



**Shelter, Energy and
NFI Cluster Venezuela**
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



VENEZUELA SHELTER, ENERGY AND NFI CLUSTER

Cluster overview 2021



Temporary Shelter Arrangements before rehabilitation, Táchira. Credits: IOM.



**Cluster Alojamiento, Energía
y Enseres – Venezuela**

ShelterCluster.org

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Front cover photo: beneficiaries from NFI distributions, Táchira. Credits: UNHCR.

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Temporary Shelter Arrangements after rehabilitation, Táchira. Credits: IOM.

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NFI distribution for indigenous communities, Zulia. Credits: UNHCR.

Foreword

Humanitarian needs in Venezuela

For several years, and as a result of the economic crisis, Venezuela has been impacted by a human mobility crisis and a progressive deterioration in the access to essential services.

Since 2020, and in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, **human mobility** has become more dynamic, incorporating the phenomenon of returnees, with incoming **needs for temporary quarantine shelters**. The closure of official cross borders has led to protection risks for people on the move who use informal border crossings, including people involved on pendular movements to obtain their means for subsistence.



RHU facilities, Bolívar. Credits: UNHCR.

Access to essential services including access to energy, has been compromised in several regions of Venezuela, leading to a significant impact on the life quality. This has led to an increase in the massive use of firewood as a source of energy for cooking with negative impacts on health and environment.

In the context of the pandemic and economic crises, **community spaces and centres** have lacked maintenance and **worsened their shelter conditions**, diminishing their capacity to provide basic services to the population.



Beneficiary from NFI distributions. Credits: UNHCR.

Urgent humanitarian assistance is needed to provide a critical response:



Improvements on temporary shelters arrangements and access to NFIs are required to support people on the move.

Vulnerable persons in situation of mobility including outflows and returns through informal paths are exposed to significant protection risks.



Repairs, constructions and improvements for community spaces and institutions providing basic services is required.

COVID-19 pandemic has increased these needs especially in sanitary centres, protection institutions, safe spaces networks and schools.



Access to renewable sources of energy is required to fulfil the basic needs of the most vulnerable population and represents an urgent priority for remote areas.

Limited access to essential services impacts the performance of daily activities and compromises basic rights.



Beneficiaries from NFI distributions, Carabobo. Credits: UNHCR.

Cluster activation

The **Shelter, Energy and NFI Cluster** was activated in Venezuela to address the progressive deterioration in access to essential services, the complex mobility dynamics, and the shelter humanitarian needs. It is composed by 46 experienced humanitarian organisations (3 UN Agencies, 32 national and 11 international NGO).

HRP 2019

HRP 2019 was published. Under the Protection Cluster, a Shelter, Energy and NFI working group was created.

SAG

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) official creation.

CCCM

Increase in spontaneous returns due to COVID-19. The cluster assumed functions in CCCM.

Strategy

The cluster and its partners approved the response strategy for 2021.



Activation

Official cluster activation, including subnational cluster in Táchira.

COVID-19

The Intersectoral Plan for Preparedness and Attention to COVID-19 was published.

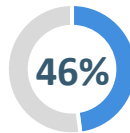
HRP 2020

HRP with HNO 2020 was published with Shelter, Energy and NFI included as a formal cluster.

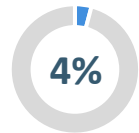
VHF

Venezuelan Humanitarian Fund made the first disbursement.

Response in 2020

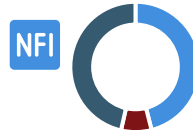


515 K people reached by shelter, energy and NFI activities during 2020.



US\$1.8 millions, funding received during 2020 according to Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

239 K people benefited with NFI



237 K people benefited with Shelter

39 K people benefited with Energy

Humanitarian assistance covered 13 states:



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Note: The presentation of material on maps does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries



Beneficiary from individual shelter construction, Miranda. Credits: Fundación Vivienda Popular.

Planned results for 2021

Humanitarian actions to guarantee better access to shelter, energy and NFI

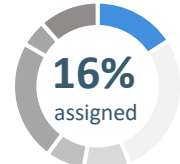
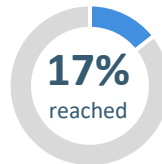
For the **HRP 2021** partner organisations submitted 25 projects proposal, including 18 intersectoral projects to guarantee safe and dignified shelter, access to energy and/or basic NFI to affected population.

