



KEY FIGURES:

• ESTIMATED POPULATION OF CONCERN

78.200 (2021)

• REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Refugees: 9,310

Asylum-Seekers: 340

Source: National Commission for Refugees Venezuela

Persons in a refugee-like situation: 58,810

• COVID-19 CASES Reported in Venezuela

279.813 cases / 3.222 deaths

Source: Venezuelan Government

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The second quarter of the year has been characterized by very limited returns flows from the land borders with Colombia and Brazil, which remained closed, forcing people in mobility to face various protection risks in their passage through informal crossing points. Repatriations in the hundreds continued through the Government airlift scheme Plan Vuelta a la Patria. There has also been also a slight decrease in the numbers of Venezuelans leaving the country, with an estimated 1,500 daily exits into Colombia and Brazil, 30 percent of them by persons engaged in circular cross-border movements

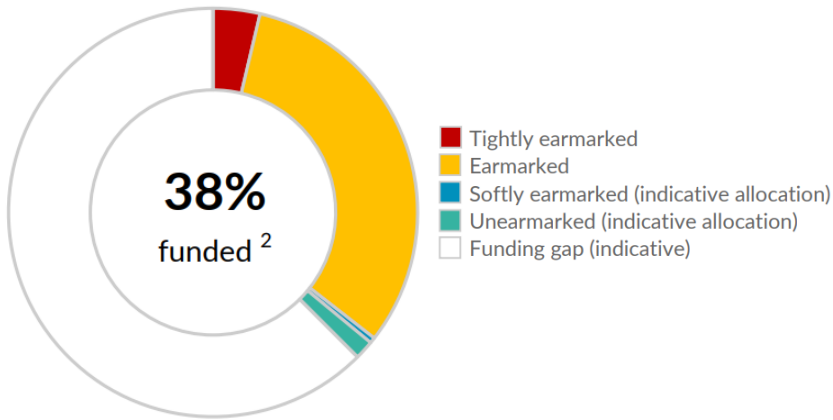
The COVID-19 situation seems to have generally stabilized in Venezuela, with notable exceptions in the border states of Táchira and Zulia. According to Government figures, which are not considered reliable, the country has been recording an average of around 1,200 contagions and 15 deaths per day. The vaccination programme has continued at a very slow pace, even if one were to take Government numbers at face value.

The low level conflict that had erupted on March 21 in the western border state of Apure between the Government's National Bolivarian Armed Forces (FANB) and the dissident guerillas of the FARC 10th Front, -leading to the displacement into Colombia of several thousand people from the area of La Victoria - has petered out in an undeclared truce that was followed by the release of captured FANB soldiers. Most of those who had been displaced by the fighting have since returned to their homes and farms.



FUNDING (AS OF JUNE 2021)

USD 61.2 million
requested for Venezuela



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 124 Personnel:
- 97 national staff
- 3 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)



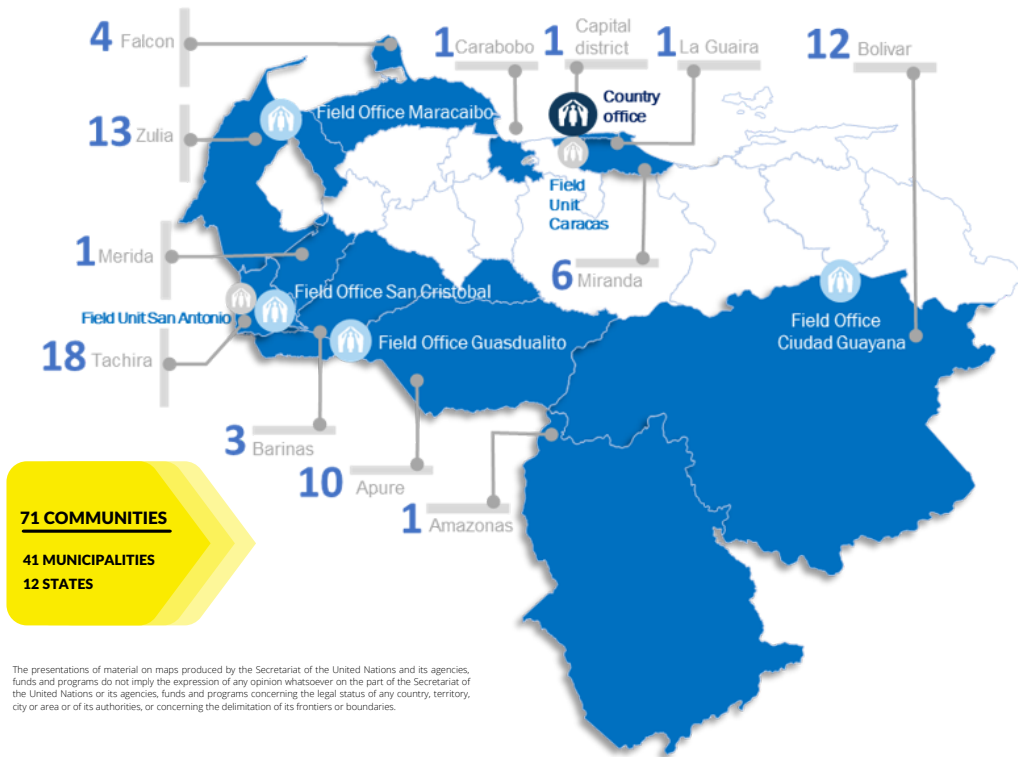
WORKING WITH PARTNERS

■ 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).





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JANUARY - JUNE 2021

 **PROTECTION**
+85K

 **SHELTER**
+397K

 **EDUCATION**
+2K

 **WASH**
+324K

 **BENEFICIARIES**
+800K



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 facilitates and supports the voluntary repatriation of refugees, ensuring that their return in safety and with dignity. Since 2015, UNHCR has supported the voluntary repatriation to Colombia of 248 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



UNHCR, together with UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA and the local Office of the Ombudsperson, distributed hygiene kits, solar lamps, jerry cans and another NFIs to 1,613 families (6,500 persons) severely affected by flooding in El Nula, El Amparo and Guasqualito, Apure. This initiative was carried out within the framework of the Flood Contingency Plan designed by the Apure-Barinas Intersectorial Group (led by UNHCR FO Guasqualito).

FIELD OFFICE CIUDAD GUAYANA



UNHCR has undertaken the provision of holistic assistance in Santa Elena de Uairén in the municipality of Gran Sabana, Bolívar, with the aim of strengthening local services geared to assist refugees, asylum-seekers and local population with specific needs, including persons in human mobility. UNHCR has supported local institutions through donations including office supplies and equipment, RHUs, solar lamps, biosecurity gear, mattresses, kitchen sets, water tanks, mosquito nets, hammocks, water purification tablets and other NFIs and supplies. This ongoing initiative has resulted in expanding vital humanitarian space in the key border town on Venezuela's border with Brazil.

FIELD UNIT CARACAS



UNHCR and partner Vivienda Popular completed repair work and improvements to the sports court in Barrio Bolívar, Petare, as part of its protection strategy promoting sporting activities. Chess tables for older persons and swing sets for children in the community were also set up. Community members came together to paint a mural on the main court wall inspired by World Refugee Day motto “Together we shine”, under the direction of visual artist Hugo Carrasco. Over 1,500 persons in the community will benefit from this initiative. In the words of Colombian refugee woman and community outreach volunteer Vielka, “this wonderful mural is a symbol of integration and solidarity between refugees and locals”.

FIELD OFFICE SAN CRISTÓBAL



UNHCR has set up and supported 21 waystations in Táchira run by Caritas Venezuela that provide information and NFIs directly to persons in human mobility. 220 Caritas volunteers and civil servants received training on key protection messages, First Aid and the identification of specific needs, and 2,550 hygiene kits and 7,290 biosecurity products were delivered to strengthen the assistance provided to persons in mobility. Between March and June, some 10,000 persons in mobility were benefitted through these waystations.

FIELD OFFICE MARACAIBO



UNHCR delivered solar lamps, mosquito nets, jerry cans, buckets, blankets, kitchen sets and water purification tablets to 324 Yukpa indigenous families (over 1,400 persons) living in the Macoita Basin in the Sierra de Perijá, Zulia. These families were displaced by floods in May 2021. An additional donation of NFIs was made to the only health centre in the Macoita Basin, where 270 indigenous persons receive medical care and treatment each month. UNHCR carried out this initiative in coordination with PAHO, UNICEF, OCHA, Zulia Red Cross and Civil Defence.



DONORS

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