

# Annual Results Report

**2023**

**Argentina Multi Country**

## Acknowledgements

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2023, UNHCR evidenced ongoing displacement across the sub-region due to unresolved root causes of generalized violence, persecution, and conflict. Forcibly displaced and stateless people increased steadily, with people settling in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. According to preliminary figures, the forcibly displaced and stateless population in the sub-region reached over 758,900 with no significant returns to countries of origin such as Venezuela and/or Colombia observed. Moreover, an estimation of 107,000 foreigners were residing irregularly in Chile, including 71,000 Venezuelans.

Chile remained the primary destination in this sub-region and Uruguay witnessed the largest percentage increase of new arrivals. In Bolivia, the flow of arrivals and departures of forcibly displaced population increased, mostly Venezuelans transiting irregularly.

The sub-region witnessed changes due to new governments taking office (Argentina and Paraguay) and legislative initiatives that limit the access to the territory and to the asylum procedure (Chile).

In Argentina, a new government led by President Javier Milei took office, implementing economic and social measures aimed at recovering the economy, including local currency devaluation and changes in import/export regulations. Annual inflation rate reached 211% and poverty levels nearly 50% in 2023, presenting extreme challenges for the most vulnerable forcibly displaced people.

In Paraguay, elections led to continuity in government policies under the Partido Colorado, focusing on economic prosperity and state security, with stable asylum and migration policies anticipated.

In Chile, the humanitarian and protection space for forcibly displaced people remained challenging. In 2023 there was a rise in discrimination against foreigners in general. Public opinion and political debate continued to relate human mobility with rise in criminal offenses, contributing to a public discourse based on security and restrictive measures. Legislative reforms echoed these sentiments. Government advanced in a registration exercise to map irregular persons. Simultaneously, labour market demands present an opportunity for economic inclusion of forcibly displaced people in a regular situation. Against this backdrop, UNHCR will strengthen the work with host communities and prioritize people's socio-economic inclusion.

The five countries of this sub-region participated in the Global Refugee Forum with 52 pledges made by various entities indicating potential impact in the lives of forcibly displaced and stateless people.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

People UNHCR serves in Chile access the territory and a fair and efficient international protection system.

People UNHCR serves in the Southern Cone access protection in the country of asylum according to their needs.

Country	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Argentina	1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Bolivia	1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Chile	1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Chile	1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%
Paraguay	1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Uruguay	1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

The countries of this sub-region are recognized for protection legal frameworks in accordance with international standards and an open-door policy towards refugees and migrants in their territories. This includes the enjoyment of freedom of movement for those with documentation within the territories of each country. COVID-19 led to temporary restrictions that shrunk protection space but were lifted by 2023.

In Argentina, most refugees and migrants had access to the territory via the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) agreement based on the nationality criteria; however, not many other non-regional populations had access to the asylum system at border areas. Russians and Ukrainians, which became a growing group in the country, needed to procure first a tourist visa and, only later, would be able to formalize their asylum applications.

In Argentina, refugee-led organizations (RLO) continued their process of capacity building and institutionalization. At least 30 RLO or networks conferred to create a national federation of Venezuelan associations whose main purpose is to build further capacity of all members and to advocate for their plight with a more coordinated voice.

Paraguay and Uruguay maintained fair standards for access to territory and asylum system. Uruguay changed its migration policy for Cubans and the issuance of visas changed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to the Ministry of Interior, which made it more difficult for some to access the territory from Brazil.

The Uruguayan government invested itself in gaining a degree of leadership in multilateral fora. UNHCR encouraged that this drive was also used domestically to increase the asylum capacities and the possibility of a regularization campaign.

At the GRF, Chile committed to strengthen its asylum system by decentralizing admissibility interviews and adopting ICAO standards for the issuance of travel documents; to promote the local integration through collaboration with the private sector; to develop a statelessness determination procedure; to grant complementary protection to women and girls' survivors of gender-based violence, amongst other commitments.

The National Policy on Migration was adopted, defining that complementary protection will be granted to those who have survived gender-based violence, or persecution related to their sexual orientation even if they do not meet the requisites to be recognized as refugees.

The Biometric Registration, implemented by the National Migration Service, allowed the identification of over 130,000 people at the end of 2023 (91% Venezuelan refugees and migrants) who reside in the country and don't have regular legal status. This is not a regularization process but supported the inclusion of people in human mobility in national statistics. The registration exercise will be concluded in 2024.

In 2023, there were no confirmed cases of refoulement.

