



#3 SPECIAL SITREP ON BOLIVIA

UPDATE MAY 25 - 2026

CONTEXT

- Since the beginning of May **Bolivia has been facing sustained road blockades** associated with multi-sector protests, with direct impact on **regular transit routes for the refugee and migrant population**.
- This **has increased the number of stranded persons** at various points across the country, in a **context of increased complexity in mobility dynamics**, including the use of alternative routes, travel on foot, and returns to border crossing points. **Access is limited or nonexistent to temporary shelter, food, water, health care, warm clothing, and protection measures. Requests for assistance from persons living in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Cochabamba has started to arise.** The ongoing roadblocks are worsening the supply of food and other essential goods to the general population in various cities, mainly along the Andean corridor.
- Children and adolescents, pregnant women, and persons with disabilities who are part of the stranded population groups are in situations of particular vulnerability.**
- The **rapid deterioration of humanitarian conditions** continues, along with **growing pressure on response capacity**, with operational limitations for humanitarian actors and the absence of an adequate structured response.
- Sustained coordination with the Ombudsman's Office and humanitarian actors continues to be key in preserving the protection space for persons in transit.**
- Several countries have expressed support for democratic institutions, and **neighboring countries have sent humanitarian aid.**

**+ 800 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS ASSISTED**

Location	DESAGUADERO	ORURO	LA PAZ	EL ALTO	PISIGA
Persons assisted (since May 8)	75	>293	>400		35
Stranded persons (as of May 25)	5	>250	24 (in transit) + 120 (intending to stay)		0

Response updates:

- Partners continue providing and coordinating the response in **Desaguadero, La Paz/El Alto, Oruro, and Pisiga**, primarily through assistance in food, shelter, health, warm clothing, psychosocial support, and protection.
- Additional identification of stranded refugees and migrants with assistance needs in **Cochabamba and Santa Cruz**.
- For many people, food support consists primarily of a **single daily ration**.
- Limitations persist in temporary shelter mechanisms and gaps remain in the local institutional response in Oruro
- Protection concerns persist regarding **expulsion and departure orders** issued by **DIGEMIG** without sufficient safeguards.
- Humanitarian operations continue facing restrictions** due to blockades, insecurity, fuel shortages, and growing scarcity of food and basic supplies.



The designations, boundaries, and representations are illustrative and do not imply an official position on the part of R4V, IOM, UNHCR, or their partners.



PLATAFORMA SUBREGIONAL

CONO SUR

SPECIAL SITUATION REPORT ON BOLIVIA

UPDATE MAY 25 - 2026

PRIORITY NEEDS



FOOD



SHELTER



PROTECTION



HEALTH



WARM
CLOTHING

Access to food

- Food shortages, especially fresh food (dry food predominates, when food is available).
- The assisted refugee and migrant population rationes the single daily food assistance they receive due to uncertainty about the continuity of aid.

Shelter

- Limited and concentrated shelter capacity, with growing pressure in Oruro, El Alto, and La Paz, focused on serving the most vulnerable groups (children and adolescents, women, older adults).
- Widespread use of temporary and informal solutions (bus terminals, warehouses, and open spaces).
- Inadequate conditions in shelter spaces, with lack of food, warm clothing, and basic supplies, as well as lack of guarantee of minimum safety conditions.
- Challenges persist in the management and sustainability of reception spaces under local administration, with impacts on effective shelter capacity.

Health

- Concerns persist regarding hypothermia, respiratory infections, and complications associated with low temperatures and prolonged transit.
- Pregnant women facing serious health risks.
- Severe psycho-emotional distress among persons stranded for extended periods and/or after multiple transits.

Protection

- High exposure to risks during transit: GBV, family separation, robbery, extortion, physical abuse.
- Presence of vulnerable groups without adequate care (children and adolescents –unaccompanied–, pregnant women, older persons, persons with disabilities).
- Prolonged transit conditions that increase vulnerabilities and tensions with host communities.
- Reliance on informal routes and irregular transit mechanisms, including travel on foot.
- Protection concerns persist regarding expulsion and departure orders issued without sufficient safeguards or clear guidelines.

Humanitarian response and operational restrictions

- Blockades prevent the movement of people, supplies, and access for humanitarian teams.
- Reduced security and operational conditions (remote modality, limited field presence).
- Difficulty scaling up the response in critical areas (especially Oruro and El Alto).
- Limited coverage relative to the volume of stranded persons.
- Reliance on specific actors and emergency resources (e.g., dedicated funds, ad hoc shelters).
- Challenges for a comprehensive and sustained response at a larger scale.