



HUMAN SECURITY AND MIGRATORY WAVES: THE CURRENT BRAZILIAN CONTEXT

SEGURANÇA HUMANA E ONDAS MIGRATÓRIAS: ATUAL CONTEXTO BRASILEIRO

SEGURIDAD HUMANA Y OLAS MIGRATORIAS: EL CONTEXTO BRASILEÑO ACTUAL

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the relationship between international migration, human security, and comprehensive protection policies, with a particular focus on Venezuelan migratory flows and the humanitarian response implemented by Brazil through Operation Welcome (Operação Acolhida). In light of the significant increase in migrants in recent years and the resulting social, economic, and humanitarian demands, the study seeks to assess whether the actions undertaken by the State, in partnership with civil society organizations, have been effective in promoting human security and ensuring basic rights for migrants. Using a qualitative approach based on documentary review and analysis of secondary data, the study concludes that Brazil's response has made notable progress, especially in inter-institutional coordination and the provision of essential services, yet structural challenges persist, including social inclusion, access to formal employment, and the reduction of vulnerability. The findings highlight the need for integrated, long-term public policies capable of ensuring not only emergency assistance but also comprehensive and sustainable protection, recognizing migrants as rights holders and promoting their full social, economic, and cultural integration.

Keywords: Migratory Flows. Human Security. Operation Welcome.

RESUMO

Este artigo trata da relação entre migrações internacionais, segurança humana e políticas de proteção integral, com ênfase nos fluxos migratórios venezuelanos e nas respostas humanitárias implementadas pelo Brasil por meio da Operação Acolhida. Considerando o aumento expressivo de migrantes nos últimos anos, as demandas sociais, econômicas e humanitárias decorrentes desse fenômeno, busca-se avaliar se as ações desenvolvidas pelo Estado, em parceria com organizações da sociedade civil, têm sido eficazes na promoção da segurança humana e na garantia de direitos básicos aos migrantes. A partir de abordagem qualitativa, utilizando revisão documental e análise de dados secundários, concluiu-se que as respostas brasileiras apresentam avanços significativos, sobretudo na coordenação interinstitucional e na oferta de serviços essenciais, mas ainda enfrentam desafios estruturais relacionados à inclusão social, acesso ao trabalho formal e combate à vulnerabilidade. O estudo evidencia a necessidade de políticas integradas e de longo prazo, capazes de assegurar não apenas assistência emergencial, mas também proteção

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abrangente e sustentável, reconhecendo os migrantes como sujeitos de direitos e promovendo sua plena integração social, econômica e cultural.

Palavras-chave: Fluxos Migratórios. Segurança Humana. Operação Acolhida.

RESUMEN

Este artículo aborda la relación entre la migración internacional, la seguridad humana y las políticas de protección integral, con énfasis en los flujos migratorios venezolanos y las respuestas humanitarias implementadas por Brasil a través de la Operación Acogida. Considerando el aumento significativo de migrantes en los últimos años y las consiguientes demandas sociales, económicas y humanitarias, este estudio busca evaluar si las acciones desarrolladas por el Estado, en colaboración con organizaciones de la sociedad civil, han sido efectivas para promover la seguridad humana y garantizar los derechos fundamentales de los migrantes. Mediante un enfoque cualitativo, mediante la revisión de documentos y el análisis de datos secundarios, el estudio concluye que las respuestas brasileñas han logrado avances significativos, en particular en la coordinación interinstitucional y la prestación de servicios esenciales, pero aún enfrentan desafíos estructurales relacionados con la inclusión social, el acceso al empleo formal y la lucha contra la vulnerabilidad. El estudio destaca la necesidad de políticas integradas y a largo plazo capaces de garantizar no solo la asistencia de emergencia, sino también una protección integral y sostenible, reconociendo a los migrantes como sujetos de derechos y promoviendo su plena integración social, económica y cultural.

Palabras clave: Flujos Migratorios. Seguridad Humana. Operación Acogida.

