

Alert note

Venezuela Earthquake, 25 June 2026

Completed by: LWF , Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, HEKS/EPER

Date completed: 25 June 2026

Forum: Venezuela

Type of emergency: Natural disaster – Earthquake

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 24 June 2026

Funding Survey

We request funding members to please fill out this [survey form](#) which will help the **Emergency Steering Committee** assess the funding environment for this response. Please respond to this survey *within 24 hours of Alert publication*.

1. The nature of the emergency

On 24 June 2026, two powerful earthquakes (Magnitude 7.2 followed by 7.5) struck north-central Venezuela near Morón (Carabobo State), at a depth of approximately 10 km. The events occurred within 39 seconds, constituting a rare “doublet” earthquake. Strong shaking was felt across Caracas, Carabobo, La Guaira, Miranda, and Aragua, as well as in neighboring Colombia and parts of the Caribbean.

The Government of Venezuela has declared a State of Emergency. The situation remains fluid, with ongoing aftershocks increasing risks to affected populations and complicating response efforts. According to USGS, the first quake (M7.2) originated at 18:04:33 local time, 24 km east-northeast of San Felipe (Yaracuy State), followed 39 seconds later by the M7.5 event 23 km southeast of Yumare. Acting President Delcy Rodríguez decreed a State of Emergency and suspended school and non-essential activities on 25 and 26 June 2026 nationwide.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

This is assessed as a large-scale emergency.

Strong shaking caused significant damage in urban areas, particularly in Caracas, including the Palos Grandes area where LWF offices are located. Reports indicate:

- Collapse of multiple residential and commercial buildings
- Damage to critical infrastructure, including roads and public facilities
- Severe disruptions in electricity and telecommunications across several states
- Structural damage to Simón Bolívar International Airport, leading to temporary closure

As of 25 June 2026, authorities report at least 164 deaths and 971 injuries, although figures are expected to rise as search and rescue operations continue. Several heavily affected areas remain difficult to access, and assessments are ongoing.

The USGS PAGER system issued a Red Alert, estimating a 44% probability that fatalities could exceed 10,000.

An estimated 800 people are projected to be directly targeted in the first 48 hours (approximately 200 households).

Affected populations include urban residents, particularly vulnerable groups such as women- and child-headed households, older persons, people with disabilities, and those living in structurally weak housing.

Short-term impacts include loss of shelter, injuries, disruption of basic services, and psychosocial distress. Long-term consequences are likely to include prolonged displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased protection risks.

3. Local and national capacity

Affected populations are primarily relying on family and community support networks while many remain in open spaces, temporary gathering areas, vehicles, and public facilities due to ongoing aftershocks and concerns over the safety of damaged buildings. Power outages and disruptions to telecommunications are affecting access to information and communication with family members. Through its teams and local partners in Caracas, Delta Amacuro, Sucre and Carabobo, LWF/FLM observes that communities are also drawing on pre-existing community networks and local partner structures built through ongoing WASH, health/nutrition, legal assistance and MHPSS programming, which are now being leveraged to support initial response efforts.

The Government of Venezuela has declared a State of Emergency and mobilized national response capacities, including search and rescue teams, emergency medical services, Civil Protection authorities, and security forces. Schools have been temporarily closed, with some facilities designated as temporary shelters and collection points for relief assistance. Authorities have also established a reconstruction fund and appealed for additional equipment and resources to support rescue operations.

National actors, including Civil Protection, health services, local authorities, and the Venezuelan Red Cross, are actively engaged in search and rescue, emergency medical care, evacuation support, and the provision of immediate relief assistance to affected populations. Authorities are shifting rescue teams from other parts of the country to La Guaira. Local authorities have been extremely weakened because of political and economical crisis. OCHA has a strong presence in the country due to the crisis and is expected to organize coordination and ensure access.

International support is beginning to mobilize, with several governments offering humanitarian assistance, search and rescue teams, and medical support. Reports indicate that UN-certified search and rescue teams are deploying to support national efforts. Humanitarian organisations are monitoring the situation and conducting rapid assessments to identify priority needs. LWF/FLM and HEKS/EPER, as part of the ACT Alliance and with its established presence in the country, has already begun rapid assessments and initial response activities in coordination with local partners in the affected areas, and is positioned to scale up jointly with other national and international actors.

