

VENEZUELA

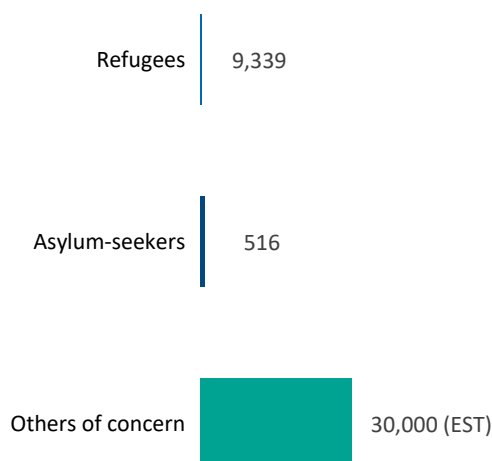
March 2022

One in four Venezuelans are in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the most recent Humanitarian Response Plan estimates. Through its leadership of the Protection Cluster and the

Energy, Shelter and NFI Cluster, UNHCR **is targeting in 2022 some 1.4 million among the most vulnerable Venezuelans** affected by the country's protracted crisis. UNHCR also leads the response

to **mixed movements** between Venezuela and its neighbours and **displacement** within the country, as well as to the protection needs of **refugees, asylum-seekers and persons at risk of statelessness**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (END 2021)

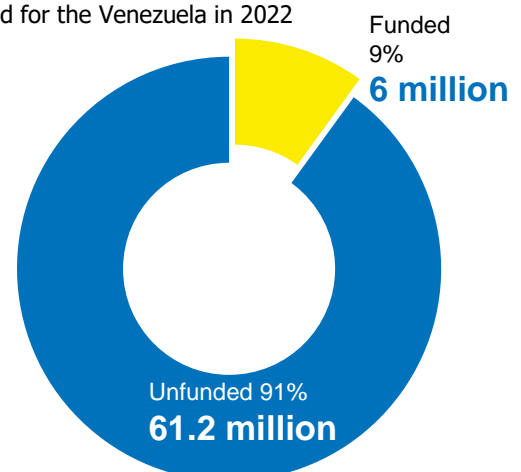


Venezuelans in need of humanitarian assistance 7,700,000 (Humanitarian Response Plan estimate, of which 1.4 M targeted by UNHCR)

FUNDING (AS OF 29 MARCH 2022)

USD 61.2 million

requested for the Venezuela in 2022



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 131 Personnel

- 101 national staff
- 4 affiliate workforce deployees
- 0 national interns
- 26 international staff

Offices:

- 1 Representation in Caracas
- 4 Field Offices in San Cristóbal (Táchira), Guasualito (Apure), Maracaibo (Zulia) and Ciudad Guayana (Bolívar)
- 2 Field Units in Caracas and San Antonio (Táchira)



UNHCR responds to an emergency in Tovar, Mérida.
© UNHCR/Sergio Castilla.

Operational context

The first quarter of 2022 registered the **movement of 3.2 million** people across the **border between Colombia and Venezuela** through the three international bridges linking the state of Tachira to the department of Norte de Santander, along with an emerging trend of increasing returns to Venezuela. The majority of those crossing the border engaged in **circular movements** between the two countries, seeking vaccines, medical and other services and goods for consumption or commerce.

The border with Brazil was reopened in late February, almost two years after its closure with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing people in mobility to avoid facing the protection risks associated with the use of informal crossing routes. Repatriation flights of the Government airlift scheme **Plan Vuelta a la Patria resumed in March** after a four-month hiatus, bringing back hundreds of Venezuelans from Peru and Ecuador.

On the economic front, despite increasing inflationary pressures affecting the purchasing power and food security of a large part of the population, the macroeconomic outlook for the country remained that of a gradual recovery.

