

Statement by Venezuelan civil society organizations in relation to the Situation Report on the UN humanitarian scaling-up in Venezuela

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In relation to the recent publication of the first Situation Report on Humanitarian Scaling-up in Venezuela prepared by the United Nations, the undersigned organizations and individuals wish to express the following:

1. We take note of the fact that for the first time the existence of the Coordination Team for Cooperation and Assistance (ECCA) as the Humanitarian Country Team is publicly acknowledged, which is a clear expression that Venezuela is going through a complex humanitarian emergency alerted for more than 4 years by Venezuelan civil society organizations, before national and international institutions, which demands a large-scale response coordinated by the United Nations.
2. We express our uneasiness not only because of the delayed response of the United Nations System (UNS) to this serious situation that has claimed many lives and caused suffering of Venezuelans, but also due to the fact that the Situation Report is a unbalanced and incomplete document, which leaves out a broad perspective of the seriousness of the complex humanitarian emergency and the needs for relief and attention throughout the country. By privileging only the activities carried out by the UNS, it is impossible to put in perspective the impact of the response in regards to the needs. As it is, the Situation Report can lead to erroneous conclusions about the dimension of what is happening in Venezuela and play against the formulation and implementation of an adequate response proportional to the magnitude of the humanitarian needs of the Venezuelan population.
3. We express our deep concern and alarm at the fact that the original Situation Report included information that does not correspond to the reality on the ground, which was duly denounced by civil society organizations working in the defense of rights of people with HIV. The original version spoke of 10 million HIV medications that had benefited 50,000 people for 3 months in 24 states. Hours after this Situation Report was made public, it was replaced by a new version that corrected the original, noting that 1.6 million tablets were distributed to specialized HIV pharmacies in 24 states, which is expected to start or reactivate the treatment of at least 30,000 people with HIV in the coming months.
4. The above is a serious fact that concerns us not only because the change was made from one version to another without notice or explanation, but also by the discrepancy between the two versions and the magnitude of this discrepancy. This situation highlights the difficulties of internal coordination and information management by the UN System, which jeopardize the seriousness and transparency of the system, not being up to the demands of the Venezuelan crisis.
5. We note with concern that in both versions the participation of civil society is highlighted, specifically in the response to HIV/AIDS, when such participation has been impeded by the Venezuelan State, a fact known to the UNS in Venezuela. Moreover, in recent days there have been reprisals by authorities against HIV activists after a statement was made public denouncing the discrepancy in the figures included in the two versions of the Situation Report released by the United Nations.
6. We demand that the United Nations team take into account in its operations and activities the context of repression, harassment and institutional weakness that characterizes Venezuela, in particular the reprisals against human rights defenders and humanitarian actors. In this sense, we call for humanitarian action not only to focus on the delivery of aid, but also on the protection of those involved in it, be it delivery or reception.
7. Considering that the Situation Report must describe the humanitarian emergency, and understanding that its purpose is both to inform and to alert about the scale and scope of the emergency, as well as the gaps in

responding to humanitarian needs, we regret that only one mention has been made in a short sentence to the existence of "important humanitarian needs". In addition, it mentions a "draft document of needs overview" that has not been made public to date, even though it was presented by the Relief Coordinator at the Security Council meeting on April 10, 2019, and whose figures were referred to by the UN Secretary General in just a Twitter message, indicating that currently a total of 7 million people have humanitarian needs in Venezuela.

8. Having access to the aforementioned needs overview, whose figures were used for the Situation Report, is not only vital for the protection of people in Venezuela who are risking their lives, safety and well-being, if there is not a timely, proportional and effective response, but it can also put in doubt basic aspects of independence, accountability and transparency established in humanitarian norms and respect for the right of access to public information in areas of extreme importance for Venezuela.
9. Finally, those of us who subscribe to this pronouncement have no other purpose than to be part of the search for solutions to the humanitarian emergency in Venezuela. The humanitarian response is a right and an obligation of the State and the international community, framed in protection mandates and adherence to imperative and universal principles of international law, as established by the policies and regulations of the United Nations humanitarian agencies; therefore, we consider that it cannot be lent to ambiguities or deviations from these mandates. In this sense, we are in a position to provide assistance and support but also to make our positions known in the face of any event, action or omission that could distort the process.

