

Argentina

August 2023

Hosting some **231,138 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, most of them from Venezuela**, UNHCR works with the Argentine government, civil society and population of concern to **guarantee access to the territory, asylum, regularization and local integration**, while also providing **goods and services** to cover basic needs such as housing, health and clothing items, both through cash-based and in-kind assistance. UNHCR and its partners are

present in strategic border areas and major urban centers in the country through **Points of Attention and Orientation (PAO)** in the cities of La Quiaca, San Salvador de Jujuy, Mendoza, Posadas and Puerto Iguazú where those who enter the country by land receive information and assistance.

Aiming at the full **enjoyment of social, economic and cultural rights of refugees and migrants**, UNHCR also implements a multi-stakeholder strategy for their **socio-economic inclusion**.

UNHCR promotes the **inclusion of refugees and migrants in national social protection programs and the local labour market**. It also works for the creation of enabling conditions for decent work and wage earning; to enhance routes for access to financial services; to promote a conducive environment for business creation; and supports the execution of **admission programs and complementary pathways**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

231,138

Refugees	4,129
Asylum-seekers	11,763
Others of concern*	456
Other People in Need of International Protection	214,771
Stateless-seekers	19

Source: Official information provided by the Government, as of June 2023

UNHCR PRESENCE

The UNHCR Regional Office for Southern Latin America based in Buenos Aires covers operations in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Staff in Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay:

29 National staff and affiliated workforce

10 International staff

Offices:

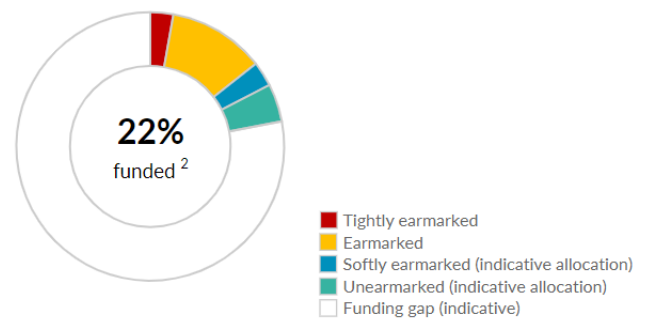
2 Field presence in Cordoba and Mendoza

FUNDING

USD 56.2 MILLION

requested for the Argentina

Multi-Country Office including Argentina



Refugee woman who learned programming thanks to the UNHCR project © UNHCR/ S. Ortí, 2023

Results in 2022

- Some **1,373** refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations were able to cover their basic needs through **multi-purpose cash assistance** and as a result of the assistance 97 percent of the population achieved financial inclusion through the opening of bank accounts; some **389 people** were provided with **temporary accommodation** and **4,718** received clothing items as part of the **winterization campaign** implemented with refugee and migrant led organizations.
- Some **1,287** refugees and migrants received **free orientation and socio-legal assistance** to access asylum, regularization, health services and social protection programs, **11 gender-based violence survivors** received psychosocial counselling and safe referral to specialized services and **18 children and adolescents** facing protection risks were also assisted and were safely referred to protection systems.
- Moreover, **212 entrepreneurs** received cash transfers as seed capital and technical assistance to start or strengthen their businesses.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR co-leads jointly with IOM the **National Response Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela** where 18 partners –UN, CSOs, Refugee’s and Migrants’ organizations implement the 2022 Response Plan for the **Southern Cone**, complementing governmental capacities in main urban and border areas of the region.
- ADRA** (Agencia Adventista de Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales), **CAREF** (Comisión Argentina para Refugiados y Migrantes) and **Fundación MIRARES** (Migrantes, Refugiados y Argentinos Emprendedores Sociales) are UNHCR’s partners implementing projects aimed at providing counselling, socio-legal orientation, psychological support, basic humanitarian assistance and support for socio-economic inclusion and sustainable livelihoods to refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR works in close coordination with **governmental counterparts**, namely the National Refugee Commission (CONARE), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Migration Directorate, National Office of the Public Defender, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism, and ANSES (social insurance agency).
- In order to foster the equitable responsibility-sharing in line with the **Global Compact on Refugees**, UNHCR promotes the **Cities of Solidarity** initiative, increased involvement of the private sector and reinforced community-based solutions for inclusion. The national network of Cities of Solidarity aims to facilitate access to information, orientation and improve reception conditions as well as to better integrate refugees and migrants in their local communities, strengthening their access to rights. In Argentina, **14 local governments** are part of the initiative. Under this framework, UNHCR provided expert guidance and support for the designing and implementation of socio-economic recovery projects in close coordination with the Government of the city of Buenos Aires and the municipalities of Cordoba, Mendoza and Salta, aiming to promote forcibly displaced people’s employability and strengthen self-employment in the local labour markets.
- Alliances with **70 private sector companies** were established to generate awareness and promote the labour insertion of refugees and migrants in the local market.
- UNHCR works side by side with at least **20 refugee and migrant led organizations** in a wide range of activities oriented towards the enhancement of their organizational processes.

Main Activities

Protection & Durable Solutions

- UNHCR **provides technical support and advice to national authorities involved in the implementation of relevant legislation** to promote efficient refugee status determination procedures (RSD). Capacity building activities are aimed at strengthening the asylum system, especially the **National Refugee Commission** and its Technical Secretariat, to ensure due process in admission, registration, eligibility interviews, RSD assessments and right to appeal.
- UNHCR advocates for the **facilitation of the naturalization procedure for refugees and stateless persons**, providing the necessary information to ensure they are able to make an informed decision, as well

as to ensure the implementation of the new legal framework establishing a statelessness determination procedure.

- UNHCR promotes actions aimed at identifying, preventing and **responding to situations of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** through regular protection dialogues and empowerment activities, while also providing **psychosocial support and socio legal orientation to GBV survivors**.
- UNHCR, CONARE and the **Committee for integral assistance and protection of refugees and asylum-seekers of the National Office of the Public Defender** work under a bilateral agreement to **guarantee legal assistance for asylum-seekers to access asylum and during the refugee status determination procedure**. The legal assistance is free and provided by expert lawyers from the National Office of the Public Defender. The specialized Commission also provides legal aid is also provided to stateless persons.
- UNHCR and partners provides expert contribution for the **design and implementation of socioeconomic recovery projects** aiming at widening opportunities for refugees and migrants and guaranteeing their labour insertion and resilience.
- UNHCR supports regional efforts led by Argentina to consolidate resettlement and complementary pathways, by introducing **innovative legal and procedural frameworks for community sponsorship**, by convening regional meetings and exchanges of best practices with other countries, and by supporting the States' participation in global fora and high-level meetings with more experienced countries.
- UNHCR has supported the establishment, training and mutual assistance of a **network of community sponsors** who offer their own resources to expand opportunities **for resettlement and integration of refugees** in their communities. The network is currently comprised of nine faith-based and civil society organizations which encompass over 59 hosting communities and over 254 sponsor groups, creating a country-wide protection network for refugees.
- A **global pilot project on resettlement, GROW - Growing Solutions and Funding for Refugees**, is being implemented in cooperation with the **Fundación ACNUR Comité Argentino** with an aim to promote the community sponsorship scheme. The families arrived in April 2022 count with the accompaniment of mentors (individual donors of Fundación ACNUR) to guide them in their integration process during their first year in the country.

Humanitarian Assistance

- UNHCR provides **cash-based, shelter and in-kind assistance** to most vulnerable refugees and migrants, so they can cover for their most vital and essential needs. Food and access to shelter as well as to hygiene kits is provided in border areas.

Special thanks to major donors who have provided funds for the Regional Office and at the global level in 2023:

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External Relations

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