

# Peru

## December 2025 | Operational Update

### Key figures

 **163,602 people** assisted in 2025

#### PROTECTION

 **13,132 people** received services at border and transit points | **243 in December**

 **9,191 people** received legal assistance | **1,244 in December**

 **11,206 people** supported with case management | **1,320 in December**

 **222 women, girls and other vulnerable individuals** received specialized assistance | **9 in December**

 **284 children** received specialized child protection services | **15 in December**

#### BASIC NEEDS

 **1,735 people** supported with shelter | **31 in December**

 **10,558 kits** and core relief items delivered | **340 in December**

#### HEALTH

 **11,162 people** a received healthcare services | **925 in December**

### Funding

21% of UNHCR's financial requirements for Peru received by 31 December 2025



**79%**  
funding gap

**21%**  
funded

■ Tightly earmarked    ■ Unearmarked  
■ Earmarked        ■ Funding gap  
■ Softly earmarked

### Highlights

On 5 December, UNHCR and IOM Peru, co-leaders of the Refugee and Migrant Working Group (GTRM), launched the Peru chapter of the 2026 Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), bringing 53 partners together to assist **more than 600,000 people through an appeal of USD 153 million**. GTRM coordinators presented the results for 2025, and participants were briefed on the GTRM contingency planning exercise for potential large-scale movements at the northern border in Tumbes.

On 13 December, UNHCR completed the refurbishment and upgrading of the auditorium of the Casa de la Juventud in the district of Surquillo. The facility offers a high-quality, safe, and accessible space for cultural, musical, educational, and community activities. The project included comprehensive architectural and acoustic enhancements and is **expected to benefit approximately 8,000 members of the refugee and local communities each year**, supporting social cohesion and integration efforts.



UNHCR's Representative participated in an event held by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) in Lima on 18 December to present the **Monetary Poverty Report of the Venezuelan Population in Peru**. This report is based on findings from the National Household Survey Directed to the Venezuelan Population (ENAHOPV), developed with financial and technical support from UNHCR, the Joint Data Center (JDC), and the World Bank. It measures monetary poverty among Venezuelans using national standards, providing robust evidence to guide public policy and humanitarian responses. **Notably, this is the first report of its kind in Latin America**. A second report on the living conditions of the Venezuelan population in Peru will be released in 2026, expanding on the insights presented in the monetary poverty report.

On December 16, as part of the **"Safe Future for Migrant Children"** project led by the National Superintendence of Migration (SNM), 46 foreign students from School República Oriental del Uruguay in Los Olivos, Lima, regularized their legal status and obtained their Foreigner ID Cards. This milestone was made possible thanks to UNHCR's support, including the coverage of administrative fees and technical assistance to the SNM in Lima. An additional 208 students in four other schools in Los Olivos and Chorrillos were also supported with their regularization, bringing the total number of students reached by **UNHCR to 254**.

## Context



**1.66M Venezuelans** in Peru



**539,983 asylum-seekers** in Peru, primarily from Venezuela



**32% of Venezuelan nationals** in Peru live in monetary poverty\*



**More than 1M Venezuelans** in Lima



**2nd largest host country** for forcibly displaced Venezuelans



**10% of Venezuelan nationals** in Peru live in extreme poverty\*



### Key risks faced by forcibly displaced people:

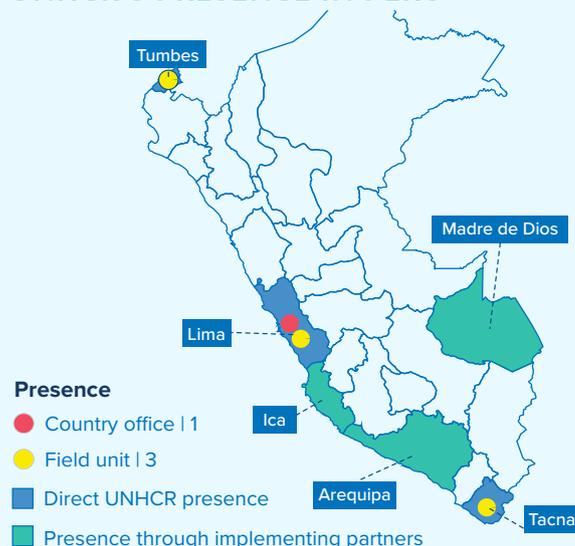
Inability to generate income upon arrival | Monetary poverty | Negative coping mechanisms (child labor, sexual exploitation, begging for food)

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

\*According to ENPOVE 2022.

