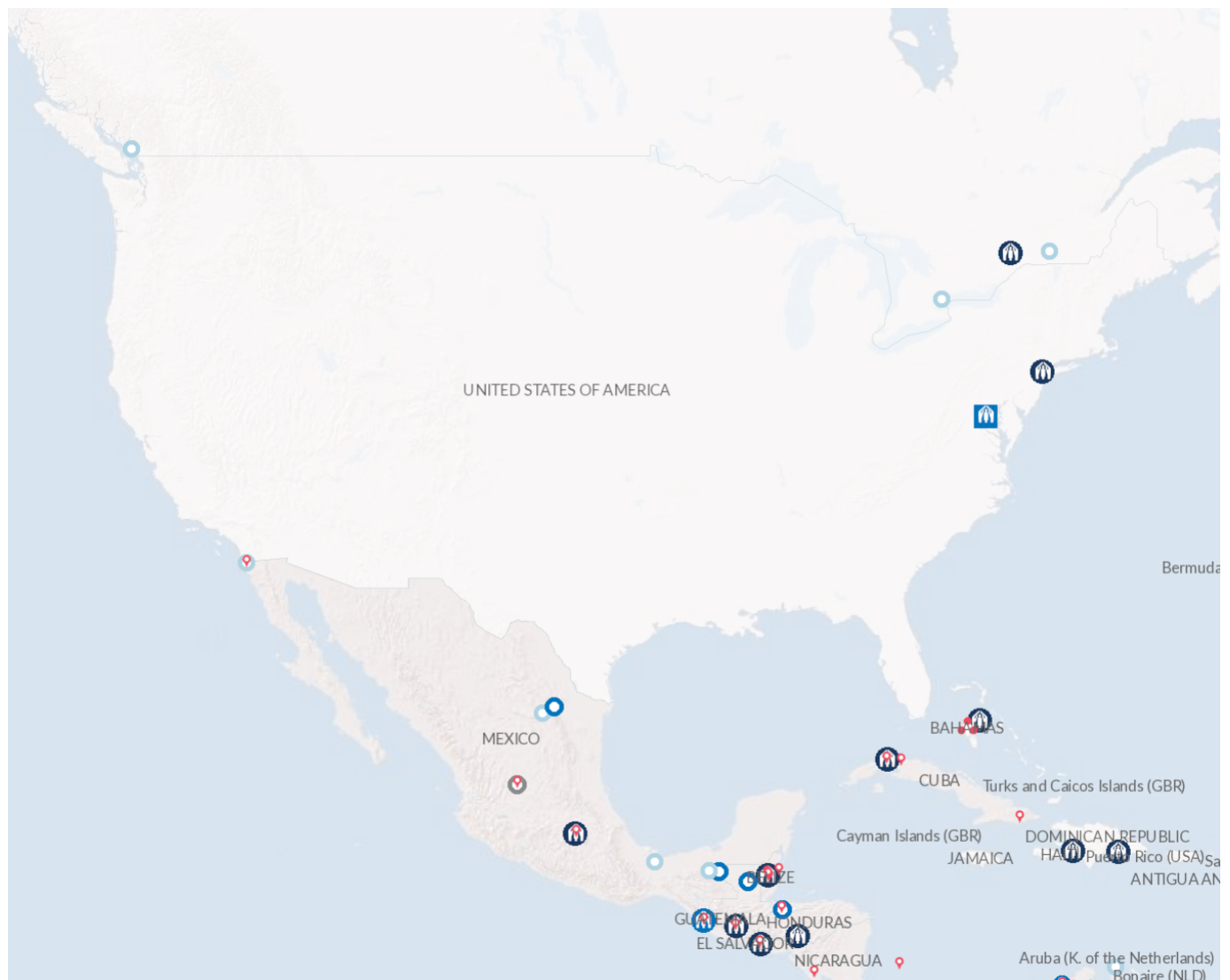


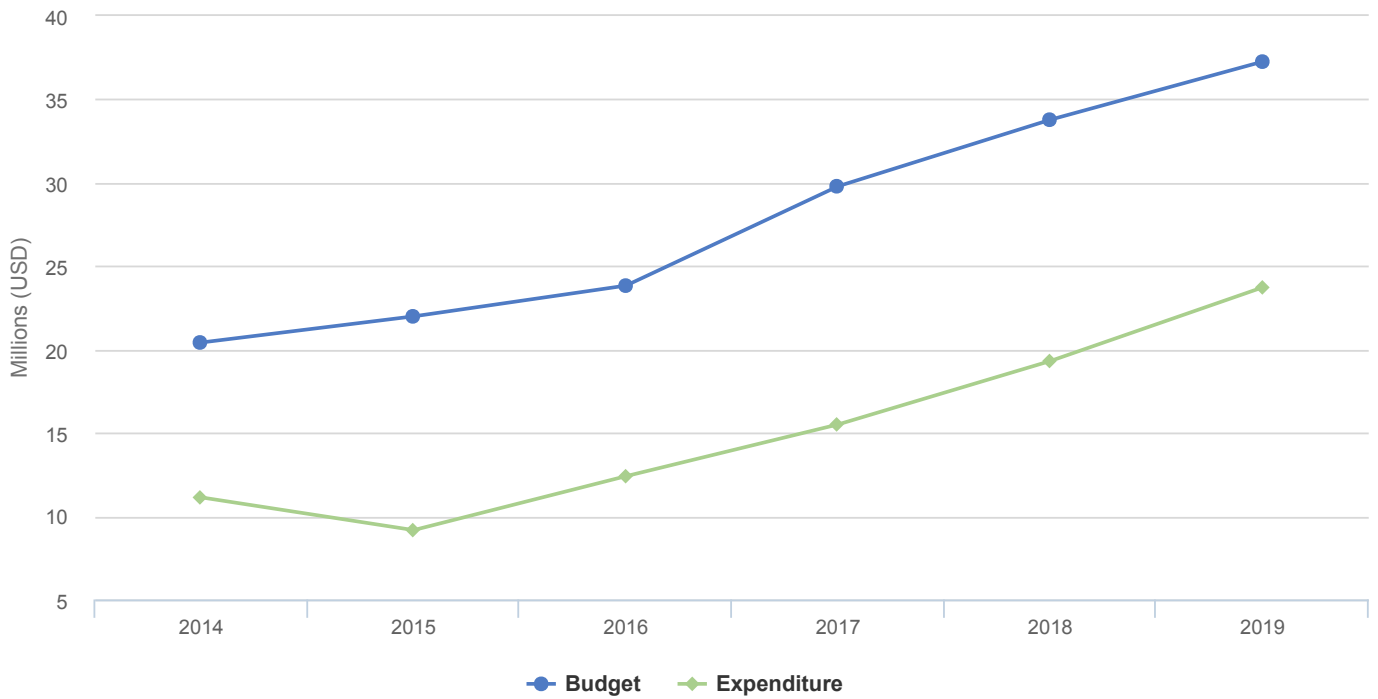
Subregion: North America and the Caribbean

| Antigua and Barbuda | The Bahamas | Barbados | Belize | British overseas territories (Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Montserrat) | Canada | Dominica | Dominican Republic | Dutch overseas territories in the Caribbean (Aruba, Curaçao, Saint Maarten, Bonaire, Saint Eustatius, Saba) | Grenada | Guyana | Haiti | Jamaica | Saint Kitts and Nevis | Saint Lucia | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Suriname | Trinidad and Tobago | United States of America | Territories with linkages to the United States (Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands) |

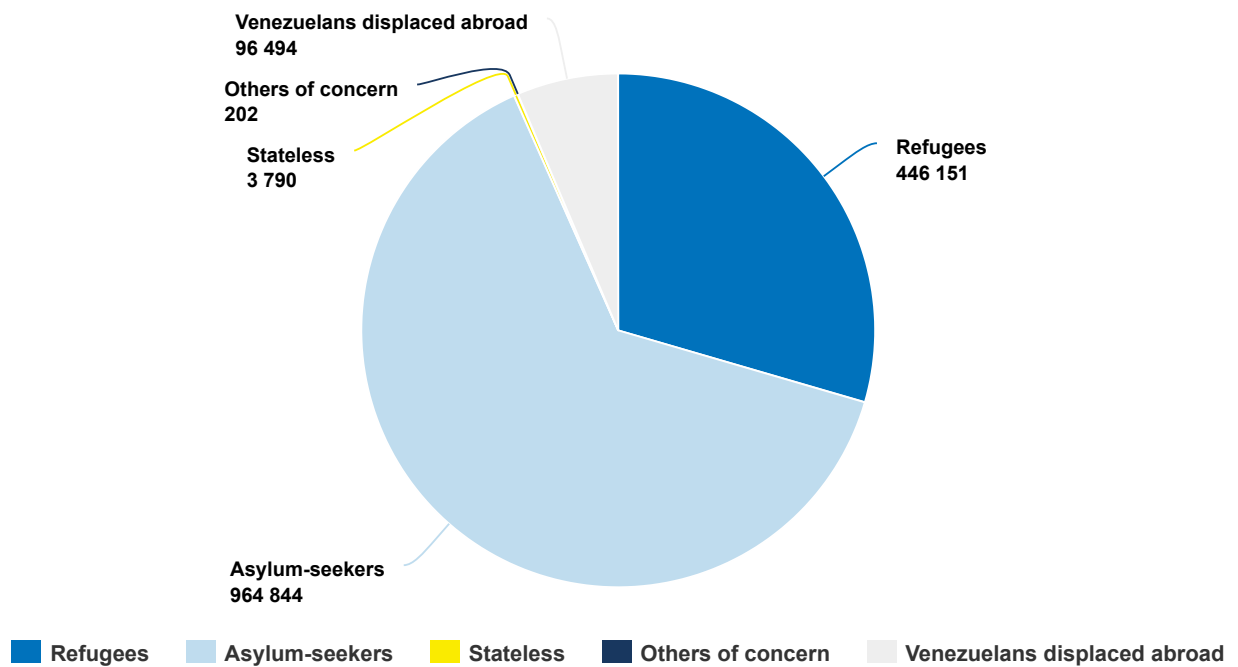


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion North America and the Caribbean



People of Concern - 2019



Reponse in 2019

The Venezuela crisis disproportionately impacted countries in the Caribbean region given their limited capacity to absorb the increasing arrivals in a protection-sensitive manner.

