

National Immigration Council

Haitian Immigration to Brazil

1) BRAZIL - CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Great changes in recent years. Originally, a country of immigrants. In the mid-1980s started a movement of emigration of Brazilians abroad. In 2007, three million Brazilians living abroad were estimated. Since 2008, after international crisis, a return process began and for the first time in years the immigration increased.

2) HAITIAN SITUATION – EARTHQUAKE

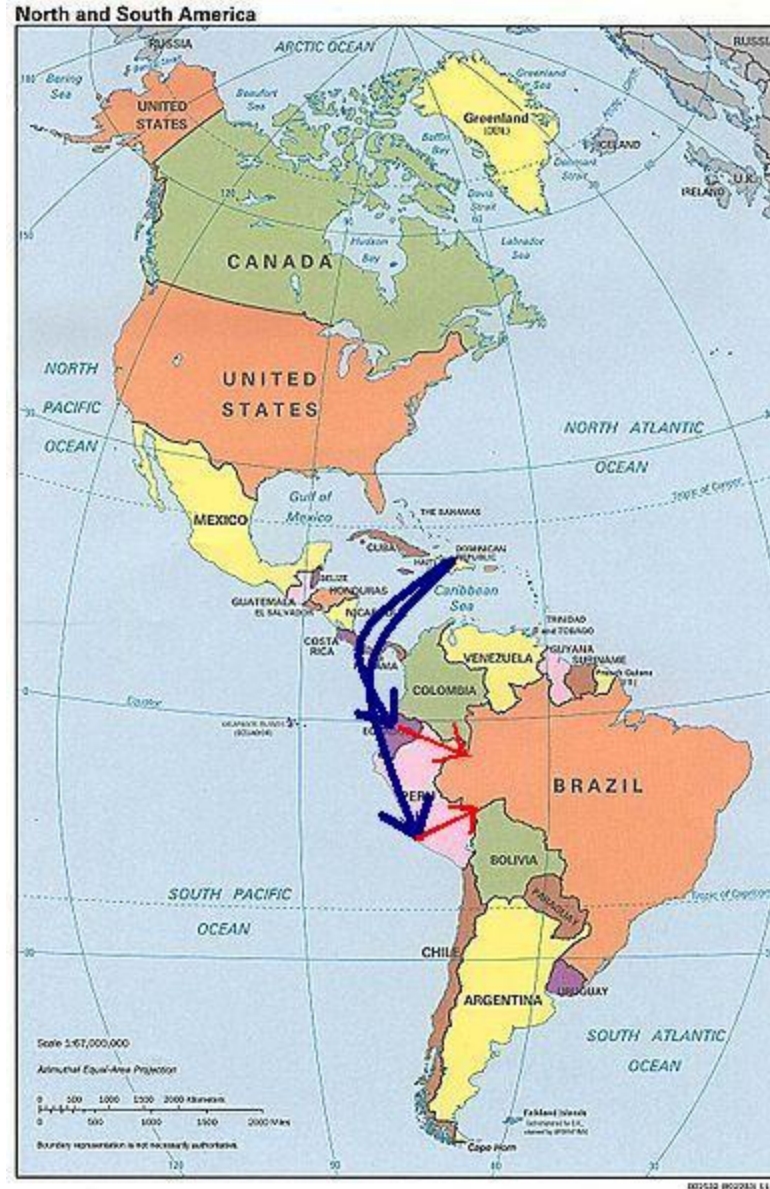
In January 2010, Haiti was devastated by an earthquake. More than 200,000 people died. Brazil was coordinating the mission sent by the United Nations (MINUSTAH). Contact with military and civilian authorities and cultural exchange between countries, allowed closer ties between Brazil and Haiti and Haitians have identified Brazil as a destination country.

