

THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) IN DEALING WITH THE VENEZUELAN REFUGEE CRISIS IN COLOMBIA IN 2018-2022

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana peran UNHCR dalam menangani masalah krisis pengungsi Venezuela di Kolombia pada tahun 2018-2022 yang muncul akibat terjadinya krisis ekonomi di Venezuela. UNHCR sebagai organisasi khusus menangani masalah pengungsi memiliki peran yang cukup penting dalam membantu pemerintah Kolombia menangani banyaknya pengungsi Venezuela yang datang ke negaranya. Penelitian ini menerapkan pendekatan kualitatif dengan teknik analisis deskriptif yang bersumber dari data primer dan sekunder. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa sebagai organisasi internasional, UNHCR memiliki peranan sebagai inisiator, fasilitator, determinator, dan mediator. Sedangkan intervensi kemanusiaan yang dilakukan UNHCR dilakukan melalui peranannya sebagai fasilitator. Sebagai inisiator, UNHCR menginisiasikan pembentukan program Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Venezuela (RMRP). Sebagai fasilitator, UNHCR bersama dengan organisasi lainnya melakukan intervensi kemanusiaan melalui penyaluran 7 bidang fasilitas yaitu: pendidikan, keamanan makanan dan nutrisi, Kesehatan, shelter, Integrasi, perlindungan, dan WASH. Sebagai Determinator, UNHCR mendukung Kolombia dalam memberikan Refugee Status Determination (RSD) bagi para pengungsi Venezuela. Sebagai mediator, UNHCR berusaha memberikan solusi bersama untuk kesejahteraan pengungsi Venezuela melalui pembentukan GIFMM.

Kata Kunci: Kolombia, Krisis Pengungsi, UNHCR, Venezuela

ABSTRACT

The study examined how the UNHCR was involved in addressing the Venezuelan refugee crisis in Colombia in 2018-2022 emerged as a result of the economic crisis in Venezuela. UNHCR as a special organization dealing with the refugee problem, played a significant role in helping the Colombian government deal with the vast number of Venezuelan refugees coming to its country. The study applies a qualitative approach with a descriptive analysis technique that comes from primary and secondary data. This study has shown that as an international

organization, the UNHCR has the role of an initiator, a facilitator, a facilitator, a determinator, and a mediator. Whereas UNHCR's humanitarian intervention is done through its role as a facilitator. As a initiator, the UNHCR initiates the formation of a regional refugee and migrants response plan for Venezuela (RMRP). As a facilitator, the UNHCR along with other organizations focuses on humanitarian intervention through the distribution of the 7 areas of facilities: education, food safety and nutrition, health, shelter. Integration, protection, and wash. As a determinator, the UNHCR supports Colombia with refugee status refugees (RSD). As the mediator, the UNHCR seeks a common solution to the welfare of Venezuelan refugees through a GIFMM.

Keywords: *Colombia, Refugee Crisis, UNHCR, Venezuela*

INTRODUCTION

Venezuela is a country located in South America. In 1913 a source of crude oil was found in Venezuela which made the country one of the largest oil-producing countries in the world. In 1920, oil production was mostly carried out by foreign companies. However, over time, in 1976, the oil nationalization program was formalized.¹ During the following years, world oil prices experienced a significant increase causing unexpected revenue from the Venezuelan state. This attracted Venezuela's attention so much that it made the country carry out massive oil exports, dominating 90% of Venezuela's total exports and making its economy dependent on the oil sector.²

During the presidency of Hugo Chavez, proceeds from oil sales were used to provide subsidies in education, health, food, and housing programs for more than 30 million Venezuelan population. This program is very effective in overcoming social inequality that occurs in Venezuela. But besides that, this also makes Venezuela more dependent on oil. In 2014, under President Nicolas Maduro, world oil prices decreased to US\$25 per barrel. This caused Venezuela to experience an economic crisis resulting in hyperinflation. Apart from that, Venezuela's condition was also exacerbated by the political upheaval under the

¹"Country Analysis Executive Summary: Venezuela," Eia Independent Statistics and Analysis US Energy Information Administration, November 30, 2020.

