

# Annual Results Report

**2024**

**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.

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2024, the operational context became increasingly complex, including obstacles to humanitarian access, growing polarization and insecurity, with the emergence of new profiles of people in need of protection, and overall increasing protection needs. The situation deteriorated further following the violent aftermath of the 28 July presidential elections, which damaged community cohesion and spread fear and mistrust throughout Venezuelan society.

Despite the worsening situation, cross-border population movement trends registered a modest increase in returns. Monitoring at UNHCR-supported waystations along the Colombia border recorded a 38 to 62% ratio over exits, up three percentage points from 2023. This emerging trend may be attributed to an increasingly restricted protection environment in host countries, anticipated immigration crackdowns in the United States of America, and perceptions of an economic upturn in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which saw a moderate GDP increase for the third consecutive year.

The challenging context was further strained by budget cuts, leading to the difficult operational decision to close Field Offices in Ciudad Guayana (Bolívar) and Guasdualito (Apure), along Venezuela's border with Colombia (Arauca), and the Field Unit in Puerto Ayacucho (Amazonas), also at the border with Colombia (Vichada). Resources were reprioritized towards the borders, with new Field Units opening in Santa Elena de Uairén (border with Brazil) and Carúpano (maritime border with Trinidad and Tobago). Financial constraints also prompted renewed efforts to establish alliances with other UN and non-UN actors, including the private sector, to provide multi-sector responses to the displacement cycle, focusing on community resilience to create opportunities for Venezuelans who choose to stay and support solutions for returnees, thereby breaking the cycle of displacement. Despite these challenges, UNHCR and partners provided multi-sectoral protection services to over 593,693 people in Venezuela throughout 2024.

## 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 2024, the protection context was highly challenging. After the 28 July presidential elections, the country faced a scenario of internal tensions which affected people at risk of displacement and their communities in terms of effective access to fundamental rights and limitations in access to protection and redress mechanisms.

Despite all of this, humanitarian actors, including UNHCR, continued implementing community protection activities and providing legal assistance to individual cases. UNHCR offered legal assistance to promote access to fundamental rights, reaching 3,120 displaced persons and people at risk of statelessness, of whom 2,107 received attention regarding legal documentation matters. Additionally, 1,787 displaced persons and those at risk of statelessness were reached through information sessions on access to rights and available protection pathways.

To better understand and address protection risks at the community level, the Protection Cluster coordinated a protection monitoring exercise with 31 cluster members, including UNHCR, in 2024. This data collection and analysis exercise consulted 2,863 key informants and covered 99 municipalities across the country. The results have informed and guided local protection plans implemented by cluster members in collaboration with local communities.

In terms of international protection, UNHCR supported the National Commission for Refugees' asylum capacities by organizing a technical exchange visit with the Mexican Commission for Refugees (COMAR) to learn best practices around registration and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures.

CONARE also participated in the roundtable discussion for the Cartagena +40 process and the Santiago de Chile declaration. For 2024 no official data was provided on recognized refugees and registered asylum-seekers.

Regarding access to territory, the refoulement of 20 persons from Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, and Peru was prevented through UNHCR and partners assistance.

### 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 2024, the humanitarian response in Venezuela reached 3.5 million people, representing 69% of the target population of the Humanitarian Response Plan. Of those reached, women and girls comprised 60%. The response covered 303 municipalities, with UNHCR implementing programs in 97 municipalities nationwide, assisting 593,693 persons at risk of displacement through protection interventions.

UNHCR and other humanitarian actors continued to provide in-kind assistance to cover legal, psychosocial, health, and educational needs. UNHCR provided in-kind assistance to 34,845 persons, including 531 refugees, 1,085 returnees, and 32,229 others of concern, such as displaced people and those at risk of displacement. This assistance enabled access to Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures, late birth registration, and issuance of legal documentation matters.

