

VHF Venezuela
Humanitarian
Fund

VENEZUELA HUMANITARIAN FUND

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

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THE VHF THANKS DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN 2021*

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*The VHF was established in 2020, but did not make allocations that year. Therefore, 2020 contributions are reflected in this report, as they supported 2021 allocations.

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The latest version of this document is available on the VHF website at www.unocha.org/venezuela/about-vhf/

Full project details, financial updates, real-time allocation data and indicator achievements against targets are available at [CBPF DataHub](#).

About VHF

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Front Cover

Indigenous woman passes by her house in a community in Amazonas state in Venezuela. Credit: OCHA/Hector Pereira

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FOREWORD

We have come a long way since the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund (VHF) was established in September 2020, in the midst of the pandemic. The VHF has quickly become an important instrument of the humanitarian response in Venezuela, serving as a vital source of funding to address critical humanitarian needs. In 2021, the VHF reached more than 130,000 people, 56 per cent of whom were women and girls, with humanitarian and protection assistance. The Fund supported sexual and reproductive health services for vulnerable women and girls, facilitated the safe return of children to school after a year and a half of pandemic-related closure, and reached some of the most vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people in remote areas.

As highlighted in this Annual Report, the VHF has shown its added value and comparative advantage in its first year of operation. One of the VHF's strategic priorities has been to promote localization, enhancing participation and direct access to funds for national and local actors.

With 64.3 per cent of VHF funding channeled to national organizations, local NGOs have been the backbone of the VHF-funded response, and efforts are underway to see how we can build on lessons learned to facilitate further their engagement as we expand the Fund.

Combining strategic focus, flexibility and a robust accountability system, the VHF has ensured the timely allocation of resources that support the best-placed organizations to address some of the most pressing humanitarian needs. The Fund has strengthened humanitarian leadership and coordination and addressed critical gaps in the response. As Humanitarian Coordinator for Venezuela, I have witnessed firsthand how VHF funds have provided life-saving and timely assistance and help people have a more sustainable and dignified future. The Fund, through its engagement and acceptance with authorities and communities, has been leveraged to facilitate humanitarian access for partners, including in public institutions such as schools and health centres, and hard-to-reach areas.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of all our partners, from the recipients of VHF funding –national and

international NGOs– to donors, Advisory Board members, cluster coordinators and the authorities for their dedication and tireless work in making the VHF a rapid success. We have counted on the support of eight donors, and as we seek to mobilize additional funding in 2022, I am confident more donors will join this collective effort.

A quarter of the population needs humanitarian assistance, including access to basic goods and services such as health, food, water and sanitation, education and protection. Thus, the coming year will require a strengthened effort to mobilize resources and expand the response.

In this regard, I have led the development of a multi-year Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) that focuses on the most affected states and vulnerable groups and will guide a more prioritized, intersectoral, and sustainable response. The multi-year nature of the HRP aims to strengthen efforts to build capacities in terms of basic service delivery and support to livelihoods, allowing the most vulnerable to build their resilience. As we move forward, the VHF will be a fundamental instrument in its implementation, and I am committed to working with all our partners to further strengthen and enhance the VHF to provide life-saving and livelihoods support to the Venezuelans that are most in need.

In terms of humanitarian and development nexus, the VHF has focused on addressing the most urgent humanitarian needs and critical gaps in the response. However, as projects have come to an end, the Advisory Board (AB) and various VHF partners have discussed ways of ensuring greater sustainability of the interventions. This includes the building of capacities, both in terms of basic service delivery and in terms of restoring livelihoods for those that are most affected. This is in line with the HRP 2022- 2023 strategy, which seeks to strengthen humanitarian action's contribution to reducing needs and supporting individual, community and institutional resilience.

GIANLUCA RAMPOLLA
Humanitarian Coordinator for Venezuela

“ One of the Fund’s strategic priorities has been to promote the localization agenda, enhancing the participation of national NGOs ”

GIANLUCA RAMPOLLA

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR FOR VENEZUELA



Zulia state. The HC during a meeting with a group of women participating in a project against gender violence.

Credit: © OCHA/Elena Ruiz Labrador

2021 in Review

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN



7M

PEOPLE IN NEED



4.5M

PEOPLE TARGETED



\$708.1M

FUNDING
REQUIREMENT

Humanitarian situation in 2021

The prolonged and significant economic contraction, sectoral sanctions, political polarization and situations of localized violence remain key drivers of humanitarian needs in Venezuela, affecting approximately a quarter of the population. In 2021, a modest recovery in oil production and a series of liberalizing economic measures have slightly improved economic performance and helped curb inflation. The GDP contraction in 2021 was estimated at 3 per cent, an improvement from 30 per cent in 2020, with the economy expected to grow in 2022¹.

Economic contraction and the negative effects of broad sectoral sanctions continue to undermine the provision of essential services such as health-care, water and sanitation, education and domestic gas, fuel and electricity supply. The deterioration of public service delivery has negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable families. Protection-related services to address violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, including mental health and gender-based violence (GBV) have been affected.

Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 has aggravated the humanitarian situation, with quarantine measures leading to reduced economic activities, including formal employment opportunities, impacting production and trade and increasing domestic violence. People's incomes, savings and purchasing power have been affected. While food and non-food items are available, vulnerable families often face difficulties accessing these due to decreased purchasing power. The informal dollarization of the economy has led to increased prices, and while there

have been regular adjustments to the minimum wage, accompanied by social cash transfers, these are not sufficient for vulnerable families to cover their basic needs, especially for those without access to foreign currency.

Food security and nutrition remain a key concern, and the prevalence of undernourishment has increased from 2.5 per cent in 2010-2012 to 27.4 per cent in 2018-2020².

During 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic heavily strained the health-care system³. As of 31 December 2021, 444,635 cases had been confirmed and 5,328 people had died. New variants of the virus led to new waves of infection, and while rates have been kept relatively low there is a continued risk that new waves put further pressure on ICU capacity. Limited early access to vaccines constrained the country's initial response. However, as of 31 December, 40.6 per cent of the population was fully vaccinated⁴. Key challenges in the COVID-19 response include limitations in regular access to energy, safe water and safe waste-disposal services in health facilities, limited diagnostic capacity and personal protective equipment, and the departure of qualified health personnel.

The focus on COVID-19 curtailed the provision of other essential health services, particularly for chronic diseases and access to sexual and reproductive health, and the implementation of the regular vaccination programme, reversing recent gains in the control of vector borne diseases.

¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2020: Labour dynamics and employment policies for sustainable and inclusive recovery beyond the COVID-19 crisis, p. 101.

² FAO, State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report 2021. The Government does not agree with these findings

³ ECLAC-PAHO, COVID-19 Report: The prolongation of the health crisis and its impact on health, the economy and social development, October 2021.

⁴ PAHO, COVID-19 Vaccination in the Americas, as of 31 December 2021.

The pandemic affected people's well-being, with an increase in mental health and psychosocial support consultations for children, adolescents and caregivers. School closures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 affected 6.8 million students in the country⁵. Estimates indicate that at least 20 per cent of students had difficulty completing the school year through remote modalities, with children in isolated areas, with disabilities and from indigenous communities being the most affected. The return to in-person classes started on 25 October. Ensuring safe conditions in educational facilities and supporting teachers, and vulnerable children and adolescents are critical elements for attendance and retention in the school system.

Mixed migration flows continue, including people intending to leave, returnees and/or people engaged in cross-border pendular movements. The closure of the borders with neighboring countries throughout most of 2021 forced people to use irregular routes and crossings, which increases protection risks, including human trafficking and gender-based violence.

In 2021, the rainy season from June to September affected thousands of people due to overflowing rivers, landslides and floods in several areas of the

country, including the states of Apure, Bolivar, Cojedes, Merida, Yaracuy and Zulia among others.

Projected situation in 2022

Humanitarian needs are likely to continue due to the prolonged economic and sociopolitical situation and the effects of COVID-19. Critical issues include the delivery of basic services, food security and nutrition, human mobility and protection needs.

The country's GDP is expected to grow in 2022 after eight consecutive years of contraction, which could help stabilize the humanitarian situation. However, sustainable improvements in the economy will depend on lasting progress in the political dialogue and the evolution of international sanctions. Factors such as the extent of economic reform measures, inflation trends, fuel and electricity supply, the ability to rekindle oil production and investment in social protection programmes are key for sustained economic changes and a reduction of humanitarian needs.

⁵ UNESCO, Global monitoring of school closures caused by COVID-19.

VISION STATEMENT

The prolonged and significant economic contraction, sectoral sanctions, political polarization and situations of localized violence remain key drivers of humanitarian needs in Venezuela, affecting approximately a quarter of the population. Despite signs of important progress in stemming the economic decline in 2021 and promoting economic growth in 2022, it will take considerable time and effort to address the socio-economic effects on the most vulnerable. As identified in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), key priority needs remain in six areas: 1) health of the population; 2) food security and nutrition; 3) human mobility; 4) protection risks; 5) access to basic services; and 6) access to education.

In 2022, the Fund will continue to position itself as a vehicle to address the most pressing needs, with an intersectoral and coordinated approach, and provide direct access to humanitarian financing for national and local actors. In line with the new multi-year HRP, it

will work to promote more sustainable interventions that focus on strengthening the capacities needed to promote basic service delivery and restore the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people. It will maintain the flexibility to address unforeseen needs, such as flooding or situations of localized violence.

In financing the best placed actors to respond, the VHF will promote localization, by directly funding national NGOs, working with them and the authorities to facilitate access, promoting partnerships among local organizations and investing in strengthening their capacities.

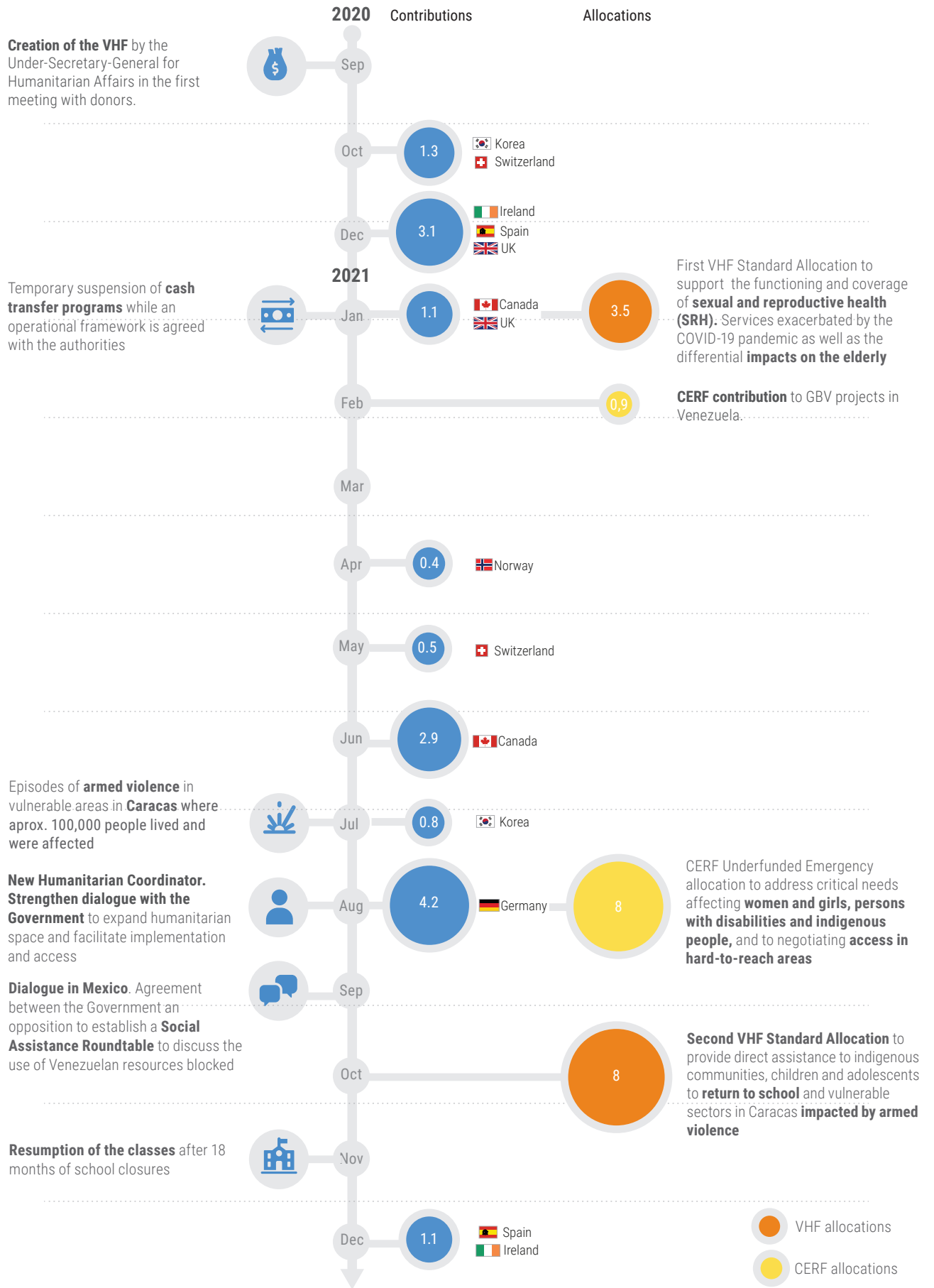
Since its recent establishment, the Fund has grown through the generous support of eight donors, and in line with global commitments towards the financing of Country-Based Pooled Funds, we will continue to work with the donor community to strengthen current support and expand to a wider pool of donors.



Bolivar state. A nurse tests a baby to determine its nutritional status during the implementation of a project funded by VHF.
Credit: © OCHA/Elena Ruiz Labrador

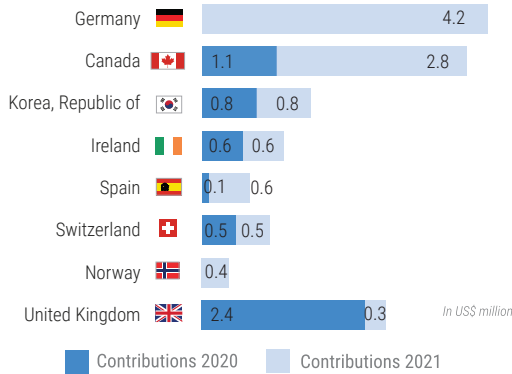


Amazonas state. Piaroa woman prepares cassava, a typical dish of the Venezuelan Amazon.
Credit: © OCHA/Héctor Pereira



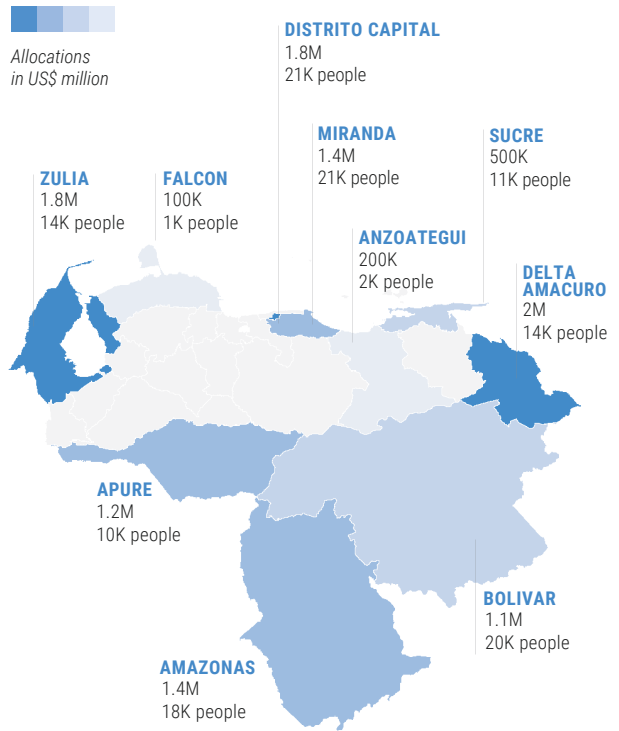
2021 IN NUMBERS

\$15.7M
CONTRIBUTIONS*



* The VHF was established in 2020, but did not make allocations that year. Therefore, 2020 contributions are reflected in this report, as they supported 2021 allocations.

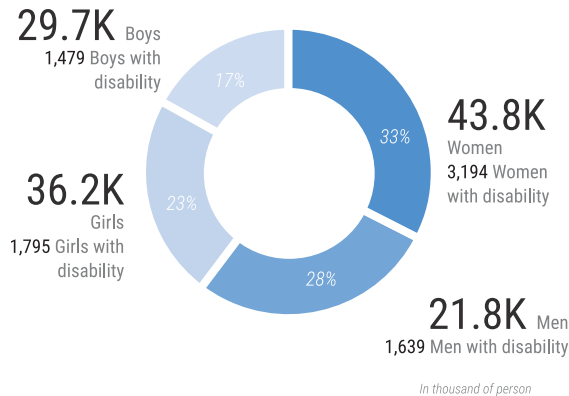
\$11.5M ALLOCATIONS
132K PEOPLE ASSISTED***



***Figures for people assisted may include double counting as people often receive aid from multiple cluster/sectors. The maximum methodology was applied by the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund to estimate the number of people assisted in 2021. This means that for each administrative unit, the cluster/sector that targeted the maximum number of people is used as the total number of people reached.

132K
PEOPLE ASSISTED**

8.1K
PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH DISABILITY

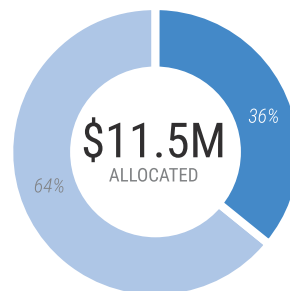


**The Annual Report will use the number of people targeted as a proxy for the number of people reached and henceforth the term people assisted will be used. This approach allows for more timely global reporting as the final data on people reached only becomes available over a year after the allocation of CBPF funds. The reported outcomes will be available on the <https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/> and the CBPFs will continuously monitor if targets are reached.

25 PARTNERS
31 PROJECTS

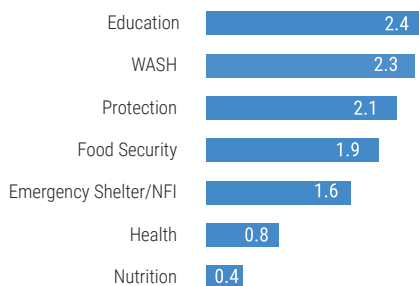
Allocations in US\$ million

\$7.4M
National NGOs
17 Partners
22 Projects



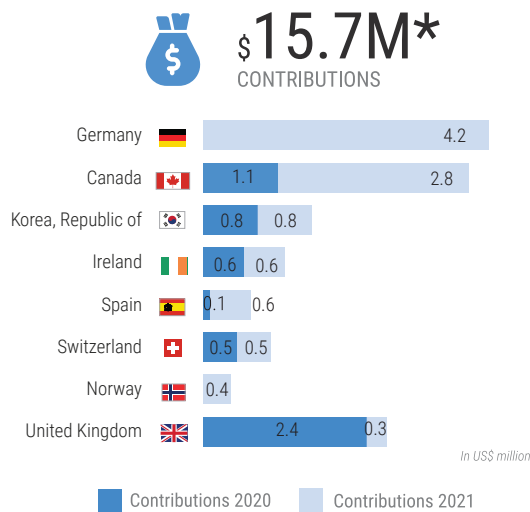
\$4.1M
International NGOs
8 Partners
9 Projects

ALLOCATIONS BY CLUSTER



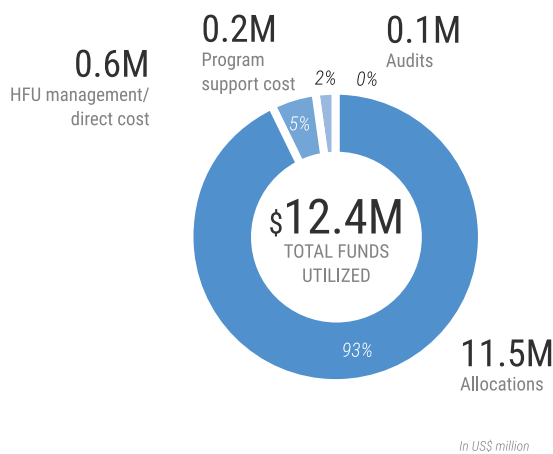
Donor contributions

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS



*The VHF was established in 2020, but did not make allocations that year. Therefore, 2020 contributions are reflected in this report, as they supported 2021 allocations.

UTILIZATION OF FUNDS



Note: The audit amount reflected for the VHF on 2021 has not been spent. Audits will take place in 2022.

Donors demonstrated strong trust and support for the VHF, depositing US\$10.2 million between January and December 2021 on top of \$5.5 million contributed late in 2020 to establish the Fund and carried over for use in 2021. The generous funding allowed the VHF to support humanitarian partners implementing urgent and life-saving humanitarian activities in Venezuela.

Following the launch of the VHF in September 2020, contributions from United Kingdom, Canada, Republic of Korea, Ireland, Switzerland and Spain of \$5.5 million allowed the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and OCHA to quickly operationalize the Fund and allocate \$3.5 million in alignment with the 2021 Venezuela HRP objectives.

The consolidation of the VHF and the launch of the first Standard Allocation -built donor confidence and increased the donor base and contributions surpassing the target set for 2021. The Fund's donor portfolio expanded to eight donors in 2021. Germany became a new donor to the Fund with a contribution of \$4.2 million and Norway contributed for the first time with \$0.4 million.

Early and predictable contributions are crucial as they give the Fund enough time to prioritize allocations strategically and in complementarity with other available funding. In 2021, some 86 per cent of contributions (\$8.8 million, from Germany, Canada, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Norway) were made available in the second and third quarters of the year allowing the Fund to launch its second Standard Allocation for \$8 million in October 2021.

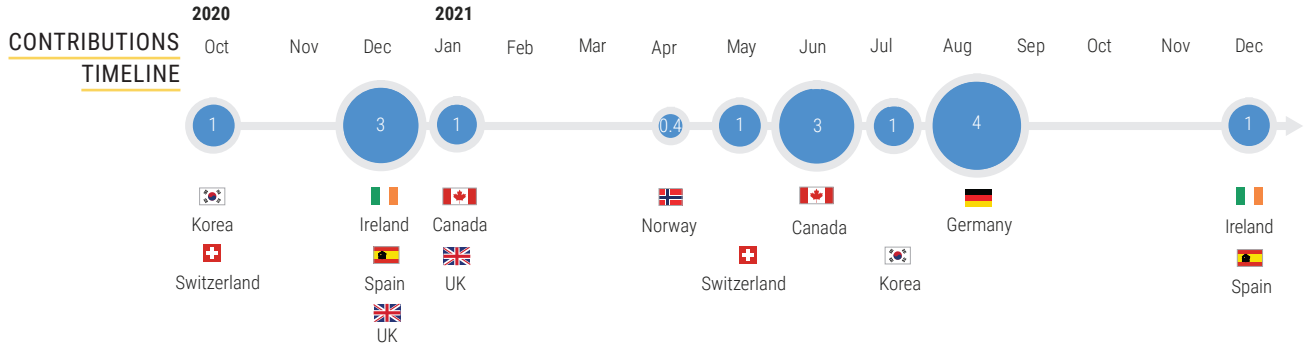
By the end of 2021, with additional contributions from Spain and Ireland, funds to the VHF accounted for approximately 4 per cent of the total Venezuela HRP secured funding.

Donor funding to the VHF and its subsequent allocations complemented other funding sources, in particular \$8 million received for Venezuela response in 2021 from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) underfunded emergencies window. The two OCHA-managed Funds jointly supported the scaling up of humanitarian response to the most vulnerable

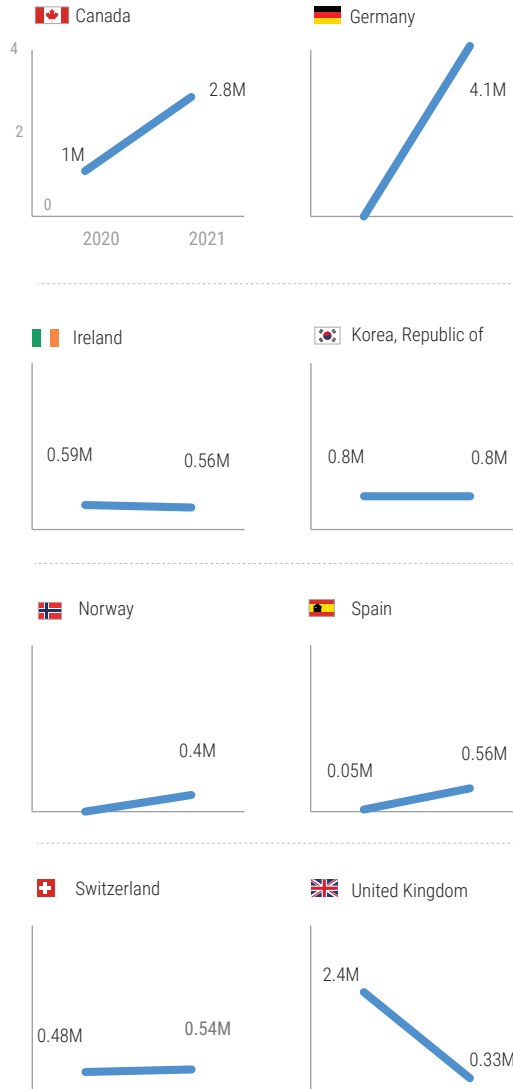
groups, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and indigenous communities, in zones where humanitarian needs have been assessed as high but the response to date has been limited due to underfunding, access challenges and the need to reinforce engagement and acceptance with local authorities and communities.



Amazonas state. Teacher beneficiary of the education project implemented by the NGO ASEINC and financed by the VHF.
Credit: © OCHA/Hector Pereira



DONOR TREND



Donor trend

Since its establishment in late 2020, the VHF has steadily increased donor support. In 2021, the Fund surpassed its annual resource mobilization target, the donor base became more diversified, and the number of donors increased.

Contributions from the United Kingdom and Canada in 2020 were key to the Fund's inception and the launch of the first Standard Allocation.

Canada, the Fund's second largest donor, increased its contribution by 163 per cent in 2021. Since its inception, the Republic of Korea, Ireland and Switzerland have supported the VHF, contributing in 2021 with similar amounts as the previous year. Spain had a modest contribution in 2020, and significantly increased its support to the Fund in 2021.

In 2021, the VHF expanded its donor base with Germany and Norway contributing for the first time. Germany became the top donor to the VHF in 2021.

In 2022, the VHF will aim to increase its resources and work closely with governments in donor countries to achieve this goal. The Fund counts on the continued support of national and international partners to further optimize its reach.

DONORS WITH MULTI-YEAR CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS

Switzerland **\$0.5M** 2022



Miranda state. A child eats a hot meal at the Red de Casas Don Bosco thanks to a VHF-funded project.
Credit: © OCHA/Hector Pereira

Allocations overview

STRATEGIC STATEMENTS

First Standard Allocation: Strengthening critical sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls and assistance to the elderly

After the VHF was established in late 2020, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and the Advisory Board promptly launched a first allocation to respond to the critical situation of vulnerable people, in particular to address the poor coverage of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) due to the pandemic. \$3.5 million was allocated to address the needs of women and girls of reproductive age, pregnant and breastfeeding and provide support to the elderly. This funding ensured the continuity and scale-up of critical SRH services such as health education, safe deliveries, the clinical management of rape, and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care.

Second Standard Allocation: Supporting post-pandemic school return, multi-sectoral assistance in indigenous communities and response to people affected by armed violence

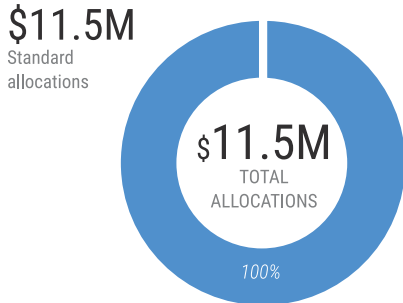
The effects of the pandemic on remote indigenous communities, continued armed violence in vulnerable sectors of Caracas aggravated in July 2021 and the need to support the return of vulnerable children

to school after months of school closures were the main triggers for the second Standard Allocation. In October 2021, the VHF allocated \$8 million to directly assist indigenous communities, children and adolescents to return to school and vulnerable sectors in Caracas affected by recent armed violence. The allocation increased humanitarian presence in key states where humanitarian needs were high. The VHF response supported improvements in engagement and acceptance and access, even though the wider response was limited by these challenges.

2021 ALLOCATIONS

Amount	Category	Launch month
\$3.5M	Standard allocation	February 2021
\$8M	Standard allocation	October 2021

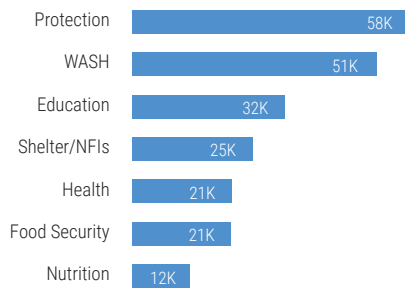
ALLOCATION BY TYPE *in US\$ million*



ALLOCATION BY STRATEGIC FOCUS *in US\$ million*

- S01** Ensure the survival and well-being of the most vulnerable people through a multi-sectoral response under a rights-based approach, including age, gender and diversity dimensions.
- S02** Contribute to the sustainability of essential services and strengthen the resilience and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people incorporating age, gender and diversity dimensions.
- S03** Strengthen institutional and community mechanisms to prevent, mitigate and respond to protection risks faced by affected people, in accordance with humanitarian principles and respect for human rights.

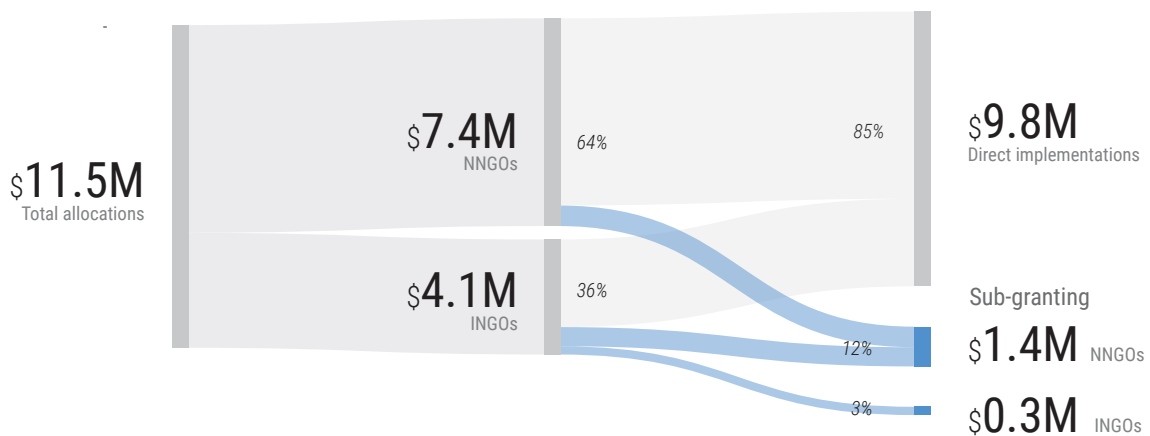
PEOPLE ASSISTED BY CLUSTER



ALLOCATIONS BY STRATEGIC FOCUS



ALLOCATION FLOW BY PARTNER TYPE *in US\$ million*



HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

PROMOTING LOCALIZATION

Since its establishment, the VHF has supported the localization agenda by empowering local responders and providing flexible funding to the best-placed responders, in line with the agreed World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain commitment on localization: “making principled humanitarian action as local as possible and as international as necessary.”

The VHF contributed to advancing localization and prioritized support to national NGOs in the allocation strategies, promoted consortia among NGOs, and made capacity-building for national sub-implementing partners a requirement for international non-governmental organization (INGO) led projects.

The VHF allocated 64.3 per cent of funding (7.3 million) directly to 17 national NGOs and 15 sub-implementing national partners and 35.7 per cent of funding to international NGOs.

Other actions to support local humanitarian partners include:

- Reach out to potential partners through workshops and awareness sessions, bilateral meetings and sessions, workshops, clinics and regular contact with partners to ensure the VHF increases its pool of eligible national partners.
- Train 17 national implementing partners and 15 local sub-implementing partners on VHF financial and programmatic guidelines, Humanitarian Principles, Accountability to Affected People (AAP), prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and monitoring.
- Encourage Clusters to promote the participation of national NGOs in the HRP.
- Reserve a minimum number of seats for local counterparts on the AB, review committees and strategic advisory groups to ensure the participation of local and national partners in decision-making processes. Two National NGOs sit on the AB, and one national NGO in each Strategic Review Committee.
- Ensure proactive outreach and effective communication with local counterparts, including the provision of appropriate advice and guidance on VHF guidelines.

EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING

KEY PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

Strengthening Accountability to Affected People

Capacity assessments of NGOs seeking VHF funding examine the AAP mechanisms they have in place, including community participation in all stages of the project cycle. The VHF requires implementing partners to address the core commitments to AAP in their project proposal including the work plan for AAP implementation during the project.

The VHF organized AAP training for partners on integrating AAP activities in project proposals submitted for VHF support.

A practical instance of ensuring AAP is the Inter-Agency Contact Line made available to the humanitarian community, including the Fund’s partners. The Fund launched a pilot in mid- 2021 and will include VHF projects as the coverage area expands. The Fund fosters partners’ engagement with the line that receives community feedback efficiently and securely, including receiving and referring sensitive complaints, such as PSEA.

Promoting the Centrality of Protection

The VHF requires implementing partners to prioritize protection in their project proposal.

The Protection Sector –including GBV and child protection– received 18.3 per cent of the VHF’s total allocations in 2021 reflecting the Fund’s role in up- holding the centrality of protection in the humanitarian response.

Activities in 2021 included providing a range of core protection services such as legal support, case management, psychosocial assistance and referral services, delivery of dignity kits and training and sensitization sessions.

Addressing gender equality and responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

In 2021, all VHF projects contributed to the Gender with Age Marker with 91.7 per cent of the total funding allocated promoting gender equality across different age groups. The VHF continued efforts to support women-led national NGOs for eligibility and participation in the VHF Advisory Board.



26,112

GVB survivors

provided with specialized protection service, prevention activities and awareness raising.



\$2.1M

of project funded by the VHF contributed to gender equality.



\$702K

In the implementation of VHF-funded projects are dedicated to assisting persons with disabilities.

HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

The VHF's first Standard Allocation focused on assisting women and girls of reproductive age considering the differential consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the functioning and coverage of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. Funding ensured the continuity and scale-up of critical SRH services such as health education, safe deliveries, the clinical management of rape, and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care.

The VHF supported 19 projects addressing gender-based violence through psychosocial support, delivery of dignity kits, management of GBV cases and awareness raising activities. More sustainable activities included the provision of critical inputs to 10 public protection institutions and support to a protection services centre.

Including Persons with Disabilities

In 2021, VHF projects targeted more than 8,000 persons with disabilities, representing 6.5 per cent of the people assisted in the two Standard Allocations. Most projects have included in their multi-sectoral approach assistance to people with interventions in shelter, protection, food assistance, nutrition, health and WASH sectors.

Considering the response to date has been limited due to under-funding, access challenges and the need to reinforce engagement and acceptance with local authorities and communities, the VHF has added value by supporting response outreach to remote states with assistance in education, WASH, health, and protection.

Education in protracted crisis

Pandemic-related school closures affected 6.8 million students in the country. Estimates indicate that at least 20 per cent of students had difficulty completing the school year through remote modalities, with children in remote areas, with disabilities and from indigenous communities the most affected.

In 2021, the second Standard Allocation supported the return of vulnerable children to school in hard-to-reach areas with a 40 per cent allocation envelope for Education. Funding was instrumental in supporting the return to classes of more than 18,000 boys and girls and 8,615 teachers of 273 schools. Activities included the delivery of hygiene, biosecurity and school sanitation kits, handwashing points, rehabilitation for access to water and sanitation, and photovoltaic panels. Partners provided teachers with biosecurity kits, teaching and working materials, and solar-powered radios for radio training in some remote areas.

AREAS OF CONTEXTUAL PROGRAMMING

Improving humanitarian access

The establishment of the VHF in 2020 was an important milestone for the humanitarian community. In a highly complex environment with several access challenges, the VHF was key to strengthen coordination with national and local authorities for project implementation and leveraging efforts to expand humanitarian space in the country, especially in hard-to-reach areas including river communities in Delta Amacuro state and indigenous communities in Amazonas state.

To this end, the Fund has supported the efforts of national and local coordination structures (Clusters and Field Coordination Hubs) by providing tools for access negotiation in their engagement with national and local authorities.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Education cluster received the highest proportion of funding, amounting **\$2.4M** to support the **return** of vulnerable children to **273 schools** in hard-to-reach areas.

More than **30,000** people in need received **food assistance** through **direct distribution**



The VHF funded projects to support **nutrition assistance** to more than **8,000** children, and pregnant and lactating women

VHF allocated **\$2.1M** to enable **17** partners implementing **protection activities** in **19** projects



VHF-funded projects supported **health care assistance** for more than **17,000** people including access to critical sexual and reproductive health services, provision of medicines and essential medical supplies, and mental health.



VHF allocated **1.6M** to provide **shelter and NFIs** assistant to more than **20,000** people in need including the strengthening of **community centers** and the delivery of **essential NFIs** to people affected by floods and localized armed conflicts.

More than **8,000** **persons with disabilities** benefiting of VHF-funded projects



More than **59,000** **indigenous people** targeted for **direct assistance** provision



VHF contributed **20%** of the total funding to **WASH cluster**

Stronger partnerships with **WLO/WRO**. **34.2%** of all partners in 2021 were **WLO/WRO** (12 organizations).





Miranda state. Elderly woman is taken by nurse for medical check-up provide by the VHF partner, CONVITE.
Credit: © OCHA/Elena Ruiz Labrador

Lessons learned and best practices

Strengthening coordination and humanitarian access

The VHF has been strengthening coordination among humanitarian actors through the allocation process, which has promoted an intersectoral focus to address critical issues and needs. Furthermore, the VHF promotes coordination between the authorities and VHF partners, to improve their access to public institutions and in remote and hard-to-reach areas. The Education Cluster and Ministry of Education reached an agreement to facilitate partner access in public schools in three priority states, which is essential to promote the safe return to classes during the pandemic. Moving forward, the VHF will continue to strengthen engagement and coordination between partner organizations and the authorities to improve access and the sustainability of the interventions.

Flexibility

Since its establishment, the Fund has adapted the global guidelines to the context in Venezuela and adjusted the operational manual. However, the operational environment remains challenging due to the sanctions and socio-economic conditions, such as volatile exchange rates, inflation, informal use of the dollar, overcompliance by financial institutions, and a lack of access to fuel. As a result, VHF partners requested greater support in improving the flexibility of operating framework established by the operations manual. The VHF has been able to flexibilize some of the requirements to help facilitate operational and administrative processes for the partners to effectively operate in Venezuela. Some examples of these are the use of the cash payments to pay the petrol in remote and hard-to-reach areas in the country where projects are implemented, payments to suppliers and vendors to a third party included in the official invoice, or maintain a nonexclusive bank account for the project and for all these examples partners require to maintain the traceability of the funds. Further discussions will continue and

Fund plans to include these aspects in the After-Action Reviews.

Localization agenda and consortia promotion

As part of the localization effort, the HC and the AB have made the support to national organizations a priority in allocation strategies. As a best practice, the VHF has encouraged consortia among NGOs, in which partners with greater capacity work with smaller national organizations to help build their capacity. This is a requirement for International NGO led projects.

As a result, the VHF was able to support indirectly 22 national NGO sub-implementing partners, whilst working with the lead organizations to ensure a robust accountability and risk management system. An additional good practice has been the training of sub-implementors to strengthen their capacities and knowledge of how the Fund operates and topics related to humanitarian assistance, such as PSEA, AAP, gender focus, humanitarian principles and the centrality of protection.

Humanitarian and development nexus

The VHF has focused on addressing the most urgent humanitarian needs and critical gaps in the response. However, as projects have come to an end, the AB and various VHF partners have discussed ways of ensuring greater sustainability of the interventions. This includes the development of capacities, in terms of basic service delivery and in terms of restoring livelihoods for those that are most affected. This is in line with the HRP 2022-2023 strategy, which seeks to strengthen humanitarian action's contribution to reducing needs and supporting individual, community and institutional resilience. In 2022, the VHF will address these issues in the allocation strategies and review of project proposals.

Miranda state. Women participate in the gender project implemented by Aliadas en Cadena and financed by VHF.
Credit: OCHA/Juan Barreto



EMPOWERMENT TO LIVE FREE OF VIOLENCE

“As a child, more than once I wanted to be a man. Today, because of this project, I feel proud to be a woman”

While raising a child, Jennifer (not her real name) manages to keep up with her women’s empowerment meetings in Caracas. She suffered physical abuse from her former partner and now understands that, as a survivor of gender-based violence, she didn’t just avoid abuse. Her life, or her story, as she likes to call it, is a testimony of the empowerment she says she has found in a VHF-funded project.

“When I was a child, I suffered a lot because of machismo. As a child, more than once I wanted to be a man. Today, because of this project, I feel proud to be a woman, very proud, and that is what I have learned, that I am proud to be a woman, that I was not born just to be locked up in the house, that I can achieve my dreams, I can follow them,” says the young woman with sparkling eyes.

In her case, the physical violence stopped years ago, when she separated from her abuser, however, she warns that many women continue to live in violent environments and need help. She believes that activities such as those implemented by VHF

partners, should be replicated to raise awareness about gender equality and the right of women to live free of violence. Like Jennifer, other women living in two municipalities of Caracas are participants in the project. The project addresses gender-based violence and other urgent needs for protection, food security, water and sanitation, and health. In total, the project is benefiting more than 6,500 children, adolescents and survivors of violence. The project provides solutions at the individual, family and community levels.

Jennifer now feels confident enough to raise a boy with new paradigms about gender roles and the limitations traditionally imposed on men and women to favor, instead, a more empathetic world.

“We were not born just for that (to have children), we can be mothers, we can be leaders, we can be whatever we want to be”, she explains. However, when talking about her role as a mother, she adds: “Here (in the VHF-funded project) I understood that I will be an example for my child... I want him to fulfill his dream, but also to teach him the value of a woman”.

Fund performance

The VHF measures its performance against a management tool that provides a set of indicators to assess how well a Fund performs in relation to the policy objectives and operational standards set out in the CBPF Global Guidelines. This common methodology enables management and stakeholders involved in the governance of the Funds to identify, analyze and address challenges in reaching and maintaining a well-performing CBPF.

CBPFs embody the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and function according to a set of specific principles: Inclusiveness, Flexibility, Timeliness, Efficiency, Accountability and Risk Management.



PRINCIPLE 1

INCLUSIVENESS

A broad range of humanitarian partner organizations (UN agencies and NGOs) participates in CBPF processes and receive funding to implement projects addressing identified priority needs.

1

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

The Advisory Board has a manageable size and a balanced representation of CBPF stakeholders.

COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY BOARD

Target

Ten members excluding the HC (Chair) and OCHA, with equal representation among UN, NGO (including both INGO and NNGO) and donor constituencies.

Results

The AB had a balanced representation of stakeholders to the Fund and the target was reached.



Analysis and follow-up

Score: 5/5 (very high) – The composition of the AB is decided based on consultations between the HC, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the INGO forum, the NNGO Platform and contributing donors. The AB membership rotates annually. The HC and the OCHA Head of Office are the only permanent members. International and national NGOs are represented at head of agency or country director level.

During 2021 the AB was gender balanced with five women members. In the rotation nominated for 2022 there will be a Women Led Organizations (WLO) representing national NGOs.

There were four meetings in 2021. The members are actively engaged in strategic discussions about the direction of the Fund.

2

INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

The review committees of the Fund have the appropriate size and a balanced representation of different partner constituencies and cluster representatives

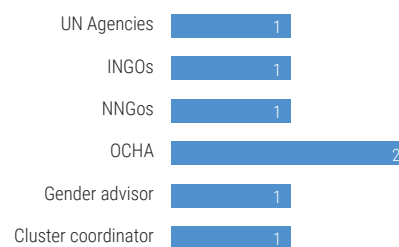
REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REVIEW COMMITTEES

Target

A diverse and balanced representation among United Nations agencies, INGOs and NNGOs, and HFU participation is maintained in review of project proposals.

Results

The Fund reached the target set. The review committees had equal representation from each stakeholder and the OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU) played an active role in the processes.



Analysis and follow-up

Score: 5/5 (very high) – In 2021, review committees were set up for each cluster. Cluster members established the groups' composition through an election process. Active members of the relevant cluster nominate and select members of the review committees. The size of the Review Committees may vary according to the size of the cluster, from six members (1 NGO, 1 INGO, 1 UN, cluster coordinator, co-chair, OCHA-HFU) up to 12 members (3 NNGO, 3 INGO, 3 UN, cluster coordinator, co-chair, OCHA-HFU), and is determined by cluster coordinators. Cluster coordinators chaired the reviews, playing an impartial role and attended by representatives of UN agencies, NNGOs, INGOs and OCHA HFU. The Intercluster Coordination Group reviewed multi-cluster projects to ensure the quality and complementarity of different cluster components within these projects. OCHA Venezuela HFU actively participates in, facilitates and supports the work of the SRC and may, at times, take part in decision-making.

PRINCIPLE 1

INCLUSIVENESS

3

INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION

CBPF funding is allocated to the best-positioned actors, leveraging eligible organizations' diversity and comparative advantage.

Target

Leveraging the comparative advantage of the best-placed actors by diversifying the allocations when possible and ensuring that clusters vet project proposals.

Results

The target was achieved. In the two standard allocations the funds were allocated to projects best-placed partners, adhering to respective allocation strategies considering the geographic prioritization and the specific interventions included in the allocation strategy. For direct implementation by national and international NGOs. Out of the total, 64.3 per cent was directly allocated to NNGOs.

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 5/5 (very high) – All funds were allocated to projects best adhering to respective allocation strategies, closely aligned with the 2021 HRP in Venezuela. The Fund continued to enable the partners who are best-placed to deliver timely and adequate assistance.

Most funding was allocated to NNGOs, surpassing the targets set by the Fund and the Grand Bargain commitment. Strategic sub-implementation partnership remains a priority to strengthen local capacities and reach critically underserved areas.

4

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

Resources are invested by OCHA's Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU) in supporting the capacity of local and national NGO partners within the scope of CBPF strategic objectives.

Target

Six training and briefings for partners to ensure understanding of CBPF process and procedures and improve their management and implementation of VHF projects. Over 50 partner staff trained.

Results

In 2021, the VHF doubled its planned trainings to develop partner capacity and knowledge on different topics.

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 5/5 (very high) – The HFU conducted 13 training sessions targeting all partners on AAP, PSEA, Humanitarian Principles, Communications and Visibility, Grant Management System (GMS), allocation strategies, submission of GMS projects, and VHF programmatic and financial guidelines. Based on the feedback during the VHF After-Action Review survey, 82.5 per cent of respondents considered that clear and specific information was provided for project formulation and 75 per cent considered that the VHF accompaniment was efficient, timely and effective. However, partners considered that further training and support on the GMS platform is needed, as well as reducing the time gap between the training and the use of the platform. Due to COVID-19, all the trainings were conducted online by either OCHA/VHF staff and/or by subject matter experts. In addition, the Fund organized some 40 bilateral sessions with partners on a range of topics on demand.

TRAININGS



13

TRAININGS



70

TOTAL PEOPLE TRAINED FROM NNGOS



52

ORGANIZATIONS TRAINED



13

TRAININGS FOR WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATIONS

PRINCIPLE 1

INCLUSIVENESS

5

INCLUSIVE RESPONSE

CBPF funded projects have a clear strategy to promote the participation of affected people.

Target

All VHF-funded projects ensure Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) as part of the implementation. All monitoring instances include beneficiary consultations to assess community engagement in project implementation.

Results

All VHF-funded projects must include a plan to ensure AAP as a project component and report against it. Of the 31 projects within the two Standard Allocations, 30 projects - accounting for 96 per cent of the total amount disbursed through these grants - included accessible and functional AAP mechanisms for affected people. All field monitoring visits included consultations with community members to assess community engagement in project implementation.

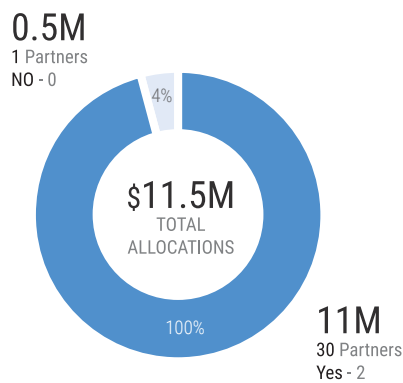
Analysis and follow-up

Score: 4/5 (high) – As part of the Fund’s strategic objectives in 2021, the VHF promoted AAP through-out the partner project cycle. Most projects included AAP

plans and the Fund has worked closely with the partner whose project did not include AAP mechanisms and the other partners to strengthen its full implementation. The VHF organized an online training with a subject matter expert on AAP mainstreaming to 98 people representing VHF partners to support their project development under the Standard Allocation. Further, the Strategic Review scorecards for all allocations launched in 2021 included a specific question about the provision of accountability mechanisms to affected populations.

As part of monitoring instances, the HFU continuously explore partner outreach opportunities to integrate and enhance AAP in all VHF funded projects. VHF projects will be included in the pilot of the interagency contact line that was launched in 2021 to receive community feedback efficiently and securely, providing confidential mechanisms to receive and refer sensitive complaints, including PSEA.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATION



2 The project includes the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or compliant mechanisms for beneficiaries
 1 The project partially includes the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or compliant mechanisms for beneficiaries
 0 The project does not include the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or compliant mechanisms for beneficiary

PRINCIPLE 2

FLEXIBILITY

The programmatic focus and funding priorities of CBPFs are set at the country level and may shift rapidly, especially in volatile humanitarian contexts. CBPFs are able to adapt rapidly to changing priorities and allow humanitarian partners to identify appropriate solutions to address humanitarian needs in the most effective way.

6

FLEXIBLE ASSISTANCE

CBPF funding for in-kind and in-cash assistance is appropriate.

Target

Cash as a response modality is operationally considered and strategically prioritized by clusters and partners, where appropriate.

Results

The indicator does not apply to Venezuela given the authorities do not permit cash assistance, as referred in the timeline.

Analysis and follow-up

In January 2021, authorities suspended the country's cash transfer programs. Regulatory bodies and other authorities have since been reviewing the regulatory

framework for the implementation of cash programs in the country without having been able to resume them to date.

At the time of the launch of the Fund's first allocation, the authorities had already requested the suspension of cash programs by all humanitarian partners.

The HCT with the support of OCHA and the Cash Working Group advocates with the authorities for the prompt resumption of cash transfer programs.

The Fund will promote cash as the preferred and default form of assistance when and where feasible and appropriate for Venezuelan context.

7

FLEXIBLE OPERATION

CBPF Funding supports projects that improve the common ability of actors to deliver a more effective response.

Target

CBPF funding supports an enabling operational environment through funding allocated to common services funding allocated to common services.

Results

In 2021, the VHF provided funding for two projects with common services components in telecommunications and support for installing alternative energy sources in vulnerable communities. importance and a funding gap coincide.

Analysis and follow-up

The Fund has promoted that project proposals include enabling programmes and other support services up to a maximum of 20 per cent of annually available funds. In 2021, following allocation strategies that had a primary component of direct assistance, support for projects with common services accounted for 4 per cent of allocations, including a telecommunications and radio project to reach indigenous river communities and remote areas of the country. The project delivered cross-sector information to support the response.

The strengthening of the Logistics Cluster, the development of HPC 2022 may enable more common service fund allocations.

ALLOCATION THROUGH COMMON SERVICES



\$ 11M

Non-common services
30 Projects



\$ 466K

Emergency telecommunications
1 Project

PRINCIPLE 2

FLEXIBILITY

8

FLEXIBLE ALLOCATION PROCESS

CBPF funding supports strategic planning and response to needs identified in the HRP's and sudden onset emergencies through the most appropriate modalities.

Target

At least 75 per cent of the total funds are allocated through Standard Allocations and up to 25 per-cent of the available funds are kept for Reserve Allocation(s) to respond to changes in the humanitarian context.

Results

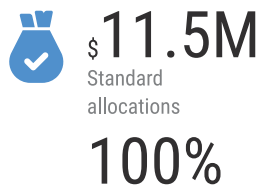
In 2021, the Fund reached the target. Of the total funds available at the time of launching each allocation, the Fund disbursed over 75 per cent of funding

for Standard Allocation and kept the remaining funding for potential Reserve Allocations to rapid response if required.

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 5/5 (very high) - In 2021, the Fund launched two Standard Allocations and no Reserve Allocations. The Fund will continue working flexibly with these two modalities as the context requires. In 2022, the Fund will maintain the target of funds kept available for potential Reserve Allocations to rapid response to emergencies when feasible.

ALLOCATION BY MODALITY



9

FLEXIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

CBPF funding is successfully reprogrammed at the right time to address operational and contextual changes.

Target

Project revision requests are processed to respond to shifting/ emerging operational needs.

Results

In 2021, the VHF processed 10 revision requests compliant with relevant policies ensuring flexible programming to maintain the relevance of project activities.

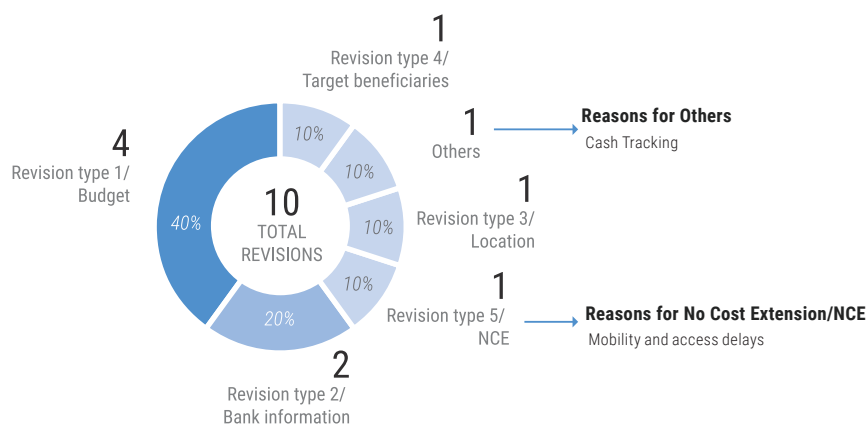
support to reprogramming project activities requiring changes. The requests processed included different instances of revisions related to changes to targets, locations, bank information, budget and project duration (no cost extension). The time to complete revisions varied depending on the type of revision request with an average of 16 days.

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 4/5 (high) - The VHF demonstrated its flexibility and efficiency by extending quality and timely

The HFU will continually process all project revision requests in a timely manner, while ensuring their strategic and operational relevance, to facilitate programming in Venezuela.

NUMBER OF REVISIONS IN 2021



PRINCIPLE 3

TIMELINESS

CBPFs allocate funds and save lives as humanitarian needs emerge or escalate.

10

TIMELY ALLOCATION

CBPFs allocation processes have an appropriate duration.

Target

Standard Allocation projects are processed (from the submission deadline to the HC signature) within 30 days on average. Reserve Allocation projects are processed (from the submission deadline to the HC signature) within 20 days on average.

Results

On average, the processing of Standard Allocations took 37 working days.

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 4/5 (high) - HFU made efforts to support a timely, coordinated and effective allocation process.

The process of setting up and training the review committees and the development of the capacity assessment in parallel with the launching of the first Standard Allocation led to some delays. For the second Standard Allocation, the VHF was able to reduce the process from the 50 days it took for the first allocation to 28 days, resulting in an average of 37 days. Specific deadlines and guidance provided to the review committees and the partners during the technical reviews facilitate the process. In 2022, the Fund will continue to improve assignment processing times.

AVERAGE WORKING DAYS OF ALLOCATION PROCESSING

Milestones	Category	2021
From allocation closing date to HC signature of the grant agreement	Standard Allocations	37

11

TIMELY DISBURSEMENTS

Payments are processed without delay.

Target

10 days from Executive Officer signature of a proposal to first payment.

Results

Average Score: 4/5 (high) - Average number of days for Standard Allocations: 11 days.

Analysis and follow-up

The target of 10 days maximum was slightly surpassed in 2021. After the Executive Officer's signature, the HFU ensures that all the requirements

are in place for timely disbursement. The VHF will continue to coordinate with the CBPF finance section, UNDP and the United Nations Treasury, to facilitate timely disbursement of funds to partners. The Fund will regularly review and update the partners' due diligence information to ensure accuracy of records.

PRINCIPLE 3

TIMELINESS

12

TIMELY CONTRIBUTIONS

Pledging and payment of contributions to CBPFs are timely and predictable.

Target

Two thirds of annual contributions committed and paid before the end of the first half of the year.

Results

Score: 4/5 (high) - In 2021, 46.9 per cent of the funding was received between January and June 2021.

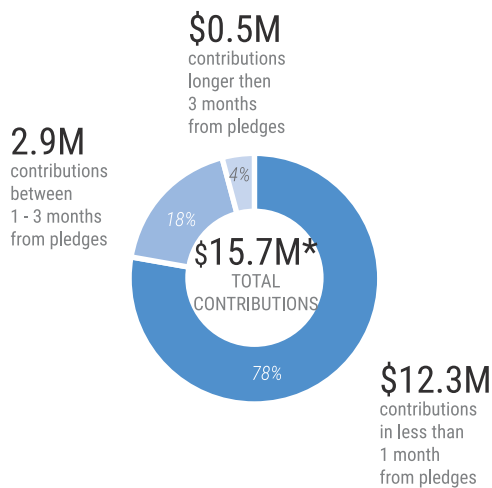
Analysis and follow-up

Since the establishment of the VHF in late 2020, donors were quick to support the Fund. The 2021 con-

tributions came on top of end-of-2020 deposits. This allowed the VHF to become operational and launch its first Standard Allocation in January. Of the total, 78 per cent of contributions took place in less than one month from pledges.

The HFU in coordination with other relevant sections of OCHA in Venezuela and HQ will continuously and actively engage donors to facilitate early and predictable contributions to the VHF in 2022.

CONTRIBUTIONS TIMELINESS



**The VHF was established in 2020, but did not make allocations that year. Therefore, 2020 contributions are reflected in this report, as they supported 2021 allocations.*

PRINCIPLE 4

EFFICIENCY

Management of all processes related to CBPFs enables timely and strategic responses to identified humanitarian needs.

CBPFs seek to employ effective disbursement mechanisms, minimizing transaction costs while operating in a transparent and accountable manner.

13

EFFICIENT SCALE

CBPFs have a significant funding level to support the delivery of the HRPs.

Target

VHF to receive 15 per cent of HRP funding received in the previous year.

Results

In 2021, donors contributed \$11.3 million to the VHF, representing 6.2 per cent of the total humanitarian funding received towards the HRP 2020 (\$181.5 million).

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 4/5 (high) - Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, the VHF will continue its advocacy and proactive engagement with traditional and emerging donors at country, regional and HQ level to increase the funding to the Venezuela HRP through the VHF following the donors' commitment to the Grand Bargain.

14

EFFICIENT PRIORITIZATION

CBPF funding is prioritized in alignment with the HRP.

Target

All funded projects address HRP strategic priorities.

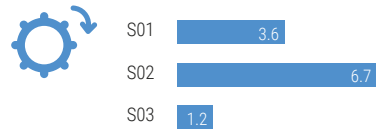
Results

In 2021, 100 per cent of the funded projects responded to HRP strategic objectives.

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 5/5 (very high) - VHF funding aligned with the HRP strategic objectives, with 58.3 per cent of funding disbursed to support the sustainability of essential services and strengthen the resilience and livelihoods, 31.3 per cent for the provision of lifesaving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance, and 10.4 per cent to enhancing the prevention and mitigation of protection risks. The Fund will continue to align its allocations with the HRP objectives.

ALLOCATION BY HRP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



S01 Ensure the survival and well-being of the most vulnerable people through a multi-sectoral response under a rights-based approach, including age, gender and diversity dimensions.

S02 Contribute to the sustainability of essential services and strengthen the resilience and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people incorporating age, gender and diversity dimensions.

S03 Strengthen institutional and community mechanisms to prevent, mitigate and respond to protection risks faced by affected people, in accordance with humanitarian principles and respect for human rights.

PRINCIPLE 4

EFFICIENCY

15

EFFICIENT COVERAGE

CBPF funding effectively assisted people in need.

Target

VHF collectively prioritized life-saving humanitarian needs and assisted identified as most vulnerable and at risk.

Results

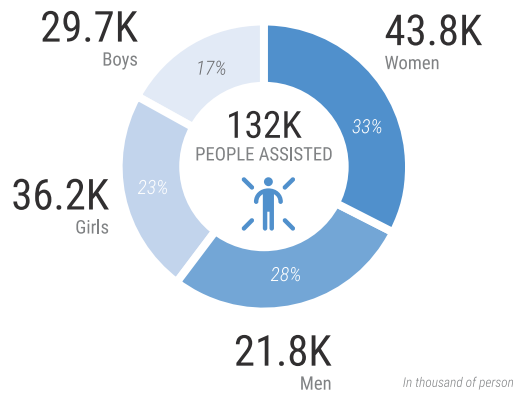
In 2021, the VHF assisted 132,000 people in need. The people assisted include some of the most vulnerable groups identified by the HRP such as children,

pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, persons with disabilities and indigenous people.

Analysis and follow-up

The VHF assisted people under two standard allocations. The report results reflect the maximum number of people assisted per community in efforts to avoid double-counting of people reached to the extent possible.

PEOPLE ASSISTED



16

EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

CBPF management is cost-efficient and context appropriate.

Target

HFU operations cost (cost-plan) accounts for less than 5 per cent of overall utilization of funds (allocations + operations costs).

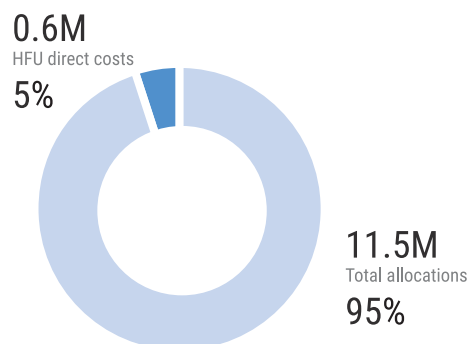
Results

In 2021, the HFU operations cost was \$0.6 million and the total allocations \$11.5 million. The HFU cost constituted 5 per cent of the total funds utilized, and the target was surpassed.

Analysis and follow-up

The overall percentage equals the result reported in 2021 and testifies to the efficient and cost-efficient management of VHF resources. The VHF running costs are in line with the recommended amounts and are essential to ensuring a well-capacitated team to run the Fund. The HFU will continue to promote efficiency and quality assurance in the management of the Fund.

HFU EXPENDITURE AGAINST TOTAL ALLOCATIONS



PRINCIPLE 4

EFFICIENCY

17

EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

CBPF management is compliant with management and operational standards required by the CBPF Global Guidelines.

Target

The VHF Operational Manual is updated based on the latest version of Global CBPF Guidelines by Q1. Annual report and allocation papers fully compliant with global guidance documents.

Results

The Operational Manual was updated in 2021 and the annual report and allocation papers were prepared in line with the Global Guidelines.

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 5/5 (very high) – The Fund updated the Operational Manual in 2021 through a consultative pro-

cess. Revision of the VHF documents, including its Common Performance Framework, was conducted in an inclusive and participatory manner and in line with the operational context to ensure relevance and effectiveness per CBPF Global Guidelines. An audit conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to OCHA Venezuela, which examined the VHF, reflected that the VHF is well managed in compliance with the VHF manual and CBPF guidelines.

The HFU will continue updating all Fund documents to ensure compliance with the CBPF Global Guidelines and contextual relevance.



Miranda state. Community members and TECHO NGO staff deliver hygiene kits to vulnerable people as part of a VHF-funded project. Credit: © TECHO/Harold Contreras

PRINCIPLE 5

required

RISK MANAGEMENT

CBPFs manage risk and effectively monitor partner capacity and performance. CBPFs utilize a full range of accountability tools and measures.

18

RISK MANAGEMENT OF PROJECTS

CBPF funding is appropriately monitored, reported and audited.

Target

100 per cent compliance with operational modalities on five categories of risk management pillars.

Results

In 2021, the HFU team conducted 100 per cent of the required risk-based grant management activities including financial spot checks and monitoring activities in compliance with the operational modalities.

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 5/5 (very high) - The VHF undertakes a 'risk-based' monitoring approach, where projects are prioritized for monitoring based on risk levels assigned to implementing partners, duration of the projects and the project budget.

A 100 per cent of the required monitoring activities were completed for eight projects, including the two projects finalized in 2021 (shown in the graph). The audit process of the projects approved in the first and second allocation will be carried out in 2022.

The findings of the monitoring activities and the meetings with partners informed the recommendations on projects implementation. The Fund strengthened its Partners Performance Index (PPI) system to update partners risk level on a real-time basis. In 2021, only one partner changed its performance level.

The HFU will continually implement risk management measures in line with the Fund's operational modalities and conduct additional monitoring and financial spot checks to address concerns and gaps identified.

PROGRESS ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES*

	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk	
Field Monitoring	1	1		completed
2 monitoring conducted	1	1		
Financial spot checks	1	1		
2 financial spotchecks conducted	1	1		
Final narrative report	1	1		
2 reports submitted	1	1		
Final financial report	1	1		
2 reports submitted	1	1		
Audits				completed ongoing required
0 projects audited				

*Note: Only projects that finalized implementation in 2021.

PRINCIPLE 5

RISK MANAGEMENT

19

RISK MANAGEMENT OF PARTNERS

Target

Maintaining the same number of eligible partners compared to last year.

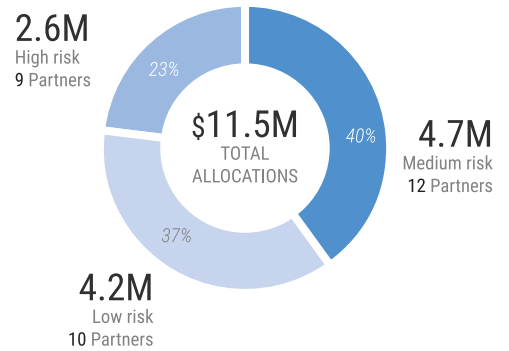
Results

In 2021, the VHF conducted two partner capacity assessment processes from which 35 organizations (21 NNGOs and 14 INGOs) resulted eligible. There is no baseline considering the VHF was established in late 2020.

Analysis and follow-up

Since its inception, the VHF has followed a strategy to maintain and progressively increase the number of partners. The VHF conducts at least two capacity assessments of new partners per year. As part of the process, the VHF consults with clusters and Field Coordination Hubs for new partner consideration. By 2022, the Fund will continue efforts to further increase the pool of eligible partners.

IMPLEMENTATION BY PARTNER RISK LEVEL TYPE



UPDATED RISK LEVEL BASED ON PERFORMANCE INDEX



OVERVIEW 2021



1 Capacity assessment is created and conducted in 2021

2 Capacity assessment is only revised in 2021, regardless of what year it was created

3 Capacity assessment is created, conducted and revised in 2021

PRINCIPLE 5

RISK MANAGEMENT

20

RISK MANAGEMENT OF FUNDING

Appropriate oversight and assurances of funding is administered through CBPFs.

Target

Full compliance with global CBPFs and VHF standard operating procedure (SoP) on fraud management.

Results

In 2021 there were no incident reports. The HFU has provided support and bilateral follow-up to partners. The expansion of monitoring across the territory with community monitors and the spot checks conducted have shown good performance by the partners. So far, no incidences of allegations of suspected fraud have been reported.

Analysis and follow-up

Score: 5/5 (very high) - The HFU utilizes all accountability measures available to CBPF's to identify any issues related e.g., to diversion and/or mismanagement of provided funds and resources. New partners receive a thorough capacity assessment to ensure their institutional, financial and technical capacity to

implement VHF funded projects. For existing partners, the HFU applies field monitoring visits, financial spot checks, audits and project reports to assess the performance of its implementing partners.

The HFU has set up an email address and has direct communication channels with people affected and other stakeholders during monitoring to enable their reporting of potential allegation, suspected fraud or non-compliance of VHF-funded programs. OCHA has been working with partners on awareness raising in prevention and reporting of alleged cases of fraud, corruption and other incidents, including PSEA.

The Fund included both topics in workshops and awareness sessions with existing and potential partners, with two clear messages: a zero-tolerance policy will be applied, and any suspected or alleged cases need to be reported by the partner to the HFU.



Miranda state. Woman harvests a carrot from the home garden she planted thanks to the project implemented by Accion Campesina and financed by the VHF.

Credit: © OCHA/Elena Ruiz Labrador



Puerto Ayacucho: Mercedes Gomez (37).
Credit: OCHA/Hector Pereira

THE PEDAGOGY OF THE JUNGLE, TOLD BY A TEACHER FROM THE VENEZUELAN AMAZON

It is Monday in Puerto Ayacucho, the temperature exceeds 30 degrees Celsius, and it is difficult to find a shaded space within this paved area of the Amazon, until you reach the house of Mercedes Gómez.

Mercedes is a teacher with 15 years of experience. The 37-year-old Amazonian is in charge of school welfare in her institution and there is hardly a more challenging and timely position for this woman who is deeply committed to education.

A project financed by the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund (VHF), and implemented by NGOs Tinta Violeta and Cacica Urimare, which provides training for teachers and students and psychosocial support - which, she says, has renewed momentum within the school.

The workshops include information including comprehensive sexual education, gender-based violence,

human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples in 20 schools in the state of Amazonas, with which they plan to reach almost 13,000 people including students, workers and teachers. Teachers receive advice on handling cases of boys and girls in situations of vulnerability.

