

PERU

October 2024

Operational Update



On 14-15 October, UNHCR inaugurated the “Plaza de la Integración” and met with local authorities to support forcibly displaced people.

KEY FIGURES

149,134

people assisted in 2024

Protection

2,601

people received services at border and transit points in October, and 36,528 in 2024.

1,040

people received legal assistance in October, and 11,083 in 2024.



974

people supported with case management in October, and 8,243 in 2024.



54

people at risk of GBV and GBV survivors received assistance in October, and 535 in 2024.

Basic Needs



235

people supported with shelter in October, and 2,603 in 2024.



980

kits delivered in October, and 12,635 in 2024.

Health

1,441

people received healthcare services in October, and 11,560 in 2024.

Cash Assistance

371

households received cash assistance in October, and in 2,135 in 2024.

Durable Solutions

336

people were submitted for resettlement in October, and 2,560 in 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

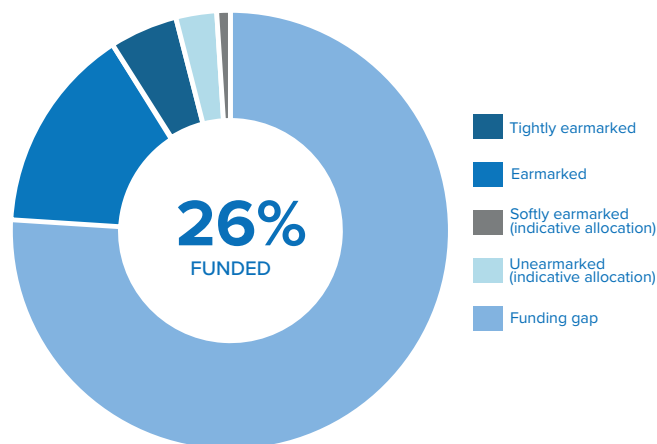
According to UNHCR border monitoring, from July to September, the flow of arrivals to Peru from mixed movements remained consistent. Among these, 78% were Venezuelan nationals, 13% Colombian, and 9% from other nationalities, including over 3% Ecuadorians. The primary needs of new arrivals included **guidance and information**, as well as assistance with basic necessities like **accommodation and food**.

Upon completion of the self-validation process of the existing asylum backlog on 1 October, UNHCR has provided additional equipment and contributed to hiring dedicated personnel for the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) to process self-validated asylum claims and archive non-validated applications.

On 7 October, **UNHCR established a permanent presence in Ica**, the fourth department with the largest concentration of forcibly displaced persons in Peru. UNHCR visited key organizations, including the local government, the municipality, DEMUNA (municipal service dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of children and adolescents), and the Office of the Ombudsperson. In previous missions, UNHCR identified **significant challenges for refugees and the host community, particularly in accessing healthcare, education, and documentation**.

FUNDING

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 October 2024)



In 2024, UNHCR requires USD 71.8M in funding to respond to the needs of displaced people in Peru. As of 31 October, the operation received around 18.6M (approximately 26% of the total funding required).



Peru is home to 1.54 million Venezuelans, making it the second-largest host country for forcibly displaced Venezuelans after Colombia. As of June 2024, Peru hosts 508,488 asylum-seekers, primarily from Venezuela. These figures are currently under review due to the ongoing asylum backlog validation process. More than 1 million Venezuelans reside in Lima. Thirty-two per cent of Venezuelan nationals in Peru live in monetary poverty, and 10 per cent live in extreme poverty. Upon arrival, forcibly displaced individuals face significant vulnerabilities, including an inability to generate income, which increases their risk of falling into poverty and resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as child labor, sexual exploitation, and begging for food.

On 22 October, the Peruvian Congress passed Supreme Decree 011-2024-IN to implement Law 31689, which pertains to hotel and private accommodation services for foreign nationals. This decree mandates that landlords and hotel operators must request a document from foreigners verifying their legal migratory status. While hotel providers face penalties for non-compliance, landlords are not subject to penalties under this regulation.

