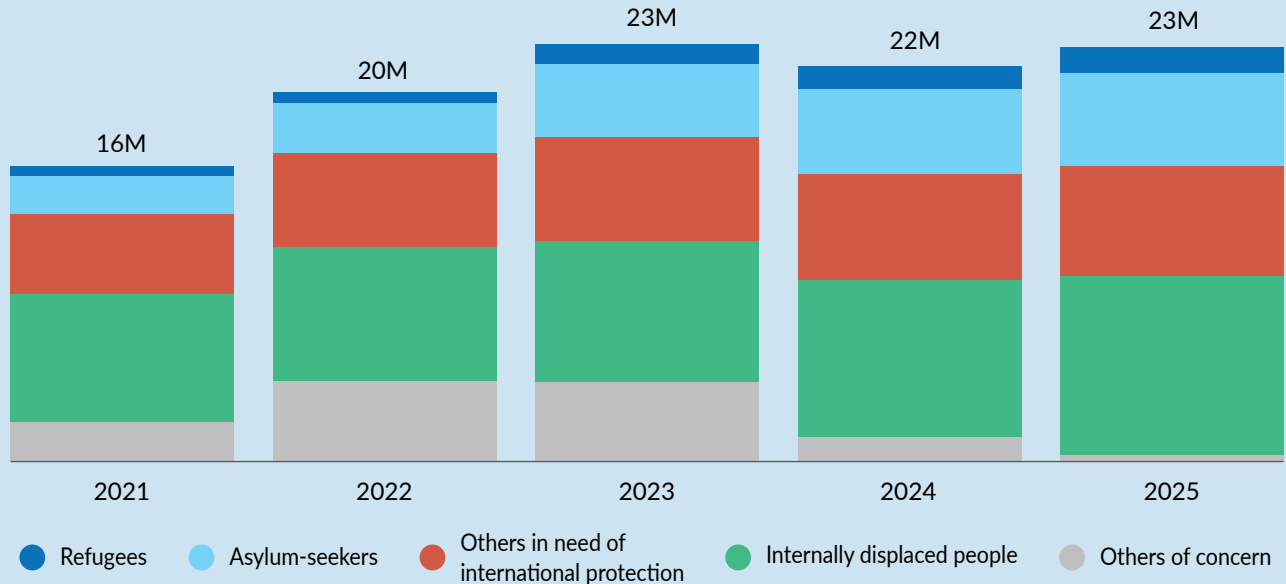


# AMERICAS TRENDS

## FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN 2025

# Americas at a Glance

## 23 MILLION forcibly displaced people



### Top host region

worldwide for  
forcibly displaced people

### 987,700

people who sought international  
protection are from the Americas  
(1/5 of the global total)

### 9.9M

internally displaced people

Forced displacement declined slightly in 2025 to **117.8 million people globally**, marking the first decrease in a decade. However, this reflects increased returns—many under adverse conditions—rather than durable solutions.