1 INTRODUCTION

The present study aims to analyze the impacts of Venezuelan migration in Brazil, focusing especially on the humanitarian responses implemented by the State and partner institutions, as well as policies aimed at the full protection of migrants. The research seeks to understand how these actions contribute to ensuring basic rights, social inclusion and access to essential services, in the face of an intense and continuous migratory flow.

The central problem of the research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of the measures adopted by the State, in conjunction with civil society organizations, in promoting the human security of migrants. This involves considering both physical and socio-economic protection and attention to psychological and cultural dimensions, which are essential for the integral well-being of displaced persons. The analysis seeks to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities for the improvement of public policies and reception practices.

As for the methodological approach, the research was structured as a descriptive and analytical study of a qualitative nature. For this, documentary review and analysis of secondary data were used, allowing us to understand the migratory context, the actions implemented and their impacts on human security. The choice of this method enables an in-depth evaluation of institutional practices, evidencing relationships, trends and results that guide recommendations for more effective policies.

Finally, this article is divided into four topics, the first being dedicated to the introduction and the last to the final considerations. The second topic addresses the concepts and dimensions of human security, analyzing how public policies and reception practices contribute to the protection of migrants and refugees. The third topic examines the impacts of Venezuelan migration and the coordinated actions of the Brazilian State and partner institutions in the reception and integration of these populations. The fourth topic discusses the role of the Brazilian Army in promoting human security, highlighting how military preparation and employment contribute to the physical, social, and economic protection of migrants.

2 INTEGRAL PROTECTION AND HUMAN SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

This topic addresses the relationship between full protection and human security in the context of international migration, examining how different dimensions of security, physical, economic, social, political and environmental, influence the lives of migrants and refugees.



2.1 DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN SECURITY AND CHALLENGES IN THE PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS

Human security, a concept developed by the UN in 1994, represents a paradigmatic change in the way of understanding protection and well-being, shifting the focus from state security to the protection of people. Unlike the traditional approach, centered on borders and military defense, human security emphasizes the guarantee of a dignified life, considering multiple dimensions that directly impact the existence and autonomy of individuals. In this sense, security is no longer just the absence of armed conflicts to become a set of conditions that ensure people's survival, freedom, and development (Cerávolo, 2019).

Among the central dimensions of human security are economic, food, environmental, health, personal, community and political security. The economic dimension involves the guarantee of income, employment and access to sufficient resources for a dignified life. Food security refers to the availability of and continued access to adequate and nutritious food. The environmental dimension highlights protection against natural disasters and environmental degradation, while the health dimension guarantees access to medical services and disease prevention (Almeida, 2020).

Personal safety protects individuals from violence, abuse, and exploitation, and community safety emphasizes social cohesion and participation in support networks, which are essential for collective well-being. The political dimension, on the other hand, refers to the protection of civil rights, freedom of expression, and participation in decision-making processes, ensuring that individuals and groups can exercise their full citizenship. These elements show that human security is necessarily multidimensional, as the absence of any of these conditions compromises the integrity and dignity of people (Salazar, 2021).

In the context of international migration, the application of human security becomes particularly relevant. Migrants, due to forced or voluntary displacement, are often exposed to multiple simultaneous vulnerabilities, ranging from the loss of economic conditions and housing to the threat to physical integrity and access to fundamental rights. Understanding human security as multidimensional allows us to analyze these displacements in an integrated way, considering both immediate protection and social inclusion and capacity development (Vaz et al., 2017).

International migratory flows are driven by various structural and conjunctural causes. Armed conflicts and political instability force populations to abandon their homes in search of protection. Deep economic crises, often accompanied by mass unemployment and lack of

basic services, encourage the search for better living conditions in other countries. Natural disasters, aggravated by climate change, also stand out as factors of forced displacement, compromising the environmental and economic security of the affected populations (Simões, 2018).

