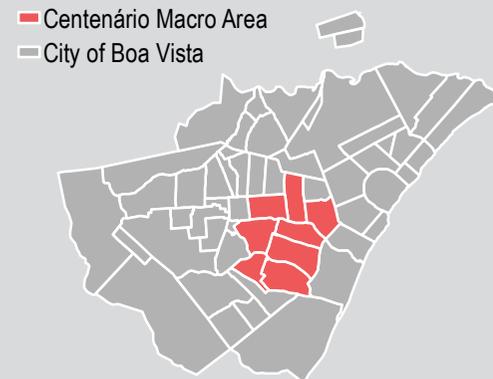


CONTEXT

Economic turmoil and civil unrest have led to the displacement of a large part of the Venezuelan population to neighbouring countries, including Brazil. The Northern State of Roraima has absorbed a large part of Venezuelans crossing over to Brazil, with an average of 416 arrivals per day (Brazilian Army, June 2018). With the aim to support humanitarian response in the State capital, Boa Vista city, REACH is conducting area based assessments.

This Neighbourhood Profile presents the current situation in South-west Boa Vista - the Macro Area¹ of Centenário consisting of the following eight neighbourhoods: Aracelis de Souto, Asa Branca, Buritis, Centenário, Cinturão Verde, Joquei Clube, Pricumã and São Bento. Information presented here is based on qualitative data collected between 8-13 June 2018. In total, 8 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 67 Venezuelan participants residing in the area have been conducted, as well as 13 key informant interviews (KII) with Brazilian community representatives and service providers. Findings are not statistically representative and should be considered as indicative only.



¹ Macro Areas are defined by the municipality of Boa Vista based on an administrative repartition of the city's neighbourhoods according to social services catchment areas.

DISPLACEMENT

Most commonly reported reasons for coming to this area

- 1) **Presence of family members and acquaintances**
- 2) **Low cost of housing:** Venezuelans reportedly live in rented shared houses, room rental price varying from 250 to 500 BRL*

*Exchange rate as of 9 July 2018: 1 USD = 3.87 Brazilian Reals (BRL).

Intentions

Intentions to stay: Most Venezuelans residing in this area reportedly intend to stay in this area, especially due the low rent cost. In addition, the area is considered safe by Venezuelan residents.

New arrivals

Continuous arrivals: New arrivals were reported to be continuous in all neighbourhoods within the area. Larger waves of new arrivals were reported at São Bento neighbourhood, with a reported flow of up to 50 new arrivals per week.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

Population composition

Mixed profile: Family groups prevail at the neighbourhoods of Prof. Aracelis, Centenário and Cinturão Verde. Single individuals, mostly men, are reported to live in Asa Branca, Buritis, Joquei Clube and Pricumã.

Education background

Low education levels: Most Venezuelans in this area were reported to have obtained complete secondary school. Nonetheless, there are reportedly few professionals with higher education within the community.

LEGAL STATUS

Documentation

Majority documented: A large majority of Venezuelans living in this area are reportedly registered with the Federal Police.

Legal pathway: Most Venezuelans have reportedly registered as asylum seekers, although many reported interest in registering as temporary residents** as this is perceived to be beneficial to their insertion in the local labour market. Limited access to internet was reported by FGD participants as a factor restricting their registration options.

**Under Brazilian legislation (2017), Venezuelan nationals have the right to apply for temporary residence in Brazil, valid for two years.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Awareness of legal rights

Low levels of awareness and lack of information: Most FGD participants are not informed about their legal rights. Main reported information needs include local labour laws (minimum wages and benefits in particular) and public legal services in case of rights violations.

Sources of information

Word-of-mouth via personal acquaintances, Internet, television and the Brazilian Federal Police were reported as main information sources for Venezuelans in this area. Venezuelans living in Cinturão Verde and São Bento neighbourhoods reportedly have less access to communication means (telephone and internet) and are less informed about local legal services, compared to other neighbourhoods.



PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Main trends

Venezuelans residing in this area reportedly have good relations with the host community, especially at Cinturão Verde, Joquei Clube, Pricumã e Aracelis Souto neighbourhoods. Although tension was reported to exist, FGD participants underlined generosity and receptivity of local residents.

Reported tension factors

Sense of insecurity felt by the host community and attributed to the presence of Venezuelan men transiting in the area (reportedly in search of livelihood opportunities). In addition, cases of intimidation of Venezuelans by host community members were also reported.



LIVELIHOODS

Employment

Access to job opportunities:	Limited
Commonly reported reasons limiting access to formal job opportunities:	Discrimination, language barriers and lack of professional recommendation by locals
Common source of livelihood:	Employment in informal sector on a daily basis
Common sector of employment (male):	Stonemasons, agriculture and street vending
Common sector of employment (female):	Cleaning and street vending
Average wages (daily basis):	The salary of one day of work is estimated to be around 30-50 BRL



ACCESS TO SERVICES AND AID

Reported access to the following services:

Service type	Level of access *	Additional details
Education	●	Venezuelans reportedly have access to public education service, however, the lack of vacancies and language barriers were mentioned as main challenges faced by parents throughout the enrollment process.
Healthcare	●	Venezuelans residing in this area reportedly have access to needed medical services, considered to be of good quality. Main services sought were reported to be pediatrics, access to medication and vaccination.
Humanitarian aid	●	Venezuelans in this area reported having limited access to a formal and regular network of aid. Spontaneous food distributions by host community members were mentioned as the only aid received.

* Level of access to services: ● Good ● Moderate ● Limited



VULNERABILITY

Reported instances of child labour:	YES
Reported instances of unaccompanied and separated minors:	NO
Reported instances of security incidents within host community:	NO
Reported risk activities: Stonemasons in most neighbourhoods (except in Pricumã) reported lacking safety equipment. Women working with street vending and cleaning services reported being exposed to sexual harassment.	

This map gives an overview of the living/housing conditions of particularly vulnerable Venezuelan groups living in Centenário Macro Area, Boa Vista. These cases were identified through 8 neighbourhood FGDs, 13 key informant interviews and direct observation by REACH field staff. The reported data was collected between 8 – 13 June 2018.

- Rivers and lakes
- Primary road
- Secondary road
- Tertiary road
- Vulnerable groups
- Public health services (UBS)
- Area of reported child-labour
- Centenário Macro Area

A group of 15 people, including 4 children below 11 years of age and one pregnant woman, are residing in an abandoned house with poor infrastructure and no roof. The group reported having no access to assistance and limited knowledge of their legal rights.

- Type of housing: Abandoned house
- Family/group size: 15 (10 adults, 5 minors)
- People with disabilities: 0
- Latrine: No
- Water access: Yes

A group of 8 people, including one baby and an elderly man with visual disability, live in an abandoned house with no roof. The group reports not having access to assistance.

- Type of housing: Abandoned house
- Family/group size: 8 (2 adults, 2 elderly, 3 children, 1 baby)
- People with disabilities: 1
- Latrine: Yes
- Water access: Yes

Area in proximity to local markets where cases of child labour were reported.

A group of 17 people, including 6 children under 11 and a pregnant woman, have been living for less than 1 month on Centenário Avenue. The group reports not having access to assistance.

- Type of housing: Open air
- Family/group size: 17 (8 adults, 5 minors, 4 children)
- People with disabilities: 0
- Latrine: No
- Water access: No

Professora Aracelis Souto Maior

São Bento

Jóquei Clube

Cinturão Verde

Centenário

Asa Branca

Buritis

Pricumã

