



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR - PERU

Factsheet

August 2024

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KEY FIGURES



1.54M

1.54 M Venezuelans in Peru
Over **1M** residing in Lima*



508K

493,476 asylum-seekers
from Venezuela (CEPR)*



6.7K

4,906 Venezuelan granted
refugee status (CEPR)*

*dated 30 June 2023, source: R4V- platform

*dated 31 December 2023, source: Special Commission for Refugee (CEPR)

Peru continues to be the second destination country for Venezuelans, with over 1.54 million by the end of 2023, out of whom 493,476 asylum-seekers and 4,906 are recognized refugees. Peru hosts the largest number of Venezuelan asylum-seekers worldwide, and Lima is the city with the largest Venezuelan population outside Venezuela (over one million people).

UNHCR estimates the prevalence of monetary poverty among Venezuelans at 32 per cent and extreme poverty at 10 per cent. Upon entering Peru, refugees and migrants are in highly vulnerable situations, unable to generate income to support themselves, and exposed to higher risks of falling into poverty and negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, sexual exploitation, begging for food, among others. UNHCR assumes that displacement will not increase drastically over the coming years.

CONTEXT

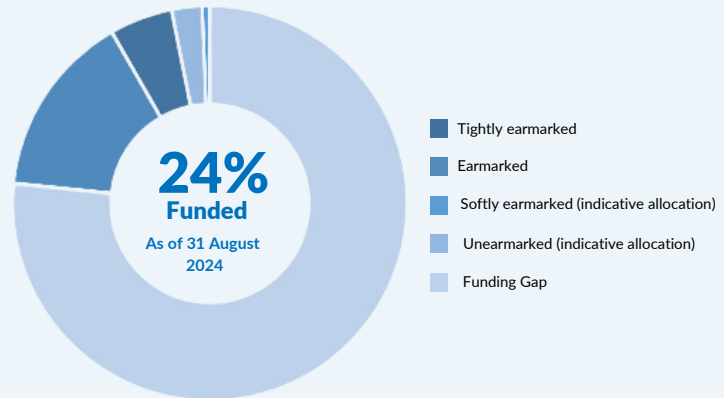
In December 2023, the Government of Peru participated in the II Global Refugee Forum (GRF), pledging to improve the asylum system through a data validation process, to include forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national statistics, to implement a mechanism for determining statelessness, and to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants.

As part of the pledge to improve the asylum system, the Government launched a self-validation exercise asking asylum-seekers to self-validate their continued interest in having their claim processed. This process will help re-establish the accurate number of asylum-seekers in the country, and allow for the fair and expeditious processing of refugee claims.

The humanitarian-development nexus is a priority. UNHCR is working with national, regional and local authorities, and others to promote access to rights and services for the forcibly displaced population. UNHCR is increasing support for normative and policy changes to strengthen access to public services. UNHCR follows an area-based approach for the prioritization of interventions in districts with a high concentration of Venezuelan nationals, high poverty levels, and a strong political commitment of respective mayors to the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in their programmes and services.

FUNDING

In 2024, UNHCR requires USD 71.8M in funding to respond to the needs of displaced people in Peru. As of 31 August, the operation has received around 17.2M (approximately 24% of the total funding required).



UNHCR'S PRIORITIES IN PERU

PROTECTION

Access to asylum and to fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures, documentation and regularization are key protection priorities. UNHCR works with the Government to ensure a favorable regulatory framework and public policies for forcibly displaced people, as well as an effective system of registration, case processing and documentation that enables the identification of asylum-seekers and refugees, in particular those in situations of high vulnerability. In this regard, the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) and the National Migration Superintendence (SNM) are strategic allies.



UNHCR supports the CEPR's registration, RSD processes, and documentation. UNHCR is currently supporting the implementation of a data validation exercise to update data on asylum applications and reduce delays in refugee status determination. Furthermore, UNHCR offers support to the SNM with the issuance of temporary residence permits and foreign ID Card ensuring a decentralized and community-based presence in the district of Lima which has the highest concentration of Venezuelans in Peru.

Additionally, UNHCR provides legal assistance and orientation at borders and main cities nationwide supporting access to rights, including the right to seek and be granted asylum, and migratory arrangements for displaced people. Finally, UNHCR provides targeted training to authorities, including the Police, CEPR and SNM officials, Ombudsperson's Officers, and Judges, civil society and community-based organizations. This improves the identification and referral of people in need of international protection, reducing the risk of refoulement and strengthening access to the asylum system.



