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Reporting period: 26 June 2026 – 27 June 2026

Venezuela CO

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

Earthquakes

Highlights

- Approximately 72 hours have passed since two major earthquakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 struck north-central Venezuela on 24 June 2026, causing widespread destruction across densely populated urban areas. As of 27 June, at least 1430 people have been reported dead and over 3,000 have been injured with casualty figures expected to rise as search and rescue operations continue. In response, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela declared a [State of Emergency](#) to mobilize technical, human, financial and material resources.
- An estimated 6.76 million people, including approximately 2 million in Caracas, could be affected by the 24 June earthquakes in Venezuela, with preliminary satellite analysis indicating that 31.5 per cent of buildings in only one location (Catia La Mar) have been damaged (IOM, 27 June).
- UNICEF estimates that approximately 1.8 million people, including 680,000 children, are in need of humanitarian assistance* following the earthquakes in Venezuela. These figures are expected to evolve as access improves and further assessments are conducted.
- UNICEF has activated a scaled-up emergency response, deploying additional surge staff, mobilizing pre-positioned and incoming relief supplies, and participating in interagency assessments and coordination mechanisms to address urgent, life-saving needs in earthquake-affected areas. Through its earthquake response, UNICEF aims to reach approximately 650,000 people, including 234,000 children, with critical interventions across health, nutrition, WASH, child protection and education.
- A first air shipment from UNICEF's regional warehouse in Panama, carrying 20 tons of medical supplies, WASH items, and tents, arrived in the country on 27 June. A second shipment from UNICEF's central warehouse in Copenhagen, containing 48 tons of additional supplies, is expected to arrive on 30 June. Together, these supplies are intended to support more than 100,000 people.
- UNICEF estimates that US\$52 million will be required to support the humanitarian response to the earthquake emergency in Venezuela.

*According to UNICEF's Urgent Humanitarian Response Plan for the 2026 Venezuela earthquakes. Preliminary targets and funding requirements are subject to revision as damage and needs assessments continue and more information becomes available on the situation and needs of children and families affected by the earthquakes.

Situation in Numbers



6.76 million

People affected by the earthquakes
(according to IOM, 27 June 2026)

1.8 million

People in need of humanitarian assistance
(UNICEF estimate)



680K

children in need of humanitarian assistance
(UNICEF estimate)

650K

People to be reached
(UNICEF estimate)

234K

Children to be reached
(UNICEF estimate)

US\$52 million

Required for UNICEF humanitarian response



Source: OCHA Situation Report No. 3, Earthquakes in Venezuela, 26 June 2026.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF is seeking US\$52 million to respond to the humanitarian consequences of the 24 June earthquakes. Note that before the earthquakes, UNICEF's 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Venezuela stood at US\$137.6 million, with only 35 per cent funded.

The earthquake response aims to reach approximately 650,000 people, including 234,000 children, with life-saving assistance across health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and education. The funding requirement come at a time when Venezuela was already facing a protracted humanitarian situation, with an estimated 7.9 million people, including 3.9 children, in need of assistance prior to the disaster.

UNICEF is grateful for the rapid mobilization of flexible resources and the support of donors and partners that have enabled the immediate deployment of emergency supplies and personnel to support affected children and families. Continued and timely funding will be critical to sustain life-saving interventions, scale up emergency operations and address increasing humanitarian needs as assessments continue and access improves. Flexible contributions will enable UNICEF to complement Government-led response efforts and rapidly adapt to evolving needs on the ground. In addition to external contributions and donor pledges, UNICEF has mobilized approximately US\$3.5 million from its own internal resources, including the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) and Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds (GHTF), to enable an immediate scale-up of the response and ensure the rapid delivery of life-saving assistance in the initial phase of the emergency.

Under the leadership of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and within the interagency response framework, UNICEF is working closely with national and local authorities, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations through established coordination mechanisms. UNICEF is participating in interagency assessments and supporting sector coordination while leveraging its longstanding partnerships with government institutions, local organizations and the private sector to deliver urgent assistance and support early recovery efforts for children and their families in the affected areas.