UNHCR engaged in a portfolio with UNDP and FAO to provide comprehensive support to strengthen community resilience and contribute to breaking the cycle of displacement. The provision of basic services has been a strategic priority for this collaboration. The creation of multi-service centres under the one-stop-shop methodology has facilitated access to rights and services for 8,000 people. Additionally, 38

communities were supported through 43 projects to rehabilitate and equip community centres, protection, education, and health institutions. This improved the capacity to respond and provide services at the community level, which is essential for creating safe environments and promote better living conditions for forcibly displaced and stateless people and their communities, impacting 115,123 beneficiaries.

## 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.**

Since 2022, there has been a modest recovery in Venezuela's macroeconomic indicators, with some stability observed over the past two years, particularly following the partial lifting of United States economic sanctions. Despite these changes, humanitarian challenges persist. The challenges for the State to provide basic social services and the lack of economic opportunities have severely impacted large parts of the population.

Despite the socioeconomical constraints and protection challenges, UNHCR observed a trend of people returning to the country, with official figures indicating 1.2 million people returning in the last three years, including those coming back through the Plan Vuelta a la Patria and spontaneous returns. Additionally, the country has begun receiving deportees from various countries. UNHCR and IOM have tracked these return movements, noting that for every two Venezuelans leaving, one is returning, with 66% of the interviewed returnees expressing their intention to remain in the country.

In response, UNHCR and IOM implemented two pilot initiatives for the reintegration of returnees in Táchira and Petare, reaching 1,130 returnees and host community members. Partnerships with academia facilitated qualitative research and quantitative data collection in 2024 to better understand the profiles of the returnees and their protection needs.

Throughout 2024, UNHCR collaborated with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to implement the UN common pledge on sustainable reintegration of returnees in Venezuela. This four-year commitment adopts a cross-sectorial approach. The Extension of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2024-2025 and the Humanitarian Country Team Protection Strategy have established returnee reintegration as a strategic priority.

Finally, UNHCR, UNDP, and FAO moved ahead with the design of a common portfolio of 34 projects for sustainable reintegration and community resilience in Venezuela, to be implemented in 2025.

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The main challenges to achieving the desired impact were both due to the current context inside the country, and UNHCR's financial situation. Politically, the polarization during the 28 July presidential elections and subsequent tensions led to restrictions on humanitarian access, especially in Amazonas, Apure, Bolívar, Sucre, and Zulia. Humanitarian activities were halted as a precautionary measure before, during, and after the elections. The electoral process and its aftermath made cooperation with some local authorities more challenging. Differences of opinion over Venezuelan diaspora figures meant that challenges had to be overcome in the ongoing collaboration between UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE).

Financially, a cut to the operation 'budget amid a challenging global funding environment forced Management to realign resources, leading to staffing reduction and the closure of two Field Offices (Guasdalito and Ciudad Guayana) and a Field Unit (Puerto Ayacucho). The realignment also involved a geographical reprioritization of activities, resulting in the opening of small Field Units in Santa Elena de Uairén (Bolívar) to monitor the Brazil border, and Carúpano (Sucre) to establish a presence along the maritime border with Trinidad and Tobago. With these changes, the operation is aiming to further refine its protection strategy and focalize available resources in a reduced number of prioritized communities to be

able to achieve better results for the people we serve.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2024, the operation signed Project Workplans with 14 financed partners (11 local NGOs): Acuario, Caritas Carúpano, Caritas Venezuela, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Cruz Roja Zulia, Fundación Vivienda Popular, HIAS, IRFA (Instituto Radiofónico Fe y Alegría), Fundación Luz y Vida, ODISEF, Sociedad Wills Wilde, Universidad Católica Andres Bello (UCAB), Techo Venezuela, and Visión Mundial Venezuela. Institutional counterparts included the Office of the Ombudsperson (Defensoría del Pueblo - DdP) and the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE). UNHCR also collaborated with the Foundation for the Development of Electricity Services (FUNDELEC) of the Vice-Ministry for Alternative Energy Sources. In 2024 we jointly implemented three projects for the rehabilitation of photovoltaic energy systems to improve access to energy in three isolated communities in the state of Bolívar, and a project for the installation of solar energy lighting to improve access to adequate lighting in public spaces in a community in the state of Mérida to prevent violence, increase safety and create safe reunion spaces for the people we work for and with. The 53% of protection activities were led by funded partners and were made more effective through the additional interventions from partners financed by other donors.

