

# VENEZUELA REGIONAL CRISIS

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

JULY 18, 2018

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**1.1 million**

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

**462,660**

Venezuelans Entering Peru Since January 2017  
GoP – June 2018

**48,640**

Estimated Venezuelans Sheltering in Brazil  
GoB – 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

- Media estimate that the annual inflation rate in Venezuela exceeds 40,000 percent, further worsening economic and humanitarian conditions and fueling migration from the country
- USAID Administrator Mark Green announces \$6.4 million in additional USAID funding to support Venezuela regional crisis humanitarian response activities in Colombia
- Relief actors expand food, health, and protection assistance to Venezuelans and Colombian returnees in Colombia

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$7,492,537
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$6,000,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$23,916,212

**\$37,408,749**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Deteriorating economic and humanitarian conditions remain some of the largest drivers of population migration from Venezuela. More than 60 percent of 12,300 Venezuelans surveyed in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru cited economic conditions as the deciding factor to leave Venezuela, according to interviews conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) between October 2017 and March 2018.
- On July 16, USAID Administrator Mark Green announced more than \$6.4 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 to more than \$37 million in FY 2017–2018. The newly announced funding includes \$3 million from USAID/FFP to provide emergency food assistance—including food vouchers, hot meals in transit centers, and nutrition commodities—to approximately 50,000 food-insecure Venezuelans, Colombian returnees, and host community members in Colombia. The funding also includes nearly \$2.6 million from USAID/OFDA to support the provision of critical health assistance to nearly 89,000 vulnerable people in Colombia affected by the crisis, including support to Colombian health facilities to deliver primary health care; deployment of mobile medical units; and distribution of nutrition supplements to Venezuelans at risk of malnutrition. In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$700,000 to bolster humanitarian information and coordination mechanisms in Colombia for the Venezuela regional crisis response.

<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

- From July 15–17, Administrator Green met with Government of Colombia (GoC) officials and visited USG-funded development and humanitarian assistance program sites in Colombia. During the visit, Administrator Green visited San José de Cúcuta city, Norte de Santander Department, along the Venezuela–Colombia border, where he observed Venezuelans entering Colombia, discussed motivations for migration with Venezuelan arrivals, and announced additional USAID humanitarian assistance for Venezuela regional crisis response efforts in Colombia. In addition, Administrator Green visited USAID-funded food distribution and vaccination centers.
  - On June 20, the Government of Venezuela (GoV) announced an increase of the country’s minimum wage to 3 million bolivares per month, equivalent to less than \$1 per day at the official exchange rate, according to international media. In addition to the wage increase, the GoV announced that employed individuals would receive monthly meal tickets equivalent to approximately 2.2 million bolivares, resulting in a total compensation of less than \$2 per day. Economists project that the increase—the fourth increase to date in 2018—will further accelerate rising hyperinflation in Venezuela. According to international media, the annual inflation rate in Venezuela had exceeded 40,000 percent as of June.
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## BRAZIL

- An estimated 48,640 Venezuelans are present in Brazil, according to the Government of Brazil (GoB). The figure includes 25,000 Venezuelans who have arrived in northern Brazil’s Boa Vista city, Roraima State, and now represent approximately 7 percent of the city’s population, according to a survey conducted by the Boa Vista Municipality released in June. Of the Venezuelans surveyed by the municipality, approximately 65 percent were unemployed and nearly 60 percent were not receiving assistance. In addition, 10 percent of the Venezuelans surveyed in Boa Vista reported that they were residing in public spaces, according to the survey.
  - Health officials in Brazil’s Amazonas and Roraima states are conducting large-scale measles vaccination campaigns, aiming to provide 700,000 doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine in the coming months. Relief actors in Amazonas and Roraima recorded nearly 1,000 suspected measles cases—including more than 110 confirmed cases—related to the ongoing measles outbreak in Venezuela between January 1 and May 23, the UN World Health Organization reports.
  - USAID/OFDA partner the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continues to provide emergency relief commodities—including hygiene kits and mattresses—to Venezuelans in Boa Vista shelters. From late June to early July, ADRA distributed 365 hygiene kits to Venezuelans in Boa Vista’s Pintolandia shelter and provided 2,500 mattresses to GoB authorities for use in various shelters across the city.
  - State/PRM partner Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to support the GoB to assist Venezuelans, including through the provision of relief commodities and tents, registration and site planning services, and information management activities. UNHCR is also working with the GoB to establish additional shelters near Boa Vista to support Venezuelans residing in public spaces without access to humanitarian assistance, shelter, or water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities.
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## CARIBBEAN

- Approximately 40,000 vulnerable Venezuelans are sheltering in Trinidad and Tobago, which hosts the largest population of Venezuelans in the Southern Caribbean, according to UNHCR. With \$2 million in State/PRM funding, UNHCR is assisting Venezuelans in Trinidad and Tobago to secure access to registration and documentation, as well as providing education, health, livelihoods, and shelter assistance.

## COLOMBIA

- Relief agencies report that the majority of Venezuelans and Colombian returnees arriving to Colombia continue to require food, health care, and other forms of humanitarian assistance. In northern Colombia's La Guajira Department, many Venezuelans report that they are unable to afford enough nutritious food, according to an emergency food security assessment conducted by Mercy Corps in Riohacha, Maicao, Manaure, and Uribia municipalities during mid-May. In addition, many Venezuelans in La Guajira are purchasing less food—and lower-quality food—in order to afford safe drinking water, adequate shelter, and other necessities, the non-governmental organization reports. Of the more than 570 Venezuelan households surveyed, approximately 61 percent reported earning less than 10,000 pesos, or approximately \$3.50, per day—less than 40 percent of Colombia's national daily minimum wage. However, more than 50 percent of households surveyed reported that their food consumption had improved within two weeks of arriving in Colombia, signifying that many Venezuelans are more food secure in La Guajira than in Venezuela, despite ongoing food access challenges.
- In response to food needs, USAID/FFP has contributed \$5 million to the UN World Food Program (WFP)—of which \$3 million was included in the July 16 funding announcement—in FY 2018 to provide emergency food assistance to more than 82,000 Venezuelans, Colombian returnees, and host community members in Colombia. This assistance includes food vouchers, hot meals in transit centers, and nutrition commodities. With USAID/FFP support, WFP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 6,400 people in Colombia's Arauca, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander departments between late May and mid-June, according to the UN agency.
- Since March 3, health actors in Colombia have recorded 33 confirmed measles cases in connection with the ongoing measles outbreak in Venezuela, according to the GoC National Institute of Health. In response, national and international relief actors, including USG partners, are expanding efforts to provide emergency health care support.
- With USAID/OFDA support, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has dispatched 10 nurses to Arauca, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander to support local health authorities and conduct health education sessions to increase health awareness and promote hygiene and infant and young child feeding best practices. As of mid-June, GoC health authorities had vaccinated approximately 14,200 Venezuelans and other vulnerable populations in the three border areas with support from PAHO. The organization has delivered additional complementary supplies, such as tents and chairs, to support operations at vaccination posts in the three departments.
- With USAID/OFDA support, PAHO has also commenced trainings in Colombia's Arauca, La Guajira, Norte de Santander, and Vichada departments to improve the response capacity of departmental health actors, and aims to conduct approximately 50 training sessions—including on disease surveillance, malnutrition screenings, psychosocial support, and reproductive health care—by mid-August. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided PAHO with \$500,000 to respond to health needs related to the population influx from Venezuela into Colombia.
- In FY 2018, USAID/OFDA has contributed nearly \$2.6 million—which was included in the July 16 funding announcement—to another implementing partner to establish five health care units, which will provide primary health, prenatal, and psychosocial care, and organize disease prevention and hygiene promotion activities to vulnerable people affected by the Venezuela regional crisis across Colombia. Additionally, USAID/OFDA is providing \$700,000 to support a separate implementing partner to conduct information management activities to assist the international humanitarian community in coordinating response efforts in Colombia.

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## PERU

- More than 460,000 Venezuelans entered Peru between January 2017 and June 2018, including approximately 190,000 Venezuelans who transited through Peru for other countries in the region, according to the Government of Peru (GoP). According to a survey of more than 1,630 Venezuelans sheltering in Peru's Lima, Tacna, and Tumbes departments conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix between April and May 2018, the majority of Venezuelans in Peru entered the country via the northern border with Ecuador and traveled to Peru overland and without having resided in another country's city for more than 10 days.

- Newly arrived Venezuelans in Peru are often in need of humanitarian assistance to meet basic food, hygiene, and shelter needs and also often lack access to information regarding immigration procedures and asylum application processes, IOM reports. Of the 700 Venezuelans surveyed by IOM in Peru’s capital city of Lima, approximately 70 percent were employed in formal or informal sectors. However, approximately 22 percent of Venezuelans surveyed in Lima reported occasionally lacking food, due to insufficient income.
- With State/PRM support, UNHCR and implementing partners are providing assistance—including dignity kits containing hygiene and sanitary items for women and girls and other relief commodities—at a binational assistance center located along the border with Ecuador in Tumbes, where an estimated 2,000 Venezuelans arrive daily, on average. The UN agency has also established a hydration point at the center to increase access to safe drinking water for arriving Venezuelans. In addition, UNHCR and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies established a medical clinic at the border crossing. Furthermore, in conjunction with IOM, UNHCR is providing legal counseling and facilitating Venezuelans’ access to documentation and protection services throughout Peru.
- With State/PRM support, UNHCR is supporting the GoP Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review and process asylum applications. Nearly 127,000 Venezuelans had applied for asylum in Peru as of June 20, representing the highest number of Venezuelan asylum applicants in the world.

## 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 in Washington, D.C., and throughout the region 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 2018<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
<b>COLOMBIA</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Livelihoods; Protection; WASH	Countrywide	\$6,045,865
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	Countrywide	\$105,526
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$6,914,391</b>
<b>BRAZIL</b>			
ADRA	Shelters and Settlements, 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 LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 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>\$7,492,537</b>

<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
<b>COLOMBIA</b>			
WFP	Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>ECUADOR</b>			
WFP	Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN ECUADOR FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$6,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$13,492,537</b>

<b>State/PRM</b>			
<b>BRAZIL</b>			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BRAZIL FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$4,800,000</b>
<b>COLOMBIA</b>			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>COSTA RICA</b>			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$350,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN COSTA RICA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$350,000</b>
<b>ECUADOR</b>			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$718,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$200,000

<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN ECUADOR FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$918,000</b>
<b>MEXICO</b>			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$250,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN MEXICO FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>PANAMA</b>			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$727,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN PANAMA FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$927,000</b>
<b>PERU</b>			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,231,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN PERU FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$3,631,000</b>
<b>TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO</b>			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>			
IPs	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$500,000
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$2,224,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$2,724,000</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$20,600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$34,092,537</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE VENEZUELA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018</b>			<b>\$37,408,749</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 July 16, 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>