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for every child

# Venezuela CO

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1

### Earthquake

Reporting Period: 24 June – 25 June 2026

### Situation in Numbers

**971**  
people injured  
*(Ministry of Health of Venezuela official statement, 25 June 2026).*

**164**  
reported deaths  
*(Ministry of Health of Venezuela official statement, 25 June 2026).*

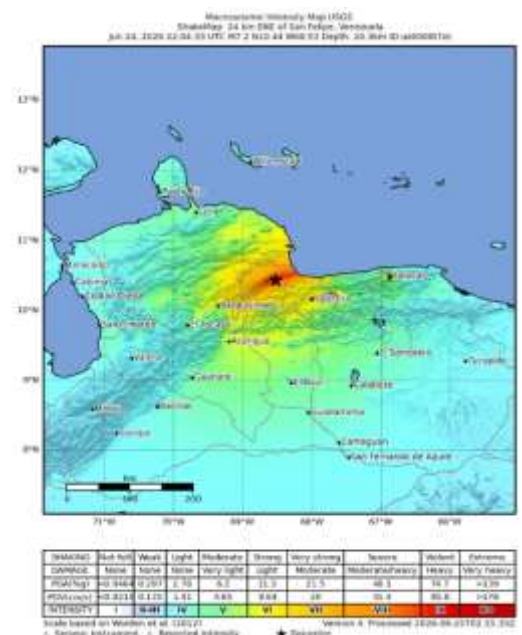
**30**  
aftershocks  
*(Ministry of Health of Venezuela official statement, 25 June 2026 - midday).*

### Highlights

- On June 24, approximately 18:00 local time, Venezuela was struck by two consecutive high-magnitude earthquakes (7.2 and 7.5) in the central-northern region, triggering national and widespread damage. According to official sources, more than 30 aftershocks have been recorded maintaining a high level of risk and complicating ongoing response and assessment efforts.
- The most affected areas include the Capital District, Miranda, Carabobo and Yaracuy States, with Caracas experiencing prolonged shaking, mass evacuations, and suffering significant damage.
- La Guaira, where the main international airport is located, has been identified as a disaster zone, where intensive search and rescue operations remain underway and complex.
- On 25 June, official reports indicated that 164 deaths and more than 970 injured people, with casualty figures expected to increase as rescue teams continue to search collapsed structures and conduct damage assessments.
- UNICEF is closely monitoring the impact of the earthquakes and is supporting national response efforts in coordination with other UN agencies and local partners to ensure that children’s protection, health, WASH, psychosocial support and other essential needs remain at the centre of the humanitarian response.



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**Source:** USGS ShakeMap, Macroseismic Intensity Map – M7.2, 24 km ENE of San Felipe, Venezuela, produced 24 June 2026 (processed 25 June 2026), USGS.

## Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

On 24 June, two powerful earthquakes of magnitude Mw 7.2 and Mw 7.5 struck Venezuela, marking the most significant seismic event in over a century. The epicentre, located near Yumare in Yaracuy State, triggered widespread destruction across La Guaira, Caracas, Carabobo, Falcón, Miranda and surrounding areas. The two main shocks occurred approximately 30 seconds apart, exacerbating structural damage and contributing to heightened disruption across already densely populated and infrastructure-constrained urban centres. On 25 June, Venezuela's Acting President, Delcy Rodríguez, has declared a state of emergency and reported on Thursday that 164 deaths and 971 injuries had been registered following the two major earthquakes.<sup>1</sup>

Preliminary reports indicate extensive damage to buildings, critical infrastructure, and essential services, including widespread failures in electricity, water supply, and telecommunications systems. In La Guaira, particularly in the vicinity of the port and airport area, severe structural damage has been reported, including collapsed buildings. The Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía has sustained damage and remains largely inoperable, although one runway is reportedly still operational. This has significantly constrained the flow of humanitarian personnel and relief supplies, as well as evacuation and logistics capacity. The earthquakes also affected key urban areas in Caracas, including Chacao municipality, where structural damage has been reported in both residential and commercial buildings. While Venezuela's 1967 earthquake remains a historical reference point for seismic risk in the capital, current building standards in parts of Caracas have contributed to variable levels of resilience; however, significant damage has nonetheless been observed, particularly in older or non-retrofitted structures.

