



VHF Venezuela  
Humanitarian  
Fund

VENEZUELA HUMANITARIAN FUND

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

#### [Credits](#)

This document was produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Venezuela. OCHA Venezuela wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its committed staff at headquarters and in the field in preparing this document.

The latest version of this document is available on the VHF website at [www.unocha.org/venezuela/VHF](http://www.unocha.org/venezuela/VHF).

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

#### [About VHF](#)

##### Front Cover

October 2023, Amazonas, Venezuela.

Indigenous woman shows a traditional tool for cassava processing. Credit: UNOCHA/Roy Hernández

##### **Credit:**

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## LETTER FROM THE HC

As we launch the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund (VHF) 2023 Annual Report, we are deeply grateful for the remarkable collective efforts that have played a pivotal role in saving lives, alleviating suffering, and fostering resilience among the Venezuelan people. The ongoing challenges have been met with the unwavering commitment of our donors, partners, authorities, communities, and staff, which has enabled us to respond proactively, bringing hope and relief to many families in need.

In 2023, record-breaking contributions for the VHF amounting to US\$14.7 million, generously provided by 11 donors, became a beacon of support for those affected in Venezuela. This substantial funding facilitated the delivery of life-saving assistance and essential protection services, touching the lives of more than 130,000 vulnerable people. Notably, 82 per cent of those assisted were women and children, underscoring our commitment to inclusivity and addressing the unique needs of different demographic groups.

In alignment with its vision paper, the Fund worked tirelessly to promote gender equality, fight gender-based violence, and provide essential sexual and reproductive health services to vulnerable women and girls. The Fund's outreach has extended to some of the most marginalized people, including people with disabilities and indigenous communities in hard-to-reach areas.

Emerging as a beacon of effectiveness, the VHF has consistently delivered on the Grand Bargain's commitments on localization. Our approach has been characterized by inclusiveness, with 57 per cent of our 52 eligible partners being national organizations. This deliberate inclusiveness has expanded our reach to the most vulnerable and underserved areas.

VHF has become a significant source of direct funding for Venezuelan organizations, allocating 72 per cent of its funds to national frontline responders. This not only reflects our commitment to empowering and investing in local and national

responders but also reinforces our dedication to the localization agenda in Venezuela.

In 2023, the Fund broke new ground by facilitating humanitarian access in 17 municipalities, including remote areas with limited humanitarian presence. This achievement was made possible through close engagement and coordination with national and local authorities, with an emphasis on humanitarian leadership and coordination.

VHF allocations were aligned with critical gaps identified by the Humanitarian Country Team and ensured complementarity with the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Underfunded window allocation. This approach ensured a multi-sector and holistic response to the most affected areas, maximizing impact and ensuring value for money.

As we move into the coming year, additional funding is critically required to further scale up our response and address critical issues outlined in the 2024-2025 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). We look forward to continuing to work with donor partners to identify opportunities to mobilize additional resources and raise the visibility of the Fund's impactful work across the country. I am confident that more donors will join this collective effort.

As we look to the future, let us renew our commitment to stand with the people of Venezuela and strive to build a more inclusive and sustainable humanitarian response. In 2024, I am committed to ensuring that we strengthen humanitarian coordination to deliver life-saving assistance that focuses on the most vulnerable and leaves no one behind. Thank you for your unwavering support on this transformative journey.

**Sincerely,**

**Gianluca Rampolla Del Tindaro**  
**Humanitarian Coordinator for Venezuela**

“

The VHF has become a critical tool in supporting humanitarian efforts in Venezuela and a global leader in advancing the localization agenda.

Gianluca Rampolla Del Tindaro  
Humanitarian Coordinator for Venezuela

”





A woman with her children participates in the nutritional screening and malnutrition control through the delivery of nutrients and medicines implemented by VHF's partner, Caritas.

Credit: OCHA/ Roy Hernández



## 2023 IN NUMBERS

 **\$14.7M**  
CONTRIBUTIONS

 **\$12.2M**  
ALLOCATIONS

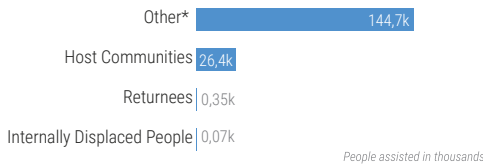
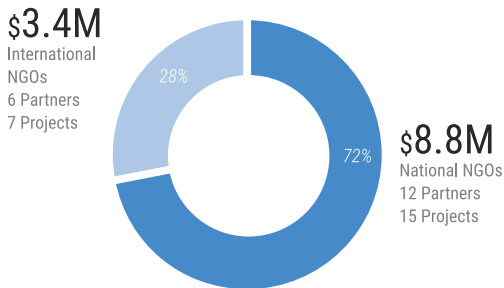
 **171.5k**  
PEOPLE ASSISTED

 **11k**  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ASSISTED

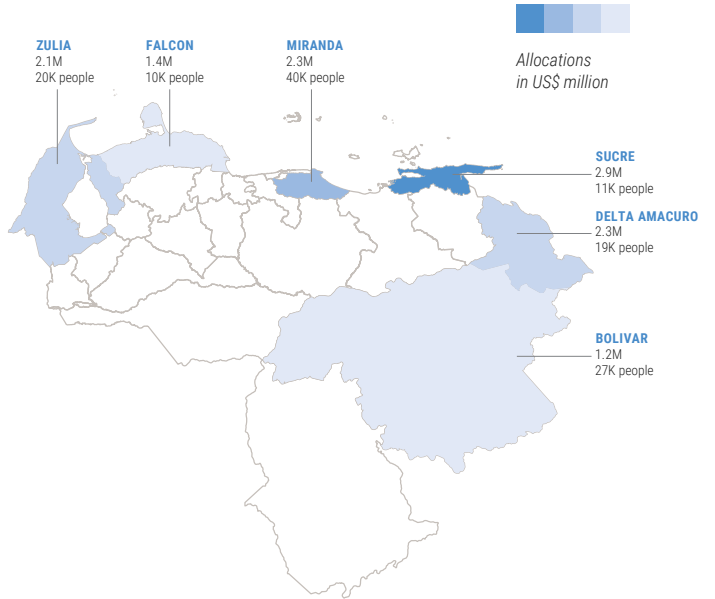
 **104k**  
WOMEN and GIRLS ASSISTED  
**61% OF TOTAL PEOPLE ASSISTED**

