

# UNHCR SÃO PAULO

\*Covering the southeast and south regions and the state of Bahia



## UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN BRAZIL VISITS INITIATIVES IN THE CITIES OF VITÓRIA (ES) AND FOZ DO IGUAÇU (PR)

In September 2021, UNHCR São Paulo accompanied the UNHCR Representative in Brazil, José Egas, on a visit to protective and local integration initiatives in the cities of Vitória (ES) and Foz do Iguaçu (PR).

In Vitória, the delegation met with members of the justice system, the Government of the state of Espírito Santo, the Legislative Power and the Dean of the Federal University of Espírito Santo (UFES). This was an opportunity to participate in the Extraordinary Session of the Human Rights and Citizenship Defense Commission of the state's Legislative Assembly, where the promulgation of a project implementing a state policy for the refugee and migrant population was discussed. The Representative visited a local Venezuelan community and coordinated UNHCR's collaboration with state Social Assistance and Human Rights Secretariats, which have been working with all municipalities in the state to strengthen the guarantee of rights to refugees and migrants.



Representative of UNHCR in Brazil, José Egas, during an extraordinary session of the Human Rights and Citizenship Defense Commission of the state's Legislative Assembly of the State of Espírito Santo.

© Legislative Assembly of the state of ES/Tonico

In Foz do Iguaçu, a cooperation agreement was signed between UNHCR, the Foz do Iguaçu City Hall, Caritas Regional Paraná, Casa do Migrante and members of the Municipal Committee for Migrants, Refugees and Stateless Persons for the surveying and promotion of municipal public policies for refugees and migrants. The delegation also visited the border points and the municipal reception centers, observing the good practices and workflows between the local Federal Police and civil society organizations for the issuing of documentation to this population.

## LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

UNHCR São Paulo has encouraged and supported the articulation of new local forums for debate, deliberation and governance related to the demands of refugees and migrants. New committees were created, and discussions were held in thematic councils.

### In Guarulhos/SP

The city hall launched an Intersectoral Work Group with the role of planning and supporting the creation of a Committee for Migrants, Refugees and Stateless Persons in the city.

### In Pelotas/RS

UNHCR participated in the meeting of the Municipal Committee for Migrants, Refugees and Stateless Persons in the municipality, discussing possibilities for the provision of support to the city.

### In the state of Espírito Santo

UNHCR participated in the 2nd Inter-Council Meeting organized by the Social Assistance Council of the state, to exchange experiences and challenges between the representatives of the state's municipal councils.

## PROTECTION AND LOCAL INTEGRATION



### UNHCR SÃO PAULO EXPANDS REGISTRATION TOOL FOR THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION

After two training rounds, UNHCR Sao Paulo completed the roll-out of the registration and identity management platform – proGres - to the seven implementing partners covering the South and Southeast regions. The platform offers more security regarding the collection and storage of data of refugees assisted, enabling the mapping of the main specific needs and demands of this population. Over 4,400 counselling, referrals and protection interventions have been carried out since the beginning of the proGres implementation in these regions.

### SJMR COMMUNITY PROMOTERS PARTICIPATE IN THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE STATE CONFERENCE OF THE STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL SUPPORTED BY UNHCR

Venezuelan community promoters Yamileth González and Blanca Perosa de Hernández participated in the 14th Social Assistance Conference for the State of Rio Grande do Sul in October. The Jesuit Service for Migrants and Refugees in Porto Alegre strengthened the intervention and volunteer work-related capacities of the two community promoters, who work with refugees and migrants in the capital of Rio Grande do Sul, with the support of the UNHCR São Paulo office. Yamileth and Blanca were elected as national representatives at the conference.

### PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES AND INDIGENOUS MIGRANTS

UNHCR São Paulo continues to improve local networks in municipalities and states to guarantee the provision of culturally sensitive care for the Warao people, within the scope of the protection and local integration of the refugee and indigenous migrant population in Brazil. Trainings on how to receive the Warao population were held with local networks in [Pelotas \(RS\)](#) and [Porto Alegre \(RS\)](#) and in several municipalities of [Minas Gerais](#), reaching over 940 people. UNHCR São Paulo also participated in meetings to provide technical support to local networks that are hosting this population in the cities of Ribeirão Preto, Belo Horizonte, Montes Claros, Vila Velha and Uberaba.

In Belo Horizonte, UNHCR São Paulo met with partner entities (Municipal and State Social Assistance Secretariats, Federal Prosecution Service, and Prosecution Service of the State of Minas Gerais, Public Defender's Office and Minas Gerais Police Force, representatives of the legislative power in the state, and SJMR) and with the Warao population to discuss joint protection and integration strategies as part of the discussions around the 1st State Plan for Refugees, Migrants, Stateless Persons and Returnees, and the Bill of Law that aims to institute a specific policy for these populations in Minas Gerais.



Focal Group training with Warao women and girls in Belo Horizonte on topics related to health, protection of children and older persons and gender-based violence.

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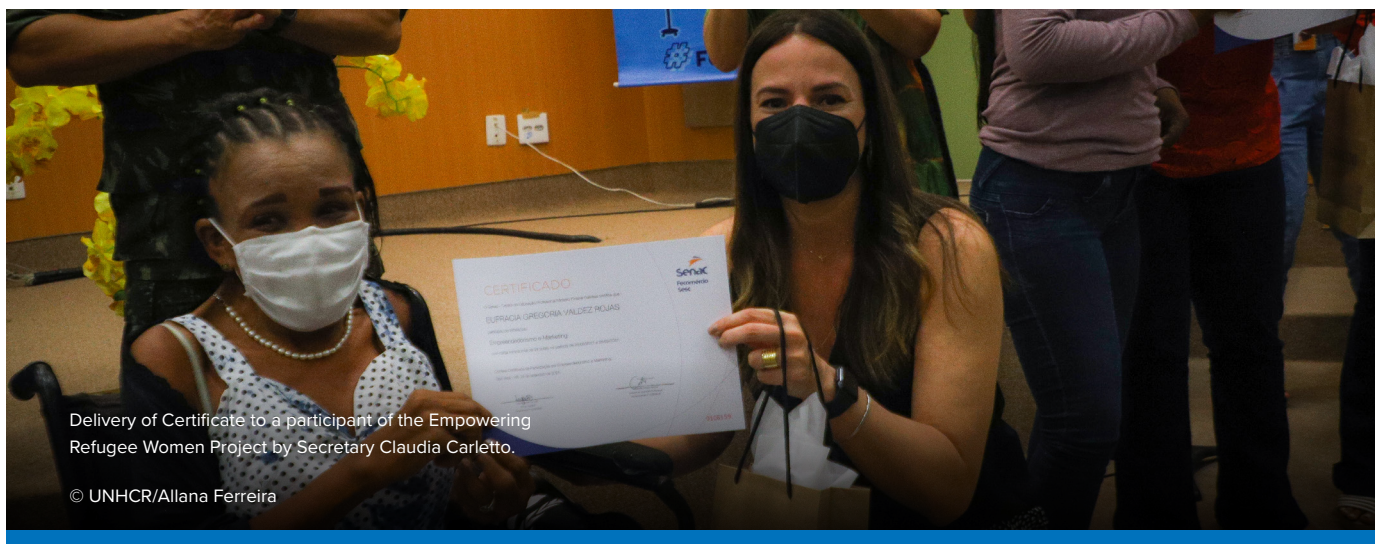
## CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR LOCAL NETWORKS

During the second half of 2021, UNHCR São Paulo participated in 14 training sessions for local protection and integration networks in the states of the South and Southeast Regions and in the state of Bahia. 1,097 participants were trained on issues related to access to documentation, indigenous refugees and migrants, strengthening of protective services for people non-admitted at Guarulhos International Airport, facilitation of Public Conferences for the elaboration of public policies, civil-military cooperation in peace operations and in humanitarian contexts and registration of refugees and migrants.

### Training with the Military Police in the state of Bahia

On 30 September 2021, UNHCR São Paulo held a training on refugee protection and integration for 150 officers of the state Military Police, at the invitation of the Government of the state of Bahia. The capacity-building initiative also counted with the participation of the Federal Police of Bahia and UNIFACS, a member of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair.

## LIVELIHOODS



Delivery of Certificate to a participant of the Empowering Refugee Women Project by Secretary Claudia Carletto.

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## CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE EMPOWERING REFUGEE WOMEN PROJECT

On 28 September 2021, the closing ceremony of the 6th edition of the Empowering Refugee Women was held at the SENAC auditorium in Roraima. The project is a UNHCR employability initiative in partnership with the Brazil Global Compact Network and the support of UN Women. In total, 37 women received their certificates, 19 of whom had disabilities, chronic diseases or were caregivers for people with disabilities. This edition of the Empowering Refugee Women Project was also supported by the Lojas Renner, Unidas, MRV, Sodexo, Iguatemi and Facebook companies.

Simultaneously with the event, the Municipal Secretary of Human Rights and Citizenship of the city of São Paulo, Claudia Carletto and the Coordinator of Policies for Migrants and Promotion of Decent Work in São Paulo, Bryan Rodas, visited Boa Vista and Pacaraima to learn more about UNHCR's initiatives in support of Operation Welcome.

## REFUGEE PLACEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM (PARR) COMPLETES 10 YEARS

Founded in 2011 by EMDOC, a private company, with support from UNHCR São Paulo, the Refugee Placement Support Program (PARR) completed 10 years in 2021. Throughout this decade, PARR has assisted 1,396 refugees in accessing job opportunities through referrals for job interviews and participation in vocational training. The project provided access to employment for 440 refugees and facilitated access to vocational training projects for 519 people, including access to the Empowering Refugee Women project.

**SÉRGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO ACADEMIC CHAIR**



Meeting between UNHCR representative, José Egas, and the Dean of UNILA to discuss the admission process of the University to the Sérgio Vieira Mello Academic Chair

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Between 28 and 29 September, UNHCR supported the holding of the [XII National Seminar of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair \(CSVM\)](#) with the theme: “Protecting Refugees During a Pandemic”. This year’s seminar was a joint initiative by the Academic Chairs of the Federal University of Espírito Santo (UFES), the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), the Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU) and the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM). [Four thematic discussions](#) were held on the role of universities in supporting refugees in the fields of language inclusivity, access to rights, elaboration of public policies and revalidation of diplomas. The [Sérgio Vieira Mello Academic Chair Annual Activity Report](#) was also launched during the seminar.

In the two-month period new universities were included to the CSVM, such as the University of Passo Fundo (UPF), and an agreement was signed with the Federal University of Latin American Integration (UNILA).

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

**INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IN SÃO PAULO**

The UN Refugee Agency in partnership with the Immigration Museum of São Paulo, integrated the program of the International Film Festival in São Paulo. Four films, including documentary and fictions, were shown at the lawn of the Immigration Museum for an estimated public of 300 people. The event also counted with the sale of traditional culinary dishes by Syrian and Venezuelan refugee families.



The International Film Festival in São Paulo counted with the support of UNHCR to show films at the lawn of the Immigration Museum

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