## 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

**People UNHCR serves in Chile, including those with specific needs and survivors of gender-based violence, can meet their basic needs.**

**People UNHCR serves in the Southern Cone meet their basic needs in dignity.**

Country	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Bolivia	2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.60%	85.60%
Chile	2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	68.89%	68.89%
Chile	2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	91.63%	80.26%

Humanitarian assistance in different modalities such as in-kind aid, direct access to emergency shelter, and especially cash assistance) played a catalytic role in improving the living conditions of forcibly displaced and stateless people, especially if recently arrived. In 2023, according to UNHCR's post-distribution monitoring exercise, 99% of the people who received UNHCR's cash assistance reported an improvement in their living conditions, while 82% were able to stabilize their housing conditions and expected to remain there for more than six months. With the assistance provided, the most vulnerable forcibly displaced people met their food, housing, hygiene, and health care needs. No strategies linked to child labour or participation in risky activities to cover basic needs were reported. In Argentina, 82% of people assisted were able to open bank accounts thanks to UNHCR's cash assistance, and those who were unable to open an account were mainly due to documentation barriers. In Bolivia, 85% spent the cash in local stores or markets, evidencing the multiplier effect of cash assistance in host communities, enabling peaceful coexistence, and reducing xenophobia. In Paraguay, compared to 2022, negative coping strategies (such as reducing spending on hygiene items, failing to pay rent, or selling productive assets) were reduced by 11%. Four percents of beneficiaries had to resort to extreme coping strategies, a factor that was reduced by 5% compared to the results of 2022.

In Uruguay, 44% (14% more than 2022) of the population could access social protection systems, mainly health and education, while 55% could open a bank account facilitating their financial inclusion.

In Chile, 98% (3% more than in 2022) reported a reduction in the feeling of stress after receiving assistance. Despite the lack of documentation, 95% (16% more than in 2022) of the population were able to access social protection programmes, especially health services.

In Chile, 2,457 extremely vulnerable forcibly displaced people received humanitarian support to cover their basic needs, complementing the response provided by the government of Chile, in the transitional shelter facilities in Lobito and Colchane. Additionally, UNHCR supported 6,817 forcibly displaced people in getting access to emergency shelter and adequate, affordable housing through UNHCR's coordination with civil society, public and private sectors.

UNHCR also played a catalytic role through the R4V to help to increase the number of actors providing life-saving support to forcibly displaced people in the sub-region, particularly in Bolivia.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

**People UNHCR serves in Chile are empowered to be self-reliant, locally integrate and build resilient futures together with host communities.**

**People UNHCR serves in the Southern Cone are empowered to be self-reliant, locally integrate and build resilient futures together with host communities.**

Country	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Chile	4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Chile	4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed	Stateless Persons	32	65
Chile	4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,138	2,343

The countries of this sub-region remained a destination for those on the move in the Americas. Overall arrival figures kept rising in Chile and in Uruguay while in Argentina and Paraguay a small decrease was reported. In these countries, forcibly displaced people reported a firm intention to stay, if allowed to do so. In Bolivia, a steady flow of forcibly displaced people transited through the country. People on the move reported that having access to documentation was a key factor in deciding to stay or not in the country, hence the importance for them to keep having access to a legal status whether through the migration framework or through asylum.

In Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay, the socio-economic environment remained relatively stable. Only in the case of Argentina, due to the polarization of the economic debate during the campaign leading to the Presidential election and measures taken immediately after election, forcibly displaced people reported concerns about the economic situation of the country.

In Chile, governmental entities, municipalities, and civil society organizations, with the support of UNHCR, made significant progress in promoting self-sufficiency and local integration of people with international protection needs. The Ministry of Labour created the Labour Route for Migrants and Refugees, aimed at facilitating decent employment for forcibly displaced people; Fondo Esperanza established the first communal bank for forcibly displaced people without legal status in Chile; the National Migration Service jointly and with the support of UNHCR brought together 80 municipalities belonging to the Migrant Seal programme- many of which are part of the Cities of Solidarity network, where a work plan was created for the integration and inclusion of forcibly displaced people and migrants in host communities. Additionally, forcibly displaced people had further access to education and health, thanks to the work done with host communities through quick impact projects.

In Uruguay, structural developments took place with the government leading and socializing a process of construction of a National Integration Plan for refugees and migrants. This policy was thoroughly consulted with civil society, the United Nations, private sector, and academia and led to a set of objectives that favour the empowerment of the population to become self-reliant. Expectations from many actors involved were high regarding the funding of the plan.

Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay all made concrete and significant pledges during the GRF regarding the inclusion and adoption of public policies aiming at the effective integration of the forcibly displaced in their respective countries. Most of the pledges will entail significant inter-governmental coordination and sometimes funding from international cooperation to become a reality.

Regarding complementary pathways, 15 people arrived in Argentina and one person arrived in Uruguay.

## Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Indicator	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Argentina	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Chile	3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.55%	95.96%
Chile	3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.22%	85.09%
Paraguay	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Uruguay	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

### 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

On access to asylum procedures and other legal statuses, in Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay and Chile the main challenge remained the absence of measures to facilitate access to the asylum procedure.

In Chile, restrictive reforms and new legislative proposals were discussed at the Parliament, including on the current legislation implementing the 51 Convention and its Protocol (refugee law). UNHCR actively engaged with government and parliamentarians to provide technical orientation and advocate for maintaining international protection as per international and regional standards.

In Paraguay and Argentina, electoral processes pushed asylum issues (including access to legal status and integration of foreigners) downwards in the public agenda. Both countries, however, did propose significant pledges during the GRF.

