

Peru

November 2018

More than **560,000** Venezuelans have arrived in Peru. The vast majority are entering by land through the Ecuadorian border. Over **156,000** have applied for **refugee status**.

While the Peruvian government has been **generous**, the increased arrivals require additional measures. Host **communities with already limited resources** and infrastructure are in need of **additional support**.

UNHCR has set up a permanent presence in Peru with offices in **Lima, Tumbes and Tacna**, to complement and strengthen government's efforts.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Peru has become the main **host country** for Venezuelans seeking refugee status, and the second country of arrival of Venezuelan people worldwide, after Colombia.
- In the first weeks of November, **1,250** Venezuelans have been entering daily into Peru. On 31 October over **6,000** people entered as they rushed to meet the entry deadline for the Temporary Stay Permit (PTP for its Spanish acronym).
- 119,385** Venezuelans have been granted the PTP. (October 2018)
- In 2018 the Government's Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) has been receiving a monthly average of **12,500** asylum requests.
- Venezuelans entering the country often do so with little to no resources and in **vulnerable conditions**, having travelled for days or even months through Colombia and Ecuador. Many are in need of food, water, medicine,



UNHCR works in close collaboration with the government, other UN Agencies, partner organisations, religious entities and civil society to provide a response to the plight of Venezuelans.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

7 international and **19** national staff;
26 in Lima, **four** in Tumbes and **two** in Tacna.



UNHCR and IOM are co-leading the Refugees and Migrants Working Group (GTRM)



UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance to vulnerable cases



UNHCR supports community structures to provide temporary shelter



UNHCR and IOM are co-leading #TuCausaEsMiCausa, a solidarity campaign to promote social inclusion



UNHCR is a member of the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) and works to strengthen the asylum system



UNHCR carries out data collection activities to support an informed response

Sources: Migration Peru and Special Commission for Refugees

Working with Partners

- **UNHCR is a member of the United Nations (UN) Country Team.** Together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR co-leads the **Working Group for Refugees and Migrants** (GTRM for its Spanish acronym), which is the coordination platform for the response to the growing number of Venezuelans arriving to Peru.
- **UNHCR provides technical and financial assistance support to the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR).** This entity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is tasked with receiving, assessing, processing and resolving refugee status requests. UNHCR has also provided and deployed a new registration system that will accelerate processes and facilitate the access of asylum-seekers to documentation.

Main Activities

Protection

- **UNHCR identifies the specific needs and vulnerabilities of refugees and asylum-seekers through participatory assessments and protection monitoring exercises.** Between April and August 2018, over 2,000 interviews were conducted in Tumbes, the northern region, and Lima.
- **UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and the National Institute of Statistics (INEI) will undertake a joint profiling exercise for the Venezuelan population in Peru** to identify their location, migratory status and protection needs, including health and education.
- **UNHCR and IOM are co-leading the #TuCausaEsMiCausa campaign to promote social inclusion and prevent xenophobia.** The campaign has a strong social media component, and a community based approach.
- **UNHCR works to prevent and respond to situations of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV),** with a focus on youth, children and LGBTI. A Regional Safe Spaces Network has been established with other organizations in the country to support victims of SGBV.
- **UNHCR works with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations and with UNICEF to strengthen Peru's protection response for unaccompanied and separated children,** as well as other vulnerable groups to meet their specific needs and mitigate the risks they encounter.
- **UNHCR is promoting access to the public health system for refugees and asylum-seekers.** As Venezuelans do not have access to the social welfare system, UNHCR is increasing advocacy efforts. So far, it has worked with 12 hospitals in Lima so that Venezuelans can have their health care fees waived based on their vulnerability. UNHCR together with UNAIDS and PROSA, a specialized NGO, is working to improve access to health-care for refugees and asylum-seekers with HIV.

Humanitarian Assistance

- **UNHCR and partners are providing humanitarian assistance to Venezuelans at the Binational Border Centre in Tumbes.** UNHCR and partners are providing legal orientation, baby and hygiene kits, as well as drinking water and health assistance to support people arriving in Peru. In addition, UNHCR and Encuentros-SJS are also providing humanitarian assistance in Lima and Tacna.
- **UNHCR is working with national and local authorities on contingency preparedness** and protection-based response plans, in preparation to different influx scenarios.

Community empowerment & self-reliance

- **As part of finding long term solutions for Venezuelans and based on the intent of many to stay in Peru,** UNHCR is strengthening its local integration strategy in the country.
- **UNHCR is supporting existing community shelter structures** and providing cash-based intervention so that vulnerable families have access to safe housing.
- **UNHCR is advocating for Venezuelans to access vocational training** and alternative education programmes in Peru, regardless of their legal status.

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