

PERU

March 2025

Operational Update



Community Services Fair for refugees in the San Martín de Porres, Lima

KEY FIGURES

22,094
people assisted in 2025

Protection

4,257 people received services at border and transit point (249 in March).

1,993 people received legal assistance (386 in March).

358 families supported with case management (45 in March).

84 women, girls and other vulnerable individuals received assistance (9 in March).

28 children received specialized Child Protection services (6 in March).

Basic Needs

601 people supported with shelter (136 in March).

4,661 kits and core relief items delivered (1,536 in March).

Health

3,022 people received healthcare services (2,678 in March).

HIGHLIGHTS

Beginning on 1 March, asylum applications can only be submitted in person at one of the three UNHCR Protection Spaces in Lima, where the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR) receives and registers asylum-seekers. Similarly, at the regional level, individuals can submit asylum applications at any of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' decentralized offices. The CEPR has also published general guidelines for seeking asylum in Peru on the Ministry's website, including the necessary application form.

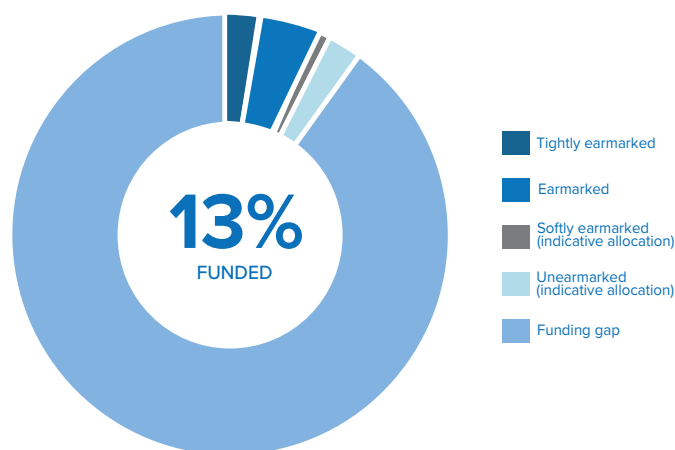
UNHCR's Representative met with the newly appointed Director for Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on 12 March to explore opportunities in strengthening Peru's asylum system. UNHCR and MoFA are pursuing several workstreams to introduce new efficiencies.

On 5-6 March, UNHCR hosted a delegation from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Headed by the Area Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, the delegation visited UNHCR's Protection Space in San Martín de Porres, Lima, which provides local protection services such as legal assistance and orientations and medical services to refugees and the local community. The delegation also met with the Director of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the CEPR and Consular Affairs.

On 18 March, UNHCR and the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations signed a Letter of Understanding to strengthen joint actions in support of refugee women, children, and adolescents. This agreement focuses particularly on combating violence against women and family members, and on coordinated efforts to protect children and adolescents at risk or lacking family protection.

FUNDING

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 March 2025)



In 2025, UNHCR requires USD 70.5M in funding to respond to the needs of refugees in Peru. As of 31 March 2025, the operation received around USD 8.8M (approximately 13% 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 with more than 1 million of them residing 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.

Damage from heavy rains persisted across the country. In Tumbes, the emergency level was elevated to four, prompting national government intervention. Heavy rains caused significant damage to infrastructure, roads, water services, electricity, and drainage systems. Power outages also impacted refugees in Tumbes, who are among the 200 families affected in the region.

On 19 March, the National Council on Citizen Security (CONASEC), led by President Dina Boluarte, approved the launch of a new formalization process for undocumented foreigners. The National Superintendence of Migration is developing the criteria and procedures. CONASEC also noted that those who do not meet the formalization criteria may face expulsion. These measures aim to reinforce control over mixed movements as part of the State's broader security strategies.

UNHCR STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

PROTECT

In commemoration of International Women's Day, UNHCR carried out a series of activities across Peru to support and empower refugee and forcibly displaced women. In Lima, UNHCR partnered with the Municipality of Carmen de la Legua to host a town hall meeting with over 100 women and 20 officials, addressing the specific needs of women and girls facing violence. In Ica, UNHCR participated in the 11th Women's Congress, initiating coordination with the AURORA Programme to strengthen efforts in the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls. In Puno, UNHCR joined an awareness-raising march against violence towards women and girls, organised by the District Coordination Body for the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women. Lastly, in Arequipa, UNHCR led an awareness-raising event focused on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.



On 19 March, UNHCR held a meeting with the Cuna Más National Programme to explore opportunities for expanding access to childcare services for refugee children. Discussions focused on the possibility of referring refugee children to Cuna Más for childcare and protection support, as well as the potential inclusion of refugee workers in childcare centres. Cuna Más is a nationwide social programme run by the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, aimed at supporting the early development of children under 36 months of age living in poverty or extreme poverty.

