

# UNHCR Brazil - Livelihoods

July – August – September 2020



Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, UNHCR Brazil's livelihoods actions have been adjusted to mitigate socioeconomic impacts on the refugee population and people supported by UNHCR Brazil, especially supporting them to access the social support offered to the population in Brazil\*, in addition to modalities that can benefit these populations in the access to services, maintaining the measures to prevent Covid-19.

UNHCR livelihoods actions are implemented directly or through a network of implementing partners spread throughout the country, as well as through partnerships with Federal, State and Municipal Governments, with civil society organizations, other UN agencies, with organizations working in development programs and with private companies.

This is the first quarterly newsletter of the UNHCR Livelihoods Unit in Brazil. In this edition, you will see the main activities that the agency, together with its implementing partners, has carried out during the months of July, August and September in the areas of employability, education, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, peaceful coexistence and content production. Enjoy your reading!

UNHCR, with IOM, UN Women, UNICEF and the Ministry of Citizenship, has developed informative materials on the access of refugees and migrants to the emergency financial assistance provided by the Federal Government. See more here: [help.unhcr.org/brazil/coronavirus-auxilio-financeiro-emergencial/](https://help.unhcr.org/brazil/coronavirus-auxilio-financeiro-emergencial/)

## Employment



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### EMPOWERING REFUGEE WOMEN (EMPODERANDO REFUGIADAS) 4TH EDITION CLOSING CEREMONY AND THE LAUNCH OF THE 5TH EDITION

On June 17th, UNHCR Brazil, UN Global Compact Network Brazil and UN Women promoted a celebration webinar to mark the conclusion of the 4th edition of the project. Based in Sao Paulo, in 2019, the project has expanded its livelihoods activities to Roraima and was able to reach 80 women in total, considering both cities. Through the pilot initiative in Boa Vista, 100% of participants, 20 Venezuelan women living in UNHCR interiorization shelters, were hired by the clothing company Lojas Renner. As all participants and their families were able to relocate to other cities of Brazil, the project has impacted over 70 PoC. It is important to note that 2019's edition had also enforced the further inclusion of LGBTI persons, and both Boa Vista and Sao Paulo groups had transgender women among the beneficiaries. The closing ceremony was attended by over 70 participants, mainly members of private companies. At the event, the UN agencies also announced the start of the new edition of the project in September 2020.

#### New partnership to promote employability of refugees

UNHCR signed a MOU with the technology company Levee and Aldeias Infantis SOS with the aim to promote the employability of refugees. The agreement was announced during the webinar *Professional relocation in times of COVID-19*, on August 20th, organized by UNHCR. The commitment stipulates the incorporation of labor profiles of refugees and migrants in the strategy of qualification and selection of job vacancies promoted by Levee. The webinar was attended by 50 people, representatives from civil society organizations that promote the labor inclusion of refugees.

#### Protect Work Campaign

UNHCR, ILO, IOM the Subsecretariat for Labor Inspection (Ministry of Economy - Special Secretariat for Social Security and Labor) launched the campaign [Proteja o Trabalho](#) (Protect Work) which objective is to provide information to Brazilian workers, migrants and refugees, as well as employers, on the measures adopted by the federal government to confront Covid-19. Five informative booklets are available to download in the website of the campaign in Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. Two lives were organized reaching more than 550 people directly. The videos of the recordings were viewed by more than 3,5 thousand people. The materials are available at the [campaign's website](#).

#### Companies with Refugees (Empresas com Refugiados) Platform Updates

UNHCR, Global Compact and Tent are promoting joint webinars with the objective to engage the private sector in contributing to the refugees' integration in the country. Companies that participated so far include Sodexo, Mattos Filho, Lider Interiores, We Work. The webinars recordings are available [here](#). Moreover, new good practices were added to the platform: [TemBici](#), [Sodexo](#) and [Renner](#). So far, 25 companies shared their practices in the Platform. The actions of the listed companies have already benefited over 5,500 people.

#### Including young refugees in the labour market

On September 29th, CIEE promoted the online session "Acolhida" with young refugees and migrants, with the support of UNHCR and IMDH. 8 PoC participated in the session and learned about the CIEE's online courses that are available free of charge and also received guidance on apprenticeship and internship opportunities.

#### Breakfast talking session for transgender PoCs formally hired by a company in Boa Vista

Two Venezuelan trans women have secured their first formal job contract, and to support their transition to this new life, UNHCR and SJMR conducted an informative session about labour rights, financial planning, culture of the labour market environment in Brazil, and other relevant topics.

#### What the Social investment can for migration and refugees?

On July 8th, GIFE (Grupo de Institutos Fundações e Empresas) launched the report ["What the Social investment can for migration and refugees"](#). The report is an outcome of a collaboration among GIFE, UNHCR Brazil, Laudes Foundation and Conectas Direitos Humanos and aims to strengthen and inform the engagement of social investors to the cause in the country.





