

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE

An Emergency Appeal for Children and Families



Situation Overview

On 24 June 2026, at approximately 6:04 p.m. local time, two successive earthquakes measuring 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude struck north-central Venezuela, with their epicenters near Morón, Carabobo State. Among the strongest earthquakes recorded in the country in more than a century, the tremors were felt across much of Venezuela, causing widespread destruction in La Guaira, Distrito Capital (Caracas), Miranda, Carabobo, Yaracuy, Falcón, Aragua, Lara, and Trujillo.

More than 30 aftershocks have been recorded, prompting authorities to declare a national state of emergency and designate La Guaira as a disaster zone.

The latest official reports indicate **at least 589 deaths, nearly 3,000 injuries and 30,000 registered unaccounted for**, though these figures are expected to rise significantly as search and rescue operations continue. **Over 45 building collapses** have been reported across La Guaira and Caracas, while critical infrastructure, including Maiquetía International Airport, hospitals, schools, electricity networks, water systems, and telecommunications services, has sustained substantial damage.

Thousands of families are sleeping outdoors or in temporary shelters due to fears of continued aftershocks and unsafe buildings. This disaster strikes a

country already facing significant humanitarian challenges. Prior to the earthquake, nearly **8 million people** in Venezuela required humanitarian assistance, amplifying the vulnerability of affected communities and limiting their capacity to recover.

The Devastating Impact

Children and their families are among the most vulnerable following a disaster of this magnitude. While search and rescue, rubble removal, and technical assessments remain active, the immediate priority must focus on urgent, lifesaving interventions as well as addressing urgent core child protection and vulnerability risks.

The earthquake has created extensive humanitarian needs resulting from population displacement, collapse of essential services, overcrowded shelters, disrupted supply chains, and damaged health infrastructure.

Communities are currently facing:

- Limited access to safe drinking water.
- Disrupted sanitation services.
- Increased risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.
- Food insecurity and disruption of local markets.
- Loss of household assets and essential items.
- Reduced access to emergency medical care.
- Psychological distress among children and caregivers.
- Increased protection risks for children, women and vulnerable populations.

Women and girls require access to dignity supplies and safe assistance mechanisms, while children face heightened risks of family separation, neglect, emotional distress, and exposure to violence and exploitation.

The closure of the country's primary international airport has further complicated humanitarian logistics and relief supply chains, requiring increased reliance on maritime routes and overland transportation corridors.

LOCATIONS MOST AFFECTED

- La Guaira (Vargas): critical, worst hit
- Caracas (Distrito Capital): Altamira, Los Palos Grandes, Sebuacán, San Bernardino, Las Minas de Baruta, Los Símbolos, La Candelaria, La Pastora, Catia
- Miranda, Falcón, Aragua, Carabobo

CHILDFUND'S RESPONSE

ChildFund conducts lifesaving activities — **critical humanitarian interventions necessary to protect the lives and immediate well-being of children and their families during crises** — worldwide at all stages of the humanitarian cycle.

ChildFund, together with **Caritas de Venezuela and AVESSOC** (Asociación Venezolana de Servicios de Salud de Orientación Cristiana), is already on the ground conducting rapid assessments and coordinating with local authorities and humanitarian actors to identify

priority needs and support affected children and families.

Cáritas Venezuela has over six decades of community presence across the country, operating through a hyper-localized parish network and sentinel site system built around the Catholic Church to reach underserved and hard-to-reach populations. **In response to the earthquake, Cáritas has immediately mobilized its diocesan network across La Guaira, Caracas, Miranda, Falcón, Aragua, and Carabobo, opening Catholic Church parishes as temporary shelters and distribution points, conducting rapid needs assessments in the hardest-hit areas, and coordinating with allied organizations to identify and reach the most vulnerable children and families.**

AVESSOC (Asociación Venezolana de Servicios de Salud de Orientación Cristiana) is a faith-based organization operating 71 health centers and community clinics across 17 states, with deep roots in underserved communities throughout Venezuela. **In response to the earthquake, AVESSOC has activated a comprehensive emergency response plan to provide emergency medical support to those affected in La Guaira, the hardest-hit area.** Actions underway include collecting and distributing essential medical supplies, providing food for rescue workers and affected families, recruiting volunteer medical staff, nurses, and logistics support, and mobilizing fundraising to cover medical care for those impacted.

Response Duration: 90-day emergency response phase, with potential expansion based on evolving needs and available resources.

Potential Reach

- 5,000 children and caregivers during the initial emergency response
- Up to 15,000-30,000 people through scale-up interventions if additional funding becomes available

MEETING CRITICAL NEEDS

- **Child Protection:** ChildFund will implement lifesaving child protection interventions to ensure children and adolescents live free from violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect.
 - **Psychosocial Support (PSS) and Psychological First Aid (PFA):** Emergency psychosocial support will help children and caregivers cope with trauma, grief, anxiety, and emotional distress caused by the earthquake and ongoing aftershocks.
 - **Dignity Kits:** Distribution of culturally appropriate dignity kits to women and adolescent girls to support menstrual hygiene management and reduce protection risks.
 - **Lifesaving Medical Care:** Emergency health services will be delivered through multidisciplinary



teams and Pop-Up Service Points (PUSPs) to address injuries, dehydration, heat-related illnesses, and other urgent health concerns.

- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** ChildFund will support vulnerable households with essential WASH assistance to reduce health risks and promote safe and dignified living conditions.
 - **Emergency Hygiene Kits:** Households will receive essential hygiene supplies. Kits may include: bathing and laundry soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, menstrual hygiene supplies, disinfectants and cleaning materials, water storage containers, and washing supplies.
 - **Safe Water Access:** Families will receive kits including water purification tablets, safe water storage containers, and household water treatment supplies.
 - **Food Security:** Emergency food assistance will help vulnerable households meet immediate food needs and protect children's nutritional well-being during the emergency phase.
- **Rapid Assessments and Coordination:** Ongoing assessments, monitoring, and coordination with humanitarian partners will ensure interventions remain responsive to emerging needs and aligned with national response efforts.

FUNDING REQUEST: USD 1,000,000

Urgent funding is needed to provide lifesaving protection, health, WASH, and food security assistance to children and families affected by the earthquake in Venezuela.

WHY CHILDFUND

Immediate Presence: ChildFund staff and local partners are already on the ground conducting assessments and engaging with affected communities in the hardest-hit areas.

Locally Led: The response is delivered through Venezuelan partner organizations with deep community roots, trusted relationships, and extensive experience supporting vulnerable children.

Coordinated: ChildFund is actively engaging with humanitarian coordination structures, including local coordination forums, humanitarian working groups, and protection sector coordination mechanisms.

Accountable: ChildFund International provides overall response leadership, financial management, implementation oversight, safeguarding, monitoring, and donor reporting.

WHO IS CHILDFUND

Eleven child-focused development and humanitarian agencies are part of the global ChildFund Alliance network, which helps children and their families overcome poverty and the underlying conditions that prevent children from reaching their full potential. Together we reach nearly 36 million children and family members in 66 countries. In Venezuela, ChildFund International is the response lead, coordinating closely with Alliance members EDUCO (Spain) and WeWorld (Italy) to ensure a coherent and complementary response.

TO SUPPORT THIS APPEAL

To support this emergency response or discuss partnership opportunities, please contact:

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