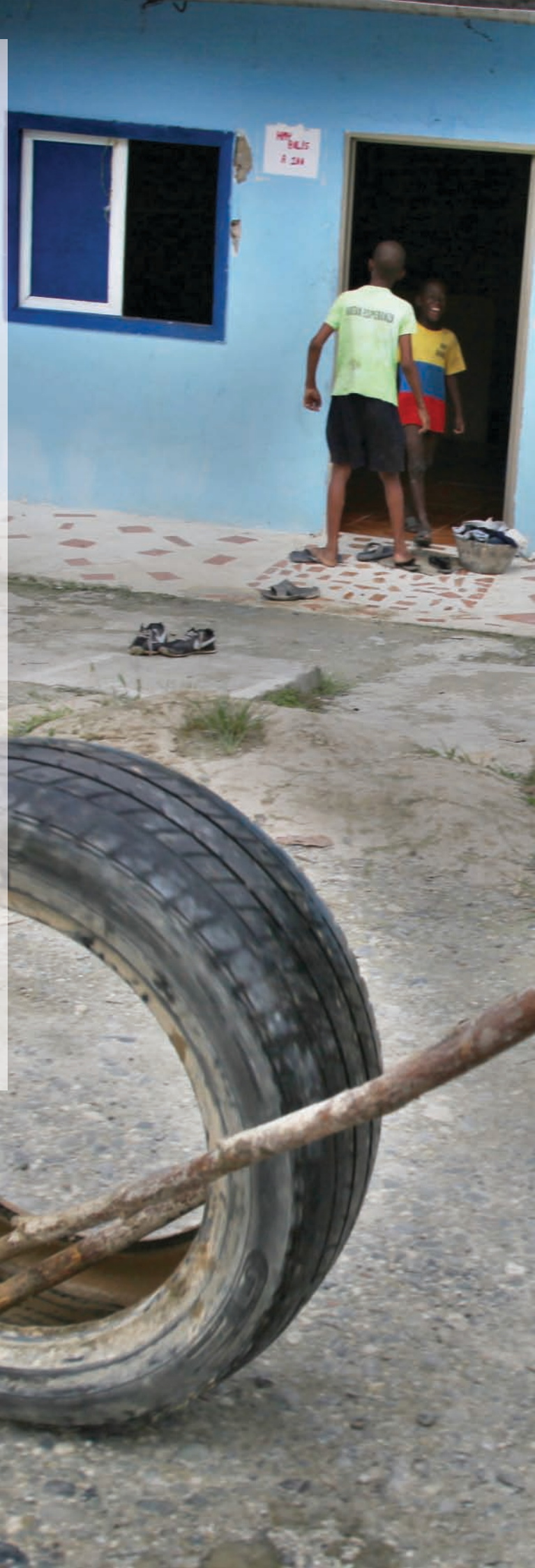
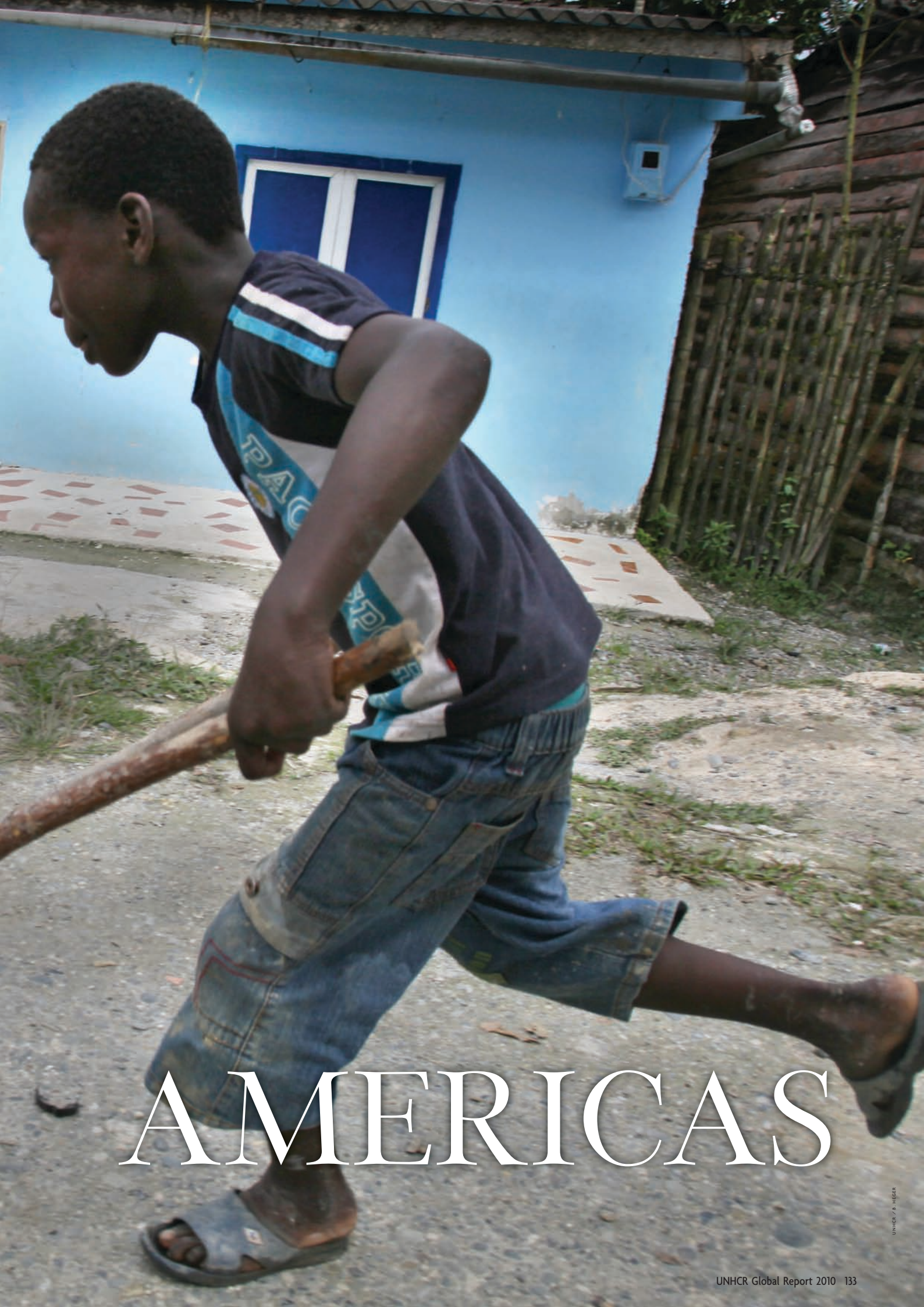


| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- UNHCR welcomed significant improvements in refugee protection in North America. In Canada, the introduction of the Balanced Refugee Reform Act, which establishes a Refugee Appeal Division, will provide for appeals by claimants who receive negative first-instance decisions. In the United States of America, the Department of Homeland Security's reform of its detention practices and application of new parole guidelines improved protection for people of concern.
- In 2010, UNHCR continued to promote the Mexico Plan of Action as a regional framework for protection. In November, at an international meeting that launched UNHCR's 60th anniversary commemorations in the region, 18 Latin American States adopted the Brasilia Declaration on the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons in the Americas.
- In Colombia, the new Government has introduced a draft law on land restitution, the implementation of which would promote solutions to displacement, including return and reintegration.
- The year 2010 marked the incorporation of refugee protection into the legal systems of all countries in Latin America, including the adoption in Chile and Mexico of breakthrough refugee laws. Furthermore, the right to asylum has been enshrined in the constitution of the Dominican Republic.
- As part of the international response to the earthquake in Haiti, UNHCR deployed within days of the disaster two emergency teams in order to provide immediate protection assistance. One team was operating in the country and one in border areas of the Dominican Republic. UNHCR participated in various working groups of the protection cluster led by OHCHR.
- The establishment of a National Refugee Commission in Costa Rica and the reactivation of one in the Dominican Republic were welcome developments. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela there was progress in bringing refugee status determination (RSD) procedures in line with international standards. In Panama, a proposed change in legislation would provide permanent residency to Colombian nationals with the "temporary humanitarian protection" status.

