

Annual Results Report

2023

Peru

Acknowledgements

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Despite showing greater stability compared to 2022, the sociopolitical landscape in Peru in 2023 continued to be characterized by its complexity:

-The Government participated in the II Global Refugee Forum, pledging to improve the asylum system through a data validation process, to include forcibly displaced and stateless people in national statistics to implement a mechanism for determining statelessness, and to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants.

-Legal dynamics evolved in different directions, impacting the protection environment and UNHCR operations. On the one hand, advancements such as the amnesty of immigration fines and the introduction of a new regularization process strengthened new paths for local integration. On the other hand, new legal measures were adopted to facilitate expulsions for those committing crimes.

-Throughout 2023, the Peruvian borders experienced a significant shift in the movement of forcibly displaced people, mainly (but not limited to) Venezuelans. Over 80% of these movements remained irregular, continuing the trend from previous years. While at the beginning of the year, most movements were directed southwards, keeping past patterns, in February 2023, hundreds of individuals found themselves stranded at the Chile-Peru border, marking a decrease in the southward flow and a subsequent increase in the northward movement, with many people leaving Chile.

According to UNHCR's mid-year statistical report, in June, the Venezuelan population in Peru exceeded 1.5 million individuals.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2026, people UNHCR serves access the territory and fair and efficient protection systems in response to their specific needs.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.80%	28.26%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73.97%	71.20%

During 2023, UNHCR observed some improvements in the protection environment, thanks to the amnesty of migratory fines for overstaying approved in April by the Congress (Law No.31732), which granted this benefit to more than 140,000 persons who applied for it until October 2023; the implementation of new regularization processes, and the enactment of procedural facilities to access legal stay opportunities.

The access to documentation allowed more than 234,400 forcibly displaced and stateless people to reduce their risks by protecting them against refolement, improving their access to rights and services, and enhancing their opportunities for socioeconomic inclusion. Supporting the regularization process, UNHCR and its partners (UN Agencies, NGOs, community and faith-based organizations) increased their community outreach activities through information campaigns, community service fairs, legal services and advocacy. At the same time, UNHCR strengthened the capacities of Migration authorities with technical and financial aid, ensuring an increased reach of services within the Venezuelan population in Lima and various other cities.

Documentation also reduced the risks associated with gender violence and child protection, providing confidence to more than 4,000 GV survivors and children at risk to approach protection mechanisms, including those offered by the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP). Thanks to the approval and application of an MIMP protocol for identifying and referring cases to the national asylum system, children in need of international protection had more opportunities to access the asylum system, drastically reducing their potential protection risks.

Finally, thanks to the Special Commission for Refugees' return to in-person attention, asylum-seekers could see their protection against refolement improved due to access to the virtual asylum-seeker card.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2026, people UNHCR serves meet their basic needs and access specialized services with dignity.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.03%	77.03%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.27%	58.27%

The susceptibility to poverty in Peru reached its highest point in the last two decades, with 30% of the population living in poverty and 40% at risk of falling into it, challenging the country's capacity to address the basic needs of vulnerable people, including Peruvian nationals. Based on the microdata of the National Survey about Venezuelan's living conditions (ENPOVE), UNHCR estimated the prevalence of poverty among Venezuelans in Peru at 32.1%, and 10.6% for extreme poverty (while poverty rates among

Peruvians reached 28 and 5% of the population, respectively, at the time the survey was conducted).

Considering the context mentioned above, in 2023, UNHCR sustained its provision of urgent relief to forcibly displaced and stateless people at risk while engaging with national authorities and local governments to enhance access to essential services for vulnerable populations.

UNHCR followed an area-based approach to support the State in providing essential services, prioritizing the locations with the highest poverty levels and density of Venezuelans. In 2023, UNHCR officially partnered with local governments and national institutions, investing in their health and education infrastructure and technical capacities. As UNHCR's multiyear strategy unfolds, these partnerships will further enhance refugees' access to health, education, and social protection programmes.

At borders, new arrivals from vulnerable, forcibly displaced Venezuelans could meet their immediate basic needs and receive reliable information to keep themselves safe through the route or within the territory. UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance, including core relief items, guidance about Peru's regularisation options, overnight accommodation, and access to health services when required.

Through a case management approach based on people's specific needs, UNHCR supported some 146,000 individuals in accessing health and education services and cash-based grants, with additional efforts conducted during natural and forced displacement crises while focused on individuals without access to alternative assistance or social protection programmes.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2026, more people UNHCR serves are self-reliant, can provide for the needs of their families and engage in social participation in their communities, particularly with regards to gender equality.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	39.97%	31.70%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.81%	67.25%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	52.44%	39.06%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	34.30%	38.42%

In 2023, the situation of forcibly displaced Venezuelans living in the country changed positively towards self-reliance and social cohesion, especially on gender equality-related topics.