Political, religious or ethnic persecution is another relevant vector of international migration. Minority groups, in situations of constant threat, face severe personal and community insecurity, being forced to seek refuge in contexts that offer them protection. These displacements place migrants in situations of extreme vulnerability, since, in addition to having their lives threatened in their countries of origin, they often encounter barriers to access basic rights in the countries of destination (Cerávolo, 2019).

The structural insecurity faced by migrants includes the absence of adequate housing, difficulties in accessing health, education and social services, and vulnerability to labor exploitation. The precariousness of informal work, often occupying underpaid functions and without labor guarantees, compromises the economic dimension of human security. This reality shows that the protection of migrants should not be restricted to emergency measures, but should include long-term social and economic inclusion strategies (Souza, 2020).

In addition to the economic dimension, food security represents a constant challenge for migrants on the move. The lack of regular access to safe and nutritious food directly compromises the health and integration capacity of these populations. Emergency food assistance programs, while necessary, need to be complemented by policies that promote autonomy and sustainable food security, ensuring that migrants can develop independence and dignity in their new contexts (Rodrigues, 2021).

The health dimension is equally critical, as migrants often arrive in destination countries without continuous access to medical services or adequate vaccination. Exposure to infectious diseases, added to precarious housing and food conditions, increases the risks to physical and mental health. Public health strategies should therefore include specific attention to migrants, ensuring comprehensive care and preventing the spread of vulnerabilities to the entire population (Simões, 2018).

Personal and community security is threatened by multiple factors, including urban violence, discrimination, xenophobia, and sexual or labour exploitation. Migrants can be targets of crime and abuse, which compromises not only their physical integrity but also their ability to build social networks of support. Protection in these dimensions requires integrated



security policies, intercultural education, and initiatives that promote social cohesion, preventing marginalization and exclusion (Almeida, 2020).

The political dimension of human security is also essential for migrants. Access to legal documentation, civil rights and participation in decision-making processes determines the capacity for integration and the effectiveness of citizenship. Without these instruments, migrants remain on the margins of institutional structures, which makes them vulnerable to abuse and limits their potential for social and economic contribution. Migratory regularization and legal protection are, therefore, fundamental components of human security (Salazar, 2021).

Recent examples illustrate these multiple vulnerabilities. Venezuelan migration to Brazil, especially to states such as Roraima, has overloaded public services and exposed migrants to situations of precarious housing and food risk. Haitians, Syrians, and Afghans also face similar challenges in different regions, facing language, cultural, and legal barriers that hinder full integration. These cases demonstrate that the comprehensive protection of migrants requires coordinated and multidimensional responses (Duarte, 2019).

The traditional approach to security, centered on territorial defense and border control, is insufficient to deal with the challenges of contemporary international migration. Human security, by prioritizing the protection of people and their basic needs, offers a more appropriate analytical framework to understand and address the risks faced by migrants. This paradigm shift is essential to develop effective and humanized public policies (Souza, 2018).

Multidimensional security recognizes that dimensions such as health, housing, food, protection from violence, and civil rights are interdependent. The absence of any of them compromises the integrity and dignity of people, making them vulnerable to successive crises. In the migratory context, this perspective allows us to identify where intervention is most urgent and how different policies can complement each other to promote effective protection and human development (Salazar, 2021).

Therefore, migrants must be understood as subjects of rights that demand simultaneous protection in multiple dimensions. Public policies and international initiatives need to adopt an integrated vision of human security, promoting social inclusion, access to basic services, protection from violence, and full participation in economic and political life. Only in this way will it be possible to ensure that international migrations contribute to human and social development, instead of reproducing vulnerabilities (Almeida, 2020).



3 VENEZUELAN MIGRATORY FLOWS IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT AND THE BRAZILIAN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE: OPERATION SHELTER

This topic aims to analyze Venezuelan migratory flows and Brazilian action through Operation Welcome, highlighting the importance of coordinated responses that guarantee reception, protection, dignity and access to basic rights for migrants.

