



KEY FIGURES:

• ESTIMATED POPULATION OF CONCERN

3,397,719 (HRP 2022-2023)

• REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Refugees: 9,339

Asylum-Seekers: 516

Source: National Commission for Refugees Venezuela

Persons in a Refugee-like Situation: 30,000

• COVID-19 CASES Reported in Venezuela

522,271 Cases / 5,707 Deaths

Source: Venezuelan Government

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The first quarter of 2022 registered the movement of 3.2 million people across the border between Colombia and Venezuela through the three international bridges linking the state of Tachira to the department of Norte de Santander, along with an emerging trend of increasing returns to Venezuela. The majority of those crossing the border engaged in circular movements between the two countries, seeking vaccines, medical and other services and goods for consumption or commerce.

The border with Brazil was reopened in late February, almost two years after its closure with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing people in mobility to avoid facing the protection risks associated with the use of informal crossing routes. Repatriation flights of the Government airlift scheme Plan Vuelta a la Patria resumed in March after a four-month hiatus, bringing back hundreds of Venezuelans from Peru and Ecuador.

The COVID-19 situation appeared to stabilize, with government figures pointing to a drastic decrease in cases and deaths that observers link mostly to a significant reduction in free-of-charge testing in public health facilities. The Government announced that pupils would be returning to school following the Easter holidays.

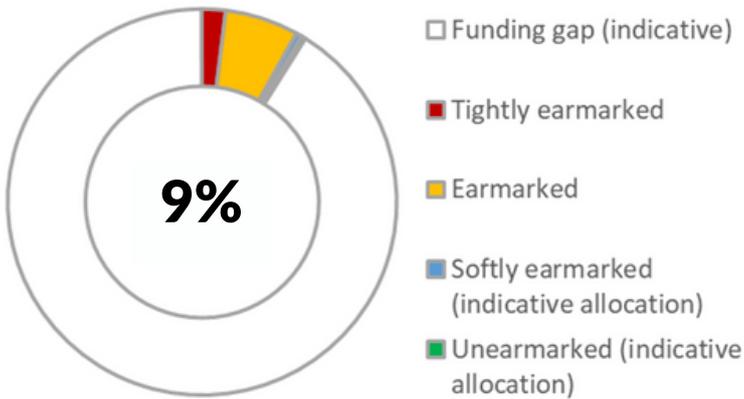
In a potentially significant political development, in early March an unprecedented meeting between President Nicolas Maduro and a high-level American delegation took place in the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, leading to speculation that the Government may resume the stalled national dialogue with the opposition and the US may be looking at revising its policy on sanctions against Venezuela.

On the economic front, despite increasing inflationary pressures affecting the purchasing power and food security of a large part of the population, the macroeconomic outlook for the country remained that of a gradual recovery, with estimates for 2022 ranging from a lowly 1.5% growth prediction by the IMF to an eye-watering 20% by Credit Suisse, with most other observers predicting increments of 6 to 10 percent for the year.



FUNDING (AS OF MARCH 2022)

USD 61.2 million
requested for Venezuela



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

131 Personnel:
101 national staff
 4 affiliate workforce employees
 0 national interns
26 international staff

Offices:

1 Representation in Caracas
4 Field Offices in San Cristóbal (Táchira), Guasualito (Apure), Maracaibo (Zulia) and Ciudad Guayana (Bolívar)
2 Field Units in Caracas and San Antonio (Táchira)



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

■ UNHCR is implementing activities in 77 prioritised communities in 13 states, primarily in the border areas with Colombia and Brazil, but also in Greater Caracas, including the nearby state of Miranda. UNHCR is working with 12 implementing partners: Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Zulia Red Cross, Falcón Red Cross, Fundación Luz y Vida, Fundación Vivienda Popular, Instituto Radiofónico Fe y Alegría (IRFA), Sociedad Wills Wilde, Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli (CISP), Fundación Amigos del Niño que Amerita Protección (Fundana), Azul Positivo, Techo and Cáritas Carupano, as well as other local actors, including government institutions and NGOs.

