

Peru

June 2018

More than **330,000** Venezuelans have arrived in Peru. The vast majority are entering by land through the Ecuadorian border. Over **100,000** had applied for **refugee status** by February 2018.

While the Peruvian government has been **generous**, the increased arrivals require additional measures. Host **communities with already limited resources** and infrastructure are in need of **additional support**.

UNHCR is **scaling up** its presence in Peru setting up **3 offices in Lima, Tumbes and Tacna**, to complement and strengthen government's efforts

HIGHLIGHTS

- Peru has become an important **host country** for Venezuelans in need of international protection.
- Some **2,000** are entering Peru on a daily basis through the northern border in Tumbes, after crossing Colombia and Ecuador.
- The Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) in Lima receives an average of **500 asylum claims** daily.
- Over **46,000** Venezuelans have been granted a special stay permit (PTP for its Spanish acronym).
- Venezuelans entering the country often do so with little to no resources and in **vulnerable conditions**, having travelled for days or even months through Colombia and Ecuador. Many are in need of **assistance**, including food, water, medicine, health, and shelter.

Financial requirements | 2018



UNHCR works in close collaboration with the government, other UN Agencies, partner organisations, religious entities and civil society to provide a response in Peru.

 <p>UNHCR and IOM are co-leading the Refugees and Migrants Working Group (GTRM)</p>	 <p>Protection space at the Binational Border Centre: 1 Orientation Point; 1 Distribution Area, 1 Health Centre</p>	 <p>Expand the assistance programme for asylum-seekers and refugees in vulnerable situations</p>
 <p>UNHCR established the Regional Safe Spaces Network + Border Protection Network</p>	 <p>UNHCR is a member of the Special Commission for Refugees and works to strengthen the asylum system.</p>	 <p>Protection Monitoring Exercises; Participatory Assessments & Living Conditions Assessments are ongoing</p>

UNHCR PRESENCE



UNHCR Response

Protection

- In order to coordinate a comprehensive response for the growing number of Venezuelans arriving, UNHCR and IOM are co-leading a Workgroup for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM for its Spanish acronym,) comprised by UN Agencies and NGOs. UNHCR is also strengthening the “Border Protection Network” comprised of government counterparts, UN Agencies and NGOs.
- UNHCR is providing support to the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) through technical assistance and resources. In addition, UNHCR’s proposal for a new registration system has been approved and is being developed.
- UNHCR identifies the specific needs and vulnerabilities of refugees and asylum-seekers to provide an adequate response by gathering data through participatory assessments and protection monitoring exercises. Over 1,700 surveys have been completed in Tumbes and Lima.
- UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA and the National Institute of Statistics (INEI) are drafting a joint profiling exercise for the Venezuelan population in Peru.
- Together with TECHO, UNHCR is deploying an assessment to evaluate the living conditions of Venezuelans in Lima, to define viable solutions for accommodation and housing in urban areas.
- Work at preventing and responding to situations of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), with a focus on youth, children and LGBTI. A Regional Safe Spaces Network has been established to increase protection.
- Together with PROSA, a specialized NGO, UNHCR is developing a strategy to improve access to health-care for refugees and asylum-seekers with HIV.
- UNHCR is co-leading the development of a solidarity campaign to foster inclusion and prevent xenophobia, as well as raise awareness on the responsibility of providing international protection.



UNHCR officers talk to a Venezuelan family in Tumbes, waiting to continue their journey to Lima. ©ACNUR/ Sebastián Castañeda.

Humanitarian Assistance

- UNHCR, in coordination with IOM, Encuentros-SJS and IFRC are on site at the Binational Border Assistance Centre in Tumbes to meet Venezuelans’ basic needs, providing legal orientation, provision of core-relief items, health assistance and psychosocial support.
- UNHCR is working with national and local authorities on contingency preparedness and protection-based response plans, in preparation to different influx scenarios.

Community empowerment & self-reliance

- As part of finding long term solutions for Venezuelans and based on the intent of many to stay in Peru, UNHCR is strengthening its local integration strategy in the country.
- Working to institute an alternative shelter strategy that includes supporting existing community structures, developing a family host network and providing CBI so vulnerable families have access to safe housing.
- UNHCR is promoting access to the public health system for refugees and asylum-seekers. So far, it has established referral pathways with 12 hospitals in Lima and is advocating for Venezuelans to have their health care fees waived based on their vulnerability.
- UNHCR is advocating so Venezuelans, regardless of their legal status, may access vocational training and alternative education programmes, as well as to tertiary education.