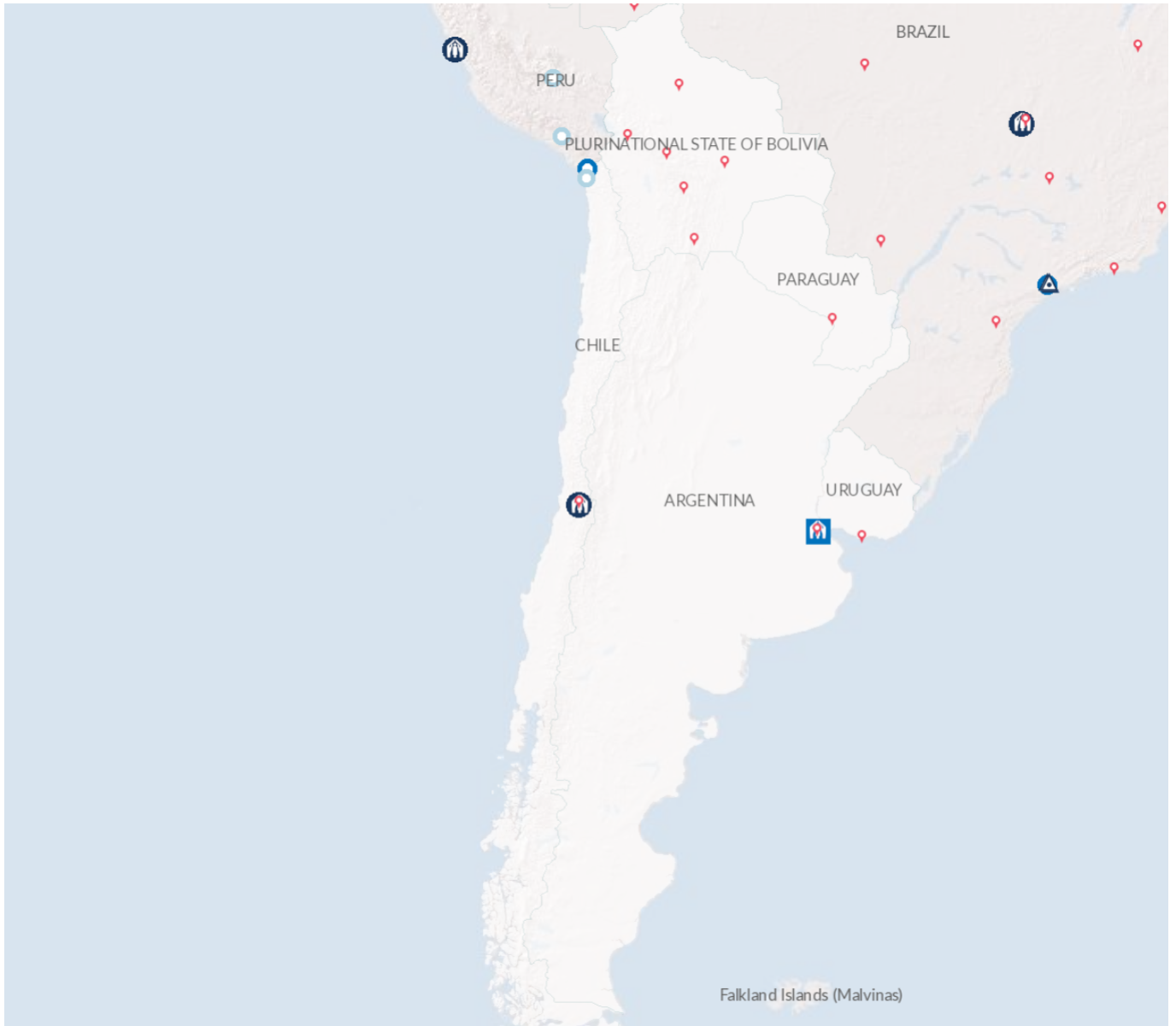


Operation: Argentina Multi-Country Office

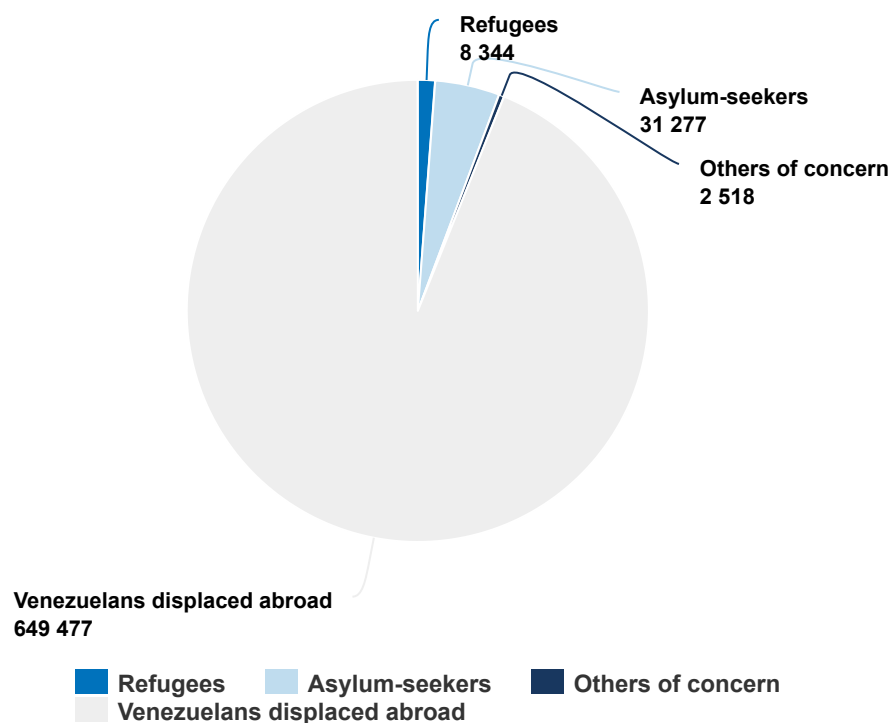


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

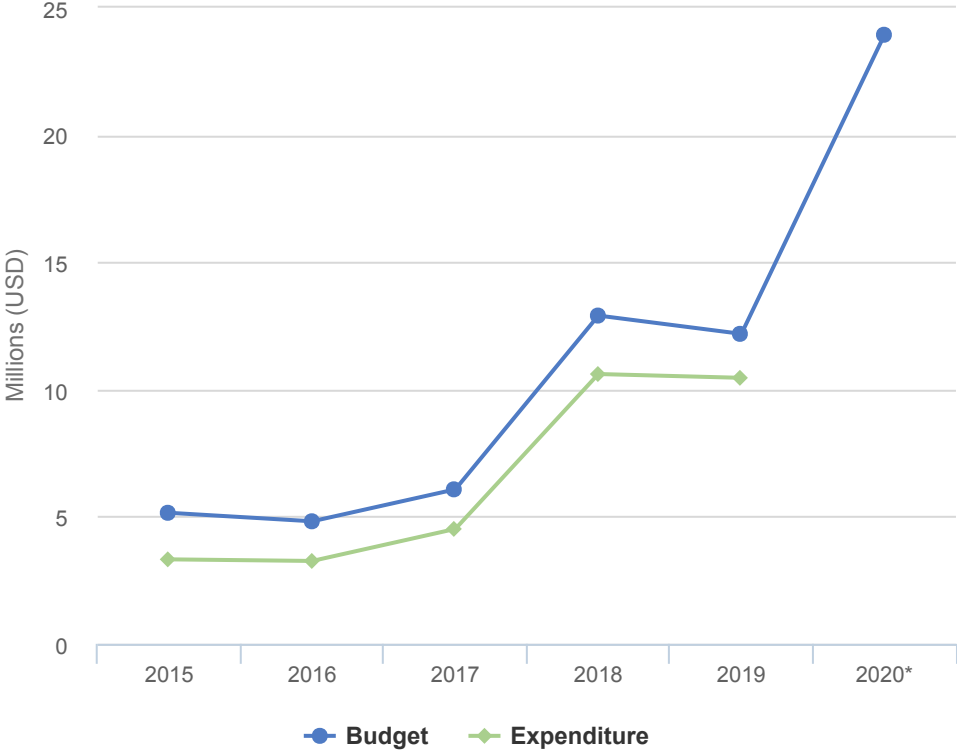
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
38 % 2019

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



Budgets and Expenditure for Argentina Multi-Country Office



Operational context

As elsewhere in Latin America, 2019 was an especially volatile year, with the situation in the sub-region characterized by political, social and economic instability. Economic downturns led to social unrest and violent demonstrations; there was a change in government in the Plurinational State of Bolivia; and a constitutional reform process was initiated in Chile. Restrictive entry policies in the sub-region forced many refugees and migrants to resort to irregular means of travel and entry.

The Venezuelan crisis was a constant feature in political discourse amongst the five countries in the sub-region. Argentina and Chile, the two countries with the largest Venezuelan populations, applied different reception policies: while Argentina continued applying an open-door policy towards refugees and migrants, from June, Chile introduced additional visa requirements, requiring Venezuelans to obtain a tourist visa or temporary residence permit to gain entry.

Population trends

The population of concern to UNHCR covered under this multi-country office grew to over 691,600 people. This figure comprised some 31,300 asylum-seekers, 8,300 recognized refugees, and 2,500 people of concern of various nationalities - in addition to nearly 649,500 Venezuelans displaced abroad.