The involvement of women reached 80% of the leadership and management roles in the activities supported by UNHCR, underscoring a significant achievement in gender parity efforts. UNHCR also contributed to reducing the gender gap in the economic integration programme, ensuring that more than 80% of the participants were women.

Through direct work with community leadership, UNHCR was able to engage Community-Based Organizations and Faith-Based Organizations in processes of national relevance related to school enrollments and regularization. In addition to a higher level of recognition by authorities at local and national levels about the importance of including forcibly displaced and stateless people in host communities, Venezuelan community leaders were able to develop activities to bring state or private services closer to the most vulnerable, being able to coordinate directly with State institutions and other organizations.

Although, according to the National Survey about Venezuelans' living conditions (ENPOVE), more than 95% of Venezuelans of working age are economically active, some 80% of them are embedded in the informal market, a situation that, despite the challenges, still allows them to contribute to their self-

sufficiency and empowerment actively.

These positive changes reflect the progress toward empowering communities and achieving gender equality. Other relevant points can be mentioned, such as the promotion of livelihood opportunities, the integration into the national systems and the strengthening of community networks.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By 2026, people UNHCR serves access third country solutions according to their needs, through resettlement and diversified complementary pathways.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	562
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	2
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,040	1,437

In 2023, UNHCR strengthened the resettlement capacities and the submission of mainly Venezuelans in need of international protection to Australia, Canada, and the United States, especially people with specific needs that could not be adequately addressed in the country of asylum.

One thousand five hundred thirty-two individuals were submitted for resettlement, marking a 31% increase compared to 2022. Among them, more than 1,000 people were accepted by the resettlement countries (increasing 430% the rate from 2022). Out of them, 12 departed to Australia, 53 to Canada and 512 to the United States, allowing 577 refugees to access a durable solution where their protection needs are addressed, they can exercise their rights, and rebuild their lives. The above included LGBTIQ+ people, representing 10% of the submitted cases (a 400% increase compared to 2022). Likewise, UNHCR improved the efficiency of the resettlement processing, reducing the average time between case creation and submission from 99 days in 2022 to 54 in 2023.

Moreover, UNHCR implemented the Labour Mobility programme, which supported Venezuelans accessing international recruitment processes. In 2023, for the first time, two people departed under this programme, and seven who received letters of offer were preparing to travel to the new destination countries, where they could develop their talent and access long-term protection.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The political, media and social narrative about the displacement of forcibly displaced people from Venezuela persists to be looked at from a migratory approach by authorities. This narrative impacted access to territory, limited access to the asylum system and set penalty fines for irregular staying as a precondition to access documentation, thereby reducing the protection space for all people in need of international protection.

Responding to the basic needs of vulnerable persons holding temporary permits or in irregular migratory status, remained a challenge since access to national services is based on holding a Peruvian residency card. To address these gaps, the State counts on the support of the international community, where UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance while simultaneously increased its financial and technical support to institutions, local governments and community responses that assist vulnerable people.

Despite the government efforts to increase the access to complementary pathways, permanent residency or naturalization for refugees in the country is challenging to attain due to the passport and “apostille” requirements and the need to demonstrate a minimum annual income of ten tax units (equivalent to 4.5 times the national minimum salary).

In addition, legal restrictions prevent a sustainable local integration: i) the special, humanitarian or refugee migratory residence does not qualify for the permanent immigration status process; ii) children cannot be naturalized until they reach the age of 18.

Regarding resettlement, the fact that the majority of Venezuelan refugees have claims linked to the Cartagena definition is a limitation for most resettlement countries. To address it, the operation expanded and diversified the identification mechanism, including targeting specific profiles.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

The Government of Peru participated in the II Global Refugee Forum, pledging to improve the asylum system through a data validation process, including forcibly displaced in national statistics and implementing a mechanism for determining statelessness. The pledge also focused on ensuring the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants within the Intersectoral Table for Migration Management (MTIGM), the national coordination mechanism.

UNHCR continued to co-lead, together with IOM, the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM), the national instance of the regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V). In 2023, the Platform’s response in Peru included other nationalities of refugees and migrants engaging in multi-directional transit movements. The number of R4Vs partners under the national chapter of the RMRP grew to 113, out of which 13 were refugee-led organizations. The Platform also strengthened its collaboration with state authorities, particularly locally in Arequipa, Tacna, Tumbes, and Trujillo.

