

# VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

APRIL 18, 2018

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**1.5 million**

Estimated Venezuelans in Neighboring Countries  
UNHCR – March 2018

**600,000**

Estimated Venezuelans in Colombia  
UNHCR – March 2018

**93,000**

Estimated Venezuelans in Ecuador  
UNHCR – March 2018

**40,000**

Estimated Venezuelans in Brazil  
UNHCR – March 2018

**350,000**

Estimated Food-Insecure Venezuelans and Returnees in Colombia  
WFP – March 2018

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Deteriorating conditions in Venezuela prompt population displacement, exacerbate needs in border regions
- UN agencies launch appeals for additional international assistance
- USG coordinates regional response efforts, announces \$16 million in humanitarian assistance

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$4,080,174
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$2,000,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$15,316,212
<b>\$21,396,386</b>	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Deteriorating conditions in Venezuela have triggered an influx of Venezuelans into neighboring countries, including Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that approximately 1.5 million Venezuelans have departed Venezuela for other countries throughout the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region since 2014.
- The population influx is straining services and exacerbating humanitarian needs in border areas of neighboring countries, particularly in Colombia's Arauca, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander departments and northern Brazil's Roraima State. Preliminary assessments indicate that food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are among the priority humanitarian needs of Venezuelans and other vulnerable people in border areas.
- 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. As of early April, health authorities in Brazil had recorded more than 360 suspected or confirmed measles cases in connection with the population influx into the country, with additional suspected or confirmed cases identified in other countries throughout the region. Relief actors are coordinating with relevant government authorities throughout the region to mitigate public health risks and respond to emergency humanitarian needs among vulnerable populations.
- On April 13, the U.S. Government (USG) announced approximately \$16 million in humanitarian funding to respond to needs related to the Venezuela crisis throughout the LAC region. The announcement brings the total USG support for the Venezuela regional response to more than \$21 million since FY 2017.

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

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

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

## CURRENT EVENTS

- On April 13, U.S. Vice President Michael R. Pence announced \$16 million in FY 2018 funding for the Venezuela crisis regional response during the Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru. The assistance includes a \$12 million State/PRM contribution toward the recently released UNHCR supplementary budget appeal, which requests \$46 million to support vulnerable Venezuelans throughout the LAC region. State/PRM contributed \$3.3 million in FY 2017 to support the UN agency's regional efforts to respond to the needs of Venezuelans.
- The assistance also includes nearly \$3.6 million in USAID/OFDA funding to provide urgently required health, livelihoods, shelter, WASH, and other humanitarian assistance in Colombia and Brazil, as well as regional coordination and information management support. The newly announced funding supplements an initial \$2.5 million in USAID funding announced in mid-March by USAID Administrator Mark Green.

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## COLOMBIA

- Deteriorating conditions in Venezuela prompted at least 600,000 people to depart Venezuela and seek shelter in Colombia as of mid-March, according to UNHCR. Relief actors report that population estimates remain difficult to verify given fluid cross-border migration and the likely use of informal border crossings. The influx of Venezuelans and returning Colombians continues to strain services, including health care and WASH infrastructure, in host communities receiving populations from Venezuela.
- In late 2017, UNHCR surveyed more than 8,100 people in Colombia, of which the majority were populations originating from Venezuela. Survey results indicated that inadequate access to food and employment opportunities, as well as insecurity and inadequate access to health care services and medicines, in Venezuela were among the primary drivers of population displacement from the country. Additionally, respondents originating from Venezuela identified general insecurity and insufficient income to meet basic needs as the primary protection risks preventing them from returning to areas of origin in Venezuela. Overall, 87 percent of respondents reported intention to remain in Colombia long-term, UNHCR reports.
- On April 6, the Government of Colombia (GoC) commenced nationwide registration activities to identify Venezuelan populations in Colombia. Colombian authorities are conducting the registration campaign—expected to conclude in early June—across 22 departments and the capital city of Bogotá to identify vulnerable Venezuelans and inform humanitarian assistance efforts. Colombian authorities registered more than 63,900 Venezuelans as of April 14, of whom approximately 90 percent reported intention to remain in Colombia, the GoC reports.
- Recent USAID/OFDA rapid needs assessments indicate vulnerable Venezuelans and Colombian returnees in Arauca, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander lack access to health care and other essential services and sufficient income to meet basic household needs. In addition, vulnerable populations face limited access to nutritious foods, safe drinking water, and critical medicines, and remain at risk of malnutrition. USAID/OFDA is coordinating closely with GoC authorities, USG counterparts, and implementing partners to determine humanitarian priorities and respond to needs of vulnerable populations in border areas.
- In mid-March, a USAID/OFDA health advisor traveled to Colombia to identify priority health needs and coordinate response efforts related to the influx of vulnerable Venezuelans into the country. Based on field visit observations and discussions with GoC officials and humanitarian partners, health assistance—including primary and preventive health care services and vaccinations—remains a priority need among vulnerable Venezuelans and host community members in Colombia.
- With \$500,000 in USAID/OFDA funding, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is supporting immediate relief efforts and providing urgently required health assistance in border areas of Colombia. To date in 2018, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$3.5 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of vulnerable Venezuelans and host communities in Colombia.
- In early April, the UN World Food Program (WFP) declared an internal Level 2 emergency in response to increasing humanitarian needs along the Colombia–Venezuela border. The designation enables the UN agency to enhance operational capacity, including by deploying additional staff to Colombia. WFP estimates that approximately \$46

million will be required to provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to approximately 350,000 food-insecure Venezuelans and Colombian returnees in the country through December 2018.

- To date in FY 2018, USAID/FFP has contributed \$2 million to WFP to provide emergency food vouchers to vulnerable Venezuelans and returnees in Colombia. The vouchers, which allow food-insecure households to purchase food from local markets, aim to increase household dietary diversity while supporting local vendors and agricultural producers. The assistance complements \$4 million that USAID/FFP contributed to WFP in FY 2018 to provide emergency food assistance to conflict-affected, internally displaced Colombians and host communities.

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## **BRAZIL**

- The influx of people from Venezuela into Brazil is straining existing services in Roraima, particularly in Boa Vista and Pacaraima municipalities, prompting the Government of Brazil (GoB) to declare a situation of vulnerability in the state. According to UNHCR, approximately 40,000 Venezuelans were sheltering in Brazil as of mid-March; the UN agency estimates that approximately 800 Venezuelans are entering Roraima on average each day, reporting that new arrivals appear vulnerable and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.
- In early April, the GoB commenced efforts to relocate Venezuelans sheltering in Roraima to more centralized areas of the country, citing the need to alleviate overcrowded conditions in the state and increase vulnerable populations' access to basic services and livelihoods opportunities. In close coordination with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the GoB had facilitated the voluntary relocation of approximately 600 Venezuelans from Roraima to other areas of Brazil, including Mato Grosso and São Paulo states, as of early April. In addition, the UN agencies are supporting the GoB to establish additional shelters, increase access to basic services and humanitarian assistance, and provide integration support for Venezuelans. To date, the GoB has allocated an estimated \$58 million to support border control and relocation efforts and provide assistance—including nutrition commodities, shelter support, and WASH supplies—to Venezuelans in Brazil.
- The influx of vulnerable populations into Brazil is raising public health concerns regarding disease outbreaks. As of early April, health officials had recorded more than 360 suspected or confirmed measles cases, including two deaths, in Amazonas and Roraima states. Although the caseload comprises both Venezuelan and host community populations, health officials identified the majority—74 percent—of the 46 measles cases confirmed to date in Venezuelan patients. In response to the measles outbreak, the GoB Ministry of Health launched a month-long measles vaccination campaign in Roraima to mitigate further spread of the disease, aiming to reach an estimated 400,000 people across the state by mid-April. The GoB was also providing trainings to health care professionals on disease surveillance and vaccination best practices in Roraima and Amazonas as of early April.
- In response to increasing needs in Roraima, USAID/OFDA is providing an initial \$500,000 to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to distribute relief commodities, including hygiene kits and kitchen sets, to Venezuelans residing in temporary shelters. In addition, USAID staff based throughout the region and in Washington, D.C., are monitoring the situation in close coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia and other USG counterparts.

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## **OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On April 10, IOM launched a regional action plan appealing for approximately \$32.3 million to provide direct assistance to Venezuelans sheltering throughout the LAC region and strengthen coordination and information management systems. Through the plan, IOM aims to expand the Displacement Tracking Matrix to include all countries receiving Venezuelans and assist relevant government authorities and other relief actors to respond to large-scale migration flows in accordance with international standards, including through technical assistance to facilitate the integration of Venezuelans into local host communities.
- In addition, UNHCR released a supplementary budget appeal in mid-March requesting \$46 million to support vulnerable Venezuelans sheltering in neighboring countries, as well as populations of concern residing in Venezuela. The total includes approximately \$8 million to support preparedness and response activities in Colombia

and \$7.5 million to address humanitarian needs in Brazil. The appeal also requests approximately \$7.5 million to assist vulnerable populations—including refugees and asylum seekers from Colombia—in Venezuela who are facing significant protection risks, including lack of documentation, labor exploitation, and sexual and gender-based violence. As of early April, the appeal had received more than 30 percent of the requested funding from State/PRM and other donors.

## CONTEXT

- Deteriorating economic and political conditions 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 Trinidad and Tobago, in recent months. Economic conditions inside Venezuela are projected to worsen in the coming months, with inflation expected to reach approximately 13,000 percent in 2018, according to the International Monetary Fund. UNHCR estimates that more than 1.8 million Venezuelans have left the country since 2014, with displacement projected to continue during 2018.
- The population influx is straining the capacity of services, particularly in border areas of Colombia and Brazil. Recent assessments indicate food, health care services, nutrition assistance, and WASH support are among the most urgent humanitarian needs of Venezuelans and host communities in border regions.
- The influx of people from Venezuela into neighboring countries is also raising significant public health concerns, particularly regarding the spread of infectious diseases. Health officials in Brazil, Colombia, and other countries throughout the region have recorded suspected or confirmed measles cases related to an ongoing measles outbreak in Venezuela, which began in July 2017.
- In addition to ongoing response activities, USAID and State/PRM staff based in Washington, D.C., and throughout the region are monitoring the humanitarian situation in close coordination with USG and relevant host government counterparts.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2018<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>COLOMBIA</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security; Livelihoods; Protection; WASH	Arauca, La Guajira, Norte de Santander	\$2,739,028
The 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
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$3,502,028</b>
<b>BRAZIL</b>			
ADRA	WASH	Roraima	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN BRAZIL FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>			
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional	\$78,146
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA LAC FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$78,146</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$4,080,174</b>

USAID/FFP			
COLOMBIA			
WFP	Emergency Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$6,080,174</b>

State/PRM <sup>5</sup>			
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN			
UNHCR	Protection, Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$12,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM LAC FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$18,080,174</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2017-2018</b>			<b>\$21,396,386</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of April 13, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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>