

Annual Results Report

2025

Venezuela

Acknowledgements

UNHCR would like to thank all the stakeholders that contributed data and evidence to this report and reviewed their progress against the joint results of the strategy, including forcibly displaced and stateless people, host communities and host governments, United Nations agencies, and international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector. Their contributions enable us to create positive changes in the lives of the people we serve.

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

Downloaded date: 08/05/2026

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2025, the operational context was marked by political tensions, strained relations with international actors, institutional weaknesses and socioeconomic challenges affecting access to rights and basic services. Emphasis on national security, together with political, security and economic constraints, limited community participation and contributed to growing mistrust. High poverty, inflation and currency devaluation reduced purchasing power and constrained public investment in health, education and other essential services. Barriers to civil documentation persisted, particularly for children, people born abroad and Indigenous communities, limiting their access to formal social programmes and heightening vulnerability.

Mobility patterns showed fewer departures and more returns and internal movements. Among people assisted in 2025, 52 per cent were returnees, 36 per cent were leaving the country and 12 per cent had relocated internally. Returnees and internally relocated people faced limited access to livelihoods, social protection, housing and basic services in their areas of return or relocation. Authorities estimated that 1.2 million people have returned in recent years, underscoring the need for sustained support to reintegration. Administrative obstacles continued to affect asylum-seekers' and refugees' access to procedures and documentation, constraining admission to public services. Coordination with national protection and documentation institutions, including the Ombudsperson's Office and the Child Protection System, remained critical to strengthen capacities and facilitate access to rights. Budget reductions led to programme closures and prioritization of core protection activities, reducing UNHCR's field presence. Despite financial constraints affecting humanitarian coordination structures, UNHCR maintained its leadership of the Protection Cluster and the Infrastructure and Shelter Working Group.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Affected populations have increased access to, and enjoyment of, fundamental rights.

In 2025, a restrictive security and economic context weakened the capacity of some duty bearers, like the ombudsman's office, CONARE, the child protection system, municipal social protection offices, among other across the country. Even so, forcibly displaced and stateless people experienced incremental gains toward more reliable access to rights and services. Political and economic tensions continued to affect refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees, among issues posing barriers to access important services like late birth registration. However, access to information, counselling, and complaints mechanisms improved in priority locations as a result of interventions by UNHCR and its partners.

Rights-based legal counselling activities reached 11,357 forcibly displaced people and individuals facing barriers to birth registration. This support eased administrative bottlenecks, facilitated documentation efforts, and mitigated protection risks for those with the most limited access to basic services. Protection monitoring made it possible to identify the main protection risks in communities, including gender-based violence, and risks of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation against children. It also highlighted the main needs at the community level, particularly legal assistance and psychosocial support. The findings from these surveys informed the local workplans implemented by UNHCR and partners, enabling the refinement of referral pathways, the prioritization of areas with the most significant barriers, and improved access to redress mechanisms.

Regarding international protection, UNHCR supported the National Commission for Refugees in its participation in the Cartagena +40 Process. This engagement helped sustain dialogue on standards and procedures, ensuring that international protection remained on the institutional agenda despite a constrained operating environment.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

All refugees and asylum-seekers, returnees, people in mobility and their host communities enjoy significant improvement in their enjoyment of basic rights.

People with and for whom UNHCR works meet their basic needs while their exposure to protection risks is reduced.

In 2025, the humanitarian response in Venezuela reached 2.1 million people, representing 41 per cent of the HRP target, 42 per cent of whom were women and girls, with activities in 314 municipalities. Within this architecture, UNHCR implemented programmes in priority municipalities, providing protection and solutions support to 98,556 forcibly displaced persons and persons at risk of statelessness.

Returnees, refugees, people at risk of displacement and those facing barriers to late birth registration encountered obstacles to exercising their rights, including access to legal documentation. Some barriers were linked to legal formalities, others to the distance to public offices, and others to the ability to meet requirements or pay fees. In response to these formal, physical and economic barriers, UNHCR provided in-kind support to help people exercise their rights. UNHCR facilitated access to key procedures such as refugee status determination, late birth registration and the issuance of legal documentation, helping to reduce barriers to services and lower exposure to protection risks for people with limited means to navigate administrative systems.

