

Annual Results Report

2023

Brazil

Acknowledgements

UNHCR would like to thank all the stakeholders that contributed data and evidence to this report and reviewed their progress against the joint results of the strategy, including forcibly displaced and stateless people, host communities and host governments, United Nations agencies, and international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector. Their contributions enable us to create positive changes in the lives of the people we serve.

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Downloaded date: 31/05/2024

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2023, UNHCR forged close collaborations with all levels of government to strengthen the country's asylum policy and engagement in regional and global forums. It also established strategic partnerships with the judiciary and intensified collaboration with the legislative by forming a joint Commission on International Migration and Asylum.

Brazil hosted over 667,000 forcibly displaced people under UNHCR's mandate, predominantly from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, Colombia, Syria, and Afghanistan. Most arrivals from Venezuela, Cuba, and Haiti entered through the Northern region, particularly via Roraima, Amazonas, and Acre states. São Paulo state was the second most significant entry point.

After six years of international support for Operation Welcome, UNHCR started discussions about the transition with the new government that assumed power in 2023, to ensure increased responsibility, as they incorporate the response into the national social protection system. This strategic shift aligns with the first National Policy on Migration, Asylum, and Statelessness, which commenced its participatory process in 2023, reflecting the government's commitment to addressing these critical issues in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.

Recognizing the integration challenges of the Haitian population and the protection needs of those arriving, the government launched an Action Plan for the Protection and Local Integration of Haitians. Brazil supported the Global Compact on Refugees and made progressive pledges to the 2023 Global Refugee Forum that will guide its international protection policies in the areas of family reunification; refugee participation in decision-making processes; resettlement and complementary pathways; local integration; asylum system strengthening; refugee healthcare; and adherence to the Cartagena+40 process. Brazil also renewed climate change commitments ahead of hosting COP30 in 2025, offering a platform to explore climate-displacement linkages.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

People UNHCR serves access protection in Brazil and fully exercise their rights.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%

With UNHCR's technical assistance to authorities and local protection networks, refugees and other forcibly displaced people could rebuild their lives in safety and dignity in Brazil, receiving international protection in line with international and regional standards. Nationals of countries affected by armed conflicts, violence, and human rights violations, such as Afghans, Syrians, Haitians, and Ukrainians, travelled safely to Brazil with a humanitarian visa granted by Brazilian embassies, without having to face the risks and dangers that irregular routes would expose them to. Only in 2023, almost 10,000 humanitarian visas have been granted, representing an increase of 45% compared to 2022. Refugees of other nationalities, like Venezuelans, Colombians, and Cubans, among others, could file an asylum claim at border points or elsewhere in the national territory and over 77,000 individuals were recognized as refugees, representing an increase of over 14% compared to 2022. In both of these cases, Brazilian documentation granted them freedom of movement, access to formal employment, and public services, equal to nationals.

Refugees coming from Venezuela, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Burkina Faso, and Mali, as well as people persecuted due to their sexual orientation and gender identity, and women at risk or survivor of female genital mutilation, were recognized as refugees through simplified prima facie procedures. Individual cases were processed by National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) through fair, efficient refugee status processes, aligning with global standards, granting refugees access to permanent residency and potential nationality in four years.

In addition, forcibly displaced populations could also opt for complementary forms of protection in the country, namely temporary residency permits granted on humanitarian grounds, which can be renewed, upon certain criteria and eventually turn into permanent.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

People UNHCR serves meet their basic needs and reduce their vulnerability.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	44.00%	27.46%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.00%	93.86%

Venezuelans encountered significant obstacles in accessing rights and services in Brazil. According to the R4V's Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 44% of households earn the Brazilian minimum wage (\$280) or less,

and half of Venezuelan households experience some level of food insecurity, with women-headed households, and households with persons with disabilities or Afro-descendant members being more impacted (63, 60 and 59%, respectively). Also, 24% face housing insecurity and 15% of school-age children are not enrolled in schools, with higher drop-out rates in Roraima and Amazonas states (25%) and for new arrivals (36%). Indigenous Venezuelans are a particularly vulnerable population group, with higher rates of food insecurity (58 vs 52%), healthcare needs (75 vs 59%) and out-of-school children (2 vs 15 %). Despite these challenges, 87% of Venezuelans intends to remain in Brazil, suggesting that they still perceive the country as a destination that offers good opportunities for local integration.

