

Paraguay

August 2024

Hosting some **7,673 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, most of them from Venezuela**, UNHCR works with the Paraguayan government and its partner agency to **guarantee access to territory, asylum, documentation and family reunification** while also providing **basic goods and services**,

both in cash and in-kind assistance to forcibly displaced people. With its partner, **facilitates the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants, providing seed capital for small scale businesses**, orientation to access the labour market, and advocating with

authorities and financial service providers to grant access to banking products. The National Refugee Commission (CONARE) of Paraguay has granted refugee status to Venezuelan nationals through *prima facie* group recognition.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

7,673

Refugees	6,081
Asylum-seekers	1,588
Stateless	4

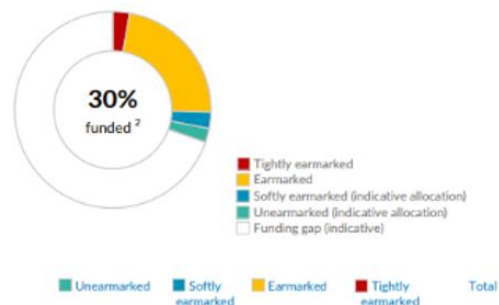
Source: Official information provided by the Government, as of June 2024

FUNDING

USD 56.2 MILLION

requested for the Argentina

Multi-Country Office including Paraguay



UNHCR PRESENCE

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

Staff in Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay:

38 National staff and affiliated workforce

8 International staff



Venezuelans entrepreneurs in Paraguay, beneficiaries of seed capital during the World Refugee Day fair © UNHCR/ Diego Benitez 2024

Results in 2023

- In 2023, UNHCR through its partner agency has provided support to **983** persons in vulnerable situations and at risk through **multi-purpose cash assistance**. An average of 4% of the beneficiaries had to resort to **extreme coping strategies**, such as begging or collecting food scraps a factor that was reduced by 5% compared to the previous year's results and this year (unlike last year), there are NO strategies linked to child labor or participation in risky activities to cover basic needs. Some other **1,164** were assisted with **in-kind assistance** to cover their basic needs, while some **60** people received **livelihoods training or support**.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works in close coordination with Government counterparts, namely with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Ministry of Justice, from the multi-sectorial National Stateless and Refugee Commission (CONARE)** to provide protection and seek durable solutions for refugees. UNHCR is a member of CONARE.
- **"Semillas para la Democracia"** is UNHCR's partner implementing projects aimed at providing legal orientation, basic humanitarian assistance and supporting socio-economic inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers and Venezuelan nationals.
- UNHCR works together with other UN agencies, such as OHCHR, UNFPA and IOM.
- UNHCR has strengthened the partnership and coordination with the **Specialized Working Group for Migrants and Refugees of the Ministry of Public Defense (MDP)** providing technical advice to reinforce their role in providing legal advice to asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons not only before the CONARE, but also regarding the access to rights before other public institutions.
- UNHCR co-leads jointly with IOM the **National Response Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela where four partners –UN, CSOs, Refugee's and Migrants' organizations** implement the Response Plan 2023-2024 for the **Southern Cone** complementing Governmental capacities in main urban and border areas of the sub-region.

Main Activities

Protection & Durable Solutions

- Support the Government in the institutional **strengthening of the national asylum system**. UNHCR and its partner in Paraguay have provided resources aimed at strengthening CONARE's technical Secretariat and promoting efficient refugee status determination procedures (RSD); and capacity building activities to ensure due process in admission, registration, eligibility interviews and RSD assessments. UNHCR technical support has contributed to the exponential increase in the rate of recognition of refugee status in Paraguay, mainly of Venezuelans.
- Advocate for the implementation of the national law for the **protection of stateless persons** and the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure in line with the pledges made by the Government of Paraguay.
- Support CONARE in their role of actively promoting a greater engagement of relevant Government institutions in the development of a comprehensive strategy towards the **local integration of refugees**.
- Through cooperation with the **Entrepreneur Training Centre of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security**, refugees and asylum-seekers with an entrepreneurial profile receive **technical and training and guidance** to set up individual, family or collective businesses. *Semillas para la Democracia* complements this initiative by awarding **seed capital** to entrepreneurs and offering tailored orientation Labour rights and available employment opportunities.
- Strengthen the engagement with the UN system to ensure the inclusion of forcibly displaced people in the national development plan and the **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework**.
- Provide **capacity building and training** to relevant counterparts involved in the protection of refugees and stateless people.

Humanitarian Assistance, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's **Durable Solutions Strategy** aims to **boost opportunities for self-reliance, integration and empowerment of forcibly displaced people** and to facilitate the development of a state-owned comprehensive solutions policy. The strategy in Paraguay aims to: 1) advocate for the inclusion of strategic needs in public policies and social protection schemes; 2) create enabling conditions for decent work and wage earning; 3) enhance routes for access to financial services; and 4) promote a conducive environment for business creation.
- UNHCR, through its partner *Semillas para la Democracia*, supports refugees and migrants in their integration process **providing legal orientation, generation of integration capacities, and economic support** to access documentation, basic goods and services, so they can achieve its progressive insertion into the localeconomy.
- "*Semillas para la Democracia*" has engaged four private sector partners, as well as financial service providers, specialized civil society organizations, line ministries and other UN agencies, to **strengthen economic inclusion of forcibly displaced people** through access to employment, self-employment and financial inclusion.
- With its partner, UNHCR provides **multipurpose cash assistance, household items, and hygiene kits in kind** for the most vulnerable newly arrived refugees and migrants.

Special thanks to major donors who have provided funds for the Regional Office and at the global level in 2024:

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External Relations

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