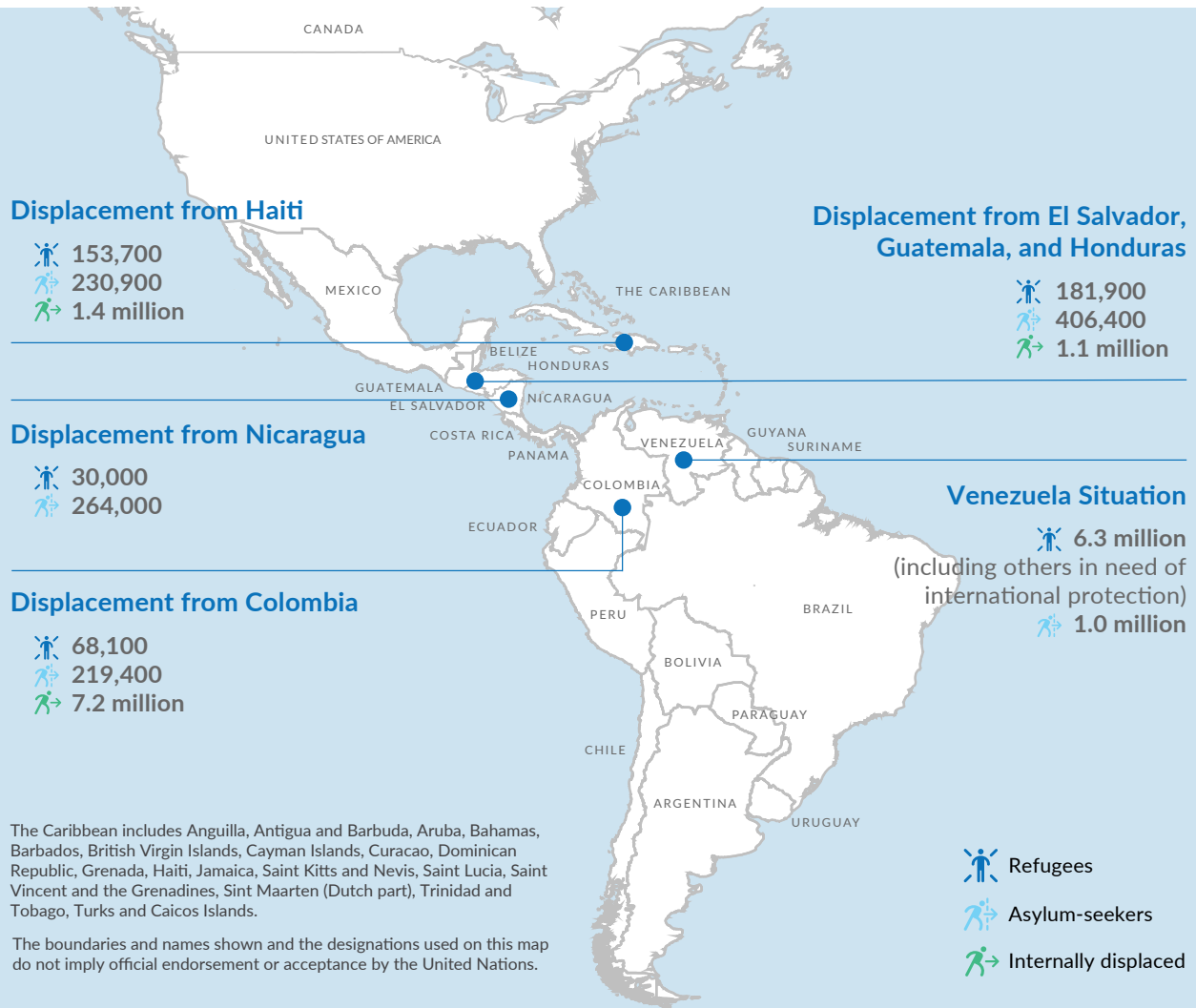
As of end-2025, the Americas hosted **22.8 million forcibly displaced people** (an increase from 21.9 million at end-2024), **more than any other region in the world**.

The patterns of displacement remain complex, with continued cross-border movements, voluntary returns, and internal displacement. In spite of ongoing challenges, the Americas continue to stand as a model of solidarity and best practices for solutions and integration.

Globally, almost **5.4 million people were forced to flee and seek safety** in other countries in 2025, including 455,300 Venezuelans, the third largest group by nationality worldwide, while **Colombia** emerged as the world's largest host country for refugees and other people in need of international protection. In the same year, updated official estimates indicated that **9.9 million people** who were protected and/or assisted by UNHCR **remained internally displaced** in the Americas. Despite a decline of more than half in global resettlement opportunities compared to 2024, **Canada** and the **United States of America** remained among the top countries offering resettlement and sponsorship pathways.

As such, the region is not peripheral, but a **central pillar of the global displacement and solutions landscape**.

# Displacement in the Americas



## Asylum trends from and within the Americas

New asylum applications submitted by people from the Americas continue to account for a significant share of the global total, reflecting **multiple concurrent displacement situations across the region**. More than **one fifth of people seeking international protection globally in 2025 were individuals from the Americas (987,700 people)**. The top countries of origin in the Americas for asylum-seekers worldwide include **Venezuela (305,000)**, **Cuba (137,600)**, **Mexico (91,700)**, **Haiti (84,600)**, and **Colombia (84,500)**.

Several countries in the Americas have recorded **significant increases in asylum applications**, while continuing to strengthen asylum system capacity through digitalization

and differentiated case processing. They also expanded legal stay arrangements, including temporary protection and regularization pathways. In 2025, **Brazil** received 75,600 new individual asylum applications (an 11 per cent increase from 2024), while advancing robust policies that ensure access to legal stay, employment, essential services, and other integration opportunities, including through labor relocation programs. At the same time, **Canada** continued to play a leading role in international protection in 2025, granting protection to a significant number of refugees. These trends unfold against a backdrop of growing global asylum backlogs, with approximately 9 million cases pending.

## Colombia – largest host country globally

In 2025, **Colombia** hosted the **largest number of refugees and other people in need of international protection worldwide**, with a total of 2.8 million people. Nearly all individuals in need of international protection in Colombia were Venezuelans. Colombia has demonstrated **strong regional leadership** by advancing inclusive policies that guarantee legal stay and advance meaningful integration. In turn, refugees and other people in need of international protection have

made important contributions to local economies and the communities that have welcomed them.

