

VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

AUGUST 10, 2018

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

1.1 million

Estimated Venezuelans and Colombian Returnees from Venezuela Sheltering in Colombia
GoC – June 2018

98,720

Venezuelans Sheltering in Ecuador
GoE – June 2018

280,000

Venezuelans Sheltering in Peru
Government of Peru – May 2018

611,000

Estimated Food-Insecure Venezuelans and Returnees in Colombia
UN – April 2018

909,000

Estimated Venezuelans and Returnees in Need of Health Assistance in Colombia
UN – April 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regional confirmed measles caseload increases by approximately 50 percent from June to mid-July, health actors report
- Government of Colombia (GoC) announces intention to grant more than 440,000 undocumented Venezuelans work and residency permits, allowing access to health care
- U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley announces nearly \$9 million in additional USAID funding to support Venezuela regional crisis humanitarian response activities in Colombia

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$16,381,529
USAID/FFP ²	\$6,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$23,916,212

\$46,297,741

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Disease outbreaks in Venezuela continue to raise public health concerns across Latin America and the Caribbean. Between early June and mid-July, confirmed measles cases increased by approximately 50 percent across the region; the majority of the cases are connected to the ongoing outbreak in Venezuela. In addition, from May to July, suspected diphtheria cases in Venezuela increased by more than 50 percent, and confirmed diphtheria cases in Colombia increased from two to seven, including two deaths.
- In early August, the Government of Ecuador (GoE) declared an emergency in three provinces in response to the influx of Venezuelans entering Ecuador. As of June, nearly 100,000 Venezuelans were sheltering in Ecuador.
- On August 8, Ambassador Haley announced nearly \$9 million in additional USAID humanitarian assistance for Venezuela regional crisis response efforts in Colombia, bringing total U.S. Government (USG) support for the humanitarian response in the region to more than \$46 million in FY 2017–2018. With the newly announced funding, USAID/OFDA is supporting four relief organizations to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance for vulnerable Venezuelans and host community members to prevent the spread of disease; cash assistance to help vulnerable Venezuelans access health care, shelter, and WASH services; and critical medicines and other support at primary health care clinics in six different departments in Colombia.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

CURRENT EVENTS

- On August 8, Ambassador Haley met with GoC officials and visited USG-funded humanitarian assistance program sites in San José de Cúcuta city, Norte de Santander Department, along the Venezuela–Colombia border. Ambassador Haley observed Venezuelans entering Colombia via the Simon Bolivar International Bridge and discussed conditions in Venezuela with individuals at a communal kitchen where the UN World Food Program (WFP) provides USAID/FFP-funded emergency food assistance—including hot meals—and State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) monitors protection concerns and provides information on services for arriving Venezuelans. In addition, Ambassador Haley announced nearly \$9 million in additional USAID humanitarian assistance for Venezuela regional crisis response efforts in Colombia.
- On August 2, then-GoC president Juan Manuel Santos announced that the GoC would grant more than 440,000 undocumented Venezuelans sheltering in Colombia two-year residency and work permits, providing access to health care and education services. The announcement regularizes the immigration status of undocumented individuals who voluntarily registered with the GoC during the April-to-June nationwide registration of Venezuelans sheltering in Colombia, and will bring the number of Venezuelans in Colombia with regularized migration status to more than 824,000 people.
- In mid-July, the UN announced nearly \$6 million in Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) support to eight emergency programs providing critical education, food security, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance in Colombia’s Arauca, Atlántico, Bolívar, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, and Norte de Santander departments. The CERF funding will complement USG-provided funding and support several UN agencies, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and WFP.

REGIONAL

- From early January through mid-July, health authorities recorded nearly 2,400 confirmed measles cases in nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, an approximately 50 percent increase from the nearly 1,600 confirmed cases recorded throughout the region between early January and early June, PAHO reports. The majority of the cases recorded in the region are connected to the ongoing outbreak in Venezuela.
- In addition, the ongoing diphtheria outbreak in Venezuela continues to contribute to increased public health concerns throughout the region. As of late July 2018, health authorities in Venezuela recorded more than 400 confirmed cases of diphtheria, including at least 44 associated deaths, bringing the total number of suspected and confirmed diphtheria cases to approximately 1,900 cases since the onset of the ongoing diphtheria outbreak in Venezuela in July 2016, according to PAHO.

