

# PROTECTION CLUSTER VENEZUELA

JULY/AUGUST 2023 ACTIVITY REPORT



Protection Cluster

## Protection Cluster July/August 2023 activity report

This report has been prepared by the Protection Cluster in Venezuela

*Cover photo: © UNHCR / Kimberly Sarkis (2023)*

The Protection Cluster is a broad-based participatory forum of protection partners which brings together United Nations agencies, human rights and development organisations and actors, as well as local and international non-governmental organisations. The Protection Cluster is led by UNHCR.

All our information products, including reports, maps and factsheets are available on the Venezuela Protection Cluster website:

<https://ven.protectioncluster.org>

### Contacts:

Protection Cluster Coordinator, **Alice Contini**, [continia@unhcr.org](mailto:continia@unhcr.org)  
Protection Associate, **Patricia Bosco**, [boscoleo@unhcr.org](mailto:boscoleo@unhcr.org)  
Counter-Trafficking in Crisis Specialist, **Norma Ferrer**, [noferrer@iom.int](mailto:noferrer@iom.int)  
Protection Assistant, **Kimberly Sarkis**, [sarkisne@unhcr.org](mailto:sarkisne@unhcr.org)  
Protection Specialist, **Giuliana Inturrisi**, [giuliana.inturrisi@drc.ngo](mailto:giuliana.inturrisi@drc.ngo)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## Operational highlights

4	HRP 2024-2025 / HNO / HRP Planning	10	World Day against Trafficking in Persons
4	Workplan between R4V and the Protection Cluster Venezuela	12	Transition to 345W Reporting Platform
5	Guide on Temporary Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Venezuela	12	Multisectoral Needs Survey
5	Guide on Protection and Inclusion of LGBTIQ+ Persons in Humanitarian Action in Venezuela	13	<b>Protection response: performance and funding</b>
6	World Humanitarian Day		Humanitarian Response
6	Communication Tools Updates and Dissemination on Protection Service Mapping		
8	July's Monthly Meeting with Cluster Partners		
8	July's Impact Story: FUNDANA		
8	August's Monthly Meeting with Cluster Partners		
10	August's Impact Story: World Vision		
10	Training on Counter-Trafficking in Emergencies for Cluster Partners		

# OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT

July/August 2023 report  
Venezuela



## Some key achievements

- HRP 2024-2025 / HNO / HRP Planning
- Creation of a Guide on Protecting LGBTIQ+ in Humanitarian Action
- Workplan between R4V and the Protection Cluster Venezuela
- Guide on Temporary Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Venezuela
- Guide on Protection and Inclusion of LGBTIQ+ Persons in Humanitarian Action in Venezuela/Inclusive
- Communication Tools Updates and Dissemination on Protection Service Mapping
- Training on Counter-Trafficking in Emergencies for Cluster Partners
- Forum "Progress, challenges and perspectives to prevent, repress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women, girls, boys and adolescents in Venezuela".
- Transition to 345W Reporting Platform
- Multisectoral Needs Survey

## I. HRP 2024-2025 / HNO / HRP Planning

Throughout the months of July and August, significant progress was made in the preparatory phase for updating the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Notably, efforts were directed towards designing the protection risk questions that would be incorporated into the multi-sectoral needs survey, which will inform the HNO. Eight intersectoral lines were delineated for the HRP, encompassing crucial areas such as essential health services, mental health, and psychosocial support, intersectoral interventions in educational spaces, temporary shelter provisions, mobile service points, intersectoral initiatives in community settings, establishment of safe and protective environments for returnees and

host communities, and livelihood interventions.

To enhance the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the PC's logical framework and those of its Areas of Responsibility (AoRs), revisions and updates were carried out, with a particular focus on strengthening livelihood interventions and incorporating reintegration and peaceful coexistence activities, which had previously not been included. Additionally, the HRP project template underwent revision to streamline and simplify its completion process.

Furthermore, the PC team attended an informative presentation by OCHA on the JIAF 2.0 platform. This platform, known as the Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework, sets global standards for analyzing and estimating the multifaceted humanitarian needs and protection

risks of populations in crisis situations. This platform will play a pivotal role in supporting the design and implementation of Venezuela's HNO/HRP.

## II. Workplan between R4V and the Protection Cluster Venezuela

A joint work plan between R4V and the PC has been devised with the aim of fortifying the protection response in both Venezuela and the broader region. This initiative seeks to enhance the prevention and response to protection risks in a coordinated and coherent manner. Together, the R4V and the PC, have identified strategies to bolster the provision of protection services and mechanisms for individuals on the move and those with specific needs. The work plan places significant emphasis on adopting an ethnic, age, gender, and diversity (AGD) approach.