According to the findings of UNHCR's participatory assessment, the situation of Haitian and Afghan refugees is more complex. The first group has been living in Brazil for over a decade but struggle to rise socio-economically due to language obstacles, the lack of integration public policies, racism, and xenophobia. Moreover, Haitians are mostly unable realize their right to family unity, as visa-issuance at the Brazilian consulate in Port-au-Prince is severely affected by the spiraling violence registered in Haiti in the past years. The need to send remittances back home is the main factor that has pushed many Haitians towards the United States. Afghan refugees are also facing huge barriers for their local integration, especially due to strong linguistic, cultural, and religious differences with the host community, and the absence of an Afghan diaspora to rely on. In this context, many have decided to embark in onward movements up north, after only few months in Brazil.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

In an age, gender and diversity-sensitive approach, people UNHCR serves are empowered and participate in humanitarian response and community-based protection.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	43.00%	54.18%

Refugees, including women, LGBTIQ+ people and indigenous communities, meaningfully participated in decisions affecting their lives. They organized themselves in community-based structures and sat in multi-sectoral governmental bodies tasked to design and monitor the implementation of public policies for displaced populations. Moreover, they took crucial steps to join broader social movements, where they could learn from their Brazilian counterparts about advocating for their rights and advancing their collective demands. Consequently, Brazilian authorities integrated refugees into their political agendas, while local protection networks tailored their services to meet the specific needs of this population. In 2023, UNHCR mapped at least 44 refugee-led organizations and 41 multi-sectoral governmental bodies (councils or committees) that allow social participation of the civil society, often including the direct engagement of refugees, in shaping public policies that affect and benefit them.

Refugees actively participated in UNHCR's project management phases, contributing to intervention design and monitoring. They engaged in initiatives aiding fellow refugees and hosts, promoting inclusivity and social cohesion, disseminating crucial information, and directing protection cases to public and UNHCR services.

Twenty-seven refugee-led organizations engaging in various socioeconomic and political activities consolidated their capacities to mobilize resources, through public and private funding, by formalizing their work into registered associations, and establishing contacts with one another to maximize their social and political leverage.

Refugees gained awareness of their rights and services through UNHCR's multilingual resources, including insights into gender-based violence's causes and impacts, prompting a reevaluation of gender roles and power dynamic

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

People UNHCR serves attain durable solutions through voluntary internal relocation, resettlement and complementary pathways and socio-economic inclusion.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	274,308	208,132

The voluntary internal relocation strategy stood out as a positive practice to facilitate local integration of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Data showed that those relocated had more access to occupation (11% are unemployed vs 30.7%), education (70,4% vs 35,6%), and income generation (BRL 1450.98 vs BRL 666.9) opportunities. Since the onset of this strategy, in 2018, over 122,000 Venezuelans were successfully relocated from Roraima to more than 1,000 cities across Brazil, out of which over close to 31,000 only in 2023 (vs. 25,000 people in 2022).

Throughout 2023, UNHCR provided continuous technical and financial support to the Federal Government for the establishment of the first National Policy on Migration, Asylum and Statelessness, which will improve the access of these populations to basic rights and services, therefore enhancing their local integration prospects. Moreover, UNHCR supported the launch of the National Network of Welcoming Cities, that will serve as a permanent forum to engage municipal governments in the application of the National Policy. UNHCR also collaborated on the Action Plan for the Protection and Local Integration of Haitians, which focuses on access to rights; humanitarian response, reception, and documentation; socio-economic integration; and community development for the Haitian population. The implementation of the Action Plan will start in 2024.

UNHCR also worked closely with state and municipal governments to strengthen social participation of refugees in public spaces, actively engaging in the elaboration of local policies, and acting as the Executive Secretariat of the National Forum of State Councils and Committees for Refugees, Stateless People, and Migrants (FONACCERAM). By 2023, Brazil had 41 state and municipal committees responsible for the development and monitoring of local public policies for refugees and migrants.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

High influx of Venezuelans into Brazil, including through secondary movements from Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, surpassed 192,000 entries in 2023, totaling over 511,000, mirroring pre-pandemic trends. This led UNHCR to prioritize the emergency response over durable solutions. Moreover, Brazil witnessed a rise in arrivals from various nationalities. In 2023, Afghan entries exceeded 5,800, a 32% increase compared to 2022. Cuban arrivals reached 15,300, an 84% increase from 2022. The enduring Venezuelan crisis, alongside expectations of continued refugee arrivals and the expansion of global humanitarian crises straining donor resources, prompted government and partners to contemplate the long-term sustainability of Operation Welcome. This spurred the need for a strategy adaptable to future mobility shifts, with greater local authority involvement.

Regarding integration, despite absolute numbers for 2023 pointing to an increase in formal labour market, data from social assistance showed that refugees faced higher level of poverty and extreme poverty compared to nationals thus needing a more efficient response aiming to promote solutions. This was particularly challenging for vulnerable refugees, like indigenous peoples, increasingly arriving and requiring assistance.

In terms of access to asylum and documentation, temporary protection, and other legal stay arrangements, such as the humanitarian residency permit, also benefitted people in need of international protection, including nationals of Afghanistan, Venezuela, and Haiti. UNHCR remains concerned that individuals opting for temporary protection mechanisms may lack safeguards like non-refoulement and legal exemptions for accessing rights and services, significantly impacting local integration prospects. Also, the shift from humanitarian visas to a sponsorship programme for Afghan refugees, expected in 2024, may likely decrease their influx, despite rising international protection needs for this population.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR Brazil actively collaborated with both governmental and non-governmental entities, employing policy dialogue and advocacy initiatives to ensure an effective response to the needs of refugees. UNHCR leveraged the strategic space of the Response for Venezuelans (R4V) Inter Agency Coordination Platform, co-led by UNHCR with IOM, to maximize resources and prevent gaps and duplications, reaching some 123,000 refugees, migrants, and affected host community members with assistance. In addition to the revision of the Refugees and Migrants Response Plan for 2024, the Platform led the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), engaging 60 partners and 10 sectors to assess needs of Venezuelan refugees in Brazil.

