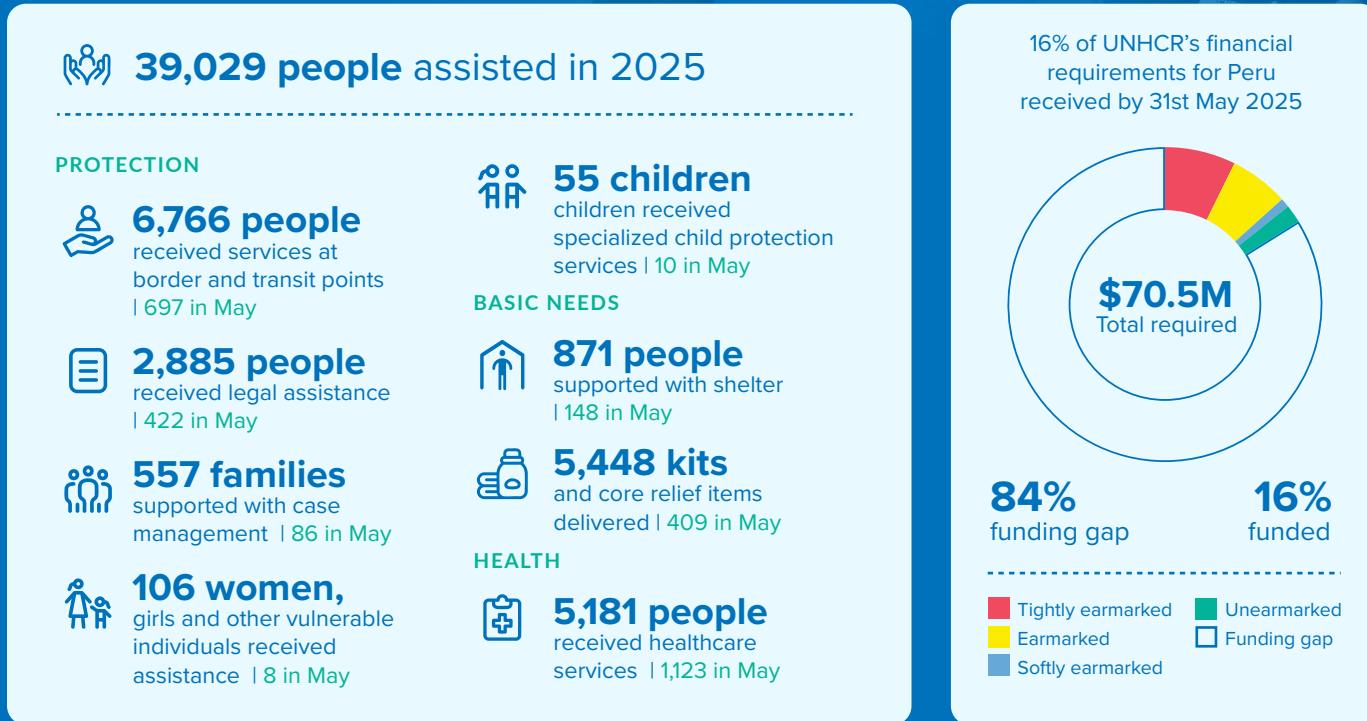


Peru

May 2025 | Operational Update

Key figures



Highlights



Peru's National Steering Committee (CDN), the highest governing body for implementing the UNSDCF (UN Sustainable Development Framework), met on 13 May. Chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, it included representatives from the PCM, MoFA, MEF, APCI, and UN agencies. The CDN presented the UN System's 2024 results and updates on the upcoming UNSDCF and global initiatives. UNHCR's Representative highlighted achievements by the emergency and humanitarian response working group.

