

REGIONAL

MIG-INTEGRATION: PROFESSIONAL PROFILES VENEZUELAN DIASPORA

(RG-T5068)

PROJECT DOCUMENT

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REGIONAL MIG-INTEGRATION: PROFESSIONAL PROFILES VENEZUELAN DIASPORA RG-T5068		
PROJECT SUMMARY		
Operation Type:	Technical Cooperation	
Sector:	SOCIAL INVESTMENT	
Subsector:	MIGRATION & MIGRANTS	
TC Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination	
Project Number under the Operational Support Taxonomy:	N/A	
Technical Responsible Unit:	SCL/MIG-Migration Unit	
Unit with Disbursement Responsibility (UDR):	SCL/MIG-Migration Unit	
Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank	
PROJECT OBJECTIVE		
The general objective is to generate timely, comparable, and policy-relevant evidence on the mobility patterns and labor market integration of the Venezuelan diaspora to inform decision-making in host countries and potential return planning		
FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
Financing Type	Fund	Amount in US\$
TCN - Nonreimbursable	CCF - Canada Cooperation Framework	600,000
Total IDB Financing		600,000
Counterpart Financing		0
Total Project Budget		600,000
Donors:	N/A	
Disbursement Period:	36 months	
Execution Period:	36 months	
ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
This is an individual operation under the MIG-INTEGRATION: Facility on Socio-Economic Integration of Refugees, Migrants, Returnees, and Host Community Members in Latin America and the Caribbean (RG-O1722).		

I. JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 **Diagnostic. General context.** Venezuelan migration has become one of the largest displacement crises in the world, with 8.1 million people having left the country, of whom 6.5 million reside in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (UNDESA, 2024). The majority are concentrated in Colombia (2.8 million), Peru (1.5 million), Brazil (570,000), Chile (530,000), and Ecuador (440,000), with significant numbers also settling outside the region, particularly in the United States (770,000) and Spain (377,000). Notably, as Kaplan, Rivera, and van der Werf (2023) find, 66.8% of foreign-born individuals in LAC fall within the working-age bracket (15–64 years), compared to 59.3% of the native-born population, meaning this diaspora is composed predominantly of people of working age, amplifying its potential economic and social impact in both host countries and countries of origin.
- 1.2 In several host countries, Venezuelans already make up a meaningful share of the workforce. They account for about 5.5% of employed workers in Chile, 5.0% in Colombia, 1.1% in Ecuador, and 0.7% in Peru (SCL/MIG calculations based on ENE, Chile; GEIH, Colombia; ENEMDU, Ecuador; and ENAHO, Peru). Because they are mostly working age and have high labor market participation, they represent a larger share of the workforce than of the total population. For example, Venezuelan employment rates are roughly 80% in Chile, 66% in Colombia, 78% in Ecuador, and 74% in Peru, with labor force participation around 84%, 74%, 79%, and 75%, respectively (SCL/MIG calculations based on ENE, Chile; GEIH, Colombia; ENEMDU, Ecuador; and ENAHO, Peru). This scale and labor market attachment mean that changes in mobility patterns can have sizable implications for host-country economies, labor markets, public services, and integration outcomes in host countries, as well as for reintegration dynamics in Venezuela.
- 1.3 Venezuelans often arrive with relatively strong educational backgrounds, yet their labor market integration frequently occurs in jobs that do not fully reflect their qualifications. In Colombia, for example, 31.4% of Venezuelans report completing upper secondary education, and 14.5% report some form of post-secondary education, including 5.5% with technical training and 8.6% with university education (complete or incomplete) (SCL/MIG calculations based on GEIH, Colombia). At the same time, high labor force participation and employment rates indicate that Venezuelans enter work rapidly, which can increase the likelihood of accepting positions below their skill level, at least initially. This makes overqualification and skill mismatch central to understanding integration outcomes beyond employment status alone.
- 1.4 Those mobility patterns are also shaped by how stable migrants' residency permits are over time. This matters in Latin America and the Caribbean because most regularization processes grant temporary residence, which must be renewed, rather than a durable status. In the [SCL/MIG 2010–2025 mapping](#), only 5 of 64 regularization processes that included Venezuelans as beneficiaries grant permanent residence (van der Werf et al., 2025): the Programa de Amnistía in Belize (2022); the Residencia definitiva por arraigo under Article 339 of El Salvador's Migration and Foreign Affairs Law (2019); two phases of the Programa de Residencia por arraigo in Uruguay (2024); and the Estatuto Migratorio Ecuador-Venezuela (2011). When most people depend on time-limited permits and renewals, changes in rules or renewals can quickly affect whether families stay, move onward, or return.
- 1.5 Mobility decisions are also shaped by a regional policy environment that is shifting from protection toward greater restriction. Across several host countries, fiscal pressures,

