

Chile

August 2019

Responsibility-sharing as promoted by the Global Compact on Refugees: In April 2019, the government issued a resolution recognizing expired Venezuelan travel documents (passports and identity cards) as valid documents for entering, leaving, transiting and residing in the country.

According to official sources, approximately 400,000 Venezuelans are living in Chile, representing the largest foreign community (30%) and 2,1 % of the total population. By strengthening shelters and providing direct emergency assistance, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNHCR is working together with IOM, the government, UN agencies, civil society organizations, municipalities and other actors to ensure a timely response to their humanitarian needs.

Democratic Responsibility Visa for Venezuelans: This visa was introduced in April 2018 and can be requested by Venezuelans at any Chilean Consulate abroad. As of 21 June 2019, out of 96,397 applications, 37,595 visas have been issued, 31,836 applications are still under consideration and 30,811 applications have been denied due to lack of criminal records or falsified documents.

HIGHLIGHTS

Protection Monitoring Tool (PMT): Between April and July 2019, 1088 people were interviewed in Santiago and Arica. Most of them arrived by bus and plan to settle in Chile.

UNHCR-OIM Opinion survey to assess xenophobia: Applied on February 2019 to 1000 Chileans and foreigners. 59.9% of surveyed Chileans reported having a positive perception towards Venezuelans. Upon request, 35% of all foreigners interviewed, confirmed having suffered from discriminatory insults, 60.3% of them of African descent.

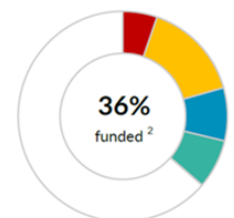
Family reunification measures: In June, Chile introduced the requirement of a consular tourist visa for Venezuelans, which allows them to stay regularly in the country for up to 90 days. Until then, Venezuelans could still enter Chile as tourists without a visa if they could prove that they had enough funds to support themselves during their stay. According to official figures, from 22nd June to 22nd July, approximately 2,264 Venezuelan nationals have entered Chile (under various migratory regimes) through the border crossing of Chacalluta and Colchane. The Chilean Consulate in Tacna, Peru, has been issuing *salvoconductos* (permits) for women and children that are not holding passports (issued since 2013) to ensure family reunification.

Day center: Together with World Vision International and the Municipality of Arica, UNHCR opened a day center for refugees and migrant children and their families. The Centre is equipped to receive, assist and counsel 40 people daily.





FUNDING (AS OF 30 JULY 2019)

USD 11.2 MILLION

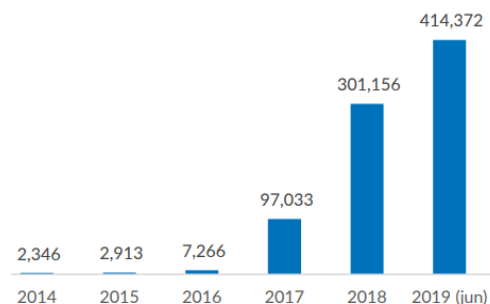
requested for the **Regional Office for Southern Latin America, including Chile**
UNHCR's financial requirements 2019



414,372 PERSONS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR

-  2,039 refugees
-  10,310 asylum seekers
-  2,023 others of concern*
-  400,000 Venezuelans displaced abroad

* Children of foreigners in transit



According to information provided by government authorities, as of June 2019

UNHCR PRESENCE

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

- **1 Regional Office** in Buenos Aires, Argentina: **7** international staff, **27** National staff, **1** ERT, **13** UNOPS, **1** Fellow and **2** Consultants.
- **Presence in Mendoza**, La Rioja, Salta and Córdoba Argentina (1 UNOPS in each Province)
- **Presence in Montevideo**, Uruguay (3 UNOPS)
- **1 National Office** in Santiago, Chile – 1 international staff, **17** staff National staff, **1** ERT and **2** UNOPS
- **1 Field Unit** in Arica, Chile - **2** National staff