In 2023, UNHCR strengthened bilateral partnerships with key UN entities, establishing a cooperation framework with UNICEF, workplans with ILO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and expanding a joint initiative with UNFPA and UN Women. UNHCR strengthened its collaboration with the Resident Coordinator office, actively engaging to support the country's UN Development System in defining and implementing a cooperation framework to ensure no displaced or stateless people are left behind.

UNHCR promoted research and academic opportunities for refugees, partnering with 41 Brazilian universities under the Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair, which raises public awareness, conducts advocacy and provide legal counseling in partnership with local public institutions. Moreover, UNHCR encouraged private sector engagement in refugee employability, through the "Companies with Refugees Forum" and strengthened synergies with development actors and international financial institutions to connect humanitarian interventions with longer-term development efforts. UNHCR forged innovative partnerships in 2023, like with Finland's Aalto University, to develop eco-friendly solutions for enhancing living conditions of indigenous communities.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to territory, registration, documentation and timely referral to protection and humanitarian assistance, and refoulement is prevented.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.99%	93.00%	100.00%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR promoted access to territory, registration and documentation by technically assisting authorities at the border points registering the highest influxes of refugees: Pacaraima, Roraima state – remained the main entry of Venezuelans into Brazil (72% of the total); Guarulhos International Airport, São Paulo state – continued remaining the main gate for extracontinental refugees (e.g. the increase of arrivals of Afghans through Guarulhos was 46% compared to 2022). Additionally, 2023 saw an increase in arrivals by land in other entry points such as Assis Brasil, Acre state, and Oiapoque, Amapa state and Bomfin, Roraima state – where entries of mixed nationalities increased significantly by 218% compared to 2022. Monitoring visits were also conducted at the border with Uruguay, Paraguay, Guyana, and French Guiana.

Supporting the Advanced Post of Humanized Assistance to Migrants(PAAHM) at airports in Guarulhos, Rio de Janeiro-Galeão, Manaus, and Belém ensured territory admission, international protection screening, and facilitated asylum procedures and public service referrals. Assistance included training, materials, data management, and in Guarulhos, Pashtu and Daari-speaking cultural mediators for effective communication with Afghan refugees.

The effective access of displaced population to documentation was also possible by strengthening the capacities of the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) staff and Migration Police Officers, and by supporting 21,892 asylum-seekers in filing their claim on the digital platform for asylum pre-documentation, SISCONARE, and to renew expired documentation, with a focus on indigenous and homeless populations. To achieve this, besides regular partners, UNHCR trained 41 Universities of the Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair, present in 14 Brazilian states, to assist with documentation efforts, ensuring coverage even in areas where UNHCR is not directly present. Through an assessment made by UNHCR in consultation with governmental bodies, civil society, and academia, it was possible for Migration Police Stations to adjust their processes to meet the demands and challenges faced by refugees. The evaluation also indicated improved functionality of the documentation system in Brazil, with 70% of surveyed entities rating police station services as excellent or good compared to previous years.

Lastly, UNHCR and partners expanded individual registration during 2023 reaching over 67,000 individuals, playing a key role in the early identification of individuals with specific needs, enabling appropriate responses and referrals. It continued to support individuals to enjoy access to rights and services, including documentation, health, education, and livelihoods, besides providing protection against refoulement, arbitrary arrest, and detention. Furthermore, strengthened data sharing processes with external actors supported coordination efforts to deliver assistance and services in a timely manner.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to status determination through a strengthened asylum system in compliance with national legislation and international instruments.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) processed 139,963 cases, a 70% increase from 2022, surpassing the number of new asylum claims filed in the year (56,997). The significant increase in case decisions, coupled with a thorough analysis of pending claims that enabled the closure and extinction and other decisions without merits of 62,604 cases, contributed to a 67% decrease in CONARE's backlog that went from 206,778 in 2022 to 67,708 in 2023.

This was possible through the implementation of prima facie simplified procedures for nationals of Venezuela, Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Mali, and Burkina Faso, as well as for women at risk of female genital mutilation and LGBTIQ+ people. Also, such remarkable volume of decisions, as well as case closure and extinction, was possible thanks to the complete roll-out of the SISCONARE, the asylum filing and processing system adopted by CONARE, which facilitated the triage and prioritization of individual cases, as well as the identification of duplications and inactive claims. Also, worth mentioning was UNHCR's ongoing assistance, that complemented CONARE's capacities through staff and technical assistance, including the expanded use and improvement of SISCONARE, the review of individual cases eligible for prima facie recognition, as well as processes related to case screening, strengthening of data management and refugee-status determination strategies.

In addition to this, with UNHCR's support to CONARE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil was able to submit seven pledges at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023, out of which one was focused on continuously strengthen the justice, efficiency, adaptability, and integrity of its national asylum system, and another aims to strengthen the right to family reunification of refugees. Moreover, CONARE was also successful at mobilizing other Mercosur countries to submit three common pledges on the improvement of asylum systems, prevention and eradication of statelessness and resettlement and complementary pathways.

With UNHCR's support, the Migration Department of the Ministry of Justice improved statelessness determination procedures by adapting documentation requirements for the filing of claims and resuming personal interviews with applicants.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons, including the LGBTIQ+ community, have access to services, regardless of their sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, and receive timely and appropriate support to acts of gender-based violence; while authorities, UNHCR and civil society actors contribute to the prevention and risk mitigation of gender-based violence.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.01%	90.00%	27.25%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Local protection networks enhanced their capacities to assist gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, avoiding revictimization, respecting confidentiality, and streamlining case management. These improvements were made possible through training activities provided by UNHCR, reaching 316 public officials and humanitarian actors. Efforts to standardize procedures made in the scope of the R4V Platform were also key to achieving such results.

Refugee communities, including indigenous people, were more aware of gender-based violence, its roots causes and impact. This outcome stemmed directly from interventions targeting the prevention of GBV, employing innovative methodologies designed to transform gender stereotypes and foster power balance in relationships between men and women, including LGBTIQ+ people. Also, refugees became more empowered regarding their rights, GBV referral mechanisms, and available response services, thanks to over 110 awareness-raising activities facilitated by UNHCR nationwide. These initiatives engaged various stakeholders, including government authorities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academia.

Regarding Afghan refugees, UNHCR supported the local shelter network of São Paulo state by building their capacity to prevent and respond to GBV incidents in a more culturally appropriate manner and adapting their communication styles and referral approaches. For this, UNHCR Brazil also collaborated with other UNHCR operations that have more experience with Afghan refugees to better understand their good practices and how they could be applied in the Brazilian context.

Another significant development of 2023 was the starting of a collaboration between LGBTIQ+ refugees and the LGTBIQA+ Secretariat of the Federal District for the definition of measures to address discrimination towards these communities, that will result in a joint work plan to be signed in 2024. This partnership was possible thanks to UNHCR's advocacy efforts and articulation, based on the contributions raised by this population group during the participatory assessment. UNHCR also signed a cooperation agreement with the Forum of Companies for LGBTIQ+ Rights, which will open employment opportunities for LGBTIQ+ refugees.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons at heightened risk or with specific needs including children, LGBTIQ+, people with disabilities, elderly, and others, have access to timely protection, assistance, and solutions.

Forcibly displaced, stateless persons and host community groups are actively engaged in developing community protection, assistance and solutions, including in favour of peaceful coexistence.

Indigenous forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to culturally appropriate protection, assistance and solutions and participate in the development of differentiated policies.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	35.00%	34.78%
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Moderate: 40-69 points	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Moderate: 40-69 points

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

With UNHCR's support, refugee leaders voiced their needs and demands in various decision-making arenas, such as: local councils for the development of public policies; public hearings of the Congress Commission on Migration and Asylum; consultations for the formulation of a National Policy on Migration, Asylum, and Statelessness; as well as the Brazilian delegation to the Global Refugee Forum.

Indigenous community leaders participated in key forums like the Amazon Summit for COP 2030 and Brazil's significant "Acampamento Terra Livre" event, advancing demands with federal authorities. With UNHCR's support, government authorities recognized indigenous refugees, developing culturally tailored responses. The Ministry of Indigenous People established a multi-sectoral group for indigenous refugee policies, with regular contributions from UNHCR.

UNHCR enhanced collaboration with 45 refugee-led organizations (RLOs) nationwide, providing small grants to 26, including 9 women-led, for projects promoting social cohesion. To bolster project sustainability and RLO autonomy, training in protection, resource mobilization, programming, and accountability was offered. UNHCR also boosted women-led organization (WLO) involvement in the R4V's gender-based violence subsector, mobilizing organizations across various states for prevention, community mobilization, training, and empowerment initiatives.

Moreover, refugees became more informed of their rights and existing services, which was made possible given several digital communication materials distributed across different social networks, besides the traditional informative sessions, banners and handouts regularly being elaborated by UNHCR. Outreach interventions also included a hotline in Manaus, a Chatbot in Boa Vista, and the Help website. The latter reached over 380,000 individual users with information available in nine languages, which is now able to target all the main nationalities of refugees present in Brazil.