 **18**  
PARTNERS

**22**  
PROJECTS

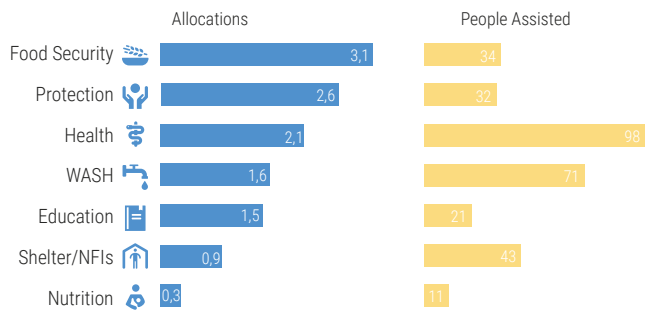


\*Included indigenous people, women of reproductive age, GBV survivors, youth and adolescents, and the elderly.



\* The Annual Report uses 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/> the CBPFs will continuously monitor if targets are reached.

\*\* Figures for people assisted may include double counting as individuals 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 2023. The total number of people assisted is thus the sum of the maximum number of targeted beneficiaries by gender and age per cluster/sectors and location at admin level two/municipalities.



 **57K**  
vulnerable people who receive healthcare treatment at the outpatient and community levels

 **21K**  
people empowered to prevent and mitigate GBV and 3,400 GBV survivors provided with protection services

 **6K**  
vulnerable people who received food assistance in households

# Donor contributions



For us, the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund is a powerful instrument of our humanitarian aid and a direct and effective way to reach the beneficiaries. By increasing the German contribution to the VHF, we want to send a clear signal: it is more important than ever to support national humanitarian organizations and their projects in Venezuela.

*Stefan Duppel, Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Caracas*

In 2023, the VHF experienced an extraordinary surge in support, receiving a total of \$14.7 million, a remarkable 23 per cent increase over the previous year. This milestone, achieved against a backdrop of emerging and competing global crises, represents the highest level of funding since the Fund's inception in 2020. The infusion of generous funding has played a critical role in enabling the VHF to support its humanitarian partners, enabling the implementation of urgent and life-saving activities throughout Venezuela.

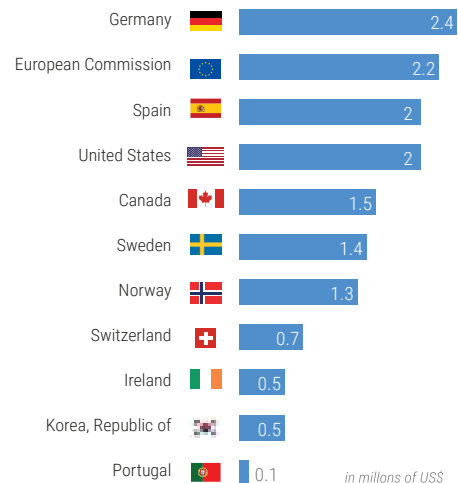
Maintaining donor confidence and fostering diversity in the donor base emerged as key achievements, with two new donors, Sweden and Portugal, joining the ranks. From its establishment in 2020 with six donors, the VHF expanded its support network to include eleven donors in 2023: Canada, ECHO, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, and the United States. The Fund remains steadfast in its commitment to sustaining this diverse donor base, acknowledging each donor's vital role in advancing humanitarian efforts.

While most donors maintained their support at similar levels to 2022, Spain stood out by doubling its contributions to the Fund. Germany remained the largest contributor in 2023, accounting for 16.5 per cent of total contributions. Working closely with ECHO, Spain and the United States, these donors accounted for 54 per cent of total contributions, underscoring their significant commitment to the VHF.

The inclusion of new donors, Sweden and Portugal, made a significant impact, contributing 10 per cent of the total funding received. This injection of fresh support is a testament to the Fund's expanding reach and influence.



