

BRAZIL

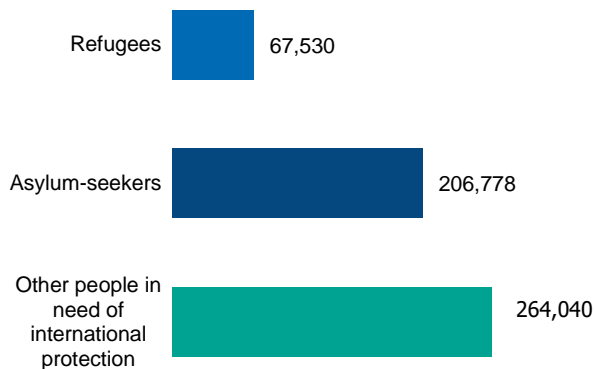
May 2023

Brazil hosts around 540,000 refugees and other forcibly displaced people, maintaining an open-border policy ensuring admission, registration, and documentation for all individuals in need of international protection. Over 65,000 recognized refugees of over 120 nationalities live in Brazil, most of them coming from Venezuela.

UNHCR works in close coordination with the Brazilian government through Operation Welcome, the federal humanitarian response set up to provide registration, documentation, shelter, and health assistance as well as voluntary relocation opportunities to ensure socio-economic inclusion to refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

UNHCR provides protection support and legal assistance to people forced to flee countrywide, ensuring identification and response to specific needs, such as gender-based violence survivors and unaccompanied children. Likewise, UNHCR acts in cooperation with the federal, state, and municipal governments, supporting the strengthening of inclusive public policies and refugee participation in decision-making spaces.

POPULATION DATA

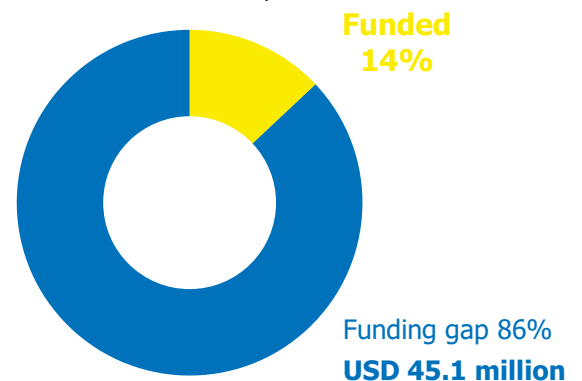


Source: Annual Statistical Report (ASR), December 2022. On top of the numbers reported in ASR, UNHCR calculated that Brazil hosts over 80,000 people of nationalities for whom the Cartagena extended refugee definition applies and/or humanitarian visa holders. Such numbers do not include refugees and asylum-seekers who are reported in the ASR.

FUNDING (AS OF 23 MAY 2023)

USD 52.5 million

2023 UNHCR Brazil's financial requirements



UNHCR PRESENCE

188 staff

Offices:

- 1 Branch Office in Brasilia-DF
- 1 Sub Office in Boa Vista-RR
- 2 Field Offices in Manaus-AM and São Paulo-SP
- 2 Field Units in Pacaraima-RR and in Belém-PA



Operational context

In Brazil, [refugees and other forcibly displaced people enjoy same rights and access to public services on equal footing as nationals](#). They also enjoy freedom of movement and do not face any limitations to choose their place of residence. National legislation does not impose legal restrictions on refugees as to access to documentation, the right to work, engage in income-generating activities or access education. Nevertheless, [there often remains de facto challenges in the access to rights and services](#), as well as obstacles for maximizing refugees' potential contribution to the economy, due to lack of capacity in local services or barriers specific to a person's status.

Since 2018, [Brazil has been committed to supporting refugees and migrants from Venezuela through a comprehensive federal response](#) – Operation Welcome – which has set up high standards of assistance and protection in the region. UNHCR significantly contributes to each of the three pillars of Operation Welcome: reception and documentation; shelter and humanitarian assistance; internal voluntary relocation. The latter, known as *interiorização*, facilitates the socio-economic integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Brazil. As of March 2023, [more than 100,000 Venezuelans have been relocated to some 900 municipalities across the entire country](#).

Indigenous peoples are among the most vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela. With the loss of their traditional livelihoods, over [9,000 indigenous peoples from Venezuela currently living in Brazil](#) (about the 2% of Venezuelans in Brazil) suffer high rates of food insecurity, have children out of school, and experience more discrimination than the rest of the Venezuelan population. Additionally, language barriers, limited schooling and income-generation opportunities significantly affect the prospects for local integration of indigenous peoples from Venezuela. Their sustainable transition out of emergency shelters and the promotion of their self-reliance respective to their socio-cultural patterns present challenges that require tailored interventions.

