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KEY FIGURES:

• ESTIMATED POPULATION OF CONCERN

3,397,719 (HRP 2022-2023)

• REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Refugees: 9,339

Asylum-Seekers: 516

Source: National Commission for Refugees Venezuela

Persons in a Refugee-like Situation: 30,000

• COVID-19 CASES Reported in Venezuela

528,994 Cases / 5,743 Deaths

Source: Venezuelan Government

SITUATION OVERVIEW

By the end of the month of June, mixed flows across the border between Colombia and Venezuela had reached pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, with an estimated 50,000 people travelling each day across the three international bridges linking the border between the Venezuelan state of Tachira and the Colombian department of Norte de Santander. Authorities registered the passage of 1,270,979 people either leaving or returning to the country, or engaged in pendular movements, in the month of June alone.

By far, most of these movements—78% (990,973 people)—took place along the Simon Bolivar International Bridge linking San Antonio del Táchira with Cúcuta in Colombia, while the Francisco de Paula Santander Bridge in Ureña and the La Union Bridge in Boca de Grita accounted respectively for 19% and 3% of the traffic. Gustavo Petro's victory in the 19 June presidential elections in Colombia has raised expectations of a re-opening of the border to bilateral commerce, which would be expected to further increase movements between the two countries.

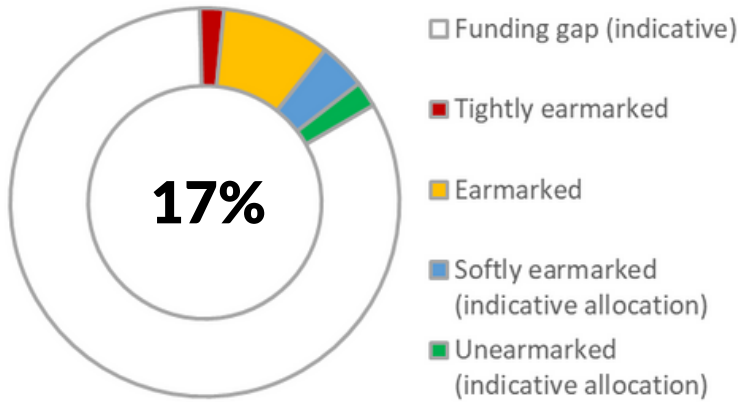
The second quarter of the year was also characterised by an apparent consolidation of the trend of increasing returns to Venezuela that had been emerging since the beginning of the year, with UNHCR-supported waystations for people in mobility in Táchira and Apure reporting an overall balance between exits from and returns to Venezuela. The majority of those crossing the border between Colombia and Venezuela continued to be people engaged in pendular movements, seeking vaccines, medical and other services, and goods for consumption or commerce. Mixed movements across the border between the southeastern Venezuelan state of Bolívar and northern Brazil have continued to be much more limited and predominantly outward-bound, even though UNHCR and partners have also been informed of limited returns—some 40 to 80 people per week—many coming from crisis-hit Argentina.

On 19 May, President Nicolás Maduro announced on television that his government had agreed to begin joint coordination efforts with UNHCR on issues affecting Venezuelans living abroad, following conversations between Vice President Delcy Rodríguez and High Commissioner Filippo Grandi.



FUNDING (AS OF JUNE 2022)

USD 61.2 million
requested for Venezuela



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 134 Personnel:
- 106 national staff
- 4 affiliate workforce deployees
- 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)
- 3 Field Units in Caracas, San Antonio (Táchira) and Santa Elena de Uairén (Bolívar)



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

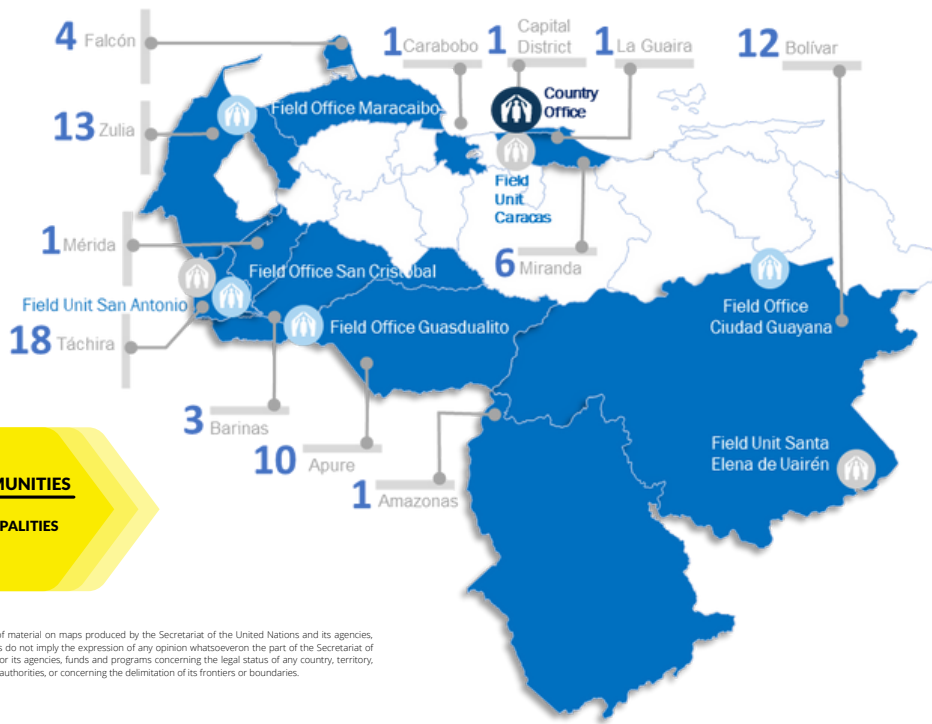
■ UNHCR is implementing activities in 77 prioritised communities in 13 states, primarily in the border areas with Colombia and Brazil, but also in Greater Caracas, including the nearby state of Miranda. UNHCR is working with 11 implementing partners: Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Zulia Red Cross, Falcón Red Cross, Fundación Luz y Vida, Fundación Vivienda Popular, Instituto Radiofónico Fe y Alegría (IRFA), Sociedad Wills Wilde, Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli (CISP), Fundación Amigos del Niño que Amerita Protección (Fundana), TECHO, and Cáritas Carupano, as well as other local actors, including government institutions and NGOs.

