

“ On the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**, and as we face unprecedented numbers of people uprooted from home, we must remember that it is not only conflict that forces people to flee. **Racism and racial discrimination** are all too often drivers of displacement. (...) Today, I also reaffirm my anti-racist commitment and pledge that UNHCR will keep working with States, civil society, and other organizations to promote **anti-racist policies and practices**, including ones that address structural **discrimination and inequality** ”

Filippo Grandi

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

This Statement is available [HERE](#).



© UNHCR/Catalina Betancur

HIGHLIGHTS

In the context of the International Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and their Host Countries and Communities co-hosted by the Government of Canada and the European Union, together with UNHCR and IOM, on 16 and 17 March in **Brussels**, **UNHCR** and **IOM** urged in a **joint statement** for increased international support for refugees and migrants from Venezuela and the communities in Latin America and the Caribbean that host them. To date, over 7.24 million have left their homes, of which more than 6 million are in the Americas, according to **Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V)**. Over 211,000 have been recognized as refugees, and over a million have submitted asylum claims worldwide.

On 23 January, the U.N. Secretary General reiterated the “urgent need for the deployment of an international specialized armed force” to Haiti and called on governments to consider halting deportations as the country’s situation spirals. The recommendations were issued as part of a **report** on the U.N. Integrated Office in Haiti. Earlier in November 2022, UNHCR **issued a statement on non-return to Haiti**. The Haiti **Humanitarian Needs Overview** released on 17 March cited a figure of 5.2 million people in need of up from 4.9 million last year. **The Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State** held on 25 March in the **Dominican Republic** emphasized the importance of subregional, regional, and international efforts to facilitate a dialogue among all parties in Haiti. UNHCR and its partners are also monitoring the situation of Haitians temporarily residing in countries in the region or engaging in mixed movements, in order to ensure their access to protection or temporary stay arrangements and to prevent forced returns and potential situations of refoulement.

The Law for the Prevention, Protection, and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in **Honduras** was sanctioned by the President of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, and will come into force on 19 April. This legal framework is the result of a long advocacy process and constitutes a national milestone in the protection of the fundamental rights of thousands of Hondurans impacted by generalized violence. **UNHCR published a joint press release** with OHCHR, ICRC and NRC praising this historic decision by the President of Honduras.

UNHCR **expressed serious concern** by the arbitrary deprivation of the Nicaraguan nationality of over 300 people and called on **Nicaragua** to respect its international obligations to ensure the enjoyment of the right to nationality and to take measures to prevent and eradicate statelessness. The prevailing political and security situation in Nicaragua continues to drive population outflows, mainly into neighbouring **Costa Rica**. In 2022, Costa Rica hosted 270,636 forcibly displaced persons, of which 83 per cent were Nicaraguans. The situation is also pushing the small refugee population in Nicaragua to depart (some 300 people mainly from Central American countries). Mexico remained the second largest recipient country of Nicaraguan asylum claims with close to 31,000 asylum applications, 8,971 new claims registered in 2022.

In **Panama**, from January to March 2023, **over 87,000 people entered irregularly through Darién**, six times more than those who arrived during the same period in 2022. Authorities estimate that by the end of the year, some 400,000 people will have crossed the **Darién** during 2023. The government has asked all relevant actors for their cooperation in finding durable solutions and mechanisms to discourage irregular entries.

Due to the militarization of the border between **Chile** and **Peru**, an estimated 4,150 people UNHCR serves tried to cross the border after being stranded in Tacna city or at the border. The primary basic needs identified by displaced populations remain food/ water, WASH, and shelter. UNHCR and partners have deployed efforts in this border area: Since February, **UNHCR** and partner **HIAS** have provided 1,223 orientations, distributed 609 hygiene kits 1,688 litres of drinkable water, and 351 blankets. **IFRC** provided medical care.



© UNHCR/Philippe Rapin

UNHCR'S RESPONSE IN THE AMERICAS

One-fifth of the world’s 100 million forcibly displaced people were hosted in the Americas in 2022. The drivers of forced displacement remained in the region, coupled with the economic consequences of COVID-19, the global economic impact of the Ukraine situation, and severe climate-related disasters.

UNHCR supports the Governments and host communities in welcoming asylum-seekers and refugees through registration, legal aid, cash assistance, and donations of hygiene and cleaning kits, food, and mattresses. It also provides psychosocial support, emergency shelter, vocational training, and activities to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and the communities that host them.



© UNHCR / Nicolo Filippo Rosso

AMERICAS OPERATIONAL UPDATE

RESPONSE IN PROGRESS: AS OF MARCH 2023



29,005 people UNHCR serves who received **core relief items (CRI)**



3,100 people accessing **community centres, Support Spaces, or other structures.**



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



34,152 people receiving **cash assistance.**



26,799 people UNHCR serves provided with **temporary collective shelter solutions.**



61,422 people UNHCR serves who received **legal information or orientation.**



3,115 children, adolescents, parents and caregivers who receive **individual child protection services.**



3,338 people participating in **peaceful coexistence projects.**



10,684 people UNHCR serves who received **WASH-related kits.**



13,354 people reached through **information, awareness, and/or sensitization sessions.**



1,329 **gender-based violence** survivors who, after disclosure, received **specialized response services**

ONGOING INITIATIVES...