From 12 to 14 May, UNHCR hosted a delegation from the U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), which reviewed UNHCR's activities in Peru and visited Protection Spaces in San Martín de Porres and Cercado de Lima to learn about field programmes and partner services. Meetings were held with IFRC, World Vision, the Special Commission for Refugees (CEPR), the National Superintendence of Migration (SNM), and the Municipality of San Martín de Porres, the district hosting the most refugees and asylum-seekers in Peru. The delegation also met a refugee family to learn first-hand about their needs and access to employment opportunities.

On 27 May, UNHCR's Representative visited Ica to strengthen coordination with key stakeholders supporting refugee and local communities. A Letter of Understanding was signed with the regional governor to promote protection and support for displaced people. The Representative also met with the Ombudsperson's Office to discuss service access and with women community leaders to identify challenges and opportunities for UNHCR and partners to provide support.

On 29 and 30 May, UNHCR hosted the UNIQLO Foundation and UNHCR Japan to observe Peru's integration work through sports, focusing on the Los Astros baseball team. Comprised mostly of Venezuelan refugee children and local youth, the team's coach, players, and parents shared how sports support personal growth and community bonds. The visit highlighted sports as a powerful tool for protection, unity, and opportunities.

Context

On 14 May, Congress passed two more bills affecting displaced people. The first introduces a new nationality law that prevents statelessness but lacks provisions for refugees or stateless persons to gain citizenship. The second allows judges to expel foreign nationals convicted of crimes after serving two-thirds of a sentence of 10 years or less. Both are under Executive Branch review and will become law if not vetoed.

Also on 14 May, President Dina Boluarte named Eduardo Arana, former Minister of Justice and Human Rights, as President of the Council of Ministers after Gustavo Adriánzén resigned to avoid a censure vote. Three other ministers were also replaced: Economy and Finance, Interior, and Transport and Communications. The reshuffle comes amid continued political instability and public dissatisfaction over the government's handling of security and economic issues.

Peru's Justice and Human Rights Commission approved a proposal to transfer Women's Emergency Centres (CEMs) from the Ministry of Women to the Ministry of Justice. The preliminary ruling awaits Executive Branch approval. The move has raised concerns it could weaken the gender-sensitive services CEMs offer and cut the Ministry of Women's budget by 20 per cent. Critics warn the Ministry of Justice lacks the focus and expertise needed for women's protection.

These concerns arise amid high rates of violence against women. As of 30 April, 58 femicides were reported in Peru, mostly involving women aged 18–29, often killed by partners or ex-partners. Lima leads in cases, followed by Arequipa and La Libertad. Feminist and human rights groups urge the State to strengthen the Ministry of Women's role through better prevention, more shelters, and improved justice responses to gender-based violence.

-  **1.66M Venezuelans in Peru**
-  **More than 1M Venezuelans in Lima**
-  **539,983 asylum-seekers in Peru, primarily from Venezuela**
-  **2nd largest host country for forcibly displaced Venezuelans**
-  **32% of Venezuelan nationals in Peru live in monetary poverty***
-  **10% of Venezuelan nationals in Peru live in extreme poverty***

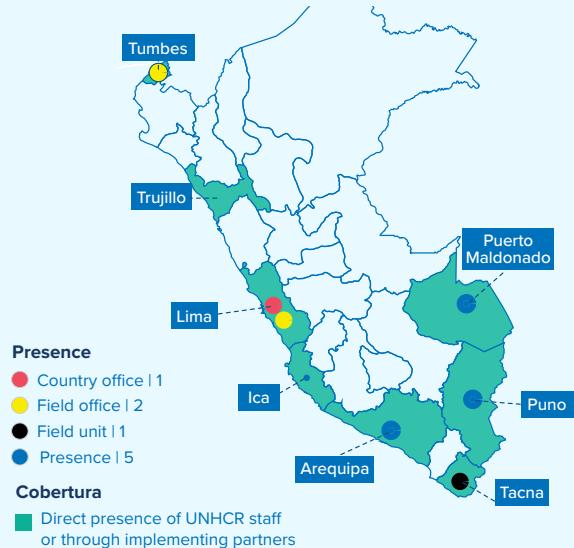
Key risks faced by forcibly displaced people:

Inability to generate income upon arrival | Monetary poverty | Negative coping mechanisms (child labor, sexual exploitation, begging for food)

These figures are currently under review following the completion of the asylum backlog validation process at the end of 2024.

