



UNHCR
ACNUR
Agência da ONU para Refugiados



Executive Summary

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF REFUGEES IN BRAZIL

Subsidies for Policy Making



UNHCR Acknowledgements

The launch of the study “**Socio-Economic Profile of Refugees in Brazil**” is a milestone in the production of knowledge on the refugee theme in Brazil and the integration of this highly vulnerable population into the country.

UNHCR thanks all researchers and collaborators involved in this study, particularly the following universities, the majority of which are part of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair: Federal University of Paraná, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, State University of Campinas, Casa Rui Barbosa Foundation, University of Brasília, Catholic University of Minas Gerais, Federal University of Amazonas, and Federal University of Santa Catarina.

We would also like to thank other organizations involved in this study that were crucial for its development: the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE), the Department of State Police, the International Migration Observatory, the State University of Rio de Janeiro, the Federal University of São Carlos, the Federal University of Espírito Santo, Federal University of ABC, Federal University of Grande Dourados, civil society organizations and UNHCR’s implementing partners.

Finally, we thank all those interviewed who agreed to answer questions for this study.



CONTENTS

- 
- 02** > Introduction
 - 05** > Education, Diplomas and Linguistic Knowledge
 - 06** > Housing and Domestic Expenses
 - 08** > Labour Profile, Labour Market and Use of Professional Skills
 - 11** > Ties to the Country of Origin and Financial Risks
 - 12** > Rights, Duties, and Use of Public Services
 - 13** > Social and Cultural Integration
 - 14** > Political Integration and Citizenship
 - 15** > Obstacles to Integration and Future Prospects
 - 16** > Final Words

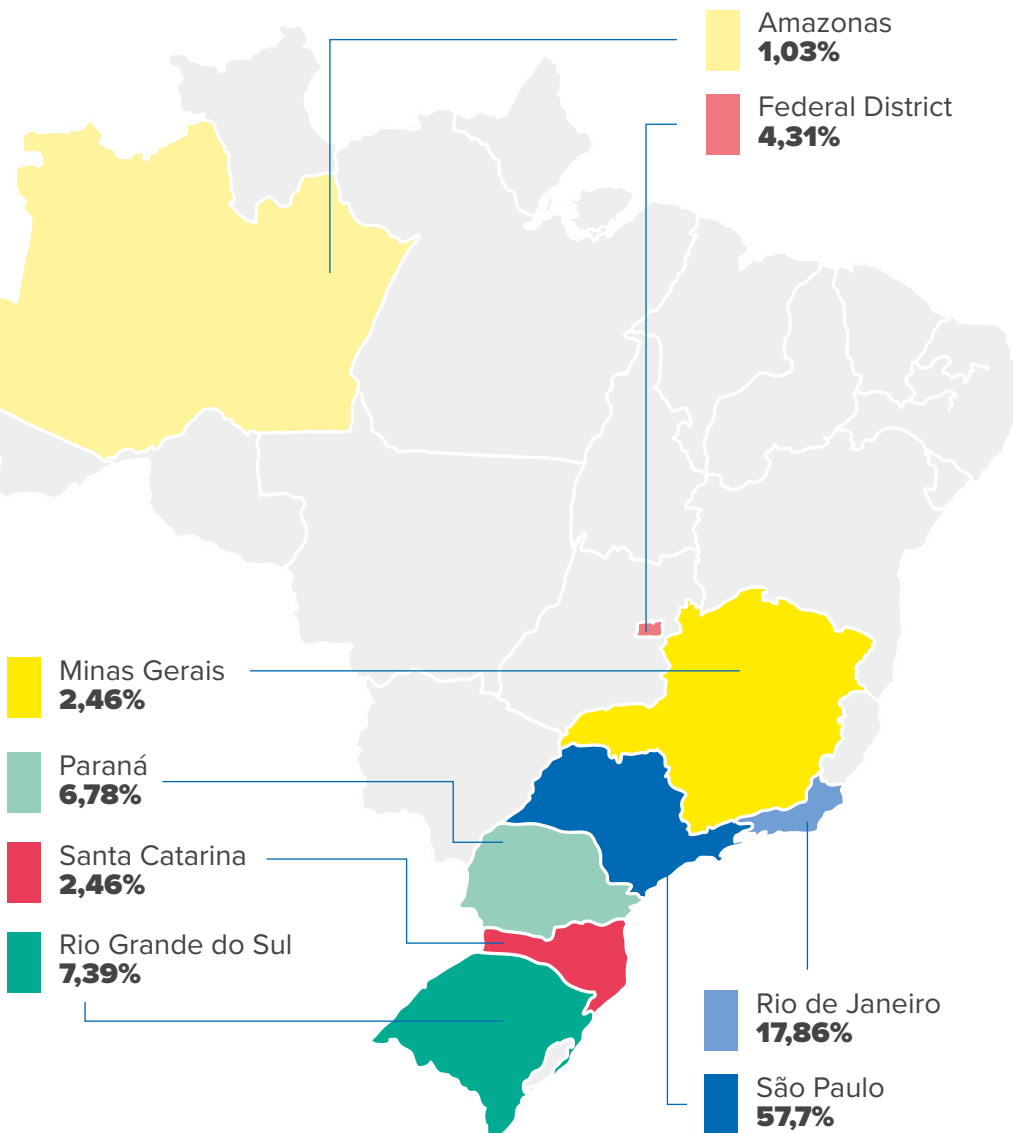
Introduction

This Executive Summary presents the summarized findings of a socio-economic analysis on the parcel of refugees recognized by the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) currently residing in Brazil, according to the agreement established between the Sérgio Vieira de Melo Chairs of several [Brazilian universities](#)¹ and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Brazil.

In order to carry out the fieldwork, a deliberate sample design was prepared, divided by quotas, considering the

current refugee population in Brazil. The researchers established that 500 interviews were to be carried out to analyze various socio- demographic and labour variables. This sample was applied in 14 cities, distributed in eight states - São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, Federal District, Santa Catarina, Minas Gerais and Amazonas - which concentrate 94% of the refugees under the protection of the Brazilian government. The allocation of the number of interviews in each of the cities took into account the relative participation of each of them in the total sample.