Starting in 2023, temporary shelters operated by nonprofit and faith-based organizations are no longer subject to this requirement. In areas lacking such shelters, new arrivals without a valid passport and humanitarian visa were previously directed to hotels for temporary housing by UNHCR. However, due to recent legal changes, they can no longer be referred to hotels until they secure an asylum card or regularize their status through an alternative stay mechanism.

Considering that asylum-seekers with documentation are not at risk, UNHCR continues to work with CEPR to enhance its capacity to document applicants, and for National Superintendency of Migrations (SNM) authorities to be able to provide documentation to refugees.

UNHCR STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

PROTECT

From 30 September to 3 October, UNHCR carried out **participatory assessments in three border cities: Desaguadero, Iñapari (Madre de Dios), and Tacna**. Participants were selected using an inclusive approach that took into account age, gender, and diversity, ensuring a broad range of perspectives, including those of youth, the elderly, and LGBTQ+ community members. In Iñapari, for instance, UNHCR worked with community leaders to conduct the first assessment, which aimed to identify key needs and challenges faced by the displaced population. The findings highlighted that **access to health services and education were among the most pressing needs**. In Desaguadero, the assessment pointed to urgent requirements for health, shelter, food, and clothing. Meanwhile, in Tacna, challenges related to health access and local integration were significant concerns for forcibly displaced individuals.

From 8 to 11 October, UNHCR conducted a training session for Caritas Madre de Dios, focusing on PRIMES tools, case management, PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse), and the prevention of statelessness. The goal is to further **strengthen their ability to effectively support refugees by improving case management** and providing necessary **assistance based on identified needs**. Additionally, a focus group with refugees was organized to evaluate their access to legal services. On 22 October, 14 police officers at the Bolognesi Guard Post received training on international protection, while 90 civil servants from the Municipality of Ciudad Nueva also participated in a training session that day. Additionally, on 24 October, 15 police officers from the Santa Rosa Guard Post attended further training on the same topic.

UNHCR held two sessions focused on country-of-origin information (CoI) regarding Haiti and Colombia. A total of 52 participants attended, including staff from the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR), the National Superintendency of Migrations (SNM), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consular Directorate. The purpose of these sessions was to **provide a comprehensive and current overview of the main risks and profiles of individuals from these two countries who may seek international protection in Perú**.



In October, UNHCR conducted various training sessions and awareness **activities on international protection** in Tacna, targeting key institutions and forcibly displaced individuals. On 10 October, a Binational Forum on the Protection of Children and Adolescents was held, bringing together 47 officials from public institutions in Peru and Chile to discuss critical child protection issues. The following day, a training was provided to 42 communicators and journalists on effectively handling information related to forcibly displaced persons, particularly in cases of human trafficking.

ASSIST

The approval of the **temporary SIS (Comprehensive Health Insurance) for non-resident foreigners, including forcibly displaced people living with HIV and tuberculosis** by the Peruvian Congress on 17 October was a significant milestone. By making treatment more affordable, this initiative will **enhance health outcomes and help reduce disparities**. However, to ensure that forcibly displaced individuals can fully access these services, UNHCR is addressing barriers such as documentation issues and discrimination. UNHCR will continue to collaborate with the Government of Peru and other stakeholders to implement this policy effectively, ensuring that it reaches everyone in need.



In October, the **assistance and orientation point (PAO) Centro Diurno** in Tacna provided support to 367 forcibly displaced individuals, including 93 children. The services offered primarily included **WASH facilities (toilets and showers), distribution of humanitarian kits, and medical care**. Since its opening in April 2023, Centro Diurno has assisted over 7,300 people in transit, making it the first centre in the region to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene services specifically for forcibly displaced individuals. Additionally, the centre offers guidance and identifies cases of individuals with specific protection needs, including those related to international protection.

UNHCR held a service fair on 15 October, in the city of Pisco, in Ica. Representatives from the Municipality of Pisco, the Offices for the Protection, Participation, and Organization of Neighbors with Disabilities (OMAPED), the Red Cross, and Encuentros provided services and support to both the refugee and local communities. This initiative sought to **inform forcibly displaced people about services available such as healthcare, first aid, legal aid and psychosocial support**. This event marked one of UNHCR's initial activities following the establishment of its permanent presence in Ica on 7 October.

