Progress Report on “Reading for Life” Activities as of September 23, 2026

In December 1999, Vargas State (now La Guaira) suffered a tragic natural landslide that devastated the region. In the face of this devastation, Banco del Libro launched the “Leer para vivir” (Reading to Live) project, a support initiative using children’s and young adult literature aimed at disaster victims in shelters and affected communities, which later expanded to schools and communities, leaving behind a network of hubs and stakeholders who turned literary reading into a tool for resilience and social cohesion. Through reading aloud, oral storytelling, and the distribution of “Traveling Bags,” the project succeeded in providing a safe space and emotional relief.The “Leer para vivir” project not only marked a local milestone but also became an international benchmark for crisis response beyond Venezuela’s borders.Its effectiveness in helping to transform community trauma through literature was internationally recognized in 2003, when the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) awarded it the Guust van Wesemael Literacy Prize. This award brought the program to the attention of the global library community as the first systematic bibliotherapy initiative following natural disasters in Latin America.

After proving their effectiveness in the Vargas landslide, the conceptual model and strategies of “Leer para vivir” also served as the basis for the “Tsunami Project” (IBBY), a global initiative designed to provide psychosocial support and assist communities of children and young people affected by the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The theoretical foundations and support mechanisms implemented by Banco del Libro were compiled and published (in the document “Good Books: A Bridge to Personal Growth”).

This methodology manual—which covered everything from selecting appropriate reading materials for coping with grief to the emotional preparation of volunteers—has since served as a guide for civil society organizations, teachers, and librarians around the world who need to develop literary emergency plans in the face of earthquakes, armed conflicts, and other humanitarian crises.Institutionally, this initial effort evolved steadily and was later integrated with programs such as “Building Bridges Through Reading,” demonstrating that direct actions to promote reading, combined with the training of local facilitators, enable the transfer of skills to the community itself. Over the years, the residents themselves took charge of managing their reading clubs, turning literature into a daily ritual of resilience.The publication *Reading Communities: A Guide to Promoting Reading in Your Community* (Bellorín and Martínez, 2000

Activities for 2026

In the wake of the severe earthquakes that struck Caracas and especially La Guaira on June 24, the civilian population once again finds itself in a state of extreme psychological and social vulnerability. In contexts of crisis and disaster, physical assistance alone is not enough; the loss of routines, homes, and security profoundly alters the inner reality of those affected

The project has been implemented systematically and flexibly through the following phases and methodologies:

Assessment and Partnerships: Analysis of the team's capabilities, assessment of the affected environment, and identification of community leaders, teachers, and partner civil society organizations in shelters or relief centers

.**Orientation and Training Workshops**: Training sessions and psychosocial support for volunteers and reading promoters, enabling them to recognize their limitations and prepare to manage the emotional impact.

Reading Gatherings: Regular meetings in controlled spaces (shelters, schools, or tents) to read aloud and tell stories with children, followed by dividing them into small groups for a warm and intimate exchange.Stories and Novels by Installment: Read-aloud sessions of chapters from novels or short stories aimed specifically at adults in the community, fostering a space for group catharsis.

Launch of the "Traveling Bags": Creation and distribution of traveling book collections of high aesthetic quality so that books circulate directly among families, makeshift classrooms, or hospitals.Special Events: Special activities with authors, illustrators, or creators to break the monotony of daily life during the emergency and build trust, when and if conditions permit.

BANCO DEL LIBRO iBbY INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE chamos

Progress, Three Months After the Double Earthquake

Diagnosis and Partnerships:

Just a few days after the earthquakes, we headed to the temporary camps and nearby affected communities. At first, access was difficult and chaotic. Organized and unorganized citizens, as well as private individuals, had taken it upon themselves to provide basic aid; no censuses had been conducted, and those affected in both La Guaira and Caracas were assigned indiscriminately to the available spaces. International support was immediate, despite the limitations posed by access to the affected areas. Amid the chaos, we began to form partnerships; one of the first was with Venemergencia, which, thanks to its primary health care work, had access to one of the nearby camps. So, starting on Saturday, the 27th, we began surveying locations, and on Sunday, the 28th, we launched “Stories Under the Tree,” a series of reading sessions held among the tents in Parque del Este (Francisco de Miranda), with the support of Venemergencia volunteers, partner storytellers, and our specialists. Volunteers from the Telefónica Movistar Foundation and the Chamos Foundation soon joined us, and our relationship with the Chacao Municipal Council allowed us to gain additional access to the temporary camps serving those affected in the municipality where our headquarters is located—one of the hardest-hit areas in Caracas in terms of building damage. Ibby International immediately offered its support by creating a fund that enabled us to launch and sustain our efforts.

