

Hum Venezuela's Methodology



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What is the approach?

The term Complex Humanitarian Emergency (CHA) originated in the humanitarian field in the context of multi-faceted crises. **HumVenezuela**'s work methodology uses the EHC's multidimensional approach, which provides a model to represent, measure and evaluate it in a complete and integral way, in its planes and dimensions.

The model is based on the main components that define a crisis as EHC. In the model, they are converted into planes, each composed of measurable dimensions and adjusted to categories used in international humanitarian crisis assessments. The dimensional measures allow for the selection of the most relevant indicators and the standardization of the information they yield.

With this model they are approached:

- **Impacts:** Scale and severity of needs, intensity of damage and capacity gaps
- **Response:** Access, operability, levels of protection and humanitarian response efforts
- **Complexity:** Environmental factors, security, rights and trends that prolong the emergency

In terms of impact, the evaluation extends to five rights sectors: food and nutrition, water and sanitation, basic education, health, and living conditions, which includes areas such as poverty, basic services, environment, violence, and migration. At the level of response and complexity, it evaluates and follows up on the humanitarian response and the factors that intervene in the complexity of the emergency.

The multidimensional approach allows the EHC to be approached from a comprehensive perspective in order to best cover all relevant planes, dimensions and angles.

This approach is indispensable as this is a crisis of an unstable and complex nature, with devastating effects on the undermining and collapse of the structures that sustain the basic capacities for the functioning of a society.

Their impacts cause multiple and extensive deprivations to a large part of the population and leave the groups with the greatest vulnerabilities outside the scope of assessments, statistics and decision making.

This model allows:

- 1°. Measure the impacts of the EHC that affect the population and national capacities, creating wide gaps of deprivation.
- 2°. Assess the scope and progress of EHC's humanitarian response to protect and assist populations in need.
- 3°. Examine the factors that make the context of the emergency complex and analyze their trajectories to influence decisions that can change their course.

Plans of the Multidimensional Model

	Impact Plan		Response Plan		Plane of Complexity
Emergency	It refers to the crisis in its emergency profile for its large-scale and severe impacts that put people at risk, including damage already done, and the depth of these impacts in the deterioration or loss of basic capacities that generate humanitarian needs and large gaps, deficits and gaps in relation to rights-based standards.	Humanitarian	It indicates the demand for a response from the international humanitarian system that requires extraordinary and shared efforts in several sectors at different levels to protect the population and to collaborate in the restoration of fallen national capacities, including strengthening society itself and institutions.	Complex	It refers to the complex and unstable nature of the emergency, where multiple factors intervene to prevent or delay the possibility of ending it and directing efforts towards recovery and development. The multifactorial nature of the emergency also means that many areas or sectors of the functioning of society have been affected.

Multidimensional Model of Complex Humanitarian Emergency

Plans	Dimensions			
Impacts	Scale	Intensity	Depth	Capacity
Magnitude of the emergency due to its levels of effect on the population and internal capacities	Affected population and people with humanitarian needs	People who suffer serious damage to their integrity and safety	Gaps or voids left by the drop in internal capacities	Internal capacities preserved to face the emergency
Answer	Access	Efficiency	Protection	Efforts
Effectively reaching people with the assistance and protection response they need	Free access of affected people to the response wherever they are	Operational effectiveness of the response based on the needs of the population	Protection of the rights of the affected people who are seeking the answer	Response efforts to reduce gaps and strengthen local capacities
Complexity	Environment	Security	Rights	Trend
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 for securing rights	Factors that determine the permanence or exit of the emergency

The plane of the impacts

It is the plane of the negative impacts of the emergency. Its first dimension is scale, seen as the number of people affected in their living conditions and the functioning of their lives. Since the impacts of the emergency are not the same for all people, the affected population as a whole is distinguished by those who need protection and humanitarian assistance because their lives, integrity, security, freedom or livelihood conditions are in danger. Among them are those who have been severely damaged by the intensity of the impacts.

Another dimension of the impacts is their depth, understood as the gap or deficit that the EHC causes by destroying or collapsing capacities to ensure that the essential needs of the population are met. The loss or deterioration of these capacities produces wide gaps in terms of disenfranchisement and needs for protection and assistance. The depth of the impacts is the primary determinant of humanitarian needs, and the gaps in these needs establish the levels of effort to be made, far beyond the humanitarian response.

Dimensions of the impact plane

- **Scale:** is the total population affected by the emergency, including people with humanitarian needs. The affected population adds up to all the people who have suffered some deterioration in their living conditions, in general or in one or more essential conditions. In this group are differentiated those affected with greater vulnerability and those with humanitarian needs, who require assistance and protection because their lives, integrity, security, livelihoods and freedom are compromised. In turn, people with humanitarian needs are differentiated between severe and extreme needs.
- **Intensity:** is the number of people who fell into humanitarian need in recent years due to the impacts of the emergency or who have suffered serious damage, many of them irreparable such as death or forced migration. It also includes people forced to resort to survival strategies that injure their dignity and rights. These persons are included in the group of persons in humanitarian need, with the exception of those who have died.
- **Depth:** is the gap or deficit left by the capacities fallen by the emergency, within which are included the establishments and facilities, qualified human resources and those of a financial nature, public institutions and programs, equipment and supplies, as well as the goods and services indispensable to cover the basic needs of the population. The calculation of the lost capacities or the degree of their deterioration is made on the basis of the maximum on which the population was able to count, long before the emergency occurred.
- **Capacity:** it is the result of the depth as preserved or still standing capacities when subtracting the falls from those reached in their maximum point during the last years, according to the available data.