1. The Sérgio Vieira de Melo Chairs of the Federal University of Paraná (general coordinator), the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, the State University of Campinas, the Casa Rui Barbosa (RJ), the University of Brasília, the Catholic University (MG), the Federal University of Amazonas and the Federal University of Santa Catarina, have all participated in this work. The study also counted with researchers from the International Migration Observatory (LAEMI-UnB).



Number of interviewees per city and state

State	City	Frequency
SP	São Paulo	267
	Guarulhos	14
RJ	Rio de Janeiro	81
	Duque de Caxias	6
RS	Porto Alegre	17
	Sapiranga	10
	Passo fundo	7
	Venâncio Alres	2
PR	Curitiba	20
	Foz do Iguaçu	13
DF	Brasília	21
MG	Belo Horizonte	12
SC	Florianópolis	12
AM	Manaus	5

Number of interviewees per state

Answer	Frequency
AM	5
DF	21
MG	12
PR	33
RJ	87
RS	36
SC	12
SP	281
Total	487

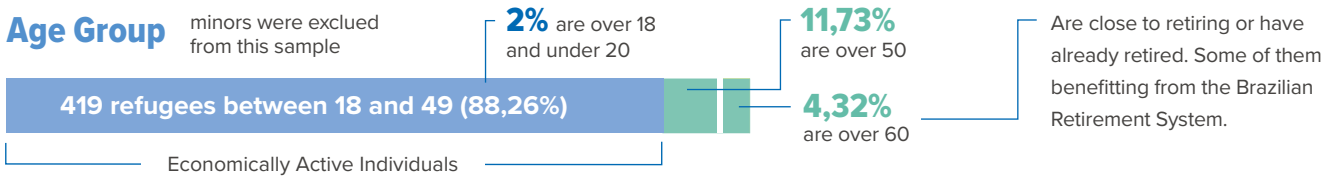
487 refugees were interviewed out of the initial sample of 500 refugees² representing 97.4% of the total residing in the 8 states: Rio Grande do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina, Paraná, São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Amazonas and Federal District.

The fieldwork was carried out between June 13th 2018 and February 20th 2019, by 8 teams, each responsible

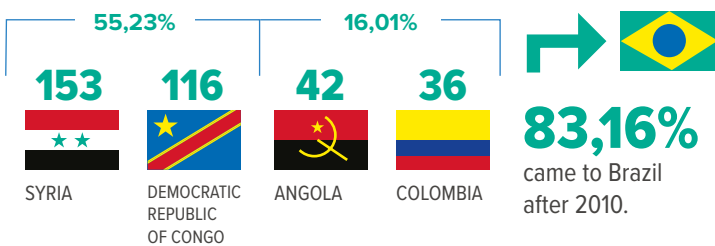
for a state, resulting in a set of interviews by state and by city.

The following analysis concerns the group of 487 interviewed refugees, built on a selection of the most relevant answers among the ones asked in the basic survey.

2. The number of 500 refugees was obtained by deliberate sampling in a universe of 4,514 refugees, corresponding to 84.9% of the total 5,314 refugees residing in Brazil, according to Brazil's Refugee Database (made available to UNHCR by the Federal Police/ Ministry of Justice). Ministério da Justiça.



Nationality and Origin

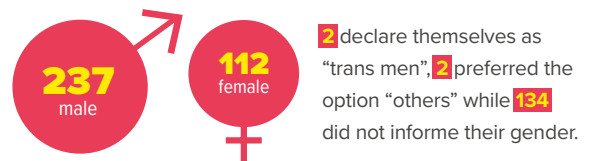


The group of interviewees mainly originates from four countries: Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Colombia. Adding the refugees from these 4 countries, we have 71.24% of the total sample. Therefore, we can infer that the following analysis, in accordance with the refugee population currently living in Brazil, mainly concerns these individuals.

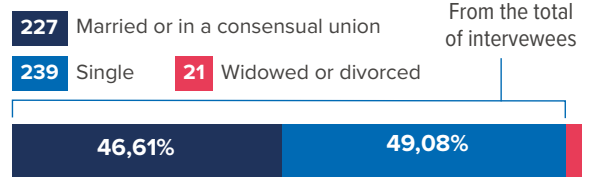
As a consequence of it, the country only began to recognize refugee status very recently. 389 (83.84%) refugees were recognized after 2010.

Gender

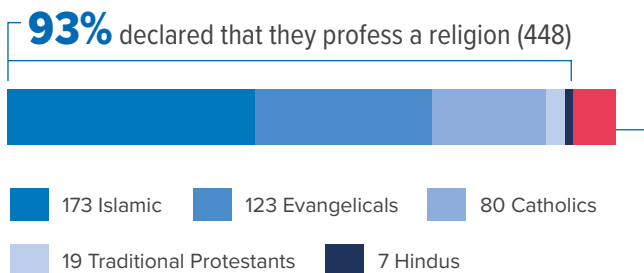
The question was: **What is your gender?** The options were: male, female, transgender man, transgender woman and other. For "other" the interviewees were asked to specify.



Marital Status



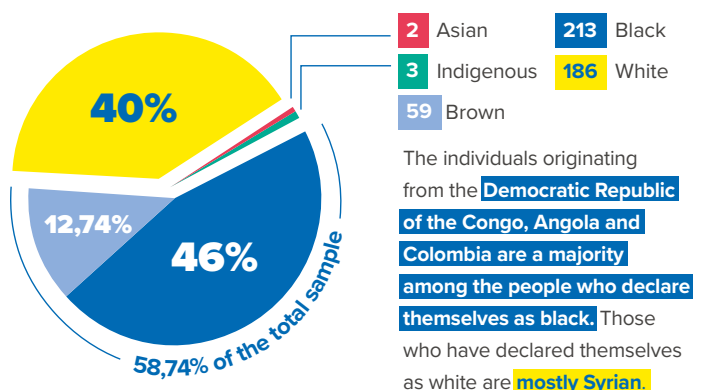
Religion



This data confirms the origin of a great parcel of the interviewees (Syria and Democratic Republic of the Congo). However, we note the small number of Protestants in relation to Evangelicals, and the importance of the latter in relation to Catholics. Within this religious universe, we also note 4 individuals who have not answered the question and 35 who stated that they do not profess a religion.