*According to ENPOVE 2022.

UNHCR'S PRESENCE IN PERU



PROTECT

On 6 May, UNHCR in Ica joined the Ombudsperson's Office to promote childrens and adolescents rights amid growing digital engagement. Held at a local school, the event brought together public and civil society institutions, including the local health centre, UGEL Ica, the Women's Emergency Centre, the Mental Health Centre, and Encuentros. About 100 local and refugee children and adolescents participated.

In Carmen de la Legua, Lima, UNHCR and Encuentros trained 23 officials from the municipality's Human Development Department on international protection, referral pathways, and partnerships to support refugees, asylum-seekers, and vulnerable people. On 14 May, UNHCR met with the Municipal Office for the Defense of Children and Adolescents (DEMUNA) to establish a referral system for displaced children and adolescents. They also agreed to collaborate on community fairs and school workshops to promote rights and peaceful coexistence.



On 29 May, UNHCR participated in a session of the Local Coordination Mechanism for Development and Social Inclusion (IAL DIS), which monitors implementation of Peru's 'National Human Rights Policy to 2030'. It emphasized the need for stronger institutional outreach to meet inclusion goals, especially for displaced people. The initiative offers opportunities for UNHCR to engage in local forums and promote refugee inclusion in development and human rights efforts.

From 21 to 29 April, ID document solutions provider IN Groupe, funded by UNHCR, held a one-week training in Lima for staff from the Office of Technology and Office of Operations of the National Superintendence of Migration (SNM). The training is part of a project supporting SNM with a new secure ID card solution. This marks one of the final phases of the project, which began in 2021 and is set to conclude in August 2025.

UNHCR has published its border monitoring reports for Madre de Dios, Tacna and Tumbes, covering the last quarter of 2024. The reports share a characterisation of mixed movements entering through these borders, main needs and key findings to enhance the protection response.





RESPOND

On 17 May, UNHCR and the Municipality of San Juan de Lurigancho (Lima) held a service fair to support refugees and the local community. Over 150 people received protection and guidance. Encuentros offered support on documentation and psychosocial care; World Vision provided job counselling and children's activities; IFRC delivered medical and pharmacy services; and DIRIS Lima Centro conducted anemia screenings. Municipal offices including DEMUNA, CIAM, ULE, and OMAPED shared information on services. The district mayor attended and reaffirmed his commitment to working with UNHCR on refugee inclusion.

On 28 May, UNHCR and the Municipality of Chorrillos held a service fair to mark Early Education Day. Around 400 people attended, including parents, children, and staff from local schools and the National Early Childhood Education Programme. UNHCR and partners provided documentation support (Encuentros SJM), health services (IFRC), and education and employment guidance (World Vision), reaching 156 refugee and host community members. The event included play-based activities and promoted access to services, integration, and peaceful coexistence.

UNHCR and the Tumbes Regional Government's Social Development Office held a donation handover for three schools; El Triunfo, Julio César Olivera, and 7 de Enero; in Tumbes and Corrales. UNHCR provided recreational and sports supplies, benefiting over 2,400 students from refugee and host communities.

On 10 May, UNHCR and the Municipality of Surquillo held a multisectoral service fair for refugees and the local community. The event offered health, documentation, and employment support with several partner organizations. DEMUNA and CEM provided guidance on child protection and prevention of violence against women. IFRC offered medical consultations, and DIRIS Lima Centro provided vaccinations, physiotherapy, nutrition, and mental health services. Encuentros SJM supported attendees with documentation and psychosocial assistance, while World Vision offered employment and livelihoods advice.

