



UNHCR
ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU
para los Refugiados



UNHCR in Venezuela

**A LOOK BACK
AT 2018**

Protecting refugees,
asylum-seekers and
other persons of
concern by making their
communities stronger



UNIVERSIDAD
DEL ZULIA

DIE... AND...

VE
GRAND

Age

CRIS...
Floral embroidery on a headband



Contents

- 3 A message from UNHCR's Representative in Venezuela
- 4 Community Based Protection
- 6 Community Based Protection in figures in 2018
- 8 Protecting children and survivors of SGBV
- 12 SGBV and Child Protection. Our results in 2018
- 14 International Protection, Working with Authorities
- 15 Refugee Status Determination, Documentation and Repatriation
- 16 Prevention of Statelessness
- 18 Protection and Safe Spaces Networks
- 19 Puppetry shows that health matters
- 20 Country Map and Contacts
- 23 UNHCR Venezuela's Impact in 2018
- 24 UNHCR a brief history



A message from UNHCR's Representative in Venezuela

There couldn't have been a more symbolic sign depicting the state of affairs in Venezuela than the earthquake that welcomed me on my first day in the office on 21 August 2018, and it did not take me long to come to grasp with the tremendous socio-economic and political challenges that the country was and is still going through. It is within this context that UNHCR is delivering protection and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and members of the host communities that live with them. I was entrusted with the responsibility of managing an agency that has been working in the country for nearly three decades and with field presence in five states and assistance programmes in 10 states for some of the most vulnerable populations, particularly along the borders with Colombia and Brazil. Being the only UN Agency with Field Offices/presence outside the capital, Caracas, it came as no surprise that many Venezuelans in the field locations identify UNHCR as "the UN".

In line with its global mandate, UNHCR in Venezuela plays a support role to the Government in its response to the protection needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, displaced persons and the communities that host them. I thus immediately took it upon myself to strengthen our working relationship with the Government, relevant Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the institutional counterparts of UNHCR Venezuela, principally the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) and the Office of the Ombudsperson.

I am pleased to say that this action has met with some success and contributed to facilitating UNHCR's work on behalf of its persons of concern. Nonetheless, we also acknowledge that more work and perseverance are needed on our part to bring to full fruition our efforts to reach out to the most

vulnerable populations in the country.

In Venezuela, since refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR live within the communities, UNHCR's programmes have been in the form of community based projects in protection, education, health and water/sanitation, targeting host communities, and aimed at ensuring pacific coexistence between refugees and their hosts. Much as we have been ambitious in extending support to most of our beneficiary population, logistical challenges and security concerns in some communities limited our access. In 2018, we were only able to operate in 90 communities out of the 110 communities, mainly in the border areas with Colombia and Brazil, where we had conducted needs assessments. We also supported the voluntary repatriation of refugees, particularly Colombians who had expressed their desire to do so. Another area of utmost importance for UNHCR has been the prevention of statelessness, particularly among the indigenous populations.

Our work in 2018 has also enabled us to identify operational areas in our delivery that require improvements and enhancements in order to strengthen our response to the ever increasing needs in our prioritized communities. This will entail adapting to a changing operational context and expanding the scope of our action in Venezuela, both directly and through our implementing and operational partners. In 2018 UNHCR also supported other UN Agencies to establish their presence in the field through sharing of office premises. This has greatly enhanced our coordination with the Agencies and facilitated synergy of our efforts in order to avoid duplication of humanitarian assistance activities.

In the following pages we have attempted to highlight our modest achievements, whilst also discussing some of the challenges we have encountered in the discharge UNHCR's mandate in Venezuela. Strengthening of our collaboration with our governmental and non-governmental partners, closer coordination with other UN Agencies, as well as enhancement of our own capacities should equip us well enough to effectively discharge our mission in Venezuela in 2019 and years to come.

Matthew Crentsil

Representative, UNHCR Venezuela, January 2019

Community-based Protection:

How a stronger, empowered and more resilient community takes care of its people



Where hope is made in Latin America's largest barrio



The *Centro El Colibrí* faces a lonely open space in Petare, Latin America's largest informal urban settlement, a small square where children play next to a modest shrine dedicated to Antonio Jose de Sucre, one of the continent's independence war leaders. It lies at the bottom of a hill in the outskirts of Greater Caracas that is covered with ramshackle and haphazardly built homes, electrical wires and open air plumbing that is a testimony to the inventiveness and resilience of the *barrios* inhabitants.

