



Venezuela Earthquake Response Update 001

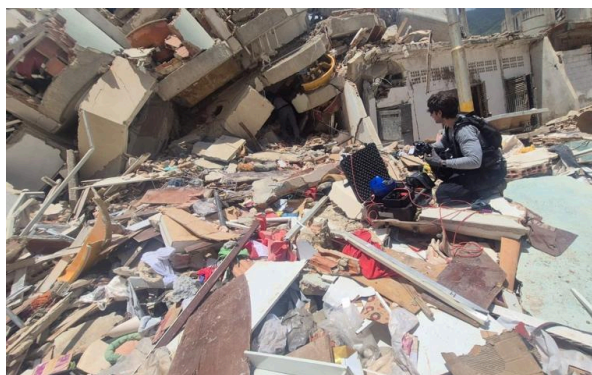
Response Highlights as of July 5, 2026

On June 24, two consecutive earthquakes (magnitude 7.2 followed by 7.5 mainshock) struck north-central Venezuela. On Sunday, July 28, Rescue Response International (RRI) mobilized former members of world-renowned UN INSARAG classified search and rescue teams to Venezuela. Thanks to the support of Airlink, who coordinated flights for team members on United Airlines and Avianca, the team was able to get in-country quickly. As always, partnership and coordination are critical in making our work possible.



RRI landed with 13 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team members, 3 search dogs, and 4 support staff. RRI-1's Incident Commander and subject matter experts possess over 25 years of experience. Uniting 3 separate USAR teams under the "RRI-1" umbrella, search dogs, drones, search cameras and Delsar (acoustic listening devices used to find trapped survivors) were used to conduct 17 Assessments, Search, and Rescues (ASR). The sites were tasked by the Local Emergency Management Authority (LEMA) coordination cell, which assigned initial tasks of Wide Area Reconnaissance. As RRI-1 was a light, mobile, and well-trained team, it was able to conduct fast reconnaissance and turn sites over to larger teams for extraction.

While working in the impacted areas, RRI-1 was able to find two "positive hits" - signs of life



beneath the rubble confirmed by search dogs and Delsar. The team worked to closely pinpoint the location of trapped victims and then called in teams with heavy equipment to work to extricate any possible survivors. RRI-1's thorough assessments provided hope to families affected by the earthquake by finding those that might be saved and giving closure to families still searching for loved ones beneath the collapsed buildings.

Forward-Looking Plans

As USAR team members transition out of the country, RRI is planning a coordinated effort towards relief and recovery. The RRI team has conducted meetings and initial assessments, working with key partners in-country. RRI will look to support critical power, water, sanitation, hygiene and logistics in Venezuela. To be cost effective and efficient, we are also partnering with information management and mapping experts to identify the most vulnerable populations and track impact.

Meetings with our partner MapAction have been instrumental not only in guiding where and how we target moving forward, but also in supporting RRI to rapidly understand the context and ground operations to keep USAR team members safe while they work.

RRI is also working closely with Convoy of Hope, Footprint Project, Water Mission, and other NGO partners in-country as we tailor the next phase of our work to best serve the Venezuelan people. Meetings with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Food Program (WFP) are ongoing to understand how our work can best complement theirs.

As always in response, RRI and our partners are committed to open data sharing and operating in an open humanitarian architecture, sharing all information with partners. When it comes to helping the people of Venezuela, regardless of organization, we are one team.

Contact: Laurel@RescueResponseInternational.org

RRI is committed to supporting first responders to rapidly deploy in emergencies, get on the ground in time to find and help survivors and their families, and support humanitarian efforts. Supporters can donate to the efforts through <https://rescueresponseinternational.org/donation/>. The sister organization of Haiti Air Ambulance, RRI, is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and donations are generally tax-deductible for individuals and corporations.