The structural economic situation in Argentina and the continuous rise in prices of basic goods impacted and hindered the integration and inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people. This situation tested their resilience in an incremental and continuous manner throughout the year as they have weaker support networks. Around 77% of households relied on stress strategies, such as reducing meals or going into debt to pay their rent, and 13% relied on more extreme coping mechanisms such as begging or collecting food scraps. However, both percentages were reduced 18% in comparison with 2022. Inflation remained a challenge in Argentina justifying the reassessment of cash assistance during the year. In 2024, UNHCR will carry out a blockchain pilot to combat the erosion of the cash assistance delivered. In Chile and Bolivia, due to forcibly displaced people's lack of documentation, UNHCR had limited possibilities to deliver cash assistance via financial service providers, affecting the efficiency of implementation and increasing security risks for people assisted.

UNHCR observed that a gap remained when addressing the basic needs of new arrivals in border areas through humanitarian assistance. Capacities and resources of the UN agencies, faith-based organizations, and some government social protection schemes were limited and do not meet the current demand.

In Chile, limited access to the asylum procedures at the borders and restrictive migratory policies remained an area of attention. UNHCR and its partners observed obstacles at entry points for people trying to access refugee status determination (RSD) procedures or file asylum claims. There was an increase in xenophobic attitudes against refugees along with increasing negative statements in the media affecting public opinion. Moreover, there was a growing perception of national crime and insecurity linked to an increase in mixed movements towards Chile. UNHCR maintained close contact with authorities at both the national and local level on these issues.



## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR collaborated closely with line ministries and national eligibility bodies, investing in effective dialogue and surveyed common grounds for collaboration in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. With the establishment of a presence in Uruguay, UNHCR worked intensively to better understand the insights of decision-making processes in the country and created improved channels of communication through which initiatives can be proposed.

The 'Cities of Solidarity' initiative served as the central pillar for sustainable solutions, fostering cooperation, empathy, and support to forcibly displaced, migrant and stateless people in urban communities. These cities recognize the importance of collective well-being, where residents come together to address common challenges, promote social inclusion, and create a sense of belonging.

UNHCR's prioritized strategic partnerships with refugee-led organizations (RLO) and provided small grants to enhance their capacities. As a result, an increasing number of RLOs engaged in the National R4V Platforms in Argentina and Uruguay and were able to engage directly with national authorities. The RLO 'Community Sponsorship Network of Argentina' even presented pledges at the GRF.

MCO Argentina collaborated with 21 partners implementing funds (governmental, I/N-NGOs and RLOs).

UNHCR co-chaired, jointly with IOM, the R4V Platforms for Chile and for the Southern Cone sub-region, collaborating with 80 partners to provide refugees, migrants and host communities with humanitarian, protection and socio-economic integration assistance.

Collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the R4V Platform, particularly during Chile's pro tempore presidency of the Quito Process, allowed both frameworks to mutually contribute and establish joint agendas for key events, such as the launch of the results of the joint assessment of Chile's needs and the response plan for 2024.

Significant progress was made by Chile in identifying and including refugees and migrants in national statistics during 2023. The new estimate of foreigners in the country included, for the first time, a percentage of individuals without regular legal status and advancements with biometric registration. UNHCR, along with the National Migration Service, will work on a sociodemographic characterization study, allowing the identification and highlighting of profiles of people in need of protection.

UNHCR coordinated with the Resident Coordinator Offices and the UN country teams (UNCTs), leading to the inclusion of the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNDSCEF), as well as to the presentation of four common pledges at the GRF by the UNCTs of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay. UNHCR also participated in UN Migration Networks contributing to implement their Plans of Actions aiming to improve synergies and reduce duplication with other inter-agency spaces.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

**Control, monitoring and supervision mechanisms facilitate access to territory, to protection and to rights.**

**People in need of international protection that enter the territory can access registration and documentation procedures.**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Argentina MCO	1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Chile	1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Chile	1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Stateless Persons	Unknown	100.00%	100.00%
Chile	1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR remained as a key actor in a protection-oriented response at borders areas, promoting regular and safe access to territory, access to asylum and/or legal stay arrangements for forcibly displaced and stateless people. The presence of PAOs (Spanish acronym for Assistance and Orientation Points) with the permanent presence of UNHCR's partners was essential for monitoring mixed flows, ensuring government registration and intervention in complex individual cases and for conducting mitigating measures of the risk of refoulement and rejection at key borders.

In 2023, UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance, legal orientation and information to 5,758 refugees and asylum-seekers in seven PAOs located in Desaguadero (Bolivia), Mendoza, La Quiaca, San Salvador de Jujuy, Posadas and Puerto Iguazú (Argentina) and El Chuy (Uruguay). UNHCR also maintained information services and monitoring in other border areas through joint field missions with governments and partners, as well as other relevant counterparts including other UN agencies.

Such field visits and monitoring activities were crucial not only to obtain a more comprehensive picture of flows, trends, population profiles and protection needs, but also to regularly adjust the scope and type of presence needed in each location and to adjust the coordinated responses and interventions. This also allowed the assessment of entry conditions, humanitarian needs, and the improved identification of people in need of international protection. UNHCR also reinforced strategic alliances with public defense offices, ombudsperson offices, legal clinics, and other legal aid providers to strengthen the administrative or judicial interventions in cases of where protection incidents such as impeding access to territories, restrictions to access asylum and/or the need for child protection services.

