COSTA RICA | OPERATIONAL UPDATE

JAN-JUN 2024

Since 2018, Costa Rica is one of the **main destination countries for people in need of international protection coming from Nicaragua,** with over 180,000 applications by the end of 2023[1]. Despite the Costa Rican government's willingness **to welcome and integrate refugees,** the increase in applications has put significant pressure on the asylum system as well as for access to essential goods and services such as education, health and housing. Costa Rica is also **a transit country for people in mixed movements,** which has increased substantially since 2023. Most of them arrive Costa Rica in precarious conditions with **urgent humanitarian and protection needs.**

UNHCR supports the Costa Rican government in improving the asylum system to ensure access to the territory, proper documentation, work permits, and prompt and fair decisions. **UNHCR participates in the response to mixed movements** in coordination with IOM and other UN agencies, and implements the Safe Mobility initiative to provide legal pathways to the United States and Spain. **UNHCR collaborates with development actors** to provide joint evidence regarding the contributions of refugees to the Costa Rican economy and society and to address the impact of hosting a large number of refugees.

[1]Source: https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/

Key figures

15,276 **people assisted*** from January to June 2024, averaging **11,900** monthly assistance items, bringing a total of **>70,500** assistance items**.

Who we assisted:

Profiles

75% refugees or asylum-seekers.

19% people in mixed movements.

0,3% stateless persons.

5,6% people from host communities.

Nationalities

70% Nicaraguan

17% Venezuelan

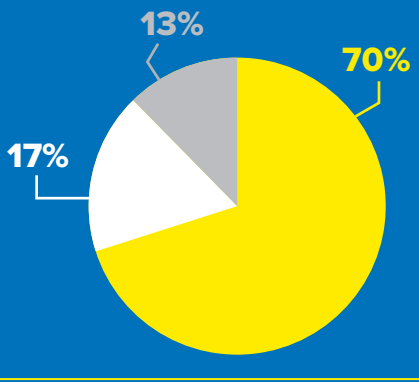
13% Others

People assisted* per region:

11,782 in San José and the **Metro Area (GAM)**

2,923 at the **Southern** region

2,093 at the **Northern** region



*This figure corresponds to a calculation among single indicators, which seeks (but does not ensure) to avoid double counting of beneficiaries. Therefore, it should be considered as an estimate.

** Considering that a single beneficiary may be reached through multiple assistance items.

Our impact on people

15,276
received legal information, assistance or representation

8,955
have accessed the healthcare system, and **6,098** were assisted through physical and mental health consultations

6,351
were involved in community participation processes

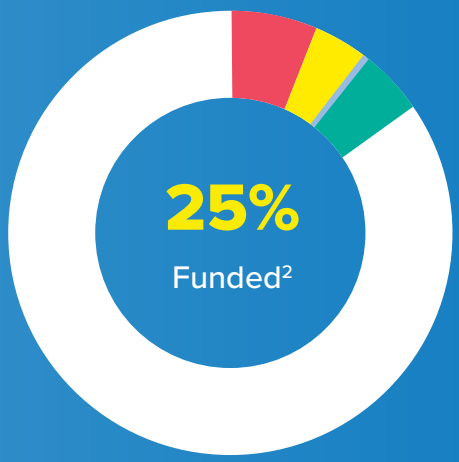
1,695
accessed social protection national programmes and **1,022** were subject to cash grants to cover their basic needs

1,981
accessed capacity-building and services on child protection, and **333** accessed education

1,583
improved their self-reliance capacities through capacity-building **(266)** and provision of building materials **(276)**

472
women and girls, including gender-based violence victims/survivors, were accompanied and protected

FUNDING UPDATE | as of 30 June 2024



USD 40.4 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2024[1]

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

Delivering protection

To strengthen protection response, UNHCR has field offices at the Costa Rican Southern and Northern borders, in which performs **border monitoring** activities on a regular basis. This allows us to assist and advise people from the moment they access the territory, identify cases of restrictions of access, as well as address and prevent rights violations, and promoting early integration. We also **followed the situation across the Northern border during key dates,** such as the beginning of the year and Holy Week.

