



PROTECTION CLUSTER VENEZUELA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023 ACTIVITY
REPORT



Protection Cluster September/ October 2023 activity report

This report has been prepared by the Protection Cluster in Venezuela

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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://ven.protectioncluster.org>

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OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT

Some key achievements

- Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) Process
- Coordination with other platforms, subnational Clusters, ICCG, and Partners
- Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP) WG
- GPC Townhall
- La Carnada Play
- Annual TiP Bulletin 2022-2023
- Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) and Trafficking in Persons (TiP)
- Monthly Meetings of the WGTiP
- Protection Mainstreaming Training
- Training on Mixed Migration and Durable Solutions
- Reporting Transition to 345W
- Focal Group Discussions with LGBTIQ+ Organizations for Thematic Protection Analysis Update (PAU)
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Coaching and Training of Trainers (ToT)
- Participation in the Gender ToT for Government Officials

I. Humanitarian Program Cycle 2024: Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) Process

September was dedicated to identifying and define indicators and the local adjustment of severity scales for People in Need (PIN) and Needs Severity Calculation as part of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) process. The indicators defined for the Protection Cluster (PC) Severity and PIN calculation are Protection Risks, Protection Risks linked to trafficking in person, Access to Documentation, Access to the Justice System, Negative Coping Mechanisms in Protection, Violent Death Rates, Adolescent Mothers, and Children and Adolescents out of school using primary data from the MSNA and secondary data sources.

Calculations were refined using qualitative information obtained from experts during needs assessments validation workshops conducted in Miranda, Zulia, Falcón, Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, Sucre, Amazonas, Apure, Táchira, Lara, and the Capital District. The overall PIN for the Protection Cluster is 4,425,466.00, representing a 5% increase compared to the calculation for the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2022-2023.

Further, throughout October, the national Protection Cluster participated in the facilitation of extended OCHA Local Coordination Fora meetings in the states of Miranda, Sucre, Bolivar, Delta Amacuro, Apure, Amazonas, Táchira, Zulia, Falcón, and Lara. The primary objective of these workshops was to validate data collected from the MNSA on the humanitarian situation of the respective state and, to gather complementary informa-

tion to contribute to the narrative of the HNO. Finally, it helped to validate the prioritization of municipalities in collaboration with Cluster partners and OCHA.

II. Coordination with other platforms, subnational Clusters, ICCG, and Partners

Coordination with the Response for Venezuela (R4V) continued throughout September and October through bilateral meetings and common working grounds for the next months have been set. Further, meetings have been held with the 6 subnational Protection Clusters in Zulia, Táchira, Apure, Amazonas, Barinas, and Bolivar. Coordination with these coordinators will be strengthened to assure decision taking is guaranteed also from the field, and their support in the implementation of the extended OCHA Local Coordination



Fora for the HNO process are in line with Protection needs in their area.

The Protection Cluster assured participation in the weekly ICCG meetings where HPC ongoing activities have been discussed and planned.

Finally, bilateral meetings have been organized with PC's partners NRC and OHCHR. With both partners their protection programming has been discussed and possible coordination in the Cluster.

III. Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP) WG

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 guarantees 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 workplans.

During the meeting of October, the new framework of AAP 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.

IV. GPC Townhall

On October 18th a Townhall was organized by the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) with Field Operations.

HRP 2024 key messages/instructions were discussed and a calendar of bi-monthly GPC Townhalls with field operations with planned key topics were presented. The meeting had the aim to understand the different timelines and ongoing HPC processes in each field operation as well as provide support to whom needed it.

V. La Carnada Play

The Working Group on the Prevention and Response to Trafficking in Persons (WGTiP) organized and

coordinated the "La Carnada" play in Petare in collaboration with the Taller Experimental de Teatro/ Center for Artistic Creation (TET), IOM, and UNHCR on September 23rd and 24th.

This The TET is a theatrical group based in Caracas, Venezuela that was founded on December 11, 1972, by Eduardo Gil under the heart of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV) with the purpose of establishing a theater group with an experimental line of work.

