Challenges

As mobility restrictions are progressively lifted in certain countries, UNHCR is seeing increased movements within Venezuela, as well as rising numbers of Venezuelans in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Bolivia. (Additionally, the Caribbean has seen a rise in the arrivals of boats carrying Venezuelan refugees and migrants.) At the same time, Venezuelans are continuing to return home from abroad, with some 116,000 individuals having crossed back to Venezuela from or through Colombia since mid-March, according to Colombian migration authorities.

Food and drug shortages and insecurity appear to be among the main factors pushing Venezuelans to decamp, a quick survey conducted by UNHCR along the Colombian border suggested. Half of those surveyed said they intended to stay irregularly in Colombia, while the others said they were planning to travel on to other countries throughout the region.

Given that most borders remain closed, refugees and migrants are facing heightened protection risks as they resort to using informal border crossings – which are often controlled by trafficking networks, smugglers and irregular armed groups. UNHCR is ratcheting up its presence in border regions in order to monitor the situation and deliver lifesaving assistance to those in need.

Despite the fact that restrictions remain in place across Central America, groups of people are on the move throughout the region, often attempting to slip across borders at informal crossings. Some groups have found themselves stranded in Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras.

UNHCR’s response in the Americas

Despite the pandemic-related restrictions, UNHCR is 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. Urgent action is required to help the most vulnerable refugees and IDPs, particularly those in countries where they are unable to access state-run social protection schemes. With the coronavirus crisis exacerbating already dire humanitarian needs globally, timely and flexible support from governments, the private sector and individuals remains critical.

Click HERE to see an update on UNHCR’s COVID-19 emergency response in the Americas since March, 2020.
UPDATES FROM COUNTRIES

Stories from the field

Peruvian football club Alianza Lima partners with UNHCR to support refugees

Peru’s Alianza Lima has become the country’s first professional football club to partner with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to support refugee integration. The club has pledged to provide talented young refugees and migrants with sports scholarships to attend its football academies and is also working with UNHCR to train coaches so they can better support Peruvian and refugee students and foster the values of inclusion and understanding. The club and its players are also joining advocacy efforts to further welcome refugees and fight against xenophobia.

To read the full story, click HERE.

Coordination and Response to date

MIRPS

As part of the efforts of the MIRPS Support Platform for countries in the North of Central America, a ‘twinning’ initiative aims to pair municipalities in the platform’s member countries with cities in MIRPS countries. In addition, a series of virtual or in-person sessions are being organized to exchange experiences on the refugee status determination process among members of countries’ refugee commissions.
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**Coordination and Response to date**

**RMRP**
Preparations are on track for the external launch of the 2021 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) on 10 December. On 19 October, a ministerial meeting was held to discuss the main agreements of the technical meeting held in Santiago on 24-25 September. Organized by Chile, which holds the pro tempore presidency, the meeting included such participants as the UNHCR High Commissioner, IOM’s Director General and the Joint Special Representative Eduardo Stein, as well as the Group of Friends (donor countries) of the Quito Process.

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**Don’t miss...**

**MEXICAN APPLIANCE-MAKER MABE STEPS UP TO SAVE LIVES WITH HELP FROM REFUGEE EMPLOYEES.**

Click [HERE](#) to visit the site

**BRAZIL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNHCR’S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

Find more [HERE](#)

**‘GIVE US A SEAT AT THE TABLE AND WE’LL CHANGE THE WORLD’.**

At the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, participants stressed that forcibly displaced people are eager and qualified to help rebuild communities devastated by COVID-19. Carmen Parra, a Venezuelan-born doctor working in Peru, explains how she’s contributing to her host community:

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**Funding the response**

**Financial Information**

**UNHCR AMERICAS - Funding Update**

**THE AMERICAS**

61% funded 1

$611.8 million

**UNHCR’s financial requirements 2020**

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, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela.

2. The percentage funded (61%) and total funding amount ($611,792,300) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of $237,546,073 representing 39% of the financial requirements.

**While seeking funds to carry out COVID-19 preventative measures and response activities, UNHCR stresses the need for support to be in addition to the existing critical funding requirements laid out in UNHCR’s regular Global Appeal for 2020. It is vital that the international community keep supporting the millions of refugees and internally displaced people already living a precarious existence, for whom already limited self-reliance opportunities are likely to shrink further as a result of the economic impact of the crisis.**

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 un earmarked funding.

**Thanks to donors in 2020:**

[Click here](#) for more information.

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