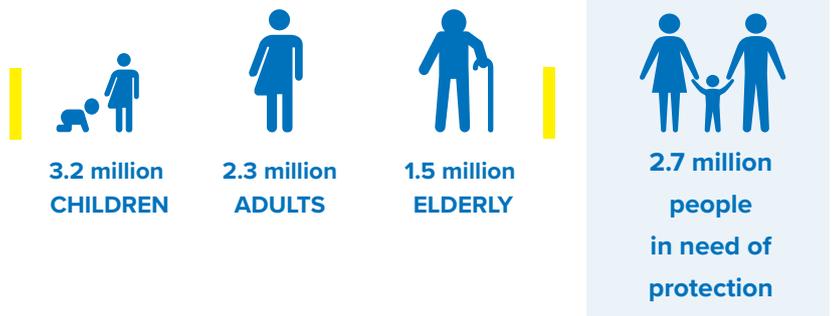




EXPANDING HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Over 4 million Venezuelans were forced to leave their country in recent years as daily survival became increasingly difficult, and in some instances impossible. Many have left their families behind. Those who remain in Venezuela are forced to contend with the consequences of an escalating humanitarian crisis, fuelled by food, water, electricity, gasoline and medicine shortages. Wide-spread insecurity and the presence of illegal armed groups are also threatening people's safety and contributing to an escalating internal displacement situation.

An estimated 7 million venezuelans are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance according to the Humanitarian Response Plan (August 2019), of which 2.7 million are in need of protection.



The United Nations System in Venezuela is responding to the most pressing needs with a significant scale-up of its activities, in coordination with State institutions and other partners. UNHCR, with its presence in the country, is a key actor in this coordinated response as the lead agency of the Protection and Shelters/Non-Food Item(NFI)/Energy Clusters.

UNHCR is working through a community based approach to prevent displacement, mitigate protection risks and support resilience of affected communities. In 2019, UNHCR is seeking to expand its operational footprint to respond to the growing needs of the affected population in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Given the needs, the situation requires a well-funded, comprehensive and coordinated effort from concerned governments and humanitarian actors.

I UN scale-up and UNHCR coordination

While implementing a multi sector community based projects in 54 communities, UNHCR plans to **expand to other locations** to deliver assistance, closest to the people in need and is leading the interagency **Protection Cluster and the Shelter/NFI's/Energy Cluster**. Along with the Shelter and NFIs, important energy needs were identified, particularly in terms of **access to electricity**.

As protection cluster lead, UNHCR is designing a **tool for joint assessment and analysis** of the protection situation including the Internally Displaced People situation, for evidence-based inter-agency response. The protection cluster is also **mapping services** on the ground and updating referral pathways.

With the UN Scale-Up strategy, is critical to ensure that UNHCR has the capacity to assert its leadership role for the above clusters in various inter-agency fora. Given the extremely fluid environment, the increased resources will allow the Office to engage with relevant stakeholders and do contingency planning for possible large-scale returning scenarios, whereby UNHCR will be expected to play a lead role.

As Protection Cluster lead UNHCR is:

