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## Intraregional migration example

Until the early 1980s, intra-regional migration was more frequent than migration to other regions. Later, in the 1990s, flows from South America began to move to more developed countries (the United States and European countries). However, after the 2008 international crisis, this trend has changed and intra-regional has regained considerable dynamism. 1 Recent regional events raise the question of how the South American migration system will evolve in the near future. Fact #1: Intra-regional migration has increased at a faster rate than emigration to more developed countries, but with an uncertain future. This evolution of migration is initially explained by the convergence of two sets of factors: (1) the impacts of the 2008 financial crisis for immigrants in the most developed countries, and the adoption of more restrictive immigration policies; and (2) positive developments in South America, particularly in terms of migration policies and growing employment opportunities. More recently, since 2016, another circumstance has fuelled intra-regional migration: the significant emigration of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The extremely difficult socio-economic and political situation has pushed a massive flow of people out of the country, increasing the already growing number of intra-regional migrants. Today, in South America, the number of intra-regional immigrants is converging with the number of South American emigrants residing elsewhere in the world. The Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) estimates that in 2019, there were 7,786,568 international migrants from countries outside the region and 6,091,023 in the region. As a result, the relative size between these two groups increased from 1.9 to 1.3. However, it is important to note that a significant slowdown in most South American economies resulting from the adoption of structural adjustment policies and recent episodes of social unrest in several countries, such as Chile, the multi-national state of Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia, raises the question of how migration will evolve in the near future. For example, since 2016, immigration to Spain has increased, not exclusively because of emigrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Annual inflows of South Americans to Spain more than tripled from 75,851 in 2015 to 256,210 in 2018. Figure 1: Stocks of South American immigrants residing in and out of the region (1990, 2000, 2010 and 2019). Source: Based on the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Population Division (2019), International Migrant Stock 2019 (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2019). Fact #2: Intra-regional migration flows have increased in number and diversified in terms of migrant origins, destinations and socio-demographic profiles. For decades, Argentina and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have been the most host countries for immigrants in the region, but this has changed. Intra-regional migration diversified even before the mass emigration from Venezuela, and even though Argentina continues to have its predominant role. In Chile, immigration has almost tripled in ten years. In Ecuador, immigration has increased significantly due to its dollarized economy and violence in Colombia; and in Uruguay, traditionally a country of emigration, immigration has almost doubled. Yet Colombia and Peru have seen the most dramatic changes. In both cases, emigration has traditionally been an important component of their demographic dynamics, until recently, when they began to receive massive influxes of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Figure 2: Migration in South America: Number of Regional Emigrants and Immigrants by Country, 2019. Source: Based on the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Population Division (2019), International Migrant Stock 2019 (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2019). For migration corridors, in 2010 and 2019, five corridors accounted for about 60% of the total intra-regional migrant stock. In 2010, the largest groups were Colombians in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Paraguayans, Bolivians and Chileans in Argentina; and Colombians in Ecuador. Nearly a decade later, two of these largest corridors include immigrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Colombia and Peru. Figure 3: The largest intra-regional migration stocks, 2010 and 2019. Source: United Nations-based Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Population Division (2019), International Migrant Stock 2019 (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2019). It is important to mention that according to data from the Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants in Venezuela (a regional inter-agency coordination platform including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the number of emigrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in South America is much higher (about 3.7 million). Therefore, it is very likely that the number of intra-regional immigrants would be significantly higher than those reported by UN DESA estimates. The diversification of migration corridors has also involved immigration from other continents, such as Asia and Africa (e.g. Argentina and Ecuador). Even though the magnitude of these flows is considerably smaller, they face more difficulties in terms of integration. Fact #3: Regional agreements governing international migration in South America have fostered the integration and protection of migrants' rights. A salient feature of the South American region has been a conceptual shift in the way migration is managed. Since the beginning of the 21st century, through and multilateral agreements, as well as the adaptation of national laws and regulations, the mobility of migrants and access to residency rights have improved considerably. An indicator of this process is the high number of recently granted temporary and permanent residences. Between 2017 and 2018, South American countries granted 484,612 permanent residence permits and 1,352,887 temporary residence permits. Access to residents' rights has fostered the economic and social integration of immigrants, particularly in terms of access to formal employment and public social services. Fact #4: South American countries reacted quickly to the emigration of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In a very short time, many countries in the region received large numbers of Venezuelans, who, in massive groups, concentrated around border areas and other places of reception where resources are low. The crisis has resulted in an estimated 4,626,968 refugees, migrants and asylum seekers worldwide (although more than two-thirds reside in the region). The situation has created a series of public health risks, and many people have been forced to travel on precarious and dangerous roads, especially for women and children. However, the host countries have had a solidarity response and have proposed an open-door policy generating various mechanisms to provide not only emergency assistance, but also regular documents. The Regional Interagency Coordination Platform also provides estimates of the number of residence permits granted to citizens of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the region. South American countries have responded to this crisis by providing a large number of residence permits and regular stays: 1,948,771. In South American countries, a considerable number of asylum seekers have also been registered (537,473). Figure 4: Regional Response to Mass Emigration from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: Residence Permit and Regular Stays Granted (January 2020). Source: R4V, Coordinating Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, Regional Interagency Coordination Platform, UNHCR and IOM, (extracted 30/01/2020). Fact #5: Women predominate among South American migrants and play an important role in the domestic and care sectors. Among intra-regional migrants, there are 108 women per 100 men. In the largest immigrant-receiving countries, such as Argentina and Chile (and so is in Uruguay), the ratio of women to men is higher, mainly due to the demand for domestic and care workers. The increase in the participation of middle-class women in the labour force and the increasing ageing of the in host countries are key factors in explaining this high demand for immigrant workers in domestic services and care professions. The significant presence of women in this sector, which is unregulated and informal, deserves special attention from governments that must prevent abuse and ensure equal treatment. There are interesting examples in the region where regulations have been adapted to protect domestic and care workers. Figure 5: Ratios of men and women in intra-regional migration by destination country. Source: Based on data from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, IMILA database (December 2019) corresponding to the population censuses of Argentina (2010), Bolivia (2010), Brazil (2010), Ecuador (2010), Uruguay (2011) and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2011). Census information for Chile (2017) and Peru (2017) obtained from the National Statistical Offices. Challenges and Perspectives. Different migration patterns characterize South America today. With regard to intra-regional migration, corridors have multiplied and diversified. The recent large-numbered movement of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requires considerable efforts on the part of host countries to provide social, educational and health services, and to ensure tolerant and respectful environments. Although the region has taken exemplary measures to govern migration by promoting regular migration, much remains to be done for improvements in the integration of migrants. The challenges to the social, economic and cultural integration of immigrants in the region extend to immigrants from other regions such as Asia and Africa. These movements are not included in regional agreements that promote residency rights and deserve special attention from governments. Some political shifts in the region raise doubts about how this process will evolve in the future. It is therefore important that the international community and national civil society organizations be vigilant and monitor closely whether governments are meeting their regional commitments to international migrants. Finally, a recent trend in increasing emigration to Spain also calls for a closer look at how the economic and political crisis is affecting the dynamics of migration, particularly with regard to a migration aspect that has been neglected, i.e. the nature and characteristics of the processes of re-emigration. (i) Based on data provided by Argentina, Dirección Nacional de Migraciones; Brazil, Ministério da Justiça and Departamento de Polícia Federal; Bolivia, Dirección General de Migración; Chile, Dirección de Extranjería y Migración; Colombia, Migración Colombia, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility; Paraguay, Directorate-General for Migration; Peru, National Superintendency of Migration; Uruguay, National Directorate of Migration-Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 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