

Brazil

August 2021

UNHCR continues to work in close coordination with the Brazilian government through its *Operação Acolhida (OA)*, the federal response that aims to provide humanitarian assistance to individuals affected by the Venezuelan crisis including registration, documentation, shelter, and health assistance as well as voluntary relocation opportunities to ensure the socio-economic integration of this population in Brazil.

As part of OA, UNHCR is responsible for the shelter response and, in partnership with civil society organizations, ensures the running of 14 shelters in Roraima as well as the Transit Shelter in Manaus, and supports 22 interiorization shelters nationwide. UNHCR also provides financial assistance through a national CBI strategy targeting the most vulnerable to cover their basic needs and supporting those participating in the interiorization strategy.

In addition, UNHCR continues to provide protection support and legal assistance to people of concern countrywide, ensuring identification and response to specific needs, cases of gender-based violence and unaccompanied minors. Also, UNHCR disseminates information among the communities through a wide array of channels, and supports access to documentation, rights and essential services, including health, education, and livelihoods opportunities.

KEY FIGURES

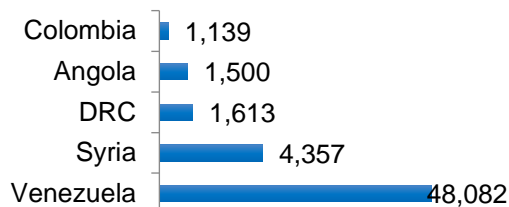
61,196

150,520

144,996

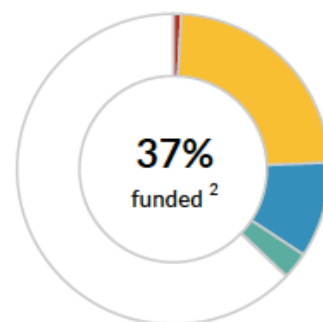
Individuals recognized as refugees Asylum seekers Other Venezuelans of concern

Top 5 Countries of Origin



\$52.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021



■ Tightly earmarked
■ Earmarked
■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
 Funding gap (indicative)

BRAZIL
as of 27 July 2021

CONTEXT OVERVIEW

The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted refugees and migrants in Brazil. Many have lost their sources of income and are exposed to homelessness, abuse, exploitation, and hunger. Border closure imposed in March 2020 prompted many Venezuelans to resort to irregular routes, with no clear path to documentation, access to rights, and basic services.

The recently introduced Ordinance 655 maintains that borders are closed – except for the one with Paraguay – but allows for emergency assistance measures for Venezuelans and third-country nationals legally residing in Venezuela. Access to territory is conditioned to humanitarian assistance capacity, COVID-19 testing and regular vaccination, and those who have entered Brazil during border closure can apply for regularization.

In this scenario, UNHCR assists in operationalizing such measures, ensuring support to respond to increased documentation needs, enhancing shelter capacity, monitoring protection cases, predominantly indigenous and other individuals with vulnerable profiles, and fostering voluntary relocation opportunities throughout Brazil.



Working with Partners

- UNHCR has strengthened coordination mechanisms under the framework of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform – Response for Venezuelans “R4V” – that includes 55 partners (13 UN agencies and 42 NGOs) and is co-led by UNHCR and IOM. Complementing and strengthening the Federal Government’s efforts through Operation Welcome, the work of the R4V remains crucial to provide for a comprehensive and coherent humanitarian response that is detailed each year in the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP).
- Since 2020, the R4V Platform operates under a sectoral structure, allowing partners to approach the needs and gaps identified according to each of their respective capacities and mandates. The current R4V Sectors in Brazil are Shelter and Food Distribution; Education; Protection (with three subsectors: GBV, Human Trafficking, and Child Protection); Health; Integration, Interiorization, and Humanitarian Transportation; Nutrition; WASH. In the field (Roraima and Manaus), the operational coordination among government, UN Agencies, and Civil society occurs in thematic working groups that draw strategic guidance from R4V sectors, in line with Operation Welcome framework.
- In Brazil, UNHCR works with 19 implementing partners, which provide refugees and migrants support under protection, reception sites, information management, documentation, cash assistance, integration, education and telecommunications scope in different regions of Brazil.

