

# PROTECTION CLUSTER VENEZUELA

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



## **Annual Report Protection Cluster 2023**

This report has been produced by the Protection Cluster in Venezuela, including contributions from the Subnational Clusters

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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://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/emergencies/114/Venezuela>

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I am pleased to share with you the annual report of the Protection Cluster Venezuela for the year 2023. This comprehensive document sheds light on the protection landscape, emphasizing the risks faced by vulnerable populations in Venezuela, including those on the move, due to persistent economic and socio-political challenges. It also outlines the protective measures taken to address these vulnerabilities. The situation in the country is marked by limitations in the access of basic services, including health, education, among others.

Despite these challenges, our Protection Cluster's 145 partners remained committed to delivering lifesaving protection services. We upheld the core humanitarian principles—humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence—ensuring that protection was integrated into all humanitarian activities. Our commitment to this cause began in 2021 when we supported the drafting of the 2022 Humanitarian

Country Team's Protection Strategy and contributed to the 2022-2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Response Plan. Looking ahead to 2024, we will continue prioritizing protection by integrating it across all sectors of the Venezuelan response.

We remain dedicated to ensuring that vulnerable individuals, including those on the move, receive the necessary protection. We hope that this report serves as a valuable resource in understanding the protection landscape in Venezuela and in guiding the protection response in the coming year.

Thank you to all protection actors for your continued support in safeguarding the well-being of those in need. Together, we can make a difference



Credits: UNHCR (2023)

*Enrique Vallés-Ramos*  
*Representative*  
*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*  
*Venezuela*







The following section briefly analyzes the critical protection risks identified in 2023.

An estimated of 4.4 million people need protection in the country, including those on the move. Lack of livelihoods and gaps in accessing essential services result in the adoption of negative coping mechanisms by the most vulnerable people. This situation exposes them to protection risks where children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ people encounter differentiated risks.

The situation in Venezuela is characterized by the limited access to services for vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ people, who suffer violence, abuse, and exploitation in different ways. Gender-based violence is the main protection risk, with most cases occurring within the family or partner.

In addition, discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, and ethnic identity has increased. These conditions generate urgent protection needs and negative coping mechanisms among the affected population.

According to the various protection monitoring tools implemented in 2023, the protection sector faces a limited presence of specialized services, especially for persons with disabilities and the elderly, the LGBTIQ+ community, and the indigenous community.

The protection of children and adolescents in Venezuela is a humanitarian priority due to the socio-economic crisis and human mobility that exposes them to a vast amount of risks. An estimated 1.3 million children require support to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect. Among the most vulnerable are

separated, unaccompanied, indigenous, and disabled children. The protection sector faces challenges in providing adequate services and ensuring access to legal documentation for children.

Trafficking in Persons (TiP) is a serious human rights violation in Venezuela, affecting victims both inside and outside the country. The most common forms of exploitation are labor and sexual exploitation, and the most common means of recruitment are deceptive offers, seduction, abduction, and others. The lack of official data makes it difficult to know the magnitude of the phenomenon. The maritime border is particularly vulnerable to trafficking and smuggling of persons on the move. TiP mainly affects women and adolescents aged 13 to 35 in Venezuela, especially indigenous women in mining areas. Other groups at risk include children, LGBTIQ+ people, and the indigenous