BRAZIL

- As of late June, nearly 57,000 Venezuelans were sheltering in northern Brazil’s Roraima State, according to Government of Brazil (GoB)-managed media. Additionally, as many as 700 Venezuelans were entering Roraima per day in June, UNHCR reports. GoB authorities continue to support the voluntary relocation of Venezuelans from Roraima to other areas of Brazil in order to alleviate the strain placed on social services in the areas of the country near the Venezuela–Brazil border. With support from State/PRM partners IOM and UNHCR, the GoB has facilitated the voluntary relocation of nearly 700 Venezuelans since April.
- On August 6, state authorities temporarily closed all points of entry along the Venezuela–Brazil border in Roraima to transiting Venezuelans, citing a lack of resources to respond to the influx of Venezuelans into northern Brazil. The border remained closed for approximately 15 hours until the GoB supreme court overturned the order, stating that closing the border falls under the authority of the GoB federal executive branch and that the closure could negatively impact individuals who may qualify for protection under international law. During the closure, approximately

210 Venezuelans were unable to finalize their immigration procedures in Roraima, according to UNHCR. The border remained open as of August 10.

- The influx of Venezuelans into northern Brazil continues to raise public health concerns, including the spread of measles. From early February through mid-July, Brazilian health authorities confirmed nearly 680 measles cases, including three deaths, in six states; health actors identified nearly all confirmed cases in Amazonas and Roraima states, located along the border with Venezuela. Health actors expect that the number of confirmed cases in Brazil will increase in the coming weeks, as nearly 2,700 suspected measles cases in Amazonas and Roraima are pending laboratory testing and remain under investigation, PAHO reports.

COLOMBIA

- Since March, health actors in Colombia have confirmed 45 measles cases and seven diphtheria cases—including two deaths—in connection with ongoing diseases outbreaks in Venezuela, according to the GoC National Institute of Health and PAHO. Of the confirmed diphtheria cases, five cases were reported in La Guajira and two in Norte de Santander. While confirmed measles cases are spread across 13 departments, health actors recorded approximately 24 percent of confirmed cases in Norte de Santander's Cúcuta Municipality.
- In coordination with the GoC Ministry of Health and regional health authorities, USAID/OFDA partner PAHO continues to provide health assistance to vulnerable Venezuelans in Arauca, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander. With USAID/OFDA funding, PAHO dispatched 10 nurses to support local health authorities in the three departments to administer approximately 27,900 vaccinations to an estimated 11,000 Venezuelans between May and July. Additionally, PAHO has delivered 30 emergency obstetric kits to health care facilities in the departments to date, and has trained relevant health care staff at the facilities in their appropriate use. PAHO has also supported the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services to nearly 220 Venezuelans in La Guajira and Norte de Santander in coordination with local health authorities.
- With USAID/OFDA support, PAHO is also conducting trainings on disease surveillance, malnutrition screenings, psychosocial support, and reproductive health care to improve response capacity of departmental health actors, reaching approximately 710 health care professionals in Arauca, La Guajira, Norte de Santander, and Vichada departments as of late July. In addition, PAHO has trained more than 70 health officials from 18 municipalities in Norte de Santander to bolster capacity to conduct malnutrition screenings for children younger than five years of age. The organization has also provided supplies to relief agencies in Norte de Santander's Villa de Rosario Municipality and La Guajira's Maicao Municipality to support ongoing malnutrition screening. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided PAHO with \$500,000 to respond to health needs related to the population influx.
- On July 23, the USG hosted a coordination meeting in Colombia's capital city of Bogotá with participation from GoC officials and current and potential USG partner organizations responding to the needs of Venezuelans and other affected populations in Colombia. Representatives from an estimated 20 relief organizations updated GoC officials on the progress of current and planned USG-funded response activities in Colombia. In addition to enabling increased coordination among and between relief actors and the GoC, the meeting also aimed to facilitate a smooth transition between the outgoing GoC administration and the incoming administration, which took office on August 7.
- With support from USAID/FFP, WFP continues to assist food-insecure Venezuelans, Colombian returnees, and Colombian host community members with emergency food assistance, including hot meals in transit centers and food vouchers. Between the mid-June and mid-July, the UN agency assisted nearly 21,000 people with emergency food assistance in Arauca, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander. To date in FY 2018, USAID/FFP has contributed \$5 million to WFP to fund emergency food assistance programs.

