

Venezuela Regional Crisis – Complex Emergency

JUNE 22, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Relief actors in Venezuela aim to reach an estimated 5.2 million people with multi-sector humanitarian assistance in 2023 amid heightened needs, according to the 2023 HRP.
- Up to 4 million people in Venezuela will require emergency food assistance through November, as fuel shortages threaten agricultural productivity and poor macroeconomic conditions diminish household purchasing power, FEWS NET reports.
- Government-led migration initiatives in Ecuador and Brazil expand access to critical services for thousands of Venezuelan migrants and refugees.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Venezuela Regional Crisis Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA¹ \$84,335,967

State/PRM² \$56,082,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

Total \$140,417,967

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

2023 HRP Targets 5.2 Million People for Humanitarian Assistance in Venezuela

The 2023 UN Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Venezuela, released in March, requires \$720 million to provide life-saving assistance—particularly food, health, livelihood, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance—to approximately 5.2 million people through 138 humanitarian partners in 2023. To respond to ongoing emergency food assistance needs in 2023, relief actors aim to reach 2 million people with in-kind food distributions, as well as complementary agricultural, livestock, and fisheries assistance to increase households' access to nutritious foods, while strengthening and diversifying livelihoods. In addition, the HRP aims to support more than 60 humanitarian organizations to work in coordination with local authorities to improve access to essential WASH services for 4.6 million people, including access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. To improve the quality and availability of health care for Venezuelans in need, humanitarian actors, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, will work to strengthen maternal and child health services, the availability of gender-based violence (GBV) care, and sexual and reproductive health care services, while also improving access to integrated health, protection, and WASH services for indigenous communities in hard-to-reach areas of the country.

Up to 4 Million People in Venezuela in Need of Emergency Food Assistance Through November

Up to 4 million people in Venezuela will likely experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through November, with many poor households residing in or near Caracas Capital District and Zulia State, in need of emergency food assistance due to limited access to social protection systems and remittances, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).³ Decreased food production and increased prices of food and other basic commodities is exacerbating food insecurity among many low-income households countrywide, as fuel shortages hinder domestic agricultural production and market operations, according to local media. The continued rise in prices for basic goods has significantly reduced the purchasing power of poor households, particularly those who earn an income in local currency, forcing many households to adopt unsustainable coping strategies to meet basic food needs, such as reducing the quality or diversity of their diet, using savings to purchase food, or taking on loans, FEWS NET reports. While the informal dollarization of the Venezuelan economy has improved the purchasing power of some households receiving their wages in U.S. dollars (USD), insufficient income and rising USD prices for basic goods and services continue to limit household purchasing power and drive acute food insecurity outcomes among many Venezuelans.

In response to persistent acute food insecurity across Venezuela, USAID/BHA partner UN World Food Program (WFP) reached approximately 450,000 people with critical in-kind food assistance across eight of Venezuela's 23 states during April. In addition, a USAID/BHA partner reached nearly 32,600 food-insecure people across Venezuela through community and school kitchen in-kind meal distributions during April. The partner also distributed 1,000 food baskets—containing canned meat, lentils, rice, and vegetable oil—to the most vulnerable communities, supplementing at least 40 percent of households' caloric intake for five days per week each month.

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

Regularization Program Supports Migrant and Refugee Protections in Ecuador

The Government of Ecuador (GoE) finalized a migrant regularization decree on May 31, marking the third phase of the program, expanding the legal protections of migrants and refugees in Ecuador under the government's regularization program. This third phase allows registrants to apply for an initial 180-day residency permit, while pursuing a two-year residency visa, which will allow registrants to attain an Ecuadorian ID card. An estimated 502,200 Venezuelans were residing in Ecuador as of May 2023, according to the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), of whom approximately 65,000 individuals had registered for formal status under the third phase between May 31 and June 9, as reported by the GoE Ministry of Interior. In total, 350,000 Venezuelans with irregular entry in Ecuador are eligible to register with the GoE's regularization program, and since the launch of the initiative on September 1, 2022, an estimated 167,000 migrants have registered with the GoE. Under the program, approximately 52,000 migrants have received temporary residency visas and 39,000 migrants have received national identification cards. State/PRM partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are providing ongoing support to the GoE to register Venezuelans through the program with personnel, programmatic, and technical assistance. Since 2014, the USG has provided approximately \$356 million in humanitarian funding to support vulnerable populations in Ecuador, including Venezuelan migrants, refugees, and host communities.