Within this collaborative framework, the two platforms have delineated several key areas of focus:

**1. Voluntary Return:** This component places a spotlight on the reintegration and access to rights for individuals returning to Venezuela.

**2. Housing, Land, and Property:** It specifically addresses the housing, land, and property needs of the population returning to Venezuela.

**3. Family Reunification:** Prioritizing those in Venezuela who require support for reunification in the host countries of the Venezuelan diaspora.

**4. Indigenous Population:** This aspect offers insights into preventing displacement, providing alternatives to irregular mining, and underscores

activities related to the potential voluntary returns of indigenous populations, notably the Warao communities.

**5. Prevention and Response to Human Trafficking Situations:** Finally, this component is dedicated to preventing and responding to situations of human trafficking.

### III. Guide on Temporary Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Venezuela

A recently published and disseminated guide on Temporary Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Venezuela is now available at the following link <https://rb.gy/wjqj7>. This document represents a collaborative effort between the WGTiP, the Shelter Cluster, and various international organizations. It addresses

the critical shortage of specialized shelters for victims of human trafficking in Venezuela. The primary objective of these guidelines is to facilitate the establishment of shelters for victims of human trafficking by humanitarian actors operating in Venezuela. Specifically, this document has been meticulously crafted to offer guidance, highlight best practices, and recommend resources within the thematic areas explored in its chapters. The document has further been coordinated with the Directorate General for Women and Family Issues of the Venezuela Public Ministry to assure that this shelter will be opened within the Venezuela legal framework.

### IV. Guide on Protection and Inclusion of LGBTIQ+ Persons in Humanitarian Action

A guide centred on the Protection

and Inclusion of LGBTIQ+ Persons in Humanitarian Action in Venezuela, has been recently published and disseminated, accessible through the following link <https://rb.gy/ixcnx>.

This guide offers practical information on how to protect and actively involve the LGBTIQ+ population in humanitarian efforts, with a special emphasis on fostering a non-discriminatory environment. It is designed to inform and guide a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including humanitarian actors, public servants, UN agencies and funds, international and local organizations, and civil society groups. It provides insights into how to engage in actions aimed at delivering distinct, dignified, and non-discriminatory services to LGBTIQ+ individuals. The overarching goal of this resource is to promote a humanitarian environment where everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity,



or expression, is treated equitably and with respect. Through the utilization of this guide, UNHCR and its partners can better align their operations with humanitarian principles, thus offering more inclusive and dignified services to the LGBTIQ+ community.

## V. World Humanitarian Day

**Every year on August 19th, World Humanitarian Day is observed, commemorating the 22 aid workers who tragically lost their lives in an attack on the United Nations (UN) headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003.**

This tragic incident had a profound impact on humanitarian organizations, transforming them from respected entities into targets of attacks. Consequently, the Communication Team of the Humanitarian Country Team orchestrated an artistic event this year to pay

homage to this day. This event unfolded in the community of Petare, Caracas, specifically at the Colibri Center, with the collaborative support of various organizations, including UNHCR, Caritas, HIAS, OCHA, Luz y Vida Foundation, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, among others. Its primary objective was to raise awareness about the significance of humanitarian work and reinforce the core humanitarian principles: Humanity, Impartiality, Independence, and Neutrality. Renowned Venezuelan artist Wolfgang Salazar, known as "Badsura," crafted an urban mural that not only beautified the space but also encapsulated the values and identity of the community. In the spirit of a comprehensive commemoration, humanitarian organizations and UN entities actively participated by providing information services to the community.

The PA of the Cluster disseminated

information regarding the Protection Service Mapping Tool and ensured the distribution of informative triptychs on Service Mapping. Additionally, she provided support to the Protection Unit in elucidating the protection activities carried out by UNHCR in the area.

## VI. Communication Tools Updates and Dissemination on Protection Service Mapping

**Through the development of a strategic tri-fold pamphlet, tailored for humanitarian and government organizations, the PC has significantly expanded its outreach to communities and organizations, enhancing their understanding and utilization of the Service Mapping tool and its importance.**

The recent creation of an instructional

video on Service Mapping has simplified the tool's usage for individuals of concern. The impact of these resources hinges on their ability to empower communities to better leverage this tool, facilitating access to the protection services they require.

Over the past two months, the PC has also maintained an ongoing series of bilateral engagements with partners to assist them in editing registered services, adding new ones if available, and doing advocacy work for the usage of the Service Mapping. Moreover, the IM officers have been diligently working to cleanse and update all the relevant data and thoroughly review the service registration form to streamline the process and ensure inclusivity.



