



VENEZUELA - PROTECTION CLUSTER STRATEGY 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Humanitarian Architecture and existing mechanism

In 2018, the United Nations (UN) began to expand the provision of humanitarian assistance in Venezuela, complementing the actions of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, it was only during the first half of 2019 that the UN implemented a humanitarian coordination architecture in accordance with international standards, as indicated in Resolution 46/182 of the United Nations General Assembly (1991) and on the basis of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. This included the appointment of the Humanitarian Coordinator who leads the Humanitarian Country Team for strategic decision-making, the activation of eight thematic Clusters (Health, Education, WASH, Food Security, Nutrition, Logistics, Shelter, Energy and NFI and Protection including two dedicated areas of responsibility on child protection and GBV) to operationalize the response, an Inter-cluster Coordination Group, and four field coordination hubs (CCT - Centros de Coordinación en el Terreno) in Táchira, Bolívar, Zulia and Grand Caracas to ensure assistance as close as possible to people in need. UNHCR is the leading agency of the Protection Cluster that also incorporates two Areas of Responsibility specifically dedicated to child protection and gender-based violence that are coordinated by UNICEF and UNFPA respectively. The Protection Cluster also has three clusters at the sub-national level in Táchira, Zulia and Bolívar.

This coordination structure brings together all humanitarian actors, including national and international NGOs, UN agencies, funds and programs, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as an observer, all which have considerably increased their ability to respond to the crisis in Venezuela. In addition, OCHA has been established to support the entire structure.

1.2 The Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan 2020/2021

The Venezuela Humanitarian Response Plan with Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020 was published on 15 July 2020 as a hybrid document. It aims to provide 4.5 million vulnerable Venezuelan women, men, girls, and boys with humanitarian assistance. The Plan has a financial requirement of US\$762.5 million to provide health care, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and nutrition, shelter, protection, and education support. It builds on the humanitarian work carried out in 2019 through three strategic objectives: providing life-saving emergency assistance; securing livelihoods by improving access to basic services; and ensuring protection of the most vulnerable. Some 129 humanitarian organizations – including United Nations agencies and international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – are implementing the Plan, working closely with national institutions. The Plan incorporates the United Nations-led efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated health and other humanitarian needs and has also led to the return of thousands of Venezuelans from neighbouring countries who also need urgent support.

Within the HNO/HRP 2021, the Protection Cluster targets a vulnerable population of 2.6 M through 67 approved projects that were submitted by 58 partners of the Protection Cluster to achieve the following sectoral objectives:

- 1) Provide specialized assistance for the physical, mental and psychosocial wellbeing of people affected by

different forms of violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse, 2) Facilitate access to legal documentation, and 3) Strengthen the empowerment of communities, State institutions and civil society to prevent, mitigate and respond to the protection risks associated with displacement and mobility, including those related to gender-based violence and child protection.

Limited humanitarian access, due to the movement restrictions deriving from the Government-imposed quarantine, fuel shortages, and the low funding of the humanitarian response, are significant operational challenges. Despite this, the Protection Cluster has been able to maintain critical programs, including its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, benefiting as of November 2020 roughly one and a half million women, men, boys, and girls with specific protection needs.

1.3 The Protection Cluster in Venezuela

The Protection Cluster (PC) is a broad-based, participatory forum, comprising on an equal basis of United Nations agencies, human rights and development organizations and actors, as well as local and international non-governmental organizations. The Protection Cluster englobes over hundred-member organizations, making it one of the largest in the cluster system for Venezuela. In addition to the national level, the Protection Cluster has sub-national structures with participation in the CCTs of Zulia, Táchira, and Bolívar. UNHCR Heads of Field Office in Maracaibo, San Cristobal and Ciudad Guyana double-hat as Cluster Coordinators at sub-national level. The Protection Cluster also incorporates two Areas of Responsibility specifically dedicated to child protection and gender-based violence that are coordinated by UNICEF and UNFPA respectively. Also, these two AoRs have a sub-national structure in Zulia, Táchira, and Bolívar.

A Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) consisting of three permanent members (the Protection Cluster Coordinator and the two AoRs Coordinators) and five rotating members (in this first shift they are: CESVI, Tinta Violeta, Voces de Género, UNHCR and OHCHR) supports the Protection Cluster Coordinator and its AoRs to develop and implement the strategic framework, priorities, and work plan for the cluster. The SAG also provides guidance on protection trends and emerging issues and recommendations on cluster response. Members of the PC meet periodically to provide updates and, as necessary, to discuss trends and coordinate action on critical issues. Members may call extraordinary meetings - upon consultation with cluster leads - especially when urgent action is needed.

2. CONTEXT ANALYSIS

The humanitarian situation in Venezuela continues following six consecutive years of economic contraction and other trends and events such as inflation coupled with episodes of hyperinflation, political, social and institutional tensions, situations of localized violence, and the recent impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This situation has an impact on the physical and mental well-being, living conditions and protection environment of the 7 million people estimated to have humanitarian needs in 2020. The population, and especially the most vulnerable people, have had to adopt coping strategies that include moving to alternative locations both internally and outside the country.

Although there are no official figures on the magnitude of internal displacement, a significant number of people have moved from the interior of the country to border areas, making pendular movements, crossing the border and returning regularly.

Other people have been displaced within their state of origin or residence, as well as there are reports of inter-municipal and inter-community movements and towards urban areas, including the capital, Caracas, in search of better access to services, goods and means of life. The situation has also prompted the departure of millions of people from the country. As of 5 November 2020, the R4V platform reported that there were around 5,45 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees worldwide, the majority in countries in the region. Additional drivers for displacement, some of which are also protection risks for persons on the move affecting their host communities too, include clashes between armed groups and/or between armed groups and security forces in some parts of the country, increasing rate of urban violence and violence by armed groups, gender-based violence, human trafficking, family separation and other violations of human rights (life, liberty, security, physical integrity, health, education, among others).

In the context of the Venezuela situation, the Protection Cluster's focus on protecting Venezuelans in a situation of vulnerability and people on the move.

3. SCOPE OF STRATEGY

In line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Centrality of Protection statement 2013 and the IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action 2016, the Venezuela Protection Cluster Strategy seeks to re-affirm that protection is a collective responsibility of all Humanitarian actors requiring the commitment of all partners that are part of the Protection Cluster including the two AoRs of GBV and Child Protection. It aims to address the most significant protection risks faced by affected populations that impact the entire humanitarian system in Venezuela, requiring common position, joint response, and advocacy by the Protection Cluster throughout the humanitarian programme cycle. It articulates and identifies the complementary roles and responsibilities among humanitarian actors that are part of the Protection Cluster to contribute to protection outcomes, by using all available tools and mechanisms to effectively protect vulnerable population in Venezuela

4. PROTECTION ANALYSIS

▪ **Human insecurity, vulnerability, and negative coping mechanisms**

The combination of poverty, poor access to health, education and livelihood and exposure to violence, present multiple threats to human security and vulnerability. Layers of vulnerability can result from the loss of heads of households, primary care givers or earning members, family separation and the breakdown of community support network structures, which can force persons to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour, survival sex, as well as put persons at risk of human trafficking, family violence, extortions and all forms of exploitation. Rising hyperinflation has drastically reduced the population's purchasing power. The economic situation, added to social instability, has stimulated an important migration of Venezuelans that are at risks of violence and exploitation.