To address humanitarian needs, including new challenges related to COVID-19, and guarantee relief to more than 1,4 M people in need, partner organisations require \$45 M.

Cluster partners will focus their actions on four **main response areas for 2021**:

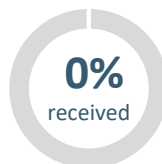
- 1 Support the network of temporary shelter arrangements
- 2 Community-level interventions
- 3 Support sub-standard shelters in border areas
- 4 Support competent authorities when natural disasters take place

With the valuable support of our donors, the Shelter, Energy and NFI Cluster and its partner organisations, achieved from January to April 2021:



240,000 people reached by shelter, energy and NFI activities during 2021.

- Shelter, Energy and NFI
- Protection
- Health
- WASH
- Food security
- Nutrition
- Education



Funds received through HRP 2021.

Venezuelan Humanitarian Fund assigned US\$500 K for the shelter, energy and NFI cluster out of **US\$3.5 M**.



For HRP 2021:
24 partner organisations



Submitted:
25 project proposals



To assist:
1,4 million people



In:
20 prioritized states



Funding required:
US\$45.0 millions



RHUs installation for temporary shelter arrangements, Puerto Cabello, Carabobo. Credits:Fundación Vivienda Popular.

Shelter

Restoring dignity for vulnerable population


Planned results 2021



The funding of project proposals for Shelter in 2021 is aimed to:

- Benefit individuals by shelter repairs, construction, and improvements in prioritized **community centres or institutions providing essential services to target population**. Considering the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, response emphasizes assistance in health centres, safe houses and centres providing services for victims of gender based violence.
- Improve the situation of **people in temporary collective centres**, benefiting people on the move and people in quarantine centres due to COVID-19 pandemic. The response includes rehabilitations, expansions, and sensitizations to ensure proper functioning and sustainability.
- Repairs, rehabilitate and improve **individual shelters in highly vulnerable communities** and border areas.

Results Jan-April 2021

 **127.494** people reached

Among other interventions, improvements in shelter conditions have included the installation of **84 refugee housing units (RHUs)** by April 2021.

45 RHUs have allowed to separate triage areas and quarantine zones in health centers preventing the spread of COVID-19. **22 RHUs** have extended the capacities in collective temporary shelters, and **17** have benefited other community spaces, centers and institutions providing essential services to vulnerable population.

*“I don’t call it a safe house I call it a shelter because that is how I felt”
(beneficiary from a Safe House... See more details on testimonials)*

Shelter improvements are essential to provide dignified integral attention to vulnerable population including protection and health essential services.



Photovoltaic system installation in bus station, Táchira. Credits: UNHCR.

Energy

An urgent need for remote communities

Planned results 2021



Funding is aimed to provide access to energy in the most vulnerable population groups and includes:

- Installation of **photovoltaic systems** for institutions and organizations providing services for vulnerable individuals.
- Installation of **street solar lamps** for public places.
- Installation of **electric generators** for institutions, community centers.

Local capacities are being strengthened in order to be able to provide a broader response on renewable energy systems including biodigesters, solar cookers and ovens, among other solutions required

Remote and isolated communities are out of the reach of the national electric system and include extremely vulnerable and prioritized population groups, such as indigenous population. Urgent facilitation of access to electricity is required for these populations.

Results Jan-April 2021



73.012 people reached

Activities implemented have focused on limitations in access to electricity addressing the negative effects of power outages. Response has involved the installation of **63 street solar lamps** in public places and **14 systems to improve access to energy** installed, considering photovoltaic systems in institutions, organizations, community centers and collective shelters.



Persons with disabilities benefited from basic NFI distributions, Carabobo. Credits: UNHCR.

Non-food Items

Supporting prioritized groups

Planned results 2021



The funding of project proposals for NFIs in 2021 aims to:

- Provide support to people on the move through NFIs including kits for individuals and families containing hygiene items, mattresses, towels, repellents, and items intended for COVID-19 prevention.
- Distribute solar lamps and cooking items to address immediate needs in the most vulnerable population.
- NFI response also responds to the needs associated with emerging needs including floods and clashes between armed forces.



Generating livelihoods opportunities, Delta. Credits: Asociación NILO

NFIs are also intended to promote resilience and livelihoods in vulnerable communities including indigenous population.

Results Jan-April 2021



36.100 people reached

Action has been taken to improve access to basic NFIs including 2,104 portable solar lamps delivered for vulnerable individuals with very limited access to energy, delivered both individually and through community centers and institutions.

Response on access to basic NFIs has included persons on the move benefited from family kits, habitat kits and individual kits, and has also addressed vulnerable people including indigenous population and people with disabilities.

Floods have been a persistent phenomenon for years in Venezuela, bringing additional NFIs requirements to the preexisting needs already aggravated with the ongoing crisis.

Main challenges



Alternative energy sources

In the context of a significantly deteriorated access to energy, local organizations have the opportunity to enhance their capacities and integrate alternative energy sources in the humanitarian assistance for especially vulnerable local communities.

In order to respond to this challenge and strengthen local capacities, the Cluster has organized several trainings for partner organizations with a focus on sustainable sources of energy including solar energy for cooking preventing the massive use of firewood that help and contribute to greening the humanitarian response



Operational level

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, mobility has been affected by movement restrictions in the country. In addition, fuel shortages have limited the response capacity of the organizations, especially to reach remote communities with vulnerable population prioritized by the response like indigenous groups.

Partner activities have been adapted to respond to COVID-19 emergency. Regarding limited access to fuel, negotiations are in place with relevant authorities in order to guarantee humanitarian assistance.



Persons benefited from basic NFI distributions, Carabobo.
Credits: UNHCR.



Indigenous population benefited from basic NFI distributions, Shirapta, Zulia. Credits: UNHCR.



Resource mobilization

The funding for the organizations that constitute the cluster has been limited, affecting their capacity to respond to the identified needs of the target populations.

During 2020, according to Financial Tracking Service (FTS), only 4% of financial requirements of the HRP 2020 were assigned to partners organizations and a large proportion of partners did not receive funding. **HRP 2021 was recently published with a call for donors to provide further financial assistance to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people in Venezuela.**

The Venezuelan Humanitarian Fund was established in late 2020 to generate an alternative financial mechanism to support the humanitarian response in Venezuela. Advocacy actions were successful in obtaining US\$ 500K for three partner organizations through this mechanism in its first allocation.

Testimonials

Thanks to our donors...



Shelters have become an opportunity to restore dignity for VBG survivors

“I have been out of a situation of violence for a little over a month now and from what I have learned in the workshops I am a survivor of violence (...) I didn't know that there was a safe house, and I always tell the girls to put up a suggestion box and to please shout out and give more information about this kind of help (...) **I don't call it a safe house, I call it a shelter, because that's how I felt.** They took me in, they gave me loving, legal, psychological assistance (...) I felt sheltered and protected there (...) Without this support, this 360 degrees change would not have been possible, now I feel free and alive. We will no longer be so hidden, and we will be able to help other people (...) **It's very nice, very cozy, it's a second home. I hope that more lives can be saved and that more women can use it to get out of the hole.**”

Survivor of gender base violence in a safe house



Women at risk in safe house, Miranda.
Credits: Tinta Violeta.



NFI distributions and solar lamps are fulfilling basic needs for the most vulnerable population, including people with disabilities



Persons with disabilities benefited from basic NFI distributions, Carabobo. Credits: UNHCR.

“The lamps are wonderful, they last a long time, it is truly a blessing from God, here the light goes out a lot, and Armando has some ugly crises, **he doesn't like the dark, he is terrified, and now with the lamp he can be calm at night**” (...)

Armando was born with cerebral palsy on the right side.

“It has helped us a lot, **I am very grateful for the mosquito net because I no longer had one**, I had borrowed one some time ago and I had to return it, thank God, you gave me one and I was able to put the net back on the child”. (...)

Gabriela is a girl who was born with the condition of congenital microcephaly.

And much more can be achieved thanks to you!

Before



After





Individual shelter before roof repairs, Miranda. Credits: Fundación Vivienda Popular.

JOIN SHELTER, ENERGY AND NFI RESPONSE INSIDE VENEZUELA THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT!

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