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## IDAHOT: The search for equality and freedom through the voices of two LGBTQI+ Venezuelan refugee activists in Manaus

The challenges faced by thousands of LGBTQI+ people are remembered globally in the framework of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia on 17 May. The date was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

While recent accomplishments in the fight against gender phobias and prejudices and increase in global visibility are to be celebrated, Winns Marin, a Venezuelan activist, reinforces that there is still a long way to go for equal rights and access to services, more broadly, for LGBTQI+ people. "The society needs to listen to us, we need to be heard, and this struggle is difficult, but goes on every day", she comments. Through an invitation from the Mana Institute, a UNHCR partner in Manaus, Winns joined the Corte Solidário project, an initiative which has its base in community protection and also conveys protective messages and strengthens self-esteem of people assisted in Operation Welcome and civil society's shelters.

Fábio Oliveiros, another Venezuelan refugee who lives in Manaus, also describes his history of personal struggle and the strength he found through activism. He embarked in February 2019 to Manaus with his sister. To help people who are experiencing the same difficulties, Fábio says that he decided to become an Outreach Volunteer joining initiatives of Cáritas Arquidiocesana de Manaus in partnership with UNHCR.

Both the Corte Solidário initiative and the work of Outreach Volunteers are supported by the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), a mechanism of the European Union that promotes, through UNHCR Brazil, the implementation of peaceful coexistence and community-based protection initiatives, involving refugees and migrants in building solutions involving their own capabilities.

Read more about Winns and Fabio's story at [bit.ly/3yiCpQE](https://bit.ly/3yiCpQE)

## UNHCR shares best practices in the protection response for indigenous populations in the South and Southeast of Brazil

On 31 May, UNHCR launched its report on best practices and lessons learned, together with local protection networks, in the protection response for indigenous populations in the South and Southeast of Brazil. The live event provided information and shared experiences on the successful protection and local integration initiatives promoted by organizations in Nova Iguaçu, Belo Horizonte, Uberlândia, Montes Claros and Porto Alegre.



Read the publication at [bit.ly/2RO28js](https://bit.ly/2RO28js)

Watch the recording of the live event at [bit.ly/3x6qLH2](https://bit.ly/3x6qLH2)



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## RadioLab volunteers are trained at Radio Verde Oliva

From 25 to 27 May, thirteen volunteers from the community radio “La Voz de los Refugiados” in Boa Vista participated in the radio training organized in Brasilia by Operation Welcome in partnership with UNHCR. The activities were being held by the Brazilian Army Forces radio station Verde Oliva 98.7 FM and conducted by Operation Welcome’s Social Communication Center. This was a great opportunity for participants to expand their knowledge on radio content production, media languages, and communications techniques. During the training, they also recorded podcasts to be aired at the RadioLab for shelter residents in Boa Vista, an initiative carried out by UNHCR and AVSI Brasil, with the support of the Government of Luxembourg.

## Mi Casa, Tu Casa / Minha Casa, Sua Casa

A project developed through a partnership between the newspaper JOCA, Hands on Human Rights and UNHCR that aims to safeguard the human dignity of people suffering from forced displacement, through education and communication, has collected more than 20,000 books in a month for libraries which will be built in the shelters in Roraima.

Learn more of the project at [bit.ly/3g51MOX](https://bit.ly/3g51MOX)

## Quito Process: Brazil announced as the new Pro-Tempore Presidency

On 27 and 28 May the Plenary sessions of the Quito Process were held remotely with the signature of the joint Declaration of the Lima Chapter. Moreover, it was announced that Brazil will be assuming the next Pro-Tempore Presidency during the second semester of 2021, starting on 22 June. The Quito Process was established in 2019 and is an important space in which participant countries share best practices, being key for communication and coordination.

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



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## Espaço da Pessoa Refugiada e Migrante is inaugurated, and Technical Cooperation Agreement is signed in Belém-PA

On 26 May, the Support Space *Espaço da Pessoa Refugiada e Migrante* was inaugurated in Belém. Indigenous and non-indigenous refugees and migrants will be supported with qualification trainings and information as well as with regularization processes for documentation. UNHCR equipped the space and promoted capacity-building initiatives for the team working in the space. The event also marked the signing of the Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the State of Pará, through the Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH), and UNHCR.

Read more at [bit.ly/34UINVh](https://bit.ly/34UINVh)



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## UNHCR intensifies the response in Manaus after flooding and fire incident

Following the flooding occurred on 3 May that permanently damaged the infrastructure of the Reception and Documentation Centre (PITrig) and Manaus Transit Shelter (ATM), UNHCR’s team in Manaus, together with IOM, FFHI, state and municipal authorities supported the relocation of refugees and migrants from the ATM to Vila Olimpica, where they were provided with food and hygiene kits. Interiorization procedures are currently being performed from Vila Olimpica, while PITrig services are being provided at the Operation Welcome’s Base.

In response to the fire incident at the El Dorado Hotel, also occurred in Manaus on 8 May, UNHCR conducted a registration exercise of the families residing in the building for protection assessment and follow-up. Together with its partners in Manaus, UNHCR provided support with cash-based assistance; NFIs access and renewal of documentation; relocation to shelters; referral to the social assistance network; immediate response to GBV cases; and mapping of individuals interested in participating in the internal relocation.

Read more at [bit.ly/3wAKxdv](https://bit.ly/3wAKxdv) and [bit.ly/3vufXC8](https://bit.ly/3vufXC8)



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Watch the Mother's Day Live at [bit.ly/3x8nlhp](https://bit.ly/3x8nlhp)

MAKE A DONATION at [bit.ly/3w8YHmk](https://bit.ly/3w8YHmk)

## UNHCR launches campaign “Mother should be a refuge, not a refugee”

A virtual chat with UNHCR High-Profile Supporter Leticia Spiller also shed lights on the stories and strengths of two refugee mothers living in Brazil: Lucia Loxca, from Syria, and Marifer Vargas, from Venezuela. The event also included the participation of Maria Beatriz Nogueira, head of the UNHCR office in São Paulo.

Other celebrities and digital influencers also participated in the campaign in support of refugee mothers. In the press, the campaign was featured in the newspaper O Globo, CNN Brasil, Alma Preta and Rede TV News.

To draw public attention to the challenges faced by refugee mothers, UNHCR and Sereias da Vila (Santos Futebol Clube women's team) joined forces in a special action during a classic game of the Brazilian Championship against Corinthians, where the players mimicked “rocking a baby” after each goal scored.



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### HIGHLIGHTS

#### 1st Meeting of Refugee and Migrant Women from the North

In an initiative of UNHCR, UN Women and UNFPA, with the support of the Embassy of Luxembourg, 60 women participated in discussions, proposed solutions to identified challenges and actively engaged in shaping their own integration pathways in Brazil.

#### Indigenous Training and Cultural Center is opened in Boa Vista

Opened on 6 May, the place aims at becoming a reference for cultural activities as well as professional, education and language courses.

#### Project #RefuTeen is launched by UNHCR and IKMR

Twenty children and adolescents between the age of 12 and 18 will explore their potential to actively contribute to community protection and support activities through the project.

#### Humanitarian Negotiation Training

UNHCR together with ICRC facilitated the first edition of the Workshop in Portuguese. A total of 18 participants acquired information and tools for strengthening humanitarian negotiation skills and coordination at field level.

#### Support Network for Migrants in Bahia (RAMBA) is established

Members of the civil society, public authorities and Ministry of Citizenship met to address the situation of vulnerability of Venezuelan refugee and migrant communities in the state. UNHCR will provide a specific Warao training for the local actors.

#### Municipal Council of Immigrants (CMI) of SP elects new members

On 23 May, 1,292 refugees and migrants voted for the new CMI members both in-person and virtually. UNHCR participated as a member of the Electoral Commission. The appointment of the new members is scheduled for June.

#### Online session on International Refugee Law for federal judges

UNHCR and the Association of Federal Judges of Brazil (AJUFE) organized an online session for about 25 federal judges to provide an overview of UNHCR's mandate, the legal framework for refugee protection and the principles of International Refugee Law.

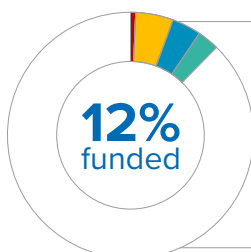
### PUBLICATIONS

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

- ▶ Roraima Activities Report (Feb-Apr 2021) [bit.ly/3ivA1jU](https://bit.ly/3ivA1jU)
- ▶ São Paulo Activities Report (Mar-Apr 2021) [bit.ly/3zgubcc](https://bit.ly/3zgubcc)

- ▶ UNHCR External Updates [bit.ly/3q49FE3](https://bit.ly/3q49FE3)
- ▶ Livelihoods and Interiorization Report March-April 2021 [bit.ly/357VEPa](https://bit.ly/357VEPa)

- ▶ Integration of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in Brazil – Summary and main findings [bit.ly/3zeEc9K](https://bit.ly/3zeEc9K)



**UNHCR Brazil Funding update**

AS OF 1 JUNE 2021

**US\$ 52,5 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements in 2021

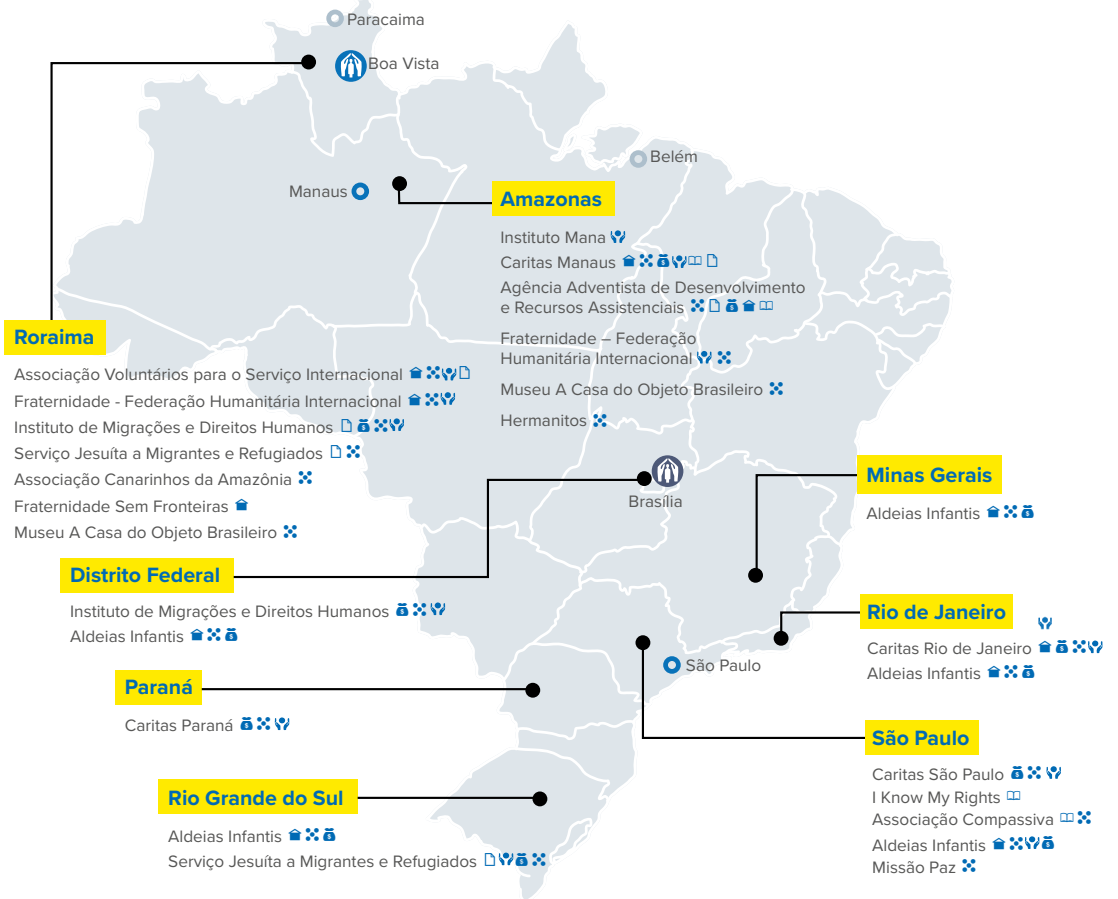
- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

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



# Brazil Operation: UNHCR and Partners

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- 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

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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.