

Transiting economic integration

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Chapter 1

Learnings and challenges of Venezuelan people
who want to stay in Brazil, Colombia, Chile,
Ecuador and Peru. March 2023



Original idea: "Hope without Borders"

General coordination and analysis: Paula Alarcón, MEAL

Primary information collection: Teams from the Response to the Venezuelan Migration Crisis from the National Offices of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Revision and editing: Fabiola Rueda, Sara Lara, Rocío Téllez, Gabriela Becerra

Design and layout: Cristhian Chaparro

The "**Hope without Borders**" Response is **World Vision's** contribution to mitigate the effects of the socio-economic crisis experienced by Venezuelan people within and outside their country. World Vision assists Venezuelan people in vulnerable situations in their country of origin, transit territories, and host countries. The objective is to restore their dignity.

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To start

Acknowledgements

This report was possible thanks to the participation of 285 people who gave us their testimonies about their situation of integration in the host countries. We thank and admire them for their courage, strength and perseverance.

We thank all the people in the country offices who worked applying the tools and gathering the information in the fields well as those who led these processes. To the donors and cooperating partners for allowing us to learn in more detail about the situation of the population we work with. Finally, to all the people who reviewed the report and sent us their comments.

¿Why did we conduct this study?

World Vision (WV) designs its projects based on the analysis of the needs of people affected by crises. Through various consultation tools, it has been found that income generation of people in mobility situation is one of the crucial factors for their integration in the host countries, as it contributes to their dignity and to the guarantee of their rights.

Hence, in the last two years there has been a significant shift on the part of humanitarian organizations, as well as cooperating partners, to increase work in the Livelihoods line. Working in this sector "*{allows us to comply with} The goal of empowering people with the skills, knowledge and financial means to meet the development needs of their children and families long after WV has left the communities*" (Cash Transfer Leader, World Vision's Multi-Country Response to the Venezuela Migration Crisis)." This approach ensures that the mandate of humanitarian aid is fulfilled by transitioning from emergency response to recovery and resilience.

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"The integration of refugees and migrants prevents protection risks such as human trafficking and smuggling or multiple displacements through unsafe routes, which are caused, among other reasons, by food insecurity, limited or precarious employment opportunities and the economic difficulties faced by families with children in their care"

**Advocacy Leader, World Vision's
Multi-Country Response to the
Venezuelan Migration Crisis**

In relation to the above, challenges such as xenophobia, lack of documentation, bureaucratic barriers, lack of support networks, cultural and language gaps are encountered. This study highlighted the above in order to identify recommendations and analysis of strategies used. We already know what does not work and what is the complex reality, which of course is mentioned. Now, our aim is to better understand how people are dealing with these challenges and how World Vision's actions, we can contribute to improving of these situations, without disregarding their complexity.

This study serves as a call for the recognition of people in mobility, not only for their vulnerability, but also for the strength, skills and creativity with which they cope their new lives in the host countries.

¿What information we analyze?

To carry out this study, our objective was to describe the strategies used by migrants to generate income in the host countries, in order to understand their integration processes after at least one year after the start of the migration process.

To achieve this objective, we used three methods of data collection. The following is a description of these methods, as well as the main characteristics of the Participants.

- Questionnaire: We applied it to 230 people, all participants of World Vision projects in the different countries where we have response actions. The questionnaire consisted in 62 questions, and took an average of 12.18 minutes per person to complete. The questionnaire was designed by the MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Analysis and Learning) team of the Multi-Country response. It was reviewed and adjusted by technicians

from the Livelihoods and Integration sector, as well as people from the MEAL teams in the countries. We used Kobo Toolbox platform in the Enketo interface to administer the questionnaire and it was conducted through phone calls in all cases.

- Focus Groups: We conducted focus groups in which 43 people participated, all of them of legal age, migrants and with at least one year of stay in the host country. The groups were conducted separately by sex (male and female) and each one was guided by at least two people from the World Vision team. The application of these groups had a hybrid format, both face-to-face and virtual modalities. For virtual sessions, facilitators were requested to ensure spaces of trust and solitude where the participants could participate with peace of mind.

What information did we analyze?



Graph 1: Information collection characteristics

- We conducted 12 semi-structured interviews with migrants, these were also carried out in a hybrid manner and in all cases prior consent was obtained to ensure their willingness to participate.

The MEAL and response operations teams coordinated with their project activities to apply the different instruments. These exercises took place between January 5 and 17, 2023. 13 people were in charge of data collection, all of them are WV collaborators and have been trained in Safeguard and Protection, as well as in the Code of Conduct. All participants provided their informed consent and all participated on a voluntary basis.

The information was cleaned and processed between January 23 and 27, this process was carried out by the MEAL area of the multi-country team. The first draft report was generated on February 3, 2022 by the same area and shared for review and validation by the national teams and technicians until February 24. The final report is being published in March 2023.

¿Where we collected information?

Our response to the migration crisis "*Hope without Borders*" began in 2019 and today allows us to be in seven countries. Of these, five took part in the study. They were Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru.

For the survey, we achieved the participation of 230 individuals, distributed as shown in illustration 1, by country. As for the interviews, we conducted 1 in Chile, 2 in Brazil, 2 in Ecuador, 2 in Colombia and 2 in Peru. Each country had one focus group session.

Participation in surveys by country



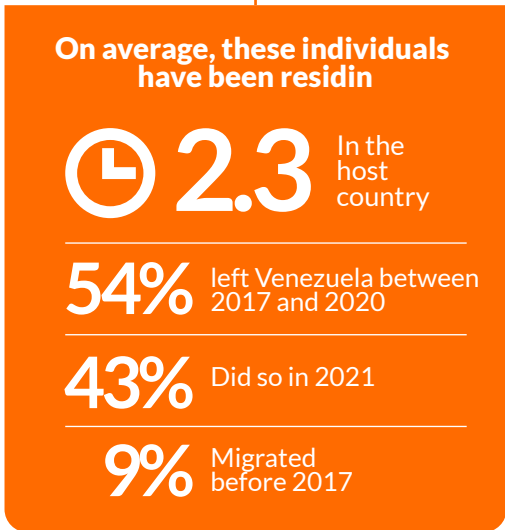
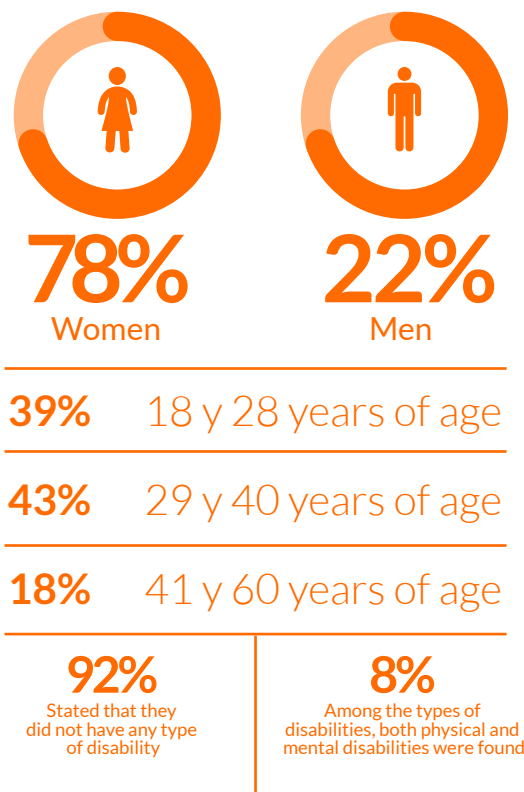
Graph 2: Percentage of participants per country

¿Who told us their stories?