3) REFUGE AND IMMIGRATION

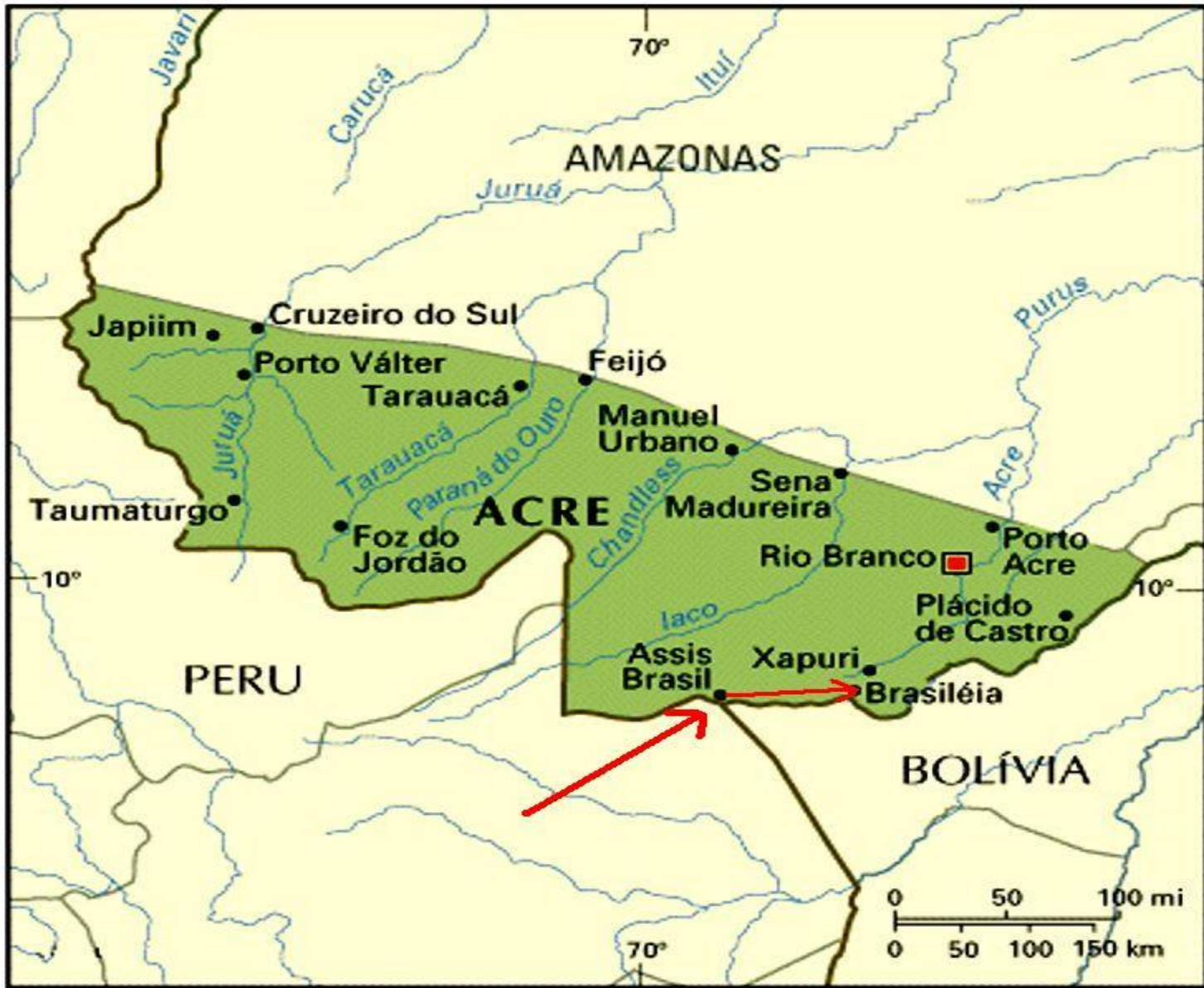
Haitians came by airplane to Ecuador and Peru. After they made the long journey through the Amazon forest towards the Brazilian cities of Tabatinga, in Amazonas state, and Assis Brasil, in Acre state. Since have arrived in Brazil without a visa, Haitians presented themselves as refugees. Although the Haitian case did not fit in the 1951 UN Convention (ratified by Brazil), it could not be said the Haitian migration in the post-earthquake fit in a typical economic migration.



Haitians arrived by airplane in Equador or Peru.