UNHCR strengthened collaboration with UNDP and FAO to reinforce community resilience and help break

the cycle of displacement through the Community Resilience Portfolio. The creation of communal service hubs under the CEPROD methodology enabled 13,818 individuals to access rights and services in their communities, in complementarity with local authorities.

Broader community investments supported 50 communities through the rehabilitation and equipping of community centres and protection institutions. These improvements enhanced response capacity and service delivery close to where people live and benefited 102,462 people, contributing to safer environments and better living conditions for the communities UNHCR works with and for, including host communities.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Affected populations become self-reliant and reintegrate, and those with international protection needs access local integration, voluntary repatriation and resettlement.

In 2025, refugees, asylum-seekers and other persons under UNHCR's mandate in Venezuela, including returnees, continued to access core protection and basic assistance, reducing exposure to risks and strengthening community resilience. Despite budget constraints, specialized gender-based violence and child protection services were preserved and strategically integrated into broader programmes. Communities played a greater role in improving their own protection environment, as the people with and for whom UNHCR works were increasingly involved in identifying risks, proposing solutions and providing feedback. This enhanced trust, accountability to affected populations and the relevance of interventions, while relations between displaced populations and host communities improved, supporting social cohesion. Progress toward durable solutions advanced despite structural obstacles. Returnees had better access to information and counselling to support their reintegration, enabling them to obtain identity documentation for themselves and their children and to access information on education, livelihoods and banking services, in coordination with development actors and local authorities. Refugees and asylum-seekers continued their local integration through access to refugee status determination, regularization with SAIME for recognized refugees, economic inclusion activities, banking services and government social programmes. Information on voluntary repatriation remained available, and some refugees returned to their countries of origin.

Refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and people at risk of displacement participated in empowerment and social cohesion activities together with host communities, further strengthening their resilience and supporting integration or reintegration processes. Overall, the 2025 results show that, despite severe resource constraints, UNHCR and its partners reinforced community resilience, expanded access to essential protection services and improved the response to protection risks through close coordination with national authorities and development actors, ensuring that protection pathways remained operational in a complex environment.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2025, progress unfolded in a complex environment marked by political tensions, institutional limitations and socioeconomic stressors that constrained access to rights and basic services. National security priorities, reduced community participation and rising social mistrust shaped local dynamics and limited humanitarian access. Structural barriers to civil documentation persisted, especially for children, people born abroad and Indigenous communities, restricting inclusion in formal programmes and heightening vulnerability.

Administrative hurdles in international protection procedures and documentation continued to affect refugees and asylum-seekers, delaying their enrolment in social programmes and access to inclusion opportunities. Human mobility trends confirmed the pattern of the past three years, with fewer departures

and more returns and internal movements. Human mobility monitoring in 2025 indicated that 59 per cent of interviewees were returnees and 41 per cent were leaving the country; these figures informed planning but did not represent overall movements.

Severe budget reductions required drastic adjustments, including cuts in UNHCR staffing and transfers to partners, a scale-down of activities and the suspension of operations in Falcón and Apure. The closure of the Santa Elena de Uairén (Bolívar) and Carúpano (Sucre) field units left the eastern region without a regular UNHCR presence, prompting geographic reprioritization and the concentration of limited resources in fewer communities to sustain key interventions.

Despite these constraints, the operation recalibrated its protection strategy to maintain core services through protection service hubs in key areas. This model concentrates multisectoral assistance in strategic locations, in cooperation with local authorities, mitigating the impact of a reduced territorial footprint and helping ensure that people most at risk can still access essential support and protection pathways.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2025, UNHCR Venezuela promoted the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) through the UNCT Common Pledge 2.0 on return and reintegration. Applying the humanitarian–development–peace nexus with UNDP and FAO, the Community Resilience Portfolio supported 29,032 people in Zulia, Táchira, Miranda and Bolívar through CEPROD one-stop service hubs integrating legal, psychosocial and livelihood services, contributing to GCR Objective 4 and SDG 16.

