

Uruguay

November 2019

Historical commitment to protection. Uruguay is a State Party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol since 1970. Uruguay acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless People in 2004, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2001.

Resettlement. In 2014, Uruguay became the first country in Latin America to resettle Syrian refugees (42 persons) through a program integrally funded and implemented by the Government. In 2017, Uruguay became the first Latin American country to resettle refugees from the North of Central America, comprising 10 families (35 persons) as of August 2019.

Solidarity Resettlement Program. Since 2008 the Uruguayan Government has maintained the Solidarity Resettlement Program for refugees from Colombia and has already received 146 refugees under this scheme. In 2017, it was extended to refugees from the North of Central America, under the Uruguayan Rural Resettlement Programme.

HIGHLIGHTS

In October 2018, Uruguay adopted **Law N°19.682 for the recognition and protection of stateless persons** and applicants of such status. The adopted legislation establishes statelessness determination procedure and ensures protection of stateless persons who are not refugees.

The **Migration Law N° 18.250**, incorporates safeguards regarding the protection of asylum-seekers and the prevention of *refoulement* at borders.

In 2013, Uruguay established a **Rural Resettlement Program** under the framework of the Solidarity Resettlement. Since 2017, refugees from the North of Central America (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala) have been included in the Rural Resettlement scheme in different municipalities in the country.

The domestic legal framework dealing with refugees is set out in the 2006 Refugee Law N° 18.076 "*Derecho al Refugio y a los Refugiados*", in line with international standards of protection, including the extended refugee definition in line with the 1984 Cartagena Declaration.

POPULATION OF CONCERN 21,460

Refugees	425
Asylum-seekers	8,428
Venezuelans displaced abroad	12,607

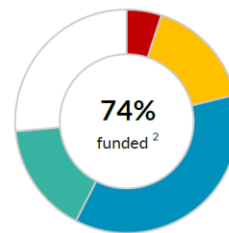
Source: Official information provided by the Government, as of June 2019

FUNDING

USD 11.8 MILLION

requested for the **Argentina Regional Office including Uruguay**

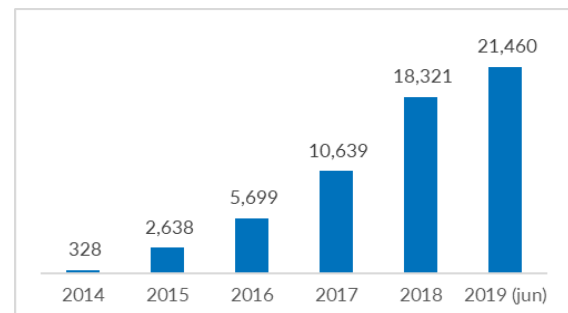
UNHCR's financial requirements 2019



ARGENTINA REGIONAL OFFICE

as of 6 November 2019

POPULATION OF CONCERN (EVOLUTION)



UNHCR PRESENCE

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

Staff and Offices

1 Regional Office in Buenos Aires, Argentina – **9** international staff, **25** national staff, **14** UNOPS, **1** Fellow and **3** Consultants.

in Mendoza, Argentina **1** UNOPS
in La Rioja, Argentina **1** UNOPS
in Salta, Argentina **1** UNOPS
in Córdoba, Argentina **1** UNOPS
in Montevideo, Uruguay **3** UNOPS

1 National Office in Santiago, Chile – **1** international staff, **13** staff National staff, **1** ERT and **2** UNOPS.

Presence in Arica, Chile - **3** National staff.



Working with Partners

- UNHCR works in close coordination with Government counterparts, namely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, and the **Refugee Commission (CORE)**, as well as with other UN agencies to provide protection and seek durable solutions for refugees. UNHCR is a member of the CORE.
- **SEDHU (Servicio Ecuménico para la Dignidad Humana)** is UNHCR's partner for providing counselling, basic humanitarian assistance, and support for self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods to refugees and asylum-seekers.

Main Activities

Protection & Durable Solutions

- Provide technical support and advice to national authorities involved in the implementation of fair and efficient **Refugee Status Determination (RSD)** procedures. Capacity building activities are implemented to strengthen the CORE, and its permanent secretariat in order to ensure due process in admission, registration, eligibility interviews, RSD assessments and right to appeal.
- Provide technical support to the Government to consolidate **sustainable resettlement programs** under the leadership of the CORE and the collaboration of SEDHU and international partners.
- Support the Government which is progressively assuming the leadership of **local integration strategies**, inter alia, through the promotion of policies and the allocation of public funding for refugees.
- Advocate for the facilitation of the **naturalization procedure for refugees and statelessness persons** and provide the necessary information to ensure they are able to make an informed decision on this option.
- Promote actions addressed to prevent, identify and respond to situations of **Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGVBV)** affecting refugee women and children through regular protection dialogues and empowerment activities with refugee women and girls.
- **Produce information** and identify **protection risks, promote human rights** and identify coping mechanisms of **Venezuelan nationals** no matter their migratory or refugee status through the implementation of the Protection Monitoring Tool, while at the same time referring individual cases with specific needs to partner agencies.
- Provide **capacity building and training** to relevant counterparts.
- Provide technical support for the implementation of Law N° 19.682 for the recognition and protection of stateless persons.
- In February 2017, UNHCR and the Government of Uruguay signed a **Cooperation Agreement** which foresees the resettlement of refugees from the North of Central America and the strengthening of the CORE.
- Support the Uruguayan government to buttress its capacities to better **respond to the Venezuela Situation** and to **promote durable solutions for Venezuelans**, while providing **emergency humanitarian assistance** and ensuring protection support for vulnerable cases.

Humanitarian Assistance, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- SEDHU provides **humanitarian assistance** to more than 135 vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees with special needs. The assistance consists of financial support as well as counselling. SEDHU also assists on legal issues and documentation.
- Initiatives related to the improvement of **self-reliance and livelihoods** include vocational training activities organized through the **National Institute for Employment and Labour Training (INEFOP), and Human Resources institutions**. Once the trainings are completed, the CVs of the beneficiary refugees and asylum-seekers are included in a database. In the latest period, SEDHU facilitated access of 665 PoC to these trainings. In addition, SEDHU provided documentation support to 127 PoC to facilitate their insertion in the labor market.

External Relations

CONTACTS

Analía Kim, Snr Communications/PI Associate, Regional Office for Southern Latin America,
kiman@unhcr.org, Tel: +54 11 4815-7870

Elisabet Diaz Sanmartin, External Relations Officer, Regional Bureau for the Americas,
diazsanm@unhcr.org, Tel: +4122- 739 8557

LINKS

- Website: <https://acnur.org/uruguay>
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