\$14.7M  
CONTRIBUTIONS

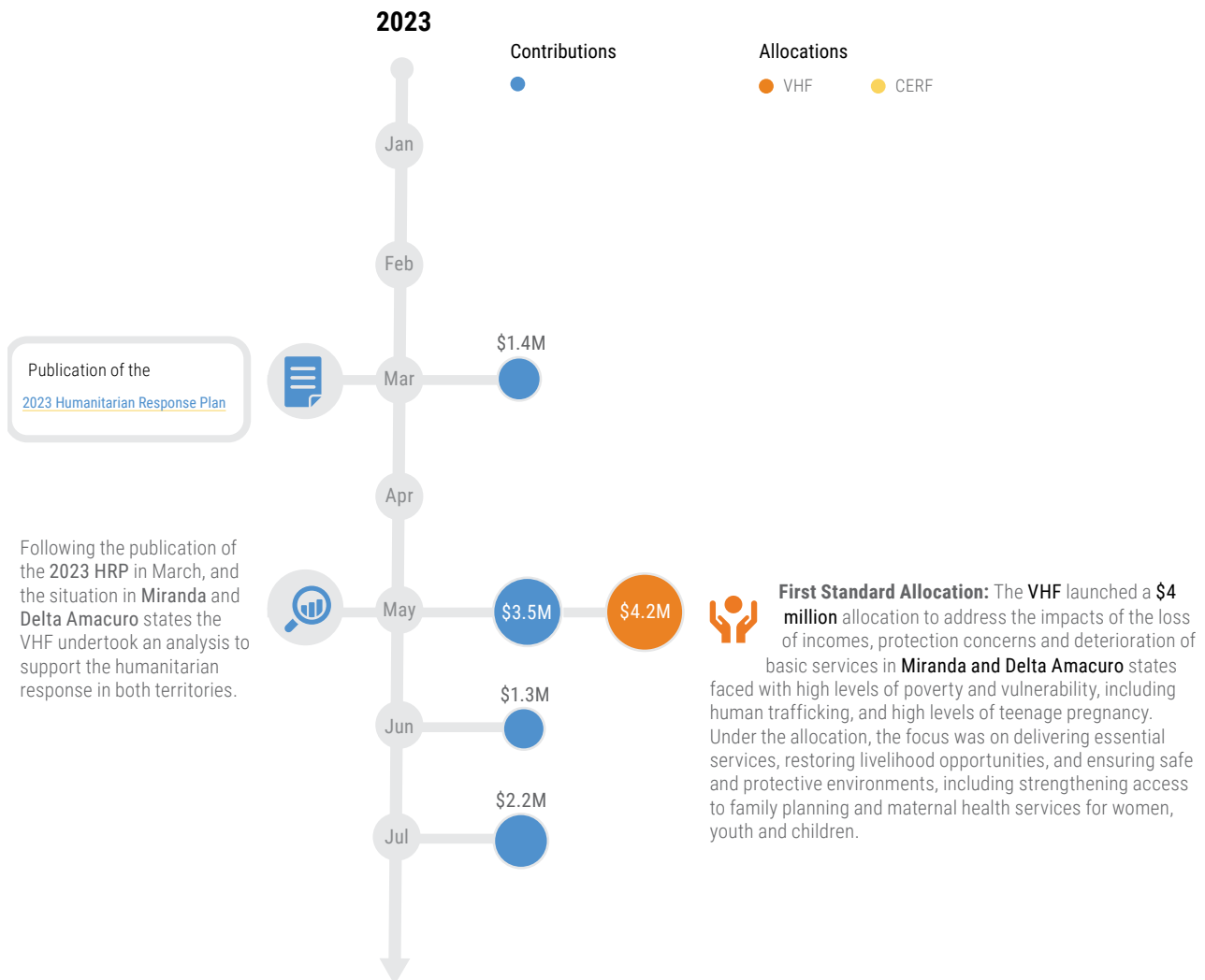


Improvements in the timeliness of contributions were also evident, with \$6 million disbursed in the first half of the year, representing 41 per cent of the total. Year-end contributions played a key role in the launch of the second Standard Allocation, facilitating project implementation from January 2024.

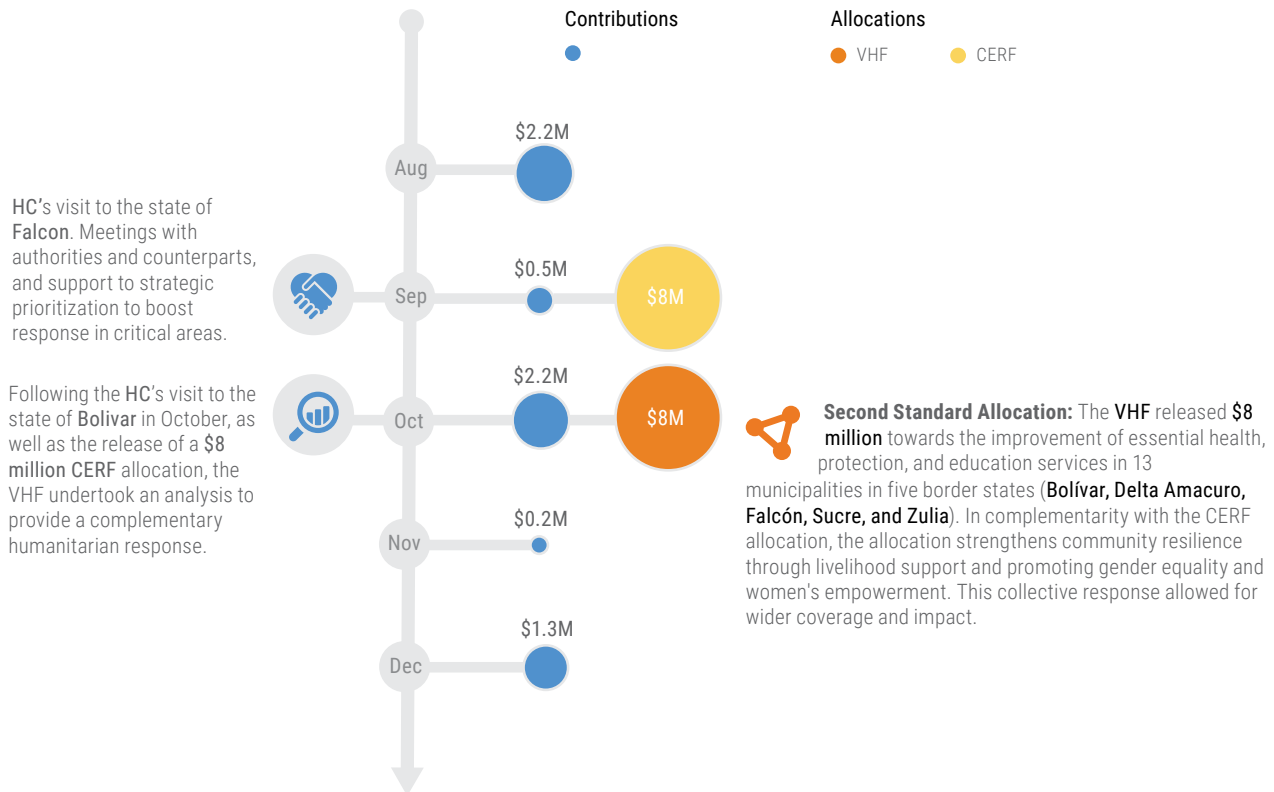
Recognizing the importance of early funding and predictability, the VHF is committed to working closely with donors. Timely allocations not only ensure consistent support to address critical needs but also provide the flexibility to respond quickly to unexpected emergencies or emerging humanitarian challenges. As we reflect on the successes of 2023, the VHF looks forward to continued collaboration, increased early funding, and improved predictability in 2024, confident that these efforts will strengthen our collective ability to make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