UNHCR led the Inter-Agency Nexus Group and Outcome 1.4 on disaster risk reduction and, with UNICEF, strengthened disaster risk governance and community preparedness in Amazonas, Apure, Sucre and Táchira. Within the humanitarian architecture, UNHCR led the Protection and Shelter/NFI clusters and later co-led the Infrastructure/Shelter working group with IOM, ensuring that protection principles informed collective analysis, CBPF allocations and cross-sectoral responses

Private sector alliances expanded inclusion opportunities and supported basic needs. Support from Goodwill Ambassador María Daniela Velasco and partnerships with Banco Plaza, UNIMET and Mundo Total promoted financial inclusion, entrepreneurship training and material assistance. Field Units mobilized local networks, including Supermercados Garzón, COBECA, Grupo San Simón and Universidad Rafael Belloso, and sports partners Academia Paria and Deportivo Táchira, to support internships, health brigades and Sport for Protection activities.

Service delivery was reinforced through projects with eight funded partners, including local organizations Caritas Venezuela, Cruz Roja Zulia and Fundación Vivienda Popular, and through engagement with the Ombudsperson's Office (DdP) and CONARE. In partnership with FUNDELEC, UNHCR rehabilitated photovoltaic systems in community spaces in an isolated Indigenous community in Bolívar, improving access to energy, creating safer spaces and mitigating protection risks, including gender-based violence and child protection concerns.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

2023 Affected populations, including refugees and asylum-seekers, have access to documentation and protection redress.

Affected populations have access to documentation and protection redress

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to documentation and protection improved in prioritized locations, with UNHCR-supported services enabling refugees, asylum-seekers and returning Venezuelans to overcome key legal and administrative barriers. UNHCR provided legal counselling to 512 people on refugee status determination (RSD), documentation and related entitlements, helping them stabilize and reduce exposure protection risks.

UNHCR supported CONARE's participation in the Cartagena +40 Process and capacity building initiatives to strengthen technical expertise among their staff. This resulted in a certain openness to receiving cases. For returnees, tailored legal assistance helped 605 individuals address documentation gaps, obtain late birth registration for children born abroad, and connect to public services. Risk of statelessness was reduced through 275 nationality recognitions enabling access to identity, education, health, and social protection.

Eight civil registry offices were rehabilitated, improving conditions for birth registration and access to nationality for 16,565 people. UNHCR also engaged with the Ombudsperson's Office through a joint workplan, rehabilitating a local office and strengthening the Caracas office through the donation of equipment.

In coordination with the Ombudsperson's Office and the Child Protection System, two community brigades to place children in foster families were carried out for children whose parents had been displaced. A total of 76 children gained access to this measure and consequently to national ID, mitigating the risks they face in displacement contexts. This could represent an opportunity to articulate a structured response to these situations by involving the Ombudsman's Office, Child Protection Authorities, and local authorities.

UNHCR worked with CONARE and the Ombudsperson's Office to deliver a specialized course on international protection standards, including non-refoulement and access to asylum procedures, for 60 army personnel and migration officials at Maiquetía international airport and in the border state of Táchira. This effort enhanced compliance with protection obligations, facilitated admission to the territory and helped prevent refoulement.

UNHCR continued working in waystations for people on the move, particularly for those returning to the country or people in internal mobility. In total, 10,449 individuals received assistance in UNHCR supported waystations, including legal guidance, information on risks during displacement and referral pathways, and psychosocial first aid.

To address the complex mixed mobility context, UNHCR maintained cross-border monitoring cooperation, information sharing, and bilateral coordination mechanisms with UNHCR mirror offices in Colombia and Brazil.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

2023 Incidence of gender-based violence among affected populations, including refugees and asylum-seekers, is reduced and access to gender-based violence safety-nets and redress is increased.

GBV survivors have adequate and timely access to quality services and stakeholders are actively engaged in GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, specialized gender-based violence services in Venezuela remained a protection lifeline for refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees, despite tighter funding. By year-end, 39 refugees and 1,088 other persons under UNHCR's mandate accessed specialized gender-based violence programs. Although the absolute number of persons attended was lower than in 2024, both groups exceeded 2025 targets (10 and 440, respectively). Performance accelerated in the second half of the year, growing from 0 to 39 refugees and from 243 to >1,000 others, driven by better identification, stronger referrals, and prioritization of those at highest risk.

Integrating GBV case management for entry points into community-based protection mechanisms ensured earlier identification and safe, confidential, multisectoral support. This approach optimized limited resources, prioritizing persons at high risk without compromising the quality of care or the ability to exceed annual targets across population groups.

