UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

AMERICAS OPERATIONAL UPDATE

On 14 June, UNHCR released the annual Global Trends in Forced Displacement 2022 report.

> "These figures show us that some people are far too quick to rush to conflict, and way too slow to find solutions. The consequence is devastation, displacement, and anguish for each of the millions of people forcibly uprooted from their homes. (...) People around the world continue to show extraordinary hospitality for refugees as they extend protection and help to those in need, but much more international support and more equitable responsibility sharing is required, especially with those countries that are hosting most of the world's displaced. (...) Above all, much more must be done to end conflict and remove obstacles so that refugees have the viable option to return home voluntarily, safely and with dignity."

Filippo Grandi
UN High Commissioner for Refugees
The press-release is available HERE.

Costa Rica. An asylum-seeker from Nicaragua. After threats were made against her, she was forced to flee her home and seek refuge in northern Costa Rica.
© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

HIGHLIGHTS

One in every five forcibly displaced or stateless people worldwide lived in the Americas by the end of 2022, as political instability, violence, persecution, human rights violations, and climate-related disasters continued to force people to move seeking protection and safety. According to the UNHCR 2022 Global Trends Report, more than 2 in 5 of the new asylum applications worldwide were made by nationals from Latin America and the Caribbean, notably from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua. The United States of America remained the largest recipient of asylum applications, receiving 730,400 new claims, nearly four times more than during 2021, with Costa Rica (129,500 new claims) and Mexico (118,800) among the five major countries for individual registration of new asylum-seekers. A further 5.2 million other people in need of international protection, predominantly from Venezuela, were reported at the end of 2022. Globally, Colombia hosted the third largest population of refugee and others in need of international protection at the end of 2022, with a total of 2.5 million Venezuelans.

Upon the 12 May lifting of the Title 42 public health order by the United States of America, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) called for a collaborative approach to better respond to the mixed movement of refugees and migrants throughout the region. UNHCR and IOM welcomed positive initiatives to expand resettlement and other regular pathways in the region but expressed concern about new restrictions on access to asylum following the long overdue lifting of Title 42. On 24 June, UNHCR and IOM acknowledged the progress made by countries in the Americas towards fulfilling the pledges made in the 2022 Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection and warned that much work is still needed to respond to the unprecedented challenges facing migrants and refugees, as well as the communities and countries of origin, transit, destination and return in the Americas.

In June, the United States of America jointly announced with the governments of Guatemala, Colombia and Costa Rica the initial phase of the Safe Mobility Offices, which are being designed to facilitate, with the support of UNHCR and IOM, access to protection and other lawful pathways to the United States of America and other countries.

UNHCR and IOM released a joint statement expressing their concern due to the increased number of people crossing the Darien jungle in search of protection and opportunities. According to the Panamanian authorities, as of May, over **166,000 people** have crossed through Darien in 2023, representing five times more than those who arrived in the same period in 2022. Authorities estimate that, if the trend continues, by the end of 2023, some **400,000 people** will have crossed Darien. Top nationalities in these movements include Venezuelans, Haitians, and Ecuadorians.

UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, Kelly T. Clements, on 17 May appealed urgently for more support for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. She stated that "While the increase in the number of people approaching the United States border has attracted a lot of attention, it is important to remember that most forcibly displaced people stay in Latin America."

On 20 June UNHCR commemorated World Refugee Day with the theme "Hope away from home – a world where refugees are always included." Across the Americas, refugees themselves, host communities, public institutions, businesses, well-known figures, and the general public participated in a multiplicity of activities aimed at promoting understanding, empathy and solidarity towards refugees, while recognizing their valuable contributions to host societies.

Panama. Migrants and refugees continue to cross the Darien jungle in 2023.
© UNHCR/Melissa Pinel

UNHCR'S RESPONSE IN THE AMERICAS

One in every five forcibly displaced or stateless people worldwide lived in the Americas by the end of 2022, due to the persistence of root causes. This poses new challenges and opportunities for UNHCR to provide protection and find solutions for those in need in the region.

UNHCR supports countries in the Americas to enhance protection-sensitive entry systems, ensure access to asylum and other protection-oriented arrangements, stabilize populations in communities of destination, origin, transit, and return, and expand solutions via complementary pathways. As part of its efforts to promote the legal and socioeconomic inclusion of refugees and persons forcibly displaced, UNHCR also supports ongoing regularization efforts undertaken by governments in the region and works along with local and municipal governments (cities of solidarity initiative), as well as development and international financial institutions, and the private sector.

El Salvador. © UNHCR/Brenda Sofía Osorio Orellana

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RESPONSE IN PROGRESS: AS OF JUNE 2023

54,810 people who received **core relief items** (food or non-food items).

55,568 people receiving **cash assistance**.

159,893 people reached through **information**, **awareness**, and/or **sensitization** sessions.

211,106 people accessing **community centres**, **support spaces**, or **other structures**.

88,806 people provided with **temporary collective shelter solutions**.

12,112 people participating in **peaceful coexistence projects**.

1,329 identified **gender-based violence survivors** who receive **gender-based violence response services.**

61,422 people receiving **legal assistance**.

24,733 people with and for whom UNHCR works who received **WASH-related kits**.

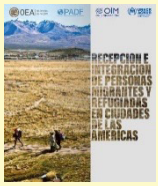
18,479 people accessing **two-way communication mechanisms** to voice their needs/concerns/feedback.

10,997 people who received **mental health/psychosocial services**.

ONGOING INITIATIVES...

