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Project: Venezuela and Nicaragua: Regional
Migration Crisis in the Making

Annual Meeting

Venezuela and Nicaragua: Regional Migration Crises in the Making

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Project Overview: Goals

Assess the dimensions of the Venezuelan and Nicaraguan migration crises and policy options for responding effectively to them

Project Overview: Objectives

1. Understand the dimensions of the Venezuelan and Nicaraguan migration outflows. Specifically, assess the **number of Venezuelans and Nicaraguans and their legal status** in the principal countries of reception.
2. Understand **whether host country policies allow for permanent integration** and **whether these outflows are likely to continue and increase/decrease**
3. Understand **how the U.S. government and regional governments can work together to manage these flows and prevent a wider crisis** that could destabilize individual countries, generate a backlash against Venezuelan and Nicaraguan migrants, and potentially lead to greater flows northward to the United States.
 - Emphasis on legal status, access to key public benefits and integration supports, economic integration

Project Overview: Knowledge Gap Addressed

- Size and characteristics of Venezuelan and Nicaraguan migrant flows, and potential for flows to reach the U.S.
- Whether migrants will be able to integrate in receiving countries
- Where there are gaps or limitations in long-term integration plans and services that could lead to backlash and/or eventual flows to the U.S.

Project Overview: End-Users of Research

- DHS Office of Policy
- CBP Analysts
- Department of State Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs

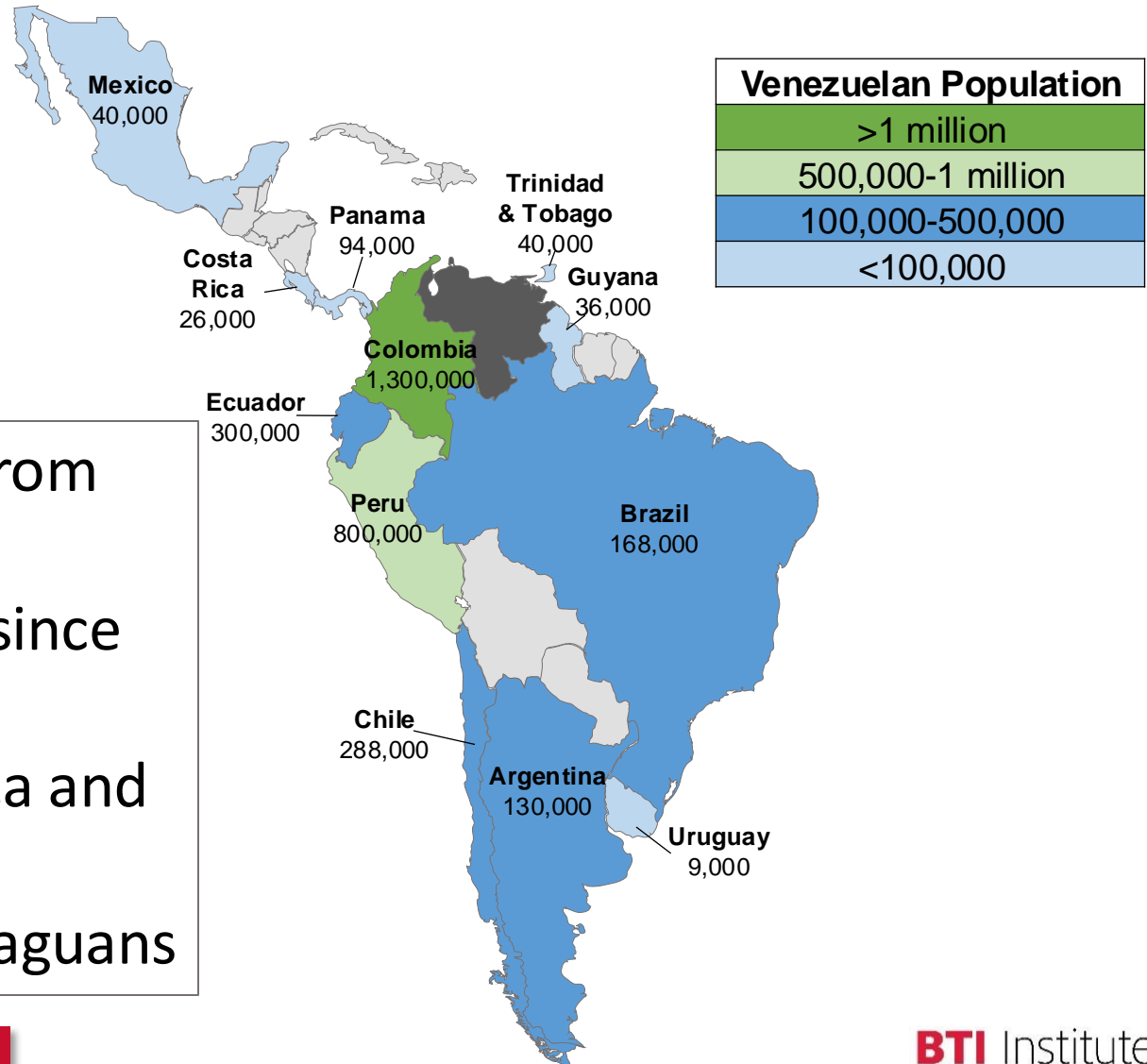
Project Overview: Main Outcomes & Benefits

