

Humanitarian Crisis at the Venezuela-Colombia Border

Exodus to Colombia

300,000 Venezuelans cross the border every day, either to buy food or medicine.

Venezuela

- Severe shortages of food and medicine
- Extreme human rights violations by state forces
- Economic hyperinflation & plummet of Bolivar currency

Motivations for Venezuelans in Colombia

- Venezuela and Colombia share a border and commercial ties
- Over 1.5 million Venezuelans have TME which allows them to spend 7 days in Colombia's border region for up to 4 years to buy food and access healthcare (Government stopped issuing them in February 2018)
- Eligible for Special Stay Permit (PEP)
- Venezuelans have PEP which allows them to regularize their status in Colombia for up to 2 years (application for PEP expired October 2017)

Venezuelans in Colombia face the economic instability as one major problem.

Current Situation

Intensifying health crisis:

Due to the lack of health services, the number of ERs increased by 12% between 2015 and 2017, border reception areas are confronting the spread of diseases.



Colombian authorities believe that Venezuelans need assistance despite President Maduro's denial.

Massive military presence at the border:

Santos administration has enforced stricter migratory controls & deployed 3,000 military troops and border police.

Increased number of illnesses and deaths:

along the border but Venezuelans at great risk of harm by guerrillas and criminals who work.



Colombian authorities show signs of xenophobia against Venezuelan migrants.