GoB Supports Migrant and Refugee Integration Through Interiorization Efforts

The Government of Brazil (GoB)'s voluntary relocation strategy, also referred to as interiorization, is implemented through the GoB's Operation Welcome program and supported by State/PRM partners, IOM, UNHCR, and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Launched in 2018, Operation Welcome has partnered with more than 70 organizations to provide Venezuelans with documentation, shelter, protection, and onward movement support to approximately 950 cities nationwide. As of April, Operation Welcome has assisted more than 100,000 Venezuelan migrants and refugees—nearly a quarter of all Venezuelans in Brazil—to relocate from border cities to central and southern Brazil, according to UNHCR. Notably, Brazil hosts the fourth-largest Venezuelan population in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)—more than 459,000 individuals, and the GoB has recognized an estimated 82,000 Venezuelans as refugees—more than any other country in Latin America.

KEY FIGURES



\$76.8 Million

In FY 2023 USAID/BHA emergency food assistance in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and 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. In Venezuela, USAID/BHA is funding non-governmental organization (NGO) and UN partners to provide cooked meals, school meals, and in-kind food assistance. In countries hosting migrants and refugees, USAID/BHA-funded emergency food assistance includes cash transfers, food kits, food vouchers, hot cooked meals, and complementary nutrition 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.



\$10 Million

In dedicated State/PRM support for life-saving health care programming

HEALTH

State/PRM has provided approximately \$10 million to UN partners to support essential health interventions for Venezuelans throughout the region—including in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru—in FY 2023. State/PRM partners are supporting access to essential health care services and supplies for vulnerable populations, including providing vaccines to children, and working with host governments to include Venezuelan refugees and migrants in national health systems. USAID/BHA is also supporting UN partners and NGOs to provide life-saving health care services to Venezuelans in need of assistance. With USAID/BHA support, partners are providing essential primary and mental health care, training community health workers to address urgent health needs, and building capacity of community-level health systems in Venezuela.



\$5.3 Million

In USG WASH support in Venezuela and neighboring countries

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support WASH programming to address the needs of Venezuelans and prevent the spread of communicable diseases. With support from State/PRM, R4V partners aim to reach more than 600,000 people with WASH assistance across the region in FY 2023. To date in FY 2023, USAID/BHA has provided more than \$1.2 million and State/PRM has provided more than \$4.1 million in funding to several relief agencies to implement critical WASH activities. Supported activities include ensuring sufficient access to safe drinking water for consumption and household hygiene needs, distributing personal protective equipment and training local health care workers to prevent transmission of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and other diseases, conducting hygiene awareness sessions, distributing hygiene kits, rehabilitating WASH infrastructure in schools and health facilities, providing sustainable flood-resilient WASH systems, and installing handwashing stations at community kitchens.



\$93 Million

In USAID/BHA funding in Colombia for economic recovery and livelihoods between FY 2019 and FY 2022

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS

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 training, assistance with financial services, job search support, saving groups, and skill-building activities. Through previous FY funding, USAID/BHA provided approximately \$93 million to the VenEsperanza Emergency Response Consortium—comprising International Rescue Committee (IRC), Mercy Corps, Save the Children Federation (SCF), and World Vision—to cover the basic needs of Venezuelan migrant households. The VenEsperanza program provided emergency cash assistance to more than 256,000 households in

Colombia’s Barranquilla, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, and Valle del Cauca departments and Bogotá Capital District between August 2019 and March 2022.

