



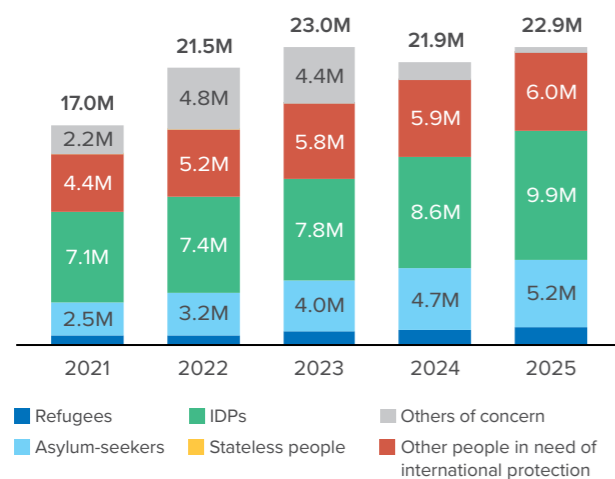
REGIONAL SUMMARY

At a public school in Lima, Peru, sisters Kylie (7) and María José (5) receive their residency cards through a UNHCR-supported initiative with national authorities, helping displaced children from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Colombia access education, health care, and other essential services. © UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

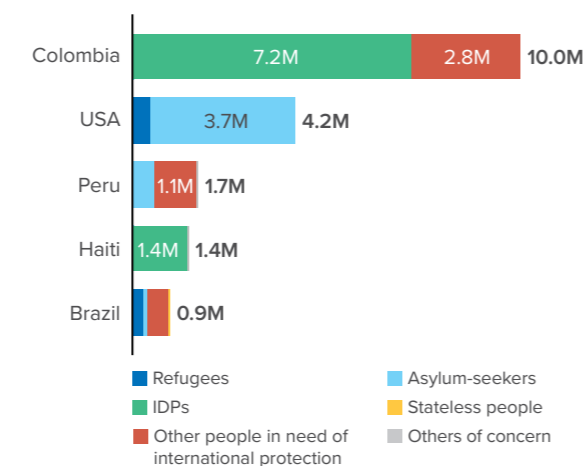
# The Americas

UNHCR covers **14 operations**<sup>1</sup> across 45 countries and territories in the region. In 2025, the region hosted **22.9 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people, a **5% increase** from 2024.

### Population trend | 2021-2025



### Top 5 countries by population



<sup>1</sup> Argentina multi-country office, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama multi-country office, Peru, United States multi-country office, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

## Context

The Americas region experienced high levels of forced displacement, driven by violence, persecution, crime, insecurity and climate-related disasters. In 2025, the region hosted 22.9 million forcibly displaced and stateless people, representing 18% of displaced persons globally.

Mobility patterns shifted significantly during the year. Northbound mixed movements fell sharply due to stricter enforcement and new regional and bilateral measures, with crossings through the Darién falling from 300,000 in 2024 to just over 3,000 in 2025. Asylum demand in the region, however, remained steady, with Mexico and Brazil emerging as leading countries for new asylum requests. Recognition rates were high at around 77%, but asylum systems struggled with limited capacity and significant backlogs.

Most displaced people remained within the region. Some 85% of the 7.9 million displaced Venezuelans are in Latin America and the Caribbean, supported by strong legal frameworks and community solidarity. Since the beginning of the mass displacement, countries have maintained large-scale protection and documentation efforts: Colombia provided temporary protection to some 2 million Venezuelans; Ecuador issued over 103,000 temporary stay certificates; Brazil recognized more than 139,000 Venezuelans as refugees and granted over 571,000 residency permits; and Uruguay adopted prima facie recognition procedures that identified nearly 4,000 Venezuelans for protection.

