



UNHCR inaugurated three multipurpose courts in the Villanueva, San Jose de Upala and La Virgen in Los Chiles within the framework of the “We are a community” project. [Read the story on page 3.](#)

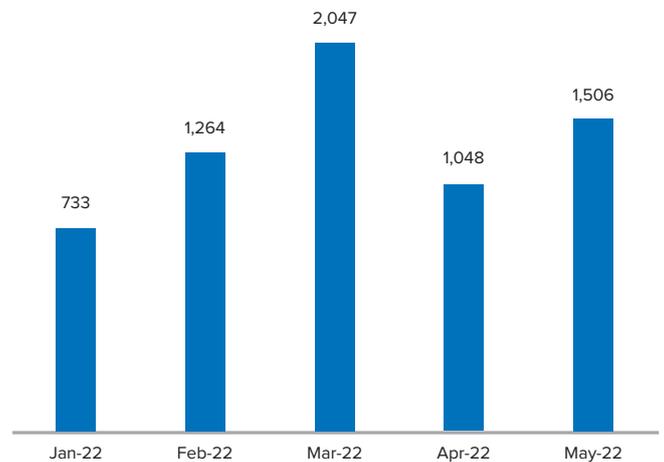
Figures at a glance*

*Accumulated from 01 January 2022 to 30 June 2022
** Accumulated to 30 June 2022

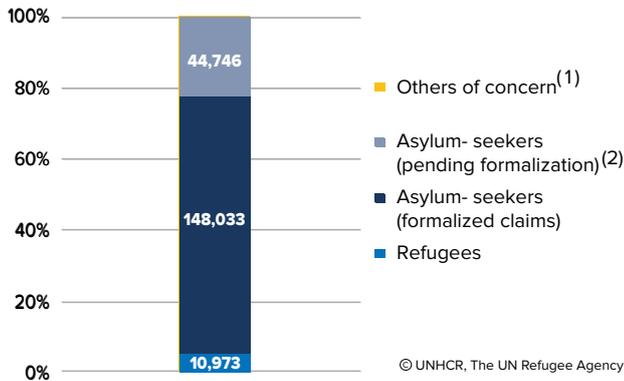
Caseload

203,948 180,157 (NIC) People of concern (PoC) Estimate	192,779 175,775 (NIC) Asylum Seekers Estimate	10,973 4,382 (NIC) Recognized Refugees	196 Others of Concern*
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Number of people registered by UNHCR Costa Rica



Total Caseload Distribution | May 2022



(1) Includes recognized stateless and persons pending recognition of their stateless claims.
(2) Persons who have made an appointment with the Refugee Unit to file an asylum claim.

Sources: Migration Authority (Refugee Unit), CVVR, Administrative Migration Tribunal, National Registry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR Costa Rica.

Source: UNHCR - Own data (ProGres database v4) -Being registered in proGres is a requirement for all UNHCR assistance programs-

Assistance provided by UNHCR

USD 817,249 Total awarded through cash assistance:	2,840 Total individuals benefited with cash assistance	55,552** Number of people active in the UNHCR registration system	8,583 Total people who received information about UNHCR programs	7,128 Total people who received assistance from UNHCR
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UNHCR celebrated World Refugee Day in San José and Upala



After two years without massive events, UNHCR celebrated in a big way this year with an activity on June 19, in the Plaza de la Democracia, in San José, and another one on June 24, in the Mercadito Upaleño, in the North Zone.

On both dates, an entrepreneur's fair of asylum seekers and refugees was combined with live music, entertainment for children, and folklore activities from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, and Cuba.

In San José and Upala, UNHCR distributed information to asylum seekers an opportunity for them to share their stories and struggles. Pre-registrations for UNHCR's assistance programs were also carried out.

Among the artists who joined this celebration were the Costa Rican musician, Pedro Capmany, the Venezuelan group Clavija, the national artist Max Barberena, the Cuban guitarist, Karel Hernández, and the orchestra Madera Nueva that entertained the public with music from Latin America.

Every June 20th, UNHCR leads the commemoration of the World Refugee Day; a date to celebrate the strength, courage, and perseverance of asylum seekers and refugees. This celebration is an opportunity to show support for individuals and families forced to flee.

