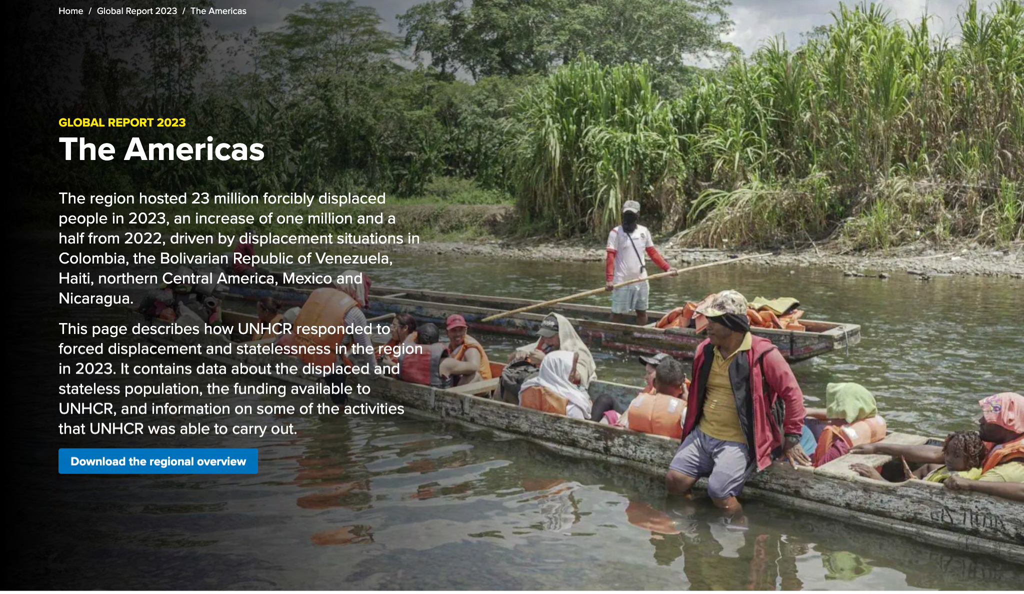


GLOBAL REPORT 2023

The Americas

The region hosted 23 million forcibly displaced people in 2023, an increase of one million and a half from 2022, driven by displacement situations in Colombia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Haiti, northern Central America, Mexico and Nicaragua.

This page describes how UNHCR responded to forced displacement and statelessness in the region in 2023. It contains data about the displaced and stateless population, the funding available to UNHCR, and information on some of the activities that UNHCR was able to carry out.

Download the regional overview

After a five day trek through the Darien jungle in Panama, a group of Venezuelans have reached the informal reception point at Bajo Chiquito, and wait for a canoe to take them on the five-hour trip to Lajas Blancas, a temporary reception centre run by the Government of Panama. © UNHCR/Ilaria Rapido Ragozzino

Regional overview

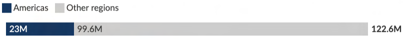
The Americas hosted 23 million forcibly displaced people and others in need of UNHCR's protection and assistance in 2023, an increase of one million and a half from 2022, driven by displacement situations in Colombia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Haiti, northern Central America, Mexico and Nicaragua. An unprecedented 520,000 people from more than 35 countries **crossed the Darien** jungle in Panama to move from South to North America, more than the total who made that perilous journey in the previous 12 years, and double the 2022 number. UNHCR invested in platforms such as Trust the Jaguar, Trust the Toucan, and *Somos Panas* to give people reliable information about the risks of crossing the Darien and to combat misinformation. UNHCR and IOM jointly called for a collaborative response to the movement of refugees and migrants, and worked with their partners to provide humanitarian assistance and assist those in need of international protection with their application for refugee status. With a record number of arrivals at the **U.S. southern border**, UNHCR welcomed U.S. initiatives to expand safe and legal pathways and urged the Government not to impose barriers to asylum. UNHCR worked with partners on both sides of the border to provide shelter and humanitarian assistance, and legal assistance for asylum-seekers, preventing the separation of families, and providing technical advice to government authorities on how to develop fair and efficient asylum systems that respect international refugee law.

Venezuelans continued leaving their country in greater numbers than those returning. Host governments made commendable efforts to meet their need for regular residency status. Brazil recognized over 123,000 Venezuelans as refugees and granted temporary residency permits to over 411,000. Colombia, with close to 2.5 million biometrically registered Venezuelans, issued temporary protection permits to 1.6 million. Ecuador registered 259,000 Venezuelans through an ongoing regularization mechanism, while Peru granted temporary stay to over 200,000 through a newly launched programme. The United States of America expanded its parole process, admitting more than 55,000 Venezuelans in the first nine months of 2023, and Chile implemented a biometric registration process, identifying 130,000 individuals, primarily Venezuelans, in need of regular stay.

