



**UNHCR**

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

**Country/Regional  
Operations Plan  
2008-2009**

**Argentina  
Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay  
and Uruguay**

## **COP/ROP – 2008-2009**

### **Part One: Context and Strategy**

#### **Operational Context**

**Country/Sub-Regional Situation as it relates to the work of UNHCR including as appropriate for your operation:**

#### **Political, Social, Economic, Security, Human Rights and Asylum issues**

Although the absence of a major regional humanitarian crisis other than Colombia meant that refugee issues were preceded on the political agenda by a host of national priorities, the socio-political context has been generally conducive to UNHCR's work in three of the five countries covered by the region: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. This is attributable to the human rights orientation which the governments in these countries are eager to demonstrate, the support of former refugees who now occupy prominent political positions, and relative political stability.

Coupled with persistent efforts by UNHCR and its partners, the operational environment has permitted the achievement of key strategic objectives in relation to UNHCR's core mandate and to the Mexico Plan of Action (MPA). The passing of refugee laws in Argentina and Uruguay were foremost, but included other significant developments such as progress in relation to the Resettlement Program in Argentina and Chile, a firm commitment by the government of the City of Buenos Aires towards refugees and its naming of a City of Solidarity.

On the socio-economic front, whereas annual national indicators point to sustained growth partly due to the surge in the price of grain for Argentina, and in natural gas prices in Bolivia's case, large sectors of the population continue to suffer from unemployment, underemployment and high poverty rates. Most refugee men and women were engaged in the informal sector and still tended to be at the bottom of the income scale. UNHCR has expanded the number of beneficiaries of micro-credits and has also managed to broaden the network of private and public institutions which include refugees in their employment schemes and social activities. There has also been an increase in the number of job opportunities created for refugees as a result of public information activities.

Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay are party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The domestic legal framework in the region is basically contained in a set of refugee laws and decrees which establish National Refugee Commissions (CONAREs) in charge of adjudicating the asylum applications and finding durable solutions for refugees as well. The refugee regulations are further complemented with an important number of decrees and administrative regulations dealing with issues such as residence permits, documentation and extradition. In general, most of them are in line with the minimum international protection standards. Moreover, all countries of the region ratified the most relevant universal and regional instruments on human rights and recognized the competence of both the Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights. Therefore, there is a regional individual complaints mechanism in place that may address gaps relating to protection of refugees.

In the upcoming three years, and given recent strengthening of legal frameworks as well as expanded commitments by governments and by civil society, most countries in the region are expected to adhere to minimal protection standards.

Presidential elections are foreseen for Argentina and Paraguay (2007) with the continued mandates of incumbent presidents planned for Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay.

In Argentina, regardless of who will be the next president, it is expected that the new administration will be committed with the implantation of implementation of the new refugee law and the adherence to minimum

protection standards. The socio-economic context and degree of support refugees will require in this regard are less certain however considering the cyclical nature of the Argentine economy. In this respect, and regardless of the context, the recent broadening of the local integration support network and the creation of cities of solidarity are likely to prove instrumental to RO ARG's work.

In Bolivia where the fate of refugees is most likely to be affected by political developments. In Paraguay, in spite of upcoming elections, given the existence of a refugee law, relatively small figures of asylum seekers and recent developments in relation to the Mexico Plan of Action – particularly in terms of the imminent signing of a resettlement agreement, UNHCR's work is not expected to be severely affected.

In Chile and Uruguay, the continuation of current administrations are likely to continue providing a propitious context for consolidating the legal framework – the passing of a law in Chile and the implementation of the new law in Uruguay. Resettlement programs may also flourish provided there is sufficient demand from first asylum countries.

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The refugee regulations are further complemented with an important number of decrees and administrative regulations dealing with issues such as residence permits and documentation. In general, most of them are in line with the minimum international protection standards. Moreover, all countries of the region ratified the most relevant universal and regional instruments on human rights and recognized the competence of both the Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights.

Even though national legislations generally complies with human rights standards, in practice UNHCR must continue carrying out a number of protection activities to ensure asylum-seekers' *effective access* to a fair and efficient RSD procedure and the fully enjoyment of their human rights. To this end, in the period 2007 – 2009, UNHCR should continue supporting governments in implementing adequate asylum systems with all their essential components, ranging from registration, documentation procedures and reception facilities to RSD process and local integration.

UNHCR should continued promoting the adoption of refugee legislation in Chile and monitoring the legislative and policy-making processes at a regional and national level, and providing legal advice to the relevant governmental bodies (CONAREs) in all the countries covered by ROARG.

### **Populations of concern/ themes<sup>1</sup> to be addressed in UNHCR programmes**

In 2008 and 2009 UNHCR will address the needs of **two groups of concern**: a) **Asylum Seekers and Refugees** settled in the five countries covered by the Regional Office; b) **Refugees Resettled** under the regional Solidarity Resettlement Programme. The needs and the issues posed by each group have been addressed under two different projects and other people of UNHCR concern. In this respect and to the extent possible, ROARG will monitor the issue of smuggling and trafficking of people to ascertain that persons of concern to UNHCR are not negatively affected. The partnership arrangements on mixed migratory will be strengthened particularly regarding the situation of unaccompanied and separated children as well as victims of trafficking.

#### Refugees and asylum seekers

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<sup>1</sup> A "theme" is chosen when several, different populations are covered under one programme (e.g. an urban programme) or when the programme is mainly directed at the capacity building of institutions (e.g. "asylum system development"). Use themes only if you cannot establish a programme around one well defined refugee/returnee/IDP population. A theme is not any cross-cutting issue. Cross-cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, environmental management etc. should be included in the programme for the relevant beneficiary populations wherever possible (see Chapter 4, Section 4.2).

The programme intends to support refugees and asylum seekers in the southern cone in order to facilitate their local integration and promote their self-sufficiency. These efforts will be shared with national and local authorities as well as with social networks. At the end of 2009 it is estimated that in the region there will be some **6600 recognized refugees**. Most of them proceed from the Latin American region, although there is a significant presence of refugees from Africa, particularly in Argentina where they represent about 50% of the entire caseload. The number of asylum seekers will increase significantly throughout the region at a rate of 20% per year with peaks of 50% in Chile and Bolivia. **The new arrivals will be mainly Colombians**, with the exception of Argentina as mentioned before.

#### Resettled refugees

During the period 2008-2009 we estimate that approx. 460 refugees will be resettled in Chile, Argentina Uruguay and Paraguay within the **Regional Solidarity Resettlement Programme** of the Mexico action Plan, . The total number of refugees resettled since 1999 will reach about 1000 individuals. These figures include a group of 100 Palestinians refugees resettled to Chile in 2007.

In 2007 Uruguay and Paraguay signed with UNHCR a frame work agreement for the resettlement of refugees so joining Chile and Argentina as emerging resettlement country in the region.

The majority of the caseload is of Colombian Refugees proceeding from Costa Rica and Ecuador. All the cases selected for resettlement have been recognized as refugees either by the respective government or under UNHCR Mandate. They are individuals or families in need of legal and/or physical protection in the country of refuge or with strong barriers to local integration because of their lack of legal status, including refugees whose right to a permanent residence or legal employment in the first country of asylum was denied. In all the cases the possibility of voluntary repatriation is not a viable alternative.

#### **Summary Results of Assessments including Participatory Assessment with populations of concern, Annual Protection Report, Standards and Indicators, and other assessments undertaken by UNHCR and partners, per programme as defined by population of concern or theme.**

In conjunction with the preparation of the project submissions and country operations plan several exercises of participatory assessment were carried in most in the countries covered by the Regional Office in Argentina. UNHCR and the implementing partners got together with the refugee population in order to identify their met and unmet needs, their priorities and courses of action to take in order to improve their living conditions. The exercises also involved institutions from the government and the civil society as well. The groups included different segments of the population: women of working age with and without children, unaccompanied minors, newcomers, African refugees, Latin American refugees, students.

The areas of great concern for refugees were delays in documentation, lack of access to appropriate housing schemes and unemployment. Refugees highlighted the importance of organizing themselves; an initiative by a group of refugee women in this respect was supported by UNHCR through the provision of legal counseling for their establishment in accordance to local legislation as well as through the provision of office supplies. Almost all refugees perceived that they were discriminated by reason of their race or their nationality. Also, and depending on the group, the population demanded more material assistance as well as specific help such as labor training, access to housing schemes, micro-credit assistance.

