

July – Dec 2026

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

On 24 June 2026, two powerful earthquakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 struck north-central Venezuela, adding a new layer of humanitarian needs to an already fragile context. Two weeks after the earthquakes, official figures reported **4,490 deaths, 16,740 people injured and 17,907 people left without housing**. More than **1,200 aftershocks have been recorded**, while damage assessments continue. La Guaira was the most affected state, followed by the Capital District and Miranda, with impacts also reported in Aragua, Carabobo, Falcón and Yaracuy. The Government declared a State of Emergency and announced a seven-day national mourning period.

The earthquakes caused extensive damage to homes, health facilities, schools and water systems, disrupting essential services and increasing humanitarian needs, particularly for children and women. To date, **856 buildings have been damaged, including 190 that collapsed, while 432 schools have been affected**, disrupting access to education and other essential services.

More than 19,583 people are currently sheltering in 108 government-managed temporary camps in La Guaira, Caracas, Miranda and Aragua. The UN is co-managing 4 temporary camps in La Guaira, hosting 58 percent of the population living in shelters in the state. A Rapid Needs Assessment identified immediate priority humanitarian needs in health, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and nutrition, shelter, protection and psychosocial support. Given additional barriers to education, including loss of livelihoods, damaged infrastructure and the use of schools as temporary shelters, UNICEF has also prioritised support to return to school.

UNICEF's response is aligned with the addendum to the 2026 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in Venezuela, which targets **1.3 million people affected by the earthquake** across 7 states. The earthquakes have compounded a pre-existing humanitarian situation. Before the earthquakes, UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal targeted 2.3 million people, including 1.2 million children, with a focus on addressing critical needs in health care, nutrition, safe water, sanitation, education and child protection services.

Venezuela Earthquake Response (Addendum to HAC 2026)

Situation in Numbers



470K

People to be reached
(UNICEF target)



169K

Children to be reached
(UNICEF target)

Funding Requirements

US\$65.7 million

Key Planned Targets



470,000

people accessing a
sufficient quantity of
safe water, hygiene,
and sanitation



124,699

children and women
receiving health
assistance



115,400

children receiving
nutrition assistance



60,000

children receiving
protection assistance

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY¹

Guided by the **Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs)**, UNICEF is implementing a child-centred, multi-sectoral humanitarian response to address the most urgent needs generated by the June 2026 earthquakes in Venezuela. **UNICEF's earthquake response aims to reach approximately 470,000 people, including 169,000 children**, through integrated interventions in WASH, health, nutrition, child protection and education, prioritizing the most affected areas of La Guaira, followed by the Capital District, Miranda, Aragua, Carabobo, Falcón and Yaracuy. In line with the HRP, the plan is focused on the most vulnerable groups including displaced population, children under 5 years old, pregnant and lactating women, and people with disabilities, among others.

UNICEF's response, in close coordination with the authorities, prioritizes life-saving assistance, the restoration of essential services and early recovery, while ensuring that children and families affected by the earthquakes have access to safe, inclusive and quality services. UNICEF's approach integrates Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Social and Behaviour Change (SBC), gender-responsive programming, disability inclusion and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) across all interventions.

UNICEF's earthquake response follows a phased approach: (1) provision of life-saving services, through the rapid delivery of humanitarian assistance in temporary camps and affected communities; and (2) the restoration of essential service provision with a focus on increased coverage, improved quality and support to national and local systems.

Protection remains central to UNICEF's response, with efforts to prevent and address risks affecting children, including family separation, gender-based violence, mental health and psychosocial distress, and sexual exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF will also provide **multipurpose cash assistance** to vulnerable earthquake-affected households, prioritizing families with children, pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities and households facing increased socioeconomic vulnerabilities.

Working closely with national and local authorities, communities and civil society, including community and faith-based organizations, UNICEF delivers integrated, inclusive, and sustainable support that bridges humanitarian assistance with system strengthening and community resilience. As cluster lead agency for Nutrition and WASH Clusters, co-lead of Education and lead for the Child Protection Area of Responsibility in the Protection Cluster, UNICEF supports a coordinated, child-centred response aligned with the HRP.



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PRIORITY RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Health

UNICEF will ensure that earthquake-affected children and families have continuous access to essential health services by providing emergency medical supplies, supporting affected healthcare facilities, and deploying mobile health teams. These efforts prioritize maternal, newborn, and child health, routine immunization, disease surveillance, and referral systems. Additionally, by closely coordinating with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF will strengthen the restoration of primary healthcare services, build health worker capacities, and reinforce community-based health networks, with a focus on outbreak prevention and the continuity of essential care.