# Humanitarian Context and Allocations

Prolonged and significant economic contraction, coupled with chronic inflation and episodes of hyperinflation, persistent political polarization, and localized violence remain the main catalysts for humanitarian needs in Venezuela. This slowdown follows a deep economic contraction over the past nine years, accounting for 75 per cent of GDP, coupled with a high inflation rate of 158.3 per cent observed between January and September 2023. The continuation of economic sanctions and an overarching lack of fiscal space exacerbate the challenges, hindering investment in essential services and social programs. As a result, significant shortfalls remain in the provision of basic services, including health care, water, education, and energy. Social protection programs have been adversely affected, and livelihood and income generation opportunities remain limited, particularly for the most vulnerable groups, including women, girls, boys, the elderly, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and people on the move.







HC's visit to the state of Falcon. Meetings with authorities and counterparts, and support to strategic prioritization to boost response in critical areas.

Following the HC's visit to the state of Bolivar in October, as well as the release of a \$8 million CERF allocation, the VHF undertook an analysis to provide a complementary humanitarian response.

**Overall reflection on allocations:** VHF allocations adhered to, and significantly strengthened, the HRP approach, which emphasizes an integrated and area-based response and focuses on life-saving activities. These allocations played a pivotal role in improving humanitarian access, specifically targeting hard-to-reach areas in 17 municipalities in the states of Bolivar, Delta Amacuro, Falcon, Miranda, Sucre, and Zulia. The use of needs assessment tools was key in prioritizing the most vulnerable communities and selecting beneficiaries. Underpinning both allocations was a strategic focus on building trust within communities and authorities. To this end, the Fund has promoted the socialization of projects at the local level and accompanied the process of presentation to local authorities through the Local Coordination Forums. This approach not only fostered greater acceptance of the humanitarian response but also laid a solid foundation for improved delivery of quality services that are responsive to the needs of the affected population.

In addition, the Fund's commitment to its Localization Agenda has seen significant progress, with 72 per cent of funds going directly to national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This represents a significant step forward in empowering local entities, in line with the Fund's broader goal of strengthening local capacity and promoting a more sustainable and community driven humanitarian response.

# Promoting Localization



Supporting a response that is as local as possible and as international as necessary has encouraged the participation of local NGOs, in our case in projects targeting PwD, leading to greater visibility of our efforts and improved quantity and quality of funding.”

*Gustavo Mujica, Vice President of FundaFID (OPD), speaking at a session on disability inclusion at the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) in January 2024*



**42**  
NGGO TRAINED



**17**  
NATIONAL WLO TRAINED

VHF has been at the forefront of advancing the localization agenda in Venezuela, embodying its commitment through the promotion of four key pillars: quantity of funding, quality of funding, inclusion and participation in decision-making, and capacity building.

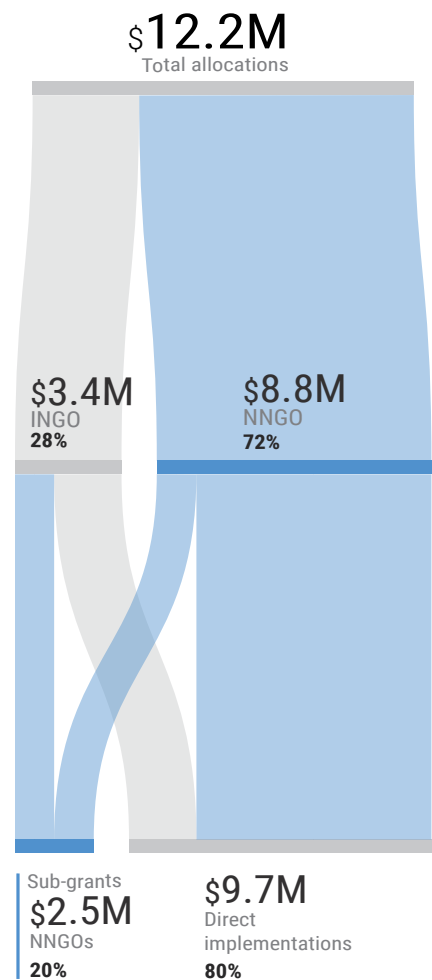
The Fund ended the year with 52 eligible partners, of which a remarkable 57 per cent were local and national NGOs (L/NNGOs), demonstrating its commitment to a localized approach. Throughout the year, an outstanding 72 per cent of the Fund’s resources were allocated directly to L/NNGOs, with an additional 8 per cent through indirect allocations. National NGOs were responsible for implementing 15 of the 22 projects funded in 2023.

The Fund’s commitment to capacity building is also evident in its promotion of partnerships and consortia, fostering collaboration between international and national organizations and among national entities. With a history of funding 80 projects, 46 of which involved indirect allocations to national and local actors as sub-implementing partners, the VHF actively promotes capacity building mechanisms.

When funding international partners, the Fund ensured that they were part of a consortium that included a capacity-building component for national and local sub-implementing partners during the project cycle. Partners such as HIAS, which started consortia agreements with VHF-funded projects, will extend this type of partnership to other donors’ projects in 2024.

This year also saw changes in the composition of the Advisory Board, allowing for a more inclusive governance body. The active participation of national NGOs, including two women-led organizations (WLOs) and an organization of people with disabilities (OPD), on the Advisory Board played a critical role in advancing the localization agenda and emphasizing a strong focus on gender and disability in resource allocation. Equal participation of national NGOs is also ensured in the allocation Review Committees.

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



In 2023, the Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU) provided and supported over 70 hours of training, workshops, and briefings for eligible partners, including sub-partners. The 11 training sessions conducted averaged 80 participants and ranged from pre-allocation briefings and GMS clinic sessions during the project submission process to kick-off workshops on VHF programmatic, financial, and visibility guidelines and crosscutting issues. This comprehensive training initiative demonstrates VHF’s commitment to building the capacity of its partners and ensuring a robust, informed, and localized humanitarian response.

28 November 2023. Petare,  
Miranda municipality,  
Venezuela.

A woman with a disability  
receives technical  
assistance and a cane as  
part of the material support  
for people with disabilities  
(PWD).

Photo credit: UNOCHA/  
Luisana Solano



## INCLUSIVE EMPOWERMENT: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PWD)

In a classroom in Petare, a dedicated humanitarian team from the Foundation for Assistance, Training and Research in Disability (FUNDAFID) unveiled a transformative project in Caracas. Focusing on the unique needs of people with disabilities and combating gender-based violence (GBV), the project aims to comprehensively address the needs of the community as part of the humanitarian response in the area.

One of the beneficiaries is Elsy Mejías, a courageous 56-year-old janitor working at a health center. Elsy, who has needed a hip prosthesis as a result of a car accident as a teenager, has faced numerous challenges in obtaining the necessary support. Initially met with skepticism by her community, she is now grateful for the Foundation's support.

Emotionally, Elsy recounted how the project not only provided her with an essential walking cane but also two bags of food that have transformed her reality. "Things have been going well for me now. With the two bags of food they gave me, it's been enough to buy other groceries," she says with heartfelt appreciation.

Funded by the VHF, the project goes beyond technical assistance. Food baskets, dignity kits, individual and group psychosocial support, and sessions on prevention of GBV were also provided. Capacity-building for community teachers is also being implemented.

Alison Sutil, a 27-year-old mother, is another participant. Caring for her mother, María, who has lost a leg due to diabetes complications, Alison surprised her with crutches from the project to improve her mobility. Determined, they both practice at home, and Alison hopes her mother regains the confidence to walk on the street without fear of judgment. Alison also emphasizes the importance of psychosocial support: "I feel supported. They listen to me, and I feel good when I talk to them," she shares with enthusiasm.

Gustavo Mujica, Vice President of the Foundation and Coordinator of the Mental Health Project emphasized the project's determination to focus attention on vulnerable people with disabilities. "We found that there was little specific attention for them," he asserts. With a goal of directly impacting 3,600 people, including 58 per cent women and 15 per cent (mostly women) with disabilities, the project strives for inclusivity.

Mujica expresses his gratitude for the support received and urges people to "keep believing" in projects that make a tangible difference. The initiative not only provides concrete assistance but also plant seeds of hope and empowerment, contributing to a more inclusive and resilient future for the community.

[Read more impact stories on StoryHub.](#)



# Programming Highlights



**\$4.1M**  
PROVIDED FOR GBV  
PREVENTION AND  
RESPONSE ACROSS  
SECTORS

## Addressing Gender Equality and Responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The Fund promoted gender equality and addressed GBV in allocation strategies and throughout the project lifecycle through consistent collection and analysis of data disaggregated by age, gender, and disability, and through partner capacity building. Collaboration with key entities, including UN Women, the GenCap Advisor, and the Gender Equality Network established in 2023, played a pivotal role in strengthening gender considerations in allocation strategies and project reviews.

All VHF projects prioritized the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individuals, acknowledging the diverse requirements of women, men, boys, and girls across different age groups during the project cycle. Gender specialists from the Network contributed their expertise during the review of project proposals, participating in the review committees and assessing proposals against the IASC Gender and Age Marker (GAM) during the strategic review process.

To strengthen the capacity of partners, the VHF, with the support of UN Women and the GenCap Advisor, conducted training on gender in humanitarian action. The Fund allocated \$6.8 million to 12 women-led organizations (WLO) in 2023, ensuring their active participation in the Advisory Board and Review Committees. Notably, 58 per cent of the VHF Advisory Board is made up of women, and two of the three NGO representatives in 2023 are WLOs.

In 2023, the VHF provided funding to five partners to implement GBV response projects. Activities included the distribution of dignity kits, case management support for GBV survivors, and clinical rape management training for health workers and frontline responders. Awareness-raising on GBV was critical, particularly in communities where such issues were prevalent but normalized. As a result, 21,537 individuals benefited from preven-

tion and empowerment activities, and 3,382 women and girls at risk received GBV response services.

Recognizing the significant contributions of the VHF, the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) within the Protection Cluster emphasized the strategic priority of including GBV in allocations. VHF's efforts to promote localization, support WLO, and strengthen local capacities were recognized as key components contributing to the sustainability of the response. The GBV AoR also emphasized the importance of advocating with donors to join the VHF in supporting the GBV response, and provided technical support for monitoring visits to projects, strengthening partners' capacity, and advising on strategic decision-making related to the GBV response.



Women receive domestic water filters in a rural community with limited access to safe water in Sucre state.

Credit: OCHA/ Roy Hernández



**\$1.8M**  
PROVIDED FOR  
DISABILITY INCLUSION  
ACROSS SECTORS

### Including People with Disabilities

People with disabilities (PwD) are often among the most vulnerable and face unique challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance. In addressing these barriers, the VHF has emerged as a key force in reducing the obstacles faced by PwD and ensuring their equitable access to humanitarian assistance and protection. Throughout the year, the Fund worked with partners to ensure that humanitarian action is inclusive of people with disabilities and guarantees their protection, safety, and dignity.

As part of a strategic move to enhance disability inclusion, the Fund welcomed two organizations working with people with disabilities (OPDs) - Humanity & Inclusion for International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and Fundafid for National Non-Governmental Organizations (NNGOs) - during the Advisory Board membership rotation. This move aimed to systematically prioritize disability inclusion within the Fund and ensure that an age and disability approach is present in the decision-making process.

In 2023, both Standard Allocations marked an important milestone with the approval of projects exclusively dedicated to supporting people with disabilities. A consortium comprising of two local organizations - Fe y Alegría and EducAcción - implemented two projects focused on special education schools for children with physical or mental disabilities. These initiatives aimed to cultivate and strengthen their skills and life projects. The project included nine schools in Casacoima and Tucupita municipalities of Delta Amacuro state providing comprehensive education to children with hearing or mental disabilities or with autism spectrum disorders, benefiting a total of 349 people with disabilities.

In addition, Fundafid's project in the state of Miranda addressed the needs of PwD by providing psychosocial support, legal assistance to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), distribution of hygiene kits and information sessions on feminine hygiene, as well as awareness campaigns and training. A sign language interpreter was included in the activities to ensure communication accessibility.

Across all projects funded in 2023, 8.5 per cent of the affected people included people with disabilities. This result underscores the Fund's commitment to fostering an inclusive humanitarian landscape and represents a step forward in addressing the specific needs of this vulnerable population.

### Assistance to Vulnerable Indigenous Communities

In Venezuela, most indigenous people live in precarious conditions characterized by protection challenges, inadequate shelter, food and nutrition insecurity, limited access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services, and a lack of comprehensive health and education services.

Throughout 2023, the VHF provided targeted assistance to indigenous communities in three states: Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, and Zulia through its standard allocations. This assistance was made possible through joint projects implemented by organizations such as HIAS/A.C. El Paragüero, Federación Luterana Mundial/F. Tierra Viva, PALUZ, INTERSOS, Aliadas en Cadena and Construyendo Futuros. The overall objective of these projects was to provide multisectoral assistance to improve the living conditions of indigenous communities by addressing basic needs such as health, nutrition, livelihoods, and resilience.

In pursuing this mission, these organizations faced formidable challenges, including gaining access to hard-to-reach areas, overcoming language barriers, managing interactions with non-state armed groups, and addressing cross-sectoral needs rooted in structural causes. Taking a nuanced and differentiated approach, partners prioritized gender, age, diversity, and intersectionality considerations. Guided by the Do No Harm principle, they emphasized respect for interculturality, cultural relevance, full participation, and compliance with legal frameworks in their efforts. This holistic approach aimed to ensure that the assistance provided not only met immediate needs but also fostered sustainable improvements in the well-being of indigenous communities and promoted a sense of dignity, respect, and resilience.



**\$1.5M**  
PROVIDED TO THE  
EDUCATION SECTOR

### Support to Education in Emergency

The humanitarian situation in Venezuela has particularly affected children and adolescents who are out of school or at risk of dropping out, increasing their vulnerability. The VHF is emerging as a pivotal force, actively engaged in supporting education initiatives aimed at strengthening secondary schools with a productive focus. Its strategic interventions aim to ensure access, permanence, and seamless continuation of education for vulnerable adolescents and young people while promoting the empowerment of girls and adolescents.

The Fund's direct support takes the form of comprehensive technical and vocational education and training programs, complemented by school-based socio-emotional learning activities. This approach is particularly critical in areas of vulnerability, where local conflicts or human mobility limit opportunities for educational continuity.

The impact of VHF-funded projects reverberates through 166 schools that strategically implement educational programs to ensure access and sustained quality education for youth, people with disabilities, and indigenous people. This extensive outreach spans six Venezuelan border states and addresses the unique challenges faced by these diverse populations. Notably, project implementation has extended beyond the classroom, helping to strengthen coordination and synergies between the Education Cluster, humanitarian partners, and national and local authorities. This collaborative approach ensures a more integrated and effective response, maximizing the positive impact on education in crisis-affected regions.

### Complementarity with CERF

In 2023, the VHF demonstrated its commitment to harmonized humanitarian action by actively engaging in complementarity with other key funding sources and stakeholders. This collaborative approach extended to OCHA's pooled fund mechanisms and various humanitarian funding sources, fostering a unified response to the complex challenges facing the Venezuelan population.

To further consolidate their role as catalytic funding mechanisms, the VHF and the CERF strategically aligned their efforts in 2023, ensuring complementarity in terms of temporal sequencing, sectoral focus, and geographic targeting following an area-based approach. This synchronized approach aimed to promote a coordinated and multisectoral response, actively involving local organizations. Specifically, 70 per cent of the VHF's second standard allocation was directed to national partners, while CERF recipient organizations committed to allocating 37 per cent of their resources directly to national implementing partners.

The launch of the \$8 million CERF Underfunded window allocation in the second half of 2023 marked a key moment in supporting integrated and complementary interventions. These actions focused on lifesaving activities thus ensuring access to essential services, support to livelihoods, and address protection risks. The initiative placed particular emphasis on promoting gender equality, as evidenced by the provision of livelihoods support to female-headed households and addressing protection risks such as gender-based violence and human trafficking.

Crucially, during the development of CERF project proposals, effective coordination between UN agencies and OCHA facilitated plans for complementary programming at the community level. This joint effort included discussions on key needs and gaps, ensuring alignment with the projects outlined in the VHF second standard allocation. Rigorous monitoring mechanisms will be put in place to ensure access for community to provide feedback. Such monitoring will also serve to maximize the impact of all interventions and promote synergy and complementarity.

