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2023 International Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants

On 16-17 March, the Government of Canada and the European Union, together with UNHCR and IOM as co-leaders of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) hosted the [2023 International Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and their Host Countries and Communities](#). The event counted with country representatives, international and local organizations, and the private sector to discuss the humanitarian situation that has led nearly 7.2 million people to leave Venezuela in recent years.

Brazil was represented by Mr. Cozendey, Secretary for Multilateral Political Affairs, who gave a positive speech, emphasizing Brazil's return to the Global Compact for Migration and the high-level exchanges of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vieira, with both UN High Commissioner for Refugees and IOM Director General. He also mentioned the latest trends of hundreds of Venezuelans entering through the Pacaraima border – an average 600 people daily – and provided an overview of Operation Welcome, the federal government's humanitarian response. Overall, he emphasized the importance of concerted regional efforts and mobilization of resources, in line with the principle of shared responsibility, and assured that Brazil will continue to welcome refugees and migrants with the support of the international community



Reception support for Afghan refugees in São Paulo

On 20 March, in Guarulhos-SP, UNHCR attended the inauguration of “Povos Fraternos III” shelter dedicated to the reception of Afghan refugees. [UNHCR is supporting this facility, which can host 38 people](#), with furniture, appliances, and computers, but also providing training and technical assistance to the shelter staff on documentation, community-based protection, and prevention and response to gender-based violence.

With this facility, the local network for the response to Afghans in the state of São Paulo relies on some 800 vacancies for people that would otherwise be sleeping at Guarulhos airport. On the occasion, Federal Deputy Tabata Amaral announced a contribution of USD 600,000 to be donated to the municipality of Guarulhos to support the reception of refugees and migrants.



UNHCR Brazil Representative agenda

Important meetings filled UNHCR Brazil Representative's agenda in March. In Brasilia, Mr. Torzilli met with the diplomatic representations of [Luxembourg](#) **1** and [Canada](#) **2** where he had the opportunity to delve into the partnership that UNHCR has developed with both countries, looking at concrete opportunities to support refugees and continue collaborating in the current operational context. **The Representative also met with the [Swiss Ambassador](#)** **3** to discuss humanitarian issues and sustainable development initiatives, exploring potential areas of cooperation.

Moreover, **Mr. Torzilli met José Mucio Monteiro Filho**, the Minister of Defense, and reinforced UNHCR's cooperation with Brazil for the protection of refugees, especially its support to Operation Welcome, the humanitarian response for the reception of Venezuelans in the country.



International Women's Day

To celebrate women's strengths and raise awareness about the importance of gender equality, UNHCR Brazil conducted a series of activities in the mark of International Women's Day.

IN BRASÍLIA UNHCR facilitated a workshop on employability with 10 refugee women who live in the local Relocation and Integration Center, as well as focus group discussions on economic empowerment as a way to break gender-based violence and discrimination cycles. During the activity, the tech laboratory in the shelter was inaugurated, a space that will support women to look for and access jobs as well as training opportunities. In addition, 16 Warao women from the Coromoto community in Paranoá-DF engaged in discussions on women's identities and the protection risks to which women are exposed, with a focus on situations of gender-based violence that women may face within and outside the community.

IN PACARAIMA UNHCR held sensitization talks with the people temporarily staying at the BV-8 Transit Centre, including a specific session with young refugees and migrants which also served to foster their digital inclusion and further develop their learning skills.

IN BOA VISTA as part of the voluntary relocation strategy, an exclusive flight for refugee and migrant women was organized with 35 passengers who left Roraima to work in food and service companies in Santa Catarina and São Paulo. This is the result of a joint effort by the Brazilian Federal Government and the Humanitarian-Logistic Taskforce of Operation Welcome, with the direct support of UNHCR and IOM.

IN BELÉM UNHCR assisted in the organization of an event together with authorities and civil society organizations to celebrate Warao women and provide them access to health services, including of physiotherapy and physical education, as well as legal advice and recreational activities. About 100 indigenous Warao women attended the event.