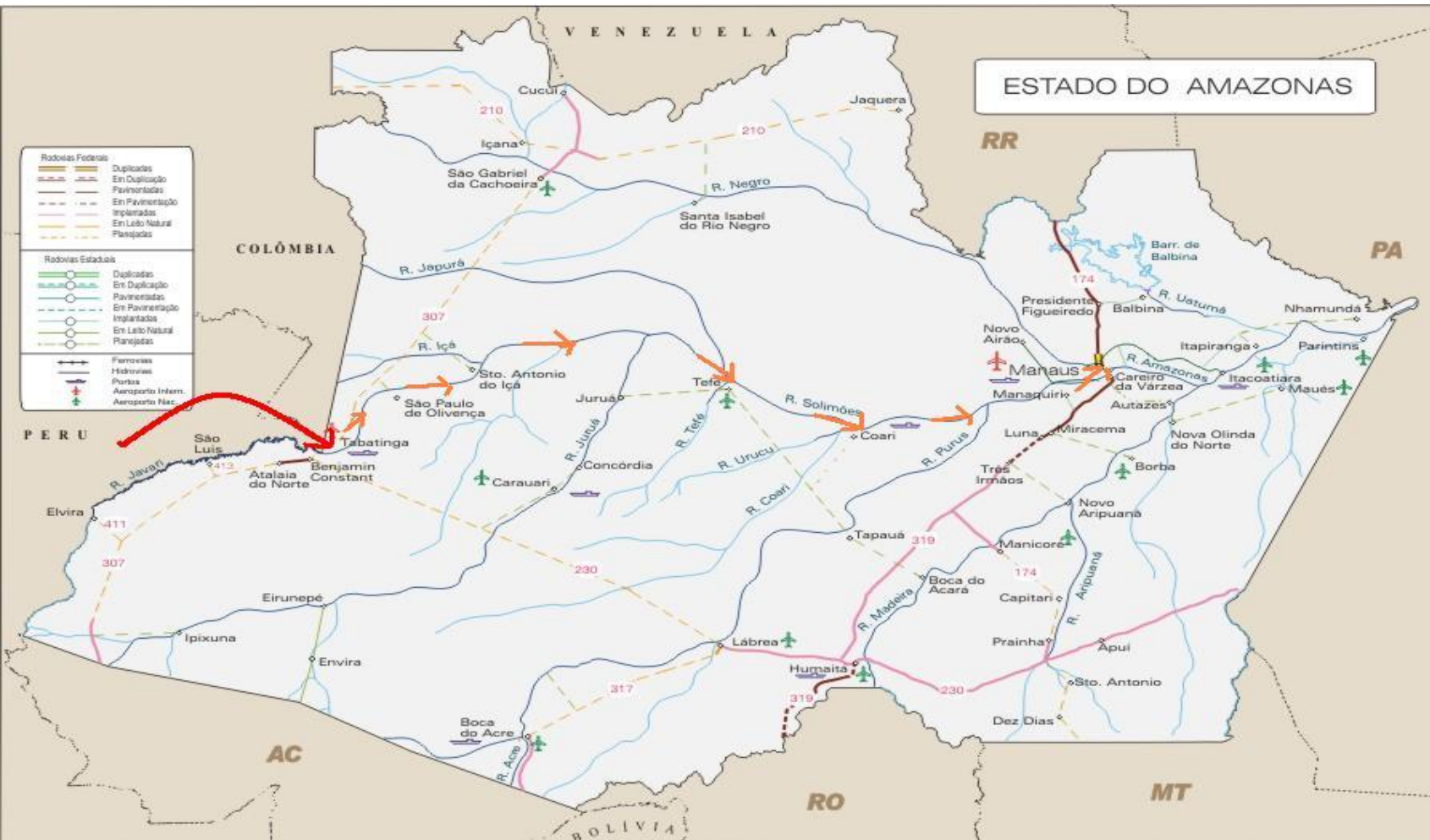
From Equador or Peru they traveled by land to Tabatinga/AM or Assis Brasil/AC



To ask for a refugee status, haitians went to Brasileia where there's a Federal Police Office



After ask for asylum haitians went to Manaus distant 1600 km by boat



Brazilian government then proceeded to examine the situation of Haitians from two bodies that act respectively with the recognition of refugees, the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE), and the granting of special residence visas to immigrants, the National Immigration Council (CNIg).