Subscribed by:

Organizations:

1. A.C. Médicos Unidos de Venezuela
2. Acceso a la Justicia
3. Acción Solidaria
4. ACCSI, Acción Ciudadana Contra el SIDA
5. ACOANA, Asociación Venezolana para la Conservación de Áreas Naturales
6. Aconvida
7. AID FOR AIDS Venezuela
8. Aula Abierta
9. Alianza Colectiva Contra El VIH – ACOVIH Portuguesa
10. Alianza Venezolana por la Salud – AVS
11. Amigos Trasplantados de Venezuela
12. Aprovida Zulia
13. Asociación Civil Centro de Educación Integral Gurrufio
14. Asociación Civil Fuerza, Unión, Justicia, Solidaridad y Paz – FUNPAZ
15. Asociación Civil Impacto Social – ASOCIS
16. Asociación Civil Impulso Vital Aragua ACIVA
17. Asociación Civil Mujeres en Línea
18. Asociación de Derechos Humanos Amigos de Margarita – ADHAM
19. Asociación por la Vida – ASOVIDA Mérida
20. Asociación Venezolana para la Hemofilia
21. Asociación Vida y Luz
22. Asociación Venezolana para una Educación Sexual Alternativa – AVESA
23. ASOMUVIH Portuguesa

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30. Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Metropolitana – CDH UNIMET
31. Centro de Investigación Social, Formación y Estudios de la Mujer – CISFEM
32. Centro de Justicia y Paz – Cepaz
33. Centro para la Paz y los Derechos Humanos “Padre Luis María Olaso” UCV
34. CIIDER Venezuela
35. Civilis Derechos Humanos
36. Clima21 – Ambiente y Derechos Humanos
37. Codevida
38. Codhez – Comisión para los Derechos Humanos del Estado Zulia
39. Comité de DDHH de la Guajira
40. Comisión de DDHH de la Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Políticas de LUZ
41. Comisión para los Derechos Humanos y la Ciudadanía – CODEHCIU
42. Comisión Nacional de DDHH de la Federación venezolana de Colegios de Abogados del estado Apure
43. Comisión Nacional de DDHH de la Federación venezolana de Colegios de Abogados del estado Mérida
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45. Comisión Nacional de DDHH de la Federación venezolana de Colegios de Abogados del estado Táchira
46. Conciencia Ciudadana A.C
47. Control Ciudadano para la Seguridad, la Defensa y la Fuerza Armada Nacional
48. Convite AC
49. Defensa en Acción
50. Defiende Venezuela
51. EDEPA
52. Espacio Público
53. Equipo Voluntario de Ayuda Humanitaria – EVAH
54. Excubitus DHE
55. Federación de Colegios de Bioanalistas de Venezuela – FECOBIOVE
56. Fénix ONG
57. Funcamama
58. Fundación Aguaclara
59. Fundación Agua Sin Fronteras
60. Fundación Arcoíris por la Vida
61. Fundación Conciencia Por La Vida
62. Fundación Lucelia
63. Fundación MAVID
64. Fundación para la Prevención de la Violencia Domestica hacia la Mujer-FUNDAMUJER
65. Fundación Parkinson Carabobo
66. Fundación San Onofre
67. Fundasidarta Táchira
68. FundaRedes
69. Gran Familia de la Salud

70. Gente y Ciudad
71. Gobiérnatec
72. Hogar Virgen de los Dolores
73. Huellas en Positivo Barinas
74. ICASO
75. Instituto Mead de Venezuela A.C
76. Justicia y Paz OP Venezuela
77. LaboCiudadano
78. Laboratorio de Paz
79. Lara en positivo
80. Liga Merideña contra el Sida
81. Madres y Padres por los Niños en Venezuela – mapanivzla
82. Médicos Unidos Venezuela Capitulo Carabobo
83. Médicos Unidos Venezuela capítulo Táchira
84. Monitor Social A.C.
85. Movimiento Ciudadano Dale Letra
86. Movimiento SOMOS
87. Movimiento Vinotinto
88. Mulier
89. Observatorio de derechos humanos de la universidad de los Andes
90. Observatorio Global de Comunicación y Democracia
91. Observatorio Penal Mérida – OPEM DDHH
92. Observatorio Venezolano de la salud
93. Observatorio Venezolano de Los Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres – OVDHM
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104. Red de Acción y Defensa por los Derechos Humanos – RADDH
105. Red de Defensores de Derechos Humanos Nueva Esparta
106. REDHNNA
107. RedOrgBaruta
108. RVG+
109. Revista SIC del Centro Gumilla
110. Sociedad Hominis Iura – SOHI
111. Sociedad Médica Maternidad Concepción Palacios
112. Stop VIH
113. Un Mundo Sin Mordaza
114. Una Ventana a la Libertad
115. Unión Afirmativa de Venezuela
116. Unión Vecinal para la Participación Ciudadana A.C

117. Universidad de Los Andes
118. Vicaría de Derechos Humanos de la Arquidiócesis de Barquisimeto.

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