



**UNHCR
ACNUR**

Agência da ONU para Refugiados

June 2022

NEWSLETTER - UNHCR BRAZIL

acnur.org.br

© UNHCR / DC-STUDIO



Thanks, Brazil!

As part of World Refugee Day, observed around the world on 20 June, and to show gratitude for Brazil's solidarity towards refugees, the towers of the National Congress in Brasília were lit up in blue with photos of refugees in Brazil being projected onto the iconic building, in addition to the messages "Obrigado Brasil" and "Brasil #ComOsRefugiados". The moment also recognized the legal support that refugees found precisely 25 years ago with the Brazilian Refugee Law that protects those who had to leave their homeland due to wars, conflicts, and persecution.

Resistance – The Refugee Journey at Rio Carnival

One of the symbols of Brazilian identity, the Carnival, brings together the entire society into a single celebration. Thus, there would be no greater expression of refugee integration in the Brazilian society than their partaking in the official parade of the samba schools in Rio de Janeiro. Resulting from a partnership between UNHCR and G.R.E.S. Acadêmicos do Salgueiro, 20 refugees from five nationalities paraded in Sapucaí in April and now had their experiences shared in the global pre-launch of the documentary "Resistance – The Refugee Journey at Rio Carnival", held on 29 June. Produced by UNHCR and RecDesign, the documentary follows five of the refugees who paraded and reveals the process of integration of these people into the communities that welcomed them through samba, singing, experiencing, and above all, contributing to the largest cultural manifestation in Brazil. Later this year, the documentary will be presented in international festivals to reach a wider public.



UNHCR before and after Operação Acolhida

On 22 June, UNHCR celebrated four decades of presence in Brazil in the city that hosted its first office, Rio de Janeiro. In such location, and within the framework of World Refugee Day, occurred the launch event of the book "UNHCR before and after Operação Acolhida - An analysis in the light of the Brazilian humanitarian response", which provides an opportunity to reflect on how UNHCR has changed in the last five years while supporting the humanitarian response in the country. Made with the assistance of Doctor João Carlos Jarochinski Silva, the publication not only reminds the steps taken but also serves to guide future efforts, continuing strengthening inclusive processes in the country and responding efficiently to the demands of the refugee population. In this context, UNHCR also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Museu do Amanhã through its managing entity – Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Gestão (IDG) – to promote joint actions on forced displacement, including on people affected by climate change. Furthermore, during the event, the Representative, Jose Egas, also signed a donation term with the Municipal Secretariat for Policies and Promotion for Women of five laptops that will be used for the Mulheres.Tech web programming course aimed at refugees, migrants, and Brazilians.



See the book at bit.ly/3xWR98p

Letter from the Representative, Jose Egas



© UNHCR / Pedro Sibahi



© UNHCR / Camila Ignacio



© UNHCR / Allana Ferreira



© UNHCR / Miguel Pachioni



© UNHCR / Felipe Inaldo

Exactly 40 years ago, UNHCR opened its first office in Brazil with the support and within the premises of *Cáritas Arquidiocesana* of Rio de Janeiro. In these four decades, our operation has changed significantly. The small office in Rio de Janeiro no longer exists, and the small team now has almost 200 employees spread across six offices nationwide. Our partner organizations within civil society now account for more than 20. Our collaboration with academia, through the *Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair*, now includes 35 universities in all five regions of the country. Our work with authorities, based on inter-ministerial collaboration at the federal level and with state and municipal governments across the country, is also being strengthened. And support from the private sector, host community and donors, whether individuals, businesses or governments, grows every day.

In this period, the reality of asylum in the country also changed. In recent years, the country has received a greater diversity and a greater number of refugees who arrived here in the most varied conditions: in small numbers, individually, or in significant groups, as it has been the case of the Colombian, Angolan, Haitian, Senegalese, Afghan, Ukrainian and Venezuelan populations.

What has not changed is the generosity of Brazil and its population in welcoming those who need protection. Currently, the presence of refugees in the country is no longer a distant reality. And Brazil continues to exercise regional and global leadership in effectively responding to the needs of these people.

