Housing Venezuelan Migrants in Latin American Host Country Cities: Reccomendations for a Hybrid Policy Model

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CONTEXT

Migrant Crisis

- Political, socio-economic instability driving largest current external displacement in the world
- **5,642,960** migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers reported by host governments. Estimated to rise to 7 million by end of this year. (R4V, 2021)

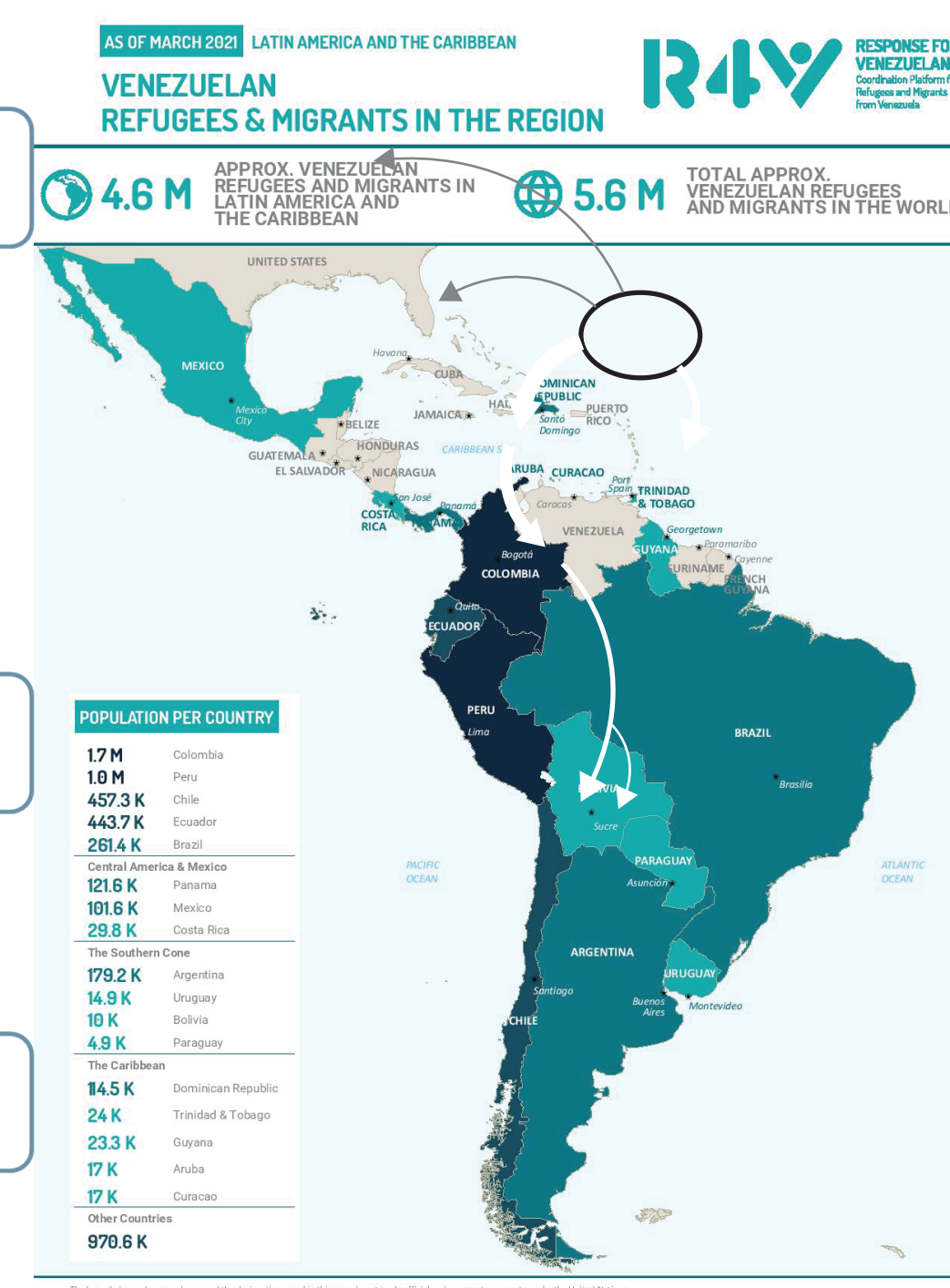**Housing Crisis** (Statistics from *Regional Survey - R4V, 2021*)

