Paraguay

November 2019

Historical commitment to protection. Paraguay is a State Party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol since 1970.

Protection and prevention of statelessness. Paraguay acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless People in 2014, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2012.

Adoption of a new law on statelessness. On 9 August 2018 Paraguay's bicameral Congress approved a bill which protects the rights of stateless people, as well as applicants for the recognition of such status, and a facilitated path to naturalization.

HIGHLIGHTS

In February 2019, the National Migration Directorate of Paraguay adopted Resolution 62/2019 to introduce a temporary residence scheme with more flexible requirements for Venezuelan nationals. It enables them to apply for a temporary residence of 1 year with relevant exceptions to the regular and otherwise strict visa requirements.

In August 2018, Paraguay enacted a new Law (N° 6.149) for the **protection and naturalization of stateless people**. Paraguay became the first country in the Americas to approve a law for protection and naturalization of stateless people, when the bicameral Congress approved a bill presented in May 2017, which protects the rights of stateless people, as well as applicants for the recognition of such status, including a facilitated path to naturalization.

The domestic legal framework dealing with refugees is set out in the 2002 **Refugee Law Nº 1938 "Ley General sobre Refugiados"**, which is in line with international standards of protection, including the regional extended refugee definition in line with the 1984 Cartagena Declaration.

POPULATION OF CONCERN 4,293

Refugees	**284**
Asylum-seekers	**659**
Venezuelans displaced abroad	**3,350**

Source: Official information provided by the Government, as of June 2019

FUNDING

USD 11.8 MILLION

requested for the **Argentina Regional Office including Paraguay**

UNHCR´s financial requirements 2019

74% funded [2]

ARGENTINA REGIONAL OFFICE
as of 6 November 2019

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

POPULATION OF CONCERN (EVOLUTION)

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (jun)
166	655	1,057	1,792	3,207	4,293

UNHCR PRESENCE

The UNHCR Regional Office for Southern Latin America based in Buenos Aires covers operations in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Staff and Offices
1 Regional Office in Buenos Aires, Argentina – **9** international staff, **25** national staff, **14** UNOPS, **1** Fellow and **3** Consultants.
in Mendoza, Argentina **1** UNOPS
in La Rioja, Argentina **1** UNOPS
in Salta, Argentina **1** UNOPS
in Córdoba, Argentina **1** UNOPS
in Montevideo, Uruguay **3** UNOPS

1 National Office in Santiago, Chile – **1** international staff, **13** staff National staff, **1** ERT and **2** UNOPS.
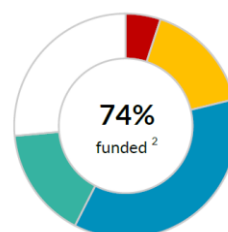
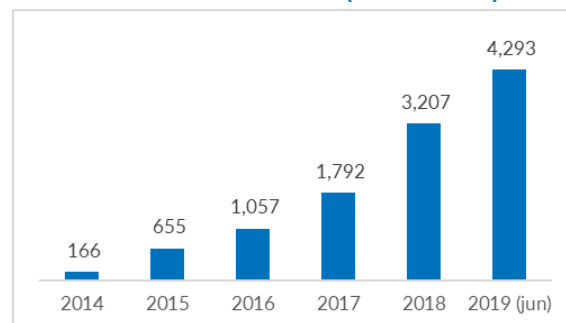**Presence** in Arica, Chile - **3** National staff.

Photo: Syrian asylum-seeker in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay / ©UNHCR

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works in close coordination with Government counterparts, namely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the multi-sectorial National Refugee Commission (CONARE), as well as with other UN agencies to provide protection and seek durable solutions for refugees. UNHCR is a member of CONARE.
- "**Semillas para la Democracia**" is UNHCR´s partner implementing projects aimed at providing basic humanitarian assistance and supporting socio-economic inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers and Venezuelan nationals.

Main Activities

Protection & Durable Solutions

- Support the Government in the institutional **strengthening of the national asylum system**, in particular of the CONARE's Secretariat through the implementation of activities in line with the Brazil Plan of Action. CONARE, its technical Secretariat and the RSD procedure, are fully funded by the Government.
- Advocate for the implementation of Law N° 6.149 for the **protection of stateless persons** and the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure in line with the pledges made by the Government of Paraguay including those under the Brazil Plan of Action.
- Promote a greater engagement of relevant Government institutions in the development of a comprehensive strategy towards the **local integration of refugees**.
- Strengthen the engagement with the UN system to ensure the inclusion of persons of concern in the national development plan and the **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework**.
- Provide **capacity building and training** to relevant counterparts.
- Promote the implementation of a **border protection strategy** by CONARE and civil society at the Paraguay-Brazilian border to identify and refer persons of concern to UNHCR, prevent their *refoulement* and support them through counselling, shelter and humanitarian assistance among other services.

Humanitarian Assistance & Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- "Semillas para la Democracia" has provided **humanitarian assistance to 60 asylum-seekers and refugees** with specific needs. The assistance consists of financial and in-kind support as well as counselling to promote their local integration through, inter alia, access to public education and health.
- "Semillas para la Democracia" has engaged four private sector partners, as well as financial service providers, specialized civil society organizations, line ministries and the UN, to **strengthen economic inclusion of persons of concern** through access to employment, self-employment and financial inclusion.
- Through a cooperation with "**Fundación Paraguaya**", refugees and asylum-seekers with an entrepreneurial profile receive **technical and financial training and guidance** to set up a business. "Semillas para la Democracia" complements this initiative by awarding **seed capital** to entrepreneurs and offering tailored orientations to 164 PoC regarding employment and capacity building opportunities available to them

External Relations

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