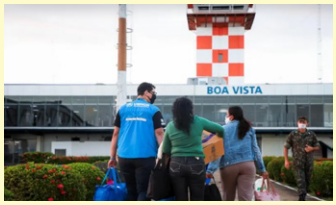
On 20 June, the Government of **Brazil** launched the Action Plan for Strengthening the Protection and Local Integration of the Haitian Population in Brazil during a week of debate on the occasion of World Refugee Day, promoted by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. The Plan, jointly built with UNHCR, intends to benefit both Haitians already residing in Brazil, to support their stabilization and try to address and prevent risky, secondary movements, as well as those arriving more recently, who need timely access to information, protection, and integration opportunities.

Mexico. An innovative integration programme run by UNHCR is helping refugees move from Mexico's congested southern border to cities that offer more socio-economic opportunities for inclusion.



United States of America. OAS, PADF, IOM and UNHCR presented the report "Reception and Integration of Migrants and Refugees in the Cities of the Americas" during the Summit of the Cities of the Americas, held in Denver, Colorado on 27 April. The report, covering 109 locations in 25 countries, identified best practices and challenges in receiving refugees and migrants at the local level. The event counted with the participation of local and municipal governments across the Americas. This complements UNHCR's initiatives to support local authorities, such as of Cities of Solidarity and the interagency project "Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity – CICS."

Dominican Republic. IDB published the first of several analyses looking at the Normalization Plan in the Dominican Republic, as part of UNHCR's collaboration.
With UNHCR support, Brazil has promoted the voluntary relocation of more than 100,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants from its isolated northern region to other areas in the country, where they have better perspectives for social-economic integration. In Ecuador and Peru, the strengthening of existing regularization and documentation processes is removing practical barriers to access basic services, entrepreneurship opportunities and paving the way to full inclusion.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Colombian trans-woman makes advocating for displaced LGBTIQ+ people her life purpose

Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities have been disproportionately affected by the internal armed conflict and are more likely to be displaced while LGBTIQ+ Afro-Colombian and indigenous peoples face even greater risks as they are frequently targeted by armed groups because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

María Victoria Palacios, a 36-year-old Afro-Colombian trans-woman, works tirelessly to protect the rights of internally displaced LGBTIQ+ people in Chocó, Colombia.

More information HERE.

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

On 18 May, the R4V Regional Platform published its Movements Report for the 1st quarter of 2023 (January-March) including analysis of northward movements, exit and entry trends of countries bordering Venezuela, and a special update on the Chile/Peru/Bolivia borders. During the week of 12 June, the R4V Regional Platform held its mid-year meetings, including a 13 June Regional Planning & Scenarios Workshop featuring high-level presentations from MPI, the IMF and OCHA in Venezuela alongside regional stakeholders, who discussed trends (including voluntary returns) and identified the most likely future planning scenarios for a gradual whole of Venezuela vision and response; and the 14 June Regional Platform Plenary Meeting, where stakeholders (incl. PRM, ECHO, Canada, Chile, RCs, multiple UN agencies, NGOs and civil society) discussed trends and developments (incl. northward movements), outcomes of the Solidarity Conference, the Quito Process, and RMRP planning processes. RMNA and RMRP planning guides and information are available HERE.

On 30 May, representatives from all the MIRPS States participated in a regional visit to Tapachula, hosted by Mexico as leader of the MIRPS Working Group on Strengthening Asylum Systems. The meeting was focused on sharing good practices and experiences related to registration, digitalization, and differentiated case processing. All MIRPS States (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama) finalized a mapping of asylum systems and agreed on presenting a joint pledge at the Global Refugee Forum. On 20 June, Panama, as the MIRPS Pro Tempore Presidency, hosted an event in commemoration of World Refugee Day which convened MIRPS States, representatives of the Support Platform, refugees, the private sector, and other stakeholders in discussions and activities focused on the socio-economic integration of displaced persons.

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DON'T MISS...

Panama. UNHCR launched "Confía en el Tucán", a Communication with Communities project on social networks Facebook and TikTok to provide reliable information about the risks of the jungle between Panama and Colombia.

Ukraine. Alfonso Herrera, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, called for solidarity with those affected by the invasion of Ukraine following his visit to the region.

Brazil. Inclusion through education: Warao indigenous children attend school in Brazil.

SPOTLIGHT PUBLICATIONS IN THE AMERICAS

Brazil: Climate and sustainability interventions

Chile: Working with communities 2022-2023

Guatemala: Livelihoods strategy

Mexico: Advancing together towards integration 2022

Do you want more info?
Check https://reporting.unhcr.org/americas

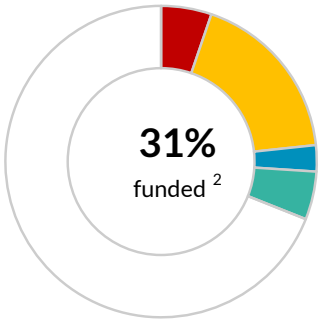
FUNDING THE RESPONSE 2023

(as of 20 July 2023)

UNHCR's humanitarian response in the **Americas** is made possible thanks to the generous support of major donors who have contributed unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations and to donors who have generously contributed directly to UNHCR operations in the Americas. UNHCR is appealing for $827.4 million in funding in 2023 to respond to the most pressing needs in the Americas. As of July, donors had pledged $256 million.

$ 827.4 million
UNHCR's financial requirements 2023[1]

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)



Notes:

1. The financial requirements for The Americas are for the operations in Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela.

2. The percentage funded (29%) and total funding amount ($239,168,465) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of $588,263,415 representing 71% of the financial requirements.

THANKS TO DONORS IN 2023 AS OF 20 JULY:

Belgium | Canada | Cyprus | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Guyana | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | CERF| Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF) | UN Children Fund | UNESCO| UN Joint Programmes | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme On HIV/AIDS | UNESCO | UN WOMEN

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