From afar, it looks like an offwhite spot at the bottom of a giant dun-brown anthill.

The *El Colibrí* is where 119 refugee boys and girls, undocumented and local children, some with specific needs, are fed and looked after with the support of UNHCR's partner *Fundación Luz y Vida*. Children, those between 5 and 14 are taught to read, write and acquire some basic mathematics skills and helped with the catch-up classes they need to enter the Venezuelan formal schooling system. Those who are younger are taken care of in the nursery until their mothers or fathers come back from work to pick them up.

These activities had been taking place for a quarter of a century, through the efforts of Petare's *madres cuidadoras* -caring mothers- but the wear of the years had gradually turned *El Colibrí* into



Our work in communities

UNHCR has been working in Venezuela since 1991. That year the United Nations Refugee Agency was invited to set up an operation in the country to respond to the needs of Colombians who had fled from the civil war that was tearing up their country.

Today, as we are approaching three full decades of presence in the country, UNHCR has consolidated its position as one of the pre-eminent UN agencies in Venezuela, with almost 80 members of staff at the end of 2018, a Representation and a Field Unit in Caracas and Field Offices in Maracaibo (Zulia), San Cristobal (Táchira), Guasdalito (Apure) and Ciudad Guayana (Bolívar).

Throughout 2018, UNHCR worked in 90 prioritised communities that were selected on the basis of their hosting refugees and asylum-seekers, the needs of the people living in them and the capacity on the part of UNHCR of making a real difference in their lives. It did this through community-based projects in protection, health, education and water and sanitation.

UNHCR strives to make that difference through a community-based approach. That means that its activities are targeted in such a way as to benefit both the local persons of concern, refugees and asylum-seekers, and the members of the host community, with no difference in treatment.

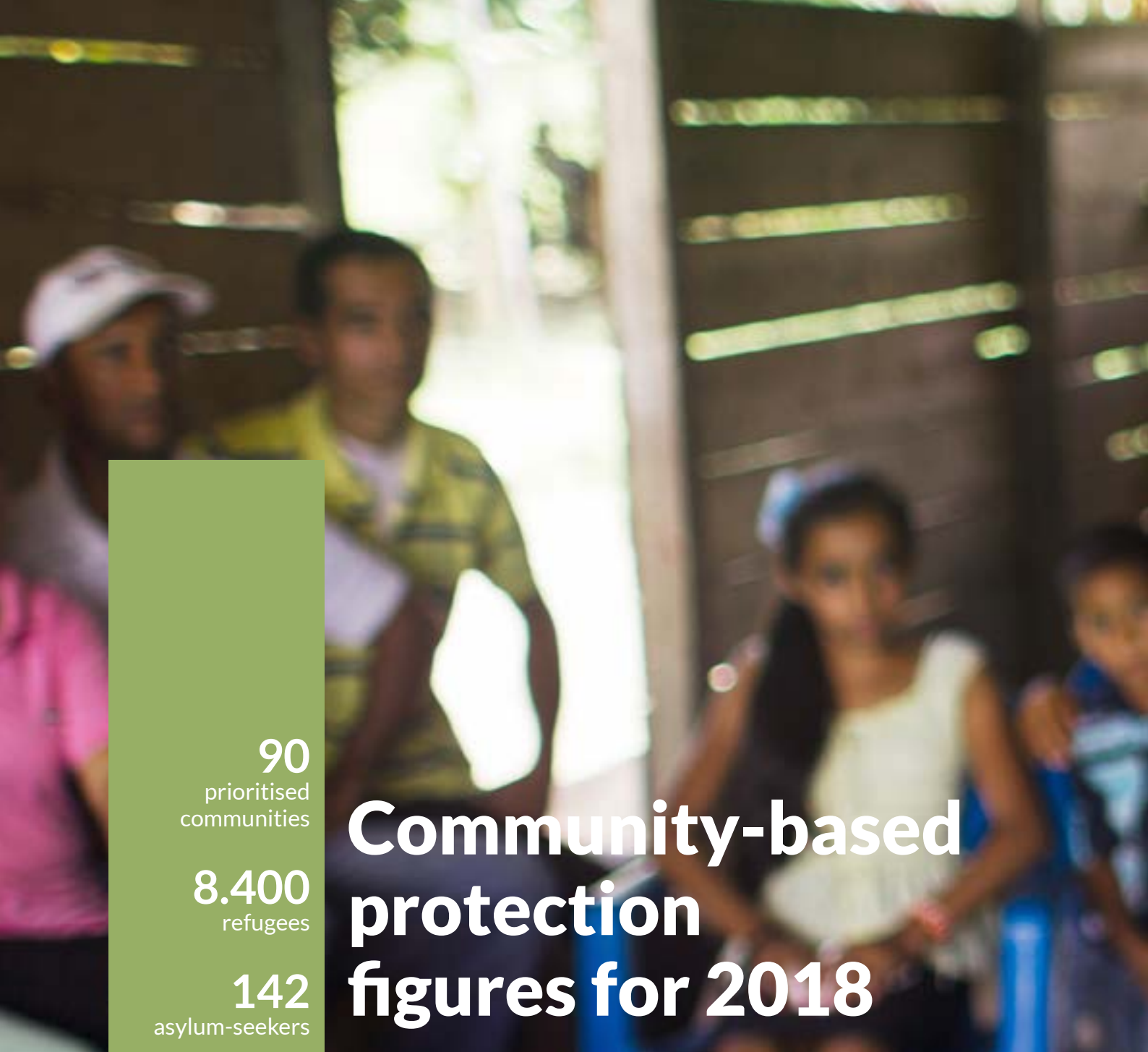
This is what we call community-based protection, a strategy that is designed to tightly knit communities by integrating all their members, independently of who they are and where they come from.

Where refugees not only survive, but thrive, communities do not only get by in their day to day lives, but rather grow stronger and more resilient in the face of security threats, environmental risks and social and economic difficulties.

a less than hospitable place for the *niños sin nombre* -nameless children- of the *barrio*. That was the case until UNHCR and *Fundacion Luz y Vida* took up the challenge to restore and rehabilitate its spaces, fixing windows, roofs, classroom furniture, sanitary facilities, connecting the building to water and power utilities, painting its interiors and installing water tanks and filters.

Now the rejuvenated *El Colibri* stands once again proudly at the bottom of one of Petare's pullulating urban hills and serves not only as a school and day-care centre for the *barrio's* most vulnerable children, but also as a community centre that provides adults with free legal, psycho-social and family counselling services and organises activities to empower residents to prevent and respond to cases of sexual and gender-based violence and risks to child protection.

EL COLIBRÍ IS
WHERE 119
REFUGEE
BOYS AND
GIRLS, ARE
FED AND
LOOKED
AFTER
WITH THE
SUPPORT
OF UNHCR
PARTNER
FUNDACIÓN
LUZ Y VIDA



90
prioritised
communities

8.400
refugees

142
asylum-seekers

Community-based protection figures for 2018

58.000
persons in
refugee-like
situations

640.000
persons of
concern
(including
members of host
communities)

UNHCR and the indigenous *Warao Wisidatus* join forces to fight AIDS in the Delta Amacuro

The indigenous *Warao* in the Eastern state of Delta Amacuro dwell in a sparsely populated and jungled river basin that flows into the Atlantic Ocean through hundreds of rivers and tributaries called *caños*. De-

pending on the tide, the *caños* either pour fresh water into the Ocean, or bring in the salt water from the sea. This constant ebb and flow regulates the lives of the *Warao*, who don't often interact with the outside world and share a historically justified suspicion of outsiders with many indigenous groups in the region. But they are quick to sense when something good comes their way and they are ready to embrace it.

It all began when UNHCR and local partner *Fe y Alegria* met with 19 *Warao* leaders, teachers and health professionals concerned by the spread of HIV and AIDS in their communities along the tributaries



of the Delta and in the regional capital Tucupita. The challenge was to convince their communities that getting sick was not a destiny determined by fate, but rather something that could be avoided by taking precautions, principally wearing condoms, and that could also be treated. That *bajukaya*, feeling well, depends very much on each and every one of us and on what we do.

