

# PERU

## December 2024

### Operational Update



UNHCR supported San Martin Football Cup awards, fostering sports for integration among displaced children.

#### KEY FIGURES

**183,624**

people assisted in 2024

#### Protection

**1,458**

people received services at border and transit points in December, and 40,115 in 2024.

**589**

people received legal assistance in December, and 12,571 in 2024.



**1,367**

people supported with case management in December, and 10,703 in 2024.



**44**

people at risk of GBV and GBV survivors received assistance in December, and 646 in 2024.



**241**

people supported with shelter in December, and 3,162 in 2024.



**424**

kits delivered in December, and 14,268 in 2024.

#### Basic Needs

#### Health

**837**

people received healthcare services in December, and 13,575 in 2024.

#### Cash Assistance

**362**

households received cash assistance in December, and 2,994 in 2024.

#### Durable Solutions

**6**

people were submitted for resettlement in December and 2,744 in 2024.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR and OHCHR supported events marking the 76th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its link to refugee protection. On 4 December, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised “Art that Transforms: Integrating to Grow”, an event featuring cultural performances by forcibly displaced people and attended by over 50 participants.

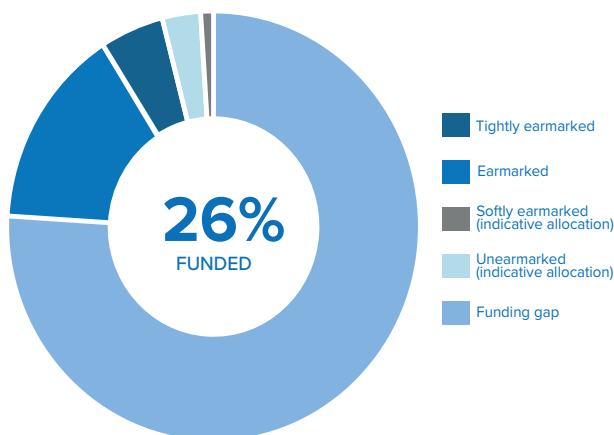
On 13 December, the Peruvian Judiciary held the Third National Congress on Access to Justice for Refugees, training over 70 public officials, including 36 judges, in international refugee law.

On 19 December, the National Judicial Branch officially accredited 10 Venezuelan female leaders in Peru as the first team of refugee judicial advisors after they completed an exhaustive training process. During the training, UNHCR facilitated capacity-sharing sessions on legal issues to enhance access to justice services. These advisors will now provide guidance to refugees and individuals of all nationalities within their communities. By promoting access to justice, particularly for vulnerable groups, this initiative extends their access to rights.

UNHCR supported several activities to bring together refugee and local communities. On 3 December, UNHCR and the Municipality of Lima, with over 50 organisations participating and more than 200 volunteers, organised the Metropolitan Volunteering Award. A UNHCR partner won in the Foreign Volunteers Category. Additionally, on 15 December, UNHCR supported the awards ceremony for the First San Martin Football Cup, hosted by the Municipality of San Martin de Porres, with the participation of over 1,600 boys and girls, including approximately 350 refugees. The objective of this activity was to promote sports for integration and access to rights.

#### FUNDING

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 December 2024)



In 2024, UNHCR requires USD 71.8M in funding to respond to the needs of forcibly displaced people in Peru. As of 31 December, the operation received around 19M (approximately 26% of the total funding required).



The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations.

Peru is home to 1.54 million Venezuelans, making it the second-largest host country for forcibly displaced Venezuelans after Colombia. As of June 2024, Peru hosts 508,488 asylum-seekers, primarily from Venezuela. These figures are currently under review due to the ongoing asylum backlog validation process. More than 1 million Venezuelans reside in Lima. Thirty-two per cent of Venezuelan nationals in Peru live in monetary poverty, and 10 per cent live in extreme poverty. Upon arrival, forcibly displaced individuals face significant vulnerabilities, including an inability to generate income, which increases their risk of falling into poverty and resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as child labor, sexual exploitation, and begging for food.

Changes in the Peruvian legal framework led to major developments, including the enactment of the National Multisectoral Human Rights Policy for 2040 on 8 December, which aims to address inequality and structural discrimination in Peru. In terms of refugee protection, the policy specifically mentions improving temporary authorisation issuance services for asylum-seekers and providing authorisations and/or travel documents for refugees. Additionally, on 10 December, the National Superintendence of Migration (SNM) launched a registration platform for accommodations and rentals for foreigners, requiring landlords to report contracts with foreign tenants to the SNM. Furthermore, on 15 December, a new law was passed stipulating that foreigners will be expelled from Peru if they fail to identify themselves before a competent authority.

The state of emergency has been extended for 60 days in Lima and 30 days in Trujillo, resulting in restrictions on movement and freedom of assembly. Additionally, a 60-day state of emergency has been declared in Puno due to water pollution, and in Piura and Chiclayo due to water shortages. UNHCR partners, including the Ombudsperson's Office and legal assistance organisations, are monitoring the situation to mitigate risks and respond to reports of arbitrary detentions. Efforts are also being made to ensure that refugees know their rights, empowering them to access available resources and legal protection during this period.

