

CHILE NEWSLETTER

During the holiday season, our agency donated hundreds of toys and food boxes to refugees and migrants living in the cities of Santiago, Arica and Antofagasta



Asylum-seeker woman receives a food box distributed by UNHCR and its partner agency FASIC. © UNHCR, December 2020.

HOLIDAY SEASON

UNHCR brought joy and hope to hundreds of refugee and migrant families

This year, millions of refugee and migrant families spent the holiday season thousands of miles away from their country of origin and their loved ones. Many of them are in a situation of extreme poverty, which makes their lives even more difficult.

During December 2020, UNHCR supported around 500 refugee and migrant families, most of them Venezuelans in vulnerable situation, giving **them in-kind contributions to celebrate Christmas**. The agency joined the campaigns carried out by Fundación de Ayuda Social de las

Iglesias Cristianas (FASIC), Red de Apoyo Solidario and Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes (SJM), to support them with the delivery of **non-perishable food boxes, sweet bags and toys** for children ([watch the video](#)).

With this support, hundreds of refugee and migrant families were able to celebrate a warm Christmas, despite missing their homes.



Family receiving gifts and sweets bags in Arica, December 2020.

MUSIC FOR INTEGRATION

UNHCR donated 30 tablets to refugee and migrant children

“Música para la Integración” Foundation is a civil society organization that was created to rescue the **musical talent** of hundreds of refugees and migrants living in Chile. The Foundation has a Symphonic Orchestra that performs in free shows as a way to **promote cultural spaces** in the city, and also has a **low-cost school** in which foreign professional musicians teach music to more than 300 boys and girls of various ages and nationalities (97 per cent of them are refugees and migrants).



Music for Integration Symphonic Orchestra on a free Concert organized jointly with UNHCR. © UNHCR November 2019.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Foundation was forced to paralyze the artistic work of the Orchestra and also to suspend face-to-face classes, damaging the continuity of the children's musical studies.

In order to palliate this situation, UNHCR donated **30 electronic tablets and 10 internet routers** to the Foundation, which will allow boys and girls who did not

have computers at home, to continue with online musical classes despite the pandemic.

This type of educational and leisure activities in times of curfew and quarantines, keep children with **active creativity, busy and emotionally stable** through art.

Moreover, UNHCR donated protection masks, alcohol gel, soap and acrylic separators to the Foundation, in order to prepare the return to face-to-face classes during 2021, if the sanitary conditions allow it.



Ana Marvez, Director of Musica para la Integración and Rimán Jahjah receiving the donation, December 2020

EXCHANGE ON BEST PRACTICES

Virtual meeting of Legal Clinics brought together more than 60 professionals from various countries in the region

On 18 December, 2020, UNHCR held a virtual meeting in which lawyers from various Legal Clinics in Chile participated, as well as NGOs and representatives of migrant and refugee organizations in the country.

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange experiences related to the defense of the rights of refugees and migrants, with a special focus on Refugee Status Determination procedures and on strategic litigation in national courts and the Inter-American Human Rights System.

The panels were led by lawyers with extensive experience, from countries such as Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil.



Poster of the activity © UNHCR, December 2020.

SUPPORT SPACES

The limited access to reliable information on safe routes, basic services, climatic and geographical conditions, continues to be an additional challenge to guarantee the protection of refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

The Support Spaces (SS) (In Spanish: Espacios de Apoyo) are a regional initiative promoted by the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for refugees and migrants from Venezuela (R4V), which seeks to promote a coordinated network of spaces where information, guidance and basic services are provided to Venezuelans during their journeys to a safer place.

In Chile, there are 14 support spaces throughout the country, in the cities of Santiago, Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta. In these places, refugees, migrants and their host communities can find information, orientation and a minimum package of services which are standardized and integral.

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

Argentina | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | World Bank | Private donors Argentina | Private donors Australia | Private donors Germany | Private donors Italy | Private donors Lebanon | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors Spain | Private donors Sweden | Private donors United Kingdom | Private donors USA

In frame of COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR donated protection products, such as masks, infrared thermometers and alcohol gel, to all the support spaces in the country, in order to strengthen the safety for refugees and migrants who come to these places asking for help.

The support spaces have played an important role in providing **timely and comprehensive information** and protection services to refugees and migrants arriving in Chile and/or transiting through northern Chile on their way to the capital.

IN BRIEF

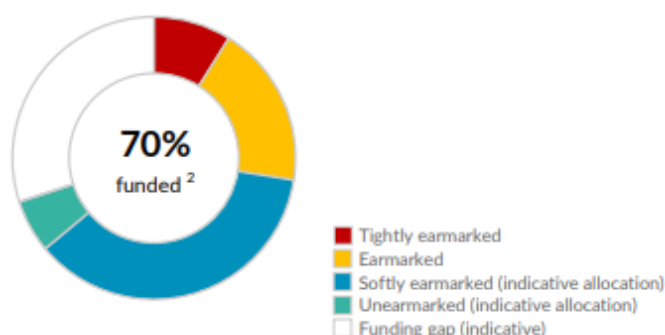
- **500 families** assisted by UNHCR with food and non-food items in Santiago, Arica and Antofagasta during the holiday season.
- **30 refugee and migrant children** with access to online music classes
- **14 support spaces** stocked with COVID-19 prevention products, such as alcohol gel, thermometers, acrylic separators and soap.

DONORS

FUNDING (AS OF 30 DECEMBER 2020)

USD 25.6 M

requested for the UNHCR operation MCO Argentina (incl. Chile).



CONTACTS

José Manuel Cáceres, Regional Reporting Officer, CACERES@unhcr.org

Stephanie Rabi, Snr Communications/PI. Assistant, RABIMISL@unhcr.org

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