strained public services, and changing political landscapes have led governments that once adopted relatively open approaches toward Venezuelan migrants to reassess those policies. Temporary protection schemes are reaching their limits; eligibility criteria for legal status have become more restrictive in some settings, and migrants without regular status face greater exposure to enforcement and removal. Even where formal protections remain in place, a less favorable public climate and growing uncertainty about future access to residence, work, and services can affect expectations about long-term settlement. In that context, return and onward migration may become more likely, not only in response to conditions in Venezuela, but also because prospects in host countries are becoming less predictable.

- 1.6 At the same time, the possibility of gradual improvements in Venezuela makes understanding mobility patterns even more important. If economic and institutional conditions begin to stabilize, even partially, the country could see rising interest in return, including among working-age migrants with diverse skills and experience acquired abroad. This creates both an opportunity and a challenge. Venezuela faces substantial reconstruction needs across sectors such as infrastructure, health, education, and basic services, alongside the broader rebuilding of institutions and labor markets. Realizing the potential benefits of return will require coordinated efforts to anticipate who may return, identify the skills and profiles of returnees, and respond to the structural and individual constraints they may face. In that context, timely evidence on return dynamics is essential to support recovery planning, facilitate productive reintegration, and help ensure that mobility contributes to longer-term development outcomes
- 1.7 Understanding return dynamics has become increasingly urgent, even as the evidence on actual return flows remains limited and mixed. Border monitoring data from UNHCR suggests that returns have accounted for a growing share of cross-border movements—roughly 40% in 2024 and approaching 50% in the first half of 2025—though this reflects movement composition rather than confirmed evidence of large-scale departure from host countries. Indeed, intention surveys in several host countries continue to show low return intentions among Venezuelan migrants, with some national surveys reporting that over 90% of respondents have no plans to return in the near term. This makes cross-country, comparable evidence on mobility intentions and their drivers all the more valuable: not to confirm a trend that may not yet exist, but to monitor how intentions and behaviors evolve as conditions in both host countries and Venezuela change.
- 1.8 **Request.** In response to the regional need for high-quality, comparable, and timely evidence on the evolving mobility patterns of the Venezuelan diaspora, the IDB through its Migration Unit (SCL/MIG) proposes a research-focused Technical Cooperation, grounded in the recognition that the unprecedented scale of Venezuelan displacement has significant implications for labor markets, social protection systems, migration management, and potential future return scenarios across the Americas and beyond, including the possibility of return in the context of an institutional transition and improved labor market opportunities in Venezuela..
- 1.9 The Bank's interest in advancing this Technical Cooperation reflects its institutional mandate and analytical engagement on migration, labor markets, and social protection across the region and is aligned with the IDB Institutional Strategy, particularly its emphasis on generating knowledge, strengthening evidence base policymaking and fostering regional public goods. In the context of the scale and evolving nature of Venezuelan displacement, our region has requested support to better understand mobility

dynamics and their implications for policy design. By leveraging its regional presence and partnerships, the Bank is well positioned to generate comparable, recurring evidence that can inform current operations, anticipate shifts in mobility patterns, including return to Venezuela and secondary migration to third countries, and support more effective, coordinated responses across countries.

