



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN CHILE
448.1K



PEOPLE REACHED
IN 2022*
28,633



FUNDING SITUATION**
FUNDED: USD 3.1M
REQUIREMENT: USD 59.51M

Situation

- On 6 May, the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security [launched the National Policy on Migration](#). R4V partners participated in the ceremony with local authorities and public institutions. The initiative was presented as a State policy that will promote the harmonious participation of refugees and migrants in the social, cultural, political, and economic context in Chile, in addition to ensuring the interests of Chilean citizens abroad.
- According to the information provided by the National Immigration Service, [work visas fell to their lowest level in 10 years](#) in 2021, when only 97,842 such visas were granted, in comparison to 2018 when 428,388 people received such visas. Among the main causes of the decrease were the COVID19 pandemic and the repeal of the visa "for work reasons" during the second government of President Michelle Bachelet. Venezuelans were the top nationality receiving visas from 2011 to 2021, accounting for 502,155 visas.
- [Supreme Decree 177 which modified administrative procedures for refugees and migrants in Chile underwent several changes](#) after a review by the Comptroller General of Chile. The government modified the text drafted by the previous government of President Sebastian Pinera, adding greater flexibility to the strict limitations to change immigration status within the country, regulating a humanitarian visa for children and aligning the regulation with refugee protection legislation in Chile.
- On 16 May, an 83-year-old Venezuelan man [died](#) in Chile after crossing the border to Colchane from Pisiga (Bolivia). The victim was travelling with his sister, an elderly woman and two young men. Although the exact cause of death is unknown, he showed signs of hypertension, and had traversed difficult terrain due to prevailing altitude and weather conditions.
- According to the Ministry of Health, from 2021 to 23 March 2022, 1.2 million foreigners received a first dose of vaccine against COVID-19, and 1.1 million received two doses (El Mercurio, 23 May 2022). Some 783,000 foreigners received a booster (third or fourth dose) which according to health experts reflected a decrease in the vaccination rate in Chile.
- On 27 May, Carabineros [assisted a pregnant Venezuelan woman](#) who was ill and bleeding while entering the country alone through an unauthorized border crossing near Colchane.
- On 22 May, a group of members of Congress from the conservative "Renovación Nacional" political party forwarded an [official request](#) to the Ministry of Interior regarding the new administrative regulation of temporary residence status in the country (Supreme Decree No. 177). The document questioned whether foreigners should be able to apply for temporary residency from within the national territory. The modified administrative regulation granted this possibility to foreigners who entered Chile as tourists before the entry into force of the new Immigration Law number 21.325 (on April 2021) and in specific cases determined by the Undersecretary of Interior.

Response

- In May, Eduardo Stein, UNHCR-IOM Joint Special Representative for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela; José Samaniego, UNHCR Regional Director for the Americas; and Diego Beltrand, Special Envoy of the IOM Director General for the Regional Response to the Venezuela Situation visited Chile and met with key government and civil society counterparts. The objective of the visit was to contribute to the search for solutions for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Chile. In addition to meetings with national authorities, an encounter was held with civil society organizations and R4V partners, who shared their challenges in the humanitarian response to the situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.
- On 30 May, R4V held an interagency meeting in which various critical issues in Tarapaca region were addressed.
- The Coordination of the R4V Platform in Chile presented to the Government (Ministry of Interior and Public Security) an inventory of capabilities of each R4V partner within the framework of the "Migration Crisis Management Committee."
- The second plenary meeting of R4V partners was held in Metropolitan Region. The R4V coordination team presented challenges and objectives for the year ahead and GTRM Tarapacá shared an update on population movements in the north of the country.

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* Accumulated figures up to 31/05/2022 | **Source: FTS Website.

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- During May, R4V partners **assisted refugees and migrants with food and non-food items** (including hygiene kits) in the Regions of Arica, Antofagasta and Tarapacá as well as in the Metropolitan Region of Santiago. At the Colchane temporary shelter, in close coordination with the Government, hot food was provided to refugees and migrants who entered the country irregularly using unofficial border points.
- Concerning **health services**, R4V partners provided primary medical care to the refugee and migrant population in Iquique and Arica. Partners also provided **Psychological First Aid training** to several local governments. Doctor/social worker pairs provided psycho-social care in temporary shelters and in other locations with a high presence of refugees and migrants (such as bus terminals).
- In **protection services**, R4V partners delivered key information to all refugees and migrants in transitory shelters and along the principal routes.

 PEOPLE REACHED*	 Health 1,373	 Education 82	 Food Security 1,799	 Integration 498	 CBI 616	 Protection 5,981	 Shelter 1,345	 Hum. Transp. 4	 WASH 1,629
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