

Paraguay

May 2020

Hosting some **5,298 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, most of them from Venezuela**, UNHCR works with the Paraguayan government and partners to **provide information on access to territory, asylum and regularization**, while providing with

its partner **basic goods and services** in cash and in-kind. Moreover, UNHCR with its partners facilitates the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants, **guiding them to business opportunities in the local market.**

Paraguay is a State Party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol since 1970 and acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in 2014, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2012.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

5,298

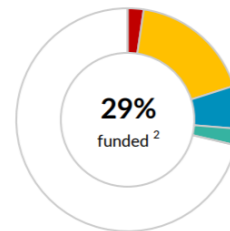
Refugees	1,016
Asylum-seekers	694
Venezuelans displaced abroad	3,588

Source: Official information provided by the Government, as of December 2019

FUNDING

USD 24 MILLION

requested for the **Regional Office including Paraguay**



ARGENTINA MCO

as of 10 June 2020

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

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 Chile:

- 41** National staff
- 10** International staff



Photo: UNHCR supports refugees and migrants in Paraguay / ©UNHCR

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works in close coordination with Government counterparts, namely with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the multi-sectorial National 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 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 UNFPA, IOM and UNAIDS. UNHCR together with IOM leads the **National Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela** established in 2019.

Main Activities

Protection & Durable Solutions

- Support the Government in the institutional **strengthening of the national asylum system**, in particular of the CONARE’s Secretariat through the implementation of activities in line with the 2014 Brazil Plan of Action. CONARE, its technical Secretariat and the RSD procedure, are fully funded by the Government.
- Promote the implementation of a **border protection strategy** by CONARE and civil society at the Paraguay-Brazilian border to identify and refer persons of concern to UNHCR, prevent their *refoulement* and support them through counselling, shelter and humanitarian assistance among other services.
- 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 including those under the 2014 Brazil Plan of Action.
- Promote a greater engagement of relevant Government institutions in the development of a comprehensive strategy towards the **local integration of refugees**.
- Strengthen the engagement with the UN system to ensure the inclusion of persons of concern in the national development plan and the **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework**.
- Provide **capacity building and training** to relevant counterparts.

Humanitarian Assistance & Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR, through its partner *Semillas para la Democracia*, supports refugees and migrants in their integration process **providing orientation, psychosocial support, generation of integration capacities, and economic support** to access documentation, basic goods and services so they can achieve its progressive insertion into the local economy.
- “Semillas para la Democracia” has engaged four private sector partners, as well as financial service providers, specialized civil society organizations, line ministries and the UN, to **strengthen economic inclusion of persons of concern** through access to employment, self-employment and financial inclusion.
- Through a cooperation with “**Fundación Paraguaya**”, refugees and asylum-seekers with an entrepreneurial profile receive **technical and financial training and guidance** to set up a business. “Semillas para la Democracia” complements this initiative by awarding **seed capital** to entrepreneurs and offering tailored orientations on employment and capacity building opportunities available to them.
- From **January to March 2020**, UNHCR through its partner provided **62 vulnerable refugee families with cash assistance** to cover for their basic needs, **some 153 individuals** received **livelihoods training**, **some 192 refugees and migrants** received **psychosocial assistance** and **some other 88 refugee families** were provided with **in-kind kits**.

COVID-19 Situation (as of May, 2020)

- Due to the emergency situation, UNHCR partner agency provided during May **cash assistance** already to at least some **64 refugee and migrant families (benefiting an estimated 150 persons)** in Asunción, Alto Paraná and Itapúa. These persons were also provided with vocational guidance and information on job opportunities in the country.
- UNHCR partner in Paraguay distributed **food and hygiene items for 164 vulnerable refugee and migrants' families (benefiting approximately 380 persons)**, mostly Venezuelans, via a telephone service and appointments system. The appropriate healthcare measures were taken to protect refugees and migrants and partner's staff in face to face assistance.
- UNHCR hosted a national e-consultation webinar in order to **address the socio-economic recovery of refugees and migrants in the framework of the COVID-19 emergency and post emergency**. The event registered over 30 relevant participants including representatives of key UN agencies, partners and NGOs specialized in economic integration, the private sector and refugees and migrants' organizations. Participants worked in discussion groups and analyzed emerging needs, challenges and opportunities for labor inclusion and entrepreneurship of asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants. The main findings of the national consultations and project profiles elaborated with key partners have been shared with relevant donors.
- UNHCR signed a **joint collaboration agreement to protect women, girls, boys and adolescents against violence, in the context of the COVID-19**. This initiative supports the Ministry of Women and the Ministry of Children and Adolescents and is led by the United Nations agencies present in Paraguay. This project has been approved for the UNDP Global Fund for Rapid Crisis Response by COVID-19.
- **Information material regarding the constantly evolving national response and restrictions and quarantine has been made available for refugees**, as well as organizations requesting UNHCR advice and assistance, on UNHCR's website [unhcr.help.org](https://www.unhcr.org/help)

Special thanks to major donors who have provided funds for the Argentina Regional Office and at the regional and global level in 2020:

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External Relations

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LINKS

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