UNHCR actively participated in the UN Country Team (UNCT), co-led one of the six groups for the governance of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and actively participated in other bodies related to its implementation and the revision of the Common Country Analysis. UNHCR is also a member of the executive committee of the UN Migration Network in Peru.

Within the National Humanitarian Network (RHN) led by OCHA, which undertakes the preparation and response to emergencies related to climatic hazards, UNHCR contributed to the response to cyclone Yaku and the preparedness for the El Niño Phenomenon, leading the Protection sector of the RHN and advocating for the inclusion of refugees and migrants in the response.

UNHCR collaborated with the World Bank in the development of an analysis report of ENPOVE’s results and other studies to provide advice on public policy to the Government of Peru.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

By 2026, improved capacity of key governmental institutions to manage the asylum system and implement alternative stay mechanisms will allow the people with and for whom UNHCR works to access more efficient and fairer asylum procedures and obtain documentation certifying their regular migratory status.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13.42%	100.00%	15.50%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.32%	100.00%	99.75%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.70%	95.00%	64.70%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR achieved progress towards strengthening procedures and improving the capacities of the asylum and migratory systems, supporting the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) and National Superintendence of Migration (SNM) through technical assistance, complemented with legal services, capacity building, border monitoring and strengthening of the Ombudsperson's office.

Regarding the asylum system, Peru took strides towards tackling the backlog of over half a million asylum cases by submitting a pledge at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and designing a data validation strategy to identify instances that no longer require processing, expecting the backlog toll will be significantly reduced.

The proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers registered increased due to CEPR returning to in-person registration and improvements in their recruitment mechanisms. The above allowed CEPR to decide on 722 asylum claims, resulting in 588 recognized refugees. Also, CEPR began issuing virtual asylum-seeker cards, reducing the risk of refolement and improving access to employment. A total of 709 new virtual cards were issued, and over 109,000 asylum-seekers were able to extend the validity of their current card. To support the above, UNHCR provided training, technical support, experts' missions, and financial support to CEPR's staffing.

In terms of the migratory system, even though there were no permanent regularization mechanisms in place, access to documentation improved thanks to the access to Humanitarian Residency and temporary regularization, where UNHCR supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve access to Humanitarian Residency, allowing 11,200 people to receive it in 2023 and 48,900 to renew it. Peru also implemented a regularization process until November 2023, for which UNHCR assisted the SNM by recruiting staff and opening four Assistance Centers (SAMMIR). A total of 244,633 people requested regularization, of which 23,215 were assisted at the SAMMIRs. However, progress will only be reflected in the corresponding indicator after the following National survey (INEI).

The proportion of children under five years whose births were registered reached 99.7% thanks to Peru's efforts to allow late birth registration after suspending its services during the pandemic. UNHCR partners provided legal assistance to refugee parents with Peruvian-born children to ensure they have access to civil

registration. Peru also pledged to establish a statelessness determination mechanism by 2025.

UNHCR and partners provided legal orientation to 31,848 people, out of which 3,746 were attended at borders. Other actions included support to the Ombudsperson's Office that, based on the attention of 983 refugees, implemented supervisory actions on the asylum and migration systems and advocacy to influence protection-oriented laws, including Amnesty for Fines through which 52,000 people could effectively extend their residence.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

By 2026, the improved capacity of key government institutions to implement status determination procedures allows the people with and for whom UNHCR works to obtain documentation certifying their regular migratory status in a timely manner.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR bolstered the government's capacity to implement status determination procedures through three main approaches: a) supporting the availability of the Special Commissioner for Refugees office (CEPR) of trained human resources, b) developing new functionalities to improve the asylum registration system, and c) improving the tools for better coordination of the asylum system with other national protection mechanisms.

UNHCR supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) by hiring 41 staff to undertake Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and registration. With these additional capacities, CEPR could conduct nearly 3,500 interviews for registration and 2,048 for RSD. Out of this total, CEPR decided over 1,200 RSD cases. UNHCR trained CEPR staff to strengthen their capabilities to identify asylum seekers' needs and enhance their skills and knowledge in registration and RSD interviews. Besides, UNHCR provided permanent technical assistance to CEPR through regular coaching and feedback to registration and eligibility officers.

To improve the national asylum registration system, UNHCR supported the creation of a new functionality for issuing a virtual asylum seeker card. This temporary asylum document allows asylum seekers immediate access to documentation upon registration, reducing the risk of refoulement and improving access to employment. The process commenced in the latter half of 2023, undergoing various trials before officially issuing cards in December. By the year's end, CEPR issued 700 virtual asylum seeker cards, establishing a sustainable system that strengthened the protection for forcibly displaced and stateless people.