La Carnada, an immersive and documentary-style theatre production, aims to raise awareness about victims of Trafficking in Persons (TiP), focusing on sexual and labour exploitation. It sheds a 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 Cluster, 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 are scheduled for the last week of November (in Petare) and another in December in Chichiriviche de La Costa, La Guaira, in commemoration of the 16 days of activism for the International Day for the Eradication of Violence against Women.

VI. Annual TiP Bulletin 2022-2023

After one year of the creation of the

WGTiP, an annual bulletin was published in October. 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 information and dynamics and highlights 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 here [link](#).

VII. Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) and Trafficking in Persons (TiP)

Under the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster consultancy, research has been done to understand the connection between food insecurity, lack of livelihoods and the likelihood of being recruited into

trafficking networks. After bilateral meeting between the Protection Cluster, the WGTiP and the FSL Cluster, a focal group was organized on October 10th. A total of 7 participants from UN Agencies, AoRs, and local NGOs participated. WG members actively participated by sharing field experiences and proposing recommendations to address challenges raised during the discussion.

VIII. Monthly Meetings of the WGTiP

The WGTiP convenes monthly to review its working plan and provide a platform for members to discuss trends and activities related to TiP. In the last meeting, the WG collectively decided to establish a Task Force to draft a guide on security for organizations working with Victims of Trafficking (VoT). Additionally, members

have developed standardized training and sensitization activities/workshops to implement in communities on the topic of TiP. These trainings will be beneficial to other organizations addressing human trafficking issues. In October's monthly meeting, the WG hosted the office of UN Special Rapporteur for Trafficking in Persons. The meeting involved discussions on potential collaboration with WG members and how the UN Rapporteur's office can support advocacy efforts.

Member organizations also shared information on available services for victims of human trafficking in different states of Venezuela through a service mapping exercise that was implemented.

IX. Protection Mainstreaming Training

The PC in collaboration with the





ProCap Senior Protection Advisor have provided the WASH, Shelter, Logistics, Health, Education, Food Security, Nutrition Cluster as well as Venezuelan Humanitarian Fund (VHF) partners a Protection Mainstreaming in-person training. The training comprised a theoretical component covering i) humanitarian and protection principles, ii) fundamental protection concepts and the risk equation, iii) the distinction between integrated protection and protection mainstreaming and their definitions. The second part involved a practical exercise where participants selected an activity within their sector, analyzed the context, identified three primary protection risks, and applied the protection equation. This dynamic and participative exercise allowed participants to present their activities and benefit from constructive feedback. Overall, the positive feedback given by participants shows the need to

strengthen humanitarian organizations' understanding on Protection Mainstreaming to guarantee the Centrality of Protection is in place in the humanitarian response.

X. Training on Mixed Migration and Durable Solutions

A full-day training session on Mixed Migration and Durable Solutions took place on October 19th. The session began with a review of basic protection concepts, followed by an analysis of strategies to mitigate threats and vulnerabilities, and enhance capabilities through practical exercises with PC partners.

The morning session focused on explaining the concept of mixed migration and various migratory profiles, emphasizing the distinctions between the causes

and consequences of migration through group dynamics. In the latter part of the session, the meaning of durable solutions and the criteria for achieving them were presented in relation to migratory profiles and the Venezuelan context. Finally, together with IOM, a session on returns and reintegration was included to discuss practical implementation of durable solutions. A total of 20 local and international organizations, part of the PC, participated, and the feedback received was positive. Finally, to assure that this information reaches colleagues in the field, an online session was organized on November 7th. Despite the challenges posed by virtual sessions, 28 people attended the session, showed interest in the topic, and actively participated during the organized group dynamics.

XI. Reporting Transition to 345W

During September and October, two training sessions were conducted with Protection Cluster Partners to facilitate the transition from the 5W system to the 345W reporting platform. Adjustments were made in the platform to reinforce quality controls, and Areas of Improvement were identified by Information Management (IM) personnel in the Protection Cluster and the Areas of Responsibility. The cluster's IM automated data transformations to consolidate information for the year 2023.