3.1 VENEZUELAN MIGRATION AND OPERATION WELCOME: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES IN BRAZIL

The crisis in Venezuela, which intensified from 2014 onwards, triggered a mass migration of its population, deeply affecting the Latin American and Caribbean region. The country is facing a combination of political, economic, social, and humanitarian crises, including hyperinflation, food and medicine shortages, and political repression. This situation has forced millions of Venezuelans to seek protection and better living conditions outside their borders, turning the migratory phenomenon into one of the greatest humanitarian challenges in the region (Rodrigues, 2021).

When compared to other global migration crises, such as those in Syria, Afghanistan or Haiti, the Venezuelan situation has particularities that require adapted responses. Although less publicized internationally than the flows from Syria, Venezuelan migration is distinguished by the significant volume of people displaced in a short period and by the concentration in neighboring countries, especially Colombia, Brazil and Peru. This geographical proximity intensifies the impact on local infrastructure and public services (Salazar, 2021).

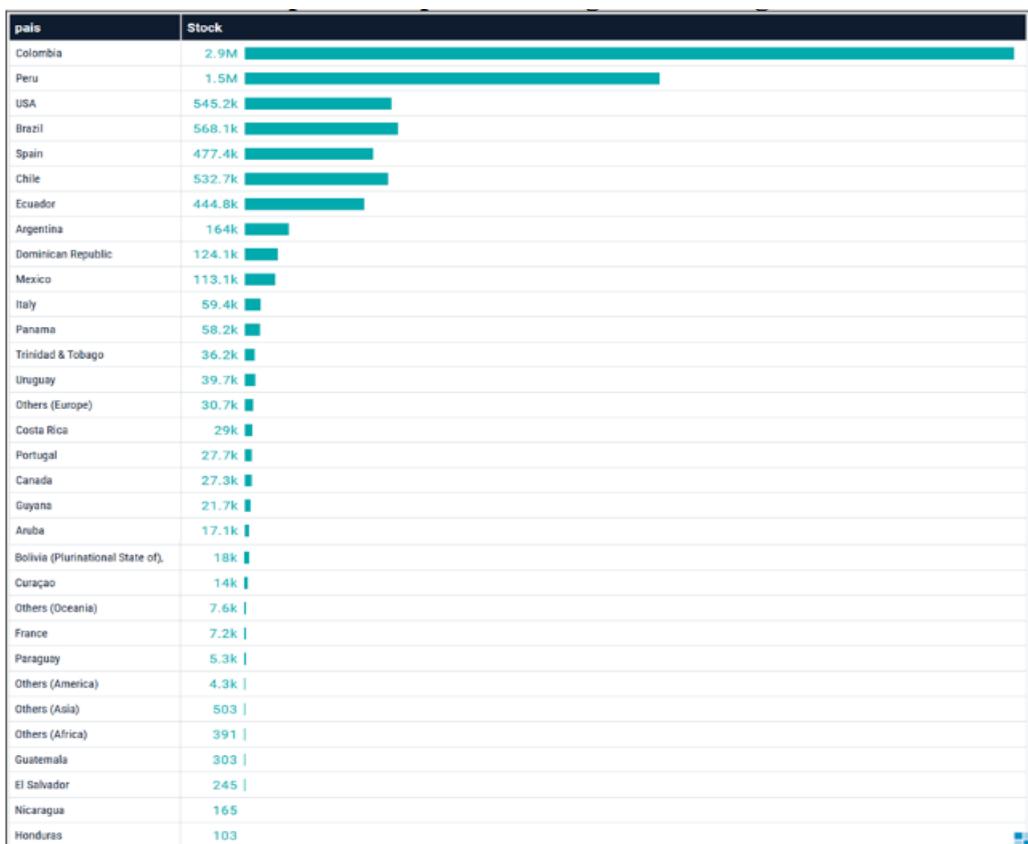
The magnitude of the influx is staggering: it is estimated that millions of Venezuelans have left the country, constituting the largest diaspora in Latin America's recent history. This scale reveals not only the severity of the internal crisis, but also the need for coordinated regional policies to deal with the humanitarian emergency. Massive mobility highlights how political and economic crises can generate transnational repercussions, requiring an integrated approach to human security (Simões; Vaz, 2023).