In the course of 2023, refugees with heightened risks and with specific needs could access timely protection, assistance, and solutions, in accordance with their age, gender and diversity. A total of 531 people with vulnerable profiles, such as women heads of households, persons with disabilities or with serious medical conditions and elderly people, benefited from the relocation strategy of the Federal Government. The support from UNHCR enabled individuals hosted in the Operation Welcome shelters to be transferred to reception facilities managed by UNHCR's partners in different parts of the country. In these facilities, individuals had access to counseling, case management, and personalized assistance in navigating public services.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to cash assistance, in-kind assistance and/or public services.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6.95%	30.00%	9.80%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR provided vital cash assistance to 5,935 individuals, focusing on supporting the internal relocation strategy and vulnerable populations. For internal relocation, 1,128 individuals received multipurpose cash assistance, compared to 669 in 2022 under the employment-based modality, while under the institutional-modality 943 individuals compared to 832 individuals in 2022 received support from UNHCR. Both modalities were conceived as a mechanism to support families with their basic needs. It was designed to support the relocation process by covering the first month in the new city until receiving the first salary or support during the relocation in shelters outside Roraima. Cash assistance aimed to enhance families' socio-economic autonomy and foster sustainable settings beyond the shelter environment.

UNHCR introduced a Financial Planning journal to aid refugees in setting financial goals and enhancing savings strategies, aiming for financial autonomy. In women's economic inclusion, two projects, "Empowering Refugee Women" and "Mujeres Fuertes," supported local integration and business strengthening with cash assistance. Overall, 637 individuals, including 165 women, benefited from these initiatives, fostering economic empowerment and self-reliance among refugee communities.

Cash assistance supported 25 Haitians to be multipliers of the Portuguese Programme as a Reception Language for the Haitian Population (PLAC-Haiti), an initiative of the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) in partnership with the State University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UEMS) and Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS).

Transitioning from hygiene in-kind to cash assistance marked a significant and well-received shift, as 81% of the individuals reported preference of cash over in kind. This transformation empowered refugees to make decisions about the specific products and quantities that best meet their needs, thereby granting them a newfound sense of freedom and control. A post distribution monitoring (PDM) for the multipurpose cash assistance reported that 89% individuals informed about improving significantly and moderately living conditions and the top three expenditures reported were food, rent and hygiene items.

Furthermore, UNHCR demonstrated its commitment to improving in-kind assistance, conducting significant relief efforts that benefited 64,097 families through the distribution of core relief items. Noteworthy was the provision of 2,829 hammocks to indigenous communities, an initiative aimed at preserving their cultural heritage and ensuring their well-being in the face of challenging circumstances. Efforts to enhance safety and security within Roraima shelters led to improved lighting infrastructure and well-being with the installation of 400 reflectors, alongside the distribution of 322 hand solar lamps.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to adequate and timely shelter assistance.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, over 53,000 people had access to the eight emergency shelters managed by UNHCR and partners in Roraima. Additionally, UNHCR aided four Relocation and Integration Centres, which welcome individuals who benefited from the voluntary relocation strategy, moving from the North to various states in Brazil.

Regarding the facilities in Roraima, UNHCR prioritized better living conditions, which included the enhancement of WASH conditions to reduce public health risks and diseases closely related to inadequate water supply and poor hygiene, but also to mitigate protection risks. This included the construction of more efficient and adaptable bathrooms, leak-resistant laundry facilities, and increase the number of water fountains. Improvements of shared sleeping areas were also made to enhance protection, dignity, and safety of the sheltered community, together with the installment of 200 off-grid reflectors to improve shelter security. UNHCR also conducted infrastructure upgrades, such as the renovation of hammock areas in the Janokoida indigenous shelter and wheelchair-accessible walkways, to facilitate future handovers of spaces to the government as part of the humanitarian response transition carried out by the Federal Government, with reduced maintenance costs. In addition, UNHCR focused on upgrading shelter structures to withstand climate shocks (which are common in Roraima), while also aiming for facilities that are eco-friendly and have minimal impact on the environment. UNHCR implemented 200 transitional shelter units (TSU) designed for local climate conditions and constructed with recyclable materials, benefitting over 4,500 Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Furthermore, UNHCR enhanced its shelter management capabilities by creating and implementing data collection tools. These tools optimized the distribution of core-relief items and enabled partners to identify and report incidents promptly. This improvement enabled more effective strategies in addressing the problems and needs of the sheltered population.

Outside the scope of the response to Venezuelans, UNHCR also made efforts to ensure dignified accommodation for other nationalities. The Agency's advocacy in 2023 resulted in the opening of four new public funded shelters specialized in supporting newly arrived Afghan refugees in the state of São Paulo. In total, 957 sheltering slots were offered to this population in 13 shelters. With UNHCR advocacy, IFC and Caritas developed a partnership on a pilot project based in Sao Paulo. The project is expected to be implemented in 2024 and will offer 3 to 5% of its apartments at a discount rate and special conditions for refugees and migrants.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

National and local policies and programmes facilitate socio economic integration of forcibly displaced and stateless persons

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	76.01%	76.00%	87.07%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.00%	21.00%	17.75%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR and partners assisted 9,066 refugees with job placement, self-employment, and entrepreneurship initiatives, including over 655 indigenous people. A total of 2,062 forcibly displaced people received Portuguese classes whereas 14 of these were indigenous people and another 2,806 people benefitted from vocational trainings, 448 being indigenous people.

