

CHILE

May 2022

Between January and May 2022, the north of Chile, in particular the Tarapacá Region, lived an upsurge of the humanitarian emergency that affected refugees and migrants from Venezuela, as well as the local communities that receive them in their cities. To support the Government response, UNHCR and its partner agencies distributed humanitarian assistance and

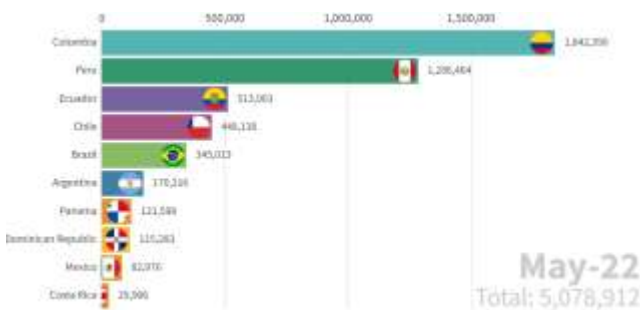
developed integration projects for 6,112 people in the regions of Arica and Parinacota, Tarapacá and Antofagasta, as well as other 8.698 people in other locations in Chile. According to a recent study by the University of Tarapaca, with the support of UNHCR, 75 per cent of the Venezuelan adults surveyed in the towns of Colchane and Iquique declared that they did not have a

place to sleep at night and 71 per cent of them said that they had suffered cold at night.

Another large percentage said that they did not eat the three minimum daily meals the last week. 68 per cent of the adults said that their lives or those who accompanied them were in danger during the journey, but 59.5 per cent said they felt safer in Chile than before starting the displacement.

POPULATION OF CONCERN:

448,138*



*Estimates based on official data at December 2020

FUNDING (AS OF 7 JUNE, 2022)

USD 49.2 M

requested for the UNHCR operation MCO Argentina (incl. Chile).



ARGENTINA MCO
as of 7 June 2022

13% funded²

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

UNHCR PRESENCE

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

Staff in Argentina and Chile:

71 National staff and affiliated workforce

13 International staff

Offices in Chile:

1 National Office in Santiago

1 Field Unit in Arica



Refugees and migrants crossing from Pisiga, Bolivia, to Colchane, Chile by unauthorized entry points.

KEY FIGURES

- According to the last register published in 2020 by the Chilean National Institute of Statistics, **1.5 million refugees and migrants live in Chile**, this means **nearly 9 percent of the country's population**. Most of them (**30.7%**) are from **Venezuela**.
- Due to the pandemic, **borders in Chile were closed since March 2020** and opened on 1 May 2022.
- In 2021, according to the Ministry of Interior of Chile and the Investigative Police (PDI) more than **56,000 people entered Chile through unauthorized entry points**.
- **Chile is the fourth destination** for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, after Colombia, Perú and Ecuador.

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, academy, the international community and private sector to ensure ‘refugees’ and ‘migrants’ protection and durable solutions**.
- UNHCR has entered into partnership agreements with **World Vision International, the National Human Rights Institute, Municipality of Santiago, Jesuit Migrant Service (SJM), Diego Portales University (UDP), International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), and Vicaría Pastoral Social** to provide shelter, food, hygiene and winter kits, legal counseling, cash grants (CBI and vouchers), medical and psychosocial assistance to Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving in the country.
- A total of **12 Chilean municipalities and one region from different areas of the country have joined the “Cities of Solidarity”** programme, thereby committing themselves to carry out joint actions with UNHCR to **guarantee the protection and socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants in Chile**, in particular by facilitating access to the full enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. This partnership includes the municipalities of **Arica, Estación Central, Santiago, La Pintana, Recoleta, Ñuñoa, Peñalolén, Valparaíso, Concepción, Talcahuano, Temuco, Puerto Natales, and the region of Magallanes**, and considers training from UNHCR on international protection, provision of humanitarian aid for distribution, and the joint execution of projects that promote employability of refugees and migrants.
- **UNHCR and IOM co-lead the National Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela**, composed of 17 partners, and work closely with other UN sister agencies to ensure holistic responses to the plight of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Chile.
- In a joint effort with Fundación Mapocho and the Social Networks Observatory of Universidad Central, UNHCR carries out a two-month **"Escuela de formación para influenciadores/as digitales comunitarios"** (School Training for community influencers) to provide tools to digital influencers that frequently use their social media accounts to provide information to the refugee and migrant population in Chile. The School Training includes modules on fact-checking, oral skills, basic concepts of forced displacement and migration, tools to improve the quality of homemade videos, and inclusive language, among other relevant topics.



