

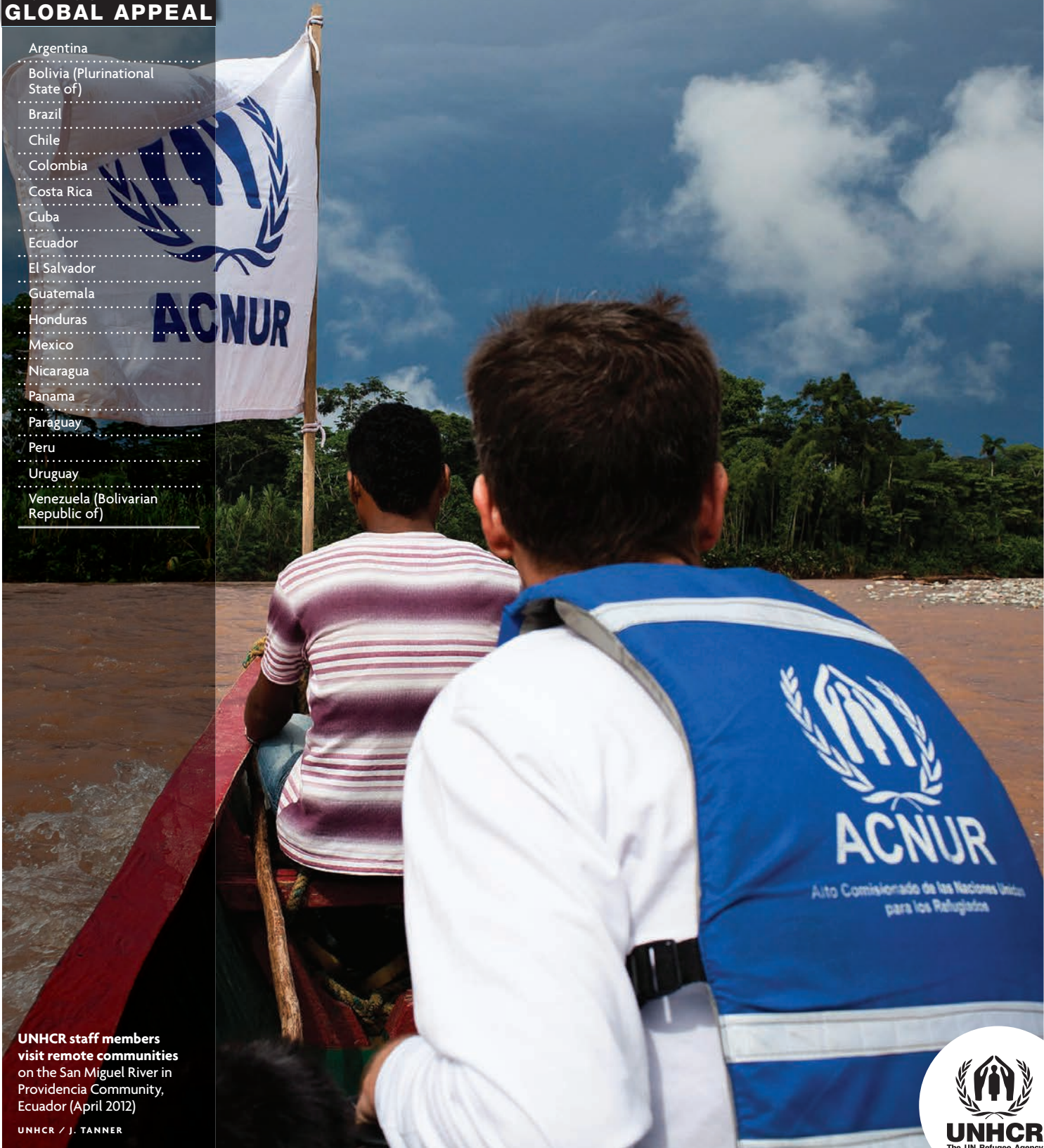
LATIN AMERICA



UNHCR

2014 - 2015
GLOBAL APPEAL

- Argentina
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)



UNHCR staff members visit remote communities on the San Miguel River in Providencia Community, Ecuador (April 2012)

UNHCR / J. TANNER



Overview



Working environment

The year 2014 will mark the 30th Anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (Cartagena Declaration). Over the past 30 years, regional cooperation and solidarity, exemplified in the Declaration, have proved to be effective in addressing long-standing and new situations of forced displacement throughout the Americas.

