

**November 2018**

## Situation update

**There are over 600,000 Venezuelans living in Peru.** The vast majority of them have limited access to resources. Some of their main challenges relates to the regularization of their stay in Peru and the restricted access to public services and formal job opportunities. Many professionals face difficulties in accessing the formal labour market and validating their diplomas. Therefore, many individuals resort to working in the informal sector, where they are exposed to labour exploitation and abuse. These obstacles impact on their ability to provide for themselves and access adequate housing.

## Key figures

**600,000**

Venezuelans in Peru

**156,000**

Venezuelan asylum-seekers

**1,400**

Venezuelan families benefitting from cash assistance so far in 2018

## Why cash?

**UNHCR is using cash based interventions (CBI) to protect and support persons of concern (PoCs) in all phases of displacement.**

**In July 2018, UNHCR conducted a cash feasibility assessment in Peru.** The assessment confirmed that the current economic situation of the country is conducive for a cash programme. The cash programme can contribute to: 1) prevent and reduce the use of negative coping mechanism; 2) stimulate the local markets and local economies; and 3) contribute to financial inclusion.

**The use of cash is usually tied to a specific context.** Asylum-seekers and refugees normally use their money according to a **hierarchy of needs such as most immediate needs** (food, basic shelter, emergency

healthcare) and other needs (livelihoods and complementary healthcare).



## What is the objective of a CBI programme in Peru?

**Cash grants are** given to the most vulnerable among the Venezuelan population who lack the financial means to subsist and/or have protection needs that require financial support. It is delivered according to their specific needs in a safe and dignified way, aligned with UNHCR global standards on CBI and is used where possible as an intermediary stepping stone towards integration in either :

- the Peru formal labour market ; or
- the Peru Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) programmes.

In order to achieve this, UNHCR is using 3 different types of CBI:

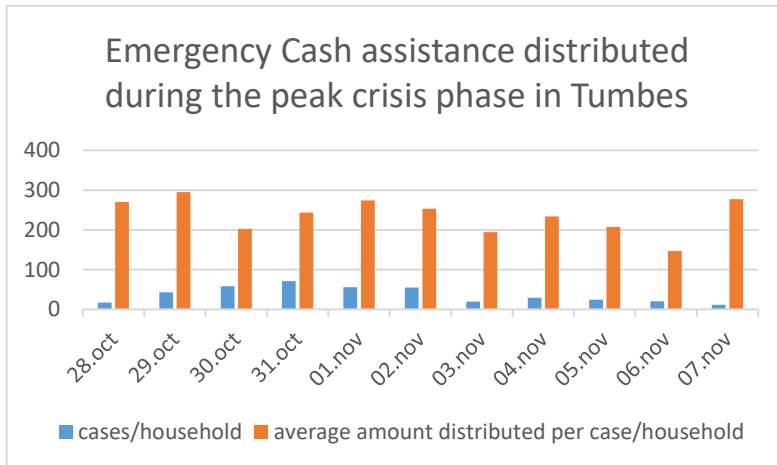
- **Multi-purpose cash grants for basic and protection needs.** This intervention is based on an assessment of needs. The CBI is used to cover food, shelter, transportation and other basic needs.
- **Emergency cash assistance.** This intervention is based on an assessment of specific cases for urgent needs: new arrivals, medical emergency or other emergency cases (ex: SGBV survivors).
- **Sectoral cash grants.** This grant is promoting self-reliance (i.e. livelihoods and education grants).

UNHCR in Peru is also helping coordinate cash assistance to improve coverage of PoCs and synergies with Government social protection programmes and other humanitarian actors.