Humanitarian coordination mechanisms are being activated to support information sharing, needs assessment, and response planning. At the time of writing, information on the formal activation of the UN cluster system remains limited; however, coordination among government authorities, UN agencies, the Red Cross Movement, and humanitarian partners is ongoing. LWF/FLM and HEKS/EPER regularly participates in, and in some cases contributes to leadership of, existing humanitarian coordination mechanisms in Venezuela, and will channel information on the earthquake response through these spaces as they are activated.

4. Key needs and gaps

The situation remains under assessment, but preliminary information indicates significant needs in search and rescue support, emergency medical care, shelter assistance, food security, WASH services, protection, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Many affected households may require temporary shelter support due to damage to homes and continued aftershocks, while disruptions to electricity, telecommunications, and other basic services are affecting access to essential assistance.

Priority needs identified at this stage include:

- Search and rescue support and emergency medical care for injured and trapped individuals
- Emergency shelter assistance for displaced households and those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed;
- Food assistance and basic relief items for affected families;
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services;

- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to address trauma and distress caused by the earthquake and aftershocks; for both people in need and LWF staff.
- Restoration of basic services, including electricity and communications.
- Provide essential equipment and operational supplies to support search and rescue teams and first responders conducting life-saving operations.

Current response efforts are focused primarily on life-saving interventions. However, several challenges and gaps remain, including limited access to some affected areas due to infrastructure damage, insufficient information regarding the full scale of displacement and humanitarian needs, pressure on health services and emergency response capacities, and limited immediate funding available for rapid response activities.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
LWF World Service	Capital District, Miranda, Vargas, Delta Amacuro, Sucre, Carabobo	Emergency response, shelter, WASH, protection, MHPSS, cash and voucher assistance (if possible), NFI, Health, Food Security, Nutrition
HEKS / EPER	La Guaira, Capital District, Miranda	Primary Health (mobile clinics), Search and Rescue, MHPSS, WaSH, CASH, NFI, Food Security, Shelter, Early Recovery (Circular Reconstruction)
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe	Caracas, States of Miranda, La Guaira, Aragua, Carabobo and Falcon	WASH, mental health, Health (SRH), Shelter and NFI

6. Potential responses

A multi-sectoral needs assessment team of DKH and partner organisations, in coordination with HEKS/EPER and LWF is deployed and started in the affected areas.

LWF action plan response include:

- Provision of kits NFI's and menstrual hygiene kits items to affected populations in the Caracas and La Guaira areas.
- Provision of personal protective equipment and medical/emergency supplies to support earthquake response, including adhesive gauze, Solution 0.9% (saline), macrodrip IV sets, bandages, IV catheters (Yelco), face masks, gloves (leather work gloves and surgical/exam gloves), shovels, helmets, and grinding/cutting wheels.
- Provision of supplies to health centres through local partners.
- Food security support for affected households.
- NFIs and shelter support for households whose homes were damaged or destroyed.
- Supplies to support volunteers involved in the response.
- Psychosocial support (MHPSS) for affected people, including women, children/adolescents and their caregivers.

- Support to family tracing and reunification, including restoring contact between separated family members.
- Healthcare delivery and distribution of health supplies with partners.

HEKS EPER Action Plan includes:

- Mixed Response: HEKS EPER and two long-standing OCHA vetted local partners.
- Operation of mobile health clinics for primary health and MHPSS and referral system.
- Support brigades of first responders through provision of materials.
- WaSH: distribution of portable water, hygiene kits, and information campaigns.
- CASH distribution based on vulnerability criteria. First time that this modality will become available in VNZ, we are keen to position ourselves on an admirative level to facilitate the flow of CASH USD into the emergency response.
- Food Security: Distribution of Food Kits following sectorial standards.
- Shelter: provision of basic kits in initial phase. Evaluating needs for temporary settlements.
- Early Recovery: Circular Reconstruction with a focus on housing and critical infrastructure, recovery of community WaSH infrastructure.