■ UNHCR leads the Protection and the Shelter, Energy and NFI Clusters within the framework of the Venezuela Humanitarian Response Plan.

■ UNHCR's main institutional counterparts are the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) and the Office of the Ombudsperson (DdP).



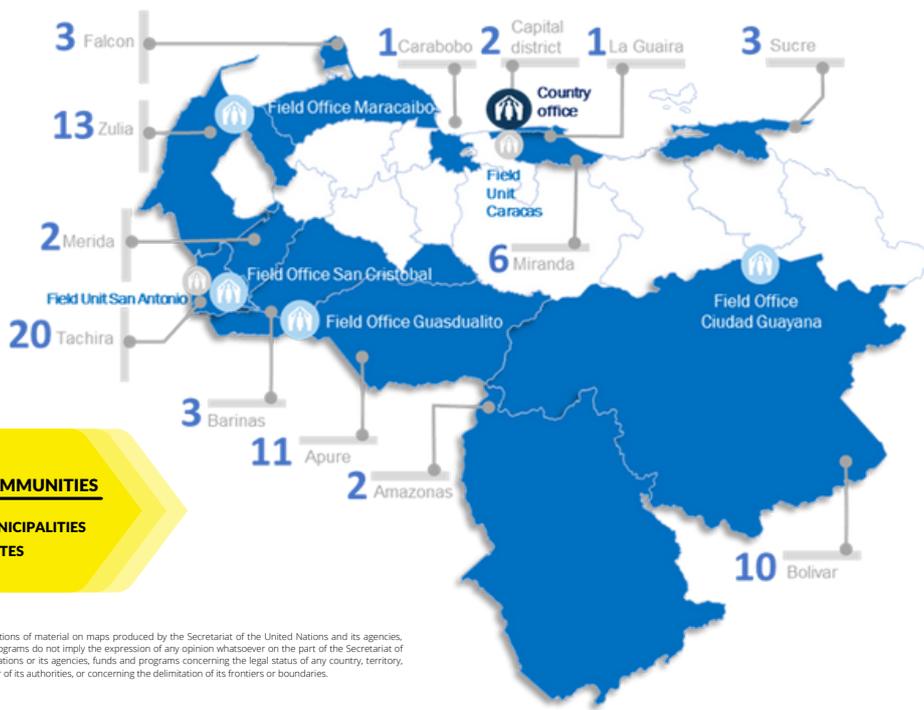
JAN - MAR 2022

**PROTECTION
+15K**

**SHELTER
+12K**

**WASH
+8K**

**BENEFICIARIES
+36K**



77 COMMUNITIES

**41 MUNICIPALITIES
13 STATES**

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UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR works in close coordination with the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) to ensure that international protection is provided to refugees and durable solutions are available. UNHCR has supported the organisation of asylum-seeker registration and RSD outreach activities by the CONARE, the establishment of a registration/case management system (SIGESREF), individual documentation for asylum-seekers and joint capacity-building activities with other government institutions, among other initiatives. At the same time, UNHCR Venezuela supports the voluntary repatriation of refugees to their countries of origin, ensuring that their return is in conditions of safety and dignity. Since 2015, UNHCR has supported the voluntary repatriation to Colombia of 253 persons of concern.

Within the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan and its leadership role in the Protection Cluster and the Shelter, Energy and NFI Cluster, UNHCR supports the UN inter-agency response in the country, including the COVID-19 pandemic response, by providing humanitarian and protection assistance to affected populations. UNHCR is also supporting 410 community promoters, 12 community committees, women networks and 18 youth networks. These structures have been instrumental in ensuring community engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting both the identification of persons with specific protection needs for their referral to available services and the implementation of community projects aimed at responding to community needs amidst the humanitarian situation that has been compounded by the pandemic. Community projects led by members of community structures have included projects to address protection, nutrition, health, water and sanitation and education needs.

