

UNHCR SÃO PAULO

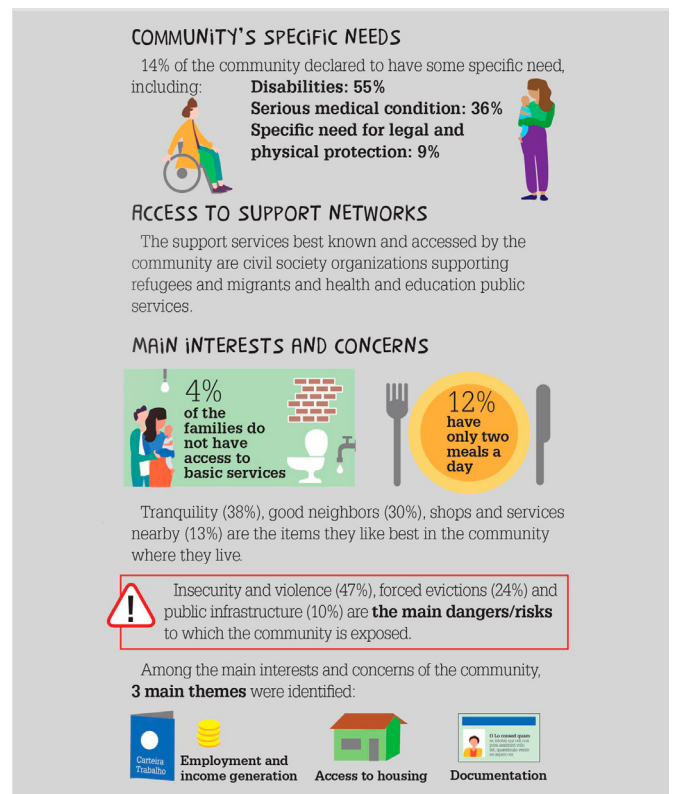
* Covering the Southeast and South regions and the state of Bahia



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT OF VENEZUELAN COMMUNITY IN INTERLAGOS, SÃO PAULO

In early 2021, the UNHCR Field Office in São Paulo, in partnership with Rede Interação and Aldeias Infantis SOS Brasil, began building a community-based protection project with Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Interlagos. The project identified and mobilized community agents to better understand the profile of the community and its needs, building the Community Action Plan (CAP). After the mapping made by nine Venezuelan community agents, involving 261 people interviewed, the CAP was concluded and presented the priority demands of this population: access to documentation, employability, social assistance, housing, and health.

As a first response to the CAP, in November a community task force took place to offer services from partner organizations: 128 people were assisted by UNHCR and various partner institutions, promoting access to assistance, documentation and integration services. The following organizations were present: Rede Interação, Cáritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo, the Center for Reference and Assistance for Immigrants (CRAI), Visão Mundial, Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARR), Brazilian Red Cross, Instituto Educação sem Fronteiras, and the NGO Estou Refugiado.



Excerpt from the results of mapping carried out by Venezuelan community agents in Interlagos, São Paulo

PROTECTION AND LOCAL INTEGRATION

Strengthening of Local Policies

In November, 21 Free Conferences were held for the construction of the first State Plan of Policies for Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons from Minas Gerais, of which 13 were facilitated by UNHCR and its partners. Promoted by civil society organizations that work with these themes, municipalities, universities and other institutions, the Conferences had 516 participants, including 278 people in refugee situations, migrants and returnees from 26 nationalities. As a result, 426 proposals were elaborated in nine thematic areas. UNHCR has been supporting the setting up of the State Plan since its beginning, including investment in a technical consultancy dedicated exclusively to the theme.

The UNHCR Office in São Paulo carried out a mission to Juiz de Fora in December to participate in the ceremony of signing the decree that establishes the Municipal Policy for the Migrant Population and creates the "Committee for the Preparation and Monitoring of the Municipal Policy Plan for the Migrant, Refugee, Stateless and Returnee Population" in Juiz de Fora. The agenda in the municipality included a visit to the Relocation and Integration Center run by Aldeias Infantis SOS Brasil and meetings with the Municipal Secretaries of Human Rights, Social Assistance, Health, and Education, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the State Public Defender's Office, and the Federal University of Juiz de Fora.



