

Operation: Brazil

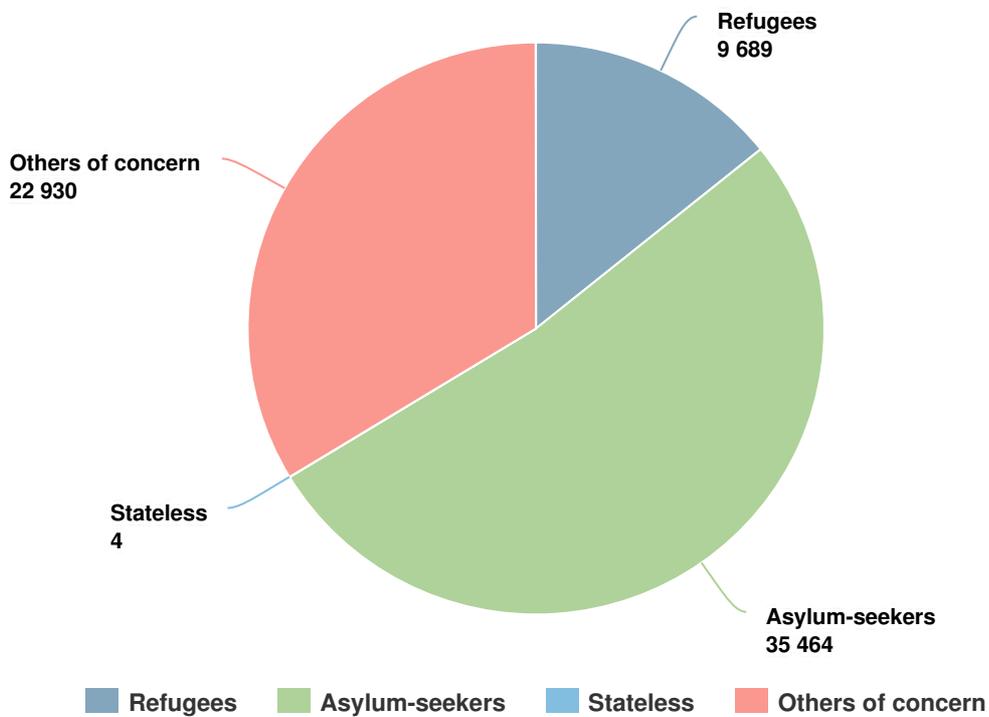


Latest update of camps and office locations **21 Nov 2016**.

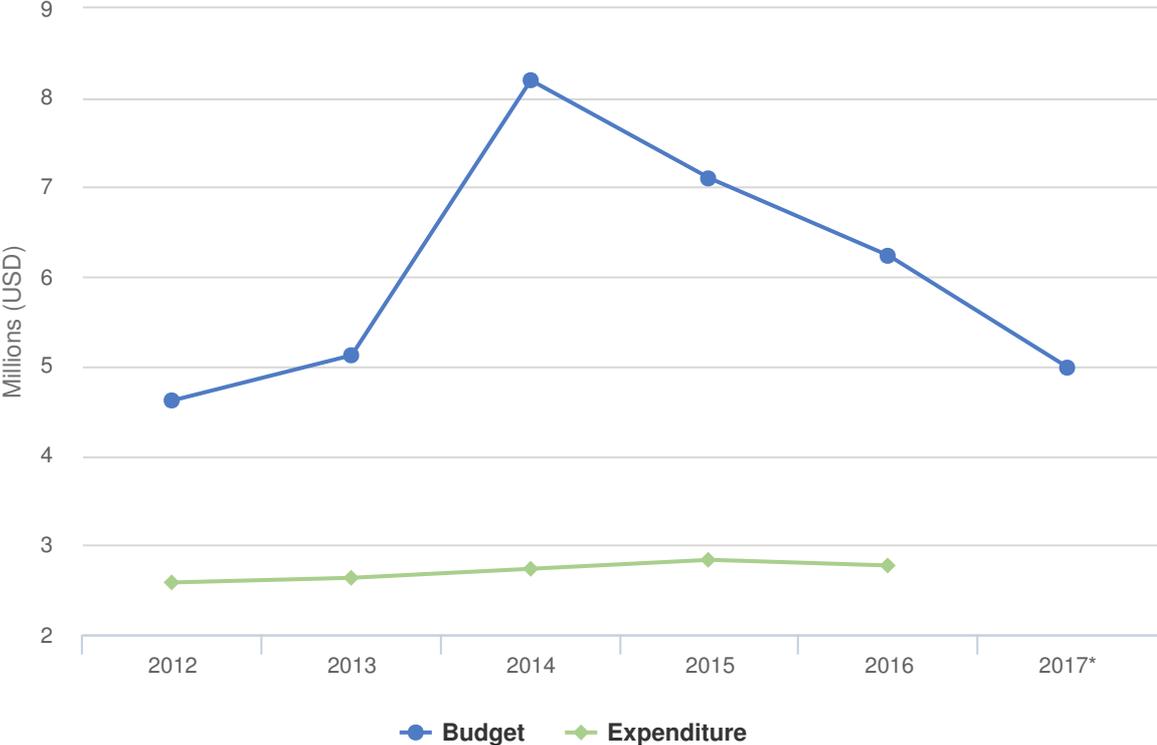
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
90% 2016