IN MANAUS UNHCR, Instituto Mana, Amazonas State Judiciary, and the "Compensa Social Assistance Reference Center" (CRAS) organized another edition of the Solidarity Haircut, through which refugee hairdressers offer free haircuts and hold group discussions on gender roles, prevention of gender-based violence and safety networks. In total, 45 Venezuelans and Brazilians gathered in the activity.



New social media campaign

In March, PSP Brazil launched a new tv campaign with High Profile Supporter Leticia Spiller. The video tells a story of a family reunification promoted by UNHCR.

[Watch full video here.](#)

Internal Relocation Strategy reaches the mark of 100 thousand people benefited

Since it was launched, five years ago, Brazil's strategy of relocating Venezuelan refugees and migrants from the border state of Roraima to other Brazilian cities has benefited over 100,000 people. Through "interiorização", nearly a quarter of the 425,000 Venezuelans living in Brazil have found better opportunities of socioeconomic inclusion across the entire country. [Learn more here.](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

"Mujeres Fuertes" project first edition in Boa Vista

Building on the successful results of the two editions of "Mujeres Fuertes" in Manaus, on 29 March, the project kicked off in Boa Vista aiming to promote the empowerment and socioeconomic integration of 50 refugee and migrant women through vocational training and financial support.

Regulation for humanitarian visas for Haitians

On 30 March, Ordinance N°27 was published setting up new procedures for the granting of visas and temporary residence for humanitarian purposes for nationals and stateless persons from Haiti. Valid until 31 December 2024, the document broadens the scope of applicability of this policy by covering those affected by the situation of institutional instability in the Republic of Haiti, besides those affected by a major calamity or environmental disaster, which were already covered by previous regulations. However, the granting of new visas is conditioned to the processing of the current backlog of visa interviews in Haiti and to the consular capacity of Port-au-Prince, who is giving priority for requests made by women, children, the elderly and persons with special needs.

Operation Welcome change of Command

On 21 March, General Helder de Freitas Braga assumed the role of Operational Coordinator of Operation Welcome, following General Sérgio Schwingel. General Braga previously served as Special Military Adviser to the Minister of Defense and as Head of the Eastern Military Command Operations Coordination Center.

Prima Facie procedures for women victims of FGM and new General Coordinator of CONARE

On 14 March, the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) approved prima facie procedures for women victims of or at risk of suffering from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – adopting a progressive approach for recognizing legal protection to asylum-seekers on FGM-related grounds. In addition, Luana Medeiros, former head of CONARE's Durable Solutions Division and recently appointed as General Coordinator for Labour Immigration, became the new General Coordinator of CONARE.

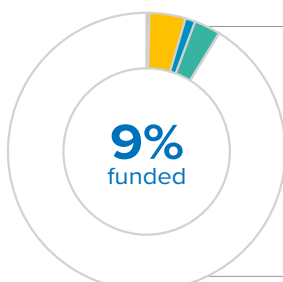
DASHBOARDS

- ▶ CONARE's Decisions bit.ly/3u4oInK
- ▶ Indigenous people bit.ly/3HdPi4n
- ▶ Internal Relocation Strategy bit.ly/3asTv3C
- ▶ Cash-based Interventions (CBI) bit.ly/3Tq8Ny8
- ▶ Shelters in Roraima bit.ly/3dcF6dT

PUBLICATIONS

acnur.org/portugues/publicacoes/

- ▶ R4V Exit Movements Report bit.ly/41IWZgW
- ▶ Protection and Assistance of Afghan Refugees bit.ly/3o50lpP
- ▶ CBI factsheet bit.ly/3KirjBP