Internal displacement continued to be a regional challenge. The Americas had more than 9.9 million internally displaced people, largely driven by conflict in Colombia, violence in Haiti and Honduras and insecurity in Ecuador. In Mexico, nearly 250,000 households were uprooted due to crime and insecurity. Some 100,000 Colombians were internally displaced in 2025. In Haiti, the number of internally displaced people increased by 50% to 1.4 million.

## Results and achievements

In 2025, UNHCR protected people forced to flee and helped them rebuild their lives through strong national systems, regional cooperation and practical, long-term solutions. It supported governments across the region in strengthening asylum systems, expanding legal stay and documentation, preventing statelessness and responding to internal displacement. UNHCR helped countries stabilize communities by improving reception, legal assistance and access to services; advancing socioeconomic inclusion through partnerships with the private sector, development banks and municipalities; and supporting safe, dignified return and reintegration.

Brazil's Operação Acolhida (Operation Welcome) enabled 155,000 Venezuelans to relocate with access to documentation, services and employment. In Mexico, over 170,000 refugees found employment through UNHCR-supported labour mobility programmes, with 53,000 relocating to areas with stronger job markets. In Costa Rica, digitalization and streamlined procedures reduced the backlog and expanded access to documentation for Nicaraguan populations. In Peru, sustained investment in inclusion has led to 70,800 refugees and asylum-seekers accessing legal documentation and has facilitated participation in public services, education and the labour market.

The region showed strong political leadership to advance protection and solutions. The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), the Quito Process, and the Chile Plan of Action are key platforms for governments to align their approaches to strengthening protection, asylum systems and socioeconomic integration. These frameworks position the Americas as a global leader in responsibility sharing. The [R4V Platform](#) – a regional coordination mechanism uniting over 150 organizations across 17 countries – supported governments by harmonizing assistance, protection and integration efforts under the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan which is a central regional structure to ensure protection, regularization, integration and access to essential services for Venezuelans and others in need.

Climate-related disasters increasingly intersected with forced displacement and impacted refugees. After severe flooding struck Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul in 2024 – affecting 2.3 million people and displacing more than 422,000, including refugees and migrants – UNHCR supported those affected. Across Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Haiti and Mexico, UNHCR supported emergency response and promoted the inclusion of refugees and stateless people in national adaptation and resilience planning. [UNHCR's Climate Action Strategy for the Americas \(2025–2030\)](#) and its strong engagement at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, advanced refugee-inclusive approaches within national adaptation plans, climate commitments and emerging climate finance mechanisms.

### Challenges

Ongoing and emerging crises in 2025 drove increased internal displacement, asylum requests and cross-border movements. These trends reflected overlapping factors, including persecution, violence, structural inequality, organized crime, disasters and climate change.

In 2025, several countries introduced more restrictive policies and new migration control measures. Delays in case processing limited people's access to work, education and the recognition of their qualifications. The drastic reduction of resettlement programmes and complementary pathways narrowed the options for people with urgent protection needs. The increase in deportations added further pressure to already overstretched systems.

These developments unfolded amid a sharp decline in funding across the region. In 2025, UNHCR's expenditure in the Americas fell by 38% to \$231 million compared to 2024. At the same time, the region's multiple humanitarian crises received limited attention from the international community outside the Western Hemisphere. UNHCR had to make difficult choices, reducing its presence and workforce to safeguard core mandate activities. Despite a smaller presence and reduced capacity, UNHCR provided more than 580,000 protection services in 2025. This was down 42% from almost 1 million in 2024.

