
CSSF Women, Peace and Security Helpdesk

Conflict Sensitive GEDSI Analysis - Venezuela 2024

Submitted: 30/08/2024

Assignment Code: WPS080

Researcher: Diana Gunneivia García Salamanca

The Women Peace and Security Helpdesk, managed by Saferworld in partnership with Conciliation Resources, GAPS UK, University of Durham and Women International Peace Centre (WIPC), was established in December 2021 to increase capability across the UK Government on WPS policy and programming in order to make its work on conflict and instability more effective. If you work for the UK government and you would like to send a task request, please email us at wpshelpdesk@saferworld.org.uk. If you do not work for the UK government but have an enquiry about the helpdesk or this report, please email us at enquiries.wpshelpdesk@saferworld.org.uk

Direct Audience: Venezuela Embassy

Suggested Internal Distribution: LATAC embassies, Americas dept, Education and Gender Equality Dept.

Confidentiality Status:



Task Overview

Terms of Reference – Conflict-sensitive GEDSI analysis – Venezuela

Home Department: FCDO

Directorate/team: Education and Gender Equality Directorate

CSSF portfolio/programme:

Task code: WPS080

Background to assignment

Conflict-affected countries in the LATAC region do not have comprehensive Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion analysis. This limits the ability to deliver on the UK's equality priorities and respond effectively to the experience of women and girls and other minority groups. In addition the LATAC region has an internal equalities charter that includes a commitment for all posts to conduct GEDSI analysis by 2025.

Purpose of assignment

GEDSI analysis for Venezuela based on literature reviews of the existing evidence.

Analysis to cover the following areas where possible:

- Disability rights
- LGBT+ rights
- Educational attainment by sex, gender and disability
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Gender-Based Violence, including child marriage
- Tackling Child Marriage
- Women's political and economic participation
- analysis of the experience of Venezuelan migrants as well as those remaining in country

Task presentation

A written report and a presentation of the highlights at a future LATAC Gender and Equalities Network meeting.

Table of contents

Executive summary	5
Abstract	10
Summary	10
Background and introduction	11
Methodology and tools	12
Findings and analysis	14
General context	14
Climate change, crisis, and environment	15
Indigenous people and communities	16
Afro-Venezuelan people and communities	17
Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers	19
Women and girls	21
LGBT+ people	23
Sexual and reproductive rights	24
Children and young people	25
Elders	26
People with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent	26
Recommendations	28
Crisis response (3 months)	28
Short term (6 months to 1 year)	28
Mid-term (1 to 2 years)	29
References	30

Executive summary

Venezuela is a context with multiple realities. Despite the prevalence of simplistic narratives, it is necessary to have a broader and deeper perspective on the country in order to have an impact in a context that is unstable and deteriorating. Presidential **elections** took place on 28 July 2024, with results contested internally and externally. It is vital to highlight that the contested results have resulted in a tense and **complicated period**.

This conflict-sensitive Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion analysis of Venezuela, from an intersectional perspective, has been done by conducting a literature review and conducting key informant interviews (KIIs). The key findings are centred on human rights violations, barriers to accessing essential services, and limitations on active participation in society by historically discriminated against people and communities. The recommendations identify paths forward and examples for the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office, including several for the current post-election crisis (3 months), short term (6 months–1 year), and mid term (1–2 years).

It is important to highlight that even when gender is discussed in Venezuela, it is often understood as an equivalent to women's reality and **not as a power relations analytical tool**, reducing the impact of these perspectives within society's reality and reducing possibilities for creating tracks for transformation. In addition, the **exhaustion** of organised civil society and the decline of mental health for human rights defenders is a topic that requires attention, with a focus on gender-based threats such as sexual violence and vicarious threats.

General context

A **complex humanitarian** 'emergency' is the most common way of understanding Venezuela's situation. Even though this is an accurate frame, it is important to broaden the perspective as gender, social inclusion, and disability are central to understanding **structural inequalities** that can be ignored from a conventional humanitarian perspective centred on the short term.

Crisis response recommendation

Fund and provide technical support to the efforts of civil society to **document the current crisis from a gender and intersectional perspective**. Include those who **monitor the conditions of women, young people, and people who are neurodivergent**, who have been **detained** in the post-election protests, and contribute to the reporting to multilateral committees and agencies.

Climate change, crisis, and environment

Venezuela has started to notice the concrete and tangible impacts of the climate crisis. For example, it is the first country to **lose its perennial snow-capped peaks** due to climate change, showing the fragility of its ecosystems and the impact that the increasing crisis can have on water supply in the country.

Short term recommendation

Support and fund initiatives, especially led by women, for the **protection and recuperation** of the **Panamazonic rainforest** and other **strategic ecosystems**, such as Páramos.

Indigenous and Afro-Venezuelan people and communities

Indigenous people and communities have become **more isolated** due to increasing violence and mistrust in others, which has had a considerable **impact on women's rights and the risk of domestic violence** (KII 2, 2024). As well as Afro-Venezuelan communities, they are suffering an increase of **violence caused by mixed governance structures and mining**, mostly illegal, in their territories.

In addition, there is an increasing migration of indigenous communities' leaders and authorities, resulting in the weakening of their self-governing structures (KII 4, 2024). At the same time, there has been an autonomous strengthening of **indigenous justice systems and health systems** (such as *parteras*, traditional mid-wives), reducing deaths and improving living conditions.

Furthermore, **racism and the idea of a homogenous society**, under the label *mestizo*, are structural realities that affect the recognition of Afro-Venezuela people's needs and contributions, because structural causes of racism are not addressed. These limit access to jobs and housing, and increase the impact of direct and symbolic violence.

In addition, a significant portion of Afro-Venezuelan communities, neighbourhoods, and organisations have been 'co-opted' by the state's narrative and apparatus. However, it is currently evident that state actions have focused on exoticisation rather than directly addressing racist practices in society (KII 2, 2024). Nevertheless, **young people's networks** and organisations, as well as historical **human rights defenders**, have maintained an **independent view** and agenda on racism and Afro-Venezuelan needs and proposals.

Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers

The migratory crisis is a central issue. **There were two main historical emigration moments**: first, in 2013–2015, of wealthy migrants, and second, during 2017–2019, of mostly professionals. A **third** has been occurring since 2020, of mostly **rural migrants**,

who are experiencing increasing xenophobia and exclusion in the recipient countries (KII 1, 2024).

Even in contexts with a more structured response and access to legal status, **technical limitations** and the fact that people with micro-power¹ ignore procedures have become important barriers in migrants' day-to-day lives. It has also become a critical issue to consider the impact of **vicarious violence² against migrant women**, who have no access to justice due to the absence of bi-national justice procedures (KII 1, 2024).

Women and girls

Patriarchal discourses and structures are strong and highly fixed in social structures in Venezuela. As widely noted, and condemned, **gender-based violence and sexual violence** are structural problems (CEDAW 2023). Data on possible *femicides* are alarming: 278 in 2021, 279 in 2022, 452 in 2023, and 54 in 2024 (Provea 2023; Cotejo, 2024).

Women face significant limitations in their political participation, as widely documented (CEDAW, 2023). Despite these barriers, many **women actively promote and lead peacebuilding efforts** at the local level, often serving in mediation roles (KII 2, 2024). A less known issue is the impact and risk resulting from women **leading efforts to find disappeared persons**, which results in the neglect of their physical and mental health, (KII 1, 2024). They also experience the negative impacts of being leaders in the **efforts for justice for extrajudicial executions**, as they are systematically persecuted.

Mid term recommendation

Invest in formal and informal service providers for survivors of violence, including gender-based violence, covering issues such as mental, reproductive and physical health, economic and legal assistance, social integration, security and protection, etc.

LGBT+ people

Structural homophobic and transphobic attitudes have a substantial impact on day-to-day life in Venezuela (OVV LGBTIQ+, 2024). As national activism possibilities are more restricted, **local activism and advocacy** have become the central tools for the LGBT+ social movement (KII 1, 2024; OVV LGBTIQ+, 2023).

¹ Micro-powers refer to people who have the power to limit access by controlling physical access to spaces and institutions, as well as the possibility to limit access through bureaucratic procedures.

² Vicarious violence is a form of gender-based violence in which the children of women who are survivors of gender-based violence are instrumentalised as objects to abuse and inflict pain on their mothers.

Sexual and reproductive rights

Sexual and reproductive rights have become a **highly politicised** issue in Venezuela, as it is part of the central agenda of anti-right groups (BBC, 2024). Therefore, basic sexual and reproductive rights are limited in Venezuela, where access to menstrual care products is scarce. **40 per cent** of young women **cannot buy menstrual products** (Faldas R, 2023). Furthermore, **62 per cent of maternal and gynaeco-obstetric facilities are inoperative** (Provea, 2022).

Children and young people

The situation of Venezuelan children and young people has worsened in the last decade. Based on UNICEF data, **5,400,000 children** are in need of **humanitarian assistance** (2024). They have **limited access to education**, which is often of poor quality: **44.8 per cent** of them have **attended school intermittently** (HumVenezuela, 2023).

Further, **extrajudicial executions** of young men have been frequent in the last decade, with **12,685** between 2015 and 2023, as part of systematic control practice by the military and mixed governance structures (KII 1, 2024). Migration is also having a great impact on children and youth. For example, **23 per cent of teenage girls'** mothers, fathers, or both have migrated (Red de Mujeres Constructoras IPS, 2023), so they must assume the responsibility of taking care of their younger siblings.

Mid term recommendation

Conduct a meaningful consultation process with organisations of **people with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent, women rights organisations, and Afro-Venezuela organisations** to understand their **needs and concerns** and **provide** them **with core, direct, and flexible** funds to lead on the development and implementation of action plans.

Elders

Elders have **limited access** to health, medication, and food, with **75 per cent** of elders having **no access to medicine** (HelpAge, 2022; KII 1, 2024). Pensions are **insufficient for surviving**; **67 per cent** of retirees live with a monthly income between **US\$10 and US\$50** (Convite, 2024). Also, an growing number of older women **have an increasing overload of care responsibilities** due to migration and within migratory contexts (KII 3, 2024).

Mid term recommendation

Fund and support civil society's and governmental efforts to provide **caring services** (health care, childcare, etc.) to migrant women, especially elders, who are experiencing care overload in the recipient country.

People with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent

People with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent often experience **limited access** to health, education, transportation, justice, jobs, and medication (Cosorven, 2023); **3 out of 10 people** with motor disabilities do **not have access to technical aids** (Consoverven, 2023). It is important to note the **precarious conditions** within mental health facilities and services at the national and local level, with a **40 per cent** reduction in the **number of facilities** that were available for **mental health treatment** between 2020–2022 (Cecodap, 2022).

Abstract

Venezuela is a context with multiple realities. Despite the prevalence of simplistic narratives, it is necessary to have a broader and deeper perspective on the country in order to have an impact in a context that is unstable and deteriorating. A 2024 conflict-sensitive, intersectional Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion analysis demonstrates the harsh impacts of the country's crisis and the structural inequalities experienced by women and LGBT+ people across all sectors, the racist impacts on indigenous and Afro-Venezuelan people and communities, the limitations and barriers for youth and elders, and the invisibility of people with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent. Migrants' daily realities are also a central issue of concern. This report's recommendations include identifying paths and goals in the context of the current post-election crisis, for the short term and mid term.

Summary

This conflict-sensitive Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) analysis of Venezuela, from an intersectional perspective, has been done by conducting a literature review and conducting key informant interviewees (KIIs). It emphasises migrants, racialised communities and people, people with disabilities, and people who are neurodivergent to fill information gaps and develop recommendations. It also addresses women's human rights, LGBT+ rights, and sexual and reproductive rights, which have built on the existing efforts of civil society, multilateral actors, and donors, including the United Kingdom (UK), in order to have relevant and sufficient information available within the international institutions and global scenarios. A focus on age-based impacts, necessities, and opportunities has also been included.

The key findings are centred on human rights violations, barriers to accessing essential services, and limitations on active participation in society by historically discriminated against people and communities. The recommendations identify paths forward and examples for the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), including several for the current post-election crisis, in the short term, mid term, and long term. These include some identity-based suggestions, but the FCDO is invited to think about the population sectors more as identity coalitions, in which gender, racialisation, age, disability, and neurodivergence are always present.

Background and introduction

Venezuela is a context with multiple realities, but it is easy to be persuaded by simplistic narratives. Interviews with KIIs within the country and abroad show the need to open up the conversation about the future and not be overwhelmed by the current complex and unstable reality, caused by recent elections.

It is important to recognise that this research has been done in the context of presidential elections, which were moved six months ahead of the usual electoral schedule, leading to obstacles for accessing some KIIs and having to embrace very emotional moments during the KIIs. This latter point particularly relates to the increasing desire for change combined with disillusion with the present and fatalism.

This conflict-sensitive and intersectional GEDSI analysis on Venezuela has been done by literature review and learning from KIIs. It emphasises migrants, racialised communities and people, people with disabilities, and people who are neurodivergent, to fill information gaps and generate recommendations. It also addresses women's human rights, LGBT+ rights, and sexual and reproductive rights, with relevant data. A range of age-based impacts, necessities, and opportunities has been included.

Additionally, even when gender is discussed in Venezuela's contexts and analysis, it is often understood as an equivalent to women's reality and not as a power relations analytical tool. This reduces the impact of these perspectives within society, and in creating tracks for transformation.

Venezuelan civil society recognises that the UK government is an important actor supporting their organisations, opening up possibilities for new topics, and supporting strategic processes nationally and internationally.

Methodology and tools

The scope of analysis included the gathering of high-quality data and evidence to understand power dynamics, obstacles to human rights provisions, daily life wellbeing, and substantial participation in civil society, in its diversity, in key matters in Venezuela. To ensure data relevance, only literature from 2020–2024 was included.

At the outset, the research questions that guided this process were agreed with the task commissioner. They were:

- What are the impacts of the ongoing crises for civil society, in its diversity, in Venezuela?
- What are the major obstacles to human rights guarantees?
- What is the situation for social and cultural minorities in Venezuela, and what is its impact on civil society organisations and participation capabilities?
- What can the UK and other international donors do to improve structural conditions and day-to-day life in the country and support civil society, in its diversity, in Venezuela?

The methodology included 4 phases:

Phase 1: Inception and kick-off.

Phase 2: Detailed literature review and secondary research, with 366 references reviewed.

Phase 3: Primary research (4 KIIs). This included developing a questionnaire and interviewing four people, two abroad and two located in Caracas.

Phase 4: Report writing and validation.

The major limitations and the ways to overcome them during this process included:

- Information from state and governmental authorities is unreliable and, in many cases, the information is non-existent, or, at least, not public/accessible. Furthermore, the consultations with state institutions were ignored, despite the right to petition and the right to access information, both guaranteed by the Constitution. Therefore, the consultant has relied on secondary data and literature produced by civil society actors, academics, and international actors.
- Civil society producing less information on economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the lived realities of people with disabilities, in recent years, due to legal barriers for creating and updating organisations' legal status and to increased challenges to access funding (Civicus, 2022). Therefore, the consultant broadened the spectrum of sources, including bi-national organisations and regional actors.
- An increase in the mechanisms of control of civil society actors, due to the elections, has resulted in a decrease in access to information, internet, energy supply, and an increase of online vigilance. To overcome this limitation, research participants who are abroad were included.

This process was full of learnings and challenges for the consultant. Being a Colombian who has worked in the frontier and in regional scenarios, and as a former refugee, intense emotions came up, more than expected. Reading and hearing from others that Venezuela is getting near to experiencing what Colombia had experienced in the 1990s (one of the more violent decades in its history; KII 2, 2024) was heartbreaking; but it was also an opportunity to recognise that as a region, we have to learn and support each other.

Findings and analysis

1

General context

A **complex humanitarian ‘emergency’** is the most common way of understanding Venezuela’s situation among academia, international actors, and civil society. Even though this is an accurate frame, it is important to broaden the perspective as gender, social inclusion, and disability are central to understanding **structural inequalities** that can be ignored from a conventional humanitarian perspective centred on the short term.

Presidential elections took place on 28 July 2024, with results contested internally and externally, as stated in the Joint Statement³ signed by the UK government: “International election observers have documented their serious concerns about the transparency and integrity of the electoral process, in particular the refusal of the National Electoral Commission to release detailed and independently verifiable results from polling stations, as required.” As a result, there has been an increase in instability and in the risks assumed by people, especially young people, who have been participating in protests all over the country demanding transparency.

Between 28 July and 1 September 2024, there were 143 detentions. Also, in the post-election period, 158 children (130 boys and 28 girls) were detained during or after the protests, charged with serious offences such as terrorism (UN’s Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 2024). This worsens a situation where there were already **15,700 illegal detentions** between 2014 and 2023.

It is vital to highlight that the contested results could result in a tense and **complicated period** until the presidential inauguration on 10 January 2025, because the government called for early elections. Usually, presidential elections occur towards the end of the year (KII 3, 2024; El Espectador, 2024).

