

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE

An Emergency Appeal to Protect Children



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 and Distrito Capital (Caracas), as well as significantly affecting Miranda, Carabobo, Yaracuy, Falcón, Aragua, Lara, and Trujillo. More than 30 aftershocks were recorded, prompting authorities to declare a national state of emergency and designate La Guaira as a disaster zone.

As of July 26, the latest official reports indicate at least **5,546 deaths** and **16,740 injuries**. 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.

The disaster has affected an estimated **3.9 million children** living in the impacted areas. This emergency comes on top of Venezuela's already fragile humanitarian situation, where nearly **8 million people** were already in need of humanitarian assistance prior to the earthquake, further limiting communities' capacity to cope and recover.

Devastating Impact on Children

Children and their families are among the most vulnerable during disasters, including during and after earthquakes. The earthquakes have caused widespread displacement, destruction of homes and public infrastructure, disruption of essential services, and severe pressure on already vulnerable communities. Thousands of families require urgent humanitarian assistance while damage assessments continue. Per OCHA's Rapid Needs Assessment, of assessed areas, 53% require urgent medical support, 52% lack safe water, 50% face food shortages or nutrition issues, 27% require psychosocial support, 22% have sanitation and hygiene needs, and 18% have urgent protection needs.

Children face heightened risks of injury, family separation, displacement, psychosocial distress, and other child protection concerns during natural disasters. Women, girls, and unaccompanied minors separated from their families are at particular risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse, requiring specialized protection services.

As humanitarian partners, local organizations, and national authorities continue to scale up operations, urgent funding is needed to deliver lifesaving assistance and protect displaced children and families, especially unaccompanied minors, and women and girls facing gender-based violence.

ChildFund's Response

The **ChildFund Alliance (ChildFund)** is a group of 10 child-focused humanitarian and development organizations that help nearly **36 million children** reach their full potential in **66 countries** worldwide.

Two members of ChildFund Alliance, **ChildFund International (United States)** and **Educo (Spain)**, are responding to the earthquake in Venezuela to conduct lifesaving activities — critical humanitarian interventions necessary to protect the lives and immediate well-being of children and their families.

Working through local partners **CECODAP**, **Fundainil**, **AVEC**, and **Casa Hogar Bambi Venezuela**, and in coordination with national authorities and humanitarian coordination mechanisms, ChildFund is prioritizing the protection, safety, and psychosocial well-being of children in the most affected communities.

Our response includes:

- Identifying and supporting unaccompanied and separated children, and leading case management.
- Operating Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) for displaced children.
- Delivering MHPSS activities through group and individual psychosocial support for children and caregivers.
- Conducting educational support activities and preparing for a safe return to education.
- Providing wraparound health, WASH, and food security assistance.

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

Why ChildFund

- **Immediate Local Presence:** ChildFund staff and local partners are on the ground conducting assessments and engaging with affected communities in the hardest-hit areas. The response is delivered through Venezuelan partner organizations with deep community roots, trusted relationships, and extensive experience supporting vulnerable children.
- **Clear Coordination:** ChildFund is actively engaged with humanitarian coordination structures, including local coordination forums, humanitarian working groups, and protection sector coordination mechanisms.
- **Accountability:** ChildFund International is leading the response and providing experienced financial management, implementation oversight, safeguarding mechanisms, and donor reporting structure.

Support This Appeal

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

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FUNDING REQUEST: 4,000,000 USD

