



VENEZUELA SITUATION

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE DISPLACED FROM VENEZUELA

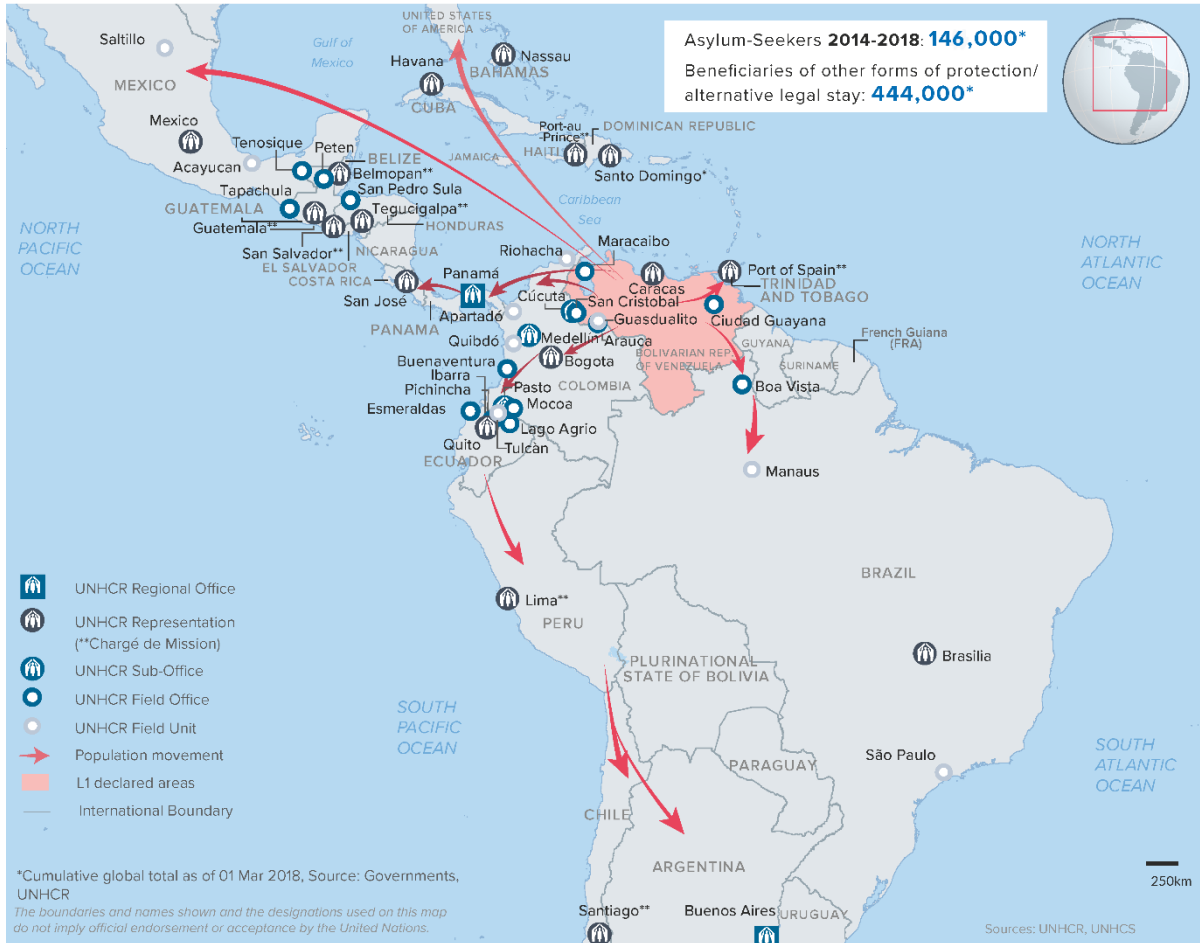
Supplementary Appeal

January - December 2018

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Map of the area covered by this appeal



Overview

 **Over 1.5 million**

Estimated Venezuelans displaced in the region

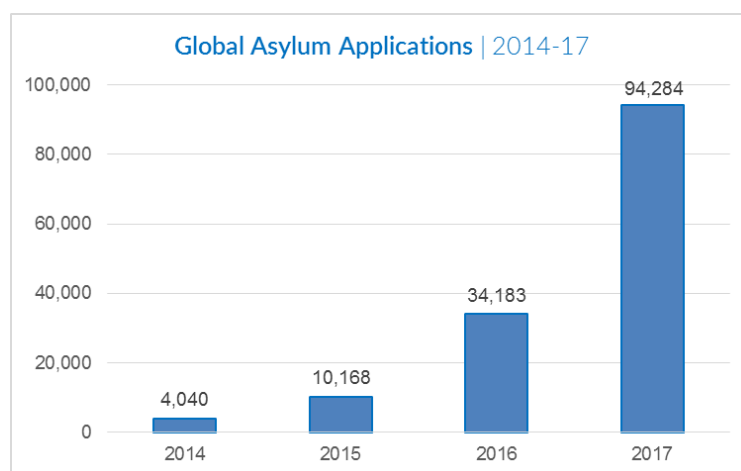
 **2,000%**

Increase in asylum claims since 2014

 **Nine**

UNHCR operations covered by this appeal

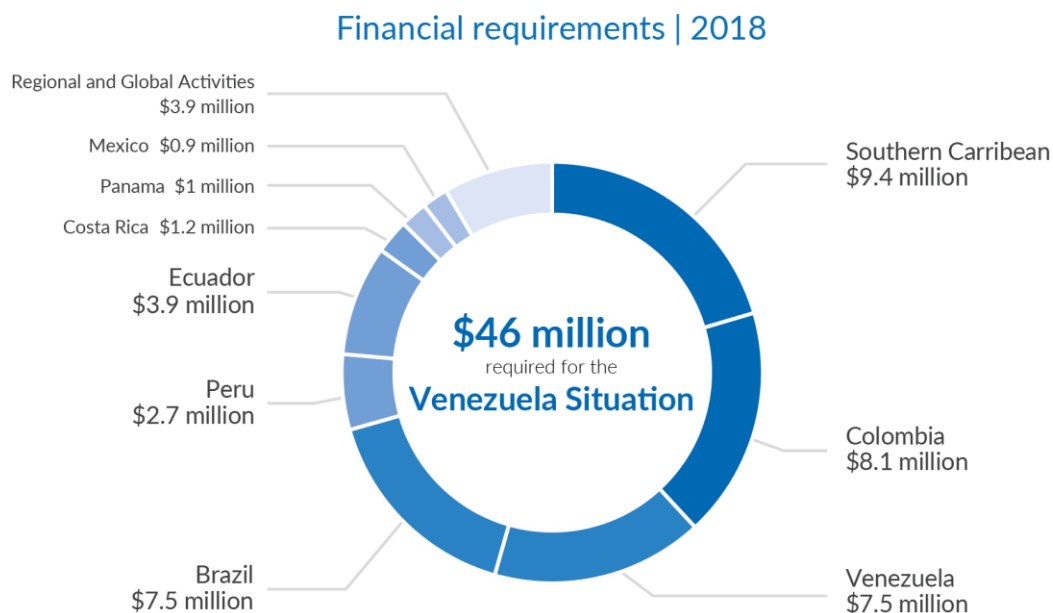
The **situation evolving in Venezuela**, a country that has traditionally been a generous host to thousands of refugees and third country nationals from the region and other parts of the world, **has led to large outflows of its citizens and other residents into the region and beyond**. Whilst it is evident not all the Venezuelans leaving their country are prompted to do so for refugee-related reasons, it is becoming increasingly clear that **a significant number are indeed in need of international protection**.



In many of the destination countries of the region, Venezuelans are only able to regularize their status or legalize their stay either under the pertinent national immigration and other legal frameworks, or under relevant regional mechanisms. In light of the extraordinary situation, some of these countries have established special mechanisms to facilitate various forms of regularization and even protection, what is otherwise referred to as **"other forms of protection or alternative legal status"**. At the same time, both within and outside the region, an increasing number of Venezuelans, now some **146,500, have applied for asylum and formal recognition and protection as refugees**.

To varying degrees, they can access relevant national services, including health care, education and even social security. However, across the region, many Venezuelans remain unable to secure their status and/or stay under any of these frameworks or mechanisms. They thus find themselves in an irregular situation, without any documentation, access to legal and other rights or basic services, and are exposed to exploitation, abuse, manipulation and a wide range of other protection risks including racism, discrimination and xenophobia. Those whose departure was prompted by the need for protection are particularly vulnerable.

In May 2017, as the arrival of Venezuelans in neighbouring countries spiralled and the embedded protection and other humanitarian needs became more visible, **UNHCR stepped up its preparedness and operational activities to respond to the needs.** It is working with the concerned Governments in further elaborating, developing and enhancing asylum and refugee management systems, combatting protection risks, meeting basic needs and fostering opportunities for solutions. Obviously, this has to be done in ways which, at the same time, maximize in a pragmatic manner the benefits that can be drawn from the alternative frameworks or special mechanisms while also addressing appropriately other needs which are inextricably "mixed" with those of the refugees. Notably, thousands of nationals of some of the destination countries who have been resident in Venezuela have also returned to their countries along with the departing Venezuelans. Moreover, even those Venezuelans whose departure may not have been prompted by refugee-related reasons can still face acute legal or humanitarian risks.



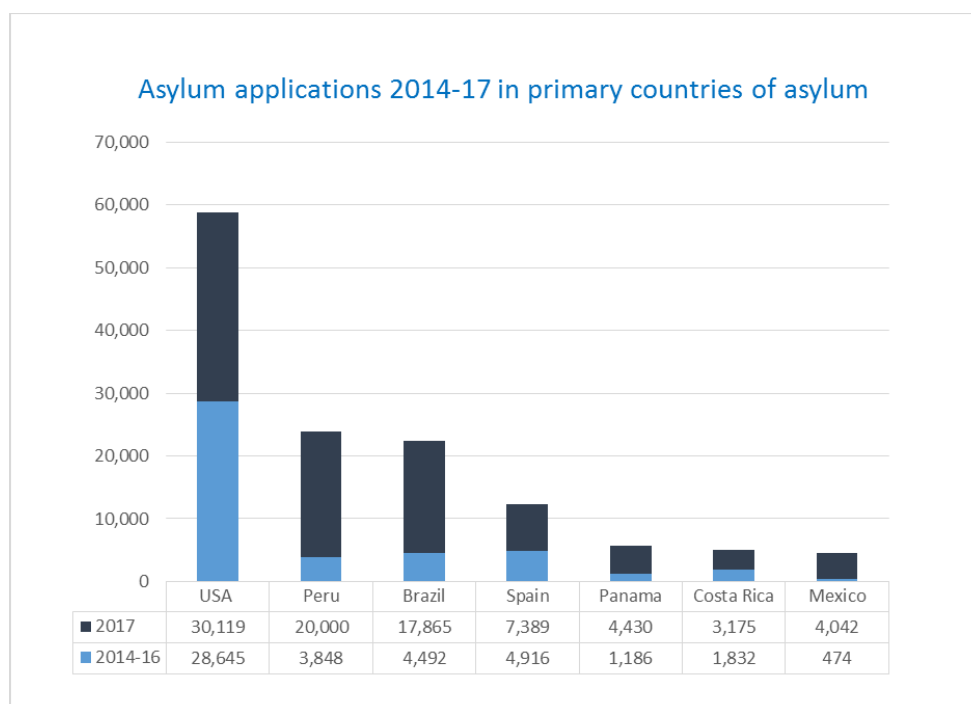
This Supplementary Appeal contains UNHCR's initial requirements for its response to what is referred to as the "Venezuela Situation" in the eight countries and the sub-region most affected by this situation. While it is launched at this stage as a UNHCR Supplementary Appeal, the UNHCR response reflected herein has been developed and will be fostered in close coordination and collaboration with other actors, most notably the International Organization for Migration (IOM). UNHCR is also interfacing its plans and responses appropriately with broader humanitarian, social and development initiatives at country and regional levels to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and the search for solutions.

Background

The on-going political and socio-economic developments in Venezuela have led to the outflow of an estimated 1.5 million Venezuelans into neighbouring countries and beyond. In addition, nationals of other countries residing in the country, in particular Colombians and “mixed” Colombian-Venezuelan families have also left the country. **The number of arrivals in neighbouring States has steadily increased to 5,000 a day as of early 2018.** In Colombia, the country most impacted by the outflow, there are an estimated 600,000 Venezuelans, thousands having entered since 2014 across the bridge over the Pamplonita River.

Not all Venezuelans leaving their country are doing so for refugee-related reasons. The movements are taking place for a variety of reasons, including threats by armed groups, fear of being targeted on account of political opinion real or perceived, insecurity and violence, lack of food, medicine or access to essential social services as well as loss of income. Notwithstanding the variety in the factors causing the outflow, international protection considerations according to the refugee criteria contained in the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol or the 1984 Cartagena Declaration have become apparent for a very significant proportion of the Venezuelans.

Some 146,500 have actually filed asylum claims globally to date while an estimated 444,000 have accessed other forms of protection or alternative legal stay - temporary or more long-term – in their host countries under the respective national or regional frameworks or arrangements. The table below illustrates the evolution of asylum applications by Venezuelans globally since 2014, followed by another which focuses on the top countries, by number, in which those applications have been lodged.



	Other forms of protection / alternative legal stay (2014-17)	Asylum applications					
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (Jan-Feb)	Total cumulative 2014-18
ARGENTINA	40,884	3	2	57	135	-	197
ARUBA	-	-	-	3	14	5	22
BRAZIL	10,963	290	829	3,373	17,865	2,461	24,818
CANADA	-	164	255	566	1,245	-	2,230
CHILE	84,479	2	14	246	1,345	-	1,607
COLOMBIA	155,000	47	119	316	575	-	1,057
COSTA RICA	5,600	129	280	1,423	3,175	251	5,258
CURACAO	-	-	3	13	663	-	679
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	-	-	1	19	32	12	64
ECUADOR	50,502	-	148	554	1,530	-	2,232
GERMANY	-	17	38	104	123	-	282
GUATEMALA	-	1	1	6	4	-	12
HONDURAS	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
FRANCE	-	12	36	141	189	-	378
ITALY	-	14	29	-	216	-	259
MEXICO	16,220	56	57	361	4,042	-	4,516
PANAMA	48,900	88	261	837	4,430	544	6,160
PARAGUAY	-	-	-	6	12	-	18
PERU	30,200	65	181	3,602	20,000	-	23,848
PORTUGAL	-	2	2	16	16	-	36
SPAIN	-	124	596	4,196	7,389	-	12,305
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	-	-	4	31	1,125	625	1,785
USA	-	3,026	7,307	18,312	30,119	-	58,764
URUGUAY	2,072	-	5	1	38	-	44
TOTAL	444,820	4,040	10,168	34,183	94,284	3,898	146,573

A significant number of Venezuelans remain, however, in an irregular situation, without documentation or permission to remain including those not able to apply for asylum because of bureaucratic obstacles, long waiting periods, or high application fees. This makes them particularly vulnerable to exploitation, extortion, exactions, violence, trafficking, sexual abuse, recruitment, and discrimination and xenophobia, especially in insecure border areas where criminal and armed groups operate. The need for predictable legal status, documentation, shelter, access to health care and other basic services is acute. Receiving communities are themselves coming under increasing strain, which can undermine peaceful coexistence and feed manifestations of discrimination and xenophobia.

