



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



VENEZUELA MIGRATION REGIONAL PROGRAMS

USAID seeks to improve the socio-economic integration of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in targeted cities of Peru, Ecuador and Brazil. This is accomplished through a mix of activities which are focused on enabling Venezuelans to secure a sustainable livelihood in their host country. Major lines of activity include: improved access to financial services, particularly savings and credit products; facilitating access to the labor market through training, job placement support and outreach to the private sector; and, training and support for small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs, including access to seed capital. Primary measures of success include increased incomes, secure and decent employment opportunities, and financial inclusion.

OUR WORK

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

Many Venezuelans were business owners before immigrating and have started new businesses in their adopted country. Others are trying their hand as entrepreneurs for the first time. Studies suggest that nearly half of Venezuelans are pursuing some form of self-employment in their new country but regardless of their level of experience as business owners, many will need some form of assistance to succeed. USAID is supporting small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through training programs, business development services, mentoring and access to seed capital. Working in partnership with local organizations, USAID training programs are intensive and custom tailored to the needs of the particular business. Those who successfully complete the initial training may be matched with a long-term mentor and be eligible for seed capital funding. The goal is to strengthen existing businesses or help start new ones which can generate a sustainable, decent income for Venezuelans residing in Lima, Quito and Guayaquil.

For those Venezuelans who seek employment, USAID provides soft skills training, job matching support and assistance with validating professional and technical degrees. Searching for a job in a new country presents numerous challenges and USAID programs help Venezuelans better understand and navigate the local job market. Through outreach to the private sector, USAID is able to match qualified Venezuelans with job openings. Finally, Venezuelans, on average, are highly qualified relative to the local population, with more than half holding a professional or technical degree. USAID is working with local institutions to help thousands of Venezuelans obtain local recognition of these degrees so that they can work in the field in which they were trained and thereby earn a better wage and make a more important contribution to their host country's economic and social development in critical fields such as education and healthcare.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES

Economic integration requires access to financial services, including checking and savings accounts, credit, and insurance products. Venezuelans, however, are largely excluded from this sector due to misinformation, poorly understood banking regulations, and other barriers. USAID is partnering with numerous financial institutions to help them understand rules and regulations as they relate to providing services to Venezuelans and to help them better understand and serve this sizable market. USAID also provides training in financial literacy, supports banking regulators to clarify documentation requirements and is helping financial institutions develop new products and services which will contribute to higher levels of financial inclusion for Venezuelans and local populations alike.

SUPPORTING HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS

Through partnerships with international organizations, USAID is supporting host country governments' efforts to pave the way for the economic integration of Venezuelans. International organizations are partnering with dozens of local and international NGOs along with host government institutions to address the challenges presented by the largest migration in the recent history of Latin America. USAID is supporting these broader efforts in a number of ways, including conducting labor market studies and collecting socio-demographic information studies that provide valuable information to policymakers. Other efforts include training and technical assistance to government institutions focused on job training, employment and entrepreneurship.

CONTACTS

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