Political protests are a central concern. There have been more than 600 since 2013 (ACSI, Kape-Kape, CONSORVEN, COFAVIC, CEJIL, 2023⁴), with major activity occurring in 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2024 (Humvenezuela, 2023). It is necessary to focus on **protests related to primary services and labour conditions**, which have shown, in the last 10 years (Provea, 2023), specific impacts on women, due to the **poor conditions of nursery and primary school**, as well as the **precarious situation of primary schools**, that include lack of access to water, electricity, internet and limited structural repairs.

“Despite some improvements, **cumulative inflation** between 2022 and 2024 has been **976%**, with average inflation by August 2024 at 64%”, according to Venezuela Central Bank

³ <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-the-situation-in-venezuela/>

⁴ Alternative Report to the Human Rights Committee. V periodic report.

(2024). This continues to be a central issue, with different impacts on women, youth, and the elderly, who have more barriers to formal labour and decent salaries. **Poverty** (basic poverty line) reached **81 per cent in 2023**, with **10 per cent more** prevalence in **women-led households** (Provea, 2024). The Human Development Index analysis shows a decrease between 2013 (0.774) and 2023 (0.699), which shows the worsening of economic and social conditions in the last decade (PNUD, 2024.) Additionally, it is important to consider further analysis on the impact of bonus-based remuneration on labour, specifically from a gender and age perspective.

The **exhaustion of organised civil society** and the decline of mental health for human rights defenders is a topic that requires attention, with a focus on gender-based threats such as sexual violence and vicarious threats. It is important to address how being 'at risk' as a political actor can become a threat to democracy, migrants, and human rights defenders' wellbeing. For these actors, these consequences sit alongside the impact of economic bureaucracy and innovation pressure⁵ in international and regional cooperation ecosystems.

Finally, in the context of this analysis, it is important to note the limitation on information available about the opposition's position on issues related to gender, social inclusion, and disability. Some KIIs revealed that the presence of a trans woman and former MP, Tamara Adrián, as part of Edmundo González and Maria Corina Machado's campaign team, is a good sign, but it is important to keep in mind that the opposition is highly diverse, including far right expression (KII 2, 2024; KII 1, 2024).

2

Climate change, crisis, and environment

Venezuela has started to notice the concrete and tangible impacts of the climate crisis. For example, it is the first country to **lose its perennial snow-capped peaks** (La Corona on Humboldt Peak, in the Sierra Nevada National Park) due to climate change, showing the fragility of its ecosystems and the impact that the increasing crisis could have on water supply in the country. In the mid term, **environmental displacement** could become an additional burden in the economic and political migratory crises. This situation could worsen due to the **non-ratification of the Escazú Agreement** (Clima 21, 2022) and the declining conditions of the country's monitoring systems, as 50 of the country's 335 weather stations are currently inoperable, reducing the capability of preventive actions (ODIHPN, 2022).

Floods, wildfires, and droughts have become usual in most of the country's regions, with increasing impacts on indigenous and Afro-Venezuelan communities' **ancestral territories** (Kapé, Kapé, 2023). Additionally, **high levels of air pollution** due to wildfires and the petroleum industry are having impacts on women's and girls' health due to the increasing

⁵ The innovation pressure that local and national civil society organisations are receiving from the global north cooperation actors and multilateral cooperation organisms is related to the increasing need to show more technological-based approaches and ground-breaking methodologies, even when more conventional approaches and methodologies, proven to be useful for decades, are adequate.

types of cancer that are specific to them, such as breast cancer due to the increase in toxic fumes.

The environmental impact of mining, most of it illegal, is a key issue; for example, there are **8,000 illegal mining settlements** in Yapacana National Park (MAAP, 2022). This type of activity has increased throughout the country **and is responsible for destroying 140,000 hectares of primary forest**, mostly in the Amazon.

Not only is there a substantial environmental impact from mining, but the social impact is worsening. During 2023, one environmental defender was assassinated (Mongabay, 2024) and **women leaders** in the Amazon region, especially indigenous women, have suffered multiple attacks due to their opposition to legal and illegal mining, forest clearing for illegal extraction of endangered tree species, and extensive cattle farming.

Furthermore, there have been increasing risks and environmental impacts in **the Orinoco Mining Arc** due to mixed security governance structures (military/police forces and multi-crime alliances; HumVenezuela, 2023). For instance, the magnitude of the situation is illustrated by the fact that 6,000 Jivi, Uwottüja, Yekuana, Sanemá, Yeral, and Yanomami people have fled confrontation between non-state armed groups in the last five years (UNHCR, 2024).

3

Indigenous people and communities

Indigenous people and communities have become **more isolated** due to increasing violence and mistrust in others, which has had an important **impact on women's rights and the risk of domestic violence**. Being more isolated makes it more difficult for women to participate in processes that allow them to learn about their rights and to access justice in all cases, especially those linked to gender-based violence. Furthermore, most indigenous justice processes do not establish punishments for domestic violence, as this type of violence is considered to be a sanction on women's behaviour, to which men have a 'right' (KII 2, 2024).

Additionally, collective **territories⁶ are not regulated**, even when legislation give them autonomy over their ancestral territories; increasing the risk of abuse (violence, control by illegal and military actors and land expropriation) in mining contexts and the weakening of their authorities and autonomy.

Furthermore, there is increasing migration of indigenous communities' leaders and authorities, producing a de-structuration of their autonomy (KII 4, 2024).

There has been an increase in multiple **diseases** in indigenous communities, such as malaria, HIV, and malnutrition in children, elders, and women (**97 per cent** of indigenous families

⁶ Collective territories are one way in which indigenous people define their ancestral land. 'Collective territories' have been recognised as a legal figure in Venezuela, but there are no implementation protocols.

suffer from **malnutrition**; Convite, 2023; Efecto Cocuyo, 2023), with more significant impacts in semi-nomadic communities of the Orinoco and Amazon regions. There is also often **limited** access to **potable water**, resulting in contaminant-related water diseases (Provea, 2023).

In addition, the prevalence of **violence because of mixed governance structures** in their territories is alarming, as **44** of 52 indigenous communities are **exposed to illegal armed groups** and **a mix of legal-illegal governance structures** (Provea, 2023). There has been **one assassination** of an indigenous person **every 2 days in the last 5 years** and at least **10 indigenous women** have been raped by military in the Amazon between 2021 and 2023 (Kapé, Kapé, 2022; Clima 21, 2023). The communities at greatest risk are the Warao, Yukpas, Sikuanis, Wayuu, Jivi, and Yanomami; shockingly, the Yanomami and Sikuanis are at risk of **cultural extinction**.

Trafficking networks targeting people due to their belonging to specific ethnicities, internally and transnationally, has become a major problem as **2,500 indigenous people are survivors** of **modern slavery** (CDH, 2022). Notably, women are at greater risk of being trafficked, because they are more likely to know a western language (Kapé, Kapé, 2023, especially Spanish).

Furthermore, the **mass migration** of indigenous people across national borders has been a reality for at least the last five years. The destination countries are **Colombia, Brazil, and Guyana**, where access to health care, land, and food are limited. Indigenous people experience limitations due language, limited access to national or migratory identification, and difficulties in accessing essential services (health, education, water) based on their identity and communitarian belonging. In Colombia, for example, to access health services, indigenous people must be recognised as part of a census made by each indigenous autonomous authority (*known as Cabildo*).

Nevertheless, there has been an autonomous strengthening of **indigenous justice systems and health systems** (such as *parteras*, the traditional mid-wives), reducing deaths and improving living conditions. This has occurred due to bi-national support (Colombia–Venezuela) within communities; for example, the Wayuu communities in la Guajira, and cooperation projects focused on the recovery of collective memory and ancestral and local knowledge, as in the case of plant-based medicine.

4

Afro-Venezuelan people and communities

Racism and the idea of a homogenic society, under the label *mestizo*, are structural realities that affect the recognition of Afro-Venezuela people's needs and contributions. For instance, only **2 per cent** of the population identified themselves as **'black' or 'afro-descendant'** while 49 per cent identified themselves as 'brown' (Academia de Ciencias Políticas, 2021). This leads to social dynamics that increase racism towards those who identify themselves as black or Afro-Venezuelan.

In addition, **aesthetic-based discrimination**, due to phenotypical characteristics, is having a significant impact on Afro-Venezuelan women who live in major cities, reducing their access to

jobs and impacting their self-worth and value perception. This can contribute to the risk of being part of abusive relationships in private and public scenarios as they may internalise the notion that they are ‘ugly’, ‘undesirable’, and that someone who wants to be with them is ‘doing them a favour’, or that person is one of the few opportunities of love they will have due to their appearance (Voz de América, 2022). **Racism** is also a high impact issue for people in the **diaspora**; some start to identify themselves as black due to the constant discrimination based on skin colour, even if they had never identified as such living in Venezuela. This situation frequently occurs in countries such as Colombia, Spain, Peru, and the USA.