Operation Welcome, which since 2018 has protected vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela, is one of the most emblematic models worldwide, as it ensures documentation, humanitarian assistance, shelter, interiorization and socio-economic integration of this population in the country. It is complemented by the active participation of all sectors of the community in the welcoming, visibility, and reception of refugees, demonstrating how it is possible to involve the whole of society in a humanitarian response, in line with the principles advocated by the *Global Compact on Refugees*.

This year, Brazil also celebrates the 25th anniversary of the *Refugee Law*, which establishes a legal framework for welcoming those who need international protection in the country. Combined with the 2017 *Migration Law*, both ensure access to rights and services for a population that wants and needs to restart their lives and be active agents in society after a process of real socioeconomic integration.

However, this year, unfortunately, we broke a new record in forced displacement worldwide: there are already more than 100 million people forced to leave their homes due to wars, conflicts, and human rights violations. This record must motivate a reflection on the need to prevent and resolve conflicts so that peace becomes the true solution to current humanitarian crises. And, within the framework of *World Refugee Day* (20 June), we as a society must celebrate the resilience, resistance and strength of people who are compelled to move, and reinforce systems of protection and assistance for this population.

As I conclude my four years as UNHCR Representative in Brazil, I am honored to be part of this process. Nothing could be achieved without the teamwork and dedication of UNHCR's colleagues who accompanied me on this journey. Or without you: partners, authorities, donors, and friends. We have a long way to go, but I believe that together we can and will continue to make a difference and ensure the reception, access to rights and integration of refugees in the country.

Thanking you once more, I say goodbye with an anticipated *saudade* in my heart.


Jose Egas
UNHCR Representative in Brazil

“Whoever, wherever, whenever: everyone has the right to seek safety”: this is the motto of 2022 World Refugee Day. To celebrate this day and make thousands of people aware of its importance, UNHCR carried out a series of activities throughout Brazil, including:



© UNHCR / Camila Ignacio

UNHCR promoted a stand at the Saint John’s Day (Festa Junina, in Portuguese) in Boa Vista, considered the largest in the Amazon region. On the occasion, an activity for raising awareness on refugee needs and thanking the population of Roraima was carried out, in which it was possible to take pictures with message boards supporting the reception of refugees, in addition to being able to buy handicrafts and manual works produced by them.



© UNHCR / Felipe Iraldo

With more than 80 participants from public organizations and civil society, UNHCR and the Secretariat for Women, Social Assistance and Citizenship (SEMASC) held a seminar in Manaus that went far beyond celebrating World Refugee Day. The event was the stage for a rich discussion on the elaboration of the Municipal Policy for Refugees and Migrants, an essential instrument for guaranteeing the rights of this population.



© UNHCR / Tainanda Oliveira

At the Waraotuma a Tuaranoko shelter, the largest shelter for indigenous people in Latin America, the celebration was twice as lively, as World Refugee Day coincided with the shelter’s 100-day anniversary. The site, which has characteristics that meet the specificities of the indigenous population, had a series of festive activities for the sheltered population and a ceremony attended by representatives of UNHCR, the Humanitarian Logistics Task Force of Operation Welcome and AVSI.

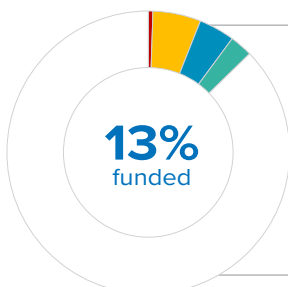


© UNHCR / Miguel Pachioni

In the Southeast, UNHCR supported Rio Refugia, a food, fashion, and art fair that celebrates the strength and resilience of refugees. In São Paulo, two libraries of ‘Mi Casa, Tu Casa’ – an initiative by JOCA newspaper, with support from UNHCR and Hands On Human Rights - were inaugurated: one in the Caemi-Palotinas reception center (located in the Penha neighborhood and managed by the Municipality of São Paulo) and another at the Aldeias Infantis SOS reception center (in Interlagos) to help refugees familiarize themselves with the Portuguese language and increase their opportunities for integration. Additionally, during the Santos F.C. men’s and women’s soccer match, a video was shown featuring UNHCR and its work in protecting refugees for the 10,000 fans present at the stadium.