The implementation of the newly established resettlement programme in Argentina was evaluated in a joint exercise between UNHCR, the implementing partner and Governmental counterparts. The evaluation turned out to be a very useful experience to plan the future missions and improve reception arrangements.

#### **UNHCR Strategy**

##### **Achievements to date per program as defined by population of concern or theme**

#### Spontaneous refugees

Concerning the **promotion of the adoption of refugee legislation**, refugee laws were passed in Argentina and Uruguay in 2006. In the case of Bolivia, ROARG drafted a proposal to include in the new Political Constitution

the right to seek asylum, while in Chile the regional office continued lobbying for the adoption of a refugee law and/or the inclusion in the Immigration Law of a specific refugee chapter.

As regard to the **reinforcement of national eligibility commissions** (CONAREs) in Argentina the backlog of cases was reduced and the quality of assessment and decisions significantly progressed. The present commission will reconstitutes according the new refugee law, new members from Ministry of Justice, Social Development and Department Against Discrimination will form part of the new commission, which will have a broader mandate including local integration of refugees.

In Bolivia UNHCR has reached an agreement with CONARE for the implementation of an institutional building project. A cooperation agreement signed with the “Mesa Técnica de Migraciones” (integrated by different Human Rights NGOs) allowed UNHCR to properly train government officials and civil society representatives on Human Rights, International Refugee Law and Migrants Law. In Chile, UNHCR also attended CONARE’s meetings on a regular basis.

In Uruguay, a tripartite agreement for institutional strengthening was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR implementing partner and UNHCR. A training activity on refugee issues was held in October 2006 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the members of the Technical Secretariat, government officials and the civil society involved in the work with refugees and asylum seekers.

Regarding the **strengthening of national and regional protection networks**, in May 2006 the meeting "Frontiers: A solidarity integration space" was held in Arica and attended by delegates of the Dioceses of Arica, UNHCR implementing partner, members of social networks of bordering towns and local and national authorities which made an estimate total of 70 people. In Argentina, UNHCR continued providing support to migrant and refugee legal clinics programs in Buenos Aires (CELS, CAREF) and assist them to identify leading cases (e.g. gender-based cases of persecution).

In the framework of the implementation of Sergio Vieira De Mello Chair project, the universities of the Group of Montevideo assumed the commitment to constitute a network of “solidarity universities” to promote, at a regional level, refugees’ full access to universities, including professional careers, facilities and students benefits (e.g. scholarships, etc.) and their effective access to rights.

Framework agreements and MOU were signed in Argentina with the **Ministry of Social Development**, the **Municipality of Buenos Aires** and **Province of Mendoza** in order to include refugee in the public programs and support the resettlement of refugees. In Chile in the Northern town of Arica (border with Peru) an agreement was signed with local Vicaría de Pastoral Social to provide humanitarian assistance and legal advice to asylum seekers (Colombians)

Of the total caseload some 2.800 individuals were directly helped with material assistance or oriented in their areas of interest. Some 1024 new asylum seekers received initial assistance for **subsistence** upon their arrival. Nearly 400 asylum seekers and refugees (40% women) received appropriate **health assistance and counselling**. Over 300 asylum seekers and refugees (36% women) received support for **documentation** as a first step to ensure the enjoyment of basic rights. Nearly 400 refugee students were helped with **education grants** and received appropriate follow up and educational counselling, including 134 extra-continental asylum seekers and refugees who attended **language/cultural orientation** courses which facilitated their integration. Women heads of family had equal access to the programme and received specialized support where required through pre-school allowances in order to facilitate their incorporation to the labour market.

A tutor was designated for some of the 60 **unaccompanied children** seeking asylum in Argentina. The Direction for the Youth (City of Buenos Aires) offered to this young population free access to their programs in line with the spirit of the agreement signed with the City of Buenos Aires. 8 families received support for the purchase of permanent housing or for repair work and/or documentation related to their home.

**Self-sufficiency** remained a main challenge for UNHCR, civil society and the Governments. UNHCR programme offered training opportunities for the refugee population through renewing agreements with specialized institutions such as Unions (private sector) and Professional Centres (public sector). Thus, some

125 people attended labour **training courses** which provided them with better tools to compete on the labour market in a wide variety of fields, namely carpentry, car mechanics, tourism, computer training, electricity, clothes design, accounting basics.

The City of Buenos Aires also contributed to the local integration of refugees. Textile machinery (estimated cost: US\$ 2,400) was provided to 4 refugees by the City of Buenos Aires. 19 beneficiaries received support under the “New Roles” Public Programme which included **specialized technical training**, six month **subsidy** for an estimated total of US\$ 1330 and free market place to facilitate business activities. 10 entrepreneurs benefited from another project for trading handcraft products with the support of the City of Buenos Aires.

With UNHCR funds some 240 **micro-credits** for the establishment of business activity remained active, it is worthwhile noting that 70% of the beneficiaries can be included in the logic of the credit scheme (they understand the system and comply with its requirements so that they can remain in it); 45% of the first-time credits were given to **women**. In the first quarter of 2007 the Ministry of social development in Argentina and Ministry of Planning in Chile contributed with USD 45,000 and USD 80,000 respectively for micro credit and micro business for refugees. An agreement signed in March 2007 with **Manpower Inc.** will help UNHCR programme in Argentina to provide additional opportunities to refugee for qualified training and job placement.

UNHCR’s **advocacy** efforts in the region were extensively publicized both in national and international media, ranging from efforts towards legislation in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay to those related to Iberoamerican Summit. Government officials throughout the region, particularly in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay participated more actively in awareness-raising and advocacy activities, Chilean President Michele Bachelet leading the way by presiding over WRD commemorative ceremony. Uruguayan and Bolivian governments also participated actively in WRD commemorations, and the Governor of the City of Buenos Aires as well as other local authorities both in the capital and in other cities spoke to the press on need to help refugees.

In addition to funds raised from auctions (approx. US\$13.000), RO ARG received all time largest **spontaneous donation** to UNHCR’s programs from private enterprise in Argentina (US\$55.000). Newspaper articles and interviews of refugees brought about job opportunities taken up by several refugees. Advertising agency Young&Rubicam which has been working with RO ARG for over six years offered two paid internships for refugees in Argentina

#### Resettled refugees

76 Refugees were resettled to Chile and Argentina in late in 2006 and early 2007. Some 135 refugees resettled in 2006, early 2007 and late 2005, received **subsistence allowance**, and temporary assistance for **housing, education, health and documentation**. Assistance was provided according to predefined criteria. Through partnership with national/local departments and specialized institutions refugees received **psychosocial counselling, legal advice and orientation on job searching and housing** as required.

In order to offer different socio-economic integration contexts to the refugee population in addition to the capital towns of Santiago and Buenos Aires, **new cities** were identified to host refugees. Consistent groups of refugees arriving in 2006 were resettled in the new locations. The province of Mendoza signed an agreement with UNHCR as “**Provincia solidaria**”.

#### **Protection and Solutions Strategy for 2008-2009 per programme as defined by population of concern or theme**

The first component of UNHCR protection strategy for 2008-2009 is the **Agenda for Protection (AGP)** which constitutes a roadmap for refugee protection that reflects a common understanding of the protection challenges existing in the region. Furthermore, the AGP is an important tool that recognizes that improved refugee protection can only be achieved through: 1) a shared commitment to implement new, practical arrangements to address current protection gaps and; 2) new approaches, tools and standards to underpin the present protection regime and enhance both the legal and physical protection of refugees.

The goals and objectives of the AGP are reflected and run throughout the entire operation for 2008-2009, which also incorporates a human rights-based approach and gender, age and diversity mainstreaming.

On the other hand, the **Mexico Plan of Action (MPA)**, the MPA represents, at a regional level, a renewed humanitarian political commitment of the Latin-American countries to uphold higher protection standards and carry out concrete protection initiatives that should result in the strengthening of the existent protection framework and the reinvigoration of the searching for durable solutions. As in the case of the AGP, the MPA reflects a common understanding of certain regional protection challenges/gaps and embodies different programmes to address them.

While AGP and MPA represents the two main pillar of the ROARG strategy, it is important to highlight that UNHCR operation has been designed with a **human rights-based approach** as a conceptual framework that is normatively based on international human rights standards and operationally directed to promoting and protecting refugees' human rights. Under a human rights-based approach, UNHCR Buenos Aires protection strategies and plan of actions are anchored in a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international law.

