© UNHCR Peru

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR - PERU

Factsheet

october 2023

KEY FIGURES

1.54M
Venezuelans living in Peru, over **1.15M** reside in Lima

539K
Asylum-seekers (**532,730** of Venezuelan nationality)

6.7K
Recognized refugees (**4,902** of Venezuelan nationality)

Source: UNHCR - Mid Year Statistic Report 2023

- There are 1.5 million Venezuelans in Peru, with approximately 73% in the working-age bracket and 45% possessing some level of higher education (ENPOVE 2022). **This represents a population with significant economic potential.**
- Lima, the capital of Peru, hosts over a million Venezuelans, making it t**he city with the largest number of Venezuelan people outside of Venezuela in the world.**
- According to a study by the International Monetary Fund, **Peru's GDP is projected to grow by 4.4% by the year 2030 as a result of the contribution of the Venezuelan population.** This is the highest projected increase in the region that can result from the contribution of refugee and migrant populations.

CONTEXT

Since 2017, Peru has actively received forcibly displaced people mainly from Venezuela. Peru currently ranks as the second destination country for Venezuelan refugees and migrants after Colombia, hosting more than 1.5 million people. Additionally, it holds the highest number of asylum applications from Venezuelans worldwide, with a total of nearly 533,000 requests.

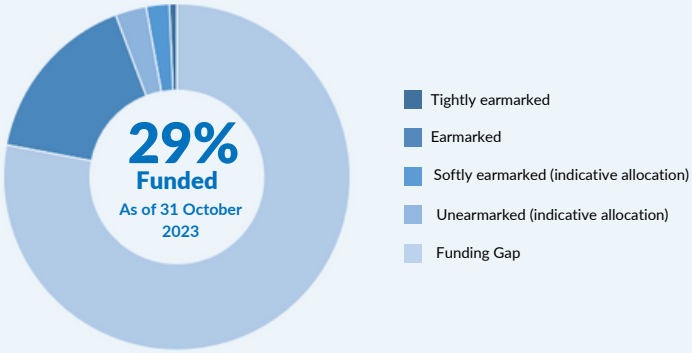
UNHCR actively works to enhance the capacities of the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) – the government institution responsible for receiving and processing asylum claims, while also guaranteeing that asylum-seekers have access to documentation.

In 2023, changes were made in regulations to improve access to documentation for the refugees and migrants in Peru. In May, the National Superintendency of Migrations (SNM) announced a second regularization process, which includes the issuance of a Temporary Stay Permit Card (CPP). The process is set to conclude on 10 November. Those with a CPP could apply for a Migration ID Card six months later.

Moreover, an amnesty for the payment of migratory fines was approved for an unextendible period of six months for foreign individuals with irregular migratory status. An estimated 100,000 people could benefit from the fine waiver, opening the door to regularization and integration.

FUNDING

In 2023, UNHCR requires USD 73.3M in funding to respond to the needs of refugees and migrants in Peru. As of 31 October, the operation has received 21,3M (around 29% of the total funding required).



UNHCR´S PRIORITIES IN PERU

PROTECTION

Access to documentation and regularization is a prioritized and cross-cutting need for refugees and migrants. UNHCR works hand in hand with the Government to ensure a regulatory framework and public policies in favour of refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants, as well as an effective system of registration and documentation that enables the identification of refugees and migrants in situations of high vulnerability. In this regard, CEPR and SNM are strategic allies.

© UNHCR Peru

UNHCR supports the CEPR in implementing the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process, delivering documents to refugees and asylum-seekers, and reducing delays in RSD through the validation of data for asylum-seekers. Furthermore, UNHCR enhances the capacities of the SNM to ensure the issuance of temporary residence permits for the people with and for whom UNHCR works, ensuring effective presence in districts of Lima with the highest concentration of Venezuelan population.

Additionally, UNHCR provides legal assistance and orientation at borders, to ensure proper access to rights, the asylum system, and legal initiatives for refugees and migrants. Finally, UNHCR trains migration police officers, CEPR and SNM officials, judges, and representatives of NGOs and civil society on international protection issues. This helps improve the identification of cases, including those at risk of deportation, and their referral to asylum authorities.

BASIC NEEDS

UNHCR provides multipurpose and sectoral cash assistance for health and livelihoods, ensuring that refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants in Peru are protected and can meet their basic needs with dignity.

