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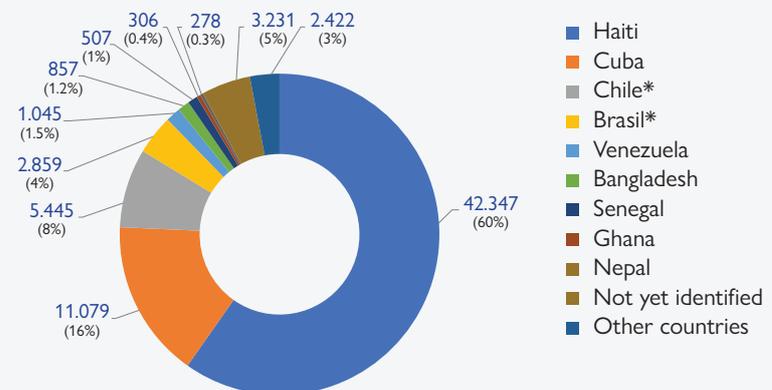
SITUATION OVERVIEW

Irregular migration across the Americas, principally towards the United States of America (US) and Mexico, as a stop before the US, has significantly increased in recent months. While the majority of those who are undertaking this long and hazardous journey are Haitian nationals, nationals of Brazil, Chile, Cuba and various countries in Asia and Africa have also been identified.

RECENT LARGE IRREGULAR POPULATION MOVEMENTS IN THE AMERICAS

Irregular transit between Colombia and Panama (Darién Gap) by nationality, January to August 2021

TOTAL:
70.376



Source: Servicio Nacional de Migración de Panamá, Irregulares en tránsito frontera Panamá-Colombia, s.f. (21 de sept 2021)

* Children of Haitian citizens with birth records corresponding to these countries

Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Brazil offered humanitarian visas and other legal options to facilitate migration and regularize migrants from Haiti. A legal pathway for regularization on a humanitarian basis was implemented in 2012 (National Immigration Council Resolution n. 97 of 2012). In 2015 the Government of Brazil (GoB) signed an agreement with IOM to implement the Brazil Visa Application Centre (BVAC) in Port-au-Prince (Haiti) to manage visa processing. BVAC has been in operation ever since. So far BVAC has processed and delivered approximately 54,000 visas. Finally, in 2017, the New Migration Legislation (Federal Law n. 13445 of 2017) and subsequent ministerial ordinances have consolidated the humanitarian mechanism for regularization on humanitarian grounds to Haitian nationals. The Ministries of Justice and Public Security (MJSP) and Foreign Relations (MRE) - the two most important governing bodies of migration issues in Brazil – regularly publish a joint ministerial ordinance renewing and updating this regularization pathway. The current ordinance (Interministerial Ordinance n. 13 of 2020) is valid until 31 December 2021, meaning any Haitian national may request their temporary residence permit in Brazilian territory until that date. Brazil only grants refugee status to Haitians in very few and specific cases – so far only 4 Haitians have obtained it.

According to data, there are approximately 150,000 to 200,000 Haitians registered in Brazil. The vast majority is single (76%) and male (62%), between the ages of 25 and 40 years old (59%). It is important to note that any person born in Brazilian territory is entitled to full citizenship and is recognized as Brazilian before the Law, regardless of the parent's nationality and migratory status. Therefore, these figures do not include the children of Haitian migrants born in Brazil.

A significant portion of the Haitian migrants living in Brazil have the intention of leaving towards North America. In a recent survey conducted by a third party in August 2021, from 1,200 Haitian migrants interviewed, a third of them had left the country shortly after responding to the questionnaire. In August 2021, at least 198 Haitian workers have collectively quit their jobs, in 3 different factories, in order to migrate to the USA, according to information received by IOM in Southern Brazil. Data from the International Migration Observatory in Brazil (OBMIGRA) from May 2021 shows a negative balance between hirings and dismissals of Haitian migrant workers in formal employment, nationally.

As for reasons for leaving, the economy in Brazil was already struggling since 2016, and the pandemic has made the situation much harder. Currently unemployment rate is at 14% and inflation is on the rise, which greatly impact migrant workers. Moreover, exchange rate in Brazil is unfavorable for remittances, since the Brazilian Real (BRL) is losing value. For comparison, when Haitians started arriving in large numbers in 2013, 1 USD cost 2.15 BRL. In October 2021 it is at 5.51 BRL (IPEADData, 2021). This is often presented as one of the main reasons for leaving the country, even for those who have steady employment.

In 2021, IOM conducted research with beneficiaries of IOM Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) targeting vulnerable groups of migrants and refugees that were hit by COVID-19 outbreak. The research targeting Haitian and Venezuelan nationals residing in Brazil showed that Haitian have relatively low scores of integration, in particular when comparing Haitians with Venezuelans the results highlighted that 1. Venezuelans who have been in Brazil for one to two years have higher levels of integration than Haitians who have been in Brazil for more than 5 years. 2. Haitian women are the ones with the lowest integration scores and Venezuelan women have higher integration scores than Haitian men. The low integration rate points to another push factor for leaving the country.

In social media, especially Whatsapp and Facebook, false information has circulated that the US borders would open after the Biden administration took office. The relaxation of border controls in 2021 due to the subsidence of the pandemic in South America also collaborated to the sudden increase of Haitian outflow from Brazil.