In Bolivia, UNHCR contributed with other UN agencies to the strengthening of Ombudsperson's Offices in order to expand their presence in border areas. This involved opening new offices specifically in Pisiga (border with Chile), Bermejo (border with Argentina), and Yacuiba (border with Argentina).

In Chile, UNHCR provided technical and financial assistance to the government in shelters and reception arrangements at the northern border. UNHCR provided support for infrastructure, human resources and technical assistance in case management and gender-based violence responses. Access to asylum remained a challenge, and therefore UNHCR supported partners to provide legal orientation, support and representation when needed, as well as access to timely information.

In all the sub-region, UNHCR and partners provided orientation and legal guidance on access to rights. The different information channels available allowed access to relevant information, the identification of people with international protection needs and timely reference to specialized protection services.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

**Asylum systems and other regularisation modalities, as well as statelessness procedures, are strengthened in line with international and regional standards.**

**People with international protection needs have access to asylum and statelessness procedures**

**People with international protection needs have access to fair and efficient asylum/statelessness procedures, migratory alternatives, complementary pathways or resettlement.**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Chile	2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,685.00	1,300.00	1,873.00
Argentina MCO	2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Chile	2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Chile	2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	70.00%	0.00%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR was a key actor in ensuring the regular functioning of National Refugees Commissions (CONAREs) in the sub-region, providing technical assistance and making operational interventions in registration, processing applications, decisions and documentation to forcibly displaced and stateless people.

UNHCR ensured its regular participation in CONAREs meetings, providing ongoing technical support to eligibility staff, delivering regular training on international refugee law and refugee and stateless status determination procedures, sharing advice on individual cases and drafting a variety of proposals related to the simplification or differentiation of refugee and stateless status determination (RSD/SSD) procedures.

In 2023, UNHCR Paraguay stood out as the country recognizing most Venezuelan refugees in the sub-region, amounting 950 recognitions during the year and with more than 5,400 recognized refugees as of 31 December 2023. UNHCR systematic advocacy and regular technical support to the CONARE of Paraguay enabled the adoption of thematic regulations to enhance the RSD/SDD administrative procedures, and to draft a joint comprehensive workplan.

In Chile, UNHCR supported a gap analysis and recommendations for the strengthening of the asylum system through an international consultant who also presented a training module for the Refugee Section. UNHCR supported more than 17,000 people, through legal assistance aimed at obtaining a legal status, carried out advocacy actions within the legislative debate of changes to the Refugee and Migration Laws and the new Constitutional referendum. UNHCR carried out border monitoring applying monitoring tools to 1,343 individuals in the Northern Region. For the prevention of statelessness, UNHCR provided legal assistance to modify the birth certificates of children born in Chile registered as children born to transient foreigners, with the aim of regularizing their status in Chile. This benefited 62 children who underwent displacement to Chile later.

UNHCR promoted and regularly participated in governments' regional integration spaces such as MERCOSUR's CONAREs forum, promoting harmonized approaches of common interest issues with the governments, such as the simplification of family reunification procedures, documentation standards for asylum-seekers and refugees and measures for the eradication of statelessness. UNHCR advocated for such regional coordination to promote GRF pledges and other initiatives among asylum and migratory authorities.

During 2023, UNHCR trained and sensitized more than 340 government officials and other authorities on international refugee law and RSD/SDD issues in the sub-region. In Uruguay, UNHCR conducted a comprehensive gap analysis of the asylum process, and the National Refugee Commission (CORE) identified a lack of institutional capacity to timely process 24,000 pending asylum claims and procedural barriers that receded from fair and efficient procedures.

## 5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

**National protection services include the needs of different groups according to age, gender and diversity - in particular, gender-based violence survivors and displaced children, while communities are actively engaged in prevention, risk mitigation and prevention activities.**

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During 2023, UNHCR took steps towards enhancing its joint work and cooperation with UNICEF (particularly in Bolivia and Uruguay) to strengthen advocacy efforts, providing training for relevant authorities involved in child protection issues from different government areas, and intervening directly on cases with partners.

In Bolivia, UNHCR together with its specialized partners managed to include 1,580 children in educational activities, including computing and digital literacy, non-formal educational and recreational activities through the "mobile classroom" initiative. At the same time, UNHCR's efforts to ensure the access of children to formal education and the provision of support and direct advocacy with schools allowed the enrolment of children and continued to sensitize education authorities and expand networks. The gaps in the local capacities of the decentralized governmental child protection systems to respond and coordinate timely and adequately protection measures demanded UNHCR and its partners to step up advocacy and direct interventions on individual cases. These individual cases and experiences were shared with UNICEF and IOM and later utilized as evidence to promote policy changes in the access to education for foreigners in the country. As a result of this advocacy, the Ministry of Education adopted a new regulation that simplifies the documentation requirements for children of foreign nationality when enrolling in primary and secondary education. Implementation of this regulation will not be exempt of challenges and advocacy and awareness raising efforts will continue in 2024.

