). Incidents of discrimination and xenophobia continue to be reported (UNHCR 06/2019). Incidents of sexual or gender-based violence (SGBV) during their journey to the Peruvian border

have been commonly reported (DTM April 2019). It is unclear how many incidents took place and how many took place within Peru specifically.

Vulnerable groups affected

According to the latest DTM conducted at the Tumbes entry point, 75% of people surveyed were between 18 and 34 years old and 43% were female (DTM April 2019). Women were more likely to travel with minors than men, and additional factors of vulnerability, such as being a single mother (34.5%), breastfeeding (9%) and pregnancies (7%) were reported (DTM April 2019).

Women and children are particularly vulnerable to protection risks during displacement. The main reason for Venezuelans having fled is related to economic reasons. New arrivals have reported to lack the financial resources to acquire passports. Most new arrivals are in a poor socio-economic situation, which increases the risk of survival sex and labour exploitation and other negative coping strategies. These risks are often compounded in temporary shelters without adequate safe spaces for women and children. Those without the means to acquire a passport are at a higher risk of becoming victims of trafficking and other forms of exploitation, especially as entry requirements are tighten (IRIN 11/01/2019).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

No humanitarian or operational constraints are reported from the affected area.

Aggravating factors

Growing pushback and xenophobia

Negative perception of Venezuelans and xenophobia has been on the rise Peru, linked to the influx of Venezuelans and the strain on public services and the formal and informal labour markets (El Comercio 14/06/2019; BBC 16/06/2019; Reuters 16/06/2019). The Interior Minister recently linked an increase in criminality in some locations to migration from Venezuela (BBC 16/06/2019; VOA Noticias 02/04/2019). Other local politicians have made statements reinforcing this perception (El Comercio 14/06/2019). When looking at DTM results, 37.5% of those leaving the country via the southern border to Chile and Argentina stated they had experienced some form of discrimination based on their nationality or socio-economic status (DTM April 2019).

At the same time, the Peruvian government has made it harder for Venezuelans to enter the country and acquire the right to work. Since 29 April, at least 140 Venezuelans have been deported because they gave false statements regarding criminal and police records to acquire their temporary stay permit (GoP 07/06/2019; El Comercio 08/06/2019).

Underlying vulnerabilities

Venezuelans arriving at the Peruvian border are in an increasingly vulnerable state regarding their socio-economic and health conditions (UNHCR 15/06/2019). This is largely due to the desperate situation many Venezuelans face within Venezuela. Since 2017,

national food production in Venezuela has reduced by over 60%, and imports dropped by over 70%, leading to significant shortages of food and alarming levels of food insecurity across the country (CHE Health 09/2018; Provea 2017). Although there is no official data available for malnutrition rates in Venezuela, the prevalence of malnutrition has been increasing due to food shortages and high prices of food, from 3.6% in 2013 to 11.7% in 2017 (FAO 16/01/2019). Additionally, inflation has had a devastating impact on the purchasing power of Venezuelan households. In January 2019, a basic food basket containing 60 items cost about 360,115 Venezuelan Bolivars (VES). Between January 2018 and January 2019, the price of a basic food basket increased by 283,880%. In order to purchase a food basket, a household would have to earn 20 times the minimum monthly salary (VES 18,000) (CENDA 18/02/2019).

Given the depletion of resources of many Venezuelans, it is feared that the new requirements will further increase the vulnerability and protection risks of Venezuelans without a passport trying to leave the country (El Comercio 14/06/2019).

High temperatures of around 28 degrees Celsius in norther Peru are likely to increase dehydration and exhaustion (R4V 18/06/2019).

Contextual information

Venezuelan displacement crisis

Since 2015, the socio-economic and political crisis has prompted more than 3.9 million Venezuelans to flee the country (UNHCR 05/2019). With the deteriorating political and economic situation in Venezuela, there is no indication the outflow will slow down soon. UNHCR projects the overall number of Venezuelans fleeing their country to reach 5.3 million by the end of 2019 (R4V 01/04/2019). With varying needs across country, many Venezuelans in host countries are in need of food, nutrition, health, and WASH assistance. Legal and documentation assistance is also crucial in order for Venezuelans, many of whom remain in irregular situations, to access healthcare and employment. As the crisis inside Venezuela continues to deteriorate, host countries are increasingly struggling to respond to the influx of Venezuelans. The rising number of people entering neighbouring countries is putting a strain on basic services, especially in entry points such as Tumbes and locations with a high concentration of refugees and migrants (IFRC 29/05/2019; BBC 16/06/2019).

Venezuelans in Peru

Since early 2017, an estimated 800,000 people from Venezuela arrived in Peru (as at 24 June), rendering the country the second largest recipient of Venezuelans after Colombia, which hosts 1.3 million Venezuelans (R4V June 2019; UNHCR as of 24/06/2019). As of mid-June, Peru received 280,000 asylum applications and has given temporary residence permits to 390,000 Venezuelan citizens, it was not immediately clear whether this includes the latest arrivals (UNHCR 15/06/2019).

The average number of daily arrivals in 2019 has been 1,200, of which roughly 50% apply for asylum (UNHCR 06/2019). However, an increase of new arrivals at CEBAF had

already been reported in early June, with warnings that an increase without additional support would exceed absorbing capacities (Canal N 06/06/2019). On 6 June, when the third group of Venezuelans with temporary stay permits (PTP) was deported since late April, Peru's president, Martin Vizcarra, announced new entry requirements for Venezuelans to ensure "orderly and safe" migration (El Comercio 14/06/2019; BBC 16/06/2019).

Accordingly, Venezuelan citizens are now required to present a passport, which are deemed difficult to obtain, and a "humanitarian visa" that can be acquired free of charge at Peruvian consulates (R4V 18/06/2019; GoP 15/06/2019; BBC 16/06/2019). Previously, Venezuelans were able to enter the country with their national identity cards; two thirds of arrivals in Tumbes are estimated to have done so, highlighting the lack of passports among the displaced population (BDTM April 2019; BC 15/06/2019). There is a set of exceptions based on humanitarian reasons that grants access to Venezuelans who do not possess these documents. However, civil society organisations deem that these new measures represent a significant obstacle for vulnerable people in need of international protection (Venezuelan Human Mobility 11/06/2019; AI 10/06/2019).

Since the new requirements took effect, daily arrivals have fallen below 500 as of 21 June (El Comercio 22/06/2019). Peru previously witnessed a surge in arrivals in late October 2018, as thousands of Venezuelans tried to enter the country before 31 October, the last day to register for a temporary stay permit (PTP). The temporary stay permit gave access to the formal labour market and the health and education sectors (El Comercio 14/06/2019; Europa Press 03/11/2018).

Current drivers of the political crisis in Venezuela

The economic crisis in Venezuela has led to a deterioration of the humanitarian conditions and increased humanitarian needs. Import restrictions and hyperinflation reduce availability and access to basic goods and services. The economic crisis is exacerbated by a political crisis revolving around the erosion of democratic institutions. While the number of people in need in Venezuela and the severity of need is unclear due to lack of data, surveys conducted by local organisations point to an increasingly dire situation (ACAPS 23/05/2018).

On 23 January 2019, the opposition-controlled National Assembly declared Maduro's second term illegitimate, and, using a constitutional disposition, designated its leader Juan Guaido, as interim president (BBC 01/05/2019). He immediately declared his intention to put together a transition government and to organise a presidential election in the next year. In the following days, he was recognised by about 50 states, including the United States, Brazil, Ecuador, and most Western European countries (Le Monde Diplomatique 03/2019).

On 30 April, Guaido called for a popular uprising and for security forces to switch alliances against incumbent President Maduro. Intense demonstrations were met with force by government forces, and left 5 people dead and 200 injured (UNHCR 05/2019; Al Jazeera 03/06/2019). Maduro's government called the move an attempted coup; the political and security situation has been tense since. While Guaido has pointed to corruption within the current government, two of his party members have been accused

of appropriating funds in mid-July, further adding to the fragile political situation within the country (NPR 19/06/2019; Panam Post 18/06/2019).

Trickle-down effects from other countries in the region

A rise in xenophobia and more negative perceptions of Venezuelans can be observed across the region (Venezuelan Human Mobility 11/06/2019; RI 27/01/2019). This may result in more restrictive policies regarding refugees and migrants from Venezuela and potentially change current migration dynamics. Ecuador has announced it will implement a similar humanitarian visa requirement once the country's exit from UNASUR is finalised (BBC 16/06/2019). As of 22 June, Chile also requires Venezuelans to present a consular visa in order to enter the country as tourists (America Economia 22/06/2019).