▪ **Poor access to basic services such as education, health, nutrition, water, and sanitation**

Overall, severe scarcity of food and essential goods have severely compromised the lives and livelihoods of a large part of the population. According to a food security assessment conducted by the World Food Programme between July and September 2019, around 9.3 million Venezuelans are in situation of food insecurity and in need of assistance. Also, survey results showed that families are strongly concerned about the deterioration of basic services, including water, electricity, housing, and cooking facilities, among other services. Four out of 10 households reported daily cuts of water supply and daily electrical service interruptions. Roughly 72% of households interviewed reported irregular domestic gas supply.¹ According to ENCOVI 2020 data, around 71% of the population reported problems in the supply of basic services, including water. This situation is even worse for the thousands of people living in remote areas along the Orinoco river, especially Venezuelan indigenous peoples, who have limited or no access to water and sanitation, electricity, education, and health services. Roughly, only 33% of households in Amazonas reported access to electricity without interruptions, according to ENCOVI 2020 data. According to the Pharmaceutical Federation of Venezuela (Fefarven), Venezuela is suffering from an 85% shortage of medicines.² The lockdown has resulted in worsened living conditions as the vast majority of people and specifically people with disabilities, and chronic diseases that rely on daily income to survive.

▪ **Barriers to access to legal documentation**

Limited access to legal documentation, identity cards, passports, civil status certificates, travel authorizations, civil registration and birth certificates limits vulnerable groups' access to basic protection services as well as potentially restricting person's ability to participate in society. Difficult access to legal documentation is often due to structural deficiencies in supplies in public institutions (hospitals, notaries, civil registry and SAIME) and geographical distance between communities and public registry institutions. Moreover, high cost of public transportation; misinformation of the population about their registration rights and corruption can further limit access to registration.

¹ WFP (2019). Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/venezuela-bolivarian-republic/wfp-venezuela-food-security-assessment-main-findings-data>

² Available from: <https://www.ovsalud.org/noticias/2016/falta-medicamentos-crisis-economica-divisas-distribucion/>

- **Human Mobility**

The closure of borders with neighbouring countries as a containment measure for COVID-19, has led to an increased number of people on the move using irregular crossing points exposing them to serious protection risks including violence and extortion. Situation of violence occur both on the transit routes (highways and trails), as well as at the places of departure (bus terminals, cargo assembly point) and destination. Such actions are carried out by illegal groups, armed forced and individuals facilitating irregular mobility.

COVID-19 mobility restrictions in neighbouring countries resulted, in many cases, in the loss of livelihoods of Venezuelans involved in informal economies, which also resulted in the loss of their homes due to evictions. Since July 2020, the number of returnees has decreased, consequently, the number of active *Puntos de Atención Social Integral* (PASI), have been reduced to less than a hundred at the beginning of December 2020. At present people on the move leaving Venezuela is increasing with some pendular movements in the border areas. Some, including unaccompanied women and children, come from remote locations such as Aragua, Guárico, Carabobo, and Anzoátegui states.

- **Children at risks of violence and all forms of exploitation**

The COVID 19 pandemic has further exacerbated violation of children's rights that are now exposed to exploitation, denying children access to their rights to basic services.

Children and adolescents in Venezuela are highly vulnerable and often encounter different forms of violence, abuse, and neglect, including recruitment by armed groups, labour and sexual exploitation and are at heightened risk of GBV, human trafficking and smuggling. Girls and boys are particularly vulnerable to the risks associated with the lack of documentation, family separation, extortion, fraud, harassment, intimidation, and sexual violence. Unaccompanied and separated children face even greater risks of abuse and exploitation and challenges to access the national child protection systems for basic services, including higher risks of being deprived of their rights.

- **Gender Base Violence (GBV)**

Limited access to economic opportunities, changes in family composition and limited access to social services have created a situation of special need and vulnerability for women, girls, and boys. These include risks of being subjected to physical and sexual violence at the hands of their intimate partner, the threat of sexual abuse and forced sex work. Although GBV is widespread among the most vulnerable communities of Venezuela, it is often under reported and survivors face serious barriers to access social and legal services. In addition, the lack of information as to where to seek help and protection, the lack of knowledge about their rights and the limited availability of gender sensitive services in the country are all deterrent factors which impede to create a conducive environment for survivors to escape from violence and recover from the lingering trauma they have experienced.