By using a human rights-based approach, UNHCR protection strategy seeks to prevent stakeholder, including States and UNHCR implementing partner, from considering that the protection programmes of the MPA merely or exclusively depends on *solidarity* rather than on the State obligation under international law to promote and protect refugees' human rights. In the strategy, this approach helps to empower refugees and asylum-seekers —especially refugee children and women—, allow them to participate along with key stakeholders in the operation planning and hold accountable those who have a duty to act.

**Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM)** remains a priority of UNHCR Buenos Aires as it enhances a rights-based and promotes a better understanding of the different concerns and protection risks face by the different groups of refugees such as women, girls, boys, men, older people, people of minority groups, people with specific needs, etc.

ROARG considers that it is essential not only to consult refugees but also to fully involve them in the assessment of the problems and the designing, implementation and evaluation of the protection strategies and programmes of UNHCR. Refugees have a right to participate and their concerns, thoughts and ideas should be taken into account at all stages of UNHCR operation.

The purpose is to use participatory assessment combined, with a self-reliance approach, to build partnership with refugees and transform them in key actors for protection. Refugees assume an important role in the assessment of the protection risk/problems but also are actors of the implementation of the protection respond. This is a way to build self-reliance approach, empower refugees, expand UNHCR capacities in the implementation of protection activities and ensure refugees' right to participate.

### **Overall Objectives and their Links to GSOs/ RSOs**

In 2008 and 2009 the Regional Representation will pursue to enhance protection and attainment of durable solutions for refugees and persons of concern in the region, through the implementation of the programmes of the Mexico Plan of Action, mainstreaming the age, gender and diversity perspective as well as human-rights based approach. The main objectives are as follows:

- **Promote the development and effective implementation of the national and regional protection framework**
- **Consolidate and further expand the Solidarity Resettlement Programme as a tool for protection and durable solutions for the refugees in the region**
- **Develop local integration strategies for refugees based on the outcome of participatory assessments and participatory planning with key stakeholders**
- **Ensure that the basic needs of asylum-seekers are identified and met.**

- Promote and follow-up strategic and operational partnerships with social networks, national and local authorities as well as the private sector in order to broaden the prospects of local integration for refugees
- Improve/support the functioning of National Refugees Commissions (CONAREs)
- Support and enhance the national and regional protection networks for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers and the promotion of their rights, particularly in border areas (*Solidarity borders*)
- Ensure a better understanding of refugees' protection needs as well as the awareness of the national and international protection regimen, among governmental officials and civil society
- Maintain higher visibility levels attained in Argentina and Chile while further developing public awareness on refugee rights, particularly in Bolivia but also in Uruguay and Paraguay
- Further develop donation channels to capitalize on higher visibility levels, particularly in Argentina and Chile

### Planning Figure Table

#### Spontaneous refugees and asylum seekers

Planning Figures 2008/2009												
Country	Dec. 2006			Dec. 2007			Dec. 2008			Dec. 2009		
	Ref.	New A S	Total	Ref.	New A S	Total	Ref.	New A S	Total	Ref.	New A S	Total
Argentina	3117	355	3472	3430	430	3860	3773	516	4,289	4,150	619	4,770
Bolivia	567	59	626	630	75	705	693	90	783	762	108	870
Chile	1082	573	1655	1200	700	1900	1320	840	2,160	1,452	1008	2,460
Paraguay	59	12	71	65	15	80	72	18	90	79	22	100
Uruguay	125	25	150	140	30	170	154	36	190	169	43	213
<b>Total</b>	<b>4950</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>5974</b>	<b>5465</b>	<b>1250</b>	<b>6715</b>	<b>6012</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>7512</b>	<b>6,613</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>8,413</b>

#### Resettled refugees

Revised Planning Figures 2008/2009									
Country	Dec. 2006		Dec. 2007		Dec. 2008		Dec. 2009		
	New Arrivals	TOTAL	New Arrivals	TOTAL	New Arrivals	TOTAL	New Arrivals	TOTAL	
Argentina	19	50	105	155	100	255	100	355	
Chile	44	166	108 (* )100	374	100	474	100	574	
Uruguay	-	-	15	15	15	30	15	45	
Paraguay	-	-	15	15	15	30	15	45	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1019</b>	



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(#) Includes caseload arrive since the beginning of the project in Chile (1999) and in Argentina (2005)

(\*) Palestinian caseload

### Partnership and Collaboration

UNHCR partnership in the Southern Cone is varied and so far it has yielded concrete results: national societies are gradually assuming a more active role concerning refugee protection and assistance in terms of health, education, vocational training, job placement and counseling. Thus during 2008 and 2009 UNHCR will continue strengthening and broadening partnerships with state and civil society institutions with the aim of further broadening the volume and types of assistance provided by the host communities. These new institutions should be organisations specialised in issues and population groups with needs similar to those of refugees (i.e. human rights, migrants, development and social welfare). They should have a solid institutional basis, credibility and independence. A wide field presence, coupled with a profound knowledge of the local dynamics, makes them efficient partners ensuring the identification of potentials for integration in the region.

PARTNERSHIP				
Argentina	Bolivia	Chile	Paraguay	Uruguay
FCCAM Fundación Comisión Católica Argentina de Migraciones	CEB Conferencia Episcopal Boliviana-	Vicaría de Pastoral Social	CIPAE Comité de Iglesias para Ayudas de Emergencia	SEDHU Servicio Ecuménico para la Dignidad Humana
MYRAR Migrantes y Refugiados en Argentina				
National Refugee Commission	National Refugee Commission	National Refugee Committee	National Refugee Committee	National Refugee Committee
National Ministry of Social Development	PEAP Foncesol	MIDEPLAN	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Govt. City of Buenos Aires	Universidad Mayor de San Andrés	FOSIS	Ministry of Interior	Ministry of Interior
Province of Mendoza	Unidad Educativa San Carlos	FONASA	Board of Churches under CIPAE	Ministry of Health
City of Rosario	Instituto de Terapia e Investigación	INACAP		Ministry of Housing
Ministry of Labour	Clínica Exaltación	INCAMI		Ministry of Education
Manpower Inc.	NGO Capacitación y derechos ciudadanos	Office of the President		University of the Republic
University of Buenos Aires and Morón	Hospital Arco Iris	Diocese of Arica		University of Labour
AMIA	Defensor del Pueblo	Municipality of La Calera		Municipality of Montevideo
Ministry of Health/Drug Plan	Caritas Boliviana	Diocese of Iquique		Adveniat
Unions: Commerce, construction, hotel and tourism, shoe makers	Mesa Técnica de Migraciones/Capítul o Boliviano	FASIC		Cátedra Sérgio Vieira de Mello (AUGM)
Youth Christian Association				

CAREF				
NGO Madre Tierra				

### **Assumptions and Constraints**

In the current regional context influenced by the Colombian crisis, there are a large and growing number of Colombian refugees, particularly in the countries in the proximity of Colombia, who are in need of urgent protection and humanitarian assistance.

The *Agenda for Protection* (AFP) and the *Mexico Plan of Action* (MPA) will provide an important framework for UNHCR operation in 2007 and 2009 to identify a series of concrete protection activities and initiatives that must be carry out to strengthen the regional protection regime and reinvigorate the search for durable solutions.

The provision of humanitarian assistance to new asylum seekers and most vulnerable cases among the refugee population and the integration of refugees and their self sufficiency remain a main challenge for UNHCR, civil society and Governments. Unfortunately, the difficult economic situation in the countries of the region has not helped to commit the governments to provide an adequate level of assistance to all refugees. This means that not only in terms of protection but also in terms of assistance UNHCR will remain engaged in implementing assistance programmes through implementing partners.

The resettlement represents a tangible possibility of durable solution for an important number of these refugees. The announcement of this Programme has been well received in the Southern Cone. Argentina (2005) and Uruguay and Paraguay (2007) joined Chile as emerging resettlement country in the region. The resettlement programme in Chile is operating since 1999.

Despite the commitment of the Latin American governments, the critical socioeconomic situation in most of the Latin American countries represents a serious obstacle to a successful local integration of the resettled refugees. The consolidation and expansion of the Regional resettlement Programme will depend in large measure on the international solidarity and the capacity of the international community to provide the technical and financial cooperation for country programmes.

