

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

JULY 2026

Planet Water Foundation | Disaster Response Alliance

EVENT BACKGROUND

On June 24, 2026, two powerful earthquakes struck northern Venezuela within just 39 seconds of each other, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude. Both were shallow, with the main event occurring at a depth of approximately 10 kilometers, increasing the level of destruction. The shaking was felt across northern Venezuela and as far as Colombia, followed by more than 1,200 aftershocks.

The hardest-hit areas were La Guaira and Caracas, with La Guaira experiencing the most severe damage. Buildings collapsed, roads became difficult to access, and many communities lost electricity and municipal water services. The National Assembly declared La Guaira a disaster zone due to the scale of the destruction.

Authorities reported more than 16,700 people injured and nearly 18,000 people left without homes. More than 800 buildings were affected along the coast, including approximately 190 that completely collapsed. In Caracas, more than 20,000 people were staying in 107 temporary shelters, while NASA satellite analysis estimated that around 58,000 structures were affected across the region.

The disaster created significant humanitarian needs, including emergency shelter, safe drinking water, sanitation, healthcare, and other essential support. With many families displaced, communities continue to face significant challenges as recovery efforts move forward.











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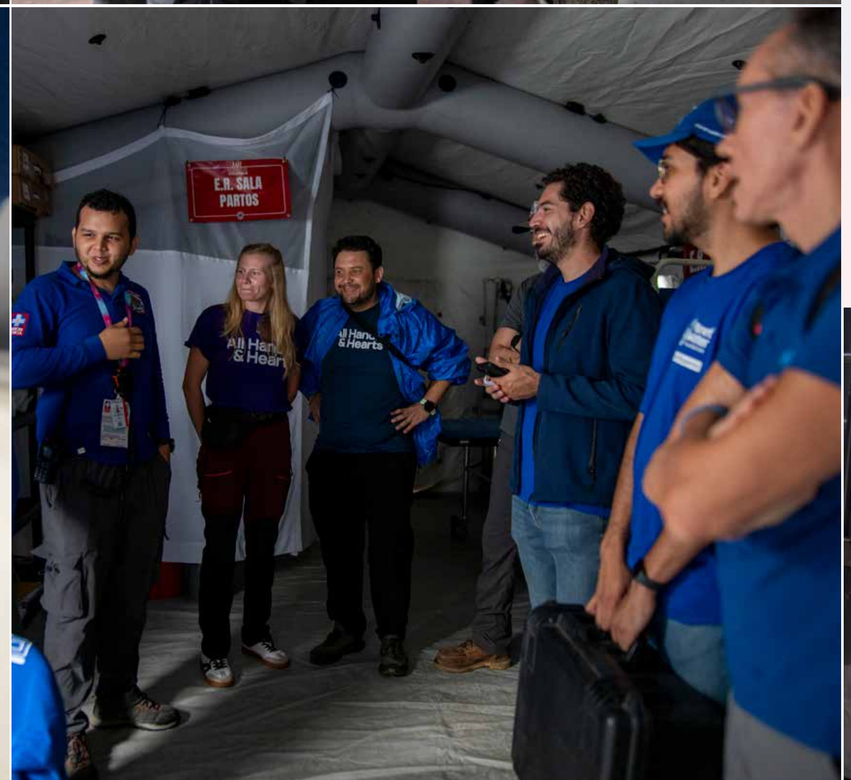

OUR RESPONSE

Following the devastating earthquakes, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) requested international assistance to support the emergency response. In response to the urgent need for safe drinking water, Planet Water mobilized a Disaster Response team and high capacity emergency water filtration systems to support communities across the affected areas of La Guairia.

The team arrived in Venezuela on July 18 and began field assessments the following day, working with partner organization All Hands and Hearts to identify priority locations. Over the next three days, the team assessed communities across Catia La Mar, Mamo, Naiguatá, Caraballeda, and Maiquetía, evaluating population needs, water availability, storage capacity, accessibility, security, power supply, and local caretaker support. Water quality testing was also conducted at each potential site to ensure the systems could safely produce drinking water.









