# Chile

APRIL 2025

In Chile, **forcibly displaced people continue to face challenges in accessing the territory, regularizing their legal status, and integrating into the labor market and host communities**. This situation is exacerbated by the rise in **discrimination and xenophobia**, largely associated with the current perception of insecurity within Chilean society.

In this context, the **legislative agenda is increasingly centered on security**. Additionally**, many people are leaving Chile** for third countries, mainly through the border with Peru, due to the lack of regularization mechanisms that allow them to access formal employment and stabilize in the country.

**UNHCR continues to strengthen strategic partnerships** with the public and private sectors to provide **assistance, protection, and solutions**, as well as to develop tools that **empower people in need of international protection** on their path to real and effective socio-economic **integration**.

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

## KEY FIGURES

**1.608.650**

Foreign population in Chile [*], equivalent to **8.8%** of the country's total resident population.

*[*] XX National Population Census and IX Housing Census (Censo 2024).*

**336.984**

People in an irregular situation [*]. 42% (**141.649 adults)** completed the national biometric registration and **75%** are of Venezuelan nationality.

*[*] Estimates of the foreign population as of December 2023 (Sermig/INE, 2024).*

**541.229**

Population under UNHCR's mandate in Chile

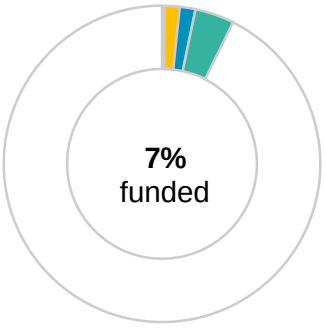
- **2.448** refugees
- **13.366** asylum seekers
- **1.688** stateless persons
- **523.727** people in need of international protection

*[*] UNHCR Population Statistics as of December 2024*

## FUNDING (AS OF MARCH 20225)

**USD 30,7 millions**

Requested by UNHCR in Chile for 2025*




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

# Main Results:
## (Update January to March 2025)

### SOLUTIONS

- In **Arica and Parinacota, Tarapacá and the Metropolitan region**, **over 150 people took part in training activities** developed based on a **socio-labor needs assessment**. The self-employment track included a workshop on entrepreneurship and a personalized guidance session, while the formal employment track focused on tools to support entry into the job market.
- The ***Emprendamos Hoy*** program kicked off in March in the Metropolitan Region with 18 participants attending six training sessions. The course follows the ILO's "Start and Improve Your Business" (SIYB) methodology, covering key topics such as digital marketing, tax regulations, health and safety compliance, cooperatives, and collective entrepreneurship.
- To **foster inclusive work environments and promote intercultural understanding**, awareness-raising sessions were held in partnership with the private sector, aimed at supporting the labor market integration of people in situations of human mobility.
- During this period, the first of four sessions of the **Self-Concept workshop** was held in the Metropolitan Region. This training initiative focuses on strengthening **mental health** by promoting self-esteem and helping participants identify personal strengths as key tools for resilience and social integration.

### COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

- The **giant puppet Amal toured several cities across Chile** as part of the **Teatro a Mil Festival**, with support from UNHCR, UNESCO, and UNICEF. Her journey sparked reflection on **forced displacement and solidarity** with refugees. In Iquique, UNHCR presented her with a handmade doll crafted by a Venezuelan entrepreneur—offered as a symbol of welcome for displaced children.

© teatroamil

As she traveled through Chile, **Amal carried a powerful message of hope**, empathy, and welcome. Her presence in public spaces brought together children, families, and community organizations around the celebration of **cultural diversity and a shared commitment to protecting and integrating those who have been forced to flee**. ©UNHCR

- To mark **International Women's Day**, **UNHCR and the MINK'A Social Center organized a gathering in Alto Hospicio**, Tarapacá Region, to recognize the work of community women leaders from the **La Pampa II informal settlement.** Many of these women, themselves refugees and

migrants, lead grassroots initiatives such as adult **education programs, legal counseling, and a community kitchen** that provides meals to families of diverse nationalities.