## UNHCR response

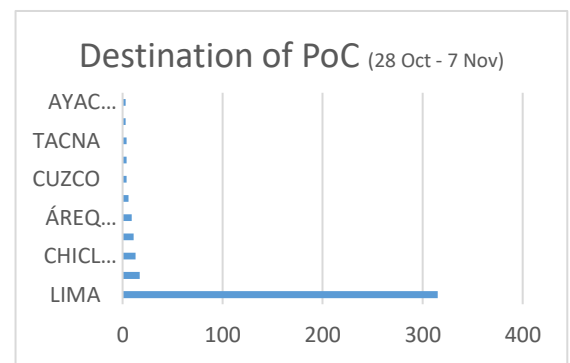
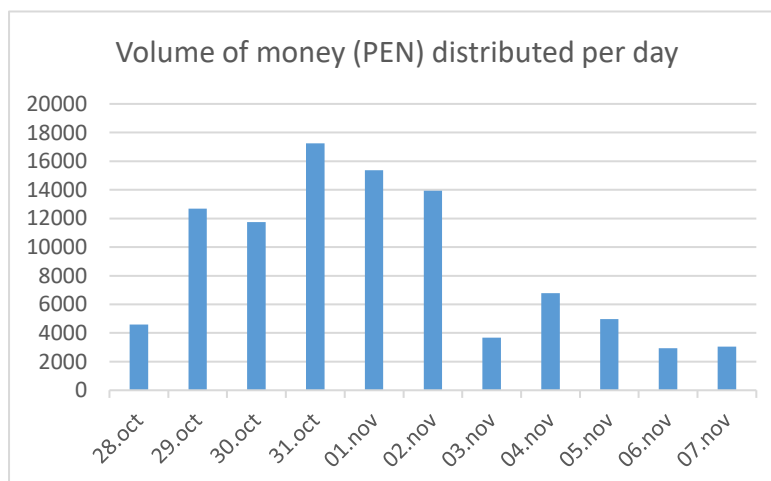
In October 2018, UNHCR intensified its protection and emergency response in Tumbes near the border with Ecuador to respond to the growing number of arrivals of Venezuelan asylum-seekers and migrants in Peru. UNHCR, through its partner Encuentros, provided humanitarian assistance including cash, hygiene and baby kits, food as well as assisted vulnerable cases with emergency transportation from the Binational Border Centre (CEBAF) to Tumbes and to their final destination.

**UNHCR through its partner Encuentros is distributing CBIs to vulnerable Venezuelans.** Encuentros is also working on the case management especially of those seeking emergency assistance including issuing and monitoring payments. A socio-economic evaluation based on UNHCR's vulnerability criteria is carried out by Encuentros. The vulnerability assessment is helping Encuentros to determine whether or not a financial support should be issued to asylum-seekers in accordance with their needs and availability of resources. All CBIs are issued by Encuentros either through vouchers (for food and temporary accommodation in hotels), or direct cash by staff based in offices in Tumbes and Lima. **Many PoC receiving cash assistance from Encuentros in Tumbes are using the money to purchase transportation tickets to their final destination or to cover their basic necessities** such as food, medicines and rents. So far in 2018, UNHCR and Encuentros distributed CBIs to over 1,400 vulnerable asylum-seeker families. They were mainly persons with specific needs and other vulnerable cases.



### Acute emergency phase in Tumbes (from Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – Nov 7<sup>th</sup>):

During October, 103,000 PEN (35,000 USD) were distributed by Encuentros in across the 3 offices (93,000 PEN in Tumbes; 10,000 PEN Lima; 1000 PEN in Tacna). During that peak phase, 400 households received cash assistance. The highest number of households assisted was on Oct 31 (71). Each case/household received on average 260 PEN (90USD). Family size ranged from 1 to 7. 50% of head of households were women. The amounts varied from 30 PEN (10USD; 1 person travelling to Piura) to 900 PEN (300USD; family of 5 travelling to Arequipa).



## CONTACTS

Regina de la Portilla, Associate PI Officer: [delaport@unhcr.org](mailto:delaport@unhcr.org)

Alex Gachoud, CBI Officer: [gachoud@unhcr.org](mailto:gachoud@unhcr.org)