



The Challenge

In 2015, nearly 700,000 Venezuelans had fled the country as currency inflated and the repressive government began to crack down on its citizens. As of July 2019, four million people—13 percent of Venezuela’s total population—had left with no end in sight.

Many of these migrants must travel on foot 1,000 miles or more, most with little more than the clothes on their back, but all escaping the hunger, fear, and violence of a country teetering on the brink of complete political collapse. Some still have their smartphones but no way of connecting to a network to get information. Fortunately, a contingent of NGO relief organizations is on hand to help. Most of these are NetHope members and the connectivity NetHope provides is important to creating the communications networks these organizations require to pinpoint areas of most need and coordinate relief and connectivity for migrants.



The Response

At NetHope, we recognize that connectivity is a lifeline for migrants and a power line for responding nonprofits, allowing them to:

1. **Connect with Family and Friends**—This not only allows migrants to know of each other’s status, it provides a sense of familiarity that is otherwise missing from their lives.
2. **Access Information as Aid**—This provides migrants with information to locate vital supplies and support, and to ensure their safety. .
3. **Help nonprofits Help Migrants** – Education, Health, Protection. Connectivity enables organizations, including the more than 30 NetHope NGO members, to connect and organize relief efforts, protect health and well-being, and educate migrants on safe and accepting locations on the next steps of their journey.

NetHope empowers committed organizations to change the world through the power of technology. NetHope, a consortium of nearly 60 leading global nonprofits, unites with technology companies and funding partners to design, fund, implement, adapt, and scale innovative approaches to solve development, humanitarian, and conservation challenges. Together, the NetHope community strives to transform the world, building a platform of hope for those who receive aid and those who deliver it.

This trio of services help alleviate some of the uncertainty faced by migrants as they move along established migration routes. Perhaps even more, access to a modicum of normal activities—like speaking with family and friends, or even a bit of online entertainment—helps create a small sense of normalcy during an unsure time.

Venezuelan Migrant Response

NETHOPE



The Need

NetHope began deploying connectivity teams in December 2018, initially setting up sites at La Guajira, Bogotá, and Cúcuta, Colombia, where many of these migrants have gathered. Since then, several teams have deployed, setting up connectivity in more than 80 sites along the migration route for NetHope member organizations and other local NGOs performing humanitarian response, and for the migrants themselves. These sites include clinics, hospitals, registration centers, NGO field offices, and others where service is necessary. Through June 2019, more than 110,000 unique devices connected to these networks which NetHope estimates have benefitted 300,000 to 400,000 migrants.



The need for more sites continues as estimates of migrants leaving Venezuela—up to 5,000 each day—continues to swell; as populations move deeper into Colombia and other countries, the need for networks to connect relief organizations and migrants grows. NetHope is expanding, setting up additional networks as these displaced populations move deeper into other neighboring countries including Brazil and Peru.

Our consortium of nonprofit members are poised for the demands necessary to help those displaced from their homeland. But the resources to do so is sorely needed.

How You Can Be Involved

Please consider joining our efforts to alleviate the greatest migrant crisis ever witnessed in the Americas. We have the power of technology to guide us; now we must deliver on its promise. As a member, you will receive benefits that scale the impacts of your aid to more people, more effectively. As a partner, you will see the impact of your financial, technical, or volunteer for your company through philanthropic engagement. [Contact us](#) to see you how can become involved in our vital work.

Participating Members



Participating Partners



www.nethope.org