

WFP News Video: Venezuelans Fleeing Hunger Across Borders Create a Regional Crisis

Santander Region, Colombia

Shot: 18-22Sep 2018

TRT: 3:08

Shotlist:

:00-:17

“Trocha” Illegal river crossing

Venezuelan migrants carrying family members and belongings across this river that separates Venezuela from Colombia. Venezuela has stopped producing id cards and passports so many people leaving Venezuela must now cross the border at illegal rivers, jungles and desert crossings called “Trochas”.

near Cucuta, Colombia

Shot:20Sep2018

:17-:30

“Trocha” Illegal river crossing

Michelle brings her sick baby, Ashley, across the river into Colombia to get medicine from the Red Cross that she can't get in Venezuela.

near Cucuta, Colombia

Shot:20Sep2018

:30-:37

Colombian military police patrolling Trocha

near Cucuta, Colombia

Shot:20Sep2018

:37-43

Aerial Venezuela/Colombia border at Simon Bolivar Bridge

Cucuta, Colombia

Shot:21Sep2018

:43-:52

GV's Venezuela/Colombia border at Simon Bolivar Bridge

Around 900 people a day cross into Cucuta, Colombia from Venezuela. Cucuta has one of the highest unemployment rates in Colombia.

Cucuta, Colombia

Shot:18Sep2018

:52-1:15

Daria Silva (in brown with red backpack) and her extended family are walking to Cali from Cucuta. They left their home and family members (including children) in Venezuela 3 months ago.

“Caminantes” are walking from Cucuta to other cities in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Ecuador is 1600km from Cucuta and takes about a month to reach. They are walking 11 hours a day and must cross a 3400meter mountain pass enduring freezing temperatures and falling victim to rape, sickness and even murder.

Los Patios

Shot: 19Sep2018

1:15-1:29

SOT Daria Silva (Spanish)

“Horrible because we really were dying of hunger. Everything was difficult for us. There’s no medicine, no food, no nothing. `everyday is getting worse, worse and worse...children are dying!”

Los Patios

Shot: 19Sep2018

1:29-1:48

“Caminantes” Arliani (20 yrs) and Perez (2yrs) walking from St. Cristobol, Venezuela to Bogata Colombia. Her group left her that morning because they could not keep up. (She is wearing slippers). She thinks her mother is in Bogota but has not heard from her in 7months.

Santo Domingo De Silos

Shot: 19Sep2018

1:48-2:03

SOT Arliani (Spanish)

“All Venezuelans are thinking of leaving to search for stability. But we find ourselves in other places ...in another world that’s not our own. Its been very tough for us.”

Santo Domingo De Silos

Shot: 19Sep2018

2:03-2:08

Baby Perez waves as she and Arliani continue there trek up the mountain.

Santo Domingo De Silos

Shot: 19Sep2018

2:08-2:09

A family of “Caminantes” cross the 3400meter peak near Tona where temperatures at night can go below 0C

Tona

Shot:19Sep2018

2:09-2:45

SOT Deborah Hines. Country Director WFP Colombia(English)

“Millions of people have fled Venezuela entering Colombia and other countries resulting in a regional crisis. This human crisis has many faces and these people require food assistance, which WFP is supporting, as well as an integrated response. The international community needs to step up and ensure that governments of the region are supported.”

Bogota

Shot:22Sep2018

2:45-3:08

Venezuelans eat WFP provided hot meals at a

Cucuta

Shot:20Sep2018

ENDS

- Colombia is facing an unprecedented crisis as thousands of people from Venezuela continue to cross the border everyday due to lack of food, medicine, other basic needs and loss of livelihoods.
- Colombians and their government are doing all they can to step up to this challenge. The country has made progress in the peace process and ending hunger, however as this crisis grows in proportion, it jeopardizes recent gains.
- The crisis is affecting host families and communities receiving large number of migrants, particularly indigenous communities which welcome new arrivals but face very difficult living conditions.
- We must help people trapped in what has become a regional crisis. Migrants are increasingly using Colombia as a corridor to enter Ecuador, Perú and other countries in South America, overwhelming host governments. The mass exodus, one of the largest in Latin American history, is expected to continue.
- WFP is providing food assistance to the most vulnerable in Colombia and Ecuador, especially women and children, who access to basic services, face protection risks and do not know where their next meal is coming from.

Key numbers:

- 2.3 million Venezuelans live outside their country; 1.6 million have left since 2015. 90 percent relocated within South America. (UNHCR, IOM).
- To date, close to 1 million Venezuelans have settled in Colombia. (Migración Colombia, 3 September 2018).
- Some 547.000 have crossed from Colombia to Ecuador in 2018 and more than 410.000 have settled in Perú (Colombian and Peruvian governments, 28 August 2018).
- Over 50 percent of migrants enter Colombia through informal border crossings. There are 7 legal entry points, but more than 110 illegal points (UNHCR).
- 65 percent of entries to Colombia are Venezuelans, 27 percent are Colombians returnees, 7 percent are mixed families.

- According to a WFP 2017 survey, 80 percent of migrants would like to stay in Colombia. 80 percent are food insecure.
- Migrants are at high risk of food insecurity and malnutrition: only 1.7 percent of breastfeeding women are taking supplements and only 7 percent of children are breastfed and take complementary food (Colombia-Venezuela border brief, WFP, 2018).
- Migrants are highly vulnerable. Usually women are the heads of the most vulnerable families, who have limited access to basic services and face risks, such as being recruited into sex work or by armed groups.
- When migrant families arrive at temporary shelters, they receive hot meals and can stay for 3 to 5 days, but they have to leave to make room for new arrivals. Many of them become homeless or live in informal settlements.
- It is difficult for migrants to find jobs, which creates uncertainty as to how they will manage to feed their families. If they find food, it is neither nutritious nor diverse enough.
- WFP is supporting local government and civil society groups by providing food assistance to the most vulnerable, including women, children and people living in temporary shelters and on the street.
- The Colombian Government has asked the United Nations for support with the influx of migrants. WFP is committed to assist Colombia and to contribute to an Integrated UN Response Plan to address food security, health, nutrition and education.
- WFP has appealed to donors to give generously to support a scale-up in its food assistance programmes in Colombian border areas.

WFP Response:

- Since the start of the operation, WFP has provided emergency food assistance to some 60,000 migrants from Venezuela in the border departments of Arauca, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander. WFP has recently started operating in the department of Nariño, bordering Ecuador.
- Almost 25,000 people have been reached through WFP-supported community kitchens in Arauca, La Guajira and Norte de Santander. These community kitchens provide two daily hot meals to the most vulnerable people, especially women, children and the elderly, and people with disabilities. The number of people seeking assistance is expected to rise.
- With the help of its implementing partners, WFP has provided over 16,000 people with pre-paid cards in Arauca, La Guajira and Norte de Santander. Beneficiaries can redeem these cards –worth US\$75 or 96,000 pesos each—to buy nutritious foods and hygiene items in a number of local shops.

- In La Guajira, WFP is helping to expand the current school meals programme to provide additional hot meals to 10,000 children in need.
- As per the Colombian government's request, WFP will carry out activities aimed at promoting integration and stability for migrants and host families.
- As the flow of migrants into Colombia is expected to rise, WFP hopes the international community will continue to support this emergency response. WFP urgently needs more than US\$22 million to meet the food and nutrition needs of the migrants arriving from Venezuela.

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- WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries.
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