



**MMC Latin America  
and the Caribbean**

**QUARTER 2 2020**



**Quarterly Mixed  
Migration Update:  
Latin America and  
the Caribbean**

This Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) covers the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. The core countries of focus for this region are the countries currently affected by the Venezuelan crisis, including Colombia, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador, in addition to the Caribbean islands. Concerning northern movements to the United States, this QMMU covers Mexico and Central American countries. Depending on the quarterly trends and migration-related updates, more attention may be given to some of the countries over the rest.

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

The Mixed Migration Centre is a global network consisting of seven regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration. For more information on the MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit [mixedmigration.org](https://mixedmigration.org) and follow us at [@Mixed\\_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

### **MMC's understanding of mixed migration**

"Mixed migration" refers to cross-border movements of people, including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people in mixed flows have a range of legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Those in mixed migration flows travel along similar routes, using similar means of travel - often travelling irregularly, and wholly, or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

#### **Front cover photo credit:**

Juan Carlos Tomasi/MSF/February 2018

SUPPORTED BY:



# Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Latin America and the Caribbean

## Quarter 2 - 2020

## Key Updates

- **Returns of refugees and migrants to Venezuela in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.** As of May 2020, [more than 5 million](#) Venezuelan refugees and migrants had left their country of origin; however, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused small [return flows](#) of Venezuelans from across the Andean region toward Venezuela since March, reaching approximately 75,000 to date. Serious [concerns](#) about [stigmatization of returnees](#) and lack of food and healthcare in Venezuela persist.
- **Restrictive stay-at-home orders in the North of Central America (NCA), including El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, limit mobility, while deportations continue.** [Border closures](#) across Central America, along with [restrictive](#) quarantine measures, have limited mobility within and between countries. Despite these border closures, deportations and forced returns from the [United States](#) and [Mexico](#) to NCA countries continued, including of [COVID-positive](#) individuals.
- **More than 40,000 summary expulsions of refugees and migrants from the U.S. to Mexico under public health order.** A [public health order](#) issued on March 21 by the U.S. government in light of COVID-19 permits the summary expulsion of people on the move from the U.S. to northern Mexico, with virtually [no screening](#) for international protection needs; since then, more than [40,000](#) incidents of expulsion have taken place. Meanwhile, refugees and migrants subject to the 'Remain in Mexico' policy face [extended wait times](#) for resumptions of immigration court hearings in the U.S.
- **Thousands of African, Haitian and Cuban people on the move stuck in Panama during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Border closures across Central America due to COVID-19 have paused movements on migration routes from the Caribbean and from other continents; at least 1,900 refugees and migrants from African and Caribbean countries remain in [reception centers](#) in the Darién province, Panama, and hundreds of refugees and migrants in [southern Honduras](#) attempted onward travel towards North America in late June.

## Regional Overview\*



## The Caribbean



\*Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration flows within and out of Latin America and the Caribbean.

# Mixed Migration Regional Updates

## Venezuelan mixed migration flows

[More than 5 million](#) refugees and migrants had left Venezuela as of May 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences have largely stifled mixed migration flows out of Venezuela. At the same time, one of the most notable regional migration trends during this pandemic has been the [return flows](#) of approximately [75,000](#) Venezuelans from across South America since March.

However, serious [concerns](#) about stigmatization of returnees and lack of food and healthcare in Venezuela give many [migrants](#) and [rights organizations](#) pause. In particular, the Venezuelan [healthcare system](#), in particular, already in crisis prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, is now under [more extreme stress](#) as medications and medical equipment become even more difficult to find. COVID-19 cases in Venezuela are likely [underreported](#). Both state security forces and criminal groups contribute to [enforcing](#) lockdown measures in the country and an [increase](#) in extrajudicial executions by authorities has been reported since the start of the pandemic. This [indicates](#) that the drivers of migration from Venezuela have not disappeared and the situation may be worsening while the pandemic is ongoing, though mobility restrictions and economic decline across the region are undoubtedly discouraging Venezuelans from leaving the country at this time.

The pandemic has strongly impacted Venezuelan refugees and migrants across South America, limiting mobility and impacting their ability to work. One survey indicated that [78 percent](#) of interviewed Venezuelans in Colombia had lost work since the pandemic. This has placed refugees and migrants at risk of [eviction and homelessness](#); 4Mi data showed that, as of April, 13 percent of Venezuelans interviewed for the survey [planned to return](#) to Venezuela as a consequence of the pandemic. For many Venezuelans, however, neither remaining in their country of emigration nor returning to Venezuela is an [ideal option](#).

The Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) has [alerted](#) that “unprecedented travel and mobility restrictions intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have multifaceted impacts which, in combination, foster an environment where [Venezuelan] refugees and migrants, particularly those in irregular situations,” are in a situation of increased vulnerability to trafficking, abuse, and exploitation, for example [along the closed Colombia-Venezuela border](#).

## Movements towards South America

The coronavirus pandemic has brought increased visibility to the situation of Venezuelans on the move across [South America](#), as in countries like [Argentina](#) and [Chile](#) refugees and migrants often do not receive aid and in some cases have sought to [return](#) to Venezuela.

The Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, the coordination plan for the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, was [updated](#) in May 2020, in light of changing circumstances due to COVID-19.

### Colombia

Thousands of Venezuelans have sought to return from Colombia, as the country's early and strict lockdown measures led to [evictions and hunger](#) for those who lived on daily earnings in the informal sector and/or lost jobs. This movement is further discussed in this issue's Thematic Focus. Additionally, Venezuelan [women](#) in Colombia are differentially affected by quarantine measures and the economic impacts of the pandemic, which may expose them to higher risk of gender-based violence in the home and along irregular migration routes.

The closure of the border between Colombia and Venezuela has created a situation in which only some Venezuelans returning to Venezuela are able to pass through official crossings, creating [market opportunities](#) for the armed groups, criminal gangs, smugglers, and other actors who control the border's numerous [informal border crossings](#), known as trochas.

Border closures also reportedly led to an increase in violence, both at [Colombia's northern border with Venezuela](#), among the armed groups that operate in the area, and at its [southern border with Ecuador](#) where, in May, Colombian authorities deployed tear gas on the Rumichaca international bridge to prevent Venezuelan refugees and migrants from entering the country on their way back to Venezuela.

### Ecuador

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, some 380,000 Venezuelans were living in Ecuador. The World Bank estimates that about [54 percent](#) of them have an irregular immigration status.

According to the [Ecuadorian Red Cross](#), "from 40 to 700 Venezuelan migrants are leaving every day", most through irregular border crossings as Colombia's borders remain closed. As most Venezuelans have lived less than a year in Ecuador, "they have weak ties within the country and find themselves without any support network."

For Venezuelans remaining in Ecuador, access to [basic needs and services](#) including food, shelter, and sanitation has declined during the pandemic. [Evictions](#) have seriously impacted Venezuelans in Ecuador, as in other countries; 43 percent of respondents in one survey indicated that shelter was their principal concern. Likewise, [70 percent](#) of Venezuelan respondents to one survey indicated having skipped a meal since the beginning of the pandemic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline to request or renew the Visa for Humanitarian Reasons has been extended; however, concerns about ability to pay and [changes in renewal guidelines](#) persist.

## Peru

As of April, some [865,000](#) Venezuelan refugees and migrants were living in Peru. Some of them, however, have begun the long and [dangerous](#) trip back to Venezuela, by bus, [bicycle](#), or on foot, as Peru, where millions of people live without access to potable water or sanitation and about 70 percent of the economy is informal, has been [badly affected](#) by COVID-19.

For Venezuelans remaining in Peru, access to basic needs and services is an immediate concern. Additionally, access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and to birth registry for children born to Venezuelan parents during the pandemic have been highlighted as [key issues](#). UNHCR estimates that about 270,000 Venezuelans in Peru—one-third of the population—is being “[extremely affected](#)” by the COVID-19 pandemic “without food, medicine, or shelter.” Amnesty International has called on the Peruvian government to [regularize](#) all Venezuelans in the country in order to improve their access to basic rights. At the same time, the role of Venezuelans as essential workers in Peru—including in the recovery and transport of the bodies of people who have died due to COVID-19—has been widely [reported](#).

## Brazil

In Brazil, and principally in [Roraima](#) state, which borders Venezuela and houses many refugees and migrants from that country, responding to the economic and logistical demands of the pandemic has been a challenge. Brazil closed its border with Venezuela early over explicit concerns about coronavirus spread.