UNHCR trained 520 government officers on international protection, contributing to increased awareness and the number of referrals for prioritization to CEPR. Training sessions included staff from the Foreign Police, the Migration Offices and police officers in Arequipa, Lima, Tacna, Tumbes, Trujillo, Puno and Madre de Dios, as well as Judges and judicial personnel (fourth annual course).

To streamline the process of claiming asylum at borders, UNHCR delivered a proposal protocol to MoFA, and in December, MoFA approved general guidelines for presenting asylum claims at the border. These guidelines were officially communicated to border authorities, marking progress towards operationalizing the proposed protocol. UNHCR reviewed the guidelines to ensure alignment with the developed protocol, reinforcing their effectiveness.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

By 2026, government and NGO institutions have strengthened their capacity to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender violence.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.00%	85.00%	32.71%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.83%	100.00%	90.83%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In Peru, cases of gender-based violence (GBV) are reported to the Peruvian National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office or the courts of the Judicial Branch; however, survivors prefer to approach specialized services such as the Women's Emergency Centers (CEM) of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP).

UNHCR supported the access of GBV survivors to multi-sectoral services, including the Peruvian National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the courts of the Judicial Branch. Survivors, however, preferred to approach specialized services such as CEMs of the Ministry of Women, where they received free support before or after the reporting or when survivors did not wish to file a complaint.

In 2023, CEMs attended 166,313 survivors, of which 85.5% were women. The most frequent type of violence reported was psychological, with 42.7%, followed by physical violence (38.3%), sexual (18.5%) and economic (0.4%). Regarding forcibly displaced and stateless people, the CEMs attended 3,012 survivors, out of which 82.7% were Venezuelans. Within this figure, 89% were women, and 11.2% were men, of which half had a migration card.

During the same reporting period, there was an increase in cases of forcibly displaced and stateless people assisted at the CEMs nationwide, reporting 3,012 cases. Of these cases, 82.2% are of Venezuelan nationality. Compared to 2022, the number of forcibly displaced Venezuelans assisted by the CEMs increased by 18%, which could be related to a greater awareness of available reporting mechanisms and services. This may contrast with the results of the ENPOVE 2022, where only 32.7% of the Venezuelan population indicated that they were familiar with how to access GBV services.

UNHCR's interventions in GBV aim to create conditions for survivors to receive adequate, quality, and timely support from the community and state services. In this regard, UNHCR supported the authorities and local NGOs with the improvement of three CEMs in Arequipa and Tumbes (x2), a Temporary Shelter (Tumbes) and the House of Diversity (Arequipa) providing services to GBV survivors and LGBTIQ+ population.

UNHCR consolidated specialized GBV response teams within partner NGOs, assisting 969 cases at risk of GBV and/or GBV survivors, of which 143 survivors received psychosocial support. Of these cases, 91% reported being satisfied with the GBV case management services, which included legal advice and medical and financial support based on their needs.

To prevent and mitigate GBV risks, UNHCR trained 340 government officials, staff, partners and community leaders nationwide.

UNHCR, committed to the Zero Tolerance Policy against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, trained 155 people, including forcibly displaced and stateless people, UNHCR staff and partners. Likewise, UNHCR supported the LGTBIQ+ Pride Day march with more than 50,000 participants. At the national level, activities were carried out for the 16 Days of Activism against GBV (including parades, training workshops, awareness-raising activities, and activities with government entities).

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

By 2026, government and NGO institutions have strengthened their capacity to ensure child protection standards.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.70%	85.00%	53.92%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	17.29%	25.00%	21.07%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	18.28%	100.00%	9.92%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Special Protection Units (UPE) of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) assisted 28,363 cases of children and adolescents, where 90% of the cases were evaluated for risk or lack of protection. Of the cases attended by the UPE, 60% were girls. Regarding refugee and migrant children and adolescents, the UPE assisted 1,823 cases, representing an increase of 8.4% over 2022, out of which 72.8% were children from Venezuela. This increase highlights the increased specialization of UPE officials at the national level in identifying cases of separated and unaccompanied children and adolescents.

In 2023, UNHCR's interventions in child protection aimed to strengthen the capacity of 415 government officials and NGO staff to ensure the application of the best interest determination of the child in cases of risk of neglect or lack of protection of refugee and migrant children and adolescents. UNHCR collaborated in the elaboration and design of the "Protocol of the Special Protection Units for the care of refugee or migrant children and adolescents at risk of family abandonment". MIMP approved the above protocol and aims to guarantee the rights of refugee and migrant children. The protocol incorporated the concepts of separated and unaccompanied children and adolescents into the terminology of the UPE officials.