- **Insecurity of tenure** driven by lack of income to pay rent: 77% of migrants rely on own resources to pay for housing; only 10% on government assistance
- 74% of migrants rent with informal contracts, also associated with high rates of **evictions**
- Most housing is **overcrowded:** >3 per room, 5+ per residence

Crisis Response

- **Minimal local government or law enforcement mediation** in eviction cases, regulatory oversight, or housing assistance
- **Regional consensus** but lacking funding; varied local responses

Adequate Housing

- **Features:** affordability, security of tenure, habitability, service availability, anti-discriminatory, cultural adequacy (UN, 2016; Cartanega Declaration, 1984)

LITERATURE

Approach

- Thematic, mainly time-agnostic examination of crisis response and resettlement policy approaches to housing forced migrants

Themes

- **Defining and measuring** adequate housing: Lack of metrics and data collection for measuring housing program quality; longer-term housing program research concentrated on politically liberal, high-income countries
- **Disconnect** between disaster relief and regional development (led by iNGOs and aid organizations) and resettlement initiatives (led by host country governments)
- **Tensions:** shorter vs. longer-term housing; parallel vs. integrated services (public vs. private market); internationally, nationally, vs. locally led effort; migrants vs. host communities (Hall, 2013; McConnachie, 2016; Vale, 2014; Ziersch, 2018)

METHODS: Case Study Analysis

Phase 1 – Data collection (Units of analysis : Efficacy - measured improvements; Feasibility - costs, scalability, replicability)

- **Jordan:**
  - Similar income level to the primary host countries for Venezuelan forced migrants & second most refugees per capita, at 10% of population (NRC, 2014)
  - Extensive data available on impact of emergency housing projects & academic studies on the short-term effects of this migration. (Culbertson, 2016)
  - Significant affect of migration on local housing market prices & tensions with local population (Rozo, 2021; Alhawarin, 2018)
- **Germany:**
  - Holds most refugees of any European country, at 1.5% of population.
  - Growing number of these refugees live in private accommodation; rose from 54% in 2016 to 75% in 2018 (Wolff, 2020)
  - Useful insight on local implementation at municipal level when housing stock is in shorter supply. (Glorius, 2020)
- **Canada:**
  - Lower number of refugees into their country (~35,000/year), **permanent residence** status on arrival
  - Challenges expanding affordable and large-family housing stock - **Spatial mismatch** between services and housing (Rose, 2019)
  - **Shared responsibility:** Valuable example of multi-stakeholder coordination at local level (UNECE, 2021)
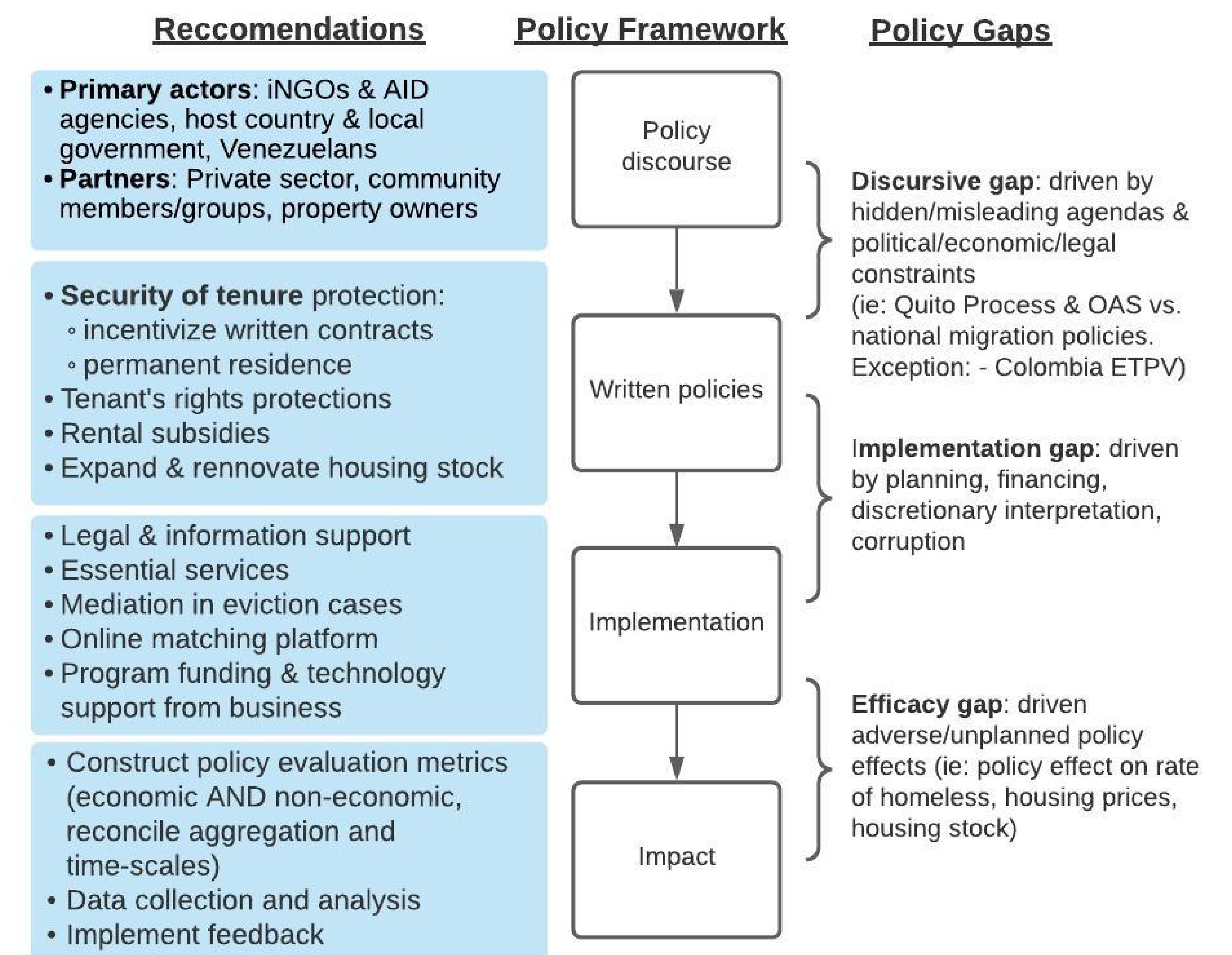 - Creative market-based solutions (Yun, 2020)

