



Graduation Approach: Self-reliance and economic inclusion for refugees in Brazil

BY POVERTY ALLEVIATION
COALITION: BRAZIL
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CARITAS Schweiz
Suisse
Svizzera
Svizra



Project Summary



Total Programme Value

USD 3,234,484



Cost per household

USD 1,540



Methodology

The Graduation Approach



Target Beneficiaries

Households 2100

Paraná state (700 households)



Pernambuco state (700 households)

Santa Catarina state (700 households)

Pastoral Service for Migrants
Implementing



Caritas Switzerland
Implementing



Caritas Brazil
Implementing



UNHCR Brazil
Implementing



HIAS
Technical Assistance

Contents

PROJECT SUMMARY	4
Overview	4
Funding Request and Gaps	4
Implementing Partners	4
Implementing Locations	4
Technical Assistance Partners	4
Acronyms	5
BACKGROUND	6
Problem Analysis	6
PROJECT OPERATING MODEL	8
Project Goal	8
Project Approach	9
Project Objectives	11
PROJECT IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY	12
Intended Impact	12
Logical Framework	13
PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE	14
Coalition Organisational Capacity	14
Broader Project Stakeholders	16
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	17
Monitoring	17
Implementation Plan for Monitoring and Evaluation	18
PROJECT BUDGET	19
Funding Request	19
Project Budget	20
In-Kind Contributions	21
ANNEX 1 – RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS	22

Project Summary

OVERVIEW

The socio-political unrest in Venezuela has triggered the largest external displacement crisis in Latin America's recent history. As by April 2021, an estimated 5.6 million Venezuelans have fled their country, of which about 300'000 are currently living in Brazil. With 25% of the population living in (extreme) poverty and a 4.1% reduction in the Brazilian gross domestic product in 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation¹, the promotion of sustainable livelihood opportunities for the affected population is essential. The proposed intervention aims at **facilitating the way out of poverty to sustainable livelihoods and strengthening the**

self-reliance of 2'100 asylum seeker, refugee and host community households (10'500 individuals) by implementing the Graduation Approach model in Brazil. The Graduation Approach is a sequenced and time-bound intervention that combines access to mentorship, social protection and support, financial inclusion, technical and skills training, as well as access to self- or wage-employment in order to "graduate" participants out of poverty and guide them to self-reliance and resilience within a determined time frame.

FUNDING REQUEST AND GAPS

- > Budget: USD 3'234'484 (USD 1'540 per household)
- > Target participants: 2'100 households (10'500 individuals); 70% asylum seeker/refugee and 30% host community households

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- > Caritas Switzerland
- > Caritas Brazil
- > Pastoral Service for Migrants
- > UNHCR Brazil

IMPLEMENTING LOCATIONS

- > Paraná state (700 households)
- > Pernambuco state (700 households)
- > Santa Catarina state (700 households)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERS

- > HIAS

¹ IBGE, available at: <https://www.ibge.gov.br/explica/pib.php> (April 21, 2021)

ACRONYMS

BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
CABR	Caritas Brazil
CACH	Caritas Switzerland
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean Region
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
OAS	Organization of American States
PAC	Poverty Alleviation Coalition
PEI	World Bank Partnership for Economic Inclusion
PoC	Persons of Concern
RMRP	Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan
R4V	Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela
SRI	Self-Reliance Index
SPM	Pastoral Service for Migrants
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme

Background

PROBLEM ANALYSIS

The socio-political unrest in Venezuela has become increasingly critical with the current food and medicine supply crisis, the collapse of public services, soaring violence, unemployment, an annual inflation rate of 2'360% and GDP contraction of 30% in 2020.² This situation has triggered the largest external displacement crisis in Latin America's recent history and led to a significant upsurge in asylum requests and forced migration in the region. As of April 2021, an estimated 5.6 million Venezuelans have fled their country.

According to a food security assessment conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2020, 7.9% of the population in Venezuela (2.3 million) is severely food insecure. An additional 24.4% (7 million) is found to be moderately food insecure. In total, WFP estimates that one out of three Venezuelans (32.3%) is food insecure and in need of assistance. 4 out of 10 households report daily interruptions in electrical and water services and 25% do not have sustainable access to potable water. More than a third of respondents (37%) have experienced a total loss of their income, such as losing their only job or losing their business.³ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this situation has been aggravating significantly during 2020 which indicates that migration flows to neighbouring countries will further increase. Imposed restrictions on access to territories in neighbouring countries, mainly through border closure and administrative measures such as visa and documentary requirements, may also have an impact on Brazil through new corridors and changed flow dynamics over the next years.

Since 2017, over 609'000 Venezuelans were admitted to Brazil, mainly through Roraima state⁴, which is one of the poorest states in Brazil and isolated by the Amazon rainforest, making further relocation to other Brazilian states costly. There are few economic opportunities in Roraima and public services such as health and education are overwhelmed due to the high influx of Venezuelans over the last years. According to the Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), about 300'000 Venezuelan asylum seekers,

refugees and migrants have stayed in Brazil and are currently living in the country⁵, many in need of humanitarian assistance, such as food, shelter, healthcare and protection. Through its "Operation Welcome" (*Operação Acolhida*), the Government of Brazil, jointly with its partners such as UN agencies and national and international NGOs, systematically provides new arrivals with registration, documentation and opportunities for relocation within Brazil. By March 2021, 50'475 Venezuelans have been relocated to 675 cities across the country to support sustainable integration and self-reliance.⁶

According to the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Brazil report urgent unmet needs such as access to basic services (financial aid, legal services, day care, psychosocial support, etc.), education, WASH and health services, which has become even more urgent due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and access to sustainable livelihoods. It outlines the urgent need to foster peaceful coexistence among communities and to create opportunities for socio-economic integration. Facilitating equal access of women and men to formal employment and entrepreneurship and enhancing access to sustainable livelihoods opportunities, financial services, diploma revalidation and recognition of certificates are therefore key factors within the national response strategy.

A livelihoods and market capacity assessment conducted by Caritas Switzerland (CACH) in 2020 as well as the beneficiary registration database from its humanitarian interventions in Brazil include information on education, occupation, income, expenditure, savings capacities, as well as activities that beneficiaries wish to be engaged in income generation. Upon registration in Caritas Switzerland's beneficiary database in Brazil, 89% of the affected population were unemployed and 87% had no access to any social benefit in Brazil. This context urgently demands specific efforts for facilitating professional training and livelihoods opportunities, including wage- and self-employment. 47% of the registered asylum

² IMF (2021), available at: <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/VEN> (April 21, 2021)

³ WFP (2020), available at: <https://www.wfp.org/news/venezuela-food-security-assessment> (April 21, 2021)

⁴ Brazilian Federal Police (2020): Tráfego Migratório - Sistema de Tráfego Internacional, available at: <https://www.gov.br/pf/ptbr/>

assuntos/imigracao/apresentacao-atualizado-ate-agosto-2020.pdf (April 21, 2021)

⁵ R4V (2020), available at: <https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform> (April 21, 2021)

⁶ IOM (2020), available at: https://brazil.iom.int/sites/brazil/files/Publications/informe-de-interiorizacao-marco-2021_0.pdf (April 21, 2021)

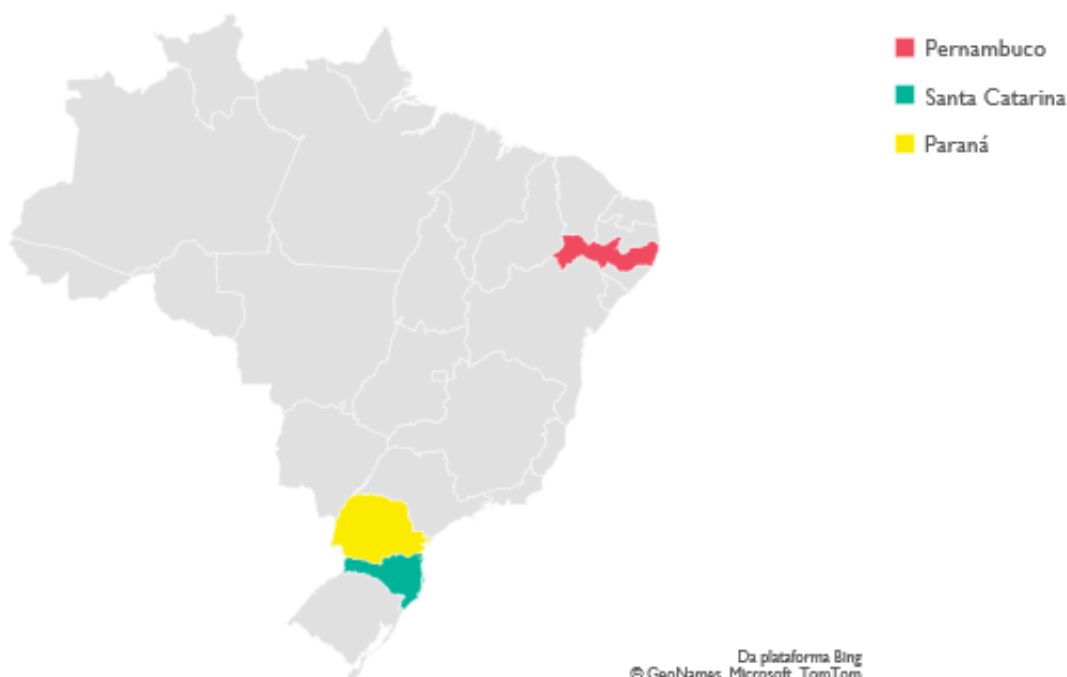
seekers, refugees and other migrants had at least a high school degree which is an important precondition for referrals to the formal labour market.

Brazil records 52.5 million people living in poverty which corresponds to 25% of the population. Of those, 13.5 million people are affected by extreme poverty.⁷ Brazil's economic recovery after the 2015/2016 recession is sluggish. Real per capita growth has fallen by 8% since the beginning of the recession in 2014, and poverty and inequality are on the rise. The unemployment rate (14.2% in the first quarter of 2021) remains high compared to pre-crisis levels. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Brazilian gross domestic product (GDP) declined 4.1% in 2020.⁸ This indicates the urgent need to develop sustainable livelihoods opportunities for asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable host community households in order to promote their self-reliance, economic inclusion and resilience on the long-term.

The geographic dispersion of formally employed Venezuelans evolved significantly between 2018 and 2019. This occurred due to the interiorization/relocation strategy and also to the natural gravitation toward centres with greater

economic opportunities, such as the Southern region⁹. The intervention will be implemented covering the Southern and Northeastern region of Brazil, namely Paraná and Santa Catarina state (South), as well as Pernambuco state (Northeast). These states host a significant number of asylum seekers, refugees, and other migrants of various nationalities, as well as host country nationals living in extreme poverty. About 30% of the refugees and migrants internally relocated by the state-run interiorization programme are hosted by the targeted states, however, only few socio-economic inclusion interventions, especially for asylum seekers and refugees, have been implemented there. As the border states such as Roraima present a low potential for long-term integration, the proposed action aims at strengthening the interiorization programme for relocation from Roraima to other Brazilian states by promoting economic inclusion of refugees in other parts of the country. The implementing organizations are already present and operating in these locations. Venezuelans in the locations selected for this intervention are not concentrated in the state's capitals, being spread through other medium-small cities where they find better prospects for income generation despite increased risks and challenges to integrate.

States of Intervention



⁷ Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics - IBGE (2019), available at: <https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv101678.pdf>

⁸ IBGE, available at: <https://www.ibge.gov.br/explica/pib.php> (April 21, 2021)

⁹ See more here: <https://www.acnur.org/portugues/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Estudo-sobre-Integra%C3%A7%C3%A3o-de-Refugiados-e-Migrantes-da-Venezuela-no-Brasil-ENGLISH.pdf>

Project Operating Model

PROJECT GOAL

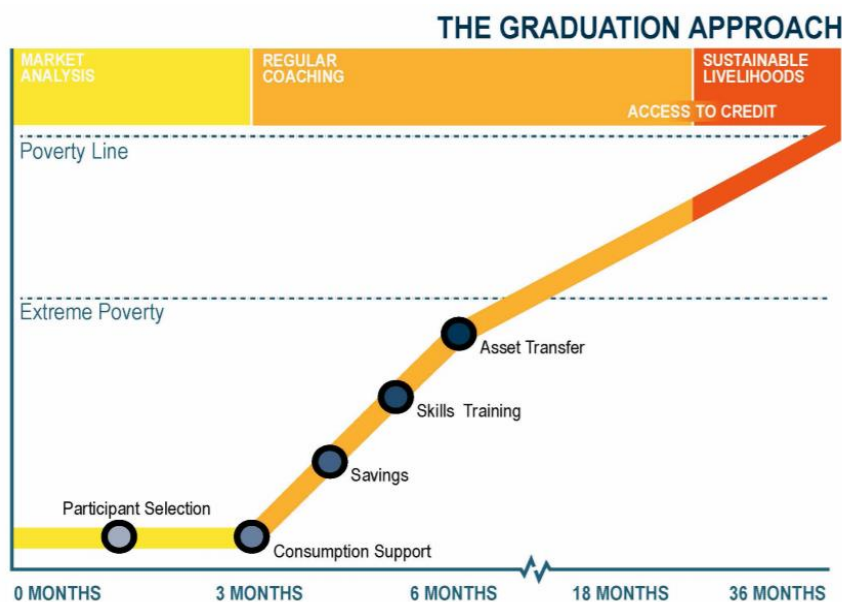
By implementing the Graduation Approach model, the proposed action aims to facilitate the way out of poverty to sustainable livelihoods and strengthening the self-reliance and resilience of asylum seeker, refugee and host community households in Brazil. The intervention combines protection and livelihoods promotion interventions to sustainably increase income-generating activities and engagement in productive labour among persons of concern (PoC). This is particularly important concerning the estimated impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the socioeconomic situation in Brazil that will increase significantly the number of persons living in (extreme) poverty, and aims at strengthening the national response strategy to these consequences on a long term.

The intervention also contributes to improved social cohesion and integration between asylum seekers, refugees and host communities, as well as access to protection services such as social assistance, healthcare and psychosocial support. This will be achieved by supporting PoC to graduate out of extreme poverty and humanitarian assistance through access to mentorship, possible consumption support where required, financial inclusion/savings, technical and skills training, and language and social networks. The approach was pioneered by BRAC in Bangladesh in 2002 with a success rate between 70% and 90% poverty

access to self- or wage-employment that may include some appropriate asset transfers (see figure below).

The overall goal of the proposed intervention is to reduce extreme poverty and improve self-reliance of 2'100 refugee and host community households by promoting sustainable livelihoods through the implementation of the Graduation Approach in Brazil.

The Graduation Approach is a sequenced and time-bound intervention that combines humanitarian and development assistance and is specifically designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people living in extreme poverty. It aims to “graduate” participants out of poverty and guide them to self-reliance and resilience within a determined time frame. The model combines a series of interventions: consumption support, capacity building, close mentoring, livelihoods orientation, and social services access facilitation with 18 to 24 months of training, mentoring and encouragement for participants. This supports people living in extreme poverty with specific vulnerabilities to access and diversify income streams and addresses their social needs such as graduation¹⁰. It has since been applied in over 43 countries worldwide by international organizations, NGOs and governments.



¹⁰ Source: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/348/6236/1260799>

PROJECT APPROACH

In Brazil, the intervention aims at targeting 2'100 households (approx. 10'500 individuals) of which 70% are asylum seeker/refugee and 30% are host community households. This contributes to the overall goal of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC), an initiative of UNHCR, The World Bank Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) and 13 NGOs, that aims at alleviating 500'000 households in 35 countries from poverty by implementing the Graduation Approach until 2025.

The intervention is divided into three phases: inception (6 months), implementation (36 months) and end phase (6 months). The overall intervention period will be 48 months.

During **inception (6 months)**, a market assessment will be conducted to analyse self-employment and wage-employment opportunities and to identify gaps and livelihood challenges, as well as other relevant information on the labour market. The assessment will suggest the main livelihoods activities to be supported and outline specific opportunities for participants. Program staff will be hired and trained for the implementation of the intervention. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and training tools will be developed. A baseline study will be carried out to identify the capacities and needs of PoC. Relevant stakeholders will be involved and cooperation agreements with training and learning institutes for technical, skills and financial training will be signed. Participants will be targeted and selected according to a predetermined criterion, developed specifically for the program, as explained below.

For household targeting and selection, the relevant stakeholders will be involved and multiple tools will be used in order to ensure transparency and target the most vulnerable ones. A comprehensive baseline study will be conducted in the proposed program locations and collect information from PoC concerning legal, economic and socio-cultural aspects, as well as data on access to public services, employment and income. The baseline study will collect information on the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MDI) of potential participants and provide the necessary data in order to select participants and track their progress throughout the intervention. Additional selection criteria will be established at the beginning of the intervention, such as prioritizing women heads of households, LGBT individuals, individuals with chronic diseases, etc. Household interviews will be conducted by the program staff in order to validate the information collected within the baseline study. The targeting and selection process will engage

local communities in order to validate the process and ensure transparency. All participants will receive a detailed introduction into the program set-up and sign a participation agreement that clearly outlines their role, rights and responsibilities. This review process, based on the mentioned selection priorities, will ensure that the envisaged number of household participants will be covered by the time and budget. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, remote assistance through video interviews etc. is considered.

During **implementation (36 months)**, a sequenced and time-bound package of livelihood protection (e.g. consumption support) and livelihood promotion (e.g. skills training and asset transfer) activities will be implemented. Most of the activities will be taking place in parallel. The program will establish and monitor Graduation criteria that reflect the priorities, objectives and success markers that participant households aim to attain within the intervention. For Brazil, the key Graduation criteria will focus on 1) stabilized food security; 2) improved income levels; and 3) increased saving levels.

It is envisaged to carry out two intervention cycles of 18 months with 1'050 participants (70% asylum seeker/refugee households and 30% host community households) each. This ensures that lessons learned and good practices will be properly collected and applied within the intervention. Each intervention cycle will include the following components:

Coaching: Participants will receive coaching and mentoring support provided by trained program staff. The coaches will help participants to develop their livelihoods plans and reach their graduation goals. Each household will be supported by a personal coach that conducts regular home visits and accompanies the participants throughout the whole intervention period. The coaches will provide guidance, identify emergency issues, make referrals to public services and other protection networks and deliver basic life skills training in order to enhance the participants' motivation, communication and confidence.

Consumption support: The program staff will assess and determine if linking the participants to existing consumption support services (e.g. federal cash transfer program *Bolsa Familia*, federal COVID-19 emergency aid program) will be sufficient or if the creation of a new or additional consumption support mechanism is required. If so, multipurpose cash transfers will be provided via prepaid bank cards on a monthly basis to allow participants to meet their basic needs in order to

participate in the Graduation program without selling off their assets until they begin to generate increased income through their livelihood activity. Any consumption support will be time-bound and the program guidelines for providing cash will follow the UNHCR cash protocol for Brazil.

Financial inclusion and savings: Households will be trained in savings and financial literacy at an early stage of the program in order to develop the ability to create savings and meet their saving goals, which will be established at the beginning of the intervention. Saving options and available services will be identified and a clear growth strategy for savings throughout the intervention will be defined. Participants shall understand the importance and create a habit of saving in order to become more resilient and offset future shocks. The partnerships that UNHCR has in financial inclusion will be explored, such as the financial inclusion education workshops and informative materials that are delivered in partnership with the Central Bank of Brazil. UNHCR is also engaging microcredit providers in benefiting refugee entrepreneurs with the concession of microcredit

Technical and business skills training: This component contains both specific technical training for livelihood activities and core capacity building. All participants will complete training on those technical or vocational skills that will help them succeed with the specific livelihood activity they selected. Core capacity building are courses that all participants receive, irrelevant of their livelihood activity, and that improve their soft skills, attitudes and other knowledge to deliver their livelihoods activities effectively. A mapping exercise will be conducted to identify which relevant core and technical capacity-building opportunities are already being offered by expert organizations and trainings will be carried out in cooperation with those. Contents will be created and/or adapted taking into consideration the background, language, literacy levels, etc. of participants. Trainings will be delivered individually or in groups of approx. 15-20 people and upon conclusion, all participants will be provided with certificates.

Social integration and network development: This component promotes community-based activities and group events in order to foster integration and social cohesion between asylum seeker, refugee and host community households. Network engagement helps building solidarity and strengthens the process of integration into host communities for asylum seekers and refugees. Ideally, the social capital that participants build through network engagement will serve as resources during and after the Graduation program.

It is envisaged to connect participants to existing networks such as youth groups, women groups, cultural groups, etc.

Livelihood promotion and asset transfer: Within this component, job support will be provided to participants engaged in wage-employment and limited seed capital will be provided to participants engaged in self-employment. An asset transfer (seed capital) can provide an immediate injection of capital and value to the participant's livelihood activity that will significantly increase the earning capacity of the household. The individual amounts might vary slightly, however, these asset transfers will follow the guidelines that will be established at the beginning of the program and communicated to all stakeholders and participants. The asset transfer will be received immediately upon conclusion of the technical and skills training in order to allow participants to start their income generating activities in a timely manner.

Regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, the consortium will consider adapting the components outlined above to the preventive measures put in place, following the example of UNHCR's partners and co-members of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition who are adapting and digitalizing their graduation programs in order to continue their interventions. For example, communication with beneficiaries, trainings, counselling and psychosocial support can be digitalized through use of online e-training platforms, videoconference and social media. Cash-based interventions are provided via prepaid bank cards that can be (re)charged remotely and program staff carries out careful door-to-door distribution. These measures to adapt assistance to the COVID-19 context have already been taken by the consortium within other interventions that are being implemented in Brazil.

