Echoes of Crisis in Peru:
Venezuelan Migration and Vulnerability

Background

Venezuela is facing one of the largest humanitarian crises ever faced in the Western Hemisphere. With thirteen percent of the country’s population having fled to neighboring countries. Traditionally the recipient of refugees from neighboring countries, Venezuelans find themselves in a reverse role, fleeing to countries that traditionally have been sources of migration to Venezuela in the past. With over 4 million Venezuelan migrants being absorbed into neighboring countries, and many more expected to follow, the Venezuelan Crisis is on a similar level as the refugee crisis facing Syria. The Venezuelan Crisis has converted itself into a regional crisis, as countries who are not equipped to shelter such a quantity of refugees face the growing social, political and financial cost of providing refuge to such a quantity of migrants. Over time this has caused a surge of xenophobia and resentment towards those of the Venezuelan diaspora.

Peru is the second largest recipient of Venezuelan Migrants after Colombia. I would like to evaluate and assess the national capacity and risks that face Peru, as the country continues to take in more migrants. It is estimated that close to 1 million Venezuelans have illegally entered into Peru. By conducting a vulnerability analysis of Peru on a departmental level, we can overlay where Venezuelans have been relocating within Peru, to have a greater understanding which departments are experiencing the greatest amount of strain, allowing to target specific departments of interest.

Findings

According to the vulnerability analysis the most vulnerable departments due to socioeconomic and infrastructure conditions are largely located in the Northern, Central and Southern Andean Regions as well as the interior. Departments with high vulnerability do not actually constitute the departments to which Venezuelans have migrated.

After arrogating all the indicators in the main map, the hypothesis proposed above has been proven true, that there is a negative correlation between departmental vulnerability and Venezuelan presence. Ideally, this analysis could provide insight into strain on departmental resources, social services and infrastructure, potentially providing insight into which departments would be ideal for long term settlement of Venezuelan migrants.

Limitations

There was very limited access to data concerning Venezuelan migration on a departmental level, due to the politicization of the phenomenon in Peru. As a result, the analysis of Venezuelan migrants has been limited to studying migrant destinations at the departmental level. The amount of data available also inhibited the possibility of carrying out a vulnerability analysis of the Venezuelan population by department.

Within the data, there were also inconsistencies with Venezuelan economic activity, contradicting data indicating where Venezuelans are residing. Although this data was collected in 2018 and 2019, continued migration this data is not a completely accurate representation of Venezuelans in Peru. Due to the current system in place by Migrations, it is difficult to track and document Venezuelans entering into the country. Lastly when conducting the analysis, all variables were weighted equally, future analysis should include weighted variables in order to provide a more accurate representation of the situation in Peru.