



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MULTISECTORAL STUDY ON REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA LIVING IN METROPOLITAN LIMA, PERU - 2021



Funded by the European Union

This is a quantitative, descriptive and cross-cutting study. Its general objective is to gain knowledge about the socioeconomic situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela who reside in Metropolitan Lima during the COVID-19 pandemic. For this, an analysis was done of the data of the refugees and migrants from Venezuela who completed the multisectoral survey on socioeconomic, demographic, health, labor, and social support aspects during the month of March 2021.

The population for this study is represented by 3 925 families of Venezuelan nationality that live in 20 districts of Metropolitan Lima and that are found in the database of Action Against Hunger. The net sample size was estimated at 350 people, applying a formula to estimate proportions and other statistical parameters.

The main results are shown below.

General characteristics

The profile of the migrants surveyed was mostly female (70.2% female), relatively young, with 65% of respondents in the age range of 25 to 40 years, and 50% had higher education.

Even though the migrants who participated in the study show a high educational level, the lack of documentation proving legal entry into the country and of study certificates make it difficult for them to access the labor market and basic services, such as education and health. It was found that less than 1% have a temporary residence permit (TRP), while 44% only have a birth certificate. The lack of documentation means that only 21%

of the migrants surveyed have access to formal employment and that 82% of the people interviewed do not have any health insurance.

In addition, 98% of the migrants surveyed resided in rented dwellings, 76% of the dwellings had only one room, and considering that the average number of household members was 3.8 people, it was found that 68% of households lived in overcrowded conditions.



Economic income

Only 21% of Venezuelan migrants worked in a private company or public entity that could guarantee all their labor rights, while the remaining 79% worked in informal conditions; 22% worked in street vending at the peak of the second wave of COVID-19.

The average economic income for the last month before the survey was S/ 977.17 and, compared with the monthly income before the pandemic, which was S/ 1 329.51 on average, there was a significant decrease of S/ 352.34, that is, more than a quarter (-26.5%), while spending on food in the last month represented 44.7% of household income.



Food security

76.4% of the surveyed households were in a situation of food insecurity (including the categories moderate and severe) in the last 30 days, and 32.8% were in severe food insecurity. Among the experiences of hunger in the last month, it is highlighted that 85% of households worried about not having money for food, 80% of households reduced the portion of meals, 61% of households skipped some meals due to lack of money, 49% of households were at some point without food due to lack of money and in 12.5% of households some member spent at least a whole day of hunger due to lack of money.

Households with food insecurity applied strategies to cope with hunger as a survival mechanism to resist the crisis. In the investigation of the strategies applied in the last seven days, it was found that 91% of the migrants consulted had to consume cheaper or less preferred foods at least one day in the last week, 75% had to reduce their food portions, while 57% decreased the number of meals in the day and 46% decreased the consumption of food by adults to feed the children.

When comparing the scores of the Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) between the years 2019 and 2021, significant differences were found in the

strategies of eating less preferred or cheaper foods, reducing food portions, and decreasing the number of meals consumed in the day, which shows a more serious situation of food insecurity in 2021. Despite these differences, the total rCSI score was similar to the score in 2019.

The hunger and food insecurity crisis is also evident in the nutritional status of Venezuelan migrants and given that the COVID-19 pandemic is persistent, the effects can alter weight. When consulting about changes in their body weight during this period of crisis, 50% of adults perceived that they lost weight during the pandemic. These effects are not just limited to adults. On the contrary, 30.5% of the migrants surveyed said that their child under 5 years of age also lost weight since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

The dietary diversity in the homes of migrants was also evaluated and it was found that 23.7% had low dietary diversity and 28.2% had medium dietary diversity. The food groups of nutritional importance with the lowest consumption were fish and shellfish (16%), fruits (32%), vegetables (41%), roots and white tubers (41%), legumes (42%) and milk (44%), which did not reach 50% of the surveyed population.

Health

Prevention of the spread of COVID-19

Regarding the strategies to avoid the spread of COVID-19, 92.5% of people participating in the study indicated the use of a mask, 86.8% hand washing and 61.8% mentioned social distancing. 44.5% of Venezuelan migrants acknowledged that they had been tested for COVID-19; 15.4% of people surveyed had to pay for the test, while it was free for 29.4%. Likewise, 41% of study participants indicated that they have had COVID-19 symptoms and 22.8% were sure that one of their family members at home had contracted COVID-19. On the other hand, of those who had had COVID-19 only 28.7% received care in a health center.

Regarding the use of protection supplies against COVID-19, 99.4% of migrants reported that they have masks; of these, 52.5% were surgical masks, 36.2% cloth, 4.8% cloth and surgical, and 6.3% had other types of masks. In addition, 86.2% of those surveyed mentioned that they had a face shield and 92.8% reported that they disinfected areas and surfaces at home.

Possession of health insurance

The surveyed migrants had low health insurance coverage, only 17% of them have any health insurance; for their part, breastfeeding women are another vulnerable population and only 14% of them have any health insurance. In pregnant women and children under 5 years of age, health insurance coverage exceeds 75% of the population.

Access to health services

Regarding access to health services, the context of the COVID-19 pandemic affected the provision of regular care in the last month in all populations; among girls and boys, 61.9% were not vaccinated in the last month, 65.1% did not have weight and height monitoring, and 49.5% did not get iron supplements. For their part, pregnant women also saw their health care affected in the last month; 56.2% did not receive their vaccines, 31.2% did not receive prenatal check-ups, and 37.5% did not receive iron supplements.

Mental health

Regarding the changes in mental health because of social isolation, it was found that 33.1% of people over 15 years of age had emotional changes, especially manifested in deep sadness (35%), stress (28%) and anxiety (11%). On the other hand, in children under 15 years of age, emotional changes were reported in 45.4% of cases; the main manifestations were that they were more upset than normal (50%), sad or indifferent (17%), stressed (14%), anxious (9%) and hyperactive (7%).

Significant variations were found when comparing the current situation, in the context of a pandemic, with the year 2019, with a significant increase in emotional changes both in people over 15 years of age (23.3% to 33.1%) and in those under 15 years (27.4% to 45.4%).

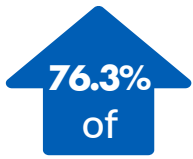
Priority needs

According to the surveyed migrants, the main need to improve their economic income during the pandemic was the access to job banks (50.3%), followed by employability and entrepreneurship training (31.3%).

In addition, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the priority needs at home were health care and medicines (43.4%), they then mentioned food support (33%), followed by employment or entrepreneurship (18.7%). This prioritization of needs expressed by migrants from Venezuela also reflects the critical situation of food insecurity that this vulnerable population experiences every day.



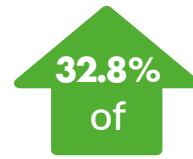
MAIN FINDINGS



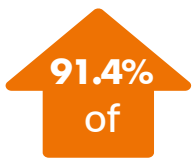
76.3% of migrant households were in moderate-severe food insecurity, according to the FIES scale.



20,3 was the total score of the coping strategies against hunger (rCSI).



32.8% of migrant households were in severe food insecurity, that is, someone had suffered from hunger in the last month (FIES).



91.4% of migrant households consumed cheaper or less preferred foods in the last week (rCSI).



85.6% of migrant households were concerned about not having enough food due to lack of money in the last month (FIES).



75.9% of migrant households had to reduce their meal portions in the last week (rCSI).



49.1% of migrant households were without food due to lack of money for at least one day in the last month (FIES).



57.3% of migrant households had to reduce the number of meals per day in the last week (rCSI).



82% of migrants did not have health insurance.



75% of pregnant women in migrant households did not have health insurance.



68% of households live in overcrowded conditions and **76%** of homes have only one room.



74.6% of migrant households had a bank account.



Economic income of migrant households was reduced by **26.5%** in comparison with the income before the pandemic.



44.7% of the total economic income of migrant households in the last month was spent on food.



61.9% of children under 5 years of age were not vaccinated in the last month, **65.1%** did not receive weight and height monitoring and **49.5%** did not get iron supplements.



31.2% of pregnant women did not receive prenatal care and **37.5%** did not receive iron supplements.



44% of migrant adults were tested to diagnose COVID-19.



41% of migrant adults surveyed reported having COVID-19 symptoms.

71.3% of migrants or their relatives with COVID-19 did not receive care in health facilities.



22.8% of migrants consider that one of their relatives in their home had COVID-19 in the last year.



33.1% of migrants over 15 years of age presented emotional changes in their mental health in the last month.



45.4% of migrants under 15 years of age presented emotional changes in their mental health in the last month.