- **Human trafficking and smuggling -**

People on the move and vulnerable groups that are escaping from extreme poverty, are particularly exposed to human trafficking and smuggling in Sucre, Táchira, Falcon, Bolívar y Zulia, Delta Orinoco. People in mobility that lack of a regular migratory status and have poor access to rights and services are severely exposed to protection risks and conditions of vulnerability, especially women and girls but also men and boys, and groups such as LGBTI persons.

There is an increased number of Venezuelan women, girls and boys that are trafficked within and outside the country for sexual and labor exploitation, lured from poor regions in the nation's interior and Venezuelan's states bordering Colombia, Brazil and Guyana. Victims are recruited through false job offers and subsequently forced into prostitution or conditions of labor exploitation.

- **Illegal mining - Arco Minero**

While the economic, humanitarian, and political crisis in Venezuela worsens, armed groups are competing for control of the country's valuable mineral resources. Irregular armed groups in control of illegal mines contribute to displacement by intimidating the population with various levels of violence. People under their control area have reported double collection of taxes ("vacunas") and other forms of persecution including labour exploitation and violence. People working in mines are under precarious living conditions and are exposed to diseases such as malaria and mercury poisoning. Other practices such as use of excessive force by the authorities, assassinations, human trafficking and smuggling, and prostitution are also present in the

area. These practices not only affect migrants from other states, but also indigenous populations from the states of Bolívar, Amazonas, and Delta Amacuro, who in some cases have been forced to move to neighbouring countries to safeguard their integrity.

- **Lack of access to protection and social services as a result of COVID 19 prevention measures**

Mobility restrictions due to COVID-19 negatively impacted basic health services including sexual and reproductive health and programs for people living with HIV. On the other hand, the constant failures in the supply of gasoline lead to increased prices of public and private transports, as a result vulnerable groups including women, children and elderly people are forced to walk long distances to access basic services. The limited availability of protection services by public institutions, the lack of trust in the services available, the lack of staff capacity to attend and monitor cases, and limitations of material resources make it difficult to protect Persons of Concern (POC). Likewise, the recurring failures in the electricity supply and communications, make it difficult to access the telephone attention services enabled during the pandemic.

4.1. Key Protection priorities

- **Vulnerable groups and persons with specific needs:** Ensuring access to protection and services for the most vulnerable and people with specific needs, while mitigating the risk of collapsing livelihoods and access to essential services.
- **Protection of indigenous communities:** Ensuring access of the indigenous communities to legal documentation, birth certificate and civil registry. Access to food, education, water and sanitation services and livelihood.
- **Protection mainstreaming and development:** Ensuring that the response to the protection needs of affected populations is systematically put in effect through mainstreaming and integration of protection across the humanitarian response.

5. PROTECTION CLUSTER STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1

- **Facilitate access to protection, basic services and livelihood for vulnerable population, with a specific focus on people on the move, children, women, girls, men and boys affected by gender based violence, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities and person with specific needs.**

Activities:

- Develop skills training programmes (i.e. life skills, vocational training, awareness sessions) to empower vulnerable communities and enable them to acquire new skills and capacities to become self-reliant.
- Strengthen humanitarian assistance in indigenous communities, including the spreading of key information messages and campaigns in indigenous languages.
- Provide legal assistance to vulnerable groups to ensure they are registered and have access to birth certificates and legal documentation.
- Advocate with local institutions, UN agencies and other relevant actors to promote access to public services, such as health and education for the most vulnerable groups.
- Identify sectors and geographic areas where public services need additional capacity to serve vulnerable communities (such as health centres and schools) and channel protection cluster partners to improve access and build capacity (for ex. expand facilities, hire more staff).
- Encourage a dialogue and active participation in the coordination structures of local institutions working on protection of person with specific needs, GBV, child protection, persons with disabilities and indigenous communities' defence.
- Enhance protection of people in need through livelihood recovery, and social cohesion; promote a rights-based approach to durable solutions and access to justice.
- Engage with legal services providers and consider strategic litigation in national and international tribunals to establish precedent on rights/access to services.

- Protect the rights of people on movement to be allowed to return to their permanent place of residence/origin and the application of all possible measures by advocating with governments.

Desired outcomes:

- Vulnerable Groups have access to basic services such as, water, food, health, education.
- POCs can engage in safe and dignified livelihoods and become economically self-sufficient.
- Dependency on aid is reduced and livelihood prospects expanded.
- All humanitarian interventions ensure safe access and use of appropriate services for the most vulnerable groups (protection mainstreaming).

OBJECTIVE 2

- **Strengthen the processes to collect, process, analyse, store, share, and use data and information to enable evidence-informed action, as well as the capacities of partner organisations on Protection Information Management. Identify and monitor key protection issues. Monitor and evaluate the humanitarian response.**

Activities:

- Protection Cluster partners will, among others, engage in monitoring and tracking population movement.
- Protection Cluster partners will, among others, engage in capacity building sessions on Protection Information Management that will serve as the foundations for principled, systematised, and collaborative processes to collect, process, analyse, store, share, and use data and information to enable evidence-informed action for quality protection outcomes.
- Partners will submit report to monthly 5Ws using the Cluster Standard Reporting Template or 5W template, ensuring information submitted is accurate. The Cluster Information Management Officer (IMO), will engage in data cleaning exercises and data quality assurance checks. Partners share, on a bimonthly basis, information on protection risks to inform and improve program design and implementation.
- Provide the HCT with sound evidence-based protection analysis, which can guide its decision-making and help set priorities for advocacy and programming.
- Strengthening intersectoral/inter-clusters data collection and analysis to ensure an effective response, based on the principles of Protection Information Management, in a safe, reliable, and meaningful way.³
- Enhance and regularly update the mapping of services dedicated to General Protection, Child protection and GBV such as health, psychological support, legal assistance, education, alternative care, livelihoods.
- Manage protection information products, including those that report on progress and assess the overall impact of the activities of protection cluster partners.
- Ensure that the impact of COVID-19 is monitored and considered in the humanitarian response.
- Map population needs through community consultations with a sample of the target population / prioritized population groups in each project, on the most appropriate, inclusive, and safe channels, languages and formats for two-way communication, and reliable sources in different geographical areas of the ground.

Desired outcomes:

- Humanitarian action is properly mapped and reflected.
- Protection Cluster partners have the capacity to manage and share protection data and information in a safe and responsible manner, with a defined purpose.

³ The principles, developed during the meeting held in Copenhagen (2015), are: people-centered and inclusive; do no harm; defined purpose; informed consent and confidentiality; data responsibility, protection, and security; competency and capacity; impartiality; and, coordination and collaboration.

- Humanitarian and development actors' programmes are designed to analyse, and monitor protection concerns in close collaboration with authorities in addition to ensuring strengthened coordination and capacity building efforts are in place.
- A System wide data collection and analysis is established ensuring an effective response and establishing a repository on protection risks/threats.
- Mitigate protection risks through a better identification and analysis of protection concerns.

OBJECTIVE 3

- **Strengthen the capacity of partners, authorities, service providers and civil society on rights access and protection issues.**

Activities:

- Enhance capacity of government agencies and non-state actors to draw and manage response which includes legal assistance, including access to legal documentation, housing, education, and health.
- Design and implement a questionnaire to identify and diagnose the capacity building needs of the humanitarian actors in Venezuela.
- Organize specific training and boost the capacity of government officials, civil societies and other key actors on relevant areas such as: European Convention on Human Rights International Protection (ECHR), including Community-Based Protection, Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Human trafficking, Education, Cash-Based Interventions, Health, Planning, Coordination, and Evaluation, Programme management, Budgets, project finance and financial reporting, Communication, advocacy and negotiation, Inter-agency coordination, Information management, Reporting, Monitoring and evaluation, AAP.

