THE VENEZUELAN EXODUS:
UNDERSTANDING THE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

Intro

By 1970 Venezuela used to be the richest country in Latin America and one of the most prosperous in the world. The economic boom built on oil resources for years guaranteed revenues. When Hugo Chávez came into power, the revolution of the 21'st century socialism began and continued under Nicolás Maduro when the situation started to deteriorate.

Push factors

Unlike other displacement crises, the Venezuelan is not the result of war or internal conflict. What makes people leave are:

- **economic downfall** — hyperinflation, lack of basic products, widespread poverty,

- **social disorders** — collapse of the healthcare and education system, violence and crime,

- **political instability** — turn to authoritarian rule, civil repressions and political persecution.

Scale of the crisis

As of 2015 Venezuela had a **population** of **30 million**.

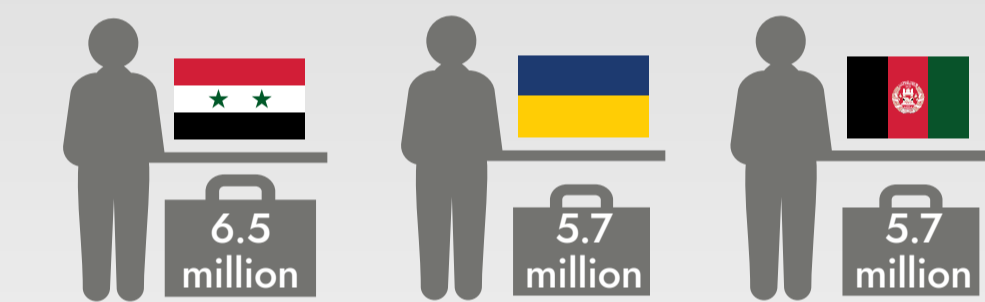Over **7.7 million** Venezuelans **left the country** since 2015.

Out of 7.7 mln over **1 million** Venezuelans are **asylum-seekers worldwide**.

Out of 7.7 mln over **6.5 million** Venezuelans are **hosted** in LAC.

Colombia 2.8 mln	Peru 1.5 mln	Brazil 510K	USA 545K	Spain 477K

What it all means

- one of the largest displacement crises in modern history,

- the largest ever recorded migration and refugee crisis in Latin America,

- exceeds the number of displaced.*As of June'23

6.5 million | 5.7 million | 5.7 million

Despite the above, the Venezuelan crisis makes just few headlines in the media and is rarely discussed outside of Latin America.

"Center for Advanced Studies of Population and Religion (CASPAR) at Krakow's University of Economics conducts a research project, Migration Crisis in Latin America — coping and adaptation strategies of Venezuelan migrants and their families and the risk of global migration crisis' (MICLACAS) aiming at better understanding of this one of the biggest migration crises in the modern world. The project is funded by National Science Centre, Poland [UMO-2021/41/B/HS4/01680]."

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