**Covid-19 and (Im)Mobility in the Americas**

**PERU**

**October - December 2020**

1. **Poverty Rate (defined by unsatisfied basic needs): 19% of total population[[1]](#footnote-1)**
2. **Migration Facts [[2]](#footnote-2)**
	1. Emmigration: According to the INEI[[3]](#footnote-3), more than 2 million Peruvians reside abroad. Their principal detinations are Chile (much more than the others), the US, Argentina, Spain, Italy, and Japan.
	2. Immigration: According to the INEI in 2019, the country has around a million immigrants. The main countries of origin are: el país tiene alrededor de un millón inmigrantes. Los principales países de origen: 84.4 % Venezuela, 3.6% Colombia, 1.3 % de España, 1.0% de Estados Unidos, Ecuador y Argentina, 0.9% Chile y Brasil, and 0.8 % China.
	3. Transit country: Peru is used by migrants in transit en route to the Southern Cone and by migrants in transit en route north to the Central America-Mexico-US migratory corridor.

Country receiving national deportees: Peruvian deportees are coming mainly from the US.

1. **State Measures**
* [Peru will regularize the immigration status of 500 thousand Venezuelans](https://migravenezuela.com/web/articulo/peru-regularizara-estatus-migratorio-de-500-mil-venezolanos/2242). On October 22, 2020, the Peruvian government approved special, exceptional, and temporary procedures to regularize the immigration status of foreigners with irregular status. The measure grants a period of 180 days, from its publication, so that those people with the expired period of stay or who have entered without going through border controls can opt for a valid Temporary Permit of Permanence (CPP) card for one year. To date, this measure has not been implemented.
* [This order only welcomes Venezuelans who are within the national territory on the date of publication of the decree](https://migravenezuela.com/web/articulo/peru-regularizara-estatus-migratorio-de-500-mil-venezolanos/2242), who must present to the immigration authorities a copy of their valid passport or identity document; sworn statement of not having a criminal, police and judicial record; not having an impediment to enter the country and a commitment to pay the debt due to the fine of excess permanence.
* The Government tries to include Venezuelan migrants in the educational system of the country. Data from the Ministry of Education indicates that a total of 96,613 Venezuelan migrant and refugee students (52,319 girls and 44,294 boys) are enrolled in Peruvian schools in 2020, a number that has increased steadily in recent years. [Despite these efforts, there are 67,957 refugee children who are not registered in the Ministry of Education system](file:///%5C%5Cusers%5CLuciaPerezMartinez%5CDownloads%5CEl%20Gobierno%20de%20Per%C3%BA%20est%C3%A1%20dando%20pasos%20importantes%20para%20incluirlos%20en%20el%20sistema%20educativo%20del%20pa%C3%ADs.%20Los%20datos%20del%20Ministerio%20de%20Educaci%C3%B3n%20indican%20que%20un%20total%20de%2096.613%20estudiantes%20venezolanos%20migrantes%20y%20refugiados%20%2852.319%20ni%C3%B1as%20y%2044.294%20ni%C3%B1os%29%20est%C3%A1n%20matriculados%20en%20escuelas%20peruanas%20en%202020%2C%20un%20n%C3%BAmero%20que%20ha%20aumentado%20de%20manera%20constante%20en%20los%20%C3%BAltimos%20a%C3%B1os.%20A%20pesar%20de%20estos%20esfuerzos%2C%20hay%2067.957%20ni%C3%B1os%20refugiados%20que%20no%20est%C3%A1n%20registrados%20en%20el%20sistema%20del%20Ministerio%20de%20Educaci%C3%B3n.).
* Agents from the High Complexity Crime Investigation Division (DIVIAC) of the PNP and personnel from the Specialized Corporate Supra-provincial Prosecutor's Office against Organized Crime carried out a mega-operation in Lima, Tacna and Huancayo [to arrest members of the criminal organization “Los Embajadores](https://diariocorreo.pe/edicion/tacna/detienen-trabajador-de-migraciones-como-miembro-de-banda-de-traficantes-de-migrantes-952595/?ref=dcr), a group ”dedicated to illicit human trafficking.” According to the authorities, in the simultaneous operation in the three cities, 12 people from the criminal network that operated in the United States, Mexico and Peru were arrested as part of the plan called "Coyote 2020.”
* [Peru assumed the pro tempore presidency of the Quito Process](https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/peru-venezuela-migrantes-acnur-venezolanos.html), a regional technical table that seeks coordinated responses to the institutional challenges posed in Latin America and the Caribbean by the flows of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, reported the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) by the end of November. Upon assuming the presidency, Peru is committed to working on issues such as "the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the health of refugees and migrants and host communities; and socioeconomic integration." Also, in the creation of a coordinated mechanism of action against human trafficking, and a regional platform for the protection and assistance of children and adolescents; the current challenges of family reunification, and the development of a profile of the Venezuelan flows in the region among other agenda items.