2016	68,087
2015	35,790
2014	47,946



Budgets and Expenditure for Brazil



Working environment

Brazil continues to play a key leadership role on refugee protection in the Americas, in line with the Brazil Plan of Action.

The country is one of the main recipients of asylum claims in the region. The number of asylum applications has increased significantly over the past six years, including most recently from Syrians and Venezuelans.

The Government in 2016 also pledged to increase support for local integration, and implement a state-funded resettlement programme for a total of 3,000 Syrians and displaced Central Americans in 2017 and 2018.

Nevertheless, the political and economic crisis in the country has challenged the promotion of livelihoods and self-reliance of people of concern. Despite UNHCR's advocacy efforts, the lack of State policy for local integration of refugees also remains a challenge.

Population trends

- In 2016 the total population of concern in Brazil stood at some 68,000 people, including close to 9,700 refugees and 35,500 asylum-seekers
- 10,288 new asylum claims were received, with Venezuela (6,975), Cuba (1,370), Angola (1,353) and Haiti (646) the top countries of origin. Syrian asylum claims totaled 391 by the end of 2016
- 98,000 Haitians were granted humanitarian visas and permanent residency, based on forcible displacement for environmental reasons. Some 30,000 Haitians have reportedly left Brazil and travelled onwards.

Achievements and impact

- The São Paulo Municipal Policy for Migrants and Refugees was supported to establish guidelines for hosting and integrating migrants and refugees at the municipal level.
- UNHCR obtained observer status at the National Immigration Council.
- The Migration Law was approved at the Lower House with UNHCR advocacy and technical comments on refugee issues, but was still pending approval by the Upper house and the President.
- UNHCR held regional meetings in Porto Alegre and Quilicura, to draft an initial framework and criteria for Cities of Solidarity.

Unmet needs

- Insufficient ownership of the refugee status determination (RSD) process by the Government resulted in a growing backlog of cases (29,200 at year-end). A weak registration system also affected case management and upholding of standards to ensure girls and boys have access to child-friendly RSD procedures.
 - The Convention on Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (including refugees) was not ratified
 - Lack of a Federal Plan on Local Integration, which would set out responsibilities for different stakeholders at all levels of the Brazilian federation..
 - A Stateless Status determination procedure remains to be established.
 - Given the very small office structure in Brazil, UNHCR has not been able to fully capitalize on the number of opportunities and outpour of interest from the Brazilian public, private sector and civil society to collaborate with UNHCR to help refugees
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