

UNHCR IN SAO PAULO



The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) works in partnership with organizations and different spheres of the public, private, civil society and academia to build and consolidate public policies and projects that promote the integration of refugees and asylum seekers. Operating in the Southeast and South of Brazil, as well as in the state of Bahia, the UNHCR office in São Paulo (FOSP) works aligned with its partners to:

- 1 Guarantee protection for refugees and asylum seekers, considering the needs of specific groups, such as pregnant women, women survivors of violence, indigenous groups, LGBTI population, elderly population, and children;
- 2 Support the socioeconomic integration of refugees and asylum seekers as a way to ensure their self-sufficiency and autonomy;
- 3 Articulate actions with different institutions in favor of refugees and asylum seekers, providing training to the public and private sectors, promoting strategic partnerships and contributing to public policies;
- 4 Strengthen local networks to promote effective access to rights, local integration and inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres, while also supporting the voluntary relocation of Venezuelans in the region covered by the office.

IMPACTS OF THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 2021

Donations made by UNHCR to nine municipalities, totaling more than **BRL 700,000.00 invested and hundreds trained local civil servants**;

Permanent monitoring of seven Working Groups aimed to foster the integration of Venezuelan indigenous refugees and migrants, directly impacting the lives of **267 indigenous people**;

More than 400 university vacancies were offered to refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations through facilitated admission processes, promoting their continuous academic career;

More than 1,000 people visited the “Refugiados Jornalistas” (Refugee Journalists) exhibition only in February, with training on the topic of humanitarian journalistic coverage for 307 professionals and students of communication;

89 trained professionals from the Regional Superintendence of Caixa Econômica Federal (Public National Bank), as well as civil servants of the public social assistance network of Minas Gerais state.



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INAUGURATION OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANTS SERVICE CENTER FROM JESUIT SERVICE FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (SJMR) IN PORTO ALEGRE (RS)

Inaugurated on January 22, with support and funding from UNHCR among other institutions, the SJMR Center offers specialized humanitarian assistance and the provision of various services free of charge to refugees and migrants in Porto

Alegre and other municipalities in the state. The Center's main areas of activity include: Reception and Protection, Psychosocial Care, Legal Assistance, Advocacy and Socioeconomic and Community Integration.



Cláudia Carletto, Secretary of Human Rights and Citizenship of São Paulo city and Jose Egas, UNHCR Representative, sign the donation term at CRAI-SP.

Photos: © UNHCR/ Miguel Pachioni



SUPPORT FOR LOCAL NETWORKS AND HOST COMMUNITIES FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

On February 23rd, UNHCR formalized the donation of equipment and furniture to the City of São Paulo aimed at strengthening the Municipal Policy for the Immigrant Population. The donations contributed to the itinerant service of the Reference and Assistance Center for Immigrants (CRAI) and four Reception Centers for refugees and migrants that offer 572 specialized shelter spaces for this population. UNHCR also concluded donations to eight other municipalities in the South and Southeast (Guarulhos, Campinas, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro, Nova Iguaçu, Caxias, Cachoeirinha and Esteio), totaling BRL 701,185.60 in equipment and furniture to social assistance services. Donations include trainings for civil servants (about 200 were trained only in Belo Horizonte/MG) and the development of management tools and specialized service protocols.



EMPOWERING REFUGEE WOMEN PROJECT CONSOLIDATES THE RELOCATION OF WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

On February 25th, another group of women participating in the 5th edition of the Empowering Refugee Women project arrived in São Paulo. The project promotes professional training, voluntary relocation and insertion into the labor market of refugees and migrants sheltered in Boa Vista (RR). Nine women were relocated with their families, with job opportunities offered by Shopping Iguatemi, one of the project’s partner companies. These women are part of a special class supported by the project, which is mainly composed of women with disabilities and chronic illnesses, as well as mothers of children with disabilities.

