THE SOUTHERN CONE

RESPONSE FOR VENEZUELANS
Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

SPECIAL SITUATION REPORT IN BOLIVIA
UPDATE - 1 JUNE 2026

CONTEXT

•Road blockades across the country continue to limit mobility, restrict access to food and livelihoods, and drive an increase in protection risks and humanitarian needs. The situation is particularly deteriorating in El Alto/La Paz and Cochabamba due to the intensification of these blockades.

•Blockades are forcing the use of **high-risk alternative routes**, increasing travel times from around 3 hours to up to 24 hours, with some journeys lasting between 12 and 14 days. Families have been stranded along routes, with rising reports of accidents and a significant increase in transportation costs. Harsh weather conditions, including **temperatures as low as -10°C,** are further aggravating the vulnerability of people on the move.

•In Desaguadero, **closures of the border with Peru** have been reported, including the suspension of crossings via both the international bridge and boats. Access is still partial and irregular, with limited night-time crossings via the lake under strict controls, restricting both movement and access to food and essential goods.

•Push factors from Chile are also influencing current movements, including restrictions on access to employment, tighter documentation controls, and measures involving the detention and transfer of individuals.

•Oruro has become a key convergence point for flows from Pisiga and alternative routes, with a steady arrival of people who are either stranded or forced to reorganize their onward movement.

•Protection risks are increasing, including gender-based violence, exploitation—particularly in blockade contexts—and violence between groups over access to resources and space.

• Response capacity is still severely constrained due to limited availability of goods and food in local markets, in the context of supply chain disruptions, rising prices, and restrictions imposed by suppliers

+ 1000 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS ASSISTED

Location	DESAGUADERO	ORURO	LA PAZ	EL ALTO	PISIGA
Persons assisted (since May 8)	134	349	542		50
Children assisted (since May 8)	31	107	>70		20
Stranded persons (as of June 8)	~ 30	107	24	22	0

Response updates:

• Humanitarian response efforts continue across sectors, including the provision of food, hygiene kits, route-based information, temporary shelter, health and protection services.

•.**Critical constraints in food assistance are being reported**, due to reduced stock, rising prices, and challenges in replenishment.

•Shelter capacity remains limited, with pressure on available space and reports of closures.

•Operational and logistical challenges continue to affect aid delivery and **the safe operation of humanitarian staff**, while inter-agency coordination has been strengthened, particularly in shelter and logistics.

•Health needs are increasing, including treatment interruptions, respiratory conditions, and mental health concerns, as well as the need to reinforce primary healthcare along transit routes.

•Security concerns for humanitarian personnel have been identified, in a context of rising tensions, incidents of violence, and increased pressure on services.

•A deterioration of the protection environment is being reported, including cases of gender-based violence, exploitation, and other risks along transit routes.

The designations, boundaries, and representations are illustrative and do not imply an official position on the part of R4V, IOM, UNHCR, or their partners.

Participating Organizations R4V Meetings: UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, UN Women, Fundación Munasim Kullakita, World Vision, UN Resident Coordinator's Office Bolivia, Save the Children, Levántate Mujer, Bolivian Red Cross.

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UPDATE- 8 JUNE 2026

PRIORITY NEEDS

FOOD | SHELTER | PROTECTION | HEALTH | WARM CLOTHING

Access to food

- Difficulties in accessing food persist, with signs of shortages in Oruro and concerns about the availability of fresh food and the sustainability of assistance in La Paz/El Alto.
- Refugees and migrants continue to rely on coping strategies to meet their food needs, including rationing assistance, communal cooking, and reducing consumption due to uncertainty regarding the continuity of aid.
- Partners report increasing pressure to sustain aid, with daily support reaching 90–100 people in Oruro and spikes in demand in La Paz during holidays.
- There is an urgent need for ready-to-eat ("on-the-go") food kits, particularly for people in transit.

Shelter

- Challenges persist regarding the availability and sustainability of accommodation spaces, affecting shelter capacity and the ability to guarantee minimum living conditions.
- In Oruro, shelter capacity is extremely limited (~35 beds), in the context of closures of other facilities and reports of people sleeping in terminals, streets, stadiums, and open spaces.
- In La Paz and El Alto, shelters remain operational but under pressure due to the increasing number of stranded individuals (including 15 in La Paz, ~25 in El Alto, and additional groups in transit through Patacamaya).
- There has been an increase in people sleeping in public spaces, amid extreme temperatures (down to -10°C), heightening associated risks. Concerns have also been raised regarding equitable access to services.

Health

- Health concerns associated with low temperatures, prolonged walking, overcrowding, and prolonged exposure are increasing, including respiratory infections, health complications, and risks of hypothermia.
- An increase in respiratory infections, medical complications, and risks of hypothermia has been reported, alongside interruptions in treatment for chronic conditions (including complex cases such as cancer and diabetes).
- Priority needs continue among vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and people with severe medical conditions, as well as mental health impacts linked to prolonged stress.
- Need to strengthen primary healthcare services at aid points along transit routes.

Protection

- High protection risks persist during transit and prolonged stays, including extreme stress, intra-family conflicts, gender-based violence, and exposure of children and other vulnerable profiles.
- Reports indicate an increase in gender-based violence, harassment, and exploitation—including cases linked to transport along blocked routes—as well as incidents of intergroup violence, particularly in situations of prolonged waiting at transit points.
- Walking long distances is increasing exposure to risks, especially in harsh weather conditions.

Humanitarian response and operational restrictions

- Blockades and transportation disruptions continue to affect the mobility of people, supplies, and humanitarian teams, as well as the ability to scale up the response between critical nodes such as La Paz, El Alto, and Oruro.
- Logistical constraints persist, including challenges in transporting aid, rising costs, and reduced supplier availability amid ongoing supply chain disruptions.
- The response is facing critical stock shortages in some sectors, particularly food, with only limited supplies available in La Paz in the short term.
- Security and operational challenges for field teams continue, particularly in high-pressure areas such as Oruro.

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