

“**Equitable vaccine distribution is a humanitarian imperative.** There is a choice. Within 10 years, the world can be one of **greater justice, abundance and dignity**, or it can be one of **conflict, insecurity and poverty.**”

You can read the statement “*No-one is safe until everyone is safe – why we need a global response to COVID-19*” [HERE](#).



Situational Highlights

After weeks of plateauing and even decreasing figures, COVID-19 infections in the Americas upsurged, except in North America.

Latin America and the Caribbean head the world ranking for the number of daily deaths from coronavirus per million inhabitants. **PAHO/WHO** alerted that COVAX has already delivered some 17.6 million doses to Latin America and the Caribbean, but progress is not keeping up with the pandemic.

Central America reported the highest number of deaths to date, and infections in **Panama, Belize, and El Salvador** doubled by the end of May. Further south, **Colombia** reported the highest rate of infections in South America, where new cases have nearly tripled in certain regions. In Northeast **Brazil** hospitals are over 90% capacity.

Following a revision of the criteria for determining COVID-19 deaths, official figures almost [tripled in Peru](#)

(increasing from 69,342 to 180,764), making it, by far, the highest death rate per capita globally, at more than 500 deaths per 100,000 people.

On 20 May, the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, appealed on the [need to end the asylum restrictions imposed by United States of America due to COVID-19](#). On 1 June, the USA announced the formal termination of the MPP (“Remain in Mexico”) program. A total of approximately 68,000 individuals were returned to Mexico following their enrolment in MPP. Between 19 February and 3 June, the UN operation has facilitated the re-entry to the United States of 11,409 people and re-docketed in immigration courts around the country to pursue their asylum claims.

Ahead of the International Donors’ Conference on 17 June, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) [called for renewed international support](#) to address the

urgent needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, and to assist their host countries. “The COVID-19 pandemic continues to devastate the region, and the future of millions of refugees, migrants, and their hosts is at stake,” stated the Joint UNHCR-IOM Special Representative for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants, Eduardo Stein. UNHCR welcomes the pledges made during the Conference, which amounted US\$1.5 billion, including US\$954 million in grants.

As of 31 May, **Colombian migration authorities** report 888,550 registrations into the Single Registry for Venezuelan Migrants – the first step to obtain the temporary protection status announced in February – out of which 715,176 registers are complete and 680,428 finalized the profiling. According to **Dominican Republic** authorities, 42,000 Venezuelans – of whom 3,600 were children – applied for the regular stay plan (or “Normalization”), the first phase of which closed on 12 May.



Operational Context

Displacement across the Americas upsurges, while contagion of the disease remains at critical high levels. Movements across borders are still mostly irregular and difficult to track, which exposes the population fleeing to added risks. As the UNHCR’s recently released the 2020 Global Trends report, despite the pandemic, forced displacement increased in the Americas, a region that currently hosts 20% of people of concern to UNHCR globally.

Nearly 2,000 Venezuelans cross a border daily to find food, medicines, work, but also to travel beyond in the region. Over 1,000 daily arrivals are reported in **Ecuador** and around 700 in **Peru**. Numbers of people searching asylum in **Mexico, many of them from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras**, show high rates. By early June, 42,942 people applied for asylum in Mexico, equalling almost the total for all of 2020, at 41,303.



Panama’s Foreign Affairs Minister assured in a media interview that the country is struggling to cope with a five-fold increase in people in mixed movements who trek for days through its dense southern jungle in the hope of reaching the USA. The nation’s migration authority recorded 5,818 undocumented foreigners crossing into Panama from Colombia in April, up 577% from January.

Internal turmoil in Colombia also prompted a few hundred returns to Venezuela, as well as movements of refugees and migrants towards Ecuador, Peru or Chile.

Internal displacement has already affected some 30,700 people (9,369 families) in **Colombia** so far in 2021, a year where 64 large-group displacement events have taken place. This represents an increase of 128% compared to the same period in 2020. Additionally, five departments (Chocó, Nariño, Antioquia, Cauca, and Valle del Cauca) have recorded lockdown affecting 26,913 people (6,860 families).

Fear of evictions, unemployment or access to documentation are major concerns, as Nicaraguan refugees and asylum seekers report in **Costa Rica**. In South America, as winter approaches, the situation of refugees and migrants unable to pay the rent or find a shelter is of utmost concern.

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 for basic needs and protection, 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 - 30 May 2021

 52,246 people supported with health consultations (primary, secondary, tertiary, as well as mental, sexual and reproductive health).	 238,238 individuals receiving Non-Food Items (NFIs).	 109,107 individuals receiving legal assistance.
 43,234 people of concern to UNHCR benefitting from improved access to safe water.	 97,611 people receiving cash grants or vouchers.	 9,419 children and adolescents of concern to UNHCR provided with educational support (materials, enrollment support, or other).
 229,932 people benefitting from improved hygiene conditions (including through the distribution of hygiene kits, the construction of latrines and/or other interventions).	 178,986 individuals registered by UNHCR and/or implementing partner(s) - age/gender breakdown.	 2,828 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).
 94,276 people of concern to UNHCR supported with shelter, settlement or temporary collective accommodation solutions.	 501,062 people provided with information by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (in-person or remotely, e.g. Hotlines/call centres, WhatsApp, etc.).	 7,059 children supported by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (via case management).

Ongoing initiatives...

