

Paraguay

June 2021

Hosting some **6,037 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, most of them from Venezuela**, UNHCR works with the Paraguayan government and partners to **provide information on access to territory, asylum and regularization**, while providing with

its partner agency **basic goods and services** in cash and in-kind. Moreover, UNHCR with its partners facilitates the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants, providing seed capital for small scale businesses and providing orientation to access the labor market.

The National Refugee Commission (CONARE) of Paraguay has granted refugee status to Venezuelan nationals through group recognition. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the humanitarian response has been strengthened.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

6,037

Refugees	1,688
Asylum-seekers	1,470
Venezuelans displaced abroad	2,879

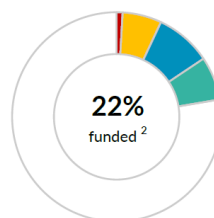
Source: Official information provided by the Government, as of December 2020

FUNDING

USD 38.9 MILLION

requested for the **Regional Office including Paraguay**

FUNDING UPDATE | 2021



ARGENTINA MCO
as of 8 June 2021

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

UNHCR PRESENCE

The UNHCR Regional Office for Southern Latin America, based in Buenos Aires, covers operations in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Staff in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile:

- 42 National staff
- 11 International staff



Photo: UNHCR/ Paulo González During COVID 19, UNHCR worked together with partner agency "Semillas para la Democracia" to bring humanitarian assistance to refugees.

Results in 2021

- From January to April 2021, UNHCR through its partner agency provided support to **116** persons in vulnerable situations through **multi-purpose cash assistance** and some other **54** with **in-kind assistance** to cover their basic needs, while some **29** people received **livelihoods training or support**.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works in close coordination with Government counterparts, namely with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the multi-sectorial National Refugee Commission (CONARE)** to provide protection and seek durable solutions for refugees. UNHCR is a member of CONARE.
- “**Semillas para la Democracia**” is UNHCR’s partner implementing projects aimed at providing basic humanitarian assistance and supporting socio-economic inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers and Venezuelan nationals.
- UNHCR works together with other UN agencies, such as UNFPA, IOM and UNAIDS.
- UNHCR co-leads jointly with IOM the **National Response Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela where 8 partners –UN, CSOs, Refugee’s and Migrants’ organizations** implement the Response Plan 2021 for the **Southern Cone** complementing Governmental capacities in main urban and border areas of the region.

Main Activities

Protection & Durable Solutions

- Support the Government in the institutional **strengthening of the national asylum system**, in particular of the CONARE’s Secretariat through the implementation of activities in line with the 2014 Brazil Plan of Action. UNHCR and its partner in Paraguay have provided resources aimed at strengthening CONARE’s technical Secretariat and improving RSD procedure.
- Promote the implementation of a **border protection strategy** by CONARE and civil society at the Paraguay-Brazilian and the Paraguayan-Bolivian borders to identify and refer persons of concern (PoCs) to UNHCR, prevent their *refoulement*, ensure access to the territory and to the refugee status determination procedure, and support them through counselling, shelter and humanitarian assistance among other services.
- Advocate for the implementation of the national law for the **protection of stateless persons** and the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure in line with the pledges made by the Government of Paraguay including those under the 2014 Brazil Plan of Action.
- Promote a greater engagement of relevant Government institutions in the development of a comprehensive strategy towards the **local integration of refugees**.
- Through cooperation with the **Entrepreneur Training Centre**, refugees and asylum-seekers with an entrepreneurial profile receive **technical and financial training and guidance** to set up individual, family or collective businesses. *Semillas para la Democracia* complements this initiative by awarding **seed capital** to entrepreneurs and offering tailored orientation on available employment and capacity building opportunities.
- Pilot project with **Fundación Capital**, an international development organisation specializing in social and economic inclusion, to **boost income generating activities and financial inclusion** of asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants, through the provision of a combination of different skills and tools to enhance and sustain entrepreneurial capabilities.
- Strengthen the engagement with the UN system to ensure the inclusion of PoCs in the national development plan and the **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework**.
- Provide **capacity building and training** to relevant counterparts.

Humanitarian Assistance & Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's **Durable Solutions Strategy** aims to boost opportunities for self-reliance, integration and empowerment of PoCs and to facilitate the development of a state-owned comprehensive solutions policy. Structured in macro areas the strategy in Paraguay aims to: 1) advocate for the inclusion of strategic needs in public policies and social protection schemes; 2) create enabling conditions for decent work and wage earning; 3) enhance routes for access to financial services; and 4) promote a conducive environment for business creation.
- UNHCR, through its partner *Semillas para la Democracia*, supports refugees and migrants in their integration process **providing legal orientation, psychosocial support, generation of integration capacities, and economic support** to access documentation, basic goods and services, so they can achieve its progressive insertion into the local economy.
- "*Semillas para la Democracia*" has engaged four private sector partners, as well as financial service providers, specialized civil society organizations, line ministries and the UN, to **strengthen economic inclusion of persons of concern** through access to employment, self-employment and financial inclusion.
- Partnership with the **Association of Entrepreneurs of Paraguay**, a local organization dedicated to support community networks of entrepreneurs, and **Fundación Capital**, to promote the exchange of experiences between entrepreneurs at different stages of their businesses, with emphasis on peer-to-peer education.
- Despite the impact of COVID-19, the access to the territory and to the RSD procedure, the strengthening of the humanitarian response (access to shelter, food, water and hygiene kits) in border and urban areas and the implementation of socio-economic project remain as operational priorities for UNHCR in Paraguay for 2021.

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LINKS

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