According to recent estimates, more than 7.7 million Venezuelans have left the country, with approximately 6.5 million remaining in Latin America in search of protection and better living conditions, while about 1.2 million have spread across different regions of the world (R4V, 2024). As shown in Table 1, these displacements reflect the magnitude of the

humanitarian crisis and highlight the pressure on neighboring countries to welcome and integrate these populations.

Table 1

List of receiving countries for Venezuelan migrants and refugees



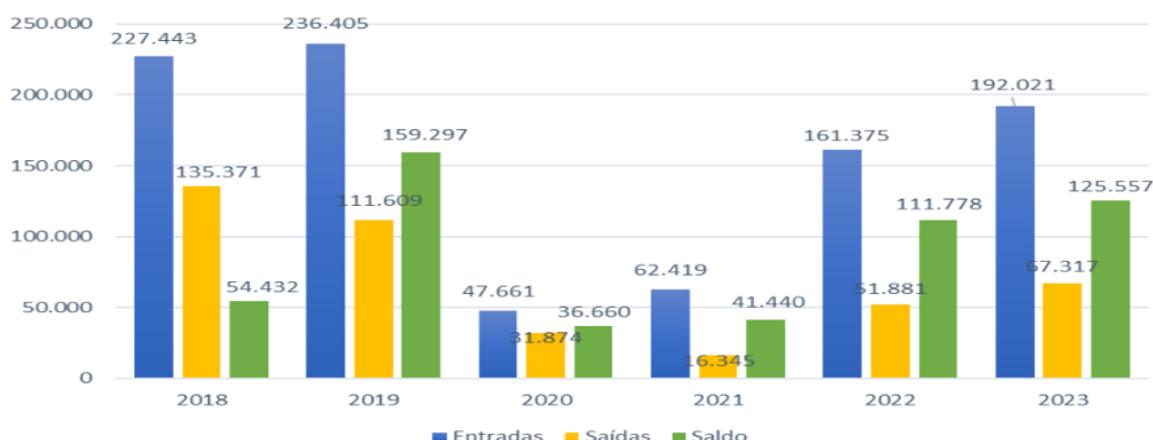
Source: R4V Platform (2024)

The analysis of the Table shows that the majority of Venezuelan migrants remain in neighboring Latin American countries, with Colombia concentrating the largest contingent, about 2.9 million, followed by Peru with 1.5 million, evidencing the regional nature of the displacement. Brazil, with approximately 568 thousand people, is among the main destinations, along with Chile and Ecuador, reflecting the geographical proximity and reception efforts. Destinations outside Latin America, such as the United States, Spain and Italy, have lower numbers, indicating that Venezuelan migration is predominantly regional, although there is gradual dispersion to other continents. This panorama highlights the magnitude of the flow and the humanitarian challenges faced by receiving countries, which need to reconcile emergency assistance and long-term integration policies.

In the Brazilian context, the country stands out as the fourth largest recipient of migrants and refugees, having welcomed more than 568 thousand people, of which approximately 138.2 thousand settled in different regions of the national territory (R4V, 2024). This scenario highlights the relevance of Brazil in the management and response to the current migration crisis. Most of these people arrive by land, crossing the border between Santa Elena de Uairén, in Venezuela, and Pacaraima, in Roraima.

Table 2

Number of entries and exits of migrants and refugees in Operation Shelter



Source: R4V Platform (2024)

The Table above shows the movement of migrants in Brazil between 2018 and 2023, highlighting entries, exits, and annual balance. It is observed that, in the years 2018 and 2019, the number of entries was significantly higher than the number of exits, resulting in high positive balances, especially in 2019, when the balance reached 159,297 persons. In 2020 and 2021, there was a significant drop in all categories, possibly reflecting the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, with a balance decreased to 36,660 and 41,440, respectively. As of 2022, inflows have grown again, surpassing outflows again and generating a significant positive balance of 111,778, followed in 2023 by 125,557, indicating a resumption of migratory mobility in the country and reinforcing Brazil's role as an important recipient of migrants in the region.

In this context, the growing arrival of Venezuelans, especially from the state of Roraima, has brought new challenges and motivated the Brazilian government to implement a coordinated response through **Operation Welcome**, an action that seeks to organize the reception, shelter, and relocation of these migrants in a structured and humanitarian way.

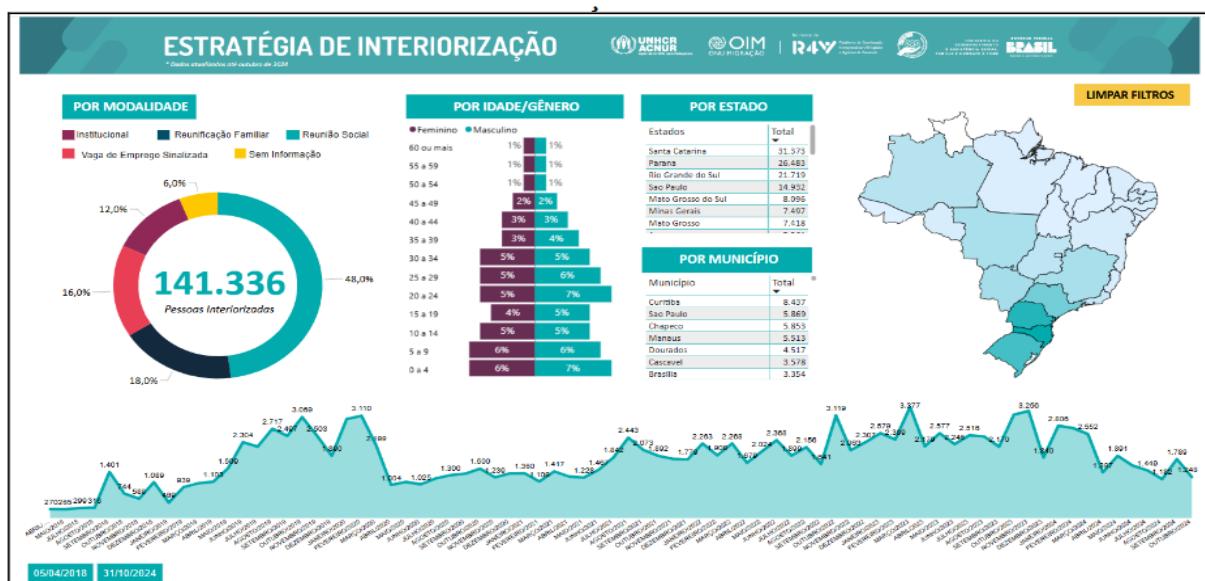
Operation Shelter has stood out for its integrated performance, bringing together more than 100 national and international institutions, including UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and public agencies. The initiative adopts a human security perspective, offering migrants access to essential services, such as health, food, documentation, psychological support, and opportunities for professional qualification and insertion in the labor market (Simões; Vaz, 2023).

By the year 2024, more than 140 thousand Venezuelans had been transferred to other regions of Brazil, promoting their social and economic inclusion and avoiding overcrowding of migrants in the state of Roraima. This strategy of relocation contributes to the balanced distribution of the migrant population, while strengthening the integration of people in the receiving municipalities (Moraes; Simões, 2024).

In this perspective, Table 03 presents the strategy for the relocation of Venezuelan migrants by Brazil between April 2018 and October 2024, highlighting that, by the end of the period, **141,336 people had been transferred** to different states and municipalities.

Table 3

Venezuelan internalization in Brazil



Source: R4V Platform (2024)

It is observed, therefore, that the distribution by modality indicates that most of them occurred due to family reintegration (48%), followed by job vacancies and socialization. The analysis by age group shows a predominance of children and young people aged 0 to 29 years, with a slight male majority. Geographically, the states of Santa Catarina, Paraná and

Rio Grande do Sul received the largest contingent, while the municipalities with the most interiorizations include Curitiba, São Paulo and Chapecó. In this context, the role of the Armed Forces has proven to be essential in this process of welcoming and relocating migrants, especially in complex operations involving logistics, security, and humanitarian support (Moraes; Simões, 2024).