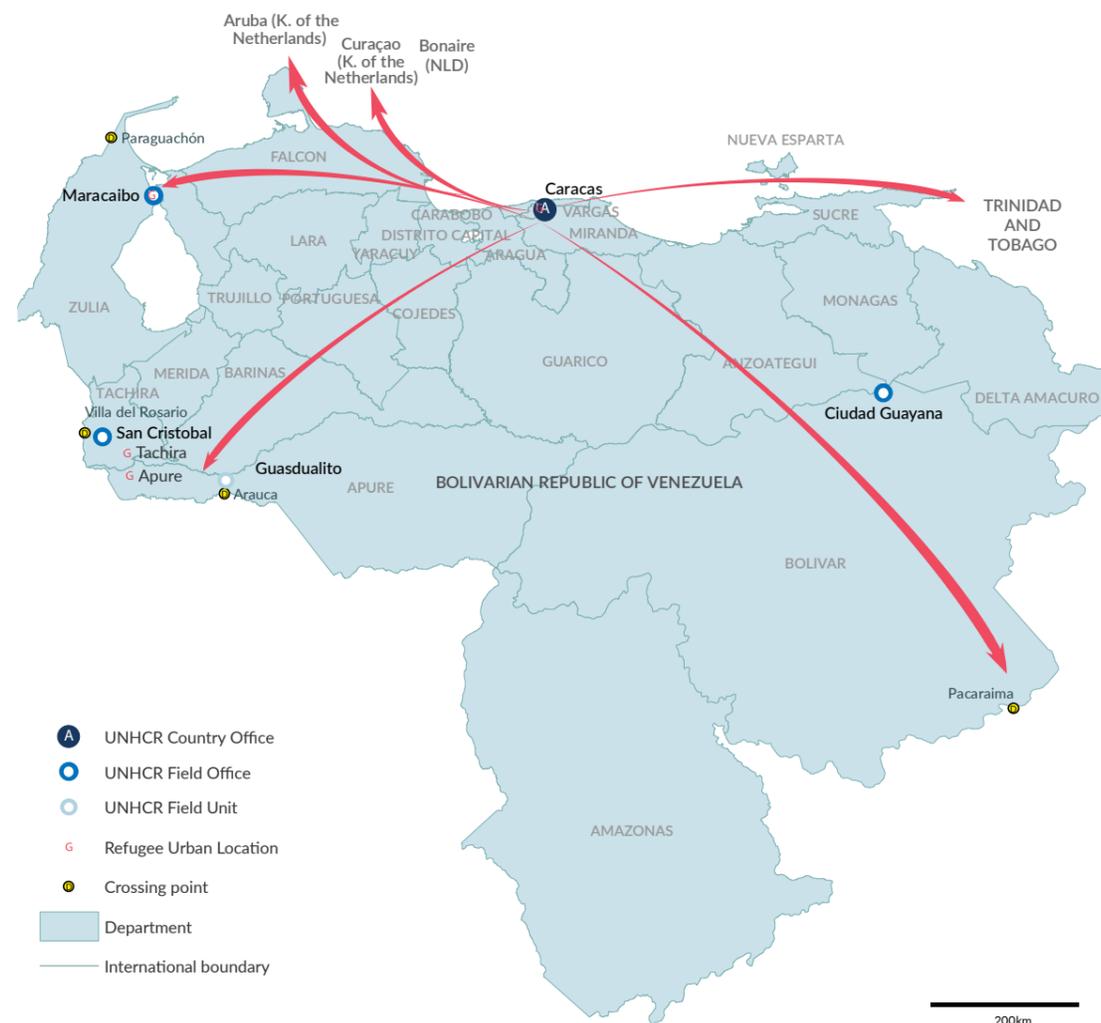
- Reinforcing alliances, and communication channels with public institutions, national civil society organizations and human rights NGOs as well as with communities
- Strengthening the capacity of government actors, humanitarian actors and community actors
- Strengthening the sectorial coordination with the child protection and SGBV sub-clusters.
- Developing an Information Management strategy to achieve effective coordination of protection interventions
- Producing reliable data on the profiles, locations and protection risks of affected populations

As Shelter/Non-Food Item/Energy lead UNHCR is:

- Leading the recently activated Shelter/NFIs/Energy Cluster.
- Continuing with its community-based interventions which will have a higher component of shelter and energy activities
- Producing reliable data on the profiles, locations and Shelter/Non-Food Item/Energy needs of affected populations

 **54** Communities targeted for UNHCR support

 **87** National and international staff
5 Offices



-  UNHCR Country Office
-  UNHCR Field Office
-  UNHCR Field Unit
-  Refugee Urban Location
-  Crossing point
-  Department
-  International boundary

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
UNHCR - HQ Geneva Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org Filename: ven_popflow

I UNHCR response

UNHCR is scaling up its presence inside Venezuela to address the needs of the affected population through community-based projects aimed at preventing displacement, mitigating protection risks and supporting resilience of affected communities. UNHCR will also continue to provide protection to refugees and persons in need of international protection and prevent statelessness as per its traditional mandate.

UNHCR's protection and assistance programmes currently include community based projects in protection, health, education, water and sanitation and individual direct support provided by protection networks and safe spaces networks benefiting 452,640 people (refugees, asylum-seekers, persons in refugee-like situation, persons at risk of statelessness, persons in transit and host communities) in six States (Apure, Amazonas, Bolivar, Miranda, Táchira and Zulia state) and Caracas Capital District. Starting in mid-2019 and through 2020, UNHCR will expand its operational footprint, reaching around 1 million people in 9 states by end 2020, provided scale-up is sufficiently funded.