Alongside indigenous communities, Afro-Venezuelans are suffering an increase of **violence because of mixed governance structures** and **mining**, mostly illegal, in their territories (El Callao y Aripao). In these regions, **racist violence** has increased due to mining-related migration. Precarious conditions have led around **3,500 women** (in Callao only) to become **sex workers**, many of them in precarious and dangerous conditions and scenarios controlled by macro-criminal organisations (Clima 21, 2024).

This is aggravated by the increase of **diseases** such as malaria, HIV, contaminant-related water diseases, and malnutrition in children, elders, and women. Also, poverty in Afro-Venezuelan households is **12 per cent more likely than in other households** (HumVenezuela, 2022), increasing the impact of the scarcity of vital supplies such as water, electricity, and food. **Ninety per cent** of the population of Sucre municipality, a municipality with a high presence of Afro-Venezuelan people, **live in poverty**, and **100 per cent** of households are **food insecure** (Provea, 2023).

The **autonomous Afro-Venezuelan movement has considerably weakened over the past two decades**, largely due to the integration of many of its leaders into parties and organisations aligned with the ruling party since the rise of Chavismo. The Chavismo agenda initially resonated with their aspirations for cultural vindication, recognition of racial inequality, and addressing the colonial and slave legacy. As a result, a significant portion of Afro-Venezuelan communities, neighbourhoods, and organisations have been ‘co-opted’ by the state’s narrative and apparatus. However, it is currently evident that state actions have focused on exoticisation rather than directly addressing racist practices in society (KII 2, 2024).

Nevertheless, **young people’s networks** and organisations, as well as historical **human rights defenders**, have maintained **an independent view** and agenda on racism and Afro-Venezuelan needs and proposals. For example, they have drafted and submitted a shadow report⁷ denouncing human rights violations and government negligence to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (KII 1, 2024).

5

⁷ Shadow Reports (also known as ‘parallel reports’ or ‘alternative reports’), supplement, or “shadow”, these official State Reports. Shadow Reports are prepared by “civil society”) to supplement the information provided by the State and highlight issues not raised by governments in their formal communications to the supervisory body.”

Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers

Venezuela's migratory crisis is a significant issue, as **7,774,494** Venezuelans are refugees, asylum seekers, or migrants around the world (R4V, 2024). The impact of this crisis, on Latin America and the Caribbean as a region, is significant, with **6,590,671** (84.7%) migrants leaving particularly to Colombia and Peru, as well as to other southern countries such as Uruguay and Paraguay (R4V, 2024).

Recently there have been **two main emigration moments**: first, in 2013-2015, of wealthy migrants, and second, during 2017-2019, of mostly professionals. A **third** has been occurring since 2020, of mostly **rural migrants**, who are experiencing increasing xenophobia and exclusion in the recipient countries (KII 1, 2024). This has had a major impact on a society that does not have a strong emigration history, as for most of the 20th century it was a recipient society, so migrants **have fewer long-term networks abroad** (KII 1, 2024). Many people go south through South America or north towards the USA, not knowing what the environment is like (KII 3, 2024), following unrealistic routes or accepting risky journeys through El Tapón del Darien, Central America, and more recently, San Andrés (KII 3, 2024).

It is important to highlight that high rates of **illegal status** are frequent in most reception countries, resulting in **limited access to job opportunities, health, and housing**, except for in Colombia and Brazil. The percentage of migrants with legal status in the respective countries is: Colombia, 75.8%; Brazil, 70.8%; Ecuador, 45.5%; Chile, 42.4%; Peru, 31.2%; and USA, 22.4% (prepared by the author, data from R4V). As the diaspora has increasingly moved north, USA narratives against migration has put a focus on Venezuelans, who have become the new 'thieves' in right-wing discourse (KII 1, 2024).

Even in contexts with a more structured response and access to legal status, **technical limitations** to introduce provisional migratorial ID numbers in medical and education systems, and the fact that people with micro-power⁸ can ignore procedures (for example, personnel like watch-people⁹ in hospitals or secretaries in educational institutions), have become important barriers in migrants' day-to-day lives. For example, in Colombia, the given ID number cannot be filled out on educational and health databases due to a difference in the number of characters (KII 3, 2024). This access limitation increases in the case of migrants with disabilities, as **7 out of 10 do not have a disability certification document** in the receiving country (RunRun, 2024). Furthermore, even migrants with more privileges and access to resources have found difficulties with tax systems.

Access to the internet is a substantial issue for migrants, as many arrive without a phone because it is sold, stolen, or damaged in the intense natural conditions of migration paths (KII 1, 2024; KII 3, 2024). Organised crime has absorbed this additional internet access need into its business model, as criminals control cyber cafes, information, and temporary access to loans, increasing migrants' risks of exploitation as recipient states and humanitarian

⁸ Micro-powers refer to people who have the power to limit access by controlling physical access to spaces and institutions, as well as the possibility to limit access through bureaucratic procedures.

⁹ The concept of watch-people is used to avoid using the term watchman because of its sexist nature, as the usual concept reflects the social idea that only men exercise the function of security or surveillance in a space.

organisations have not addressed this need. **Access to quality information** is a major limitation when planning migratory routes, during migration and settlement (KII 4, 2024).

Armed groups are recruiting young migrants—mostly indigenous, Afro-Venezuelan, and Campesinos—especially in Colombia, Ecuador, and Brazil, showing one of the **risks and impacts** affecting migrants from **rural communities**. It is also important to acknowledge the multiple types of **human trafficking**; for example, **80 women disappeared** at the border between Colombia and Venezuela during 2022 (Swissinfo, 2023). There is increasing participation by authorities in trafficking networks (HumVenezuela, 2023), as well as the appearance of crime-related border organisations¹⁰ (KII 4, 2024). Women are trafficked, mostly for **sexual exploitation**, but also increasingly for **domestic slavery and forced surrogate pregnancy**.

It has become a critical issue to consider the impact of **vicarious violence**¹¹ **against migrant women**, who have no access to justice due to the absence of bi-national justice procedures (KII 1, 2024). These cases are resulting in a **decline in mental health** due to broken bonds, increasing levels of stressors, unattended trauma, and loneliness; with additional barriers due to stigma and limited access to specialist services (El Espectador, 2024). In addition, migrants experience barriers to access **organ transplant procedures** because of restrictive regulations which prioritise nationals over migrants. Migrants are only eligible if they have a very specific resident visa. This policy exists as an obstacle to transplant tourism and trafficking, but it ignores humanitarian migratory crises (KII 4, 2024).

Migrants also endure **a form of de facto denationalisation** due to the prohibitively high cost of passports (US\$200) and the constant stigmatisation by embassy and consular officials, who often brand them as traitors for leaving their homeland (KII 3, 2024). To alleviate this situation, some countries, such as Colombia and the USA (KII 4, 2024), have allowed the **use of passports that have expired for up to 10 years**. This measure has helped mitigate the negative impacts caused by the Venezuelan government's negligence in safeguarding its nationals abroad, including its refusal to renew passports and the excessive fees charged for obtaining a passport within Venezuela (KII 1, 2024).

Migrants also experience **obstacles in participating in elections**. Only 69,000 migrants could register to vote for presidential elections, despite approximately 3,300,000 to 5,460,000 potential voters living abroad (El País, 2024).

Family re-aggregation¹² is a fundamental issue, and it is having an increasing impact on older women, as it is one of the principal reasons for their migration. Most **elder women** who

¹⁰ Organisations linked to crime are legally registered as a cover for criminal acts such as swindling, kidnapping, or human trafficking. There is an example of an organisation in Darien that sells bracelets that supposedly guarantee passage, but it is a mechanism to charge a 'vacuna' (300USD per person). If migrants do not pay the fee, they are kidnapped by criminal groups on the border.

¹¹ Vicarious violence is a form of gender-based violence in which the children of women who are survivors of gender-based violence are instrumentalised as objects to abuse in order to inflict pain on their mothers.

¹² Family re-aggregation is a legal status that exists in multiple countries, in which a person can apply for a specific type of visa that is related to the visa of a relative in the first line of consanguinity or familiarity, such as a parent or a daughter.

migrate by this modality have become **the principal carers** (for the young, sick, and household members), having no economic autonomy and, in many cases, not being prioritised for health care access (KII 3, 2024; KII 1, 2024).