To apply the survey, people were randomly selected from the WV database, which registers those who participate in the projects that the organization implements as part of the response to the humanitarian situation generated by migration. The selection, although random, was made applying the following filters: people of Venezuelan nationality, mostly women, over 18 years of age, with at least one year of permanence in the host country. Therefore, 78% of the people who participated were women and 22% men, 39% of whom were between 18 and 28 years of age, 43% between 29 and 40 and the remaining (18%) between 41 and 60. 92% stated that they did not have any type of disability. Among the types of disabilities, both physical and mental disabilities were found.

On average, these individuals have been residing in the host country for approximately 2.3 years and are 100% Venezuelan nationality. The majority (54%) left Venezuela between 2017 and 2020, 43% did so in 2021. The rest (9%) migrated before 2017.

People with the same characteristics defined for the survey participated in the interviews and focus groups. Their data are treated and kept in accordance with the data treatment policies that WV has in each national office.



Graph 3: Characteristics of people



Migrant women at entrepreneurship fair, WV Ecuador, 2022

¿What were our limitations?

Due to the large number of humanitarian actors and despite inter-agency coordination efforts, it is a fact that people are fatigued from being surveyed. On over 20 occasions, people refused to participate in the study because they had already been surveyed by WV and other organizations. Additionally, in some cases there was distrust on the part of the people who answered the questions, alluding to how difficult it is for them to talk about the economic integration process. In all cases, instruments were applied so that people could withdraw from the survey or continue, if they considered it appropriate.

The study was funded through ongoing activities within the response countries. Therefore, it was carried out by World Vision staff members who were also performing their routine duties during the days they worked on it.

It is important to note that the study sample is not representative and all the people who participated as informants are part of World Vision projects, resulting in a selection bias, according to the variables that, by country, have been defined for their selection.

In most cases, data collection tools were applied by nationals of the country hosting the mobile persons. This is seen as a limitation, as there is perceived the possibility of bias in the trust that people have in sharing their information.



Migrant women at entrepreneurship fair, WV Ecuador, 2022

What we found?

1 Adaptation

“When you migrate, you don't normally do what you did in your country, you have to do **WHATEVER IT TAKES**”

(Woman, Peru, 2023)

One of the main challenges faced by people in a situation of mobility is struggle to generate income. In 95% of the cases, people who migrated did so for economic reasons and continue facing numerous barriers in the host countries. However, in many cases they encountered obstacles such as: documentation, information, xenophobia, language and cultural barriers, degrading and exploitative working conditions.

Among participants, only 59% have the means to generate income, more than a year has passed since they migrated and only 2% are engaged in the same occupation they had in Venezuela. Table 1 provides an overview of some of the changes found in specific cases among participants.

In Venezuela	In the host country
Teacher	Dressmaker
Agriculture / Livestock Production	Cleaning - Street sales
Restaurants (waitresses/cooks)	Recycling
Nursing	Restaurants (Waitresses/cooks)
Secretary / Assistants	Cleaning

Table 1: Venezuela Occupation vs. Host Country Comparison

Performing activities of any kind, whether they know them or not, is identified as a strategy for income generation once people

migrate, especially in the first months of their stay in the receiving countries.

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“I would tell a person who is going to arrive in Brazil that, even if they have low-paying jobs, if you would get a chance in one of those jobs, accept it, because you need the money. Besides that, it is an experience that will enrich your resume once you develop new skills and, thus, you can look for a better job”

—

(Man, Brazil, 2023)

Among the jobs performed by migrants that started their trip in the last year, it was founded cleaning (30%), food sales as their own business (40%), being factory workers (20%) and recycling (10%). It is noteworthy that people consider having knowledge in some trade as an advantage when migrating, *“(…) In Peru I have realized and learned that it is very important to have a trade (….) If you arrive with a trade, you are already half way advanced.”* (Woman, Peru, 2023). Changing trades is a strategy commonly used by people in a mobility situation.

Additionally, the support network is always mentioned as fundamental to make their arrival in the host countries, especially for obtain means to generate income.

In Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, 14% of the participants generate income from street trading; in Chile and Brazil, none of the participants do so. However, it was found that, in most cases, this was the way they started when they arrived in the country. *“(…) Strategies such as selling food, clothes, cosmetics, cleaning supplies, practically whatever.”* (Woman, Brazil, 2023). By the time of the study, people who entered

between 2021 and the beginning of 2022 represent 60% of the total of those who receive their income thanks to this street sales.

“

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“The first thing I did was to work as a porter in a restaurant, because a sister-in-law of mine works in a restaurant and she welcomed me there. I worked as a porter, but it didn't go well there. She tried to help me to work as a waiter.”

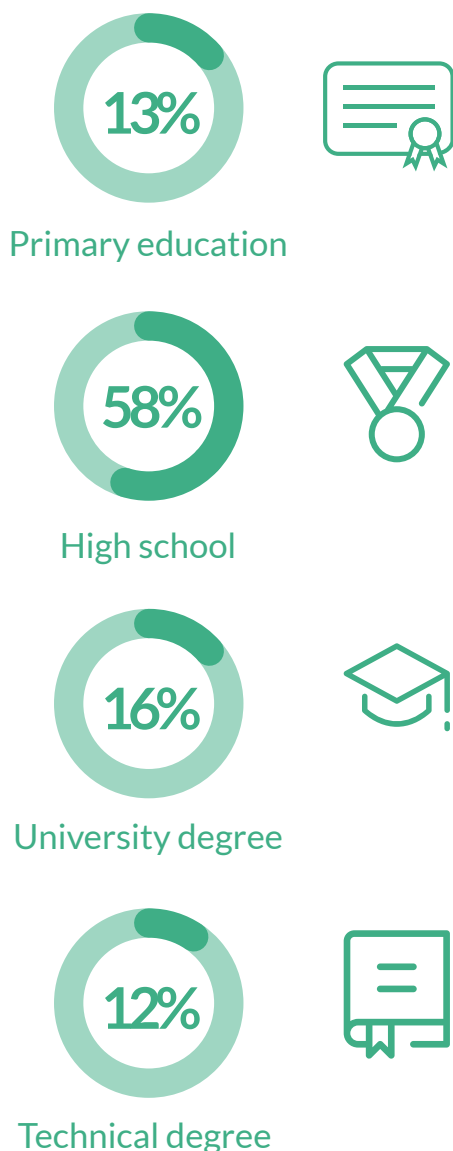
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(Male, Colombia, 2023)

Despite the aforementioned challenges, over the time, some people manage to make their way within the country and open the field to income generation, *“Always have the attitude to look and look for a place where they offer you a job without thinking so much about how much they are going to pay you”* (Male, Colombia, 2023). This determination, coupled with the need for perseverance and persistent desire to enhance their well-being and quality of life, plays a crucial role in their journey.

Adaptation is crossed by the trades that people had in their country of origin, as well as their studies. In terms of educational level, it was found that 58% reached high school, 16% a university degree, 13% primary education and 12% technical education. People with technical, university or higher degrees, also experience changes in their work with migration and one of the causes found is the difficulty and costs to homologate degrees. *“The costs and the*

Education level



Graph 4: Educational level of survey participants

process of homologation of the degree has been what has cost me the most time and money" (Woman, Brazil, 2023). Among the participants, 16% were professionals, where 32% studied careers related to Social Sciences or Humanities, 27% studied Economic and Administrative Sciences and 22% studied Mathematics or Engineering.

None of the people are currently working in their careers and only 17% have managed to get their degrees recognized.

Thus, migration, at least in its early stages, involves the constant search, the desire to overcome and the creativity to generate income in any way possible.

“

(...) Working on the street because for an undocumented person it is the fastest thing to do, selling candy, bags and so on. I was able to work in a jeans factory looking for work, but since I was undocumented, I always worked for less time, at that time they paid me 20,000 {4.5 USD approx.} a day and that's why I went to the street because it's a little better"

(Woman, Colombia, 2023)



Person receiving Youth Ready project approval certificate, WV Ecuador 2022.

2 Income generation

“Everyone arrives here with the mentality of working as soon as possible, but it's not easy, getting a job is not easy.”

(Male, Brazil, 2023)

Regarding the means used to generate income according to sex, it was found that 48% of men are seeking employment, while in the case of women this represents 35%. It is important to mention that Only women mentioned generating income through street vending. Finally, there are more men (28%) working as employees than women (20%).

Means of income generation vs. gender

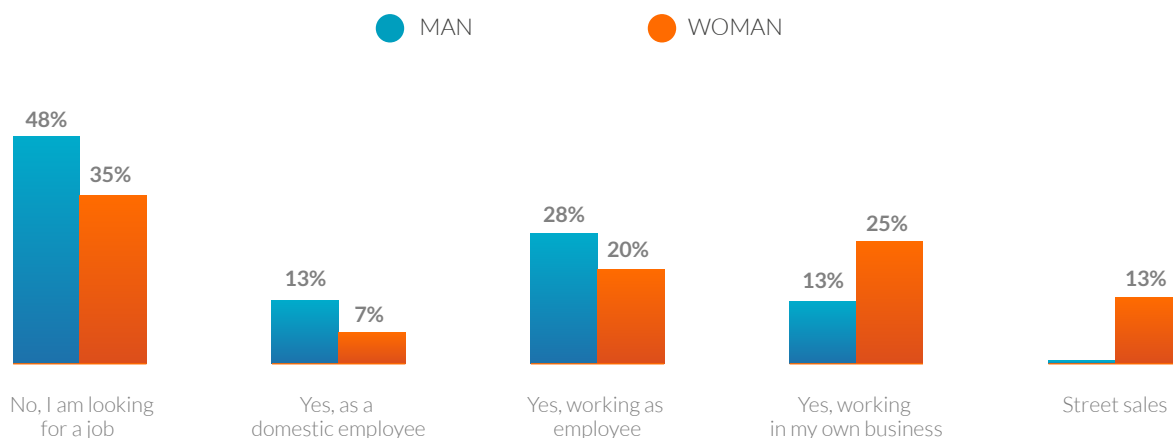
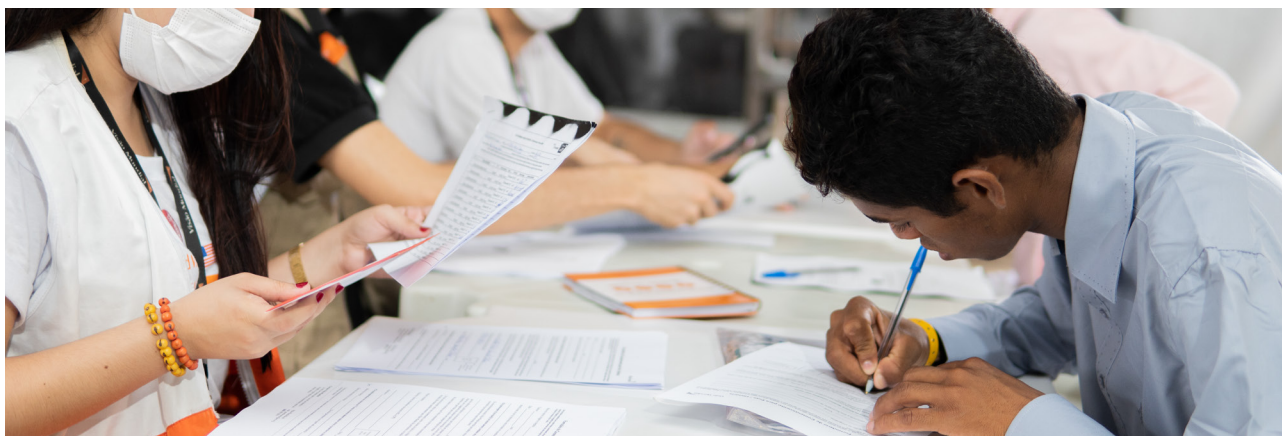


Illustration 1: Means for income generation vs. gender



Migrant Assistance Post in Brazil, World Vision Brazil, 2023

On the other hand, 55% of those employed do not have a formal job. The situation for participants is even more critical in Ecuador, where 100% are in the informal sector, and in Peru thus represents 90% of the participants.

Formality of employment vs country

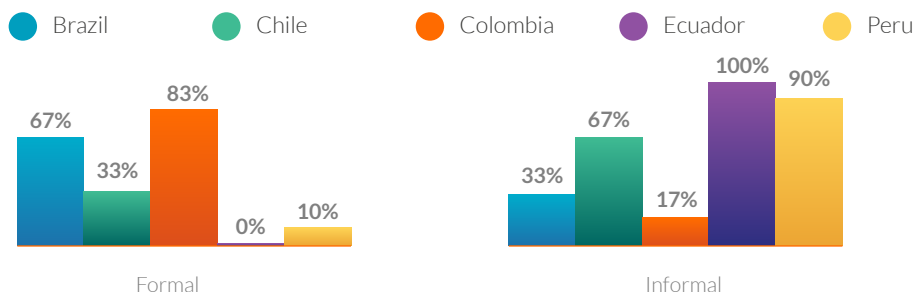


Illustration 2: Employment Formality

Participants were asked to rate from 1 to 3 how difficult they considered the process of getting a formal job. The average score was 2.2. Additionally, people with informal jobs were asked whether or not they have applied for a job with formal conditions. On average, in 74% of the cases, people said no; in the case of Ecuador, this represented 100% of the total responses, and in the case of Colombia, 80%. However, in Brazil, 80% said that they had.