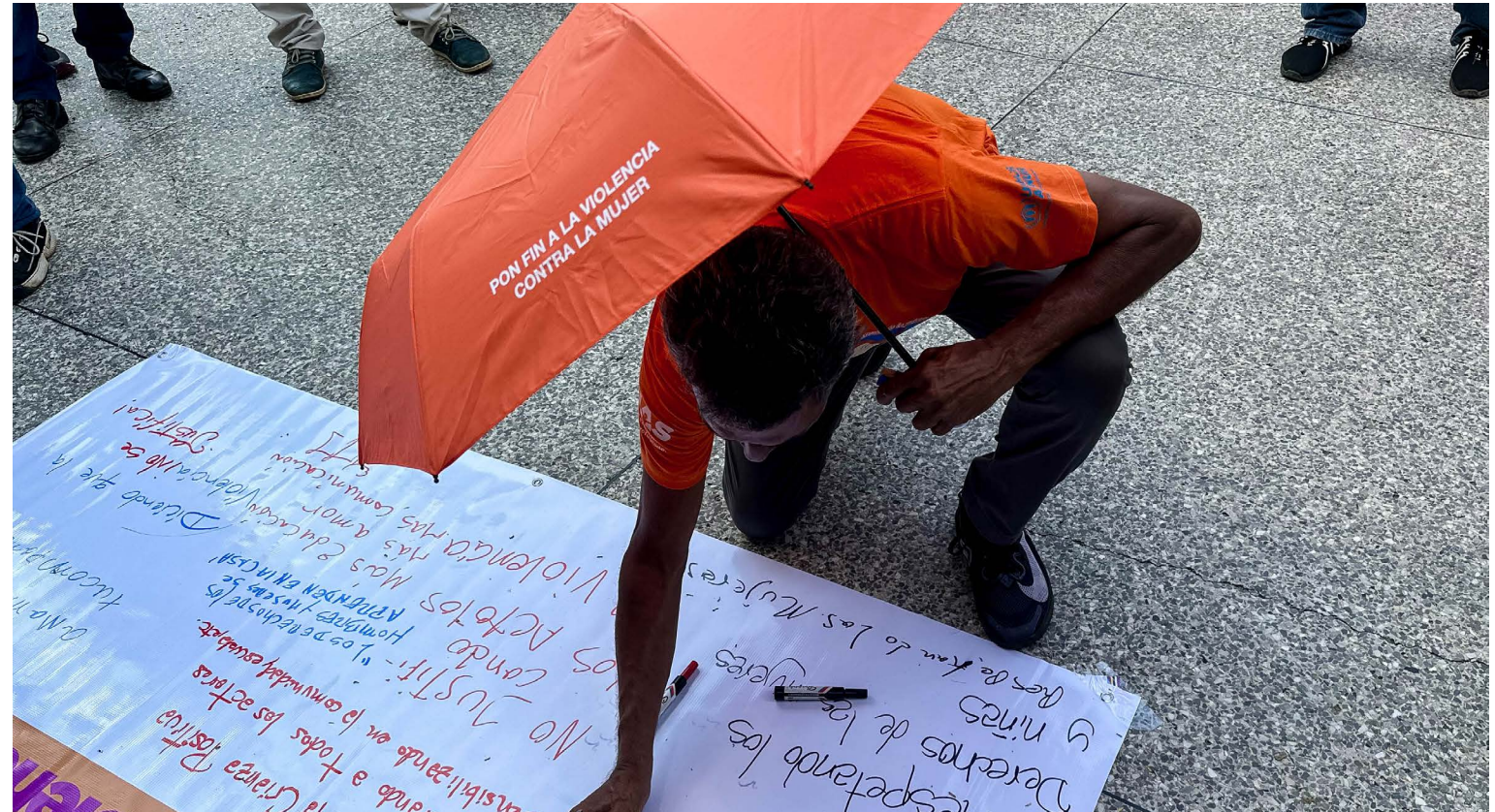
population. TiP has increased due to various factors such as poverty, family violence, lack of education, limited access to basic services, inappropriate use of the Internet and social networks, and misinformation.

Violence by armed groups has led to internal and external displacement, especially of the LGBTIQ+ population. The main reasons for people on the move are lack of employment, family reunification, lack of access to services and resources, insecurity, and lack of documentation. Colombia, the United States, Peru, Ecuador, and Chile are the main destination countries. In addition, many people continue to leave through the Darién route, with specific risks for women children, and adolescents.





According to the Information Management Working Group (OCHA, 2023), there is an increase in spontaneous returns of Venezuelans from several countries, mainly Colombia. Most of them plan to stay in Venezuela for more than a year and seek to reunite with their families, improve their job opportunities, and access services and resources. Carabobo, the Capital District, Aragua, Lara, and Portuguesa are the states that receive the most returnees.



Credits: UNHCR (2023)

# MONITORING THE PROTECTION RESPONSE: RESPONSE AND FUNDING



From January to December 2023, a total of **564,566** individuals with specific protection needs accessed specialized protection services, information, and capacity-building sessions. Over **36,500 vulnerable adults and persons received specialized protection services**, including group and individual psychosocial sessions (12,386), legal support (6,730), temporary shelter (862), and material assistance (16,581). An additional 7,451 adults received specific support for legal documentation through the support of Cluster partners. 212,831 individuals from the community and State-led institutions received information and training on the prevention and mitigation of protection risks. State-led institutions with a mandate to support persons accessing their rights were provided with physical resources to enhance their service delivery, which in turn benefited 13,258 individuals.

20,598 children and women benefited from specialized GBV response services, including case management services (7,132), legal support (3,225), psychosocial assistance (10,181), and temporary shelter (60). A total of 180,601 children and adults benefited from GBV prevention activities.

34,237 vulnerable children and their caregivers (16,647) benefited from individual and group psychosocial support activities. 2,734 children accessed civil birth registration and other documentation. 51,772 people from the community were trained or received awareness-raising sessions on child protection. In 2023, there is an estimated 365.3 million USD in funding for Venezuela HRP tracked by the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). **Total contributions allocated to protection reached 34.7 million USD.**




**Number of beneficiaries reported per Specific Objective of the Response Plan 2022-2023**





**UNIDOS**  
EN/POR  
LA DIVERSIDAD

Todas las personas nacemos  
**LIBRES E IGUALES**

 **NACIONES UNIDAS**  
VENEZUELA



# ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023 STRATEGY



In 2023, the Protection Cluster continued to reinforce the **centrality of protection** in its activities and those of stakeholders in the humanitarian response. The **four objectives** of the Cluster's Protection Strategy 2023 are listed below with corresponding outputs to reflect on the success of the Cluster's actions and lessons learned to achieve this goal.