Response

Across the region, **UNHCR is working with and supporting the receiving/host governments and other actors to build, systematize, step up and strengthen mechanisms, processes, procedures and capacities** to address the protection and basic human needs in the outflow in the most predictable, sustained and effective manner. The situation as a whole continues to be more studiously analysed; reception, registration and information management capacities established or enhanced; access to basic humanitarian assistance by asylum-seekers and other people in need of international protection, especially those with specific needs, facilitated; and safeguards against abuse, exploitation, discrimination or xenophobia instituted, with particular attention paid in this regard to the plight of indigenous groups caught up in one way or the other in the situation. The plight of Colombians returning to their country of origin from Venezuela, many of whom were in a “refugee-like” situation, is also addressed as part of the response UNHCR is building up for the Venezuela Situation. UNHCR is also working inside Venezuela itself with communities that have traditionally hosted and indeed even now still support Colombian refugees.

Strategic objectives

Pursuant to the Supplementary Appeal herewith, UNHCR seeks to strengthen national asylum and other international protection processes and step up its activities to foster a comprehensive, predictable and harmonized response to the plight of Venezuelans compelled to leave their country. UNHCR will work towards these objectives in concert with all levels of government, other stakeholders (including international organizations, civil society and the private sector) and facilitate the participation of the people of concern themselves and host communities.

Through its **Regional Refugee Response Strategy (RRRS)**, UNHCR will seek to ensure that: (i) Venezuelans in need of international protection can gain access into the countries to which they are seeking entry and to asylum or protection-oriented arrangements; (ii) receive protection and support to access basic rights and services without discrimination - especially those with specific needs and vulnerabilities - ideally through a community-based approach; and (iii) increasingly work towards the attainment of solutions. The most prominent protection concerns will be identified and addressed through programme activities that will, among others, enhance reception capacities; prioritize protection responses in border areas, profiling and registration; focus on ensuring child protection and the battle against sexual and gender-based violence; and promote community-based approaches to meet basic needs and mitigate discrimination and xenophobia.

UNHCR's response is elaborated and delivered in partnership with concerned governments and other stakeholders and players, most notably IOM. The Brazil Plan of Action - the regional strategic framework to provide protection and solutions to the plight of refugees, displaced and stateless persons in Latin America and the Caribbean - will continue to serve as an important foundation for the response. It also instructively and constructively draws on and leverages the inspirations, synergies and economies of participation, efficiency and results engraved in the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants (NYD) and incorporates in practice the key elements of the Declaration's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

Planning assumptions and parameters

UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Venezuela Situation is elaborated on the assumptions that:

- As a result of the political, social and economic situation in Venezuela, Venezuelans will continue to leave the country, including for protection related reasons.
- States will allow Venezuelans to enter their territories, although increasing migration control measures might also be introduced or heightened in some cases.
- Even though asylum is not guaranteed or predictable in all the countries of the region, the number of Venezuelan asylum-seekers will continue to increase.
- States will increasingly institutionalise asylum and refugee management responses in line with international and regional protection principles. Other forms of protection, including alternative legal stay arrangements under national and regional frameworks will continue to be part of the response.
- Many Venezuelans will not be able to access either the refugee determination procedures or alternative forms of protection or stay arrangements due to the financial costs, lack of documentation and/or other administrative requirements.
- The number of Venezuelans without any form of legal status will continue to rise, creating barriers to accessing rights and services in receiving countries.
- Particularly in neighbouring countries, Venezuelans with and without legal status, will demonstrate heightened needs.
- Venezuelans in need of international protection should be, and in principle and practical terms will be, treated in accordance with the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol and the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees although political, normative, policy and operational challenges will continue to be encountered.
- States will respect the principle of *non-refoulement* although challenges will continue to be manifest.
- Host governments will increasingly be unable to cope with the magnitude of displacement, in particular with regards to shelter and humanitarian assistance.
- Incidents of discrimination and xenophobia against Venezuelans will increase.

In light of the strategic objectives outlined already and the above assumptions, UNHCR's response herewith is structured around six priority results as summarized below.

(i) **Preparedness for heightened outflows**

Contingency and preparedness planning will be prioritized to ensure adequate capacity and coordination to respond to any major influx that might occur. UNHCR will support governments in the development of contingency and preparedness plans and the establishment of necessary coordination structures to ensure that plans are protection-based and prioritize protection outcomes.

(ii) **Protection and assistance needs understood and captured**

UNHCR will work with partners to put in place a coherent and harmonized information management system and generate the necessary data for evidence-based advocacy at the national and regional levels. Border monitoring, ongoing dialogue with host governments to ensure access to territory, profiling and protection monitoring will be key activities.

(iii) **Access to territory, refugee status, and other forms of protection/alternative legal stay arrangements strengthened**

UNHCR will work with governments to strengthen national asylum systems, some of which are already under significant strain due to the rise in Venezuelan asylum claims, while also supporting access to other forms of protection including alternative legal stay arrangements under national or regional frameworks. Priority will be given to the implementation of measures to accelerate or simplify processing of individual cases.

(iv) **Protection and assistance delivered**

At the centre of UNHCR's response will be the protection of those who are particularly vulnerable, with community-based protection as the ideal mode of engagement. UNHCR activities will support and build upon existing family and community-based protection mechanisms, promoting community self-management. Special attention will be paid to the risk of statelessness, especially for children born to parents who are undocumented in the host country or whose births were not registered with the national authorities.

(v) **Durable solutions realized**

While the response to the Venezuela Situation is still at its early stages, efforts will already be ingrained for durable solutions, including short to medium-term social inclusion and self-reliance with access to work as a key component.

(vi) **Communications**

Communication with governments, donors, partners and other national and regional actors and, above all, with the people of concern themselves, will be a central feature of UNHCR's response to increase public understanding of and support for the situation of the Venezuelans; combat discrimination and xenophobia and increase solidarity; and create awareness among Venezuelans of their rights and responsibilities.

Partnership and coordination

Given the pre-eminence of protection needs, yet at the same the presence of other elements, UNHCR will lead and, as appropriate and according to the models that have been or will be established accordingly, co-lead coordination of the response to the Venezuelan Situation. In particular, it will exercise its internationally mandated responsibilities for those with international protection needs.

The response is at the same time based on and will enhance broad partner engagement and participation at both national and regional levels. UNHCR will thus strengthen the inter-agency approach that will encourage the operational engagement of key sector-based United Nations, other international, regional, national and non-governmental partners including, notably, IOM (particularly on profiling), UNFPA, WFP and UN Women (SGBV), UNICEF and Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) (education, child protection), ILO (livelihoods), WHO/PAHO and UNAIDS (health), ICRC, IFRC and national Red Cross societies (detention, family tracing and reunification, core relief items). UNHCR will also continue to engage and work closely with the United Nations Development Group in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC), alongside UN Resident Coordinators. Bearing in mind the nature of the situation as elaborated earlier and the broad nature of agency engagement just overviewed, it is foreseen that, in its subsequent versions, this Supplementary Appeal will be further developed increasingly as a comprehensive Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan.

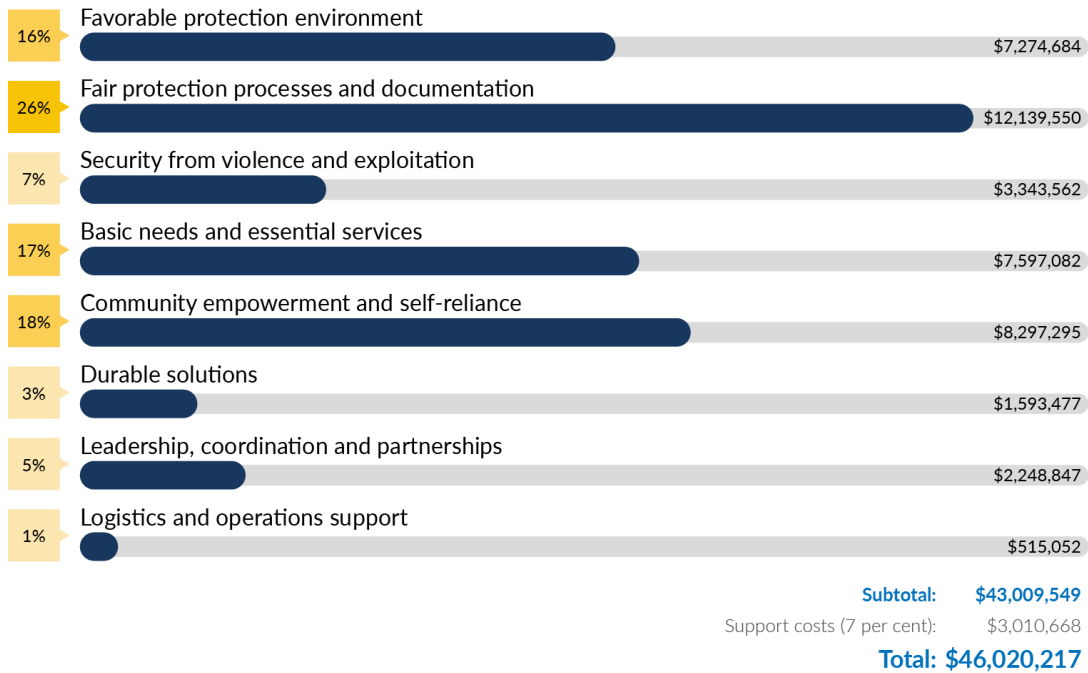
Financial requirements

The initial financial requirements of this Supplementary Appeal cover the most basic and critical protection and assistance needs for over 300,000 people affected by the Venezuela Situation as outlined in this document. They also include staffing, presence and other capacity needs in UNHCR's regional offices in Argentina, Panama, and the United States,¹ and the Regional Legal Unit (RLU) of the Americas Bureau based in Costa Rica, a decentralized technical service provider with continental coverage on legal and protection issues related to refugee status determination (RSD), statelessness, SGBV, child protection, registration, training and capacity building, inter-agency and cooperation with regional bodies, etc. The initial requirements come to **\$46 million**.

OPERATION	VENEZUELA SITUATION				
	ExCom budget not related to the Venezuela situation	ExCom budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total	Total revised requirements
VENEZUELA	10,805,911	-	7,007,784	7,007,784	17,813,695
BRAZIL	6,478,587	-	6,969,193	6,969,193	13,447,780
COLOMBIA	24,998,403	-	7,609,382	7,609,382	32,607,785
COSTA RICA	8,019,699	-	1,130,607	1,130,607	9,150,306
ECUADOR	19,560,801	-	3,642,742	3,642,742	23,203,543
MEXICO	16,579,418	-	854,026	854,026	17,433,444
PANAMA	25,883,586	-	897,904	897,904	26,781,490
PERU	7,363,577	-	2,488,232	2,488,232	9,851,809
SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN	25,509,256	-	8,785,886	8,785,886	34,295,142
REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES	9,841,294	-	3,623,793	3,623,793	13,465,087
SUBTOTAL	155,040,532	-	43,009,549	43,009,549	198,050,081
Support costs (7 per cent)		-	3,010,668	3,010,668	3,010,668
TOTAL	155,040,532	-	46,020,217	46,020,217	201,060,749

¹ The UNHCR Regional Office in Argentina covers UNHCR operations in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The Regional Office in Panama covers operations in Belize, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The Regional Office in Washington in the United States covers operations in the United States, 14 Caribbean states and 9 overseas territories including Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago; the British overseas territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands; and the Dutch overseas territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba, Curacao and Saint Maarten.

Thematic Requirements



UNHCR urges for contributions to be made towards these highly prioritized requirements in as generous and timely a manner as possible. UNHCR further calls for those contributions to be made in the most flexible manner possible, in other words that they are unearmarked or only broadly earmarked at the situational or regional levels and, where received late in the year, that they can be carried into the following year. Given the wide span of contexts, themes and locations of the Venezuela Situation, this flexibility will allow UNHCR the broadest operational outreach to refugees and other populations with the greatest needs and risks and work in favour of smooth and predictable continuation of activities.

It is reiterated that the needs for which this funding is required are urgent. Poor contributions will severely constrain UNHCR's contingency preparedness, planning and response and support to receiving countries to build theirs. Both will become overwhelmed, placing the safety and well-being of the Venezuelan arrivals in greater peril. Profiling, data collection and registration activities will not be developed, inhibiting the identification of people in need of protection with specific vulnerabilities and the formulation of evidence-based advocacy on their behalf. UNHCR will not be able to establish or reinforce its presence in key areas, particularly border locations, or in countries impacted by the arrival of significant numbers of Venezuelans at large thereby stymying border and protection monitoring and meaningful interventions to prevent potential instances of refoulement, facilitate access to territory and crucial asylum and other international protection processes, and address other protection risks. Among these, SGBV prevention and response will not be supported, an increasing number of women will be more exposed to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking, vulnerable people—including children and youth without legal status and women at risk of SGBV—will not receive essential assistance and be forced into precarious survival mechanisms. A community-based approach will not be implemented, restricting labour opportunities, socio-economic inclusion and livelihoods and feeding discrimination and xenophobic sentiments. **A situation which is already critical could degenerate even further into a broader regional protection and humanitarian situation.**

Country annexes

Brazil



Overview



24,818

**Asylum-seekers by
February 2018**



10 shelters

**Hosting some
2,215 people**



UNHCR presence

**23 national and international staff
4 offices**

Since 2016, the Federal Police of Brazil has registered 183,397 Venezuelan entries and 111,818 exits through the Pacaraima border in Roraima, the main entry and exit point for displaced people between the two countries. Up to 70,000 Venezuelans could have remained in Brazil with an estimated 40,000 people living in Boa Vista (10 per cent of the local population) and many others spontaneously settling in other states within Brazil. **An average of 800 Venezuelans are crossing the border every day, arriving in vulnerable conditions and requiring urgent assistance** with documentation, shelter, food and health, which is being provided by the Government, UNHCR and partners.

Financial requirements | 2018



The Government has ensured admission, registration and documentation for all new arrivals from Venezuela. Once documented, new arrivals have the right to work and can access health, education, and other basic services. The Government has made concerted efforts to provide shelter and food assistance to the most vulnerable, however, challenges remain to cope with the significant number of new arrivals in Roraima. **The Government has granted social grants to 1,278 people/ 758 families.** Mass vaccination campaign as well as support to strengthen local health care and services is ongoing by the Ministry of Health with support from PAHO/WHO since early 2018.

Since June 2017, **UNHCR has scaled up its humanitarian response and protection capacity** through the opening of two new Field Units in Boa Vista (Roraima state) and Manaus (Amazonas state) in northern Brazil to respond to the influx of Venezuelans seeking international protection in the country. UNHCR provides direct support to the Federal Police to register and provide documents to new arrivals in Boa Vista and Manaus. As of 28 February 2018, 24,818 Venezuelans have sought asylum and 10,963 temporary residence. **In January-February 2018 alone, more than 15,000 Venezuelans sought registration at the Federal Police, with 7,874 registrations having been processed so far.**

UNHCR has been a key stakeholder in the coordination of the plan supporting with registration, cash-grants and protection activities. UNHCR is rehabilitating a Registration Centre at the Federal University of Roraima in Boa Vista to improve registration, increase protection services and enhance access to

public services. Shelter capacity, infrastructure and site management have significantly improved at six of the public shelters hosting some 2,215 individuals, including approximately 1,200 indigenous Venezuelans. UNHCR is delivering core relief items (CRIs), and cash-based interventions are provided to most vulnerable people.

On 16 February 2018, the President of Brazil issued Provisional Measure nº 820/2018 that reinforces the Federal Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. A Coordinator for the Emergency Response Plan was appointed late February 2018 and visible results have ensued. The revised Emergency Response Plan includes the strengthening of registration, documentation, health screening as well as the immediate establishment by the army of two more shelters in Boa Vista in Pacaraima (for 3,000 people), and the refurbishing and expansion of three more.

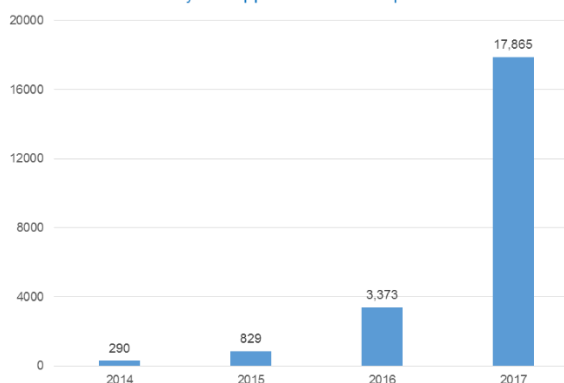
Whereas Venezuelans are spontaneously relocating to Manaus by land and to other parts of the country by air at their own expense, the Emergency Response Plan includes the Government-led Organized Voluntary Internal Relocation of Venezuelans from Roraima state, where resources are insufficient, to other states with better local integration prospects, to be launched in early April 2018. UNHCR, UN agencies and NGO partners are providing support to the Government for its design and implementation.

Needs and response

KEY POPULATION TRENDS (2014-2018)



Brazil Asylum Application Trends | 2014 - 17



Identified needs

The geopolitical location of Roraima, with no land access to most parts of the country and the increasing number of new arrivals in dire need of protection and assistance, poses serious challenges. Despite continued efforts from UNHCR and partners, overall conditions remain inadequate. Due to the current situation, identified needs and remaining gaps include: (i) effective access to the territory and protection against *refoulement*; (ii) continuous registration of asylum-seekers and refugees and the timely issuance of appropriate documentation; (iii) adequate reception conditions and right to dignified shelter; (iv) food security and access to health; (v) effective access to education, in particular for indigenous children; (vi) effective access to self-reliance, vocational training and means of livelihoods for a population that presents great potential for integration; (vii) security, protection and access to appropriate support, in particular for children and youth at risk, survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) people; (viii) reduction of negative coping mechanisms including exploitation, child labour and survival sex among others; and (ix) reduced discrimination and xenophobia and promote co-existence.

Response

Given the increasing numbers of new arrivals and the limited local capacity to respond to the growing needs, UNHCR and partners aim at expanding the response capacity in order to: (i) ensure more effective access to the territory and timely registration, i.e. refugee status determination (RSD)/alternative legal status/stay; (ii) improve access to basic and essential services in particular health, shelter, education and food; (iii) improve protection from violence and exploitation particularly for vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied and separated children, women at risk, LGBTI people and indigenous people; (iv) strengthen local integration and durable solutions; and (v) strengthen leadership, coordination and partnership among all stakeholders. **To implement the response strategy, UNHCR is planning to further expand its presence in the North of Brazil** including an increased field monitoring at the border (Pacaraima), while also strengthening the Offices in Boa Vista, Manaus and Brasilia with additional staffing and logistical support.

Key intervention areas



Protection

Fair protection processes and documentation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Further strengthening capacity to carry out a profiling of population to identify and refer people of concern with specific needs through protection monitoring and case management tools.
- Expanding existing support to Government entities to improve registration capacity and respond effectively to asylum claims and requests for temporary residence.
- Establishing a Reference Centre in Roraima by mid-March 2018 to support increase registration and documentation capacity of the Federal Police including protection desks, as well as support civil society to improve access to documentation and referrals to local services to facilitate effective access to basic services.
- Strengthening case management and data collection using UNHCR's proGres v4 to profile and inform protection interventions as well as the process of voluntary relocation.
- Expanding information campaign on registration and access to documentation.

Favourable protection environment

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Improving the provision of protection and legal advice through the hiring of additional legal counsellors and social workers among the partners receiving Venezuelans in the concerned states.
- Continuing to support the work of the Federal Police by increasing UNHCR presence and monitoring of border and reception centres, to promote effective access to the territory, admission and documentation.
- Promoting anti-xenophobia and awareness raising campaigns in collaboration with local media, Government, UN partners, civil society, academia and other stakeholders.

Security from violence and exploitation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Continuing to work with UNFPA and UNICEF on advocacy and capacity building activities for local and national Government institutions and organizations that constitute the national protection network against SGBV and child protection.
- Expanding with key partners the implementation of activities geared at ensuring maximum consideration of age, gender and diversity needs for all population including persons opting to be relocated internally.
- Strengthening and ensuring the implementation of the existing national case management tool and appropriate referrals for survivors of SGBV.
- Working with UNFPA and UNICEF in establishing safe shelter and spaces for children, women and individuals with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity and integrate those safe spaces in the UNHCR Regional Safe Spaces Network.
- Continuing to work together with concerned Ministries, local government and UNICEF on child protection and children rights especially in education, health and prevention against exploitation.



Basic needs and essential services

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Continuing to support the Government in improving shelter conditions and maintaining nine shelters set up in conjunction with local Government support.
- Strengthening shelter management support to the Government in Boa Vista and Pacaraima.
- Distributing dignity/hygiene kits and other CRI's to people of concern.
- Further expanding the delivery of multipurpose cash grants for individuals with specific needs, including the elderly, SGBV survivors, women at risk, vulnerable indigenous, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender or Intersex (LGBTI).
- Work with UNICEF in supporting the local authorities to construct or improve education infrastructure.
- Strengthening the work carried out with partners in identifying LGBTI individuals at heightened risk and ensure that they have proper access to social services, including medical and mental health care.
- Continuing to support the Government efforts, alongside WFP and other stakeholders, to improve food security needs of people of concern.

- In partnership with UNFPA, UNAIDS and IOM, continue to provide technical support to local authorities in Boa Vista, Pacaraima and Manaus to ensure that refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants from Venezuela have access to HIV testing and antiretroviral treatments.



Community empowerment and self-reliance

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Expanding learning and training opportunities, including Portuguese language classes both in Roraima and in states that will be part of the organized voluntary relocation initiative.
- Expanding the delivery of cash grants for livelihood purposes with specific focus on the most vulnerable in Roraima and the delivery of cash grants through NGO partners in the receiving states taking part in the organized voluntary relocation initiative.
- Establishing or expanding diploma revalidation programme in partnership with local universities and local Government.
- Implementing coexistence projects in host communities in Roraima and Amazonas as well as São Paulo and Paraná.
- Conducting a more detailed market analysis to support the implementation of a livelihood strategy with the public and private sectors.



Leadership, coordination and partnerships

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Reinforcing the operational capacity of partners to enhance implementation of activities.
- Leading the UN Inter-Agency Task Force in Brasilia for the Venezuela Situation.
- Strengthening coordination mechanisms using best practices from the Refugee Coordination Model.

Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR will continue to provide support to the Governmental-led emergency response as well as to humanitarian actors, non-Governmental and civil society organizations, people of concern and host communities. In addition, the establishment of new or expanded partnerships, particularly with private sectors, will be crucial to the response.

UNHCR and its partners will continue to support Government efforts in building synergies, notably between existing humanitarian and development initiatives, and invest in the resilience of both people of concern and their host communities. UNHCR is already working with local partners in Roraima and Amazonas to support the implementation, in particular, pre-registration, shelter management and cash grants delivery. Additionally, to ensure food security, while the army is setting a system of direct food assistance to shelter, the Office in collaboration with WFP is providing food to approximately 500 individuals in shelter with funds of the Brazilian Government. At the country level, UNHCR remains engaged with other UN agencies on joint response activities, working in close collaboration with UNFPA, IOM, UNICEF, WFP, PAHO/WHO, ILO, UNIC and UNDP, among others. At the Federal level, the Office alongside other UN agencies is a member of the Government Technical Task Force for the Venezuela Situation and is liaising with international and national stakeholders to support the comprehensive Government-led emergency response.

Refugee voices



© UNHCR / R. Damasceno

In Roraima, UNHCR works to prevent and respond to SGBV

Xiomara de la Concepción, 53, is a professional nurse who left Venezuela last year with her daughter and grandson. She now lives in a public shelter, in Boa Vista. Here, she participates in a graffiti activity with other Venezuelan women and local artists to mark the *16 Days of activism against gender-based violence*. Xiomara is one of many Venezuelan women forced to leave the country in search of safety, protection and better life opportunities. “Everyone that arrives in the shelter is recommended to be registered, as having local documents will make our life easier”, says Xiomara. As the influx of Venezuelan citizens into Brazil increases, more services are required to attend their needs, including shelter, food, education, health and self-reliance. Violence against women is frequently a cause of forced displacement. Venezuelan women face an additional challenge in Roraima, where the level of SGBV is one the highest in Brazil.



© UNHCR / R. Portilla

A hammock has become the new safe place for a young Venezuelan family

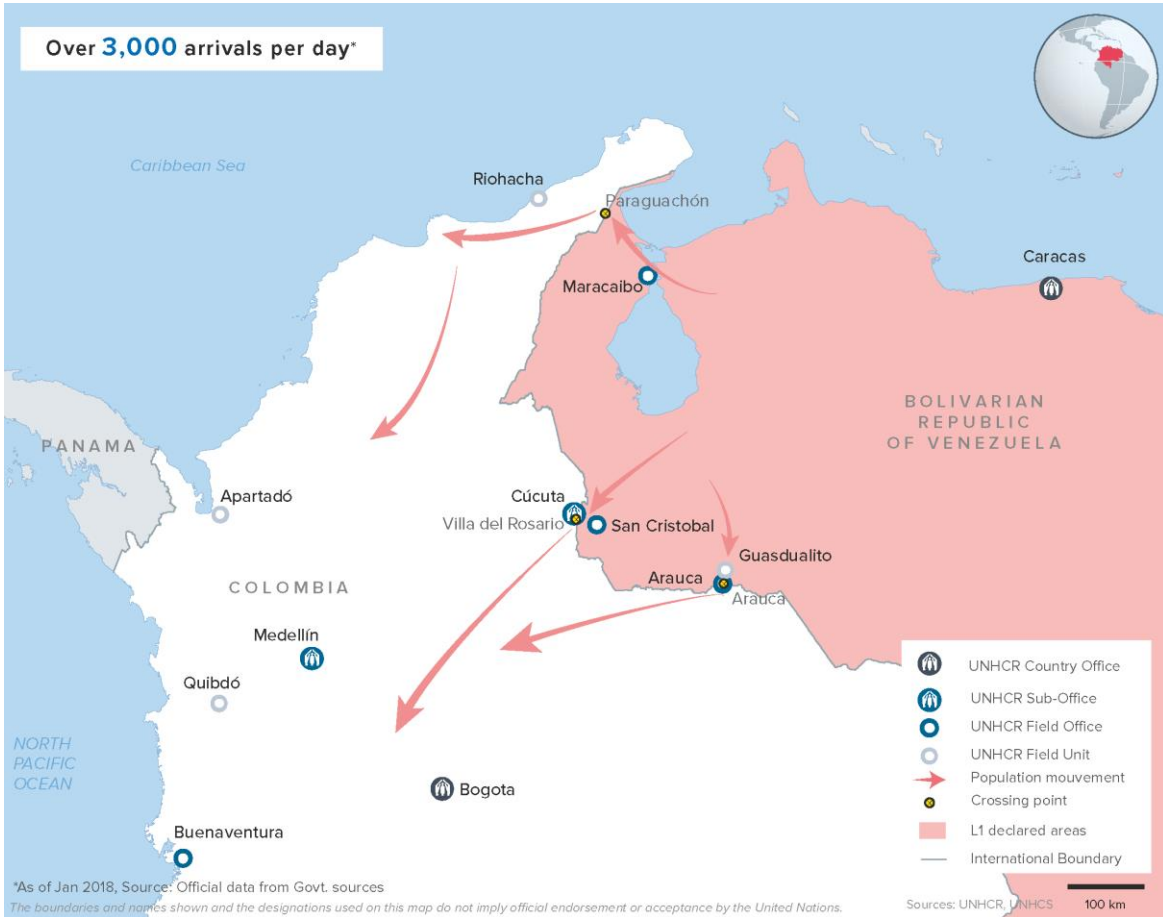
After arriving in Boa Vista, Brazil, with only the things they could carry, this young family found refuge in the Tancredo Neves shelter. As there is no more space inside the shelter, they sleep together in a hammock they brought with them. Some 500 Venezuelans are currently living in the shelter set up in Boa Vista, even though the maximum capacity is for some 200 people. Food is distributed once a day and depends on donations. The Government has made efforts to provide shelter to the most vulnerable, and UNHCR and local partners have been complementing the response with technical assistance, resources and improving living conditions. However, safety, essential services, and water and hygiene conditions, are far from ideal, and many more vulnerable families are also in need of shelter.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2018 ExCom budget for Brazil includes **\$6.5 million**. The additional requirements to address the needs of people of concern fleeing from Venezuela amount to **\$7.5 million** for 2018.

