

BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKES 2026

JUNE 2026



Photo: AFP/Juan Barreto

THE SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Two consecutive earthquakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 struck north-central Venezuela on 24 June 2026, triggering more than 500 aftershocks.

As of 28 June, provisional official figures report 1,450 people dead, 3,150 injured and more than 12,700 people displaced, while at least 2,500 infrastructures have been affected, including 38 hospitals and more than 700 buildings, particularly in La Guaira, the state most severely affected. **Damage estimates now exceed US\$6.7 billion, with widespread impacts on homes, critical infrastructure and essential services**, disrupting electricity, water, telecommunications and transport, while Maiquetía International Airport remains closed to commercial flights.

The Government has declared a national state of emergency and is leading search-and-rescue operations, emergency medical assistance and damage assessments. **The United Nations and humanitarian partners are supporting the Government-led response, including a coordinated multi-sectoral response** in three strategic locations in La Guaira, with immediate priorities focused on **search and rescue, emergency healthcare, temporary shelter and rapid infrastructure assessments**. OCHA has allocated US\$15 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and activated the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund (VHF) to rapidly channel resources to frontline partners. **The first days after a major earthquake are the most critical for saving lives. Early, flexible funding enables responders to act immediately, before needs escalate.**

WHY PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT MATTERS

Businesses and private foundations have consistently played a vital role in emergency preparedness and response. The UN encourages private sector engagement in humanitarian efforts, and **OCHA's Private Sector Unit can provide neutral advice and facilitate public-private partnerships and collaboration.**

THREE HIGH-IMPACT WAYS TO ENGAGE

1 Provide Flexible Funding (Highest Impact)

Financial contributions give frontline responders the flexibility to deliver what is most needed, based on evolving needs and real-time assessments.

While needs assessments are still ongoing, so far support should be prioritized for **search and rescue, emergency medical care, temporary shelter, infrastructure assessment, and other essential services**. Restoring power, telecommunications, water systems and transport access will also be essential to enabling the wider humanitarian response.

You can support trusted local organizations via the [Venezuela Humanitarian Fund](#) (note: OCHA does not raise funds for itself). To identify other funding options, you can write to Elisa Trujillo, OCHA Private Sector Coordinator for Latin America, at elisa.trujilloleyva@un.org.

What can OCHA offer?

Confidential, independent advice on the most urgent humanitarian needs and connection to trusted, vetted responders; plus guidance on principled humanitarian engagement in complex operating environments.

2 Offer In-Kind Support (When Needs Are Confirmed)

Cash is strongly preferred for speed and effectiveness. However, in-kind contributions can be helpful if aligned with verified needs and delivered quickly. Companies in telecommunications, logistics, transport, energy, construction and engineering may be particularly well placed to support the response where requested by humanitarian partners. If offering in-kind support, please include item(s) and quantity, estimated market value, timeline for delivery, shipping details and any other conditions to Elisa Trujillo at elisa.trujilloleyva@un.org.

3 Tell Us What You're Already Doing (Coordination = Impact)

Many private sector contributions are not coordinated with the humanitarian system, leading to duplication and inefficiency. Sharing your planned contributions helps humanitarian partners identify gaps, avoid duplication and maximize collective impact, and ensures that support reaches those most in need. You can visit the [Venezuela Earthquakes Private Sector Response Dashboard](#) to see what is already tracked. If your organization is providing funding or in-kind assistance please let us know by emailing Elisa Trujillo at elisa.trujilloleyva@un.org.

Why does it matter?

Because you help make response efforts more coordinated and efficient, reducing gaps and overlap.

STAY UPDATED WITH VERIFIED INFORMATION

Reliable and timely information supports effective action. [ReliefWeb Response](#) consolidates trusted updates, assessments, and situation reports.

ENGAGE RESPONSIBLY

- Respect Humanitarian Principles ([humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence](#)) and Minimum Standards ([Sphere Handbook](#) guidance).
- Protect People from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – more information [here](#).
- Be Accountable to Affected People, who should have a say on what they need – more information [here](#).

COMMERCIAL OFFERS / PROCUREMENT

For business opportunities with the UN, visit the **United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM)** at ungm.org.

CONTACT

For additional information, contact the OCHA Private Sector Unit at OCHAPrivateSector@un.org.