As in many of the countries in the region, though Brazil formally guarantees the right to health care to all people, there are questions about how this may work in practice; for example, Roraima has just [four ICU beds](#) per 100,000 inhabitants. Improving shelter conditions and expanding medical facilities are important [priorities](#) in this context. Ensuring adequate healthcare access for Venezuela’s indigenous [Warao](#) people has also been a challenge in Brazil, as lack of access to information in indigenous languages and their structural exclusion from access to healthcare make this group especially vulnerable, including to COVID-19.

## Movements towards Caribbean countries

Widespread [border closures](#) among Caribbean countries constitute a barrier to Venezuelan migration during the COVID-19 pandemic. In June, Trinidad and Tobago extended [immigration status](#) for Venezuelans, permitting about 16,000 refugees and migrants to remain in the country until December; the country’s borders [remain closed](#) as of June. In Aruba, the implementation of the [visa requirement](#) for Venezuelans scheduled to start on 1 April was postponed until further notice; the country began slowly reopening its borders on June 15.

## Mixed migration flows in Central and North America

Movement toward Mexico and the United States has been largely stymied during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to [restrictive border closures and lockdowns](#) in Central America. In the U.S., measures to expel arriving refugees and migrants without due process have also limited movement. On June 30, a new [caravan](#) of about 70 migrants and refugees departed from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, with the aim of reaching the U.S., allegedly including recent deportees from the U.S. who decided to leave Honduras once again. The group was however [dispersed](#) on July 2 by the Honduran authorities, before being able to reach the border with Guatemala.

## Mixed migration flows in Mexico

The closure of businesses across Mexico during the COVID-19 pandemic has put many refugees and [migrants](#) out of work and as a consequence unable to afford rent or food. This situation has also increased flows of Mexicans leaving impoverished areas of the country: at least one town in Guerrero state reports at [3,000 percent](#) increase in emigration northward since the beginning of the pandemic. There is [concern](#) that the government has not supported shelters for refugees and migrants to effectively protect the health of those living and working inside them. COVID-19 outbreaks in shelters in [Monterrey](#), [Ciudad Juárez](#), and [Nuevo Laredo](#) have occurred, in some cases traceable to people deported from the U.S.. While migrant shelters have been [less full](#) during the pandemic, they have nonetheless [struggled](#) to feed residents and denounced a lack of government support.

A lack of federal resources or comprehensive and uniform screening protocols, particularly along Mexico's northern border, have [hindered](#) government efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 among people on the move. By the end of June, at least [200](#) migrants and asylum-seekers subject to the 'Remain in Mexico' policy were confirmed to have COVID-19.

Further, discrimination remains a problem: though Mexico's law, and a recent [court order](#), require the health care system to provide services to refugees and migrants, concerns about [discrimination](#) in an overwhelmed health care system and among the public persist, even though relatively [few people on the move](#) have been counted in official infection and death statistics as of June.

More than [3,600](#) individuals were deported to Central America from Mexican immigration detention centers in April, despite an [injunction](#) requiring Mexican migration authorities to release detained migrants and grant them temporary immigration status.

The [indefinite suspension](#) of processing times for asylum applications by Mexico's refugee agency, COMAR (Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados), in light of the pandemic leaves thousands of asylum-seekers uncertain as to when they will receive a decision, despite [record numbers](#) of requests in recent years and over [19,000](#) asylum applications filed through May 2020. While COMAR is still working through the pandemic, it does so at a slower pace and its processing times are now unclear.

Following the suspension of immigration court hearings in the U.S. for individuals affected by the 'Remain in Mexico' policy until at least mid-July, refugees and migrants whose court hearings were [rescheduled](#) find

themselves having to wait until the end of the year or into 2021 before getting a chance to be heard, dramatically extending the time that they must wait in Mexico. Some have [desisted](#) from their U.S. protection claims. Meanwhile, their [temporary status](#) in Mexico must be renewed, despite broad suspensions of administrative deadlines by INM; unclear immigration paperwork may leave these migrants and asylum-seekers vulnerable to detention and deportation from Mexico to their country of origin while waiting to be heard in the U.S..

People on the move stranded in cities like [Matamoros](#), in tent encampments, are extremely [vulnerable](#) to virus outbreaks. The tent camp in Matamoros reported its first confirmed COVID case on [June 30](#). Additionally, a [complaint](#) filed by Human Rights Watch in June reinforces that individuals subject to 'Remain in Mexico' are systematically targeted by organized crime in Tamaulipas State for kidnapping, extortion, and assault.