MAIN ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS IN BRAZIL (2019 - 2021)*



TOP ENTRY POINTS:

BONFIM (Guyana)

SÃO PAULO (air)



TOP EXIT POINTS:

SÃO PAULO (air)

ASSIS BRASIL/IÑAPARI (Peru)

MANAUS (air)

CORUMBÁ/PUERTO QUIJARRO (Bolivia)



* Mostly Haitians, but other nationalities also utilize these routes

IOM BRAZIL RESPONSE

- **False and/or misleading information**, about the borders closure during the pandemic, led many Haitians to try to leave the country at the height of the pandemic. IOM Brazil has engaged with the Federal Government, in collaboration with other UN agencies, to spread updated information about the situation at the borders so people could wait until reopening before deciding to travel.
- **Food Distribution and CBI**: Hundreds of vulnerable migrants got stranded at the border with Peru and Bolivia due to border closures, and also vulnerable migrants after their irregular entry in Brazil, leading them without food and shelter. From May 2020 to March 2021 IOM delivered a total of 4.5 tons of food donations, as well as 101 vouchers for food and NFI (USD 18,700), to stranded families.
- **Humanitarian Transportation**: facilitating internal relocation of migrants stranded at the border between Brazil, Bolivia and Peru, in the state of Acre. IOM, in coordination with the GoB, provided internal air and ground transportation to these families (75 beneficiaries until September 2021).
- **Economic Integration for stabilization**: IOM Brazil supports the economic integration of Venezuelans and other migrants, including Haitians by facilitating access to formal employment and enhanced access to livelihood opportunities through vocational and entrepreneurship training, language training and supporting entrepreneurship activities. A total of 1,063 Haitians benefited from skill training activities.

NEEDS FOR ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF MIGRATION OF NON-NATIONALS VULNERABLE IN BRAZIL

SAVE LIVES AND RESPOND TO NEEDS THROUGH HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION:

- **Regularization** – Support regularization processes;
- **Coordination to improve migration management** – Strengthen intersectoral coordination mechanisms between authorities, consulates and embassies, representatives of leading migrant civil society organizations (CSOs), local partners and cultural mediators to effectively address specific issues regarding the reception of migrant communities at both the national and local level, as well as cross-border issues such as migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons;
- **Access to basic services** – Facilitate access to services for migrant populations by supporting authorities to incorporate their needs in plans and programs, especially those related to COVID-19 response and recovery, to be administered by national, regional, and local entities;
- **Humanitarian assistance** – For the most vulnerable migrants, ensure food and clothing provision, cash-based assistance, temporary shelter and non-food items (NFI) and provide humanitarian transportation for stranded migrants.

ADDRESS THE DRIVERS AND LONGER-TERM IMPACTS OF CRISES AND DISPLACEMENT THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN RECOVERY AND CRISIS PREVENTION:

- **Labor market inclusion** – Bridge existing gaps for durable socioeconomic integration, incorporating a gender and diversity perspective by also targeting members of the LGBTQIA+ community; by undertaking initiatives to promote the incentivization of private sector entities to consider employing migrants, as well as the certification of labor competencies; and by developing actions to increase competitive employment, small-scale business operations, job placement prospects, financial consulting, and associative forms of economic organization;
- **Entrepreneurship** – Address barriers for migrants within the entrepreneurship ecosystem including access to information on market trends and value chains with growth potential, business registration and other administrative procedures, credit and other financing opportunities, digital marketing platforms, and training on business startup, management and governance.

CONTRIBUTE TO AN EVIDENCE BASED AND EFFICIENT CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM:

- **Access to information** – Facilitate translation and dissemination in Haitian Creole and other relevant languages of materials and documentation related to rights, obligations, regularization and administrative procedures, as well as support addressing the digital divide by providing internet access so migrants will be able to fully access and act upon the same information and platforms as any other resident;
- **Empowerment of migrant associations** – Develop and strengthen networks with migrant associations to disseminate trustworthy and updated information (via social media and local networks) and create a more direct relationship with the migrant community to better provide protection information, as well as information regarding dangers associated with irregular migration routes;
- **Combatting xenophobia and discrimination** – Provide training sessions to employers on intercultural communication, the importance and benefits of diversity, as well as legal rules and procedures related to migrant rights, while facilitating intergroup contact between migrant and host communities through common spaces for interaction coupled with media campaigns addressing the contributions of migrants in host societies.



FUNDING REQUIRED: USD 13,250,000

KEY ISSUES RELATED TO ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS

National sovereignty implies that States are responsible for managing their borders and have the prerogative to determine the conditions of entry and stay of non-nationals, consistent with applicable international law and standards. States should cooperate in facilitating voluntary, safe and dignified return, readmission and sustainable reintegration and ensure that nationals and their family members are duly received and readmitted to the country where they are nationals or have a regular residence status, in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement and the right to return to one's own country (including for regular migrants in another country) and the obligation of States to not arbitrarily deprive them of their right to enter their country. In this context, special consideration shall be given to those who have regular residence or are lawfully residing in another country.

The UN does not carry out forced returns as these are the exclusive prerogative of States. IOM, the UN agency for Migration, recommends Assisted Voluntary Returns for migrants who decide to return, if bilateral agreements between sending and receiving countries are established and when legally applicable. As per established procedures, voluntary return will take place following an individual screening of each migrant and the development of tailored-made assistance. This is particularly important for migrants in situations of vulnerability who may have been subject to violence, exploitation or abuse, victims of trafficking, children and migrants with health needs. To facilitate sustainable reintegration, initiatives can be implemented to promote holistic and needs-based community initiatives to mitigate factors for re-emigration and facilitate migrants' economic self-sufficiency, social stability, and well-being.



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