



“As we battle COVID-19, I draw inspiration from the **resilience** refugees have shown in **overcoming their own crisis of displacement and dispossession**; their **separation from home and family**; and their **determination to improve their own and others' lives, despite these and other hardships.**”

Filippo Grandi
UN High Commissioner for Refugees

You can read the Global Trends Report [HERE](#).

Situational Highlights

UNHCR's released annual **Global Trends report**, published two days ahead of World Refugee Day, showed that by the end of 2019, displacement had reached an unprecedented 79.5 million people worldwide, or 1% of the global population. Five countries account for two-thirds of those displaced across borders. With 4.5 million people having left Venezuela, the South American nation is in the second slot, just after Syria and followed by Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar. The report also shows that the Caribbean island nation of Aruba hosted the largest number of Venezuelans displaced abroad relative to its population, with Venezuelans accounting for 1 out of every 6 people on the island. At the end of 2019, Colombia continued to report the world's highest number of internally displaced people – close

to 8 million, according to Government statistics. **Latin America** is currently the epicentre of the global coronavirus pandemic: the region now accounts for nearly half the world's cases and deaths. Still, experts say epidemic has yet to peak in the region, despite the sharp rise in COVID-19 cases. **Brazil** now has the world's second-highest number of confirmed cases and the third-highest number of deaths. In **Haiti**, officially confirmed cases now exceeded 3,000. Concerns about the pandemic's spread in **Mexico** have risen following the reopening of large sectors of the economy. **Panama** registered 3,000 new infections last week, and health authorities warned there are few hospital beds available. **Peru** has the eighth-highest number of reported cases in the world and more than

6,000 confirmed deaths, while **Chile** is reporting thousands of new coronavirus cases daily and more than 3,000 deaths. **In Northern Central America (NCA), the combined effects of hurricane season and the COVID-19 pandemic are exacerbating humanitarian needs.** Damages from tropical storms Cristobal and Amanda are still being reported. In **Guatemala**, 460,000 people were affected, according to authorities. In **El Salvador**, the joint response team provided humanitarian aid to 1,150 communities and 35,169 people, as well as information to some 1.2 million. According to scientists, as many as 19 hurricanes could hit **Haiti** in 2020. **Brazil** recognized 108 refugees, while fewer asylum claims were registered in **Canada** – just 13,985 by April 2020, which represented a

threefold drop compared with pre-pandemic numbers. **Mexico** registered 254 refugees last week, continuing with the country's recent trend of recognizing roughly 1,000 asylum claims per month. **Uruguay** recognized 42 refugees during the first two weeks of June. A District Court in Arauca, **Colombia**, ruled in favour of Venezuelan refugees and migrants and ordered authorities to guarantee their right to life, human dignity and health.



Challenges



Across the region, the movements of people either seeking out protection or returning to their countries of origin continue, despite border restrictions that remain in place. Between 4 April and 6 June, Colombia reported that 41,477 people returned to Venezuela through official border crossings - 60 percent of them through the crossing in Cúcuta. Municipalities on routes leading to the border are planning assistance centres in cooperation with the GIFMM, UNHCR and its R4V partners in Colombia which will provide basic core relief items, as well as food and health services. According to authorities in the Dominican Republic, 35,000 migrants returned to Haiti through three official border crossings.

UNHCR is increasingly concerned about the pandemic's disproportionate impact on children. The Colombian Ministry of Health reported that around 700 cases of sexual and gender-based violence against Venezuelans were registered between 25 March and 1 June, representing a 17.3% increase, compared to 2019. Almost half of those cases involved children (34.8% girls and 14.3% boys). There are also concerns that the economic crisis might lead to a rise in abandonment, as parents find themselves unable to meet their children's basic needs.









UNHCR's response in the Americas



Despite the pandemic-related restrictions, UNHCR is working to provide emergency assistance, including secure shelter spaces and cash-based assistance, as well as to advocate for the inclusion of refugees in national public health responses, social safety nets and emergency assistance plans. Urgent action is required to help the most vulnerable refugees and IDPs, particularly those in countries where they are unable to access state-run social protection schemes. With the coronavirus crisis exacerbating already dire humanitarian needs globally, timely and flexible support from governments, the private sector and individuals remains critical.

UPDATES FROM COUNTRIES

(Please note the list is not exhaustive and mostly reflects the reporting period.)