Coordination and Partnerships

- UNHCR is implementing activities in 77 prioritised communities in 13 states, primarily in the border areas with Colombia, Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago, but also in Greater Caracas and the nearby Miranda state. UNHCR is working with 12 implementing partners - Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Zulia Red Cross, Fundación Luz y Vida, Fundación Vivienda Popular, Instituto Radiofónico Fe y Alegría (IRFA), Sociedad Wills Wilde, Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli (CISP), TECHO, Azul Positivo, Caritas Carupano and Fundación Amigos del Niño que Amerita Protección (Fundana)- as well as other local actors, including government institutions and NGOs.
- UNHCR leads the Protection and the Shelter, Energy and NFI Clusters within the framework of the Venezuela Humanitarian Response Plan.
- UNHCR's main institutional counterparts are the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) and the Office of the Ombudsperson (DdP).
- UNHCR promotes and strengthens the protection and dignity of the most vulnerable population affected by the crisis in Venezuela, improving these persons' access to goods and services, mitigating the risks to which they are exposed and helping ensure their survival and well-being.
- UNHCR is working with community structures, including outreach volunteers, women's networks and youth networks, to engage communities in the implementation of projects identified by the communities themselves, seeking to improve community response and ensuring the sustainability of projects and community processes. UNHCR and its partners have also been supporting the implementation of community projects related to nutrition, health, water and sanitation and education.
- UNHCR supports a national protection network that provides assistance and counselling to persons in transit and safe spaces for the attention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors and children at risk. The safe spaces provide confidential case management, counselling, psychosocial support, medical aid and legal services.
- UNHCR promotes international refugee law and refugee status determination procedures, encouraging State institutions to identify and refer persons in need of

international protection to the asylum procedure. UNHCR and partners conduct capacity building activities with government institutions.

- In close coordination with UNHCR in Colombia, UNHCR Venezuela facilitates and supports the voluntary repatriation of refugees, ensuring that they are enabled to take well-informed and voluntary decisions and are repatriated in conditions of safety and dignity.
- Within the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan and its leadership role in the Protection Cluster and the Shelter, Energy and NFI Cluster, UNHCR participates in the UN interagency response to the COVID-19 emergency in Venezuela.

Strategy

Protect	<p>Assert the centrality of protection in response to displacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ UNHCR works with States to strengthen asylum capacities and digitalize its systems and promote protection-sensitive alternative arrangements through training and capacity-building of government officials. ■ UNHCR supports States in terms of assistance to persons with specific needs, registration, and links with the national protection services, which also help UNHCR identify and assist the most vulnerable. ■ Investing in protection monitoring, evidence-based programming and analysis is at the core of regional strategies oriented by age, gender, and diversity considerations, ensuring protection from exploitation and abuse. ■ Through a strengthened network of support spaces, the provision of information and orientation, identification and secure reference, helps to prevent displacement.
Assist	<p>Ensure operational response capacities and life-saving aid for the most vulnerable during emergencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Across the region, UNHCR responds to the immediate needs of increasing numbers of persons that UNHCR serves. Because of the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, rising poverty and inequality triggered unprecedented levels of need for basic relief items, emergency shelter, food, safe water, and sanitation supplies. ■ As severe climate events further aggravate the situation of displaced populations and communities at risk of displacement, UNHCR responds with emergency relief items to support authorities' response to these situations.
Empower	<p>Empower communities and achieve gender equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To prevent displacement, mitigate protection risks and build on the resilience of affected communities, operations will prioritise community-centred interventions, including supporting volunteer networks in prioritised communities. UNHCR promotes communication and integration, identification, and referral of cases with specific needs, as well as enhanced access to information and complaint mechanisms. ■ UNHCR will boost feedback and complaint mechanisms, allowing for constant communication with the affected population and strengthening two-way communication, to ensure the response adapts to their needs, particularly in increasingly risky environments such as borders.

Solve**Include persons we serve in national/local services with development support**

- Through a whole-of-society approach, UNHCR fosters **partnerships to mobilise support** for the inclusion of Venezuelans in the labour market.
- UNHCR actively advocates for enhanced national efforts to provide **regular stay for refugees and asylum seekers** (such as temporary or permanent schemes, professional or work-related permits, education programmes, etc.) allowing for full enjoyment of rights and integration.

Climate Action

In Venezuela there is a greater general need for collective accommodation during the rainy season in conditions of dignity and safety. Public institutions cannot respond to the protection needs of people in mobility due to logistical and budgetary limitations to cover the needs of health services, food, legal and psychosocial care, and transportation for family reunification in other cities in Venezuela.

UNHCR have dedicated part of its operation to respond to emergencies in vulnerable communities in certain months of the year when climate is unfavourable.