In Tacna, UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of the "Comedor Municipal" Food and Nutrition Centre, managed by the Tacna Health Network and serving over 200 people daily, including refugees. Improvements included stair repairs and handrail installation for safer access, and the delivery of two surgical steel tables to improve food distribution efficiency and hygiene.

EMPOWER

On 3 May, UNHCR in Lima supported the final match of the baseball championship organized by community group Cuba Perú, held at the Legado Peruvian Sports Institute in Villa María del Triunfo. The event brought together over 80 refugee and local children and adolescents. As part of UNHCR's localisation efforts, the initiative promoted peaceful coexistence and inclusion through sport, fostering teamwork, respect, and appreciation of diversity.

On 13 May, the Ministry of Labour, in partnership with UNHCR and World Vision, held a networking event to promote workforce inclusion of vulnerable groups, including refugees. Over 140 companies attended, the event featured testimonials from people who had secured jobs, including a refugee woman who spoke about the challenges of relocating and the value of formal employment for integration. UNHCR also presented on the importance of refugees' economic inclusion in Peru.

On 27 May, UNHCR participated in the second "Sanmartiniana Employment Fair," organized with the Municipality of San Martín de Porres. The event brought together 30 companies offering over 500 job opportunities for refugees and the local community. World Vision Peru offered guidance on degree validation and employment, while SUNAFIL and SUNAT provided information on labour rights and job formalisation.

UNHCR referred two profiles of young refugees to Fundación Pachacútec, where they began IT Support and Assistance training. The programme equips vulnerable youth with technical and interpersonal skills alongside practical experience to support their entrance to the job market. Starting 31 May, the training opens opportunities in technology, telecommunications, customer service, education, and freelance work.

Who we work with:



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Anchored in Hope: A Family's Story of Courage and Renewal

Natali arrived in Peru from Venezuela four years ago with her family, seeking better opportunities and a safer environment. They settled in the Ica region, where she now lives with her husband and their three children aged 15, 20 and 23. Her eldest son, 23, suffers from motor paralysis.

Their journey to Peru wasn't easy. Natali traveled with her daughter and her son with cerebral palsy, while her husband and youngest child had made the journey earlier. She recalls the fear she felt, worried about her son's fragile health and the risks her daughter might face during the trip. But her determination to offer her family a better future gave her the strength to keep going.

Once in Peru, the family faced initial challenges, including a lack of shelter during their first days. However, with the support of generous individuals and humanitarian organizations, including UNHCR and its partners, their situation began to stabilise. Her husband found work, they managed to rent a small home, and the children resumed their studies.

In recent years, Natali and her family have continued working hard to improve their living conditions. When her husband suffered an accident that temporarily left him unable to work, it was a difficult period, but they overcame

it together. Natali also sought help when her residency documents expired, which impacted her ability to work legally. She connected with a UNHCR partner during an outreach event in Chincha and received personalized guidance.

Thanks to this support, Natali and her family have made significant progress. UNHCR and its partner aided with renewing her migration status and that of two other adult family members. Her eldest son is now in the process of obtaining a foreigner ID card (carné de extranjería), with active follow-up to ensure all requirements are met. The family also gained access to the public health insurance system (SIS), received a basic needs assistance card, and now have greater clarity on their rights and the services available to them.

Natali's story is one of perseverance and resilience, but also one that shows the importance of accessible information, documentation, and support. With the help of UNHCR and its partners, families like hers can move forward, rebuild their lives, and look to the future with renewed hope and dignity.

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



Belgium
partner in development



En colaboración con
Canada



german
humanitarian
assistance
DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



From
the People of Japan



KOICA



**Cooperación
Española**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederación suiza
Confederazione svizzera
Confédération suisse
Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



From the British people

Private donors: Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea and Spain

For more information,
please contact:

Yanet Bahena | bahena@unhcr.org
External Relations Officer

José Alvarado | alvaradj@unhcr.org
Associate Reporting Officer

unhcr.org/peru.html | Reporting
ACNUR Peru: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/unhcrperu) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/unhcrperu/)