© UNHCR / Kimberly Sarkis (2023)



## VII. July's Monthly Meeting with Cluster Partners

**In observance of the International Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the monthly partner meeting for July was dedicated to this crucial topic.**

The meeting took place on July 27th and featured the following agenda items: an update on the progress of the Working Group against Human Trafficking's work plan and objectives for 2023, an in-depth presentation on their quarterly bulletin covering human trafficking trends and activities carried out by UN and national organizations from November to March, a focused presentation on recent activities related to this topic, and, as a concluding point, the sharing of response monitoring statistics, indicating the total number of individuals reached in the preceding month. A total of 94 members representing 55 partner organizations attended

the meeting, displaying active engagement and keen interest in discussing a topic of immense relevance within the Venezuelan humanitarian context.

## VIII. July's Impact Story: FUNDANA

**In July, the Protection Cluster (PC) embarked on a visit to one of its partners, FUNDANA, a national organization that has been steadfastly engaged in child protection work for the past 32 years.** FUNDANA's programs are firmly rooted in community-based protection and revolve around three core pillars: child protection, psychoeducational prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) in communities, and the empowerment of women. Building upon these pillars, FUNDANA has positively impacted the lives of over 32,000 individuals through a compre-

hensive array of services, including case management, intersectoral and interdisciplinary care, sensitization initiatives, and specialized psychosocial support.

FUNDANA operates its programs across four states in Venezuela: Capital District, Miranda, La Guaira, and Anzoátegui. During the PC's visit to Caucagüita, Sucre Municipality, in the Miranda state, the protection assistant (PA) conducted interviews with the FUNDANA staff to gain deeper insights about the protection risks facing this community and the ongoing initiatives. The bedrock of FUNDANA's impact lies in their unwavering commitment to a human rights and gender equality framework. Their flagship program in Caucagüita, "PROFAM Comunitario," encompasses a holistic approach to psychosocial support and empowerment for children, women, and key community stakeholders dedicated

to safeguarding and advocating for the rights of children and women. The beneficiaries of this program conveyed their profound satisfaction and gratitude for the services provided.

## IX. August's Monthly Meeting with Cluster Partners

**On Thursday, August 24th, the PC convened its monthly meeting with partners, featuring a flexible agenda due to the relatively quiet period in the humanitarian sector during this month.** The agenda included an information exchange session among partners, focusing on their protection responses and implemented activities, an update from the national subcluster responsible for the states of Apure, Amazonas, and Barinas, and lastly, the PA presented the response monitoring figures for July, which are always geneThe The PC







ing the 5W reports submitted by partner organizations. A total of 50 members representing 40 partner organizations attended this meeting. This meeting also served as an occasion to bid farewell to the departing PC Coordinator, and to extend a warm welcome to the new coordinator joining the Cluster for the upcoming period.

## X. August's Impact Story: World Vision

During the month of August, the PC decided to visit one of its international partners who had expressed a keen interest in participating in the monthly "impact stories series." The visit took place in Santa Cruz del Este, within the Miranda state. Despite having only, a four-year presence in the country, WVV has spearheaded a multitude of impactful projects, delivering targeted

interventions to over 8,300 individuals spanning 15 states in Venezuela.

WVV's core mission revolves around addressing the root causes of poverty by closely aligning with community needs, encompassing areas such as protection, education, health, economic development, access to water, community empowerment, emergency humanitarian aid, and the amplification and consolidation of their advocacy endeavors, especially in matters concerning child protection and equity.

Currently, WVV is implementing the "Growing Together" project, designed to enhance the nutritional and protective conditions of adult women, pregnant and lactating adolescents, and children residing in the Santa Cruz. During the visit, the PA had the privilege of participating in their "first aid for the heart" activity,

which aims to equip children with simple yet effective art-based tools to enhance resilience and mitigate adverse experiences. Children were encouraged to color a tree with numerous branches and inscribe within them the names of individuals who constitute their emotional support network.

WVV has earned acclaim in the humanitarian sphere for its pivotal role in forging pathways to development and ensuring a more stable future for vulnerable children, adolescents, and their families.

## XI. Training on Counter-Trafficking in Emergencies for Cluster Partners

Organization and implementation of a training on Counter-Trafficking in Emergencies held together with the Child Protection and GBV AoRs and

**Tinta Violeta on Thursday, August 10** with the participation of 25 people from 22 partner organizations discussing different topics, incl. GBV, child victims, legal framework, and detection of trafficking cases.

