

Venezuela Situation

As of April 2019

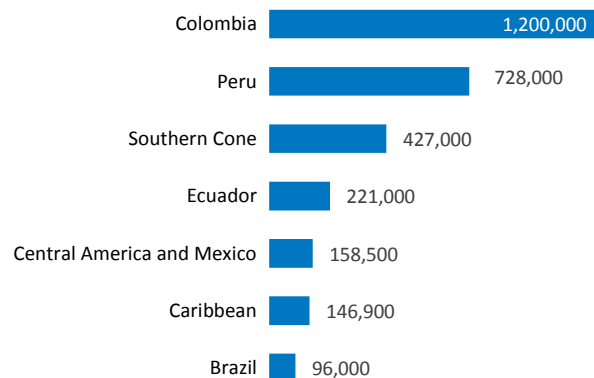
Over **3.7 million** refugees and migrants from Venezuela are living abroad, **more than 3 million** of whom have left Venezuela to other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Between 2014 and 2018, some **414,570 asylum claims** have been lodged **by Venezuelans**, over 255,448 in 2018 alone. While refugee procedures are overwhelmed, **7,171** were recognized as refugees thus far.

With the support of receiving States and host communities, UNHCR continues to improve **reception conditions**, advocate for **legal stay**, identify **protection risks** and ensure **access to basic services**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



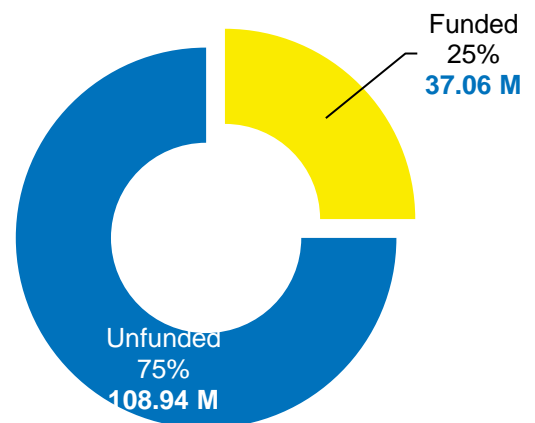
* Source: Regional Inter-agency Coordination Platform, March 2019

** Caribbean sub-region includes data from: Aruba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago; Southern Cone: Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay; Central America and Mexico: Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama.

FUNDING (AS OF 16 APRIL 2019)

US\$ 146.0 M

requested for the Venezuela situation



Overview

Growing numbers of people continue to leave Venezuela for different reasons, including insecurity and violence, persecution and threats, food and medicine shortages, lack of access to social services, as well as loss of income.

Most governments in the region have shown commendable solidarity towards refugees and migrants from Venezuela, giving them access to territory, protection and assistance. However, host communities have become increasingly strained.

The **Quito Declaration and Plan of Action** mark a significant step forward harmonizing policies and practices, scaling up and coordinating the humanitarian response and improving access and enjoyment of rights to refugees and migrants.

While some Venezuelans have obtained documentation which allows them to stay legally, the majority have no regular status, and are therefore more vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, violence, trafficking and discrimination.



Cúcuta, border of Colombia with Venezuela. A family waits along the road before starting to walk to their next destination after fleeing Venezuela.
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UNHCR Response and Strategy

UNHCR has joined efforts with over 90 partners to establish a Regional Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants (RMRP), which serves as a strategic and operational blueprint, a coordination template, and a funding mechanism. The ultimate goal is the provision of protection and assistance to Venezuelans in need, irrespective of status.

Main Activities

In close collaboration with host governments, partner organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations and UN Agencies (in particular IOM), UNHCR undertakes the following activities:



Safe and dignified reception conditions and advocacy for legal stay

UNHCR has stepped up its presence in border areas across the region to improve reception conditions and respond to the basic needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, provide legal aid and counselling on access to refugee status and alternative forms of stay; and give technical assistance to relevant authorities to develop an effective coordination and prepare local response plans. New offices have opened in **Peru** and the **Caribbean** to respond to the increasing flow of Venezuelans.



Support government registration, profiling and protection monitoring

The total number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela registered by UNHCR in ProGres is 80,060, the vast majority in **Brazil** where UNHCR supports the Government screening centre at the border (Pacaraima) by carrying out biometric registration. UNHCR is also supporting the Governments of **Trinidad and Tobago**, **Curacao**, **Aruba**, **Ecuador**, **Guyana** and **Peru** in developing registration. In parallel, UNHCR is implementing protection monitoring exercises to better understand the needs and risks faced by Venezuelans and to provide a more tailored response. Over 11,000 people have been interviewed across the region.



Providing emergency/temporary shelter

In **Brazil**, UNHCR is supporting the Brazilian Government with site planning and provision of safe shelter to Venezuelans arriving in border cities. So far, 13 temporary shelters have been opened hosting over 6,000 Venezuelans. Tents, relief items and drinking fountains have been provided. In Maicao, **Colombia**, a reception centre opened in March, set up at the request of national and local authorities, with an initial capacity to host 350 individuals. The centre provides temporary access to shelter, food, water and basic medical care to vulnerable Venezuelans. Emergency shelters in **Costa Rica**, **Peru** and **Ecuador** have also received significant support.



Direct humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs

UNHCR has distributed drinking water, hygiene and dignity kits, blankets and snacks to refugees and migrants at the main border points, as well as cash-based assistance to vulnerable Venezuelans in **Mexico**, **Brazil**, **Ecuador**, **Peru** and **Colombia**. In terms of health, UNHCR has established referral pathways with hospitals in Lima, Peru and built a primary health centre in Cucuta, Colombia. As a strategy for socioeconomic integration, UNHCR has supported the voluntary relocation of Venezuelans from border areas in **Brazil** to other cities with wider employment opportunities and services. Since April 2018, when this initiative started, over 5,000 Venezuelans have been relocated. UNHCR also supports language classes and skills trainings.



Protection interventions in main hosting areas

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and trafficking are on the increase and are one of the top protection concerns for Venezuelans fleeing their country. UNHCR is establishing the **Regional Safe Spaces Network** inside Venezuela as well as in transit and destination countries, which offers short-term shelter, safety, specialized services and humanitarian assistance. UNHCR has also installed **child-friendly spaces** and spaces for lactating mothers at border crossing points and is advocating with host Governments to facilitate access to **education** for Venezuelan children. UNHCR has established networks of **outreach volunteers** in Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago to improve our linkage with the communities and ensure two-way communication and accountability, while **working with different population groups**, including women, children, elderly persons, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous and LGBTI groups. In addition, UNHCR is coordinating with partners the establishment of a regional **Support Spaces** initiative to ensure refugees and migrants receive updated and reliable information and a minimum package of services in key locations across the region.



Campaigns against xenophobia

In an effort to curb growing xenophobia against Venezuelans and promote solidarity with them, UNHCR in collaboration with several partners has launched a number of campaigns. In 2018, **Panama** launched the “**Somos lo Mismo**” campaign, **Peru** launched “**Tu Causa Es Mi Causa**”, **Brazil** started the “**Histórias en Movimento**” initiative, **Costa Rica** launched the “**Países Hermanos**” campaign and UNHCR **Colombia** celebrated the first anniversary of “**Somos Panas Colombia**”. In 2019, **Ecuador** launched the “**Abrazos que unen**” campaign. A regional anti-xenophobia campaign will be launched in 2019.



Working with partners

The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform and the national coordination platforms, co-led by UNHCR and IOM at regional and national levels, work very closely with the UN Sustainable Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNSDG LAC), the Resident Coordinators and the UN Country Teams. Currently, the Regional Platform has 40 participants, including 17 UN agencies, 14 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), five donors and two international financial institutions, as well as the Red Cross Movement.

For more information: Olga Sarrado Mur, Communication and Public Information Officer, sarrado@unhcr.org, Cell +507 6640 0185
For more information visit: [Venezuela Data Portal](#)