- Understanding the nature of Venezuelan/Nicaraguan migration flows & likelihood that they will move north
- Ability to identify where U.S. government assistance and/or involvement can most effectively help host countries in Latin America integrate Venezuelan/Nicaraguan migrants and prevent destabilization

Milestones

- Milestones still in progress
- Preliminary findings from research and fieldwork
 - **Flows continue to grow**, especially of Venezuelans in Colombia and Peru, but in the entire region as well.
 - **Legal status is available** in some cases, but **major barriers exist**, and status is often temporary.
 - Some individuals in governments are **thinking creatively** about integration, how to serve migrants and host communities.
 - There are significant **capacity and bureaucratic constraints**.
 - **Migrants may run up against existing system weaknesses**, even if they can access public benefits and services.

Preliminary Findings: Flows



- 4 million migrants from Venezuela
- 1 million displaced since November 2018
- 80% in Latin America and Caribbean
- About 60,000 Nicaraguans

Preliminary Findings: Entry

- Quito Process encourages regional loosening of entry requirements
- Accept expired Venezuelan passports: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru
- Don't require passports: Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador
- Costa Rica to accept passports within a day of expiring
- Some countries are attempting to impose stricter requirements: Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago

Country	Requires Legal Entry?	Requires Passport?	Requires Certification of Clean Criminal History from Venezuela?	Cost	Pathway to Permanent Residency?	Number of Visa Recipients/ Status Holders	Percentage of Venezuelan Migrant Population
Colombia, Special Stay Permit (PEP)	Yes, unless registered with the RAMV	Yes, unless registered with the RAMV	No	Free	No, but government beginning to grant renewals for expired PEPs	597,000	46%
Peru, Temporary Stay Permit (PTP)	Yes	No, but passport required for legal entry in most cases	No, certification comes from INTERPOL	USD 12	Yes	331,000	41%
Peru, Humanitarian Visa	Must apply outside Peru	Yes	Yes	Free	Yes	unknown	N/A
Ecuador, UNASUR Visa	Yes	Yes	Yes	USD 250	Yes	66,000	30%
Brazil, Temporary Residence Permit	No	No	No	Free	Yes	40,000 applications	24%
Chile, Democratic Responsibility Visa	Must apply outside Chile	Yes	Yes	USD 30	Yes	31,000	11%
Argentina, MERCOSUR Visa	Yes	No	Yes, if lived there in past 3 years	USD 23	Yes	unknown	N/A
Trinidad & Tobago, 1-Year Permit	No	Yes	No	Free	No	~15,000 applications	38%

Preliminary Findings: Integration & Constraints

- Colombia
 - Education: Flexible on enrollment documents but can't graduate without regular status/PEP
 - Health Care: PEP holders can legally access health system, but still face barriers in practice due to capacity limitations
- Peru
 - Regularization: Surge in migration processing led to effort to digitize applications
 - Education: Creative ideas (e.g., conducting mass enrollment in Lima), but severe capacity issues, both in Education Ministry and in schools themselves
 - Health Care: Laws/regulations prevent Venezuelan migrants with PTP from accessing state insurance system

Preliminary Findings: Integration & Constraints

- Argentina
 - Labor Market: National and provincial governments have signed agreements to allow migrants in health care professions to be matched with vacant positions in provinces
- Brazil
 - Labor Market: As part of “interiorization” program for Venezuelan migrants, some migrants with certain skills are matched with jobs in interior of country. Capacity constraints limit number of participants.

Deliverables

ID	Description	Type	Due Date	Status
D.1	Stakeholders Roundtable	B	8/19	
D.2	Final Report	R	10/19	
D.3	Launch events (2)	B	10/19	

Performance Metrics

Research and Innovation KPIs		Date	Means of verification
KPI-RI-1	Stakeholders Roundtable successful	8/19	Key stakeholders represented. Discussion useful to Project Champion, stakeholders, and research team.
KPI-RI-2	Report on policy options provides innovative and forward-thinking ideas.	10/19	Report useful to USG, key stakeholders, and mentioned in press.

Dissemination KPIs (HSE, scientific community, public)		Date	Means of verification
KPI-D-1	Launch events at MPI and U.S. Congress	10/19	Events held
KPI-D-2	Media and social media outreach	10/19	Media mentions, social media feedback, in region and in U.S.

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Question and Answer

For more Information

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