## XII. World Day against Trafficking in Persons

*a. Forum "Progress, challenges and perspectives to prevent, repress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women, girls, boys and adolescents in Venezuela".*

On Tuesday, August 1st the PC organized together with Tinta Violeta, CESVI and IOM, an event on the "Progress, challenges and perspectives to prevent, repress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women, girls, boys and adolescents in Venezuela". This event saw



a presentation from the Protection Cluster Coordinator, Lia Poggio and Carmen Gonzalez from IOM Chief of Mission a.i. and Senior Counter-Trafficking Specialist, judge Lourdes Suarez from the Court of Justice, the Ombudsman Alfredo Ruiz, Asia Villegas representative of the National Assembly, and Daniella Inojosa from Tinta Violeta. The event was closed to members of government institutions, including ONDOFCT and CICPC and the organizations from the WGTiP. This was a first-in-its-kind event that saw humanitarian and human rights organizations come together to discuss the issue of human trafficking publicly together with government institutions.

### *b. Launching of the “Guide on Temporary Shelter for Victims of Trafficking in Venezuela.”*

On Thursday, August 3rd the “Guide on

Temporary Shelter for Victims of Trafficking in Venezuela” was launched at UNHCR offices. The guide was an initiative of the WGTiP with the support of the Shelter Cluster and saw the collaboration from partner organizations IOM, COOPI and CESVI and financed by ECHO. Moreover, the event saw the participation of ECHO, the European Union, Protection Cluster, Child Protection AoR and the organization that supported the document. The guide is now published online on the PC and Shelter Cluster websites.

### *c. Other activities implemented.*

The organizations **Éxodo, COOPI, and CEDESEX** launched a campaign to prevent human trafficking through the social media of @cedesexve and @ExodoAC. This Campaign focused on Internal Trafficking in Venezuela, highlighting key

concepts, territorial mobility and providing tips for prevention and protection.

**UNFPA** in its social networks disseminated key messages, previously agreed with the WGTiP, on prevention of trafficking in persons and strategies for self-care in social networks, between July 29 and 31, 2023.

**COOPI** together with **HIAS and Tinta Violeta**, held the film forum *Las Elegidas*, screening this Mexican French film that shows the reality of young women and adolescents, which are victims of human trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation.

**Éxodo** participated in the conversation on *“Good practices for the prevention of trafficking in persons in Latin America”*, organized by CECASEM in Bolivia, on Monday, July 31, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Venezuela time. They aimed at making visible the #LaMejorRuta Campaign in the prevention of trafficking in girls and women in Venezuela.

**Cedex** conducted an activity in the boulevard of Sabana Grande, Miranda state. They counted with the participation of students from the School of Nursing of the Venezuelan Central University (Universidad Central de Venezuela), in their 9th semester. This activity consisted of providing informative capsules on different topics such as Human Trafficking definition and elements, types of trafficking, forms of recruitment for trafficking, strategies for prevention, among other things.



### XIII. Transition to 345W Reporting Platform

During July and August, a pilot program was conducted to migrate activities reporting of partners from 5W Platform to 345W Platform with specific selected partners. Those participating in the pilot were trained and debriefed about all specifications. Throughout the reporting process, through observations some possible improvements were identified. These adjustments are in the process of implementation to conduct a full rollout of the platform in the coming months.

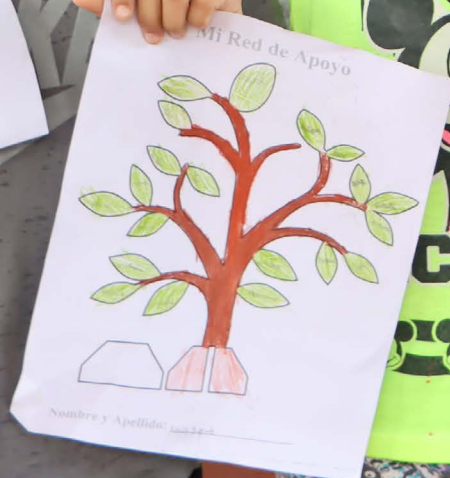
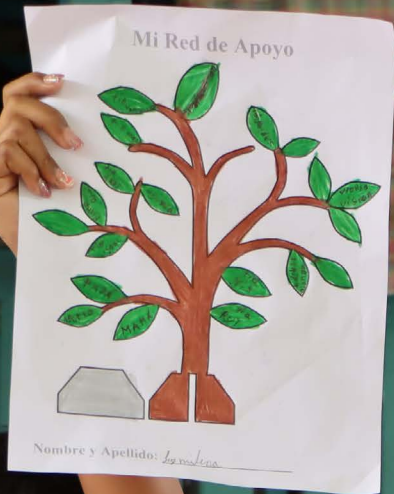
The migration to 345W will result in a more automated process of reporting, validation, and consolidation of the partners response.