An increasing number of **migrant women's visas depend** on or are linked to their **husband or partner's visa**. This results in their being controlled, leading to a reduction in their autonomy and the risk of illegal status if they decide to separate (KII 4, 2024).

Finally, there are **very few organisations that prioritise Venezuelan migrants' interests** in recipient countries, and very few in local contexts advocating for day-to-day life issues (KII 4, 2024). There are few organisations composed of or led by the Venezuelan diaspora in an autonomous and independent way, which demonstrates a high level of fear and mistrust of Venezuela, even in those abroad, in organisational structures, due to the deteriorated social and democratic context from which they come from. Right now, the **migratory crisis** could worsen due to the uncertain **election** results and consequent **instability**.

6

Women and girls

Patriarchal discourses and structures are strong and highly fixed in social structures in Venezuela. As widely noted, and condemned, **gender-based violence and sexual violence** are structural problems (CEDAW, 2023). Data on possible feminicides are alarming: 278 in 2021, 279 in 2022, 452 in 2023, and 54 in 2024 (Provea 2023; Cotejo, 2024). Also, there has been a rise in awareness of **vicarious violence against women**, which is affecting women within Venezuela and amongst migrant communities abroad (Provea, 2023).

Despite the existence of a legal framework aimed at advancing gender equality and protecting women and girls—deemed “moderately acceptable” by key informant interviewees—its practical application faces significant challenges. These challenges stem from **the lack of internal implementation protocols** within the justice system, such as a specific protocol for taking statements from survivors of sexual violence (KII 1, 2024). In addition, protection and prevention policies are highly inefficient due to insufficient resources, which result in inadequate follow-up on protective measures. As it happens, with the fulfilment of the state's legal and human rights obligations in this context, having access depends on the relationship with the governing party. For example, if a woman is seen to be part of the opposition¹³ and is a victim of domestic violence, the police will not attend her case because she is not supportive of the government (KII 1, 2024).

Women face significant limitations in their political participation, as widely documented (CEDAW (2023). Despite these barriers, many **women actively promote and lead peacebuilding efforts** at the local level, often serving in mediation roles. However, their

¹³ In Venezuela, the concept of opposition has become a way of pointing the finger at anyone who expresses an opinion against the government. Unlike in other countries, it does not only refer to people who are active in an opposition political party.

involvement in such polarized contexts places them in precarious positions, as they are perceived as ambiguous or neutral, leading to labels of 'risky' or 'traitors' by all sides. Risks include systemic exclusion from public spaces, invisibility of their agenda, and direct violence. They face this with very **little knowledge of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda** (KII 2, 2024).

The **care overload on women is also becoming unsustainable** due to education and health system crises: **82.8 per cent of hospital care** capacity is **inoperative**, as there is a scarcity of specialist staff and medical equipment and supplies, and infrastructure is not regularly maintained or repaired (UNHCHHRR, 2023). Care duties are also high as **56 per cent of children do not attend pre-school** (Provea, 2022). It is also important to note that **45.8 per cent of women must carry water** to satisfy their own and their family's requirements in rural and urban areas due to intermittent or absent service provision (Provea, 2022). The situation of care overload is also very frequent among migrant women's day-to-day lives (KII 4, 2024).

Particularly in border areas, there is a risk of **cultural and physical control of women and girls** by illegal armed groups (*guerrillas, sindicatos, traquetos*, and others) in 'peace zones'.¹⁴ This control is evident in schedule restrictions for young women, in the obligation to perform care work (washing, cooking, etc.) for members of the armed groups, the control over clothing and personal aesthetics (e.g. prohibition of short haircuts), and surveillance of women's erotic-affective relationships (Clima 21, 2023; Kapé, Kapé 2022).

A lesser-known issue is the significant impact and risks faced by women who **lead efforts to find disappeared persons**. This often results in severe mental health challenges, neglect of their physical wellbeing, strained relationships, and a loss of aspirations in both their professional and personal lives (KII 1, 2024). Also, they experience the negative impacts of being leaders in the **efforts for justice for extrajudicial executions**, as they are systematically persecuted and intimidated by the state: **90 per cent of the cases** involved some form of threat or intimidation against the claimants, with at least **70 per cent of the family members** asking for justice being **older women**, with 98 per cent of the cases **not having gone beyond the inquiry** phase (KII 1, 2024).

Finally, **detained women** are **less visible** in Venezuela, "the mission has documented **18 other women** who remain detained on charges of being involved in or associated with 'conspirations'" (independent fact-finding mission on Venezuela, 2024). The worst situation is for **local women leaders** who are **detained**, because they have become invisible to international organisations and even Venezuela's society (Oveprisiones, 2023; KII 1, 2024). For **women detained abroad**, the situation is even more difficult as they have less access to legal representation and social support (El Espectador, 2024).

¹⁴ The peace zones established by the Venezuelan government, especially in border areas, are territories where police and military action against criminal and macro-criminal organisations has been suspended in exchange for a reduction in violent actions by these organisations against the population (Unidad Investigativa de Venezuela, 2022).

7

LGBT+ people

Structural homophobic and transphobic attitudes have a substantial impact on day-to-day life in Venezuela (17 incidents of discrimination in public spaces and entertainment venues documented during 2023; OVV LGBTIQ+, 2024). Some activists think that there is a homophobic state policy due to systematic persecution by military and police forces (Infobae, 2022). Furthermore, there is an absence of measuring hate crimes against LGBT+ people, even when cases are occurring: **4 trans women murdered** in 2023 (EFE, 2024); **87 individual attacks** (OVV LGBTIQ+, 2024, 2023); and **67 attacks** against **collectives and organisations** (OVV LGBTIQ+, 2024, 2023). Also, Venezuela has a blood donation protocol that could be described as homophobic, including an explicit prohibition for lesbians and gays to donate (Caleidoscopio Humano, 2023).

Additionally, as across the entire region, there is an increasing presence of anti-rights groups and religious fundamentalists in the public sphere. These groups have a high presence within the executive power, both nationally and locally (KII 1, 2024). Due to the increased executive power held by Christian fundamentalists within state registration authorities, trans and non-binary individuals are **unable to access legal protocols to change their name and/or gender** on their national ID and birth registration, even though a law permitting such changes exists in the country.

Sexual orientation and non-normative constructions of gender identity result in abuses and exclusions. Lesbians, gays, and transgender women¹⁵ are **rejected in schools** through bullying and expulsion by peers, principals, and teachers. Also, **33 gay men** were **detained** in 2023 due to their sexual orientation, with 3 still in prison (Human Rights Watch, 2023; KII 1, 2024). Furthermore, **systematic rape** of lesbian women, especially human rights defenders, has been a frequent human rights violation committed by Venezuelan armed forces (AVESA, 2024).

As national organising is more restricted, **local activism and advocacy** have become central tools for the LGBT+ social movement (KII 1, 2024; OVV LGBTQ+, 2023). It is important to highlight that international cooperation is supporting substantial civil society efforts to document crimes against and exclusion of LGBT+ people. Even in these processes, the **invisibility** of non-binary and trans men's experiences is still an issue.

Migration of LGBT+ people is a result of **social and governmental persecution** and the **disproportional impact of economic crises**. One reason for more frequent recent experiences of migration is for people to reunite with their social family,¹⁶ but this is not included as a legal condition for reunification (Amnesty International, 2022). Finally, most **trans women migrate without ID or other legal papers**, so they are not identified as queer

¹⁵ Data does not show information about trans men and non-binary people, showing a general invisibility of their reality.

¹⁶ This refers to the 'family' queer people tend to gather among friends, especially where they are rejected by their biological family.

at the border due to the high risk of being attacked by mixed structures of governance. Due to this absence, many will have an additional barrier in the recipient countries, which also tend to have **transphobic societies** (interview KII 3, 2024; KII 4, 2024).

8

Sexual and reproductive rights

Sexual and reproductive rights have become a **highly politicised** issue in Venezuela, as it is part of the central agenda of anti-right groups, which have protested **against sexual education** in schools (*'Con mis hijos no se metan'* campaign).¹⁷ Even Nicolás Maduro, in his speech after the election results on 29 July 2024, referred to Venezuelan society as the 'People of Christ', emulating the way fundamentalist evangelic pastors refer to their religious communities (BBC, 2024).

Basic sexual and reproductive rights are limited in Venezuela, where access to menstrual care products is limited. **40 per cent** of young women **cannot buy menstrual products** (Faldas R, 2023). In addition, due to the high cost and **limited access** to contraception methods, there is a shortage of male condoms and no access to female condoms. Data shows that **40 per cent** of **young women do not use contraception** (Red de Mujeres Constructoras IPS, 2023) and **24.7 per cent** of teenage girls were **pregnant** in 2023 (Provea, 2023).