Results in 2022

- From January to March 2022, 2,965 people were assisted **legally and psychosocially**. Some 3,533 refugees and migrants were supported with **non-food kits, food assistance, and cash grants**. Specifically, 474 people were provided with **cash grants to support their basic needs** throughout the country (267 in the North of the country - Arica and Parinacota, Tarapaca and Antofagasta. The cash grants will support approximately 600 households in Arica, Iquique, Valparaíso, Santiago, and Concepción to **cover food, clothing, and hygiene needs**. Some 57 households have benefited from cash grants to **cover medical needs of medicines, exams, and specialized medical attention** in Arica, Iquique, and Santiago.
- Some 921 refugees and migrants were **supported with temporary shelter**, and 2,570 people were helped with **primary, secondary, tertiary, mental, sexual, and reproductive health care**. On integration, 673 people received support from **training and self-employment**. Finally, 3,397 people were provided with **information** by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (in-person or remotely, call centers, WhatsApp, etc.).

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR assists refugees and migrants with legal advice, counselling, housing assistance, and referrals to specialized services.
- **Provide legal assistance to refugees and migrants and conduct border monitoring** through partnerships with the National Human Rights Institute, the Legal Clinic of University Diego Portales, and the Jesuit Migrant Service - the latter also with the online app "**MIGRAPP**."
- Support spaces to provide information and basic assistance to refugees and migrants upon arrival in Chile. In addition to providing information, the support spaces played an important role also in providing food and referral to specialized services during the pandemic.
- **UNHCR provides psychosocial assistance** through partnership agreements with World Vision International, Jesuit Migrant Service, Municipality of Santiago, and Vicaría de la Pastoral Social.
- **UNHCR engages with LGBTIQ+ refugees and migrants**. In 2020, the Foundation for Social Assistance of Christian Churches (FASIC), with the support of UNHCR, established a national network of LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees in Chile. The first of its kind in Chile, the network provides a virtual space for exchange and action that continues its work providing information and safe spaces for the LGBTIQ+ community.

Shelter, food, and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- **Assists** the most vulnerable refugees and migrants in coordination with the Regional Government, Municipalities, and the police (Carabineros) with the **provision of shelter, food, cash grants and hygiene kits**, especially for those recently arriving in the country in very vulnerable conditions, such as the ones entering the country from the border with Bolivia.
- **Promotes an interinstitutional response to the most urgent needs of Venezuelan families living in the streets of Santiago City (Humanitarian assistance, Shelter, Livelihoods, Psychosocial support, Basic Food, CBI/vouchers and social inclusion)** through an interinstitutional coordination group with Santiago Municipality, IOM, ILO, World Vision International, and Vicaría de la Pastoral Social.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR supports livelihoods-oriented assistance for refugees and migrants to ensure their effective inclusion in economic recuperation efforts in Chile and transition from a COVID-19 humanitarian to a post-COVID 19 recovery response in close coordination with the private sector and local governments. To achieve this objective, UNHCR deploys initiatives that seek to promote the self-employment of persons of concern to UNHCR by offering online training and access to funds to purchase materials, supplies, tools, and technological devices. These projects supported 1282 women entrepreneurs from different country areas during 2021.
- **UNHCR is jointly implementing the Migration Multi-Partners Trust Fund of the Global compact for Migration, an economic integration project for 2020-2022**, with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This program is called "Strengthening the capacities of the local governments of Santiago de Chile and Mexico City to strengthen the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants through access to decent work, sustainable livelihoods, and social dialogue." During 2021 the project advanced with a diagnosis to identify the main barriers, challenges, and job opportunities for refugees and migrants residing in Santiago. In 2021, the project also saw the creation of the Migrant and Refugee Route that seeks to promote the coordination of municipal services to promote the labour inclusion of refugees and migrants. UNHCR implemented a course in "Intercultural Communication, 'Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)" and established alliances with Chilevalora and Relink to certify labour competencies and labour reconversion of migrants and refugees residing in Santiago.