UNHCR also complements State's response across borders, engaging in dialogue and enhancing capacities of civil and police authorities to strengthen its response. In February, Field Office Upala staff conducted a **training session alongside the staff of the Professional Migration Police (PPM) from the *Peñas Blancas* official border crossing point.** This approach allowed them to have more tools and information on the profiles and needs of persons in need of international protection, on access to asylum and the principle of non-refoulement, and on services provided by UNHCR and its partners.

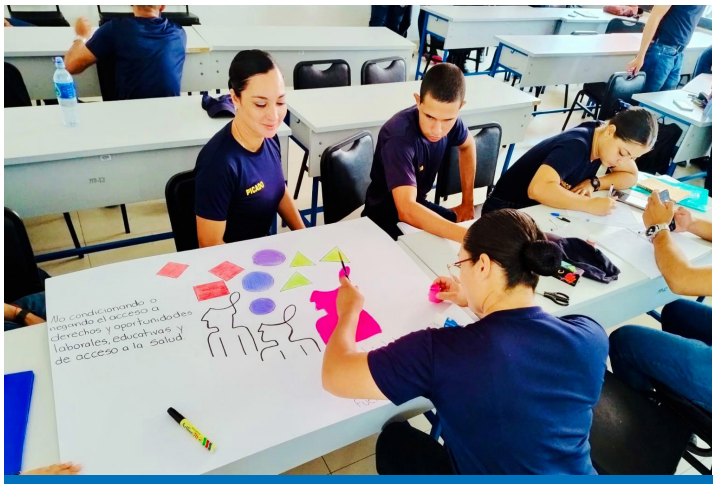
UNHCR leads the Protection Worktables at both borders, weekly coordination worktables among institutions and humanitarian partners with work in protection to monitor the situation and coordinate the mixed movements response improving its impact. In 2024, the worktables moved forward with the **design and improvement of assistance pathways** for specific cases and profiles, in order to reinforce the efficiency of the institutional response. Additionally, **both worktables are engaging in permanent dialogue**, coordinating through bimonthly meetings aimed at exchanging and analyzing information, and to jointly managing cases as people move along their route Northwards.

UNHCR supports the Costa Rica Directorate General of Immigration and Nationality (**DGME**, hereinafter **Migration Authority**) **in its initiative to restructure its asylum system** through technical assistance, specialized staff, and the exchange of best practices. This, in light of international standards, aims at achieving a more modern, fair and efficient asylum system. Over the course of 2024, in continuity with *the Asylum Capacity Development* (QAI) and the Digitalization process, the **DGME Asylum Strategy** has made progress in the identification and implementation of **eight deliverables** by the end of 2024, all which impact both the resolution of pending cases and the efficient management of new cases. These deliverables are: **i)** analysis of profiles of persons at heightened risk, **ii)** archive organization, **iii)** purging of files, **iv)** data updating exercise, **v)** differentiated case processing modalities, **vi)** digitalization of the asylum system, **vii)** strengthening of coordination between the DGME and the Refugee Unit, and **viii)** enhancement of the processing of new asylum claims.

Between January and June, **the strategy became more comprehensive, incorporating all three asylum system bodies** (the Restricted Visa and Refugee Commission/CVRR, the Refugee Unit/RU and the Migration Administrative Court/TAM). **UNHCR keeps permanent presence in the offices of the Refugee Unit**, contributing to the improvement and development of processes for analysis of operational data and reporting. Also, in February UNHCR held a **training workshop with TAM judges** regarding regulation for the refugee status determination (**Cartagena Declaration**).

UNHCR works hand in hand with the Judiciary offering **technical reports and legal opinions on refugee regulations** in accordance with international standards. For instance, in February, UNHCR prepared a technical report on the modifications contemplated in **Executive Decree 43810 of 2022**. Additionally, in December 2023 UNHCR provided **legal concepts on the right to work** (employment and self-employment), a key requirement for the integration and well-being of refugees in Costa Rica, which were **key to the issuance of decree 44501 (June 2024) that modifies these decisions** and mitigates some access barriers.

