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## 951 Refugee Convention: 70 Years of Protection that Saves Life

Formally adopted on 28 July 1951, the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees aimed to resolve the situation of refugees in Europe after World War II. The treaty defines who is a refugee as well as clarifies the rights of refugees and responsibilities of nations who are host countries. The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Refugee Convention comes only a few months after UNHCR itself marked seven decades as the world's mandated organization for the protection of the forcibly displaced.

The causes and dynamics of human displacement are constantly changing, but the 1951 Refugee Convention has also evolved to reflect this reality. Several other landmark legal instruments have complemented the modern embodiment of the asylum principle over the past 70 years, in a continuous effort to strengthening rights for women, children, people with disabilities, and the LGBTIQ+ community, among others.

“The Convention continues to protect the rights of refugees across the world (...) Thanks to the Convention, millions of lives have been saved. Seventy years since it was drawn up, it is crucial that the international community defends its principles”, said Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Learn more at [bit.ly/2Vz7Qr1](https://bit.ly/2Vz7Qr1), [bit.ly/37rQ0Zl](https://bit.ly/37rQ0Zl) and [youtu.be/yiw3f1LWbKI](https://youtu.be/yiw3f1LWbKI)



Read the article of Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees at [bit.ly/3jpaoQx](https://bit.ly/3jpaoQx) and watch the webinar at [youtu.be/PApj311\\_Vs](https://youtu.be/PApj311_Vs)



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### Indigenous recognized as refugees

More than 125 individuals from the indigenous communities sheltered in Roraima were recognized as refugees in Brazil. UNHCR and partners have contributed to this result by providing legal assistance and guidance to Venezuelans in Brazil, supporting this population on the application of asylum claims. Moreover, on behalf of CONARE, UNHCR has formally delivered the refugee recognition certificate issued by CONARE, and together with partners, have supported these people in the preparation of the necessary documentation to request their refugee IDs and scheduled appointments at the PITrig to conclude their documentation process with the Federal Police.

The European Union, through its Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), supports CONARE and UNHCR in guaranteeing protection and access to rights and services for the refugee population in Brazil.



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## UNHCR mourns the passing of Miriam Bloss, inspiring Director of “Canarinhos da Amazônia”

On 26 July, Brazil lost yet another vital voice in the efforts to help Venezuelan refugees and migrants and ensure respect of their rights. Miriam Bloss, a musician, artist, and the Director of the International Association of Canarinhos da Amazônia Ambassadors for Peace (AICAEP), died due to COVID-19 complications.

At 58 years old, Miriam leaves us with her remarkable legacy of promoting the peaceful coexistence of hundreds of Venezuelan children and young people (and their families) within the Brazilian community. She was known for her project “Canarinhos da Amazônia” choir, which used music education to create a welcoming environment for many children and teenagers from Venezuela in the state of Roraima. Moreover, Miriam’s legacy remains through her many recognitions, not only by the municipality of Boa Vista that in 2015 awarded her the title of honorary citizen in appreciation of her social work, but also in international fora. In 2019, UNHCR promoted Miriam’s participation to the 2019 Global Forum on Refugees in Geneva, where the Association and the children’s choir represented a symbol of Brazil’s welcoming spirit.

UNHCR expresses its most profound sadness for Miriam’s death, an inspiring woman whose entire life story has been closely intertwined with the history of refugee protection in Brazil.



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## Mi Casa Tu Casa Libraries in Rondon 1 and Sao Vicente 2

Thanks to more than 6,000 books donated by Brazilian children and adolescents, two “Mi Casa, Tu Casa” libraries were inaugurated in the Rondon 1 and São Vicente 2 shelters from Boa Vista, giving young refugees and migrants from Venezuela the opportunity to access children’s, youth and adult literature.

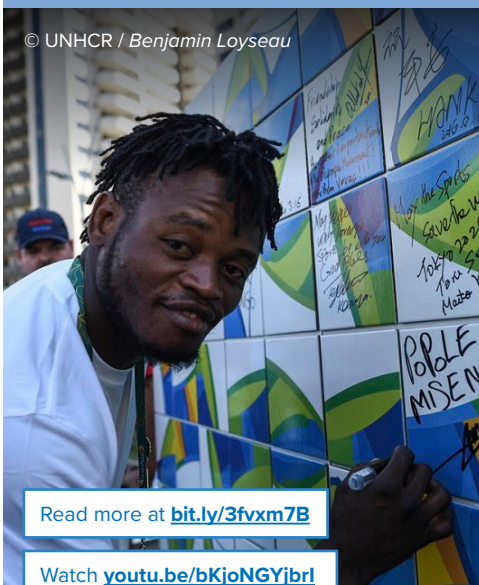
Refugee children and adolescents who applied to become part of the group of guardians of the community reading space from São Vicente 2 are also supporting the community with reading suggestions. In addition to the traditional loans, collective readings, conversation circles, school support and the production of texts and drawings will be held in the environment.

