

# PERU

## August 2024

### Operational Update



Community members participate in UNHCR sports event held in Chorrillos.

#### KEY FIGURES

**108,191**

people assisted in 2024

#### Protection

**2,196**

people received services at border and transit points in August, and 29,581 in 2024

**769**

people received legal assistance in August, and 6,469 in 2024.



**707**

people supported in case management in August, and 6,335 in 2024



**52**

people at risk of GBV and GBV survivors received assistance in August, and 429 in 2024.

#### Basic Needs



**226**

people supported with shelter in August, and 2,065 in 2024.



**945**

kits delivered in August, and 9,290 in 2024.

#### Health



**972**

people received healthcare services in August, and 8,655 in 2024.

#### Cash assistance



**1,099**

people received cash assistance in August, and in 4,619 in 2024

#### Community Integration



**1**

community space supported with infrastructure and equipment in August, and 6 in 2024.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

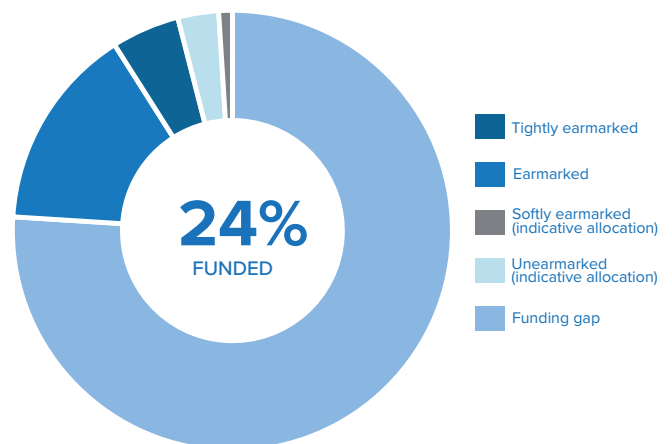
UNHCR continues to support the **Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR)** with the self-validation exercise to address the backlog of asylum applications. As of 25 August, **over 7,000 asylum-seekers** had self-validated their claims, with around 6,500 confirming their interest in proceeding with the process.

UNHCR border monitoring reports show that **food, shelter, legal and medical assistance** are among the **top needs** of forcibly displaced persons and those in need of international protection.

UNHCR is **working with authorities to enhance national asylum systems** and to **promote refugee integration into host communities**, while also enabling vulnerable displaced individuals and those in transit to access essential humanitarian and protection needs.

#### FUNDING

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 August 2024)



In 2024, UNHCR requires USD 71.8M in funding to respond to the needs of displaced people in Peru. As of 31 August, the operation received around 17.2M (approximately 24% of the total funding required).

Peru hosts 1.54 million Venezuelans, making it the second-largest destination for forcibly displaced Venezuelans after Colombia. As of June 2024, there were 508,488 asylum-seekers in Peru, mostly from Venezuela. The majority live in Lima, which is home to more than 1 million Venezuelan nationals. UNHCR estimates the prevalence of monetary poverty among Venezuelan nationals at 32 per cent and extreme poverty at 10 per cent. Upon entering Peru, refugees and migrants are in highly vulnerable situations, unable to generate income to support themselves, and exposed to higher risks of falling into poverty and negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, sexual exploitation, begging for food, among others.

Access to asylum and to fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures, documentation and regularization are key protection priorities. UNHCR works with the Government to ensure a favorable regulatory framework and public policies for forcibly displaced people, as well as an effective system of registration, case processing and documentation that enables the identification of asylum-seekers and refugees, in particular those in situations of high vulnerability. In this regard, the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) and the National Migration Superintendence (SNM) are strategic allies.

At the 2023 II Global Refugee Forum, Peru pledged to undertake a validation exercise of the asylum backlog to ascertain the accurate number of active cases and expedite the adjudication of claims. Following the removal of duplicate and incomplete files, as well as the cross-check exercise, the CEPR launched the self-validation phase on 1st of May, setting an initial deadline of 15th of July, which was later extended to 1st of October 2024. As of 1 September, 7,407 asylum-seekers had self-validated their claims. Of these, 6,839 confirmed their interest in continuing the process, while 523 withdrew.



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

## UNHCR STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

### PROTECT

In Tumbes, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Decentralized Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ombudsman's Office, and the local Migration authorities, conducted the **2nd Annual training on the "Rights of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers."** The training was attended by 45 officials from various units of the National Police of Peru, the Public Ministry, the Aurora National Program, and five organizations from the GTRM's Subsector of Access to Territory, Registration, and Documentation. Officials were trained in guidelines to **support individuals in need of international protection** at the border or in transit within the region.

