

Uruguay

August 2024

Hosting some **63,902 refugees, asylum-seekers, and other forcibly displaced people, most of them from Venezuela**, UNHCR works with the Uruguayan government and partners to **provide information on access to territory, asylum and**

regularization, while providing with its **market**. Moreover, UNHCR supports the partners support for **basic goods and services** both in cash and in-kind. UNHCR **works with its partners also to facilitate the socio- economic integration of refugees and migrants in the local labour** development of **Uruguay's pledges at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum** related to labour mobility and family reunification.

STATISTICS

63,902

Refugees	1,326
Asylum-seekers	27,162
Stateless	1
Other People in Need of International Protection	35,413

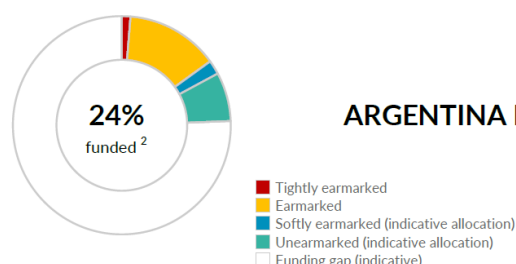
Source: Official information provided by the Government, as of June 2024

FUNDING

USD 56.2 MILLION

requested for the Argentina

Multi-Country Office including Uruguay



ARGENTINA MCO

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

Offices:

1 National Office in Montevideo



Refugee and migrants playing softball in Uruguay, bringing their home traditions to their new host country ©UNHCR/M.Redondo/2023

Results in 2023

- In 2023, UNHCR through its partner provided support to **607** persons in vulnerable situations through **multi-purpose cash assistance** to cover their basic needs, 71% of the beneficiaries were able to stabilize their housing conditions and expect to remain there for more than six months. Also, 55% of the assisted population achieved financial inclusion through the opening of bank accounts, and 44% were able to get enroll in social protection schemes. Some other **646** vulnerable individuals were provided with **core-relief items**; **2,679** individuals were provided with **free legal assistance, orientation, information** and referral to various service providers; and **1,871 people received labour market orientation** or employability training. In addition, **82 entrepreneurs** received cash transfers as seed capital and technical assistance to start or strengthen their productive initiatives.

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.
- UNHCR cooperates under the framework of Cities of Solidarity initiative with the **local Government of the City of Montevideo and the Department of Canelones**, where most refugees and forcibly displaced people reside, and the Department of Rivera in the northern border with Brazil.
- **SEDHU (Servicio Ecuaménico para la Dignidad Humana)** is UNHCR's partner for providing counselling, basic humanitarian assistance, and support for self-reliance to refugees and asylum-seekers. Further, within SEDHU's participation in the Permanent Secretariat of the CORE, the organization registers asylum application and carries out eligibility activities.
- UNHCR works closely with **Manos Venecuayas**, a refugee-led organization that provides counselling and support to refugees and migrants. Though small-scale project, UNHCR supports financial inclusion activities, such as seed capital, entrepreneurship club, job fairs, and entrepreneur fairs where refugees and other forcibly displaced people participate.
- UNHCR is supporting **Casa de la Mujer de la Union** so it can provide in-person courses on caregiving, sales and customer service, and pharmacy assistance to refugees and other forcibly displaced people, aiming for their socioeconomic integration.
- UNHCR is promoting a new strategy with the **private sector** in order to generate awareness and facilitate the insertion of refugees and migrants in the local labour market. A memorandum of understanding was signed with **DERES**, a network of more than 100 private enterprises, with the mission of contributing to a sustainable human development and social growth with equality.
- UNHCR co-leads jointly with IOM the **National Response Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela where 10 partners –UN, CSOs, Refugee's and Migrants' organizations** implement the Response Plan 2024 for the **Southern Cone** complementing governmental capacities in main urban and border areas of the region.

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)** procedure. Capacity building activities are implemented to strengthen the CORE, and its Permanent Secretariat to ensure access to territory, due process in admission, registration, eligibility interviews, RSD assessments and right to appeal. UNHCR also provides **capacity building and training** to other relevant counterparts.
- Provide **technical support for the implementation of Stateless Status Determination (SSD) procedure** since the establishment of the legal framework for the recognition and protection of stateless persons through Law N° 19,682.
- Advocate for the facilitation of the **obtention of the Uruguayan legal citizenship for refugees and stateless**

persons and provide the necessary information to ensure they can make an informed decision on this option.

- Support the Uruguayan government to buttress its capacities to better **respond to continuous arrival of Venezuelans** and to **promote durable solutions for them**, while providing **emergency humanitarian assistance** and ensuring protection support for vulnerable cases.
- Moreover, UNHCR promotes the design of a **labour mobility pilot and the facilitation of family reunifications**, in line with Uruguay's pledges at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. Moreover, aiming to grow the interest of civil society, UNHCR is assessing avenues to set up community sponsorship schemes to support resettled refugees integration.
- Provide technical support to the government and civil society to consolidate **sustainable resettlement and complementary pathways schemes for admission** under the leadership of the CORE. To this aim, UNHCR seeks stronger community and private sector participation in the co-sponsorship of refugees, in line with the **priorities of the Global Compact for Refugees**.
- 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.
- As part of its initiative "**Cities of Solidarity**", UNHCR works with three local governments in Montevideo, Canelones and Rivera to facilitate access to information, orientation and improve reception conditions as well as to better integrate refugees and migrants in their local communities, strengthening access to rights, employment, as well as social protection and employment promotion schemes.
- Promote actions addressed to prevent, identify and respond to situations of **Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** and Child Protection (CP) affecting refugee women and children through regular protection dialogues, Communication with Communities (CwC) strategies, empowerment activities with refugee women and girls and proper referral to national protection mechanisms.
- Support **family reunifications** to guarantee persons of concern's family unity, coordinating the strategy both with national authorities and partner agencies.

Humanitarian Assistance, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR through its partners provides **humanitarian assistance** to vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees with special needs. The assistance consists of financial support as well as counselling. Its partners also assist on legal issues and access to documentation.
- UNHCR also works for the **improvement of self-reliance and livelihoods** of refugees and migrants through the empowerment of community-based refugee and migrant organizations.
- UNHCR **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, advocating for the inclusion of the forcibly displaced people's needs in public policies and social protection schemes; creating enabling conditions for decent work and wage earning; enhancing routes for access to financial services; and promoting a conducive environment for business creation; and support the execution of admission programs and complementary pathways.

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