



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

FACT SHEET: PERU



HIAS IN PERU

Founded: 2019

Staff Size: 164

Country Director: Erika Alfageme

Field Offices: Callao, Lambayeque, Lima, Trujillo, Tumbes

Peru hosts more than one million refugees and migrants from Venezuela, representing almost 20 percent of the Venezuelans that have left their country since 2018. Despite the Government of Peru’s welcome of Venezuelans, most have an irregular migration status due to restrictive migratory procedures, and as a consequence a limited access to social services, including health and education, and to formal work. The lack of sufficient services has led to an increased risk of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse for Venezuelans, particularly women, adolescents, and children.

HIAS PROGRAMS AND FOCUS

HIAS protects and supports refugees to build new lives. HIAS’ response in Peru helps refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants with permanent and in-person attention in two districts of Lima (Barranco and La Victoria), in Callao and Trujillo, as well as periodic attention at the North border of Peru (Tumbes and Piura). Our strategy focuses on allowing displaced people to integrate into host communities while living in security and freedom. We provide community and individualized care, identify and assess specific needs, and build an action plan with each person to ensure their protection and economic inclusion in the country.



As part of our community strategy, HIAS Peru conducts workshops and other community events, including communitarian journeys, to promote refugees’ knowledge of their rights, as well as the services of the state available to them. Through community Protection Mobile Teams staff facilitate the identification of urgent cases and cases of complex vulnerability; this “pop-up” approach provides flexible and acute attention for gender-based violence survivors, individuals with severe health issues, unaccompanied children and adolescents, families living on the streets, and LGBTQ refugees and migrants at risk, among others. As part of this comprehensive strategy, Complementary services related to food security, education, child protection, and temporary shelter are offered to highly vulnerable people.

Legal Protection

HIAS Peru provides guidance to refugees and migrants by promoting access to the migration regularization system; identifying and referring cases to institutions and systems that grant international protection; and warning and/or mitigating situations of rights violations.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

By providing guidance to survivors of gender-based violence and at-risk individuals through case management and other services, HIAS helps contribute to their empowerment and resilience. HIAS Peru tries to mitigate vulnerability factors and promote protective factors, especially with women, girls, and the LGBTQ community. We serve survivors and people at risk of gender-based violence, regardless of age, gender, diversity, or disability. We provide care whether the situation of violence has occurred in the host country, transit, or country of origin.



Photograph taken prior to March, 2020

Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (CB-MHPSS)

HIAS Peru works to improve mental health and psychosocial well-being through services that contribute to the empowerment of individuals, providing support to survivors of gender-based-violence and other at-risk persons. Staff also provide individual care, psychological first aid, and specific referrals for people in need of additional support. HIAS Peru organizes community wellness activities to increase overall well-being and resilience, and promote positive parenting and social connections. HIAS trains community members to recognize emotional and psychological indicators in children and adults, and how to respond with empathy, respect, and other basic coping skills in times of crisis.

Economic Inclusion

Access to dignified, sustainable, and safe livelihoods are at the core of HIAS' economic inclusion interventions. Our methodology enables refugees, vulnerable migrants, and host communities to find opportunities that will enhance their self-reliance, increase resilience, regain dignity, and provide ways to build independent and meaningful futures. HIAS Peru's economic inclusion program promotes the development of sustainable livelihoods by providing entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.



HIAS Peru promotes development opportunities for refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers through employability, entrepreneurship, and training for economic integration in the host country. The office's mission is to generate sustainable livelihoods to ensure the welfare of the population through the creation of opportunities on two tracks: self-employment (entrepreneurship), and access to formal employment. It provides guidance on financial literacy and proper money management within the family circle and /or household; ensures the mainstreaming of gender-based-violence prevention and response to all programs; promotes the personal and professional development of refugees and migrants; searches for mechanisms to improve access to financial services; and develops partnerships with private companies.

The Graduation Model Approach HIAS Peru offers is a well-recognized best practice to alleviate poverty within 18 months. The program supports participants to become more food secure, enjoy stable and diversified incomes, increase their assets, better integrate into their communities, and develop a plan for the future. HIAS Peru provides children, adolescents, pregnant and/or lactating women and other vulnerable Venezuelan refugees, migrants, and host populations with Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) in the form of cash, bank transfers, and pre-paid cards.

HIAS in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

HIAS advocates for the protection of refugees, other forcibly displaced populations, and local host communities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of a comprehensive regional response to meet the urgent needs of these populations, including the millions of displaced Venezuelans, HIAS participates in several regional coordination platforms and partnerships which focus on protection, food security, GBV, and Cash and Voucher Assistance, including:

REDLAC (IASC Regional Work Group Risk, Emergencies and Disasters)
UNHCR/IOM Regional Platform for the Venezuela Situation Response (R4V)
Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) in Colombia
Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM) in Ecuador and Peru

HIAS currently has programs in nine countries in LAC (Aruba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela) and partners with a wide range of government agencies, UN entities (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNV/FVT), the private sector (Airbnb, TATA Consultancy Services, and Manpower), and other NGOs and consortia, including Jesuit Refugee Service, Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, Plan International, and Girls not Brides.

CONTACT

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