Colombia is followed by other countries outside of the Americas, including Germany (2.7 million), Türkiye (2.4 million), Uganda (1.9 million), the Islamic Republic of Iran (1.7 million), Chad (1.5 million) and Pakistan (1.3 million).



## Haiti – escalating displacement

Throughout 2025, gang-related violence, civil unrest, targeted attacks on civilians and violent confrontations over territorial control continued to escalate in Haiti, particularly in Port-au-Prince and neighbouring communes.

Internal displacement rose to **1.4 million people**, representing a **38 per cent increase** from the previous year. In 2025 alone, there were **574,300 new displacements**. The situation is characterized by high levels of gang violence, violence against women and girls, and territorial control by armed groups.



## Venezuela – displacement trends and regional solidarity

By the end of 2025, there were **417,000 refugees** and **6 million other people in need of international protection** from Venezuela. The vast majority (97 per cent) are hosted within the region. The regional response remains a global model of solidarity. However, sustained support is needed for host countries. **Colombia** is the largest host country globally, with 2.8 million Venezuelans, followed by **Peru** (1.1 million), **Brazil** (699,000), **Chile** (662,600), and **Ecuador** (435,800).

On the other hand, UNHCR has observed an increasing trend of returns to Venezuela. Venezuelan authorities report that over 1.2 million have returned since 2018 through the

government-sponsored *Plan Vuelta a la Patria*, alongside spontaneous returns in recent years. In February 2026, UNHCR conducted its first survey on return intentions to Venezuela across six host countries, providing preliminary evidence that return remains an aspiration for some. Nine per cent of Venezuelans plan to return within 12 months. However, most are taking a cautious and conditional approach and do not plan to return in the short term. UNHCR remains ready to support to help ensure that all returns are voluntary, informed, and carried out with appropriate protection safeguards, in safety and dignity.



## Regional Solidarity and Solutions in Action

While the region faces both new and ongoing protection challenges, it also offers significant opportunities. The Americas remain at the forefront of implementing the Global Compact on Refugees through regional solidarity, coordination mechanisms, and state-led processes such as the Chile Plan of Action, the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), the Quito Process, and the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V Platform).

Collaboration with development and financial institutions, the private sector, refugee-led organizations, and civil society further strengthens a solutions-oriented approach. For example, over 1,500 companies are supporting the economic integration of forcibly displaced people across eight countries in the region. In this context, the 50 by 35 vision—through which UNHCR and its partners aim to reduce by 50 per cent, by 2035, the number of refugees in protracted situations dependent on humanitarian assistance—finds a unique opportunity for tangible, measurable impact in the Americas.



**ECUADOR.** Regional solidarity opens doors to belonging: Izaoli's children are finding friendship, inclusion, and the chance to dream again.

# Giovanni's Journey to Safety

Giovanni was forced to flee Haiti in 2022 after receiving threats against his life, amid a dire humanitarian crisis caused by insecurity and escalating human rights violations. Armed groups had taken control of several neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince, the capital, where Giovanni lived. Fearing for his life, he made the heartbreaking decision to leave behind his mother, his partner and his nursing job at a local hospital, knowing that staying could cost him his life.

"I used to have a normal life, but everything changed overnight. We went from living well to facing enormous hardships," he recalls.

Haiti continues to face a worsening crisis, with widespread violence, mass displacement and urgent humanitarian needs.

Giovanni decided Mexico was a safe place to start again. It took him a year and a journey across four countries to reach his destination. "I had never experienced anything like that. It was exhausting, and at times, I didn't know if I would make it," he says.

When he finally reached Mexico City, he felt relief, but also deep uncertainty about his future – he spoke no Spanish and had no support network. "I had mixed feelings," he says. "I was happy to be here, but at the same time, I felt lost. I didn't know what would come next."

At first, navigating a legal system in an unfamiliar language was overwhelming. Things became easier when he started receiving support from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and its partner organization, Sin Fronteras, which provides legal and social assistance to refugees. "They told me, 'This is your home now,'" he says. "When I arrived, I was struggling emotionally; they helped me get back on my feet."

At Sin Fronteras, Giovanni took Spanish classes and received psychological support and legal guidance with the process of seeking asylum through the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR). "They explained everything to me before my interview with COMAR so that I wouldn't feel nervous," he recalls. "The people at COMAR treated me with kindness and respect. They made me feel like I belonged here."

After a few months, Giovanni was recognized as a refugee and later received permanent residency in Mexico. He was among 7,537 Haitians granted refugee status by the Mexican authorities between 2019 and mid-2024. "In that moment I felt free," he says. "For the first time, I could live without fear, without stress. Now, I can do everything legally, and that makes me incredibly happy."



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Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to watch Giovanni's story and how's he is rebuilding his life in Mexico.



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**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency