

July 19, 2026

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Jesús "Txuo" Rodríguez S.J.

Listening to accompany: the human and technical imperative of rebuilding after the La Guaira earthquake

On June 24, 2026, the seismic reality of the national territory reminded us of the vulnerability of our physical structures and, more urgently, the fragility of the lives of thousands of families. After the earthquake that shook various parts of Venezuelan geography, the material and emotional scars remain open in the most vulnerable communities. In this scenario, the Jesuit Mission in Venezuela has redoubled its efforts through the Emergency 2026 campaign, aimed at mobilizing urgent resources and sustaining comprehensive accompaniment with affected populations.

Fr. Jesús "Txuo" Rodríguez, S.J., who leads this campaign from Unidos en la Misión, has been in the "ground zero" of La Guaira on several occasions, devoting himself to direct encounters with those who lost their homes or live in fear of new aftershocks.

The first step: active listening

For the Society of Jesus, true humanitarian aid is grounded in listening to the affected person as the first step to restoring the dignity taken by the catastrophe.

"We keep walking through the affected area, we keep listening to the testimonies, the stories, but also affected by the life and reality of these people who experience firsthand what it is to be shaken by an earthquake. And on this journey we keep hearing those needs where we can concretely help, where we can make our contribution..."

A concrete, technical, and focused response

The work of Unidos en la Misión seeks to transcend immediate assistance to propose a model of human reconstruction, focused on essential areas that often go unattended after disasters:

- Psychosocial accompaniment: primary care to address trauma, grief, and loss.
- Educational and social strengthening: rehabilitation of community and educational spaces.
- Livelihoods: family economic reactivation strategies.

"As we are providing humanitarian assistance to people, relieving their suffering, we are thinking strategically about how we can do it better and technically how we can implement it in the best way."

The strength of the network: building together

Under the leadership of the Society of Jesus, a joint action plan is being articulated that integrates all the works of the Jesuit province of Venezuela, with coherence from the critical emergency phase to the definitive stages of physical and community reconstruction. It seeks to build bridges with the private sector, international NGOs, and civil society.

The reconstruction of La Guaira will not be limited to raising walls; it is about rebuilding hope, the social fabric, and community security. The Emergency 2026 campaign remains active, inviting all sectors to join this organic, orderly, and profoundly human effort.



EMERGENCY 2026 – FE Y ALEGRÍA

Report No. 3 (July 17, 2026)

Message to Venezuela: people are the priority

In the face of this difficult emergency, Fe y Alegría is grateful for every message and support received. Its response as a Movement stems from one certainty: the priority is to care for, protect, and directly serve its staff, students, their families, and nearby communities. The institution holds that psycho-emotional and spiritual accompaniment is the foundation of its work: healing trauma, relieving the anxiety caused by the earthquakes, and offering resilience tools to teachers, students, and parents as an essential step before thinking about returning to educational continuity.

"When you share your bread with the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, your night will become like the noonday... you will find rest, your hunger will be satisfied, you will feel strength in your bones, you will be like a well-watered garden" (Is 58:10-11).

Updated figures as of July 17, 2026:

- 250 families served with direct and immediate aid in affected areas.
- 133 educational centers and offices monitored to determine their level of structural damage.
- 52 educational centers with infrastructure damage requiring urgent intervention.
- 105 staff homes with severe damage requiring direct support.
- 30 human losses reported: 29 students and 1 teacher from the Fe y Alegría family.

Institutional priorities:

- Psycho-emotional and spiritual care, with strategies focused on mutual support and rebuilding hope.
- Priority infrastructure repairs to ensure safe and habitable school environments.
- Support for staff and families through delivery of food kits, hygiene supplies, and direct accompaniment of displaced persons.



Situation in La Guaira (El Martillo, Caraballeda):

During an accompaniment visit to families of students from Escuela Simón Bolívar, it was confirmed that the greatest need is the lack of drinking water and emotional support. In desperation, families have begun filtering seawater using makeshift methods, which they themselves recognize as unsafe for human consumption. The lack of internet prevents them from communicating or requesting help.

Psychological impact on youth (three patterns detected):

- Denial and dissociation: minimizing or disconnecting from emotions.
- Avoidance behaviors: marked resistance to talking about or processing what they experienced.
- Physical manifestations of extreme stress: hypersomnia and hyperphagia.

Adults express a deep need for active listening, emotional accompaniment, and prayer. Fe y Alegría makes an urgent call to activate psycho-emotional care, provide safe spaces for children and adolescents, and supply drinking water.

Volunteer network activation:

On July 16, a team of 4 Mapfre Seguros volunteers visited Colegio Luisa Amalia Vegas (El Junquito) with 16 affected students, delivering educational materials and didactic games.

Padel united for Fe y Alegría:

On July 11, the Solidarity American Tournament "Padel with Venezuela" was held, a simultaneous event in several clubs worldwide to raise resources to recover two schools affected by the earthquake.

How to help?

- home.donarfeyalegriavzla.org/educacion
- unidosenlamision.org
- feyalegria.org/emergencia-venezuela
- Contacts: Fr. José Gregorio Terán S.J., Nelly Briceño, Luis Sánchez.

JRS VENEZUELA REPORT

July 13 to July 17, 2026



JRS begins implementation of Accompaniment Project for persons displaced and seeking refuge due to the earthquakes.

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Venezuela began implementing the Accompaniment Project for persons affected by the earthquakes recorded on June 24, 2026, in the north-central region of the country.

The organization has oriented its emergency response through Comprehensive Protection Accompaniment for affected persons, as well as for organizations, parishes, and community networks leading the direct response in both Caracas and La Guaira.

This accompaniment is carried out through a field presence, directing actions to strengthen community processes by establishing alliances with key actors such as community organizations, parishes, and frontline emergency networks.

The coordination seeks to identify the most vulnerable persons, organize and channel aid in a dignified and protective manner, provide technical accompaniment to organizations to strengthen their response capacity, and promote the incorporation of minimum protection standards and humanitarian principles in assistance distribution processes.

A second line of action will provide emergency psychosocial accompaniment to affected persons and to volunteers, parishes, and organizations to strengthen emotional support and self-care, under a protective response.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

To join the global Emergency 2026 campaign and support those affected, we invite you to visit <https://unidosenlamision.org/emergencia2026/>. On this portal you will find all available channels to make your contributions quickly, securely, and transparently through our Jesuit network present around the world.