



Brazil hosts over 887,000 refugees and individuals requiring international protection. Populations come from 163 nationalities mainly through the northern state of Roraima (Pacaraima, Bomfim) and São Paulo international airports (Guarulhos, Campinas). In recent years, Brazil has seen a sharp rise in Cuban arrivals, now the country's largest asylum-seeking caseload, mostly through Roraima.

How UNHCR works in Brazil



PROVIDING COUNTRYWIDE PROTECTION

UNHCR identify and assist people with specific needs—such as survivors of violence, indigenous communities and unaccompanied children—and strengthens refugee participation in decision-making spaces.



SUPPORTING NATIONAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

UNHCR supports the implementation of the National Policy on Migrants, Refugees and Stateless People, adopted in October 2025, helping translate this framework into practical national and local measures for their reception, protection and inclusion.



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

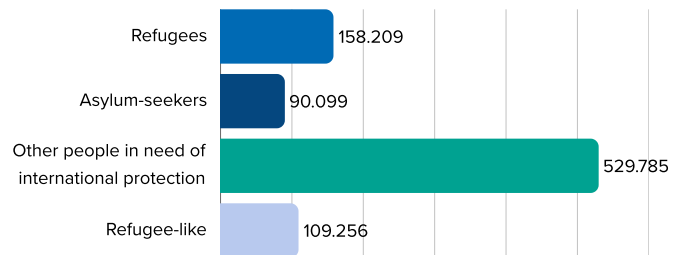
UNHCR works in close coordination with public authorities, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, and development actors to enable access to basic rights and favourable conditions for refugee socio-economic integration.

887K

individuals requiring international protection in Brazil

MAIN NATIONALITIES

Venezuela **79,1%**
Haiti **11,2%**
Cuba **5,1%**

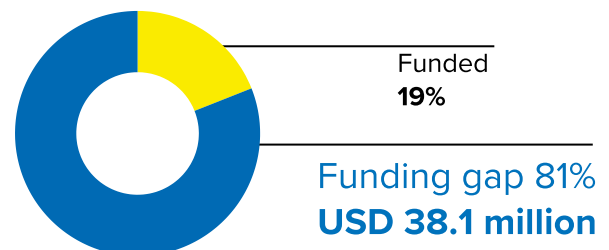


Source: UNHCR statistics based on government official data, June 2025.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL 2026)

USD 47.1 million

2026 UNHCR Brazil's financial requirements



UNHCR Presence: 124 colleagues in 7 Offices

1 Branch Office

Brasília (Federal District)

2 Field Offices

Boa Vista (Roraima) and São Paulo (São Paulo)

4 Field Units

Pacaraima (Roraima), Manaus, (Amazonas), Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul)

2 Field Presences

Belém (Pará) and Curitiba (Paraná)

Operational context

Brazil maintains a progressive protection framework that grants refugees and other people in need of international protection access to the same basic rights and public services as nationals, including documentation, education, work, and freedom of movement. In practice, however, barriers such as limited local service capacity, documentation bottlenecks, and socio-economic vulnerabilities continue to hinder full access to rights and inclusion.

Operation Welcome

Since 2018, The Government of Brazil has led Operation Welcome, a large-scale humanitarian response in Roraima that provides reception, documentation, shelter, and internal voluntary relocation (*interiorização*).

By end-2025, more than 156,000 Venezuelans had been relocated to nearly 1,000 municipalities, supporting their socio-economic integration across the country. Indigenous Venezuelan communities, over 13,800 individuals—remain among the most vulnerable, facing language barriers, food insecurity, limited income opportunities, and discrimination, requiring tailored and culturally appropriate interventions.

National Policy on Migrants, Refugees and Stateless Persons (PNMRA)

In October 2025, Brazil adopted the PNMRA — a landmark, multi-ministerial framework developed through an extensive consultative process, including strong participation of refugees, migrants, and stateless people. UNHCR supported its development and now assists federal, state, and municipal authorities in translating the policy into coordinated national and local actions that strengthen reception, protection, and inclusion.

Beyond the Venezuela situation

Cuba has become the country's **largest asylum-seeking caseload**, with thousands of monthly arrivals and over 64,000 asylum claims over the last two years, mostly entering through Roraima, particularly via Bonfim (border with Guyana) and Oiapoque (border with French Guyana). These flows now place added pressure on registration systems and local services.

Brazil has also seen continued arrivals of **Afghans**, who enter primarily through São Paulo and through the **Brazilian Community Sponsorship Program** adopted in December 2024. Since 2021, Brazilian authorities have issued over 11,700 humanitarian visas for Afghans. The sponsorship program has strengthened reception and access to services, however, newly arrived families still face language barriers, documentation challenges and difficulties securing stable income. UNHCR supports their protection and integration through legal assistance, cultural mediation, psychosocial support, and training initiatives, while working closely with government partners to strengthen the program.

Brazil also continues to host a significant **Haitian** population, with more than 105,800 Haitians holding humanitarian residency as of December 2025. Recent arrivals stem largely from **family-reunification procedures**—now processed electronically since September 2025—with most entries through Campinas and Manaus airports. UNHCR continues to support federal and local authorities in improving access to information, documentation and integration opportunities for Haitian individuals and families, including through broader national initiatives aimed at this population.

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.

ACADEMIA

UNHCR continues to work closely with universities serving as friendly spaces and advocates for the rights of refugees through the **Sérgio Vieira de Mello** academic network.

PRIVATE SECTOR

UNHCR promotes private sector's engagement in refugee employability through the "Companies with Refugees Forum", **1** which facilitates exchange of best practices within this business community regarding job placement opportunities and raising awareness about the many ways companies can engage with refugees in Brazil.

DEVELOPMENT ACTORS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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 longer-term development efforts.

INTER-AGENCY

COORDINATION PLATFORM (R4V)

UNHCR co-leads with IOM the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V). The Brazil chapter of the 2025–2026 Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), consolidate over USD 84.2 million in appeals across 32 UN agencies, civil society partners and refugee-led organizations.

NGO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS AND REFUGEE-LED ORGANIZATIONS

In 2026, UNHCR in Brazil works with four NGO implementing partners, and continues to engage and strengthen **refugee-led organizations** **2** through capacity-building, participation mechanisms and technical accompaniment. A wider group of NGO partners remain part of the protection ecosystem, collaborating with UNHCR and local authorities across multiple sectors.



Multi-Year Strategy 2026 - 2029



PROTECT

Forcibly displaced and stateless people have enhanced access to territory, protection, documentation and public services, and can fully exercise their rights.



ACCESS TO THE TERRITORY/ DOCUMENTATION

UNHCR works with federal, state and municipal authorities to ensure that people in need of international protection can safely access Brazilian territory and receive timely **registration** and **documentation**.

UNHCR work includes:



Supporting **border authorities** to maintain protection-sensitive entry systems



Improving **reception conditions** and **screening procedures**



Strengthening **government capacity** for individual documentation services.

UNHCR also enhances the efficiency and fairness of **asylum and refugee status determination procedures (RSD)** by providing training, technical guidance and legal expertise to CONARE and other institutions involved in RSD and statelessness determination.

Through these efforts, UNHCR helps ensure that asylum seekers and stateless persons can exercise their right to seek protection, obtain legal identity documents, and navigate their documentation processes in a timely and dignified manner.



JUSTICE AND PROTECTION SERVICES

Working with local authorities, UNHCR helps people at heightened risk access essential public services by ensuring they receive clear **information, counselling and referrals** for family reunification, legal orientation, social assistance, and other specialized protection responses.

UNHCR strengthens the capacity of **national and local authorities** — including those in **social assistance, health, education, justice and child protection** — to provide age-, gender- and diversity-responsive services to refugees and stateless persons. This includes:



Supporting **public networks** to better identify protection risks



Improving **frontline service delivery**



Reinforcing institutional readiness to address **complex and sensitive cases**.

UNHCR also expands **community engagement and communication efforts**, strengthening two-way information channels and community-based complaint mechanisms to prevent and mitigate risks related to gender-based violence, child protection concerns and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Through this work, UNHCR improves access to public services and contributes to a more inclusive and protective environment for all people in need of international protection.

Multi-Year Strategy 2026 - 2029

PROTECT



WELL-BEING AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

UNHCR ensures **that individuals with heightened vulnerabilities** — including women and girls at risk of violence, Indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children, LGBTQI+ individuals and persons with chronic illnesses — receive timely protection and assistance tailored to their specific needs.

Working closely with federal, state and municipal authorities, UNHCR strengthens public systems so they can include forcibly displaced and stateless persons in **social assistance programmes** and **national protection mechanisms**. UNHCR coordinates with civil-society actors to:



Improve referral pathways



Enhance case management



Ensure that humanitarian responses are coherent, timely and appropriately targeted.

Through these joint efforts, UNHCR supports a more effective and equitable humanitarian response system capable of reaching people most at risk and ensuring they receive the support required to meet their **immediate needs** and improve their overall well-being.



SOLVE

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons are equitably included across sectors and locations, considering their age, gender and diversity, and are supported to participate in their communities and achieve local integration.



ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND SELF-RELIANCE

UNHCR expands **socio-economic opportunities** for refugees and stateless people by working with government institutions, private sector actors, academia and local networks to increase access to **decent work, entrepreneurship and financial services**.

UNHCR work includes:



Engaging employers and business associations to raise awareness of **hiring rights** and **documentation requirements**,



Broadening partnerships that create pathways into **formal employment**



Strengthening **vocational training, technical education and higher-education opportunities**.

UNHCR also supports institutions at national, state and municipal levels to design and deliver **broad economic-inclusion and skills-development programmes**, enabling displaced and stateless people to build sustainable livelihoods, participate in the Brazilian economy and enhance their self-reliance.

Multi-Year Strategy 2026 - 2029

SOLVE



RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS

UNHCR works with the Government of Brazil and local protection networks to expand and strengthen **resettlement and complementary pathways**, supporting authorities to **improve identification, referral and processing systems for refugees and others in need of international protection.**

UNHCR provides technical guidance to enhance the quality and efficiency of **resettlement mechanisms** and collaborates with communities, civil-society actors and federal institutions to **broaden complementary pathways** such as:



Humanitarian visas.



Family reunification channels.



Education or employment based opportunities.

Through these efforts, UNHCR helps ensure that refugees and stateless persons benefit from **safe, regulated and protection-sensitive pathways** to third countries or alternative solutions within Brazil.



INCLUSION IN PUBLIC POLICIES AND LOCAL INTEGRATION

UNHCR supports federal, state and local authorities to design, implement and expand **public policies that include forcibly displaced and stateless persons in essential services and long-term solutions.**

UNHCR work includes:



Reinforcing the government-led voluntary internal **relocation programme** (*interiorização*) to improve local integration outcomes



Strengthening public policies related to housing, social protection, **Portuguese language courses**, education and health.



Advising on **inclusive policy reforms** across key sectors.

UNHCR also enables people of concern to access **naturalization procedures** through **information, counselling and legal orientation**, and advances **climate-resilience and environmental-sustainability actions** that improve living conditions in hosting areas, including access to clean energy, sustainable waste management and green community infrastructure.

These initiatives help expand equitable access to rights and public services, reduce barriers to local integration and support durable inclusion in Brazilian society.

Multi-Year Strategy 2026 - 2029

SOLVE



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL COHESION

UNHCR reinforces community participation by supporting forcibly displaced and stateless people — including **Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs)**, women’s groups, Indigenous communities and youth networks — to engage in public, civil and community spaces.

