



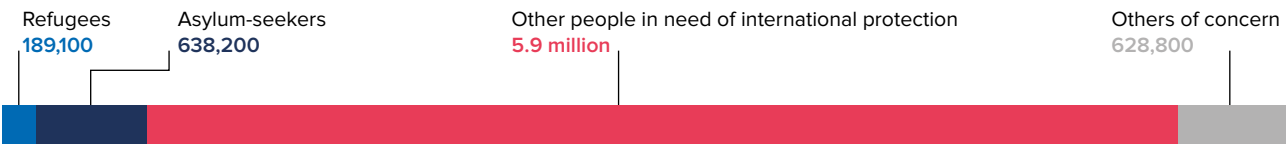
Global Report 2024 - Situation overview

Aichel Ugas (42), a Venezuelan woman, arrived in Ecuador in 2022 with her children. In Guayaquil, she learned to clean furniture while she was working in a cleaning services company. She started her own company, Multiservicios Uga, and successfully applied to UNHCR for seed capital, which enabled her to buy equipment to improve her cleaning services, and she now employs others. © UNHCR/Omar Ganchala

Venezuela situation

UNHCR country operations: Argentina Multi-Country Office, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama Multi-Country Office, Peru, United States Multi-Country Office, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

2024 year-end population* figures

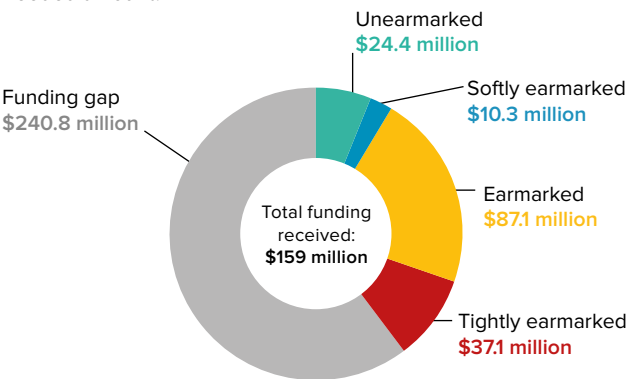


*Venezuelans in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Venezuela and the countries covered by Argentina Multi-Country Office, Panama Multi-Country Office, and the United States Multi-Country Office.

2024 financial overview

Funding received (USD)

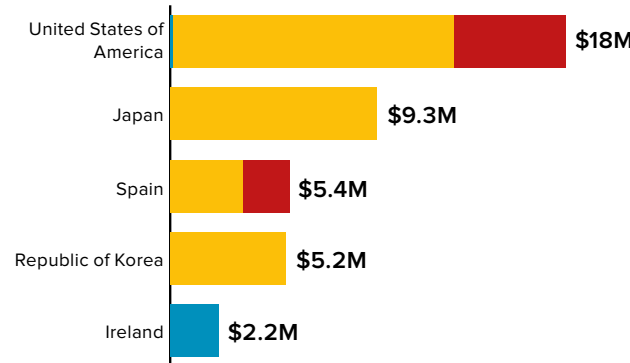
In 2024, UNHCR required a total of **\$399.8 million** to address the emergency situation in Venezuela and received only **40%** of the needed amount.



The percentage funded (40%) and total funding amount (\$158,982,434) are indicative. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$240,791,795 representing 60% of the financial requirements.

Top 5 Contributions (USD)

Legend: Unearmarked (teal), Softly earmarked (blue), Earmarked (yellow), Tightly earmarked (red)



The flight of refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela continued in 2024, although the number returning to Venezuela increased, and countries of the region bolstered their efforts to help Venezuelans stay safely and prosper rather than being forced to make dangerous onward journeys.

According to the regional [Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela](#) (R4V), co-led by UNHCR and IOM, as of December 2024, there were over **7.9 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants worldwide**, 6.7 million (85%) of them in Latin America and the Caribbean. The annual rise in the number of refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the region was significantly smaller than in 2023. The 2024 total included some 370,000 recognized refugees, and more than 1.4 million asylum-seekers. In 2024, the partners of **R4V supported over 1.5 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants** in the region with direct assistance. UNHCR, as a co-leader of the R4V Platform, and as part of a hemispheric approach, contributed to over 15,000 activities in the 17 R4V countries.

The number of Venezuelans making the **dangerous crossing through Panama's Darién jungle** fell by 36% from 2023, to 210,000. Venezuelans still accounted for 69% of people making the journey.

The R4V's 2024 [Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis](#) (RMNA), published in September 2024, highlighted that **4.2 million Venezuelans living in the region faced difficulties in accessing essential services and formal employment**, despite the commendable efforts of host countries in providing humanitarian assistance, legal protection (including documentation and regularization processes), and integration opportunities. Across the region, 2.3 million refugees and migrants remain in an irregular situation, owing to high costs, strict entry and visa requirements, and complex legal processes. Despite the efforts of host countries and R4V partners, the 2024 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) faced significant funding shortfalls, with less than 31% of its requirements met. This severe underfunding has critically hampered the ability

of R4V partners across the region to provide essential services, leaving millions of Venezuelan refugees and migrants without adequate access to food, healthcare, and integration opportunities. The consequences of these funding gaps are dire: vulnerable populations are forced to endure prolonged hardship, increasing their susceptibility to exploitation and abuse. In December 2024, the R4V launched its [Refugee and Migrant Response Plan \(RMRP\) 2025-2026](#), hoping to assist more than 2.34 million refugees and migrants in 17 countries.

As part of the RMRP 2024, UNHCR responded to the basic needs of people forced to flee, stepping up its **presence in border areas** across the region to expand reception capacity, and assisted local authorities and organizations on the ground with preparedness and contingency planning for more arrivals. Inside Venezuela, UNHCR's initiatives helped strengthen community resilience and address the cycle of displacement. UNHCR provided support to over 650,000 people, offering a range of services, including individual legal and psychosocial assistance.

