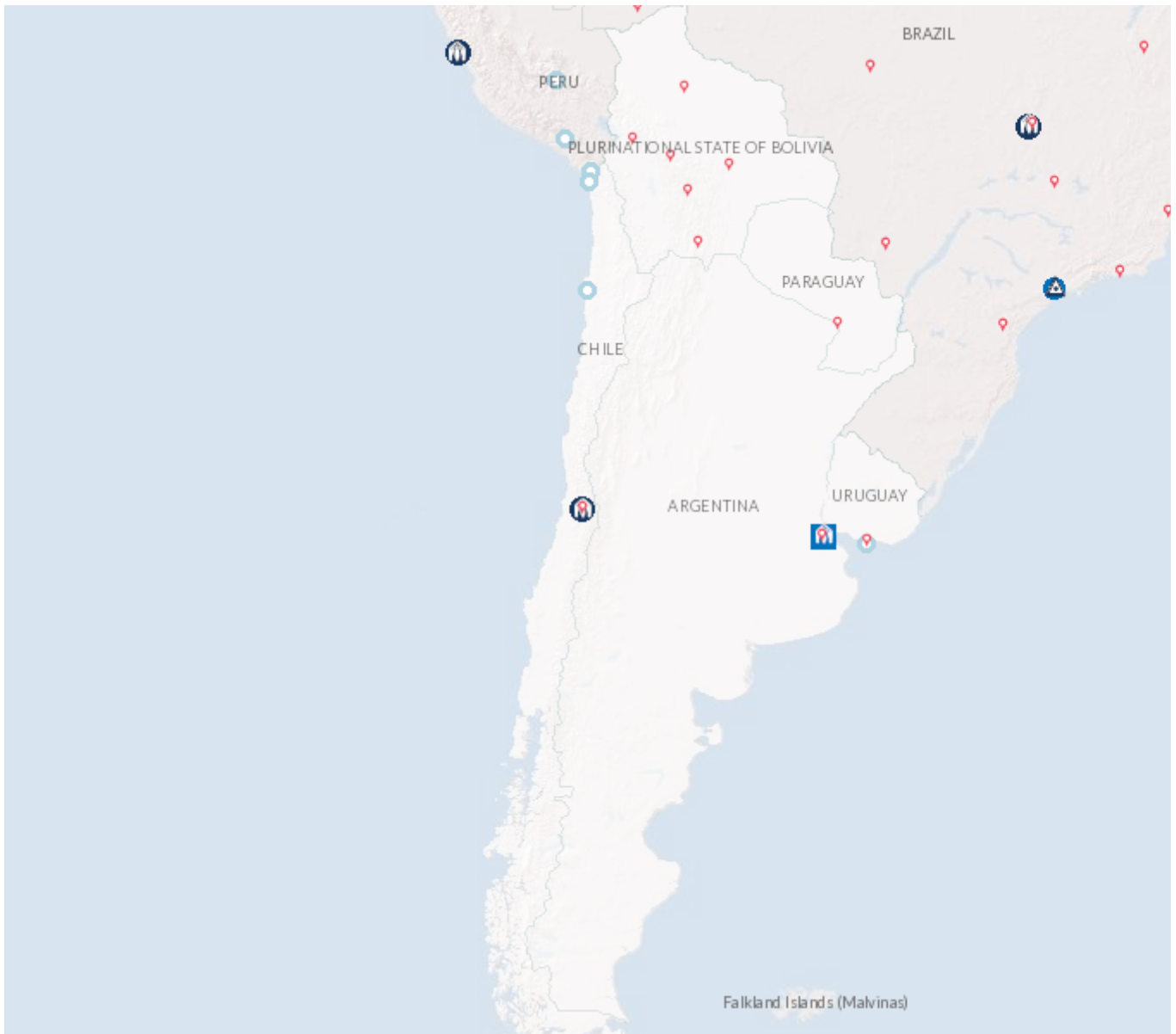## 2021 Planning summary

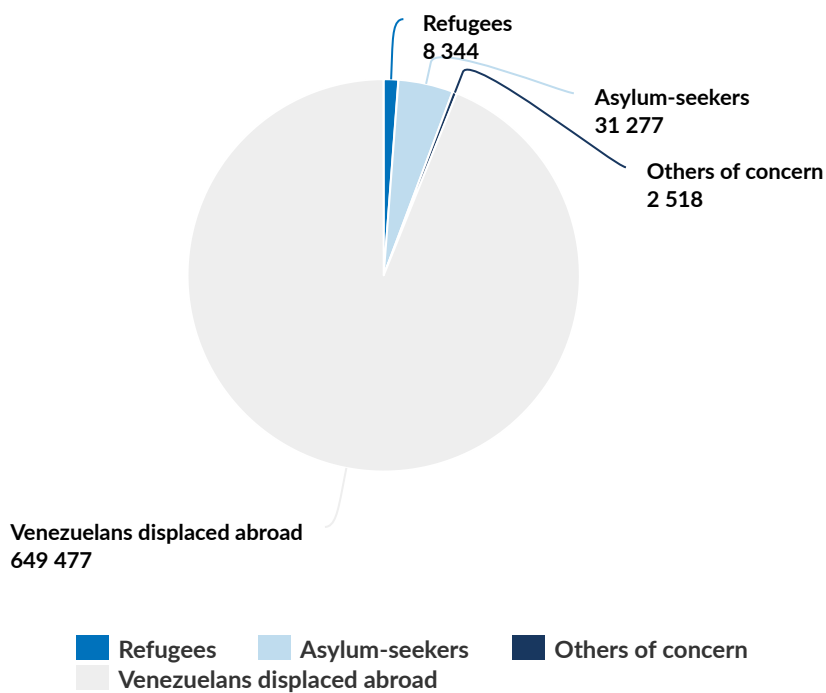28/12/2020

Operation: Argentina Multi-Country Office

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
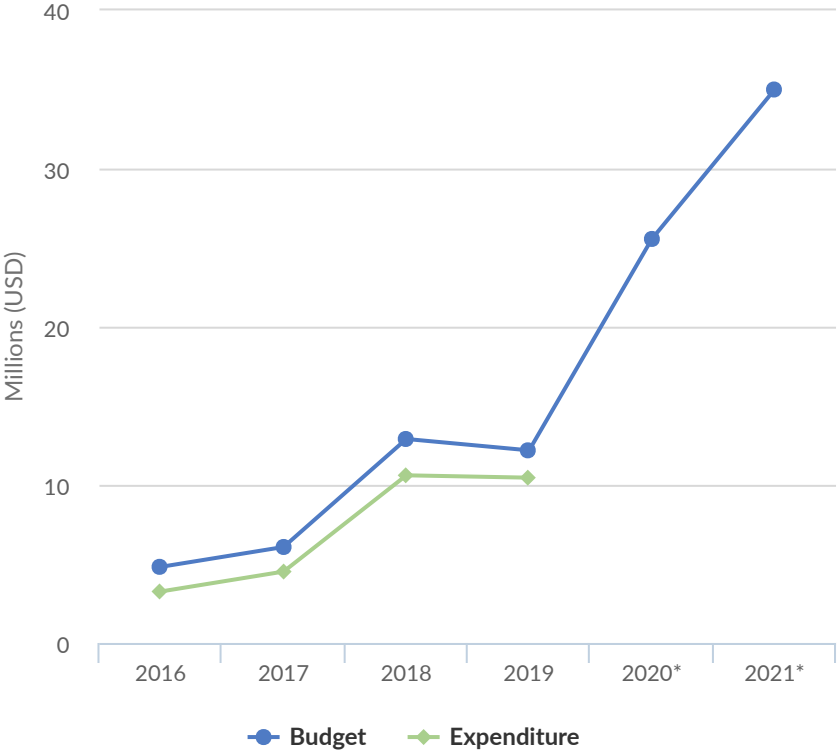
People of Concern

38% DECREASE IN 2019

2019	691,616
2018	1,120,647
2017	241,989

Refugees
8 344

Asylum-seekers
31 277

Others of concern
2 518

Venezuelans displaced abroad
649 477

- Refugees
- Asylum-seekers
- Others of concern
- Venezuelans displaced abroad

Budgets and Expenditure for Argentina Multi-Country Office

Operational environment

By the end of 2020, approximately 700,000 refugees, asylum-seekers and other people of concern to UNHCR, will be hosted in the Southern Cone. Of these, 95% are Venezuelans, many of whom lack a regular status. As conditions in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela further deteriorated in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result of COVID-19-related restrictions, the population in need of protection, assistance and socioeconomic inclusion is also expected to increase, possibly surpassing 750,000 people in 2021 according to the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan 2021.

The pandemic exacerbated an already difficult economic context in the sub-region, with prolonged confinements resulting in increasing poverty, as well as additional strain on already overstretched social support systems and services. Xenophobia in on the rise in some countries, mainly due to increased competition for limited employment opportunities, and it is expected that many refugees and migrants will find themselves without valid documentation, and at risk of exposure to increased protection concerns such as evictions, (labour) exploitation and abuse.

Access to territory will likely become more restrictive due to saturated asylum systems, which is expected to result in increasing irregular movements. Faced with these difficult conditions, receiving countries will reduce options for dignified living conditions and sustainable livelihoods, making lifesaving assistance combined with self-reliance strategies even more urgent. In particular elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable people will require targeted interventions as their options for integration in the labour market, and access to social systems are limited due to a lack of documentation.

