

SITUATION REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

2 million

Venezuelans fled since early 2017

450,000 +

Venezuelans refugees in Peru

1,200 +

Venezuelans entering Peru daily

Source: UNHCR, October 12, 2018

NEW INFORMATION AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has committed \$50,000 to our response, now valued at \$134,000. Our response includes:

- Improving the quality of services in four reception centers in Lima and Piura.
- Developing a mobile application to help refugees access legal support and other services.
- Producing an awareness campaign to promote positive integration and support for Venezuelans in Peru.
- Partnering with Caritas Peru to distribute LWR Quilts and Care Kits.

Venezuelan Refugee Crisis in Peru

October 25, 2018 | No. 3

SITUATION OVERVIEW

More than 2 million Venezuelans have left their country over the past two years due to an escalating economic crisis that has left the once-prosperous country struggling with alarming rates of extreme poverty, malnutrition and violence. The situation is a result of mismanagement of state funds and the collapse of a one-dimensional economy heavily dependent on oil exports. Inflation rates soared to 2,600 percent in 2017, drying up pensions and making salaries insufficient to cover basic needs, even for relatively well-paid government employees and professionals. Venezuelans are going to neighboring Colombia and Brazil, and further south to Peru, where there are now more than 450,000 Venezuelan refugees.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE EFFORTS

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is expanding operations in Columbia over the next two months and is working with local organizations to set up additional reception centers for Venezuelans. In northern Peru, UNHCR reception centers that were built to receive 200 to 300 refugees a day are trying to manage 1,000 to 1,200.

Several humanitarian organizations have launched responses to the crisis. However, the response so far has been focused on border areas where Venezuelans are arriving, leaving urban areas neglected and lacking basic services to facilitate their integration into society.



A Venezuelan family receives LWR Quilts and Care Kits in Lima. Photo by Eduardo Contreras.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF – ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

Thanks to a commitment of \$50,000 from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Lutheran World Relief is extending and expanding our response, now valued at \$134,000.

We are partnering with Encuentros, a Jesuit non-profit that has been working with the Venezuelan population in Peru since 2016, to establish a support network for Venezuelans arriving in Peru. We are also working with partner churches in Peru to build their capacity to respond to humanitarian crisis.

Venezuelans are arriving at reception centers that are not equipped to receive such large influxes of people, who are often in need of immediate medical care, food, water and hygiene supplies. Additionally, there is a major gap in the services available to new arrivals, including legal services to apply for work and establish residency in Peru.

In collaboration with Encuentros, we are improving the quality of services in four reception centers in Lima and Piura, developing a mobile application to help refugees access legal support and other services, and working with local media outlets to produce an awareness campaign designed to promote positive integration and support for Venezuelans in Peru.

We are also working with Caritas Peru to distribute LWR Quilts and Care Kits to Venezuelans, the majority of whom have arrived in Peru with little more than the clothes on their back.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IN THE COUNTRY

With nearly 75 years of demonstrated expertise helping to transform some of the hardest-to-reach places in the developing world, Lutheran World Relief is an innovative, trusted international nongovernmental organization committed to those otherwise cut off from basic human services and opportunities.

We help communities living in extreme poverty adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being and we respond to emergencies with a long-term view. When a disaster hits — whether it's a drought, tsunami or civil war — we work alongside communities over months and years to help them recover and adjust to new realities, ensuring that they are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge. Regardless of whether these challenges are chronic or acute Lutheran World Relief invests in communities to enable those living in extreme poverty to build the resilience they need to thrive.

Lutheran World Relief has worked in Peru since 1979, specializing in interventions that increase small-scale farmers' capacity to improve production quantity and quality, expand markets in rural production, assist communities to enhance their natural resource management, and increase the effectiveness of public and private investments in rural development initiatives. We work with local NGOs, governments and associative rural enterprises as well as directly with farmers in an array of value chains to implement contextually-adapted interventions including sustainable climate-smart agriculture, income diversification, post-harvest processing, financial services, marketing, and increased organizational capacity.

For additional information about Lutheran World Relief's response to this situation and other emergencies around the world, please visit lwr.org. You can also join the conversation about how Lutheran World Relief is responding to emergencies with a long-term view at facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief or twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief.



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