There is limited access to **abortion rights and facilities**, due to stigma and judicial persecution. From the limited information available, due to the clandestine nature of abortion procedures, **40 per cent** of young women had an **abortion** because they **didn't want children** at that moment, and **35 per cent** decided to have an **abortion** for **economic reasons** (Faldas R, 2023).

Furthermore, **62 per cent of maternal and gynaeco-obstetric facilities** are **inoperative** (Provea, 2022), and there is insufficient health care response to **breast, cervix, and prostate cancer**. Additionally, professionals in gynaecological services are **not prepared to take care of lesbian women's realities and necessities** due to moral and patriarchal attitudes and discourses.

Living with HIV-AIDS still remains taboo and a cause of stigma, even when **92,000** adults and children live with HIV, including **25,000** women aged 15 and over (ONUSIDA, 2022). This is worsened by **limited** access to **retroviral** medications. This stigma has an increasing

¹⁷ The phrase *'Con mis hijos no se metan'* (*Don't mess with my children*) has been the rallying cry for a campaign led by Christian and Catholic fundamentalist groups, along with far-right parties across Latin America. The movement seeks to prevent educational institutions from teaching about sexual and reproductive rights, as well as affective and erotic diversity. Supporters of the campaign argue that such education promotes what they call 'gender ideology', which they claim encourages promiscuity, promotes homosexuality, and threatens the traditional family structure.

impact on the diaspora as migrants living with HIV arrive with no diagnosis and find barriers to accessing retroviral treatment (KII 3, 2024).

Finally, there are very **few open conversations** about **pleasure and care** in comparison with most countries in the region. This shows increasing limitations and reinforcing taboos around desire and consent, and insufficient information about the place of sex and self-knowledge in life, especially for women.

9

Children and young people

The situation of Venezuelan children and young people has worsened in the last decade. Based on 2024 UNICEF data, **5,400,000 children** are in need of **humanitarian assistance**. They have **limited access to education**, which is often of poor quality: **44.8 per cent** of them have **attended school intermittently** (HumVenezuela, 2023) and **one fifth of young women** have **abandoned** higher education (Provea, 2023). This situation is having a particular impact on **education** for indigenous and Afro-Venezuelan children, who have limited access to **intercultural education** (Kapé, Kapé, 2023).

There are barriers for children and youth to access social rights and services. For example, **560,660 minors** have **not received the triple viral vaccine** (Human Rights Watch, 2023). Additionally, many are survivors of physical and severe psychological **punishment**, as it is still accepted in society. **Exploitation** of boys and girls in mining zones is becoming an increasing problem; the types of exploitation range from labour to sexual (HumVenezuela, 2023).

Further, **extrajudicial executions** of young men have been frequent in the last decade, with **12,685** between 2015 and 2023 (KII 1, 2024). Security agents were involved in at least 27 killings in 2022 (CIDH, 2022). **Recruitment** by illegal groups, national and regional, especially in rural and border areas, has an increasing effect on young men's and boys' wellbeing: "In my community, you'd see little kids with wooden guns. From the smallest to the biggest, they carry their wooden guns, playing" (Pulitzer Center, 2023). Furthermore, **52 per cent of teenage deaths** among boys are due to homicide, highlighting how criminal organisations exploit cultural norms—such as the expectation that young men should be strong, violent, risk-taking, and rule-breaking—as a means of recruiting them (Save the Children, 2022).

Migration is having a great impact on children and youth. For example, **23 per cent of teenage girls'** mothers, fathers, or both have migrated (Red de Mujeres Constructoras IPS, 2023), so they must assume the responsibility of taking care of their younger siblings. Additionally, young women who are **alone**, many of whom have lost elders who were responsible for them due to untreated illnesses such as diabetes, cancer, etc., are survivors of **sexual slavery, domestic slavery, and child marriage** (KII 1, 2024).

Also, **809,081 migrants, refugees, or asylum seekers** in Colombia are **minors** (Observatorio de Venezuela, Universidad del Rosario, 2023). A focus should be placed on **unaccompanied minors' needs**, as they are unlikely to be able to reach their family abroad and are likely to experience risks in institutions, without protocols that prioritise their lives and primary bonds (KII 3, 2024).

10

Elders

Most elderly people have experienced increasing **limitations** in continuing with their autonomous **life projects**¹⁸ (KII 3, 2024). **Political persecution in local areas** has become frequent against elders, who are substantial actors in protests linked to day-to-day wellbeing and the economic situation. There were 616 protests related to the demand for decent pensions in 2023 (Provea, 2024).

They have **limited access** to health, medication, and food, with **75 per cent** of elders having **no access to medicine** (HelpAge, 2022; KII 1, 2024). **56 per cent of elder women** live with a **disability**, in contrast to 41 per cent of elder men, with very little access to support and equipment (Convite, 2024). Furthermore, **loneliness** and **uncertainty** are becoming more acute, with a high impact on elders' mental health.

Pensions are **insufficient for adequate living**; **67 per cent** of retirees live with a monthly income between **US\$10 and US\$50** (Convite, 2024). Also, **20 per cent of indigenous households** in border communities are **led by an elder** (58 per cent are led by elder women), many of them living in poverty (HelpAge, 2020; Convite, 2024).

Also, some older women **have an increasing overload of care responsibilities** due to migration and within migratory contexts (KII 3, 2024).

11

People with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent

In most of Venezuelan society, there are **out-of-date ideas** about people with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent (with hyper and hypo abilities). Civil society and internationals show **limited interest** in these groups' daily realities.

People with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent often experience **limited access** to health, education, transportation, justice, jobs, and medication (Cosorven, 2023). **Three out of 10 people** with motor disabilities do **not have access to technical aids** (Consorten, 2023); and **35.8 per cent** of LGBT+ people with disabilities do **not receive any kind of service** to help them overcome the barriers associated with their disability (OVV LGBTIQ+, 2023).

¹⁸ An autonomous life project refers to the possibility for people to choose paths in life according to their needs, tastes, and desires, with real and concrete opportunities to develop it and without the control and scrutiny of others.

Additionally, people with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent experience **barriers** to political and social **participation** and representation due to the taboo against them and their physical limitations. For example, there was no accessible material for presidential elections. They also have different experiences in jail, due to the hyper-stimuli they experience in this scenario and the absence of adequate protocols for their needs (Amnesty International, 2023).

It is important to note the **precarious conditions** within mental health facilities and services at the national and local level, with a **40 per cent** reduction in the **number of facilities** that were available for **mental health treatment** between 2020–2022 (Cecodap, 2022). Also, **90 per cent of homeless people** have a **mental health problem** or are neurodivergent, demonstrating social exclusion and state negligence (Efecto Cocuyo, 2022).

Migration of people with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent is full of risks in terms of health care, job access, and education adjustment, as they have **limited access to official recognition of disability** in the recipient country (Cosorven 2023). Also, it is necessary to acknowledge the **additional impacts** in cases of **deportation and temporal detention**, such as the sensory hyperstimulation they may suffer at airports which can lead to aggressive behaviour or behaviour that may be interpreted as suspicious or dangerous, which can lead to forms of violence by surveillance and control teams (KII 4, 2024).

Recommendations

Crisis response (3 months)

Fund and provide technical support to the efforts of civil society **to document the current crisis** from a gender and intersectional perspective, as well as those who monitor the **conditions of women, young people, and people who are neurodivergent** who have been **detained** in the post-election protests and contribute to reporting to multilateral committees and agencies.

Encourage authorities to free people who have been detained for their participation in the post-election protests, particularly **women, young people, and people who are neurodivergent**.

Support and advocate in international institutional spaces for a more **comprehensive humanitarian response** (that includes elements such as post-trauma mental health) on common migratory routes, such as to the Colombian Border, Amazon Border, El Darién, etc. This post-trauma attention should include specialised emergency response for sexual violence survivors who have been attacked during the migratory route.

Promote and support research on the conditions, challenges, and risk, from a gender and intersectional perspective, of the **migration routes through the Caribbean** (San Andrés, Aruba, and any others that may emerge).

Short term (6 months to 1 year)

Support the **continuity of the independent fact-finding mission and international monitoring** efforts on Venezuela's humanitarian, human rights, and democracy crises.

Foster the inclusion of a stronger **intersectional approach** in international commissions and organisations' reports on Venezuela's human rights situation, especially those lead by the United Nations.

Advocate for **broader international support for Venezuela's migration crises in the region**, understanding that some migrants want to settle in the recipient country, others have the desire to migrate further, some want to go back to their country, and some are willing to participate in voluntary resettlement programmes (KII 4, 2024).

