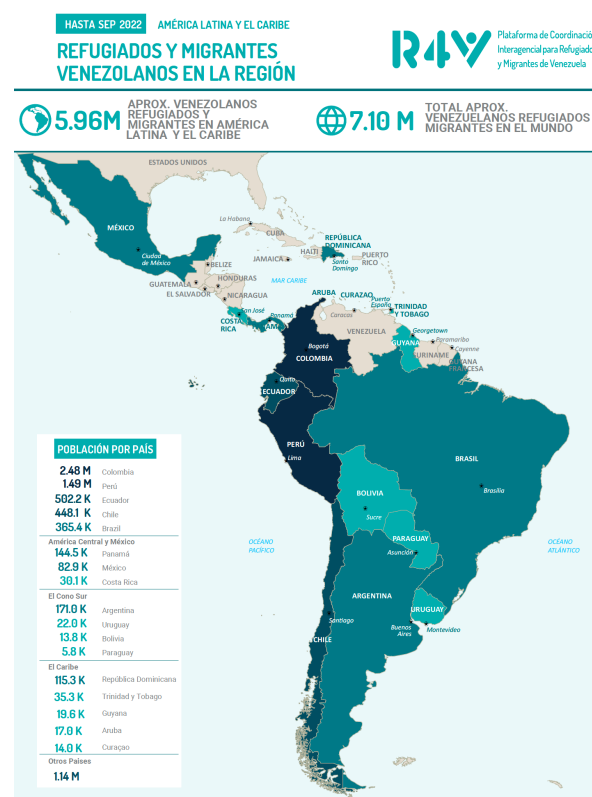


The Venezuelan
humanitarian crisis
of migrants
displaced and
refugees
What's in a name?

José Ignacio Hernandez
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School
2022



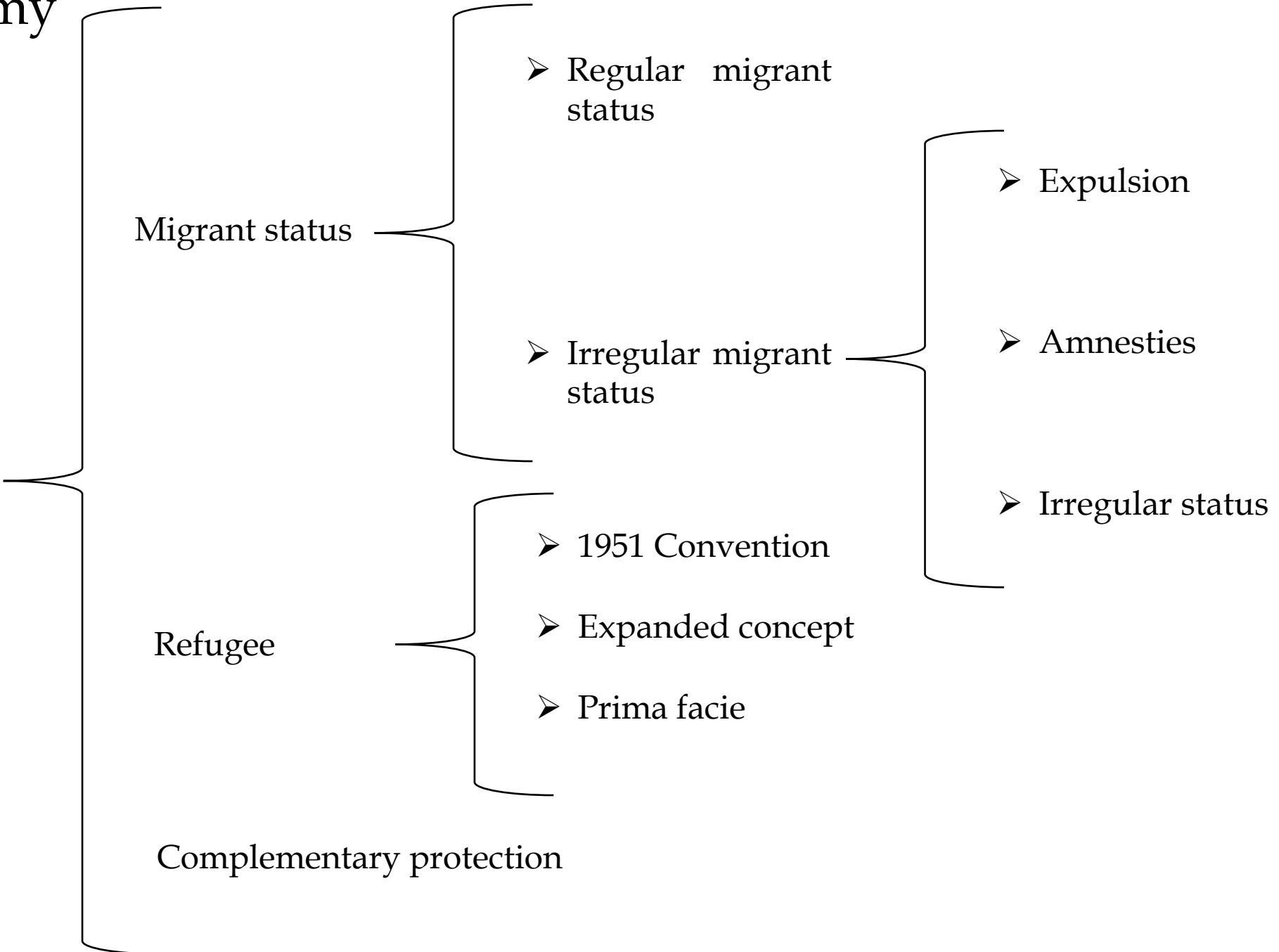
- 7.1 million Venezuelans are living abroad
- How many of them are refugees? Migrants? Asylum seekers? Displaced? Mixed flows?
- It's not only a name: the regular status and hence, the individual capabilities, depend on the applicable framework
- A collective action problem in the global space: there are no regional standards (Quito Process)



