



HIGHLIGHTS

Historical commitment to protection

Chile is a State Party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Additional Protocol since 1972.

Modified legal requirements to obtain Chilean nationality

In 2016, the law 20.888 reduced the minimum age required for foreigners to be eligible to acquire the Chilean nationality (from 21 to 18), and eliminated the age limits for refugee children as long as one of their parents is already a Chilean national.

Resettlement

Chile has announced a Humanitarian Resettlement Programme for 120 Syrian refugees. Since 1999, Chile has resettled 480 refugees (including Colombians, Palestinians and ex-Yugoslavian refugees). Some of these resettled refugees have already obtained the Chilean citizenship.

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

Context information

- The domestic legal framework dealing with refugees is set out in the 2010 Refugee Law N° 20.430 “Disposiciones sobre Protección de Refugiados” and enshrines high standards of protection, including the extended refugee definition in line with the 1984 Cartagena Declaration.
- Chile is yet to adhere to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- Chile actively contributes to the consolidation of the Southern Cone as a “regional protection space”, through the adoption of the Brazil Declaration, the implementation of its Plan of Action (BPA), and the consolidation of the MERCOSUR National Refugee Commissions’ Forum.
- 80% of UNHCR’s Persons of Concern in Chile live in the Metropolitan Region of Santiago. The remaining 20% reside mostly in the northern regions of the country, (Antofagasta, Arica, Calama and Iquique).
- Chile grants nationality on the basis of the *ius solis* criteria which benefits also children of refugees and asylum seekers born in the country.
- Refugees and asylum seekers enjoy access to public education, health services and have the right to work.

UNHCR presence

Offices:

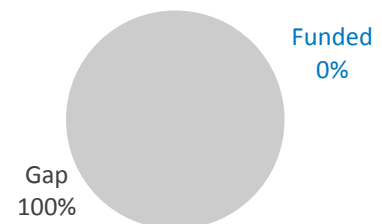
1 Country Office in Santiago de Chile



Population of concern 3670

Refugees	1890
Asylum Seekers (pending decisions)	1780

Source: UNHCR Mid-year Statistical Report, June 2016

Funding Regional Office for Southern Latin America USD 4.8 million



 UNHCR National Office  Refugee Urban Location

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

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Ministry of Interior and Public Security, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (including Civil Registry and Identification Service and the National Service for Minors), the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, and the Commission for the Recognition of Status of Refugees (CONARE). UNHCR is a member of the CONARE, with no voting rights.
- FASIC (Fundación de Ayuda Social de Iglesias Cristianas) is UNHCR's implementing partner in Chile executing operational projects aimed at providing counselling, basic humanitarian assistance and support to facilitate self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods to refugees and asylum seekers.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection & Durable Solutions

- Provide technical support and advice to national authorities involved in the adoption of migration legislation and in the implementation of fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures (RSD).
- Provide capacity building to strengthen the National Refugee Commission and its technical secretariat in order to ensure due process in admission, registration, eligibility interviews, assessments and right to appeal.
- Ensure appropriate legal assistance for refugees during the RSD procedure, together with the Legal Clinic for Migrants and Refugees of Universidad Diego Portales, the Center for Studies and Attention to the Community of the Universidad Católica Silva Henríquez and the Legal Clinic of the Universidad Arturo Prat de Iquique.
- Support a Regional Border Protection Network that involves governmental agencies, national human rights institutions and NGOs working in the border areas of Bolivia, Chile and Peru to identify persons of concern to UNHCR, prevent their *refoulement* and support them through legal counselling, shelter and humanitarian assistance.
- Advocate for the facilitation of the naturalization procedure for refugees and provide the necessary information to ensure they are able to make an informed decision on this option.
- Promote the "Cities of Solidarity" programme adopted within the framework of the Brazil Plan of Action to facilitate the reception and integration of the population of concern. The municipality of Quilicura was declared a "City of Solidarity" in 2014, due to its commitment to the integration of refugees through the issuing of local policies. Currently, Quilicura is an example for other municipalities in Chile and Latin America.
- Advocate for Chile's accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- Advocate for the adoption of a law for the protection of stateless people and the establishment of a stateless determination procedure in line with the pledges made by the Government of Chile (Brazil Plan of Action).
- Work together with the Government of Chile, and civil society organizations on a pilot project to identify and analyse the situation of some 2,500 children who might be at risk of statelessness due to the status of their parents (foreigners in transit).

Humanitarian Assistance, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Contribute as a member of the technical working group for vulnerable cases, coordinated by the Department of Social Action of the Ministry of Interior and Public Safety where the age, gender and diversity approach is promoted.
- Carry out trainings for municipal and state officials on refugee issues through a collaborative effort with governmental and municipal entities in the country.
- Through FASIC, provide psychosocial and economic support to the most vulnerable refugees as well as counselling to refugees and asylum seekers on cultural issues and employment opportunities to promote their local integration.

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