### XIV. Multisectoral Needs Survey

The Multisectoral Needs Survey conducted by OCHA was reviewed and adjusted to capture the relevant protection risks being analyzed for the sectoral chapter of the Humanitarian Needs Overview. Data collection started in August with the participation of UN Agencies, international and national organizations, and it will finalize in September.

Together with other sources of information identified, the Multisectoral Needs Survey will inform the sectoral needs overview for people in need and the severity of needs calculations at the municipal level in the Venezuelan states.





# MONITORING THE PROTECTION RESPONSE: PERFORMANCE AND FUNDING

July/August 2023 report  
Venezuela



The PC continues to reinforce the importance of reporting, which allows it to track funding and conduct advocacy. Throughout the last years the number of partners that regularly report 5Ws, including the implementing partners of the lead agencies of the Cluster and AoRs, increased notoriously.

The activity monitoring dashboard covering latest data collection in August 2023 and other information products can be accessed in the [protection cluster website](#), and currently 118 partners are supporting the 5W reports. Please note the list of Specific Objectives in Figure 1 are aligned to the HRP 2022. The percentage (%) in each chart (see figure 1) represent the number of beneficiaries (individuals) reached against the target set in the HRP 2022 - 2023.

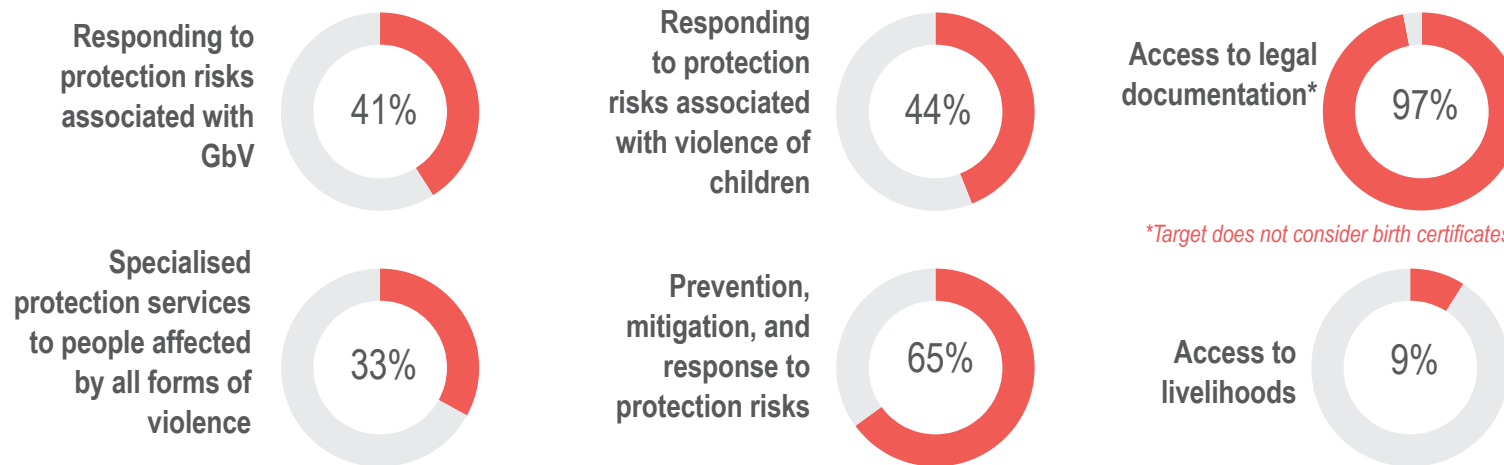
221,931, 383 USD were received by the Venezuelan Republic so far in 2023, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Requested funding for the Protection Cluster was 101.2 million USD and 26,083,840 million USD were granted. According to FTS, the total coverage has been of 25.8% of the funding requested.

According to the 345W reports, 385K people were impacted, which 65% are women and 35% men. 13,225 people with disabilities were reached during the last period.

The states with the higher response include Tachira, Zulia, Bolivar, and Miranda. Some of the organizations with the higher reach include ACNUR, DIOCE-SIS SC, CODEHCIU, HIAS, ALIADAS EN CADENA A.C, TINTA VIOLETA and CAR-ITAS.



Figure 1. Summary of HRP 2022 - 2023 results, by Specific Objective.



\*Target does not consider birth certificates (EV-25).