² Michael Tren, dkk, "Oil Strategy: Venezuela - The Fundamental Manual," *RBC Capital Market*, January 29, 2019, 2.

rule of President Nicolas Maduro.³ The Maduro regime is said to have violated human rights which resulted in a humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. This has made Venezuela's condition even more chaotic.

One of Venezuela's efforts to deal with the economic crisis is by creating petro, a digital currency (cryptocurrency).⁴ To fight amid a severe economic crisis, President Maduro ordered all banks to adopt a digital currency where transactions can be made online. Apart from that, the Venezuelan government also implemented redenomination, namely simplifying the value of the currency to a smaller size without changing the exchange rate. The bolivar was trimmed by five zeros from before. However, the government's efforts failed and resulted in the value of the bolivar currency becoming worthless until it reached US \$1, equivalent to 248,000 Bolivars.⁵ This has led to a scarcity of food and clean water, as well as a blackout of electricity, which has made life difficult for residents. Because of this, many Venezuelans are displaced to neighboring countries.



(Source: UNHCR⁶)

Figure 1. Venezuelan Refugee Route

³ Benedicte Bull and Antulio Rosales, "The Crisis in Venezuela: Drivers, Transitions, and Pathways," *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 0, no. 109 (April 20, 2020): 1, <https://doi.org/10.32992/erlacs.10587>.

⁴ Selvi Adrianti, "Kebijakan Presiden Nicolas Maduro Dalam Mengatasi Krisis Ekonomi Di Venezuela" (Skripsi, Palembang, Universitas Sriwijaya, 2020).

⁵ A. Venezuelan and James Ausman, "The Devastating Venezuelan Crisis," *Surgical Neurology International* 10 (July 26, 2019): 145, https://doi.org/10.25259/SNI_342_2019.

⁶ UNHCR, "Venezuela Situation," UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency, 2022 2001, <https://www.unhcr.org/venezuela-emergency.html>.

The figure above shows countries that are destinations for Venezuelan refugees, including: Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, and Colombia. Since 2014, many Venezuelans have fled to neighboring countries, but in 2018 the real Venezuelan refugee crisis began, where the number of Venezuelans fleeing to flee increased significantly. One of the countries most affected by Venezuelan refugees in Colombia.

Colombia is a country bordering Venezuela. Colombia has a pretty good economy. It is the eighth largest coal producer in the world, the fourth-largest petroleum producer in Latin America, as well as the third-largest coffee-exporting country in the world. Additionally, Colombia is one of the countries that ratified the 1951 convention and the 1967 protocol on refugees, so Colombia has the full responsibility of accepting and handling the Venezuelan refugees coming to its country.

In 2015, Venezuelan communities began to flee to Colombia. Living conditions on the Colombian border are very gloomy with access to needs such as housing, food, clothing, limited health. The vast majority of refugees who cross the Colombian border are women, children, and parents most vulnerable to humanization: human trafficking, sexual and gender violence (SGBV), xenophobia, and forced hiring of child workers. Thus comes a new obligation for the Colombian government to access education, food, health, and housing.⁷

In addressing the refugee problem, in 2016 Colombia came up with several strategies: to make a special residence permit *or permiso especial DE permanencia* (PEP), a border mobility card that allows Venezuelans to enter Colombia for seven days, providing basic services for the Venezuelan's, such as emergency health care, elementary school, and special residence permits.⁸ By 2018, the number of Venezuelan refugees who came to Colombia had a significant increase from 39,000 to 600,000 refugees. This has resulted in a growing need for food, education, health, and housing for Venezuelan refugees in Colombia, with state expenditures increasing. Moreover, the number of Venezuelan refugees has disrupted Colombian daily life and caused problems,

⁷ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "Colombia," R4V, 2018, <https://www.r4v.info/en/node/383>.

⁸ E Sulistya, "Upaya Pemerintah Colombia Dalam Menangani Pengungsi Venezuela," *EJournal Ilmu Hubungan Internasional* Vol. 9 No. 4 (2022): 674.

such as: work wages are down because of the labor shortage of not only local people but also immigrants from Venezuela, and many of the Colombians are infected with malaria from Venezuelan refugees.⁹ This overwhelmed Colombia and asked the United Nations high commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for help to deal with the Venezuelan refugee crisis coming to its country.

RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, the authors used qualitative research methods. According to Michael Patton and Michael Cochran (2002), qualitative research aims to understand some aspects of social life, and uses methods that produce words as data for analysts and not numbers.¹⁰ All data sources used come from literature studies. And the type of qualitative research method used is descriptive qualitative, namely describing phenomena by the facts that occur, which are correlated using theories or concepts to explain a phenomenon or event that is being examined by the author. This study also uses primary data obtained directly from the UNHCR website and official documents, namely at <https://www.UNHCR.org>. In addition, the authors also use secondary data obtained from third parties and have been published as research samples such as scientific journals, theses, books, websites, and national and international newspapers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The UNHCR is an international organization given a special mandate by the UN to lead and coordinate international activities in protecting refugees, asylum seekers, and people without citizenship. The international organization has also been given the task of ensuring that every refugee has the right to secure protection in another country. The UNHCR was established December 14, 1950. In carrying out their duties and functions, the UNHCR is based on the 1951 convention and 1967 protocol as a basis. It has been established to assist refugees

⁹ acaps, "Venezuelan Refugee," acaps, July 11, 2022, <https://www.acaps.org/country/colombia/crisis/venezuelan-refugees>.

¹⁰ Umar Suryadi Bakri, *Metode Penelitian Hubungan Internasional*. (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar., 2016).

who have been victims of war, oppression, persecution, violence, natural disasters, and so on.¹¹

In dealing with the problem of international refugees, the UNHCR has two key solutions: first, short-term solutions are essential emergency relief that the UNHCR gives refugees in the form of health facilities, housing, water, sanitation, food distribution, blankets, and household goods, to keep refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers in check as long as they await the most appropriate long-term solutions. Second, long-term solutions are permanent solutions that the UNHCR gives refugees including:¹² Voluntary Repatriation, Local Integration, Resettlement.

Regarding Venezuelan refugees who are in Colombia, UNHCR as an international organization carries out its role as initiator, facilitator, determiner, and mediator.

Role of UNHCR as Initiator

To address the Venezuelan refugee problem in Colombia, through its role as an initiator, the UNHCR along with IOM initiates a regional program for the refugee and migrants' response plan (RMRP). The RMRP is a regional refugee and migrant response program that was established in 2018, and it was not implemented until 2019. The program aims to ensure the needs of all kinds of humanity, protection, and integration of Venezuelan refugees and immigrants, as well as host communities, in 17 countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean, including Colombia.¹³ This plan enables a coordinated humanitarian response, avoids duplication of aid, and supports central and local government efforts of complementary manner.

The RMRP program consists of priority activities planned by the UNHCR and its partners include: direct emergency assistance such emergency health services, vaccinations, and health assistance for people with special needs, food

¹¹ UNHCR, "About Us," UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency, 2022 2001, <https://www.unhcr.org/about-us.html>.

¹² UNHCR, "Solution," UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency, 2022 2001, <https://www.unhcr.org/solutions.html>.

¹³ OCHA Services, "Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela," Reliefweb, Desember 2020, <https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/rmrp-2021-regional-refugee-and-migrant-response-plan-refugees-and-migrants-venezuela>.

security and nutrition assistance through the provision of food, communal kitchens and food vouchers and multi-sectoral interventions such as shelters and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in border areas and refugee reception areas, protection, social-economic and cultural integration, and capacity building, that is strengthening the capacity and response mechanisms of government agencies for the management and treatment of refugees and migrants.¹⁴ With this program, the UNHCR has called on international communities to provide greater support to countries in the Latin-American region that Venezuelan refugees are aimed at addressing Venezuelan refugees in their country.

In the 2019 RMRP, there are approximately 640,000 refugees targeted in the RMRP with a required fund of US \$315 million, as well as 34 partners involved in making regional plans.¹⁵ In the 2020 RMRP, there are 1.33 million people targeted, and US \$739.2 million is needed to implement the RMRP, as well as 59 partners involved in making the plan.¹⁶ At RMRP 2021, there are 1.80 million refugees targeted and US \$641 million in funding needed, as well as 63 partners involved.¹⁷ In the 2022 RMRP, there are 2.14 million targeted, US \$806 million in funds needed, and 78 RMRP partners involved.¹⁸

Role of UNHCR as Facilitator

Through its role as a facilitator, the UNHCR, along with other international organizations, is to intervene with humanitarian intervention in seven areas of the facility: education, food security, shelter and humanitarian transport, health, integration, protection, and WASH.