During the **end phase (6 months)**, the assistance provided to the participants, mainly the coaching and mentoring support, will gradually be phased out. Outcomes and impact of the intervention will be measured within the mid-term and final evaluation among participant households and documented. It is important to allow for enough time to measure the impact of the intervention after the end of the implementation phase. The approach aims at building self-reliance, resilience and inclusion of participants on a long-term and therefore its impact is not limited to the intervention period. Results and lessons learned of the Graduation program will be compiled and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The intervention will pursue the following program outcomes and activities:

Outcome 1: Basic needs are met through cash transfers and referrals to local protection networks.

1.1 Assess existing consumption support services (e.g. federal cash transfer program Bolsa Familia) and link participant households to available programs

1.2 Deliver multipurpose cash transfers to cover basic needs and improve food security for the most vulnerable participant households on a time-bound basis, following the UNHCR Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for Brazil

1.3 Refer participant households to public services and local protection networks to ensure access to basic rights

Outcome 2: Self-reliance and economic inclusion is enhanced through training, support to job placement and business opportunities.

2.1 Conduct market assessment and identify livelihood opportunities

2.2 Deliver technical and business skills training following the needs and capacities of participants

2.3 Develop individual livelihoods plans with participants

2.4 P Provide support for job placement and to entrepreneurs by providing limited and targeted seed capital

Outcome 3: Resilience is improved through access to financial services and saving mechanisms.

3.1 Provide training on financial literacy and savings

3.2 Facilitate access to formal financial services and saving mechanisms

3.3 Enhance saving opportunities and habits among participants

Outcome 4: Social inclusion and participation is strengthened through community-based activities.

4.1 Implement community workshops with host community and refugee households to promote integration

4.2 Support the creation of networks and initiatives that include host communities and refugee households

Project Impact and Sustainability

INTENDED IMPACT

The intervention aims to improve the lives of people affected by extreme poverty by helping them to become self-reliant and independent, creating opportunities for higher and more diverse household income, access to social protection programs and improved sustainable livelihoods. Through their participation in the program, refugee and host community households will acquire new skills and abilities while building up assets and social capital, which will improve their well-being in the long-term. The program will provide the participants with skills for social protection to meet basic needs, financial literacy training to become more resilient to future shocks and stresses, social empowerment for mind-set change and other livelihood promotion initiatives to foster self-reliance. The intervention will promote active participation in income generating activities (wage- or self-employment) which will lead to improved nutrition, protection and ability to educate children due to increased household income.

The integrated and sequenced approach of the program focuses on a long-term solution, a way out of extreme poverty and towards improved living conditions. It aims to alleviate multidimensional vulnerabilities of refugee and host community households and build sustainable livelihoods. This will also contribute to improved social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Women (heads of households), LGBT individuals and people with disabilities are particularly targeted in this project due to their increased vulnerability.

The Graduation Approach is a comprehensive methodology that aims at a long-term livelihood intervention with sustainable impact. The methodology was developed by BRAC and shows impressive results with 70-90% of participants graduating out of poverty based on the country specific graduation criteria. In Brazil, it is estimated that at least 80% of the participants will graduate out of poverty. The program was designed to allow future scaling up and expansion to other areas in Brazil. The lessons learned and good practices of the program will be consolidated and implemented within future interventions.

In Brazil, most asylum seekers and refugees live in urban environments. They are likely to engage in precarious employment and develop negative coping mechanisms. Also considering the fast-growing urban population in the country, it is essential to find innovative and sustainable approaches to combat poverty and create decent sustainable livelihoods for urban asylum seeker,

refugee and host community populations. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts on the socioeconomic situation in Brazil on a mid- and long-term, the implementation of the planned intervention becomes increasingly relevant. The program will enable participants to resume livelihoods activities based on the market assessment that will be conducted at the beginning of the intervention in order to identify market opportunities aligned with participants' interests and the current socioeconomic situation in the country, considering the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This will significantly contribute to making them more resilient for future shocks and stresses.

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The program will follow the intervention logic outlined in the table below.

Outcomes	Activities	Indicative Indicators
<p>Outcome 1: Basic needs are met through cash transfers and referrals to local protection networks.</p>	<p>1.1 Assess existing consumption support services (e.g. federal cash transfer program Bolsa Familia) and link participant households to available programs</p> <p>1.2 Deliver multipurpose cash transfers to cover basic needs and improve food security for the most vulnerable participant households on a time-bound basis, following the UNHCR cash protocol for Brazil</p> <p>1.3 Refer participant households to public services and local protection networks to ensure access to basic rights</p>	<p>Percentage of participant households with improved Coping Strategies Index (CSI)</p> <p>Number of participant households reporting improved access to social protections programs</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Self-reliance and economic inclusion is enhanced through training, support to job placement and business opportunities.</p>	<p>2.1 Conduct market assessment and identify livelihood opportunities</p> <p>2.2 Deliver technical and business skills training following the needs and capacities of participant households</p> <p>2.3 Develop individual livelihoods plans with participant households</p> <p>2.4 Provide support for job placement and to entrepreneurs by providing limited and targeted seed capital</p>	<p>Number of participant households that complete technical and business skills training courses</p> <p>Percentage of participant households that develop an income generating activity and report increased household income at the end of the intervention</p> <p>Number and percentage of participant households graduating from extreme poverty on the basis of specific graduation criteria</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Resilience is improved through access to financial services and saving mechanisms.</p>	<p>3.1 Provide training on financial literacy and savings</p> <p>3.2 Facilitate access to formal financial services and saving mechanisms</p> <p>3.3 Enhance saving opportunities and habits among participant households</p>	<p>Percentage of participant households meeting their saving goals</p> <p>Number of participant households engaged in a saving mechanism</p> <p>Number of participant households that report having created savings of min. three monthly wages at the end of the intervention</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Social inclusion and participation is strengthened through community-based activities.</p>	<p>4.1 Implement community workshops to promote integration</p> <p>4.2 Support the creation of networks and initiatives that include host communities and refugee households</p>	<p>Number of community workshops and/or events implemented and number of participants</p> <p>Number of refugee-host joint initiatives established and functional</p>