Mireille Muluila, a Congolese refugee who works in PARES in Cáritas RJ, participates in a conversation with health teams in training provided by UNHCR, IOM, SMS and MS

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TRAINING FOR LOCAL NETWORKS

Over the last two months of 2021, the UNHCR Office in São Paulo participated in 14 training courses for protection and local integration networks in the states of the South, Southeast, and Bahia. Such action reached a total of 465 participants trained in topics related to access to documentation, community protection and local integration of LGBTIQ+ refugees and migrants, cultural aspects and assistance of indigenous populations, prevention of human trafficking, public policies and registration of refugees and migrants.

In Pelotas/RS

UNHCR contributed to the 4th meeting of the “1st Training Cycle – Reception of migrants and guarantee of rights” held by the city hall, with virtual training for civil servants on documentation and access to rights by refugees and migrants.

In Rio de Janeiro/RJ,

UNHCR participated in two in-person training sessions on “Health Care for Refugee and Migrant Population” for basic health care workers of the city, together with the Municipal Health Secretariat, the Ministry of Health, and IOM.

In Rio Grande do Sul/RS,

UNHCR, along with the State Committee for Assistance to Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons and Victims of Human Trafficking in Rio Grande do Sul (COMIRAT) and the Jesuit Service for Migrants and Refugees (SJMR), promoted two virtual training meetings for the networks of public servants of the state’s municipalities. In total, 132 public servants from 42 cities of Rio Grande do Sul were trained on refugee rights, local integration, and protection.

In Santa Catarina/SC,

SJMR, a UNHCR’s partner, promoted the training course “Migration and refugee: concepts and definitions” for actors of the public social assistance network. The initiative is part of the strategy to strengthen the network of assistance for refugees and migrants in the state, which today is the second-largest hosting state of Venezuelans relocated there through the interiorization strategy.

In Lauro de Freitas/BA

UNHCR, SJMR, and UNIFACS held an online training for 30 municipal servants in November. The training “Hosting and local integration of refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations” was an initiative of the Lauro de Freitas City Hall (Secretariat of Affirmative Policies, Human Rights and Promotion of Racial Equality), a place that it is estimated to concentrate more than 500 Venezuelan people.

In Niterói/RJ

UNHCR participated in an event that instituted the Niterói Support Center for Migrants and Refugees. The Center was created by the City Hall of Niterói, through the Municipal Secretariat of Human Rights (SMDH), with support from UNHCR and IOM. On the occasion, UNHCR and IOM provided joint training for the new staff of the Center and the SMDH.



UNHCR supports training for the new Center for the Niterói Support Center for Migrants and Refugees

©SMDH/Nickolas Abreu

PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF INDIGENOUS REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

UNHCR continues supporting local protection networks in different states and municipalities to ensure culturally sensitive assistance for the Warao indigenous population. Training sessions on reception of the Warao population were conducted with local networks in [Juiz de Fora \(MG\)](#) and Ribeirão Preto (SP), which involved about 100 participants. As a result of the articulations made in various instances in Minas Gerais, a Warao Working Group was created within COMITRATE to build a State Protocol for Emergency Assistance for the Warao Indigenous Population, scheduled to be concluded in January 2022.

In December, the UNHCR Office in São Paulo accompanied a mission of the General Coordination of the National Committee for Refugees (CG-CONARE) to Belém/PA to interview undocumented Venezuelan indigenous asylum-seekers. In coordination with the UNHCR Office in Belém, technical and logistical support was provided to the mission of two Eligibility Officers, who conducted 20 eligibility interviews, besides the collection of documents from other asylum-seekers, to facilitate their recognition through the accelerated Refugee Status Determination procedures for Venezuelans.