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BASIC NEEDS



UNHCR provides multipurpose cash assistance and emergency cash support to vulnerable displaced persons in Peru, as a tool to temporarily meet their most essential needs. Cash assistance supports households in case management to transition away from situations of vulnerability or risk. In 2023, 87% of beneficiaries of UNHCR’s cash assistance programmes were women.

Multipurpose cash assistance helps households to cover basic needs over a three-month period, providing greater flexibility and choice, and allowing them to prioritize their expenses. According to the latest post-distribution monitoring exercise, cash assistance contributed to improving the living conditions of almost 99% of the families that received it, with 89% experiencing reduced feelings of stress. Since July 2023, UNHCR has directly provided multipurpose cash assistance through prepaid bank cards.



GENDER VIOLENCE AND CHILD PROTECTION

As part of preventing and addressing gender violence (GV), UNHCR actively assists individuals at risk and/or survivors by facilitating their access to state services and providing psychosocial and integration support, among other services.

UNHCR actively supports the Government in developing specific tools for the care of forcibly displaced children and adolescents at risk of family separation or already in situations of family separation, actively providing training to officials from relevant entities.



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HEALTH



According to ENPOVE II, health services are the foremost unmet need among the Venezuelan population in Peru. In response, UNHCR actively contributes to enhancing the capacities of the public health system by collaborating with local authorities to expand the reach of services to displaced persons. UNHCR’s interventions include infrastructure improvements in health and mental health centres at borders and main cities; referral mechanisms of individuals with severe physical or mental health conditions; and directly supporting these individuals to access health insurance and receive humanitarian support if required. Complementarily, UNHCR and its partners provide healthcare services in communities and at border areas, where availability is insufficient.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

UNHCR’s resettlement programme seeks to provide a durable solution to refugees with specific needs while sharing responsibility and demonstrating international solidarity among states. Through this programme, UNHCR identifies vulnerable individuals in need of international protection and presents their cases to Australia, Canada, and the United States.

In 2023, 1,532 individuals were submitted for resettlement consideration and 562 people were relocated and began their lives in a new country.



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SHELTER

UNHCR focuses on strengthening the capacities of communities managing eight collective shelters, implementing small-scale infrastructure improvements in some of these centres, and providing support with temporary accommodation, including in hotels at border areas, for people in transit and vulnerable populations that reside in the country.



LIVELIHOODS

UNHCR works to address challenges related to documentation, employment, and equitable access to economic inclusion for displaced populations. Its efforts focus on strengthening government livelihood programs and expanding their reach to refugees and migrants. UNHCR supports entrepreneurs in bringing their business ideas to market and helps remove barriers to financial services. Additionally, it enhances job placement initiatives across technical and professional sectors, facilitates the recognition of technical and professional degrees, and improves the vocational skills of refugees and migrants through certified training programs for entrepreneurship and employability. These initiatives are carried out in collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Labour and technical training institutes.



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WORK WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR collaborates with eight key partners to deliver a comprehensive humanitarian response at the national level. UNHCR also co-leads the Refugee and Migrants Working Group (GTRM, by its Spanish acronym), which addresses the protection, assistance, and integration needs of the Venezuelan population in Peru, while supporting and strengthening the government’s efforts. By July 2024, the GTRM had grown to 125 members, reflecting an increase from the previous year. Notably, 21 Venezuelan-led organizations are part of the GTRM, promoting the engagement and participation of displaced people in shaping and implementing protection strategies.

LOCALIZATION STRATEGY



Community-based organizations (CBOs) play a vital role in the protection response for displaced people. Since 2021, UNHCR leads a network of over 30 CBOs from five regions of Peru, many of which are primarily led by refugee women. These organizations complement UNHCR's efforts by reaching remote areas and underserved communities, thereby improving the quality and reach of the protection response. UNHCR supports CBOs by enhancing their capacities in four key areas: service quality, project management, financial control, and fundraising. In 2024, UNHCR continues to foster peaceful coexistence and local integration through its partnerships with CBOs.

URBAN STRATEGY

More than one million Venezuelans reside in Lima. In response to this concentration, UNHCR has adopted an Area-Based Approach (ABA), tailoring its interventions to the specific needs of residents in prioritized districts. As part of its Multi-Year Strategy (2023–2026), UNHCR has prioritized 12 districts for targeted protection interventions, with special attention to four key districts: Cercado de Lima, San Juan de Lurigancho, San Martín de Porres, and Surquillo. Through this approach, UNHCR will strengthen coordination and advocacy efforts in these districts to ensure equal access to rights and social protection services. Additionally, this strategy seeks to align the needs of displaced populations with the long-term development goals of local governments.



UNHCR is grateful for the support of donor countries that contribute to the office in Peru and to global programmes with flexible funding:



We also thank the contributions of our global private donors

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External Relations

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