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Six locations were selected for deployments: San Francisco de Asís Church in Naiguatá; Carlos Soublett Clinic in Caraballeda; San José Obrero Church in Mamo; Casa Global de Destinos Church and La Lucha Cultural Center in Catia La Mar; and Urbanización Brisas de Maiquetía. These sites included churches, a healthcare facility, a cultural center, and a residential community serving thousands of people. Many were experiencing disrupted municipal water supplies and had become dependent on water trucks or temporary storage tanks.

Following site preparation and delivery of materials, six water filtration systems were successfully installed and tested. Local caretakers, including community volunteers, church staff, and healthcare personnel, received training on system operation, cleaning, and maintenance. Inauguration events also allowed residents to begin accessing safe drinking water immediately, with hundreds of people attending and bringing bottles and containers.

Follow-up visits confirmed strong community acceptance and reliable system operation. The team reinforced caretaker training, addressed technical needs, and observed reduced dependence on bottled water at several locations, helping communities redirect limited resources toward other essential needs.

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AquaTower Water Filtration System

In the immediate aftermath of an earthquake, rapid intervention through the deployment of water filtration systems is essential to help prevent a health crisis and support recovery.

The AquaTower solution has a three-stage water filtration process incorporating ultrafiltration (UF) hollow fiber membrane technology and activated carbon for enhanced water quality. It produces up to 1,000 liters of safe drinking water per hour.











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AquaBlock Emergency Water System

The life-threatening waterborne illnesses that are rampant during emergency situations can be prevented with the help of Planet Water Foundation's AquaBlock Emergency Water System. This advanced water filtration system has a four-stage water purification process and produces 700 liters of safe drinking water per hour with capacity to support the daily drinking needs of up to 6,000 people. Each system is setup on an existing non-potable water source and processes this water to produce microbiologically safe drinking water.

Deployment 1

San Francisco de Asis Church

Naiguata - La Guaira

July 24, 2026



“I spend every day at the church because if I stay home, I keep thinking another earthquake is coming. Having access to safe drinking water is a huge benefit for our community, especially when the municipal supply is not always available. Many people we knew lost their lives. I don’t even want to watch the news because I know it would break me.”

María Bolívar
Resident











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Deployment 2

Dispensario Carlos Soublett

Caraballeda - La Guaira

July 24, 2026











“After the earthquake, we lost doctors and nurses, but we had to keep working to care for our community. We have seen a significant increase in diarrhea, stomach infections, dehydration, and illnesses directly related to unsafe drinking water. Providing safe drinking water will improve the health of thousands of people in the communities we serve.”

Dr. Dayana Campos
Resident

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Deployment 3

San Jose Obrero Church

Mamo - La Guaira

July 25, 2026









“The most urgent need after the earthquake was water. We had no running water, which made life extremely difficult. To all the organizations working to provide safe drinking water, I would like to say that your work is truly invaluable. I pray that God will continue to bless you, give you strength, and provide you with the resources you need to continue this mission.”

Patricia Vargas
Resident





Deployment 4

Iglesia Casa Global de Destinos

Catia La Mar - La Guaira

July 26, 2026

“When we saw our building had collapsed, we realized we had lost everything and were left with nothing. I went back inside to save my dogs and cats. Saving them was all I could think about. This system will help us economically and protect our health. It is a tremendous support for our community.”

Leida Tovar
Resident













Deployment 5

La Lucha Cultural Center

Catia La Mar - La Guaira

July 28, 2026









“Our home was destroyed. We spent two weeks sleeping outside, and now we sleep on our porch because it’s the only safe place left. Water barely reaches our neighborhood. When it doesn’t, we have to buy it because we have no other choice. This water treatment system will help us so much. We won’t have to travel far or pay for water anymore.”

Odali Domínguez
Resident



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Deployment 6

Urbanización Brisas del Mar

Maiquetia - La Guaira

July 30, 2026









“When we tried to leave our home, we couldn’t even reach the door because the shaking was so violent. We had no access to safe drinking water until this system was installed. There are very few ways to get clean water now. This is exactly what our community needed.”

Yordano Reyes
Resident







Planet Water Foundation extends our gratitude to our partners for their invaluable support.

Through this response we were able to bring clean, safe drinking water to up to 28,000 people affected by the Venezuela Earthquake.

All Hands & Hearts

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