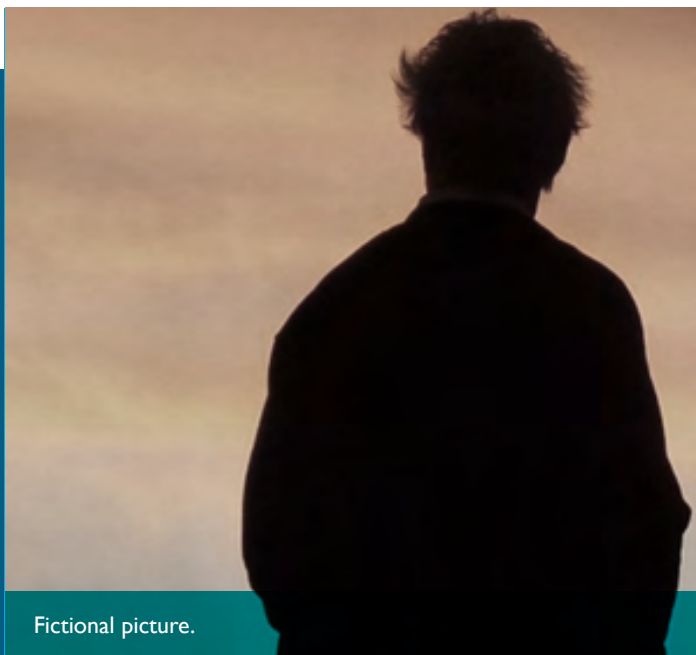


## 4.3 VOICES ON THE ROAD: THREE JOURNEYS

The following section contains three stories from different people on the move, as a means of grounding these considerations in a more experiential context.

### LOOKING FOR HOPE

This adult man's testimony was adapted from an individual interview held in Bogotá, Colombia.



Fictional picture.

'Based on my experience, I think humanitarian aid organizations should inform migrants more about their presence on the route, as well as help migrants who are settling. I don't want aid for a long time; I just need help when I settle. Once I settle, I will be good.'

Carlos, Venezuelan caminante  
(fictional name).

During my journey on foot from Venezuela to Colombia, I received shelter in Pamplona, where I arrived without any resources and without knowing where I would stay or how I would even start my life in this new country. But there I was.

My final destination was Bogotá because I heard from other people on the journey that I could find more opportunities to work and survive there. I went through the Santander route because a few contacts said that it was the best route. However, I didn't have any information about the risks on the route, so I tried to walk during the day and reach a shelter at night.

My strong desire is to find a job so I can find a place to stay and send back money to my wife and child, who are still in Venezuela, but it has not been easy. Thus, I have asked for help and thankfully I received it through a SOA card (cash assistance). This card allowed me to pay for a ticket to Caramanga. I also used the money to eat, take a shower, and gifted some lunches to kids and families because I felt I had to share this blessing with other people in need.

I had been walking 30 km every day, so I felt very weak. One day, I found an ICRC outpost in a city and managed to get some cures for my feet. I think health aid is the most important thing; there should be “health outposts” through the routes.

I saw many people getting robbed. Thus, the best aid disbursement is through a prepaid card since it’s the safest way. When I worked briefly in Cucuta, on the border with Venezuela, I hid my money and tried to spend it wisely. I am thinking about opening a bank account where I can withdraw cash, but also save for important things. I would love to have a digital wallet because it would make everything quite easy. I still don’t have a smartphone, though.

Based on my experience, I think humanitarian aid organizations should inform migrants more about their presence on the route, as well as help migrants who are settling. I don’t want aid for a long time; I just need help when I settle. Once I settle, I will be good.