



**UNHCR  
ACNUR**  
Agência da ONU para Refugiados

**August 2020  
Newsletter**

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## **Brazil recognizes 7,7 thousand more Venezuelans as refugees**

UNHCR congratulates the Brazilian Government on its decision to recognize 7,787 more Venezuelans as refugees. This decision, announced on 28 August, is part of the simplified *prima facie* procedure adopted by the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE). This decision highlights the Brazilian role in protecting refugees in the region.

**“This new round of recognitions based on the simplified *prima facie* process reinforces the effectiveness of this mechanism in ensuring the protection of thousands of people. This stance strengthens the Brazilian Government’s commitment to guarantee the rights of Venezuelan refugees seeking protection in Brazil,”**

says UNHCR representative to Brazil, Jose Egas.

Previously, CONARE had issued three decisions granting refugee status to Venezuelans on a *prima facie* basis. With this last decision, Brazil has now recognized more than 46,000 Venezuelans as refugees, accounting for the largest population with this profile in Latin America.

In June 2019, CONARE recognized that the situation in Venezuela amounted to serious and generalized human rights violations, in line with the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees and Inter-American Court of Human Rights’ guidelines. Since then, Venezuelan asylum-seekers who meet specific criteria established by CONARE undergo an accelerated procedure without the need for an interview. On 28 August Brazil also extended the *prima facie* procedure for another 12 months.

UNHCR considers that the majority of Venezuelan nationals, or stateless persons who were habitually resident in Venezuela, are in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration on the basis of threats to lives, security or freedom resulting from events that are currently seriously disturbing public order in Venezuela.

**“CONARE’s response is in full alignment with Operation Welcome and the Brazilian State’s response to the Venezuelan migratory crisis, inserted in a broader context of welcoming and integrating refugees into Brazilian society”**

explains Bernardo Laferté, CONARE’s General Coordinator.

According to CONARE, the refugee population in Brazil totalizes approximately 50 thousand people from 55 different countries, with Venezuelans representing 90% of this total. Brazilian authorities estimate that around 260,000 Venezuelans currently live in the country. As of July 2020, more than 130,000 asylum requests have been submitted by Venezuelans in Brazil.

Read more at: [bit.ly/2QE5dOX](https://bit.ly/2QE5dOX)



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## World Humanitarian Day

To mark World Humanitarian Day, celebrated every year on 19 August, UNHCR launched a series of reports highlighting the work of some of its 16,000 humanitarian workers in 135 countries, including Brazil. The global theme of World Humanitarian Day this year was “Humanitarian workers: heroes of real life”, paying special tribute to people providing life-saving support to those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The date was designated in memory of the 2003 bomb attack to UN headquarters in Iraq, which killed 22 humanitarian workers, including the Brazilian Sergio Vieira de Mello. In addition to interviews to UNHCR’s field workers in Brazil broadcasted by various media channels, artists and celebrities such as Letícia Spiller, Luciano Huck, Fabio Porchat, Paola Carrocela, Fafá de Belém and Bianca Rinaldi, also promoted these stories through their social media networks.

## UNHCR Brazil launches new video on the Protection and Care Area

UNHCR released a new exclusive video documenting its contribution to the establishment and implementation of the field hospital in Boa Vista. The video showcases the timeline of the project, highlighting UNHCR’s support during each stage, including a recent donation of 180 ICU beds for treating the most severe cases.



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Jesus Cova

The film can be watched at [UNHCR Brazil's YouTube channel](#) or through the following links:  
► English [bit.ly/2Z5CrLs](https://bit.ly/2Z5CrLs) ► Portuguese [bit.ly/31SoUJ9](https://bit.ly/31SoUJ9)



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## UNHCR Brazil and *Todos pela Saúde* Partnership

In order to expand its humanitarian response to COVID-19 in northern Brazil, UNHCR Brazil established partnership with *Todos pela Saúde* - an initiative launched by Itaú Unibanco to face the pandemic and its effects on Brazilian society. UNHCR also receives technical support from

Hospital Sírio-Libanês, which aims to improve care and prevention of the novel coronavirus among refugees, migrants and the local population in the region. The partnership is the result of UNHCR’s efforts to attract the private sector as part of its pandemic response plan.

## UNHCR’s registration efforts reach 134,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Brazil

From 2018 to June 2020, more than 134,000 Venezuelans were registered by UNHCR in Boa Vista, Pacaraima and Manaus. The data was included in the Roraima Monthly Registration and Sheltering Report of June, which shows 812 additional registrations of Venezuelan nationals during that month. While the border remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR keeps

registering and assisting Venezuelans in Brazil who had not been identified. UNHCR Brazil’s registration activities receive generous contributions from several countries, including Japan, which allocates some of its resources to exclusively support registration efforts.

Read more at [bit.ly/3jzorBJ](https://bit.ly/3jzorBJ)



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## Community-based protection as a pillar of UNHCR's response to Venezuelan indigenous people in Brazil

Between April and July, UNHCR evaluated the activities carried out to support the Venezuelan indigenous population in Brazil. UNHCR's response seeks to empower this population through a community-based approach where individuals play an active role in their own protection. The main findings are included as part of [UNHCR's Activity Report for Indigenous Populations of July](#), which estimates that about five thousand indigenous people of four different ethnicities (E'nepa, Warao, Pemon and Kariña) have sought protection in Brazil, of whom 3,200 are asylum-seekers. The report highlights a wide range of protection actions including the donation of core relief items, development of coexistence agreements for shelters and community protection plans, the launching of a community newspaper (in Warao language) and educational and cultural activities.

Learn more at [bit.ly/2ENgo5d](https://bit.ly/2ENgo5d)

## Lebanon tragedy



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Houssam Hariri

On 4 August, two major explosions hit the city of Beirut, causing a tragedy of devastating scale. Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees per capita in the world and UNHCR's humanitarian efforts in the country are focused on three main areas: shelter, health and protection for affected Lebanese and refugees. To respond to the situation, UNHCR Brazil launched an emergency campaign which mobilizes contributions from individuals, donors and the private sector, and is also working closely with the Lebanese Diaspora in Brazil.

Learn more at [doar.acnur.org/acnur/libano.html](https://doar.acnur.org/acnur/libano.html)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### The number of refugee women seeking support in São Paulo increases:

According to a study carried out by the Refugee Reference Center of Caritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo (CASP), a UNHCR partner institution, 3,882 refugees and migrants of 73 nationalities sought assistance with this institution in the first half of 2020. The majority came from Venezuela (52 per cent), followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (7 per cent), Syria (6 per cent) and Colombia (6 per cent). This was the first time that the percentage of women served (48 per cent) was equal as that of men, in consistency with increasing rates observed for the last three years: women amounted to 33 and 43 per cent of those assisted in the first semesters of 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Read more at: [bit.ly/2EKXL23](https://bit.ly/2EKXL23)

### Employability and integration

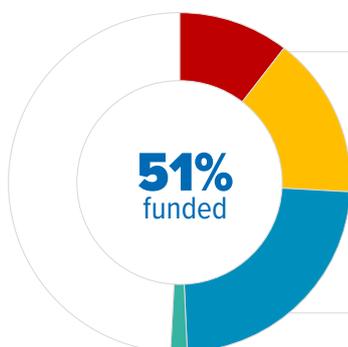
UNHCR signed an agreement with the job placement company Levee and Children's Villages SOS with the aim of promoting the employability of refugees. The agreement, announced on 20 August, provides for the incorporation of refugees and migrants profiles into the strategy of qualification and selection promoted by Levee.

Read more at: [bit.ly/34WbKfU](https://bit.ly/34WbKfU)

### UNHCR supports the launching of the Municipal Policy Plan for Refugees and Migrants in the city of São Paulo

On 11 August, the city of São Paulo launched its first Municipal Plan of Public Policies for Refugees and Migrants. Comprised of 80 actions to be implemented between 2021 and 2024, the plan is structured around eight thematic axes that reflect the real integration needs of the refugee and migrant population living in the capital.

Learn more at: [bit.ly/31HP7de](https://bit.ly/31HP7de)



### UNHCR Brazil Funding Update

1 SEPTEMBER 2020

**US\$ 46,6 million**

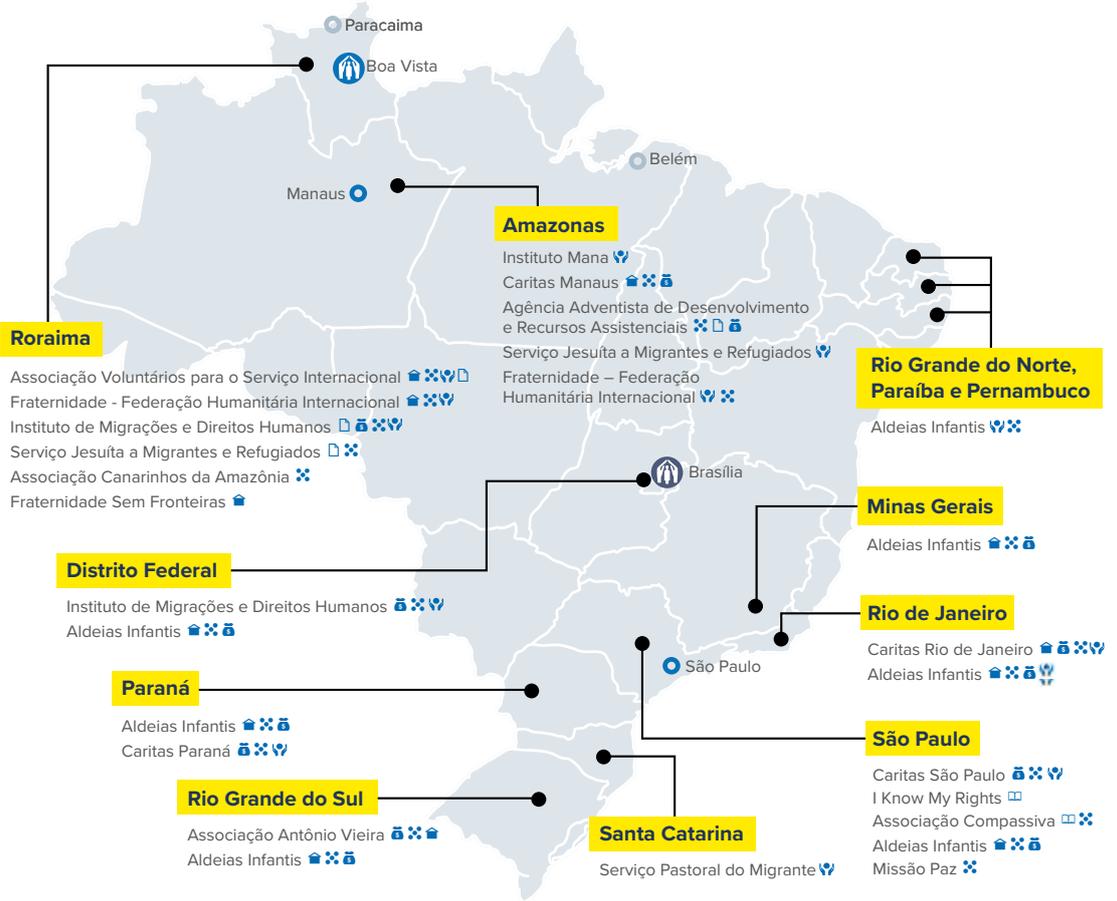
UNHCR's financial requirements in 2020

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

For more information: [reporting.unhcr.org](https://reporting.unhcr.org)

# 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



## Brazilian Federal Government figures:

- ▶ 193,737\* asylum seekers, of which more than 104,000 requests (53.7% of total) were made by Venezuelans.
- ▶ 123,507\*\* Venezuelans benefiting from alternative forms of legal permanence with temporary resident permits for two years.

\*Source: CONARE as of June 2020

\*\*Source: Federal Police data until November 2019



**Companies with Refugees Platform**

[empresascomrefugiados.com.br](http://empresascomrefugiados.com.br)



**HELP - The UNHCR source of information for refugees**

[help.unhcr.org/brazil](http://help.unhcr.org/brazil)

**Plataforma de Coordenação para Refugiados e Migrantes da Venezuela**

**RESPOSTA A VENEZUELANOS**

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## UNHCR Partners in Brazil:



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



## UNHCR's private 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.