On 19 August, the Judiciary's Commission on Access to Justice, with UNHCR support, launched the 4th edition of the **Specialization Course on International Protection Law.** The course consists of four modules covering standards on international protection, access to rights, and the judiciary's role in safeguarding refugees' rights. A total of 70 magistrates and court staff from across the country enrolled in the course.



From 26 – 27 August, as part of **UNHCR-funded research conducted by Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh**, a delegation from the university visited Peru to **gather first-hand information on refugees' access to public healthcare services** in Lima and Trujillo. The delegation met with authorities, partners, and community-based organizations, and conducted focus group discussions with forcibly displaced persons to collect their views. **Peru is the only country in the Americas included in this research.**



## ASSIST

In August, 354 vulnerable households (1,099 individuals) received **multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA)**.

MPCA allows refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants in Peru to **temporarily meet some of their most basic needs with dignity and flexibility**. Recipients can use cash assistance, which is provided for a three-month period, on expenses that they deem a priority according to their individual situation.

According to the latest post-distribution monitoring exercise (PDM), cash assistance contributes to improving the living conditions of almost 99% of the families who receive it, with 96% experiencing reduced feelings of stress.

On 11 August, UNHCR and Unión Venezolana took part in a **COMUNAFEST** event in Lima. The event saw the **participation of 600 forcibly displaced individuals and members of the host community**. Government institutions, including the Municipal Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents (DEMUNA), the Ombudsman of East Lima, and the Directorate of Integrated Health Networks Lima Este (DIRIS), also participated. Participants accessed **legal assistance, dental and general medical services, and a safe space** with recreational activities for children and adolescents.

On 28 August, UNHCR took part in a **multisectoral campaign organized by the Municipality of San Martín de Porres**, the district with the highest number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the country. During the campaign, UNHCR and the Municipal Ombudsman's Office for Children and Adolescents (DEMUNA) provided support with documentation records and health services. This **allowed Venezuelan parents to obtain National Identity Cards (DNI)** for their children born in Peru, free of charge, through the National Registry of Identification and Civil Status (RENIEC, in Spanish), **reducing the risks of statelessness and improving access to rights and services in the country**.

## EMPOWER

In mid-August, UNHCR organized a **focus group discussion (FGD) in Tumbes** with community leaders from local organizations. The aim was to **identify specific needs and enhance strategies for preventing gender-based violence (GBV), ensuring that GBV programs are tailored to local requirements**. Additionally, UNHCR met with Women's Emergency Centers (CEM) to start collaborations with organizations working in the area, particularly those focused on forcibly displaced individuals.



On 31 August, UNHCR, in collaboration with **World Athletics**, the Municipality of Chorrillos, and the Peruvian Athletics Federation, hosted a community sports event in Chorrillos, in Lima. Children and youth from the local and refugee community participated in the event which included three refugee athletes from South Sudan who competed in the World Athletics U-20 Competition in Lima, as guests of honor. The athletes shared their experiences with participants, demonstrating how **sports can be a powerful tool to overcome adversity and build a more promising future**.

The month of August saw several successes and developments that contributed to improving livelihoods and economic inclusion. On 13 August, 15 youth graduated from the "Mi Primer Oficio" program, which provides training in trades and soft skills for job placement. These 15 youths join a cohort of over 100 graduates. On 15 August, more than 30 representatives from the insurance sector were trained on access to financial services for refugee and migrant populations. Representatives from 19 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) also participated in an entrepreneurial event held on 28 August to **promote workplace inclusion and diversity and sensitize and encourage the hiring of refugee and migrant populations**.



## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

In August, UNHCR **identified and submitted 268 individuals to the United States, Canada, and Finland for resettlement consideration**. With these submissions, UNHCR Peru has reached 120 per cent of Finland's quota, 78 per cent of Canada's quota and 60 per cent of the U.S. quota.





## Athletes from South Sudan leave their mark at the World Athletics U20 Championships

Three young refugee athletes from South Sudan left their mark at the World U20 Athletics Championships in Lima, held from August 27 to 31 at the La Videna facilities. This international event brought together over 1,500 athletes from 134 countries. Among them were Dario (18), Zinad (17), and James (19), who found refuge in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya after fleeing armed conflict in their homeland. Today, these remarkable young individuals are part of the World Athletics Refugee Athletes Team, an initiative that provides refugee athletes with a platform to compete at the highest level.

In addition to their athletic achievements, the refugee athletes participated in a community event organized by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in collaboration with the Municipality of Chorrillos, World Athletics, and the Peruvian Athletics Federation. Held on August 31, this event united the athletes with Venezuelan refugees living in Peru and the local community, fostering a spirit of exchange and solidarity. Through sharing their personal journeys, the athletes showcased how sport can be a powerful tool to overcome adversity and build a brighter, more hopeful future.

### WHO WE WORK WITH:



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