

# PERU

## February 2025

### Operational Update



#### KEY FIGURES

### 17,161

people assisted in 2025

#### Protection

### 3,932

people received services at border and transit point (1,264 in February).

### 1,697

people received legal assistance (529 in February).



### 313

families supported with case management (130 in February).



### 75

women, girls and other vulnerable individual survivors who received assistance (19 in February).



### 26

children received specialized Child Protection services (20 in February).

#### Basic Needs



### 465

people supported with shelter (175 in February).



### NFI 1,938

kits and core relief items delivered (1,536 in February)

#### Health



### 2,125

people received healthcare services (1,337 in February).

#### HIGHLIGHTS

#### FUNDING

On 20 February, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR's Representative inaugurated the new premises of the Executive Secretariat of the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR). The new CEPR premises, under the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will enhance services for refugees and asylum-seekers in Peru by carrying out in person registration and interviews, as well as provide orientation and information relating to the asylum system. Some fifty people attended, including representatives from public institutions and diplomatic representations. The interinstitutional cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR has been extended until 2026, enhancing the CEPR with the deployment of specialised professionals, technical resources, and materials.

UNHCR and the Municipality of Surquillo (Lima) signed a Framework Agreement on 27 February, to implement activities aimed at protecting and integrating forcibly displaced persons within the district and the local community. This agreement made Surquillo the first local government in Peru to become a full member of UNHCR's "Ciudades Solidarias" network.

#### UNHCR Funding (as of 28 February 2025)



- █ Tightly earmarked
- █ Earmarked
- █ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- █ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- █ Funding gap

In 2025, UNHCR requires USD 70.5M in funding to respond to the needs of refugees in Peru. As of 28 February 2025, the operation received around USD 6.7M (approximately 10% of the total funding required).

## UNHCR's presence in Peru



The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations.

## CONTEXT

Peru is home to 1.66 million Venezuelans, and more than 1 million of them reside in Lima, making it the second-largest host country for forcibly displaced Venezuelans after Colombia. As of June 2024, Peru hosts 508,488 asylum-seekers, primarily from Venezuela. These figures are currently under review following the completion of the asylum backlog validation process at the end of 2024. Thirty-two per cent of Venezuelan nationals in Peru live in monetary poverty, and 10 per cent live in extreme poverty. Upon arrival, forcibly displaced individuals face significant vulnerabilities, including an inability to generate income, which increases their risk of falling into poverty and resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as child labor, sexual exploitation, and begging for food.

In February, authorities in Tumbes extended the State of Emergency in Zarumilla for a 60-day period until 5 May. The region has been under a State of Emergency since January 2024 due to rising citizen insecurity and the prevalence of crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal mining.

A State of Emergency was declared in 164 districts across 21 departments as a result of extreme weather. The measure, effective for 60 days, aims to address the damage caused by heavy rains through immediate response and rehabilitation actions, with the support of regional and local governments and various state entities. UNHCR continues monitoring the situation and coordinating the delivery of core relief items with relevant government agencies.

## UNHCR STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

### PROTECT

On 31 January, the Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted its concluding observations on Peru, recommending the elimination of discrimination against Venezuelan refugee and migrant children to ensure their access to health services, education, and a decent standard of living. It emphasised the consistent application of the principle of the best interests of the child in all policies, programmes, and proceedings, as well as free birth registration and the issuance of birth certificates for all children born in its territory, regardless of the child's or parent's immigration status. It also recommended facilitating children's access to the asylum system, upgrading the Protocol for Special Protection Units for Refugee Children and Adolescents or Migrants at Risk of or Lacking Family Protection, and repealing the derogation of humanitarian exceptions and the accelerated expulsion procedure (PASEE), which lacks specific safeguards to protect families.

On 28 February, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) published its concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Peru. The Committee expressed concern about the high rates of discrimination reported in employment, housing and access to education and health care that affect forcibly displaced persons, among others. The Committee recommended the State to: (i). Carry out public awareness programmes to combat prejudices against refugees and migrants; and (ii). Ensure that migrants receive the necessary documentation to fully enjoy their economic, social, and cultural rights.



UNHCR provided support with translation and an assessment on the best interests of the child to a group of 15 Haitian nationals stranded at the national airport in Lima. UNHCR also submitted country of origin information for the adjudication of their claims. Upon their recognition as refugees, UNHCR referred them to the Scalabrin shelter for their temporary housing and to receive humanitarian assistance.

As part of the post-validation process conducted in 2024, UNHCR provided 4,881 in-person orientations for cases scheduled for registration or eligibility at Protection Spaces between January and February 2025.

## ASSIST

On 18 February, UNHCR held a meeting in Lima with the National Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Family Members, known as the Aurora Programme. UNHCR and its partner Encuentros gave a presentation on international protection and support provided to refugees in Peru. The meeting aimed to coordinate a referral system for cases needing international protection and the assistance for survivors of violence against women and girls.

The Ministry of Health and UNHCR renewed their Memorandum of Understanding to continue joining efforts to enhance access of forcibly displaced persons to healthcare services as well as to strengthen national and local capacities to provide specialised services according to the identified needs among persons forced to flee and the host communities.

UNHCR, Encuentros, the Red Cross, the Women's Emergency Centre (CEM) the local police force and the local health centre carried out a community service fair on 22 February, in the district of Miraflores in Arequipa. Fifty people, including refugees, received legal, psychological, physical health, and mental health services.

On 7 February, the Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations convened UN agencies and ambassadors to present the Ministry's 2025-2026 priorities: addressing violence against women, empowering women economically, and protecting vulnerable populations by strengthening protection systems. The Ministry's work will include digitalising services, managing evidence, and enhancing intersectoral and intergovernmental coordination. UNHCR confirmed UNHCR's commitment to collaborating with the government's Special Protection Units for forcibly displaced children and adolescents, as well as the AURORA Programme for survivors of violence against women and girls.



## EMPOWER



Between 24 and 26 February, UNHCR hosted the first training session on the Minimum Services Package, a set of basic and essential interventions to support mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, for 20 participants from member organisations of the GTRM's Committee on Mental Health and Psychosocial Assistance. The training included sessions on international standards, interagency coordination and practical examples on implementing the package.

UNHCR and Encuentros held their first virtual training session for community leaders on 28 February in Arequipa. UNHCR presented its training modules for the year, highlighted the main needs of refugees by sector, and provided information about access to education and child protection. Eight community leaders participated.

## SOLVE

As of 28 February, UNHCR has submitted 35 individuals to Canada for resettlement consideration, accounting for 70 percent of Canada's annual quota.

## WHO WE WORK WITH:





## Kicking Towards a New Future in San Martín de Porres

When Christian Medina left Venezuela seven years ago, he left with a dream: to use football as a tool for change. In the district of San Martín de Porres, Lima—where UNHCR works to decentralise essential services and promote cultural and sports activities—he founded the Champions FC Sports Academy during the pandemic, with nothing but his passion and commitment.

Today, his academy is a refuge for nearly 70 children and young people from Peru, Venezuela, Colombia and Chile—who find more than just a game in football: they find a family.

"Many of these kids don't have their parents here; others have left the country. They see me as a father," says Christian, who has turned the academy into a space for integration and discipline. Through football, he not only helps his students improve their skills but also build values and keep the hope of a better future.

Despite challenges like a lack of resources and adequate spaces, his dream remains strong: "I want these children to have opportunities, to go far, to represent the country that is welcoming them." With every training session, Christian is not just teaching football—he is building a community, inspiring, and giving hope.

UNHCR is grateful for the support of donor countries that contribute to the office in Peru and to global programmes with flexible funding



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