

Information published by international organizations on the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela July 2016 – August 2018

18 reports and statements involving 22 experts from 12 international organizations, during two years, cannot be wrong

<p>July 2016 Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon https://www.lanacion.com.ar/1926563-ban-ki-moon-en-venezuela-hay-una-crisis-humanitaria</p>	<p>“I am very concerned about the current situation, in which basic needs cannot be met, such as food, water, sanitation, clothing, are not available. That creates a humanitarian crisis in Venezuela (...). This whole situation is created by political instability. And first of all, there has to be political stability. The UN is ready to help, powers and regional bodies are already committed”</p>
<p>September 2016 UN High Commissioners for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al-Hussein https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20474</p>	<p>He expressed high concern about the “... dramatic decline in the enjoyment of economic and social rights, with an increase in widespread hunger and the serious deterioration of health services”</p>
<p>2017 Report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World. United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture http://www.fao.org/3/a-17695e.pdf</p>	<p>The report warned that Venezuela had entered the group of countries with food insecurity, with a tendency to worsen due to severe shortages of food and medicines. Likewise, the report added Venezuela to the countries with serious discrepancies in their estimates due to the absence of data, together with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Libya, Myanmar and Pakistan.</p>
<p>2017 Report: Panorama of Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean 2017. Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7914e.pdf</p>	<p>It stressed that between 2014-2016 Venezuela had a rise of 1.3 million undernourished people: "The case of Venezuela, however, is the most significant: in that country, undernourishment grew by 3.9 percentage points with respect to the immediately preceding three-year period. In absolute terms, this means an increase of 1.3 million undernourished people in Venezuela. "</p>
<p>December 31, 2017 Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Democratic Institutionality, Rule of Law and</p>	<p>The word "crisis" is mentioned 87 times in the report, most of the times referring to the situation of health, nutrition, migrants and refugees and democratic institutions. “31. As a consequence of the grave economic and social crisis, disease outbreaks and other impacts on health have taken place,</p>

<p>Human Rights in Venezuela. Country Report http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Venezuela2018-en.pdf</p>	<p>in the context of which the scarcity of medications, materials, inputs, and medical treatment is concerning, particularly due to their impact on pregnant women, children and adolescents, the elderly, and people living with severe illnesses, chronic conditions, or the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and/or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Infant and maternal mortality rates have increased, as has the number of epidemics. By and large, in this scenario, the State has failed to provide the necessary access to health care”.</p> <p>“32. As regards the right to food, shortages and, in some cases, a complete lack of supply has reached critical levels. For many, this situation has led to excessive weight loss and malnutrition issues and even death, not just the lack of adequate access to food. To deal with this situation, the State has taken some steps such as setting up Local Supply and Production Committee, which the Commission welcomes. However, according to the information received by the Commission, these programs do not accord priority to groups that have traditionally been excluded and discriminated against and there have also been complaints of the application of politically motivate discrimination criteria”.</p> <p>“40. Regarding migrants, refugees, and others in a similar situation to refugees, the IACHR reiterates its concern at the large number of Venezuelans who have been forced to migrate to other countries in the region in recent years for numerous reasons, especially forced migration as a survival mechanism given the grave crisis in Venezuela and the effects of its sequel of shortages of food, medicines, and medical treatment (Chapter V), violence and lack of security”.</p>
<p>January 26, 2018 Christophe Boulierac, spokesperson for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/2027846465832710C1258210005D8B74?OpenDocument</p>	<p>The spokesperson warned about the rapid decline in the nutritional well-being of children in Venezuela due to the prevalence of malnutrition as a result of the country's economic crisis and the limitations of access to health services, medicines and quality food. Given that the official figures were not available, UNICEF called for the strengthening of nutritional surveillance in the short term and the provision of nutritional recovery services through its partners.</p>
<p>February 1, 2018 Press release: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights urges the State of Venezuela to guarantee and respect the rights to food and health http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2018/016.asp</p>	<p>“Venezuela is experiencing an economic and social crisis marked by a context of scarcity and shortages of food and medicine said to be increasing at an alarming rate. This situation particularly affects the most vulnerable and poor individuals, groups, and communities, with especially serious consequences for children, women, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, migrants, persons deprived of liberty, and older persons”.</p> <p>Commissioner Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, the IACHR Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, warned that “the gravity of the situation regarding Venezuelan children’s rights to health and food means there is no time to lose. Their best interests should be given utmost priority in any measures adopted by the</p>

	<p>country and by the international community to address the crisis”.</p> <p>“The publicly available information on the Venezuelan State’s refusal to receive international cooperation to ease its economic and social crisis is of utmost concern to the IACHR and its ESCER Special Rapporteurship, as is the lack of official public data that would enable adequate monitoring of the State’s obligations. This attitude not only seems to show Venezuela’s lack of willingness to protect these rights, but it also appears to go against its obligation to respect rights by impeding the availability and accessibility of medicines and basic food for the population most in need”.</p>
<p>February 9, 2018</p> <p>Leilani Farha, Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing; Hilal Elver, Special Rapporteur on the right to food; Dainius Pūras, Special Rapporteur on the right to health; Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. Venezuela: Dire living conditions worsening by the day.</p> <p>https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22646&LangID=E</p>	<p>They made an urgent plea to the government to take action to tackle the crisis, and called on the international community to adopt measures to avoid an unfolding tragedy of immense proportions.</p> <p>“Millions of people are suffering a lack of food and essential medicines, a shortage of goods including those for personal hygiene, power cuts, and dire housing and living conditions. Conditions are worsening by the day putting many lives at risk,” the experts said in a joint statement. (...) “Venezuelans are suffering multiple breaches of their human rights,” the experts said. “Many people are suffering from lack of food and malnutrition, while the health situation has reached unbearable levels, especially for patients with chronic and terminal diseases such as diabetes, kidney disease and cancer.”</p>
<p>March 7, 2018</p> <p>David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Program (WFP)</p> <p>https://insight.wfp.org/lack-of-food-and-medicine-forces-venezuelans-to-migrate-in-droves-to-colombia-33fe91dc63ca</p>	<p>He described Venezuela's food situation as "catastrophic", "humanitarian disaster". The outflow of Venezuelans into neighbouring countries, such as Colombia, constitutes a “humanitarian disaster”, said the head of the World Food Programme (WFP) on Tuesday. Speaking in Colombia, David Beasley said it was catastrophic that around 50,000 were now choosing to cross the border each day, just at one location — “and that’s the legal border crossing”, added the WFP director.</p>
<p>March 2, 2018</p> <p>Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Resolution on forced migration of Venezuelan people</p> <p>http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-2-18-en.pdf</p> <p>http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2018/048.asp</p> <p>Press release:</p> <p>http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2018/048.asp</p>	<p>“The IACHR considers that the massive violations of human rights, as well as the serious crisis that Venezuela has been facing as a result of the shortage of food and medicines, has led to the exponential growth of hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan people who have been forced to migrate to other countries in the region in recent years as a survival strategy that allows them and their families to preserve rights such as life, personal integrity, personal liberty, health, and food, among others.</p> <p>The IACHR notes that a large number of Venezuelans have been forced to flee Venezuela as a result of violations of human rights, violence and insecurity, and persecution on the basis of their political opinion; as well as to escape the effects of the crisis generated by the scarcity of food, medicines, and medical treatment and the difficulty of collecting pensions, among</p>

	<p>others. The impact of the severe food and health crisis has particularly impacted groups in situations of exclusion and historical discrimination, such as children and adolescents, women, older persons, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, persons with disabilities and who are ill, and those living in poverty.”</p> <p>Commissioner Luis Ernesto Vargas Silva, Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants, said: "We cannot be indifferent to the pain of all the Venezuelan people who have to leave their country for reasons as urgent as lack of food, medicines, or political persecution. It is fundamental to prioritize the protection of individuals with a human rights approach, avoiding criminalizing and restricting migration and the protection of those who need it”.</p>
<p>March 2018 UNHCR: Guidance note on the flow of Venezuelans https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/63243 Press release: http://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2018/3/5aa793c14/venezuelans-flee-throughout-latin-america-unhcr-issues-new-protection-guidance.html#_ga=2.172533351.594267994.1535238196-68726389.1520471227</p>	<p>“The movements are taking place for a variety of reasons, including insecurity and violence, lack of food, medicine or access to essential social services as well as loss of income. While not all Venezuelans leaving are prompted to do so for refugee-related reasons, it is becoming increasingly clear that, while all may not be refugees, a significant number are in need of international protection.</p> <p>There has been a 2,000% increase in the number of Venezuelan nationals seeking asylum worldwide since 2014, principally in the Americas during the last year”.</p> <p>For these reasons the Guidance note states: “In light of the wide range of information available on the situation in Venezuela, UNHCR considers that the broad circumstances leading to the outflow of Venezuelan nationals would fall within the spirit of the Cartagena Declaration, 9 with a resulting rebuttable presumption of international protection needs”.</p>
<p>March 19, 2018 Spokesperson for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR http://www.noticierodigital.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=96114</p>	<p>According to "conservative" government estimates, at least 1.5 million Venezuelans live abroad. However, UNHCR estimates that the number of asylum seekers has increased by 2,000% since 2014. "This means that the Americas are facing one of the largest population exoduses in the region since the creation of UNHCR in 1950".</p>
<p>June 2018 OHCHR: Violations of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: a downward with no end in sight https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/VE/VenezuelaReport2018_EN.pdf</p>	<p>The word "crisis" is mentioned 32 times in the report, most of the time referring to the health and nutrition situation.</p> <p>“OHCHR found that, as the Government refused to acknowledge the scale of the health and food crisis, it has not adopted the urgent measures and policy reforms needed to address the crisis and its root causes, thereby failing to comply with its international obligation to make every possible effort to fulfil the rights to health and food, including through international cooperation and assistance”.</p> <p>The report recommends: “Member States of the Human Rights Council should establish an international commission of inquiry</p>

