

# Venezuela Fact Sheet

February 1, 2024



Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.

## Introduction

Venezuela is one of the most underfunded humanitarian crises in the world. Refugees and members of host communities across the country continue to face critical protection risks and vulnerabilities. In this context, HIAS supports refugees in rebuilding their lives with dignity. Our initiatives consist of mental health and psychosocial support, prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), legal protection, economic inclusion, and water sanitation and hygiene programs. These efforts, grounded in an ecological, multisectoral, and protection-focused approach, aim to empower refugees and the most vulnerable communities. By addressing their needs, enhancing capacities, finding sustainable solutions, and facilitating dignified living conditions, HIAS strives to contribute significantly to ensuring the self-reliance of our participants.

HIAS Venezuela focuses on single women, female-headed households, survivors of gender-based violence, children at risk, the elderly, people with disabilities, indigenous people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. We offer services and tools aimed at strengthening local and individual capacities to foster protection, dignity, and empowerment.

## HIAS Programs and Focus

### Legal Protection

HIAS aims to generate actions to ensure that people in need of international protection, refugees, and vulnerable populations have access to basic rights and services. HIAS provides legal information, counseling, and accompaniment to vulnerable cases to promote access to legal status, documentation, health, housing, education,

work, and other rights and protection services. Legal interventions extend to training aimed at strengthening institutions and communities.

### Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

HIAS aims to reduce the risk of GBV for refugee and Venezuelan women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people, as well as increase their access to legal, psychosocial, and economic inclusion services for their protection and wellbeing. Our teams provide multisectoral individual and group support, as well as case management services to GBV survivors. We also implement GBV prevention and training activities in communities to



Participants witness the Refugee Status Determination Process featuring the active involvement of the National Commission for Refugees in El Nula, Venezuela, on December 6, 2022. (Laura Nieto/HIAS Venezuela)



### Legal Protection

HIAS provides legal information, counseling, accompaniment, and training to institutions and communities.



### GBV Response

HIAS helps reduce the risk of GBV for refugee and Venezuelan women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people for their protection and wellbeing.



### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

HIAS works with communities in Venezuela to facilitate access to safe water and healthy environments.



### CB-MHPSS Support

HIAS provides individual and group psychosocial support and mental health assistance to promote wellbeing and resilience.



### Economic Inclusion

HIAS provides vocational and technical training to promote self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods.

promote empowerment, as well as develop capacity building exercises with key institutions. Prevention activities involve men and women of different age groups, recognizing the necessary participation of all members of society in the transformation of gender roles and social norms.

### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

HIAS works with communities in Venezuela to facilitate access to safe water and healthy environments. Our interventions encompass the promotion of appropriate hygiene and sanitation practices through the dissemination of information, guidance, and training for behavioral change among individuals, households, communities, and institutions. Additionally, HIAS implements initiatives to maintain, enhance, and rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure and systems. Our WASH programs address critical and immediate needs, fostering minimal water, sanitation, and hygiene standards that safeguard lives, mitigate health risks, and enhance well-being.

### **Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (CB-MHPSS)**

HIAS works to improve the mental health and psychosocial well-being of refugee populations and host communities. We provide individual and group psychosocial support and mental health assistance to strengthen individual capacities and develop interventions for consolidating community-based support networks. These interventions support people and communities while promoting their psychological well-being, resilience, and the use of healthy coping mechanisms.

### **Economic Inclusion**

HIAS promotes community access to essential goods and services while providing vocational and technical training to promote self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods. HIAS provides orientation, training, tools, and accompaniment to refugees and host community members to improve their ability to develop and engage in employment and livelihood opportunities. Our interventions encourage people to generate income to meet their urgent basic needs and to live in a dignified and sustainable manner.

## **HIAS in Latin America and the Caribbean**

HIAS advocates for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, other displaced populations, and local host communities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of a comprehensive regional response to meet the urgent needs of these populations, HIAS co-leads and participates in several coordination platforms and partnerships with a focus on protection, socioeconomic integration, MHPSS, food security, GBV, and cash and voucher assistance.

HIAS currently has programs in 11 countries in LAC (Aruba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela) and partners with a wide range of government agencies, UN entities (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNV/VVT), the private sector (Airbnb, TATA Consultancy Services, and Manpower), and other NGOs and consortia, including Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council and World Vision.

### **Contact**

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