

USAID/PERU LESSONS FROM THE EVIDENCE: INTEGRATING MIGRANTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



PHOTO: GESTIÓN

This document presents key learning from USAID/Peru's efforts related to migration. Between 2019 and 2024, USAID/Peru has commissioned various studies across several development sectors and USAID initiatives under its portfolio. This document is a synthesis of evidence gathered from key relevant studies and it should not be considered representative of the entire USAID portfolio in Peru.

✓ **STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS MAY REDUCE THE HEIGHTENED RISKS AND INEQUALITIES THAT VENEZUELAN MIGRANT WOMEN FACE.**

The 2019 USAID/Peru Gender Analysis highlighted gender wage gaps, sexual harassment in the workplace or in street trade, and human trafficking as significant issues Venezuelan migrant women face in Peru, all of which undermine their basic rights to education, health, income, and political participation. Venezuelan migrant women are more vulnerable than men because they need to survive and meet their own needs in Peru, as well as their families' needs in Venezuela. Vulnerable groups, including migrant women, require comprehensive policies aimed at guaranteeing their fundamental rights.

✓ **IT IS IMPORTANT TO BRING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE TO THE ISSUE OF VENEZUELAN MIGRATION TO UNDERSTAND HOW DEEPLY-ROOTED INEQUALITIES ARE INGRAINED IN PERUVIAN SOCIETY.** According to the 2022 USAID/Peru Gender Analysis of the Venezuelan Migrant Population report, Venezuelan migrants are conditioned to live day by day the inequalities that gender disparities and inherent power relations confer on them. Being a migrant woman worsens their situation due to poverty, limited access to employment, and sexual harassment. For example, Venezuelan female migrants face barriers to employment given that they often are directly supporting other vulnerable populations such as children, the sick, and the elderly - this means that they often take self-employment roles to support their families who remained in Venezuela. Despite being qualified, employers prefer to hire women at a lower wage than what is established by law, and lower than what men receive. Migrant women are often hired on verbal contracts, and they are especially at risk of sexual advances in part because they are perceived differently by men who subscribe to a dominant macho culture.

✓ **USAID/PERU PARTNERS' WORK TO REVALIDATE MIGRANTS' COLLEGE DEGREES WAS NOT ONLY INDISPENSABLE TO IMPROVING THEIR LIVELIHOODS BUT ALSO SURFACED SKILL SETS WHICH ARE VALUABLE TO PERU'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** Venezuelan migrants face obstacles in finding employment due to factors such as unfamiliarity with local cultural norms, lack of knowledge about local job regulations, employer unfamiliarity with hiring foreign workers, and potential biases. The USAID/Peru-supported Economic Integration Program (EIP) helps overcome these obstacles by providing support to managing professional title recognition and, in some cases, professional registration. An evaluation of the EIP revealed that participating Venezuelan and Ecuadorian migrants who successfully revalidated their professional titles had significantly higher employment rates, higher proportions of employment related to their professions, more contractual employment, and higher incomes compared to those who did not.

“ I had been living in the country for three years without having my university degree recognized or validated by the system despite going to [Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation] four times – there was always some sort of challenge, that it could not be done, that I was missing a document...I asked for assistance and it was not easy, there was no reception or assistance at that time. Later when I received information from [the Activity] I filled out the form, they called me, and they asked me to send all the documents I had. I had an interview ... and [EIP] handled all the process. In 15 days, I received a document stating that my degree had been registered. I felt such joy, I called everyone, they asked me – how did you do it? And I said “I did not do it, it was thanks to this organization that helped me”. I still cannot believe it. Thanks to that, a lot of doors opened, and I can now formally show that I am a graduate and recognized professional in the country.” - Woman, Ecuador - Mid-Term Evaluation of the Economic Inclusion Project.

“ I am a financial engineer. So I had already had two previous jobs in two different opportunities, two different institutions, but not in something related to my career. And it was after this opportunity, with this project, that I managed to get a position in a financial institution, and I am currently working there. [I had] applied to this institution twice before, but independently, that is, on my own. [But the third time, I applied through ConQuito. [...]] So, yes, there is a direct link”. - Woman, Ecuador - Mid-Term Evaluation of the Economic Integration Project.

✓ **ADDRESSING FINANCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH REGULATORY AND MIGRATION INSTITUTIONS LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLS, POLICIES, AND PROCESSES TO REDUCE FINANCIAL ENTRY, SUPPLY, AND DEMAND BARRIERS FOR MIGRANTS.** Under EIP, barriers that prevented migrants from accessing the financial system, such as different identification documents, lack of information, high cost of systems adaptation, and credit history were reduced in part due to the collaboration among partners such as the Central Bank of Ecuador and the Superintendency of the Sector of Cooperatives in Ecuador, as well as the Superintendence of Banking and Insurance, the National Immigration Superintendency, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Peru. These parties led the revision of policies, norms, and technical assistance to facilitate financial inclusion of migrants. For example, USAID/Peru, through EIP, supported the Superintendency of Banking and Insurance, the Superintendency of Migrations, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commission of Refugees in drafting a Financial Inclusion Guide that identified the lack of statistical information about migrants and refugees, the recognition of several identification documents, and best practices on inclusion of financial services for migrants as fundamental to create the right framework necessary to support the migrant population in the financial system. This work served to complement other integration efforts being made regarding social inclusion, access to basic services, health, and education for migrants.

THE EVIDENCE

- Gender Analysis – Informing the 2020-2025 Peru CDCS, 2019
- Gender Analysis - Vulnerable Populations & Access to Public Services in Selected Areas, 2023
- Gender Analysis of Venezuelan Migrants, 2022
- Whole of Project Evaluation of Amazonia Verde Project, 2024

This document was produced by request of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by EnCompass LLC for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Sustainability (MELS) (Contract No. 72052719D00001). The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of USAID or the United States Government.