Closing of the VIII Round of the Quito Process

Between 27 June and 1 July, the in-person closing events of the Brasilia Chapter of the Quito Process were held, divided into two stages. At first, a delegation made up of States members of the Process, Group of Friends, and representatives of the Joint Technical Secretariat between UNHCR and IOM visited Boa Vista to learn about the work of Operation Welcome. Then, the VIII International Technical Meeting on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens in the Region took place, at the Itamaraty Palace, for the reading and signing of the Joint Declaration, which brings together the commitments assumed by the countries in the advancement of their humanitarian responses in welcoming refugees.



**UNHCR Brazil
Funding update**

AS OF
**20 JUNE
2022**

US\$ 52,5 million

UNHCR’s financial requirements in 2022

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

For more information: reporting.unhcr.org

Representative's Missions to Belém and São Paulo



© UNHCR / Janaina De Melo

In June, UNHCR's Brazil Representative, Jose Egas, carried out missions to Belém and São Paulo. In the capital of Pará, the Representative signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Labor Prosecution Service of Pará and Amapá (MPT-PA/AP) and the Public Ministry of the State (MPPA) providing for the sharing of experiences and good practices, as well as the promotion of joint actions to strengthen the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants residing in the states. In addition, another Memorandum was signed with the Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH) to formalize UNHCR's support in strengthening the services provided by SEJUDH to refugees and migrants, as well as technical guidance in the creation and promotion of public policies aimed at this population.



© UNHCR / Miguel Pachioni

In São Paulo, Mr. Egas signed a donation agreement of equipment to assist the São Paulo Federal Police in providing improved services for refugees and migrants. The Representative also attended the opening of the National Meeting of Federal Police Foreigner Registration Units, where UNHCR provided training sessions on interculturality and shared good practices on the provision of services for refugees.

Updated data on the Refugee Population in Brazil

The Ministry of Justice, with the support of UNHCR and OBMigra, released updated data on the refugee population in Brazil through the "**Refúgio em Números**" report, referring to asylum requests and recognitions for the year 2021, and the **new interactive dashboard** that compiles data related to decisions with and without merit analysis made by the Brazilian State from 1985 to 2021.

Furthermore, in June, UNHCR published the **2021 Global Trends Report**, which provides a deeper understanding of ongoing forced displacement crises, examining the needs of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons worldwide.

Among the published data are:

BY DECEMBER 2021
60,011 people recognized as refugees in Brazil

81,30% are of Venezuelan nationality

IN BRAZIL, IN 2021
29,107 people requested recognition of refugee status

53,7% male
46,3% female

Sources: Refúgio em Números and Conare's Dashboard

CURRENTLY



+ than 100 million

people forced to flee worldwide

Source: 2021 Global Trends Report

Refúgio em Números bit.ly/3OKpaiW

2021 Global Trends Report bit.ly/3OJsquU

New Conare's Dashboard bit.ly/3u4olnK

DASHBOARDS

- ▶ Internal Relocation Strategy bit.ly/3asTv3C
- ▶ Shelters in Roraima bit.ly/3dcF6dT
- ▶ Cash-Based Interventions bit.ly/3jVTaLi
- ▶ Indigenous people bit.ly/3xzTt4L



HIGHLIGHTS

Approval of the Municipal Policy for Refugees, Migrants and Stateless Persons in Belém

On 21 June, in Belém, a bill (*Projeto de Lei*, in Portuguese) establishing the municipal policy for refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and migrants was approved, defining the principles that the public authorities must assume during human rights actions aimed at this population, such as rights to education, assistance and health. UNHCR supported the discussions that culminated in the bill text and, together with IEB, provided the opportunity for the Warao indigenous to contribute to it as well.