As part of the recommendations of the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR in the Southern Cone is mainstreaming a multi-stakeholder approach and reinforcing innovative solutions for responsibility sharing and inclusion. This means working in cooperation with municipalities under the Cities of Solidarity framework and other actors, as academia at national and local levels in order to shape public policies. Moreover, close coordination across the UN system, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will reinforce UNHCR's partnership strategy.

Key priorities

In 2021 the UNHCR operations in the Southern Cone will focus on:
- Delivering humanitarian assistance covering basic needs for some 40,000 extremely vulnerable individuals, including families with children, single-headed households, gender-based violence survivors, LGBTIQ+ people and elderly people, to provide temporary shelter, food and non-food items.
- Reinforcing identification, assistance and referrals of individuals with protection needs, especially in border areas for over 32,000 people, and where necessary support family reunification.
- Ensuring strategic interventions with national and local governments, the private sector and Cities of Solidarity to advocate socioeconomic and financial inclusion for some 15,000 individuals and with the objective to systematically include people of concern to UNHCR in public policies and national social support systems.
- Providing targeted interventions to ensure access to the labour market and entrepreneurial opportunities for some 20,000 individuals.
- Empowering communities and grass-root civil society organizations to establish sustainable mechanisms for self-reliance and inclusion.
- Working with communities and influencers to raise awareness through communication, outreach and anti-xenophobia campaigns.
- Strengthening inter-agency coordination for an efficient response.