Emergency Shelter provided by UNHCR in Tovar Municipality, Mérida State, Venezuela.
© UNHCR Venezuela



Natural disaster in Tovar Municipality, Mérida State, Venezuela. © UNHCR Venezuela

Timely funding

In **2022**, UNHCR in Venezuela requires **\$61.2 million** to respond to the needs of hundreds of refugees and millions of Venezuelans seeking safety and dignified lives. **Timely funding** is urgent to ensure the continuity **protection oriented activities** in the country: distribution of **core and hygiene items**; provision of **emergency and temporary shelter** in border areas and for people in mobility, rehabilitation of **Public Health Centres** and support to States for **regularisation** and documentation.

UNHCR's humanitarian and longer-term response in the Americas is made possible thanks to the **generous support** of major donors who have contributed unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations, and to donors who have generously contributed directly to UNHCR operations in Venezuela.

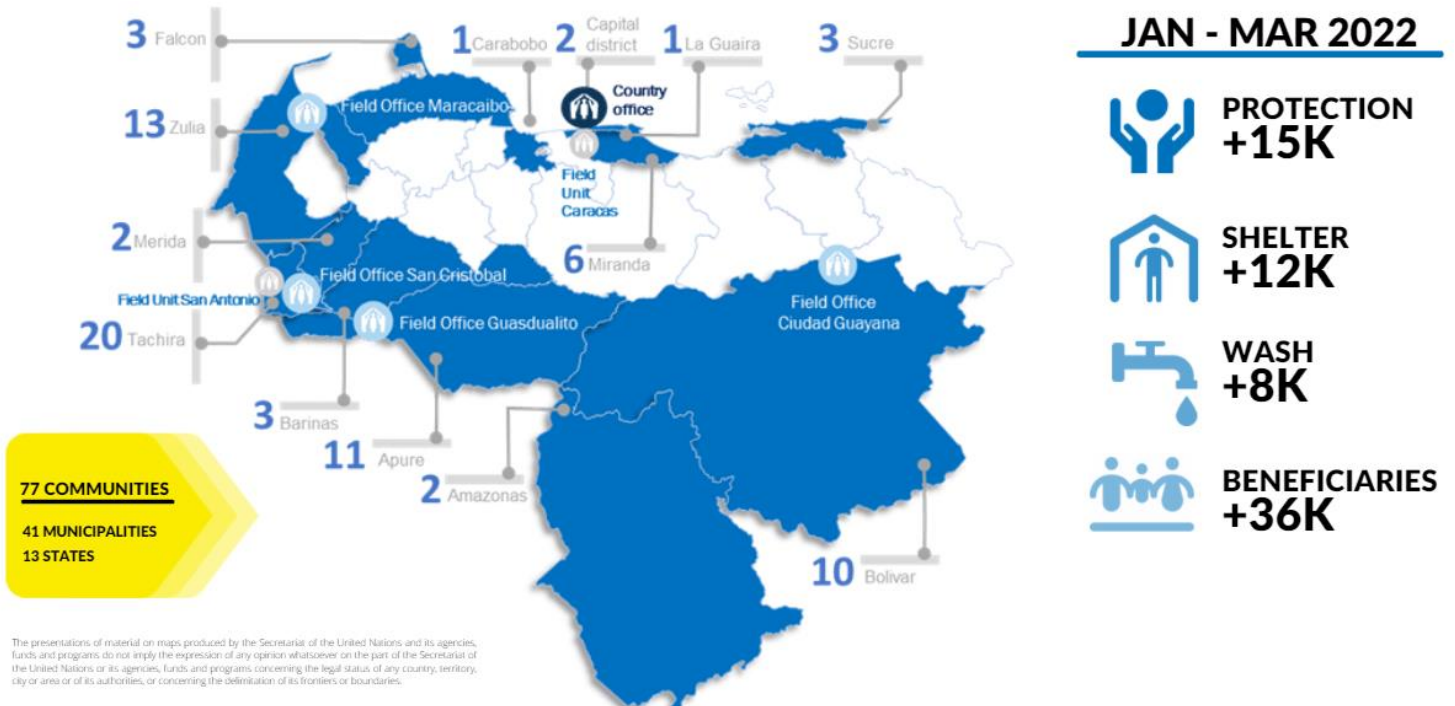
Thanks to **our donors in 2022** (as of 29 March)

JAPAN | Switzerland

Unearmarked contributions:

Japan | Switzerland | Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Private donors: Spain | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland | Italy

UNHCR presence and scope



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