Opening of PAAHM in Manaus

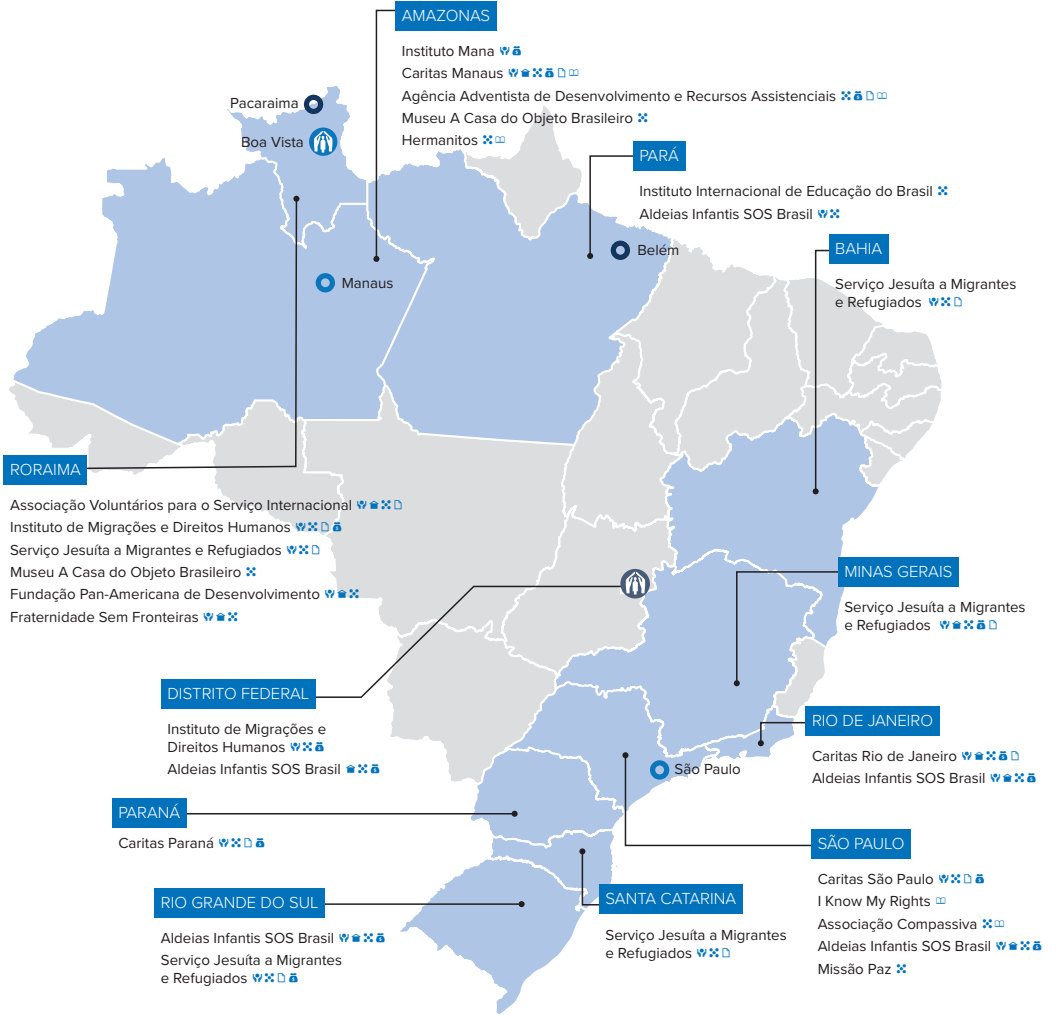
On 14 June, the Advanced Post for Assistance to Migrants, Refugees and Victims of Trafficking (PAAHM) was inaugurated at Manaus International Airport, which aims to regularly identify vulnerable people in need of protection and humanitarian aid and refer them to local support services.

Documentation task force in Caxias de Sul

On 6 and 7 June, UNHCR supported a documentation task force in Caxias do Sul-RS to provide migratory regularization services to the refugee and migrant population residing in the area. Together with the Migrant Assistance Center (CAM), the Federal Police and the Municipality of Caxias, the initiative reached around 1,000 refugees and migrants during the week.

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



Companies with
Refugees Platform

empresascomrefugiados.com.br



Help

HELP - The UNHCR source
of information for refugees

help.unhcr.org/brazil



Plataforma de Coordenação
para Refugiados e Migrantes
da Venezuela

www.R4V.info

@ACNURBrasil

/ACNURPortugues

@acnurbrasil

/company/acnurportugues

acnur.org.br

For more information:
brabrpri@unhcr.org

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.