



PERU

September 2024

Operational Update

Forcibly displaced people living in Lima participating in community events in San Juan de Lurigancho.

KEY FIGURES

132,749

people assisted in 2024

Protection

3,973 people received services at border and transit points in September, and 33,927 in 2024

3,111 people received legal assistance in September, and 10,043 in 2024.

930 people supported in case management in September, and 7,269 in 2024

52 people at risk of GBV and GBV survivors received assistance in September, and 481 in 2024.

Basic Needs

303 people supported with shelter in September, and 2,368 in 2024.

1,238 kits delivered in September, and 11,477 in 2024.

Health

1,463 people received healthcare services in September, and 10,119 in 2024.

Cash assistance

442 households received cash assistance in September, and in 3,244 in 2024

Durable Solutions

308 people were submitted for resettlement in September, and 2,224 in 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

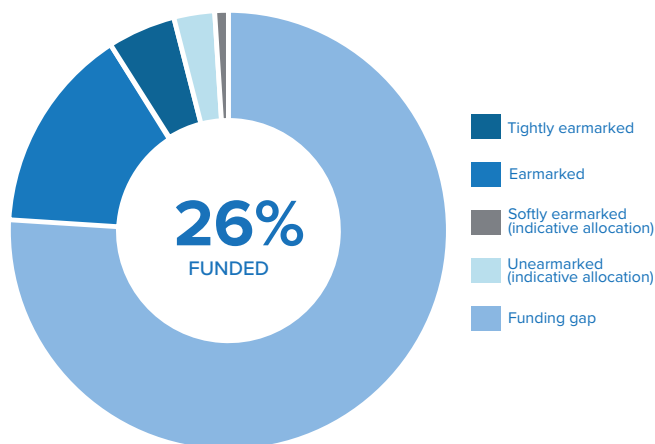
UNHCR continues to support the **Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR)** in addressing the asylum backlog following the conclusion of the “**asylum self-validation exercise**”, scheduled to end on 1 October. Following the self-validation exercise, UNHCR will collaborate with the CEPR to develop strategies for processing asylum claims in a fair and efficient manner.

During the month, UNHCR welcomed a donor field visit. The delegation met with implementing partners and government agencies. The delegation also travelled to the border area of Peru and Ecuador, where they engaged with implementing partners, UN agencies, and GTRM members.

In September, **intense forest fires ravaged the country**, resulting in the loss of nearly 1,500 hectares of crops and the destruction of approximately 2,300 hectares of natural cover. The regions most severely impacted include Amazonas, Áncash, Arequipa, Cajamarca, Cusco, Lambayeque, Huánuco, Pasco, Piura, San Martín, Tumbes, and Ucayali. As part of the National Humanitarian Network (RHN), UNHCR has been working closely with local entities to improve response capabilities and bolster emergency preparedness.

FUNDING

UNHCR Funding (as of 30 September 2024)



In 2024, UNHCR requires USD 71.8M in funding to respond to the needs of displaced people in Peru. As of 30 September, the operation received around 18.6M (approximately 26% of the total funding required).

UNHCR's presence in Peru



CONTEXT

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. Most Venezuelans reside in Lima, where over 1 million Venezuelan nationals live. 32 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.

Access to asylum and to fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures, documentation and regularization are key protection priorities. UNHCR works with the Government to ensure a favorable regulatory framework and public policies for forcibly displaced people, as well as an effective system of registration, case processing and documentation that enables the identification of asylum-seekers and refugees, in particular those in situations of high vulnerability. In this regard, the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) and the National Migration Superintendence (SNM) are strategic allies.

Peru has pledged to undertake a validation exercise of the asylum backlog to ascertain the accurate number of active cases and expedite the adjudication of claims. Following the removal of duplicate and incomplete files, as well as the cross-check exercise, the CEPR launched the self-validation phase on 1st of May, setting an initial deadline of 15th of July, which was later extended to 1st of October 2024. As of 1 October, 16,637 asylum-seekers participated and of these, 14,790 confirmed their interest in continuing the process.

UNHCR STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

PROTECT

On 4-5 September, UNHCR met with its partners Encuentros SJM and Venelca to **establish a referral pathway for individuals with international protection needs in Ica**. Additionally, UNHCR conducted five training sessions on international protection, attended by 255 participants, including judges, ombudsperson staff, and members of faith-based organizations. UNHCR has also identified significant challenges for refugees and host communities, particularly in accessing healthcare, education, and documentation. As a result, **in October, UNHCR will begin in-person operations in Ica, marking a crucial phase for establishing its presence and building partnerships.**

On 15 September, with the support of UNHCR, the initiative to **collect socio-economic data and classify households in Carmen de la Legua under the Household Targeting System (SISFOH) was successfully completed.** Nearly 80 per cent of the district's households, including those of refugees and asylum-seekers, were registered. This data collection exercise, supported by UNHCR and Encuentros, will help identify and address the needs of vulnerable families in collaboration with the Municipality, potentially improving access to social protection programs for forcibly displaced individuals.



