

PERU

Background

Peru is the second country of arrival of Venezuelans worldwide, after Colombia, and the **main host country for Venezuelans seeking asylum** with over 285,000 claims. From the **more than 850,000 Venezuelan citizens in the country**, the majority lives in Lima. Nevertheless, increasing numbers are being reported across Peru.

While previously averaging 50,000 persons per month (January to March), arrival flows of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, dropped steeply after the **introduction of a new humanitarian visa** on 15 June 2019. Immediately before this date, arrivals in Tumbes reached a peak of more than 8,000 in one day. In the last week of June, entries lowered to less than 400 per day.

It has been noted that while in the first half of 2018 less than 30 per cent of arrivals were in transit, this number increased to over 60 per cent during the same period in 2019.

On 22 June, the Chilean government introduced a **new tourist visa for Venezuelan citizens**. This visa, one of two options to enter the country with the already existing “Democratic Responsibility Visa”, can be requested in any Chilean Consulate.

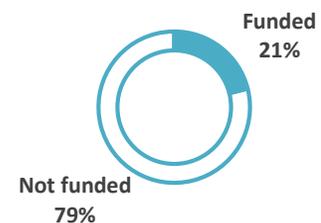
Above 850,000

Venezuelans in Peru

FUNDING STATUS

US\$ 106M Funding requirement

US\$ 21M Funded



Area of Intervention 1: Emergency Response

108,000 persons assisted

40,000 received NFI items

26,000 sheltered in temporary accommodations

38,000 provided with food

US\$ 470,000 distributed

The emergency response has focused strongly on **Tumbes** (north); however, particularly from mid-June, the situation in the border point in **Tacna** (south) has turned critical. In Tumbes, the response is coordinated both in the city itself and in the Binational Assistance Border Centre (CEBAF for its acronyms in Spanish), as the first point of entry for the majority of Venezuelans in Peru.

In CEBAF and Tumbes, the focus is on the provision of **direct emergency assistance** with temporary shelter, transportation, non-food items, health, water, legal orientation, cash-based interventions and attention to the most vulnerable cases. Existing systems to support and inform the operational partners include Protection Monitoring exercises and the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The response in Tumbes significantly scaled up before, during and after the introduction of the **new humanitarian visa** on 15 June. A **contingency plan** was activated by the local coordination group between 10 and 18 June, involving some 20 humanitarian organizations and several government institutions.

In TACNA after the introduction of the new tourist visa for Venezuelans, **up to 800 Venezuelans** started gathering in front of the Chilean consulate in Tacna, southern border, to process their applications under the newly introduced tourist visa. These persons were found to be in a situation of **particular vulnerability** due to lack of food, water and sanitary facilities in the area. Furthermore, the available shelter and communal accommodations in Tacna are not sufficient to host most people and cannot be made available for a protracted number of days.

Area of Intervention 2: Protection

73,000 persons assisted

26,000 received legal orientation

30,000 were supported through psycho-social assistance, child-friendly and safe spaces

65,000 were sensitized on protection risks or provided general orientation support

The Protection response in Peru is national and focuses on the provision of general or **specialized orientation and legal assistance**, as well as the **referral and follow-up of vulnerable cases**. Partners also focus on the provision of **information products** and hold regular data collection exercises for **protection monitoring** across the country. Activities under this area of intervention are coordinated by a Protection Working Group.

In Lima, a joint **Orientation Centre** officially started operations in April. The Centre is located in the building of the Superintendence for Migrations and, by the end of the first month, was providing legal daily assistance to 150 people.

In Tumbes, during the activation of the contingency plan in June, partners and outreach volunteers provided **orientation** to persons of concern, identifying **vulnerable cases** and referring them to appropriate services. With a view to providing shelter to persons stranded at the crossing point waiting for an entry permit, partners installed **17 Refugee Housing Units** at the border, where they have been hosting some 90 mothers with babies (0-2 years old) and unaccompanied children every night. During the response, partners provided 9,000 orientations, hosted 4,100 persons in safe and child-friendly spaces and attended 1,500 SGBV cases. Between 15 and 20 June, partners identified 50 unaccompanied children in Tumbes and in coordination with relevant authorities followed up on these cases.

In Tacna, previously a transit city, partners scaled up their response before the introduction of the new tourist visa and sent additional staff while setting up an **information kiosk** at the bus terminal. A **transportation service** from the border complex to Tacna city was activated, including referrals to required services for those unable to enter Chile. Vulnerable cases were systematically identified for referral to appropriate services. Coordination with the Special Child Protection Unit (UPE for its acronyms in Spanish) enhanced the overall response to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

Area of Intervention 3: Socio-Economic Inclusion

6,000 persons assisted

Activities promoting the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants in Peru are held across the country particularly in the capital of Lima, where the highest number of Venezuelans reside. In April, a new working group was created by the GTRM to coordinate activities under this area of intervention.