### **Potential for Durable Solutions and Phase Out**

Although in recent years Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay made several and significant progresses towards the implementation of the goals set up in the *Agenda for Protection* (AFP) and in the *Mexico Plan of Action* (MPA), UNHCR still has an important role to play in supporting the efforts of these Latin-American countries in strengthening the protection of refugees and searching for durable solutions. This is particularly necessary considering that in the future the number of new refugee and asylum seekers, particularly Colombians, will continue to increase.

Governments in the region showed a genuine concern for the situation of refugees and asylums seekers and all governments promised to provide financial support in addition to in-kind contributions they have been making to UNHCR programs in the region. The MOU and frame work agreements signed with ministries and important towns in the last reflect the goodwill of the authorities to support refugees in the Latin American society.

We are confident that the financial contribution of the governments will increase in the future; the annual contribution of US\$ 200,000 from Government of Chile to UNHCR programs is fundamental to ensure adequate assistance to new asylum seekers and refugees and set an important precedent for the other governments in the region. Unfortunately, economic resources of most of the countries of the region are generally not yet geared towards providing an adequate level of assistance to all refugees therefore for the for the time being UNHCR programme will continue to be essential to cover the basic needs of new arrivals and the most vulnerable among refugees.

### **Summary Management Strategy for UNHCR**

### Justification for country post requirements

**Legal Officer P3:** The present protection situation in this region with the new refugee laws and the continue increase number of asylum seekers especially from Colombia required a close follow up in protection matters. The protection unit of this Regional Office is composed by two National Assistant Officers (one NOB and one NOA) and one Protection Senior Secretary (GL5). This office request the creation of a Legal Officer P3 post to support the Protection unit in order to comply successfully with the close monitoring and follow up required in both protection and integration matters. Is also worth to mention that the two international staff appointed at present at ROARG has not protection background.

**Durable Solution Officer NC:** It is required the creation of post based in Argentina to ensure a close coordination and follow-up with governmental, local bodies and specialized civil society institutions in resettlement and durable solution matters. ROARG wishes to point out that especially in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, all roles related to resettlement and integration activities have increased. This office request the creation of a Durable Solution Officer NC at national level.

The Regional Office is also needing the support of a **national UNV** for the programme unit to ensure a proper follow up of the activities and the achievements of the objectives related to resettlement and integration activities.

**Liason Officer – P3 in Chile:** It should be noticed that Chile is the country in this region where UNHCR programme has experienced the most important growth in 2006. The number of asylum seekers has increased at 100 % in the lasts three years; the resettlement programme in Chile has also been consolidated and expanded to different regions of this country. In addition to Colombians refugees a large group of Palestinian refugees from Irak are being resettled in Chile. In the border region of Arica, the most important “gate” for the entrance to southern cone of Colombians asylum seekers, partnership has been established with local protection network. On the other hand Chilean authorities at the national local level have been showing commitment and strong interest to support local integration of refugees and to cooperate with UNHCR programme. There is also the necessity to strengthen the National Refugee Commission and lobbying for the promulgation of a refugee law.

Due to the lack of human resources, this Regional Office was not in a position to duly follow up and provide support to the operation in Chile during the lasts years. In 2006 a local consultant for resettlement was hired in Santiago, who highly contributed with this office. At this moment the consultant is also overwhelmed with the volume of tasks that he is required to performed due to the lack of presence of UNHCR in Chile. It is indispensable that UNHCR consolidate a permanent and qualified presence in Chile and therefore the creation of a Liason unit.

**National External Consultant – Bolivia:** Although Bolivian legislation and authorities recognize UNHCR supervisory role, the lack of a UNHCR office in the country and the impossibility of undertaking more frequent missions due to the limited financial resources of this Office continued to hamper improvements in UNHCR supervisory role in Bolivia.

In order to strengthen the protection capacities of the State, a capacity building program for the CONARE and other relevant Government institutions has been already presented before the government. To overcome the serious protection gaps faced in Bolivia and full implement the strengthening project, more close supervision and UNHCR involvement is required. By the moment, lack of UNHCR representation or field office in the country; office's limited financial resources to assure regular missions to Bolivia, and the impossibility of working closely within UN agencies, IP and NGOs, has limited UNHCR capacity to develop a sustained protection strategy targeted to ensure the refugee's protection framework.

Moreover, due to the conflictive and volatile socio-political situation in Bolivia, constant follow-up with government and national institutions, NGOs and UN agencies in the country is required in order to monitor the situation, to update the Plan of Action for Emergency situations for Refugees in Bolivia, and ensure that UNHCR's role is clearly defined in the Bolivian UNETT (UN Emergency Technical Team) Contingency plan. Taking into account that UNHCR has no physical presence in Bolivia, the Regional Office is requesting the support of a National External consultant in Bolivia to ensure a proper follow up of the activities and the achievements of the objectives. This expert will interact with governments and institutions within the region.

**Public Information Assitant GL6:** In line with increasing responsibilities and activities in the PI unit, PI Clerk's workload has also increased and corresponds much more closely to G6 level.

In terms of mentioned increase, particular reference is made to the regular co-ordination and production of REFVIEW on behalf of the entire region which also entails significant administrative work including co-ordination with designer and printer, as well as of budgetary requirements with all offices in the Americas and HQ, and distribution throughout region. Other important activities which require sophisticated and time-consuming support include helping to provide and regularly update comprehensive audiovisual and written information to refugees arriving under resettlement program, currently in expansion throughout the region. The rapid implementation of the Mexico Plan of Action requires a strong media component which has contributed to the additional workload in the unit, and which also involves the supervision of volunteers for the regular updating of regional media databases. For all these reasons, the G4 grade presently attributed to the post of public information clerk is no longer adequate.

This is the reason why a request is being made for the upgrading to the G4 PI clerk G6 PI Assistant.

### **Justification for Administrative Budget**

Based on 2006 administrative budget the administrative budget for 2008 and 2009 has been estimated at U\$S 227,800.

Travel on official business: Chapter -2XX- This chapter was budgeted in USD 84,000, to ensure a close monitoring and presence of UNHCR in overall the region specially Bolivia and Chile with the creation of a Liason Unit in Chile.

Training: Activities planned for 2008 and 2009 include computer training, language studies, staff safety, first aids and drivers' training. Purchase of training material is foreseen as well.

Non-expendable Property: Chapter -6XX- ROARG computer equipment needs upgrading, especially the equipment purchased in 1999. Funds are being estimated under 2008 and 2009 ABOD to cover the cost of new equipment. In accordance with ITTS guidelines, the office has estimated the replacement of computer equipment purchased in 1999, as well as purchase of a lap-top for training activities.

Chapter 9XX- Funds have been allocated under this chapter to cover SCAs expenses related to UNDP charges.

**Part Two - RBM Results Tables by Programme**

- Summary Table for the Programme showing overall Budget and Sectoral Budgets
- Sectoral Tables showing Sector Objectives, Baselines, Targets, Specific Links to GSO Sub-Objectives and Targets, Summary Budgets by target for implementing partners and UNHCR

<b>Country (or Sub-Region)</b>
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<b>Population of Concern/ Theme # 1</b>	<b>Asylum seekers and refugees spontaneously arrived in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay</b>	<b>Relevant Project(s):</b>	<b>SLA 401</b>
<b>Overall Goal (s)</b>	Enhance protection and attainment of durable solutions for refugees and persons of concern in the region, through the implementation of the programmes of the Mexico Plan of Action, mainstreaming the age, gender and diversity perspective as well as a human-rights based approach	<b>Budget for the Programme</b>	
		<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
			<b>Total</b>