UNHCR also implemented joint projects with UN sister agencies, collaborating with FAO and UNFPA to promote livelihoods and protection among indigenous women in Delta Amacuro and Zulia, with FAO and UNDP to strengthen community resilience in Bolívar, Miranda, Zulia, and Táchira, with IOM to develop reintegration pilots for returnees in Táchira, and with UNICEF to support disaster risk reduction in Amazonas, Apure, Táchira, and Zulia.

Regarding private sector engagement, with the support of Goodwill Ambassador María Daniela Velasco and High-Profile Supporter Juan Pablo Dos Santos, UNHCR Venezuela established dynamic partnerships with Banco Plaza; with retailer Mundo Total; with Supermercado Garzón in Táchira and with UNIMET university in Caracas.

## 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

UNHCR and partners provided legal counselling to 631 persons on access to the asylum procedure, refugee documentation, and other rights, such as access to property. Of these, 21 persons effectively accessed the asylum system, and nine recognized refugees accessed a first-time visa or renewal procedures.

UNHCR also rehabilitated and strengthened two offices of the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) in Apure and Zulia States and conducted a joint UNHCR-CONARE mission to Mexico to exchange best practices of asylum systems to improve Venezuela's case processing.

A total of 845 persons were supported to access Venezuelan nationality thanks to the legal assistance of UNHCR and partners. Of these, 740 (734 children and six adults) were born in Venezuela, including 480 indigenous persons, and 105 were children born abroad to Venezuelan parents who later returned.

Registration and documentation brigades were conducted with Civil Registry Offices, Child Protection Councils, and the Office of the Ombudsperson in Amazonas, Apure, Barinas, Bolívar, Sucre, and Zulia States, during which the support of community networks have been key to ensure inclusion of those community members in need of birth registration services.

Twenty-three civil registration offices were rehabilitated and strengthened in Apure, Falcón, Miranda, Sucre, and Zulia States, promoting birth registration and nationality rights for around 9,681 people monthly.

Fifteen local delegations from the Office of the Ombudsperson and its headquarters were rehabilitated and strengthened in Amazonas, Apure, Aragua, Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, Capital District, Falcón, Lara, Mérida, Miranda, Nueva Esparta, Sucre, and Zulia States, with a prospective reach of over 9,000 people each month.

In Barinas, Táchira, and Zulia States, six waystations and temporary accommodation shelters were rehabilitated and strengthened. During 2024, 11,124 persons in mobility received services in these stations.

In total, 64,943 persons were assisted in UNHCR-supported waystations, including through psychosocial first aid. Of these, 24,365 (38%) were returning, and 40,128 (62%) were exiting the country.

Regarding access to territory, the refoulement of 20 persons from Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, and Peru was prevented through UNHCR and partners assistance. Despite these efforts, two persons were refouled in 2024, one from Colombia and the other one from Cuba.

#### 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 2024, UNHCR Venezuela made significant strides in ensuring that survivors of violence received adequate and timely access to quality services. Through strategic partnerships and innovative approaches, including a joint work plan with UNFPA, UNHCR collaborated to enhance response mechanisms and engage stakeholders in protecting women and girls from violence.

As part of the work plan, UNFPA supported the strengthening of community networks already supported by UNHCR by providing training on prevention of violence, safe referrals of survivors to appropriate services, and risks of violence against women and girls during displacements. These training courses reached approximately 200 community members, enhancing their capacity to respond effectively to support survivors of violence. This coordination ensured comprehensive protection of women and girls from violence, tailored to the specific needs of the communities, thereby strengthening the overall protection environment for all individuals at risk. Additionally, eight women-led networks were supported to contribute to their prevention, mitigation, and response activities through community actions.

UNHCR also provided supplies and infrastructure support to Municipal and Regional Women's Institutes, while UNFPA offered technical support. This collaboration improved the capacity of these institutions to manage cases and provide better services for survivors of violence and increased the number of cases handled by local authorities and partner organizations. Joint initiatives also included the promotion of safe community spaces and the promotion of response protocols to support survivors.