Progress was underpinned by the 2025 UNHCR–UNFPA joint workplan, which framed national and subnational engagement. In Táchira, Miranda, Sucre and Zulia, UNHCR and UNFPA worked with municipal women's institutes, health providers and local protection mechanisms to update referral pathways and strengthen institutional capacity through strategically located service hubs. Joint initiatives trained public officials and community leaders on survivor-centered approaches and safe referrals. Multisectoral service days and community sensitization on GBV increased disclosure and safer access to services for women, men, girls and boys.

Sustainability relied on a broad ecosystem. Local authorities and public health providers were fundamental for implementation of the joint workplan. Within the UNHCR–UNFPA framework, these actors maintained a functioning prevention and response system that—though smaller than in prior years—reduced exposure to GBV and strengthened coping mechanisms among the most vulnerable.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Children at risk are included in national child protection systems and have access to child friendly procedures and services

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, the implementation of child protection services underwent a strategic recalibration, shifting from high volume outreach to a model anchored in the national protection system and focused on more intensive case management. Among other people under UNHCR's mandate, including returnees, 366 children and caregivers received specialized child protection services by year-end. While this total fell short of the 2025 target of 560, the trend showed a clear upward trajectory, with a marked increase from 238 cases at mid-year after the financial landscape had become clearer.

This shift from the 5,500 individuals reached in 2024 reflects a deliberate transition from one-off, large-scale responses to a more sustainable, resource-intensive approach focusing on the most vulnerable cases. For

refugees and asylum-seekers, no cases required specialized partner intervention in 2025 (compared to 8 in 2024). This is primarily because most children of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country are Venezuelan by birth; consequently, their protection needs and the assistance provided are captured under the “other people of concern” category, ensuring they are supported through national systems and community-based mechanisms.

UNHCR’s contribution focused on ensuring that children under the Office’s mandate were systematically included in national coordination and referral mechanisms. By mainstreaming child protection risks within broader legal and basic assistance programming, the operation facilitated a more structured identification of children at risk. Through technical support, UNHCR assisted key civil society partners, such as the National Association of Protection Councillors (ASONACOP, by its Spanish acronym), in implementing standardized referral pathways from community entry points to state-led services, particularly for birth registration, access to other fundamental rights, and reintegration. For other populations under UNHCR mandate, this systemic support translated into more consistent identification and rigorous follow-up, ensuring that, despite the reduction in absolute numbers compared to 2024, the quality and sustainability of interventions were strengthened.

A central element of this progress was coordination with the Protection Cluster Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR), which provided a network for safe referrals and technical support for implementing child-friendly approaches and methodologies within protection service hubs. National and municipal child protection institutions, social services, education and health providers, together with local NGOs, community leaders, and child- and youth-led groups, contributed to early identification, safe disclosure, and access to child-friendly procedures and services for children at risk among refugees, asylum-seekers, and other people of concern.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

2023 Communities have the resources to achieve self-management and help each other to address their needs.

Communities support returnees to reintegrate and peacefully coexist

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, community-based protection and engagement mechanisms in Venezuela strengthened the capacity of local structures to support the reintegration of returnees and foster peaceful coexistence. Community protection services reached 1,172 refugees and 24,762 other persons under UNHCR’s mandate, including returnees, by year-end. This reflects a deliberate shift toward a more targeted and sustained engagement model in priority locations where returnees and host communities interact. By prioritizing the quality of engagement over absolute volume, the operation helped ensure that reintegration support remained culturally sensitive and attuned to community-specific protection risks.

Participation and accountability indicators also point to deeper community agency. The number of individuals using UNHCR-supported feedback and response mechanisms rose to 120 refugees and 1,011 others, surpassing annual targets and indicating strong confidence in these channels. Participatory assessments consulted 56 refugees and 420 others; while the refugee figure approached its target, outreach to other people of concern exceeded expectations. These trends confirm that communities, including returnees and their hosts, had regular opportunities to identify barriers to reintegration and influence the design of protection interventions.

UNHCR contributed to these outcomes by consolidating 3 Protection Service Hubs using the CEPROD (Community Engagement for Protection and Development) methodology. In municipalities with high concentrations of returnees, these hubs functioned as community epicentres, integrating protection services—such as legal counselling, child protection and GBV response—with community development

initiatives, including social cohesion and livelihoods support. By offering safe, accessible spaces with clear protocols regarding non-discrimination, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and feedback mechanisms, the service hubs fostered trust and helped reduce social tensions. Structured community participation in the design and monitoring of these hubs supported the gradual and peaceful reintegration of returnees into their host communities.