**UNHCR Brazil
Funding update**

**AS OF 28
MARCH
2023**

US\$ 52,5 million

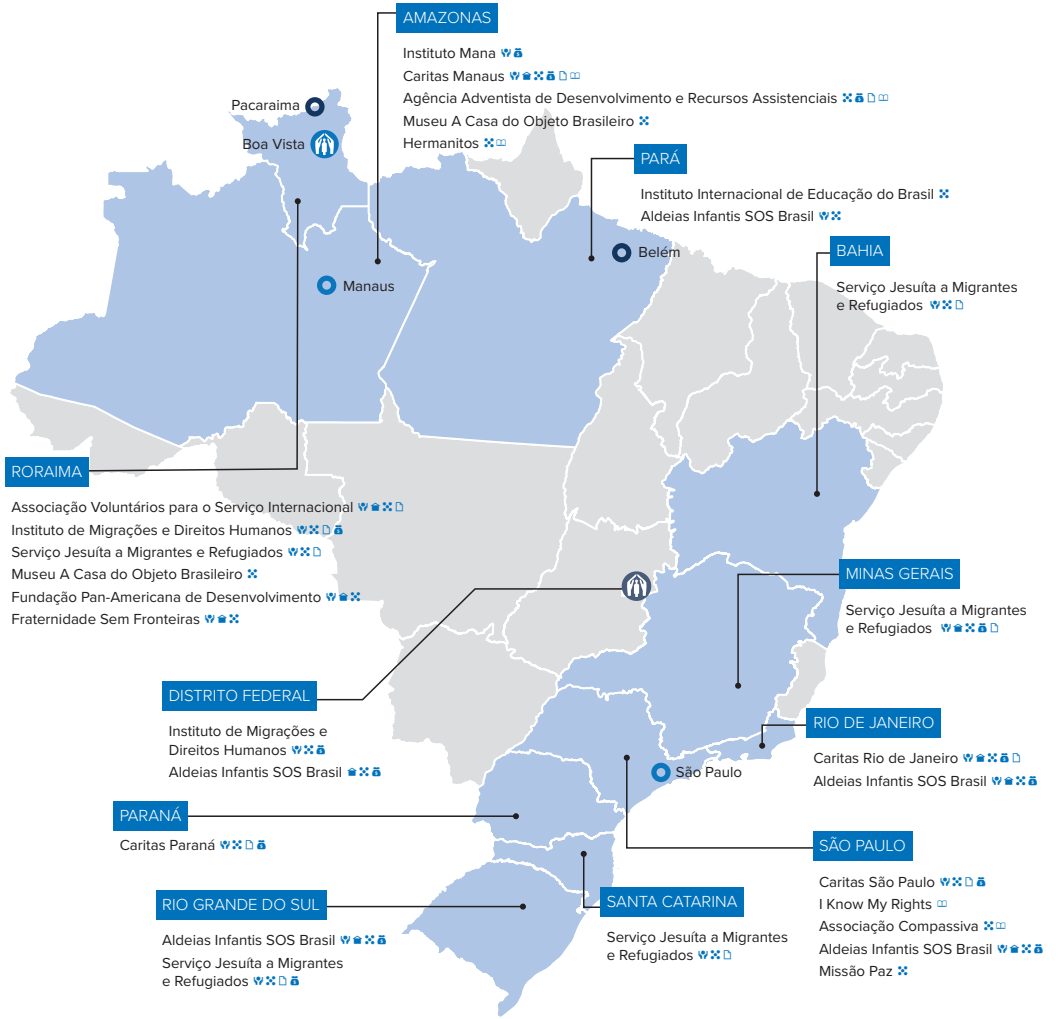
UNHCR's financial requirements in 2023

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

For more information: 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



Companies with
Refugees Platform

empresascomrefugiados.com.br



Help

HELP - The UNHCR source
of information for refugees

help.unhcr.org/brazil



Plataforma de Coordenação
para Refugiados e Migrantes
da Venezuela

www.R4V.info

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UNHCR partners in Brazil



UNHCR supporters in Brazil



Donor countries of UNHCR in Brazil and global programmes with flexible funding that supports the humanitarian response in the country



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.