



EU SUPPORTS VENEZUELAN REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND HOST COMMUNITIES



5.1 million people have left Venezuela due to political instability, insecurity and economic collapse. This is the largest refugee crisis in Latin American history and has become one of the biggest displacement crises in the world. The European Union stands with the people of Venezuela and is at the forefront of international efforts to solve the crisis in the country and support a political, democratic, peaceful and Venezuelan-owned solution.

EU RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CRISIS

EU ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS TO OVER **€319 million** (both inside and outside Venezuela)

€156 million FOR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The EU provides Venezuelan refugees and migrants with emergency medical services, food assistance, shelter, legal information and support, protection initiatives, in particular against gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings, as well as education in emergencies. The EU has been among the first donors to provide support in the border area with Colombia, close to **Cucuta's Simon Bolivar bridge** and actively helps people in need along the main migratory routes, including host communities.



€136 million FOR DEVELOPMENT

The EU also assists the region with socio-economic integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants and provides support to their host communities. In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the EU is committed to broaden and deepen this support, as people, who already found themselves in extremely precarious situations before the pandemic, have been hit the hardest.



Development support therefore will put particular focus on strengthening basic social services, particularly health, and promoting economic opportunities for refugees, migrants and host communities, to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis and to contribute to regional stability. This support is distributed across the region, with priority given to the countries hosting the highest number of vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela, in particular Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.

For example, the project "**Cities of Solidarity**" (€16 million) supports local administrations in 9 cities across 6 countries to facilitate acceptance of refugees and migrants within host communities and to improve their economic and social inclusion. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU partially adapted the project's activities to provide direct monetary support to refugees, migrants and families in host communities during the curfew. The project included also actions for COVID-19 prevention.

€27 million FOR STABILITY AND PEACE

Key areas of EU support are the identification and documentation of migrants and refugees, the reduction of tensions or risk of violence, countering trafficking in human beings, and fighting xenophobia and discrimination.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE



The EU provides **technical assistance** to regional administrations in migration management, social protection and employment challenges. In Peru, EU technical assistance using Member States expertise supported the improvement of asylum services; in Brazil it supported the Public Defender's office to better protect migrant children; in Ecuador it helped the Ministry of Foreign Affairs face migration challenges.

EU WORKS FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS

Together with regional partners, the EU established the **International Contact group** in January 2019, with the objective to create the conditions for and provide support to a political process that can lead to the peaceful restoration of democracy.



EU SUPPORTS THE QUITO PROCESS



Governments in the region, under the Quito process, are working to harmonise regional migration policies and practices, scale up and coordinate their humanitarian response, improve access to host countries and communities, and address human rights and protection issues.



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

€3.6 billion



The European Union is the largest provider of development cooperation to Latin American and Caribbean countries. Between 2014 and 2020, the EU has allocated around **€3.6 billion** in grants for bilateral and regional programmes.

TEAM EUROPE TO COMBAT COVID -19

The additional resources for the Venezuelan refugee and migrant crisis are part of the **"Team Europe"** financial package. Through this package, the EU, its Member States and financial institutions have **redirected resources of over €20 billion** to support globally our partner countries in combating the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences, focusing on the people most at risk, including migrants, refugees and host communities.

For Latin America and the Caribbean **€918 million** have been redirected to target the **most vulnerable countries** and population groups.

In **Venezuela and countries in the region**, the EU is supporting the Pan-American Health Organization and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to help contain the spread and prepare for response **with €9 million**. This includes improving access to basic health services and access to adequate sanitation and hygiene for vulnerable populations, including refugees.