Brazil. UNHCR and its partners carry out **initiatives** to guarantee the rights of indigenous refugee and migrant populations in Brazil.

Ecuador. UNHCR and Sociedad Deportiva Aucas, a renowned football team in Ecuador, **signed a partnership** to raise awareness on refugees, making Aucas the first soccer team in the Americas to have the UNHCR logo on its shirt.



El Salvador. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR **reaffirmed their commitment** to strengthen CODER, the national institution in charge of recognizing refugees in El Salvador.

Peru. Venezuelan medical professionals **step in to fill healthcare gaps** in Peru. Among the 1.5 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Peru there are doctors and nurses who want nothing more than the chance to serve.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Entrepreneurship training helps Venezuelan refugees find stability



Training courses are helping Venezuelan refugees and migrants across Latin America gain the tools to be self-sufficient and contribute to their host countries.

Although María had a university degree in special education and years-worth of experience working in business administration back in her native Venezuela, when she first arrived in Peru, she found herself with no choice but to accept an off-the-books position, helping out at a dentist's office. More information [HERE](#).

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

In the first quarter of 2023, the R4V Regional Platform published its **Movements Report** on the last quarter of 2022, analyzing data and trends in movements of **Venezuelan** refugees and migrants, including returns. The platform also published its **End-Year Report** on the RMRP 2022, highlighting more than 2.4 M people reached by 364 different organizations (including 39 refugee- and migrant-led organizations) with a total of \$667 M in support received for activities in 17 countries. R4V also organized a series of technical conversations chaired by the Regional Sectors in the framework of the Solidarity Conference held in Brussels from 16-17 March 2023, and premiered there the documentary **"The Journey that Never Ends."**

Panama launched its **MIRPS Regional Action Plan** as the **2023 Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS)** Pro Tempore Presidency and hosted a discussion with the diplomatic community in Panama representing MIRPS States, Support Platform Members, and other actors to strengthen dialogue and collaboration on regional and national levels. The U.S. also launched its **Chair Strategy** for the MIRPS Support Platform, placing a focus on integration.

AMERICAS OPERATIONAL UPDATE

DON'T MISS...



Ecuador. 'Network Guardians' help to bridge gender digital gap in an Ecuadorian neighbourhood.

Guatemala. UNHCR and its partners inaugurated a new Centre for Attention to Migrants and Refugees (CAPMIR) in Huehuetenango to share information and guidance on rights and provide medical attention, water and hygiene kits.



An animated short film sheds light on the impact of and need for response to gender-based violence in **Colombia, Ecuador** and **Peru**. The short film is based on a project implemented by **UNHCR** and **Amnesty International** with the support of the **Swedish Postcode Lottery** in the three countries.

SPOTLIGHT PUBLICATIONS IN THE AMERICAS



Colombia:
Solutions to Internal Displacement



Ecuador:
Monthly Update



Honduras:
Operational Update



MCO Panama:
Operational Update

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

FUNDING THE RESPONSE 2023

(as of 28 March 2023)

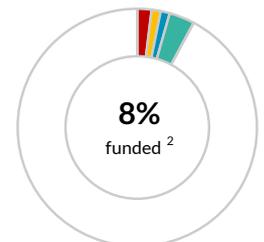
UNHCR's humanitarian response in the **Americas** is made possible thanks to the generous support of major donors who have contributed unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations and to donors who have generously contributed directly to UNHCR operations in the Americas. UNHCR is appealing for \$827.2 million in funding in 2023 to respond to the most pressing needs in the Americas. As of 28 March, donors had pledged \$64 million.

Unless timely funding is provided in the region, displaced communities and all stakeholders to transform systems and harmful social norms that perpetuate gender inequality and discrimination, we risk leaving refugee and forcibly displaced women and girls behind. We fear existing gender inequalities will only deepen from the impacts of climate change - from inequities in access to natural resources, legal rights, livelihood opportunities, formalized safety nets, technologies and information, and more.

\$ 827.2 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023¹

- 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, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela.

2. The percentage funded (8%) and total funding amount (\$64,573,637) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$762,614,741 representing 92% of the financial requirements.

THANKS TO DONORS IN 2023 AS OF 28 MARCH:

Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Norway | Netherlands | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America | Corporación Andina de Fomento (Caf) | UN Joint Programmes | Unesco

AND TO OUR PRIVATE DONORS:

International Olympic Committee | Private donors Argentina | Private donors Australia | Private donors Brazil | Private donors Luxembourg | Private donors Mexico | Private donors USA | Swedish Postcode Lottery | USA for UNHCR

For more information, contact:

Carla Calvo - Senior External Relations Officer: calvoc@unhcr.org

Salvador Santiesteban - Reporting Officer: santiest@unhcr.org | **Rebeca Li** - Associate External Relations Officer: limurill@unhcr.org |

For media requests:

Analia Kim - Communications Officer: kiman@unhcr.org | **Luiz Godinho** - Communications Officer: godinho@unhcr.org