- 1.10 This TC will generate public-goods evidence that arises from the collective demand across the region for a robust empirical foundation to support evidence-based decision-making. Governments in the main hosting countries: United States, Spain, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, and Brazil, together with international cooperation actors, academic institutions, and civil society organizations, have consistently highlighted the absence of harmonized, recurring data to anticipate trends in labor market integration, onward mobility, and conditions under which migrants might voluntarily and safely return in a future period of transition.
- 1.11 The Bank will implement this TC, directly leading all planned activities in close coordination with relevant authorities in participating in host countries, international organizations, research partners, and civil society actors. It will actively engage civil society organizations and NGOs with established presence and data collection experience among Venezuelan populations, including those operating within the R4V platform, to inform survey design, support outreach, and contribute to dissemination of results. Initial engagement with government counterparts will always be conducted through IDB country representatives. Emphasis will be placed on identifying synergies with existing migration-related initiatives, ensuring methodological comparability, and avoiding duplication. All activities will incorporate a gender-responsive, protection-oriented, and conflict-sensitive approach, consistent with the context of fragility and international standards on safe, dignified, and voluntary return.
- 1.12 **Objective.** The general objective is to generate timely, comparable, and policy-relevant evidence on the mobility patterns and labor market integration of the Venezuelan diaspora to inform decision-making in host countries and potential return planning.
- 1.13 The specific objectives are:
 - (i) Design, implement, and operate a comparable, panel survey to monitor the labor market integration and mobility dynamics of the Venezuelan diaspora in seven countries (United States, Spain, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, and Brazil). The survey will focus on labor market outcomes, mobility trajectories (return, permanence, and onward migration), and mobility intentions—capturing both the factors associated with plans to move, and those associated with plans to remain. The data collection will incorporate key demographic characteristics to capture heterogeneity in mobility decisions and will include at least one additional diaspora group as a comparison population to help distinguish push and pull factors.
 - (ii) Strengthen the understanding of migrants' economic integration in host countries and, in the context of increased onward mobility, in potential new destinations—including employment, formality, and skills matching.
 - (iii) Generate forward-looking evidence on Venezuela's potential to attract human capital from its diaspora, by identifying priority profiles relevant to reconstruction needs and

examining the conditions—economic, institutional, and social—that would make return a viable and attractive option for those professionals.

- 1.14 The expected results or outputs include: (i) the development and implementation of a harmonized, multi-country (phone or online) panel survey instrument; (ii) the generation of panel surveys with migrant profiles, labor market outcomes, mobility trajectories, and return intentions; and (iii) the production of analytical outputs, including reports and policy briefs, disseminated to governments and partners.
- 1.15 The expected outcomes include: (i) improved capacity of governments and stakeholders to anticipate changes in migration and return patterns; (ii) strengthened understanding and evidence base to inform policies on labor market integration, migration management, and return; and (iii) enhanced coordination across countries through the use of comparable data and shared analytical tools.
- 1.16 **Complementarity.** This Technical Cooperation complements ongoing Bank interventions that support labor market inclusion and the socioeconomic integration of migrants and other vulnerable populations across the region. These include the Program to Strengthen Employment Policies ([4934/OC-CO](#)) in Colombia, Institutional Strengthening and Results-Based Financing for Better Jobs in Bogotá ([ATN/CN-19717-CO](#)), Support to the Socioeconomic Integration of Vulnerable Population in Manta Canton ([ATN/CN-19540-EC,ATN/CN-21943-EC](#)) in Ecuador, Design and Implementation of a Critical Path for the Labor Inclusion of Migrants in Chile ([ATN/CN-20273-CH](#)), and Supporting the Commitment to Employment for the Effectiveness of Employment Policies in Ecuador (EC-T1284). Together, these operations aim to improve employment services, strengthen labor intermediation, and facilitate access to better jobs for vulnerable groups, including migrants.
- 1.17 A stabilizing Venezuela would represent a significant opportunity for the Americas, and for Canada in particular. As one of the region's most active development partners, Canada has accumulated substantial expertise in several of the sectors where Venezuela faces its most pressing reconstruction needs, including infrastructure, health systems, governance, and natural resource management. This alignment between Canadian strengths and Venezuelan priorities creates a natural entry point for meaningful engagement. Beyond development cooperation, a recovering Venezuela would contribute to broader regional stability, reducing irregular migration pressures and creating conditions for more orderly mobility across the hemisphere, outcomes that directly serve Canadian foreign policy, economic and stability interests.
- 1.18 The proposed TC complements these efforts by addressing a key cross-cutting gap: the lack of timely, comparable, and forward-looking information on the labor market integration and mobility dynamics of the Venezuelan diaspora. By generating harmonized evidence on employment quality, informality, skills use, onward migration, and return intentions, the project will strengthen the analytical foundation needed to adapt existing interventions and inform future operations. It will help governments and IDB teams anticipate changes in the scale, composition, and geographic distribution of Venezuelan migrant populations, allowing for more timely adjustments in policy priorities and service delivery.
- 1.19 **Strategic Alignment.** This Technical Cooperation is aligned with the IDB Group Institutional Strategy: Transforming Scale and Impact (CA-631) and contributes directly to its overarching objectives. First, it supports the Strategy+ Approach to Reducing Poverty

and Inequality by generating panel evidence on labor market integration, informality, vulnerability, and mobility decisions among Venezuelan migrants—populations that face heightened risks of poverty, inequality, and exclusion in host countries. Second, it is consistent with the Strategy+ Approach to Bolstering Sustainable Regional Growth by informing policies that improve the allocation and use of human capital, reduce skill mismatch, and strengthen labor market functioning in a context of high informality and mobility. Finally, the TC complements the Migration Unit's Sector Framework (GN-3021) by strengthening the evidence base for policymaking on migrant socioeconomic integration, thereby enhancing the quality and relevance of information available to decision-makers.

