

Caritas Australia launches Venezuela earthquake appeal.

Caritas Australia has launched an urgent appeal to support communities in Venezuela after two powerful earthquakes struck on 24 June, causing widespread destruction and loss of life.

The earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude, hit central and northern regions of the country, killing 188 people and leaving over 1,500 people injured, with 150 people still missing. Families are displaced following significant damage to homes and critical infrastructure across multiple states, including Caracas and La Guaira.

As of early 2026 the [UN reported](#) 7.9 million people in Venezuela already needed humanitarian assistance due to political and economic uncertainty, alongside floods, landslides and other climate shocks.

Following the earthquake the Venezuelan Government has declared a national state of emergency as authorities continue to assess the scale of devastation. More than 30 aftershocks have been recorded, hampering search-and-rescue operations, increasing the risk of further collapse and preventing many displaced families from safely returning home.

Caritas Venezuela, part of the global Caritas network, is already on the ground assessing needs and coordinating a humanitarian response through its diocesan teams across affected areas.

Caritas Australia CEO Kirsten Sayers said the scale of the disaster is still unfolding, but the needs are expected to be immense.

“Communities across Venezuela have been shaken not just by the earthquakes, but by the loss of homes, livelihoods and loved ones.

Our partners, Caritas Venezuela, report families are being forced to sleep outside, with damaged buildings and ongoing aftershocks making it unsafe to return home. For many, churches are the first place they turn to for help.

Right now, urgent support is needed to provide safe shelter, food, clean water and emergency supplies.”

Caritas Venezuela has begun mobilising relief efforts, including establishing collection points for essential items such as food, water and medicines, and opening channels for financial donations to support affected communities.

Assessments are ongoing, with Caritas teams working to build a clear picture of the most urgent needs and ensure a coordinated, effective response.

Caritas Australia is calling on Australians to stand in solidarity with the people of Venezuela during this time of crisis.

“In moments like this, global solidarity matters. Every contribution helps ensure families can access the essentials they need to stay alive, rebuild and recover,” Kirsten Sayers said.

Funds raised through the appeal will support Caritas Venezuela’s emergency response and recovery efforts, delivered in partnership with local communities and the Church.

To support Caritas Australia’s Venezuela earthquake appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/venezuela or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

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