<b>Sector Objective(s)<sup>2</sup> Sectors C, F, G, H, I, N</b>	<b>Current year situation</b>	<b>Objective for 2008 to 2009</b>	<b>Impact indicators</b>
Promote local integration of refugees ( <i>Ciudades solidarias</i> ) to achieve effective protection and self-reliance of refugees in the communities of reception.	<p>As from 2006, the socio-political context has been generally conducive to UNHCR's work in three of the five countries covered by the region: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. This is attributable to the human rights orientation which the governments in these countries are eager to demonstrate, the support of former refugees who now occupy prominent political positions, and relative political stability.</p> <p>Coupled with persistent efforts by UNHCR and its partners, the operational environment has permitted the achievement of key strategic objectives in relation to UNHCR's core mandate and to the Mexico Plan of Action (MPA). The passing of refugee laws in Argentina and Uruguay were foremost, but included other significant developments such as progress in relation to the Resettlement Program in Argentina and Chile, a firm commitment by the government of the City of Buenos Aires towards refugees and its naming of a City of Solidarity.</p>	Promote local integration of refugees ( <i>Ciudades solidarias</i> ) to achieve effective protection and self-reliance of refugees in the communities of reception.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New alliance with the local governments in Chile (Iquique, La Calera and some "comunas" in Santiago) and in Argentina (Rosario, Córdoba).</li> <li>• New cooperation agreements with key ministries in Chile (MIDEPLAN, FOSIS, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education) and in Argentina (Ministry of Labour) in order to create the ground for the access of refugee and asylum seekers in public programs.</li> <li>• The cooperation agreements signed in the previous year in Argentina (City of BA, Province of Mendoza, Ministry of Social Welfare in Argentina) are duly implemented. Unaccompanied minors receive support for lodging, minimum subsistence allowances and vocational training (Department for the Youth in Buenos Aires). The 2007 donation of USD 40,000 by the National Ministry of Social Welfare for micro-credit is implemented. 40 refugees are included in the programme "New Labour Roles" (city of Buenos Aires). Asylum seekers are included in the food programme of the City of Buenos Aires.</li> <li>• Refugees are incorporated in "Social Responsibility programs" as a result of agreements with firms from the private sector.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Maximum 3 objectives per sector

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	<p>In <b>Bolivia</b>, however, internal turmoil continued, fuelled by a number of contentious issues including the drafting of Bolivia's new constitution. In spite of the fact that the new government is indeed committed to the Convention and to the Protocol, in this highly polarized environment any issue is potentially divisive, and refugees have not been the exception. Several high-profile individual cases have been politicised by the media, and have contributed to the continued stigmatization of refugees.</p> <p>In <b>Paraguay</b> as well, asylum issues were embroiled in the highly political and sensitive issue of the assassination of former president Cubas Grau's daughter</p>		
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Baseline situation for core problems/ areas of focus in sectors as of end 2006 <sup>3</sup>	Link to GSO <sup>4</sup>	Target end 2007	Target end 2008	Implementing Partner Budget for 2008 in USD	UNHCR Budget for 2008 in USD	Target end 2009	Implementing Partner Budget for 2009 in USD	UNHCR Budget for 2009 in USD
<p>1.1 <b>C.</b> The basic needs of the asylum seekers are identified and partially met. There are still some barriers to the social welfare programmes in this respect.</p> <p><b>F.</b> Refugees have access to public health system in Argentina, and Uruguay. In Chile, asylum seekers have access to emergency health care only. In Bolivia and Paraguay social services are insufficient and very inadequate. In all the countries, the female population has access to these services, including specialized ones (reproductive health).</p> <p><b>G.</b> In general refugees do not meet the legal requirements to apply to public housing programmes. In Argentina a cooperation</p>	<p>3.3. 3.4. 3.5. 5.2. 5.3. 5.4. 6.3. 6.4.</p>	<p>Over 6550 refugee and asylum seekers are estimated to be in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay by 31 December 2007.</p> <hr/> <p>It is expected that some 2,600 individuals, including 1250 new asylum seekers, will be assisted by UNHCR during 2007 in the fields of subsistence, documentation, education at primary and secondary level, labour training and legal and social counselling.</p> <p>Some 400 refugees and asylum seekers benefited from primary health care services.</p> <p>Some 170 (I.21) and some 75 (I.23) male and female refugee children of primary and secondary school age, enrolled.</p> <p>Some 135 students (male</p>	<p>Over 7512 refugee and asylum seekers are estimated to be in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay by 31 December 2008.</p> <p>Nearly 2800 asylum seekers and refugees will have received humanitarian assistance, counselling and legal orientation from UNHCR program.</p> <p>Some 400 refugees and asylum seekers benefited from primary health care services</p> <p>Some 170 (I.21) and some 75 (I.23) male and female refugee children of primary and secondary school age, enrolled.</p> <p>Some 135 students (male and female) attend/conclude regularly language courses.</p> <p>20 refugee children of</p>			<p>Over 8400 refugee and asylum seekers are estimated to be in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay by 31 December 2009</p> <p>Nearly 3000 asylum seekers and refugees will have received humanitarian assistance, counselling and legal orientation from UNHCR program.</p> <p>Some 400 refugees and asylum seekers benefited from primary health care services</p> <p>Some 170 (I.21) and some 75 (I.23) male and female refugee children of primary and secondary school age, enrolled.</p> <p>Some 135 students (male and female) attend/conclude regularly language courses.</p> <p>20 refugee children of pre-school age enrolled.</p> <p>Some 120 male and female refugees participate to technical courses</p> <p>Some 240 micro credits approved and implemented. At least 50% of micro credits given to refugee women.</p>		

<sup>3</sup> Problems that require a multi-sectoral response should be planned and budgeted for in each relevant sector. For each core problem/ area of focus indicate the source of the baseline information, (Participatory Assessment (PA), Standards and Indicator Report (SIR), Annual Protection Report (APR), Joint Food Assessment (JFA), Other Assessments (OA)

<sup>4</sup> Indicate the specific numeric reference to GSO Sub-Objectives, e.g. 2.1, 3.1, etc.

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<p>agreement with an NGO provides permanent housing to a limited number of refugees with UNHCR covering building materials.  <b>I.</b> Refugees have access to the public education system in ARG, BOL, CHL, PAR and URU at primary and secondary level.  <b>N.</b> Agreements with governmental and non governmental institutions are in force to provide technical training opportunities for refugees, most of them young unskilled people. A concerted effort continues to be in place towards the implementation of micro credit projects in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay aimed at promoting greater self-reliance.</p>		<p>and female) attend/conclude regularly language courses.                   20 refugee children of pre-school age enrolled.                   Some 120 male and female refugees participate to technical courses.                   Some 240 micro credits approved and implemented. At least 40% of micro credits given to refugee women.</p>	<p>pre-school age enrolled.                   Some 120 male and female refugees participate to technical courses                   Some 240 micro credits approved and implemented.                  At least 40% of micro credits given to refugee women.</p>					
<b>Sub-Totals</b>								
<b>Total Budget for the Sector</b>								



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Sector Objective(s) <sup>5</sup>	Current year situation	Objective for 2008 to 2009	Impact indicators
Promote the development and effective implementation of the national and regional protection framework	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay are party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The domestic legal framework in the region is basically contained in a set of refugee laws and decrees which establish National Refugee Commissions (CONAREs) in charge of adjudicating the asylum applications and finding durable solutions for refugees as well.	Promote the development and effective implementation of the national and regional protection framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of countries that have refugee laws</li> <li>• # of countries that have enacted rules of procedures for the refugee laws</li> <li>• # of countries that have regulations on smuggling and trafficking in persons which are in line with international protection standards and includes special safeguards for refugee protection</li> <li>• # of countries that have immigration laws which include protection safeguards and especial provisions on asylum-seekers and refugees' legal residence, documentation, complementary forms of protection, etc.</li> </ul>
Improve/support the functioning of National Refugees Commissions (CONAREs)	<p>Even though national legislations generally complies with human rights standards, in practice UNHCR must continue carrying out a number of protection activities to ensure asylum-seekers' <i>effective access</i> to a fair and efficient RSD procedure and the fully enjoyment of their human rights. To this end, in the period 2007 – 2009, UNHCR should continue supporting governments in implementing adequate asylum systems with all their essential components, ranging from registration, documentation procedures and reception facilities to RSD process and local integration.</p> <p>UNHCR must continue promoting the adoption or amendment of refugee legislations, monitoring the legislative and policy-making processes, and providing legal advice to the relevant governmental bodies to this end. At the same time, the improvement of the functioning of the National Refugees Commissions (CONAREs), especially in Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay, must be considered essential in order to guarantee the existence of a well-</p>	Improve/support the functioning of National Refugees Commissions (CONAREs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of countries that have well-functioning RSD procedure in place</li> <li>• # of countries in which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asylum-seekers are received in adequate offices and treated properly</li> <li>- Necessary staff is hired and trained</li> <li>- Asylum-seekers and refugees are individually registered and interviewed in accordance with international standards.</li> <li>- Asylum-seekers receive proper information and counseling about their rights and the RSD procedure</li> <li>- Accurate, updated and specific COI is easy accessible and used by CONAREs</li> <li>- Accelerated RSD procedures are in place for refugees with special protection needs</li> <li>- Caregivers and legal representatives are appointed for unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum</li> <li>- Governmental official at borders and entry points are duly trained and have clear instructions on how to deal with and refer asylum claims</li> <li>- UNHCR's guidelines on international protection and observations and recommendations on individual cases are taken into account by decision-makers</li> <li>- Adjudicating decisions are adopted in writing and duly notified to asylum-seekers</li> <li>- RSD procedure lasts less than 12 months</li> <li>- Asylum-seekers and refugees have access to proper documentation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> Maximum 3 objectives per sector