The Companies with Refugees Forum (UNHCR and UN Global Compact Brazil) is a network of companies committed to expanding economic inclusion of refugees. From its start in 2021, it grew to 99 members and led to the hiring of 2,300 refugees. Twenty members presented pledges at the Global Refugee Forum held in December 2023, committing to hire 2,000 refugees and to support 15,000 for income generation. UNHCR also engaged with the Ministry of Labour aiming to strengthen the access of refugees to the public employment system by training over 350 staff from the National Employment System (SINE).

The Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform grew by 27% and hosted and gave visibility to 158 refugee-led businesses. Furthermore, 50.8% of these entrepreneurs reported a positive impact on their business from being listed at the platform. Results indicated that these businesses also contributed to the local economy as 44% offered job opportunities to Brazilians and other refugees.

UNHCR deepened the engagement with Development Actors and UN Agencies: IADB/BID, IFC and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank to increase data on refugees' integration and provide information to policy makers on the impact of the refugee flows. UNHCR developed Action Plans with ILO and UNICEF targeting refugees (including youth) to be included in decent work opportunities. UNHCR also engaged with UN Women, UNFPA, and IOM, with whom we were coordinating the Integration sector of the R4V platform.

The Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs (CSVM) reached 41 universities and provided 962 specific admissions for refugees in their courses. Alongside Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN), the CSVM also pledged at the 2023 GRF to offer another 15,000 specific admissions in the next four years. The Universities offered legal aid, health services and psychosocial support comprising 7,050 appointments, as well as Portuguese courses to 1,800 refugees.

In collaboration with the Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs, UNHCR launched a report on revalidation of diplomas of refugees in Brazil. The report will support UNHCR's continued advocacy efforts with relevant authorities about making the revalidation of diploma's process more accessible to refugees. In addition, the partnership with NGO Compassiva led to approximately 500 individual processes of revalidation of diplomas for refugees. As the outcome of the partnership, Compassiva created a dashboard to disseminate information on the revalidation procedures.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Resettlement and complementary pathways programmes are promoted and developed in Brazil as a receiving country.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0	0
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,700	5,000	5,526

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR advocated for the maintenance of Brazil's humanitarian visa policy in support of Afghans, Ukrainians, Haitians, and Syrians. This resulted in a safer pathway for 10,005 refugees and other in need of international protection to enter Brazilian territory to seek asylum or apply for a temporary humanitarian residency permit.

UNHCR also worked closely with the new administration of the Federal Government to reactivate the Brazilian resettlement programme and establish a pilot on community sponsorship. With UNHCR support, the Government of Brazil renewed its commitment through the Global Refugee Forum by pledging to establish a resettlement and complementary pathways programme for people in need of international protection. The emphasis was on community sponsorship as a preferred tool to support local integration. Additionally, the government committed to enhancing existing family reunification procedures for both refugees and others in need of international protection. This commitment extended to introducing nationality-specific family reunification procedures, exemplified by the new regulation published in 2023 for Haitians.

With UNHCR's technical assistance, Brazil also showed leadership in engaging the National Committees for Refugees (CONARE) Mercosur Forum in a joint pledge to advance on the promotion of resettlement and complementary pathways for people in need of international protection in Mercosur countries.

UNHCR further enhanced the process of aligning a resettlement and complementary pathways programme with international protection standards. This was achieved through exposing authorities, such as the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to global best practices, the release of the Brazilian Portuguese version of the Integration Handbook for Resettled Refugees, and the provision of narrative inputs for the drafting of a call of interest for NGOs willing to receive refugees in Brazil.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education, Brazil also implemented new educational pathways benefiting refugees and others in need of international protection through the 'Academic Solidarity Emergency Programme.' In total, the Programme supported 34 refugee scholars to work as visiting professors in Brazilian Higher Education Institutions, including substantial financial assistance. UNHCR contributed to this achievement by supporting the Government of Brazil with revision of documentation criteria, training of participant universities, identification of candidates and visa procedures.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Voluntary internal relocation is available to a higher and more diverse number of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in coordination with authorities and civil society organizations.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26.00%	27.00%	15.10%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66.73%	66.00%	51.58%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, 30,749 refugees and migrants were relocated through the internal voluntary relocation programme of Operation Welcome, reaching 19% more beneficiaries compared to 2022. The programme targeted refugees and migrants affected by the Venezuela situation to be transferred from the state of Roraima to other parts of Brazil where integration opportunities are higher, thus relieving pressure on border communities.

Socio-economic studies managed and supported by UNHCR in 2023 confirmed the relevance of the programme in areas such as improvement of economic inclusion and local integration, and support to shelter-exit strategies.

Results show that 46% of the people that participated in the programme (4,132 people) were exiting emergency shelters in Roraima. Those relocated also experienced a lower unemployment rate, higher rate of school enrollment and potentially higher wages compared to the refugee and migrant population that remained in Roraima.

UNHCR supported the Institutional modality of the programme which resulted in 531 people being relocated to reception and integration centres of Aldeias Infantis, Missão Paz, SJMR and Centro Pastoral do Migrante. Among these families, 68% had at least one protection specific need and 48% had a woman as the only responsible for the income generation of the family.

