

# CHILE

December 2022

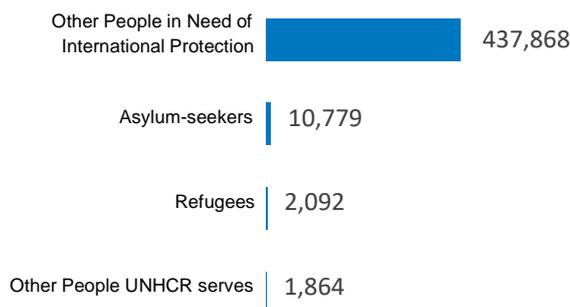
In 2022 Chile remained a final destination country for people forced to flee and people in need of international protection. Most entered the country through unofficial border crossing points with Perú and Bolivia.

**The Office in Chile is supporting the Government** to enhance the humanitarian, protection, and solutions space for all persons of concern to UNHCR, precisely asylum-seekers and refugees of different nationalities, refugees and

migrants from Venezuela, and stateless persons or those at risk of statelessness, considering the differentiated needs of the targeted population.

## POPULATION UNHCR SERVE

**452,603\***

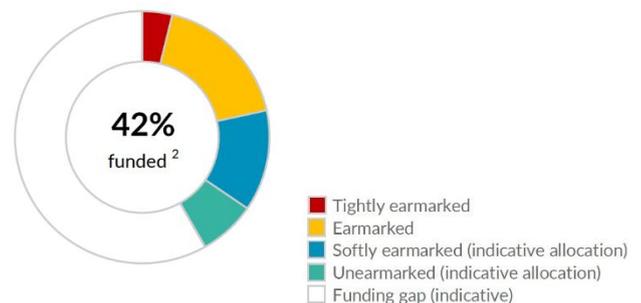


\* The figures were collected from the Government of Chile. Other People in Need of International protection include Venezuelan people residing in Chile when not refugees or Asylum-seekers.

## FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2022)

**USD 22.7 million**

requested for the UNHCR operation in Chile

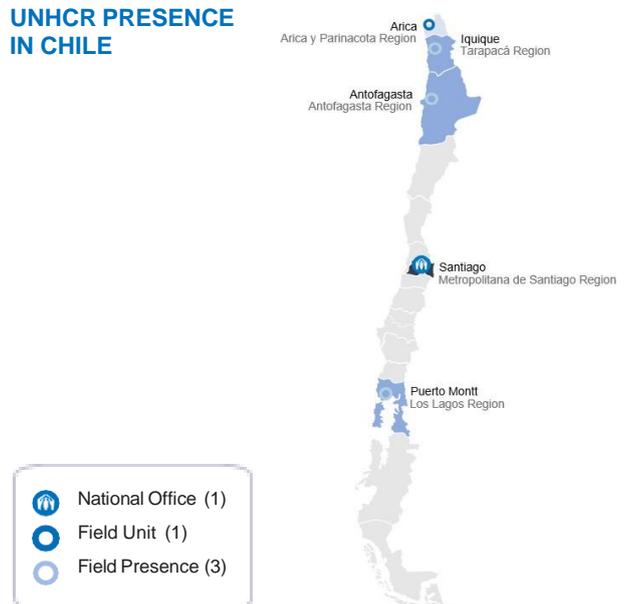


## KEY FIGURES

- The total foreign population residing in Chile reached **1,482,390**(\*\*) people as of December 2021, representing 1.5% more than in 2020 and an increase of 14.1% compared to 2018. This equates to 7,7 per cent of the country's population.
- In 2022, according to the Investigative Police (PDI), more than **53,875** people entered Chile through unauthorized entry points.
- Chile is the fourth destination for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, after Colombia, Perú, and Ecuador, with over **444 thousand** lawfully residing there.

\*\*This figure does not include persons who have entered the territory through unauthorized border crossing points.

## UNHCR PRESENCE IN CHILE



## Working with Partners

- In line with the "whole of society approach" envisaged by the Global Compact on Refugees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **UNHCR works closely with the national and regional governments, refugee communities, municipalities, civil society organizations, academies, the international community, and private sector** to ensure 'refugees' and 'migrants' protection and durable solutions.
- **UNHCR and IOM co-lead the National Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V Platform)**, composed of 24 partners, to ensure and coordinated and comprehensive response to the plight of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Chile.

## Main Results in 2022

(January to December 2022)



Legal and psychosocial assistance

**35,000  
assistances**



Non-food kits, food assistance, and cash grants to support basic needs and/or medical expenses

**>37,800  
assistances**



Temporary Shelter

**>8,700  
assistances**



Training and/or support for self-employment for inclusive market

**>5,700 persons**

## Core Activities

(The last quarter of 2022)

### Protection

- Assisted refugees and migrants with **legal advice, counseling, emergency shelter, and referrals to specialized services**, especially throughout the Support spaces (SS), a regional network promoted by the R4V Platform, where information, guidance, and services are provided. Provided **psychosocial assistance** through partnership agreements with World Vision International, Jesuit Migrant Service, the Municipality of Santiago, and Vicaría Pastoral Social.
- **12 participatory assessments were conducted in Arica, Santiago, Iquique, Antofagasta, Temuco, and 7 virtual ones.** 143 people participated, mainly from Venezuela, Colombia, and the host community. Regarding their concerns, the different groups retain the need to regularize their legal status in the country to access decent jobs and not be exposed to permanent exploitation and abuse. They mentioned the difficulties in accessing housing in proper conditions since exiting requirements are very difficult to meet, which results in house-sharing in often overcrowded conditions.