In June, the findings of the **national survey on the Venezuelan population in Peru** (ENPOVE for its acronyms in Spanish) were published by the National Institute for Statistics (INEI for its acronyms in Spanish). The study, carried out with the support of various organizations, provides a multi-sectorial overview of life conditions of Venezuelans in the country. Additionally, partners are involved in a new study titled **“Faces of the Venezuelan Migration in Lima”**, which will provide a sociodemographic profile of the Venezuelan population, including information on the overall labour, health, and migratory situation. An analysis of the **impact of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the labour markets of Lima, Piura and Arequipa** is also close to completion. This study will identify and establish a “road to

labour insertion”, which in turn is set to facilitate a shift from the informal to the formal economy for both Venezuelan and local populations.

All activities aimed at an external public, particularly to promote integration and prevent xenophobia, are held under the campaign **#TuCausaEsMiCausa**. This campaign has included numerous activities involving both Venezuelans and host communities. In February, over 2,500 people riding public buses in Lima participated in a sensitization activity that entailed a community theatre interacting with passengers. Another theatre activity took place in Callao for over 200 logistic workers, with the aim of increasing solidarity and strengthen empathy both in the workplace and across communities.

On 31 March, the first **“Gracias Causa”** Brigade was launched, with over 100 Venezuelan volunteers repairing a school in a low-income neighbourhood in Lima and offering free activities for 500 school-age children. The activity received impactful media coverage at local and national levels. A second “Gracias Causa” brigade was carried out in April in Barranco, Lima, where over 80 Venezuelan volunteers cleaned the beach, collected some 100kg of trash, and offered free activities and services for Peruvians. This activity was endorsed and attended by the Barranco Mayor, who stated the importance of collaboration between host and refugee communities. Some 400 Peruvians participated in the activities.

Area of Intervention 4: Capacity Building

Over 70 national, regional and local institutions supported

Partners contributed to three normative frameworks

Capacity development is transversal to most activities conducted in Peru. Partners actively support and strengthen local and national authorities response in all regions with increased operational presence.

GTRM partners support the Peruvian government to better include the Venezuelans in legal protection mechanisms against violence. In this context, an existing collaboration with the **Health Ministry** and the **Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations** (MIMP for its acronyms in Spanish) is allowing for the strengthening of the capacity of service providers in health and protection. Partners are working closely with the MIMP to strengthen the **“Unidades de Protección Especial”** (special protection units for children) at country level, as well as emergency centres for women.

In **Tumbes**, partners are working jointly with the **Regional Direction for Education** to identify gaps in educational coverage for Venezuelan children. Also, partners have contributed to strengthening the **health board** with the regional health directorate and other humanitarian actors, with a work agenda that considers the contingency plans for epidemic outbreaks, with special emphasis on children and adolescents. Furthermore, together with the regional government of Tumbes, partners provided support to the **Superintendence for Customs** (SUNAT for its acronyms in Spanish) in the design of a baseline for solid waste produced in three main waste disposal sites at the CEBAF.

In **Lima**, partners delivered two training modules for teachers and principals to the **Ministry of Education** for their review and approval, to ensure alignment with the National Curriculum for Regular Basic Education and teacher training activities. In the North of Lima, partners are working with the Comprehensive Health Insurance (SIS) to improve access to health for Venezuelans, particularly children.

In **Arequipa**, support is being provided to the **Regional Instance for National Violence Against Women** to identify survivors, enhance information campaigns and train public officials.

In **Cusco**, partners supported the **Education Regional Direction** to map public schools with available positions that could accept Venezuelans. The list was shared with the local office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Venezuelan community. Meanwhile, partners have also provided equipment and material to support the work of the **Superintendence for Migrations**.

Coordination

A total of **43 organizations**, coordinated by the national coordination platform for Peru (GTRM) provide assistance to refugees, migrants and host community in **11 departments and 15 provinces** around the country, with a particular concentration in the capital Lima and in the north at the border with Ecuador (Tumbes and Zarumilla) where the CEBAF is based. Local and international organizations are also present on a smaller scale in the south-east (Tacna, Tambopata, Arequipa, Puno, Cusco, Ilo and Yunguyo) and north-west (Piura, Trujillo, Chiclayo and Lambayeque) of the country.

As of March, the GTRM undertook a **comprehensive joint review** of its organizational structure in a tailored meeting to better understand the needs of the various partners. The prolific session resulted in a clear, tangible and transferable measures the GTRM needs to activate in order to overcome current bottlenecks and improve ownership. In April, the GTRM approved the creation of a **new working group on Socio-Economic Inclusion**.

A meeting with donors and GTRM took place in June where the GTRM was able to present main achievements so far and remaining gaps, advocating for their support.

Throughout June, coordination efforts focused on supporting the scaling up of operations in **Tumbes**, during the activation of the contingency plan. Not only the government but also partners provided additional staff and resources, and the existing capacity and overall response was tracked and monitored on a regular basis. During the response, regular coordination meetings were held and situation reports were systematically shared internally with GTRM members to highlight the ongoing situation and activities. An external document was also shared after the contingency plan was deactivated, quantifying the overall response and identifying remaining gaps.