



# Venezuela

In Venezuela, the UNDP facilitates the return and reintegration of refugees and assists in shifting the response from emergency relief efforts to long-term sustainable recovery.

## COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

Over the last decade, Venezuela has been facing a complex multifaceted crisis. Since 2013 until 2021, the GDP contracted by 78% cumulatively and human development fell from 0,773 to 0,709 in ten years. It is estimated that more than 7 million people require humanitarian assistance, while there is still a significant number of Venezuelans abroad, mostly in Latin America. Since 2022 the economy has been recovering, but challenges persist in areas such as access to basic services (especially related to health, education and food security), and affordability due to inflation which has picked up in the past months.

The HRP's since 2021 and the UNSDCF have been promoting the Humanitarian-Development Nexus linking efforts to address these challenges from a comprehensive and systemic perspective through a people-centered approach focused on reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience.

## COUNTRY-LEVEL HDP NEXUS OPERATIONALIZATION

- **Thematic:** Although initially a series of priority areas had been identified, the Interagency Nexus Advisory Group decided to privilege an area-based approach.
- **Territorial:** The Interagency Nexus Advisory Group has identified the municipalities of Mara and La Guajira, in the State of Zulia, as the pilot geographic areas where to operationalize the triple nexus.
- **Coordination:** In 2022 an Interagency Nexus Advisory Group was set up, which is currently being chaired by UNHCR and that is composed of representatives from all UN AFPs present in Venezuela. UNDP participates in this group through its DRR and its Nexus focal points.

## ENABLERS AND CONSTRAINTS

- **Enablers:** Until July 2025, there was a dedicated person working on the Nexus funded by the Swiss Government and located in OCHA. In 2025, UNDP supported the capacity strengthening of the Nexus Advisory Group. UNHCR, who has been chairing the group since 2023, has shown strong leadership and commitment throughout the process. The joint portfolio on community resilience led by UNDP, FAO and UNHCR, which has adopted the nexus approach from the start of the design process, is serving as a foundation for the HDP work.
- **Constraints:** For years, the main challenge for operationalizing the triple nexus in Venezuela has been the imbalance in the availability of funds. During this period, traditional donors prioritized humanitarian assistance over development cooperation. In 2025, there was a drastic reduction in humanitarian financing, which has seriously affected all United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes in Venezuela and, consequently, the potential work on the triple nexus. Engagement from humanitarian and development coordination mechanisms fluctuated across different phases. Engagement of the national government faces the hurdle of their negative perception of the work related to humanitarian assistance and peace/human rights, which they perceive as politicized.

## UNDP'S ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION

- Following the 2022 Tejerías landslide, UNDP complemented humanitarian aid with early recovery efforts through a comprehensive approach that included data collection, livelihood support, assistance to local businesses (especially MSMEs), and training local authorities in disaster risk reduction planning.
- In 2023, UNDP, together with FAO and UNHCR, launched the design of the inter-agency on Community Resilience Portfolio to support the reintegration of returnees and their host communities. The portfolio aims to move beyond the usual top-down crisis response by engaging with the voices, strengths and drive to change of the local communities. It focuses on four main areas of intervention: access to essential services, livelihoods and economic opportunities, local governance and local development, and inclusive narratives. By combining humanitarian responsiveness with development and social cohesion efforts, the Portfolio operationalizes the Nexus in practice, supporting Venezuela's transition from emergency relief to sustainable, community-led recovery. Different interventions of the portfolio have also included other agencies such as UN Women, those fostering a whole-of-UN approach to the nexus and resilience more broadly. Two of the municipalities that are targeted by the portfolio were selected by the Interagency Nexus Advisory Group to serve as the pilot geographic areas where the operationalization of the nexus would take place.
- In 2025, UNDP provided support to the Interagency Nexus Advisory Group through the Nexus Academy to strengthen the capacity of its members and guide its work in a series of key areas including: better understanding of the nexus; financing and funding the nexus; and area-based approach. UNDP is currently designing, with the RCO, a Multi-partner trust fund (MPTF) on early recovery and resilience, to, among others, help operationalize the nexus. It is expected to be launched in 2026.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDP SCALED-UP ENGAGEMENT

- UNDP signed in November a cost-sharing agreement for 1.4 million USD for the community resilience portfolio. This will allow UNDP, together with FAO and UNHCR, to continue working on the nexus through this instrument.
- UNDP has a solid partnership with the Government of the State of Táchira bordering Colombia that faces challenges related to humanitarian needs, development and social cohesion. UNDP intends to strengthen its intervention in this state through a comprehensive approach that is also connected to interventions from other UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes and under the overall guidance of the regional government.
- The possibility of launching a Multi-partner trust fund (MPTF) on early recovery and resilience.

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