Furthermore, UNHCR supported the relocated accessing to employment opportunities and 1,128 people in vulnerable situations received cash assistance to meet their basic needs upon their arrival in the destination city.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2023, UNHCR enhanced inclusion in its programmes, notably increasing the engagement of female heads of households, elderly people, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous groups, and LGBTIQ+ individuals in assessments, trainings, livelihood projects, and shelter management. The national participatory assessment saw diverse participation: 54% women, 29% indigenous, 9% persons with disabilities, 12% elderly people, 26% children and youth, and 6% LGBTIQ+ people. With rising arrivals from Afghanistan, Cuba, Haiti, and others, UNHCR ensured their perspectives were integrated into program consultations and advocacy, particularly in public policy and the Second National Conference for Migration, Asylum, and Statelessness. Their voices were also amplified in UN and civil society discussions on health, youth, racial discrimination, and human rights protection.

UNHCR advanced gender equality in Brazil through sessions on gender roles with refugees and locals, plus projects like "Empowering Refugee Women" and "Mujeres Fuertes" for female refugees' income and entrepreneurship. These initiatives improved 313 women's job prospects and boosted indigenous women's involvement in artisan entrepreneurship, enhancing economic independence and ethnic tradition preservation.

UNHCR, aligning with its Communication with Communities strategy, developed and updated materials from an Age, Gender, and Diversity perspective, including culturally tailored content for indigenous refugees on protection and rights in Brazil. The Help platform, offering resources in nine languages, aided diverse refugees in understanding documentation and rights, benefiting 380,000 users.

Two-way communication channels such as UNHCR and partner suggestion box, the Chama Chatbot, a WhatsApp tool, and the Help site were sustained to facilitate access to information, resolution of complaints or queries and to secure feedback and participation from this population, reaching at least 3,500 users.

Section 3: Resources

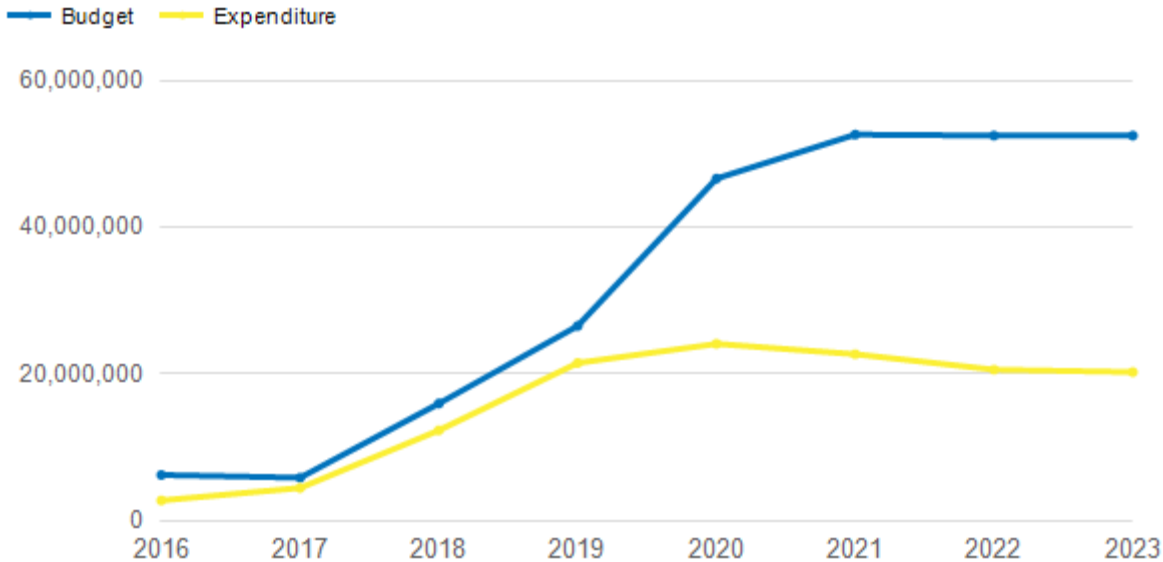
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