	VENEZUELA SITUATION		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Reception conditions improved</i> <i>Quality of registration and profiling improved</i>	-	799,770	799,770
Favourable protection environment <i>Access to legal assistance and legal remedies</i> <i>Public attitude towards people of concern improved</i>	-	711,795	711,795
Security from violence and exploitation <i>Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved</i> <i>Protection of children strengthened</i>	-	543,843	543,843
Community empowerment and self-reliance <i>Peaceful co-existence with local communities promoted</i> <i>Self-reliance and livelihoods improved</i>	-	1,247,641	1,247,641
Basic needs and essential services			
<i>Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained</i>	-	879,747	879,747
<i>Population has sufficient basic and domestic items</i>	-	1,439,585	1,439,585
<i>Services for people with specific needs strengthened</i>	-	319,908	319,908
<i>Population has optimal access on education</i>	-	511,853	511,853
Logistics and operations support <i>Operations management, coordination and support strengthened and optimized</i>	-	515,052	515,052
SUBTOTAL	-	6,969,193	6,969,193
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	487,844	487,844
TOTAL	-	7,457,037	7,457,037

Colombia



Overview

 **550,000**

**Venezuelans by
January 2018**

 **575**

**Asylum-claims
lodged in 2017**



UNHCR presence

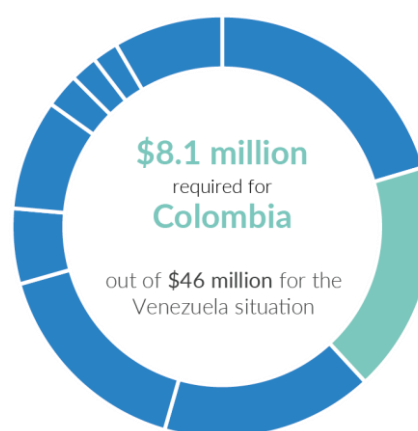
**97 national and international staff
10 offices**

Colombia has been the host country in the Americas most directly impacted by the political and socio-economic situation in Venezuela. **At the end of January 2018**, the Government of the Republic of Colombia estimated that **over 550,000 Venezuelans were present in the country, almost doubling from the estimated 300,000 as of mid-2017.**

In addition, over 230,000 Colombians left Venezuela, between July and December 2017, to return to their country of origin, many of whom had been living in a refugee-like situation. **Over 1.5 million Venezuelans have requested Border Mobility Cards**—introduced by the Colombian Government to facilitate circular migration—up until February 2018, when applications for registrations were closed. The Colombian Government also established the Special Stay Permit, a protection-oriented arrangement that benefited over 69,000 Venezuelans in 2017. The Special Stay Permit was initially only available to those Venezuelans who were living in Colombia before 26 July 2017. This cut-off date was, however, subsequently extended to 2 February 2018. As a result, **more than 86,000 new registrations for the Special Stay Permits have been made in 2018, and a total of 155,000 Permits have been issued to date.**

In this context, **UNHCR stepped up its protection and border monitoring capacity through the opening of a new Field Office in Riohacha (La Guajira Department) in northern Colombia**, which is in addition to the existing border offices in Cucuta and Arauca. This additional field presence will help reinforce multi-partner protection networks, including legal clinics, and on-going population profiling efforts. UNHCR, as the co-lead with IOM on the Inter-Agency Border Group, which comprises twenty UN agencies and NGOs, supports the Colombian Government in coordinating preparedness planning and humanitarian response efforts. To enhance response capacity, UNHCR has constructed and renovated temporary shelters and reception facilities in border areas, prepositioned shelter materials, and provided cash-based humanitarian assistance to vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees. In order to foster solidarity with the people of concern, UNHCR has launched a nation-wide anti-xenophobia campaign.

Financial requirements | 2018

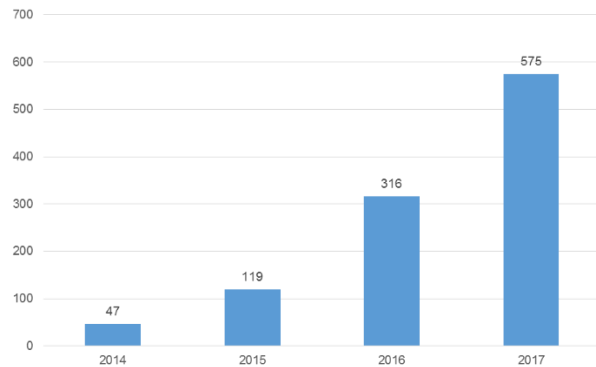


Needs and response

KEY POPULATION TRENDS (2014-2017)



Colombia Asylum Application Trends | 2014 - 17



Identified needs

The affected populations in Colombia are mainly poor, marginalized and vulnerable people, subject to invisible and severe forms of discrimination. According to official figures **68 per cent of them are in an irregular migratory status, therefore, they lack the right to work and access to basic services**. While the border areas are the most affected, Venezuelans are also moving to main cities, such as Bogotá, Medellín, Barranquilla, Cartagena and Bucaramanga, where response capacities are overwhelmed.

The protection problems facing the population include: (i) security concerns; (ii) trafficking; (iii) sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); (iv) xenophobia; (v) forced child recruitment; (vi) lack of access to a legal status and documentation, with risks of statelessness; (vii) lack of work opportunities; (viii) lack of information on asylum and assistance mechanisms; (ix) labour exploitation; (x) survival sex work; and (xi) lack of access to health and education. Similarly, local host communities are facing increased pressure and require support to respond to communal needs and prevent xenophobia.

Response

In Colombia, **UNHCR aims to contribute to the improvement of the international protection framework in the country, to ensure it responds to the protection and needs of the people of concern arriving in the country in a comprehensive, predictable and coordinated manner**. This strategic direction is being carried out through the following three key programmatic areas, with community-based and age, gender and diversity sensitive approaches: (i) advocate and build capacity for a strengthened protection framework; (ii) reinforce response capacity and quality, including in emergency contexts; and (iii) increase advocacy and technical assistance for comprehensive solutions and self-reliance.

Key intervention areas



Protection

Fair protection processes and documentation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Continuing the profiling, registration and information management efforts on arrivals from Venezuela, which is essential for evidence-based advocacy and project development. UNHCR will support the Government's registration efforts, joint profiling exercises and continue to build the capacity of civil society and local NGOs to identify and refer cases of people in need of international protection.

Favourable protection environment

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Strengthening UNHCR's presence along the 2,200 km border with Venezuela and in major urban centres receiving new arrivals. This will enable increased protection and border monitoring as well as broader outreach to arrivals from Venezuela, including Colombian returnees.
- Implementing UNHCR's national strategy and work plan through actions such as advocacy for access to asylum and status regularization, cross border coordination, local coordination with migratory authorities, and orientation to people of concern through an enhanced network of border attention points and university legal clinics.
- Implementing in major population centres and along the border the anti-xenophobia campaign launched in 2017, targeting an estimated audience of 5 million people.

Security from violence and exploitation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Supporting community-based child protection networks and access to education and recreational activities to prevent protection risks such as forced recruitment.
- Working with communities to step up SGBV prevention efforts and enhance alliances with partners and local institutions to develop a safe spaces network and improve the response to survivors.



Basic needs and essential services

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Providing community-based assistance directly and through key partners in the main receiving areas where UNHCR is present, benefiting people of concern and host communities and contributing to an improved protection environment for Venezuelans.
- Improving reception conditions, notably basic emergency accommodation for arrivals from Venezuela. Cash-based humanitarian assistance will be made available to asylum-seekers and vulnerable people of concern.



Durable solutions

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Providing limited voluntary repatriation grants to Colombian returnees from Venezuela who are unable to access existing support mechanisms. Quick impact projects will benefit both returnees and receiving communities alike.
- Stepping up efforts to prevent statelessness by ensuring birth registration of all children born to Venezuelans.



Leadership, coordination and partnerships

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Continuing to co-lead the Inter-Agency Border Group with IOM and provide coordination and operational support to Governmental and non-Governmental partners.

Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR will continue to lead inter-agency coordination arrangements for the response to the situation along the border and in key urban centres elsewhere. At the national level, UNHCR co-leads the Inter-Agency Border Group with IOM, which is comprised of eight UN agencies and twelve NGOs. The Group is in charge of multi-sectoral coordination and planning between its members and Government authorities and provides technical advice to the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in order to support the latter at the political level.

The main Government counterparts are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Risk Disaster Management Unit. Both these and other authorities participate in the Unified Command Post based in Cúcuta, overseeing the situation at the national level. At the local level, UN-NGO Local Coordination Teams coordinate response with municipal authorities.

UNHCR will help reinforce the capacity of the Colombian authorities and local institutions to respond to the arrival of people of concern, through the provision of staff, Office support, training and equipment. This will include support for the Colombian Migration Office, the Ombudsman's Office, the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, and others.

Along the border and in the major cities receiving arrivals from Venezuela, UNHCR works closely with a number of established local partners, including national and local dioceses of the Catholic Church, to provide support to vulnerable people. It also supports existing protection networks to provide new arrivals with information about the asylum procedure and humanitarian assistance available to the most vulnerable.

Refugee voices



© UNHCR / R. Portilla

Maria stands in the classroom of her new school, Maimajasay

“I miss Venezuela every day. I miss my mom, I miss my friends and I miss my school”, shares Maria. She is just 12 years old and recently moved with her dad over to the Colombian side of the border after growing up in Venezuela. Recently, many Wayuus moved into La Guajira in Colombia, one of the most underserved departments in the country. However, many of the children lack the necessary documents to register properly within the school system and therefore will not receive the official certificates, which could prevent them from continuing their studies. “I want to be a doctor,” Maria says. UNHCR works hand in hand with the authorities and partners to find solutions to make children’s futures possible.



© UNHCR / P. Smith

Women and children share a meal at former refugee Angelica’s home in Cúcuta

Many follow in Angelica’s footsteps, crossing the border by land to Cúcuta, in the hope of building a better life, in some cases applying for asylum. Now back in Colombia, Angelica lives in a colonial-style house, where she offers food, shelter and solidarity to Venezuelans escaping the crisis. “We have about 10 Venezuelans living here,” she says. “Some people stay one month, or three months, until they can stand on their own two feet. We help them understand their rights in Colombia, we help them organize their papers.”

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2018 ExCom budget for Colombia includes **\$25 million**. The additional requirements to address the needs of people of concern fleeing from Venezuela amount to **\$8.1 million** for 2018.

	VENEZUELA SITUATION		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Quality of registration and profiling improved or maintained</i> <i>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</i>	-	1,009,032	1,009,032
Favourable protection environment <i>Access to the territory improved and risk of refoulement reduced</i> <i>Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved</i> <i>Public attitude towards people of concern improved</i>	-	2,130,179	2,130,179
Security from violence and exploitation <i>Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved</i> <i>Protection of children strengthened</i>	-	800,819	800,819
Durable solutions <i>Potential for voluntary return realized</i> <i>Reintegration made more sustainable</i> <i>Greater reduction of statelessness achieved</i>	-	640,655	640,655
Basic needs and essential services			
<i>Population has sufficient basic and domestic items</i>	-	746,363	746,363
<i>Shelter and infrastructure established, improved or maintained</i>	-	1,201,228	1,201,228
<i>Services for people with specific needs strengthened</i>	-	240,246	240,246
<i>Health status of the population improved</i>	-	112,115	112,115
<i>Population has optimal access to education</i>	-	352,360	352,360
Leadership, coordination and partnerships <i>Coordination and partnerships strengthened</i>	-	376,385	376,385
SUBTOTAL	-	7,609,382	7,609,382
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	532,657	532,657
TOTAL	-	8,142,039	8,142,039

Costa Rica

Overview



3,175

Venezuelans applied for asylum in 2017



50%

Of asylum-seekers are Venezuelans



UNHCR presence

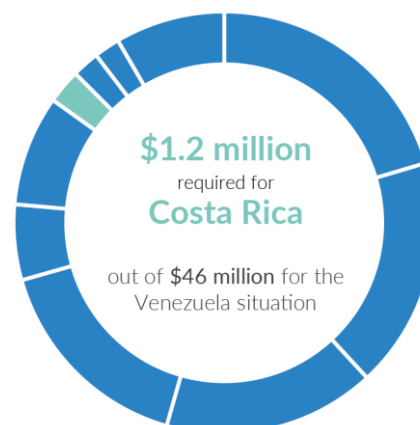
**26 national and international staff
1 office**

In 2017, Costa Rica registered 6,337 new asylum claims. Of those, 3,175 were Venezuelans, which is just over 50 per cent of all new arrivals. This represents a staggering 2,361 per cent increase when compared to 2014. Refugee programmes provide vulnerable Venezuelan families with immediate cash and psychosocial assistance, including temporary safe shelter for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), as well as access to national, private or NGO-based health care services.

UNHCR has also supported the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica in delivering **timely, and fairer, refugee status determination (RSD) decisions**, while providing free **legal assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees**. The Government of Costa Rica and UNHCR have also actively promoted alliances with the private sector to ensure access to vocational training and job placement opportunities.

Costa Rica enjoys a favourable protection and solutions environment for Venezuelan asylum-seekers and refugees. Admission to the territory, immediate access to RSD procedures and no administrative detention are assured. Costa Rica provides universal and free of charge access to education and health care for children; universal health care for pregnant women; and universal HIV antiretroviral treatment and medication. With the adoption of the **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) National Chapter—locally known as MINARE—in September 2017, the Government of Costa Rica agreed to grant work permits to asylum-seekers upon their lodging of an asylum claim**. Additionally, the *Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social* (“National Social Welfare Institute”/IMAS), gave asylum-seekers and refugees access to all of its social programmes on an equal footing as nationals.

Financial requirements | 2018



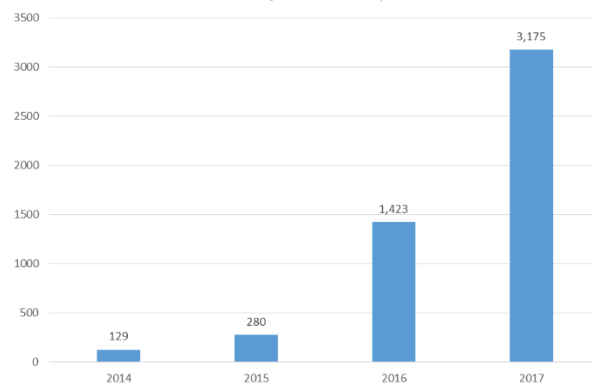
Furthermore, the Ministry of Labour guarantees access of refugees and asylum-seekers to national job placement schemes. A new Government will take office in May 2018. UNHCR and partners will enhance advocacy efforts to ensure *MINARE*'s sustainability and its effective implementation.

Needs and response

KEY POPULATION TRENDS (2014-2017)



Costa Rica Asylum Trends | 2014 - 17



Identified needs

Costa Rica is expected to receive **an increased number of asylum applications in 2018, of which at least half of them are anticipated to be made by Venezuelans**. By the end of 2018, the total number of Venezuelan asylum-seekers and refugees in Costa Rica may reach half of a total projected population of concern. These estimates, significant by themselves, acquire further relevance when considering the size and population of the country, i.e. 50,000 km² and less than five million people.

Refugee voices

"I left my daughter, my parents and my entire life back in Venezuela. I arrived in Costa Rica with only \$20 in my pocket; but I have one thing in my mind: I need to work hard to get my life back."

- Karla from Maracaibo

A constant growing influx of asylum-seekers in Costa Rica will significantly impact the capacity of the country's RSD adjudicators. This, coupled with the current Government's freezing of staff recruitment, may require extra funding to allocate additional adjudicators to ensure decisions are made in the legal timeframe. As identified in several surveys and participatory assessments with Venezuelan people of concern, key needs and remaining gaps arising include: (i) legal advice; (ii) access to health care services; (iii) socioeconomic support to populations with specific needs; (iv) access to social welfare programmes and Government job placement schemes; and (v) recognition of university diplomas.

Response

As called for in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, *MINARE* (2018 – 2020) offers an improved, more predictable and better articulated response to the situation of refugees in Costa Rica. Its full implementation will turn Costa Rica's asylum system into a model for protecting and

integrating urban refugees in middle income countries. Within the framework of *MINARE*, UNHCR will support the Government of Costa Rica in the following areas: (i) strengthening RSD procedures through the provision of additional adjudicators; (ii) gap-filling cash-based interventions when the Government's response is inadequate; (iii) providing financial support to people of concern requiring access to the national health care scheme; and (iv) improving the provision of safe spaces network for survivors of SGBV.

Guided by *MINARE* and the Brazil Plan of Action, UNHCR will seek: (i) the consolidation of a State-led coordinated response that enhances the capacity of its national asylum system; (ii) ensure that people of concern have access to public social protection services, on an equal footing with nationals; and (iii) to integrate support activities, from the time of arrival, through innovative initiatives and strategic partnerships with public and private sector actors.