Nutrition

UNICEF will support the identification, referral and treatment of children with acute malnutrition while promoting optimal infant and young child feeding practices and supporting pregnant and lactating women. Nutrition interventions will be integrated with health, WASH and protection services, while strengthening community-based nutrition services,

¹ Following a more comprehensive picture of needs, UNICEF refined its initial earthquake planning target from 650,000 people, including 234,000 children, to 470,000 people, including 169,000 children. The revised target reflects more precise geographic and needs-based prioritization. Despite the lower target, the funding requirement increased from US\$52 million to

US\$65.7 million because the revised response includes an expanded package of assistance than initially envisaged. This includes expanded emergency logistics and supplies, continuity of learning, restoration of water and sanitation systems, strengthened health, nutrition and protection services, and humanitarian cash transfers.

follow-up and prevention activities. UNICEF will work closely with the National Nutrition Institute to ensure buy-in and more sustainable actions at scale.

Child Protection, GBViE

UNICEF will prioritize lifesaving interventions through safe spaces for children and adolescents, psychosocial support, case management, identification and referral of children at risk, and family tracing and reunification where needed. For children displaced by the earthquake, UNICEF will prioritise addressing protection risks such as gender-based violence, violence, exploitation and abuse, through strengthened referral pathways, community-based mechanisms and integration of safeguarding and PSEA measures across the response. UNICEF will work closely with the National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (IDENNA) to ensure a robust national child protection system is in place.



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A moment of recreation for children in a temporary Child-Friendly Space set up by UNICEF at a temporary camp housing families affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela. July 2026.

Education

UNICEF will support identification of children and adolescents directly affected by the earthquake to better understand their educational, psychosocial and protection needs. UNICEF will support the continuity of learning through temporary learning spaces in camps, provide educational and recreational materials, and create safe learning environments that provide children with structure, protection and psychosocial support. As the initial phase of the emergencies moves towards a service recovery stage, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education in the restoration of education facilities, teacher capacity strengthening, learning recovery and inclusive education approaches, including for schools damaged or used as temporary camps.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF will provide access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in temporary camps and affected communities through emergency water supply, water treatment, hygiene promotion, hygiene supplies and

temporary sanitation facilities. As the response progresses, UNICEF will work with national authorities to support the rehabilitation of damaged WASH infrastructure, strengthen community water systems and restore sustainable WASH services in schools, health facilities and communities, while promoting safe hygiene practices through community engagement.

Cash Transfers and Social Protection

UNICEF will provide multipurpose cash assistance to support vulnerable earthquake-affected households to meet urgent needs and strengthen recovery. Assistance will prioritize families with children, pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities and households facing increased protection or socioeconomic risks, complementing sectoral interventions and supporting access to essential goods and services.

Cross-sectoral (AAP, PSEA, SBC)

Across all sectors, UNICEF will promote localization through partnerships with national authorities, civil society and communities, while strengthening accountability mechanisms, community engagement, SBC, disability inclusion, gender-responsive programming and PSEA measures to ensure safe, inclusive and equitable assistance.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

In line with the addendum to the HRP, UNICEF requires US\$65.7 million to support the humanitarian response to the June 2026 earthquakes in Venezuela and provide life-saving assistance to approximately 470,000 people, including 169,000 children, in the most affected areas. The funding requirement reflects the urgent need to address the immediate humanitarian consequences of the disaster, restore access to essential services, and support early recovery efforts for affected children and families.

Sector	2026 Earthquake response requirements (US\$)
Health	\$15,465,280
Nutrition	\$6,352,348
Child protection and GBViE	\$7,177,493
Education	\$9,198,732
WASH	\$17,760,393
Humanitarian Cash Transfers	\$9,175,600
Cross-sectoral	\$537,312
Total	\$65,667,158

The earthquake response builds on UNICEF's existing humanitarian presence in Venezuela, including established partnerships, pre-positioned supplies, technical capacity and ongoing programmes, enabling

the rapid deployment of assistance and the expansion of interventions in affected areas. UNICEF's integrated response prioritizes health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection, while ensuring that affected children and families receive timely, inclusive and quality support.

Flexible and predictable funding is critical to sustain life-saving interventions in Venezuela's most impacted areas, restore essential services and support vulnerable households as they recover from the impact of earthquakes. Timely contributions will enable UNICEF and partners to scale up assistance, strengthen coordination with national and local authorities, and support affected communities in building resilience while ensuring that children remain at the centre of the response.

The funding requirement for UNICEF's earthquake response is in addition to the US\$137.6 million requested under the 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal. This brings the total ask for UNICEF's HAC appeal in Venezuela to US\$203.2 million.

Contacts

Manuel Rodriguez Pumarol

Representative

UNICEF Venezuela

mrodriguezpumarol@unicef.org

+58 4149174558

Gabriel Vockel

Deputy Representative

UNICEF Venezuela

gvockel@unicef.org

+58 4241369876

Lenay Alexandra Blason

Regional Emergency Advisor

UNICEF LACRO

Email: lablason@unicef.org

Phone number: + 507 64372782