

UNHCR IN RORAIMA



INDIGENOUS INTEGRATION, AUTONOMY AND LEADERSHIP



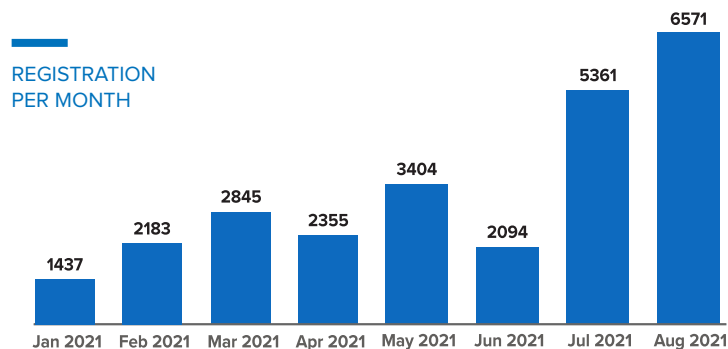
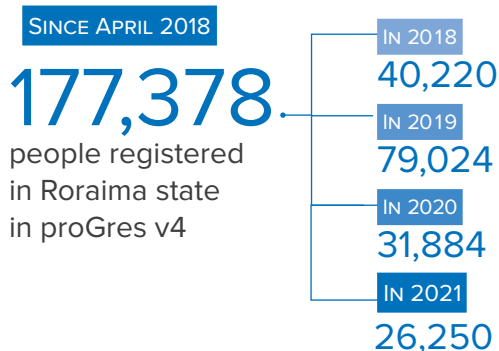
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Indigenous refugees face the triple burden of discrimination, because of their forced displacement from the country of origin, greater difficulties to access sustainable livelihoods and the social stigma of their indigenous identity. UNHCR believes that the key to reverse this situation is supporting processes of empowerment of indigenous people, who can become the leaders of tomorrow. Guided by these ideas, UNHCR, the Insikiran Institute (Federal University of Roraima) and Fraternidade - Federação Humanitária Internacional (FFHI) devised a highly successful leadership capacity building programme, the Círculos de Diálogo Makunaimî.

In August, 60 Venezuelan indigenous refugees from different ethnicities finalized the first phase of the initiative. The project was initiated in November 2020, and is part of UNHCR's community-based protection strategy, as an effort to support indigenous communities to better articulate their demands for local integration opportunities and propose their own solutions to identified challenges. Through meetings with community leaders, participants had the opportunity to discuss, exchange and learn relevant knowledge for indigenous communities, including international law and human rights, with focus on the rights of the indigenous people. While acquiring valuable information, the project allows the groups to play a stronger and more active role in their own integration pathways in Brazil. In the second phase, the Círculos Makunaimî is going to support the development of an organization for representing Venezuelan indigenous people in Brazil.

PROTECTION AND LOCAL INTEGRATION

MONITORING OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION



UNHCR AND SENAC RENEWED PARTNERSHIP TO FACILITATE REFUGEE INTEGRATION

The access to vocational courses and labor market opportunities contribute to the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants. On 31 August, UNHCR and the National Service for Commercial Training (SENAC) of Roraima renewed a Cooperation Agreement, which was firstly signed in 2018, to promote the offer of training opportunities as well as the dissemination of job vacancies, enabling refugee integration while also contributing to reinforce the productive sector in Roraima. Besides the professional qualification courses and Portuguese classes, refugee and migrants will have direct access to job opportunities. Through strong partnerships, UNHCR has sensibilized and engaged the local and national private sector, giving opportunities to vulnerable Venezuelans to reshape their futures. Read more [here](#).

OPENING OF THE RONDON 4 SHELTER

On 2 July, UNHCR, in coordination with the Operation Welcome Humanitarian-Logistical Task Force, and Associação Voluntários Para o Serviço Internacional – Brasil (AVSI), opened the Rondon 4 Shelter in Boa Vista. At the opening, Rondon 4 received 200 people from BV8 Transit Shelter in Pacaraima. The initiative is part of Operation Welcome's Contingency Plan, intended to increase the shelter capacity in Roraima to provide better support to Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Click [here](#) to access more information about the profile of people living in the shelters of Roraima.



A STRATEGY FOR EXIT TO REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN SHELTERS

In August, UNHCR, in partnership with Serviço Jesuíta a Migrantes e Refugiados (SJMR), AVSI, and Fraternidade Sem Fronteiras (FSF) promoted the first class of the Novo Caminhar project, with 20 participating families. Novo Caminhar focuses on building capacity of families living in shelters of Roraima to reach self-reliance and local integration. In the project, the Venezuelan families are trained on different themes, such as Financial Education, Cultural Adaptation, Labor Market, and information regarding public healthcare and the social protection network. Participants will then be monitored and supported with financial assistance through multi-purpose grants for the first 3 months, to meet their initial needs following their transition out of shelters.



