,

VENEZUELA

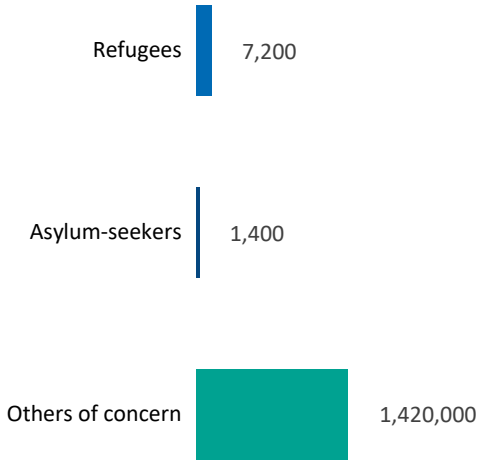
August 2025

As the country continues to face a complex and evolving political crisis, **over seven million people—a figure taken from the Humanitarian Response Plan—or one in four Venezuelans,** remains in need of humanitarian assistance. This situation is compounded by changing protection and mobility policies in countries hosting Venezuelans and there is currently a sustained return of people to the country.

The abrupt nature of these shifts has pushed many into highly precarious situations**. Returnees, often lacking resources and ID documents, face an increased risk of exploitation and violence** as they arrive back in the same dire conditions they originally fled from. This influx is putting immense pressure on Venezuela's already limited resources for the humanitarian response.

As the lead agency of the Protection and the Shelter, Energy, and NFIs Cluster, **UNHCR is targeting 2.7 million Venezuelans with specific protection needs.** Reaching this target will be challenging due to a major reduction in funding from key donors. The agency is also leading the response to growing returns, as well as in the response to the protection needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, and people at risk of statelessness.

CORE MANDATE POPULATION: PEOPLE PROTECTED AND/OR ASSISTED BY UNHCR



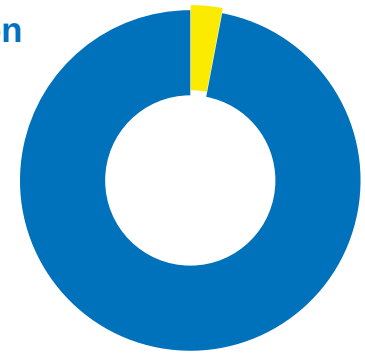
FUNDING (AS OF AUGUST 2025)

USD 59.5 million

requested for the Venezuela operation in 2025

Unfunded 86%
51.5 million

Funded 14%
8 million



UNHCR PRESENCE

Personnel: 88
50 national staff
5 international staff
13 affiliate workforce

Offices:
1 Representation Office in Caracas
4 Field units in San Cristóbal (Táchira), Maracaibo (Zulia), Caracas, and Carúpano (Sucre).

Rehabilitated sports court in Nueva Güiria, Sucre state, Venezuela. © UNHCR 2025.

Operational context

Amid an ongoing and complex political and economic crisis, Venezuela continues to face significant humanitarian needs. During the second quarter of 2025, a key trend has been a sustained increase in returns to Venezuela. This shift in mobility patterns is fuelled by a combination of factors, including changes in protection and mobility policies in other countries. Following their return to Venezuela, certain individuals require support to effectively reintegrate in the country.

The arrival of returnees puts immense pressure on Venezuela's already overstretched humanitarian resources. Despite an estimated GDP growth of 1.4% in 2025, rising inflation and currency devaluation continue to affect the population's purchasing power and food security, which contributes to both internal and external displacement.

The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2025 has estimated funding needs at USD 606.5 million, but is facing a severe shortfall, with only 8.4% of the required resources obtained as of June 2025. This underfunding is critically impairing the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable communities. The crisis is also made worse by recurrent climate-related events and the presence of criminal gangs in some areas, which particularly affect people on the move. UNHCR continues to work with other humanitarian partners to address needs and promote solutions for displaced populations.