## Return flows to Mexico and Central America

On March 21, the United States issued an order, [citing](#) public health laws in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, that permits the immediate expulsion to Mexican territory of people on the move who have crossed into the U.S. undocumented, with [virtually no](#) screening for international protection needs. To date, at least [42,000](#) incidents of expulsion have occurred under this order, which has been [extended indefinitely](#). This order permits the expulsion even of unaccompanied children—[over 900](#) to date—in [apparent violation](#) of federal law.

Once expelled by the U.S. to Mexico, news reports indicate that refugees and migrants from Central America are then bussed by Mexican authorities to Mexico's southern border and at least in some cases [abandoned](#) with instructions to cross into Guatemala through puntos ciegos (unofficial border crossings). Likewise, in April, after Mexican immigration detention centers were ordered to free refugees and migrants vulnerable to COVID-19—but Central American border closures prevented deportations—Mexico reportedly also [bussed](#) some of them to its southern border with instructions to cross through unofficial border crossings.

Since the declaration of the pandemic, deportations from the U.S. to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador continue apace, despite the Central American countries' border closures and calls to [suspend deportations](#) and even as the U.S. recorded over 2,500 COVID-19 cases [in ICE detention centers](#) by the end of June. The U.S. has [deported](#) COVID-positive individuals to Mexico (linked to at least one [outbreak](#) in a migrant shelter), Guatemala, El Salvador, and Haiti. Nearly [9,000](#) migrants have been deported to Honduras since March. The use of "[disinfection tunnels](#)" for deportations to Reynosa, Mexico, drew uncomfortable parallels to the U.S. treatment of braceros during the 1950s and 1960s.

Both [deportations](#) and [voluntary returns](#) of refugees and migrants from the U.S. to Mexico and Central America have been linked to COVID-19 outbreaks, raising [concerns](#) in communities of origin. [More than 20](#) individuals infected with COVID-19 have been deported by the U.S. to Guatemala to date, including at least [four children](#). This practice poses serious risks for the country's fragile health system: as of June, about [20 percent](#) of coronavirus cases in Guatemala had been linked to deportees from the U.S.

[Remittances](#) to Mexico fell 2 percent in April, whereas remittances to Guatemala and El Salvador have fallen 20 percent and 40 percent, respectively, according to BBVA Bancomer, a Mexican bank; this will have an impact on the families of refugees and migrants in the country of origin, who often rely heavily on remittances to cover their needs.

## Extracontinental mixed migration flows

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple groups of African (including from Angola, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Congo, and other countries, according to the press reports cited below), Haitian, Cuban, and South Asian people on the move traveling toward the U.S. have been stopped or delayed by border closures throughout South and Central America.

In Colombia, some 300 refugees and migrants have been [stuck in Necoclí](#), on the northern Caribbean coast, since March, when the population of Capurganá, on the border with Panama, closed its seaport due to fears of coronavirus contagion from the Darien Gap.

As for Panama, about 1,700 migrants were stuck in La Peñita, near the Darien Gap, [by mid-April](#). Previously, the Panamanian government had transferred between 50 and 100 migrants north daily to the Costa Rican border under the so-called '[Controlled Flow](#)' program, in cooperation with the government of the neighbouring state, but that program was halted in mid-March due to the pandemic. By the [end of May](#)—following an Inter-American Court [resolution on May 26](#) requiring authorities to reduce overcrowding in its Darién reception centers—Panamanian authorities announced their intention to transfer the 1,900 waiting refugees and migrants to its northern border with Costa Rica. The Costa Rican government, however, announced that it would not receive those persons, as Nicaragua had closed its border and they would not be able to leave Costa Rica. [In June](#), it was also reported that Panama had isolated about 200 African, Cuban, and Haitian refugees and migrants in precarious conditions in Lajas Blancas, Darién, after 90 tested positive for COVID-19, while hundreds of people on the move remained confined in a [shelter](#) in Gualaca, in the northern Chiriqui province.

Costa Rica, for its part, closed and began to [militarize](#) its porous border with Nicaragua (and with Panama) as early as [April](#), in light of the pandemic. At the [end of June](#), some 26 Haitians were left temporarily in limbo when Costa Rica refused to permit them entry, and Panama refused to accept them back onto its territory; this, in a context in which people on the move are seeking to escape overcrowded Panamanian shelters.