While 93% of people of concern to UNHCR were Venezuelan, Colombians, Cubans, Dominicans and Haitians continued to arrive and apply for international protection. Argentina and Uruguay also continued to welcome refugees through resettlement or complementary pathway programmes, including Syrian refugees from Lebanon and Salvadorian families with international protection needs.

Achievements

- In Chile, UNHCR reinforced its presence in Arica and established a presence in the Antofagasta region.
- As part of its community-based approach, UNHCR worked with some 30 Venezuelan grass-root organizations and provided information, capacity-building and support.
- UNHCR actively participated in the MERCOSUR Forum of National Refugee Commissions (CONARE) and supported the regional Quito Process.
- As a result of UNHCR's advocacy, the Government of Paraguay recognized more than 700 Venezuelans as refugees using a group-based recognition approach.
- In the framework of the "cities of solidarity" regional initiative, UNHCR worked together with 30 local governments across the sub-region to improve the socio-economic inclusion of people of concern.

Unmet needs

- Due to a funding shortfall, support to national asylum systems in countries covered by the multi-country office was reduced, resulting in a backlog of over 31,800 cases.
 - Additional funds are needed to scale up presence at key border entry points such as Salta, Cordoba and Mendoza (Argentina); Guayaramerin, Villazon, Villamontes (Bolivia, the Plurinational State of); and Chuy (Uruguay).
 - Lack of funds curtailed emergency assistance capacity, including access to emergency shelters, primary health care and social support for some 2,000 vulnerable families in Chile.
 - Like of funds also limited the Office's capacity to support local and economic inclusion activities.
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