Main Activities

Protection

- Assist asylum-seekers and refugees on access to documentation at the three Reception and Documentation Centres (PITRIGs) of Pacaraima, Boa Vista, and Manaus and conduct registration through proGres V4, ensuring the identification of individuals most at risk, adequate case management and contributing to a broader protection analysis.
- Conduct regular protection monitoring across different locations to identify and assist highly vulnerable cases, identifying exposure to abuse, exploitation, and other protection risks, not only during crossings and entry points, but also with refugee communities nationwide.
- Promote actions to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) situations affecting women, men, boys, and girls, including LGBTIQ+ persons.
- Cooperate and develop child protection activities to mitigate the impact on refugee and migrant children and families affected by the closing of schools, as well as ensuring a safe and sustainable reopening.
- Advocate for refugee and migrant children’s proper access to health, social assistance programs, free childcare services, documentation, and social inclusion. As an illustration, the project “Fútbol sin Fronteras” launched in a shelter in Roraima is using sport to encourage a culture of peace and respect among children.
- Develop a stronger community mobilization approach, fostering community-based protection initiatives and participation of refugees and asylum seekers in federal and local institutional channels for improving public policies.
- Promote communicating with communities’ initiatives, along with indigenous and non-indigenous outreach volunteers, to map people in need of protection assistance and share information on GBV prevention and referral pathways, COVID-19 protection, and other protection themes to reinforce individuals and communities’ capacity to access rights autonomously. In Pacaraima, the Outreach

Volunteers are assisting Pemón-Taurepang indigenous communities not only with protection information, but also supporting UNHCR's advocacy efforts with the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF) and SESAI on refugees and migrants' access to indigenous health system (sasiSUS), through reporting on specific cases, community mobilization and dialogue with community leaders.

- Ensure coordination of protection interventions is conducted and regularly reinforced at the Interagency level through the co-leadership of the R4V Protection Sector and the GBV Protection sub-sector.
- Provide technical support to Brazil in the context of the Global Refugee Forum to ensure the country can seek fulfilment of all 11 commitments in line with International standards, as well as during its *Presidencia Pro Tempore* of the Quito Process to assist the country in leading the regional process to promote commitments already made and continue to lead discussions on asylum and support spaces.
- Provide capacity building to partners and authorities, strengthening the local networks to adequately respond to the needs of asylum-seekers, refugees, and other persons of concern to UNHCR, including through the strengthening of the support space initiative in Brazil.
- Provide technical support to strengthen the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) capacities in Refugee Status Determination (RSD) to adjudicate claims fairly and efficiently, in line with international standards.
- Contribute to identify with Federal authorities and other stakeholders pressing issues relating to protection and prevention of statelessness, as well as the main challenges in the determination of stateless claims, providing strategic recommendations that can guide public policies on the topic.
- Promote research and academic cooperation opportunities aimed at the refugee population, raising public awareness on forced displacement topics, and facilitating training for academic and education staff through cooperation with 28 Brazilian Universities under the scope of the Cátedra Sérgio Viera de Mello (CSVM), covering the 5 regions of Brazil – North, Northeast, Central-West, South, and Southeast.

Basic Needs, Shelter and NFIs

- Provide support to the Ministry of Citizenship with the site planning, equipment, and management of 13 temporary shelters and one transit shelter (BV8) in Roraima, as the official and only implementer of shelter response in partnership with civil society organizations. Overall, these shelters can provide temporary accommodation to a total of 9,529 persons, hosting 8,585 persons as of 9 August 2021. To expand the shelter capacity, UNHCR in coordination with the Operation Welcome Task Force led the opening of the Rondon 4 shelter in Boa Vista in July 2021. Moreover, along with the Roraima shelters, UNHCR also manages the Manaus Transit Shelter and supports 22 interiorization shelters nationwide.
- Deliver non-food items (NFIs), including hygiene and household cleaning kits, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, women's hygiene kits, mattresses and blankets, tarpaulins, hammocks, and school backpacks to populations in shelters in Boa Vista, Pacaraima and Manaus to help them meet their most basic needs as well as to persons of concern voluntarily relocated in other cities nationwide. Such assistance also targets vulnerable host communities to promote peaceful coexistence mechanisms. UNHCR delivered 369,286,716 NFIs in 2020 and 249,068 in the first semester of 2021.
- Provide financial assistance through cash-based interventions (CBI), together with partners, to enable refugees and migrants to fulfil their needs in a dignified manner and contribute to the local economy, while making them less likely to resort to harmful coping strategies, such as survival sex, child labour, and family separation. Since the launching of UNHCR's CBI scheme in June 2019, it has distributed more than BRL 10 million benefiting more than 15,000 individuals located in 20 states of Brazil.

Relocation & Integration

- Support local integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants through several labour and education inclusion initiatives, including entrepreneurial and vocational training, delivery of entrepreneur starter kits, validation of academic credentials, and Portuguese language classes.
- UNCHR and the Global Compact Network Brazil, together with partners, launched the [Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform](#), which aims to give greater visibility to refugee entrepreneurs living in several Brazilian cities and brings together resources and information for refugees and migrants aiming to launch or strengthen their businesses in Brazil.
- Within the scope of initiatives for labour integration, UNHCR together with the UN Global Compact Network Brazil endorses the “[Companies with Refugees](#)” Platform that promotes good corporate practices in the inclusion of refugees and brings together informative materials on the hiring of refugees. In June 2021, the initiative launched the “Companies with Refugees” Forum, which seeks to deepen corporate engagement and promote the exchange of experiences, training and employability actions aimed at the socio-economic insertion of refugees.
- Work alongside partners and development actors supporting peaceful co-existence projects to build bridges with host communities.
- Assist the Federal Government’s voluntary interiorization strategy, supporting pre-departure logistics and promoting integration activities across the country. Of the 54,430 Venezuelans who have been relocated since April 2018 until June 2021, 11,618 were through the Institutional modality, including 4,695 people were sheltered in more than 50 reception and integration centres supported by UNHCR until June 2021. Within the scope of the employment-based modality, 4,362 people were relocated and UNHCR distributed 1,257 multipurpose grants which benefited 2,275 refugees and migrants until June 2021.
- Regarding initiatives of employment-based relocation, this year UNHCR started the VI edition of the Project “Empowering Refugee Women” where a total of 80 refugee and migrant women will receive vocational courses in partnership with SENAC Roraima and AVSI before engaging with partner companies to integrate the labour market in Brazil.

Indigenous Population

- Advocate for the inclusion of Venezuelan indigenous refugees and migrants in public policies and support the Federal Government, states and municipalities in the articulation of culturally appropriate emergency public responses, providing tools and methodologies to respond to the influx of Venezuelan indigenous.
- Empower the indigenous population through a community-based approach, where individuals and families play an active role in their own protection and definition of self-reliance considering the ILO Convention 169 and refugee protection mechanisms. One example is “Círculos Makunaimî de Diálogos”, a UNHCR initiative in partnership with Insikiran Institute (UFRR) and Fraternidade Internacional (FFHI) that provided courses on International Law, Indigenous Rights and Human Rights to 60 indigenous refugees and migrants so they could better articulate their demands for local integration opportunities and propose their own solutions to identified challenges, actively engaging in shaping their own integration pathways in Brazil.
- Support indigenous in their income generation activities, including promoting women artisans value chain and entrepreneurs’ efforts, especially through the partnership with “Museu a Casa do Objeto Brasileiro” that gives visibility to the creativeness of this population and also opens livelihood possibilities or by projects such as the “The Water People” developed in partnership with the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IIEB) that contribute to the labour insertion of the Warao indigenous residents of Tapanã Reception Site, in Belém, by mapping their skills for insertion into the working world.

