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KEY FIGURES:

• ESTIMATED POPULATION OF CONCERN

78.200 (2021)

• REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Refugees: 9,338

Asylum-Seekers: 520

Source: National Commission for Refugees Venezuela

Persons in a refugee-like situation: 58,810

• COVID-19 CASES Reported in Venezuela

394,061 cases / 4,734 deaths

Source: Venezuelan Government

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The third quarter of 2021 has continued to record limited return flows from the land borders with Colombia and Brazil, which remained closed on the Venezuelan side, forcing people in mobility to face various protection risks in their passage through informal crossing points. Outflows appeared to have stabilized at an estimated 1,500 per day, of which 30 percent by people engaged in circular cross-border movements. There were very few repatriations through the Government airlift scheme Plan Vuelta a la Patria during this period. According to data garnered by UNHCR-supported waystations in the west of the country and data collected at the border between Venezuela and Brazil, outflows generally outpaced returns at an average ratio of 4 to 1.

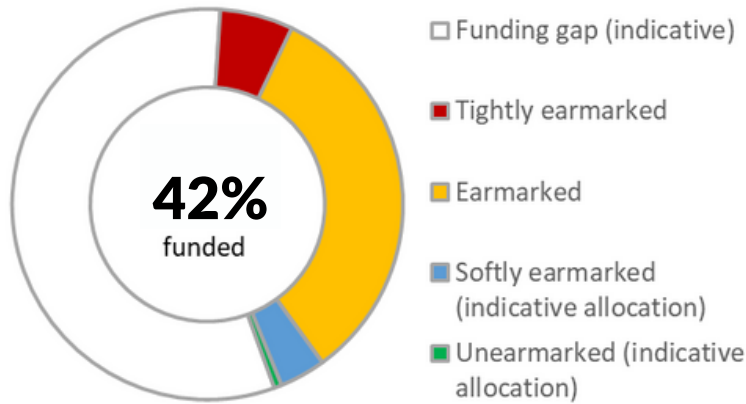
Despite some progress in the vaccination campaign and the arrival of the first consignments of COVAX vaccines, the COVID-19 situation in Venezuela registered a slight increase in the numbers of cases and deaths, presumably on account of the arrival of the Delta variant of the virus. Official daily contagion figures, which are believed to under-report the actual extent of the epidemic, hovered between 1,300 and 1,500, with around 15-17 reported deaths per day.

At the political level, most of the opposition has resolved to participate in the 21 November regional and local elections. The Government has selected its own candidates for the polls and sets its electoral machine into full swing. The political debate has been especially acrimonious in the western border state of Táchira, where the local opposition Governor is facing a tough contest from the Government-appointed Protector of the State. In the meantime, the Government and the opposition have initiated in August a new round of negotiations mediated by Norway and hosted by Mexico, with initial talks focusing on humanitarian aid and the lifting of sanctions.



FUNDING (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2021)

USD 61.2 million
requested for Venezuela



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

134 Personnel:
107 national staff
2 affiliate workforce employees
0 national interns
24 international staff

Offices:

1 Representation in Caracas
4 Field Offices in San Cristóbal (Táchira), Guasualito (Apure), Maracaibo (Zulia) and Ciudad Guayana (Bolívar)
2 Field Units in Caracas and San Antonio (Táchira)



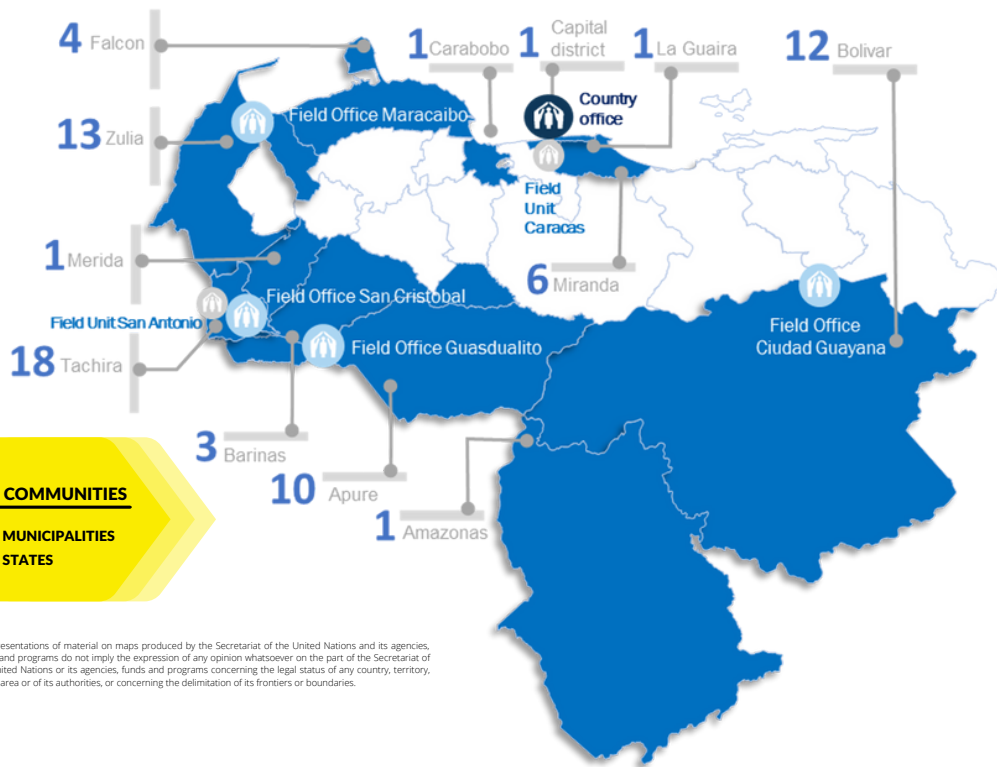
WORKING WITH PARTNERS

■ UNHCR is implementing activities in 71 prioritised communities in 12 states, primarily in the border areas with Colombia and Brazil, but also in Greater Caracas and the nearby Miranda state. UNHCR is working with 15 implementing partners (Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Zulia Red Cross, Falcón Red Cross, Fundación Luz y Vida, Fundación Vivienda Popular, Instituto Radiofónico Fe y Alegría (IRFA), Sociedad Wills Wilde, Fogones y Banderas, Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli (CISP), Refugee Education Trust (RET), Fundación Amigos del Niño que Amerita Protección (Fundana), Azul Positivo, and Techo, as well as other local actors, including government institutions and NGOs.

■ UNHCR leads the Protection and Shelter, Energy and NFI Clusters within the framework of the Venezuela Humanitarian Response Plan.

■ UNHCR's main institutional counterparts are the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) and the Office of the Ombudsperson (DdP).





71 COMMUNITIES
41 MUNICIPALITIES
12 STATES

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JAN - SEP 2021

PROTECTION
+138K

SHELTER
+470K

EDUCATION
+2.9K

WASH
+357K

BENEFICIARIES
+969K



UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR works in close coordination with CONARE to ensure that international protection is provided to refugees and durable solutions are available. UNHCR has supported the organization of asylum-seeker registration and RSD outreach activities by the CONARE; the establishment of a registration/case management system (SIGESREF) and asylum-seeker individual documentation; joint capacity building activities before other government institutions, among other activities. At the same time, UNHCR Venezuela supports the voluntary repatriation of refugees to their countries of origin, ensuring that their return is in conditions of safety and dignity. Since 2015, UNHCR has supported the voluntary repatriation to Colombia of 251 persons of concern.

Within the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan and its leadership role in the Protection Cluster and the Shelter, Energy and NFI Cluster, UNHCR supports the UN interagency response in the country, including the COVID-19 pandemic response, by providing humanitarian and protection assistance to affected populations. UNHCR is also supporting 86 community structures, that included outreach volunteers, women's and youth networks, and community committees, reaching a total of over 1,280 members. These structures have been instrumental in ensuring community engagement during COVID-19 pandemic, supporting the identification of persons with specific protection needs for their referral to available services, as well as in the implementation of community projects aimed at responding to community needs amidst the humanitarian situation compounded by the pandemic. Community projects led by members of community structures included projects to address protection, nutrition, health, water and sanitation and education needs.

UNHCR also supports the provision of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response services through the Safe Spaces Network and in coordination with the GBV Area of Responsibility of the Protection Cluster, to ensure persons on the move have access to confidential case management, counselling, psychosocial support, medical aid and legal services.



BEST PRACTICES

FIELD OFFICE GUASDUALITO



Crossing the country from north to south, teams from UNHCR, CONARE, and the Ombudsman's Office traveled from Caracas and Guasdalito to Puerto Ayacucho to address the documentation needs of refugees and applicants for the refugee status in the capital of Amazonas. After three days of work, two refugee identity documents and 19 asylum-seeker provisional documents were granted, and 19 new applications for refugee status were opened.

FIELD OFFICE CIUDAD GUAYANA



UNHCR organized an art contest related to the prevention of protection risks in communities of Bolívar state, which saw the participation of 400 community members. With this contest, UNHCR aimed to encourage participants to use drawing as a tool for disseminating information on the prevention of protection risks present in their communities. The prizes -stationery items, bicycles, and habitat kits- will contribute to strengthening the different communities by promoting knowledge on protection matters.

FIELD UNIT CARACAS



The Safe Space Network organized an event in the community of El Ingenio, Miranda State, where members of the community structures from various states in central Venezuela were introduced to the work that the network does across the country. During this encounter, the participants worked on practical exercises to identify SGBV cases and the standards and procedures to address them to referral pathways. The Safe Space Network is a UNHCR regional initiative that has been developed with the support of NGOs to assist SGBV survivors and children at risk.

FIELD OFFICE SAN CRISTÓBAL



In August 2021, heavy rains affected seven municipalities of Mérida State, producing a series of tragic events, especially in the Mocotíes Valley. Approximately 5,027 people were affected by flooding and landslides. UNHCR Venezuela, in coordination with OCHA and with the support of CISP, local authorities, Civil Protection and Firefighter Brigades donated 419 habitat kits to affected persons and 12 Refugee Housing Units equipped with 534 NFI's to local authorities. UNHCR also donated 2,331 NFI's to national institutions to strengthen their emergency response capacities.

FIELD UNIT SAN ANTONIO



UNHCR installed a photovoltaic system in the San Antonio Bus Terminal, Táchira State. This system is comprised of 64 solar panels that will ensure constant energy supply to the terminal, which is widely used by people in mobility at the Venezuelan - Colombian border. This is one of the most significant interventions completed by UNHCR in 2021 as leader of the Shelter Cluster in the context of the Humanitarian Response for Venezuela.

FIELD OFFICE MARACAIBO



UNHCR rehabilitated an area of the Wilfredo Medina Health Center in the Municipality of Colina, Falcón State, that will serve as a triage and COVID-19 early diagnosis area. The rehabilitation work included the waterproofing of the roof, the reconditioning of internal spaces, the installation of internal and external lighting, and the donation of a hospital bed and air conditioners. The new facilities will be able to assist 1,800 people from surrounding communities every month.



DONORS

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