Interagency Coordination

- **UNHCR works in coordination with other partners under the R4V Platform** to provide responses on education, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, and cash assistance, among others.
- In February, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile launched the 2022 **Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP)**, Chile Chapter, in coordination with the United Nations System in the country and the R4V National Platform.
- During the first two months of the year (January and February), R4V partners provided **more than 14,000 assistances in the country**.

Public Information/ External Relations

- **Provide timely and adapted information to refugees and migrants.** UNHCR publishes simplified information about the pandemic and how to mitigate its effects using the website help.unhcr.org and other public materials, such as brochures. Also, UNHCR develops visually simple infographics with information about protection services and assistance available to refugees and migrants in the country.
- **Improve the conditions of the outdoor educational spaces** UNHCR and the Mi Parque Foundation, in collaboration with IOM, formed an alliance whose objective is to improve the conditions of the outdoor educational spaces that exist for children in the north of Chile, as well as to promote values such as peaceful coexistence and inclusion among the diverse people who live in the communities. The kindergarten in Iquique, of 400 square meters, will be recovered to

benefit 152 boys and girls (from kindergarten to secondary school) and the entire educational community that participates in this educational establishment, which is part of the National Board of Kindergartens (JUNJI). The project is developed within the framework of a series of activities that UNHCR is implementing in the area, within the framework of the R4V Platform, to promote healthy environments, recover the use of public space and improve the quality of life of residents of the cities of northern Chile.

- **Develop campaigns, activities, and communicational material to promote a more favourable environment. In the framework of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V).** UNHCR and IOM, within the framework of the Inter-institutional Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), launched the digital campaign "**Somos Encuentro**" that seeks to develop campaigns, activities, and communication material to promote a more favorable environment. The digital campaign "We are Encuentro" that seeks to rescue and highlight stories of inclusion, cultural exchange, and community dialogue that foster bonds of empathy and solidarity between people, in addition to promoting behaviors, attitudes and actions in line with non-discrimination, was also launched. The initiative seeks to show real stories under key concepts such as diversity, inclusion, and community; it hopes to generate a meeting and create a commitment around the non-discrimination of refugees and migrants, raising awareness of the need to end stereotypes acts of violence and discrimination.
- **Actively participates in developing a communication strategy for the United Nations System.** Together with UNICEF, UNHCR co-leads the Interagency Communications Group, in which communicators from all United Nations agencies in Chile participate to develop communication strategies that allow the United Nations to position in the country and increase its institutional prestige and reputation.
- **Communicating with Communities (CwC).** To complement the implemented program that began in 2021, "Community Digital Influencers," a CwC project that seeks to improve the quality of the information received by refugee and migrant communities through influencers on social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, and Tiktok. The influencers were invited to participate in another 4-session training to strengthen communication skills, teach them to handle delicate situations that arise in social networks, and provide them with more valuable tools for the work they do.
- **Supports educational campaigns for the refugee and migrant population.** In a joint effort with the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Ministry of Health, UNHCR launched an audiovisual campaign aimed at raising awareness among the refugee and migrant population about the main characteristics of migratory grief and the importance of taking care of their mental health during their integration processes in Chile. The campaign consists of three animated videos and information brochures. Journalist, communicators, digital influencers as well as representatives and guests of the organizations involved, partner agencies, and psychosocial professionals participated, and they could spread the three animated videos and informative brochures.

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 programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds in 2022

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