

NORTHERN CHILE MID-YEAR UPDATE

(REGIONS OF ARICA AND PARINACOTA, TARAPACA AND ANTOFAGASTA)

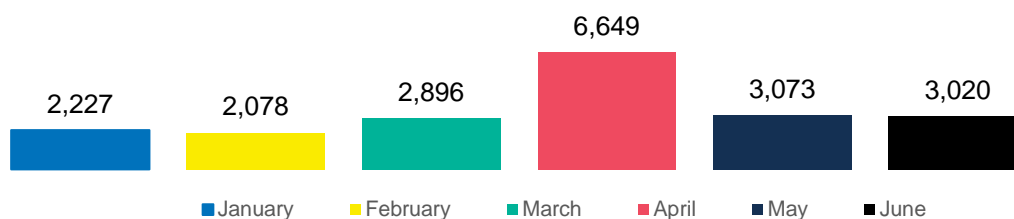
Operational context

The first half of 2022 was mainly marked by three major events: the assumption of the new Government headed by Gabriel Boric, [the reopening of land border crossings](#), and the end of the constitutional state of exception in the northern zone.



*Refugee or migrant entering Chile through an unauthorized border crossing in the Colchane sector, Chile.
UNHCR/Alvaro Hamame*

- The new Government has announced measures to respond to the phenomenon of human mobility in the North, such as (a) the implementation of a National Migration Policy, (b) the improvement of the entry registration system and first humanitarian response, (c) expediting and making more efficient the response of the National Migration Service, and (d) greater public investment in places and communities that have experienced the consequences of the human mobility crisis with greater intensity.
- The reopening of land border crossings on **1 May** follows the decrease in COVID-19 cases. It reflects the need for economic reactivation in the northern zone, which has always depended heavily on the commercial ties with the neighboring countries of Peru and Bolivia.
- According to information shared by the National Migration Service and based on the complaints and self-complaints (“denuncias” and “autodenuncias” in Spanish) registered by the Investigative Police (PDI), over 19,900 people have reported an irregular entry to Chile from January to June 2022 (See Graphic 1). These figures correspond only to the adult population (children and adolescents are not subject to complaints), so the total number of entries is likely to be considerably higher.

Graphic 1. Registered irregular entries during the first half of 2022


Operational response

The response to the need of refugees and migrants in the north of Chile has benefited from **strong interagency and intersectoral coordination** that has included constant and consistent participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) and regional and local authorities.



UNHCR delivers bottles of drinking water to refugees and migrants in the Colchane governmental shelter, Tarapaca region (Chile-Bolivia border). UNHCR/Alvaro Hamame

UNHCR has provided **protection and humanitarian assistance** to cover the most pressing needs of refugees and migrants arriving in Chile. Simultaneously, UNHCR's work has sought to promote **integration and peaceful coexistence** with host communities.

*Of the **60 refugee and migrant families (183 people)** surveyed on 24 June by the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) in the Lobito governmental shelter (Iquique, Tarapaca region), **65 per cent** could not leave the shelter due to lack of financial means. In addition, **47 per cent** wanted to stay in the Tarapaca region, and **30 per cent** wanted to move to the Metropolitan region of Santiago. Around **96 per cent** of those who wished to remain in Tarapaca indicated that they did not have support networks in the region.*

KEY RESPONSE INDICATORS

13,308

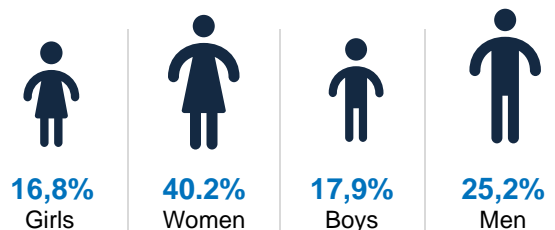
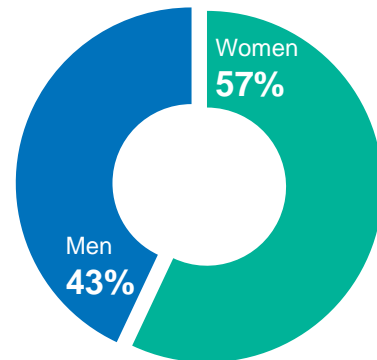
People assisted in northern Chile between January and June 2022, representing **46%** of the total people reached in Chile during the first half of 2022.

92%

Of the population assisted in northern Chile are **Venezuelans**, while **3%** of the **host communities** received direct assistance.

91%

The assistance was delivered through **7 partners** with a presence in the region. The main activities of assistance were reported under the areas of Protection (**62%**), delivery of Multipurpose Cash (**17%**) and Integration (**15%**)*.



* Sectorial figures are subject to variation, as there may be adjustments in the information towards the end of the year validation.

** Of the people reached, 3 identified themselves as being gender diverse.

IN BRIEF

Arica and Parinacota Region

During the first half of 2022, the UNHCR delivered humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants in coordination with public institutions and implementing partners. More than **2,000 kits and packages** of assorted food boxes for families (**300**), diaper packages (**600**), personal hygiene kits (**400**), recreational kits for children (**400**), and a cell phone recharging totem, were part of the direct assistance efforts in the region.

Mobile Clinic

On 14 June, UNHCR in Arica formally handed over a Mobile Clinic to the Municipality of Arica, which offers three services for the direct benefit of refugees, migrants and host communities: **general medicine, dentistry, and gynecology**.



IN BRIEF

Tarapacá Region

The **Working Group for Refugees and Migrants** ('GTRM,' for its acronym in Spanish) has become an **essential arm of the National R4V Platform**. In coordination with local authorities, UN agencies, CSOs, and NGOs, the group is addressing the response for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region, especially in the areas of protection, humanitarian assistance, and integration. During the first half of 2022, the GTRM carried out activities such as a) provision of assistance and **orientation** in shelters; b) delivery of **food and WASH items** at the border, c) **training sessions** on refugee protection and migrant issues for both public and private entities, d) drafting of **protocols** to address situations of gender-based violence (GBV) and violations of the rights of children and adolescents, and e) recuperation of public spaces to promote **social cohesion with host communities**.

World Refugee Day



On 20 June, to commemorate the resilience and courage of people forced to flee in the world, the UNHCR and partner organizations organized and participated in events aimed at raising **environmental awareness in schools** with a high presence of refugee and migrant children and adolescents. Students and their families participated in composting, recycling, and interactive mural painting activities in the three northern regions.

IN BRIEF

Antofagasta Region

Antofagasta hosts a significant number of refugees and migrants who see the **region as a final destination** and an area for a lasting settlement. In the first half of 2022, the UNHCR prioritized the training of **150** Carabineros and Investigative Police officers and **25** officials from the municipality of Antofagasta on issues related to **international protection and the refugee status determination (RSD) procedure**. Additionally, the UNHCR in the region delivered **350** recreational kits to refugee and migrant children and adolescents and carried out legal support activities in events open to the community called "Citizen Squares" ("Plazas Ciudadanas", in Spanish).

Inauguration of Casa Esperanza



On 10 June, UNHCR participated in the inauguration of the temporary night center for refugees and migrants in Calama called **Casa Esperanza** (Spanish for “Hope House”), a Caritas initiative co-sponsored by the UNHCR. The center has 22 rooms, 8 bathrooms, and 10 showers. It has the capacity to house 70 people in total, with priority given to vulnerable women and family groups without support networks in the region.

Emerging Needs and New Opportunities



Refugees and migrants face different challenges in complying with the requirements established by the legal frameworks for legal status regularization and access to the asylum system. **UNHCR is working with legal partners to provide legal advice and orientation to support them.**



The shelters at the border and in northern cities have collapsed due to the massive need for housing, contributing to the increase of refugees and migrants living on the streets. **A more robust and coordinated response incorporating all the various actors involved (both public and private) is required to prevent these events' recurrence.**



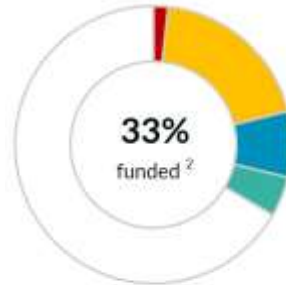
Most refugees and migrants have problems accessing potable drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation, either due to the precarious conditions in which they arrive in Chile or due to the geographical landscape of the northern zone. **A dignified response requires considering these elements, emphasizing groups in particular need of protection, such as children and women.**



The health systems of the border towns have been overwhelmed by the many cases of refugees and migrants presenting dehydration, respiratory diseases, altitude sickness, and other health problems, which have already generated the death of almost 40 refugees and migrants since January 2021 in the Colchane-Pisiga sector. **For a first humanitarian response to comply with international standards, it is necessary to ponder the factors mentioned above appropriately.**

THANK OUR DONORS**\$49.2 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2022

**ARGENTINA MCO**

as of 29 September 2022



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