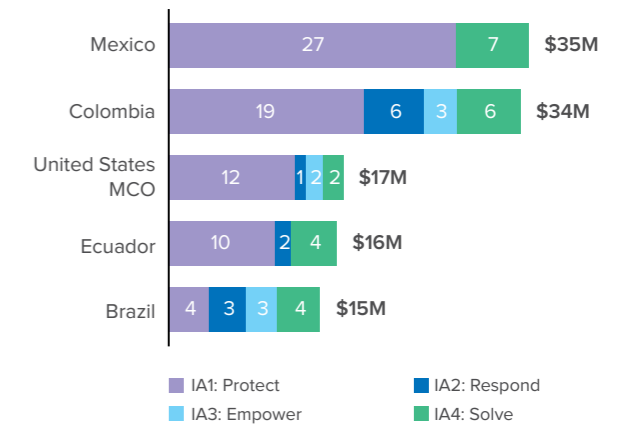
### Financial overview

#### Regional expenditure and budget in 2025

- With funds available, UNHCR could spend **\$231 million** towards budgeted needs of **\$815 million**
- **38%** decrease in expenditure compared with 2024
- **\$584 million** of unmet needs or **72%** of the budget
- **49%** of total expenditure in the region or **\$114 million** was funded by flexible funding, including **\$104 million** of unearmarked funding.

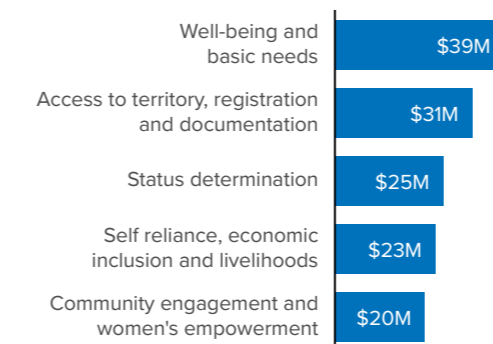
#### Operations with the highest expenditure

These 5 operations accounted for **\$116 million** or **50%** of total regional expenditure



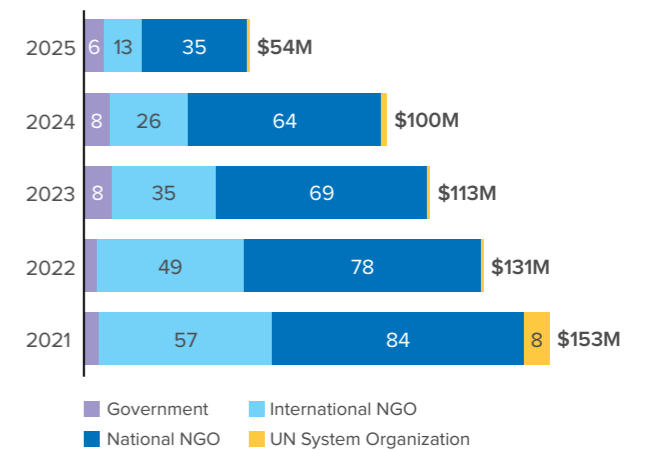
#### Top 5 areas of expenditure in 2025

These 5 areas accounted for **\$138 million** or **60%** of total regional expenditure



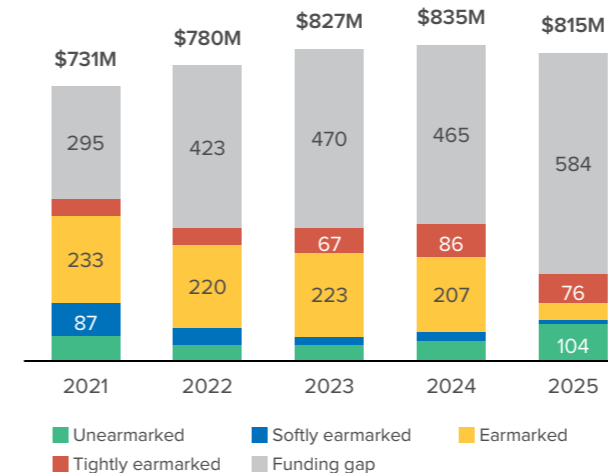
#### Expenditure via partners | 2021-2025

