

INTERNAL RELOCATION REPORT



The **Internal Relocation** is the Federal Government of Brazil's strategy to voluntarily relocate Venezuelans from Roraima to cities with opportunities for socio-economic integration. Since the onset of the strategy, in 2018, approximately **131,000 Venezuelans**, including almost **64,000 people from shelters supported by UNHCR**, were relocated from Roraima to more than 1,000 cities across Brazil.

SINCE 2018
8,487 refugees and migrants were voluntary relocated with support of UNHCR

FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2024
706 people **in need of international protection** were voluntary relocated assisted by UNHCR

THERE ARE **4 MODALITIES**

Social reunion

Family reunification

SUPPORTED BY UNCHR

Institutional

Employment-based

INTERNAL RELOCATION BENEFITS

49% of the relocated persons exited emergency shelters in Roraima supported by UNHCR

It proves that the strategy helps to free space in shelters for new arrivals, reducing pressure on services in Roraima

	Unemployment	Children in school	Monthly salary
People in shelters	30,7%	35,6%	129 USD
RELOCATED PEOPLE	11%	70,4%	280 USD

"WE HAVE VALUE": THE VENEZUELAN TEACHER BECOMES A COMMUNITY LEADER IN BRAZIL

Elementary school teacher Yelitza Lafont arrived in Brazil in 2018. Alongside her teenage son, she brought many dreams and the hope of helping her family in Venezuela, but encountered difficulties. After six months on the streets of Boa Vista in Roraima state, with the start of Operation Welcome, they were hosted at the shelter supported by UNHCR, and life began to change. Yelitza and her son were part of the first group of 50 Venezuelans relocated to the Rio de Janeiro by SOS Children's Villages. Over the years, Yelitza has become a community leader: she now works at the same institution that welcomed her, where she serves as an assistant for family and community development and leads a project to promote Venezuelan culture. In 2023, she took another important step and began studying Social Work at university.



Yelitza, participant of the Internal Relocation Programme

"When I arrived in Brazil, I felt scared" she says, confessing that she felt she "had no rights, no voice, was invisible," and had no one to seek justice. "Today I feel very happy and proud. I work in the field of reception [of refugees], because I experienced that firsthand. We have value, we must be respected, and and treated as humans."

In January 2024, Yelitza participated in preparatory session of the I State Conference on Migration, Refuge, and Statelessness (COMIGRAR) in f Rio de Janeiro, where she was elected as a delegate for the national round of COMIGRAR scheduled for November of this year. Led by the Ministry of Justice, the initiative engages various stakeholders interested in migration, asylum, and statelessness to deepen debates on these topics, propose policy guidelines, and foster the social and political participation of people in need of international protection.

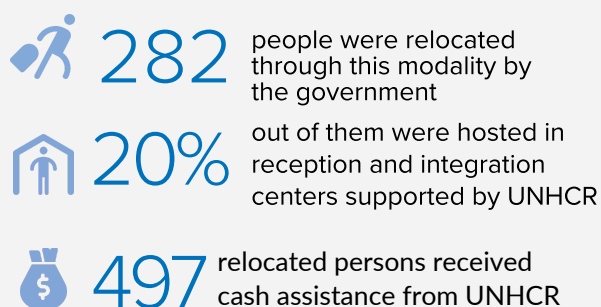
How UNHCR supports people with special needs to increase their chances for integration

INSTITUTIONAL MODALITY OF INTERNAL RELOCATION

Institutional modality is preferred in the case of Venezuelan refugees with specific needs and implies relocation from shelters in Roraima to the reception and integration centres in other states. These spaces have a specialized team that supports the inclusion of families by providing social protection services, supporting the enrolment of children in schools, and facilitating job search, among other integration strategies.

Since the onset of the strategy, in 2018, the Brazilian government relocated 16, 410 people through this modality, mostly to Sao Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul, Federal District and Rio de Janeiro.

FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2024



From April 2018 UNHCR already destinate almost **USD 810,000** under this modality assisting **3,970 people**.

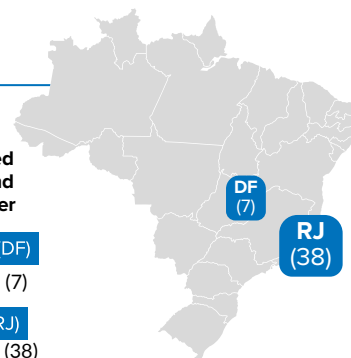
Distribution of people welcomed per reception and integration center


Distrito Federal (DF)


• Aldeias Infantis (7)

Rio de Janeiro (RJ)

• Aldeias Infantis (38)



 **100%** of relocated through institutional modality families are led by a woman

 **66%** of relocated families had at least one protection need

NEWS



UNHCR PARTICIPATES IN THE DELEGATION TO DOURADOS, THE FIFTH CITY TO HAVE RECEIVED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF RELOCATED VENEZUELAN

In March, UNHCR participated in a delegation organized by the Ministry of Social Development to visit Dourados (MS), a city that had received **4,280 people** through the interiorization strategy until February 2024, surpassed only by Curitiba, São Paulo, Manaus, and Chapecó.

The delegation met with the local network involved in the topic, learned about the "Bienvenido" project implemented by the Municipal Social Assistance Secretary of Dourados, which provides assistance to the refugee population in the city, and visited a company that has already hired more than a thousand Venezuelan individuals through Operation Welcome since 2018.

Top 7 municipalities of Brazil that hosted the most of participants of the internal Relocation Programme

Curitiba	8,099
Sao Paulo	5,257
Manaus	5,496
Chapeco	5,481
Dourados	4,398
Cascavel	3,276
Brasilia	3,089

How UNHCR supports people to have a new start with a new job

EMPLOYMENT-BASED MODALITY OF INTERNAL RELOCATION

FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2024



285

people relocated with at least one adult of the family hired by a private company



All of them were supported with cash assistance from UNHCR to meet their basic needs upon the arrival in the destination city

From April 2018 UNHCR already destinate almost **USD 488,000** assisting **4,875 people**.

72

people hired in the following sectors:

- Livestock industry
- Forestry
- Services
- Gastronomy
- Food production
- Transport



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11
employers
offered



48
job vacancies through
the initiative

NEWS

MARCH 8 - INTEGRATION OF VENEZUELAN WOMEN THROUGH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In commemoration of International Women's Day on March 8th, Operation Welcome organized an initiative to integrate refugee and migrant women into the Brazilian job market: over 50 women and their families traveled to Mato Grosso do Sul and Goiás through the VES program. In total, 124 refugees and migrants received support from UNHCR, including travel kits, hygiene kits, and financial assistance, aiming to meet their basic needs and facilitate their socio-economic integration in their first month in the destination cities.



“EMPOWERING REFUGEE WOMEN” PROJECT ARRIVES IN RIO DE JANEIRO

The Empowering Refugee Women project celebrated the graduation of its first class in Rio de Janeiro, comprising Venezuelan women who were resettled and hosted in the Children's Villages with the support of UNHCR. The participants completed a Customer Service Excellence course offered by SENAC Rio de Janeiro and took part in workshops on mental health, soft skills development, and social participation. The project also organized a job fair, company visits, a photoshoot for the participants, and activities with Social Service of Commerce (SESC) for the children. The class was sponsored by Brazilian companies Lojas Renner S.A., Riachuelo, and Primavera Sound. By the end of March 2024, about 60 graduates had job-interviews and can be employed at any time.



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Learn more
about CBI here



Empoderando
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Learn more about the
Empowering Refugee
Women project

Donor countries of UNHCR in Brazil and global programmes with flexible funding that supports the humanitarian response in the country



Belgium
partner in development



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.