



Venezuela Earthquake Emergency

CARE's Response: Local Partners, First on the Ground

Thanks to partners like you, CARE can move quickly when disaster strikes. On **June 24, 2026, two powerful earthquakes — magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 — struck northern Venezuela** less than a minute apart, devastating communities in and around Caracas. More than 3,800 people are confirmed dead and nearly 17,000 injured, and millions of people who are already living precariously remain in desperate need. Flexible support is urgently needed to help communities survive, recover, and rebuild.

The Situation

The twin earthquakes have caused **catastrophic damage across Caracas and La Guaira state**, triggering widespread building collapses, shutting the main international airport and straining already-fragile public services to their limits. Authorities have declared a nationwide state of emergency and mobilized national response mechanisms. More than 890 aftershocks have been recorded, continuing to threaten survivors, responders, and damaged structures. Dozens of official shelters are now operating across Caracas and La Guaira, and the health system is overwhelmed, with at least 20 of 38 hospitals in the affected region reporting severe structural damage.

This disaster has struck a country that was already in the grip of a profound humanitarian crisis. At the time of the earthquake, the **UN Humanitarian Response Plan (USD 632 million) was only 23% funded**, leaving 7.9 million people without adequate humanitarian support before a single tremor hit. Venezuela's weakened health system, deteriorating infrastructure, and years of economic collapse mean that the road to recovery will be long and difficult.

Reported impact (figures are still rising according to OCHA and the Government of Venezuela, July 5, 2026): 3,800 people are confirmed dead, 16,740 injured, and 6,462 rescued. Field visits suggest official figures likely undercount the actual toll. The UN released new figures that put the cost of the earthquake at \$37B+, more than three times the original estimate, proving this disaster is much larger than initial reports.

The challenges are immense:

- **The disaster struck a country already in humanitarian crisis.** Before June 24, 7.9 million Venezuelans needed humanitarian assistance. Years of economic collapse have left hospitals under-equipped, infrastructure crumbling, and social safety nets non-existent. The earthquake has shattered what little resilience communities had left.
- **This is a mass casualty event.** Local affected communities indicate that official figures significantly understate the true death toll and number of displaced people. Search and rescue teams have recovered 6,462 people so far and face enormous challenges in collapsed urban areas with damaged roads and a partially closed main airport, severely hampering access and logistics.
- **Infrastructure collapse will take years to address.** Structural damage is widespread across Caracas and La Guaira. Disruption to electricity, water systems, and communications leaves survivors without essential services when they need them most.
- **Women, girls, and the most vulnerable face heightened risk.** Venezuela's pre-existing protection crisis — including high rates of gender-based violence and displacement — will be sharply aggravated by the earthquake. Women and girls are disproportionately exposed to violence, exploitation, and inadequate access to care. Local partners have already identified

more than 37 cases of sexual violence in shelters, and health facilities currently lack functioning referral pathways for survivors.

- **A critically underfunded response.** With the UN appeal at only 23% funding before the quake, the humanitarian system enters this emergency severely under-resourced. Fast and flexible donor support is essential.

CARE's Response

Building on **eight years of humanitarian presence in Venezuela**, CARE and our trusted local partners are positioned to move immediately. CARE operates through a **coordination model managed from Colombia and on the ground in Venezuela**, working exclusively through vetted, women-led civil society organizations. **100% of the response will be delivered through local partners** — Tinta Violeta, Grupo Social CESAP, Acción Solidaria's, and Uniandes, and Humanity and Inclusion — who are already conducting rapid needs assessments in the field. Partners are already reaching survivors directly. Grupo Social CESAP has opened a community kitchen for displaced families, and partners are present in the official shelters now operating in Caracas. Across the networks, hygiene and dignity kits, health services, psychosocial support, and food, including hot meals and food baskets, have been flagged as the most urgent priorities in the first phase.

CARE's partners have themselves been personally affected by the earthquakes, a reminder of how deeply this disaster reaches into the communities now responding to it.

In this initial response, CARE and our partners are aiming to reach 50,000 people across the following priority areas:

Health Services

We are supporting continuity of healthcare through Acción Solidaria's national medicine distribution network, helping fill gaps as hospital systems and clinics in and around Caracas are overwhelmed.