Enjoy these videos with the best of World Refugee Day 2022



San José



Upala

Mobile Information Centers bring UNHCR programs closer to communities in the Metropolitan Area



As part of the Communication with Communities (CwC) strategy for 2022, UNHCR has set out to strengthen two-way communication with the people we serve, primarily at the community level. Hence, UNHCR started the Mobile Information

Centers in communities of the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM) in coordination with Fundación Mujer, La Salle Legal Clinic, RET, HIAS, Defense of Children International, Jesuit Service for Migrants, and the Legal Clinic of the University of Costa Rica.

The purpose is to empower asylum seekers, refugees and people at risk of statelessness about their rights, programs and services with accurate and accessible information.

These centers will be located at 8 strategic and easy to access points in the GAM, complying with all the health protocols established by the Ministry of Health. Each community will be visited for two days until the end of August.

These Mobile Centers will also be providing legal information regarding the refugee status determination procedures and at the same time protection gaps will be identified.

During the first week, UNHCR served over 200 people in the community of San Sebastian, so it is estimated that by the end of the sessions, at least 1,500 people will benefit from this initiative.

UNHCR inaugurates sports infrastructure in the North

Zone to promote peaceful coexistence



UNHCR financed the refurbishment of three community fields to turn them into multipurpose courts in Villanueva, San José de Upala and La Virgen in Los Chiles. This is part of the *“We are a community”* project implemented by UNHCR that promotes the integration and peaceful coexistence of young people and children asylum seekers through the practice of sports in the cantons of Upala and Los Chiles.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the mayors of Upala and Los Chiles, Yamileth López and Jacobo Guillén respectively, and Milton Moreno, UNHCR’s Representative in Costa Rica.

During the inauguration ceremony, UNHCR donated sports equipment to the Community Sports Committees of each of the communities including soccer balls, baseball helmets, balls and gloves, basket balls, javelins, jump fences, coach vests, etc. *“We are a community”* also provides training to local community coaches in baseball and athletics and promotes the inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees in sports committees.

UNHCR renews agreement with the Costa Rican Social Security Fund and awards

recognition for its work with refugees and asylum seekers



On February 18, UNHCR and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) renewed the 2020 agreement to provide health insurance for refugees and asylum-seekers with medical vulnerabilities.

Between 2007 and 2019, UNHCR provided health insurance to a very limited number of asylum-seekers (less than 100) through a partner agency. But since 2020, thanks to the UNHCR and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) agreement, over 6,000 persons have been benefitted.

This agreement has allowed UNHCR to support the Government of Costa Rica by providing USD 1.8 million to the CCSS in response of the pressing health needs faced by the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees, particularly with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The agreement was subsequently extended by addendum until March 2021 and then until February 2022 to further cover up to 10,000 people, with a new investment of USD 2.2 million.

The latest extension allows 6,000 people to be insured from March to December 2022. UNHCR assessed the medical conditions of those insured to assure that those in greater need will continue to be covered.

During the signature of the extension of the Agreement, UNHCR recognized the CCSS's commitment towards the protection of asylum seekers and refugees. CCSS was awarded the "*Vivir la Integración Seal*", which celebrates organizations that carry out actions to include displaced people in their work, political, academic and social environments.

The recognition was delivered by Milton Moreno, UNHCR's Representative in Costa Rica and a representative of refugees in Costa Rica. The award was received by Roman Macaya, former Executive President of the CCSS who expressed his appreciation and extended the recognition to all of those health workers that assist asylum seekers and refugees on their daily work.

Canada's Ambassador visits the North Zone to

learn about UNHCR's field work



At the end of January, H.E. Elizabeth Williams, Ambassador of Canada, visited La Cruz to learn about the situation of migrants in refugees and hear from UNHCR and IOM about their work on the field. This was Mrs. Williams first field visit as newly appointed Ambassador in Costa Rica showing Canada's commitment to human mobility.