Several States in the region established **new or extended legal stay arrangements and temporary protection** for Venezuelans, ensuring access to legal status to more than 4 million Venezuelans throughout the region, mostly to those in need of international protection.

More than 1.9 million of the 2.9 million Venezuelans in **Colombia** had received temporary protection permits by the end of 2024. In June 2024, Colombia announced a new process to provide temporary stay permits (PPT) to the parents and guardians of almost 270,000 Venezuelan children who already had PPT. Furthermore, in September 2024 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced plans for a new visa for Venezuelan citizens who did not have access to previous regularization mechanisms such as the [Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelan Migrants](#), or ETPV. By the end of 2024, UNHCR operated 71 Attention and Orientation Centres (PAOs) across Colombia, providing 29,107 orientation sessions to Venezuelan refugees and migrants seeking information on their rights, asylum procedures, and regularization options.

These PAOs also supported 6,667 people in completing asylum applications, improving their access to documentation and legal stay. UNHCR worked with private sector partners to improve access to formal employment: about 438 Venezuelan refugees participated in professional guidance and job placement projects, and 1,321 accessed banking services through FinTech companies that accept the Temporary Protection Permit as valid ID. UNHCR also supported local authorities in conducting vulnerability surveys, helping over 20,460 refugees and migrants assess their eligibility for social programmes.

Uruguay adopted two programmes in May 2024 to provide international protection and legal stay solutions for over 23,500 Venezuelan and Cuban nationals with pending asylum applications.

Argentina announced a “[special regime](#)” with more flexibility for Venezuelans applying to permanent and temporary residency. More than 30,000 residency permits were issued in 2024, many of them facilitated by the special regime. In September 2024, in **Ecuador**, a new [regularization process](#) was announced (derogated by a Presidential Decree in early 2025), potentially benefiting 100,000 Venezuelans (who did not obtain a visa before April 2024) in addition to over 95,000 who had already obtained temporary residence visas. Furthermore, **Brazil** recognized over 141,000 Venezuelans as refugees and granted over 493,300 temporary residency permits since 2018 (12,700 recognitions and 101,314 temporary permits in 2024).

The presence of Venezuelans is a **potential development opportunity** for countries of the region, according to [research published by the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center](#) in February 2024. The World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank have worked with UNHCR to bolster the labour market participation and economic contributions of Venezuelans to their host communities.

In **Brazil**, since April 2018, more than 144,500 people from Venezuela have been relocated to more than 1,000 cities throughout the country; of those 13,080 Venezuelans were relocated with the support of UNHCR through both the institutional

and the [employment-based](#) modalities (over 21,000 in 2024, out of which UNHCR supported more than 1,300). The institutional modality involves moving people with specific needs, such as survivors of violence against women and girls, unaccompanied children, persons with disabilities, and older people, to reception centres in other regions of Brazil, to increase their chances for integration. The employment-based modality involves moving people to different parts of Brazil where pre-identified job opportunities were secured in advance, ensuring that refugees have employment waiting for them upon relocation. Refugees receive in advance information about the job, the company, and the city they will be moving to, along with integration assistance from organizations. In Brazil, UNHCR developed an [online platform](#) to support the integration of over [12,000 refugees and migrants](#) into the labour market, facilitating their employment and entrepreneurial activities through the Companies with Refugees Forum and the Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform.

In **Ecuador**, the “Companies with Refugees” initiative benefited 5,923 people, 45% of whom were from Venezuela. Initiatives in [Peru](#) and [Ecuador](#) also recognized **companies promoting socio-economic integration** of forcibly displaced people. In **Costa Rica**, through the “[Living Inclusion](#)” strategy, UNHCR and the Omar Dengo Foundation provided assistance to 4,430 people (11% of them Venezuelans) through diagnostics and counselling.

In **Argentina**, the initiative “Cities of Solidarity” implemented in 16 local governments in the country, served as the central pillar for long-lasting solutions, and to support forcibly displaced within host communities. In the case of Argentina, the initiative focuses on enhancing the capacity of local authorities to offer services and support to displaced populations, including job placement, training and provision of basic services. It also includes developing inclusive public policies, improving access to documentation and economic, social and cultural rights. In 2024, the Cities of Solidarity reached around 10,000 people.

As **return movements to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** increased, UNHCR worked in close coordination with local institutions, the private sector, and existing networks to support communities receiving returnees. Community-based interventions supported sustainable reintegration and community resilience in the states of Bolívar, Miranda, Tachira and Zulia, benefiting 3,500 returnees in 2024. UNHCR, along with sister agencies **IOM**, **UNDP** and **FAO**, implemented projects that aimed to provide vulnerable Venezuelans with practical options to stay in their country.

In conjunction with these efforts, **Costa Rica** led the **Quito Process** in 2024, with UNHCR and IOM's support as Technical Secretariat. The

Quito Process is a regional intergovernmental mechanism promoting financial and technical cooperation to support the integration and protection of refugees and migrants, especially Venezuelans. Notable strides included the regional technical meeting on asylum with National Refugee Commissions coming from all member States, which took place in Panama City last October 2024. The situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants was also considered in the adoption of the Chile Declaration and Plan of Action, as part of the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (Cartagena+40 process) which becomes a regional implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

The first thing that Venezuelan refugee Mery Espinoza did when she arrived in Ecuador in 2019 was to enrol her son Camilo and her daughter Victoria in school. Luckily they had the certified transcripts required for children to enrol and graduate. But Mery witnessed how other parents struggled, and she became an advocate for refugees' access to secondary education. "If they don't go to school, they lose their life project," she says.

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