The Plane of Response

This is the level of availability of a response from the international humanitarian system when a country is experiencing an EHC or a major disaster, as provided for under international law and in the decisions of United Nations bodies. The response is part of the framework of an EHC, with the international humanitarian system expected to activate it at the onset of the emergency so that the population has access to an auxiliary capacity with protection and assistance mandates that can mitigate its impacts and counteract the devastating effect of the factors that produce it.

The availability of humanitarian response depends on the conditions of access and the effectiveness of its actions in accordance with the requirements of the emergency. It also involves the ability of the response to fulfill its protection mandates in the circumstances of an EHC where people are exposed to extreme deprivation and vulnerability, and to serious risks of abuse, coercion, and violence. It also includes progress in the response to reduce gaps at essential levels by delivering assistance and contributing to the restoration of local capacities.

Dimensions of the response plane

- **Access:** means that the humanitarian response can enter the country without unjustified restrictions or impediments and move freely through affected territorial entities, areas, facilities and communities to reach people in need of assistance and protection. It also means that people in need can freely reach places and receive without discrimination the assistance and protection provided by national and international humanitarian actors within the country. Any arbitrary prohibition, restriction or impediment is considered a violation of the right of the population to be protected and assisted by the international humanitarian system and of the right of initiative to provide assistance and protection by humanitarian actors and the international community.
- **Effectiveness:** is the operational capacity of the humanitarian response to fulfill its mandates and purposes, through the deployment of timely, effective and appropriate actions to the demands of the emergency. This capacity depends on the conditions established for the coordination of humanitarian efforts, outside, inside and across borders; on the structures and human teams that can be installed in the country to carry out humanitarian operations; on the information, coverage and effectiveness of humanitarian plans, based on the needs and rights of the affected people. Its undermining is also considered contrary to international law.
- **Protection:** is the ability of humanitarian response to give effect to its mandates and principles to protect the rights of people in emergencies before competent national authorities, either through its actions or in conjunction with other international bodies to ensure that rights are guaranteed; to stop or end violations through acts or practices of abuse, coercion, violence, discrimination and deliberate deprivation; to support victims in obtaining justice; and not to expose people to harm from humanitarian actions.
- **Efforts:** is the capacity of the humanitarian response to reduce the gaps left by the capacities lost or deteriorated by the emergency, including the available funds raised, covering at least those essential to protect and assist people with humanitarian needs and ensuring the participation of the populations in the priorities, the complementarity and strengthening of local capacities, the respect for the autonomy of the populations and civil society and the link with efforts to restore capacities, recovery and development plans.

The plane of complexity

It is the level of complexity of the emergency, as a component referring to the multifactorial composition of its causes or consequences, within itself or in association with other crises. The factors involved in an EHC are related to the decomposition of political power, the dismantling of institutions, and the accumulation of economic, social, and environmental fragilities or vulnerabilities. Multiple factors also mean that many areas or sectors of a society's functioning have been affected, causing serious disruptions and adversity in various areas of people's lives.

The intricate set of factors can create permanent restrictions, interferences and obstacles that reproduce and prolong the emergency in time, stagnating, worsening, reinforcing or triggering other crises that together bring down society. Identifying, classifying and tracking these factors is necessary to lessen or redirect their influence on the emergency, looking in particular at how they delay or prevent efforts to deploy an adequate humanitarian response, reverse the progress of the emergency and undertake a recovery that will guarantee rights and restart development.

Dimensions of the plane of complexity

- **Environment:** brings together the factors of the national and international context that contribute to the opening or closing of the humanitarian space within the country where the emergency occurs, whose very existence and extension depends on the number of humanitarian actors that cover the multiplicity of needs, the levels of and resources that can be obtained to respond to the emergency, and the cooperation and respect of national authorities for the norms of international law.
- **Security:** groups the factors that can diminish or aggravate the risks of harm to the population and humanitarian actors related to security conditions. depending on the levels of threat and the degree of exposure they may have due to the vulnerabilities generated by the political, economic and social situation of the country. Threats are often related to circumstances of violence for political or social reasons. The risks are increased if there are economic, social, or environmental vulnerabilities caused by the emergency or its underlying causes.
- **Rights:** it mainly considers the legal, political and institutional factors that affect human rights. Massive and systematic human rights violations can trigger the crisis or exacerbate its adverse impacts. In addition, humanitarian crises invariably cause immense human suffering, threats and violations of human rights and international law. It is a mandate of the United Nations, for universal and conventional reasons of international law, to place the protection of human rights at the center of humanitarian action.
- **Trend:** these are the political and social factors that cause stagnation or prolongation of the crisis, preventing, delaying or hindering efforts to mitigate or get out of the situation. These factors include the interests, behaviors and actions of decision makers, as well as events or developments that impact the causes or courses of the crisis.

What is the working methodology?

In the evaluation model used by HumVenezuela, we work with an information mechanism that demands a large volume of data, evidence and crossing of diverse sources that allows us to obtain the greatest scope of vision on the incidences of the EHC in all the evaluated fields. This mechanism has the following parts:

Monitoring system:

It generates measurements to analyze systematically and in the most complete way possible the plans and dimensions of the emergency, based on relevant data from secondary sources with different points of view and origin, by themes, sectors, populations and states.

Interdisciplinary documentation groups

Made up of informed civil society actors who record, systematize and communicate evidence about the rights situation, needs and threats faced by people on the ground, with the participation of affected communities and populations.

Monitoring activity

Observation and recording of events that impact the EHC and the periodic publication of reports based on the data collected and documented evidence, which is valuable for analysis and assessments of levels, behaviors, and courses of the emergency.

The mechanism is designed to carry out permanent processes of consultation, review and validation of information with civil society organizations and gives special importance to the participation of affected populations and communities to strengthen their levels of protection and access to rights.