

PERU

November 2024

Operational Update



On 23 November, UNHCR organised an event in a community space for children and adolescents as part of World Children's Day on 20 November.

KEY FIGURES

160,871
people assisted in 2024

Protection

2,601

people received services at border and transit points in November, and 38,593 in 2024.

879

people received legal assistance in November, and 11,980 in 2024.



681

people supported with case management in November, and 8,924 in 2024.



66

people at risk of GBV and GBV survivors received assistance in November, and 602 in 2024.



222

people supported with shelter in November, and 2,826 in 2024.



833

kits delivered in November, and 13,480 in 2024.

Basic Needs

Health

1,196

people received healthcare services in November, and 12,794 in 2024.

Cash Assistance

182

households received cash assistance in November, and 2,632 in 2024.

Durable Solutions

178

people were submitted for resettlement in November, and 2,738 in 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

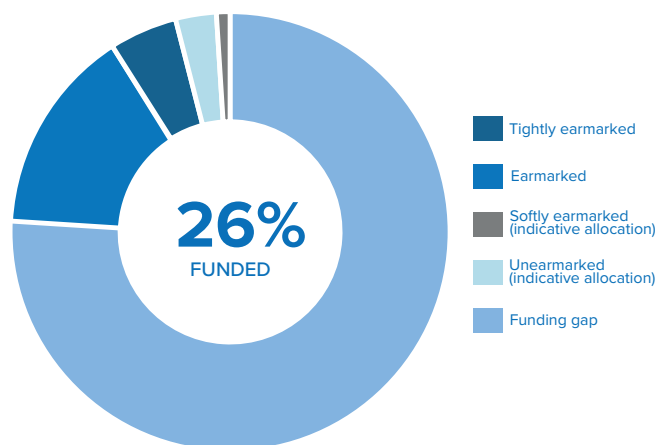
On 27 November, UNHCR and the World Bank launched the report “Un encuentro de oportunidades: la movilidad humana de Venezuela y el desarrollo del Perú”. The report assesses the main opportunities and challenges regarding human mobility in Peru, drawing recommendations to foster their socio-economic inclusion and boost the contribution of venezuelan refugees and migrants to the host country's development.

In November, UNHCR continued supporting the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) responsible for refugee status determination. With additional personnel and interview rooms, CEPR is increasing the number of refugee claims adjudicated.

UNHCR organised several events in November to commemorate the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence and the 35th Anniversary of the Rights Children Convention. UNHCR attended and held trainings and working sessions as well as outdoors activities with forcibly displaced persons, public institutions, and cooperation actors.

FUNDING

UNHCR Funding (as of 30 November 2024)



In 2024, UNHCR requires USD 71.8M in funding to respond to the needs of forcibly displaced people in Peru. As of 30 November, the operation received around 19M (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.

In November, the number of new arrivals in the border regions of Tumbes, Tacna, and Madre de Dios decreased compared to October. Border monitoring aims to analyse the mobility dynamics of refugee and migrant populations at the border, assessing their protection needs, capacities, risks, and vulnerabilities. According to the latest border monitoring report by UNHCR and HIAS in Tacna, 16% of people interviewed had international protection needs between September and October. Over half of the interviewees expressed a desire to apply for asylum in their destination country, a significant increase from previous months (7%). Additionally, 82% of interviewees indicated they would face protection risks if they returned to their home country, including difficulties in meeting basic needs and fear of threats. The majority of interviewees were Venezuelan nationals (67%), followed by Colombians (27%) and Ecuadorians (6%).

On 27 November, the State of Emergency in 13 districts of Lima and one district of Callao was extended for 45 days. Initially declared on September 26 for a 60-day period, this measure was taken in response to the rising number of extortions and homicides, primarily affecting local businesses and bus drivers. The government has decided to continue security force interventions to stabilize public order. UNHCR remains active in these 14 districts, providing guidance and assistance to vulnerable forcibly displaced people, including over 330,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

UNHCR STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

PROTECT

In Tacna, the Ombudsperson's Office issued 13 recommendations targeting border and public health authorities. Eleven of these recommendations were directed to each border control post, aimed at ensuring adherence to the border protocol on international protection to process asylum applications. Additionally, two recommendations were made to the Hipólito Unanue Hospital and Tacna's Health Insurance Office, focusing on facilitating access to public health services for forcibly displaced individuals in transit and enhancing the registration process at health centres and hospitals.

