

International Standard for Archival Description

- 1.1 Reference code** UNHCR 39
- 1.2 Title** Records of the Office in Belgium
- 1.3 Dates of creation** 1945-1998
- 1.4 Level** Fonds
- 1.5 Extent (quantity)** 16 m
- 2.2 Administrative/Biographical history** The International Refugee Organization (IRO) was created in July 1947. It was a non-permanent Specialized Agency of the United Nations. When UNHCR succeeded the IRO in 1951 the new organization adopted the same filing system.
- 2.4 Immediate source of acquisition** The records were transferred from BO Brussels to UNHCR Archives in three shipments: Series 1 in April 2003, Series 2 in June 1999 and Series 3 in July 2004.
- 3.1 Scope and content** The records include the records of the IRO office in Brussels and the records of UNHCR Branch Office Brussels, later called Branch Office for Belgium and Luxembourg and, from 1989 onwards, Region Office for the Benelux Countries and European Institutions. The records of Series 1 document the work of IRO and UNHCR in dealing with the aftermath of World War II and cover the period up to 1963. Series 2 covers the years 1975 to 1994 and contains records related to projects, assistance, statistics, the “program d’accueil” of Indochinese and Latin American refugees and individual case information. Series 3 includes mission reports, correspondence related to UNHCR relations with European institutions, refugee resettlement and naturalization for the period 1975 to 1998. Of particular interest are the files dealing with Indochinese and Latin American refugees in Series 2 and 3.
- 3.4 System of arrangement** The records are arranged in three series:
Series 1 Records of the Branch Office in Brussels
Series 2 Records of the Branch Office for Belgium and Luxembourg
Series 3 Records of the Regional Office for the Benelux Countries and the European Institutions
- 4.1 Conditions governing access** Records are subject to the General Restriction Policy of the UNHCR Archives
- 4.2 Conditions governing reproduction** Records are subject to the Copyright Policy of UNHCR
- 4.3 Languages** Predominantly French, with some English, German and Dutch
- 4.5 Finding aids** File list is available for Series 1
- 5.3 Related units** UNHCR Fonds 3, Records of the International Refugee Organization
- 7.2 Rules or conventions** Internal UNHCR rules
- 7.3 Date of description** 14 February 2006