UNHCR and partners also worked with other vulnerable groups and strive to prevent gender violence. In this vein, UNHCR conducted diverse initiatives aimed at mitigating the risks of gender-based violence through information and awareness activities, the strengthening of community response networks (women support groups). Also, UNHCR and protection partners continued delivering direct interventions and safe referrals for access to legal assistance, health services (including the provision of psychological assistance), physical protection and access to justice. Together with specialized partners, UNHCR was able

to reinforce and consolidate community networks of women and LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless people, emphasizing on the prevention of violence and the access to rights for gender-based violence survivors. These initiatives also enabled the possibility to identify, accompany and conduct safe referrals to appropriate services for 505 gender-based violence survivors.

## 7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

**Peaceful coexistence to facilitate inclusion is enhanced through the implementation of communication and community-based initiatives targeting people UNHCR serves, host communities, and local governments.**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Chile	7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62.50%	50.00%	80.00%
Chile	7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Limited: ≤ 39 points	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Moderate: 40-69 points

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To transform local territories into peaceful and secure environments, UNHCR worked on strengthening the responses of local governments and women-led organizations in Chile. UNHCR supported the "Massage Therapy School" project allowing 35 Venezuelan, Colombian, and Chilean women to be trained and certified to offer massage sessions, improving their economic autonomy. UNHCR also provided support to two Venezuelan women-led organizations with social and sports activities. Additionally, UNHCR signed an agreement with a new partner, the Free Sports Foundation, focusing on three local areas (Estación Central, Santiago, and Iquique), densely populated by Venezuelans, to enhance peaceful coexistence through the improvement of public spaces and developing sports activities.

UNHCR strengthened its strategic support to the National Service for Women and Gender Equality by improving the living conditions in six shelters for survivors of gender-based violence. UNHCR reinforced its ties with the National Migration Service and the Undersecretariat of Regional Development to expand the reach of the Cities of Solidarity initiative. This involved supporting local and regional governments, leading to the participation of more than 80 municipalities in the first meeting on local governments and human mobility.

To address xenophobia, UNHCR led a study to identify trends in the spread of fake news and misinformation against refugees. UNHCR carried out awareness activities, including: "#LaCamisetaporChile" campaign, reaching over 200,000 people; a photo exhibition for World Refugee Day visited by around 18,000 people, the launch of a cookbook "Mi Mesa es tu Mesa II" distributed to 5,000 people, support for the "Destino Exilio" podcast with 11,000 plays, a concert promoting the talent of young refugees attended by 100 people, and the production of videos sharing refugee life stories.

In the northern region of Chile, through collaborative work with the community, UNHCR contributed to the implementation of quick impact projects (QIPs). This included improving infrastructure for a sports space at a school in Arica, benefiting approximately 600 girls and boys. UNHCR donated a mobile clinic to the municipality of Arica, offering general medicine services to refugees, migrants, and host communities. UNHCR supported too Aymara entrepreneurs by enhancing infrastructure and materials in their workplaces, benefiting up to 70 women. UNHCR made improvements to the Colchane Rural Health Centre, border town with Bolivia, to provide better access to healthcare for host communities, refugees, and migrants in Chile, serving 400 people per month.

In the Antofagasta, UNHCR put in place two QIPS in coordination with local authorities: the donation of sports equipment for girls and boys benefiting 100 refugees, migrants, and community members; and the renovation of kitchens in three Family Residences under the Ministry of Social Development, benefiting 130 refugees and migrants.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**People UNHCR serves have access to assistance and services to cover their basic needs based on their socio-economic vulnerabilities and capacities.**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Argentina MCO	8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.74%	3.00%	0.77%
Chile	8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.21%	9.00%	1.63%
Chile	8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.22%	100.00%	99.94%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During 2023, UNHCR distributed cash assistance to 11,297 of the most vulnerable forcibly displaced people in this sub-region to meet their urgent basic needs, using multi-purpose cash. UNHCR adhered to strict protocols to guarantee safe and secure delivery of cash. The eligibility criteria used included an assessment of vulnerabilities and capabilities evaluating access to food, housing, and basic services, as well as coping strategies and well-being. UNHCR delivered 93% of the transfers to households in which women were the main point of contact. Refugees spent most of the assistance in food, rent, hygiene and health-related costs. A cash post-distribution monitoring exercise conducted in November 2023 revealed that 73% of the people reduced their stress significantly after they received UNHCR cash assistance, while 99% manifested that they had improved their living conditions with and after the assistance. The R4V platform in its coordination role contributed to refer different forcibly displaced people to other services to provide assistance in a more sustainable way.

The provision of emergency accommodation was a fundamental axis of UNHCR's work in 2023.

To meet the accommodation needs of people entering Argentina, UNHCR and its partner provided an emergency short-term shelter to 292 refugees and asylum-seekers (47 in Buenos Aires, 219 in La Quiaca and 26 in Puerto Iguazú). In Bolivia, 1,786 forcibly displaced people were assisted in three shelters (two in La Paz and one in Santa Cruz) or referred to hostels.