From the beginning, this initial group of *Warao* leaders accepted with enthusiasm the information and the tools that were being proposed to them, which included an illustrated leaflet in the *Warao*

language, and began spreading the word to their fellow community members in Tekoburojo, San Francisco de Guayo, Pascuala, Nayara, Batokonoko, Nabasanuka, Mujabaina de Araguao, Joanakasi, Bebeina and Dijarukabanoko. This led to a multiplier effect, as others joined in their campaign.

By the end of the project, UNHCR and its local partners had held 22 training sessions with over 600 *Warao* participants, produced two promotional radio campaigns and organized five awareness raising events with the participation of local *Wisidatus*, the *Warao* traditional healers.



**Protecting
children and
survivors of
sexual and
gender-based
violence**



A twin inspiration for women and children

Sixty-two years equally shared between them, mirroring bright eyes and open smiles, sisters Ketty and Kely Atencia have made a remarkable turnaround in their lives since arriving in Venezuela in 2010, after fleeing for their lives from the last of the six different places they had been forced into calling home to escape from violence in their native Colombia.

Their claim to refugee status was recognised in 2014, but that was only the beginning of their new lives. The twins have since become community leaders in the northwestern state of Zulia, where they have been living for almost a decade, and gone on to establish “Friendship Ties” a youth network that seeks to promote a peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities through information, education, sports and recreational activities.

They also make a point of actively disseminating through their network messages on the need for prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence with the support of UNHCR and partners.

Friendship Ties is part of the Safe Spaces Network launched in 2017 by UNHCR and partners in Venezuela to help survivors of gender-based violence and children at risk. Although they were aware of the impact of their work, in their community, the two sisters could not quite believe their eyes and ears when they were told by UNHCR that their organization had been selected for an award by the agency’s Youth Initiative Fund.

Ketty and Kely say that they want to use their unexpected windfall to set up a library in the Friendship Ties community space and organise workshops for boys, girls, adolescents and their families on positive parenting, sexual and reproductive health, the risks associated with drug use, racial discrimination and xenophobia, recycling and the importance of preserving our natural environment.

FRIENDSHIP TIES IS PART OF THE SAFE SPACES NETWORK LAUNCHED TO HELP SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN AT RISK







Our work on SGBV and Child Protection

The prevention of and the response to sexual and gender-based violence and the protection of children are fundamental elements in UNHCR's community-based protection strategy, as harmony within families is a key factor in ensuring a peaceful social life within the community.

UNHCR provides counselling and assistance to survivors of gender-based violence and children who have been denied their rights to a happy childhood and adolescence, or are considered at risk of seeing such rights deprived by family members and other actors interacting with the community.

UNHCR has also set up five Safe Spaces Networks in the states of Apure, Bolivar, Táchira and Zulia, as well as the Capital District, for the prevention of and the response to sexual and gender-based violence and the protection of children.

Most of them are in border states, where risks of violence are compounded by the presence of armed and criminal groups that may attempt to recruit children or lure them in joining illicit and dangerous activities.

These networks include non-government and civil society organizations that have been trained to provide case management, psychosocial, medical, legal, shelter and sexual and reproductive health services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and children at risk.

They also provide community safe spaces where residents are empowered to know their rights and their obligations in preventing and responding to cases of sexual and gender-based violence and violations of children's rights.

At a government level, UNHCR works to strengthen the response of the National Child Protection System and municipal Child Protection Councils and Committees, training their members on how to conduct best interest assessments, referrals, family tracing and reunification. It also provides training on response to government officials, local women's networks, sexual and gender-based violence response committees and members of host communities.



SGBV and Child Protection:

Our results in 2018

99

Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were provided with psychosocial assistance, shelter, medical assistance, legal advice and material/financial support.

UNHCR and partners organized 10 capacity building trainings on sexual and gender-based violence prevention for government officials, partner staff and members of refugee-hosting communities.

UNHCR trained eight sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response committees to provide community-based psychosocial support activities for women and girls at risk.

UNHCR and partner provided counselling and individual support for 1,283 children at risk and medical care and protection for 1,155 children at risk.

UNHCR and partners provided courses on digital literacy, technology and risks associated with child pornography and sexual exploitation to 66 minors and adults

UNHCR and partners supported three child protection committees to develop prevention and awareness-raising activities on child protection, establish links with the child protection system and refer children at risk to appropriate services.

UNHCR and partners delivered awareness-raising sessions on children's rights and positive parenting to 91 adults and 88 children.

76

Children took part in educational activities on prevention of violence and human trafficking.

UNHCR and partners rehabilitated and supported a day-care centre for 40 children between the ages of 2 and 4 in the Antonio José de Sucre community in Petare, Greater Caracas.





Working with Authorities

UNHCR ALSO SUPPORTED CONARE IN CONDUCTING MOBILE REGISTRATION MISSIONS TO IDENTIFY NEW ASYLUM SEEKERS

As in all its operations worldwide, UNHCR in Venezuela plays a support role to Government in providing protection to persons of concern in the country. It does this mainly through its institutional partner, the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE), which has the mandate over refugees and asylum seekers, and the Office of the Ombudsperson, which has the role of promoting the rights of citizens, especially the most vulnerable, and persons of concern and of disseminating awareness of the existence of such rights.

In the course of 2018, UNHCR Venezuela consolidated its partnership with both the CONARE and the Office of the Ombudsperson, through memorandums of understanding, specific workshops and the elaboration of joint work plans.

UNHCR supported CONARE in clearing the backlog of more than 1,000 pending asylum applications. This effort led to the recognition of 615 new refugees, bringing the total to 8,463, and 142 asylum-seekers by 31 December 2018, a huge increase over the 15 refugees that had been recognized in the course of 2017.

UNHCR also supported CONARE in conducting mobile registration missions to identify new asylum seekers and issue or renew the certificates to persons of concern that had already been registered as asylum-seekers.

UNHCR and CONARE held joint workshops on International Refugee Law and national asylum and refugee status determination procedures in Venezuela for the military, police and migration officials. A special effort was undertaken to train the newly-formed Migratory Police which has taken over the responsibility over the country's 75 border points and all migratory control activities.

UNHCR also provided support to the Office of the Ombudsperson in conducting field missions to prioritised communities in five states of the country to disseminate information on rights and ways to ensure that they are upheld, and provided stationery and other supplies to the SAIME migration and identification service to try to ensure the timely issuance of visas and documentation to refugees.

Refugee Status Determination

Refugee status determination is the process by which an asylum-seeker's claim to international protection is received and decided upon. The process is regulated by International Refugee Law and its application is the responsibility of the host government.

UNHCR, in its supporting role to the Government of Venezuela, provides technical advice to its institutional counterpart, the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) on the implementation of the refugee status determination process in general terms and on a case by case basis.

Together, UNHCR and CONARE provide training sessions on International Refugee Law, national asylum law and refugee status determination procedures to the Military, Police, Migratory Police and Migration and other Government officials.

Voluntary Repatriation

Repatriation is one of the three durable solutions that UNHCR strives to achieve in its efforts to redress the situations of uprooted individuals and families of refugees along with integration into the host country and resettlement in a third country.

It remains the preferred solution if conditions in the country of origin allow for it to take place and it has to be undertaken in a voluntary and informed manner and in conditions of dignity for the returning refugees.

The difficult social and economic situation in Venezuela has led many refugees to decide to return home in search for better opportunities. Some have done so independently, while others have sought the advice of UNHCR.

In these cases, the agency provides counselling and country of origin information, including on available services as well as referral pathways, to those refugees who wish to return to their country, ensuring that they take this step voluntarily and with all the necessary information. The process is coordinated with UNHCR offices in Colombia.

Documentation

The lack of appropriate documentation often leads to unnecessary exposure to protection risks, including those associated with statelessness, for both children and adults, members of indigenous groups, other Venezuelans and persons living in the country in refugee-like conditions. In its support role to the Government, UNHCR strives to limit such risks and empower and provide resources to the relevant institutions to deliver the documentation persons of concern are entitled to have.

In the course of 2018, UNHCR donated supplies to various offices of the SAIME migration service to enable them to provide the visas and documentation needed by recognised refugees to gain full access to essential services and basic rights.

UNHCR has also supported capacity-building training workshops for representatives of CONARE, SAIME, the Civil Registry and the Office of the Ombudsperson and has coordinated birth registration campaigns and the delivery of national identification cards in isolated indigenous communities where many children and adults lack any documentation.

UNHCR has also organised activities in various communities to raise awareness on birth registration and has advocated for the provision of mobile civil registry services and documentation brigades to meet the needs of many indigenous communities where both children and adults are at risk of statelessness.



Prevention of Statelessness

UNHCR's mandate calls on the agency to lead international efforts to prevent statelessness, a condition that affects some 12 million people world-wide, who have no nationality depriving them of rights that everyone else would take for granted. In Venezuela, UNHCR supports institutions like the Civil registry and the SAIME immigration and identification service in their efforts to ensure that residents of isolated communities have access to birth registration and documentation for adults. This activity





is mainly focused on indigenous communities, whose members traditionally have a more detached attitude towards the notion of the nation state, the importance of documentation and the risks associated with the lack of it.

In the course of 2018, UNHCR held several training sessions on statelessness for representatives of the CONARE, SAIME, Civil Registry and the Office of the Ombudsperson, and supported field missions to communities to promote birth registration.

In December 2018, UNHCR organized a workshop with these same institutions, the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Office of the Public Prosecutor which has led to the development of a strategy and work plan for 2019 to promote birth registration and individual documentation.

At a local level, UNHCR provided the Institute of Public Health of the state of Bolivar state with 21,000 copies of a simplified document for birth registration approved by the national Civil Registry Office. The simplified document will make it easier to register new-borns living in isolated areas that have no access to public offices.

Finally, UNHCR is advocating with the Government of Venezuela for its accession to international conventions on statelessness, namely the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Statelessnes and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

STATELESS-
NESS, A CON-
DITION THAT
AFFECTS
SOME 12 MIL-
LION PEOPLE
WORLD-
WIDE, DE-
PRIVING
THEM OF
RIGHTS THAT
EVERYONE
ELSE WOULD
TAKE FOR
GRANTED



Protection

and Safe Spaces Networks

PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WHO HAVE SURVIVED ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND NEGLECT

The increasing social, political and economic difficulties that have been affecting Venezuela and their negative fallout in terms of access to basic services and rights have resulted in significant migration flows, displacement and cross-border movements into Colombia and Brazil which have called for the implementation of a strategy to respond to the protection needs of people on the move. UNHCR responded to these needs activating a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism.

UNHCR consolidated a national protection network formed by UN agencies and NGOs to provide counselling and assistance to persons in transit, as well as conducting referrals to service available at the border, including cross-border referrals to Colombia and Brazil. The protection network provided economic, material, legal and psychosocial assistance to more than 5,000 persons with specific needs in transit, disseminated key messages for persons in transit to other countries and provided a mapping of services available across the border.

UNHCR has created five Safe Spaces Networks in the border states of Apure, Bolívar, Táchira and Zulia and in the Caracas Capital District to address cases related to the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence and child protection issues.

The Safe Spaces Networks bring together non-government civil society organisations that provide case manage-

ment, psychosocial, legal, medical, sexual and reproductive health and shelter services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and children at risk. They also manage community safe spaces where residents are empowered to prevent and respond to cases of sexual and gender-based violence and risks to and violations of children's rights.

UNHCR has trained members of the Safe Spaces Network key concepts, international standards and international and legal frameworks on child protection and sexual and gender-based violence. Priority is given to unaccompanied and separated children and children who have survived abuse, exploitation and neglect.

The Safe Spaces Network has provided multi-sectoral help in terms of psycho-social support, medical and sexual and reproductive health services, legal assistance and case management for sexual and gender-based violence survivors and children at risk.

The local protection networks located in the border states of Apure, Bolívar, Táchira and Zulia held bilateral meetings with the networks on the other side of the border and mirror offices in Colombia or Brazil to discuss case management tools, information-sharing protocols and referral pathways, adopt special mechanisms for transnational referral and transfer of cases., conduct joint protection analyses of the border and movement dynamics and review work plans for the protection of persons in transit or commuting between countries.

In the area of health, a strengthened binational cooperation between Colombia and Venezuela resulted in a stakeholders' meeting to respond to problems related to HIV care in the border zone that was held in San Antonio, in Táchira, with the participation of representatives of Venezuelan public institutions and NGOs as well as of non-profit organizations from Cucuta, Colombia.

