

## Latin America and Venezuela Crisis

The last couple of years have seen a massive rise in the number of people on the move in Latin America and the continent is facing an unprecedented humanitarian and protection crisis. Violence related forced displacement, armed conflict, extreme poverty, economic marginalization, and the denial of socio-economic and political rights are major factors of displacements and migratory movements. Although predominantly from Latin and Central America, refugees and migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East are also among those moving in the region. Being a neighbouring country to the United States. Mexico currently receives significant flows of people who have intentions of entering the U.S., which has overwhelmed existing capacities leading to severe humanitarian needs in the country.

### DRC's Humanitarian Response in Latin America

DRC delivers life-saving assistance to refugees, migrants, returnees, IDPs and host communities through integrated humanitarian response focused on most vulnerable individuals and communities. DRC provides an agile, flexible, sustainable, and integrated response to people caught in situations of recurring emergencies and affected by conflict, violence, displacement, and mixed migration. DRC's programmatic response includes:

**Protection:** DRC provides integrated protection assistance through protection monitoring, legal assistance and counselling, individual protection assistance, activities to counter gender-based violence, and community-based protection. DRC's protection response also includes health services and emergency accommodation, safe houses, legal and medical assistance, psychosocial care, and holistic case management.

**Emergency Response:** DRC provides life-saving assistance and access to basic services including the provision of legal assistance and counselling, individual protection assistance and cash-for-protection to support immediate protection needs, provision of food/hygiene kits and water filters, emergency accommodation and emergency infrastructure improvements.

**Economic Recovery:** DRC provides persons with economic opportunities via access to job opportunities and support to establish small business in coordination with local authorities and local businesses. DRC facilitates socioeconomic inclusion through livelihoods activities to foster their resilience and promotes an early focus on durable solutions throughout its protection, livelihood, access to basic services and rights and community safety/cohesion interventions.

**Humanitarian Mine Action:** DRC contributes to return safe land to communities and to stabilize fragile areas, through identification of contaminated land and mine clearance, as well as Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to communities affected by the presence of landmines.



### Strategic Programme Initiatives

- Protection of the hard-to-reach
- Access to legal aid
- Better market access for all
- Reinforced climate and conflict resilience