As stated in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR integrates the different actors of society to promote the access of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons to **free legal assistance**, which is not provided by the Costa Rican State and is substantial for exercising the right to due process. This allows to amplify the legal protection networks of people in need of international protection. **Between January and June 2024, we trained a total of 521 people,** including legal personnel providing *pro-bono* assistance (**10**), lawyers from the Social Defenders of the Bar Association (**12**), new police officers (**414**), and personnel from key entities such as the Ombudsman's Office (**55**) and the Public Prosecutor's Office (**30**). This is accompanied by the elaboration of visibility materials and other capacity development actions. For instance, the Social Defenders program by the **Costa Rican Bar Association** reinforced its services for forcibly displaced persons in their offices at Pavas and Tres Ríos. As well, we work closely with **universities** and with the **National Police Academy** to provide specialized training activities in International Refugee Rights. In such spaces, participants learned considerations on the situation of persons in need of international protection, acknowledged how to better work better with them, and gained tools to provide them with information and assistance from their different fields of action. UNHCR works for **stateless persons**, this is, those who are



As part of our awareness and capacity building strategy for key entities, we taught the module *"Protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons from a human rights, age, gender and diversity approach"* to 414 police career applicants. *©Alejandra Bogarín/UNHCR.*

not considered nationals of any State under its legislation, either because they never had a nationality or because they lost it and have been unable to acquire another; in addition to those who, due to persecution and/or discrimination in their countries of origin, **were deprived or denied of their nationality**. Costa Rica, as a regional leader in the prevention and eradication of statelessness, implements public policies considered best practices, including a differentiated procedure to ensure that the most vulnerable people have access to late birth registration and the of statelessness determination process. Efforts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the institution responsible for statelessness, to actively approach communities for prevention and response actions are also to remark. Since March, **UNHCR, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, re-launched the "You are not invisible" campaign**, with a strong community-based protection (CBP) and communication with communities (CwC) focus, for the active identification of people at risk of statelessness and their referral to other institutions according to their specific needs.

Empowering communities

Through a workshop with 15 Miskitus people from various communities in San José, UNHCR learned more about the conditions under which they were forcibly displaced, the reality they face in the country, their main needs and priorities, as well as the main tools with which they seek their integration. *© Maria Jesus Merino/UNHCR.*

The added value of UNHCR's work lies in its action in the field. **The relationship with the communities and the constant dialogue with forcibly displaced persons allows us to better understand their needs and keep them at the center of response**.

UNHCR keeps working with its implementing partners and with State institutions to provide timely information and advice, targeted to both rural and urban contexts; given that in 2024, having more information regarding rights was one of most mentioned requirements of people forced to flee. In the first semester of 2024 UNHCR held two **Mobile Information Center activities in the Metro Area** (Alajuelita district and Pavas canton), where **we reached 403 people**. Each participant received information and printed materials about services by UNHCR, partners and public entities, and many were also able to complete their registration process so that people with specific needs could be assisted. **This activity enables people in need of international protection to receive guidance on issues that impact their lives**, such as legal assistance, access to healthcare and education, psychosocial support, children's rights, GBV prevention and response, training on employability and entrepreneurship, and support to file new applications for the Safe Mobility (SMO) program. At the Northern area, we assembled an **information session with 35 refugees and asylum-seekers in San Carlos on the refugee status determination procedure (RSD)** and UNHCR services. In this meeting, people also shared views on their main needs and concerns, as a key input to guide UNHCR's programs in that region.

Through **participatory assessments**, UNHCR conducts focus groups on specific topics to identify needs and information gaps, to tailor its activities and advocate with other relevant actors on the situation of forcibly displaced persons. For example, at the start of the year, UNHCR organized a participatory assessment on access to work. **A focus group of 27 asylum-seekers in San José** discussed with our team **their protection needs related to requests for work permits in Costa Rica**, which allowed us to learn about some of the challenges they face. Hence, the information obtained from feedback activities with the people we work with, such as participatory assessments, the **Information Centers**, and the strategy of **accountability to affected population** (**AAP**) were analyzed in order to take concrete actions. In this case, we were able to **advocate with authorities** to present these protection gaps, and in February we coordinated a **massive information session via Facebook Live on work permits** for asylum-seekers, in conjunction with our legal partners. **More than 1,400 people** watched the streaming video, and some **50 civil society organizations shared the video** of the session and other informative materials for a wider outreach.