OVERVIEW OF TRAININGS IN 2021

In 2021, dozens of actions were articulated with different institutions in favor of the refugee population, resulting in more than 95 training courses with the public and private sectors, impacting about 3,000 professionals who work with refugee issues. Therefore, in addition to the constant monitoring of local practices, aiming to strengthen networks to promote effective access to rights, integration, and inclusion of refugees in the social, economic, political, and cultural spheres in the South and Southeast regions, and in the state of Bahia, strategic partnerships and contributions to public policies were promoted.

VISIT OF UNHCR'S GLOBAL HEAD OF OPERATIONS TO SÃO PAULO

On 8 and 9 November, UNHCR Office in São Paulo accompanied the visit of the Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Raouf Mazou, to the city. Mazou visited the city's Center for Reference and Assistance for Immigrants (CRAI), accompanied by the Mayor of São Paulo, Ricardo Nunes, the Secretary of Human Rights and Citizenship of the city, Claudia Carletto, the Secretary of Assistance and Social Development, Carlos Bezerra, and the UNHCR Representative in Brazil, José Egas. The agenda also included a visit to UNHCR's partners (Aldeias Infantis SOS Brasil and Missão Paz), the restricted areas of the Guarulhos International Airport and the Advanced Post for Humanized Assistance to Refugees and Migrants.

LIVELIHOODS



Refugee receives assistance by Caritas RJ's employability task force.

© Luciana Queiroz/ Caritas RJ

PLATFORM AND TASK FORCE REINFORCE EMPLOYABILITY IN RIO DE JANEIRO

In November, Cáritas Arquidiocesana of Rio de Janeiro and the Public Ministry of Labor in Rio de Janeiro (MPT-RJ), with support from UNHCR, IOM, and USAID, launched the [Trampolim Platform](#), a labor insertion tool for refugees and migrants living in the state of Rio de Janeiro. The goal of the platform is to connect people seeking job opportunities, income generation, or training, with the private sector. In December, the Trampolim Employability Fair was held with the participation of Rio's Municipal Secretariat of Labor and Employment (SMTE). More than 100 registered people were interviewed by partner companies and institutions.

 SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO CHAIR

UFBA AND UFJF JOINED SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO CHAIR (CSVM)

The Federal University of Bahia (UFBA) and the Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF) signed a partnership with UNHCR and became part of the CSVM initiative, joining another 30 higher education institutions. At UFBA, the Support Center for Migrants and Refugees (NAMIR) aims to guarantee the rights of people in situations of forced displacement at the municipal and state levels, strengthening the articulation with public authorities. The partnership with UFJF will enable several activities such as legal assistance, Portuguese language courses, dental care, and music and gastronomy activities for the refugee population.

NEW EPISODE OF THE PODCAST REFÚGIO EM PAUTA

In partnership with CSVM universities, UNHCR conducted the podcast “Refúgio em Pauta”, that aims to present and discuss current issues related to refugee integration. In its sixth episode, the topic under discussion reflects a global reality: the displacement of people due to environmental changes and the climate crisis, increasingly associated with situations of armed conflict. As a result, this context increases poverty, amplifies instability, and fuels tensions and competition for resources, according to the interviewees. Refúgio em Pauta is available on [UNHCR’s website](#) and podcast platforms, such as [Spotify](#).

 PUBLIC INFORMATION

UNHCR COPENHAGEN COMES TO BRAZIL TO PLAN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HELP PLATFORM

In November, UNHCR Office in São Paulo was visited by UNHCR Copenhagen’s Digital Engagement team. With visits to partners in São Paulo/SP and Boa Vista/RR, the mission aimed to collect information, based on a survey with the refugee and migrant population and meetings with UNHCR professionals, to support a pilot strategy to redesign the [Help Platform](#).



UNHCR Copenhagen team interviews a Venezuelan refugee in Boa Vista
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