In June, Honduran media reported a new '[caravan](#)' of approximately 300 African and Haitian refugees and migrants leaving from the Choluteca department, near the border with Nicaragua; the group had been [stuck](#) in southern Honduras since March amid border closures in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Some [100](#) of them were stopped and medically screened days later in Santa Ana, Honduras. As of [June 18](#), a group had departed from El Paraíso, Honduras; Honduran officials emphasized that there was no 'humanitarian corridor' to ensure their passage to the United States and that national borders remained closed.

Migration control efforts also continue in Guatemala; [in mid-June](#), a trailer carrying 15 Cubans was stopped near the border with Honduras and the driver arrested for smuggling.

In northern Mexico, African populations stuck in situations of involuntary immobility have grown, as prospective migrants and asylum-seekers in the U.S. are left on the Mexican side of the border in metering processes or under the 'Remain in Mexico' policy; recent estimates suggest some [600 African refugees and migrants](#) are living in Reynosa (on the border with McAllen, Texas). Some of them are among the thousands of Africans who were given stateless [status](#) by Mexican migration authorities in Tapachula in 2019, and who are now living in [northern Mexico](#).

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has also made visible how African refugees and migrants, whose immigration and work authorization status is usually precarious, and who often suffer discrimination and xenophobia, are particularly affected across the continent. For example, in [Buenos Aires, Argentina](#), Senegalese and other African migrants denounced their precarious immigration, housing and labor status (as street vendors) during the pandemic.

# Thematic Focus: Refugee and Migrant Returns to Countries of Origin during COVID-19 Pandemic

Across the Americas, refugees and migrants have been returning to their countries of origin during the COVID-19 pandemic, both voluntarily and involuntarily, amid [conditions of increased precarity](#). These returns are most clearly and evidently linked to job loss, eviction, and lack of minimum living conditions in places of destination. Faced with homelessness and deprivation, refugees and migrants choose to return to be with family, and to live in homes they will not be evicted from.

## Returns to Venezuela

In the case of Venezuela, where at least [75,000](#) refugees and migrants have returned to date from across South America, the decision to return appears to often be driven by a combination of fear of illness and death [far from home](#), and untenable circumstances in their countries of destination as [income loss](#)—frequently in the informal sector—leads to [eviction and hunger](#). In this regard, some returning Venezuelans have mentioned plans to migrate again to Colombia as soon as [July or August](#), indicating the central role that temporary economic conditions play in the decisions to return. Likewise, one survey found that just [one third](#) of respondents had received any kind of assistance during the pandemic, most frequently from a national government or an NGO, while 86 percent of respondents indicated additional immediate needs, evidencing a gap between available aid and total need during the pandemic.

As a consequence, an Inter-American Development Bank [study](#) suggests that as many as 330,000 of the 1.7 million Venezuelans living in Colombia prior to the crisis could return to Venezuela, and projects that remittances to the country will fall about 30 percent.

As Venezuelans seek to return to their country, they have found themselves stuck at various points along the route in [temporary camps](#), sometimes hindered by authorities from advancing. As of June, [homelessness](#) is high and Venezuelans stranded on the border and [throughout Colombia](#) have begun to create informal [camps](#) as they await aid to return to Venezuela. Restrictions on daily entries to Venezuela have strained [shelter capacity](#) in Cúcuta and left hundreds of refugees and migrants [stranded along](#) the border. Colombian authorities have [indicated](#) that restrictions on travel out of urban areas across the country are intended to prevent further straining border cities' resources.

Serious concerns about quarantine conditions for returnees, who are required to [quarantine](#) in [crowded shelters](#) on arrival in Venezuela without adequate food, water, or sanitation, persist.

Likewise, drivers of migration from Venezuela such as lack of adequate access to food and healthcare, insecurity and violence [have not disappeared](#), and the situation may be worsening while the pandemic is ongoing, raising questions about the sustainability of return.

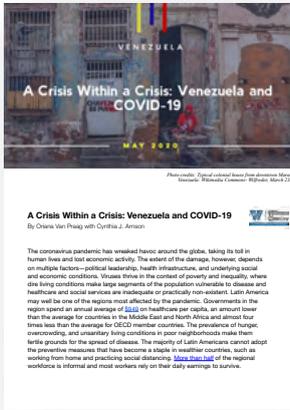
## Returns to Mexico and Central America

While the most reported returns to Mexico and Central America during the pandemic have been [deportations](#), both from the U.S. and from Mexico, there are indications that some migrants are [voluntarily returning](#)—and certainly refraining from migrating at this time. As in the case of Venezuela, these returns seem to be [linked](#) to a lack of work, food, and shelter to sustain life in places of transit or destination.