Looking ahead, OCHA established an Interagency Coordination Mechanism, reinforcing the commitment to ensure that complementary and geographically targeted interventions are effectively achieved. This forward-looking approach underscores the commitment to impactful humanitarian response that strategically leverages the strengths of both the VHF and the CERF to address the diverse needs of the Venezuelan population.



**\$16M**  
PROVIDED BY THE  
POOLED FUNDS IN  
COMPLEMENTARITY



3 August 2023. Mata de Rueda community, Amazonas state, Venezuela.

Woman receives primary medical care at the community outpatient clinic from INTERSOS medical specialists.

Photo credit: UNOCHA/  
Luisana Solano



## BRIDGING THE GAP FOR HEALTH IN VENEZUELA'S INDIGENOUS HEARTLAND

Meet César Pesquera, a 25-year-old medical assistant from Mina de Rueda, an indigenous community 30 minutes away from Puerto Ayacucho, the capital of Venezuela's Amazona state. Along with his 30-year-old colleague, Joel, César has steadfastly provided basic health care services to his community. However, the lack of specialized medical services in the community meant that patients often had to make expensive and time-consuming trips to the capital for their health-care needs. This gap in access to specialized medical care took a toll on the health of the community. "There were patients who were not getting their medical checkups and therefore not solving their health issues," explains César.

Recognizing this critical situation, Intersos, a humanitarian organization, stepped in with a project supported by the VHF. The initiative aimed to provide primary health care, general counseling, pediatrics, and family planning services to vulnerable indigenous communities. César cited the language barrier as one of the major challenges, noting that some patients only spoke their indigenous native language. However, with

César and Joel accompanying Intersos staff, communication was effective, allowing patients to share their health concerns and medical professionals to provide tailored assistance.

Yralis Rodríguez, a teacher and community leader, expresses the community's gratitude for the assistance received. "The attention was very successful because we were able to reach our elderly, pregnant women, children with disabilities, and people with many medical or health needs." The project extended beyond Mina de Rueda, providing critical health services to other indigenous communities struggling with limited access to water.

In its mission to address community needs holistically, Intersos does not limit its efforts to the health sector alone. The VHF-funded project encompassed a range of services for those in need, including protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). To date, the project has reached 5,356 people, 54 per cent of whom were women and girls.

[Read more impact stories on StoryHub.](#)

# Risk Management

### Risk Management of projects:

VHF managed project risk according to its Risk Management Framework, often conducting additional assurance activities to reflect the VHF's strong oversight of partner projects, with extra missions or spot checks conducted when additional oversight was required. This is a critical element to ensure VHF-funded projects are implemented in line with requirements, and that partners are supported when necessary.

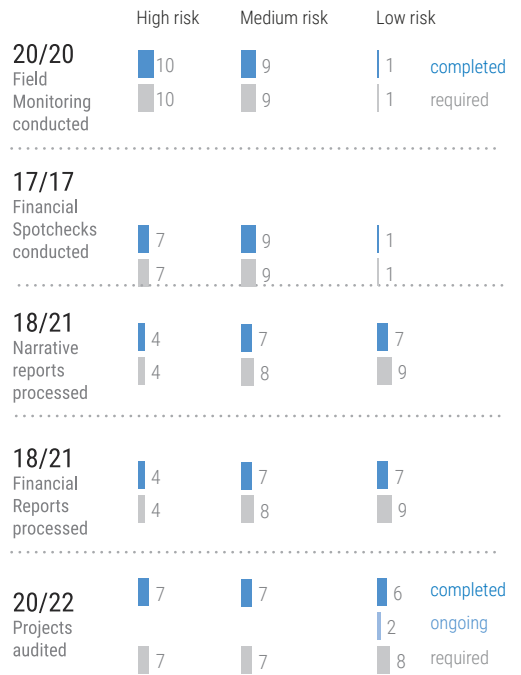
In 2023, the HFU team conducted 100 per cent of the required risk-based grant management activities, including financial spot checks and field monitoring. Eleven additional ad hoc visits and nine additional financial spot checks were conducted as needed to strengthen risk-based monitoring and address identified concerns and gaps. The timeliness and quality of reporting improved in 2022, which can be attributed to the positive effects of the training provided to partners. With improved performance in monitoring and financial spot checks, VHF partners were 100 per cent compliant in all assurance categories.

### Risk Management of partners:

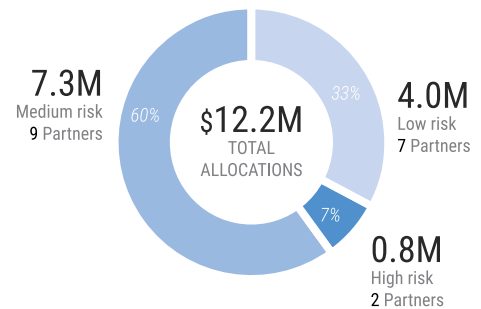
VHF prioritized funding to the best-positioned partners in 2023, taking into account the risks level of partners and targeted locations. VHF allocated 94 per cent of its funding in 2023 to low and medium-risk partners.

Through the OneGMS system, the HFU recorded data to support the Performance Index (PI) tool for all partners implementing VHF funding. Following assessment with the PI tool, 87 per cent of partners assessed were recommended to remain in the same risk category, indicating that the VHF's initial capacity assessment is accurate in assessing partner capacity. The Fund also updated the risk level of seven partners in real time. It upgraded the risk level of four national partners from high to medium and downgraded the risk

### PROGRESS ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



### IMPLEMENTATION BY PARTNER RISK LEVEL TYPE



### UPDATED RISK LEVEL BASED ON PERFORMANCE INDEX





1  
REPORTED  
INCIDENT



2  
ONGOING  
CASES

level of one national and two international partners from low to medium risk based on implementation performance.