Working with Partners

- With a “whole of society approach”, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNHCR works together with the national government, refugee communities, municipalities, civil society organizations and private sector to ensure that refugees and migrants protection and durable solutions.
- As of 2019, UNHCR has entered into partnership agreements with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, World Vision International, the National Human Rights Institute, Municipality of Santiago, Social Aid Foundation of Christian Churches (FASIC), Scalabrini Foundation, Jesuit Migrant Service (SJM), Diego Portales University (UDP) and Vicaría Pastoral Social, to provide shelter, legal counselling, medical and psycho-social assistance to Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving in the country.
- During the first half of 2019, UNHCR developed and implemented innovative partnerships with private sector companies, such as Price Waterhouse Coopers, Lipigas, Walmart and Metro de Santiago, to facilitate self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods for refugees in Chile.
- UNHCR works together with other UN agencies, such as UNICEF, IOM and UNDP. UNHCR together with IOM leads the National Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela.
- In the framework of the Global Coalition on Every Child’s Right to a Nationality, UNHCR and UNICEF launched the contest “My Nationality has a story” to raise awareness on the right to nationality. 50 schools participated in the first version of the contest; the next contest will take place in September 2019.

Main Activities

Protection

- Identify protection risks and main needs of Venezuelans in Chile to inform targeted programming: 1088 people have been reached during 2019 through the application of the Protection Monitoring Tool (PMT).
- Ensure access to protection services and support persons of concern to UNHCR through humanitarian assistance and legal orientation. UNHCR provides legal assistance to Venezuelans refugees and migrants and conducts border monitoring through a partnership agreement with the National Human Rights Institute (NHRI). Since January 2019, approximately 200 Venezuelans have been provided with legal support by the Legal Refugee and Migrant Clinic of the University Diego Portales, a partner of UNHCR, and approximately 500 people were assisted directly by UNHCR staff, either by telephone or face-to-face orientation.
- Support efforts to strengthen national protection frameworks (technical legal assistance and capacity building activities).
- Provide humanitarian assistance. UNHCR signed several partnership agreements with local partners to provide emergency assistance, temporary shelter and basic needs assistance.

Durable Solutions

- Work together with the private sector, as part of the livelihoods strategy, actively involving them in the local integration of refugees and migrants. In July 2019, UNHCR and IOM jointly financed and supported a labour fair in Antofagasta, in which approx. 1200 people participated, many of them refugees and migrants.
- Support access to the labour market. Using a community-based approach, teams of Venezuelans are capacitated to help reach some 6,000 other refugees and migrants in different communities to facilitate and inform about access to work, labour rights and Refugee Status Determination; an initiative which is jointly implemented by UNHCR and its partner Vicaría Pastoral Social CARITAS. In the first semester of 2019, 40 doctors have been supported by UNHCR to pass the national medical examination allowing them to practice in Chile and another 40 doctors will follow in the second semester.
- Promote the “Cities of Solidarity” programme adopted within the framework of the Brazil Plan of Action to facilitate the reception and integration of persons of concern.

Public Information

- Develop campaigns and communicational material to promote a favourable environment for refugees and migrants in the country. During 2019, UNHCR and IOM carried out an opinion survey to assess xenophobia that was applied to 1000 people from Santiago, Arica, Antofagasta

and Talca. These results were used to design a public campaign that aims to promote non-discrimination (the launch will take place in October 2019)

- Carry out community-based activities involving refugees, host communities, municipalities, civil society and private sector. Within the framework of World Refugee Day, UNHCR carried out the Music Festival "ORIGEN", sponsored by the Municipality of Santiago, the National Institute of Youth and the United Nations National System as well as supported by the companies Lipigas and Mall Plaza. 15 foreign communities - including Venezuelan-participated through gastronomic and cultural stands, which were visited by more than 2000 people.
- Communicating with Community. As part of its strategy, UNHCR provides timely and adapted information to refugees and migrants including the provision of materials to inform people about their rights.

Protection framework: Chile is a State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. In 2018, the country was the 90th State to accede to both international conventions on statelessness. At a national level, Law N° 20.430 on the protection of refugees, incorporates the main international standards on refugee protection and includes the 1984 Cartagena regional definition.

External / Donors Relations

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