4 MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN SECURITY: CORRELATING CAPABILITIES AND COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION

This topic is justified by the need to understand how the preparation and use of the Brazilian Army go beyond territorial defense, contributing to the protection of the different dimensions of human security.

4.1 THE ROLE OF THE BRAZILIAN ARMY IN PROMOTING HUMAN SECURITY

The relationship between the preparation and use of the Brazilian Army and the dimensions of human security shows that military action goes beyond territorial defense, assuming a strategic role in the integral protection of people and communities in contexts of vulnerability. This perspective highlights that the Armed Forces are not limited to guaranteeing national sovereignty, but also perform functions aimed at safeguarding life and preserving dignity in scenarios of humanitarian crisis (Souza, 2020).

Human security, in turn, shifts the focus from traditional security, previously centered exclusively on military and geopolitical threats, to a more comprehensive approach, which places the individual at the center of protective actions. By valuing aspects such as health, food, housing, and social well-being, this concept broadens the understanding of the role of the State and its institutions in the face of contemporary challenges, in which threats to life and dignity are not restricted to the field of war (Almeida, 2020).

In this scenario, the Brazilian Army develops capabilities ranging from the training and qualification of its troops to the execution of logistical and operational planning aimed at civil and humanitarian emergencies. This preparation shows that its mission goes beyond the simple defense of borders, assuming the responsibility of supporting society in situations of crisis and population displacement, reinforcing the importance of its performance as an instrument of integral protection and promoter of human security (Wendlung; Nascimento, 2021).

The Army's preparation includes the training of soldiers and officers in different areas, including engineering, health, transportation, and communication, allowing for rapid and coordinated responses to crises. This diverse training enables troops to act efficiently in complex operations, whether in natural disasters such as floods and fires, or in social crises, such as the reception of migrants and refugees. The Army's mobilization and logistics capacity ensures not only the delivery of essential resources, but also the maintenance of order and security during emergency processes, promoting a safer environment for vulnerable populations (Rodrigues, 2021).

In the field of physical security, the presence of the Brazilian Army is crucial to protect individuals and communities from immediate risks to life. Operations in conflict areas or regions affected by natural disasters demonstrate how military preparedness contributes to reducing exposure to dangers, promoting a sense of protection that goes beyond simple armed force. In addition, military action in humanitarian contexts demonstrates sensitivity to local needs, integrating relief actions with the preservation of the dignity and fundamental rights of the people served (Salazar, 2021).

The health dimension is also contemplated in the Army's activities, which have field hospitals, specialized medical teams, and the capacity to distribute medicines and equipment in remote areas. In pandemic situations, for example, the Army has collaborated with the logistics of vaccines and emergency care, reinforcing the importance of action that protects life and prevents diseases. This interface between military and humanitarian highlights the correlation between the preparation and use of the armed forces and the promotion of public health as a central element of human security (Wendling; Nascimento, 2021).

In addition, the Army contributes to economic and social security by structuring temporary shelters, distributing food, and supporting vulnerable communities. By ensuring that basic resources reach those who need them most, military action promotes social stability and reduces economic impacts resulting from crises, showing that full protection is not limited to physical aspects, but encompasses dignified living conditions and access to opportunities (Duarte, 2019).

Political and environmental security also benefits from the presence of the Brazilian Army, especially in border regions or environmental preservation areas. Acting in these areas ensures the protection of strategic resources and reinforces public policies for sustainable development, preventing conflicts and promoting responsible management of the territory. The combination of strategic planning and field actions allows the military presence to be

aligned with civilian and social objectives, reinforcing the idea of broad and integrated security (Wendling; Nascimento, 2021).

The use of the Army in interagency operations demonstrates the importance of coordination between different government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and international agencies. The integration of efforts enables faster and more efficient responses, ensuring that humanitarian and protection actions are carried out in a coordinated and planned manner. This articulation is essential to face complex challenges, such as migratory crises or natural disasters, in which human security depends on multiple actors working together (Simões; Vaz, 2023).

Migrant reception operations, such as Operation Welcome, clearly exemplify the correlation between military preparedness and human security. The Army contributes with safe transportation, shelter installation, food distribution, and medical support, allowing vulnerable families to safely integrate into destination communities. The experience gained in such operations strengthens the institutional capacity of the armed forces and demonstrates the importance of their actions in contexts that require comprehensive protection of people.

The impact of military preparedness is also reflected in the population's confidence and perception of security. Knowing that there is a force capable of intervening in an organized and efficient manner in crisis situations reinforces social stability and provides a lower-risk environment. This psychological effect is a relevant component of human security, showing that military action influences not only in a practical way, but also symbolically, ensuring protection and tranquility for society (Barboza, 2022).

However, the correlation between the Army's readiness and employment faces challenges, especially in adapting a traditionally hierarchical force to humanitarian contexts that require flexibility and social sensitivity. Balancing military rigor with attention to individual and collective needs requires ongoing training, development of specific protocols, and integration with civilian experts. Overcoming these challenges strengthens response capacity and expands the reach of actions in favor of human security (Almeida, 2020).

UN peacekeeping missions also illustrate the applicability of military preparedness in international contexts, allowing the Army to contribute to the protection of civilians in conflict areas. The experience acquired in these operations feeds back into internal knowledge, improving logistics, mediation, and humanitarian assistance techniques, which directly reflects on the ability to act within the national territory (Moraes; Simões, 2024).

5 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The present study aimed to analyze the impacts of Venezuelan migration in Brazil, with an emphasis on humanitarian responses and comprehensive protection policies, evaluating the effectiveness of the actions of the State and partner institutions in promoting the human security of migrants. Throughout the work, it was possible to verify that, although there have been significant advances in terms of inter-institutional coordination, emergency assistance and provision of basic services, structural challenges persist that compromise the full protection and social inclusion of these populations. Thus, the central objective of the study was achieved, as both the positive points and the gaps in the policies and practices adopted were identified.

The analysis revealed that Operation Shelter plays a key role in organizing the reception, providing physical security, access to health, food, and documentation, in addition to contributing to the family and social reintegration of migrants. However, aspects such as access to formal work, adequate housing, and confronting discrimination still represent significant obstacles to human security, showing that emergency action needs to be complemented by structured and long-term policies. The survey also highlighted the importance of the Armed Forces' performance, not only in terms of logistics and coordination, but also as a strategic element in the comprehensive protection of displaced persons.

Another relevant point identified was the need for a multidimensional approach to human security, which considers not only physical protection, but also economic, social, psychological and environmental dimensions. The study demonstrated that forced displacement involves complex and interdependent risks, requiring integrated responses between government, civil society and international organizations. Thus, policies and programs that do not address these multiple dimensions may have limited effect, underscoring the importance of comprehensive and ongoing strategies.

While the study provided a detailed overview of Brazilian responses to Venezuelan migration, it also pointed out gaps in the literature and in the availability of up-to-date data on the effectiveness of policies implemented. In this sense, future research can explore comparative analyses with other Latin American countries, assess long-term socioeconomic impacts on host communities, and investigate strategies for the cultural and social integration of migrants. These approaches can contribute to improving public policies and strengthening comprehensive protection in the context of complex migratory flows.

In short, the study confirms that emergency and humanitarian actions, combined with the strategic action of institutions and the Armed Forces, have been essential for mitigating risks and promoting the dignity of migrants. However, to ensure human security in a sustainable way, it is necessary to invest in long-term policies, social and economic integration, and continuous monitoring of the practices adopted. The research reinforces the importance of understanding migration not only as an emergency phenomenon, but as a process that requires planning, coordination, and commitment from multiple social and institutional actors.

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