Another work opportunity arising from community approaches is the expansion of protection options for indigenous people who have been forced to leave their territories and are now in Costa Rica. T**his semester UNHCR reinforced its work with the Miskitu indigenous population**. In March, with our partner CENDEROS, we **endorsed the creation of a pool of Miskitu-Spanish interpreters, whose purpose is** to accompany other members of this group during the

asylum application process. This contributes to due process while recognizing **the value of Miskitu community leadership within and outside the places that host them** and strengthens their community ties. It is worth noting that the three interpreters also have the expertise to provide updated and relevant information on key concepts regarding international protection, UNHCR services, prevention of abuse and sexual exploitation, fraud prevention, among others.

Working together with Miskito community leaders has enabled UNHCR to **accompany recently arrived Miskitus, particularly in the Northern border and at La Carpio and Pavas communities in San José**, with guidance and urgent interventions, and in the medium term, with interventions focused on integration and livelihoods. **Such efforts will continue throughout 2024**: in February we assembled a **participatory assessment with 23 people** from the Miskito community of **Tujankir** in **Guatuso** canton, and in April a workshop with **15 Miskito people** from communities in **San José**; based on these inputs, we prepared a **workplan** that will guide future actions, considering their **cosmovision, cultural preservation and medium-term prospects**.

In 2024 we continue to join efforts for peaceful coexistence between forcibly displaced persons and their host communities.

Our field experience, particularly in the North, confirms that sport is a powerful tool for **building bridges between refugees and their host communities**, facilitating coexistence and promoting participation. When forcibly displaced people join Community Sports Committees, **they discuss on an equal footing with their neighbors the possible solutions to their common problems**; thus, these people begin to be part of the answers, being recognized as active contributors to the well-being of their communities.

Between February and March, UNHCR and the Baseball and Softball Association of Los Chiles (**ABESOCHI**) launched its ***Intégrate* baseball tournament**. This initiative brought together **108 refugee and national children and adolescents from four communities** of Los Chiles canton at the Northern border; allowing them to learn about teamwork, solidarity, common goals and to share their individual experiences in a safe and violence-free space. This tournament was possible thanks to financial support provided to **ASOBESOCHI through UNHCR's Inclusive Communities Fund,** a Community-Based Protection strategy implemented in 2023 and 2024 to foster refugee-led community initiatives in the areas of culture, art, and sports.

Limitations to access technology can result in barriers to timely and clear information on issues that affect the lives of forcibly displaced people, especially for the elderly, those who are illiterate or have disabilities. Activities such as the Mobile Information Center in the community of Alajuelita allowed us to get closer to people and promote two-way communication channels. *© Vanessa Vega/UNHCR.*

Fostering access to basic services

Protecting people in need of international protection in a sustainable manner implies integrating them into the Costa Rican State's social protection scheme, which allows for this. At the beggining of the year, UNHCR started by renewing its **agreement with the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS**) with a contribution of USD 1.9 million to **provide 5,000 health insurance quotas** for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in vulnerable situations. This is the fifth consecutive year that UNHCR and the CCSS renew this agreement with a total investment of over USD 10M. UNHCR also has an **agreement with the Joint Institute for Social Assistance** (**IMAS**) to facilitate that refugees, asylum-seekers and persons from host communities with heightened levels of vulnerability, can access **benefits such as care networks, scholarships and economic support opportunities**. Between January and June **1,695 people were referred to IMAS by UNHCR**, through its partner RET.

In UNHCR, we prioritize strengthening mechanisms for the prevention, mitigation and response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV). As part of this effort, **we have strengthened our work with the National Women's Institute (INAMU)**, which is a key entity in ensuring **inclusion of survivors of gender-based violence with international protection needs** in the State's offer of specialized services. In February, UNHCR held a **workshop with 19 INAMU officers**, where we exchanged information on the scope and programs of both parties; in addition, we discussed international protection in greater depth and **agreed on a workplan to expand joint actions** for case management, including knowledge exchange, work with communities, especially at the borders, and preparation of information materials. Our exchanges have also favored new integrated working relationships between INAMU and key humanitarian actors. Since May, **UNHCR is strengthening *Puntos Violeta***, INAMU's flagship strategy that provides **safe spaces for GBV survivors nationwide**, with emphasis on border points to reinforce the attention to refugee women and girls and mixed movements.

