In February, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security issued Ordinance N° 70 defining the composition of the multi-stakeholder Working Group that will elaborate the National Policy on Migration, Asylum, and Statelessness. The National Policy will articulate actions through five axes, such as migration regularization; local integration; promotion and protection of rights, fight against xenophobia and racism; social participation; and international relations and interculturality. Being present in all these axes, UNHCR will support the Working Group through development of conceptual language and provision of rapporteurs who will facilitate participatory consultations towards the elaboration of the National Policy. This process will also benefit from the various contributions collected through regional public events, at least one in each region of Brazil. The Working Group will have 60 days to elaborate the National Policy and the final report will be handed over to the Minister of Justice and Public Security, Flávio Dino, and later will be subject to public consultation.

On 16 February, in Geneva, UNHCR celebrated the recent contribution from the government of Japan to support humanitarian interventions in Brazil and Peru. Japan’s longstanding political and financial support to UNHCR – which also builds on the legacy and broadness of vision of Ms. Sadako Ogata, the first Japanese to serve as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the 90s – will result in enhanced protection, relief assistance and socio-economic inclusion for some 47,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in both countries. In Brazil, UNHCR will focus on promoting access to the territory, documentation, and asylum procedures, in addition to contributing to the improvement of emergency shelters in Roraima and facilitating socio-economic inclusion opportunities for Venezuelans, also as part of the government’s voluntary internal relocation strategy.
Two months into this role, UNHCR Representative, Davide Torzilli, continues to meet various high-level counterparts in the government, as well as donors and partners.

In February, the Representative met the Minister of Justice and Public Security, Flávio Dino, to strengthen the institutional partnership and advance towards better opportunities for protection and integration of refugees in Brazil, with a focus on supporting the national asylum system and working together on inclusive public policies.

The meeting with the Federal Attorney for Citizens’ Rights (PFDC) marked the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions until 2025, guaranteeing training and joint actions that directly contribute to refugee protection and local integration.

Also, the Representative had a series of meetings with diplomatic representations, including the Embassy of Italy in Brasilia and the Consulate of Italy in São Paulo in Sao Paulo, the Delegation of the European Union and the Embassy of Japan. In these occasions, the Representative presented the progress achieved by UNHCR in the response to refugees and other forcibly displaced people in Brazil, while also reiterating the need for enhanced solidarity by the international community to address the ever-growing humanitarian needs.

### Cross-border movements in Brazil

Continuous arrivals of Venezuelans as well as people from other nationalities into Brazil have been steadily observed in the first two months of 2023. In February, UNHCR has recorded an increase in the arrivals at the Pacaraima border – some 13,500 people from Venezuela – which remind of pre-pandemic levels. These figures have not only meant additional pressure on shelters in Roraima but have also prompted coordinated actions to assist more people with exacerbated medical conditions to get urgent health support mostly available in Boa Vista, rather than in Pacaraima – some 190 people, including family members, were supported with medical evacuations in February only. In terms of exit trends, according to an assessment recently conducted by UNHCR and IOM on Venezuelans’ return intentions, 88% of those interviewed declared that they were only going back to Venezuela temporarily, out of which 98% declared they had the intention to come back to Brazil.

### Progress in the response to Afghan refugees

In February, UNHCR made progress on joint actions with state and municipal authorities, as well as civil society organizations, to ensure protection for Afghan refugees in Brazil, especially within the response in the state of São Paulo. There were still 52 Afghan nationals at the Guarulhos Airport at the beginning of the month but coordinated efforts have since made it possible that no one slept at the airport in the following weeks. This is the result of UNHCR’s work with the local government and partners, including the coordinators of 8 local shelters, supporting them with strategic planning and expedited reception procedures. Indeed, referrals from the local government to the shelters have become faster, ensuring better protection for all. As the situation has improved, a local working group on shelter assistance and coordination, composed of shelter coordinators and with technical support from UNHCR, has provided a space to share best practices and find ways to overcome challenges.
HIGHLIGHTS

SVMC first national meeting of 2023
In February, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair (SVMC) network met for the first annual session, counting with the presence of UNHCR Brazil Representative and 30 university coordinators. In this occasion, Mr. Torzilli shared UNHCR’s strategic plans for the next years and participated in engaging discussions on refugee data collection, diploma revalidation and broader academic opportunities. The SVMC is now composed of 40 Brazilian and foreign universities, representing a participatory forum for developing teaching, research, and outreach initiatives on refugee and displacement themes.

Upgrading of WASH facilities in Janokoida shelter
UNHCR, ICRC and AVSI, together with the Humanitarian-Logistics Taskforce of Operation Welcome, inaugurated the new WASH facilities in the Janokoida shelter in Pacaraima. The upgrading of 16 toilets and showers and 4 child-friendly bathrooms will contribute to better living conditions for the sheltered population. Some 400 indigenous refugees and migrants from Venezuela are currently living in the shelter.

UNHCR supports the development of a state policy plan for refugees in Goiás
In Goiânia, state of Goiás, UNHCR Representative met the Mayor, Rogério Cruz, and the municipal Secretary of Human Rights, Cida Garcez, to discuss the situation of Warao indigenous groups living in the city. In addition, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Secretariat for Social Development (SEDS), to increase technical capacity and support assistance actions, including for the preparation of a State Policy Plan for Refugees and Migrants. The partnership between SEDS and UNHCR complements broader goals for the promotion of rights, reception, and dignified life conditions for these populations. For the next two years, UNHCR will cooperate with capacity building activities for public authorities directly working with refugee and migrant population in the state.

DASHBOARDS

- CONARE’s Decisions bit.ly/3u4oInK
- Internal Relocation Strategy bit.ly/3asTv3C
- Shelters in Roraima bit.ly/3dcF6dT
- Indigenous people bit.ly/3xzTt4L
- Cash-based Interventions (CBI) bit.ly/3Tg8Ny8

Türkiye-Syria Earthquakes
The most devastating earthquakes that have hit the region have left tragic marks: over 50 thousand lives were taken, many people are still missing, and irreparable structural damage. For Syria, this is a crisis within a crisis — UNHCR estimates that over 5.3 million people in Syria have been affected and will need some form of shelter assistance. In Türkiye, 15 million people living in 11 provinces have been affected, out of whom 1.7 million are Syrians holding a temporary protection status.

UNHCR in Brazil, through the Private Sector Partnership team’s effort, mobilized some USD 138,000 (BRL 721,000) and raised awareness to the work of the Agency on the ground through media interviews, social media content and expanded partnerships, such as collaboration with Santos FC, reaching some 290 thousand people on Instagram.

DONATE NOW to help individuals and families who need protection in both countries.

UNHCR Brazil Funding update
US$ 52.5 million
UNHCR’s financial requeriments in 2023

For more information: reporting.unhcr.org
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.