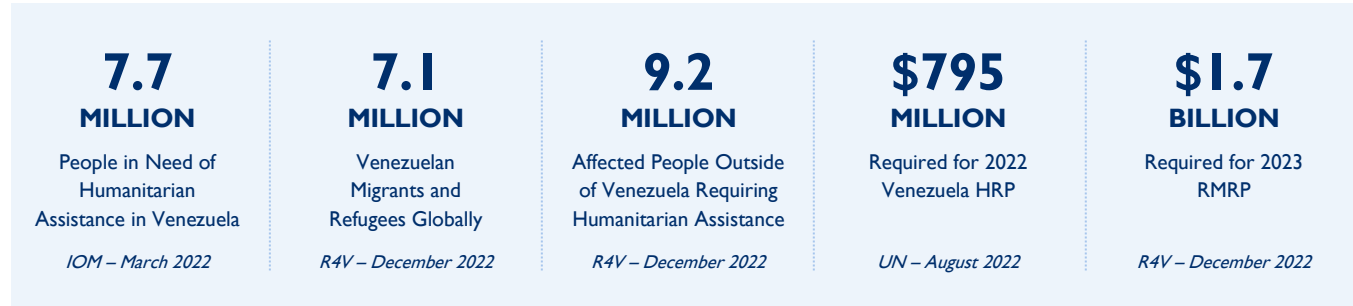


Venezuela Regional Crisis – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 13, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Maduro regime and Unitary Platform officials signed the *Mesa Social* humanitarian agreement on November 26, committing both parties to pursue joint initiatives to benefit the Venezuelan people and address humanitarian needs using frozen GoV funds for assistance in Venezuela.
- Heavy rainfall continues to adversely affect communities in Venezuela, resulting in flooding and related deaths and displacement.
- On December 13, USAID/BHA transitioned its DART and RMT structure to geographic teams; staff continue to coordinate and monitor humanitarian response efforts from USAID/BHA’s offices in Colombia, Costa Rica, and Washington, D.C.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Venezuela Regional Crisis Response in FYs 2017–2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$1,303,121,516
	State/PRM ²	\$1,009,206,580
	Total	\$2,312,328,096

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Maduro Regime and the Unitary Platform Sign Humanitarian Agreement

The regime of Nicolás Maduro regime and the Unitary Platform signed the *Mesa Social* humanitarian agreement on November 26, committing both parties to pursue joint initiatives to benefit the Venezuelan people and address humanitarian needs, including by jointly obtaining and utilizing frozen Government of Venezuela (GoV) assets for assistance in Venezuela. Representatives from both parties agreed to prioritize funds to support the country's health and electrical systems and expand emergency food assistance via the UN World Food Program (WFP). The parties also agreed to utilize funds to improve Venezuela's public education infrastructure and respond to needs generated by recent flooding in multiple Venezuelan states. The Venezuelan negotiators finalized the agreement—known formally as the *Mesa Social*/Second Partial Agreement on Social Protection for the Venezuelan People—amid resumed political negotiations in Mexico City, Mexico, and requested that the UN design, establish, and implement a trust fund for frozen GoV assets. Following the announcement, UN Secretary-General António Guterres issued a statement committing the UN's support for the implementation of the humanitarian agreement. Furthermore, the U.S. Government (USG), Government of Canada, EU, and Government of the UK issued a joint statement welcoming the resumption of the dialogue process, commending the humanitarian agreement, and urging all parties to work toward ending the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

Heavy Rainfall, Flooding Adversely Affect 26,000 Households in Venezuela

Heavy rainfall and related flooding and landslides continued to adversely affect populations in Venezuela during October and November. Severe weather had affected at least 26,000 households across 10 Venezuelan states as of early November, according to WFP. In Venezuela's Aragua State, rainfall and related flooding and landslides had resulted in the deaths of at least 61 individuals, including at least 56 people in Aragua's Las Tejerías city, according to the UN. Meanwhile, in Venezuela's Zulia State, flooding affected nearly 70 communities across Guajira Municipality, displacing more than 700 households to temporary shelters as of November 28, according to the UN. Individuals in affected areas report insufficient access to food, health care, livelihoods, safe drinking water, and sanitation services. Floodwaters have also damaged extensive areas of agricultural land, according to WFP. In response, WFP has distributed food assistance to approximately 20,000 people in four Venezuelan states and provided mobile storage units in affected areas, as of November 22.