The sustainability of these efforts relied on a multi-stakeholder network. Municipal authorities and community councils increasingly integrated the hubs into local planning and, where possible, budgeting frameworks. Women's groups, youth initiatives, and community networks used these spaces to lead joint problem-solving regarding access to documentation and services. Civil society organizations and other UN agencies complemented UNHCR's work by providing specialized services within or linked to the hubs.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

2023 Affected populations, including refugees and asylum-seekers have access to basic items.

Affected populations have access to assistance and services for basic and emergency needs based on their socioeconomic vulnerabilities and capacities

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR improved material protection assistance through a pilot on protection case management and durable solutions in areas covered by the Caracas and San Cristóbal offices. A total of 212 people (102 returnees, 70 refugees, 22 other people of concern and 18 host community members) accessed case management that strengthened their protection and pathways to solutions. Additionally, 3,124 people received psychosocial support, mainly psychological first aid (505 returnees, 57 refugees, 2,482 other persons of concern and 70 host community members), enabling the operation to maximize resources amid financial reprioritizations.

Material assistance reached 212 people to meet legal needs, covering documentation and transportation costs for forcibly displaced and stateless people. This support enabled access to rights, completion of documentation procedures and refugee status determination processes – such as transportation to CONARE offices – as well as the issuance of refugee visas and civil birth registration. Efforts also supported returnees in securing documents essential for reintegration and access to services.

UNHCR provided relief items and essential supplies to 1,064 individuals, including 113 refugees, 277 returnees and 531 other persons under UNHCR's mandate, especially those at risk of displacement.

Assistance delivered directly and through partners, prioritized people with specific needs, such as survivors of gender-based violence, people with reduced mobility, children under institutional care, people on the move and vulnerable host community members. Kits – including solar lamps, jerry cans, mosquito nets, hygiene items and basic household supplies – supported people affected by floods and displacement.

Targeted inputs, such as solar lighting for critical routes and public spaces, reinforced essential services and community resilience and helped mitigate recurrent challenges related to power outages, irregular water supply and vector-borne diseases, contributing to safer and more dignified living conditions.

UNHCR also contributed to safer access to basic items and services by linking community preparedness with local risk governance in high-exposure areas. Through technical assistance, targeted equipment and coordination with municipal and first-response institutions, operational readiness and risk monitoring were reinforced in ten municipalities across Amazonas, Apure, Aragua, Bolívar, La Guaira, Miranda, Sucre, Táchira and Zulia. Twenty-one risk management processes enabled committees – particularly in areas of return and reintegration – to reduce hazard impacts through multi hazard planning, drills, community early warning practices and solar lighting in critical sites. Joint work under the Disaster Preparedness Consortium strengthened institutional engagement and the coherence of local preparedness efforts, contributing to more predictable and sustainable linkages between communities and authorities.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

2023 Affected populations, including refugees and asylum-seekers have better access to self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods.

Affected populations have access to decent employment and self-employment opportunities

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR Venezuela registered tangible progress in livelihoods and economic inclusion outcomes for refugees, returnees, and host communities. Outcome indicators reflect increased access to market-relevant skills and income generation pathways among prioritized populations—particularly women at risk of displacement and returnees—with 847 individuals participating in livelihood programmes across La Guaira, Miranda, Sucre, and Zulia. All training activities were implemented after August to align with updated market conditions and operational priorities. This participation was associated with a reduction in barriers to market entry, such as lack of basic equipment and business planning tools, and a reduction in exposure to protection risks linked to economic instability, as beneficiaries strengthened their self-reliance.

UNHCR contributed to these positive changes by consolidating operational partnerships with two funded partners and deepening strategic alliances with UNDP and FAO under the Community Resilience Portfolio. The joint initiative integrated sustainable livelihoods and economic inclusion approaches designed to break the cycle of displacement and support the reintegration of returnees. UNHCR's targeted support—including the provision of in-kind seed capital—enabled participants to initiate or expand income-generating activities, reducing the dependency on negative coping mechanisms and improving economic self-reliance, in line with the operation's outcomes framework.

Engagement from other stakeholders was instrumental. Technical and training institutions—including Instituto Técnico Jesús Obrero, the Chamber of Commerce Fedeindustria Sucre, Universidad Rafael Belloso Chacín, and the Cira Vega School of Arts and Crafts—codesigned and delivered market-oriented training aligned with local market demands, which improved employability. Local governments strengthened municipal economic empowerment offices, expanding institutional support for displaced and returning populations in UNHCR's areas of operation, which contributed to more predictable referral pathways and reduced access gaps for livelihood services.

Through these combined efforts, communities accessed market relevant skills, business development methodologies (e.g., the Business Model Canvas), and enhanced institutional support structures, contributing to a measurable reduction in practical barriers to economic participation among targeted groups. While no livelihood activities are planned for 2026 due to funding constraints, economic inclusion remains a strategic pillar of UNHCR's protection and solutions approach and will be reactivated should new funding become available.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

People with and for whom UNHCR works have effective access to local services in Venezuela, including via voluntary repatriation and reintegration

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, with returns as the dominant mobility trend, the operation prioritized the strengthening of conditions for sustainable reintegration so that people could access local services more reliably in their communities. UNHCR was one among many actors contributing to these advances.

Targeted support for returnees provided concrete gains in access to rights and services. UNHCR and partners assisted 13,500 returnees through protection and solutions interventions that supported documentation, linkage to public programmes and safer reintegration pathways, which in turn reduced the risk of secondary movements.

Access was further improved through a reoriented service model built around community service hubs in areas with a high presence of returnees. These hubs operated as practical one-stop access points where State institutions, UNHCR and other organizations offered complementary services such as legal counselling, documentation, psychosocial support, livelihoods and inclusion services. Through the hubs, 13,818 people, including 2,655 returnees, accessed services that accelerated case resolution, eased administrative bottlenecks and strengthened safe and dignified service delivery at the local level.

Partnerships with development actors reinforced these outcomes. Together with UNDP and FAO, the Community Resilience Portfolio advanced 13 multisector initiatives in prioritized communities and strengthened institutional, socioeconomic and protection capacities under a territorial and triple nexus approach. State and municipal governments were central counterparts and enabled the establishment of the community service hubs and the roll out of portfolio initiatives under their jurisdictions. In this sense, UNHCR focused its efforts throughout 2025 on strengthening its relationships of trust and joint work with local authorities in all prioritized areas. This made it possible to keep humanitarian activities open and to develop joint actions for protection and durable solutions for the people with and for whom we work, which were also included in the public agenda of those localities.

By year end, people served by UNHCR had more effective access to local services in prioritized areas. The combination of community service hubs, municipal partnerships and investments in efforts to increase resilience translated into more predictable access to documentation, basic services and specialized protection services, with measurable benefits for returnees and other groups under UNHCR's mandate and with national and local actors better positioned to sustain these gains beyond the reporting period.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2025, UNHCR Venezuela advanced the Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) Policy by resuming the Participatory Assessment and consolidating inclusive programming. Between July and September, 39 focus groups and an individual survey engaged 494 people—including returnees, IDPs, refugees, asylum-seekers and local authorities—with disaggregation by sex, age, disability, ethnicity and SOGIESC. This evidence, together with the AGD Action Plan review, informed adjustments to community-based interventions and confirmed steady AGD mainstreaming across sectors. Participation and inclusion were reinforced through Protection Service Hubs using a participatory management model that gives communities a leading role in designing and implementing activities.

Governance and service design are community-driven and supported by bidirectional feedback channels—safe hotlines, suggestion boxes and dialogue spaces—integrated with protocols for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. These mechanisms promote transparency and document how community input drives operational changes and strategic priorities, strengthening local ownership and trust. The service hub model puts gender and disability inclusion at its core. Recognizing that mobility and return affect specific groups differently, each centre offers links to specialized gender-based violence services in confidential, survivor-centred spaces while promoting women's leadership.

Beyond removing physical barriers, disability inclusion entails universal accessibility—information in diverse, accessible formats—and proactive identification through protection monitoring and case management to enable reasonable accommodation that respects the autonomy and dignity of all. Continuous capacity building for UNHCR staff and partners on AGD, prevention and response to gender-based violence, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse remains essential to address gaps and sustain these efforts.