Groups of Central Americans reportedly “voluntarily” [returned](#) to Central America from Mexico at the beginning of the pandemic, some after being released from Mexican immigration detention centers and finding themselves stranded in southern Mexico. While repatriation was an important [demand](#) of Central American migrants and refugees in Mexican detention centers at the beginning of the pandemic, however, it is not evident that the manner in which these returns ultimately occurred was truly [voluntary](#).

Border closures in Central America make regular return for Central Americans stranded in Mexican shelters [impossible](#) in the absence of action by Central American consulates, leaving migrants with few viable options. In May, a migrant shelter in southern Mexico reported seeing “[reverse](#)” flows returning to Central America; the shelter director suggested that the only migrants successfully reaching their destinations are traveling with smugglers.

# Highlighted New Research and Reports



## [A Crisis Within a Crisis: Venezuela and COVID-19](#)

**Wilson Center | May 2020**

This report analyzes the humanitarian crisis that preceded the coronavirus pandemic in Venezuela to show why the country is so vulnerable to the disease, providing an overview of the government's response and the lack of adequate access to food and healthcare in the country. The report then discusses the situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in other countries of the region. Each section concludes with an analysis of the international response to the crisis and provides recommendations for improving that response.



## [Venezuelan Children: Between a Rock and a Hard Place](#)

**World Vision | June 2020**

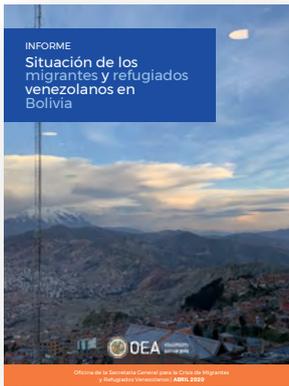
This study draws on more than 350 surveys with Venezuelan children across South America to understand their living conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. It finds that 25 percent of them live in informal settlements, and 25 percent are separated from both parents at this time. It highlights, among other things, the difficulties created by loss of income during the pandemic; evictions, tied to the inability to pay rents; family separation; and the diverse factors that lead family groups to choose to return to Venezuela.



## [One Year after the U.S.-Mexico Agreement: Reshaping Mexico's Migration Policies](#)

**Migration Policy Institute | June 2020**

This report reviews the impact of migration policies adopted by Mexico after a June 2019 agreement to increase migration enforcement in order to avoid the imposition of tariffs by the U.S., including the deployment of Mexico's National Guard to curb migration and the expansion of the 'Remain in Mexico' policy across its northern border. Mexico saw detentions and deportations rise significantly, and saw asylum applications more than double from 2018 to 2019. Continuing and intensifying challenges include the precarious conditions many migrants face in 'Remain in Mexico' and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## [Situation of Venezuelan Refugees and migrants in Bolivia](#)

### **Organization of American States | April 2020**

This report is based on a March visit by an OAS delegation to Bolivia, which currently hosts about 10,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants. It suggests that although Bolivia has taken positive steps recently toward regularization of Venezuelans and removal of barriers, such as fines for irregular entry, important challenges remain to ensure regularization and non-discrimination in Bolivia.



## [Deportation with a Layover: Failure of Protection under the U.S.-Guatemala Asylum Cooperative Agreement](#)

### **Human Rights Watch/Refugees International | May 2020**

This report indicates that the U.S.-Guatemala “Asylum Cooperative Agreement” (Safe Third Country agreement) has been implemented in a way that effectively compels transferees to abandon their refugee claims on arrival in Guatemala, through harsh detention conditions and due process violations, including lack of access to a lawyer in U.S. detention, and inadequate processing and information upon arrival in Guatemala. Once in Guatemala, transferees were given 72 hours to determine whether to apply for asylum in Guatemala; only about two percent of the nearly 1,000 transferees to date have opted to pursue this path. Implementation of the U.S.-Guatemala ACA was suspended on March 16, 2020, due to COVID-19.