Project Management and Governance

COALITION ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Caritas Switzerland (CACH), Caritas Brazil (CABR), the Pastoral Service for Migrants (SPM) and UNHCR will work as a consortium in order to implement and monitor the Graduation program. The Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC) will provide institutional support for fundraising, implementation, and learning. HIAS will act as technical assistant agency due to its vast experience in implementing the Graduation model in Latin America. The consortium will advocate the replication and up-scaling of the approach and share the lessons learned and results of the program with local governments, donors, NGOs and other stakeholders, including private sector actors.

Caritas Switzerland

CACH is an independent Swiss aid organization and a member of Caritas Internationalis, a network comprising more than 160 national Caritas organisations. It is committed to a world without poverty that is guided by solidarity, justice and peace. It provides professional, effective and efficient help to people in need irrespective of their political or religious beliefs, gender or ethnicity. The aim of all interventions is to reduce poverty, strengthen people's resilience, ensure that their rights are respected and expand their capabilities. CACH implements projects in more than 15 countries worldwide, mainly in the fields of activity migration, income and climate change, as well as humanitarian aid. In Brazil, it has been working since 1987 and nowadays has a special focus on humanitarian aid and migration as a response to the Venezuela crisis. In cooperation with CABR and SPM, CACH has been implementing programs financed by United States Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migrants (USDS/BPRM), DG ECHO and others in order to support the national response strategy and provide humanitarian assistance for asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants.

CACH's experience and knowledge allows the implementation and further development of the Graduation Approach, as well as its adaptation to refugee and migration contexts. In Uganda, CACH is leading a consortium implementing the Graduation Approach to alleviate poverty of 450 local and refugee families particularly hit by poverty. The project is a multi-sectoral intervention that includes child protection, livelihood support

and sustainable natural resource management components for a holistic approach to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable refugee and host community households. Other graduation projects are being prepared in Bolivia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Mali. Furthermore, CACH is a member of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC) and adheres and contributes to the coalition's goal to graduate 500'000 households out of poverty until 2025.

From its office in Recife/Brazil and its headquarters in Lucerne/Switzerland, CACH will be responsible for the implementation of the project and carry out the overall project coordination. It will provide backstopping and quality assurance and mobilize advisory services through its network of experts for ensuring maximum value for money in assessment and capacity-development activities. Monitoring and evaluation will also be part of CACH's responsibilities and will include baseline and follow-up data collection with digital tools. Information and knowledge management will take place based on CACH's international good practices, tools and methods related to Graduation programs in Jordan and other countries. Throughout its programs, CACH emphasises localization and sustainable transfer of knowledge to national actors and their engagement in global initiatives such as PAC.

Caritas Brazil

CABR is a non-governmental organization that contributes to the defence of human rights and promotes sustainable development in Brazil. Its actions focus on the most vulnerable and excluded people to build a more equal and plural society. Founded in 1956, CABR is one of the 164 member organizations of the Caritas Internationalis network. CABR consists of 17 regional offices and 182 member organizations with more than 15'000 field workers across Brazil. CABR has its national headquarters in Brasilia, where coordination at national and international level take place. Interventions are implemented through its member organizations all over Brazil and mainly concentrate on the fields of activity children & youth, migration, disaster risk reduction, solidarity economy, and biodiversity.

For more than 30 years, CABR has worked in partnership with CACH, among others, in the fields of activity children & youth and migration. Over the

last years, it has gathered vast experience implementing humanitarian projects as a response to the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

Pastoral Service for Migrants

SPM (*Serviço Pastoral dos Migrantes*) is a civil society association founded in 1985, whose main purpose is to advise communities seeking to defend human, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights. In the development of its purposes and activities, SPM makes no distinction with respect to race, color, gender, age, social status, political or religious creed and any other forms of discrimination. In cooperation with its comprehensive network across Brazil, SPM operates mainly in three fields of activity: refugees and vulnerable migrants, urban youth and family farmers.

SPM has been working with asylum seekers, refugees and migrants since its foundation and focuses on general orientation, shelter assistance, protection, rights promotion, income generation and integration of refugees and vulnerable migrants through its nation-wide network in Brazil. Since 2015, SPM has provided assistance to more than 7'000 refugees and migrants, mainly from Haiti and Venezuela.

HIAS

HIAS has implemented the graduation model in Peru, Panama and Costa Rica since 2020 and in Ecuador since 2015. HIAS pilot of the Graduation model started in Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas (152 km from the capital, Quito), and it benefited 200 Colombian refugee and Ecuadorian families. Thanks to the lessons learned from this pilot, in March 2016, HIAS Ecuador scaled-up the program at a national level, reaching 1.512 families (approximately 5,500 individuals). Until 2020, the program has benefited more than 5,000 families (14.544 individuals).

The Graduation Model uses innovative tools such as a local integration index and a personalized business incubation methodology based on the market needs, which promote a better understanding of the socioeconomic situation and the integration challenges that the refugee population faces. All these experience allowed HIAS to build the capacity in the social protection system of the governments, and for the program with Caritas Switzerland, HIAS will act as the technical assistant agency to re-create with local stakeholder their vast experience implementing the graduation model in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region.

