

# UNHCR PERU'S WORK ON PUBLIC HEALTH

## WHY DOES UNHCR WORK ON PUBLIC HEALTH?

Peru hosts the second largest population of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the world - only after Colombia - and faces significant challenges in responding to their humanitarian and development needs. In a country where access to healthcare can be limited even for the local population, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need to expand the capacity of the health sector to cover the refugee, migrant, as well as the Peruvian population. From March 2020, hospitals and health centres began to work under great pressure, reaching a saturation point. As of mid-2021, Peru was one of the countries with the highest COVID-19 mortality rates per one million inhabitants in the world.

**1,49 million**

Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Peru.

+ **1 million**  
in Callao and Lima.

+ **78,000**  
in the region of La Libertad.

## UNHCR RESPONSE SINCE 2020

**+ 460,000**

Venezuelans in Peru improved their access to healthcare services.

**+ 1,300**

Venezuelan health professionals supported in revalidating their academic degree.

**+ 1,27 million**

Peruvians as well as Venezuelan refugees and migrants benefited from UNHCR's health infrastructure.



### DIRECT INTERVENTION

A total of **206 Refugee Housing Units (RHU)** have been donated to health facilities since March 2020 in **districts with a high concentration of Venezuelan population**. Since the start of the state of emergency in March 2020 due to the pandemic, UNHCR has assisted the Ministry of Health supporting the urgent response to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases among the refugee, migrant and host communities.



The RHU served as spaces for triage, medical appointments and treatment.

### LA LIBERTAD

**16 RHU** were donated to **four health establishments** in La Libertad, following a cooperation agreement signed with the Regional Health Management authorities (GERESA for its acronym in Spanish) in La Libertad, in August 2022. These spaces benefit more than 10,000 Peruvians and Venezuelans.



## NORTH LIMA AND EAST LIMA

- In March 2022, UNHCR donated medical equipment to **seven health centres** belonging to the Directorate of Integrated Health Networks (DIRIS for its acronym in Spanish) Lima Norte and Lima Este, benefiting more than **260,000 people**, including **19,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants**.
- The establishments were recognized by UNHCR as "**Refugee and Migrant-friendly Centres**" to encourage Venezuelans to attend and mitigate discrimination.



	2020	2021	2022, after UNHCR's involvement
Number of people from Venezuela attended in North Lima:	73,000	235,000	from January to July 2022: <b>169,000</b>

## WORK WITH PARTNERS

Between January and August 2022:

- 6,650** mental health services provided.
- +960 psychosocial services** provided to people at risk of violence and survivors of gender-based violence.
- +11,200 people** accessed the National Health Insurance (SIS for its acronym in Spanish).



In Tumbes, a UNHCR and IFRC mobile unit brings direct health services where they are needed the most. Between April and September 2022, more than **3,700 people** have been treated.

**+500,000 USD** distributed in **cash transfers** for health assistance that benefited more than **3,200 people** in 2021 and **2,028 people** until August 2022.

Between 2019 and August 2022, more than **1,350 people living with HIV** accessed antiretroviral therapy (ART).

UNHCR, authorities, partners and community-based organizations organized **19 Comunafest** in 2022 to provide **health services** in areas with a high concentration of Venezuelan population and vulnerable host communities.

UNHCR appreciates the work on public health of our partners Aldeas Infantiles, CAPS, Caritas, Encuentros SJS, HIAS, IFRC, PROSA, and Union Venezolana.

## DONORS

The support of donor countries such as **the United States, Canada and Italy**, and other organizations such as **UNAIDS**, is vital to ensuring that thousands of **Venezuelan refugees and migrants**, as well as host communities in Peru **access health services**.



UNHCR would also like to thank Private Donors from Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain and the United States.

