



OCHA

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Weekly Situation Update (28 December 2019 - 5 January 2020)

As of 6 January 2020

KEY FIGURES

54.5K

GUATEMALANS RETURNED FROM THE US IN 2019

29.1K

UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS PASSED THROUGH HONDURAS IN 2019

254%

INCREASE IN NICARAGUANS RETURNED FROM THE US FROM 2018 TO 2019

Sources:

Guatemalan Migration Institute
National Institute of Migration (Honduras)
US Customs and Border Protection

KEY FIGURES

28.6K

HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN MEXICO DURING 2019, THE MOST SINCE 1997

28.4%

FEWER HOMICIDES IN EL SALVADOR DURING 2019 COMPARED TO 2018

Sources:

Government of Mexico
Government of El Salvador

MEXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA: MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

GUATEMALA

The Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM) reports that the US deported 54,547 Guatemalans in 2019, a record number and the third straight year of rising deportations from the US. Migration experts in Guatemala say that the rising migration figures are related to deteriorating social and economic conditions, especially in rural areas of the country.

HONDURAS

The National Migration Institute (INM) reported that 29,197 undocumented migrants passed through Honduras in 2019, a new record. According to INM, Honduras saw 92,157 undocumented migrants pass through since January 2014. Some 51,113 migrants, more than half the total, are from Cuba. The country with the next highest total is

Haiti with 21,566 (23 per cent), followed by 3,976 from Cameroon (4.3 per cent), 3,588 Congolese migrants (3.8 per cent) and 1,760 from Eritrea (1.9 per cent). INM data shows that 66 per cent of undocumented migrants during this reporting period were men, while 34 per cent were women.

NICARAGUA

End-of-year statistics from the United States Customs and Border Protection show that some 2,240 Nicaraguans were sent back to Nicaragua during 2019, a 254 per cent increase from the 879 deportations reported in 2018. Similar statistics from Costa Rican migration authorities show that 55,900 Nicaraguans entered the country in 2019, with 33,600 asylum requests and 27,900 pending claims and 8,200 labour permits issued.

MEXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA: CHRONIC VIOLENCE

MEXICO

Security officials reported that 2019 closed with a total of 28,645 homicide victims, a record tally since the National Public Security System (SESNSP) began keeping official records in 1997. The central state of Guanajuato registered the highest number of homicides with more than 3,200, followed by Baja California in the northwest and Mexico State in central Mexico, who each registered more than 2,600 homicides.

Due to its location on the United States-Mexico border, Baja California's chronic violence poses protection risks to arriving migrants seeking to cross the border into the US.

EL SALVADOR

On 2 January, President Nayib Bukele reported that December 2019 closed out as El Salvador's most peaceful month since 1992. The 120 homicides registered in December represent a daily average of 3.87 deaths, down from the daily average of 8.91 in June 2019 when Bukele took office.

Between 1 January 2019 and 28 December 2019, El Salvador registered 2,374 homicides, a substantial decrease from the 3,316 homicides recorded during the same reporting period in 2018.



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175k

VENEZUELAN WHO HAVE REGISTERED FOR REGULARIZATION IN ECUADOR

Sources:
Government of Ecuador

ECUADOR: VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

According to officials from the Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, some 175,000 Venezuelans have registered in Ecuador's regularization process for Venezuelan migrants and refugees to date.

Officials say that the last days of 2019 closed out with 66,000 Venezuelans seeking support at migration offices to register. The Minister of the Interior says that Ecuador currently has a migratory balance of 350,000 Venezuelans.

The regularization process, slated to end on 31 March, will allow the Ecuadorian Government to know home addresses and status regarding health, paperwork, education and employment to better tailor humanitarian assistance and integration efforts for the Venezuelan population in Ecuador.

The R4V Response for Venezuelans Coordination Platform projects the Venezuelan population in Ecuador to reach 659,000 by the end of 2020.

KEY FIGURES

35

DISTRICTS IN PIURA UNDER EMERGENCY OVER FLOODING

Sources:
Government of Peru

PERU: FLOODING

Heavy rainfall and flooding in Piura prompted the Government to declare a state of emergency in 35 districts in Piura on 29 December. The National Emergency Operations Centre (COEN) is monitoring the situation. The Ministers of Agriculture and Health and the head of the National Civil Defence Institute (INDECI) confirmed on 30 December that they are implementing contingency plans as part of the emergency declarations.

The Government has set up water pumps throughout Piura to extract water from low-lying areas and prevent flooded areas from becoming breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitos.

Officials attribute the flooding to rainfall moving over the highlands towards the coast, stressing that the rains are not related to the El Niño phenomenon that caused massive flooding that affected more than one million people in 2017.

KEY FIGURES

80

PEOPLE IN SHELTERS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR TUBERCULOSIS

Sources:
Government of Bahamas

BAHAMAS: HURRICANE DORIAN

The Minister of Health reported on 30 December that 80 people in Government shelters have tested positive for tuberculosis. Health officials have screened more than 340 people in the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium and the Bahamas Academy Gymnasium, with those testing positive taken to health centres for further screening and treatment.

Officials began screening in early December after a student living at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium tested positive and was admitted to a local hospital for treatment. Health officials say that the origin of the student's infection is still unknown. Despite the positive tests, Bahamas has one of the lowest incidence rates of 20 cases per every 100,000 inhabitants.