In 2019, UNHCR is delivering vital core relief items such as solar-powered lamps, jerry-cans, mosquito netting, etc., to 130,000 beneficiaries, shelter and infrastructure projects benefiting 1,000 households in communities and nine communal facilities, providing potable and water sanitation supplies and structures for 2,000 households and delivering food packages to 5,000 vulnerable Venezuelan families.

UNHCR will use additional resources to expand the number of communities it assists and also its presence in most affected parts of the country, including Amazonas, Delta Amacuro, the borders areas with Colombia and Brazil, San Antonio and Santa Elena de Uairén, and increase the capacity of UNHCR field offices and partners to enable a more efficient and timely delivery of protection and assistance to affected populations. With additional funding, UNHCR will strengthen its logistical and supply capacities (including those of partners), increase field missions and expand humanitarian assistance to targeted beneficiaries.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN



RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS

Most of the country is affected by power and telecommunications outages caused by massive blackouts. UNHCR has responded to some of the immediate needs in prioritised communities through an initial distribution of solar lamps and jerry-cans. Worsening trends require an expansion of such activities, including the distribution of mosquito nets as a means of combat the malaria epidemic affecting certain states in the country, as well as water filters, chlorination tablets, blankets mats, hammocks, construction material and other core relief items.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

Addressing the needs of the community is the cornerstone of UNHCR's strategy in Venezuela and ensures that refugees and their communities are deeply involved in the design of interventions that affect their lives. The strategy has four main pillars:

- 1** Reinforce community-based protection interventions and expand its activities to other geographical locations.
- 2** Enhance communication with communities and support community outreach volunteers and other community structures.
- 3** Engage with the Protection Cluster members in protection responses and risk analysis by promoting a common protection monitoring tool for all affected populations, including persons at risk of statelessness.
- 4** Engage with Shelter, Energy and Non-food items (NFI) Cluster members to meet the relevant needs of the most vulnerable population by promoting a wide network of partners and harmonized approaches.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

UNHCR's overall requirements for community-based protection and prevention activities currently stands at \$29.5 million. As of August 2019, requirements are only 25% funded, which means that UNHCR is facing considerable constraints to meet the most basic survival needs for those affected by the situation.

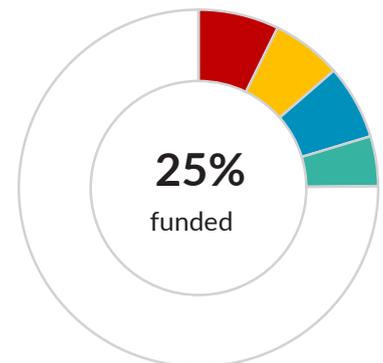
In the absence of critical financial support, the lives of hundreds of thousands of affected population in Venezuela, who have to cope daily with lack of food, water, medicines and basic services, will only worsen. Their conditions will continue to deteriorate, particularly for the most vulnerable, including the elderly, persons with serious medical conditions and children left behind, as the country's crumbling infrastructure and social services are increasingly unable to cope with the ever growing needs. This will lead to more people leaving Venezuela searching for safety and better opportunities abroad, thus exacerbating pressures on neighbouring host countries.

Only a well-funded, comprehensive and coordinated effort from governments and humanitarian actors will enable the country to address the urgent needs of people who require humanitarian assistance and prevent the escalation of the crisis.

2019 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

\$29.5 million

as of 15 August 2019



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)

THE IMPORTANCE OF FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR UNHCR'S SITUATIONS

Flexible financial support, particularly unearmarked funding, greatly facilitates UNHCR being able to kick-start an emergency response, bolster forgotten or under-resourced crises, and enable the fullest possible implementation of programmes. They enable UNHCR to plan and manage its resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved.

As a proportion of its expenditure, the region which was allocated the highest percentage of flexible funding in 2018 was the Americas. Timely and significant allocations of flexible funding will continue to play a critical role as UNHCR expands its humanitarian response inside Venezuela, faced with a displacement crisis not seen in the region in decades.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors which have provided the following unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions:

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 47.6 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 24.1 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | France 14 million | Private donors Japan 12.1 million | Private donors Italy 11.1 million | Ireland 10.2 million

SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Private donors Australia 8.1 million | United States of America 7.2 million | Germany 4.4 million | Private donors USA 2 million

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