Following the new global guidelines, in 2023, the HFU followed up bilaterally with its pool of eligible partners to ensure compliance with the new mandatory minimum eligibility requirements. A new eligibility process will be conducted in the first quarter of 2024.

During the reporting period, three national partners were suspended due to poor performance and non-compliance with operational modalities, bringing the total number of VHF eligible partners to 52, of which 29 are national NGOs.

### Risk Management of Funding

Overall, field monitoring visits and financial spot checks showed good performance from most partners. In 2023, the Fund identified partner compliance issues through risk management activities, including project audits. One incident was reported and two were ongoing and under review by VHF and HQ.

In addition to the training sessions for partners on the prevention and reporting of suspected fraud, and PSEA, the Fund continued to provide regular support and bilateral follow-up to partners to ensure the effectiveness of the response.



A youth school in a border community of Bolivar state is assisted as part of the education in emergencies component implemented to address protection risks.

Credit: OCHA/ Jennifer Moreno



# Annexes

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18	ANNEX A	2023 VHF ADVISORY BOARD
19	ANNEX B	COMMON PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

ANNEX A

## 2023 VHF ADVISORY BOARD

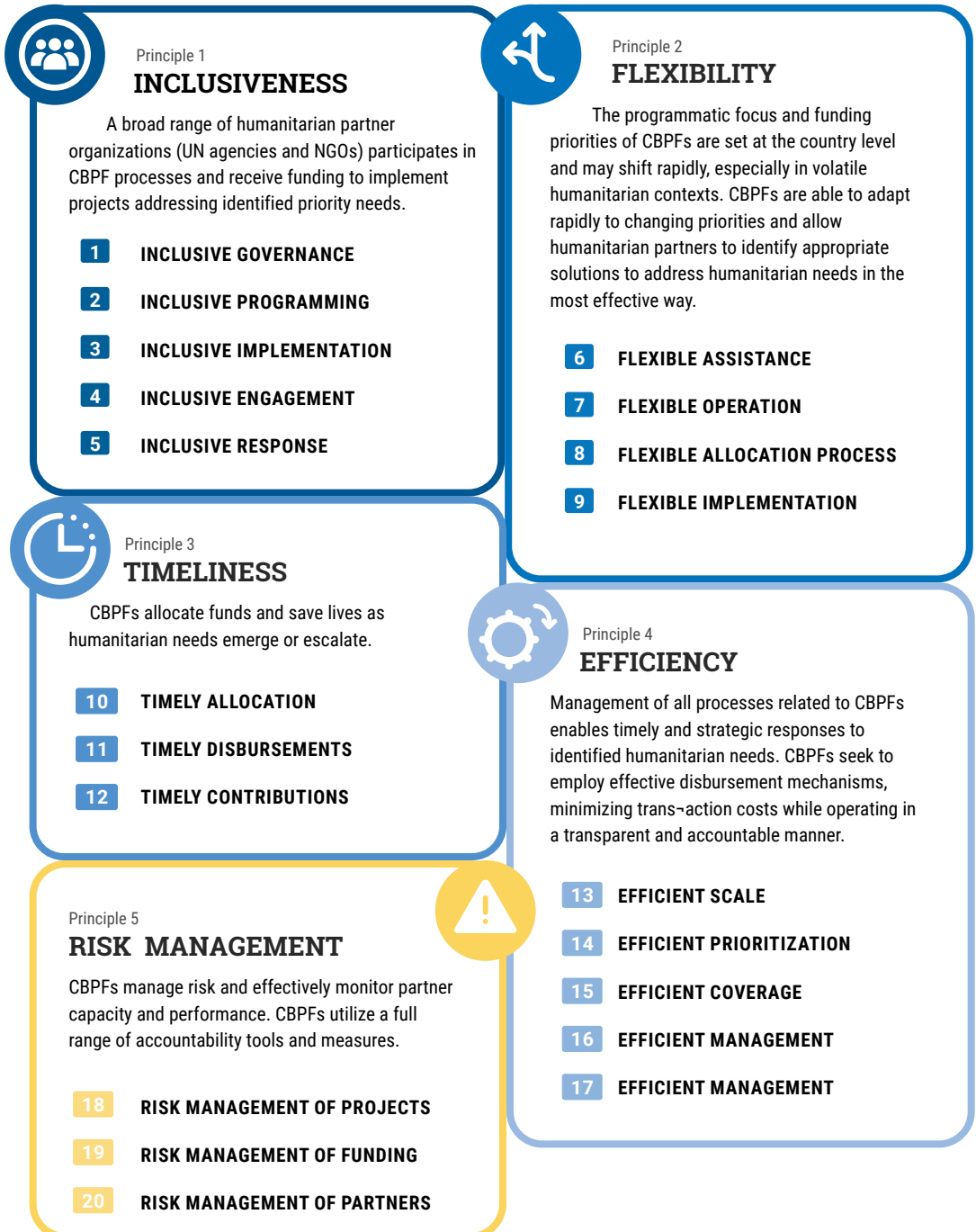
<b>STAKEHOLDER</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	Humanitarian Coordinator
<b>INGO</b>	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
<b>INGO</b>	Action Against Hunger (AAH)
<b>INGO</b>	Humanity & Inclusion
<b>NNGO</b>	Caritas Venezuela
<b>NNGO</b>	Aliadas en Cadena
<b>NNGO</b>	Fundafid
<b>UN</b>	UNFPA
<b>UN</b>	UNICEF
<b>UN</b>	FAO
<b>Donors</b>	United States
<b>Donors</b>	Germany
<b>Donors</b>	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
<b>Observer</b>	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
<b>HFU/OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

ANNEX B

# COMMON PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

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.



# VHF

Venezuela  
Humanitarian  
Fund

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