- 1.20 **Donor:** Canada has been a consistent and influential partner in advancing regional responses to the Venezuelan displacement crisis, with a particular emphasis on socio-economic integration. The support from this operation directly reflects these priorities by generating the robust evidence needed to design policies that foster inclusion, stability, and productive participation of migrants in host-country economies. This operation creates a complementary package of analytical tools that will enhance the regional evidence base and strengthen coordinated policy action. By supporting this TC, Canada consolidates its leadership in promoting data-driven, sustainable solution for vulnerable populations while contributing to a more coherent and forward-looking regional agenda.

II. COMPONENTS

- 2.1 **Component 1: Development and Implementation of a Panel Monitoring System Dynamics (US\$ 525,000).** This component will finance the design and implementation of a multi-country panel monitoring system to generate timely and comparable data on the labor market integration and mobility trajectories of Venezuelan migrants across key host countries. Activities will include the design of harmonized survey instruments and methodological protocols. Survey design will be informed by consultations with national statistical offices to draw on their experience surveying Venezuelan populations. Additional activities include the development of the sampling strategy and panel structure, pilot testing, implementation of repeated survey rounds, and data processing, harmonization, and quality assurance. Civil society organizations and NGOs with established presence among Venezuelan populations will be engaged to support outreach and facilitate access to hard-to-reach groups during fieldwork. The Bank will lead the technical design and supervision of the component, while survey firms and specialized consultants will support fieldwork and data management. Procurement under this component will include the hiring of survey firms and consultants. Expected outputs include standardized survey instruments and protocols, and a harmonized multi-country panel dataset with information on labor market outcomes and mobility dynamics.
- 2.2 **Component 2: Analysis, Dissemination, and Policy Use of Evidence (US\$75,000).** This component will support the production and dissemination of policy-relevant evidence based on the data generated under Component 1. Activities will include analysis of labor market integration, skills use, onward migration, and return intentions; preparation of reports, policy briefs, and monitoring notes; and dissemination of findings through targeted engagement with migration authorities, ministries of labor, private sector actors, and international cooperation partners in each country, as well as through academic and policy presentations. The Bank will lead the analytical and dissemination agenda, with support from consultants and research partners. Procurement under this component will include

analytical consulting services and dissemination activities. Expected outputs include: (i) one cross-country analytical report synthesizing key findings; (ii) two to three policy briefs on priority themes; (iii) a set of harmonized indicators and periodic monitoring notes to track key trends; (iv) dissemination through at least three academic and policy presentations to inform ongoing operations and policy dialogue; and (v) at least one dissemination event convened with the Quito Process and the donor community.

- 2.3 **Expected Results.** This TC is expected to produce: (i) a harmonized, multi-country panel dataset that tracks Venezuelan migrants' labor market outcomes and mobility dynamics over time, supported by standardized instruments and field protocols to ensure cross-country comparability. (ii) A core set of comparable indicators and decision-ready monitoring products, such as periodic analytical briefs and visual summaries—that provide timely insights on economic integration (employment quality, informality, earnings, and skills match) and early warning on shifts in mobility patterns (including return and onward movements). These outputs will be developed in coordination with agencies that undertake movement tracking in the region, including IOM and UNHCR, to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication. To maximize policy uptake, at least one dissemination event will be organized with the Quito Process and the donor community.
- 2.4 **Beneficiaries.** (i) The primary beneficiaries will be government counterparts and public agencies in Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil (and broader Quito Process member states), particularly migration authorities, ministries of labor, and social sector institutions—that require timely evidence to adjust integration policies, service delivery, and planning as conditions evolve. (ii) IDB operational teams working on migration and social inclusion will also benefit directly by using the evidence to inform the design, targeting, and adaptive implementation of ongoing and future loans and technical cooperations. (iii) International donors and cooperation actors engaged in economic integration programming will also benefit from access to this evidence to inform future investments and coordination across the region. Indirect beneficiaries include migrant households, host communities, and service providers that stand to gain from more responsive and better-targeted policies and programs enabled by improved monitoring.