Protection, GBV Prevention and Psychosocial Support

CARE's lead partner Tinta Violeta, a women-led network of 33 NGOs spanning 22 states, is already activating remote psychosocial support for earthquake survivors.

- Operating safe spaces and providing case management services for survivors of gender-based violence.
- Delivering mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to women, children, and other at-risk groups experiencing acute trauma.
- Running community-level GBV prevention and risk monitoring in areas with damaged infrastructure and displaced populations.

Emergency WASH and Hygiene

- Distributing emergency hygiene kits and dignity kits (soap, water purification, sanitation supplies) to displaced and affected households.
- Supporting rehabilitation of critical WASH infrastructure in health facilities and displacement sites.
- Conducting hygiene promotion to prevent waterborne disease transmission.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Through partner CEDESEX, CARE will ensure continuity of care for ongoing pregnancies, distribute SRH and menstrual hygiene kits, and train health workers on emergency reproductive health protocols.

Child Protection

Through Red Casas Don Bosco, CARE will provide group and individual psychosocial support to children affected by the disaster, identify and case-manage unaccompanied and separated children, and restore child-safe spaces in displacement sites.

Emergency Shelter and NFIs

- Providing emergency shelter materials (tarpaulins, poles, fixing kits) to families whose homes are uninhabitable.
- Distributing essential non-food items — blankets, cooking sets, and basic household supplies.

Emergency Food Assistance

- Coordinating food assistance through the partner network to households with no access to food.
- Prioritizing households with pregnant or lactating women, young children, elderly members, and persons with disabilities.

Why Support CARE?

- **CARE has the operational infrastructure to respond immediately.** CARE's Colombia-based Humanitarian Team provides finance, supply chain, security, and compliance oversight — with no dependency on in-country registration and rapid cross-border operations already in motion. The model has been proven across two major political crises (2019–2020 and January 2026) and is already mobilizing.
- **CARE centers women as leaders from the start of the response.** CARE's entire partner network in Venezuela is women-led. Tinta Violeta's 33-NGO network reaches 22 states with

protection, GBV, and MHPSS expertise. CARE ensures women and girls shape aid delivery and lead community response efforts from day one.

- **CARE's trusted partner networks turn intention into action.** CARE has supported approximately 190 local organizations across 23 of 24 Venezuelan states since 2018, reaching around 40,000 people (70% women). These relationships enable rapid, trusted, and culturally appropriate response.
- **CARE's track record in Venezuela is extensive.** Since 2018, CARE and partners have distributed 11.1 million medicines across 23 states, provided reproductive health care to 2,590 women, and strengthened 192 organizations through WASH and protection programming. This is a surge response to disaster based on an established foundation.
- **CARE works in close coordination with the humanitarian system.** CARE maintains continuous engagement with UN coordination mechanisms and is coordinating with OCHA on response alignment. CARE is part of the Impact Alliance, together with Save the Children and Mercy Corps, and is active in Colombia.
- **Flexible funding enables adaptation as the situation evolves.** The earthquake's full impact is still unfolding. Partners are in the field conducting rapid assessments. Flexible, fast-disbursing support allows CARE to direct resources to where needs are greatest.

How Your Gift Could Help

The Venezuela earthquake is a fast-moving, large-scale disaster compounding an already severe humanitarian crisis. **With over 16,700 injured, thousands more unaccounted for amid likely undercounted official figures, and 7.9 million people in need** — many of them women and children — the need for an immediate, well-coordinated response has never been greater.

CARE is seeking **\$5 million¹** to reach 50,000 people in the initial response. CARE and our local partners are already on the ground. Rapid needs assessments are underway. With your support, CARE can scale up protection services, deliver life-saving supplies, and stand alongside Venezuela's most vulnerable communities as they begin the long road to recovery.

Please consider this urgent opportunity to stand with the people of Venezuela.

CARE Contact: RM Name | RM email address

¹ To manage the current response and deploy resources for other emergencies, CARE will reserve up to 20% of donations for technical support, administration, and emergency preparedness, including staff deployment.