A few weeks after the disaster, the national government assigned various ministerial agencies to oversee the different shelters, and the population began to be redistributed among existing facilities and newly established ones. Therefore, even now, in parallel with these efforts, we continue to conduct the necessary assessments and build the required partnerships (in a overlapping manner) to implement the project in each shelter in the manner proposed by Leer para Vivir. And, in each shelter, at the pace and frequency warranted by its specific context, while also taking into account how long those affected will remain there. This is because, unlike what happened during the 1999 Vargas landslide, there is no certainty regarding the locations to which those who completely lost their homes will return, nor how long it will take others to return to their communities. Thus, we have provided support to some camps and community spaces on an ad hoc basis and to others systematically to guide them through allphases of the project. Among the latter are the Catia La Mar (La Guaira) and Nuevo Circo (Caracas) camps, each of which serves several communities in the area. It is important to highlight the partnerships with Oportunidad A.C. and the Chamos Foundation to achieve our objectives, given that the initial initiative has expanded and multiplied.

It should be noted that we are working in partnership with UNICEF to also provide assistance in La Guaira to two new camps that are expected to remain in place for the long term.

The partnership with the New Lacanian School of the Freudian Field provides the project with guidance regarding the analytical orientation of its actions and any potential research that may arise from them.

The support of individuals, volunteers, and publishers has been crucial, as has the cooperation of those coordinating activities in these shelters.

Progress, Three Months After the Double Earthquake

Orientation and Training Workshops

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- Three (3) orientation workshops were held, with 85 participants, and “on-the-job” training has been key to responding quickly to current needs. Online sharing of reading materials to support the self-directed learning of mediatorsParticipation by volunteers in our Storytime and in “Cuentos de Tu a Tu” as a way to familiarize themselves with books, reading interactions, and the enjoyment of individual and shared reading. Both of these spaces introduce them to the bibliotherapeutic possibilities of reading and contribute to their own emotional well-beingTwo (2) storytelling and read-aloud workshops are scheduled for the first half of October, which will benefit 40 of the volunteers

Fecha	Asistentes
30/6/2026	25
1/7/2026	23
8/7/2026	37
Total	85

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Reader Gatherings:

With funding from the IBBY International Fund and support from the Chamos Foundation, as of September 23, we have held 54 Reading Encounters at 17 host locations—including camps and communities—serving 775 children and adolescents and 102 adults, with a total of 100 volunteers and 129 specialists and storytellers participating.The titles featured in each session are selected from the Best Books for Children and Young People and other recommendations by specialists from Banco del Libro, including those used in the 1999 “Leer para Vivir” program, which elicited interesting reader responses and became cherished by the participants in that experience. New titles have been added to the core list, under the same guidelines, that address the interests and needs of children and young people in the current context.Given that the affected population is expected to remain in some of the camps for a longer period, it has become necessary to increase the number of Reading Gatherings for the benefit of the communities—a goal made possible thanks to established partnerships, book donations, and the resulting support from volunteers. All of this has been achieved without delaying the rest of the scheduled activities and with the aim of strengthening the social fabric, which we hope will endure even after the intervention ends.

Traveling Bookbags:

The grant from IBBY International has made it possible to provide 14 Traveling Bookbags and 350 books to meet the initial needs of the seven communities identified as the starting point. Contributions from the “Reading Is a Refuge” campaign, along with direct donations from some publishers, authors, and individuals, will help strengthen these collections and exceed the initial goal. The selection of books to be purchased was made by the Evaluation Committee, which is also participating in the review of donated materials for distribution among the various host locations currently being served, based on the same criteria of literary quality. Deliveries of the Traveling Book Bags will take place gradually once orientation sessions for parents and community leaders have been completed in each community.