	to investigate human rights violations in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela”.
<p>June 20, 2018 UNHCR: Global trends in forced displacement in 2017 http://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf</p>	<p>“Venezuelans comprised the fourth-largest nationality of all new asylum claims in 2017 with 111,600 registered, compared with 34,200 in 2016 and 10,200 in 2015”.</p> <p>“In terms of country of origin, the largest increase during 2017 was due to the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (345,600). There, the challenging security situation, the loss of income as a result of the current economic situation, and shortages of food and medicines compelled a large number of people to leave their country during the year”.</p>
<p>June 21, 2018 Regional Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Carissa F. Etienne PAHO response to maintain an effective technical cooperation agenda in Venezuela and in neighboring member states. Document presented to the Executive Committee of PAHO at its Session 162 of June 20, 2018. https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14263:162th-session-executive-committee&Itemid=40453&lang=en</p>	<p>She presented to the Executive Committee of this organization a report on the urgent need to increase cooperation with Venezuela because of negative social and health indicators due to its socio-political and economic situation. Among these indicators were the spread of malaria, measles and diphtheria to almost the entire country, the loss of the operational capacity of the health system with hospitals operating under extremely difficult conditions, the increase in maternal and infant mortality and the difficulty in accessing medicines and proper care of people with chronic diseases. This report recommended an urgent action plan to stop epidemics, reduce morbidity and mortality and retain staff in health services, calling on countries in the region to invest in vaccination, the resilience of the health system and attention to the health needs of migrants</p>
<p>15 de agosto, 2018 Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/db180815.doc.htm</p>	<p>“And from Venezuela, the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are leading the response to the regional refugee crisis related to the ongoing crisis in Venezuela, with UN agencies, funds and programs also providing assistance. UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration have launched regional appeals of \$46 million and \$32 million respectively to help Governments and host communities with the response. Some \$6.2 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has been given to IOM and UNCHR. Inside Venezuela, several UN agencies are operating in areas such as health, nutrition, agriculture and development”.</p> <p>“I think this is a situation the Secretary-General has been following closely. He has repeatedly expressed his concern and continues to do so. Obviously, the lack of political agreement within Venezuela is having an immediate humanitarian impact on the Venezuelan people themselves. As outlined by our humanitarian colleagues, they have stated the reasons most of them are leaving, which is lack of access to food and other basic supplies, and also creating a strain on the neighbouring countries”.</p>
<p>August 20, 2018</p>	<p>In his letter to the president of the Permanent Council, Almagro said that the meeting should be convened "to address the</p>

<p>Luis Almagro, OAS Secretary General, requests meeting of the Permanent Council of the OAS to address the problem of the migration crisis http://www.oas.org/imgs/2018/osg_385.pdf (Spanish only)</p>	<p>migration crisis caused by the humanitarian crisis and the effective exercise of democracy that Venezuela suffers. The situation is in itself desperate because of the lack of access to basic social rights by the Venezuelan people, the collapse of health, education, security, public capacities to provide water and electricity and to meet the minimum conditions that the population needs to live "</p>
<p>August 23, 2018 Joint call: The heads of UNHCR and IOM request greater support given the increase in the flow of Venezuelans throughout the region https://www.iom.int/news/unhcr-and-iom-chiefs-call-more-support-outflow-venezuelans-rises-across-region</p>	<p>"The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and the Director General of the United Nations Migration Agency, IOM, William Lacy Swing appealed for greater support from the international community to the countries and communities in the region receiving a growing number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. With an estimated 2.3 million Venezuelans living abroad". "We recognise the growing challenges associated with the large scale arrival of Venezuelans. It remains critical that any new measures continue to allow those in need of international protection to access safety and seek asylum," stressed Grandi. "We commend the efforts already made by receiving countries to provide Venezuelans with security, support and assistance. We trust that these demonstrations of solidarity will continue in the future," said IOM's Director General, Ambassador Swing, in Geneva.</p>