Refugee voices

“Being a refugee in Costa Rica meant to start from scratch. In Venezuela I used to work at the University; in Costa Rica I had to forget my stable lifestyle, and find a new job.”

- Alberto from Caracas.

Humanitarian assistance will be focused on two areas: **(i) assisting new arrivals with urgent basic needs; and (ii) basic financial support to selected families to allow completion of their training to improve livelihood opportunities.** Some 2,000 people of concern with special protection needs will also require financial assistance. UNHCR's support to integration activities will be prioritized for those in greater need, with a target population of

approximately 1,200 asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR is currently advocating for the introduction of alternative protection pathways to ensure that those Venezuelans who do not meet the *stricto sensu* criteria of the 1951 Refugee Convention, are granted permission to remain in Costa Rica. Some 6,800 Venezuelans may benefit from such measures.

Key intervention areas



Protection

Fair protection processes and documentation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Strengthening RSD procedures through provision of additional adjudicators to: the Refugee Unit; Commission of Restricted Visas and Refugees (1st instance); and to the Administrative Migration Tribunal on Appeal, to ensure adjudication of cases in the legal timeframe. This support will further strengthen the only quasi-judicial RSD system in Latin America and will specifically prevent new backlogs and ensure fair and timely RSD decisions.

Favourable protection environment

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Strengthening legal assistance capacities at bordering areas and airports with partner HIAS to ensure access to territory.
- Implementing early identification, registration and profiling mechanisms, including community-based approach, participatory assessments and focal groups. UNHCR will support HIAS' capacity with one additional Legal Advisor with a comprehensive community-based background to provide assistance to 600 Venezuelan asylum-seekers.

Security from violence and exploitation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Strengthening the capacity of the Government and civil society partners in the area of SGBV prevention, including shelter, early identification and referrals, with a focus on newly arriving Venezuelan asylum-seekers.



Basic needs and essential services

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Ensuring that refugees and asylum-seekers living in poverty and extreme poverty receive humanitarian aid by the IMAS. UNHCR will provide complementary cash based interventions (CBIs) through partners to the most vulnerable groups who cannot access Government support or for whom it is insufficient to mitigate protection risks. UNHCR will also strengthen alliances with the public institutions responsible for supporting the aforementioned groups.



Community empowerment and self-reliance

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Mapping out and engaging grass root organizations with capacities in the following services: temporary shelter; day care for the elderly, babies and infants to enable mothers to undertake vocational training; food banks and community development in areas of large concentration of refugees and asylum-seekers, with the objective of establishing a refugee solidarity network committed to support the most vulnerable in the early stages of integration.



Durable solutions

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Supporting partners in the provision of technical training, job placement and self-employment programmes for Venezuelan asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR will also advocate with the Government for the establishment of alternative mechanisms to validate university diplomas.

Coordination and working in partnership

In line with *MINARE*, Costa Rica has shifted towards a Government-run refugee programme, where UNHCR's 2018-2020 Multi-Year and Multi-Partner Strategy (MYMP) has largely be developed as a gap filling and complementary instrument. Within the new strategy, UNHCR's main partner is the Government of Costa Rica through a strategic alliance with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior, including the Migration Authority and the Administrative Migration Tribunal; the Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion and the IMAS; the Ministry of National Planning; the Ministry of Labour; the judiciary and the Office of the Ombudsperson; as well as other public institutions competent to deal with specific population groups or key thematic issues relevant to refugees.

Additionally, UNHCR will partner with the academia, law bar association, and the private sector through various chambers of commerce and industry, as well as with the following partner agencies: RET, HIAS, Women's Foundation, Jesuit Migrants' Services, *Centro de Derechos Sociales del Migrante* and The University for Peace.

UNHCR's partnership with the UN Country Team through the implementation of the UNDAF (2018-2022) will be reinforced with the launching of a Task Force on Refugees and Migrants, jointly coordinated by UNHCR and IOM. Most importantly, UNHCR will greatly enhance the critical voice of refugees in its planning and response activities through its new call center and a series of innovative participation mechanisms.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2018 ExCom budget for Costa Rica includes **\$8 million**. The additional requirements to address the needs of people of concern fleeing from Venezuela amount to **\$1.2 million** for 2018.

	VENEZUELA SITUATION		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</i>	-	194,123	194,123
Favourable protection environment <i>Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved</i>	-	95,017	95,017
Security from violence and exploitation <i>Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved</i>	-	31,672	31672
Community empowerment and self-reliance <i>Self-reliance and livelihoods improved</i>	-	241,216	241,216
Basic needs and essential services	-		
<i>Health status of the population improved</i>	-	112,500	112,500
<i>Services for people of concern with specific needs strengthened</i>	-	456,080	456,080
SUBTOTAL	-	1,130,607	1,130,607
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	79,142	79,142
TOTAL	-	1,209,749	1,209,749

Ecuador

Overview



1,530

Asylum-claims lodged in 2017



55%

Venezuelans have legal status



UNHCR presence

**57 national and international staff
6 offices**

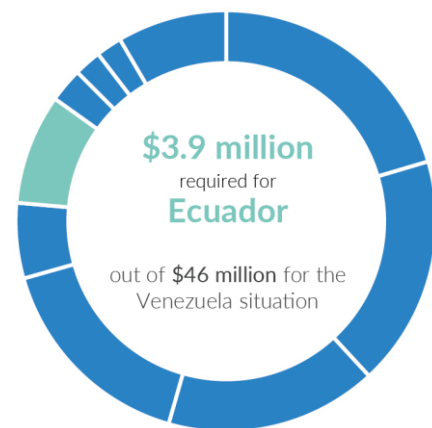
Ecuador registered a significant number of new arrivals of Venezuelan nationals in 2016 and 2017. **According to the migration authorities, more than 288,000 Venezuelans entered Ecuador in 2017, up from 102,000 in 2016.** Over two-thirds of the 2017 arrivals have, however, continued their journey to other countries further south.

It is estimated that over 90,000 Venezuelans have remained in Ecuador, with more than 50,000 obtaining a residency permit or visa in one form or another, by the end of August 2017, such as residence permits for nationals of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), under a Venezuela-Ecuador agreement, as well as professional, family (*Visas de Amparo*) and other visas

Venezuelans now constitute the second highest nationality of asylum-seekers in Ecuador: some 2,232 have sought asylum since 2014. Despite the low number of asylum claims compared with the number of arrivals, according to a joint UNHCR, WFP and IOM profiling exercise in late 2017, **96 per cent of those interviewed cited violence and insecurity among the reasons for leaving, and at least 45 per cent claimed to have left for reasons that would qualify them to seek and obtain refugee status.**

In this context, UNHCR has been advocating with the Ecuadorian authorities for increased access to refugee status determination (RSD) for those who wish to claim asylum or alternative migratory pathways. UNHCR and partners have also been providing legal and social orientation, humanitarian assistance and support to livelihoods opportunities for the most vulnerable Venezuelan families.

Financial requirements | 2018



Needs and response

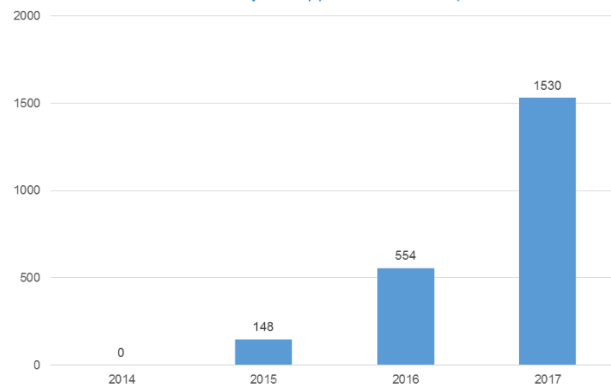
KEY POPULATION TRENDS (2014-2017)



50,502
 Alternative legal
 stay (2014-2017)

2,232
 Asylum-seekers
 (2014-2017)

Ecuador Asylum Application Trends | 2014 - 17



Identified needs

According to the profiling exercise mentioned above, **45 per cent of Venezuelans do not have a legal status that allows them to remain in Ecuador, while 25 per cent have tourist visas that will eventually expire.** In addition, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Venezuelan nationals to renew their passports and have other documents legalised in-country, resulting in many of them being unable to regularize their situation in Ecuador. Their irregular migratory status also means their ability to access education, health and work is limited or restricted, exposing them to the potential of serious protection risks such labour exploitation and survival sex.

Many Venezuelans arrive in a poor state of health and requiring at times immediate medical treatment. Many are malnourished. In addition, the complex security situation and a weak institutional presence in Colombia-Ecuador border areas increases the risks of trafficking, abuse and exploitation. There is an increasing number of unaccompanied and separated children arriving at the border, and this requires the strengthening of referral and profiling mechanisms. Venezuelans residing in Ecuador are also subjected to xenophobia and discrimination by sectors of the population, highlighting the need to strengthen anti-xenophobia and information awareness campaigns.

Response

UNHCR will strive to expand the scope of protection and assistance to Venezuelans of concern. **The main objective is to ensure unhindered access to the territory, to RSD and/or to alternative migratory pathways, including advocating for simplified procedures and requirements.** UNHCR will: (i) strengthen its monitoring activities on the borders with Colombia and Peru so as to identify and assist the most vulnerable cases; and (ii) prevent and address serious protection risks, such as trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse, especially of women, girls, and unaccompanied children. UNHCR will further aim to ensure timely access to asylum in Ecuador, notably by providing asylum authorities with technical support, and by strengthening the legal and human rights defense services offered by the Public Defenders and the Ombudsman's Offices within the Government. Basic

humanitarian assistance, such as shelter, food and medicines, legal orientation and information, and access to rights and basic services including education, health care, and social protection, will be made available through a comprehensive network of partners.

Key intervention areas



Protection

Improved reception conditions and documentation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Improving reception conditions through cooperation with local Governments and community projects to strengthen access to rights and services, cash-based interventions for up to 2,500 vulnerable families; and identifying and referring people of concern with specific needs.
- Cooperating with WFP for food assistance to the most vulnerable Venezuelans.
- Expanding UNHCR's profiling in order to have updated information on protection needs and profiles such as an increase in the proportion of family arrivals, socio-economic situations, reasons for leaving the country, and vulnerabilities. This profiling will further support targeting of assistance and legal orientation among others.
- Improving access to RSD procedures through capacity building of Government RSD Officers, Public Defenders and Ombudsman, as well as identification and referral of cases in need of international protection.
- Ensuring better reception conditions and documentation through advocacy for migratory alternatives with simplified procedures.

Favourable protection environment

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Improving access to territory, asylum as well as information and counselling through a regular presence in Rumichaca and Huaquillas, the main border crossings with Colombia and Peru.
- Strengthening the capacity of border authorities; maintaining a regular field presence in Guayaquil to cover coastal areas; and strengthening the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office to monitor border areas and of the Public Defender's Office on the southern border.
- Improving public attitude towards people of concern through a strengthened media strategy and awareness campaigns in coordination with the UN system and the Government.

Security from violence and exploitation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Strengthening protection of children through development of inter-institutional standard operating procedures on care and protection for unaccompanied and separated children including promotion of access to education and child care services.
- Strengthening partners' capacity to respond to child protection issues.
- Reducing the risk of sexual exploitation, abuse and violence through improved monitoring and identification at borders, participation of approximately 100 female heads of household at risk in UNHCR's livelihoods programme (Graduation Model); expansion of partnerships with NGOs and UN Women; and through increased collaboration with the existing network of safe-houses for survivors.



Durable solutions

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Potential for integration through the provision of support to: the acquisition of residence permits for up to 2,000 vulnerable individuals; and coexistence projects to strengthen community interventions in coordination with municipalities.
- Supporting targeted livelihood interventions and promoting socio-economic inclusion of people of concern through enhanced capacity of local protection networks in urban areas.

Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR works in close coordination with State authorities, at both national and local levels, national human rights institutions such as Public Defender's Office and the Ombudsman, and different civil society organizations and faith-based organizations.

Cooperation is particularly close with the Vice-Ministry for Human Mobility and its Under-Secretariat for International Protection. UNHCR also cooperates with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion. UNHCR is a member of the UN Country Team in Ecuador and significantly contributes to the UNDAF.

UNHCR promotes an inter-agency and rights-based response to the increasing arrival of Venezuelans in Ecuador. More specifically on the outreach and assistance of vulnerable families, UNHCR seeks to strengthen its cooperation with local Government and municipalities. UNHCR already works in close cooperation with the Municipality of Quito and the Departmental Government of Pichincha, as well as with provincial and municipal Governments in Imbabura, Carchi, Azuay and Guayas provinces, to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers can benefit from social programmes and community services.

A large number of Venezuelans are entering Ecuador through its northern border, Rumichaca bridge, which is the principal highway passage between Colombia and Ecuador

More than 56,000 Venezuelans crossed in January 2018 alone, 40 per cent of those were women.



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Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2018 ExCom budget for Ecuador includes **\$19.6 million**. The additional requirements to address the needs of people of concern fleeing from Venezuela amount to **\$3.9 million** for 2018.

	VENEZUELA SITUATION		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Reception conditions improved</i> <i>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</i> <i>Quality of registration and profiling improved</i>	-	1,765,642	1,765,642
Favourable protection environment <i>Public attitude towards people of concern improved</i> <i>Access to territory improved and risk of refoulement reduced</i>	-	652,431	652,431
Security from violence and exploitation <i>Protection of children strengthened</i> <i>Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved</i>	-	271,846	271,846
Durable solutions <i>Potential for integration realized</i>	-	952,822	952,822
SUBTOTAL	-	3,642,742	3,642,742
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	254,992	254,992
TOTAL	-	3,897,734	3,897,734

Mexico

Overview

 **4,042**

**Asylum-claims
lodged in 2017**

 **45%**

**Increase in
Venezuelan arrivals
in 2017**



UNHCR presence

**122 national and international staff
4 offices**

In 2017, 4,042 Venezuelans applied for asylum in Mexico, which represents 27.6 per cent of the total number of claimants. Compared to 2015, the number of applications has increased by 6,991 per cent, making Venezuelans the second highest asylum claimants in the United Mexican States. Whereas the vast majority of asylum-seekers from the North of Central America apply for refugee status in southern Mexico, most Venezuelans submit their asylum applications in Mexico City, after flying into the city and Cancún International Airport.

Migration officials reported a 45 per cent increase in arrivals of Venezuelans by air in 2017 compared to 2016.

However, UNHCR has noted that it is extremely challenging to apply for asylum at regular entry points, such as airports, due to the lack of effective international protection screening by the migration officials. Even when applications for asylum are made after the one-month time limit, the Mexican Refugee Commission (COMAR) has generally accepted asylum applications from Venezuelans, thereby granting them refugee status under the Cartagena Definition.