Survivors received psychosocial support, legal assistance, and healthcare in One-Stop-Shops rehabilitated and strengthened by UNHCR, reaching over 1,006 survivors, including 815 women and 191 men, providing them with essential services and support.

Innovations and new initiatives included developing the HELP page and creating public information materials, this facilitated the dissemination of information on available services and referral pathways in an accessible manner. These digital tools were crucial in reaching a wider audience and providing timely information.

UNHCR was actively involved in the work of the sector for protection against violence and its Strategic Advisory Group, facilitating guidance on the provision of services for the people we work for and with.

## 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

Over 184,000 children benefited from UNHCR interventions, representing 26% of the total population supported in 2024. In total, 389 children were part of community networks supported by UNHCR.

UNHCR was actively involved in the work of the child protection section and its Strategic Advisory Group, providing guidance on service provision for the people we work for and with.

A total of 222 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) received counselling, legal assistance, and were referred to the Government child protection system.

Children and community-led activities focused on peaceful coexistence and climate action, reaching over 200 persons in eight communities. Additionally, over 655 community members received information sessions on child protection issues in at least 23 communities nationwide. These activities also received the support of other community networks to increase its reach.

A guideline was developed to support schools nationwide in implementing sports for protection initiatives, followed by workshops for its promotion, community space rehabilitation, and donations of sports materials. The interest and participation of schools in Zulia State was key to launch the initiative. UNHCR also rehabilitated four safe community spaces in La Guaira, Miranda, and Táchira States for children to play and participate in recreational activities.

Ten governmental child protection institutions were strengthened in Apure, Barinas, Lara, and Zulia States, including one indigenous territory. These institutions monthly provide services to around 4,697 children.

Rehabilitation of key protection spaces was conducted in Bolívar State, including a safe house that attends

to around 300 children yearly; a local delegation of the Venezuelan Orchestra System that promotes prevention and mitigation of child protection risks through music, reaching around 900 indigenous children living near areas of illegal mining; and the local delegation of the Child Protection Council, which serves around 3,600 cases yearly.

UNHCR also renewed the alliance with the National Association of Child Protection Counsellors (ASONACOP) through an LoU, comprising the provision of legal assistance on child protection issues and training sessions aimed at protection counsellors and child advocates, community interventions, and donations, focusing on strengthening ASONACOP in Táchira State.

## 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 2024, significant progress was made towards reintegrating returnees and promoting peaceful coexistence. UNHCR, in collaboration with local NGOs and community leaders, implemented several community-based projects to foster social cohesion, including livelihoods and economic reintegration activities, sports and arts for protection programs. UNHCR and partner Luz y Vida carried out educational levelling programs enrolled 188 children, ensuring their smooth transition into the local education system. UNHCR supported 80 community networks nationwide, integrating 1,329 people, including 990 women and girls. These included eight women's networks, 10 youth networks, 12 committees for community socio-natural disaster risk management, 21 community committees, and 29 outreach volunteers. These networks supported initiatives for peacebuilding, cultural exchanges, community dialogues, and sports and recreational activities, reaching 19,372 people. UNHCR rehabilitated public structures to serve as comprehensive support spaces to provide protection services, becoming a vital resource for returnees and residents, and fostering a more inclusive community. Following the success of the pilot led by Field Office Maracaibo, the management model was documented in a set of guidelines and a case study and will be replicated in several support spaces nationwide in 2025.

The operation also conducted regular monitoring and evaluation of Community-Based Protection interventions to assess the impact of these initiatives and make necessary adjustments. Alongside academic partners, UNHCR revised its methodology for conducting participatory assessments, producing a local toolbox aligned with new standards, streamlining the process, and improving data quality to inform future programming.

UNHCR enhanced the use of the interagency contact line by systematizing all feedback received including those from funded partners. This facilitated follow-up and transparency in handling feedback, as well as data analysis. There was a remarkable 651% increase in feedback received, reflecting enhanced engagement with the Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP) tools and our interagency approach. Local governments played a crucial role in supporting UNHCR's initiatives. The work focused on enhancing community structures was evident through their active participation in various projects. These efforts included the renovation of community centres, the establishment of protection services as well as case referrals, and the provision of logistical support for community events. Local governments facilitated the integration of returnees by offering administrative assistance and ensuring access to public services. Their collaboration significantly contributed to the overall success of the reintegration and social cohesion programs, demonstrating a strong commitment to improving the well-being of all community members.