On 17 October, UNHCR officially transferred the **Bicentennial Boulevard to the Municipality of Surquillo in Lima**. This infrastructure project is set to benefit over 500 individuals daily, especially children and adolescents, by providing them with a safe space to play and walk. The renovated boulevard aims to **promote peaceful coexistence between the forcibly displaced population and the host community**. The event was attended by the Mayor of Surquillo and the UNHCR Representative in Peru.



EMPOWER

In October, UNHCR participated in three coordination meetings organized by state institutions in Tacna: the Subcommittee on Migration Affairs (CIDF), the CIDF Childhood Department, and the CIDF Women's Department. During these sessions, UNHCR played an active role in **shaping agreements, advocating for the rights and needs of forcibly displaced individuals**. UNHCR has maintained consistent involvement with the CIDF throughout the year to ensure the effective implementation of commitments related to training, protocols, best practices, community fairs, and more.

On October 15, the project **"Improvement of the Plaza de la Integración" was inaugurated in Desaguadero**. This initiative, which included the rehabilitation of bathrooms and the construction of showers, aims to **provide affordable access to WASH facilities for both forcibly displaced individuals and the local community**. It was developed in response to a need identified by the Desaguadero District Municipality, fostering a collaborative effort for its implementation. The inauguration ceremony was attended by UNHCR's Deputy Representative and the Municipality of Desaguadero's First Councilor, along with local authorities, including a representative from the Central Única de Barrios. Their participation highlighted a shared commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations.



In Tumbes, UNHCR launched the **Gender-Based Violence Community Focal Points Programme**, designed to enhance the skills of local leaders in effectively addressing cases of gender-based violence and providing information on available protection options. The training sessions were held in a decentralized manner, reaching all three provinces of the region. A total of **thirty-six women leaders from community-based organizations representing forcibly displaced persons took part in the programme**. This initiative aims to empower these leaders to better support their communities.

SOLVE

From 7 to 21 October, Finland conducted its first resettlement virtual selection mission. During this initiative, the delegation interviewed 59 individuals across 22 cases submitted for resettlement consideration. Decision are expected by the end of the year.

A total of 341 individuals were submitted for resettlement consideration in October, primarily to the US, which brings the total to 82% of the annual quota. Overall, 2,411 persons have been submitted for resettlement to the US, Finland, and Canada.

WHO WE WORK WITH:



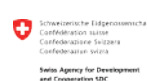
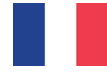


Melodies of Unity: Sergio's band bridges Peruvian and Venezuelan cultures through music

In the Surquillo district of Lima, music has become a bridge that unites hearts and breaks down barriers, thanks to the dedication of Sergio, a Venezuelan teacher who has been an active part of this community for years. At the "Jesús de la Misericordia" School, Sergio passionately leads a school band made up of Peruvian and Venezuelan children, who, with drums, lyres, and flutes, not only learn melodies but also the values of integration and respect. During the inauguration of the "Boulevard Bicentenario", organized by UNHCR, the band led by Sergio, played their instruments, demonstrating how music can transform spaces and connect cultures. "Now the boulevard looks more beautiful, more attractive, and that helps the community a lot," reflects Sergio, highlighting the positive impact this renewed space has for the families of Surquillo.

Sergio's work is an example of how art can transcend differences. His band, which recently won first place in the district's parade, is a testament to the talent and discipline of the children he leads, many of whom are Venezuelan. "There are incredible talents in the band, and I am proud that together we achieve great things," comments Sergio, who deeply values the bond that has been forged between Peruvian and Venezuelan children. In every musical note, a clear message resonates: diversity enriches and strengthens communities, and music, under the guidance of leaders like Sergio, has the power to create a more inclusive and hopeful future for all.

UNHCR is grateful for the support of donor countries that contribute to the office in Peru and to global programmes with flexible funding



We also thank the contributions of our global private donors

Private donors from Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden

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