



HIGHLIGHTS

77,885

Persons of concern in Brazil. Out of these, **8,863** are refugees from Syria, Angola, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo and others.

43,800

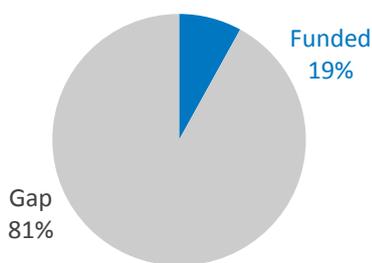
Asylum seekers (mainly from Haiti) granted permanent residency based on humanitarian grounds.

8,474

Visas granted under the special visa programme for people affected by the Syrian conflict

Funding requirements

USD 6.2 million requested



Context information

- Brazil has become the main recipient of asylum claims in the Southern Cone region. The number of new claims submitted in the country increased more than 2,020% in recent years.
- UNHCR has supported the government in its leading role in the Cartagena+30 process, through which Latin America and Caribbean countries agreed to work together to uphold the highest international and regional protection standards, find innovative solutions to protect refugees, displaced people and end the plight of the region's stateless. These commitments were embodied in the *Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action*.

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

12 national, 1 international staff and 11 affiliate workforce personnel

Offices:

Brasilia - Branch Office Brasilia
São Paulo – Field Unit São Paulo
São Paulo – PSFR Unit (UN House)



Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Printing date: 27 Jul 2016

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works closely with government counterparts, particularly the Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Refugee Committee; National Congress, Public Defender's Office, State and Municipal Governments, civil society, the private sector and other UN agencies to provide protection and support, and to identify comprehensive solutions for persons under UNHCR's mandate.
- Assistance and protection activities are implemented in collaboration with eight partners, including CAPS (Caritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo); CARJ (Caritas Arquidiocesana de Rio de Janeiro); IMDH (Instituto Migrações e Direitos Humanos); ASAV (Associação Antonio Vieira) and CAPR (Caritas Brasileira Regional Paraná). Specialized services to children and on education and integration are also provided by three NGOs, particularly: IKMR (I Know My Rights), ADUS (Instituto de Reintegração do Refugiado), and Compassiva.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Assist the Government in a strategy to strengthening the quality, efficiency and sustainability of the national asylum system.
- Provide support to the Brazilian Government on a set of activities to ensure the special visa programme for people affected by the Syrian conflict is more efficient and secure. So far, over 8,474 visas have been granted. This initiative was internationally acclaimed for providing a safe and legal avenue for refugees affected by the Syrian conflict.
- Advocate for the approval of a new Migration Law and a bill on the protection of stateless persons and for the establishment of a Stateless Status Determination Procedure in the framework of the #IBelong Campaign and the Brazil Plan of Action.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy on child protection that sets strategic objectives, expected results and indicators as well as booklets for the population of concern (PoC) and partners on masculinities and LGBTI rights. Liaise with grassroots women's rights organizations and take steps towards a national assessment on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Provide training and technical support to stakeholders such as the immigration authorities, judiciary, local authorities and public servants.

Education

- Assist in the development of age, gender and diversity sensitive Portuguese learning material to complement the free Portuguese language courses offered to the PoC by the government.
- Establish a multidisciplinary education program project, with the NGO I Know My Rights, that promotes assessment visits and tutoring services in children's homes and schools. It also includes a cultural development plan, encompassing a variety of domains that are important to the children's full development.
- Develop a pilot "Refugee Education in Urban Setting" Initiative aiming at strengthening education activities amongst the PoC: (i) assessing specific needs of children of concern; (ii) providing capacity building to school staff; (iii) raising awareness among educational actors in order to have a protective and sensitized environment for children of concern; (iv) devising a national strategy towards refugee mainstreaming in Brazilian schools.
- Follow up on the Sergio Vieira Academic Chair (CSVM) launched by UNHCR in 2003 which aims at engaging the academia in the protection and integration of refugees, through research, education and outreach activities. CSVM has also been fundamental to provide access of refugees to higher education, through the establishment of simplified admission procedures, revalidation of academic certificates obtained abroad and the granting of scholarships. There are currently 15 University members of CSVM.

Health

- Produce and distribute booklets and information posters on the health services and the Zika virus in coordination with partners.
- Established a partnership with ADUS to provide qualified mental health support and psychosocial assistance to the PoC.
- Coordinate actions to ensure refugees and asylum seekers have full access to the Public Health System.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Reach out to communities and include them as equal partners in assessing, designing and implementing programmes with a focus on enhanced community-based protection through community mobilization, empowerment and outreach.
- Launch a pilot workshop project on women's empowerment and labour market, through a partnership with the UN Global Pact, UN Women, Caritas São Paulo, and the human resources consultancies PARR and FoxTime.

- Support direct and joint interventions with partners at three different levels (policy, organization, and individual/community) to enhance self-reliance and economic conditions of persons of concern to potentially facilitate the achievement of durable solutions.
- Establish a project with Associação Compassiva which ensures the validation of diplomas and covers the Universities fees and translations costs aiming at facilitating access of the PoC to the labour market.
- Promote committees and services launched in São Paulo relating to the provision of shelter, livelihood opportunities and Portuguese classes to the PoC.

Durable Solutions

- Support the government's efforts towards furthering local integration through providing capacity building for the local authorities, the development of a State Plan that aims presenting clear directives to Federal, State and Municipal governments and the Cities of Solidarity initiative, which aims at engaging municipalities in the adoption of policies and the creation of a solidary environment for the PoC.
- Promote a stronger resettlement programme for refugees from other continents fully funded by the government.

Contacts:

Luiz Fernando Godinho, Public Information Officer, godinho@unhcr.org Tel: +55.61.3044.5744, Mobile +55.61.9.8187.0978
Catia Lopes, UNHCR External Relations Officer, LOPES@unhcr.org, Tel.: +41 (0)2 27397204 **Website:** www.unhcr.org