We must not let COVID-19 thwart the exceptional progress that has been made in expanding resettlement and complementary pathways. While they are not a substitute for resettlement and humanitarian admissions, which offer more robust and longer-term forms of legal protection, they are safe and orderly forms of admission that can save lives and benefit many refugees.

Gillian Triggs
UNHCR’s International Protection Chief

You can read the press release about how the pandemic is threatening progress on refugee admissions HERE.
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 need 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 April 2021

40,123 people supported with health consultations (primary, secondary, tertiary, as well as mental, sexual and reproductive health).

235,674 individuals receiving Non-Food Items (NFIs).

63,014 individuals receiving legal assistance.

38,912 people of concern to UNHCR benefitting from improved access to safe water.

73,051 people receiving cash grants or vouchers.

6,692 children and adolescents of concern to UNHCR provided with educational support (materials, enrollment support, or other).

198,729 people benefitting from improved hygiene conditions (including through the distribution of hygiene kits, the construction of latrines and/or other interventions).

124,625 individuals registered by UNHCR and/or implementing partner(s) - age/gender breakdown.

1,982 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).

68,784 people of concern to UNHCR supported with shelter, settlement or temporary collective accommodation solutions.

455,470 people provided with information by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (in-person or remotely, ex. Hotlines/call centres, WhatsApp, etc.).

6,270 children supported by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (via case management).

Ongoing initiatives...

In Chile, UNHCR delivered 700 tablets to refugee and migrant children and adolescents in six cities to allow them to continue with their online classes.

Visits to the Help Panama page were up 157 per cent in March, with a total of 193,793 views – most of them to the section with information on COVID-19 vaccination.

Thus far in 2021, 1,072 households in Costa Rica were provided with a total of US$742,406, aimed at helping them meet their basic needs.

In Venezuela, around 421 people were able to access health care and the courts, and 161 children received birth certificates in Bolivar state.

Coronavirus personal protective equipment was delivered to six health districts in Guatemala’s northeastern Petén department, where 88 health workers were also trained in international protection.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the Equal Place programme provides remote education to over 1,300 children who would otherwise be out of school.

Stories from the field

Relocations in Brazil offer dignity and hope to thousands of Venezuelans

More than 50,000 Venezuelans have been relocated from Brazil’s isolated northern state of Roraima to 675 Brazilian cities, thanks to a model national initiative. Since the relocation strategy was launched three years ago, it has helped nearly one in five Venezuelans in the country to significantly improve their quality of life by relocating them from the remote border region of Roraima to more populous parts of the country, with better job prospects.

A survey carried out by UNHCR among 360 relocated Venezuelan families showed that over 77 per cent had found employment within weeks of their arrival to their destination. (By comparison, only seven per cent of refugees and migrants in Roraima are employed.) As a result, the families surveyed reported that within six to eight weeks of settling in a new city, their incomes had increased. Read the full story HERE.

Coordination and partnership

R4V

A briefing for donors, ahead of the 17 June International Donor’s Conference, included the presence of High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and Special Envoy Eduardo Stein. The R4V Regional Platform published the official calendar of sector side events leading up to the Conference, which is available here. The events are being hosted from 10-28 May by each of the nine regional sectors coordinated by the Regional Platform.
MIRPS
On 8-9 April, the MIRPS Support Platform organized the first roundtable sessions on asylum systems with the MIRPS countries and UNHCR support. The annual plan was finalized and shared, with the most updated dashboard already available. Business leaders expressed a strong commitment to support durable solutions for forcibly displaced people in Central America and Mexico during a MIRPS Business Roundtable on April 27. The Working Group on Internal Displacement held its first working session. Representatives from civil society who participate at the MIRPS national dialogue mechanisms held their first meeting.

--- Don’t miss... ---

Entitled “SAFE PATHWAYS FOR REFUGEES II” the latest report by UNHCR and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD, examines people from seven countries propelling displacement – Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Syria, and Venezuela – from 2010 to 2019.

CENTRAL AMERICAN AND MEXICAN ENTREPRENEURS SUPPORT EFFORTS OF MIRPS COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO FORCED DISPLACEMENT. Read more about how the private sector has become a key partner in the comprehensive response to forced displacement.

Take a look at “HIDDEN VOICES”, an initiative that captures in images the reality of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Curacao.

See UNHCR’s latest report on “PROTECTING FORCIBLY DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”.

Funding the response in 2021

UNHCR is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by donors to the Coronavirus Emergency Situation globally, and to the Americas, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked funding.

THE AMERICAS

as of 18 May 2021

$712.3 million
UNHCR's financial requirements 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tightly earmarked</th>
<th>Earmarked</th>
<th>Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)</th>
<th>Unearmarked (indicative allocation)</th>
<th>Funding gap (indicative)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16% funded 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. The financial requirements for The Americas are for the operations in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago, United Nations Office of the Americas and Venezuela.
2. This chart represents UNHCR's total financial requirements for the Americas, which is 16% funded. The percentage funded and total funding amount are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of $546,736,195 representing 84% of the financial requirements.

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

Thanks to donors in 2021:

And to our private donors:
The L'Oreal Foundation | Major League Baseball Players Trust (MLBPT) | Private donors Australia | Private donors Brazil | Private donors France | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors Spain | Private donors US | USA for UNHCR

For more information, contact: Sonia Giannone - Senior Donor Relations Officer - giannone@unhcr.org | Sonia Aguilar - Reporting Officer - aguilars@unhcr.org | For media requests: Olga Sarrado - Comms/PI Officer - sarrado@unhcr.org | Sibylla Brodzinsky - Regional Communication/Public Information Officer - brodzins@unhcr.org

---