Desired outcomes:

- National, regional, and local authorities' commitment and capacity are strengthened to protect the most vulnerable people in Venezuela

OBJECTIVE 4

- **Mainstreaming and integrating protection into all sector and cluster-specific humanitarian responses - promoting durable solutions.**

Activities:

- Coordinate with other Clusters to ensure protection is mainstreamed, objectives of protection are integrated within their programs and stand-alone protection activities are put in place.
- Ensure protection is mainstreamed or integrated within each protection cluster partner's response at all stages of humanitarian programme cycle, including planning.
- Collaborate with humanitarian and development actors in promoting durable solutions.

Desired outcomes:

- A protective environment is created and sustained.
- Protection mainstreaming is fully implemented into the humanitarian response and decision-making process.
- A referral system is established.

OBJECTIVE 5

- **AAP - Strengthen accountability to affected populations through their involvement in all phases of the decision-making processes.**

Activities:

- To generate spaces for dialogue between partners that helps establish a common and unified vision of the three pillars of AAP (communication with communities, participations, community feedback mechanism) guided by the Collective AAP Framework of Venezuela.
- To verify and ensure that affected populations are highly engaged, informed and consulted during all phases of the Humanitarian Project Cycle (HPC) and each project included in the HRP describes how it integrates AAP activities in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, including functional Community Feedback Mechanisms that are inclusive, safe and appropriate to receive comments, questions and sensitive complaints as indicated in the organogram of AAP Collective Framework (Annex 2)
- To promote putting in practice a scale of operational actions for each of the AAP commitments, such as the minimum actions recommended by the Collective AAP Framework of Venezuela (Sept 2020), helping guide, monitor and report organizational progress, contributing to the collective advancement.
- To strengthen capacities of partner organizations in the three pillars and key elements of AAP.
- Conducting a diagnosis of what are the related existing opportunities and challenges to advance AAP at a cluster/ inter cluster level.
- Identifying priority issues (i.e. protection, access, and participation) that requires specific focus.
- Supporting the implementation through field visits, workshops, and training.
- Integrate and monitor activities related to the three pillars of AAP in the protection cluster dashboard.

Desired outcomes:

- Mapping of AAP practices and activities is established.
- Action plan on AAP at national level is drafted and implemented.
- A communication strategy for communication with affected communities is implemented.
- Feedback and complaints from affected populations are being properly handled by partners.

OBJECTIVE 6

- **Prevent and respond to serious forms of abuse and exploitation, including GBV and trafficking in persons through timely identification and referral mechanisms**

Activities:

- Establish mechanism for the systematic identification and referral of children at risk, survivors of GBV, victims of trafficking, groups engaged in survival sex, including survivors of exploitation and abuse, and those at heightened risk.
- Establish referral pathways for persons at risk of abuse and exploitation. Reinforce the capacities of Protection Clusters partners in case management, including staffing and capacity-building to ensure immediate referrals, appropriate response, and follow-up.
- Train communities and individuals on child protection, prevention, and response to GBV.
- Develop networks of community outreach volunteers and ways of transmitting and receiving information amongst groups of POCs.
- Develop and update the mapping of actors and services in each location, establishing new alliances and strengthening coordination among key actors and service providers in the communities. Strengthen the capacities of governmental institutions and local actors to ensure sustainability.
- Map, strengthen and support community structures and networks (i.e. neighbourhood committees, groups, or associations of Venezuelans) to mobilize their communities and to respond to the needs of those at heightened risk.
- Mapping humanitarian actors, including government bodies that can be included in the referral system mechanism, assess their level of competency, and consider whether new alliances/networks need to be built in order to extend the range of supports available to persons with specific needs.

- Strengthen protection monitoring at individual and community levels, implementing tools and strategies designed at global level.
- Establish specific programmes to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- Strengthen coordination with the competent authorities (Public Ministry, CPNNA, ONCDOFT, INAMUJER, among others) for a comprehensive approach and a sectorized response to the needs of the victims of trafficking.
- Establish alliances in other countries that are willing to accompany and welcome women in situations of sexual exploitation.

