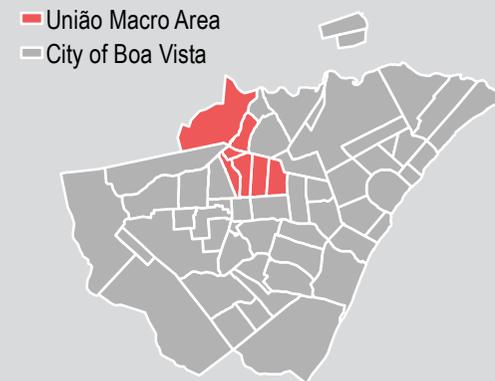


CONTEXT

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 North-west Boa Vista - the Macro Area¹ of União consisting of the following seven neighbourhoods: Caimbé, Cidade Satélite, Jardim Primavera, Piscicultura, Santa Teresa, Tancredo Neves and União. Information presented here is based on qualitative data collected between 18 - 21 June 2018. In total, 7 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 63 Venezuelan participants residing in the area have been conducted, as well as 7 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/or personal acquaintances
- 2) Affordable cost of living
- 3) Limited housing alternatives: FGD participants reported facing difficulties in finding rental options in other areas of Boa Vista due to perceived discrimination.

Intentions

Intentions to stay: A significant part of Venezuelans living in this macro area reportedly intend to stay in the next 12 months. Another group of people would move from the neighbourhood if they find better livelihood opportunities. Most popular intended destinations include Santa Catarina in Brazil and Spanish-speaking countries such as Chile and Peru.

New arrivals

Continuous arrivals: Larger wave of new arrivals was reported in Tancredo Neves and Piscicultura neighbourhoods, where around 10 to 30 people are reported to arrive per day.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

Population composition

Mixed profile: The majority of Venezuelans residing this area reportedly are family groups. Most single men and women are living in the surrounding of Santa Teresa shelter. No indigenous

population groups were reported to live in the area.

Education background

Interrupted education: Most Venezuelans in the area reportedly have complete secondary education. A less significant number of Venezuelans were reported to have higher education and some were said to have abandoned their studies because of their displacement to Brazil.

LEGAL STATUS

Documentation

Majority documented: Most Venezuelans in the area are reportedly registered with the Federal Police. Most unregistered individuals reported already having registration appointment dates.

Legal pathway: The majority of Venezuelans have reportedly registered as asylum seekers and some community members reported documentation requirements as an obstacle to requesting temporary residence*. Those who filed for temporary residence reported perceiving this status to contribute to their local integration, in particular in regard to accessing financial credit.

*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: Expect for Piscicultura neighbourhood residents, FGD participants indicated limited knowledge about their legal rights in Brazil, as well as of legal services in case of rights violations.

Sources of information

The main sources of information used by Venezuelans in this area are Internet and word of mouth through personal acquaintances. Venezuelans of the area reportedly have easy access to public Wi-Fi networks in public spaces, such as Mané Garrincha square and the bus terminal Caimbé.

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Main trends

Both FGD participants and Brazilian key informants reported that relations between the two communities have degraded over the last 6 months.

Reported tension factors

Security incidents involving Venezuelans (such as petty crimes) were reported to have generated a sense of distrust among the host community towards Venezuelans living in the area. In addition, FGD participants reported cases of verbal harassment against Venezuelans in public spaces.

LIVELIHOODS

Employment

Access to job opportunities: Extremely limited (2 to 10 working days/month).

Commonly reported reasons limiting access to formal job opportunities: Language barriers, lack of documentation and lack of professional recommendation by locals.

Common source of livelihood: Employment in informal sector, sometimes paid with food items.

Common sector of employment (male): Construction and service provision, such as weeding, painting.

Common sector of employment (female): Service provision, such as cleaning child care and street-vending.

Average wages (daily basis): The salary of one day of work is estimated to vary between 30 to 50 BRL*. Women were reported to receive lower salaries, starting as low as 5 BRL for services.

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

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND AID

Reported access to the following services:

Service type	Level of access *	Additional details
Education		Although many Venezuelans reported access to primary and secondary schools, they reportedly face challenges such as lack of vacancies and needed documentation for enrollment, and the inadequacy of the proposed grade entry level to children's education background.
Healthcare		Most of FGD participants reportedly have access to health units. Nonetheless, Venezuelans reported facing difficulties in acquiring the Brazilian health card (SUS) required in the national system to access public health services.
Humanitarian aid		Venezuelans residing in this area reported having access to government aid through the local conditional money transfer programme ("Bolsa Família"). They also reported being assisted through food distribution done by host community as well as housing opportunities by local NGOs.