WFP Negotiates Expansion of Food Assistance in Venezuela to Reach 1 Million People by Late 2023

The Maduro regime agreed on the expansion of WFP emergency food assistance to reach 16 Venezuelan states by late 2023 following a November 2022 visit to Venezuela by WFP Executive Director David Beasley, the UN agency reports. Executive Director Beasley met with stakeholders and highlighted the need to expand WFP's activities in the country to meet persistent food needs. WFP established operations in Venezuela following the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Maduro regime in April 2021 and subsequently initiated food assistance activities in July 2021. WFP has since expanded these operations to reach more than 200,000 people per month in eight Venezuelan states. The program includes take-home food rations and equipping local school kitchens to provide nutritious school meals, according to WFP. The new agreement will allow WFP to target nearly 1 million people in Venezuela with food assistance in 2023 and WFP estimates it will require \$190 million in additional funding.

USAID/BHA Transitions Venezuela Regional Crisis DART and RMT Operations, Continuing Response Activities

USAID/BHA transitioned the operations of its field-based Venezuela Regional Crisis Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to teams in Bogotá, Colombia; San José, Costa Rica; and Washington, D.C. on December 13. Through these regional teams, USAID/BHA humanitarian experts will continue to assess ongoing needs; provide humanitarian assistance in Venezuela, as well as to Venezuelan migrants and refugees and host communities in the region; and coordinate with State/PRM, USAID missions, and other stakeholders to ensure continuity of the humanitarian response.

Since 2018, USAID/BHA has responded to urgent humanitarian needs resulting from the protracted political and economic crisis in Venezuela and its effects across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). USAID/BHA provided more than \$1.3 billion in humanitarian funding for the Venezuela regional crisis from FY 2018 through FY 2022, reaching more than 11 million people with critical assistance across Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. In addition, throughout the DART and RMT's 56-month activation, USAID/BHA partnered with 52 national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies to provide life-saving agriculture, food, health, livelihood, multipurpose cash, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, as well as humanitarian coordination and logistics support to bolster overall relief efforts. The USG remains the largest donor of assistance for the Venezuela regional crisis, providing approximately \$2.3 billion in humanitarian aid since FY 2017, and continues to support partners responding to the crisis in Venezuela and the region.

KEY FIGURES



\$254 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA emergency food assistance in FY 2022



\$24 Million

In dedicated FY 2022 USAID/BHA funding for life-saving health care programming in Venezuela

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA assistance aims to address acute food insecurity among vulnerable Venezuelans inside Venezuela, as well as migrants, refugees, and host community members in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Inside Venezuela, USAID/BHA is funding NGOs and UN partners to provide cooked meals and food kits. Across the region, USAID/BHA-funded emergency food assistance includes cash transfers for food, cooked meals, food kits, food vouchers, and complementary nutrition and WASH support. In total, these programs aim to reach approximately 1.5 million people in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru and more than 750,000 people in Venezuela. USAID/BHA also contributes to coordination and capacity-building activities for food security actors to improve humanitarian programming for the Venezuela regional crisis.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA provided approximately \$24 million to NGO and UN partners in Venezuela to provide life-saving health care services to vulnerable Venezuelans in FY 2022. With USAID/BHA support, partners continue to distribute medical supplies, provide services at health facilities, and train community health workers to address urgent health needs. USAID/BHA partners provided more than 764,500 people with improved access to health care services using FY 2022 funding. Additionally, State/PRM

partners—including the International Organization for Migration, Jesuit Refugee Service, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—continue to support essential health interventions for Venezuelans residing in 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.