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	functioning and established fair and efficient refugee status determination (RSD) procedure.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other impact/performance indicators will be defined as part of the CONAREs Programme - Mexico Plan of Action (MPA)</li> </ul>
Support and enhance the national and regional protection networks for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers and the promotion of their rights, particularly in border areas (Solidarity borders)	The regional context, namely the Colombia situation is having visible impact in the RSD procedure of certain countries (e.g. Chile), among other reasons, as a result of the growing arrival of new Colombian asylum-seekers.	Support and enhance the national and regional protection networks for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers and the promotion of their rights, particularly in border areas (Solidarity borders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of protection networks in relevant border areas monitoring migratory controls and asylum-seekers' access to territory and RSD procedure</li> <li>• # of NGOs providing legal aid to asylum-seekers and defending their applications before the CONAREs and/or the judiciary</li> <li>• # of NGOs involved in promoting and defending refugees' access to rights</li> <li>• # of NGOs and/or lawyers' networks (legal aid centres/clinics) working for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, which are supported by UNHCR.</li> <li>• # of NGOs and civil society actors are working for the protection of refugees, in cooperation with UNHCR.</li> <li>• # of states in which procedures for border monitoring established and measures to assist border guards to distinguish asylum seekers from migrants are in place.</li> <li>• # of joint initiatives resulting from UNHCR's active participation in relevant mechanisms and groups</li> <li>• Other impact/performance indicators will be defined as part of the Protection Networks Programme - Mexico Plan of Action (MPA)</li> </ul>
		Ensure a better understanding of refugees' protection needs as well as the awareness of the national and international protection regimen, among governmental officials and civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of countries/operations in which participatory assessments are carried at least once a year</li> <li>• # of government officials, including border guards, immigration officers, police, military personnel, customs officials trained on IRL.</li> <li>• # of government officials participating in international training seminar/workshops on IRL (e.g. San Remo IRL Course).</li> <li>• # of training workshops and sensitization activities carried out</li> <li>• Other impact/performance indicators will be defined as part of the Regional Training Programme - Mexico Plan of Action (MPA)</li> </ul>

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Baseline situation for core problems/ areas of focus in sector as of end 2006 <sup>6</sup>	Link to GSO <sup>7</sup>	Target end 2007	Target end 2008	Implementing Partner Budget for 2008 in USD	UNHCR Budget for 2008 in USD	Target end 2009	Implementing Partner Budget for 2009 in USD	UNHCR Budget for 2009 in USD
<p>Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay are Party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol as well as to the most relevant universal and regional instruments on human rights. Furthermore, as signatory of the AGP and the MPA all these countries have agreed on the necessity to complementary apply the international human rights law, the international humanitarian law and the international refugee law. They have also agreed on the importance of granting complementary forms of protections under relevant human rights instruments. However, there are no well-established mechanisms for protection against refoulement under the human rights treaties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay have enacted refugee laws. Nevertheless, so far, none of these countries have adopted rules of procedures for the full implementation of the laws. Although some provisions are</li> </ul>	<p>GSO # 2 Affirming and developing an international protection regime, with priority given to: 2.1 promoting compliance with the 1951 Refugee Convention and commitment by States to adhere to international protection standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chile adopts a refugee law</li> <li>Argentina and Uruguay have rule of procedures of their refugee laws</li> <li>The Constituent Assembly in Bolivia debates on the adoption of the right to seek and be granted with asylum in the new Political Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All countries enact or amend their immigration laws and/or their smuggling and trafficking in persons laws in line with refugee protection standards, incorporating adequate safeguards</li> <li>Bolivia adopts a refugee law</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All countries of the region have improved their domestic legal frameworks in order to ensure compliance with their international protection obligations</li> <li>Regional forums (e.g. MERCOSUR, the South American Conference): 1) have incorporated the protection of refugee in their agendas, 2) have adopted regional policies and/or agreements on refugee protection and durable solutions thanks to UNHCR active and effective advocacy</li> </ul>		

<sup>6</sup> Problems that require a multi-sectoral response should be planned and budgeted for in each relevant sector. For each core problem/ area of focus indicate the source of the baseline information, (Participatory Assessment (PA), Standards and Indicator Report (SIR), Annual Protection Report (APR), Joint Food Assessment (JFA), Other Assessments (OA)

<sup>7</sup> Indicate the specific numeric reference to GSO Sub-Objectives, e.g. 2.1, 3.1, etc.

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<p>self-executing some of them still need to be regulated to have full effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the country level, the refugee regulations are further complemented with an important number of decrees and administrative regulations dealing with specific issues such as residence permits, documentation and extradition. Some of them are not in line with some international protection standards.</li> <li>• Migratory policies and regulations generally accommodate refugee concerns. However, some countries should amend their national legislation and incorporate safeguards for refugee protection</li> <li>• The lack of a comprehensive law dealing with smuggling and trafficking in person, on the one hand, and the lack regulation of some immigration laws, on the other hand, may originate some protection gaps in terms of refugee protection (e.g. rejection at borders, no identification of trafficked persons in need of international protection).</li> <li>• Some countries (e.g. Argentina) have been very supportive to UNHCR in regional migration forums (e.g. Ibero-American Summit) and supported the</li> </ul>								
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<p>Office’s recommendations on refugee issues. However, at a regional level, UNHCR should continue actively participating in regional forums in order to the adoption of regional policies and/or agreements on refugee protection and durable solutions are adopted, especially in the field of local integration and resettlement, in line with international standards. Unlikely the EU integration process, MERCOSUR has not adopted relevant agreements on refugees</p>							
<p>All countries have National Refugee Commission (CONARE) in charge of adjudicating the asylum claims and, in some countries; they are also responsible for finding durable solutions for refugees. However there are some protection gaps in the different RSD procedures of the region. For instance, asylum-seekers are not received in adequate offices and treated properly; some CONAREs lack necessary staff or, when exists, is not duly trained; in some countries asylum-seekers and refugees are not dully registered and/or interviewed in accordance with international standards.          • Furthermore, asylum-seekers do not always receive</p>	<p><b>GSO # 1</b>          Ensuring protection for all persons of concern to UNHCR, with priority given to:  <b>1.1.</b> Securing access to asylum and protection against refoulement   <b>1.2.</b> Protecting against violence, abuse, intimidation and exploitation, including sexual and gender-based</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With UNHCR support, National Refugees Commissions (CONAREs) in Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay have improved their capacities to undertake RSD.</li> <li>• UNHCR can effectively exercise in the countries of the region its supervisory role in the RSD procedure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All countries apply the 1951 Convention refugee definition (inclusion clauses) in line with international standards</li> <li>• All countries increase the recognition rate of refugees on the basis of gender-related persecution</li> <li>• All countries ensure proper reception standards and guardians for unaccompanied children seeking</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Refugees Commissions (CONAREs) in all countries of the region have well-functioning RSD procedure, according to the impact indicators contained in ROARG #2</li> <li>• All countries duly apply the exclusion clauses embodied in the 1951 Convention</li> <li>• All countries grant complementary forms of protection to persons in need of international protection who do not meet the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol/Cartagena Definition criteria.</li> </ul>		

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<p>proper information, counselling and legal aid about their rights and the RSD procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurate, updated and specific COI is easy accessible or is not used by every CONAREs</li> <li>• In some countries, accelerated RSD procedures are not in place for refugees with special protection needs</li> <li>• Caregivers and legal representatives are not always appointed for unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum or they are not involved in supporting them to find a durable solution such as the local integration</li> <li>• Although UNHCR is able to participate in the CONAREs - with voice but without vote- and to play a supervisory role, UNHCR's guidelines on international protection are not always taken into account by decision-makers when adjudicating asylum claims</li> <li>• RSD procedure lasts too much</li> <li>• Asylum-seekers and refugees do not have access to proper documentation in all the countries of the region</li> </ul>	<p>violence</p> <p><b>GSO # 2</b> Affirming and developing an international protection regime, with priority given to: (...) <b>2.2.</b> Promoting a full and inclusive application of the 1951 Convention refugee definition and appropriate use of complementary forms of protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Argentina, Chile and Uruguay ensure proper reception standards and guardians for unaccompanied children seeking asylum.</li> </ul>	<p>asylum.</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to support NGOs, churches and NIHRs in the following priority areas: i) reinforcing legal advice and assistance services for refugees and</li> </ul>	<p><b>GSO # 1</b> Ensuring protection for all persons of concern to UNHCR, with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons in need of international protection are identified at entry points and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR monitoring capacities at borders are enhanced in all countries of the</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All States increasingly turn to UNHCR to provide practical solutions in responding to the need to protect refugees within broader migration movements</li> </ul>		