# Migrant Situation Alerts

*Peruvian migrants abroad*

* After [coordination between the consulates of Peru and Chile](https://diariocorreo.pe/edicion/tacna/retornan-peruanos-que-estaban-varados-en-chile-por-la-pandemia-952651/?ref=dcr), 142 people of Peruvian origin who were in Chile and could not return to the country due to the pandemic were repatriated on December 4, 2020. Eight Peruvian citizens expelled from Chile also arrived. They were serving sentences in different prisons in that country.

*Irregularized immigrants and people in transit*

* [1,043,460 Venezuelan migrants reside in Peru](https://migravenezuela.com/web/articulo/peru-regularizara-estatus-migratorio-de-500-mil-venezolanos/2242) according to data registered by the Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela. However, only 477 thousand have a residence permit, while about 500 thousand people are refugee applicants, and a countless number are illegal because they have not entered through an immigration control post or have expired the term of permanence.
* The regularization decree of October 2020, created so that immigrants with the term of stay expired or who have entered without going through border controls can qualify for a [Temporary Permit of Permanence (CPP) card](https://migravenezuela.com/web/articulo/peru-regularizara-estatus-migratorio-de-500-mil-venezolanos/2242), includes a series of requirements that exclude many Venezuelan immigrants, such is the case with requiring a current passport, since many hold an expired document and renewing it through the Venezuelan consulate in Peru already took more than three months in pre-pandemic times. In addition, the measure will only give them a period of 180 days from its publication to carry out the process. Another difficulty is the cost that said procedure will carry (between 180 and 280 dollars), an amount that is inaccessible for this population, which has been badly hit economically and at work by the pandemic. In addition to these difficulties, the CPP will only be valid for one year, all of which shows that “This decree sees regularization as something special, exceptional, and temporary, as its name implies. When the ideal is for regularization to be seen as something normal because it is a fundamental right,” concludes Blouin, academic and expert on migration issues.
* According to a study carried out on the Venezuelan migrant population by the Center for Economic Studies Equilibrium, [67% stopped sending remittances to Venezuela](https://migravenezuela.com/web/articulo/peru-regularizara-estatus-migratorio-de-500-mil-venezolanos/2242) due to the crisis of Covid-19.
* According to the [Second Regional Survey of the Venezuelan Migrant Population](https://larepublica.pe/sociedad/2020/12/18/desafios-que-enfrentan-los-migrantes-venezolanos-en-el-peru/) carried out in Peru, Colombia, Chile and Ecuador, there have been many changes regarding the reasons for social mobility and the challenges that the Venezuelan community must face in these countries. 43% of people surveyed indicated that they lost their main job before or during the pandemic and that they are still looking for work. 53% had to borrow money due to lack of economic resources to survive during the pandemic and 64% declared having been the victim of some episode of discrimination based on their nationality, especially in public places and in the workplace. A worrying fact that is also revealed is the housing conditions in which they must coexist, as 59% say they share a room with more than two additional people and 21% share with four or more people, this constitutes a situation of very high risk of contagion amid the health crisis we are going through.
* According to a recent study, [Venezuelan migrants from the LGTBIQ+ community have had to hide their gender identity and sexual orientation](https://larepublica.pe/genero/2020/11/26/migrantes-venezolanos-lgtbiq-afrontan-discriminacion-y-violencia-en-peru-atmp/) to access better opportunities in the country. The report “[Leaving home to return to the closet. Situational diagnosis of the Venezuelan LGTBIQ + population in a situation of human mobility in Peru](https://peru.iom.int/sites/default/files/Documentos/DIAGLGTBIQ2020.pdf)” shows the discrimination and violence they experience when accessing a job, getting a home, or regulating their immigration status.

*Boys, girls, and adolescent migrants (immigrants, refugees, and displaced)*

* According to Plan International, even before the pandemic, [50% of Venezuelan children and adolescents did not attend school in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru](https://larepublica.pe/opinion/2020/12/15/ser-una-nina-venezolana-y-tener-que-migrar-por-gabriella-fioramonti/). This situation would have been greatly aggravated with the advent of Covid-19.
* Likewise, [the dangers in the travel routes throughout the continent greatly affected children and adolescents](https://larepublica.pe/opinion/2020/12/15/ser-una-nina-venezolana-y-tener-que-migrar-por-gabriella-fioramonti/), one in four of whom traveled unaccompanied by an adult. This situation has also been exacerbated by the closure and militarization of borders.
* According to the [Education Can't Wait program,](https://news.un.org/es/story/2020/12/1485092) the COVID-19 pandemic and associated quarantine measures have particularly affected these migrants and children now face multiplying risks, such as hunger, poverty, increased of mental health problems and gender violence. There are notable spikes in the number of missing girls, abuse, and early and unwanted pregnancies.