When asked for the reasons, we found lack of knowledge of labor legislation in the country (8%), lack of training or studies to access (2%), lack of support networks for childcare (13%), lack of knowledge of job opportunities in the country (17%), lack of documentation (51%), xenophobia (13%).

Have you applied for formal employment?

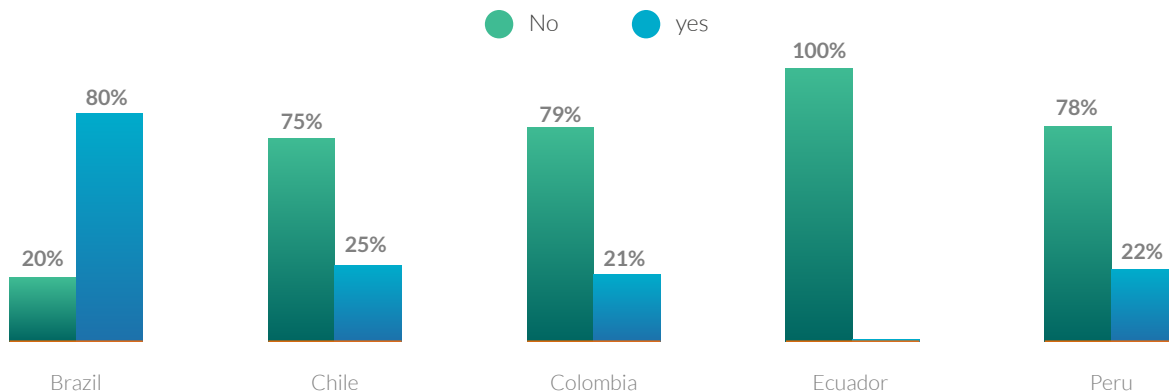


Illustration 3: Have you applied for formal employment?

While 51% of people mentioned documentation as an obstacle, participants were asked if they know how to access the documentation required to access formal employment. It was found that, on average, 69% do not have this information. In the case of Brazil, this percentage is far from the average, with 37% mentioning that they do not have this information. *"I do know the laws and I would even know what to do if I want to formalize my business, it's just that everything here is on the internet"* (Woman, Brazil, 2023). In the case of Peru, 89% of the population is unaware of the situation.

How did the people know about the job

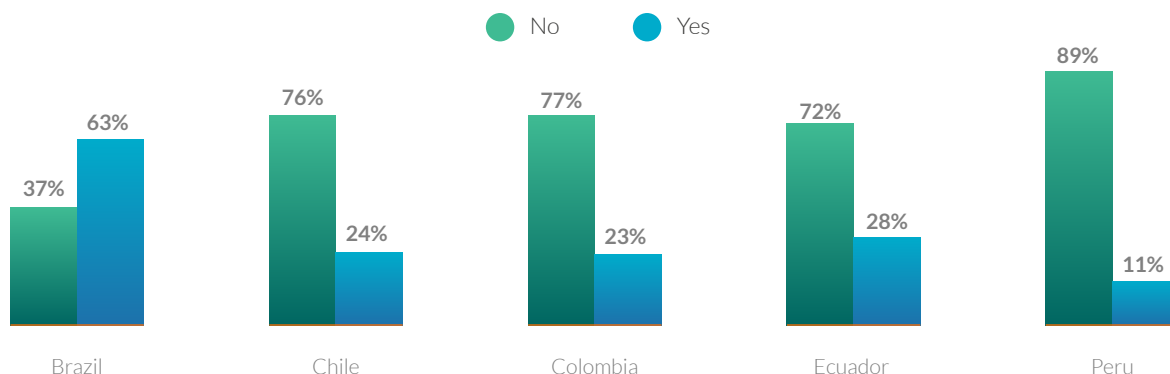


Illustration 4: Knowledge of access to documentation

To confirm that people know the procedure, they were asked to detail it. Only in 63% of the cases it was in line with what is expected to be done in each country. In some cases, the answers were not detailed, so it could not be assured that they knew the procedure as it should be performed. Also, it was asked through what means they found out the procedure, most mentioned that they did it through workshops or information provided by NGOs (33%), followed by friends (35%), social networks (18%), internet (11%) and local or national government information (6%).

Means through which they learned how to access documentation

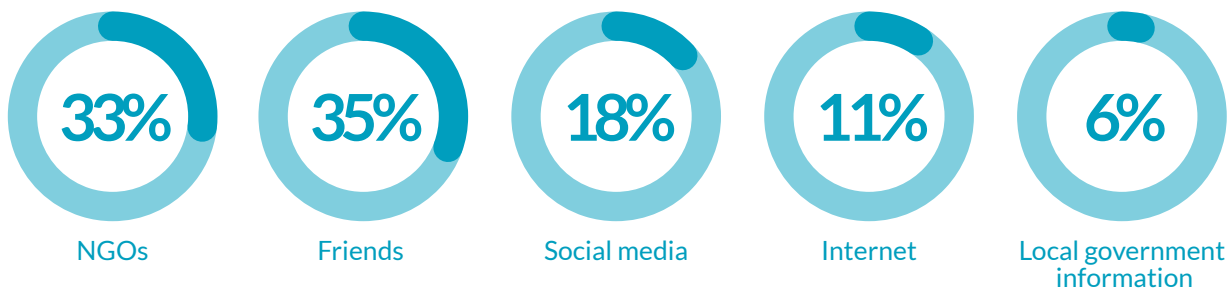


Illustration 5: Means through which you found out about the job



Migrant family attending Portuguese class, World Vision Brazil, 2023.

Taking into consideration these testimonies, and the understanding about the difficulties to start in the host country, it was asked to the participants about the time it took for them to find employment with the aforementioned conditions of formality. In 41% of the cases, people took more than 6 months and in 41% from 3 to 6 months. The remaining 18% took between one and two months.

Regarding people with formal employment, in 35% of the cases, they found out about the vacancy through an known person, 35% through NGOs and 18% through an internet page. and 12% through social networks. People mentioned that, regarding this type of contracts, in some cases they received legal assistance from NGOs that are present in the territory, but in others, they only made the agreement without having more knowledge

about what is stipulated by law in the contract. Some participants mentioned that it was important to know about labor legislation before migrating to a country.

“

"I have been in Brazil for 1 year and 4 months, I had nothing when I arrived, I had to collect cans in the street to start; today I have a bed and that makes me happy"

(Woman, Brazil, 2023)

How long did it take to find employment?



Graph 5: Time taken to get a formal job

Although people mentioned having access to formal employment, 47% mentioned still lacking access to the social protection system in the host country and in 100% of the cases they do not have salaries equal to or above the minimum wage in the host country.

Regarding people who are employed, but informally, only 24% reported having guaranteed access to the social protection

system. For this reason, it was asked what their perspective is in relation to the knowledge that employers have about the rights of people in a situation of mobility. In 82% of the cases, the participants mentioned that there is not enough knowledge and there are cases where employers explicitly stated their unwillingness to hire them in order to avoid legal complications .

