

Venezuela

Global Appeal 2026 situation overview

Countries affected: Argentina MCO (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama MCO (Aruba, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago), Peru, Venezuela.



Michelle, a 27-year-old Venezuelan refugee, registered her biometric data to renew her residency card at the UNHCR reception center in San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima, Peru.
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2026 Population planning figures 7.8 million forcibly displaced people

Refugees and asylum-seekers
481,100



Other people in need of international protection
6.5 million

Others of concern
850,000

Population flows from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela remain steady across the region, underscoring ongoing migration and displacement dynamics despite some return movements. Nearly 7.89 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela now live abroad – the vast majority within Latin America and the Caribbean – many still requiring safety, stability, and access to basic services.

Following a 93 percent drop in northbound movements toward North America, regional flows are shifting south. Increasing numbers are settling in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and particularly in Brazil. Many move to reunite with family or seek livelihoods amid restrictive border policies and persistent hardship at home.

The refugee profile of the new movements is more pronounced, and asylum claims in these countries remain steady or are even increasing.

Host countries have demonstrated remarkable solidarity, launching major regularization and inclusion programmes to grant documentation and access to services. However, these initiatives require urgent international financial support to sustain progress, prevent exclusion, and promote stabilization and integration.

Across the region, nearly half of Venezuelan refugees and migrants report difficulties in meeting basic food needs and continue to face barriers to adequate housing, healthcare, and livelihoods. In some cases,

families resort to negative coping mechanisms, including debt, begging or survival sex, to meet daily needs.

Protection monitoring reveals that more than half of people on the move experience at least one protection incident, often on irregular routes. Those without documentation or sustainable income move to other southbound countries, exposing people to heightened risks of violence, exploitation, smuggling and trafficking.

In close collaboration with host governments, partner organizations, civil society, faith-based actors and UN agencies through the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), UNHCR provides protection, assistance, and support for integration throughout the region.

UNHCR and partners work to ensure access to territory, documentation, and asylum procedures, while providing legal counselling, humanitarian assistance, and community-based protection.



Budget needs for
Venezuela situation in 2026:
\$330 M

UNHCR also strengthens national registration and asylum systems, supports safe shelter networks and improves child protection, gender-based violence prevention and psychosocial services—particularly in border areas and urban centres.

To advance local integration, UNHCR partners with governments, municipalities, and the private sector to promote access to vocational training, livelihoods, regularization pathways, as well as employment opportunities.

Together with governments and civil society, UNHCR contributes to a sustainable and nationally led response that bridges humanitarian assistance and development initiatives, ensuring that refugees and migrants can live in safety and dignity while contributing to their host communities.



Angeles, a 30-year-old Venezuelan refugee, renews her residency card at UNHCR's reception center in Lima, Peru. A law graduate from Venezuela, she dreams of validating her degree to practice in Peru after overcoming challenges and working various jobs.
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