UNHCR Brazil

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more commonly referred to as the UN Refugee Agency or UNHCR, was created by the UN General Assembly in 1950 and began work on 1 January 1951. Its statute was drafted virtually simultaneously with the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which became the cornerstone of refugee protection in subsequent decades.

The work of UNHCR in Brazil is guided by the same principles and functions as in any other country: protecting refugees and promoting durable solutions to respond to their basic needs. Asylum seekers and refugees have the protection of the Brazilian government and can therefore obtain documentation, work, study, access public services and programs and exercise the same rights as any foreign citizen legalized in the country. Brazil has always had a pioneering and leading role in the international protection of refugees. It was the first country in the Southern Cone to ratify the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, in 1960. Moreover, Brazil is also internationally recognized by its rights-based legislation for refugees and asylum seekers.

UNHCR in Brazil has its Branch Office in Brasilia (DF) and decentralized offices and field units in São Paulo (SP), Manaus (AM), Boa Vista (RR) and Belem (PA). UNHCR acts in cooperation with the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) and in coordination with the federal, state and municipal governments, as well as other public entities, civil society organizations and academia.

From its Branch Office in Brasilia, UNHCR will work together closely with CACH and support the implementation of the project with technical assistance. It will also provide support for awareness raising, as well as the mobilization and training of stakeholders such as state authorities at municipal, state and national level, which will be closely coordinated with the other consortium partners.

Poverty Alleviation Coalition

The Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC) was formed in 2019, in response to the increasing number of refugees and host communities living in extreme poverty. PAC is convened by UNHCR together with the World Bank's Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI). 13 international NGOs, including CACH, are members of the Coalition. It works towards the common vision of increasing self-reliance, and the economic and social inclusion of refugees and host communities by sustainably increasing income-earning opportunities.

The overall objective is to alleviate poverty of 500,000 refugee and host community households in 35 countries from 2020-2025. This will be reached through the Coalition's common vision of increasing self-reliance, economic and social inclusion of refugees and host communities by sustainably increasing income opportunities. Combining strengths of humanitarian and development assistance is at the heart of the coalition. This is evident in the composition of the coalition members which counts both humanitarian and development actors. Further, it draws heavily on both the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees' objectives of easing pressure on host communities and increasing refugee self-reliance and the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8 and 10.

BROADER PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

The program will be implemented involving various stakeholders to build capacity, raise awareness and advocate the replication of the approach. Multi-stakeholder committees will contribute to develop local capacities in terms of participatory planning and management and involve community-based associations in the targeting and selection process of participant households in order to ensure local ownership and deliver concrete, sustainable results.

The consortium will cooperate with the Brazilian Government at national and sub-national levels to

coordinate support and develop their capacities, particularly considering needs assessments, monitoring and protection of asylum seekers and refugees. It will involve the national apprenticeship services (SENAC/SENAI) and other training institutes to provide specific vocational and technical training for different livelihoods opportunities, as well as the national support service for micro and small companies (SEBRAE) which provides counseling for small entrepreneurs and will support participants that choose to pursue self-employment. Private sector actors will also be involved in order to adapt training contents and improve the beneficiaries' employment opportunities. Universities and research institutes will be important partners for data collection and analysis, evaluation and learning.

Beyond the direct impact on participants and host communities, implementing and adapting the Graduation Approach to a refugee context in Brazil will have an impact also in a more international context, contributing to better practices of the methodology in Latin America and worldwide. UNHCR and CACH are part of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC), which aims to alleviate poverty of refugee and host community households globally by implementing the Graduation Approach and manages knowledge concerning the approach at an international level. Furthermore, all members of the consortium are part of the Regional Coordination Platform R4V and coordinate their interventions within the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) 2021.

Monitoring and Evaluation

MONITORING

The project will employ a digital data-collection and registration system as part of its monitoring and evaluation process which will be set-up during the inception phase. Based on CACH's successful experience in Brazil and other countries, the project staff will employ Android devices linked to Kobotoolbox to undertake mobile data collection at household level. A baseline study will be conducted at the beginning of the project, as well as a mid-term and final evaluation to ensure accountability towards the affected population and improve the quality of the delivered actions. In addition, continuous data collection will be conducted by the coaches to track participants' progress towards their graduation goals and measure the outcomes and outputs of the intervention as proposed within the logical framework. Monitoring findings will be integrated into the overall management of the intervention to address issues in a timely manner and ensure inclusive program implementation.

To measure progress concerning the self-reliance of participant households, the program will apply the Self-Reliance Index (SRI) developed by members of the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative. The SRI is a scored survey tool that supports practitioners in targeting participants, tracking their progress over time and "graduating" them from assistance when it is no longer needed. It is designed to provide a quick, high-level indication of key status changes within a refugee household across twelve domains associated with socioeconomic inclusion (e.g. housing, food, healthcare, employment, savings, etc.).

A comprehensive complaint and feedback mechanism including suggestion boxes, digital communication channels, community meetings, etc. will be established to ensure transparency and accountability towards the participants, improve the quality of the intervention and ensure that the program staff responds to community needs. Feedback will be provided in a timely manner.

Monitoring will be implemented as a learning strategy. The consortium will actively foster learning at a national and international level by documenting and disseminating good practices and lessons learned during the course of the intervention. Therefore, quarterly reports will be submitted to donors, partners such as government bodies, private sector actors and other NGOs, PAC and other coordination platforms and working groups (e.g. R4V).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The M&E strategy of the intervention will comprise the activities outlined in the table below.