-  **Chile:** The operation delivered an initial batch of 142 e-vouchers, supporting the basic food and hygiene needs of 568 people of concern in cities throughout the country. Additionally, together with its partners, UNHCR provided remote counselling and delivered food boxes, winter kits, as well as cash transfers, to be used on accommodations.
-  **Colombia:** Between 16 March and 9 June, UNHCR remotely registered 49,000 individuals, 74% of them, women. Around 33% of those registered, or around 16,000 people, reported having protection needs. Legal or physical protection was the top need, followed by children facing risks (including unaccompanied or separated children), and then serious medical conditions (such as cronic illnesses or HIV).
-  **Costa Rica:** A joint project between Costa Rica's national Social Security and UNHCR hit its target of providing 6,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the country access to medical insurance. Those in most critical need of medical attention, such as elderly people, were prioritized for inclusion in the scheme.
-  **Dominican Republic:** UNHCR is helping support the Government's response to the coronavirus pandemic by installing 25 refugee housing units, or RHUs. The agency is also stepping up efforts to distribute hygiene items and facilitate access to health care for 487 people of concern – 87 of whom are living with HIV – in the provinces of Monte Plata, Puerto Plata and Santo Domingo. In collaboration with WFP, the office is working with the Vice Presidency to include around 1,000 people of concern in the national social protection programme database.
-  **Mexico:** The seven Local Integration and Protection Support teams have provided assistance to 266 refugees and asylum seekers in the south of the country, as well as in the capital, Mexico City. During the reporting week, between 40% and 75% - depending on the municipality - of those who were contacted by phone were referred for financial support due to unemployment.
-  **North of Central America:** In **El Salvador**, UNHCR delivered 2,200 hygiene kits to municipalities affected by the coronavirus pandemic and Tropical Storm Amanda. Additionally, supermarket vouchers for food and hygiene products were delivered to the Directorate of Attention to Victims to help meet the needs of deported people with protection concerns. In **Guatemala**, UNHCR delivered bunk beds, mattresses and diapers to deportee shelters in Guatemala City. In Petén, 27 families received cash-based assistance. The municipality of Jacaltenango is preparing to install 12 RHUs that will host around 30 deportees for the several days it takes to receive the results of COVID-19 tests. In **Honduras**, UNHCR delivered biosecurity and hygiene supplies, as well as health equipment, such as thermometers, to the National Migration Institute.
-  **Peru:** Since the start of the emergency, UNHCR has delivered USD 953,800 in cash assistance to some 4,500 families, or over 14,800 people, through its partner organisations, Aldeas Infantiles, Caritas, Encuentros and HIAS. UNHCR partners have adopted new money transfer methods, such as wire transfers, to get cash into the hands of the most vulnerable and urgent cases. However, the documentation required to make withdrawals remains a challenge. Since the start of the emergency, UNHCR and its partners have responded to over 40,000 calls via hotlines and provided legal orientation to some 2,500 callers.
-  **Venezuela:** In the western border state of Táchira, UNHCR has begun rehabilitation work on two health centers in La Fría and Laguna de Garcia. There, partner CISP has finalized the adaptation of the waiting room, improved the facilities' sanitary infrastructure and has also installed hand washing stations. Following the joint assessment of PASIs in Guajira, UNHCR and other Cluster leaders are coordinating with national authorities to provide services such as psychosocial assistance; prevention and response mechanisms for sexual and gender-based violence, as well as child protection services, among other services. In the western state of Apure, UNHCR distributed hygiene kits to some 1,700 people in quarantine centers and installed water tanks to ensure that some 2,500 people have access to safe water.

Stories from the field

Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis in South American, more than 50,000 Venezuelans have returned home after stay-at-home orders stripped them of their livelihoods.

Carlos and his wife Sol left their native Venezuela in 2019, and things were beginning to look up for the couple and their three children in neighboring Colombia. Carlos was earning a steady income in his job serving up breakfasts, and the family was able to afford rent and put healthy food on the table. But then the breakfast business closed, and Carlos lost his job. He and Sol scambled to make ends meet by opening a stand in a nightlife hotspot, but the family ended up suffering violence and abuse. And then the coronavirus pandemic hit, making it impossible to continue working. With no income, they were evicted, and, like an estimated 50,000 of their compatriots enduring similarly difficult circumstances amid the pandemic, they decided to return to Venezuela. UNHCR spoke to Carlos and Sol at a centre for returnees just over the border, in Venezuela, where they were receiving aid from UNHCR while in quarantine. The family hopes to return to their city of Barquisimeto soon. To read the full story, in Spanish, by Caracas staffer John Jeffcoat Mészáros, click [HERE](#).



Coordination and Response to date

RMRP

Due to ongoing return movements of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to their home country, the **Regional Platform** hosted a technical workshop addressing the subject of returns on 5 June. More than 60 participants from various regional Sectors, National and Sub-regional Platforms, the donor community, as well as key R4V partners took stock of the current realities facing those who are returning and discussed the development of coherent responses

by R4V actors and Platforms to support affected Venezuelans. Participants agreed that the health and protection risks, as well as long-term adverse impacts associated with these return movements can be mitigated through prioritized humanitarian and integration interventions that provide sustainable alternatives to returns. The **Regional Platform** also started the preparatory work on the planning process for the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) 2021.

MIRPS

The Government of Spain, in collaboration with UNHCR, the OAS and the MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency will hold a high-level meeting June 29 to expand cooperation and enhance outreach to a diverse pool of donors under the leadership of Spain as the chair of the Support Platform for the MIRPS. This meeting follows a technical discussion with the members of the support platform, the MIRPS technical secretariat and Pro-tempore Presidency.

RedLac Group

The **RedLac Group** issued a [snapshot report](#) on extortion as a factor prompting people to flee within and across borders in the countries of northern of Central America, as well as Mexico. Extortion is also one of the main crimes that people are subjected to during displacement, as well as after deportation to their countries of origin.

EXTORTION - a key trigger of internal displacement and forced migration in the north of Central America and Mexico





Don't miss...

GLOBAL REPORT PUBLISHED

The Global Report presents the work carried out by UNHCR in 2019 to protect and improve the lives of tens of millions of people of concern—refugees, returnees, internally displaced people, stateless persons, and others of concern. It highlights the year's achievements, as well as challenges faced by the organisation and its partners, in attempting to respond to multiple life-threatening crises and ever-growing humanitarian needs. To read the report, click [HERE](#).



All the events organized to commemorate globally the World Refugee Day 2020

A pandemic has tested our strength and highlighted systematic inequalities. It has also connected us in new ways and renewed our motivation to act for equality. Join the conversation [HERE](#).



GLOBAL TRENDS - FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN 2019

Global Trends is published every year to analyze the changes in UNHCR's populations of concern and deepen public understanding of ongoing crises. You can read it [HERE](#).



UNHCR and Twitter launch 2020 World Refugee Day emoji created by Ivorian artist O'Plérou

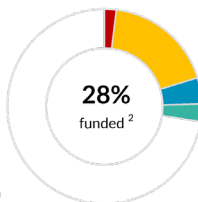
UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has partnered with Twitter and 22-year-old Ivorian artist O'Plérou for the launch of the 2020 World Refugee Day emoji. The emoji, two hands linked together in the shape of a heart, symbolizes solidarity and diversity. You can read the story [HERE](#).



Funding the response

Financial Information

UNHCR AMERICAS - Funding Update



THE AMERICAS as of 10 June 2020

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

\$ 611.8 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020¹

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, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela.
2. The percentage funded (28%) and total funding amount (\$168,266,461) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$443,571,912 representing 72% of the financial requirements.

While seeking funds to carry out COVID-19 preventative measures and response activities, UNHCR stresses the need for support to be in addition to the existing critical funding requirements laid out in UNHCR's regular Global Appeal for 2020. It is vital that the

international community keep supporting the millions of refugees and internally displaced people already living a precarious existence, for whom already limited self-reliance opportunities are likely to shrink further as a result of the economic impact of the crisis.

Total contributed or pledged to the COVID-19 appeal:

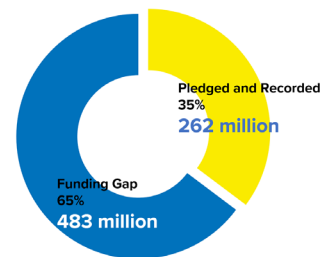
USD 262M

Including:

United States	\$64.0M
European Union	\$43.0M
Germany	\$39.8M
United Kingdom	\$24.8M
Japan	\$23.9M
Denmark	\$14.6M
United Nations Foundation	\$10.0M
CERF	\$6.9M
Private donors	\$6.6M
Canada	\$6.4M
Ireland	\$3.3M
Sweden	\$3.0M
Sony Corporation	\$2.9M
Finland	\$2.4M
Austria	\$1.8M
Education Cannot Wait	\$1.8M
Qatar Charity	\$1.5M
Norway	\$1.4M
USA for UNHCR	\$1.0M

FUNDING (AS OF 19 JUNE)
USD 745 million

requested for UNHCR's COVID-19 response globally until the end of the year



UNHCR is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by donors to the Coronavirus Emergency Situation globally, and to the Americas, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked funding.

Thanks to donors in 2020:



And to our private donors:

España con ACNUR | Private donors Australia | Private donor Brazil | Private donors Mexico | Private donors Japan | Private donors Spain | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors USA | USA for UNHCR