## 1. Facilitate the creation of an environment in which all forms of violence, including but not limited to extortion, abuse, exploitation, trafficking in persons and gender-based violence, and abuses against human dignity are identified, prevented, and responded to

**Workshops on Assistance pathways for victims of trafficking (VoTs).** At

the end of March, the Protection Cluster (PC) Coordinator and the Counter-Trafficking in Crisis Specialist traveled to Sucre state where two workshops were held in Cumaná and Güiria to establish assistance pathways for victims of trafficking (VoTs) together with government institutions, NGOs, and UN Agencies in Sucre. Available services and correct referral routes within the state were discussed and the final information product was developed by the PC together with partner organizations IOM and COOPI and shared with involved institutions as well as PC and WGTIP partners.

**Publication of the Guide on Temporary Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Venezuela.** This document represents a collaborative effort between the Working Group on the Prevention and Response to Trafficking in Persons (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 ensure that this shelter will be opened within the Venezuela legal framework.

**Training on Counter-Trafficking in Emergencies for Cluster Partners.** Organization and implementation of

training on Counter-Trafficking in Emergencies held together with the Child Protection and GBV AoRs and Tinta Violeta in August with the participation of 25 people from 22 partner organizations discussing different topics, including GBV, child victims, legal framework, and detection of trafficking cases.

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

**La Carnada Play.** The Working Group on the Prevention and Response to Trafficking in Persons (WGTiP) organized and coordinated the "La Canada" play in Petare in collaboration with the Taller Experimental de Teatro/ Center for Artistic Creation (TET), IOM, and UNHCR in

September. The TET is a theater group based in Caracas, Venezuela that was founded back in 1972, to establish a theater group with an experimental line of work.

La Canada Play aims to raise awareness about victims of Trafficking in Persons (TiP), focusing on sexual and labor exploitation. It sheds light on contexts where digital media, domestic violence, and deceptive opportunities pose significant risks, particularly for women and girls. As part of the French-Venezuelan Festival of Performing Arts, over 140 people attended the play, including community members, representatives from NGOs and INGOs, and agency representatives.

Drawing on testimonies and real data, and with the technical support of UNHCR, IOM, and the Venezuela Protection Clus-

ter, the authors of the play have crafted an original and avant-garde dramaturgy that highlights the issue of TiP and its associated risks. Two additional performances were scheduled for November and December 2023 in commemoration of the 16 days of activism for the International Day for the Eradication of Violence against Women

**Implementation of the Protection Monitoring Tool (PMT).** In March 2023, the Protection Monitoring Tool (PMT) was launched with the participation of 10 partner organizations. A total of 25 colleagues from 10 organizations, including UNHCR implementing partners, were trained on the principles of protection information management. Two additional trainings were given on an ad hoc basis on the management of this tool. The PMT has proven to be a valuable resource for the PC since it supports the monitoring

and evaluation of protection risks present. Also, it helps to better understand the needs of the vulnerable communities in the country.

By the end of 2023, the PMT had received a total of 1,620 submissions from 17 states and Capital District of Venezuela, including Amazonas, Anzoátegui, Apure, Aragua, Barinas, Bolívar, Carabobo, Delta Amacuro, Distrito Capital, Falcón, La Guaira, Lara, Mérida, Miranda, Sucre, Táchira, Yaracuy, and Zulia.

The trends set by the results of the PMT have proven to be indicative and assertive when compared to the multisectoral needs assessment (MSNA) of OCHA, which recorded 14,329 entries, and its results are very similar to what was collected through the PC's monitoring tool.

While finalizing the analysis of the data



# ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023 STRATEGY (II)



of the PMT from March until August, we have also started the revision of the questionnaire. In line with the experiences of drafting the HNO and the PAU, we have realized there is so much more information we can collect to ensure proper protection monitoring. The review is ongoing together with colleagues at the subnational level and will be launched in the first trimester of 2024.

## **LGBTIQ+ Workshop and Guide.**

The Working Group for inclusion of the LGBTIQ+ population of the PC delivered, during the second quarter of 2023, an in-person workshop on inclusiveness and non-discrimination in humanitarian action with a focus on the LGBTIQ population. 27 participants from 23 partner organizations were trained on the importance of including people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTIQ+) in humanitarian

action on equal terms and guaranteeing the adequacy of services. The main purpose of the workshop was to train PC partners on the Venezuelan legal framework, create awareness of the risks, vulnerabilities, and inequities to which the LGBTIQ+ population is exposed, and provide appropriate tools to deliver services considering the “do no harm” approach.