## SUPPORT FOR FISHING FOR WARAO INDIGENOUS VENEZUELANES

Throughout September, UNHCR worked with the Warao indigenous community in Curuçambá, Ananindeua, in the metropolitan region of Belém, to purchase boats and fishing equipment. The support aims to meet basic nutritional needs of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic and to engage the community in fishing support programs in the future, aiming at sustainable livelihoods. The initiative responds to the demand of the Warao population to use fishing for livelihoods and the community participated actively in the process of purchasing boats and equipment. With the delivery of boats and supplies scheduled for November and December, 13 fishermen and a total of 92 Warao indigenous people from the community will benefit from UNHCR support.

### 33 indigenous Venezuelans supported through Exit Strategy from Shelters in Manaus

In partnership with the Municipal Secretary of Women, Social Assistance and Citizenship (SEMASC), Cáritas Manaus and Labour's Prosecutors Office (MPT), UNHCR has carried the pilot of the first exit strategy from shelters focused on indigenous Warao. In the initial phase, five families were supported with three months of housing assistance by Cáritas and donation of exit kit including kitchen items, stove, gas canister, mattresses and hammocks according to the family composition. Furthermore, after the three months of housing assistance, one member of each family was inserted in the Passport for Citizenship Project, receiving a cash-based

support between 50% to 70% of the minimum wage through four hours of daily support to social assistance services. Following the closure of the pilot phase of the project, involved actors produced a joint report and evaluation process, demonstrating positive outcomes, where the five families (33 PoCs in total) are accessing the protected network and the formal and informal labour market. As a result, the actors agreed to continue and expand the project, developing a Cooperation Agreement to strengthen the common strategy. UNHCR will continue to lead the strategy with SEMASC, Cáritas Manaus and MPT, enhancing and expanding the synergies between government and civil society actors.



## Entrepreneurship

### Entrepreneurial training and accompanying for refugees

In partnership with the Jesuit Service Office in Manaus, six Venezuelans completed a training in business management with a focus on micro-business initiatives. Each graduate received initiation kits to boost their businesses, which are in the areas of beauty and food. The training was conducted in a pioneering collaboration between the Jesuit Service Office in

Manaus and the Besouro Agency, an NGO specializing in business training in São Paulo and supported by UNHCR. To complete the business course, the entrepreneurs presented a business plan and are being followed up by the SJMR locally and by the Besouro Agency remotely in the implementation of the business plan.



## Financial Inclusion

### Providing financial education to refugees

Brazilian Central Bank, in partnership with UNHCR, CONARE and IOM, offered "Train the Trainer" online courses in Financial Education targeting governmental actors and staff from civil society organizations that directly serve refugees and migrants, as well as leaders from these communities. The objective was to train institutions based in different regions in Brazil that will commit to offer the financial education course to refugees and migrants as part of their activities. The three editions of the training reached 60 individuals.

### Financial Inclusion for Artisans

On July 9, 26 artisans who live at Pintolândia shelter received bank cards from UNHCR to provide them with access to individual bank accounts, as part of UNHCR endeavors to promote livelihoods for indigenous refugees and migrants. During distribution, UNHCR carried out a training session on the use of the accounts and supported the artisans unblocking the cards. The artisans will use the accounts for financial transactions regarding the sale of their handcrafts. The cards were provided as a result of a partnership between UNHCR and Social Bank.

### Engaging financial institutions in refugees' financial inclusion

UNHCR supported IFC in the development of a booklet about the access of refugees and migrants to financial services in Brazil with the objective to engage banks and other institutions in providing refugees' financial inclusion. The booklet was presented in a meeting with FEBRABAN (Brazilian Federation of Banks) on July 7th and is [available here](#)



## Education (Vocational training and Portuguese)

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### MULTIPLE TRAININGS FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN MANAUS, WITH CETAM

In September 2020, vocational and entrepreneurial training courses provided in partnership with the Centre for Technological Education of Amazonas (CETAM) resumed after the interruption due to the COVID-19 crisis. Courses' materials are provided by UNHCR in partnership with its partners ADRA, Jesuit Service for Refugee and Migrants (SJMR) and Cáritas Manaus. Courses of Portuguese for foreigners and Administrative Assistant vocational courses started on September 8 at the CARE, while Cáritas hosted vocational courses of security agent and cashier. All courses are being carried out in compliance with security measures to prevent the spreading of COVID-19. A total of 117 refugees and migrants are taking the courses

#### Administrative Techniques for Young Apprentices

As one of the initiatives foreseen in UNHCR's PPA with SJMR, SENAC was hired to conduct a one-month online course for 22 young Venezuelans living in Boa Vista on Administrative Techniques for Young Apprentices. Following an articulation made by UNHCR between AVSI and TOTI (an online platform for IT training), two refugees and migrants sheltered in Boa Vista were included in a two-months online computer programming course, as a pilot initiative to assess the suitability of TOTI's methodology to the local context.

#### MoU signed with Fluency Academy language school

On September 30, UNHCR signed a MOU with Fluency Academy, a language teaching institution based in Curitiba. The purpose of the partnership is to develop and offer free online Portuguese classes for 5,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, providing PoCs with a fundamental tool for achieving sustainable livelihoods opportunities in the country. The course is being developed and is expected to be launched between December 2020 and January 2021.