Although the numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees in the Latin America subregion remain relatively stable, it is anticipated that in 2014 they may rise due to increasing violence from new criminal entities in the Americas region.

Central America is affected by high levels of violence perpetuated by illegal non-state actors. This is having an impact on the protection of the population and is causing new patterns of displacement.

Response

Strategies

In 2014, UNHCR will continue to encourage Governments and civil society in the subregion to maintain their application of the pragmatic and flexible framework provided by the Cartagena Declaration in their responses to the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, stateless and internally displaced people. Likewise, the anniversary of the Declaration provides an opportunity to reiterate the commitment in the region to international protection and the importance of regional instruments within the universal asylum regime, and to reaffirm the centrality of the 1951 Refugee Convention within the inter-American asylum system.

For operations in Latin America, the Office has planned a number of activities leading up to the Declaration anniversary in November 2014, and will work towards

the establishment of a renewed regional framework for the next decade, building on the 2004 Mexico Plan of Action. Particular efforts will be made to:

- ensure access to territorial protection and asylum procedures;
- assure protection against *refoulement*, in both terrestrial and maritime border areas;
- strengthen the quality of refugee status determination (RSD) procedures and decisions through the implementation of the Quality Assurance Initiative launched in 2012 to align standards and safeguards throughout the region;
- ensure that urban refugees have access to affordable health, education and other essential services, as well as dignified livelihoods under UNHCR's Comprehensive Solutions Initiative, an innovative approach which will consider various options.

These include: local integration, naturalization and other permanent residence solutions; resettlement; and also the potential use of migratory solutions with relevant protection safeguards; and

- reduce protection risks faced by people of concern, in particular discrimination, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child recruitment.

UNHCR, in support of the national authorities of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras will work to strengthen protection frameworks, improve field monitoring focusing on borders, and identify vulnerable cases.

Challenges

Countries in the subregion have established regional and national systems for the protection of people of concern to UNHCR. In Central America and Mexico, violence and criminal activities by illegal non-state actors represent one of the main challenges. This represents a significant risk for populations of concern and is often at the root of displacement. In the MERCOSUR countries, the steady increase in asylum applications in the past few years raises the need to adapt well-functioning asylum systems to face the growing demand. Access to the effective enjoyment of rights and to livelihood opportunities aimed at integration, continue to be a challenge to durable comprehensive solutions in the region.

| Implementation |

Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Colombia** and **Ecuador** are described in separate country operation chapters.

The operation in **Brazil** is witnessing an increase of asylum-seekers, with arrivals mainly from Africa and the Middle East. The Office will continue to provide advice to the authorities on addressing these applications with the implementation of the Quality Assurance Initiative. Furthermore, it is expected that Brazil will play a key role in the Comprehensive Solutions Initiative in respect of refugees in Ecuador, with the implementation of a new durable solution through an open migration policy within the framework of MERCOSUR. Brazil has also expressed interest in expanding the resettlement programme for refugees from sub-Saharan Africa, in addition to the current group of Colombians.

The main priority of the Office in **Costa Rica** is the process of local integration, especially job placements. To help refugees and asylum-seekers to find jobs and become less dependent on assistance, the Office will further develop alliances with private companies and chambers of commerce. UNHCR is also working on naturalization

and nationality issues as part of the overall solutions strategy in the country.

In 2014-2015, the top priority for the Office in **Mexico** will be to maintain and increase the protection space, and in particular to consolidate the capacity of the Government. With the implementation of the Quality Assurance Initiative, this process has gained a better focus and momentum. The implementation of a project to improve the protection of vulnerable migrants, particularly children, will offer new opportunities in the mixed migration context.

The **Regional Office in Panama** covers Central America and **Cuba**, oversees Mexico and Costa Rica, and provides technical and legal support to the region through the Regional Legal Unit (RLU) and the technical hub. In the forthcoming biennium, the Office will maintain an emphasis on the following areas in particular: work on protection and solutions in Panama will include strengthening asylum systems through the Quality Assurance Initiative in Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama. Displacement due to criminal violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras will be monitored, and information gathered will help to increase understanding of displacement issues and population

trends in Central America. Technical advice will be provided on legal issues, and capacity building and liaison will continue with regional mechanisms such as OAS, MERCOSUR and the Puebla Process. Work on statelessness and SGBV will also be pursued.

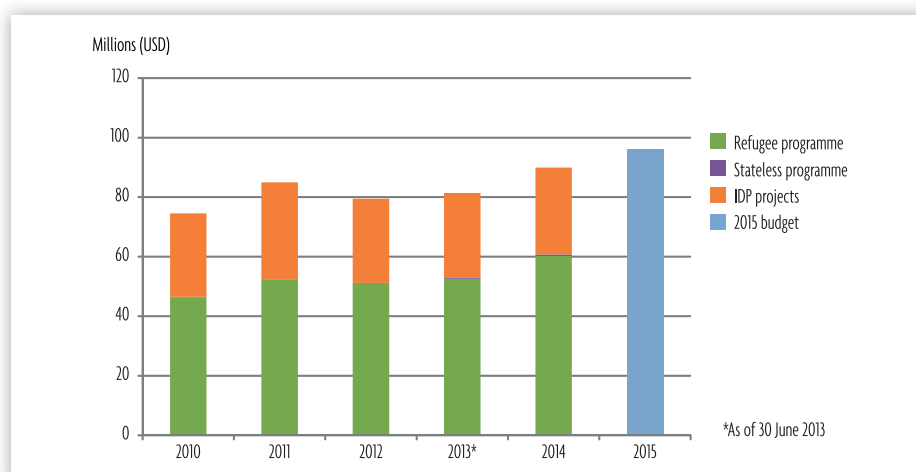
The **Regional Office in Argentina**, comprising **Argentina**, the **Plurinational State of Bolivia**, **Chile**, **Paraguay**, **Peru** and **Uruguay**, will continue to focus on: capacity building for government authorities on asylum and protection, including through the implementation of the Quality Assurance Initiative in Argentina; resettlement programmes in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay; and the elaboration of protection-sensitive migration schemes through MERCOSUR, as a solution for Colombian refugees.

In the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**, UNHCR will continue to provide technical support to the national Commission for Refugees to expedite the processing of asylum application backlogs. The Office will focus in particular on improving the issuance of documentation, to enhance protection and enable the implementation of durable solutions, particularly effective local integration.

Financial information

In recent years, UNHCR's financial requirements in Latin America have remained relatively constant, ranging from USD 74.5 million in 2010 to a revised 2013 budget of USD 81.4 million. In 2014, UNHCR's financial requirements for the subregion have increased to USD 89.9 million and represent approximately 81 per cent of the financial requirements for the Americas. This increase is due to the impact of new situations of forced displacement, and one of the main focuses of the Office will be the protection and assistance of vulnerable groups, including children and women.

Budgets for Latin America | 2010–2015



Budgets for Latin America | USD

Operation	2013 REVISED BUDGET (as of 30 June 2013)	2014			TOTAL	2015
		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects		
Argentina Regional Office	4,390,969	4,249,321	55,315	0	4,304,636	5,165,565
Brazil	5,121,186	8,081,236	115,643	0	8,196,880	9,155,718
Colombia	29,638,631	1,322,458	0	29,177,542	30,500,000	32,130,000
Costa Rica	2,056,514	2,884,871	0	0	2,884,871	2,038,494
Ecuador	21,103,736	20,906,692	0	0	20,906,692	20,500,000
Mexico	3,098,622	2,942,463	0	0	2,942,463	2,682,099
Panama Regional Office	5,882,317	7,979,088	324,599	0	8,303,687	8,695,491
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	9,974,811	10,950,133	0	0	10,950,133	12,045,147
Regional activities ¹	160,744	937,000	0	0	937,000	3,840,534
Total	81,427,530	60,253,261	495,557	29,177,542	89,926,361	96,253,047

¹ Regional activities cover the entire Americas region