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<p>asylum-seekers; ii) reinforcing awareness of international refugee law and human rights law; iii) systematizing and disseminating best practices and successful programmes developed by some protection networks; and iv) exchanging experiences among the various protection networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR implementing partners in the region should be supported to: i) further develop a human rights-based approach, a gender, age and diversity mainstreaming as a strategy to promote gender equality and respect for human rights; ii) gradually shift the assistance component of their daily work from assistance only to self-reliance and empowerment of refugees; iii) assume and promote UNHCR's Framework for Durable Solutions and self-reliance, as a programme approach and a tool for minimizing refugee's dependency and a long-term reliance on humanitarian/external assistance (including UNHCR material assistance/support); iv) undertaking participatory assessment/planning as both a manner to better understand refugees' protection needs and a process of building partnerships with refugee women and men.</li> </ul>	<p>priority given to: <b>1.3.</b> Strengthening the protection of refugees within broader migration movements</p>	<p>access to territory and RSD procedure is fully ensured (northern borders of Argentina and Chile)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A contingency plan for Bolivia is updated. It includes a cluster-approach and effective measures to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees and IPDs in the country and Bolivian people fleeing to neighbouring countries (Argentina and Chile).</li> <li>• At a regional level, more NIHRs and/or NGOs address the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers and incorporate them into their activities and programs.</li> </ul>	<p>region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR , NGOs and other civil society actors, including refugees, meet more regularly and consult more actively on protection issues/problems</li> <li>• More reports on the situation of refugees are shared with UNHCR by NGOs, and NIHRs.</li> <li>• All UNHCR IPs in the region have in place standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent and respond to sexual and gender based violence</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UNHCR 10-Point Plan of Action: "Addressing Mixed Migratory Movements" is being partially or fully implemented in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay</li> <li>• Best interests determination procedures (BID) to identify durable solutions for unaccompanied and separated children are in place in all countries</li> <li>• At a regional level, UNHCR implementing partner and HHRR NGOs involved in refugee protection, actively seek new possibilities to obtain funds for their refugee programmes, including from sources other than UNHCR.</li> <li>• At a regional level, credible reports from NGOs indicate a decrease in cases of refoulement (rejection at borders) of asylum-seekers.</li> <li>• 100% of victims/known survivors of sexual and gender-based violence receive appropriate remedial care and support</li> </ul>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following The Santa Cruz Declaration adopted in Bolivia during the 8th International Conference of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2006), it is necessary to support NHRIs of the region in including refugees and asylum-seekers in their respective regional agendas of work and/or action plans.</li> <li>In the framework of the implementation of SVDM Chair project, UNHCR should follow-up the commitments assumed by the universities of the Group of Montevideo to constitute a network of “solidarity universities” that promotes, at a regional level, refugees’ full access to universities, including professional careers, facilities and students benefits (e.g. scholarships, etc.) and their effective access to rights.</li> </ul>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governmental official at borders and entry points are not always duly trained and/or do not have clear instructions on how to deal with and refer asylum claims. As a consequence, asylum-seekers’ access to territory and the RSD procedure is not ensured in all countries.</li> <li>It is necessary to</li> </ul>	<p><b>GSO # 1.1</b> <b>GSO # 2.1</b> (see the aforementioned description )</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Argentina, through the UN Thematic Group on HIV/AIDS coordinated by UNHCR, training activities are carried out in the most</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participatory assessments are carried out in all countries of the region</li> <li>Protection projects (e.g. CONAREs)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNHCR, IPs and States in the region utilize a Participatory Age, Gender, Diversity Mainstreaming Approach in the design, implementing and monitoring of programmes</li> </ul>		



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<p>implement training activities for migration/enforcement officials and to strengthen the monitoring and response capacities of protection networks at borders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal clinics and human rights NGOs still need to be supported / trained in order to develop legal capacities to defend refugees' rights.</li> <li>• Other key stakeholders need training on refugee protection. Particularly: Presidents, members, legal advisers and interviewers of CONAREs; State officials at borders and airports (police, military and migration staff); Judges, public attorneys and prosecutors; Professional staff from the national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; Staff from and Legislators.</li> </ul>		<p>relevant capital cities and entry points and borders of the country with significant presence of asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants (e.g. Buenos Aires, Rosario, bordering provinces with Bolivia, Paraguay etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training workshop are implemented in Chile (Arica, Irquique) and Bolivia (Desagüadero, La Paz).</li> <li>• UNHC R Regional Seminar on IRL is held in Chile</li> </ul>	<p>reflect the specific needs of various groups and the activities are implemented to address these specificities</p>					
<b>Sub-Totals</b>								
<b>Total Budget for the Sector</b>								

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Sector Objective(s) <sup>8</sup>	Current year situation	Objective for 2008 to 2009	Impact indicators
<p>Maintain higher visibility levels attained in Argentina and Chile while further developing public awareness on refugee issues, particularly in Bolivia but also in Uruguay and Paraguay</p> <p>Further develop donation channels to capitalize on higher visibility levels, particularly in Argentina and Chile</p>		<p>Maintain higher visibility levels attained in Argentina and Chile while further developing public awareness on refugee issues, particularly in Bolivia but also in Uruguay and Paraguay</p> <p>Further develop donation channels to capitalize on higher visibility levels, particularly in Argentina and Chile</p>	

Baseline situation for core problems/ areas of focus in sector as of end 2006 <sup>9</sup>	Link to GSO <sup>10</sup>	Target end 2007	Target end 2008	Implementing Partner Budget for 2008 in USD	UNHCR Budget for 2008 in USD	Target end 2009	Implementing Partner Budget for 2009 in USD	UNHCR Budget for 2009 in USD
1.1		<p>-More accuracy in media coverage of refugee issues in Bolivia.</p> <p>-The publication of at least 14 items on the UNHCR Spanish website on the region. Whereas this was the number of articles published on the website in 2006, particular emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of web stories from Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay and on Mexico Plan of Action-related developments.</p>	<p>-More accuracy in media coverage of refugee issues in Bolivia.</p> <p>-The publication of at least 14 items on the UNHCR Spanish website on the region. Whereas this was the number of articles published on the website in 2006, particular emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of web stories from Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay and on</p>			<p>-More accuracy in media coverage of refugee issues in Bolivia.</p> <p>-The publication of at least 14 items on the UNHCR Spanish website on the region. Whereas this was the number of articles published on the website in 2006, particular emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of web stories from Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay and on Mexico Plan of Action-related developments.</p> <p>-The publication of at least three items on the English website (one per semester).</p>		

<sup>8</sup> Maximum 3 objectives per sector

<sup>9</sup> Problems that require a multi-sectoral response should be planned and budgeted for in each relevant sector. For each core problem/ area of focus indicate the source of the baseline information, (Participatory Assessment (PA), Standards and Indicator Report (SIR), Annual Protection Report (APR), Joint Food Assessment (JFA), Other Assessments (OA)

<sup>10</sup> Indicate the specific numeric reference to GSO Sub-Objectives, e.g. 2.1, 3.1, etc.