One strategy used by some people is to search for job offers on the Internet. In the case of Brazil, the two people interviewed said that there they were able to solve all their doubts and that they even learned to search for the company that called them to have more knowledge during the interviews by using this method.



Workshops on finances for migrants, refugees, and hosting communities, WV Colombia, 2023.

Regularization = better conditions?

“

"Having papers does not make one stop having the name 'Venezuelan!'"

”

(Male, Brazil, 2023)

One of the factors for people in a mobility situation to have access to employment is regularization. The procedures for access vary from country to country and one of the main obstacles is the point of entry. *"{To other migrants} I would tell them to come because there is a lot of employment for young people, but they must enter through an authorized passage so that they can find employment more easily. Otherwise, they run the risk of labor exploitation"* (woman, Chile, 2023).

Illustration 3 shows the migratory status of

the participants by country. In the case of Brazil, most of the people have managed to access regularization processes, while in Peru and Ecuador the percentage remains below 35 points. 99.3% of the people with regular status have up to date documentation in the host country, i.e., there are 0.8% of people who still have unresolved issues regarding their documentation.

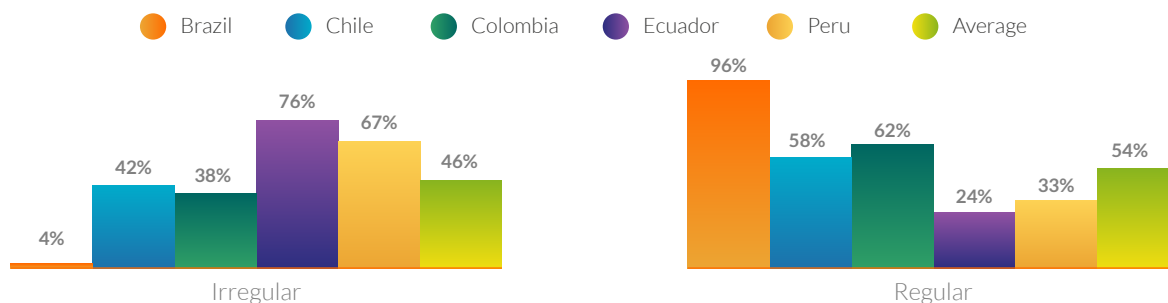


Illustration 6: Immigration status by country

To analyze potential related factors, the year of arrival in the country was compared with the migratory status. The data revealed a noticeable trend in Brazil, Chile and Peru, where the percentage of people with irregular status decreases as the time of residence in the country passes. In Colombia, 69% of people in an irregular situation entered the country before 2021 and in Ecuador 83%, which indicates that the time

of residence in the host country is not necessarily related to access to regular status.

On the other hand, we analyze gender vs. regularization, finding that 49% of women do not have regular status, while 66% of men do. No relevant differences were found between countries in relation to the average.

Migratory status vs year of entry to host country

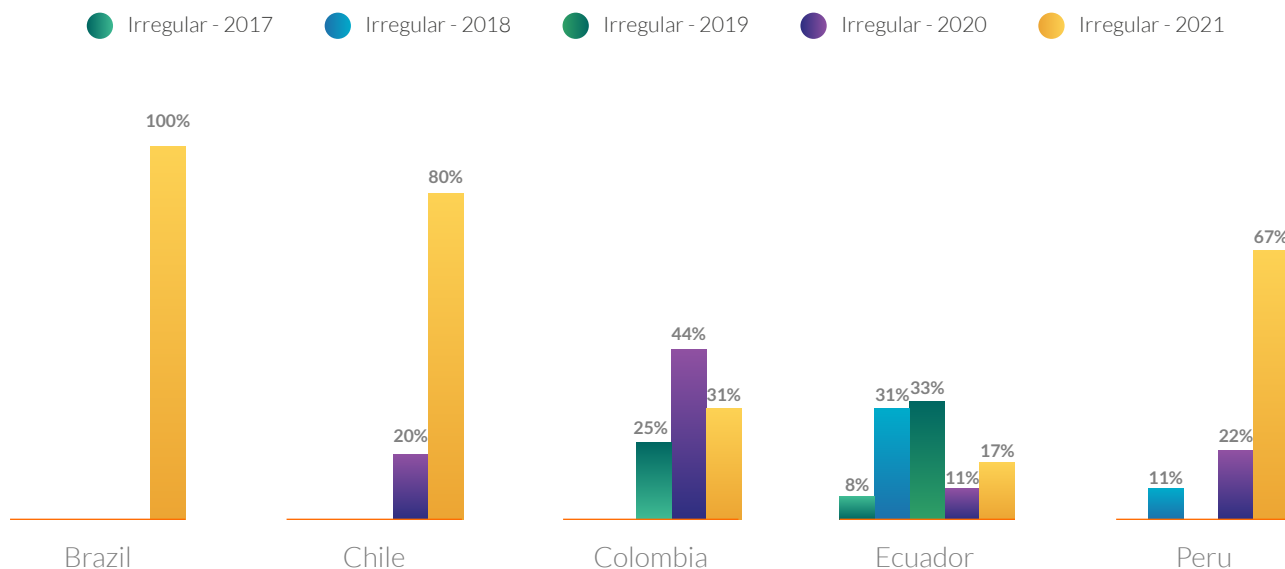


Illustration 7: Migratory status vs. year of entry to host country

Participants were asked if they have any means of generating income. In 32% of the cases, people said that they were looking for work and had no source of income. This figure is particularly higher in Brazil (49%) and Peru (32%) and notably lower in Chile (15%). Of these, 40% have irregular status and 60% regular. "Yes, of course, having papers helps, but in some cases it is not enough. It doesn't make the bosses treat you better or pay you the same" (Woman, Brazil, 2023). In the cases of Chile (80%) and Ecuador (75%) of people who have no income, also do not have regular status, being particularly high in relation to the other three countries.