■ UNHCR leads the Protection and the 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).



JANUARY-JUNE 2022



 **PROTECTION**
+39K

 **SHELTER**
+53K

 **WASH**
+65K

 **BENEFICIARIES**
+158K

77 COMMUNITIES
41 MUNICIPALITIES
13 STATES

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UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR works in close coordination with the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) to ensure that international protection is provided to refugees and durable solutions are available. UNHCR has supported the organisation of asylum-seeker registration and RSD outreach activities by the CONARE, the establishment of a registration/case management system (SIGESREF), individual documentation for asylum-seekers and joint capacity-building activities with other government institutions, among other initiatives. 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 253 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 inter-agency response in the country, including the COVID-19 pandemic response, by providing humanitarian and protection assistance to affected populations. UNHCR is also supporting 410 community promoters, 12 community committees, women networks and 18 youth networks. These structures have been instrumental in ensuring community engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting both the identification of persons with specific protection needs for their referral to available services and the implementation of community projects aimed at responding to community needs amidst the humanitarian situation that has been compounded by the pandemic. Community projects led by members of community structures have 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 that people on the move have access to confidential case management, counselling, psychosocial support, medical aid, and legal services.



BEST PRACTICES

FIELD OFFICE GUASDUALITO



UNHCR completed the second phase of rehabilitation work to the FUNDACIAN nursing home in Guasqualito, Apure. Improvements included refurbishing and furnishing bedrooms, the guard house, and doctors' offices. The goal of this intervention was to strengthen the nursing home's capacity to provide assistance to elderly people in vulnerable situations in Apure. The inauguration of the rehabilitated nursing home was attended by the Governor of Apure and Páez municipal authorities.

FIELD OFFICE CIUDAD GUAYANA



Between April and June of 2022, UNHCR supported the birth registration of 256 children in the municipalities of Gran Sabana, Piar, and Cedeño in the state of Bolívar and Valdez in the state of Sucre. UNHCR also organised seven multiservice brigades in these municipalities, including birth registration services and legal assistance provided by the Office of the Ombudsperson. These brigades were carried out in coordination with the National Electoral Council and the Civil Registry of each municipality or parish. Among the births registered, 150 were of Pemón indigenous children in Gran Sabana, Bolívar.

FIELD UNIT CARACAS



UNHCR and Fundación Vivienda Popular rehabilitated the 6th floor of the Victorino Santaella Hospital in Los Teques, Miranda, which houses the internal medicine department. The rehabilitation work included repairing pipes, electric systems, windows and floors and painting walls, doors and handrails. UNHCR also equipped these spaces with hospital beds, overbed tables, reclining stretchers, bunk beds, mattresses, wheelchairs, Zimmer frames, sheets, blankets, desks and chairs, along with other items. The Victorino Santaella Hospital is a Type IV hospital in the state of Miranda and attends to the medical needs of over 100,000 people, making it one of the most important health centres in central Venezuela.

FIELD OFFICE SAN CRISTÓBAL



During the month of June, UNHCR organised a comprehensive assistance brigade for people in need of international protection in Sabana de Mendoza, Trujillo, within the framework of the CONARE-UNHCR work plan. Over 20 families from Colombia were able to initiate their asylum process. UNHCR has resumed its activities in Sabana de Mendoza, a social and commercial hub in the Eje Panamericano region of Sur del Lago that brings together foreign nationals in the states of Mérida, Trujillo, and Zulia.

FIELD UNIT SAN ANTONIO



UNHCR donated roller skates, kneepads, and other accessories to children participating in the community project “Ruedas Divertidas” in Táchira. Ruedas Divertidas is a roller-skating academy that is led by a Colombian refugee woman and both promotes the integration of 10 children from her host community through the practice of roller-skating and serves as a livelihood opportunity for the refugee coach. UNHCR promotes the practice of sports, supporting community sporting initiatives through the rehabilitation of courts and parks and the donation of uniforms and sporting equipment, as well as through workshops and recreational activities in these spaces, which serve as safe spaces for the community.

FIELD OFFICE MARACAIBO



UNHCR, the Office of the Mayor of Maracaibo, CONARE, HIAS, the Jesuit Refugee Service, and the Zulia Red Cross organised a multiservice brigade in the community of El Hoyito in Maracaibo, Zulia, where they provided assistance to over 700 people, including refugees and asylum-seekers living in the community. UNCHR and its allies provided information on the prevention of gender-based violence and legal assistance with access to birth registration and asylum procedures in Venezuela. The City of Maracaibo provided general medical assistance, paediatric services, and services for elderly people, as well as hairdressing services, veterinary services, and recreational activities for participants.

HEADQUARTERS VENEZUELA



UNHCR, the Bar Association of Caracas, and HIAS celebrated the graduation of the Diploma on International Refugee Law and Statelessness. The event was chaired jointly by the President of the Bar Association, Yvett Lugo, the Representative of UNHCR Venezuela, Enrique Vallés-Ramos, a delegate on behalf of the HIAS Country Director, Alfredo Sánchez, and the Academic Affairs Coordinator, Luis Mejías. The classes were designed and provided by UNHCR Venezuela's Senior Protection Officer, Marcela Rodríguez-Farrelly, and our Protection Assistant, Mariela Mora. The ceremony concluded with the graduating lawyers taking the oath of commitment to International Refugee Law.

SHELTER CLUSTER



The UNHCR-led Shelter, Energy, and NFIs Cluster provided a workshop on the design and installation of solar systems for staff members from 11 Cluster partner organisations. This workshop is part of the capacity-building activities that the Cluster organises in Venezuela, promoting the training of professionals and technicians that can then install solar panels across the country, thus providing power and lighting in remote areas of Venezuela and improving the quality of life of thousands of people in vulnerable situations.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2022



UNHCR and partner Fundación Vivienda Popular organised a recreational activity to reinforce the sense of belonging and sense of home of refugee children in the state of Carabobo. The children learned that our primary home is each of our hearts and that our relationship with ourselves is a home that we need to keep healthy wherever we are. They painted their idea of home on small canvases with water-based paint and decorated them with recycled plastic, collected and processed by the Ökō Spiri Foundation, led by our Goodwill Ambassador Maria Daniela Velasco.

UNHCR organised a workshop on drawing and binding with recycled materials for 28 refugee children and children of refugees in the state of Miranda, together with Fundación Carlos Stohr, Fundación Telema, and our Goodwill Ambassador, María Daniela Velasco. During this activity, the children learned about the importance of reusing materials in order to protect the environment and about the role each that of us plays in taking care of planet Earth. They committed to being the “heroes” who day by day safeguard our planet by recycling.



UNHCR, Fundación Carlos Stohr, and the Metropolitan University inaugurated the “Drawing a Story of Opportunity in the Face of Adversity” exhibition in UNIMET’s exhibition hall. We displayed 43 drawings that reflect stories of endurance and resilience of people from over 20 different countries who arrived in Venezuela seeking protection and found in Venezuela a “Land of Grace” where they were able to rebuild their lives. The exhibition was open to the public from 9 June to 15 July.





UNHCR organised a multi-service outreach brigade in the farming community of El Buey in Bolívar, from 6 to 8 June. Services provided included access to justice and legal assistance for people in need of international protection, asylum-seekers, and refugees, as well as members of the host community. The activity was carried out together with the local community committee, IOM, HIAS, the Public Health Institute, the Civil Registry Office, the municipal Children's Council, and the Child Protection Council.

PTo commemorate World Refugee Day, UNHCR and the Venezuelan Red Cross organised a film forum in Colinas de Maisanta in San Cristóbal, Táchira, and showed the movie "Encanto" for 41 members of the community. During the activity, we highlighted the resilience of all those people who, for different reasons, have been forced to leave their communities and countries of origin and build new lives in the face of adversity as they settle in new host countries.

Whoever. Wherever. Whenever. Everyone has the Right to Seek Safety!



To raise awareness on how refugees live in camps, UNHCR set up a family tent where, using an interactive screen, participants could send messages of hope and encouragement to refugees around the world. HIAS, Jesuit Refugee Service, and the Zulia Red Cross provided information on their activities and services. In solidarity with refugees, the City of Maracaibo illuminated several landmarks, such as the Obelisk and Villa Carmen, with the color blue.

"No one decides to become a refugee, but we all, no matter who or how, have rights and they must be respected."



DONANTES

ACNUR Venezuela agradece especialmente a sus donantes —Japón, Estados Unidos, España, Suiza y Noruega— y a los siguientes donantes de fondos no asignados: Suecia, Noruega, Países Bajos, Dinamarca, Alemania, Reino Unido, Alemania, Francia, Suiza, Bélgica, Irlanda e Italia — así como a los donantes privados en España, Japón, República de Corea y Estados Unidos.



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