Race or Color

In relation to race or color (self-declaration, following the IBGE's methodology), only 24 people did not inform their race or color, which clearly shows that there was discomfort in answering only certain questions, such as gender.





Ignorance of the local language is a barrier to the adaptation of refugees in the receiving country. In Brazil, this population has access to free Portuguese lessons.

Education, Diplomas and Linguistic Knowledge

Refugees demonstrate high language capital and school capital, greater than the [Brazilian average](#)³, or much higher if we only consider [the black and brown population in Brazil](#)⁴. In fact, only 13 interviewed refugees (2.7%) had not completed primary education, three others declared themselves illiterate (0.6%) out of a total of 16 or 3.3% compared to 41% illiteracy rate of the Brazilian population. On the other hand, 166 or 34.4% of the refugees interviewed have completed Higher Education, 15 of which have already attended a postgraduate course (specialization, Masters or PhD) compared to 15.7% of the Brazilian population who completed the same [level of education](#)⁵.

Table 3: Education

Answer	Frequency
Illiterate	3
Incomplete Primary Education	13
Complete Primary Education	58
Complete Secondary Education	242
Complete Higher Education	151
Complete Specialization	8
Complete Masters	6
Complete PhD	1
Not Informed	5
Total	487

However, there is a major problem with the large number of higher education graduates: the high level of unrecognized diplomas. In fact, there are only 14 refugees who were able to have their diplomas recognized (at all levels of education and in different areas of specialization) in Brazil, against [133 refugees who have not been able to have their diplomas recognized](#)⁶. In addition to great school capital, compared to that of the Brazilian population, the group of refugees interviewed revealed

high language capital. However, both capitals are not translating into economic capital (employment and income), as shown below.

The vast majority of refugees interviewed (92.2% of the total of 487) declared they [speak Portuguese](#)⁷. When analyzing the importance of the Portuguese language course in the development of other language skills and in employability we excluded the 46 Angolans who did not take the course, considering they already speak the language. Thus, we have 203 interviewees (249 – 46 Angolans) who did not take the Portuguese course against 235 who took or are taking the course (53.66%) among the interviewees who needed the course, demonstrating both the necessity and the fact that there has not been enough offer of Portuguese language courses or that the existing offer has not reached the refugees.

Finally, the high education rate is presented as a stimulus to the continuation of studies in Brazil. Excluding from the analysis the people who did not inform their schooling situation, we have 81 cases of refugees who have no intention of studying in Brazil (for various reasons) against 290 who have shown interest in studying in Brazil.

3. According to PNAD data, In 2017, 33.8% of the Brazilian population had incomplete Primary Education and only 26.8% had completed High School. For more details, go to <http://bit.ly/2Jzpm75>. Accessed on March 22nd of 2019.

4. According to IBGE, 47.4% of the black or brown population in Brazil is divided between those who have no education (illiterate) and those who have not completed Primary Education. <http://bit.ly/2Jzpm75> Accessed on March 22nd of 2019.

5. Let us note, however, that the educational data for Brazil refers to the adult population, that is, people who are over 25 years old, while our refugee sample universe was made up by people over 18 years of age. Therefore, we may infer that the population interviewed is even more qualified than the Brazilian population.

6. It can also be assumed that the large number of people who “did not inform” on their schooling situation concerns people who do not have a diploma to be recognized.

7. A language test was not performed. However, the ability to understand the questions coincided with the affirmative answers.

Housing and Domestic Expenses

The housing type, condition and costs demonstrate the current socio-economic situation of the refugees interviewed. 105 refugees (21.6% of total) live in collective homes or another type of shared unit. In practice, they are renting individual rooms in hotels, boarding houses or collective residences, and, as observed during the field research, some of them live in precarious regions of the urban centers.

In terms of residence status, 346 refugees (90.58% of the total of 382) live in rented houses, while 6 (less than 2%) live in units “lent” to them. At the other extreme, only a very small number of refugees (26 or 6.8% of the total of 382) live in their own homes, probably indicating a (weak) start to patrimonialisation processes and socio-economic integration.

The number of inhabitants per residence is another factor in measuring the general condition of life. The vast majority of the refugees interviewed (290 or 76.1%) live in homes with up to 4 people, a classic pattern for families with one or two children or for a couple living with relatives and/or friends.

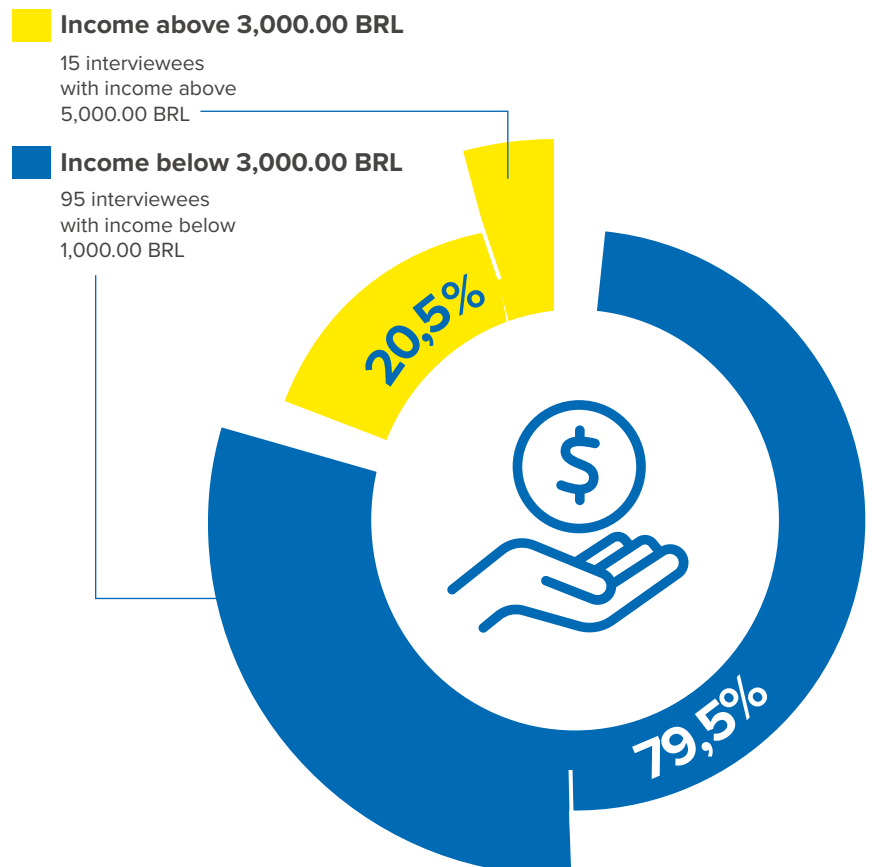
Two further analyses were conducted in order to measure the interviewees’ quality of life. First, it was analysed the **monthly household income**⁸ and then verified what percentage of this income is allocated to education, health and leisure. Among the 395 interviewees who informed their **monthly income**⁹, **314 refugees (79.5%)** had a monthly income below 3,000.00 BRL out of which 95 had

a monthly income below 1,000.00 BRL. The **remaining 20.5%** have a monthly household income above 3,000.00 BRL. Out of that last group, only 15 refugees (less than 4%) declared to have a household income of over 5,000.00 BRL.

The low income explains the scarce spending on essential activities. Among the 468 who shared information, 314 (67%) said their income level was not enough to cover current expenses. For 38.8% of the interviewed refugees the main solution to income insufficiency is to work more. Following this answer the next solution was “reduction in expenses with food”, accounting for 22% of the interviewees. Purchases or payments on credit and the practice of asking for loans, appeared in the answers of 16.8% and 16.2% of interviewees.

8. The question pertained to household income regardless of who contributes to it. It is assumed, however, that all residents benefit from it.

9. We have a delicate piece of information here. Most of the time, the interviewee does not want to state how much (the family) earns and/or does not know exactly because of the type of work they or other family members who also contribute to the monthly income do.



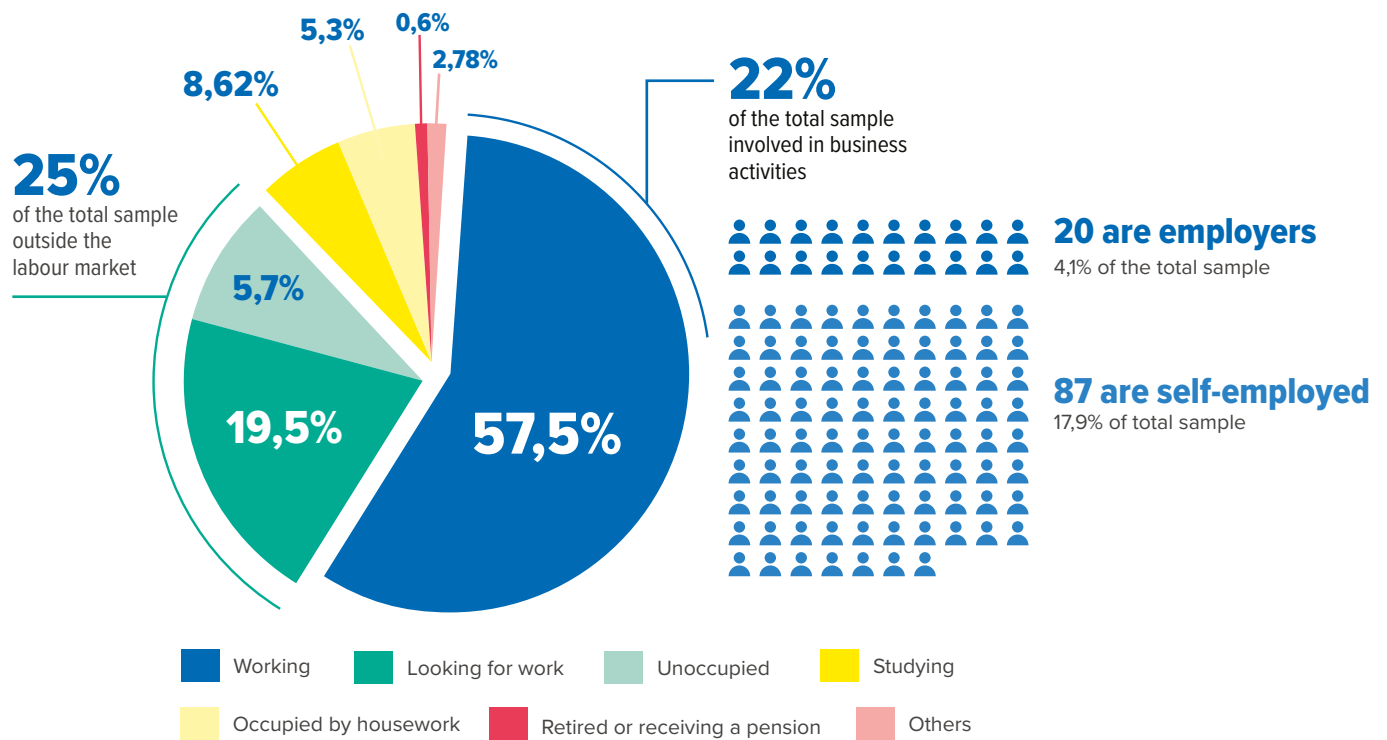


Some simple gestures are important to prove the integration of refugees into the receiving society, such as buying vegetables at the local market.

Labour Profile, Labour Market and Use of Professional Skills

The vast majority of respondents are currently working **(280 or 57.5%)**. On the other end, **95 refugees (19.5%)** are looking for employment - a much higher unemployment rate than the national average - while **28 interviewees (5.7%)** are unoccupied, i.e. they are neither employed nor looking for a job. Therefore, 123 interviewed refugees (25.2%) are currently out of the labour market, a very worrying number if we consider how vulnerable that population is, since they were forced to leave their country of origin in conditions of great fragility, and how they are **currently unable to generate income in the receiving country**.¹⁰ On the other hand, **26 interviewees (5.3%)** declared to be occupied with “household chores” and **3 refugees (0.6%)** are retired or receive a pension. Lastly, **42 refugees** are currently “studying” and, therefore, are not working or looking for a job, which means they likely provide for themselves with their own savings or have their expenses covered by family and/or friends.

10. As will be demonstrated, money transfers coming from residents of the countries of origin confirm this fragility.



In relation to the 280 interviewees who are involved in some kind of work activity, we initially verified a small proportion of **20 interviewees who were employers (4.1%)**, employing one or more workers in their business activities, especially commercial activities with a physical office (a commercial property or their own home), as in the case of people who make and sell food products. In addition, **87 refugees (17.9%) are currently self-employed**, totaling altogether, 107

refugees (22%, almost ¼ of the total sample) who are involved in business activities. This shows that entrepreneurship is not just a dream, but also a reality. Furthermore, when we add up the number of current entrepreneurs with that of people who have declared an interest in engaging in entrepreneurial activities, we have a high potential for entrepreneurship, thus indicating that the integration of refugees into the socio-economic reality of Brazil is an ongoing process.

The use of professional skills in the – formal or informal – labour market is very revealing of the phenomenon of socio-economic declassification (drop in socio-economic status) to which refugees and immigrants in general are subject to. This phenomenon, which is quite common in South-North migrations, is also present here in South-South migration cases, corroborating similar situations observed elsewhere. In specific terms, the interviewed refugees have not been able to use their professional skills. This occurs for a number of reasons, but not necessarily because the labour market is restricted or is not expanding. The fact is that, in order to access skilled jobs, refugees need to have their diplomas recognized. This difficulty explains much of the problems faced.

Among the 462 refugees interviewed, 315 (68.2%) are not using their professional skills in their current

line of work against only 147 (31.8%) who use them. This data may be revealing a lack of information and/or opportunities. However, it can be explained by the very low number of those who managed to have their diplomas recognized, only 14 cases.

The “labour market” was identified as the main obstacle to employment by 227 interviewees (46.1%). However, there are other obstacles, such as the lack of language mastery (mentioned 148 times) and being foreign (mentioned 99 times) that were mentioned by over 20% of the refugees interviewed. Followed by lack of resources to seek work (mentioned 93 times), lack of documents (mentioned 54 times) and racial prejudice (mentioned 53 times). Lack of schooling (mentioned 35 times) and “no one to leave their children with” (mentioned 18 times) complete the list.



By selling typical food from their country, this family of Syrian refugees used their culture as the basis for developing their own business.



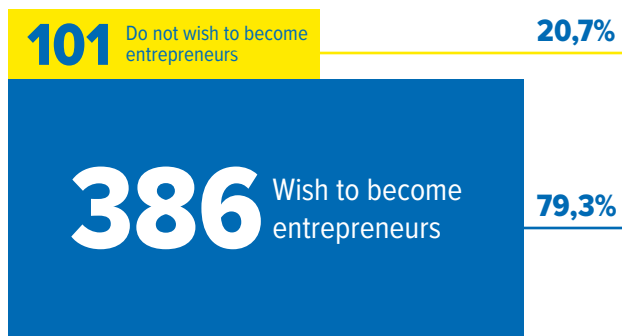
Through professional training courses, many refugees find a new profession to generate income and to obtain self-sufficiency.

©UNHCR / Luiz Fernando Godinho

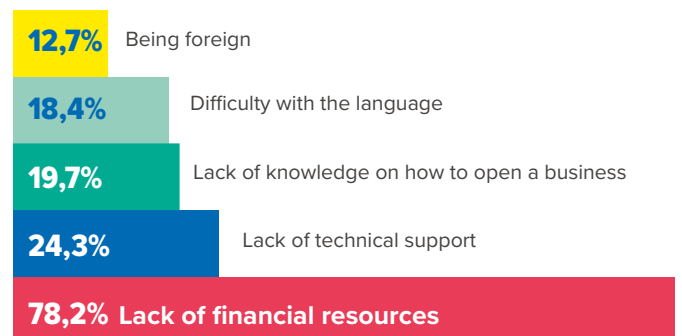
In view of the current situation of the labour market in Brazil, we investigated the willingness to become an entrepreneur. This willingness was declared by **386 of the interviewees (79.3%)** as **opposed to 101 (20.7%)** who do not wish to be entrepreneurs. Analyzing the factors that “could hinder or have hindered” entrepreneurship (only among those who answered “yes” to the previous question), we have identified the “lack of financial resources” (302 out of 386 informants or 78.2%) as the main obstacle. The “lack of technical support” (24.3%) and the “lack of knowledge about how to open a business” (ignorance of bureaucratic and legal procedures in 19.7%

of the cases) are, to a certain extent, overlapping factors. Finally, we have the language problem and the fact that they are foreign, mentioned by 18.4% and 12.7% of the refugees, respectively. Here we note the persistence of the “being foreign” factor as an obstacle - also mentioned as an obstacle to finding employment - which can also be linked to the language “problem”. This proves the general analysis of a population recently installed in Brazil, closely linked to family and other foreigners of the same nationality, and not very much integrated (and with little formal knowledge) of the Brazilian society, and that is still looking for their own socio-economic spaces.

Willingness to become an entrepreneur



Factors that could hinder or have hindered entrepreneurship





Through turban making classes, refugee women exercise their knowledge to culturally reaffirm themselves.

©UNHCR / Diogo Felix

Ties to the country of origin and financial risks

The financial ties to the country of origin (money transfers sent and received, among others) make up the set of indicators that, at the same time, reveal economic vulnerability (economic immigrant, refugee, etc.) and degree of integration into the receiving society. These indicators also demonstrate the existence of networks, transnational families and other past and present social ties to groups (family and friends) residing the country of origin and also in the receiving country.

The maintenance of social ties with the country of origin is mainly pursued through the monitoring of cultural and political demonstrations in their homeland. Here we note the strong cultural attachment among the interviewees as 425 refugees (87.3%) claim to have access, through the internet, to artistic demonstrations or works (music, movies, etc.) produced in their countries of origin.

Among the 487 people interviewed, 461 refugees claimed they maintain contact with family and friends and/or local institutions in their home countries. Out of these 461, 457 maintain contact with relatives, 270 with friends and only 30 with institutions, thus revealing the importance of communities and families (some of them transnational) in the current context of migration, as attested by several studies on the subject. By analyzing

the debts contracted during their displacement, we have identified a situation that is almost entirely resolved. Only 43 interviewees (9%) still have debts in their country of origin. However, its value (over 3,000.00 BRL) in 26 of the cases can be considered high.

Contact with family members and with the country of origin can take various forms, including financial, in terms of sending or receiving money.

Almost half of the people interviewed (233 or 49.9%) maintain financial ties (sending, receiving money or both), revealing a high degree of mutual dependence and a strong bond with the country of origin. When we relate this number to the 461 interviewed refugees who have declared to keep in contact with relatives, it can be deduced that a large part of these contacts involve money transfers.

In regards to the direction of this dependency, we have a higher percentage of people who send money (69.55% out of the total of 243) than those who only receive money (24.3%). Although the monthly amount sent is less than 500.00 BRL in most situations (123 cases), most of the recipients are relatives (184 cases or 94%) and the money sent is destined for basic consumption expenses (146 out of the 184 cases of families receiving assets). Finally, roughly 8% of the cases send over 1,000.00 BRL a month.

The above data shows that the daily difficulties of the refugees in Brazil are related to the situations, that are perhaps even more difficult, of those who did not migrate. Conversely, the survival of those who did not migrate impacts negatively the quality of life of the migrant refugees living in Brazil.

The situation is similar when it comes to resources received but the numbers are smaller. However, we consider that the high number of people who refused to answer (59 in 74 cases), are the relatives who send money and the sums do not exceed 1,000.00 BRL monthly in 78% of the cases.

Rights, Duties and Use of Public Services

The use of public services is determined by a set of factors, out of which the most important are the knowledge of the right to use them, its visibility, its quality and, eventually, the need/dependence the refugees have of them. However, the non-uniformity between services and their variable quality, sometimes both within the same city and among the different regions of the country, does not allow generalization.

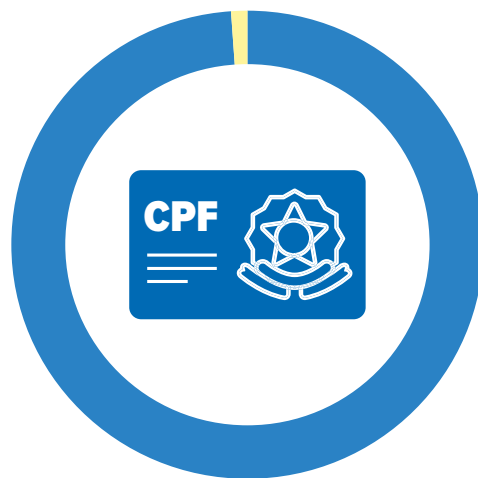
Knowledge of the rights and duties shows the degree of socio-legal integration of the interviewed refugees. A very significant portion of our sample (33%) is not considered legally integrated because they do not have knowledge of the duties or rights related to their condition. On the other hand, 1/3 stated they partially knew their rights, and only 1/3 stated they actually knew their rights and duties.

In regards to legal security, almost all refugees have the main documents: **CPF, 483 (99%), National Foreign Registration (RNE), 450 (92%)** and **Work Permit, 413 (84%)**. These documents guarantee them the same rights and duties as nationals (working legally, renting or acquiring goods, inhabiting residences, opening accounts in banks, acquiring loans, etc.), with the exception of political rights. However, attention is drawn to the small number of refugees who have the Workers' ID Number (NIT) or the PIS. Both of these documents concern workers and, in some cases, allow them to receive a wage allowance should their monthly wage not exceed two minimum wages.

Public health services are the most used by 444 of the interviewed refugees (91% of the total sample), followed by **education services¹¹** used by 201 refugees (41% of the total sample). Social assistance services are equally poorly accessed: only 93 refugees (19% of the total sample) make use of these. Lastly, 71 refugees (14.6% of the total sample) declare to have access to some kind of welfare service (health insurance, maternity insurance, etc.), a smaller percentage than those who contribute to Social Security (34% of our total sample).

In turn, social benefits - Continuing Payment Benefit (BPC), Social Security, and/or Income Transfer Programs – reach a small number of 86 refugees, 17.8% of the people interviewed. On the other hand, social assistance programs such as the Bolsa Família program benefit 83% of this small group, thus demonstrating its visibility and capillarity. In addition, the two cases of refugees benefiting from the BPC confirm that some of them are in the retirement age.

11. These services relate to all types of short courses (Portuguese, computer science, baking, etc.), provided by both public and private or religious institutions, to which the refugees have access.



99% 483 interviewees have a CPF Number



84% 413 interviewees have a Work Permit



92% 450 interviewees have a National Foreign Registration document

Social and Cultural Integration

The data collected indicates a low level of integration and association. However, paradoxically, it indicates positive future prospects (including in terms of economic growth) related to the refugees' permanence in Brazil.

The integration processes are limited to work relationships and to the nearest and most reliable refugee network, a fact especially observed in border regions such as the city of Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná. They also indicate, in some cases, situations of voluntary isolation. This is explained by the fact that, to a certain extent, refugees are displaced persons without great ability to integrate the country of origin's society or who sometimes show no interest in integration because of fear. At the other end, the sociability, work, education and/or affection opportunities and processes and the difficulty of returning create unexpected situations

of integration. The vast majority of interviewees (71.5% of the total 477) do not participate and are not members of any organizations. Among the 136 refugees participating in one or more organizations, we have migrant and/or refugee associations first, with 56 cases (41.2% of the total). Other types of associations – academic, unions, of residents, etc. - were mentioned scarcely. Finally, 99 refugees (20.5%) declared they have a romantic relationship with a Brazilian (male or female). Among these relationships, there are 62 dating or engagement cases and 25 refugees (25% of this group) who are married to a Brazilian citizen.

The vast majority of interviewees revealed that they had Brazilian friends (91%), which is an important indicator of integration and of the establishing of diverse sociability spaces.



Sport is an important tool in integrating refugees into the Brazilian society, allowing harmonious coexistence with the local population.

©UNHCR / Luiz Fernando Godinho

The social ties established by friendships allow us understand, even if only partially, the expressive number of 373 refugees (76.6% of 487) who participate in social activities with Brazilians, demonstrating insertion in social spaces that permeates beyond their family and national circles. Nevertheless, 114 interviewees (23.4%) remain limited to their home and/or domestic environments (or without participating in any activity), demonstrating that there is still a long way to go in terms of integration for a significant part of the refugees currently settled in Brazil.

In relation to Brazilian culture, Brazilian music is known by 88% of our sample, while soap operas and movies are known by 58% and 54%, respectively, of the refugees interviewed. Followed by books and theater known by 35% and 27% of our sample. While music, soap operas and movies are quite accessible and cheap cultural products - through network television and radios, etc. - the interest in literature and theatre, which are the most difficult cultural manifestations due to the price of the tickets, draws attention.

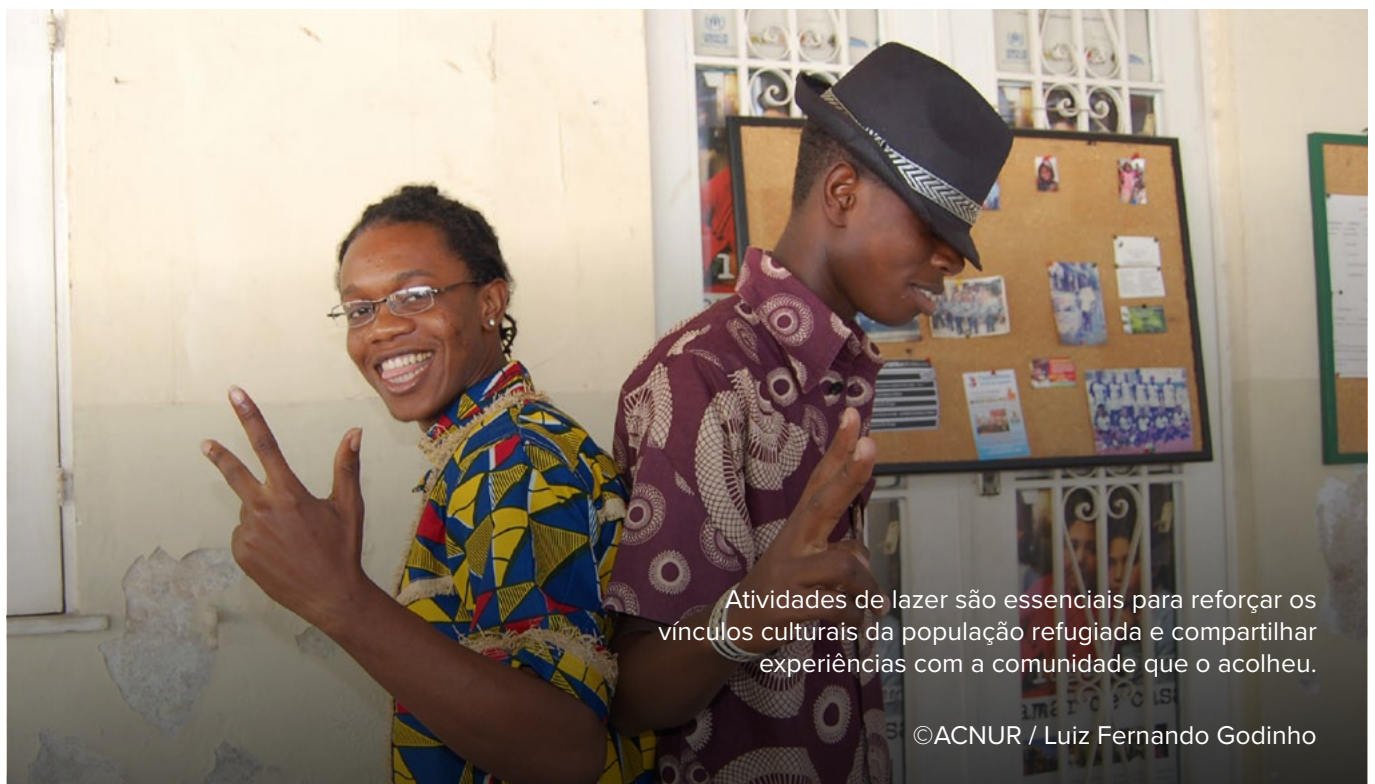
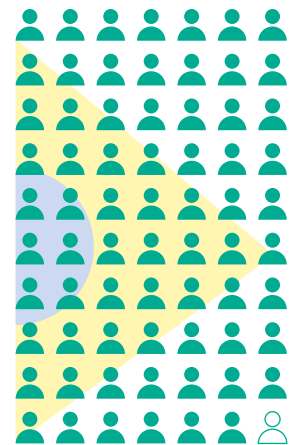
Political integration and Citizenship

Among the 474 refugees who answered this question, a group of 382 refugees (80.6%) revealed the desire to vote in Brazilian political elections and only a minority (92 or 19.4%) did not express an interest in voting. When asked about the desire to be voted on for political positions in Brazil, the majority (280 or 60%) was in favor, which is surprising because this topic is not present in the national debates and also because it may be revealing knowledge of the Brazilian political

system, of the duties of the elected persons and, finally, the possibility of occupying (having a career in) political representation positions. When asked about the interest in obtaining Brazilian nationality, the **vast majority of 484 interviewees (466 or 96.3%) expressed such interest.** Here we see an immense integrative potential which, combined with the interest in political participation, indicates confidence in the definitive integration to Brazilian society.

96,3%

are interested in obtaining Brazilian nationality



Atividades de lazer são essenciais para reforçar os vínculos culturais da população refugiada e compartilhar experiências com a comunidade que o acolheu.