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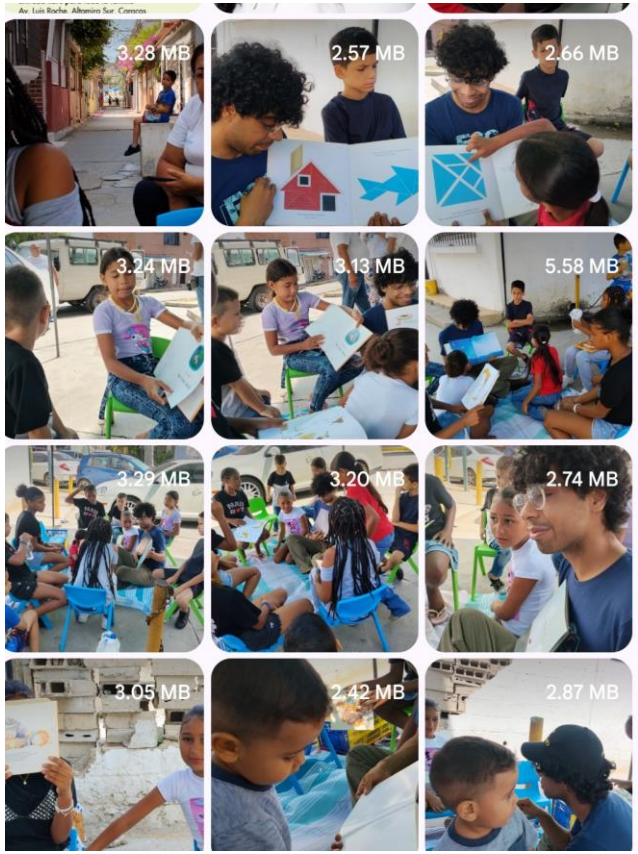

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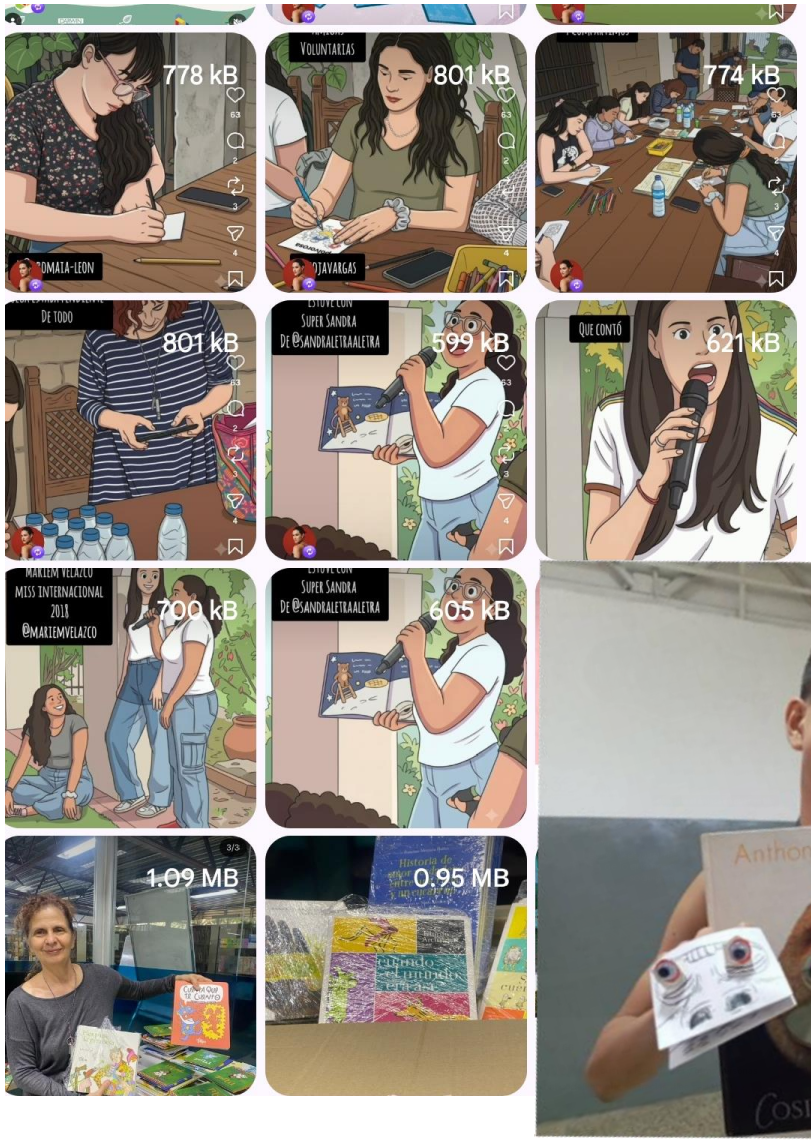
Progress, Three Months After the Double Earthquake

