BRAZIL

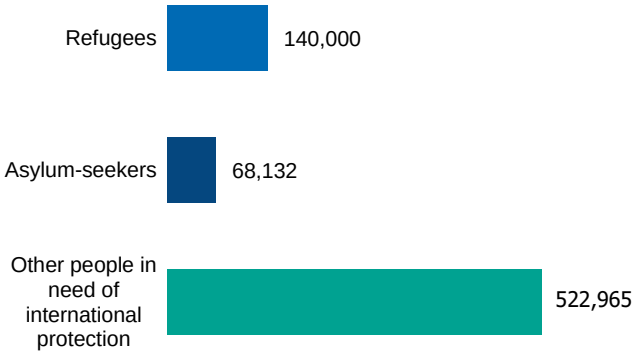
April 2024

Brazil hosts over 731,000 people in need of international protection. Most refugees come from Venezuela, through the northern state of Roraima, while others have arrived with humanitarian visas from Afghanistan, Haiti, Syria, and Ukraine, mainly through São Paulo international airport. In past years, Brazil also witnessed an increase in arrivals of Cuban nationals.

UNHCR works in close coordination with public authorities, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, and development actors to enable access to basic rights and favourable conditions for refugees' socio-economic inclusion. In this context, UNHCR is supporting the State to develop comprehensive national and local policies to receive, protect and integrate refugees and other people in need of international protection.

UNHCR provides protection to people under its mandate countrywide, ensuring identification and response to those with specific needs, including gender violence survivors, indigenous populations, and unaccompanied children. Additionally, **UNHCR works to strengthen the participation of refugees in decision-making processes**.

POPULATION DATA



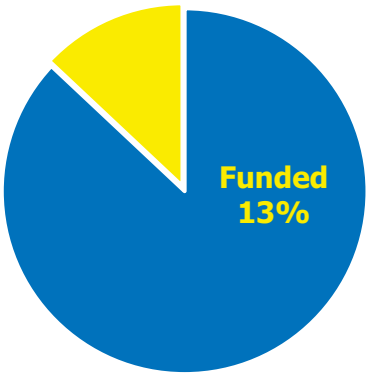
Source: UNHCR statistics based on government official data, Dec 2023

More detailed information on GRF dashboard

FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL 2024)

USD 52.5 million

2024 UNHCR Brazil's financial requirements



Funding gap 87%

USD 45.64 million

UNHCR PRESENCE

188 colleagues in 6 Offices

- 1 Branch Office in Brasilia, Federal District
- 1 Sub-Office in Boa Vista, Roraima
- 2 Field Offices in Manaus, Amazonas and São Paulo, São Paulo
- 2 Field Units in Pacaraima, Roraima and in Belém, Pará



Operational context

In Brazil, refugees and other people in need of international protection enjoy the same rights and access to public services as nationals. They also enjoy freedom of movement and can choose their place of residence. The national legislation does not impose restrictions on refugees and asylum-seekers as to access to documentation, the right to work or engage in income-generating activities, or access to education. However, despite progress, there are still practical challenges hindering their access to rights and services, as well as obstacles preventing refugees from fully contributing to the Brazilian economy due to the limited capacity of local service-providers or status-specific barriers.

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 the end of April 2024, over 132,000 Venezuelans have been relocated to some 1,000 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 11,000 indigenous peoples from Venezuela currently living 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 their socio-economic inclusion. Their sustainable transition out of emergency shelters and the promotion of their self-reliance, respecting their socio-cultural patterns, present challenges that require tailored interventions.

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. Since the establishment of the humanitarian visa policy for Afghans in 2021 – the admission criteria of which are currently being revised – over 13,000 visas have been authorized and almost 11,500 granted with about 11,000 Afghans entering Brazil as of the end of March 2024. This has put pressure on local government resources in São Paulo, requiring UNHCR's support to adapt the existing reception and local integration systems to the progressive increase in arrivals and to the needs of an entirely new community in Brazil. In the first three months of 2024, however, UNHCR observed a 30 percent decrease in arrivals compared to the same period of 2023.

In addition, over 20,000 Cubans are registered in Brazil, more than half of them residing in Paraná, Paraiba, Roraima, and São Paulo. According to official records only in 2023, about 15,300 Cubans arrived in Brazil, marking an 84% increase compared to 2022.

Finally, Brazil offers legal stay arrangements for several other nationalities, including Syrians, Haitians, and Ukrainians. Particularly, about 87,500 Haitians with international protection needs are residing in Brazil with different legal statuses. In June 2023, the Government of Brazil launched the "Action Plan for Strengthening the Protection and Local Integration of the Haitian Population in Brazil". Elaborated with the support of UNHCR, the Plan intends to benefit both Haitians already residing in Brazil, to support their stabilization and try to address and prevent risky, secondary movements, as well as those arriving more recently, who need timely access to information, protection, and integration opportunities.

Coordination and Partnerships

- Humanitarian and development programming coexist in the operational context of Brazil, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and UNHCR Strategic Directions 2022-2026. Against this background, UNHCR is part of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the national strategy that guides the cooperation between the UN System and the Government of Brazil for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- UNHCR fosters collaboration 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. For instance, UNHCR promotes private sector's engagement in refugee employability through the "Companies with Refugees Forum", which facilitates exchange of best practices within this business community regarding job placement opportunities and raises awareness about the many ways companies can engage with refugees in Brazil.

- UNHCR strengthens synergies with development actors and international financial institutions, including the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), to better connect humanitarian interventions to medium and long-term development efforts.
- UNHCR co-leads with IOM the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V). As of April 2024, the R4V Brazil includes 60 partners among 14 UN agencies, 41 civil society organizations and 5 refugee-led organizations. The Brazilian chapter of the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for 2024 compiles the appeals of 48 partners for a total financial requirement of USD 110 million.
- In 2024, UNHCR in Brazil works with 14 NGO partners and collaborates with 44 Refugee-Led Organizations.

Multi-Year Strategy

Protect

People that UNHCR serves can access protection in Brazil and fully exercise their rights.

- UNHCR advocates for **access to territory through all ports of entry to Brazil for people 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 and the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE).
- UNHCR focuses on **registration, documentation and case management** including through protection monitoring, mapping, and referral to public networks to ensure timely access to basic rights and services.
- 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.
- **Technical assistance is provided to federal, state, and municipal authorities.** At the national level, UNHCR is providing support for the elaboration of the National Policy on Migration, Asylum and Statelessness. **UNHCR also supports the National Forum of State Councils and Committees for Refugees and Migrants** (FONACCERAM), which facilitates state-level articulation on refugee protection and local integration.

Assist

People that UNHCR serves meet their basic needs and reduce their vulnerability.

- UNHCR supports the government's response on **emergency and temporary shelter** for the most vulnerable, reinforcing temporary collective solutions through infrastructure upgrading and shelter management.
- **Cash assistance**, as well as core relief items, are provided to forcibly displaced people in vulnerable situations for them to meet their basic needs, as well as to refugees and migrants after being internally relocated from the North to other states.

Empower

People that UNHCR serves are empowered and participate in humanitarian responses and their own protection.

Community-Based Protection interventions are implemented to enhance the protection, empowerment, and self-reliance of refugees and others in need of international protection.

- UNHCR supports **community leaderships, including for indigenous groups,** and fosters the creation of community action plans, harnessing the outreach of the national social assistance system.
- **Accountability to affected populations** is ensured through feedback and complaint mechanisms, as well as regular consultations with refugee communities to ensure the response adapts to their needs and concerns.
- UNHCR raises **awareness within local protection networks on gender equality, gender-based violence and diversity** to ensure that refugees have timely and inclusive access to protection and assistance.
- Support, together with partners and public authorities, **the strengthening of comprehensive child protection interventions**, which include providing individual children at risk with targeted, timely, systematic, and coordinated support in their best interests.

Solve

People that UNHCR serves attain durable solutions through socio-economic inclusion, voluntary internal relocation, resettlement and complementary pathways.

- 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.
- **Self-reliance strategies** are in place to encourage local integration and, consequently, reduce the length of stay in emergency shelters in the Northern region of Brazil.
- UNHCR provides continuous support for the government-led **voluntary internal relocation strategy of Venezuelan refugees and migrants** 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 as a responsibility-sharing mechanisms and a life-saving avenue available to some nationalities.

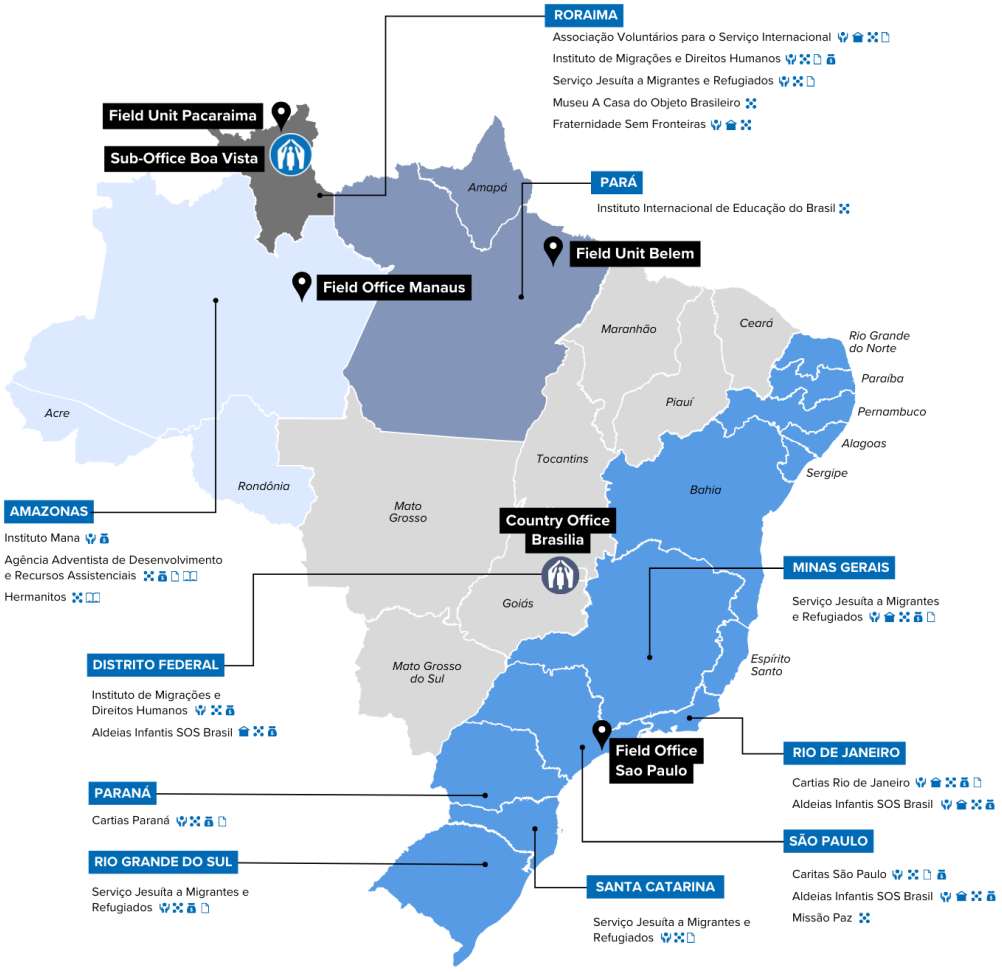


Brazil Operation: UNCHR and partners

- UNHCR Country Office
- UNHCR Sub Office
- Protection
- Shelter
- Documentation
- Cash Assistance
- Integration
- Education

188 CO Brazil

72	CO Brasilia	+3 PSP
46	SO Boa Vista	
13	FU Pacaraima	
14	FO Manaus	
16	FO Sao Paulo	+20 PSP
4	FU Belem	



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