The pilot phase for the migration to 345W has concluded, and final refinements are underway. These refinements aim to establish a more automated process for reporting, validation, and consolidation of partners' responses.





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

In view of the preparation of a thematic Protection Analysis Update (PAU) on the protection situation of LGBTIQ+ 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.

XIII. 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 the next steps. The coaching agenda intended to bring accompaniment and advice to people with coordination functions for the implementation of an MHPSS strategy in their organizations, agencies, and clusters.

These efforts represent a significant inter-institutional initiative to empower professionals in the field, providing knowledge and tools essential for efficient organizational functionality during humanitarian emergencies. Following these activities, the working group plans to implement its work plan, emphasizing MHPSS as a cross-cutting topic in the humanitarian architecture.

XIV. Impact Stories of Series: September and October

a. Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI) (September): The subnational cluster of Bolívar, in coordination with the national PC, visited PUI's activities in Casacoima, Delta Amacuro state. PUI's project focuses on improving living conditions through mental health, physical health, and WASH. Beneficiaries of the project were interviewed for a better understanding of the projects' impact. The interviews confirmed how mental and physical health of the members of the community was improved thanks to the work of PUI, which translates in the need of the PC to keep supporting partners implementing such relevant projects in communities of difficult access.

Full access to the story through this [link](#).



b.Fundación Proyecto Maniapure (FPM) (October): FPM, a PC partner, implements integrated protection, and WASH strategies in Amazonas and Bolivar. The PC, in coordination with FPM staff, visited the state of Amazonas to showcase FPM's impactful work in the monthly impact stories series.

The main axis of the organization revolves around a community model that centers the mental and physical health as a human right. Their work has been distinctive and their projects of great impact to the most vulnerable groups, such as the indigenous communities of the Venezuelan Amazonia.

The PA visited the community of Valle Lindo in the municipality of Atures in the state of Amazonas, where he was able to interview several persons of interest who participate in the foundation's programs,

and in particular those people who were participating in community sensitizations and trainings on the prevention of TiP and other forms of violence. Beneficiaries mentioned that they feel grateful for all the work of FPM and wish that more communities could benefit from such sensitizations and trainings, which are relevant to the daily realities they experience.

Full access to the story through this [link](#).

XV. Protection Service Mapping Revisions and Edits

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. The focus was on ensuring the accuracy of registered services and collaborating with partner organizations to edit or confirm the removal of inactive services. The revised database is undergoing verification for coherence by the IM team before being uploaded onto the platform. Considerations regarding the platform itself and the inclusion of other sectors are also under review, and once finalized, the PC will implement its communication strategy on Service Mapping.

XVI. 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 strengthening of local government, the Protection Cluster through the 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.

XVII. September's Monthly Meeting with Partners

On Thursday, September 28th, the PC convened its monthly meeting with 53 members representing 41 partner organizations. The agenda covered an information exchange between partners which expressed concerns on the way national IDs are processed in light of the soon elections; saw a presentation of the New Accountability Framework for Affected Populations (AAP), its objectives and work plan; updates from the national subcluster of Ciudad Guayana on their



protection work and the advancements of their workplan along with areas of responsibility (AoRs), and the response monitoring for August, showing a total of 385,000 people reached by 95 partner organizations.

Additionally, the Service Mapping tool was shared with partners, and it was informed that together with the UNHCR Information Management Unit and the AoRs, a complete update of the services registered in the tool was being made. Organizations were invited to always be on the lookout to update services and to be able to support the dissemination of this tool. This meeting marked the first under the leadership of the new cluster coordinator.

For more information request the meeting minutes for any cluster member.

