

**June 2022**

**Food Programme: Cáritas Guaraunos (Sagrado Corazón de Jesús)**

**Located in Municipio Benitez, Sucre State**

**June 2022 Progress Report**

1. **Summary**

During the first half of the year, thanks to our supporters, Healing Venezuela has been able to prevent malnutrition in children in a small village in Guaraunos, Sucre State, where we have been working since 2018. The programme continues to be run entirely by volunteers both in the UK and on the ground and is under the umbrella of *Cáritas de Venezuela* with whom we share statistics on malnutrition as they have been monitoring the situation at a national level over the past years. During the first 6 months of 2022, we could provide cooked breakfast, lunch, and a snack from Monday to Friday to 97 children, striving to offer a balanced diet including Venezuelan staples like *Empanadas, Arepas and bollitos* despite the challenges posed by the scarcity of petrol and food in general. An alarming trend in the severe malnutrition category has been observed, and actions are being considered to correct this. This report includes a summary of anthropometric measures, disbursements, and the number of meals offered.

1. **Anthropometric Measures**

Healing Venezuela Food Programme follows the World Health Organisation criteria on malnutrition, which requires measuring height, weight, arm circumference, and skinfold thickness. Taking into consideration sex and age, the values are included in the Pediatric Z-Score calculator to assess in which risk category the child is. There are four main categories, being the riskiest CLASS 1 – Red (severe malnutrition) and the least risky CLASS 4 – Blue (out of danger). For the Guaraunos food programme, measurements are taken every 3 months to monitor progress.

When analysing the data, it´s important to consider that the rate of severely malnourished children in our programme (4.12%) is still lower than the national average of 26% as reported by *Cáritas de Venezuela* in November 2021. Also, a key factor to take into account is that the children who fall in this category are four homeless siblings of a single mother living all in the public square. They are 8, 11, 13, to 15 years old. In the past, we were able to provide enough food to keep the youngest ones in less risky categories, but as the children are growing, the food provided during the week is not enough. Jointly with *Cáritas* and our volunteers, we are considering options to support this family in other ways, for example, feeding the children also during the weekend. The rest of our beneficiaries are all stable or improving, which reassures us that, apart from exceptional circumstances like the ones described before, the programme is working.

**TABLE 1 - ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASURES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Development Growth Classification W.H.O** | | **Apr’ 22** |
| Class 1 RED | Severely malnourished | 4.12% |
| Class 2 AMBER | Middle malnourished | 7.21% |
| Class 3 YELLOW | Moderately malnourished | 25.77% |
| Class 4 GREEN | Vulnerable | 40.20% |
| Class 5 BLUE | Out of danger | 22.68% |

1. **Funds disbursement**

In 2022, hyperinflation seems to be under control, but it’s still around 2 digits. The poverty rate continues to be more than 90% which is not surprising considering that the current basic goods basket is $500 per month, whilst the minimum salary is between $30 - $50 per month. To keep the budget under strict control, we continue requesting weekly invoices and menus (see examples in Annex 1).

Table 2 shows how funds have been distributed during the first half of the year. During recent months and because of inflation, the monthly disbursement has reached $2300, equivalent to approx. $23 per child per month. A total of £9534 have been invested to deliver 15,042 meals to 97 children during the first six months of the year.

**TABLE 2 - FUNDS DISTRIBUTION FIRST SEMESTER**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of sponsorship** | **Bank transfer** | **Description** | **Amount $** | **Amount £** | **No. of Children** | **Working days** | **Meals per day** | **Total Meals** |
| 1/6/2022 | 1/10/2022 | Bank Transfer Jan’ 22 | 1200 | **887** | 89 | 9 | 2 | 1,602 |
| 2/8/2022 | 2/11/2022 | Bank Transfer Feb’ 22 | 1500 | **1106** | 89 | 18 | 2 | 3,204 |
| 3/11/2022 | 3/14/2022 | Bank Transfer Mar’ 22 | 2300 | **1757** | 96 | 15 | 2 | 2,880 |
| 4/1/2022 | 4/4/2022 | Bank Transfer Apr’ 22 | 2700 | **2051** | 96 | 8 | 2 | 1,536 |
| 5/10/2022 | 5/11/2022 | Bank Transfer May 22 | 2300 | **1870** | 97 | 10 | 2 | 1,940 |
| 6/13/2022 | 6/14/2022 | Bank Transfer Jun’ 22 | 2300 | **1863** | 97 | 20 | 2 | 3,880 |

1. **Conclusions**

Apart from the four siblings who live in extraordinary circumstances, the programme is proving to be able to keep malnutrition under control in this very impoverished area of rural Venezuela. We are hoping to alleviate the conditions of the four children at risk with the support of the community. There is a long waiting list of children that we would like to be included in the programme, but as the situation worldwide deteriorates because of inflation and the Ukraine crisis, raising funds has become much harder. Thanks to our supporters, it has been possible for 97 children to keep at bay the spectrum of malnutrition devastating Venezuela.

Our next report will be in December 2022.

1. **Annexes**

**EXAMPLE OF WEEKLY MENU DATE: 16/5 TO 20/5/2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MEALS** | **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** |
| **BREAKFAST** | (AREPAS) CORNBREAD WITH SCRAMBLE EGGS AND SAUSAGES | AREPA WITH CHEESE | (BOLLITOS) HAM AND CHEESE TAMALES | AREPA WITH HAM CHEESE | AREPAS WITH SCRAMBLE EGGS AND SAUSAGES |
| **SNACK/JUICE** | RICE PUDDING | RICE PUDDING | OAT JUICE | RICE PUDDING | PORRIDGE |
| **LUNCH** | RICE, SHREDDED BEEF AND PLANTAIN | PASTA WITH MEATBALLS | RICE, BLACK BEANS, BEEF AND FRIED PLANTAIN | RICE, CHICKEN CASSEROLE AND PLANTAIN | SPAGHETTI WITH CHICKEN AND VEGETABLES |
| **JUICES** | BANANA JUICE | GUAVA JUICE | BANANA JUICE | PAPAYA JUICE | BANANA JUICE |

**EXAMPLE OF INVOICES**

**Text

Description automatically generated A picture containing text, receipt

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**Pictures**

**A group of children around a table

Description automatically generated with medium confidence A group of bowls with food in it

Description automatically generated with low confidence**

**A child standing in front of a wall

Description automatically generated with low confidenceA child standing in front of a wall

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

**A picture containing wall, indoor, person, standing

Description automatically generated**