- During 2022, the National Office evaluated directly over **4,865 assistance requests** received through the National Office's phoneline, face-to-face counseling, and an online form available at the UNHCR's website and chatbot. This led to **2,252 referrals** to UNHCR's partners for humanitarian assistance and protection mainstreaming. Most of the assistance requests came from Venezuelan family groups, many of which are led by women, having entered irregularly into the country in 2022 and 2021 with humanitarian and international protection needs. Additionally, the automated WhatsApp chatbot "Tu Paise" reached **7,559 users in 2022** with demands about information on the asylum procedure, regularization mechanisms, and access to rights.

### Shelter, food, and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- Assisted with **the provision of shelter, food, cash grants, and hygiene kits** to the most vulnerable refugees and migrants in coordination with the Ministry of Development and Family, Regional Governments, Municipalities, and police (Carabineros). Provided **cash grants to support refugees and migrants with basic needs** throughout the country; some have benefited from **cash grants to cover medical conditions**.
- Promoted an interinstitutional response to the most urgent needs of Venezuelan families living in the streets, aiming at **boosting the Government's strategy "Programa calle" and particularly "Plan Enlace Alameda"**, in coordination with the Social Development and Family Ministry, Vicaría de la Pastoral Social and World Vision.
- UNHCR and the Red Cross International Federation (IFRC) delivered UNHCR-funded cash grants via prepaid cards for an average of USD 700.

### Durable Solutions

- In December, UNHCR launched the **"Mercado Inclusivo" (Inclusive Market), an economic integration virtual platform run by Vicaría Pastoral Social** and supported by the Chilean Government's Ministries of Economy, Labor, and Social Development.
- In the MPTF Migration project framework, three technical exchanges were carried out between Chile and Mexico with national government representatives, employers and workers organizations, local governments, and civil society. In addition, 100 officials from the Municipality of Santiago participated in a training course on interculturality, gender, and labor migration.
- **Promoting Financial Inclusion:** UNCHR, jointly with the Municipality of Santiago and Fondo Esperanza (the country's major microfinance institution), has allowed 10 Venezuelan entrepreneurs to achieve financial inclusion and access to microcredits to boost their gastronomic ventures. This pilot seeks to be replicated in other cities in the country.

### Interagency Coordination

- UNHCR continues to **co-lead the R4V Interagency Coordination Platform**, a regional response platform across 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was established in 2018 to respond to the Venezuelan refugee and migrant crisis. Under this framework, UNHCR remains **co-leader of the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants in Tarapaca (GTRM in Spanish)** and **leads the protection and multisector sectors in both instances**.

- The R4V National Platform launched the **Response planning for 2023-2024 (RMRP)** in coordination with the Government of Chile. Under this framework, the R4V National Platform, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, **developed a workshop with 11 Public Ministries** to carry out the match between the activities that are considered in the RMRP 2023-2024 and the initiatives that the Government is leading on issues related to human mobility.
- The **Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) of the USA visited the Tarapacá** region to gain information on the context and the response implemented in the field. The activities **allowed to exhibit the coordination between the different partners of the Platform**. Among the places visited were the transitory shelter of Lobito (Iquique), the first reception shelter and the health center of Colchane, and the border sectors with the most significant influx of refugees and migrants. They also had meetings with regional and local authorities, such as the presidential delegate of Tarapacá and the mayor of Iquique.

## Public Information/ External Relations

- **Provided timely and adapted information about protection services and assistance available to refugees and migrants** using the website [help.unhcr.org](https://help.unhcr.org) and other public materials, such as brochures and banners.
- **Carried out anti-xenophobia campaigns:** UNHCR and World Vision produced the book and exhibition "Y si fueras tú". Through a visual journey of 15 illustrations made by well-known Chilean and foreign artists, the initiative aimed to show the situations and experiences of discrimination that refugees and migrants face daily during their local integration processes (Visit: [www.yCIFUERASTU.cl](http://www.yCIFUERASTU.cl)). Also, UNHCR and IOM, within the framework of the R4V Platform, carried out a football school for 140 boys and girls in Iquique. The NGO Fútbol Más ran the project to promote social and cultural exchange and, at the same time, promote values such as empathy and respect in society.
- **Ensured visibility of projects and external donors.** The Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (ECHO) visited Chile to see the progress made in human mobility and humanitarian response, thanks to its contribution for 2022. The instance included visits to reception centres, border shelters, partner organizations, and meetings with the Chilean government ([Watch video](#)). Also, on Women's International Day and IDAHOT, UNHCR organized two community dinners with refugees and migrants to share with representatives from various embassies and institutions. Both events aimed to share the main existing challenges for refugees and migrants in Chile, especially women and members of the LGBTBIQ community, as well as their ideas to improve projects.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds in 2022:

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## LINKS

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