Over the last months, Brazil also saw an increase in the number of people of different nationalities (other than Venezuelans) entering the country, especially Afghan refugees in São Paulo. In 2021, [Brazil established a humanitarian visa policy for Afghans](#) and, since then, over 10,000 visas were authorized and over 5,800 Afghans have entered Brazil. Despite access to public services and social benefits is guaranteed, local authorities and civil society organizations have faced challenges in adapting the existing reception and local integration systems to the progressive increase in arrivals.

In addition, [Brazil offers alternative stay arrangements for several other nationality groups, including Syrian, Haitian, Iraqi and Ukrainian nationals](#), which facilitates the issuance of humanitarian residence permits and local integration in Brazil. Some 80,000 Haitians with international protection needs are residing in Brazil with different legal statuses.

Coordination and Partnerships

- Humanitarian assistance programming and long-term solutions coexist in the operational context of Brazil. UNHCR fosters cooperation with a wide array of actors, including [public authorities at federal, state and municipal levels](#), to provide protection, access to rights and services, and promote refugee inclusion into national systems. UNHCR also engages with [refugee communities, the private sector, academia, and civil society organizations](#), playing a catalytic role in bringing together various expertise and capacities for a more inclusive and sustainable refugee response.
- UNHCR strengthens synergies with [development actors and international financial institutions](#), including the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, and the Inter-American Development Bank, to better connect humanitarian interventions to medium and longer-term development efforts.
- UNHCR co-leads with IOM the [Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela \(R4V\)](#) in Brazil. As of April 2023, the R4V Brazil includes 55 partners among 13 UN agencies and 42 civil society organizations, most of which are national humanitarian and faith-based organizations participating in 7 sectors, 3 sub-sectors and 6 working and support groups. The Brazilian

chapter of the RMRP 2023 compiles the appeals of 42 partners for a total financial requirement of USD 122 million.

- In 2023, UNHCR in Brazil works with 16 NGO implementing partners and is providing small grants support to some refugee-led organizations.

Multi-Year Strategy

Protect

Ensure access to territory, asylum procedure, registration and documentation

- UNHCR advocates for **access to territory through all ports of entry to Brazil for people forced to flee** and in need of international protection without restrictions, including in international airports.
- UNHCR works to ensure **fair and efficient asylum procedures** through technical support and capacity-building of government officials.
- UNHCR focuses on **registration, documentation and case management** including through protection monitoring, mapping, and referral to protection networks to ensure timely access to protection and humanitarian assistance.
- UNHCR works to **identify persons at heightened risk**, such as women and girls at risk of gender-based violence and trafficking, indigenous peoples, the elderly, those with chronic diseases, LGBTIQ+ populations, persons with disabilities, among others, to ensure their referral to timely and appropriate services through protection networks and safe/support spaces.

Assist

Ensure operational response capacities and life-saving aid for the most vulnerable during emergencies

- UNHCR supports the government's response on **emergency and temporary shelter** for the most vulnerable, reinforcing temporary collective solutions through infrastructure upgrading interventions and shelter management.
- **Cash assistance** is provided to forcibly displaced people in vulnerable situations for them to meet their basic needs, as well as to refugees and migrants that need assistance after being internally relocated.
- Persons in vulnerable conditions receive **core relief items** to cover their immediate basic needs.

Empower

Empower communities and achieve gender equality

- **Community-Based Protection interventions are implemented** to bring a positive impact on protection, empowerment, and self-reliance of forcibly displaced people.
- UNHCR supports **community leaderships** and fosters the creation of community action plans, as well as harness the outreach potential of the national social assistance system.
- **Accountability to affected populations** is ensured through feedback and complaint mechanisms, allowing for regular, two-way communication, to ensure the response adapts to refugee and other forcibly displaced peoples' needs.
- UNHCR Brazil raises **awareness of the local protection networks on gender equality, gender-based violence and diversity** to ensure that refugees will have timely and inclusive access to protection and assistance.
- Joint work with other agencies and local authorities receives special attention to ensure that the **best interests of refugee children** are observed, as well as in promoting their participation in decisions affecting their access to rights and services.

Solve

Facilitate socio-economic inclusion

- Through a whole-of-society approach, UNHCR fosters **partnerships** with governments and the private sector **to mobilize support** for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in national systems and the labour market.
- UNHCR promotes **livelihoods opportunities** as well as **access to national and local social programs** across the country to enable refugees to attain self-sufficiency with a focus on the most vulnerable, also considering the specific needs of indigenous populations.
- **Technical support is provided to municipal and local authorities, also in the context of the National Forum of State Councils and Committees for Refugees and Migrants (FONACCERAM)**, which facilitates state-level articulation to meet the most pressing demands of refugees and migrants seeking protection in the country, as well as the development of lasting public strategies for integration of these communities. UNHCR is also currently providing technical support for the elaboration of the National Policy on Migration, Asylum and Statelessness.
- **Shelter exit strategies** are in place to encourage self-reliance and local integration opportunities and, consequently, reduce the length of stay in emergency shelters in the Northern region of Brazil.
- UNHCR provides continuous support for the government **voluntary internal relocation strategy** with a focus on the most vulnerable profiles and on those able to relocate thanks to job opportunities.
- UNHCR assists public authorities in strengthening **complementary pathway initiatives** such as humanitarian visas for those affected by the situations in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

