



Humanitarian workers with UNHCR and IOM make a delivery to the remote Santa Clara Indigenous community in Venezuela's southeastern Gran Sabana municipality. The items delivered included mattresses, mosquito nets, buckets, and solar-powered lamps – both portable lamps and streetlamps aimed at improving security in the town. © UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

Vulnerable communities have better access to shelter, energy, water and hygiene in Venezuela

The Americas region faces unprecedented levels of forced displacement, largely because of the situation in Venezuela. The country is experiencing accelerating, chronic climate shocks and stresses, some of which are factored into people's calculations on whether to stay or leave. One of the most significant is severe and prolonged periods of flooding and drought, which periodically affect many vulnerable communities in Venezuela where people are already living under other constant risks factors of displacement, including many indigenous communities at the borders with Brazil and Colombia.

In 2022, the rainy season in Venezuela affected thousands of people with overflowing rivers, landslides and floods in several states of the country, including Apure, Bolivar, Cojedes, Merida, Yaracuy and Zulia. In the north-central state of Aragua, over 70 people were killed by devastating floods the first weekend of October. The town of Las Tejerias, 70 kilometres from the capital Caracas, was almost destroyed by a landslide. Experts said the storms were aggravated by the seasonal La Niña weather system gripping the region.

UNHCR works in Venezuela to provide support to refugees inside the South American country, as well as with vulnerable Venezuelan populations at risk of displacement, and also with those returning to the country from abroad. As co-lead agency for natural disaster risk mitigation in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Venezuela, UNHCR has taken an active role in the response to the Tejerias emergency, sending truckloads of core relief supplies for the affected population.

Proposed Interventions (outcome)

Strengthen the availability of shelter structures, energy, non-food items and access to water in vulnerable communities in Venezuela where people are at risk of mobility and in communities that are affected by natural disasters and that are receiving returnees. Lead partners in the Protection and the Shelter, Energy and NFI Clusters within the framework of the Venezuela Humanitarian Response Plan in efforts to mitigate push factors prompting Venezuelans to leave the country.

Measurable Results

- 5,000 water, sanitation and hygiene items are delivered
- 5,000 vulnerable Venezuelans receive mosquito nets, buckets, jerry-cans, solar lamps and other forms of assistance
- 5 water supply systems are maintained or repaired
- 5 community structures are rehabilitated or improved

Implementing Partnerships

UNHCR Venezuela will implement the activities both directly and in partnership with implementing partners

Budget / Timeline

USD 461,350 for 12 months



UNHCR works with many of these vulnerable Indigenous communities, including Santa Clara, Bolivar, to help prevent displacement. The UN Refugee Agency has provided basic non-food items, such as solar-powered lamps, buckets and mosquito nets, that improve residents' quality of life and help people to remain on their ancestral lands. © UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso