

Registration Activities Peru

November 2018

UNHCR continues to work closely with Peruvian authorities to **identify, register and document refugees and asylum-seekers**. This provides proof of legal status, access to basic rights and services, and supports programme planning and delivery by UNHCR and other actors.

There are now over 560,000 Venezuelans in Peru. Since 2015, **Peru has recorded more than 156,000 asylum claims**, far exceeding the capacity of the national asylum system to provide registration and documentation.

UNHCR is supporting Peruvian authorities to establish a **new registration system, referred to as Qoricancha 2**, to increase capacity and strengthen procedural and protection safeguards. Qoricancha was the name of the “Golden Temple of the Sun” in Cuzco during the Inca empire.

Key figures:

156,000 asylum-seekers pre-registered with the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) (data as of 18 November 2018)

400 asylum requests currently filed per day in Lima

10 average number of months waited by asylum-seekers to receive documentation

11 Decentralised Offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

What is the current registration system?

Asylum processes in Peru, including registration, are managed by the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With the exponential increase in numbers of arrivals, the registration capacity of the CEPR has been overwhelmed.

An average of 400 individuals per day have been pre-registered so far in 2018. The current system is initiated by an online application, followed by an interview to conduct a ‘pre-registration’ involving the formal commencement of the asylum application. The pre-registration document grants access to employment but has limited recognition in the labour market.

The current registration system requires that the applicant pre-registers the claim in Lima. Limited resources in terms of staff and spaces are reducing the capacity to process and conclude the registration of asylum-seekers. This is slowing down the capacity of CEPR to issue asylum-seeker cards or progress asylum claims to refugee status determination (RSD).

Asylum-seekers are waiting an average of 10 months for pre-registration. During this time asylum-seekers are lacking formal documentation to access public services and work authorisation.

What is Qoricancha 2?

Qoricancha 2 is a new registration system designed by the CEPR and UNHCR. The new system will be launched in November and will facilitate the registration of approximately 1,000 individuals per day in Lima. In future, the system will be used in other regional offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs across the country as required.

Qoricancha 2 simplifies the overall registration process. Asylum-seekers need to complete an online application and schedule an appointment with the CEPR. Once individuals attend the interview with the CEPR, the full registration process is completed in one day. This registration will include biometric enrolment, consideration of specific needs and vulnerabilities, and issuance of a fraud proof asylum-seeker card.

This system increases efficiency by incorporating new process flows and customized software and tools. Information provided by the applicant online is verified, reducing interview time, and the previously separate systems for management of case records, documents and biometrics have been integrated.

UNHCR is also supporting the CEPR in increasing the physical space and resources for registration: 11 new interview rooms have been renovated, along with a reception area, help desk and waiting areas. Staff capacity has also been significantly increased, allowing teams to work in two shifts across extended operating hours.

Situation Update

- **Currently there are over 156,000 Venezuelan asylum-seekers pre-registered with the CEPR in Peru.** So far in 2018, 400 asylum requests per day were filed at the CEPR offices in Lima. Since 25 August 2018, the CEPR has started to record intentions to seek asylum at the Binational Border Centre (CEBAF) near the border with Ecuador. This was triggered by the new administrative requirement restricting entry for Venezuelans who do not hold a passport. The documentation issued by the CEPR at the CEBAF allows asylum-seekers to access the Peruvian territory. However, it requires then to approach CEPR to register an asylum claim.

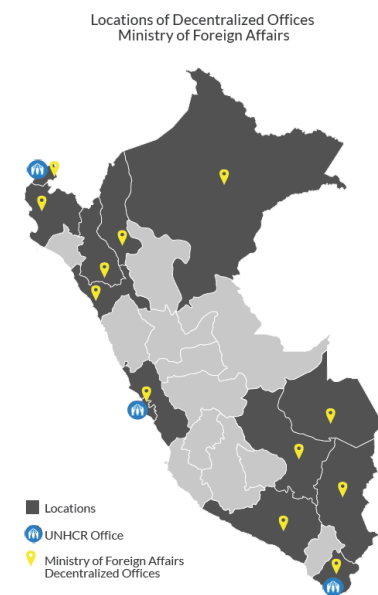


Arrival of Venezuelan asylum-seekers at CEPR tent at the Binational Border Centre (CEBAF) near Tumbes

- **The Venezuelan population in Peru includes 119,385 individuals holding Temporary Stay Permit (PTP).** A further 240,503 PTP applications are in process. After 31 October, new arrivals in Peru are no longer eligible to receive PTPs. This fact may further increase the pressure on the registration processes of CEPR, as it reduces the avenues open to Venezuelans to regularize their stay in Peru.

Main Activities

- **UNHCR together with the CEPR is making resources and staff available to scale up the registration of asylum-seekers in Peru.** The jointly designed Qoricancha 2 system integrates new registration software and equipment to speed up the collection of personal information, biometrics and the issuance of documentation.
- **Currently UNHCR together with the CEPR is preparing for the launch of the new registration system during November 2018.** The new system will be supported by the delivery of specific training to CEPR staff on registration processes, protection and identification of specific needs, data protection and privacy, and data security. An information campaign will also raise awareness within Venezuelan communities in Peru.
- **In 2019, UNHCR will also support the CEPR on secure data transfer of existing records into the new Qoricancha 2.** In addition, UNHCR in 2019 is planning to increase the processing capacity of authorities concerning RSD.



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