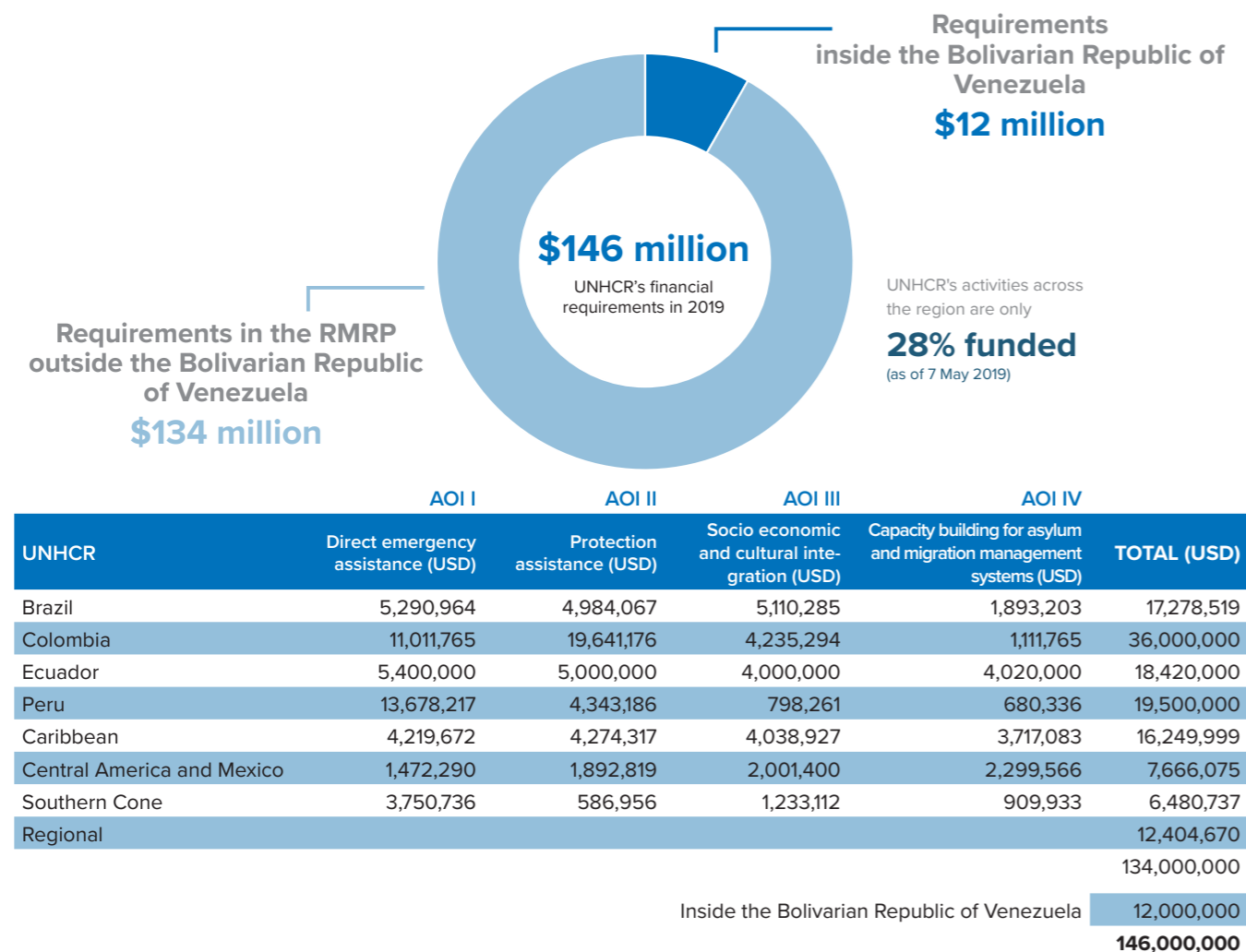


## FUNDING THE RESPONSE

While many governments in the region have been generous in their response, more support by the international community is needed to complement their efforts. Venezuelans continue facing difficulties in accessing services, impacting their ability to provide food, housing, health care, and other basic needs for their families. Families are exhausting their savings and resources, and are falling further into poverty.

UNHCR's overall requirements for its comprehensive response inside and outside the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela currently total \$146 million, of which \$134 million is included in the inter-agency RMRP.

UNHCR's overall requirements are only **28% funded (May 2019)**, meaning the response is facing considerable constraints to meet even the most basic survival needs of those affected by the situation. This puts in jeopardy critical activities covering essential protection, such as granting access to territory, strengthening asylum systems, registration, child protection, and the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR UNHCR'S SITUATIONS

Flexible financial support allows UNHCR to place it anywhere within a given situation, in line with the Office's priorities, from where people in need are forced to flee, to where they find refuge. Importantly, flexible funding needs to be timely for UNHCR to plan in the most efficient manner, allocating to priorities first.

LAST UPDATE MAY 2019

**The exodus of Venezuelan nationals is the largest in the recent history of Latin America and the Caribbean. There are currently over 3.7 million refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela throughout the world. Around 3 million have left their country since 2014 with no prospects for return in the short to medium term due to ongoing political and socio-economic developments.**

Globally and to date, more than 464,000 Venezuelans have filed asylum claims - over 254,000 in 2018 alone - while Latin American countries have granted some 1.4 million residence permits and other forms of regular status to Venezuelans. However, many Venezuelans remain in an irregular situation or with an expiring tourist visa which does not guarantee international protection or access to other basic rights.



A UNHCR staff briefs a young mother who just crossed the border with Venezuela with her children, to get to Colombia.

*"Venezuelans I met during my visits spoke of hunger, lack of access to medical care, insecurity, threats, fear. They are families, women alone, children, young boys and girls, all in conditions of extreme vulnerability. All of them saw no other option than to leave their country—sometimes walking for days—seeking to live in dignity and to build a future."*

*Eduardo Stein, Joint UNHCR-IOM Special Representative for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants.*

Restrictions at official border crossings expose Venezuelans to heightened protection risks from smugglers and irregular armed groups, and UNHCR has generally observed increased vulnerabilities among those arriving through irregular crossings.

Given the magnitude of the outflow, and of the situation inside the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela itself, only a coordinated and comprehensive approach between governments, humanitarian and development organisations, supported by a well-funded international response, will enable the region to cope with the scale of the emergency.

**UNHCR and partners are scaling up preparedness and operational activities to respond to the growing needs of the people from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**I Regional response**






Countries in the region have demonstrated remarkable generosity towards Venezuelans. Their solidarity is reflected in the adoption in November 2018 of the [Quito Plan of Action on Human Mobility of Venezuelan citizens in the region](#). Signed by eight countries, it marked a significant step forward in harmonizing regional policies and practices, scaling up and coordinating the humanitarian response, and improving access to host States and rights.

The Joint Special Representative of UNHCR and the UN Migration Agency (IOM), Eduardo Stein, was appointed in September 2018 to promote a coherent and harmonized regional approach to deal with the protection needs of refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in coordination with national governments, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders. The joint Special Representative is supporting the Quito Process as well as mobilizing additional States and actors to participate in this regional initiative.

**I Responding to the needs of people displaced from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

Complementary to the Quito Process, [the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform](#)—under the co-lead of UNHCR and IOM—was established for the Venezuela situation to ensure a coherent and consistent operational response across the region and to complement the efforts of receiving governments. To that end, in December 2018, the platform launched the [Regional Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants](#) (RMRP). Developed by 95 partners across the region, the RMRP is as a strategic and operational blueprint, provides a coordination model, and is a funding mechanism to respond to the needs of displaced Venezuelans and the communities that receive them.

**The Regional Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants is grounded in four strategic areas of intervention**

RMRP areas of intervention			
Direct emergency assistance	Protection	Socio economic and cultural integration	Strengthening capacity of host government
Corresponding UNHCR activities			
Providing emergency or temporary shelter Direct humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs	Safe and dignified reception conditions and advocacy for legal stay Protection interventions in main hosting areas	Campaigns against xenophobia	Supporting government registration, profiling and protection monitoring
			
Working with Partners			
			



**REGIONAL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN**

In 2019, 95 partners will need \$738 million to assist 2.2 million refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and 500,000 members of host communities across 16 countries. UNHCR's requirements in the RMRP are \$134 million.



**I Growing tensions in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and their impact on the most vulnerable**

Conditions inside the country continue to deteriorate. Although a political impasse predominates, growing tensions may very well result in further unrest. Land and maritime borders with Colombia and ABC islands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao) were closed. The current situation interrupts essential commercial activities as well as the access of hundreds of thousands Venezuelans who would otherwise cross into Colombia on a daily basis to satisfy their basic needs, and secure education, health and other services.

**I Response in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

Despite security, operational and financial constraints, UNHCR has been able to maintain the implementation of its community-based projects in health, education, protection, water and sanitation for 54 prioritized host communities where refugees live. Nearly 775,000 people, including Colombian refugees and the Venezuelan host population, have already benefited. It requires a robust field presence to address priority needs as they evolve along political and security developments.

UNHCR is a key actor in the 'scale-up strategy' put in place by the United Nations System in Venezuela in liaison with state institutions and others to address the most pressing needs in the country. UNHCR supports the implementation of the 'scale-up strategy' through community-based projects in the aforementioned sectors; supports the United Nations Country Team coordination mechanism; and also offers its logistics capacity, extensive field presence, and operational capacity to host other UN agencies that wish to deploy personnel to the field in locations where UNHCR has offices.

UNHCR currently leads the Protection Working Group and is deploying Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCCM) experts to support the 'scale-up strategy's' design. UNHCR stands ready to assume the inter-agency leadership roles in areas where it has the expertise and capacity.

Sources: UNHCR, UNCS Author: UNHCR - HQ Geneva Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org Filename: ven\_sit\_A4P