Mixed movements, both intra- and extra-continental, continued. Coupled with restrictive migration policies, weak institutional capacities and a lack of protection screenings, people of concern to UNHCR faced an enhanced risk of refoulement. As the Venezuela crisis extended into its fourth year, growing numbers of Venezuelans arrived in the Caribbean with increasing protection and emergency assistance needs. These arrivals required direct protection and assistance by UNHCR, and led to a greater demand for inter-agency coordination as well as capacity-building, advice and emergency preparedness support to host governments.

UNHCR continued to monitor the changing procedures and policies applied by governments in the region, with an emphasis on advocating for access to territory and asylum procedures, alternative legal pathways, and alternatives to detention.

Vulnerability to human trafficking and heightened risk of exploitation and abuse remained a serious concern. Issues related to non-admission, detention and deportation without adequate protection screenings continued in many countries in the region. In the Caribbean, large gaps remained in terms of adequate legal frameworks and access to rights, as well as services to meet the needs of people of concern. In principle, Venezuelans in the Caribbean had the right to access public primary health care and education in several islands but language, administrative and financial barriers hindered this in practice. Additionally, limited institutional capacity presented a challenge to providing adequate protection. Shelters for urgent and emergency cases were lacking and there remained a need to strengthen programming and services related to SGBV and countering human trafficking.

The Dominican Republic and Guyana were the first southern Caribbean countries to sign the Quito IV Declaration and Roadmap in 2019, reinforcing cooperation between countries of transit and destination for Venezuelans and identifying actions to be taken to protect vulnerable refugees and migrants.

In the Caribbean, refugees and asylum-seekers originated from over 40 countries around the world, with the scope, size and complexity of mixed movements having increased significantly since the start of the Venezuela crisis. In 2019, Venezuela remained the largest country of origin in the region (83%), followed by Cuba (12%). According to the inter-agency refugee and migrant response plan (RMRP), the number of Venezuelans in the Caribbean was estimated to have reached a total of 113,500 by the end of 2019, with 33,800 in the Dominican Republic; 27,600 in Trinidad and Tobago; 22,100 in Guyana; 17,000 in Aruba; and 16,600 in Curaçao.

Instability in Haiti created a strong need for contingency planning in the Dominican Republic, where UNHCR observed an increase in arrivals of people of concern from Haiti in late 2019.

Beyond the Venezuela situation, the protection environment in the United States of America (United States) and the region faced significant challenges. Arrivals to the southern border of the United States in 2019 exceeded some 921,900 people – the highest level since 2014 – with 52% of all people arriving in family units and 8% arriving as unaccompanied children. New deterrent policies prompted more asylum-seekers to enter the United States irregularly, with a 71% increase in apprehensions between ports of entry as compared to 2018. Nationals from countries in the north of Central America and Mexico represented the largest number of arrivals, although in 2019 Cuban arrivals increased significantly.

In 2019, UNHCR submitted over 24,800 refugees for resettlement to the United States. During that same period, over 21,100 refugees submitted by UNHCR departed to the United States. These figures represent a decline of over 4,200 refugees in submissions from 2018 but a modest increase in departures.

Operations' funding was extremely limited, which led UNHCR to reduce the size and scope of virtually all its programmed activities in the United States. Dedicated resettlement staffing in the multi-country office and the field was insufficient.

The lack of qualified civil society organizations in the region also led to limitations in assistance to those in need. In Guyana specifically, the provision of humanitarian assistance by UNHCR reached only a limited number of people of concern due to budgetary constraints and scarcity of partners.

Operations in North America and the Caribbean in 2019

Canada

While the number of asylum-seekers in 2019 increased by 16% (a record high of over 63,800 people) compared to 2018, the number of irregular arrivals dropped by 18% to 16,500 persons.

In 2019, Canada resettled over 10,930 refugees identified by UNHCR, while also admitting 19,150 privately sponsored refugees. It also continued a small labour mobility pilot for refugees.

Canada supported efforts to enhance the capacity of asylum authorities in Mexico. Canada and UNHCR signed an arrangement to implement projects under the MIRPS framework to strengthen the asylum systems of Belize and Panama. The Government remained committed to its Feminist International Assistance Policy.

2019 Voluntary Contributions to North America and the Caribbean | USD

Earmarking / Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	All pillars	Total
United States of America Regional Office				
European Union	926,767	0	0	926,767
Germany	0	21,400	0	21,400
Guyana	0	0	15,883	15,883
United States of America	5,484,250	0	400,000	5,884,250
<i>United States of America Regional Office subtotal</i>	6,411,017	21,400	415,883	6,848,300
Total	6,411,017	21,400	415,883	6,848,300

Note: