

# Peru

June 2019

More than **800,000** Venezuelans have arrived in Peru. The vast majority are entering by land through the Ecuadorian border. Over **280,000** have applied for **refugee status**.

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 has set up a permanent presence in Peru in **Lima, Tumbes, Tacna, Cuzco and Arequipa** to complement and strengthen government's efforts.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Peru has become the main **host country** for Venezuelans seeking refugee status, and the second country of arrival of Venezuelan people worldwide, after Colombia.
- During 2019, some **1,200** Venezuelans have been entering daily into Peru, with over **50%** seeking asylum.
- 370,000** Venezuelans have been granted the PTP and 120,000 are pending.
- In 2019 over **110,000** have sought asylum at the Binational Border Centre in Tumbes.
- Some 1,000** Venezuelans have been granted refugee status.
- 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 food, water, medicine, health, and shelter.



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

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

**22** international and **26** national staff;

**36** in Lima, **8** in Tumbes, **two** in Tacna and **one** in Cuzco and **one** in Arequipa.



UNHCR and IOM are co-leading the Refugees and Migrants Working Group (GTRM)



UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance to vulnerable cases



UNHCR supports community structures to provide temporary shelter



UNHCR and IOM are co-leading #TuCausaEsMiCausa, a solidarity campaign to promote social inclusion



UNHCR is a member of the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) and works to strengthen the asylum system



UNHCR carries out data collection activities to support an informed response

Sources for figures: Migration Peru and Special Commission for Refugees

## Working with Partners

- In order to provide a **comprehensive response for Venezuelan refugees and migrants**, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR co-leads the **Working Group for Refugees and Migrants** (GTRM for its Spanish acronym), a coordination platform to address the growing number of Venezuelans arriving to Peru. The local Group is also linked to the regional platform. *See more: [r4v.info](#)*
- **The Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR)** has seen a pronounced increase of asylum requests. It has grown its capacity and deployed a new registration system, accelerating processes and facilitating the access of asylum-seekers to documentation, with UNHCR. Additionally, the CEPR has opened an office at the Binational Border Centre at the northern border, to guarantee access to the territory.
- **The Superintendence of Migration has also scaled up operations** in Lima and at the borders, with support from UNHCR and partners. Additionally, as of April 2019, a joint UNHCR-IOM orientation centre for Venezuelan refugees and migrants has been operating at the Lima Migration facilities, where between **70 and 100 people receive complementary information and assistance** on a daily basis.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- **The specific needs and vulnerabilities of refugees and asylum-seekers are identified through participatory assessments and protection monitoring exercises.** Since April, over 4,000 interviews were conducted in Lima, and both the northern and southern borders, Tumbes and Tacna.
- **The National Institute of Statistics (INEI), together with World Bank, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR is finalizing a joint profiling exercise for the Venezuelan population in Peru** to identify their location, migratory status and protection needs, including health and education.
- **Through the [#TuCausaEsMiCausa](#) interagency co-led by UNCHR and IOM, social inclusion is promoted and xenophobia is prevented.** Over one million people on social media and over 5,000 Venezuelans and Peruvians have participated in community based activities to promote local integration.
- **A Regional Safe Spaces Network has been established with other organizations in the country to support victims of sexual and gender based violence.** UNHCR works to prevent and respond to situations of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), with a focus on youth, children and LGBTI.
- **Together with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations and UNICEF, UNHCR works to strengthen Peru's protection response for unaccompanied and separated children**, as well as other vulnerable groups to meet their specific needs and mitigate the risks they encounter.
- **As Venezuelans do not have access to the social welfare system, UNHCR is increasing advocacy efforts.** So far, it has worked with 12 hospitals in Lima so that Venezuelans can have their health care fees waived based on their vulnerability. UNHCR together with UNAIDS and PROSA, a specialized NGO, is working to improve access to health-care for refugees and asylum-seekers with HIV.

### Humanitarian Assistance

- **Venezuelan refugees and migrants are receiving humanitarian assistance at the Binational Border Centre in Tumbes.** UNHCR and partners are providing legal orientation, baby and hygiene kits, as well as drinking water and health assistance to support people arriving in Peru. In addition, UNHCR and Encuentros-SJS are also providing humanitarian assistance in Lima and Tacna.
- **Local authorities and UNHCR are working on contingency preparedness** and protection-based response plans, in preparation to different influx scenarios.

### Community empowerment & self-reliance

- **By providing support to the Interreligious Working Group**, UNHCR is promoting social cohesion activities and empowering host communities to become active participants in the response.
- **UNHCR is supporting existing community shelter structures** and providing cash-based intervention so that vulnerable families have access to safe housing.
- **UNHCR is advocating for Venezuelans to access vocational training** and alternative education programmes in Peru, regardless of their legal status to facilitate their integration process.

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