

News Report: Reading Comprehension

Read the following press release from UNHCR and answer the questions below.

Over 4 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants struggle to meet basic needs across the Americas

IOM and UNHCR call for investments in solutions that also benefit host communities.

1 GENEVA/PANAMA CITY – Despite efforts by host countries to regularize and integrate refugees and migrants from Venezuela, more than 4 million people still face difficulties accessing food, shelter, health care, education and formal employment in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2 The latest Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA) for 2023 shows that many Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region lack stable livelihood opportunities, making it difficult for them to effectively integrate and contribute to host communities.

3 The comprehensive needs analysis was conducted by the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), which is co-led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

4 Amidst a global and regional cost-of-living crisis, Venezuelans are at heightened risk of being victims of abuses like human trafficking, forced recruitment and gender-based violence.

5 In addition, the report finds that approximately 19 per cent of refugee and migrant children are not attending school, instead supporting their families with informal and underpaid jobs to make ends meet.

6 While more than 60 per cent of refugees and migrants from Venezuela are documented, this has not been enough to ensure a dignified life and adequate access to basic rights. More regular stay arrangements and increased investment in longer-term solutions in livelihoods and education – which benefit host communities as well – are key to self-reliance and inclusion.

7 "The regularization and documentation initiatives implemented in the region are the path to a dignified life for Venezuelan families," said Dr. Eduardo Stein, the Joint Special Representative of IOM and UNHCR for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela.

8 "The fact that half of Venezuelans in the region are facing barriers to receiving health care and cannot afford three meals a day or access adequate housing, as the RMNA points out, highlights the urgent need for international support, so they have opportunities to be self-sufficient, effectively integrate into their host communities, and contribute to the development of the countries in the region."

9 Even though regularization efforts have had positive results, one-third of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean have not been able to regularize their status and are unable to support their families through underpaid and informal jobs.

10 Increased funding to countries in the region is direly needed. New investment can save lives, provide lasting stabilization and integration opportunities for millions of refugees and migrants, including those of other nationalities in transit, preventing them from embarking on dangerous journeys. Support to host communities also remains urgent.

11 R4V's 228 partners support and complement governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, the primary responders, to address this situation. However, of the US\$ 1.72 billion requested by R4V in the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan, barely 12 per cent of financial needs have been received to date.

12 According to official figures and estimates reported by host countries and compiled by the R4V PlatformLink is external, there were more than 7.7 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela

worldwide as of August 2023. Over 6.5 million of them are hosted in 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

1. Venezuelan refugees lack access to what?
 - a. Most basic needs
 - b. Food, shelter, health care, education and formal employment
 - c. Livelihood opportunities

2. Why are Venezuelan immigrants struggling to integrate in host communities?
 - a. Because they lack livelihood opportunities.
 - b. Because of discrimination in the host communities.
 - c. Because of cultural differences.

3. Why are Venezuelan children not attending school?
 - a. Because most schools discriminate against them.
 - b. Because their parents won't allow them to attend.
 - c. Because their parents are unable to provide financial support for the family.

4. Venezuelan immigrants are at risk of...
 - a. Deportation.
 - b. Becoming victims of human trafficking, forced recruitment and gender-based violence.
 - c. Being unable to access public services.

5. In paragraph 5, what does make ends meet likely mean?
 - a. Earning enough money to live without getting into debt.
 - b. Reaching agreements.

- c. Becoming part of a different community.
6. While over 60% of Venezuelan immigrants is documented, this has not been enough to ensure adequate access to basic rights.
What is missing?
- a. Documenting the rest of the immigrants.
 - b. Ensuring access to livelihood needs.
 - c. Investing in basic needs and education.
7. What type of barriers are half of Venezuelan immigrants facing?
- a. Lack of access to food, shelter and healthcare.
 - b. Lack of access to education, housing and food.
 - c. Lack of access to visas, housing and education.
8. Why are one-third of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean unable to support their families?
- a. They migratory status makes it difficult for them to access decent jobs.
 - b. They work underpaid or informal jobs.
 - c. Most people refuse to hire them.
9. In paragraph 10 direly likely means?
- a. Barely.
 - b. Urgently.
 - c. Extremely.
10. What is needed to remedy the situation of these immigrants?
- a. Better policies.
 - b. Funding and support to host communities.

c. Stabilization and integration.