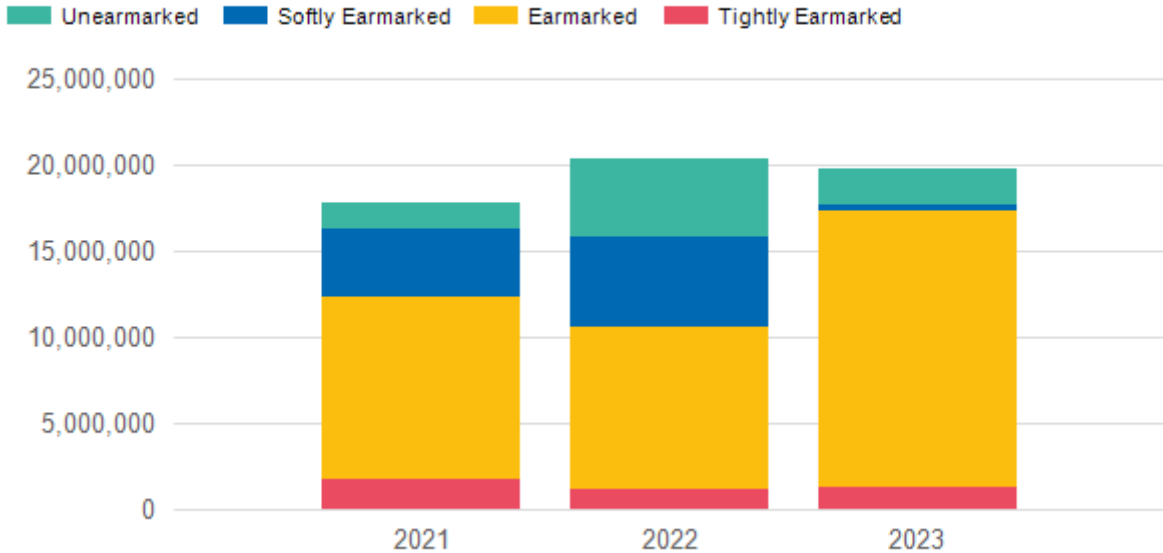
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	7,677,643	4,222,291	54.99%	4,222,291	100.00%
IA2: Assist	21,828,613	8,789,006	40.26%	8,789,006	100.00%
IA3: Empower	12,574,849	3,444,062	27.39%	3,444,062	100.00%
IA4: Solve	10,392,256	3,797,284	36.54%	3,797,284	100.00%
All Impact Areas		27,279			
Total	52,473,361	20,279,923	38.65%	20,252,644	99.87%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	3,847,328	2,311,443	60.08%	2,311,443	100.00%
OA2: Status	3,830,316	1,910,848	49.89%	1,910,848	100.00%
OA4: GBV	1,768,784	896,650	50.69%	896,650	100.00%
OA7: Community	10,806,064	2,547,412	23.57%	2,547,412	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	13,833,004	4,435,844	32.07%	4,435,844	100.00%
OA9: Housing	7,995,609	4,353,163	54.44%	4,353,163	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	7,261,719	1,980,711	27.28%	1,980,711	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	915,522	824,420	90.05%	824,420	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	2,215,015	992,153	44.79%	992,153	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		27,279			
Total	52,473,361	20,279,923	38.65%	20,252,644	99.87%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

2023 brought forth a series of operational challenges in Brazil, which impacted the capacity to respond adequately to the growing needs of the approximately 667,000 forcibly displaced people currently being hosted by the country. Despite Brazil's favorable legal environment granting asylum-seekers and refugees' access to various rights, including work and study permits, as well as health and social assistance, specific vulnerable profiles encountered barriers to socio-economic integration.

Throughout the year, there was a notable increase in displaced individuals from various countries entering Brazil through border states such as Roraima, Amazonas, Acre, and São Paulo. While Venezuelans were

the largest population under UNHCR's mandate in Brazil, 2023 marked a significant turning point for the operation, shedding light on the needs of other vulnerable population groups, particularly Afghans and Haitians. Since the onset of these arrivals, UNHCR became the main actor in coordinating the response among local stakeholders, especially municipal and state authorities.

This evolving situation entailed various challenges for UNHCR, as the diversity of the displaced populations required tailored responses that considered specific needs, backgrounds, and vulnerabilities.

UNHCR is making efforts to identify long-term solutions for refugees in Brazil to strengthen their local integration and prevent risky, onward movements when prospects of better integration appear meager. This translates in pressing operational needs from emergency assistance and shelter; to expand access to adequate and timely information via communication with communities (CwC) interventions; provide Portuguese language courses as both protection and local integration mechanism to enable access to rights; reinforce prevention and response to gender-based violence; as well as develop tailored support for training and job opportunities in the longer term.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

UNHCR should establish transition mechanisms with authorities from the outset of a humanitarian response to facilitate the gradual handover of activities to governments over time. Without such arrangements, transitioning can be challenging. In light of these considerations, UNHCR is now taking concrete steps to responsibly and progressively transfer core activities of Operation Welcome to the Brazilian government to enhance local ownership and sustainability while ensuring continued support for refugees and asylum-seekers.

In aiding authorities to set up documentation in mixed movement contexts, UNHCR focuses on advocating for refugees' asylum access, while keeping complementary protection available for others needing international aid. Despite the option for refugees to choose their documentation, the Brazilian model shows brief orientations at facilities do not suffice for informed decisions. Often, refugees might choose migration regularization on limited information, not their real needs. To counter this, UNHCR is intensifying its advocacy with authorities to more effectively inform refugees about their rights and documentation options.

Similarly, in emergency contexts, when UNHCR focuses on responding to a specific nationality influx, it must continue promoting protection and solutions for other caseloads. Overemphasis in one group, like the Venezuelan, proved to hinder the resumption of activities in favor of other groups, such as Haitians, who will now be prioritized in UNHCR's planning and advocacy.

UNHCR also recognized the importance of coaching refugees to effectively articulate their needs to authorities, as individual efforts may have minimal impact on decision-making processes. Acknowledging these challenges, UNHCR is actively supporting the creation of spaces to empower refugees for greater participation in public decision-making



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