

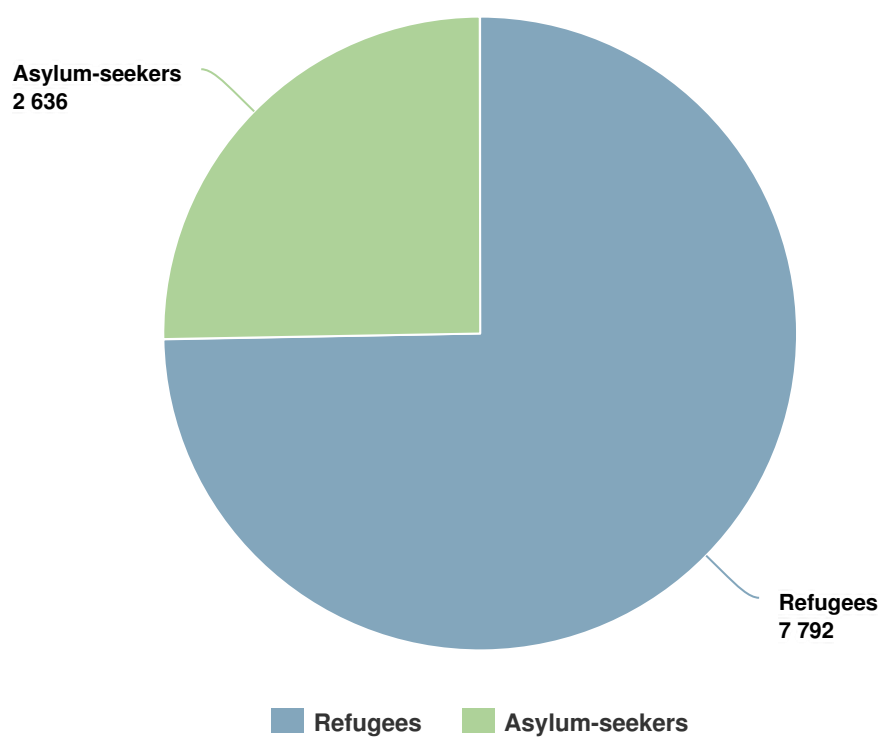
Operation: Argentina Regional Office



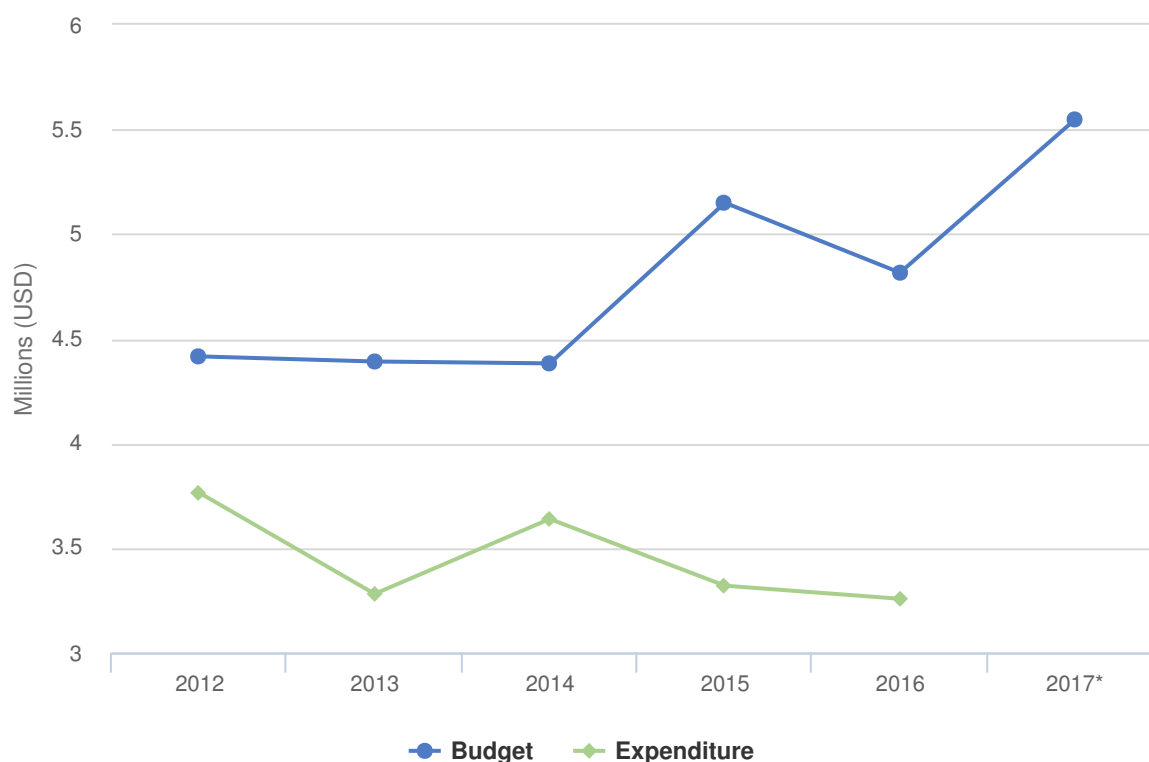
Latest update of camps and office locations **21 Nov 2016**.

People of Concern
INCREASE IN
8% **2015**

2015	10,428
2014	9,668
2013	9,247



Budgets and Expenditure for Argentina Regional Office



Working environment

In the Southern Cone, 2016 was a year of economic and social challenges, with States facing growing unemployment rates in both public and private sectors. While still benefitting from an overall favourable protection environment, particularly with respect to access to health and education, refugees nevertheless encountered difficulties in finding permanent housing and livelihood opportunities to increase their self-reliance.

The Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action (BPA) have boosted the protection agenda and regional cooperation in the Southern Cone. Follow-up mechanisms were put in place and specific work plans were elaborated with States to implement key BPA programmes: 1) Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) for asylum systems in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru; 2) Borders of solidarity and safety at the Bolivia-Chile-Peru border and initial monitoring activities towards achieving this at the Paraguay-Brazil border; 3) Livelihoods programmes were prioritised in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru; 4) Resettlement and humanitarian visa programmes were supported.

Countries in the region also continued to demonstrate solidarity in response to the Syria crisis and other humanitarian situations worldwide.

Population trends

- At the end of 2016, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers in the region reached 20,000, an increase of 87 per cent compared to 2015, due to a considerable increase of new asylum applications in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay. Official government statistics include for the first time applications under appeal/administrative review and/or judicial review in Argentina, which represent 53 per cent of the asylum applications pending a final decision.
- People of concern (PoC) in the region are primarily from the Latin America, mainly Colombia and Venezuela, but also from Africa (mainly Senegal and Nigeria) and Syria. Approximately 27 per cent of the new arrivals in

2016 were Colombians, mostly in Chile, followed by Venezuelans in Peru, people from Senegal in Argentina, and Syrians in Bolivia and Paraguay.

- Approximately 38 per cent of the PoC were female and around 20 per cent were assisted by UNHCR in the areas of basic humanitarian assistance, documentation, language, education at primary and secondary levels, vocational training, as well as legal and social counselling.

Achievements and impact

- In line with the BPA, governments assumed more responsibilities to facilitate local integration by: 1) increasing financial support for PoCs; 2) incorporating POCs into several social protection schemes including for housing, alimentation, and child allowance; and 3) working to develop public policies for assistance to PoC at national and local levels.
- The Office continued to support governments in the region to implement the BPA, exchange best practices, and incorporate protection safeguards in existing migratory systems.
- UNHCR exercised its supervisory role and delivered technical support and advice on RSD procedural standards and eligibility criteria through the QAI.
- The Office actively promoted the implementation and expansion of resettlement and other humanitarian admissions schemes to pursue durable solutions for refugees.
- UNHCR supported local protection networks to improve the protection situation at the border areas of Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

Unmet needs

- Basic humanitarian assistance could only be provided for the most vulnerable people of concern and for a limited period of time, falling short of UNHCR standards and directly impacting on people with specific needs, such as children, elderly, women at risk, single parents, people in need of psychosocial support or with disabilities, and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
 - Access to housing remains a critical unmet need. PoC are often forced to live in the outskirts, in slums or overcrowded dwellings without proper access to basic services.
 - The need for a regional child protection strategy remains, in order to ensure the coordination and response by governments in the region to respond to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, including reception and care, as well as legal representation.
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