The above contributed to 54% of refugee and migrant children and adolescents at high risk being assisted with the support of the best interest of the child procedure, positively impacting the interventions of the UPEs' officials.

UNHCR contributed with specialized care for 114 unaccompanied or separated children.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

By 2026, the capacity of Venezuelan and Peruvian vulnerable communities to address the main integration challenges of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants has been improved.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	79.75%	70.00%	79.82%
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive: ≥70 points	Extensive: ≥70 points	Extensive: ≥70 points

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Acknowledging the significant challenges faced by forcibly displaced people from Venezuela regarding integration, the overall capacity of the communities improved. Community leaders were able to develop activities to bring state or private services closer to the most vulnerable while directly coordinating with State institutions and other organizations. Through qualitative monitoring and field visits, UNHCR noted that, by the end of 2023, the capacity of communities themselves to identify and overcome their challenges kept improving.

It is essential to highlight the recognition of authorities at local and national levels of the importance of including forcibly displaced people from Venezuela in their planning exercises, as they were valued as part of the solution and the development of the communities they live in.

UNHCR's approach towards community engagement included promoting community leadership and official recognition of organizations that played a pivotal role in identifying and mitigating protection risks, fostering integration, and promoting peaceful coexistence. In 2023, UNHCR supported the formal institutionalization of community-based organizations in Peru to extend community outreach nationwide. Through an urban-territorial approach, UNHCR targeted locations where most Venezuelans live (e.g., Lima, Trujillo, Ica). In 2023, three new Community-Based Organizations (CBO) were recognized, bringing the total number of CBOs formally recognized to 28. In addition, UNHCR trained 336 community leaders, of whom 70% were women.

The community fairs of services across the country, bringing services and facilitating access to rights, with the participation of NGO, state and private entities, generated a space for case management and orientation for forcibly displaced people and host communities. The above directly impacted accessing rights such as health, documentation, and education. In addition, it triggered the improvement of peaceful coexistence and cultural recognition (188 service fairs, reaching 43,000 people). Through the qualitative monitoring, participants expressed their satisfaction and the need to expand the services to other stakeholders (e.g., child protection).

The improvement of community structures through an Area-Based Approach directly and positively impacted the most vulnerable forcibly displaced people and host community members and their living conditions (e.g., educational recreative spaces and the rehabilitation of an emergency centre for women).

To balance the impact of some xenophobia messages relayed in the media, UNHCR prioritized communication campaigns and community events to bring together all communities (e.g., cultural integration through sports, music, and art events) and make a change in the daily perception of both populations.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

By 2026, the people with and for whom UNHCR works have access to assistance and services to cover their basic needs while addressing gaps in State protection services.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.95%	4.00%	3.83%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.49%	100.00%	96.49%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To promote the safety, dignity, and rights of forcibly displaced and stateless people in vulnerable situations, UNHCR delivered critical humanitarian assistance to 162,672 individuals while increasing the capacities of national authorities and local governments to provide essential services to forcibly displaced and stateless people and vulnerable members of host communities.

Through case management, UNCHR provided individualized support to 107,970 forcibly displaced people in vulnerable conditions, assessing specific needs and vulnerabilities while establishing referral paths to specialized actors whenever required.

Providing multipurpose cash proved crucial for addressing the urgent basic needs of vulnerable families while promoting a shift towards sustainable solutions. UNHCR distributed cash assistance for three months to over 3,490 households (more than 13,000 individuals), benefiting 59% of women. According to 2023 post-distribution monitoring (PDM), 90% of the interviewed households reported significantly or moderately improved living conditions, with 89% experiencing reduced feelings of stress. According to the same PDM, some 83% of assistance was used for food, 76% for rent, and 40% to cover health services and medicine.

At the border, UNHCR provided emergency shelter to 2,901 individuals and access to water and sanitation services to 4,137 people throughout the year.

Having strengthened the Government's capacity to provide health services as a humanitarian priority, UNHCR reinforced 45 primary healthcare centres serving more than 700,000 people. According to information from the Ministry of Health, these efforts led to a 20% increase in the number of forcibly displaced people benefiting from public insurance compared to 2022, considering that 74% of forcibly displaced Venezuelans still lacked access to public health insurance. Due to their lack of proper documentation, UNHCR and its partners provided direct health assistance to nearly 30,000 people who would not access immediate health care through primary or specialized health services.