Argentina. The [2021 Bien Abrigados campaign](#) was launched online. As part of the campaign, seven Venezuelan community organizations will join forces with UNHCR to deliver seasonal support to some 2,500 people.

Costa Rica. In support of the Ministry of Health efforts against COVID-19 and the spread of malaria, UNHCR donated 390 mosquito nets to the population in the border community of Isla Chica.

Guyana. A facemask production project recorded the highest number of masks this year, with a total of 19,601 units produced by people of concern in March.

El Salvador. UNHCR and partner Plan International are renovating four public schools in three departments to facilitate education for 1,500 children in host communities at risk of displacement.

Honduras. With World Vision and the national authority for the protection of children, DINAF, UNHCR launched a campaign to raise awareness on risks associated with forced displacement and child protection needs.

Mexico. Since its opening, the Registration Centre in Tapachula has processed over 14,440 cases, including first-time registrations and evaluations, delivery of cash

assistance and interviews. See also: [10,000 refugees have found safety and a chance to start over in Mexico \(VIDEO\)](#)

Peru. Since schools were closed in March 2020, to reduce dropouts, UNHCR and partner Encuentros distributed over 170 home school kits and tablets in kindergartens and elementary schools in Lima.

Stories from the field

For older refugees in Ecuador, survival means skipping meals

When he was younger, Agapito Escobar relied on all sorts of creative solutions to make ends meet. A farmer and fruit vendor back in his native Colombia, he also made and sold his own bread and even panned for gold after he was forced to seek asylum in neighbouring Ecuador nearly two decades ago. Agapito is now 64, and he can no longer manage the hard-physical labour he used to rely on to eke out a living. This, combined with the difficulties refugees often face trying to access the job market, as well as the added financial strain brought on by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, means that Agapito and his 79-year-old partner, Wilma, are slipping into destitution. A survey carried out in five Latin American countries by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and HelpAge International, an umbrella group of organizations serving older people, suggests the COVID-19 pandemic is worsening the circumstances of displaced people in this vulnerable group, making it even harder for them to meet their most basic needs. Read the full story [HERE](#).



Coordination and partnership

[UNHCR and IOM celebrate the commitment of the international community to mobilize funds for refugees and migrants from Venezuela.](#) The International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants held on 17 June

convened by the Government of Canada, in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM as co-leaders of the Inter-agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), raised awareness and funds for the 17 countries in Latin America

and the Caribbean that are home to 4.6 million Venezuelans who have left their country. As stressed by the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, "The responsibility of protecting and assisting Venezuelan refugees

and migrants, and the communities that host them cannot lie only with the countries of the region. It must be shared by the wider international community".

Solidarity Event for Forcibly Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Central America and Mexico, organized by Spain, Costa Rica and Guatemala, with the support of UNHCR and OAS on 10 June. Attendees included

high-level representatives from 12 cooperating states, the European Union, international financial institutions, UN Agencies, regional organizations, private sector and civil society participated. The event increased international

visibility of the displacement crisis in MIRPS countries, and financial commitments were announced totalling US\$110 million by Spain, the European Union, the United States, Ireland, and Switzerland, as well as from the private sector and

foundations (see UNHCR press release: [English / Spanish](#)).



The **VII Meeting of the Quito Process** was held remotely on 27 and 28 May under the Pro-Tempore Presidency of Peru. The meeting consolidated this process as the main regional coordination mechanism for the Venezuela Situation and was attended by 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries, donors, UN agencies and development banks. Additionally, 10 thematic workshops were held with the involvement of national authorities, R4V partners, regional entities, civil society, diaspora groups and academia. Participating governments introduced new topics in the agenda as gender, mental health, or the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brazil will take over the Pro-Tempore Presidency during the second semester of 2021.

Don't miss...

UNHCR'S WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Join us in the activities to commemorate World Refugee Day, and contribute to the protection and inclusion of refugees in educational, sports and health services.



UNHCR - UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FILIPPO GRANDI'S MESSAGE ON WORLD REFUGEE DAY - 20 JUNE 2021



UNHCR - GLOBAL TRENDS IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT - 2020



UNHCR GLOBAL REPORT 2020 - UNHCR FLAGSHIP REPORTS



Funding the response in 2021

UNHCR's humanitarian response in **the Americas** is made possible thanks to the generous support of major donors who have contributed unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations, and to donors who have generously contributed directly to **UNHCR operations in the Americas**.

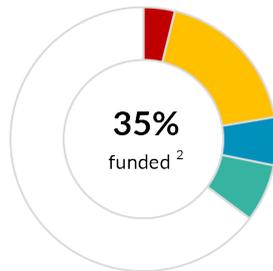
THE AMERICAS

as of 22 June 2021

\$ 712.3 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 (35%) and total funding amount (\$251,175,446) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$461,174,173, which represents 65% of the financial requirements.

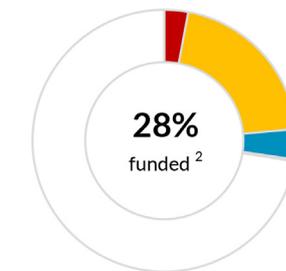
CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY

Total financial requirements as of 22 June 2021

\$ 924.0 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021^{1,3}

- 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 Republic 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, Nepal, 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 (28%) and total funding amount (\$254,272,629) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$669,727,371, which represents 72% 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/>

Thanks to donors in 2021:



And to our private donors:

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