Resettlement

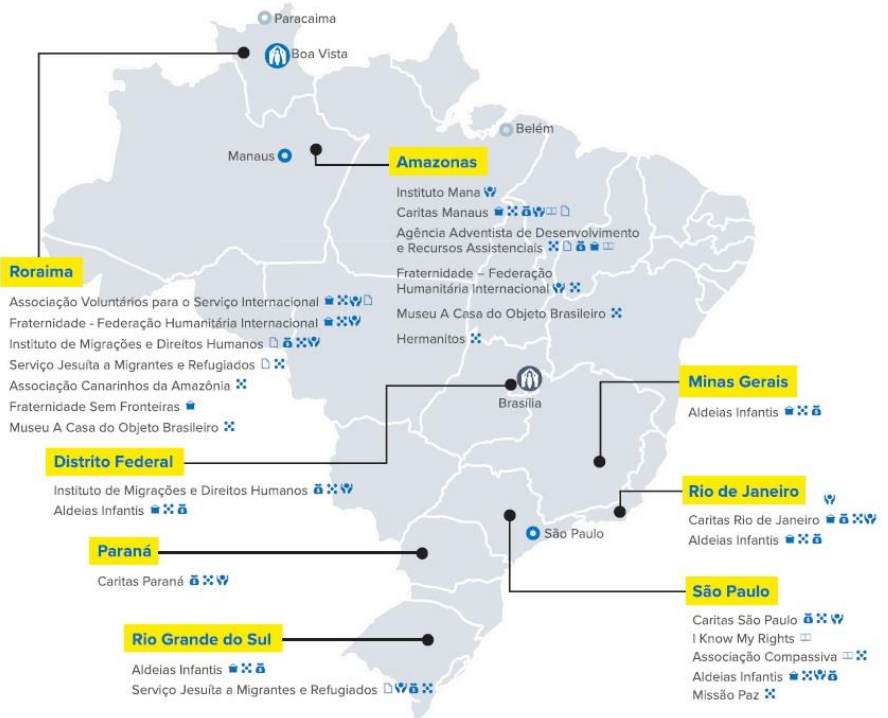
- Under the Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative, known as CRISP – a multi-stakeholder initiative to expand third-country solutions for refugees and foster responsibility-sharing in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways – Brazil is working on the development of community sponsorship pilots' resettlement initiatives, in line with its pledges made at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum. Sponsors will be responsible for the provision of assistance and support to the resettled refugees, under a legal framework that would enable individuals to obtain legal status and access to all services in equal right to nationals. All identification and referrals will be done through UNHCR to ensure that the programme benefits the most in need and vulnerable refugees. The Ministry of Justice will be monitoring the integration process and will count with UNHCR's technical support alongside the resettlement continuum. Likewise, UNHCR is also exploring with different stakeholders possibilities of expansion and strengthening third-country solutions in Brazil.

PSP

- The Private Sector Partnerships Service (PSP) sits within UNHCR's Division of External Relations (DER) and is responsible for mobilizing resources from the private sector for refugees. The Individual Giving section seeks to reach new audiences through advertising and engaging our current supporters and donors. The Corporate Partnerships & Philanthropy section develops and strengthens long-term partnerships with companies, foundations and high-net worth individuals. These private partners are helping to maximize UNHCR's impact and improve its capacity to make a difference by delivering life-saving assistance and sustainable solutions for millions of refugees and displaced people worldwide. In the first half of 2021, PSP carried out a series of actions to strengthen UNHCR brand as an organization in need of financial support, which contributed to a 30% growth in donations from individuals. An exclusive event and themed fundraising packages were developed to sensitize private donors about the refugee cause, a strategy that engaged new potential donors and supported the renewal of Bradesco's partnership.

**Brazil
Operation:
UNHCR and
Partners**

- UNHCR Country Office
- UNHCR Sub Office
- UNHCR Field Office
- UNHCR Field Unit
- Protection
- Reception Sites
- Documentation
- Information Management
- Cash Assistance
- Integration
- Education
- Telecommunications



Companies with Refugees Platform
empresascomrefugiados.com.br

HELP - The UNHCR source of information for refugees
help.unhcr.org/brazil

We thank the contributions of our donors

UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the support of private donors and:



UNHCR's private sector donors:



UNHCR Brazil is also thankful for the important support of and partnerships with other UN agencies, Brazilian authorities (at federal, state and municipal levels) and civil society organizations working together to deliver the emergency response and in the regular programmes of the Brazilian operation.

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