As a relevant tool, the Guide on Protecting LGBTIQ+ in Humanitarian Action was created and shared with partners. It aims to promote the protection and inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people in humanitarian action by offering guidance to humanitarian actors, government officials, UN agencies, and NGOs on how to deliver differentiated, dignified, and non-discriminatory services and support to the LGBTIQ+ population. It comprises a checklist to ensure the inclusion and

active participation of LGBTIQ+ individuals in humanitarian action, along with an extensive repository of information and documentation resources. While specifically tailored to the Venezuelan context, the guide may also serve as a valuable reference in Spanish for other countries in the South American region.

## **Training for partners to improve age and disability inclusiveness in HRP projects.**

During the first and last quarter of 2023, the Age and Disability Working Group (ADWG) provided trainings to partner organizations to improve age and disability inclusiveness in HRP projects. During the first quarter of 2023, Humanity and Inclusion and the Global Protection Cluster gathered information from 11 age and disability working groups active in different countries. As a result of this assessment, the Venezuela working group was one of five countries

selected for a case study. In September 2023 the Protection Cluster hired a consultant for the creation of a training module and a guide for partner organizations on the principle of equality and non-discrimination in humanitarian action with a focus on people with disabilities. The various trainings will be conducted in 2024.

## **Annual Bulletin 2022-2023 of the WGTiP.**

After one year of the creation of the WGTiP, an annual bulletin was published in October 2023. This document consolidates information from the quarterly bulletins of 2022 and 2023 and provides a context analysis of TiP in Venezuela, raising awareness on new TiP information and dynamics and highlighting counter-trafficking efforts of members with a specific focus on activities for the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2023. The document can be downloaded through this link for further details: [Boletín](#)



[Anual Trata de Personas Agosto 2022- Agosto 2023 | Global Protection Cluster \(https://ln.run/1FLie\)](https://ln.run/1FLie).

Additionally, the quarterly bulletins were drafted and published throughout the year. For the quarter of September – November 2023, the bulletin was drafted in December 2023 and will be published in January 2024. In this document, tendencies, awareness key messages, and responses to TiP of the members of the WGTIP are outlined.

**Participation in the Gender ToT for Government Officials.** As part of the efforts of the Gender Technical Working Group of Miranda (“Mesa de Genero”) to support the strengthening of local government capacities, the Protection Cluster through its Gender Focal Point (Protection Assistant), supported the delivery of a ToT on Gender Equality

and Gender-Based Violence for officials of the Women's Secretariat of the State of Miranda. Conducted from September 28th to October 11, 2023, the PA facilitated the first virtual session on key concepts, receiving positive feedback from the 35 participating officials

## II. Ensure protection services are accessible and affected people's rights are upheld

**Creation of a Legal Aid Working Group.** To ensure access to rights and services, the legal aid working group has been created during the last months of 2023. The added value of this WG is the promotion of legal rights to the affected population by identifying, addressing, and mitigating the protection risks that derive from the legal needs of the target population in Venezuela. NRC and HIAS are the co-leaders of the working group

and have been collaborating with the elaboration of the Terms of Reference and the work plan for 2024.

### **Focal Group Discussions with LGBTIQ+ Organizations for Thematic Protection Analysis Update (PAU).**

In Given the preparation of the thematic Protection Analysis Update (PAU) on the protection situation of LGBTQI+ persons, as part of the PC's reporting efforts, with support from the Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) and the GenCap Gender Advisor, a hybrid focus group discussion was organized with LGBTIQ+ organizations and relevant actors on September 7th, combining face-to-face and remote participation.

The focal group aimed to collect information from key informants on the humanitarian needs and protection risks of LGBTIQ+ people, with a focus

on changes perceived in the last year. This information supported the drafting of the document that outlines the current context, main protection risks, affected groups by geographical areas, and key recommendations for humanitarian actors, government entities, donors, and civil society organizations in Venezuela. The report's analytical conclusions aim to provide an evidence base for programming, advocacy, and dialogue to influence behaviors and policies, fostering a more favorable protection environment.

### **Service Mapping Revisions and Edits.**

The In line with the Protection Cluster's efforts to guarantee a functioning and updated service mapping, together with the UNHCR IM Unit, the Protection Service Mapping database underwent a comprehensive review and update in September and October 2023. The focus was on ensuring the accuracy of registered

# ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023 STRATEGY (III)



services and collaborating with partner organizations to edit or confirm the removal of inactive services. The revised database underwent verification for coherence by the IM team before being uploaded onto the platform. Considerations regarding the platform itself and the inclusion of other sectors were under review. In December 2023, the PC was finalizing discussions with other relevant actors on how to adopt a more user-friendly platform and improve the usage of this information tool for 2024.