Colombia continued to grapple with multiple displacement situations, hosting 2.9 million Venezuelans and over half a million Colombians returning from Venezuela. Colombia had the **largest number of internally displaced people** (IDPs) in the world, at 6.9 million by year-end. UNHCR worked with the Government on the protection of IDPs, and building on the Total Peace Agenda, supporting conflict-affected communities, returns, relocations, and the legalization of urban settlements with a high number of IDPs. In Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and Mexico, UNHCR strengthened national responses for IDPs, helping to ensure they could access

Forcibly displaced and stateless population | 2023

19% of the global forcibly displaced and stateless population



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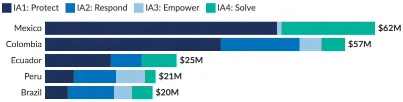
Regional expenditure and budget

$355 million spent against a budget of **$827 million**
$472 million of unmet needs or **57%** of the budget

Operations with the highest expenditure in the Americas | 2023

These 5 operations accounted for 52% of the total regional expenditure of $355 million.



IA stands for "Impact Area".
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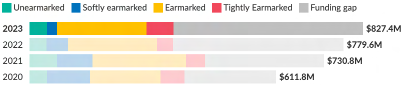
Regional funding and earmarking for the Americas | 2020-2023

$357.8 million funds available (43%) in 2023 out of the $827.4 million required.



public services, legal support and humanitarian assistance.

Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America were among the top 10 recipients of new **asylum applications** worldwide, with many applications from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Haiti and Nicaragua. Under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), governments adopted a holistic approach to the different stages of displacement and to assistance in countries of origin, host communities, transit countries and destinations. UNHCR supported **Mexico's** efforts to keep pace with the huge number of asylum claims, quadrupling processing capacity since 2018, as well as helping to receive, shelter and register new arrivals. A UNHCR programme also helped refugees relocate from southern border areas to cities in central and northern Mexico where **jobs** are more plentiful, and children have a better chance of a normal, dignified life. Over 600 private companies worked with UNHCR, hiring refugees. Tens of thousands of Venezuelans were also able to find work in Brazil and Colombia, while in Honduras, UNHCR launched an internship financing project to bring young displaced people into the labour market. Labour programmes were supported by UNHCR's engagement with development and financial actors and the private sector, which expanded financing for host countries, through loans and non-reimbursable grants.

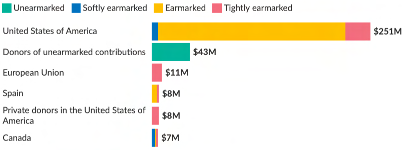
UNHCR significantly increased the region's capacity to **resettle refugees** and in coordination with IOM, supported the Safe Mobility Initiative (SMO) in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Ecuador to expand access to resettlement and other pathways to the United States of America, Canada and Spain. Almost 25,000 individuals were submitted for resettlement in 2023, including close to 14,000 as part of the SMO initiative.

Countries of the Caribbean region, mainly through the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), responded to forced displacement from **Haiti**, with UNHCR advocating against the forced return of Haitians and supporting national asylum systems. Increased gang violence in Haiti raised significant protection concerns, prompting UNHCR's efforts to strengthen local protection systems.

UNHCR promoted comprehensive and coordinated **regional responses** that address displacement and support sustainable solutions, such as R4V, MIRPS, the Quito Process, and Cities of Solidarity. UNHCR also sought to make responses local, especially via the meaningful participation of forcibly displaced women and women-led organizations. UNHCR also strengthened collaborations to improve gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and interventions for young people. During the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, Latin American and Caribbean countries launched the **Cartagena+40** process to create a regional roadmap addressing protection and solutions, emphasizing priorities like human mobility, development, and disaster displacement.

Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

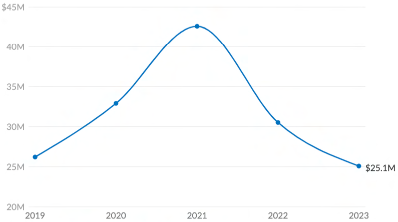
Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions to the Americas



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments = $29 million

Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

Cash assistance in the Americas | 2019-2023



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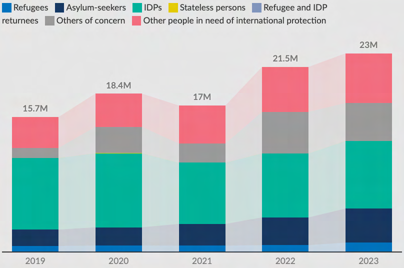
Population overview

Displacement trend in the Americas | 2019-2023



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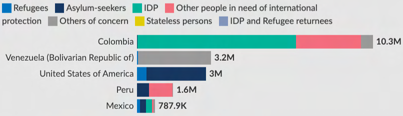
Top 5 operations by population in the Americas | 2023

These 5 operations represent 82% of the regional population.