Section 3: Resources

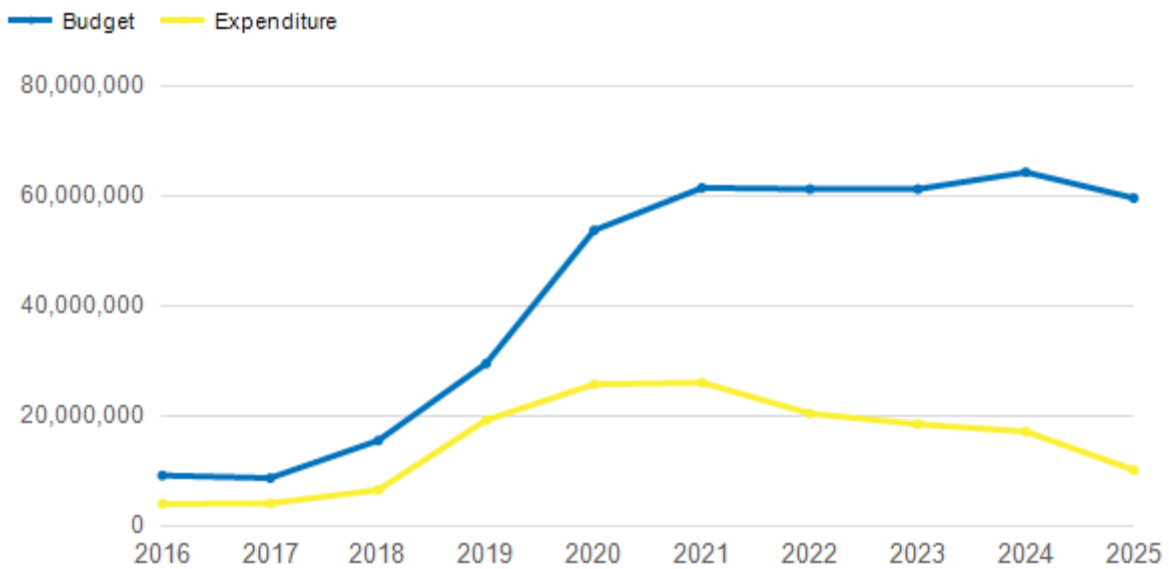
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

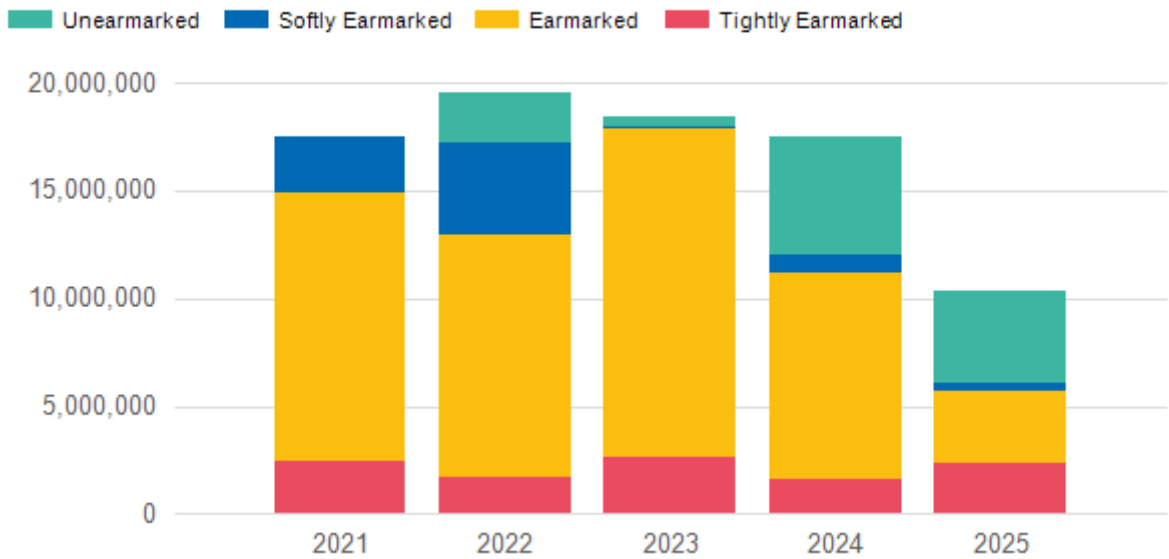
| Impact Area | Final Budget | Funds Available | Funds Available as % of Budget | Expenditure | Expenditure as % of Funds Available |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| IA1: Protect | 18,688,005 | 4,016,145 | 21.49% | 4,016,145 | 100.00% |
| IA2: Respond | 8,300,000 | 1,682,347 | 20.27% | 1,682,347 | 100.00% |
| IA4: Solve | 32,545,000 | 4,418,102 | 13.58% | 4,418,102 | 100.00% |
| Total | 59,533,005 | 10,116,594 | 16.99% | 10,116,594 | 100.00% |

