



Country card

Venezuela





HI Team and intervention areas

HI Venezuela program has 7 staff members and is part of the Regional Latin America Program.





General data of the country

a. General data

DATA	Venezuela	Colombia	Belgium
Population	28.7	51.2	11.5
IHDI	0.58	0.59	0.85
Gender-related Development Index	1.009	0.989	0.974
Maternal mortality	70	44	3
GINI Index	44.8	54.2	27.2
Population within UNHCR mandate	1,429,824	9,880,716	105,050
INFORM Index	4.8	5.4	1.7
Fragile State Index	91.6	78.4	31.9
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	54.2	52.5	100
Net official development assistance received	284	902.53	0

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Signed on 12/03/1997 and ratified on 04/14/1999
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Not signed
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed on 09/24/2013



c. Geopolitical analysis

Recent history of Venezuela

Venezuela, officially the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a country on the northern coast of South America, consisting of a continental landmass and many small islands and islets in the Caribbean Sea. The sovereign state is a federal presidential republic consisting of 23 states, the Capital District (covering Caracas), and federal dependencies (covering Venezuela's offshore islands). Venezuela is among the most urbanized countries in Latin America; the vast majority of Venezuelans live in the cities of the north, especially in the capital (Caracas) which is also the largest city in Venezuela.

Economic shocks in the 1980s and 1990s led to several political crises, including the deadly Caracazo riots of 1989, two attempted coups in 1992, and the impeachment of President Carlos Andrés Pérez for embezzlement of public funds in 1993.

Oil was discovered in the early 20th century, and today, Venezuela has the world's largest known oil reserves and has been one of the world's leading exporters of oil. The recovery of oil prices in the early 2000s gave Venezuela oil funds not seen since the 1980s. The Venezuelan government under Hugo Chávez in 1999 established populist social welfare policies that initially boosted the Venezuelan economy and increased social spending, temporarily reducing economic inequality and poverty in the early years of the government.

In 2013, Hugo Chávez died, shortly after being elected to a fourth term, and was replaced by Nicolás Maduro, who was elected by a narrow majority in a widely contested election. The country's economy collapsed with falling oil prices, speculation and economic mismanagement.

The destabilized economy led to a crisis resulting in hyperinflation, economic depression, commodity shortages and a drastic increase in unemployment, poverty, disease, infant mortality, malnutrition, and crime. These factors precipitated the Venezuelan migrant crisis. The situation has been aggravated by the sanctions imposed by the United States administration and the confiscation of state accounts.

In January 2019, after long political tensions in Venezuela, the national deputy for the Voluntad Popular party, Juan Guaidó, proclaimed himself president in charge of Venezuela. Nevertheless, his leadership in parliament starts to be questioned in January 2021, when the pro-Chávez Jorge Rodríguez takes over as president of parliament.

In March 2022, Maduro announced the reactivation of the dialogue process with the opposition. In May 2022, the US president eased some sanctions on Venezuela to precipitate dialogue between the government and the opposition in Mexico, a necessary condition for resuming trade in Venezuelan oil.

Humanitarian consequences of the crisis



The socioeconomic crisis in Venezuela continued to deteriorate throughout 2019, 2020 and 2021 leading to one of the biggest mass displacements in South America's history. According to UNHCR at least 6.11 million Venezuelans have left the country since 2014. The fallouts of the crisis across the region have increased proportionally: more than 4.5 million migrants/refugees are registered in neighboring countries, as well as in the US and in Europe.

Along 2020 and 2021, inflation has kept spiraling, leading to increased poverty, deterioration of living conditions, increased food and medicine shortages, more deaths caused by the failure of the health system.

Since 2019, the country has experienced rapid growth of transactional dollarization, with studies indicating that, on average, more than 80 per cent of transactions in the country are in foreign currency.

The deep humanitarian situation of Venezuela has been exacerbated along 2020 by the COVID-19 related restrictions, which includes quarantine, suspension of all non-essential work and educational activities, suspension of commercial and private flights, restrictions on refueling with the exception of health personnel, police, militaries and persons engaged in activities deemed essential. The measures were partially lifted in the second part of 2020, with the announcement of alternated weeks of radical restrictions followed by weeks of opening.

By 2022, Venezuela's GDP is estimated to have fallen by 80%, and there is already talk of a chronic crisis.



Summary of HI presence in the country

HI has been supporting vulnerable persons over Latin America region since the 90's with a specific focus to improve the living conditions of people with disabilities. HI is currently active in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, Cuba and Venezuela.

In the last 20 years, HI developed extensive knowledge of Latin American context and actors and has implemented interventions in various sectors through several modalities to respond to various crisis. Through the regional dynamics, HI has established operational and strategic partnerships with stakeholders of the disability sector in Venezuela, notably with Consorven, which is one of the partners of the current implemented project, whose President used to hold the position of Vice-President of the Latin American DPO Network (RIADIS).

In 2019, as part of HI's Regional response to mitigate the impact of the migration crises, HI started its operations in Venezuela with an ECHO funded project focusing on improving access to essential services (such as health, protection and food assistance) for the most marginalized groups with a special focus on persons with disabilities and/or mental health and psychosocial distress.

In 2020, HI decided to consolidate its activities in Venezuela by proposing a project to ECHO which was in line with the previous one. At the same time, HI decided to diversify its sources of funding signing an agreement with the CDCS to extend the activities proposed by HI in the ECHO project. Both projects have been finalized during 2021 and a second phase funded by both donors is currently in place.

From 2022, HI redefines its strategy in Venezuela, by identifying needs linked with the added value of HI in the country. Thus, 3 new states have been selected because they present needs in accordance with our response capacities, there are few other actors present because of difficult access conditions and deterioration of the conditions.

HI will apply for funds to work in the next years in the states of APURE, AMAZONIA and DELTA AMACURO.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title & main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end dates	Donors who finance the project
Inclusive Programming of Humanitarian Actions Focusing on Children and Adolescents Protection against violence and abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation of partners and actors on inclusive humanitarian action, inclusive protection, gender training and AMSP (led by UNICEF, NNUU, authorities).• Elaboration of support material.	ONGI / authorities	Confederación Sordos de Venezuela	Venezuela	04.2022 - 01.2023	UNICEF



Donors