## 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-kind assistance remains a crucial protection activity in the Venezuelan context and a key component of the operation's case management strategy. UNHCR Venezuela and its partners have increased efforts to ensure that material assistance, despite being emergency aid, includes a protection approach that helps people achieve durable solutions. This assistance has focused on legal components, such as covering documentation fees and transportation for the forcibly displaced and stateless people, enabling them to access rights or manage documentation procedures, which are challenging for refugees and Venezuelan returnees.

In 2024, UNHCR provided in-kind assistance to 34,845 people. Among these, 531 were refugees, 1,085 returnees, and 32,229 others of concern, including those at risk of displacement. This assistance supported refugees and asylum seekers in accessing RSD (e.g., covering transportation to CONARE's central offices) and ensuring civil birth registration documents for their children. Another focus was on returnees, particularly in documentation matters that facilitate their reintegration and access to rights and services in their communities. Assistance was also provided as part of UNHCR's case management strategy, based on specific needs, covering areas such as food, health, and documentation support.

UNHCR distributed relief items to people with specific protection needs directly and through funded partners. UNHCR also provided relief items to 18 hospitals in the states of Miranda, Sucre, and Zulia, to strengthen their capacity to care for the communities with whom UNHCR works. It also improved the response capacity of institutions that deal with emergency situations, such as Caritas Venezuela, the "Estado Mayor de Emergencia" in Aragua State, the "Zona de Operativa de Evaluación de Daños y Necesidades" in Sucre State (ZOEDAN), regional offices of Civil Protection and Firefighters, by delivering relief items to these institutions, which, making use of their logistics capacity and inventories, delivered NFIs to people affected by socio-natural emergencies on prioritized communities. UNHCR also strengthened the capacities of the Jesuits Catholic Congregation through the provision of relief items to manage educational and technical training centres to provide technical knowledge to youth and provide assistance to people with protection needs. With the contribution of these institutions and the direct work of UNHCR and its partners, access to basic needs was improved for of the populations that UNHCR works for and with. There was an improvement in the access to clean cooking fuels and technology, thanks to that UNHCR's strategic collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, aiming at reaching 100% access to clean energy sources nationwide.

## 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

UNHCR Venezuela strengthened its implementation in livelihoods and economic inclusion during 2024, working with five funded partners. It established strategic alliances with other UN agencies, local governments, and the private sector to promote these activities. UNHCR increased its collaboration with UNDP and FAO to create a project portfolio focused on community resilience, including livelihoods and economic inclusion with a sustainable approach, to prevent forced displacement and reintegrate returnees. UNHCR strengthened its alliances with institutions that promote economic inclusion and livelihoods. It supported the National Institute for Socialist Education Training (INCES) and the Fe y Alegría Labor

Training Centre; organizations in charge of training and providing employment opportunities to the people that UNHCR works with and for. The capacity of municipal offices for economic empowerment in the internally displaced persons, and returnees, states where UNHCR operates.

In Amazonas, Apure, Barinas, Miranda, Táchira, and Sucre States, livelihoods programs and business models were developed using the canvas (a business model methodology) and other innovative methodologies, with the participation of 528 persons. In Amazonas, the alliance with the Indigenous Culinary Institute of Amazonas provided scholarships to one participant to deepen their culinary training. UNHCR also supported the creation of agroecological gardens to promote food security and sustainable livelihoods for 20 families, focusing on cultivating coffee, cocoa, and short-cycle crops, allowing families to meet their food needs and commercialize the products.

The agreement with Plaza Bank was maintained for banking sessions aimed at returnees and those at risk of displacement. Through this agreement, 99 participants of livelihoods programs in Miranda and Zulia States were able to open a bank account. Additionally, employment mechanisms were established with local companies in Táchira to promote labour inclusion through internship programs.