UNHCR STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

PROTECT

In December, UNHCR signed two Letters of Understanding (LoU) to enhance support for forcibly displaced people and strengthen the capacity of local authorities. An LoU was signed with the Regional Health Directorate of Puno (DIRESA) to strengthen the capacity of public healthcare facilities, with a focus on the Desaguadero Health Centre located at the border between Peru and Bolivia, and to promote integration. An LoU was also signed with the Municipality of Tacna to strengthen collaborative efforts that benefit forcibly displaced persons in this municipality which is located at the border with Chile.

To celebrate the holiday season, UNHCR organized various activities in Lima, fostering integration and peaceful coexistence. These included "La Fiesta de las Luces" with the Interreligious Council for Refugees and Migrants on 17 December, a "Chocolatada" on 19 December at PRONOEI 23 for Peruvian and Venezuelan students in the district of San Martin de Porres, a community soccer event on 20 December for forcibly displaced children, and the "Navidad del Niño Chorrillano" on 21 December, which engaged 1,200 children from both local and displaced communities. A total of 1,510 participants took part in these activities.





To support Peru's Global Refugee Forum pledge to establish a national statelessness status determination (SSD) procedure by 2025, UNHCR participated in a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 16 December to review progress and pending steps with key government institutions. The SSD proposal, prepared with UNHCR's technical assistance, will be consulted with the Executive branch in the first half of 2025. Additionally, on 12 December, UNHCR trained 217 national migration officials on international obligations to reduce and resolve statelessness and protect stateless individuals.



From 16 to 17 December, UNHCR facilitated a visit from the Canadian Embassy to Trujillo, the capital of the department, which has the second highest concentration of Venezuelan migrants after Lima. The mission's goal was to evaluate the needs of the displaced population and better understand the local situation. The Embassy engaged in discussions with local migration authorities and UNHCR partners, such as HIAS and IFRC.

## ASSIST

On 3 December, UNHCR inaugurated two infrastructure projects in Tacna. These projects included an improved water system in the Loyola Dining Hall, which provides hot meals free of charge to forcibly displaced persons and the local community, and an accessibility ramp was inaugurated at the Jorge Basadre educational centre to facilitate access for refugees with disabilities.

On 8 December, UNHCR in Ica hosted the Binational Festival of Community Integration (FEBIC). The event featured a range of services, including documentary and health guidance from the refugee-led organization VENEICA and livelihood support from COPEME (Consortium of Private Organizations for the Promotion of the Development of Micro and Small Enterprises). Some 100 participants, Peruvian and Venezuelan, attended the festival. Additionally, entrepreneurs from both nations showcased their projects.



UNHCR developed a training programme for the InfoContigo hotline operators' team from 16 – 28 December. This comprehensive training was structured into four modules, covering critical topics such as gender-based violence, international protection, child protection, psychological first aid, access to health services, data protection, among others. Conducted in collaboration with UN agencies that manage InfoContigo, this training was a key step in strengthening the protection response for forcibly displaced populations, ensuring that the operators were well-equipped to address their diverse needs through the interagency line.

In December 2024, a significant milestone was reached with the deployment of a specialised consultant to bolster the MHPSS Working Group of the R4V Task Force. This three-month engagement, hosted by UNHCR and funded by The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), aims to enhance inter-agency collaboration in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The consultant's expertise will prove instrumental in developing standardised tools, protocols, and capacity-building initiatives for MHPSS service providers across the country. This strategic move not only improves the quality of MHPSS services but also strengthens overall coordination and the response to the mental health needs of forcibly displaced populations.

## WHO WE WORK WITH:



## Stories from the field



### Building bridges through education

When Maikol Chirinos arrived from Venezuela seven years ago with his family, he dreamed of a better future in Peru. But reality was challenging—finding work was difficult, and uncertainty loomed. "Arriving in Peru wasn't easy. I encountered many obstacles, but I learned that when opportunities don't present themselves, you must create them."

Determined to make a difference, Maikol founded an organisation focussed on education for refugee children in Lima Norte. That is how Exploradores was born—a programme that helps refugee children and children forced to flee improve their math and language skills, paving their way into the Peruvian school system. "We welcome all children, whether refugees or Peruvians, to learn and grow together. Our aim is to promote both education and integration."

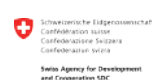
The impact has been profound. Through Exploradores, Peruvian and Venezuelan families have connected, breaking barriers and fostering a sense of unity. "This work is my way of giving back to a society that I now consider my own. I want refugee children to have more opportunities and for our communities to grow stronger together."

With Exploradores, Maikol is helping shape a more inclusive Peru—one child, one lesson, and one shared future at a time.

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Belgium  
partner in development



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