UNHCR and partners also held workshops on the protection non-discrimination and special requirements of LGBTI persons on the move with representatives of government institutions and the Regional Safe Spaces Networks.



Puppetry Shows that Health Matters

The setting is a large covered and rundown cement school sports ground that has seen many a football game played between the students at the *Don Tito Salas* school in San Isidro de Petare, Greater Caracas, a community that hosts refugees and has little access to potable water. The hard sports ground is for one day transformed into a puppet theatre for children to learn basic hygiene skills to keep at home and at school. They are told that billions of people in the world do not have access to toilets and that hundreds of millions live without clean water.

The show begins and the puppets of

the *Titeres Tuqueque* theatre company entertain the 390 schoolchildren gathered for the occasion with the story of two cousins living in adjacent but very different homes, one clean and orderly and the other encumbered with all sorts of odds and ends. One day, Valentina, who lives in the clean house, sees her cousin Teo get sick from an insect bite and be brought to the doctor, who gives the sick child the required medicines and, more importantly, sound advice on how clean habits can help you to not get sick in the first place.

All is well that ends well and the puppet show closes to a thunder of applause. The children go on to eat their midday meal and then wash their hands with the soap and hygiene kits provided by UNHCR and partners, before some go back to the courtyard to burn their excess energy running after the new shiny green and yellow footballs donated by UNHCR.

390 SCHOOL-CHILDREN GATHERED FOR THE OCCASION WITH THE STORY OF TWO COUSINS LIVING IN ADJACENT BUT VERY DIFFERENT HOMES, ONE CLEAN AND THE OTHER UNHEALTHY