ECUADOR

- On August 8, the GoE declared an emergency in Carchi, El Oro, and Pichincha provinces in response to the influx of Venezuelans entering Ecuador. The emergency declaration—which will remain in place through August—enables the GoE to increase the number of immigration officials, doctors, social workers, and psychologists assisting Venezuelans arriving in Ecuador. As of early August, approximately 4,200 Venezuelans were entering the country per day, according to the GoE. With support from State/PRM, UNHCR and its implementing partners are providing food, health, protection, and WASH assistance in Carchi, along the Colombia–Ecuador border.
- Between January and June, approximately 454,000 Venezuelans entered Ecuador, representing a nearly 58 percent increase from the 288,000 Venezuelans who entered Ecuador during the entirety of 2017, the GoE reports. While many Venezuelans entering Ecuador are transiting to other countries in the region, more than 98,700 Venezuelans were sheltering in Ecuador as of June.
- With \$1 million in FY 2018 USAID/FFP support, WFP continues to provide Venezuelans sheltering in Ecuador with monthly emergency food vouchers and training on nutrition, dietary diversity, and preparation of nutritious, local foods—such as quinoa—that are unfamiliar to newly-arrived Venezuelans. The monthly food vouchers can be used to purchase nutritious food from local vendors.

PERU

- Approximately 1,500 Venezuelans entered Peru from Ecuador per day in June, straining the capacity of immigration reception centers, according to relief actors. Many Venezuelans arriving in Peru remain in need of immediate food, health, and WASH assistance, according to Lutheran World Relief. Additionally, Venezuelans entering Peru face protection concerns, including the risk of gender-based violence, trafficking, and exploitation.

CONTEXT

- Deteriorating economic and political conditions—characterized by extreme hyperinflation and severe shortages of food, medicine, and health care—in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela since 2014 have contributed to increasing humanitarian needs and triggered an influx of Venezuelans into neighboring countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.
- The population influx has increased in the past year and is straining the capacity of services, particularly in border areas of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Recent assessments indicate that food, health care, nutrition assistance, and WASH support are among the most urgent humanitarian needs of Venezuelans, returnees, and host communities in border regions. The influx of people leaving Venezuela is also contributing to increased public health concerns throughout the region, particularly with regard to the spread of infectious diseases. More than 280,000 Venezuelans have applied for asylum globally since 2014.
- In addition to supporting ongoing regional response activities, USAID and State/PRM staff based throughout the region and in Washington, D.C., are monitoring the humanitarian situation in close coordination with relevant host governments, donor governments, and UN counterparts.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2018¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
COLOMBIA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Livelihoods; Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$14,808,519
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$263,000
PAHO	Health	Arauca, La Guajira, Norte de Santander	\$500,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$154,524
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$15,726,043
BRAZIL			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Roraima	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN BRAZIL FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$500,000
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN			
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional	\$155,486
TOTAL USAID/OFDA LAC FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$155,486
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$16,381,529

USAID/FFP			
COLOMBIA			
WFP	Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$5,000,000
ECUADOR			
WFP	Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN ECUADOR FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$6,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$22,381,529

State/PRM			
BRAZIL			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BRAZIL FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$4,800,000

COLOMBIA			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$5,000,000
COSTA RICA			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$350,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN COSTA RICA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$350,000
ECUADOR			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$718,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN ECUADOR FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$918,000
MEXICO			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$250,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN MEXICO FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$250,000
PANAMA			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$727,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN PANAMA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$927,000
PERU			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,231,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN PERU FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$3,631,000
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$2,000,000
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN			
IPs	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$500,000
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$2,224,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM LAC FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$2,724,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$20,600,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$42,981,529
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2017-2018			\$46,297,741

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 8, 2018.

² The total USG funding figure includes \$3,316,212 in FY 2017 State/PRM funding to UNHCR to assist Venezuelans throughout the Latin America and Caribbean region.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>