

“ New **global challenges**, such as **COVID-19** and the effects of **climate change**, on top of persistent ones like rising **forced displacement**, showcase just how critical the **right to a nationality** is. Everyone needs to be **counted** and be **visible** in the eyes of their country and government, and **included** into responses.”

Filippo Grandi

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

You can read the press release about the anniversary of the 1961 Statelessness Convention [HERE](#).



Situational Highlights



The Americas still lead the world in the numbers of COVID-19 infections, representing seven of the 20 countries and territories worldwide with the highest mortality rates, according to [PAHO/WHO](#).

Brazil, Mexico and the **United States** have the highest number of cases. With hospital occupancy at 97 per cent on account of the coronavirus, **Guatemala** was the country most affected by the pandemic in **Central America** throughout the month of August. In **South America**, hospitalizations are falling, but the number of new cases remains high.

Only one in four people in **Latin America and the Caribbean** have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Officials at the **World Health Organization** called on the countries with surplus vaccines to speed up their donation of doses to Latin American and Caribbean, where the speed of vaccinations continues to be sluggish, overall.

By 30 August, the COVAX mechanism delivered **36.1 million doses of the vaccine** in 32 countries and territories throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

The vaccine is available to UNHCR's population of concern in 17 countries throughout the region, regardless of their migratory status. As part of a bid to speed up the vaccinations of people with irregular migratory status, **Colombia** is conducting a census of people whose. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the government organized two vaccination campaigns for people of concern – including those in the country irregularly – administering a total of 1,925 doses.

Health care remains of critical concern in the aftermath of the 14 August earthquake in **Haiti**, which damaged many hospital throughout the island nation. Those hospitals that are still operating are overwhelmed by patients. The quake has also resulted in delays to the vaccination campaign.

Operational Context

Central America and Mexico are facing unprecedented pressure as the number of people seeking international protection rises, even as access to asylum and territory is being limited due to troubling border restrictions, [said](#) Gillian Triggs, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, as she wrapped up a two-week-long mission to the region. **Mexico** reported record numbers of asylum claims, with over 13,000 claims received this year, through the end of August.



According to **Panama's** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, some 70,000 people, most of them Haitians, have passed through the Darien Gap so far this year, including 18,000 people in August alone. More than 11,000 people in mixed movements from Haiti, Cuba, Africa, and Venezuela are stranded in the Colombian border city of Necoclí. Countries across Latin America and the Caribbean have seen cross-border movements of **Venezuelan** refugees and migrants, mainly via irregular routes.

The slow pace of the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic continues to hamper refugees and asylum seekers' ability to meet their basic needs and reach self-sufficiency. A UNHCR survey in **Panama** shows that more than half of the respondents eat only twice, or fewer times, daily. Additionally, 51 percent of those surveyed reported they were unable to pay rent for several months over the last quarter, putting them at risk of eviction or homelessness. Just over half of all respondents reported being unemployed.

— UNHCR's response in the Americas —



Since March 2020, UNHCR has been working to provide emergency assistance, including safe shelter spaces and cash-based assistance, as well as to advocate for the inclusion of refugees in national public health responses, social safety nets and emergency assistance plans. In 2021, UNHCR in the Americas adopted a two-fold strategy aimed at providing immediate assistance to cover basic needs and protection of displaced population at heightened risk, as well as promoting mid- to long-term solutions with a focus on regularization and inclusion. UNHCR's advocacy for the inclusion of people of concern in national plans is key, particularly amid the coronavirus pandemic. The scope and success of such initiatives will depend on the amount of funding the region receives, both in terms of humanitarian grants and financial loans to receiving States.

— Response in progress: 1 January - 31 August, 2021 —

 118,096 people supported with health consultations (primary, secondary, tertiary, as well as mental, sexual and reproductive health).	 292,323 individuals receiving Non-Food Items (NFIs).	 181,853 individuals receiving legal assistance.
 51,735 people of concern to UNHCR benefitting from improved access to safe water.	 173,527 people receiving cash grants or vouchers.	 14,901 children and adolescents of concern to UNHCR provided with educational support (materials, enrollment support, or other).
 341,022 people benefitting from improved hygiene conditions (including through the distribution of hygiene kits, the construction of latrines and/or other interventions).	 270,286 individuals registered by UNHCR and/or implementing partner(s) - age/gender breakdown.	 5,170 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence supported by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (with legal assistance, psychosocial counselling, or by being provided a safe space).
 145,017 people of concern to UNHCR supported with shelter, settlement or temporary collective accommodation solutions.	 727,697 people provided with information by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (in-person or remotely, e.g. Hotlines/call centres, WhatsApp, etc.).	 14,782 children supported by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (via case management).

Ongoing initiatives...

To support health measures in the northern border town of Upala, **Costa Rica**, which has seen an influx of people fleeing Nicaragua, UNHCR donated 800 bars of soap and 120 jerricans. UNHCR also donated mattresses and blankets to community associations to support the contingency response in the wake of heavy rains.

In **Aruba**, UNHCR is supporting a campaign to get more children with irregular migratory status vaccinated against Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Polio and Pneumococcal illnesses.

UNHCR donated supplies for handwashing stations for **Guyana's** Ministry of Education for use in the nation's schools. The donation also included masks for both teachers and students, as well as disinfectants aimed at sanitizing equipment ahead of the September start of the school year.

In **Honduras**, UNHCR and its partners started the distribution of tanks aimed at providing safe water to 300 families in communities in Tegucigalpa, as well as reducing the spread of COVID-19.

In Lima, **Peru**, UNHCR installed five Refugee Housing Units to support local authorities' COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

— Stories from the field —

Venezuelan refugee mothers start over in Mexico

Magdalena* recalls the despair she felt when she fled Venezuela due to insecurity, political turmoil and widespread shortages at age 60. She sought refuge in Mexico with her daughter Mariana and two school-age granddaughters during the COVID-19 pandemic. She had very high blood pressure and had not seen a doctor in a year. Mariana's daughters, one of whom is on the autism spectrum, were out of school and struggling. The family received assistance and temporary economic support from UNHCR while they found their feet. Magdalena got the medical attention she needed and was also vaccinated against COVID-19. Mariana's daughters have enrolled in schools in Tijuana, a booming city in the far northwestern corner of Mexico. The family now lives in a house in a gated community, within sight of the US border fence and has reconnected with the family living and working on the other side. As they settle in, Magdalena and Mariana, both lawyers, plan to seek permanent residency in Mexico, get their degrees recognized and start to give back to the country that has given them shelter and a new life. Read the full story [HERE](#).



— Coordination and partnership —

The **R4V Regional Platform** moved forward with planning for the RMRP 2022, including by convening a series of regional sector workshops to discuss

strategic priorities; providing information management support to national and sub-regional platforms and regional sectors in the process of selecting outcome

indicators and objectives; and engaging in discussions on population projections. Also, read the [Protection Sector 2020 Year End Report](#).





The fourth session of the **MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement**, held in August, discussed innovative solutions for IDPs. States analyzed ways to promote the meaningful participation of displaced women and girls and to promote gender equality through a multi-stakeholder approach.

Don't miss...

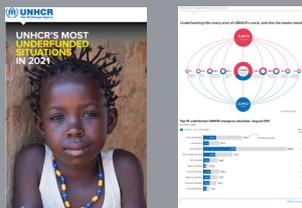
Read UNHCR's [Education Report 2021](#): 'Staying the course' - The challenges facing refugee education. And also review [Becoming Who We Are](#) ([pageflow.io](#))



Watch this [video](#) to learn more about how UNHCR supports people in the Americas.



The Venezuela Situation is among the 10 more underfunded situations. [Find out more in this report](#)



Click [here](#) to see footballs designed by young artists to raise funds for refugee sports programmes



Funding the response in 2021

COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL 2021

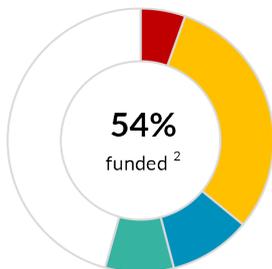
To respond to the most pressing needs resulting from the pandemic, UNHCR is appealing for \$924 million in funding in 2021. As of 24 AUGUST, donors had already pledged \$273 million.

THE AMERICAS as of 24 August 2021

\$ 728.3 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021¹

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)



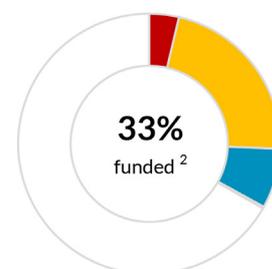
Notes:
1. The financial requirements for The Americas are for the operations in Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela.
2. The percentage funded (54%) and total funding amount (\$395,639,071) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$332,710,548 representing 46% of the financial requirements.

CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY as of 13 September 2021

\$ 924.0 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021¹⁻³

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)



Notes:
1. The financial requirements of the Coronavirus Emergency include requirements in Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina Regional Office, Armenia, Aruba, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Rep of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy MCO, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Or Additional Mandate Nam, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain MCO, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Republic of the Congo, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
2. The percentage funded (33%) and total funding amount (\$307,216,699) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$616,781,309 representing 67% of the financial requirements.
3. For 2021, \$469 million of UNHCR's COVID-19-related needs has been mainstreamed into its Global Appeal and \$455 million are supplementary needs bringing the total COVID-19 related requirements in 2021 to \$924 million.

Do you want more info? Check <https://reporting.unhcr.org/>

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