

“As we are in the **second year** of the COVID-19 pandemic, **funding is required** to sustain the pandemic response in **support** of national systems (...) Overall, a much **larger investment** is needed to ensure that **refugees** – just like everyone else – can enjoy the right to the highest attainable **physical and mental health.**”

Sajjad Malik

UNHCR's Director of the Division of Resilience and Solutions

You can read the 2020 Annual Public Health Global Review [HERE](#).



Situational Highlights

According to WHO/PAHO, this year, the pandemic has proven “**worse than last year**” in the Americas. By the end of June, the region was reporting the highest number of new cases and deaths per 100,000 people, compared with other regions. (Specifically, 111 cases and 3 deaths per 100,000). **Brazil, Colombia and Argentina** are among the five countries with the highest contagion rates in the world.

Fewer than one in ten people in Latin America and the Caribbean have been fully vaccinated against COVID, WHO/PAHO alerted, adding that both vaccine scarcity and vaccine hesitancy are to blame. Even countries where vaccination campaigns have been ongoing for months, such as **Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia**, have still only managed to protect around 3 per cent of their



populations. Refugees are included (explicitly or de facto) in those vaccine rollout, which have been stymied due to the limited numbers of jabs. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed an estimated 4.7 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean out of the middle class and into vulnerability or poverty in 2020, according to a World Bank report, thus reversing decades of social gains.

During his visit to Colombia to commemorate World Refugee Day, High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi met with President Ivan Duque to discuss progress on the rollout of the country's Temporary Protection Status programme, or TPS. As of 27 June, Migración Colombia was reporting that 1,063,903 people had registered for the programme. **Two major events in June underscored the need for international**

support of displaced people in the Americas: The international community reaffirmed its solidarity with forcibly displaced people in Central America and Mexico, as well as with the seven countries that make up the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (known by its Spanish-language acronym, MIRPS,) during a **donor conference** that raised contributions totaling US\$110 million. A **separate conference**, convened by the government of Canada, in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM – co-leaders of the Inter-agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela – **raised US\$1.5 billion, including US\$954 million in grants**, for the 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that are home to the 4.6 million Venezuelans who have fled their country.

Operational Context

Although border restrictions are still in place, displacement continues to be reported throughout the Americas. As of June, the United States was reporting almost 1 million **law enforcement encounters** on its southern border, most of them involving people from **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, as well as Haiti and South American nations**. In June, an average of more than 6,300 people are thought to have crossed the border daily.

Mexico is increasingly becoming a destination for asylum-seekers, with 51,650 people having applied for asylum in the country this year, as of 30 June. **Panama's** migration authorities reported that during the first six months of 2021, roughly 20,000 people have transited through the treacherous Darien Gap on their northward journeys.

On **Costa Rica's** border with Nicaragua, there is concern about a potential influx of asylum-seekers, in light of political tensions surrounding the upcoming elections in November.

Some 2,000 people are fleeing **Venezuela daily**, mostly via irregular crossing points, with people headed in all directions – towards the southern **Caribbean, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru**, as well as destinations further south. The government of **Venezuela** is reporting that 4,884 Venezuelans have **returned** from Ecuador, and 6,545 from Peru since the 2018 launch of programme aimed to support returnees.

By the end of May, over 23,530 people had been internally displaced within **Colombia**. In **Haiti**, an escalation of violence and insecurity had already displaced 17,000 people internally, according to an OCHA report that was published days before the 7 July assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. Tropical Storm Elsa complicated efforts to provide humanitarian assistance in the country, where COVID-19 continues to spread and vaccinations are not available.

Extreme weather conditions are impacting refugees and other people on the move. At least one woman died of dehydration on the southern border of the **United States** while attempting to cross irregularly. On **Chile's** border, two people died and 39 refugees and migrants had to be rescued in June, while attempting to cross into the country through a remote region where temperatures regularly drop to around -20°C. The deaths in June bring the total number of fatalities among those attempting to enter the country irregularly to nine thus far in 2021.















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 June, 2021

 72,675 people supported with health consultations (primary, secondary, tertiary, as well as mental, sexual and reproductive health).	 251,253 individuals receiving Non-Food Items (NFIs).	 119,522 individuals receiving legal assistance.
 44,399 people of concern to UNHCR benefitting from improved access to safe water.	 126,209 people receiving cash grants or vouchers.	 13,386 children and adolescents provided with educational support (materials, enrollment support, or other).
 271,316 people benefitting from improved hygiene conditions (including through the distribution of hygiene kits, the construction of latrines and/or other interventions).	 215,461 individuals registered by UNHCR and/or implementing partner(s) - age/gender breakdown.	 3,941 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).
 129,651 people of concern to UNHCR supported with shelter, settlement or temporary collective accommodation solutions.	 556,173 people provided with information by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (in-person or remotely, e.g. Hotlines/call centres, WhatsApp, etc.).	 9,107 children supported by UNHCR and/or implementing partners (via case management).

