



Venezuela Earthquakes

Situation Report #1

June 25, 2026

Devastating 7.2 and 7.5 earthquakes have caused widespread damage, building collapses, and impacted healthcare in Venezuela. Critical infrastructure is damaged, access to power and clean water is disrupted, and Simón Bolívar International Airport is closed. Health workers and first responders continue to work to save lives, but aftershocks, severe damage, and chronic shortages of medical supplies are straining an already weakened health system and limiting access to care. Project HOPE-supported health facilities are responding and providing emergency and trauma care. Project HOPE has deployed three rapid assessment teams to La Guaira, Distrito Capital, and Miranda to scale up our response.

Situation Overview

Venezuela is grappling with the most powerful set of earthquakes to strike the country in more than a century. On the evening of June 24, 2026, at 6:04 pm, local time, a magnitude 7.2 foreshock was followed by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake just 40 seconds later. Currently, seismologists put the epicenter in the town of San Felipe, west of Caracas. Tremors from the quakes were felt across multiple states and as far away as Colombia and Brazil's Amazon region, more than 1,700 kilometers away.

The twin quakes triggered widespread building collapses, with the capital, Caracas, and the coastal state of La Guaira among the hardest hit. The Los Palos Grandes and

Key Updates

- **Two powerful back-to-back earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5 struck northern Venezuela on June 24, 2026, causing widespread destruction.**
- **Project HOPE-supported health facilities within the affected area are treating patients and providing emergency and trauma care.**
- **Project HOPE has three rapid assessment teams** deployed to La Guaira, Distrito Capital, and Miranda, evaluating needs, and informing next steps to scale our response.
- **Health centers in Distrito Capital and Miranda report structural damage, power outages, and insufficient medical supplies, straining access to essential, lifesaving healthcare.**
- **At least 188 people have been killed, and over 1,500 injured.** Death and injury tolls are expected to rise as tens of thousands are likely missing and **many people are still trapped under rubble.**

Altamira areas of Caracas suffered severe damage, and La Guaira has been declared a disaster zone. Authorities report at least 188 people killed, more than 1,500 injured, and tens of thousands likely missing, a toll that acting President Delcy Rodríguez has warned will rise as search-and-rescue operations continue and many people remain trapped beneath collapsed buildings.

Rodríguez also reported that more than 30 aftershocks have been recorded since the initial quakes, with authorities warning that further seismic activity remains possible. **People are reporting dozens of collapsed buildings, broken water lines, disrupted power, neighborhoods filled with rubble, residents sleeping outdoors, and additional shaking that continues to traumatize survivors.**

A state of emergency has been declared and Simón Bolívar International Airport — the country’s main international gateway — has been forced to close, complicating the arrival of international aid. **Damage to infrastructure, aftershocks, and Venezuela’s pre-existing economic and humanitarian crises are compounding the disaster and straining an already fragile health system.**

Key Developments

Health System Impact

- Several health centers in Distrito Capital and Miranda report **structural damage, collapses in nearby buildings, and power outages forcing reliance on backup generators.**
- Facilities are treating patients with injuries and trauma, referring serious cases to larger hospitals, such as Domingo Luciani, located in eastern Caracas.
- **Many health centers report insufficient medical supplies,** with recurring shortages of antibiotics, analgesics, wound-care materials, and IV fluids.

Infrastructure & Access

- The closure of Simón Bolívar International Airport is expected to constrain the arrival of international relief.
- Dozens of aftershocks, power disruptions, and damaged roads are complicating rescue and resupply efforts, increasing the importance of coordination with local health workers and humanitarian aid workers that know the region best.

National & International Response

- National authorities have activated emergency response and search-and-rescue operations across the affected states.
- **International assistance is mobilizing,** with the United States and several Latin American and European governments pledging rescue teams and humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian Outlook & Concerns

The situation in Venezuela remains highly critical, with disaster conditions further hindering access to healthcare, medicines, and essential supplies. The combination of large-scale destruction, a damaged international airport, and Venezuela’s severe pre-existing economic and humanitarian crises raises concerns about the potential for conditions to deteriorate rapidly.

Project HOPE’s priority concerns include:

Key Updates (cont.)

- A disaster zone has been declared in Caracas and the coastal state of La Guaira, where buildings have collapsed and **Simón Bolívar International Airport is closed due to damage.**
- Project HOPE has responded to multiple earthquakes in recent years, including the 2025 Myanmar earthquake, the 2023 Türkiye-Syria earthquakes, the 2023 Morocco earthquake, the 2022 West Java earthquake, and the 2021 Haiti earthquake.

*“Especially as humanitarian workers who witness crises in other places up close, I believe **nothing prepares you to experience [a disaster like this] in your own homeland.**”*

– Project HOPE team member in Venezuela

- Disruptions to healthcare access and emergency medical care
- Shortages of medications and essential medical supplies
- People trapped under collapsed buildings and the need for search-and-rescue and trauma care
- Damage to water, power, and sanitation systems affecting essential services
- Heightened protection risks for displaced people and others at an increased risk of harm
- The compounded impact on households already in vulnerable positions due to Venezuela's pre-existing crises

Project HOPE's response

Project HOPE-supported health facilities — including 14 health care facilities in Distrito Capital and Miranda — within the affected area are responding and actively treating patients, providing emergency and trauma care as the situation unfolds. Project HOPE has deployed three rapid assessment teams to La Guaira, Distrito Capital, and Miranda, with teams actively evaluating conditions at the time of this report. These assessments are focusing on the humanitarian impacts of the earthquakes, including disruptions to healthcare services, access to medicines and essential supplies, protection concerns, and the effects of infrastructure damage and supply chain disruptions on populations in vulnerable positions.

Project HOPE is coordinating with local partners and international stakeholders to support the emergency response. **Project HOPE's long-standing partner, SAMU, has its K-9 Search and Rescue Team on standby, including multiple medical personnel and highly trained search dogs, to support operations in the affected areas.**

Project HOPE has worked in Venezuela since 2019, strengthening access to health services, medicines, and health education, while supporting local health workers and community-based responses to humanitarian needs. Project HOPE has a team of over 100 in the country and additional Project HOPE emergency response team members are mobilizing to support the most urgent health and humanitarian needs.

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“The earthquakes that hit Venezuela last night in rapid succession are historic in magnitude and come at a time when the country is reeling from triple-digit inflation, an ongoing displacement crisis, and a collapsed healthcare system.”

– Chris Skopec, Project HOPE President