

To: Calvin Watkins, Vice President, NAD
From: W. Derrick Lea, NAD ACS Executive Director
Re: Update June 26, 2026

Many of you have asked what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is doing in response to the devastating earthquakes that struck Venezuela. I wanted to provide you with the latest information so you can accurately answer questions within your local conferences and churches.

As a reminder, **this event is outside the response area of the North American Division Adventist Community Services (ACS)**. Our ACS disaster response responsibilities are generally limited to the North American Division territory, which includes the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Guam, and the Micronesian Islands. Therefore, ACS is **not** deploying resources or personnel for this response.

However, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is actively responding through the **Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)**, our church's international humanitarian organization.

I have been in direct communication with ADRA regarding their response. ADRA has activated its emergency response protocols and is currently assembling and outfitting a response team. They have activated a National Emergency Management Plan (NEMP), and the regional office has been deployed and is prepared to enter the affected area as soon as the airport is reopened and access is available. ADRA teams are conducting rapid needs assessments and coordinating with local authorities and humanitarian partners to determine the most effective response.

At this time, **ADRA is requesting financial (cash) donations** rather than donated goods. Monetary contributions provide the greatest flexibility, allowing relief teams to purchase needed supplies locally when possible, reduce transportation costs, and respond quickly as needs change.

Current Situation

The situation in northern Venezuela remains extremely challenging. The twin earthquakes caused catastrophic damage to homes, hospitals, roads, and other critical infrastructure. Search and rescue operations continue as responders work to locate survivors, while thousands of families have been displaced from their homes. Power outages, damaged communications, and transportation disruptions continue to complicate relief efforts. Simón Bolívar International Airport sustained damage, delaying the arrival of international assistance until flight operations can safely resume. Hospitals are overwhelmed, and emergency shelter, clean water, food, and medical care remain urgent priorities.

Even before this disaster, Venezuela was facing significant humanitarian challenges, including strained healthcare services, limited access to basic necessities, and millions of people already in need of humanitarian assistance. The earthquakes have dramatically increased those needs and will require a sustained international response.

Please continue to keep the people of Venezuela, the emergency responders, and the ADRA response teams in your prayers. As additional verified information becomes available from ADRA, I will share further updates.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support.