* Level of access to services:  Good  Moderate  Limited

VULNERABILITY

Reported instances of child labour: YES

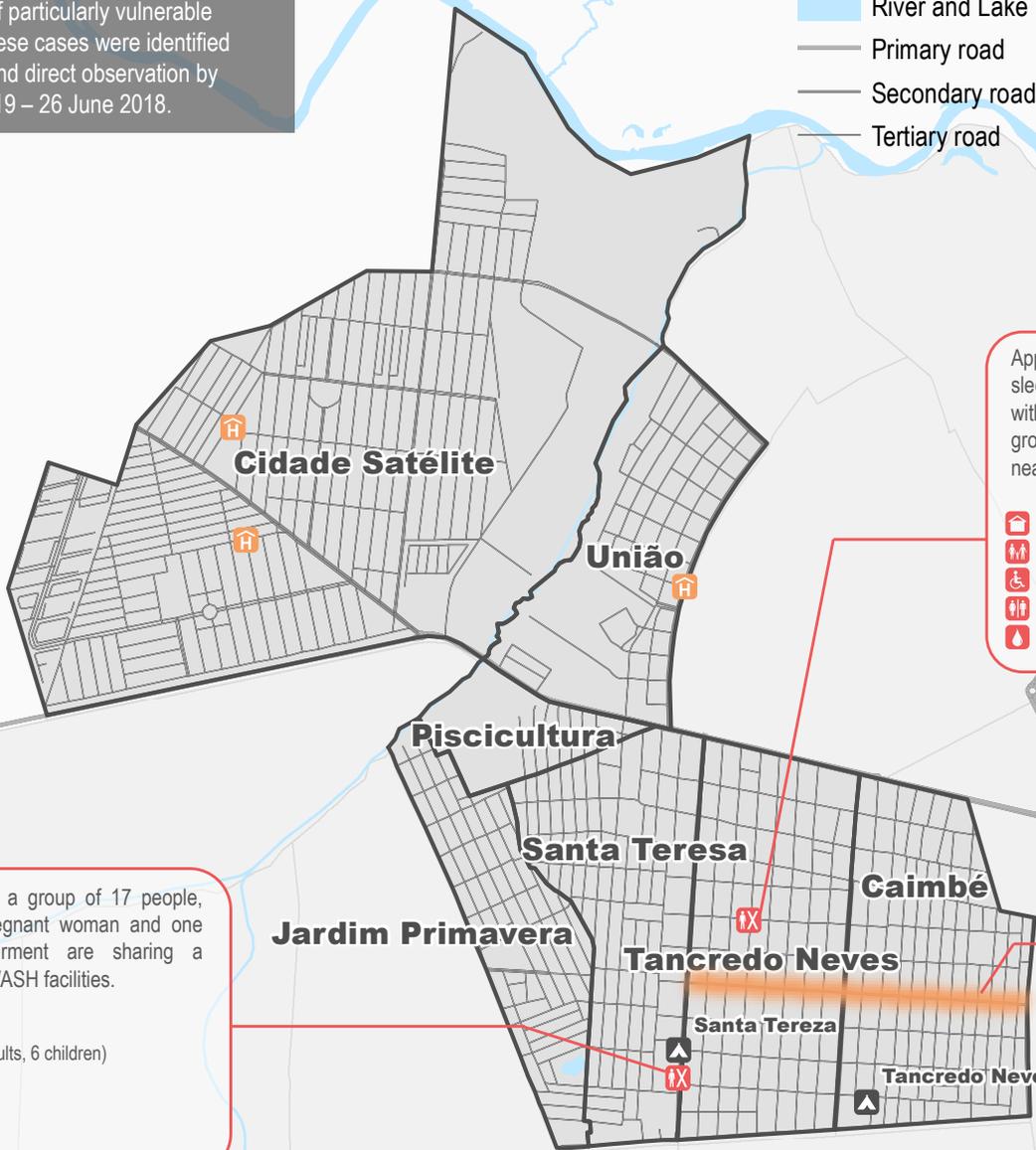
Reported instances of unaccompanied and separated minors: NO

Reported instances of security incidents within host community: YES

Reported risk activities: Farm workers reportedly face risk of violence (including unconfirmed but widespread rumors of disappearance) and the non-payment of agreed-upon salaries by employers. Stonemasons reportedly work without safety equipment and women working in service provision reported being exposed to sexual harassment.

This map gives an overview of the living/housing conditions of particularly vulnerable Venezuelan groups living in União Macro Area, Boa Vista. These cases were identified through 7 neighbourhood FGDs, 7 key informant interviews and direct observation by REACH field staff. The reported data was collected between 19 – 26 June 2018.

- União Macro Area
- River and Lake
- Primary road
- Secondary road
- Tertiary road
- Reported shelterless population area
- iX Vulnerable group
- H Health public service (UBS)
- ▲ Shelter



Since approximately 1 month, a group of 17 people, including 6 children, one pregnant woman and one person with hearing impairment are sharing a warehouse without access to WASH facilities.

- H Type of housing: Warehouse
- iX Family/group size: 17 (11 adults, 6 children)
- ♿ People with disabilities: 0
- ♿♿ Latrine: No
- 💧 Water access: No

Approximately 40 newly arrived Venezuelans sleep in a public square, under a covered area with limited protection against the elements. The group reportedly access WASH infrastructure in a nearby police station.

- H Type of housing: Covered open area
- iX Family/group size: 40 (39 adults, 1 minor)
- ♿ People with disabilities: 1
- ♿♿ Latrine: Sim
- 💧 Water access: Sim

Along one of the city's main avenue, around 40 persons sleep in front of abandoned buildings, without access to WASH facilities and aid networks.

- H Type of housing: Open air
- iX Family/group size: 40 (38 adults, 1 elderly, 1 child)
- ♿ People with disabilities: 0
- ♿♿ Latrine: No
- 💧 Water access: Yes