Coordination and Partnerships

- UNHCR is implementing activities in different prioritised communities spread across 11 states, primarily in the border areas with Colombia, Brazil, the ABC Islands and Trinidad and Tobago, but also in the Greater Caracas area and the neighbouring states of Carabobo, La Guaira and Miranda. UNHCR is working with 7 implementing partners -Caritas Venezuela, Comitato Internazionale per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli (CISP), Cruz Roja Zulia, Danish Refugee Council, Fundación Luz y Vida, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), and ODISEF- as well as other local actors, including government institutions NGOs, academia and the private sector.
- 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).
- Under its "Bringing the Private Sector and Communities Closer" strategy, UNHCR Venezuela has developed partnerships with the private sector to enable people under UNHCR's mandate to material assistance, services and solutions provided by businesses in coordination with UNHCR.
- UNHCR promotes and strengthens the protection and dignity of the refugees, asylum seekers, returnees and other persons with specific protection and humanitarian needs affected by the crisis in Venezuela, including refugees, asylum seekers, returnees and other persons with specific protection needs, supporting their access to goods and services, mitigating the risks to which they are exposed, and helping ensure their access to rights.
- 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 responses and ensuring the sustainability of projects and community development processes. UNHCR and its partners have also been supporting the implementation of community projects related to nutrition, health, water and sanitation and education.
- UNHCR and sister agencies FAO and UNDP are implementing a Portfolio for Community Resilience that include dozens of humanitarian-development-peace nexus projects to support community resilience and sustainable returns to tackle the cycle of displacement in the country, with the involvement of a growing network of private sector allies.
- In coordination with IOM and OCHA, UNHCR has set up a Working Group on Human Mobility and Reintegration to respond to the needs of Venezuelan returnees.

- 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.
- UNHCR Venezuela facilitates and supports the voluntary repatriation of refugees living in Venezuela on a case-by-case basis, when conditions allow, and in coordination with the Venezuelan authorities. UNHCR ensures that refugees can make well-informed and voluntary decisions, and that their return takes place in conditions of safety and dignity.
- Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, cosigned by the government and the UN Country Team, UNHCR leads the UN interagency working group for disaster risk reduction by ensuring an effective use of the available resources complementing the state response, as well as the interagency working group on the triple nexus (humanitarian-development-peace).

Returnee Reintegration

Jointly with other UN agencies and partners, UNHCR is implementing area-based community resilience and returnee reintegration projects in the central state of Miranda, near the capital Caracas, and in the western border states of Táchira and Zulia, as well as the southern state of Bolívar. These projects aim to support returnees by making their return to Venezuela sustainable through the provision of protection, education, shelter, and health services, along with material and psychosocial support, as well as vocational and livelihoods training. These efforts also seek to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce the risk of future displacements.

In 2025, UNHCR, along with UNDP and FAO, moved forward with a common portfolio of 34 projects to support sustainable reintegration and community resilience. Additionally, in 2024, UNHCR and IOM implemented two pilot initiatives for the reintegration of returnees in Táchira and Petare, reaching 1,130 people. Community-based interventions in Bolívar, Miranda, Táchira, and Zulia benefited 3,500 returnees in 2024 alone.

Colombian refugee entrepreneurship, with UNHCR and private donor Banco Plaza support. © 2025 UNHCR.

Emergency Response

Extreme-weather events, compounded with poor hydrogeological management, have contributed to making the rainy season in Venezuela a time of disasters for vulnerable communities where people that UNHCR serve live. This has led to an increased need for collective temporary shelters to house and protect the affected population in conditions of dignity and safety, and to avoid displacement. Public institutions are often unable to respond effectively to the protection needs of affected populations because of logistical and budgetary limitations.

UNHCR's efforts in Venezuela are specifically aimed at strengthening the ability of communities to withstand and recover from environmental threats. A key part of this strategy is empowering local leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills to address climate-related challenges. For example, in the state of Táchira, UNHCR partnered with the Venezuela Scouts Movement to complete the first cycle of a Climate Action training program. Twenty Scouts leaders received their Climate Action insignia, symbolizing their commitment to creating protective spaces and sharing knowledge on climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation. These leaders will replicate what they have learned in vulnerable communities in the city of San Cristóbal. This approach fosters resilience by ensuring that vulnerable populations are better equipped to face environmental threats.

Risk Management Committee in Altos de Río Grita, Táchira state, Venezuela. © 2024 UNHCR

Timely funding

In **2025**, UNHCR Venezuela requires $59.5 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 of **protection-oriented activities** in the country: distribution of **hygiene and core reflief items**; provision of **emergency and temporary shelter** in border areas and for people in mobility; support **sustainable returns and community resilience**; renovations of **Public Health Centres**, support 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 contributed directly to UNHCR's operation in Venezuela.

We wish to express our heartfelt thank you to **our donors in 2025:**

CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND | EUROPEAN UNION | SWITZERLAND | UNDP | UNITED STATES | SPAIN |

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Private donors in 2025:
MUNDO TOTAL, BANCO PLAZA, HEART TO HEART, SUPERMERCADOS GARZON.

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