#### Portuguese learning opportunity for over 500 sheltered PoCs in Boa Vista

Following UNHCR institutional liaison during the last three months, all shelters were equipped with livelihoods rooms, where SENAC conducted a two-months long Portuguese course, in partnership with AVSI and World Vision. The classes took place in all shelters of Boa Vista, Espaço Emergencial 13 de Setembro and a few spontaneous occupations, every week from Monday to Friday, 2 hours a day, with morning and afternoon classes, accounting for 80 hours of class in total. [See more here.](#)

### DIGITAL INCLUSION

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, UNHCR has been providing cash assistance to refugees with the objective to foster digital inclusion and facilitate the access to online education.



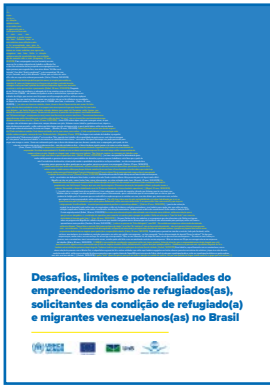
## Research and Content Development

#### Socioeconomic Integration of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and the Interiorization Strategy

UNHCR, with support of European Union and the Ministry of Citizenship, promoted the webinar Socioeconomic Integration of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and the Interiorization Strategy. The webinar was attended by 130 people and presented the main results of the Study on socioeconomic integration of interiorized Venezuelans conducted by NGO Reach. The webinar also presented the document: [“Venezuelans in Brazil: integration with labour market and access to social safety nets”](#), produced by UNHCR.

#### Insertion of refugees and migrants in the green economy

UNHCR launched the research: [Green Jobs: labor-market insertion of refugees and migrants in the green economy in Brazil](#). The objective of the publication was to expand work opportunities for refugees and migrants in Brazil, in addition to indicating possible paths for entrepreneurship in the context of the country's green economy. The study was produced by the consulting company Mandalah and it was presented in a [webinar](#), on September 16th, that had the support of UNEP and Mandalah.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

The research [Entrepreneurship of Venezuelan Refugees, Refugee Seekers and Migrants in Brazil](#) was released on September 23rd, in a [webinar](#) that had the support of the European Union and Universidade de Brasília. The study analyzed the process of displacement of this population to Brazil and its consequences for business development in the country, mapping the businesses, as well as obstacles and factors that facilitated or hindered their viability. Qualitative interviews were conducted throughout 2019, concentrated in the cities of Boa Vista (RR) and São Paulo (SP). The webinar had the participation of 120 people. [See the report here.](#)

## Peaceful Coexistence

### COVID-19 Prevention

Cards on the new fine of Boa Vista Municipality regulating the use of facemasks were distributed by UNHCR and partners through WhatsApp messages and, in collaboration with SJMR, reached out to a total of 6,555 Venezuelans with the support of outreach volunteers. Posters were also displayed in ten shelters and one Emergency Site, and information sessions were conducted during food distribution, reaching out approximately 5,170 refugees and migrants. Furthermore, this population has been targeted with facemask distribution initiatives, both in shelters and spontaneous settlements, and Municipality announced they will be creating distribution spots across the city.

### Supporting families in Boa Vista and Pacaraima

IMDH, with the support of donors, proposed the Angel Gabriel Project and developed it, starting to provide a kit for children aged 6 months to 3 years, with nutrition and hygiene items. Currently, about 200 families are supported weekly in Pacaraima and Boa Vista. In addition to these, duly registered, another 250 kits are delivered to institutions that distribute them according to the emergency needs of families in situations of high vulnerability. The project also offers an orientation service to mothers about nutrition.



## DISTRIBUTION OF CLOTH MASKS TO VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

**350 CLOTH MASKS** have been delivered by Masks Production Project “Prevenção Sem Fronteiras” to Venezuelan refugees and migrants living in two different spontaneous settlements in Boa Vista: *Aprisco* and *Posto Equador*. The project has trained 10 Venezuelan and Brazilian seamstresses to voluntarily produce over seven thousand masks to be donated for vulnerable populations from both the displaced and the host communities.

**200 FACE MASKS** have been donated by UNHCR in coordination with SJMR to ATTERR (*Associação de Trans e Travestis do Estado de Roraima*). ATTERR has a local project of supporting 300 LGBT+ persons in vulnerable situation, both from local and refugee communities. One of the main goals of this project is the identification of specific needs among this population, and how the pandemic affected their lives. The donation of masks will directly benefit more than 150 PoCs.

**Almost 900 CLOTH MASKS** have been delivered by an initiative implemented by UNHCR and SJMR to PoCs living in four different spontaneous settlements in Boa Vista, for supporting prevention measures against Covid-19.



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UNHCR's private sector donors:



UNHCR Brazil is also thankful for the important support of and partnerships with other UN agencies, Brazilian authorities (at federal, state and municipal levels) and civil society organizations working together to deliver the emergency response and in the regular programmes of the Brazilian operation.