

LAST UPDATE DECEMBER 2019

The exodus of Venezuelan nationals is the largest in the recent history of Latin America and the Caribbean. There are currently 4.8 million refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela throughout the world. Around 3.9 million are in Latin America and the Caribbean 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 750,000 Venezuelans have filed asylum claims - over 341,000 in 2018 alone - while Latin American countries have granted more than 2 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.



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Ecuador. Venezuelans wait to cross border from Colombia ahead of new visa laws

“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 leaving 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.

Given the magnitude of the outflow, 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.

The further deterioration of conditions inside Venezuela is exacerbating the vulnerability of women, men and children fleeing the country. Half of Venezuelans on the

move face high risks in their journey to safety because of their age, gender, health or other needs, or because they had to make drastic choices to cope. While UNHCR acknowledges the sovereignty of States to control their own borders, it is also essential that access to asylum is preserved and the identification of persons with international protection needs is strengthened.

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 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 November 2019, the platform launched the [Regional Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants](#) (RMRP). Developed by 137 partners across the region, the RMRP is 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.

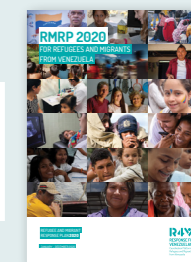
Key areas of intervention

Corresponding activities			
Direct emergency assistance	Protection	Socio economic and cultural integration	Strengthening capacity of host government
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 2020

In 2020, 137 partners will need \$1.35 billion to assist 2.47 million refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 378,000 in pendular situation, 264,000 returnees and 877,000 host community members across 17 countries. UNHCR's requirements in the RMRP are \$223 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. The operational and security context continues to be affected by gasoline shortages, power and telecommunications blackouts and violent irregular armed group activity at the borders.

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 (CCCM) 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.

MID-YEAR REVIEW INDICATORS

Direct emergency assistance	Protection	Socioeconomic and cultural integration
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28,804 people received emergency shelter support

449 households received cash grants for rental accommodation

10,451 households received cash grants to cover their most basic needs

48,270 households received core relief items



15,168 received material psychosocial support upon arrival



12 reception centers



10 in Peru
2 in Brazil



4 public awareness campaigns



Brazil



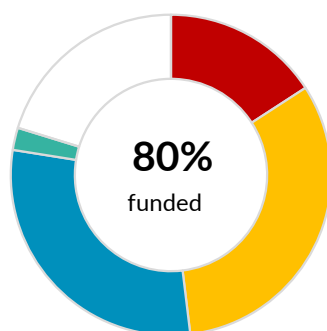
Ecuador



Colombia

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.



\$158.2 million required for the Venezuela Situation

UNHCR's financial requirements 2019

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

UNHCR's overall requirements for its comprehensive response inside and outside the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela currently totals \$158.2 million. **UNHCR's overall requirements are only 80% funded (December 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 funds 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. Flexible funding needs to be timely for UNHCR to plan in the most efficient manner, allocating to priorities first.

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