A boy, from a community at risk of being displaced, plays on the street near the Pacific coast of Colombia.





AMERICAS

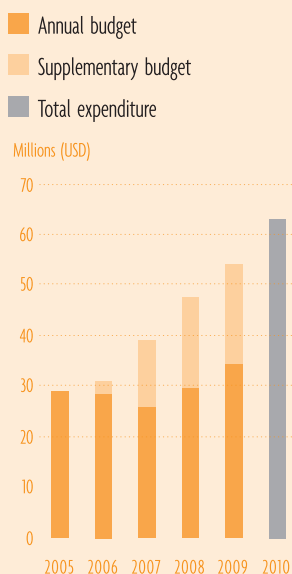
UNHCR / B. HEGNER

Financial information

Funding constraints obliged UNHCR to prioritize its activities. The unexpected emergency response to the earthquake in Haiti and the setting up of an emergency team required additional resources. Earmarked contributions were received for the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Although UNHCR offices in the Americas have developed new initiatives for the integration of urban refugees, additional funds are required to consolidate these activities, ensure their sustainability and expand livelihoods.

Expenditure in the Americas 2005-2010



Note: Excludes UNHCR's office in New York, which was part of the Americas region through 2006.

| Working environment |

Displacement from Colombia towards Ecuador and Venezuela continued, making protection in border areas a high priority. Cross-border initiatives and border monitoring activities were implemented throughout the region, despite protection staff being challenged by threats to security and generalized violence. The monitoring of land and maritime borders remained of crucial importance in ensuring protection in mixed-migration movements throughout the region.

The increasing intensity of new conflicts in the region has resulted in extreme violence against civilian populations and forced internal and external displacement. Gang-related violence continues to generate forced displacement in Central America, especially in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and there have been serious incidents of violence against migrants in Mexico.

The need for protection in the context of natural disasters has been highlighted by the earthquakes in Haiti and, to a lesser extent, Chile, as well as by the floods in Colombia. An increase in xenophobia and discrimination vis-à-vis asylum-seekers and refugees, generalized violence and declining socio-economic conditions in the region continued to pose challenges to local integration.

| Achievements and impact |

● Reinforcing protection mechanisms

International and regional instruments and national legal frameworks were improved in 2010. The adoption of the Brasilia Declaration revitalized the commitment of countries in the region to implement the Mexico Plan of Action including ensuring protection in the context of mixed-migration movements. The Declaration calls for the protection of refugees and victims of trafficking. Furthermore, it promotes accession to the international instruments on statelessness and the review of national legislation to prevent and reduce it.

Mexico's new Refugee Act incorporates the regional refugee definition of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees. This Act considers gender as grounds for persecution and makes Mexico the first country in Latin America to grant and regulate complementary forms of protection. In Chile, the Law for the Protection of Refugees incorporates the broader definition of a refugee as provided in the Cartagena Declaration.

Another first in the Americas was Argentina's introduction of a humanitarian visa for victims of natural disasters in its Decree 616 which forms

the National Migration Law. In Costa Rica, the new Immigration Law established a Refugee Department and Commission and recognized gender-related persecution as a basis for refugee recognition. Canada's Balanced Refugee Reform Act and the United States of America's Department of Homeland Security's reform of its detention practices added to these positive changes in the Americas.

UNHCR continued to help Colombia strengthen protection in response to its protracted IDP situation, with interventions ranging from ensuring assistance and protection for the newly displaced to exploring durable solutions when conditions permitted. In the countries neighbouring Colombia, UNHCR worked with governments to ensure access of people of concern to protection and comprehensive solutions, and continued to develop cross-border initiatives.