| Outcome Area | Final Budget | Funds Available | Funds Available as % of Budget | Expenditure | Expenditure as % of Funds Available |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| OA1: Access/Doc | 8,100,000 | 1,981,195 | 24.46% | 1,981,195 | 100.00% |
| OA4: GBV | 5,338,005 | 757,549 | 14.19% | 757,549 | 100.00% |
| OA5: Children | 5,250,000 | 1,277,401 | 24.33% | 1,277,401 | 100.00% |
| OA7: Community | 7,626,400 | 2,105,961 | 27.61% | 2,105,961 | 100.00% |
| OA8: Wellbeing | 8,300,000 | 1,682,347 | 20.27% | 1,682,347 | 100.00% |
| OA13: Livelihood | 6,400,000 | 1,230,501 | 19.23% | 1,230,501 | 100.00% |
| OA14: Return | 18,518,600 | 1,081,640 | 5.84% | 1,081,640 | 100.00% |
| Total | 59,533,005 | 10,116,594 | 16.99% | 10,116,594 | 100.00% |

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2025, amid unprecedented funding shortfalls, UNHCR Venezuela was compelled to undertake a reprioritization of its operations. By December, only 16 per cent of required resources had been received, sharply widening the gap between humanitarian needs and the capacity to respond.

UNHCR closed its Field Units in Carúpano and Santa Elena de Uairén, downgraded the Maracaibo and San Cristóbal Field Offices to Field Units, and reduced staffing across the operation. These measures required more stringent community prioritization to ensure continued impact with dramatically fewer resources. The shortfall forced a concentration on lifesaving and donor-committed activities, leading to the scaling back or

termination of several partner agreements. Territorial coverage contracted, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, and the number of people assisted fell across all population groups.

Additional cost-containment measures further strained operational reach. Reduced field missions, office closures, and austerity measures across field locations limited outreach, decreased service frequency, and curbed monitoring. The closure of the Carúpano and Santa Elena de Uairén Field Units weakened the operation's ability to maintain community engagement, sustain protection activities, support documentation processes, ensure referrals, and uphold visibility with donors focused on these high-need regions. Flexible contributions from development partners and the private-sector helped safeguard a core set of critical interventions, allowing continued collaboration with local actors. Nonetheless, overall assistance levels remained well below identified needs, with partner-led implementation shrinking, geographic reach narrowing and fewer people receiving support than planned.

The scale of the funding crisis underscored the need for predictable, sustained resources to stabilize operations, protect hard-won gains, and restore coverage for the communities most at risk.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

UNHCR's annual review and Strategic Moment of Reflection in February 2026 underscored that the drastic reduction in resources in 2025 forced geographic reprioritization and limited the reach of support to people in need. Originally intended results were only partially achieved, as financial constraints impacted the scope of community activities, field missions and overall coverage, while UNHCR worked with interagency projects to pool resources and mitigate gaps. Despite these challenges, institutional engagement remained strong and community-based protection and capacity building—especially through multiservice hubs using the CEPROD model—proved resilient, maintaining protection pathways amid political sensitivities and changes in local governments. Partnerships with municipalities, private sector actors and universities supported continuity of services, while UNHCR's technical and convening role was key to ensuring that all actors adhered to protection standards in joint initiatives.

UNHCR also engaged actively with authorities in disaster risk reduction strategies. This reinforced early warning systems, community-based security monitoring, and business continuity planning, and highlighted the need for adaptive management to ensure continuity of essential services.

For 2026–2029, UNHCR will build upon its lessons learned by continuing to strengthen community-based approaches embedded in existing institutions and reinforcing their capacity; while expanding partnerships with municipalities, universities, the private sector, and other UN agencies. The operation will prioritize evidence-based decision making and flexible programming to help break cycles of displacement and ensure that refugees, returnees, stateless persons and host communities can access protection services that respond to their needs. Lessons from 2025 have been integrated into the 2026–2028 Multi-Year Strategy.



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