Given the regional nature of the Venezuelan displacement crisis, developments within one country can often be felt across borders. On 8 June, main border-crossing points between Colombia and Venezuela were reopened after having been closed since 23 February. While this led to an increase of regular border crossings, the overall number of reported entries remained stable (R4V 18/06/2019). Meanwhile, an increase of entries from Colombia to Ecuador via Rumichaca and San Miguel was observed between 12 and 15 June. This is potentially linked to the new entry requirements in Peru, as people were trying to reach the Peru-Ecuador border. This led to congestion of the border areas and caused a scale-up of response activities in Ecuador, particularly in the health and nutrition sectors. Among other things, Ecuador established a "humanitarian corridor" providing transportation for Venezuelans traveling to Peru from Rumichaca at the border with Colombia to Huaquillas at the border with Peru (GoP 14/06/2019; R4V 18/06/2019).

Key characteristics

- **Demographic profile:** 32,552 (2018 estimate)
Population density: 25,4/km²
% population in rural areas: 21
% using improved sanitation: 82.5 of urban pop., 53.2 of rural pop. (2018)
% using improved drinking water: 91.4 of urban pop., 69.2 of rural pop. (2018)
- **Economy:** GDP per capita (US\$) 6,049
- **Health statistics:** Infant mortality rate 18.6/1,000 live births
- **Lighting and cooking sources.** 36% of population use solid fuels for cooking; 30% of population use wood for cooking
- **Literacy levels.** 94.5% of population over age 15

- **Refugees and other people of concern:** 1.4m in 2010, 12.2m in 2018

Sources: UN Data accessed 25/06/2019; Piura Peru 2012; Comision Multisectorial 2015; Government Census 2007; CIA World Factbook 01/07/2016; Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves 2016; Worldometers 2017; World Bank 2015; Ministerio de Salud 2016

Information gaps and needs

Much of the publicly available information is concentrated on border crossing points. Meanwhile, data on humanitarian needs of the displaced population in other areas of Peru is limited. There is no clear information on existing gaps in the humanitarian response.

While public services are thought to have become strained by the influx of Venezuelans into the country, clear information on the impact of the Venezuelan crisis on host communities is unclear.

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity:

The national authorities, particularly the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR), cooperate closely with humanitarian organisations present in the area and have activated a contingency plan following the large influx of Venezuelans between 8 and 15 June (R4V 18/06/2019; UNHCR 06/2019).

Both the CEPR, which opened an additional office at CEBAF, and the national migration authority (Superintendencia de Migraciones) have scaled-up their operations in recent months to cope with high arrival and asylum application rates (UNHCR 06/2019). Peruvian authorities are offering 24-hour services to process arrivals and give vaccinations (UNHCR 15/06/2019; El Comercio 16/06/2019). Apart from State institutions, the Peruvian army is also involved in the provision of humanitarian transportation to over 650 (vulnerable) refugees and migrants from CEBAF to Tumbes and other provinces per day. Religious entities and civil society are also included in the response (UNHCR 06/2019).

International response capacity

The Inter-agency working group (GTRM), made up of several UN agencies (IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO) and 10 NGOs (IFRC, WV, StC, PI, Red Cross Peru, Encuentros and others), has increased their resources and staff at the border to cope with the increased influx and to provide 24-hour assistance (R4V 3W March 2019; R4V 18/06/2019; UNHCR 15/06/2019). As part of the Peruvian GTRM emergency assistance, humanitarian partners are providing water, 2,000 meals per day, hygiene kits and medical attention (R4V 18/06/2019). 3,500 refugees and migrants receive information and legal support at the Binational Border Centre (CEBAF). The capacity to provide temporary shelter has been increased, including to some 80 extremely vulnerable individuals such as mothers with young babies.

On a regional level, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform was established in September 2018 by IOM and UNHCR and is linked to the country platforms, also co-led by IOM and UNHCR (UNHCR 06/2019). This is at the centre of coordination efforts, and aims to develop a regional approach to facilitate the response. Regionally, the platform currently has around 40 participants (UN agencies, NGOs, donors, and international financial institutions) (R4V 14/12/2018). Given the growing number of Venezuelans residing or transiting through Peru, UNHCR has extended its presence in the country and is now present in Lima, Tumbes, Tacna, Cusco and Arequipa (UNHCR as of 24/06/2019).