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INTEGRA (COLOMBIA)

OVERVIEW

The Integra Activity helps the Colombian Government address social, political, and cultural challenges resulting from sustained mass migration from Venezuela. As of January 2022, over 1.8 million people have fled Venezuela to Colombia. A large percentage of these migrants have settled in Colombia's urban areas and border towns, causing receptor communities to face unprecedented challenges in terms of socially and economically integrating migrants and returnees. In response to these challenges, Integra is: 1) improving the Colombian Government's border and migration management capacities; 2) strengthening municipal and departmental governments' capacity to provide migrants access to quality social and justice services; and 3) reducing xenophobia toward migrants. The activity is implemented in urban areas with high concentration of migrants, including Barranquilla, Bogota, Bucaramanga, Cali, Cartagena, Cúcuta, Medellin and Riohacha, and it runs from September 2021 to September 2026.

GOALS

IMPROVE BORDER AND MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Integra builds the Colombian Government's capacity to manage migration. This includes support to document and track migrants, refer migrants to municipal level services, and promote migrants' social integration and acceptance in receptor communities.

INCREASE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES

Integra improves basic service provision to migrants by implementing municipal migrant integration centers and services. The activity also strengthens community, public, and private actors' capacities to provide services by sharing best practices through open dialogue, migration roundtables, cross-city networks, and collaboration between organizations and USAID-supported programs.

REDUCE XENOPHOBIA TOWARD MIGRANTS

Integra develops interventions to reduce misinformation about migration, raise awareness about the challenges that migrants face, and employ a whole-of-society approach to integrating migrants and Colombian returnees. These interventions also highlight the benefits of migration for the receptor communities, like migrants' ability to invest in the local economy.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- Institutionalize national-level coordination of Venezuelan migration issues;
- Operationalize the Integrate model of social and economic migrant integration centers;
- Develop tools for migrant and migration-related information exchange, access, and analysis;
- Enhance public institutions' ability to provide essential services, like health and education, to migrants;
- Strengthen migrant and Colombian returnee identification, registration, and attention mechanisms;
- Design and disseminate anti-xenophobia messaging in collaboration with the private sector and media organizations;
- Increase youth, family, community group, and civil society organizations' engagement in migrant integration efforts;
- Propose and implement local and national policy instruments that facilitate migrant integration into Colombian society;
- Improve migrant and Colombian returnees' understanding of service provision, regularization, rights, roles, and civic norms; and
- Strengthen civil society organizations' capacity to disseminate information on migrant service provision and to foster cultural understanding and civic participation.