19 women officials participated in the first INAMU-UNHCR technical worktable for the coordination of joint actions aiming at protecting women and girls in need of international protection. ©*Natalia Díaz/UNHCR.*

Considering that **education changes lives** and recognizing the challenges faced by refugee and asylum-seeker children and adolescents in accessing or remaining in the education system, **UNHCR works with its partner agencies Defence for Children International (DNI) and World Vision to offer information and orientation to communities** on children's rights and available child protection services. The **delivery of 900 school kits** for refugee and host community students with heightened economic vulnerabilities, contributed to their permanence in the education system. Likewise, to enhance safe environments for children in need of international protection at the Northern border, in February, UNHCR and its implementing partner World Vision held a **working session with the Regional Education Directorate** on the rights of refugee children and providing guidance and orientation to assist them. On February, UNHCR and the staff of the **Children's National Trust Fund (PANI) in La Cruz canton** agreed on joint work strategies for strengthening their relationship.

We are heightening our humanitarian response for newly arrived refugees and people in mixed movements under a route-based approach, this is, favoring responses tailored to the needs of individuals at each stage of their journey. In January, **we supported the community initiative *Casas Solidarias* (Solidarity Houses) in Los Chiles** through the delivery of **more than 4,000 food items.** This community initiative provides food and short-term shelter to hundreds of people in mixed movements. At the **Migration Station South (EMISUR)**, through our partner HIAS, from January to June we provided direct **medical healthcare services** to **3.893** refugees and migrants in transit.

Inclusion of forcibly displaced persons requires that host communities

Assessments by UNHCR and other partners indicate that 64% of people in transit mention food as their main need on the route. The community initiative Casas Solidarias serves hot meals to people in transit and also to people from Nicaragua entering Costa Rica. @Austin Ramírez/*UNHCR.*

Contributing to economic inclusion and peaceful coexistence

Memory retrieval session for refugees and asylum-seekers from the Movimiento Campesino (MC) communities of San Gerardo, Isla Chica and Medio Queso, were accompanied by the Livelihoods and Upala Field Office teams. The MC collectives at Caño Negro and Veracruz were also visited. *© Ermes Campos / UNHCR.*

recognize their skills and knowledge and welcome their **cultural, social and economic contributions**. In order for forcibly displaced persons to integrate, host communities must perceive their arrival as an **opportunity for mutual growth**. With this vision of **shared responsibility,** UNHCR promotes the involvement of a wide range of actors, such as the private sector, civil society, academia, national and local government, among others, to identify synergies, avoid duplications and diversify response to forcibly displaced persons.

Since 2014 UNHCR Costa Rica has implemented a collaboration and economic inclusion framework called ***Vivir la Inclusión*** **(Living Inclusion**, formerly Living Integration), reinforcing its catalytic role in promoting an inclusive environment for refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in society. **This community continues to grow in 2024**: **Between January and June, we have added 37 allies and with 20 of them we have enhanced work in multiple fields**, as they support and provide added value to initiatives for the employability and entrepreneurship of refugees. This year we are focusing in the development of **basic, functional and digital literacy programs**, as well as the **promotion of financial health and the development of self-employment skills** for forcibly displaced persons in the Northern region.

As part of this program, we have accompanied the **civil society organization *Movimiento Campesino* and the Miskitu communities on the Northern area**, connecting the training offered by our partner *Fundación Omar Dengo* with their needs and interests through **focus groups with 33 people**. Thanks to this initiative, beneficiaries will be able to receive training in digital literacy, financial health, specialized agriculture and business management, directly in their communities, which facilitates their attendance. Besides in April, **UNHCR delivered construction materials and agricultural tools to *Movimiento Campesino*** with the objective of promoting self-sufficiency through the farm's agricultural and porciculture model. The delivery was made official during an official event at *Las Melinas* farm (San José de Upala), in which **UNHCR advocated for the support of other key actors** such as local government and international financial institutions, specifically the **Inter-American Development Bank** in water and sanitation interventions. UNHCR develops these actions to **promote the resilience, self-reliance and stabilization of refugees** by formalizing their business models.

