



Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela

CONTEXT

For years, families in Venezuela have struggled to survive as inflation soars, food disappears from shelves and medicine becomes increasingly hard to find. The crisis has forced millions of people to leave their homes in search of food, safety and a way to earn a living. Today, instability and disruptions are compounding an already fragile reality, making daily life even harder for families across the country.

While the full impact is still unfolding, the needs of Venezuelan families are already overwhelming. Nearly 8 million people inside Venezuela need humanitarian assistance, and more than 7.9 million have been forced to flee their homes. Additionally, drastic funding cuts in U.S. government assistance in 2025 resulted in 2.6 million people not receiving critical assistance as originally planned—most notably, nutrition programs that were closed or scaled down. Families who were already stretched to the limit now face even greater hardship. They need support urgently—and the Church is there, ready to respond.

CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

As conditions allow, CRS and Caritas Venezuela will scale up support to the most vulnerable communities, building off years of work in the country. CRS has partnered with Caritas Venezuela to provide a lifeline of support to 60,000 families across 20 states.

Services include:

- **Nutrition and health services** for children under 5, and pregnant and nursing women.
- **Food assistance.**
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene** to reduce waterborne and hygiene-related risks.
- **Voucher-based cash assistance** to help highly vulnerable families meet basic needs through local markets.
- **Livelihoods recovery support** for women and young people.
- **Community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives** in flood- and landslide-prone areas.

Caritas Venezuela is one of the country's largest and most trusted humanitarian actors, with a nationwide structure spanning national, diocesan and parish levels and a permanent presence in all states. Caritas' operational footprint includes state-level warehouses and the required authorizations to transport food, nutritional supplies and medicines nationwide, enabling timely and flexible responses, including in remote and hard-to-reach communities.



For years, CRS has supported Caritas Venezuela to provide emergency nutrition programs for children under 5, including nutritional supplements and screenings for malnourished children and pregnant women. Photo courtesy of Caritas Venezuela.

Caritas Venezuela is deeply embedded within the Catholic Church's nationwide structure that has a permanent presence in communities across the country. This extensive network enables CRS and Caritas to work in close collaboration with parish priests, lay leaders, health facilities, schools and community organizations, ensuring access to vulnerable families in informal urban settlements, remote rural areas and Indigenous territories where humanitarian coverage is often limited.

CRS IN VENEZUELA

Today, national and local organizations deliver 58% of humanitarian assistance across the country. Caritas Venezuela, supported by CRS and other partners, is central to sustaining and scaling life-saving support in the country. Beyond Venezuela, CRS' EMPOWER program also strengthens Caritas responses along key migration corridors in Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil and Peru, reinforcing continuity of assistance for Venezuelan families on the move.

HOW TO HELP

- **Donate online:** crs.org/donate/venezuela-crisis
- **Donate by phone:** 1-877-HELP-CRS
- **Donate by check:** Catholic Relief Services, Venezuela Response, P.O. Box 5278, Tipton, IA 52772-0517