On 15 December, Peru enacted Law No. 32527, granting the Executive legislative powers for a period of 60 days to strengthen citizen security, combat organised crime, and reinforce institutional frameworks. These measures include the establishment of a national statelessness determination system; amendments to the 2002 Refugee Law; the strengthening of identity verification and interoperability under the Migration Law; and a requirement for the Executive Branch to submit a written report to Congress within 60 days of issuing the corresponding legislative decrees.

## UNHCR'S PRESENCE IN PERU



The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the migration authorities of Peru and Chile met in Tacna on 9 December for the first meeting of the *Peru–Chile Consular and Migration Working Group*. The meeting focused on strengthening information exchange between the consular and migration authorities of both countries and jointly identifying the profiles and needs of third-country nationals at the Peru–Chile border.



## PROTECT

UNHCR and the Judiciary of Peru co-hosted the Fourth National Congress on Access to Justice for Refugees on 15 December. The programme featured high-level keynote sessions attended by 80 participants, including judges, judicial staff, and key actors from the justice system and working groups, where **30 judges from 10 Superior Courts nationwide engaged** to address challenges in delivering justice for refugees across labor, family, criminal, and constitutional matters.

In December, **15 refugee women leaders completed the Judicial Advisors Programme**, a prerequisite for their accreditation by the Judiciary. The one-month course was implemented through cooperation between UNHCR and the Judiciary. Once accredited, these advisors will provide free guidance and support to individuals seeking access to the Peruvian justice system.

The third edition of the Financial Inclusion Guide for Refugees and Migrants was launched on 16 December. Developed by the SNM, the Superintendency of Banking and Insurance, the Ministry of Economy, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with UNHCR's support, the guide targets financial institutions, insurance and pension systems, cooperatives, and related public and private entities to foster trust in providing financial services to refugees and migrants, **creating opportunities for their socio-economic integration in Peru**.

On December 19, UNHCR participated as a speaker at the 2025 Annual Ombudsperson's Convention, **addressing forced displacement driven by climate change**. This space enabled an exchange with over 60 commissioners from the Ombudsperson's Office nationwide on the role of the institution in safeguarding the rights of refugee populations affected by climate change, as well as States' obligations to prevent new displacements. Discussions also focused on the inclusion of refugee populations in Peru within mitigation, response, and recovery plans, and on developing measures to respond in the event of large-scale arrivals of people displaced by disasters.



UNHCR, in coordination with its partner KFHI and the Local Educational Management Unit (UGEL) 03, delivered a training session on 23 December for 25 leaders of community-based organizations (CBOs) in Metropolitan Lima and Callao. The session focused on the 2026 digital enrollment process and aimed to strengthen CBOs' capacity **to support the enrollment of refugee and displaced children and adolescents in the national education system**. During the event, UGEL 03 reaffirmed its commitment to provide technical assistance and maintain coordination with these organizations to ensure that children and adolescents affected by forced displacement can exercise their right to education.

On December 22, UNHCR concluded a 10 weeks registration exercise in San Martín de Porres, carried out with support from Encuentros, the Local Registration Unit, and technical guidance from the Social Targeting and Information Agency (OFIS). **The initiative identified over 7,000 families for socioeconomic classification to assess eligibility for State and local social protection programmes**. Preliminary findings show that approximately 41 per cent of households are classified as poor and more than 3 per cent as extremely poor, regardless of nationality. The exercise covered most zones of the district, home to a large population of refugees and asylum-seekers.



## RESPOND

Between 6 and 19 December, UNHCR, its partners and state institutions supported a series of Service Fairs across Lima, Tumbes and Tacna, **reaching over 450 refugees and members of host communities and strengthening access to essential services** through coordinated, multi-partner responses. In Lima, Service Fairs were held with the municipalities of San Martín de Porres and San Juan de Lurigancho, as well as a community event in Central Lima, providing health services, documentation and asylum guidance, school enrolment support, livelihoods assistance, GBV prevention, and child protection, with the use of **UNHCR's Mobile Protection Space** for specialised assistance. In Tumbes, a Service Fair in Contralmirante Villar delivered support on asylum procedures, primary health care, immunisation, nutrition, psychosocial assistance and migration guidance in coordination with partners and local authorities. In Tacna, the final GTRM Service Fair of the year enabled refugees to access health, nutrition, legal orientation and case management services. Collectively, these activities strengthen UNHCR's footprint and improved timely access to protection and basic services for refugees and host communities.



On 19 December, UNHCR completed the improvement works of three health centres in Tumbes, at the border with Ecuador. At the CLAS Corrales Health Centre, the emergency room was expanded; at the Gerardo Gonzales Villegas Health Centre, upgrades were made to the obstetric room, waste management area, laboratory, and admission facilities; and at the Virgen del Cisne Community Mental Health Centre, protection and safe-care spaces were enhanced. These architectural and functional improvements aim to strengthen the capacity of these facilities to deliver quality health services and are **expected to benefit some 2,000 refugee and host community members every year**.

In December, UNHCR made two donations in support of community-based initiatives assisting refugees in Tumbes. On 9 December, UNHCR donated four shelving units to the Nuestra Señora de Lourdes community kitchen, one of the spaces where several outreach activities have been carried out in collaboration with the CBO Desarrollo Social Contralmirante Villar. In addition, on 11 December, UNHCR delivered kitchen utensils to the

organisation ASEMU, which will be used in its cooking and baking workshops for refugee women. These workshops complement ASEMU's dialogue spaces with women survivors of gender-based violence and aim to promote their economic autonomy.



In Tacna, structural improvements were made at the Justo Arias Araguez Educational Institution, **an intervention that will benefit 139 schoolchildren**, including refugee children.

## EMPOWER

To promote peaceful coexistence, and in the context of the Christmas season, UNHCR held an intercultural and intergenerational breakfast on 13 December with the Tacna Youth Network and elderly members of the refugee and local community. During the gathering, participants shared a breakfast featuring Venezuelan and Peruvian food. **The activity brought together more than 30 children and adolescents from the Youth Network and 20 older adults**, who received Christmas placemats made by the youth.

On 28 December, the Municipality of San Martín de Porres, with UNHCR's support, held the finals of the second edition of the Copa San Martín, a month-long football tournament in which

## SOLVE

**more than 500 children and youth from the refugee and local community participated.** During the closing ceremony, the Mayor highlighted UNHCR's support in activities that foster integration.

During the reporting period, UNHCR advanced resettlement processing to New Zealand through successive interview rounds, progressively increasing readiness against the annual quota. In total, 84 individuals were interviewed, of whom 65 were deemed eligible for resettlement. Refugee resettlement transforms lives by providing safety and a long-term solution for individuals and families.

Who we work with:



Asociación Protección Población Vulnerable



Cáritas Madre de Dios



ENCUENTROS Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes acompañar • servir • defender



AMIGOS DE SAN CARLOS SCALABRIANOS



Socios En Salud Partners In Health





# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

## A young refugee finds her place in Peru through dance

Through every step of the marineria, a traditional dance from northern Peru, Michelle shows how people forced to flee can help preserve the traditions of their new country and contribute to its culture.

Her long skirt opens in the air as her bare feet move swiftly and precisely, tracing firm and elegant turns. Michelle lifts her white handkerchief and smiles under the orange light of a Lima sunset. When she dances marineria, the Peruvian dance she learned after arriving in the country that welcomed her, her worries fade away. What remains is the music, the rhythm, and an emotion that runs through her entire body. "Dance is a form of liberation for me," she says. On stage, Michelle is not only a young dancer, but also a story of refuge, effort, and belonging.

Michelle is 19 years old and a Venezuelan refugee in Peru, the country hosting 1.66 million Venezuelans, the second-largest number abroad worldwide. She arrived in Lima 10 years ago with her parents, when she was just nine. Her family was forced to flee their home in Venezuela. At the time, Michelle did not understand why they were leaving or what Peru was like. Over time, this country became her home, and dance became her path.

At school in Lima, a dance teacher from northern Peru introduced her to the marineria. Although she learned several styles, it was this dance, shaped by Indigenous, African, and Spanish influences, that captured her heart. "I know more about Peru than about my own country," Michelle admits. "I grew up here, studied Peruvian history at school, and now at university. It makes me happy."

Michelle never felt like she was treated differently because of her nationality. "I was always just Michelle, one more in the group," she says.

UNHCR works with national and local authorities to support people forced to flee, including with access to documentation, as in Michelle's case.

Today, Michelle studies at the National School of Folklore José María Arguedas in Lima. She dreams of becoming a professional dancer and helping ensure Peru's cultural traditions are preserved.

"I am proud to be Venezuelan," she says, "and I deeply respect the country that welcomed me."

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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