Situation overview and Humanitarian Needs

On 24 June 2026, Venezuela was struck by two major earthquakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 within one minute of each other, causing widespread destruction across north-central and densely populated urban areas of the country. Two days after the earthquakes, at least 1430 deaths and more than 3,000 injured were reported, with casualty figures expected to rise as search and rescue operations continue. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has declared a State of Emergency throughout the national territory to mobilize technical, human, financial and material resources in support of the response.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), preliminary estimates indicate that up to 6.76 million people, including approximately 2 million people in Caracas, could be affected by the earthquakes. Initial satellite analysis suggests that 31.5 per cent of buildings in Catia La Mar (La Guaira) alone have sustained damage,ⁱ highlighting the severity of the disaster and the potential for significant displacement.

UNICEF estimates that approximately 1.8 million people, including 680,000 children, are in need of humanitarian assistance,ⁱⁱ with figures expected to evolve as access improves and additional assessments are conducted. The earthquakes have compounded an already fragile humanitarian context. Prior to the disaster, an estimated 7.9 million people, including 3.9 million children, required humanitarian assistance due to prolonged socioeconomic challenges and gaps in access to essential services. The earthquakes have further strained already vulnerable communities, creating a complex urban emergency characterized by damaged critical infrastructure, disrupted services and increasing humanitarian needs, particularly among children and families.

UNICEF is supporting national response efforts in close coordination with government counterparts, United Nations agencies, humanitarian partners and local actors to ensure that the needs and rights of children remain at the centre of the response. UNICEF has activated a scale-up response, mobilized emergency funding and deployed additional surge personnel to support assessments, coordination and the delivery of life-saving assistance. Through its earthquake response, UNICEF aims to reach approximately 650,000 people, including 234,000 children, with critical interventions across health, nutrition, WASH, child protection and education.

A first air shipment from UNICEF's regional warehouse in Panama, carrying 20 metric tons of medical supplies, WASH items and tents, arrived in the country on 27 June. A second shipment of 48 metric tons from UNICEF's Global Supply Hub in Copenhagen is expected to arrive on 30 June. Together, these supplies are expected to support approximately 100,000 people with life-saving assistance. UNICEF is also mobilizing pre-positioned supplies and preparing additional shipments to address urgent humanitarian needs.

Immediate priorities, beyond search and rescue operations, include the provision of emergency health and nutrition assistance, safe water and sanitation services, psychosocial support for children and caregivers, child protection services and temporary learning spaces to ensure continuity of education. Over the medium and longer term, recovery efforts will focus on restoring essential services and infrastructure, strengthening community resilience and supporting children and families to recover with dignity.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

As the situation continues to evolve, UNICEF teams are on the ground working closely with government counterparts, UN agencies, clusters, partners, and stakeholders to assess needs and mobilize an immediate response. Pre-positioned supplies and incoming shipments will be dispatched to affected areas in the coming days, while additional staff from field offices, headquarters, and the regional office are being deployed to scale up operations. Discussions with partners are ongoing to address urgent, time-critical life-saving needs, and interagency assessments are beginning, with UNICEF participating both programmatically and as cluster lead.

WASH

The earthquakes have severely disrupted water and sanitation services, leaving families without reliable access to safe drinking water. Vulnerable populations, especially children, face increased exposure to unsafe conditions, compounding pre-existing fragilities in WASH systems.

UNICEF will prioritize rapid needs assessments and immediate interventions, including contracting water trucking, activating portable treatment plants, installing filters and water points in shelters, and deploying portable latrines. Critical supplies such as family and individual hygiene kits will be delivered to affected communities. Surge support from field offices and the Regional Office is being mobilized to strengthen WASH capacity and ensure life-saving actions are delivered quickly.