XVIII. Second Allocation for Venezuela Humanitarian Fund (VHF)

The call for proposals for the second allocation of the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund (VHF) was opened on October 13th closing on November 6th. This allocation focuses on "Multisectoral assistance for the improvement of essential health services, strengthening community resilience through livelihood support, gender equality and women's empowerment, supporting emergency education activities, and the provision of assistance and protection services in complementarity with CERF funds in 13 municipalities across 5 border states: Bolivar, Delta Amacuro, Falcon, Sucre, and Zulia." The three key prioritized areas encompass enhancing essential health services (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Women's and Adolescents Health, and Sexual &

Reproductive Health), reinforcing community resilience through livelihoods and access to adequate food, women's empowerment, gender equality, and provision of assistance and protection services (including Gender-Based Violence (GBV), children and adolescents, and human trafficking), and supporting emergency education activities with a socio-productive approach.

XIX. Protection Monitoring Tool (PMT)

The outcomes of the Protection Monitoring Tool (PMT) were shared with cluster partners. The PMT continues to measure primary protection risks, population needs, access to rights, and humanitarian assistance at the community level. For the period of March to August 2023, the PMT recorded a total of 674 interviews con-

ducted in 16 states, with the collaborative efforts of 9 partner organizations. This tool provides valuable insights into the evolving protection landscape and aids in tailoring responses to the specific needs of affected populations.



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MONITORING THE PROTECTION RESPONSE PERFORMANCE AND FUNDING

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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 (currently 345ws), including the implementing partners of the lead agencies of the Cluster and AoRs, increased notoriously.

The activity monitoring dashboard covering latest data collection in October 2023 and other information products can be accessed in the [protection cluster website](#), and currently 105 partners are supporting the 345W 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.

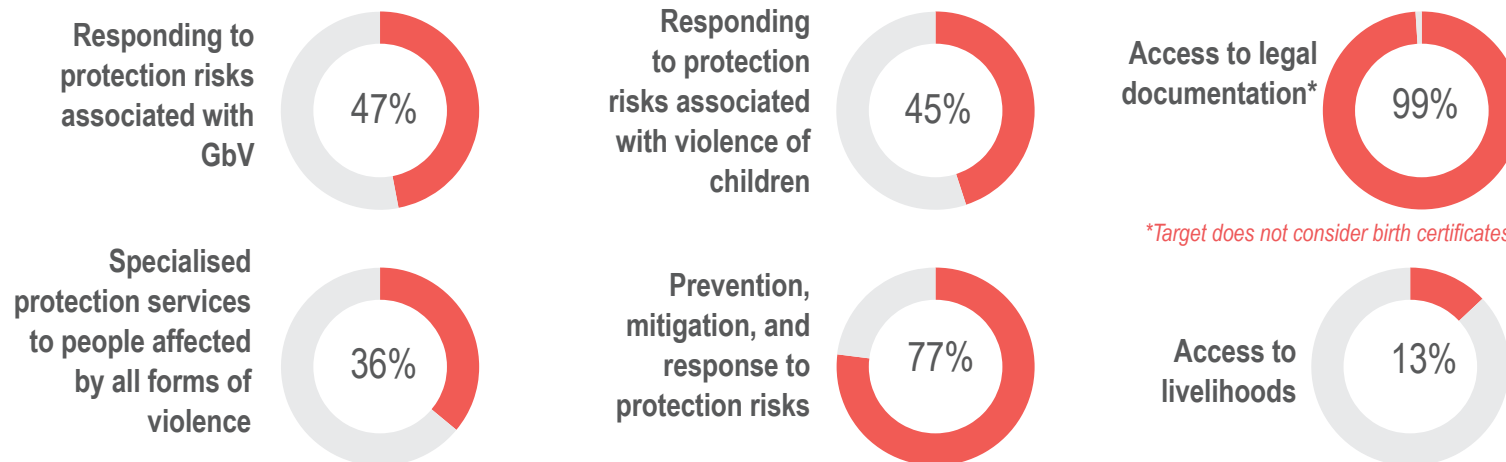
353, 037 million USD were received by the Venezuelan Republic so far in 2023 through the HRP plan, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Requested funding for the Protection Cluster was 101.2 million USD and 33,385,8929 million USD were granted. According to FTS, the total coverage has been of 33 % of the funding requested.

According to the 345W reports, 478K people were impacted until october, which 65% are women and 35% men. 6,479 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).