Migratory status vs gender

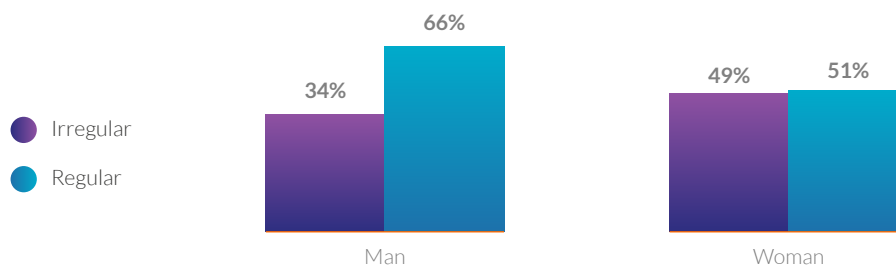


Illustration 8: Migratory status vs gender

No incomes vs Country and immigration status

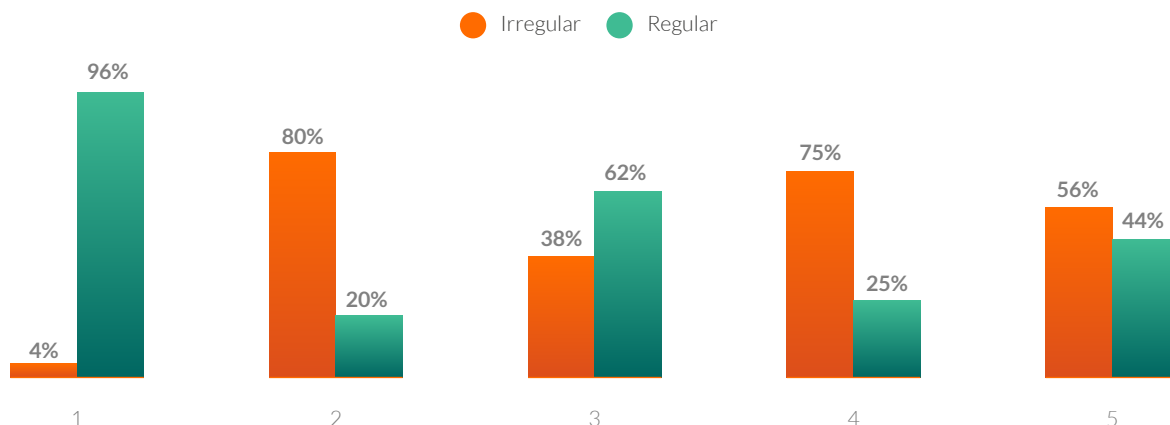


Illustration 9: Non incomes vs Country and immigration status

It was identified that income does vary significantly according to migratory status. Of the total number of regular migrants, in 93% of cases their income is equal to or higher than the minimum wage in force in the host country, while in the case of irregular migrants, 100% stated that their income is not equal to or higher than the minimum wage in force in the host country.

Income are or above minimum wage vs immigration status



Illustration 10: Income are or above minimum wage vs immigration status

4 Self-employment

“ This is a strategy used to dignify ”
 (Woman, Colombia, 2023)

As an alternative to income generation, it was also analyzed the establishment of own businesses. It should be noted that these are not only understood as formal businesses. Of the total number of people who mentioned having their own business, only 15% mentioned having the required legal registrations in the country.

Particularly in Brazil, 67% of people have it. of the 10 people who participated in the focus group, only one knew in detail what the

procedure to regularize their business was. In the case of Colombia and Peru this represents 0% and in Chile 7%.

We asked about the main difficulties encountered in registering their businesses. In first place, 65% of the cases indicated the lack of personal documentation, followed by the cost of the regularization process (51%) and lack of knowledge of the procedures (16%).

Does your business have legal records?

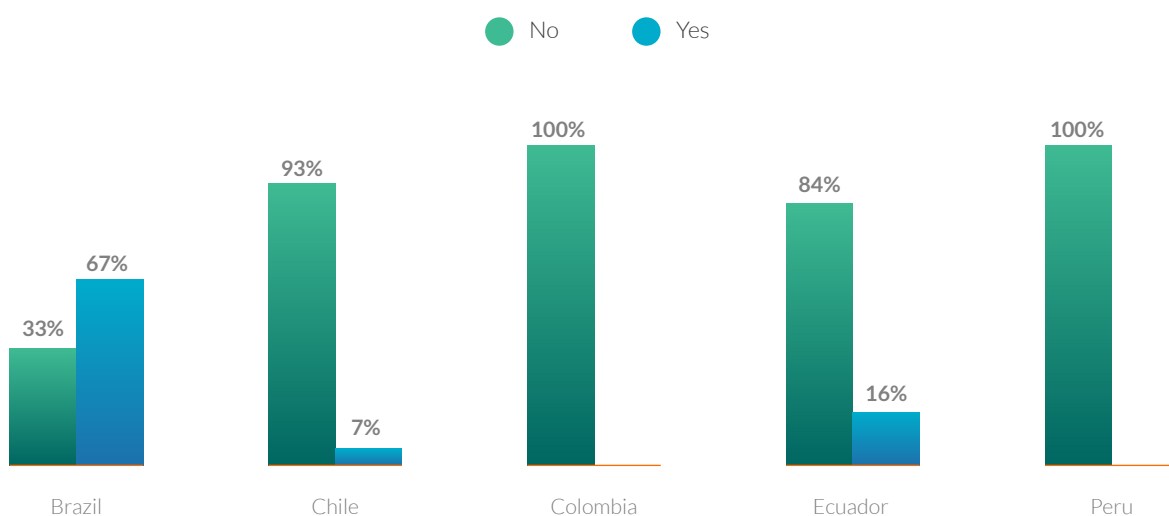


Illustration 11: Legal registrations of the venture vs. country



Migrant woman entrepreneur, WV Ecuador, 2022.

Of the 10 people who participated in the focus group, only one knew in detail what the procedure to regularize their business was. In the case of Colombia and Peru this represents 0% and in Chile 7%.

People mention that having seed capital is fundamental for starting a business. However, there are many difficulties in accessing credit, especially due to lack of documentation or not being banked, so in many cases it remains a dream or a recommendation for other people.

One of the consequences of employability conditions is the understanding of entrepreneurship as the most viable strategy for economic recovery and integration. Entrepreneurship is considered the most dignified and quickest way to secure an income.

The experience of being a migrant and support networks

“We have each other, we support each other between Venezuelans”

(Woman, Chile, 2023)

A small percentage of people have managed to secure a salary that matches or exceeds the legal minimum wage. Likewise, access to the social protection system, even with jobs classified as formal, is still not 100% possible for the participants. One of the identified reasons for this is xenophobia, *"We call it the mark, that makes us laugh at least about what we know happens and that is that we are marked, for being Venezuelan we are marked"* (Chile, Male, 2023). It is evident in the accounts, in the in-depth questions, that to a lesser or greater measure the participants or someone in their family has experienced it. However, there are some cases where people mentioned that they have never experienced it.

In 18% of those who are employed, it was mentioned that they feel that their employer treats them differently because they are migrants. All the participants were asked if they had suffered discrimination of this type. In 36% of the cases, people mentioned that yes, *"if you get a job, it is more complicated for you as a migrant because the hours to earn something better are very long"* (Woman, Colombia, 2023). This, as a reference to the difference in the number of hours that migrants must work compared to nationals.

When asked directly if this occurs in the case of women, in 53% of the cases people perceive that they do have worse conditions compared to nationals. In the case of Chile, this response represents only 6%, while in Ecuador 76% and in Peru 74%. *"In contrast, a Venezuelan comes with his head down and says that if they are going to pay me 40,000 a day, I have to do what my boss tells me. If they tell me to cook, heat the grill, then wash the dish, then you have to do what the boss says"* (Woman, Colombia, 2023).