Activity	Purpose	Time Frame	Responsible
Design of M&E system	M&E tools are defined and set up Questionnaires for data collection are developed Data analysis tools are provided	Inception phase	HIAS and CACH
Baseline study	Setup baseline for targeting and selection of participant households Setup baseline for benchmarking and progress tracking Identify main livelihoods activities to be supported and outline specific opportunities for participant households	Inception phase	HIAS, CACH, CABR and SPM
Mid-term evaluation	Identify key gaps in the program Collect suggestions of participants Adapt program design and implementation according to evaluation findings	Implementation phase (month 12 and month 24 of implementation)	HIAS, UNHCR, CACH, CABR and SPM
Final evaluation	Collect key learnings and overall evaluation of the intervention among participants Develop final report on lessons learned and good practices for dissemination	End phase (month 1)	HIAS, UNHCR, CACH, CABR and SPM
Progress monitoring	Measure progress of participant households towards individual graduation goals Measure self-reliance of participant households by applying the SRI Identify necessary adaptations in program design	Implementation phase (ongoing, e.g. during training events, house visits, etc.)	CABR and SPM
Case studies	Conduct case studies to document key success stories Disseminate case studies to program stakeholders	Implementation and end phase (ongoing)	HIAS, CACH, CABR and SPM

Project Budget

FUNDING REQUEST

As a Latin-American middle-income country, Brazil's costs for programming differ from many other contexts. The total funding request for this intervention is USD 3'234'484, including direct

program costs, coordination and support staff costs, operational and overhead costs. The estimated cost per household is USD 1'540.

PROJECT BUDGET

Graduation Approach Program - Brazil					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Direct program costs (USD)					
Outcome 1: Basic needs are met through cash transfers and referrals to local protection networks.	170'862	252'608	252'608	167'862	843'939
Outcome 2: Self-reliance and economic inclusion is enhanced through training, support to job placement and business opportunities.	120'573	152'030	152'030	117'573	542'207
Outcome 3: Resilience is improved through access to financial services and saving mechanisms.	92'635	96'154	96'154	89'635	374'578
Outcome 4: Social inclusion and participation is strengthened through community-based activities.	67'840	112'568	112'568	64'840	357'815
Total direct program costs (USD)	451'910	613'359	613'359	439'910	2'118'538
Coordination and support staff costs (USD)					
Coordination staff	104'914	104'914	104'914	104'914	419'656
Administrative staff	45'446	45'446	45'446	45'446	181'784
Total staff costs (USD)	150'360	150'360	150'360	150'360	601'441
Operational costs (USD)					
Monitoring costs (travel, transportation, data collection, etc.)	16'250	16'250	16'250	16'250	65'000
Office costs (rent, communications, supplies, etc.)	20'115	20'115	20'115	20'115	80'462
Equipment	11'250	11'250	11'250	11'250	45'000
Visibility	7'500	7'500	7'500	7'500	30'000
Total operational costs (USD)	55'115	55'115	55'115	55'115	220'462
Total direct costs (USD)	657'385	818'835	818'835	645'385	2'940'440
Overhead costs (10%)	65'739	81'883	81'883	64'538	294'044
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS (USD)	723'124	900'718	900'718	709'924	3'234'484

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

CACH will contribute to the project with its internal advisory services. CABR and SPM will contribute with its office structures and vehicles.

Annex 1 – Risks and Assumptions

	Assumption	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
I n t e r n a l	The intervention targets refugee and host community households living in extreme poverty	The program fails to identify, target and select the most vulnerable households living in extreme poverty	Unlikely	Medium	<p>Conduct comprehensive baseline study and collect household data to facilitate targeting</p> <p>Select participant households based on objective and clearly defined criteria (e.g. Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MDI))</p> <p>Validate process by involving communities (e.g. community associations)</p>
	Participants complete all components planned within the Graduation Approach model and graduate from poverty	Spontaneous relocation of refugee participants interrupts their engagement in the program and leads to early drop-out	Medium	High	<p>Continuous mentoring and coaching</p> <p>Provide participant households with a detailed introduction into the program set-up at the beginning of the intervention</p>
	Graduation criteria are realistic and adapted to the context in the program locations	Contextual changes increase or lower the bar where graduation out of extreme poverty is possible	Low	High	<p>Validate graduation criteria with different stakeholders</p> <p>Conduct comprehensive baseline study, mid-term and final assessments and carry out ongoing data collection for progress monitoring among participants</p> <p>Continuously adapt program design according to monitoring results</p>
	Participants receive financial training, create saving habits and accumulate savings	Participants do not see the value of applying saving and financial management skill which hamper their ability to sustain the intended income	Unlikely	High	<p>Training involves awareness raising for the importance of financial management/savings</p> <p>Continuous mentoring and coaching towards financial education</p>
E x t e r n a l	Governments at national and sub-national levels will actively participate in the implementation of the program and build capacities for replication	Limited government capacity and willingness to engage in the project implementation. This affects sustainability of the gains made by the project	Medium	Medium	<p>Engage government entities into program design for participatory planning and management</p> <p>Organize regular meetings of multi-stakeholder committees to maintain engagement of governments and provide updates on the implementation progress, lessons learned and success stories</p>
	The legal framework and overall security situation in the country allow the implementation of the planned intervention	The COVID-19 pandemic affects the implementation of the intervention, biosecurity of participants is not guaranteed and/or restriction measures hamper the implementation of essential program components such as technical training, referrals, community events, etc.	Medium	High	<p>Plan and adapt interventions according to legal restrictions that are in place (one-on-one coaching, postpone events that might cause gatherings in communities, etc.)</p> <p>Adapt trainings and skills workshops to ensure biosecurity of participants (e.g. smaller groups, distribute protective material, etc.)</p>