UNHCR also supports the provision of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response services through the Safe Spaces Network and in coordination with the GBV Area of Responsibility of the Protection Cluster, to ensure persons on the move have access to confidential case management, counselling, psychosocial support, medical aid and legal services.



BEST PRACTICES

FIELD OFFICE GUASDUALITO



UNHCR coordinated and organised a registration and documentation brigade for 144 children without birth certificates in El Nula, Apure, together with IOM, the Child Protection Council, the Office of the Ombudsperson and Caritas Venezuela. During the activity, UNHCR provided legal assistance, referrals to specialised services, information sessions and additional support at no charge and in accordance with humanitarian principles, giving priority to older persons and women at risk.

FIELD OFFICE CIUDAD GUAYANA



In the indigenous community of Uroi Uarai, Bolívar, UNHCR organised a brigade where Civil Registry officials registered the birth of 29 children who were born in Venezuela. The brigade was organised together with IOM, HIAS, local authorities, the municipal Civil Registry Office and the Office of the Ombudsperson. During the activity, medical assistance was also provided, and the Office of the Ombudsperson provided referrals to specialised services regarding GBV and access to documentation.

FIELD UNIT CARACAS



UNHCR, together with Fundación Vivienda Popular, rehabilitated the 6th floor of the Victorino Santaella Hospital in Los Teques, Miranda, where the internal medicine department is located. This rehabilitation work included repairing pipes, electric systems, windows and floors and painting walls, doors and handrails. In addition, UNHCR equipped these spaces with hospital beds, overbed tables, reclining stretchers, bunk beds, mattresses, wheelchairs, Zimmer frames, sheets, blankets, desks and chairs, along with other NFIs. The Victorino Santaella Hospital is a Type IV hospital in the state of Miranda and attends to the medical needs of over 100,000 people, making it one of the most important health centres in central Venezuela.

FIELD OFFICE SAN CRISTÓBAL



UNHCR, as the leader of the Shelter, Energy & NFIs Cluster in the Venezuela Humanitarian Response Plan, reinforced the capacities of the COVID-19 Vaccination Pilot Centre at the San Cristóbal Oncological Hospital in Táchira, installing RHUs that will speed up the vaccination process and waiting time of patients. UNHCR also equipped the space with desks, chairs, water filters, shelving and stationery, with the aim of strengthening the response of health workers at the centre and increasing the daily capacity of assistance to patients.

FIELD UNIT SAN ANTONIO



UNHCR rehabilitated the La Libertad sports court in the border town of San Antonio del Táchira, where coexistence is promoted and where community leaders identify the main needs of their community and propose solutions to attend to them. UNHCR also installed 20 solar panels at different spots around this complex to ensure continuous lighting in this public space. Sporting and recreational activities are regularly organised at the court to mitigate protection risks to which the inhabitants of this community on the border with Colombia are exposed.

FIELD OFFICE MARACAIBO



UNHCR rehabilitated the infrastructure of the Comprehensive Assistance Centre in the coastal town of La Vela de Coro, Falcón, as well as the centre’s office and consultation areas and an open-air recreational space for children. UNHCR equipped the centre with office furniture and equipment to support such activities as professional workshops. The space itself facilitates both the provision of multisectoral protection services and state health services. UNHCR attended the inauguration of the new space, together with the Office of the Mayor of Colina and the municipal women’s institute, important allies in the coordination of activities and services to respond to GBV.

HEADQUARTERS VENEZUELA



UNHCR Venezuela, the Venezuelan Bar Association of Caracas and HIAS signed a Letter of Understanding to promote refugee law and advanced strategic litigation among legal practitioners in Venezuela. The tripartite LoU sets an alliance that covers two prioritised cooperation areas: a) capacity building for the Bar’s affiliated members, including a postgraduate course on International Refugee Law; and b) the establishment of a pro bono legal aid scheme for refugees and asylum-seekers, including persons in need of international protection who are subject to administrative detention.



DONORS

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