

The exodus of Venezuelan nationals is the largest in the recent history of Latin America and the Caribbean and has become the **second largest international displacement crisis in the world**. Of the approximately **5.4 million** refugees and migrants from Venezuela globally, some **4.6 million** are in Latin America and the Caribbean. By November 2020, there were **803,786 pending asylum claims** from Venezuelans worldwide and 143,402 Venezuelans recognized as refugees in the world. Some 2.5 million residence or regular stay permits have been issued to Venezuelans by Latin American countries. The rest are living in an irregular situation and exposed to greater risk of various forms of exploitation and abuse, due to limited access to rights, including national health, social welfare programmes and basic services

As a consequence of the pandemic, many refugees and others have lost their sources of income, which, in turn, further hampers their ability to pay rent and buy food and other essentials, such as medicine. Evictions, compounded by the closure of some shelters, have led to a spike in homelessness which has further eroded public perceptions of refugees and migrants. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNHCR works to support this population and fosters their access to rights in safety and dignity. UNHCR co-lead Inter-Agency efforts to respond to these challenges, to be addressed by the upcoming **2021 Refugee and Migrant Response Plan**.

**RESPONSE in HOSTING COUNTRIES**


**82,000** individuals received legal assistance



**106,000** people supported through cash transfers to meet basic needs



**434,000** medical masks distributed to national health authorities and first responders



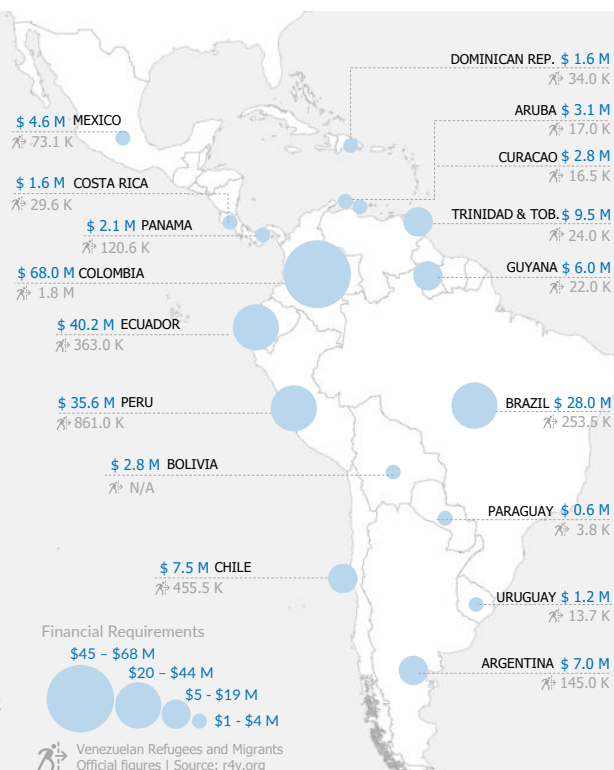
**34,000** refugees and migrants sheltered



**1.4 million** people reached through two-way communication mechanisms to voice their needs



[help.unhcr.org](https://help.unhcr.org) updated information from **16 countries** throughout the region on prevention and remote services


**Making a Difference January – October 2020**

Health	52,000 health care consultations provided
Food	42,000 individuals receiving food assistance
Relief Items	89,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela provided with non-food items, as blankets, mosquito nets or mats
WASH	12,000 people with improved access to water and sanitation
Education	16,000 children supported to access education
Integration	22,000 individuals participating in social cohesion activities
Information and Orientation	36,000 individuals assisted through Support Spaces. Access the complete map at <a href="https://espacios.r4v.info/es/map">https://espacios.r4v.info/es/map</a>
Community engagement	20,800 individuals participating in activities promoting social cohesion.

**RESPONSE inside VENEZUELA**

UNHCR operates within the interagency framework of the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan to assist the most vulnerable population groups inside the country. In addition to [activities under the WASH and Education clusters](#), UNHCR also contributes operationally and as [lead of two clusters: Protection as well as Shelter, Energy and non-food relief items \(NFI\)](#).

In prioritized communities, particularly in border areas, [UNHCR assistance helps address basic needs for vulnerable individuals through core relief items](#), including jerry cans, solar lamps, kitchen sets and hygiene kits. This assistance runs in parallel to support to reception capacities for spontaneous returns, taking place amid the COVID-19 pandemic, through capacity-building activities, the expansion of triage, medical and emergency shelter facilities, as well as hygiene and sanitation materials for frontline service providers.

[UNHCR also works extensively with key institutions and community-based actors to strengthen access to rights through information, individual counselling and referrals](#). Legal assistance and psychosocial support are also made available to persons with specific protection risks, including but not limited to survivors of violence and individuals at risk of statelessness. Community engagement remains a core feature of UNHCR activities, mobilizing networks across prioritized communities to strengthen grassroots efforts for access to rights, peaceful coexistence, and now public health risks.



**68 communities**  
prioritized and supported



**484 Refugee Hosting Units\***  
delivered to strengthen the health response



**682,000 individuals\***  
received assistance by UNHCR & partners



**257,000 people informed\***  
Through sessions and broadcasting of messages on rights and health  
*\* as of end September*

**Making a Difference January - October 2020**

Relief items	61,047 household items as kitchen sets, mosquito nets or jerry cans
Protection	16,742 people received individual guidance and attention
Shelter	68 collective and community facilities improved
WASH	20,681 hygiene kits delivered and 25 sanitation facilities improved
Education	2,110 children supported to access education through booster classes and supply distribution
Community engagement	309 community promoters, 23 community committees, 14 youth networks and 11 women networks with enhance capacity and knowledge on access to services, particularly health

**UNHCR is grateful for the critical and generous support** provided by donors to the **Venezuela Situation**, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked funding.

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**UNHCR urgently needs**

**USD 260.7 million** to save lives and protect the most vulnerable Venezuelans in the Americas