According to the Ministry of Education (MoE), in 2023, some 135,252 Venezuelan children were enrolled in primary education programs. However, there is no official data on the number of children and adolescents outside the educational system. As a co-leader of the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM), UNHCR worked closely with the MoE to improve access to education for displaced children, and in 2023, enabled 209 Venezuelans and children to participate in community school reinforcement programs.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

The people with and for whom UNHCR works can access decent labor opportunities and financial services.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	48.24%	60.00%	53.93%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5.54%	20.00%	5.89%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Forcibly displaced and stateless people from Venezuela living in Peru struggle with limited access to formal employment, with 80% working in the informal sector within an economy where informality prevails at 73%. Barriers such as lack of documentation hinder access to a formal job, with 80% lacking formal contracts despite over 95% being economically active. The above contributes to non-competitive salaries and job insecurity, reflected in only 5.9% of forcibly displaced and stateless people reporting positive income changes compared to 2022. While about 54% have access to banking services, challenges persist for those lacking recognized documentation, like the Migration ID Card needed to open bank accounts.

UNHCR contributed to addressing all these challenges by providing orientation to more than 1,900 individuals on how to access formal employment (out of which 73% found employment), supporting the registration of almost 10,800 to labour intermediation platforms, and job-placing 388 (where almost 60% were women). At the same time, UNHCR provided financial support to nearly 500 people to initiate or strengthen their entrepreneurship. As a result, 46.1% of the participants in the 2023 livelihoods strategy achieved incomes exceeding S/1,200 (around \$324) after completing the programme (with a baseline of 96% of them below that value). Additionally, of 464 individuals who received technical training support, 21% surpassed the poverty line, compared to 7% before joining the programme.

In collaboration with private entities and NGOs, UNHCR raised awareness among private entrepreneurs for the recruitment of refugees. Regarding financial services, the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) established a Committee on Financial Inclusion for refugees that engaged other institutions such as the Superintendence of Bank and Insurance (SBS), the National Superintendence of Migration (SNM), ILO and UNHCR among others to advocate with relevant actors in the national financial system in favour of the financial inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people and coordinate with civil society, nonprofits and the international cooperation to make it feasible.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

By 2026, UNHCR and its partners have strengthened its capacity and diversified its options to more streamlined procedures for resettlement and complementary pathways.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	1,520	1,532
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	282.00	282.00	405.00

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR consolidated the Durable Solutions unit to increase access to solutions, expanding and diversifying identification and streamlining efficient resettlement processing. These efforts improved internal resettlement processing time, reducing the time between case creation to submission from 99 days in 2022 to 54 in 2023.

The increase in the processing time from submission to departure was related to the timeframes in which the resettlement countries make decisions, linked to the dates of their selection missions and departure challenges due to exit formalities.

With an acceptance rate of 95%, the operation submitted 1,532 people for resettlement (41 to Australia, 189 to Canada, and 1,302 to the United States), reaching the quota of 1,520. To achieve this, 4,775 people were identified, 2,787 were interviewed for protection pre-screen, and 2,034 were interviewed for

resettlement. Among the individuals submitted, 95% were forcibly displaced Venezuelans, followed by Colombians (4%). Some 59% of the submissions fell into the survivor of violence and torture category, followed by legal and physical protection needs with 33% of the cases. There was an increase of 400% in the submission of persons of the LGBTIQ+ community compared to 2022.

In 2023, UNHCR actively engaged in post-submission activities, including the provision of logistical and financial assistance for the refugee's participation in IOM pre-screening, medical evaluations, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' circuit rides, ensuring that the individuals submitted were able to continue with the resettlement processing in Lima regardless their initial location.

UNHCR's support was crucial in facilitating the ongoing processing of cases for Australia and Canada, resulting in 577 people leaving their resettlement countries to restart their lives in safe and dignified conditions.

UNHCR trained 70 members of partner organizations and staff to strengthen their capacity to identify potential resettlement cases within the framework of their activities.

On labour mobility, UNHCR implemented a small-scale initiative streamlining operational procedures and enhancing formal employment prospects for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in third countries. UNHCR's support for candidates focused on overcoming documentation-related obstacles and empowering forcibly displaced Venezuelans to participate in the formal labour market and access international recruitment opportunities.

By the end of 2023, more than 1,300 people registered in the talent database of international partners (Talent Lift and Talent Beyond Borders), 171 candidates entered the labour mobility programme, out of which 7 received a letter of offer from an employer in the destination country. For the first time, two people travelled to Canada under the programme.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR made progress in implementing the age, gender, and diversity policy by ensuring the participation, inclusion, and empowerment of diverse groups of forcibly displaced and stateless people. Through a participatory assessment with 129 people (94 women, 25 men, and ten children) and protection monitoring, UNHCR identified and addressed the specific needs and risks of groups such as women, children, elderly people, persons with disabilities, people of African descent, indigenous people, women engaged in the sale and exchange of sex, and LGBTIQ+ people. UNHCR also collected and analyzed data disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and ethnicity to inform its programming and advocacy.