UNHCR signed a memorandum of understanding with Plaza Bank and the Metropolitan University to incorporate prioritized population groups into the innovation programs promoted by these institutions. In Zulia State, UNHCR strengthened livelihoods programs aimed at indigenous women through the support of community thread banks (one strengthened, two created) that seek to generate sustainable livelihoods based on the ancestral knowledge of indigenous women and respect for the environment, involving 50 participants. To maximize impact, UNHCR linked up with other UN agencies in implementing this strategy. In 2025, UNHCR aims to create a national livelihoods strategy focused on the sustainable reintegration of returnees and community resilience to prevent forced displacement and secondary movements.

## 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

During 2024, UNHCR Venezuela developed strategic guidelines on sustainable reintegration for the Venezuelan returnee population. The pillars of the guidelines include institutional capacity development on reintegration, including legal and socioeconomic reintegration services, and community-based activities for the inclusion of returnees and non-discrimination.

Within this framework, UNHCR and its partners provided assistance to 7,377 returnees through protection services, livelihood activities, and community-based projects aimed at promoting sustainable reintegration in their communities of origin and preventing onward movements.

UNHCR Venezuela, in cooperation with local authorities, implemented the One Stop Shop methodology in its prioritized communities. Through these multi-service centres, 8,000 people were served, including 3,200 returnees who accessed various services, such as livelihoods and technical training, as well as legal protection services, including access to late birth registration, child protection services, and protection of women and girls against violence.

Aligned with the sustainable responses approach, in 2024, UNHCR advanced the establishment of a joint program with UNDP and FAO under the UNDP portfolio methodology. This joint proposal on community resilience and sustainable reintegration aims to strengthen institutional, socio-economic, and protection capacities under an area-based and triple nexus approach. By the first semester of 2025, fifteen initiatives of this joint portfolio will be implemented in communities prioritized by UNHCR Venezuela.

Governors and mayors' offices have been key local stakeholders for the implementation of solution-based reintegration initiatives.

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR Venezuela prioritized Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) inclusive programming by systematically collecting and using disaggregated data. This approach enabled the identification of specific needs and vulnerabilities among different population groups and their inclusion in programs and activities coordinated by UNHCR and its partners.

During the year, interventions reached 593,639 persons: 52% female, 48% male, 26% children, 6% older adults, 6% indigenous persons, and 1% persons with disabilities. Additionally, 74% of participants in supported community-based networks were women and girls, 32% self-identify as Afro-descendants, 12% are indigenous people, and 3% as other diverse..

Although the political context compromised UNHCR's capacity to lead participatory assessments without risking harm to participants, the methodology was redesigned to better capture and reflect the opinions and recommendations of groups of diverse ages, genders, and characteristics to inform programming and interventions.

Community-based feedback mechanisms continue to be strengthened to reach larger population groups. Access to persons with disabilities and illiterate persons will continue in 2025, including through awareness-raising in interagency Accountability for Affected Population (AAP) groups.

While significant progress has been made, challenges persist in fully achieving participation, inclusion, and equity. The protection environment in Venezuela remains fragile due to the need to strengthen institutions and a lack of trust in existing protection systems. However, UNHCR has taken steps to address these challenges by realigning its operations and focusing on strengthening the capacities of both institutions and communities. By building upon existing partnerships and ensuring continued support from field offices, UNHCR aims to enhance the protection environment and promote sustainable solutions.

## Section 3: Resources

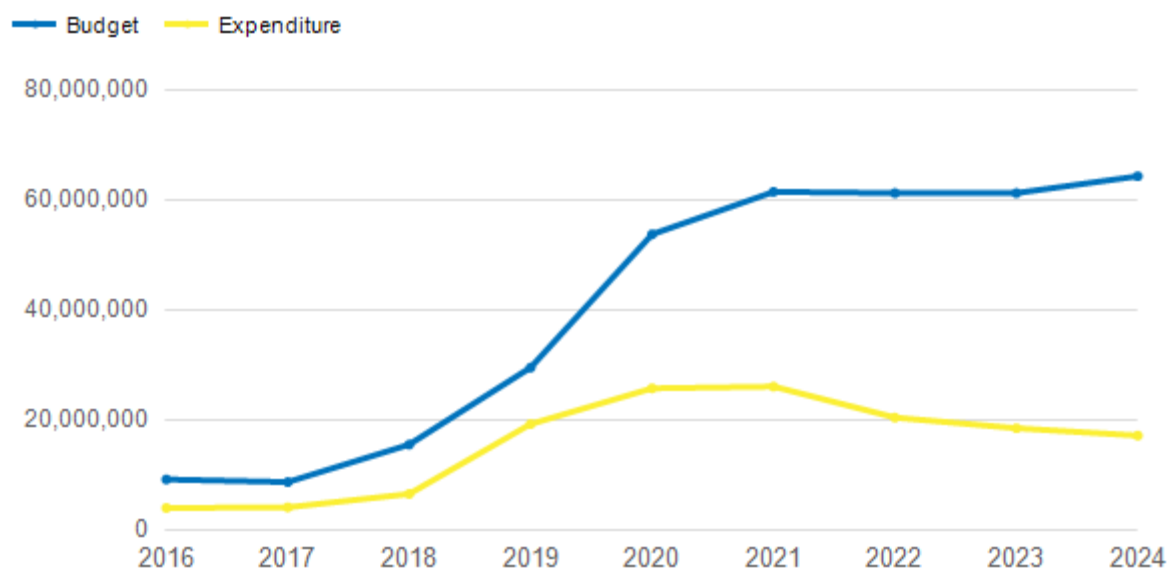
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

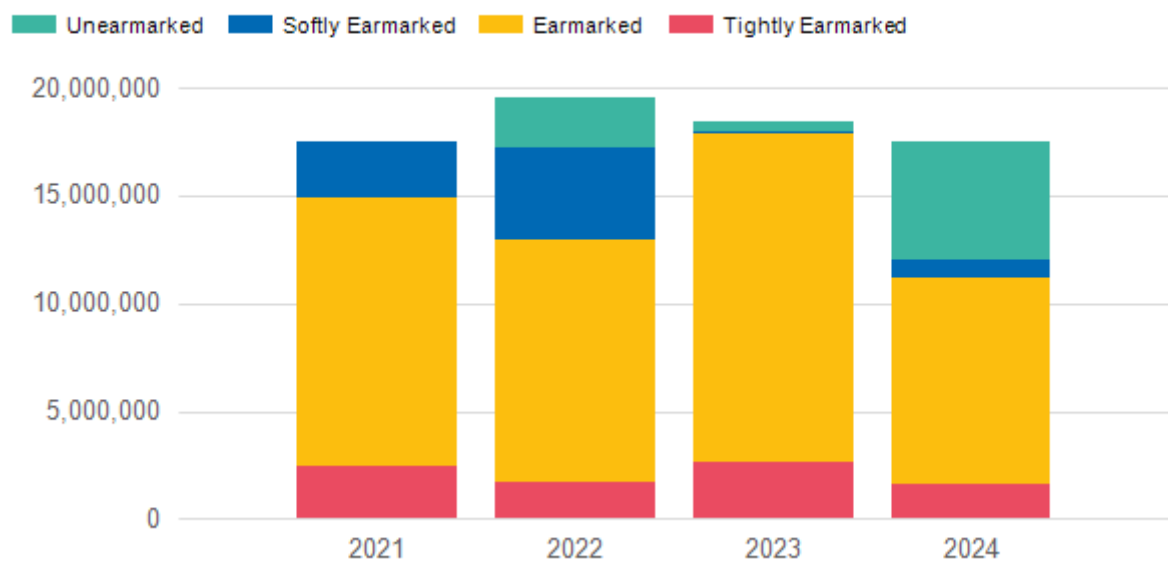
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	20,884,288	4,839,551	23.17%	4,820,620	99.61%
IA2: Assist	13,723,868	5,161,685	37.61%	5,161,685	100.00%
IA4: Solve	29,608,468	7,132,723	24.09%	7,132,723	100.00%
All Impact Areas		77,278			
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,216,623</b>	<b>17,211,236</b>	<b>26.80%</b>	<b>17,115,028</b>	<b>99.44%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	6,131,992	2,250,108	36.69%	2,250,108	100.00%
OA4: GBV	7,420,156	1,151,593	15.52%	1,151,593	100.00%
OA5: Children	7,332,140	1,437,911	19.61%	1,418,981	98.68%
OA7: Community	8,716,549	2,589,134	29.70%	2,589,134	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	13,723,868	5,161,583	37.61%	5,161,583	100.00%
OA9: Housing		40		40	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	7,309,612	1,556,514	21.29%	1,556,514	100.00%
OA14: Return	13,582,306	2,987,074	21.99%	2,987,074	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		77,278			
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,216,623</b>	<b>17,211,236</b>	<b>26.80%</b>	<b>17,115,028</b>	<b>99.44%</b>

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



### 3.2. Resources Overview

UNHCR faced significant budgetary challenges. The overall budget was designed to address the needs identified in the Humanitarian Needs Overview. This shortfall impacted the ability to fully implement planned activities, particularly in areas requiring direct intervention and support for vulnerable populations. The consequences of unmet needs were profound, leading to reduced humanitarian space and operational obstacles. The inability to secure sufficient funding limited the scope of assistance provided to forcibly displaced and stateless people, affecting their access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and legal documentation. UNHCR increased the implementation modalities favouring funded and non-funded partnerships from 60% to 70% of the total budget, while keeping 30% for direct implementation. This



approach included national and local agreements with authorities and strengthening local institutions. Major changes during the year, such as the scaling up of the Field Unit in Carúpano to enhance border monitoring with Trinidad and Tobago and Delta Amacuro, affected budgetary needs. Flexible funding played a crucial role in addressing these changes, allowing UNHCR to respond rapidly to emerging needs and sustain support in protracted crises. Flexible funding enabled the expansion of community-based protection initiatives and the provision of emergency relief items for returnees and to respond to socio-natural disasters.

Funding sources were instrumental in supporting the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people. These contributions facilitated the implementation of socio-economic integration programmes and the strengthening of local partnerships. Approximately 53% of UNHCR's expenditure was channeled through partners, with a significant portion allocated to local partners.

With a reduction of the overall number of prioritized communities, UNHCR pursued the closure of Field Office Ciudad Guayana at the end of June 2024, and the areas of responsibility were restructured through the opening of Field Unit Carúpano/Sucre (maritime border with Trinidad and Tobago) and expansion of the existing field unit in Santa Elena de Uairén (border with Brazil).

The closure of the Ciudad Guayana office made it possible to reallocate resources to strengthen the Santa Elena de Uairén office and to open the FU Carúpano office. Regarding the country office in Caracas, to optimize financial resources, new premises were sought for 2025, which is estimated to reduce rental costs by 56%.



## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Based on the annual review and strategic moment of reflection conducted in February 2025, UNHCR Venezuela identified several lessons learnt. Firstly, the importance of proactive communication and collaboration with government authorities was underscored. This approach helped mitigate risks and maintain the humanitarian space. Secondly, the need for flexible and adaptive operational strategies was highlighted, allowing for rapid responses to evolving security contexts and changing political dynamics. Data from assessments and evaluations emphasized the effectiveness of community-based protection initiatives and the critical role of local partnerships in enhancing resilience and social cohesion. The interventions that were deemed the most successful all included the work with other actors and UNHCR's role as the convener of others around the protection mandate of the agency. The portfolio with UNDP and FAO was a clear example of what working with others can look like in a context like Venezuela. In implementing the multi-year strategy for the period 2026-2029, UNHCR will leverage these lessons by strengthening its engagement with government actors and expanding community-based approaches as well as engaging with a broad array of stakeholders, including UN sister agencies to make sure that interventions are more sustainable. The operation will continue to prioritise data-driven decision-making and flexible funding mechanisms to address emerging needs promptly. Additionally, enhancing local partnerships and capacity-building efforts will be central to improving the sustainability and impact of interventions. These strategies will ensure that UNHCR remains responsive and effective in addressing the changing situation in Venezuela and provide structured protection responses to forcibly displaced populations, persons at risk of statelessness and returnees.



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