As for the Serialized Stories and Novels, the orientation sessions for parents, guardians, and community leaders, as well as the “Encuentros Estelares” events, will be held in each location as the distribution of the “Bolsos Viajeros” progresses and as community spokespersons—who coordinate the reception centers and communities—gain more information about current population movements, allowing the parties to determine the best way to circulate them, especially at this time when adjustments are still being made to the physical infrastructure of the camps.

So far, the broad outlines of the intervention have been implemented at the pace dictated by the context, and, as we had anticipated, the finer details and adjustments have been made in response to the context.

General List of Past Reader Meetings

Lugar	Fecha	No. de Encuentros Lectores	Niños, niñas y adolescentes atendidos	Adultos	Facilitadores Banco del Libro	Voluntarios
Campamento Transitorio Parque del Este (Francisco de Miranda)	28/6 al 3/7 2026	9	90	18	18	18
Campamento Transitorio U.E. Carlos Soublette	7 al 10 /7/2026	3	15		3	9
Campamento Transitorio U.E. Andrès Bello	3/7/2026	1	6		1	5
Comunidad de Bello Campo (Parque de Bolsillo)	10/7/2026	1	10	3	3	3
Campamento Transitorio Guyana Esequiva	9/7 al 21/8/2026	4	60		12	8
Jornada Pura Vida (Todasana)	19/7/2026	1	75		3	1
Camapamento Apto Hotal Fuerte Tiuna	23/7/2026	1	13	9	2	2
Campamento TransItorio U.E. Gran Colombia (Jornada Cocinando Sonrisas)	25/7/2026	1	60		1	4
Campamento Transitrio Nuevo Circo	23/7 al 23/9/2026	7	105	9	14	21
Campamento Transitorio Hotel Àvila	27/7/2026	1	11	2	3	2
Comunidad de Baruta- Campamento Transitoio U.E. Alejo Fortique	4/8/2026	1	15		3	1
Comunidad de Baruta- Campamento Transitoio U.E. Tito Salas	11/8/2026	1	15	4	2	4
Comunidad de Baruta- La Casa de Todos	18/8/2026	1	1	7	3	3
Comunidad La Rinconada II	17/ 7 al 11/9	3	36	9	2	2
Campamento Transitorio Hogar Farolito, La Pastora	3,9 y 16/9/2026	3	39	9	3	9
ETI Leonardo Infante (Campor Rico)	22 y 28/08/2026	2	37	1	2	8
Campamento Transitorio Tito Salas en alianza con Movistar	29/7 al 19/8	5	54	24	5	16
Campamanto Transitorio U.E. Dr. Guillermo Delgado Palacios	10 al 17 /8/2026	2	28		6	6
Comunidad Catia La Mar/ Oportunidad A.C.	7 al 22 /9/ 2026	7	105	7	14	7
Totales al 24 /8/2026		**54**	**775**	**102**	**100**	**129**



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Banco del libro es una Asociación Civil sin fines de lucro que durante 66 años ha trabajado en elcampo de la promoción de lectura, formación de lectores y profesionalización de mediadores através de acciones integrales donde tiene cabida la investigación de la literatura infantil y delectura como herramienta de vida, privilegiando los sectores vulnerable. Sede venezolana de IBBYHa sido reconocido con premios como el Astrid Lindgren, el Premio de la IFLA (FederaciónInternacional de Bibliotecas) y el Premio Hamdan UNESCO. Activamos después de los sucesossísmicos en Venezuela el proyecto Leer para vivir (premio IFLA Y Hamdan UNESCO) que sesostiene sobre la premisa de la lectura literaria como espacio de elaboración validadaacadémicamente con el Premio referido y mediante el trabajo de campo. Siempre bajo la égida dela articulación con otras organizaciones.