With its newly established office in Santo Domingo, UNHCR was able to initiate an immediate response to the Haiti earthquake, organizing the distribution of relief items. UNHCR supported the protection cluster led by OHCHR and implemented quick-impact projects along the border with the Dominican Republic. Particular attention was paid to the protection of women and children.

● Finding comprehensive solutions

More than two-thirds of the total refugee population in Latin America reside in urban areas, where competition for employment, housing and basic services is high. Under the framework of the Mexico Plan of Action, participatory assessments and the establishment of legal and social assistance centres "Casas de Derechos" in the region have proved valuable in linking refugees and asylum-seekers to national social services. The assessments have also helped UNHCR and its partners understand and address the challenges to local integration in urban contexts.

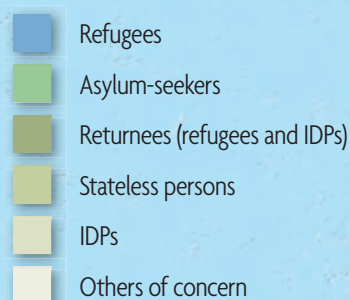
UNHCR welcomed the granting of adequate protection solutions for Haitian nationals. However, it advocated for international protection safeguards in cases of forced repatriation and return of Haitian nationals to their country.

Resettlement programmes in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and the United States of America remained indispensable to efforts to protect people of concern in the region. In 2010, some 66,000 refugees were resettled in the Americas, mostly in Canada and the United States of America.

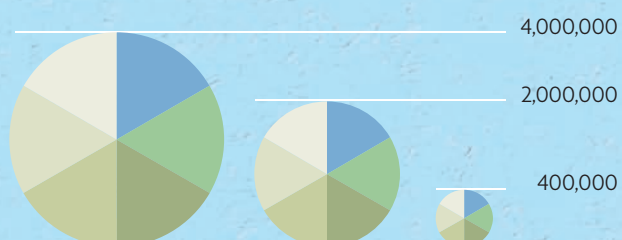
In order to combat xenophobia and racism directed at asylum-seekers and refugees in Latin America, UNHCR developed a

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

LATIN AMERICA



Population size



successful sensitization campaign, called *Put Yourself in the Shoes of a Refugee*, which aimed to increase empathy with these populations.

Enhancing partnerships

UNHCR strengthened its working relationship with the Organization of American States (OAS) by participating in its technical meetings and providing support to relevant bodies. Resolutions on refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and, for the first time, stateless persons were unanimously adopted by the OAS General Assembly held in Lima, Peru.

Following the Regional Conference on the 10-Point Plan of Action, organized in Costa Rica in November 2009, UNHCR and IOM jointly presented project proposals on extra-continental migration, the establishment of profiling and referral mechanisms, and capacity-building and training for immigration and border officials on protection in mixed-migration contexts. UNHCR and IOM have also begun working together to raise more awareness about trafficking in persons and the link with refugee protection.

UNHCR continued to work with other UN agencies, governments and national partners in the Americas to reinforce the understanding of protection concerns in the context of natural disasters.

Constraints

Despite the region's strong refugee legislation, implementation of fully effective refugee protection mechanisms remains a challenge. Low recognition rates in several countries; the adoption of pre-admissibility procedures; the absence of protection safeguards; the irregular functioning of national refugee commissions; backlogs in the processing of asylum claims; and the dearth of strong mechanisms to avoid *refoulement* continue to be of concern.

State concerns about security have led to the shrinking of humanitarian space throughout the region. Protection at land and maritime borders needs to be improved, especially in the context of mixed-migration movements and human trafficking. Conflict, violence and the lack of security, particularly in areas near Colombia's borders, also affect the delivery of protection. Sexual and gender-based violence and heightened risks for unaccompanied minors are other challenges.

In the Caribbean, UNHCR is faced with an operational context characterized by a lack of protection safeguards for asylum-seekers and refugees within complex mixed-migration movements. ■

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE IN THE AMERICAS | USD

Operations		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN						
Canada	Budget	1,874,052	0	0	0	1,874,052
	Expenditure	1,642,648	0	0	0	1,642,648
United States of America Regional Office ¹	Budget	4,682,806	653,822	0	11,682,356	17,018,984
	Expenditure	3,762,022	644,958	0	4,177,764	8,584,744
Subtotal	Budget	6,556,858	653,822	0	11,682,356	18,893,036
	Expenditure	5,404,670	644,958	0	4,177,764	10,227,392
LATIN AMERICA						
Argentina Regional Office ²	Budget	5,854,803	125,000	0	0	5,979,803
	Expenditure	4,260,758	120,244	0	0	4,381,002
Brazil	Budget	3,926,225	0	0	0	3,926,225
	Expenditure	3,855,605	0	0	0	3,855,605
Colombia	Budget	2,515,267	50,000	0	28,022,088	30,587,355
	Expenditure	938,607	42,977	0	22,225,720	23,207,304
Costa Rica	Budget	2,421,732	0	0	0	2,421,732
	Expenditure	2,035,300	0	0	0	2,035,300
Ecuador	Budget	16,456,121	25,000	0	0	16,481,121
	Expenditure	9,710,784	0	0	0	9,710,784
Mexico	Budget	1,752,164	0	0	0	1,752,164
	Expenditure	1,453,954	0	0	0	1,453,954
Panama	Budget	2,387,638	0	0	0	2,387,638
	Expenditure	1,120,249	0	0	0	1,120,249
Venezuela	Budget	6,701,046	0	0	0	6,701,046
	Expenditure	4,057,600	0	0	0	4,057,600
Panama ³	Budget	4,308,633	0	0	0	4,308,633
	Expenditure	2,929,304	0	0	0	2,929,304
Subtotal	Budget	46,323,629	200,000	0	28,022,088	74,545,717
	Expenditure	30,362,161	163,221	0	22,225,720	52,751,102
Total	Budget	52,880,488	853,822	0	39,704,444	93,438,753
	Expenditure	35,766,831	808,179	0	26,403,484	62,978,494

¹ Covers 15 independent countries and 15 overseas territories or departments, principally in the Caribbean, including activities in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

² Includes Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

³ Includes the Legal Unit in Costa Rica.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAS | USD

Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Amitié Sans Frontières (Monaco)	57,720			57,720
Australia for UNHCR		104,749		104,749
BASF Química Colombiana S.A.		9,723		9,723
Brazil	500,000	1,000,000		1,500,000
Canada		2,814,259	375,235	3,189,493
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)		659,000		659,000
Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe (Germany)		26,918		26,918
España con ACNUR (Spain)	7,095	247,523	193,914	448,532
European Commission	1,687,039	2,987,658		4,674,696
France		269,906		269,906
HQ online donations		5,742		5,742
Japan Association for UNHCR		209,210		209,210
Luxembourg	360,750	360,750		721,501
Netherlands		1,500,000		1,500,000
Norway	121,386	170,619	1,612,903	1,904,909
Private donors in Canada		6,065		6,065
Private donors in China		294,496		294,496
Private donors in Italy	217,859	246,569		464,428
Private donors in Korea		10,529		10,529
Private donors in UK		1,505		1,505
Spain	2,219,397	1,839,662		4,059,059
Sweden		1,387,347	1,394,700	2,782,048
Swedish Postcode Lottery		410,959		410,959
Switzerland		470,810		470,810
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights		400,000		400,000
UN Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund		651,038		651,038
UN Trust Fund for Human Security		87,134		87,134
United Kingdom	16,000			16,000
United States of America	3,544,360	3,800,000	10,300,000	17,644,360
USA for UNHCR	20,000	60,000		80,000
Total	8,751,607	20,032,170	13,876,752	42,660,529

Note: Includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.