Phase 2 – Semi-structured expert interviews*

- Latin American housing policy experts
- **Focus:** feedback on policy model and regional applications
- * To be conducted remotely over the summer

CASE STUDY

Housing Solution	Germany	Jordan	Canada	Midterm (>5 year)	Long-term (>5-10 years)
Rental subsidies (to migrants)	X	X	X	X	
Rental subsidies (to landlords)		X		X	
Rennovation/reconstruction		X		X	
Legal and informational intervention	X	X	X	X	
Modular/Prefab housing	X	X		X	X
Refugee Camps	X	X		*	
Digital matching platform		X	X	X	X

POLICY FRAMEWORK: Reccomendations

Reccomendations	**Policy Framework**	**Policy Gaps**
• **Primary actors:** iNGOs & AID agencies, host country & local government, Venezuelans • **Partners:** Private sector, community members/groups, property owners	Policy discourse	**Discursive gap:** driven by hidden/misleading agendas & political/economic/legal constraints (ie: Quito Process & OAS vs. national migration policies. Exception: - Colombia ETPV)
• **Security of tenure** protection: ◦ incentivize written contracts ◦ permanent residence • Tenant's rights protections • Rental subsidies • Expand & rennovate housing stock	Written policies	**Implementation gap:** driven by planning, financing, discretionary interpretation, corruption
• Legal & information support • Essential services • Mediation in eviction cases • Online matching platform • Program funding & technology support from business	Implementation	**Efficacy gap:** driven adverse/unplanned policy effects (ie: policy effect on rate of homeless, housing prices, housing stock)
• Construct policy evaluation metrics (economic AND non-economic, reconcile aggregation and time-scales) • Data collection and analysis • Implement feedback	Impact	

Adapted from: *Conceptual framework of migration policy effects and effectiveness (Czaika, Mathias, and Hein De Haas, 2013)*

Next Steps

Conduct and transcribe interviews | Write policy memo | Present and share policy framework | Replicate and expand research design for senior thesis project

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