



HIGHLIGHTS

Historical commitment to protection

Uruguay is a State Party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol since 1970. Uruguay acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless People in 2004, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2001.

Syrian Refugee Resettlement

In 2014, Uruguay became the first country in Latin America to resettle Syrian refugees (42 persons) through a program integrally funded and implemented by the Government.

Solidarity Resettlement Program

Since 2009 the Uruguayan Government maintains the Solidarity Resettlement Program for refugees from Colombia, and has already received 110 refugees under this scheme.

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

Context information

- The domestic legal framework dealing with refugees is set out in the 2006 Refugee Law N° 18.076 “*Derecho al Refugio y a los Refugiados*”, and enshrines high standards of protection, including the extended refugee definition in line with the 1984 Cartagena Declaration.
- The Migration Law N° 18.250, incorporates safeguards regarding the protection of asylum seekers and the prevention of *refoulement* at borders.
- For the period 2017-2018, it is foreseen that Uruguay will include in the Solidarity Resettlement Program refugees from the North Triangle of Central America (NTCA: El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala). It is also expected that Uruguay will become a temporary safe location for people from the NTCA with international protection needs under the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA) pilot project (pending resettlement elsewhere).
- Uruguay actively participates and contributes to the consolidation of the Southern Cone as a “regional protection space”, through the adoption of the Brazil Declaration, the implementation of its Plan of Action (BPA), and the consolidation of the MERCOSUR National Refugee Commissions’ Forum.
- Uruguay grants nationality on the basis of the *ius solis* criteria which benefits also children of refugees and asylum seekers born in the country.
- Refugees and asylum seekers enjoy access to public education, health services and have the right to work.

Population of concern 477

Refugees	306
Asylum Seekers (pending decisions)	171

Source: UNHCR Mid-year Statistical Report, June 2016



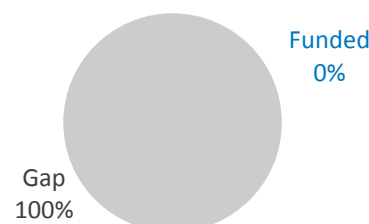
Refugee Urban Location

Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Printing date: 27 Sep 2016



Funding Regional Office for Southern Latin America

USD 4.8 million



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, with no voting right.
- SEDHU (Servicio Ecuménico para la Dignidad Humana) is UNHCR's implementing partner in Uruguay executing operational projects aimed at providing counselling, basic humanitarian assistance, and support for self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods to refugees and asylum seekers. SEDHU is also member of the CORE, representing the civil society with voting rights.

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) procedures. Capacity building activities are implemented to strengthen the CORE, and its technical secretariat in order to ensure due process in admission, registration, eligibility interviews, RSD assessments and right to appeal.
- Provide technical support to the Government to consolidate the "Solidarity Resettlement Programme" under the leadership of the CORE. Within this Programme, funded by the international community through UNHCR, Uruguay allows the local integration of Colombian refugees resettled in 2014 according to criteria jointly established by the Government, SEDHU and UNHCR.
- 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.
- Advocate for the facilitation of the naturalization procedure for refugees and provide the necessary information to ensure they are able to make an informed decision on this option.
- Promote actions addressed to prevent, identify and respond to situations of SGBV affecting refugee women and children through regular protection dialogues and empowerment activities with refugee women and girls.
- Provide capacity building and training activities to relevant counterparts.
- Advocate for the adoption of a law for the protection of stateless people and the establishment of a stateless determination procedure in line with the pledges made by the Government of Uruguay (Brazil Plan of Action).

Humanitarian Assistance, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- SEDHU provides humanitarian assistance to vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees. The assistance consists of financial support as well as counselling. SEDHU also assists on legal issues and documentation.
- Positive initiatives related to the improvement of self-reliance and livelihoods include vocational training activities organized through the National Institute for Employment and Labour Training (INEFOP), and Human Resources institutions. Once the trainings completed, the CVs of the beneficiary refugees and asylum seekers are included in a database

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