UNHCR
ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU
para los Refugiados



+14.000
Promotion
of rights



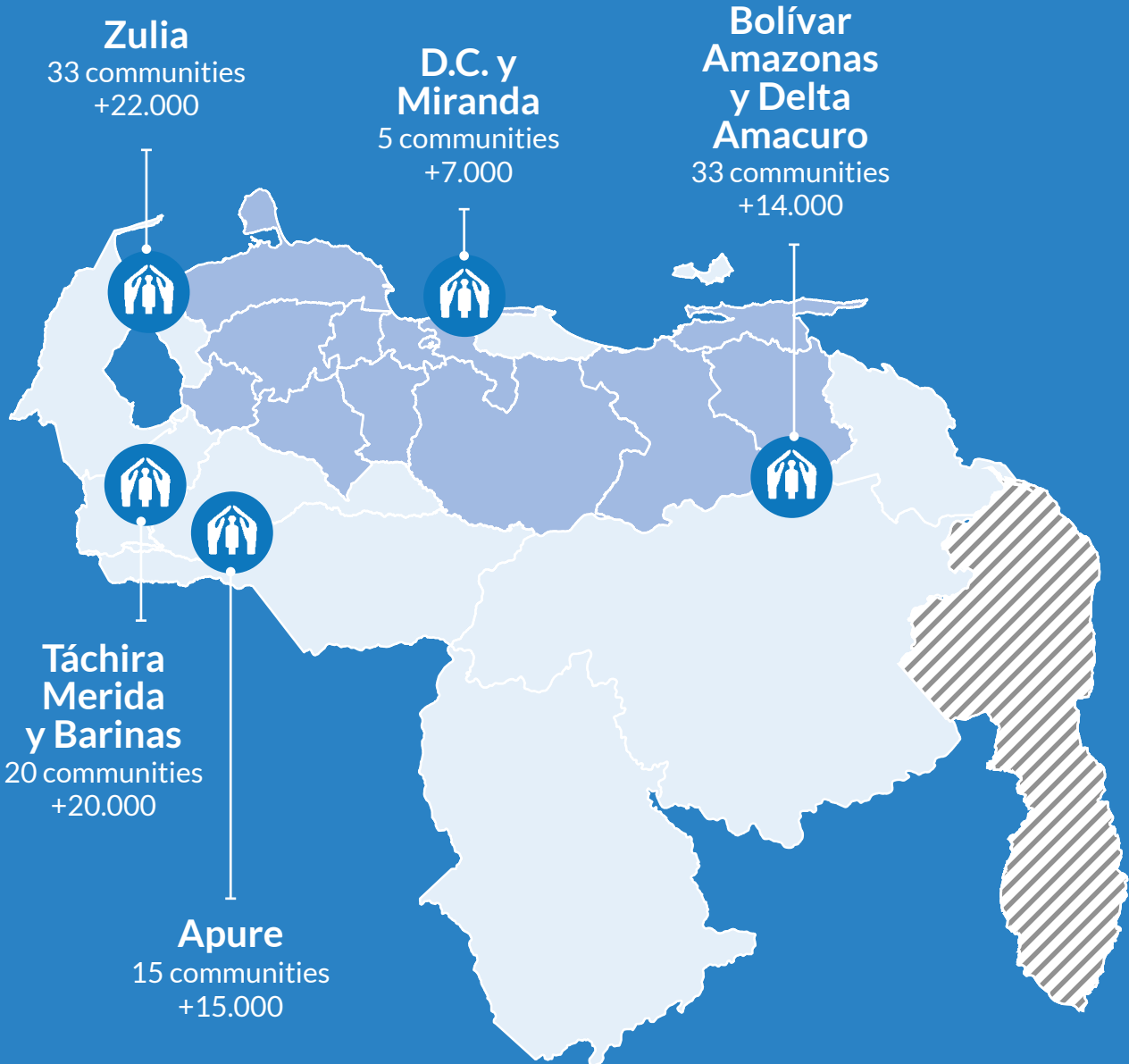
+12.000
Health



+11.000
Education



+10.000
Protection
of childhood



58
Actors



90
Communities



+10.000
SRH/ HIV-AIDS



+6.000
Nutrition



+6.000
Sexual and
gender violence



+5.000
WASH



+500
Statelessness

+78,000
Persons assisted

+2.800
persons of concern
(refugees and asylum seekers)

+75.000
others of concern
(host communities)



43%



57%



7%



37%



50%



6%



12
Project Partnership
Agreements



15
Partners



 Branch Office

 Field Office

 Field Unit



Overview:

UNHCR Venezuela's

impact in 2018

An improved access to and quality of refugee status determination asylum procedures

Community empowerment through strengthened community structures, centres, spaces, promoters, committees and women's and youth networks

An improved access to reproductive health and HIV services

Better potable water and sanitation services

A reduced risk of sexual and gender-based violence and an improved response to it

A stronger protection of children

Better community access to nutrition, health and education

An expanded and strengthened community mobilization

A more positive public perception of and attitude towards persons of concern

A better access to nutrition, health and education in communities

Support to humanitarian actors in the field



UNHCR: A Brief History

IN 1981, WE
RECEIVED
A SECOND
NOBEL PEACE
PRIZE

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was created in 1950, during the aftermath of the Second World War, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes. We had three years to complete our work and then disband.

In 1954, UNHCR won the Nobel Peace Prize for its groundbreaking work in Europe. But it was not long before we faced our next major emergency.

In 1956, during the Hungarian Revolution, 200,000 fled to neighbouring Austria. Recognizing the Hungarians as 'prima facie' refugees, UNHCR led efforts to resettle them. This uprising and its aftermath shaped the way humanitarian organizations would deal with refugee crises in the future.

During the 1960s, the decolonization

of Africa produced the first of that continent's numerous refugee crises. We also helped uprooted people in Asia and Latin America over the following two decades. In 1981, we received a second Nobel Peace Prize for what had become world-wide assistance to refugees.

The start of the 21st century has seen UNHCR help with major refugee crises in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. We have also been asked to use our expertise to help many internally displaced by conflict and expanded our role in helping stateless people. In some parts of the world, such as Africa and Latin America, the 1951 Refugee Convention has been strengthened by additional regional legal instruments.

UNHCR now has more than 16,765 personnel. We work in a total of 138 countries and our budget, which in its first year was US\$ 300,000, grew to US\$ 6.54 billion in 2016.

In 2015, we celebrated our 65th anniversary. During our lifetime, we have helped well over 50 million refugees to successfully restart their lives.

Today, UNHCR's 16,800 staff work in 134 countries, leading the international response to the needs of 70.8 million forcibly displaced people worldwide.





www.acnur.org
ayuda.acnur.org/venezuela



@ACNUR_Venezuela



@acnurvenezuela



venca@unhcr.org

ACNUR Americas



@ACNURamericas



@ACNUR



UNHCR-ACNUR



@acnur_unhcr_americas