The creation of knowledge and evidence on the **situation and contributions of refugees in their host country** is fundamental to guide the response to displacement. In this regard, UNHCR maintains a permanent **dialogue with key actors** such as universities, think tanks, NGOs and international financial institutions. UNHCR also produces and shares information providing **evidence on contributions by refugees and migrants to Costa Rican economy and society**. As part of this work, we have shared with various partners the results of the study published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the economic and fiscal contributions of refugees and migrants to the country, with input from the **Inter-American Development Bank** (**IDB**) and **UNHCR**. In addition, we provided technical support to the World Bank as part of its study on the situation of gender-based violence of people in mixed movements in Central America, within the framework of the SAFE initiative. We also supported the **Economic Research Institute of the University of Costa Rica** (**IICE-UCR**), which analyzed demographic and labor market variables of Nicaraguans based on the National Household Survey (ENAHO) and presented its preliminary results. in April. **This ongoing initiative seeks** to disseminate results at different levels. In the meantime, the aforementioned studies have been replicated by key Costa Rican media.

Through the delivery of donations to the Miskito population in Veracruz and Caño Negro (Los Chiles), we favor their while considering their rural and agricultural vocation. *© Vivian Nieme /UNHCR.*

Key partnerships

In the Northern region, we engage in dialogue with multiple actors, liaising between local and national institutions, international organizations and the communities with whom we work. © *Austin Ramírez/UNHCR.*

Working with humanitarian partners

UNHCR has joined the inter-agency efforts of the United Nations System to assist the Costa Rican State in the implementation of its Emergency Plan for refugees and migrants in transit to North America. This plan, led by the **National Commission on Emergencies** (**CNE**) and the **Migration Authority** (**DGME**), is the comprehensive response roadmap. Between January and June, we supported the identification of needs and gaps, as well as the assessment of response capacities, providing **technical assistance for the development of the implementation plans** by the institutions involved in the Plan.

In the South zone, through the **Protection Worktable**, led by UNHCR, a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) for access to the asylum procedure has been implemented. At the same time, we have defined routes for the implementation of **InfoPoint** (communication with communities - CwC initiative) and of the Safe Space ***Entre Nos*** (GBV prevention and response), both in EMISUR.

At the Northern region, besides of the permanent support we provide to **Los Chiles Inter-Institutional Human Mobility Worktable**, together with other humanitarian partners, and through our leadership of the **Protection Workgroup**, we have accompanied national and local entities in the planning of a **Temporary Attention Center for Migrants (CATEM) at the North**, including operational, logistical, and sectoral aspects, as well as its alignment with international humanitarian standards.

In April, UNHCR participated of a **Structured Dialogue** session with high-level government officers, organized by the **United Nations Country Team** (**UNCT**). In such space, the UNCT presented its 2023 Annual Results Report, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs recognized UNHCR and other UN partners as strategic allies of Costa Rica to address challenges regarding people in human mobility.

Within the framework of the **Safe Mobility** initiative (**SMO**), led by the United States and implemented jointly with IOM, between January and April, UNHCR has interviewed **6,166 applicants, of which 5,351 have already been submitted** for consideration by the resettlement countries (4,847 for the United States and 504 for Spain), who decide on their admissibility. A total of **1,701 people have already traveled for resettlement** (1,694 to the United States and 7 to Spain).

We have increased our efforts in coordination with civil society to **inform about the SMO initiative and to support people** so that they can complete their **online application**. In the Metro Area (GAM), UNHCR held workshops in **more than 20 localities** of the cantons of San José, Goicoechea, Moravia, Alajuelita and Desamparados. In the Northern region, we reached **47 communities belonging to 12 cantons**, this has even allowed to extend UNHCR work and situational awareness to remote areas in the province of Guanacaste.

Work with the Government of Costa Rica

This year, Costa Rica assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency (PTP) of the Quito Process, and in March formalized its role through the launch of San José Chapter and the realization of the first plenary session with Member States and Friend Countries. UNHCR provided technical assistance towards this milestone. Hence, **Costa Rica positions its leadership in this regional forum**, to conduct actions for the protection and integration of migrants and refugees, while emphasizing the need to **coordinate these actions with other strategic platforms such as MIRPS, RCM and others** to align efforts and foster results. For this aim, Costa Rica convened a meeting in June with other mechanisms' PTP to seek for joint work opportunities.

UNHCR also assists the Costa Rican government's participation in follow-up spaces to the **Los Angeles Declaration/LAD** (particularly as a member of the LAD Investing on Asylum – Action Package Committee, presided by Canada). In such space, Costa Rica has worked proactively through proposals to amplify reach and membership of this committee.