Her agenda included meetings with the Mayor of La Cruz, Luis Alonso Alan Corea, to discuss the challenges the canton faces as a border town and the actions carried out. UNHCR and IOM used the event to present projects that have been implemented in the canton within the framework of the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

Ambassador Williams also accompanied both agencies to project sites. In the case of UNHCR, she was able to meet with a focus group of single mothers asylum-seekers and refugees from the community of Santa Cecilia in La Cruz. She also met with asylum-seekers and community leaders from the community of Villanueva, who shared their testimonies about the challenges and difficulties in their community. After field activities, the Ambassador met with UNHCR's representative to discuss the various needs of the people UNHCR serves in the area.

UNHCR publishes guide to promote self-care and mental health for displaced women

UNHCR held four series of mental health sessions through Facebook Live on the [RefugioCR](#) page. A psychologist delivered messages on empowerment as a tool to eradicate violence against women. She also shared strategies to overcome moments of crisis, support networks, shared responsibilities at home. Throughout the event UNHCR also learned about the needs of the participating women and offer referrals to assistance programs.

Based on this experience, UNHCR published a [digital guide](#) on its [Help Costa Rica](#) page that provides tools and resources for self-care in difficult times. By putting this information into practice, physical and emotional discomfort can be prevented, and a state of well-being is promoted.

This guide includes ideas for improving health, techniques for managing emotions, meditation and breathing techniques, and a list of contacts for organizations and institutions that provide support to women in Costa Rica.



Executive Decree formalized MINARE

The Government of Costa Rica signed an [Executive Decree \(No. 43393\)](#) to formalize the MINARE - (Costa Rica's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework) as the national platform for discussion and coordination of refugee response in Costa Rica. The MINARE was adopted in 2017 as a pilot plan to guide the country's response to the situation of both refugees and asylum seekers. This decree builds on the achievements made during the pilot phase and formalizes its coordination structure.

“By signing this Executive Decree, Costa Rica sets an example to the world in terms of public policy and administrative management for the response to forced displacement and reiterates its regional leadership in respect of Human Rights,” said Milton Moreno, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Costa Rica.



In 2021, under the leadership of the former Minister of Interior and Chair of MINARE, Priscila Zúñiga, MINARE was reviewed and updated to adapt the institutional commitment to the new context post COVID-19. The Executive Decree also formalized MINARE's coordination structure that includes an Executive Committee with ministers and vice ministers and a National Technical Team with focal points from each ministry. This double coordination structure allows ongoing monitoring of advances and challenges and promotes a full implementation of the agreements.

Over 30 organizations were awarded “Vivir la Integración” quality seal

UNHCR's *Vivir la Integración Quality Seal* promotes an inclusive organizational culture for displaced persons and recognizes their contributions to Costa Rican society. This year, the Seal was awarded to 30 organizations on January 19th.

Organizations from the private sector, civil society and academia, as well as public institutions and local governments were awarded.

[The III Edition](#) aimed to create specific agreements with participating organizations to reduce gaps in access to decent work.

Vivir la Integración Quality Seal is a unique initiative at regional level that articulates the concepts of quality and human rights traceability. This makes Costa Rica the first country in the region to recognize institutions, organizations and companies that implement actions towards the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers. Due to its relevance, the initiative was declared of public interest by the Costa Rican Presidency in October 2017 through the Executive Decree 40645-MP.



The seal was awarded to 11 private companies, 11 NGOs and eight public institutions, as well as one individual.



Western Union donates to an Upala women’s cooperative

Western Union, a III Edition Vivir la Integración awardee, donated USD 2,000 to the [Association of Women Entrepreneurs of the Communities of Upala \(AMECUP\)](#), led by the community leader [Mrs. Vicenta González](#), also winner of the Seal.

UNHCR promotes joint work between awardees to enhance the impact on refugees lives. In this case AMECUP needed machinery and furniture to improve the quality of the products and increase production and sales.

Stories

Mercadito Guatuseño: Bringing nationals and refugees together in Northern Costa Rica



Marlene is a Costa Rican entrepreneur, born and raised in Guatuso, in the Costa Rican Northern Zone. Melissa* is a Nicaraguan asylum seeker who currently resides in the same community as Marlene and is learning how to be an entrepreneur. Both will benefit of the Guatuso Market, an initiative that helps asylum seekers and local community to have a livelihood.

With the support of UNHCR and partners, such as Fundación Mujer, people like Melissa and Marlene can support their families.

[Watch video](#)

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