The libraries of the “Mi Casa, Tu Casa” project are carried out by the newspaper JOCA and the non-governmental organization Hands On Human Rights, with the support of UNHCR, AVSI Brasil and Fraternity Without Borders, and the São Vicente 2 and Rondon 1 shelters libraries are a pilot for future reading spaces.

In addition to the Operation Welcome shelters, the International Association of Canarinhos da Amazônia Ambassadors for Peace (AICAEP), received 2,000 books. In total, more than 8 thousand books were collected by the project to build more structures in Roraima.

Read more at [bit.ly/3AkcfND](https://bit.ly/3AkcfND)

## Tokyo 2020 – the Olympic and Paralympic Refugee and Reflexos Campaign



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Read more at [bit.ly/3fvxm7B](https://bit.ly/3fvxm7B)

Watch [youtu.be/bKjoNGYjbrI](https://youtu.be/bKjoNGYjbrI)

A total of 35 refugee athletes compete in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, showing the strength and determination of more than 26 million refugees worldwide. The delegation is made up of 29 athletes who compete in the Olympic Games in individual modalities and another 6 athletes who compete in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Read more about the stories of the 35 Refugee Team members at [bit.ly/3iqsEJY](https://bit.ly/3iqsEJY), among them Popole Misenga, a Congolese competing at Judo. After receiving the refugee status in Brazil, Popole joined Instituto Reação judo school, founded by Olympic medalist Flávio Canto, where he trained hard for the Tokyo Olympics.

UNHCR, with support from the Brazil Network of the Global Compact, promoted the “Reflexos” campaign, which brought together Brazilian Olympic athletes and refugee entrepreneurs living in Brazil to talk and exchange experiences about their trajectories and stories of achievements and challenges. You can watch all five videos of the campaign at UNHCR Brazil YouTube Channel [bit.ly/3ALbRY](https://bit.ly/3ALbRY)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Roundtable for the 1951 Convention's anniversary

UNHCR Brazil organized a roundtable with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE), Public Defender's office, Federal Prosecutor's office, civil society, and academia in the framework of the 1951 Convention 70th anniversary where participants could reflect on importance of the instrument, which ensured and keeps ensuring the protection of millions of people over the past seven decades.

### "Empoderando Refugiadas" new phase

After the graduation of 16 Venezuelan women, on 19 July a new phase of the project "Empoderando Refugiadas" has started. This second group of 20 Venezuelan women sheltered in Rondon 2 started their classes in professional development and sales techniques and will later be interviewed by partner companies to integrate the labor market in different states of Brazil. In 2021, the Empowering Refugee Women initiative aims to support the process of voluntary relocation through the employed-based modality for 80 Venezuelan women, alongside their family members, current living in UNHCR shelters in Roraima.

### New shelter opened In Boa Vista

On 2 July, as part of Operation Welcome's Contingency Plan intending to increase the existing shelter capacity to better provide support to Venezuelan refugees and migrants, the Rondon 4 shelter was opened in a coordinated action between UNHCR, AVSI and Operation Welcome. The opening counted with a registration activity and NFIs distribution.

### Webinar CIEE

On 26 July, UNHCR and the Business-School Integration Center (CIEE) have launched a booklet on hiring young refugees through the Young Apprentice modality. The live event also had the participation of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Secretariat of Labor Inspection of the Ministry of Economy. Read more at [bit.ly/3IDh2FD](https://bit.ly/3IDh2FD) / Live event [youtu.be/indLGUBuFcs](https://youtu.be/indLGUBuFcs) / Booklet [bit.ly/3IJ1ZKA](https://bit.ly/3IJ1ZKA)

### UNHCR supports socio-environmental booklet on the conscientious use of water in the State of Roraima

The material aims to promote sustainable solutions and informs about water consumption among Brazilian and Venezuelan students and teachers and will be distributed among some Operation Welcome shelters and public schools. Read more at [bit.ly/3I8ECtC](https://bit.ly/3I8ECtC) and access the booklet at [bit.ly/2Xar8ni](https://bit.ly/2Xar8ni)

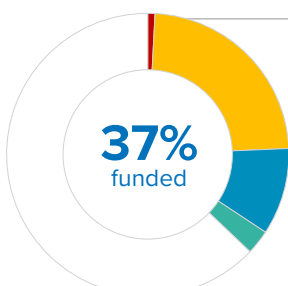
### Virtual Regional Workshop on Good Practices on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

On 27 and 28 July, governments from Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay shared their experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in resettlement and complementary pathways programmes during a virtual workshop. Moreover, European resettlement experiences from countries like Italy and Portugal were also presented as an inspiration for their adaptation process to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## PUBLICATIONS