UNHCR consulted with communities on relevant topics through working with community leaders and community-based and faith-based organizations, of which 71% were led by forcibly displaced Venezuelan women. This approach ensured the direct participation of communities in the programme cycle and the promotion of their rights and dignity. LGBTIQ+ people who faced multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion found a safe space in the House of Diversity in Arequipa, thanks to UNHCR's partnership with local organizations.

UNHCR enhanced its feedback and complaints mechanism with national outreach, providing various channels for forcibly displaced Venezuelans to express their views and concerns. UNHCR implemented the standard operating procedure for managing complaints and suggestions throughout the year in coordination with partners and other stakeholders. The feedback received was used to improve the quality and accountability of UNHCR's interventions.

UNHCR implemented an annual plan to include persons with disabilities based on the findings and inputs gathered during the monitoring process and the participatory assessment. The plan aimed to ensure that persons with disabilities had equal access to protection and assistance and that their specific needs and capacities were recognized and supported.

Section 3: Resources

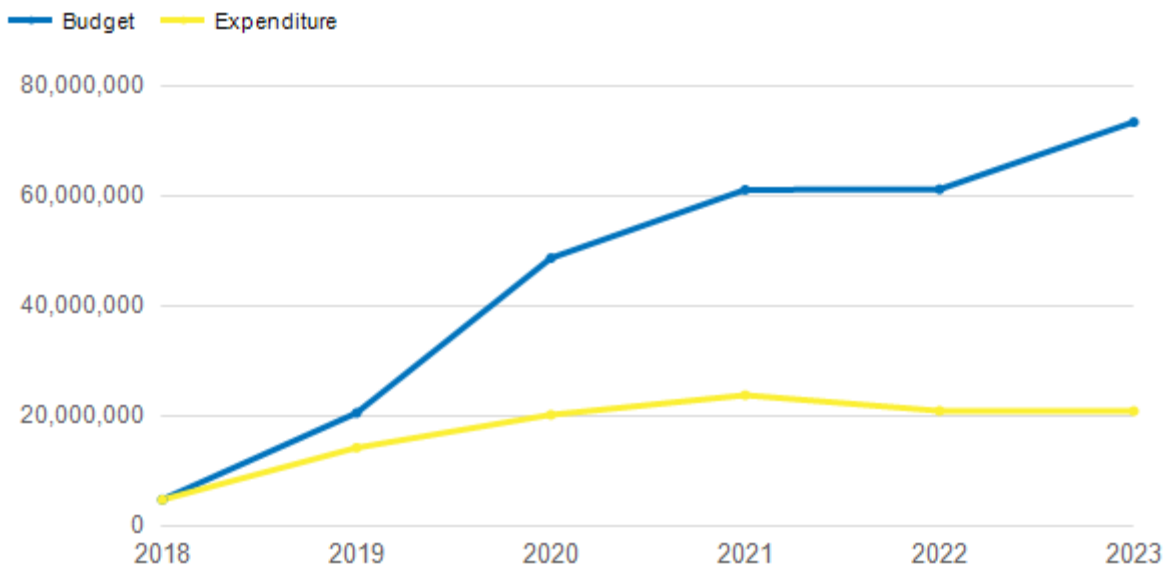
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