Ongoing initiatives...

Brazil. UNHCR launched "**Chama**," a WhatsApp chatbot aimed at staunching the spread of fake news among Venezuelan refugees and migrants. "Chama" responds to a series of questions that are frequently asked by refugees and migrants.



Colombia. UNHCR launched a labour mobility pilot programme aimed at facilitating the relocation of 40 refugee and migrant workers and their families from border regions of Colombia to cities throughout the country, which offer better job prospects.

Ecuador. UNHCR, UNFPA, CEPAM and IPPFRHO in Ecuador released a [study](#) entitled "Access of Migrant, Refugee and Vulnerable Women to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Ecuador during the COVID-19 Pandemic." The report shows that difficulties in accessing

those services have spiraled.

Guatemala. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency launched the Protocol for the Care of Unaccompanied or Separated Children and Adolescents. The protocol was launched with the support of organizations including UNHCR.

Panama. UNHCR and Fundación Fútbol con Corazón launched the second edition of La Liga de Todos

2021, a programme for 500 children and youth that aims to foster leadership development and social inclusion. The Ministry of Education also provides support for the programme.

Venezuela. In the state of Zulia, UNHCR, WHO, OCHA and the Red Cross distributed solar lamps, buckets, water purification tablets, mosquito nets to populations affected by an outbreak of Leishmaniasis in the northwestern town of Machiques.

Stories from the field

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Mexico receive the COVID-19 vaccine

Sixty-year-old Octavio is a Honduran refugee in Mexico who fled violence and persecution from criminal groups in his country. While he had no choice but to flee those threats, Octavio couldn't outrun the pandemic. Last March, when the Chiapas Health Secretariat launched the COVID-19 vaccination campaign for people over 60 in the town of Palenque, UNHCR contacted asylum-seekers and refugees in that age group to alert them about the programme. Octavio was one of the first refugees of that age group to receive the jab, alongside Mexican nationals over 60 – the first age group to have access to the vaccine after frontline health workers. Refugees and asylum-seekers were included in Mexico's vaccination campaign, thus guaranteeing access to all people. Read the full story [HERE](#).



Coordination and partnership

The R4V regional platform held a series of three sub-regional consultations to validate planning assumptions for the RMRP 2022 with national and sub-regional coordination platforms covering 17 countries. The regional platform presented

the results of a survey of RMRP partners, which garnered 233 responses, to guide the planning assumptions. Key take-aways included (i) no expectation of significant returns to Venezuela in 2022; (ii) continued outflows from Venezuela expected at a similar

rate to the moderate one seen in early 2021; (iii) Venezuelans' access to regular status will improve, thanks to regularization activities in several countries; and (iv) amidst new lockdowns and border closures, the focus will need to remain on ensuring

that refugees and migrants are included in vaccination and other COVID-19 recovery plans.





During the third MIRPS virtual meeting of the year, Spain reported on the results of the Solidarity Event and announced a mechanism to follow up on the pledges received. Mexico, as lead state of the Working Group on Internal Displacement, and, Costa

Rica, as the lead of the Group on Access to Labour, report on progress made and announced that by the end of the year they will present ongoing initiatives and, potentially, regional proposals aimed at addressing both issues.

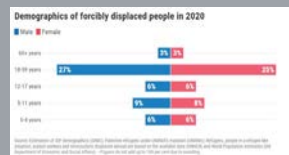
Peru transferred the **Pro Tempore Presidency** of the Quito Process to Brazil. During its presidency, Brazil will emphasize support to the host communities, youth, and the relationship with international cooperation.



Don't miss...

DATA VISUALIZATION:

COVID-19 deepens threats for displaced women and children



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON STATELESS POPULATIONS:

Policy recommendations and good practices on vaccine access and civil registration



DISCOVER THE COOKBOOK THAT CELEBRATES DIVERSITY:

A book about fusion food called "Mi Mesa es tu Mesa" is released in Chile to celebrate cultural diversity



A CAMPAIGN IN BRAZIL BRINGS TOGETHER REFUGEES AND OLYMPIC ATHLETES:

The "Reflexos" campaign shares the difficulties and achievements of Brazilian refugees and Olympic athletes.



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 21 JULY, donors had already pledged \$264.7 million.

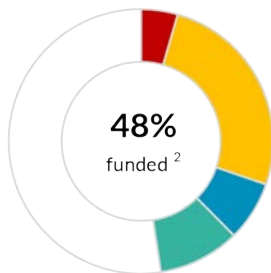
THE AMERICAS

as of 22 July 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 (48%) and total funding amount (\$339,080,499) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$373,269,121 representing 52% of the financial requirements.

CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY

Total financial requirements as of 22 July 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 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 (29%) and total funding amount (\$264,684,006) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$659,315,994 representing 71% 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.

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