

Focusing on the journey – The need for a regional approach to migration monitoring

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Key Messages

- **A cross-border approach to humanitarian research and response in Latin America is necessary given the nature of movements.** Focusing on the “journey” rather than the “destination” can shed light on cross-border and regional responses that reduce the risks encountered along migration routes. As populations and risks move across frontiers, a cross-border approach and investment are needed to address them.
- **Funding local capacities for migration information management is key to strengthen evidence-based programming and response.** Providing local NGOs, civil society organisations, and government entities with spaces for collaboration and formal mechanisms to gather and share information will strengthen their ability to develop context-specific solutions. This approach will also promote a more sustainable and context-specific response to challenges in the border region.
- **Programming should prioritise fostering greater collaboration and coordination between local responses on both sides of borders.** Borders are key points for the implementation of innovative and creative coordination mechanisms, focused on information exchange and learning. Greater collaboration and coordination between operations on both sides of a border can expand the coverage and effectiveness of interventions, allowing organisations and government agencies on either side to unite in protecting and supporting people in transit. Joint information management between countries also facilitates case management, family reunifications, and referrals to specialised health organisations.
- **A unified message and purpose could prove effective in inspiring collective action and addressing sectoral frictions.** Joint advocacy efforts could alert donors to the need for long-term, flexible funding for route-focused and cross-border projects.

A cross-border migration crisis

Latin America is experiencing a [complex migration crisis](#) due to the Venezuelan exodus, the prolonged economic and social effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, ongoing violence, and increasing inflation and food insecurity across the region, among other factors. With more than [7 million Venezuelans leaving their country](#), various nations in the region have become transit, reception, and expulsion points for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. While there has been progress in regularisation strategies, there has also been a rise in mobility restrictions and barriers to regular migration.

Despite these challenges, [many refugees and migrants, mostly from Venezuela](#), continue to move in search of safety and better living conditions. According to findings from our [Cross-Border Needs Assessment](#) (July 2024), the primary destinations for those in transit are the United States, Brazil, and Chile, meaning individuals are forced to journey

along dangerous routes and inhospitable terrain, including through the Darien Gap and the Chile-Peru border. The [risks migrants face extend beyond individual countries](#).

The evidence gathered in the [Borders on the Move](#) project between October and November 2023 offer insights and the recommendations above to facilitate joint implementation, expanding coverage, providing holistic assistance, leveraging diverse mandates and expertise, and ensuring the participation of local organisations.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT).