BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Peru Assistance Overview

June 2022

CONTEXT

- The political and economic crisis in Venezuela continues to generate outward migration to neighboring countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, including Peru. Of the more than 6.1 million Venezuelans who have fled, approximately 1.3 million reside in Peru, with an estimated 75 percent settling in the capital city of Lima, according to the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V). Nearly 810,000 Venezuelans in Peru, roughly 62 percent of all migrants and refugees in the country, require additional food, health, livelihood, and shelter assistance to meet basic needs, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports.

- The socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continue to strain Peru’s health care and social service systems, limit household purchasing power and livelihood opportunities, and exacerbate existing food, health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs across the country, particularly among low-income Peruvians, migrants and refugees. Additionally, the global increase in commodity prices resulting from the Government of the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine has impeded Peru’s economic recovery, potentially exacerbating food insecurity and nutrition concerns among vulnerable populations, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP).

- Peru’s location along the Pacific Ring of Fire—a nearly 25,000-mile geographic belt in the Pacific Ocean where tectonic movement results in increased seismic activity—renders the country extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. In November 2021, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck Peru’s northern Amazonas Region, adversely affecting an estimated 2,800 people across 35 provinces, damaging or destroying buildings and infrastructure, and leaving more than 600 people without adequate shelter, according to the UN. Meanwhile, in March 2022, heavy rainfall triggered landslides in Peru’s La Libertad and Arequipa regions, affecting more than 1,000 people and damaging or destroying an estimated 400 houses, according to the Government of Peru (GoP) National Civil Defense Institute.

ASSISTANCE

- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports humanitarian partners in Peru to provide both emergency and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance. During Fiscal Years (FYs) 2021 and 2022, USAID/BHA prioritized food and multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), as well as nutrition programming for Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Peru, and delivered emergency food, health care, and protection assistance to vulnerable host community members, indigenous populations, and Peruvian households whose livelihoods have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional information on USAID/BHA’s activities can be found at: usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work
• USAID/BHA has provided nearly $117 million in response to humanitarian needs generated by the influx of Venezuelan migrants and refugees into the country since FY 2018. USAID/BHA partners Save the Children Federation, WFP, and World Vision are working to address acute food insecurity among Venezuelans in Peru by providing food assistance, including cash transfers for food and nutrition support, aiming to reach at least 107,000 Venezuelans. In FY 2022, partners are also providing unconditional food assistance and complementary nutrition interventions—targeted to improving nutrition practices and outcomes among pregnant and lactating women, as well as children ages five years and younger—to tens of thousands of Venezuelan refugees, migrants, and vulnerable host community members in Peru.

• USAID/BHA assistance also works to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic among vulnerable populations in Peru through national health system strengthening and targeted health care interventions. USAID/BHA provided nearly $3.6 million in FY 2021 support to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and the Pan American Health Organization to improve access to health services, as well as provide accurate information on the risks of COVID-19 and the benefits of vaccination, focusing on indigenous communities in Peru’s Amazon basin region.

• USAID/BHA partner WFP is also delivering emergency food assistance to food-insecure Peruvians and providing logistics support to the GoP to facilitate nationwide GoP-led food distributions. Additionally, to combat rising acute food insecurity among low-income individuals residing in urban areas of Peru, WFP supports community kitchens and *ollas comunes* or “community pots”, a local movement that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic, which collects discarded food surplus from wholesale suppliers for delivery to community-led canteens that prepare hot meals for individuals in need.

• USAID/BHA provides sustained, multi-year funding to non-governmental organization and UN partners to conduct ER4 activities that enhance community and livelihood resilience against natural disasters. USAID/BHA partner PREDES is promoting localized disaster risk management (DRM) activities in Peru’s northern and southern Lima Region—an area particularly vulnerable to earthquakes and landslides—by building community awareness of DRM best-practices through social-media campaigns that increase vulnerable communities’ knowledge of natural hazards in the region and strengthen local preparedness and response capacities through community disaster action plans, particularly among populations residing in informal settlements built on unstable, sloped terrain.

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<tr>
<th>USAID/BHA Funding in Peru¹</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency²</td>
<td>ER4</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>$50,798,954</td>
<td>$1,557,797</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2022</td>
<td>$31,649,176</td>
<td>$2,796,041</td>
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¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 14, 2022. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

²Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.