### III. Ensure that the response to the protection needs of affected populations is systematically put into effect through mainstreaming and integration of protection across the humanitarian response

#### **Humanitarian assistance to people on**

***the move, children, women, girls, men, and boys affected by gender-based violence, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, and people with specific needs strengthened.*** During 2023, the Venezuelan Humanitarian Fund (VHF) made two allocations of 2,6M USD for the protection component. For both allocations, the Protection Cluster participated in the design of the allocation strategy and the evaluation of the projects presented by partners.

The strategy of the first allocation (May-June 2023) aimed to provide multisectoral assistance focused on returnees and host communities, youth and adolescents, women of reproductive age, and children in two prioritized states of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP): Miranda and Delta Amacuro. The main areas of intervention included: i) supporting the improvement of essential

services to contribute to safe and protective environments for returnees and host communities, ii) providing conditions and opportunities to generate life skills and livelihoods for adolescents and youth through socio-productive education, and iii) aid in women's health and maternal and child health. Out of the 17 projects with a protection component presented in this first allocation, 5 were approved.

The second allocation launched on October 2023, was focused on multi-sectoral assistance to improve essential health services, strengthen community resilience through livelihood support, gender equality and women's empowerment, support emergency education activities, and aid and protection services in complementarity with the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funds in 13 municipalities in 5 border states (Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, Falcon, Sucre, and

Zulia). The main areas of intervention for this assignment were: i) improvement of essential health services (Mental health and Psychosocial Support/MHPSS, women's, child and adolescent's health, and sexual reproductive health), ii) strengthening community resilience by supporting livelihoods and access to adequate food, women's empowerment, gender equality, and the provision of protection assistance and services, including GBV, child and human trafficking, and iii) support for emergency education activities with a socio-productive approach. Out of the 16 projects submitted with a protection component, 6 of them were approved.

***Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2024- 2025.*** The PC received 97 projects that were jointly reviewed within the Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). All projects were shared with the sub-na-





tional protection clusters for their access, relevance, and efficiency insights. To improve the projects presented, recommendations were shared with partners.

A total of 69 projects were approved by the PC and the AoRs. The total appeal reached was 89,07 million US\$, disaggregated as follows: 52 projects with a general protection component with a target of 1,08M beneficiaries and a requirement of 32.269.786 US\$; 52 projects with a GBV component, with a target of 450,000 beneficiaries and a requirement of 28,433,789 US\$; 48 projects with a child protection component, with a target of 397,000 beneficiaries and a requirement of 28.366.544 US\$. The total target for the PC for 2024 was 1.9M beneficiaries, which roughly covers 43% of the PIN of 4,4M vulnerable people.

Furthermore, in October 2023, the PC

carried out 6 needs assessment sessions/interactive group discussions in 15 states of Venezuela to validate the information of the MSNA on the needs faced by Venezuelans. The needs assessments were conducted together with humanitarian and development actors who shared information regarding risks and gaps. The information gathered was used to prepare the HRP/HNO 2024, but also to orientate humanitarian and development actors to better plan protection activities, avoid duplication, reduce gaps, and obtain a stronger overall vision of the changing Venezuelan context.

**Co-Coordination of the Protection Cluster.** The PC aims to foster shared leadership among its members, especially non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that play a vital role in co-ordination. Co-ordination enables a more inclusive and collective approach

to decision-making and action, as well as a clear division of roles and responsibilities. By engaging NGOs in co-ordination, the cluster can benefit from their diverse perspectives and skills, which can enhance the overall effectiveness of the humanitarian response. Therefore, co-ordination is a key strategy to promote collaboration, leverage diverse expertise, and ensure a more holistic and efficient humanitarian response. Based on these principles, the PC launched a call for expression of interest to be a co-coordinating organization at the beginning of December 2023. Two proposals were received, and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) was selected in partnership with the SAG. Their role as Co-Coordinator will start in the first trimester of 2024.

**Inter-Agency Coordination for an integrated humanitarian response.** The

PC has continued his efforts as part of the Inter-Cluster Group by actively participating in weekly meetings as well as in closed meetings with the donors' group to have a stronger participation of different donors in the Cluster's space.

As part of its inter-agency efforts, the Protection Cluster continued its participative role within the Humanitarian Access Working Group and the AAP WG.

The Protection Cluster always plays a vital role in coordinating with partners and supporting them in their efforts. By organizing bilateral meetings, we guarantee support confidentially.

**Virtual capacity building sessions on the intersectoral activities to other clusters.** Two training sessions for partners took place on the intersectoral activities. The Education Cluster co-coordinator

# ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023 STRATEGY (IV)



(Save the Children) requested support to deliver a virtual training session to the Education Cluster partner organizations on the intersectoral indicators and the manual developed by the Protection Cluster Venezuela. The training was delivered jointly with the PSEA network coordinator delivered during the first days of February. A total of 18 Education Cluster partners participated during the session. Also, in February the Protection Cluster supported the Health Cluster during a capacity-building session on the intersectoral indicators for partners, in which 20 partners attended the session.