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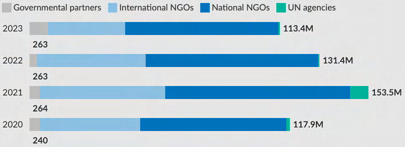
Financial overview

Expenditure via partners in the Americas | 2020-2023 (USD millions)

$113.4 million spent via 263 partners in 2023



(Figures appearing below each bar are the total number of partners or for each category when scrolling on.)

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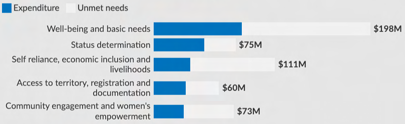
Top 5 areas of expenditure in the Americas | 2023

These 5 areas accounted for 61% of the total regional expenditure of $355 million.



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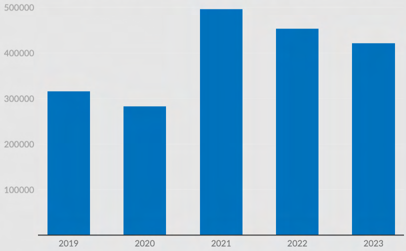
Download detailed financial and contribution information

Trends in response

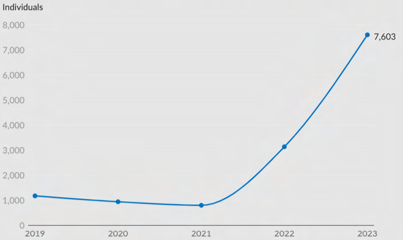
New individual registration records in the Americas | 2019-2023



Individual registration records in PRIMES proGres v4 includes all forcibly displaced and stateless people registered each year, regardless of their current process status: "active", "hold", "inactive", or "closed". Figures are rounded.

Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

Resettlement departures from the Americas | 2019-2023



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Multisectoral monitoring results

Protection

1.8 million people received protection services*

2022 result: 1.6 million

Protection services encompasses a vast range of community-based, individual and household interventions in various domains of UNHCR protection work, including counselling and information on rights, sensitization on protection issues, community outreach and mobilization, specialized services for children or other persons with specific needs, GBV programming, legal assistance, registration and documentation, Refugee status determination and resettlement case-work, protection monitoring.

Child protection

583,000 children received protection services*

2022 result: 471,000

67% of countries in the region had child protection services available to forcibly displaced and stateless children

Child protection services include support through Best Interests Procedures for children at risk, targeted support for children with specific needs and children in alternative care, support through family tracing and reunification, and reintegration support for children associated with armed groups and forces.

Accountability to affected populations

87% of reporting countries had a multi-channel feedback and response system that was designed based on consultations with forcibly displaced and stateless people

2022 result: 86%

Basic needs

124,500 people received cash assistance

2022 result: 193,600

453,000 people received non-food items including core relief items*

Indicator not available in 2022

This indicator reflects the total number of people who benefited from the direct distribution of in-kind non-food items, including domestic Core Relief Items (CRIs) and excluding shelter CRIs.

Shelter

243,000 people received shelter and housing assistance*

Indicator not available in 2022

Shelter and housing assistance includes emergency, transitional and durable shelter provision, collective shelter, shelter repair and maintenance, and rental programming.

Health

127,000 people received essential health care services

2022 result: 187,200

20,000 women and girls received sexual and reproductive health services*

2022 result: 40,400

Sexual and reproductive health services include antenatal care, assisted delivery, postnatal care, family planning services and health services for survivors of gender-based violence.

92,000 people received mental health and psychosocial support services

2022 result: 91,500

Situations

Colombia situation

El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras situation

Venezuela situation

Operations*

Argentina Multi-Country Office | Brazil | Colombia | Costa Rica | Ecuador | El Salvador | Guatemala | Honduras | Mexico | Peru

***The operations listed above are the ones with annual results reports available on Global Focus for 2023.**

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Additional resources

- Ecuador Country Strategy Evaluation 2019 - 2022
- Basic Needs and Livelihoods Evaluation Costa Rica
- Honduras Country Strategy Evaluation 2019 - 2022