Unequal treatment of women because they are migrants

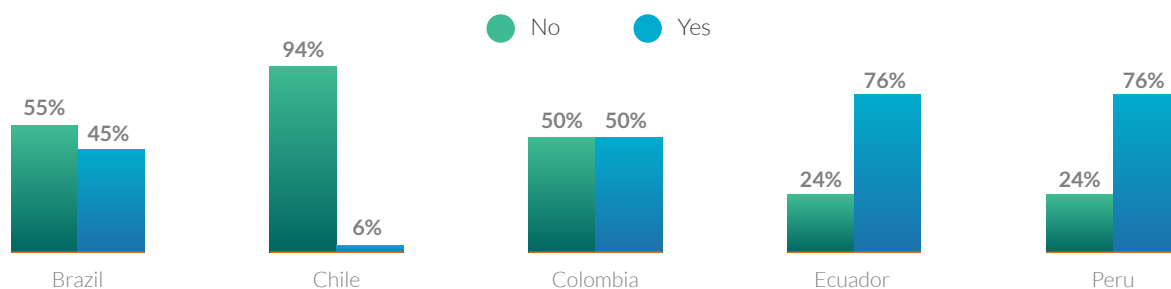


Illustration 12: Unequal treatment of women because they are migrants

When asked about the type of expressions used, we found mistreatment and insults (10%); *"Yes, when I work they shout at me, go and work, veneca (Venezuelan). And I understand that there are Venezuelans who have done things wrong and you pay the price but it has been very hard"* (Woman, Colombia, 2023); less pay for being a migrant (53%); more working hours than other non-migrants have (47%); not receiving payment (26%) *"I was working for three months in a company and never received a salary"* (Woman, Peru, 2023); payments are not given according to what was agreed at the beginning (19%), work in extreme conditions due to climatic issues, without ergonomics or without tools to perform the job well (13%); fear of being fired if they request better conditions (10%). Another expression identified was the repeated invitation to sex work suffered by some women.

In addition to this, cultural differences have hindered the integration process. One woman in Brazil shared that she made gelatins to sell, but they were not liked by Brazilians so she did not sell them. As a result, there was a shift to selling hot dogs, which did pay off.

Faced with this reality, we asked people what advice they would give to people who are about to begin the migration process? A woman in Brazil mentioned that it is possible to get a job and suggested training in the areas of beauty, care of people (elderly and children) or entrepreneurship, as long as she has the capital to start them. In turn, some women mentioned that there are people and/or organizations that offer support to people in mobility situations and this should be taken advantage of.



Woman working in the kitchen, WV Colombia, 2023.

In addition, an important strategy mentioned above is to grow the support network. Having national friends in the host country allows, among other things, to increase the possibilities of cultural integration and access to various sources of income generation, because these networks provide them with contacts or information to do so.

Another relevant factor is to lean on the people in their network who are in the country. *"It is very common that whoever comes because they know someone else, that person will support them for at least a month while they make their own way"* (Woman, Brazil, 2023). This, among other factors already mentioned, helps them with the necessary impetus to not give up in the search for employment or in the desire to strengthen their business. *"Family or acquaintances help you emotionally because you see that if they are doing well, you can do well too"* (Male, Peru, 2023).

In addition, an important strategy mentioned above is to grow the support network. Having national friends in the host country allows, among other things, to increase the possibilities of cultural integration and access to various sources of income generation, because these networks provide them with contacts or information to do so.

This varies from case to case and from country to country. In the case of Ecuador, it was stated among the participants that there was no strong community or support network. That the lack of social ties hinders their development in the host society, since there is no longer any support provided by their communities in their country of origin, related to childcare, security and mobility.

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"(...) I'm going for five years, those years were hard and the others were extremely hard, I have never felt that I am well, I have to send to Venezuela, I have to eat, I don't know if it's that I haven't been lucky for jobs, but I have never felt good."

(Female, Chile, 2023)

After a few years in the country, some people feel that they do feel part of it *"I feel integrated in Brazil, I have friends and they tell me that I speak Portuguese very well"*. (man). Others, on the other hand, do not and maintain the desire to get *"something"* to return to Venezuela.

Language was mentioned by all the participants in Brazil as a challenge to economic integration. Among the reasons, it was mentioned that cultural differences are

greater. In the focusgroups conducted in other countries it was mentioned that, although the language is Spanish, many terms were not the same and caused confusion and, of course, generated a barrier with employers.

A need identified by some of the women is to have more information about the routes for reporting and attention in cases of labor exploitation. The participants emphasized that it is important to know the country's legislation and competent authorities, as well as the limits on what the employer can or cannot do, what their rights are and whether there is an institution that protects them.



Workshops on finances for migrants, refugees, and hosting communities, WV Colombia, 2023.

About care work

“ (...) The little boy who is six years old, he convulses me, yesterday he convulsed. I was in the hospital; my wife does not work because of my son's condition. When my son has these [convulsions] I lose about three or four days of work. It breaks my soul and my pocket because one day without working you get behind in a lot of things, imagine four (...). ”

(Man, Chile, 2023)

According to the participants, one of the reasons why it is difficult to access formal and informal employment, especially in the case of women, is not having someone to take care of their children during the working hours. Repeatedly, they mentioned that in Venezuela these duties were assumed either by grandmothers or by other women in the family, but when not in the country, the network disappears.

One of the consequences of this absence of care networks is the separation of families. Mothers or fathers are forced to travel without or with only some of their children and others stay in Venezuela. This allows them to minimize the care needed in the host countries.

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“Yes, actually I have 5 children and here I have only 2, the other 3 are in Venezuela, they are with my mother, they are minors (...) I brought the oldest one because there is a lot of delinquency there in Venezuela and the youngest one because he is the smallest.”

(Woman, Peru, 2023)



Migrant family with a female head of household at the entrepreneurship fair, WVV Ecuador, 2022.

One woman stated that she had just entered the host country when she found out she was pregnant and was at high risk, so she was unable to work for the first few months. Subsequently, her son was born with Down syndrome, and the care required by the child has made it impossible for her to work. Currently, she does not have appropriate support to attend to her son's needs, which creates great difficulties for the integration of both of them.

The participants were asked who is the person who mainly performs the caregiving tasks in the home. In 95% of the female respondents, the answer was that it was them. While in the case of men 50% mentioned that they do the chores. In the case of the men, 100% of the men mentioned that it is the female partner who is in charge of these chores. On the other hand, 30% of the people mentioned that sometimes the mother does it and sometimes (10%) other women in the family do it. These percentages confirm that women are mainly responsible for household chores.

One of the consequences of this reality is that women occupy more work time during the day, between the work they do to generate income and the work they do in their homes. In 100% of the cases of women who are not working at the moment, they mentioned that they dedicate their entire day to care work. "It's that even to go out to look for work, I need someone to take care of the children, but I don't have one. The neighbor sometimes does me a favor, but that's all it is, a favor." (Woman, Colombia, 2023).

One of the consequences of this reality is that women occupy more work time during the day, between the work they do to generate income and the work they do in their homes. In 100% of the cases of women who are not working at the moment, they mentioned that they dedicate their entire day to care work. *"It's that even to go out to look for work, I need someone to take care of the children, but I don't have one. The neighbor sometimes does me a favor, but that's all it is, a favor."* (Woman, Colombia, 2023). On the other hand, women who are working, in any of the aforementioned modalities, dedicate an average of 6.4 hours to these tasks, while men, 1.4, where 61% mentioned that they dedicate 0 hours to this topic.

On the other hand, it was identified that care work is one of the main sources of employment for people in a mobility situation, especially for women. Of the total number of women surveyed, 38% are currently engaged in this type of work to generate income. In addition, according to the women participants from Brazil, all of them at some point managed to generate income in this way in daily paid jobs such as cleaning houses, cooking or taking care of people. They mentioned that these jobs are poorly paid and, in some cases, require much more than eight hours of work.

It was also found that when there are daughters or sons in the households, they are asked to help with care work, especially women. This is in order to reduce the burden on women who go out to generate income.

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"It's that even to go out to look for work, I need someone to take care of the children, but I don't have one. The neighbor sometimes does me a favor, but that's all it is, a favor."

**(Woman,
Colombia, 2023)**



Migrant mother and child, Divulgação / World Vision Brazil, 2022.

To conclude

The study showed that there is still much to be done in terms of economic integration of migrants and refugees from Venezuela. The complexity of the issue goes beyond xenophobia or the need for documentation. Even when sometimes these two factors seem to have been overcome, there are still difficulties in generating income, of course, associated with the complex and volatile economic contexts of Latin American countries at the moment.

It is a fact that migration challenges people's creativity. There are numerous initiatives generated by this population to generate income and there is still much to be said about this. The stigma attached to this population can reduce the recognition of the value of their work and of the important economic contributions that migrants have brought to their host countries.

As evidenced, support networks are a fundamental part of the integration process of people in mobility situations, both in social and economic aspects. It is recommended to work on their strengthening, taking into account that these should have a mixed character both with people in a situation of mobility and with nationals, and should range from psychological to legal and economic support. These have been fundamental in the migratory process. Regardless of the time spent in the host country, it is imperative to promote cultural integration, including language training in the case of Brazil. This contributes to the strengthening of the aforementioned networks.

Psychosocial and mental health care is essential. The traumas generated by migration, family separation, acts of xenophobia, complications in cultural adaptation, affect people's security, recognition of their value and sense

of worthiness. Urgent attention must be paid to this line of action.

Knowledge about labor and migration rights empowers people. Therefore, it is important to work not only with people in mobility situations but also with the community that welcomes them, especially job generators. Internet and social networks are a widely used channel to access information. This should be promoted even when leaving Venezuela.

Psychosocial and mental health care is essential. The traumas generated by migration, family separation, acts of xenophobia, complications in cultural adaptation, affect people's security, recognition of their value and sense of worthiness.

Having one's own business or entrepreneurship is the activity preferred by people in a situation of mobility as it contributes to their dignity. It is imperative to promote fair conditions and respect for their rights.

NGOs have played an important role in the distribution of information for people in a situation of mobility and in some cases are identified as a channel for access to strategies that allow the generation of income, such as support for entrepreneurship.

Recommendations

TO THE HOST COUNTRIES GOVERNMENTS:



Promoting policies and benefits with a differential approach to seek and facilitate labor insertion of migrants and refugees in dignified, fair and safe conditions. We recommend considering that the generation of sufficient income is crucial for their integration and has a positive impact on families, communities and economic development of the country.



Additionally, acknowledge and supported skills, knowledge and training migrants and refugees have, valuing their creativity and experience and making visible the impact of their workforce on the economic and business development of the host countries. By maintaining a perspective of the value that their presence gives to the countries, they can make informed decisions for an appropriate integration.



Make documentation requirements for visa procedures more flexible and overcome bureaucratic barriers in document management and access to services. Likewise, facilitate the homologation of technical and professional titles through regional agreements or common validation criteria.



Maintain and strengthen regional and country efforts against xenophobia, to reduce inequality and promote sociocultural integration of Venezuelan migrants and refugees, with a particular focus on families with girls and boys with intention to settle or have relocated multiple times between countries.



Encourage employers to be aware of and ensure worker's rights and promote formal employment through benefits and incentives. This includes promoting respectful treatment, fair wages, and social security coverage.



Accelerate efforts for gender equality and reducing the wage gap. This is an opportunity to demonstrate government's commitment to guarantee the rights of all migrant and refugees' women and girls, not only through their social and economic empowerment but also through care systems that allow them to study and work under equal conditions.



Facilitating training and educational opportunities to enhance the income of migrants and refugees, as well as promoting mechanisms for disseminating job opportunities with social programs in the country.

Recommendations

TO DONORS :



Support the socioeconomic integration initiatives of governments and civil society that aims to generate sufficient income, promoting a differential approach and ensuring the dignity and security of migrants and Venezuelans, especially those responsible for girls, boys, adolescents and pregnant and lactating mothers. This includes mental health and psychosocial support actions, for trauma and detachment management, thus supporting a sustained and positive integration.



Provide technical support to countries to advance gender equality for the elimination of all violence against Venezuelan women and girls in host communities, guarantee their integration and the achievement of the 2030 agenda.



Strengthen efforts to improve the migrant livelihoods, as a transition towards recovery and building resilience in a region characterized by high levels of inequality, inflation and food insecurity.



Promote projects with the business sector to combat xenophobia, stigmatization and labor exploitation, disseminating good employability practices and deepening knowledge of the worker's rights.



Invest in the technical and professional training of Venezuelan migrants and refugees, particularly focusing in education as a factor of integration for adolescents, young people and women.



Promote the creation of secure "support networks" for the socioeconomic integration of migrants and refugees from Venezuela and the creation of care systems in the countries.

Recommendations

TO CIVIL SOCIETY:



Promote advocacy with governments and donors to recognize the urgent need for the socioeconomic and cultural integration of refugees and migrants while preventing repeated displacements that affect children and adolescents severely.



Promote inclusion of migrants and refugees from Venezuela in dignified, fair and safe conditions, with adequate income, access to social security and respectful work environments.



Recognize that the skills and knowledge of the Venezuelan people in the host countries contribute significantly to the economic and cultural development of the region. Assess their participation, experience and needs, overcoming views that underestimate, discriminate or exclude them, while acknowledging their vulnerable conditions



Coordinate efforts to avoid saturation of the participants in programs and projects of humanitarian organizations, who are repeatedly consulted, experiencing exhaustion and mistrust. It is preferable to strengthen joint information systems for decision-making and evidence-based advocacy.



Enhance coordination efforts for the implementation of complementary integration initiatives between governments and civil society. Provide technical support to other sectors to ensure that integration adopts a differential approach and effectively contributes to gender equality in the region.



Monitoring the protection risks faced by the migrant and refugee population with the intention to stay in the host countries and respond in a timely and coordinated manner.



Promote and accompany the creation of “support networks”, encouraging a shared responsibility in the protection and guarantee of the rights of children and adolescents, as well as the dissemination of protection support offer.

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