In 2024, Costa Rica participated in the three thematic consultations convened by Chile as leader of the **Cartagena+40 process**, for the preparation and subsequent implementation of **Chile's Declaration and Plan of Action** for the period 2024-2034. With UNHCR's financial and technical support, **the Government of Costa Rica attended these three consultations** held in April in Mexico City, in May in Brasilia and in June in Bogota, contributing with inputs and the country stances to the joint construction process towards this ten-year plan.

Launch of the San José chapter of the Quito Process, first milestone during the Pro Tempore Presidency of Costa Rica. *Crédito: © Francela Dávila/UNHCR*

Work with development actors

We bring refugee communities closer to the multilateral banking, so that they can present their main needs, concerns and capacities to integrate in Costa Rica. *© Austin Ramírez/UNHCR.*

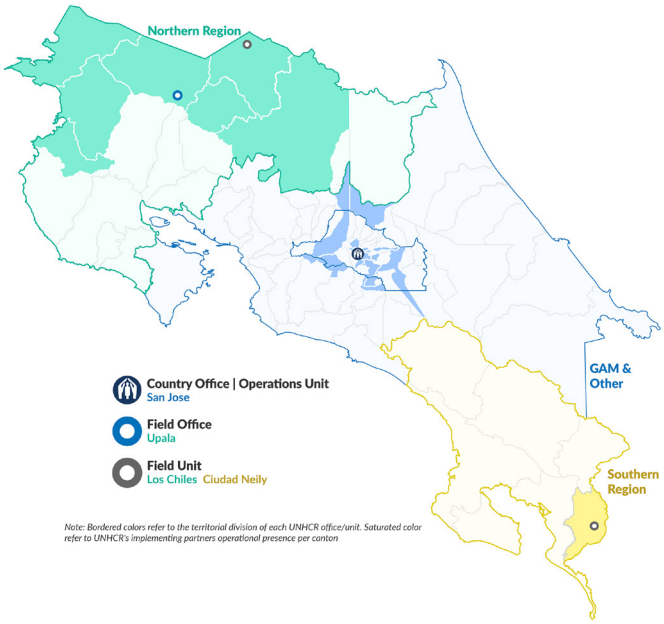
UNHCR is a prime ally of International Financial Institutions (IFI) and development actors, which support Costa Rica in its initiatives towards comprehensive sustainable development. UNHCR contributes for **these initiatives to include people forced to flee**, understanding and leveraging the great scope of development interventions.

UNHCR has participated as technical advisor in context of **dialogues between the Migration Authority (DGME) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** on the strategy to enhance the asylum system. Also, we remark our technical support to the **World Bank (WB)** regarding international protection, which has contributed to their design of a **Migration and Refuge Strategy**, launched along with the Government in January. This initiative involves a wide range of actors including UNHCR and other multilateral stakeholders. UNHCR also contributed through technical assistance for the World Bank to approve a USD 350M concessional grant for Costa Rica (currently under revision of the Legislative Assembly), aimed at **disaster-resilient infrastructure**. All this is part of a broader strategy including human mobility and community resilience aspects. UNHCR continues to work with the **National Commission on Emergencies** (**CNE**), a key entity in the implementation of the first GCFF concessional fund for Costa Rica.

In context of our joint visit with the IDB to the Northern region, we facilitated an **approach between this IFI and the Territorial Counsel for Rural Development for the North-Northern area** (including Guatuso, Upala and Los Chiles cantons). This Counsel integrates institutional and community actors to agree and prioritize key development topics for the region; in this case, education, water resource and sanitation were the main topics covered. Furthermore, this joint work happens in continuity **with the World Bank visit to the Southern border** in December 2023.

UNHCR's Operational Presence

- In 2024, UNHCR field presence was amplified: with support of our donors, **UNHCR established two new Field Units** in **Los Chiles** (**Northern border**) and **Ciudad Neily** (**Southern border**) to strengthen our response to the people with and whom we work.
- UNHCR and its partners have an operational presence in **21** cantons of **6** provinces of the country.



UNHCR appreciates the contributions of donor countries that contribute to Costa Rica and global programs with unearmarked funds:

As of 31 July 2024

UNHCR Costa Rica also appreciates the contributions of our private donors globally:

Republic of Korea and Japan

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