Cash assistance helps them cover part of their basic needs over a three-month period, providing greater flexibility and choice, allowing them to prioritize their expenses. According to the latest post-distribution monitoring exercise, it contributes to improving the living conditions of almost 98% of the families that received cash assistance. Additionally, UNHCR distributes core relief items to address the most urgent needs of people in transit in border areas.

GENDER VIOLENCE AND CHILD PROTECTION

As part of preventing and addressing gender violence (GV), UNHCR actively assists individuals at risk and/or survivors by facilitating their access to state services and providing psychosocial and integration support, among other services. Additionally, UNHCR rehabilitates facilities that house LGBITQ+ refugees and migrants facing high vulnerability and/or survivors of GV. Finally, UNHCR actively supports the Government in developing specific tools for the care of refugee and migrant children and adolescents at risk of family separation or already in situations of family separation, actively providing training to officials from relevant entities.

HEALTH

Considering that, according to ENPOVE II, health is the primary unmet need among the Venezuelan population in Peru, UNHCR and its partners provide healthcare services, including counselling or psychotherapy, and specialized psychiatric care.

Additionally, UNHCR contributes to strengthening the national healthcare system by enhancing the capacity of public health facilities through infrastructure improvements and the integration of Venezuelan health professionals into the Peruvian healthcare system.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Through the resettlement programme, which aims to provide protection to refugees with specific needs while sharing responsibility and demonstrating international solidarity, UNHCR identifies thousands of vulnerable people in need of international protection and presents their cases to Australia, Canada, and the United States.
Between 2022 and 2023, the programme has allowed more than 500 people to relocate and begin their lives in dignified and secure conditions.

© UNHCR Peru

© UNHCR Peru

SHELTER

UNHCR focuses on strengthening the capacities of communities managing collective shelters, implementing small-scale infrastructure improvements in some of these centres, and providing support with temporary accommodation, including in hotels at border areas, for people in transit facing extreme vulnerability.

LIVELIHOODS

UNHCR focuses on addressing challenges related to documentation, hiring, and employment, with the aim of promoting equitable access to formal job opportunities in local communities. It is also dedicated to enhancing the technical and vocational skills of refugees and migrants through certified training programmes. Additionally, UNHCR works on increasing self-sufficiency by supporting entrepreneurs to position their business ideas in the market and addressing barriers to accessing financial services in collaboration with key stakeholders. UNHCR´s livelihood strategies include job placement in technical and professional categories, support with the validation of technical and professional degrees, and training and skill development for entrepreneurship and employability.

© UNHCR Peru

WORK WITH PARTNERS

In 2023, UNHCR works alongside 12 partners with a significant impact in delivering a comprehensive humanitarian response at the national level. UNHCR also co-leads the Refugee and Migrants Working Group (GTRM for its acronym in Spanish), which aims to address the protection, assistance, and integration needs of the Venezuelan population in Peru, supporting and strengthening the government's response. As of July 2023, the GTRM had 108 members, reflecting an 8% increase compared to last year's figure. Additionally, 13 Venezuelan-led organizations are part of the GTRM, fostering the engagement and participation of refugees and migrants in shaping and implementing protection strategies.

LOCALIZATION STRATEGY

Community-based organizations (CBOs) play a key role in the protection response for refugees and migrants. Since 2021, UNHCR Peru has coordinated and led a CBOs network that has brought together over 30 CBOs from seven regions of Peru, mainly led by refugee women. These organizations complement UNHCR´s work by reaching remote areas and communities, enhancing the quality and coverage of our protection response. UNHCR enhances the capacities of CBOs through four areas of intervention: strengthening service quality, project management, financial control, and fundraising.

URBAN STRATEGY

More than one million Venezuelans live in Lima. Given this particular distribution, UNHCR has strategically chosen to focus its response according to an Area-Based Approach (ABA), which means that their interventions are designed taking into consideration the specific needs of residents of prioritized districts. As part of its Multi-Year Strategy 2023-2026, UNHCR has selected 12 districts to focus its protection response, with a focus on four of them: Cercado de Lima, San Juan de Lurigancho, San Martín de Porres and Surquillo.

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

Also, we thank the contributions of our global private donors

Private donors from Italy I Private donors from Japan I Private donors from Republic of Korea I Private donors from Spain I Swedish Postcode Lottery I Private donors from United States

External Relations

Contacts

Laura Mora Linkemer. External Relations Officer
moral@unhcr.org

Tatiana Shcherbakova. Associate External Relations Officer
shcherba@unhcr.org