In Chile, 6,817 forcibly displaced people received rental subsidies and emergency accommodation, mainly in the regions of Arica and Parinacota, Tarapacá, Antofagasta, and the Metropolitan Region. UNHCR carried out joint work with state accommodation facilities (family residences) to deepen the support of highly vulnerable families benefiting from emergency accommodation.

To facilitate access to the mental health support in Chile, UNHCR and partners set up a psychological support centre in August 2023 to provide psychological care at an individual and group level, considering referral to specialists in the private and public health system. Over 243 people were supported by this centre.

In the Tarapacá region, UNHCR supported the improvements of the infrastructure and basic conditions of the Transitory Centers in Colchane and Lobito according to the needs of the refugees and migrants staying there, reaching 3,998 people in Lobito and of food aid to refugees and migrants in Huara.

### 13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

**Host communities and systems enable the social and economic inclusion and participation of people UNHCR serves.**

**People UNHCR serves have enhanced access to decent and formal employment and self-employment opportunities, and basic rights.**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Chile	13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.25%	90.00%	96.25%
Chile	13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.39%	7.00%	6.19%

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023 employment opportunities, initiatives and projects facilitated access to professional training, job placement, and employment programmes for refugees and migrants. The projects engaged local governments and the private sector, contributing to the social and economic inclusion of forcibly displaced people in local economies. The impact extended to cities like Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Córdoba, in Argentina, and Montevideo, in Uruguay, benefiting approximately 1,200 people and their families. Some of them specifically targeted refugee and migrant women to promote their presence in traditionally masculine sectors such as technology and construction.

Almost 300 refugee and migrant entrepreneur households in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile received seed capital and expert training, benefitting 920 individuals in total. Local-level opportunities were also available in Córdoba and Mendoza (Argentina), where local governments, business incubators, and vocational training institutions supported refugee and migrant entrepreneurs. These initiatives strengthened micro-businesses, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion for entrepreneurs and their families.

UNHCR collaborated with the Ministries of Labour in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay to guarantee the inclusion of refugees and migrants in public development policies and boost their economic engagement within local markets. This effort included promoting employment opportunities and entrepreneurship, ultimately aiming to enhance their economic welfare and reduce reliance on humanitarian aid.

In Chile, UNHCR benefited a total of 3,789 forcibly displaced people facilitating their access to decent work and self-employment, including. Additionally, 145 healthcare professionals received support to validate their university degrees, and 585 individuals received guidance and training to access employment.

Entrepreneurship development remained as an alternative for those facing difficulties in accessing formal employment. Within these initiatives, 75 household entrepreneurs received support for the development and growth of their gastronomic businesses reaching 268 individuals. UNHCR also supported 50 entrepreneurs for the marketing of their products and/or services on the website mercado Inclusivo, with more than 1,500 visits to the web.

To address the needs of extra-regional refugees and asylum seekers, UNHCR with partners facilitated Spanish courses and interpretation services. Moreover, it developed a specialized program involving 25 individuals of Afghan, Russian, and Ukrainian nationality aimed to promote their access to the labour market.

To support the financial inclusion of forcibly displaced people, UNHCR in Chile collaborated with “Fondo Esperanza” to promote access to financial services for individuals in irregular situations.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

People UNHCR serves have the option of settling in Chile via resettlement, family reunification and complementary pathways.

People UNHCR serves have the possibility of settling in the Southern Cone countries via resettlement and complementary pathways.

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Chile	15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0	0
Argentina MCO	15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35	39	12

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During 2023, UNHCR implemented activities to ensure that resettlement (RST) and complementary pathways (CP) remained open to the reception of people in need of a third country solution.

Argentina's National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) launched at the end of 2023 a new RST and CP Plan. Critical features like protection safeguards in CP were included, including the analysis of the need of protection safeguards in each case by CONARE and the possibility to request asylum upon arrival. The Plan relies on community sponsorship (CS) to offer reception and integration services to resettled refugees learning on past experiences implemented in the country. This framework also allows for the consideration of other pathways.

The last remaining families in the pipeline of the Syria Programme (two cases, eight people) arrived in Argentina and were supported in their integration process by the Sponsors Network, a group of organizations who provide financial, emotional and practical support toward reception and integration of resettled refugees, rendering positive integration outcomes. The costs of integration of these cases were fully covered by the sponsoring organizations.

The GROW project in Argentina was successfully implemented, through the smooth collaboration between partner ADRA, national partner Fundación ACNUR and UNHCR. The three families (16 people) attained self-sustainability, with only one of them receiving minimal support. This experience also had a positive impact on the host community, through the mentoring scheme created by GROW. Fifteen local volunteers who are donors to the Fundación ACNUR reported to have lived a life-changing experience and expressed an interest in supporting other refugee causes, including through UNHCR.

CS partners were successful in accompanying the integration of other beneficiaries of CP, including refugees from Eritrea, Afghanistan, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

UNHCR was reached by the MFA and Congresswomen to support the reception of Afghan refugees in Argentina. UNHCR also intervened in a case of an Afghan student residing in Iran who applied for a student visa but lacked necessary documentation. He was granted a humanitarian visa and was recognized as a refugee after seeking asylum. This case represented an interesting experience to explore third-level education pathways and its challenges.