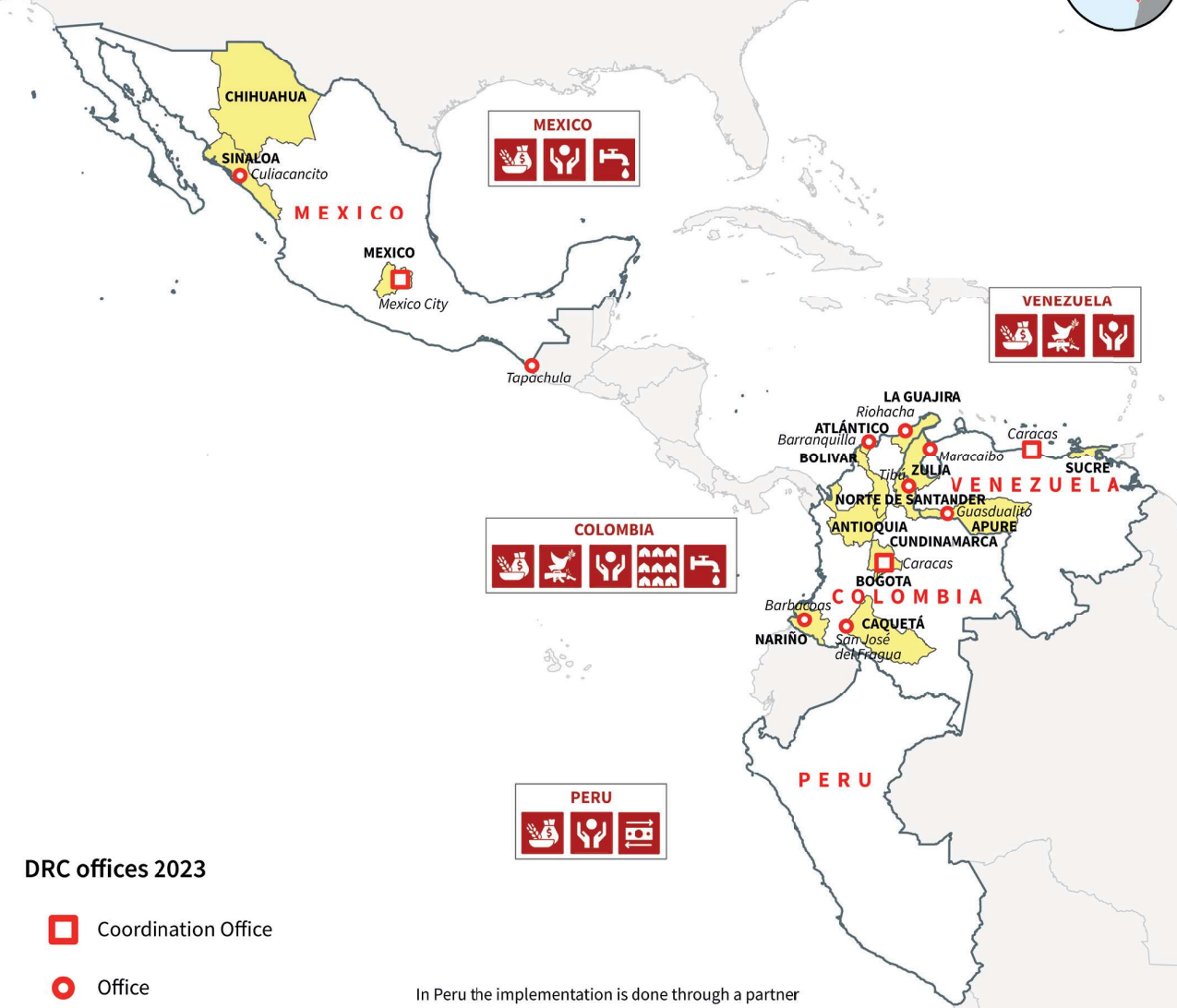
### The Venezuela Crisis

Since 2015, political and socio-economic issues and lack of access to services like health, education and livelihood opportunities have caused millions of Venezuelans to leave the country.

- There are 7,3 Mo Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in the world

Vulnerable people who have stayed in Venezuela are affected by a context where access to services is extremely limited which expose them to protection risks such as trafficking, exploitation, gender based violence and other different types of abuse.

- 19,7 Mo Venezuelans in Venezuela are in need of assistance
- 94,5 % of Venezuela's population live in poverty
- 76.6% of Venezuela's population live in extreme poverty



**DRC offices 2023**

- Coordination Office
- Office

In Peru the implementation is done through a partner

**Sectors**



Protection



Economic Recovery



Water Sanitation & Hygiene



Humanitarian Disarmament & Peacebuilding

**DRC in Venezuela**

To respond to the immense crisis inside Venezuela, DRC established operational presence in the country in 2019 and currently operates in Apure, Sucre, and Zulia states directly or through local partners. DRC's programming primarily consists of protection activities – protection monitoring (PM), Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), legal assistance, food security, Non Food Items distribution, infrastructure rehabilitation and disaster preparedness. DRC's priorities aim at addressing emergency and protection needs and supporting socio economic integration of people staying in or returning to Venezuela.

**DRC in Latin America**

DRC established operational presence in Colombia in 2011 with focus on Humanitarian Mine Action and providing support to conflict-affected populations. With the onset of the large mixed migration flows initially due to the Venezuelan crisis, DRC scaled up its integrated humanitarian response in Colombia and expanded its emergency programming to respond to the mixed migration and conflict related contexts in Mexico, Venezuela, and Peru. DRC is a leading protection actor in Latin America and is among very few humanitarian organizations in the region that has solid experience with working in complex conflict, crisis, displacement, and mixed migration settings.

**Cross-Cutting Regional Projects**

- The “Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative” (4Mi) analyzing trends and changes within the dynamics of mixed migration.
- The learning programme “Latin America Protection Information Management” aims at building the capacity of protection clusters and working groups in Latin America.
- The project “Localising aid and competencies to protect rights along migration routes in Latin America” supports regional and national protection coordination mechanisms and more than 20 civil society organisations with trainings and capacity building.