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		<p>-The publication of at least three items on the English website (one per semester). RO ARG's continued co-ordination of REFVIEW including electronic version. -Continued growth in media coverage levels year on year.</p> <p>-Osvaldo Laport continues to demonstrate commitment to supporting UNHCR and visits one refugee situation outside SLA, preferably Colombia situation.</p> <p>-PI networks are expanded throughout the region, to include in each country: at least three international news agencies, three important local media outlets, two NGO's and the UN Information center.</p> <p>-Electronic information distribution service (ACNUR Prensa) continues to reach counterparts, the media and diplomatic corps throughout the region and database is expanded.</p> <p>-Tailor-made resettlement materials are regularly produced and updated for refugees prior to arrival.</p> <p>-PI materials on each country in the region are regularly updated.</p> <p>-RO ARG documentation center is regularly updated and maintained (video, photo and print publication libraries respectively</p>	<p>Mexico Plan of Action-related developments. -The publication of at least three items on the English website (one per semester). -RO ARG's continued co-ordination of REFVIEW including electronic version. -Continued growth in media coverage levels year on year. -Osvaldo Laport continues to demonstrate commitment to supporting UNHCR and visits one refugee situation outside SLA, preferably Colombia situation. -PI networks are expanded throughout the region, to include in each country: at least three international news agencies, three important local media outlets, two NGO's and the UN Information center. -Electronic information distribution service (ACNUR Prensa) continues to reach counterparts, the media and diplomatic corps throughout the region and database is expanded. -Tailor-made resettlement materials are regularly produced and updated for refugees prior to arrival. -PI materials on each country in the region are</p>			<p>RO ARG's continued co-ordination of REFVIEW including electronic version. -Continued growth in media coverage levels year on year. -Osvaldo Laport continues to demonstrate commitment to supporting UNHCR and visits one refugee situation outside SLA, preferably Colombia situation. -PI networks are expanded throughout the region, to include in each country: at least three international news agencies, three important local media outlets, two NGO's and the UN Information center. -Electronic information distribution service (ACNUR Prensa) continues to reach counterparts, the media and diplomatic corps throughout the region and database is expanded. -Tailor-made resettlement materials are regularly produced and updated for refugees prior to arrival. -PI materials on each country in the region are regularly updated. -ROARG documentation center is regularly updated and maintained (video, photo and print publication libraries respectively</p>	
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			regularly updated. -RO ARG documentation center is regularly updated and maintained (video, photo and print publication libraries respectively					
1.2		Design tailored donation/support mechanisms for two sectors (corporate and university/schools) and create materials publicizing these.	Design tailored donation/support mechanisms for two sectors (corporate and university/schools) and create materials publicizing these.			Design tailored donation/support mechanisms for two sectors (corporate and university/schools) and create materials publicizing these.		
1.3								
1.4								
1.5								
1.6								
<b>Sub-Totals</b>								
<b>Total Budget for the Sector</b>								

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<b>Country (or Sub-Region)</b>	<b>UNHCR Regional Office for the South of South America</b>
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<b>Population of Concern/ Theme # 1</b>	<b>Refugees resettled mainly from Ecuador and Costa Rica. Most of them of Colombian nationality.</b>	<b>Relevant Project(s):</b>	<b>SLA 500</b>
<b>Overall Goal (s)</b>	<b>(Bureau's objective)</b> Consistent with the Mexico Plan of Action, promote and consolidate a viable resettlement programme for Latin American countries to enhance the use of resettlement as a strategic protection tool, durable solution and burden and responsibility sharing mechanism.	<b>Budget for the Program</b>	
		<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>

<b>Sector Objective(s)<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>Current year situation</b>	<b>Objective for 2008 to 2009</b>	<b>Impact indicators</b>
Consolidate and further expand the Solidarity Resettlement Programme as a tool for protection and durable solutions for the refugees in the region	<p><u>Legal framework:</u> In Chile, there is an Agreement for the implementation of pilot project of resettlement signed between UNHCR and the Chilean Government in January 1999. <u>Argentina</u> signed with UNHCR a frame work agreement for the resettlement of refugees in June 2005. No agreement is signed with Uruguay and Paraguay.</p> <p><u>Documentation of refugees:</u> Documentation is accorded to resettled refugees granting them the enjoyment of the rights of the Convention and in particular to practice income generation activities and to access to labor market.</p>	Consolidate and further expand the Solidarity Resettlement Programme as a tool for protection and durable solutions for the refugees in the region	The Solidarity Resettlement Programme is consolidated in Argentina and Chile and is further expanded to Uruguay and Paraguay thus becoming a tool for protection and durable solutions for the refugees in the region

Baseline situation for core problems/ areas of focus in sector as of end 2006 <sup>12</sup>	Link to GSO <sup>13</sup>	Target end 2007	Target end 2008	Implementing Partner Budget for 2008 in USD	UNHCR Budget for 2008 in USD	Target end 2009	Implementing Partner Budget for 2009 in USD	UNHCR Budget for 2009 in USD
1.1. In order to offer different socio-economic integration	5.4.	Government authorities are involved in the resettlement process.	Government authorities in Argentina, Chile,			Government authorities in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay are involved in the		

<sup>11</sup> Maximum 3 objectives per sector

<sup>12</sup> Problems that require a multi-sectoral response should be planned and budgeted for in each relevant sector. For each core problem/ area of focus indicate the source of the baseline information, (Participatory Assessment (PA), Standards and Indicator Report (SIR), Annual Protection Report (APR), Joint Food Assessment (JFA), Other Assessments (OA)

<sup>13</sup> Indicate the specific numeric reference to GSO Sub-Objectives, e.g. 2.1, 3.1, etc.

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<p>contexts to the refugee population in addition to the capital towns of Santiago and Buenos Aires, new cities were identified to host refugees. Groups arriving in 2006 were resettled in the new locations. The province of Mendoza signed an agreement with UNHCR as “solidarity province”. An inter-ministerial committee was set up in Argentina in order to provide support to resettled refugees as required. The committee proved to be very effective in timely issuing documentation, legalization of education diplomas, and specialized health attention.</p> <p>Argentina: In May 2006 an evaluation exercise was carried out in Argentina with the participation of the government, the NGO, UNHCR and the refugees. The evaluation turned out to be a very useful experience to plan future missions and improve reception</p>		<p>The refugees will be supported for documentation purposes. The number of beneficiaries will be:          100 in Argentina          100 in Chile          15 in Uruguay          15 in Paraguay          In addition, they will receive assistance in the field of subsistence/housing, health, education, social counselling, labour training and micro-credit according to established criteria.</p>	<p>Paraguay and Uruguay are involved in the resettlement process. The refugees will be supported for documentation purposes. The number of beneficiaries will reach          100 in Argentina          100 in Chile          15 in Uruguay          15 in Paraguay</p> <p>In addition, they will receive assistance in the field of subsistence/housing, health, education, social counselling, labour training and micro-credit according to established criteria</p>			<p>resettlement process. The refugees will be supported for documentation purposes. The number of beneficiaries will reach          100 in Argentina          100 in Chile          15 in Uruguay          15 in Paraguay</p> <p>In addition, they will receive assistance in the field of subsistence/housing, health, education, social counselling, labour training and micro-credit according to established criteria</p>		
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<p>arrangements. The program assured to the Refugees resettled to Chile and Argentina timely delivering of a subsistence allowance, and temporary assistance for housing, education, health and documentation. Assistance was provided according to predefined criteria Thorough partnership with national/local departments and specialized institutions refugees received psychosocial counselling, legal advice and orientation on job searching and housing as required</p>								
<b>Sub-Totals</b>								
<b>Total Budget for the Sector</b>								

**Part Three- Comprehensive Assessment of Needs per Program**<sup>14</sup>

- Contributions by the host government, refugee and/or local communities
- Financial contributions of partners (2006 information)

Argentina: US\$ 340,000

Chile: US\$ 382,000

Uruguay: US\$ 22,000

Programme	UNHCR	WFP (where applicable)	Operational partners	Implementing partners	Unmet needs	Total
08 SLA 500	940,000	n/a	-	-		940,000
08 SLA 401	1,500,000	n/a	744,000			2,058,000
09 SLA 500	940,000	n/a				940,000
09 SLA 401	1,800,000	n/a	744,000			2,358,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,180,000</b>		<b>1,116,000</b>			<b>6,296,000</b>

*Key Assumptions:*

The level of contribution by operational partners has been estimated on the basis of the information provided by the implementing partners for the year 2006. It is reasonable to expect that this level of contribution is at least maintained in the region for 2008 and 2009.

<sup>14</sup> The purpose of this table is to provide an indicative picture of the overall needs of persons/ issues of concern to UNHCR and to show the important contributions of other partners. Compiling this information is limited by the challenge of trying to apply standards in the contexts in which UNHCR is working. UNHCR's approach in preparing this table is to undertake standards-based assessments of need which take into account implementation capacity as well as what is reasonable in a given country context. The table includes the key assumptions underpinning the arrival at estimated financial requirements.