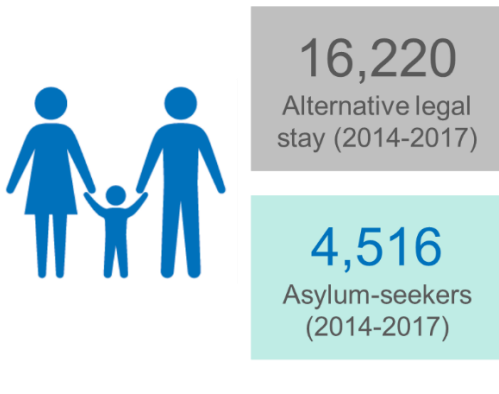
Although the recognition rate of asylum status is almost 100 per cent in 2017, COMAR's capacity is stretched as a result of the increasing number of applications and the limitations to work at full capacity, following the earthquake of September 2017. **In the case of Venezuelans, almost 70 per cent of the applications are pending to be processed.** In this context, UNHCR is currently focusing on: i) ensuring that people of concern from Venezuela have access to the territory and to the refugee status determination (RSD) procedure when arriving in Mexico and that the procedure is fair and efficient; and ii) providing humanitarian assistance—directly or through our partners—to the most vulnerable cases.

Financial requirements | 2018

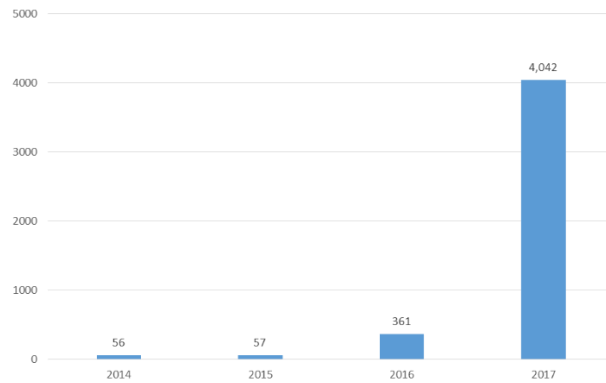


Needs and response

KEY POPULATION TRENDS (2014-2017)



Mexico Asylum Application Trends | 2014 - 17



Identified needs

The earthquake in Mexico City in September 2017 severely damaged COMAR's premises, further limiting its operational capacity. On 30 October 2017, COMAR announced that **asylum claims from most parts of the country (40-50 per cent of all claims), including Mexico City, will be registered but not processed**, due to its lack of capacity to undertake the procedures in conditions that support the legal security of the asylum-seekers. Considering these operational constraints, there is a **clear need to support COMAR to regain its full operational capacity, including additional RSD Officers**, temporary premises, IT equipment, among others.

As mentioned above, UNHCR has identified **obstacles for asylum-seekers to apply for asylum at regular entry points**, such as the main international airports, which is due to the lack of effective protection screening for international protection needs by the Mexican Migration Institute (INM). Furthermore, the results of participatory assessments with people of concern from Venezuela have highlighted the lack of information about the right to seek asylum in Mexico and how to access the procedure.

UNHCR has noticed that the majority of Venezuelans have their most basic needs covered as they come with a stronger support network. In addition, people of concern from Venezuela tend to be more educated, highly skilled and have access to savings, resulting in fewer request for humanitarian assistance being made. Nevertheless, Venezuelans have requested support in finding jobs and integrating into local society. In addition, UNHCR's partners in Mexico City have documented Venezuelans approaching their offices or COMAR's to seek information on how to access education and health services; two services consider essential to this population.

Response

Following up on Mexico's commitments within the regional Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), **UNHCR will continue to focus its efforts in strengthening the capacity of the COMAR, which has the primary responsibility for RSD.** This will allow COMAR to process the increasing number of claims expected during 2018, including those from Venezuelans. In parallel, UNHCR will work to ensure (i) that people of concern from Venezuela can have access to the territory and COMAR, especially when arriving through Mexico's main international airports; and, (ii) benefit from legal aid, when required. Coupled with the efforts to reinforce the capacity of COMAR, UNHCR will facilitate training sessions with migration officials on their responsibilities with regard to asylum-seekers and refugees and compliance with relevant international legal principles. UNHCR also works with *Programa Casa Refugiados* (Programme for Refugees, PCR), one of its main partners in Mexico City, which provides immediate protection assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. In 2017, 136 Venezuelans approached PCR to receive assistance ranging from material assistance to cover their most basic needs, to referrals to the health service or employment opportunities. The number of Venezuelans approaching UNHCR partners has been increasing steadily during the year with a peak in November when numbers increased by 238 per cent compared to the previous month. **In January 2018 alone, UNHCR observed a significant increase in the number of Venezuelans requiring assistance (85 people) compared to the total figure of assisted Venezuelans for 2017.**

Key intervention areas



Protection

Fair protection processes and documentation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Carrying out monitoring activities and placing additional information materials on the asylum procedure in the main airports, including but not limited to Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey and Cancún, which have been identified as the main ports of entry of Venezuelans.
- Implementing a renewed agreement with COMAR to continue with the quality assurance initiative.
- Continuing to provide technical assistance and advice to COMAR on the required steps for the adoption of differentiated procedures for specific profiles to expedite the processing of asylum claims, including those from Venezuela. This will include training activities focusing on the development of refugee protection capacities among COMAR's legal and eligibility staff, further promoting the incorporation of the principles of due process and international standards by COMAR.



Basic needs and essential services

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Identifying vulnerable people who still require support and who face difficulties to access basic domestic items and housing. It is estimated that at least 500 households will be receiving cash grants in 2018 to cover their most basic needs.



Durable solutions

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Promoting the local integration of the Venezuelan population into Mexican society, in line with UNHCR's local integration strategy and the socio-economic profile of the majority of the Venezuelan asylum-seekers (higher education, stronger networks of support). This includes guidance on labor market opportunities, enrolment in national institutions for certified skills training or guidance on business market opportunities for those with a more entrepreneurial spirit.

Coordination and working in partnership

Recognizing the importance of partnerships to maximize the impact of its interventions, UNHCR will continue to strengthen its collaborative efforts with a range of stakeholders to build and consolidate protection networks in support of asylum-seekers, refugees and other people of concern. This includes collaboration with national and local authorities as a fundamental step to ensuring that people of concern are included in national planning and that strategic priorities are taken into consideration.

To that end, partnerships with traditional stakeholders will include COMAR, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the INM. In terms of local partners, UNHCR will continue its partnerships with organizations of the civil society such as PCR, *Sin Fronteras* (“Without Borders”), *Comisión Mexicana para la Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos* (“Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights”) and the University Iberoamericana.

Financial requirements

UNHCR’s 2018 ExCom budget for Mexico includes **\$16.6 million**. The additional requirements to address the needs of people of concern fleeing from Venezuela amount to **\$900,000** for 2018.

	VENEZUELA SITUATION		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</i>	-	575,597	575,597
Community empowerment and self-reliance <i>Self-reliance and livelihoods improved</i>	-	66,930	66,930
Basic needs and essential services	-	211,499	211,499
<i>Population has sufficient basic and domestic items</i>	-	211,499	211,499
SUBTOTAL	-	854,026	854,026
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	59,782	59,782
TOTAL	-	913,808	913,808

Panama

Overview



4,430

**Asylum-claims
lodged in 2017**



15,366

**People granted
alternative legal stay
in 2017**



UNHCR presence

**28 national and international staff
1 office**

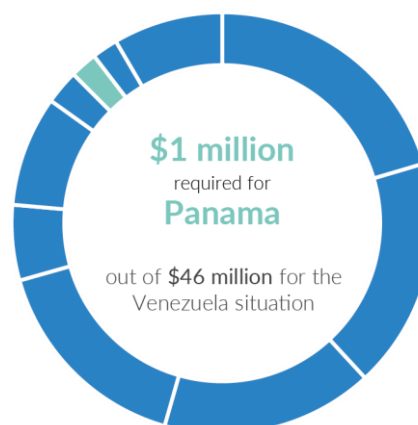
Since 2015 an increasing number of Venezuelans have arrived in Panama as a result of the evolving situation in their country of origin.

Venezuelans now constitute the highest nationality of asylum-seekers in Panama with 4,430 applications lodged in 2017, and already 544 new claims registered in January 2018 alone. In addition, 15,366 Venezuelans were granted alternative legal stay in 2017 alone, adding up to the 22,327 granted between 2010 and 2016. An additional 2,190 persons were granted alternative legal stay in January 2018.

To date, the priority for UNHCR has been to ensure that Venezuelan people of concern have access to territory and to refugee status determination (RSD) procedures.

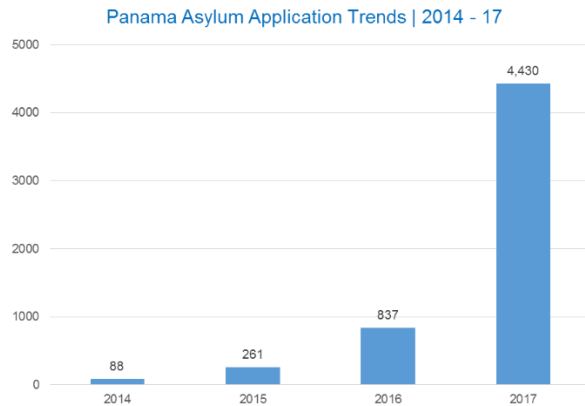
In line with the ongoing refugee programme, and in close collaboration with partners, humanitarian assistance is being provided to people of concern through cash-based interventions (CBIs) among others, in order to support people of concern in covering the payment of leases, purchase of food, medicines and medical treatments. Furthermore, **UNHCR provides immediate reception assistance by supporting the only shelter for refugees and asylum-seekers in Panama City**, run by the local church *Pastoral de Movilidad Humana*. Through legal partners, UNHCR has provided free legal advice to asylum-seekers and refugees, individually as well as through group discussion. In these *fora*, people of concern are informed about their duties and rights as applicants as well as the existing assistance programmes they can benefit from. Furthermore, through the Red Cross Society of Panama, UNHCR provides psychosocial support where needed.

Financial requirements | 2018



Needs and response

KEY POPULATION TRENDS (2014-2017)



Identified needs

Venezuelans have been mainly entering Panamanian territory by air although, more recently, we have seen a small increase in Venezuelans crossing the Darien gap. UNHCR needs to be prepared for such secondary movements from Colombia to increase significantly, given the restrictive conditions and the prerequisite of entry visa requirements. Consisting of dense jungle, crossings of the Darien gap would put this population in an even more vulnerable situation. UNHCR will therefore seek to increase its border monitoring, as well as provide wider protection monitoring in urban areas and community outreach work. The local integration of the Venezuelan population is challenging. **There is widespread rejection due to rising xenophobia, preventing many Venezuelans accessing the local labour market, school system and health services.** Key protection needs are related to: (i) access to basic services such as health, education, housing and humanitarian assistance; (ii) access to socio-economic integration, livelihoods and labour opportunities; and (iii) access to inclusion in national and local social welfare programmes. To address these growing concerns, UNHCR wishes to recruit a Senior Durable Solutions Associate to promote livelihoods opportunities and local integration for people of concern in Panama.

Response

According to the numbers provided by migration authorities, there are almost 53,000 Venezuelans residing in the country. However, the real number of Venezuelans is unknown and could be significantly higher, including those with protection needs. Consequently, **UNHCR intends to carry out a profiling to gather more reliable data on protection needs and profiles, socio-economic situations, reasons for leaving the country, and vulnerabilities.** This profiling will further support the targeting of assistance and legal advice, among others. The paramount priority for UNHCR will be to ensure that people of concern from Venezuela have access to the territory and to the RSD procedures. The *Oficina Nacional para la Atención de Refugiados* ("National Refugee Office"/ONPAR) will be supported with four additional lawyers to enhance RSD procedures allowing it to respond to the increasing number of asylum-seekers and to process the large number of existing cases and backlog. Further capacity

building and technical support will also be provided to the refugee eligibility commission. In order to promote self-reliance, **UNHCR will develop and implement a strategy, in coordination with partners, to strengthen livelihood initiatives as well as local integration opportunities.** This will include: (i) the establishment of increased alliances with financial and micro credit institutions; (ii) promote opportunities for refugees to access bank accounts; (iii) encourage the implementation of cultural and recreational activities, to foster local integration in selected areas and main reception municipalities (Panama, Chorrera, Arraijan); and (iv) establish alliances with private sector to promote job placement and social responsibility programmes in favour of people of concern. The inclusion of refugees in ongoing programs supported by local or State entities will also be promoted. With additional funding available, UNHCR will conduct community outreach work and protection monitoring in urban areas and in border locations to ensure access to territory and reduce risks of *refoulement*. Similarly, legal support and humanitarian assistance (including CBIs) will be scaled up, in collaboration with partners.

Key intervention areas



Protection

Fair protection processes and documentation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Increasing its protection monitoring and outreach programmes to improve reception conditions and the protection situation of people of concern, in alliance with partners. Additional partner staff will be hired to conduct protection monitoring in strategic parts of the country such as border locations as well as urban areas.
- Carrying out a profiling exercise in Panama City in order to gain more accurate information—quantitative and qualitative—on people of concern from Venezuela. This exercise will concentrate in urban areas, in partnership with OHCHR, OAS and IOM.
- Continuing with capacity development initiatives for national entities and the eligibility commission in order to ensure access to, and the quality of, the RSD procedures.



Basic needs and essential services

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Scaling up humanitarian assistance in alliance with partners, while taking protection and vulnerability criteria into consideration, in order to respond to the increasing number of arrivals. It is anticipated that 500 people of concern will be assisted with cash grants in 2018.



Community empowerment and self-reliance

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Facilitating access to formal and non-formal financial services in order to support small initiatives and increased alliances with financial and micro credit institutions to increase local integration opportunities in the country for selected people of concern.
- Conducting awareness raising campaigns in prioritized countries of the region, as part of the Venezuela Situation, with the support of the regional Venezuela coordination unit in order to promote a more favorable protection environment and targeting the increased levels of xenophobia in the country.
- Working with local communities and community boards in main reception areas, in coordination with partners and municipalities, to implement cultural and recreational activities to promote peaceful coexistence with host community.

Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR will continue to coordinate its interventions with multiple stakeholders, in line with the recently adopted *Marco Integral Regional para la Protección y Soluciones* (MIRPS - Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework) and national consultations. MIRPS is the regional application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (Annex 1 of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants) and is also a concrete contribution of Central American countries and Mexico to the development of the global compact on refugees.

Close coordination with the Ministry of Interior and, in particular, with ONPAR will remain key and further strengthened. Collaboration with national, municipal and other local authorities and line ministries will continue and be reinforced, to build upon protection networks and the establishment of referral mechanisms for people of concern and those with specific protection needs. In terms of legal, social and humanitarian assistance and livelihood programming, alliances will be further strengthened with key partners, such as the *Pastoral Movilidad Humana*, Red Cross Society of Panama as well as international partners operating in the country such as NRC, HIAS, and RET among others. This is foreseen through the establishment of Project Partnership Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding with the different stakeholders.

Coordination with other stakeholders such as migration authorities, border police and others operating in border locations will also be enhanced, through regular meetings, field visits as well as training. In terms of profiling, a possible collaboration with OHCHR, IOM and OAS is foreseen.

Refugee voices



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Hector stands by the window of the small bedroom in what has now become his new home



© UNHCR / S. E. Jaramillo

Hector sits in a corner of his small bedroom but would rather be working to restart his life

Héctor is a 69 year old Venezuelan asylum-seeker who lives in Panama City with his wife Paula, 67, since early 2017. The couple has been renting a bedroom and barely makes it to the end of the month. As asylum-seekers they do not have a right to work in the country. “If you think it is hard for asylum-seekers to work, imagine how it is for an old man like me. I had to sell our mattress for money to buy food. We are sleeping on top of hard wooden planks.”

The family that rents them the bedroom is helping Victor to find an income and provides them with some food supplies. “I just want to work, I want to earn my living here,” affirms Héctor.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2018 ExCom budget for Panama includes **\$25.9 million**. The additional requirements to address the needs of people of concern fleeing from Venezuela amount to **\$1 million** for 2018.

	VENEZUELA SITUATION		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Reception conditions improvement</i> <i>Quality of registration and profiling improved</i> <i>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</i>	-	354,522	354,522
Community empowerment and self-reliance <i>Self-reliance and livelihoods improved</i>	-	405,757	405,757
Basic needs and essential services			
<i>Population has sufficient basic and domestic items</i>	-	137,625	137,625
SUBTOTAL	-	897,904	897,904
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	62,853	62,853
TOTAL	-	960,757	960,757

Peru

Overview



20,000

**Asylum-claims lodged
in 2017**



30,200

**Venezuelans benefited from
Temporary Residence
Permit**



UNHCR presence

**1 international staff
1 national staff**

Peru has been particularly affected by the influx of Venezuelan nationals since 2016 with a significant increase of asylum claims; from 379 in January 2016, to more than 20,000 in 2017. **The influx has dramatically increased during January and February 2018, with approximately 40,000 newly arrived Venezuelan nationals, resulting in a staggering 800 new asylum applications per day.**

In addition, **30,200 Venezuelans have benefited from the special *Permiso Temporal de Permanencia*** (“Temporary Residence Permit”/PTP), with a **further 15,000 having an application for the PTP pending**. Among those who have received a PTP, there may be some with international protection needs, who have opted for this migratory status to avoid the current delays in the registration of asylum claims and the issuance of documentation.

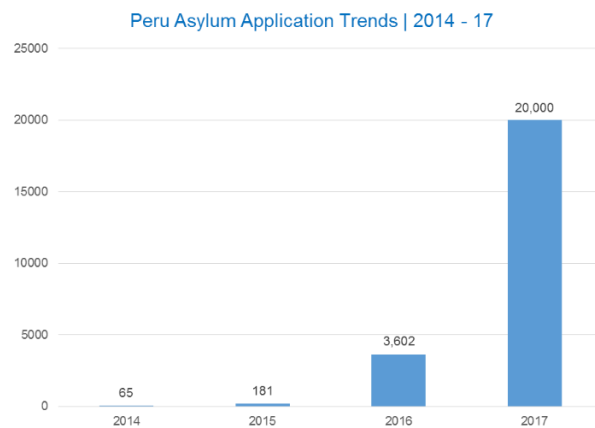
Since 2014, more than 160,000 Venezuelans have arrived in countries under the responsibility of the UNHCR Regional Office in Buenos Aires, which in addition to Peru provides support to Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia and Uruguay. While countries have provided a variety of migratory and protection responses to the influx, the impact on the asylum systems is growing, particularly in Peru, where **UNHCR provided an immediate response to the emergency situation by establishing a presence in Lima and carrying out monitoring activities along its northern border with Ecuador**. Monitoring is undertaken jointly with the Government of Peru and UNHCR’s partner *Encuentros-SJS*, which opened an office in Tumbes during the last quarter of 2017. UNHCR has also supported the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) in Peru, technically and financially, to deal with the asylum backlog and to strengthen the registration procedures.

Financial requirements | 2018



Needs and response

KEY POPULATION TRENDS (2014-2017)



Identified needs

As a result of the limited capacity of the asylum system in Peru, Venezuelans in need of international protection face increased delays in: (i) the registration of their claims and issuance of documentation; (ii) eligibility interviews; and (iii) first-instance refugee status determination (RSD) decisions, as well as the lack of identification of those with specific needs. The CEPR, due to lack of resources, also encounters difficulties in reporting and updating statistics, as its registration system and database needs strengthening.

Border crossing points are presently ill-equipped to receive large influxes. For instance, **many Venezuelans cross the border in poor health condition and are in need of immediate medical care**, which is currently unavailable. In addition, many Venezuelans spend several hours in line to be registered, under hot climatic conditions and without, among other things, immediate access to food, water and hygiene supplies. Furthermore, the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and exploitation is a growing concern for local and national authorities.

Information on RSD procedures and the enjoyment of basic rights in Peru is limited. Once registered, **people of concern face difficulties in accessing education, housing and local health services**. In addition, access to the labour market is also challenging, thus limiting the opportunity of local integration. Furthermore, Venezuelans in Peru are also subjected to xenophobia and discrimination from some sectors of the population.

Response

UNHCR is planning to consolidate its operational presence in Peru by formally **opening a National Office to be led by a Liaison Officer supported by at least four additional staff**. Furthermore, CEPR's institutional and RSD capacity will be strengthened through: (i) the implementation of key recommendations made under the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) program, undertaken by the Government of Peru with UNHCR's support; (ii) a pilot project to improve the registration process; and

(iii) additional human resources as well as equipment for the CEPR. In light of the increasing number of arrivals in the different countries under the responsibility of UNHCR's Regional Office, and particularly in Peru, UNHCR will conduct protection monitoring and profiling exercises of the Venezuelan population to better understand, among others, their protection needs, reasons for leaving the country and reasons for not returning,

UNHCR will aim to strengthen the “Border Protection Network” and foster a pilot project for a “Safe Andean Corridor” to try and reduce protection risks through increased protection monitoring activities and by improving reception conditions in key border areas and cities along the route from Tumbes to southern Peru. UNHCR will also promote a response to the most vulnerable people of concern, who are in need of humanitarian and psychological assistance, through the strengthening of its partners, including but not limited to *Encuentros – SJS*.

Key intervention areas



Protection

Fair protection processes and documentation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Strengthening the CEPR refugee status determination capacities and improving its registration process to achieve timely registration and documentation and to reduce the current backlog.
- Establishing a joint work plan for the implementation of the recommendations agreed under the QAI in Peru, Argentina and Chile.
- Conducting profiling exercises to collect quality information of Venezuelan population in Peru, Argentina and Chile, with an initial focus on Peru.
- Conducting capacity building of Governmental and non-Governmental institutions.
- Strengthening access to information and provision of legal counselling.

Favourable protection environment

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Strengthening cross border coordination mechanisms and “Border Protection Network” with civil society organizations to promote a “Safe Andean Corridor” for people of concern.
- Strengthening reception conditions in key borders areas, including shelters and targeting response for SGBV survivors.
- Responding to the immediate humanitarian needs of vulnerable cases, in particular at border crossing points.
- Consolidating and broadening partnerships with relevant organizations to maximise the impact of the response.
- Advocating for facilitated access to legal status to ensure that Venezuelans have access to documentation and therefore to rights and basic services through public social schemes.
- Advocating for a comprehensive public policy that ensures legal responses at the migration and asylum system levels guarantee access to basic rights such as health and education.



Community empowerment and self-reliance

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Providing humanitarian and psychosocial assistance, based upon established vulnerability criteria, with a particular focus on age, gender and diversity while identifying people with special needs.
- Supporting access to livelihoods and to social protection schemes to achieve self-reliance through labor insertion or self-employment.

Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR is pursuing a comprehensive partnership strategy to ensure a robust and effective response, while seeking to diversify and reinforce interventions. Traditional partners, such as *Encuentros – SJS* and Government stakeholders, will play a key role in engaging with other organizations not only in Lima but also along the humanitarian corridor to be established from north to south, between Tumbes and Tacna.

UNHCR will conduct assessment exercises of local capacities in other cities emerging as crucial in the journey of Venezuelan nationals, such as in Piura, aiming at consolidating local networks and selecting new partners for the implementation of the protection strategy in Peru. UNHCR will continue to reinforce the capacity of the Peruvian authorities and the CEPR to respond to the arrival of people of concern, through the implementation of jointly identified priority capacity building activities.

UNHCR will also enhance the protection network in Peru by fostering alliances with other UN agencies, the Ombudsperson's Office, universities, civil society/faith-based organizations and local institutions. Through scaling up its presence in Peru, UNHCR will improve its capacity to engage in inter-agency coordination and to lead a dialogue towards a common strategy and joint response.

Refugee voices



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Ander has managed to set up a Venezuelan food business in Perú



© UNHCR / M. Masseroni

Ander and his family run a food business that offers Venezuelan dishes in Perú

Ander and several members of his family were forced to leave their homes following a situation of direct threats and violence in Venezuela. "We had to go by land, there were no air tickets or twice as expensive so we had to travel for 5 days," he says while cutting peppers in his living room.

He has been living in Peru for some years now and following an entrepreneurship workshop organized by *Encuentros*, UNHCR's local partner, he set up his own cooking business. "I help those who arrive to get an apartment to stay in. I am attentive, people have also helped me a lot," he says. Ander is one of 20,848 asylum-seekers living in Perú. He is grateful that most of his family has safely arrived in Lima.

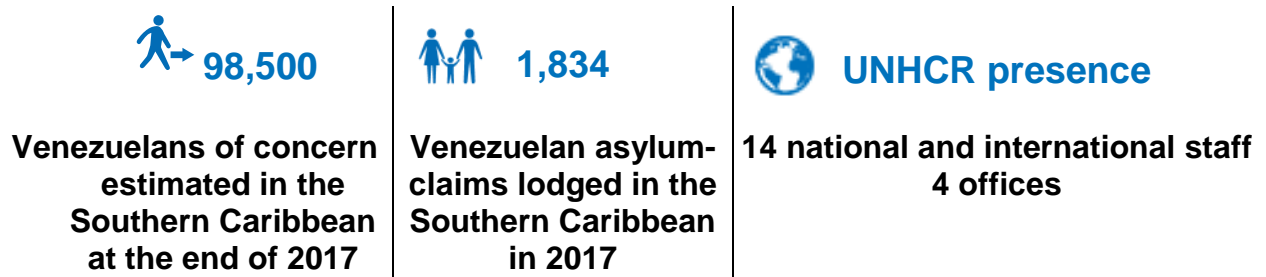
Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2018 ExCom budget for Peru includes **\$7.4 million**. The additional requirements to address the needs of people of concern fleeing from Venezuela amount to **\$2.7 million** for 2018.

	VENEZUELA SITUATION		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</i> <i>Quality of registration and profiling improved</i>	-	1,102,886	1,102,886
Favourable protection environment <i>Law and policy developed or strengthened</i> <i>Access to territory improved and risk of refoulement reduced</i>	-	1,089,753	1,089,753
Community empowerment and self-reliance <i>Self-reliance and livelihoods improved</i>	-	295,593	295,593
SUBTOTAL	-	2,488,232	2,488,232
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	174,176	174,176
TOTAL	-	2,662,408	2,662,408

Southern Caribbean

Overview



Several countries in the Caribbean are hosting rapidly increasing numbers of Venezuelan people of concern.

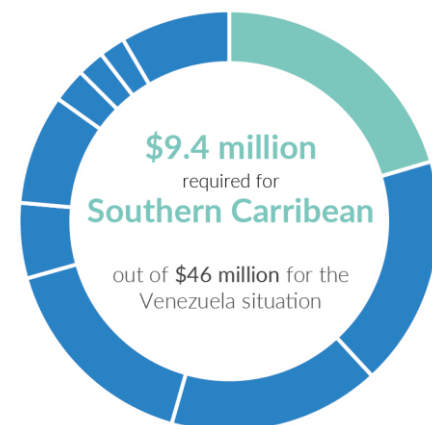
Considering the small size and limited absorption capacity of the concerned countries, the influx has particularly impacted these host nations.

UNHCR has prioritized the response in Trinidad and Tobago, which has the highest population of Venezuelans in the Southern Caribbean, estimated at some 40,000 people of concern.

Other countries with a high estimated number of Venezuelan arrivals include Aruba (20,000), the Dominican Republic (18,000), Guyana (15,000), Curaçao (5,000), and Suriname (500). Currently, in Trinidad and Tobago, UNHCR is working with Living Water Community (LWC) to provide assistance to people of concern, including Venezuelans, primarily in the areas of access to registration and documentation for asylum-seekers, as well as shelter, health, education and livelihoods.

Similarly, in other countries in the Caribbean that are hosting increasing numbers of Venezuelans, **UNHCR has taken the lead, or is supporting host Governments, in ensuring access to registration and documentation for asylum-seekers**, as well as enhancing reception conditions by providing direct assistance to people of concern in partnership with National Red Cross Societies. UNHCR is also supporting host Governments to develop contingency plans and enhance emergency preparedness.

Financial requirements | 2018



Needs and response

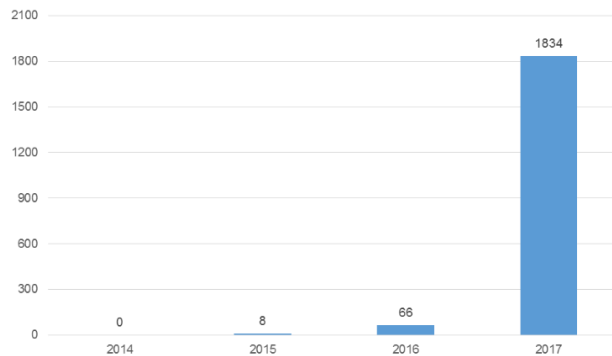
KEY POPULATION TRENDS (2014-2017)



N/A
Alternative legal stay

1,908
Asylum-seekers

Southern Caribbean Asylum Application Trends | 2014 - 17



Identified needs

Despite concerted engagement, a number of serious gaps remain. In the absence of functioning Government-run asylum systems in the Southern Caribbean, **there are limited avenues for refugees to register and apply for asylum, with the large majority of people of concern continuing to live in a situation of legal limbo**. As human smuggling and trafficking networks proliferate and prey on vulnerable Venezuelans, boat arrivals and deaths at sea are on the rise in the Caribbean Sea. Governments in the region also report growing numbers of visa overstays. So far in 2018, **over 640 Venezuelans have applied for asylum in the Southern Caribbean region**.

It is also exceedingly difficult for refugees to access basic services and obtain employment. Even in countries where children can legally attend school—regardless of migration status—discrimination, administrative barriers and the lack of space due to overwhelming demand often result in a denial of access. Gaps are also present in the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Reports are on the rise of Venezuelan women forced to engage in survival sex, prostitution, and being victimized by traffickers taking advantage of their extreme vulnerability.

Access to health is also limited and there are cases of Venezuelans who have died in the Caribbean, after delaying the seeking of care out of fear of being detained and deported, including in emergency situations. As such, even in the minority of countries providing basic essential health care, many refugees resort to ad hoc medical interventions.

Response

UNHCR's response strategy for the Venezuela Situation in the Southern Caribbean will focus on **supporting Governments to address the challenges presented by the growing number of Venezuelan arrivals**. The strategy will shift from its previous focus on direct assistance to individual asylum-seekers and refugees to community-based interventions reaching a broader target population and which will engage and provide support to host communities. **A comprehensive plan of capacity-**

building activities for Governments and partners will be developed to promote access to territory for Venezuelan people of concern and facilitate their reception. UNHCR will engage proactively in interventions to promote awareness of refugee rights and strengthen self-reliance through community outreach programs, awareness campaigns, and strengthened partnerships. The strategy will also support access to legal assistance for people of concern and provide information on the asylum process and the rights of refugees. Where appropriate, simplified refugee status determination (RSD) procedures will be introduced to enhance access to protection for the anticipated increase in the number of Venezuelans seeking asylum.

Key intervention areas



Protection

Fair protection processes and documentation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Working together with host countries to undertake profiling of Venezuelan nationals and host communities, to better identify specific needs and vulnerabilities requiring targeted interventions, including measures to address the needs of children, women and girls, the elderly and disabled.
- Strengthening in-country registration capacity throughout the Caribbean, to ensure access to documentation for asylum-seekers and ensure that specific protection needs are identified at the time of registration.
- Introducing simplified RSD procedures for Venezuelans in countries where UNHCR conduct RSD in support of the Government.

Favourable protection environment

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Conducting advocacy for an improved protection environment, including in countries with a current UNHCR presence to support protection monitoring—in particular at entry points, detention facilities, borders and coastal areas—and by working through partners and/or establishing a small UNHCR presence in countries currently covered by a remote presence.
- Enhancing emergency preparedness and contingency planning measures with Caribbean authorities.
- Engaging in coordination mechanisms and capacity-building events with national and local authorities, partners and civil society actors to strengthen asylum systems, build awareness on refugee issues, implement community based responses and combat xenophobia and discrimination.

Security from violence and exploitation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Engaging new partnerships in Trinidad and Tobago, Curaçao, Aruba and Guyana to: respond to, and prevent, SGBV; develop referral mechanisms; and train authorities, partners, refugees and host communities.
- Designing and implementing community-based projects in Trinidad and Tobago, Curaçao, Aruba and Guyana to prevent violence and sexual exploitation of Venezuelans, including people smuggling and human trafficking.



Basic needs and essential services

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Conducting needs assessments of new arrivals in Aruba, Curaçao, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, in order to identify specific needs and target assistance to individuals and communities.
- Providing families and individuals with special needs with rental subsidies, medical assistance, food and access to education for children, while pursuing community-based protection approaches.



Community empowerment and self-reliance

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Mapping out relevant actors and identifying main host communities, in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao and Guyana, to support community-based protection mechanisms and promote self-management.
- Developing referral mechanisms for persons with specific needs (including SGBV); identifying structures, resources and resilience within host communities and the refugee population; training outreach volunteers for orientation and information-sharing, including people of concern; and conducting a community empowerment campaign.



Leadership, coordination and partnerships

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Establishing local coordination groups led by UNHCR at field level, including with local authorities and actors, to identify and assess gaps and coordinate the response in priority communities.
- Establishing thematic roundtables on nutrition, protection of children and adolescents, food, health, nutrition, and others aimed at identifying main gaps and agreeing on recommendations.



Durable solutions

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Supporting host countries and communities to expand reception capacity and access to services for refugees, and thereby enhancing local integration opportunities in Trinidad and Suriname.
- Exploring innovative responsibility-sharing mechanisms, in addition to resettlement, to effectively address the situation in smaller islands that have limited absorption capacity.



Logistics and operations support

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Establishing new office premises in Trinidad and Tobago, acquiring vehicles; strengthening LWC; and establishing new partnerships.

Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR is pursuing a comprehensive partnership strategy to ensure a robust and effective response. The primary partners will be the respective host Governments. UNHCR will also continue engagement with regional coordinating bodies such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and CARICOM's Implementing Agency for Crime and Security.

UNHCR is an active member of the UN Country Team in Trinidad and Tobago, where it chairs the UN Technical Emergency Team, as well as the UN HIV, Gender and Human Rights Group. UNHCR is also pursuing strengthened partnerships with additional NGOs in Trinidad and Tobago, including with the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross and Rape Crisis Society. Additional institutional partnerships are sought to diversify and reinforce interventions. In other Southern Caribbean countries, UNHCR is strengthening existing partnerships with the respective National Red Cross Societies, and is mapping the service provision of other actors to consolidate protection networks at a country-level.

Refugee voices



© UNHCR / A. Moncure

Gabriella and Richard are Venezuelan refugees who brought their children to Trinidad and Tobago a year ago in search of safety

“Sometimes we feel like, ‘okay, we are here, it is legal, but we struggle every day. As refugees we hope to find safety in a country that will allow us to work, to be productive, to save money, to buy a house and to help our children be in school.” – Gabriella, 32, Venezuelan refugee.

“A person only seeks refugee status because things are really bad in their home country. They do not want to be in this situation – they do not want to make things hard for themselves, but they need protection.” – Richard, 32, Venezuelan refugee.



© UNHCR / A. Moncure

Miguel and his family are making the best of a very difficult situation in Trinidad and Tobago

Venezuelan refugee Miguel, 46, and his children overlooking the Caroni Marshlands in Trinidad and Tobago. Miguel and his family found safety in Trinidad and Tobago almost two years ago, but in the absence of local legislation granting specific rights to refugees and asylum-seekers, day-to-day life is often difficult. However, in Trinidad and Tobago progress is being made towards a new law that refugees hope will give them an opportunity to restart dignified lives and contribute to the Caribbean nation.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2018 ExCom budget for the Southern Caribbean includes **\$25.5 million**. The additional requirements to address the needs of people of concern fleeing from Venezuela amount to **\$9.4 million** for 2018.

	VENEZUELA SITUATION		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Quality of registration and profiling improved or maintained</i> <i>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</i> <i>Reception conditions improved</i>	-	4,852,229	4,852,229
Favourable protection environment <i>Access to the territory improved and risk of refoulement reduced</i> <i>Law and policy developed or strengthened</i> <i>Public attitude towards people of concern improved</i>	-	577,982	577,982
Security from violence and exploitation <i>Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved</i>	-	819,409	819,409
Community empowerment and self-reliance <i>Peaceful coexistence with local communities</i>	-	2,536,266	2,536,266
SUBTOTAL	-	8,785,886	8,785,886
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	615,012	615,012
TOTAL	-	9,400,898	9,400,898

Venezuela

Overview


8,780

**People of concern
in Venezuela**


135

**Communities targeted for
UNHCR support**



UNHCR presence

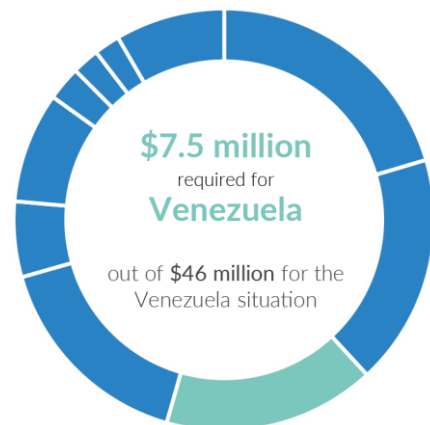
**61 national and international staff
7 offices**

Venezuela currently hosts a **population of concern of 7,876 recognized refugees and 904 asylum-seekers, mainly of Colombian nationality**. Furthermore, UNHCR has estimated that 115,000 additional Colombians are in need of international protection.

However, this estimate is being revised based on partial results of a joint profiling exercise by UNHCR and Venezuela's National Institute of Statistics, conducted during the last quarter of 2017, and which indicates that a number of Colombians have returned home or may not have international protection needs.

The economic situation in Venezuela, further to the social and political instability, has led to **significant movements of people to neighbouring countries and beyond**. In this context, and despite partial access to social assistance programmes and services subsidized by the Venezuelan Government, the socio-economic conditions of recognized refugees and asylum-seekers have deteriorated. **The main challenges faced by the refugee population are related to lack of access to asylum procedures; documentation; livelihood options; food, health and nutrition, as well as being affected by incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and insecurity**. In line with the Brazil Plan of Action, UNHCR maintains its activities related to the promotion of asylum and solutions, while at the same time expanding to a community-based approach by integrating both refugee and host communities in activities in prioritized communities. Furthermore, UNHCR has strengthened its presence and monitoring in border areas and has enhanced its binational coordination with other UNHCR operations in order to strengthen protection assistance in border areas. UNHCR has also established regional safe space networks aimed at providing standardized services to displaced people, including children who are at risk of SGBV, family separation and other serious protection risks.

Financial requirements | 2018



Needs and response

Identified needs

As a consequence of the current precarious socio-economic situation in Venezuela, identified needs and remaining gaps are manifold for refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities. Access to food has worsened due to its prohibitive cost leading to an increase in cases of malnutrition, including severe acute malnutrition in both children and adults. Venezuelans move to border areas or travel temporarily abroad to obtain medicines and medical treatment due to the scarcity of medicines, medical supplies, equipment and personnel. **Due to the high costs**

KEY POPULATION TRENDS VENEZUELA



7,876
Refugees

904
Asylum-seekers

of obtaining visas and resident cards, most recognised refugees remain undocumented. Many others have not accessed the asylum system and therefore are also undocumented. Although refugees have the right to work, in practice, they do not have access to the formal labour market. **Undocumented people of concern are exposed to labour exploitation and abuse and lack of safeguards to enjoy labour rights.** Cases of SGBV, particularly in border areas, are on the rise, resulting in the need for post exposure prophylaxis kits for the clinical management of rape, as well as for training and support for safe shelters.

A high number of children of school-going age are dropping out to supplement family income.

The use of children in smuggling activities and illegal mining activities, among others, has been reported. Child labour and child prostitution have particularly increased in Táchira, Zulia and Bolívar States. Due to the current displacement trend, particularly as a result of the migration of parents abroad, a higher number of unaccompanied and separated children has been noted. Lack of birth registration, in particular for indigenous populations such as the Warao, is a major concern.

Response

UNHCR's protection strategy in Venezuela focuses on four main areas: i) border monitoring and binational coordination; ii) a community-based approach to assess and respond to the protection risks and basic needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities; iii) strengthen the asylum system; and iv) promotion of solutions for refugees, in particular voluntary repatriation and legal integration of refugees through documentation and naturalization. The strategy includes strengthening of binational protection networks to: i) identify people in need of international protection with specific needs; ii) strengthen referral pathways; iii) provide information on access to asylum and alternative legal forms of stay along major migration routes; and iv) provide humanitarian assistance to those with the most critical specific needs.

Key intervention areas



Protection

Fair protection processes and documentation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Conducting training with the *Comisión Nacional de Refugiados (CONARE)* on International Refugee Law for military and migration officials and the Ombudsperson's Office.
- Supporting CONARE to quality-improve the asylum process, including interview techniques, digitalization, documentation and the data management system.

Favourable protection environment

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Conducting awareness campaigns on refugee rights, including women's and children's rights and anti-fraud messages.
- Together with UNICEF, supporting civil registration and documentation brigades in Apure, Amazonas, Caracas, Delta Amacuro, Táchira and Zulia States.
- Providing equipment to selected Registrar's Offices, Migration and Child Protection Counsels to enhance their response capacity.
- Supporting the Ombudsperson's Office to conduct outreach to enhance State responses to human rights violations; and to conduct training on refugee and child protection for the Immigration Service, law enforcement officials, the Ombudsperson's Office and Childhood Protection Counsels to improve protection responses.

Security from violence and exploitation

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Promoting SGBV and child protection safe spaces networks for identification, case management and referral to specialized services to enhance holistic prevention and response mechanisms.
- Working with UNICEF and UNFPA to strengthen SGBV and child protection programmes to enhance coordination and provide more holistic services to people of concern.
- Training and providing equipment to the National Woman's Institute to improve the responses to survivors of SGBV; and disseminating SGBV and child protection referral pathways to community networks to enhance the identification and response of specific cases.



Basic needs and essential services

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Providing immediate assistance to people with specific needs; and supporting health brigades and HIV prevention and treatment, in particular for the indigenous Warao group, to improve the health situation of such individuals or groups.



Community empowerment and self-reliance

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Providing community-based protection monitoring in sixty (60) prioritized communities to strengthen protection advocacy and interventions.
- Communicating with communities and groups with specific needs to inform of UNHCR interventions.
- Implementing community-based projects in prioritized areas to enhance social cohesion initiatives.
- Supporting nutrition assessments and implementation of communal and school vegetable gardens to enhance the nutritional status and increase access to food.
- Liaising with community-based organisations for dissemination of information related to rights and responsibilities and services, strengthening of community leader skills to support their own communities to build resilience; and establishing community centres with multi-sectoral services to improve outreach, responses and social cohesion.



Leadership, coordination and partnerships

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Consolidating coordination mechanisms, in particular in border areas, to facilitate identification and assessment of gaps and coordinate the response in prioritized communities in line with set criteria.
- Establishing binational protection networks with UNHCR Offices to improve the identification of and support to people of concern with specific needs as well as enhance protection information across borders.
- Organising thematic roundtables on critical nutrition, food and health concerns to identify gaps and providing recommendations to improve public policies.



Durable solutions

UNHCR's strategy will focus on:

- Advocating for documentation of people of concern and alternative legal forms of stay/regularization to facilitate legal integration; and facilitating individual voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity, when conditions are deemed conducive.

Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR will work with a wide range of Government, non-Government, humanitarian, development and private sector actors, civil society organisations, local leaders and community councils to provide integrated and multi-sectorial responses. UNHCR already chairs protection meetings in Apure, Bolivar, Táchira and Zulia with the participation of humanitarian and development actors and will establish an inter-agency coordination mechanism at field and Caracas level.

In addition, UNHCR will work with UNICEF and UNFPA to strengthen existing SGBV and child protection programmes together with sub-working groups on child protection, co-led with UNICEF, and on SGBV, co-led with UNFPA. UNHCR will strengthen health services jointly with the Pan American Health Organization through community-based protection interventions.

UNAIDS and UNHCR will support prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections with a focus on the indigenous Warao community. UNHCR will work with FAO to promote community-based agricultural initiatives to enhance resilience while also supporting a bilateral framework agreement with IOM for survivors of human trafficking. Furthermore, UNHCR is strengthening its information management capacity to better coordinate the response with all actors through evidence-based and coordinated planning.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2018 ExCom budget for Venezuela includes **\$10.8 million**. The additional requirements to address the needs of people of concern amount to **\$7.5 million** for 2018.

	VENEZUELA SITUATION		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Venezuela situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</i>	-	525,584	525,584
Favourable protection environment <i>Administrative institutions and practice developed or strengthened</i>	-	875,973	875,973
Security from violence and exploitation <i>Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved</i> <i>Protection of children strengthened</i>	-	875,973	875,973
Community empowerment and self-reliance <i>Community mobilization strengthened and expanded</i> <i>Peaceful co-existence with local communities promoted</i>	-	3,503,892	3,503,892
Basic needs and essential services			
<i>Population has optimal access to reproductive health and HIV services</i>	-	437,987	437,987
Services for people with specific needs strengthened	-	437,987	437,987
Leadership, coordination and partnerships <i>Coordination and partnerships strengthened</i>	-	350,389	350,389
SUBTOTAL	-	7,007,784	7,007,784
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	490,545	490,545
TOTAL	-	7,498,329	7,498,329

VENEZUELA SITUATION

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE DISPLACED FROM VENEZUELA

Supplementary Appeal

January - December 2018



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Cover photo:

A woman lifts up a baby as people line up to cross over the Simon Bolívar International Bridge to Colombia.

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