III. BUDGET

- 3.1 The Department of Foreign Affairs Canada (DFTAD) has committed US\$600,000 to this project. Resources of this project have been received from the Department of Foreign Affairs Canada (DFTAD) through a Project Specific Grant (PSG). A PSG is administered by the Bank according to the "Report on COFABS, Ad-Hocs and CLFGS and a Proposal to Unify Them as Project Specific Grants (PSGs)" (Document SC-114). As contemplated in these procedures, the commitment by the Department of Foreign Affairs Canada (DFTAD) has been established through a separate Administration Agreement (Facility RG-O1722). Under such an agreement, the resources for this project will be administered by the Bank.

Budget in US\$		
Components	Global Affairs Canada	Total
Component 1: Development and Implementation of a Panel Monitoring System Dynamics	525,000	525,000
Component 2: Analysis, Dissemination, and Policy Use of Evidence	75,000	75,000
Total	600,000	600,000

IV. EXECUTION STRUCTURE

- 4.1 **Executing Agency.** The TC will be executed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Social Sector Migration Unit (SCL/MIG) in accordance with the Banks Technical Cooperation Policy, (GN-2470-2) and the Procedures for the Processing of Technical Cooperation Operations and Related Matters (OP-619-4), through the Unit of Migration (SCL/MIG). Given the technical nature of the TC, IDB execution will ensure the timely delivery of specialized studies and the generation of analytical inputs to inform complementary operations.
- 4.2 **Institutional Capacity.** The Bank has the institutional and technical capacity to execute the TC, ensuring quality control, fiduciary oversight, and alignment with operational guidelines. It has extensive operational experience and analytical work on the topics included in that TC—school infrastructure, teacher assignment, curriculum, and technical education.
- 4.3 **Procurement.** All procurement activities under this Technical Cooperation are reflected in the Procurement Plan (Annex IV) and will be hired in compliance with the applicable Bank policies and regulations as follows: (a) Hiring of individual consultants, as established in the regulation on Complementary Workforce (AM-650); and (b) contracting of services provided by consulting firms, in accordance with the Corporate Procurement Policy (GN-2303-33) and its corresponding Guidelines.
- 4.4 **Execution and Disbursement Period.** The execution and disbursement period will be 36 months in alignment with the Result Matrix and Procurement Plan.
- 4.5 **Monitoring, Reporting, and Supervision.** Monitoring reporting and supervision will be carried out by SCL/MIG. Cynthia van der Werf (SCL/MIG) will serve as the team leader for this TC, and Francisco Zegarra will serve as alternate team leader. Supervision will include periodic progress reviews, verification of outputs against the Results Matrix and the Procurement Plan, and fiduciary oversight consistent with Bank procedures. The supervision schedule, reporting frequency, and budget for supervision costs will be confirmed at project start-up.

- 4.6 **Reporting to Donors:** The project team will be responsible for the preparation and submission, to the donor of the project reporting, in compliance with the stipulations of the Administration Agreement.

V. POTENTIAL RISKS

- 5.1 **Risks and mitigation measures.** The main risks to this Technical Cooperation relate to data comparability, panel attrition, multi-country coordination, and the effective use of evidence in policy and operations. First, differences in country contexts and fieldwork conditions may affect data comparability and quality. This risk will be mitigated through harmonized survey instruments, standardized protocols, and centralized technical oversight by the Bank. Second, attrition in the panel may reduce sample representativeness over time. To address this, the project will incorporate robust respondent tracking protocols, including multiple contact methods and follow-up strategies. Third, coordination across countries, survey firms, and partners may affect implementation timelines. This risk will be mitigated through clear roles, close supervision, and regular monitoring by the Bank. Finally, there is a risk that findings may not be fully incorporated into decision-making. To reduce this risk, the TC will align outputs with operational and policy needs and disseminate results through targeted briefs and academic and policy presentations.
- 5.2 **Intellectual Property.** Any knowledge products generated within the framework of this TC will be the property of the Bank and may be made available to the public under a creative commons license.
- 5.3 Regarding **data privacy**, the project will primarily handle anonymized information. In cases where personal data needs to be processed, security measures such as data encryption, multi-factor authentication, and the definition of clear data access levels will be implemented, together with privacy policies that comply with national and international data protection regulations, as well as the Bank's and the entity's guidelines.

VI. EXCEPTIONS TO BANK POLICIES

- 6.1 No exceptions to Bank policy have been identified.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation is not intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies of specific investment projects or environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, this TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).
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REQUIRED ANNEXES:

- Annex II: Results Matrix
 - Annex III: Terms of Reference
 - Annex IV: Procurement Plan
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