

Argentina

August 2018

Historical commitment with protection. Argentina is a State Party to the *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* since 1961 and its Protocol since 1967. Argentina acceded to the *1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless People* in 1972 and the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* in 2014.

Syria Humanitarian Visa Programme. In September 2016, at the Leader’s Summit on Refugees held in New York, the President of the Republic, Mr. Mauricio Macri announced that Argentina will receive 3000 Syrians (Programa Siria).

Support Access to Durable Solutions and Local Integration. In July 2016, the National Secretary for Families, Children and Adolescents (SENNAF / Ministry of Social Development) provides direct assistance to vulnerable asylum seekers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The domestic legal framework dealing with refugees is set out in the 2006 Refugee Law N° 26.165 “Ley General de reconocimiento y protección al refugiado”, in line with international standards of protection, including the extended refugee definition in line with the 1984 Cartagena Declaration.
- Migration Law N° 25.871 incorporates safeguards regarding the protection of asylum seekers and the prevention of refoulement at borders.
- Migration Law also facilitates access to residency for migrants with humanitarian needs, which has allowed for the establishment of the Syria Programme in 2014.
- UNHCR, CONARE and the Public Defense Office (Defensoría General de la Nación) signed an agreement to ensure public and free legal representation prior to the RSD procedure to asylum seekers, and legal assistance for refugees in other procedures.
- Argentina actively contributes to the consolidation of the Southern Cone as a “regional protection space”, through the adoption of the Brazil Declaration, the implementation of its Plan of Action (BPA), and the consolidation of the MERCOSUR National Refugee Commissions’ Forum.
- Argentina grants nationality on the basis of the *ius solis* criteria which also benefits children of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Refugees and asylum seekers enjoy access to public education, health services and have the right to work.
- In 2016 and 2017, 96 refugees were naturalized and their refugee status was ceased by the CONARE.

POPULATION OF CONCERN 64484

Refugees	3360
Asylum Seekers	4155
Others of concern	56,969

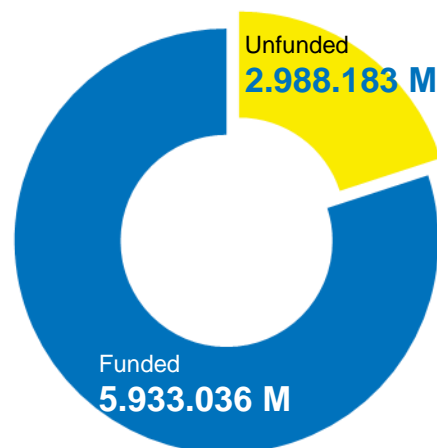
Source: UNHCR Annual Statistical Report, December 2017

FUNDING (AS OF FEBRUARY 2018)

USD 8.921.219

requested for the **Southern Latin America situation**

The below figure reflects the situation of the entire Regional Office for Southern Latin America (ROARG)



UNHCR PRESENCE

The UNHCR Regional Office for Southern Latin America (RO ARG) based in Buenos Aires covers and financially manages operations in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Staff and Offices

1 Regional Office in Buenos Aires, Argentina – **5** international staff, **16** national staff and **14** affiliate workforce.

1 National Office in Santiago, Chile – **3** staff National staff and **4** affiliate workforce staff.

1 National Office in Lima, **2 Field Offices** in Tacna and Tumbes, Peru – **10** international staff, **17** national staff and **2** affiliate workforce staff.



Working with Partners

- UNHCR works in close coordination with Government counterparts, namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the National Migration Directorate, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the National Institute against Discrimination and Xenophobia, and the National Refugee Commission (CONARE).
- UNHCR is a member of the CONARE, with voice and no voting right. UNHCR works in close cooperation with the local Government of the City of Buenos Aires where the majority of refugee population resides.
- UNHCR, the Government and IOM have agreed on a Plan of Action 2017-2018 for capacity building under the Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism (ERCM).
- ADRA (Agencia Adventista de Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales) and MIRARES are UNHCR's Implementing Partners in Argentina executing operational projects aimed at providing counselling, basic humanitarian assistance and support to facilitate self-reliance / sustainable livelihoods to refugees and asylum seekers.

Main Activities

Protection & Durable Solutions

- Provide technical support and advice to national authorities involved in the drafting of refugee/migration legislation and the implementation of fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures (RSD). Capacity building activities are implemented to strengthen the National Refugee Commission, and its technical secretariat in order to ensure due process in admission, registration, eligibility interviews, RSD assessments and right to appeal.
- Assist CONARE and the Ministry of Social Affairs in the elaboration of a comprehensive public programme to guarantee the required social assistance for asylum seekers and to facilitate the social economic integration of refugees.
- Provide technical support to the Government in the implementation of the *Programa Siria*. Since the establishment of the "Special Programme for the Issuance of Humanitarian Visas for Foreigners affected by the Conflict in the Syrian Arabic Republic" in 2014, Argentina has granted over 400 humanitarian visas. UNHCR seeks to help strengthen the program and promote sustainable resettlement models through the ERCM.
- Advocate for the facilitation of the naturalization procedure for refugees and provide the necessary information to ensure they are able to make an informed decision on this option.
- Advocate for the adoption of a law for the protection of stateless people as well as the establishment of a stateless determination procedure in line with the pledges made by the Government of Argentina (Brazil Plan of Action).
- Promote actions aimed at identifying, preventing and responding to situations of SGBV affecting refugee women and children through regular protection dialogues and empowerment activities.

Humanitarian Assistance, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- CONARE registers asylum claims and identifies possible needs for direct assistance and refers the cases either to SENNAF (families and cases with special needs) or to ADRA.
- Provide technical support for the implementation of the CONARE's "Assistance and Local Integration Plan".

External Relations

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