Peru, August 2023
UNHCR operational update

UNHCR opens four service centres to support new regularization process in Peru

In the framework of UNHCR´s agreement with the National Superintendence of Migrations (SNM) and with the objective of outreaching regularization appointments to community spaces closer to refugees and migrants, four service centers were set up to provide regularization services in the districts of San Martín de Porres, San Juan de Lurigancho, Chorrillos, and Villa María del Triunfo. UNHCR prioritized these districts taking into account the location of other SNM centers and the potential demand for services due to the number of Venezuelan residents. Additionally, UNHCR temporarily provided electronic equipment to expand the capacity of the SNM. By the end of August, about 94,000 pf foreigners, mostly Venezuelans, applied for Temporal Residence Permit in the framework of new regularization process started in May 2023.

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UNHCR gathers voices of Venezuelans to improve its interventions in Peru

To facilitate planification of 2024 and guarantee evidence-based strategic decisions that consider the needs, risks, capacities, and suggestions of refugees and migrants, UNHCR conducted over 10 focus group discussions with around 130 Venezuelan people of different profiles, including girls and boys, adult men, adult women, representatives of community networks, LGBTIQ+ individuals, adolescents and youth, persons with disabilities, afro descendant persons, sex workers, indigenous people, among others.

Our response in numbers:

- **2,570** calls attended via the interagency multithemed hotline
- **2,556** legal orientations provided
- **2,074** people received health care services
- **1,687** people received cash assistance
- **1,530** people assisted with core relief items and kits
- **372** refugees and migrants supported with accommodation
- **224** people supported in gaining access to work, self-employment, and entrepreneurship
- **161** community leaders received technical support
- **142** cases submitted for resettlement
- **63** people connected to a job position

Funds

24% of the total funding requested by UNHCR in 2023 was raised as of 15th of August. In 2023, UNHCR requires USD 73.3 million to address the needs of the refugee and migrant population in Peru.

For further information: Laura Mora, External Relations Officer Perú, moral@unhcr.org

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Media tend to oversexualize Venezuelan women, study confirms

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UNHCR and Amnesty International have released the results of a assessment that examined the portrayal of refugee and migrant women in Peruvian media and social networks from 2021 to 2022. One of the most notable findings is the concerning trend where these women are portrayed as "flirtatious", with an emphasis on their physical attractiveness rather than their skills and qualifications for job opportunities. Additionally, this narrative often describes them as "attractive, opportunistic, and self-assured." A lesser percentage (34 per cent) identified a belief among some Peruvians that Venezuelan women are promiscuous.

The assessment underscores the urgent need for various actors to take measures aimed at changing the way they approach media coverage of Venezuelan refugee and migrant women in Peru. Simultaneously, it emphasizes the crucial importance of promoting a non-stereotyped image of refugee and migrant women. UNHCR designs and implements a communication campaign to promote integration of forcibly displaced Venezuelan population and reduce discrimination and xenophobia.

A woman visiting a photographic exhibition 'Becoming One Again: The Resilience of Refugee and Migrant Women' organized by UNHCR and aimed to raise awareness about the serious situations faced by refugee women in Peru and highlight the importance of protecting their rights

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UNHCR operational update

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Oasis of support:

a day centre supported by UNHCR offers services to people in transit in south Peru

The Day Centre is located in the city of Tacna, near the border with Chile. Since its opening, the centre has assisted almost 3,000 persons.

Jose (29) was forced to leave Venezuela over 3 years ago, accompanied by his partner, Wilmaris. They are now travelling with their 3-year-old daughter and 10-month-old son, born in Peru. Since they left their home country in search of safety and a better life, they crossed many borders along the way before arriving in Peru.

Daily, refugees and migrants of various nationalities— Venezuelans, Colombians, Ecuadorians, among others— arrived at the Day Centre. It is an initiative of the Peruvian Red Cross, UNHCR, IOM, and HIAS as part of the Refugee and Migrants Working Group. The Centre operates as an Interagency Orientation Point, established to address the pressing needs of refugees and migrants in transit passing through Tacna and to provide a safe space for them.

The Centre has a strategic location to reach individuals heading towards Arica, Chile, or departing from Tacna to the north. As more people started to arrive, the services became available from Monday to Saturday, operating from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The services offered respond to the needs identified in UNHCR's border protection monitoring such as bathrooms and showers, drinkable water, laundry services, a safe area for childcare, phone charging, Wi-Fi, first aid, guidance, and food.

Jose and Wilmaris have been carrying their belongings in a black plastic bag. Once they reached the Day Centre, they received backpacks, filled their water bottles with water, used the hygiene facilities.

Also they could leave their children in a playroom, while their eldest daughter participated in a workshop facilitated by a social worker.

Brayan, a 28-year-old Colombian, left his country a month and a half ago without a clear destination. He fled the lack of livelihood opportunities and the high levels of violence that he was exposed to in his country, which put his family at risk. He learned about the Day Centre through a flyer he received at the Tacna bus station.

> *"They told me I could wash my clothes here. I've been traveling for a long time without taking a bath"*
> Brian, a person in transit in Tacna

Refugees and migrants often embark on long journeys where they lack access to clean water and hygiene services. Their phone batteries run out, and they lose connection. They can't leave their children alone even for a moment, struggle to access a shower and go without washing their clothes for extended periods. They face difficulties such as humiliation, discrimination, and xenophobia.

However, they also meet welcoming people and safe places along their journey. At the Day Centre in Tacna, refugees and migrants arrive at a friendly place where they are not exposed to risks. They can leave their belongings, share their stories with the volunteers, access various services, rest, and recharge their batteries, momentarily forgetting the worries of the journey.

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UNHCR its grateful for the support in 2023 of:

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