Health and Nutrition

Severe infrastructure damage to key hospitals across La Guaira, Caracas (Distrito Capital and Miranda), Carabobo, Aragua, and Falcón have severely constrained service delivery for children and families, pushing multiple facilities to critical capacity. This widespread disruption acutely compounds pre-existing vulnerabilities in child nutrition and maternal health, escalating the risk of disease outbreaks and leaving pregnant women and infants with inadequate care.

In response, UNICEF is actively coordinating with the Ministry of Health to deploy immediate, life-saving interventions. Key operational priorities include the provision of emergency paediatric trauma management, emergency obstetric and neonatal care, and the promotion of infant and young child feeding (IYCF)

frameworks tailored for emergencies. Additionally, UNICEF plans to scale up nutritional screenings, deploying health personnel to shelters, conducting maternal health checks, and distributing essential nutritional supplements. The initial phase of this response strictly targets immediate, life-saving interventions at heavily impacted health facilities and temporary shelters, prioritizing children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

Child Protection, GBV

The earthquake has exacerbated severe protection risks for children and adolescents, including family separation, violence, abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and child labour. Overcrowding in shelters, lack of privacy, and the use of open spaces increase exposure to gender-based violence and psychosocial distress. Limited monitoring of unaccompanied and separated children in health facilities has been reported, alongside protection risks in informal camps and restricted access to protection and justice services, hindering timely assistance.

The response is being implemented in coordination with government institutions and humanitarian partners. A field visit was conducted with the national child protection authority (IDENNA) to La Guaira on 26 June to assess protection needs, particularly for unaccompanied children. Priority actions include family tracing and reunification, case management, psychosocial support in safe spaces, and community-based protection. Referral pathways, service mapping, and violence prevention mechanisms are being strengthened, alongside improved access to identity and integrated protection services in areas with limited institutional capacity.

Education

Educational infrastructure has sustained damage in the most affected areas, forcing school closures and disrupting learning. Preliminary information from the local education authorities in the Capital District indicates that only in the Capital District 432 schools in the have been affected (34 per cent of all schools)ⁱⁱⁱ with severe structural damage to their infrastructure. These estimates are expected to be much higher in other states, such as La Guaira, pending the release of official data. Authorities are setting up schools that are in good condition as temporary shelters for affected families. Children face heightened risks of loss of routine, and psychosocial stress, compounding pre-existing challenges in access to quality education.

UNICEF is collaborating with government and partners to assess damage and set-up temporary child friendly spaces to address immediate needs in terms of psychosocial support and basic learning through recreational activities. Support will include provision of learning materials, training on psychosocial support and EiE for facilitators, and advocacy to ensure continuity of education in emergencies.

Supplies and Logistics

The first flight carrying 20 tons of life-saving supplies from Panama has arrived in Valencia on 27th June. This shipment represents the initial phase of the humanitarian response to the recent earthquake, aiming to address urgent needs among affected populations with much more to follow. The cargo includes health supplies, such as essential medications, emergency treatment kits, and first-aid supplies, intended to support immediate medical care. In addition, the flight delivers critical WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) supplies, including water storage tanks and hygiene kits, which are vital to ensuring access to safe water and maintaining basic sanitation standards in impacted communities. These supplies will be distributed to support children and vulnerable families, helping to stabilize conditions and prevent further deterioration of health and living standards in the aftermath of the disaster. This operation marks a key step in the broader logistics and relief effort, with additional shipments expected to follow in the coming days to reinforce ongoing response activities.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The UN system is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with the government and all clusters through established national mechanisms. From the onset of the emergency, UNICEF provides leadership for the WASH and Nutrition clusters, co-leads the Education cluster with Save the Children and leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. Cluster discussions at national and sub-national levels are ongoing to gather information on immediate needs and coordinate interventions. Through strong partnerships with donors, UN agencies, and local organizations, UNICEF is mobilizing resources and surge capacity to deliver life-saving interventions. The strategy emphasizes immediate response while laying the groundwork for recovery.