1.1 Million

People supported with State/PRM-funded WASH activities in FY 2022

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support WASH programming to address the needs of vulnerable Venezuelans and to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and other communicable diseases. With support from State/PRM, Inter-agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) partners aim to reach nearly 1.1 million migrants and refugees with WASH assistance across the region in 2022. In addition, USAID/BHA has provided nearly \$31.5 million in FY 2022 funding to several relief agencies to implement critical WASH activities for nearly 350,000 people inside Venezuela; activities include distributing personal protective equipment and training local health care workers to respond to cases of COVID-19, conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating WASH infrastructure in schools, and installing handwashing stations at community kitchens.



\$13.5 Million

In USAID/BHA FY 2022 funding in Colombia for economic recovery and livelihoods

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS

With approximately \$13.5 million in FY 2022 funding for economic recovery and market systems programming, USAID/BHA partners in Colombia are providing household financial instruction and literacy training for Venezuelan migrants and refugees, with an emphasis on improving food security outcomes. Partners are also offering small-scale business management and market analysis trainings, assistance with financial services, job search support, saving groups, and skill building activities.

State/PRM partners in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru support economic recovery by strengthening livelihood opportunities and socioeconomic integration among vulnerable Venezuelans, providing training and resources to enable the adoption of sustainable entrepreneurship and employment strategies. State/PRM partners provide Venezuelans across the region with business development training; employment and vocational training; language training; registration and technical assistance for work permits; technical skills certifications; business development training; and the provision of seed capital and cash assistance via bank transfers, prepaid cards, and mobile money platforms.



30

Number of USG partners that have implemented protection services with FY 2022 funding

PROTECTION

State/PRM and USAID/BHA support 30 partners to address protection concerns among nearly 1.3 million vulnerable Venezuelans in Venezuela and across the region, particularly along the Colombia-Venezuela border, and in the Caribbean where protection services are especially limited. State/PRM-

supported protection activities aim to increase access to and support the provision of protection services, including child-friendly spaces, community-based mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence prevention and case management, and legal assistance. State/PRM partners also work with the broader humanitarian community across the region to support advocacy efforts with local and national authorities and promote the delivery of protection services in areas with significant humanitarian access constraints.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Deteriorating economic and political conditions in Venezuela have decreased households' access to food, health care, and livelihoods; contributed to increasing humanitarian needs; and triggered an outflow of Venezuelans into countries across LAC, primarily to Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. As of December 2022, more than 7.1 million Venezuelans were living outside of Venezuela, according to R4V.
- The influx of Venezuelans continues to strain services, especially in border areas of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Assessments indicate that food, education, health care, protection, and shelter support continue to be among the most urgent humanitarian needs for vulnerable populations, including Venezuelans, Colombian returnees from Venezuela, and host communities.
- On April 16, 2018, USAID activated the Venezuela Regional Crisis RMT in Washington, D.C., to coordinate USG regional humanitarian efforts. On June 7, 2018, USAID activated the Venezuela Regional Crisis DART to support delivery of life-saving assistance across the region. Following more than 56 months supporting USG humanitarian response efforts, USAID/BHA transitioned humanitarian activities from the Venezuela Regional Crisis DART and RMT to regional teams in Bogotá, Colombia; San José, Costa Rica; and Washington, D.C. on December 13, 2022.
- In addition to providing support for ongoing response activities, USAID/BHA and State/PRM staff throughout the region and in Washington, D.C. continue to monitor the humanitarian situation in close coordination with relevant donor governments, host governments, NGOs, and UN counterparts.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE FYs 2017–2022¹

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2017–2022	\$1,303,121,516
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2017–2022	\$1,009,206,580
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA RESPONSE FYs 2017–2022	\$2,312,328,096

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 22, 2022.

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 [interaction.org](https://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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)