**\$54 million** (-46% from 2024) spent via **144 partners** (-9%) in 2025.



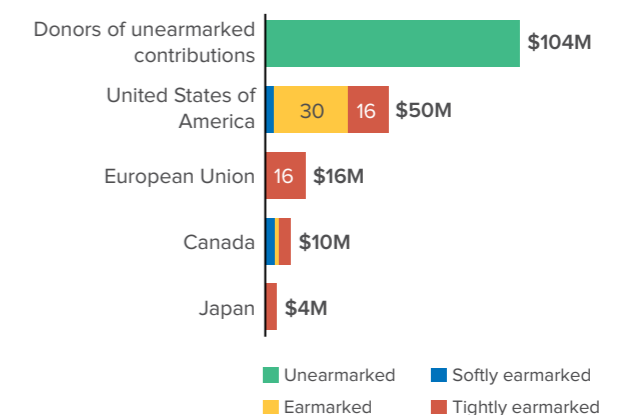
#### Regional funding and earmarking | 2021-2025

**\$231 million** funds available (**28%**) in 2025 out of the **\$815 million** required



#### Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2025

These 5 donors provided **\$184 million** or **80%** of the funds available for the region



### FEMSA transforms refugee lives in Mexico



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**FEMSA** and its subsidiaries launched a three-year programme with UNHCR to support 19,000 displaced people and members of host communities in Mexico through local integration. The new initiative builds on a partnership dating back to 2018 that has created formal employment opportunities for refugees. By investing in long-term solutions, FEMSA helps strengthen refugees' autonomy, inclusion and participation in economic and social life. It also supports efforts to reduce racism, discrimination and xenophobia.








Karla Rodriguez (pictured left), FEMSA's Ethics and Human Rights Manager and a former refugee, said: *"When the private sector, government, and civil society set aside biases and recognize each person's individuality, very good things start to happen."*

## Core output indicators in the Americas

Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2025

 <b>Attaining favourable protection environments</b> PROTECT		
	<b>Protection</b>	<b>581,800</b> people received protection services in 28 countries -42% vs 2024
	<b>Access to territory, registration and documentation</b>	<b>195,100</b> people registered on an individual basis in 23 countries -48% vs 2024
	<b>Gender-based violence</b>	<b>243,000</b> people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation in 19 countries +65% vs 2024
	<b>Child protection</b>	<b>27,400</b> people benefited from specialized GBV programmes in 18 countries -26% vs 2024
	<b>Safety and access to justice</b>	<b>17,500</b> children and caregivers received child protection services in 13 countries -59% vs 2024
	<b>Safety and access to justice</b>	<b>106,800</b> people received legal assistance in 25 countries -63% vs 2024

 <b>Empowering communities and achieving gender equality</b> EMPOWER		
	<b>Community engagement and women's empowerment</b>	<b>4,700</b> people consulted through participatory assessments in 22 countries -58% vs 2024
	<b>Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods</b>	<b>58,500</b> people used UNHCR-supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback in 24 countries -16% vs 2024
	<b>Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods</b>	<b>47,800</b> people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in 17 countries -43% vs 2024

 <b>Realizing rights in safe environments</b> RESPOND		
	<b>Well-being and basic needs</b>	<b>41,900</b> people received cash assistance in 21 countries -69% vs 2024
	<b>Sustainable housing and settlements</b>	<b>197,000</b> people received non-food items in 17 countries -48% vs 2024
	<b>Healthy lives</b>	<b>80,100</b> people received shelter and housing assistance in 17 countries -64% vs 2024
	<b>Education</b>	<b>47,300</b> individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services in 9 countries -24% vs 2024
	<b>Education</b>	<b>54,000</b> consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services in 14 countries -64% vs 2024
	<b>Education</b>	<b>6,900</b> people benefited from education programming in 8 countries -17% vs 2024

 <b>Securing solutions</b> SOLVE		
	<b>Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration</b>	<b>34</b> people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation in 1 country +240% vs 2024
	<b>Local integration and local solutions</b>	<b>11,900</b> people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures in 12 countries +39% vs 2024