The Empowering Refugee Women project is a joint initiative of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Brazil Network of the UN Global Compact and UN Women, also supported by civil society organizations such as AVSI Brazil, Aldeias Infantis SOS and Turma do Jiló. In its 5th edition, 62 women completed professional training and more than 50% are already employed. 110 people altogether, among hired women and their family members, were relocated to the cities of São Paulo (SP), Rio de Janeiro (RJ), São José (SC), Porto Alegre (RS) and Natal (RN). In addition to Shopping Iguatemi, the following companies also support the 5th edition of Empowering Refugee Women: Lojas Renner, Unidas, Facebook, Uber, MRV, Sodexo and Drogaria São Paulo.



Carmen Sanchez, 50, was one of the women hired to work as a baby changing attendant at Shopping Iguatemi, in São Paulo. Carmen says that “on the first day of work, I was afraid of not knowing the way in this new city, but I got through and managed to do the entire journey alone! In the future, I want to have a home with my children by my side.”

Photos: ©Iguatemi/Bárbara Ferreira

RENEWAL OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO GUARANTEE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL GUARULHOS AIRPORT

On February 19, UNHCR São Paulo promoted the renewal ceremony of the Cooperation Agreement which promotes the identification and support to unadmitted refugees and migrants who are in need of international protection at Guarulhos International Airport (GRU). The event was attended by authorities from UNHCR, the Federal Public Ministry, the National Secretariat of Justice of the Ministry of Justice, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the Secretariat of Development and Social Assistance of the Municipality of Guarulhos, Federal Police, and NGOs partners - Missão Paz and Caritas São Paulo - all members of the Working Group foreseen in the Agreement. UNHCR works in the coordination of the activities of the Working Group since 2014 and will continue to support the replication of this good practice in other international airports across the country.



Photos: ©UNHCR/Silvia Sander

LAUNCH OF THE “REFUGEE JOURNALISTS” EXHIBITION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FOLHA DE SÃO PAULO NEWSPAPER AND THE IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

As part of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNHCR and the 100th anniversary of Folha de São Paulo (the most widely circulated newspaper in the country), the exhibition “Who tells this story – Journalists Refugee or Refugee Journalists?” was launched on February 3rd. Launched at the Museum of Immigration, an UNHCR operational partner, 1009 people visited the exhibition in February. The multimedia exhibition portrays the stories of four journalists who sought international protection in Brazil after leaving Venezuela, Democratic Republic of Congo, Turkey and Syria for exercising their professions. In order to clarify the motivations for political persecution and positively influence media coverage on the topic of refugees, the “UNHCR Guide to Humanitarian Journalistic Coverage” was launched in a workshop for 307 journalism and communication students.



Photos: ©UNHCR-Folha/Adriano Vizoni

UNHCR AND SANTOS FC EXTEND PARTNERSHIP THROUGHOUT 2021

UNHCR Brazil and Santos Football Club renewed their partnership aiming to promote sport as a tool for the inclusion of refugees in Brazil for a further year. With the signing of the term in February, refugee children will have free access to the “Meninos da Vila” football schools and other sports and communication actions will be jointly implemented.

Santos FC President, Andres Rueda, and the UNHCR Representative in Brazil, Jose Egas, signed the partnership agreement at Vila Belmiro, Santos.



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UNIVERSITIES OF THE SÉRGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO CHAIR (CSVM) GUARANTEE SPECIAL ENTRY FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS

In close articulation with UNHCR São Paulo, the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) inaugurated, in January 2021, an easy entry system for 77 undergraduate places reserved for refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations. In this first edition, 107 refugees and migrants applied for 76 different courses. Also in January, the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP) received application in a similar system, reserving 1 vacancy of each course for refugees, stateless persons and migrants with a humanitarian visa. The Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM) maintains a permanent notice with up to 5% of the total number of places reserved to refugees and migrants in each course. In addition, Federal University of Espírito Santo (UFES), Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar) and Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) have also opened public notices with facilitated admission systems for the year 2021. Of the 27 universities affiliated with UNHCR, 15 universities have facilitated admission modalities for refugees through traditional selection processes, quota policies or specific entry systems for refugees.

UNIVERSITIES WHICH ARE PART OF CSVM

★ Universities with facilitated entry

| | |
|----|---|
| RS | ★ Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM) » Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) » Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS) |
| SC | » Universidade do Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI) » Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC) |
| PR | ★ Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR) |
| SP | ★ Universidade Católica de Santos (UNISANTOS) ★ Universidade Federal do ABC (UFABC) ★ Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (PUC-SP) ★ Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) ★ Universidade Federal de São Paulo (UNIFESP) ★ Universidade Federal de São Carlos (UFSCar) |
| RJ | ★ Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) » Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RJ) » Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) » (FCRB) Fundação Casa de Rui Barbosa |
| MG | ★ Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais (PUC-Minas) ★ Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) » Universidade Federal de Uberlândia (UFU) |
| ES | ★ Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES) ★ Universidade de Vila Velha (UVV) |
| BA | » Universidade Salvador (Unifacs) |
| DF | ★ Universidade de Brasília (UnB) |
| PB | ★ Universidade Estadual da Paraíba (UEPB) |
| MS | » Universidade Federal de Grande Dourados (UFGD) » Universidade Federal do Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS) |
| RR | » Universidade Federal de Roraima (UFRR) |

2020 RESULTS OF FOSP IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

In February, seven organizations implementing projects in support of refugees funded by UNHCR São Paulo took stock of their performance in 2020. The context of the Covid-19 pandemic presented new challenges for the organizations, which were successful in adapting their procedures and maintaining essential services in the areas of protection, reception, social assistance, linguistic and labor integration, financial assistance, revalidation of diplomas and support for children as complementary education. Here are the main results achieved by each organization:

Cáritas Arquidiocesana of São Paulo (CASP) – Refugee Reference Center: 6,865 people supported, 3,745 food baskets and hygiene kits distributed, 1,206 cash-based intervention (CBI) transfers made, 90 connectivity assistance grants delivered.

Cáritas Arquidiocesana of Rio de Janeiro (CARJ) – Refugee and Refugees Assistance Program: 3,552 people supported, 2,366 food baskets and hygiene kits distributed, 844 cash-based intervention (CBI) transfers made, 119 connectivity assistance grants delivered.

Cáritas Brasileira Regional Paraná (CAPR) – Refugee Reference Center: 1,158 people attended, 2,778 basic food baskets and hygiene kits distributed, 295 cash-based intervention (CBI) transfers made, 20 people welcomed at the Capão da Imbuia Home, managed by Caritas Arquidiocesana from Curitiba.

Jesuit Service for Migrants and Refugees in Belo Horizonte (Vila Alberto Hurtado and Casa do Migrante - Providens) – 47 Venezuelans relocated in October 2020 with financial support from UNHCR, including 57 cash-based intervention (CBI) transfers to 19 families.

Missão Paz – Labor Pillar of the Pastoral and Mediation Center for Migrants: 406 people enrolled in Portuguese courses, 330 people received intercultural training, 122 people hired.

Associação Compassiva – Program to Support the Revalidation of Diplomas and Portuguese Courses for Refugees: 125 new processes for revalidating registered diplomas, 27 diplomas revalidated, 5,291 basic food baskets delivered and 168 people enrolled in Portuguese courses.

I Know My Rights (IKMR) – Citizens of the World Program: 600 children supported by learning support and 23,381 meals made by refugee entrepreneurs and delivered to the vulnerable population of the city of São Paulo.

SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS WARAO IN THE SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST

On January 26, UNHCR São Paulo trained 74 employees of the Regional Superintendence of Caixa Econômica Federal (Public National Bank) in Belo Horizonte. In partnership with the Indigenous Committee of Minas Gerais and the Jesuit Service for Migrants and Refugees (SJMR), the training addressed the issue of forced displacement, migration and indigenous population (Warao and other ethnicities), resulting from a [recommendation issued by the DPU and the MPF](#) to respond to barriers of access to bank services by indigenous Warao. The demand stems from the multi-actor Working Group, created to support the protection and integration of Warao families in Belo Horizonte. On February 4, UNHCR also trained 15 employees from the Montes Claros public social assistance network, in partnership with IOM. The training addressed the Warao culture, challenges, guidelines and successful practices in assisting this population. Since November 2019, 267 indigenous Warao have been accompanied by UNHCR São Paulo through Working Groups in the cities of Belo Horizonte, Campinas/Hortolândia, Montes Claros, Nova Iguaçu/Japeri, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Uberlândia.

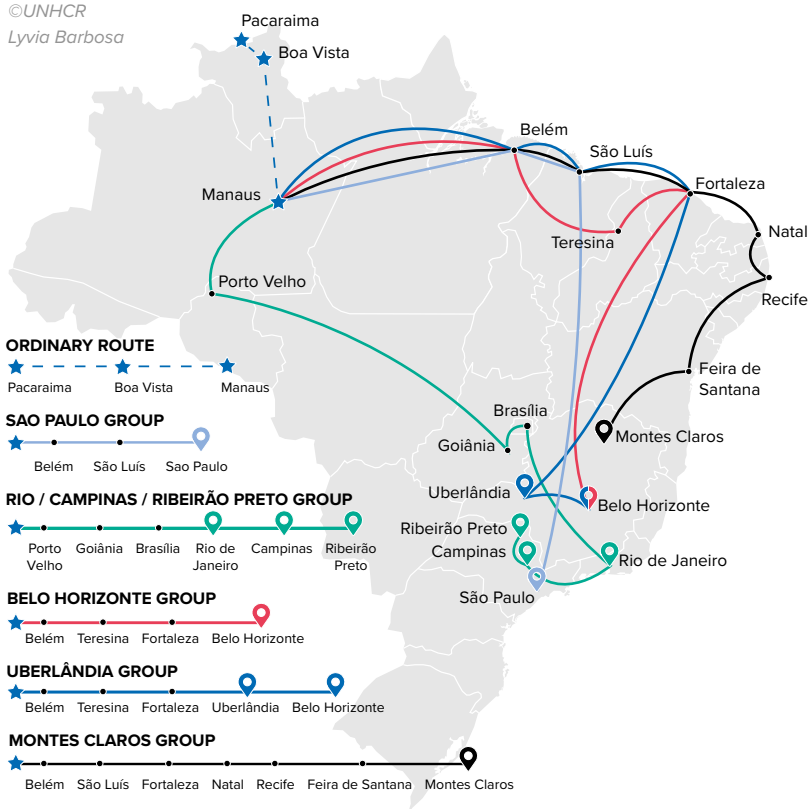


Peaceful coexistence - Warao women in a craft and entrepreneurship workshop with Ticuna indigenous in Belo Horizonte: support of SJMR and the Minas Gerais Indigenous Committee as a result of the Warao GT.

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TRAJECTORY OF WARAO INDIGENOUS POPULATION TO THE SOUTHEAST REGION

©UNHCR
Lyvia Barbosa



PROFILE OF THE WARAO INDIGENOUS POPULATION MONITORED BY UNHCR IN NINE MUNICIPALITIES

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Sex x Age

| Sex* | 0-4 | 5-11 | 12-17 | 18-35 | 36-59 | 60+ |
|----------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| ♂ Male | 29 | 32 | 15 | 32 | 18 | 2 |
| ♀ Female | 24 | 26 | 11 | 41 | 10 | 2 |

*25 pessoas have no information about sex and age

Family Composition

267 Persons 62 Families



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UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the support of private donors and:



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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.