**Protection Information Management and 5W reporting enhanced.** In 2023, a total of 103 partners, including UN Agencies and international and national organizations submitted reports to the monthly 5Ws, responding to protection for more than 500 thousand individuals.

During 2023, a transition was made to support the migration from Excel reports to reports on OCHA's 345W Platform. In this transition, a pilot phase was implemented, and adjustments were made to reinforce the platform's well-functioning. After this phase, areas of improvement were identified by IMs in the Protection Cluster and the Areas of Responsibility. Data transformations were automated by the Cluster's IM to consolidate the information for 2023.

The pilot phase for the migration to 345W has been finalized and final refinements are taking place. Consequently, after this transition, the process of collating and validating information became more automated. Additionally, all year long, one-to-one feedback and support were provided monthly to each partner, aiming to enhance reporting and ensure the quality of the information reported to

monitor the PC's response.

Furthermore, the IM officer supported the PC during the HNO process. The various tasks involved: setting the definition of the relevant indicators and the severity scales, in addition to the calculation of People in Need (PiN), which helped to map the municipalities by severity of their needs.

**Monthly information management products to monitor the humanitarian response.** The Protection Cluster continued to create and distribute the following monthly information management products that can be found on the Protection Cluster's Website: an interactive dashboard on the implementation of the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, online mapping of protection services available at a national level, a monthly summary factsheet of the Cluster's

response, and monthly coverage maps at municipality level. Additionally, the PC conducted monthly impact stories with its partners to increase the visibility of their work. These stories illustrate the different protection activities of partners and their impact on the communities.

**Protection Mainstreaming in collaboration with ProCap.** Around 200 members of the WASH, Shelter, Logistic, Health, Education, Food Security, Nutrition Cluster, and the partners of the Venezuelan Humanitarian Fund, received the training session on Protection Mainstreaming in collaboration with ProCap. The training had a first theoretical part about i) the humanitarian and protection principles, ii) the basic concepts of protection and the risk equation, and iii) the difference between integrated protection and protection mainstreaming and its definition. The second part was a practical exercise



where the participants were asked to pick an activity within their sector, analyze the context, identify 3 main protection risks, and apply the protection equation. It was a dynamic and participative exercise where the participants presented their activity and learned from the feedback.

**Participation in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Coaching and Training of Trainers (ToT).** The PC through the Protection Assistant participated in a two-day MHPSS coaching organized by PAHO and led by an international IASC consultant. This coaching, held during the second week of October, aimed to strengthen the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group's role by evaluating its work plan, achievements, and next steps in the Venezuelan context. The coaching intended to bring accompaniment and advice to people with coordination

functions in the different national and international organizations and relevant clusters for the implementation of an integrated MHPSS strategy.

The PC's participation and involvement represent a significant interest to further empower professionals and partners in the field, providing knowledge and tools essential for efficient organizational functionality in MHPSS during humanitarian responses. Following these activities and the high demand for psychosocial support, the working group plans to implement its work plan, emphasizing MHPSS as a cross-cutting topic in humanitarian architecture.

#### IV. Respond to the immediate needs of affected populations while transitioning to long-term solutions

**Mixed Migration and Durable Solutions Training.** A full-day face-to-face training on Mixed Migration and Durable Solutions was provided to 21 partners of the Venezuelan Protection Cluster. The basic concepts of protection were refreshed and strategies to reduce threats and vulnerabilities and increase capabilities were analyzed with practical exercises. During the morning, the concept of mixed migration and the different migratory profiles were explained, differentiating the causes and consequences of migration from group dynamics. Finally, durable solutions and the criteria to achieve them were presented about the migratory profiles and the Venezuelan context. The activity was

in collaboration with IOM, whose Protection Assistant presented the last part on returns and reintegration.

This training was repeated online to 37 local and international organizations as part of the Venezuelan Protection Cluster. Although it was a virtual session and the challenges that it implies, it was a participative session, and the members were interested in the topic proposed showing an active participation in the group dynamics.

**Active participation in the Affected Populations (AAP) Working Group.** The PC has participated actively in the monthly meetings conducted by the AAP working group, which aimed at increasing the inputs of affected populations in responding to and shaping the assistance following a disaster in the Venezuelan context. The cluster's participation in this space guaran-



# ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023 STRATEGY (V)



tees that affected populations are placed at the heart of the emergency response. Additionally, the different needs and capacities of all these groups will shape the response plan and how cluster partners and affected populations interact through all the phases of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), guiding the necessary work plans.

The new framework of AAP 2024 was presented, and it was revised jointly by its members. This framework was created with the support and accompaniment of the Humanitarian Country Team and the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. The WG coordinator shared the minimum commitments of the framework with the members and opened the floor for discussions. The PC suggested some edits to some of the objectives and to the timeline stipulated.