En esta nueva intervención del proyecto Leer para vivir después de los terremotos contamos conel apoyo de IBBY Internacional e IBBY. International Board on Books for Young People es una redinternacional sin fines de lucro que une a personas y asociaciones de todo el mundo parapromover el acceso de la infancia y la juventud a los libros de calidad. Fue fundada en Suiza porJella Lepman con el objetivo de propiciar el encuentro entre los niños y la lectura e incidir en ladefensa de los derechos de la infancia y el encuentro con la diferencia desde las voces de laLiteratura Infantil y Juvenil.Es una red de 80 paises con secciones nacionales que agrupan a profesionales del libro y la lecturacomo autores, ilustradores, traductores, editores, bibliotecarios, docentes e investigadores

Chamos Reino Unido y Chamos España son dos entidades legalmente registradas que cumplen, de forma independiente, con las obligaciones fundacionales de sus respectivos países. Chamos fue registrada en el 2007 en el Reino Unido y, con el fin de ampliar sus fines fundacionales, se estableció en España como *delegación de fundación extranjera en el 2020* bajo el nombre Delegación de la Fundación Chamos. A pesar de ser dos entidades, los equipos de Chamos Reino Unido y de la Delegación de la Fundación Chamos en España trabajan de manera conjunta para alcanzar los fines fundacionales. Los programas se gestionan de manera unificada a través de un equipo global de operaciones que trabaja para ambas fundaciones, asegurando coherencia, eficiencia, optimización de recursos y alineación en la implementación de los proyectos.

Asociación civil comunitaria radicada en Catia la mar fundada en 2009 en el estado la Guaira con un Centro Comunitario en Catia la mar que tiene como misión buscar formar agentes de cambio para fomentar la paz, los derechos humanos y la no violencia en comunidades vulnerables. Después de los sismos del mes de junio que golpearon la zona costera en la que se ubican han redimensionado el trabajo comunitario de la mano de otras organizaciones como Banco del libro

Surge en julio de 2004, cuando los doctores Andrés Simón González-Silén y Luis Enrique Velásquez Díaz, impulsados por su experiencia en hospitales, decidieron actuar ante el colapso del sistema de salud venezolano. Identificaron una necesidad urgente: capacitar ciudadanos en primeros auxilios y brindar atención médica oportuna para salvar más vidas.

Con esta visión, idearon un modelo de atención prehospitalaria que evitaría visitas innecesarias a clínicas y hospitales. Así, iniciaron impartiendo cursos de primeros auxilios y ofreciendo servicios paramédicos en eventos y campamentos, abriendo el camino para lo que hoy es un ecosistema robusto de atención médica primaria en Venezuela.

Asociación civil sin fines de lucro, fundada y registrada en septiembre de 2004, como iniciativa de un grupo de mujeres líderes del sector social, empresarial y académico. Estamos comprometidas con el fortalecimiento del liderazgo de las mujeres, promoviendo el empoderamiento personal, la defensa de sus derechos, la prevención y atención de la violencia de género e impulsamos la participación equitativa e inclusiva en todos los ámbitos
Ha trabajado en el sector educativo con talleres teórico-prácticos, programas de capacitación y cine foros, dirigidos a mujeres y jóvenes en los municipios en zonas vulnerables de la región capital venezolana. Asimismo, su impacto se extiende a otros cinco estados de Venezuela, gracias a alianzas estratégicas con organizaciones de la sociedad civil, instituciones educativas y otros.

Nueva escuela Lacaniana de Campo freudiano es la sección venezolana de la Asociación Mundial de Psicoanálisis fundada en 2002 que promueve la práctica y el estudio del Psicoanálisis. Lleva el programa lituraviva que se ha activado en Venezuela de la mano de otras asociaciones a raíz del doblete sísmico que tuvo lugar en junio. Se engasta en una modalidad de dialogo terapéutico, a través de una lectura que ponga de manifiesto la experiencia del diálogo lector.

Partner Institutions