Support and fund civil society organisations **working with people who are planning to migrate**, including through providing them with relevant information such as gender-related risks, and information on legal and human rights.

Support and fund **gender-sensitive and intersectional research** related to **youth and elders'** basic needs, violence, and migration impacts, especially in rural areas, and share it with strategic service providers, such as United Nations agencies and international humanitarian organisations.

Promote and fund **international gatherings** to reflect on the realities of **migrant women survivors of gender-based violence and of unaccompanied youth**, and develop protocols to protect their rights and protect them from further violence.

Support and fund civil society, in Venezuela and abroad, efforts to pressure for the **creation an implementation of bi-national justice procedures and protocols on vicarious violence** against **migrant women**.

Fund and support civil society and government efforts to provide **caring services** (health care, childcare, etc.) to migrant women, especially elders, who are experiencing care overload in the recipient country.

Conduct a meaningful **consultation process** with organisations of **people with disabilities and people who are neurodivergent, women rights organisations, and Afro-Venezuela organisations** to understand their needs and concerns and provide them with core, direct, and flexible funds to lead on the development and implementation of action plans.

Support and fund initiatives, especially those led by women, for the **protection and recuperation of the Panamazonic rainforest** and other strategic ecosystems, such as Páramos.

Mid-term (1 to 2 years)

Invest in **formal and informal service providers for survivors of violence**, including gender-based violence, covering issues such as mental, reproductive, and physical health, economic and legal assistance, social integration, security and protection, etc.

Develop a **repository of formal and informal gender-related and intersectional tools** available to Venezuelan civil society.

Promote, advocate for, and fund the developing of **deep analysis of the differential impacts of migration** on women of diverse backgrounds and ages and LGBT+ people.

Fund and promote training sessions on **dialogue and conflict resolution and transformation** for women and youth rights organisations, women and young people activists, and Afro-Venezuelan organisations.

Promote **networking opportunities** between women's rights organisations, as well as survivors of political and gender-based violence, in Venezuela and Venezuela's diasporas, and provide them with training to strengthen their self-identified needs.

Support and fund technologically based approaches and solutions, led by civil society and academia, for the **monitoring and early warning of climate-related disasters**, that include efficient and inclusive **alarm mechanisms** directed to rural communities, including indigenous and Afro-Venezuelan communities.

References

Academia de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales (2021). Racismo y violencia policial en Venezuela. Una conversación entre venezolanos desde afuera y adentro del Imperio. Retrieved May 14, 2024, from

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354901205_Racismo_y_violencia_policial_en_Venezuela_Una_conversacion_entre_venezolanos_desde_afuera_y_adentro_del_Imperio

Amnesty International (2022, June 20). *Entre la invisibilidad y la discriminación: personas refugiadas venezolanas LGBTQ+ en Colombia y Perú*. Retrieved July 29, 2024,

<https://www.amnesty.org/es/latest/news/2022/06/personas-refugiadas-venezolanas-lgbtqi-colombia-y-peru/>

ACSI, Kape-Kape, CONSORVEN, COFAVIC, CEJIL (2023). Informe alternativo al noveno informe periódico de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela sobre el cumplimiento de la Convención sobre la Eliminación de Todas las Formas de Discriminación Contra la Mujer al Comité para la Eliminación de Todas las Formas de Discriminación Contra la Mujer de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas. Retrieved July 29, 2024, from https://cofavic.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023.INFORME_ALTERNATIVO_PARA_CEDAW_OSF_VENEZUELA_ESPANOL.pdf

AVESA (2024). Informe: Violencia sexual en Venezuela: Prevalencia de casos, riesgos y niveles de acceso a la justicia, en el marco de la pandemia por COVID-19. Retrieved August 26, 2024, <https://avesa.blog/2024/07/11/descarga-aqui-el-informe-violencia-sexual-en-venezuela-prevalencia-de-casos-riesgos-y-niveles-de-acceso-a-la-justicia-en-el-marco-de-la-pandemia-por-covid-19/>

BBC (2024). Nicolás Maduro: "Hay que respetar al árbitro y que nadie pretenda manchar esta jornada bella". Retrieved July 29, 2024, from

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/articles/cy945e5nen4o>

Caleidoscopio Humano (2023, April 2). *Vivir con autismo en Venezuela: A la sombra de la discriminación*. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://caleidohumano.org/vivir-con-autismo-en-venezuela-a-la-sombra-de-la-discriminacion/>

Cecodap (2022, January 21). Panorama que develan las organizaciones sobre los derechos de los niños en Venezuela. Retrieved May 15, 2024, from <https://cecodap.org/panorama-que-develan-las-organizaciones-sobre-los-derechos-de-los-ninos-en-venezuela/>

CEDAW (2023). CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/9: Observaciones finales sobre el noveno informe periódico de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/es/documents/concluding-observations/cedawcvenco9-concluding-observations-ninth-periodic-report>

CIDH (2022). Informe esclavitud moderna en pueblos y comunidades indígenas del estado Bolívar. Retrieved May 14, 2024, from <https://in5.sync.com/dl/ab9e628a0/pznc9gpt-ks5e7j8s-er4g2phi-sxjhwviu/view/doc/8045392340014>

Civicus (2022). El proyecto de ley de cooperación internacional amenaza con reducir aún más el espacio cívico. Retrieved June 4, 2024, from <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/international-cooperation-bill-threatens-further-reduce-civic-space-venezuela-v3fl/>

Clima 21 (2024, April 29). Venezuela también debe garantizar un entorno seguro para los defensores de los derechos humanos ambientales. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://www.odevida.pares.com.co/post/venezuela-tambi%C3%A9n-debe-garantizar-un-entorno-seguro-para-los-defensores-de-los-derechos-humanos-ambi>

Clima 21 (2023). Informe sobre la situación de las mujeres y el ambiente en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en el marco de la revisión del Noveno Informe Periódico del Estado Venezolano CEDAW/C/VEN/9 ante el Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación contra la Mujer (CEDAW). Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://clima21.net/noticias/informe-sobre-la-situacion-de-las-mujeres-y-el-ambiente-en-la-republica-bolivariana-de-venezuela-en-el-marco-de-la-revision-del-noveno-informe-periodico-del-estado-venezolano-cedaw-c-ven-9-a/>

Clima 21 (2022, April 24). Defensores ambientales ponen sus esperanzas en que Venezuela adopte el Acuerdo de Escazú. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://clima21.net/noticias/defensores-ambientales-ponen-sus-esperanzas-en-que-venezuela-adopte-el-acuerdo-de-escazu/>

Confederación de Sordos de Venezuela (Cosorven) (2023). Informe Anual 2022: Situación de los DDHH de las personas con discapacidad en Venezuela. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://www.civilisac.org/civilis/wp-content/uploads/Informe-Anual-2022-CONSORVEN.pdf>

Convite (2024) VICTIMIZATION REPORT: OLD AGE AT RISK: Violent deaths of older people in venezuela. Retrieved May 15, 2024, from https://issuu.com/conviteac/docs/informe_mvpm_23_ii_eng

Convite (2023). Respuesta Integrada en Comunidades Aisladas. Retrieved May 14, 2024, from https://issuu.com/conviteac/docs/emergencias_data_analysis

Cotejo (2024). Nueve mujeres fueron asesinadas de forma violenta en Venezuela durante el mes de julio. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://cotejo.info/contador-de-mujeres-asesinadas-venezuela/>

Pulitzer Center (2023, August 20). Guerrillas colombianas reclutan jóvenes indígenas en Venezuela. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://pulitzercenter.org/es/stories/guerrillas-colombianas-reclutan-jovenes-indigenas-en-venezuela>

EFE (2024, May 17). Cuatro mujeres trans fueron asesinadas en Venezuela en 2023, según observatorio. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://www.abc.es/sociedad/cuatro-mujeres-trans-asesinadas-venezuela-2023-segun-20240517200014-vi.html>

Efecto Cocuyo (2023). Las mujeres son quienes más padecen la sequía en la Guajira venezolana. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://efectococuyo.com/cambio-climatico/las-mujeres-son-quienes-mas-padecen-la-sequia-en-la-guajira-venezolana/>

Efecto Cocuyo (2022, January 27). La indolencia, el agravante de las enfermedades mentales en Venezuela. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://efectococuyo.com/salud/la-indolencia-el-agravante-de-las-enfermedades-mentales-en-venezuela/>

El Espectador (2024, June 20). Centro Carter enviará una misión de observación para las elecciones en Venezuela. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://www.elespectador.com/mundo/elecciones-venezuela-2024/centro-carter-enviara-una-mision-de-observacion-para-las-elecciones-en-venezuela/>

