

UNHCR Costa Rica

Monthly Update



As part of the contingency actions organized by UNHCR in the face of the presidential elections in Nicaragua and the possible entry of people in need of international protection, the Upala Field Office carried out daily border monitoring exercises throughout the month of November.
[Read the story on page 5.](#)

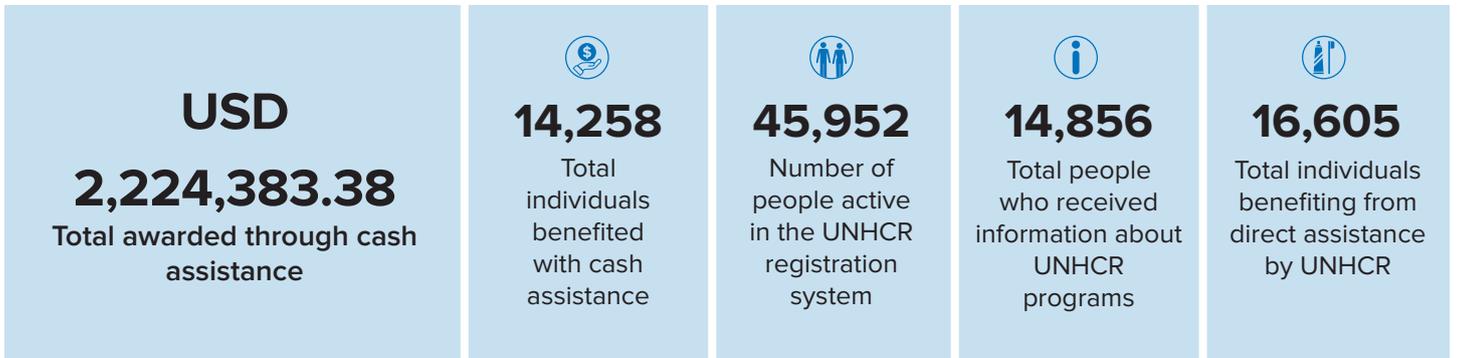


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La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

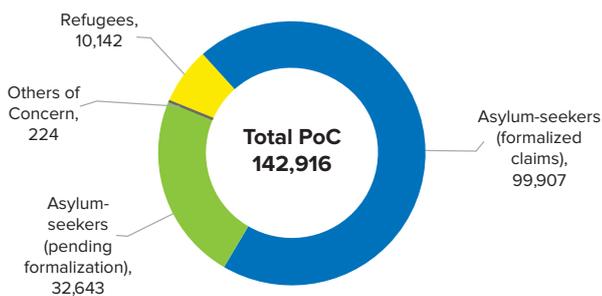
October, 2021

Figures at a glance*



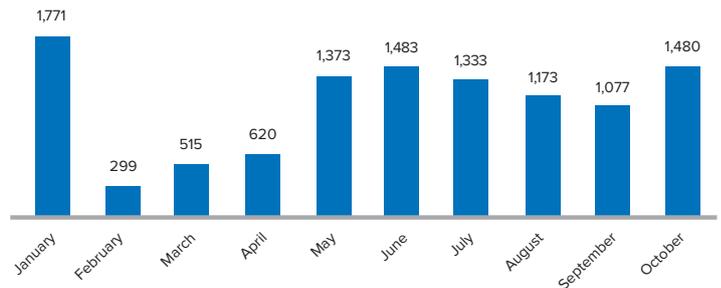
Numbers

Total Caseload Distribution, 2021



Sources: Migration Authority (Refugee Unit), CVVR, Administrative Migration Tribunal, National Registry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR Costa Rica.

Number of new people registered by UNHCR Costa Rica



Source: UNHCR - Own data (ProGres database v4) -Being registered in proGres is a requirement for all UNHCR assistance programs-

*Accumulated from January 1, 2021 to Octubre 31, 2021

Guide for the recruitment of refugees

is presented to CINDE

On October 8, UNHCR met with the Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE) to present two manuals, one for hiring refugees and asylum seekers and another on good commercial practices for the inclusion of this population. Both were developed in coordination with Western Union, Boston Scientific, Accenture, and Manpower. CINDE will assist in the distribution of these manuals to other companies.

The creation of these manuals follows the commitments made by these companies during the Solidarity Event with the MIRPS countries organized by the Government of Spain in June and in the meeting of the Private Sector with the High Commissioner Filippo Grandi during his visit to Costa Rica in February of this year.

In this commitment, the offices of Western Union, Accenture, Boston Scientific and ManpowerGroup in Costa Rica assumed as affirmative action to form a coalition of companies with the objective of promoting more inclusive business policies, promoting the hiring of refugees and asylum-seekers in Costa Rica and combating racial discrimination and xenophobia internally.



This group of companies will develop a set of tools to serve as a guide for the selection and recruitment processes of displaced persons. Communication channels will also be generated to make visible the potential of this population to generate value for companies, share good practices within the organizations, as well as open spaces for more organizations to join.

The Coalition of companies has been shown as good practice in different international forums including the “Public-private dialogue: Practical tools for the inclusion in the labor market of internally displaced people, refugee applicants, refugees and returnees in the economies of Central America and México” and was included in the III MIRPS Annual Report.

Event addressed practical tools for the labor inclusion of internally displaced people, asylum-seekers, refugees, and returnees in the economies of Central America and Mexico



In 2021, the National Technical Teams of the States that make up the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS), under the leadership of the Pro-Tempore Presidency held by Guatemala, formed a Working Group on Labor Market Access and Vocational Training to address existing challenges

for the economic integration of internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, refugees and returnees to reintegrate into host communities.

This Working Group identified the need to develop tools to guide companies on the hiring process and good practices for employing internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, refugees and returnees in Central America and Mexico. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the inclusion of these people in the labor market contributes positively to the economic recovery of the countries as it implies the entry of new labor.

This virtual event was organized by the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS with the support of the Technical Secretariat made up of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Organization of American States (UNHCR-OAS); it sought to generate a space for discussion and dialogue between the governments and the private sector of the countries to exchange experiences and perspectives on the development and application of labor inclusion guides for people in vulnerable situations in the MIRPS member countries. Likewise, it allowed the receipt of contributions for the eventual development of other tools and guides that positively encourages the inclusion and access to the labor market of this sector of the population.

The event also offered a space to understand the perspective of the private sector and governments on the main challenges they face in the development of programs for internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, refugees, and returnees to access the labor market; as well as the possibility of developing a hiring guide that makes it easier for employers to include and train these people in the Central American and Mexican economies.

UNHCR trains journalists in good reporting practices regarding forced displacement



On October 20, the External Relations Unit held a training workshop for journalists on basic concepts of international protection and good journalistic practices on the matter.

Twelve journalists from national press, television, international agencies and online newspapers attended (La Nación, Repretel, EFE-CAN, Amelia Rueda, Repretel, Confidencial (Nicaragua)). The workshop aimed to sensitize the press about the importance of adequate reporting regarding forced displacement matters, as well as the implications and risks of imprecise coverage. The activity was carried out as part of UNHCR’s actions in the context of presidential elections in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The workshop generated interest in journalists to learn more about international protection and how to address these issues in the media.

EMPLEATE

Program Graduation

On September 24, the graduation of the first group of the EMPLATE program made up exclusively of 20 refugees and asylum-seekers was celebrated. Graduates obtained a certified training diploma in cable and satellite TV installation; 8 of them have already been hired by the SETEO company of Costa Rica.

As of 2021, UNHCR, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS) and Fundación Mujer have agreed to an alliance for the execution of the national EMPLATE program; this initiative consists of supporting people to improve their employability through training and liaison with potential employer companies.

Specifically, for the inclusion of the refugee population and asylum-seekers, it was established that Fundación Mujer would serve as liaison between the training centers for the contracting of additional training services to those contracted by the MTSS and the reference and follow-up of profiles of participating persons of interest in the program.



The participatory assessment of 2021

allowed the identification of barriers to access to rights

From October 18 to 26, UNHCR's Community-Based Protection sub-unit conducted the annual Participatory Assessment. This exercise was carried out virtually with children, adolescents, young women and men between the ages of 18 and 25, adult women and men, elderly and people with disabilities, as well as a face-to-face group with LGBTIQ+ people. A total of 83 persons of concern to UNHCR from Nicaragua, Colombia, Cuba, Venezuela and El Salvador participated.

This year the assessment focused on the barriers to access services and employment, specifically discrimination and xenophobia. Barriers in access to the labor market were identified, mainly due to situations of discrimination due to their refugee status. Among the participants they agreed that these barriers are based on discrimination, xenophobia and ignorance of their rights and documentation by public and private companies, officials, and employers.

The lack of job opportunities hampers the ability of these people to meet their basic needs. Among them, participants point to rent and food as their top priorities. Other protection needs identified during this exercise are access to documentation and the

refugee status determination process, mainly in regard to the long waiting periods and appointment changes that occurred during the first months of the pandemic in 2020. The main suggestion to UNHCR was on the field of advocacy and awareness to promote the rights of refugees and support them in their ideas of entrepreneurship, education, and access to quality jobs.

Institutional strengthening

for emergencies

To strengthen contingency planning and emergency preparedness, during 2021 UNHCR has strengthened its participation in the Emergency Committees (CMEs) in Upala, La Cruz, Los Chiles, Guatuso and San Carlos and its presence in the Interinstitutional Coordination Committees (CCCI) of these cantons.

UNHCR has also provided support to local institutions with the aim of strengthening their capacity to respond to emergency situations caused by



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