

CHILE NEWSLETTER

A month of commemorating refugees

This June, we had multiple opportunities to commemorate refugees in their diversity. Among the various initiatives that UNHCR led or supported were the celebration of World Refugee Day on 20 June. UNHCR, alongside hundreds of Chileans, sent a strong message of collective support and solidarity with refugees worldwide. UNHCR also celebrated Pride Month with the launch of the first national LGBTIQ+ network in Chile. UNHCR is also working on an online platform to address xenophobia and strengthen social cohesion in Chile. Finally, and in an important show of complementarity of efforts, UNHCR supported the important winterization campaign launched by the Ministry of Social Development and Family in June.



 $Many\ members\ of\ Fundaci\'on\ M\'usica\ para\ la\ Integraci\'on''\ joined\ the\ campaign\ \#As\'omate\ and\ uploaded\ their\ videos\ on\ social\ networks$

1. Celebrating World Refugee day with musicians in Chile and around the world

"From Tierra del Fuego to Canada, there are thousands and thousands of people who have had to run away from their homes and restart their lives in a new country. It is important, now more than ever, to show empathy and reach out to those in need. With this message, I join the cause of UNHCR".

With these words **Shakira** kicked off this year's World Refugee Day campaign, in which national

and international artists came together virtually to commemorate World Refugee Day.

In Chile, world-known artists Javiera Parra, Américo, Pablo llabaca and Anita Tijoux stood on their balconies and at their windows on this chilly winter's day to express their solidarity with refugees and migrants during this pandemic, and send a strong signal against the

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stigmatization that refugees and migrants have been faced with in recent months.



Shakira, singer and UNICEF goodwill ambassador, called for empathy this World Refugee Day

The Venezuelan displacement situation is the **second largest in the world** and has heavily impacted countries in the region.

Chile is the third-largest recipient of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region, as close to 500,000 persons have sought to re-establish their lives here. Many of them need both legal and physical protection in these difficult times.

The agency is working closely with national and local Government and relevant institutions to complement and support the national response to support vulnerable refugees, migrants and Chileans. The international community has an important role to play in supporting these efforts, ensuring that some of the most vulnerable have a roof over their head and meals on their tables in this difficult time.

Ana Ferrero, UNHCR's Head of National Office in Chile highlights the importance of collaboration in this time: "[w]ith the support of the international community and donors represented in Chile, we are working closely with the national government, state institutions, local governments and Chilean host communities to respond to this challenge. This is a joint effort with the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes, partners, civil society organizations, the private sector and refugee and migrant organizations themselves in Chile".

UNHCR invites partners to continue showing solidarity with refugees and migrants and

taking a strong stand against discrimination, racism and stigmatization every day, building on the important momentum built during World Refugee Day.

2. LAUNCH OF THE FIRST NATIONAL NETWORK OF LGTBQI+ REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN CHILE

During this year's virtual Pride March on 29 June 2020, UNHCR and Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas (FASIC) jointly launched the first national network of LGBTIQ+ refugees and migrants in Chile. Bringing together LGBTIQ+ and feminist refugee and migrant civil society organizations, the network seeks to reinforce existing protection mechanisms for LGBTIQ+ refugees and migrants in Chile, develop peer-support systems and facilitate exchanges between the different organizations.

LGBTQI+ refugees and migrants often bear particular hardships due to their sexual orientation in their countries of origin, during displacement and upon arrival in their new country of asylum. The network hopes to create a safe space for LGBTQI+ refugees and migrants in Chile and further collaboration across the different community-based initiatives.



Flyer for for launch of the first national Network of refugee and migrant LGBTQI+ organizations

During the launch of the network, a set of handbound books containing testimonies shared by LGBTQI+ individuals in Chile were presented. The books were presented under the title "200 words in a suitcase – LGBTIQ+ tales of displacement, migration and shelter", a joint publication of La Maricartonera, FASIC and UNHCR. A free online version of the publication

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3. ADDRESSING XENOPHOBIA AND STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION

On May 8, 2020, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated that "the Covid-19 pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering" and urged governments to "act now to strengthen the immunity of our societies against the virus of hate.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic may exacerbate the situation of refugees and, at the same time, expose them to stigmatization and discrimination. To help address xenophobia early on, UNHCR in Chile is developing multiple projects that seek to promote inclusive

environments. In October, the agency will launch a virtual



campaign titled **#DeCorazón**, consisting of an online platform that will link refugees and migrants offering art, history, and other types of online free classes with interested Chileans. The platform aims to become a place of convergence, where refugees and migrants interact with nationals, sharing with them their culture, talents, knowledge, and skills.

4. "PLAN INVIERNO PROTEGIDO" – A CAMPAIGN SUPPORTED BY UNHCR

Winter and sub-zero temperatures have arrived in the Southern Hemisphere. In Chile, consistent rainfall and low temperatures have marked the past few weeks, affecting vulnerable refugees and migrants and homeless persons and increasing the risk of infections.

The Government has taken important steps to address this situation, with the launch of a "Plan"

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Invierno Protegido" in June 2020. The Ministry of Social Development and Family, which is leading this effort, is providing warm winter clothes and

basic items to particularly vulnerable individuals in Chile, including refugees and migrants.

UNHCR has supported this effort, which involved a donation of 3,700 winterization kits to vulnerable individuals, ensuring access to warm winter clothes that would protect them during some of the coldest weeks of the year.

"I want to thank UNHCR for its support. The Ministry of Social Development and Family does not only appreciate this effort but will make sure to **channel it to some of the most vulnerable people in need**", said the Minister of Social Development and the Family, Cristián Monckeberg, at the the launch of the campaign on 26 June.



Cristián Monckeberg, Minister of Social Development and the Family deliver aid kits to vulnerable people.

In response, the Head of the National Office of UNHCR in Chile, Ana Ferrero, stated that "the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Chile supported this initiative, as a token of gratitude to the generosity with which Chile has received the Venezuelan population. Winter has just begun, so we must act quickly. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Chilean government and especially the Ministry of Social Development, for allowing us to be part of this plan and, of course, to our donors, because thanks to their generosity, we were able to participate and ensure access to assistance for those who need it most

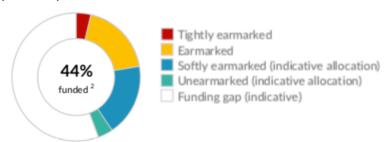
FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE, 2020)

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USD 24 M

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CONTACTS

José Manuel Cáceres, Regional Reporting Officer, CACERES@unhcr.org Carolina Fuentes Abarca, Snr Communications/PI. Assistant, FUENTESA@unhcr.org UNHCR operation page - Twitter- Instagram

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