El País (2024). Solo el 1% de los venezolanos en el exterior puede votar en las elecciones presidenciales. Retrieved July 29, 2024, from <https://elpais.com/america/2024-07-27/solo-el-1-de-los-venezolanos-en-el-exterior-puede-votar-en-las-elecciones-presidenciales.html>

Faldas R (2023). Aborto sin culpa: recorriendo el camino del acompañamiento. Retrieved May 15, 2024, from <https://faldas.red/aborto-sin-culpa-recorriendo-el-camino-del-acompanamiento/>

HelpAge International (2022). Humanitarian response to Venezuelan crisis must stop neglecting the needs of older people. Retrieved June 4, 2024, from <https://www.helpage.org/news/humanitarian-response-to-venezuelan-crisis-must-stop-neglecting-the-needs-of-older-people/>

Human Rights Watch (2023) Informe Mundial 2023 – Venezuela, eventos de 2022. Retrieved May 15, 2024, from <https://www.hrw.org/es/world-report/2023/country-chapters/venezuela>

HumVenezuela (2023). Informe de seguimiento a la emergencia humanitaria compleja en Venezuela. Retrieved May 14, 2024, from <https://humvenezuela.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Informe-de-Seguimiento-de-la-EHC-HumVenezuela-Noviembre-2023-2.pdf>

HumVenezuela (2022). Diagnósticos comunitarios. Retrieved May 14, 2024, from <https://humvenezuela.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/DiagnosticoComunitarioHumVenezuela.pdf>

Infobae (2022). Frustrados por la homofobia del régimen de Maduro, los activistas LGBT+ en Venezuela se vuelcan a la política local. Retrieved July 29, 2024, from <https://www.infobae.com/lgbt/2022/06/14/frustrados-por-la-homofobia-del-regimen-de-maduro-los-activistas-lgbt-en-venezuela-se-vuelcan-a-la-politica-local/>

Kape Kape (2023, September 14). En 2022 fueron asesinados 177 defensores ambientales. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://kape-kape.one/2023/09/14/en-2022-fueron-asesinados-177-defensores-ambientales/>

MAAP (2022). MAAP #169: Minería en la cima del tepuy Yapacana (Parque Nacional Yapacana, Venezuela). Retrieved June 29, 2024, from https://www.maaproject.org/2022/tepui_yapacana_esp/

Mongabay. (2024, September 10). 'Voces silenciadas': 166 defensores ambientales fueron asesinados en Latinoamérica en 2023. Retrieved Oct 14, 2024, from <https://es.mongabay.com/2024/09/voces-silenciadas-defensores-medio-ambiente-asesinados-latinoamerica-2023/>

Observatorio de Venezuela. Universidad del Rosario (2023). Bitácora migratoria (informe N° 21, 2023). Retrieved May 15, 2024, from <https://urosario.edu.co/sites/default/files/2023-07/informe-junio-bitacora-migratoria.pdf>

ODIHPN (2022, April 28). The climate crisis and displacement in Venezuela. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://odihpn.org/publication/the-climate-crisis-and-displacement-in-venezuela/>

ONUSIDA. Venezuela (2022). Retrieved May 15, 2024, from <https://www.unaids.org/es/regionscountries/countries/venezuela>

Oveprisiones (2023). Informe anual 2022: El hambre es sinónimo de muerte en las cárceles venezolanas. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://oveprisiones.com/informes/>

OVV LGBTQ+ (2024). Boletines e informes del Observatorio Venezolano de Violencias LGBTQ+. Retrieved May 14, 2024, from <https://nomasdiscriminacion.org/descarga-boletines-ovv-lgbtig/>

OVV LGBTQ+ (2023). 2do informe – Voces contra el prejuicio, informe sobre violencias y discriminación a personas LGBTQ+ (balance enero – junio de 2023) – Noviembre de 2023. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://nomasdiscriminacion.org/download/2do-informe-voces-contra-el-prejuicio-informe-sobre-violencias-y-discriminacion-a-personas-lgbtig-balance-enero-junio-de-2023-noviembre-de-2023/>

PNUD (2023). Informe sobre desarrollo humano 2023/2024. Retrieved July 29, 2024, from <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-04/hdr2023-24snapshots.pdf>

Provea (2024). Informe Provea 2023: Situación de los Derechos Humanos en Venezuela. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://provea.org/publicaciones/informes-anuales/informe-provea-2023-situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-venezuela/>

Provea (2023). Informe Provea 2022: Situación de los Derechos Humanos en Venezuela. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://provea.org/publicaciones/informes-anuales/informe-anual-situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-venezuela-enero-diciembre-2022/>

Provea (2022). Informe Provea 2021: Situación de los Derechos Humanos en Venezuela. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://provea.org/publicaciones/informes-anuales/informe-anual-situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-venezuela-enero-diciembre-2021/>

R4V (2024). Cifras: Solicitudes de asilo y refugiados. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from <https://www.r4v.info/es/solicitudes-refugiados>

Red de Mujeres Constructoras, IPS (2023). Informe 2023 “Las más jóvenes, las más vulneradas: el impacto de la crisis venezolana en las mujeres entre 18 y 24 años”. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://ipysvenezuela.org/tejiendo-redes/informe/informe-2023-las-mas-jovenes-las-mas-vulneradas-el-impacto-de-la-crisis-venezolana-en-las-mujeres-entre-18-y-24-anos/>

RunRun (2024). Venezolanos con discapacidad migran en búsqueda de atención de salud y calidad de vida. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://runrun.es/noticias/514672/venezolanos-con-discapacidad-migran-en-busqueda-de-atencion-de-salud-y-calidad-de-vida/>

Save the Children (2022, April 19). Violencia contra adolescentes en América Latina y el Caribe. Retrieved May 15, 2024, from <https://reliefweb.int/report/venezuela-bolivarian-republic/violencia-contra-adolescentes-en-am-rica-latina-y-el-caribe>

Swissinfo (2023, March 09). ONG: 80 mujeres desaparecieron en zonas fronterizas de Venezuela en 2022. Retrieved May 14, 2024, from <https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/ong-80-mujeres-desaparecieron-en-zonas-fronterizas-de-venezuela-en-2022/48348138>

UNICEF (2024). Children on the Move including Venezuelans, and other crisis-affected communities. Retrieved May 16, 2024, from [https://www.unicef.org/media/153431/file/LACRO%20Humanitarian%20Situation%20Report%20No.%201%20\(Children%20on%20the%20Move%20including%20Venezuelans,%20and%20Other%20crisis-affected%20communities\)%20reporting%20period%2001%20January%20%E2%80%93%2031%20December%202023.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/153431/file/LACRO%20Humanitarian%20Situation%20Report%20No.%201%20(Children%20on%20the%20Move%20including%20Venezuelans,%20and%20Other%20crisis-affected%20communities)%20reporting%20period%2001%20January%20%E2%80%93%2031%20December%202023.pdf)

Unidad Investigativa de Venezuela (2022). ¿Qué falló en las Zonas de Paz de Venezuela?. Retrieved August 26, 2024, <https://insightcrime.org/es/noticias/zonas-paz-gobierno-venezuela-tiro-culata/>

UN's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2024, October 15). UN international mission reveals gross human rights violations in Venezuela during 2024 electoral period. Retrieved October 24, 2024, from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/un-international-mission-reveals-gross-human-rights-violations-venezuela>

UNHCR. (2024). Situación de los derechos humanos en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. Retrieved Oct 04, 2024, from <https://reliefweb.int/report/venezuela-bolivarian-republic/situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-republica-bolivariana-de-venezuela-informe-del-alto-comisionado-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-los-derechos-humanos-ahrc5663-unofficial-spanish-version>

UNHCHRR. (2023). Report of the independent international fact-finding mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*. Retrieved June 25, 2024, from <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g23/188/34/pdf/g2318834.pdf>

Venezuela Central Bank (2024, September 09). Inflación de agosto continúa registrando mínimos históricos. Retrieved Oct 24, 2024, from [https://www.bcv.org.ve/sites/default/files/documentos de articulos/inflacion de agosto continua registrando minimos historicos 1.pdf](https://www.bcv.org.ve/sites/default/files/documentos%20de%20articulos/inflacion%20de%20agosto%20continua%20registrando%20minimos%20historicos%201.pdf)

Voz de América (2022). “Al crecer, las niñas negras nos sentimos diferentes”: el afrofeminismo en Venezuela. Retrieved June 25, 2024, <https://www.vozdeamerica.com/a/crecer-ninas-negras-sentimos-diferentes-afrofeminismo-venezuela/6504762.html>