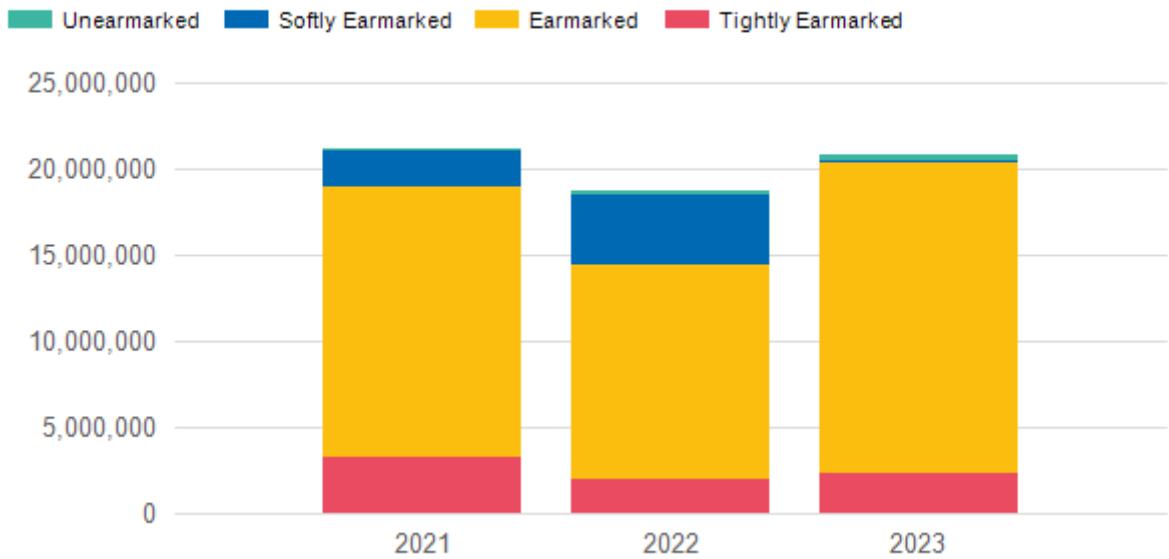
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	18,212,223	5,326,922	29.25%	5,326,922	100.00%
IA2: Assist	28,807,698	8,047,021	27.93%	8,047,021	100.00%
IA3: Empower	23,931,589	5,451,575	22.78%	5,451,575	100.00%
IA4: Solve	2,386,401	2,000,875	83.84%	2,000,875	100.00%
Total	73,337,910	20,826,393	28.40%	20,826,393	100.00%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	7,506,368	3,569,561	47.55%	3,569,561	100.00%
OA4: GBV	5,410,720	947,398	17.51%	947,398	100.00%
OA5: Children	5,295,135	809,963	15.30%	809,963	100.00%
OA7: Community	5,014,925	1,667,917	33.26%	1,667,917	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	28,807,698	8,047,021	27.93%	8,047,021	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	17,390,356	2,686,960	15.45%	2,686,960	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	2,386,401	2,000,875	83.84%	2,000,875	100.00%
EA20: External	1,526,308	1,096,698	71.85%	1,096,698	100.00%
Total	73,337,910	20,826,393	28.40%	20,826,393	100.00%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

UNHCR secured an extensive operational presence in Peru, covering the cities of Arequipa, Lima and Trujillo, primary border areas of Tumbes and Tacna, and partner presence in Madre de Dios and Puno. The Field Office of Lima, established in 2022, has led the implementation of an urban strategy that targets specific geographic locations; consolidating the Field Unit further strengthened UNHCR’s relationships with local governments, communities, and refugee-led organizations.

As 29% of the overall needs were funded, UNHCR prioritized four areas: legal frameworks (asylum system improvement, regularization, legal assistance), cash-based interventions, local integration (community

empowerment, livelihoods), and resettlement. Crucial areas of work like gender violence, child protection, and education have been downsized and redesigned.

UNHCR's Area-Based Approach prioritized geographic locations and promoted a more targeted use of its resources. Prioritization of resources resulted in a downsize of assistance programmes for the sectors of education, child protection and gender-based violence.

While funding levels remain uncertain, Peru maintained its regional relevance as an asylum destination for displaced Venezuelans. UNHCR Peru engaged in multi-country funding opportunities, which have been essential to addressing the Venezuelan situation comprehensively. Thanks to the trust and partnership from its donors, UNHCR was able to sustain its key protection priorities. However, during 2023, the operation also sought new partnerships with development actors to identify funding opportunities prioritizing sustainable integration conditions for displaced populations and local communities, maximizing opportunities with local governments.

Recognizing Peru's vulnerability to climate emergencies, UNHCR also explored avenues for resource mobilization in disaster preparedness.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Since its establishment in 2018, UNHCR has responded to four consecutive emergencies due to peaks of entries at the borders and the COVID-19 pandemic while establishing partnerships and leading interagency coordination.

The shift from the emergency phase to a more sustainable operating context was implemented under extraordinary COVID/19 restrictions until 2022. The Operation adapted and transitioned from an emergency phase to a more sustainable operating context; however, strategic questions remained, such as i) opportunities of a development nexus strategy/scheme, ii) strategy development of community empowerment and livelihood, and iii) strategic review of UNHCR's approach to urgent basic needs assistance.

This new approach needs a more evidence-based outlook and expertise in development and public policy, which the Office needs to reinforce. The latter includes balancing presence in border and urban areas, targeting geographically based on sociodemographic data (an exercise that started in 2023 for Lima and initiated rapprochement to key Municipalities), standardizing monitoring and evaluation exercises, and strengthened synergies between the situation analyses and planning processes from UNHCR and R4V for increased efficiency.

Finally, it is essential to tackle normative barriers and lack of proper documentation, which are the main factors in reaching durable solutions. UNHCR needs to continue its advocacy to promote protection-oriented laws and support the development of legal stay arrangements. Awareness-raising campaigns are also required to overcome security concerns over criminality and better understand international protection needs.



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