

About Hum Venezuela



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What is HumVenezuela?

HumVenezuela is an independent platform created by Venezuelan civil society for the monitoring, documentation and follow-up of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency (CHE) that affects the country since 2015.

The United Nations defines these emergencies as major crises of political origin, that undermine and dismantle the legal, institutional, economic and social structures of a country, without a natural disaster or war taking place.

Such crises cause a serious situation of human insecurity, generating extensive needs of protection and humanitarian assistance as a consequence of a systemic deprivation of human rights.

A CHE is a humanitarian crisis caused by political factors. These crises develop during a long period of instability that erodes the legal, institutional, economic and social structures of a country and collapses the capacities that depended on those structures to ensure the life, security, freedoms and well-being of the population.

When did HumVenezuela start?

The **HumVenezuela** platform was created in 2019, based on the experience of documentation carried out by 300 civil society actors during 2018, with an interdisciplinary methodology which produced abundant information, presenting evidence of the scale and severity of the CHE in Venezuela.

This work was carried out in the context of severe restrictions upon the exercise of freedoms and access to public information; and of a policy not consistent with the right to a prompt and effective response from the international humanitarian system to protect the population from the impacts of the emergency.

As a result of the documentation experience, reports were published on the serious consequences of the deprivation of rights in the water, food, education and health sectors, at the national level and in a set of states in different regions of the country, which are continuously updated through **HumVenezuela**.

CHEs present great challenges to the affected society, including access restrictions to a sufficient, timely and effective international humanitarian response; exposure to threats related to abuses and arbitrariness, and practices of persecution, coercion, deprivation and discrimination; large information gaps, fragmented views of reality, and impediments to mobility and communication within the country and beyond its borders.

What are HumVenezuela's objectives?

The purpose of the civil society organizations that make up **HumVenezuela** is to provide relevant information for the measurement, review and comprehensive assessment of the CHE, based on evidence and within a culture of open communication.

All of **HumVenezuela's** activities are focused on protecting the human rights of the persons affected by the emergency, in accordance with the principles and standards framework of international law and the humanitarian system.

In this regard, the platform represents a joint effort from civil society to contribute to the expansion, accessibility and quality of information used to represent the reality of the rights of the Venezuelan population in the assessments and decisions related to the CHE.

With that purpose, the platform operates through consultations, exchanges and consensus among civil society actors, within the framework of a common approach and model of evaluation, to carry out the following objectives:

- 1st.** Collect data and evidence of the CHE in the most exhaustive way possible, ensuring the inclusion of all affected populations and their needs in all states of the country where they are located.
- 2nd.** Convey relevant, systematic and standardized information - based on a human rights framework - for the measurement, analysis and assessment of the CHE in the different areas and sectors where it has an impact.
- 3rd.** Integrate civil society's field work experience and knowledge about the causes and dynamics of CHE, to improve its understanding and analysis of changes in the Venezuelan context.

Civil society is the space in which a society organizes itself to exercise its right to act with a common purpose and its own voice in the public sphere, to demand guarantees of inclusion, protection and assistance for all its members, and to participate freely and autonomously in decisions that concern their lives, security, freedoms and well-being.

Civil society actors play a critical role in decision-making to protect society from the adversities of a CHE because they understand the context better and know the realities on the ground; they have first-hand information about affected communities and populations and know the threats to which they are exposed and the obstacles to reach them; they have a valuable amount of data about the affected capacities and the factors that cause the emergency; they support and accompany people who require protection and assistance and are supportive to these persons in defending their dignity, rights and freedoms.

What is HumVenezuela's approach?

HumVenezuela approaches the CHE as a whole from a multidimensional approach, considering the different components that have defined it throughout decades of international evaluations and classifications in which it is distinguished as a slow evolving crisis, with highly disruptive effects on the functioning of a society and devastating consequences on the living conditions of the affected populations.

These components highlight its **emergency** profile, due to the magnitude of the impacts of its damages to the population and internal capacities; its extraordinary nature, due to excessive gaps and extreme deprivations that require a **humanitarian** response with international support; and its **complex** condition due to the multiple factors that limit or hinder the efforts to enable the society to overcome it.

Based on this scheme of components, **HumVenezuela's** methodology uses an evaluation model in which each component represents a layer of the CHE. Thus, the model's layers refer to the impacts of its damages, the protection and assistance response required, and the multifactorial complexity of its circumstances. These three layers cover twelve dimensions, which were defined from parameters and/or standards used in international humanitarian assessments.

CHE's Multidimensional Evaluation Model

Layers	Dimensions			
Impacts	Scale	Intensity	Depth	Capacity
Magnitude of the emergency by its levels of affection to the population and national capacities	Affected population and people in humanitarian need	Persons who have suffered serious harm to their integrity and security	Gaps or deficits left by fallen national capacities	National capacities preserved to face the emergency
Response	Access	Efficacy	Protection	Efforts
Effective reach of people to the assistance and protection requirements they need	Unrestricted access of people to the response wherever they are	Operational efficacy of the response based on the needs of the population	Protection of the rights of the affected persons, reached by the response	Response efforts to reduce gaps and strengthen local capacities
Complexity	Environment	Security	Rights	Trends
Presence of multiple adverse factors that limit, hinder or prevent society's ability to recover	Factors contributing to the opening or closing of humanitarian space	Factors that reduce or increase the risk of harm or threat to people	Factors that improve or worsen conditions to ensure rights	Factors that determine the permanence or exit of the emergency

How does HumVenezuela work?

HumVenezuela carries out a systematic work of collecting, processing, systematizing and analyzing a large amount of data and evidence that can cover the largest radius of CHE incidents in the layers and dimensions of its impacts, response and complexity, at a national and state level, in order to achieve the most exhaustive view possible of their magnitudes, demands and restrictions within the Venezuelan context.

In order to do so, the methodology combines three lines of research with different procedures and instruments. These lines are monitoring, documentation, and follow-up, through which a diversity of sources and actors from civil society and national academic centers, official institutions, and international humanitarian actors are consulted, the situation on the ground is documented, and relevant events for the CHE are followed up on.

The data is reviewed, verified, and cross-checked, which increases information's consistency and reliability, and is accessible through data tables, situation reports, and monitoring reports, published in the **HumVenezuela** website.

Lines of research

<p>Monitoring</p>	<p>Measurement of standardized indicators that provide data and indexes of the CHE at the general level and by state, its impact on living conditions, rights sectors and populations, with a focus on age, gender, diversities and vulnerabilities, humanitarian response efforts and the complexity of the CHE.</p>
<p>Documentation</p>	<p>Record and assessment of the human rights situation on the ground, humanitarian needs and threats to people by the CHE through reports produced by interdisciplinary civil society groups with the participation of affected communities and populations.</p>
<p>Follow-up</p>	<p>Periodic evaluation of the CHE presented in joint reports, with analyzed data and on the ground documentation, including the systematization of national and international events that impact its course and may warn about new milestones and circumstances of the CHE.</p>