UNHCR work includes:



Strengthening **local leadership** structures












Facilitating community participation in **municipal and state-level mechanisms**

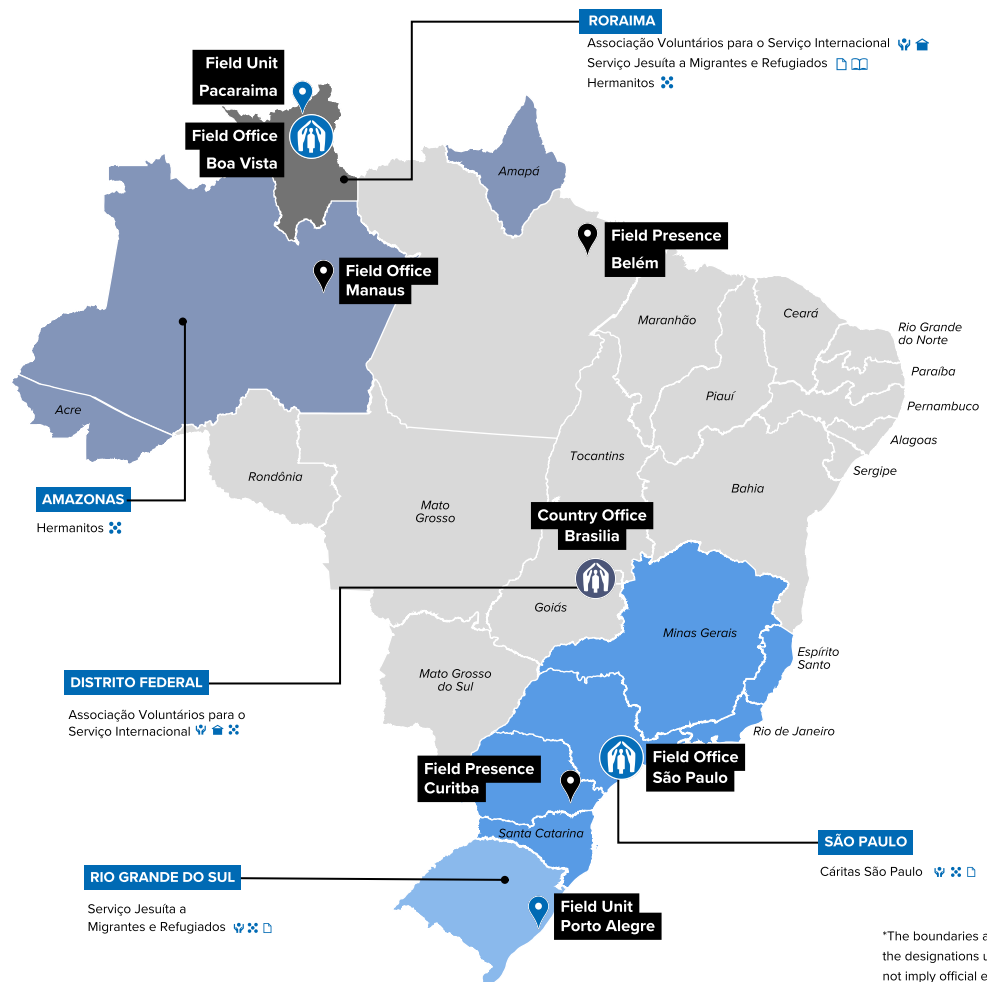


Promoting safe, inclusive **platforms** where refugees and stateless persons can influence policies that affect their **protection, social cohesion and long-term integration.**

Through **capacity-building, governance support and climate-resilience initiatives**, UNHCR helps communities organize themselves, advocate for their rights, contribute to **peaceful coexistence with host communities** and participate in **local adaptation and disaster-preparedness** processes. This work ensures that refugees have a **meaningful voice** and are recognized as active contributors to Brazil’s social and environmental resilience.

Brazil Operation: UNHCR and partners

-  UNHCR Country Office
-  UNHCR Field Office
-  UNHCR Field Unit
-  UNHCR Presence
-  Protection
-  Shelter
-  Documentation
-  Integration
-  Education



*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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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.