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 FYs 2022 and/or FY 2023 funding

PROTECTION

In FYs 2022–2023, State/PRM and USAID/BHA supported 30 partners addressing protection concerns among the more than 10 million Venezuelans in need of protection assistance 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, GBV prevention and case management, and legal assistance. State/PRM partners also worked 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 May 2023, more than 7.3 million Venezuelans were living outside of Venezuela, according to R4V.
- The influx of Venezuelans continues to strain social services, especially in border areas of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Assessments indicate that food, education, health, protection, and shelter support continue to be among the most urgent humanitarian needs for at-risk populations, including Venezuelans, Colombian returnees from Venezuela, and host communities.
- In 2018, USAID activated the Venezuela Regional Crisis Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington, D.C., to coordinate USG regional humanitarian efforts and a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) in the field to support the delivery of life-saving assistance across the region. Following more than 56 months of activation, USAID/BHA transitioned humanitarian activities from the Venezuela Regional Crisis DART and RMT to regional teams in Bogota, Colombia; San Jose, 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 IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN VENEZUELA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; Protection, WASH	Venezuela	\$32,200,000
	Program Support	Venezuela	\$100,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN VENEZUELA IN FY 2023			\$32,300,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN VENEZUELA IN FY 2023			\$32,300,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING IN LAC FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN ARGENTINA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Argentina	\$896,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN ARGENTINA IN FY 2023			\$896,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN ARGENTINA IN FY 2023			\$896,000
FUNDING IN ARUBA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Aruba	\$174,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN ARUBA IN FY 2023			\$174,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN ARUBA IN FY 2023			\$174,000
FUNDING IN BOLIVIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Bolivia	\$490,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Bolivia	\$312,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BOLIVIA IN FY 2023			\$802,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN BOLIVIA IN FY 2023			\$802,000
FUNDING IN BRAZIL FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, LRIP	Brazil	\$1,500,000
Caritas Brasileira	Food Assistance—LRIP, Nutrition	Brazil	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BRAZIL IN FY 2023			\$2,000,000

STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Brazil	\$3,068,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Brazil	\$2,248,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BRAZIL IN FY 2023			\$5,316,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN BRAZIL IN FY 2023			\$7,316,000
FUNDING IN CHILE FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Chile	\$3,990,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Chile	\$1,032,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN CHILE IN FY 2023			\$5,022,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN CHILE IN FY 2023			\$5,022,000
FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP	Colombia	\$40,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN COLOMBIA IN FY 2023			\$40,000,000
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Colombia	\$13,554,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Colombia	\$3,438,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN COLOMBIA IN 2023			\$16,992,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN COLOMBIA IN FY 2023			\$56,992,000
FUNDING IN CURAÇAO FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Curaçao	\$170,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN CURAÇAO IN FY 2023			\$170,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN CURAÇAO IN FY 2023			\$170,000
FUNDING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	The Dominican Republic	\$494,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	The Dominican Republic	\$978,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2023			\$1,472,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2023			\$1,472,000
FUNDING IN ECUADOR FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP; Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Ecuador	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN ECUADOR IN FY 2023			\$10,000,000
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Ecuador	\$7,030,000

UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Ecuador	\$2,420,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN ECUADOR IN FY 2023			\$9,450,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN ECUADOR IN FY 2023			\$19,450,000
FUNDING IN GUYANA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Guyana	\$146,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Guyana	\$172,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN GUYANA IN FY 2023			\$318,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN GUYANA IN FY 2023			\$318,000
FUNDING IN PARAGUAY FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Paraguay	\$336,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN PARAGUAY IN FY 2023			\$336,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN PARAGUAY IN FY 2023			\$336,000
FUNDING IN PERU FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Peru	\$9,674,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Peru	\$1,638,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN PERU IN 2023			\$11,312,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN PERU IN FY 2023			\$11,312,000
FUNDING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Trinidad and Tobago	\$554,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Trinidad and Tobago	\$262,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN FY 2023			\$816,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN FY 2023			\$816,000
FUNDING IN URUGUAY FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Uruguay	\$386,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Uruguay	\$24,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN URUGUAY IN FY 2023			\$410,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN URUGUAY IN FY 2023			\$410,000
REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
	Program Support	Regional	\$35,967
TOTAL REGIONAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN FY 2023			\$35,967
STATE/PRM			

IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$2,066,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$530,000
TOTAL REGIONAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN FY 2023			\$2,596,000
TOTAL REGIONAL USG FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$2,631,967

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$84,335,967
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$56,082,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$140,417,967

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2017–2023			\$1,387,457,484
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2017–2023			\$1,065,288,580
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR VENEZUELA RESPONSE IN FYs 2017–2023			\$2,452,746,064

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 22, 2023.

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.
- 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)