# Social Responses

* *Solidarity networks*
	+ [Japan and IOM will contribute to a project to assist Venezuelan migrants](https://larepublica.pe/sociedad/2020/12/21/japon-y-oim-contribuiran-con-proyecto-a-favor-de-migrantes-venezolanos/?ref=lre). The entities have made a monetary allocation of 301 million yen, equivalent to 2,850,000 dollars. This project will benefit the Tumbes, Tacna, and Lima regions.
	+ [The Human Mobility Group of the National Human Rights Coordinator](https://idehpucp.pucp.edu.pe/notas-informativas/idehpucp-junto-a-otras-instituciones-presento-informe-alternativo-al-comite-de-proteccion-de-los-derechos-de-todos-los-trabajadores-migratorios-y-de-sus-familiares/), a coalition of civil society organizations that advocate for the promotion of the human rights of migrants and refugees in Peru, presented on December 16 an alternative report on Peru to the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their families. The main objective of the document is to provide information regarding the human rights situation of migrants and refugees in the country. During its development, seven themes were prioritized: current migratory flows in Peru; general situation of migration policies in Peru; migration and refugee policies with respect to the Venezuelan population; discrimination, violence, and criminalization towards the migrant population; access to economic, social, cultural and environmental rights of the migrant population; situations of special vulnerability within the Venezuelan migrant population; and the impact of the pandemic in Peru.[[4]](#footnote-4)
	+ Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Venezuelan migrants and refugees face many challenges, including the education of their children. The [Education Can't Wait program](https://news.un.org/es/story/2020/12/1485092), coordinated by the United Nations Children's Fund, has just announced a budget of 27.2 million in aid for study programs for Venezuelan children and young people and their host communities in Colombia. Ecuador and Peru.
	+ The Education Cannot Wait initiative allocated [an initial grant of $ 7.4 million in Peru](file:///%5C%5Cusers%5CLuciaPerezMartinez%5CDownloads%5CLa%20inciativa%20la%20Educaci%C3%B3n%20No%20Puede%20Esperar%20ha%20asignado%20una%20subvenci%C3%B3n%20inicial%20de%207%2C4%20millones%20de%20d%C3%B3lares%20en%20Per%C3%BA%2C%20que%20ser%C3%A1%20implementada%20por%20UNICEF%20en%20colaboraci%C3%B3n%20con%20las%20Naciones%20Unidas%20y%20organizaciones%20de%20la%20sociedad%20civil.%20El%20programa%20pide%20a%20los%20donantes%20y%20al%20sector%20privado%20que%20ayuden%20a%20financiar%20la%20brecha%20restante%20de%2014%20millones%20para%20la%20respuesta%20de%20educaci%C3%B3n%20en%20situaciones%20de%20emergencia.), to be implemented by UNICEF in collaboration with the United Nations and civil society organizations. The program calls on donors and the private sector to help finance the remaining gap of 14 million for the emergency education response. Once fully funded, the program will reach 100,000 children and youth.
	+ The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Alianza Lima soccer team signed an agreement to strengthen the integration of refugees through soccer in Peru.
* *Xenophobia*
	+ [Peru is the primary host country for people seeking refugee status from Venezuela](https://www.acnur.org/noticias/press/2020/10/5f891bba4/el-club-de-futbol-peruano-alianza-lima-se-une-a-acnur-para-promover-la.html) in the world. In this context, more than 60% of Venezuelans report having been discriminated against in 2020, compared to 30% at the beginning of last year.
1. CEPAL (2019). *Panorama Social en América Latina*. Santiago de Chile: CEPAL. <https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44969/5/S1901133_es.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://portaldeturismo.pe/noticia/mas-de-150-mil-extranjeros-residen-en-peru-segun-reporte-del-inei/>; <https://datosmacro.expansion.com/demografia/migracion/emigracion/peru>; <https://andina.pe/agencia/noticia-581-peruanos-fueron-deportados-de-eeuu-durante-2018-738755.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.inei.gob.pe/media/MenuRecursivo/publicaciones\_digitales/Est/Lib1713/Libro.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. El informe está disponible en el siguiente enlace: https://idehpucp.pucp.edu.pe/lista\_publicaciones/informe-alternativo/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)