Desire outcomes:

- Risk of exploitation and abuse of vulnerable group is reduced.
- Person at risk, including GBV survivors and person trafficked are identified and receive protection services.
- Vulnerabilities resulting from factors such as gender, age, ethnicity and disability are reduced to increase affected community resilience.

OBJECTIVE 7

- **Advocate for the protection of vulnerable groups.**

Activities:

- Enhance Protection Cluster capacity to promote its public image and visibility; deliver persuasive, evidence-based, and solution-oriented messages to the public, decision-makers, stakeholders, and those who influence them.
- Create an enabling environment for effective implementation of policy changes to protect the rights of children and women, as well as to allow their voices to be heard at the highest level.
- Ensure the leadership role of the Protection Cluster in the analysis of protection within the humanitarian architecture.
- Draft and disseminate protection analysis documents with Humanitarian actors, including donors, local institutions, and strategic partners.
- Identify key messages and develop common positions on enjoyment of basic rights.
- Prepare public communications in accordance to GPC guidelines on advocacy.
- Develop joint messaging/ analysis on issues of humanitarian concern.
- Ensure that donors, government representatives and civil society groups receive information products and are on key mailing lists.
- Identified and strengthen access to rights through advocacy with state authorities and coordinated action among member organizations of the Cluster.

Desired outcomes:

- Enhanced awareness and advocacy to reduce protection risks of vulnerable groups including people on movement and ensure adequate treatment for all those in need.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a key component of this strategy, aiming to evaluate its impact and assess whether results are achieved. This is important for internal capitalisation and lessons learned, feeding into the improvement of ongoing and future strategies. The Protection Cluster Strategy covers the period of one year to ensure consistent and sustained approaches and mobilization of resources. Considering the dynamic nature of humanitarian situation in Venezuela, this strategy will be considered a working document to be amended depending on developments which require high-level intervention by the Protection Cluster.

An action plan will be drafted to monitor implementation of the collective protection outcomes of the Protection Cluster Strategy, including clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all humanitarian actors and measurable Means of Verification (MoV).

The purpose of this document is to emphasize the need for a coordinated and immediate humanitarian action to respond to the Venezuelan situation and prevent and mitigate protection risks, and will be tracked at two different levels:

User monitoring	User monitoring will be conducted to identify the number of PC partners accessing and implementing products developed, such as the referral system and referral pathways for persons at risk, diagnosis and reports.
Activities developed contribute to better humanitarian programme implementation	The PC should gather feedback before (baseline) and after (end line) implementation of the strategy at two levels a) mandating and institutional bodies (such as other Cluster Coordinators, HCT, donors, etc.) and b) Cluster partners.

Acronyms and abbreviations

AAP - Accountability to Affected Populations
AoR – Area of Responsibility
CCT - Centros de Coordinación en el Terreno
CP - Child Protection
CPNNA - Consejos de Protección de niños, niñas y adolescentes
ECHR - European Convention on Human Rights International Protection
GbV - Gender Base Violence
GPC - Clúster de Protección Global
HCT -Humanitarian Country Team
HPC - Humanitarian Project Cycle
HRP/HNO - Humanitarian Response Plan / Humanitarian Needs Overview
INAMUJER - Instituto Nacional de la Mujer
IASC - Inter-Agency Standing Committee
LGBTI - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex
M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation
MCR - Mecanismo Comunitario de Retroalimentación
MoV - Means of Verification
NGO - Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ONCDOFT - Oficina Nacional Contra la Delincuencia Organizada y Financiamiento al Terrorismo
POC - Persons of Concern
SAG - Strategic Advisory Group
SPNNA Sistema de Protección de niños, niñas y adolescentes
UN – United Nations
UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
UNOHCHR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