- In February, the **CineMóvil**—with support from UNHCR—brought free **film screenings to more than ten municipalities across Chile**, including areas with limited access to cultural activities. **Nearly 1,500 people participated in the initiative**, which combined entertainment with messages of inclusion and awareness around forced displacement. In some locations, municipal programs joined the effort to facilitate the participation of vulnerable families.
- In **Iquique**, **equipment was delivered to the local softball league**—an initiative aimed at fostering spaces for **integration through sport**, promoting intercultural coexistence and the physical and emotional well-being of participants.

## SHELTER AND BASIC NEEDS

- To **support stability and improve the living conditions** of people forced to flee, more than **450 rental subsidies** were provided, and close to **100 individuals accessed emergency accommodation**. In addition, 28 cases were referred to shelters in the Arica y Parinacota and Tarapacá regions.
- **UNHCR donated hygiene items and clothing** to benefit nearly **40 people living in government-run shelters managed by the Ministry of Social Development and Family** in the **Arica y Parinacota** Region. These shelters host Chilean nationals, refugees, and migrants in situations of vulnerability, with the aim of improving their living conditions and supporting their path toward stabilization.
- **Nearly 100 families received direct assistance to cover basic needs**, enabling them to meet essential expenses and strengthen their autonomy. This type of support not only ensures daily subsistence but also promotes dignity and helps stimulate local economies.
- A total of **130 individuals received individual psychological support**, helping them **improve their emotional well-being** and cope with the challenges associated with human mobility.

## PROTECTION

- To guarantee the rights of displaced individuals, over **500 people received legal assistance** in the **Metropolitan, Tarapacá, and Arica y Parinacota regions**. Additionally, through the national helpline, Chatbot service, email, and in-person consultations, a total of **422 people accessed key information** on the asylum process, regularization mechanisms, and other protection services.
- In Santiago, a **community leadership and local participation workshop** was held, bringing together refugees, migrants, and members of host communities. The activity created a space for dialogue and collective reflection.
- UNHCR collaborated with the **Border Prosecutor's Office at the Chile–Peru border** to strengthen assistance at the **Chacalluta Border Complex**. This included **setting up a safer and more confidential office** space for people on the move, with a **particular focus on children and adolescents**. In addition, the office expanded its operations to a full-time schedule, now functioning 24/7, becoming the first unit of its kind in Chile.
- During the reporting period, support was provided for **visa applications for children and adolescents**, with **40 cases assisted in the Metropolitan Region and Arica y Parinacota.** This assistance aims to ensure their regularization process, while promoting comprehensive protection and access to rights.

- UNHCR installed display **stands in community spaces and public services to share informational materials** and awareness-raising messages. This initiative aims **to improve access to key information** on rights, available support channels, and referral pathways for refugees and migrants.

Distribution of display stands and informational brochures at the Los Rezagados Committee in El Boro settlement and at the Alto Hospicio Municipality, as part of outreach efforts to promote rights and access to services for people on the move. ©UNHCR

- UNHCR **held a training session on misinformation for partner agencies and stakeholders**, with the participation of civil society, academia, local governments, UN agencies, and implementing organizations. The activity **strengthened capacities to identify and counter false narratives** that negatively impact people in situations of human mobility.

## COORDINACIÓN INTERAGENCIAL

- The Tarapacá **GTRM, the local coordination arm of the R4V Regional Platform for Refugees and Migrants, presented the findings of the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)**, with the participation of the Regional Presidential Delegation. The analysis was carried out by 29 organizations, including UN agencies, NGOs, and civil society actors, and is intended to inform the 2025–2026 Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), enhance interventions, allocate resources more effectively, and adapt the response to emerging challenges.

## Partners

Arzobispado de Santiago
Vicaría de Pastoral Social Caritas

FUNDACIÓN DEPORTELIBRE

FUNDACIÓN EMPLEA

Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes

World Vision

### CONTACTS

**Ignacio Silva Didier**
Reporting Associate
silvai@unhcr.org

**Laura Bermúdez Velez**
Associate Information Management Officer
bermudla@unhcr.org