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## KEY FIGURES:

### • ESTIMATED POPULATION OF CONCERN

787,200 (2021)

### • REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Refugees: 9,338

Asylum-Seekers: 485

Source: National Commission for Refugees Venezuela

Persons in a Refugee-like Situation: 58,809

### • COVID-19 CASES Reported in Venezuela

456,641 Cases / 5,383 Deaths

Source: Venezuelan Government

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The last quarter of 2021 registered the re-opening of the land border with Colombia, which had been closed since February 2019, allowing for safe passage through the international bridges of tens of thousands of Venezuelans seeking vaccines, medical care and other services and goods across the border, or a chance to start a new life in another country. The border with Brazil remained closed, forcing persons in mobility to continue facing protection risks in their passage through informal crossing routes. Returns were limited to hundreds per week, outflows remained stable at around one thousand per day and repatriations through the Government airlift scheme Plan Vuelta a la Patria continued at a moderate pace during this period.

The vaccination campaign picked up pace with the arrival of COVAX, Russian, Chinese and Cuban vaccines, but towards the end of the year the COVID-19 situation in Venezuela registered a new increase in the numbers of cases, albeit with a very limited official death toll, on account of the arrival of the Omicron variant of the virus. Official daily contagion figures, which are believed to under-report the extent of the epidemic, hovered between 1,300 and 1,500, with a handful of reported deaths per day.

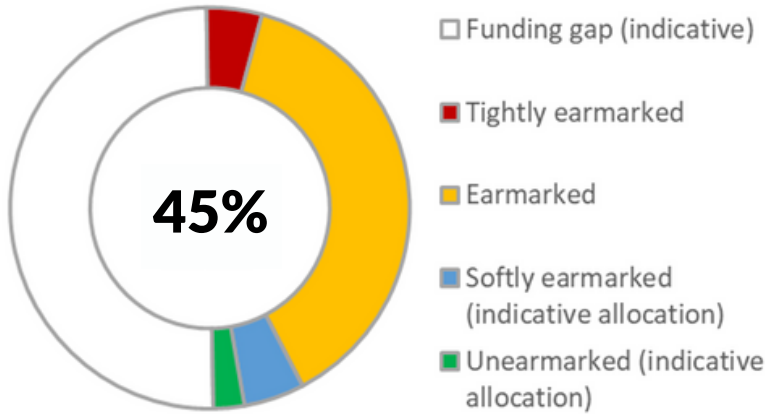
At the political level, the 21 November regional and local elections were conducted relatively peacefully and under the eye of international observers from the European Union, the UN and the Carter Center. The results saw the ruling PSUV party win in 19 of the country's 23 states, with the opposition prevailing in Barinas, Cojedes, Nueva Esparta and the western border state of Zulia. While the elections could be regarded as a relatively encouraging development, on a less auspicious note, President Nicolas Maduro withdrew his delegation to the fourth round of the negotiations mediated by Norway in Mexico, following the extradition to the United States of government-sponsored businessman Alex Saab on money-laundering charges.

On the economic front, the year closed with a 4-5% growth of the economy, the first increment recorded by Venezuela since 2013, and a formal exit from the hyperinflation spiral that had ravaged the country for the past four years.



## FUNDING (AS OF DECEMBER 2021)

**USD 61.2 million**  
requested for Venezuela



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 127 Personnel:
- 104 national staff
- 0 affiliate workforce employees
- 0 national interns
- 23 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)



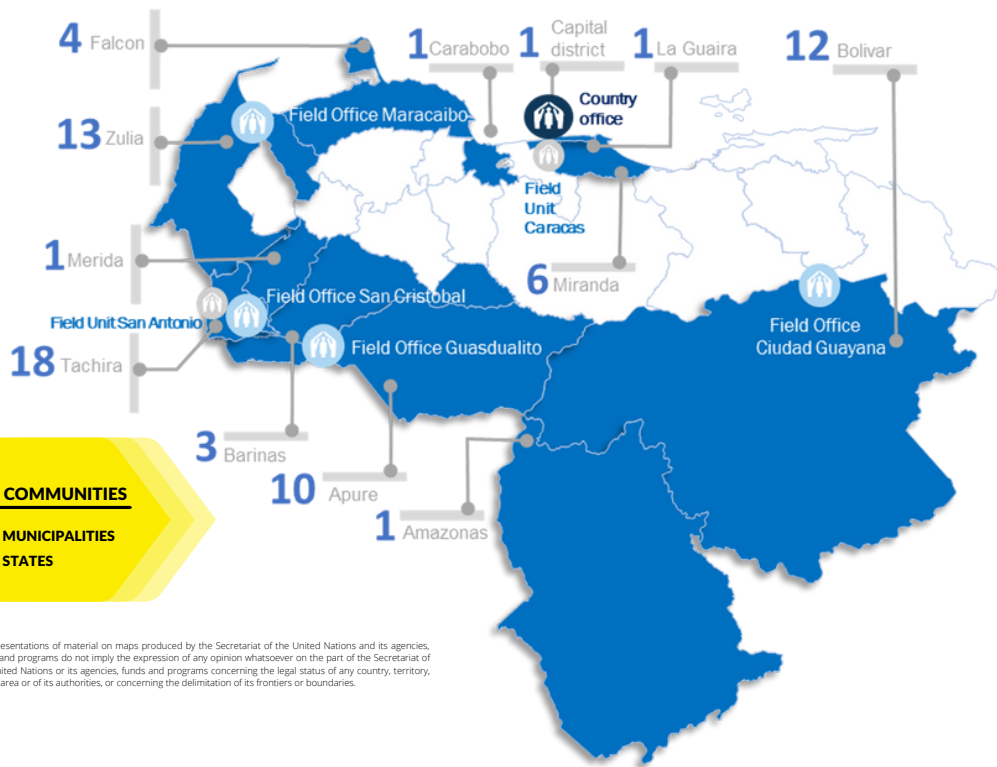
## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

■ 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, including the nearby state of Miranda. 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 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).





71 COMMUNITIES

41 MUNICIPALITIES  
12 STATES

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JAN - DEC 2021



PROTECTION  
**+212K**



SHELTER  
**+1.2M**



EDUCATION  
**+4.9K**



WASH  
**+426K**



BENEFICIARIES  
**+1.8M**



## 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 (SICESREF), 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 251 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 86 community structures, including community 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 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 persons on the move have access to confidential case management, counselling, psychosocial support, medical aid and legal services.



## BEST PRACTICES

## FIELD OFFICE GUASDUALITO



UNHCR provided technical assistance and delivered solar lamps, hygiene kits, non-food items (NFIs), solar-powered fans, water purification tablets and buckets to 28 indigenous communities in the municipality of Atures, Amazonas. These activities, implemented with the Office of the Governor of Amazonas and the Office of the Ombudsperson, benefitted some 1,500 persons in vulnerable situations, including women, children, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities.

## FIELD OFFICE CIUDAD GUAYANA



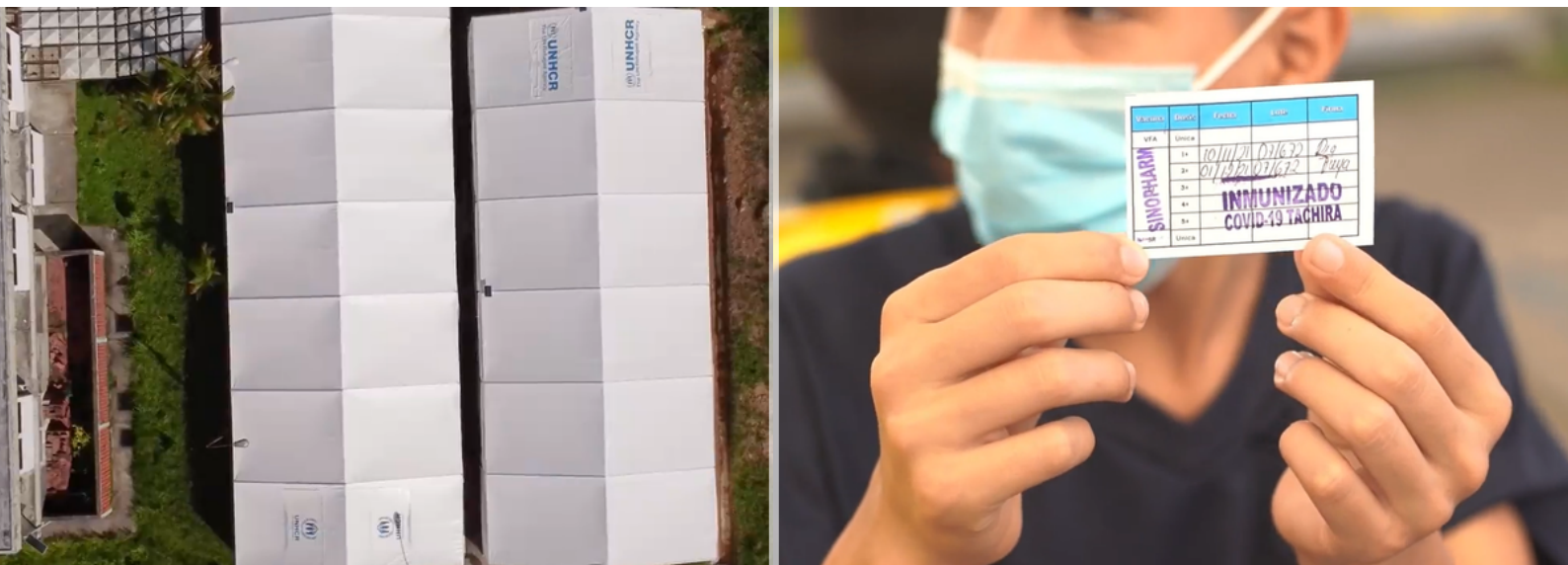
UNHCR Ciudad Guayana, alongside its local partner IRFA, delivered non-food items to indigenous communities in the ancestral territory of Mapoyo in Morichalito, Bolívar. This delivery included solar lamps, jerry cans, buckets, blankets, water purification tablets, mosquito nets, hammocks and other hygiene supplies for COVID-19 prevention, benefiting 1,328 indigenous persons. This activity was carried out within the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan for Venezuela, with the aim of addressing the main protection needs of local indigenous communities.

FIELD UNIT CARACAS



Within the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, FU Caracas led a short walk in the community of El Ingenio, Miranda, where community outreach volunteers, the local youth network and community members shared key messages on GBV prevention and response. Afterwards, information desks were set up in the community's covered court, where partner organisations and members of the Safe Spaces Network shared key messages on GBV. CONARE and the local Office of the Ombudsperson took part in this initiative, contributing with the dissemination of key messages on GBV prevention, as well as with highlighting the importance of denouncing cases of violence against women.

FIELD OFFICE SAN CRISTÓBAL



Within the framework of the UN inter-agency COVID-19 response in Venezuela, UNHCR installed Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) at the Táchira Oncology Hospital to serve as its COVID-19 vaccination area. The area houses registration and immunisation services for patients and storage space for vaccines and equipment. UNHCR also provided the hospital with two storage tents equipped with solar lamps and solar streetlights that guarantee autonomous lighting inside the premises and in surrounding areas.

FIELD UNIT SAN ANTONIO



As part of the World AIDS Day commemoration, UNHCR participated in a multiservice day organised by the International Organization for Migration in San Antonio, Táchira. During this activity, medical services, rapid HIV tests, condoms and antibacterial soaps were provided to the participants. Also, key messages on the prevention of human trafficking, protection risks for persons on the move, GBV, sexual and reproductive health and the prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases were disseminated.

FIELD OFFICE MARACAIBO



UNHCR rehabilitated a section of the Wilfredo Medina Health Centre in the Municipality of Colina, Falcón, that will serve as a triage and COVID-19 early diagnosis area. The rehabilitation work included the waterproofing of the roof, the reconditioning of internal spaces, the installation of internal and external lighting and the donation of a hospital bed and air conditioning units. The new facilities will be able to assist 1,800 persons from surrounding communities every month.

## HEADQUARTERS VENEZUELA



UNHCR Venezuela, the Venezuelan Bar Association of Caracas and HIAS signed a Letter of Understanding to promote refugee law and advanced strategic litigation among legal practitioners in Venezuela. The tripartite LoU sets an alliance that covers two prioritised cooperation areas: a) capacity building for the Bar's affiliated members, including a postgraduate course on International Refugee Law; and b) the establishment of a pro bono legal aid scheme for refugees and asylum-seekers, including persons in need of international protection who are subject to administrative detention.



## DONORS

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