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

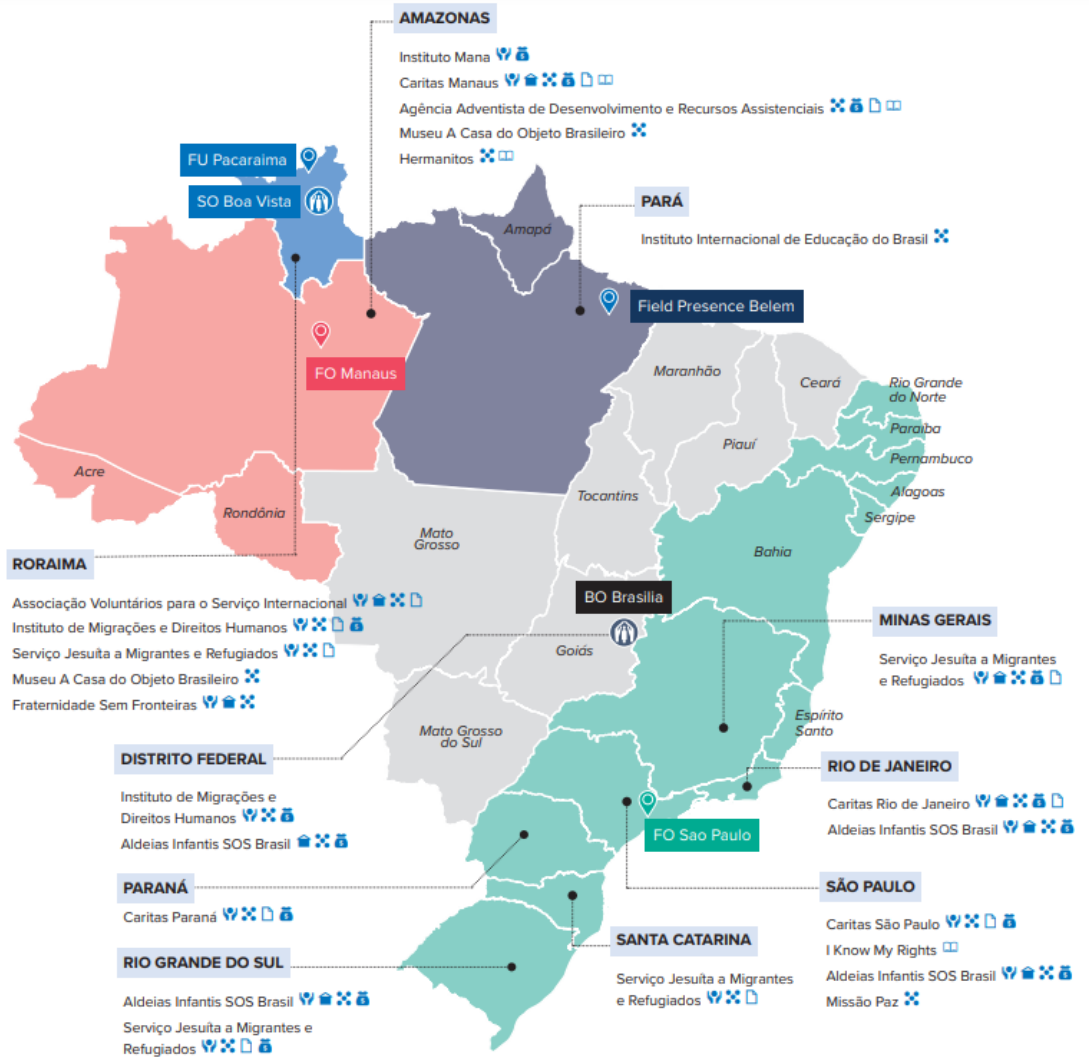


UNHCR Brazil is also thankful for the important support of and partnerships with other UN agencies, Brazilian authorities (at federal, state and municipal levels) and civil society organizations working together to deliver the emergency response and in the regular programmes of the Brazilian operation.

Brazil Operation: UNHCR and Partners

- UNHCR Branch Office
- UNHCR Sub Office
- Protection
- Shelter
- Documentation
- Information Management
- Cash Assistance
- Integration
- Education
- Telecommunications

188 CO Brazil
63 BO Brasília + 4 PSP
57 SO Boa Vista
11 FU Pacaraima
16 FO Manaus
15 FO Sao Paulo + 18 PSP
4 FU Belem



CONTACTS

Chiara Orsini, Associate Reporting Officer
orsini@unhcr.org

Vivianne Barbosa, Senior Reporting Assistant
barbosas@unhcr.org