Source: UNHCR, 2022

A legal taxonomy

As a principle, all Venezuelan abroad are migrants



Migrant status

➤ Regular migrant status

➤ Irregular migrant status

➤ Expulsion

➤ Amnesties

➤ Irregular status

Refugee

➤ 1951 Convention

➤ Expanded concept

➤ Prima facie

Complementary protection

Some consequence of the confusion in legal categories

- Ordinary migration status and irregular migrants (not illegal migrants!)
- Expulsion measures (and the violation of the non-refoulment)
- An incomplete narrative (insufficient international support)
- An evidence problem (how to demonstrate, in a court of law, the refugee status?)
- Weak legal status (and legal constraints to socio-economic integration)

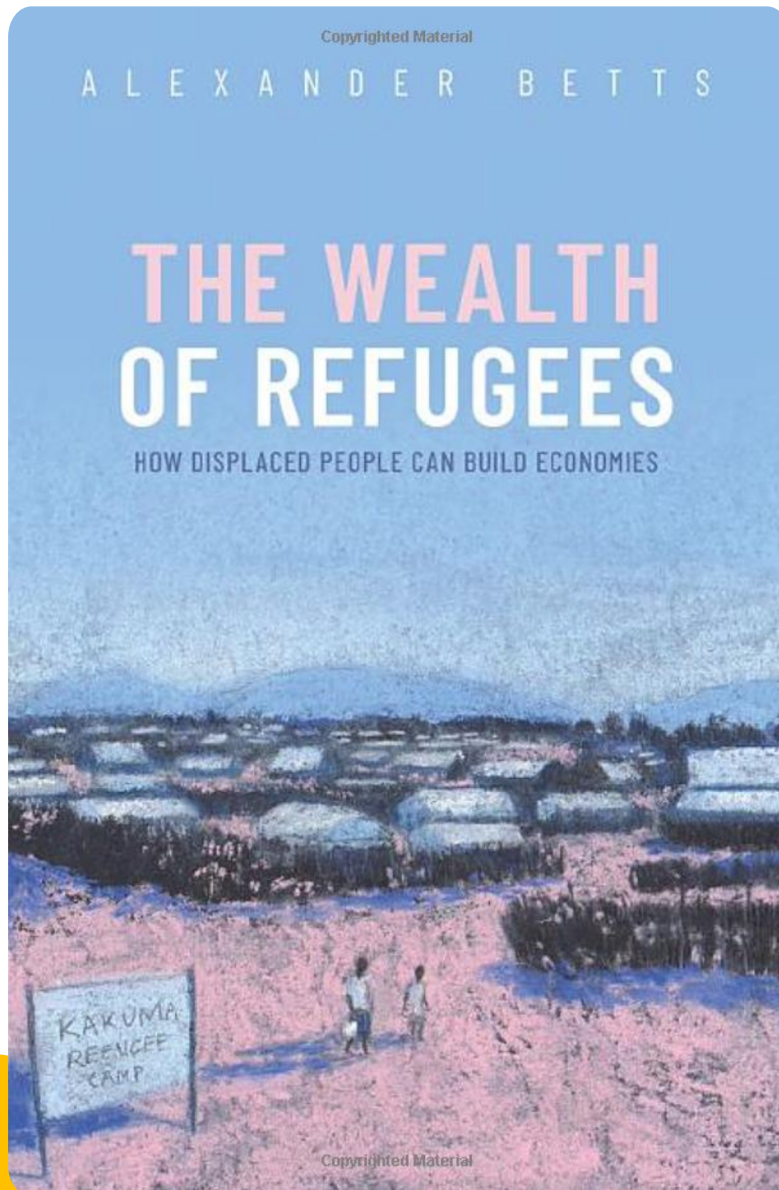
OPINION

Four ideas to ease the Venezuelan migrant crisis

There are 6.8 million Venezuelans abroad, equivalent to 20 percent of the Venezuelan population. It is unfair to describe that crisis as 'illegal migration.'

By José Ignacio Hernández G. Updated September 19, 2022, 12:36 p.m.





Regular status

Stable rights and individual capabilities

Integration and know-how diffusion

Favorable conditions to economic growth



Following the Los Angeles Declaration, it is necessary to tackle the root causes of the Venezuelan crisis: the complex humanitarian emergency (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Resolution N° 2/18)



Some lessons from the Venezuelan crisis:

- The insufficiency of the traditional frameworks based on the duality of migrants/refugees (and the refugee's constraints)
- Humanitarian crises are seen as a burden, not as an opportunity
- Crises trigger uncertainty, and uncertainty increases a "securitization" approach: closing borders (irregular flows!)
- Towards Inter-American standards on human mobility, fostering the socio-economic integrations (the "sense of us")
 - ✓ Labor permits and decent work
 - ✓ Professional accreditation
 - ✓ Gender perspective



Migration Policy Regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean

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