Although the Haitian case did not fit in the 1951 UN Convention dealing with the Status of Refugees (ratified by Brazil), it could not be said that the Haitian migration in the post-earthquake fit in a typical economic migration.

This situation was considered by Brazil as "humanitarian attention" and the solution found was the referral of cases from CONARE to CNIg.

CNIg is a collective body of which involve nine ministries, five Central Trade Unions, five Enterprise Confederations and a representative of the scientific community and has a mandate to build the Brazilian policy on immigration. CNIg considered that the situation of Haitians deserve humanitarian attention and decided by the granting of special visas for them.

4) CRISIS IN BORDER – EXPLORATION – TRAFFICKING ON HUMAN BEINGS

In late 2011 and early 2012 there was an exponential increase in the arrival of Haitians. In January 2012 there were about 2,000 Haitians in the border cities awaiting registration as asylum-seeker with Brazilian authorities. There was a breakdown in the capacity to host the immigrants in these cities.

Informations began to arrive related to the existence of networks intermediaries who charged the Haitians to come to Brazil. There were also reports of robberies, assaults and violence against Haitian women practiced by these intermediaries.

5) INTERRUPTION OF MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE BORDER

In January 2012, the picture was the following: a) collapse in the host systems organized in border towns by the massive presence of Haitians; b) reports of violence, abuse and the existence of networks of coyotes at the border; c) distortion of the Institute of refuge; and d) exposure of Haitians to long and painful journey through the Amazon forest, submitting them to great risks.

Considering these issues, the Government decided to no longer allow the flow of Haitians by the land border, but decided to create a special migration channel so that Haitians could receive a residency visa directly at the Brazilian Embassy in Port au Prince.

6) CREATION OF HUMANITARIAN VISA

On January 12, 2012, the CNlg created a special visa for Haitians, named Humanitarian Visa. This visa can be issued to Haitians that live in Haiti and have no criminal record. There are no requirements regarding educational or professional qualifications or employment contract. The visa is valid for five years, after which the Haitian will have to demonstrate to have means of subsistence in Brazil.

The issue of humanitarian visa is limited to 1,200 Haitian families a year. The demand for this humanitarian visa in Haiti has increased but is still below the initial forecast. Until 30/03 just over 80 families had applied and received the visa.

7) EMPLOYMENT IN BRAZIL

Data show that over 90% of Haitians who have arrived in Brazil are working. About half remained in the state of Amazonas, while the other half spread to several other states.

Current situation in Brazil is full employment in various areas of the labor market. Therefore, the Haitians were warmly welcomed in several Brazilian cities.

Data, however, indicate that the profile of Haitians who arrived in Brazil is higher than the average of the Haitian population. This means that those who are coming had a chance in Haiti to raise money to pay for the trip to Brazil.

8) MIGRATION AND POVERTY

The poverty of Haiti took millions of Haitians to migrate to other countries. The earthquake of 2010 has intensified this process of seeking livelihood options abroad by the Haitian population.

The effort of the international community to help Haiti has been unable to change the situation of the country with the necessary speed. More than 600,000 people still living in emergency tents more than two years after the quake.

The output of Haitians abroad is a relief to emergency policies in force in Haiti. Furthermore, the majority of Haitians who came to Brazil are alone, who seek to work and send money to their families who stayed in Haiti. These resources mean a relief for a portion of the Haitian population to ensure the survival of thousands of people.

Haitians Immigrants – Educational Profile

Incomplete Elementary School	1393	30,3%
Incomplete High School	1333	29%
High School	937	20,3%
Elementary School	467	10,2%
Incomplete University Degree	197	4,3%
University Degree	177	3,9%
Others	90	2%
Total	4594	100%

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The case of Haitians in Brazil contains a number of issues that are important dilemmas experienced by several countries in dealing with the phenomenon of international migration, like border control, economic migration, refugee policy, immigration policy, combating trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling schemes, reception, integration and inclusion in labor market.

In addition, the Haitian case scenario incorporates new challenges to international migration as the theme of environmental migrants and displaced people caused by the great tragedies.

Brazil has an immigration policy based on full respect for human rights of migrants, regardless of their immigration status. The Brazilian approach was to treat the challenge of Haitian migration in an open vision and from a perspective of humanitarian solidarity.



THANK YOU