*Credits: UNHCR (2023)*



Yo quiero  
Superarme

Perseguo mis Sueños

Yo me  
atrevo a  
SUNAR

YO MPO





# ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE FIELD: SUBNATIONAL CLUSTERS



The most significant achievements of the national protection subclusters include the following:

## **Subnational Cluster Ciudad Guyana.**

During 2023, the sub-cluster of Bolívar state implemented the framework of 2023's work plan designed in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan. The work covered the states of Bolívar, Anzoátegui, Sucre, and Delta Amacuro and focused on the access to rights, and essential protection services for the affected population, in addition to the strengthening of the capacities of public institutions and organizations. Furthermore, the capacity-building activities focused on strengthening the centrality of protection, the prevention and protection routes, and the safeguarding mechanisms for case management of GBV.

Two Multiservice Days were held in June and December 2023 in prioritized communities in the states of Sucre and Bolívar together with IOM, WFP, and UNFPA, and organizations such as Caritas and HIAS, with the support of the Civil Registry and the Public Defense. The affected population was provided with access to legal, and health assistance through the delivery of NFI's kits. This activity improved the living conditions of 983 persons with specific needs identified in the communities of San Pedrito and El Rincón, in the municipalities of Sucre and Cruz Salmeron Acosta in the state of Sucre, as well as the community of El Buey, located in the Piar Municipality, Bolívar state.

In September and November 2023, a series of trainings were organized dedicated to strengthening the technical capacities of 109 public officers to

prevent and mitigate the risks for GBV survivors, people in need of international protection, and persons on the move, in Carupano and Valdez municipalities in Sucre state, as well as in Ciudad Bolívar located in Angostura del Orinoco Municipality, Bolívar state.

In September a training was conducted to strengthen the technical capacities of Civil Defense officials, VEN911, and the State's first response teams, in coordination with OCHA in Delta Amacuro State. The training focused on the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (EDAN), basic notions of reading and interpretation of maps and navigation systems (GNSS), Management of Temporary Accommodations, and protection of persons with specific needs in temporary accommodations.

The Bolívar subcluster maintained the

permanent monitoring and follow-up of mixed migratory flows present in the states of Sucre, Monagas, and Delta Amacuro, specifically, the monitoring of persons on the move.

Furthermore, the subcluster held bimonthly meetings with partner organizations to discuss the protection risks identified and barriers to the humanitarian response implementation in the coverage states for the subcluster.

## **Subnational Cluster Maracaibo.**

In 2023, the protection subcluster of Maracaibo, covering the states of Zulia, Lara, and Falcón, sponsored, and organized multiple activities that had a positive impact on the target population. These activities included but were not limited to:

- *Three multiservice sessions:* these provided comprehensive assistance





to individuals based on their specific needs.

- *Community visits:* cluster members visited community protection spaces to offer support and gather information for service mapping materials related to people on the move.
- *Strengthening civil registry capacities:* workshops were conducted alongside the Child Protection Working Groups (AoRs), focusing on birth registration, protection against GBV, and child protection. This effort aimed to enhance the civil registration system in Maracaibo.
- *Emergency response during heavy rains:* the subcluster engaged in emergency response efforts in two affected municipalities. Collaborating with Civil Protection, they

identified alternative temporary accommodation spaces beyond schools. Minimum requirements for protecting affected individuals were also documented.

- *Support to local organizations:* the subcluster recommended and convened 17 local cluster member organizations for a training program facilitated by Save the Children. Additionally, a dedicated space within the cluster was established for consulting with children and adolescents regarding member programs.
- *Best Practices Fair:* In Maracaibo, a fair was organized where 14 organizations shared their own protection experiences. They also engaged with institutional actors from Zulia state

These collaborative efforts demonstrate the commitment of the subcluster to address critical needs and promote effective protection responses in the region.

### Subnational Cluster San Cristóbal.

The subnational Cluster in San Cristóbal covering Táchira and Mérida, held over 14 monthly and ad hoc meetings with partners to discuss developments in the protection environment and to coordinate community and individual protection responses. In 2023, the subcluster focused on the strengthening of the relations and exchange of information between partners, interagency joint needs assessment, and joint response activities.

Twice in 2023 (January and July) the subcluster facilitated bilateral meetings between all the partners to exchange

information on their projects, activities, and areas of responsibility to foster complementarity and widen the response for the affected populations. These meetings also included OCHA and other subclusters enabling them to familiarize themselves with the activities of the protection partners and triggering joint inter-cluster activities.

During 2023, the subcluster coordinated and executed joint interagency participatory assessments, to update the humanitarian needs in the region and to identify the main protection risks affecting people and communities in vulnerable situations. Additionally, the subcluster presented the results of these exercises among all its partners facilitating the exchange of information on the needs and the discussion of the proposed response for 2024.