[acnur.org/portugues/publicacoes/](https://acnur.org/portugues/publicacoes/)

- ▶ Protection Monitoring Report (April-May) [bit.ly/2W2TjDW](https://bit.ly/2W2TjDW)
- ▶ Indigenous Report (May - June) [bit.ly/3iwujxN](https://bit.ly/3iwujxN)
- ▶ Roraima Activities Report (May - June) [bit.ly/3APWZs2](https://bit.ly/3APWZs2)
- ▶ Autonomy and local integration of refugees and migrants Venezuelans sheltered in Boa Vista – RR (available only in PT) [bit.ly/3fqhuTT](https://bit.ly/3fqhuTT)
- ▶ Livelihoods and Interiorization Report (May - June) [bit.ly/3iv202B](https://bit.ly/3iv202B)
- ▶ Fundraising Programme Manual for R4V Organizations (available only in PT) - [r4v.info/es/node/88278](https://r4v.info/es/node/88278)



### UNHCR Brazil Funding update

AS OF 27  
JULY 2021

**US\$ 52,5 million**

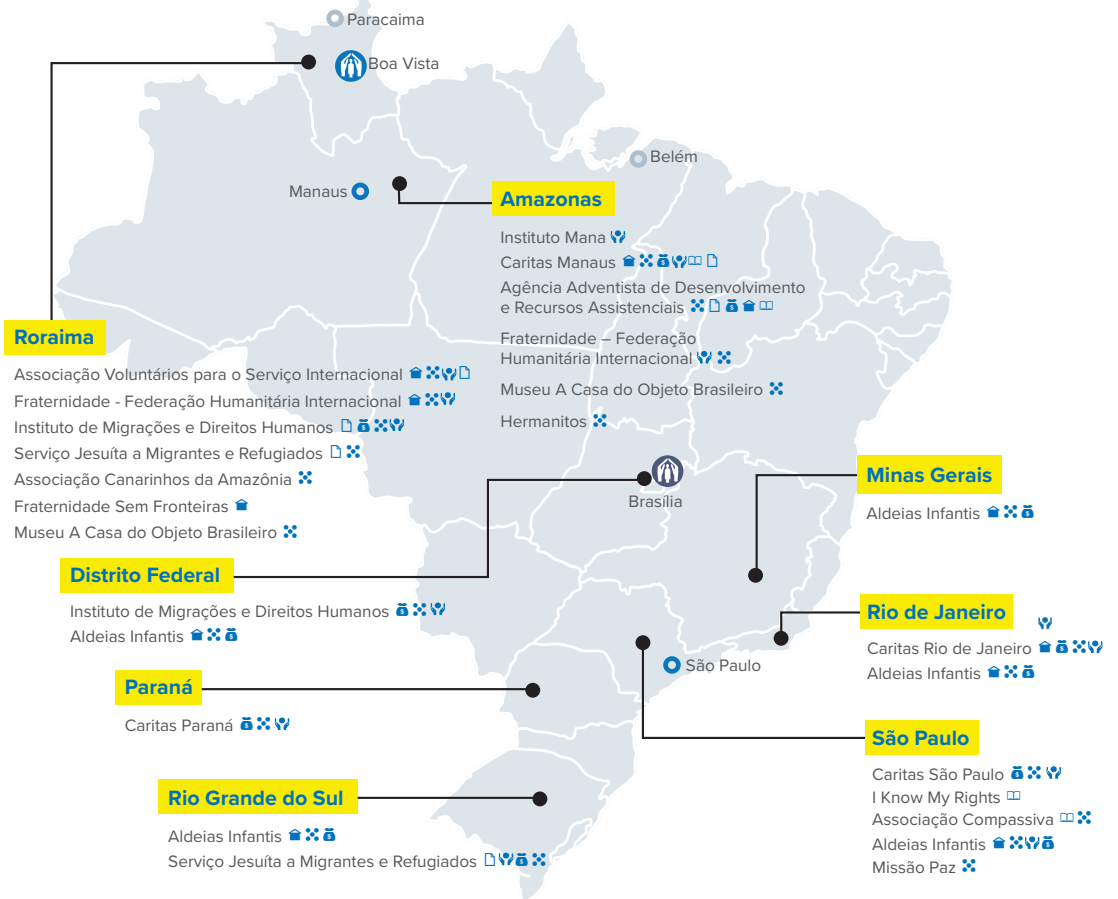
UNHCR's financial requirements in 2021

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

For more information: [reporting.unhcr.org](https://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



[empresascomrefugiados.com.br](http://empresascomrefugiados.com.br)



[help.unhcr.org/brazil](http://help.unhcr.org/brazil)

Plataforma de Coordenação para Refugiados e Migrantes da Venezuela

[www.R4V.info](http://www.R4V.info)

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## UNHCR Partners in Brazil:



## UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the support of private donors and:



## 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.