On 21 March, the National Superintendence of Migration launched its strategy to enhance migration governance in local governments. The strategy includes training, assessments, and human resources allocation in four districts in Lima (Ate, Centro de Lima, San Martín de Porres, and Villa María del Triunfo) and a district in Callao. UNHCR provided recommendations to enhance refugees' access to assistance and protection.

ASSIST

On 13 and 14 March, UNHCR, through its partner Encuentros SJM, supported the Local Education Management Unit (UGEL 05) in organising two community service events called "Buen Inicio del Año Escolar" (Good Start of the School Year) in San Juan de Lurigancho and El Agustino. UGEL 05 provided information on access to basic education and school enrolment, while the local government offered services from the Municipal Office for the Care of Persons with Disabilities (OMAPED) and the Municipal Office for the Defence of Children and Adolescents (DEMUNA), and other related services. Over 150 people, including forcibly displaced families, attended each event.

On 14 March, UNHCR and the municipality of San Martín de Porres inaugurated the first Humanitarian Aid Assistance Warehouse. This warehouse will support the municipality's efforts to respond to natural disasters. The collaboration is made possible by an inter-institutional agreement, enabling joint responses to humanitarian emergencies in this key district of Lima.

EMPOWER

UNHCR, the Municipality of San Martín de Porres, and World Vision organised the first job fair of the year in the area on 28 March to integrate refugees into the local community. Over 15 companies provided job information and recruitment opportunities, while the National Superintendence of Labour Inspection (SUNAFIL) offered guidance on labour rights and safety. Around 150 individuals from the refugee and local community attended, highlighting the fair's importance in helping secure formal employment.



SOLVE

By 23 March, UNHCR had submitted 53 individuals for resettlement consideration to Canada, meeting the annual quota.

UNHCR participated as a speaker at the PILNet regional event for the Americas on 18 March, raising awareness over refugee protection among more than 50 PILNet partners from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru. UNHCR showcased trends in forced displacement as a key regional issue and opportunities for collaboration, especially through PILNet's legal pledge at the II Global Refugee Forum. PILNet is a global non-governmental organization that serves as a global network for public interest law.



UNHCR, in collaboration with the Municipality of San Martín de Porres' Health Department, held a Community Service Day on 29 March. Approximately 150 people, including refugees and local community members, received healthcare, documentation, and municipal services.

In coordination with four local governments and four community-based organisations, UNHCR delivered humanitarian aid supplies to 651 families from the local community and forcibly displaced population affected by the rain emergency in the Tumbes region.

On 28 March, UNHCR, in coordination with its partner World Vision, held a meeting with the Ministry of Labour and Employment Promotion (MTPE). During the meeting, a joint work plan with the private sector was developed, including an agreement to implement two activities involving MTPE, UNHCR, and World Vision. The first activity will be a "Mi Primera Chamba" hiring marathon, scheduled for 16 April in San Juan de Lurigancho, where companies will offer their available vacancies to interested candidates. The second activity will be an awareness-raising event on the formal employment of refugees, set to take place on 29 April. Additionally, on 7 April, UNHCR will present its private sector engagement initiative to MTPE.

With UNHCR's support, a subnational coordination mechanism has been established for North Lima and Callao. This mechanism is self-organised by refugee-led organisations, NGOs, and civil society, and works in close coordination with the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM) to build synergies and avoid duplication of activities among community-based organisations. The official launch of this coordination mechanism will take place on 3 April.

WHO WE WORK WITH:





YONGEL DELGADO: A REFUGEE TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH SPORTS AND INCLUSION

Since arriving in Peru in 2018, Yongel Delgado has worked to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities, particularly refugees. With experience in adaptive tennis in Venezuela, he founded a pioneering organisation in Peru called BETESDA that offers tennis and softball classes to people with disabilities, creating opportunities where none previously existed.

More than just an instructor, Yongel is a leader challenging stereotypes, proving that refugees can be agents of change in their host communities.

His work has been recognised by the Peruvian Sports Institute, allowing him to expand his impact in official spaces. Additionally, through an agreement with UNHCR, his organisation has helped refugees with disabilities obtain essential documents for healthcare and state support, achieving key progress. In 2024, Yongel was honoured by the Peruvian Congress. In addition to his work with the BETESDA, he has also promoted labour inclusion and trained volunteers with disabilities, proving that the biggest barrier is not technical but the limited opportunities to promote inclusion of people with disabilities.

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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