“This program seems very good to me, the help is very good, but what strikes me the most is the psychosocial support they have given us [teachers], why? Because this has aroused great interest in women to move forward... More than some help, I see it as a significant contribution in the psychosocial part”, says Mercedes, later clarifying that more than 90 per cent of her colleagues are women.

To all of them, she continues, the project has given a word of encouragement and the ability to face their work with new energy.

Amazonas state Students paying attention to her teacher.
Credit: OCHA/Hector Pereira



“Even if you don’t have anything to eat at home, you go to school, despite thousands of problems, but you go because you remember that Pedrito need something to learn, to read, or Pedrito needs a notebook”

Most teachers receive a salary of less than one dollar a day, and, like their students, face a lack of access to safe sanitation and reliable Internet. Despite a similar list of adversities, she easily brushes issues aside. “There is something that motivates the teacher: the student, we are not motivated by the salary, but by the students. The teacher who has been working for years sees his students as part of his family, like one more son,” she says.

“Even if you don’t have anything to eat at home, you go to school, despite thousands of problems, but you go

because you remember that Pedrito needs something to learn to read, or Pedrito needs a notebook, one looks around and brings him that notebook or that which he needs to learn to read,” she continues.

Note: This project belongs to the second Standard Allocation of the VHF in 2021, focusing on supporting the safe return to schools.



Miranda state. Children participate in a recreational activity organized by the NGO Otro Enfoque with the support of VHF.
Credit: © OCHA/Héctor Pereira



Apure State. Teacher receives her radio.
Credit: Fe y Alegria

EDUCATION THAT TRAVELS ON THE RADIO

“We are aware that the conditions in schools are very difficult, but these kits represent an important contribution to teachers who do not have the possibility of acquiring these products”

The teacher turns on the radio and the class begins.

This “lesson through the airwaves” is made possible through the Fe y Alegria Radio Institute (IRFA) and financed by the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund (VHF).

This initiative reaches 1,980 teachers in the states of Apure, Amazonas and Delta Amacuro, three regions with a diversity of ethnic groups. The radio campaign is broadcast in two indigenous languages and through five radio stations, four of them from the Fe y Alegria network.

Nelly Lopez is a promoter of the project, she has so far visited 20 schools involved in the state of Apure and assures that what she has found on her journey has been a lot of joy and receptivity towards the program, which includes supplies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic within educational centers and school supplies to support teachers in their daily tasks.

“During the visits we have found a lot of joy, although a certain mistrust because in a long time no one has taken them into account,” she says.

She explains that the centers served in Apure are in

urban and rural areas, all with many needs, with insufficient resources to develop the educational mission and with teachers, workers and students “in extreme vulnerability.”

The teaching staff, mostly women, hope “that the help becomes a reality, and that they can count the kits that allow them to give better attention to their students.” “We are aware that the conditions in schools are very difficult, but these kits represent an important contribution to teachers who do not have the possibility of acquiring these products,” while the training microphones transmitted by radio reinforce the educational practice of these teachers.

The lessons consist of messages on the safe return to classes in the context of COVID-19, as well as on protection, gender equality, gender-based violence, water management for safe access, sanitation and hygiene measures.

The projects reinforce a commitment to community education, and to keeping classrooms and minds open for the development of these communities.

Annexes

- Annex A Acronyms & Abbreviations
- Annex B Reference Map
- Annex C VHF Advisory Board
- Annex D Allocations by Recipient Organizations

ANNEX A

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Accountability for Affected Population	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
AB	Advisory Board	NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
CBPF	Country-Based Pooled Fund	NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ERC	Emergency Relief Coordinator	OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition	PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	PWD	People with Disabilities
GMS	Grant Management System	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team	VHF	Venezuela Humanitarian Fund
HFU	OCHA Venezuela Humanitarian Financing Unit	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan	WLO	Women Lead Organization
ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group	WRO	Women Rights Organization
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization		
NFI	Non-Food Items		

ANNEX B

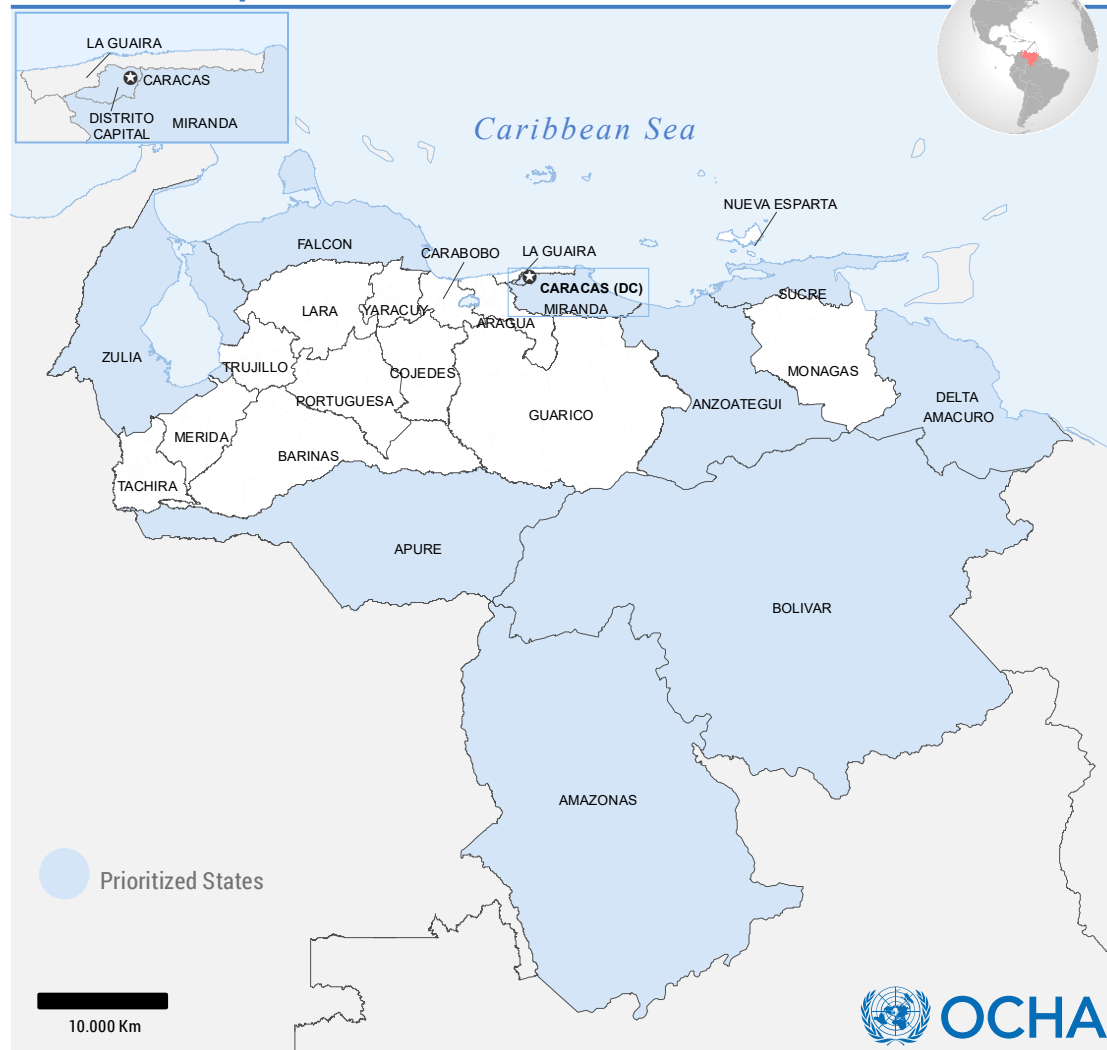
VHF ADVISORY BOARD

STAKEHOLDER	ORGANIZATION
Chairperson	Humanitarian Coordinator
NGO	Norwegian Refugee Council
NGO	International Rescue Committee
NGO	Caritas Venezuela
NGO	Grupo Social CESAP
UN	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
UN	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Donor	United Kingdom
Donor	Germany
Donor	Switzerland
Observer	United States
VHF/OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

ANNEX C

REFERENCE MAP

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

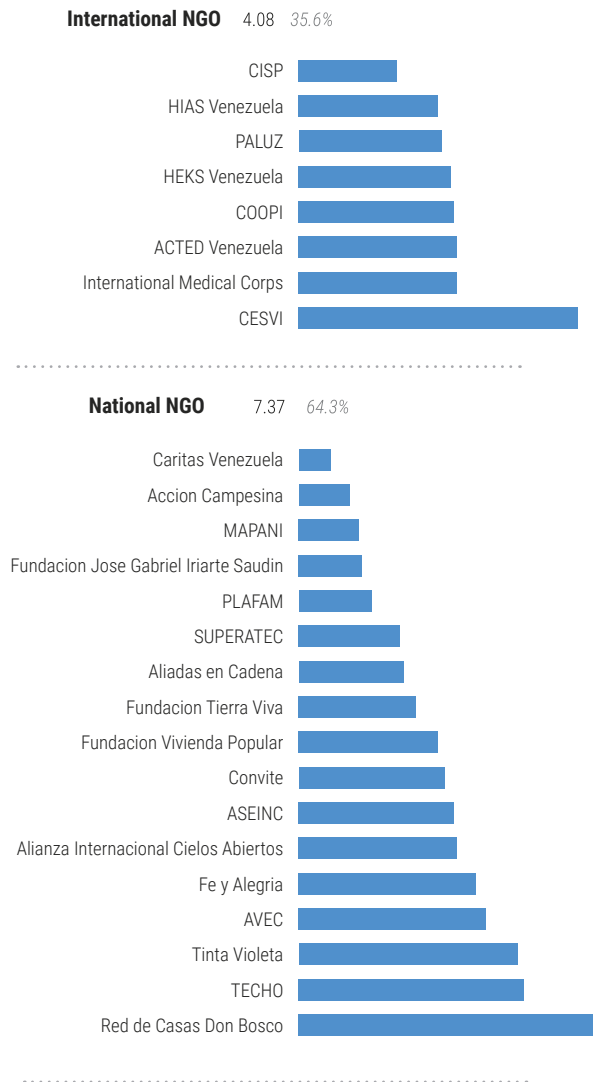


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ANNEX D

ALLOCATIONS BY RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION

In US\$ million



#InvestInHumanity

VHF Venezuela
Humanitarian
Fund

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