On September 20th, UNHCR, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held its second **training session on international protection for 30 public officials** from various sectors, including National Superintendence of Migrations, the National Police, State Security, Special Protection Units, and the Prosecutor's Office. These officials are part of the Intersectoral Working Group for Migration Management (MTIGM) in Madre de Dios. The training aimed to equip them with knowledge on international protection and refugee status determination. The Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) also participated in the first session in February.

In Desaguadero (Puno), UNHCR, alongside its partner HIAS and faith-based organization "Hermanas de la Misericordia", opened its **first attention centre in the main bus terminal of the city**. This centre will offer general and legal orientation, distribution of core relief items, and other protection services to forcibly displaced persons in transit. It is expected to support some 200 individuals per month.

ASSIST

In September, as part of its community interventions in Lima, UNHCR supported over 650 forcibly displaced individuals. On 12 September, in collaboration with Encuentros, UNHCR provided psychosocial, legal, and health services to around 120 forcibly displaced individuals and community members in Carmen de la Legua Reynoso. These services included general medicine, pharmacy, vaccinations, and gender-based violence prevention. Additionally, during the COMUNAFEST event on 15 September, UNHCR and its partners assisted 500 forcibly displaced individuals and host community members with documentation, health, and orientation services.

In September, several community service fairs took place in the department of Arequipa. These fairs provide individuals with information and services on a range of topics including health, legal, social, financial education and livelihoods. On 16 September, social and legal assistance was provided to 38 forcibly displaced individuals in the province of Mollendo. Additionally, on 22 September, a fair was held in the city of Arequipa in collaboration with the Red Cross, Woccu, Encuentros, Ángeles del Camino, Veneactiva, and the Ombudsman's Office.

Due to the emergencies caused by fires and water deficit in Peru, the **National Humanitarian Network reconvened the Protection Group, led by UNHCR, to assess the current situation in the affected regions.** The Group addressed the ongoing situation of forest fires, highlighting coordination with local entities and the urgent need to enhance response capabilities. It was agreed to create a social network group for emergency coordination and preparedness, and a virtual meeting was scheduled to discuss outstanding needs among the population.



UNHCR conducted visits to seven healthcare facilities in Puerto Maldonado and Iñapari at the border with Brazil to evaluate current services and perform a needs assessment. This initiative aims to improve access to health services for forcibly displaced individuals in the region.

EMPOWER

In September, UNHCR carried out **focus group discussions in Tacna, Puno, Tumbes and Madre de Dios** as part of its annual participatory assessments. Overall, UNHCR will hold 14 focus groups with an Age, Gender and Diversity approach, to gather the views of forcibly displaced persons on needs, gaps and opportunities towards durable solutions. The results will inform the planning process for the 2025 UNHCR strategy in Perú.



SOLVE

In September, **UNHCR submitted 308 people for resettlement to Canada and the U.S.**, completing Canada's resettlement quota and achieving 69 per cent of the U.S. quota. This brings the overall progress to 71 per cent of the total annual resettlement quota, with 2,221 people submitted to Finland, Canada, and the United States for resettlement consideration in 2024. Additionally, 295 individuals departed from Peru to Australia, Canada, and the United States, where they had the opportunity to restart their lives in safety.

During the latest refugee processing trip conducted by the U.S. government in September, over 450 individuals were interviewed by the resettlement country. Out of 354 decisions, 97 per cent were approved.



WHO WE WORK WITH:





Empresas integradoras: Promoting Socioeconomic Inclusion in Peru

“Empresas integradoras” was created in 2023 to raise awareness, recognize and make visible companies in Peru that support the socioeconomic integration of people in vulnerable situations, including refugees. This initiative is promoted by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), CONFIEP, CEDRO and UNHCR, and was designed in collaboration with business associations, civil society, UN agencies and the public sector. In 2024, 424 participants and 128 companies were trained on issues of labor inclusion, diversity and integration. Four micro and small companies and 13 medium and large companies were also awarded.

The award ceremony was held on September 5, 2024 at the ATTON Hotel in Lima, with the participation of the Minister of Development and Social Inclusion and representatives of the leading organizations, including Laura Almirall of UNHCR in Peru. In total, 17 companies from different sectors and regions of the country were awarded, and 120 representatives of the award-winning companies attended.

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
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