

## OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (USAID/OFDA)

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA



ADRA staff ready the distribution of USAID/OFDA funded relief products in Brazil. Photo courtesy of ADRA Brazil

### U.S. Government Continues Supporting Vulnerable Venezuelans

Thousands of Venezuelans continue to flee tenuous living conditions in their country, seeking medical care, adequate food, basic goods, and essential social services, with approximately 4.3 million people currently living outside of Venezuela.

The population influx has put growing pressure on humanitarian needs, strained public services, and increased public health concerns in the neighboring countries of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. In response, USAID, in coordination with national governments, other U.S. Government (USG) offices, and UN agencies, continues to work with relief partners to provide critical aid for vulnerable Venezuelans and host communities.

On September 23, U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo announced nearly \$119 million in additional USG humanitarian funding to support efforts to respond to the Venezuela regional crisis, including inside of Venezuela. The funding—comprising approximately \$78.8 million from U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), nearly \$21.3 million from USAID's Office of Food For Peace (USAID/FFP), and more than \$18.6 million from USAID/OFDA—will enable non-governmental organization (NGO), public international organization (PIO), and UN partners to continue providing critical multi-sector support to vulnerable populations. Since 2018, the total amount of USG humanitarian funding for the regional crisis is nearly \$473 million and includes

more than \$56 million to support immediate relief activities inside of Venezuela.

With USAID funding, partners are providing primary health services, improving access to necessary medical supplies and medicines, training health care workers, and supporting malaria treatment and immunization efforts to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including diphtheria, measles, and rubella. USAID partners are also implementing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, including distributing hygiene kits, conducting hygiene promotion activities, providing safe drinking water, improving solid waste management, and repairing sanitation facilities at health centers. Additionally, USAID is funding partners to provide hot meals to vulnerable Venezuelans in community kitchens and schools, prevent and treat malnutrition, and implement protection programs, including creating child-friendly spaces (CFS) and conducting gender-based violence prevention awareness sessions.

As of early September, nearly 179,000 Venezuelans were residing in Brazil, according to the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Venezuelan populations in Brazil require food assistance, shelter

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## USAID/OFDA Supports Graduate Certificate Program

In mid-November, the Florida International University (FIU) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Program—supported by USAID/OFDA since 2008—is launching the fourth edition of the online Graduate Certificate Program on Local Development, Land-Use, and Disaster Risk Management Planning.

Led by the Chile University Architecture and Urbanism Faculty and imparted by professors from FIU and four Latin American universities, the post-graduate certificate program consists of six online courses that focus on disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change; DRR and urban planning and governance; planning for land-use, local development, and risk management; and development and planning policies in Latin America.

FIU DRR Program Director Juan Pablo Sarmiento noted, “This academic program provides students the knowledge, methodologies, and tools needed to address territorial insecurity in human settlements throughout Latin America, with an emphasis on DRR processes and climate change adaptation.”

“The certificate program provided me an updated theoretical framework on DRR and its relation to development and territorial planning. I also learned about other disciplines, such as engineering, architecture, public administration, or political science,” said program participant Daniela Ejsmentewicz.

The next graduate certificate program begins on November 18, 2019, and ends on July 24, 2020. Professionals interested in participating can find further information and complete the application at the link below.

Program costs will be covered by FIU, with support from USAID/OFDA.

**The deadline to apply is November 14, 2019.**

[Register Here](#)



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A beneficiary receives food through a USAID/FFP-supported food voucher program for vulnerable households in Ecuador. Photo by Julian Wyss, USAID/FFP

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support, WASH services, and livelihood opportunities, relief actors report. With more than \$12.4 million in FY 2019 funding, USAID is supporting two NGO partners to distribute emergency food assistance and conduct livelihood, shelter, and WASH interventions among vulnerable populations in Brazil. Additionally, State/PRM provided nearly \$18.7 million in humanitarian assistance in FY 2019 to support multi-sector response activities in Brazil.

More than 1.4 million Venezuelans were residing in Colombia as of early September, many of whom are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, according to the R4V. In FY 2019, the USG provided more than \$160 million to support food, health, multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), nutrition, protection, and WASH interventions for vulnerable Venezuelans, Colombian returnees, and host community members in Colombia.

With approximately \$4.4 million in additional assistance for Colombia, USAID is supporting the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to deliver essential health care and WASH services to Venezuelans in the country. PAHO is improving communities' access to health services, safe drinking water, and basic sanitation; increasing disease surveillance activities; and strengthening local emergency management and response capacities.

Approximately 330,000 Venezuelans were residing in Ecuador as of early September, according to the R4V. Priority needs among Venezuelan populations include access to food, livelihood opportunities, legal information, psychosocial support services, immigration support, and shelter, humanitarian organizations report. In FY 2019, the USG provided nearly \$44.7 million to support the delivery of multi-sector support, including emergency food assistance, in Ecuador.

In August, USAID partner Save the Children Federation (SCF) provided nearly 2,900 vulnerable individuals with MPCA across Peru's Arequipa, Lambayeque, Lima, and Piura regions. The NGO also reached approximately 1,200 adults and more than 400 children with nutrition and child protection messaging through CFS in Peru's Arequipa, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Lima, and Piura regions during the month. From June to August, SCF reached an estimated 12,400 people across the five regions.