INTEGRATION OF YOUNG REFUGEES THROUGH BOOKS

Books are powerful tools to building bridges among people from different languages and cultures. Aiming to support the integration of children and young refugees living in shelters of Boa Vista, the JOCA newspaper and the Hands on Human Rights NGO, with the support of UNHCR, AVSI and FSF launched, in July, the first steps of the "Mi Casa Su Casa" project. Two community libraries were launched in the São Vicente 2 and Rondon 1 shelters, having a book collection that includes juvenile, young, and adult literature. The libraries were made with books donated by Brazilian children and youth from many different regions, who also exchanged letters with Venezuelan girls and boys.



LIVELIHOODS

6TH EDITION OF THE “EMPODERANDO REFUGIADAS” GRADUATION CEREMONY

“Empoderando Refugiadas”, is the result of a partnership between UNHCR, UN Global Compact Brazil and UN Women. The 6th edition of this project for refugee socioeconomic integration resulted in the graduation of the 1st group of participants this year, composed of women from the Rondon 2 shelter. “Empoderando Refugiadas” provides training on customer services and sales offered in partnership with Serviço Nacional de Aprendizagem Comercial (SENAC) Roraima and AVSI. If successful, the women can be relocated to work in other states of Brazil or integrated in the local job market. Participants relocated to different states in Brazil receive financial support and housing for the first 3 months. At the end of July 2021, a new group of 20 women started the training phase of this project. Two more groups, totaling 40 women are expected to be trained until the end of 2021.



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VALUING INDIGENOUS HANDICRAFT

In August, UNHCR in partnership with FFHI, SJMR, and Museu A Casa do Objeto Brasileiro conducted a workshop on pricing, entrepreneurship, and financial education to the indigenous artisans from the Tancredo Neves and Nova Canaã shelters. The 40 female participants learned how to price their handicraft work in accordance with their type, size, materials used, and amount of work invested. The workshop was an important step for not only providing ways to valuing the indigenous culture, but also supporting self-reliance of the persons of concern in the longer-term by strengthening livelihood opportunities.



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CAPACITY-BUILDING

PROGRES V4 AND GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION TOOL TRAINING

UNHCR conducted a training focused on updating information on the legal status, verification, referrals, filters, specific needs, and data quality checks in proGres V4, following the new Registration Standard Operating Procedures, with the participation of 20 staff from AVSI, FFHI, and FSF. In this training, partners discussed the use of shelter master lists, continuous registration, Global Distribution Tool, as well as made suggestions and indicated operational difficulties identified. This dialogue with partners will allow continuous improvements throughout the second semester of 2021.

CBI TRAINING FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

In July, the UNHCR Livelihoods Unit conducted a training session on Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) to the SJMR staff. The training was attended by 7 participants and covered topics including how CBIs can work as a protection intervention and registering assistance distribution in proGres V4 (UNHCR's registration and case management system). The CBI strategy is planned to be used by SJMR to support identified cases of vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants in reducing protection risks faced, as well as in other ongoing projects, such as the Novo Caminhar.

COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

LAUNCH OF THE SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL BOOKLET

With the support of UNHCR, the State of Roraima launched, in July 2021, a bilingual booklet (Portuguese and Spanish) focused on the conscientious and sustainable use of the water. The booklet content focuses on raising awareness on local socio-environmental protection and providing information for host and Venezuelan communities. The printed material will be distributed in state public schools and in the Operation Welcome reception centers with libraries. An [online version](#) is also available in the Secretariat of State’s virtual library of Education.



FIELD UNIT - PACARAIMA

SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Through partnership with Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa), UNHCR delivered solutions for food security and livelihoods to Brazilian and Venezuelan indigenous population. The Sisteminha, an integrated technology for sustainable food production created by Embrapa and the Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU), was implemented in the indigenous community of Tarau Parú (close to the Brazilian border with Venezuela), which has supported many indigenous refugees and migrants from the Pemón-Taurepang ethnicity. With the project, indigenous communities receive technical assistance for pisciculture or agriculture activities according to their local demands, such as vegetable gardens and small-scale poultry production.



Sisteminha will promote food security and has the potential to play a key role on income generation and integration of Venezuelan indigenous into the local community. You can find more details on this initiative [here](#).



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