UNHCR and the Municipal Ombudsperson's Office for Children and Adolescents (DEMUNA) of the districts of Canoas de Punta Sal and Tumbes, organised two workshops in Tumbes aimed at fostering soft skills and preventing risky behaviours among high school students. A total of 80 students of "José Olaya" and "El Triunfo" High Schools participated in these sessions. The workshops addressed the development of key competencies, including assertive communication, active listening, and teamwork. Participants were also introduced to protection protocols for addressing situations of risk. These protocols were thoroughly explained and shared to raise awareness and preparedness, ensuring students are equipped to respond effectively.



ASSIST

On 2 November, UNHCR in Lima took part in a service day fair organised by the community-based group "Movimiento Migrante" in Los Olivos. Approximately 75 forcibly displaced individuals and local community members received assistance, including health services from the IFRC, help with access to documentation from the RLO Movimiento Migrante, family law advice from the refugee-led organisation CIRINEO, and art activities promoting peaceful coexistence for children and adolescents from the civil society organization, Entre Notas y Pelotas.



On 11 November, UNHCR and its partner Encuentros inaugurated two new decentralised attention centres for refugees and forcibly displaced people in Lima. These two protection spaces are in Breña and Carmen de la Legua, two districts of Lima and Callao with a high concentration of forcibly displaced people. These centres offer a range of services, including legal assistance, psychosocial support, and guidance on how to apply for asylum and validate personal information. Since 2024, the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) has been actively present in these protection spaces in various districts of Lima, assisting asylum-seekers with data validation. With the establishment of these new centres, CEPR staff are expected to serve over 100 people per week.

EMPOWER

During the annual "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence" campaign, UNHCR and CEM (specialised centres providing comprehensive support to victims of violence, especially women) organised a series of events and workshops in Tacna. These focused on mental health, self-care and empowerment, self-esteem and resilience, and self-defence. Over 43 women and members of the LGBTQI+ community took part in these activities.

In Tumbes, UNHCR and the Regional Government organised awareness marches on 25 November, commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Over 900 participants, including 93 forcibly displaced persons, took part in the marches. Additionally, UNHCR participated in a vigil honouring femicide victims, which was attended by over 200 people, including representatives from various organizations. UNHCR also collaborated with local groups to provide orientation and legal assistance to 38 individuals in Zarumilla and Canoas de Punta Sal.

On 28 November, UNHCR and the Municipality of San Juan de Lurigancho presented a film to 60 third-year high school students at N°128-La Libertad to raise awareness about gender-based violence and inform them about protection mechanisms available at school and in the community.



WHO WE WORK WITH:





Jonas's Path to Unity: A Second Chance Through Basketball

When Jonas arrived in Peru, he carried little more than uncertainty and a heart full of questions. Forced to leave his homeland, he left behind his career and faced the daunting task of starting over. "I came with a backpack of doubts and little hope," he says.

Then, a life-changing incident gave him a new purpose. After suffering an accident in his feet, Jonas promised that if he could walk again, he would dedicate his second chance to helping others like him—those seeking hope and belonging.

That promise gave life to Jireh, a free basketball academy in Lima Cercado for Peruvian and refugee youth. "We give them more than a sport. It's an alternative to the streets, a family, and a purpose," Jonas explains.

Through basketball, young people find connection and strength. "They've stopped falling into dangerous paths," Jonas shares. "Instead, they learn respect, unity, and leave xenophobia behind. On the court, they're equals, working toward a shared goal."

Jonas dreams of growing Jireh into a movement that reaches other districts, using sports to create healthier, united communities. "When we lift one person, we lift everyone," he says.

For Jonas and the youth of Jireh, every bounce of the ball is a reminder that second chances can inspire lasting change, and together, no barrier is unbreakable.

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