UNHCR supported governments and civil society organizations (CSO) to present RST/CP related pledges at the Global Refugee Forum, that were aligned with UNHCR's multi-year strategy. Argentina and Uruguay presented pledges related to RST/CP, including family reunifications and labour mobility. CSO and private sector partners in both countries committed to support this area, including CS, skills-based pathways, and family reunification.

UNHCR facilitated four family reunifications (eight people from Venezuela, Colombia, and Syria) in Argentina and Uruguay, with both technical and/or financial support.



## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR applied the Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) policy throughout all areas of intervention. In 2023, UNHCR implemented AGD-related activities directly and through targeted interventions within partnership agreements as well as joint efforts with UN agencies, refugee and migrant led organizations and forcibly displaced and stateless people. Different aspects in context of the countries of this sub-region were considered to plan activities for women and girls as well as other population groups through a diversity lens. Chile had a principal role in the GRF on GBV related issues, co-leading a multistakeholder pledge on gender equality and protection from gender based violence.

Main achievements in 2023 include improved disaggregated data through further rollout of proGres v4, development of data collection tools and participatory exercises; enhanced interventions with community-based and refugee-led organizations focusing on community outreach and first line responders; meaningful participation through the empowerment of women and transgender women; targeted support to women and LGBTIQ+ persons through entrepreneurial and seed capital projects; and reinforced education and integration for children between ages 7 and 11. Fifty-eight per cent of cash assistance was delivered to women head of households, 43% to pregnant, lactating or women with children under five years, reflecting AGD considerations in the targeting criteria for cash.

UNHCR and UN Women collaborated with refugee and migrant women organizations continuing the capacity building efforts, selecting three of those to benefit from Grant Agreements. Projects awarded focused on prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence and enhancement of community networks.

Specific actions were implemented to ensure an AGD approach, such as participatory assessments which included specific focus group discussions such as with youth, elderly people, women, girls and hosting population.

## Section 3: Resources

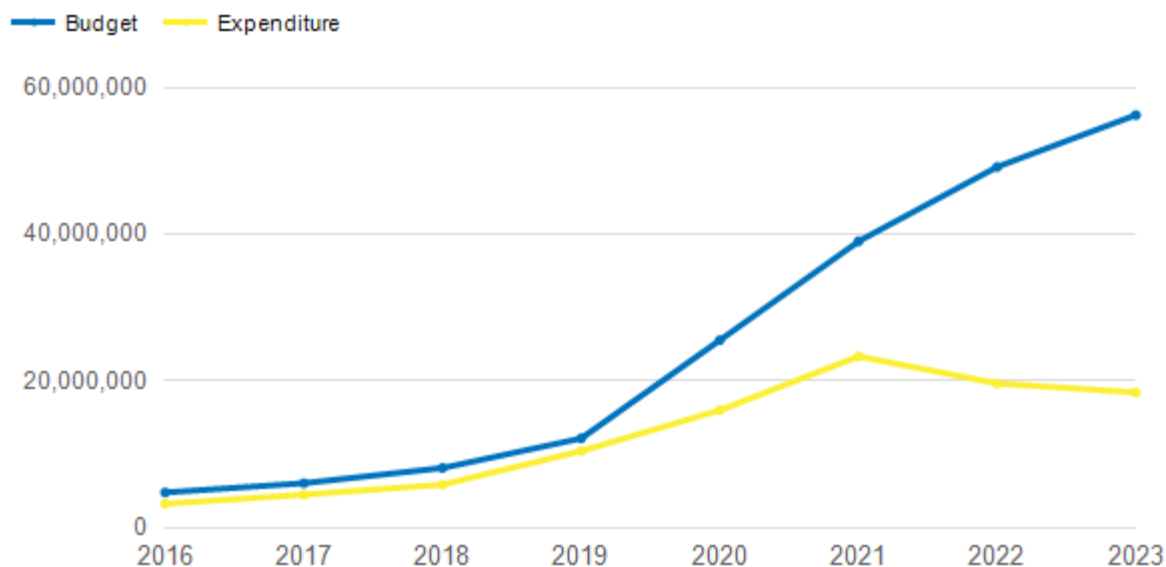
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