Hospitals and health facilities in affected states are partially impacted, with assessments by the Ministry of Health ongoing. Preliminary indications suggest disruptions to service delivery capacity in some facilities, although full functional status remains to be confirmed. Civil Protection authorities and national security forces have been mobilized nationwide and are leading response and search-and-rescue operations. Children and vulnerable populations are among the most affected. Schools, health facilities, and child protection systems have been disrupted, leaving children at increased risk of psychological distress, displacement, and disease outbreaks. Pre-existing vulnerabilities in paediatric health services and nutrition systems have been further exacerbated by the shock. UNICEF and partners highlight heightened risks related to malnutrition, interruption of immunization services, and lack of safe water and sanitation in displacement settings.

Immediate humanitarian priorities, in addition to rescue operations, will be further defined following rapid multi-sectoral needs assessments. However, initial indications suggest urgent requirements for temporary shelter for displaced families, psychosocial support for children and caregivers, emergency health and nutrition interventions, restoration of safe water and sanitation services, and the establishment of temporary learning spaces to ensure continuity of education. Medium- to long-term recovery efforts will be essential to restore essential services and infrastructure, strengthen resilience, and ensure that children remain at the centre of the humanitarian response.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Since the onset of the emergency, UNICEF has been actively engaged in coordination with national, regional, and local authorities, as well as United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners, to support a coherent and timely response to the earthquakes of 24 June. UNICEF provides technical leadership and coordination support across the WASH, Nutrition, and Child Protection areas of responsibility, including preparedness for the prepositioning and rapid deployment of essential supplies and services based on identified needs.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Venezuela, led by the Humanitarian Coordinator, is coordinating the inter-agency response and engagement with national authorities to ensure a swift and

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), *Earthquakes in Venezuela (Mw 7.2 and Mw 7.5), Situation Report No. 1, 25 June 2026*.

effective humanitarian response. The Humanitarian Coordinator has been in direct contact with the interim President to discuss the evolving situation and urgent humanitarian priorities. UNICEF continues to work closely within this coordinated UN framework and with national counterparts to support priority-setting and the identification of immediate life-saving needs.

At the global and regional levels, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is facilitating the deployment of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams through the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) mechanism to support ongoing life-saving operations. OCHA is also deploying a rapid response team to strengthen in-country coordination, information management, and overall humanitarian response capacity. Cluster coordination mechanisms, including Logistics Cluster support led by the World Food Programme (WFP), with UNICEF participation. These mechanisms are strengthening operational coordination, enabling efficient delivery of assistance, and supporting overall response effectiveness across sectors.

### Access and Security Constraints

Access to consolidated information remains limited due to evolving coordination structures and information flows. Humanitarian coordination and approvals are routed through the government, which may affect response timelines. Transport infrastructure, including airports and roads, has been affected, constraining access to affected areas. UNICEF Venezuela has activated Business Continuity Plans following structural damage to office premises and staff housing, resulting in remote operations. Structural assessments of UNICEF premises are ongoing, including engagement of technical experts. Logistics and supply movement are being coordinated under constrained operational conditions.

### Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF donor engagement in response to the recent earthquakes is active and rapidly expanding, with multiple partners already expressing readiness to support humanitarian operations. Initial coordination with key stakeholders indicates strong interest in both immediate response financing and medium- to longer-term recovery investments, underscoring a positive early mobilization environment. UNICEF is concurrently engaging National Committees and strategic partners to support early fundraising efforts aligned with the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) framework. Sustained donor support remains critical, as without timely, flexible, and predictable funding, millions of people, particularly children, face heightened risks of malnutrition, disease, protection violations, and educational disruption. Such support is essential not only to meet immediate life-saving needs, but also to prevent further deterioration of humanitarian conditions and safeguard progress for the most vulnerable communities.

In 2026, UNICEF is appealing for **USD 137.6 million** under the inter-agency Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, with the aim of reaching **2.3 million people, including 1.2 million children**. As of June 2026, only 35 per cent of the required funding had been mobilized, and 88 per cent of available funding is expected to expire by the end of summer, underscoring the urgent need for additional and sustained support, particularly given that the twin earthquakes are set to exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities. Note that this appeal is situated within a broader humanitarian context in which Venezuela continues to face persistent fragility and increasing complexity, now further compounded by the recent earthquakes, which have significantly exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs.

Next SitRep: 29 June 2026

#### Contacts

**Manuel Rodriguez Pumarol**

Representative

UNICEF Venezuela

[mrodriguezpumarol@unicef.org](mailto:mrodriguezpumarol@unicef.org)

**Gabriel Vockel**

Deputy Representative

UNICEF Venezuela

[gvockel@unicef.org](mailto:gvockel@unicef.org)

**Ana Catalina Fernandez Rojas**

Emergency Focal Point

UNICEF Venezuela

[acfernandezrojas@unicef.org](mailto:acfernandezrojas@unicef.org)