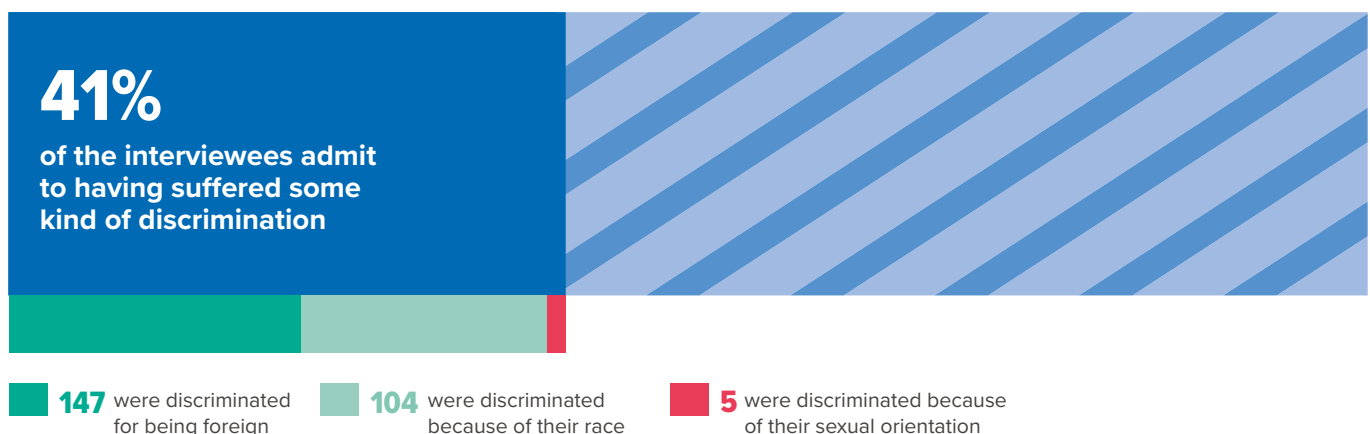
Obstacles to Integration and Future Prospects

Just over half of the interviewed refugees (53.6%) had some prior knowledge concerning Brazil before having migrated against 46.4% who said they had no knowledge. However, the vast majority (87.2%) asked for refuge only in Brazil. On the other hand, less than half of the refugees interviewed admitted that they have **suffered some kind of discrimination (200 or 41%)**. Among the 200 who were discriminated against, being a foreigner was the most mentioned reason for 147 (73.5% of 200). Being black (racism) appears in second place (104 or 52%). As we have seen, the Congolese, the second largest group of refugees in Brazil, are mostly black. Therefore, it is possible to say that this national group is the one that suffers the most obstacles to integrative processes. Finally, 5 refugees (12.5% of this group) who have suffered discrimination link the discriminatory act to their sexual orientation, thus constituting the advanced vulnerability framework of this part of the refugee population.

Among the 200 interviewees who admitted to having suffered discrimination, only one of them did not indicate the author of the act. That said, “Brazilian citizens” (i.e., ordinary people) were pointed out as the main agents of acts of discrimination. It is assumed, therefore, that these acts occur in everyday situations, eventually in the workplace and/or public spaces. Discrimination as a whole is an obstacle to integrative processes. However, the number of 28 police authorities and 34 public employees pointed as authors of acts of discrimination cannot be considered small (14% and 17% respectively) since they are, in theory, the people who are best equipped to welcome and defend refugees.

The future prospects of the refugees were measured through some hypothetical attitudes, such as a new request for refuge and the desire to stay in the country and bring their family. 355 among the 456 refugees interviewed (84%) said they would make a new request for refuge even after knowing the Brazilian reality. We have here an expressive number of people who are invested in their living in the country, although this fact makes it impossible for us to question the reasons for the refusal to re-seek refuge in Brazil declared by 101 other refugees (15.77%). When asked about the desire to permanently stay in Brazil, we obtained a higher percentage. 374 of the interviewees (84% out of 444 respondents) said yes, possibly indicating confidence in their future prospects in the country. In short, the request for refuge and the desire to stay in Brazil after having acquired knowledge of the Brazilian reality indicate great integrative potential and high hopes for their future lives in the country.

The commitment to the success of their stay in the country is finally evidenced by another indicator: the desire to bring their family members through family reunification processes. Among the 462 interviewees, 265 (57%) answered affirmatively. Considering that 192 refugees interviewed (40%) made the trip to Brazil together with their families, it is possible to say that almost all others want to bring their family members.



Final Words

All indicators analyzed reinforce each other and demonstrate that, in spite of the difficulties related to employment, recognition of diplomas and incomes or wages considered insufficient, the refugees believe in their capacity for adaptation and social ascent in the country, both of which are projects they wish to build in their family environments. In summary, Brazil is currently considered as a difficult but definitive option for the refugee population interviewed.



Access the complete study at our web page: www.acnur.org.br

Considering the reality analyzed, there is a discussion about the elements of public policy that can be implemented. The implementing of an updated National Registry and the creation of media tools (e-mail, WhatsApp, etc.) to enable the various agencies concerned to follow the lives of the refugees as closely as possible and to listen to their demands are considered as initial steps. Among the refugees' demands, one of the most important ones is family reunification. Additionally, the implementing of a registry of all institutions (religious, education, organizations, etc.) that engage in some kind of activity with migrants and refugees, will contribute to the organization and empowerment of already existent actions geared towards refugees and carried out by various civil society entities, NGOs, religious institutions and universities.

Finally, we believe that refugees want to be recognized in their situation, but not necessarily exposed. Their privacy is an element of their security. Therefore, dealing with refugees is contributing, but not supervising or tutoring; it is empowering and not necessarily steering. It is allowing them to rebuild their lives in whichever way they choose.

This study was coordinated by the following professors:

National Team

Márcio de Oliveira
National Coordinator

Antônio Tadeu de Oliveira
Leonardo Cavalcanti
Marley Vanice Deschamps

Rio Grande do Sul Team

Verônica Korber Gonçalves
Coordinator

Santa Catarina Team

Gláucia de Oliveira Assis
Coordinator

Paraná Team

Tatyana Scheila Friedrich
Coordinator

São Paulo Team

Rosana Baeninger
Coordinator

Rio de Janeiro Team

Charles P. Gomes
Coordinator

Distrito Federal Team

Lúcia Barbosa
Coordinator

Minas Gerais Team

Duval Fernandes
Coordinator

Maria da Consolação
Gomes de Castro

Amazonas Team

Sidnei Antônio Silva
Coordinator

Keeping refugee families together contributes to their emotional balance and collaborates with their integration into a new society.

©UNHCR / Luiz Fernando Godinho





🐦 @ACNURBrasil
📘 /ACNURPortugues
📷 @acnurbrasil
🏢 company/ACNURPortugues
acnur.org.br

#WithRefugees