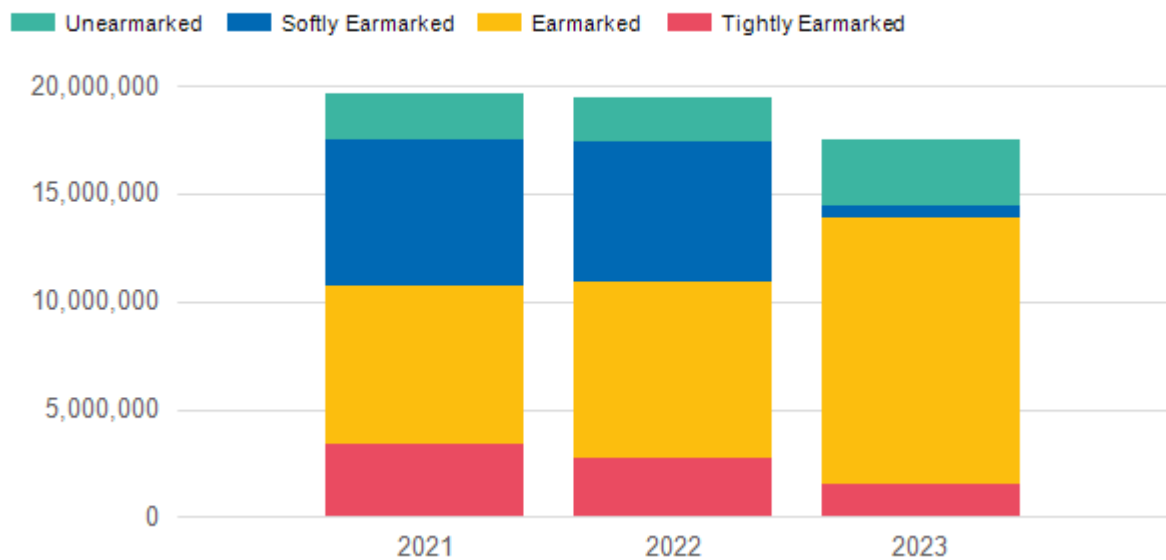
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	22,343,327	7,764,233	34.75%	7,764,233	100.00%
IA2: Assist	19,600,320	5,637,394	28.76%	5,637,394	100.00%
IA4: Solve	14,287,708	5,032,225	35.22%	5,032,225	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,231,356</b>	<b>18,433,852</b>	<b>32.78%</b>	<b>18,433,852</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	6,929,196	2,437,880	35.18%	2,437,880	100.00%
OA2: Status	12,869,445	4,344,380	33.76%	4,344,380	100.00%
OA5: Children	2,544,686	981,974	38.59%	981,974	100.00%
OA7: Community	3,358,000	1,719,743	51.21%	1,719,743	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	19,600,320	5,637,394	28.76%	5,637,394	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	7,826,312	2,767,871	35.37%	2,767,871	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	3,103,396	544,611	17.55%	544,611	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,231,356</b>	<b>18,433,852</b>	<b>32.78%</b>	<b>18,433,852</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

Despite ongoing needs, due to a severe reduction of funds available, UNHCR was forced to reduce its presence and operational footprint in the sub-region.

UNHCR strived to maintain the priorities of its strategy with the scope of implementation significantly reviewed, considering the changing operational context and evaluation of ongoing programmes, identifying areas where UNHCR’s direct engagement will have the most impact with effective delivery of protection and solutions.

The negative impact of the 2023 cumulative inflation in Argentina had repercussions in the budget, in particular key interventions including cash assistance and shelter.

UNHCR made efforts to diversify its donor base, working closely in Argentina with its national partner Fundación ACNUR Argentina (national partner) exerting efforts to raise funds from the Argentinian private sector, despite the challenging economic environment in the country. The Office also made efforts to engage with non-traditional donors, trying to secure funds in all the five countries covered. Maintaining close contact with traditional donors, as well as carrying out regular field missions proved positive for UNHCR in sustaining and even increasing earmarked contributions for this sub-region .

Looking ahead to 2024, securing predictable and sustained funding for strengthening States' asylum capacities, including resettlement, integrating forcibly displaced people in their new host countries and continuing to assist the most vulnerable cases to cover for their basic needs, is prioritized. With consistent funding, UNHCR will be better equipped to address ongoing challenges and respond effectively to emerging needs, including those because of climate change, especially in disaster prone countries such as Chile.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Fostering solutions and inclusion in this sub-region require the continuous involvement of local governments and refugee and community-led organizations as measures to secure sustainable impact in the lives of forcibly displaced and stateless people. Further engagement with international finance institutions and the private sector is needed to broaden opportunities for solutions for forcibly displaced people, leveraging their respective strengths and resources.

Strategic allocation of resources is key to maximizing impact. By identifying and prioritizing projects and areas where interventions can yield significant results, UNHCR will address pressing issues more efficiently such as access to protection, services, and livelihood opportunities. Enhanced collaboration and partnerships with UN agencies - framed within the R4V platform and the corresponding United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs)- proved useful to shape effective and sustainable responses, aiming to leave no one behind. Going forward, UNHCR will leverage on the UN Common pledges 2.0 by UNCTs in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay to widen the agenda for inclusion and include the refugee and stateless plight into the programmes and activities of other UN actors, leaving no one behind.

The design and implementation of multiyear institutional strengthening projects i.e. with National Refugee Commissions (CONAREs) and/or other State agencies – require careful evaluation of the political contexts, government ownership of the gaps, needs and workplan components as well as specific resource allocations to foster sustainability of the support provided by international cooperation. Reinforced contacts and communication will need to be sought regularly.

Special efforts are needed in Uruguay and Bolivia, where the presence of refugees and migrants is pronounced but often overlooked.



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

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