Within the education sector, UNHCR, along with the Norwegian refugee council (NRC), save the children, and the United Nations international children's emergency fund (UNICEF), initiated humanitarian intervention in the Colombia

¹⁴ UNHCR, "UNHCR - 2018 Venezuela Situation Supplementary Appeal" (UNHCR, March 2018), <https://www.unhcr.org/partners/donors/5ab8e1a17/unhcr-2018-venezuela-situation-supplementary-appeal-january-december-2018.html?query=venezuela%20situations>.

¹⁵ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "REGIONAL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela January - December 2019," R4V, December 14, 2018, <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/rmrp-2019-0>.

¹⁶ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "RMRP 2020 FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA" (R4V, November 13, 2019), <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/rmrp-2020>.

¹⁷ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "RMRP 2021 FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA," R4V, December 2020, <https://rmrp.r4v.info/rmrp2021/>.

¹⁸ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "RMRP 2022 FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA," R4V, December 2021, <https://www.r4v.info/en/document/rmrp-2022>.

education program by providing:¹⁹ provision of flexible education services for refugee children, adolescents, and early childhood according to the child's situation, certified by the Ministry of Education as alternative education for them, rehabilitating school infrastructure, providing temporary educational spaces, providing educational materials, school supplies, uniforms, and learning materials for refugees.

According to a report by *Grupo Interagencial sobre Flujos Migratorios Mixtos en Colombia* (GIFMM), in 2022 there were 14,298 Venezuelan child and adolescent refugees enrolled in formal educational institutions and alternative or non-formal education programs, as many as 6,649 children were provided with school supplies and learning materials and 2,000 children were supported with activities related to strengthening socio-emotional skills and psycho social support. In addition, there are 1,415 teachers trained to improve access and quality of education, and there are 231 educational institutions built and rehabilitated.²⁰

Besides that, Most of the Venezuelan refugees who arrive in Colombia either intend to stay or are just transiting, and need assistance related to food security and nutrition. Therefore, in food security and nutrition, UNHCR together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF, and the World Food Program (WFP) initiated humanitarian interventions in the form of:²¹ provide direct access to quality and nutritious food assistance by highly vulnerable people regularly, taking into account geographical context, demographic profile, gender and age and vulnerability, prevent all forms of malnutrition, promote adequate diets in pregnant and lactating women as well as ensuring the treatment and recovery of children under five who are experiencing acute malnutrition.

According to the GIFMM report, in 2022 a total of 274,416 people has received food security assistance and of them, 86,776 received basic food assistance in the form of vouchers or cash transfers, 187,560 received basic food

¹⁹ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "EDUCATION SECTOR," R4V, 2022, <https://www.r4v.info/en/education>.

²⁰ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "GIFMM Colombia: Reporte Situacional Educación Trimestre 3 - 2022" (R4V, n.d.), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-report-e-situacional-educacion-trimestre-3-2022>.

²¹ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "NUTRITION SECTOR," R4V, 2022, <https://www.r4v.info/en/nutrition>.

assistance, and 80 people participated in activities related to agricultural livelihoods. In the nutrition sector, from January to September 2022, there were 30,678 people who were given assistance related to improving nutrition.²²

Within the health sector, UNHCR together with the Colombian Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Pan American Organization (PAHO), carried out humanitarian interventions:²³ promoting and facilitating inclusion into national health care systems, providing maternal and child care, mental health care and psycho social support, sexual and reproductive health, chronic disease care (including HIV/AIDS treatment), prevention treatment and case management of COVID-19, including national vaccination campaigns.

According to the GIFMM report, in 2022 there are 133,395 refugees who benefit from primary care consultations, 15,542 Venezuelan refugees and migrants are vaccinated under the regular scheme according to the life cycle and national calendar, 23,187 Venezuelan refugees and migrants are assisted with COVID-19 vaccinations, and 12,455 people receive assistance from WHO.²⁴

One of the priorities needs that is no less important for Venezuelan refugees and migrants is shelter and humanitarian transportation. So, Humanitarian interventions in the field of shelter and transportation by UNHCR together with IOM, and the Red Cross community, assist in the form of:²⁵ providing safe short-term emergency shelters, safe transportation access, as well as providing telecommunications for newly arrived refugees, in transit who are only a few days away at the site, facilitating medium and long-term housing in safe urban areas by way of leasing, provision of shelter supplies and household

²² R4V Response for Venezuelans, "GIFMM Colombia: Reporte Situacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición - Julio a Septiembre 2022" (R4V, n.d.), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-reporte-situacional-de-seguridad-alimentaria-y-nutricion-julio-septiembre>.