Regarding the human mobility response,

# ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE FIELD: SUBNATIONAL CLUSTERS



the subcluster led one meeting with all the organizations working with the provision of assistance and information for people on the move, to identify the main protection risks and the possible response for each of them. The results were shared with all the partners and enabled them to support their financial pleas to donors.

In alliance with cluster partners and the GBV AoR, the subnational Cluster carried out a training on GBV prevention, safe referrals, clinical management of sexual violence, the Child and Adolescent Protection System in Venezuela, first-aid, and psychosocial support. In addition to the training, a joint response was activated through additional services related to sexual and reproductive health and GBV case management provided in the information points by some partners.

As part of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Emergencies Working Group, the subnational Cluster along with the health cluster, co-led meetings with partners providing psychosocial support services to identify the gaps and needs related to mental health in the States of Táchira and Mérida, update the mapping of MHPSS services, and prepare an action plan for the work group with roles and responsibilities for humanitarian organizations.

**Subnational Cluster Barinas.** In Barinas State, in coordination with subnational Cluster members, assistance was provided to returnees, and livelihood activities were carried out to facilitate community reintegration. Permanent links are maintained with the Administrative Service for Identification, Migration, and Foreigners (SAIME by its Spanish acronym), the Department of Protection,

the Child Protection Council, and the prefecture for the referral of cases involving people on the move and returnees with specific protection risks.

Strategic campaigns were also conducted with subnational Cluster partners to promote protection activities, particularly on World Refugee Day and during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

**Subnational Cluster of Guasdalito.** In the subnational Cluster of Apure, activated in July 2023, coordinated efforts were made to facilitate access to documentation, primarily focusing on granting birth certificates to 196 indigenous children, returnees, and children of non-accompanied and separated minors. Comprehensive care was provided to returnees, ensuring access to all service directories offered by sub-

cluster partners, and facilitating necessary referrals to their places of return. Additionally, links were established with state institutions such as the Department of Protection, the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE by its Spanish acronym), the Civil Registry, the Administrative Service for Identification, Migration, and Foreigners (SAIME by its Spanish acronym), and the Child Protection Councils.

**Subnational Cluster Puerto Ayacucho.** As part of the subnational cluster's participation in the technical working groups, the implementation of a shared schedule of activities, facilitated by the Secretariat of Social Affairs of the state government, enabled the registration of 348 children through the Civil Registry. Additionally, a significant achievement was the collaboration between the subnational Cluster, the SAIME (Venezuela's Identification and Migration Service), and the Department of



Protection, which facilitated the issuance of identity cards for over 54 children and adolescents.

Furthermore, key actors involved in managing and responding to GBV cases were strengthened through capacity-building sessions. This led to the activation of a GBV Action Plan and the training of key actors in case management and safe referrals.

The subnational Cluster collaborated with openness and cordiality, engaging in joint activities, provisions, and interventions alongside state institutions and technical working groups.

**3 MITOS SOBRE EL REGISTRO DE NACIMIENTO**

**¡TODAS LAS PERSONAS TIENEN DERECHO A REGISTRAR SU NACIMIENTO SIN DISCRIMINACIÓN!**

**¿SABES CÓMO OBTENER EL ACTA DE NACIMIENTO?**

- 1** "El Certificado de Nacimiento, es lo mismo que el Acta de Nacimiento"  
**FALSO** Este certificado es emitido por el centro de salud y es un requisito para inscribir el nacimiento en el Registro Civil.
- 2** "Si tardo más de 90 días en registrar el nacimiento, tendré que pagar una multa"  
**FALSO** No debes pagar una multa. Sólo se añade un requisito: el informe de declaración extemporánea que puedes obtener en el Consejo de Protección de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes. Es un servicio gratuito.
- 3** "Si soy mayor de 18 años, no puedo registrar mi nacimiento"

**¡TODAS LAS PERSONAS TIENEN DERECHO A REGISTRAR SU NACIMIENTO SIN DISCRIMINACIÓN!**

**ANTES DE REALIZAR EL TRÁMITE RECUERDA QUE:**

De Acuerdo con el Art. 5 de la Ley Orgánica de Registro Civil, el servicio de registro de nacimiento **ES GRATUITO**

El nacimiento de todos los niños y niñas debe registrarse durante sus primeros 90 días de vida.

En caso de que hayan pasado más de 90 días después del nacimiento, se necesita obtener el **informe de declaración extemporánea** en el Consejo de Protección de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes.

La identidad un derecho que abre las puertas a un universo de derechos

**Si el nacimiento ocurrió en una comunidad indígena,** se requiere tener la

**Si el nacimiento ocurrió fuera de Venezuela** y el padre o la madre son

Las personas mayores de 18 años también tienen derecho a registrar su nacimiento









## Contacts

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