

# Older people in Venezuela Factsheet

November 2019

## Context

Venezuela has descended into a socioeconomic and violent crisis, resulting in widespread poverty, collapse of basic services and displacement of 4 million people across the region. 7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (IOM Appeal Sept 2019).

HelpAge International and Convite did a data collection in Venezuela through face to face individual interviews using a structured survey. There were 903 respondents, 465 female and 438 male -46% of them answered that they are living with a disability. The three states follows Bolivar selected due to its proximity to the Brazilian border, Lara because of its high concentration of older people, and Miranda due to its socioeconomic diversity.

With the report, the situation of older people in Venezuela is evidenced and would support older men and women lead active, dignified, healthy and secure lives. This applies to all older population including those affected by humanitarian emergencies.

Current humanitarian intervention is not taking the specific needs of older people into account: 97% of them have not even been consulted about their needs or the issues they are facing.



More than half of Venezuela's older people cannot afford to buy food, while 80% report that they cannot get hold the kind of food they are able or want to eat.



## Older people in Venezuela top priorities

Priorities	Data
<b>Medicine</b>	75% of older people report that health services do not have medicines available.
<b>Food</b>	3 in 5 regularly go to bed hungry, with one in 10 doing so every single night.
<b>Cash</b>	Pension is equivalent to US\$2 a month in Venezuela -basic food necessities is US\$122 per month.
<b>Protection</b>	67% of older people depend on family and friends to meet their basic needs.
<b>Long-care</b>	23% of older women and men live alone and are easily missed by the response.

## Recommendations for an inclusive response

- Put support in place to ensure prioritised needs of older people in Venezuela -medicine, food and fuel-.
- Sufficient cash should be provided to ensure food can be purchased and that cash grant is proportional to the dependants.
- Provide inclusive, one-off or short-term cash transfer designed to reduce the debt burden of older people.
- Provide outreach and home-based care to older people at risk as part of protection interventions.
- Provide transport to health centres or mobile medical services to reach the <30% who cannot access them.
- Increase adequate stock and affordability of essential medication.

**HelpAge**

International

Read the full report at:  
[www.helpagela.org/publicaciones/  
publicaciones-destacadas/](http://www.helpagela.org/publicaciones/publicaciones-destacadas/)

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