The Child Protection (CP) Area of Responsibility (AoR) is closely coordinating with the Protection Cluster and the GBV AoR to identify priority protection needs, continuously update mapping of active child protection services, available capacities, and coordinate response actions in affected areas. Key priorities include supporting critical services for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and scaling up mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). To date, 34 protection services, including child protection, are operational, and at least 11 organizations have available human resources to support CP interventions in the field. Key messages have been rapidly adapted to the emergency context and are being disseminated through partners and community networks to prevent further exposure of children to risks, with a focus on UASC protection and the prevention of family separation. Intersectoral coordination is ongoing, particularly with the Health Cluster, to advocate for and strengthen the protection of children in health facilities.

The WASH Cluster is closely coordinating with their partners and key actors to identify priority sectoral needs, also mapping available services, infrastructure damage, technical and operational capacities, coordinating response actions in affected areas. Key initial priorities include ensuring access to safe drinking water, providing safe sanitation facilities and the promotion of hygiene practices to prevent disease outbreaks. Efforts are focused on scaling up emergency water supply, safe storage and the distribution of water treatment supplies, as well as improving waste management in high-risk locations. To date, multiple WASH partners have shown capacities to support affected areas, with several organizations deploying technical staff and resources to support rapid response activities. Water treatment, sanitation and Hygiene promotion messages have been adapted to the emergency context and are being disseminated through partners aiming mainly to reduce public health risks, with particular attention to vulnerable populations. Articulated intersectoral activities and integration with cross-cutting areas are a key priority as well as with the Local Coordination Platforms.

The Education Cluster is closely coordinating with national authorities, particularly the Ministry of Education, and partners to assess priority education needs, update the mapping of affected schools, and organize response actions in impacted areas. The situation is characterized by a nationwide suspension of educational activities and significant infrastructure damage, with hundreds of schools affected, many declared unsafe, and an increasing use of schools as temporary shelters. Current efforts focus on rapid assessments, monitoring service disruption, and identifying needs for safe alternative learning spaces. While partners demonstrate strong operational capacity—including trained personnel for rapid deployment, delivery of socioemotional support and learning interventions, and the establishment of temporary learning spaces—available resources remain insufficient to meet the scale of needs. Existing capacities include education and recreational kits, temporary learning centre models, teacher training, WASH support, and dissemination of life-saving messages; however, significant additional funding is required to scale up these interventions and reach all affected children. Key priorities include establishing protective learning spaces, integrating socioemotional support, and progressively reintroducing essential learning, with ongoing coordination with shelter, protection, and WASH actors to ensure continuity of education and support the recovery of services.

Security and access constraints

The current operational environment in Venezuela presents challenges to humanitarian access following the June 24 earthquakes. Infrastructure collapse across Caracas, Yaracuy, and Carabobo has left roads blocked by debris, limiting mobility for rescue teams and humanitarian convoys. Damage to Maiquetia International Airport and disruptions in telecommunications further complicate logistics, delaying the arrival of relief supplies and restricting coordination. Power outages and the suspension of household gas services have created unsafe conditions in urban areas, while aftershocks continue to pose risks to responders and affected communities. To overcome these constraints, UNICEF and partners are closely coordinating with government counterparts.

Next SitRep: 29 June 2026

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ⁱ International Organization for Migration (IOM), "676 million people could be affected by Venezuela earthquakes, according to IOM", 26 June 2026. Available at: <https://www.iom.int/news/676-million-people-could-be-affected-venezuela-earthquakes-according-iom>

ⁱⁱ According to UNICEF's Urgent Humanitarian Response Plan for the 2026 Venezuela earthquakes. Preliminary targets and funding requirements are subject to revision as damage and needs assessments continue and more information becomes available on the situation and needs of children and families affected by the earthquakes.

ⁱⁱⁱ UNICEF–UCV, Informe interno del Grupo de Formación de Gestión de Riesgo de Desastres, documento técnico no publicado, 25 de junio de 2026.