²³ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "HEALTH SECTOR," R4V, 2022, <https://www.r4v.info/en/health>.

²⁴ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "GIFMM Colombia: Reporte Situacional Salud - 3er Trimestre 2022," R4V, n.d., <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-reporte-situacional-salud-3er-trimestre-2022>.

²⁵ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION SECTOR," R4V, 2022, <https://www.r4v.info/en/humanitariantransportation>.

supplies for refugees and migrants wishing to live and transit in prioritized cities for the refugee.²⁶

According to the GIFMM report, in 2022 there are 78,800 Venezuelan refugees who have received shelter assistance including, 15,200 refugee girls, 25,300 women, 15,000 refugee boys, and 23,300 men.²⁷ Meanwhile, in the field of humanitarian transportation, according to the GIFMM report, there are 91,000 refugees who have received humanitarian transportation assistance during 2022, including 16,700 refugee girls, 27,000 women, 17,000 refugee boys, and 30,300 men.²⁸

Moreover, many Venezuelan refugees who come and settle in Colombia for long periods of time, they do not have jobs so rely on direct emergency assistance provided by the UNHCR to survive. Therefore, it requires access to decent sources of employment, increased income, and entrepreneurial support for Venezuelan refugees and migrants to reduce the need for assistance, and promote local economic development.

As a solution, UNHCR together with an American Development Foundation (PADF), IOM, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) encouraging the application of Special Stay Permits to be able to access decent work, increasing access to employment opportunities for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, promoting access to entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, providing social benefits and health and pension benefits, and eliminate child labor, create space for coexistence peacefully and preventing discrimination, xenophobia, and violence at work.

According to the GIFMM report, as of October 2022, there were 1,829 Venezuelan refugees supported to be able to maintain their jobs, 406 refugees who were provided with assistance for self-employment or entrepreneurship, 407 refugees who received financial inclusion assistance, 308 people who received

²⁶ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "SHELTER SECTOR," R4V, 2022, <https://www.r4v.info/en/shelter>.

²⁷ R4V Response for Venezuelans.

²⁸ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION SECTOR."

benefits from social cohesion activities, and 1078 receive assistance with money transfer modalities.²⁹

Venezuelan refugees that enter Colombia, they vulnerable to security threats such as: extortion, human trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), labor exploitation, sexual harassment, forced recruitment of child labor, discrimination, and xenophobia. Therefore, to deal with the security threats, the Colombian government and UNHCR initiated ensuring that the Venezuelan people can safely access the territory, improve protection against rights violations especially for populations with special needs, identify the risk of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and establish multisectoral prevention strategies for all forms of GBV in priority areas, strengthen the capacity of local authorities in border and transit areas, design and implement strategies aimed at refugees and migrants to prevent trafficking, and develop community and institutional strategies for the protection of girls and boys, exploitation of child labor and sexual violence.

According to the GIFMM report, during 2022, there were 928,907 Venezuelan refugees and migrants receiving general protection assistance, 78,655 refugees receiving GBV assistance, 166,558 child refugees receiving child protection assistance, and 3,561 refugees receiving smuggling and human trafficking protection assistance.³⁰

Last, in the WASH sector, UNHCR's and UNICEF increasing access to safe WASH services in host communities as well as in formal and informal settlements through rehabilitation or construction of infrastructure that provides access to water, portable toilets, and hand washing stations, increasing access to WASH services at service delivery points (hospital, shelters, public kitchens, migration points, transit areas, public spaces, and education room).³¹

According to the GIFMM report, in 2022, 34,854 Venezuelan refugees and migrants received adequate hygiene supplies and services including women

²⁹ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "GIFMM Colombia: Reporte Situacional de Integración - Julio a Septiembre 2022," R4V, n.d., <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-reportesituacional-de-integracion-julio-septiembre-2022>.

³⁰ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "GIFMM Colombia: Tablero de Protección General - Enero a Septiembre 2022" (R4V, n.d.), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-tablero-de-proteccion-general-enero-septiembre-2022>.

³¹ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "WASH SECTOR," R4V, 2022, <https://www.r4v.info/en/wash>.

and girls who received menstrual hygiene management services. 22,837 total displaced and assisted host communities with safe access to sufficient and potable water, and 34,444 refugees and host communities have secure access to improved sanitation and environmental health facilities.³²

Role of UNHCR as a Determiner

As determiner, UNHCR helps and supports the Colombian government to provide *Permiso Especial de Permanencia* (PEP) certificate that allowing Venezuelan refugees to reside in Colombia legally by immigration regulations. Refugees who have obtained a PEP certificate, are legally able to settle in Colombia and can access all the assistance services that have been provided, such as education services, health services, and access to jobs.³³

In addition, UNHCR also supports the Colombian government to provide *Estatuto Temporal de Protección para Migrantes Venezolanos* (ETPV) is a temporary legal protection status established by Colombia in 2021 for all Venezuelan refugees with a validity period of 10 years.³⁴ This temporary status will exempt Venezuelan refugees from the obligation to apply for residence permits periodically. In addition, the temporary status will also provide refugees with access to education, health, vaccination, access to basic goods and services, as well as access to formal employment to reduce refugees' dependence on humanitarian assistance as well as to assist Colombia's socio-economic recovery after the Covid-19.³⁵ For those who do not register for this status, deportation will be imposed.³⁶

³² R4V Response for Venezuelans, "GIFMM Colombia: Tablero WASH - Enero a Marzo 2022" (R4V, n.d.), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-tablero-wash-enero-marzo-2022>.

³³ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "GIFMM Colombia: Comunicado de Prensa Sobre La Nueva Jornada de Emisión Del Permiso Especial de Permanencia (PEP) - 15 Octubre" (R4V, Oktober 2020), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-comunicado-de-prensa-sobre-la-nueva-jornada-de-emision-del-permiso-especial>.

³⁴ "UNHCR and IOM Welcome Colombia's Decision to Regularize Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants," *USA for UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency*, February 9, 2021, <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/unhcr-and-iom-welcome-colombia-s-decision-to-regularize-venezuelan-refugees-and-migrants/>.

³⁵ *The Impact of COVID-19 on Stateless Populations: Policy Recommendations and Good Practices on Vaccine Access and Civil Registration* (Latin America: UNHCR, 2021), <https://www.refworld.org/docid/60b8d6d84.html>.

³⁶ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "Orientaciones Para La Adopción Del Permiso Por Protección Temporal Para Venezolanos (PPT) En El Sistema Financiero Colombiano 2022" (R4V, Oktober

According to the GIFMM report, in 2015-2022, the Venezuelan migrant and refugee population in Colombia increased from 39,000 to 2.4 million. As of February 2022, there are 333,808 Venezuelans who have obtained regular status in Colombia, 1,231,675 are in the process of applying for ETPV or Temporary Protected Status, around 617,069 of the population have legally obtained temporary protected status and there are 295,038 of the population with irregular or undocumented status.³⁷

Role of UNHCR as a Mediator

Through its role as a mediator, UNHCR is needed in the context of cooperation in finding joint solutions for the welfare of Venezuelan and Colombian refugees as destination countries, as well as reducing problems and conflicts arising from the surge in the number of Venezuelan refugees coming to Colombia.

In dealing with Venezuelan refugees, UNHCR seeks cooperation between UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and the Red Cross Movement to help Colombia deal with Venezuelan refugee through the development of the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) function in 2019, not only responsible for providing a national response to Venezuelan refugees but also responsible for the implementation of the RMRP program for Venezuelan refugees. In addition, GIFMM also seeks to ensure that Venezuelan refugees and migrants can coexist peacefully with Colombia's host community and gain equality in accessing the services and assistance provided in the absence of discrimination, differences in age, sex and diversity.³⁸

In addition, GIFMM also helped Colombia to implement a program of granting temporary legal protection status for Venezuelan refugees and migrants that was implemented from 2021 to the present. In this regard, GIFMM will support the Colombian government to ensure that Venezuelan refugees and

2022), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/orientaciones-para-la-adopcion-del-permiso-por-proteccion-temporal-para-venezolanos-ppt-en>.

³⁷ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "VENEZOLANOS EN COLOMBIA," R4V, February 28, 2022, <https://www.r4v.info/es/colombia>.

³⁸ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "GIFMM Colombia: Q&A - Preguntas y Respuestas (ES)" (R4V, Mei 2021), <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/gifmm-colombia-qa-preguntas-y-respuestas-es>.

migrants can know what are the steps to take to obtain temporary protection permits, how to access them, and promote effective mechanisms so that they will always be informed.³⁹

Displacement During the Time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW

In 2015, Venezuelans displaced neighboring countries, especially Colombia, caused by the country's economic crisis. In Islam, displacement also occurred during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. At that time, the Muslims who were in Makkah received a lot of torture and oppression from the infidels of Quraysh. They are a lot of stonewalls, animal feces, even human feces. Seeing the condition of the Muslims who were increasingly suffering, and fearing the torture of the Quraysh was getting more and more vicious, finally the Messenger of Allah ordered them to emigrate to Habasyah in order to save their religion by the side of king Najasyi.⁴⁰

In addition to the hijra of the Muslims to Habasyah, the Prophet and the Muslims also made hijra to Medina to avoid the infidelity of Quraysh who tried to torture and kill the prophet Muhammad and his followers, after the prophet had proselytized blatantly. Therefore, Rasulallah felt that Makkah could no longer be used as a center for Islamic proselytizing, therefore, for the safety of the Apostle and muslims, Allah commanded the prophet to hijra to Medina, so the prophet also made a hijra to Medina.⁴¹

The role that UNHCR plays to address the Venezuelan refugee problem is UNHCR's effort to help Venezuelan refugees with the aim of alleviating the burden, suffering, and hardships experienced by refugees. In addition, the assistance provided by UNHCR to refugees is also expected to bring benefits, happiness and peace in the hearts of refugees. With the role played by UNHCR, it can help refugees to live a decent and prosperous life.

³⁹ R4V Response for Venezuelans, "PLAN DE APOYO 2021 COLOMBIA - ETPV Plan de Apoyo Del GIFMM a La Implementación Del Estatuto Temporal de Protección Para Venezolanos" (R4V, 2021), https://www.r4v.info/sites/default/files/2021-06/Apoyo%20a%20ETPV_17062021_VFajustada_ESP.pdf.

⁴⁰ Ibnu Hisyam, *SIRAH NABAWIYAH* (Qisthi Press, 2019).

⁴¹ Dr. Mustafa as-Syibaie, *SIRAH NABI MUHAMMAD S.A.W. PENGAJARAN & PEDOMAN* (KONSIS Media, n.d.).

CONCLUSION

The role of UNHCR in dealing with the Venezuelan refugee crisis in Colombia includes: as an initiator, facilitator, determinator and also mediator and the form of humanitarian intervention carried out by UNHCR can be seen through its role as a facilitator.

As the initiator, in 2018 UNHCR together with IOM initiated the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Venezuela (RMRP) program, through this program, UNHCR hopes that the international community can provide even better support in helping Colombia deal with Venezuelan refugees who are in their country.

As a facilitator, UNHCR together with international organizations carry out humanitarian interventions through the distribution of 7 areas of facilities, namely: Education, food security and nutrition, health, shelter and humanitarian transportation, integration, protection, and WASH.

As a Determinator, UNHCR supports Colombia in granting legal status or Permiso Especial de Permanencia (PEP) to Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as granting temporary legal protection status or Estatuto Temporal de Protección para Migrantes Venezolanos (ETPV) for 10 years to all Venezuelan refugees arriving before 2021.

As a Mediator, UNHCR helps find common solutions for the welfare of Venezuelan and Colombian refugees as destination countries, through the establishment of the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) which aims to coordinate responses to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, implement the RMRP program and help implement programs to provide temporary legal protection.

In Islam, displacement also occurred during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, when he and the Muslims made hijra to Habasyah and Medina to avoid the oppression and torture of the Quraysh infidels against the Muslim

ummah. Hijra is done at the command of Allah and the Messenger to take care of themselves and Aqidah and obedience to Allah Almighty.

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