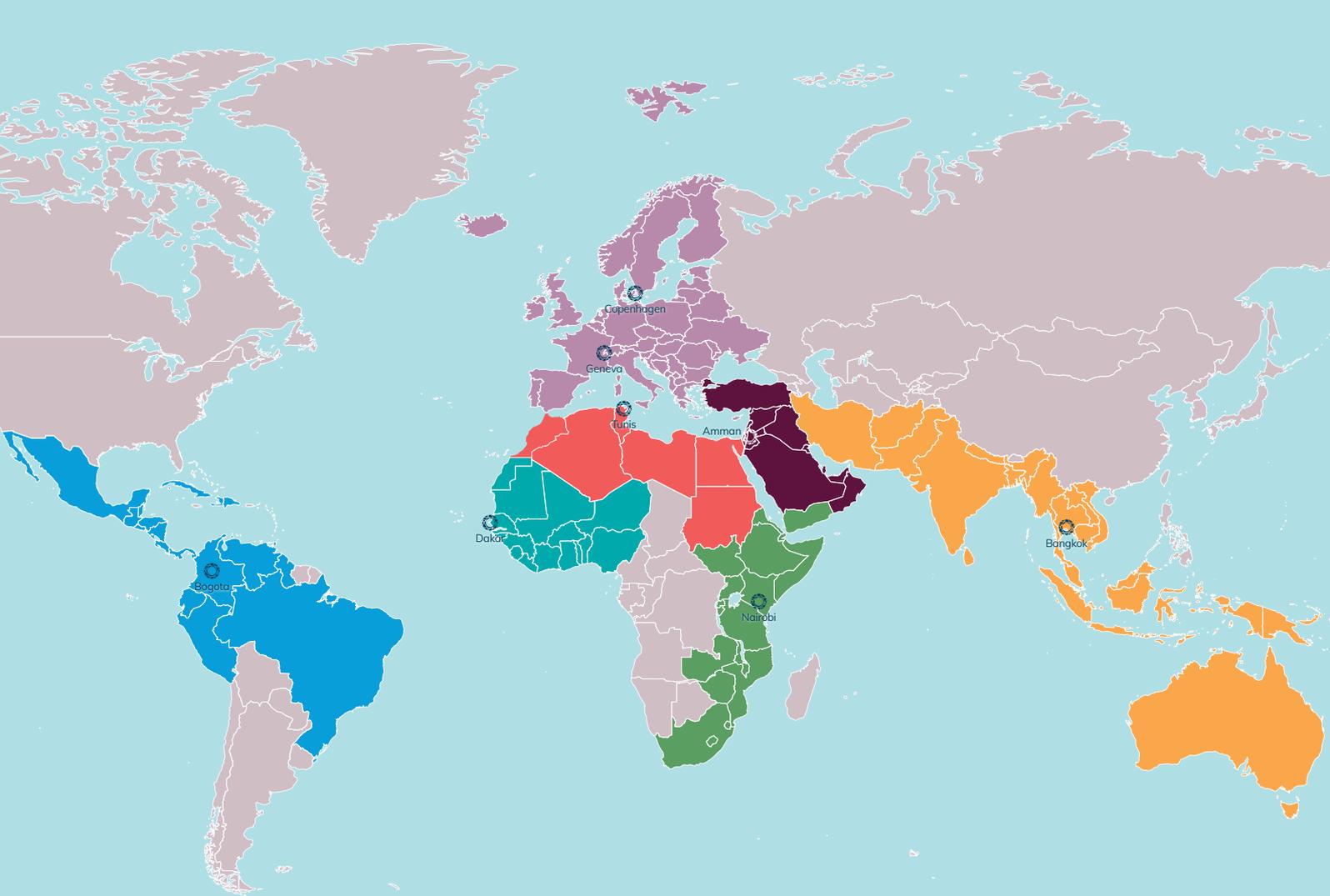
information upon arrival in Guatemala. Once in Guatemala, transferees were given 72 hours to determine whether to apply for asylum in Guatemala; only about two percent of the nearly 1,000 transferees to date have opted to pursue this path. Implementation of the U.S.-Guatemala ACA was suspended on March 16, 2020, due to COVID-19.



## [Migrantes de Otro Mundo \(“Migrants from Another World”\)](#)

### **Animal Político et al. | May 2020**

This large-scale reporting project among several Latin American media outlets represents a significant effort to understand the migration routes of so-called “extracontinental” refugees and migrants across the Americas as well as the smuggling networks that facilitate them.



The MMC is a global network consisting of seven regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration. The MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise on mixed migration. The MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. The MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

The MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Global and regional MMC teams are based in Amman, Copenhagen, Dakar, Geneva, Nairobi, Tunis, Bogota and Bangkok.

**For more information visit:**  
[mixedmigration.org](https://mixedmigration.org) and follow us at [@Mixed\\_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

